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Slalom Lager

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OLDHAM

HUNSLET

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Hon. Secretary: F. Howarth, B.A.
Coaching Staff: Brian Gartland

Professional Playing Staff

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M. Coombes - Stephen Dobb - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Des Foy - Andrew Goodway
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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K. R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
Record transfer fee received	£11,002, 10s. from Workington for Ike Southward Jan. 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 points v Liverpool City April 59
First game	October 21st, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored	Bernard Ganley 2,881
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Lancashire Cup Winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34
	1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners:	1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners:	1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

WELCOME to the start of a brand new season of Rugby League football at Watersheddings. The 1984-85 campaign will certainly be a vital one for the Oldham club, both in financial terms and on the playing side.

The former, of course, is directly linked with the latter and we are looking for considerable success on the field of play to steadily build upon the increasing support we have enjoyed in our two seasons of First Division football.

Like most teams, a certain amount of squad strengthening would not go amiss, but overall we believe we have what it takes to make the modest pre-season prediction that we can at least improve upon our mid-table position reached in the last two seasons.

There is a feeling within the club that the one thing we need now to whip up the town's enthusiasm is a cup on the shelf and you can rest assured that everyone at the club, from our new manager Frank Myler and coach Brian Gartland, down to the youngest colt, will be striving to achieve that target.

It is a pleasure to welcome back Frank to Watersheddings in a new role as general manager in a full-time capacity. We have had a busy summer behind the scenes, not merely watching the progress of our five tourists in Australia and New Zealand, but building up steadily to the new season.

There is no doubt that the most important move was to enter negotiations with Frank Myler to bring him back here after his stint as Great Britain boss. We now have what we believe is the best coaching and managerial duo in the game in Frank and his right-hand man Brian.

Frank's duties will not merely involve rugby, but will also involve the day-to-day running of the club and such important matters as sponsorship and fund-raising.

He will be working daily from the Watersheddings office and we feel sure that all fans and members will wish him well in his new full-time appointment in the game that he has served nearly all his life as player and coach.

Returning from Down Under with Frank come our five tourists — Terry Flanagan, Andy Goodway, Ray Ashton, Des Foy and Mick Worrall.

It does not seem long since our Au Revoir evening in the social club when Terry, as club skipper, promised supporters that the Oldham players would do their club and country proud.

Though the results in the Test matches did not go our way we believe the Oldham quintet did us proud despite injuries to Ray Ashton (back), Des Foy (shoulder), Terry Flanagan (ankle) and Mick Worrall (knee) which impeded their performances and kept them out of several games.

Andy Goodway, who played in each of the six Tests, emerged as one of the party's leading players and impressed the Aussies enough to arouse interest from several clubs, especially Manly.

Mick Worrall played in the first two Tests in Australia, but then had an injury which needed surgery and which has prevented his playing since.

Des Foy also played in the first Test — at stand-off — while Terry Flanagan returned to the big time in New Zealand and played in the third Test in Auckland.

Ray Ashton looked good in some of the early matches, but then had a recurrence of back trouble which will keep him out of action for a few weeks.

The latest news on Mick Worrall is that he has had another operation on the same knee in Manchester and faces a lay-off of six weeks to two months.

Off the field, you will all have read in the Press of our financial difficulties and you may have attended the public meeting in the Queen Elizabeth Hall last Wednesday night.

The situation, quite simply, is that we need as much support as we can muster, not only here on the terraces but in the various money-making events that we hold from time to time as well as the regular promotions like the lottery and the Ambassador Club.

The committee felt they had no alternative but to increase the price of admission to the "A" team games from 50p to £1 due, to some degree, to the extra expense that will be incurred in playing in the new Alliance this season.

There is, of course, a simple way to gain FREE admission to the reserve matches and that is to become a member. In doing so, you not only watch your first team rugby at reduced rates but you now save £13 over the season if you watch all the home "A" team matches.

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON HUNSLET

by Tom Webb

THE present Hunslet club is the second to bear that name. When the original club was wound up, the real stalwarts banded together and formed a new club, appropriately New Hunslet to keep the game alive. The new title was used in order that any liabilities of the old club could not be charged to the revived club. As the ground had been sold, it was necessary to find a new home and the Greyhound Stadium at Elland Road was rented for a while. This was opposite the Leeds United soccer ground, the present home of Hunslet which had once been used by the Holbeck Northern Union club before the "fifth column" had turned that club over to soccer as Leeds City, the predecessor of United.

