

TOWN

Coach: K. Sorensen

OLDHAM

Coach: A. Goodway

P. Livett	1	P. Atcheson
M. Wallace	2	A. Leuila
L. Smith	3	P. Topping
V. Fawcett	4	D. Abram
M. Johnston	5	W. Gibson
L. Campbell	6	F. Maloney
M. Keenan	7	M. Crompton
R. Phillips	8	C. Richards
D. Marwood	9	G. Burns
L. Filipo	10	J. Temu
S. Holgate	11	G. Lord
C. Armstrong	12	I. Gildart
J. Palmada	13	D. Bradbury
	14	
	15	
	16	
	17	

Referee: Mr. S.P. Ganson (St. Helens)
Touch Judges: A.J. Brow, K. Leyland

SCRUMS

TOWN									
OLDHAM									

PENALTIES

TOWN									
OLDHAM									

TOWN									
OLDHAM									

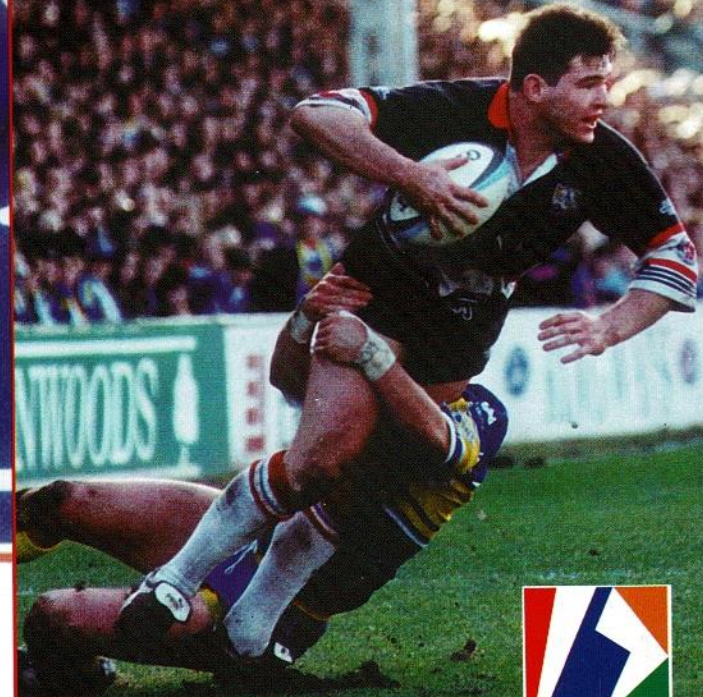
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TOWN Review



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1895 - 1995

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STONES BITTER CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP

OLDHAM

Sunday 14th January, 1996
Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.



CLUB OFFICIALS 1995/96

CLUB PRESIDENT: T. Mitchell, B.Sc. (Hons). N.D.A.
DIRECTORS: K. Gorge (Chairman), J.G. Bell, B. Earl, M.A.,
H. Mothersill, I. Southward.

PATRONS: H. Walker, S. Williams

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R.B. Viney, J.D. Yeowart, W. Whalley.

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ALLIANCE TEAM MANAGER: J.G. Bell

POOL PROMOTER: K. Ray

SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER: R.B. Viney

SENIOR COACH: Kurt Sorensen

ASSISTANT COACHES: G. Smith

ACADEMY COACH: D. Robley

ACADEMY ASSISTANTS: K. Robinson, I. Humphries

SUPPORTERS CLUB LIAISON OFFICER: G. Petre

MEDICAL OFFICERS: Dr. R.D Walker, Dr. K.R. Joy, Dr. R. Fletcher

HONORARY SURGEON: Mr. M. Griess, Mch (Orch) F.R.C.S.

PHYSIO: A. Wilson

CUMBRIA COUNTY REPS: K. Gorge, I. Southward

LANCASHIRE REP: J.G. Bell

SCOUTS: W. Irving, P. Kitchin, K. Robinson, A. Varty

TIME KEEPERS: A. Murray, G. Short

CLUB HONOURS:

Rugby League Championship Winners 1951, Runners-up 1958

Second Division Championship Winners 1993/94

Third Division Runners-up 1992/93

Western Division Championship Winners 1962/63

Challenge Cup Winners 1952, Runners-up 1955, 1958

Divisional Premiership Winners 1993/94, Runners-up 1992/93

Lancashire Cup Winners 1977, Runners-up 1976, 1978, 1979

Lancashire League Championship Runners-up 1950/51, 1961/62

Wigan Sevens Winners 1978, National Sevens Winners 1958

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1966/67, 1967/68, 1971/72

*Workington Town R.L.F.C. would like to thank the Times & Star Workington
and Picture It, Murray Road, Workington,
for their cooperation in reproducing photographs for this magazine.*

Welcome to Derwent Park



KEVAN GORGE

As the saying goes, what a difference a week can make. Two good wins that will most certainly strengthen the players' resolve and hopefully our supporters also. All credit to our young players who are demonstrating that given the chance they will not let us down. I suppose the clever part of introducing new young blood into a team is knowing when they are ready. We have taken a chance because of little to lose other than a bit more of our credibility.

I am pleased we took the chance. Not one of them has let us down and if these youngsters are demonstrating anything it is that they are committed to the club and that they are playing with true Cumbrian spirit. It was gratifying to hear the Warrington Chairman, Mr. Peter Higham, in his replying speech after the game on Wednesday, pay tribute to our club for at last snapping up all good young Cumbrian players. A fine tribute coming from Peter and his club, especially when over the last few years it is he that has stolen a march on all professional clubs in Cumbria by taking many good players from the County. (Incidentally this is not a

criticism of Peter, all credit to him for recognising the potential in Cumbria). He did concede to me that they have lost a number of players recently from within Cumbria which the Warrington club were desperately to sign. We must continue to sign the best, until we have a virtual all conquering side made up of in the main, players of Cumbrian origin.

I must thank everybody who attended on Wednesday evening, especially for their superb vocal support, it really was heartening to hear the singing and chanting once again for which our supporters have become famous. I can tell you that the lads are spurred on by this, especially our youngsters. It would really be nice today to round off the season by beating Oldham in a game that promises to be a cracker, both sides having something to prove.

Can I thank everyone that has supported us during this truncated season and I can promise that we will work hard during the close season to produce a side that can compete in Superleague 96. We all look forward to seeing you again at Derwent Park if indeed we are fortunate enough to gain a home draw in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

THANKS FOR YOUR MUCH VALUED SUPPORT.

Club Record Holders

Record Attendance: 20,403 v St. Helens, 1952 at Borough Park.

17,741 v Wigan, 1965 at Derwent Park.

