

John Player Trophy

**John Player
wishes both teams
good luck
in today's match**

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The Rugby Football League



**John Player
Trophy
1981/82**

**HULL
V
OLDHAM**

**Headingley, Leeds
28th November, 1981
2.15 p.m.**

Official

BIG MATCH Programme

40P

GET A KICK OUT OF RUGBY LEAGUE!

Read Arthur Brooks in the

DAILY
Mirror

Watch out for the Daily Mirror/Shopacheck
'Team of the Month' Awards



JOHN PLAYER TROPHY

1981-82 RESULTS

Preliminary Round

Leigh	41	Blackpool B.	4
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First Round

Batley	7	Featherstone R.	16
Castleford	21	Leigh	7
Carlisle	14	Cardiff C.	7
Dewsbury	2	Hull K.R.	34
Halifax	7	Hull	26
Huddersfield	19	Huyton	17
Hunslet	8	Widnes	44
Keighley	27	Wakefield T.	22
Leeds	19	Wigan	10
Oldham	21	Doncaster	7
Rochdale H.	3	Bradford N.	19
St. Helens	16	Barrow	16
Swinton	32	York	5
Warrington	24	Fulham	15
Whitehaven	11	Salford	19
Workington T.	22	Bramley	9

Replay

Barrow	17	St. Helens	—
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Second Round

Barrow	8	Bradford N.	—
Castleford	5	Hull	23
Hull K.R.	18	Featherstone R.	6
Keighley	10	Salford	11
Leeds	13	Warrington	8
Oldham	13	Huddersfield	—
Swinton	19	Workington T.	9
Widnes	16	Carlisle	10

Quarter Finals

Barrow	12	Hull	14
Oldham	14	Leeds	5
Salford	0	Swinton	6
Widnes	8	Hull K.R.	9

1981-82 PRIZES

Round	Per Team	Total
Preliminary	2x£700	£1,400
First	16x£700	£11,200
Second	8x£900	£7,200
Third	4x£1,175	£4,700
Semis	2x£2,500	£5,000
Runners-up	£4,500	£4,500
Winners	£9,000	£9,000

Total Prizes	£43,000
Capital Development Fund	£ 7,000

Grand Total £50,000



JOHN PLAYER

SPOTLIGHT



JOHN HUXLEY

There cannot have been anybody better suited to taking Rugby League to the Cockney population than the sport's very own cheekie chappie Reg Bowden.

It was a real shaker when the newly formed Fulham swooped to sign Reg from super club Widnes, but what a shrewd move it turned out to be.

In the second of three Big Match interviews with the supremos of the three new clubs, Reg Bowden comes face to face with Sunday Mirror Rugby League writer John Huxley.

Q. Now that Fulham are in the Slalom Lager Championship how are they finding life?

A. To be honest, it's very hard. We're still enjoying life, but now that we have been promoted everything is that bit more difficult; the gaps aren't there as often and the tackling is really fierce. Although we approach the job in the same way that proved so successful last season, we have never attempted to con the lads that they are a great side. Now that they have recognised that fact, they are beginning to find that life is not as difficult as some people were trying to make out. We're not thinking in terms of winning a top eight placing this season, more about survival. We are under no illusions about big-time Rugby League and are determined to stay in the Championship. That's where my experience could help. The lads look to me, and the other experienced players, for gaps and they are beginning to appear more regularly for us.

Q. At the start of this season you made several playing staff changes. What were your reasons for changing a promotion winning side?

A. I have watched too many promoted teams arrive in the Championship thinking that they are great sides, lose matches, and then have to make panic signings before being relegated in the same season.

So during the close season I tried to sign players who I thought would keep us in the higher grade. The men released did a great job for us but they knew that they had been bought to earn us promotion. We parted on the best of terms.

Players like Steve Diamond, John Dalgreen, John Crossley and Sean Hoare were brought to help that important blend of youth and experience. I've got many young players at Fulham and playing alongside such men as Mal Aspey, Tony Gorley and Harry Beverley will ensure that they have good teachers.

We're going to be a very good side in about two years time, but I'm a great believer in a few older heads in any side.

Q. Now that you've survived that amazing first season do you see Fulham staying around on the RL scene?

A. There is no way I would have taken the job if I didn't think that there would be a long-term future at Craven Cottage.

When I first arrived at Fulham I saw the great potential for our sport. I believed in it then and I still do. Fulham will be around for the next decade at least – that's the furthest anybody can predict anything at the moment – and I want to be part of it.

Our spectators are just starting to understand Rugby League. You can tell because I am now receiving letters from Londoners telling me what team to pick!

We even had 300-plus fans follow us all the way from London to Whitehaven recently... and that's real dedication. Our crowds at Craven Cottage are holding up well and we are very happy with the way it's progressing.

Q. Is there anything that you set out to achieve last season that didn't happen?

A. I'm a professional and I set out to win everything. We should have done better in the John Player Trophy and would have done but we lost to Leigh after I had a pass intercepted. And I was sick that we did not beat Wakefield Trinity and go further in the Challenge Cup.

Q. Last season there was no shortage of players wanting to join Fulham. Has it been any harder to recruit this season?

A. No, the players are just as keen to join in our venture. But persuading clubs to part with their good players is a great deal harder – almost impossible in fact.

The players, as soon as they've seen our set up, where we like to think that they are professional sportsmen and treated as such, are always keen to come.

The great problem for Fulham is that everybody in the Rugby League wants us to do well except against their club. They want to thrash us out of sight and that means we've got to take the whole world on.

Q. How do you enjoy your new life as a player-coach?

A. I've settled in very well, but still find it awful hard to come to terms with the fact that I have got a first-team squad of 19 men and just 15 places. That means that sometimes I have to change the team just to make sure that everybody has a game.

Fortunately I have got 19 lads at Fulham who understand the kind of problem and that does make life slightly easier. That's where being a professional really counts. Sometimes in a small squad it's necessary to play with an injury that would have ruled you out of somebody else's team, but with no second team pool to draw on that's how we have to cope.

