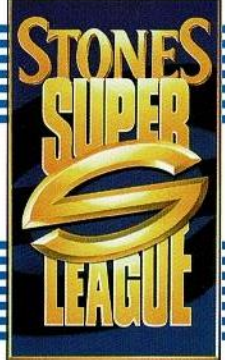
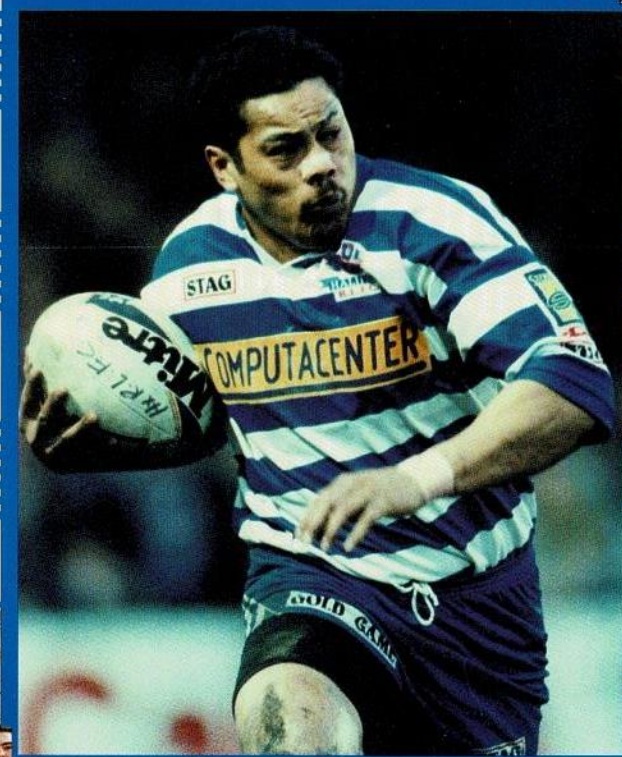




# BLUE SOX

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**HALIFAX BLUE SOX**

**OLDHAM BEARS**

SUNDAY, 23rd JUNE 1996

K.O. 6.00 PM

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE £1.20



*Team Line-up*

### HALIFAX BLUE SOX

T G Dg

18	Asa AMONE	Full Back							
2	John BENTLEY	Right Wing							
3	John SCHUSTER	Right Centre							
4	Fereti TULLAGI	Left Centre							
23	Abi EKOKU	Left Wing							
1	Mike UMAGA	Stand-off							
21	Carl BRIGGS	Scrum-Half							
31	Martin KETTERIDGE	Prop Forward							
9	Paul ROWLEY	Hooker							
30	Richard MARSHALL	Prop Forward							
22	Carl GILLESPIE	Second Row							
17	Mark PERRETT	Second Row							
13	Simon BALDWIN	Loose Forward							
		Substitute							
		Substitute							
		Substitute							

### OLDHAM BEARS

T G Dg

	Paul ATCHESON	Full Back							
	Adrian BELLE	Right Wing							
	Andy PATMORE	Right Centre							
	Paul TOPPING	Left Centre							
	Rob MYLER	Left Wing							
	Paul CROOK	Stand-off							
	Martin CROMPTON	Scrum-Half							
	Ian GILDART	Prop Forward							
	John CLARKE	Hooker							
	Joe FAIMALO	Prop Forward							
	Garry LORD	Second Row							
	Matt MUNRO	Second Row							
	David BRADBURY	Loose Forward							
	Paul DAVIDSON	Substitute							
	Howard HILL	Substitute							
		Substitute							

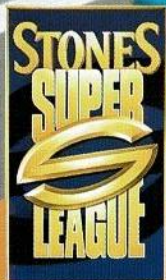
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# Welcome to Thrum Hall

WELCOME to Thrum Hall to our friends from Watersheddings and also to the Leigh Centurions Academy team who play in the curtain raiser this afternoon.

Unfortunately one young man who will not be here this afternoon in any capacity is young second row forward Lee Knowles. "Nozzer" has not just played Academy football in his two years for us but is a popular member of the Alliance Squad and has also featured on the senior panel on a couple of occasions. Following a neck injury in the Academy fixture versus Bradford however Lee is currently in Ward One of the Spinal Injuries Unit at Pinderfields Hospital and may well be there for a few more weeks, although he is making good progress.

Everyone at Thrum Hall sends best wishes and our hopes for a complete recovery to Lee as he lies in his hospital bed today but if courage and determination earn their reward this

popular member of the playing staff will soon be out and about. In the meantime we are sure that any messages of support would be a great help. Cards, letters etc can be either left at the office or posted directly to the hospital.

It is certainly nice to be back home after another long trip, this time to London although it was certainly an enjoyable day out. Having taken seven points from our last four away matches is not relegation form by any stretch of the imagination.

Congratulations are due to Karl Harrison and Suzanne on the birth of "baby Rhino Mark 2" when young James made his entrance into the world last Monday.

Our final four games at home after today will each follow a separate theme therefore special ticket concessions may apply to these fixtures. Watch the local press or ring the Thrum Hall hotline on 0891 440014.



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**Physiotherapy**  
Karen Williams

**Club Doctor**  
Dr R T Brown

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**Stadium Manager:** Ray Attiwell

**Co-ordinator:** Owen Lightowlers

**Time Keeper:** Jack Scroby

**Head Gateman:** David Cruddas





THEY say winning is a habit and apart from the miss against Bradford, we are beginning to get that habit. We are having a good run of games and today we should extend that even further. We have improved over the past 2 weeks and our confidence is now what it should be.

We are into the second half of the first Super League campaign and so now we have the opportunity to beat all those teams that we lost so closely to in the first half. London was one of those and look what happened last week. Against a side who had a top 3 defensive record, to score over 50 points is a real achievement.

All our players have done well this season and I can't say that they are playing any different than before. But now they know they can play well. It all boils down to confidence.

One major worry over the next months is going to be the number of players we loose to the Oceania Cup. We accept that the players have to go but it could cause us a few problems. At the moment John Schuster, Asa Amone and Martin Moana are



definitely on their way, with the possibility of Mike Umanga and Fereti Tuilagi joining them. We will have to review the situation as it develops.

Last, but by no means least, our thoughts and best wishes go out to Lee Knowles. I have visited him a few times in Pinderfields and he is in good spirits. He is a strong lad and looks as though he will recover well from the cracked vertebra in his neck. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I wish him all the best.



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# Taverners/Treatment

## TAVERNERS

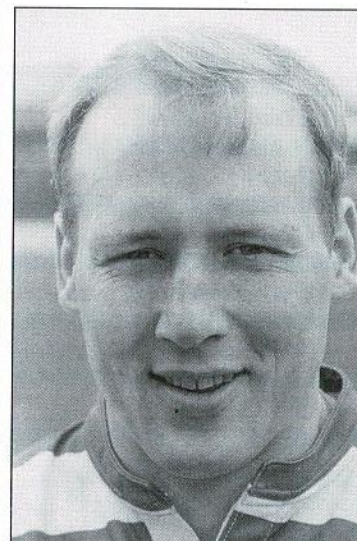
WHAT a great atmosphere on the club last Sunday for the live screening of the Super League fixture with London. It was just like being on the terraces with the singing and chanting. We are open for all our Sky games. If you are not going to the match why not sample the next best thing and come along to the Taverners where we have the big screen plus two other T.V.'s to view from.

