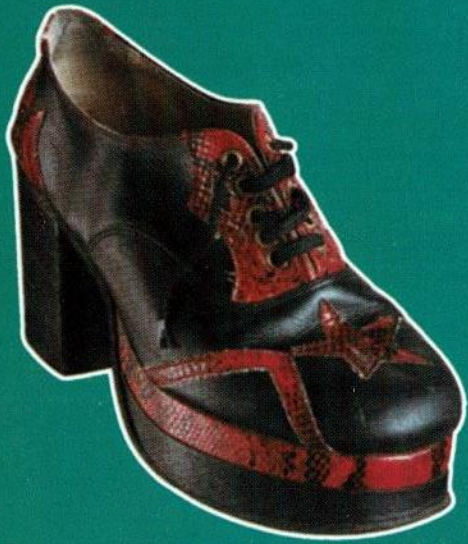
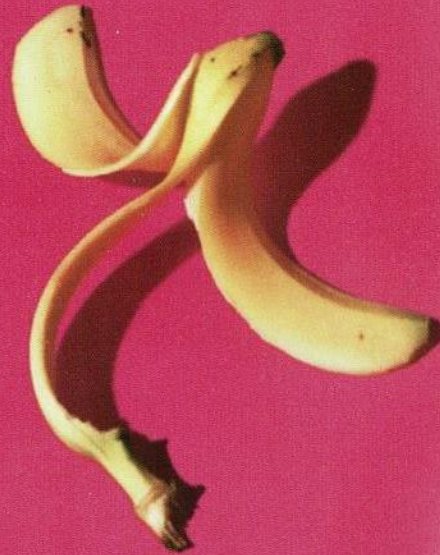


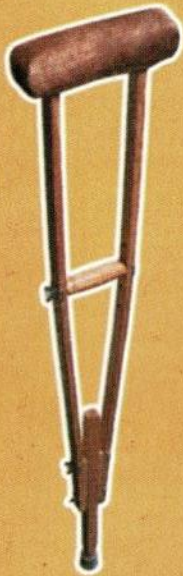
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SOMETHING NEW.



SOMETHING BORROWED.

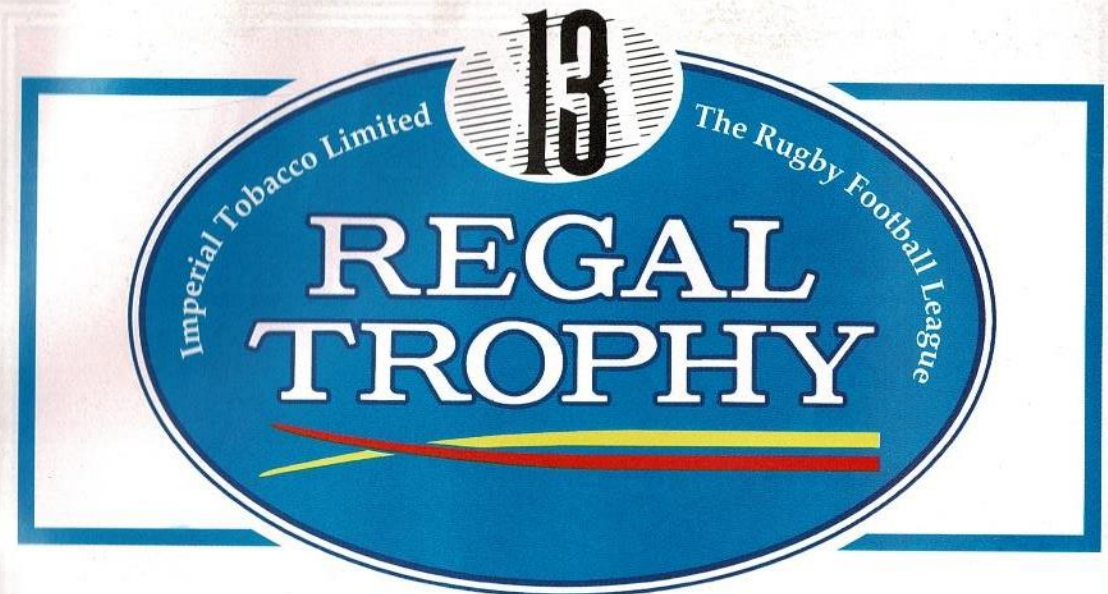


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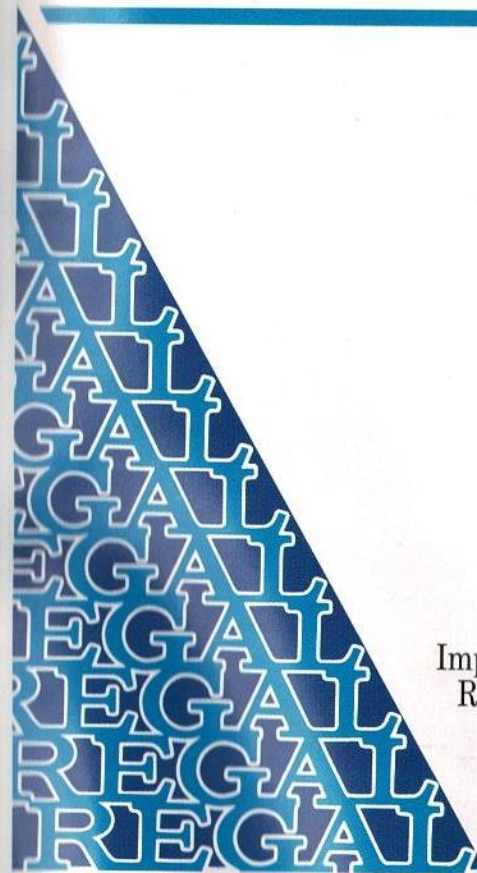
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WIDNES v. OLDHAM

2nd ROUND, SUNDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1995
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Opening SHOTS

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

ROLE REVERSAL

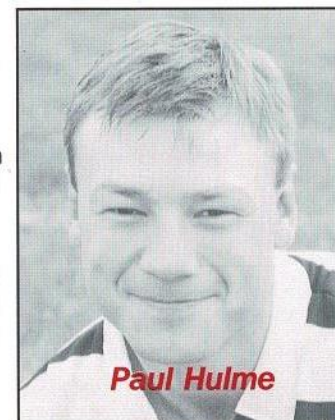
In the past cup competitions, and in particular the Regal Trophy, have sometimes been portrayed as an unwelcome diversion from the main business of the season, the Championship campaign. But ironically in this shortened season when we are told that final league positions will count for nothing (although we can do no more than attempt to top the division and see what transpires) it is perhaps the knockout competitions which carry more weight. Certainly it will be interesting to see how attendance figures compare today with the rather disappointing averages at league games so far this term.

FOUR POINTS

Two wins out of two since the World Cup have kept us very much in contention at the top of the table and it looks more and more like the games with

Salford and Keighley either side of New Year will determine our fate, although a couple of tricky away fixtures remain to be negotiated first.

The win against Hull ten days ago was perhaps a little close for comfort but we scored some excellent tries and at Rochdale, too, there were a number of spectacular scores. Paul Hulme played well in both



Paul Hulme

games, as did Paul Gartland. Stuart Spruce's return was a timely boost and Dave Ruane continues to impress. But perhaps the form player of the moment is Tony Thorniley whose try tally now stands at six from just four matches

played, having broken his tryscoring 'duck' for the club at Huddersfield. The former Warrington star is playing out of his skin at present and an interview with Tony appears on page 12 of this issue of Parklife

STADIUM NEWS

Also in this issue, Vice Chairman Tom Fleet has some encouraging news concerning the long awaited all-seater stadium. Turn to page 7 for more details.

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Editor STEVE FOX. Designed and produced by FRANK TOBIN and STEVE FOX.

Editorial JOHN POTTER, CHRIS MOORE, PAT CLUSKEY, ROGER HARRISON, STEVE ROBERTS & SIMON OWENS.

Photography STUART BOGG (Weekly News), MARTIN ROBSON, SIG KASATKIN, CHRIS MOORE,

DARRELL COOPER, LEAGUE EXPRESS.

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

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1919-20

Lancashire Cup Winners
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1979, 1980, 1991.

John Player Trophy Winners
1976, 1979, 1992.

Premiership Winners
1980, 1982, 1983,
1988, 1989, 1990.

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy Winners
1978

Charity Shield Winners
1988, 1989, 1990.

European & World Club
Champions
1989.

Laughton's LINES

“ morale in the squad is still high ”

games and we have to go out with that one

thought in mind whether we're playing the bottom team in the Second Division or the top side in the Super League. With all the press reports about the future of John Devereux and Adrian Hadley my phone hasn't stopped ringing recently with reporters calling me night and day, and they have also been on to me asking for my reaction to Jonathan Davies' move back to Wales in view of the fact that I was the coach who first brought him to Rugby League. It got to the stage where I just had to leave the Answerphone on to get a bit of peace and quiet! Mind you, I'm not the only one

whose been busy; I've tried a couple of times to speak to Jonathan but he's been a hard man to get hold of. People talk about the pros and cons of his decision but the simple fact of life nowadays is that sportsmen will go to wherever they can get the best deal and Jonathan has clearly got three or four seasons of Rugby Union left in him, so it was a sensible move for him to make. When all is said and done he's been a great success in Rugby League, and nobody can take that away from him.

