

HALIFAX

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4. RICHARD SMITH
5. MARK PRESTON
6. MICHAEL HAGAN
7. WAYNE PARKER
8. KARL HARRISON
9. ROY SOUTHERNWOOD
10. JOHN FIELDHOUSE
11. PAUL MORIARTY
12. MARK PERRETT
13. GARY DIVORTY
- 14.
15. SIMON BALDWIN

TEAM CHANGES	T	G	D/G	Pts

OLDHAM

Red & White Shirts
Coach: Andy Goodway

1. WALTER GIBSON
2. DAVID JONES
3. SHAUN IRWIN
4. DARREN ABRAM
5. NIGEL HESLOP
6. PAUL TOPPING
7. MARTIN CROMPTON
8. IAN SHERRATT
9. JOHN CLARKE
10. CHRIS PARR
11. GARY LORD
12. JOE FAIMALO
13. MIKE KUITI
14. JASON TEMO
15. CRAIG RICHARDS

TEAM CHANGES	T	G	D/G	Pts

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr. J. Connolly
Red Flag: Mr. J. Blacklock
Yellow Flag: Mr. F. J. Hawlor

TODAY'S MATCHDAY HOSTS

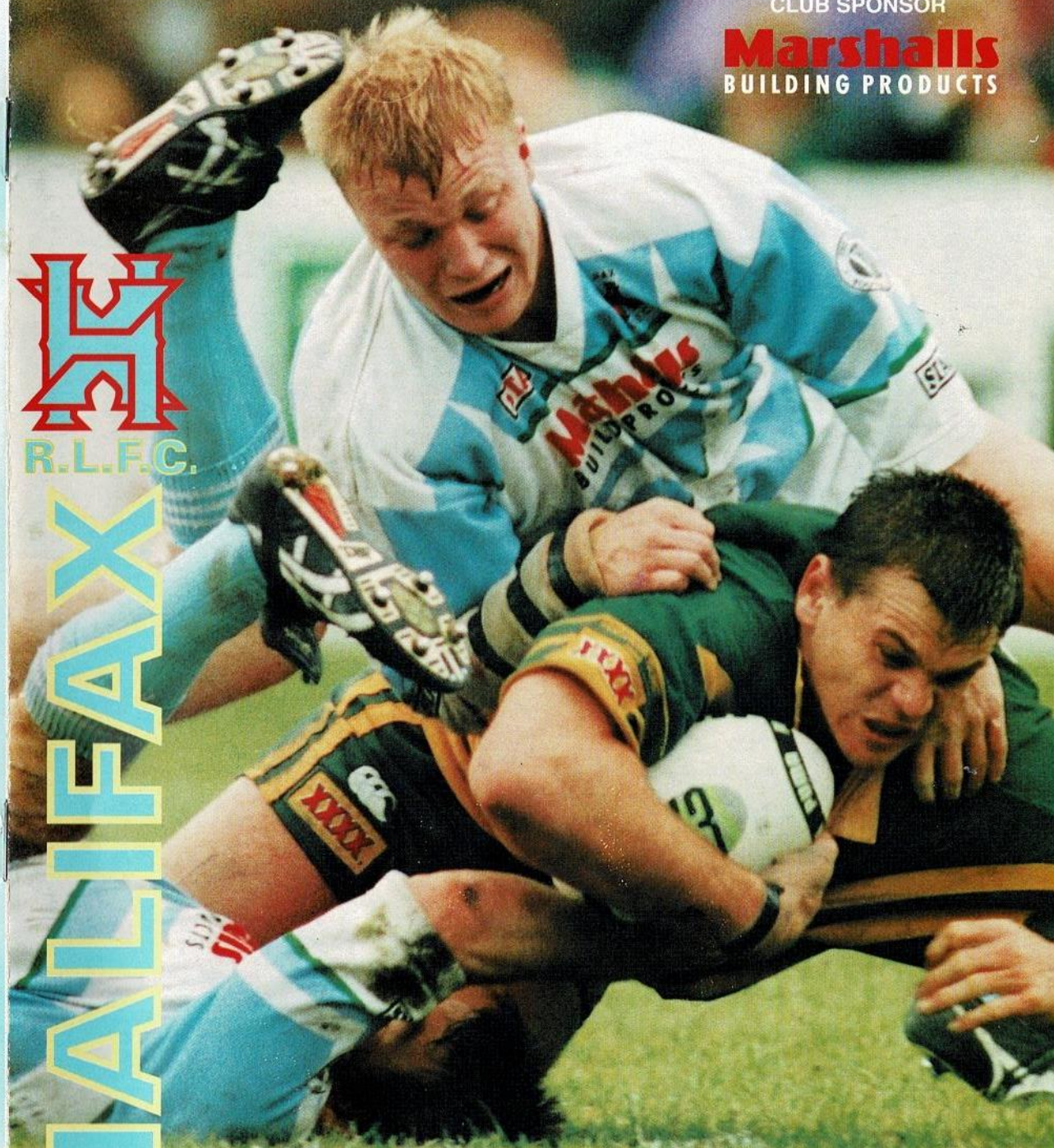
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Championship Winners

1906/07 1964/65

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1952/53 1953/54 1955/56
1965/66

Challenge Cup Winners

1902/03 1903/04 1930/31
1938/39 1986/87

Runners-up

1920/21 1940/41 1941/42
1948/49 1953/54 1955/56
1987/88

John Player Trophy Winners

1971/72

Charity Shield Winners

1986/87

Finalists

1987/88

Premiership Trophy Runners-up

1985/86

Divisional Premiership Runners-up

1990/91

Yorkshire Cup Winners

1908/09 1944/45 1954/55
1955/56 1963/64

Runners-up

1905/06 1907/08 1941/42
1979/80

Yorkshire League Winners

1908/09 1920/21 1952/53
1955/56 1957/58

Eastern Divisional Championship Winners

1963/64

CLUB RECORDS

Attendance

29,153 v Wigan,
March 1959

Biggest Win

82-8 v Runcorn (H),
1990/91

Biggest Defeat

64-0 v Wigan (A),
1921/22

Goals in a Season

147, Tuss Griffiths,
1955/56

Drop Goals in a Season

17, Malcolm Agar,
1981/82

Tries in a Season

48, Johnny Freeman,
1956/57

Points in a Season

298, Colin Whitfield,
1986/87

Goals in a Match

14, Bruce Burton
v Hunslet, 1972-73

Tries in a Match

8, Keith Williams
v Dewsbury, 1957-58

Points in a Match

31, Bruce Burton
v Hunslet, 1972-73

Goals in a Career

1,028, Ronnie James

Tries in a Career

190, Johnny Freeman

Points in a Career

2,191, Ronnie James

Longest First Team Record

Asa Robinson,
1904-05 to 1922-23

Youngest Player in First Team

George Schofield
(aged 15) in 1917

Oldest Player in First Team

Archie Rigg
(aged 43) in 1915

Consecutive First Team Appearances

106, Dick Davies
(full-back) 1925-28)

Career Appearances

482, Stan Kiely

Tries in a Season – Full-back

20, Graham Eadie,
1986-87

Tries in a Season – Wingman

48, Johnny Freeman,
1956-57

Tries in a Season – Centre

40, Greg Austin, 1990-91

Tries in a Season – Stand Off

17, Herbert Fletcher,
1929-30

17, Bruce Burton, 1973-74

Tries in a Season – Scrum-half

19, Paul Daley, 1964-65

Tries in a Season – Prop Forward

12, Terry Fogerty, 1972-73

Tries in a Season – Hooker

15, Jason Ramshaw,
1990-91

Tries in a Season – Second Row

17, Derrick Schofield,
1955-56

Tries in a Season – Loose Forward

13, Albert Atkinson,
1931-32

13, Alf Higgs, 1933-34

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Welcome to Thrum Hall

David Fleming

HALIFAX RLFC

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Alliance Coach:

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Academy Coach:

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Dr. R. T. Brown

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G. Hirst MCSP

S. Farrell MCSP

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H. Taylor

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P. Coventry

S. Hardy

I. Kelly

Stadium Manager:

R. Attiwell

Head Gateman:

D. Cruddas

Matchday Co-ordinator:

O. T. Lightowers

Timekeeper/Statistician

J. Scroby

P.A./Programme

C. Murgatroyd

Welcome to Thrum Hall to our friends from Oldham, plus noted celebrities from Sky Sports who are in attendance this afternoon as we bid to increase our unbeaten run to seven consecutive matches.

A special welcome must be extended to "Screaming" Gary Lord, now a Roughyed, but for a number of years, a consummate professional in our cause. As has been the case in recent weeks, the last seven days or so have seen changes in personnel on the playing staff as we seek to bolster our resources.

Ian Connor has joined us on loan from St. Helens and Karl Marriott came on a similar basis from Rochdale Hornets with Roy Litherland going in the opposite direction to Spotland.

It was interesting to chat to both these lads and discover that they were both rather disgruntled about what they perceived to be a distinct bias against them at what for both is their home town club. This, of course, is a charge that has been levelled against ourselves on more than one occasion as local amateur clubs accuse us of not giving indigenous talent a fair crack of the whip.

Hopefully we have been able to partially disprove this allegation this season however. Mark Perrett, Johnny Lawless, Richard Smith and Steve Greenwood have all played first team football so far in this campaign and all were signed from local amateur football as teenagers. The chances are available here for Halifax lads to prosper if they show the correct attitude and discipline as the quartet above have demonstrated. And if you think that this is a coded message to the "take it or leave it merchants" from the immediate area who have briefly flattered to deceive, then you are dead right.

Perhaps this whole syndrome of local "prophets being ignored in their own country" is something which could be explored further in a thesis or dissertation by the new generation of graduate Rugby League players in the field of sports science such as Phil Clarke and B. S. Mather. It is certainly not a new phenomenon.