Just mentioning the screen this T.V. is out of action today and at our next home game against Warrington until 4.45pm as the Job Centre are hiring out the facilities as part of a sponsorship package with the Rugby Club. For those who like a drink whilst watching the Academy game you can still see this on our other 2 sets in the Main Bar area.

On a final note all at the Taverners wish our Academy player Lee Knowles, who broke a bone in his neck at the last game, a speedy recovery.

Neil Arber

## FROM THE TREATMENT ROOM



WELCOME to all from Oldham Bears.

Today we see the return of Graeme Hallas who has recovered well from a groin strain.

Karl Harrison is still receiving treatment for his hamstring pain which is improving and he will resume full training next week.



Mike Umaga also misses this weeks clash due to damage of his ankle ligaments. Again he improves daily with treatment and we should see his return in the next two weeks.

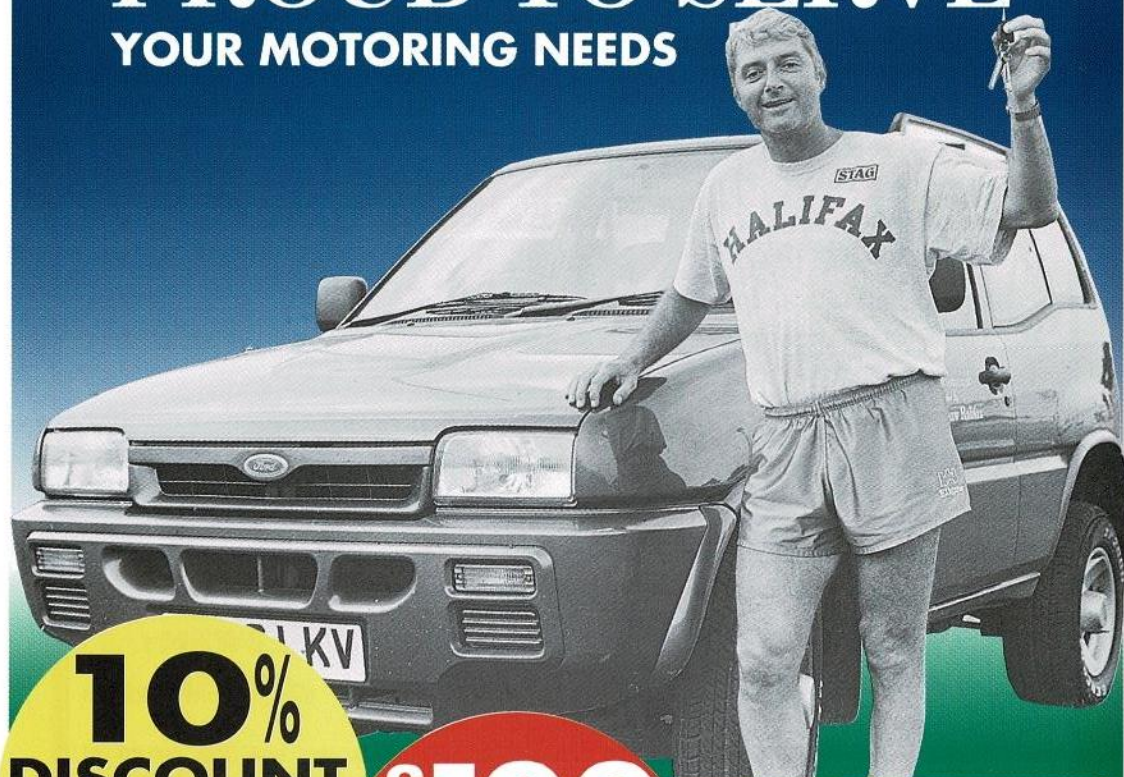
Otherwise all is quiet in the treatment room.

Karen





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# Blue Sox Buddies

**GOOD EVENING EVERYONE,**

Summer is here at last and doesn't it make you feel great. What lovely weather we've had over the past couple of week. Make sure you all remember to use your sun lotions and wear your baseball caps etc. We've already seen a few of you with tender skin. Ouch!

We have received a couple of letters from our members telling us how much they enjoyed taking part in the Halifax Gala. Well, thank you for writing and we are very pleased that you had such a good time. A big thank you to John Bentley, Marty Moana, Carl Gillespie, Fereti Tuilagi and Asa Amone for taking time out to join us on the wagon - everyone was thrilled to see you! We seemed to get one or two from the crowds following us - we wonder why? We had a good turn out from our members and some had their photographs taken with the players which were printed in the Courier the following Monday. Everyone had a lot of fun. What about that Bradford Bulls supporters who was in the crowds. Once he was spotted he just didn't stand a chance, did he? No matter how fast he walked he just couldn't avoid the shouts "We hate Bradford" spurred on by John

Bentley. We almost felt sorry for him - but not quite.

A lot of hard work went into decorating the wagon - thank everyone! It took so long to do (Friday evening and all Saturday morning) and yet only ten minutes to take apart - heartbreaking! Afterwards we let members keep balloons, but we did lose a few - did you see them floating across the sky?

So here's to next year - fancy dress possibly (well that's what John Bentley would like - remember him as Snow White, ha ha).

Finally don't forget to come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 23rd July which will be outside for a training session with the players. See you soon.

**Forthcoming Event**

20th August

**It's a Knockout and Barbecue**

A warm welcome to two new Blue Sox Buddie members, both from Hebden Bridge, **Daniel Langan**, age 6 and **Kaine Greenwood**, also aged 6.

Daniel's favourite player is Abi Ekoku and Kaine's is John Bentley.

**BLUE SOX BUDDIES · New Membership SUPER LEAGUE '96**

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GOOD News last week for our Academy, was our home win against Bradford Bulls, earning us two valuable points. As most of you saw it was hard earned in the end, considering we had 4 tries disallowed with some certainly dubious decisions, but our discipline was good as theirs deteriorated, costing them, losing one player for the last 20 minutes. Life in this competition is tough but sheer survival is our aim with the last year players in most teams showing our young lads how tough life is, but it will only benefit our players in the long run. Our game last week against the Broncos showed just this, the heat was almost unbearable for our lads as we continually made errors with the ball, enabling Broncos to take a comfortable lead. They made us pay for our first man up dropping off tackles crossing our line numerous times reversing our comfortable home win against them. We have pushed into the Alliance 5 players and we will now have to rebuild, which is always an ongoing job with an Academy side. On a sad note, as most know, Lee Knowles sustained a broken neck in the game against Bradford Bulls, Lee is recovering at Pinderfields

Hospital, we all have continual contact with Lee and his family and wish him a speedy recovery as I'm sure you all do. He is a great prospect and a great competitor, if anyone wishes to send cards I'm sure we could give you the information required if you contact Dave Fleming. We will be fund raising, but again it will be well published.

