

In the Trenches today

Workington Town v Oldham

36	Abraham Fatnowna	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	FULL BACK	1 Paul Atcheson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
37	Richard Armswood	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	RIGHT WING	2 Scott Ranson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
14	John Allen	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	RIGHT CENTRE	3 Darren Abram	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Paul Penrice	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	LEFT CENTRE	17 Paul Davidson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
19	Lee Chilton	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	LEFT WING	20 Adrian Belle	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
27	Tony Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	STAND OFF	27 Paul Crook	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
38	Ian Watson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	SCRUM HALF	6 Francis Maloney	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
25	Peter Riley	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	OPEN SIDE PROP	8 Ian Gildart	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Michael Bethwaite	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	HOOKER	23 Gary Burns	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Rowland Phillips	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BLIND SIDE PROP	10 Jason Temu	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
15	Lafaele Filipo	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	OPEN SIDE 2nd ROW	11 Gary Lord	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
12	Stephen Holgate	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BLIND SIDE 2nd ROW	12 Joe Faimalo	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
32	Andrew Grima	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	LOOSE FORWARD	13 David Bradbury	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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TOWN SCRUMS

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BEARS PENALTIES

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Referee:
Mr. C.A. Morris



Touch Judges: D. Milburn, A. Randerson
In-Goal Judges: S. Marshall, S. Nathan

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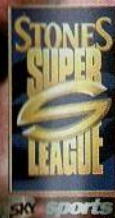
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 Lancashire Cup Winners 1977, Runners Up 1976, 1978, 1979
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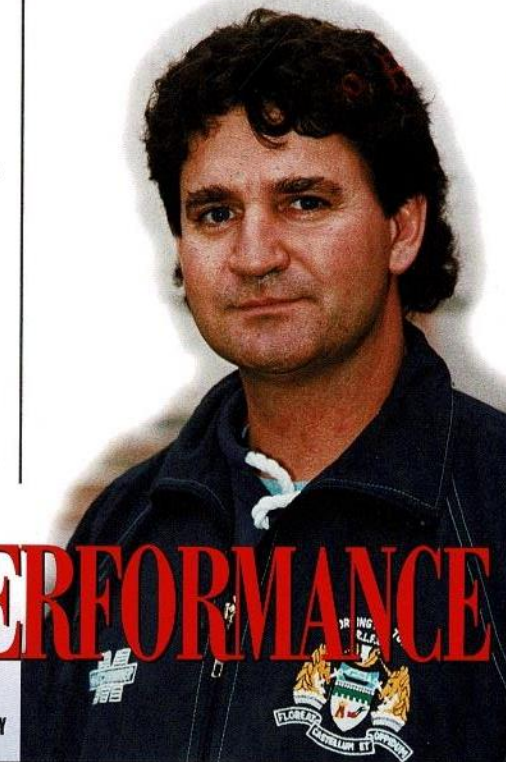
Workington Town RLFC would like to thank the Times & Star Workington and Picture It, Murray Road, Workington, for their co-operation in reproducing photographs for this magazine. Cover Photograph courtesy of West Cumberland Times & Star.

Although we suffered a defeat at the hands of Castleford last Sunday I was very proud of the spirited performance given by everyone and did not think the scoreline justified the effort the players gave in that game. We seem to have been on the receiving end of some extremely harsh decisions and without criticising any officials, whom I accept have a difficult job, having viewed the video of the Castleford game, two tries were extremely doubtful and one other should definitely never have been awarded.

Whilst I was happy with the spirit and commitment shown by the players, there were periods in the game when we lost the plot. The turning point came following a great recovery which put us firmly back in contention at 20-28. From that re-start we missed tackles which resulted in Castleford scoring almost immediately. Had we maintained concentration and forced them into making an error, we could have taken the game. Although we work hard on defensive techniques each week in training, our reduced number of full time professionals puts us at a disadvantage, particularly in the last quarter of the game. As fatigue sets in our bad habits tend to return to haunt us however we have worked especially hard in that area this week so I will be looking for a big improvement this afternoon.

Hopefully today will see the return of Brad Nairn and Butch Fatnowna whose workrate and experience will add an extra dimension to our play and help harness that terrific team spirit that showed itself so dramatically last week. Congratulations are due to our Academy squad for their magnificent win over Bramley by 70-12 last Sunday. Dave Smith, Glen Burgess and the players continue to work hard and that result should boost their confidence no

end. Even younger potential players from local junior and senior schools enjoyed a coaching session at Derwent Park a week ago last Wednesday. It creates a great feeling to see so much enthusiasm from them and an opportunity to work with them and improve their playing techniques was a very rewarding experience for me. I also appreciate the fact that eleven club players were prepared to give up their only day off in the week to help with the coaching and make the day such a resounding success and they deserve our thanks for taking the time to work with the kids. The club must continue to build on this scheme and lay a solid foundation for the future.



SPIRITED PERFORMANCE

...The BIG MATCH review with ROSS O'REILLY



SUPER LEAGUE ROUND UP

Financial problems seem to abound in Rugby League as we approach the end of the season which in itself brings us ever closer to the dreaded salary cap. It can't be coincidence that Offiah, Gibbs, Harris and now Preston have all moved or become available recently and the fact remains that too many clubs are still living beyond their means. London obviously feel that Offiah can become the catalyst for progress within the capital and he certainly must rank as the highest profile player in the game. If their marketing organisation is as good as is claimed we should be looking for great things from the Broncos before long. Of course the funding problem to solve is the "fast tracking" of South Wales and the arguments have already started and it's no surprise that Alex Murphy heads the list of dissenters. He claims that Division One should bear the cost of South Wales leapfrogging over the entire division - bit of a cheek really but that never bothered Murph! and not unnaturally the second salvo was fired by a First Division club, Dewsbury, who pointed out that the figures quoted of £700,000 per annum didn't apply to them, but only the top couple of sides in the Division. The point of course is that there is not enough money to subsidise another club without losing some of the "poor relations" who are permanently rooted to the bottom of Division Two. The League probably has to decide if they have any future and if not, finance the new club from that area of the game.

