

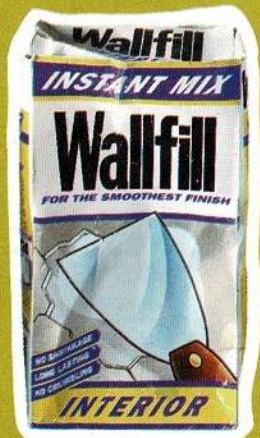
**SOMETHING
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**SOMETHING
NEW.**



**SOMETHING
BORROWED.**



**SOMETHING
BLUE.**

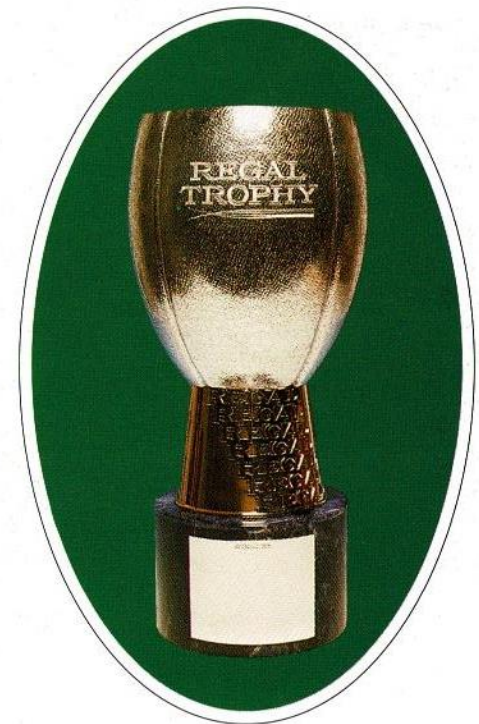


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**REGAL
TROPHY**

WIDNES v. OLDHAM

3rd ROUND, SUNDAY, 18th DECEMBER, 1994
KICK OFF: 3.00 p.m.



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WELCOME TO OLDHAM

We welcome the players, officials and supporters of Oldham to Naughton Park for this afternoon's Regal Trophy Second Round tie.

CUP TIE ACTION

Although our priority at the moment must be the collection of league points to consolidate our position in the First Division table, the Regal Trophy does provide an interesting diversion from the bread and butter of the championship. A money spinning cup run would not go amiss and though Oldham's form at the moment is red hot, Tony Myler's men will also fancy their chances of progressing. It is interesting to recall that, a little over four years ago, the Roughyeds came to Naughton Park for a Challenge Cup tie as a second division outfit and pulled off a shock win over a star studded Chemics side. Now the teams are meeting on an equal footing with the bookmakers able to find little to choose between us.

YOUTH POLICY

There has been much publicity in the wake of the Ashes series concerning 'youth policy' with the Chief Executive of the RFL being quoted as criticising clubs for their lack of activity in this field. However we in Widnes are proud of our tradition of producing quality young players and at the moment schools RL, as featured on the Kidscene page in every issue of Black & White, is thriving. And whilst the club may not, at present, be in a position to bid for Test stars or RU internationals on the transfer

market, we are resolved to sign the very best of local junior talent. To this end we were delighted to announce the signature of 13 year old Mark Flanagan from Widnes Tigers. Mark, a pupil at Bankfield School, is the latest (and youngest) of our recent batch of signings; the sort of player who we hope to see making headlines in five or six years time. Good luck, Mark.

WELL DONE GARY

On the subject of youngsters, congratulations must be extended to Gary Broadbent for his solid performance on his first team debut against Bradford last weekend as a deputy for Stuart Spruce. Although still qualified for the Academy, young Gary has been impressing in the Alliance side and, on last week's showing, seems to have what it takes to make the grade in the big league. Hopefully, though, he

up front

will not be on the receiving end of any more spear tackles like the one he was subjected to on Sunday. It may have been the Northern players' idea of a welcome but it perhaps should also have had the referee saying farewell to them, with the help of his red card!

CLUB OFFICIALS

President: MR.R.C. HIRONS	Club Doctor: DR.G. TANDY
Directors: J. MILLS (chairman)	Coach: MR. A. MYLER
R.D. BOWDEN, R.BROWN A.A. CHAMBERS,	Alliance/Assistant Coach: MR. J. MYLER
S. EVANS T.W. FLEET, A HARRIS,	Assistant Coach: MR. D. HULME
J.A. HODGSON, A. MURRAY, J. PRESTON,	Academy Coach: MR. C. WHITFIELD
J.H. QUINN, T.A. SMITH,	Physiotherapists: Miss K. JOYCE & Miss D. VOSE
F. VOWLES.	Fitness Conditioner: Mr. M. WOOLRICH
Football Secretary/Commercial Manager: MR.F.MYLER	Hon. Dental Surgeon: MR.I. HAWLEY
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R.L. Council Representative: MR.T.A. SMITH	General Office Telephone: 051-495 2250
Hon. Surgeon: MR. P. ROSTRON	

PROGRAMME

Programme designed and produced by: **FRANK TOBIN** Editor: **STEVE FOX**
 Editorial: **JOHN POTTER, CHRIS MOORE, RON GIRVIN, WILLIAM BOOT, PAT CLUSKEY, ROGER HARRISON,**
 Photography: **PETER HESTON, STUART BOGG (WEEKLY NEWS), SIG KASATKIN, CHRIS MOORE,**
DARRELL COOPER, RUGBY LEAGUER, OPEN RUGBY.

Note: Views expressed by contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor or Widnes RLFC.



WIDNES RLFC CLUB HONOURS

Division One Champions: 1977-78, 1987-88, 1988-89

Challenge Cup Winners: 1929-30, 1936-37, 1963-64, 1974-75, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1983-84.

Lancashire League Winners: 1919-20.

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1945-46, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1990-91

John Player Trophy Winners: 1975-76, 1978-79, 1991-92.

Premiership Winners: 1979-80, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90.

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy Winners: 1978-79.

Charity Shield Winners: 1988 1989 1990
 European & World Club Champions: 1989.

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Tony's topics...



Tony Myler is sponsored by K&B forest products

Q. The recent signing by the club of several promising youngsters has served to emphasise the club's policy with regards to youth. Can you tell us more?

A. Building a very strong Academy squad over the next few years is very important to us. We are behind other clubs in this area by a few years, and can't afford to miss out on any of the top youngsters if we can help it. We are watching the progress of lots of players and intend to make more signings as soon as money becomes available.

Q. What do you think of the general standard of the British game in the light of the series defeat against the Ausies?

A. Quite obviously it shows a

lack of quality players in this country. There are far too many players who want to win but are not prepared to give back what they need to achieve this.

Q. Rumours suggest that John Devereux will be out for the rest of the season. What is the current situation?

A. John Devereux is still under the instructions of the specialists who will not let John play until they are completely happy with his progress.

Q. What's the most difficult thing you've found in being a First Division coach?

A. Sitting and watching officials destroy a week's work with bad decisions.

In the shape of Gary Broadbent we saw a glimpse of the future last week, but Stuart Spruce is very much the man of the moment in the full-back position. Spronger has probably been our most consistent player this season and if he can maintain his current form and avoid injury he looks certain to add to his international honours.



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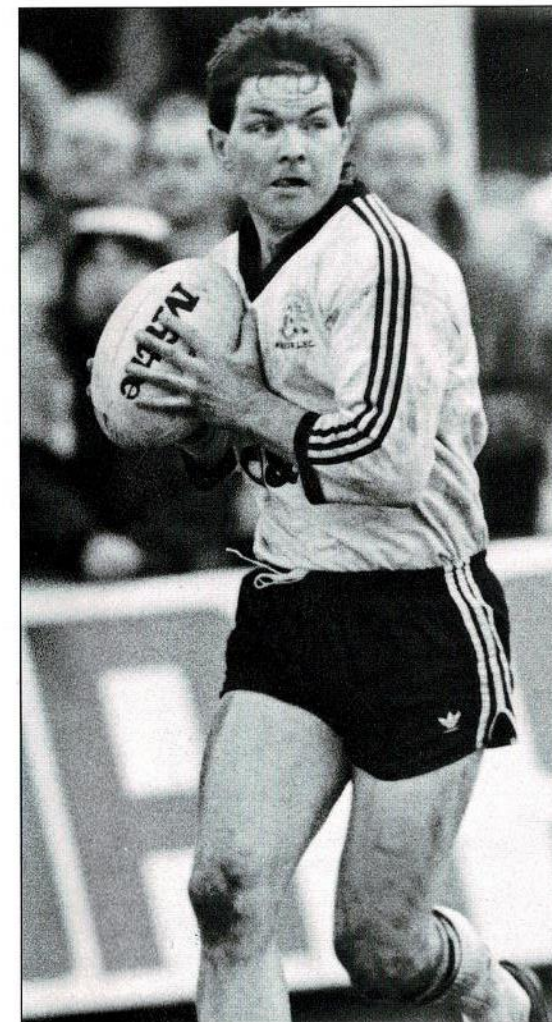
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PARK LIFE

WITH **John Myler**

John Myler returned to Widnes last summer as part of the restructuring in the back room staff that saw the disappearance of Phil Larder's men and the introduction of the new faces that his brother Tony needed.

