

WIDNES VIKINGS

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Northern Ford



RFL Premiership



WIDNES VIKINGS v OLDHAM

SUNDAY 25 JULY 1999 KICK OFF 3.00pm • OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.50

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Wishing Widnes Vikings RLFC every success
for the 1999 season

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WELCOME

WIDNES VIKINGS

CLUB OFFICIALS

Chief Patron:

Rt.HON LORD ASHLEY of STOKE, CH

Directors: **A A Chambers** (Chairman),

T W Fleet (Vice Chairman),

E Bate, R Brown, S Evans, A Harris,

J A Hodgson, J Mills, A Murray,

J H Quinn, F Vowles.

Football Secretary: **Frank Myler**

Football Manager/

Head Coach: **Colin Whitfield**

Alliance Coach:

Bernard Long

Academy Coach:

Mark Knight

Administration Manager:

Pat Cluskey

Promotions & Merchandising

Manager:

Harold Lynskey

Hon. Surgeon: **Mr P Rostron**

Club Doctors: **Dr G Tandy** and

Dr P Stockton

Physiotherapists:

K Fisher & D Vose

Hon Dental Surgeon;

Mr I Hawley

P.A. Announcer;

Chris Moore

TELEPHONE:

General: **0151-510 6005**

Administration: **0151-495 2250.**

Club Shop: **0151-420 0054**

Fax: **0151-423 2720**

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Champions

1977-78, 1987-88, 1988-89

Challenge Cup Winners

1930, 1937, 1964, 1975, 1979,
1981, 1984

Lancashire League Winners

1919-20

Lancashire Cup Winners

1945, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978,
1979, 1991

John Player Trophy Winners

1976, 1979, 1992

Premiership Winners

1980, 1982, 1983,

1988, 1989, 1990

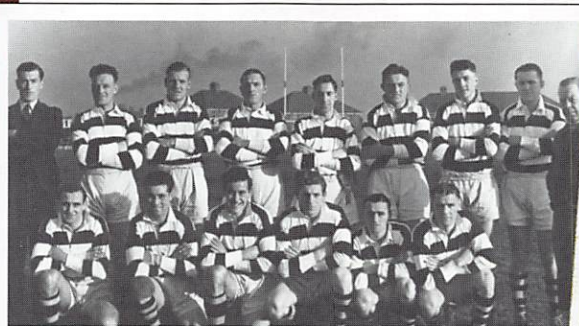
Floodlit Trophy Winners 1978

Charity Shield Winners

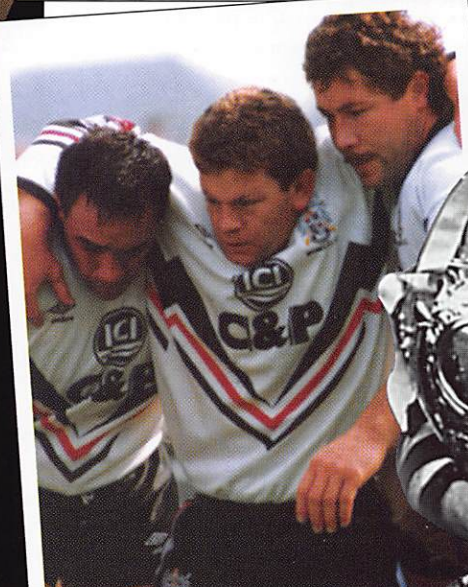
1988, 1989, 1990

European & World Club Champions

1989



P. TOPPING (WIDNES)



Widnes Vikings Matchday Programme

Designed and Produced
by Tobin Design and Steve Fox

Edited by Steve Fox
Editorial by Chris Westwood, Colin
Pheysey, John Potter.
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Stuart Bogg (Weekly News),
Darrell Cooper & League Express

Please note: the views expressed by
contributors do not necessarily
reflect the opinion of the editor or
Widnes Vikings RLFC



STEVE ROBERTS of BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE TALKS TO
VIKING COACH COLIN WHITFIELD
Listen to Steve's RL Show every Sunday afternoon - 1485 on the Medium Wave

SR: A good result at Barrow - how pleasing was the performance?

CW: The most pleasing aspect was the defensive work of the whole team. On several occasions this season Barrow have shown they can be a free scoring team, especially at home. So to prevent them from scoring a try is a credit to the players attitude and application throughout the 80 minutes. On top of that we did take any half chances that came our way, which made sure we were in control for long periods of the match.

SR: The media always talk about it being a long and difficult trip to Cumbria. Do you go along with that theory?

CW: No. I believe that if the preparation is right then a team should be able to perform to the best of their ability at any venue. There is not too much difference in travelling to York, where we played well, so perhaps the idea of long and difficult trips to Cumbria are becoming a bit of a myth really.

SR: Did the squad come out of the game unscathed?

CW: As you might expect at this time of the season, the intensity of the matches week-in week-out means that players pick up knocks and strains that need treatment through the following week. Luke Savelio is having treatment for a knock and Lee Hansen likewise. But hopefully everyone who was involved at Barrow will be in contention for a place today.

SR: What about the long term injuries, any news about them?

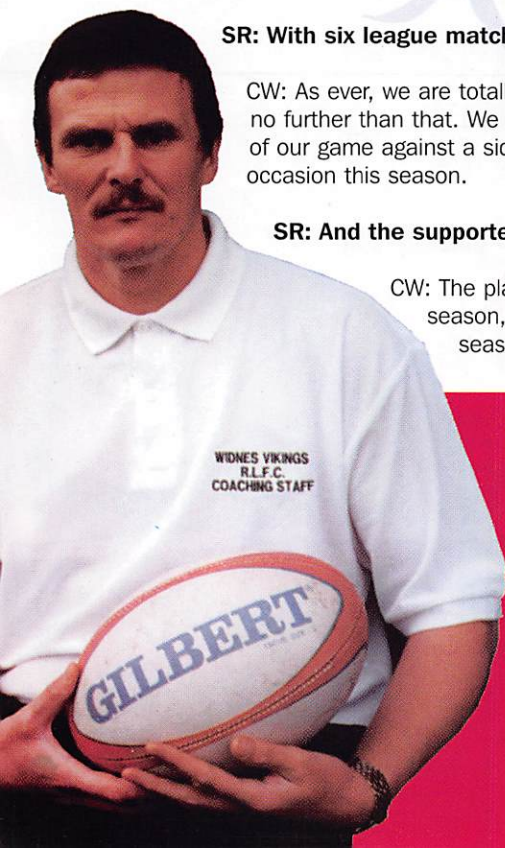
CW: Dave Smith could be ready to have a run out in about a week's time and Paul Harris is not too far away but Fabien Devecchi is still some weeks away from a return.

SR: With six league matches left, what are your thoughts?

CW: As ever, we are totally focused on this afternoon's game with Oldham and we are looking no further than that. We must again look to produce a top class performance in all aspects of our game against a side who have troubled teams in the top half of the table on several occasions this season.

SR: And the supporters are doing their bit?

CW: The players and myself fully appreciate the support we are getting this season, both at home and away and we will continue, as we have done all season, to endeavour to repay that support.



latest.....latest.....latest.....

***NOW THERE'S A NEW SPOT ON
THE DIAL FOR RUGBY LEAGUE***

1485 AM

***JOIN OUR EXPERTS BEFORE
DURING AND AFTER THE GAME***

BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE

VIKING NOTICEBOARD

VIKING FLAGSHIP

We are hoping to have the latest edition of our newspaper, The Viking Flagship, available today. There will be a cover price of 10p, with all proceeds going to Halton Haven.

WIDNES v LEIGH

The Widnes Vikings v Leigh Centurions fixture on 1st August 1999 could be a vital one for the future of the two teams, with Northern Ford Premiership playoff placings up for grabs, but the Vikings are also taking the opportunity to celebrate the heritage of both clubs.

Between 1974-1980, Widnes teams were successful in the Challenge Cup (twice), the John Player Trophy (twice), the Lancashire Cup (five times), the BBC2 Floodlit Trophy and the Premiership, as well as being RL Champions. Between 1971 and 1982 Leigh won the Challenge Cup, BBC2 Floodlit Trophy, Lancashire Cup (twice) and RL Championship.