Biggest Victory: 94-4 v Leigh, 1994/95

Biggest Defeat: 0-68 v Wigan, 1986/87

Most Tries in Career: 274 - I. Southward, 1951/68

Most Tries in a Match: 7 - I. Southward v Blackpool B., 1955

Most Goals in Career: 809 - I. MacCorquodale, 1972/80

Most Tries in a Season: 49 - Johnny Lawrenson, 1951/52

Most Goals in a Match: 13 - D. Marwood v Highfield 1992/93

Most Points in a Career: 1,800 - I. MacCorquodale 1972/80

Most Points in a Season: 438 - L. Hopkins, 1981/82

Most Points in a Match: 42 - D. Marwood

v Highfield, 1992/93 and Leigh, 1994/95

Most Appearances: 420 - P. Charlton 1961/80

Most Consecutive Appearances: 141 - V. McKeating 1948/51

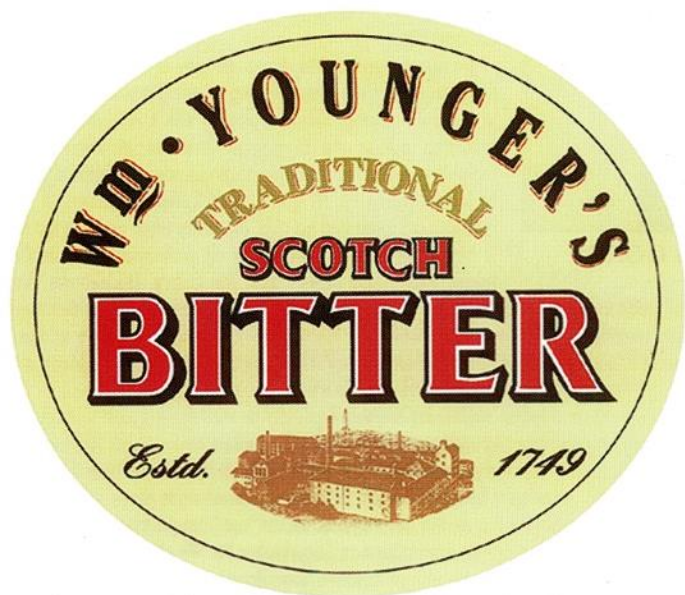


D. MARWOOD



J. LAWRENSON

Cheers !



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SEASON 95/96

emerging from the shadows

emerging from the shadows

A trip to Featherstone Rovers was hardly ideal for our return to action and even more daunting when we looked at the league table to see the Rovers were holding second place in the first division. At the end of the day, I think the lads did well to score six tries while conceding eight. We certainly came back very well in the second forty to contribute some excellent back play making it an exciting game for the Featherstone crowd who showed their appreciation at the end. I was pleased to welcome Leigh Smith back after his shoulder injury and he played with confidence, although he did collect a heavy knock to his nose which was unfortunate.



Gary Smith

Featherstone Rovers 42 Workington Town 30

The Alliance team were at Post Office Road last Saturday and as Gary says were involved in a 72 point thriller. Although at one point being 42-8 down, it looked as though we were in for a real hiding. The game had been fast flowing throughout with Rovers as expected using the slope well. Town came back in the final quarter to add some respect to the scoreline with Wayne Kitchin starring. Kitch was in fact wearing the No 9 shirt and showed how adaptable he can be. Perhaps this was a Kurt Sorensen masterstroke, we shall see!

Once again young wingers Stainton and Wallace were amongst the scorers with Chilton grabbing a brace. Others worth a special mention are props Craig Barker who gave a solid performance and John Allen who keeps up his improvement since joining us in the summer. Mark Keenan also put in a terrier like display with some scuttling breaks in open play.

Town team: Bibby: Wallace: Chilton: Grima: Stainton: Gorge: Keenan: Barker: Kitchin: Allen: Trialist: Beaumont: Moore.

Subs: L. Smith: G. Smith.

Tries: Chilton (2): Stainton: Wallace: Moore: Trialist:

Goals: Kitchin (3)

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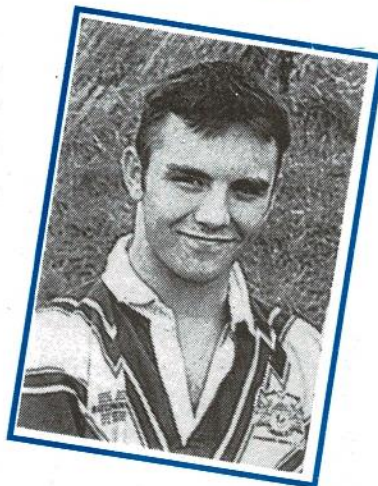
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under the spotlight

under the spotlight

Club coach Kurt Sorensen raised a few eyebrows away to Halifax on the 17th December when he "blooded" three ex-Academy players in Mark Wallace, Andrew Grima and Mark Keenan. Everybody was surprised by his decision but proud of the results. These young players have improved with every game and culminated in young Keenan being named man of the match in Wednesday night's victory over Warrington. Another player determined to make his mark at Town is Craig Fisher. This afternoon Craig explains why he joined the Academy



Why did you decide to sign for the Town Academy when the current trend in West Cumbria seems to be to stay with your amateur club and try to gain BARLA honours?

I had played for England Schools Rugby League and there were a lot of players that I felt had a better chance of gaining a Great Britain BARLA cap, so I decided to sign for the Academy in the hope that the extra coaching and more professional set up would improve my game. The decision was justified as I was given eight outings in the Alliance team in my first season scoring nine tries. I trained very hard during the summer and despite the Academy results not going as we had planned I was offered professional terms along with Nicky Crellin and Craig Armstrong.

What do you feel can be done to improve results for the Super League season?

We currently train five nights a week, but I feel that our squad of players still isn't strong enough to play the likes of Wigan, Leeds and St. Helens Academy teams every week. The calibre of players required at this level are all playing in West Cumbria but they still seem reluctant to sign, even though we are playing at a higher grade. The value of the Academy has already been proved beyond doubt with Mark Keenan, Leigh Smith, Andrew Grima and Mark Wallace all being given first team outings, and numerous others playing for the Alliance team.

What are your personal aims for the next twelve months?

I am aiming to establish myself in the Alliance team and hopefully do enough to win a place on the first team bench in the same way as Mark Keenan. In the meantime I will just train and play to the best of my ability and hopefully I will be given a chance to stake my claim.

What do you think can be done to attract more youngsters to play for Workington Academy?

I think the only way to attract the cream of Cumbrian youngsters is to sign them as professionals. An Academy County Championship playing against Yorkshire and Lancashire would also encourage players to sign. With Whitehaven restarting their Academy next season there is going to be even more competition for players, so something really needs to be done now. We are really made to feel part of the club, and next season our matches will be played as curtain raisers so that we will be playing in front of big crowds instead of empty stadiums. I would suggest that any young player who thinks he has what it takes should seize the opportunity to sign for Town.

