



SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



OLDHAM BEARS V WARRINGTON

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 4
SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 1996 KICK OFF 3.00PM

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.20

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CLUB HONOURS

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
 Runners Up
 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09,
 1921-22, 1954-55

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1904-05

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22,
 1956-57, 1957-58

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1899, 1925, 1927
 Runners Up
 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933,
 1956, 1957, 1958

Runners Up

1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966,
 1968, 1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

SECOND DIVISION PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

1988, 1990

Runners Up

1992

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 63-0 v Goole, March 18th 1899
 (Challenge Cup Rd 1)
 67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959
 (League)
 Record Score: 70-10 v Bramley, Feb 12th 1995
 (Challenge Cup Rd4)
 67-6 v Liverpool City, 4th April 1959
 (League)
 Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,
 Feb 24th 1912

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Tries in a Season: Reg Farrar 49 1921-22
 Tries in a Career: Alan Davies 174 1950-1961
 Tries in a Match: James Miller 7 v Barry,
 Oct 31st 1908
 Goals in a Season: Bernard Ganley 200 1957-58
 Goals in a Career: Bernard Ganley 1,358 1950-1961
 Goals in a Match: Bernard Ganley 14 v Liverpool City,
 April 4th 1959
 Points in a Season: Bernard Ganley 412 1957-58
 Points in a Career: Bernard Ganley 2,761 1950-1961
 Points in a Match: Abe Johnson 30 v Widnes
 (12 goals + 2 tries),
 April 9th 1928
 Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson 628
 Sep 1899 - April 1923
 Most Consecutive Appearances: Joe Lawton 134
 Sep 1897 - Nov 1902

ALL THE ABOVE RECORDS ARE RELEVANT TO OLDHAM FIRST CLASS FIXTURES ONLY

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BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN



The number of times, in recent years, that Oldham and Warrington have been paired together in various rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is quite remarkable. Indeed today's tie at Watersheddings will be the sixth clash in the last eleven tournaments the sequence starting back in 1986 when Oldham beat a highly fancied Wires 13-6 here at Watersheddings. Of the five clashes between 1986 and 1995, Wires have won three and Oldham two, so we have the opportunity today to level things up, although Warrington will be keen to avenge our 17-6 win at Wilderspool in round five the old round a years ago. That was Oldham's second win in the five match sequence and oddly enough we went on to reach the semi final in each case. In 1986, when we knocked out a very strong Wires side, we battled through to the semi-final in which we lost, somewhat controversially, to Castleford. That semi final will always be remembered for the disputed Castleford try by Bob Beardmore and Frank Myler's decision to play 16 year old Glen Liddiard at outside half. Glen came up trumps and we came much closer to reaching Wembley than

the score suggested, much the same story as our tale of woe in the 1990 semi final when we lost 10-6 to Warrington in another Central Park semi-final. We lost a thriller which will be recalled for Paul Lord's disallowed try in the last minute when referee John Holdsworth ruled the winger offside as he chased Mike Ford's kick to the corner. It is interesting to note that the respective half backs in that semi final Ford for Oldham and Martin Crompton for Warrington could well be on the opposite sides today and in direct opposition with No 7 on their backs. Warrington's other victories were 17-7 at Wilderspool in a first round clash in 1988 and 8-3 at Watersheddings in a first round tie in 1992. It was Oldham's turn for revenge in 1995 when we won 17-6 against all odds at Wilderspool and then knocked out Huddersfield at home in the quarter final to earn a semi-final tilt at Wigan in the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield. If you tot up the score of the five Oldham Warrington ties under review you see that, on aggregate only two points separate the teams. So if recent cup history is anything to go by we should be in for an evenly matched

thriller this afternoon. The teams met here in an exciting Stones Centenary Championship match only ten days ago and there was enough in that game to suggest that we could have another Challenge Cup epic in store today. Supporters, players, coaches and club officials dream each year of going to Wembley and this year will be no exception, particularly for a club like Oldham which has never sampled the great Wembley experience. May I take this opportunity of welcoming all the folk from Warrington. May the better team win. In conclusion, may I remind Oldham supporters that discounts on Super League season tickets do not end until January 31 and all who purchase before that date will go into a draw for the trip to Paris when we play there on Easter Monday.
 Jim Quinn



