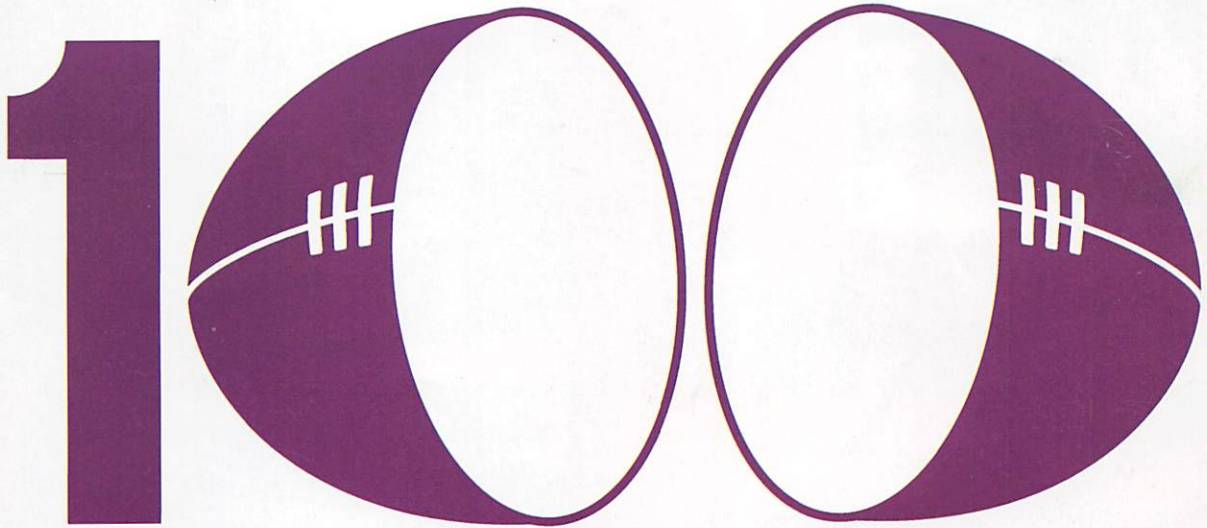




SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE CHALLENGE CUP.

OLDHAM BEARS v ROCHDALE HORNETS

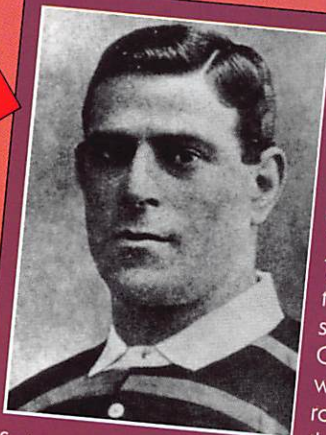
SILK CUT CHALLENGE ROUND 4

FEBRUARY 9TH 1997

THE CHALLENGE



Jim Sullivan with the Challenge Cup after Wigan had defeated Dewsbury in the very first Wembley final 1929



HIGHEST SCORE IN A CUP-TIE

The great Huddersfield "Team of all the Talents" ran up the biggest ever score in a Challenge Cup-tie with a 119-2 first round home thrashing of

Swinton Park amateurs on 28 February 1914. They piled up 27 tries, led by the great Australian winger Albert Rosenfeld with seven on his way to a British record 80 in a season. Full-back Major Holland set two club march records that still stand with 18 goals and 39 points, including a try.

Cup Quiz

- 1 What was extraordinary about Mike Smith's appearance for Hull in the 1960 Cup Final?
- 2 The First Cup final in 1897 was the last to be played under which major Rugby Union rule?
- 3 When was the first substitution in a Cup final?
- 4 Who were the only players to share the Lance Todd Trophy?
- 5 Who scored the fastest try at Wembley?
- 6 Who missed a vital last minute goal for Wakefield Trinity against Leeds in the Watersplash Final in 1968?
- 7 Who scored his first hat-trick at Wembley for Bradford?

Answers on Previous Challenge Cup Meetings page

MOST CUP WINS AND FINAL APPEARANCES

Wigan Warriors are unchallenged as the Cup Kings of all time. They have lifted the Cup 16 times in 25 finals, including a record 15 victories in 21 finals at Wembley. They had a record run of eight successive appearances and final wins from 1988 to 1995 and were unbeaten in 43 successive ties until Salford knocked them out in 1996.

Shaun Edwards was the only player to appear in every one of the 43 Cup-ties and also holds the record of 10

Cup final appearances. His nine winners' medals is another record and he became the youngest ever winning captain at 21 years six months when Wigan beat Halifax in 1988.



LEAGUE CUP

Records

WORKINGTON TOWN RECORD

It did not take long for records to start falling in the new season as Wayne Kitchin equalled the Workington Town match best of 13 goals in the 86-0 third round home defeat of Tharso Heath amateurs.

Dean Marwood had set the record by twice kicking 13 goals; in a 78-0 League defeat of Highfield on 1 November 1992 and in a 94-4 fifth round Silk Cut Challenge Cup trouncing of Leigh on 26 February 1995.

MOST GOALS IN A CUP-TIE

Jim Sullivan, the legendary international full-back, set the goals record for any competitive British match with 22 in Wigan's 116-0 St. Valentine's Day massacre of Flimby and Fothergill amateurs in 1925. The Welshman failed to add goals to only two of Wigan's 24 touchdowns in the first round home tie, but never got among the try-scorers.

AMATEURS IN CUP

Dudley Hill, who won 21-14 at York in the third round, are meeting professional opposition in the Challenge Cup for a fourth time. The Bradford club's fourth round visit to Carlisle Border Raiders is a repeat of their 1995 third round trip when they lost 34-4. And in 1986 they lost a preliminary round tie at Hull 38-10.

West Hull achieved the highest amateur score against professionals when they won 35-20 at Highfield in the third round last year. Highfield also suffered the widest margin defeat against amateurs when they lost 27-4 at home to Beverley at the same stage a year earlier. The only time professionals have been nilled was when Victoria Rangers held Widnes to a scoreless first round draw in 1906 before losing the away replay 8-3.