"To be honest, it was a very difficult decision for me to leave Warrington. Last year I had settled in well and I like to think that I was well thought of. In the end though the chance to work with Tony proved irresistible, although I must confess that I still had some doubts as to how we would work together.



We've never been in each other's pockets as brothers, but right from the start we fitted in together very well. My role at the club is two-fold. Firstly, I am coach to the Alliance side. As you'll know we were relegated last season and our top priority is to get back into division one. This season we've really been too inconsistent for my liking but we are still in with every chance. The lads work hard but all too often lack concentration. The likes of Wigan turn it on week in and week out and if we want to compete we must get that sort of commitment and consistency.

With regards to the First Team, I really operate as a sort of buffer for Tony. I try to take some of the pressure off his shoulders and take care of some of the routine things. On match days I'm always to be found in the back of the stand with my trusty radio head-set. My main function up there is to look for areas of play that we can take advantage of. For example, I look to see what kind of set plays the opposition are employing or when the winger drops back for the expected kick. All of these things can give us that vital edge that any side needs. I sometimes feel sorry for Colin Rigby who is usually getting an ear-full of my advice. He's an old mate and can take it.

We've all been upset by some of the recent results. I truly don't believe that the recent scorelines have done us any justice, Castleford, Halifax and last week Bradford Northern, all running in points late on. However, as the old adage goes "you've got to play for the full eighty minutes".

The spirit in the camp has always been good and with a little more consistency and application I'm sure that we can turn the corner. David Hulme will shortly be returning to the action and his presence I'm sure will give us that vital spark."

John Myler was talking to Chris Moore

WHO AM I? Clue No.1

Five clues throughout the programme should give away the identity of our mystery player.

How quickly can you name him?

Born on 17th January 1968, I signed for Widnes in March 1985. (next clue page 9)

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■ If any confirmation were needed as to how important it is going to be to avoid the drop from the Stones Bitter First Division, we got it good and straight with the announcement that Hull FC and Doncaster were to part company with their respective coaches.

For some reason I'm not half as shocked to learn of Tony Fisher's departure as I am over Hull's Tony Gordon.

I simply cannot believe that a man can be judged on 13 games!

The first game that I reported on this season was at the Boulevard on the opening Sunday when the Airlie birds entertained Warrington.

It was as good a game as I've seen all season and by their own admission Warrington were more than happy to share the spoils of a 16-all draw.

Okay, Hull have only managed to pick up another 4 points in the subsequent 12 games, but I think in some of the games (by all reports) they have pushed teams all the way before tiring near the end.

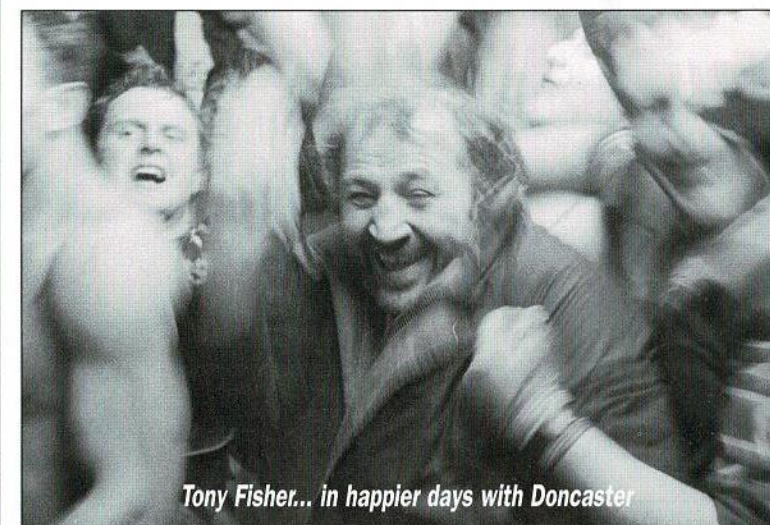
In a way, I can understand the concern of the Humberside club, they've seen neighbours Rovers drop into the 2nd Division, and a quick return to the top

WHO AM I? Clue No. 2

My only Test appearance was in Brisbane in June 1988.
(next clue page 15)

taking the **mike**

Steve Roberts of Radio Merseyside writes



Tony Fisher... in happier days with Doncaster

flight for them is by no means certain. An extended run in the lower division could ultimately be the death knell for teams in the so-called 'out-reaches' of our game.

The odds are probably against a new coach walking into the Boulevard and just waving a magic wand. That's why I can't really see the logic in giving a coach with such a proven track record such a short period of time to get it sorted out.

As I said, in the case of Tony Fisher, I am not as particularly surprised and the reason for my thinking here is that quite often in both football and rugby there has been lots of examples where a coach has done wonders with

a club in the lower reaches of the league and taken sides into the top flight.

When that happens, the general theory is that you need new playing staff to take it on from there. I believe it can be the same with a coach, and with all due respect for the achievements of Tony Fisher, it strikes me he is one of those coaches who can motivate an ordinary team to new heights. Either way, it's not the sort of Christmas present either of these guys deserved, but it does go to show the enormous pressure every club is under to be in the right place if and when a premier league does materialise.

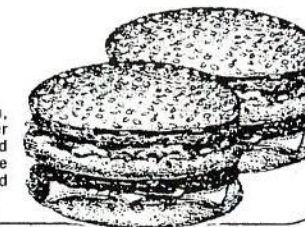
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Widnes-Oldham cup clashes have been few and far between over the years.

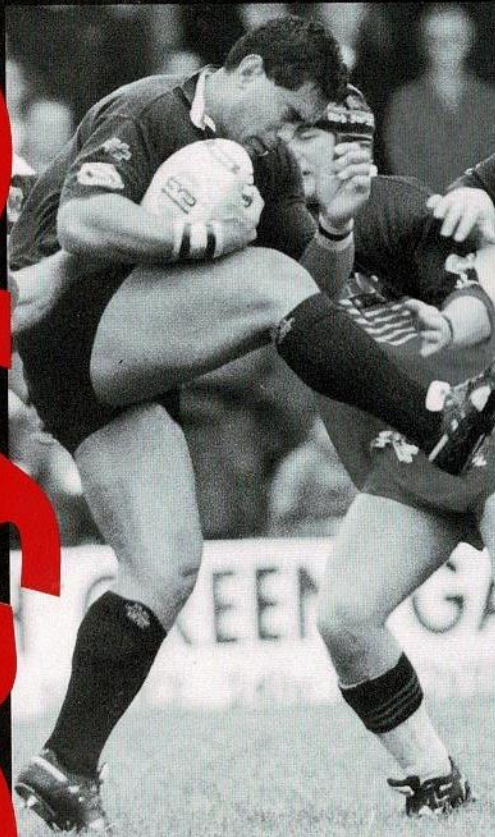
The one that sticks in my mind comes from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup back in 1975 - the year the Chemics bridged the gap of an 11-year wait for a return to Wembley. The third round tie was at Watersheddings on a pitch which had more sand than grass on it. Widnes ran out 10-4 winners, but they paid a high price with Dennis O'Neill stretched off with a serious ankle dislocation and fracture. It was his second really serious injury of his career, having suffered a broken jaw in his early days. When Dennis bounced on to the scene as a teenager, there were rave reports about him. He seemed destined for the top and a certain Great Britain international. He made his debut at stand off for Lancashire against Yorkshire at Naughton Park as a 19-year-old in 1968 and scored two tries. One of them will always live in my memory as he took the ball from a scrum near the right hand touchline and he went 90 yards to score in the diagonal corner. Sadly, injuries blighted what should have been a sparkling career. He did play in three internationals, two of them in helping Great Britain win the World Cup in France in 1972. He figured in the 27-21 win over Australia, scoring a try and then in the 13-4 victory over France. But he missed out on the New Zealand game and Australia in the final. Dennis was certainly the sharpest player I'd seen in a Widnes shirt and I still think that the only one who has matched him is Jonathan Davies.

