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2	SCOTT RANSON
3	PAUL TOPPING
4	DARREN ABRAHAM
5	ROB MYLER
6	FRANCIS MALONEY
7	MARTIN CROMPTON
8	IAN SHERRATH
9	JOHN CLARKE
10	CHRIS PARR
11	GARY LORD
12	JOE FIAMALO
13	IYAN GREEN
14	MAIKE NEAL
15	PAUL ATCHENSON
16	TBA
17	TBA

**ST. HELENS RLFC**

1	STEVE PRESCOTT
2	JOEY HAYES
3	SCOTT GIBBS
4	PAUL LOUGHLIN
5	ANTHONY SMITH
6	TOMMY MARTYN
7	BOBBIE GOULDING
8	ADAM FOGERTY
9	KEIRON CUNNINGHAM
10	APOLLO PERELINI
11	VILA MATAUTIA
12	SONNY NICKLE
13	CHRIS JOYNT
14	BERNARD DWYER
15	ANDY NORTHEY
16	TBA
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	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25
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	25

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(Workington)

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MR N BYERS ■  
MR B SHARROCK ■

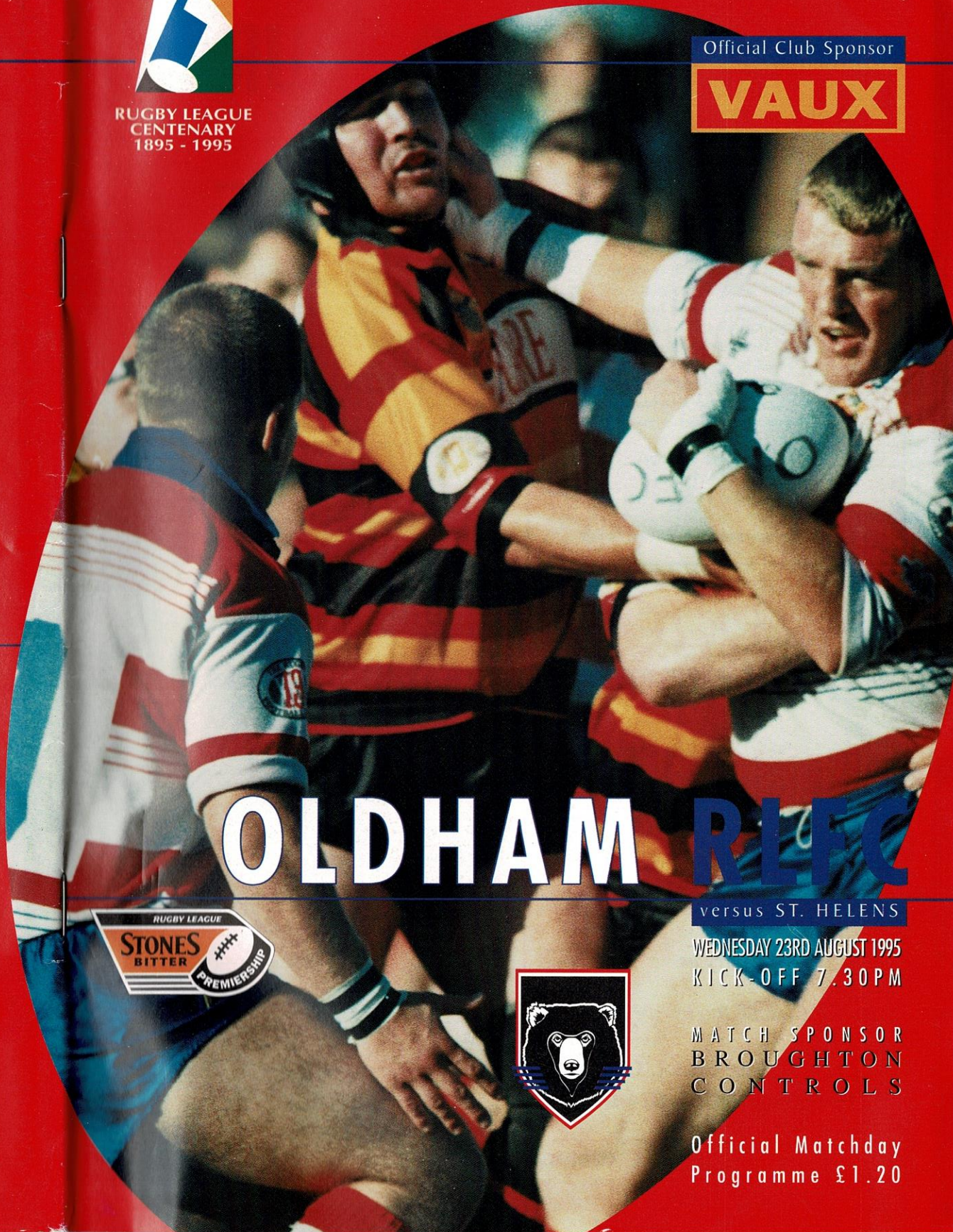
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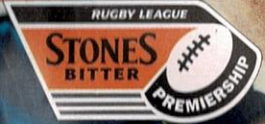
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 'Football Manager: Alan McCurrie  
 Alliance Coach: Graham Beale  
 Academy Manager: Brian Gartland  
 Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons:  
 Mr. D. Walker  
 Official Timekeeper: Mr. J. Roscoe  
 Hon. Safety Officer: Roger Norris  
 Programme Editors: Ray Hill, Don Yates

Comments in this programme are not necessarily the clubs.

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Chairman: Jim Quinn  
 Directors: John Chadwick, Roger Norris, Mike Winterbottom

## CLUB HONOURS

**Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners**  
 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57  
**Runners Up**  
 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55  
**First Division Champions**  
 1904-05  
**Second Division Champions**  
 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88  
**Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners**  
 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27  
**Runners Up**  
 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26  
**Lancashire Cup Winners**  
 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59  
**Runners Up**  
 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90  
**Lancashire Championship Winners**  
 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58  
**Runners Up**  
 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-34, 1954-55  
**Lancashire Shield Winners**  
 1975-76, 1979-80  
**Colts Premiership Trophy**  
 1979-80, 1989-90  
**Second Division Premiership**  
 1987-88  
**Wigan Sevens Winners**  
 1991-92

## CLUB RECORDS

**Record Victory:** 67-6 v Liverpool City April 1959  
**Record Defeat:** 11-67 by Hull K.R. September 1978  
**Record Attendance:** 28,000 v Huddersfield 24th February 1912  
**Record Receipts:** £37,505.50 v Wigan 5th October 1989  
**Record Transfer:** £70,000 to Halifax for Tony Anderson March 1990  
**Record Try:** Ref Farrar, 49 Tries, 1921-22 season  
**Record Goal:** Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957-58 season  
**Record Point:** Bernard Ganley, 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959  
**First Game:** 21st October 1876 v Stalybridge  
**Highest Number:** Bernard Ganley, 2,881  
**Most Appearances:** Joe Ferguson, 685  
**Most Tries:** Pre 1900 Jach Hirst 233 Since 1900 Alan Davies 182

OLDHAM CLUBCALL 0891 122 772

# BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN

At the start of this most historic Rugby League season I would like to welcome supporters to Watersheddings and point out that these are exciting times for both club and game.

