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line-up

Today's Officials: Match Referee

MR R. CONNOLLY

Bob, twin of fellow Premier referee, John was appointed Reserve Referee for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Wembley this year, which must supercede his previous career high of reserve referee for the England v Australia World Cup opener. Married with two daughters Rebecca and Rachel, Bob puts an evening out at a restaurant with wife Julie as this ideal evening out. Bob has a phobia of snakes and fancies a go at Bungi jumping after successfully paragliding



TOUCHJUDGES MR J. MOLYNEUX MR D. MITCHELL
IN GOAL JUDGES AJ. BROWN D. BLOOD
RESERVE A. BURKE

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Oldham

Oldham Bears

No.	Player	Played	T	G	DG
1	PAUL ATCHESON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	ADRIAN BELLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	DARREN ABRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	PAUL TOPPING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	PETER SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	FRANCIS MALONEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	GARY BURNS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	IAN GILDART	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	JOHN CLARKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	JOE FAIMALO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	GARY LORD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	MATT MUNRO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	HOWARD HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBS					
19	IAN SHERRATT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	PAUL DAVIDSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	MIKE NEAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	PAUL CROOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Bradford Bulls

No.	Player	Played	T	G	DG
10	NATHAN GRAHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	JON SCALES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	MATT CALLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	PAUL LOUGHLIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	PAUL COOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	GRAEME BRADLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	ROBBIE PAUL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	BRIAN McDERMOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	JAMES LOWES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	KARL FAIRBANK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	JEREMY DONOUGHIER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	BERNARD DWYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	STEVE McNAMARA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBS					
4	DAVIDE LONGO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	CARLOS HASSAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	PAUL MEDLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	SIMON KNOX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 Comments in this programme are not necessarily
 the clubs.

Club Directory

Oldham Bears RLFC
The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
 0161 624 4865 (3 lines) General Office
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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 Sept 1899 - April 1923

MOST CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES

Joe Lawton 134 Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

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

Talking

THIS evening we welcome to Watersheddings the Bulls of Bradford and first of all I must, on behalf of the Oldham board, congratulate everyone at Odsal on their achievement in reaching Wembley and, more important still, taking part in such a spectacular Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final.

The final portrayed everything that was good about Rugby League Football.

It was a magnificent sporting occasion and great credit should be heaped on both clubs for making the sports annual showpiece an event which set the nation talking.

The sunshine and the high temperature played a significant role in enabling the players to provide a fast, open spectacle and it was perhaps fitting that the Bulls should be involved in a final on such a boiling hot day because Chris Caisley, the Odsal chairman, has long been an advocate of the summer season in which we are now involved.

It was Chris, Sheffield's Gary Hetherington and myself who started the ball rolling towards summer rugby, but many others have now come round to thinking that a season which avoids the worst of the winter must be a good idea.

Summer rugby; of course, brings with it demands of a different nature which the players have got to adjust to. I refer to hard grounds, playing in high temperatures, coping with a fast game that will go even faster in good weather and on firm surfaces, and coming to terms with the sheer intensity of Super League and the physical impact that will be a spin-off from full-time professionalism.

The Super League players of today are magnificent athletes and when you throw men like that into a high-collision sport played at top speed on hard grounds you are bound to run into a lot of injuries.

These are the problems that the game of today has to resolve, but I am convinced that clubs, coaches and players can take

those problems on board and come up with a superlative spectator sport which will not only attract good crowds this summer, but will enable the best of the English players to be more than a match for the cream of the Australian game. Here at Watersheddings, we have been making steady and effective progress despite our heavy defeat at St Helens last weekend.

There were reasons for that, not least the absence for one reason or another of Scott Ranson, Jason Temu, Tony Myler, Afi Leuila, Martin Crompton, David Bradbury, Andrew Patmore and Steve Garland, who was to have replaced Martin Crompton at scrum-half until he was injured in the Alliance game against Saints at Ashton United on the Thursday night.

Temu got a two match ban for a late tackle in the Castleford game and Ranson got three games, reduced to two on appeal, for raising an arm when preparing to take a tackle.

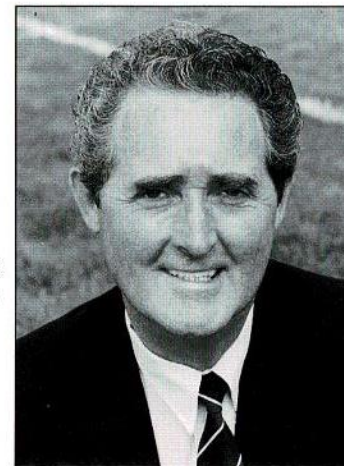
Jason's tackle **WAS** late. He was committed to it, but it was a shoulder-to-shoulder challenge which caused a shoulder injury and in view of that we felt his disciplinary punishment was rather harsh.

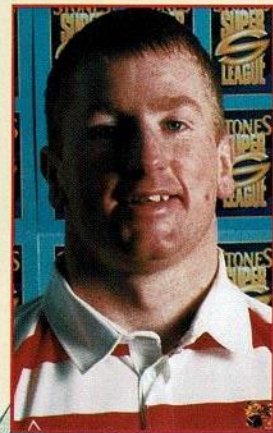
In the case of Ranson, who was penalised by the referee and who has an impeccable disciplinary record, we also felt a little bit aggrieved.

The net result was that we went to Saints last Sunday with a depleted side and the two places nobody wants to go if they are below strength are Knowsley Road and Central Park. It was difficult to compete with a talented Saints side when we were minus so many senior players.

Saints are full of pace and power, but it is only fair to remember that we had a lot of senior men missing and that this was only the second really bad result in our last 12 games.

Jim Quinn





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YOUR Points

of view...



BEARS IN PARIS

'Ee, I must stop enjoying myself,' said Harry in a Ken Goodwin voice. Everyone on the coach was in fits of laughter as one joke followed another to put the disappointment of the afternoon behind us. We were on our way back to the hotel in CACHAN after a meal at the SUD-OUEST Restaurant in the Latin Quarter. The wine and the beer flowed freely and we'd even been regaled by a mad accordionist singing Parisian ballads, though not all that tunefully! Some of us had even tried the snails. Oldham's performance of the afternoon had been dissected several times over and despite conceding a draw in the last minute the more optimistic among us were coming round to the view it was a point won rather than a point lost. The conspiracy theory - that Paris had to be seen to do well for the future of Super League - was beginning to be dismissed to be replaced by the view that, unusually for a French side, Paris were resilient, a team of triers perhaps fortified by their antipodean recruits and the British experience of their native players such as ENTAT, LUCCHESI and REGIS-PASTRE. All agreed that ENTAT, hooker TOREILLES and wingman BOMATI had been outstanding with the latter being tipped as a likely target for English clubs. Back at the hotel the discussion continued into the night with every Oldham player's contribution under the microscope. I don't think the barman was used to selling so much beer at one go and the hunt for change after every round was bought, certainly slowed up the rate of consumption, though at 3.00 a bottle that was probably

no bad thing. Fortunately, for him the villain of the piece, Paul Atcheson had had a good game until his last gasp error, so the fans were in forgiving mood after a drink or two. But contrast that with the feeling earlier in the day. It was hot and sunny and a thousand Oldham followers were in good voice in support of their team. It was how you would imagine it to be if the Bears ever got to Wembley: anticipation, high spirits, colourful and noisy. One of these days when nothing else matters except the mood of the moment and the feeling of belonging to a community of people with but one common purpose. As the game together albeit fitfully, to lead for most of the proceedings. Even as Paris clawed back late in the game, you still felt Oldham would stand firm. Howard Hill's sin-binning and the penalty that put Paris only six points behind, caused a few tremors, but surely Oldham could hold off a tiring home side? Then with 15 seconds to go: disaster. The sense of disbelief, the let down, the despair was devastating. It was like being bereaved. Had we really come all this way to feel cheated of a victory so richly deserved? Can Oldham get nothing right? Of course it's how all supporters feel; just look at Newcastle United's fans as the F.A. Premiership comes to a climax. And the pain goes away. After all a good meal, a few bottles of wine, convivial company can put things right. Better anyway than flying straight home like the players. And next week there's another game and we can do it all over again. Come on you Bears!

