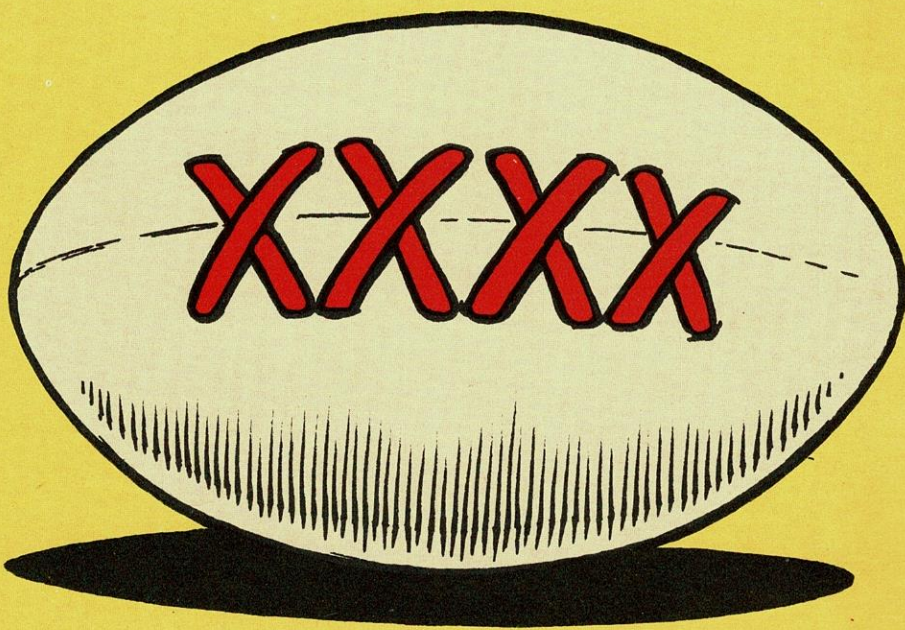


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**OLDHAM v HULL K.R. Sunday, January 16th, 1994. Kick Off 3.00 p.m.**

# OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham

Telephone: 061-652 5244 and 061-624 4865

## ROLL OF HONOUR

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim Quinn

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Dr. G. Radcliffe, Dr. D. Atherton

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Mr. A. Bonnelle (Advisor)

**Assistant Physiotherapist:**

Mr. J. Watkins

**Hon. Freeman:** Mr. F. Howarth, B.A.

**Club Secretary:** Karen Scott

**Marketing Executive:** Ian McMahon

**Coach:** Peter Tunks

**Assistant Coach:** Eric Fitzsimons

**'A' Team Coaches:** Andy Goodway/Shane Tupaea

**Academy Manager:** Jack Buckley

**Youth Development Officer:**

Ian McCorquodale

**Hon. Consultant**

**Orthopaedic Surgeons:** Mr. H. Thompson,

Mr. D. Walker

**Hon. Safety Officer:** Roger Norris

**Official Timekeeper:** Mr. J. Roscoe

**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, 1966-67, 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 Sevens Winners

1991-92

# FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



As a priority for next season, we must make sure we have adequate training facilities for the winter months. Ever since I can remember our form has slipped a little from about the middle of November and I have no hesitation at all in concluding that it has a lot to do with the rough weather we invariably get at Watersheddings and the shortage of good training facilities in the club and around the town.

No, I haven't forgotten that we sold our training pitch. That was a necessity to ease our financial crisis. It doesn't help our training problems, I know, but to be honest it wouldn't have mattered if we had had half a dozen training pitches at Watersheddings in the past few weeks, they would all have been waterlogged, like the centre of the greyhound ring, or at best very heavy indeed and unsuitable for training.

I was going to say we couldn't legislate for the weather. But we can, can't we? And we all know how. Anyway, that's another story and I won't go into it here.

Luckily, we have been using the gym and sports hall at St. Augustine's School on Monday nights for the past few months. As a facility for use 24 hours after a Sunday match that is fine and we are very grateful indeed for it and indebted to those people who make it possible.

However, if the players are going to be inside on Monday nights they need good outdoor facilities for ball work, tactical sessions and other kinds of training on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

But what has happened in the past few weeks? The weather has been so bad up here - snow, hail, sleet, heavy rain and high winds - that the players couldn't get on the greyhound area and only rarely on the main pitch, which has to be protected now because we are playing first team, "A" team and Academy games on it as well as using it for training whenever possible.

Our multi-gym has been over-subscribed in the past few weeks, I can tell you . . . and we have also been good customers at the local swimming baths. But Peter Tunks and our coaching staff will tell you that there is no real substitute for outdoor work in the sessions from Wednesday onwards and I am convinced in my mind that the form of our players has been affected by the constant attempts to make-do-and-mend in freezing conditions or driving rain and cold.

On Wednesday of last week we managed to get the use of the all-weather surface at Hathershaw Sports Centre for one hour. The coaches and players agreed that the floodlit facilities were excellent and that's the sort of facility we need to get on a more regular basis next season.

I have been accused in a reader's letter in the sports pages of the Oldham Chronicle of making excuses, of blaming the weather and the shortage of facilities for our dip in form when other clubs have similar problems. Some do. But many don't. And I don't think many would argue with us when we say that our geographical location, on the slopes of the Pennines, gives us

more problems with the winter weather than the clubs in West Lancashire, for instance.

Take Wigan. Not only are they full-time professionals, training most days during the day, but they have excellent facilities at Central Park and the use of other good facilities in the town, particularly at Robin Park.

There, they can use an eight-lane running track, indoor facilities, all-weather surfaces and even a covered running area.

The Wigan players, unlike ours, do not get home from work at tea time and turn out on a wintry night to try and do some training in the driving sleet and mud. Yes, I know Wigan are exceptional. But I submit there are few teams in the Stones Bitter Championship who have to overcome the problems we face up here.

It appears that the problems are not exclusive to the town's Rugby League Club, either. The other night I read that Joe Royle was having to ring round the town trying to find some training facilities for Athletic.