At both levels immense change is being introduced, but nothing alters fundamental relief that the product we are selling is rugby football. This is, of course, the Stones Centenary Championship season and we like to think that the Oldham club will be playing its part in the celebrations that will be taking place for the games 100th birthday.

Our hall of fame to be set up in the former committee room, will be opened on the night of Wednesday November 1 when Workington Town will be the visitors and we will also be holding our annual reunion of former players.

The Centenary Exhibition in the boardroom will be opened soon. Of course, this season takes on added significance for our club because it is likely to be the last full season of rugby league football on this famous ground.

We hope to play some of our matches in the first Super League season of 1996 at Boundary Park

and we also hope, fingers crossed, that the proposed new ground at Westwood will be ready for use by the 1997 season.

Super League! We really have come a long way since those Second Division days of 1993 when we lost a Premiership play off replay at Dewsbury. We had debts of £1.4m. Today the debt is reduced to £200,000 we have signed some top class players, our coach Andy Goodway is regarded as one of the most promising young men in the game and we are looking forward to our move to Westwood.

The door is wide open for success, but it won't happen overnight, there are bound to be setbacks and it certainly won't happen without the support and backing of the town. So far as local support is concerned from business commerce we are delighted to announce that Setons are coming on board with a sponsorship of around £10,000 a year and that the Co-Operative Bank will also be supporting us with a package that is currently under negotiation.

I have a meeting on August 24th with the club's accountants, Binder-Hamlyn, who are now ready to undertake with a firm of Manchester

Stockbrokers, our new share issue.

It has taken a long time to reach the point at which we can launch the issue, but we will soon be ready to go with an ambitious scheme from which we hope to raise £500,000. The next 17 or 18 months, taking us through to the end of 1996, will undoubtedly be one of the busiest and most important periods in the history of the Oldham club and also in the history of the game.

The whole face of rugby league was changed when Rupert Murdoch pumped his £87 million into the game during the early part of the summer. We are set for take off and with your help and backing, Oldham will be an integral part of the Super League success story.

Finally a sincere Watersheddings welcome to the players, officials and fans of St. Helens. It should be a cracking game to whet the appetite for the season.

Please get behind our team and come again.

**The Directors would like to welcome David Howes for his first visit to Watersheddings as Chief Executive of St. Helens. We wish him well in his new job and look forward to working with him in the future.**

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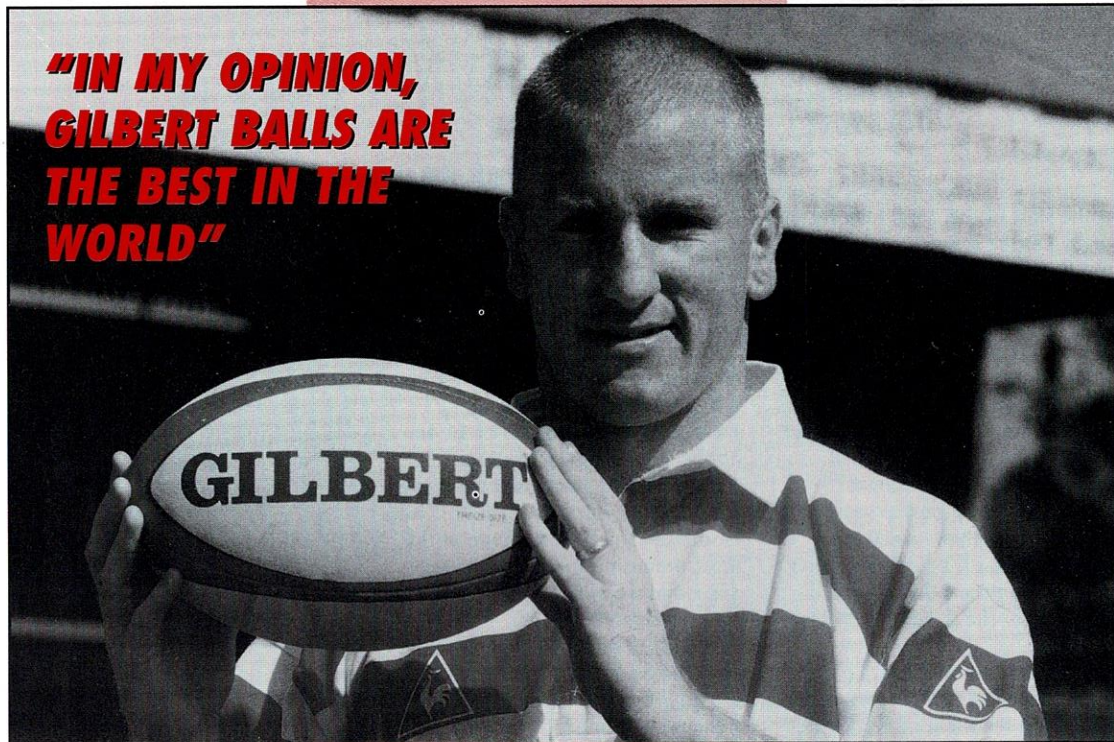
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**DEAN BUSBY**

Dean is Saints major close season signing from Hull. At 6 feet in height and weighing 13 stone 9lbs he is a very tough skilful and clever back rower who Saints regard in a similar mould to Chris Joynt.

**KEIRON CUNNINGHAM**

As one of the games most talented youngsters Keiron burst on to the big league scene in the most spectacular way during 1995 with a string of mature, hard working performances which belied his age. Particularly strong in gaining yardage at the play the ball, forming a platform for many of Saints attacking moves and in his defensive qualities Keiron is a sure bet to be one of the stars of Super League.

**BERNARD DWYER**

One of the fan's most popular players, Bernard is a workhorse of the Saints pack equally at home in either the hooking or back row position. Because he is a grafter, he is seldom noticed on the park, until he misses a game and only then is his work rate highlighted.

**ADAM FOGERTY**

Last season, Adam was possibly Saints most improved player, turning in blockbusting displays in the prop forward position. He crossed the opponents try line on 6 occasions in 24 + 3 appearances and became a firm favourite with the Saints faithful.

**SCOTT GIBBS**

Joined Saints in a blaze of publicity during the summer of 1994 from Bradford RUFC after previously turning down offers from Wigan and Hull. Phenomenally strong, Scott made a great start to his Saints career before two serious injuries sidelined him for the remainder of the campaign. In the right centre position he scored 6 tries in 19 appearances.