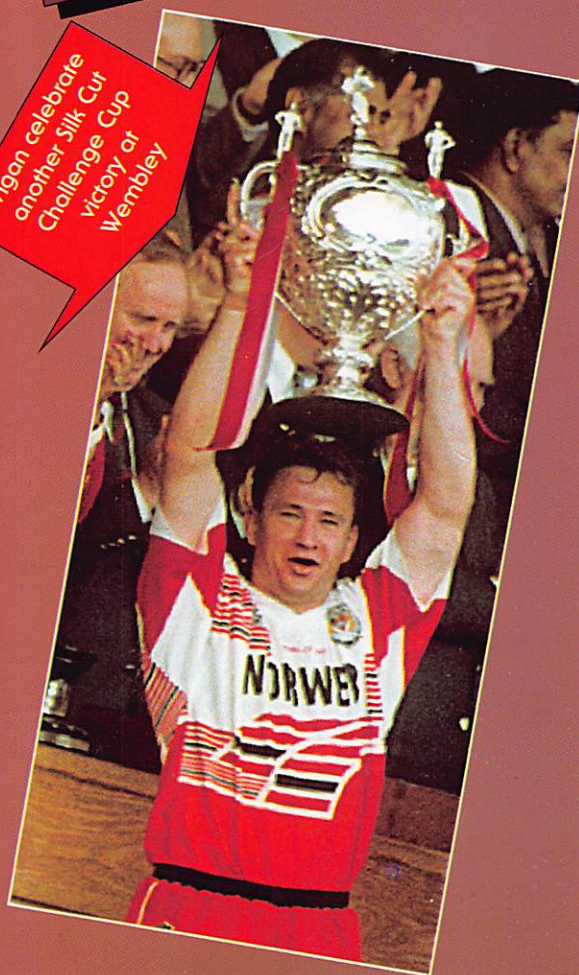
The biggest defeat inflicted on amateurs was Huddersfield's 119-2 annihilation of Swinton Park in the first round of 1914.

MOST TRIES AND POINTS IN A CUP-TIE

George "Tich" West holds the record for most tries and points in a challenge Cup-tie. The little Hull Kingston Rovers winger scuttled in for 11 tries and added 10 goals for a total of 53 points in the 73-5 first round home defeat of non-League Brookland Rovers on 4 March 1905.

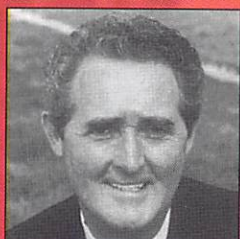
In fact, West's tries and points totals are records for any competitive game in Britain.

Wigan celebrate another Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory at Wembley



OLDHAM BEARS ROCHDALE HORNETS

BY JIM QUINN, CHAIRMAN OLDHAM BEARS



Welcome back – and, on behalf of the board, staff, coaches and players, I

would like to say how good it is to see you all again after our winter hibernation.

Our final game at Watersheddings was a nostalgic occasion which went off very well indeed, but we must now look forward to Boundary Park, Super League 1997, the World Cup Championship and, starting for us today, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. What a draw! Locally, they don't come much better than Oldham versus Rochdale Hornets, a throwback to the old Law Cup days when we had some stirring battles with our neighbours form just down the road.

The difference this time is that we are not meeting in a pre-season "friendly", but in a vital cup-tie on the road which ultimately leads to Wembley on May 3. A great prospect indeed and one which has eluded our club since the final was first taken to London in 1929.

On the wider front there are two cracking all-Super League ties in St Helens v Wigan, played yesterday and televised by the BBC and Castleford v Salford.

Two good teams will go out of the tournament at the first hurdle, while several of the leading first division clubs are also paired together, such as Featherstone Rovers v Widnes Vikings, Huddersfield Giants v Hull, Wakefield Trinity v Swinton Lions and Workington Town v Keighley

Cougars.

The fourth-round ties should attract some bumper crowds and we expect them to be the forerunner of good gates throughout Super League 1997. We are pleased to have the opportunity of staging today's derby clash at Boundary Park and grateful to Ian Stott and the Athletic board for allowing us to put on a pre-match build-up.

This is the first time Hornets have played in the stadium and we give them a big Oldham welcome. We don't meet very often these days and when we do it is a special occasion. Our former players Chris Parr, Neil Flanagan, Richard Pachniuk, Mark Meadows and Tony Morrison will be especially keen to do well, as will coach Shane Tupaea, who served Oldham well as both a player and Alliance team coach before moving to Keighley and, ultimately, to Spotland.

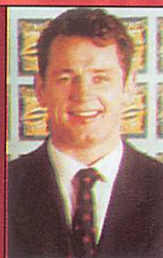
Finally, in our first programme since the end of last season, I would like to welcome our new recruits Vince Fawcett, Brett Goldspink, Nathan Turner and, hopefully, Luke Goodwin, for whom work-permit negotiations were in full flow at the time of writing.

On the commercial side we have bid farewell to Ray Hill and recruited Abe Kerr as Marketing and Media Manager and Jacquie Clayton as an assistant in the department. As the programme copy deadline passed, we were also poised to name Ray's successor as Commercial Manager.

People will be seeing a lot of Abe and Jacquie in the coming months. We welcome them on board and wish them a long and happy association with the Bears.

ANDY GOODWAY TALKS

We are thoroughly looking forward to the 1997 Season. September to February is a long way off from competitive Rugby League. In 1996 there was no break



of any consequence with the Centenary Season running almost straight in to Super League. The only clubs to have a recent break were the unfortunate early casualties of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition.

All the players at the Bears are raring to go and I'm sure this applies equally to players at other professional clubs. Due to the close association, (which others have hinted at in this programme) between Rochdale and Oldham it is to be a special occasion for all concerned.