**Mick Slicker**

**JJB SPORTS ACADEMY**

MARCH				
Sat	30	LONDON BRONCOS	H	36 - 8
APRIL				
Fri	5	Leigh Centurions	A	18 - 20
Tue	9	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	H	6 - 16
Fri	12	Warrington	A	4 - 12
Sun	21	ST. HELENS	H	L 50 - 6
MAY				
Sun	5	Featherstone Rovers	A	W 27 - 25
Tue	14	WIGAN	H	L 16 - 46
Sat	18	Wakefield Trinity	A	L 9 - 26
Sun	26	Hull	A	L 6 - 46
JUNE				
Wed	5	LEEDS	H	L 22 - 34
Sun	9	BRADFORD BULLS	H	3.45pm
Sun	16	London Broncos	A	5.30pm
Sun	23	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	3.45pm
Sun	30	Castleford Tigers	A	3.30pm
JULY				
Sun	7	WARRINGTON	H	3.45pm
Sun	14	St Helens	A	5.00pm
Sun	21	FEATHERSTONE R.	H	3.45pm
Sun	28	Wigan	A	4.30pm
AUGUST				
Sun	4	HULL	H	3.45pm
Wed	14	Leeds	A	7.30pm
Sun	18	Bradford Bulls	A	3.30pm
Sun	25	WAKEFIELD TRINITY	H	3.45pm



OUR last match at Hull KR was probably the worst performance by the Alliance side since I have been involved at Thrum Hall. I wish to personally apologise, unreservedly, to those supporters who made the journey all the way to New Craven Park. They did not deserve to be treated to such a display. Be assured that the previous high level of commitment WILL be back this week.

All I ask of the players is that they give their best throughout the 80 minutes. If their best is not good enough then so be it. If the tactics employed are not right then I will stand up and take the blame. I will not take the blame when players do not give the commitment for even part of a match. Against Hull KR, only 3 or 4 players could honestly hold their heads high.

What is most disappointing is that we have set ourselves challenging standards and up to now we were doing well. I have targeted a top four spot for us this season but the players have said that they believe we can win the Championship. At Hull, we didn't look like a team capable of either of these targets.

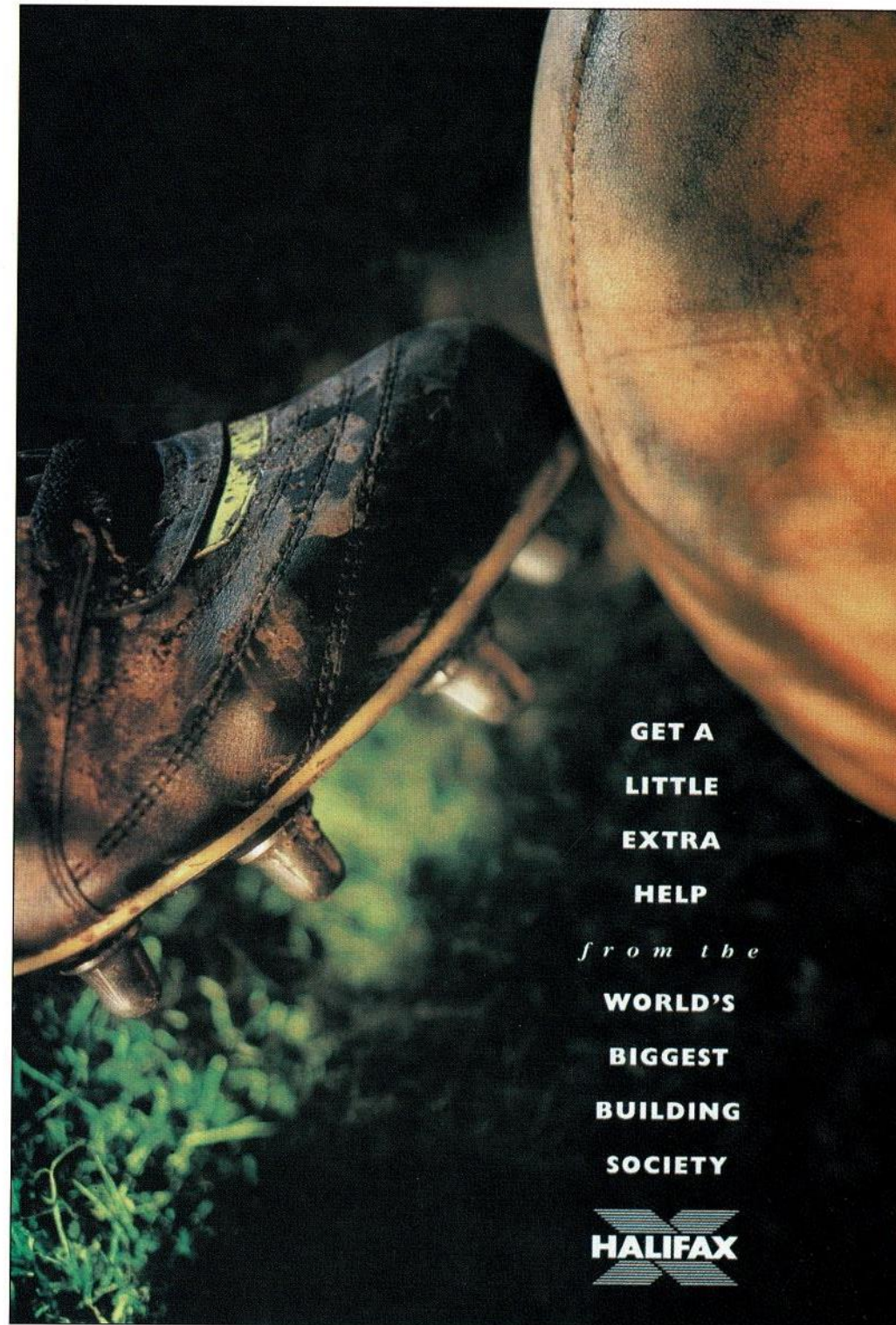
Needless to say, we have been working hard during training this week. We are missing players but this should be no excuse. We have drafted in some of the younger players but many of these now have first team experience. Now is the time for them to show us some maturity and take advantage of the time they have spent in the Super League.

I'm sure we will carry on where we were before Hull and show that we really are worthy not only of being in the Championship but also of our top three placing.



### ALLIANCE FIXTURES 1996

		F	A
<b>MARCH</b>			
Thu 28	HULL KR	H	W 50 - 6
<b>APRIL</b>			
Thu 4	OLDHAM BEARS	H	W 36 - 8
Thu 11	WARRINGTON	H	W 50 - 22
Thu 18	St Helens	A	L 8 - 34
<b>MAY</b>			
Thu 2	SALFORD REDS	H	W 41 - 24
Thu 9	Hull	A	W 25 - 10
Thu 16	LEEDS	H	D 14 - 14
Thu 23	WIGAN	H	W 26 - 18
Thu 30	Bradford Bulls	A	L 18 - 36
<b>JUNE</b>			
Fri 14	Hull KR	A	7.30pm
Thu 20	Oldham Bears	A	7.30pm
Thu 27	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	H	7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>			
Thu 4	Warrington	A	7.30pm
Thu 11	ST HELENS	H	7.30pm
Thu 18	Salford Reds	A	7.30pm
Thu 25	HULL	H	8.00pm
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Thu 1	Wigan	A	7.30pm
Thu 8	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm
Wed 21	Leeds	A	7.30pm
Thu 29	Castleford Tigers	A	7.30pm



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 Club Captain: ..... Martin Crompton



## PAUL ATCHESON

Outstanding attacking full-back. A product of Blackbrook Juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Widnes in 1990. Moved to Wigan and then joined Oldham in June 1995 for £50,000. Has represented Great Britain at Academy and Under 21 Level and has been a member of the Welsh team in the various international competitions during the past two years.