Mention of Mark Perrett leads me to offer congratulations to him, Lee Harland and Simon Baldwin on their selection for the Great Britain under-21 squad who are to take on Australia at Gateshead on Tuesday 15 November. Another new signing this week was that of sixteen year old Chris Chester from Sharlston ARLFC. Stand-off Chris has signed a five year contract and is the sixth sixteen year old to sign for us in as many months following Andy Hobson, Lee Knowles, James McGuire, Ben Charnock and Michael Slicker to the club, proof indeed that we are doing anything but neglect the youngsters. Good luck for the future to Chris and all his contemporaries. The nominal admission price of 50p enjoyed by the under 11s for the Sheffield game last week seemed to work quite well. The same concession will apply for our next home game versus Widnes on Friday 25 November when the kick-off is at 7.30 p.m. and also for the home fixtures with Salford and Doncaster in the New Year. Please note that this special concession applies to turnstile number seven only which is situated at the bottom corner of the Thrum Hall drive and not to any other turnstiles.

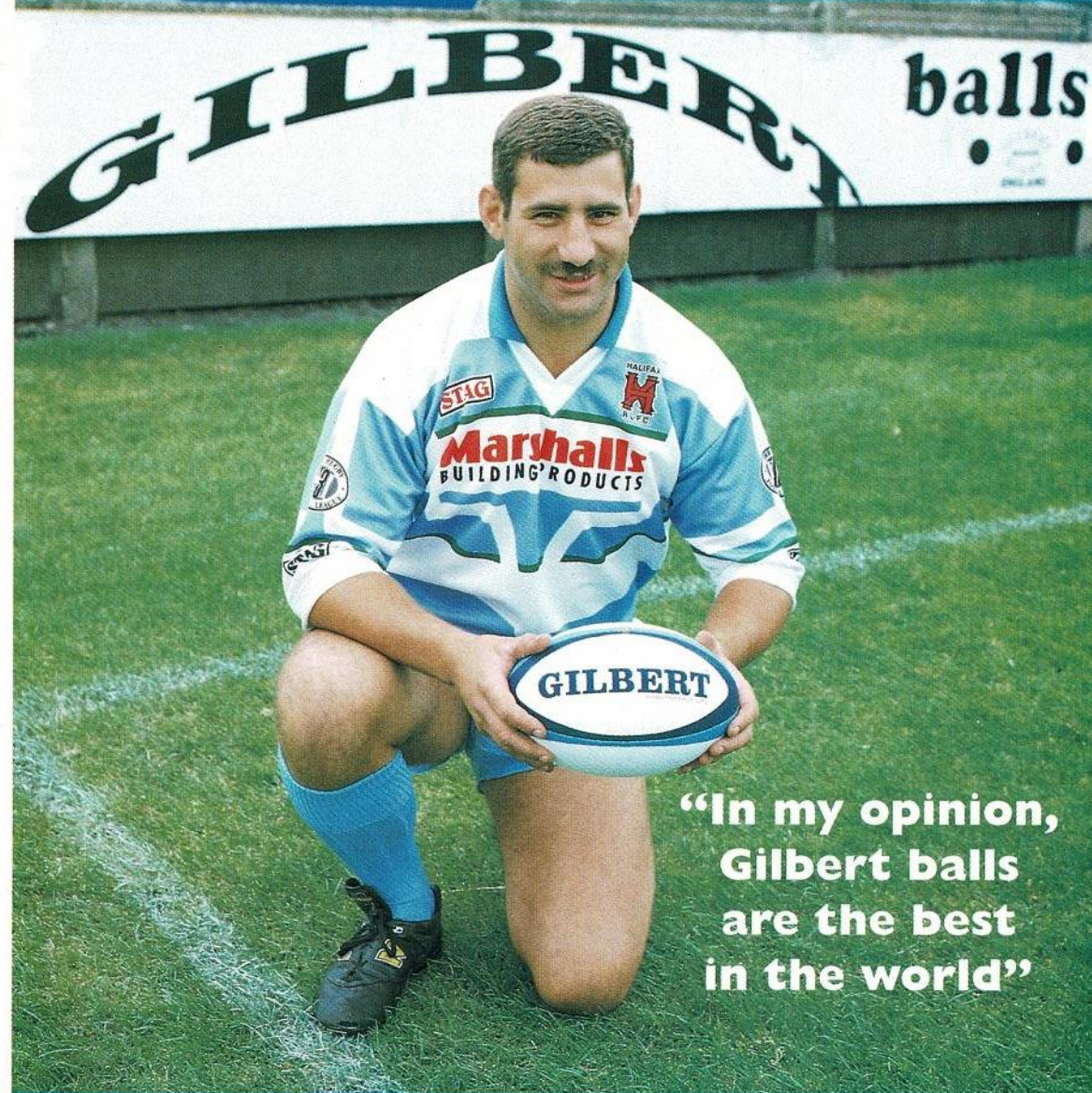
For those who remember the days when we had an Alliance team which played home fixtures Friday night will be a nostalgic occasion when our second string play at Thrum Hall versus St. Helens! The lads need your backing.

The draw for the second round of the Regal Trophy takes place on Monday 28 November at 12.30 p.m. This is the stage when the "big guns" enter the competition and the games will be played the following weekend.

Enjoy the game and see you on Friday week.



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From the Pavilion

Steve Simms

Good afternoon everyone.

Welcome to Thrum

Hall for our clash

against Oldham,

our second home game in a row.

This afternoon

we're looking to continue our suc-

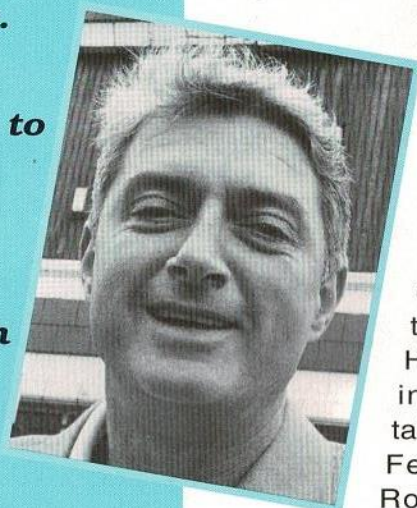
cessful run of

wins in the com-

petition – and Oldham will no

doubt be going all out to stop

us!



We continued that run against a deceptively good

Sheffield

Eagles

side last

Sunday,

despite

been

forced to

make

changes due

to Steve

Hampson's

injury, sus-

tained against

Featherstone

Rovers in our

midweek game,

and we were, of course,

without the second row

which has been one of our

strengths in past matches,

due to international duty.

Missing Perrett and Moriarty was probably the main reason for the unsettled look of the side during our last two fixtures, but they're both back today, and they – and the rest of the side – are feeling good, giving us confidence for this afternoon.

Oldham are a good side. Although they were beaten last week by Featherstone they played well, and just a couple of weeks ago they showed how good their defence can be in the televised game against Widnes,

who they 'nilled' – and we're not looking to allow

their television success

repeated for the Sky cam-

eras today! They have

some good players out

wide in Shaun Irwin and

Wally Gibson, plus some

big forwards – so we'll

have to be on our toes for

the full 80 minutes.

We've taken a couple of players on loan over the last few days. Karl Marriott is here from Rochdale Hornets on a month's loan. He can operate in the centre or second row and has just had a good spell with Salford. Ian Connor from St. Helens is a big front row forward who we've also got to look at for a month. Both these lads will have turned out against Oldham's Alliance side in the second team game last Friday, so we'll see how that goes.

May I thank you all for the support which you have given us over the last couple of months since I arrived at Thrum Hall. Your faithful support is well known throughout the League, and I'm sure you know what a positive edge that gives us – especially here at home.



Team Talk

Back in the spotlight at both Club and International level is Lee Harland – who took advantage of fellow Great Britain under-21 second -row Mark Perrett's absence last Sunday, to register his first try of the season – although it would surely have been his second had he been able to hold John Bentley's pass with the line open at Featherstone the other Tuesday.

Struggling for the latter part of last season with a series of niggling injuries, Lee was well aware that his form wasn't that impressive at the time when the Board were handing out contracts for 1994/95, and, had the asking price of £45,000 not been a touch steep for the handful of interested clubs, Lee may now have been regaining his confidence, and his effectiveness, at another Club.

Perseverance usually pays off in the end however, and the arrival of Steve Simms gave Lee the opportunity to start afresh as it were. And knowing that Simms was an admirer of the 'mobile' breed of forward gave him a head start. Injury to Michael Jackson and Paul Round was the other factor which plunged him into the reckoning for Steve Simms' first game in charge, and solid performances from the bench against Wakefield, Salford, Australia and Doncaster paved the way for a start against Featherstone and Sheffield, when the resident duo of Perrett and Moriarty were called up for the Welsh side.

Meanwhile, Lee settled his contract differences and committed himself to Halifax until the end of this season – time enough to re-prove his worth to the side. Lee himself is under no illusion about the task ahead, as



Lee Harland – Things going right at last?

he now faces competition for a regular place from a recovered Michael Jackson, new loan signing (and fellow Great Britain under-21 prospect) Simon Baldwin, Paul Round – who also returned to action with a try last week – besides the duo of Perrett and Moriarty, who were getting better by the game prior to last week's hiatus.

This week's call up to the Great Britain under-21 training squad has done no harm to his confidence, and he sees getting into the final 17 to face the Australians at Gateshead as his next international goal – for that, and a regular spot in the Halifax first team squad, Lee's working harder on the training field than ever and he's gone on to a strict diet, a regime which he hopes will bring results that will not just benefit himself – but, through improved quality in depth, will benefit the team as a whole.