The fourth round losers outside the Super League will go through to the Silk Cut Challenge Plate Competition. For the Super League sides there is no such option. The draw has been very interesting, with St. Helens playing Wigan and Salford against Castleford ensuring that there are to be several top flight absentees from the competition in round five. Bradford Bulls proved in 1996 what impetus a good run provides for the season. Previously the competition climaxed at the end of the season, whereas now it is in early season and allows clubs with enjoy success to capitalise in terms of exposure. At Oldham, hopes are high of a successful campaign to get our season off to a flyer.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

DON YATES LOOKS BACK AT A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

Oldham and Hornets have served up a number of thrilling encounters over the years, both in league and knock-out cup competitions. They have also met in three cup finals, all Lancashire Cup Finals and all many, many years ago. The first final came in 1911 when Hornets beat Oldham 12-5 at Broughton. The other two finals came within the space of seven months some eight years later. Between May 1915 and January 1919 there were no competitive matches because of the First World War. When competitive rugby resumed it was decided that in the remaining five months of the 1918-19 season just County Leagues and Cup competitions would be staged. Oldham finished eighth in the Lancashire League which was won by Hornets. Rochdale also reached the final of the Lancashire Cup which as staged in May. They won that too, with an emphatic 22-0 victory over Oldham at Saltford. The following season Hornets completed a league double over Oldham, winning 2-0 at Watersheddings and 25-2 at the Athletic Grounds. In between those league matches the two clubs also met in the final of the Lancashire Cup. En route to that final Hornets had beaten Leigh away 11-0, Wigan at home 8-6 and Widnes at home 8-3. Oldham drew a bye in the first round, beat Broughton Rangers 7-3 away in the quarter-finals and then drew 2-2 at Swinton in the semi-finals. Oldham comfortably disposed of Swinton 26-2 in the replay to set up that final against Hornets and with it the opportunity to gain revenge for the previous May's humiliation.

The final was again staged at the Willows, Salford and attracted a crowd of 10,000 which was a bigger attendance than for both the Championship or the Challenge Cup Finals that season. The teams in the final lined up as follows:

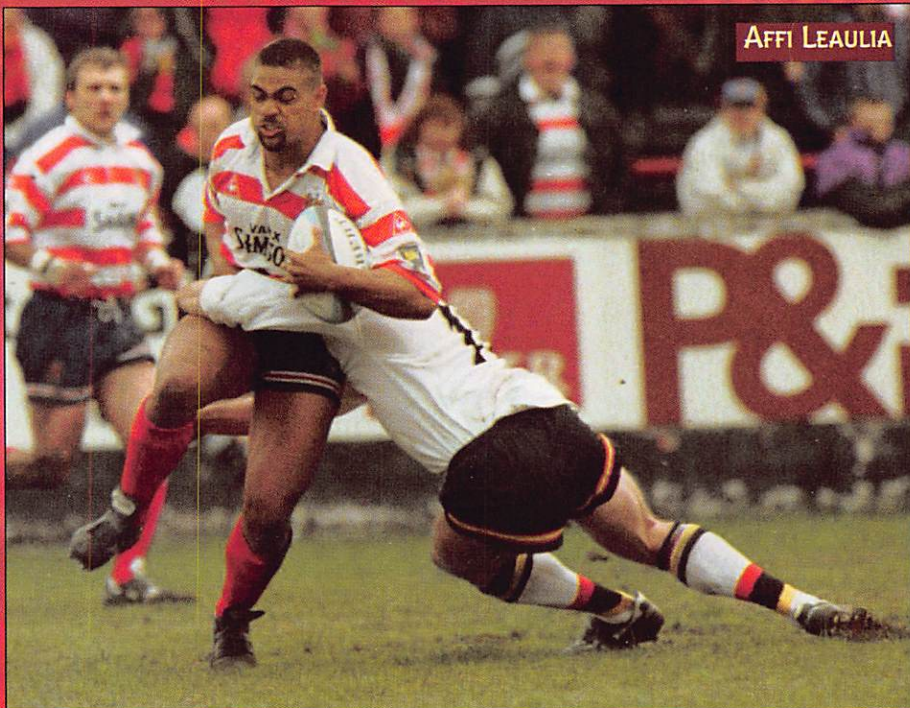
Oldham: Parkinson; Finnerty, Hall, Davies, Fitton; Tighe, Thompson; Ferguson, Collins, Hilton, Biggs, Moore and Thomas.

Hornets: Blan; Fairhurst, Jack Corsi, Prudence, Paddon; Heaton, Jones; Woods, Bennett, Bowers, Slade, Carter and Richardson. Hornets included four Great Britain internationals in their line-up – scrum-half Ernie Jones, hooker Jack Bennett and his props Joe Bowers and Tommy Woods. Oldham had a couple of outstanding props to pit against Hornets' all international front row, Joe Ferguson and Herman Hilton. As expected, the match was a fierce forward battle in which both defences were well on top. A penalty from prop Joe Ferguson was the only score of the first half. The second

period was equally ferocious but Oldham gradually got on top. They kept their line intact and were able to score the only try of the match through winger and club top try scorer J. Finnerty. Another Ferguson goal made the final score 7-0 and Oldham had extracted revenge for the previous seasons embarrassing defeat. These two teams have not met in a major final since that December date in 1919. However, fifteen months later Rochdale MP Mr A. J. Law presented a cup for competition between Oldham and Hornets. For many years therefore, these neighbours had their own private Cup Final each season.

Today's match, although not a final, should generate plenty of the commitment and enterprise which local derby matches usually produce in the Challenge Cup.

And who knows, we could still see both sides stepping out at Wembley in May – one in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and the other in the Silk Cut plate.



AFFI LEAULIA

NEW SEASON

NEW

By Christopher Irvine, *Rugby League Correspondent, The Times*

The secret of successful sequels is that they outperform the original. Super League 2 has all the characters, ingredients, and enough new twists and turns written into the plot to satisfy a hungry rugby league audience whose horizons suddenly stretch beyond the M62, and even London and Paris, to the Australasian continent.

What can we expect from the summer of '97 and regular jaunts Down Under? The world club championship, involving the 12 European Super League clubs and their ten counterparts in Australia and New Zealand, brings a new dimension to a sport that has cast off its parochial chains and gone trans-global. Come the first matches in June and the world really will feel a smaller place.

So where do priorities for such frontrunners as Wigan, St Helens and Bradford lie in this bold future? The days when Wigan won everything were rudely ended by St Helens last season, and as much as

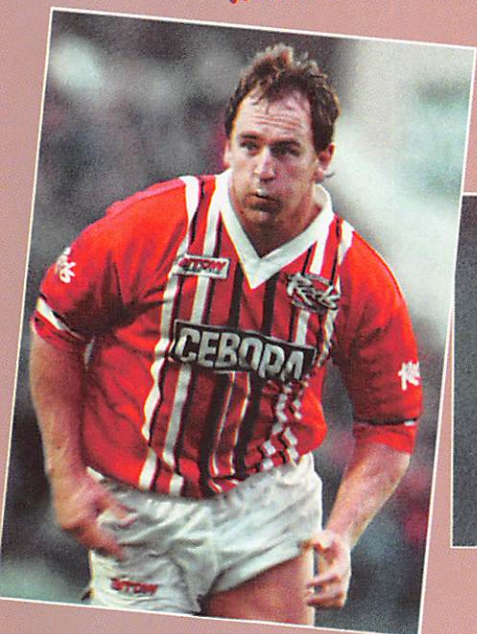
they want to wrest the Super League crown from their great rivals, Wigan's eye will inevitably be on the star prize and big bucks on offer in Sydney on October 11.