## SCOTT RANSON

Fast and elusive winger. A product of Thatto Heath Juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Swinton in 1987. Was top scorer at Swinton during his last two seasons with the Lions. Joined Oldham in February 1992 and has continued his prolific try scoring feats at Wastersheddings.

## DARREN ABRAM

Prolific try scoring centre who has been Oldham's top try scorer during the past three seasons. A product of Thatto Heath Juniors (St. Helens) who won BARLA international honours before turning professional with Warrington in 1985. Has a spell on loan with Swinton before moving to Chorley Borough and then Rochdale Hornets. Oldham signed him in February 1993.

## PAUL TOPPING

Utility player who is equally effective whether at centre, stand-off or loose-forward. Terrific defender. Topping is a product of the Wigan St. Patricks Junior club who turned professional with Swinton in 1985. He had a spell on loan with Mansfield before joining Leigh in 1990 and then transferring to Oldham in September 1993. Topping made one appearance for Lancashire in 1991 and was included in the Ireland squad for the Emerging Nations Championship in 1995.

## ROB MYLER

Versatile back equally at home either at full-back or on the wing. A product of the Widnes St. Maries

Junior club who turned professional with Warrington in 1989. Had a spell on loan at Salford in 1995. Transferred to Oldham in July 1995 for £50,000.

## FRANCIS MALONEY

Powerful stand-off and accurate positional kicker. A product of the St. John Fisher Junior club (Dewsbury) who turned professional with Leeds in 1990. Moved to Featherstone Rovers in 1992 and won Great Britain under 21 recognition whilst at Post Office Road. Transferred to Warrington in 1994 but did not settle at Wilderspool and so he moved onto Oldham in July 1995 for £50,000.

## MARTIN CROMPTON

Scrum-half, captain and the orchestrator of most of Oldham's attacking play. A former Wigan St. Patricks Junior who began his professional career with Warrington in 1986. Moved back to Wigan in 1992 when he joined the senior Central Park outfit. Oldham snapped him up for a bargain £35,000 fee in September 1993.

## IAN GILDART

Hard working fast forward. A product of Wigan Colts who turned professional at Central Park in 1986. Although he made 139 appearances for Wigan he failed to gain a regular first team spot and so moved over to Wakefield Trinity in 1994. Moved back over the Pennines to Oldham for £45,000 last August. Represented Great Britain at Under 21 level during his Central Park days.

## JOHN CLARKE

Outstanding young hooker. A former East Leeds Junior who turned professional with Oldham in May 1993. Clarke toured Australia with the BARLA Under 18s in 1993 and further honours came his way two seasons ago when he represented Great Britain Under 21s against the Kangaroos. Had an unhappy campaign last season with a twice broken arm but is now back on top form.

## JASON TEMU

Hard running and tough tackling prop who first came to notice with the Marist club in New Zealand. He joined the Counties-Manukau outfit for the New Zealand Lion Red Cup competition of 1994 and it was after that successful campaign that Temu joined Oldham. He has represented New Zealand Residents during their 1994 tour of Australia and was a member of the Cook Island team which lifted the 1995 Emerging Nations Championship.

## GARY LORD

A player well known here at Thrum Hall is Gary Lord. He is a former Stanley Rangers Junior (Castleford) who joined the senior Castleford club in 1984. Lord appeared at full-back for Castleford at Wembley in 1986 but he has since developed into a hard working second-row forward. He was transferred to Leeds in 1988 and then on to Halifax in October 1991. In all, Lord made 88 appearances for Halifax before moving to Oldham in July 1994 for £35,000.

## JOE FAIMALO

Hard working second-row forward who is enjoying his best run of form. A product of the Eastern Suburbs club in New Zealand, Faimalo had brief spells with Workington Town, Oldham and then Swinton during the 1991-92 season without impressing. He returned home and enjoyed success with Hawkes Bay which prompted him to return to Oldham in September 1994. His determination and stamina since then have made him one of the mainstays of the Roughyed pack.

## DAVID BRADBURY

Fiery utility forward who gives 100% in every match. Oldham signed him from Leigh Miners Welfare Juniors in August 1991. A former BARLA Under 18 tourist to New Zealand.

## HOWARD HILL

Outstanding young back row forward. Joined Oldham in July 1994 from the Hensingham Junior club of Whitehaven. Made steady progress and broke into the first team squad at the beginning of last season. Has given some mature performances and was included in the Great Britain Under 21 squad for the match against France last January.

## AFI LEUILA

Tough tackling centre or winger. He was signed last September from the Counties-Manukau club of New Zealand. Leuila has enjoyed spells with St. Helens in 1994 and with North Queensland Cowboys last summer. Has played rugby union for Tonga.

## STEVE GARTLAND

Talented utility player who was with the Oldham St. Annes Junior club before turning professional with Rochdale Hornets in 1990. Gartland was a prolific point scorer at Spotland where he notched up what was then a club record 276 points during season 1992-93. He was transferred to Oldham in July 1994.

## PAUL DAVIDSON

Hard working prop or second-row forward. A product of the Hensingham Junior club (Whitehaven) who turned professional with Widnes in 1990. Joined Oldham in July 1994 for £17,000. Has a fine turn of speed which he uses with benefit following the switch to summer rugby.

## CHRIS MCKINNEY

Outstanding young forward who can play either hooker, second-row or loose-forward. Signed from the Hensingham Junior club (Whitehaven) in August 1994. Made rapid progress and broke into first team squad at the beginning of last season. Was a try scorer in Great Britain's 64-10 Academy victory over France last January.

## IAN SHERRATT

Experienced prop. A former Lancashire schoolboy representative who played for the Waterhead (Oldham) Junior club before turning professional with Bradford Northern in 1982. Transferred to Oldham in 1987 and then moved to Salford in 1989 before returning to Watersheddings in November 1991.

## ADRIAN BELLE

Powerful, determined winger. Was with Oldham St. Annes Junior club before he turned professional with Rochdale Hornets in 1990. Moved to Watersheddings in October 1993 and has become a regular in the Roughyeds first team squad.

## MIKE NEAL

Speedy threequarter. A product of Parkside Juniors (Leigh) who has also played with the Wigan St. Patricks Junior outfit. Turned professional with Wigan in 1989 but was unable to break into their first team squad. Joined Oldham in March 1995.

## CHRIS PARR

Hard working prop. A former Wigan St. Patricks Junior who began his professional career with Huddersfield in 1990. Won Great Britain Under 21 honours whilst at Fartown. Moved back over the Pennines in 1992 when he joined Swinton. Oldham signed him in October 1993.

## GARY BURNS

Fine young utility player who joined Oldham in December 1993. Forced his way into first team contention last year. Was scrum-half then, could be hooker now.