Geoff Cooke

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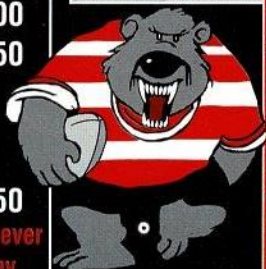
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Bears



Welcome to Watersheddings

To all you Junior Bears and to the supporters of Bradford Bulls.

Let's say thank you to the Bulls for their terrific showing in the Silk Cup Final, but there could only be one winner on the day. Since the last programme notes we have had our first Junior Bears monthly meetings, which was held last evening, and I hope it was enjoyed by all who attended, a special thank you to the players who attended and joined in the fun and games. Because these notes have been written earlier, we are unable to name the mascot for tonight's match, however they will get their mention in the next programme, but we can thank their sponsors Eddie Wolstencroft for the shirt and socks.

What about the answer to the teaser I posed in the last programme.

Well the answer was Mike Ford, who we all know has now signed for Wakefield. This weeks teaser is.....

Which Super League team plays at Derwent Park?

Answer in the next programme notes.

Will we hear 'Come on you Bears' ringing around the ground this evening, I hope so, loud and clear.

If you are travelling to Sheffield next week have a safe journey and let's hope we can make the 'eagles' run from our 'bears'.

Buster Bear.

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Don Yates Looks Back To A Match From Yesteryear

The launching of the European Super League has given the game of Rugby League a much needed fillip.

Attendances during the opening weekend were better than expected in all three divisions. However one thing we know for certain is that the attendance at Bradford's Odsal Stadium on the evening of Wednesday 5th May 1954 will never be beaten.

That was the evening of the Challenge Cup Final replay between Halifax and Warrington, a match which attracted a crowd of 102,569 to the vast Odsal bowl. Attendances at sports meetings were generally higher in 1954 than they are today and that is clearly shown in the 1954 Challenge Cup campaign. In those days the first round of the Challenge Cup was contested over two legs. The eventual finalists each had comfortable victories in the first round. Halifax defeated Dewsbury 19-0 at home and then 15-9 away whilst Warrington beat Bramley 17-0 at home before winning 30-5 away. Oldham beat Liverpool City 15-5 away and 18-11 at home but the biggest crowd of the first round ties was also at Odsal where 20,014 saw Northern beat Rochdale Hornets 11-2 after the first leg had been drawn 9-9.

In round two Halifax beat Keighley 24-5 at home and Warrington won 7-4 at Watersheddings before a crowd of 21,000. However the biggest crowd of the second round ties was 31,172 who assembled at Fartown to see Huddersfield beat St. Helens 12-5. The quarter final saw Warrington beat York 26-5 at home whilst Halifax won 2-0 at Wigan before a crowd of 43,953. Halifax also played before the bigger semi final crowd, 46,961, at Odsal where

the Thrum Hallers beat Hunslet 18-3. At the same time Warrington were beating Leeds 8-4 at Swinton.

The final at Wembley attracted 81,841 who saw a dull match which ended at 4-4. The replay, 11 days later, attracted Rugby League's biggest ever crowd who saw the following two teams line up for action:

Halifax: Tyssul Griffiths, Arthur Daniels, Tommy Lynch, Billy Mather, Dai Bevan, Ken Dean, Stan Kieley, John Thorley, Alvin Ackerley, Jack Wilkinson, Albert Fernley, Derek Schofield and Des Clarkson.

Warrington: Eric Frodsham, Brian Bevan, Jim Challinor, Ron Ryder, Stan McCormick, Ray Price, Gerry Helme, Dan Naughton, Frank Wright, Ged Lowe, Harry Bath, Austin Heathwood & Bob Ryan.

This replay was as dull as the original final and is best remembered by the massive crowd which caused traffic jams on both sides of the Pennines. With no M62 in those days, Lancashire traffic had to pass through Oldham and the Mumps Bridge junction (no roundabout either in those days) was blocked solid from 4pm onwards.

Warrington won the match 8-4, scoring two tries from players who were later to manage Oldham. The first from Jim Challinor came after ten minutes and although Halifax dominated much of the first half and had two tries disallowed their only score in the first period was a penalty from Tyssul Griffiths. Harry Bath and Griffiths each landed a penalty midway through the second half before Gerry Helme closed the scoring ten minutes from time. Halifax had another try disallowed late in the game but disallowed tries count for nought and the record books show that Warrington won 8-4 in front of a record attendance which is likely to stand for all time.

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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

Early May has frequently been the time of year when the Challenge Cup Final has been staged and on two occasions the Wembley Final has been staged on Saturday, 10th May. The first occasion was in 1958 when Wigan beat Workington Town 13-9. Then in 1975 Widnes beat Warrington 14-7.

Of course, both those matches attracted huge crowds but another big crowd was drawn to Central Park, Wigan on Saturday, 10th May 1987 when Wigan beat Halifax 18-10 in a Premiership semi-final which attracted a crowd of 22,457. On this day in 1992 Wigan again found themselves at home in a Premiership semi-final. Leeds were their opponents on that occasion and Martin Offiah ran amok to score no fewer than ten tries in Wigan's historic 74-6 victory.

On that very same day, Sunday 10th May 1992 Brisbane Broncos were beaten 10-8 at home by Illawarra Steelers in one of the shock results of the Australian season. It was one of only four defeats suffered by the Broncos that season but they recovered to win the Australian Premiership and, in so doing,

gained revenge over Illawarra by beating them 22-12 in the play-off semi-final.

It was on this day in 1978 that the BARLA tourists faced the Northern Zone of Papua New Guinea in a torrid match which was staged at The Oval, Lae. The British had two players, winger Steve Critchenson and second-rower Ronnie Carter, sent off and they also conceded 34 penalties before crowd trouble caused the match to be abandoned after 74 minutes. At that stage the locals were leading 4-2. Full-back Rodney Som had landed a couple of penalties for the home side whilst Peter Glover had landed a similar effort for the tourists. Staying with the amateurs, it was on this day in 1994 that Saddleworth Rangers pulled off a magnificent 24-8 away win over Woolsten Rovers. However, it was not enough to stop the Rovers who went on to win the National Conference Championship for the first time. They won it again last year and look like making it a hat-trick of successes this time.

That very same day, Wednesday, 10th May 1994 Leeds signed second-row forward Adrian Morley from the Eccles Junior Club. He could turn out to be one of their best ever signings.

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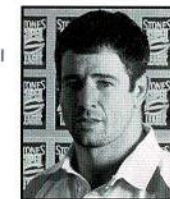
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BEARS Question

Time...

with Paul Topping



FULL NAME: PAUL TOPPING

DATE OF BIRTH: 18.9.65 **BIRTHPLACE:** Billinge

HEIGHT: 6ft **WEIGHT:** 15st 3lbs

NICKNAME AT CLUB: Topper - Tops - Toppo and plenty other but I wouldn't dare to print them because I know my mam reads these programmes.

OCCUPATION: Full time professional League player.

HOME: Billinge **CAR:** Probe

MARRIED: No **CHILDREN:** One on the way.

FAMILY: Mam and Dad brothers David and Benji.

WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD?

To be in the trade I'm in now.

WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Harry Pinner.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN RUGBY?

It's got to be injuries. I hate being injured and not being able to play or train.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN RUGBY?

Being a part of the Super League with Oldham.

WHICH PRESENT DAY PLAYER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Craig Innes.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS BEEN? Christopher Rupert Parr.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Training, especially ahead of all these youngsters at the Club.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Craig Innes.

IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD BUY?

Breath freshener for big Shaz's bad breath.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

I'm very confident in attaining what I want.

WHAT IS YOUR WORST QUALITY?

I've got a smelly but pert bottom.

APART FROM YOUR OWN CLUB, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

Headingley - Leeds.

WHICH IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE GROUND? Derwent Park - Workington.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE?

Cycling and dancing but not at the same time.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL EVENING OUT?

To go to my favourite restaurant Don Luigi's in Culcheth, Warrington.

WHAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU HAVE DONE?

Going to bed and leaving Shaz in my kitchen.

WHAT DANGEROUS THING WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ATTEMPT?

To drive Formula One in a Grand Prix.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PHOBIA?

I'm claustrophobic, I hate small holes.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

My CD collection and my virginity.

WHICH FAMOUS PERSON WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?

Iron Mike Tyson.

WHICH WORLD FIGURE DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Nelson Mandela.

AWAY FROM RUGBY, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT?