Saints and the Bulls, too, can go a long way against the southern hemisphere's finest. Odsal, a by-word for dreariness in winter, is re-vitalised in summer. The atmosphere on the first visit of Penrith Panthers on June 7 will be something to savour. Although most of our teams have to chalk the world club championship up to experience this year, the lessons, if perhaps painful in some cases, will be invaluable.

On the busy home front, the Super League and the end-of-season Stones Premiership will be tests of endurance for which London Broncos and Paris Saint-Germain have equipped themselves with a host of exciting new Aussies.

Elsewhere, clubs have taken full advantage of an

**John Cartwright
to Salford**



**New
overseas
signings**



**Tony Tatupu
to Warrington**

**Andy Platt
to Warrington**

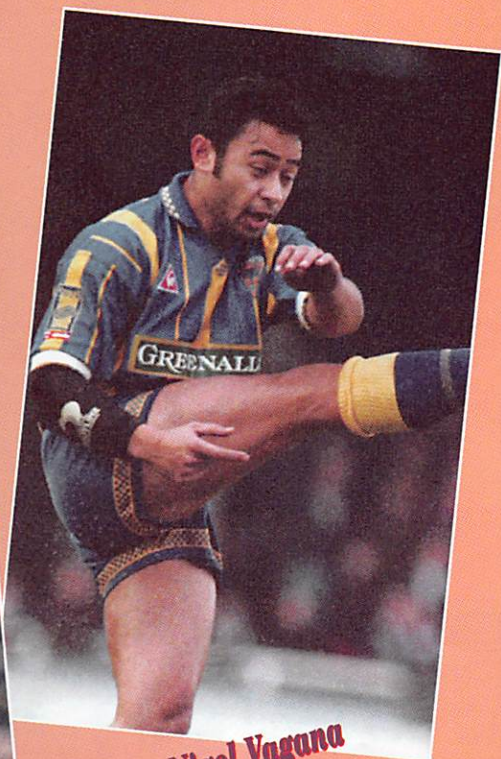


HOPES

expanded overseas quota. Warrington have added real quality in Tony Tatum and Nigel Vagana. Castleford have plundered the Australian market. Salford bring bags of international experience in Andy Platt and John Cartwright in the pack, while Phill Larder is building nicely on solid foundations at Sheffield with the recent acquisitions of Nick Pinlney and Martin Wood.

Change is everywhere. Leeds are buzzing again following a host of exciting signings, Oldham have left behind the Watersheddings for a new life at Boundary Park, and Halifax up sticks from Thrum Hall in May for The Shay.

And if your appetite is not sated by November, it should be by the time that the Super League Australia side takes its leave of these shores after a three-match Test series. It is some sequel.



**Nigel Vagana
to Warrington**

UP FOR T' CUP!

Why is it that the thrill, the excitement and tension of the Rugby League Challenge Cup seems in memory to be linked predominately with those northern industrial towns where the rugby team 'all local lads' was very much the focal point of the community?

The very thought of walking up Wembley Way with those twin towers in view was enough to set the whole town buzzing with enthusiasm and rising expectation as each round was successfully negotiated and the reality came ever nearer.

In those days, team and town were one, the players known to everyone, many having been born and bred in the locality. They too worked in the mines and factories which dominated the landscape, fitting in training and playing around the demands of work.

The match, invariably on a Saturday afternoon was the high point of the week as it brought release from the tedium and monotony of many working lives. In this environment a cup tie was special, something to set the senses and the nerves jangling. It had a romance all of its own, an earthy poetical quality, coming as it did out of the honest sweat and labour of the people of those times.

That game is no more, consigned to history, but a past of which indeed we can be justly proud and a tradition of which the Challenge Cup will always be a reminder.

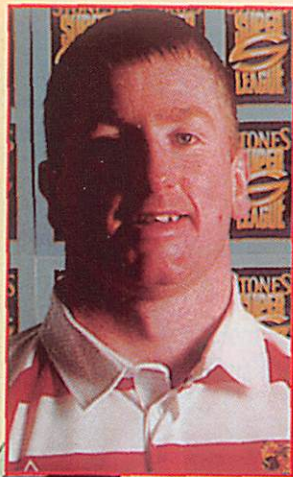
Yet Rugby League in order to survive and indeed prosper had to shed some of the baggage of yesteryear and break out of a mind set which was always looking back over its shoulder. And although this was already happening with some clubs, the advent of Super League has in one short season propelled the game well into the modern era and on into the twenty first century where it is well capable of competing on equal terms with other where it is well capable of competing on equal terms with other major spectator sports.

Today we will see top class professionals displaying all the rugby skills of old yet with the pace and power which only the full time athlete can hope to attain, comfortable stadia where families are made welcome with entertainment before the game and at half-time, the bars open allowing supporters time to relax and enjoy a pre-match drink, all of which are now considered essential for today's spectator.

However this afternoon as the two teams run out, the first step on the road to Wembley, amidst all the razzmattazz, memories will be rekindled. The large swaying crowd, children passed hand over hand to sit on the straw cleared from the pitch, the local brass band drafted in for the occasion, the friendly banter, former team, past glories, great players, and the pent up emotion released in that first roar as the referee blows his whistle to start the match. Perhaps this is more nostalgia for an age, which is no more, but I think not. The Challenge Cup is Rugby League, it is our heritage and it is special. So to everyone, whatever your team have a great day, enjoy the game and pass me my cloth cap, I'm up for t'cup.

Geoff Lightfoot

JAMES GILBERT RUGBY FOOTBALLS LTD.
Official Match ball supplier to
Oldham R.L.F.C.