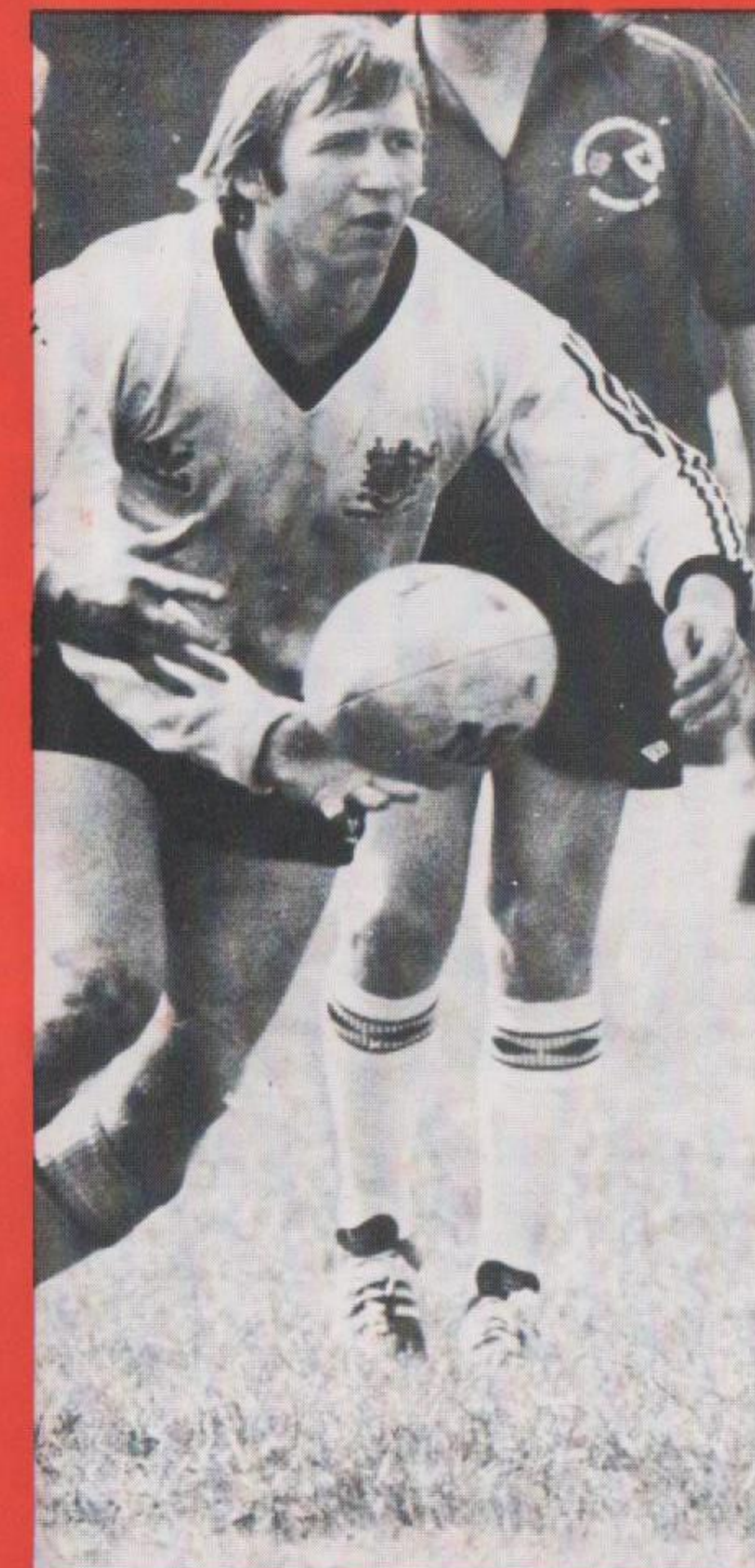
Q. Do you want to see representative matches played at Craven Cottage?

A. Looking back I think the decision to take the Under-24 International against the New Zealanders to London last season was too early. That showed in the level of support, 2,500, for the game although it might well have been different had one or two of the Fulham lads been playing. It will be interesting to see if the Australians play in London and whether it will be Great Britain or Fulham.

Q. Finally, are you pleased that you gambled on the Fulham job after being with one of the most successful teams in the game's history?

A. I most certainly am. I had reached the very pinnacle of my career at Naughton Park. There was nothing left for me to win with them, and young Andy Gregory was coming through. Andy as proved since I left that he is a very good player. Within a year he would have pushed me out of the team and then I would have been kicking myself all the way home for not taking the chance when it was offered me and somebody else would have been enjoying themselves as player-coach to Fulham. Widnes are a great club. I could never have left

them for any other club in the North like Leeds, Warrington or Hull K.R. No, I was the right man in the right place at the right time and I'm still thanking my lucky stars.



Cheeky Chappie, Reg Bowden

Conducted by

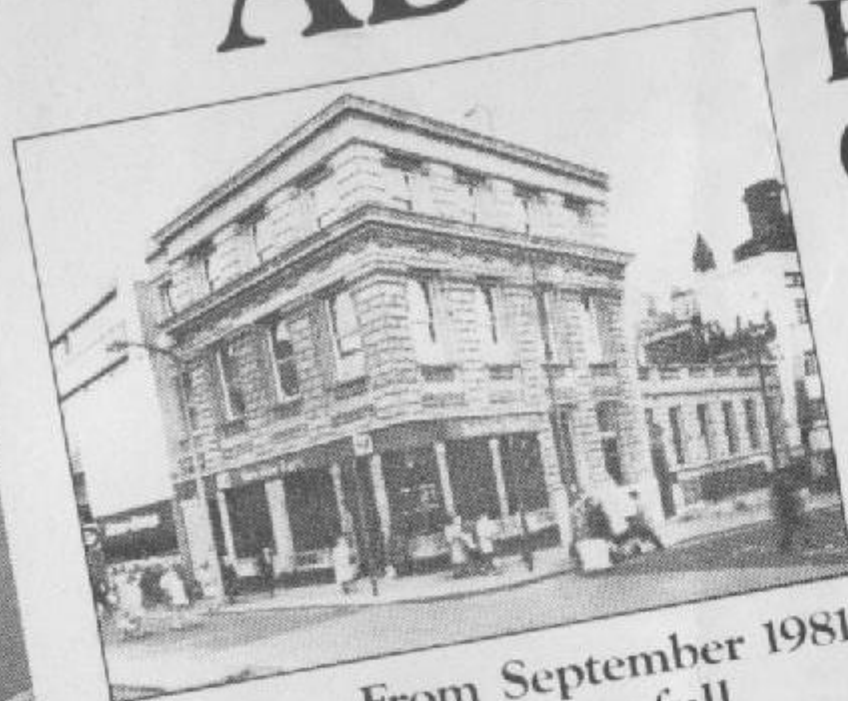
JOHN HUXLEY, of the

Sunday Mirror



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Hull's star Kiwi import
James Leuluai.
(Photo: Open Rugby)

JOHN PLAYER

FACTS

ROLL OF HONOUR

Season	Winners	Runners-up	Scoreline	Man of the Match
1971-72 at Bradford	Halifax	Wakefield Trinity	22-11	Bruce Burton (Halifax)
1972-73 at Huddersfield	Leeds	Salford	12-7	Keith Hepworth (Leeds)
1973-74 at Wigan	Warrington	Rochdale Hornets	27-16	Kevin Ashcroft (Warrington)
1974-75 at Warrington	Bradford Northern	Widnes	3-2	Barry Seabourne (Bradford N.)
1975-76 at Leeds	Widnes	Hull	19-13	Reg Bowden (Widnes)
1976-77 at Salford	Castleford	Blackpool Borough	25-15	Gary Stephens (Castleford) and Howard Allen (Blackpool B.)
1977-78 at St. Helens	Warrington	Widnes	9-4	Steve Hesford (Warrington)
1978-79 at St. Helens	Widnes	Warrington	16-4	David Eckersley (Widnes)
1979-80 at Leeds	Bradford Northern	Widnes	6-0	Les Casey (Bradford N.)
1980-81 at Wigan	Warrington	Barrow	12-5	Tommy Martyn (Warrington)

RECORDS

TEAM:

Highest score: *Castleford 88 v. Millom 5
Biggest attendance: 13,416 Castleford v. Hull, Second Round,
1st November 1981

INDIVIDUAL:

Most goals: *17, by Sammy Lloyd (Castleford)
Most tries: *5, by John Joyner (Castleford)
5, by John Basnett (Widnes) v. Hunslet, First Round 1981-82
Most points: *43 (17 goals, 3 tries) by Sammy Lloyd (Castleford)

*The above records were all achieved in the Castleford v. Millom
First Round Tie in 1973-74.

INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE-HEADER IN HULL

The Boulevard, Hull
Sunday, 6th December



3.00 p.m.:

GREAT BRITAIN

V

FRANCE

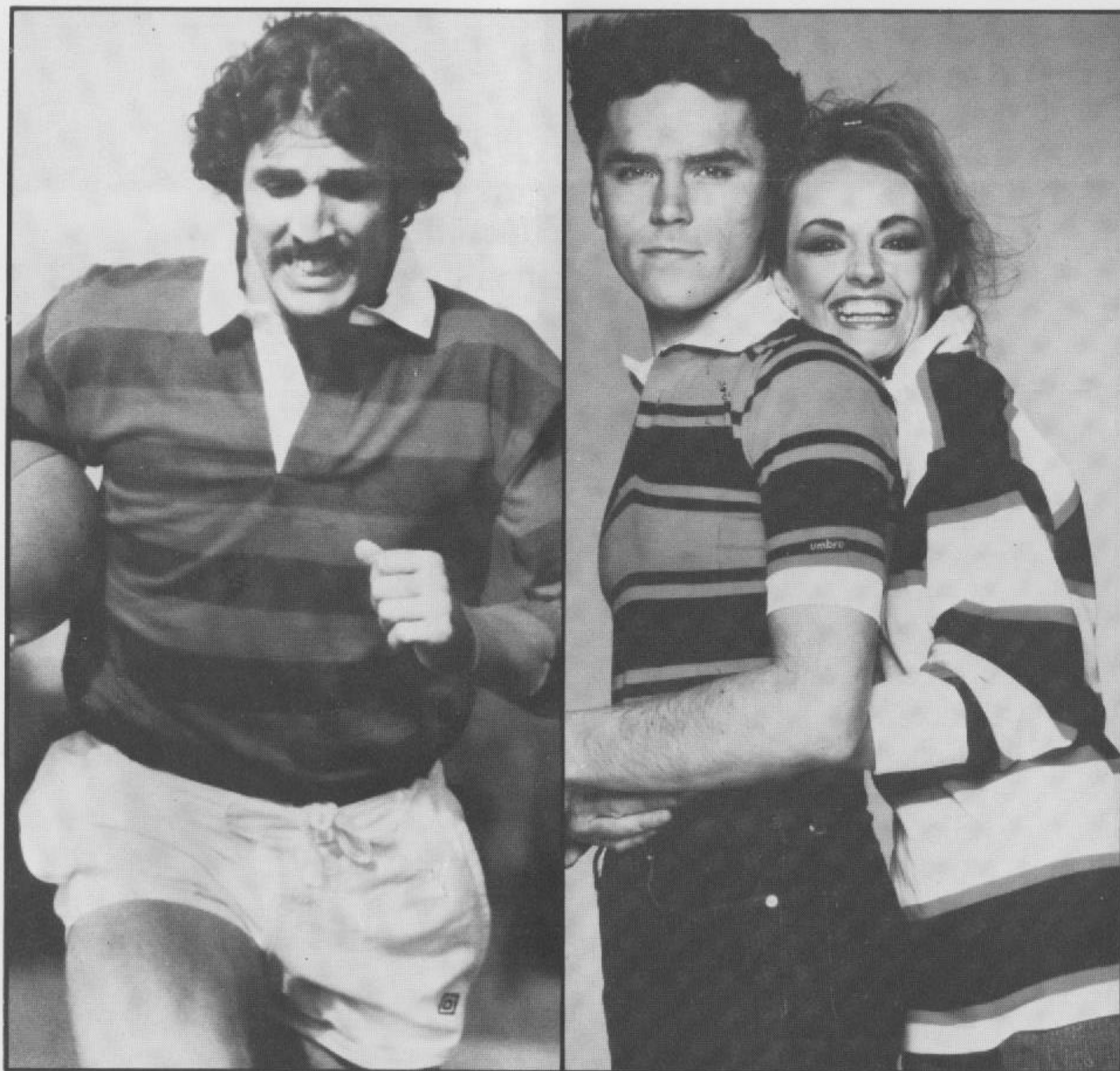
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V

FRANCE COLTS

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The Secretary, Hull FC, The Boulevard, Airlie Street, Hull.
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JOHN PLAYER

AIRLIE BIRDS

Hull FC are living up to their reputation as Rugby League's boom club... on and off the field.

Since a massive boardroom shuffle some four years ago, the Boulevard has set the pace in the transfer market to build a side which has brought the crowds flocking back to Airlie Street. Hull have attracted 31 successive home gates of 10,000-plus, including the 1980 Kiwi tour match staged at nearby Boothferry Park, the home of Hull City.

This remarkable run of five-figure gates dates back to 23rd March 1980 when 10,447 saw the Airlie Birds entertain Workington Town. In this period, the top crowd was one of 18,500 for the derby clash with the Robins on Good Friday this year... a record for any League match since the re-introduction of two divisions in 1973.

Along the way they have smashed a succession of First and Second Division crowd records and have topped the gates charts for the past three years.

This season the ambitious Boulevard board has also announced plans for the demolition of the famous Threepenny Stand and the commencement of a million pound-plus redevelopment programme, which could eventually include a sports hall and training area as well as the first stage building of a new stand.

Boosted by the healthy gate takings and a successful lottery, the Hull club have been pioneers, along with Hull K.R., in the transfer market. This team building policy started with the adventurous raids into West Yorkshire for the likes of Steve Norton, Charlie Stone, Vince Farrar and Sammy Lloyd, who spearheaded the Airlie Birds flight out of the Second Division with an unbeaten record.

Coach Arthur Bunting was recruited after his resignation from Craven Park and his partnership with another ex-scrum half, Kenny Foulkes, has been a feature of the Hull success.

In recent months Hull's recruitment of players has been in three directions... big money signings... development of youth... and bargain buys.

Hull stunned the world of Rugby League by swooping for the Kiwi trio of James Leuluai, Dane O'Hara and Gary Kemble. Director Dick Gemmell travelled to France and New Zealand to clinch the deals, which in modern day transfer terms are turning out to be bargains.

All three signings were key members of the 1980 Kiwi touring side and Hull had to beat offers from other British and several Australian clubs for the signatures.

The Boulevard youth policy, including the formation of a Colts side, has been highlighted by the emergence this season of one of the game's prodigies, 18-year-old Lee Crooks. Outstanding displays in the second row have been added to by sound goal-kicking which has put in the top ten goals chart for most of the season. His form almost guarantees him a place on the first-ever Colts tour of Australia and Papua New Guinea next summer and he has already been named as Captain of the Great Britain Colts side to meet France at the Boulevard next month.

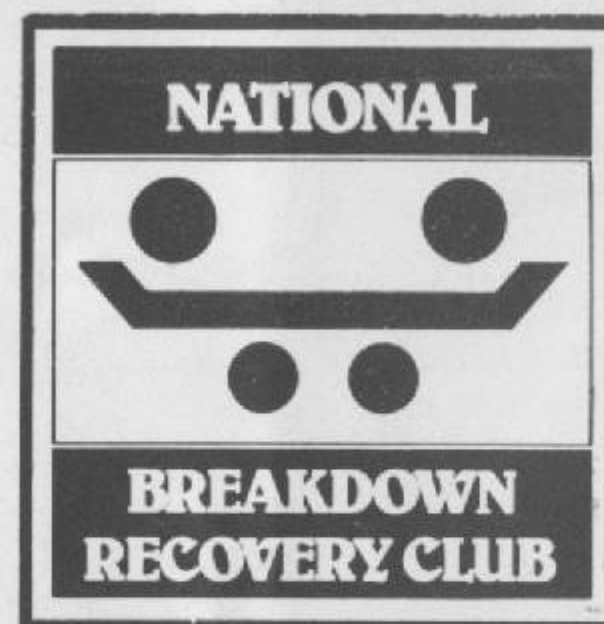
The bargain buys include one of Rugby League's most popular characters, wingman Clive Sullivan. In his late thirties, Clive next month celebrates 20 years in the game, as a World Cup winning captain and an OBE. Now in his second spell with Hull, after serving both Hull K.R. and Oldham, he is about to score his 250th touchdown for the club.

The other low price purchase was scrum half Tony Dean, signed from Hunslet, who has become the main cog of the Hull machine along with Steve Norton. The drop kick ace has proved a revelation since his move to the Boulevard and was a contender for the Harry Sunderland Trophy in last May's Slalom Lager Premiership Final here at Headingley.

