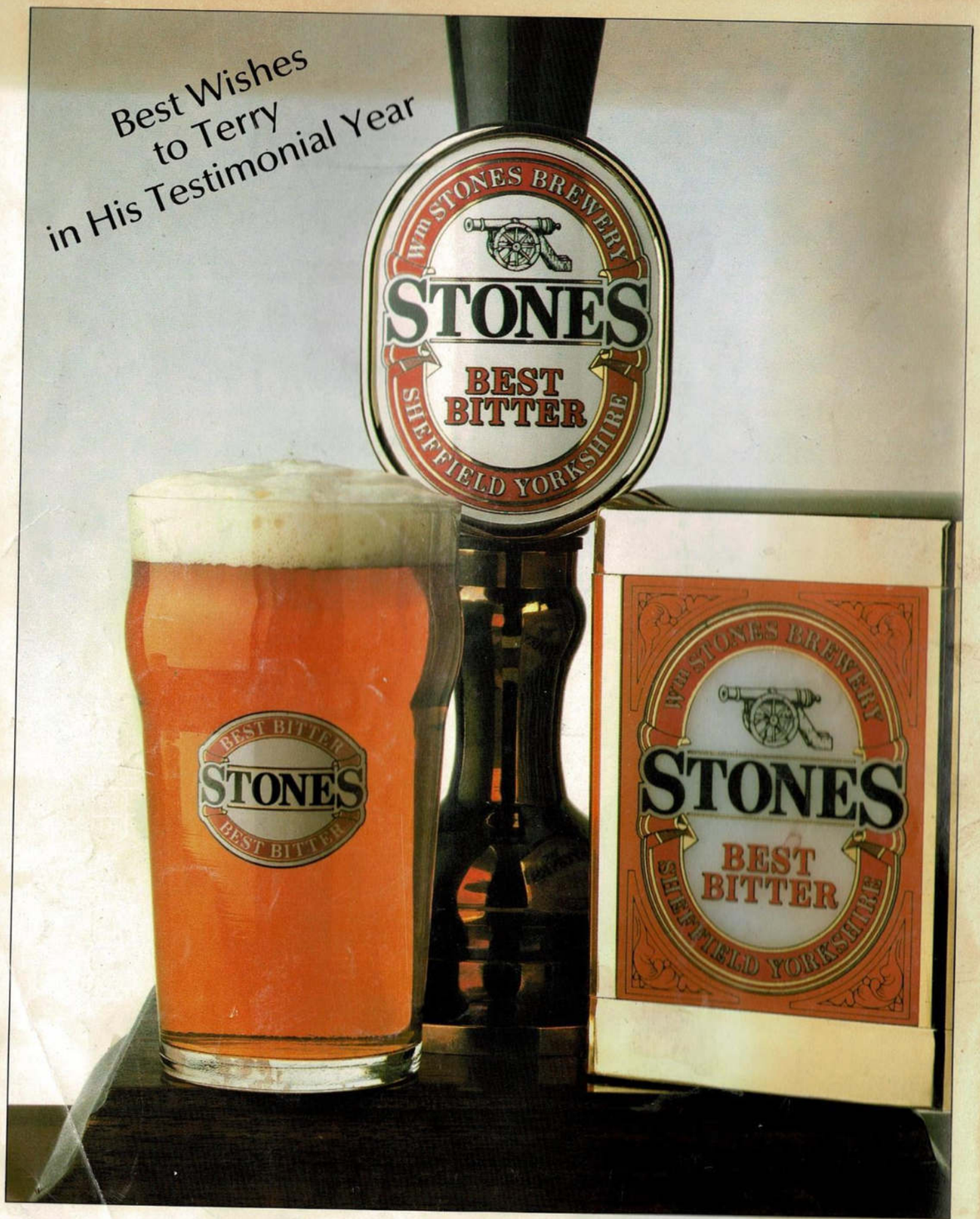
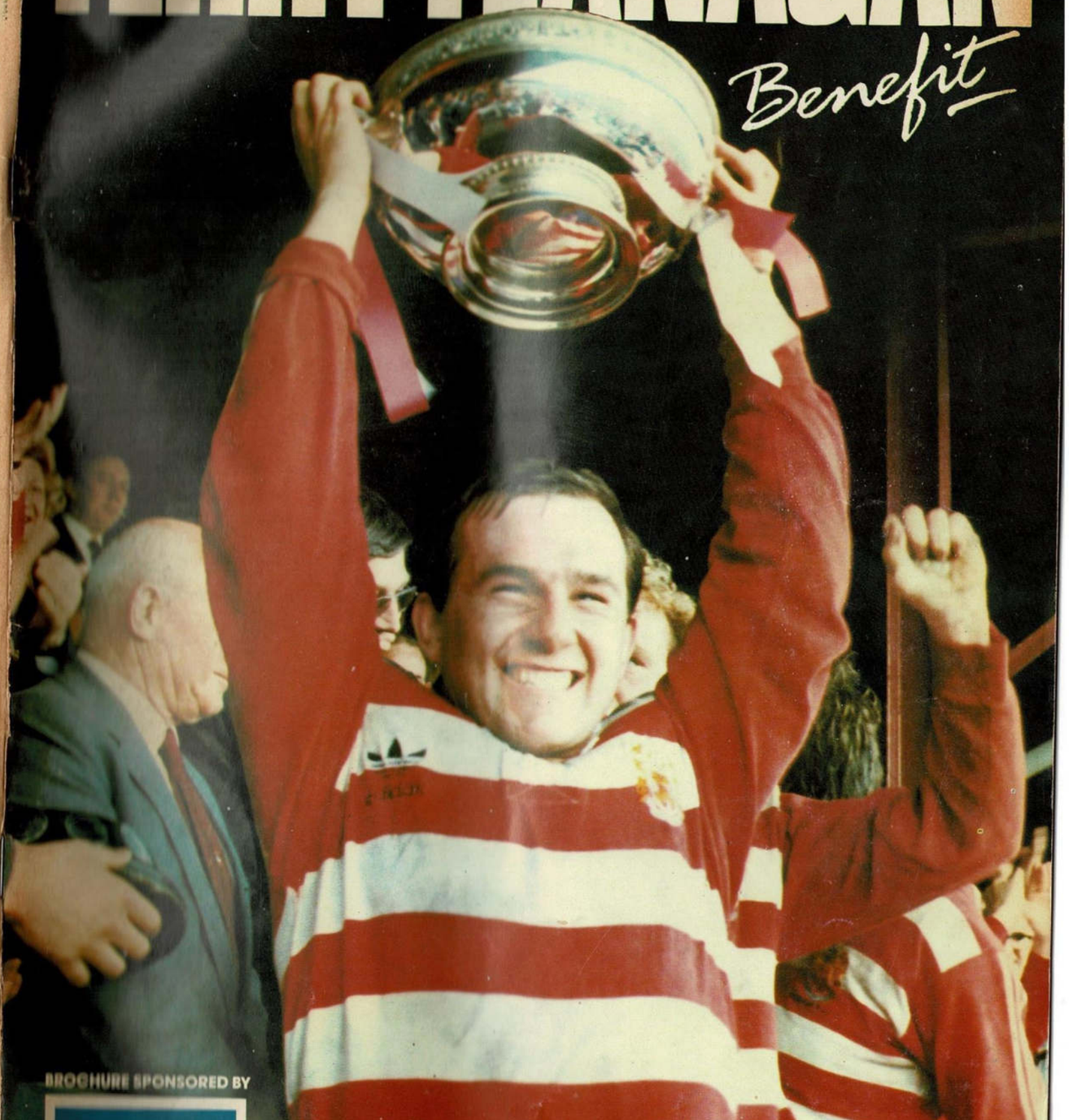
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to Terry
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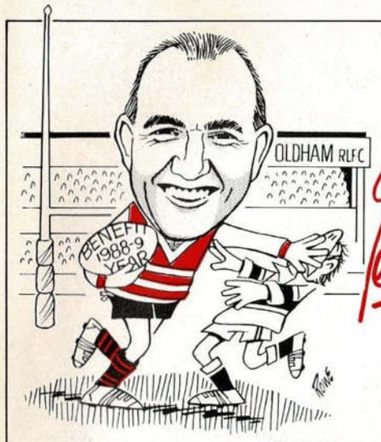


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*Terry lifts Second Division Championship Trophy*



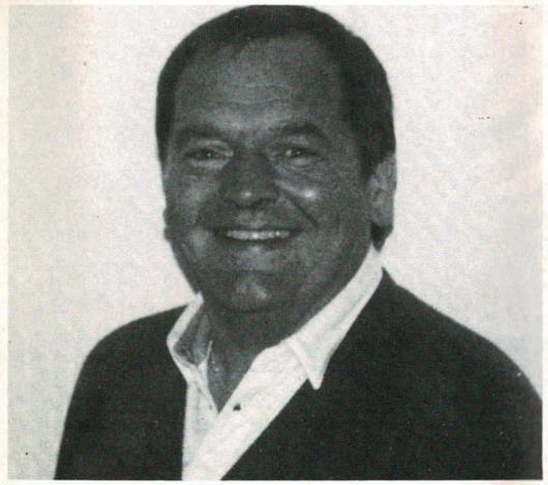



Terry Flanagan

# TERRY FLANAGAN

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And many more, too numerous to mention.

Photographs courtesy of: Oldham Evening Chronicle, The Rugby Leaguer, Andrew Varley,

Brochure Editor: Roger Halstead

Terry Flanagan Cartoon: David Rowe

Printing: L.V. Lawlor (Oldham)

Artwork: Stewart Beckett (CAS)

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It doesn't seem ten years since I stood in the bar of the Elevenways public house at 9.00 a.m. one summer morning, after decorating the lounge and tap room, to hear the landlord, Bill Flanagan, break the news: "Terry's signed for Oldham".

It was a great relief to an Oldham fan, like me, because nearly every club in Lancashire was chasing Terry, but Oldham got their man. Over the years, which have flown by, Terry has become one of the best professionals ever to pull an Oldham jersey over his head.

There are better qualified men than I to tell you of his qualities as a player. Suffice for me to say that, as a punter on the terraces, Terry has delighted thousands of us with his ball-playing skills and the enjoyment he has given us is second to none.

As in any career, there have been the ups and the downs, both of which are well recorded in this brochure. In a career of 300 competitive games for club, county and country – no mean feat – there are bound to be the good times and the not-so-good.

I prefer to remember the good times and all the work that Terry does in his own spare time to help out at charity matches, benefit games for the needy and sportsmen's dinners, often when nursing bumps and bruises after a game.

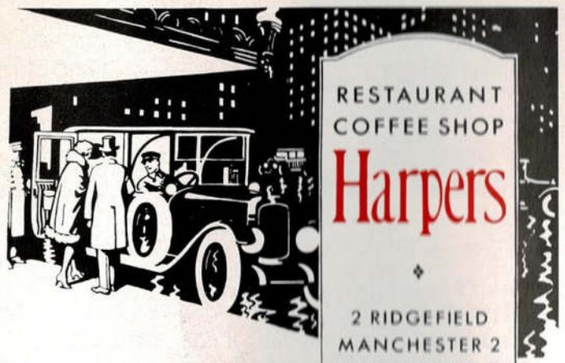
I hope the next 12 months will be a rewarding time for Terry, his wife Sue, daughter Louise and son Mark and that the people of Oldham and indeed throughout the Rugby League areas, will attend as many as possible of the functions we will be organising.

There will be film shows, dinners, roadshows, pub nights and many other events, all of which will be well publicised. Take a friend along and meet Terry. He doesn't change much. You might even catch a glimpse of the famous wig!

Let's make 1988-9 a year he will remember for ever. If you are willing to help just contact any member of the benefit committee, the names of whom appear elsewhere in this testimonial tribute to an outstanding player.

I am honoured and privileged to serve as Chairman of the Benefit Committee.