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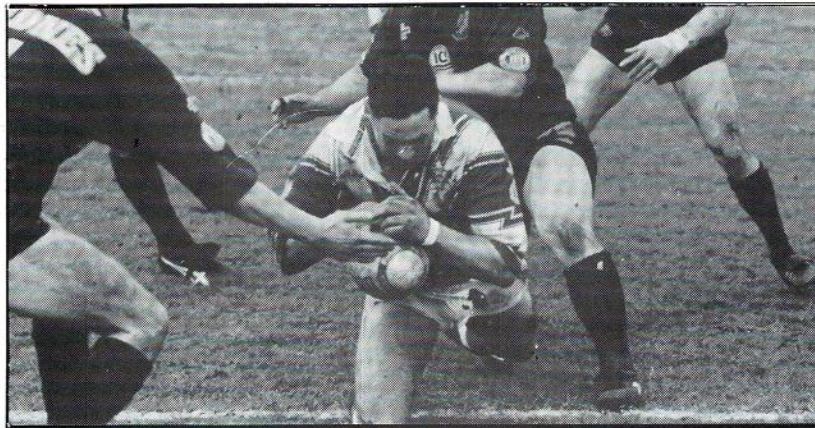
Today's Man of the Match Sponsor

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WORKINGTON TOWN R.L.F.C.

MATCHWINNER

A LOOK ON THE BLIND SIDE

by Paul Williamson



This afternoon's game with Oldham signals the end of an era at Derwent Park. The last ever winter Championship game to be played here before we embark on our game's pioneering journey into summer rugby. I am sure there will be six young ladies entertaining us at half time who will be delighted at the prospect of being able to throw away those winter jackets in anticipation of "dancing in the sunshine". Yes, Super League '96 kicks off in less than three months time on the 31st March, when the Saints come marching into West Cumbria hopefully accompanied by a large army of their supporters eager to sample what the new league format has to offer. I don't think anybody is quite sure what is going to happen yet with rugby league clubs still trying to find out all the ins and out's of the entertainment details etc. from the Rugby League Headquarters. We of course at Workington have been fortunate enough to sample the entertainment's package first hand on the opening day of this season against Wigan. I can remember the atmosphere and "buzz" prior to the match, but nothing about the actual game, which on looking back at the result (6-48 to Wigan) probably seems the right option. One thing that is certain though is the fact that over 7,000 people attended that game on a warm

Friday evening, realistically not expecting Town to win, and also knowing that the game was being broadcast live on Sky TV, so why did they come? The answer is simple, they came for a good night out, and apart from the result everybody enjoyed themselves. Even the Wigan supporters who made the journey up the M6 took to writing to the Rugby Leaguer and League Express to say how much they enjoyed the evening and how friendly and welcoming the Town supporters were.

Workington Town are now in a position that Widnes, Hull, Salford and especially Keighley Coucougars (aren't you disappointed they didn't win the Championship? No, I didn't think so) would love to be in, and it is important that we all work together in order to make sure we stay here. I know that this has been a disappointing season as far as results have gone, but if we are to survive the next ten months the club really does need extra support and revenue, so please don't throw away the season ticket order form you were given prior to the Warrington game, break down the total amounts and you will see that it represents excellent value for money, money which the club needs to strengthen the squad in time for Super League in March, so please true Townies, fill in the mandate and return to D.P. now!!!

FUN Page

1. Which country will host the World Nines competition?
2. Which club are giving trials to the American Gladiators champion?
3. Which current All Blacks International has been invited to "guest" in the ARL Sevens Competition?
4. Who was appointed the coach of Swinton this week?
5. Name the title winners of Division's One and Two?
6. Which team has Hull's Richard Gay transferred to?
7. What is the first SuperLeague fixture for Town?
8. Which amateur side is ex-Great Britain and Carlisle star Hugh Waddell now playing?

Tonight's Mascot



This afternoon's mascot is Helen Duffy of Cockermouth. Helen is seven years old and attends St. Joseph's School in Cockermouth. Her favourite player is our top points scorer Dean Marwood.

Did you here the one about the Whitehaven fan who tried to sue Birketts for forging his signature on a hot cross bun.

A Town fan, a Carlisle fan and a Whitehaven fan were travelling through the desert when their jeep broke down. They decided to walk to the nearest settlement. The Town fan said "I'll take some water so we have something to drink." the Carlisle fan said "And I'll take some food so we have something to eat." The Whitehaven fan said "I'll take the door off the jeep so when it gets hot we can wind down the window."

How many did you get right?

QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Fiji : 2. Keighley Cougars (Who else) : 3. Jonah Lumu : 4. Peter Roe : 5. Salford & Hull K.R. : 6. Castleford : 7. St. Helens : 8. Egremont

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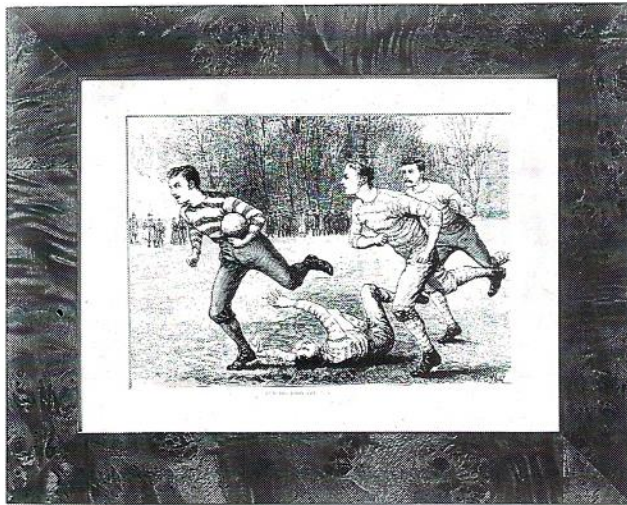
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Match & Date	Match Sponsor	Ball Donation	Man of the Match
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Sun.27th Aug. 95 SHEFFIELD EAGLES Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	A.D. BOYES	TYSON BURRIDGE	FARMHOUSE BUFFETS
Sun.10th Sept. 95 ST. HELENS Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	TIMES & STAR	ROYAL OAK	CHASERS
Sun.24th Sept. 95 HALIFAX Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	RICHARD LINDSAY ASOC. DE LEUW CHADWICK AND TELFORDHART ASSOC.	PICTURE IT	TITTERINGTON'S COACHES
Sun.24th Nov. 95 BRADFORD Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	SNAP CRIMESTOPPERS	THE SPORTSMAN	TRAVELLERS REST SUPPORTERS CLUB
Wed.15th Nov. 95 LEEDS Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.	PARK GATE ENGINEERING & TELEMECANIQUE	MADDISONS NITECLUB	ROYAL OAK
Wed.29th Nov. 95 CASTLEFORD Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.	SMITH'S SELF-DRIVE WHITEHAVEN	IGGESUND PAPERBOARD	COMMERCIAL INN DEARHAM
Sun 10th Dec. 95 WARRINGTON Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	SWAN BEARINGS AND CHAPEL GARAGE	SNOOTY FOX	MR. R. WATSON
Sun 7th Jan. 95 LONDON Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	TRAVELLERS REST SUPPORTERS CLUB	ICC CONTROLS	FIRNS OF KESWICK
Sun 14th Jan. 95 OLDHAM Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.	NIREX	LONDON & MAP	A. & J.A. GOODWIN