LEADING TRYSORERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 1. Mark Offiah (Wigan) | 18 |
| 2. Nick Pinkney (Keighley C) | 16 |
| 3. Alan Hunte (St. Helens) | 15 |
| 4. Greg Austin (Huddersfield) | 14 |
| 5. David Plange (Hull KR) | 13 |
| 6. Mike Crane (Hull KR) | 12 |
| Leigh Deakin (Ryedale-York) | 12 |
| 8. Jason Robinson (Wigan) | 11 |
| Mike Peachey (Whitehaven) | 11 |
| 10. John Bentley (Halifax) | 10 |
| Mark Forster (Warrington) | 10 |

TOP TEN GOAL SCORERS

- (Including drop goals)
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Jonathan Davies (Warrington) | 46 |
| 2. Martin Strett (Rochdale) | 44 |
| John Schuster (Halifax) | 44 |
| 4. Bobby Goulding St Helens | 42 |
| Mike Blakeley (Leigh) | 42 |
| 6. Deryck Fox (Bradford N.) | 40 |
| Simon Irving (Keighley C.) | 40 |
| 8. Mike Fletcher (Hull KR) | 39 |
| 9. Greg Pearce (Huddersfield) | 38 |
| 10. Paul Gartland (Swinton) | 31 |
| Willy Richardson (Carlisle) | 31 |

LEADING POINTSCORER

Our own John Schuster has taken over as the League's leading point scorer with 124 from 44 goals and nine tries. He is followed by Jonathan Davies of Warrington with 122 from eight tries and 46 goals including two drop goals.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	10	10	0	0	396	136	20
Bradford	11	8	0	3	286	187	16
St. Helens	10	7	1	2	291	207	15
Leeds	10	7	1	2	254	171	15
Halifax	9	7	0	2	300	135	14
Warrington	10	6	1	3	280	135	13
Castleford	10	6	1	3	289	208	13
Doncaster	10	4	0	6	157	267	8
Widnes	10	4	0	6	139	266	8
Feath'stone	10	3	1	6	202	223	7
Oldham	10	3	1	6	188	273	7
Sheffield	10	3	0	7	179	224	6
Wakefield	10	3	0	7	123	276	6
Salford	10	2	1	7	193	271	5
Workington	10	2	0	8	118	303	4
Hull	10	1	1	8	160	273	3



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At Thrum Hall Today - Oldham

OLDHAM'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Championship

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Division One

1904-05

Division Two

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Challenge Cup

1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Divisional Premiership

1987-88, 1989-90

Lancashire Cup

1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Lancashire League

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58



The visit of Oldham is given added spice by the return of former Fax favourite Gary Lord to Thrum Hall.

The second-rower made the move to the Watersheddings during the summer after being offered the greater security of a two year contract.

And he's already made a telling contribution over the Pennines following his £35,000 tribunal decided move with some vital tries. Watch out for some interesting tussles today with some of his former colleagues today!

After a decidedly shaky start to the campaign - losing their opening four games - Lord and his new colleagues have shown they have no intention of getting involved in the relegation struggle.

The introduction of overseas forwards Jason Temo and Joe Faimalo - brother of Leeds' Esene - have given them a more solid look and their reward has been seven points from the last ten.

Another man to watch up front is big prop Ian Sherratt who has matured into one of the most consistent props in the top flight and his clash with Karl Harrison - provided the Fax skipper has come through yesterday's second Test unscathed - could prove one of the highlights today.

Scrum-half Martin Crompton is another key man for the visitors but he'll need to be at his very best to come out on top in his duel with in-form Thrum Haller Wayne Parker.

DARREN ABRAM

First professional club was Warrington and then moved to Trafford Borough, from where he joined Rochdale for £40,000 in 1991.

Earned a reputation at Rochdale as a prolific try scorer and when listed for £70,000 was sought by several clubs including Salford, Featherstone and Wakefield before joining Oldham in February 1993.

JOHN CLARKE

A sturdy little hooker who came straight out of BARLA Youth Rugby last season, and made the Oldham No. 9 shirt his own in the First Division of the Stones Bitter Championship. From Leeds, John is the only player ever to have won BARLA's 'Young Player of the Year' award more than once. He toured Australia with the BARLA Young Lions of 1993 and quickly signed for Oldham on his return from Down Under. Just selected for under-21 Great Britain Squad.

MARTIN CROMPTON

A £35,000 buy from Wigan early last season, Martin was troubled by injury in the early part of the campaign, but

came through magnificently last season to play a crucial roll in Oldham's team which saw off the Watersheddings via his home town club Wigan.

PAUL DAVIDSON

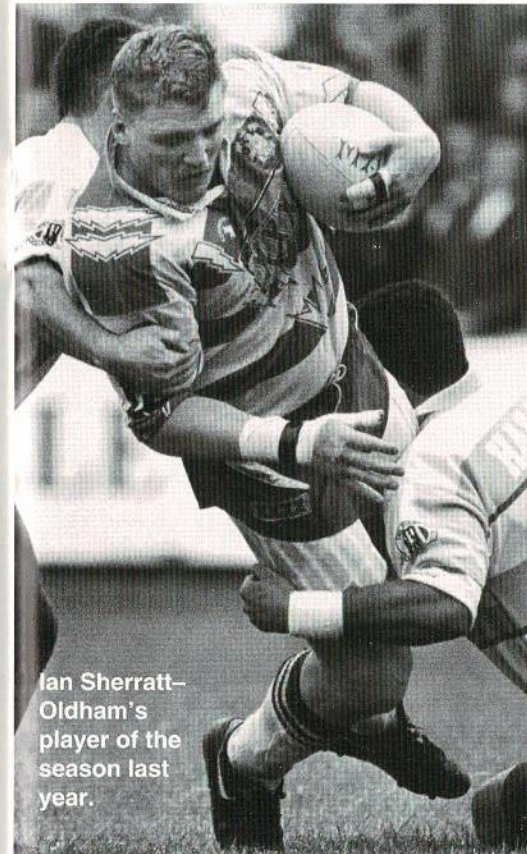
Joined Oldham this summer in £17,000 deal with Widnes. A Cumbrian who formerly played with Hensingham. Paul signed for Widnes three years ago and has had considerable senior experience at Naughton Park. Can play either prop or second row with equal ability.

STEVE GARTLAND

Needs no introduction to league fans in the Oldham-Rochdale areas. A clever stand-off aged 23, he signed for Rochdale from Oldham Amateur Club St. Annes in 1990 and established a Rochdale club record of 276 points in a season in 1992/93. A useful goal kicker he is the son of Brian Gartland, Oldham's town team coach and former member of the Watersheddings coaching staff.

WALLY GIBSON

On his day one of the finest attacking full backs in Rugby League. Wally



Ian Sherratt - Oldham's player of the season last year.

Russell to Wheldon Road. A former member of Mal Reilly's Great Britain squad. Shaun is a vastly experienced inside back, sound on defence and with a deceptive turn of pace as he proved when scoring a long range try at Featherstone in the 1993/94 season.

DAVID JONES

A strong finishing winger signed from Wakefield. A Wigan born St. Pat's player and as an amateur gained country and international honours. Can quickly establish himself as a firm favourite at Oldham if he continues his current form. Had a spell in Australia during the close season.

MIKE KUTTI

A New Zealand international of great repute. Played in Great Britain and France with the New Zealand tourists in 1989. Selected for the test team eight times, playing in Great Britain, France and New Guinea, but not Australia. A strong loose forward or second

rower, at the pinnacle of his career. Has played for Rochdale, Swinton, Leeds and Rochdale again. Has a good eye for making and taking scoring opportunities.

GARY LORD

A newcomer to Oldham this year, Gary started his career with Castleford and moved to Leeds before Oldham signed him from Halifax for a £35,000 fee fixed by tribunal. The brother of former Oldham winger Paul Lord.

CHRIS PARR

A prop forward from the Wigan area. Chris began his professional career with Huddersfield where he gained Great Britain under-21 honours. A move to Swinton did not work out for him, but Swinton's loss was Oldham's gain when Parr moved to Watersheddings in exchange for John Maxwell.

CRAIG RICHARDS

Joined Oldham for £25,000 from Bradford Northern a year ago and produced a stunning debut to score two tries against his former club. Had spells on loan last season with Workington and Featherstone, but has prepared extremely well under Andy Goodway's coaching this summer and big things are expected of him in 1994/95.

SCOTT RANSON

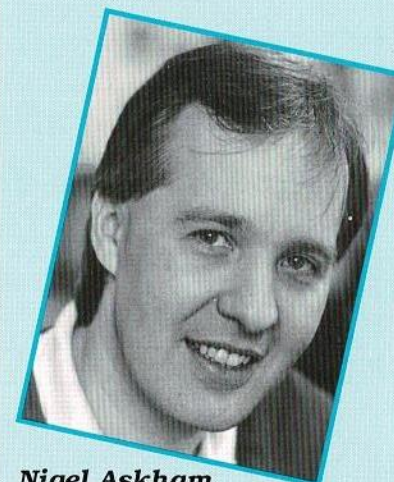
Twenty five year old St. Helens Player and the top try scorer for his former club, Swinton, signed for Oldham in March 1992.

IAN SHERRATT

Former Oldham and Lancashire schoolboy. Left Oldham for Salford and returned season 1991/92. A hard grafting prop-forward who won Oldham's 'Player of the Season' for 1993/94 and was also voted the 'Players Player of the Season'.

PAUL TOPPING

Paul joined Oldham from Leigh in the summer of 1993 after starting his career as a full back with Swinton. Oldham's top point scorer last season he is a useful goal kicker who can play equally well at full back, centre or even loose forward. A groin injury caused him problems last season but he has recovered remarkably well after surgery and is raring to go into 1994/95.



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True Blues

Halifax R.L.F.C. Supporters Club

Hello and welcome to all the fans travelling over the Pennines from Oldham today. When you read this today, Karl Harrison will have, hopefully, be in the ashes winning team. If not, its going to be a cracking third test. The Supporters Club would like to congratulate Mark Perrett and Paul Moriarty on representing Wales against the Aussies and Lee Harland, Simon Baldwin and, once again, Mark Perrett on being picked for the under-21's international against Australia. If Mark is picked to play, he will be sick of the sight of the Australians!

HELP KEEP HRLFC ALIVE!

The Supporters Club are asking all supporters to help keep HRLFC alive by signing one of the petitions around the ground today. If a new stadium is not built in Halifax, HRLFC will not be allowed entry into the Premier League, as the current ground does not meet the criteria.

If a decision is not made by the Council in the near future, HRLFC will have a major challenge to meet the deadline of four years. If Calderdale Council does not agree to help develop a new stadium, then top players will leave and it would become very difficult to replace them with other good players, as the club would become a Second Division club. This could result in the club folding or merging with another local team.