I watched the Leeds v. Wigan game last week in my local and somebody asked me how many of the Leeds players I hadn't signed. "Only one" I said "and I
(continued p.7)

■ On the whole I was pleased with the performance at Rochdale last Sunday, although there were still one or two areas of concern. Hornets looked quite lively in the first twenty minutes but I was always confident that we had the beating of them. Not many sides will go there and win so comfortably and the two points we picked up keeps us on course for our aim of finishing top of the division. There have been one or two distractions off the field, as you will have read in the newspapers, but even so the morale in the squad is still very high. These players are a special lot, I can tell you, and I'm made up at the way they've got 'stuck in' during our last two games.

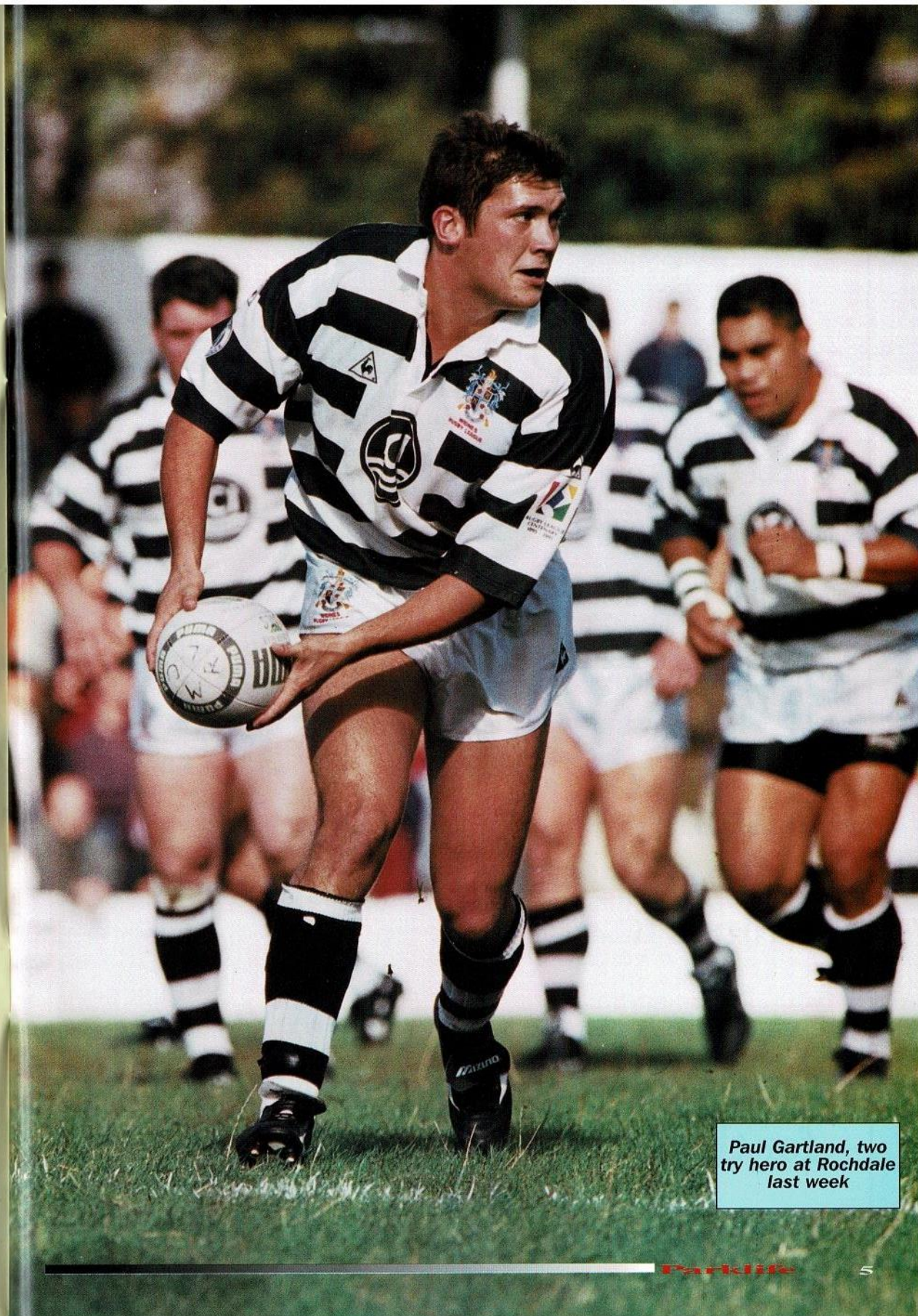
I suppose the fact that Oldham are a 'Super League' team will add a bit of extra spice to this afternoon's game but really the way we have to look at it is that it's our job to win football

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AND THE RUGBY LEAGUE



Paul Gartland, two try hero at Rochdale last week



“Wishing

Widnes RLFC

every Success

for the Season”

On Merseyside

LAUGHTON'S LINES

(continued from p.4)
bet they take him off in a minute” and sure enough they did! But although I was pleased for the Leeds boys and though I take my hat off to any team which manages to beat Wigan, that's as far as it goes. My loyalties are with Widnes and whatever happens at Headingley is irrelevant now in terms of the job I have to do here.

I mentioned in the last programme that I'd been signing up a number of youngsters and another promising kid has agreed terms this last week. We're not currently in a position to offer the same sort of deals that some other clubs can afford but it's encouraging that Widnes youngsters still want to come to Naughton Park - that's exactly the sort of spirit that the club has relied upon throughout it's history when times have been tough and the goodwill and support of the town is needed now more than ever.

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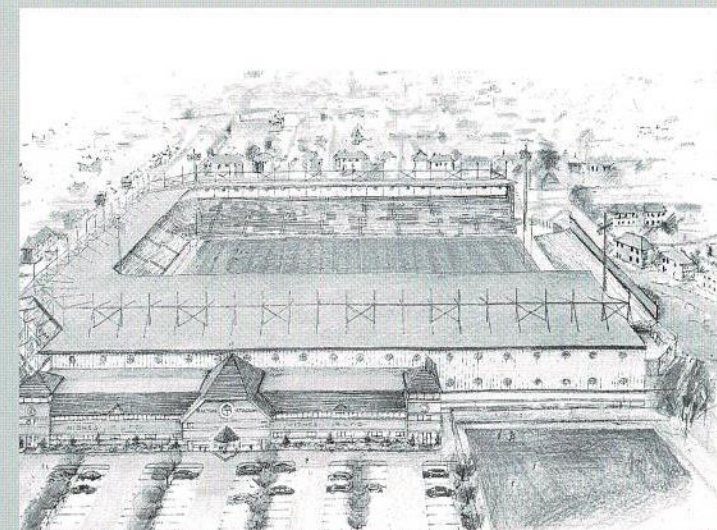
Stadium
UPDATE

Club Vice-Chairman, Tom Fleet, with news of recent developments concerning the Halton Community stadium.

The situation with the stadium is that we now finally have a deal that appears to be acceptable to all the parties involved. This has been achieved after many and lengthy discussions with the Council, legal and financial advisors and other interested parties. The timescale from here is very tight. We are expecting the Council to clear its final hurdle later this month, to have confirmation of the successful lottery bid at the

end of the year and to actually commence work on the ground in the first quarter of next year. In practical terms we can expect this to be immediately this short season ends. The whole project is now at a very exciting stage, and if, as both the Club and the Council hope, we are able to maintain the intended programme then in twelve to eighteen months time you will see a massive change at Naughton Park.

Tom Fleet



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■ I was lucky enough to go to a couple of sportsman's evenings last week, and, looking back, it really confirmed to me why I personally love the game of Rugby League.

The first one was a presentation night for Radio Merseyside's Sports Personality of the Year. It was, for the most part, a soccer night, with Joe Royle winning the award. Although there were a couple of good speakers, it all sounded just

"I'm not too fussed on melon dressed with olives and some kind of sickly sauce"

a little scripted and full of "football clichés", with more than one or two manufactured stories. (On top of all that I'm not too fussed on melon dressed with olives and some kind of sickly sauce.)

In contrast, the following night was a hotpot supper at

Taking the MIKE Steve Roberts of Radio Merseyside writes...

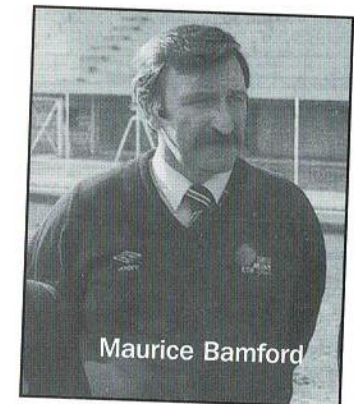
an evening organised by the newly formed Widnes Albion A.R.L.F.C. Amongst other speakers was the former GB

coach Maurice Bamford, who took us on a journey from his early days as an amateur, through his career at top clubs like Wigan and Leeds, his spell in

charge of the National team and then full circle to amateur club Lock Lane. It was greeted throughout with constant laughter and acknowledgement that, not only were they funny, but we also knew that the stories were true, confirmed by the passionate way that Maurice

told them. There was a good cross section of age groups at the evening, but the thing that struck me most was the way the younger lads enjoyed the talks about players they had never seen.

