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2	ADRIAN BELLE
3	DARREN ABRAM
4	PAUL TOPPING
5	SCOTT RANSON
6	FRANCIS MALONEY
7	MARTIN CROMPTON
8	IAN SHERRATT
9	JOHN CLARKE
10	IAN GILDART
11	GARY LORD
12	JOE FAIMALO
13	HOWARD HILL
14	WALLY GIBSON
15	CRAIG RICHARDS
16	TBA
17	TBA

HALIFAX

1	MIKE UMAGA
2	JOHN BENTLEY
3	JOHN SCHUSTER
4	GRANT ANDERSON
5	MARK PRESTON
6	CARL BRIGGS
7	WAYNE PARKER
8	KARL HARRISON
9	PAUL ROWLEY
10	WAYNE JACKSON
11	PAUL MORIARTY
12	MICHAEL JACKSON
13	SIMON BALDWIN
14	ABI EKOKU
15	GARY DIVORTY
16	JOHN FIELDHOUSE
17	CARL GILLESPIE

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SCRUMS	1	2	3	4	5
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	16	17	18	19	20
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	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25
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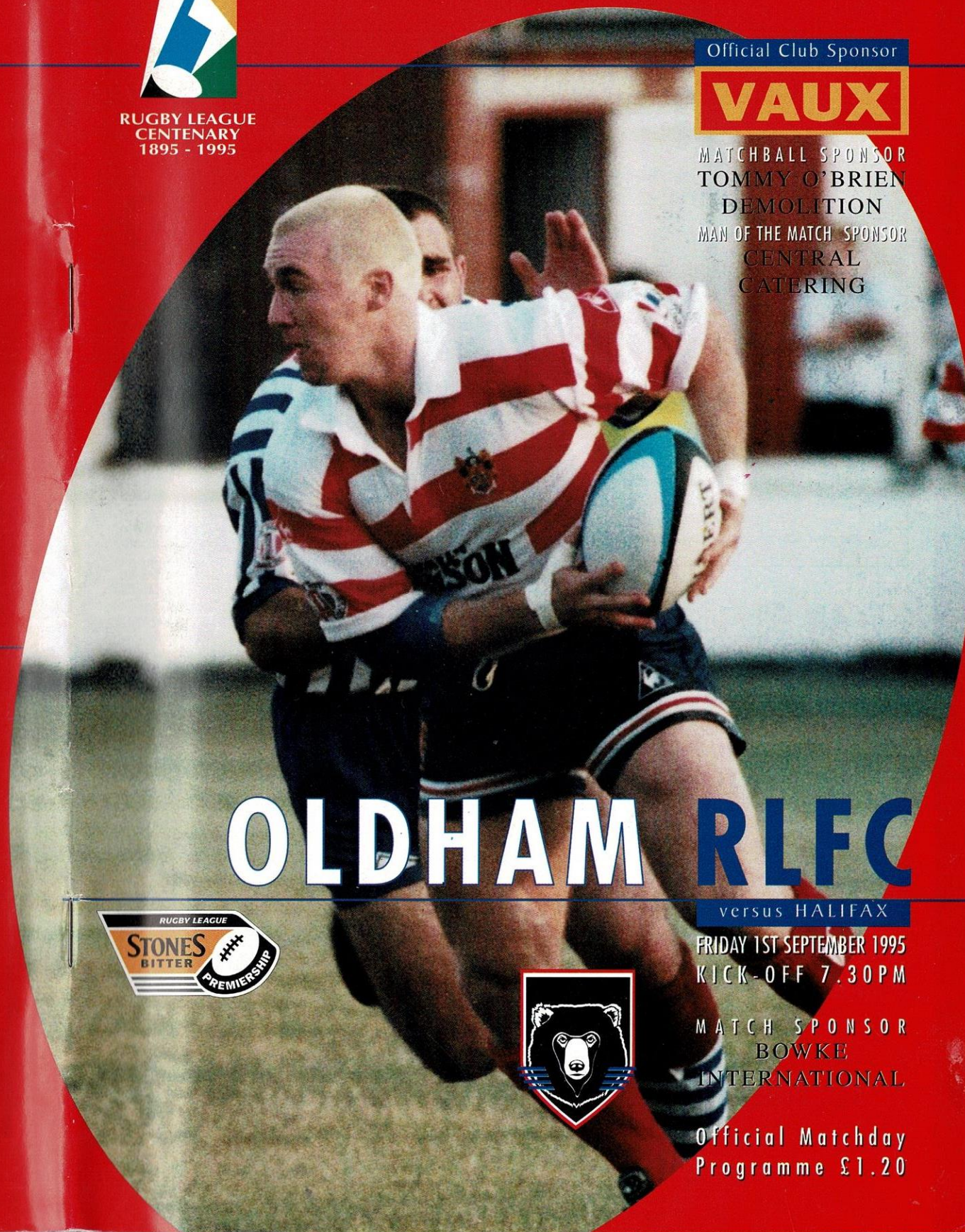


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 Official Timekeeper: Mr. J. Roscoe
 Hon. Safety Officer: Roger Norris
 Programme Editor: Ray Hill.

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

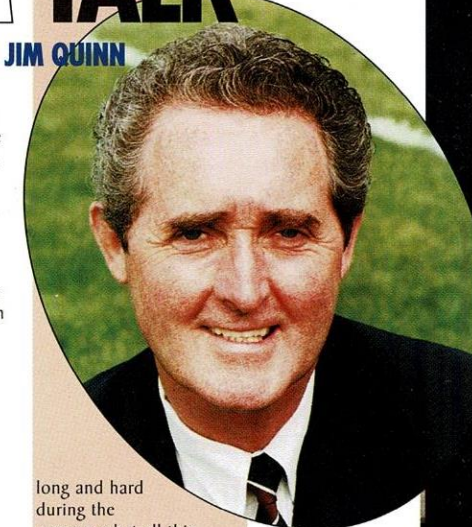
CLUB RECORDS

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
Fee Paid: March 1990
Record Try: Ref Farrar, 49 Tries,
 1921-22 season
Scorer: 1921-22 season
Record Goal: Bernard Ganley,
 224 goals, 1957-58
Scorer: season
Record Point: Bernard Ganley,
 28 points v
Scorer: Liverpool City,
 April 1959
First Game: 21st October 1876
 v Stalybridge
 Bernard Ganley, 2,881
Highest Number:
of Points Scored
Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685
 Pre 1900 Jach Hirst 233
Most Tries: Since 1900
 Alan Davies 182

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BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN



One hundred years ago this evening the organisation we now know as the Rugby Football League was three days old and a man of Oldham, Joseph Platt, was already established as a leading figure in the battle to establish the breakaway Northern Union in the industrial towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. In recalling with pride the men from Watersheddings who had the vision and foresight to join those pioneers who laid down the roots of our great game, I think we should also pay tribute to the club officials, players and supporters who have carried the Rugby League flag in Oldham for more than a century.