Winning the universities superstars.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A RUGBY PITCH?

Watching a kids game and I noticed one player looking down to the ground for the majority of the game. Then I noticed his father stood behind the uprights with fishing gear. The lad was looking for worms.

DO YOU HAVE AN UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?

Midget gems.

WHAT IS THE ODDEST PIECE OF TRAINING THAT YOU HAVE DONE?

Any of Andrew Jackson's shuttle grids.

IS THERE A DREAM YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN A SPORT OTHER THAN RUGBY?

To compete in the Tour De France and of course win it!

FAVOURITE PROGRAMME?

They think it's all over.

FAVOURITE TV STAR:

The late Les Dawson.

FAVOURITE FILM: Pretty Woman.

FAVOURITE FILM STAR: Julia Roberts - very tasty indeed.

FAVOURITE SOAP OPERA: Eastenders.

FAVOURITE SOAP CHARACTER: Chris Parr's twin brother Phil Mitchel our of Eastenders.

FAVOURITE CITY: Liverpool, the dance clubs are fantastic.

FAVOURITE POP STAR: Seal

FAVOURITE SINGLE: Future Love Paradise by Seal.

FAVOURITE LP: Stanley Road by Paul Weller

FAVOURITE FOOD: Chicken Tikka Masala.

FAVOURITE DRINK: Any drink Patch buys me. A very rare deed.

"Monty's"

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS

A lot has happened since our last home game against Leeds, with Martin Crompton, Andrew Patmore, Howard Hill, Steve Gartland, Chriss Parr, and Steve Wild all joining the unlucky Afi Leuila, (who broke his fibula against Leeds) on a lengthy injury list. Add to that Rob Myler, Chris McKinney and until recently Mike Neil it has been standing room only in the treatment room. Martin Crompton caused a lot of concern, initially, at Castleford when we stretched him off, has Martin himself thought his back may have been broken, thankfully that was not the case,

but the bruising on Martins body had to be seen to be believed. Chris McKinney had surgery last week on a groin problems, so will be out of action for quite a while. Howard Hill had a dislocated shoulder put back in, under anaesthetic, at Whiston Hospital last Sunday after the Saints game, so it looks like the two Cumbrians will be working together to get back to full match fitness. Steven Wild had a date with the specialist last Thursday on a troublesome shoulder. But hopefully both Andrew Patmore and Steve Gartland should be fully fit for this weekend.

J. Watkins.

Facts...

Brenda Rogers and Co with a little help from everyone on coach No. 2 on the Paris trip came up with some song titles to match players names.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Paul Atcheson | Apache / Patches |
| 2. Scott Ranson | Flying Scott |
| 3. Darren Abram | Keep on running |
| 4. Paul Topping | You're the tops |
| 5. Rob Myler | Boom bang-a-bang, bang all the time. |
| 6. Francis Maloney | I get a kick out of you |
| 7. Martin Crompton | This is the Captain of your ship |
| 8. Ian Gildart | In gilly-gilly-ossenfeffer-catsa-nelan-bogen by the sea!! |
| 9. John Clarke | Big bad John / Johnny remember me |
| 10. Jason Temu | Wild Thing |
| 11. Gary Lord | My Sweet Lord |
| 12. Joe Faimalo | I got my mojo working |
| 13. David Bradbury | Leader of the Pack |
| 14. Howard Hill | Hill Street Blues |



A reminder of our great trip to Paris "Mo" (Anyone seen him) Helping the driver to park his train.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 15. Afi Leuila | "A" feel fine |
| 16. Steve Gartland | Son of my Father |
| 17. Paul Davidson | Cumberland Gap |
| 18. Chris McKinney | Mack the Knife |
| 19. Ian Sherratt | We've got the power |
| 20. Adrian Belle | The Laughing Policeman |
| 21. Mike Neal | |
| 22. Chris Parr | |
| 23. Gary Burns | Burn bay burn / Fire (I think you should burn) |
| 24. Andrew Patmore | Waltzing Matilda |
| 25. Matt Munro | Born Free |
| Joe McNicholas | Grease Lightning |

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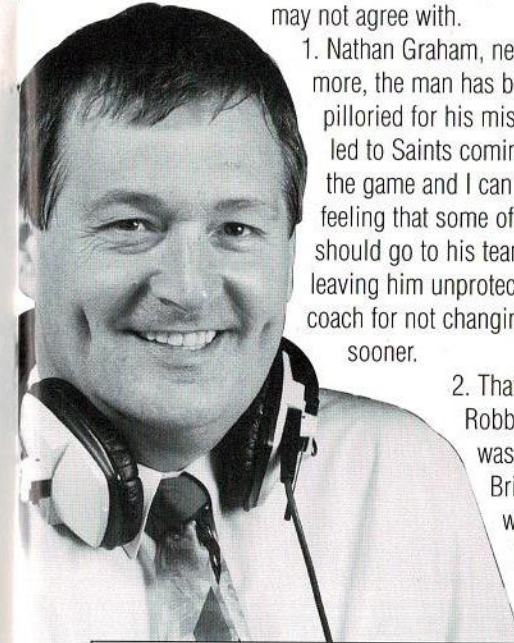
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ELLEN GARAGE

Lord... Final words.

The Cup final is all about emotional moments and I would just like to list a few you may or may not agree with.



1. Nathan Graham, need I say more, the man has been pilloried for his mistakes which led to Saints coming back into the game and I can't help feeling that some of the blame should go to his team mates for leaving him unprotected and his coach for not changing things sooner.

2. That try of Robbie Paul's was sheer Brilliance and will live in the memory

for along time, can you imagine the differing emotions when you score a hat trick, win £10,000 and then finish on the losing side.

3. The total professionalism of Bobbie Goulding for exploiting the weaknesses in the Bull's defence with some of the most searching high kicks.

4. The humour in the press box when it was discovered that someone had cast his vote for the winner of the Lance Todd Trophy to Henry Paul by mistake.

All those helped to make the game truly superb and I am sure you will agree it was played in excellent spirits. The crowd was very sporting and the day as a whole was an excellent advertisement for what we already know as the best game in the world. And let's not forget the youngsters before the game too, they played their part to the full as well.

Malcolm Lord,
BBC GMR.

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"A" Team



OLDHAM 26 ST HELENS 39

OLDHAM'S Hurst Cross experiment went down well ... pity about the rugby! The Bears slumped to a 39-26 Alliance defeat by St Helens on the Ashton United soccer ground to record their fourth loss in five outings this season. Considering the cold night and the fact that professional rugby league was on view for the first time in Tameside, club officials were reasonably satisfied with the support. A crowd of around 250 would not get the club treasurer leaping over nearby Hartshead Pike, but there were more spectators there than watched the last Alliance game at Watersheddings. Unfortunately, Oldham's performance fell flat against a young Saints side which had the invaluable experience of Adam Fogerty in the pack and Phil Veivers in the backs. The Bears began well, fully deserving an early 12-2 lead thanks to tries by Gary Burns and Paul Davidson and two goals by Paul Deacon. It began to go wrong when half-backs Deacon and Steve Gartland had to leave the field with knocks and prop Ian Sherratt was substituted, presumably to save him for Sunday's senior game. Tackling and covering was woeful as Saints hit back to score 31 points without reply in an agonising 40 minutes for the Bears. The side rarely retained the ball for more than two or three tackles and Saints, with the luxury of a glut of possession, broke a lethargic defence at regular intervals. It was only in the last ten minutes - and largely due to the enthusiasm up front of substitute Jonathan Eastwood - that the Bears salvaged something from the wreckage with tries by Tony Nuttall, Mike Neal and Jimmy Cowan. This was not good enough, Oldham ... and I'm afraid that, as Tameside taster, it wasn't the fare to get the locals begging for more.

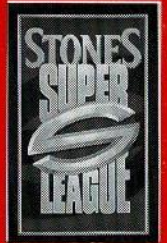
OLDHAM 12 CASTLEFORD 28

Oldham started the game with a reshuffled side at short notice after Wally Gibson went AWOL, but we can't put this loss down to him the credit went to Castleford's Veteran Graham Steadman. Oldham worked very hard in defence and gave Lee Crooks no room to work, but our down fall seem to be scoring tries, our approach play is good but we spawn so many chances it's unbelievable, we seem to be looking for someone else to score, half time 6-8. Oldham rallied in the second half and put great pressure on the Castleford line, for Steadman to break in his own 22 mts to go full length to score, Oldham bounced back with a Paul Crook try 12-14 and all to play for when Steadman broke again to put a supporting player under the posts 12-20. Oldham playing catch-up football created chance after chance, but come up with errors as time was running out, tempers began to break and Oldham gave a penalty away, in the last few minutes Castleford scored a soft try 12-28 a home match lost, were we had more possession and more scoring chances.

