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- 4 DARREN ABRAM
- 5 WALLY GIBSON
- 6 FRANCIS MALONEY
- 7 MARTIN CROMPTON
- 8 CRAIG RICHARDS
- 9 IYAN GREEN
- 10 JASON TEMU
- 11 IAN GILDART
- 12 DAVID BRADBURY
- 13 HOWARD HILL
- 14 TBA
- 15 TBA
- 16 TBA
- 17 TBA

WIGAN RLFC

- 1 KRIS RADLINSKI
- 2 JASON ROBINSON
- 3 VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA
- 4 GARY CONNOLLY
- 5 MARTIN OFFIAH
- 6 HENRY PAUL
- 7 SHAUN EDWARDS
- 8 KELVIN SKERRETT
- 9 MARTIN HALL
- 10 TERRY O'CONNOR
- 11 SCOTT QUINNELL
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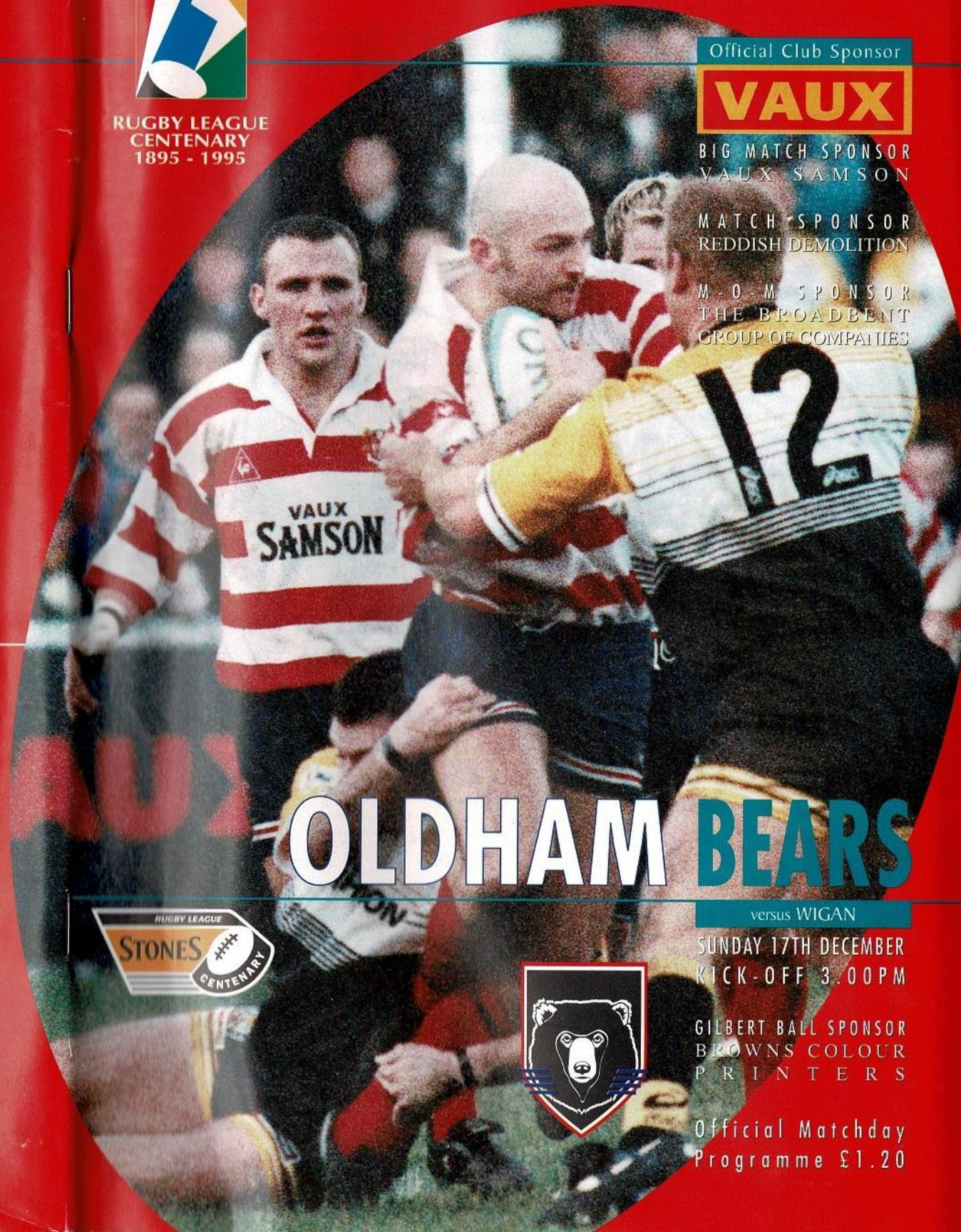
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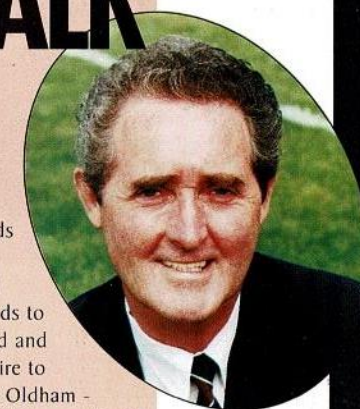
**Rugby League Championship
 Play-off Winners**
 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
Runners Up
 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09,
 1921-22, 1954-55
First Division Champions
 1904-05
Second Division Champions
 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88
**Rugby League Challenge
 Cup Winners**
 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners Up
 1906-07, 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:
 Fee Paid:** £70,000 to Halifax for
 Tony Anderson
 March 1990
**Record Try:
 Scorer:** Ref Farrar, 49 Tries,
 1921-22 season
**Record Goal:
 Scorer:** Bernard Ganley,
 224 goals, 1957-58
 season
**Record Point:
 Scorer:** Bernard Ganley,
 28 points v
 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 Jack Hirst 233
Most Tries: Since 1900
 Alan Davies 182

BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN



WE give a warm Watersheddings welcome today to Wigan, the best club side in the world, and thank them for their courtesy in agreeing to swap our opening Super League fixture from Central Park to a ground of our choice. Wigan have been extremely co-operative in this matter and their decision to reverse the fixture enables us to kick-off our Super League programme on March 31 against a glamour side on a big stage at Boundary Park. In view of our proposed move to a new ground at Westwood in 1997, today's match could be the last Oldham versus Wigan encounter to be staged on this famous old ground, so it's a big welcome today to Jack Robinson, David Bradshaw and everyone else from the Wigan club and let's all hope for a game to fit this nostalgic occasion. I enjoyed the pleasure of David's company at the Super League meeting in Los Angeles and, believe me, that was an eye-opener if ever there was one. The one main theme that struck me was the sheer size, magnitude and potential of Super League, which will have a world-wide TV audience of 750,000,000 people across the globe. Those clubs fortunate enough to be in Super League will be lifted to new heights and new horizons and here at

