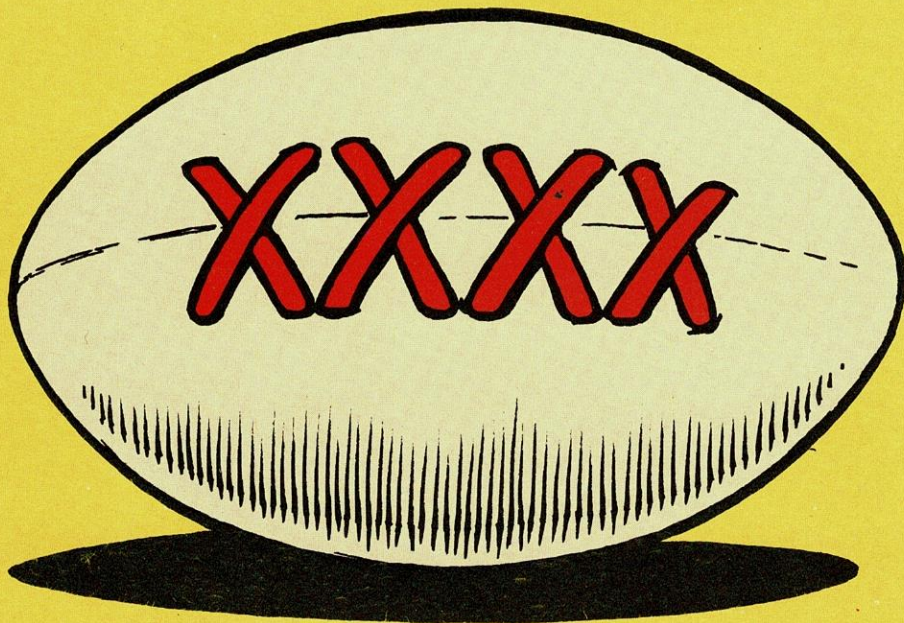


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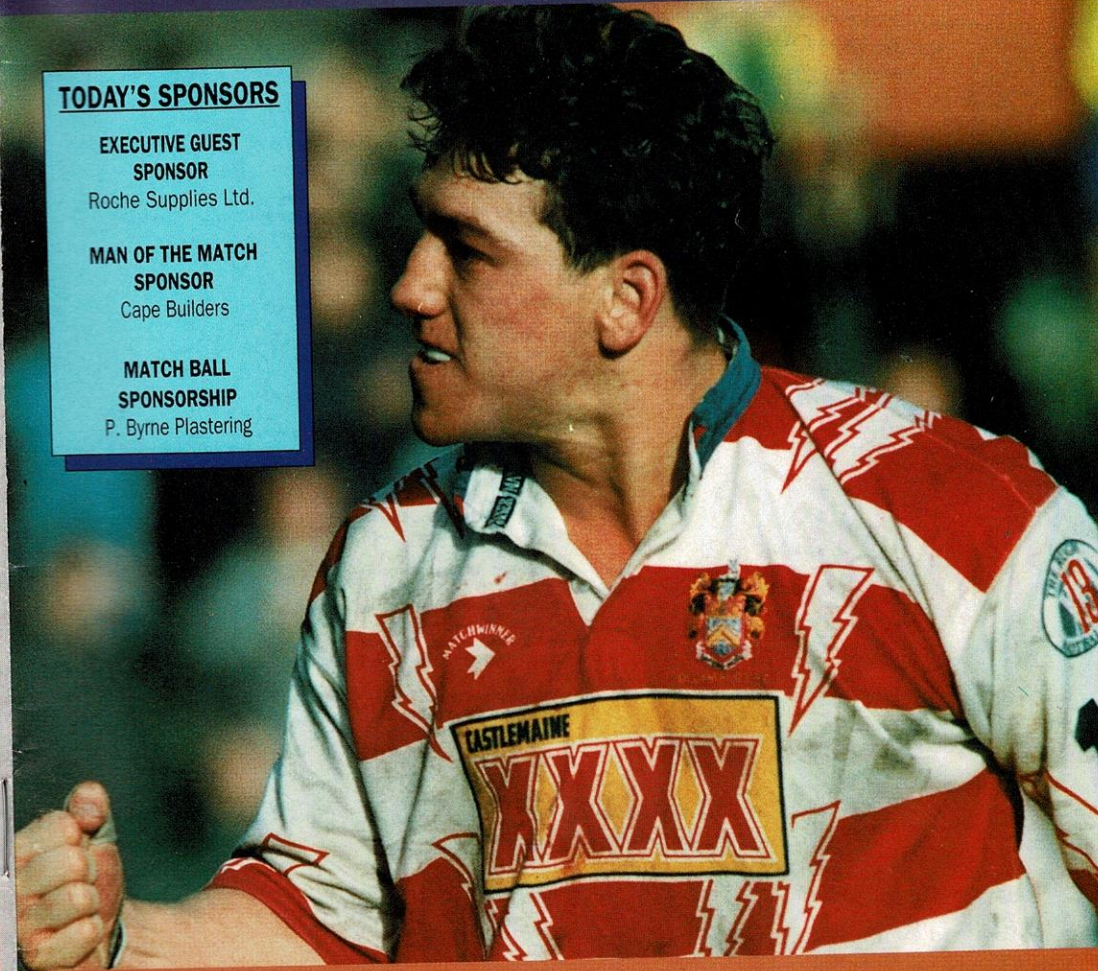
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Club Records:

Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,

24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £37,505.50 v Wigan,

5th October, 1989

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £70,000 to Halifax

for Tony Anderson, March 1990

Record Try Scorer: Ref Farrar, 49 tries,

1921-22 season

Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley,

224 goals, 1957-58 season

Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley,

28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest Number of Points Scored: Bernard Ganley,

2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jach Hirst, 233

Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship

Play-off Winners

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up

1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09,

1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions

1904-05

Second Division Champions

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Rugby League Challenge

Cup Winners

1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up

1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners

1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20,

1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57,

1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up

1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22,

1954-55, 1965-67, 1968-69,

1986-87, 1989-90

Lancashire Championship Winners

1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22,

1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up

1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20,

1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners

1975-76, 1979-80

Colts'Premiership Trophy

1979-80

Second Division Premiership

1987-88, 1989-90

Wigan Spens Winners

1991-92

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FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



John Prince, Jack Buckley, Alan Robinson, Geoff Munro, Harry Aspinall. Now I wonder how many of those men you know from their association with Oldham Rugby? Many of you will remember Geoff from his playing days, but what of John, Jack, Alan or Harry?

Backroom men, maybe, but they are men who are playing a vital role in the future of Oldham RL Club. They are, of course, the men who are actively involved in the running of our Under-19 Academy side, either as Scouts, Coaches or on the Administrative side.

The Academy side was formed only at the start of this season, but nobody could possibly recognise the amount of sheer hard work and dedication put into the Under-19 operation by this bunch of dedicated Rugby League enthusiasts.

It wasn't easy to put a team together. There were many obstacles to overcome. It isn't appropriate to go into them all here, but suffice to say that our men behind the Academy team have worked wonders, often under extreme hardship, to provide the club with a squad of which we can all feel very proud indeed.

In the early days, particularly, most of the lads were recruited from West Lancashire and to save expense we had them

training in Golbourne, while the local contingent trained here at Watersheddings with the First and "A" Team squads.

It isn't an ideal arrangement, but needs must. Throughout this time the men behind the Academy were beavering away on recruitment, scouting, training and coaching and, sure enough, they came up with a team which did surprisingly well in the first phase of the Academy season.