The old ground at Parkside was first used in February 1888 following a move from Woodhouse Hill. For 1887 the club paid a rent of £15 to the landowner but when this individual realised that the club was getting gates of £100, he put the rent up to £365 then dropped it to £200. This was not acceptable so the club moved to Parkside.

The first match on the new ground took place on February 11th, 1888 when Hunslet defeated Mirfield by a try and six minors to two minors. Minors was the name given to dead balls when the attacking side sent the ball over the dead ball line, or the home side touched down to make the ball dead or when the ball entered touch-in-goal. There was a reported attendance of 5,000 for the first game.

The ground was officially opened a couple of weeks later by Alderman Archie Scarr, the then Lord Mayor of Leeds. It was in the following October that Albert E. Goldthorpe, ("Ahr Albert") made his debut for Hunslet. He was a superb goal kicker and once dropped five goals in a match with Kendal. In 1890 in a game with Dudley Hill (a Bradford club) he scored 14 goals from 15 attempts and also ran in four tries.

The last match at Woodhouse Hill was played on January 28th 1888 and the new site was full of ruts and mounds. Within a fortnight the supporters had shifted over 2,000 tons of slag and made the ground playable. It was little short of a miracle.

Still on the topic of grounds, when Ladbroke's took over the ownership of the Greyhound Track, they refused to extend the lease of the ground to New Hunslet. Consequently the club was compelled to play its matches at Batley where the Batley committee allowed the club to share the Mount Pleasant ground for a few seasons. A decision to transfer to Dewsbury was aborted when arrangements were made to use the Leeds United ground.

The Batley ground was used for all the home engagements of both Batley and Hunslet (the word "New" having been dropped from the title) plus those for the respective "A" teams. This involved a double strain on groundsman Brian Cartwright and it is a tribute to him that no matches were cancelled on account of the state of the ground. When Hunslet moved nearer home to Elland Road, they persuaded Brian to join them as groundsman in association with the Leeds United staff.

A new site had been obtained only 150 yards from the former Parkside ground, but the cost was so prohibitive, that the move to Elland Road, though costly, was preferable.

The club programme under the editorship of Barry Sirrs has improved each year and it is a veritable minefield of the history of both the original and the new clubs. It is one of the best programmes in the Rugby League and collectors once having secured copies are very loth to part with them.

HOORAH FOR HUNSLET

HUNSLET, promoted from the Second Division, provide our opposition today in the first match of the 1984-5 season.

We are delighted to welcome the players, officials and spectators from Elland Road following their success last season in the Second Division, where they finished in third place behind Barrow and Workington with 24 wins from their 34 league fixtures.

They also provided two of last season's most prolific scorers in scrum-half Graham King and former Oldham winger Eric Fitzsimons, whom we are delighted to welcome back to Watersheddings today, albeit only as a spectator.

Eric was way out in front as the game's leading goalkicker when tragedy befell him in a match against Rochdale Hornets in March and he broke his left leg and also damaged his ankle ligaments.

He missed the last dozen games of the season and as he was averaging five goals a match up to that point it is certain he would have finished on top of the goal charts but for his unfortunate injury which cost him dearly in the league's sponsored money-for-goals competition.

As it was he still finished up in fourth place with 131 goals behind Steve Hesford of Warrington and Bob Beardmore of Castleford, joint top with 142, and Lyn Hallet of Cardiff, on 140.

The latest news on Eric is that he is battling hard to regain full fitness now, though it could be several weeks yet before he is ready to resume in Hunslet colours.

King, at one stage a member of Great Britain's squad, scampered over for 28 tries during the season — second only to Hull's young centre superstar Gary Schofield.

He is one of only several players in the Hunslet side today who will need no introduction.

Paul Daley is the Hunslet coach and among his helpers is Bob Holliday, a physical fitness expert and Andy Goodway's father-in-law!

They have a nice blend of youth and experience in the Hunslet side and among the older players none comes better than John Wolford, who is still one of the best creative players in the game today.

Peter Roe, the former Bradford man, adds experience to a back division which also includes former Leeds centre Brian Murrell and one of several close-season captures to strengthen the side for the First Division — Barry Banks.