STAT ATTACK Fixtures • Results • Scorers

Date	Opponents	Kick Off	Result	Att.	Scorers
18/8/95	WIGAN	H	7.30 6-48	7,002	T: Burns. G: Marwood
27/8/95	SHEFFIELD	H	3.00 26-20	3,140	T: McGinty, Fraise, Pape, Livett Goals: Marwood 5
6/9/95	Castleford	A	7.30 24-32	3,287	T: Gorley, Kitchin, Livett, Holgate Goals: Marwood 4
10/9/95	ST. HELENS	H	3.00 22-66	4,300	T: Kitchen, Gorley, Pape Goals: Marwood 3
15/9/95	Warrington	A	3.00 14-16	7,038	T: Fraise + 1DG, Pape, Livett G: Marwood 2,+2 DG, Kitchin 1 DG
24/9/95	HALIFAX	H	3.00 17-24	3,200	T: Fraise , Fawcett 2 G: Marwood 2 + 1DG
27/9/95	Leeds	A	7.30 12-50	8,877	T: Marwood, Fawcett, Pape
1/10/95	London B.	A	3.00 8-44	1,238	T: McGinty, Penrice
1/11/95	Oldham	A	7.30 26-30	2,091	T: Campbell (2), Fawcett, Livett G: Marwood 2
5/11/95	BRADFORD B.	H	3.00 12-22	2,852	T: Campbell, Johnston G: Marwood 2
15/11/95	LEEDS	H	7.30 10-16	2,541	T: Johnston G: Carter 3
19/11/95	Wigan	A	3.00 20-44	9,876	T: Kitchin, Marwood, Palmada G: Marwood 4
29/11/95	CASTLEFORD	H	7.30 16-22	2,157	T: Burns, Fraise G: Marwood 4
3/12/95	St. Helens	A	3.00 10-58	7,014	T: Fawcett 2 G: Marwood
8/12/95	Sheffield	A	7.30 8-34	2,212	T: Phillips, Kitchin
17/12/95	Halifax	A	3.00 12-26	3,442	T: McGinty, Johnson G: Armstrong 2
7/1/96	LONDON B.	H	3.00 32-10	2,237	T: Johnson, Campbell, Marwood, Allen, Palmada G: Marwood 6
10/1/96	WARRINGTON	H	7.30 24-16	2,200	T: Johnson, McGinty, Palmada, Penrice G: Marwood 4
14/1/96	OLDHAM	H	7.30		
21/1/96	Bradford B.	A	3.00		
12/11/95	Regal Trophy (2) St. Esteve		30-14	1,376	T: Burns, Johnston, Phillips, Fawcett, Fraise, Kitchin G: Carter 3
26/11/95	Regal Trophy (3) Widnes		8-32	2,500	T: Johnston (2)
27/1/96	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Round (4)				

follow the 'TOWN' on video

Home & Away 1995/96

also available

1994/95 Tries - 1993/94 Tries - 1992/93 Tries
plus selected games from the
92/93, 93/94, 94/95
Seasons.

'TOWN' Academy & A-Team fixtures 95/96 selected games available

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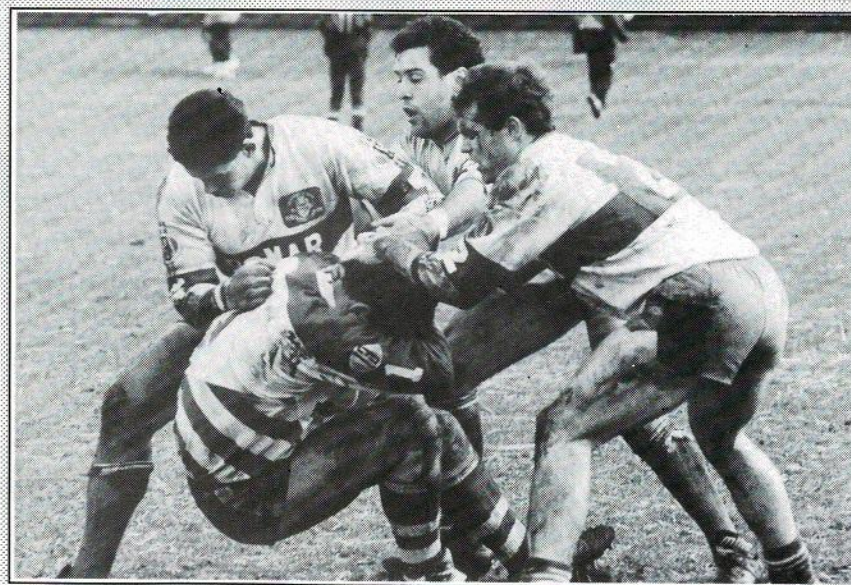
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*We wish Workington Town
every success for Season 1995/96.*

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

The Supporters Club trip to Paris is gaining momentum and we have already filled two buses. If you would like to go please contact any of the following officials for details George Petre (01900) 812967: Kelvin Jeffrey (01900) 604307 or Dave Milbourne (01900) 67421, who you may also catch in the Risman Bar after today's game. Please do not leave it too late to book your seat. Remember we have a savings scheme so that you can spread the cost of paying. There is a Race Night in the Risman Bar right after today's match beginning at 5.00 p.m. Entry is free, and you have a 1 in 6 chance of winning, so get in there and spend win money. Finally the Supporters Club would like to thank all the people who have visited the Risman Bar and travelled away with us this season. Your support is greatly appreciated by both ourselves and the players, and I know the players were lifted when the crowd sprang to life for the first time this season against Warrington. Let's get this vocal support going again tonight and finish the season on a high by taking back the two points we lost at the Watersheddings.