Other incoming talent in recent times have been Wakefield Trinity skipper Terry Day, another ex-Belle Vue captain David Topliss, York International Barry Banks, Trinity tourist Trevor Skerrett and York hooker Ron Wileman.

Hull's only trophy success during this hectic period has been the BBC2 Floodlight Trophy two years ago, with runners-up awards in the Challenge Cup and the Premiership. John Player Trophy success, after losing in the 1976 Final, is a priority!

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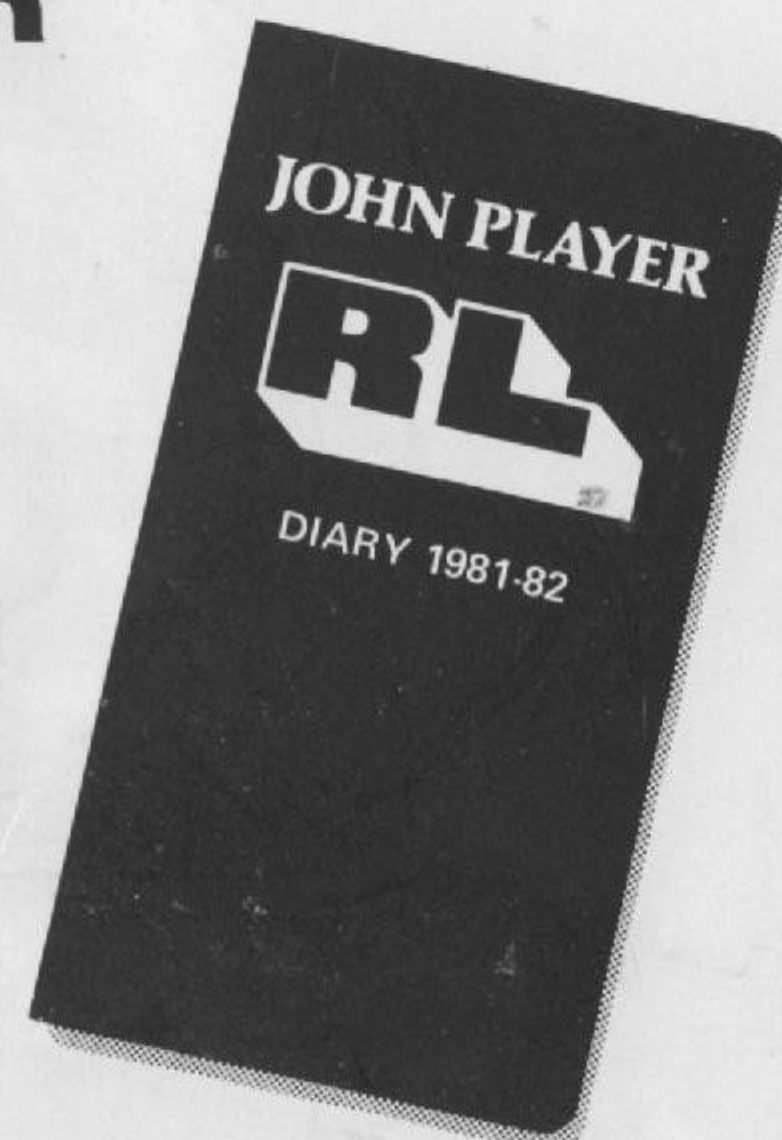
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Oldham's goal kicking ace
Mick Parrish.

(Photo: Oldham Evening Chronicle)

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JOHN PLAYER

LINE UP

HULL

Irregular black and white hooped
jerseys

Manager: ARTHUR BUNTING

GARY KEMBLE

DANE O'HARA

JAMES LEULUAI

CHRIS HARRISON

PAUL PRENDIVILLE

TERRY DAY

TONY DEAN

TREVOR SKERRETT

RON WILEMAN

CHARLIE STONE Captain

SAMMY LLOYD

LEE CROOKS

STEVEN NORTON

Tony DUKE

Nick CRANE

Benny BANKS
Sammy LLOYD

OLDHAM

Red and white hooped jerseys

Coach: FRANK MYLER

MARTIN MURPHY

ASHLEY McEWEN

BRIAN CAFFRAY

MICK PARRISH

DENIS O'NEILL

ALAN TAYLOR

PADDY KIRWAN

ADRIAN ALEXANDER

ALAN McCURRIE

DAVID NICHOLSON

BOB MORDELL

ANDREW GOODWAY

TERRY FLANAGAN Captain

PHIL WARD

ALAN PLATT

Scrum

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20

Penalties

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20

JOHN PLAYER AWARD

Today's adjudged John Player Man of the Match
will receive £100 and an inscribed tankard.

Referee: JOHN McDONALD, Wigan

Touch Judges:

D. IRVIN, Dewsbury (Pink flag)

W. S. BLUNDEN, Liversedge (Amber flag)

Scrum

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20

Penalties

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20



Star goal kicker Sammy Lloyd in try scoring form.

JOHN PLAYER GALLERY



Watersheddings half back Ray Ashton, supported by Adrian Alexander.



New Zealand tourist Gary Kemble.



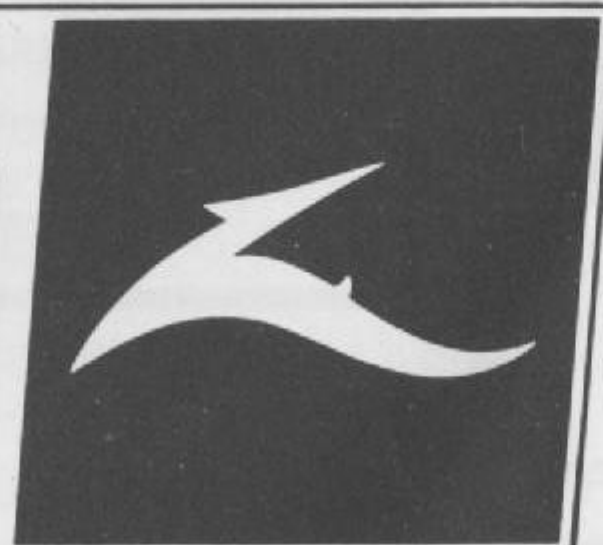
Ex-Rugby Union star Adrian Alexander in a high passing move with centre Mike Worrall.



Hull 10-year beneficiary Keith Tindall.

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PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS

JOHN PLAYER

ROUGHYEDS

Oldham, appearing in a major semi-final for the first time in 17 years, have been the subject recently of the ups-and-downs and ins-and-outs of Rugby League.

The ups-and-downs come from their erratic form in the League. Since the reintroduction of two divisions in 1973, the Watersheddings club have been one of the yo-yo sides.

Roughyeds were relegated in 1974, promoted in 1975, relegated in 1977, promoted in 1980 and relegated in 1981, and are currently contesting the Second Division leadership.

Voted the Shopcheck-Daily Mirror Team of the Month for September, Oldham look back to 1964 for their last semi-final appearance... one which Humbersiders will remember.

Oldham met Hull K.R. in the last four of the Challenge Cup here at Headingley in a drawn match. The Roughyeds led in the replay at Swinton when the extra time period was abandoned because of bad light, the Robins going on to win the Fartown second replay.

The ins-and-outs of the Oldham club reflect their activity on the transfer scene. In recent weeks the young Oldham outfit has been given an injection of experience by the purchase of former England forward Brian Hogan from Widnes for £15,000 and Wakefield Trinity and ex-Whitehaven hooker Alan McCurrie. Prop Billy Harris went to Belle Vue in part exchange.

Last season stand off Dennis O'Neill arrived at Watersheddings, along with goalkicking centre Mick Parrish, while Kiwi Ashley McEwan was a close season capture.

Oldham are poised to be in the market as sellers with 11 players on offer at present. The list includes over £200,000 worth of talent, headed by youngsters Alan Platt and Ray Ashton at £60,000 each; McEwan at £35,000 and former Union forward Bob Mordell at £25,000.