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## STONES SUPER LEAGUE

### WIGAN v ST. HELENS

Wigan are unbeaten in last eight home league meetings with St. Helens and they claimed a 58-4 victory against their neighbours at Central Park on Boxing Day. Saints fielded a much weakened side, that day, and Welsh International Scott Quinnell scored four tries with fellow back rowers Mick Cassidy and Simon Houghton getting two each. Wigan defeated Saints 25-16 at Huddersfield in January's Regal Trophy final but Shaun McRae's men were 41-26 winners at Knowsley Road in April when Danny Arnold scored a try hat-trick. Saints' last league win at Central Park was a 32-22 success in December 1987 when Phil Veivers scored two tries, while Wigan's last home league defeat was against Wakefield (13-20) in February 1994.

### LEEDS v CASTLEFORD

Beaten 26-23, thanks to a late Jason Flowers try at Wheldon Road in April, Leeds are seeking only their second home Super League win of the season against the Tigers. Castleford have failed to win in their last four league visits to Headingley, although they won 34-14 in a Regal quarter-final in January 1995, having drawn 14-14 in league football earlier that season. Marvin Golden crossed two tries as Leeds claimed a 28-16 win over Castleford last Boxing Day, while Castleford's last league win at Leeds was an 18-4 success inspired by two-try Graham Steadman.

### BRADFORD BULLS v SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Sheffield inflicted Bradford's heaviest Super League defeat of the season, at Don Valley in April, winning 40-24 in a game in which Karl Fairbank received his marching orders. But the Eagles have fared badly at Odsal, winning only twice in 11 league and cup visits since 1989. Bradford won two home meetings with Sheffield last season, Paul Newlove scoring three tries in a 34-18 league win and St John Ellis scoring a try and five goals in their 22-0 Regal Trophy victory in November. Sheffield's last win at Odsal was a 17-8 Yorkshire Cup triumph in September 1992, with their solitary league win at Bradford being the 10-6 victory they claimed in February 1991 when their try-scorers were Sam Panapa and Mark Aston.

### HALIFAX BLUE SOX v OLDHAM BEARS

Halifax have won only once in six attempts at Thrum Hall in Super League and they will be attempting to avenge a 22-34 defeat by Oldham at Watersheddings in April. Paul Crook and Wally Gibson scored three tries as the Bears were 12-4 winners on their last league visit to Halifax, in January, ending a seven-year wait for success at Thrum Hall. Western Samoan skipper John Schuster starred in Halifax's 34-8 home win over Oldham in 1994/95, scoring 22 points.

### PARIS ST. GERMAIN v WARRINGTON

The French side suffered an eighth consecutive Super League defeat at Don Valley Stadium last Saturday, and their losing sequence began with a 24-48 defeat by Warrington at Wilderspool in April. Ian Knott and Toa Kohe-Love starred with two tries apiece in that Wire victory, while Regis Pastre-Courtine scored a hat trick in vain for the visitors. At least Paris showed a lot of spirit in scoring two late tries at Sheffield last week, but they have lost their last three games at the Charlety Stadium.

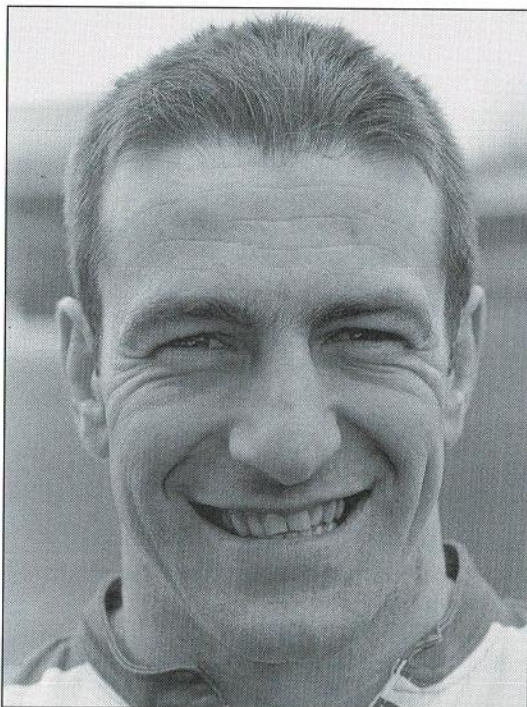
### WORKINGTON TOWN v LONDON BRONCOS

London cruised to a 50-0 victory over Workington at the Valley, in April, with Terry Matterson setting Super League and London club records with his 11 goals and 26 points in the match. Town, although, have a fine home record against the Broncos and won 32-10 in January when Dean Marwood scored a try and six goals and ex-London players Logan Campbell and Mark Johnson were among the try scorers. London won 13-12 on their previous visit to Workington, in Second Division football in 1993-94 season, but lost 22-30 to the Cumbrians in the Premiership Final at Old Trafford at the end of that season.



# FOUR TRIES FOR "BENTO"

**SUPER LEAGUE WEEK'S TIM BUTCHER looks back on last week's brilliant win against London Broncos**



"THIS has been coming for a while.

"To have come here and won that easily is a great effort."

Steve Simms could well afford to be a contented man after last Sunday's win at London Broncos.

"Our defence was superb," he purred.

"We didn't want to let them score in the

second half, and although they scored one at the end, to keep the Broncos to one try in 40 minutes is a good effort.

"Our support play was also fantastic. We had worked hard all week on where to attack London after watching them against Wigan last week, and the game plan worked superbly. It was good to see John Bentley back to form. He's one of the best wingers in the world."

Bentley was at his very best at The Valley - the kind of form that makes him one of the hardest wingers in the game to stop.

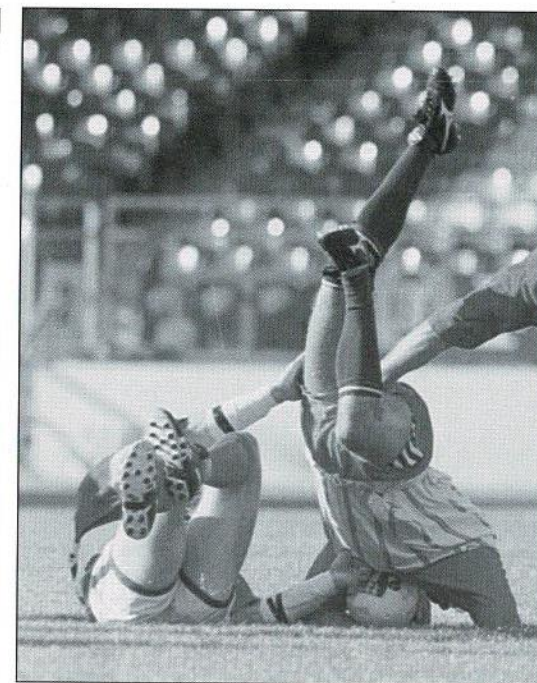
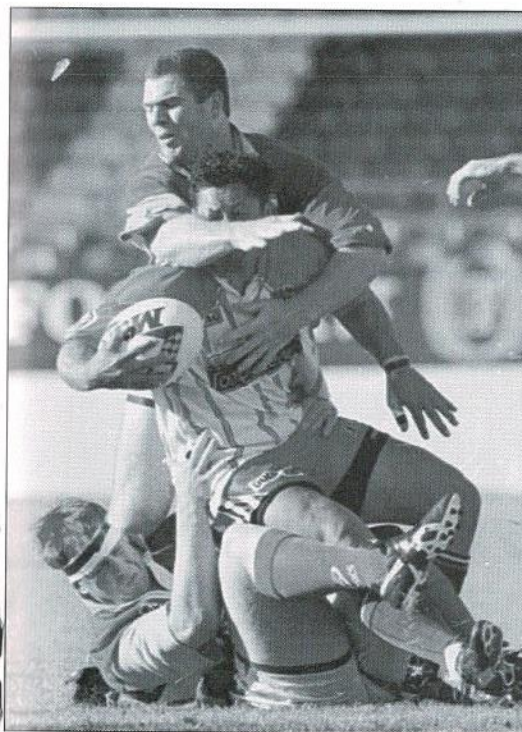
Opposite number John Minto will be waking up in fright all week at the thought of the rampaging Bentley charging at him, and don't be surprised to find the name of Minto missing from the team list in Workington this afternoon.