JOE GALLAGHER
(Chairman, Benefit Committee)



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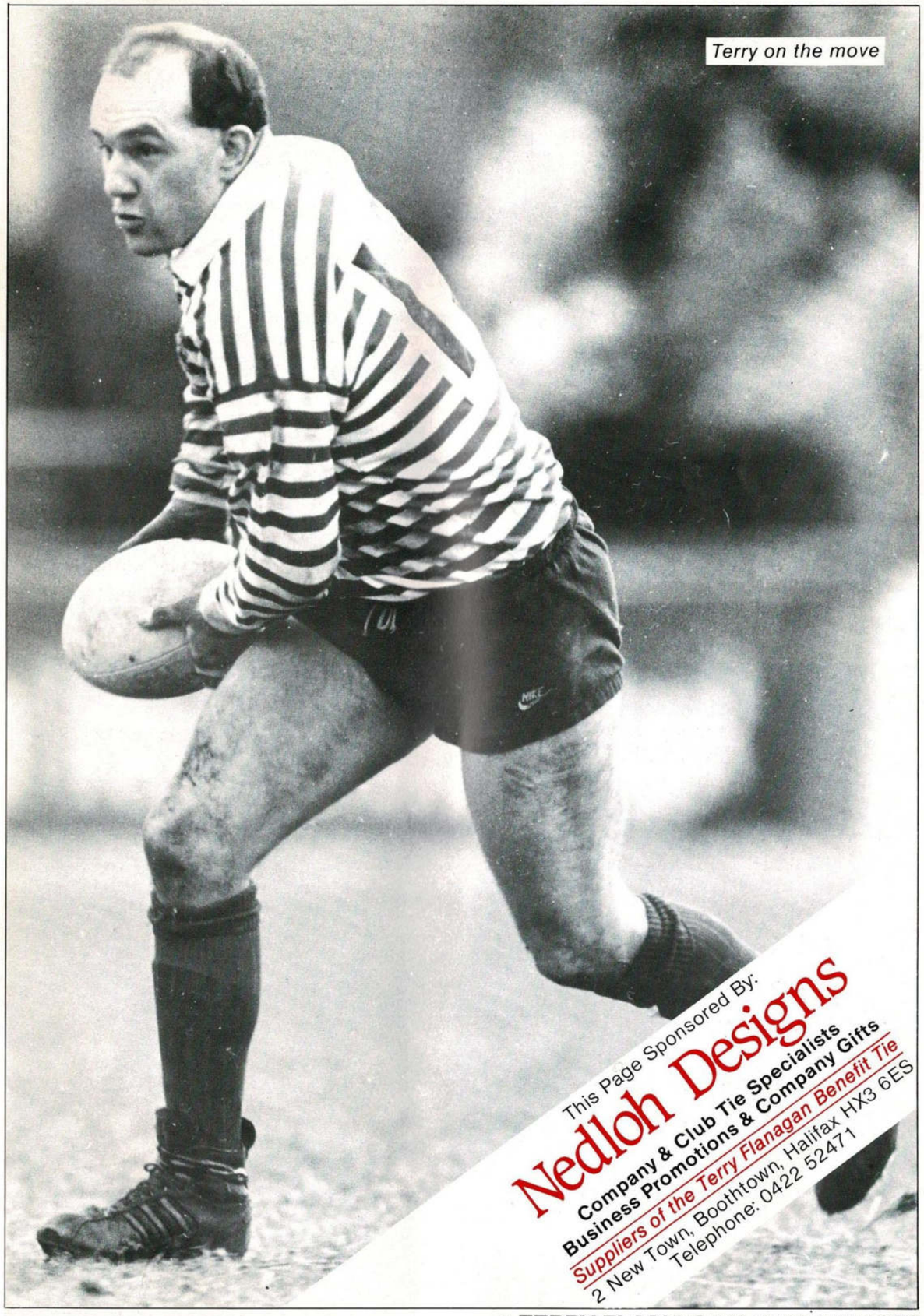
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▲ *Terry's father Bill, is second from the right on the back row.*

*Big brother Kevin in action for Oldham against York* ▼



**Teaser No. 1 – Name two York players pictured who later played alongside Terry for Oldham.**



# The Flanagan Family

Behind every good player is a good family . . . and Terry had everything going for him, in rugby terms, by entering the world as a member of the Flanagan clan on November 27th, 1960 on the maternity ward at Oldham and District General Hospital.

He was almost born with a rugby ball in his hands because Bill Flanagan, his proud father, was secretary of the Oldham Junior League (now known as the Oldham Amateur Rugby League) after enjoying a professional career as a hooker with Oldham, Belle Vue Rangers and Castleford.

Big brother Kevin was about to embark on a distinguished career that was to span three decades and take in Oldham, Rochdale Hornets and Salford.

Uncle Bernard, in whose memory a trophy is still up for annual competition in the local league, was chief organiser and general factotum of the now defunct St. Mary's amateur club in Oldham – the club that launched the footballing family Flanagan on its way to the top.

*When the Oldham Standard Cup was introduced to the famous Rugby League Challenge Cup! Bill and Bernard Flanagan are behind the Challenge Cup on an Oldham Junior League day out to Wigan in the early 1960s.* ▼



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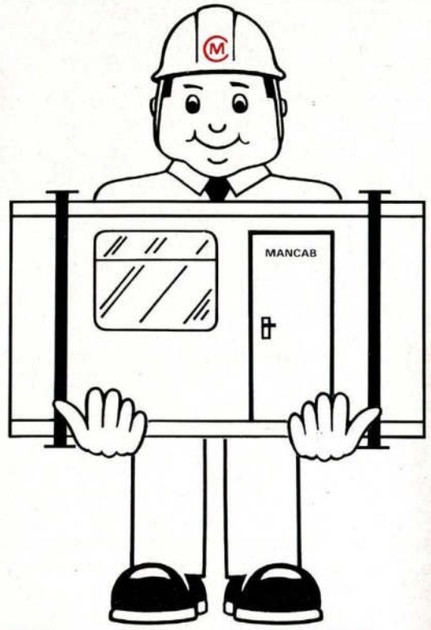
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# Early Days

Terry attended a soccer-playing junior school but on moving to St. Anselm's R.C. Secondary School in Oldham he immediately came under the wing of the Oldham Schools' Rugby League. Several teachers from the schools' RL played their part in encouraging the young Flanagan to take his first, faltering steps into a sport that was ultimately to take him across the world to represent his country.

Brian Whitworth and Larry Kearns were teachers who soon spotted 'something' in the way the young Flanagan played and Terry quickly became a prominent member of the pioneering Oldham Schools' squads that made exchange visits to France.

"They were great trips", recalls Terry, "and gave us the sort of memories that never fade. I remember travelling two full days by boat and train to the south of France only to be confronted by opponents with hairy legs and beards, who were supposed to be under-13s! We didn't have much success in those early days but we learned how to socialise at an early age and I suppose we got a good grounding for later years".

Terry soon began to hit the headlines with his ball-handling skills and made his first schoolboy representative appearance in the Lancashire Schools' under-13 side – as a hooker. "I was quite short and stocky in those days", says Terry, "and I wasn't considered big enough for the back-row".

Nevertheless, he did well as a hooker, following in Dad's footsteps, and was, in fact, only one of several members of that county team later to turn professional. He was also developing his skills by training and playing tough rugby with the local amateur clubs.

"My brother Kevin used to take me training with Ferranti and St. Anne's, two local teams, during the summer months. Both clubs made me welcome and I used to play touch rugby for hours on end. In local amateur circles there were a lot of household names at both clubs. Players like Sorby, Sutcliffe, Haliwell, Navesey and Hilton at Ferranti and Walker, Heap, Leach and Taylor at St. Anne's used to let me boss

*Small boys with dreams of glory.*
*The Oldham under-13 side in August 1973.*
*Terry is pictured fifth from left on the back row.*
*Fourth from left on the front row, behind the cup is Paddy Kirwan*



Teaser No. 2 – Name the player in the picture who later won a man-of-the-match award in a John Player Trophy final. Name his club, their final opponents and the year.

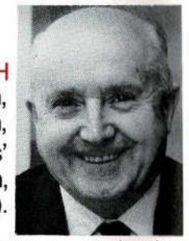


them around at training like an old stager – and I was only 14! Those days provided me with an apprenticeship and I would recommend any youngster to do the same if possible".

In those days, of course, the BARLA youth policy had not taken off and, disappointed with a lack of competitive Rugby League in his own age group, Terry turned to the Union game for a season and played in Lyn Morgan's mini-rugby set-up at the Oldham RU Club.

Says Terry: "I had a great time with the Union lads, but I couldn't get used to the game. It was totally different in the forwards. Sometimes I wouldn't even get a pass and as a lad who had been brought up to develop ball skills from an early age that was quite a culture shock".

Terry still recalls his Keb Lane days with fondness, however, and has remained firm friends of people who are still heavily involved with the club such as Lyn Morgan, Jack Hidderley and Glen McLintock.



FRED HOWARTH
(Past Secretary and Chairman, Oldham Schools' RL Chairman, Lancashire Schools' RL Founder Chairman, English Schools' RL).

Terry did not play Rugby League at junior school, but he joined Paddy Kirwan at St. Anselm's and the pair played together for Oldham Schools' and for the Saddleworth Rangers youth teams.

The young Flanagan was soon selected for the Oldham town team and he went on to gain caps for both Lancashire and England boys before joining the Oldham RL Colts side and, with Paddy, gaining international honours at under-19 professional level.

Always a hard-grafting, ball-playing loose-forward, Terry stamped his quality on every game he played. He is still a genial, but robust, player who never asks for favours, or gives any, but who never-ever plays dirty and never loses his temper under provocation. He knows the rules and plays within them.

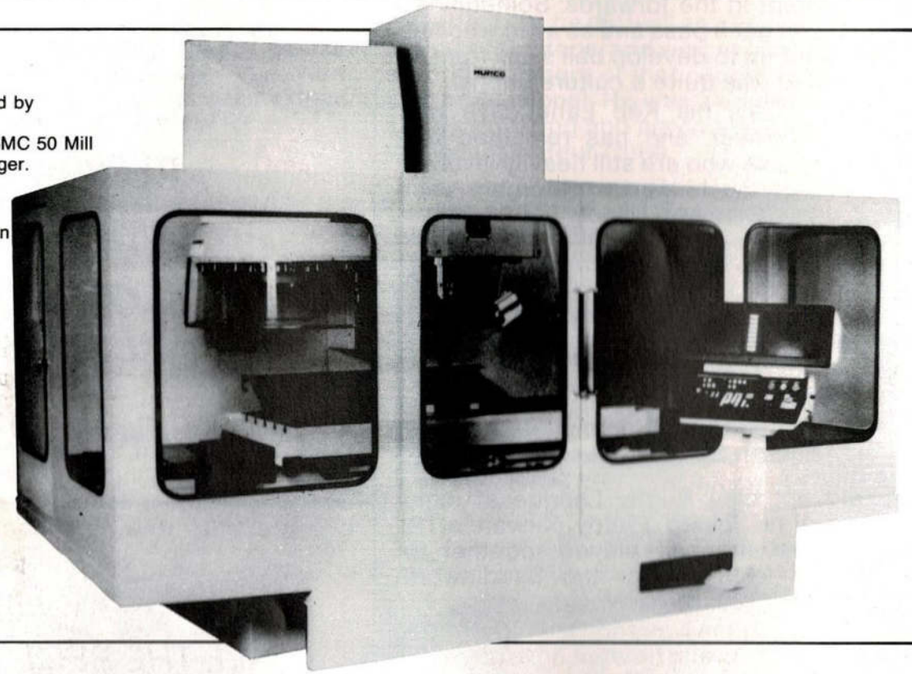
A sterling character, Terry Flanagan must rank alongside the finest products ever produced by the Oldham Schools' Rugby League. He is a credit to himself and his tutors and he could have made his mark equally as well in Union where all players are classed as gentlemen.

Terry is still a relatively young man, after nine years in the professional game, and he has a number of seasons still left in him. We all wish him well in his benefit year and hope that one day he will bring to fruition his burning desire to play for Oldham at Wembley. He is, above all, an Oldham player with the Oldham club first and foremost in his sights.

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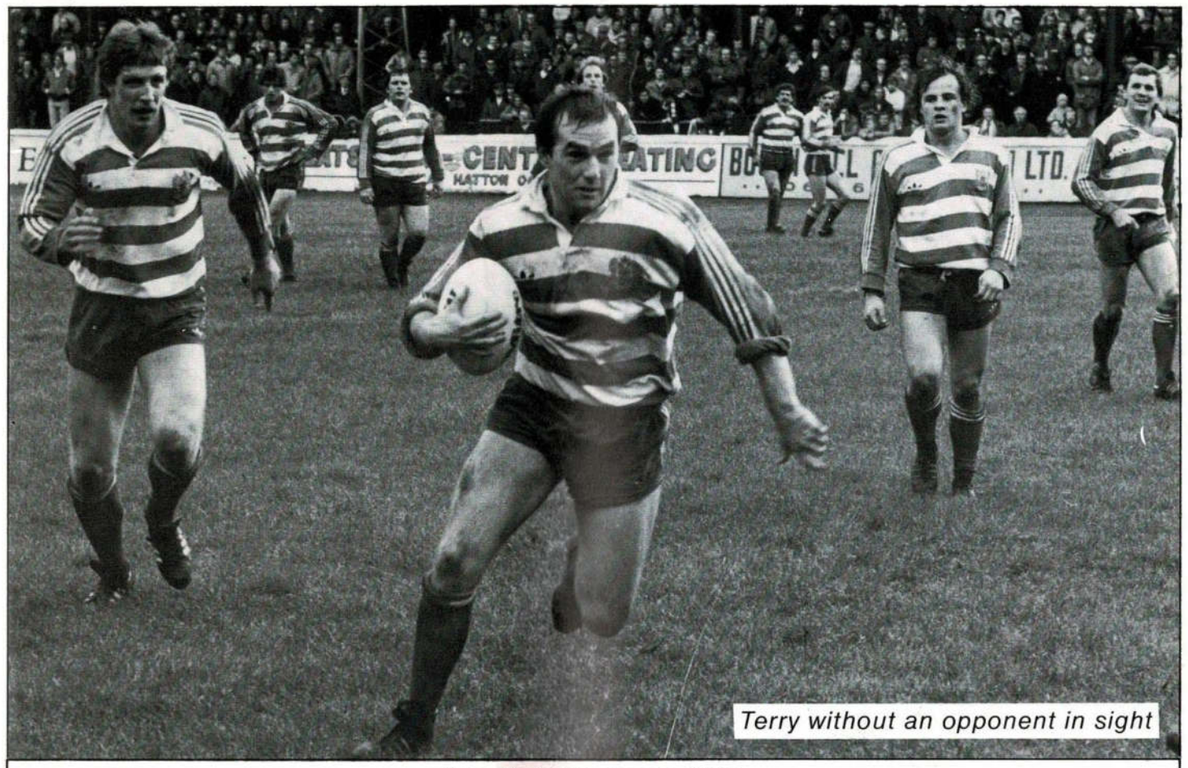
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*Terry without an opponent in sight*


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*Terry pictured shoulder high with his Saddleworth colleagues after a Lancashire Youth Cup victory.*



# Terry heads for the hills!

With schoolboy representative honours behind him, playing for Lancashire and England with players such as Foy, Holding, Hanley and O'Neill, Terry moved his rapidly-developing talent to Saddleworth Rangers, a club nestling in the Pennine foothills. He spent two years in the under-16 side, under coach Frank Walsh and it was during this time that the cups started to appear in the trophy cabinet . . . and the scouts on the touch line!