Not only in Oldham but throughout the North West, the game has been handed down through the decades from generation to generation, creating a deep-rooted culture which hundreds of thousands of people cherish dearly and guard jealously. That was never more in evidence than in those dramatic weeks of last April and early May when the game was passing through its biggest upheaval since that night in August 1895 when Oldham and Halifax, our opponents this evening, were among the clubs which gathered at the George Hotel in Huddersfield to break away from the Rugby Football Union over the issue of bona fide payments for broken time.

Nearly 100 years on we were not discussing six shillings a week to compensate footballers for time lost at work, but an offer to the game of £87 million from media baron Rupert Murdoch's massive News Corporation organisation. As part of the original deal there were plans to merge many of the best-known clubs.

Oldham and Salford were to form one club and so were Halifax and Bradford or Halifax and Huddersfield. There were plans to merge the Hull clubs and, among others, Wakefield, Castleford and Featherstone.

Rumblings of protest among club loyalists quickly became a roar that was heard from Wigan to Westminster and from Post Office Road to Parliament. It was an issue which turned the spotlight of the sporting world on to Rugby League and provided the game with unprecedented exposure in the national newspapers, on television and in the major sports programmes on the radio.

The backlash against proposed mergers was staggering and so intense that, as we all know now, there was a major rethink at the top and the formulation of a new policy which led to a three-division split, to be headed by Super League, and a more widespread circulation of the available money from News Corporation.

It was a very human story and one which revealed how so many supporters cherish their club and their heritage, if you like, with heart and soul, not to mention pounds and pence. Perhaps the message to people charged with the responsibility for running the clubs is that the strength of our game lies in the determination of its supporters to work for its continuing security as we look ahead towards the turn of the century and the great unknown.

Oldham supporters couldn't possibly have done more in their fight to retain the club's identity, and I'm sure the Halifax directors will also acknowledge that Thrum Hall fans did everything they could to make sure that a link-up with Bradford or Huddersfield was avoided at all costs.

As chairman of Oldham, I have considered

long and hard during the summer what all this means and I have concluded that we should devote less attention in future to chasing success and searching for moonbeams and more to establishing a firm administrative and financial platform on which we can build a club with sufficient foundations to stand the test of time and still be here in another 100 years from now. A warm welcome tonight to the Halifax officials, players, coaches and spectators and a warm welcome too, for Eddie Hemmings "Stevie" and all the Sky television team. Joseph Platt and those early planners didn't know what they were starting when they assembled at the George 100 years ago last Tuesday. We've come a long way and with YOUR continuing loyalty and support and the financial backing of News Corporation we've a lot further to go yet.

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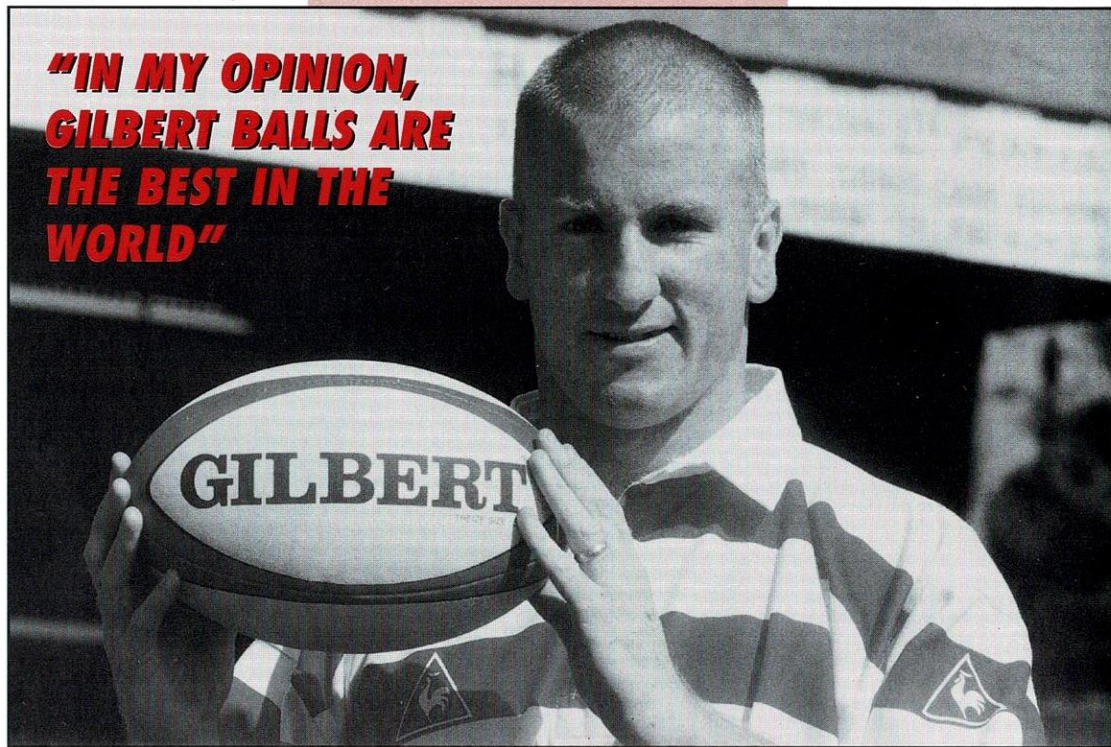
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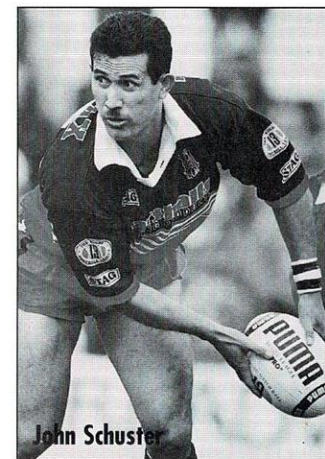
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ABI EKOKU
6' 3" summer signing from London Broncos, Abi is the brother of Efan, the Wimbledon striker, and a top athlete in his own right, having represented Great Britain in the Discus.

JOHN BENTLEY
Former England Rugby Union international who turned pro with Leeds in 1989 and came to Halifax along with Gary Divorty on the eve of the 92/93 season. Strong and elusive, 'Bentos' is infamous for his long range spectacular tries. He played for Great Britain in the World Sevens twice gained an England cap in last seasons European Championships, and had a stint in 94 with the Balmain Tigers in the Winfield Cup competition.

JOHN SCHUSTER
Western Samoan ace goal kicker and try scorer, who broke the club points in a season, the League goals in a season and the club points in a game records last season. Appointed captain of Western Samoa for the forthcoming Halifax World Cup, the former New Zealand All Black is now in his third year at Thrum Hall, having signed from the Newcastle Knights for the start of the 1993/94 season.



GRANT ANDERSON
£85,000 tribunal buy from Castleford during the 1994 close season, but limited by injury to just two appearances last term. Now fully fit and raring to go, Grants confidence has been aided by selection for the England train on squad for the forthcoming World Cup.

MARK PRESTON
Former Fylde RUFC and England B

international, now in his 5th season at Thrum Hall since signing from Wigan in 1991. Won Challenge Cup and League medals with the Riversiders but, despite his awesome pace and deadly finishing, international honours in the professional game have eluded him.

CARL BRIGGS
Son of former professional Trevor, signed from Sheffield Eagles in July after making 28 appearances for the last term. Drop goal expert!