**BOBBIE GOULDING**

At 23 years of age Bobbie is Saints youngest ever skipper and will be the youngest captain in the Super League. A rugby genius, Bobby is arguably the best scrum half in the world and is an integral part of Saints plays with a magnificent footballing brain and kicking game. Idolised by the fans, he cost Saints a club record £185,000 when he joined them from his home town club Widnes in the summer of 1994 following turbulent spells at Wigan and Leeds.

**JOEY HAYES**

Despite being only 19 years old, Joey is an outstanding prospect. His speed off the mark, elusive step and phenomenal strength are his trademark. Joey made a try scoring debut for Saints against Bradford Bulls on the opening day of the Centenary season deputising for the

injured Alan Hunte and became an instant favourite with the Saints faithful.

**CHRIS JOYNT**

Currently regarded as one of the games top backrowers, Chris is a linchpin of the Saints pack and an integral part of England's World Cup plans. Still only 24 years of age, he has been handed the vice captaincy of Saints for Centenary season following a short summer stint with Newcastle Knights in the Winfield Cup. The Harry Sunderland Trophy winner for his performance in the 1993 Premiership Trophy final. Chris's main assets are his ability to read a game, his speed for a gap, his speed and mobility and his defensive qualities.

**TOMMY MARTYN**

At 24 years of age, Tommy joined Saints in the summer of 1993 from Oldham and is of the club's most gifted footballers. Currently Tommy is Saints first choice stand off and last season developed a useful understanding with half back partner Bobby Goulding. Despite a number of injuries, he is a firm favourite with the Saints species and todate has amassed 189 points for the club from 28 tries, 33 goals and 11 drop goals in 42 + 2 appearances.

**VILA MATAUTIA**

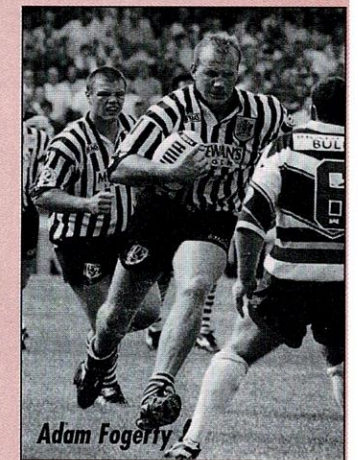
Vila joined Saints from Doncaster at the back end of last season. A huge man he is equally at home at prop or in the 2nd row. A former junior Kiwi and Auckland rep. Vila is set to become one of the stars of the Centenary season and Super League with his blockbusting runs, awesome strength and bone crunching tackles. An immediate favourite with the fans, Vila scored 23 tries in 2 + 3 appearances for Saints last season and earned the man of the match award and scored a try against Bradford Bulls on the opening day of the 1995-96 Centenary season.

**SONNY NICKLE**

Sonny following his £80,000 move to Saints from Sheffield Eagles in 1991 has firmly established himself as one of the best 2nd rowers in the game. Phenomenally strong, he is one of the fastest forwards in the game. Despite his huge frame and his blockbusting runs and his miserly defence have made him firm favourite with the Saints species.

**ANDY NORTHEY**

Andy joined prop ranks at the turn of the year for Waterloo RUFC and has proved to be a more than useful addition to the Saints squad. Growing in confidence and



experience from each game he plays his game is steadily improving and he is becoming a firm favourite of the fans. Last season Andy scored 5 tries in 11 + 2 appearances for the club and potentially he could go on to be one of the stars of Super League.

**APOLLO PERELINI**

Western Samoan forward who has made a very fast successful transition from RU to RL. Joined Saints in 1994 and was an unknown entity but soon established himself as Saints first choice prop forward with some solid displays. Apollo's major assets are his mobility, speed strength and defensive capabilities and he is now fulfilling his immense potential.

**STEPHEN PRESCOTT**

One of the "finds" of 1994-95 Stephen established himself as not only Saints first choice full back, but a leading contender for an England jersey in the forthcoming World Cup. As one of the fastest players on Saints books his main assets are his eye for a gap, his lightning pace his step his kicking game and his magnificent one on one tackling.

**ANTHONY SULLIVAN**

One of the best left wingers in the British game, Anthony has earned Yorkshire, Wales and Great Britain representative honours. He signed for Saints for £80,000 in the summer of 1991 from Hull KR and is a popular player with the Saints faithful. His main strengths are his blistering pace and balanced running and often scores the most magnificent tries.

**SAINTS**

OLDHAM CLUBCALL NUMBER 0891 122 772

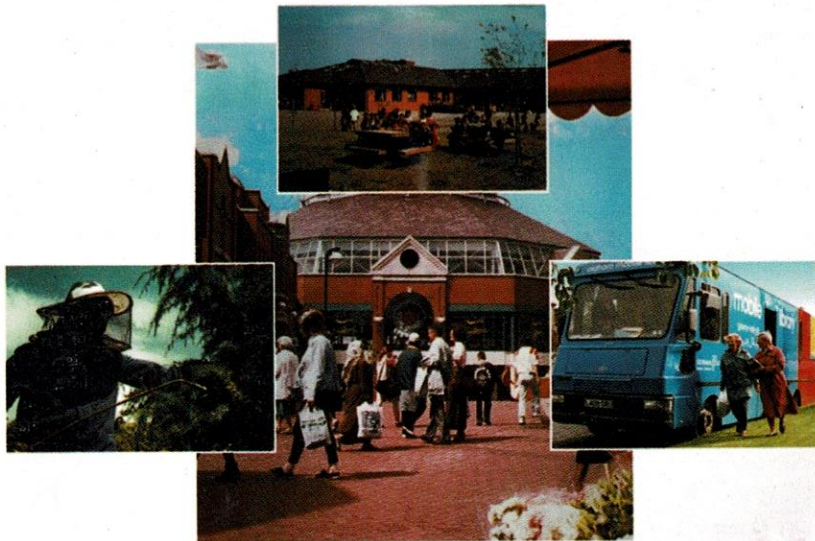
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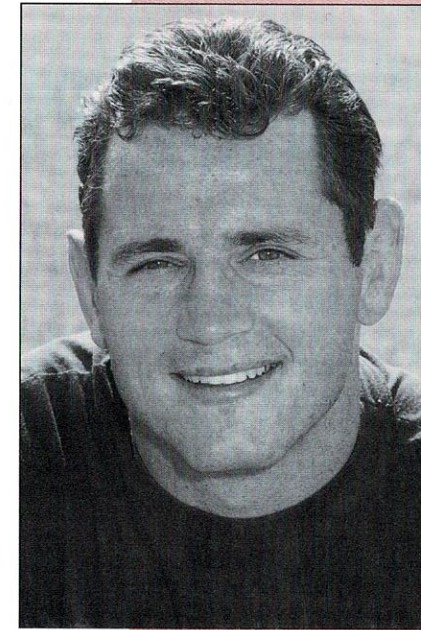


Enquiries about Council services and policies to the Chief Executive's Department.  
Telephone 0161 911 4708

OLDHAM CLUBCALL 0891 122 772

**W**elcome to Watersheddings for the start of the new season I hope you are all looking forward to what should be a very exciting season for British rugby league.