The game is moving into a brand new era, and rightly so; it must keep pace with the rest of modern sport if it is to survive. But for me, the thing which sets it apart is the way it can still keep in touch with its past with pride.



Maurice Bamford

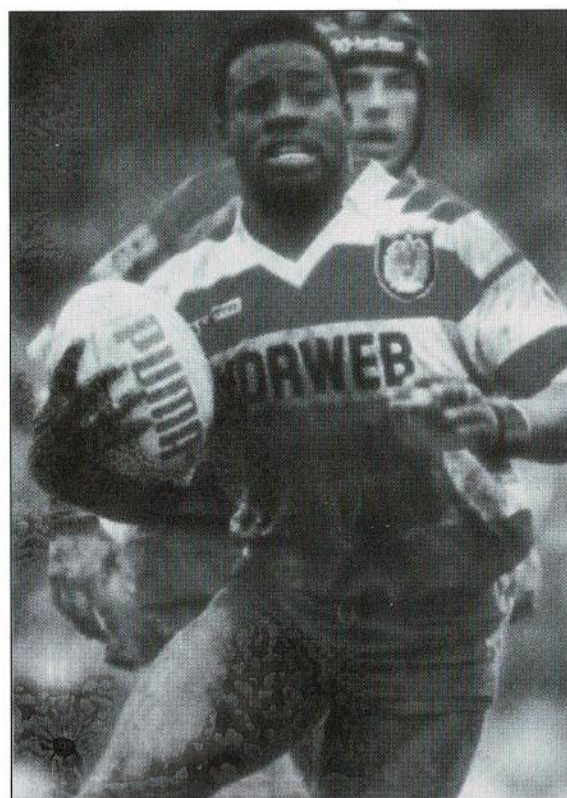
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RUGBY LEAGUE'S PATRON - A SYMBOL OF A NATION OR JUST WHAT INTERESTS HER?

The World Cup Final rounded off a wonderful festival of Rugby League with some style and class, albeit mostly from the Australians. This great sporting moment was a triumph for the sport in its centenary year, and a spur to national pride with the England side looking like world championship material, at least on paper.

How dissatisfying it is though that our game's patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was not at Wembley to represent our sport

TRAVEL AWAY WITH ALAN RAE

As Widnes do not have another home league match this month, the Supporters Club are taking bookings for coaches to the following fixtures:

Wakefield -

Wednesday 15th November
Dewsbury -

Sunday 19th November

For details see Alan Rae behind the main stand before today's game or at half-time, or call at Rae's shop, 9 Sunningdale Avenue, off Liverpool Road, Hough Green, Widnes, tel. (0151) 424 2524.

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and nation.

The monarch had previously presented the respective trophies in Association Football in 1966 and in Rugby Union in 1991, so why not at our showpiece? Was the Queen ill, or double booked? Or perhaps on the phone to one of her Commonwealth's leaders, or maybe someone from the RFU pretending to be Maurice Lindsay?

The Queen has shown her dislike for our region and its people in the past; remember her remarks about how dismal Manchester was, and her refusal to attend the commemorative service for the victims of the Hillsborough disaster. Such snubs have now been compounded by the fact that Prince Edward presented the trophy - only seventh in line to throne, and less likely to be king than I am to get a knighthood after this article. A sporting event of such national interest seems to be less important to the symbol of our nation than her own self-interest, for last weekend she found the time to see her horse Phantom Gold win at Newbury racecourse.

It is for these reasons that the RFL should reconsider its choice of patron, and also inspire our international players to victory with Land of Hope and Glory instead of the dreary "Where is our (Gracious?) Queen?" anthem.

The Editor (who still holds out hope of getting a Knighthood) would like to remind readers that the views expressed in the programme are not necessarily his own or those of the club.

Where was H.M. the Queen?

Widnes RLFC
SUPPORTERS CLUB

STAR TALK

Tony Thorniley

■ The Tony Thorniley fan club is certainly gathering momentum at the moment amongst the Naughton Park faithful since he forced his way into the team at Huddersfield recently, where his match winning try sealed a victory for the Black and Whites from an almost inevitable defeat. Since that game Tony has shown the kind of class that brought him to the Widnes Club last season from neighbours Warrington, only for injuries to curtail his progress in the first team for most of last year's campaign. Parklife spoke to Tony recently to find out a little more about the man and his rejuvenated career at Naughton Park.

"I didn't have the best of starts here at Widnes after being on the subs bench for the opening games last season. I damaged my Achilles tendon which required an operation and I was cleared to resume playing by Christmas but somehow I didn't seem to fit into the then coach Tony Myler plans despite the team not playing that well on occasions. In fact lack of first team opportunity was the reason why I decided to leave Warrington, despite playing a big part in the side for some four seasons, you do get disillusioned, it is only natural. So it was time to move on and I signed for Widnes although I did receive an offer from Sheffield Eagles. This season with a new coaching staff at the Club I decided to give it a go and

when I was given the chance against Huddersfield I grasped it with both hands and my form since then has been quite pleasing; obviously scoring a few tries along the way has helped to build the confidence that every player needs. I came into Rugby League quite late really by today's standards, I thought my world lay with the round ball code, I was on Liverpool F.C. books for awhile and although I was only sixteen I was playing in the open age bracket and they nearly clogged me to death bringing my footballing career to an abrupt end.

It was then that I joined Woolston Rovers and from there I signed for my hometown Club Warrington.

I feel our side is slowly starting to make its mark on the division; we should have beaten Keighley in the game here just before the enforced break for the World Cup, the lads know that it was our discipline that cost us the victory that day, we should know better, after all we are all professional players. The signing of Andy Platt was inspiring, Andy always leads by example and it certainly rubs off on the other players creating a confident side that can only get better and with the talent we have here at Widnes we could surprise a few sides along the way this season. I don't think Oldham, to-day's visitors, would have chosen to play Widnes at this stage of the competition, I really fancy our chances of turning them over this afternoon".



Tony Thorniley

Malcolm Lord

OF GMR RADIO



For a start, the day, and that means, indirectly, the sport, received royal approval with the attendance of His Royal Highness Prince Edward; that in itself is a major coup and will do wonders for our game's profile.

Secondly, the opening ceremony for the final was superb; the mini-rugby was well organised, the kiddies'

dancing well choreographed; the army, as always at this kind of event, was excellent. Add to these the appearances of a brass band, male voice choir, carnival parade and the brilliant Carol Decker and Status Quo, and it all made for splendid pre-match build-up.

The new initiative for me though, came when the Rugby Football League organised a staker! What a master stroke of entertainment. Some remarks heard in the press box included: "I wondered where the next two

“ what a master stroke of entertainment ”

points would come from”, and “We won't be distracted - we will continue to keep you abreast of the game”.

By the way, did you notice she had green shorts on, or were your eyes somewhere else?

■ FINALLY RIGHT!

I have been a critic of several aspects of the recent Halifax Centenary World Cup competition, but the recent final at Wembley went a long way to answering some of those points, and I am happy to acknowledge that we have finally got it right. Okay the game was disappointing, the result even more so, but the rest of the day was outstanding.

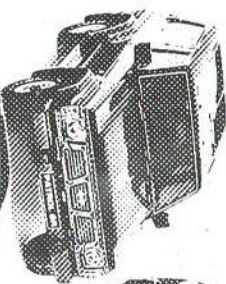




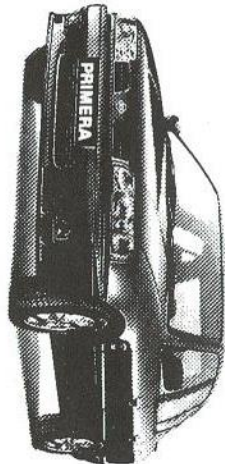
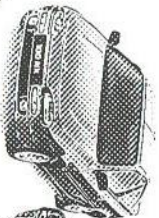
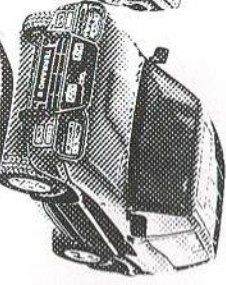
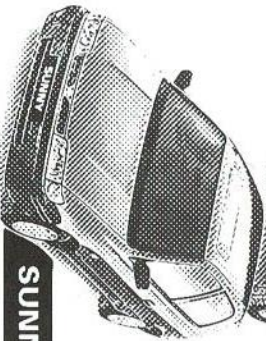
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OLDHAM.....

introducing:

■ HOWARD HILL
Outstanding young back row forward. Joined Oldham in July 1994 from the Hensingham junior club of Whitehaven. Has made steady progress in the Alliance team and is now breaking into the first team squad.

JASON TEMU
Hard running prop who has enjoyed a tremendous run of form during the past 18 months. A product of the Marist club in New Zealand, he joined the Counties-Manukau outfit for the NZ Lion Red Cup of 1994. Tomu was a revelation for Manukau in July 1991 he toured Australia with the New Zealand residents squad.