Going back to 1975, Dennis was only officially ruled out of the final against Warrington about 10 days before the final but the medical experts knew from the moment he suffered the appalling injury that his chances were very slight indeed. I remember physiotherapist Frank Tobin saying to me weeks before the game that Dennis would not be fit but asked that nothing be said for fear of dampening the player's spirits. At least he got to Wembley the following two seasons, even though he finished up a loser on each occasion. Let's hope no one suffers that sort of injury today when Andy Goodway brings his much improved side to Naughton Park. Oldham have not had much joy in the Regal Trophy. In fact, they have appeared in only two semi-finals, the last being in 1987-88. That was a tremendous season for the club and the last time that they picked up a trophy. They won the Division 2 title and went on to make it a double with the Premiership as well in that incredible final against Featherstone. Oldham were 22-0 up 26-22 down and snatched it in the last couple of minutes when Des Foy made the break which brought a try for Kevin Meadows. In that Oldham side were Mick Burke, Mike Ford, Mal Graham and Peter Flanagan. This competition has been good for the Chemics and it's one that we hold a record over Wigan - most final appearances of eight compared to Wigan's seven. Well probably until January!

cCue's Mastery : Unlucky Davies

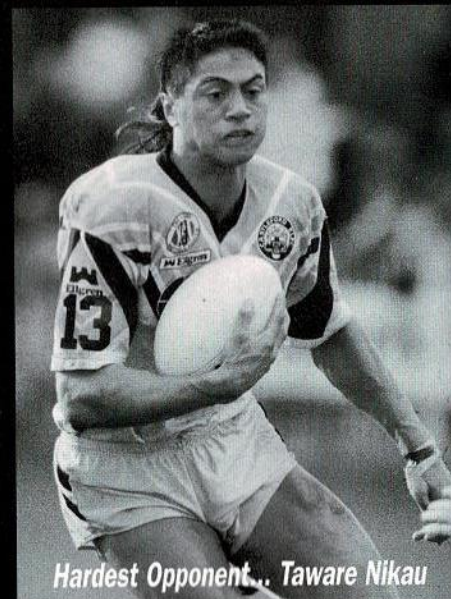
Vertical text: 'Widnes Memories' with various newspaper clippings and photos. Clippings include: 'We've done it CHEMICS LIFT LEAGUE TITLE', 'RUGBY LEAGUE Championship night for the first time', 'Widnes team the Wembley in', 'CUP FINAL', 'STORY FOR WIDNES AT WEMBLEY', 'ABLE TO CHECK SPEEDY CHEMICS.', 'The Victorious Captain', 'RUGBY LEAGUE', 'Washing Lydon seal factory for Widnes'.

Lifestyle



RUGBY TOPICS

Since signing from Leigh during the summer Lee Hansen has proved an instant hit with Widnes fans thanks to his straight running and strong tackling. What you see is what you get with Lee - no frills - power football. Though he played his rugby in New Zealand prior to his move to Hilton Park in July 1992, Lee is of course of Tongan extraction and no doubt hoping, along with Emosi Koloto, to take part in next year's Centenary World Cup.



Hardest Opponent... Taware Nikau

Lee Hansen...

PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 23/7/68

Age: 26

Employment: Groundsman at Leigh RLFC

Played for: Leigh, Northcote Tigers (N. Zealand)

Orange Unt (Australia)

Married? Single

Car: Vauxhall Cavalier

FAVOURITE THINGS

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TV Programme: Brookside

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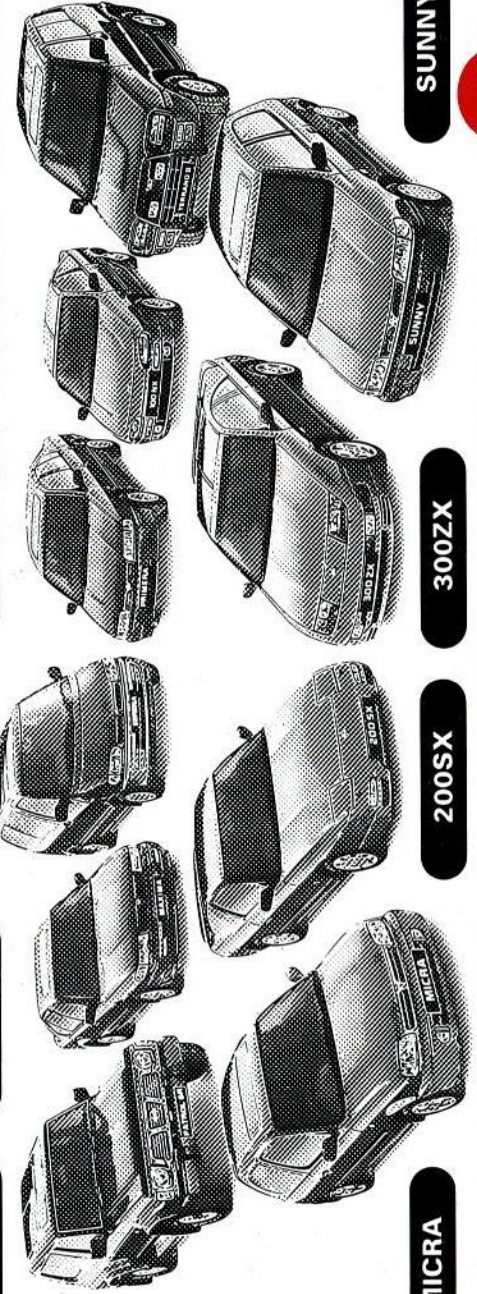
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programme notes

Although the programme does not actually say so, it is clear that the Widnes versus Oldham game on September 9th 1948 was actually the second leg of a Lancashire Cup tie. The programme notes commented that, thanks to a performance at Watersheddings of "dourness and tenacity... we now hold a great chance to enter the semi final", before adding of the fare to come "may the game be attractive and... our players... serve up the football we all know they are capable of."

According to the programme those players were due to be: Hutton, Jolley, Bradley, A.Naughton, Kenny or Malone, C.Reynolds, Anderson, Leigh, H.Reynolds, Williamson, Higgins, Woodward or Whittaker, J.Naughton.

Oldham's projected line-up was: Glanville, Tate, Hanes or Mitchell, Mahoney, Spencer, Batten, Jones, Ogden, Brooks, Anthony, Tomlinson, Rostron, Shearman.

The referee was Mr. N. T. Railton of Liverpool with Messrs. Moran and Mosely running the line.

In these days before floodlighting the game, which was played midweek, kicked off at 5.45pm. No doubt there were plenty of workers clocking off early that day to catch the action.

As usual for programmes of that era there was very little information about the opposition, in fact on this occasion there was none, although in an eight page publication there was very little of anything! There was a short feature on the rules of the game in the form of a brain teaser; the

referee is of the opinion that a winger has grounded the ball in the corner prior to the corner flag going down. The touch judge signals touch-in-goal. What should the referee award? The answer was that he should award a try, this being the only occasion when he could overrule the touch judge on touch and touch-in-goal decisions.

It was reported that, subject to R.L. Council approval, C.Warburton and T.Gilligan had been awarded joint a joint testimonial by the committee. On the injury front, sympathies were extended to "S.Butler" (obviously he and the programme editor were not on first name terms) who had picked up a knock to his shoulder in the 'A' team, shortly after his return from "a nasal injury."

The Australians were due to tour that Autumn, their first post-war trip to Britain, and to commemorate the event a souvenir brochure was to be produced "price 1/-" or 5p to younger fans. The remainder of the draw for the Lancashire Cup was reproduced and it would appear that the draw for the whole competition had been made at the outset because the semi finals were already pencilled in as follows: Leigh or Liverpool Stanley or Warrington or Barrow v. Oldham or Widnes, and Workington or Salford or St.Helens or Wigan v. Belle Vue or Swinton or County Amateurs. Those were the extent of the programme notes, the remainder being taken up with

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1948

Widnes v. Oldham

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advert, such as that for Speeds, the electrical dealers, telling you to kick your Wireless Set (that's a radio for the benefit of the youngsters) into touch if it was more than ten years old in favour of a new model. Meanwhile the 'B' Movie of the night at the Plaza was that well known favourite "Mine Own Executioner."