The Premier League criteria has been agreed by the majority of the clubs in the First and Second Divisions, so PLEASE don't leave Halifax behind. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD and sign the petition. The petitions are being held by volunteers who will be stood around the ground before, during and after the game.

Thank you for your support.

VOLUNTEERS

We desperately need more volunteers to collect names on petitions. In order to make an impact on the Council we will need to collect thousands of names. If we fail to do this, then our efforts and plight could be ignored. If you can help in any way with collecting names in the town centre on Saturday, then please either give your name to one of today's volunteers, at the club shop or ring the club office and leave your name and telephone number. It isn't a difficult task as the majority of people support the club 100%, including people who have never been to a game!

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all who have helped so far, you have been a great help.

HALIFAX R.L.F.C. Souvenir Shop Price List 1994/95 (Updated 28/10/94)

Replica Shirts (home)	
Adults (S M L XL XXL)	32.99
Childrens (S M L)	24.99
Replica Shirts (away)	
Adults (S M L XL XXL)	36.99
Childrens (S M L)	24.99
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Here's One We Played Earlier

Phil Lyon

If you can't take a joke, so they say, you shouldn't have joined, and Rovers coach David Ward's first game in charge at Post Office Road turned out to be anything but a barrel of laughs.



Phil Lyon

FEATHERSTONE R. 14 HALIFAX 22

Post Office Road,
Tuesday, 25th October 1994

The Rovers script called for a Featherstone win and a happy ending until Steve Simms got his hands on it and referee Graham Annesley called Advantage Halifax as the Thrum Hallers made it five in a row and set course for the first division's top four. Mark Preston's disputed match-clinching try made sure of that, and Shaun Edwards' favourite referee was escorted from the pitch at the end by one of Featherstone's Finest – a token presence perhaps, but big enough to deter the Post Office Road Mafia from a closer discussion on the marital status of Mr. Annesley's parents.

Rovers' fortunes went downhill, so to speak, in the first half when having already allowed a Wayne Parker bomb to bounce and get away with it, they stood and watched as the scrum-half took off from half way and disappeared into the night for the opening try. John Schuster goaled for a 6-0 lead after 15 minutes, an advantage wiped out by the latest argument for the introduction of in-goal touch judges with Carl Gibson's high-diving act beneath the Halifax bar.

John Fieldhouse redressed the balance on the half hour when he flipped the ball into the hands of Graeme Hallas as he fell and the centre set course for the back gardens of Post Office Road as Parker had before, a strike reinforced within four minutes when Iva Ropati was parted from his breath, and the ball, by a driving Halifax tackle, Lee Harland seized on the gift, and Mike Hagan sent Schuster sliding over for a 16-6 interval lead.

Sensitive souls among the flies on the Featherstone dressing room wall probably covered their ears for the next 15 minutes as Ward set about retrieving what already looked like a lost cause, a task

made a tad more difficult by Mr. Annesley's speed on the whistle with the unfortunate Ropati headed for an open line.

Aston's offside penalty made it 16-8, rather than 16-12, but when Hallas did a Ropati and lost the ball, Danny Divet battered his way towards the posts where Graham Southernwood booked his after-match pint from brother Roy with the try Aston's goal cut the deficit to two points at 16-14, a margin restored by Gibson's superb cover tackle on Schuster and maintained until six minutes from time when the impressive Simon Baldwin drove hard for the Featherstone posts.

Defensive niceties went out the window as the Rovers rearguard hauled the supporting Gary Divorty off the pass, the ball shot over the Featherstone line and Preston followed it in as Mr. Annesley applied advantage with a generosity unheard of in Post Office Road parts where no-one, but no-one – and especially visiting teams – ever got owt for nowt.

Schuster's goal made it 22-14, and David Ward made a mental note to cross Mr. Annesley off his Christmas card list.

HALIFAX 24 SHEFFIELD E. 20

Thrum Hall,
Sunday, 30th October 1994

Halloween is the night when evil spirits roam abroad – 24 hours before the broomsticks were due out of the cupboard, Halifax served up a few horrors of their own.

Victory secured a sixth league win in a row, but not before the Eagles had ruffled a few feathers in their turn and proved that a Kangaroo stuffing isn't totally indigestible. Battered near-senseless by the Australians only three days

before, a Lee Jackson inspired Sheffield side not only survived an opening Halifax assault which threatened to take up where the tourists left off, but came within three disallowed touchdowns of bringing the Thrum Hallers' victory roll to a grinding halt.

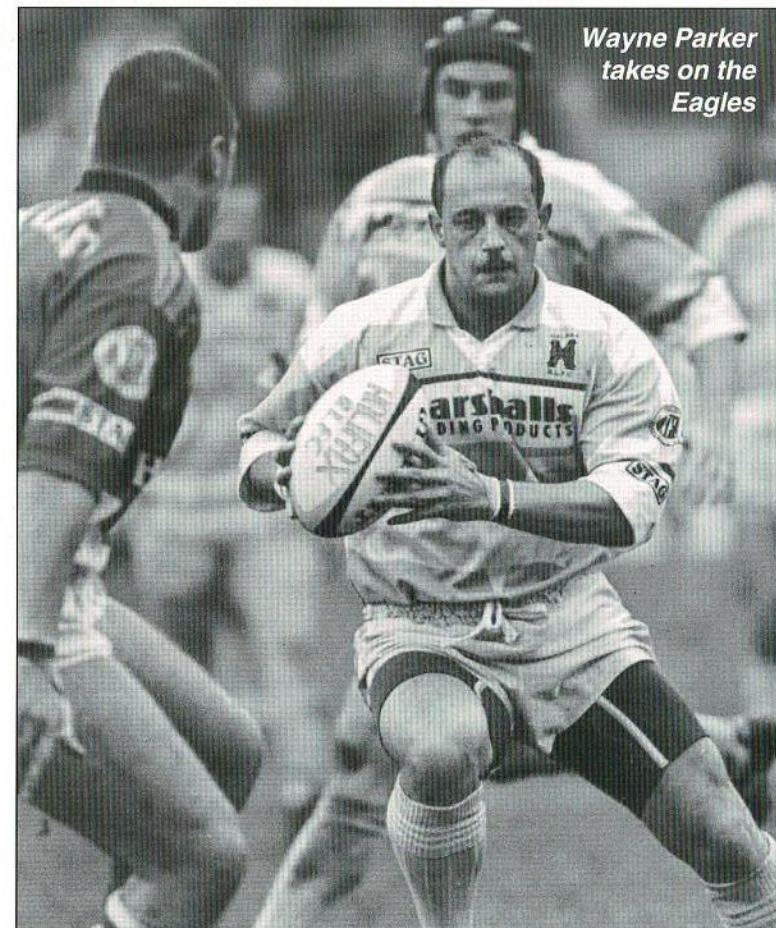
Act One went very much according to plan as John Fieldhouse and Lee Harland sailed over an Eagles line displaying the defensive qualities of a paper bag. Gary Hetherington's exact words are unrecorded, but 'here we go again' probably comes close, and Halifax followers sat back to enjoy the fun at 10-0 up after barely six minutes play.

So, unfortunately, did their team as the punch-drunk Eagles took a standing count and fought back led by Jackson whose reverse pass sent loose forward Anthony Farrell through a Halifax defence which never laid a hand on him and was still trying to work out why when the ever-thoughtful Jackson repeated the trick with scrum-half Wayne Sheridan – just in case the Thrum Hallers hadn't been watching the first time.

David Mycoe goaled both the Eagles 12-10 up after 21 minutes and Halifax were only spared further embarrassment by Paul Carr's fumble on the line before Hagan nutmegged Farrell up the other end and John Schuster hacked on for the try that restored the Thrum Hallers' lead at 14-12.

Breaks by the impressive Wayne Parker and John Bentley suggested the Eagles' bluff had been called, but the final shot of a roller-coaster first half belonged to a 12-man Sheffield, with fullback Mycoe in the sin bin – Jackson, of all people, losing possession beneath a by now, visibly harassed Halifax bar.

Steve Simms has probably never met Graham Taylor, but phrases along the lines of "Do I not like that" probably cropped up in the half time team talk, an opinion rein-



Wayne Parker takes on the Eagles

forced by a third disallowed Sheffield try, substitute Alex Thompson this time, before centre Keith Senior beat Bentley to Sheridan's kick through and the Eagles were back in front at 16-14.

They might well have stayed there too had Halifax not regained control of the game just long enough to make it count, Hagan sending substitute Paul Round trotting through a gap similar to those left scattered all over the Don Valley Stadium by the Kangaroos earlier in the week.

Schuster goaled for a four point lead at 20-16, and when Parker, Roy Southernwood and Hagan again worked the ball right for

Bentley to score on the hour, the Eagles' claws seemed finally to have been drawn.

Not quite.

Eight points to the good, the Thrum Hallers eased off the gas for the second time in the game and so nearly paid the price as the Eagles' loan signing Scott Martin returned to haunt his old Leigh boss Simms with the pass that put Bright Sodje over the corner with four highly nervous minutes to go.

Any longer than that, and the small, but vocal Eagles presence in the bottom stand could so easily have had even more to shout about. The Thrum Hallers cannot deny they have been warned.



Academy Action

Mick Slicker

JJB SPORTS Academy Fixtures 1994/95

Division Two Fixtures 1994/95

OCTOBER

29 S Sheffield Eagles A L14-30

NOVEMBER

5 S Keighley C. A 2.30

14 M Featherstone R. H 7.30

21 M Dewsbury A 7.30

26 S Barrow H 2.30

DECEMBER

5 M Salford A 8.00

12 M Widnes H 7.30

19 M Keighley C. H 7.30

JANUARY

7 S Featherstone R. A 2.30

16 M Dewsbury H 7.30

21 S Barrow A 2.30

30 M Salford H 7.30

FEBRUARY

11 S Widnes A 2.30

18 S Academy CC (1)

27 M Sheffield Eagles H 7.30

MARCH

11 S Academy CC (2)
Plate Competition (1)

Good afternoon,

As most of you are probably aware by now, the second phase of the JJB Sports Academy got underway last weekend and we got off on the wrong foot with a 30-14 defeat at the hands of Sheffield Eagles.