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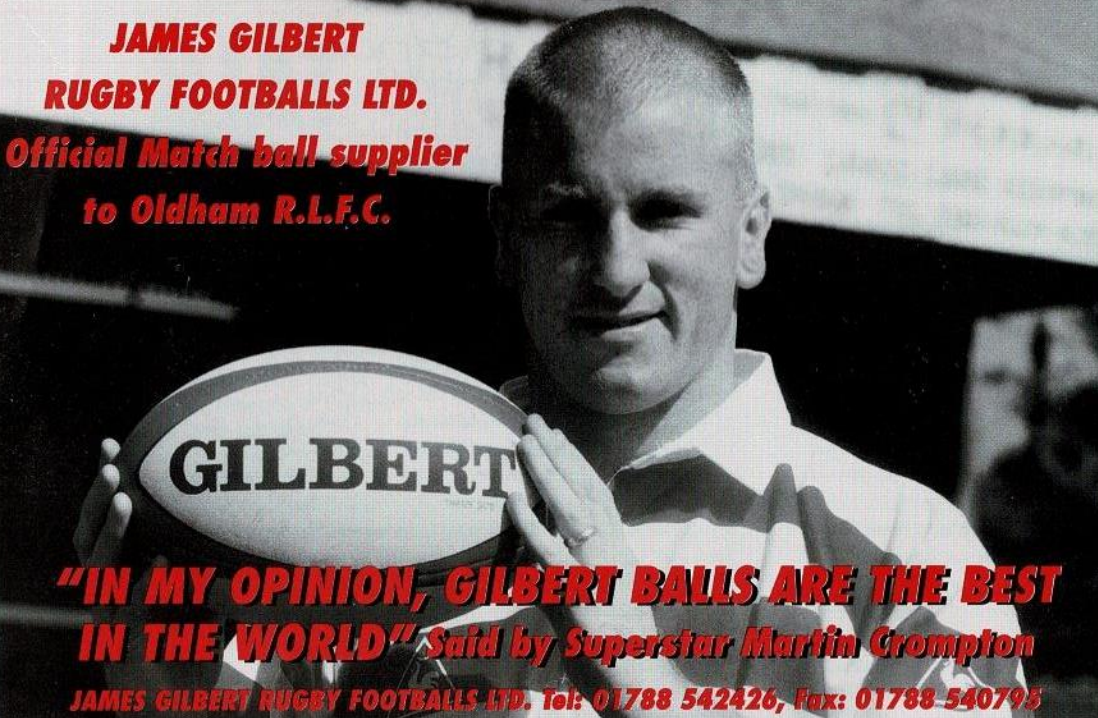
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LEE PENNY

Joined Wires in Oct 91 from Orrell St James ARLC and quickly established himself in the first team squad. Academy & U/21 International, Lee has played in over 80 games for the club to date and is still only 20 years old.

ANDY CURRIER

Signed during the close season from Featherstone Rovers with whom he spent two unhappy seasons most of the time sidelined with a serious knee injury. Andy is better known from his Widnes years where he accumulated many winners medals and his experience should prove to be a valuable asset to the Warrington three quarters.

IESTYN HARRIS

Equally at home at centre, stand off or full back, this talented player was signed from Oldham St. Annes in August 1993. Has been capped at Academy level, Under 21's and also for Wales. Has already made over 50 1st team appearances and he is also a successful goal kicker.

KELLY SHELFORD

New Zealand International who joined Warrington in 1991 after a brief spell with Whitehaven. Over 120 appearances with the club to date scoring over 30 tries. A classy loose forward who has recently taken on the mantle of stand off with outstanding success.

MARK FORSTER

Wing three quarter. In his 14th season with his only ever club and still topping the clubs try scoring charts. Has now made over 300 appearances scoring 140 tries and playing as well as ever. He joined Warrington in 1981 from local amateurs and has been a credit to the game.

GARY CHAMBERS

Signed from Cumbrian club Kells ARLC in 1989 and injury has dogged his first team career restricting his appearances to 90 for the senior side. He is an under 21 International and seems more determined than ever to keep the prop forward jersey and push his claims for full international status.

MARK JONES

Another close season signing. Mark, a Welsh International, was signed from Hull F.C., and like Dave King was brought in to add weight and strength to the young Warrington forwards. Tough tackling and resilient he too should prove to be a valuable member of the pack this season.

PAUL CULLEN

Now back to full fitness after suffering a severe knee injury last season. Paul has served the Wires with great distinction since 1980 and is the clubs longest serving player. Has played in almost 300 games which would have been many more had it not been for a series of unfortunate injuries. Began his career in the centre but has now settled well in the second row.

PAUL SCULTHORPE

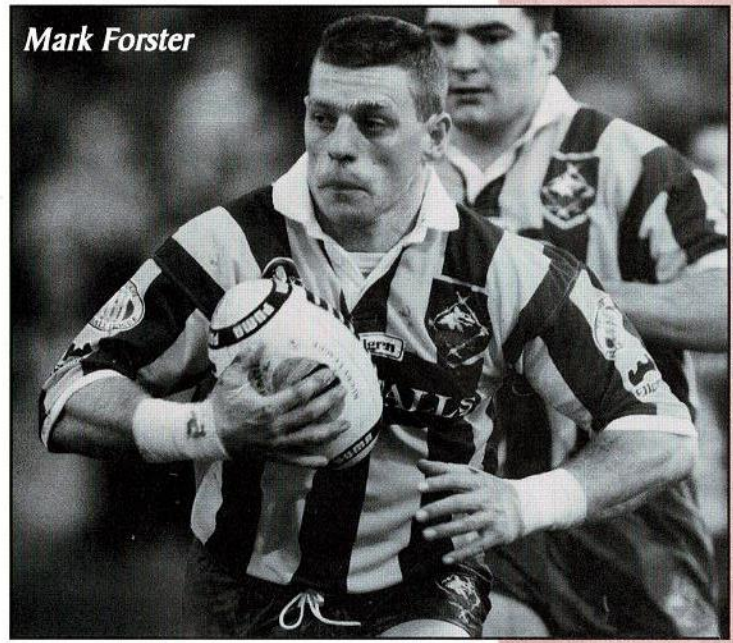
Another product of the Warrington youth system. Joined the club last year from Waterhead ARLC and quickly earned himself Academy International honours. Through impressive performances he has forced his way into the 1st team squad and though still only 17 years old has made 10 1st team appearances with many more no doubt to come.

MARK HILTON

Wigan born, he joined the club in 1991 from Orrell St. James. A non stop worker, he is still only 20 years old and has already played in almost 50 games for the club, at prop forward. Has gained International selection at Academy level and at under 21's and is widely tipped for higher honours.