Players from those great eras from both clubs have been invited to attend the big game and to take part in a pre-match parade at 2.30pm. The Vikings are also hoping to have all of the above mentioned trophies on display - possibly the first time ever that these historic pieces of silverware have been in one place together and almost certainly the last! Fans are also invited to enter into the spirit of things by coming dressed for the occasion. Vikings and Centurions supporters are encouraged to dig out their old 70s gear (kipper ties, flares, trouser suits, platform shoes) or else to bring any old scarves, bobble hats etc. in club colours. On the day there will be plenty of music from the decade that style forgot, along with dance routines from the Vikingettes. Club mascot Kemik the Viking is also believed to be rummaging around at the back of the wardrobe for those Terylene loon pants which last saw the light of day in 1976...

SPEKEHALL VAUXHALL

Pictured, below, is Spekehall Vauxhall's Operations Manager Gary Speakman handing over the keys of their new cars to Fabien Devecchi and Simon Verbickas. Watch out for free Viking Season Ticket offers at Spekehall Vauxhall next year.



WIDNES U11s

Ray Fleming from OFFIX recently presented polo shirts to the Widnes Schoolboys Under 11s squad (pictured) - many thanks to Ray and his company for their generosity.



LEADING SCORERS

(Up to and including 18/7/99)

TRIES

Toa Kohe-Love (Warrington)	22
Matthew Foster (Keighley)	19
Phil Atkinson (Barrow)	19
Adrian Flynn (Dewsbury)	18
Greg Fleming (London)	18
Alex Godfrey (Dewsbury)	18
Anthony Sullivan (St Helens)	18
Francis Cummins (Leeds)	17
Damian Munro (Widnes)	17
Jason Lee (Keighley)	17
Leroy Rivett (Leeds)	17

GOALS

Iestyn Harris (Leeds)	128
Mike Fletcher (Hunslet)	124
Darren Holt (Barrow)	87
Jamie Benn (York)	79
Sean Long (St Helens)	79
Barry Eaton (Dewsbury)	78
Mark Hewitt (Widnes)	78

POINTS

	T	G	dg	Pts
Iestyn Harris (Leeds)	15	126	2	314
Mike Fletcher (Hunslet)	3	120	4	256
Sean Long (St Helens)	16	78	1	221
Darren Holt (Barrow)	7	79	8	194
Barry Eaton (Dewsbury)	9	76	2	190
Jamie Benn (York)	7	77	2	184
Mark Hewitt (Widnes)	5	73	5	171
Lee Briers (Warrington)	5	64	6	154

SPECIAL OFFERS AT SHOP

Adult season ticket holders who purchase a home replica jersey will also receive FREE our latest badged short-sleeve dress shirt (normal price £10.99).

Season Ticket holders who already have a home replica should speak to Harold in the shop about other offers that he has available for them.

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- * Tax Mitigation

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SENDING OUR
SCRUM HALF
FOR THE
NEXT ROUND
JEFF!"



The sign of a great time

WIDNES VIKINGS 1999 FactFile

	V	K.O	Result	(H-T)	Referee	Pens.	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17													
								N/G = sent off, subsequently found Not Guilty										non-playing substitutes in brackets																			
JANUARY																																					
31	W HULL (CC3)	H	3.00	W34-4 (10-4)	G Shaw	8-12	2,412	Salisbury	3G	Briers	Percival	2T	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Adams	Savelio	Harris	Hewitt	Cassidy	T	Cross	O'Loughlin						
FEBRUARY																																					
7	DEWSBURY	H	3.00	W30-12 (18-2)	G Shaw	17-11	2,798	Salisbury	7G	Briers	T	Percival	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Adams	Savelio	T	Harris	(Hewitt)	Cassidy	Critchley	O'Loughlin						
14	KEIGHLEY (CC4)	H	3.00	W28-20 (8-14)	G Shaw	4-8	3,003	Salisbury	4G	Briers	T	Percival	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Adams	Savelio	T	Harris	(Hewitt)	Cassidy	(Cross)	(O'Loughlin)						
21	Whitehaven	A	3.30	L6-28 (6-6)	P Taberner	6-9	1,005	Salisbury	G	Briers	T	Critchley	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Harris	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Percival	Reid	Cross	Argent						
28	LEIGH (CC5)	H	3.15	W20-17 (6-6)	S Ganson	11-10	4,054	Salisbury	G	Briers	T	Percival	Cross	Munro	T	Mansson	4G	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	T	Argent	T	Mann	Savelio	T	Harris	Hewitt	G	Cassidy	T	O'Loughlin	(Reid)			
MARCH																																					
7	ROCHDALE	H	3.00	W6-2 (2-0)	N Oddy	12-8	2,684	Cross	Critchley	Percival	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	3G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Adams	Savelio	T	Harris	(Devecchi)	Cassidy	(Salisbury)	Argent							
14	LEEDS (CC6)	H	3.00	L10-46 (4-10)	S Presley	10-8	6,477	Salisbury	T	Briers	Cross	Myler	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	3G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Harris	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Devecchi	Hunter	Argent	Reid						
17	Featherstone	A	7.30	L12-28 (12-10)	G Shaw	7-12	1,774	Briers	PSmith	Critchley	T	Mansson	Munro	T	Devecchi	T	Hewitt	2G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Argent	Mann	T	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Birdseye	Hunter	Eyres	(Reid)						
21	BARROW	H	3.00	W34-16 (18-16)	A Bates	12-8	2,224	Salisbury	7.5G	Briers	T	Percival	Critchley	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Savelio	T	Harris	Mann	T	Cassidy	2T	(Hewitt)	Hunter	Eyres	Argent					
28	Oldham	A	3.00	W33-18 (18-6)	A Bates	13-7	1,515	Salisbury	5G	Briers	T	Percival	Critchley	Munro	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	2T	T	Hansen	Cantillon	2T	Reid	T	Harris	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Hewitt	G	Myler	Adams	T	Mann		
APRIL																																					
2	Leigh	A	3.00	W23-22 (11-10)	P Gilmour	9-5	2,750	Salisbury	T	Cross	Percival	Critchley	2T	Munro	4G	T	Devecchi	Hewitt	3G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	T	Reid	T	Harris	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Myler	Adams	(O'Loughlin)	Mann			
5	LANCASHIRE	H	3.00	W40-4 (16-4)	I Smith	9-7	3,068	Salisbury	T	Cross	Percival	T	Critchley	Munro	2T	T	Devecchi	Hewitt	6G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Reid	T	Harris	T	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Myler	2T	Adams	O'Loughlin	Mann			
11	Keighley	A	3.00	L22-24 (10-8)	D Ansell	7-7	2,103	Salisbury	T	Cross	Percival	T	Critchley	Munro	T	T	Devecchi	Hewitt	5G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Reid	T	Harris	T	Savelio	T	Cassidy	Myler	Adams	2T	O'Loughlin	Mann			
18	SWINTON	H	3.00	W25-10 (19-6)	P Lee	7-5	2,745	Cross	PSmith	Percival	T	Mansson	Munro	T	Devecchi	T	Hewitt	4G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	2T	Savelio	T	Harris	Adams	T	Cassidy	Kilgannon	Reid	Birdseye	Mann				
25	Workington	A	3.00	L24-30 (10-14)	P Taberner	4-7	1,105	Munro	PSmith	Percival	Myler	T	Garcia	T	T	Devecchi	Hewitt	27.4G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Savelio	T	Harris	Adams	T	Cassidy	Kilgannon	Hulme	(Reid)	Mann					
MAY																																					
9	BATLEY	H	3.00	L16-17 (2-16)	P Gilmour	4-4	2,501	Salisbury	T	PSmith	Percival	DMylor	T	Munro	T	T	Devecchi	Hewitt	2G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Hulme	Adams	T	Cassidy	T	Mansson	(DSmith)	Briers	Argent				
16	Hull KR	A	3.00	L2-14 (2-4)	C Morris	8-10	2,125	Briers	PSmith	Percival	Mansson	Munro	T	T	Devecchi	T	Hewitt	G	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	Hulme	Adams	T	Myler	Waterworth	Doherty	DSmith	Argent						
23	HUNSLET	H	3.00	W32-24 (12-16)	P Taberner	5-4	2,561	Munro	2T	G	PSmith	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	G	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	DSmith	Adams	T	Hulme	2T	(Hewitt)	Cassidy	(Kilgannon)	Savelio			
30	Doncaster	A	3.00	W38-18 (20-10)	R Silverwood	7-16	715	Munro	2T	T	PSmith	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	5G	T	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	DSmith	2T	Adams	T	Hulme	(Hewitt)	Cassidy	Critchley	Savelio		
JUNE																																					
6	BRAMLEY	H	3.00	W36-16 (2-4)	A Bates	6-4	2,820	Munro	T	Briers	T	Percival	T	Critchley	T	Verbickas	2T	G	Mansson	T	Devecchi	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Mann	T	DSmith	Adams	T	Hulme	Hewitt	7G	Cassidy	PSmith	Savelio		
13	York	A	3.00	W25-10 (16-4)	P Lee	13-12	1,214	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	14G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Savelio	5G	T	Mann	Adams	T	Cassidy	(Birdseye)	Murphy	Cross	T	Hill
20	Dewsbury	A	3.00	W26-16 (10-4)	R Loughton	4-17	1,407	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	13G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Savelio	T	Mann	Adams	T	Hulme	(Birdseye)	Cassidy	(Myler)	Hill		
27	WHITEHAVEN	H	3.00	W52-12 (24-2)	I Smith	7-8	3,152	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	3T	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	10G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	2T	Hill	T	Mann	Adams	T	Hulme	Myler	Cassidy	Cross	Doherty
JULY																																					
2	Rochdale	A	7.30	W38-16 (18-12)	G Shaw	11-8	1,429	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Myler	G	Verbickas	T	Mansson	2T	T	Hewitt	8G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	T	Argent	T	Mann	Hulme	Cassidy	Birdseye	Murphy	Cross	Doherty	
11	FEATHERSTONE	H	3.00	L14-20 (12-7)	P Gilmour	8-1	3,885	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	3G	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	T	Hill	T	Mann	Adams	T	Hulme	(Myler)	Cassidy	(Doherty)	Savelio	
18	Barrow	A	3.00	W27-4 (16-2)	P Gilmour	4-8	1,387	Munro	T	PSmith	T	Percival	T	Briers	T	Verbickas	T	Mansson	T	Hewitt	13G	dg	dg	T	Hansen	Cantillon	Savelio	T	Mann	T	Adams	T	Hulme	Myler	Cassidy	Birdseye	Hill
25	OLDHAM	H	3.00																																		
AUGUST																																					
1	LEIGH	H	3.00																																		
8	Lancashire	A	3.00																																		
15	KEIGHLEY	H	3.00																																		
22	Swinton	A	3.00																																		
29	WORKINGTON	H	3.00																																		