WHO AM I? Clue No.3

I played my amateur rugby for Leigh Rangers and was a Widnes regular as a teenager.
(next clue page 19)

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■ If this game had have been played a month or so ago the bookmakers would most likely had Widnes as firm favourites, such was our home form and Oldham's own patchy record this season. However the Roughyeds have caught fire of late! Their 29-0 success over us in October helped to light the blue touchpaper and since then they have gone on to put more than thirty points on Bradford and, amazingly, 55 points past Warrington last Sunday. The Regal Trophy is a competition in which the Watersheddings outfit have rarely shone, having only progressed beyond this stage of the tournament four times in its 23 year history, but with form like theirs Widnes will have to pull out all the stops to prevent them improving upon that record.

a £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 a former member of the Watersheddings coaching staff.
IYAN GREEN A Wiganer formerly on St Helens books, Iyan came to Oldham as a free agent in



John Clarke

in town today

DARREN ABRAM First professional club was Warrington and then moved to Trafford Borough from where he joined Rochdale 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.

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 threat of relegation. Formerly with Warrington Martin moved to Watersheddings via his home town club Wigan.

PAUL DAVIDSON Joined Oldham this summer in

the summer of 1993 and became a useful member of the squad, often showing his worth at senior level as a tough tackling hard grafting second row forward who also played a major roll in the alliance teams remarkable unbeaten record throughout the season.

NIGEL HESLOP Former England R.U. winger who won 10 caps for his country. Signed for Oldham from Orrell R.U. club in February 1993 after losing his place in England's Five Nations Cup squad for 1993. Represented England in the World Cup 1991 and was a member of two Grand Slam winning squads.

MARTIN HOLDEN Joined Oldham from Wigan St Pats in 1993. Can play wing or centre with equal ability. A strong runner he won BARLA open age International honours before taking the professional ticket with Oldham.

SHAUN IRWIN Shaun joined Oldham from Castleford in 1992 in the move that took Richard Russell to Wheldon Road. A former member of Mal Reillys 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 county and international honours. Can quickly establish himself as a firm favourite at Oldham if he continues in his current form. Had a spell in Australia during the close season.

STEVE KERRY Former Preston Grass Hoppers R.U. half-back, turned professional for Salford for whom he was a prolific goal scorer and he topped the R.L. points scoring list in 1990/91 when Salford won the Second Division Championship with 427 points.

Can play equally well at stand-off or scrum-half and was long admired by Oldham coach, Peter Tunks, before he finally signed him in September 1992.

MIKE KUITI 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 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 Gary began his life as a full back but now plays in the pack mainly at second row.

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.

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 Goodways coaching this summer and big things are expected of him in 1994/95.

SCOTT RANSON Twenty four year old St. Helens player and the top try scorer from 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.

DAVID STEPHENSON Like his fellow hooker from the Leeds area John Clark, David learned his Rugby League in the Yorkshire City and also won BARLA youth honours. A good hooker and a clever play maker in the loose, Stephenson is highly regarded at Watersheddings, Oldham are fortunate to have to young hookers with the ability of Stephenson and Clarke.

On his day one of the finest attacking full backs in Rugby League. Wally made his name with the Huddersfield club, ripping Second Division defences to shreds in his three years at Fartown. Joined Oldham two seasons ago and quickly became a firm favourite with the Watersheddings crowd thanks to his uncanny ability to turn defence into attack.



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WALLY GIBSON

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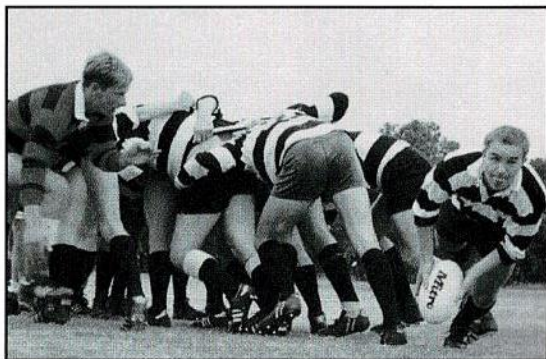
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The Professionals



VP UPDATE

The VP Club would like to thank the players and John Myler for their participation in the proceedings at the recent Meet the Players evening. The event, though poorly attended, was a great night out for those that did take the trouble to attend.

It is often said that you can make statistics say what you want them to say. A case in point would be

our present league position. Prior to our last game it was repeatedly said that we were fifth from the bottom and in the relegation zone. It was never said that we were in joint eighth position with Doncaster, separated only by points average. We all knew at the beginning of the season that this would be our hardest test, how can we expect the players to keep their heads up if we can't. Particularly when we are doing far better than anyone could have hoped for.

Malcolm Lord of Radio Manchester writes...

Wigan are the BBC Sports Review Team of the Year for 1994 - and about time too. The club has dominated Rugby League for years and the award, I'm sure you will agree, is way overdue.

Wigan Rugby League Club have done more to 'spread the gospel' than anything and anybody and they are a superb role model to other clubs. Instead of bleating about large cash injections and massive sponsorship deals providing the base for this success, I believe clubs should study Wigan's methods and wherever possible strive to emulate them.

Other clubs have had large cash injections from either the sale of their grounds or sponsorship, but none have made the advances over the years that Wigan have.

This award, it must be remembered, also belongs to people like Grahame Lowe, John Monie, - players like Steve Hampson, Andy Gregory, Ian Lucas, etc, etc, - no longer with the club but each has played his part in the Wigan story. And there is no way that the contribution from Maurice Linsay can be ignored - love him or hate him, he's done wonders for the game.

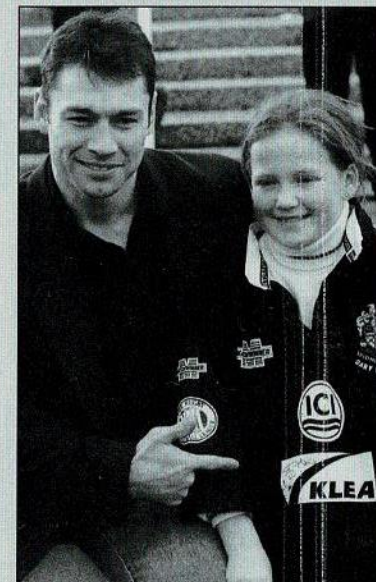
Finally, let's not forget the Wigan fans - they're the envy of every other club and I'm sure they'll continue to back the clubs quest for even more success in the coming years.

I'm a Rochdale lad and proud of it - I'm not suggesting we all start following Wigan, but I am suggesting they've earned our respect - well done to you all!

Take That... Laura

Young Chemics' fan Laura Dickinson of Runcorn received a Widnes replica jersey signed by Gary Barlow of Take That Fame.

The jersey was first prize in a fund raising "Phone In" quiz organised by the club. The presentation was a double celebration for Laura as she got a chance to meet her favourite Widnes player, David Hulme, seen below, congratulating Laura.



WHO AM I? Clue No.4

For many years I enjoyed a fruitful centre partnership with Andy Currier.
(next clue page 23)

today's line-up

widnes

colours: black & white

1. **Stuart Spruce**
2. **Peter Smith**
3. **Karle Hammond**
4. **Darren Wright**
5. **Adrian Hadley**
6. **David Ruane**
7. **Anthony Singleton**
8. **Craig Makin**
9. **Steve McCurrie**
10. **Lee Hansen**
11. **Andy Collier**
12. **Emosi Koloto**
13. **Paul Hulme**
14. **David Smith**
15. **Mike O'Neill**


coach: **Tony Myler**

Scrums					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

Penalties					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

Widnes																			
Oldham																			

Today's Officials

 Referee: Mr. J. R. Tennant (Castleford)

Touch Judges:  Mr. J. S. Tidball (Wakefield)  Mr. I. Muir (Wakefield)

oldham

colours: red, white & blue

1. **Wally Gibson**
2. **David Jones**
3. **Shaun Irwin**
4. **Darren Abram**
5. **Scott Rawson**
6. **Paul Topping**
7. **Martin Crompton**
8. **Ian Sherratt**
9. **David Stephenson**
10. **Jason Terry**
11. **Joe Faimalo**
12. **Gary Lord**
13. **Mike Kuiti**
14. **Wilson Marsh**
15. **John Clarke**

coach: **Andy Goodway**

Scrums					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

Penalties					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24



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- Craig Makin**
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Simon Says...