Oldham we must first acknowledge that we will be playing in a new arena with the world's best and then do all in our power to grasp the opportunity with both hands. We made some important decisions two or three weeks ago when we re-signed Andy Goodway as coach, brought Tony Louka over from Australia to do the fitness conditioning and appointed David Hughes, the former captain of Lancashire County Cricket Club, as our marketing and media manager. I would like to take this opportunity of offering a warm welcome to Tony and David and wishing them well in their efforts, together with those of Andy and the rest of the coaching, commercial and administrative staff, to elevate this club to a position in which it will hold its own among the world's elite. We have since taken the decision to play at least six of our eleven Super League home games in 1996 at Boundary Park, with the possibility also of using Manchester City's Maine Road ground. There are several reasons for this: the over-riding desire to provide supporters with comfort and value-for-money facilities, the need for additional corporate hospitality facilities, the necessity to meet the requirements of

Super League and its demands for general standards to be lifted and the desire to present Oldham - club AND town - in the best possible light. With the best will in the world, one has to accept that Watersheddings cannot meet any of those pre-requisites for Super League status. We are on the threshold of an exciting new dawn for Rugby League in Oldham. We must rise to the challenge in the hope that the town and its people will back us every inch of the way. In conclusion may I express the sincere condolences and sympathies of the board, staff and supporters to the families of Danny Navesey and Stephen Charlesworth, the two 18-year-old players who were tragically killed as the result of an accident on the M62. Also, to the family of the late Fred Hall snr, a great friend of the Oldham club and a tireless worker for the game in Oldham for most of his life.



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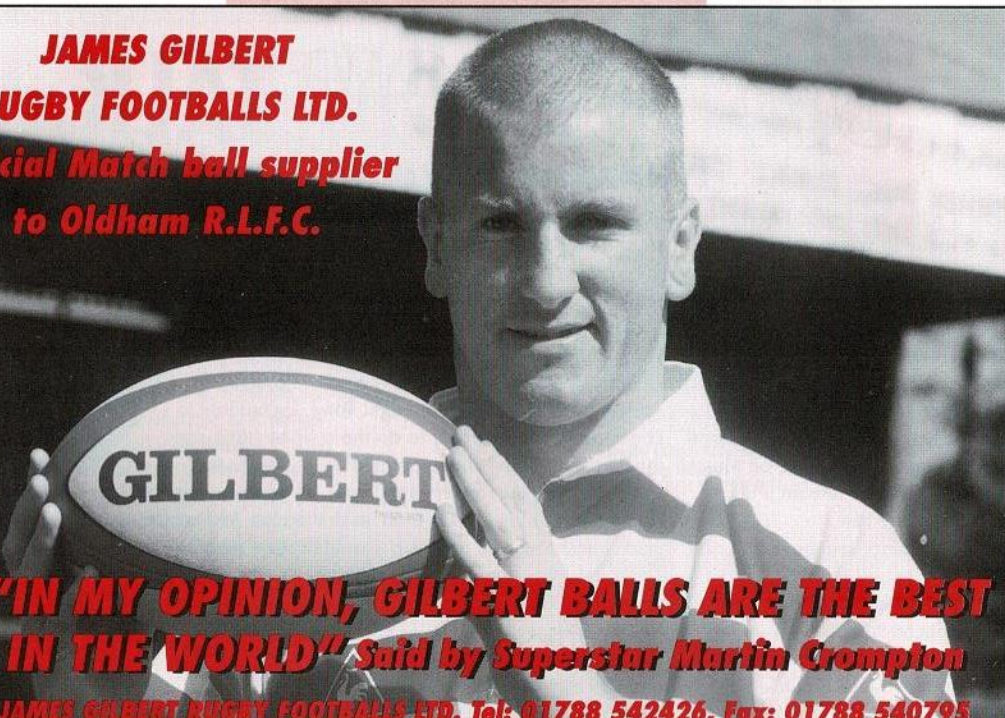
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GARY CONNOLLY - Utility Back
 Originally signed for St. Helens Rugby League Club, Blackbrook (St. Helens). Now recognised as one of the top backs in International Rugby League. At home in either the full back or his favourite centre position, Gary has outstanding attacking and defensive qualities.

JASON ROBINSON - Winger
 A Great Britain international nicknamed Billy Whizz who has proved difficult to tackle. Played half back in his amateur playing days, but has now made the right wing his own. Was voted Man of the Match in the 1995 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Wembley final, scoring two sensational tries.

MICHAEL CASSIDY - Forward
 Signed from Amateur Rugby League Club Wigan St. Judes. An all round adaptable forward with strong pace and determination making the opposing teams wary of him. An outstanding prospect within the test squad. Michael was bitterly disappointed to be knocked out during the 1994 Silk Cut Cup Final against Leeds, and is determined to return to Wembley with Wigan.

VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA - Back
 A famous All Black international who played his first game for Wigan on the wing. Last season saw a transfer to centre. Gained his second Challenge Cup winners medal in April 1995 against Leeds. He is a powerful runner who has adapted well to the game of Rugby League. With his speed and skill making him a favourite with the spectators, if not the opposition.

MARTIN OFFIAH - Wing
 Originally signed from Rossly Park Rugby Union Club (London) and transferred to Wigan from Widnes for a record signing fee of £440,000. One of the all time greats of the game with an exceptional turn of speed and an eye for a try.

MARTIN HALL - Hooker
 Transferred to Wigan from Rochdale Rugby League Club and has adapted well to the Wigan hooking position. Mr Consistent Martin is one of the

games great competitors. And is now the recognised Welsh Number 9.

TERRY O'CONNOR - Forward
 Originally signed by Salford from Widnes Amateur Club St. Maries. After successfully touring New Zealand with BARLA. Transferred to Wigan and is now aiming for international honours.

SHAUN EDWARDS - Half Back
 Signed from Amateur Rugby League club Wigan St. Patricks. Favourite position scrum half. Captained England at both codes at schoolboy level and holds the most winners medals in the games history. Demands perfection from both himself and his colleagues. A player with vision and constant alertness.

HENRY PAUL - Back
 Signed from Wakefield in the 1993/94 season when he had an outstanding game against Wigan. Good all round Rugby League player on line with some of the great names from New Zealand who have played for the Wigan club. His ability to read a game reflects in his personal skills and commitment gaining him invaluable experience at international level in the recent Australia v New Zealand Test series.

KELVIN SKERRETT - Prop Forward
 Transferred to Wigan from Bradford Northern he is a Welsh and Great Britain international. A powerfully strong running prop and a gifted player, ranks amongst the best.