Bentley's reaction was typical tongue in cheek stuff.

"I was very surprised with the London boys. Did they have a midweek game?" he asked League Express reporter

Andy Wilson.

"It's only the second time I have scored four tries in a match. The other was against Sheffield last season, and it's come at a good time because our



sponsors put up £500 for the next player to score a hat trick. But I'll share it - it's a team game."

But his next point was more serious.

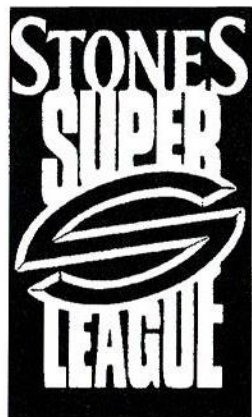
"The Wigan game must have taken a lot out of them, because they were very, very lacklustre."

Which is a danger that Simms and his men must avoid going into today's game against the Bears (are they still Rougheyds?).

"After the Lord Mayor's Show" is one of the most oft-used clichés in Rugby League and the Blue Sox will have to guard against complacency after what was one of the most impressive performances of Super League.

**RUGBY**  
**League Express**





**BOBBIE GOULDING**, Rugby League's point scorer supreme, is back in the England squad after recovering from a cracked collar bone.

Goulding made a record breaking return to the game at the weekend, grabbing 20 points as European Super League leaders St. Helens slammed Workington Town 60-16.

And today he was immediately included in coach Phil Larder's 19 man squad for the European Super League Championship decider against Wales at Cardiff next Wednesday (26 June)

Goulding's 20 point haul against Workington Town included his 100th goal of the season in only 17 matches - the fastest century at the start of the season in Rugby League history - and his 200th point.

Also back in the England squad after injury are Keighley Cougars stand off Darryl Powell and Wigan trio Mick Cassidy, Andrew Farrell and Kirs Radlinski.

Cassidy and Farrell proved their fitness at the weekend by helping Wigan to victory over Oldham Bears and obviously Radlinski and Powell will have to play this weekend to ensure they are fully fit.

**ST. HELENS CHASE RECORD RUN**

St. Helens visit Wigan in the Stones Super League on Friday needing a victory that would equal their arch rivals' run of 13 successive wins from the start of a "major league" season.

Widnes set the current record with 13 successive wins at the start of the Division One in 1981-82 and Wigan equalled it in 1994-95. Widnes drew their next match before suffering their first defeat to give them a record opening unbeaten run of 14 matches.

St. Helens already hold the record for the overall longest winning run in either Super League or the old Division One with 25 successive wins from February to December 1986. This is also the longest unbeaten run.

The Saints have also won all five Silk Cut Challenge Cup-ties for a 100 per cent success record of 17 in all matches this season. Their last defeat was in the final match of last season when they lost 32-24 to Halifax on 21 January.

But they have a long way to go to beat their best club sequences which are as follows:

**Longest winning League run:** 25 from February to December 1986.

**Longest winning run all matches:** 21 (17 League, 4 Lancs Cup) from start of the 1964-65 season under the old one-league system.

**Longest unbeaten League run:** 32 (including 3 draws) from November 1952 to September 1953 under the old one-league system.

**Longest unbeaten run in all matches:** 27 (including 3 draws) in 1952-53 consisting of 22 wins under the old one-league system and 5 Challenge Cup-ties.

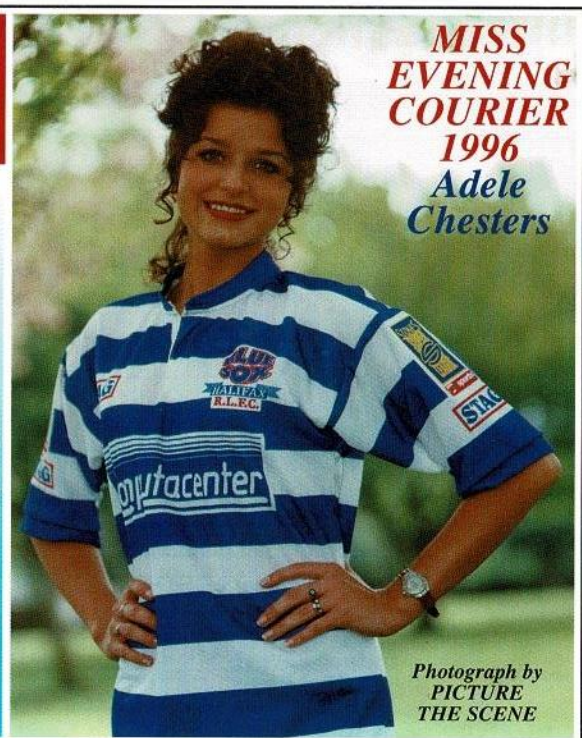
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*Photograph by PICTURE THE SCENE*

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## TODAY'S MATCHDAY HOST



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Wayne Jackson Kieron Green Rice, Jones & Smiths	Asa Amone	
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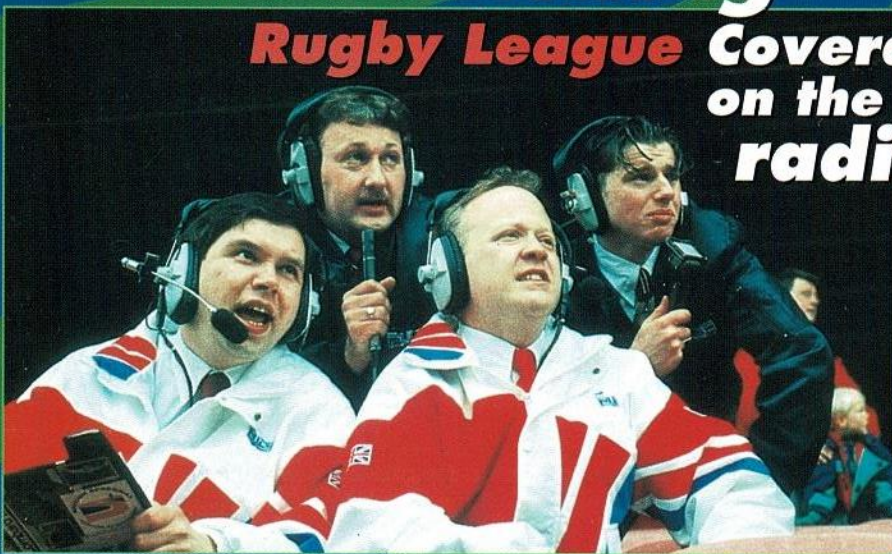




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# Chief Executive



strategies available, a) to increase income to an extent that existing contracts can be maintained or b) to reduce players costs. Obviously the first is the most palatable but usually harder to achieve. For instance if we could find a mechanism of improving the average attendance by 2,000 paying spectators (which would be a nice trick anyway) the consequences for salary cap purposes would be the equivalent of just one extra player.

