

A large black and white photograph showing a rugby match in progress. A player in a blue and white checkered jersey is running with the ball, being tackled by a player in a red and white striped jersey. A referee in a black and white striped shirt is visible in the background.

SUNDAY 7th JUNE, 1998

# OLDHAM

Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.

Match Sponsor:  
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Times & Star**

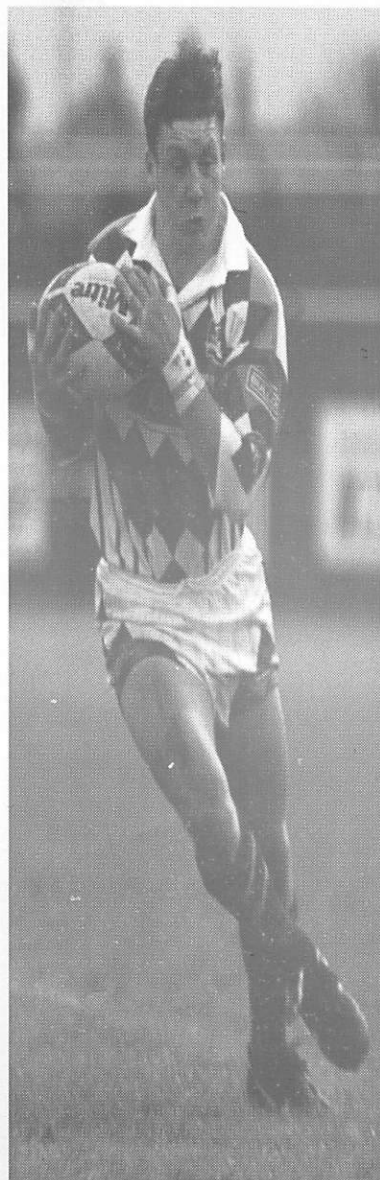
Match Ball:  
**John Hoban**



## BluesReview

The Official Magazine of Workington Town R.L.F.C.

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Assistant Coaches:	G. Smith, D. Robley
Academy Coach:	P. Penrice
Academy Administration:	K. Singleton
Kit Supervisor:	J. Woolaghan
Supporters Club	
Liaison Officer:	Shaun Weaver
Medical Officers:	Mr. D. Richards and Dr. K.R. Joy
Hon. Surgeon:	Mr. M. Griess Mch(Orch) FRCS
Physiotherapist:	Jack Cunningham/Mark Frazer
Time Keepers:	A. Murray, G. Short
Programmes	
Contributors:	K. Singleton, P. Williamson, S. Leggett, B. Coulter
Press Officer:	P. Williamson.

Divisional Premiership Winners 1993/94, Runners-up 1992/93  
 Second Division Championship Winners 1993/94  
 Third Division Runners-Up 1992/93  
 Wigan Sevens Winners 1978  
 Lancashire Cup Winners 1977, Runners Up 1976, 1978, 1979  
 Lancashire Shield Winners 1966/67, 1967/68, 1971/72  
 Western Division Championship Winners 1962/63  
 Lancashire League Championship Runners-Up 1950/51, 1961/62  
 National Sevens Winners 1958  
 Challenge Cup Winners 1952, Runners Up 1955, 1958  
 Rugby League Championship Winners 1951, Runners Up 1958

## WEST CUMBERLAND Times & Star

WORKINGTON TOWN R.L.F.C. would like to thank the  
**WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES & STAR**

for their continued support in supplying photographs for this match programme. If you would like to order any photograph that is reproduced in this magazine you can do so by calling in at the Times & Star office on Oxford Street, Workington  
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Oh boy what a weekend. Last week I was saying the 'back from the brink' business was getting a bit much, then what happens?? A triple dose of adrenaline boosting results. How much more can we endure? Actually plenty more please lads, although it's a good job I'm taking the pills or I wouldn't have a steady touch to type this lot. Triple? you ask, well yes, firstly the Alliance grabbed a creditable draw at Craven Park, 14 each, then about twenty four hours later the Academy provided us with another tense eighty minutes before clinching a first win of the season, again Barrow were the foe. Then the icing was plonked firmly on the cake, after a few wobbly moments, when the big Barrow boys were sent sobbing down that long and winding road to their cul-de-sac on planet Furness, courtesy of a Close and Woodcock hand and foot combination. In fact all our lads ruffled the Raiders (Braves??) with as usual, big Barry leading the way. The rest responded to show that, although we sometimes shoot ourselves in the foot, (and Barrow did take advantage of some early errors) Town are no cowboy outfit these days.