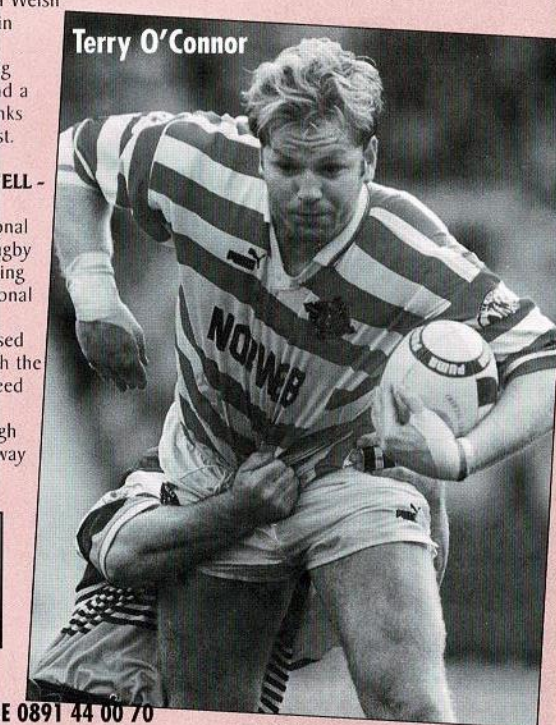
SCOTT QUINNELL - Second Row
 Signed professional from Llanells Rugby Union Club having gained international caps for Wales. Already recognised as a forward with the strength and speed to worry any defence. Although still finding his way

in rugby league he has the potential to be a great force within the game, and will be looking to get a regular place in the Wigan First team this season.

KRIS RADLINSKI - Centre
 Another of the young players that has come through the junior ranks at Wigan. Gained first team experience throughout last season. Kris showed maturity beyond his years capping a great year with the Harry Sunderland Trophy at Old Trafford. Being the first player ever to score a hat trick in a Premiership final.

SIMON HAUGHTON - Second Row
 A double international at schoolboy level, also appears in the Guinness book of records for scorer of most tries ever in a season. Progressing quickly establishing himself as a regular member of the first team squad.

GRAHAM WEST - Coach
 Signed for Wigan from New Zealand as a professional Rugby League player. He has had an illustrious career with Wigan both as player and coach. He advocates an outstanding professional approach to the game of Rugby League and is the perfect Ambassador for the game. Graeme has the unparalleled achievement of coaching Wigan to the Grand Slam in his first season in charge.



WIGAN

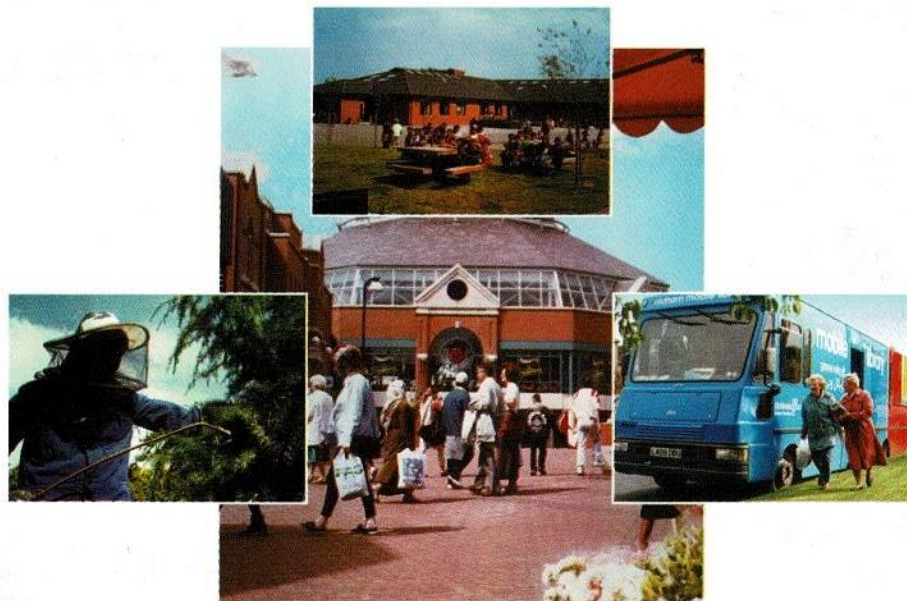
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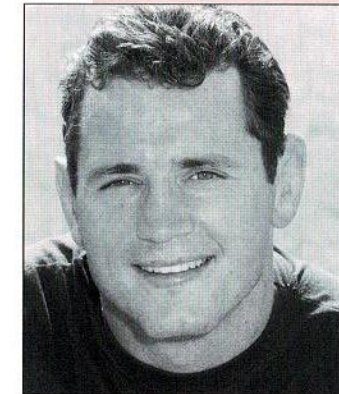
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One way or another it's been a funny old season, hasn't it? Take injuries. In all my years in the game I don't think I have ever experienced anything like the number of knocks and setbacks we've taken in the last few months.

We were just getting over an appalling injury list, which enabled us to bring back several senior players and produce a fine performance against Castleford, when misfortune struck again at Bradford. Joe Faimalo, playing only his second game after a two month lay-off with knee ligament trouble, broke a bone in his foot and could be out for a similar length of time.

Gary Lord received severely

bruised kidneys, spent the next two days in hospital and was too ill to train during the following week. Scott Ranson suffered a severe knee-ligament injury and may be out until the start of Super League unless we have a decent



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run in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Paul Davidson had to go off in the first half with a similar injury and although his problem is not as serious as Scott's he will be out for three or four weeks. To make matters worse Ian Sherratt got sent off and received a five-match ban which also robs us of his services until well into the New Year. As a result we had to take a below-strength side to St Helens on Wednesday, followed only three days later by today's clash with Wigan. We can't keep crying about injuries because they are part and parcel of Rugby League life but, as I say, it's been a funny old season.

ANDY GOODWAY

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- Saturday 6th April** - Stop for breakfast before arriving at Paris approx 11.00. Short sight seeing tour. Transfer to hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.
- Sunday 7th April** - Day at leisure or optional excursion to Disneyland Paris. Evening at leisure or FREE Paris by night excursion.
- Monday 8th April** - Oldham v Paris Rugby match or day free to shop. Evening at leisure or optional farewell party.
- Tuesday 9th April** - Depart from hotel after breakfast for journey home, via Hypermarket. Arrive Oldham approx 23.00

ITINERARY

- Saturday 6th April** - Depart from the Oldham Rugby Ground approx 8.30. Arrive Paris approx 19.00. Transfer to Hotel.
- Sunday 7th April** - Day at leisure or optional excursion to Disneyland Paris. Evening at leisure or FREE Paris by night excursion.
- Monday 8th April** - Oldham v Paris Rugby match or day free to shop. Evening at leisure or optional farewell party.
- Tuesday 9th April** - Depart from hotel after breakfast for journey home, via Hypermarket. Arrive Oldham approx 23.00

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MEMORY MATCH

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

This afternoon visitors to Watersheddings are Wigan, favourites to pull off a clean sweep of domestic trophies. It was the same scenario nine years ago as the 1986/87 season unfolded. Wigan lifted the Lancashire Cup, beating Oldham 27-6 in the final, before winning the Regal Trophy (known then as the John Player Special Trophy) with an 18-4 victory over Warrington.

The next trophy on the Wigan hit list was the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, they were drawn away to Workington Town in the preliminary round of that competition but that tie was switched to Central Park where Wigan won 68-0. In the first round Wigan had to travel to Watersheddings to face an Oldham side which had gained a deserved reputation of being a tough nut to crack at home. Despite that, Wigan were favourites to win. The all ticket match was postponed on its original Sunday afternoon date but Watersheddings was packed to capacity with 11,906 present the following Wednesday when the teams lined up as follows:

Oldham: Mick Burke, Hussein M'Barki, Des Foy, Gary Bridge, Mike Taylor, David Topliss, Paddy Kirwan, Bruce Clark, Ian Sanderson, Hugh Waddell, Mick Worrall, David Topliss and Terry Flanagan. Substitutes Gary Warnecke and Stuart Raper.