"The Saddleworth club was a fantastic set-up", says Terry, "and we had a lot of good players growing up together. The early years when we were beaten by bigger sides were now in the past. It was our turn to do the winning. Frank Walsh did a great job and helped to develop players like Kiss, Kirwan, Foy and yours truly".

By now, the honours were coming Saddleworth's way thick and fast. In two years they won the Lancashire under-18s cup and played in the National under-18s final as well as picking up numerous league and cup trophies in Yorkshire.

The under-16s developed into the under-18s and came under the shrewd guidance of Brian Gartland. Brian coached the team intensely and crowds of more than 1,000 regularly watched the Rangers youngsters. Visiting teams like Corpus Christi of Leeds, with Ellery Hanley, and Wigan St. Patrick's, with Andy Gregory, always received a rousing welcome up Greenfield way.

"We had a great following", recalls Terry, "and it was no surprise when the scouts began to queue up for our signatures".

Education had to come first in the Flanagan household, however. Father Bill would not allow the scouts and their flashing cheque books to interfere with his son's studies, and he explained: "Although Terry was hitting the headlines I explained to him that his education was more important than rugby and his priority had to be his 'A' level studies.

"All he did was delay turning professional for one year and it ensured that he got to university".



BRIAN GARTLAND

(Former Saddleworth Rangers and Lancashire Youth Coach, Former Oldham and Great Britain Colts Coach, Former Oldham 'A' Team Coach, Former Oldham First Team Coach)

When Terry asked me to say a few words about him I was as thrilled as the day I signed him as a professional footballer for Oldham in 1979. Every club in Lancashire was chasing Terry, whom I had coached from being 17 years of age, and he has now represented his county and country at every level, both amateur and professional.

Dedication, commitment, a good attitude and a hatred of defeat are part of Terry's psychological make-up and that's what makes him special. He is always striving for perfection and he expects the same from his team mates. This is why he is such a popular player.

The honours we won together, at both amateur and colts levels, are too numerous to mention, but I know how proud Terry was, at 18 years of age, to lead out Great Britain against France from his favourite loose-forward position.

He then went to France in the colts international as vice-captain, scored the last of his side's six tries, and had a hand in the other five to win the man-of-the-match award. Terry then went on to captain the under-24s to two victories over the French, first in Carpentras and then at Watersheddings, culminating in a Great Britain tour of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in 1984. He also won a man-of-the-match award against the Kiwis in New Zealand.

I could write a book on Terry's achievements, but I hope I have covered some of the main highlights of a marvellous career.

To conclude I would like to ask the fans to show their appreciation by supporting his testimonial to the best of their ability. Terry has given his one professional club his talent, skill, sportsmanship and loyalty over almost a decade.. and no player can do more than that.

*Best Wishes to Terry in his Benefit , Here's to the next Ten years*

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# "Oldham – start of an era!"

Amid strong competition from the top clubs in Lancashire and Yorkshire, Oldham secured the signature of Terry Flanagan on a warm Wednesday evening in June 1979. Other clubs had been waving the cheque books around for some time and the cagy Flanagan, with his mentor father Bill, negotiated a then record deal for an amateur.

Said Terry: "With a lot of money being offered it was vital Oldham came up with a good package deal. I desperately wanted to play for Oldham, my home-town club, as all lads do. With my brother Kevin playing there and my big pal Paddy having just signed, Oldham were going to get my signature if they could match the contracts offered by their rivals.

"They did – and I celebrated in style that night with my Mum and Dad in the old Wine Lodge in Oldham town centre, with a large cheque in my back pocket".

Terry quickly established himself in the first team at Watersheddings, playing alongside experienced players like Bill Francis and Ken Gwilliam. His silky skills opened up defences time and again and he won the Oldham player-of-the-year award in his first season. It was also interesting to see Flanagan, still a teenager, helping Union converts Bob Mordell and Adrian Alexander to settle into a promotion-winning Second Division side.

*Terry pictured with father Bill, Coach Brian Gartland and members of the Oldham Committee on the night he signed for a record contract.*





As well as playing regularly in the senior side Terry was still eligible to help out with the colts and he was selected as vice-captain of the Great Britain colts team with his Watersheddings team mates Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan. It was a team that contained many players who were later to become household Rugby League names, such as Tony Myler, Mike O'Neill, Brian Noble and Colin Whitfield.

While developing nicely in the tough world of senior Rugby League, Terry was also working hard at his studies. He had, by now, won a place at Manchester University to study for an honours degree in electronics. He was heard to remark at the time that University life was a great escape from the pressures of rugby. Similarly, his rugby was an excellent outlet for the pressure that was building up for him as an undergraduate. Life on the campus was far removed from life at Watersheddings!

*On their way up the ladder. Paddy Kirwan, Terry and Ray Ashton pictured before the colts international against France at Watersheddings.*





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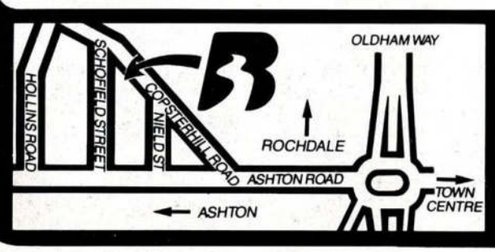
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## UNDER-24 HONOURS – AND LIFE IN THE FIRST DIVISION

Terry gained his first Lancashire cap after only 29 first-team games and then played for Great Britain under-24s against the touring Kiwis at Fulham. He produced a storming display against the tourists and was duly selected for the full Great Britain squad for the Third Test.

"The game at Craven Cottage was unbelievable" says Terry. "Though I say it myself, I had a great game in bitterly cold conditions and I was overwhelmed with the coachloads of Oldham players, officials, friends and supporters who travelled all day and didn't arrive home until the small hours.

"I was selected for the Third Test squad. Although I didn't get in the team it was a great experience just to be there and I learned a lot merely by watching how the stars prepared for a Test match. That experience was later to come in useful when I made my Test debut in 1983".

At club level, life was proving difficult. Oldham's experienced team was finding it hard to compete in the First Division. By Christmas all the experienced players had left the club, leaving a big gap in the playing squad.

The club's youngsters were then thrown in at the deep end and Terry became the youngest club captain in the game and in the history of the Oldham club. He was a mere 19.


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## ARRIVAL OF BIG FRANK

The Oldham club was relegated that season but with the accent on youth and Brian Gartland in charge of the youngsters there was still an air of optimism with players like Andy Goodway, Mick Worrall, Ray Ashton, Paddy Kirwan and Terry Flanagan gaining vital experience.

The summer came and Oldham pulled off a major coup by obtaining Frank Myler and Peter Smethurst as coaches. Gartland remained and was to work closely with the two new men.

"When Frank arrived at the club we all knew he was a winner", recalls Terry, "and his style brought out the best in players. He had a simplistic approach to the game and it worked wonders.

"Defence, which we had neglected, was soon tightened up and in Frank's first season we won the Second Division championship, losing only two matches".

Flanagan had captained Oldham to their first piece of silverware for many years and the future was bright. The end of season 1981-2 saw Terry return to the representative scene, playing for Lancashire in the end-of-season county championship.

This put a massive burden on him because he was taking his final exams at university at the same time. Needless to say, he coped with playing exceptionally well for Lancashire and gaining a second-class upper degree!

The influence of Frank Myler was amazing. Frank improved Terry's defensive game and encouraged his attacking flair and their association was later to flourish further.


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*Terry on his way to scoring against Batley.*




**Teaser No. 3 – Name the ground on which this match took place.**

# What the Experts said...

*(A selection of Press comments from the Terry Flanagan scrapbook)*

"Flanagan reminds me of John Raper in his early days. Like Raper, he's not very big and relies on skill" – **Johnny Whiteley**

"He goes better every time I see him" – the late *Rugby League Chairman,* **Bill Oxley**

"The man who took the eye was Oldham's 20-year-old loose-forward Terry Flanagan", – **Brian Batty** *(Daily Mail)*

"Oldham's young skipper Terry Flanagan resembled a frustrated genius as he tried to forge a gap", – **Chris Brierley** *(Daily Mail)*

"Terry Flanagan has made tremendous progress in a short time and this is reflected in the fact that he has leap-frogged all other challengers to go into the shadow quad", – **David Howes** *(Rugby Football League)*

"Flanagan is a loose-forward who appears to have the pace and craft for which the domestic game is crying out at present", – **Paul Fitzpatrick** *(The Guardian)*

"Terry Flanagan – Oldham's 19-year-old loose-forward prodigy", – **Jack McNamara** *(Manchester Evening News)*

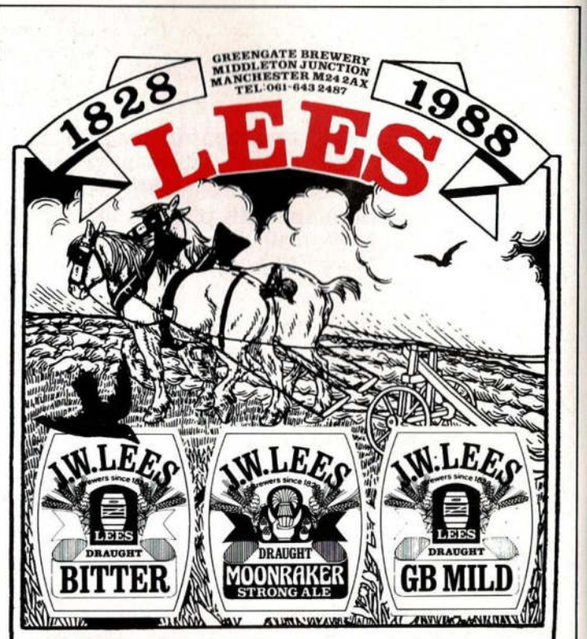
"I'm the happiest Mum in Britain", – **Terry's mother, Mary** *on his selection for Great Britain under-24s.*

"Oldham's loose-forward Terry Flanagan is regarded as the classiest since Johnny Whiteley was in his prime", – **Tom Parker** *(Weekly News)*

"Unfortunately, Hornets hadn't a player who could even lace Flanagan's boots as far as rugby skills were concerned", – *Rochdale Observer.*

"He's the best loose-forward prospect I have seen in years", – **Maurice Bamford,** *then coach at Halifax.*

"Oldham's teenage skipper Terry ('Flash' Flanagan inspired his team with a superb performance", – the **late Arthur Brooks** *(Daily Mirror).*


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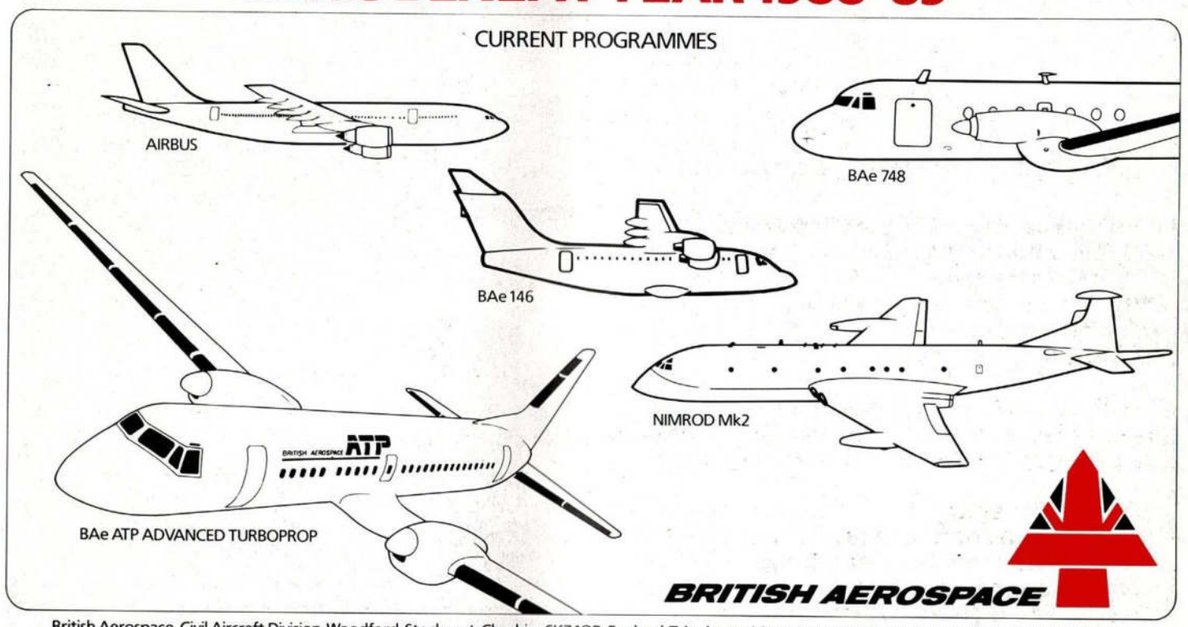
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*Terry scoring at Widnes*

# THREE CHEERS FOR TERRY!

DAILY Mirror

SUNDAY Mirror

THE People





*Terry in action for Great Britain against France in 1983*

**Teaser No. 4 – Can you name the captain of the 1983 Great Britain side?**

# "Terry Flanagan - a true professional, on and off the field"

PADDY KIRWAN
(Team-mate – and friend!)



