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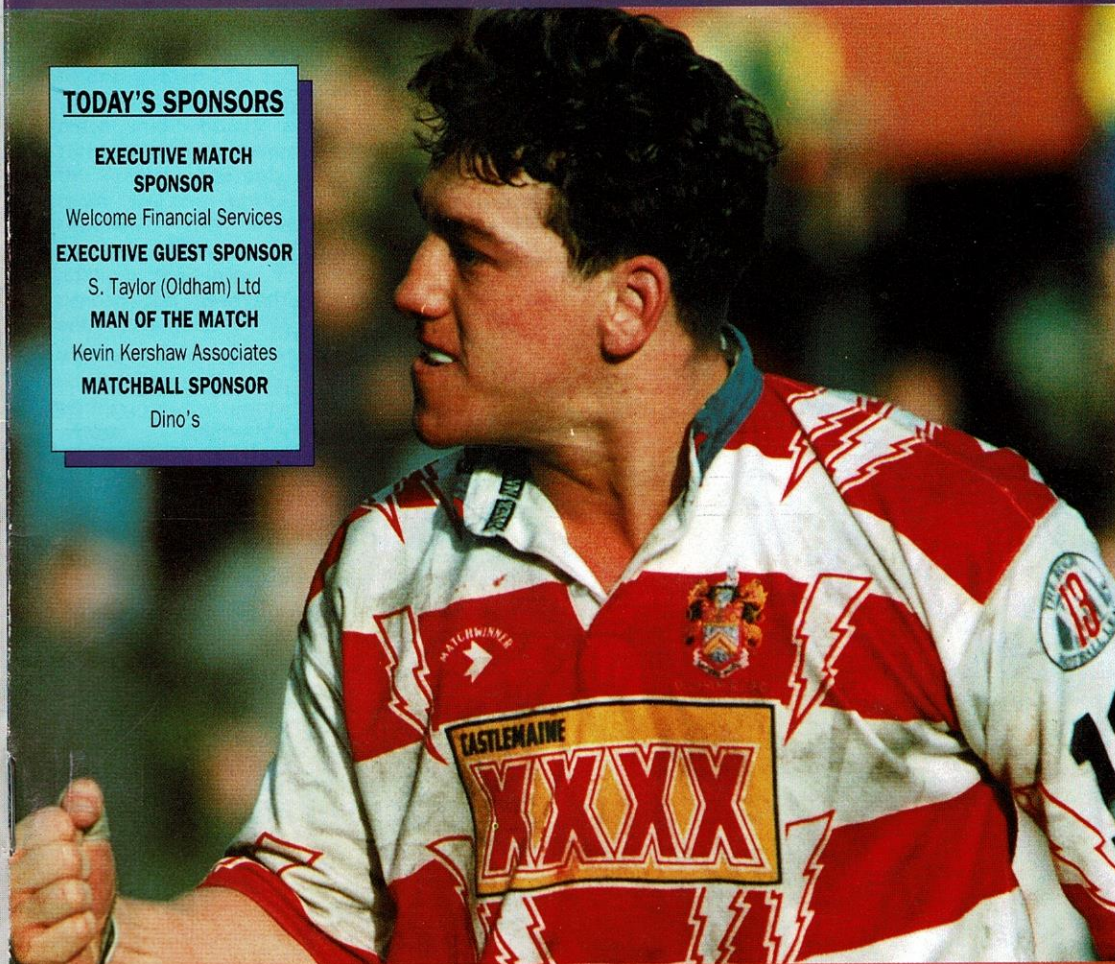
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OLDHAM v WIDNES. Sunday, February 20th, 1994. Kick Off 3.00 p.m.

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
Telephone: 061-652 5244 and 061-624 4865

ROLL OF HONOUR

CHAIRMAN: Jim Quinn

DIRECTORS: John Chadwick, Tom Patterson, Mike Winterbottom

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 Spens Winners
1991-92

General Manager: T. Donovan

Hon Doctors:

Dr. G. Radcliffe, Dr. D. Atherton

Dental Surgeon: Mr. N. Gibbison

Physiotherapists: Mr. N. Hodgson

Mr. A. Bonnelle (Advisor)

Assistant Physiotherapist:

Mr. J. Watkins

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

Club Secretary: Karen Scott

Marketing Executive: Ian McMahon

'A' Team Coach: Shane Tupaea

Academy Manager: Jack Buckley

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 Salybridge

Highest Number of Points Scored: Bernard Ganley,

2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jach Hirst, 233

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

Ronnie Hardaker, Terry Doyle, Alan Butterworth, Mavis Butterworth,
Tommy O'Brien, Major B. Howell, Harry Randall, K. Folks, C. Folks, Ken
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FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



Congratulations are in order to the Oldham 'A' team for recording their 21st consecutive victory the other night. To reach mid-February and still command an unbeaten record this season – the only Alliance team in the entire Rugby League still invincible, incidentally – says a lot for the ability of the players, the match preparation and the spirit within the camp.

It is a magnificent tribute to coach Shane Tupaea and to senior coach Peter Tunks, whose diligence and enthusiasm in building a scouting network and unearthing many of the players, either from the amateur game or by player-exchanges, is enabling us to build for the future.

The Academy side is doing well and the Alliance side was still in with a chance of four trophies when it went into Friday's Youngers Alliance Cup tie with Featherstone here at Watersheddings. Whatever the result, it should have been a tremendous game, Featherstone having beaten Wigan in the previous round while our 'A' team knocked out Bradford at Odsal in an extra-time thriller.