The snapping up of Mordell and Adrian Alexander, both from Southern Rugby Union strongholds, took both Rugby codes by storm.

In recent years, a youth policy has been a feature of Oldham's planning for the future. The newly formed Colts set-up, spearheaded by coach Brian Gartland, took the Under-19 game by storm and many of that first side went on to Colts International honours and first team football.

Loose forward Terry Flanagan has shot right through the ranks and earned the club captaincy and an Under-24 cap, his debut coming against the Kiwis at Fulham last season. This was rapidly followed by an invitation to join the Great Britain side in preparation for the Third Kiwi Test.

Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan also graduated through the Colts International ranks, while current Under-19 International Alan Platt is poised for a trip to Australia and Papua-New Guinea with the first-ever Colts touring party. In the shadow squad for the Great Britain Colts team to meet the French at the Boulevard next month are Oldham's Jimmy Swain and Paul Lowndes.

Oldham have also been ringing the changes on the coaching front. An extensive coaching panel headed by Graham Starkey and including Terry Gorman and, at one time, Brian Lockwood, was disbanded after relegation last season. During the close season, Frank Myler and Peter Smethurst were recruited from Swinton to take the reins.

Myler, the ex-Great Britain stand-off and formerly coach of Rochdale Hornets and Widnes, was in charge of England when they won the 1978 European Championship.

Off the field, Chairman Ray Hatton and his board have built up the game's best lottery to help finance a redevelopment programme at the Watersheddings.

New sports facilities include one of the game's first multi-gyms, while ground facility improvements include new seating in the fully covered stadium.

The board launched a policy of running the club on a business-like basis and the hopes are that the Watersheddings club are on the launching pad for an orbit of success which has not been enjoyed in Oldham for more than two decades.

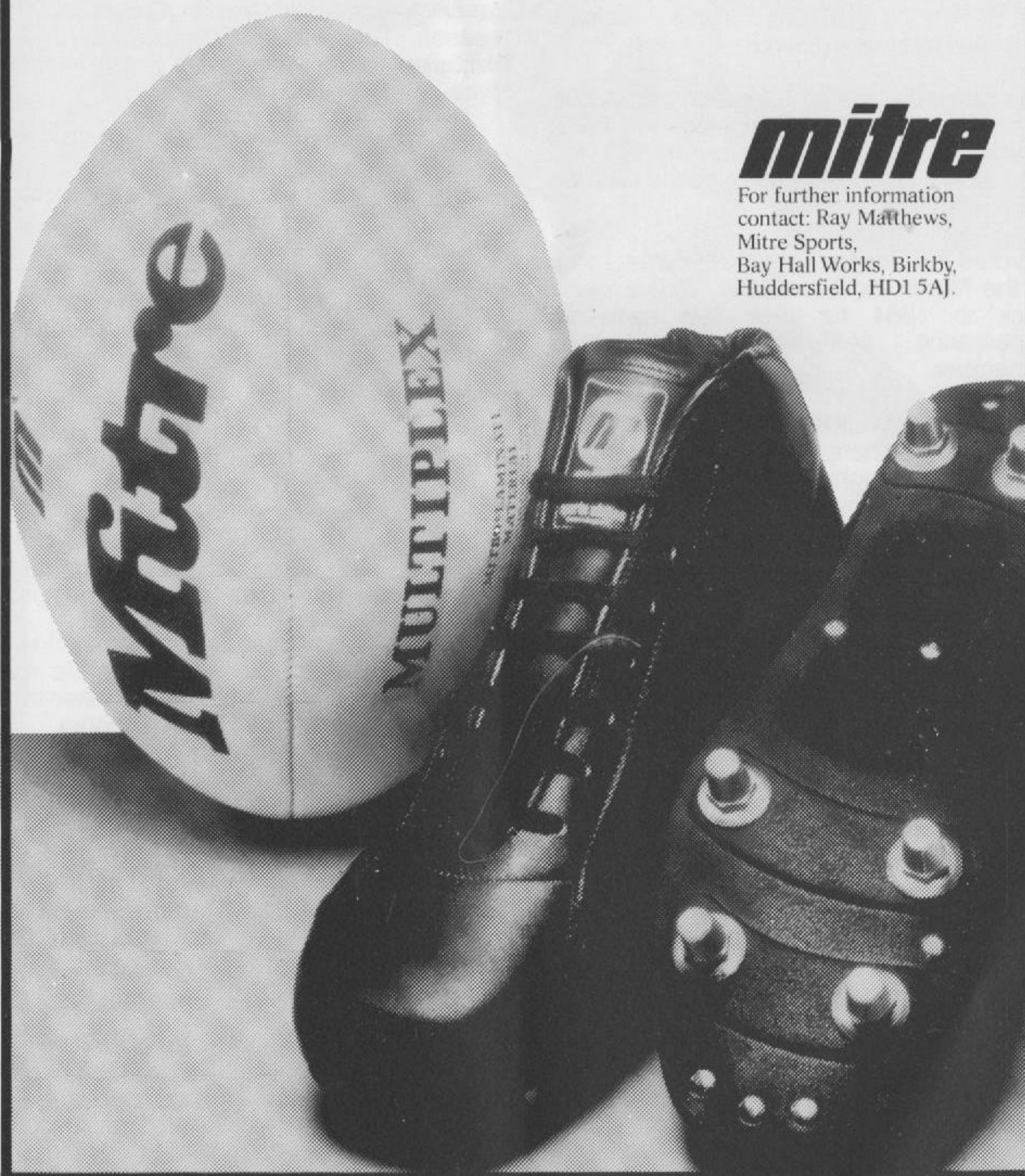
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JOHN PLAYER

SEVENS

For the third season, the John Player Trophy ties are being preceded by the John Player Amateur Sevens. The seven-a-side tournament has rapidly become established as a highly entertaining curtain raiser to the £50,000 professional competition.

In 1979-80 Waterhead, of Oldham, beat NDLB, of Hull, in a thrilling final here at Headingley by 19-16. Last season at Wigan, West Hull toppled Liverpool University 14-11 in another nail-biting affair.

Today's first semi-final is between West Yorkshire rivals Hemsworth Miners' Welfare, of Wakefield, and Yew Tree, of Leeds.

The John Player Sevens is valued at £4,750, with £500 to the winners, £300 to the runners-up and £100 to the losing semi-finalists.

Today's match is 7½ minutes each way, under the normal rules except that after a score the non-scoring side restart with a tap, each half ending immediately the hooter is blown.

TODAY'S LINE UP

**HEMSWORTH
MINERS' WELFARE**
White jerseys, with
black and amber V

Howard Fisher
Harry Coates
Matt Finlay
Joe Lowe
Neil Pearson
John Emmitt
Adrian Byrom
Stephen Godfrey
Bernard Nuttall

YEW TREE
Red jerseys

Gary Johnson
David Marchant
Tony Newton
Andy Needham
Ian Swallow
Frank Bellerby
Peter Bellerby
Terry Moran
Ian Wheatley
Vincent Carney

1981-82 RESULTS

FIRST ROUND:

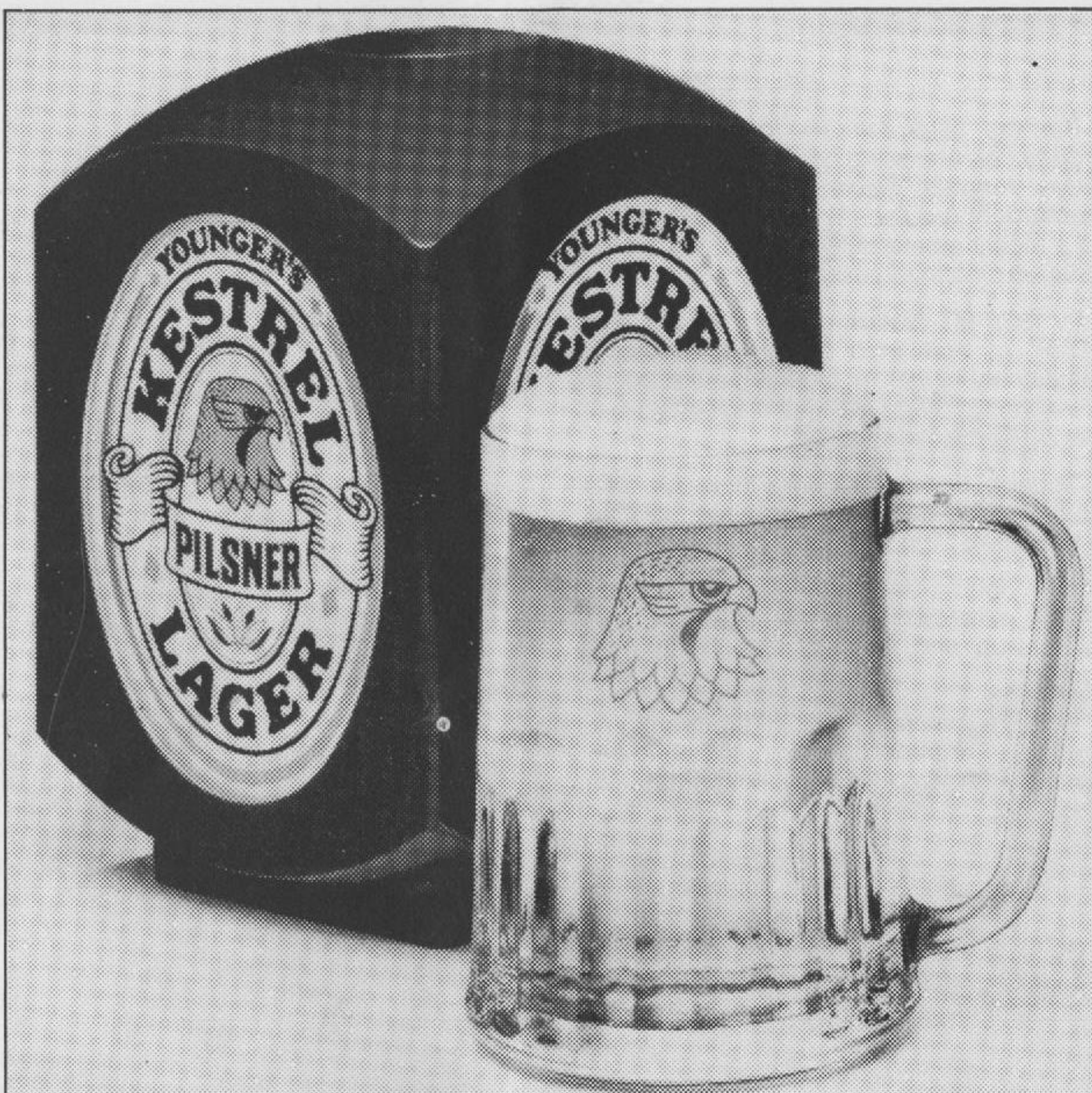
Barnsley	6	Rossington Hornets (Doncaster)	16
Brighouse Rangers (Halifax)	33	McEntee (Southern)	11
Hanging Heaton (Heavy Woollen)	10	West Hull	16
Hemsworth M.W. (Wakefield)	13	St. Josephs (Huddersfield)	5
Heworth (York)	13	Ulverston (Barrow)	8
Langworthy (Manchester)	5	N.D.L.B. (Humburside)	11
Leigh M.W.	23	Ellenborough Rangers (Cumbria)	3
Millom (Barrow)	16	Kells (Cumbria)	6
Milnrow (Rochdale)	3	Liverpool University	27
Pilkington Recs (St. Helens)	31	Flanshaw (Wakefield)	0
Queensbury (Bradford)	15	Woolston (Warrington)	23
Reckitts (Humburside)	8	Dewsbury Celtic (Heavy Woollen)	15
St. Annes (Oldham)	5	Eastmoor (Wakefield)	11
St. Patrick's (Wigan)	18	Halton Simms Cross (Widnes)	0
Stanningley (Leeds)	5	Travellers Saints (Castleford)	13
Yew Tree (Leeds)	17	Sheffield University	3

SECOND ROUND:

Heworth (York)	0	Pilkington Recs (St. Helens)	11
Leigh M.W.	11	Yew Tree (Leeds)	14
Millom (Barrow)	9	Liverpool University	11
N.D.L.B. (Hull)	13	Eastmoor (Wakefield)	5
Rossington Hornets (Doncaster)	16	Brighouse Rangers (Halifax)	13
Travellers Saints (Castleford)	25	Dewsbury Celtic (Heavy Woollen)	10
West Hull	10	St. Patricks (Wigan)	8
Woolston (Warrington)	16	Hemsworth M.W. (Wakefield)	21

THIRD ROUND:

Liverpool University	10	N.D.L.B.	16
Pilkington Recs	11	Travellers Saints	5
Rossington Hornets	14	Hemsworth M.W.	16
Yew Tree	11	West Hull	8



It bites.

Talented Oldham half back
Paddy Kirwin.
(Photo: Oldham Evening Chronicle)



JOHN PLAYER

MEMO

WIDNES's one hundred per cent league record this season has produced a winning run of 13 matches . . . the best victory sequence in Division One since the re-introduction of two divisions in 1973.

The Chemics were last defeated in the league in their final Slalom Lager Championship match of last season when they went down 24-9 at St. Helens on 21st April.

Tomorrow they visit Hull Kingston Rovers, whose winning run of 10 matches includes seven consecutive Championship wins.

- ★ **STEVE HARTLEY (Hull K.R.)** is only one try short of becoming the first non-winger to score 100 tries in Division One since the re-introduction of the two-division system in 1973.
- ★ **CLIVE SULLIVAN** is two tries short of his 250th touchdown for Hull.
- ★ **DAVID SMITH** is one try short of his century for Leeds.
- ★ **STEVE NORTON (Hull)** is three tries short of 100 touchdowns in his career in British football.

JOHN BUCKTON has shot back into the try scoring limelight by scoring all three tries in Doncaster's win at Blackpool Borough last Sunday.

It was a typical piece of opportunism by the stand-off who has scored more tries this season than the rest of the Doncaster side put together. He has scored 13 of their 24 tries . . . an average of exactly one a match.

Already BUCKTON is only four tries short of equalling the Doncaster record for tries in a season, a record he equalled last term in 29 matches.

He shares that record with BRIAN WRIGGLESWORTH who scored 17 tries in 1957-58. BUCKTON's total this season includes a club record equalling four tries in a match against Rochdale Hornets.