CHRIS PARR
Hard working prop. A product of the Wigan St. Patricks junior club who began his professional career with Huddersfield in 1990. Won Great Britain under 21 honours whilst at Fartown. Moved back over to this side of the Pennines in 1992 when he joined Swinton. Oldham signed him in October 1993.

GARY LORD
Experienced professional. A product of Stanley Rangers juniors (Castleford) who joined the senior Castleford club in 1984. Appeared at full back for Castleford at Wembley in 1986 but has since developed into a hard working second row forward. Was transferred to Leeds in 1988 and then on to Halifax in 1991 before joining Oldham during the summer of 1994 for £35,000.

FRANCIS MALONEY
Powerfully built stand off and

accurate positional kicker. A product of the St. John Fisher junior club (Dewsbury) who turned professional with Leeds in 1990. Moved to Featherstone Rovers in 1992 and won Great Britain Under 21 recognition whilst at Post Office Road. Moved to Warrington during the summer of 1994 but did not settle at Wilderspool so transferred to Oldham last May for £50,000. First team goal kicker at Watersheddings.

MARTIN CROMPTON
Scrum half captain and the orchestrator of most of Oldham's attacking play. A former Wigan St. Patricks junior who began his professional career with Warrington. Moved back to Wigan in July 1992 when he joined the senior Central Park outfit. Made his debut in the Charity Shield defeat against St. Helens at Gateshead when he was at scrum half. Also made a number of his 20 Wigan appearances at hooker before he moved to Oldham for a bargain £35,00 fee in September 1993.

DARREN ABRAM
Prolific try scoring centre who has been Oldham's top try scorer during the past two seasons. Has also been club top try scorer during his spells with Rochdale Hornets and Trafford Borough. A product of Thatto Heath juniors (St. Helens) who won BARLA international honours before turning professional with Warrington in 1985. Was with Borough when the club switched to Altrincham and changed name to Trafford Borough. Abram then had a spell with Rochdale Hornets before joining Oldham in

February 1993.

PAUL ATCHESON
Outstanding attacking full back and one of four Oldham players who have played here at Central Park. A product of Blackbrook juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Widnes in 1990. Moved here to Wigan in October 1992 and made his debut the following January in the 19-4 Regal Trophy semi-final victory over Hull. Made 62 appearances for Wigan before transferring to Oldham last May for £50,000. Whilst at Central Park represented Great Britain at academy and under 21 level and was a member of the Welsh team which lifted the European Championship earlier this year. Scored a try at a vital time in the 22-10 victory over France at Carcassonne. Versatile player who can play in any back position as well as the back row of the pack. Member of the Welsh World Cup squad.

WALLY GIBSON
Talented Australian full back or stand off whose unpredictability makes him a dangerous attacker. Played for the Tunncliffe club in Australia before joining Huddersfield in 1989. Became a firm favourite with the Fartown followers who were bitterly disappointed when he moved to Oldham in September 1992.

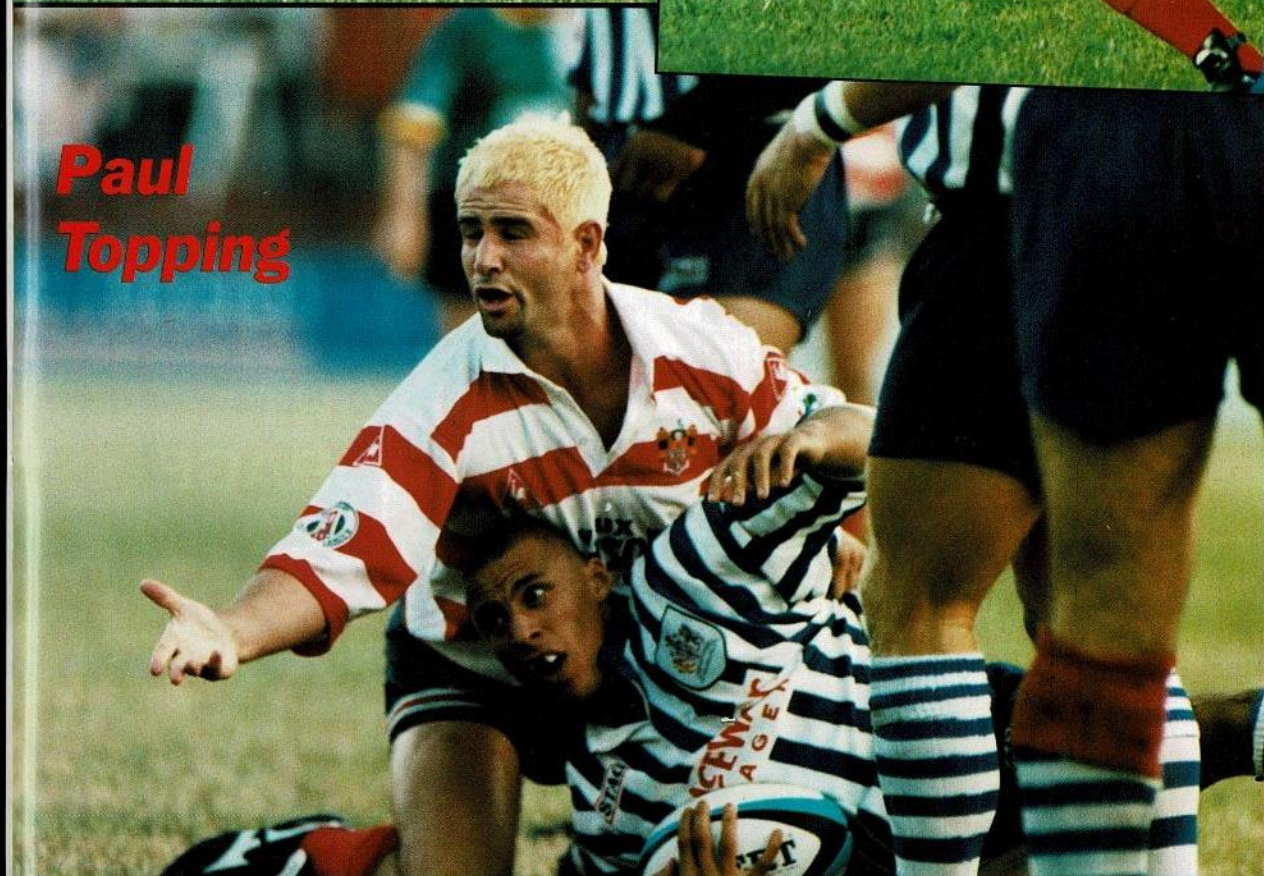
SCOTT RANSON
Fast and elusive winger. A product of Thatto Heath juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Swinton in 1987. Was top try scorer at Swinton during his last two seasons with the Lions, joined Oldham in February 1992.



Paul Atcheson



Martin Crompton



Paul Topping

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REGAL TROPHY

1995 - 1996

REGAL TROPHY SECOND ROUND

St Helens and Wigan have the current longest sequence of appearing in the last 16 of the Regal Trophy, neither having been knocked out of their first round stage since 1981-82.

It was then the John Player Trophy and Wigan lost 19-10 at Leeds, while St Helens drew 16-16 at home to Barrow before losing the replay 17-0.

Highfield have gone the longest without appearing in the last 16 although they have had first round victories over amateur opposition in the last three seasons, including this year.

Highfield were Runcorn Highfield when they last beat a senior side in the competition, winning 18-5 at home to Batley in the old first round of the then John Player Special Trophy.

Wigan, the holders, are aiming to set a new record of nine appearances in the final. They share the present record of eight finals at Widnes. Wigan also hold the record of winning the trophy seven times and are aiming for a record-extending fourth successive final. Their only final defeat was 33-2 against Castleford in 1993-94.

OTHER REGAL TROPHY RECORDS

Highest score: Huddersfield 142 v Blackpool Gladiators 4 1994-95
Also widest margin with: Barrow 138 v Nottingham City 0 1994-95
Biggest attendance: 25,326 Hull v Hull KR (at Hull City AFC) 1984-85

Individual

Most Tries: 9 by Greg Austin (Huddersfield) v Blackpool Gladiators 1994-95

Most Goals: 17 by Sammy Lloyd (Castleford) v Millom 1973-74
Darren Carter (Barrow) v Nottingham C 1994-95

Most Points: 43 (3t,17g) by Sammy Lloyd (Castleford) v Millom 1973-74

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SIMON SAYS...

■ I thoroughly enjoyed last week's game against Rochdale Hornets. It was a very entertaining game. The first half wasn't very pleasing from a Widnes point of view. Our first up defence was good, but we were constantly allowing Rochdale to get the ball away in the tackle. We didn't slide very well either, the result of this being that when Rochdale span the ball wide with pace, they had lots of room with which to work down the wings, and they sometimes found themselves with overlaps. We certainly can't allow that to happen this afternoon against 'Superleague' opposition. I also felt that our attack was fairly average at times in the first half, though the tries were amazing when they came. Christian Tyrer's one of those exciting players that displays at least one superb piece of individual brilliance a match.