**OLDHAM BEARS ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
FIXTURES SEASON 1996**

Thursday	28/3/96	Wigan	Away	32-36
Thursday	4/4/96	Halifax	Away	30-12
Thursday	11/4/96	Leeds	Away	30-12
Thursday	18/4/96	CASTLEFORD	HOME	12-28
Thursday	2/5/96	ST. HELENS	HOME	26-39
Thursday	9/5/96	Bradford	Away	7-30
Thursday	16/5/96	SALFORD	HOME	7-30
Thursday	23/5/96	HULL	HOME	7-30
Thursday	6/6/96	Warrington	Away	7-30
Thursday	13/6/96	WIGAN	HOME	7-30
Thursday	20/6/96	HALIFAX	HOME	7-30
Friday	28/6/96	Hull K.R.	Away	7-30
Thursday	4/7/96	LEEDS	HOME	7-30
Thursday	11/7/96	Castleford	Away	7-30
Thursday	18/7/96	St. Helens	Away	7-30
Thursday	25/7/96	BRADFORD	HOME	7-30
Thursday	1/8/96	Hull	Away	8-00
Thursday	15/8/96	WARRINGTON	HOME	7-30
Friday	23/8/96	Salford	Away	8-00
Thursday	29/8/96	HULL K.R.	HOME	7-30

R.L.H.Q.



SAINTS ONLY UNBEATEN SIDE IN THE SUPER LEAGUE

Paul Newlove, St. Helens and Great Britain centre star, joins team mate Danny Arnold at the top of the Stones European Super League try-scoring charts after scoring a hat-trick of tries in his sides 66-18 victory over Oldham Bears. The dynamic duo have now scored 11 tries each in only six Super League matches so far this season. Newlove's fourth hat-trick since joining Saints from Bradford Bulls last November takes his tally to 18 tries in just 11 games. Saints skipper Bobbie Goulding heads the Stones Super League goalscoring charts with 43, including one drop goal and the pointscoring charts with 89, including one try. Top of the Super League table Saints are now averaging more than 44 points a game with second placed Wigan just behind with 41 points a game. Saints are the only unbeaten side in the Stones Super League with Keighley Cougars and Salford Reds having a 100% record in Division One, along with Hull KR in the Second Division.

**GRAHAM HOLROYD
NEARS 100 APPEARANCES**

Graham Holroyd of Leeds will make his 100th appearance for the club when they visit Paris St. Germain in the Stones Super League on Friday. His 99 appearances, include 17 as a substitute, and have brought him 670 points from 29 tries and 280 goals including six drop goals. And he will not be 21 until 25 October. The former Siddall (Halifax) amateur scored two tries on his debut for Leeds as a 17 year old substitute in a 46-10 old Division One home defeat of Sheffield Eagles on 7 March 1993. He made three more substitute appearances before his full debut at stand off when he again scored a try in the 38-34 home league defeat of Hull on 28 March 1993. While still a teenager, he became only the fifth player to total over 300 points in a season for Leeds with 317 from 12 tries and 135 goals, including a drop goal, in 1994-95. Holroyd has kicked nine goals in a match three times with a best points total of 26, but he has yet to score a try hat trick. He has made one representative appearance, as a substitute for Great Britain Under 21's without scoring.

POINTS SCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has the longest points scoring run of 25 successive matches, including all eight this season.

The stand off's scoring run began with eight goals and a try in the 48-20 First Division win at Huddersfield on 17 September 1995. The Stones Super League player with the best points scoring run is Wigan's Henry Paul who has scored in 17 successive Cup and League matches, including all eight this season. His scoring run started with four goals and a try in the 32-18 home defeat of Halifax on 13 December 1995.

TRYSORING RUN

Greg Austin of Huddersfield Giants has scored at least one try in six successive matches as follows: 1 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1. Nathan McVoy of Salford Reds has scored tries in six successive matches as follows: 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 1. Peter Cannon of Swinton Lions has scored tries in five successive matches as follows: 1 - 2 - 1 - 1 - 1. Jason Roach of Swinton Lions has scored one try in five successive matches.

WINNING RUN

St. Helens have the longest winning run, having won all 11 matches this season, five Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties and six Stones Super League matches. Their last defeat was 32-24 at Halifax in their Final Centenary Championship match on 21 January 1996.

LOSING RUN

Chorley share the longest run of nine matches, including all seven this season.

MILESTONES

Ray Ashton of Bramley needs one try for a career century of touchdowns including representative matches and spells with Oldham, Leeds and Workington Town.

Gary Divorty of Hull needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns including representative matches and spells with Leeds and Halifax.

Graham Steadman of Castleford Tigers needs 22 points for a career total of 2,000 including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers.

Martin Pearson of Featherstone Rovers needs two tries for a career century of club and representative touchdowns.

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WELCOME Bradford Bulls to

Watersheddings



Robbie Paul

Welcome to Watersheddings tonight, for The Bears seventh match in the European Super League, against the Bradford Bulls.

It's no coincidence that the "Bulls" have met the Challenge of Super League head on and have set in place a very strong structure both on and off the field. It's this strength and forward planning which has been at the forefront of the clubs business plans over the last few months and Wembley was a welcome reward for all their organisation and preparation.

The "Bulls" have worked really hard. The adoption of the name Bradford Bulls for marketing purposes has proven to be a great success for the West Yorkshire outfit. One of the most highly respected and forward thinking coaches in the world Brian Smith was persuaded to join their team and no less than seventeen of Bradford's 26 man Super League squad have joined the club since commencement of last seasons Centenary Championship. Slowly but surely Bradford have laid the foundations and have purchased good sound building blocks in their quest for silverware.

Bradford qualified for their first Challenge Cup final for 23 years, losing an enthralling encounter with Saints 40-32, Robbie Paul taking the Lance Todd Trophy after being the first player to score three tries at Wembley. To date in Super League Bradford lie in 7th position in the table following three wins and three losses from their opening six encounters, including a 36-14 win over Warrington last week. They are at present full of confidence and have a great belief in their own ability. The inclusion of former Saints stars Paul Loughlin, Bernard Dwyer and Sonny Nickle has added an extra dimension to their game and with new additions, James Lowes, Steve McNamara and Glen Tomlinson all trying to make the first team, Bradford will prove a force to be reckoned with in this first Super League Season.