Wigan: Steve Hampson, Joe Lydon, Ellery Hanley, Dean Bell, Henderson Gill, Shaun Edwards, Andy Gregory, Graeme West, Martin Dermott, Brian Case, Ian Roberts, Ian Potter and Andy Goodway. Substitutes David Stephenson and Rob Louw. As expected Oldham put in a tremendous effort and at half time they led 4-0 thanks to a couple of Mick Burke penalties. Wigan stepped up their performance after the interval when Dean Bell crossed for the first try of the match. Joe Lydon landed

two goals and the match drew to its conclusion Wigan led 8-4. It was generally regarded as a fair reflection of play. Wigan had been slightly the better side in a fine cup tie in which Oldham had far from disgraced themselves. Then it happened.

Oldham were pressing on the Wigan line at this Watersheddings end of the ground. It was a tense moment for Wigan but surely they wouldn't let the game slip now. Paddy Kirwan didn't think so either, but he still attempted to go it alone from acting half on the Wigan line.

He threw a dummy, dived for the line, and remarkably a gap opened for Paddy to cross and equalise. Mick Burke didn't miss many kicks from just wide of the posts and he didn't miss the conversion either. Oldham had won 10-8 and there were plenty of celebrations in and around Watersheddings that evening.

Oldham were placed ninth in the First Division table at the time of that victory. Their next match ended with St. Helens knocking them off the Wembley trail and they won just four of their remaining league fixtures. Included in that dismal run was 54-2 defeat at Wigan and a 24-6 home

defeat against the Riversiders which condemned Oldham to the Second Division.

It has been a totally different picture for Wigan who have not lost a Challenge Cup tie since. They went on to win the Championship and Premiership that season and since then have enjoyed the most successful run in the history of the domestic game. And we were the last club to beat them in the Cup.

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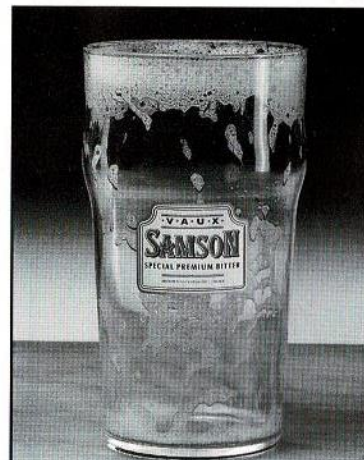
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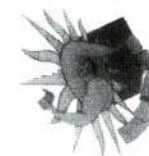
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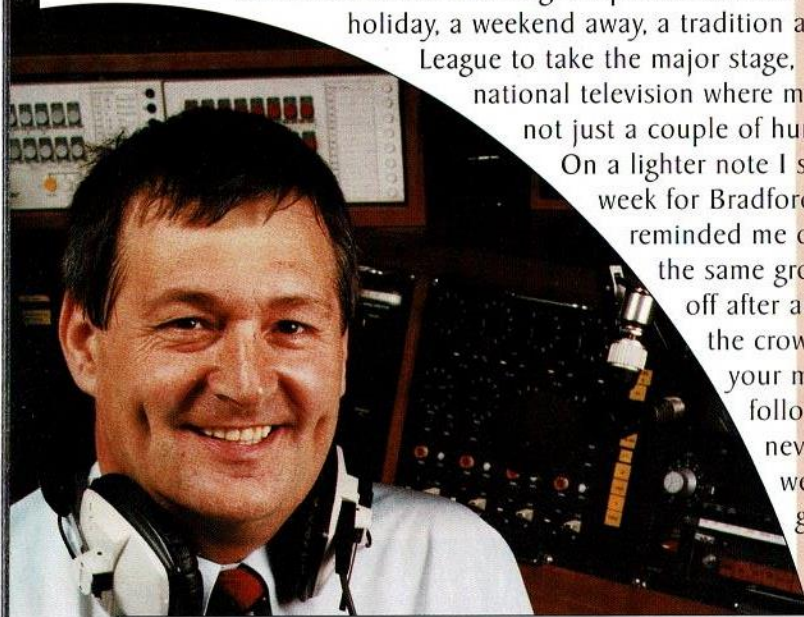
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On a lighter note I see the fog returned to Odsal last week for Bradford Bulls game with Oldham. It reminded me of a fairly recent visit by Wigan to the same ground, when the match was called off after about 12 minutes and some wag in the crowd shouted to us "Have you picked your man of the match Malc" closely followed by somebody yelling "He never gets the names right when the weathers bright, what chance has he got today?"

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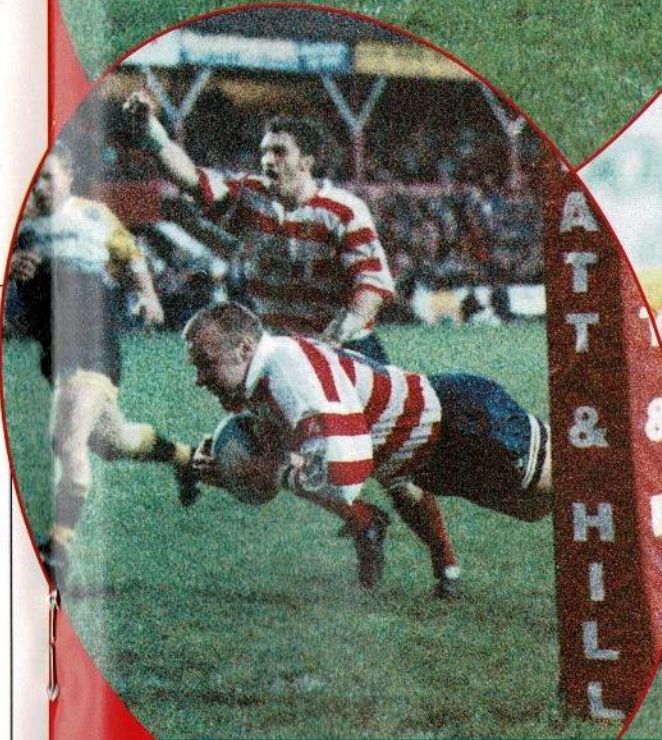
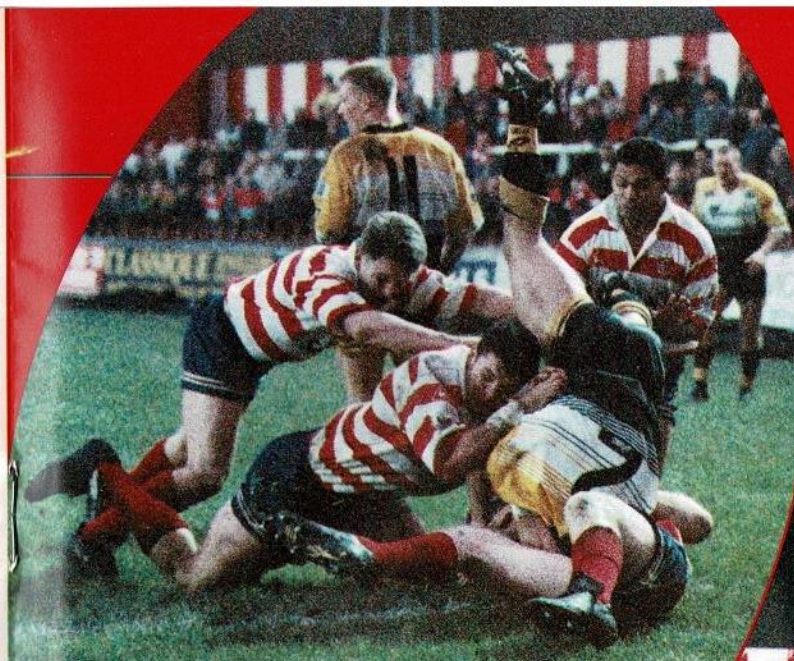
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CASTLEFORD WINGER GETTING
'THE TREATMENT'
BOTTOM RIGHT - BIG IAN
SHERRATT TAKING IT IN
BOTTOM LEFT - CHRIS MCKINNEY
SCORING A TRY WITH THE FIRST
TOUCH OF THE BALL