The second half was a much-improved all round performance. The defence looked much more comfortable and the attack was simply breath-taking. The entertainment factor wasn't lost as Widnes ran in try after try, but Rochdale didn't lose hope, playing some fast football. (Incidentally, isn't it good to see former Chemic - Sean Alvarez - doing well with his new club?) Today's opponents, Oldham, should provide Widnes with some tough opposition. I'm a big fan in particular of centre Darren Abram, who I thought played well enough in the first half of the season to earn selection for the England World Cup Squad. Francis Maloney is a constant threat at stand-off and his half-back partner and Ireland international, Martin Crompton, can be inspirational on his day.

So, a good win for the 'Black and Whites' last week, but our lads mustn't rest on their laurels if they are to progress to the next round of the cup.

Simon Owens.

widnes YOUNG BULLS

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■ The Academy side have had mixed fortunes following the resumption of their season. A week last Monday they travelled to the Watersheddings where they defeated an in-form Oldham side 17 - 16. Centre Steve Boscoe landing a thirty - five yard drop -goal two minutes from time to give Widnes only their second victory of the season.

The game saw the return to action of hooker Gary Richardson who prompted and cajoled his forwards, with Steve Argent having a particularly outstanding game. Unfortunately they could not maintain this form last Monday evening when they travelled to Post Office Road to play Featherstone Rovers.

The home side opened the scoring with a penalty goal before Jamie Brown went over for the opening try goaled by Steve Boscoe. Rovers added a second penalty before Boscoe scored a superb try and added the conversion for good measure to give his side a 12-4 lead.

Two further penalty goals for Featherstone saw them cut the deficit to just four points and following the sin - binning of Chris Barlow they added two converted tries to lead 20 - 12. A third try just before the break left Widnes with twelve points to make up in the second half.

The game was effectively over as a contest three minutes into the second half when second row Andy

JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES

November			
20th	Halifax	A	7.30pm
25th	Keighley	H	2.30pm
December			
4th	Salford	A	7.30pm
9th	Hull KR	H	2.30pm
30th	Oldham	H	2.30pm
January			
8th	Rochdale	A	7.30pm

McDonnell was dismissed for an alleged high tackle and both Danny Myler and Chris Barlow sin - binned. 13 - 10 was no contest and in the next ten minutes Featherstone added three tries and a penalty goal to lead 44 - 12.

Despite their efforts, for the remainder of the game Widnes were unable to make any impression and two further Rovers tries plus one goal completed a sorry night for the Academy side.

Yesterday the Academy entertained Sheffield Eagles and it is to be hoped that they bounced back with a good performance.

During the enforced break due to the World Cup Widnes secured the signature of Academy centre Eddie Kilgannon as a professional player. A classy footballer, Eddie has put in some great displays this year when things have not been going well for the side and hopefully he will continue to both impress and progress.

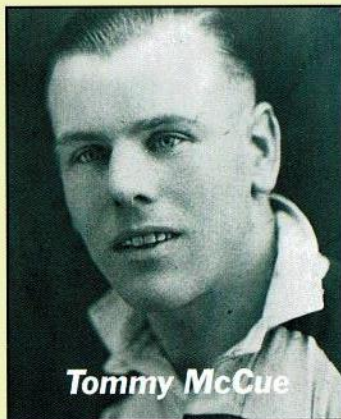
Centenary **MAGAZINE**

T' BEST IN T' NORTHERN UNION

In this extract from the RFL's Centenary Magazine (see page 31 for more details) Rugby League stalwart, **TIM HELEY**, the former BBC Radio commentator, presents a summary of 74 years of spectatorship . . .

"That game - it won't last six months." That was the verdict of my paternal grandad, a devotee of Rugby Union. Percy told me this. Percy was my Dad and he was Rugby League daft. Grandad almost chucked him out. If a fellow was better than good at anything competitive, Percy would say of him: "He's t' best in t' Northern Union." There was a ring of authenticity, of importance, about that term. It was years after the game changed its title before Dad would give it its proper name. I'd be about six when he took me on the tram to see York play Wakefield Trinity (that makes it 74 years ago). He lifted me over the railings and growled: "Sit theer an' sit still." I'd already been brainwashed into watching for Wakefield's number seven and I'd seen the sandwich board men out in the city that morning, proclaiming: "Parkin will play today at Clarence Street." Jonathan, a stocky little man with spikey hair and thighs thicker than Percy's waist (one reason he was so hard to tackle). He had everything. He knew everything. It was said the only referee he couldn't kid was The Rev. Frank Chambers. Even as a bairn I could see he was t' best in t' Northern Union. I was a bit scared as Trinity's Fred Smart and Ted Bateson pounded down their wings. The touchlines were so close to the railings but

Dad said this was alright. Flyers like Wigan's Johnny Ring and Alf Ellaby of St Helens seldom played well at York, he said. They were too 'flayed' of Jack Corsi up-ending them into the railings. It was different with our Nick Van Heerden and the other wingman, a big fellow called Hook. They were used to it. Jack Corsi, our centre, captain and tackler supreme, was one of four Corsican brothers - Josef, Louis and Angelo were the others - who came to Lancashire



Tommy McCue

to earn a living as club entertainers. They all emerged, however, as fine rugby players, variously with Rochdale Hornets, Oldham and - I believe - Leeds. They were refreshing characters and good for the game. Tom Webb once told me of Joe hitting the headlines at Watersheddings when he sidestepped a straying police horse on his way to the corner for a cup-tie try. I was fired as a youngster by those monumental kicking duels between the full backs. I watched Charlie Pollard, who kicked like a horse, trying to outdo York's Ted Owen while our policemen forwards Fred Mirfield and Joe Betteridge had a rest and it was thrilling. Wigan's Martin Ryan changed all that with his brilliant attacking style and it is great, now, to see a Steadman or

a Tait joining the line and legging it for the opposition posts. But I think the game lost something when those towering kicking duels went into limbo. You were unlucky if you didn't see immortal Jim Sullivan, "Gentleman" Jack Walkington, Warrington's Billy Holding, Lewis, of Cas', Rochdale's Walter Gowers, Jim Brough, of Leeds, or guardsman Tom Rees, from Oldham, trying to hoof each other out of sight.

When I look through Ken Dalby's splendid books about Headingley I muse over the stiff, clumsy boots worn by Mel Rosser, Joe Thompson, Ginger Thomas and the rest and wonder how they could run in such clodhoppers. And Jonty's long white shorts, held up with string and looking like bloomers. How different they are now in their light, cutaway boots and designer shorts, looking much more like the representatives of the greatest game on earth. But I'd still like to see those immaculate Boulevard jerseys, York's wasp-like turnout and the neat, sparkling blue and white of Halifax without all those sponsorship trappings. But, with higher wages and lower gates, the money's got to come from somewhere.

Those crowds by the way. I wonder that the cynics thought as the game took off, in the '20s, '30s and '40s. I was at Belle Vue in March 1936, when Leeds played Huddersfield in the Challenge Cup semi-final and set up Trinity's ground record of 37,906 paying £2,456. Later, 98,000 at Wembley for Cas' v Wigan. And, even more memorably, 102,569 for the Warrington-Halifax Odsal replay . . . not to mention the thousands who got in for nowt when the corrugated sheeting collapsed. The game that wouldn't last six months had come to stay!

Do you remember those half back

pairings? Most clubs had one. They were there every Saturday. We'd never heard of hamstrings. They left their knocks on the pitch. A faceful of icy water from the sponge of York's Tom "Lincoln" Goulding was enough to keep 'em on the pitch for their three quid. Fairclough and Groves, of Saints; Shannon and McCue, of Widnes; Hunslet's Todd and Thornton; Swinton's Billo Rees and Bryn Evans; Jenkins and Watkins of Lance Todd's Red Devils. And, if you're too young for that lot, how about Halifax's Dean and Keilty, Wigan's Mountford and Bradshaw, Castleford's Hardisty and "Heppy" and York's Robinson and Riley? What legacy of memories these fine men have left for us.

I can't leave it without a bit of humour. Partisanship without malice. It was said of loveable whistler, the late Mick Naughton, that he's taken a bit of stick at Wakefield. As they trooped off, an old man was waiting at the tunnel. He was wearing a cloth cap and steel-rimmed glasses. As Mick approached, he waved the specs and shouted: "Ere tha art, Naughton. Thar needs these more nor me. Tha's as blinned as a bat".

Mick just smiled, walked on, had his bath, changed and went for a drink. The barman handed him a pint and said: "It's paid for, ref. Yond owd chap in t' corner wi' t' cap". Mick walked over, raised his glass and said: "Good health, Dad. I didn't think you liked me". "Ah didn't at t' time," the old man said. "Ah thowt we'd bloody lost". I can't leave it without naming a few who have done so much for Rugby League. The late Joseph Platt, John Wilson and Bill Fallowfield, plus David Oxley and David Howes and current incumbant Maurice Lindsay, are the only supremos the game had in almost a hundred years and that must speak for itself. Few upheld the prestige of referees more than the late George Phillips, of Widnes. My first gentleman of rugby has always been Trevor Foster, Welsh player and ambassador supreme. No coach has impressed me more with his honesty, integrity and know-how than Peter Fox. His amazing brother, Neil, graced the game with his scoring feats in three decades. And the man I've enjoyed watching best of all - an opinion shared by hundreds I've known - is Lewis Jones.