During the short season we at Oldham whilst wishing to remain competitive will be attempting to assess the strength and weaknesses of the playing squad giving everyone an equal opportunity to stake a claim for regular selection when the super league comes



around in March particularly the younger members of the squad who have so far not played 1st team football. Training has gone very well with the four new signings settling in. We are looking for further progress and attempting to finish higher in the league and build on last years experience. We are looking forward to some bumper crowds for the forthcoming games creating a great atmosphere within the ground.

Yours in anticipation  
Andy Goodway

# ANDY GOODWAY

**WELCOME TO WATERSHEDDINGS**

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# COMMERCIAL CORNER

First of all I would like to welcome everyone to our first home match of the Centenary season.

Over the past few months we have all been very busy getting ready for the new season.

I hope you have all noticed how well the ground looks with all the new advertising boards around the ground? What do you think about the new look programme! "not bad eh" I hope you like it! There is a lot of hard work goes in to try and make the programme more interesting. This season I have got the help of Don Yates who is

contributing a lot of his time and effort in writing a few extra items for the programme. We would like to hear from anyone who might fancy doing a good topical article for the programme on a regular basis, or maybe as a one off.

I would like to welcome all our "Business Club" members to our first home game. This is a new venture and hopefully one which will grow and establish over the Centenary season. Our target is fifty businesses and at the moment we have thirty. Over the course of the next few months we will be contacting

business people throughout Oldham and the Tameside area.

Have you got your Golden Gamble ticket! This season we are trying to improve the prize money for your half time draw. It is quite simple, the more tickets sold the more prize money paid out. All our sellers are wearing gold sweaters and baseball caps so don't wait to be asked to buy "go and get one". Don't forget the other half of the money goes to the club.

A special thank you to Sylvia and her team for doing a great job for the club last season.

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# GRASS ROOTS

**A look at the local amateur rugby scene**

The National Conference League season kicks off next Saturday when all the top amateur clubs set out in a competition which is every bit as demanding as that of their professional cousins.

Indeed the successful clubs have two opportunities of meeting professional opposition. The first opportunity comes along on 1st October in the first round of the Regal Trophy. Two months later, on 2nd December, all the Conference sides will be involved in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The winners of these ties qualify for the second round two weeks later. The professional clubs enter the fray at the third round stage on January 14th. In between times there is the League competition which features local clubs Saddleworth Rangers and St. Annes. Rangers are in the Premier Division and they start by visiting National Cup winners West Hull on Saturday. West Hull knocked Rangers out of the competition en route to their National Cup success and they also completed a league double over Rangers last season so it is sure to be tough for Saddleworth over the Circle. St. Annes also face Humberside opposition in the shape of Beverley who visit Higginshaw Road on Saturday kick off 2.30pm. Last season Saints beat Beverley 16-6 so they will be hoping for a winning start to the new season.

Although most rugby enthusiasts will be looking forward in anticipation to the action which lies ahead our thoughts must also include young John Power whose playing days, sadly, are over. As most of you will know John suffered severe spinal injuries representing Oldham in an alliance match at Dewsbury late last season. He spent the summer in Plinderfields

hospital, Wakefield and a trust fund has been set up in order to collect the sort of money necessary for him to overcome the permanent injuries which he has suffered. The fund has already got off to a flying start thanks to the generosity of rugby followers in Oldham, Dewsbury and surrounding areas. However, more money is needed and you are asked to support any future event which is staged for the benefit of John. One such event is a

Sportsmen's Dinner which is being held at the Periquito

Hotel, Oldham on Tuesday 19th September. Guest speaker is Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland soccer manager and the comedian is Ivor Davies. It promises to be an excellent evening and tickets are a bargain at just £20. They can be obtained from Mike Hall (tel: 01706 841990) or from any member of the John Power Trust Fund.

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the all the best for the  
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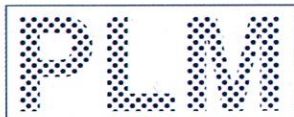
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for the Centenary and the future*

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# MALCOLM LORD

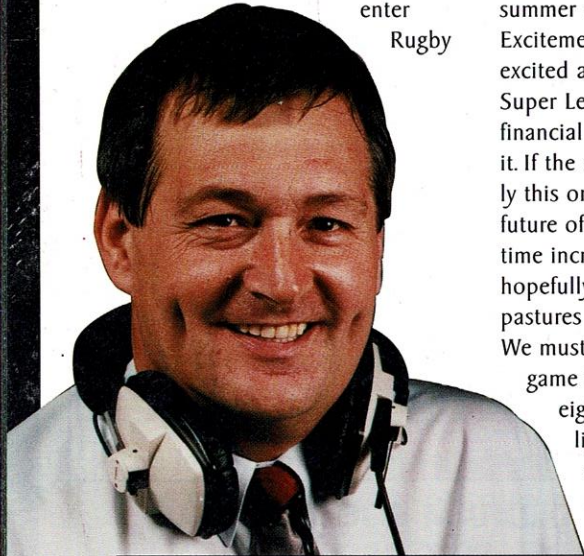
## THE FACE BEHIND THE VOICE OF BBC GMR'S RUGBY LEAGUE

**100 NOT OUT?** Excitement and trepidation, both words that come to mind as we enter Rugby

Leagues Centenary season and what is the last season prior to the introduction of the new format and summer rugby. Excitement, who could fail to be excited at the prospect of the new Super League and of course the financial benefits that accompany it. If the money is managed correctly this one action could secure the future of our game and at the same time increase the games profile, hopefully spreading the gospel to pastures new. We must also remember that the game is not just about the top eight! Yes they'll get the lime-light and to some extent rightly so, but for my money the best competi-

tion may well come from the first division. Trepidation, has, however positive I try to be I worry about the long term and about the motives of certain individuals. But I say again, providing the sums talked about are all received on schedule and the money is managed correctly our future is to a large extent in our hands. We must all stand up and be counted, I am definitely for the idea and I will do all I can to support it, after all anything is surely better than Odsal Stadium in January!