Widnes will have to be at their best today. Oldham are having an impressive season this year. Martin Crompton is the brains behind 'The Roughyeds' and they have some class finishers in Abram and Ranson. Topping too has talent in his reliable kicking boot.

If any Widnes fan needs evidence of how good the Oldham season has been, they need do nothing more than watch the video of our recent trip to the Watersheddings, and if that's not enough, their results against Warrington and Bradford should be pretty conclusive.

BRADFORD FLATTERED...

Speaking of the men from Odsal, our recent clash with the Yorkshire men bore a very flattering score line to the visiting side. I have to wonder whether or not referee Mr John Holdsworth is a pineapple slice short of the full Del Monte! Let's face it, he didn't have a clue! He looked very disorganised. He was extremely strict that our defensive line was back the full ten and was 'lenient' to say the least on their ten metres. The first Northern try seemed to take umpteen tackles. The ironic cheers when on the next Northern play he raised his hand to signal the last tackle told the whole story!

We have to remember, though, that we do not have (nor can we afford) players like Watson, Fraise, Newlove & Fox etc. We will find it hard to beat top seven sides week in week out. The performance at home to Halifax was one of the best I've ever seen! We can, and are, giving excellent accounts of ourselves (with the odd exception) and every Widnes fan should feel proud to be behind the Black and Whites that are the Chemics!

Enjoy today's game!

Simon Owen

The Young Bulls cemented their place at the top of the 2nd Division of the JJB Academy with a 24-20 victory over Halifax at Thurm Hall on Monday night.

This was undoubtedly their best performance of the season as they gave a performance of courage and commitment against a much bigger side who also had the advantage of a 28-7 penalty count! Wes Rogers opened the scoring with a penalty goal before 'Fax went in for an unconverted try. Fullback James Briers then crossed for two tries, one of which Rogers converted and although 'Fax added a penalty goal Widnes were good value for their 12-6 interval lead.

Early in the second half the home side drew level with a converted try and then edged ahead with a penalty goal. Phil Kendrick regained the lead for Widnes as he won the race to his own kick through, Rogers goaling.

With five minutes remaining 'Fax went in for their third try of the evening, the conversion putting them 20-18 ahead. The Young Bulls then showed true grit as they regained possession, Damien Clitheroe's pass finding Eddie Kilgannon who, despite the close attentions of three defenders, forced his way over, Rogers conversion clinching the points.

A constant performer in this year's Academy side has been Welshman, Jamie Brown. Having represented Wrexham and Clwyd at both U15 and U16 levels, Jamie turned his back on the 15-a-side code when he was unsuccessful in gaining representative honours for Wales, despite

NEXT ACADEMY HOME GAME

Versus Dewsbury

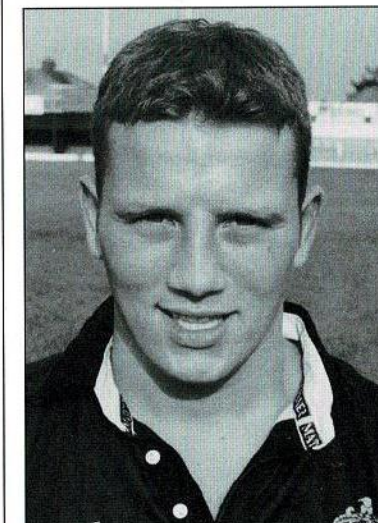
7.30 p.m. Kick Off

Monday 9th January 1995

WIDNES ACADEMY **young bulls**

impressing the coaches in the trials in Cardiff. Unfortunately, he came from the wrong part of Wales in the selectors' eyes.

He then came to a coaching course at Naughton Park and spent a season at St Marie's before joining the Academy and turning professional in the summer. A strong-running forward and fearsome tackler, Jamie's ambition is to go as far as he can in the game and, hopefully, wear the red shirt of Wales to prove the rugby Union authorities wrong!



Welshman Jamie Brown

WHO AM I? Clue No.5

I rejoice in the nickname of Dazzler and there is no truth in the rumour that I am the son of a Widnes winger of the 1970's!
(Answer on page 31)

**TAURUS REMOVALS ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR
WIDNES ACADEMY YOUNG BULLS**

The one thing that strikes you most when you meet members of that famous '75 Wembley team is that they all still have a burning passion for the game. Mick George is no exception.

"I still get butterflies in my stomach now just before kick off and I'm only stood on the terraces! Compared to many others in the Wembley squad I signed late, in 1970. By that time people like Mal Aspey and Reggie Bowden were well established in the first team. I'd been playing for what was then called Widnes B team, the Under 19s. When I joined things were pretty rough compared to other

heroes of 75

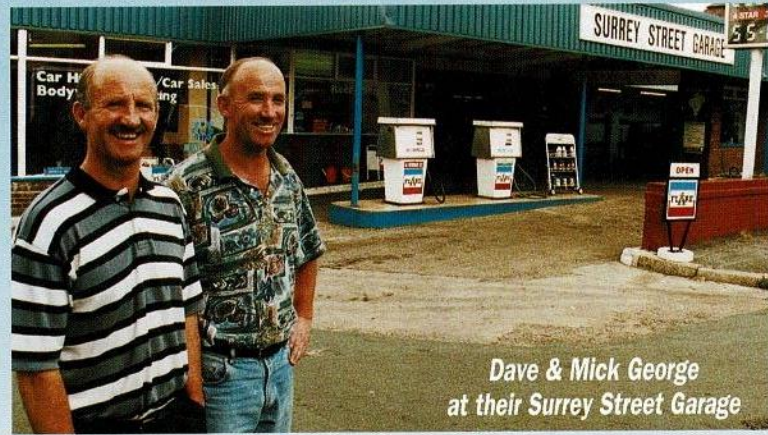
MICK GEORGE

clubs. Our training gear was basically a pile of old rags and the boots were not much better. One thing then that I know is similar to today is that the spirit in the camp was tremendous. John Wood was probably one of the finest impressionists I've



ever seen! He could 'take off' anyone at the club. He once had the lads in stitches doing his 'Vinty'. Of course, he was unaware that the boss was standing right behind him. "If only you could play as well as you act", said Vinty. When I started off in the A team there were plenty of good players

there to help me along. Ken Rowse, Ian Thompson and Paul McDonald were all very influential. Although I've always considered myself as a centre I did play on the wing quite a bit in my early first team days, obviously I was just glad to get a spot. If I said I could remember a lot about the final I would be lying. The time simply flew by. One minute we were at our country hotel (incidentally, it must have been the only such establishment staffed entirely by women who were all over 65!), the next we were, in the words of the song, "running 'round Wembley with the cup!". I was eternally grateful that we had plenty more chances to return to the twin towers and get a chance to savour the event. The one thing that does stick in my mind is that



Dave & Mick George at their Surrey Street Garage

for probably the first time in our careers we were all treated like superstars. The press were taking an interest and we all felt that we had arrived. After a long and I'm glad to say enjoyable career I was eventually forced to quit the game because of a troublesome knee injury, otherwise I'd have gone on until I dropped. I loved the game then and still do now!"