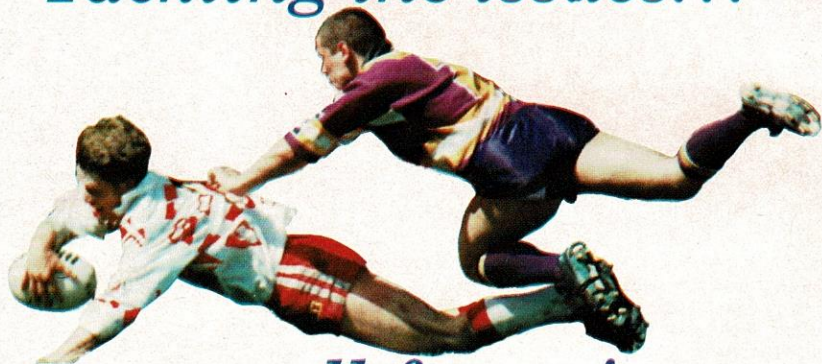
Let's hope 1994 will bring an improvement in the weather in the early months of the year. Mark my words. As the weather improves, so will the quality of preparation and so will the results.

This is professional Rugby League at the highest level. There is an extremely thin dividing line between success and failure on the field of play and merely a slight hiccup in team planning and preparation can make all the difference between victory and defeat.

## O.R.L.F.C. VICE-PRESIDENTS SEASON 1993/94

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# A Watersheddings Welcome to . . .

## HULL K.R.

**Mike Fletcher:** Full Back 5'11". 13st. Local Lad who came through Hull Schools system, Colts and A Teams. First played centre, then established himself as regular First Team Full Back - also Club record goalkicker.

**Julian Barkworth:** Wing 6'. 13st. Signed for the club in September 1991, after playing trials, started his playing career in the "other" rugby game. Has quickly settled down and become a regular in the First Team.

**Paul Fletcher:** Centre/Second Row 6'1". 15st. A product of Hull Schools and the local Eureka amateur side, he earned the Great Britain under 19'2 honours, and also went on the "Young Lions" tour to Australia in the summer of 1989. Graduated via Rovers Colts and through Rovers "A".

Martin Offiah. Has made rapid progress in learning the professional game has earned a first team place on merit.

**Wayne Parker:** Scrum Half 5'9". 12st 2lbs. Another product of Rovers Colts - who won U21 honours, an established fixture in the First Team.

**Chris Harrison:** Prop 6'2". 15st. Younger brother of Des, signed in September 1991. Has quickly established himself as a valuable member of the First Team Squad.

**Andy Thompson:** Second Row 5'11". 14st 4lbs. Another product of Rovers Colts and "A" Team, originally a full back but also called upon to play at centre - when established himself in the second row, as a top tackler.

**Paul Lyman:** Second Row 5'10". 15st 7lbs. A schoolboy international who joined Featherstone in May 1982 from Travellers Saints Juniors. As a 17 year old he was substituted in Featherstone's 1983 Wembley Cup winning side. In season 1985-86 he won Great Britain

Under 21 honours, and played for the Yorkshire side which defeated New Zealand at Odsal. He was in the Great Britain squad for the two tests against the 1986 Australian Tourists without getting a game. Valued at £90,000 Rovers signed him on 7th January 1989 for £55,000.

**Paul Speckman:** Loose Forward 6'2". 14st 10lbs. Son of



**DAVE HOSKINS (with ball), GARY CHATFIELD and MIKE FLETCHER (background)**

former Rovers forward, a Great Britain player who has come up with Rovers through Rovers Junior and "A" Teams. Good tactical kicker.

**Gary Chatfield:** Scrum Half 6'6". 11st 7lbs. A product of Eureka Juniors - coached by former Hull FC and GB star John Whiteley.

**Craig O'Brien:** Second Row 5'11". 14st 7lbs. Signed as a promising youngster, served his apprenticeship in the "A" Team and has now forced his way into the First Team squad and has turned in some sterling performances this year.

**Rob Hutchinson:** Centre 6'2". 13st 7lbs. Recently joined the club from Halifax as part of Graeme Hallas deal. Has quickly settled down and is proving to be a valuable acquisition.

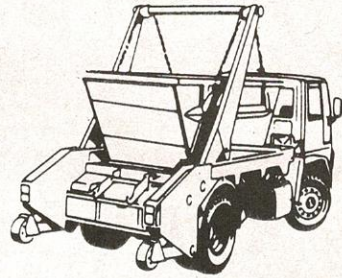


**BRIGHT SODJE:**

**Bright Sodje:** Wing 6'1". Nicknamed "Ray", a former Blackheath R.U. player who attended the same school as

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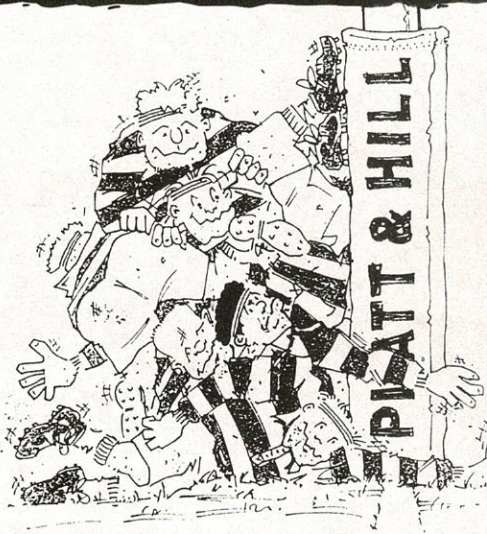
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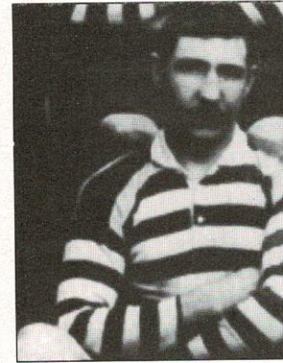
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# Roughy 'eds Recalled

## No. 17 TOM MARTIN



Tom Martin was a winger who joined Oldham during the first season of the Northern Union making his debut on New Years Day 1896.

Born in Arbroath, Scotland, Tom's family moved to North East England when he was 12 years old and it was from the Tudhoe club in County Durham that Tom was signed by Oldham.

A powerful and elusive wingman, he gained County honours with Durham at Rugby Union and emulated the feat in the new code playing

several times for his adopted County of Lancashire.

Tom's last game for Oldham was against Salford on October 28th,

1899 by which time he had played in 99 first class matches for the "Roughyeds" with an impressive total of 57 tries.

## No. 18

### ABE

### JOHNSON



Abe Johnson was signed from Leigh in December 1925, making his debut at Warrington on the 12th of that month when he kicked two goals in the 7-7 draw with Warrington.