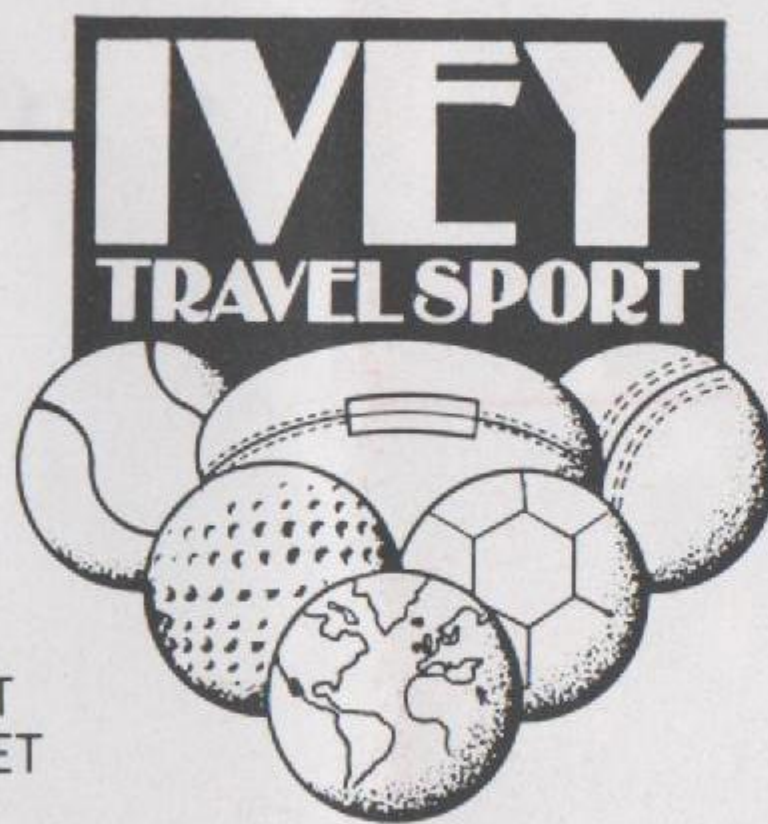
The current longest scoring sequence is by MICK PARRISH, who has scored in 16 matches for Oldham. He began his run with six goals at home to Salford on 20th April in Oldham's final match of last season, the run bringing him 65 goals, three tries, and 139 points.

Five players continue to have played and scored in every club match so far this season.

The five players are:-

- Steve QUINN (Featherstone Rovers)
- Mick PARRISH (Oldham)
- Steve FERRES (Carlisle)
- Steve FENWICK (Cardiff City)
- Steve DIAMOND (Fulham)

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JOHN PLAYER

SEMIS

Compiled by Raymond Fletcher (Yorkshire Post and Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook)

Oldham, who have never been beyond the Second Round before, are aiming to become only the third Division Two side to reach the John Player Trophy Final when they meet Hull today.

With Swinton, another Division Two club, meeting Hull Kingston Rovers in the other Semi-Final on December 12th, there is the possibility of the first Final between clubs from the lower division.

Hull were a Division Two club when they won at Salford 22-14 in the 1975-76 Semi-Final before losing 19-13 to Widnes in the Final. This was Hull's only Final appearance and with none of this season's other Semi-finalists having been in the Final, a new winners name is certain to appear on the trophy.

The most remarkable achievement was that of Blackpool Borough who beat three Division One clubs on the way to the 1976-77 Final, including a 15-5 home Semi-Final over Leigh. Yet when they met Castleford in the Final, Blackpool were second off bottom in Division Two with only two wins and a draw from 14 matches. They went down in the Final 25-15.

The only other occasion two Division Two clubs reached the Semi-Finals was in 1974-75 when Hull K.R. lost 16-14 at Widnes, and Whitehaven lost 18-6 at home to Bradford Northern.

In addition to 1975-76, Hull's other Semi-Final appearance was last season when they lost 13-10 to Barrow at Headingley.

A total of 19 clubs has appeared in the Semi-Finals with Widnes achieving a record six appearances.

Hull and Oldham have met only once before in the competition, Hull winning 17-10 at home in the First Round of 1972-73.

Oldham have been knocked out in the First Round six times. These are the stages the two clubs have reached since the competition began in 1971-72 (not including this year):

Hull : 3-3-1-1-F-3-1-2-1-SF
Oldham : 1-1-1-2-2-2-2-1-1-1

Hull's 22 - 14 win at Salford in 1975-76 is the highest score in a Semi-Final, an achievement equalled by Warrington's 22 - 10 replay win over Castleford at Headingley last season.

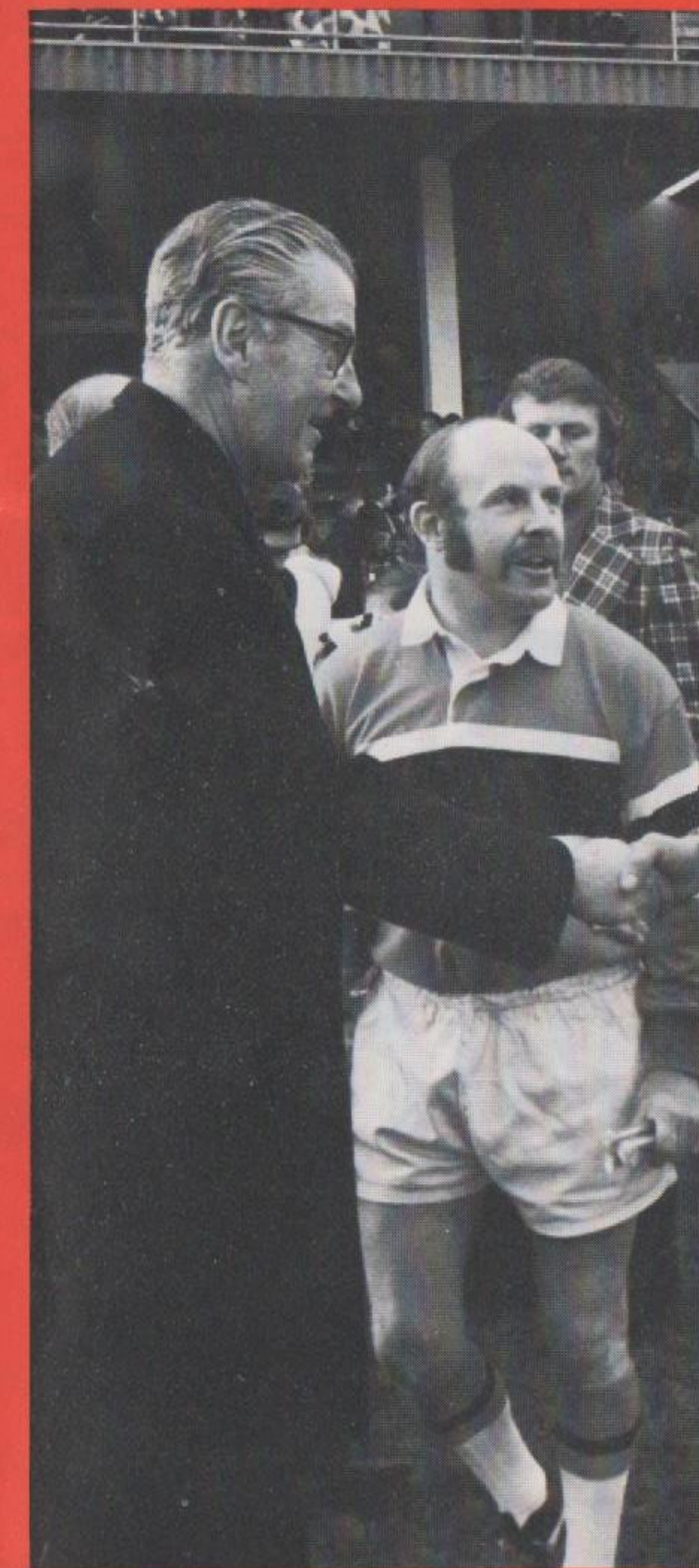
Leeds scored the widest margin victory with their 19 - 0 home defeat of St. Helens in 1972-73.

The only draw was last season's Castleford 5 v. Warrington 5 at Wigan.

RAY DUTTON scored the most goals in a Semi-Final with his six, including one drop goal, for Widnes at Castleford in 1976-77.

No player has scored three tries or more at this stage.

The biggest attendance at a Semi-Final is the 11,202 who saw Barrow beat Hull at Headingley last season. Since 1970-80, the Semi-Finals have been played on neutral grounds. Before that, the biggest crowd was 9,047 for Warrington v. Hull K. R. in 1978-79.