GILBERT
ALLWEATHER MATCH BALL

**"IN MY OPINION, GILBERT BALLS ARE THE BEST
IN THE WORLD"** Said by Superstar Martin Crompton

JAMES GILBERT RUGBY FOOTBALLS LTD. Tel: 01788 542426, Fax: 01788 540795

KIT SUPPLIERS



le coq sportif

Oldham Bears

Rochdale Hornets

T	G	DG					T	G	DG	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Paul Atcheson	Full Back	Paul O'Keefe	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Rob Myler	Right Wing	Ian Hayes	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Vince Fawcett	Right Centre	Paul Stevens	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Darren Abram	Left Centre	Carl Marriot	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Scott Ranson	Left Wing	Craig Diggle	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Francis Maloney	Stand Off	Michael Farrell	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Martin Crompton	Scrum Half	Chris Churm	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Ian Gildart	Open Side Prop	Mark Meadows	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	John Clarke	Hooker	Steve Crowther	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Brett Goldspink	Blind Side Prop	Chris Parr	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Matt Monroe	Second Row	Emon Ratu	11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Joe Faimalo	Second Row	Robert Lowe	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	David Bradbury	Loose Forward	Lee Durant	13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Paul Deacon	Subs	Darren Pitt	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Howard Hill		Chris Scarisbrick	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Paul Topping		Jason Viller	16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Paul Davidson		Wayne Reid	17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Referee: P Taberner Touch Judges: S Larence, S Tordoff Res.Ref M J Ashcroft
In goal Touch Judges O C Lowe P McLaughlin

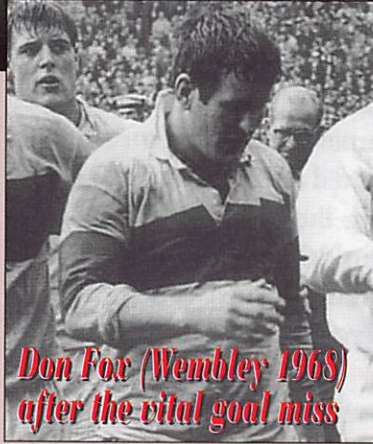
THE CHALLENGE

Tom Van Vollenhoven and Billy Boston



First played in 1897 the Challenge Cup celebrates its 100th year and a century littered with great names, great deeds, and great matches.

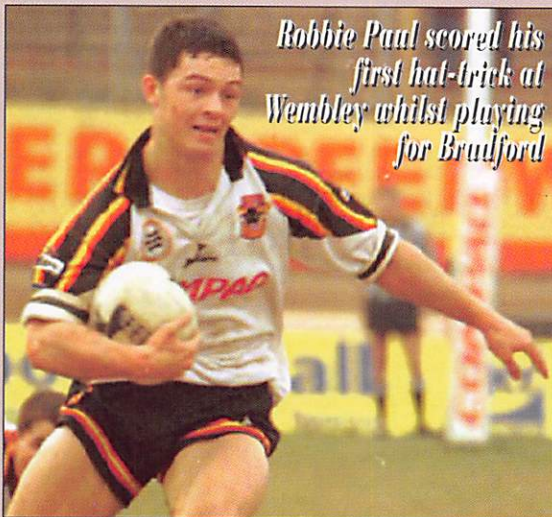
Springbok wing ace Tom Van Vollenhoven's thrilling try for St Helens in 1961, Don Fox's last gasp, goal miss for Wakefield Trinity against Leeds in the Watersplash final of 68, Martin Offiah's magical touchline



Don Fox (Wembley 1968) after the vital goal miss

contributions in Wigan's record breaking eight consecutive Wembley wins, and Robbie

Paul's first ever Wembley hat-trick of tries for a Bradford team, last season, looking for their first ever Challenge Cup success in 47 years, are etched forever in people's memories. Yet lesser lights



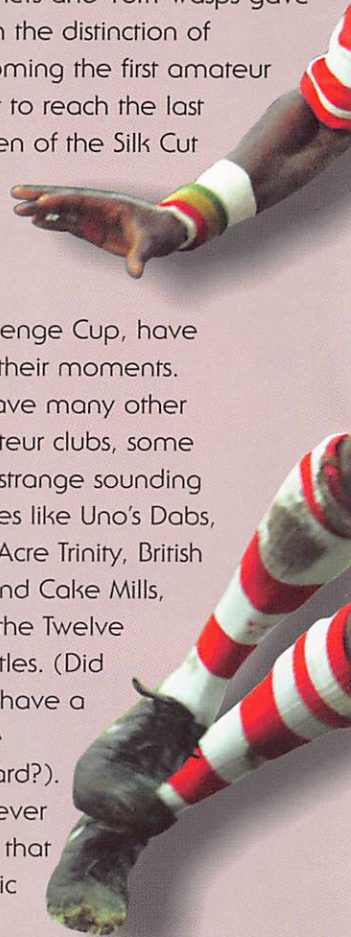
Robbie Paul scored his first hat-trick at Wembley whilst playing for Bradford

have illuminated the Challenge Cup trial, whether it be to Headingley, Central Park, Thurm Hall or Wembley Stadium since a far seeing Mr John Leake proposed that the 1929 Cup Final be moved to London.

Beverley, who, in 1995, became the first amateur side for 86 years to eliminate a professional club from the Challenge Cup, and West Hull whose defeats of Prescot Panthers and York Wasps gave them the distinction of becoming the first amateur outfit to reach the last sixteen of the Silk Cut

Challenge Cup, have had their moments.

As have many other amateur clubs, some with strange sounding names like Uno's Dabs, Half Acre Trinity, British Oil and Cake Mills, and the Twelve Apostles. (Did they have a loose forward?). However since that historic



WIGAN RUGBY CUP

History

day - Saturday 24th April 1897 - when Batley defeated Sr Helens by 10 pts. to 3 pts. in the first ever Cup Final and Mrs Waller, wife of the President of the Northern Union, presented the cup to

Batley skipper, John Goodall, royalty, aristocracy, and major sporting and political figures have played their part in making Cup Final day a memorable occasion. Kings and Queens, Lords Derby, Lonsdale, and Daresbury have handed the silver trophy to past captains. Politicians of the Calibre of Clement Atlee, Harold Wilson, and Mrs Thatcher, Armed Forces heroes Field Marshall Montgomery, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, and Sir Douglas Bader, and sporting great, former Australian Cricket Captain Don Bradman, have all taken centre

stage at the final whistle. It is, though, the Cup itself for the past 100 years. Rules, Jerseys, Teams and players may change - what price Barley's "big" pack of 1897, average weight 12 1/2 stones per man, matching today's giants Kelvin Skerrett or Karl Harrison?