Having said that it was not one of our better performances but there were a number of extenuating circumstances. We were badly handicapped by first half injuries to Adam Law (ankle ligaments), James Rushforth (collarbone) and skipper Steve Greenwood (deadleg) and Chris Radford was playing his first game for several weeks after sustaining that nasty neck injury in our game versus Leeds at Thrum Hall. Chris came through the psychological barrier however, and will be all the better for that.

We are also still missing the huge forward influence of Richard Marshall who should be ready for action again in the not too distant future.

Our tries came from Damian Munro (2) and Neil Oldridge with Munro kicking one goal.

Damian's form has been one of the big pluses of our season so far and I have recommended to the Board that we explore the possibilities of offering him professional terms.

We had no fixture yesterday due to Keighley Cougars calling our game off over there because the pitch was waterlogged, but the enforced break will have done us no harm as we regroup our forces.

Injuries have been a real problem so far this term and we finished the first phase of the competition with a wafer thin squad, whose

results did not really reflect the potential amongst the younger players here at Thrum Hall.

We lost two home games to Bradford Northern and Warrington both in the last five minutes and these two teams are now in the First Division so I know that on the day we are capable of competing with clubs who theoretically are superior to us.

Recruitment goes ahead to try and plug some of the gaps caused by injuries and members of the original squad who have belatedly decided that they do not want the professional training regime which is necessary for ultimate success.

We have been lucky in as much as John Fieldhouse has been able to recommend some lads from the Warrington area who have experience at this level and I am sure that as the weeks progress regular attenders at our regular Monday night home games will become acquainted with these new lads.

We also have one or two more lads from the Oldham area who are interested in coming through, but it would be insidious to name names today when the Oldham board will be reading this programme!

You will be able to see the progress made and the pedigree of these newcomers a week tomorrow when we entertain Featherstone Rovers here.

On our day we are more than a match for anyone in this division, and we aim to prove it by getting our home fixtures off to a winning start then.

Thanks for all your continued support.



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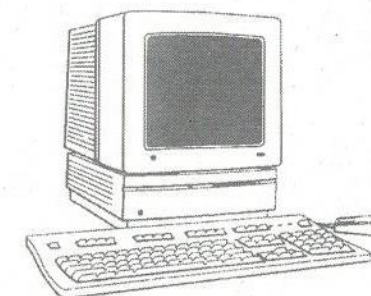
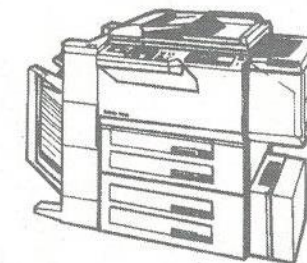
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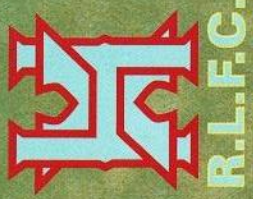
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Junior Blues

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 NICHOLAS McGEE
 LEE RUSHFORTH
 SOPHIA RUSHFORTH
 JODIE FAIRHURST
 JASON FAIRHURST
 HANNAH BEGVAND
 PAUL SMITH
 CHRISTOPHER KERRY
 KIRSTY FRITH
 DANIEL FIRTH
 REBECCA SKIRROW
 MATTHEW MASTERMAN
 CATHERINE PATRICK
 STEVEN FOSSETT
 MICHAEL FOSSETT
 JAMIE RODD
 (our oldest member, aged 15)
 GAVIN WRIGHT
 SCOTT PICKARD
 ANDREW NOCTOR
 THOMAS DUERDEN
 JAMIE HANCOCK
 (our youngest member, aged 17 months)
 ZACKARY HEPWORTH
 KURT PEREZ
 DANIELLE PEREZ
 DOMONIC MALLINSON
 GRAHAM SKIRROW
 EMMA SKIRROW
 MATTHEW TURNER
 DANIEL EKIS
 ADAM WHEALE
 REBECCA STANSFIELD
 KIRSTY STANSFIELD
 KIRSTY WILKINSON
 ADDAM BERRY
 KIM GREENWOOD
 ROSS HALSTEAD
 TOM DAVIES
 AIMIE TAYLOR
 PHILIP TAYLOR
 STACEY SKIRROW
 LAUREN SKIRROW

Hi, Boys and Girls!

Bonfire night was with us once more – doesn't time go quickly, it doesn't seem so long since the last one. Did any of you go to a bonfire last night? We hope you were very sensible with those fireworks, we don't want to see any of you injured. Those of you that still have bonfires to go to have a great time, but please remember to be careful.

Thomas Duerden is the lucky young man who was one of our mascot winners. Thomas will receive his new kit and then lead Halifax out this afternoon. Not only that, but he will pop upstairs to meet the players after the match. Have a great time Thomas.

Birthdays

We have several November birthdays. Belated greetings to Emma Skirrow who was 12 on 1 November, Kim Greenwood is 15 on 14 November and Andrew Noctor who was 10 yesterday (what a great excuse to celebrate your birthday with fireworks). Next Sunday one of our new members, Lauren Skirrow will be three years old – happy birthday.

If you haven't yet joined the Junior Blues, join now! There's always room for more. £3.50 covers the whole of the season, or why not come along for a 'taster' for only 50p.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15 November, 7.30-9.00 p.m. We meet in the Cricket Club which is at the top of the drive. The players always make a point of popping in after training to sign autographs, answer questions or have their photographs taken. We are hoping to arrange for you to have your photo



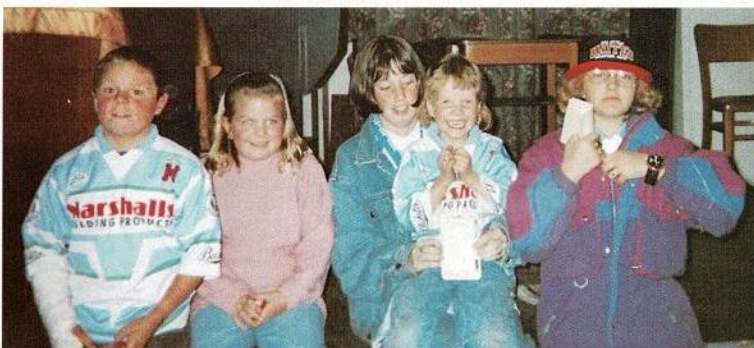
taken with some of the rugby players at our next meeting. So bring £1 along with you if you want yours taken.

At our last meeting we had members drawing pictures of Halifax players. Kirsty Stansfield, aged 8, was one of the winners for doing this great picture of Karl Harrison. It's very good isn't it Karl? Look out for another picture in the next programme.

We are still waiting to hear from some of our mascots. Why not pop a few words down about your special day.

Does anyone else out there have any jokes or anything they want to say, if so you can write to us at, The Junior Blues, H.R.L.F.C., The Pavilion, Thrum Hall, Halifax, HX1 4TL.

See you soon!



The winners of our drawing competition. Left to right: Steven Fossett, Kirsty Stansfield, Kim Greenwood, Kirsty Frith and Emma Skirrow.



Alliance News

Tony Anderson

Since I last wrote, we have had just the one game, against Salford at The Willows last Friday. Although we were defeated by 20 points to 6, I can't fault the lads for effort, but again we had many changes from the team that had played the week before.

That's been one of the problems we've had this season – we've never even been close to putting the same side out twice – and I write this knowing that we have a game on Friday night against Oldham at Watersheddings, and again, we've four or five new faces who will be going into that side.

It's going to be difficult over there – Oldham are a strong side, near to the top of the league – but as long as the lads keep going out and showing me the commitment that they are, and keep on improving as we are, then I'll be happy with them.

The game against Salford was a much tighter game than the scoreline suggests. We failed to cross for a try – our points came from three Craig Turner penalties – as we failed to show a lot of fluency in attack. A lot of this comes from players who are playing their first game for the side not knowing the other players at all, and therefore they don't fully know what they're likely to do or where they should run and things like that, so I'm

not bothered too much about the results at the moment. I will be if it gets later in the season and we're looking at going down into the Second Division, but as long as the players keep improving, and as long as they're prepared properly for the first team, then that's the important thing at the moment. After all, that's what I'm here for – to get them ready for that.

We are at home on a Friday night for the first time in what seems like ages next week, and our visitors, St. Helens, will no doubt provide an attractive contest. I'm looking forward to seeing you then.

Craig Turner – solitary points scorer at Salford.



YOUNGERS ALLIANCE LEAGUE

August

19	OLDHAM	H	7.30pm	L12-36
26	ST HELENS	A	7.30pm	L20-54

September

2	DEWSBURY	H	7.30pm	L12-17
9	BRADFORD N.	H	7.30pm	L18-37
15	WAKEFIELD TR.	A	7.30pm	W29-22
23	BATLEY (YSC1)	A	7.30pm	W17-14
30	WARRINGTON	A	7.30pm	L14-60

October

6	DONCASTER (SYC2)	A	7.30pm	L6-45
14	FEATHERSTONE	H	7.30pm	P
28	SALFORD	A	8.00pm	L6-20

November

4	OLDHAM	A	7.30pm	
11	ST HELENS	H	7.30pm	
17	FEATHERSTONE	A	7.30pm*	
25	RYEDALE YORK	A	7.30pm	

December

2	CASLEFORD	H	7.30pm	
9	HULL	H	7.30pm	
14	BRADFORD N.	A	7.30pm	
30	LEEDS	H	7.30pm	

January

13	WAKEFIELD T.	H	7.30pm	
19	CASTLEFORD	A	7.30pm	

February

3	SALFORD	H	7.30pm	
10	WIGAN	A	7.30pm	
17	WARRINGTON	H	7.30pm	
22	LEEDS	A	7.30pm	

March

3	WIGAN	H	7.30pm	
10	RYEDALE YORK	H	7.30pm	
16	DEWSBURY	A	7.30pm	
24	HULL	A	7.30pm	

*Note amended date

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	8	6	0	2	292	153	12
Oldham	7	6	0	1	208	170	12
Castleford	6	5	0	1	184	76	10
Wigan	8	5	0	3	243	157	10
Leeds	8	5	0	3	179	180	10
Bradford	7	4	0	3	219	154	8
Salford	8	4	0	4	184	154	8
St Helens	8	4	0	4	239	220	8
Hull	8	4	0	4	169	218	8
Dewsbury	7	3	0	4	133	160	6
Featherstone	7	3	0	4	147	255	6
Wakefield	9	2	0	7	171	225	4
Ryedale-York	8	1	0	7	151	276	2
Halifax	7	1	0	6	111	246	2



Amateur Scene

Brian Martin

Halifax clubs stayed on course to lift the titles in the four Pennine League Divisions and quite possibly the Three Alliance Leagues too if present form is maintained.