It was great to actually hear some Barrovians had ventured from their time warped world into civilisation. I can't recall ever hearing such vociferous support for them at Derwent Park, they were a small bunch but loud. Similar to the remaining spice girls in fact. But what cheered me almost as much as the result was hearing the popular side giving it some welly, great stuff folks. Not many of you left right now but you know how to shout a team on. The die-hard 'glory hunters' are no doubt hanging around in local watering holes waiting for success to come our way before slapping on the old blue and white warpaint again. Sad lot eh?, I'm almost glad they missed last weekend's treat, but obviously this club needs all the paying customers

it can muster. I've read my colleagues 'amalgamation' drum banging, and yes it does in so many respects seem the only way forward to superleague status, if that is what we really, really want. But I just don't like Whitehaven R.L.F.C. as a team, and I feel to sleep with the enemy may finally end in tears. The Geordie plan is seen as a major threat, and so it is, however Gateshead have a huge catchment area to pull support from, we don't, not even combining the two towns. Therefore we would always be regarded as the achilles heel when Maurice and Co. announce upward trends in attendances, a little ploy they seem taken with. Probably to assure Mr. Murdoch of his wise investment, and unless we can increase the West Cumbrian birth rate, or drag the dregs from the aforementioned 'watering holes', we just wouldn't have superleague standard crowds, incidentally I believe the first option would be favourite.

It's going to be a difficult issue to settle whatever we all think is the best way forward, for now I'll settle for some more 'Red Rose' blood, so get behind the lads again my petals...



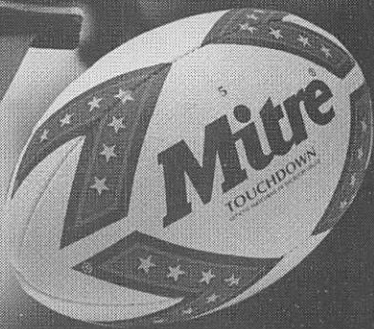
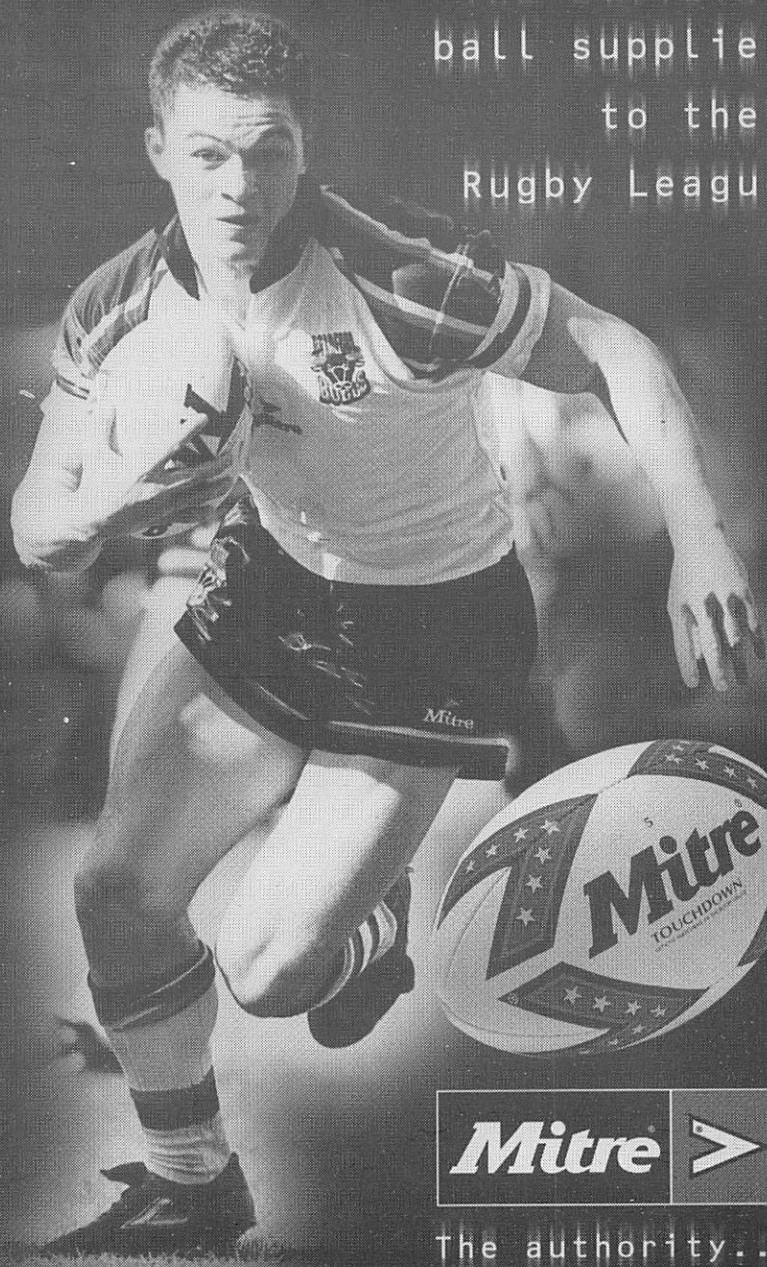
## Back from the brink.....