A very versatile player, Abe played equally well in the stand off, centre or wing positions and also proved to be a more than useful goalkicker.

Contrary to common belief Abe actually holds the record for points in a match

for Oldham. On Easter Monday, April 9th, 1928 he scored two tries and kicked 12 goals in the 60 points to 5 thrashing of Widnes, for a total of 30 points.

Before his transfer to Halifax, just before the Challenge Cup deadline in 1930, Abe had played in 146 first class games for Oldham, scoring 62 tries and kicking 157 goals including two in the 1927 Challenge Cup final victory over Swinton.

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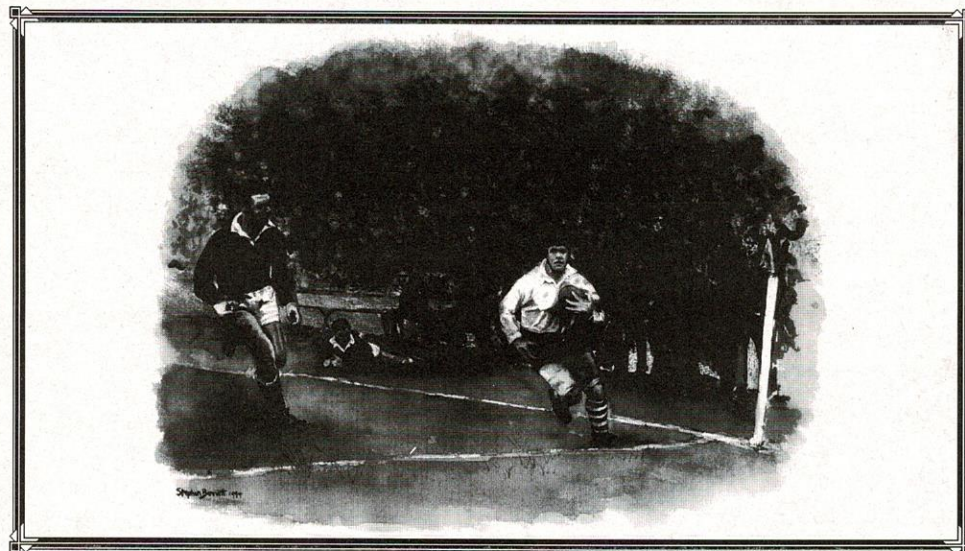
# EVENING CHRONICLE

## Oldham born and read

# ACTION GALLERY

**ACTION GALLERY No. 9** The 1964 Oldham v. Hull K.R. semi-finals (Trevor Simms).

One of Oldham's high points in the epic 1964 semi-final struggle against Hull K.R. is captured as "Roughyed" left-wing Trevor Simms evades the tackle of Cyril Kellett and the covering Len Clark to score the opening try in the first replay at Swinton. This being the match abandoned in extra time for bad light with Oldham winning 17-14.



## 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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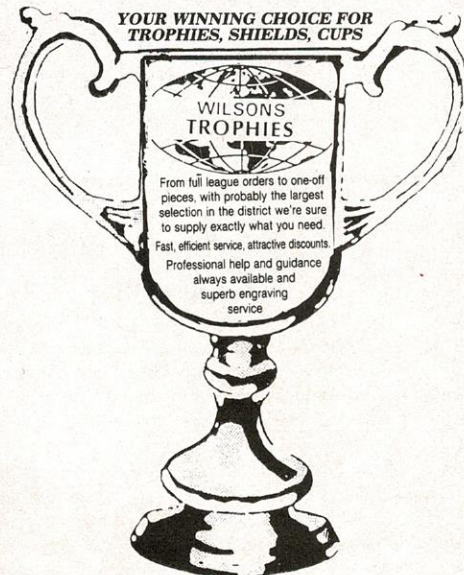
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# A-TEAM NEWS

It has been a very inactive spell over the Festive Season, as we also got a bye in last weeks First Round Youngers Challenge Cup.

It seems an eternity since our last match, when we beat Dewsbury very convincingly on a wretched night at Fartown, to put ourselves into yesterday's Second Division Trophy Final against Doncaster, which was played at Tattersfield, after we lost the toss to stage the game at Watersheddings. So it was another away game, following our visits to London, Hunslet and Dewsbury in this competition.

Hopefully, we return from Yorkshire with our second trophy of the season and preserve our unbeaten record so far.