My first recollection of Terry was as a ten-year-old at the Oldham Catholic schools' sports day which I was watching with his cousin Bernard. At first glance he looked a very unlikely prospect as a Great Britain tourist with his Joe Ninety glasses and Billy Bunter physique. However, even at that early age, Rugby League was in his blood, his brother Kevin playing at Watersheddings and his father Bill, an ex-professional player, running the St. Mary's amateur team.

A year later we met up at St. Anselm's School where Terry quickly showed that his lack of athletic physique was more than compensated by a sharp footballing brain and excellent ball skills. This applied equally to the soccer field as it did to the rugby pitch. His skill was soon recognised and during his first season he was selected for the town team and the following year he played for the Lancashire schoolboys' side. Since then Terry has developed his skills and worked with great determination on the fitness aspect of the game to go on and represent his country at every possible level.

Without doubt Terry's success has been based on a terrific attitude to training, both fitness work and ball skills, and if I had to choose an example of a professional player to any youngster just starting out in the game Terry would be top of the list. Much of his skill and attitude has been bred into him, from his father and especially his brother Kevin. Terry will be the first to acknowledge the influence of Kevin who rarely missed seeing Terry play as a schoolboy and took every opportunity to get him down to Westwood Park for training and ball work. Indeed, it was not unknown for a gang of us to meet Kevin in school dinner hours and have a game of tig-and-pass on the local playing fields.

Since I was 11 years old I have been lucky enough to play alongside Terry in every school and club side he has been associated with. From this position I have been able to appreciate more than anyone the tremendous contribution he has made at all levels. People invariably talk about Terry as a skilful attacking player but, in reality, he has often been the unsung hero on defence thanks to non-stop covering that has often made him leader of the tackle count.

During his career Terry has shown great leadership skills both on and off the field. At Oldham, in his capacity as club captain, he has been a great ambassador and in the dressing room he is always the first to greet new players be they young trialists or Australian stars.

He has always made himself readily available to help out at numerous charity and presentation functions. Some would say that, during the past year, he has enjoyed more success off the field, as an excellent after-dinner speaker, than on the field as a player. However, despite several low spots in the past season, Terry bounced back like a true professional to score the drop goal at Wakefield which clinched the Second Division championship. He followed this with a match-winning performance in the premiership final at Old Trafford.

As well as playing alongside Terry for the past 17 years, I have also enjoyed and appreciated his great friendship. Indeed, more than all the success and good times we have had in Rugby League, his friendship has meant the most to me.

I have no need to wish Terry good luck for his benefit year because, like everything else he does, it is bound to be an outstanding success.



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*Wide Bay forwards get to grips with Terry*

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# TERRY BECOMES A BRITISH LION

In 1984 Terry reached the pinnacle of his rugby career when he toured Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. He was initially overlooked by the selectors but when Chris Arkwright was withdrawn, Terry was called up' only four days before departure.

He was bitterly disappointed when he was not named in the original party because he had been in the squad for two years and had played in five out of seven build-up games.

"It finally came good when I got the late call-up, but there was so much dashing about to do in the days before departure that I don't remember much about them".

There were few personal highspots for Terry in Australia due to a series of niggling injuries. But when he did play he produced some good performances, particularly at Newcastle and Wide Bay. His traditionally English style of ball play went well against the robust Aussies.

Restricted to a few games because of injury, Terry overcame his disappointment and persevered with daily treatment in a bid to get himself right for the New Zealand section of the tour.

Says Terry: "We had a great time in Australia and the whole squad did marvellously well to close the gap. In each of the three Tests, Great Britain scored the best try of the game and that was one of the proudest moments of my career.

"Although we lost the series we had closed the gap tremendously from the confrontations of 1982 to scores like 25-8. After their big effort, the Test lads were drained when they left Australia and it was asking too much to take on the awesome Kiwis in the New Zealand mud over three Tests.

"Unlike a lot of the lads, I was as fresh as a daisy as we crossed the Tasman Sea to New Zealand because of my lack of rugby. After two consecutive appearances in New Zealand I couldn't resist the temptation to ask Frank Myler if he was trying to burn me out!"

In fact, Terry played in five of the eight matches in New Zealand, culminating in a call-up for the third Test in which he managed to engineer a try for Ellery Hanley before the rampant Kiwis took control.

One of his main hobbies while on tour was to write his own weekly column for his home-town paper, the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Terry despatched interesting behind-the-scenes stories back to England for his regular series on the local paper and he had his own by-line! 'On Tour With Terry'.

It was a well-written, punchy chronicle of day-to-day events on tour, angled specifically on what the five Oldham players were up to, and it went some way to compensate for the paper's decision not to send its Rugby League reporter Roger Halstead.



## ON TOUR WITH TERRY

**Oldham skipper TERRY FLANAGAN, one of five Watersheddings players down under with Great Britain, writes exclusively for Chronicle readers in an off-beat column from the heart of the British camp.**



**ANSWERS**

**ACROSS**

2 Noon. 4 Hobbs. 6 Bob. 10 Morgan. 11 Rowe. 12 Andy. 14 Etty. 17 Cox. 18 Murphy. 19 Liddiard. 20 Ford. 21 Des. 22 Alan. 23 Fred. 25 Jim. 31 Elliott. 32 Frank. 34 Son. 35 Myler. 36 Neil. 37 Mal. 38 Leo.

**DOWN**

1 Round. 3 Ogrady. 5 Burke. 7 Ray. 8 Ten Yards. 9 Foy. 12 Ashton. 13 Goodway. 15 Treasure. 16 Turner. 24 Davies. 26 Ike. 27 Brian. 28 Little. 29 Terry. 30 Ganley. 33 Hall. 34 Sam.



1. Scrum-down in the surf at Bondi Beach

2. Terry, Harry Pinner and Brian Case cruising to the backdrop of a Sydney Harbour sunset

3. Reunion of Oldham fans at the Seagulls Club, New South Wales

4. The five Oldham tourists pose for roll call at Sydney Cricket Ground

5. Singalong time on day off with Mike Smith conducting . . . well, almost!

6. Terry and Andy Gregory, taking precautions against the sun and about to board the boat for the 'Desert island' trip

7. Lap of honour after the Test match. Note the crowds on stand roof and in the trees

**Teaser No. 5 – Name the players in the photograph Number 1.**









## FRIENDS FROM '84

"The lads of '84 were great to get on with. An indication of our friendship is the fact that, even now, we can knock lumps off each other during matches before meeting up in the bar afterwards to swop tour yarns".





DESPITE the disappointment of our six Test defeats, the recent Great Britain tour to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea can be described only as the trip of a lifetime.

The Test defeats in Australia and New Zealand were a blow but we must not let our heads drop because at the end of the Australian leg of the trip we had closed the gap considerably on the Kangaroos.

Britain must build on that, but must also look seriously into going on separate tours of Australia and New Zealand in the future.

Some wise words were spoken after the third Test in New Zealand when the Kiwi president stated that the time had come for Britain to scrap the two-in-one tours Down Under and visit each country separately.

Dead right! By the time we hit New Zealand we were beginning to feel jaded after playing two games a week, travelling thousands of miles in Australia, and taking on the world's best in the Tests.

In New Zealand we started all over again and played too many matches in too short a time.

County matches in years gone by, in both countries, were little more than training stints but nowadays these matches are like mini-Tests — physical and competitive.

The third Test against the Kiwis was typical of what was happening. I made my comeback to the Test scene and thoroughly enjoyed it.

We were right in the game for about an hour, but we tired badly in the last 20 minutes and the Kiwis got on top as we flagged.

The referee and touch judges did not help and this was the first time I have ever heard a match official call a player a "Pommie . . ." during a game!

Anyway, the English season now beckons and I hope to see thousands of you up at Watersheddings as Oldham bid to improve on their mid-table place in the First Division over the past two seasons.

### PARADISE

But first I must tell you a bit about Rugby League in Papua New Guinea. What an experience that was!

We were apprehensive on the 5½-hour flight from New Zealand and it did not help to ease our worries when, on the drive from the airport to our hotel, we saw the type of tin-hut houses used by the natives.

How lucky we are to live in the Western world with so many comforts which we all take for granted.

Mind you, there are compensations for living in Papua. We found one of them after a frightening journey by raft, through shark-infested seas, to a paradise island just out from Port Moresby harbour.

It was a raft used by local fishermen and it was so unsafe that two locals were bailing out all the way across the harbour.

When we arrived it was worth every hair-raising second of the trip — real Robinson Crusoe stuff with white sand, deep blue sea and a totally deserted island.

Papua New Guinea is the only country in the world where Rugby League is the national sport and the interest among the natives is phenomenal.

Apart from the rugby, we found the country fascinating and on one interior flight we had to be diverted due to low cloud for an overnight stay in the jungle at a place called Madang.

On arrival at Madang airport, all the reception buildings were closed, but there was no other traffic using the airstrips so we actually played a game of soccer on the runway.

On another flight, we passed desperately close to tree-covered mountains on our way to Mount Hagen which is in a large basin of tropical rain forest.

On arrival, hundreds of locals were waiting for us with their noses pressed flat against the airport windows.

The ground where the Test was due to be played had only limited accommodation so we were advised to change at the hotel and travel to the match in kit. It was strange travelling to a full Test match like that.

When we were about one mile from the ground, we turned down a winding dirt track which was jam-packed with the natives.

### VIOLENT

The nearer we got to the ground the greater the crowd became and, despite our police escort, it was a frightening experience as the hundreds of natives banged on the mini-bus and chanted songs.

When we arrived, we found there was as many people locked out as there was inside and it was an unbelievable sight to look on 15,000 black faces staring and chanting at us and doing tribal dances.

At half-time a large number of local fans climbed out of trees surrounding the ground and on to the stand roof, much to the annoyance of a police man who marched over with his machine gun as the crowd rapidly broke up.

On our journey back to the hotel thousands of natives thronged forward to touch us or just get a glimpse of us.

The police did not like it and they were violent in their use of whips to clear the people from the sides of the bus — a sad sight because we all felt the local people were merely being hospitable.

It was an unforgettable day and to cap it all I was proud to be named Britain's man of the match at the evening reception.

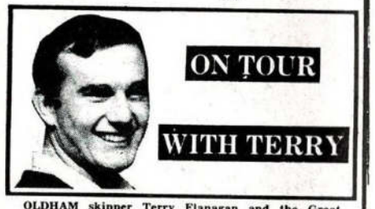
During the game the local winger hit one of our players, and we were all puzzled when the crowd gave their own man a lot of verbal abuse.

It was pointed out to us later that, to many natives, the white man is still master and to actually hit a white man would be regarded as a terrible crime.

So ended a marvellous trip and a fund of memories that will stay with us as long as we live.

# NATIVES, TIN HUTS, MACHINE GUNS, TRIBAL SONGS, BUT . . .

# RL is king in jungles of Papua




**OLDHAM skipper Terry Flanagan and the Great Britain tourists are now home and Flanagan concludes his tour series with a look at Rugby League in the raw.**



*Pre-match entertainment Papua New Guinea style!* ►

# Papua Memories...

The last section of the 1984 tour took the squad to Papua New Guinea. This was a marvellous experience by all accounts and Terry takes up the story.

"To play in equatorial conditions in a third world country, whose national sport is Rugby League, was a truly magnificent experience.

"We had a great week, despite all our apprehension, and we felt privileged to play in front of 10,000 people, many of whom had walked for days to attend the match!