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Swinton v Hunslet Old Trafford 1987



Bradford v Widnes Old Trafford 1990

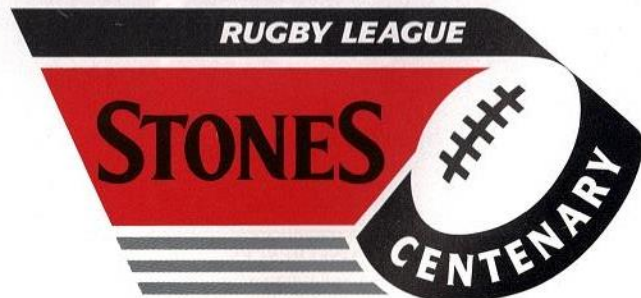


Hull v Widnes Old Trafford 1991



Henry Paul and Scott Gibbs at the launch of the Stones Centenary season 1995

- 
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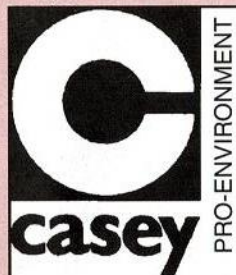
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RUGBY RECALL

1. Which player who later played for Oldham, scored seven tries in a match, against St. Helens on 21st August 1976?
2. Who were Oldham's two try scorers in the 10-58 home defeat by Wigan last season (4.9.95)?
3. From which Yorkshire amateur club, did Wigan sign Jason Robinson?
4. During last season's 10-58 defeat, which four Wigan players scored two or more tries?
5. Who was Oldham's try scorer during the 6-27 defeat by Wigan in the 1986 Lancashire Cup final?
6. Which current Wigan player scored two tries against Oldham in the above match?
7. Every Oldham fan remembers the last time Wigan lost a match in the Challenge Cup but can you remember the approximate attendance at Watersheddings that night? 500 either way.
8. Which five teams beat Wigan in the league during season 1992/93?
9. The above season (92/93) Oldham were in the second division, and played each team 4 times, which 3 teams beat Oldham home and away at least once that season?
10. Who scored Oldham's two tries in the 16-22 defeat by Australia on 4/11/86?

1. Green Vase 2. Shaun Frith and Scott Ranson 3. Hunslet Parkside RFC 4. Ollish (1), Robinson (2), Juganala (2), Edwards (2) 5. Gary Bridge 6. Shaun Edwards 7. 11,306 8. Full, St Helens, Warrington, Bradford, Castleford 9. Featherstone, Huddersfield, London 10. Hunslet and Foy

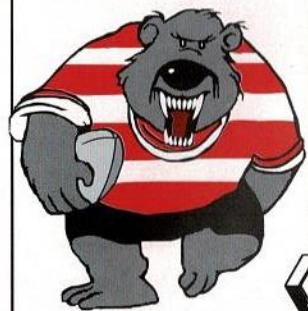
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Welcome to Development News. It seems like ages since I last wrote some notes but there has been plenty of development action to report and plenty of information to give out. First congratulations to the Oldham Town Team under 15s who have won through to the final of the Lancashire Schools Cup. They beat Salford very comfortably and last Monday overcame a strong St. Helens team to set up a final against either Wigan or Widnes.

Second the Junior Coaching session held before the Castleford game was staggering. We honestly expected about 60 players. Over 250 turned up! I think that Andy and the players were delighted but a bit overwhelmed by the numbers. Still thanks to the efforts of many local junior coaches who pitched in, it seems that everyone went away happy.

We are holding the next in the series of Junior Nights on Tuesday (19th December 1995). It is open to all players aged 10 and under and is from 6.00 until 7.00. Again all players who attend will be given a free ticket for the Warrington game on Boxing Day. They will also receive a voucher worth £5 in the club shop if you spend £20 or more. Let's hope we have another good turn out!

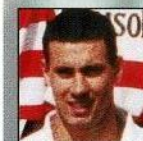
Third we believe that one of the best ways players improve still is by

constant practice and with this in mind we are launching a campaign to allow all young players to have a rugby ball of their own. Ray Hill has negotiated with Gilberts, who are the clubs rugby ball suppliers and sponsors to make junior balls available in the club shop for only £8.00 (normally this ball would cost (£10). There is a limited supply so please order early. Finally welcome to today's curtain raiser schools who are Littlemoor, Mayfield, Sacred Heart and Stoneleigh Junior Schools.



Sometimes all you need is a bit of determination

1995-96 PLAYER SPONSORSHIP



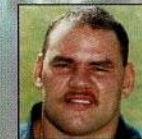
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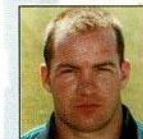
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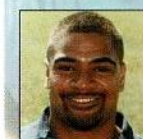
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INJURY UPDATE

Amazingly we did actually have 1 week free from injuries before the Bradford game. There were some strains picked up in training in the gym but Jason Temu showed his power of recovery and was in top form in that game.

After the game things had returned to normal with the treatment room packed out and resembling a casualty ward. Of the more serious injuries, Joe Faimalo has a fracture in his foot, Paul Davison strained medial ligaments in his knee, Scott Ranson tore lateral ligaments in his knee and Gary Lord was conspicuous by his absence he was actually in Hospital with kidney damage. In all 17 players needed treatment, an entire team! Also now on the treatment table is Mike Neal who tore his medial knee ligaments in the 'A' team match on Friday and will not be fit until well after Christmas.

This year certainly seems to have been an exception for the number of injuries we've had. Roll on New Year!