*by Keith Singleton*

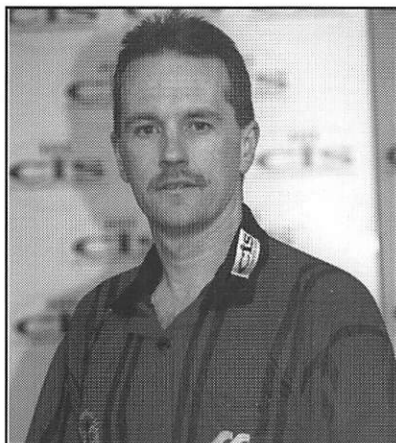
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### PETER TABERNER

37 years old Peter lives and works in Wigan. He became a senior referee in 1995/96 season. He is married with one son, and he enjoys cricket and watching his son play rugby. He would like to attempt a parachute jump. His ideal evening out is dining at the local Pizza restaurant with family and friends. Peter watches Only Fools and Horses and his favourite film is The Commitments.

### WORKINGTON TOWN R.L.F.C.

fully supports the "Let's Tackle Racism in Rugby League" campaign, and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place within our game, and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Allow everyone to "enjoy the game."



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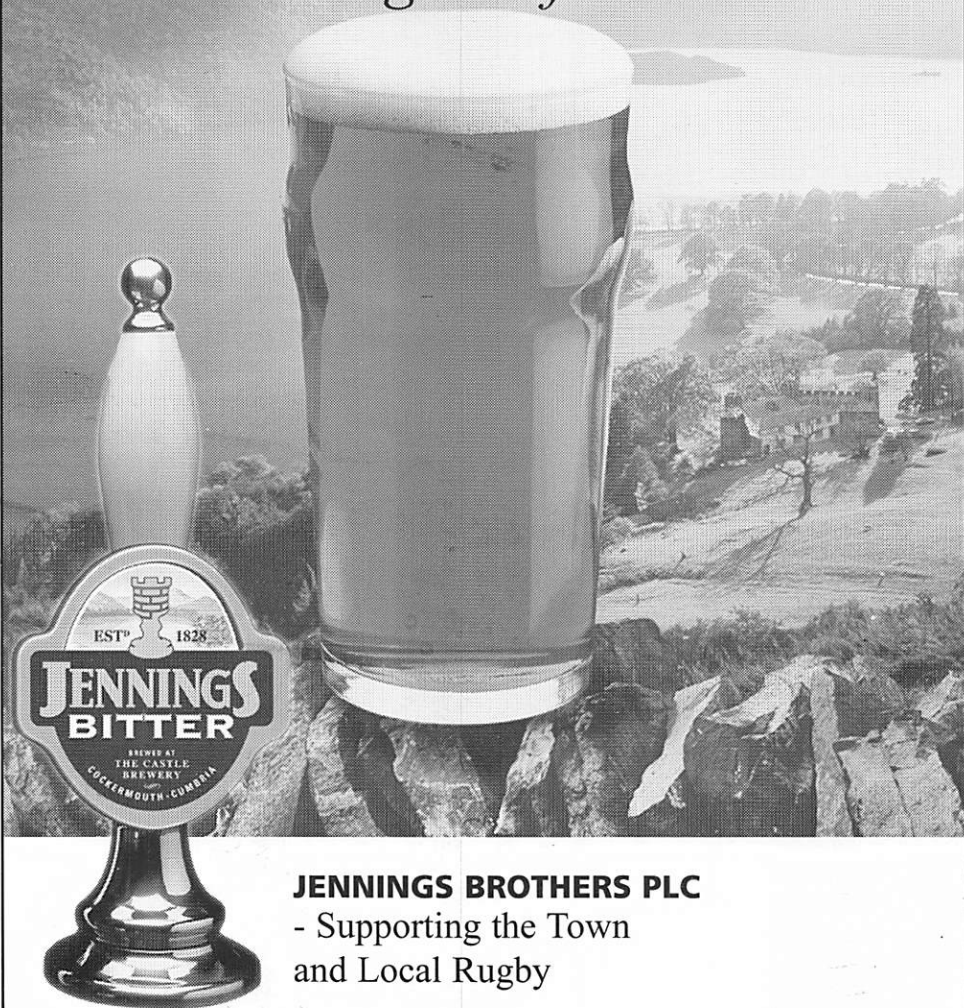
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Oldham make a quick return to Derwent Park this afternoon for the Trans-Pennine Cup competition. I'm sure all Town supporters will be hoping that the "Boy's in Blue" can take the points this afternoon to continue our rise up the table. Taking the field for Oldham this afternoon are:-

**STEPHEN WILDE** - Strong and pacy player who started with Saddleworth Rangers. He was a prominent member of the Bear's Alliance side last season. Played for Waterhead when the Bears folded, but was keen to side for the new club when the opportunity arose.