Champions Ovenden took their winning sequence to five in the Premier Division with a 24-12 victory over Worth Village at Four Fields to pull four points clear of Park Amateurs and West Bowling who were both engaged with Yorkshire Cup duties.

Adam Shearer raced 65 yards to register an equalising try for Illingworth at Dodworth, who led the rest in Division One, but he left it mighty close with 74 minutes on the clock. Coach Paul Welsh tacked on the goal points for Illingworth to claim the points thereby leap-frogging the South Yorkshire team, but Birkenshaw grabbed the top spot with a narrow win at Newsome.

Sowerby Spartans and Calder Valley fought out a thriller in Division Two with ground advantage proving the deciding factor as the Spartans scraped home 9-4.

With Division Three leading pair Stainland Stags, and Ovenden 'A' both without a game, Sowerby Bridge Robins moved into second place with an 86-18 thrashing of Silsden Park Rangers preserving their

unbeaten record with win number four.

The top three in Division Four, Wainstalls, Park Amateurs 'A' and Tameside Borough all had good wins to keep up their promotion challenges, while Siddal 'A' won their seventh straight win to stay four points in front of Alliance One.

Ovenden 'B' had a good win at Milnrow Newhay 'A', their sixth on the trot to stay joint top of Alliance Two with Cleckheaton 'A', all in all a very satisfying situation at this stage of the season.

Last weeks programme named Mark Oldroyd as the Elland Road goalkicker who landed 12 from 13 shots at goal. Ovenden and Park Amateurs both have players with that name but the Elland marksman is **Adam Oldroyd** the son of the BARLA National Administrator. These Oldroyds get everywhere.

Congratulations to Chris Cochrane on his award as the Pennine League Player of the Month for the month of October.

The award, sponsored by the Rugby League and Jack Lees Sports owner Terry Higgins, is a great honour for the Ovenden captain, who is a regular member of the Halifax Inter Town team. A prolific try scorer and brilliant defensive player, it has always surprised

me the Yorkshire selectors have not spotted him. Elland and Greetland have won through to the last 16 of the Yorkshire Electricity Cup, Elland have lost all four league games, but as stated last week, the Yorkshire Cup seems to inspire them. Siddal, with ground advantage and victories over Underbank and Keighley Albion were hot favourites, but the visitors won through 14-13. Elland will now face Thornhill in the fifth round at Greetland Community Centre. The heavy woollen team also had a one point win. West Hull going down 17-16 to the National League Division Two newcomers.

Maurice Bamford has got Greetland firing on all cylinders at last. They crushed Chequerfield 22-7 at Castleford and have been rewarded with a home draw against another 'CAS' outfit with Lock Lane the visitors to Greetland. Both cup ties will be played next Saturday, 12 November. Kick-off 2.00 p.m.

Park Amateurs went out at Heworth 20-6. They were in the wars early on with Michael Hellowell taken to hospital and John and Paul Dunne both retiring with nasty cuts to the head. The holders were in no mood to let go their hold on the cup and the Halifax lads never recovered from the early injury problems.



Facts 'n' Figures - 1994/95



Res.	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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AUGUST	21 Oubam	W4-20 5:413	Hampson	Bentley (1)	Schuster (66)	Anderson	Preston (1)	Hagan (1)	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse (1)	Morarty (1)	Round (21)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Hallas	Perrett
	28 ST. HELENS	L22-30 6:197	Hampson	Bentley	Schuster (136)	Hallas	Preston (27)	Bailey	Hagan	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Round	Anderson
SEPTEMBER	4 Wikes	L10-17 4:216	Hampson (1)	Smith	Schuster (118)	Bentley (1)	Preston	Hagan	Bailey	Harrison	Laness	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Eden	Round
	11 HULL	W46-12 4:161	Hampson (1)	Bentley (1)	Schuster (176)	Eden	Preston (27)	Hagan	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty (1)	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy (27)	Smith	Jackson
	18 WAKEFIELD TRINITY	W40-10 5:388	Hampson	Bentley (27)	Schuster (166)	Eden (27)	Preston	Hagan	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Hallas	Harland
OCTOBER	23 SHEFFIELD	W24-12 4:881	Hampson	Bentley	Schuster (146)	Eden (1)	Preston (1)	Hagan	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Hallas	Harland
	9 DONCASTER	W72-0 4:384	Hampson (1)	Bentley (37)	Schuster (371)	Hallas (1)	Preston (1)	Hagan (1)	Parker (1)	Harrison	Southernwood (1)	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy (1)	Greenwood	Harland
	16 AUSTRALIA	L1226 8:67	Hampson	Bentley (1)	Schuster (29)	Hallas	Preston	Hagan	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Harland	Smith (1)
	26 Featherstone Rovers	W22-14 4:880	Hampson	Bentley	Schuster (136)	Hallas (1)	Preston (1)	Hagan	Parker (1)	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse	Morarty	Perrett (1)	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Baldwin	Smith
NOVEMBER	30 SHEFFIELD EAGLES	W24-20 5:732	Hallas	Bentley (1)	Schuster (126)	Smith	Preston	Hagan	Parker	Harrison	Southernwood	Fieldhouse (1)	Harland (1)	Baldwin	Perrett (1)	Divorcy	Round (1)	Bailey

- 6 OULDHAM
- 13 ST. HELENS
- 25 WINDIES
- DECEMBER**
- 7 WARRINGTON
- 11 HULL
- 26 BRADFORD NORTHERN

- JANUARY 1995**
- 1 LEANS
- 8 WIGAN
- 15 WARRINGTON TOWN
- 22 CASTLEFORD
- 29 WAKEFIELD TRINITY
- FEBRUARY**
- 5 SALFORD
- 15 WARRINGTON
- MARCH**
- 5 DONCASTER
- 19 CASTLEFORD
- 26 WARRINGTON
- APRIL**
- 2 WIGAN
- 9 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
- 14 BRADFORD NORTHERN
- 17 LEANS
- 23 SHEFFIELD EAGLES



Connections

Robert Gate

Oldham's all right. I have always liked Oldham. I know we're Tykes and they are Lankies and that simply as a law of nature I should hate Owdamers. But I don't!

We have got a lot in common. For a start, there's Thrum Hall and Watersheddings. Most folk who hear the words Thrum Hall or Watersheddings suddenly come over all funny and assume a pained expression. You can see them wince and shudder. The very thought of winter afternoons freezing and getting soddened at Halifax or Oldham is more than most Rugby League fans can bear. They are not used to it, you see. We are, us Faxfans and Owdamers. Frequenting such high places, we have got used to low oxygen levels and extreme climatic phenomena. We are bloody hard!. Mind you, Oldham people think that Watersheddings is the highest ground in the Rugby League. They are wrong. Thrum Hall is but only by a few feet.

Another thing about Watersheddings and Thrum Hall. In these days of safety regulations and the drive for "upmarketability" we are in grave danger of losing two of the most atmospheric grounds in the game. Fair enough, we know conditions should be more user-friendly at our grounds but won't it be sad when Watersheddings and Thrum Hall with their imposing Victorian pavilions are just memories?

Talking of memories, one of the reasons why I have always had a soft spot for Oldham is the fact that the first Halifax League fixture I ever saw as a nipper was against Oldham. It was 20 August, 1956. I know because I looked it up. Halifax lost 9-13. Theoretically we had a good team then having almost, won all four cups the previous season. The trouble was Halifax decided to go into rapid decline in 1956-57



whereas Oldham became the bee's knees and won the Championship that season. I do not, remember anything at all about the game except that it was an evening

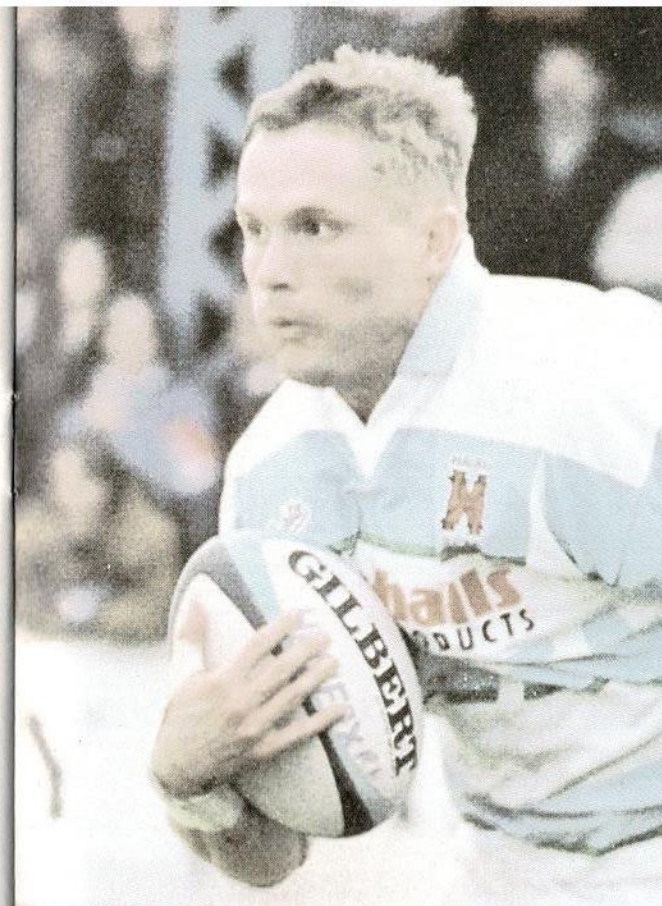
fixture. What I do remember is going in the fish shop at the bottom of King Cross Street that night and the chippie talking to some blokes who were wondering if Halifax had won. It was the first time I realised that knowledge was power. Anyway, I never told them. They probably wouldn't have believed me anyhow.