GOODFELLAS

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OLDHAM v WIGAN

Competition	Played	W	D	L	
League	169	65	4	100	(Challenge Cup semi final) at Huddersfield
Challenge Cup	18	4	0	14	1995-96 Wigan 42
Regal Trophy	1	0	0	1	Oldham 12 (League)
Floodlit Trophy	3	1	0	2	
Championship Play off	8	3	0	5	
Lancashire Cup	32	12	2	18	
Yorkshire Cup	2	0	0	2	
Total	233	85	6	142	

Note - During the Second World War the Lancashire Cup was suspended so both Wigan and Oldham entered the Yorkshire Cup. In October 1944 they were drawn together in a two legged tie. Wigan won both legs.

Oldham's biggest win at Central Park 48-23 League in season 1955-56
Wigan's biggest win at Central Park 54-2 League in season 1934-35
54-2 League in season 1986-87
Wigan's biggest win at Watersheddings 58-10 League in season 1994-95
Oldham's biggest win at Watersheddings 43-0 League in season 1898-99

Results during the past ten seasons
1986-87 Oldham 6 Wigan 27 (Lancashire Cup Final) at St. Helens
Oldham 10 Wigan 8

(Challenge Cup)
Wigan 54 Oldham 2 (League)
Oldham 6 Wigan 24 (League)
1987-88 did not meet
1988-89 Wigan 40 Oldham 18 (League)
Oldham 4 Wigan 12 (Challenge Cup)
Oldham 21 Wigan 27 (League)
1989-90 Oldham 19 Wigan 18 (Lancashire Cup)
1990-91 Wigan 38 Oldham 15 (League)
Oldham 16 Wigan 30 (Challenge Cup semi final) at Bolton Wand. FC
Oldham 4 Wigan 10 (League)
1991/92 did not meet
1992-93 Wigan 48 Oldham 8 (Lancashire Cup)
1993-94 Wigan 38 Oldham 12 (League)
Oldham 8 Wigan 16 (Regal Trophy)
Oldham 6 Wigan 50 (League)
1994-95 Oldham 10 Wigan 58 (League)
Wigan 46 Oldham 0 (League)
Oldham 20 Wigan 48

Wigan's last visit to Watersheddings
Sunday 4th September 1994
Division One
Oldham 10 Wigan 58
Half time 4-32 Attendance 6,222
Oldham tries: Shaun Irwin and Scott Ranson
Goal: Steve Gartland
Wigan tries: Martin Offiah (4), Jason Robinson (2), Va'aiga Tuigamala (2), Shaun Edwards (2) and Denis Betts.
Goals: Henry Paul (7)

Oldham: Wally Gibson, David Jones, Shaun Irwin, Darren Abram, Scott Ranson, Steve Gartland, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, John Clarke, Craig Richards, Paul Davison, Gary Lord and Mike Kuiti.
Substitutes: Paul Topping and Chris Parr.
Wigan: Paul Atcheson, Jason Robinson, Va'aiga Tuigamala, Gary Connolly, Martin Offiah, Henry Paul, Shaun Edwards, Terry O'Connor, Martin Hall, Mick Cassidy, Denis Betts, Andy Farrell and Phil Clarke.
Substitutes: Kris Radlinski and Simon Houghton.

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ALLIANCE UPDATE

WITH ALLIANCE COACH GRAHAM BEALE

DEWSBURY 18 OLDHAM 14

Missing regular players for home games is bad but travelling to Dewsbury is even worse, players brought into the side have only trained together for three sessions and one game so we are still trying to knit the players together and build confidence from the kick off we were under great pressure. Dewsbury pack setting the platform we gave a penalty away and minutes later failed to defuse a bomb and Dewsbury scored and converted to give them the eight point lead. Oldham gradually started to make inroads and put

Dewsbury under pressure, a clash of heads saw Sapega leave the field with concussion, and Paul Norman taking his place, Edwards started to rally Oldham and saw McKinney score to the side of the posts but failed to take the two points. Dewsbury came back very strong and scored just before half time and converting to go in 14-4 down. Convincing the players at half time that we can still win the game it was Dewsbury who scored first. 18-4 down may be but not out of the game as the players rallied cut the errors out and had good sets of six. Prescott was

the first to score followed by Jones and Edwards taking over the goal kicking duties added the extra two points to fetch the score to within 4 points 18-14, the last ten minutes it was all Oldham, Dewsbury desperately defending their line seemed to give a penalty away when a Dewsbury forward pushed our player playing the ball on their line. Which he fell over the acting half the ball coming loose for Dewsbury to pounce on for the ref to call play on and then blow for time. Oldham left it too late this time but also missed four goals.

QUOTES & HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

ON THIS DAY

Don Yates Looks At This Day in History

As I am sure everyone present here today is aware, we are in the middle of a rugby league revolution. It is appropriate therefore to recall that it was on this day in 1967, Sunday 17th December that two clubs took the revolutionary step of staging matches on the Sabbath, Bradford Northern beat York 33-8 and Leigh defeated Dewsbury 15-10. Quite a revolutionary day really because it was on this day in 1903 that the American aviator Orville Wright made the first recorded flight in a powered aircraft. The flight lasted just 12 seconds with the aircraft attaining a height of between eight and twelve feet.

It is hoped that the Super League makes a bigger impact but in the meanwhile the legal battle between the Australian Rugby League and the Super League continues down under.

Today, Kerry Packer, the financial backer of the ARL celebrates his 58th birthday. I wonder if he got a card off Rupert Murdoch? It was on this day in 1967 that Australia and France fought out a 7-7 draw before a disappointing crowd of 4,193 in Marseilles. Each side scored a try, full back Les Johns for the Kangaroos and loose forward Georges Bonnet for France. However, it was an unhappy day for the Australian winger Ken Irvine who suffered a badly broken leg which required surgery at Carcassonne Hospital. On Tuesday 17th December 1968 Wigan won the Floodlight Trophy with a 7-4 victory over St. Helens in the final which attracted a record of 13,479 to Central Park. The only try of the match came from Wigan stand off Cliff Hill who later moved to Oldham.

A player who left Oldham on December 17th was goal kicking utility back Martin Strett who was transferred to Rochdale Hornets in

1993. It was on this in 1978 that Oldham pulled off a 25-13 victory at Huyton in a Second Division match. Top performer for the Roughyeds that afternoon was centre Phil Larder who scored two tries, two goals and a dropped goal. Finally, twelve months ago today, Saturday, 17th December 1994, Oldham St. Annes Juniors suffered a 22-17 defeat at the hands of Lock Lane. It was the first home league defeat suffered by Saints since they joined the National Conference League.

Today's quote comes from George F. Will who said, 'Sport serves society by providing vivid examples of excellence.' Political commentators are usually a good for a quote and Alex Kitson once came up with this one, 'The crunch has been reached, the crying wolves are out the window.'