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	BARROW	BATLEY	BRAMLEY	DICASTER	FESTONE	HULL K R	HUNSLLET	KEIGHLEY	LANCS L	LEIGH	OLDHAM	RODALE	SWINTON	W/HAVERN	WIDNES	W/KNIGHT	YORK	Home	Away
BARROW	•	29/9/99	N/A	36-24	30-10	43-20	N/A	21-22	18/99	26-44	55-16	25-16	15/99	18-12	4-27	25-12	18-25	W714	W219
BATLEY	32-19	•	14-12	24-28	44-12	22/99	0-18	8-14	20-25	N/A	25-16	30-0	14-19	N/A	8/99	N/A	42-8	W615	W315.03
BRAMLEY	24-16	16-16	•	16-17	28-10	N/A	25/7/99	14-12	32-45	8-39	24-18	36-16	20-14	N/A	N/A	28-12	22/9/99	W713.01	W219
DENSBURY	46-7	18/99	29/8/99	•	42-3	N/A	25-14	15/99	35-8	34-27	31-16	12-19	27-26	N/A	16-26	58-24	30-4	W912	W613.02
DONCASTER	N/A	20-29	8/8/99	•	33-24	16-42	25/7/99	18-23	18-45	N/A	12-27	N/A	22-18	30-40	18-38	44-4	18-28	W318	W611.01
FEATHERSTONE	46-6	16-15	12-20	24-24	N/A	•	29/8/99	15-26	18/99	32-18	18-24	N/A	48-12	N/A	28-12	15/8/99	N/A	W713.01	W615
HULL K R	N/A	8-6	12-0	8/8/99	12-2	23-12	•	16-13	N/A	48-12	8-8	22/8/99	30-10	44-18	14-2	18-10	22-16	W11.01	W713
HUNSLLET	46-14	32-15	11-16	20-21	30-18	N/A	14-26	•	48-8	N/A	35-12	44-2	22-8	36-16	N/A	48-6	8/8/99	W10.13	W613
KEIGHLEY	8/8/99	N/A	36-10	24-24	42-16	18-32	2-17	N/A	•	40-14	22/8/99	32-28	25/7/99	30-16	24-22	18-22	8-10	W614.01	W516
LANCS L	16-58	28-47	13-12	22-12	N/A	25/7/99	N/A	12-53	29/8/99	•	24-44	N/A	13-34	10-56	8-21	8/8/99	22-29	W219	W318
LEIGH	25/7/99	N/A	N/A	24-10	72-6	16-12	27-20	N/A	28-16	15/99	•	8/8/99	34-20	29/8/99	24-20	22-23	42-10	W911	W814
OLDHAM	24-20	20-20	15/8/99	12-28	18/99	18-25	22-44	12-56	N/A	22/8/99	20-26	•	25-18	N/A	24-32	18-33	N/A	W218.01	W218.01
RODALE	36-16	15/99	N/A	N/A	26-10	14-29	14-20	29/8/99	18-26	22-27	22-40	28-18	•	18/99	6-44	16-38	N/A	W417	W318
SWINTON	24-31	23-8	19-29	48-2	8/8/99	N/A	10-21	14-15	N/A	22-34	31-24	28-24	•	25/7/99	22/8/99	N/A	23-12	W615	W219
WHITEHAVEN	32-26	21-8	40-16	18-20	29/8/99	19-14	15/8/99	22/8/99	22-20	24-12	22-16	N/A	4-12	•	28-6	1/8/99	N/A	W812	W418
WIDNES	34-16	16-17	36-18	30-12	N/A	14-20	N/A	32-24	15/8/99	40-4	18/99	25/7/99	6-2	25-10	52-12	•	29/8/99	N/A	W812
WORMINGTON	22/8/99	N/A	22-16	25/7/99	22-22	10-15	14-21	12-44	N/A	36-8	N/A	17-22	8/8/99	37-20	30-16	30-24	•	W614.01	W219
YORK	N/A	20-20	22-12	N/A	15/8/99	18-21	1/8/99	16-6	24-14	12-14	29/8/99	N/A	16-15	46-0	10-25	72-2	•	W713.01	W516

VIKING ROLL CALL

SEASON 1999

(Date of Birth)	(Position)		(Prev. Club)		(Widnes debut)	
	App	Sub	G	dg	T	Pts
Adams, Gareth	16	4	0	0	4	16
14/10/71	Second-row		Swinton L.		1999	
Argent, Steve	3	6	0	0	1	4
7/5/78	Prop		Halton Hornets		1998	
Briers, James	19	0	0	0	6	24
19/7/77	Threequarter		St Maries ARL		1998	
Birdseye, Lee	0	5	0	0	0	0
5/8/79	Half-back		Widnes Albion		1998	
Cantillon, Phil	26	0	0	0	9	36
2/6/76	Hooker		Leeds Rhinos		1999	
Cassidy, Jim	13	11	0	0	6	24
28/7/72	Back-row		Leigh		1994	
Critchley, Jason	9	2	0	0	3	12
7/12/70	Threequarter		Newport RU		1989*	
Cross, Dean	5	4	0	0	1	4
5/6/80	Threequarter		Widnes Academy		1997	
Devecchi, Fabien	18	1	0	0	8	32
9/3/75	Half-back		Villeneuve		1999	
Doherty, John-Paul	0	3	0	0	0	0
6/1/77	Back-row		Wigan		1997	
Eyres, Richard	0	2	0	0	0	0
7/12/66	Second-row		Coventry RU		1984*	
Garcia, Anton	1	0	0	0	1	4
7/9/79	Threequarter		Wigan Academy		1998	
Hansen, Lee	26	0	0	0	1	4
23/7/68	Prop		Keighley C.		1994*	
Harris, Paul	14	0	0	0	2	8
18/7/74	Second-row		St Maries ARL		1993	
Hewitt, Mark	16	4	73	5	5	171
17/3/74	Scrum-half		Hull S.		1998	
Hill, Mike	2	3	0	0	0	0
26/11/74	Prop		Widnes Academy		1998	
Hulme, Paul	10	1	0	0	3	12
19/4/66	Back-row		Swinton L.		1984*	
Hunter, Jason	0	3	0	0	0	0
27/8/71	Back-row		Blackbrook ARL		1994	
Kilgannon, Eddie	0	2	0	0	0	0
4/12/77	Threequarter		Widnes Academy		1999	
Mann, George	20	6	0	0	2	8
31/7/65	Prop		Swinton L.		1999	
Mansson, Paul	21	1	0	0	8	32
13/3/72	Stand-off		Hunslet H.		1999	
Munro, Damian	26	0	1	0	17	66
6/10/76	Threequarter		Halifax B.S.		1998	
Murphy, Chris	0	2	0	0	0	0
25/11/78	Back-row		St Helens		1998	
Myler, Danny	10	6	1	0	5	22
7/8/79	Threequarter		Widnes Academy		1996	
O'Loughlin, Kevin	0	5	0	0	0	0
26/3/77	Back-row		Halifax B.S.		1998	
Percival, Chris	23	1	0	0	10	40
25/12/79	Threequarter		Widnes Academy		1996	
Reid, Terry	4	3	0	0	0	0
9/9/67	Prop		Crosfields ARL		1996	
Salisbury, Jim	12	0	26	0	2	60
3/6/73	Full-back		Liverpool St H. RU		1998	
Savelio, Lokeni	18	4	0	0	2	8
24/11/69	Second-row		Salford R.		1999	
Smith, David	3	1	0	0	2	8
21/12/78	Second-row		Leigh M. ARL		1997	
Smith, Peter	13	1	0	0	3	12
1/9/73	Winger		Widnes Tigers		1993	
Verhickas, Simon	9	0	7	0	7	42
22/4/75	Winger		Orrell RU		1999	
Waterworth, John	0	1	0	0	0	0
3/11/75	Full-back		St Helens		1999	