"We finally won a Test match on tour and I managed to pick up the man-of-the-match award.

"One of the funniest moments of the tour happened in PNG when, during a day's boat trip to a deserted jungle island just off Port Moresby that accomplished athlete and swimmer, Joe Lydon, decided to go over the side of the boat on the homeward sail, diving in and out of the water. Upon arrival at our hotel the receptionist asked us, through an interpreter, if we had enjoyed our trip through the waters known as 'Shark alley'. The look on Joe's face will remain with me forever".

Terry enjoyed the tour immensely, but he paid tribute to his colleagues for making the trip such a success and added: "On tour you really get to know people. Having a friend in normal life is comparatively easy but having to live with someone so closely, as you do on a long tour to the other side of the world, really builds up camaraderie".



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*Terry scoring against Featherstone in 1988 – 2nd Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford*

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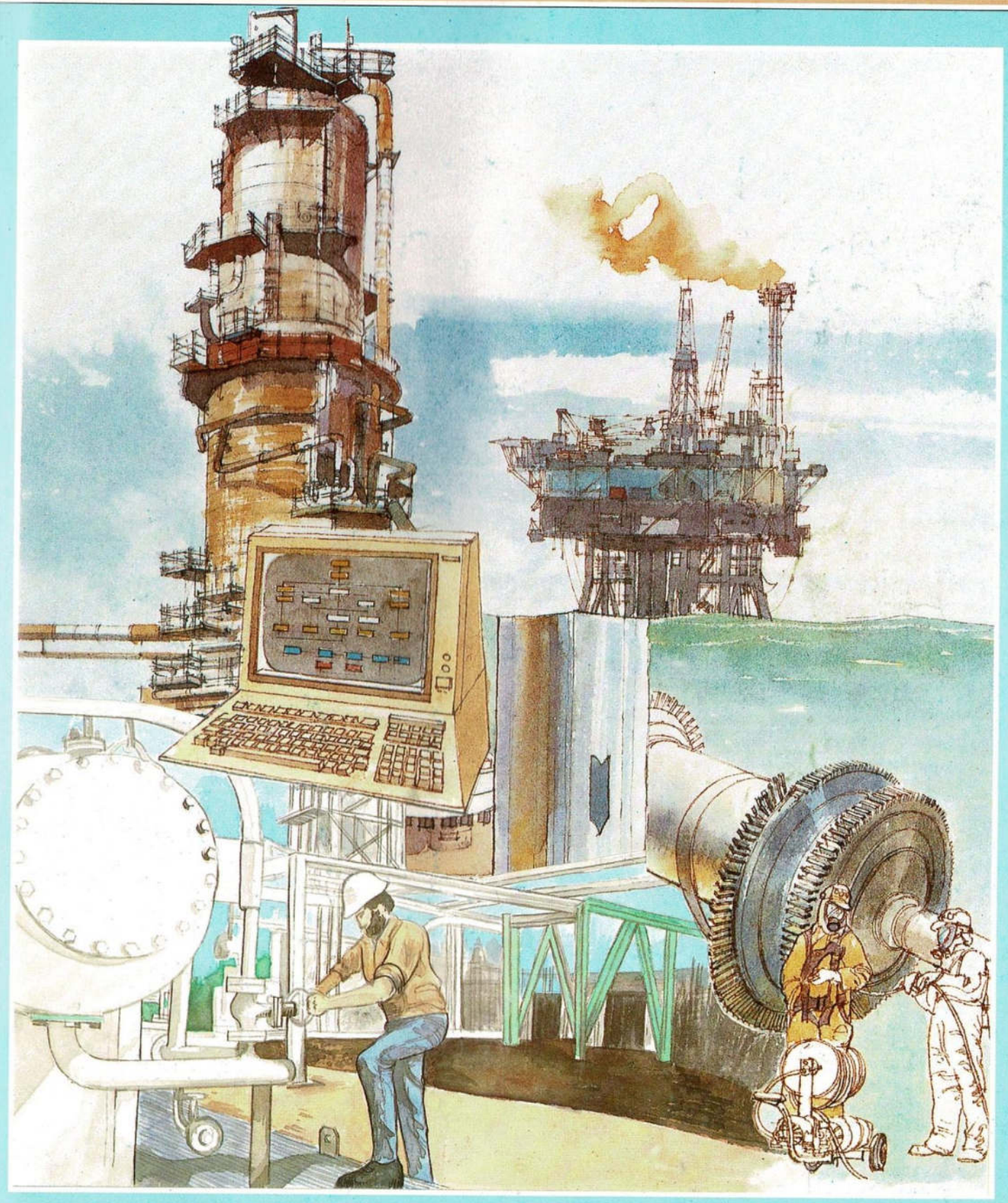


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△Celebration time after receiving the Second Division Trophy in 1982
Terry salutes the crowd after scoring against Workington ▽

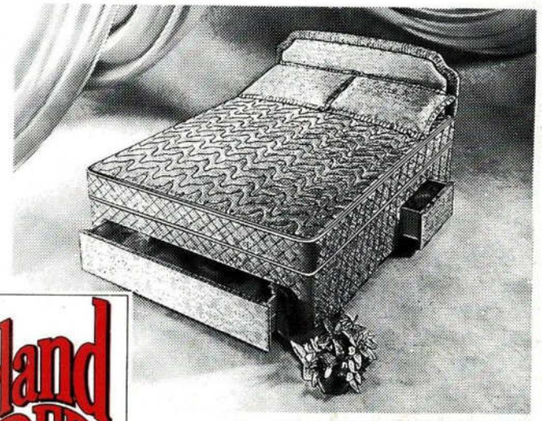



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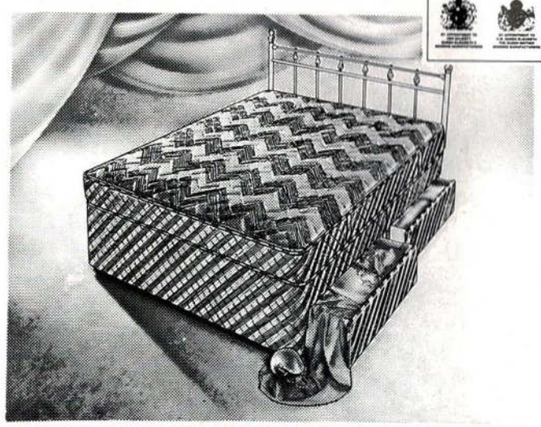


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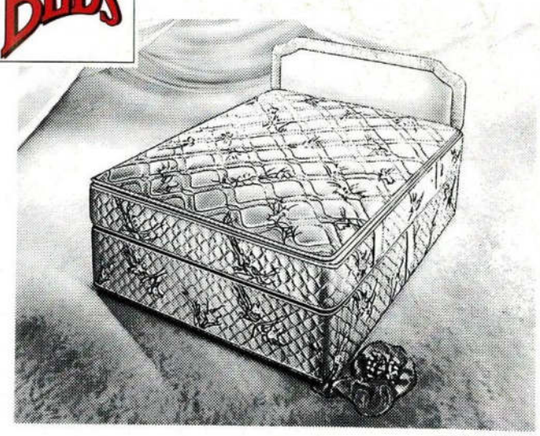


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Two years ago, when Frank Myler was in charge at Oldham, he switched Terry Flanagan from his familiar loose-forward position and, in the absence of regular hookers Ian Sanderson and Paul Lowndes, Terry was given the No. 9 jersey.

Myler's decision was newsworthy as he seemed to have revived an old family tradition. Years earlier, Terry's dad Bill had been a hooker with the old Belle Vue Rangers side. So, too, had older brother Kevin, who did the job for Rochdale Hornets, although like Terry, Kevin was usually regarded as a loose-forward.

The move to hooker, though temporary, was not strange to Terry as he had filled the position many times before as a schoolboy and in amateur football.

It was in those far-off days that I first came to know the lad who – even then – showed all the potential of a future international and it has been my privilege to look upon Terry and the whole Flanagan family as friends ever since.

That's why it gives me great pleasure to add my tribute to the many that Terry will undoubtedly receive during his testimonial season.

I'm sure he remembers the great times we all had when the Oldham Schools' team, toured France back in 1973. His career flourished after that, first as one of the stars of that marvellous Saddleworth Rangers youth team then, following his records signing for Oldham, representing Great Britain at colts and under-24s level before achieving full international recognition and a place on the 1984 tour 'Down Under'.

There's still plenty of rugby left in Terry, but I suspect that he will be gracing the RL scene long after he decides to hang up his boots – whenever that may be.

He has often impressed me during his frequent interviews on the radio with that relaxed, articulate style of his and it's no secret that he has now embarked on the after-dinner speaking circuit.

I wonder if the media will eventually utilise the polished communication skills that Terry Flanagan undoubtedly possesses. I hope so.

Have a bumper testimonial, mate. You deserve it!



**PETER DEAKIN**
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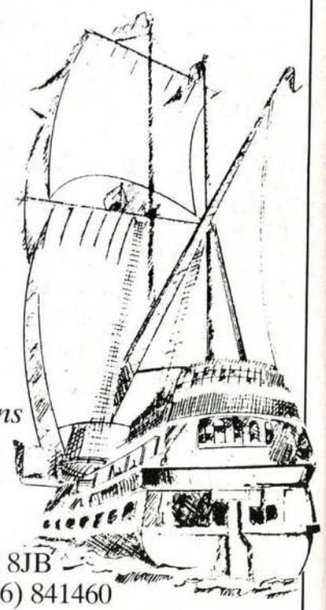
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I am delighted to be invited to say a few words in Terry Flanagan's benefit brochure because, from what I can observe on the other side of town, as it were, he seems to epitomise the good club man.

He has all the hallmarks – local lad, long-serving player, and a sportman who is always ready and willing to support good causes in his home town.

He reminds me a lot of our own Gary Hoolickin at Oldham Athletic. Lads like this, of course, become part of the woodwork. They are Oldham through and through and one has to ensure that they are not taken for granted. That's why it is important that Terry has a good testimonial for all the service he has given to Oldham Rugby League Club over the years.

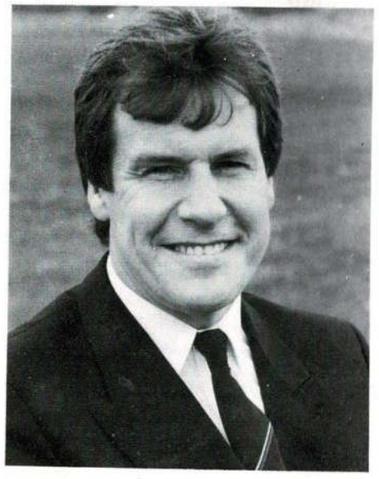
I have had the pleasure of Terry's company on several occasions socially and he has always struck me as a smashing chap.

On the two or three occasions I have seen him playing rugby he has looked hard enough and a very honest player and it is no surprise, therefore, to find that his professionalism on the field is being continued in his testimonial effort.

He seems to be doing things very professionally and I'm certain we will all enjoy a great day out – along with the spectators – when the Latics players and the Rugby lads meet at Austerlands to do battle on the cricket field on Terry's behalf.

In a town like Oldham, of course, both professional clubs have to work hard for their support and it is important that when a player qualifies for a benefit he gets the backing his loyalty has deserved.

On behalf of everyone at Boundary Park I am privileged to congratulate Terry on reaching this milestone in his career and to extend every good wish for a bumper testimonial.



**JOE ROYLE**
**Manager,**
**Oldham**
**Athletic AFC**


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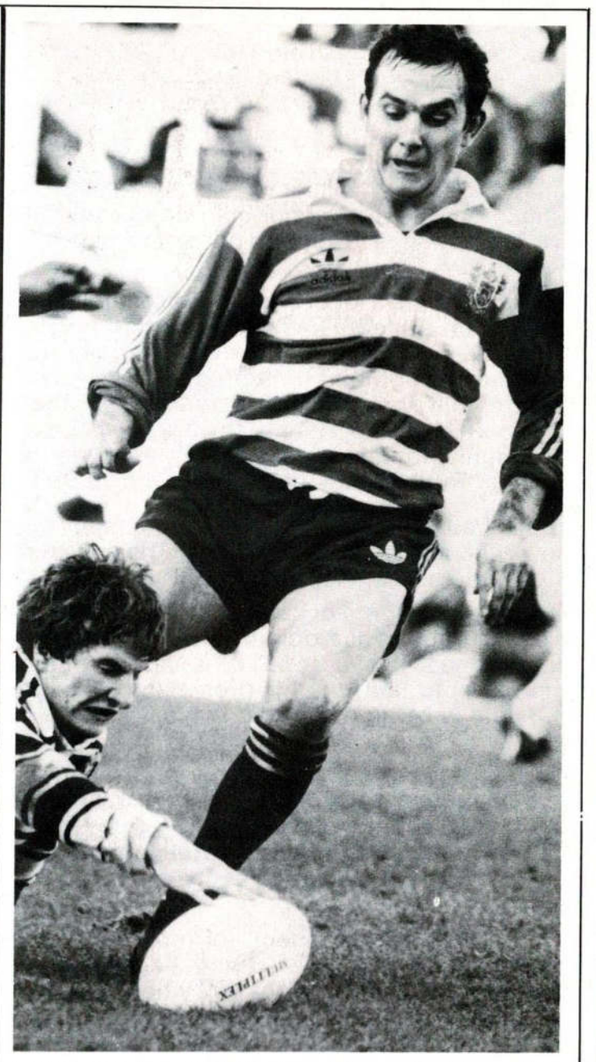
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*Terry and Lee Crooks in a chase for the ball*

The 1988-89 season will see Oldham making a welcome return to the First Division of the Rugby League after a successful double triumph of championship and Premiership wins in the briefest of spells in the Second Division.