When I first heard The Rev. Frank Chambers broadcasting the final from Wembley, I said at teatime: "I'm going to do that, some day". My Dad said: "Tha'll 'ave to shape thysen different." When I protested, he barked: "Aye, go on then. Thee go be a commentator. Now get thi tea, an shurrup." When, in 1971, I walked into that hallowed place at Wembley, to join colleagues Peter Ward and Keith Macklin for a share in Leeds versus Leigh, I sat down where The Rev. Chambers had sat, looked up into the sky above the stadium and choked: "Nah then Dad. What did I tell thee?" My later years in Rugby League have been bountiful. I've met and chatted with all my boyhood heroes. My genial and rugby-loving M.P. - David Hinchliffe - gives me a kind word when I see him. I still get a nod and a noggin when I go to Belle Vue. I can expect no more from the greatest game on earth. If any fellow, anywhere, has happier memories of the Rugby League than I have, I'd like to take his hand and say: "Lad, tha's t' luckiest fellow in t' Northern Union".

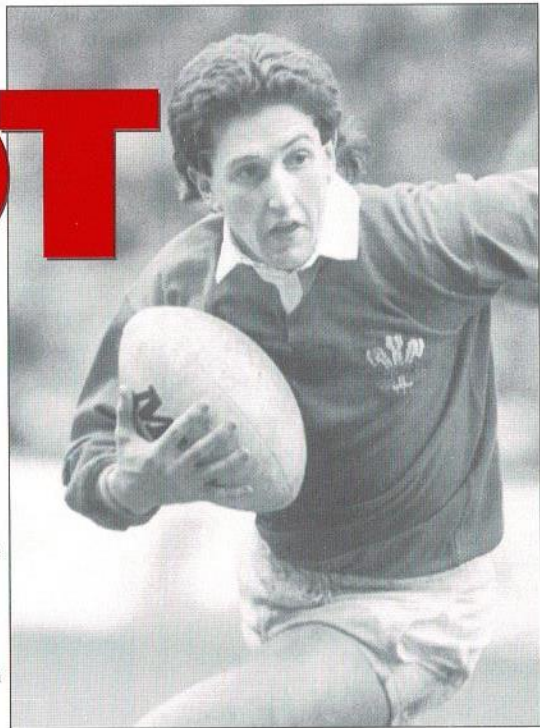
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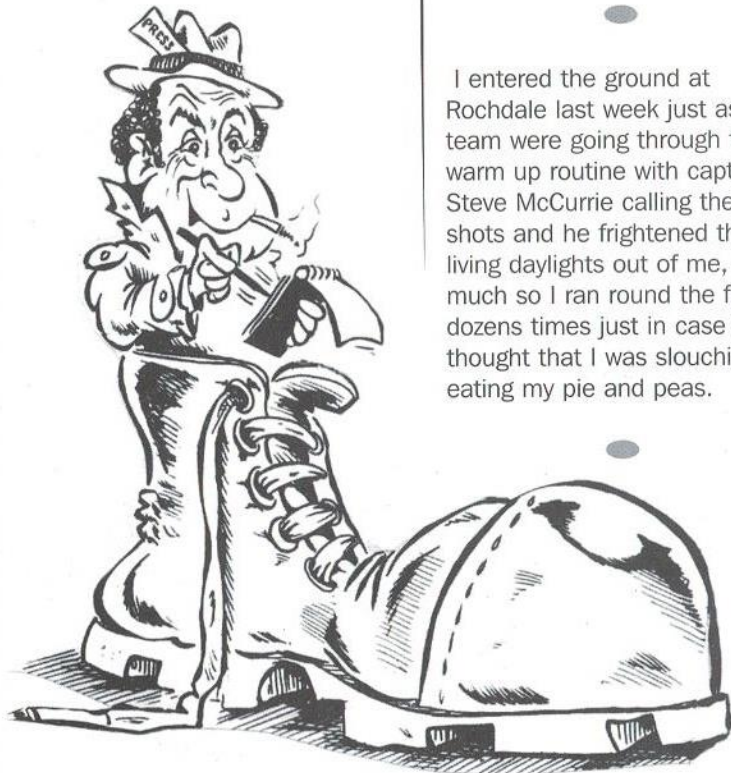
■ I thought we played very well at Spotland Road last week against a Rochdale side who started the game very confidently on the strength of a convincing win at Featherstone in mid-week, it was a good team performance with everybody contributing to a splendid victory.

I entered the ground at Rochdale last week just as the team were going through there warm up routine with captain Steve McCurrie calling the shots and he frightened the living daylight out of me, so much so I ran round the field a dozens times just in case he thought that I was slouching eating my pie and peas.



It was inevitable that our former hero Jonathan Davies would revert back to rugby union once the barrier was lifted between the two codes, in a way you can't really blame Jonathan for taking the silly cash that Cardiff have offered him. His debut for the Welsh Club was described as "quiet" throughout the media, my friends from the Wire were not surprised, "at least he is consistent" was the remark they agreed upon. (You're not supposed to admit to having any friends from Warrington. Ed.)

Jiffy would certainly have felt at home in his new surroundings; according to the Independent Cardiff RU club are one million pounds in debt, and their



players have already complained to their coach about JD having waltzed straight into the starting line-up and no doubt a few envious eyes have been cast in the direction of his pay packet! The one difference he will find upon his return to the valleys is that he won't have to put up with any more of those pathetic 'sheep' jokes from the terraces.

Wonderful to see Stuart Spruce back on the field wearing the famous Black and White jersey once again, once the match fitness returns Stuart I feel will be a force to be reckoned within the game once again.

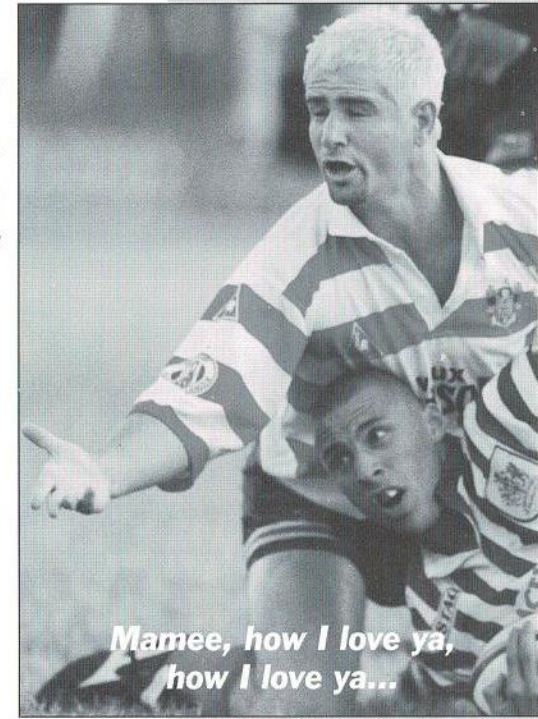
While the editor wasn't looking the other day I managed to pinch a copy of a photo destined for the 'Introducing Oldham' page of this programme. It showed the

Roughyeds Irish international Paul Topping apparently auditioning for a place in Take That, or perhaps even for a movie role of Al Jolson. They do say that they like to belt out a tune in the Emerald Isle.

I see that Andy Goodway has said he'd be 'interested' in the coaching post at Paris if it was offered to him, and who can blame the guy.

I've still got hopes that the job might come my way to which end I've been brushing up on my 'O' Level French (failed). If the Paris players need to know anything about the goings on of Monsieur and Madame

Bertillon from my text book, then I'm their man. And if a troublesome prop forward stormed into my office demanding "ou est le stylo?" I'd answer with confidence "le stylo est sur la table!"