**Ian McClean, Ken Kerr and Paddy Tuimavave
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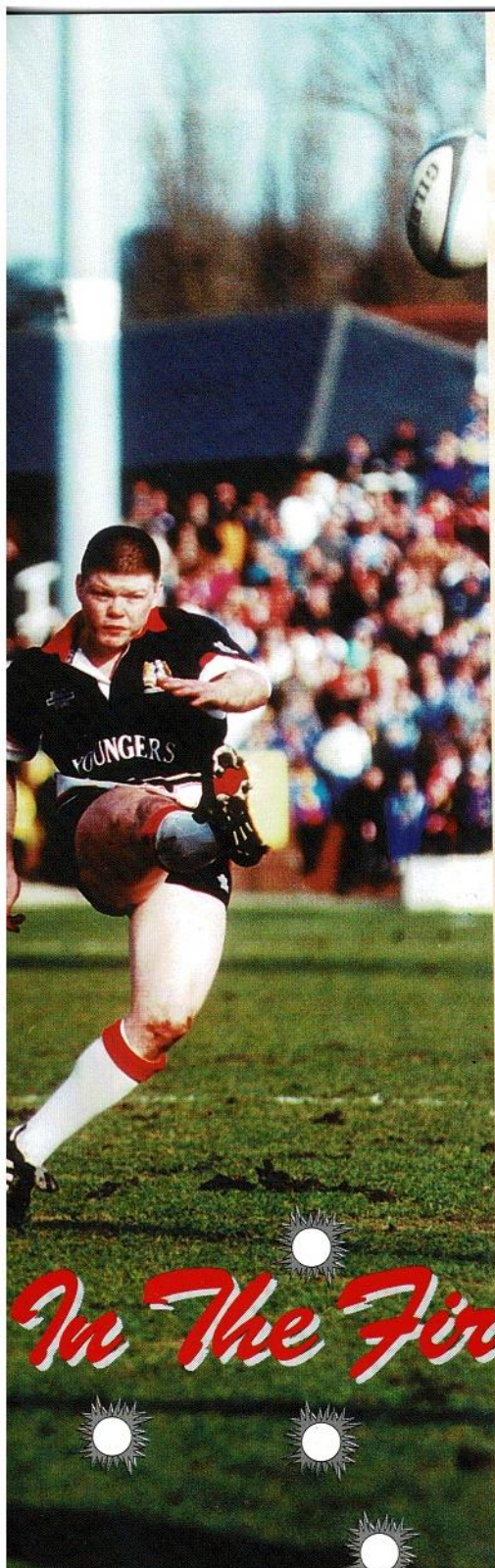
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IN TOWN Sorensen

Enjoy the Game
Kurt...



The efforts made by the squad from the Halifax match onwards has been a revelation and the confidence which comes from winning games is there to be seen by all. There is no single reason for the upward trend in our performances, it is the result of several factors. Young players have brought an enthusiasm to the team which is infectious, and which has ignited a spark which has been missing for most of this season. Lady luck has smiled on us recently and the balls which "kicked" the other way have begun to run for us. Our defensive capabilities have improved dramatically in no small way due to the benefit of the weights programme introduced in October and only now beginning to bear fruit. Team spirit is fantastic, but only 100% effort, commitment and concentration will be good enough today to achieve our "hat-trick". I am confident the squad will give me that today and that the fantastic support given on Wednesday will be continued.



The Bears have, like ourselves enjoyed quite an improved spell of form of late, including a memorable defeat of mighty Wigan, and on Wednesday night they pushed likely runners-up Leeds all the way at Headingley. Such results make it puzzling as to why they are down in the depths of this division, we could even overtake them if we manage a win today, and at Odsal next week.

The obvious answer to Oldham's plight is the number of injuries to key players causing Andy Goodway to pick 'n' mix with what players he can utilise. Oldham's Super League plans initially toyed with the idea of staging some matches at famous soccer grounds in the Manchester area, although it looks like Maine Road and Old Trafford won't feature. But the Bears do seem destined to leave the now ancient relic, steeped in rugby league history that their Watersheddings ground is. Plan's are in line to build a new home adjacent to Boundary Park soccer ground. I always think it sad that such famous stadiums like the Sheddings become lost to the game, but the current requirements of Superleague probably make a clean sweep, the easiest option, one thing that I can't visualise easily is the probability of actually visiting Oldham for a rugby league match and not being frozen to the bone. I recall two visits in recent years, one a Regal Trophy tie against Saddleworth, when it snowed almost throughout the game, then last New Years Day my head was numb throughout the Oldham v Town game (keep your comments to yourselves please) with the temperature surely of arctic proportions. Therefore having had, like most R.L. fans certain reservations regarding summer rugby, the thought of visiting sunny Oldham every year to enhance the sun tanned bone is quite appealing.

In The Firing Line
OLDHAM

Oldham Bears roam into Town this afternoon following on from a hard midweek game versus Leeds. Coach Andy Goodway has assembled a useful squad at the Watersheddings with Cumbrian exiles Howard Hill and Chris McKinney leading his new brand of top youngsters. Hill in particular has made quite an impact this season and has just signed a contract that will keep him an Oldham player for several years to come. There are quite a few of the present Oldham squad that have become well known to Town fans over the years especially our old tormentor Wally



Gibson who gave us more than a few headaches during his Huddersfield days as did that prolific points scorer from Rochdale Steve Gartland, whom I remember having a particularly good game against us two seasons ago when Rochdale inflicted our heaviest home defeat of the season in the old-second division. Craig Richards also trailed with us that year, and although the deal never went through, the "big lad" from Yorkshire has impressed quite a few people in Oldham with his strong direct running and his ability to off load the ball in the tackle. Irish International Martin Crompton is club captain. The former Warrington and Wigan player joined Oldham in 1992 for £35,000. He is a brilliant tactical kicker and orchestrates most of Oldham's attacking play.



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WEST COAST VIEWS

Whitehaven severely dented Widnes' hopes of finishing runners-up in Division One last night with an excellent 14-12 victory over the Cheshire club. Stan Martin really seems to be getting things together down at the Recreation Ground and the 'Haven faithful (all three of them) will be looking to better things come March. Seriously though, I think with a couple more signings to strengthen their squad the boys from the 'Recre' could very well surprise one or two people this coming season.

Paul Charlton's boys also picked up a valuable two points as they push for a place in the top three of Division Two. They take a break from league action this week when they entertain West Bowling in the Third

Round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Gilford Park. It is hardly a fixture to get excited about, but these games are always tricky for a professional club with the neutral observer always wanting the amateurs to win. I would still love the amateurs thrown in the hat on a luck of the draw basis as is used in the F.A. Cup. I am sure that it would give the competition much more national coverage than it currently receives, and more importantly much needed additional revenue for our junior clubs.

Further down the coast Barrow have parted company with Peter Roe. He feels that without money he cannot do anything with the club who are now lying second bottom of the Second Division with only 4 wins.