JOHN HOUGH

Joined Warrington in December 93 from Seddon Panthers ARLC. Oldham originally as a scrum half, but has developed into a fine hooker and now holds down a regular first team spot at No 9. Still only 19 years old, John is a fine future prospect.



Mark Forster

WARRINGTON

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Tackling the issues...



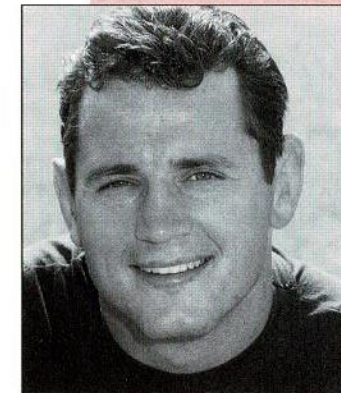
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It will be good to go into today's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Warrington, having had a full week to prepare. We had almost forgotten what it was like to have seven days between matches having played Leeds and Warrington on successive Wednesday evenings. Last Sunday's home game against Sheffield Eagles was our fifth game in 18 days and on the previous Wednesday night Warrington came here after a similar fixture glut towards the end of the Stones Centenary Championship campaign. It is difficult to cope with so much rugby in such a short time. Inevitably, I thought both Oldham's players and Warrington's looked tired and jaded, but we did our best in difficult circumstances to improve our league record in the last few weeks



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Super League, which is getting closer by the day. Our first game against Wigan at Boundary Park is now only two months away and it is quite a sobering thought to realise how close we are to that big kick off. Of course, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is with us already and we all know the special attraction it holds for the game and for all those Oldham fans who have dreamed for years of going to Wembley, but have never made it. Warrington have had a disappointing end to the league season and you can rest assured they will be coming here today determined to make amends by setting off on a good cup run. We will need to be at our best to meet that challenge head on.

Andy Goodway

ANDY GOODWAY

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MEMORY MATCH

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

The history books tell us that it was as long ago as May 1927 that Oldham last won the Challenge Cup. A 26-7 win over Swinton at Wigan brought to an end a run of four consecutive finals involving the Roughyeds. Two years later the final was switched to Wembley and since then Oldham have reached the Challenge Cup semi-final on seven occasions and on seven occasions they have suffered the heartache of defeat at the penultimate hurdle. All semi-final defeats are bitter pills to swallow but perhaps the bitterest pill of all came in 1964.

As a Second Division outfit Oldham were not expected to progress very far in that 1963-64 competition. To make matters worse the cup draw was none too kind to Oldham who were called upon to face First Division opposition at every stage. Nevertheless Oldham won 11-4 at Keighley, beat Featherstone Rovers 9-7 at home and won 7-5 at Hunslet in the quarter-final.

Apart from Oldham, the other semi-finalists were all from Division One and Oldham were paired with Hull Kingston Rovers. The Robins had reached the semi-final with victories at Rochdale Hornets 22-7 after a 12-12 home draw, at York 23-7 and by 38-4 at home to Barrow. The semi-final was staged at Headingley and attracted a crowd of 28,556. Late on in that match the Robins led 5-3 but an injury time dropped goal, worth two points in those days, from Len McIntyre forced a 5-5 draw.

The replay was hastily arranged for Station Road, Swinton the following Wednesday when a crowd of 27,209 assembled to see which of the following two teams would reach Wembley:

Hull KR: Cyril Kellett; Graham Paul, Terry Major, David Elliott, Mike Blackmore; Alan

Burwell, Arthur Bunting; John Bath, Flash Flanagan, Brian Tyson, Len Clark, Eric Palmer & Harry Poole.
Oldham: Frank Dyson; Geoff Sims, John Donovan, Peter Smethurst, Trevor Simms; Vin Nestor, Jack Pycroft; Charlie Bott, Len McIntyre, Tug Wilson, Geoff Robinson, Stuart Whitehead & Harry Major.
As well as Oldham played on that emotional occasion they were unable to match the Rovers who looked well set for Wembley as the match approached its conclusion. The Robins led 14-7 having scored four tries to Oldham's one. Oldham, however, were not to be denied and they once again forced a draw with almost the last kick of the match. At 14-14 the match went into extra time and in the opening minutes of that extra time Geoff Robinson crashed over to put Oldham 17-14 in front. The twin towers of Wembley beckoned. Oldham were well on top and looked likely to score again but then disaster. After 12 minutes of extra time the match was abandoned because of poor light. Station Road was not equipped with floodlights in those days and extra time

had not been anticipated by the officials who had set the kick-off time. Five days later the teams met for a third time at Fartown. The only consolation Oldham got from that meeting was a share of the 32,757 gate. Rovers won 12-2 and so the only Oldham representative at Wembley the following month was referee Dickie Thomas. It has been a similar sad story ever since but one day Oldham WILL reach Wembley - could it be this year?

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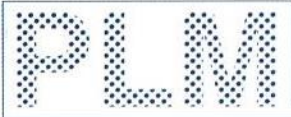
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WHAT A WEEK FOR SHOCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

First of all St. Helens dispense with the services of Eric Hughes and then a few days later Warrington announce their team to succeed Brian Johnson.

Lets deal with Warrington first, I really am delighted that Alex Murphy is back in the game, he has the kind of character the game needs and if anyone can attract new sponsors, young players and new spectators to the club Alex is the man to do it.

What worries me is the appointment of John Dorahy as coach. It seems to me to be a very strange pairing and John remember sacked as coach at Wigan not long ago will have to go into this new venture knowing exactly where he stands or it could turn out to be another nightmare.