It was perhaps a good thing, from the long-term point of view, that the youngsters failed narrowly to qualify for a place in the First Division when the teams were graded in mid-Autumn. Now, in the Second Division, they are building up their confidence.

At the time of writing, the Academy lads were joint top of the Second Division, with Widnes and it was a joy to see the name of Oldham at the top of that table, while the Alliance Team topped the Second Division of its competition.

I would like to offer my personal thanks, and those of the Board, to the men who have done such a good job. To John Prince for his work behind the scenes, to Jack Buckley for his day-to-day involvement on the administrative side, to Alan Robinson and Geoff Munro for their enthusiastic coaching, to

Harry Aspinall of Orrell, who knows Youth Rugby like the back of his hand and does such a lot of scouting for us.

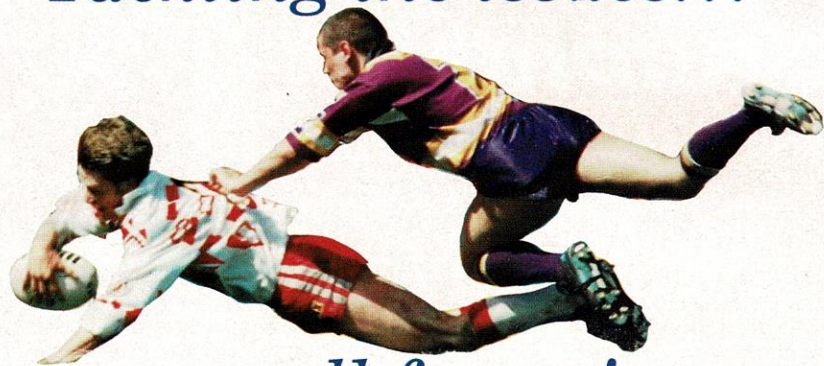
Alan's sheer enthusiasm, as he stalks up and down the touchline, is infectious. So thanks to all, thanks also to the players, who have shown such loyalty to the club and, last but by no means least, thanks to all those people who have supported the operation, either by turning up to give the lads a cheer or helping out with sponsorship or in voluntary capacities.

The Broadbent Group of Companies have provided the lads with new tracksuits, so they will be looking very smart for the second half of the season. Thanks for that and also thanks to Bill and Brenda Rogers for all they do and to their loyal bunch of friends, who never miss the opportunity to turn up on the touchline and lend their support – even at Whitehaven and, in the case of the "A" Team, Hemel Hempstead.

I can't mention everyone and I do hope I offend no-one by omission, but the Farrell's have also backed the Academy boys from day one and long may it continue.

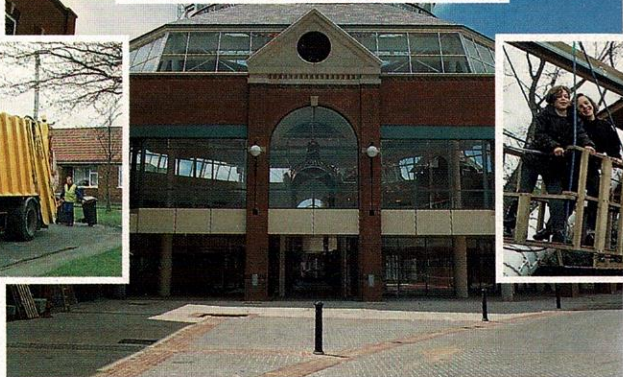
Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy New Year, linking with it the hope that you had a Happy Christmas.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to . . . **SALFORD**

Garry Jack (Full Back) Returned to the Willows at the start of this season in the capacity of player/manager. The former Aussie Test full back (21 caps). Previously had a spell with Salford during the 1987-88 season at a time when he was regarded as the world's best in that position. Began his senior career at Western Suburbs in 1981 and the following year moved to Balmain. Last season he was on Sheffield Eagles books.

Tex Evans (Winger) A tribunal figure of £40,000 settled his transfer from neighbours Swinton in August 1988, after originally playing for the Crosfields A.R.L. side. Last season's players "Player of the Year" has also appeared in the second row, using his strength and pace with telling effect.

Jason Critchley (Centre) A 1992 close season signing from Widnes along with Steve Wynne, in the deal that took winger Adrian Hadley to Naughton Park. Already proved that he is a useful acquisition. Already a G.B. Under 21 International when he arrived at the Willows, he has since played for England against Wales.

Scott Naylor (Centre) Snapped up from Wigan during the close season. A 21 year old former Leigh Miners Schoolboy International, he made only two appearances for the Central Park side, but is highly regarded.

Martin Birkett (Centre) Joined Salford originally on a three year contract in December 1989, after impressing in the Alliance side. Developed well since turning professional from the Prizzington A.R.L. club. Represented Cumbria against Papua New Guinea in 1991, scoring a try on his County debut.

Phil Ford (Winger) Signed from Leeds in the deal that took Reds forward Mick Worrall to Headingley during the the 1992 close season. Phil is a G.B. and Welsh R.L. International who toured Down Under in 1988, when he enjoyed much success. Originally turned professional with Warrington in 1981, later having spells at Wigan and Bradford Northern. Reds' top try scorer last season with a total of 21 tries.

Paul O'Neill (Winger) Signed from Leigh Miners A.R.L. side in November 1989 and made a two try scoring debut against Barrow in October 1990. That season he scored eight tries in ten games and has been on the first team fringe ever since.

Peter Williams (Stand Off) A sensational capture from Orrell R.U. club, in March 1988, on a five year contract. In his R.U. days he represented England and Lancashire, gaining four caps at International level. Made an

immediate impact at the Willows and soon made his debut for Lancashire and G.B. Classy player who is a creator of tries. Last season he represented the Welsh R.L. side, becoming the first former R.U. player to do so. that was made possible by the fact that his father, Roy, was a Welshman having played prop for Llanelli prior to turning pro with Wigan.

Mike Neil (Scrum half) Signed during the close season from Illawarra Steelers. Experienced top grade player who was a team-mate of Garry Jack at Balmain for five years. He began his career at Western Suburbs in 1983 and moved to Balmain in 1986, playing in the 1988 and 1989 Sydney Grand Finals. He moved to Illawarra last season.

Steve Blakely (Scrum Half) Signed from Wigan on a three year contract in November, 1992, making 14 appearances for the first team and taking over the goal-kicking duties towards the end of the season. Formerly played for Leigh Rangers A.R.L.

David Young (Prop) Signed from Leeds in April 1991, on a four year contract. The former British Lion and Wales R.U. star originally turned pro on a five and a half year contract worth £165,000 but things did not go as planned and he only made eight appearances for Leeds. At Salford he has settled in well and played for his native Wales at R.L., improving all the time and Garry Jack has installed him as team captain.

Mark Lee (Hooker) A bargain £15,000 signing from St. Helens in January 1990. Went straight into the first team and has remained there ever since. A clever player who can dictate the moves. Accurate touch finder with his long raking kicks. Missed just two matches last season.

Paul Forber (Prop) Signed from St. Helens in January 1993. Former G.B. Colts and Lancashire County player at senior level who had a successful stint at Knowsley Road spanning eleven seasons and almost 250 games. Played in several major finals for St. Helens. A prominent member of the Reds pack.

Ged Stazicker (Prop) A 1991 close season signing from Wigan for a £30,000 fee. Originally at Central Park in January 1984 from the local Wigan St. Patricks A.R.L. side. Played for Lancashire Colts in 1985 and was a sub for G.B. Colts in 1986. Hard working prop who always gives 100%. Played in every match last season.

Ian Blease (Second Row) Local lad, Ian has been at the Willows since March 1985 when he turned professional from Folly Lane A.R.L.

club. As club captain he leads by example and made his County debut for Lancashire against Yorkshire in 1991. Last seasons sponsors "Player of the Year".