Yours in Sport

Shane Tupaea

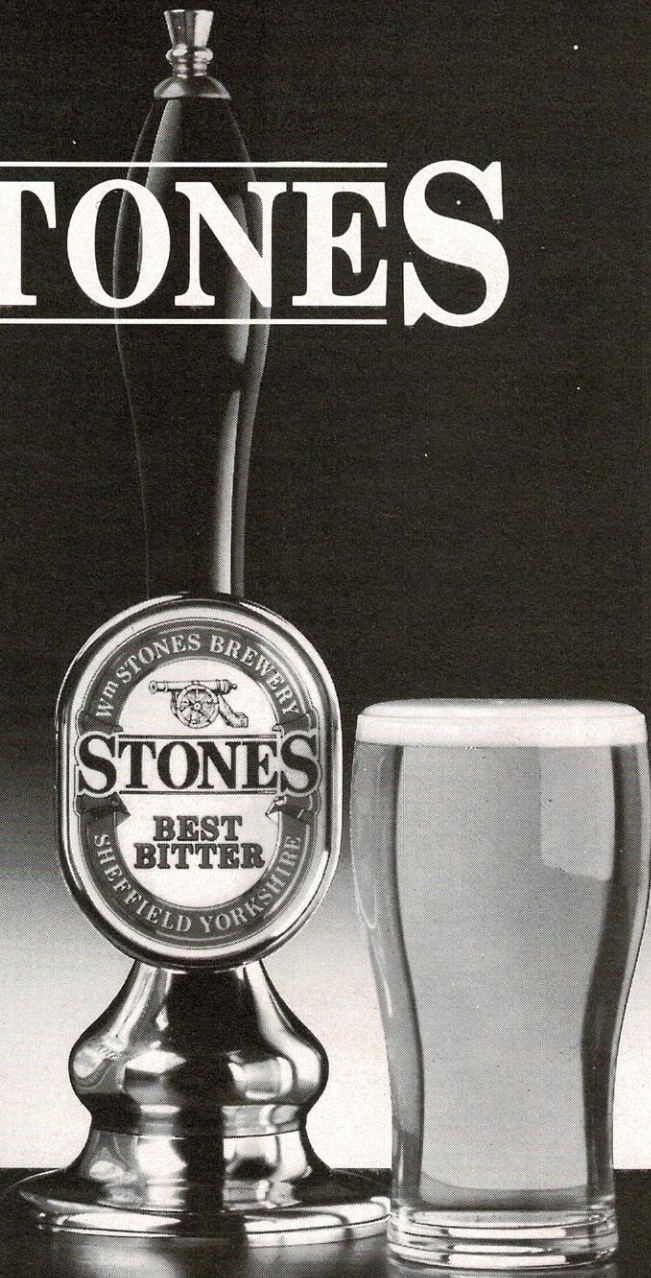


## YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

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	LCSS - Round 1 Workington	H (W)		38-10
Thursday	7th	Leigh	H (W)		26-24
Saturday	23rd	LCSS - Round 2 Wigan	A (W)		26-22
Saturday	30th	Swinton	A (W)		28-2
NOVEMBER					
Wednesday	3rd	LCSS-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	LCSS 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
Monday	20th	ASDC semi Dewsbury	A (W)		32-10
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			

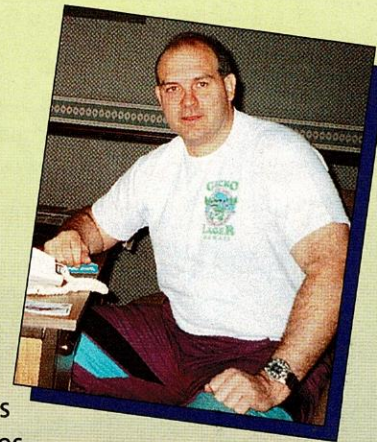
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# STONES



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## TUNKS' TALKBACK



You do not need to have a Degree in Mathematics to realise the importance of today's game against the men from New Craven Park. Along with ourselves, George Fairbairn's outfit are also struggling at the wrong end of the table as we enter the second phase of the season.

It has been a disappointing few weeks for ourselves, as

we have turned in some below par performances but it is now down to ourselves to turn the season around.

It is therefore vital that you, the supporters, get behind the team, as we attempt to improve this indifferent run of form.

Including today's game against Hull K.R., we have seven remaining League fixtures at

Watersheddings and I am looking for a marked improvement in our home form, to lay the foundations for a successful end to the season.

Enjoy the game,

Peter Tunks.

## TUNKS TEASERS

1. Who holds the points in a season record for Wakefield ?
2. What is the nickname of the Auckland team that is to enter the Winfield Cup in 1995?
3. Which player scored most tries on the 1984 G.B. Tour to Australia and New Zealand?
4. Which team plays at the Recreation Ground?
5. What is the highest number of points scored by a losing team in a League match?
6. Which Oldham player toured Australia and New Zealand in 1974?
7. In what season did Hull K.R. join the Rugby League?
8. What was the venue for the first four R.L. Charity Shield games?
9. Who holds the tries in a season record for Swinton?
10. Which Fulham player won a Great Britain Cap?

ANSWERS ON STATS PAGE

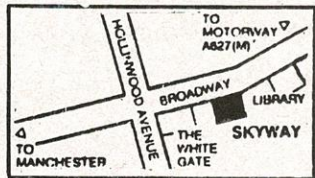
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**SPINDLES SHOPPING CENTRE**

I have now been here for two weeks and I can assure you there is never a dull moment here at the club.  
 I am very much looking forward to working in Oldham, especially being a local lad myself and to increasing all the Marketing and Commercial activities of the club.  
 Without doubt the Commercial side of any club is its "Saviour" and the support of people within the town will decide whether a club succeeds or fails.  
 I can only ask that you continue to support Oldham Rugby League Club in the manner in which you are doing and hopefully we can build on this.

Ian McMahon,  
Marketing Executive.

It seems that everybody saw our "Barrow" in the Spindles Centre during December. The Barrow was a resounding success and something we will be repeating from time to time.  
 One thing that people may not have realised was it was manned throughout by volunteers, mainly from the Supporters Club. This week the Supporters donated £2,000.00 from the proceeds to the Club.  
 May I, on behalf of the Chairman and Directors of the Club, say a very big thank you for all your efforts and time given over the Christmas period.

*Due to Government legislation we have now amalgamated Lifeline and Cashline.  
 We are now in our new draw offering the prize money shown.*

**BIG LEAGUE CASH BONANZA**

**WEEK No. 1  
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Agent: 218 Bankers Order**

**WEEK No. 2  
£1000 WINNER  
Winner: D 6711, J. Hughes  
Agent: 265 Mossley Supp. Club**

MONDAY	£100	Winner: H 2013 R. King	Agent: 253 T. McDonagh	MONDAY	£100	Winner: C 5084 B. Dalton	Agent: 065 Royal Oak
TUESDAY	£100	Winner: A 1141 A. Lomas	Agent: 081 Red Lion	TUESDAY	£100	Winner: A 8322 M. Killinaul	Agent: 088 D. Murgatroyd
WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: H 2407 L. Done	Agent: 021 Platt & Hill	WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: D 3388 E. Parkinson	Agent: 093 Queghan
THURSDAY	£100	Winner: H 7290 K. Lord	Agent: 218 Bankers Order	THURSDAY	£100	Winner: C 7793 J. Lane	Agent: 255 Woodman Inn
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## JOHN SHOWS HIS SKILL

20 year old John Clarke has "hooked" the prestigious title of Castlemaine XXXX title "Player of the Month" and is consequently the "Man with the Can" for December 1993.

After a difficult month for Oldham, which began with a relatively easy victory against bottom club Leigh, followed by a good performance in 16-8 defeat by the mighty Wigan in the Regal Trophy, there then came two disastrous home defeats by Halifax and Salford.

