
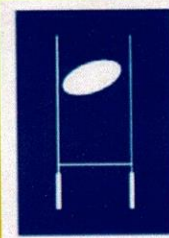

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Roughyeds



Rugby Oldham

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In association with Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust

Presents
“Roughyeds and Kangaroos”
 A celebration dinner for the 25th anniversary of
 Oldham v Australia November 4th 1986
 and the 100th anniversary of
 Oldham v Australia November 11th 1911 at
 St Annes Rugby League Club, Higginshaw Road, Oldham,
 on November 11th 2011 7.30pm


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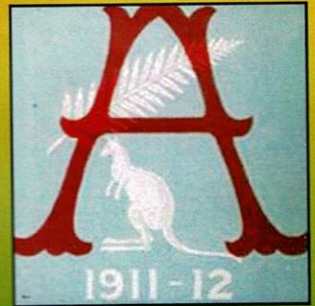
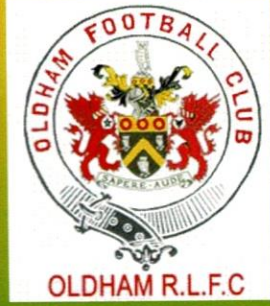

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Kangaroos

		Left: Captains 1911 Albert Avery Chris McKivat		
				

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Roughyeds

Andy Wilson - Rugby League Correspondent The Guardian & The Observer.

Just a normal Tuesday night in November. Probably had rugby (Union) practice after school, and I think my sister had a flute lesson. Then the usual drive through Poynton, Hazel Grove, Hyde and Ashton, up Sharples Hall Street, to the ground. I'd guess Dad had some treacle toffees in his pocket, with it being so close to Bonfire Night.

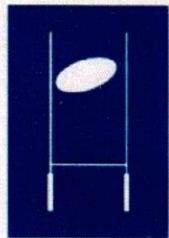
We'd been to Old Trafford 10 days or so earlier to see the mighty Kangaroos win the First Test pretty comfortably, despite a brilliant Joe Lydon try laid on by our own Andy Goodway - even if he had defected to Wigan by that stage. This was Australia's midweek team, who had already recorded comfortable victories over Hull KR, Cumbria and Halifax (the reigning champions!). But they were still mythical figures for a teenage Oldham fan who followed the Winfield Cup closely through the pages of Rugby League Week, and the odd video from Micron. Gary Belcher, Dale Shearer, Les Davidson and the two most exotic names of all, Terry Lamb and Benny Elias. In the flesh, pretty much within touching distance, at Watersheddings.

To be honest, my memories of the match itself were pretty hazy. Colin Hawkyard scored a famous try, and there was a spectacular brawl a few yards in front of where we stood on the terrace on the Penny Rush side of the tunnel, in which Terry Flanagan and Bruiser Clark featured prominently for Oldham - my mental image is of them both high-kicking, Can-Can style - and Phil Daley reinforced his reputation as Australia's bad guy. But thanks to the magic of Youtube, I've just had those memories refreshed, with the idiosyncratic commentary of the late Rex Mossop as an extra bonus. The brawl has been edited out - I'll have to ask my Dad to dig out his old VHS video of the game, and then find somewhere to play it! - but Hawkyard's try is there in all its glory. So are two cracking tries from Lamb, with his very mid-80s mullet. And Watersheddings, bouncing, with a crowd that looks much bigger than the 5,678 that was officially declared. More poignant is the sight of little David Topliss, who wasn't far short of his 37th birthday, running into the heart of the Aussie defence. I was lucky enough to get to know David through my journalism when he was coaching at Wakefield, and was probably the only writer who generally steered conversations to that November night at Watersheddings - which he remembered very fondly.

That would generally lead to reflections of how a team who were good enough to push the Aussies so close, and to reach the Lancashire Cup final, and to knock Wigan out of the Challenge Cup, could end up being relegated - a blow from which Oldham never quite recovered, it seemed to me, despite subsequent promotions.