Our reserve team lads are playing for each other and success breeds success. When

things are not going well during the course of a match the lads are motivated to keep the 100 per cent run going and that was evident not only at Bradford but in last week's home win against Keighley Cougars in the Alliance when we were 12-0 down at half-time.

In the game before that, Shane's lads beat Doncaster at Tattersfield in the final of the Youngers Alliance Second Division Cup which is now set alongside the Lancashire Shield which they won earlier in the season.

We must be favourites to take the Second Division title, having won each of our 12 games to date, so with a bit of luck the lads could have three cups on the shelf at the end of the season – and maybe four.

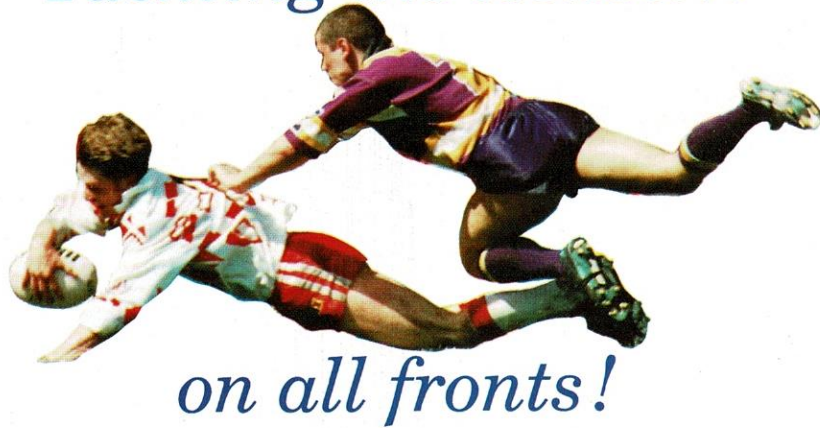
One has only to look at some of the boys now playing in the side to see the fruits of Peter's labours – Chris Parr, swapped for John Maxwell, showing a lot of promise; David Chrimes and Adrian Belle in a swap for Martin Strett; Barrie McDermott, another young forward who will go far in the game if he can improve his tackling technique and, more importantly, come to terms with the fact that he needs to improve his disciplinary record.

I can go on. Paul Norman and Steve Heaton, two big lads from the Wigan area who are catching the eye in the Alliance side; so much so that Paul was on the verge of first-team squad selection last week; Mick Edwards, the never-say-die operator who can play scrum-half or loose-forward; Gary Burns, who looks a more mature player at stand-off since he returned to the club a week or two ago; Alfie Gouldbourne, the BARLA youth international from Hull, who packs a lot of potential into his small frame; Mike Prescott, another 18 year-old from the Wigan area, who is a shining light in the Academy side; but made his 'A' team debut in the win against Keighley when coming on as substitute.

There are others too – young players in the 18, 19, 20, 21 age bracket, helped along by a host of experience from men like Hugh Gumbs or Ben Olsen, one of whom is usually the captain of the Alliance side.

As I say, congrats to all the boys, to Shane for his firm but fair handling of the side and to Peter for establishing such a strong platform on which we can build for the future, particularly when the Alliance side gets into the First Division next season.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to . . . **WIDNES**

David Hulme - (Captain). David is the present Widnes Captain taking over from brother Paul. Joined Widnes in August 1980 from Halton Hornets. David has played almost 400 games. Gained Colts and U21 honours before going on to gain eight full caps for G.B. Received M.O.M. in World Cup championship. First Division player of the year in 1989 David is one of Rugby League's greatest club men in the game today.

Steve McCurrie - First team debut at hooker when only 16 in 1990. Captained the G.B. Academy side before gaining U21 and full international honours and Steve is still only 20. Signed from amateur club Hensingham, Cumbria in December 1989. Recently followed in father Alan's footsteps who also played Hooker for Wakefield T. in the 1979 Cup final at Wembley. On present form Steve can look forward to many more honours with G.B. and Widnes.

Paul Hulme - Like his brother signed from Halton Hornets three years after David in 1983 making his debut at Hull in 1985. Has appeared in seven major finals for Widnes in a variety of roles. Capped by Lancs twice and like David eight times for G.B. Playing in winning sides twice on Aussie soil in 1988-92. Captained Widnes in 93-93 and also taking the honour at Wembley. Paul is at present in his testimonial year.

Esene Faimalo - Esene originates from Upper Hutt Club in Wellington, N.Z. He was a former heavyweight boxing champ but then took advantage of a rookie scholarship with Blamain. Returned home to make his test debut in his native NZ 66-14 defeat of P.N.G. in 88. Esene came to Widnes in 1990 making his debut at Wakefield and is now a very popular ever present in the side.

Paul Moriarty - I am sure if it had not been for Paul's run of bad injuries we would have seen him lining up against N.Z. this season. Twenty two caps for Wales R.U. Made his test debut in October '91 in the defeat of P.N.G. Sidelined at Wembley with yet

another injury, make no mistake Paul will be returning with vengeance and as strong as ever and fighting for a G.B. place.

Phil Larder (Coach) - Phil was educated at Loughborough College. Became the game's first Director of the National Coaching Scheme in 1982. Appointed assistant to Mel Reilly where all the time he was learning and developing his own skills which have turned out to be a big plus for Widnes RLFC. Took Widnes to Wembley in his first season. Phil's son David is currently with Sheffield Academy.