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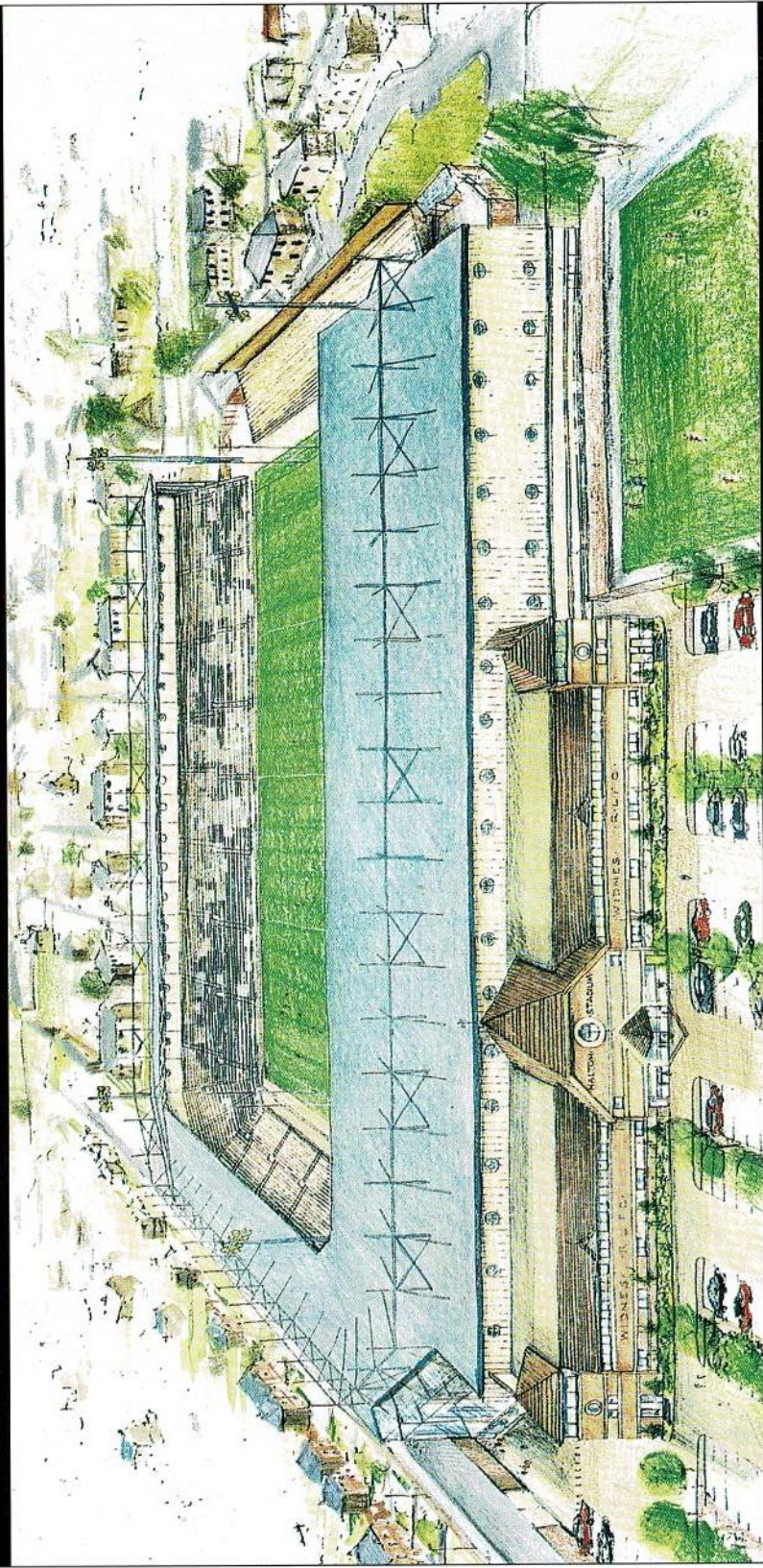
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AUGUST															
20 DEWSBURY	H 3.00	Broadbent Devereux	PECHEY	Wright	HADLEY 2,G6	D. Ruane	Kelly	Makin	GARTLAND	Hansen	Collier	Myler	McCURRIE	ASHTON 3	HARRIS
23 WAKEFIELD	H 7.30	Broadbent DEVEREUX	Pechey	Wright	Hadley G4	D. Ruane	D. Hulme	Makin	GARTLAND	Hansen	Myler	PHULME	McCURRIE	Harris	Collier
27 Salford	A 3.00	Broadbent Devereux	Pechey	Wright	Hadley	Ashton	D. Hulme	Makin	GARTLAND	Hansen	PHULME	Collier	McCurrie	D. Ruane	Myler
SEPTEMBER															
3 WHITEHAVEN	H 3.00	D. Ruane	Devereux	Pechey	Wright	Hadley G4	Cooper	Makin	Gartland	Hansen	PHULME	McCURRIE	D. HULME 3	Myler	Collier
17 Featherstone	A 3.30	D. Ruane	DEVEREUX	PECHEY	WRIGHT	Hadley G7	COOPER	Platt	Gartland	Hansen	PHULME	McCurrie	D. Hulme	Makin	Plowman
20 BATLEY	H 7.30	D. Ruane	DEVEREUX	Pechey	Wright	Hadley G5	TYRER	Cooper	Gartland	Hansen	PHULME	McCURRIE	D. HULME 2	Makin	PLOWMAN
23 Huddersfield	A 3.00	D. Ruane	DEVEREUX	THORNILEY 2	WRIGHT	HADLEY G5	Tyrer	Cooper	Gartland	Hansen	PHULME	McCurrie	D. Hulme	Makin	Plowman
OCTOBER															
1 KEIGHLEY	H 3.00	D. Ruane	Devereux	Thorniley	Wright	Green	Tyrer	D. Hulme	Platt	GARTLAND G4	Hansen	PHULME	Plowman	McCURRIE	Collier
NOVEMBER															
1 HULL	H 7.30	D. RUANE	Green	THORNILEY 2	Wright	SPRUCE	Tyrer G5	Cooper	Makin	Gartland G	Hansen	PHULME	McCurrie	D. Hulme	Collier
5 Rochdale	A 3.00	D. Ruane	Devereux	THORNILEY 2	Wright	Spruce	TYRER G5	COOPER	Platt	GARTLAND 2	Makin	PHULME	McCurrie	D. Hulme	Collier
12 OLDHAM (RT1)	H 3.00														
15 Wakefield	A 7.30														
19 Dewsbury	A 7.30														
DECEMBER															
3 FEATHERSTONE	H 3.00														
10 Batley	A 3.15														
17 HUDDERSFIELD	H 3.00														
26 SALFORD	H 3.00														
31 Whitehaven	A 7.30														
JANUARY															
7 Keighley	A 3.15														
14 Hull	A 3.15														
21 ROCHDALE	H 3.00														

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 26 Regal Trophy Round 3
 December 10 Regal Trophy Round 4
 December 30 Regal Trophy Semi-Final 1
 January 6 Regal Trophy Semi-Final 2
 January 13 Regal Trophy Final
 January 27 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Round 1

Try Scorers in CAPITALS, substitutes, if used, in **bold type**.

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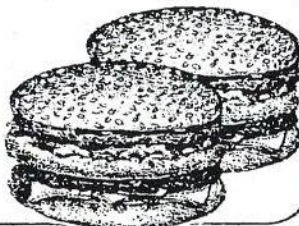
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PAUL LOUGHLIN of St Helens scored his 2,000th career point for the club with a try in the 50-34 Stones Bitter Centenary Championship away win against London Broncos.

GARRY SCHOFIELD of Leeds scored the 300th try of his career with one in the 23-11 Stones Bitter Centenary Championship home defeat of Wigan.

- TOP TEN TRYSCORERS**
1. Anthony Sullivan St Helens 17
 2. Martin Offiah Wigan 13
 - Simon Ashcroft Swinton 13
 4. David Plango Hull KR 12
 5. Glyn Davies Leigh 10
 - Paul Newlove Bradford B 10
 9. Va'alga Tulgamala Wigan 9
 - John Bentley Halifax 9
 - Nathan McAvoy Salford 9
 - Roy Robinson Barrow 9
 - Damien Pickles Bramley 9
- TOP TEN GOALS (Including Drop Goals)**
1. Andrew Farrell Wigan 79
 2. Bobbie Goulding St Helens 69
 3. Simon Irving Kelghley C 52
 4. Mike Fletcher Hull KR 51
 5. Paul Cook Leeds 50
 6. Steve McNamara Hull 50
 7. Willie Richardson Carlisle 49
 8. John Schuster Halifax 43
 9. Jonathan Davies Warrington 43
 10. Andy Precious York 38

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TODAY'S REGAL TROPHY TIES

WIGAN	-V	WHITEHAVEN
DEWSBURY	-V	BARROW
WIDNES	-V	OLDHAM
HUDDERSFIELD	-V	FEATHERSTONE
LONDON B	-V	HIGHFIELD
LEEDS	-V	SALFORD
BRAMLEY	V	HUNSLET HAWKS
HULL K.R.	-V	ROCHDALE H
BATLEY	-V	WAKEFIELD T
CHORLEY	-V	WARRINGTON
BRADFORD BULLS	-V	SHEFFIELD E
HULL	-V	YORK
HALIFAX	-V	SWINTON
CARLISLE	-V	CASTLEFORD

Likely LADS

ALLIANCE UPDATE

■ The four week lay - off for Widnes side did little to help their championship aspirations as they crashed at home to lowly York last week. Having won the away fixture by 40 points Widnes must have thought that two league points were assured, York having only achieved one victory prior to the match.

However the York side contained several first team players as they had no fixture that weekend, but despite this Widnes had only themselves to blame for not taking the points.

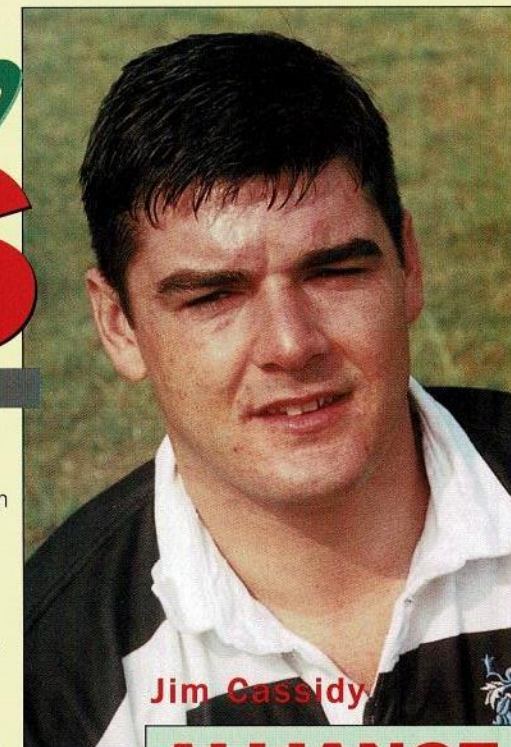
They trailed 16 - 10 at the interval, their points coming from a try from the trialist hooker, who also took the man - of- the - match award and Lee Ashton coming on as a substitute for Lee Davidson, Ashton making his first appearance since fracturing his skull at Leigh in September. Wes Rogers added one goal. Early in the second - half Widnes had a glut of penalties in the York

half and eventually the pressure told as first lan Carden and then paul Harris touched down, another Rogers goal putting the home side 20 - 16 ahead.