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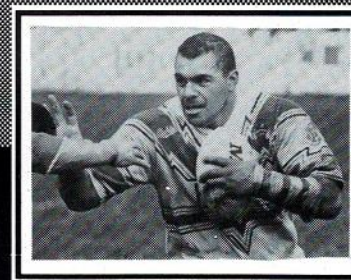
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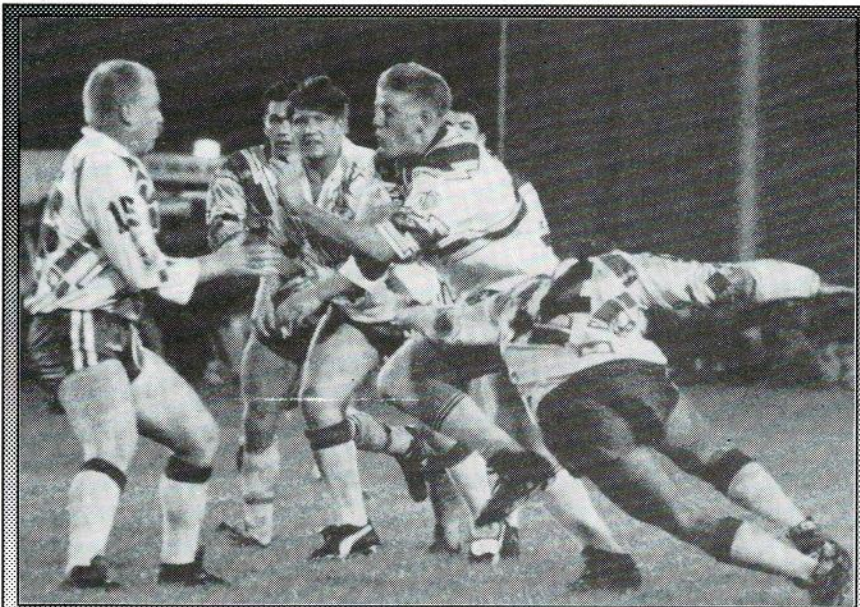
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THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Mr. Steve Ganson

Winging his way into Workington tonight for the first time is Mr. Steve Ganson of St. Helens. Still only 26 Steve flew through the grading system obtaining his grade one at the beginning of this season after officiating on the BARLA Tour to South Africa last year. His childhood ambition was to be an airline pilot and although this did not bear fruition he will still be serving drinks and meals during the half time interval. Steve played amateur rugby league and could often be seen flying down the wing crashing over for many a touchdown in his career prior to taking up whistleblowing. Steve's boyhood hero was Mal Meninga and his favourite television programme is Coronation Street. He is married to Nicole and has one child. Steve is employed as an area accounts manager and refereed the Academy Premiership Final two years ago between Leeds and Wigan. His co-pilots tonight are Mr. A.J. Brow and Mr. K. Leyland

Information courtesy Rebecca R.F.L.H.Q.



Gary McGuirk burst through the Oldham defence in the six all draw back in September 1991.

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Action Replay



Action from the 1989/90 Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Oldham when Town narrowly lost to the eventual semi-finalists. Colin Falcon and Mark Roskell are seen here trying to stop the determined Oldham attacker.

Photographs courtesy Times & Star

John Hoban

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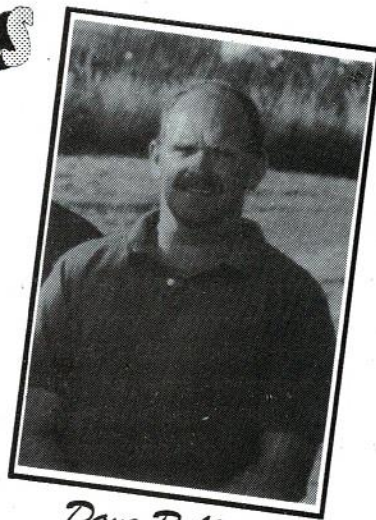
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Young Guns

Looking back at this season I must say we've had some disappointing results, interspersed with some fine performances. Our league standing is not what we all would have liked but considering we have worked entirely throughout the season with a squad of less than twenty it is hardly surprising we have struggled. Even worse for us when our top stars i.e. those who have signed on professional forms were unavailable, we just didn't have the experienced cover to maintain our team strength.



Dave Robley

I believe the Academy is the Workington Town Club's foundation stone of the future, just look at all the top clubs, they can all boast of young stars who are ex-Academy players. Here at Workington we also have youngsters now featuring in the senior line ups who have stepped up from Academy ranks, namely, Andrew Grima, Mark Keenan, Mark Wallace, Leigh Smith, Jamie Beaumont, Dennis Bibby and Craig Barker all of them local youngsters. Hopefully we will, before the Superleague begins in March, have improved their image of Academy Football and can manage to prise away from the BARLA ranks some more of the outstanding local junior talent.

The Academy team conclude a rather miserable season with three away games to complete at Huddersfield (yesterday), Gateshead (midweek) and Dewsbury next Saturday. The latter two being rearranged from postponements earlier in the season. Some eagle eyed followers of Academy affairs will probably have noticed we have travelled to Huddersfield, the league leaders twice this season, that is because they exercised the right their right to stage our postponed game with them on their own ground. As Dave Robley says, it has been a disappointing season, but I can remember shouting myself hoarse when we beat Carlisle and Highfield way back in September with Nicky Crellin scoring tries by the barrowload. The Academy team are a grand bunch of lads with chatter boxes Simon Patty, and Kipper who are great motivators, a special word for Ian Humphries in that role too

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ONE ON ONE

Our final One on One of the Centenary season gives Kurt Sorensen an opportunity to voice his opinion on various topics.

Q. You obviously identified areas in match preparation you wanted to change. What are these?

A. The club gym was an obvious starting point for me as I am a great believer in the value of weight training. The gym was transformed from a non functional unit to a functional one with the help of a friend of mine quickly and as cost effectively as possible. I wanted to monitor training and this could not be done when players were working out all over the Town. It is a club asset and will be continued as such. With the loss of Peter Walsh during the summer, pre-season training was obviously disrupted despite the efforts of Phil and Billy who were plunged in at the deep end. Pre-season training is the most important time for "bulking up" It's a slow process and one which we are only now beginning to see the benefits, from the 3 months hard work



Kurt Sorensen

put in by the players. Without it you lag behind every one else and to be honest we were "out muscled" in defence. We also suffered from a lack of forward strength due to the loss of players and as the season progressed we lacked not only an organiser but our professional attitude wasn't good enough. I think the last month has shown we are well on the way to addressing many of these problems.

Q. Your decision to blood youngsters has paid dividends. Do you regret not doing it earlier.

A. Yes I do. I had watched several Alliance games and was aware of the potential in

the team. I was unsure if they were ready for the step up to first division, but the decision was brought to a head by our extensive injury list at the time.

Q. What are the biggest problems you face in attracting new players to Workington?

A. It's a geographical problem really, the area is isolated from 90% of the professional game. A move to the area adds considerably to the financial burden for the club. That is why it's essential the policy of signing the best "in county" talent must continue.

Q. The learning process includes coaches as well as players. What have you learned from this season?

A. The learning process never stops! I think it is important to learn everything about a player and just as importantly, their character in the search for a successful formula.

Q. What is your biggest regret of the season?

A. Not winning more games is the obvious answer to that question! The standard we have reached now would have resulted in a healthy mid-table position had some of those games we lost earlier in the season been played now. Castleford and Halifax both home and away, Leeds at home Oldham away are all

points that were there for the taking which now would probably have resulted in wins I suppose the important thing is we have learned from those defeats, recognised the weaknesses in our game and tackled the problems.