While not competing in the Super League, York have hit hard times so much so that they are in danger of total collapse. Although the fashion for selling grounds was really the "in" thing when York sold their old city centre ground, the move out of town sadly has not been a success with crippling rentals replacing the expenses of maintaining their old ground but with the added disadvantage of having used a large portion of their capital to build a new ground they would never own. It's probable that York may be the first of several clubs, not all of whom are in Division Two, who may not be around to see the year 2000.

The much maligned Regal Trophy seems to have finally bit the dust with a curt statement from Maurice Lindsay confirming that contrary to popular opinion no firm offer from the BBC was on the table to resurrect the competition. Don't know where all these other fixtures are going to come from to balance to books, do you?

Leeds at least did us a favour by beating the combined talents of the RFL and Paris by 34-12. Although it did not improve our own Super League position it did at least stop the gap widening and makes today's game with Oldham all the more important. Dean Bell donned a Leeds shirt for the first time in twelve years to score a try in the 75th minute which ensured the win and confirmed their Super League survival for at least another season.

No doubt the "Edwards" saga will have a few more twists and turns before it reaches its conclusion at Wigan but the pre-match interviews with Wigan supporters made interesting listening. I suppose success is a drug and when you suffer from the lack of it withdrawal symptoms become evident! "We got no star players left" was a typical reaction. They've only sold Offiah and still have Paul, Connolly, Tuigamala, Houghton, Farrell etc doesn't sound exactly like a bum team to me!

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Sun 9.6	Leeds	Smith Self Drive Whitehaven	Still available
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"GOING OVER THE TOP" with NEIL WILLIAMSON



I was delighted to hear from Dick Viney that despite a few late withdrawals the schools' coaching course held here a week ago last Wednesday was such a resounding success.

They usually raised a chuckle unless you happened to get behind the idiot with the "baby on board" sticker. Referee's should have one really "Referees do it with their eyes shut" (sorry lads only joking!) what I meant to say was

"Referees do it at ground level" as of course they do, along with touch judges and the ingoal judges. If there's one saying common to everyone who enjoys watching team sport played on a field it must be that you see much more of the game off the field than you ever do on it. Most coaches choose to watch the game from the stand, rather than the touchline and our intrepid commentating duo of Eddie and Stevo do their worst from the gantry high above the ground and even the referee's assessor sits high in the stand copiously making his notes! Greg McCallum, RFL's referee supremo is constantly telling us just how much the standards in refereeing have improved but watching last Saturday week's televised game between London and Saints, Sunday's game between Town and Castleford and the TV highlights between Leeds and Paris, all had their controversial decisions. Certainly Tony Currie, in his post match interview didn't appear to concur with Greg McCallum's view and the video referee may well have determined the resting place of the "shellcase" that passes for the Super League Trophy in its inaugural season. But before I'm accused of "ref bashing" let me clarify once and for all I'm not directing criticism at any of the game's officials in general, but merely observing what I believe is a glaring error in the game. It goes back to the point of seeing more of the game of the pitch than on it and it remains a mystery to me why the RFL don't at least experiment with having a match official watching each game from the stand

or some elevated position. Referees face compulsory retirement at 55 years of age, presumably because the rigours of maintaining the fitness levels becomes too great, but age won't affect their ability to make judgements from the stands particularly having the benefit of an overview of a much larger area of play. Forward passes and offsidies in particular are more easily spotted from a vantage point on high and whilst the final decision would always rest with the match official on the pitch he would always be aware of his assistants' view from the stand. Surely there isn't a referee of linesman anywhere in rugby league who thinks he always gets it right. I would have thought such a step would help even further to reach correct decisions and reduce still further the controversial aspects of close calls. I remember an advert that appeared regularly on TV for a washing machine which always finished with the words "the appliance of science". If we can put men on the moon, space probes to Saturn and find the Titanic after 80 years surely we can set up a communication system between two people who will never be more than 200 yards away from each other!

I was delighted to hear from Dick Viney that despite a few late withdrawals the schools' coaching course held here a week ago last Wednesday was such a resounding success. An age range from juniors to senior school kids enjoyed their day of mixing and learning from our professional players and coaches. Hopefully this is the start of a concerted effort which can be expanded rapidly and may result in a Youth Development post on a permanent basis at Workington. The benefits would be enormous in both regenerating interest for the club itself with future supporters and create an early favourable impression with potential professionals in the area. Surely this is an investment in the club's future that will pay dividends in years to come.