WAYNE PARKER
1994 close season capture from Hull Kingston Rovers, where Wayne had followed brother Frank into the 1st team. Suffered injury problems towards the end of last season after forming a fine partnership with the now departed Mike Hagan, but is now back fit and raring to go!

KARL HARRISON
Club captain now back to his best after a serious knee ligament injury cut short his 1994/95 season. A 1992 GB tourist, Karl (or 'Rhino' as he is known to his colleagues) is the cornerstone of the Halifax pack. Previously with Bramley and Featherstone, he was a record signing from Hull, and the clubs first major purchase following promotion in the summer of 1991. He has become the most capped Halifax player of all time (with 22 GB caps) thanks largely to his performance in the 94 Ashes series, and has again been called into the England squad for the World Cup.

PAUL ROWLEY
Followed coach Steve Simms from Leigh last November where he had been a first team regular since signing for the Leigh Academy at 17. Now a regular GB Academy international (he was a tourisit to Australia last summer) Paul has shown again and again why many are tipping him as the next Great Britain hooker.

JOHN FIELDHOUSE
'Veteran' star previously with Warrington Widnes, St. Helens and Oldham (where he was player coach)

before joining 'Fax in 1992. John is as fit and tough as ever and he has put in some of the best performances of his career whilst setting a fine example to the youngsters at the club. Never gives less than 100%.

WAYNE JACKSON
Humberside based prop forward signed in May this year from the old Doncaster club where he enjoyed a successful first division season. Started his career at Hull KR.

SIMON BALDWIN
Another Leigh youngster who followed Simms across the Pennines in October 94. Just 20 years old, 'Sid' had played in the first team at Hilton Park since he was 17. He toured Australia last summer with the Great Britain Academy, and has two international caps (v France) at that level. Played for England in last seasons European Championships.

PAUL MORIARTY
Swansea and Wales RU international who turned pro and signed for Widnes in February 1989. His league career has been jinxed by injury. Which saw him miss the 1993 Challenge Cup final, but his capture by Halifax last summer following a tribunal valuation was inspired, and he was to reward Fax with some of the best Rugby of his career. 'Mozza' has represented both Great Britain and Wales since switching codes.

MICHAEL JACKSON
Major 1993 signing from Wakefield Trinity (for an undisclosed fee reputed to be near the £100,000 mark), who had beaten 'Fax to his signature two years earlier pace when Michael joined them from Hunslet. 'Jacko' has outstanding pace and strength, but bad luck with injuries prevented him attaining the consistency which will undoubtedly bring him further recognition in the future. Despite this however, Malcolm Reilly showed no hesitation in including him in the GB side for the 2nd and 3rd Tests against New Zealand in 1993, and his form towards the end of last season shows why.

HALIFAX

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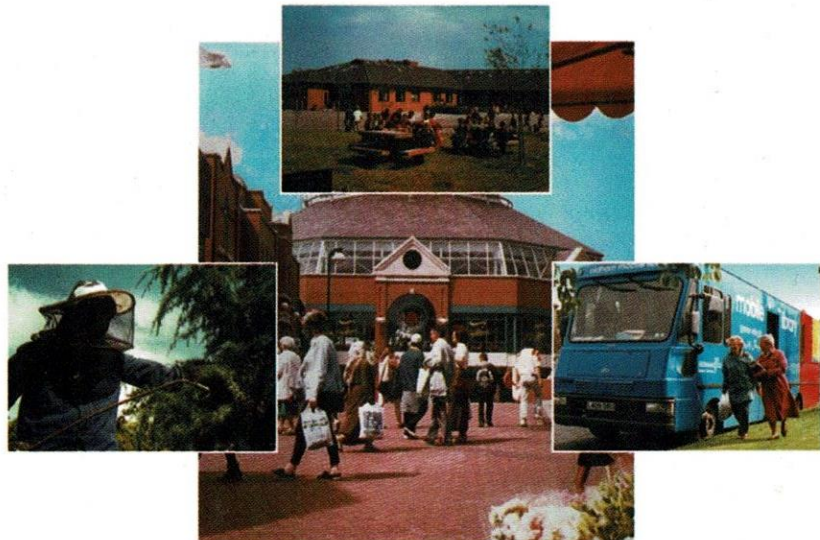
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Due to the Bank Holiday weekend these notes had to be penned before the Warrington match last Sunday, but at the time of writing I was hoping that Steve Wilde of Saddleworth Rangers would be signed in time to make his debut.

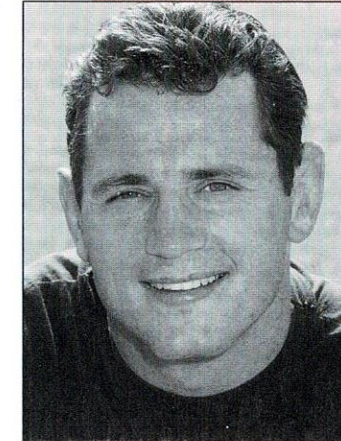
There is a massive gulf between the National Conference and the Stones Centenary Championship, but with Rob Myler, Scott Ranson and Nigel Heslop on the injured list and David Jones still in Australia, Steve was in line for his first senior game sooner than one would normally have expected.

He impressed us in his two Alliance team trials and now that he has signed for Oldham we wish him well and trust that he will fulfill the potential we see in this strong-running 21 year old.

The same applied to 15 year old Dale Aldred, whom our Academy coach Brian Gartland regards as "one for the future" and also to Afi Leuila, who is expected to be joining us in a few weeks from New Zealand.

Afi impressed a lot of people while with St.Helens last season, but at that time there was some difficulty in obtaining a

work permit for him and, reluctantly, they had to let him go. He is the brother-in-law of Va'aiga Tuigamala and a former Tongan Rugby Union international centre, I am confident he will do well here, add to the strength of the squad and prove that he is capable of holding his own at Super League level. I thought our performance against



St.Helens was a significant improvement on how we played at Wheldon Road. Saints, of course, are full-time professionals now and I'm sure you must have been able to tell a difference when thinking back to the Saints teams of previous years. Even compared with last season, they looked bigger, stronger and faster. In some respects they reminded me of a Wigan side and that was because, like Wigan, they now have their players in for work every day and not three or four evenings a week - in many cases after a 40-hour working week - like us and most other clubs in the Rugby League.

As it happens we are going full-time on January 1st and I feel sure that, when we do, we will have a much better chance of competing with teams like Saints on a level playing field.

The matches against Castleford and Saints were extremely competitive, full-blooded affairs and I daresay most of the games still to come will be as well. Rugby League doesn't lend itself to anything less and I know there will be lots of good rugby for the fans to enjoy this season.