Andy Burgess (Loose Forward) Signed professional for Salford on his 17th birthday in April 1987, after several outings with the Alliance side. Gone from strength to strength, earning a G.B. U21 call up against France in 1991. During the close season he has had a spell with N.S.W. Country Club, Casino, and they were most impressed.

Keri Brookfield (Hooker) Joined Salford from Wigan St. Patricks A.R.L. club during the 1992 close season. He was a member of the G.B. BARLA side against Australia and France during 1991-92 and the Reds beat a host of other clubs to sign the nephew of former player Keiron O'Loughlin.

Bob Marsden (Prop) Former Shaw A.R.L. player who turned professional with Oldham in September 1983 but made only nine appearances in five seasons, prior to moving to Rochdale Hornets, where his career took off under coach Stan Gittens. Voted Player of the Year twice and also man of the match in the 1991-92 Lancashire Cup Final when Hornets lost to St. Helens. Joined Salford in October 1993.

Terry O'Conner (Prop) Twenty-two year old prop who originally signed for Salford in August 1991 after returning from a BARLA trip to New Zealand. Made his debut as sub v Chorley Borough in January 1992 but has come into his own this season, giving several powerful displays.

Wayne Reid (Half-back) Joined Salford from Wigan during the 1991 close season, after spending five years at Central Park without playing for the first team. Scored ten tries in 29 appearances during the 1991-92 season plus another 25 appearances last season. Has also figured at loose forward in the Reds successful Alliance side.

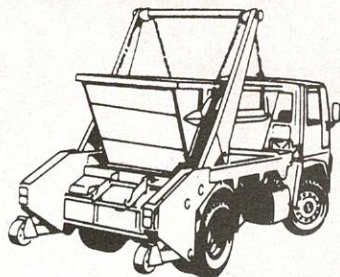
Chris Tauro (Second Row) Aussie Second Row forward from the Manly club who came over to this country backed by glowing reports from former Wigan boss Graham Lowe. Made his debut against Castleford in October.

Richard Webster (Prop) Former British Lions and Swansea flanker. The 25 year old forward joined Salford after winning 13 Welsh caps. He scored a try in his first outing with the Alliance side in October and it is hoped that he will make a big impact in the professional code.

Andrew Gregory (Scrum half) Former G.B. test scrum half who joined Salford from Leeds in November 1993. Originally played a trial game for Salford in November 1978 but Salford failed to sign him and he went to Widnes. He has achieved every success in the game, both at Club and International level, which has also seen him land the Lance Todd Trophy on two occasions (1988 and 1990). In total, he has made eight appearances in Challenge Cup Finals and only finished on the losing side once. After leaving Widnes he had successful spells at Warrington and Wigan before his shock move to Headingley. Already has shown that he is still one of the best scrum halves in the game and he could prove to be the bargain buy of the season.

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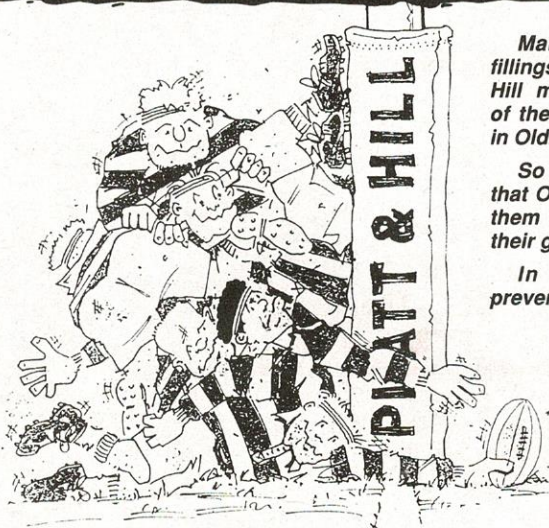
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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 15 RICHARD CRACKNELL



Signed for a club record fee of £4,500 in October, 1953, from Huddersfield, "Dick" Cracknell had gained International honours during his time at Fartown, playing in two Tests against the 1951 Kiwis.

A winger who stood 5 ft. 11 in. tall and weighing over 13 stones, he represented a formidable presence on Oldham's right flank. He gained further honours with Yorkshire County whilst with the "Roughyeds" and made the No. 2 shirt his own during his six seasons with the club.

He played in two Championship Finals and four Lancashire Cup Finals for the club and was a consistent try-scorer in the great Oldham team of the 1950's.

Also a useful goal-kicker, he once kicked nine in one match, this was against Blackpool Borough on 24th November, 1956, in a 60 points to eight victory over the Seaside.

However, it was his try-scoring talents that made him a big favourite with the Watersheddings fans and he scored a total of 119 in 213 appearances for Oldham and kicked 28 goals.

No. 16

HARRY MAJOR



Photo courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Harry Major was a tough, uncompromising second row forward, who joined Oldham from Warrington during the big "freeze" in January, 1963. He made his debut at Widnes on 2nd February, this being Oldham's only match in a 10-week period, due to the atrocious weather conditions.

In the following 1963-64 season, Harry played a "Major" part in the success of the club, as Oldham took the Second Division title

and reached the Semi Final of the Challenge Cup.

One of the games characters, Harry played 67 games for Oldham, before signing for Wigan on 15th September, 1965, his debut for the Riversiders coming the following day at Oldham, in the Lancashire Cup.

The programme for the match shows Harry in the Oldham line-up, but it was a short-lived debut, as Harry was sent off in the first half.

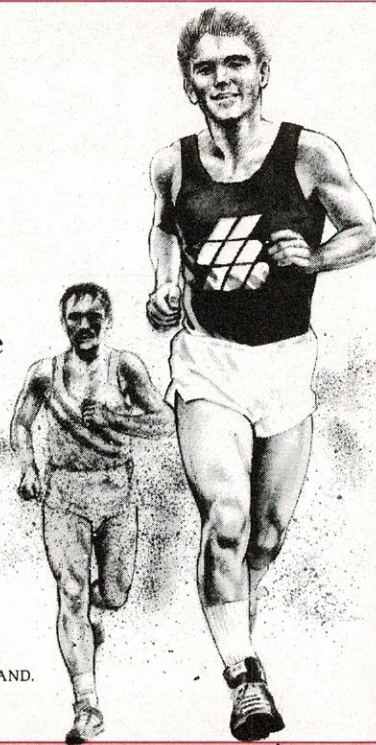
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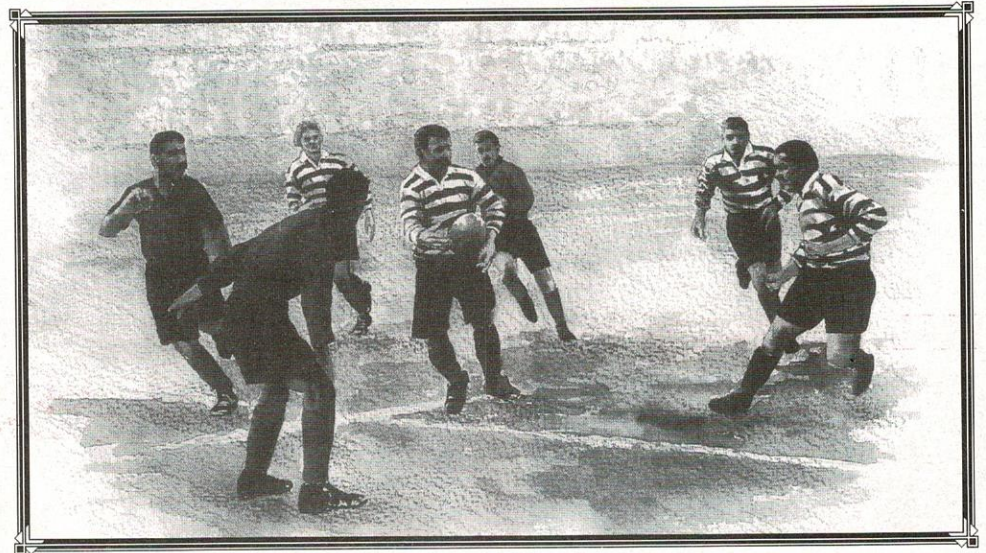
Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY No. 8 - JAMES LOMAS

Oldham centre Jimmy Lomas puts winger Billy Dixon into the clear. Action from the Oldham v. Runcorn match February 11th, 1911.