Paul Davidson - "Les" as he is known is the latest to emerge from Cumbria. Signed from Hensingham and made his Widnes debut against St. Helens in 1991. Played for G.B. and Cumbria open age. Big Les is chasing hard for regular first team football which he has occupied in recent weeks. Les is the Club's card shark and never returns from away matches empty handed.

Andy Ireland - Andy was signed from Golbourne Park Side. Represented N.W. Lancs U16's Presidents XIII in 1991 and made his first team debut as sub against Bradford in '93. He has started the season with vengeance and in recent weeks made the prop post his own. Worked hard during the close season and the dividends are now paying off.

Adrian Hadley - Adrian is one of three Welsh Internationals donning Widnes shirts this season, and looking forward to their confrontations with the Kiwi's. Came to Widnes from Salford in an exchange deal for Jason Critchley. Suffered poor form last season due to a mystery virus which turned out to be Pneumonia. Is now returning to form of old.

Bobbie Goulding - Bobbie was the games youngest tourist at 18 when playing in test victories over P.N.G. and N.Z. in 1990. Bobbie skippered the U21's on five occasions. Was Leeds player of the year in '91 before

joining Widnes in exchange for Alan Tait. Former Widnes St. Marie's junior who is aiming high to get back into G.B. reckoning. Bobbie has taken over the kicking responsibilities from "Jiffy".

Stuart Spruce - Sprogger is a former Widnes Tiger who joined Widnes in November '89. His route to stardom has been rapid and made a huge impact on the game. He gained honours at U21 level and a try scoring debut for England before taking full International honours. Sproggers hard work and dedication has made him one of the world's best full backs.

David Myers - Sharky was signed from Blackbrook amateurs and made a 3-try debut for Widnes at Oldham in '89. Signed by Warrington where he played only six games before signing for champions Wigan in the summer of 1990. Scored 19 tries for Wigan and won Championship and cup honours.

John Devereux - Signed from Bridgend R.U. in '89 having gained 21 caps for Wales. Made his first team debut against Leigh in October '89 and totals more than 130 games for Widnes. Headed the Widnes try list with 33 in '91-92 season. Runner-up Stones Bitter First Division player of the year '92. Dev is fast becoming one of the worlds best players and has just completed a very successful stint with Manly in Aussie.

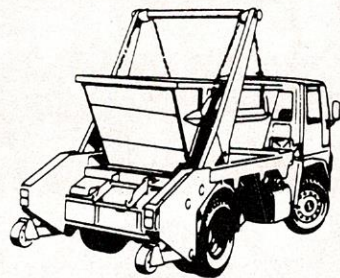
David Ruane - On loan from Leigh, Dave is no stranger to Naughton Park fans. Signed from Widnes Tigers in '84 and made his debut against none other than Leigh in '85. Represented G.B. and completed a N.Z. tour in 1983. Dave is hoping to impress Phil Larder in the coming weeks and sign for another stint with his home town club.

Karle Hammond - Karle has emerged with rapid progress from the Academy ranks to first team rugby in less than two years. Represented England Schoolboys, recently turned down a move to Leigh and first team rugby to press his case home for first team honours with his home club. I am sure this is a wise move for Widnes RLFC. Karle had a top season with the Alliance under the guidance of Alan McCurrie.

Christian Tyrer - Signed from Leigh Rangers in July '90. Son of Colin Tyrer a central figure in the Cup Final in 1970. Chris also appeared at Wembley for Leigh U11's. Capped by G.B. Academy. Made his first team debut as sub against St. Helens in February '92. A youngster with a bright future in the game. He was also a member of the Widnes Wembley squad.

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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 19 JOHNNY DEAN



Local hooker Johnny Dean is best known for his long association with our near neighbours and rival Rochdale Hornets.

He signed for Hornets in 1931 from the local Salem club (from one Hornets nest to another) and after becoming a first team regular in 1934, he went on to give great service to the Rochdale club for another 14 years before retiring in 1948.

However, when Oldham found themselves with a dire need for an experienced hooker due to an injury crisis at the end of 1949, Johnny was

persuaded to come out of retirement and turn out for his home town club.

This was not the first time that Johnny had assisted the "Roughyeds", having

previously been engaged as a "Guest" player, when the Rugby League registration rules were relaxed during the Second World War.

No. 20 BRIAN LORD



Both Photos courtesy of
Oldham Evening Chronicle

Signed during the 1959-60 season, Brian was a centre or wing who made his debut on January 30th, 1960, in the 10-nil victory at Widnes.

Brian had earlier been a very successful swimmer, winning many awards and much acclaim in that sport.

The stamina and strength needed in the

swimming pool was to benefit Brian in his Rugby career where his robust running style tested many an opposing defence to the full.

In all he played 88 first class matches for Oldham scoring 409 tries, before moving on to join the newly-formed Bradford Northern club at the start of the 1964-65 season.