ANDY GOODWAY

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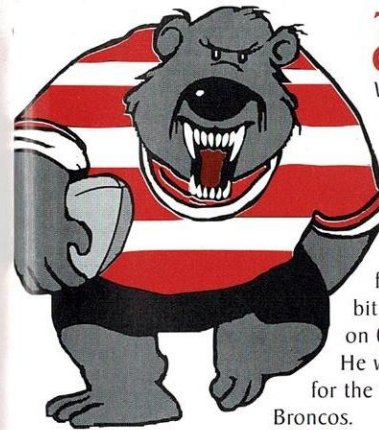
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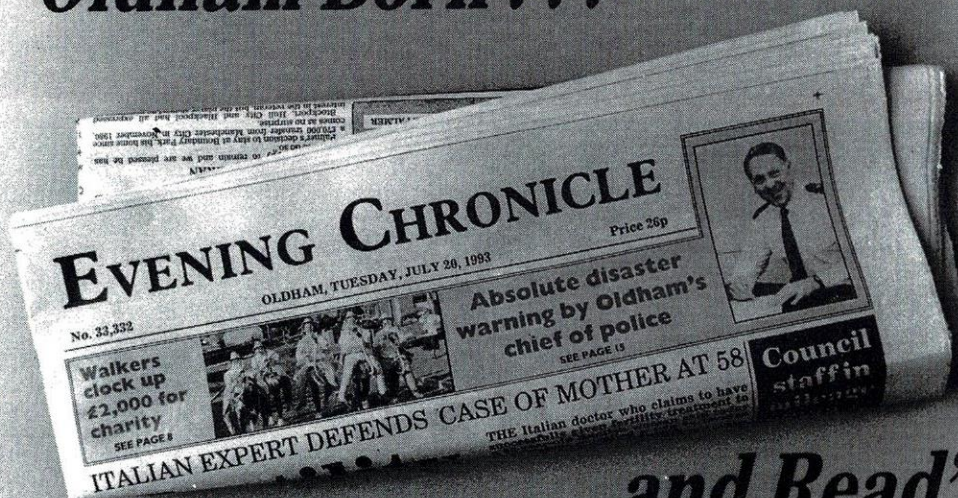


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GRASS ROOTS

A look at the local amateur rugby scene WITH DON YATES

The rewards available to our top amateur players were once again evident during the summer when BARLA sent squads to both New Zealand and South Africa. Although the under 18 squad lost heavily in New Zealand and the open age outfit also lost both tests against South Africa the tourists gained valuable experience on both trips. Indeed the open age squad performed creditably in Johannesburg against a nation who will be competing in the Halifax Centenary World Cup next month. Although there were no players from Oldham clubs on the two tours, the St Annes hooker or scrum half Dean Hamilton has been included in the BARLA under 23 squad. They take on Wales later this month as the Principality prepare for the Emerging Nations World Cup in October. The final of that tournament will be staged at Gigg Lane, Bury on Tuesday 24th October kick off 7.30pm. Two of our local clubs hit the cup trail tomorrow in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. Waterhead are at home to Portico Panthers in what should be an intriguing tie. Higginshaw, who last season reached the semi final stage before losing out to St. Annes, begin this season campaign away at Hesketh Eagles. Local officials are confident that Oldham will once again be represented in the latter stages of the tournament. Saddleworth Rangers are at home both

tomorrow and next Saturday in the Premier Division of the National Conference. Tomorrow Egremont Rangers visit Shaw Hall Bank Road and next week Wigan St. Pats provide the opposition. Egremont won 24-16 at Saddleworth last October so Rangers will be out for revenge. Last season was a difficult one for St. Pats so Rangers will be confident of success in both those matches. In the First Division of the Conference St Annes face two tough away matches. Tomorrow they visit Walney Central and on September 9th they travel over to Moldgreen. Last season Saints pulled off two magnificent Away victories against these opponents. They won 12-4 at Walney and 23-20 at Moldgreen. it will be difficult to repeat those successes but if Saints are to gain promotion these are the places where they must win. It takes a great deal of commitment to run a Rugby League outfit, even an

amateur one, but if you feel that you have that commitment then contact Jake Ashworth on 01457 874765. He is the coach of Watersheddings Wanderers and is on the look out for a secretary in particular but for anyone who can assist with the running of the club. They play in the fourth division of the Pennine League where last season they ended the campaign in mid table.

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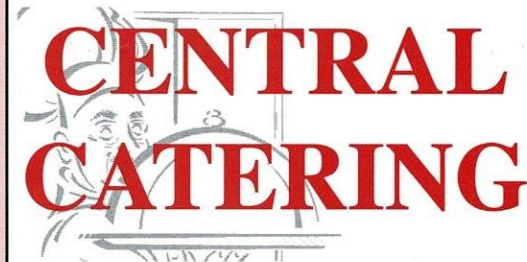
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More and more clubs are beginning to invest in Chief Executives, General Managers etc, call them what you like and what a good idea to. If clubs are to survive and prosper all the monies now coming into the game must be best utilised and with sponsorships and fund raising getting harder and harder to generate who better to keep clubs on the rails than their own professionals.

Make no bones about it the National Lottery has hit fund raising in sport very hard and sponsors usually like to be associated with success and some of the less fashionable clubs must find it nigh on impossible to persuade people to invest cash into what on the face of it looks a very rocky venture.

These full time professional businessmen well versed in dealing with the men who hold the purse strings could pay for themselves time and time again as well as introducing new strategies and idea's to assist the existing administrative staff.

From answering the telephone to dealing with the company directors every fact of running clubs must be brought up to date, made to be efficient and become as self sufficient as possible. Otherwise the money coming into the game will go straight back out and we will be no better off than before.

I know what I'm talking about, I've hidden behind the door when the Inland Revenue came calling and I've prioritised invoices for payment into those suing us and those not. Things have probably changed a great deal now, but when I was secretary of Rochdale Hornets I would have loved to have the guidance of such a professional, lets play the game and do the business