But this is not a night to worry about that sort of thing. It's a chance to reflect on how a team including such unsung heroes as Hawkyard, Jeff Edwards, Paul Sherman and Neil Clawson took on the mighty Kangaroos - and gave us all such wonderful memories. Thanks to them all.

Kangaroos



Rugby Oldham

A RUGBY LEAGUE COMMUNITY TRUST

It goes without saying that, as ever, without the support and Backing of all our sponsors and helpers, tonight's event would have been impossible to organise.

To all of you a massive thank you!

To our guests - enjoy the evening.

Roughyeds

November 11th 1911.

OLDHAM 14 AUSTRALIA 8

The match against the 1911 Australian tourists was subject to great anticipation in Oldham due to the fact that they arrived in the town having suffered just one defeat (Wigan) and one draw (Hunslet) in their previous 14 games.

It was a misty Watersheddings that greeted the tourists as they took the field a quarter of an hour after the match was due to start owing to the touring party being delayed by a much denser fog as they travelled up from Manchester.

Tour captain Chris McKivat won the toss for Australia and chose to receive first possession. Joe Ferguson duly kicked-off. The ball was fielded by Albert Broomham who kicked the ball directly into touch which resulted in the first scrum of the match on the Australian twenty-five yard line. The visiting forwards came away from the scrum in a rush which was defused when Alf Wood scrambled the ball into touch. Next it was Oldham's turn to go on the offensive. Half-backs George Anlezark and Tommy Brice moved the ball out to Jim Lomas who broke clear only for his winger George Cook to miss the final pass.

The Australians responded and, after their compatriot Syd Deane had fumbled a pass, Broomham got clear only for Cook to redeem himself by checking his opposing winger's progress with a timely ankle-tap. Viv Farnsworth was proving a danger in open play and it took a good tackle from George Smith to prevent him from scoring. Arthur Francis was unsuccessful with a penalty attempt which occurred just prior to Oldham almost taking the lead. After a kick from McKivat was charged down by Anlezark, Lomas dribbled forward then dropped on the ball for what appeared to be a good try. However, the referee disallowed the effort ruling that the ball had already crossed the dead-ball line.

Two minutes later Oldham did register the first score when Billy JARDINE kicked a penalty goal. This seemed to act as a wake-up call for the tourists who set about their endeavours with renewed vigour. Broomham kicked cleverly over Cook's head and then re-gathered the ball only to be foiled by another fine piece of defence by Wood. The Australians were now in the ascendancy and the pressure finally told when another good break by the elusive Farnsworth created a try for Howard HALLETT. The conversion attempt by Francis was unsuccessful. It did not take Oldham long to hit back. In fact only two minutes later Courtney was pulled up for offside and this time WOOD put over the goal to restore a one point lead for Oldham.

Just before half time the Australians regained the advantage when, direct from a scrum, McCue fed the ball to Farnsworth who sent out a peach of a pass to GILBERT. The centre hit the ball at top speed which carried him through the home defence for a great try which was warmly applauded by the Oldham crowd. FRANCIS tacked on the conversion to give the Kangaroos a half time lead of eight points to four.

Kangaroos

Roughyeds

*A dapper looking Viv Farnsworth.
Scrum-half for the Kangaroos at Watersheddings in
1911 he signed for Oldham at the conclusion of the
tour along with his brother and fellow tourist, Billy.*



As the teams left the field referee Smith was implored by the spectators to "play the game", as it seemed that a blind eye was being turned to a number of knock-ons and forward passes by the tourists.

The third quarter was dominated by the defences of both teams but just before the hour mark a kick ahead left the ball nestled over the Oldham line with Farnsworth, Gilbert and Broomham in hot pursuit only for an Oldham defender to make the ball dead in the nick of time. From the resumption McKivat went close and it seemed the Australians were taking control of the match. The course of the game changed on a controversial decision that this time favoured the Roughyeds. After a scrum near half-way Anlezark burst forward and sent a clever punt behind Fraser. The two players then chased the ball to the Australian try line and although it appeared that Fraser was the first to ground the leather, to the amazement of the crowd ANLEZARK was awarded the try. WOOD converted to give Oldham the lead once more. The Oldham full-back was in great form and again saved his side with a crunching tackle on Russell who looked odds on to score.