Lomas had joined Oldham from Salford the previous month, having captained the first ever Great Britain touring team to Australia and New Zealand in 1910.



Action Gallery

To coincide with their return to the First Division of the Rugby League, Oldham R.L.F.C. are introducing this special new feature into the matchday programme for the the 1993-94 season.

The ACTION GALLERY is a set of excellent water colour paintings, that depict some of the star players and dramatic moments in the club's history on the field of play.

With the centenary of the Rugby League now just two years away the ACTION GALLERY will cover the full time-span of almost 100 years of professional Rugby League in Oldham, from the early days of the "Northern Union" right up to the intense, high pressure atmosphere of the game in the 1990's.

The team that dominated the R.L. Championship in the 1906-1911 era; the cup specialists of the mid 1920's; the "great" entertaining team of the late 50's, all of these are sure to feature in this unique series which is a must for collectors of Oldham and Rugby League memorabilia in general.

FULL COLOUR copies (size 11 1/2 "x 8") are to be made available and will come complete with a detailed narrative giving particulars of the player or incident depicted in the painting. The copies will cost £3.20 each (add 80p if requiring the copies to be sent by post) and can be obtained from **Mr M. Turner, 158 Balfour Street, Oldham, OL4 1NS.**

Please note that the ACTION GALLERY series are not fabricated images and have all been painted from actual photographs.

A limited number will be available in the club shop for 30 minutes after the match.

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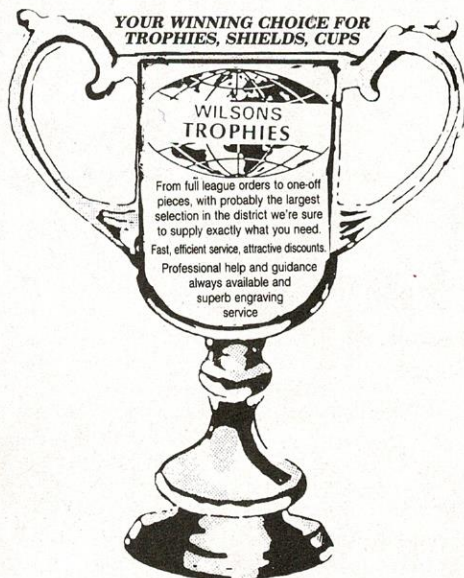
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A-TEAM NEWS

As we reach the end of the year it is probably a good time to have a look at the performances of some of our lads who have done very well for the side over these past few months.

A lad who has really come to the fore this time round is Paddy Mitchell. After a couple of indifferent seasons, Paddy has worked really hard at his game and after a string of good displays, culminating in a magnificent display in the recent game against Huddersfield, his elevation to a squad place for the Leigh game was full deserved.

Plucked from St. Helens "A" Team (by Tunksey), Ivan Green gives a good incentive to any member of the "A" Team. Having started as a regular with us he has now become a fixture in the First Team squad with some really impressive performances. Barrie McDermott, Craig Richards, Paul Groves, Charlie McAlister, Steve Kerry, Martin Strett, Dave Bradbury and young John Clarke, who has done tremendous in his first taste of professional rugby, are among others who have contributed throughout the first half of the season and all of whom have had a taste of First Team Rugby.

It is therefore important that we have players in the "A" Team putting pressure on established First Teamers to create a competitive edge in the Club.

Allied to the fact we also have lads like Paul Norman, Steve Heaton, Alfie Gouldbourne, Craig Booth, Mickey Edwards, Hugh Gumbs and the injured Martin Holden, Abe Phillips and our latest recruit, Damien Ainge, we can look back with satisfaction on our season thus far.

Wishing all our loyal supporters a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in 1994.