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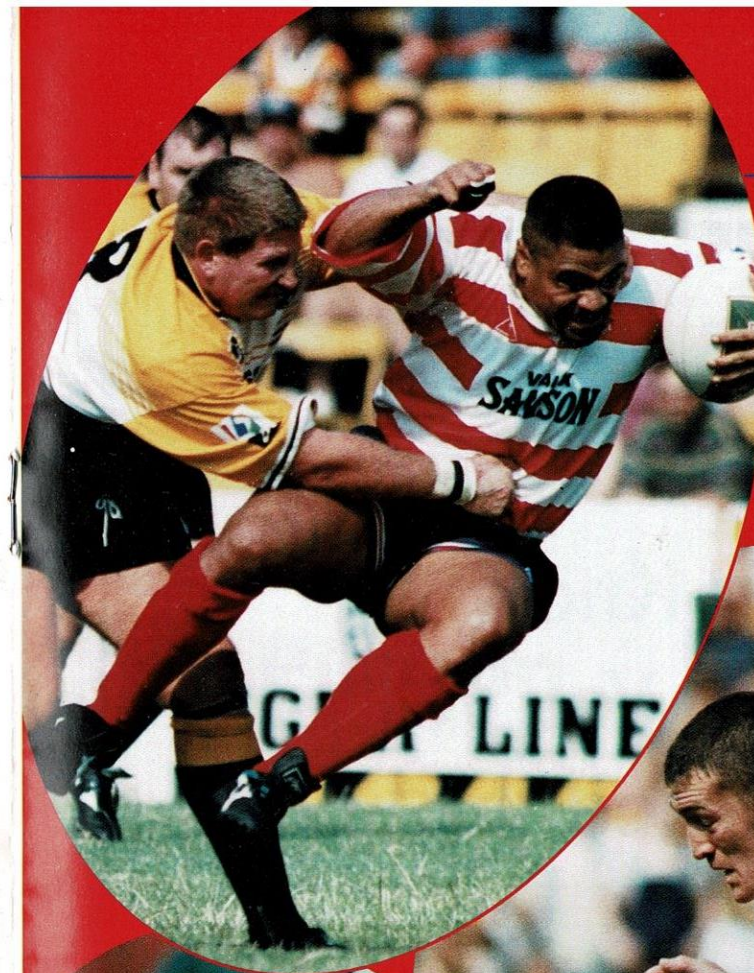
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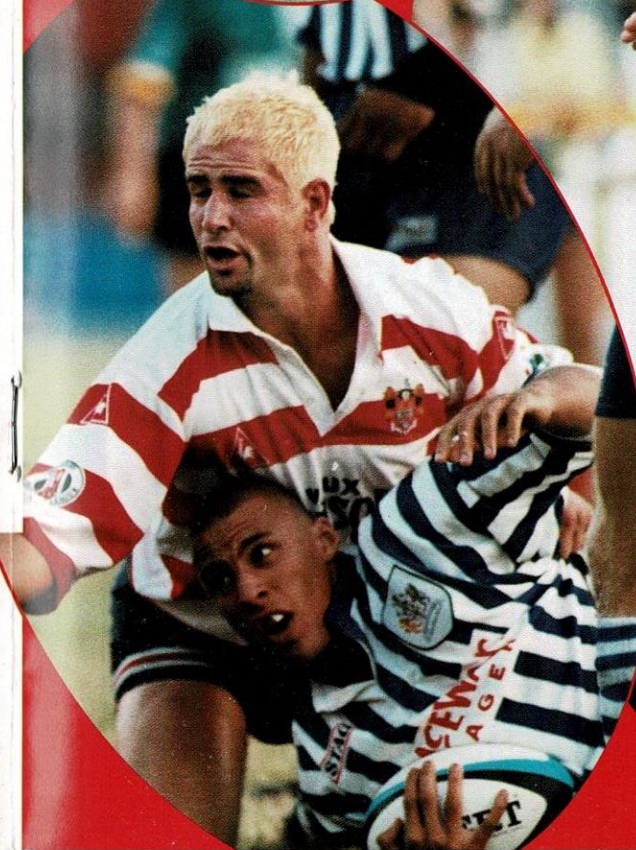
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ACTION REPLAY



LEFT
JOE FAIMALO TRYING TO
BREAK AWAY FROM
LEE CROOKS
BOTTOM LEFT
PAUL TOPPING ASKING IF
IT'S A KNOCK-ON
BOTTOM RIGHT
GARRY LORD GETTING
SOME CLOSE ATTENTION



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RUGBY RECALL

1. Which Oldham forward who came on as substitute scored a try in last seasons home defeat by Halifax?
2. Two Halifax players scored tries against Oldham in both the home and away league defeats last season who were they?
3. Which Oldham player scored a try in both the above matches?
4. Which Halifax player has scored a try against Oldham in the last four league meetings?
5. Who was Halifax coach from May 91 to Dec 92, immediately before Malcolm Reilly?
6. In which season did Halifax last win the Challenge Cup?
7. Who was Oldham's leading try scorer during season 92/93?
8. Which two players made 33 out of a possible 34 appearances for Halifax during season 93/94?
9. Only one player a forward played in all 34 games that season who is he?
10. From which Australian club did Halifax sign John Schuster?

ANSWERS
 1. Craig Richards 2. John Bentley and Mark Preston 3. Darren Abram 4. John Bentley 5. Roger Millward 6. 1986/87 7. Iva Kopati (22) 8. Michael Hagan and John Schuster 9. Gary Divorty 10. Newcastle Knights

The Welsh Connection
 Copyright Kelvin Jones 199-5

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

I suppose we are now in our second century of Rugby League and it is interesting to note that the Rugby Union has chosen to enter the 20th Century as we are moving into the 21st. In these times of change in the world of rugby I am very interested in what it all means for the Development of our Sport. Obviously the advent of Super League will require a greater number of full time professional players who spend their working life training and playing. This represents a real employment opportunity for youngsters and I anticipate most Super League clubs starting up some form of apprenticeship scheme. Significantly Wigan and Leeds both have these in place.

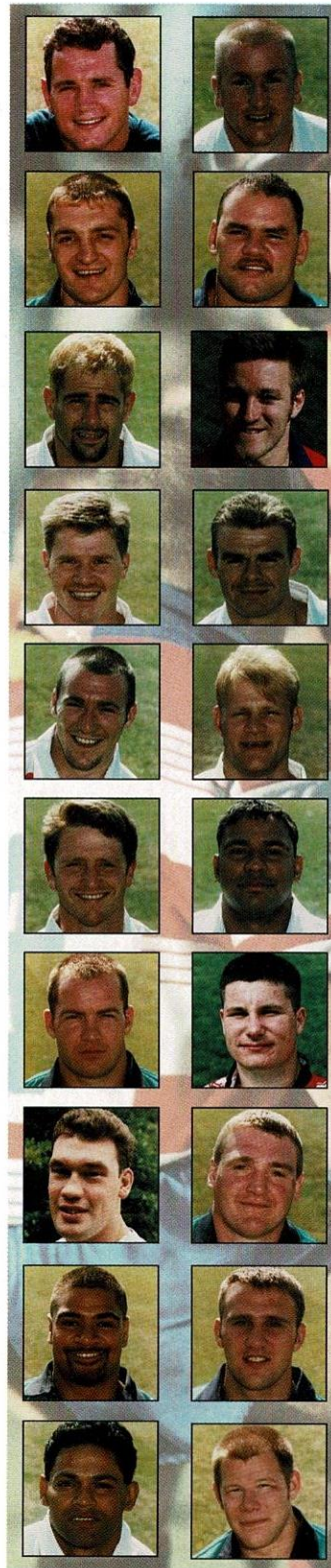


Martin Hall (Wigan) one of the stars that helped out on the summer coaching programme.

The talent spotting network will become even more sophisticated and players will be monitored in much greater depth. In order to stand out and gain one of these prized apprenticeships the young player will have to have a "professional" approach from a much earlier age. I think the current batch of Under 15's will be the first to really reap the rewards but players at an even younger age can aspire to a lucrative career - as they have done in soccer for 30 years. Our Junior Clubs need support in supplying this constant flow of talent and they need to serve a dual purpose of supplying leisure opportunities for the many people who will be attracted to an even higher profile game.

In Oldham we have a network of six youth rugby league sections. Shaw, Royton, Saddleworth, St Anne's, Waterhead and Salem. All of these clubs run a number of teams and at least two other clubs, Higginshaw and Watersheddings Wanderers, are keen to run Junior teams. These clubs need support from BARLA, RFL, Oldham RLFC, Oldham Amateur League and in fact all of us. They are the lifeblood of our game in the new century and I hope we never forget that or we can forget a third century.