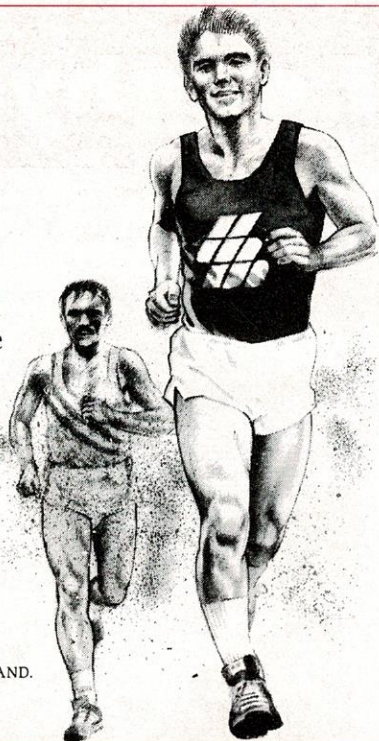
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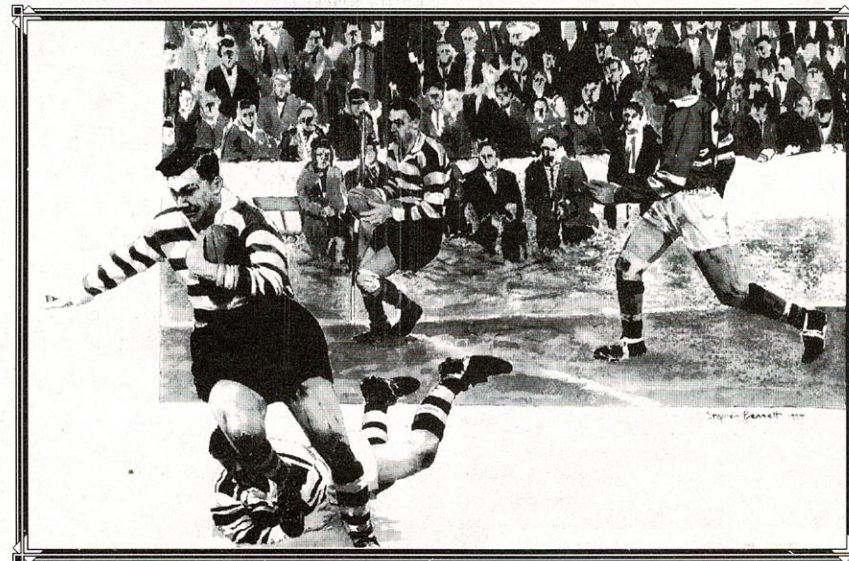
EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY No. 10 The two Yorkshire born wingers who contributed so much to the great Oldham side of the 1950's can be seen here in try-scoring action.

Dick Cracknell against Blackpool in March 1956 and John Etty breaking into the clear on his way to one of his two tries in the 1957 Championship Final against Hull.



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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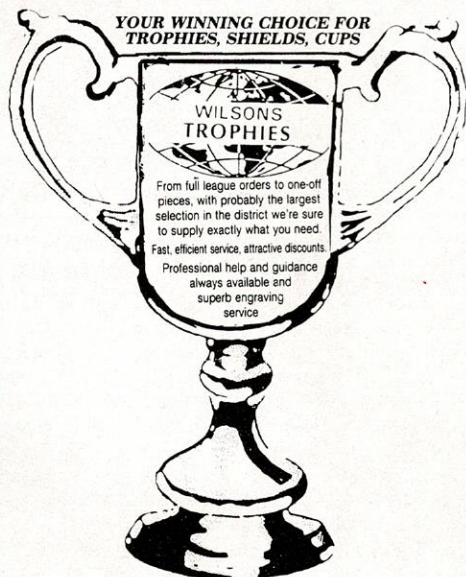
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A-TEAM NEWS

Since our last update we have played four games winning them all to take our seasons tally to played 21, won 21. We gratefully received a 21st card after the Keighley game signed by our most loyal supporters who had seen every game travelling up and down the country giving us tremendous support all the way. However as we went in twelve nil down at half time they must have feared the presentation being a damp squib. We of course had other ideas as we altered a few things around the boys responded with a much improved second half performance to score 26 points without reply.

After a six week break we got down to it going up to Barrow and winning 48-14. We then had the tough task of going to Bradford in the second round of the Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup. The boys playing magnificently to win a great game in extra time as the rule states in the event of a draw at normal time 15 minutes each way will be played. In only our second match in seven weeks the character and resilience of the lads to come from behind in extra time to snatch a great victory at the death was tremendous.

Due to lack of space, our Second Divisional Cup Final victory at Doncaster will be in our next publication.