The next score came after Tommy Brice had dribbled the ball up to half-way. Fraser knocked on in trying to retrieve possession and from the resulting scrum Oldham were awarded a penalty. The position was fifty yards out from the posts and also half way to the touch line. A tremendous distance! Nevertheless, up stepped Joe FERGUSON who pointed to the posts to notify that he was going for goal. Always a man for the big occasion, the kick proved successful and according to reports "still had good height when it crossed the bar". This mammoth effort by the Oldham legend deflated the visitors who succumbed once more with ten minutes to go when Lomas broke clear, drew in the remaining cover and sent COOK over for a "walk in" at the corner. The try went unimproved to leave Oldham the victors by fourteen points to eight.

OLDHAM: A. Wood; G.W. Smith, S. Deane, J. Lomas, G. Cook;
T. Brice, E.A. Anlezark.
W. Biggs, J. Ferguson, A. Smith, T. McCabe, W. Jardine, A. Avery.

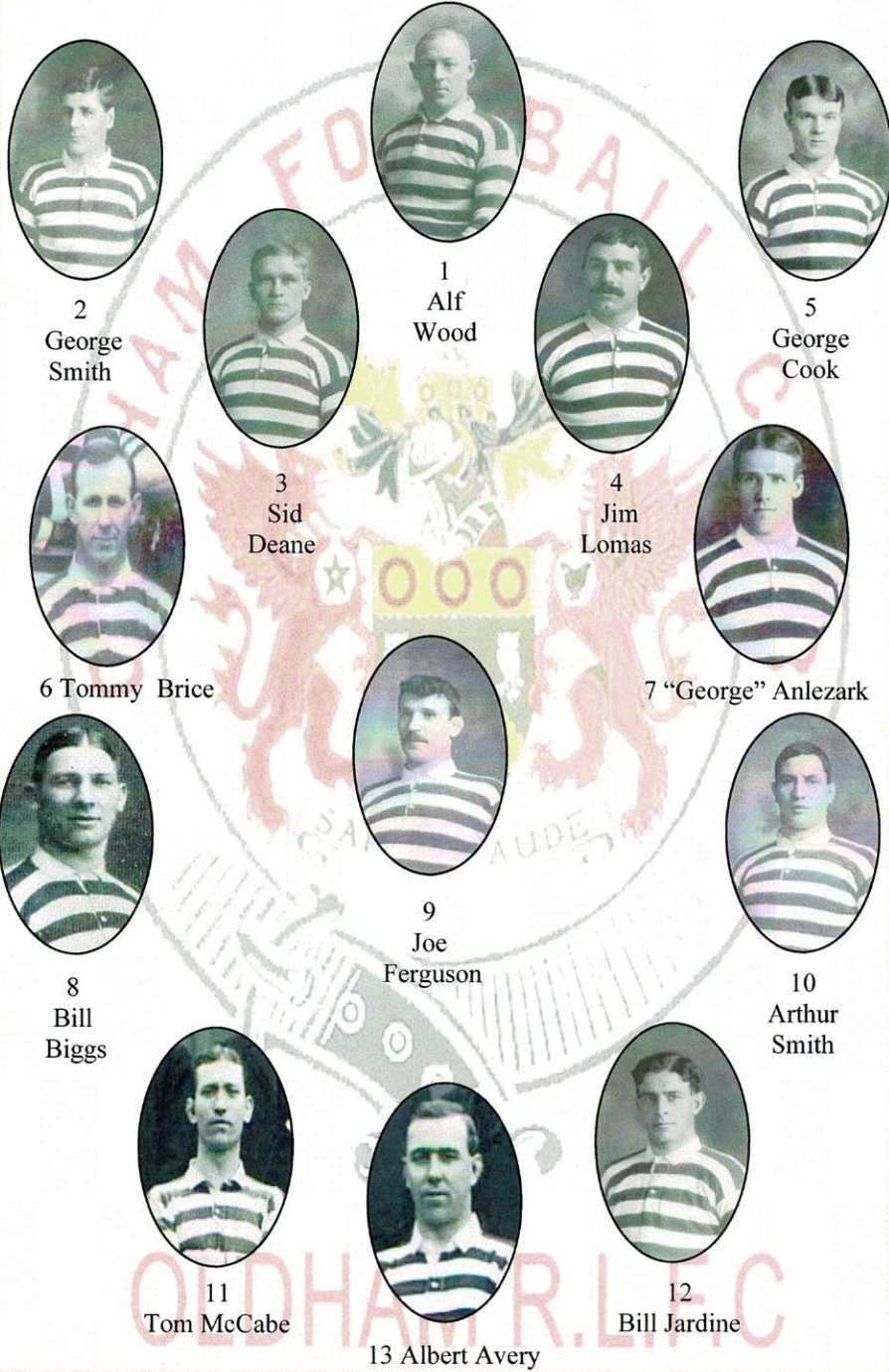
AUSTRALIA: C. Fraser; A. Broomham, H. Hallett, H. Gilbert, C. Russell;
C.H. McKivat, V. Farnsworth;
W.A. Cann, E. Courtney, R. Craig, A.R.H. Francis, P.A. McCue, R. Williams.