Q. What changes would you make to the structure of the game?

A. The ball stealing rule is a very grey area and in my opinion needs modification. It is difficult for the referee, I can appreciate that and a return to at least man on man ball stealing seems an obvious starting point.

Q. What differences are there, if any, between the top teams now and your playing days?

A. Finance is one of the major difference's which is tied in directly with full time professionals. During my career both here and in Australia almost all the players were part time, including me!

Q. What were the personal highlights of your career?

Meeting Vince Karalius, who is now a close friend, being selected for New Zealand, winning the 1st Div with Widnes and a Cup Final try scoring appearance with them in my last game for the club.

It's an Oval World



by Neil Williamson



The third column in seven days was stretching my imagination to the limit as I stared at the ceiling seeking inspiration that was proving decidedly elusive! What's happened in the last week that I haven't written about? As is often the case I couldn't see the wood for trees. What's happened? Town have only played like a team possessed, with a confidence that was unimaginable just a few weeks ago. Suddenly there is an optimism in the air, an infectious enthusiasm which spreads from player to player and sweeps through all areas of the ground like wildfire! What a time to launch a pre-season drive for season tickets at a time that will see massive improvements for spectators in phase one of the ground development. O.K. I accept that two winning matches on the trot would only have Wigan supporters yawning and wondering what all the fuss was about, I also accept that the last seven days happenings haven't made it a successful season but I'll tell you what it has demonstrated. Despite everything, we do have players capable of competing, players who can pick themselves off the floor, players who can be motivated and play with pride. Motivation is very much easier for a successful club. but it takes a supreme effort to do it when your anchored on the bottom of the league. All involved from players coaches and the array of back room staff deserve our congratulations. Hopefully we can build on the progress made and move onto better times.

Better times inevitably mean the Superleague and there is no doubt what most species see as the most attractive away fixture of the season. I hear that the word "Paris" is stirring everyone's imagination and

further, both the Travellers Rest and Workington Town Supporters Clubs are reporting massive interest in their respective trips to the French capital. Paris in the spring has been the subject of songs, films and romance, but is Paris ready for Les Horrigan? that's the question being asked in the French capital. Les, or to give him his full title, Monsieur Horrigan (the "H" is silent in French, much the same as in Workington!) is anxious that everything goes smoothly so he is sitting beside Michael Davidson and intends keeping him on a long lead! The problem is Michael's inability to read bus timetables in English and Les has correctly assumed if he can't read them in English he certainly can't manage it in French. Just in case you slip the lead Michael, keep practising *Ou est Angleterre?* Les meanwhile has two ambitions to fulfil in Paris - to see Town win and meet Nicole, says he wants to buy a car or something.

So the curtain comes down on our Centenary season as far as home matches are concerned. One thing is certain, things will never be the same again as rugby league takes a giant step into the unknown. Theories abound, from an increase in the size of Superleague to the demise of Divisions 1 and 2. I've no doubt that many changes to our game will take place, but hopefully in an expanding capacity rather than the reverse. As far as hopes for the future go a priority of Youth development would be number one in my book as the future of rugby league lies firmly in that direction. It may not pay immediate dividends, but quite simply without them, there is no future.

See you in the summer. Is March classed as summer?

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Rugby League News "N" Views

Well, the last programme of the season, no Postbag page due to adverts from the rugby league H.Q. but never let in be said that we don't try to please the supporters of Workington Town. Shaun Adams has contact us with a question that he would like answered.

"Like all loyal Town fans I was delighted to see us beat a team of Warrington's esteem on Wednesday evening. The youngsters continued from where they had left off on Sunday versus London and it is great to see we have some fine budding talent on the books. I don't want to pour cold water on recent performances, but it would worry me to think those in charge of club matters might now decide to rest on their laurels, satisfied we don't perhaps need to strengthen the squad as these "kids", as good as they are, will suffice. These lads still have a lot to learn haven't they? and if we really are going to keep up with the top crop, experienced players are still required. Does the club agree with me?

We contacted the club to find their views on your letter and they assured us that while it is great to see our top young players progressing through the ranks, we

do still lack two or three "seasoned" top quality players for key positions. Negotiations are currently being undertaken with several top players although at this stage no names can be made public. The club have brought in several top youngsters from the amateur game over the last twelve months and all have proved their worth as this season has progressed. By the time Super League kicks off in March we are hoping to have a number of new faces wearing Town shirts to compliment the rich array of young talent we currently have available at the club.

TESCO TACKLE COUNT

The Tesco tackle count was launched earlier this season with a prize of a £50 shopping voucher going to the player who tops the tackle count after each match. Rowland Phillips and Jason Palmada have dominated this recently, each winning it several times. Kurt Sorensen has been putting their success down to his improved weights training programme, but it seems that it's all down to pushing trolleys and carrying shopping bags laden with free groceries. Well Rowland won it again last night, so it's Jason's turn to sit in the trolley and be pushed around, and no, you're too big to go on the Postman Pat ride.

Anyway many thanks to Tesco's for sponsoring this tackle count. Your support is gratefully appreciated by Rowland and Jason particularly.

The Directors, Players and Officials of Workington Town R.L.F.C.

Would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the companies and individuals who have helped us this season with various forms of sponsorship and advertising. Our thanks also to the individuals, too numerous to mention by name, without whose help the club could not run successfully.

Thanks also to our supporters who have remained loyal to us, despite our poor form earlier in the season. We have said it before, but without doubt, you are the best set of supporters in the league. We are now getting ready to open the latest chapter in the club's history when we embark on Super League '96 in March. The first phase of ground improvements will be well under way by then, so I hope that some of you will take advantage of the superb executive club package that the club have put together. The programme editing team were told on Thursday morning that a number of seats had been sold on the night and the club were being inundated with enquires regarding this scheme. Please take five minutes to read the leaflet you were given, and DO consider joining. Don't take too long about it though, and get your mates persuaded to do the same. Below are printed Town's opening fixtures just to wet your appetite. See you in Marchunless we have a home cup draw!!

Rd. 1	31/3/96	Workington	v	St. Helens
Rd. 3	8/4/96	Workington	v	Sheffield E.
Rd. 6	5/5/96	Workington	v	Halifax
Rd. 8	19/5/96	Workington	v	Wigan
Rd. 11	9/6/96	Workington	v	Leeds

top points scorers

WORKINGTON TOWN

First Team
Try Scorers

Name	
Tries:	
M. Johnston	7
D. Fraisse	6
V. Fawcett	6
P. Livett	4
K. Pape	4
L. Campbell	4

Goals:	
D. Marwood	43

ALLIANCE

Tries:	
L. Chilton	11
D. Stainton	9
M. Wallace	3
A. Grima	3
J. Allen	3
M. Bethwaite	2

Goals:	
D. Bibby	12
M. Bethwaite	10

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C. Fisher	10
D. Sandelands	3
M. Wallace	3

Goals:	
C. Fisher	31



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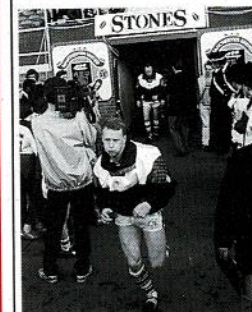
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Hull v Widnes Old Trafford 1991



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

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Down at
GRASSROOT LEVEL
Introducing Westfield A.R.L.F.C.