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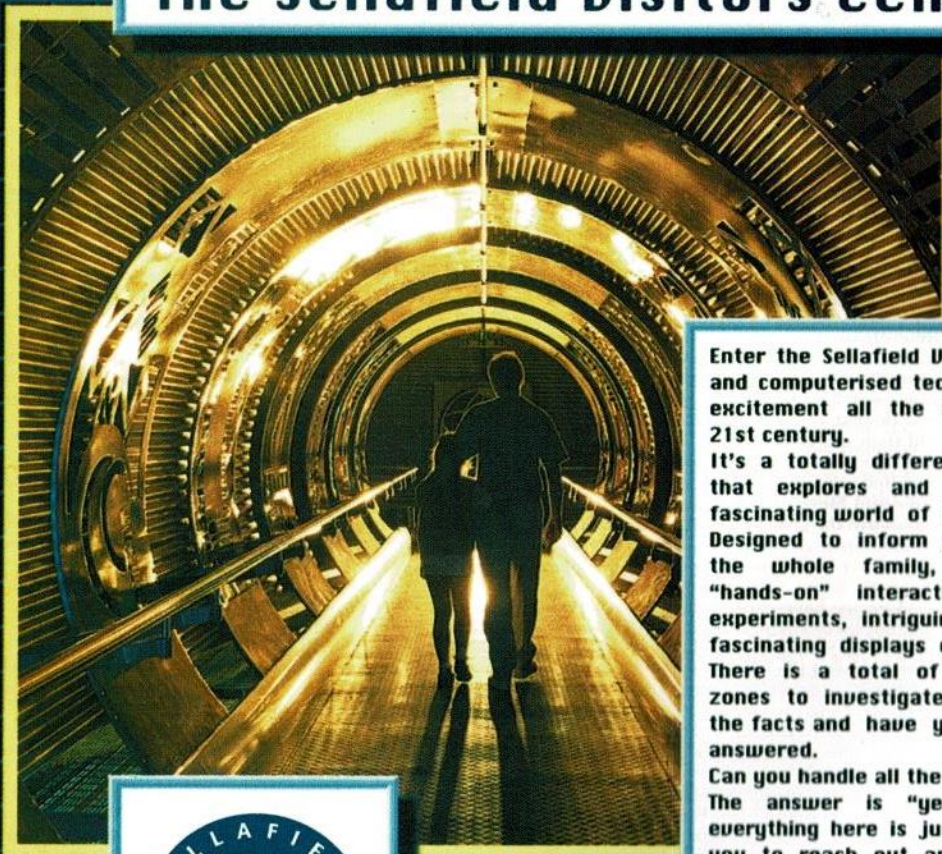
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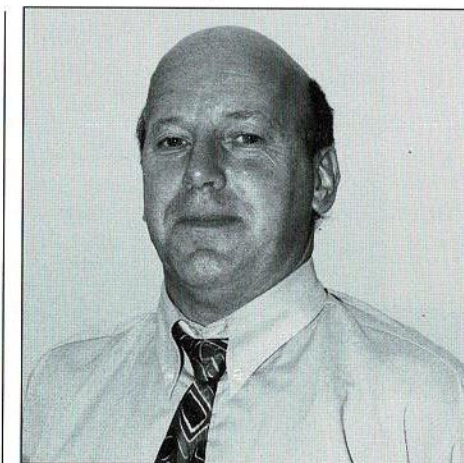
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Keith Singleton, a long time follower, looks at the fortunes of Workington Town... past and present

TOWN TALK

with **KEITH SINGLETON**



"Oldham... can match the best... we will be looking to make the fur fly this afternoon."

If ever a scoreline gave a false reflection of a teams effort last Sunday's takes the biscuit for me. The Town players gave it 100% plus a few more yet the final score would indicate to non attenders we were wipped again. It is such a cruel sport when six points can break your hearts after doing the pressing. Castlefords cause was aided and abetted in many peoples opinion by an inept performance by Mr. (Billy) Connolly. Maybe so, but for what was the most dubious Cas try it was in fact the touch judge who made Mr. Connolly run the halftime Gauntlet to the dressing rooms. He (the T.J.) nodded to Billy, sorry I mean Robert, that the try was good when most of the assembled knew full well that it was not, another example of bad luck snowballing as it tends to. Post match Mr Connolly, usually a wit and a half, was in a strangely sombre mood while consuming his cuppa and savouries. Was he perhaps concerned that another nail had been driven into our S.L. wooden box, or was he worried he didn't have a food taster at hand? Probably the latter eh?

One other point which surprised me after the game was seeing for the first time young loanee from Salford Ian Watson in his civvys. A wee fresh faced kid isn't he? But looks a great prospect, and much bigger out on the park, welcome belatedly, Ian. I hope you like us up here as Madge from the Galloping Horse says "We may be small in the R.L. World but we are beautiful." Now there was another star act in the making with the mike in hand, the Galloping Horse crowd were quite a tonic actually, singing and chanting almost like old times. Well done lads and lasses, (especially 'Mother') Another new face was Lee Prest, a youth from my own town. That one where Cumbria's top amateurs reside, yes the Rangers. No not the Elbra, Egremont of course. Lee was at Wigan initially, he seemed to be making inroads at Central Park, I don't know if he made the first team squad, but I know they thought highly of him. However the Wigan ship is gathering a sinking feeling. All those unwanted crew, and some talent amongst them, are being made to walk the gangplank as they trim their financial sails, or should that be sales? Whatever, I hope young Lee does the business for us and stays 'Home' where he belongs. Talking of the pie-eaters, I've never jumped on their particular bandwagon, like so many have over the last

decade or so, therefore I'm not at all sympathetic that they are going through a period of discontent, the crowds are almost halved, proving just as fickle as any other clubs can be. It is all Salfords' fault they stopped that annual Wembley gluttony on which Wigan gorged themselves and that lost revenue became disastrous for the club. But in my opinion I believe they started the R.L. Mega Bucks payrolls which have staggered many other clubs didn't they? You can't have all the tastiest pies in the country without some eventually going stale and that's what's happening now. But enough of that crusty subject, we have our own probs to sort at the moment.

Today we face a team with a fair sprinkling of ex-Wiganers, coached by one of the best forwards who they creamed off the Oldham crop in the good old days, (whoops I can't stop knocking them) I'm referring to Andy Goodway who hasn't had the best of luck as yet at Oldham. They can match the best when purring along but become scolded cats too often, actually they prefer to be likened to 'Bears' so we will be looking to make the fur fly this afternoon.