Attendance: 10,500

Referee: Mr. A. Smith.

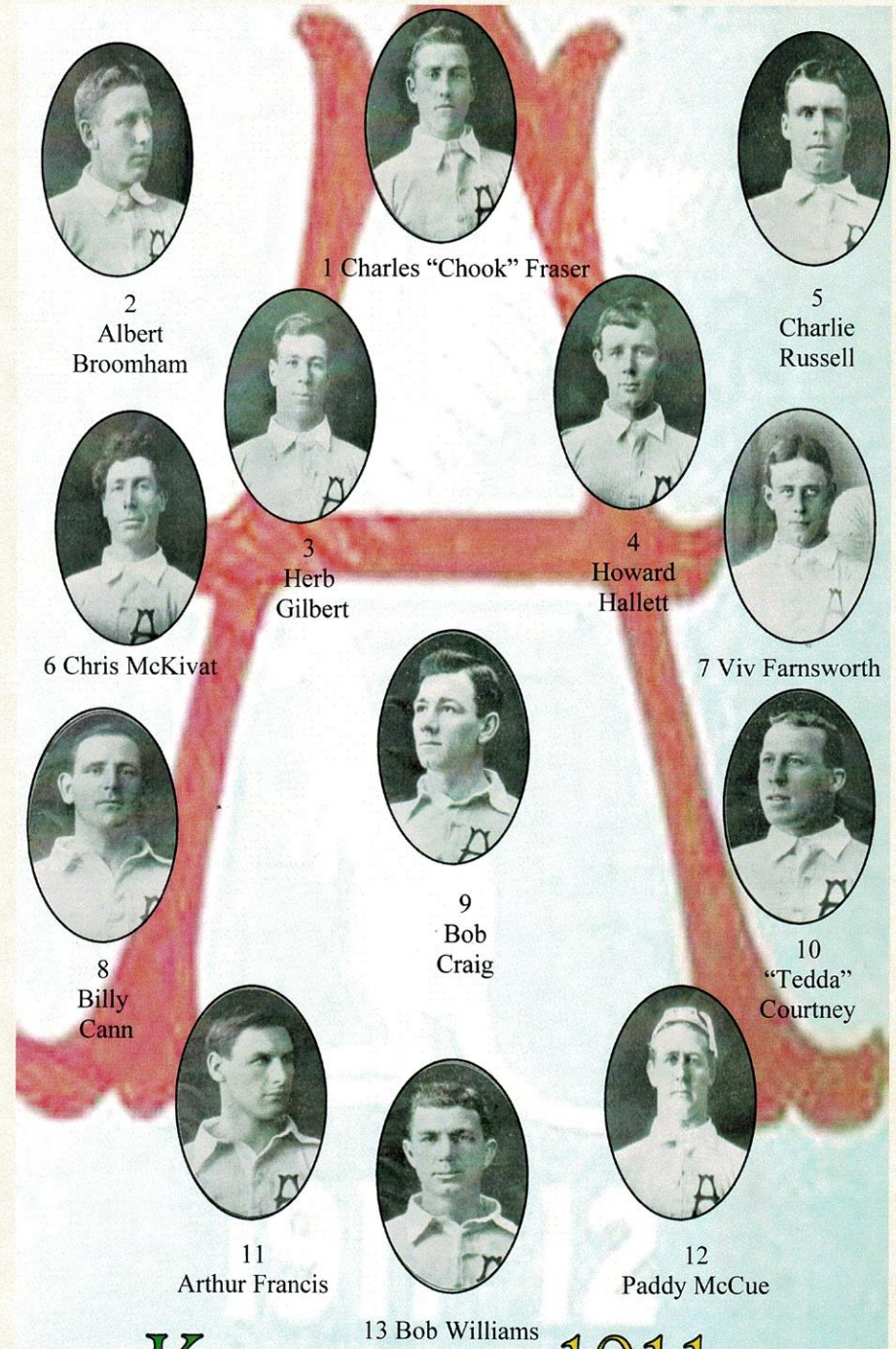
Kangaroos

Roughyeds 1911



A group of 13 oval portraits of the Roughyeds 1911 football team. The portraits are arranged in a grid-like pattern. The background features a large, faint crest with the text 'HAM FOOTBALL CLUB' and 'OLDHAM R.L.F.C.' visible.

2 George Smith	1 Alf Wood	5 George Cook
3 Sid Deane	4 Jim Lomas	7 "George" Anlezark
6 Tommy Brice	9 Joe Ferguson	10 Arthur Smith
8 Bill Biggs	11 Tom McCabe	12 Bill Jardine
	13 Albert Avery	



A group of 13 oval portraits of the Kangaroos 1911 football team. The portraits are arranged in a grid-like pattern. The background features a large, faint crest with a prominent red 'K' shape.

2 Albert Broomham	1 Charles "Chook" Fraser	5 Charlie Russell
3 Herb Gilbert	4 Howard Hallett	7 Viv Farnsworth
6 Chris McKivat	9 Bob Craig	10 "Tedda" Courtney
8 Billy Cann	11 Arthur Francis	12 Paddy McCue
	13 Bob Williams	

Kangaroos 1911

Roughyeds

Oldham v Australia - Through the years

In the overall total of tour matches the Australians have won 12 and drew one of the 17 encounters with the last victory for the Roughyeds coming in 1956 when the Aussies were humbled 21 – 2 by the championship winning Oldham team.

It was on Boxing Day 1908 that the Kangaroos visited Watersheddings for the first time. However, it wasn't until the third tour in 1921 that they managed a victory over the Roughyeds and even then Oldham beat the Aussies