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MATCH

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INJURY UPDATE

It has been a hectic start to the new season and we have paid a price injury wise as the drought has made the ground's harder than we would normally expect. Scott Ranson was our first senior casualty when he strained a hamstring in finishing off a superb move at Castleford.

Fortunately it doesn't look too serious and we expect Scott to be fit soon. Worse was to follow in the St. Helens game when new signing, Rob Myler was in a lot of pain when he sprang his shoulder and X-rays confirmed a slight dislocation which will keep Rob out of action for at least four weeks.

The following evening in the A team match against Warrington Paul Norman picked up a knee injury. Examinations the following day revealed a medial ligament strain, which will keep Paul out of the action for at least three weeks. On a brighter note, Paul Atcheson looks as if he has shaken off a niggling thigh strain and is building up his fitness levels.

JOHN WATKINS



John Watkins is asking the ref "Do you think if I drink that stuff I could be as slim as you are?"

OLDHAM v HALIFAX

MATCH STATISTICS

How the Roughyeds have fared against Halifax

Competition	Played	Won-draw-lost
League	128	66-4-58
Yorkshire Cup	2	0-0-2
Championship Play off	3	1-1-1
Challenge Cup	8	4-2-2
Total	141	71-7-63

Oldham's biggest win at Watersheddings 33-0 League in season 1923-24
 Oldham's biggest win at Thrum Hall 24-3 League in season 1977-78
 Halifax's biggest win at Watersheddings 5-25 League in season 1978-79
 20-40 League in season 1994-95
 Halifax's biggest win at Thrum Hall 2-32 League in season 1978-79

Note: during the war years Oldham entered the Yorkshire Cup and in season 1942-43 met Halifax in a two legged first round tie, losing both legs.

Oldham v Halifax results during the past ten years

All League matches

1985-86 home lost 14-19	away drew	12-12
1986-87 home lost 18-20	away lost	14-20
1987-88 Did not meet		
1988-89 home lost 12-14	away won	12-0
1989-90 home won 14-3	away lost	12-22
1990-91 Did not meet		
1991-92 Did not meet		
1992-93 Did not meet		
1993-94 home lost 11-28	away lost	12-26
1994-95 home lost 20-40	away lost	8-34

When Halifax last visited Watersheddings

21st August 1994 Division One
 Oldham 20 Halifax 40
 Half time: 8-16 Attendance: 5,413
 Oldham tries: Darren Abram and Craig Richards
 goals Steve Gartland (6)
 Halifax tries: John Bentley, Mark Preston, Mike Hagan, Pual Moriarty,
 John Fieldhouse & Paul Round (2)
 goals: John Schuster (6)

Oldham: Wally Gibson, David Jones, Shaun Irwin, Darren Abram, Scott Ranson, Steve Gartland, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, John Clarke, Chris Parr, Gary Lord, Paul Davidson & Mike Kuiti. Substitutes, Nigel Heslop & Craig Richards
Halifax: Steve Hampson, John Bentley, John Schuster, Grant Anderson, Mark Preston, Mike Hagan, Wayne Parker, Karl Harrison, Roy Southernwood, John Fieldhouse, Paul Moriarty, Paul Round & Gary Divorty. Substitutes, Graeme Hallas & Mark Perrett.

BY DON YATES

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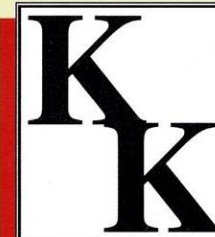
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ALLIANCE UPDATE

WITH ALLIANCE COACH GRAHAM BEALE

OLDHAM 26-18 CASTLEFORD

Well it was nice to get the first game over, even better to win your first game. We were a little ring rusty but we played well enough overall and deserved the win, the scoreline flattered Castleford as we dominated the game for long periods, four silly penalties in the first fifteen minutes was disappointing. From then we produced some good football to score six tries and a goal without reply. Towards the final quarter a lapse of concentration allowed Castleford to close the gap scoring two tries, a goal and a penalty. The score does not suggest how the game went, if we had cut the penalties out and had better support play and added a few different options we could have put fifty points past a poor Castleford side.

OLDHAM 22-20 WARRINGTON

Well what a comeback. After talking to the players after the Castleford game and how we let them back into the game and to concentrate for the full game, we now know to play for the full eighty minutes. Trailing 4-8 at half time the game was there for the taking, but two defensive errors saw Warrington extend their lead to 4-20. But the young Roughyeds raised their game, and took the game to Warrington and clawed themselves back into contention, levelling the score at 20-20 with five minutes remaining. Two drop goals by Steve Gartland gave Oldham the points they deserved for character and determination and team spirit, players highlighted in the game were Gartland, Cowans, Edwards and McKinney.

QUOTES & HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

'It's his second finger - technically his third' - Christopher Martin-Jenkins

'Television is chewing gum for the eyes' - Fred Allen

It was on this day in 1939 that German troops invaded Poland, an act which instigated World War Two.

It was on this day in 1989 that Kazi Deyna, the former Manchester and Poland soccer, was killed in a car crash aged 41.

It was on this day in 1986 that prop-forward Dean Sampson signed for Castleford from Stanley Rangers Juniors.

It was on this day in 1945 that Eastern Suburbs defeated Balmain 22-18 at the Sydney Cricket Ground to win the Australian Premiership (Winfield Cup).

It was on this day in 1993 that Oldham signed Craig Richards from Bradford Northern.

It was on this day in 1985 that Oldham and Halifax drew 12-12 in a First Division match at Thrum Hall.

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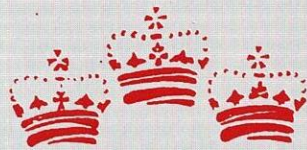
RUFF E. HEAD

BY IAN WILSON

Overall, not a great day out at Castleford. Not enough programmes printed, a public address system even less audible than ours, warm soft drinks, and a real Jekyll and Hyde performance on the pitch. For 55 minutes, I thought we played really well, with a strong pack, a pair of half-backs who gelled remarkably quickly, and strong defence allied to an unusual ability to take our chances. But the final phase of the game was nightmarish. Did we just take the win for granted once they were down to 11? As for Mr. Kirkpatrick, the least said the better. He achieved a penalty every 2-3 minutes, at a 2:1 ratio in Cas' favour. Whoever it was who said that the best referees are the ones you notice least was spot on. The St.Helens game did at least flow

much better, even if we were on the wrong end of yet another Bobbie Goulding show. But why are a side brimming with so much talent apparently incapable of basic discipline on the field? And they certainly seem intent on milking the substitution law as far as possible; I counted five, and they were trying to get Loughlin back on when the hooter went! On the first weekend of the Centenary season, the fifteen games played attracted a total attendance of 46 thousand. In the middle of August, in the middle of a heatwave, it could have been work, I suppose, though I shall be interested to see what the corresponding figure is in the middle of November. I read Mr.Lindsay's defence of the short season's fixture set up last week, but I am afraid it rather missed the

point. We all know that the clubs need gate money over the winter. But 10 home fixtures averaging, say, 3,000 would generate less income than 7 which attracted 5,000 each. What was called for was a one-off imaginative competition for the short transitional season, which could have provided more income, put less pressure on the players, and left us all eagerly awaiting the new Super League set-up. But imagination is not the attribute that springs to mind when thinking about RL headquarters, I am afraid. I would be very interested to hear how the players reacted to having to play in the tropical conditions which prevailed last weekend. The water bottles were used very liberally of course, but I suspect pounds in weight must have been shed. Ian Wilson