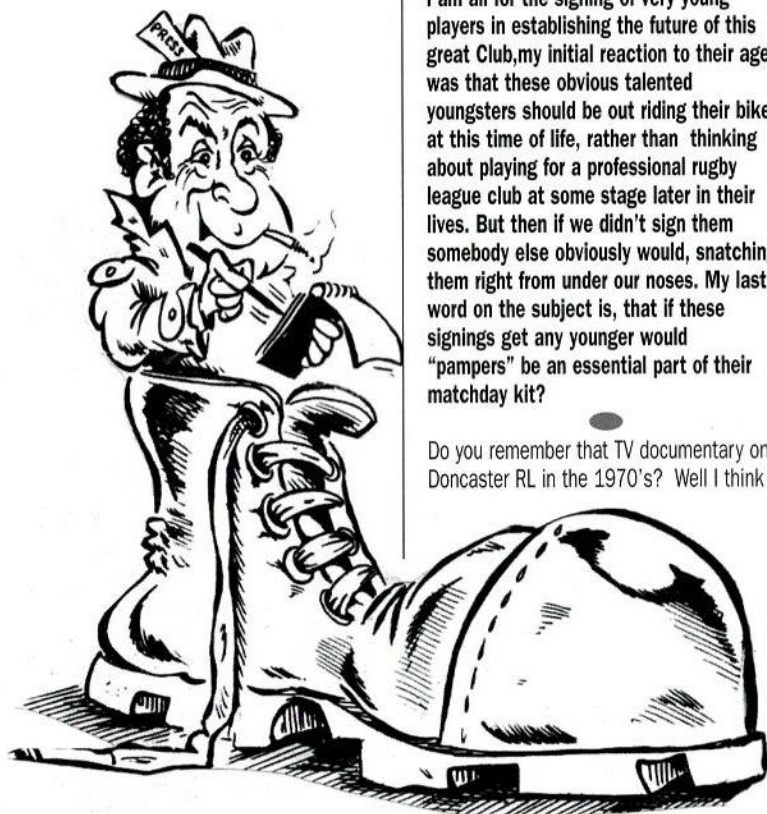
After a brief spell with the coaching staff at Widnes, Mick started up a Bookmaking venture with his pal Reg Bowden, eventually moving into partnership with his brother in a garage at Surrey Street in Runcorn. "We've both put a lot of time and effort into the business and I'm glad to say that we've gained a good reputation in the area."

Interviewed by Chris Moore

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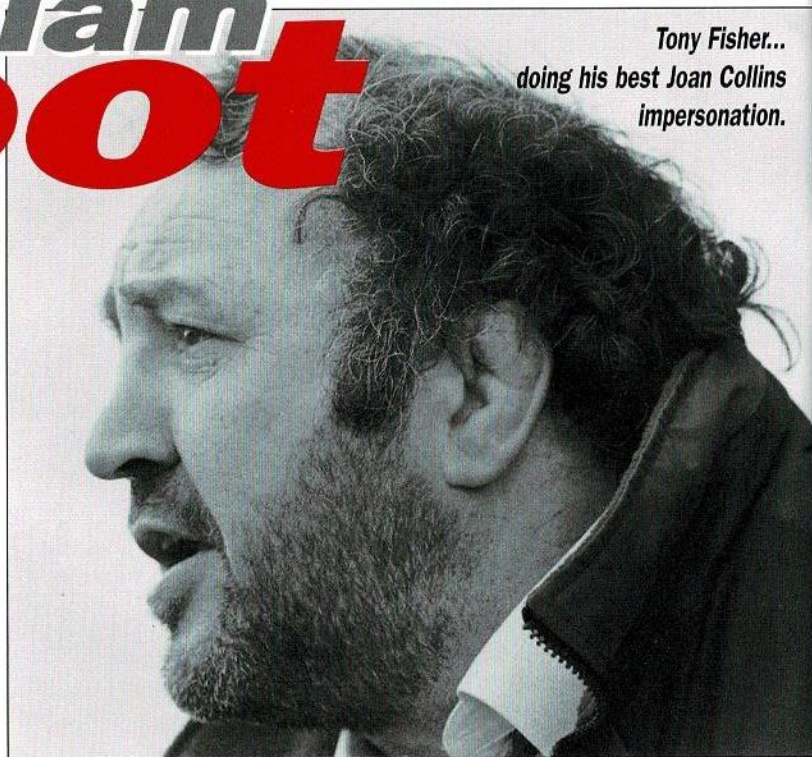
ALL THE
GRIFF
FROM THE
MAN
IN THE
KNOW...



I am all for the signing of very young players in establishing the future of this great Club, my initial reaction to their ages at this time of life, rather than thinking about playing for a professional rugby league club at some stage later in their lives. But then if we didn't sign them somebody else obviously would, snatching them right from under our noses. My last word on the subject is, that if these signings get any younger would "pampers" be an essential part of their matchday kit?

Do you remember that TV documentary on Doncaster RL in the 1970's? Well I think it

Tony Fisher...
doing his best Joan Collins
impersonation.



is about time they made a follow up. What with controversy over drugs, boardroom wrangling, a financial crisis, dismissals and law suits, perhaps a suitable title would be "Dynasty 2."

It is the time of year when various sportspeople are voted tops for their prowess in their particular chosen sport. The other day I read with much mirth at an award given to the Ra-Ra glamour boy Jeremy Guscott who has just returned to his game after a lengthy absence and was given an award called rather strangely The English Yardley Blazer Award. So not to be out done, I have great pleasure in announcing the winner of this years The David Hulme Anorak Award which goes unanimously to Tony Thorniley who has returned to the Club recently after undergoing surgery and was asked by his mystified leg-pulling team-mates if he had come to the right Club

Sad to hear about Castlefords problems with the root of all evil, I chatted quite harmlessly about their dilemma to Mona one morning before she went off to do her

paper round, Mona was left in no doubt where the blame lay, she added that their problems came from within the Club especially with having Crooks in the team. I wonder sometimes if Mona is the female version to the reincarnated David Icke.

I thought we performed very well at times against Bradford last week, we certainly did not deserve to lose by the final scoreline, Steve McCurrie was in tremendous form, his performance was impressive showing the touch that deservedly brought him Great Britain recognition. I was also very impressed with the young full back Gary Broadbent he looks to have a very bright future in the game.

About time too... although it does hurt to congratulate the mighty Wigan for winning this years Team Award in the Bees Annual Sports Personality Awards, I believe it was a close run thing though between Wigan and the South Hounslow Conker squad who became the World Champions for the thirtieth consecutive time when they beat a team from Alaska!

Me and Mrs Boot went out to Cheshire for our Sunday Lunch last week (it was her birthday or our anniversary or something, I seem to remember) and travelling through Runcorn on the way back it struck me as to how many road signs there were for Canal

Street football ground in comparison with the complete lack of such directions to Naughton Park. It occurred to me that visiting supporters would have a torrid time with the new by-pass having been used to travelling down Birchfield Road for all those years and, sure enough, no sooner were we back in Widnes than we were passed on Victoria Street by a car full of Bradford fans heading towards the bridge! I would draw two morals from this state of affairs. Firstly, no wonder there were little more than 3,000 people at the game; there were probably a couple of thousand Northern fans watching the grass grow at Canal Street at the same time. And secondly, if Runcorn FC merit road signs when their average attendance is ten people and the occasional stray dog, then why don't we?

The trouble is that when Wigan play Leeds, we Widnes fans can't win. After all they can't both lose, can they? Whereas most RL fans hold a natural grudge against the two big-money clubs we also have the fact that the pie-eaters are our local rivals whilst the Loiners are choc-a-bloc with renegades like Laughton, Eyres, Howard & co. On balance it was nice that our record of thirteen straight wins at the start of a season remained intact, though the subsequent hype has been a bit hard to stomach. From all the publicity you would think that Leeds had won the



Doug Laughton... saw his
renegades paste the pie-eaters.

Championship, the Challenge Cup and the Ashes, all in one fell swoop!

I had to laugh when reading League Express on Monday. They reported that Saints were itching for a go at Wigan on Boxing Day because they believed that their own form was "on the rise" whereas they thought the Riversiders had already peaked. Excuse me for a moment, but didn't St. Helens lose by thirty-odd points at Salford the other week? If that constitutes good form then I'm backing Highfield to be the next World Club Champions.

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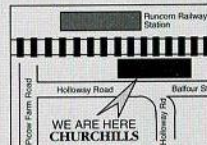
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This week's featured fan is Emrys Jones, formerly from North Wales but now an adopted Widnesian having moved to the town in the 1970's. Emrys, who has also converted his brothers to the 13-a-side code, is of unknown age having been born before the invention of birth certificates.

Q. When did you first start watching RL?

A. I used to watch it on TV back home in Nefyn in the days when Eddie Waring was in the commentary box.

Q. Which is the most memorable Widnes match you have seen?

A. Winning the World Club Championship against Canberra at Old Trafford - great!

Q. Which player do you most admire?

A. Tony Myler... I've never seen anyone play as well as he did that day when Widnes beat Hull in the Premiership final at Headingley.