For years after I started watching Halifax we could never beat Oldham. They did the double over us for five consecutive

seasons. Bernard Ganley just used to look at our posts and it was two points. He seemed to kick millions against us. I was beginning to think that Oldham beating Halifax was an immutable law of physics when on 9 September, 1961 we finally got the better of them at Thrum Hall. It was only 7-5. Frank Fox scored our only try - his solitary try of the season - but at last we had beaten them. It was a weight off my young mind, I can tell you. Since then we have beaten the Roughyeds more often than they have beaten us which is another reason why I like them.

The best reason for liking Oldham though came in 1963 when they sold us Alan Kellett (pictured). Kellett was one of the main reasons we used to lose so much to them previously. He generally had a field day against Halifax. We would not have minded so much if he had not been a local Halifax lad and had actually played a couple of trials for our first team back in 1954. We messed up then and Oldham cleaned up. Alan, partnering Frank Pitchford, became a lynch-pin at stand-off for Oldham, represented Yorkshire and was unlucky not to have got international honours. When we finally got him back home in 1963 for a fee of £4,500, things suddenly clicked. He and Ken Roberts made all the difference to a team which had begun to promise so much but had yet to deliver the goods.

With Alan at stand-off, or often enough at centre to accommodate Barry Robinson, we at last had a class act in the middle backs, someone who could get the best out of the rest, a natural footballer. Alan was a key figure in Fax's drive to the Championship in 1965 and in those other triumphs of the mid-60s. It was probably the lack of oxygen that made him feel so at home. Thanks, Owdham!



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In Touch

TODAY'S STONES BITTER FIXTURES

Bradford N. v Sheffield E.
Castleford v Widnes
Halifax v Oldham
Leeds v Workington
Warrington v Hull

SECOND DIVISION

Dewsbury v Bramley
Huddersfield v Batley
Hull K. R. v Highfield
Hunslet v Leigh
London B. v Carlisle
Rochdale H. v Barrow
Ryedale Y. v Swinton
Whitehaven v Keighley

POINTSCORING RUN

Deryck Fox of Bradford Northern has the current longest pointsoring run of 32 matches stretching back to January.

TRY SCORING SEQUENCE

Martin Offiah of Wigan has scored at least one try in six successive club matches as follows:

1-2-1-1-2-2

Alan Hunte of St. Helens has scored at least one try in five successive club matches as follows:

4-3-1-1-1

Mike Pechey of Whitehaven has scored at least one try in five successive matches as follows:

1-3-2-1-2

WINNING RUN

Wigan have the best winning run against club sides of 18 matches. It is made up of 13 Stones Bitter Championship games, three Premiership ties, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final and the World Club Challenge.

Bradford Northern were the last club side to beat Wigan, 10-6 at Odsal on 12th April.

LOSING RUN

Highfield have gone 25 matches without a win. The run began with a draw followed by 24 successive defeats.

Their last win was 16-13 at home to Saddleworth Rangers amateurs in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on 16th January. They have gone 35 Second Division matches without a win, with their last a 16-13 victory at Bramley on 26th September 1993.

MILESTONES

Paul Eastwood of Hull needs four goals for a career total of 500 for the club.

Shaun Edwards of Wigan needs eight points for a career total of 1,000 for the club.

Mike Fletcher of Hull KR needs four points for a club total of 1,500.

Karl Fairbank of Bradford Northern needs one try for a career century with the club.

Keith Mumby of Ryedale-York needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns.



Two top local derby matches involving clubs from the Leigh and London areas were the highlights of the 1994-95 Regal Trophy first round draw made in Leeds today (Wednesday, 26th October 1994).

Leigh, one of the stronger Second Division professional clubs, have been drawn to entertain "across the road" amateurs, Leigh Miners, while the equally strong Second Division outfit, London Broncos, have been given a home match against their northern border amateur rivals, Hemel Hempstead. The two leading French teams face

tough tasks - League champions, Catalan XIII, having to visit Dewsbury and Federation Cup holders, St. Esteve, visiting Hunslet. East of the Pennines, professional club Bramley will not find an easy passage against amateurs, Mysons, one of the few clubs to have beaten a professional club in the competition. Likewise, Ryedale York will have to be careful against near neighbouring amateurs, West Hull, who under their previous name of Cawoods also claimed a professional scalp some years ago. The round has to be played by 27 November with the matches involving the two French teams being played a week earlier.

The Regal Trophy, now in its 24th consecutive season of Imperial Tobacco's 28-year sponsorship of the Rugby Football League, is worth a record-breaking £410,000, broken down by prize money of £246,000 (including increases in every round) and a contribution to the League's Capital Development Fund of £164,000. For the eventual winner their is a record prize of £36,000.

This is the second successive season that the Regal Trophy's first round has brought together leading teams from the British amateur game alongside the two leading French teams as opposition to the 16 Second Division professional clubs who were all given home draws. The 16 First Division clubs in the Rugby Football League are seeded through to the second round.

The full first round draw is:-

HULL K. R. v HENSINGHAM (Cumberland regional champions)

BRAMLEY -v- MYSONS (Humberside regional champions)

HIGHFIELD -v- OVENDEN (Pennine regional champions)

WHITEHAVEN -v- THATTO HEATH (N.West Counties regional champions)

HUNSLET -v- ST. ESTEVE (French Federation Cup holders)

RYEDALE YORK -v- WEST HULL (National Conference League)

DEWSBURY -v- CATALAN XIII (French League champions)

BATLEY -v- QUEENS (Yorkshire regional champions)

KEIGHLEY COUGARS -v- CHORLEY BOROUGH (former professional club)

CARLISLE -v- DUDLEY HILL (National Conference League)

LEIGH -v- LEIGH MINERS (National Conference League)

LONDON BRONCOS -v- HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (National Conference League)

BARROW -v- NOTTINGHAM CITY (former professional club)

SWINTON -v- SADDLEWORTH RANGERS (National Conference League)

ROCHDALE HORNETS -v- WOOLSTON (National Conference League champions)

HUDDERSFIELD -v- BLACKPOOL GLADIATORS (former professional club)

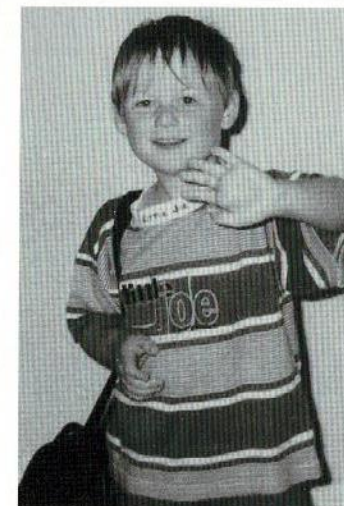
The first name clubs are all Second Division professional clubs who are drawn at home.



Odds and Sods

TODAY'S MASCOT

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This afternoon's mascot is Thomas Duerden and he is 5 years old. Thomas attends Burnley Road J & I School, Mytholmroyd, and is a member of the Junior Blues. His favourite players are Mark Preston, John Bentley and John Schuster. Have a good day Thomas!

Taverners News

At last! Next Friday we have a home 2nd team game against St. Helens. After the game we shall be showing a recording of the Sheffield v Wigan match screened live by Sky earlier in the evening.

We are still running our usual coach to away games. Next Sunday we are at St. Helens and the price is just £3.50. Bookings should be made with our Secretary, Eric Whiteley.

Our next first team home fixture is on Friday, November 25th against Widnes. The match is being screened live by Sky Sports, and the bar will be open at 6.00pm. A video of the game will be shown as soon as the final whistle goes!

This year's Children's Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday, 10th December. Members with children aged 5-9 years should give their names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Today's game is being shown on Sky Sports tonight - but at the later time of 9 pm. As the bar closes at 8 pm, and to avoid disappointment, we are able to offer you an earlier showing (courtesy of Sky) which we will screen at 7 pm. It will also be shown as normal next Thursday night at 8 pm.

"THERE WERE A LOT MORE THAN THAT"

is a forthcoming book written and published by local Rugby League historian Robert Gate. Robert, who contributes the "Connections" column in the Halifax programme, has compiled a striking book about the Odsal Replay of 1954, jam packed with eye-witness accounts of the players involved and reminiscences of supporters from all over Rugby Leaguedom who were there on that historic evening in Bradford in 1954.

Brilliantly illustrated and in a large format, "There Were A lot More Than That" will be of especial interest to Halifax fans for whom it would make an ideal Christmas present. Only 1,500 copies are being produced and will be available from early in December. To ensure your copy, orders can now be placed with Robert Gate, Mount Pleasant Cottage, Ripponden Bank, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge HX6 4JL. The cost is £11.95 (post free) and cheques should be made payable to RE Gate.

UP AND COMING FIXTURES

FRIDAY, 11th NOVEMBER 1994
HALIFAX A v ST HELENS A
at Thrum Hall,
k.o. 7.30 pm



SUNDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 1994
ST HELENS v HALIFAX
at Knowsley Road,
k.o. 3.00 pm



MONDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 1994
**HALIFAX ACADEMY v
FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY**
at Thrum Hall,
k.o. 7.30 pm



THURSDAY, 17th NOVEMBER 1994
**FEATHERSTONE A v
HALIFAX A**
at Post Office Road,
k.o. 7.30 pm



MONDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 1994
**DEWSBURY ACADEMY v
HALIFAX ACADEMY**
at New Crown Flats,
k.o. 7.30 pm



FRIDAY, 25th NOVEMBER 1994
**HALIFAX v
WIDNES**
at Thrum Hall,
k.o. 7.30 pm

GOING TO ST. HELENS?