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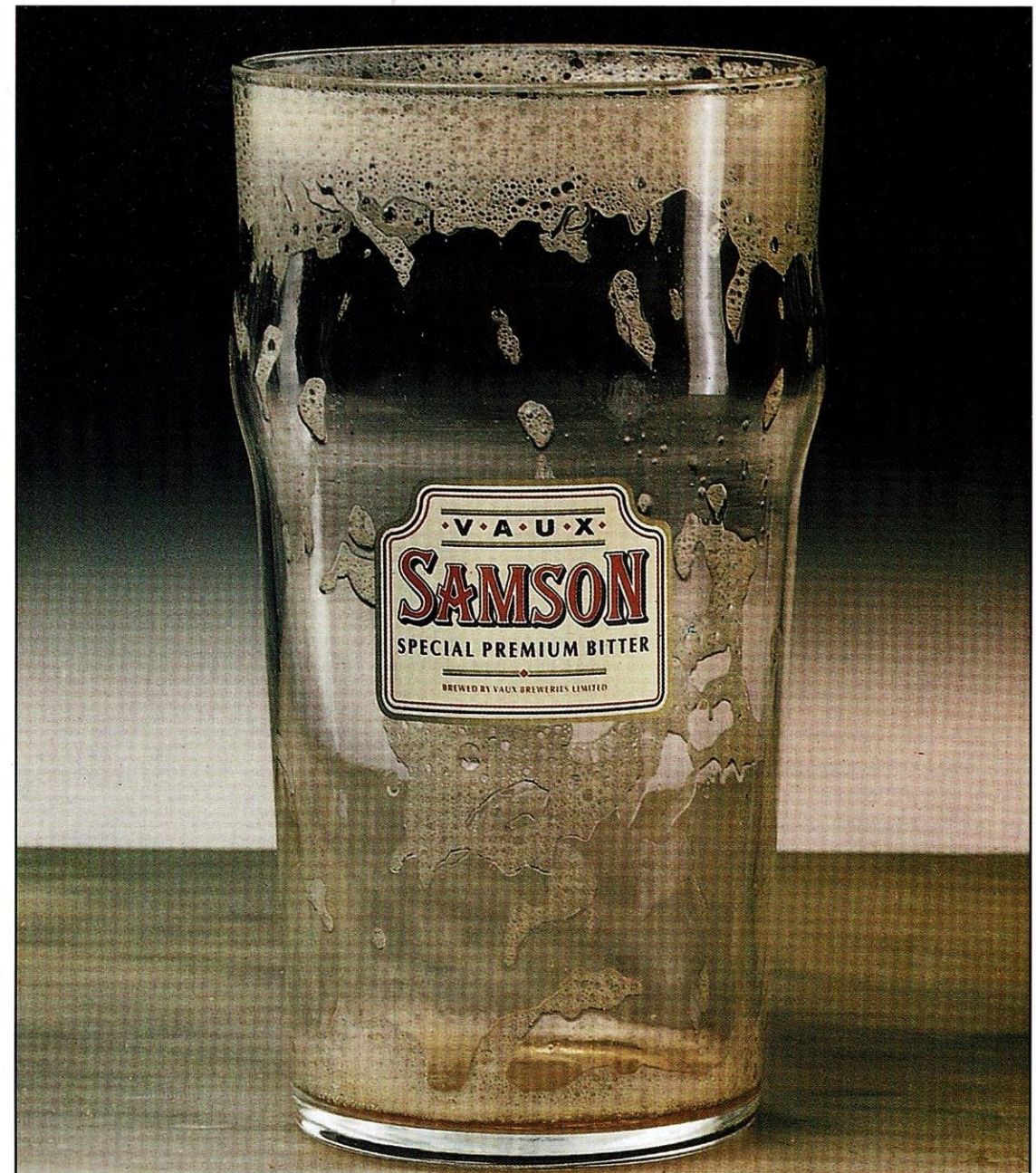
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PLAYER PROFILE

- What is your full name and nickname at the club?**
Scott Ranson - Two Can (because they say I can only drink 2 cans of beer before I'm drunk)
- Where is your place of birth?**
St. Helens
- Which team did you support as a child, League/Union or other sport?**
St. Helens
- Which was the first team you played for, League or Union?**
Thatto Heath ARL - Swinton RL
- Who was the biggest influence on your career?**
I have lots of people influence me in my career but to name a few Bob Burkett and Peter Smethurst
- Which is your happiest memory in the game?**
I'm at my happiest scoring tries, one particular try springs to mind when I scored in the last seconds against Salford to win the game two seasons ago.
- Which is your saddest memory in the game?**
Getting beat in two Premiership finals both against Sheffield both having men sent off
- Which current opponent or teammate do you respect most?**
None comes to mind
- Who is the greatest player you have played with, against, seen or read about?**
Tom Van Vollenhoven
- Do you have a favourite ground? Why?**
Knowsley Road, St. Helens, Home town
- Do you have a least favourite ground? Why?**
Thrum Hall, Halifax because its colder than Oldham
- What, if anything, would you like to change in the game?**
To go back to Tuesday Thursday training
- What aspect of your career do you enjoy most?**
Scoring tries
- Is there an aspect of your career that you dislike?**
Being away from my family alot
- Do you have any pre match routines or superstitions?**
No
- Apart from your current playing position, what position do you enjoy playing in?**
Winning position
- Can you recall an amusing incident about the game?**
Darren Abram getting knocked out from a high tackle by Paul Newlove or Mike Neil going the same way with Leo Casey (never mind travelling partners)
- What is your ambition in the game?**
To play to my full capability and be successful
- What is your ambition outside the game?**
Enjoy life
- If you were not a rugby player, what occupation would you pursue?**
Flower arranging
- What car do you drive?**
Rover 416GSI
- What is your favourite food and drink?**
Chilli & Pepsi Cola
- Do you have any particular musical tastes?**
None in particular although I like a lot of different stuff
- What is your favourite holiday resort?**
Its a toss up between Orlando and St. Lucia
- What is your hobby/pastime outside rugby?**
Golf
- What is your most prized possession?**
My family
- If you won the National Lottery, what would be the first thing you would buy?**
A holiday then spend the fortnight working out what to do with the money
- What is the most dangerous thing that you have attempted?**
Riding the skycoaster in Ayia Napa Cyprus anybody been will know what I'm talking about
- Which person would you most like to meet?**
Sandra Bullock (Speed)
- Who do you think will win the forthcoming World Cup competition?**
Australia (If they don't pull out)

STATISTICALLY

THE CENTENARY SEASON FIXTURES

Date	Versus	Time	Score	Att	1	2	3	4	5
AUG									
20th	Castleford	A 3.30	L28-22	4341	Gibson	Ranson 1T	Topping	Abraham 1T	Myler
23rd	ST. HELENS	H 7.30	L18-44	4316	Gibson	Neal	Topping	Abraham 1T	Myler
27th	Warrington	A 3.00	L40-8	4064	Gibson	Belle	Atcheson	Abraham	Neal
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