Q. Who are your RL heroes and villains?

A. Hero... Jonathan Davies, another Welsh covert! Villain - Ellery Hanley for breaking Mick Adams jaw.

Q. Which would you rate as the best and worst rugby league grounds?

A. Best... St.Helens (well, I can't say Wigan, can I?). Worst... Castleford. It makes every other ground look good.

Q. Which aspect of RL annoys you most?

A. Inconsistent refereeing which allows Wigan to be offside at the play-the-ball.

Q. If you had a fortune to spend on Widnes, which players would you buy?

A. I'd bring back Davies and buy a couple of good, ball playing, forwards.

Q. From the players you've seen, select your all time great Widnes team.

A. Burke, S.Wright, Davies, Cunningham, Offiah, Hughes, T.Myler, Gregory, Mills, Elwell, Pyke, Sorensen, Adams, Laughton. Subs. D.Hulme, Hogan.

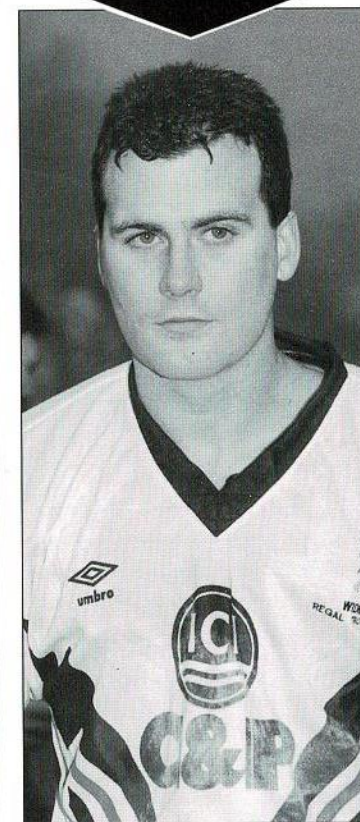


May 1st 1993 - "GOING TO WEMBLEY..." Emrys (back right) with his brother & son (bottom left)

WHO AM I? Answer...

Darren Wright

If events had have worked out differently Darren might have been wearing Oldham colours today having been on the verge of a move to Watersheddings during the summer.



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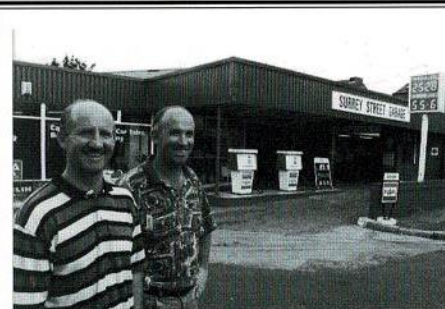


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likely lads

Widnes's title aspirations suffered a mighty setback at Derwent

Park last Saturday when they saw an 18-6 lead become a 28-18 defeat.

Tries from Richard Edgehill, Chris Kelly and Graham Holden, who also added three goals, saw Widnes take command but then disaster struck as Jason Hunter was sin-binned and then Ian Carden and Chris Kelly were dismissed for kicking and tripping respectively. Workington needed no encouragement to take the game to the Chemics and



Nicky Ruane... returns after injury

added four tries in the last half hour to clinch two valuable league points.

One player who has recently returned to action following a

lengthy injury is hooker Nicky Ruane. The former St Marie's U19s and Simms Cross player signed at the start of last season having represented BARLA at U19 level.

His season culminated with two games in the First team but injury has limited his rugby this season.

Nicky is a fearsome tackler who upends players more than twice his size and is hoping that once he regains his match fitness in the Alliance he will be back in the First team squad.

NEXT ALLIANCE HOME FIXTURE

Friday 13th January 1995
versus SWINTON 7.30 p.m. kick off



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REGAL TROPHY**1994 – 1995**

The 1994–95 season of the Regal Trophy celebrates the 28th consecutive year of Imperial Tobacco's sponsorship of Rugby Football League – the longest-running sponsorship in the sport.

To mark the occasion, this support will be worth a record breaking £410,000, made up of prize money totalling £246,000, with increases in every round, and the highest ever first prize of £36,000 awaiting the eventual winner of the distinctive Regal Trophy. Once again, prize money is backed up by a contribution to the League's all-important Capital Development Fund which, this time, is set at an all-time record figure of £164,000.

For the second year, the first round of the tournament will include the leading amateur clubs, the French Champions and Cup Winners, together with the full complement of Second Division clubs. Teams from the First Division are again seeded into the second round.

PRIZE STRUCTURE (Last season's amounts in brackets):

Round 1 (16 Matches)		
2 French, 10 Conference & 4 others	£1,000	(£1,000)
Division 2 Clubs	£2,700	(£2,650)
Round 2 (16 Matches)	£2,700	(£2,650)
Round 3	£4,200	(£4,000)
Round 4	£6,500	(£6,225)
Semi-Finals	£10,250	(£9,750)
Runner-Up	£19,000	(£18,500)
Winner	£36,000	(£35,000)

All teams in the First Round receive prize money, win or lose.

MAN OF THE MATCH AWARDS:

Rounds up to and including Round 4	–	£75 per match plus Regal Trophy Commemorative Tankard
Semi-Finals	–	£150 plus Regal Trophy Commemorative Carriage Clock
FINAL	–	£250 plus Regal Trophy Commemorative Tantalus with 2 Cut Glass Decanters

ROUND BY ROUND MATCH DATES

First	–	To be played by 27 November 1994
Second	–	Weekend of 3/4 December 1994
Third	–	Weekend of 17/18 December 1994
Fourth	–	Weekend of 7/8 January 1995
Semi-Final (1st)	–	Saturday, 14 January 1995
Semi-Final (2nd)	–	Sunday, 15 January 1995
FINAL	–	Saturday, 28 January 1995

talking rugby

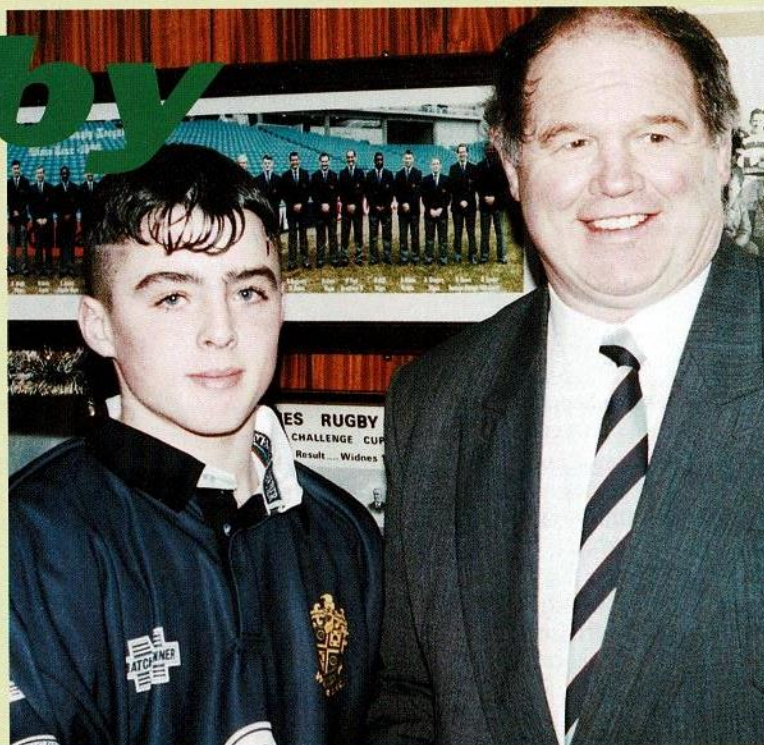
with Roger Harrison

■ Last Sunday Mark Flanagan, at the age of 13, became the youngest ever player to sign for Widnes RLFC.

Mark impressed both his teachers and club officials from a very early age, but really came to prominence as a third year junior at his school, Ditton County, and with his club, Halton Hornets.

This was the season 1990-91 and by then Mark had forced his way into the Widnes Schools Under 11 squad a year early. He remained with that squad the following year, and was one of many stars in a team that won every honour open to them. Mark impressed with his strong and direct running and his strength was a feature of his play in a variety of positions.

Soon after this, Mark took his place at secondary school. Obviously, the Bankfield School was lucky to enrol such a promising rugby player. At the same time, he moved on from his first club to join Widnes Tigers, where, along with many other stars of the future, his rugby education continued. In the season 1993-94, Mark was once again selected for Widnes Schoolboys, this time at Under 13, but it should be noted that he had already played a few games for the Under 13 side the previous



Widnes Chairman Jim Mills welcomes Mark to the club.

season. This is a measure of the skill, strength and rugby ability of the boy. During his time with the Under 13's Mark again displayed all the ability and, more importantly, the potential to go further, that had been spotted at such a delicate age. Mark was once again part of a very successful Widnes Schools side and no doubt the Schools Association look forward to him in their colours at Under 15 and Under 16 level.