Both these games could have gone either way but crucial incidents in the mid second half on each occasion took the game out of Oldham's grasp and left them very much in the relegation scramble, although there is still time

CASTLEMAINE  
**XXXXX**

## CASTLEMAINE



# XXXXX



## TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 16th JANUARY, 1994

### OLDHAM Team Changes

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

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#### 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: Robin Whitfield

### HULL K. R. Team Changes

1. Mike Fletcher
2. Julian Barkworth
3. Mike Bibby
4. Dean Clark
5. Bright Sodje
6. Gary Chatfield
7. Wayne Parker
8. David Hosking
9. Richard Chamberlain
10. Craig O'Brien
11. Chris Harrison
12. Andy Thompson
13. Paul Fletcher
14. Jamie Leighton
15. Nick Halafihi

#### 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

Touch Judges: William Eccleston (Red Flag)  
Jim Molyneux (Yellow Flag)

to make up some ground in the next half of this season.

However, according to our resident judge, Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle, John was: "the epitome of consistency" and proved to be "a real discovery in his first season in professional Rugby League."

Continued Roger: "Seeing him battle away at this level it is easy to see how he became the first young player to win the 'BARLA (British Amateur Rugby League Association) Young Player of the Year Award' on two separate occasions".

John will be able to spend his spare time relaxing with the Aussie's favourite brew Castlemaine XXXX, as with his title he receives a free months supply!

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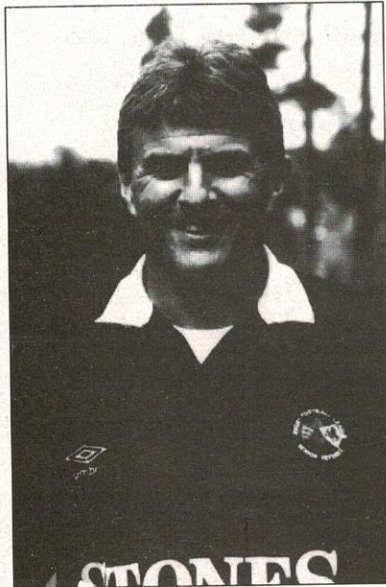
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## TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



### Robin Whitfield

(WIDNES)

### Date of Birth

26-11-43

### Grade One:

1980-81

# IN TOUCH with H.O.

## JOHN SMITH'S TOUR BY AUSTRALIA 1994

The three-match John Smith's Test series between Great Britain and Australia will be housed at Wembley, Manchester United's Old Trafford and Elland Road, Leeds, providing capacity for a record breaking aggregate attendance.

The Ashes treble will be staged in London on Saturday, 22nd October, in Manchester on Saturday, 5th November and in Leeds on Sunday, 20th November.

The current attendance record for a British Test series is 133,684, set on the Australian's last visit in 1990, producing world record receipts of £1,180,000.

All three Test grounds will be all-seater by the autumn, with a capacity of nearly 78,000 at Wembley, 43,000 at Old Trafford and 39,000 at Elland Road.

Ticket prices at Wembley are £8, £13, £17, £20, £24, £27, and £30 in the stadium plus £40 for the Olympic Gallery. A special promotion will be mounted for organised parties of junior fans who will be offered £13 seats for only £4. An initial allocation of 5,000 seats have been reserved for this development exercise. For the Great Britain v. New Zealand first Test at Wembley last October, Keighley Cougars alone took 1,000 schoolchildren on this scheme.

Seats for the Old Trafford and Elland Road John Smith's Tests will be priced at £10, £15 and £19 with an allocation of the £4 junior special offer again made available.

As a special incentive to encourage attendance at all three John Smith's Tests, purchasers of a ticket for each of the three Tests will receive a £5 discount.

Order forms for the John Smith's Test series can be obtained from the Ticket Office, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT with Access/Visa bookings made on the Ticket Hotline, 0532 629991, Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The League has already decided that no League matches will be played on the weekends of the Wembley Test and the Leeds Test.

The remainder of the John Smith's Tour fixtures will be determined at a meeting in Sydney between Rugby League Chief Executive Maurice

Lindsay and Australian Chairman Ken Athurson over the weekend of the Coca-Cola World Sevens from 4th-6th February.

Mr. Lindsay said today: "The number of John Smith's Tour matches and the opposition are still subject to debate".

Wembley will be staging its sixth Rugby League International. Visits to the twin towers in 1963 and 1973 were unsuccessful, but a return for the first Anglo-Aussie Test in 1990 attracted a current record British Test crowd of 54,569.

Two years later the Stones Bitter World Cup Final between Great Britain and Australia was attended by 73,631 - a world record for a Rugby League International match. Last October the third highest crowd for any Anglo-Kiwi Test in the 82-match history - 36,131 turned up for the John Smith's first Test.

Old Trafford made its Rugby League Test debut in 1986, the first Great Britain encounter with Australia attracting a then British Test record of 50,583. The 1989 Kiwis played their first Test in 1989 before nearly 20,000 fans before the Australians returned in 1990 to draw level in the Test series in the second encounter before 46,615 spectators.

Elland Road's first staging of a Test was in 1985 when a crowd of 22,209 witnessed a dramatic 6-6 draw to leave the series tied. The Australians called in on their 1986 visit en route to a Test whitewash of Britain, before New Zealand returned in 1989.

The Kangaroos completed the ground's quartet of Tests a year later with a capacity crowd of 32,500 for the deciding 1990 series encounter, Australia retaining the Ashes with a 14-0 victory.

This autumn's eagerly awaited visit will be the 18th Kangaroos tour since 1908. Britain have won nine of those home Test series, Australia's eight successes including a current run of seven consecutive triumphs.

Honours are even in the 108 Ashes Tests, each side winning 52 with four drawn, Australia having the advantage on points scoring difference.

	P	W	D	L	T	G	Dr	Pts
Great Britain	108	52	4	52	262	270	7	1362
Australia	108	52	4	52	309	333	6	1653

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# Last Time Out . . .

## with **ROGER HALSTEAD**

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the *Oldham Evening Chronicle* of September 13th, 1993.

Debutant scrum-half Martin Crompton was an outstanding individual in a workmanlike team as Oldham scored five tries to two at windswept Craven Park yesterday.

Rovers beat St. Helens in their previous home game, but on this occasion they were ripped apart in the last 20 minutes by an Oldham team which lifted its level of performance when playing into the stiff breeze.

Choosing to play against the wind when winning the toss, the Robins must have been well satisfied to hold Oldham to 8-8 at half-time.

Midway through the second half they were still there at 14-14 . . . then Oldham cut loose with three quick tries to pick up their opening win in the First Division after defeats by Halifax and Bradford Northern.