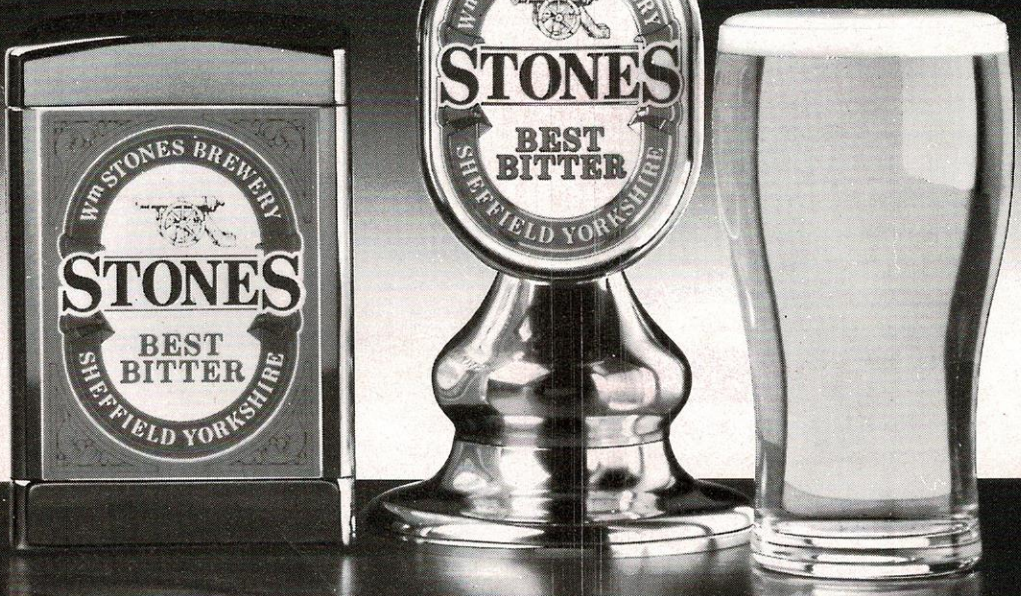


YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

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	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
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 (W)		48-14
Friday	28th	Youngers ACC - Round 2 Bradford N.	A (W)		27-25(AET)
FEBRUARY					
Saturday	5th	ASDC final Doncaster	A (W)		20-14
Thursday	10th	Keighley	H (W)		26-12
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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ACTION EXTRA . . .



**Wally
Gibson
flies in to
score.
Oldham v.
Hull K.R.**

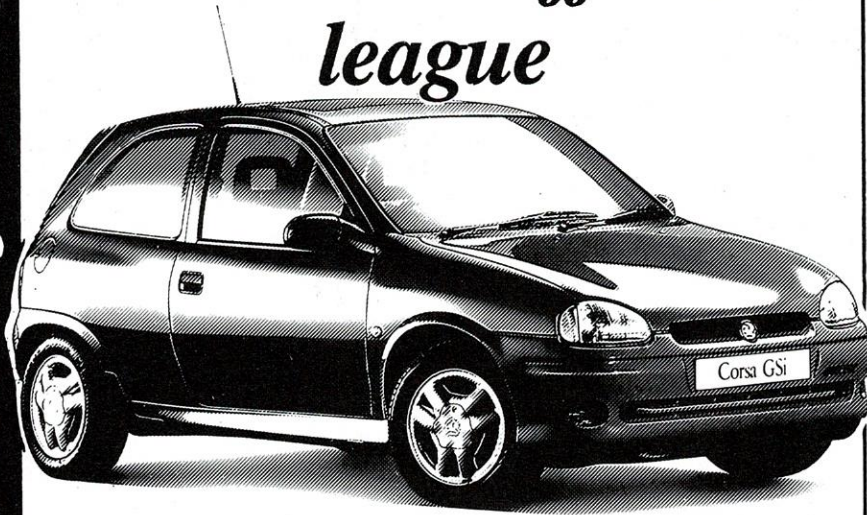
HALF-TIME TEASERS

1. Who holds the tries in a season record for Leeds?
2. Who captained the 1978 Australian Touring team?
3. What team play at Gilford Park?
4. Name the three Oldham players to have scored over 40 tries in a season?
5. When was the last all-Yorkshire Challenge Cup Final?
6. Which Australian club are nicknamed the "Raiders"?
7. Who was Oldham's leading goal-kicker in 1990-91?
8. Who were the losing semi-finalists in the first Wembley Final in 1929?
9. In what year was the first England v. Wales R.L. International?
10. What is the highest ever score in a League match?

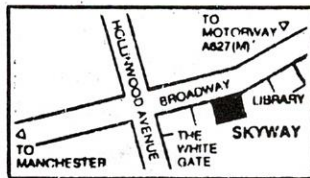
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SPORTSMANS DINNER

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The Speaker is without doubt the finest after-dinner speaker in the country - Bob 'The Cat' Bevan.

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GUEST SPEAKER:

BOB "THE CAT" BEVAN

Comedian: PADDY GREENE

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Winner: D5649 E. Towse

Agent: P. Whelan

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TUESDAY	£100	Winner: F6259 M. Gibson	Agent: Hollinwood W.M.C.
WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: F3660 T. B. Woods	Agent: Commercial Inn
THURSDAY	£100	Winner: E4557 R. Brown	Agent: L. Uttley
FRIDAY	£100	Winner: G4210 S. D. Hadfield	Agent: Mossley Supp. Club

MONDAY	£100	Winner: B9105 D. Boardman	Agent: L. Uttley
TUESDAY	£100	Winner: F1308 D. Goodwin	Agent: L. Uttley
WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: C4996 L. J. Whitehead	Agent: Banker's Order
THURSDAY	£100	Winner: A3639 A. Corry	Agent: David Murgatroyd
FRIDAY	£100	Winner: F8882 T. M. Walsh	Agent: Sue Derbyshire

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CASTLEMAINE



XXXX



TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 1994

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Wally Gibson
2. David Jones
3. Shaun Irwin
4. Darren Abram
5. Scott Ranson
6. Glen Liddiard
7. Martin Crompton
8. Ian Sherratt
9. David Stephenson
10. Shane Tupaea
11. David Bradbury
12. Bob Lindner
13. Mike Kuiti
14. Paul Topping
15. Andy Goodway

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PENALTIES

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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

Referee: I. Ollerton

WIDNES Team Changes

1. Stuart Spruce
2. John Devereux
3. Karle Hammond
4. David Ruane
5. Adrian Hadley
6. Christian Tyrer
7. Bobby Goulding
8. Andy Ireland
9. Steve McCurrie
10. Esene Faimalo
11. Paul Moriarty
12. Paul Hulme
13. David Hulme
14. David Myers
15. Paul Davidson

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: F. Tickle (Red Flag)
M. Haigh (Yellow Flag)

Bob Lindner and his wife Celia are pictured here with Celia's parents Barry and Del Ruddy over from Brisbane, home of the original XXXX brewery, for a five week visit. Mrs Ruddy's impressions on her first to England and the North West? "Beautiful - and does it always rain this much?"