* Indicates first spell at Widnes



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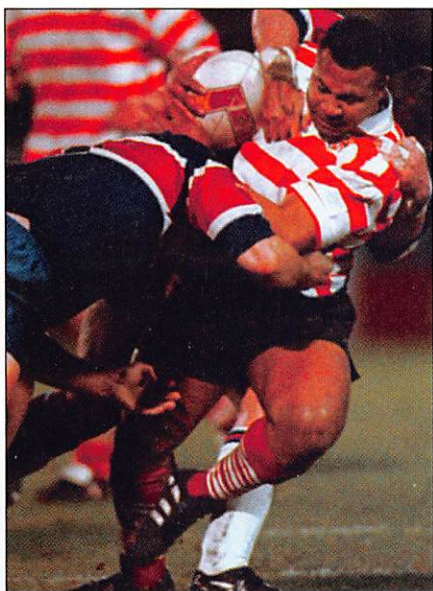
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VIKING VISITORS OLDHAM RLFC

DANIEL BROWN Australian halfback or hooker who played for Hull K R last season. Daniel is Oldham's chief playmaker and also an extremely hard working tackler. Has recently taken over goal kicking responsibilities. **NATHAN VARLEY** Started most games from the subs bench last season but was still one of the clubs top tacklers. This ex-Bradford back rower had his pre-season ruined by an ankle injury. Returned to his tackling best but was unlucky to sustain another bad injury recently. **GRAEME SHAW** Hard working back row forward signed from Bradford Bulls. Became the new club's first international in October 1998, playing for Scotland. **JOE NADIOLE** Returned to the club for the last seven games of this season. Joe was a regular in the back row last season and his past clubs include Huddersfield, Featherstone and Hunslet. **IAN SINFIELD** Ian returned to the club during the season after a spell in France. Plays in the back row and is another good addition to the squad. His younger brother Kevin plays for Leeds Rhinos.



◀ AFI LEULA

29 year old Tongan threequarter who joined Oldham in 1995.

KEITH BRENNAN

Signed from local amateur club Shaw, this little scrum half has played very well and is very hard working. Can kick goals and can hopefully make a name for

himself with the Roughyeds.

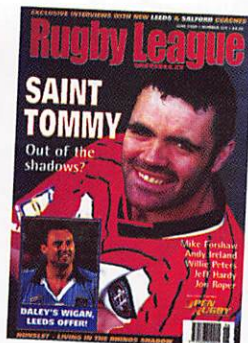
PAUL BRASSINGTON Joined the club to help out in an injury crisis from amateurs Saddleworth Rangers. Abrasive winger who was a BARLA tourist in 1998. **AIDIE MEAD** Product of Oldham Bears Academy, equally at home in the full back berth or in the centres. **MICK FARRELL** 21 year old utility back was outstanding for Rochdale in 1997 but had a disappointing 1998. This ex-Waterhead amateur has now joined his home town team as he attempts to rejuvenate his career. **JOE McNICHOLAS** One of the most exciting talents in the NFP, Joe was unfortunate to miss most of '98 after breaking his leg early in the season. Rochdale born, he is armed with pace and a great side-step. **LAURENT MINUT** Signed from Villeneuve in the close-season after helping his team to success in Treize Turnoi. **PAUL CROOK** Half back who previously played with Dewsbury, Oldham Bears and Hull Sharks. Creative player who can also fill a number of other back positions. **CRAIG BARKER** Half-back or hooker who was not always a first choice in '98 but never lets the side down when selected. **LEO CASEY** Veteran prop who has played for many clubs as well as representing Ireland at international level. Aged -33. **JASON CLEGG** A barnstorming prop forward. Formerly a Bradford Bull, Jason is a real crowd favourite. **EMMANUEL PERALTA** This versatile forward is another former colleague of Fabien Devecchi at Villeneuve. **PAUL ROUND** A real veteran of the game, formerly a back rower but nowadays a prop. **JOHN HOUGH** A bright future was predicted for John in his early years at Wilderspool but he has never quite lived up to that early promise. Still only 22 he still has a chance to make a big name for himself in the sport. **MARK PERRETT** Close season capture from Halifax, this Welsh international back-rower was tipped for the highest honours but a series of shoulder injuries slowed his progress. **MIKE PRESCOTT** Hard working prop or second row who missed a large part of last season with a hernia injury. **EMMERSON JACKMAN** A BARLA tourist in the summer of 1998 this eye catching stand-off or loose forward established his reputation at Saddleworth Rangers and Oldham St Annes.

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QUESTION TIME

1. Premiership finals day in 1990 was a memorable occasion for both Widnes and Oldham. We won the First Division final, beating Bradford, whilst the Roughyeds triumphed over Hull KR to take the Second Division trophy.

Which player who turned out for Oldham that day played for Widnes last season?

2. Another question on that Oldham Premiership team of 1990.

Two former Chemics who played for them that day have brothers who later also went on to play for Widnes. Who are they?

3. Now a question about the Second Division Premiership final in general.

Which four members of the 1999 Vikings squad have previously played in a final of that competition?

4. And which two players played on the winning side in the inaugural Second Division final and later went on to collect winners medals for Widnes in the First Division version?

5. Martin Offiah holds the record for being the most capped Widnes player of all time, having played 20 times for GB whilst at Naughton Park.

In fourth place in that list is Tony Myler who was selected fourteen times for his country, but just edging him out are two individuals who were honoured fourteen times each plus one as substitute. As it happens, both have Oldham connections.

Who are they?

Answers on
William
Boot page



Tony Myler
...see
question five

2 MINUTE TEASERS

1. He's been in the news a lot recently, but who is the Chairman of St. Helens?

2. For which Northern Ford Premiership club has former Viking Sean Richardson signed?

3. With which club is current Leeds boss Graham Murray set to take up a coaching contract at the end of this season?

4. The Controller of Referees in Australia has recently resigned. What is his name?

5. Which Alliance coach was ordered from the dugout by the referee at a match this week?

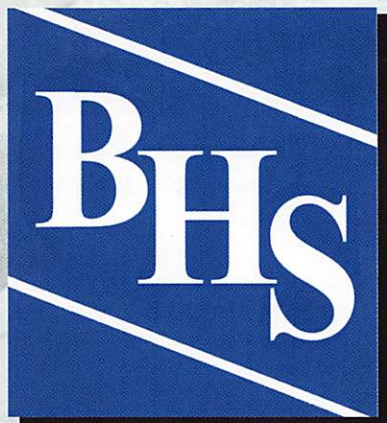
JUNIOR QUIZ

1. WHICH 3 WIDNES PLAYERS WHOSE SECOND NAME BEGINS WITH 'M' SCORED TRIES LAST SUNDAY?

2. WITH WHICH RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB DO OLDHAM SHARE A HOME GROUND?

3. WHICH NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP CLUB PLAYS ITS GAMES AT BELLE VUE? (BUT NOT THE SAME BELLE VUE WHERE WAKEFIELD PLAY!)