No matter, here's hoping the Silk Cut Challenge Cup remains the showpiece of the domestic game for at least the next 100 years.

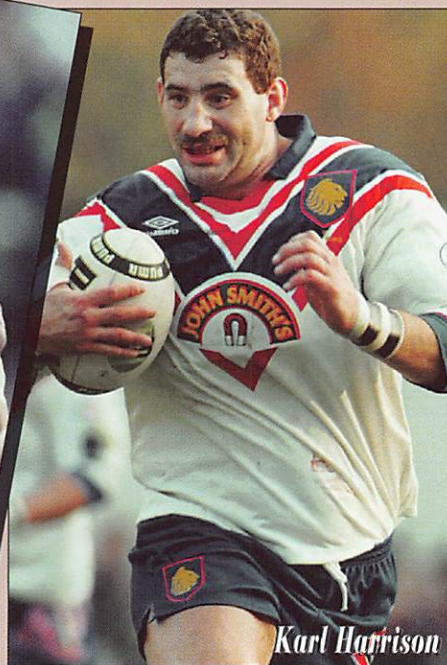
Ray French
BBC Rugby League Correspondent



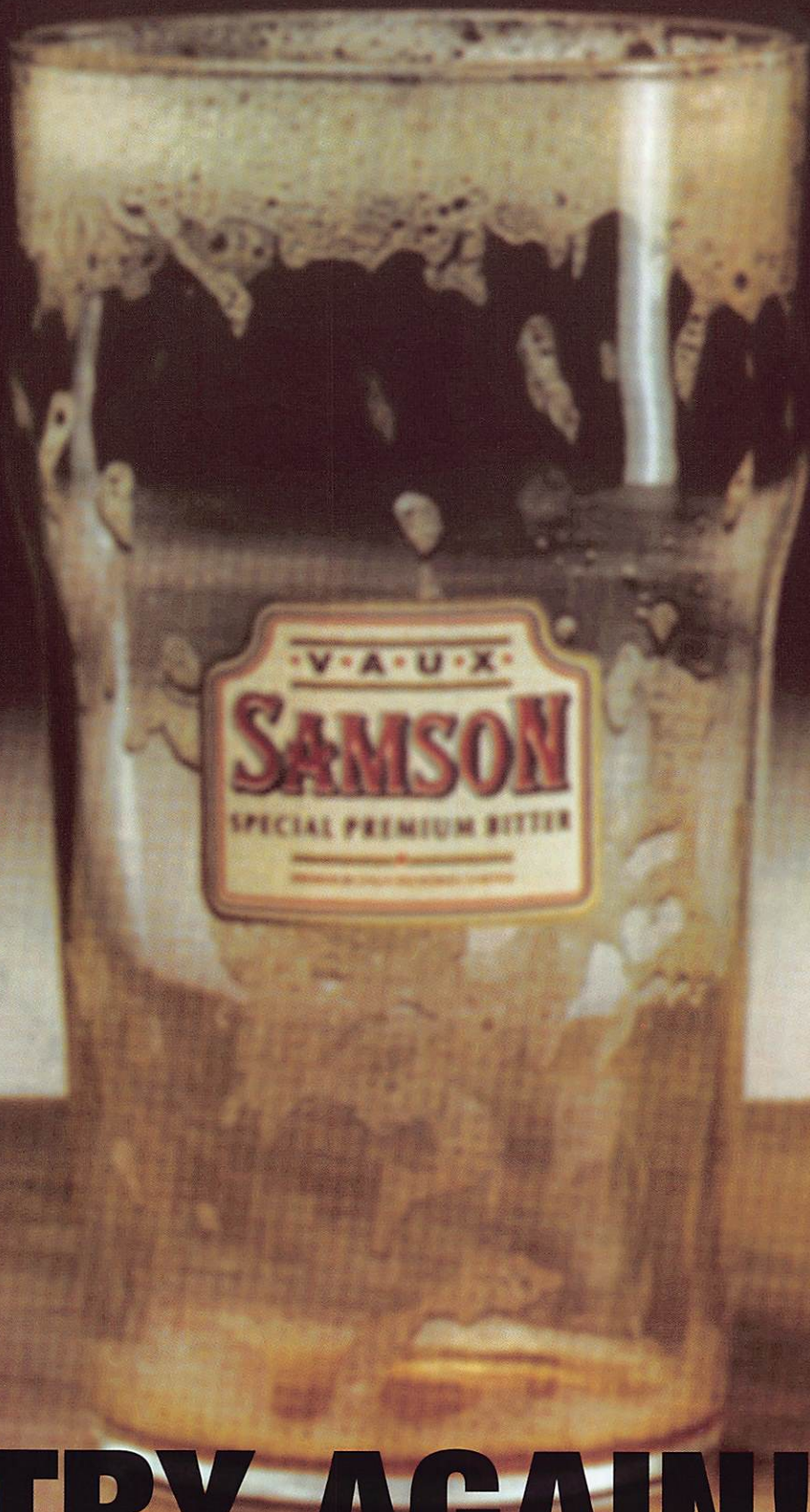
Martin Offiah produced some magical touchline contributions in Wigan's record breaking eight consecutive Wembley wins



Kelvin Skerrett



Karl Harrison



TRY AGAIN!

VAUX SAMSON - ITS STRENGTH IS ITS TASTE

BY ROGER HALSTEAD

OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

The magic of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup must never be underestimated.

Traditionalists among Rugby League followers may find it hard to come to terms with the alteration of our sporting calendar and the subsequent appearance of the Challenge Cup as a pre-season competition. They will soon come round, of that I am sure. And if evidence is required of the Challenge Cup's continuing appeal, one needs to look no further than Bradford Bulls or, indeed, to the sponsors themselves.

The Bulls began the 1996 Super League season modestly. But their cup run, culminating in that highly-charged Wembley final against the Saints under the southern sun, set them up for the remainder of the season, even in defeat.

Chris Caisley, Peter Deakin and the rest of the Bulls management team did a stunning job to promote the Bulls last year, but the Wembley run set the Bulls on the charge and once in top speed they proved difficult to stop both on and off the field.