The last Second Division side to reach the John Player Final, Blackpool Borough skipper Ged Marsh accompanies Lord Derby, with coach Jim Crellin in the background.



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JOHN PLAYER

CHARTS

TOP TEN TRIES

(as at 22nd November, 1981):

1.	Steve HARTLEY	(Hull K.R.)	15
2.	John JONES	(Workington T.)	14
	Keith BENTLEY	(Widnes)	14
	Des DRUMMOND	(Leigh)	14
5.	John BUCKTON	(Doncaster)	13
6.	David HOBBS	(Featherstone R.)	12
7.	John BASNETT	(Widnes)	11
8.	Chris HARRISON	(Hull)	9
	Green VIGO	(Swinton)	9
	Henderson GILL	(Wigan)	9
	John WOODS	(Leigh)	9

TOP TEN GOALS

(Including drop goals) as at 22nd November, 1981:

1.	Lynn HOPKINS	(Workington T.)	79
2.	George FAIRBAIRN	(Hull K.R.)	67
3.	Mick BURKE	(Widnes)	66
4.	Steve RULE	(Salford)	65
5.	Steve QUINN	(Featherstone R.)	60
6.	Mick PARRISH	(Oldham)	59
7.	Peter GLYNN	(St. Helens)	57
	John WOODS	(Leigh)	57
9.	Graham BEALE	(Keighley)	47
	Lee CROOKS	(Hull)	47

POINTS

(as at 22nd November, 1981):

			Gls.	Dr. Gls.	Trs.	Pts.
1.	Lynn HOPKINS	(Workington T.)	76	3	5	170
2.	Mick BURKE	(Widnes)	66	—	4	144
3.	John WOODS	(Leigh)	57	—	9	141
4.	George FAIRBAIRN	(Hull K.R.)	65	2	2	138
5.	Steve RULE	(Salford)	65	—	2	136
	Peter GLYNN	(St. Helens)	55	2	8	136

JOHN PLAYER

JOHN PLAYER ATTENDANCES

John Player celebrated the 10th anniversary of their Trophy competition last season with match and aggregate record attendances at every round.

This season that record breaking run continues. The 13,416 crowd of the Second Round meeting of Castleford and Hull set a new record for any John Player Trophy tie, the previous best being last season's final between Warrington and Barrow, which attracted 12,820.

The eight Second Round ties attracted a record aggregate for that stage with a total of 46,037 ... the fourth season in succession in which the Second Round total has increased. This season's Second Round total was more than double that of 10 seasons ago.

The record attendance total for the Third Round was broken for the third successive season when this season's four ties attracted 30,083 compared with last year's total of 25,822.

The competition began in 1971 with only 17,129 watching the quarter-finals and it was not until 1976 that the 20,000 barrier was broken.

MEET THE GREAT BRITAIN PLAYERS

Great Britain meet France in the first of this season's two Test matches at the Boulevard on Sunday, 6th December.

A unique opportunity to meet the Great Britain squad has been arranged as a build up to this key International, part of Britain's preparations for next season's three-match Test series with Australia.

The Great Britain team will be on parade at Tiffanys in Hull on the morning of Saturday, 5th December.

The two hour event is being sponsored by the Sunday Mirror and doors open at 10.30 a.m., admission FREE.

A film will be screened showing the highlights of the 1979-80 season, featuring the Hull and Hull K.R. encounters in both the Challenge Cup and BBC2 Floodlight Trophy Finals.

At 11.30 a.m. the Great Britain players will be interviewed on stage before mixing with the audience to sign autographs, chat and have photographs taken.

Make a date in your diary ... Tiffanys, Saturday, 5th December from 10.30 a.m. ... and admission is free.

CHAT



RUGBY LEAGUE ROADSHOW IN HULL

The popular Sunday Mirror Rugby League Roadshow is to be staged at Tiffanys, Hull on Tuesday, 8th December, in aid of the Steve Hartley-John Millington Benefit.

The first-ever Roadshow was held at Tiffanys back in September 1979 for the Paul Rose Benefit and the December Roadshow is another landmark, being the 30th event.

Hosted by broadcasting personality Keith Macklin, and presented by Rugby League Public Relations Officer David Howes, the Roadshow has so far raised well over £30,000 for players' Benefits.

The Hull Kingston Rovers show includes several new features in the four-hour show. The film will be the second half of the 1981 Slalom Lager Premiership Final between Hull K.R. and Hull. The second film will be a 15-minute special production by the United States Rugby League.

One of the highlights will be Rugby League's own version of "Mastermind" featuring two members of the public, supported by star players, aiming to win special prizes donated by the Sunday Mirror and Slalom Lager. Sports No. 1 auctioneer Mick Morgan, now Assistant Coach at Carlisle, will conduct his famous auction of celebrity items. Hostesses for the Roadshow are Rugby League Personality Girl Tracy Freeman, daughter of former Halifax "great" Johnny Freeman, and Miss Slalom Lager, Geraldine Fuller.

The parade of personalities to be interviewed by Keith Macklin will include a special section of people who have crossed the river and represented both Hull and Hull K.R., with invitations being sent to stars such as Arthur Bunting, Johnny Whiteley, Jim Drake, Mick Crane, Clive Sullivan, Dave Elliott, among many others.

Tickets priced only £1.50 are now available from the Hull K.R. Supporters' Club, and members of the Benefit Committee, or admission is available on the night.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMMES

The growing number of Rugby League programme collectors will be interested to know that the Rugby Football League are offering a special service for the delivery of this season's series of Big Match programmes direct by post. Mint condition copies of the 32-page Big Match programmes for Internationals, Cup Semi-Finals, The John Player Trophy Final, and the Slalom Lager Premiership Final, can be ordered now. The special rate of £4.80 for the 1981-82 series of programmes includes postage. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to The Rugby Football League and orders and remittances sent to:—

The Public Relations Dept.,
The Rugby Football League,
180 Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 4HT.

Collectors' items now available from the above address are the following special programmes:

Wales v. England 40p
Cardiff City v. Salford 35p
Carlisle v. Workington T. 35p
Yorkshire Colts v. Lancashire Colts ... 15p

Please forward order and 20p for postage and packing.

PERSONALITY GIRL

Rugby League's most attractive signing this season is the new Personality Girl Tracy Freeman. One of the north's leading models, Tracy is the daughter of former Halifax great Johnny Freeman, a Thrum Hall star throughout the 1950's. The Welsh winger is still the holder of the Halifax record for most tries in a season. Tracy's duties include personal appearances, highlighted by the Sunday Mirror Roadshow, modelling and photographic engagements around the Rugby League circuit.

Rugby League's latest promotional vehicle is a new Rover 2600S, sponsored by National Breakdown Recovery Club. The £8,600 specially liveried car will be on the road over the coming two years as sport's most eye catching mobile advertisement. Bradford-based National Breakdown is the country's third largest motoring organisation and is already well established in Rugby League and other sports sponsorship.

The other shapely body is Rugby League Personality Girl Tracy Freeman.



Hull duo Mick Crane (left) and scrum half Tony Dean.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

	Price	Postage
Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook 1981-82 <i>383 pages of facts, figures and photographs</i>	£4.50	75p
The World of Rugby League <i>Illustrated features on the game's history and character</i>	£5.95	£1.00
Eddie Waring on Rugby League <i>A farewell look at the 13-a-side code</i>	£4.95	£1.00
John Player Diary 1982 <i>Highlighted by 30 pages of information, photos and fixtures</i>	£1.50	20p
Official Guide 1981-82 <i>All the bye-laws, fixtures and contacts</i>	£1.50	50p
Slalom Lager Guide to the Grounds, 1981-82 <i>Motorway directions to 33 professional grounds</i>	40p	15p
International Laws of the Game <i>Including new revisions</i>	50p	20p

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