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IN TOWN TODAY

DAVID BRADBURY

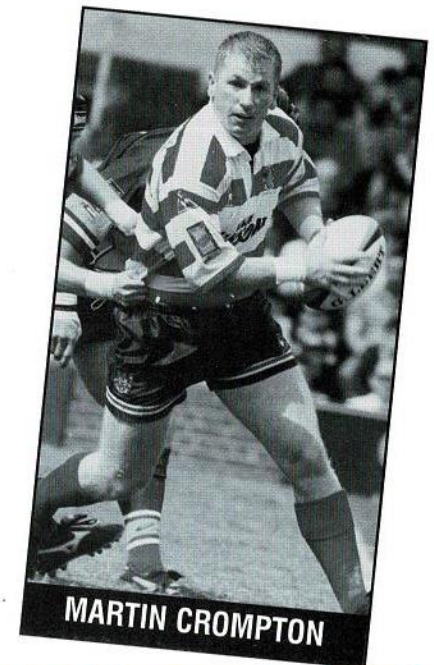


Oldham, whatever the current problems bring, are not in danger of losing Super League status from a playing record point of view.

If I need to shake off my lingering doubts regarding the switch to summer rugby I invariably picture the delights of a trip to Oldham in November

The coldest place I've ever watched a rugby league match in. The sprawling suburb on the outskirts of Greater Manchester is as far as I'm concerned one of the most depressing rugby league strongholds to pay a fleeting visit. The Watersheddings Stadium adds to the gloom radiating from the Coronation Street style abodes as you struggle for a car parking slot. The altitude didn't help in winter either, with drizzle often turning to snow further dampening the enthusiasm of a visiting army, not to mention the team having to struggle with possible hypothermia, home knowledge of such conditions probably providing a big advantage. Some may think that such a picture of winter Oldham oppression is unfair, with most facets being beyond the power of anyone other than the controller of the elements. But it always felt such a cold, unwelcome place to me. So the solstice switch could surely only transform this zone of Mancunian Macabre into an idyllic, (comparatively), summer scenario. However that is not quite yet the case, Watersheddings still remains a relic and with the sun beaming down on it the dust and cracks are highlighted. It is extremely difficult to park up around the ground, whatever the weather. For example, in May I turned up for our game with the Bears (it was raining) and found the car park full, so enquired, "Where can I put my wheels?" to be given a shrug of no can help. I know the Oldham camp are aware of the 'Sheddings shortcomings, the recent proposals to make the Boundary Park soccer stadium a more regular venue makes sense. That is a modernised arena which can cater efficiently for

larger crowds, (by the way when I struggled to find a park around Watersheddings only 2,000 people were at the game), and is much more accessible for visiting fans, and is very high on atmosphere when fairly well populated. The plans for a new stadium are also in the pipeline, the unfortunate part of those being I believe that it will be one of those atmosphere killing pitch with athletic track, arenas. Oldham, whatever the current problems bring, are not in danger of losing Super League status from a playing record point of view, but do I think suffer from their semi nomadic home status. Once fully settled they have players in the squad capable of shining in any Super League surroundings.



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The Bears are in a similar mould to last week's opponents Castleford.

The Bears are in a similar mould to last week's opponents Castleford. They can play some brilliant flowing rugby, then just as easily fall apart at the seams. Perhaps the proof of this being epitomised by the two games they have played versus Castleford, winning away at Wheldon Road but losing at home to The Tigers a mysterious problem that must have the Watersheddings' faithful driven crazy. The early signs were bad with Wigan giving them an opening nightmare welcome to Super League at Boundary Park 16-56. A win was next up when a rocky lot of Blue Sox went down 34-22. Leeds were then on the menu for the honey bunch and were sweet meat for the Bears at 25-16 that aforementioned win at Wheldon Road put them in the top four. Then came the sticky moments, Saints fresh from Wembley triumph put 66 past them, the Bulls won at Oldham 10-30 and Sheffield Eagles took two points at 23-10.

pipped by one score followed up by their result of the season a 35-24 beating of Warrington. Wigan probably as predicted brought them down to earth, but they then went to Thrum Hall and beat the Blue Sox 14-20, perhaps then that should be classed as their best effort to date. Paris were easy meat for them after that, then lowly Leeds fell to the Bears at Headingley the inconsistency was being shaken off, then enter Castleford to the 'Sheddings and it was back to square one. Saints gave quite a pummelling and last week the Bulls tore them apart, both completing doubles. The Oldham season staggers along firing on three cylinders. Hopefully they will still be misfiring this evening.

Another defeat which cheered up one set of followers, in fact sent them crazy with delight was that one and only away win we have enjoyed to date way back in May. The Oldham fans again were mystified, even more so considering the Bears had a comfortable looking interval lead. Since that grey day for the Bears they have continued to flatter and deceive their fans. A great effort at London, just being



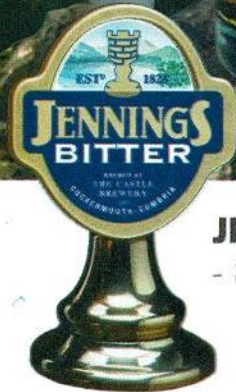
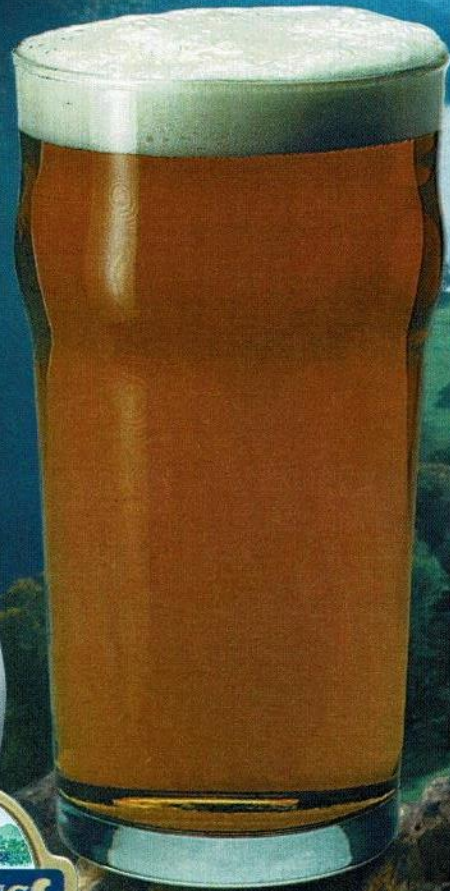
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IN BRIEF...