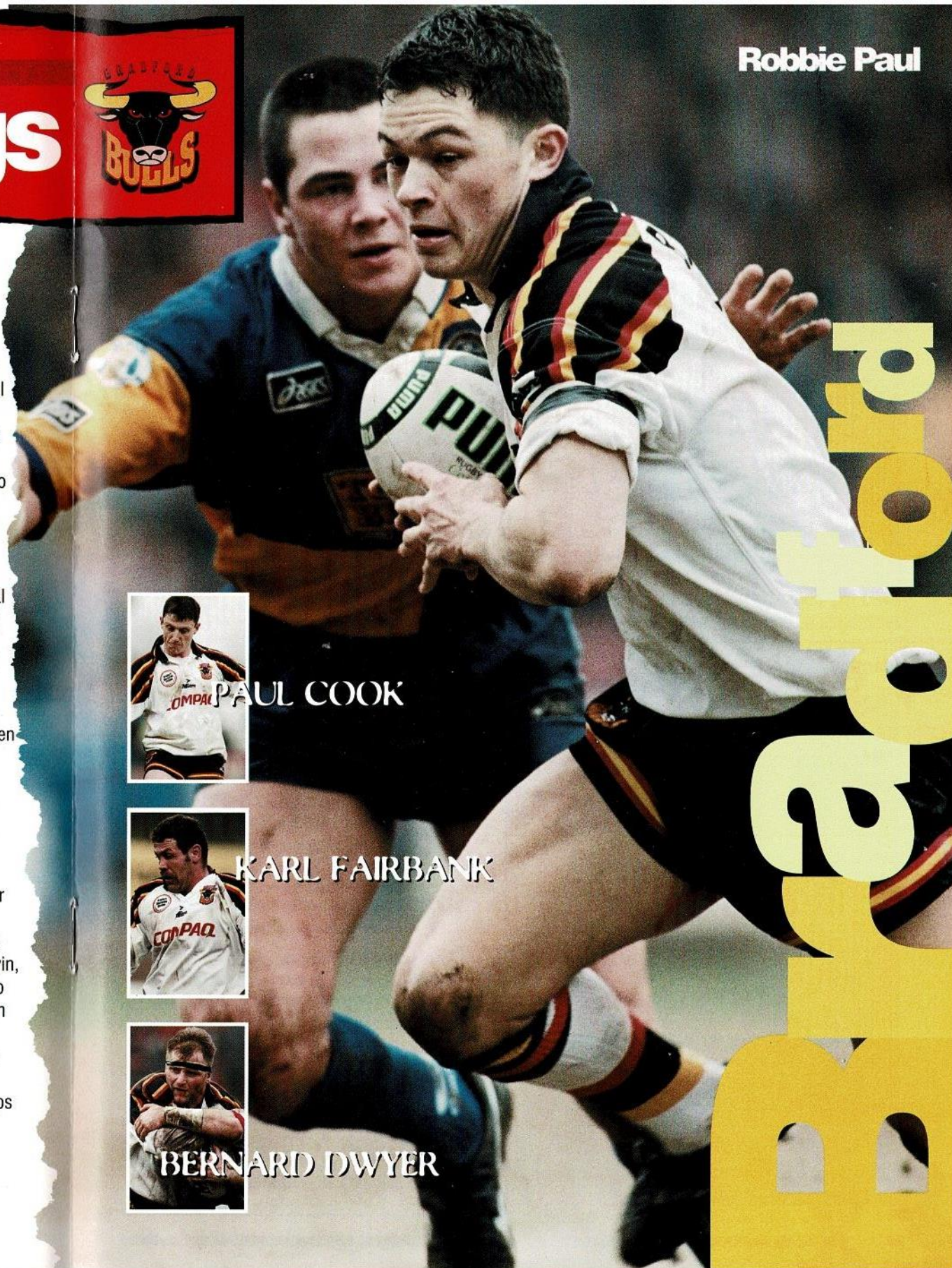


BULLS GAMEBREAKER PAUL LOUGHLIN

One man who certainly needs no introduction is Paul Loughlin. A St. Helens lad through and through Paul seemed reluctant to leave Saints last November as part of that Paul Newlove world record transfer deal and is out to prove

that he still has a lot to offer in Super League. Since his arrival, the Odsal faithful have warmed to Paul's ability and have taken him to their hearts. It is however with St. Helens that Paul is best remembered. He played for Saints for a dozen or so years and was renowned as one of the worlds best centres. Despite a terrible run of injuries, which resulted in three breaks of Pauls arm Paul is still respected by RL critics for the skills he possesses.

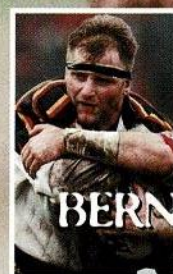
A traditional wingmans centre Paul's creativity, size, strength, pace and goalkicking are his major assets and whilst with Saints he amassed 2004 points from his 286+11 appearances. Man of the Match in Saints 1989 John Player Trophy Final win, Loughlin played in seven major finals for the club and scored the match clinching try against Wigan in the 1993 Premiership Trophy Final at Old Trafford. Holder of a Saints club record 16 goals and 40 points in a match when Saints defeated Carlisle in 1986, Paul has 2 Great Britain U21 caps and has played in 14+1 Test matches for Great Britain.



PAUL COOK



KARL FAIRBANK

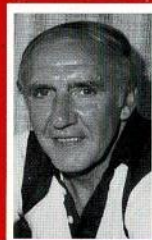


BERNARD DWYER

World
of
Rugby

20

Academy...



Since I last wrote my notes which seems like an age we have lost two games first to Batley away and then Salford at home. The Batley game was a real sickener because I didn't think they were any better than us we just didn't apply ourselves correctly, we let the Batley half backs dominate the game due to lack of commitment. David Milne was our best forward scoring two tries and deservedly being the man of the match. Joe McNicholas also got on the team sheet but we got what we deserved out of the match nothing. Against Salford I thought there was a lot more effort and could quite easily have won if we had played a little more football on the big Oldham pitch and used the backs more. We will have to play a lot better when we go to Widnes hopefully we will have a few more players to choose from when that comes around because we have lost a few players through injury or A team calls.

Brian Gartland.

OLDHAM BEARS JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Day	Date	Team	H/A	Kick-Off	Score
Monday	1/4/96	ROCHDALE	H	7.30pm	L 16-34
Friday	5/4/96	HULL K.R.	H	1.00pm CR	W 20-11
Monday	8/4/96	Batley	A	3.30pm	L 23-10
Saturday	13/4/96	SALFORD REDS.	H	4.00pm CR	L 10-24
	20/4/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
	29/4/96	JJB SPORTS ACADEMY CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND			
Sunday	5/5/96	Widnes	A	1.00pm CR	L 41-4
Monday	13/5/96	HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	16/6/96	Rochdale H.	A	2.00pm CR	
Sunday	23/6/96	Hull K.R.	A	4.30pm CR	
Monday	1/7/96	BATLEY	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	7/7/96	Salford Reds	A	4.00pm CR	
	15/7/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
Monday	22/7/96	WIDNES	H	7.30pm	
Monday	29/7/96	Huddersfield	A	7.30pm	
Sunday	4/8/96	Keighley Coug.	A	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	11/8/96	Swinton	A @ Radcliffe Borough	3.30pm	
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR	
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm	

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Directions by road:

From south: M1 junction 34, take A6178 into Sheffield. Stadium is on left. From east, west and north: M1 junction 34, take A6109 into Sheffield. Turn left into A6021 (Hawke St) and right onto A6178 (Attercliffe Common), and stadium is on left. N.B. Junction 34 is used for the Meadowhall shopping centre, and therefore can be very busy.

Sheffield are planning to play 3 games at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane ground in 1996. Bramall Lane (A621) is off the A61 to Chesterfield. Use M1 junction 33, A57 towards city centre, then A61.



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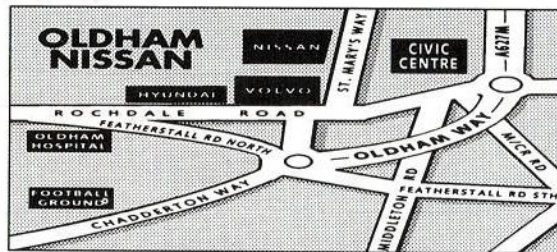
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WHAT'S New

Today Don

SAINTS GAIN PROMOTION

As expected Saint Annes gained promotion to the National Conference Premier Division where next season they will renew League competition with Saddleworth Rangers. It has been a fine achievement by Saints who have only been in the Conference for three seasons. They have just one league match to play which is away at Thornhill tomorrow. Rangers completed their league programme last Saturday and can have a rest until September when the amateur seasons begins.

ROYTON TIGERS REACH FINAL

Two weeks tomorrow, Saturday, 25th May sees the finals of the various BNFL Cup competitions. The under-16 final features local club Royton Tigers who face Wigan St Patricks. Kick-off for this match at the Willows, Salford is 11.30 am. Following that final is the under-18 battle between West Hull and Woolston Rovers whilst the BNFL National Cup Final will be contested by Ellenborough Rangers (who won the Cumbria Cup) and Skirlaugh (Yorkshire Cup winners). Three matches in a day does test your endurance but we suggest that you go along and give the Tigers a roar, get a couple of pints and

then watch the big match between Ellenborough and Skirlaugh.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I reckon this should be quote of the season and it comes from the President of the Rugby League and Sheffield Eagles director Kath Hetherington. In response to a caller who asked why English fans visiting Paris were being encouraged to pay £10 entry fee at matches which were free to enter, Mrs Hetherington said, "WELL I PAID TEN POUNDS WHEN THE EAGLES PLAYED IN PARIS".