I have not as yet talked to one person who can understand the appointment or should I say the thinking behind the appointment of John Dorahy and I first sincerely hope that for the sake of Wire supporters it all works well and opposites really do attract!

At Knowsley Road Eric Hughes has been dismissed and in probably the worst kept secret of all time a certain Australian conditioner is hotly tipped to take over. Hughes allegedly blames Chief Executive David Howes and the wrangles there are a long way from over. My only comment on the affair is that I'm sad that yet another coaching opportunity has eluded an English coach. There must be some about and if there isn't then the matter needs rectifying immediately.

Having said all that I wish the man luck, I think he will need it!

Malcolm Lord BBC GMR



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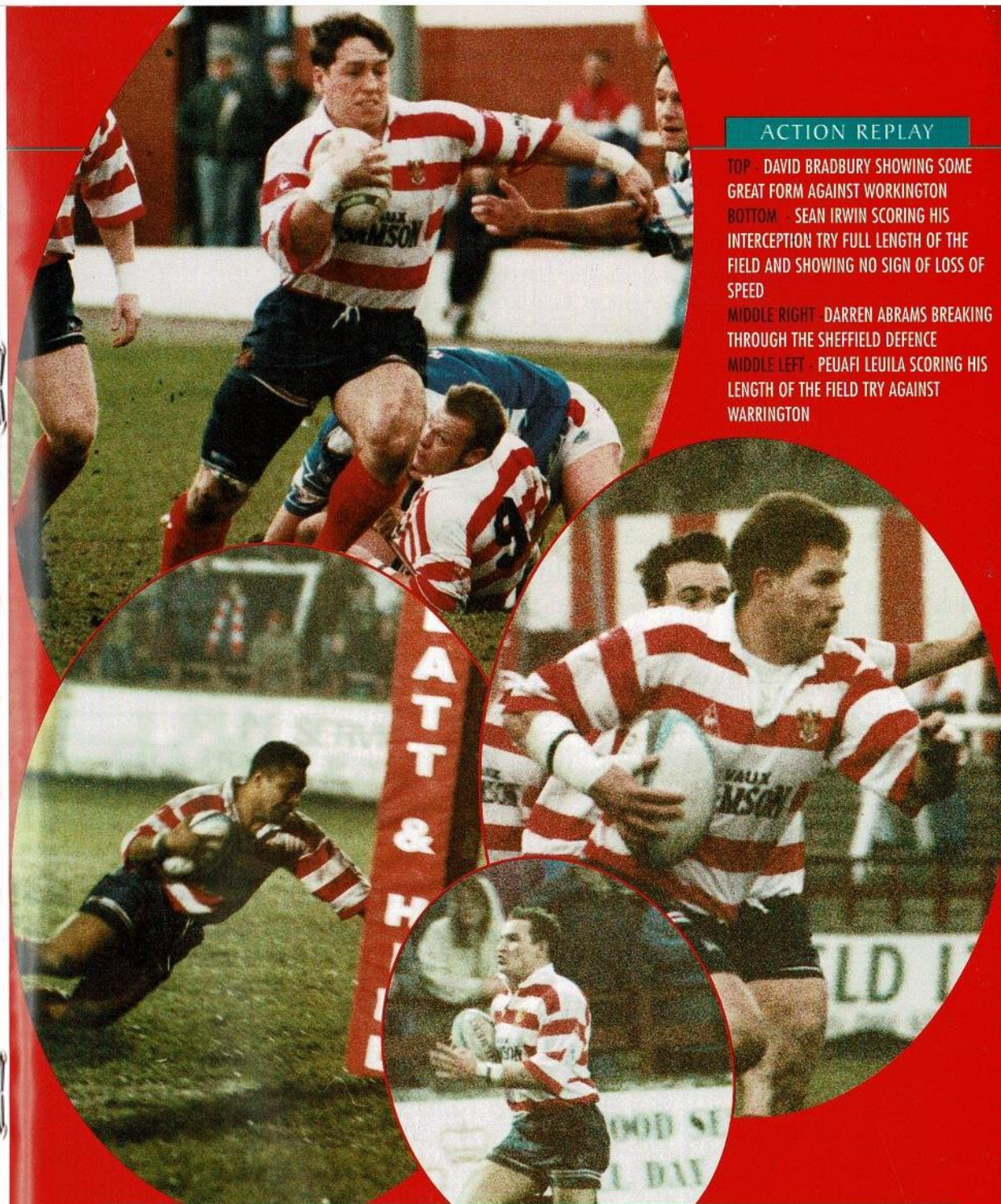
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TOP - DAVID BRADBURY SHOWING SOME GREAT FORM AGAINST WORKINGTON
BOTTOM - SEAN IRWIN SCORING HIS INTERCEPTION TRY FULL LENGTH OF THE FIELD AND SHOWING NO SIGN OF LOSS OF SPEED

MIDDLE RIGHT - DARREN ABRAMS BREAKING THROUGH THE SHEFFIELD DEFENCE
MIDDLE LEFT - PEUAFI LEUILA SCORING HIS LENGTH OF THE FIELD TRY AGAINST WARRINGTON



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1995-96 SILK CUT PRIZES

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Of the 1995-96 sponsorship investment of £450,000 a total of £322,000 will be awarded in prize money with the remaining £128,000 being deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete 1995-96 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

Third Round: £3,500 to each 2nd Division Club	TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: £322,000
Fourth Round: £3,500 to losers	CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND: £128,000
Fifth Round: £6,000 to losers	(including development grants of £1,000 to each amateur club in the Third Round)
Quarter-Finals: £9,000 to losers	
Semi-Final: £12,500 to losers	
Runners-up: £35,000	
Winners: £70,000	GRAND TOTAL: £450,000

1995-96 SILK CUT AWARDS

Silk Cut Awards will again be presented to the adjudged Man of the Match in each tie from the first round onwards. In each case the winner will receive a commemorative medallion, plus a cheque for £150 (from the third round through to the quarter-finals). The Man of the Match at both semi-finals receives a cheque for £300 plus an engraved silver plated replica rugby ball.