I can well imagine what a similar cup run would do for Oldham Bears. Wembley in May, a first appearance in the famous stadium... a dream come true for the club, the town and for Abe Kerr. It would be a marketing man's Utopia.

Silk Cut, certainly, fear nothing from the Challenge Cup's new concept. And they have put their money, all £2-million of it, into a tournament that has been played under the Silk Cut banner since 1985.

This is the first season of Silk



FRANCIS MALONEY

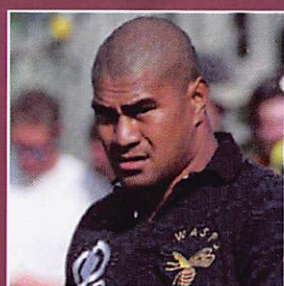
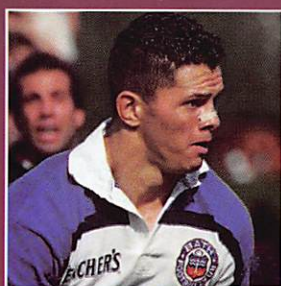
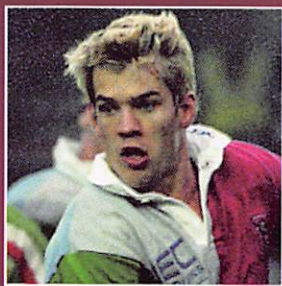
Cut's new £2.1m three year deal and this year's winners will receive a record prize cheque of £80,000.

Their confidence in the competition's future is further reflected in their promotion of the new Silk Cut Plate, which will provide a Wembley curtain-raiser with £50,000 going to the winners and £30,000 to the runners-ups.

If Silk Cut and the BBC believe in the on-going success of the Challenge Cup, the clubs, players and coaches and the game's

supporters must also do the same.

While Super League and the new World Cup Challenge may be regarded as priorities, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup provides a wonderful opportunity to grab a share of the season's glamour and glory for those clubs which, realistically, will have little chance of taking the World or European championship titles. The Challenge Cup is up and running – Let's get behind it and share it's magic.



BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

WARRIORS COME HOME TO LEAGUE

The boys are back in town ... and ready to start their 1997 bid for Super League glory. Wigan Warriors world-rated backs Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Henry Paul, and Va'aiga Tuigamala have all returned to Central Park after their four month courtship with Rugby Union and all of them have proved great ambassadors for the game of Rugby League.

Connolly, who spent four months in the centre playing alongside former England Rugby Union captain Will Carling at Harlequins, earned special praise from the club's director of coaching Dick Best.

Best said: "Gary Connolly proved to be a tremendous asset to Harlequins both on and off the field.

"On the field he is quite superb; a magnificent rugby player who has deceptive pace, is strong in the tackle and is a tremendous passer of the ball. I would have him back here at any time.

"Gary has been a professional all his playing life while we are mere novices. His attitude towards training is something that all of us have been able to learn from. He fitted in well and was extremely popular with the supporters, the coaches and the players.

"We learned so much from him

and he was a great ambassador not only for us but for the game of Rugby League."

Wing wizard Robinson was an instant hit with his Bath Rugby Union team-mates and with all the supporters at the Recreation Ground.

In fact he made such a huge impression that he not only ousted England winger John Sleightholme from the Bath side, but came desperately close to taking his International jersey.

Robinson said: "I certainly enjoyed my time in Rugby Union and I am sure that it will have helped me in preparation for the forthcoming Super League season.

"In Union you just can't keep hold of the ball too long and now that I am back playing League I am going to make the most of the possession I get.

"I had some great times at Bath and I was made to feel very welcome. Although I played my early games on the wing, I did switch to full-back and I certainly enjoyed that experience.

"The one thing that I didn't like was winter rugby ... the summer game suited me far more."

Unfortunately Robinson's Wigan and Bath team-mate Henry Paul was hit hard by injury and he had little chance to show the speed and flair that has made him such

a hit in Super League.

The New Zealander certainly revelled in the chances given him but, unfortunately, the Bath supporters were robbed of the chance of seeing one of the game's most gifted players in regular action.

Tuigamala was certain to be a smash hit the moment he stepped out for his first game for the Wasps.

After all, he was a superstar with the all-powerful All Blacks Rugby Union side before he decided to turn professional and join Wigan in January 1994.

Not unnaturally Inga took to Union like a duck to water and it's little wonder that the touring Western Samoan side named him in their line-up for the International against Ireland ... an International that saw the South Sea Islanders cruise to victory.

Now the boys are back in town and, injuries permitting, they will be back in action for this afternoon's crucial Silk Cur Challenge Cup tie against St. Helens.

They are all desperately keen to do well and there's no doubt that if they quickly recapture their top form then everyone in Super League 2 had better beware.

Yes, the boys are back in town!
Paul Harrison, *Wigan*

1997 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP - FOURTH ROUND HEAD TO HEAD ... PREVIOUS CHALLENGE CUP MEETINGS

BATLEY BULLDOGS v. PARIS ST GERMAIN

No previous Challenge Cup Meeting

CARLISLE BORDER RAIDERS v. DUDLEY HILL

1994 - 95 (3) Carlisle 34 v Dudley Hill 4

CASTLEFORD TIGERS v. SALFORD REDS

1922 - 23 (1) Salford 16 v Castleford 0
(Castleford were still a non-league club)

1927 - 28 (1) Salford 3 v Castleford 7

1932 - 33 (1) Salford 11 v Castleford 0

1935 - 36 (3) Salford 5 v Castleford 4

1954 - 55 (1) Salford 13 v Castleford 5

1968 - 69 (F) Castleford 11 v Salford 6
(At Wembley)

1969 - 70 (3) Castleford 15 v Salford 0

1970 - 71 (3) Castleford 9 v Salford 8

1975 - 76 (1) Castleford 3 v Salford 25

1993 - 94 (4) Castleford 36 v Salford 4

DEWBURY RAMS v. DONCASTER DRAGONS

1958 - 59 (1) Doncaster 9 v Dewsbury 15

1966 - 67 (2) Doncaster 4 v Dewsbury 10

1993 - 94 (4) Doncaster 18 v Dewsbury 6

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS v. WIDNES VIKINGS

1905 - 06 (2) Featherstone R 23 v Widnes 2
(Featherstone were still a non-league club)