Our final look at the amateur Town Academy player Paul game today features Woolighan and Alan Stoddart. Workington's only First Division The club are now based at the amateur side Westfield. This is Moorclose Pub and are Westfield's second season in coached by Kevin Connolly Division One and they currently and Ian Torley. Kevin knows all occupy a mid-table position. about the Westfield players The club have always been seemingly having played for noted for their strong powerful them since the year dot. pack, and this season it has Although he has now hung up been complemented by ex- his boots, his experience along professionals Carl Henderson with Ian Torley's is essential to the ex-Egremont and Carlisle the teams on going success as Raiders forward and ex-Townie they build to become one of John Graham. Brendon the league's top sides. Much Pickering also plays but is travelled forward Maurice sidelined at the moment due to Wigham helps keep an eye on a knee injury. The club have an the second team duties as they array of good young players in battle it out in Division Four of John Kerr who is a County U18 the Cumberland League. prop or second row, and ex-

FACTFILE

WESTFIELD A.R.L.F.C.

CLUB ADDRESS: Moorclose Pub, Workington
TELEPHONE No.: (01900) 601962 Stephen Beverley
CLUB COLOURS: Green and Gold
COACHES: Kevin Connolly & Ian Torley
OWN PITCH: No - Moorclose Sports Centre
OWN CLUBHOUSE: No - Moorclose Pub
Ex-PROS. C. Henderson, B. Pickering, J. Graham
No. OF TEAMS: 2 Open Age
CURRENT BARLA
INTERNATIONALS: None
TRAINING NIGHTS: Tuesday and Thursdays at 6.30 p.m.
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extra time

The Keith Singleton Column



So here we are then, another season's home fixtures almost done and dusted, perhaps not quite, as a kind draw tomorrow could give us a home cup tie, for another shot of our favourite fix at the park. Personally I would love to meet one of our Cumbrian neighbours down here in two weeks time, in fact why not all three as useful stepping stones to the Twin Towers? dream on eh?

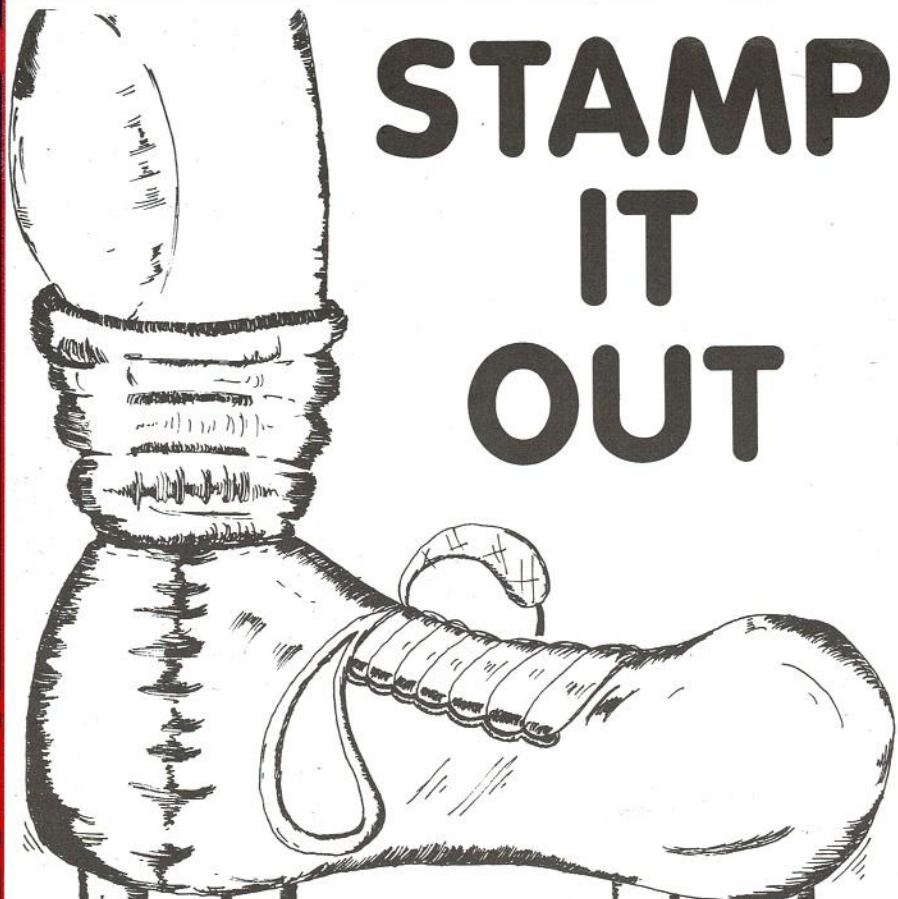
For most clubs this historic Centenary season, looking at gate returns, has no doubt been a real nightmare, therefore they will be keen to see the back of it. But even so, it is rather sad to witness the end of an era, rugby league football as we know, and love, may never be quite the same. Much, very much has been said and written regarding the long term future of our great game, so I won't bore you any further with my opinions on the Murdoch plans. I'll just stay content with present happenings which right now look fine. Like I said earlier on the Wembley trail begins soon for us top flight clubs, so given that the team has found some real form, and a fair pull of the ball why can't we enjoy a good long cup run, which would then set us up nicely for the new beginning of Super League '96 which of course I needn't tell you kicks off in March. Now that seems very good to me, continuous

action from August '95 to August 96, although what happens from September this year to the following March puzzles me rather. Whoops! nearly forgot, I'm going to watch the Rangers of Egremont, Cumbria's top amateur team. Paul will now insert something in brackets, I bet, I mean about Elbra being the No.1 in Cumbria that is. (only for now Keith, Kevin Gartland's Maryport boys are on the up!!!)

It was great on Wednesday night to hear for the first time this season the crowd really getting behind the team, yes I know there hasn't been a great deal happening to get the old adrenaline flowing this season, but I really enjoy a big buzz when both sides of the stadium chant Town, Town, Town in unison, and so do the players which is more important. I'm sure we'll soon be rocking in the old favourite Worky, Worky again, in fact sock it to the lads this afternoon folks, you start the party mood and the lads will join in.

Finally, after having many verbal duels in the past, I felt quite miffed when my favourite foe George Nicholson didn't even give me a passing thought during his "Question and Answer" session in the Wire programme, but I won't go away, not to watch Whitehaven anyway. (I bet we meet them in the cup now, damn it!)

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