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Our thanks are also due to Modern Homes, Workington for donating today's match ball and the Cumbrian Newspaper Group for sponsoring today's Man of the Match Award

**TRAVELLERS REST
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FUN DAY SATURDAY 10TH
AUGUST AT 12 NOON**

The "Travellers" are building on the successful day held last year with an even bigger and better fun day for all the family to be held at the Travellers Rest, High Street, Workington. Guest appearances will be made by Hugh Mullins from CFM Radio and many of the Town Players. The entertainment includes bouncy castle, face painting, children's rides, disco, Professor Langley for the kids and pintathon, tombola, barbecue for the harassed parents! It promises to be a great day out so don't miss it, make a note and get yourself there!

ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

Ross O'Reilly and Co have plans at an advance stage to hold the presentation night in the Washington Central Hotel on Tuesday 27th August at 7:00 for 7:30pm. Tickets will be available from the Supporters Clubs and priced at £15 to include a three course meal with entertainment by Steve and Mandy plus a Disco. This will be another excellent night's entertainment and whilst we may not have too much to cheer us this season, the team spirit has been building up well and there are several individual presentations to be

made to players who have given their all this season. As a further gesture of support for the club Bill Dobie has kindly offered to donate 10% of the bar takings for the night to the Ross O'Reilly Players Fund which is appreciated by everyone at the club - thanks Bill.

ALLERDALE SCHOOLS' PROJECT

Was an outstanding success when over 100 children from junior and senior schools took part in a coaching session taken by Ross O'Reilly and eleven of the Town Players who gave up their only day off (Wednesday) to help. Our thanks are due to Calypso Soft Drinks who kindly donated refreshments which were appreciated by everyone on such a hot afternoon. The media coverage given by radio Cumbria, Border TV, West Cumbria Gazette and the Times & Star was second to none as they highlighted the efforts being made by the club and the kids themselves to enjoy their day, improve their play and achieve something worthwhile. Hopefully we shall build on this format even further which will help cement a firm foundation of development for the club in years to come!

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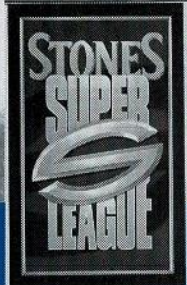
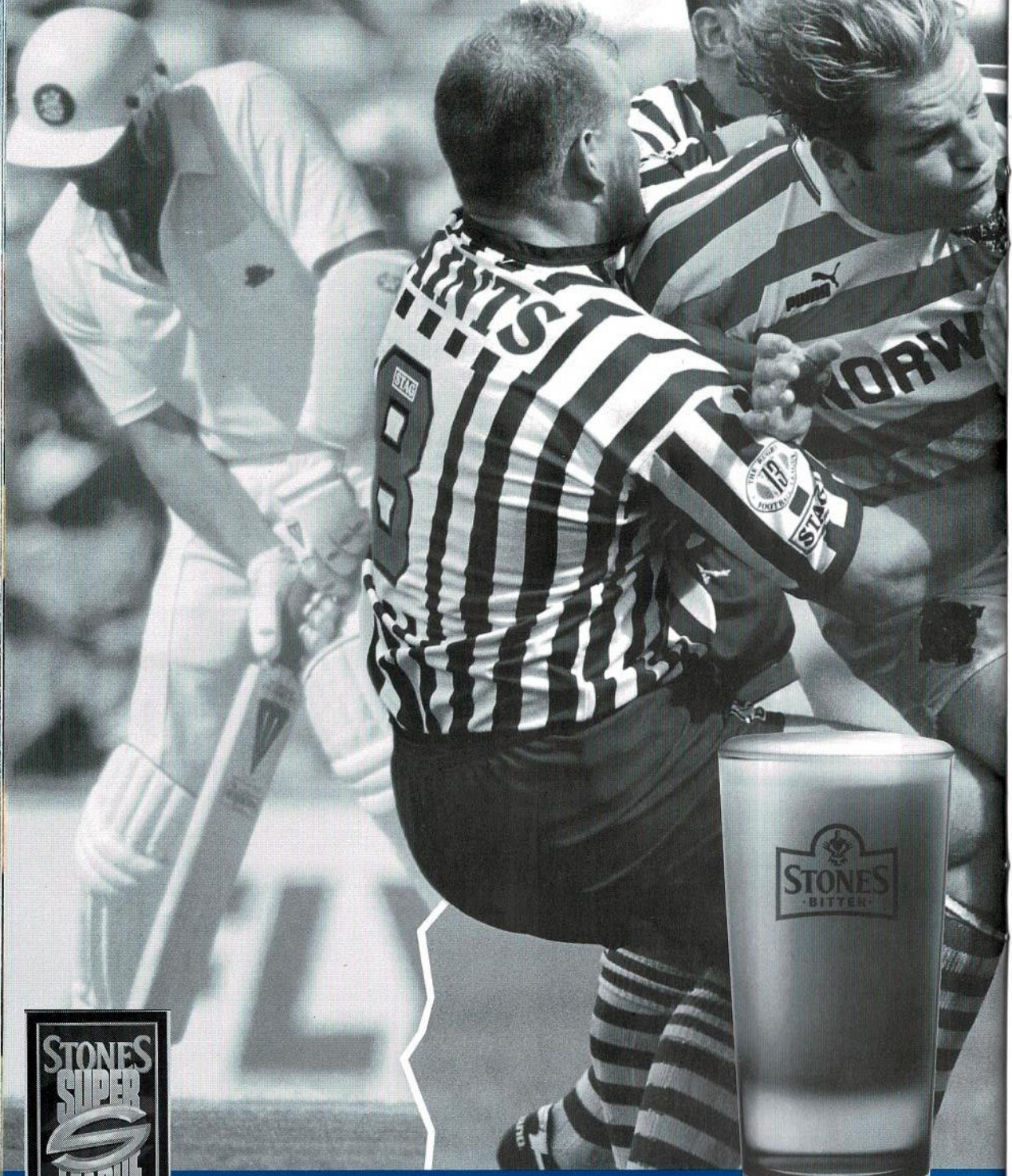


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IF IT'S WALLPAPER YOUR PICKIN' ... WE TAKE SOME LICKIN' ...