1995-96 SILK CUT TIMETABLE

First Round: 2nd December 1995	Quarter-Finals: 24th & 25th February 1996
Second Round: 16th December 1995	Semi-Final: 9th March 1996
Third Round: 14th January 1996	Semi-Final: 23rd March 1996
Fourth Round: 27th & 28th January 1996	
Fifth Round: 10th & 11th February 1996	Final: 27th April 1996

1995-96 SILK CUT TICKETS

Tickets for the all-seater 1996 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 27th April can be booked now priced £39, £35, £30, £27, £22, £17 and £12 in the stadium, and £50 in the Olympic Gallery. Please forward order and remittance, made payable to the Rugby Football League, to:

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1995-96 SILK CUT DRAWS

First Round: Tuesday 21st November 1995	- Live on GMR at 7.15pm
Second Round: Monday 4th December 1995	- Live on BBC Radio Leeds
Third Round: Monday 18th December 1995	- Live on BBC Radio Leeds
Fourth Round: Monday 15th January 1996	- Live on BBC Radio 5 Live at 5.15pm
Fifth Round: Monday 29th January 1996	- Live on BBC Look North and BBC Radio 5 Live at 6.55pm
Quarter-Finals: Monday 12th February 1996	- Live on BBC Look North and BBC Radio 5 Live at 6.55pm
Semi-Finals: Monday 26th February 1996	- Live on BBC Look North and BBC Radio 5 Live at 6.55pm

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RUGBY RECALL

1. As Oldham are now known as The Bears, what is the full name of the following teams? - Leigh, Chorley and Barrow.
2. Who was the last non-Wigan player to win the Lance Todd Trophy?
3. Of the five Lance Todd Trophy winners from 1979 to 1983 inclusive, four of them later played for Oldham, can you name them?
4. Which former Warrington player has won the Lance Todd Trophy twice in the last 10 years, but not with Warrington?
5. Who kicked four goals for Oldham in last season's 17-6 Challenge Cup defeat of Warrington at Wilderspool?
6. Three of this seasons Championship teams have never played at Wembley, who are they?
7. Which club played their only ever Challenge Cup match in season 1991/92, they were in the Third Division and lasted only one season?
8. In August 1993, Australian television cancelled which former Great Britain player's commentating contract, claiming they couldn't understand his Yorkshire accent?
9. In the same month, which two Wigan players faced a League inquiry for failing to collect their Charity Shield losers medals?
10. Which Widnes forward was sent off in the 1992/93 Challenge Cup final?

10. Richie Fryes.
 Scarborough Pirates; 8. Eley Hainy; 9. Martin O'Hall and Kevin Skerrett.
 March 12 pens; 2 cons; 6. Oldham, Sheffield, London Broncos; 7.
 Mick Burt; 8. David Hobbs; 4. Andy Grogan; 88 and 90; 5. Wilson.
 (Player 1987 St. Helens; 3. 79 - David Toplis; 80 - Brian Lockwood; 81 -
 1. Eight Centurions, Chorley, Cheshire, Barrow, Brax; 2. Graham Eadie

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Anyone who was at the Warrington and Sheffield games will realise why a move to summer has some advantages. The two games did however lead to two excellent wins for the Bears and makes a top 4 Super League place look realistic. It's amazing how a first team win makes Development work so much easier!

The Sheffield game was a packed event off the field as well as on it. At 2.00 we held the draw for the RENAULT OLDHAM SCHOOLS CUPS. These will run at every age group from Under 11 to Under 19's and the total entry is 90 teams. With that type of participation we are approaching the numbers required to compete with the best. It is very pleasing to note that 24 Junior Schools have entered the Under 11 Competition and an amazing 9 Colleges have entered the Under 19 Competition. Thanks are due to Roger Curtis at RENAULT OLDHAM for making this massive event possible. On sponsors, I would like to thank James Gilbert (Rugby Footballs) for their support of the excellent banner competition. I do not think there is any doubt that Waterhead Wolverines deserved to win for their excellent effort. Mentions, however, must be made of the superb runners-up - Mayfield, St. Edwards, Watersheddings and Hey with Zion