**Malcolm Lord**  
BBC GMR



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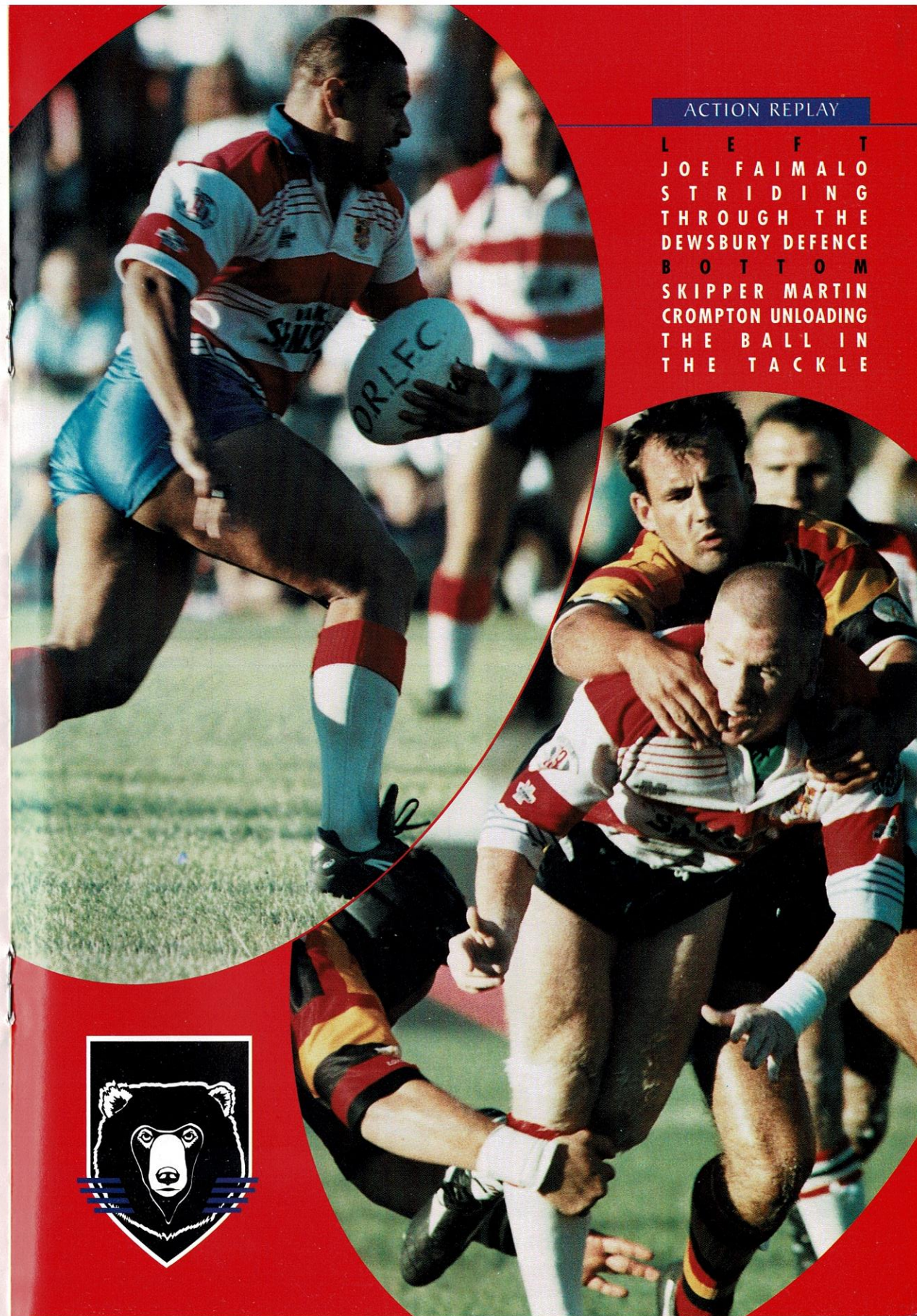
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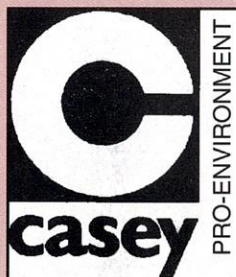
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# RUGBY RECALL

1. Who were Oldhams two try scorers in last seasons 18-18 home draw with St. Helens?
2. Name two of the three St. Helens try scorers in the same match?
3. Which Oldham player scored two tries in last seasons League defeat at Knowsley Road?
4. Which St. Helens player scored two tries in the same match?
5. Which player now with Oldham scored a try for Wales in last seasons 22-10 defeat of France in the European Championships?
6. What is St. Helens record winning score?
7. Which Oldham player scored two tries in the 44-8 home win over Doncaster last season?
8. Which Oldham player scored two tries in last seasons away win at Hull?
9. Which former Oldham player scored two tries for Oldham during last seasons defeat at Wakefield Trinity?
10. Which of the Oldham forwards scored a try in last seasons 29-0 home defeat of Widnes?

ANSWERS  
 1. Jones and Lord 2. Prescott, Hunt, Goulding 3. Scott Ranson 4. Andy Northy 5. Paul Atcheson 6. 112-0 v Carlisle (Sept 86) 7. Martin Crompton 8. Darren Abram 9. Mike Kuiti 10. Gary Lord

The Welsh Connection (TM)  
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# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Welcome to a new season at Watersheddings. The summer has been very busy on the Development front, as it is each year. The biggest event has been the Weekly Little League matches which have taken place across the Borough and have involved 150 under 7's and 8's from Saddleworth Rangers, St. Annes, Waterhead Royton Tigers, Salem Hornets, Shaw Tigers and Failsworth. Each club has had two teams and support from hundreds of spectators each week. Without doubt this has been the best piece of work I have been involved with and I would congratulate everyone who helped make the Little League such a success. Your last

chance to see young stars in action is next Wednesday at Failsworth Sports Centre, kick off 6.30. The week after on September 6th we are holding our end of season party at St. Annes Rugby Club. All the young players will be given an award to commemorate their season and we all look forward to next summer! The summer programme went very well with excellent support from the 1st team players such as Francis Maloney, Paul Atcheson, Martin Crompton, Wally Gibson, Ian Sherratt, Joe Faimalo and Jason Temu. The support of players like this does so much to promote the game and the club long may it continue!

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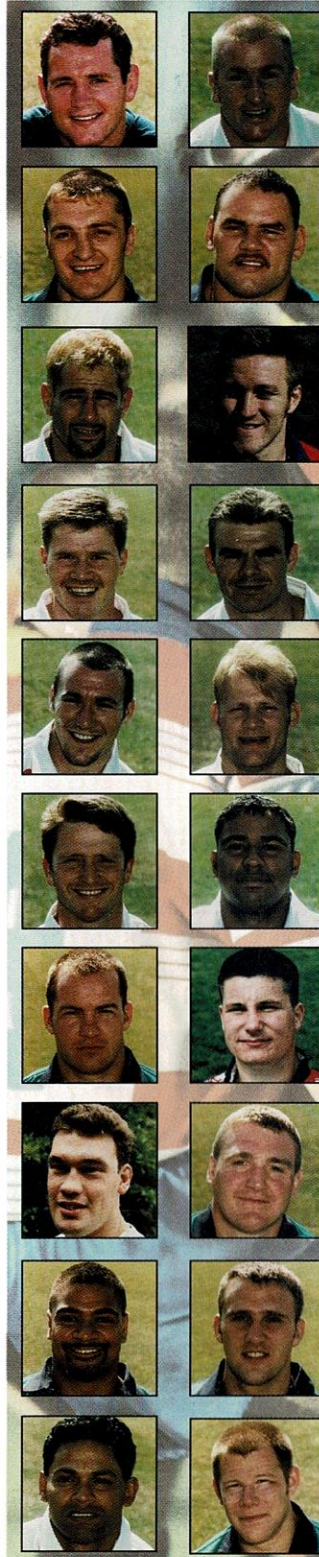
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# INJURY UPDATE

The build up to the season has gone well on the injury front. Paul Atcheson had a groin operation early in the summer, but with a patient build up under the watchful eye of conditioner Paul Burgess, Paul is now fully fit and looking forward to the start of the new season. We picked up a few bumps and bruises in the John Power Testimonial game against Dewsbury, but at the time of writing these notes, all the lads are expected to be fit and ready for selection. Our only long term injury victim in the senior squad, Shaun Irwin is making good progress but will be a few months away from full fitness after his knee operation at the back end of last season. As we close these notes, we will try to update as much as we can on John Powers progress throughout the coming months. John is still in Pinderfields Special Spinal unit in Wakefield but is now allowed to come home at weekends, in fact he was on the Touchline at the Dewsbury game, and we hope to see more of him as the season unfolds.