Steves PAINTS

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Leeds were always accused of being the "Bank of England" club due to their many high profile and expensive signings. Those days seem far behind them now as under the combined coaching capabilities of Dean Bell and Hugh McGahan the results have been a bitter pill for the Loiners supporters to swallow.

Headingley is a big ground and not a happy hunting ground for us.

The club has been undergoing a painful rebuilding phase but with Super League status almost certainly retained and many of the biggest earners no longer under contract the financial restraints imposed may be eased and new players signed to compliment the youngsters thrown in at the deep end. Dean Bell, a promising youngster, returned to the fray against London last week and crowned his performance with a try but the star man of the game was probably Graham Holroyd who was involved in much of the Leeds' attacking play. With Tony Kemp now back to full fitness, the void left after the transfer of Gary Schofield to Huddersfield is at last being filled and these two will cause plenty of problems for us unless their activities are closely controlled. The "Beast" is back and we need no reminding just how devastating he can be if given enough room to gather momentum, however in our last clash Iro was well looked after and was generally snuffed out. The Leeds pack, though only a shadow of its former self, is beginning to take shape and the marauding runs of Barrie McDermott have caused havoc in many a Super League defence this season. He had an excellent game for Leeds at Workington in early June and his form has showed no signs of abating. Mick Shaw has repossessed the hooking role and his scampering runs from acting halfback have become a major feature of his playing style. With the experience of Gary Mercer and David Hulme to call on Terry Newton and Adrian Morley have made steady progress but for my money Nick Fozzard is the most improved young forward in the Leeds pack. Headingley is a big ground and not a happy hunting ground for us, however stranger things have happened than us winning there and providing our error rate is controlled well and pressure put on them one of the poorest ever Leeds' side could be forced to push the panic button.

YOU CAN

Book awayday seats with the Workington Town Supporters Club by ringing George Petrie on Maryport (01900) 812967. There are pick up points at Maryport, Workington and Cockermouth. Full details of prices are

available on the noticeboard in the Gus Risman bar after today's game.

The Travellers Rest Supporters club also have transport available and full details can be obtained by ringing Workington (01900) 602064. The Galloping Horse Supporters club can be contacted by ringing Harrington (01946) 831004 where Marjorie Rea will give you full details.

ADMISSION PRICES

Stand: Adults £13 Juniors: £10

Ground: £8 Juniors and OAP's: £5

There is an entrance for the disabled in the South Stand where wheelchair users can gain free entry although anyone accompanying them must pay the normal entrance fee.

CAR PARKING

There is no car parking available for supporters. If you park in the street please park with consideration for local householders.

SNACKS

There are several snack bars around the ground all of which sell the usual array of fast foods.

BARS

There are bars in both the North and South stands which are open to all supporters.

SOUVENIR SHOP

Is open before the game and afterwards for approximately one hour.

TRAVELLING TO HEADINGLEY

For any independent traveller the Leeds club have advised that you take the A65 via Skipton to enter Leeds as the road will bring you right past the ground. There is a large cycle race taking place in the city that day and traffic congestion with long delays are expected if you normally use the M62.

AWAY GAME INFORMATION



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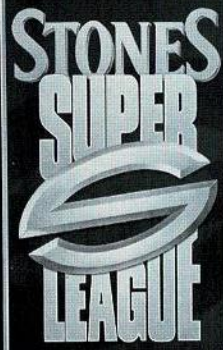
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Stones Bitter are looking for nominations for the Stones Super League Fan of 1996.

If you know of a 'Super Fan' then let us know as they could win a VIP trip to the forthcoming Stones Premiership Finals.

It could be somebody who travels the length and breadth of the country to see their team both at home and away, or it could be somebody who collects every autograph from every Stones Super League player.

To enter, it couldn't be easier. All you have to do is explain, in no more than 100 words, who and why you think your nominee is the Stones Super League Fan of 1996.

The deadline for entries is 18th August 1996. The winner will be notified by post.

Send your entries to the Stones Super Fan Competition, P.O. Box 56, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5RF.



The press and reporters are often accused of being public enemy number one and today's subject although not falling into that category exactly has had his fair share of criticism to contend with over the years! Martin Butcher has reported on Town games in the League Express since it began and has watched the club's success ebb and flow. Today he gives us the benefit of his opinions at the present state of the game and his hopes for the future.

Q) The Super League's inaugural season is reaching its climax how do you rate the progress, if any, that has been made?

A) I think the entire concept has been a raging success! Playing standards have improved out of all proportion due to several factors. The game is being played in ideal conditions allowing those with pace and skill to demonstrate their array of talents, the rule changes have added to the pace of the game and in general, despite the British climate, spectators have enjoyed the spectacle in comfortable conditions. The increase in full time professionals has rocketed pace and high speed collisions with bone snapping power hold me in awe at the fitness achieved. The crowd figures recently have clearly shown the trend is toward an increase in gates although I accept that some clubs have been much more successful than others in achieving this. Whatever the rights and wrongs of unlimited overseas signings I firmly believe that London have added an extra dimension to the game and not all the players introduced to the British game by them have been high profile Aussie league players many were not that well known over there. Paris must have learned from their mistakes this season and surely will not allow many of their players to compete in domestic competition next season. Bradford must be the success story of the season and but for a poor start could so easily have won the league. That in itself would have been a major achievement but to have eclipsed Leeds as the major force in Yorkshire so quickly not only on the field but off it is testament to what can be achieved when the right people are appointed to the key positions. Saints have moved on from last season and on the playing front Halifax and Sheffield are not too far behind. After years of Wigan domination we are now moving toward a situation where four or five clubs can compete to the end and all that this achieved in only one season. I don't subscribe to the view that that is due to a decline in Wigan's fortunes but an upturn in the other clubs who are narrowing the gap quickly. So the framework is in place and we must grasp it with both hands.