**ADRIAN MEAD** - A Wiganer by birth, but played for the Bears Academy as a winger. Switched to centre last season and impressed as a strong and pacy runner who could score tries.

**RICHARD DARKES** - Former Huddersfield, Bradford and Dewsbury utility back. An ex-paratrooper, Richard signed after impressing in a pre-season match at Castleford. He has since used his experience to good use in the centre.

**CHRIS ECKERSLEY** - A former schoolboy sprint champion who signed for Oldham as a fifteen year old. A long running dispute ended with him moving to Warrington, before he returned to his home town club as a free agent.

**NEIL FLANAGAN** - Club skipper and an influential leader. A product of St. Anne's, Neil turned pro for his home town club and became its youngest ever captain at 19. Eventually moved on the Huddersfield where he had leadership responsibilities before joining Rochdale. Proud to be back in his home town and even prouder to be skipper.

**CHRIS WILKINSON** - Played for Oldham as a teenager in the old Colts team. signed for London Crusaders and also played for Carlisle, Dewsbury, Swinton and home town club Leigh from whom Oldham signed him a month ago. Previously played full-back, but switched to stand-off in the 18 all draw with Lancs Lynx last Sunday.

**DARREN ROBINSON** - Baby of the squad at 18. A Leeds lad Darren played for the Bears Academy and Alliance teams, but he never signed on. Signed for the Roughyeds as a free agent.

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**MICHAEL EDWARDS** - St. Helens born, Mike joined the old club a 15 year old scrum-half. He was a regular in Alliance rugby for two or three seasons before Oldham coach Tony Barrow took him to Swinton. Joined Oldham after a spell on loan with Salford.

**JOE NADIOLE** - Big forward who needs no introduction to Town fans. Joe recently signed from Featherstone after previously being with Huddersfield for an undisclosed fee.

**GREAME SHAW** - A former BARLA Youth international Greame signed Bradford Bulls making a try-scoring Superleague appearance at Leeds.

**MICK MARTINDALE** - Represented Oldham Schoolboys on tour in Australia. Turned pro with Halifax before moving on to Wakefield as part of a swop deal. Mike joined his home town club in January and made

his debut on the cup defeat at Widnes. Adds much needed experience to the Oldham side and can play in the second row or at loose forward.



*Michael Bethwaite congratulates  
Chris Sullivan after scoring against  
Barrow last Sunday.*

# OLDHAM WELCOME TO DERWENT PARK.....

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# IN TOWN TODAY.....

## OLDHAM

*by Marcel L'Estrange*

WHEN Oldham were here in May, we briefly skirted the overall history of the original club. Today we concentrate on the formative years of that club. On another occasion, perhaps, we can take a look at its progress as a professional outfit.

In the year 1872 a number of Rugby enthusiasts met in the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street, Oldham, and formed what was later to become the Oldham Football Club. As a result of the above meeting a team was formed to play Rugby Union football. Their first match was arranged to be played on a ground at the rear of the Glodwick Spinning Company, on February 17th, 1873, with Stalybridge as opponents.

After a varied career the Watersheddings ground was obtained and used for the first time on September 26th, 1889. Swinton were the visitors and before a crowd of 7,000 spectators defeated Oldham by 2 goals, 1 try and 2 minors, to 1 minor. The name "Watersheddings," while no doubt amusing to some people upon hearing it for the first time, nevertheless brings back memories to the older supporter of many great games and players in the history of Rugby League.

In the first season of the Northern Union (1895-96) Oldham tied with Runcorn for the

Championship of the Lancashire Senior Competition, and although the subsequent play-off at Broughton brought victory to Runcorn, Oldham were for several seasons a power in the code. Indeed, in the third season (1897-98) they won the Lancashire Championship, while in the Northern Union Challenge Cup they lost 3-0 in the final to Batley.

During the following season 1898-99, Oldham scored a total of 432 points against 74 points by their opponents. Victories were registered against Warrington (35-0), and Wigan (43-0). It was in this season that Oldham, by defeating Hunslet 19 points to 9 points in the third Northern Union Challenge Cup Final became the first Lancashire team to win the Cup. They scored 155 points in all the rounds including the final, and had only 14 points against.

It was in season 1900-01 that the famous Cumbrian Joe Ferguson played his first game with Oldham. An unusual incident is reported to have occurred on January 12th, 1901. On account of the great number of people on the ground at Watersheddings, play was interfered with to such an extent that the match with Swinton was ordered to be replayed. This took place on February 25th, the result being a draw of three points each.

The first New Zealand professional touring team - Baskerville's "All Golds" - visited Watersheddings on November 23rd, 1907, and lost 8-7. George W. Smith, vice-captain of the side, joined Oldham at the conclusion of the tour. He continued to play until he broke his leg in a match against Rochdale Hornets during 1906. Subsequently he became Oldham's trainer and resided in the district for many years after.