THE influence of the games blueprint Framing the Future continues to be felt with clubs under notice to achieve a salary cap of 40%. The salary cap is an attempt to control clubs spending on Football talent to a level that the club can sustain. Therefore all player payments, national insurance and other benefits in kind should not exceed 40% of a clubs income. It would appear that very few % of clubs currently are within salary cap.

As the deadline approaches the other problem in reducing the player cost is of course that legally binding employment contracts have been agreed, and the club is committed. Transferring players is diminishing as an option because all clubs are aware of the situation and looking to off load player costs. Transfer fees are no longer driven by player ability but by the contract commitment that is being assumed. And when the full implications of the Jean Marc Bosman case are fully felt transfer fees themselves will be a thing of the past.

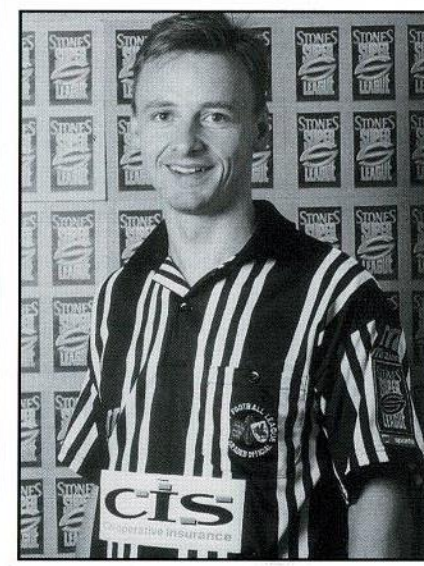
The rule doesn't come into force until January 1st, 1997 so clubs have time to address the problem. Clearly there are two

**Nigel Wood**

**Link Telecom** KEEPING THE BLUE SOX COMMUNICATING



<p>Thursday June 27th The Alliance Championship <b>BLUE SOX A</b> v <b>CASTLEFORD A</b> At Thrum Hall Kick off 7.30 pm</p> <p>Sunday June 29th The JJB Sports Academy <b>CASTLEFORD TIGERS ACADEMY</b> v <b>BLUE SOX ACADEMY</b> At Wheldon Road Kick off at 1pm followed by <b>STONES SUPER LEAGUE ACTION</b> <b>CASTLEFORD TIGERS</b> v <b>HALIFAX BLUE SOX</b> Kick off 3.30pm</p>	<p>Thursday July 4th The Alliance Championship <b>WARRINGTON A</b> v <b>BLUE SOX A</b> At Wilderspool Kick off 7.30pm</p> <p>Friday July 5th At Thrum Hall The JJB Sports Academy <b>BLUE SOX ACADEMY</b> v <b>WARRINGTON ACADEMY</b> followed by <b>STONES SUPER LEAGUE</b> <b>HALIFAX BLUE SOX</b> v <b>WARRINGTON</b> Kick off 7.30</p>
---	--



Today's referee is 32 year old **Russell Smith**, he co-owns Quicklift UK Ltd and has been in charge of Two Silk Cut Challenge Cup finals at Wembley. His wife Tracey is expecting their second child in September. Russell says the most dangerous thing he has ever done was to send Kevin Ward off! Russell hobbies include fishing and playing golf. His favourite food is fish & chips and favourite T.V. star is Stevo. Russell would like to meet Mohammed Ali and Jack Charlton and enjoys an evening out with his wife and friends.



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As of 17th June	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
St. Helens	12	12	0	0	537	244	293	24
Wigan	12	10	1	1	516	173	343	21
Bradford	12	8	0	4	388	244	144	16
Warrington	12	8	0	4	327	299	28	16
London	12	6	1	4	326	293	33	13
Sheffield	12	6	0	6	363	332	31	12
Castleford	12	5	0	7	311	321	-10	10
Halifax	12	4	1	7	309	310	-1	9
Oldham	12	4	1	7	261	382	-121	9
Leeds	12	3	0	9	283	362	-79	6
Paris SG	12	2	1	9	248	518	-270	5
Workington	12	1	1	10	181	572	-391	3

### Alliance Championship

As of 19th June	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Bradford	10	8	0	2	262	146	116	16
Leeds	10	7	1	2	284	186	98	15
Halifax	10	6	1	3	270	214	56	13
Salford	9	6	0	3	266	187	79	12
St Helens	10	6	0	4	273	234	39	12
Hull	10	5	0	5	202	239	-37	10
Wigan	10	4	0	6	298	279	19	8
Castleford	9	3	1	5	158	196	-38	7
Oldham	10	3	0	7	201	285	-84	6
Hull KR	10	2	1	7	169	281	-112	5
Warrington	10	2	0	8	184	320	-136	4

### Academy JJB Championship

As of 19th June	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Castleford	12	11	1	0	454	203	251	23
Leeds	11	9	0	2	384	179	205	18
Warrington	12	9	0	3	454	272	182	18
Wigan	12	8	0	4	474	263	211	16
St Helens	12	8	0	4	392	262	130	16
Wakefield	12	7	1	4	274	266	8	15
Hull	12	6	0	6	251	304	-53	12
London	11	4	0	7	301	370	-69	8
Halifax	12	3	0	9	192	379	-187	6
Bradford	11	2	0	9	196	319	-123	4
Leigh	12	2	0	10	169	497	-328	4
Featherstone	11	0	0	11	186	413	-227	0

League Tables Courtesy of Rugby League Express



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IF YOU want a job that involves plenty of travelling then become a Rugby League reporter.

If you want a job with a certain future don't become a Rugby League reporter.

In the past three weeks I watched matches in Carcassonne, Paris, Cardiff, Gateshead, London - O, and Wigan. There is no guarantee that we will be watching Rugby League in any of those venues in 5 years time, not even in Wigan.

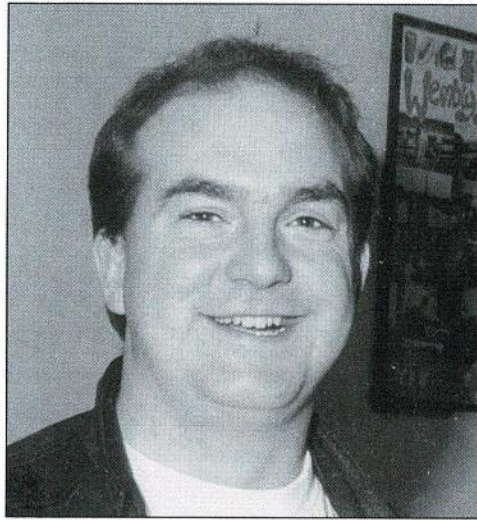
For those of us with an emotional investment in the game, each day and each venue brings about a new shot of optimism of total pessimism.