in a re-match before they returned home. That match was played in January 1922 and since then the Kangaroos have dominated the fixture winning all but two of the encounters. The afore mentioned match in 1956, when the "Champions to be", gave them a hiding was the last time Oldham triumphed but on the previous tour in 1952 the Roughyeds drew seven points each with the tourists. A great effort by a weakened Oldham team against the rampant Kangaroos, led by Clive Churchill, who won every club game except the match against St Helens.

The biggest score came in 1973 when Australia triumphed by 44 - 10 and there were heavy defeats for Oldham in both of the matches against the 1933/34 tourists. The first match in September finished 6 - 38 to the visitors and in the return in January they literally went one better with a 5 - 38 victory.

The full results are as follows:

1908: Oldham 11	Australia 5	1911: Oldham 14	Australia 8
1921: Oldham 5	Australia 16	1922: Oldham 15	Australia 5
1929: Oldham 10	Australia 18	1933: Oldham 6	Australia 38
1934: Oldham 5	Australia 38	1937: Oldham 6	Australia 10
1948: Oldham 7	Australia 27	1952: Oldham 7	Australia 7
1956: Oldham 21	Australia 2	1959: Oldham 14	Australia 25
1963: Oldham 4	Australia 12	1967: Oldham 8	Australia 18
1973: Oldham 10	Australia 44	1975: Oldham 10	Australia 20
1986: Oldham 16	Australia 22		

Kangaroos

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Above left: 1956: John Etty tackles Alex Watson.