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Topping 1T	Burns	Richards	Edwards	Temu	Green	Davidson	Hill	Parr	Gildart	McKinney 1T	Cowans

MEMORY MATCH

DON YATES LOOKS BACK AT A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

During the 100 years this game has been played there have been a number of permutations involving the League Championship. Since 1973 it has been a straight forward championship with each club playing every other club both home and away. But for many years there was an unwieldy single division when Clubs played only a limited number of the other clubs and the Championship ended in a play off between the leading contenders. The 'top four' play off proved a most satisfactory and popular finale to the season but on nine occasions the play off has involved no fewer than sixteen clubs and in 1965 the Championship was won by the club who finished that season in seventh position in the table. That club was Halifax who during the regular season lost 11 matches and so were rank outsiders to lift the title. Oldham, incidentally, ended that 1964-65 campaign in ninth position, visited Hull KR in the first round of the play off and lost 26-14. Halifax entertained Leeds and found the going tough but scored three late tries to run out winners by a flattering 28-11 margin. Under the rules which existed that year they then met the winners of the Wigan-Featherstone tie with the higher placed club having home advantage. Wigan completed a league double over Halifax that season so you can imagine the delight at Thrum Hall when news came through that Featherstone had won 15-8 at Central Park. Halifax registered a comfortable 31-6 home victory over Rovers in a fiery quarter final which saw three Featherstone men sent off.

The semi final at Castleford looked to be the end of the road for Halifax but up popped Oldhamer Terry Fogerty to spur on the Thrum Hallers to a tremendous revival and an eventual and eventful 26-18 victory. The final was staged at Station Road, Swinton and attracted a crowd of 20,776. St. Helens provided the opposition and they were firm favourites to win. They had ended the season top of the table and en route to the final and defeated Barrow 23-7 Hull KR 24-6 and Wakefield Trinity 10-5 all at Knowsley Road. The teams for the final lined up as follows: Halifax: Ronnie James, Duncan Jackson, Johnny Burnett, Alan Kellett, Johnny Freeman, Barry Robinson, Paul Daley, Ken Roberts, Dave Harrison, Jack Scroby Terry Fogerty, Colin Dixon and Charlie Renilson. St. Helens: Frank Barrow, Peter Harvey, Tom van Vollenhoven, Keith Northey, Len Killeen, Alex Murphy, Wilf Smith, John Temby (substitutes John Warlow), Bob Dagnall, Cliff Watson, Ray French, John Mantle and Doug Laughton. Saints lived up to their reputation and were the better side for long periods of this final. However, Halifax gave a fine all round team performance and played to their full potential. Skipper Johnny Burnett scored tries in each half at vital times and these were to prove decisive. Duncan Jackson scored the other Halifax try and the reliable Ronnie James tagged on three goals. Len Killeen scored all Saints' points with a try and two goals but Halifax had pulled off a shock 15-7 success to lift the title for the first time in 58 years.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB

The supporters club officials offer a warm welcome to our friends from Halifax and we look forward to a good game tonight. Don't forget membership fees are now due, join today and help us to help the club. Two forthcoming events for you to enter in your diaries are, first a car rally on Sunday 15th October 1995 and second a Halloween Dinner & Disco on Saturday 21st October 1995 there are limited tickets available for the dinner so contact Alice on 633 6780 or Sue on 681 3397. Alternatively you can ask any supporters club official at the match. Watch press for Both these events. For away match travel ring 665 1832 or ask at the small canteen on match days. At first team matches the canteen can only sell sweets and cold drinks but at Academy and Alliance matches we can sell our famous pies, soup, coffee, and tea. Pay us a visit and again help us to help the club. Thank you.

Alice Collinge

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

CALLING ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHY'EDS!

A warm welcome to you all tonight and here's for something different, as it was pointed out that my notes were boring I have decided to let one of the junior roughy'eds write them for me (actually the one who said they were boring) so here goes:

Hi, tonight I thought I would like to share some of my ideas with you all. We would have a meeting once a month or so where we could all get together and discuss future events such as parties and day trips etc, play some games and enjoy ourselves.

Secondly I thought if you could all bring a friend (who is new to rugby) along to the next home game it would help to boost the

crowds and help our club to glory once again. I hope you all enjoy tonight's game.

J.N. Beach

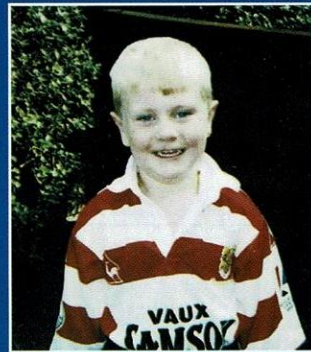
So there you go, if any one else feels that they can have a go don't hesitate to let me know and thanks to John.

The answer to last weeks question was Martin Crompton has recently had to choose whether to play for England or Ireland in International Rugby. The winner is John Rothwell congratulations.

This weeks question is From which team did Andy Goodway come when he recently rejoined Oldham?

Sue Collinge

MASCOT



The Mascot this time is 4 year old Michael John Collinge. Michael attends Stansfield Road Infant School and his favourite player is Darren Abram.

ACADEMY NEWS

WITH BRIAN GARTLAND

We kicked off our season with a draw away to Featherstone

18pts each this was a very marked improvement from our friendly defeat against St. Helens both on attack and defence we showed a big improvement but we still have a lot of hard work to do to cut out silly errors and making it hard work for ourselves. Our points came in the way of a Joe McNicholme try, Neil Melling try, Chris Wheeler try and 3 goals from Craig Baker one a penalty from just inside the opponents half. The pack



played really well with Chris McAndrew bringing Ward, Jones, Neil Melling and Danny Naulsy on to good passes from around ruck and Craig Barker who has been made captain leading backs in fine

style. I would also like to mention our prop forward David Collier who is also the brother in law of our first team hooker John Clark. David a Leeds lad is playing really well and I am sure when he gets fitter after having a bad knee injury he will be a great addition to our squad. On a final note the lads will be having track suits delivered in the next week or so. Thanks to our sponsors Peter Horton Textiles.

Brian Gartland
Coach

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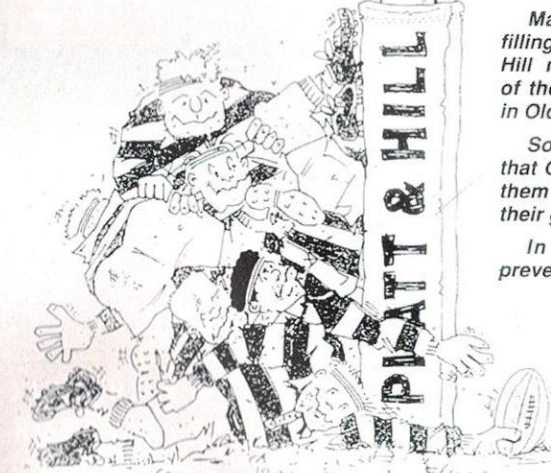
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