**OLDHAM RLFC**



# OLDHAM v SAINTS

How the Roughyeds have fared against Saints in previous matches

COMPETITION	PLAYED	WON-DRAW-LOST
League	163	81-5-77
Challenge Cup	15	6-1-8
Player Trophy	3	0-0-3
Lancashire Cup	15	10-0-5
Western Championship play off	1	0-0-1
Championship play-off	3	0-0-3
Floodlit Trophy	2	0-0-2
Total	202	97-6-99

Oldham's biggest win at Watersheddings 48-10 league in season 1923-24  
 Oldham's biggest win at Knowsley Road 38-0 league in season 1908-09  
 Saints biggest win at Watersheddings 43-0 league in season 1969-70  
 Saints biggest win at Knowsley Road 50-2 league in season 1971-72

**OLDHAM - SAINTS RESULTS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS**

1985-86 Division One (h) lost 12-38 Division One (a) lost 12-44  
 1986-87 Division One (h) lost 17-18 Division One (a) lost 6-28  
 Challenge Cup (h) lost 14-24  
 1987-88 Player Trophy (at Wigan) lost 8-18  
 1988-89 Division One (h) lost 22-26 Division One (a) lost 12-25  
 1989-90 Lancashire Cup (a) won 36-6 Player Trophy (a) lost 18-32  
 1990-91 Division One (h) lost 16-20 Division One (a) lost 22-33  
 1991-92 Player Trophy (h) lost 18-24 Lancashire Cup (a) lost 26-39  
 1993-94 Division One (h) lost 2-12 Division One (a) won 30-26  
 1994-95 Division One (h) drew 18-18 Division One (a) lost 22-32

**SAINTS LAST VISIT TO WATERSHEDDINGS**

Sunday 2nd October 1994 Division One  
 Oldham 18 St. Helens 18  
 Half time: 16-6 Attendance: 4,278  
 Oldham scorers: tries David Jones and Gary Lord  
 goals Paul topping (5)  
 Saints scorers: tries Steve Prescott, Alan Hunte and Bobbie Goulding  
 goals Bobbie Goulding (3)

Teams:  
 Oldham: Nigel Heslop, David Jones, Shaun Irwin, Darren Abram, Scott Ranson, Paul Topping, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, John Clarke, Chris Parr, Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo and Mike Kuiti. Substitutes, Wally Gibson and Jason Temu.  
 Saints: Steve Prescott, Alan Hunte, Scott Gibbs, Paul Loughlin, Anthony Sullivan, Shane Cooper, Bobbie Goulding, Andy Dannatt, Sean Casey, Adam Fogarty, Ian Pickavance, Sonny Nickle and Chris Joynt. Substitutes, Phil Veivers and Apollo Perelini.

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# ALLIANCE UPDATE

I would like to say that I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to join the coaching staff of Oldham as the Alliance team coach for the short season. My rugby career started with Keighley and moved onto

Bramley as a professional player for 14 years. Playing in a charity match against Bradford I suffered a double fracture of the ankle, which finished my playing days. I then moved into coaching local junior sides, then to Featherstone Academy,

may main achievement this season like all coaches is to improve and build upon last season performances. I would also like to see more Academy players and trialists come to the club where they will be made welcome.

## FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
OLDHAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ST. HELENS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIGAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEEDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WARRINGTON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRADFORD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SALFORD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DEWSBURY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HULL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CASTLEFORD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WAKEFIELD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEATHERSTONE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HALIFAX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RYDALE-YORK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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# RUFF E. HEAD

## WATCH OUT FOR GOODWAYS' DARK HORSES

So here we are again, for the Centenary season. Or at least, half season. With no promotion or relegation at stake, there will no doubt be a lot of people saying it is all rather meaningless. The proof of that pudding of course will be out on the pitch. If the games are genuinely competitive, then there is no reason why the spectators should not be attracted. But if we get lots of 56-46 scorelines with below strength sides being turned out, I am afraid the terraces will very quickly empty. It was presumably the clubs' need for gate money which decreed the farce of squeezing in 20 fixtures plus a cup competition before the end of January. So it is very much up to them to make sure we get the right approach by the players on the field. It was great to see Andy Goodway getting due recognition in his England coaching appointment and given the nature of the bloke, I would be very

surprised to see him turning out Oldham sides over the next few months with anything less than a genuine commitment to win. His main close season signings, too, look shrewd ones to me. I have a feeling that, given a decent run of luck with injuries, and with a lot of the big names players in supposedly superior Premiership sides, with their minds on the World Cup, we might just enjoy a bit of very welcome success. That certainly would not be meaningless, in terms both of player confidence and crowd appeal when Super League does get going in March. To say that the Centenary season is going off with a bang would be something of an exaggeration, I am afraid. There has been hardly any major publicity that I have seen, with the World Cup so far equally low profile in all but the specialist Rugby League press. You get the feeling it is all a bit too much for an over stretched staff at HQ. And why were

Doncaster not allowed back in until just after the Division Two fixtures were published? Not very impressive. Let's hope things improve dramatically very soon. But despite the League's efforts to hide it away the Word Cup should be terrific. I reckon Western Samoa, with Tiny Solomona as Vice captain, are the team to watch. Ten home fixtures, and only five of them on Sunday afternoons. That contrasts with seven away Sunday matches. Given that nobody really likes coming up to Oldham for night matches, I suppose that balance is probably slightly in our favour. And there is certainly not the same impossible start to the season we had last year how about ten League points by October 1? But London away on a Wednesday night in September is certainly not what the regular travelling support would have chosen. How about broken time for us fans?