4. HOW MANY POINTS DOES YOUR TEAM HAVE IF IT SCORES 3 TRIES, FIVE GOALS AND THREE DROP GOALS?



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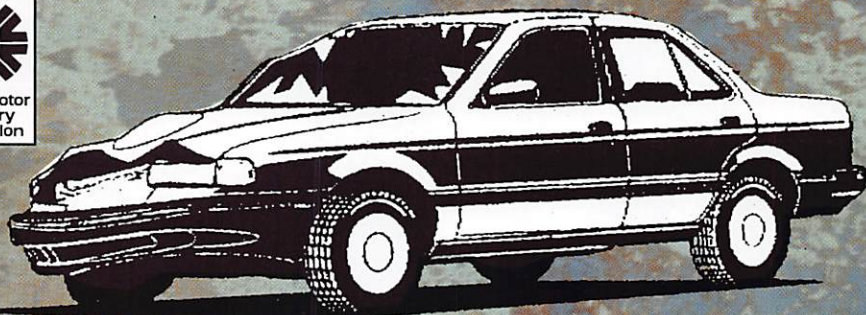
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VIKINGS 1999



WOLLLAM BOOOT

■ **Did you hear about the bus from Widnes which left to go to Barrow at 10.30am on Sunday and still missed the kick-off?**

It contained members of the Millennium Club who enjoyed a leisurely lunch on the way, but the reason they were late was because the driver took them on an unscheduled detour around South Lakeland. OK, he took a wrong turning. And no, he wasn't following directions from the match programme, which were 100% accurate, as they almost always are. Anyway, a message for all Millennium Members - the coach for the Lancashire Lynx game in two weeks' time leaves immediately after kick-off today.

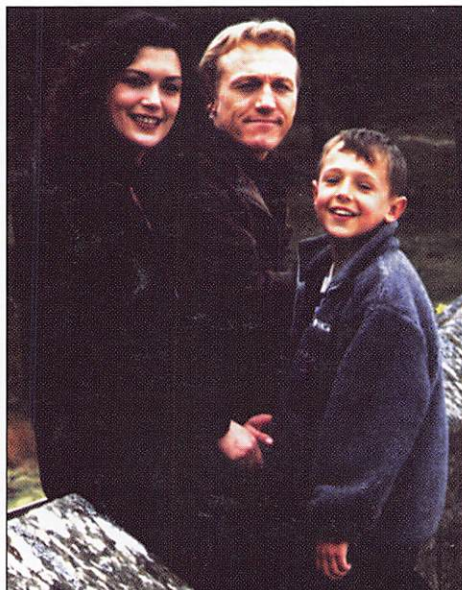
■ **I thought we played well at Craven Park last Sunday without doing anything too spectacular (except Damian's try, of course).**

Barrow have been scoring points for fun of late, so it was a major achievement to keep them tryless and after the Featherstone defeat the main thing was getting the two points. The highlight of the day for me was, however, the timekeeping. I thought that the men with the hooter did an ideal job keeping track of the time and they are to be congratulated (regular readers will not be surprised to learn that

the Widnes timekeeper was a Mr P Chadwick).

■ **A big welcome to some distinguished visitors today at the Auto Quest Stadium today.**

First of all we welcome Widnes-born Scott Karalius (well obviously he is Widnes-born with a name like that). Scott, who is aged ten, is starring in the new BBC1 drama series "Badger" which is broadcast at 8.30pm on Sundays. In the programme he plays the son of a vet who is romantically involved with the main character, Tom McCabe. Pictured, right, are Scott along with fellow actors Jerome Flynn and Phillippa Wilson. Our other guests are from the Crewe Wolves RL team, who play their football in the RL Conference, the national league which



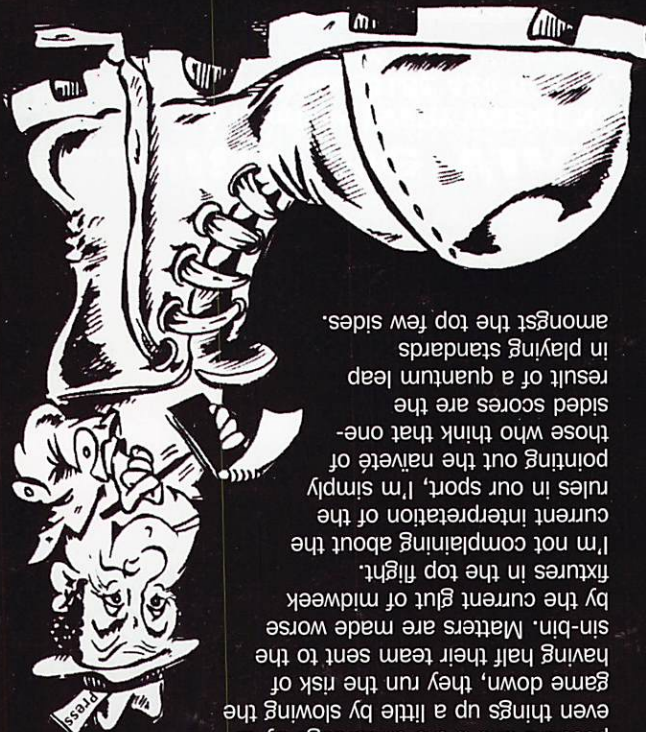
includes the likes of Ipswich, Wolverhampton and Oxford.

■ **Some of you out there might well be expecting me to make some comment about the situation with Ellery Hanley over at St Helens.**

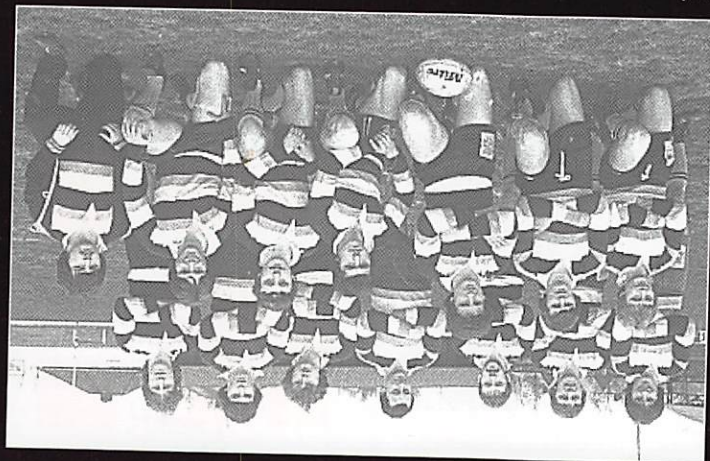
Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, but there are some things which are so bizarre that they are beyond satire.

■ **Some people tie a knot in their hanky.**

WIDNES VIKINGS



were these same voices raised when Saints slaughtered Leeds earlier this year? Or when the Rhinos destroyed London at Wembley? Or after the two Saints-Bradford games, both of which resulted in lopsided scores? Sure there were extenuating circumstances on those occasions, but so there were for the Sharks and Giants, both of whom have lengthy injury lists. The truth is that with the ten metre rule, the handover laws and the emphasis on quick play the balls, modern RL is so demanding that the slightest imbalance in strength between two teams can result in a cricket score. The rules are designed to keep the ball in play as much as possible and if the underdogs try to even things up a little by slowing the game down, they run the risk of having half their team sent to the sin-bin. Matters are made worse by the current glut of midweek fixtures in the top flight. I'm not complaining about the current interpretation of the rules in our sport, I'm simply pointing out the naïveté of those who think that one-sided scores are the result of a quantum leap amongst the top few sides.



Others write a note on the back of their hand. Not so our hi-tech Alliance Coach Mr Bernard Long. When he has something that he needs to remember he phones his own home and leaves himself a message on the answerphone!

Simon Verbruggen has certainly endeared himself to Widnes fans with his play over the last few months, especially with sensational tries like his one against Featherstone the other week.

But it seems that the wider public are not yet aware of his feats. The other Saturday "Bing" was doing his bit, handing out leaflets in the town centre promoting the game the following day, when he was asked by passers-by on three separate occasions whether he would be going to watch the match tomorrow!

A reader, Mr G Jenkins of Mold, has passed me the team photo which appears on this page and has asked me to appeal to you for information as to its origins.

Mr Jenkins reckons that the picture dates back to the years immediately after the war, judging by the fact that several of the players seem to be wearing German Army helmets. If anybody can identify the individuals pictured, who must be in their seventies by now, please let me know.