Above right: 1975: A scramble near the try-line before Tom Raudonikis scored.

Below left: 1933: Frank McMillan is tackled by Les Lewis

Below right: 1952: Clive Churchill and Frank Stirrup lead out the teams.



Kangaroos

Roughyeds

November 4th 1986.

OLDHAM 16 AUSTRALIA 22

The crowd of over 5,500 greeted the teams as they entered the arena for what was to be the final tour game at Watersheddings. "Waltzing Matilda" was played for the visitors, followed by "God Save The Queen". Ray Ashton took the kick-off towards the Hutchins stand where it was fielded by Mal Meninga. Straight away one got the impression that the Roughyeds were up for the task when the Aussies were forced into losing possession on the first play of the game and there was only two minutes on the clock when David HOBBS slotted home a simple penalty after the tourists were caught offside. The game erupted on seven minutes as the first scrum broke up in a free-for-all. Several players were involved with fists flying everywhere. The end result saw four players in the bin, Martin Bella and Steve Folkes for the Kangaroos were joined by Paul Sherman and, after much deliberation, Mick Worrall from Oldham.

Ashton made a good break but not surprisingly, it was the Australians who began to make the most of the extra space available with four players off the field. Des Foy did well to defuse a kick ahead by Dale Shearer and came to the rescue again with a good tackle on Terry Lamb. To add to Oldham's worries, Hobbs had to retire to be replaced by Colin Hawkyard with only eleven minutes gone. Michael O'CONNOR levelled the scores with a penalty after a high tackle by Neil Clawson. As the game moved into the second quarter the visitors showed some of their real class as the ball passed through six pairs of hands before O'Connor's inside pass sent LAMB speeding towards the posts. Four minutes later Gary Belcher gathered up a clearance kick and galloped up the right wing. Shearer got with him and a last gasp pass, as the Oldham cover pounced, was enough for LAMB to squeeze in at the corner. O'CONNOR converted both tries to leave the tourists looking comfortable with a twelve point lead after 25 minutes.

Still Oldham refused to capitulate and first Foy and then David Topliss tested the Australian defence with good breaks. Bruce "Bruiser" Clark was enjoying playing against his fellow countrymen and the Oldham pack, in general, were giving as good as they got. They got their reward just before the interval. After Clark had once again battered his way into the heart of the green and golds, quick hands from Ashton and Topliss put Worrall away. The G.B. international beat several players before handing on to Ashton who took the ball out to the left where Gary Warnecke backed up and managed to release a despairing pass in the tackle which HAWKYARD did well to take and scamper over for the try.

Terry Lamb: Two first half tries against the Roughyeds in 1986.



Kangaroos

Roughyeds

WORRALL converted to leave the half-time score: Oldham 8 Australia 14.

The second half saw two early penalty misses, one for each side. In between Hussein M'Barki did well to clear his line after a kick through. O'Connor failed with two more goal attempts but WORRALL put one over after thirteen minutes. The Roughyeds reshuffled the back line moving M'Barki to full-back and Jeff Edwards to the wing. Almost immediately it paid dividends as the Moroccan again fielded a deep kick from the tourists and beat the first wave of chasers to take play back into the Australian half. He eventually kicked ahead only for Greg Alexander to win the race for the ball.