Tom Hings, Brand Manager for Castlemaine XXXX who sponsor both Bob and Oldham RLFC said, "Since Mr Ruddy discovered that he can get his XXXX over here and that it's just as good as it is in Australia, he has completely acclimatized and shows no sign of homesickness at all! We hope that they have a wonderful holiday."



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LEADING POINT SCORER

Mark Conway of Dewsbury has taken over as
this season's leading point scorer with 255
from 98 goals including one drop goal and
15 tries

Jonathan Davies of Warrington is second
with 253 from 99 goals including nine drop
goals and 16 tries.

TRY SCORING SEQUENCE

Grant Anderson of Castleford has scored at
least one try in six successive matches. The
centre's sequence has brought him a total of
seven tries as follow:

1 - 1 - 1 - 3 - 1 - 1

ANTHONY SULLIVAN

Anthony Sullivan of St. Helens needs four
tries for a career century of touchdown in
club and representative matches.

The winger's total is made up of 31 for St.
Helens, 61 for Hull Kingston Rovers and four
in representative matches, including one for
Great Britain. He has played on 152 matches,
including four as a substitute.

Sullivan's best season's total was 35 in 1989-
90 when he achieved his only top ten finish
of third. His seven hat-tricks include two
five-try feats for Hull Kingston Rovers and
four for St. Helens.

The son of former Great Britain captain Clive
Sullivan, Anthony made his senior debut for
Hull KR at Swinton on 29 November 1987.
Signed from Rovers' Colts, he played on the
left wing and scored a try in the 26-18
Division One win six days after his 19th
birthday.

Sullivan left his father's old club when he
signed for St Helens in April 1991 for a then
record fee for a winger of about £100,000.

He made his debut for St Helens at another
of his father's old clubs, Hull, on 1
September 1991 playing on the left wing in

a 31-10 Division One Win.

Sullivan went on Great Britain's 1990 tour of
Papua New Guinea and New Zealand but
was injured and returned home without
playing.

Born at Hull on 23 November 1968, his
season-by-season scoring facts are as
follows:

	App	Tries
Hull KR		
1987-88	2	1
1988-89	13	4
1989-90	28	34 + 1t GB Under-21s
1990-91	29	22
St Helens		
1991-92	27 + 1	13 + 1t GB, 2t Wales
1992-93	24 + 3	8
1993-94	18	10
Totals		
Hull KR	72	61
St Helens	69 + 4	31
Great Britain	1	1
Wales	5	2
GB Under-21s	1	1
Grand Totals	148 + 4	96

WINNING RUN

Bradford Northern have the longest winning
run of seven matches covering five Stones
Bitter Championship and two Silk Cut
Challenge Cup ties.

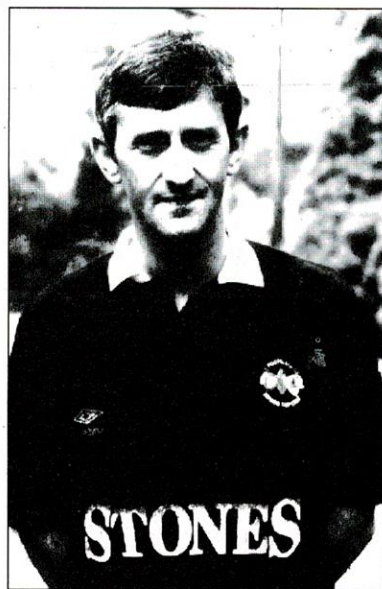
Northern ended Workington Town's run at
six with their 32-0 Silk Cut Challenge Cup
victory.

MILESTONES

Les Quirk of St Helens needs two tries for a
career century of touchdowns for the club.

Mark Roache of Doncaster needs two tries
for a career century of touchdowns for the
club.

TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



I. Ollerton
(WIGAN)

Date of Birth

31.3.53

Grade One:

1990-91

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Last Time Out . . .

with **ROGER HALSTEAD**

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of Monday, October 4th, 1993.



Widnes skipper David Hulme declared himself fit only an hour before the kick-off, but proved the big difference between two teams desperate for First Division points at Naughton Park yesterday.

Hulme, one of the most experienced half-backs in the business, controlled the game from stand-off and underlined once more the value of quality and experience in such a strategic position.

He gave Widnes a sense of direction and a midfield authority that tipped a tight game in favour of the Chemics, who were the better of the two anxious teams struggling to climb away from the bottom of the table.

Oldham were under enormous pressure for the first 20 minutes unable to get a foothold in their opponents' half and chasing all over the field to keep Widnes out.

They somehow survived a ten-minute spell when Steve Kerry was sin-binned for holding-down after the tackle, but the forwards had soaked up a lot of punishment and seemed to have nothing left to mount counter-attacks when it was Widnes's turn to make unforced errors.

Kerry, Nigel Heslop, Shaun Irwin, David Jones and Wally Gibson did a lot of the forward's work when bringing the ball out of defence in the 20 minutes before half-time.