Yours in Sport,

SHANE TUPAEA

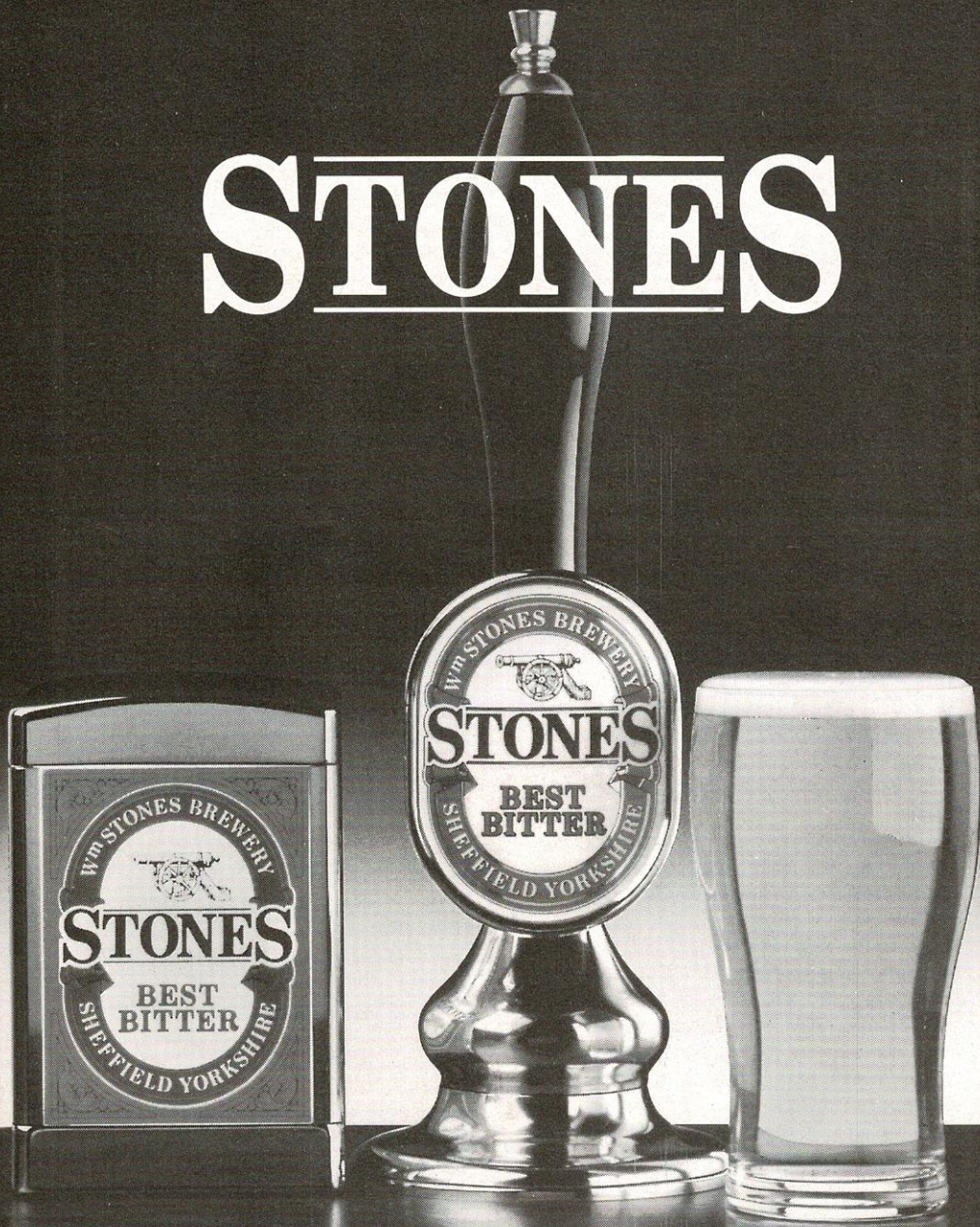


YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

Month	Date	Opposition	Home/Away	Day	Score
AUGUST	Saturday 28th	Workington	H	(W)	44-16
SEPTEMBER	Saturday 4th	Rochdale	A	(W)	30-18
	Thursday 9th	Hull K.R.	H	(W)	32-12
	Thursday 16th	Hunslet	A	(W)	29-18
	Saturday 25th	Doncaster	A	(W)	36-16
OCTOBER	Saturday 2nd	LCCS - Round 1 Workington	H	(W)	38-10
	Thursday 7th	Leigh	H	(W)	26-24
	Saturday 23rd	LCCS - Round 2 Wigan	A	(W)	26-22
	Saturday 30th	Swinton	A	(W)	28-2
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 3rd	LCCS-Semi Warrington	H	(W)	12-6
	Saturday 6th	London	H	(W)	64-30
	Saturday 13th	Youngers ASDC Round 1 - London	A	(W)	16-6
	Thursday 18th	LCCS Final Rochdale	A	(W)	32-20
	Saturday 27th	Youngers ASDC Round 2 - Hunslet	(W)		36-10
DECEMBER	Wednesday 1st	Huddersfield	H	(W)	48-2
	Saturday 4th	Leigh	A	(W)	39-16
	Saturday 11th	Barrow	H		
	Saturday 18th	Bramley	A		
	Wednesday 22nd	Carlisle	H		
JANUARY	Friday 7th	Youngers ACC - Round 1			
	Friday 14th	Huddersfield	A		
	Saturday 22nd	Barrow	A		
	Friday 28th	Youngers ACC - Round 2			
FEBRUARY	Thursday 3rd	Rochdale	H		
	Thursday 10th	Keighley	H		
	Friday 18th	Youngers ACC - Round 3			
	Monday 21st	Sheffield	A		
	Saturday 26th	Carlisle	A		
MARCH	Saturday 5th	London	A		
	Thursday 10th	Dewsbury	H		
	Friday 11th	Youngers ACC - Semi-final			
	Thursday 17th	Swinton	H		
APRIL	Thursday 14th	Youngers ACC - Final			

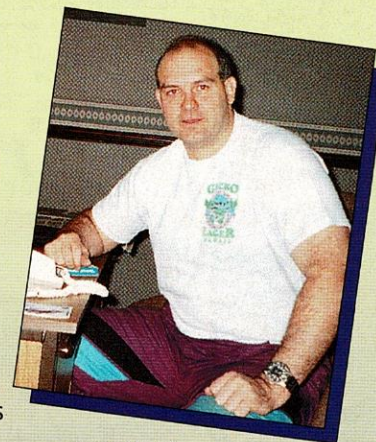
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TUNKS' TALKBACK



Trusting that you all had a pleasant day with your families and are ready for what should be a rousing Local Derby game against the Red Devils of Salford, coached by Australian full-back, Gary Jack.

They will be keen to pull further away from the relegation zone at our expense.

It goes without saying that we will be hell-bent on making sure that will not happen and along

with myself, the lads are aware of the importance of today's game.

I am confident, as we move into the second half of the campaign, we have the ability to make an impact in the League and improve our position.

It is, therefore, vital we not only remain competitive but we do not go throwing away games we deserve to win, which only increases

pressure on ourselves.

It promises to be an eventful few months in prospect and your continued support will be vital as we attempt to make the club an established First Division outfit.

Enjoy the game,

Peter Tunks

TUNKS TEASERS

1. In what season did Hull win the John Player (Regal) Trophy?
2. Who was the leading goalkicker for Oldham in 1984-85?
3. Who holds the tries in a season record for Hull K.R.?
4. In what season were substitutes first allowed in R.L.?
5. What is the name of the award given to the Man of the Match in the Sydney Grand Final?
6. Who was the first winner of the "Man of Steel" award in 1977?
7. Which Australian team are nicknamed the "Magpies"?
8. Which were the three venues for this season's tests against New Zealand?
9. Which R.L. team play at Elland Road?
10. Who captained the 1958 G.B. Tour to Australia and New Zealand?

ANSWERS ON STATS PAGE

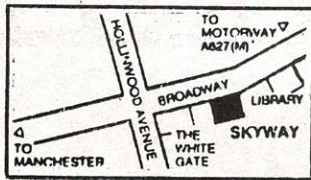
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AWAY WE GO!

CASTLEFORD v. OLDHAM, SUNDAY, 2nd JANUARY, 1994. KICK-off 3.30 p.m.
M62 to junction 32 (A639). Follow signs for Castleford (A639). In 0.8 mile, at round-about, take second exit A556. In 0.7 mile at roundabout forward 0.2 mile. Further at roundabout take third exit into Wheldon Road.



CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Draw will take place at half-time and the Winning Numbers will be announced over the Tannoy and published in the Oldham Evening Chronicle, Public Notice Column.

LIFELINE DRAW

A Renault 5 Campus Prima will be won by a lucky Lifeline Member today, as we then merge both Lifeline and Cashline into our new Big League Cash Bonanza Draw, where all Members will have the chance to win a staggering £1,500.00 a week.

Brought about by new Government Legislation to the Laws Governing Lotteries, we are convinced it will be a popular draw with our existing Lifeline and Cashline Members and your continued support is vital, as we endeavour to establish the club in the Big League.

LIFELINE & CASHLINE WINNERS

**WEEK No. 45
£500 SUPER BONUS WINNER**

Winner: H 7294, T. Whittaker
Agent: 169 Mora MacKinnon

MONDAY	£100	Winner: A 5436, R. Barton	Agent: 085 Egerton Arms
TUESDAY	£100	Winner: G 2099, R. Holden	Agent: 316 Spar
WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: A 1255, J. Warburton	Agent: 213 Footballers
THURSDAY	£100	Winner: E 9255, B. Pendleton	Agent: 044 Coppice Sewing
FRIDAY	£100	Winner: D 9097, R. A. Eastham	Agent: 087 P & J Keating
SATURDAY	£100	Winner: A 6254, D. Wetton	Agent: 065 Royal Oak
SUNDAY	£100	Winner: D 3721, A. Yedmans	Agent: 040 Lamba News

AGENTS FREE WEEKLY DRAW FOR £50 Agent No: 306 Nimble Nook

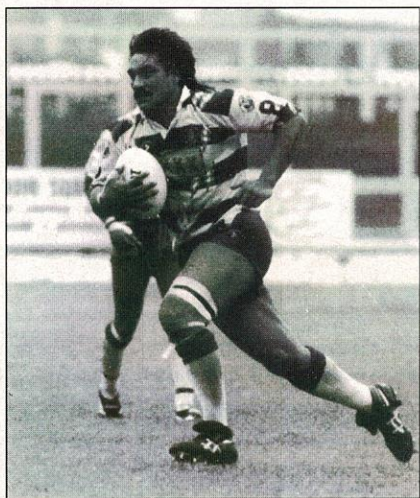
WEEK No: 9 **£1000:** I. Livingstone (c/o Principles)

£50: S. J. Boustead, Chadderton

Special Prize: Nintendo Game Boy **Winner:** 1440, T. Hodkinson

XXXX-PECTING A GOOD CHRISTMAS

There is one player who doesn't need to worry about getting the bevvies in for the Christmas period – and that is Tiny Solomona – the Player of the Month for November. Tiny will be able to enjoy the festivities the XXXX way, with his own supply of the Aussies favourite brew, which he receives for clinching the coveted title.



CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE

XXXXX

TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1993

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Nigel Heslop
2. Scott Ranson
3. Darren Abram
4. Paul Topping
5. David Jones
6. Martin Crompton
7. Wally Gibson
8. Barrie McDermott
9. John Clarke
10. Ian Sherratt
11. Mike Kuiti
12. Andy Goodway
13. Bob Lindner
14. Iyan Green
15. Shaun Irwin

SALFORD Team Changes

1. Garry Jack
2. Jason Critchley
3. Martin Birkett
4. Peter Williams
5. Philip Ford
6. Shaun Brown
7. Andy Gregory
8. David Young
9. Mark Lee
10. Terry O'Connor
11. Paul Forber
12. Chris Tauro
13. Andy Burgess
14. T.B.A.
15. T.B.A.

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Referee: Jim Smith

Touch Judges: Malcolm Whiteley (Red Flag)
Barry Hope (Yellow Flag)

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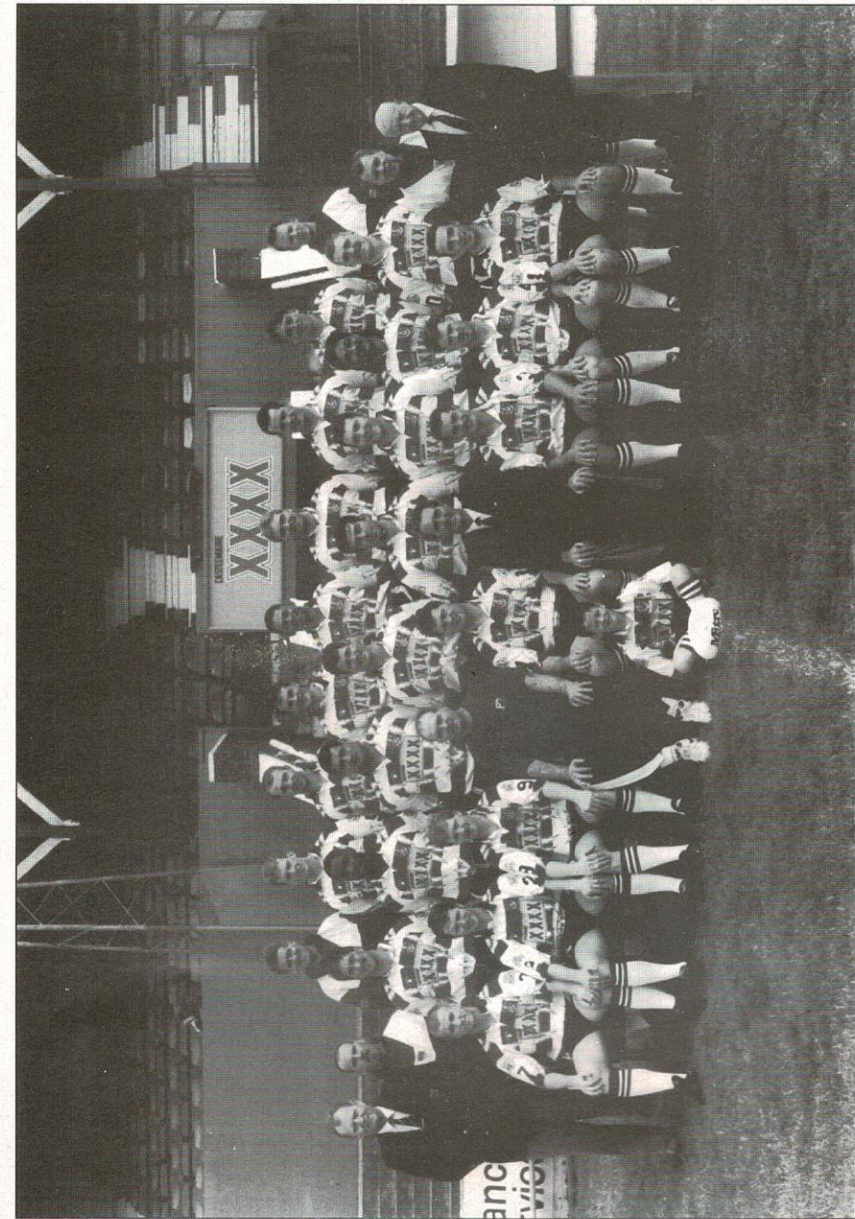
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TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



Mr. Jim Smith
(HALIFAX)

Date of Birth
2.3.44

Grade One:
1983-84

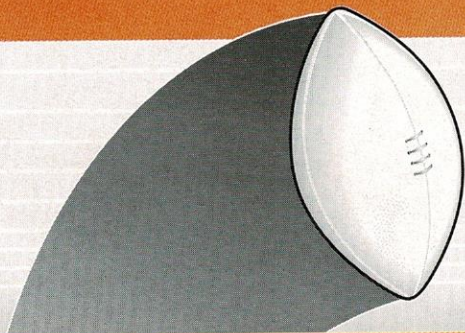
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Last Time Out . . .

with **ROGER HALSTEAD**

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of March 11th, 1991.



OLDHAM 40, SALFORD 3.
A ONE-POINT win would have done . . . but Oldham swept into the semi-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup for the second-year running, with a seven try demolition act on the Second Division leaders. The 40 points scored came only a week after 37 points were piled up against Bradford at Odsal. Are Oldham coming good at just the right time?

It was a question many fans were asking as they left Watersheddings last night and player-coach John Fieldhouse felt sure he knew the answer.

"Yes, we are coming along nicely," he said. "We are scoring points, but we have also tightened the defence considerably. It was pleasing to keep our line intact. Our defence at Bradford was good and it was even better today."

Iain MacCorquodale, his assistant, dismissed suggestions that Salford's weakness was the main factor in such a one-sided quarter-final tie. The telling factor, he said, was Oldham's strength. "Salford had one or two key men out through injury," he conceded, "but even accounting for that you don't expect a side like Salford to let in 40 points in a third round Challenge Cup-tie.

"I think that says a lot for the way we played." Already without Ian Blease, Tex Evans and Steve Gibson, Salford suffered another blow at training on Saturday, when skipper Mick Worrall pulled a hamstring.

Luck was not on Salford's side, but nobody can take anything away from an Oldham team that has lifted itself off the floor in recent weeks to surge into the Cup semi-finals.

ONLY ONE GAME NOW STANDS BETWEEN OLDHAM AND THAT ELUSIVE FIRST TRIP TO WEMBLEY.

The players, however, have not forgotten that they also have a battle on their hands to stay in the First Division.

The first thing Fieldhouse did when he arrived back in the dressing room was to inquire about the League results involving relegation rivals Wakefield and Sheffield. And the chat in the bowels of the pavilion was not about the semi-final draw, but about the First Division matches at St. Helens on Wednesday and Sheffield at Watersheddings next Sunday.

Teamwork will have to be at its best . . . just as it was at Bradford and again in yesterday's cup-tie.

It was reflected in the way the seven tries were

spread around and scored by Richard Irving (2), Mike Ford, Charlie McAlister, Paul Round, John Henderson and Brett Clark - one each for the second-row pair and the rest to the backs. It was reflected in the choice of three different Oldham players for various man-of-the-match awards.