York levelled the scores with fifteen minutes remaining when Widnes were reduced to twelve men, lan Carden suffering a blow to the jaw which saw him unable to continue, and with both Lee Davidson and Mike O'Neill first half injury victims unable to appear, Widnes were always going to struggle.

York added two further tries in the closing stages which also saw flare up close to the Widnes line and Jim Cassidy and the York prop forward both receiving their marching orders.

On Thursday last Widnes travelled to table-toppers Halifax looking to re-establish themselves as Championship material.



Jim Cassidy

ALLIANCE FIXTURES

NOVEMBER

16th	Keighley	H	7.30pm
23rd	Wakefield	A	7.30pm
30th	Featherstone	A	7.30pm

DECEMBER

9th	Workington	H	2.30pm
14th	Hull KR	A	7.30pm
28th	Leigh	H	7.30pm

JANUARY

6th	Workington	A	2.30pm
11th	Sheffield	A	7.30pm
18th	Wakefield	H	7.30pm



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You Know When You've Earned It



Stones. Rugby League Champions from 1986.

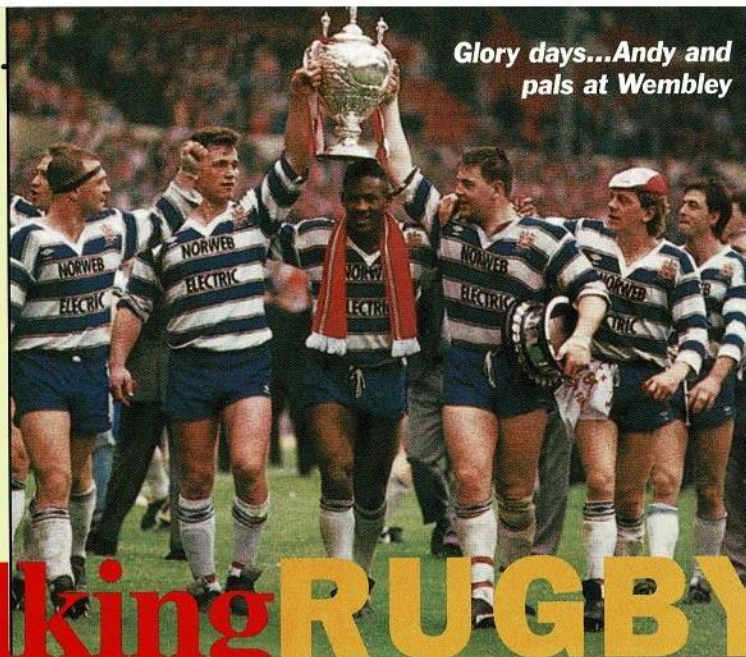
Following a distinguished playing career that saw him collect almost every honour that the game has to offer, Oldham coach Andy Goodway, has wasted no time in establishing himself as one of the new breed of British coaches, gaining praise from many quarters not least England coach Phil Larder who appointed him as a key member of his back room staff for the recent World Cup campaign.

We caught up with Andy following his side's somewhat disappointing defeat last week at the hands of Sheffield Eagles, for an exclusive interview.

"The main problem at the Watersheddings at the moment is the injury situation" he told us. "I've currently got eleven of my first choice squad out with various injuries, nine of them long term. We're in a bit of a strange situation at the moment.

"I made my views known at the start of the season and received some criticism for fielding some of the youngsters in the squad. Now I've been playing my top line players and I'm crippled with injuries.

"Things have been a bit difficult for me personally with my involvement in the World Cup. It was a really enjoyable experience and it was great to be involved with the lads over a four or five week period. Of course the end result didn't go quite as



Glory days...Andy and pals at Wembley

Talking RUGBY with Andy Goodway

we had all planned but never the less the experience will stand everyone in good stead for the future. It was difficult keeping things together back at Oldham whilst so much of my attention was required

“it's my intention to make sure that Oldham are right up there challenging with the best”

elsewhere but as I've said the main problem for me at the moment is trying to get my first choice team out on the paddock.”

What does he expect of this afternoon's game?, we wondered. "Obviously today will be a chance for Widnes to demonstrate to everyone that they should be in the Super League" said Andy "and for what it's worth, I feel that they have been hard done to. It seems wrong that a side that has such a long standing reputation in the game should not be directly involved in Super League.

"The four week lay off has done some teams more good than others. It's easy to see those sides that have been well coached. All in all the further looks bright. With Super League just around the corner the competition will never have been so intense and it's my intention to make sure that Oldham are right up there challenging with the best for the honours."



RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENARY 1895 - 1995



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Laporte is a founder member of the Institute for Citizenship Studies and is pleased to be a sponsor of the recently launched community initiative, "People Count in Halton".



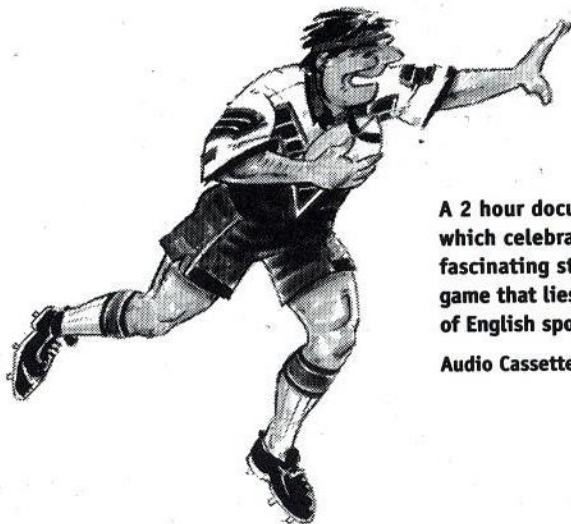
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The programme tells the story of the Rugby League, a game which has been played for a century and is at the heart of our sporting culture. It includes archive recordings of the great moments in the game's history, interviews with past players, historians, coaches and current players. It also combines action, music, reminiscences, entertainment and some straight talking.



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TACKLING: A DYING ART?

■ The Kidscene reporters see a lot of junior rugby league, and a disturbing trend seems to be showing through in most of their reports of matches...

..that of a general fall in the standards of tackling.

Until recently the same group of reporters would invariably be impressed by the tackling abilities of the young boys in our schools and clubs. So what is going

wrong? Certainly there is something wrong when it is reported that even our top junior sides

eg. The Town Teams are showing great weaknesses in the tackling department. Could all this have something to do with the so-called "ten metre" rule? There is no doubt that

ten metres is a long way for youngsters to have to retire, and then set themselves for the tackle.

Add to this the fact that our youngsters are getting used to watching many professional games

that are almost "tick and pass" (perhaps also because of the ten metre rule), and are therefore

being set the wrong example. It is true that we are not seeing very many tackles "low down" any more, and this is now very obvious in the junior game.

SO LET'S GET BACK TO IT ALL YOU KIDS! YOU WILL FIND THAT IF YOUR TACKLING IMPROVES, YOU WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL. YOU WILL WIN MORE

GAMES. WE KNOW IT'S HARD TO GO SO FAR BACK, BUT DO YOUR BEST AND

REMEMBER WHAT YOU USE TO TACKLENOT JUST YOUR HANDS, BUT

YOUR EYES, YOUR SHOULDER, YOUR ARMS AND YOUR LEGS.

.....Eye on the target, shoulder into the target, arms round, drive with your legs. GOOD LUCK, AND WRITE

TO US IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A GOOD TACKLE, OR IF YOU SEE ONE. SEND US A PHOTO OF THE PERSON INVOLVED. SO GET TACKLING!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the following boys from Widnes who have been selected for SOUTH LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS for matches against Humberside and North Lancashire.

Under 16:
STUART YATES, LEE CONNOLLY, JOHN STANKEVITCH

Under 13:
STEPHEN HUNT, PHILIP SHAW, VINCENT MYLER
CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN, CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN, ALISTAIR COOK, GARETH MORTON
MATTHEW FARRELL NICHOLAS DORAN

Under 11:
JAMES DURBIN, STEPHEN DEAN, ASHLEY WATMORE, KARL O' DOHERTY, RYAN CRANK
ADAM JONES

All the above boys will be trying to go further into the full Lancashire Schools squad. We will keep you informed of their progress, and of our other Under 16 representatives who had not been notified as we went to press.

NEW KITS: Pictured are the Widnes Schools under 13 squad in their new kit sponsored by PRESCOTT TRANSPORT SERVICES. Nick Prescott from the firm is with the boys shortly after their Lancashire Cup Final appearance. The south Lancashire boys are included in the photograph.



KIDSCENE