Leave M6 at Junction 23 and at traffic lights at end of slip road turn left (A580 Liverpool). Go straight ahead at 3 more sets of traffic lights and at 4th set (petrol station on corner) turn left. Immediately turn right into Bleak Hill Road and follow signs for Pilkington Glass Museum. Go past the 7 Stars pub and shortly after take left fork. At T junction, turn left into Knowsley Road. After Black Bull Pub turn right into Dun Riding Lane and this brings you to the front of the Ground and parking area.



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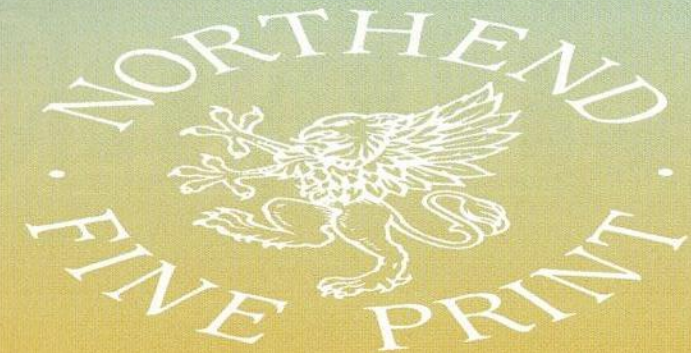
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AWAY THE LADS

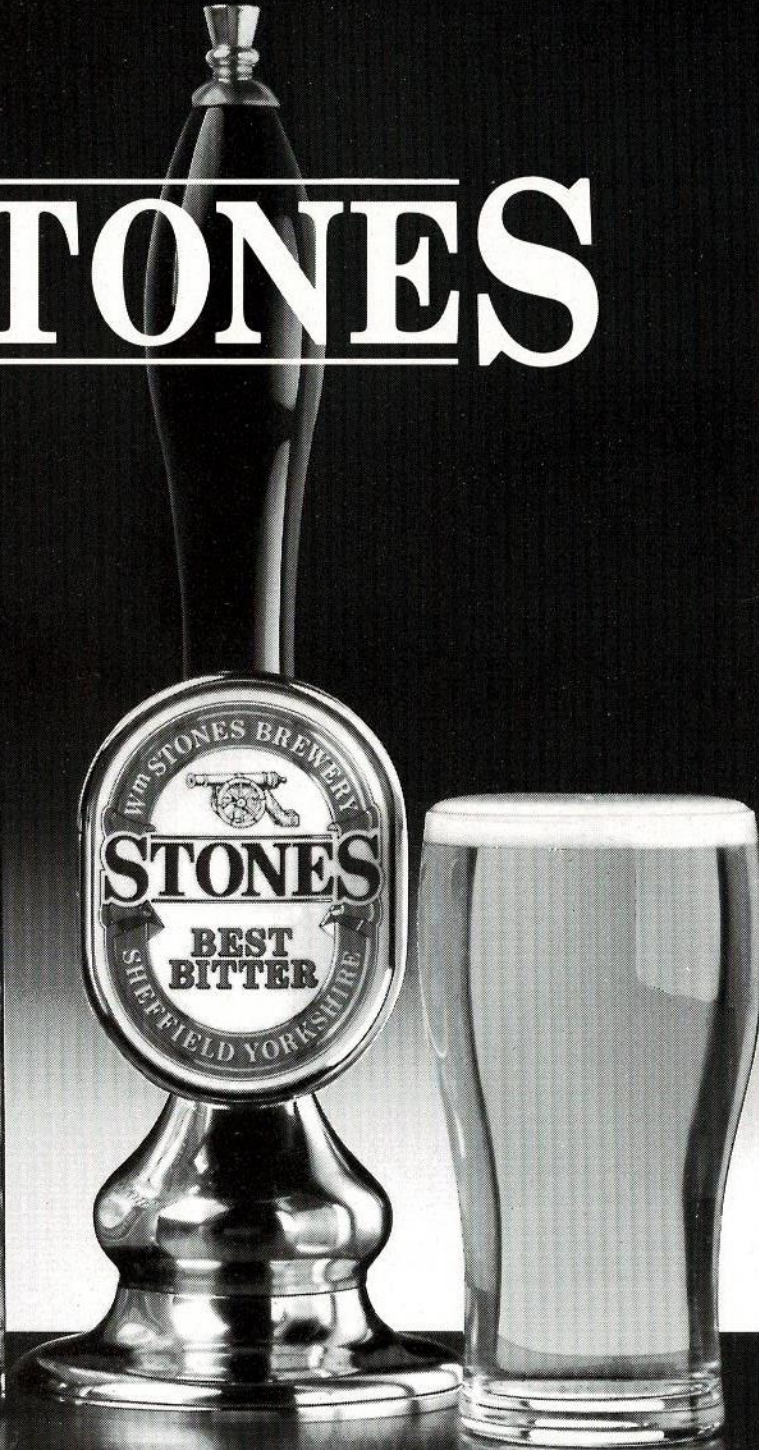
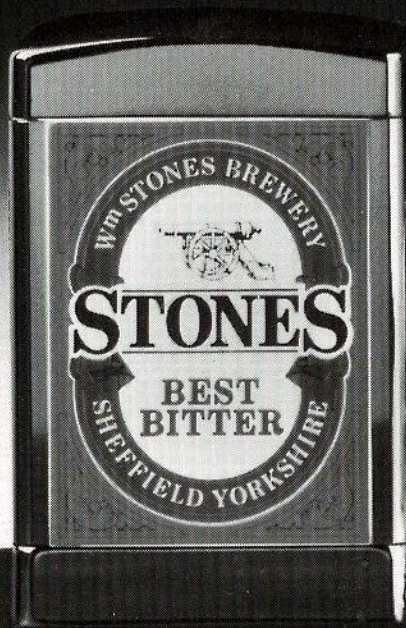


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Mickey Mole

And the Courier reporter ('Northern' Nige) picked up on the whole affair by suggesting that they should perhaps be wired up to the mains as opposed to each other – thereby stealing the one decent joke that I had for this column this week! In his otherwise adequate 'between the posts' column in the Courier on Tuesday (they must be short of adverts on Tuesdays) he also pointed out that the 'half time results service' last week merely consisted of 'shrill shrieking' over the Tannoy, focusing on Bradford's demise at the hands of our (now) great friends Castleford. I'm sure the Thrum Hall crowd (including the opposing spectators) would rather be subject to 'shrill shrieking' than 3,000 tape recorded voices going 'Naw-vun, Naw-vun' every time Foxy's Darby and Joan XIII string together a set of six without dropping the ball!

Anyway – enough of pettiness – onto matters *majeur*, and news of the most popular man at Thrum Hall last Tuesday. Step forward Wayne 'WP' Parker, who brought to training a fitness conditioner from the Humberside area who put the lads through a two-hour workout which would have had Mr. Motivator reaching for his pause button! Apparently it was only hard because the lads had problems with their 'Strard patterns' whatever they are. Needless to say, Guy Rumbold hasn't been so busy for a good few weeks with people suddenly developing mysterious aches and pains!

One player carrying an injury (but quite happy to stick out the whole of the session) was Michael Jackson, who was sporting a nasty stitched cut to the head. Evidence of a tough comeback through the Alliance at Salford last week, you may presume, but no – evidence actually of his skill (or lack of skill) at carrying scaffolding! Also in the second team at Salford was a diabetic trialist who asked Phil Coventry to get him some 'pop' for half-time, in case he needed to bring up his blood-sugar level. 'Cov went to the Burger-bar and duly obliged with a bottle Blackcurrant juice (and two cheese-burgers *'because they were there'*). On closer inspection however, the pop turned out to be sugar-free! The dugout was a hive of activity with

Phil and Ned tearing open little sachets of sugar from the team bus, pouring them into the pop bottle and shaking furiously! And whilst on the subject of Mr. Coventry, I hear that he's considering changing his name to Kelly Hardy so that his name matches the initials on his newly acquired, V. Posh, Club Blazer!

Anyone wishing to obtain some surplus to requirements fresh fruit may wish to contact the Taverners Club, who I understand bought in supplies to feed the Great Britain squad after a planned training session at Thrum Hall last Monday. Unfortunately, the session was called off at the last minute, leaving the Stew-Mob with a dozen wholemeal loaves, two dozen oranges and bananas, assorted salad items and two trays of Lasagne going begging! The official reason for cancellation of the session being due to 'Roadworks causing problems for the Lancashire lads travelling on the M62' meant that training had to be held at Headingley instead(!). A bill will likely be on it's way to Mr. Hanley from the Taverners treasurer!

One other person sad at the cancellation of the session is Harry, the groundsman. Coming just after Vince Gribbin of Whithaven's revelation in the Sun that Thrum Hall was his least favourite ground "because of the state of the pitch" Harry's expected booty which is traditionally awarded to host ground staff by a visiting international training squad, was not going to be. His booty (a manly shirt and Kangaroo tour baseball cap) which the Aussies presented him with when they visited Thrum Hall prior to our game with them had also disappeared – 'stolen' from his expensively alarmed car when he left the boot open in the Thrum Hall drive! It was a couple of days later when Harry realised that the arrival of John Bentley and the disappearance of his possessions were possibly connected, when Mick Scott was seen walking around the ground in a **very** similar Manly shirt, purchased at a very reasonable rate from one who had returned from down-under! I understand Harry and his goods are now re-united.

More next time . . .

Good afternoon everyone.

I'm sure I read something a couple of years ago about the Rugby League sorting out the fixture programme so that we would be spared consecutive fixtures at home or away. Mmm – I must have been imagining things. One thing that they have sorted (or are at least in the process of sorting) is wiring up the refs! Perhaps they should have made sure all the spectators knew that this technological breakthrough was coming to their local ground – as, on seeing our referee's ear piece last week, one wag was heard to remark, "Hey up – looks like Holdsworth's going deaf now as well as blind!"

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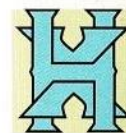
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