1922 - 23 (1) Widnes 2 v Featherstone R 5

1968 - 69 (2) Featherstone R 7 v Widnes 9

1975 - 76 (SF) Widnes 15 v Featherstone R 9
(At Swinton)

1980 - 81 (3) Featherstone R 5 v Widnes 21

1985 - 86 (1) Featherstone R 14 v Widnes 18

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS v. HULL

1900 - 01 (1) Huddersfield 6 v Hull 3

1913 - 14 (SF) Hull 11 v Huddersfield 3
(At Leeds)

1933 - 34 (2) Huddersfield 11 v Hull 7

1934 - 35 (SF) Huddersfield 21 v Hull 5

1943 - 44 (1)* Huddersfield 13 v Hull 0

Hull 5 v Huddersfield 0

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS v. HALIFAX BLUE SOX

1938 - 39 (2) Halifax 6 v Hull KR 2

1979 - 80 (SF) Hull KR 20 v Halifax 7
(At Leeds)

1986 - 87 (3) Halifax 35 v Hull KR 7

1987 - 88 (3) Hull KR 4 v Halifax 26

1991 - 92 (1) Halifax 12 v Hull KR 8

HUNSLET HAWKS v. BRADFORD BULLS

1926 - 27 (1) Hunslet 10 v Bradford N 5

1947 - 48 (SF) Bradford N 14 v Hunslet 7
(At Leeds)

1955 - 56 (1) Hunslet 9 v Bradford N 10

1983 - 84 (2) Hunslet 7 v Bradford N 17

LANCASHIRE LINX v. LONDON BRONCOS

No previous Challenge Cup meetings

LEIGH CENTURIANS v. SHEFFIELD EAGLES

1988 - 89 (1) Sheffield E 23 v Leigh 17

1992 - 93 (1) Sheffield E 32 v Leigh 5

1993 - 94 (4) Sheffield E 42 v Leigh 10

OLDHAM BEARS v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

1910 - 11 (3) Oldham 8 v Rochdale H 8

Replay Rochdale H 4 v Oldham 3

1921 - 22 (3) Rochdale H 5 v Oldham 2

1923 - 24 (1) Oldham 5 v Rochdale H 0

1924 - 25 (SF) Oldham 9 v Rochdale H 0
(At Wigan)

1925 - 26 (2) Oldham 12 v Rochdale H 3

1931 - 32 (1) Oldham 8 v Rochdale H 18

1932 - 33 (1) Oldham 13 v Rochdale H 8

1974 - 75 (2) Rochdale H 10 v Oldham 10

Replay Oldham 15 v Rochdale H 3

ST. HELENS v. WIGAN WARRIORS

1896 - 97 (3) St. Helens 11 v Wigan 0

1928 - 29 (3) St. Helens 2 v Wigan 2

Replay Wigan 25 v St. Helens 5

1929 - 30 (SF) St. Helens 5 v Wigan 5
(At Swinton)

Replay St. Helens 22 v Wigan 10
(At Leigh)

1960 - 61 (F) St. Helens 12 v Wigan 6
(At Wembley)

1964 - 65 (2) Wigan 7 v St. Helens 2

1965 - 66 (F) St. Helens 21 v Wigan 2
(At Wembley)

1972 - 73 (2) Wigan 15 v St. Helens 2

1976 - 77 (2) Wigan 4 v St. Helens 9

1981 - 82 (1) St. Helens 12 v Wigan 20

1983 - 84 (3) St. Helens 7 v Wigan 16

1985 - 86 (2) Wigan 24 v St. Helens 14

1988 - 89 (F) Wigan 27 v St. Helens 0
(At Wembley)

1989 - 90 (SF) Wigan 20 v St. Helens 14
(At Man UFC)

1990 - 91 (F) Wigan 13 v St. Helens 8
(At Wembley)

1991 - 92 (3) St. Helens 6 v Wigan 13

1992 - 93 (2) Wigan 23 v St. Helens 3

1994 - 95 (4) Wigan 16 v St. Helens 16

Replay St. Helens 24 v Wigan 40

1999 - 00 (F) Wigan 13 v St. Helens 8
(At Wembley)

2000 - 01 (F) St. Helens 6 v Wigan 13
(At Wembley)

2001 - 02 (F) Wigan 23 v St. Helens 3

2002 - 03 (F) Wigan 16 v St. Helens 16

2003 - 04 (F) St. Helens 24 v Wigan 40

WAKEFIELD TRINITY v. SWINTON LIONS

1910 - 11 (1) Wakefield T 15 v Swinton 0

1913 - 14 (1) Wakefield T 2 v Swinton 0

1929 - 30 (1) Swinton 5 v Wakefield T 5

Replay Wakefield T 2 v Swinton 7

1931 - 32 (SF) Swinton 7 v Wakefield T 4
(At Rochdale)

1935 - 36 (1) Swinton 2 v Wakefield T 9

1937 - 38 (2) Swinton 10 v Wakefield T 5

1989 - 90 (1) Swinton 10 v Wakefield T 10

Replay Wakefield T 32 v Swinton 4

WARRINGTON WOLVES v. BARROW BRAVES

1898 - 99 (1) Warrington 12 v Barrow 2

1901 - 02 (1) Warrington 6 v Barrow 0

1923 - 24 (3) Barrow 34 v Warrington 7

1935 - 36 (1) Barrow 8 v Warrington 17

WHITEHAVEN WARRIORS v. LEEDS RHINOS

1956 - 57 (SF) Leeds 10 v Whitehaven 9
(At Bradford)

1974 - 75 (1) Whitehaven 7 v Leeds 16

WORKINGTON TOWN v. KEIGHLEY COUGARS

1949 - 50 (1)* Workington T 0 v Keighley 5

Keighley 4 v Workington T 3

1975 - 76 (2) Keighley 17 v Workington T 12

1977 - 78 (1) Workington T 16 v Keighley 5

1987 - 88 (1) Keighley 30 v Workington T 4

* Two-legged ties

ANSWERS TO CUP QUIZ

- 1 It was his first team debut.
- 2 Line-outs.
- 3 1970: Wigan's Cliff Hill replaced Colin Tyrer against Castleford.
- 4 Ray Ashby (Wigan) and Brian Gabbittas (Hunslet) in 1965.
- 5 Graham Rees in 35 seconds for St. Helens against Leeds in 1972.
- 6 Don Fox.
- 7 Henry Paul.

100