As the hooter signalled Oldham's first win under the captaincy of Aussie star Bob Lindner, travelling supporters showed their appreciation and then roared their approval a second time when Lindner led his men over to greet them from the side of the pitch.

The Aussie made a useful debut as the Oldham pack got well on top in the second half and earned one of the biggest cheers of the day when he took his team to applaud the support on the popular side.

This was heady stuff for the fans after two seasons of Second Division mediocrity and it compensated for the bitter disappointment of an undeserved defeat by Bradford.

The pack laid down the foundation, the half-backs provided the link and the threequarters applied the finishing touches with centre Darren Abram scoring stylishly early on and Shaun Irwin adding two more tries in the second half.

Rovers had plenty of determination and spirit, if not much class. They never once held the lead, but they twice came from behind to level and it wasn't until Crompton crowned a splendid individual performance with the third Oldham try in the 58th minute that the home challenge faded.

Out of five tries scored by Oldham, Crompton touched down once and helped to fashion three more.

He linked beautifully with Mike Kuiti to send Abram sidestepping past Mike Fletcher and Wayne Parker on an inside dash to the posts in the eighth minute.

Early in the second half Crompton teased the Rovers defence on a crossfield run before

putting Irwin into a gap for the centre to finish well from 30 yards out.

The Oldham scrum-half scored himself when Bright Sodje failed to smother his grubber kick close to the line.

Then, as Rovers finally capitulated, he again combined with Kuiti to set up position from which the ever-alert Paul Groves nipped in from dummy half.

Oldham won a scrum against the head just outside the Rovers quarter and Crompton sold the dummy, went clear and almost succeeded in giving Kuiti a well-deserved first try for the club.

The Rovers defence was unable to gather in time to stop Groves scoring under the sticks and Paul Topping's fourth goal put Oldham firmly in control at 24-14 with 20 minutes left.

For good measure, Irwin made absolutely sure by crashing over from dummy half after Mike Bibby had fumbled a Crompton up-and-under.

Competitive in everything he did, Irwin replied in the best possible manner after allowing David Liddiard to give him the slip to score the first Rovers try after half an hour.

Liddiard, hooker Richard Chamberlain and scrum-half Parker, the brains of the outfit, were the only Rovers players to give Oldham much trouble.

It was Parker's clever creative play which provided centre Rob Hutchinson with the second Rovers try early in the second half.

Oldham were opened up easily on that occasion and coach Peter Tunks will want to know why.

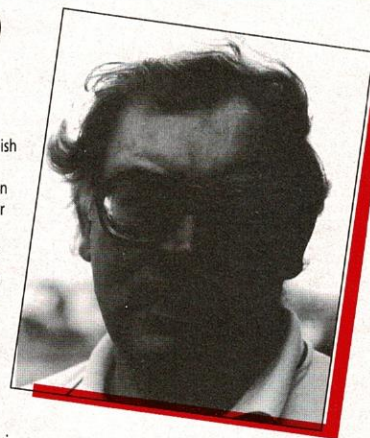
He need ask no questions, however, of Scott Ranson, who effectively bottled up the potentially dangerous Sodje, or of stand-off Topping, who played his opposite number, Dean Clarke, out of the game.

Wally Gibson was sound at full-back, displaying courage and skill under the high ball and always running out of defence effectively.

While Crompton played the lead role of the half-backs on attack, Topping helped out his forwards in midfield by pulling off 37 tackles – only three more than the industrious Kuiti and four more than Tiny Solomona.

Topping had every reason to feel satisfied with his performance in a position that was comparatively new to him.

He also kicked four goals from six shots in difficult conditions, the two he missed passing only inches wide despite acute angles and a



powerful wind.

The pack's performance was a team effort in every sense of the word, each of the seven forward used making valuable contributions.

Solomona was well marked early on, but by midway through the second half he had proved who was boss. Rovers were sick of the sight of him by then.

Substitute Craig Richards was equally punishing in the heavy-foraging department, while Lindner, Andy Goodway and Kuiti formed a skilful and penetrative back-row.

Lindner used the ball cleverly, did his tackling, took the ball up and was punishing in the first half as a wide runner – a role Goodway adopted successfully in the second half.

Oldham went in front early, suffered a bad spell, regained the initiative, but lost it again when Lindner was penalised for standing in the five-metre zone on the short side at an Oldham play-the-ball.

This led directly to Liddiard's try and an equalising goal off the touchline by Mike Fletcher.

The visitors were unlucky when Irwin was stopped on the line, after an excellent spell of attacking rugby, and when Crompton's pass to Kuiti was judged forward as the Kiwi went clear.

The half finished, however, with both Lindner and Goodway making handling errors deep inside the Rovers quarter, Oldham going in for the break with a first-half error rate of 40 per cent.

This had to be improved considerably and it was slashed to 18 per cent during a second half in which Rovers scored only one try to Oldham's four and threatened seriously on only one more occasion.

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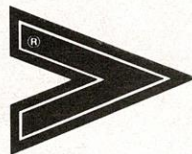
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## APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	15	1	3	-	-	12
NIGEL HESLOP	10	-	2	-	-	8
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	15	2	1	45	-	94
SCOTT RANSON	14	-	4	-	-	16
DARREN ABRAM	15	-	9	-	-	36
STEVE KERRY	10	-	2	2	3	15
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	16	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	2	6	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	2	4	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	17	1	3	-	-	12
DAVID JONES	14	2	2	-	-	8
ANDY GOODWAY	15	1	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	6	4	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	4	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	2	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	12	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN CROMPTON	8	1	2	-	2	10
BOB LINDNER	15	-	6	-	-	24
JOHN CLARKE	11	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	1	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	3	-	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	-	1	-	-	-	-
ADRIAN BELLE	1	-	-	-	-	-

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## LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Warrington	17	13	0	4	361	233	26
Wigan	14	12	0	2	415	213	24
Bradford	15	12	0	3	411	302	24
Halifax	17	10	2	5	360	284	22
Castleford	16	10	1	5	385	213	21
St. Helens	16	10	1	5	368	261	21
Featherstone	17	9	1	7	364	362	19
Leeds	17	8	1	8	342	317	17
Widnes	16	8	0	8	282	308	16
Sheffield	17	7	1	9	348	418	15
Hull	16	6	2	8	231	256	14
Salford	16	7	0	9	277	345	14
Hull KR	17	5	0	12	269	438	10
Oldham	16	4	0	12	289	336	8
Wakefield T.	16	4	0	12	200	348	8
Leigh	17	0	1	16	203	471	1

# THE ACADEMY

with Manager  
**JACK BUCKLEY**

It is now patently obvious that the Academy set-up has developed into a vital part of the major Rugby League Club policies. We have already witnessed the immense benefits which have been reaped by clubs such as Leeds, Warrington and Wigan, who regularly parade their Academy graduates on the "Big League" stage.