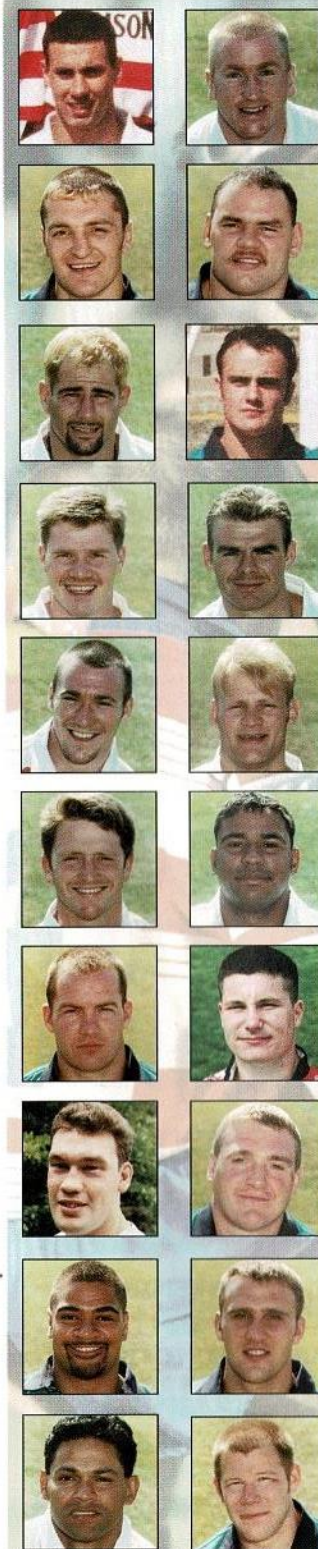
Junior Schools plus St. Annes Rugby League Club. All the runners-up will receive an autographed Gilbert ball to raffle for club or school funds. The half-time sprints also proved very popular and I would like to thank all the clubs who supported the event and thanks also to the 1500 youngsters who took up the FREE Ticket offer. Let's hope they are back today.

Last Monday PUMA sponsored a Touch Rugby Competition for Under 14's which was held at Chapel Road Synthetic Pitch. Sixteen teams battled each other and a biting wind and eventually Saddleworth defeated Radclyffe to win the PUMA Tracksuits. Henry Paul made the presentations to cap a memorable night.

Hearty congratulations to the Oldham Under 16's who defeated Wigan in the Semi-Final of the English Schools Cup. This was the second time they had beaten Wigan in two weeks. We now look forward to the Cup Final in March against Hull here at Watersheddings possibly!

All in all an excellent week for Oldham Rugby League and let's hope it continues here today against Warrington.

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INJURY UPDATE

As with most clubs, we are glad the Centenary Season has finally drawn to a close. With so many matches played in the last few weeks of the season it has put a considerable burden on the players of most clubs, including ourselves, with the lads who are fit enough soldiering on with bumps and bruises. Our own injury list is still a long one, with none of our long term injury victims yet ready to play, although Joe Faimalo, Steve Gartland, Mike Neal, Paul Davidson and John Clark are not far away. After the Warrington game Jason Temu was added to the list but with the Sheffield game bringing a hectic week to a close overall we came through pretty well.

OLDHAM v WARRINGTON

OLDHAM, WARRINGTON AND THE CHALLENGE CUP - THE STORY SO FAR

Details of previous Challenge Cup-ties involving the Roughyeds and the Wires.

Season 1898-99 Round 2
Oldham 14 Warrington 0
Oldham tries - Lawton 2, Davies & Martin. **Goal** - Lees
Season 1906-07 Final at Broughton
Oldham 3 Warrington 17
Oldham try - Avery
Warrington tries - Fish, Isherwood & Hockenhill.
Goals - Fish 4.
Season 1919-20 Round 2
Oldham 9 Warrington 0
Oldham tries - Carter, Marlor & Hall.
Season 1924-25 Round 2
Oldham 12 Warrington 2
Oldham tries - Rix 2. **Goals** - Brough 2, Knapman.
Warrington goal - Jolley
Season 1928-29 Round 2
Warrington 7 Oldham 0
Warrington try - Williams. **Goals** - Blinkhorn 2.
Season 1953-54 Round 2
Oldham 4 Warrington 7
Oldham goals - Ganley 2.
Warrington try - Bevan. **Goals** - Bath 2.
Season 1985-86 Round 2
Oldham 13 Warrington 6
Oldham tries - Worrall & Foy.
Goals - Worrall 2. **Drop goal** - Ashton.
Warrington try - Boyd. **Goal** - Carbert.

Season 1987-88 Round 1
Warrington 17 Oldham 6
Warrington tries - Boyd, Jackson & Gregory.
Goals - Woods 2. **Drop goal** - Woods.
Oldham try - Lord. **Goal** - Walsh.
Season 1989-90 Semi-final at Wigan
Oldham 6 Warrington 10
Oldham try - Irving. **Goal** - Platt.
Warrington tries - Crompton & Forster. **Goal** - Turner.
Season 1991-92 Round 1
Oldham 3 Warrington 8
Oldham goal - Tyrer. **Drop goal** - Martyn.
Warrington try - Ellis. **Goals** - Lyon 2.
And when we last met....
Season 1994-95 Round 5
Saturday, 25th February 1995
Warrington 6 Oldham 17
Half-time 6-10
Attendance 4,489
Warrington try - Davies. **Goal** - Davies.
Oldham tries - Ranson & Faimalo. **Goals** - Marsh 4.
Dropped goal - Gartland.
Warrington - Lee Penny, Mark Forster, Allan Bateman, Jonathan Davies, Iestyn Harris, Kelly Shelford, Greg Mackey, Gary Tees, Tukere Barlow, Bruce McGuire, Gary Sanderson, David Elliott & Paul Darbyshire.
Substitutes - Andy Bennett & Mark Hilton.
Oldham - Wally Gibson, Adrian Belle, Paul Topping, Steve Gartland, Scott Ranson, Wilson Marsh, Martin Crompton, Paul Norman, David Stephenson, Jason Temu, Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo & Mike Kuiti.
Substitutes - Iyan Green & Paul Davidson.