The season also marks Terry Flanagan's well-earned benefit for his home-town club and the start of a new development between BARLA and the Rugby Football League in the area of youth football which, it is hoped, will increase both playing standards and the depth of talent coming into the game in future years.

It was in this area of the game that I first met Terry Flanagan when he was a member of an outstanding Great Britain Colts side visiting France at Perpignan in 1980. It is worth recalling the full side on that occasion and the progress made by so many in the succeeding years. ➤



COLIN WHITFIELD **(Salford);** IAN NICHOLSON **(Hunslet);** TONY MYLER **(Widnes);** STEVE DENNISON **(Hull) Capt.;** KEVIN MEADOWS **(St. Helens);** ANDY MACKINTOSH **(Leeds);** RAY ASHTON **(Oldham);** LEE BEAUMONT **(Hull);** BRIAN NOBLE **(Bradford N);** MIKE O'NEILL **(Widnes);** NEIL JAMES **(Castleford);** WAYNE HERON **(Leeds);** TERRY FLANAGAN **(Oldham).**

Subs: PADDY KIRWAN **(Oldham);** MARTYN SMITH **(Widnes);** ANDY TIMSON **(Castleford).**

After Beaumont was carried off in the first five minutes with a broken leg Terry Flanagan inspired Great Britain to a superb 29-11 victory, being involved in just about every score and showing tactical knowledge, vision, leadership, skills and a maturity well beyond his 19 years of age. He repeated the performance in a 31-2 victory over France in the return fixture at Oldham and could have attracted a top transfer even at that early stage if he had been available. As business manager of the 1984 Lions squad to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea I was delighted when Terry was selected and although injury restricted his appearances in Australia he proved a model tourist throughout the difficult 13-week trip. He came back strongly at the end of the tour to show fine form and force his way into the Test side for the third Test against New Zealand at Auckland and in the final game, the Test against Papua New Guinea at Mount Hagen.

His willingness and ability to play in every position of the pack at Oldham over the years has not only been of great value to his club but typifies his thoroughly professional attitude, loyalty and love of Rugby League.

As secretary of the British Rugby League Lions Association of former tourists I know how proud he is to be a member of this unique body and how thrilled he is to attend Lions reunions with his equally-proud father, Bill, and mingle with the game's all-time greats.

On behalf of all Lions members I wish Terry the successful benefit year his outstanding career merits and future success with Oldham in the top-flight.

**ROLAND DAVIS**
**Finance Officer, Rugby Football League;**

**Secretary, British Rugby League Lions' Association.**



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My attention was first focussed on Terry Flanagan when he was hitting the headlines as a teenager in the Saddleworth Rangers' youth side and I vividly recall trying to sign him for Leigh – one of several clubs chasing him at the time – before he chose to join his home-town club.

One night I drove over to the pub then kept by the Flanagan family in Featherstall Road, Oldham, and I was most impressed by the talks I had with Terry and his father, Bill.

He signed for Oldham, of course, to the bitter disappointment of a few other clubs, and througout all his years at Watersheddings he has been a credit to his club, his family and himself both on and off the field.

I think it says a lot of Terry's attitude and ability to record that he has represented his country at all levels, from colts to full Test appearances, while with a club that has never really been a top force in the game for the past 30 years.

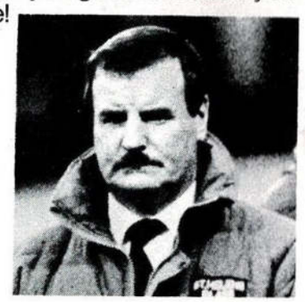
In other words, he has not had the opportunities to put his talents to the fore that many of his peers have enjoyed with more fashionable clubs. This is not being disrespectful to Oldham. It is, nevertheless, something that has to be considered when looking at Terry's career over the past 300 or so matches for club, county and country.

To pursue the same theme, I have always felt that he has not had the forwards around him at Oldham to bring out the best in his undoubted handling ability. He has often had to do things that other forwards should have been doing to allow him to concentrate on what he does best and I think that if he had been with one of the trophy-winning clubs over the past nine years he would have been around the international scene much longer than he was.

He toured Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea with Great Britain in 1984 – deservedly so – and I know that, even as he approaches his testimonial season, his attitude to the game and to the playing of it is just as keen now as it was when I talked to him as a fresh-faced kid in the Elevenways in the summer of 1979.

Well done, Terry. I hope you get the benefit you undoubtedly deserve!

**ALEX MURPHY**
**St. Helens, Lancashire and former Great Britain boss.**




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# Terry tours the North Sea!

On returning from Down Under, Terry soon discovered that his employers, Costain Engineering, had their own ideas about a tour for one of their most promising young engineers. They lined him up with another trip . . . this time to the North Sea gas rigs.

Having roamed the world for three months, Terry now found himself confined to a gas platform for two weeks at a time. Some contrast!

As usual, he coped with it, however, and explained later: "I was made project manager and I had to supervise off-shore installation. It disrupted my rugby but I had to do it because the company had allowed me to go off on a three month tour to the other side of the world with only four days notice.

"It was a career move and, once completed, I had gained a couple of stripes at work".

The season concluded with Oldham finishing fifth in the First Division – a magnificent achievement considering the resources Frank Myler had at his disposal. The club was looking on the bright side and was poised for something big.



*Terry receiving a Sportsmanship Award*




# TERRY FLANAGAN
## BENEFIT YEAR

*Congratulations from Weatherseal on your 10 successful years with Oldham Rugby League Club.*

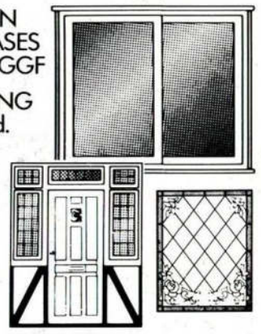
Yes, congratulations Terry, from one local institution to another.
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# FLAN FAN CLUB – BAHAMAS BRANCH!

by Robert Burke (Freeport RFC)

When you are standing, wet and cold, on a windy terrace at Odsal, and somewhere in the distance the referee is awarding penalty after penalty against Oldham, I will be diving in warm, clear waters over a tropical reef. But it's not all that idyllic. When something twice the size of Ian Van Bellen, twice as fast as Des Foy and twice as ugly as Brian Hogan comes after you for tea it's time to get out. Sharks are not the only problem in the Bahamas – there's no Rugby League.

Although I am following in the footsteps of the former Oldham player Alan Taylor at Freeport RFC, the nearest I get to League is through the BBC's World Service. After tennis, golf, and ladies underwater frisbee the BBC condescends to give the RL results.

Each year, my friend John Waterhouse visits me with Oldham Chronicle cuttings and stories and after a bottle of rum it's almost as if I'm back in the Ashton Arms after the match.

Do you recall Wally Jones's kick for touch . . . being ripped off in that gay pub in London . . . Parrish's tackle on Kemble . . . they shouldn't have taken the captaincy away from Flanagan (how many times did that come into the conversation?) . . . Ashton going under the posts in the last-minute against Salford in the Lancashire Cup . . . the everlasting image of Mordell running in front of a cheering crowd with his fist raised in victory salute . . . Flanagan taking over the responsibility for kicking the vital goal (that's what captains are made of) . . . that try at the Boulevard when Oldham moved the ball to the right on half-way but Terry, at full speed, turned it back inside for Goodway to go through the gap, and through Kemble, to score . . . that win at Headingley when Terry went over from Wally's pass (we had waited a long time for that).

The next story I want to hear is of Oldham's victory in a Challenge Cup semi-final. I won't wait for the final. I'll be on the first plane out of Nassau . . . and the man I want to see leading Oldham out of Wembley is Terry Flanagan.

## Away Trip...

It was 9.00 a.m. on New Year's Day on Mumps Station. A tottering Oldham and Scottish Pipe Band had just struck up for the hoard of misguided zealots queueing for the opening of a well known D.I.Y. Store ("me mum's made 300 mince pies for that do", said Rick) and the train to Leeds was pulling up to the platform.

Another day out at the rugby was about to be undertaken and before its end there were to be many strange happenings. At lunchtime in The Holly Bush there was what seemed to be the relics of an edition of 'The Good Old Days' complete with dwarf and a landlord who appeared not to have discarded his stilts. The game itself was remarkable only for Oldham's successful attempt to field the smallest pack in rugby league history. Paddy Kirwan driving the ball into Geoff Grayshon and Paul Medley?!?

The journey home also had its moments. The bus back into Leeds was treated to 5/6 of the "Archangel Adolf" joke and is presumably still waiting for the punchline. Whilst one solitary lady traveller on the Leeds to Manchester New Year's Day service must have had grave doubts about her sanity.

She was treated to a 6'2" ginger haired bearded Oldhamer from Norwich, resplendent in Peruvian peasants cap recently acquired from the shores of Lake Titikaka, giving renditions from Spanish Light Opera. Her psychoanalyst is presumably now a much richer man.

Nothing much else happened . . . on that away trip!

DAVID CHALONER

### TERRY RAP

You should know if you're from round here
This is Terry Flanagan's benefit year
So raise your glass and doff your cap
And get on down to the Terry, Terry . . .
Terry rap

For nine years now he's caused a sensation
Playing for the town, county and nation
In 300 games he's given his all
He makes the play and moves the ball
And out in the stands you can hear the call
"Nothing stops the man, not a ten foot wall"
He's history when he sees the gap
That's why we're singin the Terry, Terry . . .
Terry rap

He's got the skill and he's got the brain
He's done it before and he'll do it again
So clap your hands and tip your hat
And get on down to the Terry, Terry . . .
Terry rap

**Anthony H.**




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# Semi-Final Heartbreak

On a spring day at Central Park, Wigan in 1986, the Oldham club found itself only 40 minutes from achieving the ultimate aim of all Oldhamers – to see the team playing at Wembley. Despite having some magnificent sides, particularly in the 1950s, Oldham is one of the few clubs never to have graced the hallowed turf.

In 1986 Oldham played Castleford in the semi-final at Wigan – the club's first appearance in the last four of the Challenge Cup since 1964 – and despite being in the lead at half-time, the ultimate goal again eluded them as Castleford came from behind to book their place in the final.

Terry recalls that season – and the Castleford game in particular.

"With the influx of the Liddiard brothers, Mal Graham and Gary Warnecke, and with Mick Morgan, Dave Topliss, myself, Ray Ashton, Wally Jones, David Hobbs, Mick Worrall and Paddy Kirwan etc. performing on top of our game, we shook the RL world that season.

"That was the best Oldham team I've played in and I have a lasting memory of David Liddiard catching the ball from the kick-off against Carlisle at Boundary Park, and running the full length of the field to score inside ten seconds without one Carlisle player laying a finger on him.

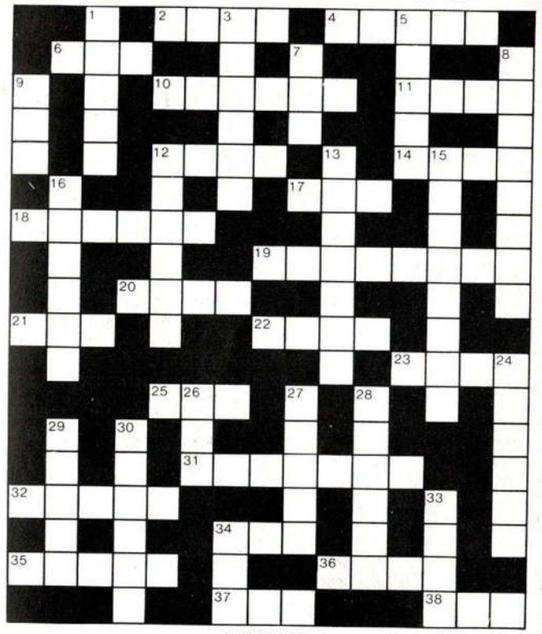
"We had a great cup run only to fall to Castleford in the semi-final. I have two memories of that game – being substituted at half-time when we had just regained the lead and Bob Beardmore's try which was allowed even though his legs were over the dead-ball line".

People close to Terry know just how much it meant to him to be part of the first Oldham team to go to Wembley and he does not hide his emotions on this topic.

As he says: "Losing any semi-final is devastating, but with so much hanging on the Castleford game it was sheer hell to lose like that. I really felt for those marvellous Oldham fans and I firmly believe that once we break the hoodoo, and get to Wembley, the town will really get behind us again. the signs are there. One recalls the great scenes after we had won the Second Division Premiership final at Old Trafford this year. It is just a matter of time".