The usual arguments were trotted out last week when Hull and Huddersfield were both hammered in Super League. "The gap in standards is too wide" they all wail. "Something must be done". Those scorelines have even been used as proof that Super League should be slimmed down, perhaps to as few as ten clubs. But

QUIZ ANSWERS Question Time: 1. John

Fieldhouse. 2. Duncan Platt, Andy Ruane. 3. Hewitt, Cantillon, Crichtley, Savelio. 4. Grima and Holliday. 5. Frank Myler and Mick Burke.

Two Minute Teaser

1. Howard Morris. 2. Dewsbury. 3. North Sydney Bears. 4. Mick Stone. 5. Graeme Bradley.

Junior Quiz: 1. Mann, Munro, Myler.

2. Rochdale. 3. Doncaster. 4. Twenty-five.



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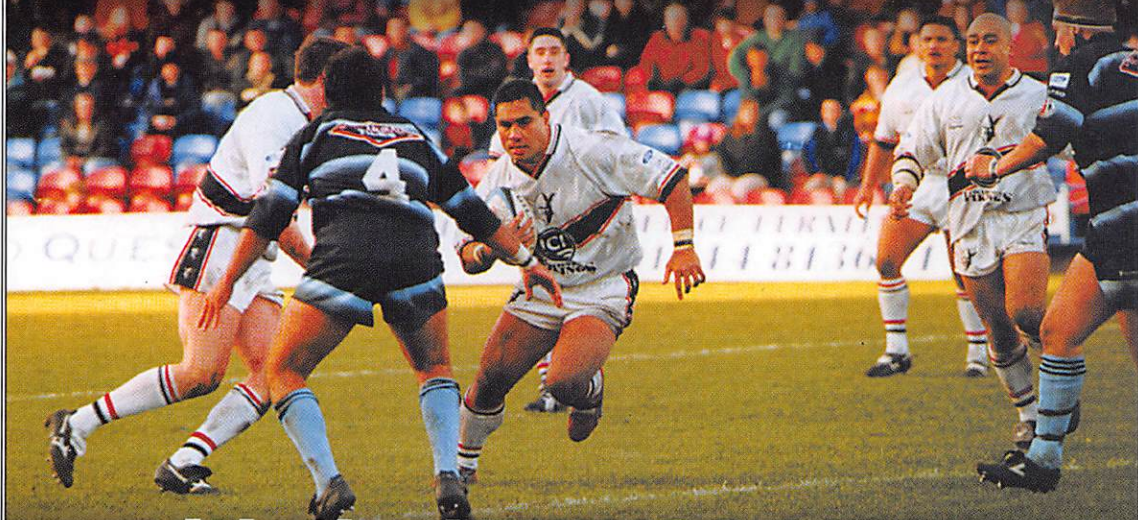
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CLUB FEATURE - WIDNES ALBION BULLS

Early in 1995 the first seeds of the club were sewn following discussions in the Albion Hotel between Radio Merseyside's sports presenter Steve Roberts and former Simms Cross star centre and Lancashire open-age amateurs' trainer Eric Woods. Landlord Geoff Mercer immediately gave his full support to the idea and took on the role of Club Chairman. Eric was town team coach at the time and had led the town to Inter-League success in 1993. His reputation and skills were well respected throughout the town and the club soon attracted enough players to join the North West Counties League.

The first season was quite successful playing in Division 5 of the NWC League. Promotion to Division 4 was achieved behind Wigan Tech and Wigan St.Judes. The help and guidance of Mally Robinson and Alan Magee were invaluable to the younger players as the club were only the second Widnes side to win the NWC new club of the year award. (Steve O'Neill's Appleton Park won the award in 1989-90).

The 1996-97 season saw the team crowned as Division 4 champions ahead of Eccles. The team lost only two games during the season. Danny Malone, Peter Curphey and Keith Murphy were the stars that year as the Albion made their name nationally when they came close to a major upset in the BARLA National Cup. Only a couple of last minute tries gave Beverly, the then National Conference League leaders, a fortunate win before a big crowd at the Albion's ground on Leigh Rec. in Lowerhouse Lane.

The 1997-98 season proved harder than the Albion thought it would be but the side still finished in the runners up spot in Division 3 behind a very good Portico Panthers side from St.Helens, and gained promotion again at the first attempt. Paul Davies and Geoff Jackson had outstanding seasons, with Paul going on to represent Lancashire along with team mates Andy Friar and Keith Murphy. Danny Malone was also selected but suffered a fractured eye socket and was unable to play.

The club suffered a further set back in the 1998-99 season when they just missed out on automatic promotion from Division 2

finishing in third place behind Oldham St.Annes and Portico. However League reorganisations could see the Albion move up anyway. The Albion was one of the few teams to defeat Portico last season and will be favourites for promotion this year if they do remain in Division 2.

The club's reputation continued to grow and the 1998 season saw the club add a second team under the tutelage of former Lowerhouse and St.Bedes half-back Tony Yates. The second team had a great first season finishing second to undefeated Warrington side Rylands in the NWC Alliance Division. The club also added a pitch on St Peter and Paul High School this season to give them access to superb changing facilities.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the selection of loose forward Geoff Williams in the BARLA International side. Geoff followed outstanding performances for Lancashire with a substitute spot in the Lions close defeat in France. It was no surprise to see Geoff awarded the club's player of the year awards. The Albion's success was noted by Widnes RFL club who have signed Lee Birdseye and Andrew Benson from the club.

The Bulls are currently on the lookout for a couple of experienced players to complement an excellent set of lads. Anybody joining the club can be assured of a very good set up and social life! John Malone has returned to his role as club secretary this year, along with his duties on the Widnes and North West Counties open-age committees. Former referee Bryn Davies carried out the secretaries' duties last year. It would not be fair to write anything about the Albion without mentioning the contributions of supporters like Chris, Nikki and Carly who work in the kitchen every home game to serve up the refreshments. Also Geoff Jackson for getting everything ready each week and Chris Fenlon for his incredible fund-raising efforts.

The club also sends a big thank-you to their sponsors, John Ward of Taurus Removals, Ste Scott of Link Alarms, Peter Littler of Premier Security, RMC and Mick and Joe Burns. The support of the local amateur league is also acknowledged.

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With Mike Ford & Andy Gregory

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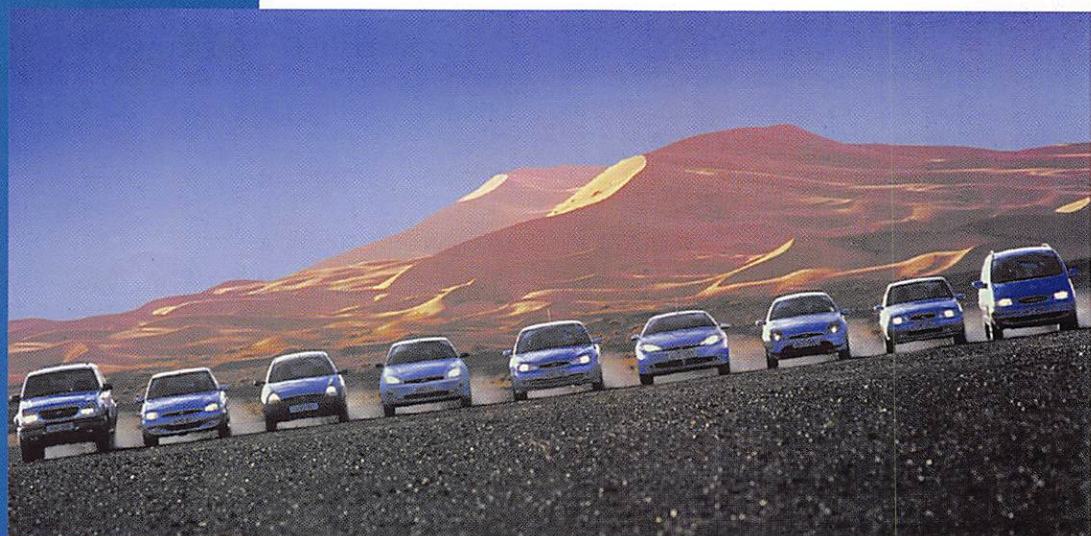
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One of the more interesting things to emerge from a retrospective like this one is the way attendances fluctuate over the seasons.

I'm sure that both Oldham and ourselves would like to think that if we got into Super League tomorrow then we could count on crowds of four or five thousand. And yet when the two clubs were in the top flight you can see that there were sub-three thousand crowds here at Widnes in 1986/87 and at Oldham in consecutive seasons in the mid-1990's. Statistics like those make you realise why Directors of RL clubs almost always have grey hair!