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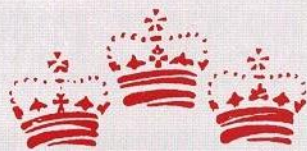
RUFF E. HEAD

BY IAN WILSON

What a fantastic effort by Widnes last week against Wigan. Inevitably, a bit of luck with marginal refereeing decisions, a bit of extra 'professionalism', and a lot of magic from Paul and Tuigamala saw Wigan home. But Widnes surely showed the way for the rest. Their pack took Wigan on down the middle, and beat them; they kept concentration almost for the full 80 minutes, in particular in tackling early and in numbers; and they sustained an accurate kicking game, especially in the Wigan quarter. Could we possibly do the same today? I always had the Observer down as one of the less Rugby Union-biased of our newspapers. But a throwaway line by their Union correspondent Mick Cleary had my flat cap quivering last week. His explanation of why the Oxford v Cambridge match at Twickenham should attract more spectators than the RL World Cup final? "One of the codes just happens to be a better spectator sport than the other." Pathetic! I am fed up of

talk of combining the two codes - even from Murphy the mouth, I am ashamed to say. Let us take them on on equal terms, as two professional games - and I sincerely hope that Mr Cleary and his friends will be forced to eat their words with a very large and unappetising slice of humble pie. One of the most amazing decisions in sport in recent times was the abandonment of England's last provincial cricket match in South Africa, on the grounds that both sides, as well as the spectators, were bored with it. The mind boggles! I can think of lots more deserving candidates for the early chop. How about all show jumping, ice skating, tennis and swimming on TV for a start? I am afraid that 95% of rugby union games would also qualify, in my humble opinion. And getting closer to home, I would probably nominate all games when Wigan score 20 points in the first 20 minutes, and all non-tackling high-scoring "spectaculars" that we sometimes see, especially on hard grounds towards

the end of what used to be the season. Any other suggestions? These notes are being written before our Wednesday night Knowsley Road trip, so I hope he didn't let me down. But I thought Jason Temu had six fantastic games before then, with some of his tackling in the Odsal fog being quite outstanding. His selection as Open Rugby prop of the month in the Premier Division was fully merited. Whilst on the Bradford game, why is it that we were so much on top with twelve men, once again, after the first half hour had seen us make so many errors with a full complement? Perhaps the Super League authorities might allow us special dispensation? We could agree never to have more than 12 on the field at any one time, but be given the right to substitute more often. Seems fair to me. It will be nice to renew acquaintances on the terraces today, it seems so long since we were last here; this is only our third home game since October 1st! Happy Xmas to all, see you on Boxing Day.



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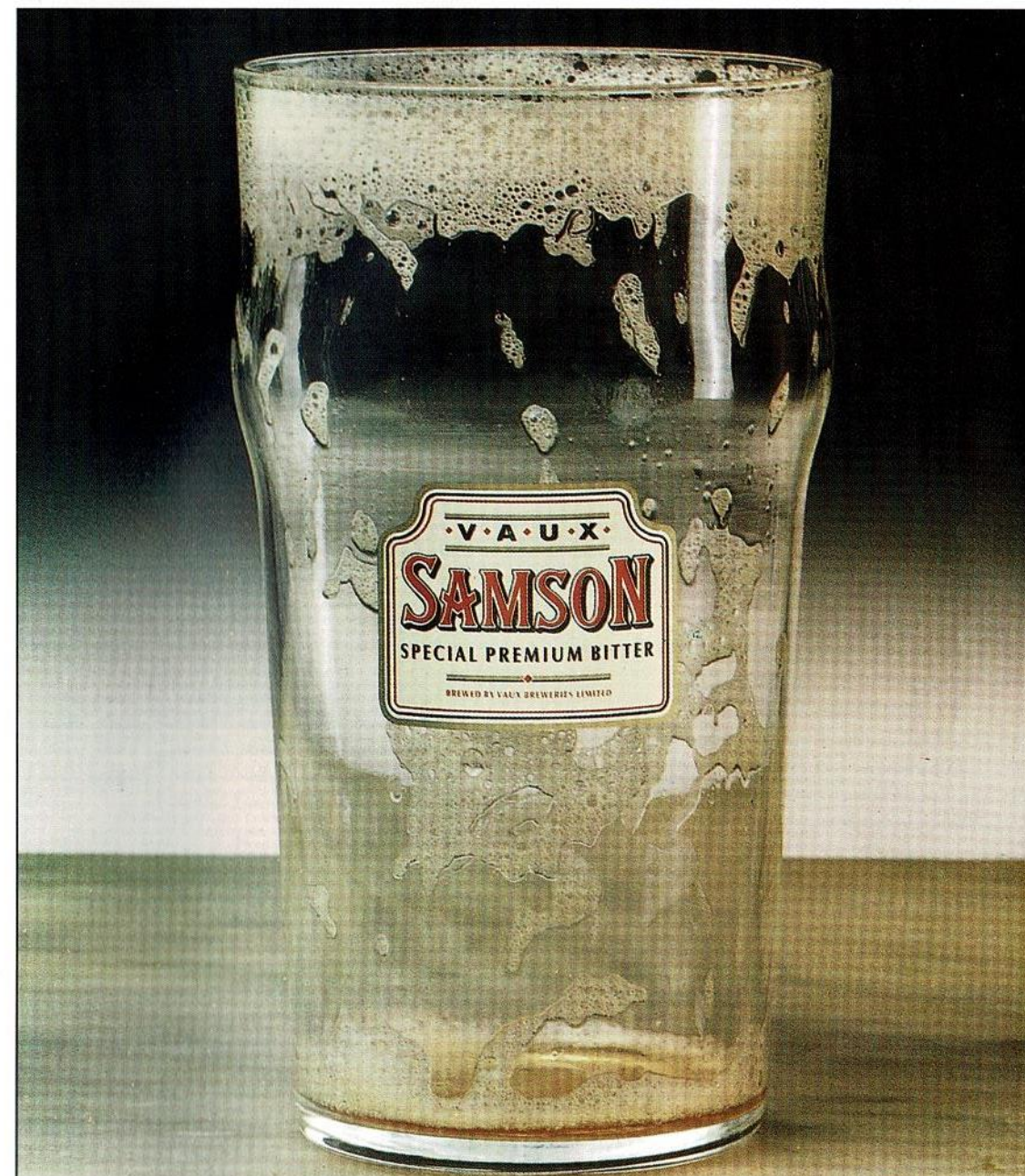
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THE BURTONWOOD BREWERY LANCASHIRE CUP FINAL

Next Saturday Saddleworth Rangers meet Woolston Rovers at Wilderspool Stadium, Warrington in the final of the Lancashire Cup. It is a clash between arguably the best two club sides in the amateur game and two sides who have produced some superb entertainment in recent seasons. The 18-18 draw between these two sides at Greenfield last Easter was one of the best matches played last season at any level of the game.

If Rangers are to lift this Lancashire Cup for the first time in their history they will have to inflict upon Woolston only their second defeat of the season. Rovers reached this final with impressive victories over Langworthy 44-5, Woolston 'A' 30-15, Leigh Miners 24-23 and St. Annes 19-16 all away from home. Rangers path to the final has been equally impressive. They have beaten North Wales Coaster (h) 100-6, Wigan St. Judes (a) 25-12, Wigan St. Pats (h) 22-13 and Blackbrook (h) 15-9. Saturday's final will be the first involving Rangers since 1981 when they lost 35-9 to Leigh Miners. Woolston on the other hand, will be appearing in their fourth consecutive final. They have won the trophy during the past season beating Thatto Heath 10-4 in 1993 and St. Annes 10-2 last December in a classic encounter at Watersheddings. Saturday's final promises to be just as competitive. Rangers have not lost since the opening day of the season so, despite having to travel to Warrington, will be confident of bringing the trophy back to Oldham for the first time since 1984 when Waterhead lifted the trophy.