In Carcassonne, Rugby League is indestructible. It has survived a Nazi invasion and Rugby Union subterfuge. But the game will no more than just survive in Southern France.

You travel up to Paris and you feel as though you are in a bubble that is set to burst at any moment. The players are dispirited, the crowds are beginning to dwindle and Tas Baltieri, the soul of French Rugby League and founder of Paris St Germain is heading back to Australia. Something dramatic needs to happen if Paris is to retain a Super League identity.

A crowd of around 6000 was decent in Gateshead for the England vs France game. It's just such a pity the game was so one sided. And unfortunately the North East still seems an age away from getting a professional Rugby League side.

The further South you travel the more you can begin to smile. Interestingly, Rugby League in Cardiff is burgeoning, they simply have to be given a chance to launch a Super League team. The impression from the locals was that League and Union can happily sit side by side in the valleys.



In London it is more of a struggle. If you are a Blue sox fan and recently travelled down to The Valley, you will know now why the Bay City rollers split up in the first place.

You will also get better odds on the Broncos surviving than Woody and the boys will get of getting into the pop charts again.

But London need to be supported now. If Paris does fail, London's success becomes even more vital to the game.

There are still some people who have the attitude that it doesn't matter whether we spread the game or not. We have survived for 100 years in our own little northern corner, so why not spend the next century in the same manner.

Well it is simple. If we stay as we are, we say goodbye to top class Rugby League. The better players will go to Union, even the better clubs will be tempted that way.

If we don't succeed in expansion then not being able to watch Rugby League, even in Wigan, will be a very real possibility.

**Dave Woods**

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APRIL	5	Oldham Bears	A	L 22 - 34
	9	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	H	L 30 - 34
	12	Warrington	A	L 10 - 16
	21	ST HELENS	H	L 22 - 26
MAY	4	Workington Town	A	D 18 - 18
	14	WIGAN	H	L 4 - 50
	19	Leeds	A	W 32 - 12
	27	Paris St. Germain	A	W 38 - 10
JUNE	2	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	W 33 - 30
	9	BRADFORD BULLS	H	L 20 - 22
	16	London Broncos	A	W 52 - 24
	23	OLDHAM BEARS	H	6.00 pm
	30	Castleford Tigers	A	6.00 pm
JULY	7	WARRINGTON	H	6.00 pm
	14	St. Helens	A	7.00 pm
	21	WORKINGTON TOWN	H	6.00 pm
	28	Wigan	A	6.30 pm
AUG	4	PARIS ST GERMAIN	H	6.00 pm
	11	Sheffield Eagles	A	6.00 pm
	18	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00 pm
	25	LEEDS	H	6.00 pm

### TONIGHT'S MASCOT



Tonight's Mascot is 11 year old **Dominic Mallinson**. Dominic lives in Mytholmroyd and is a member of the Blue Sox Buddies

The Committee felt that Dominic needed cheering up a bit, as his mum is very poorly at the moment in Overgate Hospice, and so we were happy to oblige and let Dominic lead the team out on the field today.

Many thanks to **The Lunch Club** of Commercial Street for sponsoring his kit today.

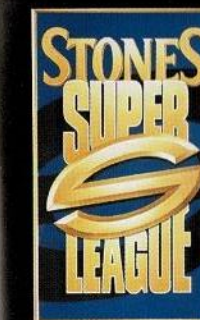
Have a great day Dominic!

### HALIFAX BLUE SOX ACADEMY TEAM

- 1 N. HAIGH
- 2 R. EVERETT
- 3 D. BASTIAN
- 4 J. RUSHFORTH
- 5 E. CAMPBELL
- 6 C. CHESTER
- 7 O. MARNIS
- 8 M. SLICKER
- 9 J. MILLER
- 10 G. INGHAM
- 11 A. HOBSON
- 12 L. TAYLOR
- 13 J. GANLEY
- 14 S. BLACKBURN
- 15 W. MCGIBON
- 16 B. CHARNOCK
- 17 G. HILTON

### LEIGH ACADEMY TEAM

- 1 M. KAY
- 2 M. BURROWS
- 3 A. HOLLAND
- 4 D. ASHCROFT
- 5 G. KENWRIGHT
- 6 J. KERNER
- 7 S. HILTON
- 8 M. LEACH
- 9 A. FRY
- 10 G. FLETCHER
- 11 M. GOULDING
- 12 C. PRESCOTT
- 13 S. MCGULLEY
- 14 G. CLAYTON
- 15 A. WEBSTER
- 16 P. MILLER
- 17 P. NIXON



Each month the Superstars of the Stones Super League will now be able to prove they are literally the best of the best as they compete for the new prestigious Stones Gold Awards.

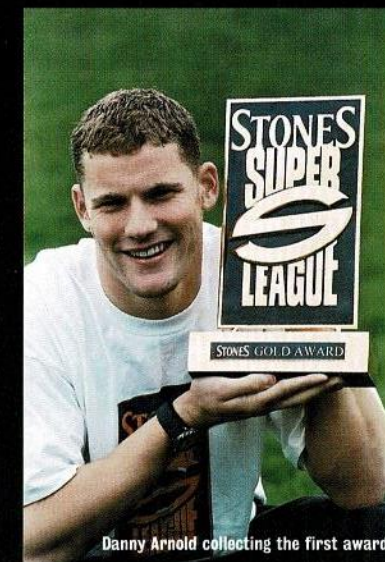
Decided by a panel of experts drawn from representatives of all areas of the sport, the awards will be presented to the player who has consistently

demonstrated outstanding performances over the previous month.

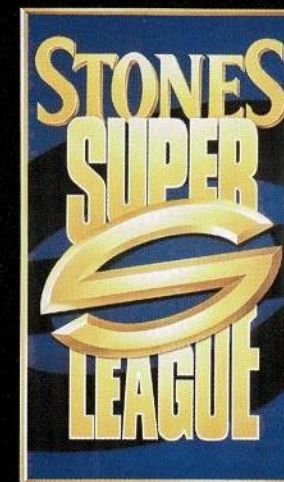
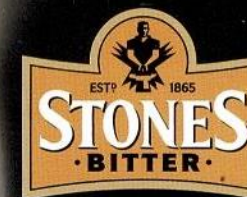
The awards launched by Stones Bitter, sponsors of the Stones Super League, have been introduced to reward excellence by players and to raise the awareness of the shooting stars of the '96 Stones Super League season.

The first Stones Gold Award went to St. Helens' new superstar Danny Arnold. Danny has had a tremendous April with some stunning performances and having scored 11 tries in 5 appearances leads the try scoring table.

Also, at the end of what promises to be an excellent inaugural Stones Super League season, the panel of experts will get together to decide who have been the cream of the '96 season, including picking the Stones Super League dream team. So, to keep up with latest star players, watch this space for further details.



Danny Arnold collecting the first award



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