In our first year of Academy Football at Oldham, we have seen at first hand, the sheer professionalism of some of the clubs we have met. The preparation and presentation of these sides has been on a par with their more senior teams and is a situation we must strive to achieve here at Oldham.

That the Academy is an integral part of a club's strength should be self-evident and we must, over the next few months, project this image to potential players, parents and amateur club coaches, if we are to attract the stars of the future. We aim to prove, between

now and the end of the season, that Oldham are fully committed to the Academy ideal and that we have as much to offer as the more established Academy teams, plus the potential for even better things to be achieved here.

Back on the playing front, we suffered a major setback last weekend with our hastily re-arranged trip to Cumbria. Workington were never going to be an easy proposition and we went down to our first defeat of the season since the opening match.

Hopefully, by this time we shall have accounted for Dewsbury during the week and are now back on course to achieve our objective.

# DEVELOPING SCENE

with  
Development  
Officer  
**NIEL WOOD**

Happy New Year to you all. Today is a big day for the Oldham Rugby League Development Scheme because it sees the draw for the Oldham Schools Rugby League Cups. There are competitions this year for Under 11's, 12's, 13's 14's,

15's, 16's and 19's. I don't know if it is a record entry but I am very pleased that there are 61 Senior Teams from 15 different schools and 18 Junior School entries. A total of 33 different schools playing Rugby League on a competitive basis. That represents a player base in the Under 16's age band of about 1,500 players. I estimate that we need a play base at Under 16's - the region of 2,000 players to ensure a constant supply of players coming through the Juniors to the Seniors.

I am delighted to welcome the brand new Sponsors of the Oldham Schools Cups, Quantum Sports and Leisure. Their Managing Director, Philip Hawthorne, is with us today and I extend our thanks to him for their generous support.

At half time there will be a presentation of BFL Skills Award Badges and Certificates to players from Radcliffe, Mayfield, Blackshaw Lane, Rushcroft and Beal Vale Schools.

Oldham Rugby League Development is sponsored by P. CASEY & COMPANY and SPORTSMATCH

# QUOTE - UNQUOTE

*(Peter Tunks had this to say about last weekend's game at Odsal)*

"Our forward defence was non-existent at times and you won't win matches when that happens. It is also increasingly apparent that you cannot play effectively at this level without a good stand-off."

*(Jim Quinn speaking about Oldham's bad run of results)*

"We always knew it was going to be a difficult season, but I think the time has come for our senior men to get together with the coach and offer their views, based on their experience and judgement. We will get out of this if we pool our resources."

*(Tiny Solomona on his decision to leave Watersheddings)*

"Breaking my arm and not being able to play has made me do a lot of thinking about my future. I started to miss my home country and when Auckland came in with their offer, it was a very difficult decision to make but financially, a good one for my family."

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**SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR**



**OLDHAM  
ON  
THE  
DEFENCE**

# BACK PAGES

by **Michael Turner**

The first League game between Oldham and Hull KR was on September 27th 1902 when Oldham travelled to Humberside and recorded a seven points to two victory, with Rovers first visit to Watersheddings the following January again ending up with an Oldham win 19-2.

Since those earliest encounters there has been many a fierce contest between the "Roughyeds" and the "Robins".

Strangely enough for five years between 1908-1913, the Watersheddings match was a festive fixture with Rovers coming to Oldham on Christmas Day, with Oldham's visit to Hull usually coming in the first month of the season.

Of all the encounters between the two sides there are three (or should I say five) which stand out above the rest.

The first was the 1925 Challenge Cup Final at Leeds when a Reg Farrar inspired Oldham team won 16-3, for local skipper Herman Hilton to lift the cup for the Roughyeds. Although Rovers took some

consolation by defeating Swinton in the Championship final the following week at Rochdale.

Then we have the legendary twice replayed Challenge Cup semi-final in 1964, when after two titanic struggles at Leeds and Swinton, Rovers ran out deserving winners in the second replay at Huddersfield to earn the right to meet Widnes at Wembley. The scores were 5-5, 14-14 and finally 12-2 to Hull K.R. However most supporters of both clubs will need no reminding that Oldham were actually winning the Swinton clash

by 17-14 in extra time when the match was abandoned for bad light. Rovers lost in the final 13-5, but it was the epic semi-final that passed into Rugby League folk-lore.

The most recent "big match" between the two clubs was of course, the 1990 Second Division Premiership Final, when on a sweltering May afternoon at Old Trafford, Oldham staged one of the most dramatic R.L. comebacks of all time. Rovers had set off like a house on fire and five minutes into the second half they held a 29-6 lead, but Oldham gradually clawed their way back and a late try by substitute Tommy Martyn gave Oldham a historic victory by 30 points to 29.



Courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle  
**Richard Russell attempts to evade the tackle of Hull K. R. forward Zook Ema in the 1990 Second Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford.**



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# SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain  
**BOBBY LINDNER**



Happy New Year to you all and let's hope it's a Happy New Year for us on the field. It didn't start too well at Bradford.

They had one of those days when everything they tried came off. However, we are fully aware that we didn't cause them enough problems.

We, as players, must pull together with the coaches, Directors and Supporters, because

together we can turn this season around.

There is still plenty to play for in terms of glory, as well as survival in the First Division.

Today's visitors from Hull K.R. know all about survival. They've had a pretty torrid time over the past couple of seasons.

In George Fairbairn they have a good young coach, who has managed to

produce some excellent results in recent weeks.

In September we went to East Yorkshire and picked up a vital victory.

Today is even more important and the difference may be the noise from the terraces. So please get behind us and together let's go up that table!

Enjoy your Rugby

Bob Lindner

## The Kit Choice of Champions . . .



# SUPPORTERS CLUB

Welcome to today's game against Hull K.R. from Humberside. Let us hope we can play as well as when we met them at New Craven Park earlier in the season. I am sure, whatever the outcome, it will be a very exciting game played in the best of spirits by both clubs. This is a very important match which we must WIN and make our first double of the season in the First Division.