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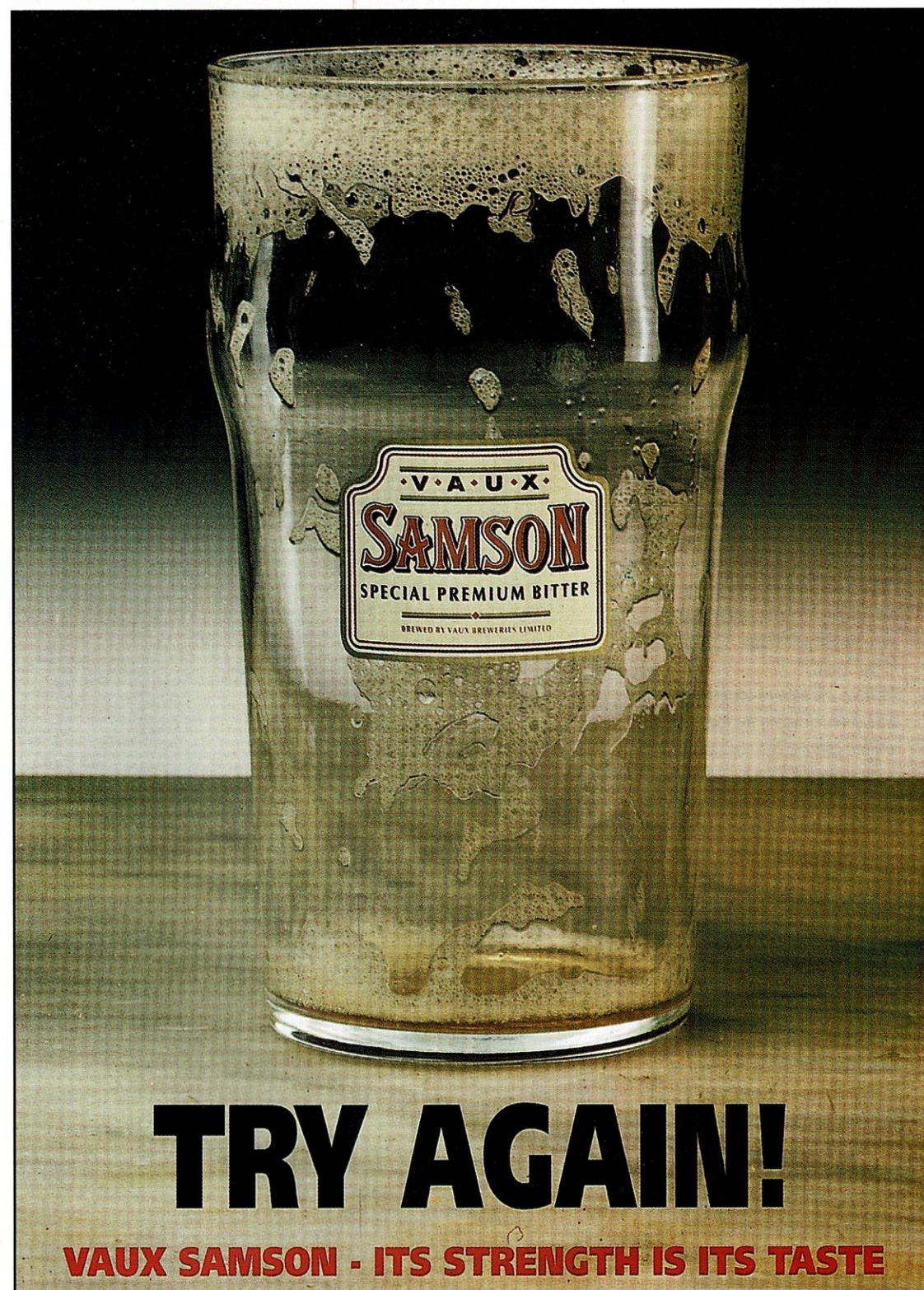
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NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

1995/96 SEASON CHARTER

- Players are expected to be behind the line at all restarts ie. halfway line, 20 metre line, goal line.
- Contact must be made with the foot at the free kick.
- Players must make contact with the ball while playing the ball.
- Players must stand outside the goal posts while a conversion attempt is taking place.
- Touch Judges must make independent decisions at kicks for goal.
- No attacking player other than the two players involved in the play the ball can take up a position around the play the ball.
- Referees will be directed to keep the area around the play the ball clear.
- Players were gaining advantage by not retiring 5 metres whilst their team was in possession.
- At the scrum:
  - Referees will enforce correct packing procedures including the loose forward packing into and remaining in the scrum until the ball emerges.
  - The half back will stand square at the tunnel and feed the ball so that it passes the foremost foot of the front row forward.
  - The defending half back will be onside at all times ie. behind his last row of forwards.
- The interpretations at the play the ball adapted in season 1994/95 will continue to be enforced in the coming season: ie. no flopping, no holding down, no leg pulling, ball must be lifted clear of the ground, markers square, defenders hands off the ball.
- Players must exercise some degree of ball security whilst taking the ball into a tackle. The referee must be convinced that the ball has been stolen to award a penalty.

# STATISTICALLY

## THE CENTENARY SEASON FIXTURES



Date	Versus	Time	Score	Att
AUG				
20th	Castleford	A 3.30		
23rd	ST. HELENS	H 7.30		
27th	Warrington	A 3.00		
SEPT				
1st	HALIFAX	H 7.30 BSKYB		
6th	London Broncos	A 7.30		
10th	BRADFORD BULLS	H 3.00		
20th	LONDON BRONCOS	H 7.30		
24th	Wigan	A 3.00		
OCT				
1st	LEEDS	H 3.00		
7th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Opening Ceremony			
21st	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 1			
22nd	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 2			
28th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Final at Wembley			
NOV				
1st	WORKINGTON	H 7.30		
5th	Sheffield Eagles	A 3.15		
12th	Regal Trophy - Round 2			
19th	CASTLEFORD	H 3.00		
26th	Regal Trophy - Round 3			
DEC				
3rd	Bradford Northern	A 3.00		
10th	Regal Trophy - Round 4			
13th	St. Helens	A 7.30		
17th	WIGAN	H 3.00		
26th	WARRINGTON	H 3.00		
30th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 1			
JAN				
1st	Halifax	A 3.00		
6th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 2			
7th	Leeds	A 3.00		
13th	Regal Trophy Final			
14th	Workington Town	A 3.00		
21st	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H 3.00		
27th	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - 1st Round			

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# SPEAKING 95-96

NEWS • NEWS

POINT SCORING RUN

JOHN SCHUSTER of Halifax has the current longest point scoring run, covering 38 matches and stretching back to 10 April 1994 when he kicked four goals in a 28-16 defeat at Widnes.

The Western Samoan captain's unbroken run has brought him 400 points from 21 tries and 159 goals, including 2 drop goals.

He scored in every match for Halifax last season and totalled a club record 362 points, including a Division One record 326 points.

The Centre also broke Halifax's match record with 32 points in the 72-0 win at Doncaster

WINNING RUN

Wigan have the longest winning run of 12 matches, including the Charity Shield defeat of Leeds and the win at Workington on Friday night.

They ended last season with six successive Stones Bitter Championship wins, one Silk Cut Challenge Cup and Three Stones Bitter PremierShip victories. Their last defeat was 18-16 at Halifax in a Stones Bitter Championship match on 29 March

## WORLD CUP NEWSROUND

The countdown to the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup has started.