Jones made half-breaks, but he was invariably lacking support. The absence of his team mates was particularly evident when Kerry or young hooker John Clarke moved across field looking for runners and had to settle for going it alone.

Despite this tendency to take a breather, the team's overall attitude and commitment to the job in hand was a vast improvement on the previous performance against Sheffield.

It took a big defensive effort to restrict Widnes to two penalty goals in the first half although they took the scrums 8-4 and the penalties 5-1.

Oldham, in fact, scored the first try of the match five minutes into the second half.

Martin Strett made the initial break just outside the Widnes 20-metre line and Kerry and Jones handled beautifully under pressure to send debutant Clarke over for his first try at senior level.

Strett's goal gave Oldham a 6-4 lead, but their advantage was to last only nine minutes before Widnes's Aussie new-boy Rodney Howe sent Steve McCurrie plunging over with a superb pass in the tackle.

Stuart Spruce added the extra points with his third goal and then knocked the heart out of Oldham with the killer try 12 minutes from the end.

Taking advantage of slack marking at play-the-ball - Oldham were once more reeling under constant pressure - Spruce found a hole in a weary defence and just managed to touch down in a three-man challenge on the line.

That stretched Widnes's lead to 14-6, whereupon Oldham heads visibly dropped as the side recognised that a big effort was almost certain to end in another failure.

However, Andy Goodway ripped a hole in the Widnes defence up the middle and Jones got with him to provide a try for Irwin, which Strett improved.

The score perhaps flattered Oldham a little, although it must be said that the visitors applied terrific pressure when trailing 10-6 midway through the second half and a score at that stage could easily have turned the game on its head.

Gibson was unlucky not to have the tackles wiped out when he chipped over the defensive line, gathered a ball that rebounded off a Widnes player, and fell only to a try-saving tackle by Spruce.

Widnes were in trouble again when Kerry broke superbly up the middle to set up position from which Gibson was held on the line.

The ball was moved quickly to the right and Jones, cutting infield, got over the line, but was turned on his back.

Oldham took the scrum to keep up the pressure and went so close to scoring that Gibson was crash-tackled against the upright before a misdirected Irwin pass rolled into touch as he tried to get the dangerous Jones in at the corner flag.

Having survived, Widnes moved straight back upfield where Spruce delivered the knock-out blow.

Served superbly by Spruce and Hulme in the backs and by Howe and hooker McCurrie in the pack, Widnes deserved to win.

Their forwards worked better as a unit, the team made fewer unforced errors than Oldham and, above all, they had the guiding and inspirational presence of David Hulme at outside half.

In the first 20 minutes, they also got deep and, on the wide passes of scrum-half Chris Kelly, pulled Oldham all over the field to go desperately close when Esene Faimalo was turned on his back over the line and when Spruce dropped the ball in the act of touching down.

At the other end, Oldham seemed to panic when they hit the Widnes quarter, often making hurried, silly mistakes instead of building on their territorial position and applying sustained pressure.

Nevertheless, it needed a strong tackle by David Myers to bounce Heslop into touch at the corner flag before Clarke sent Gibson over with a pass that was well forward.

The Oldham full-back was one of the busiest men on the field and one of the most dangerous on attack, but he was guilty of two crucial second-half blunders which gave Widnes a lift at a time when the outcome was still in the balance.

The backs tried hard with a limited supply of chances and produced, in the main, a committed display on defence which saw Gibson, Jones, Irwin and Kerry all covering back to execute important tackles with the defensive line split wide open.

Kerry, back in the team because of Martin Crompton's back injury, had an accomplished game at scrum-half.

In the pack, there wasn't a forward who made a big impression individually on the Widnes defence.

Tiny Solomona came closest to it, but Bob Lindner was well marked, Mike Kuiti looked out of place in the second row and substitute Craig Richards struggled to meet the defensive demands at this level.

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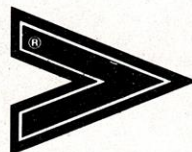
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	18	1	4	-	-	16
NIGEL HESLOP	15	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	15	3	1	45	-	94
SCOTT RANSON	20	-	7	-	-	28
DARREN ABRAM	20	-	13	4	-	60
STEVE KERRY	13	-	2	9	3	29
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	21	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	4	8	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	5	7	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	22	1	3	-	-	12
DAVID JONES	19	2	4	-	-	16
ANDY GOODWAY	18	3	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	8	4	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	10	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	3	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	17	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN CROMPTON	11	1	3	-	2	14
BOB LINDNER	18	2	6	-	-	24
JOHN CLARKE	13	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	5	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	5	1	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	-	1	-	-	-	-
ADRIAN BELLE	1	-	-	-	-	-
PADDY MITCHELL	4	-	1	-	-	4
GLEN LIDIARD	-	1	-	-	-	4

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Warrington	20	16	0	4	427	258	32
Bradford	19	16	0	3	509	359	32
Wigan	16	14	0	2	468	239	28
Castleford	19	12	1	6	455	284	25
Halifax	20	11	2	7	428	340	24
St. Helens	20	11	1	8	418	349	23
Leeds	20	10	1	9	402	363	21
Featherstone	19	10	1	8	395	391	21
Sheffield	20	9	1	10	430	481	19
Widnes	19	9	0	10	332	385	18
Hull	19	7	2	10	283	313	16
Salford	20	8	0	12	360	421	16
Wakefield T.	19	6	0	13	256	406	12
Hull KR	20	6	0	14	310	506	12
Oldham	20	4	0	16	341	438	8
Leigh	20	1	1	18	244	525	3

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

The past few weeks have been a busy time for the Academy both on and off the field. A marvellous win against previously unbeaten Widnes followed two tidy victories at Batley and Ryedale York at home. However, we were robbed of the spoils at Sheffield Eagles. At the time of writing, we are tying second in the league with matches in hand but we cannot rely on other

teams slipping up and it is essential that we treat every game like a cup final if we are to win the Championship.