The tremendous local enthusiasm accorded the Oldham team at this period may be judged from the following incident which took place when the players reached the final of the Northern Union Challenge Cup in 1912. Coventry, Wigan, Huddersfield and Wakefield Trinity were their victims in the earlier rounds and semi-final. The final





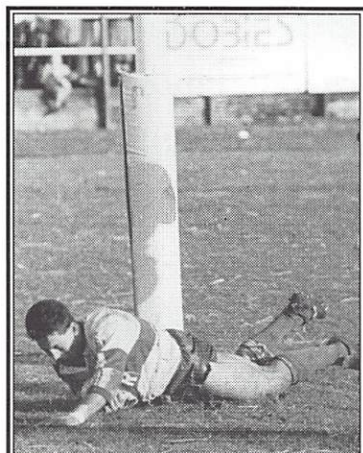
was regarded as a certain and 'easy' victory for Oldham - at least to the Oldham community. A tram-car was expensively decorated and illuminated to await the victory at Headingley, and to carry the team, complete with the Cup, in splendour through the streets of the town.

Alas, the Dewsbury team showed their contempt for an over optimistic town and there were many sad faces in Oldham that evening, including the driver of the special tram. Oldham were leading 5-3 when Avery was sent-off. A man short, Oldham's defence contained a leak, which Rhodes of Dewsbury, found to score a try and Neary converted. The final whistle sounded with the Yorkshiremen winners by eight points to five points. The 1912 final was not the first instance of the downfall of so-called favourites. It has happened

many times, and even in ordinary League matches every club has its own little stories. While enthusiastic supporters will smile and appreciate the feelings of the Oldhamites when the unused decorations were slowly taken down from the tram.

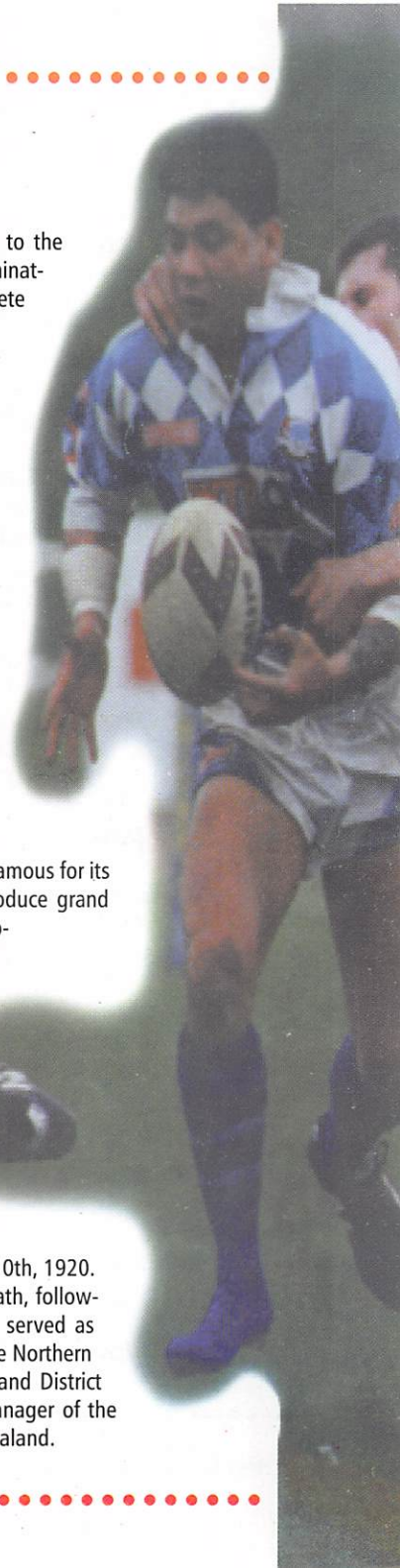
Although Oldham has been famous for its players and its ability to produce grand Rugby League sides, no history of the club could ignore its contributive to the administrative side.

From that memorable day in



Town's Gary Smith crosses for a try v Oldham in the Challenge Cup Quarter-Final defeat at Derwent Park.

August 1895, when twenty-one of the leading Rugby Union clubs in Lancashire and Yorkshire assembled in Huddersfield to decide what combined action to take against the English Rugby Union. Oldham's Joseph Platt piloted the new Northern Union through all its "teething troubles." He remained Secretary for twenty-five years, resigning on June 10th, 1920. Another link with the past was severed on July 3rd, 1947, by the death, following an accident of Mr George Frederick Hutchins. Mr Hutchins had served as chairman and president respectively of the Rugby Football League, the Northern Rugby Football League, Lancashire County Rugby League, Oldham and District Rugby League and the Oldham Football Club. He was also joint manager of the 1928 and 1932 Gt. Britain teams which toured Australia and New Zealand.