After two years of preparation the big day when the most spectacular competition in the history of the sport kicks off with England facing reigning champions Australia at Wembley is now in sight.

Players from the ten competing nations are now anxiously waiting to find out whether they have a place in the final squads of 25 which will be named on September 1.

England have appointed Keighley Cougars boss Phil Larder as coach in place of Ellery Hanley, who has decided to continue his playing career abroad, while Oldham's Andy Goodway and Castleford chief John Joyner have joined him on the coaching team.

The Welsh returned from their summer tour to the United States in great shape and as well as the return of Jonathan Davies from his summer stint with the North Queensland Cowboys they are also expecting to have Alan Bateman back from Sydney - club from Cronulla-Sutherland.

The French, boosted by that 16-16 Test draw in New Zealand and the start of Jacques Fouroux's new national super league, have named an impressive 40-man training squad including at least five players with British first division experience last season.

Australia have more than their fair share of domestic problems to solve before Bobby Fulton can name their 25-man squad but after their 3-0 white-washing of the Kiwis demonstrated they can be counted upon to make a strong defence of their title.

New Zealand have regrouped after their Test defeats in Australia and coach Frank Endacott has called up an impressive group of players from which they can select what is certain to be a competitive team.

Tonga, now coached by former St. Helens boss Mike McClellan, have been fighting off a bid from Australia to include Manly winger John Hopoate and Sydney Bulldogs loose forward Jim Dymock in the Kangaroo squad. But McClellan believes that the Tonga's will be the surprise package of the Centenary competition.

"People in the southern hemisphere have been impressed by the speed at which the Tongan's have adapted to the game," he said.

"I realise that New Zealand will start favourites when we face them in our opening match but I believe that with the commitment my players have shown we can surprise everybody."

Former Wigan coach Graeme Lowe, now thankfully restored to full health, is warming up for his return to club coaching with North Queensland Cowboys by being in charge of the formidable Western Samoan team.

The Samoan's clash with France and Wales in Group Three is the most evenly matched of the tournament and it is difficult to predict a potential winner.

Lowe said: "There is enormous pride at being involved in the Western Samoan team and our preparations for the competition are well advanced".

Australian Graham Murray who left Illawarra Steelers has joined Fiji as World Cup coach.

The Fijians impressed many respected League judges by reaching the finals of the Coca-Cola World sevens in Sydney last February and if they can translate that ability into the full 13-man game they will prove a major threat.

British fans are excitedly waiting for their first glimpse of Papua New Guinea's scrum half talent Adrian Lam who has been playing for Sydney City Roosters. He made a big impact playing for Queensland in the State of Origin series triumph over New South Wales and has been rated as a world class performer.

Lam played for Queensland because that was where he first played Rugby League and he will certainly add fire power to the Kumul's bid to qualify for a semi-final place.

Welshman Tony Fisher has been drafted in to bring South Africa up to speed at Rugby League.

The Dewsbury coach has been impressed by what he has found on the Dark Continent. "Their tackling has to be seen to be believed," said former Welsh international Fisher, who was no mean defender when he played.

"They even make me wince when they go into tackle," added Fisher as he put the finishing touches to the Rhino's training.

You can get your tickets for the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup by ringing the exclusive hotlines 0178 274 1995. Hurry, hurry and don't miss the action.

# JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

CALLING ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHY'EDS!

Don't forget to renew your membership this season.

For just £3.00 (price held from last year) you are still entitled to enter the standing area of the Hutchins Stand for only One Penny, or receive a £1.00 discount on gate prices anywhere else in the ground (please note normal gate prices apply at all cup matches). You will also receive a Christmas card from your

favourite player, the chance for your say in the match day programme, an exclusive Christmas party (hopefully attended as last year by some of the first team players) and this year you will have the chance to enter a competition in the programme each week. All you have to do is write down the answer to the question along with your name, address and telephone number, and post it to:-

**Sue Collinge,**  
95 Wimbledon Road,  
Fallsworth,  
Manchester,  
M35 9LF.

This weeks question is: What rugby playing decision has the Club Captain Martin Crompton, had to make. Answer and winners name will be printed in the next programme.  
**Regards Sue Collinge**

# SUPPORTERS CLUB

The supporters club officials offer a warm welcome to all our supporters and those from St. Helens on this our first home match of what will be the last season of rugby league to be played in the traditional winter months. We also extend a welcome to Watersheddings to all our new players and wish them all a successful career with Oldham. Membership of the supporters club and junior reds section is now open for the new season and membership forms and fur-

ther details can be obtained from any supporters club official, the club shop or the small canteen at the pavilion corner on match days. The supporters club will again be organising travel to away games during the season, and seats can be booked on match days at the small canteen or by telephoning 665 1832. Following the success of our Valentines Dinner/Disco at the village manor we are now planning another evening for Saturday 21st October. Tickets

for the evening will be available soon, however to avoid disappointment as numbers will be limited, reserve your tickets now by contacting Alice or Sue Collinge, or any other supporters club official. In the build up to Super League and summer rugby the club needs your support, so help us to help the directors and coaching staff in their efforts to ensure Oldham's success by becoming a member of the supporters club.

# ACADEMY NEWS

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW SEASON

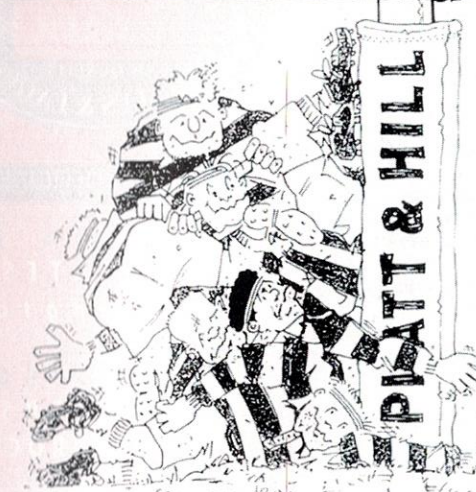
Our Academy side which is a completely different side to last years squad with new signings Paul Deacon and Joe McNicholas getting their first taste of academy rugby played St. Helens academy in a friendly fixture last Thursday night and finished up on the wrong end of a 48 points to 13 defeat. St. Helens who had quite a few signed on players and some very strong players were deserved winners but the scoreline didn't represent the effort our academy side put up



especially as Saints had won the Academy Premiership last year we were well in the match up to just before half time then Saints hit us with two quick tries both converted and then

we let our heads drop and Saints got a roll on. Their was some fine individual performances from captain Craig Barker, Neil Melling, Julian Mike and 16 year old Paul Ashton showing up well. The players are all looking forward to their first league match of the season away to Featherstone Rovers any young player over the age of 16 years fancying playing for our academy side are welcome to speak to coach Brian Gartland on 652 2452.  
*Brian Gartland*

## WE'VE CURED HEADACHES FOR THE ROUGHYEDS



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