OUR NEW MAN

Since our last home game Oldham have signed winger Peter Smith on loan from Widnes. Peter is 22 years old and joined Widnes in September 1991 from the local Widnes Tigers club. He made his first team debut during September 1993 when the Chemics beat Leigh 34-10. In total he has made 29 appearances for Widnes and has scored seven tries. We wish him well at Watersheddings and hope that his form with the Bears dictates that the temporary move becomes a permanent one

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Thoughts from the

Terraces...

It seems a long time since the last home game - and a lot has happened in the meantime! Perhaps the business of high/dangerous tackles, citing, suspension and referees is the most controversial area.

Rugby League is a hard game, and there will always be players injured accidentally - like Martin Crompton. When a player is injured as a result of foul play, I think we would all agree that action should be taken against the perpetrator; and when the foul seems to have the deliberate intent of inflicting injury, then the action should be very severe. Thus, I had no objection to the punishment meted out to David Bradbury - provided, of course, that the RL disciplinary committee was consistent in its application of whatever principles it operates. But George Mann's assault on John Clarke seemed to me also to be deliberate, and therefore also in the same category. Temu's at Castleford, I thought, was marginally late, and not quite identical to the incident at St Helens which put Howard Hill out of the game, when no action at all was taken! But Matautia's deliberate use of the elbow against Bradford's Knox, two weeks before the cup final, cost him only a one match suspension. The inconsistency brings the game into disrepute.

On the question of citing, it should be irrelevant. Greg McCullum and his team should watch the videos of every match surely, and **they** should refer cases of foul play to the disciplinary committee. The clubs should simply not come into it at all. What of our recent performances? Against both Leeds and Castleford, I thought we thoroughly deserved our victories. The defence was aggressive and committed, and with Crompton, Maloney, Aitchison and Belle particularly impressive in the backs, I thought, we took chances, and therefore also the points. In each game, invariably, we had poor spells. But overall we performed like a top six side. The media hype tried hard to label us as dirty, but I thought completely unjustifiably. Unlike in the Cup Final - which was certainly marvellous entertainment, and a great P.R. boost to the game, even if the defensive qualities were less than impressive - we showed what positive tackling and defensive organisation can achieve. There were, admittedly, a

couple of instances of foul play, even if our Yorkshire opponents in each case were more guilty in this respect. But to label us as dirty is, simply, quite ludicrous. The performance at St Helens, of course, was rather different. I wonder whether there was some reaction to the 'dirty Oldham' tag? Certainly, the gang tackling was not as much in evidence, and we let them run the ball around far too much. But what the game showed was our relative lack of strength in depth - and we can't do much about that.

Returning to the subject of referees, I watched a video last week of the last few minutes of the Bath V Leicester R.U. Cup Final. (I had been told that if I tried to watch the whole game, I would have been fast asleep before the exciting bit). I don't know enough about the laws of the ra-ra game to know whether the ref was justified in awarding the penalty try; it certainly didn't look to me to fall within our "try would have been scored" principle. But the assault of the referee afterwards was something else. The incident looked quite clear, still annoyed at the award of the penalty try which cost his side the cup, the Leicester flanker Back punched the referee, soon after he blew the final whistle. I would have thought a very long ban, if not a sine die decision, was the only possible outcome in either code of rugby. What was really sickening, though, was the attempt to gloss over the incident. Back said he had mistaken the ref for one of his opponents; laughable! The ref said it was accidental; pathetic. And the TV 'experts' seemed very keen to brush the incident under their game's very large carpet. I would like to have seen the outcome of a similar incident if the ref had been Eric Clay or Bill Thompson!

Finally, it would be wrong not to mention the Paris experience. A good coach driver. A cracking hotel, and excellent food at the Capanile next door. Good drink - though we drank both hotels and both local cafes dry by Sunday evening! And a superb stadium, with an excellent atmosphere all weekend, even though we did chuck a point away. Can we have the Easter weekend in Paris again next year, please, Mr Lindsay?



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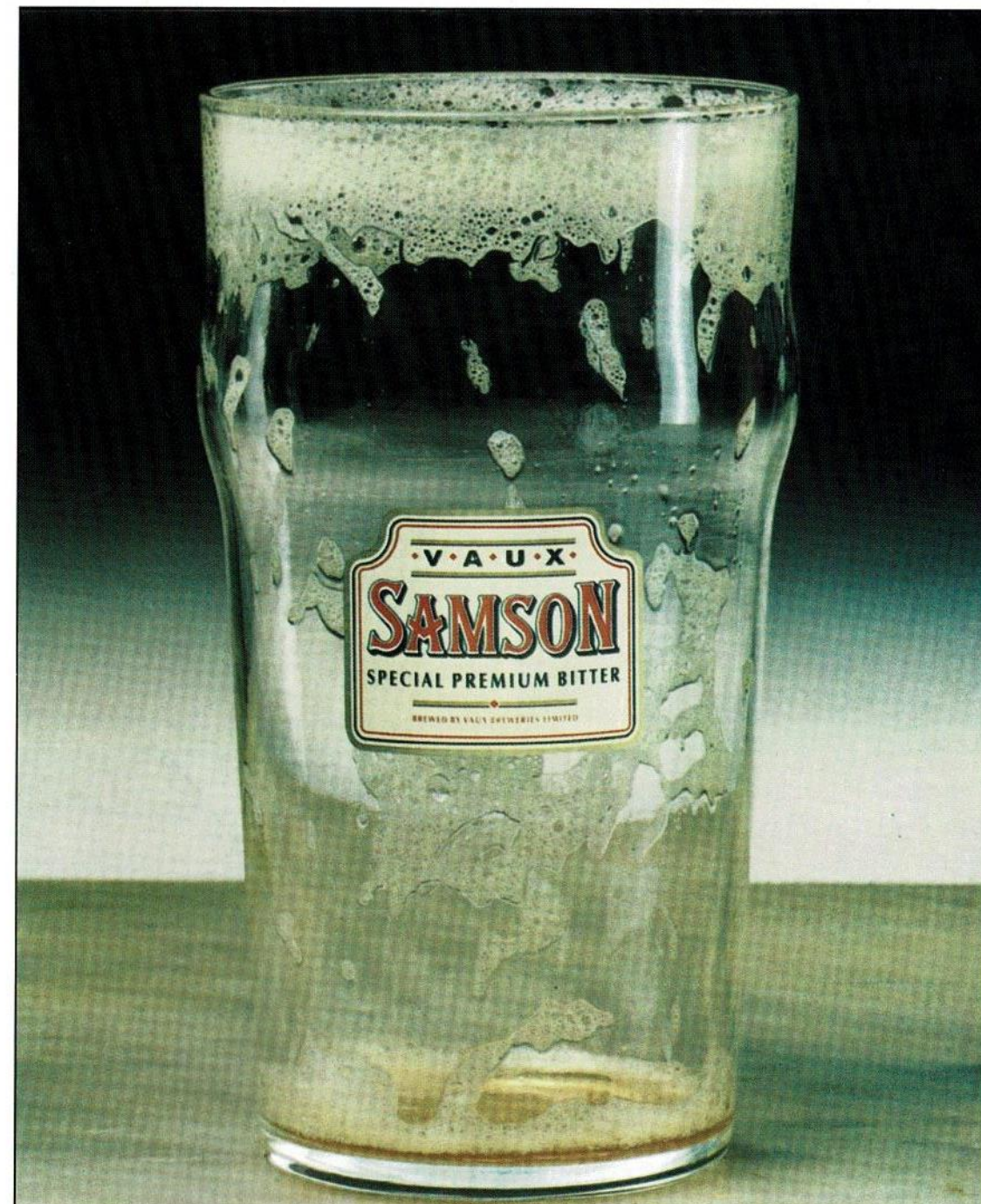
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DON YATES For The

Record

This evening's visit of Bradford Bulls to Watersheddings will mark the 90th match between these two clubs. Of the previous 89, Oldham have won 38, Bradford 48 and three matches have been drawn. Sixty nine of those matches have been league matches with Oldham registering 31 successes and Bradford 38. Two of the most surprising matches between these clubs were staged in November 1941 when they met in the quarter final of the Yorkshire Cup, Bradford won 10-0 at Watersheddings in the first leg but then lost the second leg at home by 9-5. They went on to win the Cup that year, defeating Halifax 24-0 in the final. Oldham's best home win over Bradford came in January 1922 when they won a league match 41-5. Their best win at Odsal came in March 1992 when Oldham won 37-10. Oldham's biggest defeat at Bradford came in a war league match in September 1944 when Eric Batten scored three tries as Bradford romped home 36-0. They won by an even bigger margin when they visited Watersheddings for a Challenge Cup tie in March 1993 and Oldham slumped to a 42-4 defeat.