And yet, when the occasion captures the imagination, both sets of fans have proved that they will turn out in force. Nearly 12,000 for the cup tie here in 1990 tells its own story, and there were more than 9,000 at Naughton Park twelve months earlier when David Myers scored a hat-trick as a deputy for Martin Offiah, who was on GB duty in France. Jonathan Davies scored his first ever Widnes try that day in his first full appearance.

Even as recently as last year more than 4,500 people watched the first ever game for the new Oldham club against professional opposition when they visited the Auto Quest in the Challenge Cup. Their struggles in the 1999 season will almost certainly mean that they will bring nowhere near the level of support to this

game as they did that day, but even so there is every possibility that today's attendance will surpass some of those mentioned below.

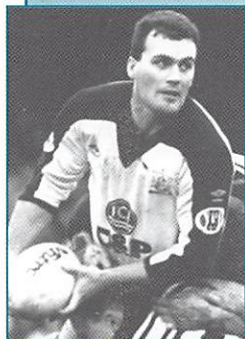
Widnes v. Oldham - the past 15 seasons:

1985/86	FD	H	D	10-10	4,926
	FD	A	D	10-10	6,811
1986/87	LC	A	L	14-16	5,601
	FD	A	L	16-22	3,875
1988/89	FD	H	W	44-10	2,798
	FD	H	W	38-14	9,264
1989/90	FD	A	W	35-16	6,776
	CC	H	L	4-16	11,802
1990/91	FD	H	W	24-16	7,361
	FD	A	W	24-18	5,541
1993/94	FD	H	W	14-12	4,752
	FD	A	L	12-22	2,962
1994/95	FD	A	L	0-29	2,774
	RT	H	W	20-6	3,517
1995/96	FD	H	W	40-4	3,278
	RT	H	W	32-8	3,472
1998	CC	H	W	48-8	4,579
1999	NFP	A	W	33-18	1,515

ONE TO REMEMBER

FOR WIDNES: Oldham 16 Widnes 35, First Division, 22/3/89

For Widnes, this was the third game in a gruelling sequence of ten matches in 32 days as we fought an ultimately successful battle to defend our RL champions title. Hundreds of our fans missed the opening quarter of the game, by which time we had already established a lead thanks to tries by Wright and Davies, the latter a 60 yard scorcher. However it wasn't all plain sailing. A spirited Oldham fightback rattled the Widnes team and a sudden burst of blizzard-like weather covered the playing surface, threatening a possible abandonment - the last thing the Chemics need with such a congested fixture list. But despite home tries from Robinson, Cogger and Allen, we just about kept our noses in front. Darren Wright (pictured) literally skated over from 40 yards for his second touchdown and the points were secured when Davies scored another wonder try - this time from 50 yards out. The weather had eased by the time Rick Thackray put the icing on the cake with an 80 yard run after an Oldham fumble.



FOR OLDHAM: Widnes 4 Oldham 16, Challenge Cup Quarter Final, 25/2/90

Despite our patchy form in the months following the famous victory over Canberra, we were expected to have no trouble in disposing of Second Division Oldham in this Challenge Cup clash. However the Roughyeds had other ideas and completely dominated this game from start to finish. Ex-Chemic Keith Newton was outstanding and scored one of the two visitors' tries (John Henderson got the other) but there were fifteen heroes for Oldham that day. Four Duncan Platt goals made up the rest of their points tally while Widnes could only muster two Jonathan Davies penalties. Oldham were now only 80 minutes from their first ever

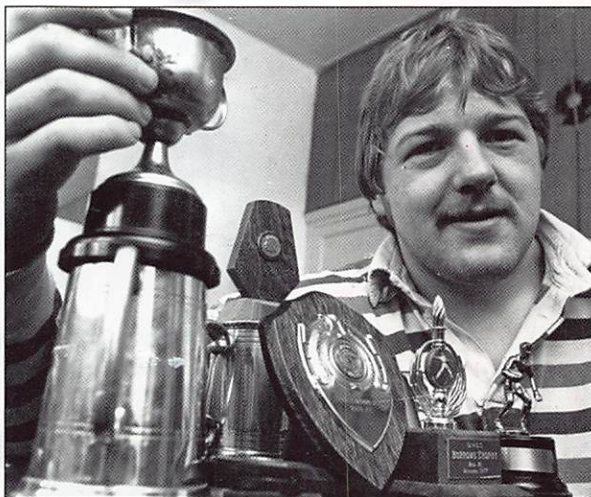
Wembley appearance and they got the semi final draw they wanted when paired with Warrington - Wigan v Saints being the other tie. Sadly for the men from Watersheddings it wasn't to be. Despite a valiant struggle, the Wire held on for a 10-6 victory, although Oldham did have a last minute try disallowed in controversial circumstances.

the PheyseyFILE

In an attempt to make a link between ourselves and our opponents today, Oldham, I decided to look at a player who played at both clubs and who represented his county and his country at both England and Great Britain levels.

Mick Burke played at Widnes between 1978-1986 before moving to Oldham where he played out the remainder of his career. Burke signed for the Chemics from Waterloo RU, having played as a school boy at the famous Cowley School in St Helens, under the watchful eye of teacher/coach Ray French. Burke quickly established himself as a first team player at Widnes and, after featuring on the wing and at stand-off, made the full back spot his own. He was an exceptional talent, possessing all of the qualities that a full back should have and one or two more besides.

Under a high ball Mick was as safe as houses. No matter how high or how often high kicks were put up in front of Mick he dealt with them effortlessly. Mick was also 'deceptive' in the sense that this bulky full back had a turn of speed which could match that of any threequarter over forty or fifty yards. There were times when he was even quick off the mark! When his speed was combined with his bulk, Mick Burke was a formidable sight as he joined the Widnes backline, crashing onto a Tony Myler or Andy Gregory pass and running through a gap (or a defender) in the opposition ranks.



As a defender, Mick was second to none. He had the ability to judge which way the most elusive of runners was going to go and always managed to bring them down whether they tried to side step, run around or run over him.

Mick was also an excellent passer of the ball and must have been a great friend to the wingers who received passes whilst playing outside him. He scored tries as well as making them in both league games and on the centre stage. He was also a phenomenal goal kicker, his highest seasonal tally being 140 in 1979-80 season.

In the 1981 Cup Final 'Burkey' scored our first try against Hull KR to get us off to a flying start. His four goals in addition to this, combined with a superb all-round performance earned him the Lance Todd Trophy. Mick played in four Wembley Cup Finals in all, gaining winners medals in 1979, 1981 and 1984, whilst picking up a losers medal in 1982 against Hull in the replayed final at Elland Road. In Premiership finals Mick only knew success with both Widnes and Oldham. He represented Widnes in three finals in 1980, 82 and 83 and then played in the Second Division final for Oldham when they beat Featherstone in 1988. In the 1982 final, Mick won the Harry Sunderland Trophy in the win against Hull. He also played in and scored in the 1978 Floodlit Cup Final when Widnes beat St Helens 13-7. Three appearances in Regal Trophy Finals brought only one winners medal, against Warrington in 1979. Mick also starred in three Lancashire Cup finals for Widnes between 1978 and 1981.

As an international player he played for England once and Great Britain fifteen times, including one as a substitute. During those years he was regularly accompanied in an international jersey by other Widnes players, Tony Myler, Andy Gregory and Mick Adams.

Colin Pheysey

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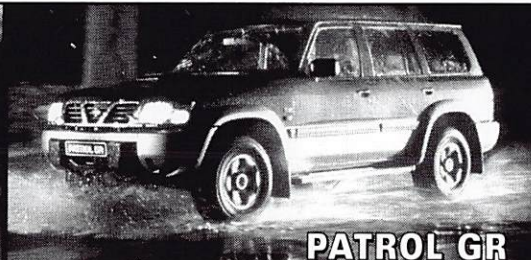
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WIDNES
VIKINGS

Lee BIRDSEYE

Date of Birth: 5/8/79

Place of Birth: Whiston

Nickname: Birdseye

Weight: 11st 7lb

Height: 5' 7"

Previous Club(s): Widnes Albion

Role Model (RL): Iestyn Harris

Role Model (non-RL): None

Where did you score your first try?:

Wilderspool

Hardest tackler faced?: None

What advice would you give to youngsters?:

Listen to your coach. Don't drink or take drugs.

What was the last...

...film you watched?:

Ten Things I Hate About You

...music you bought?: Robbie Williams

...book you read?: None

...holiday you took?: Tenerife

...newspaper you read?: Sun

...car you drove?: None

...TV programme you saw: Eastenders

If you could have a 'one to one' with any person living or dead, who would that be

and what

question would you ask them?:

Mike Tyson - why are you such an animal?