So here's wishing all our fellow supporters from Humberside, Directors and Players, a very enjoyable match at Watersheddings.

During the past weeks we have donated to the club £2,000 from our profits in the Club Shop to help with having no home matches of late. This is beside other bills paid by the Supporters Club over the last 12 months to help the club out. Although we have very little income coming from our Canteens, we still try our best to help the club in many ways, we would like our supporters to know that we are still functioning from a very small band of people.

So, come along and join the Supporters Club and also our Junior Reds, the fee for each membership is £2.00.

Our next away match is at Warrington, so come along and book your coach seats in the canteen this afternoon or phone 665 1832 (night or weekends) or 624 4865 daytime and support the team in its fight to stay in the First Division.

Video's of all home and away matches can be hired or bought from our Club Shop at £2 per night or purchased at £10. If posted, add £2.00 for postage and packing.

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CLUB TIE	£5.99	BABIES ALL-IN-ONE SUIT	£12.50
SPORTS BAG	£9.00	COTTON DRILL TROUSERS	£7.50
BEDROOM BINS	£5.00	CLOCKS	£9.95
DESK TIDIES	£2.25	PENS	£0.25
SOAP/TOOTHBRUSH HOLDERS	£0.50	PENCIL CASE	£1.50
SOAP BOX	£0.50	TRACKSUIT (ADULT)	£55.99
SCARVES (JACQUARD)	£3.99	TRACKSUIT (CHILDRENS)	£37.99
MATCHDAY JACKET	£44.99	MANICURE SET	£2.25
FLAT CAPS	£2.00	BOXER SHORTS	£3.50
CIGARETTE LIGHTERS	£3.49	BOOKMARK	£0.75
BASEBALL CAPS	£2.00	KEYRING	£1.50
BEANIE HATS	£57.99	CAR STICKERS	£0.75
CAR KIT HANGER	£1.99	COMB IN CASE	£1.20
SUN VISORS	£2.95	CHILDRENS PURSE	£1.00
BOB HAT (JACQUARD)	£2.99	PENSION BOOK HOLDER	£1.75
MUGS	£1.50	TIDY SET	£1.99
METAL BADGES	£1.50	HANDYMAN SET	£2.50
MONZA JACKETS (ADULT)	£49.99	KEY CASE	£1.50
MONZA JACKETS (CHILDREN)	£57.99		
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	W/L	Pts.	F-A	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
HULLFC	29.8.84	A	L	12-26	7,444															
BURTON	3.9.84	A	W	26-24	4,624															
WARRINGTON	10.9.84	A	W	12-10	5,725															
SHEFFIELD	28.9.84	H	L	15-22	3,470															
WIDNES	10.10.84	H	L	12-14	4,700															
LEEDS	24.10.84	A	W	21-6	4,079															
HULL	31.10.84	A	W	33-8	4,977															
WARRINGTON	11.11.84	A	L	21-22	3,829															
HULLFC	18.11.84	A	W	24-30	3,719															
WARRINGTON	15.12.84	A	W	25-8	853															
ST HELENS	17.11.84	H	L	2-12	5,621															
WIDNES	24.11.84	A	L	12-38	11,719															
LEEDS	11.12.84	H	W	45-6	3,139															
HULLFC	15.12.84	H	L	6-16	6,192															
HULLFC	19.12.84	H	L	11-28	4,001															
SALFORD	26.12.84	H	L	8-20	4,578															
WARRINGTON	1.1.84	A	L																	
CASTLETON	2.1.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	8.1.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	15.1.84	A	W																	
HULLFC	16.1.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	22.1.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	28.1.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	30.1.84	A	W																	
SHEFFIELD	6.2.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	13.2.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	27.2.84	A	W																	
LEEDS	6.3.84	A	W																	
HULL	13.3.84	H	W																	
WARRINGTON	20.3.84	H	W																	
WARRINGTON	26.3.84	H	W																	
WARRINGTON	27.3.84	H	W																	
SALFORD	1.4.84	A	W																	
LEEDS	4.4.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	10.4.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	17.4.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	24.4.84	A	W																	
WARRINGTON	30.4.84	A	W																	

## OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYING STAFF

ABRAM, DARREN	GOODWAY, ANDREW	MALISTER, CHARLIE
AINGE, DAMIEN	GOULBORNE, ALFRED	MCDERMOTT, BARRIE
BADBY, RICHARD	JASON	MEADOWS, MARK
JAMES	GRAZIANO, JOE	MITCHELL, PATRICK
BELLE, ADRIAN	GREEN, IYAN	NORMAN, PAUL
BRADBURY, DAVID	GROVES, PAUL	OLSEN, BEN
BRADBURY, LEE	GUMBS, HUGH	PHILIPS, ABRAHAM
BURNS, GARY	HALKYARD, MARTIN	PYE, DAVID KEVIN
CHRISTOPHER, PARR	HEATON, STEVEN	RAMSON, SCOTT
CLARK, NATHAN	HESLOP, NIGEL	RICHARDS, CRAIG
CLARKE, JOHN	HOLDEN, MARTIN	SERRATT, IAN
CROMPTON, MARTIN	HUDSPITH, MARK	SOLOMONA
DEVINE, SEAN	IRWIN, SHAUN	MASESEE
EDWARDS, MICHAEL	JONES, PAUL	STEPHENSON, DAVID
BARRY	JONES, DAVID	TOPPING, PAUL
GIBSON, WALTER	KERRY, STEPHEN	TUPAEA, SHANE
FREDERICK	KUITI, MIKE	RANGINUI
	LINDNER, BOB	YEOMANS, RICHARD

## TUNK'S TEASERS - ANSWERS

1. Neil Fox 407 in 1961-62 ✓
2. The "Warriors" ✓
3. Ellery Hanley 12 ✓
4. Whitehaven ✓
5. 40. Hunstlet 40 Barrow 41. Sept. 9th, 1984 ✓
6. Terry Clawson ✓
7. 1899-1900 ✓
8. The Douglas Bowl, Isle of Man ✓
9. John Stopford ✓
10. John Dalgreen ✓
- 42 in 1963-64 ✓

**NEXT HOME LEAGUE GAME**  
**OLDHAM V. WIDNES**  
**SUNDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 1994**  
**K.O. 3.00 p.m.**