1991-92	did not meet		
1992-93	Oldham 4	Bradford 42	(Challenge Cup)
1993-94	Oldham 20	Bradford 24	
	Bradford 48	Oldham 16	
1994-95	Oldham 32	Bradford 12	
	Bradford 36	Oldham 14	
1995-96	Oldham 24	Bradford 30	
	Bradford 10	Oldham 14	

DETAILS OF BRADFORD'S LAST VISIT TO WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 10th September 1995
Stones Bitter Centenary Championship

Oldham 24 Bradford 30
Half-time 14-20
Attendance 3,222
Oldham: tries Adrian Belle (2), John Clarke & Howard Hill
Goals: Francis Maloney (4)
Bradford: tries St. John Ellis, Gary Christie, Paul Newlove, John Scales, Robbie Paul & Roy Powell
Goals: Deryk Fox (3)

Oldham: Wally Gibson, Adrian Belle, Paul Atcheson, Darren Abram, Mike Neal, Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, John Clarke, Craig Richards, Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo & Howard Hill. Substitutes: Paul Topping, Ian Gildart, Jason Temu & Iyan Green.
Bradford: Ian St. John Ellis, Gary Christie, Carl Hall, Paul Newlove, John Scales, Robbie Paul, Deryk Fox, Roy Powell, Jason Donohue, Andy Ireland, Karl Fairbank, Brian McDermott & Neil Summers. Substitutes: Alan Boothroyd, Tommy Hodgkinson, Darren Simpson & Jon Hamer.

Results of matches played during the past ten seasons - All league except where stated

1986-87	Oldham 12	Bradford 8
	Bradford 10	Oldham 18
	Oldham 12	Bradford 22 (Regal Trophy)
1987-88	Oldham 22	Bradford 6 (Regal Trophy)
1988-89	Oldham 14	Bradford 30
	Bradford 30	Oldham 10
1989-90	did not meet	
1990-91	Oldham 16	Bradford 18
	Bradford 10	Oldham 37

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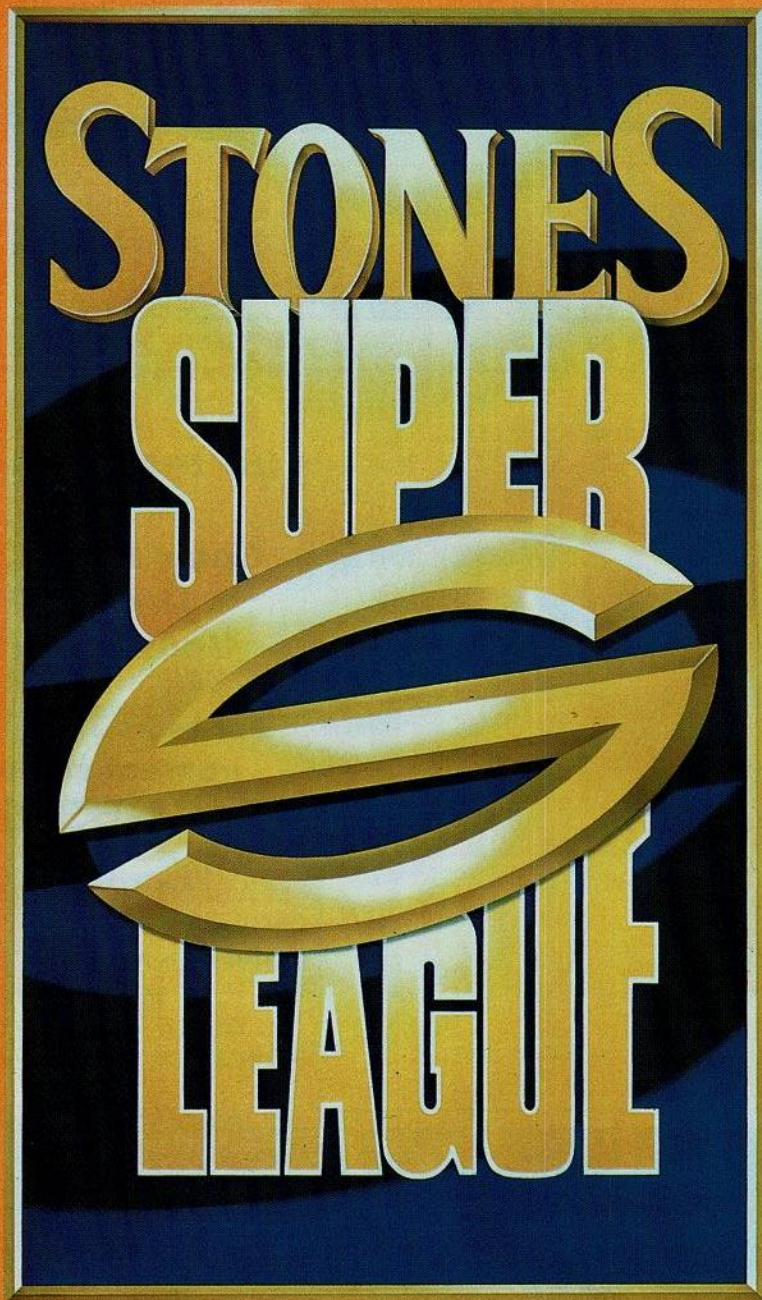
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NEWS From

Down Under...

REPORT ON THE FIRST COUNTRY OF ORIGIN MATCH
COUNTRY ORIGIN 18 - 16 CITY ORIGIN

A STIRRING last-second try by loose-forward Adam Muir snatched a surprise win for Country Origin in the first representative match of the season.

City was the better side for most of the match and looked certain to succeed when centre Terry Hill's try in the 62nd minute broke a 12-all deadlock.

But as the full-time siren was about to sound, Country produced a sensational movement instigated by captain Laurie Daley, who handled twice.

Others involved included prop Paul Harragon, half Andrew Johns, hooker Cherry Mescia and second-rower David Furner. Muir took the final pass to storm over to once again equalise. Then, after the siren, Johns calmly booted the conversion. Harragon was in devastating form.

He was the form prop of the night with some incredible charges. But he only just shaded Glenn Lazarus, back on the representative scene after last year's snub because of the Super League war.

Daley was also at his beguiling best and was an inspiration as captain.

Another Super League defector to shine was City centre Andrew

Ettingshausen.

Early in the game he saved what had looked to be a certain try with an astounding tackle on his opposite number Jason Croker.

A short time later he scored the first try of the match. Hooker Aaron Raper had put in a low kick which bounced off the thigh of World Cup star Dean Pay. Ettingshausen was on the spot to pounce on the ball and score. The match hardly helped solve some of the dilemmas facing the NSW Origin selectors.

Before the match it seemed certain that Canberra's Brett Mullins would be chosen as fullback with Tim Brasher on the wing. But Brasher was in majestic form on Friday night. Except for an early knock on, he was in the thick of all the action.

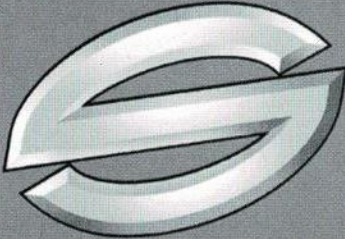
In City's final try, Brasher easily beat Mullins to send Mundine on his way before the St George stand-off sent on to Terry Hill to score.

Now the pundits are predicting Brasher will retain his World Cup spot, with Mullins filling in on the wing.

The biggest problem will be the backrow.

There was not a bad performance on Friday night - even if Steve Menzies missed his usual try.