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	Abram 1T	Myler
23rd	ST. HELENS	H 7.30	L18-44	4316	Gibson	Neal	Topping	Abram 1T	Myler
27th	Warrington	A 3.00	L40-8	4064	Gibson	Belle	Atcheson	Abram	Neal
SEPT									
1st	HALIFAX	H 7.30	L4-21	2938	Gibson	Belle	Atcheson	Abram 1T	Neal
6th	London Broncos	A 7.30							
10th	BRADFORD BULLS	H 3.00	L24-30	3222	Gibson	Belle T2	Atcheson	Abram	Neal
20th	LONDON BRONCOS	H 7.30	W19-8	3,004	Atcheson T	Gibson	Topping	Abram T2	Ranson
24th	Wigan	A 3.00	L42-12	10,909	Atcheson	Gibson	Topping	Abram	Ranson
OCT									
1st	LEEDS	H 3.00	L14-43	3,782	Atcheson	Gibson	Topping	Abram	Ranson
NOV									
1st	WORKINGTON	H 7.30	W30-26		Atcheson	Ranson	Levila T	Abram 2T	Gibson T
5th	Sheffield Eagles	A 3.15	L18-36		Cowans	Ranson	Levila	Abrams T	Myler
12th	Widnes Regal Round 2	A 3.00	L32-8	3,571	Cowans	Ranson T	Levila	Abram	Belle
19th	CASTLEFORD	H 3.00	W25-20		Atcheson	Ranson	Topping T	Abram T	Gibson T
26th	Regal Trophy - Round 3								
DEC									
3rd	Bradford Bulls	A 3.00	L10-14		Atcheson	Gibson T	Topping	Abram	Ranson
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								

SPEAKING 95-96

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Maloney 3G	Crompton 1T	Sherratt	Clarke	Parr	Lord 1T	Faimalo	Green	Neal	Hill	Gildart	Richards
Maloney 5G 1T	Crompton	Sherratt	Clarke	Parr	Gildart	Faimalo	Lord	Green	Hill	Temu	Atcheson
Topping 1T	Burns	Richards	Edwards	Temu	Green	Davidson	Hill	Parr	Gildart	McKinney 1T	Cowans
Maloney	Crompton	Sherratt	Clarke	Gildart	Lord	Faimalo	Hill	Topping	Richards	Garland	Parr
Maloney 4G	Crompton	Sherratt	Clarke T	Richards	Lord	Faimalo	Hill T	Topping	Gildatr	Temu	Green
Maloney 6G 3D6	Crompton	Sherratt	Clarke	Temu	Lord	Faimalo	Hill	Garland	Parr	Neal	Green
Garland 6G 2	Crompton T	Sherratt	Clarke	Temu	Lord	Green	Hill	Neal	Parr	Belle	Davidson
Maloney 3G	Crompton	Parr	Garland	Temu	Lord 1T	Green	Hill 1T	Neal	Belle	Davidson	McKinney
Maloney 2G T	Crompton	Parr	Garland 6G	Temu	Lord	Green	Hill T	Clarke	Myler	Norman	Davidson
Gibson	Crompton	Norman	Garland 3G	Temu	Davidson	Green T	Hill T	Edwards	McKillian	McKinney	Belle
Gibson	Crompton	Parr	Garland 2G	Temu	Lord	Davidson	Hill	Green	Sherratt	-	-
Garland 6G 4	Crompton	Sherratt	Green	Temu	Lord	Davidson	Hill	Myler	Faimalo	Maloney	McKinney T
Garland	Crompton	Sherratt	Green	Temu	Lord	Davidson	Hill	Faimalo	Maloney G	Myler T	Richards

SILK CUT RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Yesterday our two Conference teams were involved in the second round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Both St Annes (at home to Thatto Heath) and Saddleworth Rangers (at home to Heworth) were confident of success and so hope to be involved in the next step, which is tomorrow's draw for the third round of the competition. Providing they won yesterday, both Saints and Rangers will be away in the third round, which will be

staged on Sunday, 14th January. Their opponents will be from the Second Division of the Stones Bitter Championship. Oldham, and the rest of the Super League big guns, enter the competition at the fourth round stage, which will be played on the weekend of 27/28th January. This season's Wembley final will be staged on Saturday, 27th April 1996.

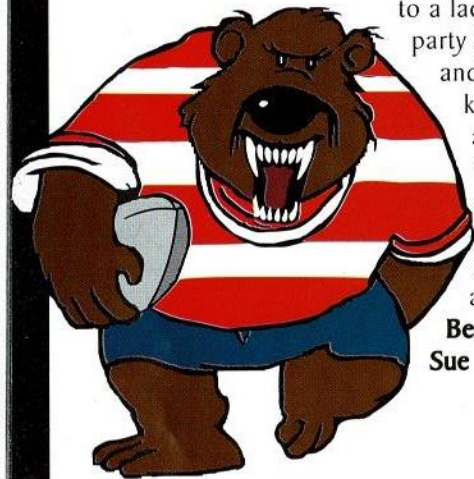
SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to today's game. The Supporters Club are still looking for any ideas for fundraising (especially within the ordinary fans pocket) and also for any help at these events. Please, if you can help, even if only on an occasional basis, speak to any Supporters Club official today. After Christmas we are hoping to hold some video evenings, when you can come along and watch some of our great matches, have a drink and a chat amongst friends and fellow supporters. Watch this space! All it leaves is for me to wish you all the best for the festive season from all the Supporters Club.

JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

CALLING ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHY'EDS!

Good afternoon and welcome to today's game. Let's hear plenty of festive cheering this afternoon and maybe we can cheer the team on to a win (who knows!) Unfortunately due to a lack of interest the Christmas party has had to be cancelled and so we will try again later. I know everyone is busy around Christmas time, but we are here for you. Anyway I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and Santa brings you all you are hoping for.



Best wishes
Sue

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ACADEMY NEWS

WITH BRIAN GARTLAND

First of all, let me congratulate our Academy player Chris McKinney on his selection for the Lancashire squad. Although Chris never plays Academy games now, all our lads wish him well on his selection. Well, since my last notes we lost at home to Rochdale by 17 points to 14, but, as I am sure our supporters will say, we threw the match away. We were winning by 14 points to 5 and we were all over Rochdale, dropping the ball at least twice over the line, but give



Rochdale credit, they never gave in and pinched it in the end. On a sad note, we had lost our second row forward Danny Navesy during the week and that didn't help our preparation for the game at all.

The lads were really down because Danny was a very popular player and a great team player. For those who do not know, Danny was tragically killed in a road traffic accident coming back from visiting John Power, who is also an Academy player, who has been detained in Pinderfields Hospital for 8 months due to a bad injury playing for our "A" team. Let's hope that we have turned the corner in all the bad luck we have had and there is going to be some good news round the corner.

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