The Press gave the Silk Cut prize to Ford, the Oldham club chose Richard Russell to receive their own award and the dressing room vote among the players - 12 out of the 15 declared McAlister as the top man among his peers, the highest recommendation any player can receive.

It was reflected also in the fact that Andy Ruane and Fieldhouse topped the tackle count, Tony Anderson was second to Ford in the backs, and there were impressive performances by Duncan Platt, two-try Irving Ruane, Round and Austin Donegan, before he went off injured after 20 minutes.

Every player in the side contributed substantially, as Oldham roared into their third semi-final appearance in the last six years.

Des Foy's stunning long ball just outside the Salford 25 enabled Round and Anderson to send Ford scampering over in the pavilion corner for the second try. John Henderson saved a certain try to Salford early on by turning and catching Steve Kerry, when he raced clear up the blind-side of the scrum.

McAlister stopped Andy Burgess on the line and at a vital time of the match when Round was in the sin-bin just after half-time, Anderson saved the day with a last-ditch challenge on Salford's most dangerous forward, Francis Leota.

Oldham's defence was at its best when Round was off. Salford could not capitalise on their numerical advantage although they were dangerous just after half-time, when the tricky Kerry started to run with the ball and take men on.

The home side survived, steadied itself, and then ran in four second-half tries at regular intervals. Brett Clark was a busy stand-off, Keith Atkinson's goalkicking was beautifully performed when he replaced the injured Platt and John Cogger was a bundle of bounce when joining the action midway through the second-half.

Other features of the tie were McAlister's phenomenal field kicks early on and the way in which Ruane, aided by a big push, won the ball against the head on no fewer than three occasions.

It was not a good day for Salford's acting skipper Mark Lee, the hooker, who was carried off with a foot injury midway through the second half. His loss of so much ball on the Salford feed meant that Oldham were able to compensate for conceding four penalties to none in the first half.

Oldham received their first penalty, in fact, in the 47th minute, when Cassidy challenged Ford after he had parted with the ball.

Both Cassidy and Fell, who later dropped Cogger in a similar incident, were penalised but were lucky to stay on the field in view of Round's sin-binning earlier in the match.

This was not a dirty game, though, and Oldham filled it with football to score their seven of the best.

Russell and Ford produced some immaculate blind-side football from the first scrum to send Irving in at the pavilion corner.

It was a classic try of its kind with scrum-half and loose-forward linking together as they used to do regularly in days gone by.

Ford scored next after a move initiated by Foy's long pass and then Irving, showing remarkable strength, burst between Sherratt and Hansen to score the third try.

Round's wide running cut Salford to ribbons in the second half. He went close when unleashed on a delicately floated McAlister pass and from the ground gained, Ruane gave McAlister a walk-in under the posts.

And so it went on. Round plunged over next after McAlister had gone close and then Henderson capitalised on a dreadful error by Fell to follow Ford's kick and score the sixth try.

The seventh came when Russell and Fieldhouse handled cleverly for Clark to score under the posts.

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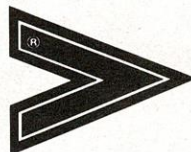
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	13	-	2	-	-	8
NIGEL HESLOP	10	-	2	-	-	8
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	12	2	1	40	-	84
SCOTT RANSON	11	-	4	-	-	16
DARREN ABRAM	12	-	8	-	-	32
STEVE KERRY	9	-	2	2	3	15
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	13	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	2	5	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	2	3	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	15	-	3	-	-	12
DAVID JONES	11	2	-	-	-	-
ANDY GOODWAY	12	1	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	6	2	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	3	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	1	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	9	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN CROMPTON	5	1	2	-	1	9
BOB LINDNER	12	-	4	-	-	16
JOHN CLARKE	8	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	1	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	2	-	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	-	1	-	-	-	-

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Warrington	13	11	0	2	290	185	22
Wigan	12	10	0	2	315	187	20
Bradford	12	10	0	2	324	244	20
Halifax	13	8	2	3	278	219	18
Castleford	13	8	1	4	333	169	17
St. Helens	13	8	1	4	313	183	17
Widnes	13	7	0	6	231	252	14
Featherstone	13	6	1	6	272	314	13
Hull	13	5	2	6	195	214	12
Leeds	13	5	1	7	278	248	11
Salford	13	5	0	8	212	299	10
Sheffield	13	4	1	8	248	345	9
Oldham	13	4	0	9	254	240	8
Hull KR	13	4	0	9	206	365	8
Wakefield T.	13	3	0	10	162	294	6
Leigh	13	0	1	12	165	363	1

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

As we approach the half way point of the season, perhaps we can look back and assess some of the players who have been with us since the summer.

The Academy, as it's name implies, is about learning and with this in mind, the progress made by our players is perhaps the most important aspect of their development at this stage.

The team as a whole have shown a willingness to improve the weaknesses in their play and in particular their defensive games. Early in the season alarming gaps appeared in our defence and we were too often caught flat in the forwards.

The "promotion" of Alan Walsh to the front row and the return to full fitness of Martin Halkyard has done much to obliterate the problems. The pair invariably top the tackle count and their contribution has given the team a far more solid look.

There has been little wrong with our attacking game from the start of the season but great progress has been made by individual players. Perhaps the most remarkable of these is that which has been made by Damien Munro. At only just 17 he has advanced most aspects of his game in a short time and looks a great future prospect.

Consistently excellent games have also been seen from Mike Prescott and Jodie Moran, whilst Stephen Hunt, Simon Silcock and Lee Bradbury have advanced in the backs.

The contribution of Richard Badby has been immeasurable in terms of influence and he strives consistently for increased standards.

Michael Twist, Aidie Meade and Wayne Riding have had their season disturbed

with injury and suspension but remain on course to achieve their aims.

The Breslin twins are finding their feet after a long time out of the game and, in fact, Martin has played an 'A' team game.

Unfortunately, Ross Buckley has been nursing a long-term injury whilst Andy Swift and Stuart Cooper have found their chances limited due to the form of the players in their positions.

In conclusion a very satisfactory term.

The Academy squad and officials wish all our supporters and helpers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development
Officer
NIEL WOOD

Welcome today to all the young players here who recently took part in the BFL/Bronze Award Course held at Watersheddings. All the players will

receive their badge and certificate and will look forward to taking the BFL/Silver Award in June.

The Christmas period is a quiet time for the Rugby League Development Scheme but January sees the launch of several new initiatives.

The Under 15's Development Squad

starts a week on Monday. The School Cups will be drawn on January 16th, the same day that the sponsorship details are announced.

Further sponsorship news will be available in January with the Development Scheme announcing a big boost from a surprising source!

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Courtesy of the **OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE**



GOODWAY AND SHERRATT GET TO GRIPS WITH PHIL CLARK



RANSON STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS BY THE BIG LADS FROM WIGAN

BACK PAGES

by **Michael Turner**

Today's visitors, SALFORD, were not founder-members of the "Northern Union", but joined for the second season of its existence in 1896-97, along with neighbours Swinton. Both clubs no doubt realising that their continued alliance to the Rugby Union, would isolate them from all their top local fixtures and potential best attendance.

As it happened, Salford's first home match under the new code was against Oldham, on 12th September, 1896, with the "Roughyeds" victorious by nine points to nil and then going on to complete the double, with an 11-3 victory at Watersheddings on 19th December.

In 1901, Salford signed James Lomas from Bramley, in the first £100 transfer. A Cumbrian by birth, Lomas was a burly half-back or centre, who was one of the most noted players in the early era of the game and in 1910, captained the first Great Britain team to tour Australia and New Zealand.