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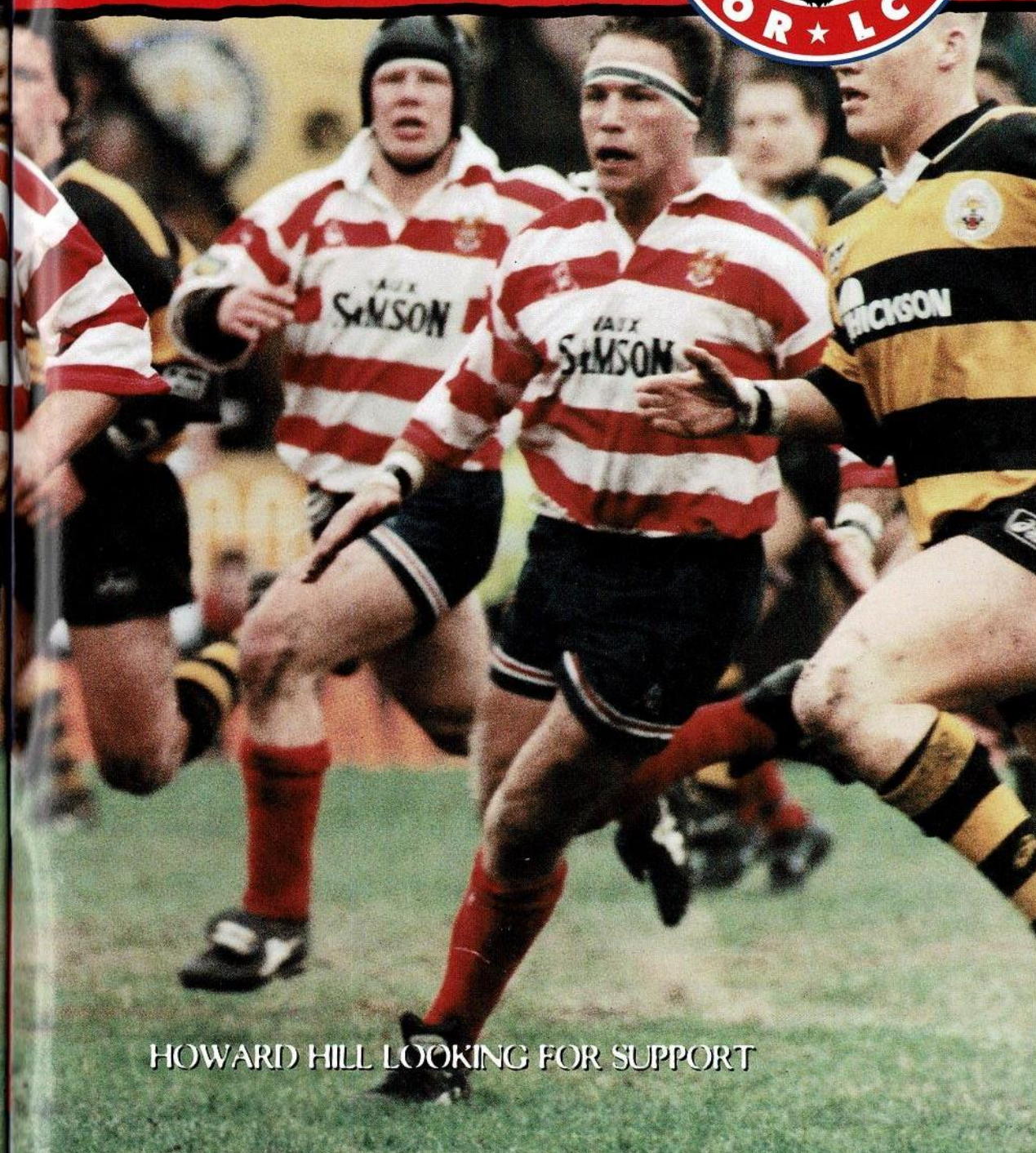
OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE '96 Same Game... New Attitude...

Oldham Bears



Top: Adrian Belle and Matt Munro giving a Castleford player some close attention
Middle: Ian Gildart making some hard yards
Bottom: Martin Crompton stopped in his tracks



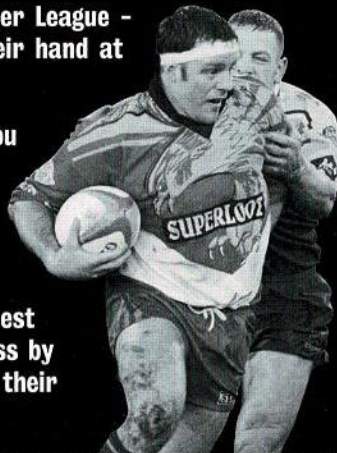
HOWARD HILL LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

ARE YOU THE STONES SUPER LEAGUE EXPERT ?

To coincide with the new force in Rugby League - the Stones Super League - Stones is giving all Rugby League enthusiasts a chance to try their hand at forecasting the final placings of each team.

All you have to do is complete the panel below, stating where you think each team will finish at the end of the 1996 Stones Super League season. Once you have decided, cut out your panel (or send a postcard), place it in an envelope and send it to: Stones Stato Competition, PO Box 56, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4UJ.

The lucky winner who correctly guesses the final placing and is closest to predicting the final playing record will be toasting their success by winning a 1997 Stones Super League season ticket for a team of their choice and a year's supply of Stones Bitter.



A. Complete the final placings below.

Enter names of teams from Bradford Bulls, Castleford, Halifax, Leeds, London Broncos, Oldham, Paris, St. Helens, Sheffield Eagles, Warrington, Wigan, Workington Town.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

B. For your winning team complete the predicted finishing playing record.

	P	W	D	L	Pts For	Pts Against	Pts Total
	22						

NOTES: In the event of a tie, one penalty point will be awarded for each score compared with the actual. The winning entrant will be the one with the lowest points.

Example	P	W	D	L	Pts For	Pts Against	Pts Total
Predictions	22	20	1	1	760	300	41
Actual	22	19	1	2	600	240	39
Penalty Pts	-	1	0	1	160	60	2

Total Penalty Points - 224

Deadline for entries is 20th May 1996. Either post coupon in an envelope or send on a postcard. Only one entry per person is allowed. Entrants must be over the age of 18 years. The winning entry will be notified by post. Competition terms and conditions are available from the above address upon request.



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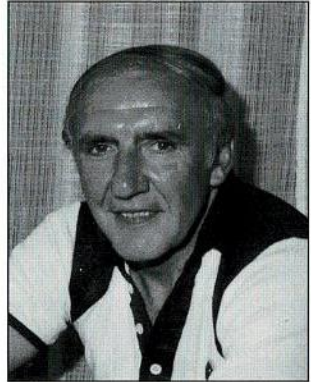
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News



The Renault Schools Cup Finals are finally coming to a close we are trying to get the finals played during the week of the 13th May, the only trouble is finding pitches because due to the backlog of fixtures we

missed the week we had been supposed to play on Oldham Rugby ground and now that has been re-seeded even the 'A' team and Academy haven't been allowed to play on it so we are looking for alternative venues.

I have seen some of the games that have been played

and there have been some great matches, I think we are in for a feast of rugby in the Finals so come on support the stars of the future. I went along to The Willows to witness the U-15's Dennis Davis Cup Final between Oldham and Castleford a week last Wednesday and saw an excellent game the lead changing hands as first Oldham and then Cas strove to get their hands on the trophy but alas none of them did because the game was called off in tragic circumstances, after the Castleford No. 8 who had been having a fine game had a heart attack during the half time interval and later died. The match was abandoned obviously and I am sure all who took part wishes the boys family their condolences.

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Roger...

"Magnificent try," screamed the Twickenham commentator when the Leicester fly-half galloped through a massive gap close to the line to put Bath on the back foot in the Pilkington Cup Final.

As an afterthought he added: "He was so positive"... and one's thoughts flashed back seven days to that Wembley spectacular between Bradford Bulls and St Helens and, in particular, to that sensational individual try scored by Robbie Paul.

Frankly, there was no comparison. Nor could you place the Pilkington final on the same planet as Rugby League's Wembley showpiece for sheer sporting entertainment, provided by highly skilful, multi-talented rugby players who also did us proud when it came to sportsmanship.

The Rugby League final was widely acclaimed in that weekend's sporting press yet,

predictably, the week was barely half-way through when it became increasingly difficult to find news or features on Rugby League in many of the leading dailies.

It was ever thus, although this year there was one significant difference. Because the final had been turned into an early-season occasion by the switch to summer rugby, there was for the first time a chance that League-match attendances might benefit from the Wembley wizardry of Robbie Paul, Steve Prescott, Danny Arnold and the rest.

The fact that Bradford and Leeds attracted more than 9,000 fans to Odsal and Headingley, while Saints and Wigan each topped 10,000 suggested that to be the case, but we will only get a true guide to Rugby League's pulling power as a summer sport now that the soccer season is as good as over.

**By Roger Halstead
of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.**

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