## OLDHAM R.L. CROSSWORD

**Compiled by**
**KEVIN and DIANE FLANAGAN**



**ACROSS**

2. Local Oldham centre, later coached Hornets
4. Only forward to score twice at Wembley, ex Oldham player
6. First name of blockbusting 1970 Oldham tourist forward
10. Oldhams, Man of Steel
11. Record shot putter, signed for Oldham in 1962
12. First name of 13 down
14. 50s try scoring winger
17. Former 70s Oldham coach, now Down Under
18. 60s, 70s and 80s great full-back for Oldham
19. Aussie brothers, set Oldham alight
20. Big money signing (87/88 Season)
21. First name of 9 down
22. First name of Oldham's 80s Cumbrian hooker
23. First name of 33 down
25. First name of former GB coach and Oldham 70s Boss
31. Mick_ _ _ _ _ _ _ former Welsh winger
32. _ _ _ _ _ Pitchford Oldham's great scrum-half
34. Connection between Oldham's young hooker and 33 down
35. Last Ashes winning captain down under (1970)
36. First name of Oldham forward, who's father was an 1974 Oldham tourist
37. First name of speedy Aussie forward
38. _ _ _ Casey Oldham's young forward

**DOWN**

1. Oldham's record forward buy
3. Local great winger 1954 tourist
5. Lance Todd and Harry Sunderland trophy winner, now with Oldham
7. First name of 12 down
8. Area lost for arguing with the ref.
9. Oldham's tourist centre
12. Ex. Oldham half-back now a Loiner
13. Wigan forward, who learnt his trade at Oldham
15. Oldham's Welsh tourist, 1975 world cup
16. 50s Great Oldham forward, 3 times winning captain at Wembley
24. Most capped Oldham player, 50s centre
26. First name of Oldham's record buy in the 50s
27. _ _ _ _ _ Lockwood, short term Oldham player
28. 50s great forward, and was anything but this_ _ _ _ _ _
29. First name of 3 down
30. Oldham's greatest goal-kicker
33. 70s Oldham stalwart formerly with Blackpool
34. First name of an Oldham Wembley ref.

*Answers on page 35*

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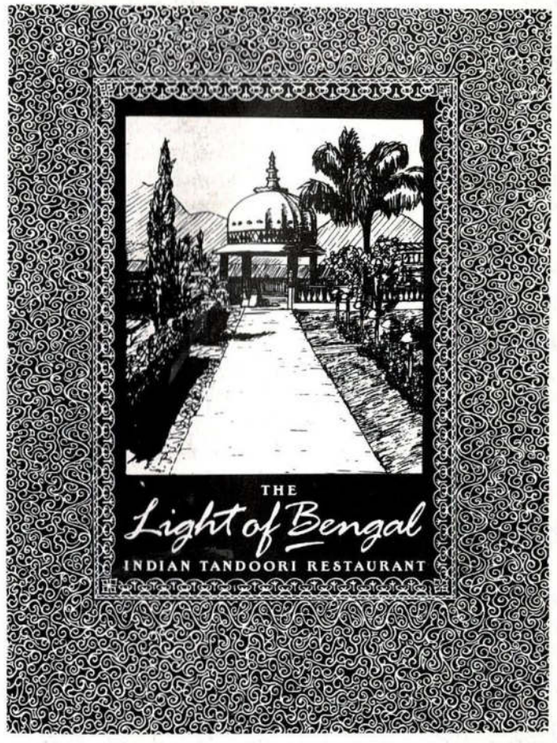
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*Terry receiving Player of the Year Award at end of 1979-80 Season*

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It gives me great pleasure to write a few words in tribute to Terry Flanagan. In two seasons at Oldham I got on very well with Terry. Like me, he is a deep thinker on the game although, with letters behind his name, his thinking is a little bit up-market compared with mine! Seriously, there isn't a better pro anywhere than 'Flash'.

He accepted responsibility, as club captain, at a very young age and soon showed that he was a born-leader. 'Flash' has never been gifted with what I consider to be the main attribute for a player– pace. That means he has had to work harder at his own game than most back-row forwards in order to get to the top, which he did when he went on the 1984 tour.

Over the last two seasons 'Flash' has been used as a hooker on many occasions. I was at Oldham when Frank Myler first suggested the switch to Terry. He wasn't pleased, to say the least, but like the true pro that he is he rolled up his sleeves and got on with the job.

This season he has certainly played a major part in Oldham's Second Division title success. It was clinched against my own Wakefield Trinity side in a 23-22 thriller at Belle Vue and 'Flash', from the No. 9 position, tore us to bits in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Enough of this because his head is big enough. Seriously though, I hope the Oldham fans and the rest of the Rugby League make it a benefit for Terry and his family to remember all their lives. There certainly isn't a more diehard Roughyed than Terry. All the best, Tel.

DAVID TOPLISS
(Former Wakefield, Hull, Oldham and Great Britain Captain)


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No club in my mind can buy a successful team, without a good solid base of homespun players to build on.

Terry Flanagan fills that roll in the highest order. Whilst coaches have come and gone from the Watersheddings, the temptation for Terry to seek more rewards elsewhere must have been great, but Terry as he is, put Oldham R.L. first and assisted the club and coaching staff every way he could.

He is not only a very good pro on the field, but off it as well, I know this from experience as Terry and his wife Sue made my wife and I very welcome and became good friends during my spell with Oldham.

Terry has deserved all his success in attaining full honours and all local youngsters can't do much worse than using Terry's success as a model for their careers.

Wishing Terry all the very best in his benefit year and beyond.

▲ DAVID HOBBS

During my years at St. Helens I had numerous tussles with Terry, but I always found him to be a very determined opponent who played it hard, but fair.

I vividly recall a game at Oldham when Terry was having a particularly good afternoon and Saints were getting a bit of a runaround. Towards the end of the match my patience snapped and Terry was the one who suffered from my frustration which resulted in my having to spend ten minutes in the sin-bin.

We established a firm friendship on the 1984 tour of Australia and although the tour was not a happy one for me because of niggling injuries, Terry again proved his versatility, as he has done at Watersheddings over the years.

As a ball-player Terry will have his critics, but the true Rugby League enthusiasts will know that he reads the game well and always tries to be constructive. He is a dedicated professional, who is always prompting and encouraging his team mates and he never gives less than 100 per cent whatever position he is asked to play.

Terry has had to follow in the footsteps of some of the great loose-forwards at Oldham, such as Derek 'Rocky' Turner, but in his own way I am sure he has left a lasting impression on the people of Oldham.

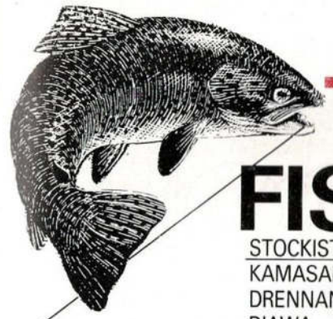
I am confident they will rally round and give this great guy a bumper testimonial which he richly deserves.

HARRY PINNER
(Leigh and former St. Helens captain and loose-forward)

▼





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The clock was turned back six years to the last time Oldham won the Second Division title, but it nevertheless gave Terry and thousands of Oldhamers great pleasure to get back into the big time at the first attempt.

The club had passed through a transitional period and Flanagan, as usual, had played a major role on the field. He produced many thoroughly professional performances and although he spent a lot of time on the substitutes' bench he has never wavered from his main aim – to put Oldham on top of the Rugby League world.

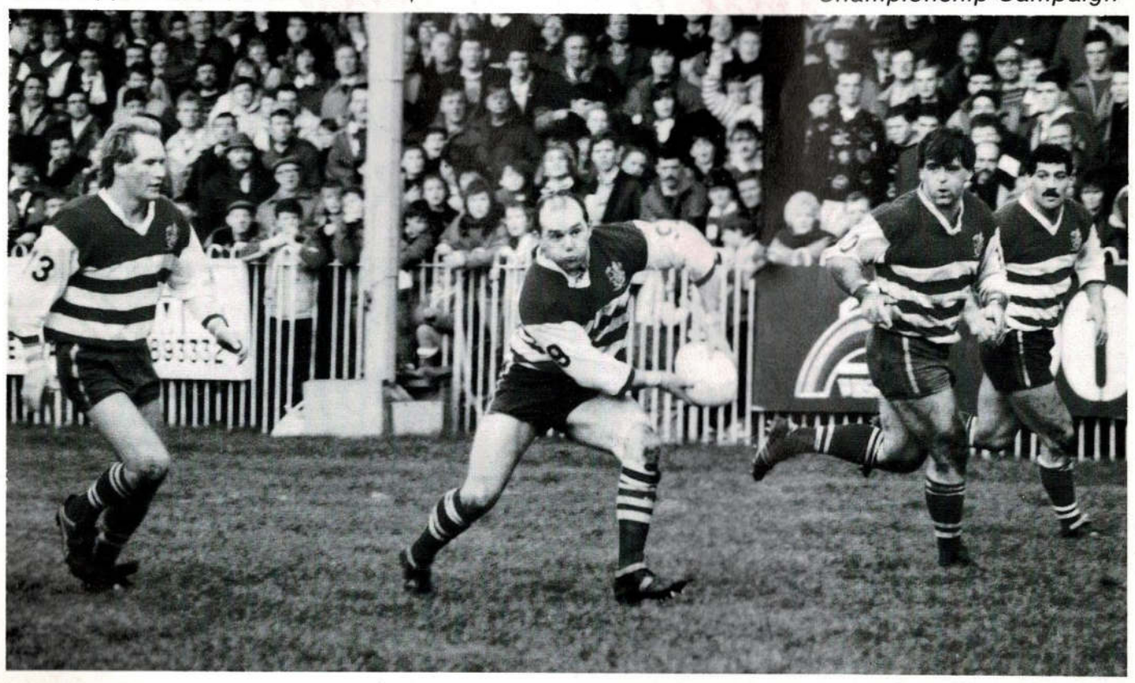
Says Terry: "To obtain a double Second Division cup-winning triumph was a marvellous achievement considering all the learning a lot of people at the club had to do in their first season.

"There is still a vast amount of work to do before we can even begin to talk about consolidated success, but with everyone pulling in the right direction I'm sure success is within our grasp".



▲ *Terry scoring again during Championship Campaign*

*Terry in action at Featherstone with support on hand either side* ▼





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# Terry Flanagan - a man of many parts...

Terry Flanagan is a man of many parts – Rugby League forward, after-dinner speaker, Bachelor of Science, young business executive, husband and father. You can see him in a smart suit, brief case in hand, or dishevelled, covered in mud, battered and bruised in the red and white of his only professional club and sporting the widest of toothless grins!

He is also a young man in a hurry. He always has been. It is no surprise, therefore, to record the fact that Terry is one of the youngest, if not the youngest, beneficiaries of an Oldham testimonial.

He signed once he had completed his 'A' levels at school and after only a handful of colts matches and a short time in the 'A' team he made the Oldham No. 13 jersey his own. At the age of 19 – and now studying for his degree in electronics at U.M.I.S.T. (Manchester University) – he was made the youngest skipper in Oldham's history by the coach of the time, Graham Starkey.

His exploits as a ball-handling loose-forward, a clever tactician and a thinker are no doubt well chronicled elsewhere in this brochure. Rather than delve into the record books I prefer to reflect on Terry's career by recalling one or two incidents which stand out in my memory and say as much about the style of the man as about his prowess with a rugby ball in his educated hands.

The record books will show that, in his first season, he kicked a goal in a Lancashire Cup-tie against Salford. The atmosphere that night at Watersheddings was electric. Oldham drew level with a last-minute try under the posts. In the absence of a regular and recognised marksman, a young Ray Ashton had previously taken over the kicking role. Ray clearly did not relish the idea of taking such a pressure kick and while vastly more experienced professionals debated who was to have the responsibility, teenager Terry demanded the ball, placed it on the 25-yard line and calmly kicked Oldham into the next round. We all knew then that here we had a captain in the making.

The intelligence that, in that same year, was taking him to academic success concluded that this was the easiest of kicks. Only the importance of the goal set it aside from the rest. While the others hesitated, Terry quickly applied the principles of mind-over-matter and got on with the job. Successfully, of course.

Allied to natural ability as a ball player was a razor-sharp brain that he often used to out-wit the opposition. Cute and cunning, he would size up opponents to out-think them and thus compensate for any advantage he might concede in terms of speed and sheer physical power.

He was often said to have an old head on young shoulders. Many were the times, in his early days, when his maturity of mind and speed of thought were decisive in plotting victories for his club, county or country.



*Terry in action against Salford . . .*



In more recent times, the mind has retained its sharpness even if the hair has receded and the legs have slowed down somewhat! Incredibly, the years have flown and Terry is now one of the elder statesmen at Watersheddings. But he's as cute as ever and he can still enjoy a boyish chuckle when he pulls a stroke on the field that helps Oldham to success.