# WORKINGTON v OLDHAM

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**Matthew Woodcock**

SPONSORED BY I.B. TEASDALE

**Mateaki Mafi**

SPONSORED BY CHRIS WATSON & GUY MILLS

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**Andrew Little**

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**Michael Bethwaite**

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**Subs:**

**Nicky Crellin**

SPONSORED BY W.P.S. PALLETS

**Craig Armstrong**

SPONSORED BY I.B. TEASDALE

SPONSORED BY RONNIE RILEY JNR.

**1 Stephen Wilde**

**2 Adrian Mead**

**3 Richard Darkes**

**4 Sean Cooper**

**5 Chris Eckersley**

**6 Chris Wilkinson**

**7 Neil Flanagan (Capt)**

**8 Andrew Procter**

**9 Darren Robinson**

**10 Michael Edwards**

**11 Joe Nadiole**

**12 Greame Shaw**

**13 Michael Martindale**

**Subs:**

**14 Ian Sinfield**

**15 Nathan Varley**

**16 Michael Prescott**

**17 Paul Round**

**Referee: Mr. P. Taberner**

**Reserve Official: Mr. M. Dawber**

**Touch Judges: Mr. N. Farrimond (Red), Mr. R.E. Ainsworth (Yellow)**

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The Gary Smith 'draw specialists' were at it again!! Following the previous week's level pegging with Leigh at Derwent Park, the Alliance team made that treacherous journey to Craven Park, Barrow, and earned another point. The final score being fourteen each. Actually I'm informed that the homesters squandered some chances to take both points in a mistake riddled second half, but right at the death Stuart Poland was dragged back by a des-

## In Alliance with the Academy

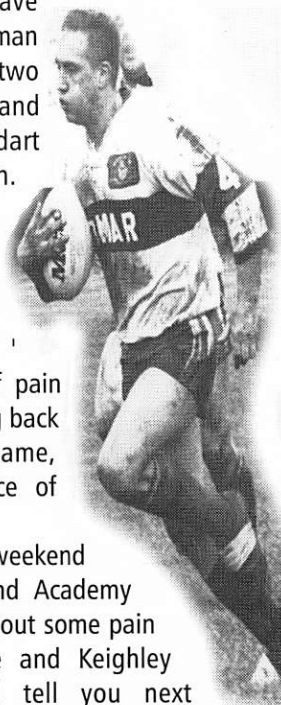
ranks.

The promotion to a stronger division has taken its toll to date. However last Sunday the lads, and Paul and I, knew a win was on the cards. Paul said he had been awake since about 3 a.m. on the Sunday morning, (I must lend him some of my nice pills), but it was worth the tossing and turning eh' Paul, to see the lads hang on for a good win.

One thing for sure with the scoreline staying so close, never more than six points in it no one could fall asleep. The scoring was confined to the first half, and despite all the aforementioned recruiting, it was old hands Scott Chilton and John Addison who gave the scoreboard man some work with two good tries, and Anthony Huddart converted both.

Thankfully, for a change, none of the youngsters took bad knocks. Although 'Buster' suffered a lot of pain putting his ear back in after the game, such is the price of vanity eh?

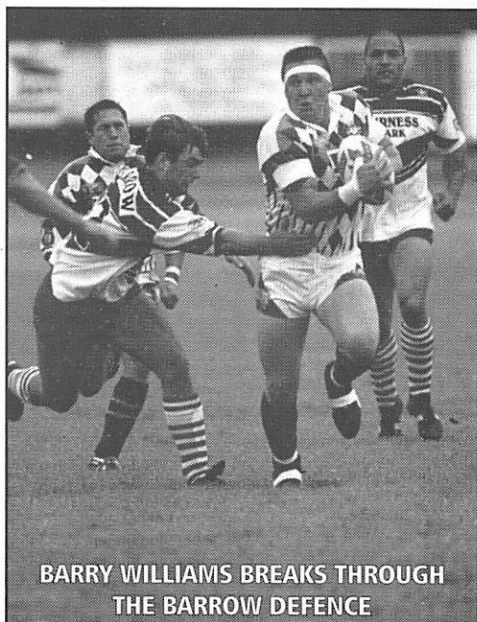
Hopefully this weekend both Alliance And Academy will have dished out some pain versus Rochdale and Keighley respectively. I'll tell you next week...



I have the same sort of problem with the current Academy team, so many new faces are popping up in the dressing room that I sometimes wonder if I'm in the right one. Actually it's good to see that Paul Penfold, whoops, I mean Penrice, ably assisted by David Smith are scouring the land and bringing new blood into the academy

So where are we now in the Division Two race? about at the half-way mark I guess, yes guess, because with the added interjection of the Red Rose/Trans Pennine wotsit has had the old grey matter muddled a bit. Anyhow let's take stock of the current situation - wherever we are. It's Bramley who are leading the way, courtesy of having played more matches than the rest, but have lost three times to date. The team of the moment appear to be Lancashire Lynx, second placed but having lost just the one game. Having seen them perform so well here about three weeks ago, in a match best forgotten from a Workington viewpoint, I believe they will be the team to put your money on for the title. Now if you are a regular reader of the Town programme you will recall I originally plumped for Barrow as Division Three supremos, since when we have sent the Raiders packing of course, hopefully I gave them the kiss of death then. So seeing that the Lynx are again in Town next Sunday I hope to make it a double kiss.