Q) The Super League only covers some of the clubs in the game. What is the future for the remainder?

A) Ideally the RFL should be looking to appoint a full time Non Super League Executive to oversee these teams. There are some very good sides in division one, some of which have achieved a full time squad. Their standards are rising and with good games to be seen here also why on earth shouldn't a separate TV deal be struck with say the BBC to show weekly highlights of the top division one game. This is already happening with soccer clubs outside their

premiership league. Their own competition could be devised and still played on one of our major final days. It's no good club officials be moaning the fact that they are in a lower division, it's all so negative, they must actively promote the league and its best fixtures and the key to that is once again appointing the right men to key positions.

Q) What do you think the future holds for north Cumbria's three professional teams?

A) I have to admit I don't know how on earth Carlisle have been able to carry on so long! You would imagine that if they have battled and survived so long nothing that could be thrown at them could knock them off the perch! I have to fall into the "merger" camp if the long term future of professional rugby league is to be assured here. It needs imagination and energy to drive through the necessary changes which must include the two Borough and County councils all working in unison to tap into the grants which would be required to establish a new stadium. The area is crying out for one anyway and would be used as a centre for all sporting activities of West Cumbria. Lillyhall has been spoken of as a possible site and it certainly meets most of the criteria necessary, with good access etc. This is a hotbed of rugby league and even if most people don't attend games at the moment they will be aware of the results of the two West Cumbrian sides, in otherwords no great re-education plan is required to stimulate interest, only a well run and successful club competing with the best the game has to offer.

Q) What is the future according to the gospel of Martin Butcher?

A) There are many promising young players at Workington who have made tremendous strides this season. O.K. they perhaps weren't quite ready for the Super League but the quality is there and will continue to improve rapidly. It may be blasphemy but I think a season in the lower division will enhance their skills although I accept it is a difficult division to get out of. Some of the club's older players have also shown a steady improvement and providing the financial restrictions ease and allow some key signings to be made Workington can achieve a more than satisfactory season next year.

Q) What is your ideal scenario?

A) Winning the lottery, bankrolling the club, watching Super League every week, ensuring a development officer is appointed for the area and a Secondary School competition is up and running. I have been very impressed by the work done in Primary schools particularly from Mike Borthwick and Dick Viney but we must take that on even further with support from the club and the local councils.

ONE on ONE





It's becoming more difficult with each passing week to find queries of pertinent relevance with regard to rugby league rulings, does this mean our refs are getting more efficient perhaps? However for this week there's a competition of three questions all of which have been dealt with this season.



I hope all you "amateur" referees out there who give all us officials plenty of vocal advice on the decisions to make have been reading this column because it's almost the end of term and that means exams! This week there's a competition of three questions all of which have been dealt with this season. Can you get them right? If so send your entry to

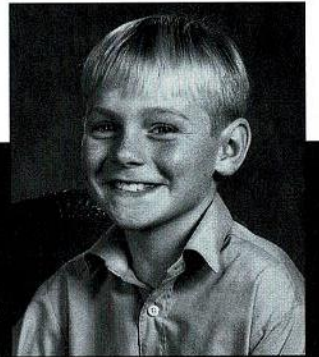
Keith Singleton, 9 Dent View, Egremont, Cumbria, CA22 2ET by the 10th August.

First correct answer out of the hat will receive a ref's shirt kindly donated by Steve.

1) An attacking player carrying the ball runs into the referee in his opponents in goal area and play is thereby affected. What would the ref's decision be?

MASCOT DETAILS

Name: Ryan McClure
Address: Corporation Road, Workington
School: Victoria Junior
Age: 11 Years
Favourite Player: Dean Marwood
Ryan scored West Cumbria's only try at Wembley this year in the Challenge Cup curtain raiser.



2) A player in possession accidentally knocks the ball forward. The ball strikes a goal post and rebounds into his hands, then he grounds the ball claiming a try. What is the ref's decision?

3) A team kicks the ball from a penalty kick and it lands on the corner flag post on the the full. What is the ref's decision?

Well, how did you do? Perhaps this reffing business isn't as easy as it seems! Get your entries in as soon as possible and we'll announce the winner at the next home game against Bradford on August 11th.

**STEVE NICHOLSON'S
WHISTLE TEST**

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The 70-12 scoreline was the result of some strong running and keen support play.

Bottom of the table Bramley were our academy visitors last Sunday. They are obviously struggling in their part of the Rugby League HQ City to recruit youngsters to the villagers fold. I sympathised with one of their officials on the fact that they had just the one sub with them, we've sailed on that particular voyage during my involvement with Town's Academy and it's very frustrating. Not that it stopped me from wanting our lads to thrash them out of sight of course, and they did. The 70-12 scoreline was the result of some strong running and keen support play. Thirteen tries provided proof that David Smith and Glen Burgess are making themselves heard, never mind the quality of Bramley's team, the town lads included many who the previous day had been at Wakefield in alliance shirts so to still be so full of running 24 hours later made it pleasant watching for the academy followers. The thirteen tries registered were indeed a feast, with Brett Smith notching a treble, all scored with graceful aplomb following some fine dummy and stepping action, rather akin to Harry Archer of my early town days, (even in shape, eh Dad?) with Lee (Dennis Betts) Birkett voted man of

the match adding two good efforts. Eight more of the team found the way over the four point line with skipper Mark Stamper again looking solid on defence until leaving with a recurrent leg problem, scoring. Others to score were Sean Humphreys, David Abraham, Mark Wallace, Ben Steele, Craig Fisher, Mike Melville, Mathew Tunstall, with Craig Fisher adding seven goals and Brett Smith two goals.