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ALLIANCE UPDATE

WITH ALLIANCE COACH GRAHAM BEALE

Saints nearly had to put the champagne on ice, this game had everything but two points in the bag for us. Saints started in typical fashion fast and furious and scored a try in the first five minutes and converted the goal. Oldham fielding the youngest side of the season six academy players and two trialists decided if they were going to get a good beating they would go down with a fight, for the next 35 minutes Oldham never let Saints have a look in. We spoiled their attack and punished their defence Paul Deacon leading the way forward, with good support from the forwards put Joe McNicholas in for a try and Deacon added the goal, from the kick off Saints were under great pressure and made hard work to get up field. Oldham continued to frustrate Saints who kept making error after error, Deacon put a nice kick

through for Cowans to score at the side of the posts for Deacon to convert 6-12. Saints looked shell shocked as the young Roughyeds rattled the Saints team. Saints frustration gave a penalty away for Deacon to convert to go 6-14 up. Saints were relieved when they were awarded a penalty to the side of the posts, but Oldham hit back with a drop goal by Deacon to give the half time score 8-15. The players were very confident of beating Saints and could not wait to get back at them, fortunately for Saints we came up with a bad error from the kick off and Saints scored but failed at goal, back came Oldham and made good yards but the final pass going to ground, with the crowd starting to run the game Saints were lucky to score but ref allowed the try 16-15, back stormed Oldham Cowans, Wilde, Nuttall

making good breaks and pushing Saints back into their own 22 and Saints were looking shaky and disorganised, as the young Roughyeds would not break. End to end football flowed as each side knew the next points were vital, Saints got the break they needed and scored but failed at goal, 20-15 and the young players of Oldham still believed they could win the game Cowans and Wilde made good breaks but the last pass just going to ground. As Saints looked like they had been in a war a last minute drop goal for Saints finally popped the cork for some flat champagne, every player in the A team could hold their heads high after the game. Best for Oldham Deacon, Cowans, Wilde, Nuttall, Eastwood.

ON THIS DAY..... Don Yeates recalls this day in History

On the day when Oldham and Warrington begin their 1996 Challenge Cup campaign, it should be remembered that the Wires have played in three cup finals on January 28th. The first came on Tuesday, 28th January 1975 when they met Salford at Wilderspool in the replayed Floodlit Trophy Final. Salford pulled off a shock 10-5 victory in that final. Winger John Bevan scored the Warrington try that evening and he was on hand again three years later, when on Saturday 28th January 1978, he scored the only try of the game when Warrington beat Widnes 9-4 in the final of the Regal Trophy. Warrington followers would, no doubt, like to draw a veil over the events which occurred exactly twelve months ago today, Saturday, 28th January 1995. That was the day that

Warrington lost 4-10 against Wigan at Huddersfield in the Regal Trophy final. On that very same afternoon local amateurs St. Annes won 30-8 at Milford in the National Cup and Saddleworth Rangers would surely have trounced Northampton Knights in the same competition but they failed to turn up. Now they want to join the professional Second Division! Back in 1961 Knowsley Road, St. Helens staged a Test match between Great Britain and France. A crowd of 14,804 were attracted to this match which the Lions won 27-8. Warrington full back Eric Fraser landed six goals and the tries came from Alec Murphy (2), Billy Boston, John Stopford and Brian Shaw. Alas no Oldham players were included in the British line up.

The last time Oldham played a Challenge Cup tie on this date was in 1990 when Workington Town visited Watersheddings and were beaten 30-8. Centre John Henderson scored a hat trick of tries for Oldham that afternoon. On that same day, Sunday, 28th January 1990, but very much further a field San Francisco 49ers beat the Denver Broncos 55-10 in a one sided American Football Superbowl which was staged at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. To end on a rather sad note, it was on this day in 1973 that the former Rochdale Hornets forward Apesai Toga died in Sydney following a boating accident aged just 27 years. Toga made 97 appearances for Hornets between 1964 and 1967 before moving down under to play for Sydney St. George.