Off the field we have been involved in a flurry of activity in trying to strengthen the squad before last Monday's deadline. Unfortunately, we lost Justin Broadway and Philip McAndrew to Halifax but the acquisition of Carl Parker from open age football and Darren Hayes, a local lad who has been playing for Halifax Academy and Alliance teams evens the balance. Outgoings include Andy Swift, Tommy Glavin, Andy McDonald and John Curless whilst we welcome Carl and Darren plus Neil Cartwright, Anthony Robinson and Crooks.

Forthcoming Fixtures:

26.2.94	v	Widnes	away
1.3.94	v	Huddersfield	home
7.3.94	v	Dewsbury	away
12.3.94	v	Keighley	away
15.3.94	v	Hunslet	home
29.3.94	v	Dewsbury	home

STATISTICS:

Leading Scorers:

Tries:

22 Munro,
16 Prescott,
11 Halkyard, Bradbury,
9 Hunt, Riding, Moran, Meade,
8 Badby.

Goals: 39 Munro, **24** Badby.

DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development Officer NIEL WOOD

The Oldham Leisure Services Rugby Development Scene has now been in place for 12 months. I thought I would take some time now to bring you some results from that first year.

- * Over 1,000 youngsters have been coached in school *
- * 400 players have passed the BFL/Skills Awards *
- * 79 School Teams have entered the Quantum Schools Cups *
- * 80 new coaches have qualified through the Coaching Scheme *
- * 300 youngsters have played curtain raisers at Watersheddings *
- * Oldham Women have played four matches *

There is a full annual report published and is

available if anyone wishes to read it. All you have to do is ring 627 4497 and ask for a copy.

Welcome to the Headteacher at Eustace School and her family. Her school is currently taking part in the Development Programme and will be playing here next month. Welcome also to the members of the Under15's Development Squad, hopefully the stars of tomorrow.

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

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Courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



DARREN ABRAM SCORES AT WARRINGTON



**PAUL
TOPPING
MAKES A
BREAK AT
DONCASTER**

BACK PAGES

by Michael Turner

Today's visitors "The Chemics" of Widnes were one of the founder members of the Northern Union back in 1895.

The first meeting between the teams under the new code was on October 26th 1895 at Widnes, with Oldham returning home the victors by 13 points to nil and completing the double with a 21-0 win at Watersheddings the following February.

Perhaps the most famous and dramatic encounter between the "Chemics" and the "Roughy 'eds" was the 1934 Challenge Cup semi-final played on March 24th of that year at Station Road, Swinton.

Widnes won the match by seven points to four, the game being ultimately decided by a hotly disputed try scored in the 18th minute. A cross-kick into the Oldham goal area seemed to have been touched down and made "dead" by Roughy 'eds centre Jack Stephens, but Chemics hooker Ratcliffe later dived on the ball and referee Mr

Peel to the amazement of the Oldham players awarded the try. This was converted by full back Bradley who had earlier kicked a penalty, these scores wiping out Oldham's early 4-0 lead courtesy of two goals from full back Tommy Rees.

Oldham attacked almost constantly in the second half and almost snatched at least a draw when Alex Givvons was tackled just inches short of the

line in the last minute, but it wasn't to be and the match was lost in a game that seems to have set the trend for Oldham's subsequent Challenge Cup semi-finals.

The teams were as follows:

Oldham - Rees, Taylor, Bardsley, Stephens, Lewis, Reynolds, Givvons, Read, Scaife, Clayton, Thomas, Ashworth, Butterworth.

Widnes - Bradley, Owen, Robinson, Jacks, Gallimore, McCue, Shannon, Millington, Ratcliffe, McDowell, Silcock, Jones, Higgins.



Courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle

Oldham centre Clive Hunter gets out a pass in a tackle by Andrew Gregory



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER



As you will know by now, certain changes took place behind the scenes this week, which led to my appointment as player/coach, initially until the end of the season.

I would like to say at the outset, that Peter Tunks has done a terrific job for Oldham, certainly during this season while I have been here.

He has had to wear a lot of hats and do many varied jobs and I do not think the public fully appreciated all that was entailed in his work behind the scenes.

I could always see myself moving into coaching at some stage of my career but

I never thought it would happen so soon and now we will all have to work hard to try to lift ourselves from the deep hole we are in.

I think it caught everyone by surprise when we turned up for training on Monday and the Chairman told us what was happening but we now face a fresh start and all players will be given a fair crack at holding onto their first team jerseys.

It was bitterly disappointing for everyone associated with the club, when we went down so badly at Doncaster in the Challenge Cup but I

think that the big lesson to be learned from that defeat is that a team can go a long way, providing it gets its defence right.

Doncaster scored four tries, two of them following a lucky bounce of the ball but they killed us and that's what won them the game.

I think there is a lot of work we can do to improve our defence but in saying that I am not one of those people who preaches that defence is the be all and end all.

I like to explore attacking options and give players the freedom to express themselves on the field.