After his return from the

tour, Lomas was again the subject of a record transfer, when Oldham paid £300 for his services in January, 1911. There was concern amongst the Oldham supporters that Lomas might be too "long in the tooth" to warrant such a large fee, but the fears were soon set aside, as Jim showed great form to help Oldham to the 1910-11 Championship, scoring two tries and three goals in the Championship Final against Wigan.

Another notable transfer between the two clubs was in 1950, when the multi-talented utility

back Frank Stirrup left the Willows, to become one of the brightest stars in the great Oldham team of the mid to late 1950's.

With regard to players going in the other direction, no fewer than five of the players who helped Oldham to the Second Division Championship in 1963-64, ended up on the Salford register, namely: Geoff Sims, Vince Nestor, Stuart Whitehead, Charlie Bott and Peter Smethurst.

In more recent times, players who have assisted both clubs include: Ian Holland, Steve Herbert, Mick Worrall, Ged Byrne and current "Roughyeds", Steve Kerry and Ian Sherratt.



Courtesy of the **Oldham Evening Chronicle**

Oldham winger Brian Lord avoids two defenders to score a try. Oldham v. Salford, 6th February, 1960.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER



I would like to welcome all the Salford fans to the first time this year.

My fellow expatriate, Gary Jack, has been doing a fine job at Salford and a run of good results over the last month indicate that the team is in good form.

Salford must have thought

Christmas had come a few weeks early this year with the arrival of Andy Gregory to the Club. Andy has added a new dimension to the team and has proven his worth by immediately taking his new club to victories as soon as he arrived.

We will certainly be watching Andy Gregory's every move out there

today and we will be doing our best to remind Salford that their Christmas is over.

On the subject of Christmas, I would like to wish everyone at Oldham a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Enjoy your Rugby

Bob Lindner

This page is sponsored by IRENE and HELEN CALOW

SUPPORTERS CLUB

The Supporters Club would like to wish all our Supporters and Members a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Today is our local Derby Match against Salford and we wish all their Directors, Players and Supporters, the Very Best for the coming year.

For our match this afternoon we meet a much-improved Salford side, who have been doing very well in the League matches. So we should see a very entertaining game, from two sides who need points to climb up the League Table. The Oldham lads will be very keen to put one over on our local rivals and gain two valuable points. We would like to say the best of luck to both teams for a good and enjoyable game this Boxing Day afternoon.

It's not too late to take out your membership for the Supporters Club, so treat yourself to a New Year present by calling in the Club Shop and getting a Membership Form and joining to take advantage of your Shop Discounts and Away Travel Discounts. Membership Only £2.00. This also applies to our Junior Reds, who may get their Membership Forms from the Club Shop and take advantage of their great reductions on First Team

Admission Prices, Away Travel and Discounts in the Club Shop.

Our next away game is scheduled to take place at Castleford on the 2nd January, 1994. Anyone wishing to book this may do so in the Small Canteen at today's match or in the Club Shop or phone 665 1832 for details of time and price of coach seats.

Also we would like to remind all our supporters coming from the Mossley and Stalybridge area, that an away coach goes from our Mossley Branch. So if anyone wants any details, please phone 665 1832.

Videos of all home and away matches can be hired or bought from our Club Shop at £2.00 per night or purchased at £10.00. If posted, add £2.00 for postage and packing.

In our Club Shop we still have supplies of the "Maxim Energy Drink" at £16.95 per tin and Bottles at £2.50 each - to mix it in.

The Club Shop opening hours are as follows: Monday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; Wednesday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; Friday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and Sundays before and after home matches only.

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SOAP BOX	£3.99	PENCIL CASE	£1.50
SCARVES (JACQUARD)	£44.99	TRACKSUIT (ADULT)	£55.99
MATCHDAY JACKET	£2.00	TRACKSUIT (CHILDRENS)	£37.99
FLAT CAPS	£2.00	MANICURE SET	£2.25
CIGARETTE LIGHTERS	£3.49	BOXER SHORTS	£3.50
BASEBALL CAPS	£2.00	BOOKMARK	£0.75
BEANY HATS	£3.49	KEYRING	£1.50
CAR KIT HANGER	£1.99	CAR STICKERS	£0.75
SUN VISORS	£2.95	COMB IN CASE	£1.20
BOB HAT (JACQUARD)	£2.99	CHILDRENS PURSE	£1.00
MUGS	£1.50	PENSION BOOK HOLDER	£1.75
METAL BADGES	£1.50	TIDY SET	£1.99
MONZA JACKETS (ADULT)	£57.99	HANDYMAN SET	£2.50
MONZA JACKETS (CHILDREN)	£49.99	KEY CASE	£1.50
MONACO JACKETS (ADULTS)	£61.99		
MONACO JACKETS (CHILDREN)	£51.99		
TORINO TOP	£37.99		

*NEW IN STOCK * *NEW IN STOCK * *NEW IN STOCK *
FABULOUS CHILDRENS T-SHIRTS £4.99
 *NEW IN STOCK * *NEW IN STOCK * *NEW IN STOCK *

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STATS

Opponents	Date	Ven.	Res.	F.A.	Att.
HULL FAX	28.8.53	A	L	12-26	7,445
BRAUFCROFT	3.9.53	H	L	20-24	4,054
HULL K.R.	12.9.53	A	W	28-14	3,948
WARRINGTON	19.9.53	H	L	12-18	5,755
SHEFFIELD	26.9.53	A	L	15-22	3,476
WALSLEY	10.10.53	A	L	12-14	4,759
HULL	24.10.53	H	W	22-16	2,019
LEIGH	31.10.53	A	L	21-22	3,829
FEATHERSTONE R	7.11.53	A	L	24-30	3,719
HIGHFIELD (R) (F)	14.11.53	A	W	26-8	863
ST HELENS	21.11.53	H	L	2-12	5,021
WIGAN	28.11.53	A	L	12-38	11,719
LEIGH	5.12.53	H	W	42-6	3,139
WIGAN (R) (F)	12.12.53	H	L	6-16	6,192
HULL FAX	19.12.53	H			
SALFORD	26.12.53	H			
REGAL TROPHY (SF)	1.1.54	A			
CASTLEFORD	2.1.54	A			
REGAL TROPHY (SF)	8.1.54	A			
BRADFORD	9.1.54	A			
HULL K.R.	16.1.54	H			
REGAL TROPHY (F)	22.1.54	A			
WARRINGTON	23.1.54	A			
SOC CUP (R2)	30.1.54	A			
SHEFFIELD	6.2.54	A			
SOC CUP (R3)	13.2.54	A			
WIDNES	20.2.54	H			
SOC CUP (Q1)	27.2.54	H			
LEGS	6.3.54	A			
SOC CUP (SF)	12.3.54	A			
HULL	13.3.54	H			
WAKEFIELD	20.3.54	H			
SOC CUP (SF)	26.3.54	H			
FEATHERSTONE R	27.3.54	H			
SAUFORD	1.4.54	A			
CASTLEFORD	4.4.54	A			
LEIGH	10.4.54	A			
ST HELENS	17.4.54	A			
WIGAN	24.4.54	A			
SOC CUP (FINAL)	30.4.54	A			



TUNK'S TEASERS - ANSWERS

- 1981-82 ✓
- Mick Parrish (117) ✓
- Gary Prohm, 45 in 1984-85. ✓
- 1964-65 ✓
- The Clive Churchill Medal ✓
- David Ward (Leeds) ✓
- Western Suburbs ✓
- Wembley, Wigan and Leeds ✓
- Hunslet ✓
- Alan Prescott (St. Helens) ✓

10/10

NEXT HOME GAME

OLDHAM V. HULL K.R.

SUNDAY, 16th JANUARY, 1994

K.O. 3.00 p.m.