There was some furious tackling by both teams and, after Bella was penalised for a foul on Ashton, WORRALL kicked the resulting penalty and Oldham were, incredibly, only two points behind going into the last quarter of the match. The game then turned Australia's way after a great run by Belcher took play up towards the Oldham line. A couple of plays later Ben ELIAS caught the tiring Roughyeds napping to go over direct from acting half-back. O'Connor missed the extras but the tourists now seemed to be back in control. Another break by man-of-the-match Elias was carried on by Les Davidson to once again take play up towards the Oldham line. However, it was a reflection on how the visitors were somewhat worried about the score when there was a failed drop goal attempt from Paul Langmack. Oldham were not done yet and after they had introduced Tom Nadiola to replace Clawson a smart inside pass from Clark put Warnecke away, but the next pass to Stuart Raper went astray as he was met by Alexander. There was a lengthy delay for an injury to Shearer at which point Paul Sironen came on to replace Bella, after which O'Connor missed another goal after Oldham were penalised for holding down. The game was made safe for the tourists when, after a fumble by Edwards, ALEXANDER went over direct from the resulting scrum. Oldham did manage to raise themselves for one last effort. The industrious Terry Flanagan forced a knock on from Sironen and from the resulting possession Topliss put Raper clear with an inside pass. The Australian then punished his compatriots with a precision kick that was scooped up by FOY who plunged in at the corner for the last ever tour match score at Watersheddings. The conversion was missed and, much to the tourists' relief, the final whistle followed immediately.

OLDHAM: J. Edwards; P. Sherman, D. Foy, G. Warnecke, H. M'Barki; D. Topliss, R. Ashton; B. Clark, T. Flanagan, N. Clawson, M. Worrall, D. Hobbs, S. Raper. Subs: C. Hawkyard, T. Nadiola.

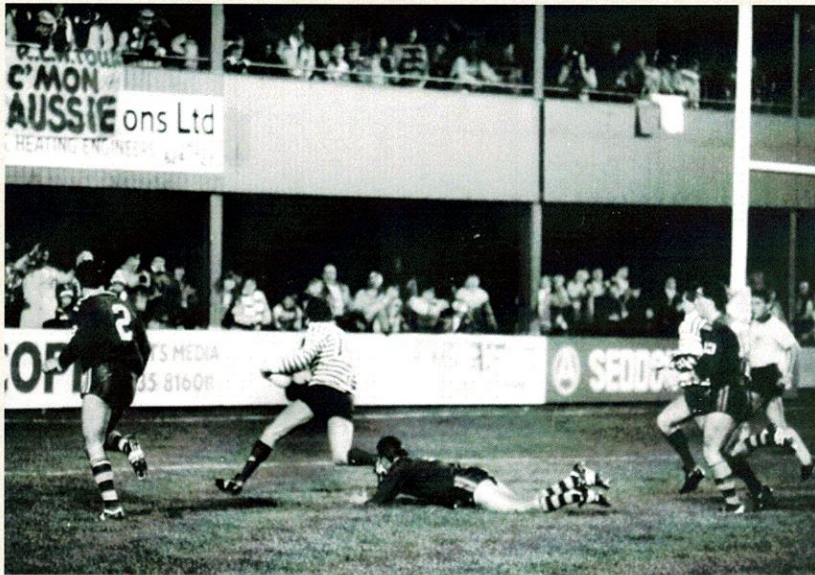
AUSTRALIA: G. Belcher; D. Shearer, C. Mortimer, M. Meninga, M. O'Connor; T. Lamb, G. Alexander; P. Daley, B. Elias, M. Bella, S. Folkes, L. Davidson, P. Langmack. Subs: G. Jack (not used), P. Sironen.

Attendance: 5,678

Referee: Mr. K. Allatt - Southport

Kangaroos

Roughyeds



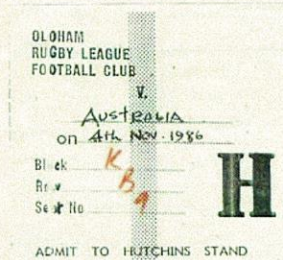
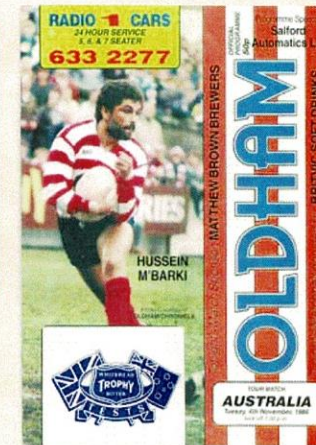
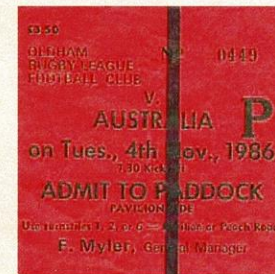
The last two tries scored against the Australians at Watersheddings.
Above: Colin Hawkyard goes over in front of the Hutchins stand after a great break by Mick Worrall, carried on by Ray Ashton and Gary Warnecke.