Typical of Terry's attention to detail was the way he transformed a tough game at Workington when Oldham were heading for defeat at half-time during the club's Second Division championship and premiership winning season of 1987-88.

It was the coldest day of the winter. Icy sleet swept in off the Irish Sea, the Town forwards were fired up, Charlie McAlister and Bryan McCarthy had to be treated for hypothermia, and the French referee couldn't understand a word of English – or west Cumbrian!

Penalties and scrums went heavily in Town's favour. The Cumbrians led at half-time and had the advantage of the fierce wind to come. Enter Flanagan, from the bench, to totally change the whole mood of the match. Suddenly, Oldham were in control as Flanagan adopted tactics to suit the conditions, constantly bemused the Town forwards with his outrageous dummy, and ensured that Oldham played out their six tackles.

It was only afterwards, however, that we learned why penalties and scrums suddenly began to go Oldham's way. The story has it that Flanagan, realising the Frenchman's language difficulty, turned back the clock to his 'O' level days and began to help him in his own inimitable style!

"Tete rouge, monsieur", called Terry as each scrum was formed – and the referee duly obliged as Oldham went on to victory thanks to more ball from the scrums.

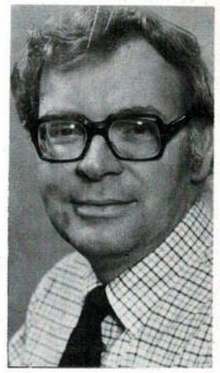
I feel that neither Oldham nor Great Britain made the best use of the combined talents of Flanagan and Ray Ashton to move the ball from one side of the field to the other as they did when totally destroying the French in an under-24 international at Watersheddings.

Nevertheless, Terry can look back with pride and pleasure on a distinguished career – and forward, I feel sure, to many more years in the game as coach, manager or administrator.

He has been a credit to the Oldham club and he has given thousands of Oldham people much pleasure and joy with what he has achieved on the field of play.

I am sure he will get a bumper benefit and I know he will try and ensure that as many Oldham supporters as possible can share with him, many happy hours over the next 12 months.

As the Frenchman might say . . . tres bien, Terry!



**ROGER HALSTEAD**
**Oldham Evening Chronicle**



*and against Swinton*

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# Terry's Top Team

Who do YOU think have been the best Oldham players in the last ten years? Throw that question at Terry and this is the team he would pick – with comments – from all the players he has played alongside at Watersheddings.

1. Mick Burke – Done the lot... and still doing it.
2. David Liddiard – Fantastic pace, always buys a drink.
3. Des Foy – Fantastic pace, never buys a drink.
4. Bill Francis – Taught me a lot. Utmost regard for him.
5. Clive Sullivan – A legend, with whom I was privileged to play.
6. David Topliss – wish I could have played with him sooner.
7. Paddy Kirwan – Here's to the next 17 years!.
8. Wally Jones – Teetotaller, his only fault.
9. Ian Sanderson – Good player, needs policing, though!
10. David Hobbs – Fantastic player. Said he would bash me if I didn't pick him.
11. Mick Worrall – On his day joint best second-rower in game.
12. Andy Goodway – On his day joint best second-rower in game.
13. Terry Flanagan – Well, I had to pick myself, didn't I.
14. Ray Ashton – Real character, great player. Had nine good years with him.
15. Mal Graham – Needs to score more to get into my team.

---

**Quiz Entries**

Send your answers to the 5 questions in this brochure on a card with your name and address to:

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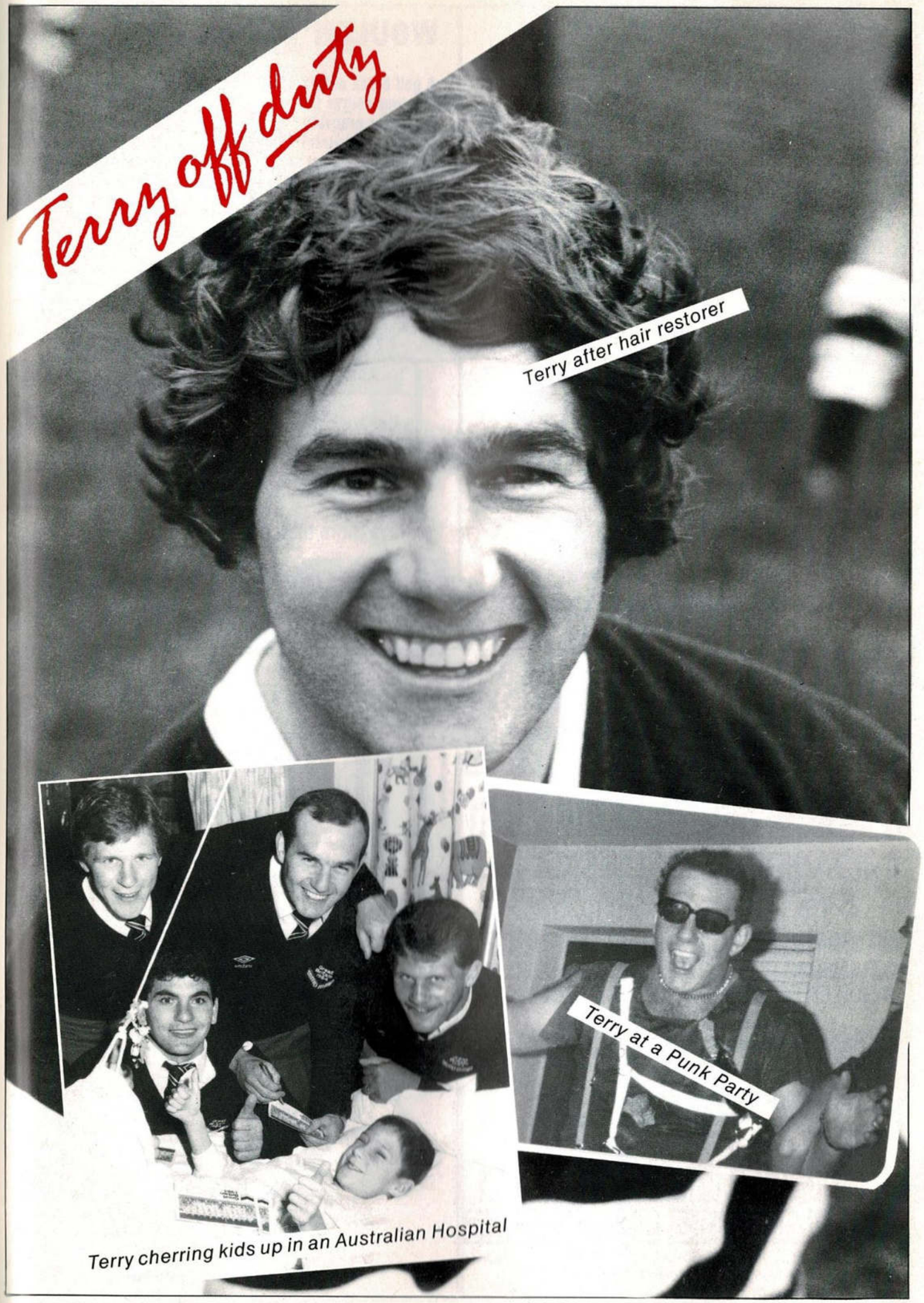
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# Terry says thankyou...

My first thank you has to be directed to my wonderful family who have supported me through thick and thin at all times during my career. Without their support I doubt whether I would have achieved the relative high spots in my career which hopefully I have shared with you in this brochure. My wife Susan has always been a tower of strength, in addition to being a superb mother to our children, Louise and Mark.

Throughout my career I have made so many friends in players, officials and supporters, work colleagues etc., and I wish to thank them for their support. Many people have helped my career in many ways and I would like to say to them that I have appreciated all their efforts.

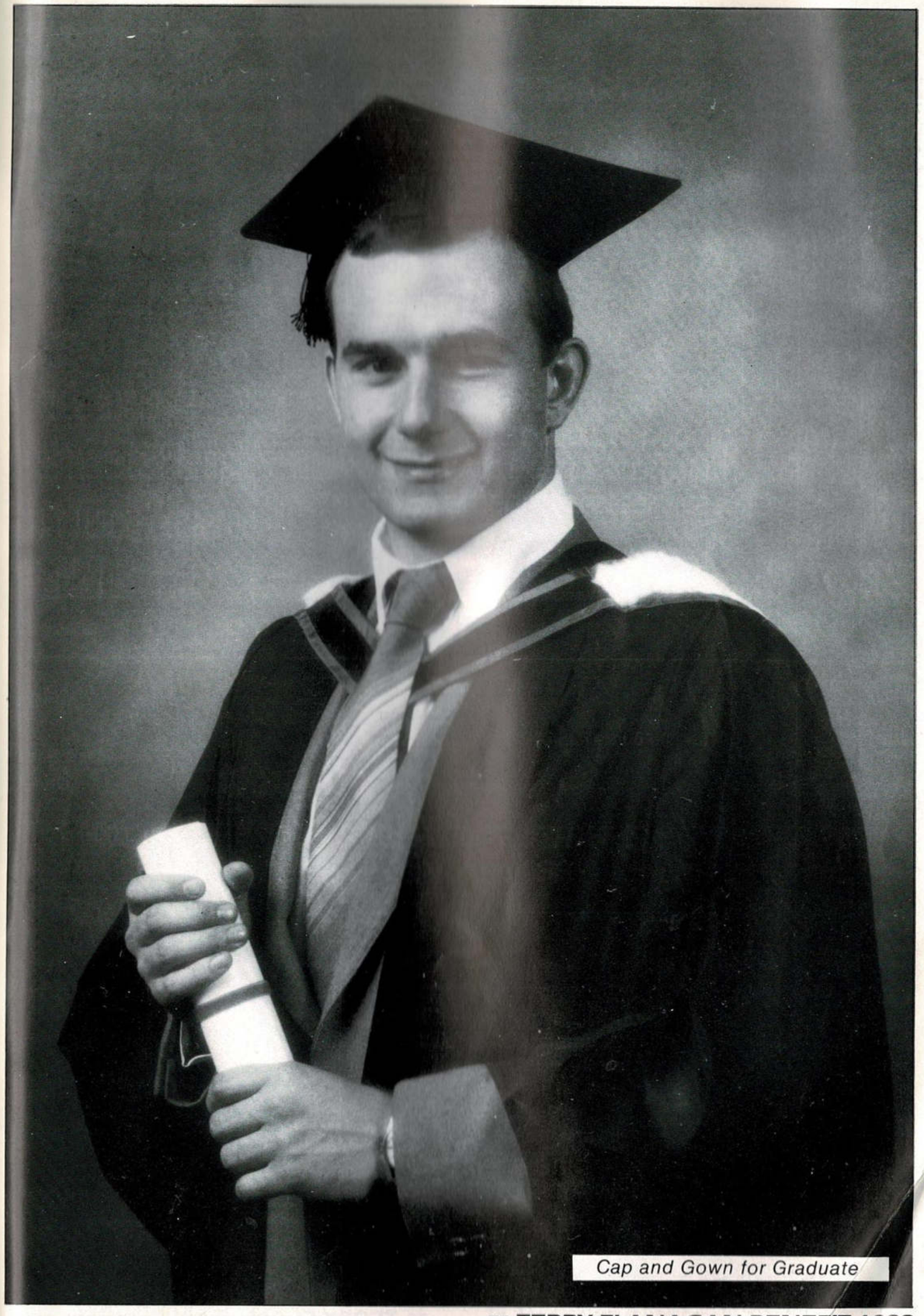
May I take this opportunity to thank my Benefit Committee for all their efforts and to all contributors and advertisers who have made this brochure possible. Many thanks should go the Oldham club and my employers Costain, again I am indebted for their support.

Finally, many thanks to yourself for purchasing this brochure, and your support during my Benefit Year. It has always been my pleasure to entertain you on the Rugby Field and I am privileged to be allowed to run a Benefit Year.

**TERRY FLANAGAN**



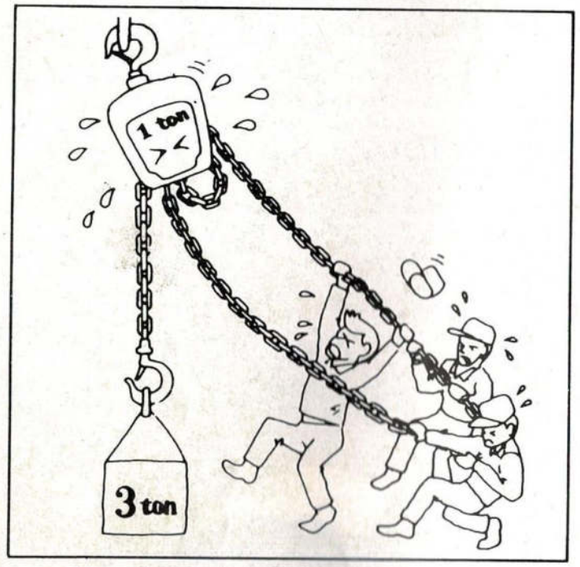




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