It should also be said that if any youngster wants to emulate Mark, they should take note of the help and support that he has received from his family. His mum and dad have never been 'pushy' but always 100% supportive both of Mark

himself, the school, the club and the town team organisation that he has been involved with.

Mark has represented his schools, his clubs, his town, his district, his county, his region. All with distinction. We look forward to him eventually playing for Widnes Academy, Widnes Alliance and then Widnes First team. And then who knows? It won't be easy for Mark, but if anyone can do it he can, with the help of his family and friends. We all wish him luck!

Going back to those Widnes Town Teams that Mark has played in... there are lots of other high class players in those sides. Perhaps it won't be too long before we are reading another "Fairy Tale" account like this!

SOUVENIR SHOP

Home and Away Replica Jersey	Sizes: 26"/28" and 30"/32"	£27.99
	Mens: S/M/L/XL	£35.99
San Siro (Black Leisure Suit)	Sizes: 24"/26"/28"	£43.50
	Sizes: 30"/32"	£46.50
	Size: 34"	£55.00
	Sizes: 36"/38"/40"/42"/44"	£58.00
	Size: 46"	£62.00
Santos Grey Hooded Sweatshirt	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£21.00
Pisa Black Sweatshirt	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£21.00
Zermat Coat - Jade/White/Black	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£59.00
Monza Coat - Jade/White/Black	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£56.00
Boston Black Raincoat	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£26.49
Chicago Coat - Black/Grey	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£44.00
Lazio Run Out Tops	Sizes: 30"/32"	£38.99
Lazio Run Out Tops Mens:	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£45.99
Shorts		£18.49
Dress Shirt		£17.50
Ties		£7.00

Also various items of last years stock still available. **NEW!** Now available, numbers for replica jerseys - £3.00 single number - £5.00 double number.

Pencil Case	£1.20	Home Kit Badge	£2.00
Printed Scarf	£3.00	Away Kit Badge	£2.00
Jacquard Scarf	£5.00	Birthday Cards	£0.55
Baseball Cap	£6.00	6' x 4' Photographs	£0.80
Kouchi Bear	£1.50	Balmoral Acrylic Sweater	£23.00
Wrapping Paper	£0.32	Balmoral Polo Shirt	£20.00
Socks (Black) 12 1/2 - 3 1/2	£1.80	"W" Coat reduced to	£20.00
4 - 7	£2.20	First Bite Shell Suit	£30.00
Shorts (Black) 26" - 28"	£2.45	Matchwinner Coat (L. only)	£55.00
30" - 36"	£3.00	Car Swinger	£2.50
Leather Belt	£19.99	Car Sticker	£1.00
Zip Purse	£1.50	Sun Visor	£1.50
Manicure Set	£2.30	Scarf Sticker	£1.50
Comb and Case	£1.25	Sports Bag	£12.50
Bookmark	£1.00	Matchwinner Sports Bag	£10.50
Fob Key Ring	£1.20	Balls	£9.99
Badge	£2.00	Midi Balls	£5.50

Opening Times: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday - 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Also 1st team matches - 2 hours before the match to 1/2 hour after the match
'A' team matches - 1/2 hour before the match to 1/4 hour after the match

December Opening Times:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon
Christmas Eve 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

MAIL ORDER

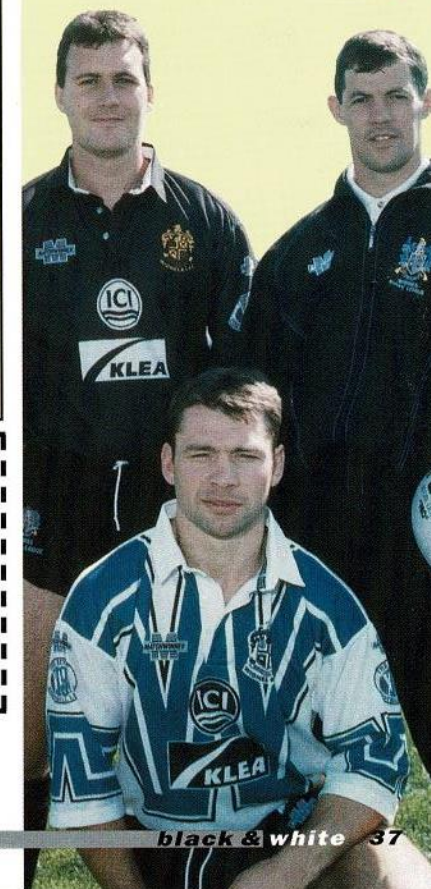
Item(s)	Size	Price	Name:
.....	Address:
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P&P: Replica Jerseys: £2.00 Leisure Suits: £2.50			Total: £ P&P: £
Coats: £3.00 Scarves: £1.00 Small Items: S.A.E.			Cheque/P.O. Total: £

JUST DO IT!



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Souvenir Shop after today's game

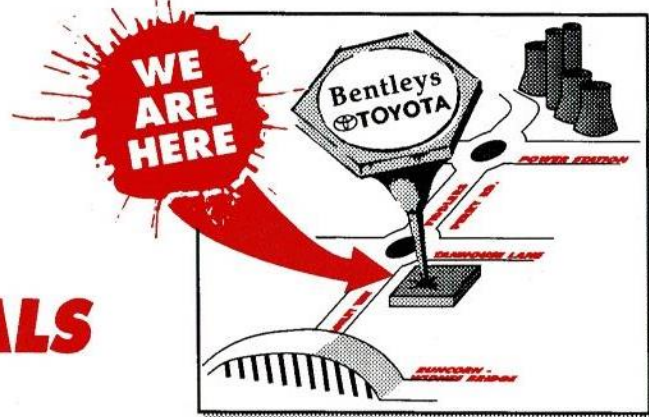
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KidsScene

"THE COWBOYS"

The Ditton area of Widnes has produced many famous Rugby players over the years, with St Michael's and Fisher More schools in particular providing both Widnes and Great Britain teams with stars of the highest order.

But since 1989, another school in Ditton has become a force in rugby league. In that year, Ditton County began its life in Division 2 of the Widnes Schools league, and won the championship play off against St John Fisher. The next year saw Ditton playing in the newly formed single division, and getting to the final of a pre-season 7-a-side competition at Wade Deacon, only losing to a strong Oakfield team. After that final, the Weekly News reporter

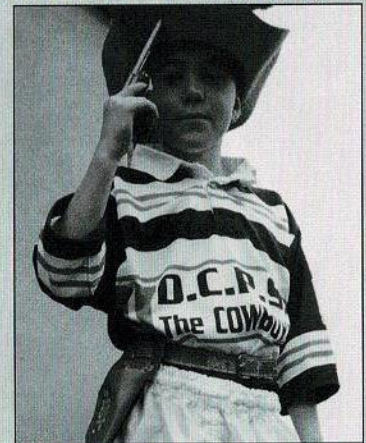
asked which school they were and then replied "Ditton County - you sound like a gang of cowboys!"

And thus a legend was born!! Resplendent in their two blue tone kits, The Cowboys, whose school is at Chestnut Lodge, Ditton call their home ground "Laredo", a fictional cowboy town in the wild west. The reason why? Just look at Chestnut Lodge shops next time you pass.

Pictured right, in his Cowboy gear is Ditton County scrum half, Kieran Gleave.

Kieran has been in great form this season. He also holds down a wing position for the successful Widnes Schools Under 11 side, and is a versatile member of the all conquering Widnes Tigers side.

It is also interesting to note that



Kieran is closely related to our own Hulme brothers, so he has the pedigree to go all the way to the top.

SCHOOLS NEWS

Congratulations to Our Lady's School. The boys have fought their way through to the semi-final of the Lancashire Schools Cup.

Also congratulations to St John Fisher, who won last weeks ICI first round curtain raiser.

And congratulations to St Michael's on their win against favourites Ditton County in the first round of the SAH Trophy competition.

In the league Ditton and St John Fisher share top spot, with St Bede's and Oakfield in joint third position.

Good to see Simms Cross, All Saints and St Basils have begun their league campaigns.