York Wasps are on a roller-coaster track at the moment, one week giving Oldham quite a stinging, then crashing rather heavily last week at Bramley. Perhaps the 'White Rose' is not to the Wasp's taste. Incidentally have I missed something or what, I



**BARRY WILLIAMS BREAKS THROUGH  
THE BARROW DEFENCE**

## DIVISION II FIXTURES

### APRIL

10 Barrow .....	A	3.00 p.m.
13 OLDHAM .....	H	3.00 p.m.
19 York .....	A	3.00 p.m.
26 Batley .....	A	3.15 p.m.

### MAY

9 BRAMLEY .....	H	6.00 p.m.
17 LANCASHIRE LYNX .....	H	3.00 p.m.
24 Doncaster Dragons .....	A	3.00 p.m.
31 BARROW (Trans Pen Cup) .....	H	3.00 p.m.

### JUNE

7 OLDHAM (Trans Pen. Cup) .....	H	3.00 p.m.
14 LANCAS LYNX(Trans Pen Cup) .....	H	3.00 p.m.
21 Barrow (Trans Pen Cup) .....	A	3.00 p.m.
28 Lancashire L.(Trans Pen Cup) .....	A	3.00 p.m.

### JULY

5 Oldham (Trans Pen Cup) .....	A	3.00 p.m.
19 TRANS PENNINE FINAL .....		
26 BARROW .....	H	3.00 p.m.

### AUGUST

2 Oldham .....	A	3.00 p.m.
9 YORK .....	H	3.00 p.m.
16 BATLEY .....	H	3.00 p.m.
23 Bramley .....	A	3.00 p.m.
30 Lancashire Lynx .....	A	3.00 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

6 DONCASTER .....	H	3.00 p.m.
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mean do Bramley have a nickname? They seem to be the only one of our eight without one, therefore can I suggest 'Bramley Borrowers'.

Down at the basement end of the table the Donny Dragons are not setting the world on fire, although they gave us quite a hot time at Belle Vue two weeks ago. Like ourselves they are convinced, despite all their close season traumas, they can rekindle the flame of success again. Hold on a mo. I notice Donny play at Belle Vue, isn't that where Wakefield Trinity play? Is it not indeed the home of a speedway team of Aces? What's going on at Belle Vue? can anyone enlighten me?, send any answers C/o Town programme, no prizes though.

I said I was confused as to where the season was currently situated at the start didn't I? I'm no wiser having wrote this so I need a rest before I blow a fuse in this old computer, see you next week....

*This afternoon we welcome the reborn Oldham side to Derwent Park for the second time this season, and no doubt, a air contingent of travelling supporters which, for this division is something of a novelty. Anyway, on with part two of my all time favourite side from the last twenty years,*

#### STAND OFF

This was a petty straight forward pick, but I suppose I could have considered the following Derek McMillan, Geoff Rea, Gary Smith and Stephen Wear. I can hardly remember Derek McMillan, but by all accounts he was a fair player. Geoff Rea and Gary Smith were predominantly the half-backs in the struggling eighties, but were always players who always gave 100%. Stephen Wear had one outstanding season under Ray Ashton, but unfortunately for the Town fans, he didn't appear to have the temperament to develop his undoubted talent. So, who is my choice for the covered stand-off position.... well it has to be Kevin Ellis, the Welshman who came into the side with Rowland Phillips to transform our "Big League" season. A fantastic organiser, he was able to change the game with his individual brilliance, none more than the televised Halifax game that turned our season around.

#### SCRUM-HALF

In stark contrast to the stand-off position, this was probably the most difficult position to pick. Candidates included Arnold "Boxer" Walker, Shane Varley, Howard Burns, Ray Ashton and Dean Marwood. I vaguely remember Boxer playing for the Town, and being at Whitehaven watching him playing for the "old enemy" when he sustained a dreadful neck injury. He was though, a powerful, elusive scrum-half with immense talent. Shane Varley's season was the 1981/82 promotion year, when Town were regarded somewhat as a try scoring machine, playing brilliant open rugby. Shane the Kiwi scrum half was a tremendous flair player with his silky ball handling and darting runs. He was a pleasure to watch and even at the age of 10 I can remember thinking he was a very special player. Burns took over from the previous two and kept up Town's reputation for having outstanding scrum halves. Another tigerish player who never quite made enough

of his exceptional ability for one reason or another. Ray Ashton did a fine job for one season, while Deano was a vital cog in our good team and a super kicker.