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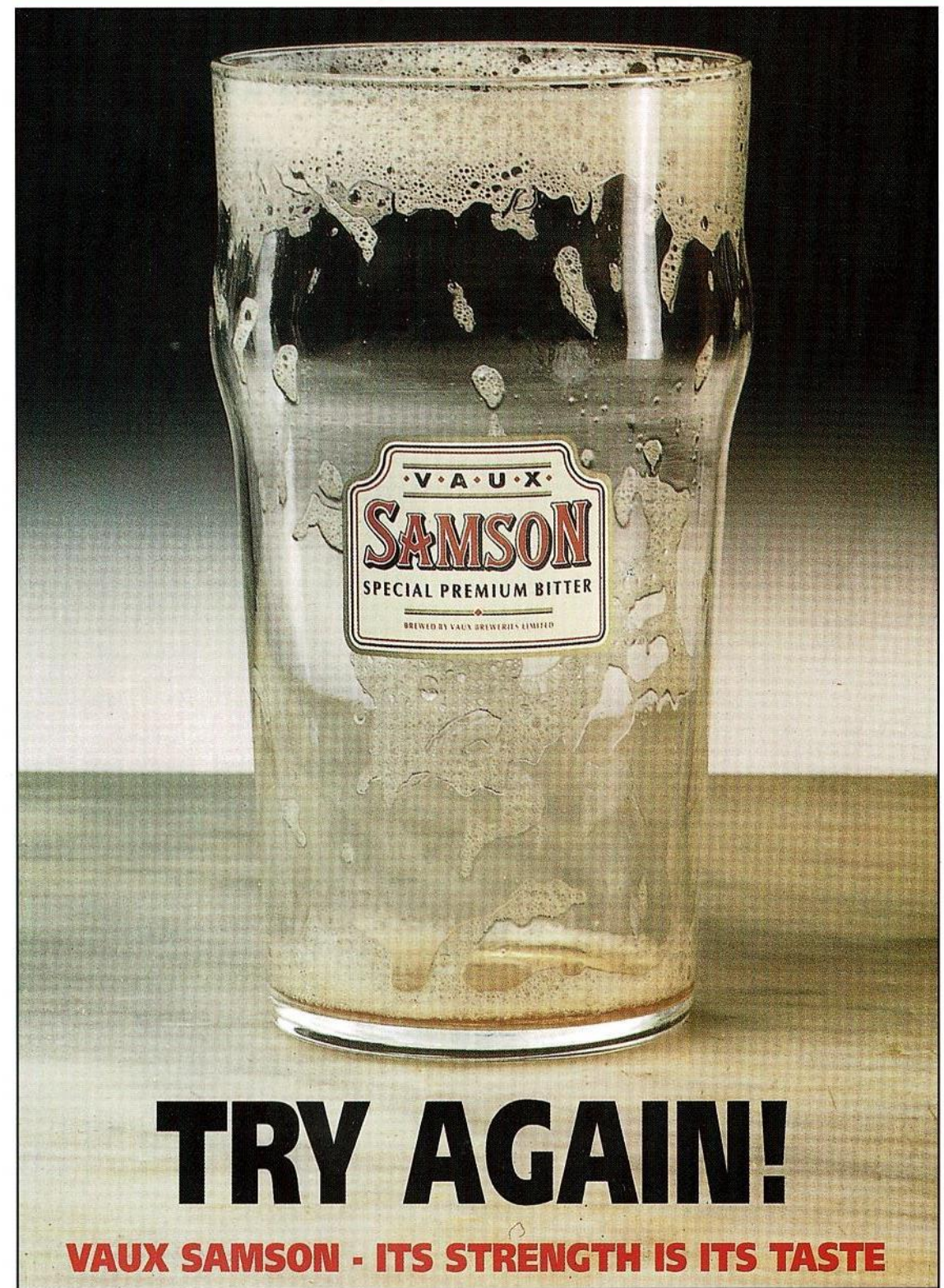
RUFF E. HEAD

BY IAN WILSON

So last week wasn't the last time up at Watersheddings. Let us hope that this week won't be either! With Alex Murphy returning, it certainly won't be a quiet occasion, anyway. We all have our favourite 'hates' amongst visiting players. Sometimes it is because of the amount of foul play that we regularly see from them, but more often, I suspect, it is because they are annoyingly good, as well as annoying as players. I would have to say that, though Andy Gregory and Shaun Edwards run him fairly close, Mr Murphy in his pomp would have to win my vote. Of course, I am absolutely certain that he could not have cared a fig, indeed, he positively loved it and would have been disappointed if he had not roused the ire of the home spectators whenever he played on the visiting side, because that would have meant that he had had a poor game and his side would

probably have lost, but he was certainly what tends to be referred to as a 'character'. I had to chuckle when driving home after last weeks excellent win against Sheffield. The GMR phone in was full of the Murphy story, with fans from both St. Helens and Warrington ringing in to say what a great thing it was for the game that he was back. And that sophisticated RL analyst Kevin Ashcroft was hinting strongly that he thought he was the ideal man to put Murphy's words of magic into practice as a coach. I have to say that the phrase "yesterdays men" rather came to mind. I wonder what Iestyn Harris and Paul Sculthorpe will make of Mr Murphy's famed motivational methods. Eventually getting rather sick of it, I turned to Radio Leeds only to hear Maurice Bamford expressing very similar sentiments! No doubt Peter Fox, Tony Barrow and Frank Barrow are also getting their track suits dry

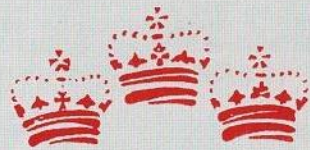
cleaned, ready for the call, too. I am just glad that we are one of the only three Super League clubs with a young, modern English coach, and long may it continue. I don't know about you, but I can't really get my mind around recent developments between our game and those nice rugby union chappies. What with invitations to their Super home counties Twickenham Middlesex sevens, Wigan trying hard to interrupt more Super League weekends begging a game against Bath, and players trying to arrange to play ra-ra to earn a few quid in the off season you would think that barriers are breaking down healthily. But it does seem to be on their terms I cannot believe that the 57 old farts and their mates have anything but underlying contempt for RL people, and I do hope that our decision makers look at their 'offers' with that in mind.



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6	FRANCIS MALONEY
7	MARTIN CROMPTON
8	CRAIG RICHARDS
9	GARY BURNS
10	IAN SHERRATT
11	GARY LORD
12	IAN GILDART
13	DAVE BRADBURY
14	ADRIAN BELLE
15	CHRIS MCKINNEY
16	PAUL CROOK
17	SHAUN IRWIN

WARRINGTON	
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2	ANDY CURRIER
3	CHRIS RUDD
4	SALESI FINAU
5	MARK FORSTER
6	IESTYN HARRIS
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ACADEMY NEWS

WITH BRIAN GARTLAND

Well our season has come to an end but not without a lot of good coming out of it. We have made a lot of strides forward since our opening game of the season when we were well and truly beaten by a very strong St. Helens side. We have got two lads signed as professionals with the club Neil Melling a second row



forward and stand off Craig Barker who have both represented the A team this season.

Craig has been in hospital for over a week having cut his leg and picked up a blood disorder. All at the club wish Craig a speedy recovery. The Oldham town team had great win against Wigan on Saturday at U16's level let's hope we can reap rewards of this by some of the boys coming forward for our academy team.

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