Date of Birth:

971 AD

Place of Birth:

The Horns

Weight:

20st

Height: 7ft

Previous Club(s):

A big wooden one for hitting Anglo-Saxons with.

Role Model (RL):

St Bernard

Role Model (non-RL): Odin

Where did you score your first try?:

Auto Quest at half time against the ballboys

Hardest tackler faced?:

Bramley fans

What advice would you give to youngsters?:

I can't talk!

What was the last...

...film you watched?: Norse By Norse West

...music you bought?: The Pillage People

...book you read?: The Norse Whisperer

...holiday you took?: North Sea cruise

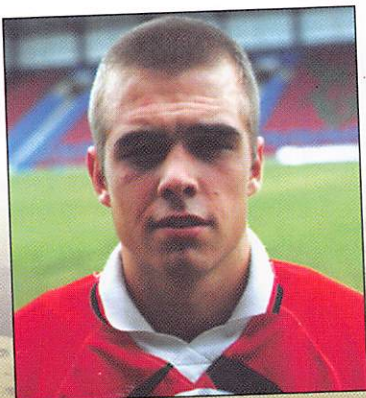
...newspaper you read?: Viking Flagship

...car you drove?: Fjord Fiesta

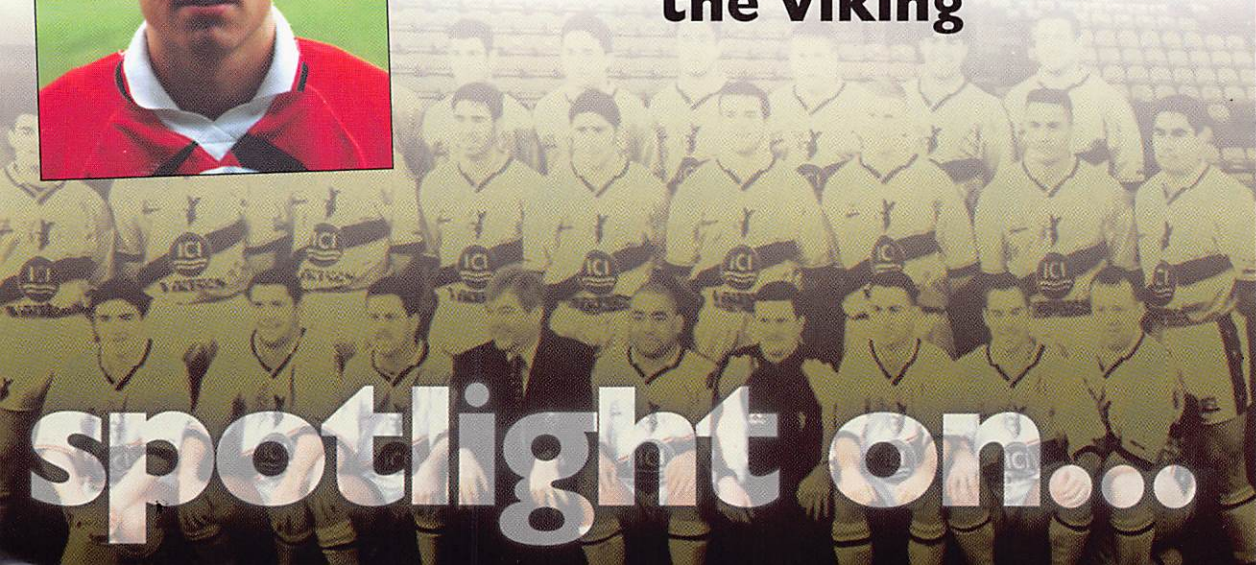
...TV programme you saw: Look Norse

Who, living or dead, would you most like to have a 'one to one' with, and what would

you ask?: Lord Lucan. Are you living or dead?



KEMIK the Viking



spotlight on...

The world
from inside
an anorak,
with Chris
Westwood

"the guides would have Noddy Holder sideboards"

If you go to York, then you must visit the Jorvik Viking Centre, if you haven't already done so. After all, the pre-mediaeval Scandinavian which the invaders brought to this country is very much our heritage. You get a flavour of this on a Friday night in the streets of Widnes after chucking out time, and who here today doesn't have Danish pork luncheon meat for tea of a Sunday before setting off to IKEA?

If you haven't been, this is what happens. You climb into a car, a bit like on the waltzers. You then go back in time, commentary courtesy of Magnus Magnusson into a highly lifelike replica of the original Viking settlement. It's lifelike right down to the smells (those smells!) and noises which you would expect from a place where plumbing, dettox spray and those strange oil burner things which are so popular have yet to be thought of and where they gut a lot of fish.

Why am I telling you this? Assuming you've read this far. The third side of our futuristic yet homely stadium now looks complete, even if it isn't yet. Opposite is the only reminder left of the old Naughton Park, semi derelict, the terracing weed covered and holes in the rusty corrugated iron roof...just like it always was back in the old days.

So far as I know, there are no definite plans as yet for the scoreboard end of the Auto Quest. Well let me tell that we are sitting on a gold mine here. The funfair industry is in recession big style, so there must be plenty of redundant waltzer cars going cheap as well as lads with 'love' and 'hate' tattooed on their knuckles to jump on the back when there are lasses riding on them. What I'm talking about is "THE WIDNES VIKING CENTRE". The guides would have feathered haircuts with Noddy Holder sideboards and wear those trousers they used to wear at Wigan Casino along with those short lumberjack jackets with furry collars that had two buckles on them which didn't fasten anything.

You could artificially recreate the smell of Woodbine smoke, frying onions, stale

urine and have a sound track of people shouting "Hit 'im with yer wallet Watkins", "feedin'", "never retired" (soon to return to a Rugby League stadium near you, should so-called competitive scrums return), "that Offiah won't make the grade, he won't tackle" and of course "Yer dirty bugger Sorensen", when he played for Wigan and "He's hard is our Kurt", when he played for Widnes. There's bound to be lottery money available for this, after all they dish it out for dafter things don't they? Commentary would, of course, be by our very own Magnus Magnusson and a man of impeccable Widnes credentials...Ray French. Ray is mining a rich seam of credibility at the moment. It reminds me of how it's OK to like Bob Monkhouse these days because Ben Elton and his mates say so. Ray is currently whipping up a storm in his column in the Rugby Leaguer, especially now that he is giving his beef about squad numbers a rest and is casting his nets a bit wider. French is knowledgeable, thoughtful, and progressive, but only the Rugby Leaguer could call his column 'French Lessons'. Still it could have been 'Rays a Laugh' or 'Electric Ray'. I'll get me coat.

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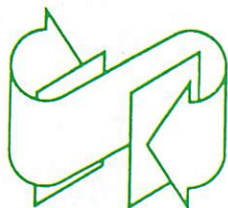
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16.
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PENALTIES 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Mr R Silverwood

Mr P Grundill, Mr N Eyers
NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP
(up to and including Sunday 18 July 1999)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Hull KR	22	18	1	3	497	286	211	37
Leigh	22	17	0	5	630	414	216	34
Hunslet	22	16	0	6	676	307	369	32
Dewsbury	22	15	2	5	581	407	174	32
WIDNES	22	15	0	7	561	363	198	30
Featherstone	22	13	1	8	548	396	152	27
York	22	12	1	9	491	350	141	25
Whitehaven	22	12	0	10	477	498	-21	24
Keighley	22	11	1	10	463	473	-10	23
Batley	22	9	3	10	460	391	69	21
Bramley	22	9	1	12	386	456	-70	19
Barrow	22	9	0	13	530	588	-58	18
Workington	22	8	1	13	404	641	-237	17
Swinton	22	8	0	14	474	477	-3	16
Rochdale	22	7	0	15	413	537	-124	14
OLDHAM	22	4	2	16	379	688	-309	10
Lancashire L	22	5	0	17	410	762	-352	10
Doncaster	22	3	1	18	374	720	-346	7


VIKINGS MASCOT

Andrew Bowles, was nine last Tuesday, and he attends Ditton County School. He plays rugby for West Bank and his favourite player is Jim Salisbury


THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES
NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP
Friday

Lancashire v Featherstone

Sunday

Batley v York
 Bramley v Hull KR
 Doncaster v Hunslet
 Keighley v Rochdale
 Leigh v Barrow
 Swinton v Whitehaven
 Workington v Dewsbury