#### PROP FORWARD

The number eight position was the first I filled in the team without any hesitation. In fact I would go as far as saying that he is my all time favourite Town player. It is of course the one and only Jimmy Pickering. Genius is rarely seen in a Town shirt, but Jimmy had the lot, power to break through, superb ball handling, excellent tackling and if you can top that, he also had an excellent sidestep and turn of pace for such a big man.

To partner him of course you could consider one of the following Eddie Bowman, Harry Beverley, Colin Falcon,

John Lomax (when he could be bothered), Colin Armstrong and Rowland Phillips (home matches in particular).

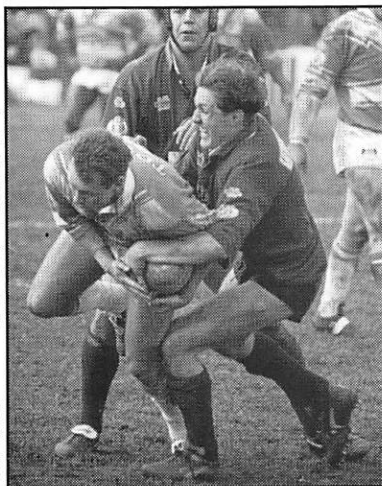
#### HOOVER

This is another tricky position to fill, with some fine candidates fighting for the one position. Among the players to consider are Alan Banks, John Lightfoot, Colin Falcon, Mark Roskell and Phil MacKenzie. Alan Banks was the first hooker I can remember watching, followed by John Lightfoot. Both were skillful hookers who, would not have been out of place in any side. Mark Roskell was a tackling machine who ball distribution were a pleasure to watch. Unfortunately, due to injury we never saw the best of Mark, and he left to play for Millom in the conference. That leads us to Phil MacKenzie, probably the best uncapped hooker in the game. He was of course a member of the all

conquering second division championship side who made many friends during his three and a half seasons with Town.

So positions 6 through 10 are as follows:-

- 6: Kevin Ellis
- 7: Shane Varley
- 8: Jimmy Pickering
- 9: Phil MacKenzie
- 10: Colin Armstrong



*Kevin Ellis meets the Widnes tackler head on*

## Steven Leggett's Sporting Chronicles





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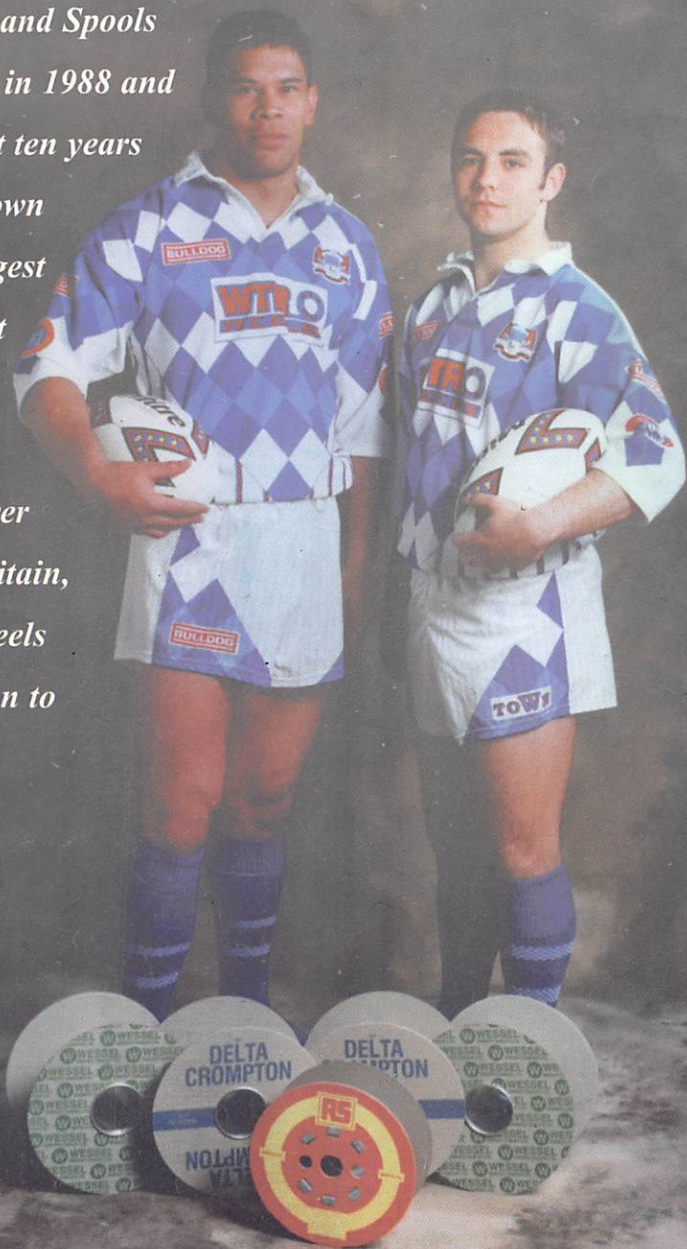
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