Below: Des Foy dives on Stuart Raper's kick ahead for a last minute try.



Kangaroos

Roughyeds



Above: Two match tickets and the programme from the 1986 tour game.

Below: Wally Lewis's 1986 "UNBEATABLES"

Back row:

M. Meninga, F. Hasler, G. Jack, L. Kiss, D. Shearer, M. Bella,
 P. Langmack, C. Mortimer, G. Alexander, S. Folkes, B. Kenny, G. Miles.

Middle row:

W. Monaghan, L. Davidson, B. Niebling, N. Cleal, P. Dunn, Furner, R. Lindner,
 S. Roach, G. Dowling, P. Daley, P. Sironen, L. Brittan

Front row:

T. Lamb, M. O'Connor, P. Sterling, G. Treichel, W. Lewis, J. Fleming,
 R. Simmons, G. Belcher, B. Elias.



Kangaroos

Roughyeds

Ian Wilson (Secretary "Rugby Oldham")

Earlier this season I went to Headingley on a Friday night to watch a Super League match and I admit to being upset at times almost to the point of tears. I happened to be standing on a packed terrace close to a family of husband, wife and two children, and watching a superb, competitive game of skilful, fast and powerhouse Rugby League between Leeds and St Helens – so why the sadness? And what is the relevance to tonight's function, you might well ask.

The answer to both questions lies in my personal Oldham RLFC odyssey. After my Oldham-born father had first taken me to watch his side in the losing championship Maine Rd. final in 1955, and thereafter often expressed the hope that he would live long enough to take me to see the club play at Wembley – he didn't, of course – I in turn began to take my own family regularly to Oldham games, home and away, in the early 1980s. The one that we are celebrating here tonight was one of them, of course, and a memorable occasion it was too. But my sadness at Headingley was because it came to me whilst I was standing there how unlikely it was that the next generation would have the opportunity to experience the highs, as well as some lows, inevitably, that we had, watching an Oldham side playing and competing effectively against clubs at the top level of the game of Rugby League. I suspect, too, that I shall also probably die before seeing the club playing at Wembley! But it was the shared experiences at places like Knowsley Rd, Central Park, and Headingley, not to mention Watersheddings, of course, which will be a heritage which I fear may not be open to them in turn. Never say never, as they say, and the first-stage objective of generating a ground fit for quality RL in Oldham is now at least partially in view via the developments at Whitebank, perhaps. But it does seem an awfully long way away as we sit here tonight, so all the more attractive is an evening such as this, when we can wallow in nostalgia for the time – and not so long ago, after all – when we were still one of the top clubs in the land.

In the autumn of 1986, Oldham were a top-tier side for the fifth consecutive year. So there could be no doubting our right to have the privilege of a fixture against the tourists. And what a daunting prospect the fixture was in anticipation. The 1982 Aussie tourists had provided a major shock for British Rugby League, and the 1986 version proved, if anything, to be better still. Before the Watersheddings fixture, only Wigan had given the Australians a game, eventually going down only by an eight-point margin in front of a 30,000-plus crowd in the tour's opening fixture. So our performance – described in detail elsewhere – was a fantastic one when put into context. The fact that only 5,678, the second-lowest attendance of the whole tour, were recorded as having come out to watch it was perhaps the only real disappointment of the night. But let us take the opportunity tonight not only to remember the occasion as the proud one that it undoubtedly was for all fans of our famous old club, but also to renew our determination to make sure that future generations will have the maximum opportunity to enjoy equivalent occasions in the future.

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