I'm sure such a win will have proved a useful workout for the academy lads following recent derby setbacks and once the moves pay off in match action scoring becomes more of a natural habit. The Academy cup is on the horizon and we are looking forward with increasing optimism.

Team: v Bramley
Tubman, Humphreys, Abraham, Wallace, Steele, Smith, Fisher, Melville, Tyson, Johnson, Tunstall, Birkett, Stamper. Subs: Bamford, Stoddart, Armstrong, Crellin.

DAVE SMITH
Yes, indeed as it says above it was a good afternoons workout for the lads. Let's take nothing away from the effort put in despite Bramley lying at the foot of the table, the fact is several of our youngsters had made the long journey into Yorkshire the previous

afternoon with the Alliance squad but were still ultra-keen to have the Academy shirts on. Now that is the commitment we are all talking for to take this club forward, and I was proud of them. In fact such keen attitudes are giving Budgie and I some headaches, of a pleasant variety (confusing as that sounds) but, it is always nice to be spoiled for choice when choosing a team rather than panicking for numbers. However we, as many may have noticed by the line ups, are striving to be as fair as possible by mixing and matching, that is by utilising several players in various positions seeking which suits us, and them, best. At the moment we feel this is the best option, plus it gives most players a run-out while enabling us to view our prospects in matchplay. Hopefully the lads appreciate our formula and stick with it, it will benefit us all in the long term.

JJB ACADEMY SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Barrow Braves	14	13	0	1	618	158	460	26
Whitehaven	13	11	0	2	410	181	229	22
Prescot Panthers	14	10	0	4	507	201	306	20
Hunslet Hawks	14	10	0	4	467	192	275	20
Carlisle	14	8	0	6	378	329	49	16
Workington T	14	5	0	9	351	375	-24	10
Gateshead Mels	13	4	0	9	184	388	-204	8
York	14	3	0	11	215	385	-170	6
Chorley	14	3	0	11	166	515	-349	6
Bramley	14	2	0	12	138	710	-572	4

ACADEMY SCENE

with **DAVE SMITH**

A disappointing journey into the Yorkshire Pudding area of Wakefield, although the Trinity Second String proved a tough cookie to tangle with for the youthful Town Squad. The Town line up included yet again quite a sprinkling of Academy Members. They performed extremely well when in possession but found the bigger more experienced Wakefield Team too difficult to handle defensively. Top performer on the day was Barrovian recruit Andy Whalley, with a strong effort being curtailed by an injury. Dean Marwood also led from the front, his vocal encouragement spurring on the youngsters, of which big forward Nicky Crellin made some useful bursts, with Mark Keenan always in the thick of the action. Towns Points in a 36-14 defeat came from Stamper three tries and a J. Smith goal. The result keeps the relegation spectre still hovering, hopefully some of the injured seniors will be returning to action imminently making a stronger Alliance selection available. Town Team at Wakefield... J. Smith, Stainton, Whalley, Wallace, Cameron, Fisher, Keenan, Crellin, Marwood, Barker, Armstrong, Tunstall,

"The team we fielded was stocked with Academy Members and they found the sheer physical advantage held by Wakefield more than they could cope with. Having said that the scoreline was indeed very respectable, we are not down yet."

Gorge. Subs... Birkett, Stamper, G. Smith, B. Smith

GARY SMITH

We played in two different guises at Wakefield. When we had the ball in our hands we caused the Trinity defence no end of problems, with Andy Whalley having a smashing game until he had to retire. The forwards were working hard also with the giant youngster Nicky Crellin proving hard to put down. Deano also put in some quality work, lending his experience to the young lads. But on the other hand the Wakefield attack cut us to ribbons too easily, too often and that was our ultimate downfall. The team we fielded was stocked with Academy Members and they found the sheer physical advantage held by Wakefield more than they could cope with. Having said that the scoreline was indeed very respectable, we are not down yet. In fact I'm still confident we will survive the drop, but it's going to be quite a fight to the finish, our next home game is versus Batley on August 17th. The Kick off is now 1:00 PM

A TEAM FIXTURES

MARCH

30th Widnes A L10-20

APRIL

13th YORK H W60-15

20th LONDON B. H W34-22

MAY

4th Dewsbury A 2.30pm

11th WAKEFIELD T. H 2.30pm

18th Featherstone R. A 1.30pm

25th SWINTON H 2.30pm

JUNE

1st LEIGH C. H 2.30pm

8th Batley A

15th WIDNES H 2.30pm

22nd London B. A 2.30pm

30th SHEFFIELD E. H 2.30pm

JULY

5th York A 8.00pm

20th DEWSBURY H 2.30pm

27th Wakefield T. A 2.30pm

AUGUST

3rd Swinton A 2.30pm

10th Leigh Centurions A

11th BRADFORD B H 3.00pm

17th BATLEY H 2.30pm

24th FEATHERSTONE H 2.30pm

31st Sheffield Eagles A 2.30pm

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION AS THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	PTS
Widnes	16	11	0	5	413	290	123	22
Sheffield Eagles	15	10	1	4	515	284	231	21
Featherstone Rovers	16	10	0	6	453	315	138	20
Wakefield T.	16	8	1	7	326	315	11	17
Batley B.	16	8	0	8	288	427	-139	16
Swinton Lions	16	7	1	8	412	406	6	15
Dewsbury	15	7	0	8	356	301	55	14
London B.	15	7	0	8	338	396	-58	14
Leigh C.	16	6	1	9	417	506	-89	13
Workington Town	15	6	0	9	330	456	-126	12
York	16	4	0	12	324	476	-152	8

ALLIANCE NEWS

with **GARY SMITH**