Banks joins Hunslet from Hull and will probably play today at outside-half with Wolford operating from loose-forward.

Two other new signings, both from Bradford, are forwards Graham Idle and Mick Atherton. Idle, the ex-Wakefield man, has signed permanently, but prop Atherton has moved to Hunslet on loan.

Hunslet may go from strength to strength as the season progresses because they expect to bolster their squad with some players from Down Under, who have not yet arrived.



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Mick Worrall rubs in our superiority with another try at Salford.



Andy Goodway leads an Oldham charge at Salford where our 50-10 victory meant that we scored 19 tries in the last two games of the 1983-4 season.



Signing off for the summer in style . . . Alan McCurrie scores the first of our ten tries in our 50-10 win at Salford on April 20.

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

IT WAS in the plush foyer of one of Sydney's most famous hotels that the Great Britain players were gathering for an afternoon training session.

I was chatting about golf to Australia's Graham Marsh when his brother Rodney emerged from a nearby bar to join us.

Rodney, former Test wicketkeeper and one of cricket's most controversial characters, looked the British squad over and asked: 'Who on earth are this mob?'

As I pointed out that they were the British Rugby League squad preparing for the Test series against Australia his face creased into a huge smile.

'Blimey, it is a bit like when we go to the West Indies to try and win the Tests there,' he laughed.

Well, as it turned out, Britain not unexpectedly lost all three Tests and then went on to be whitewashed by a New Zealand side now claiming to be the world champions.

The gap that the Aussies opened up in 1978 and became a chasm in 1979 and 1982 remains although there was more to the Australian section of the recent tour than mere results.

I felt at times, particularly in the Second Test against Australia at Lang Park, that Britain were on the way back to some extent.

The Aussies had to fight hard for their success and had a scare when they trailed in the Third Test.

I believe Britain were only about three good players away from beating them and the likes of a 100 per cent Trevor Skerrett and Peter Smith, plus possibly Ronnie Duane could have made a difference.

Even so we had many players who acquitted themselves well with Oldham's Andy Goodway making a tremendous impact in the forward clashes, Chris Burton (Hull KR) giving great support and Bradford Northern's Brian Noble a dedicated and determined skipper.

Oldham's Mick Worrall made a mighty contribution switching around the pack with success until sadly suffering cartilage trouble.

Hull's high scoring teenage centre Gary Schofield certainly came of age on a tough, demanding tour and emerged as a tremendous prospect after two fine opening Tests.

The Aussies found a lot to admire and enjoy in exciting wing play of Des Drummond and Ellery Hanley, two of the party's top personalities while Keith Mumby answered the call to move to centre like a true professional with sound displays.

Full back Mike Burke was singled out by the Sydney experts for his skill and courage in his handling of the bomb and linking in attack.

So all was not lost on this tour and it was the Aussies who were declaring after the series that their tour to this country in 1986 is going to be very tough — for them.

SLALOM LAGER PRIZES

The winners of the 1984-85 Slalom Lager Championship will collect a record £13,000 prize money.

The Second Division title holders will receive £9,000 . . . an annual increase of over twenty-five per cent.

The Slalom Lager Premiership Trophy victors will be rewarded for their Top Eight success with a cheque for £8,000.

The 1984-85 prize pool of £30,000 is the main feature of Slalom Lager's £90,000 sponsorship injection, the second season of their current three-year £270,000 backing of the Rugby League Championship and Premiership. Last season's prize money was £12,000 to the Slalom Lager Champions, Hull Kingston Rovers, and £7,000 to Second Division Champions, Barrow, and Premiership Trophy winners Hull Kingston Rovers.

New Rugby League Chairman Mr. Reg Parker said today: "The Management Committee have decided to increase the Second Division prize money to reflect the increased competition of twenty clubs vying for promotion to the Slalom Lager Championship. After the deduction of prize money, the remaining £60,000 will once again be invested in the League's Capital Development Fund for grants and loans for ground improvements."

The inclusion of newcomers Mansfield Marksman and Sheffield Eagles brings the total membership for the 1984-85 campaign to thirty six Member Clubs . . . equalling the highest ever entry in 1902-03.

Slalom Lager Sales and Marketing Director, Mr. Miles Eastwood, commented: "In this, our fifth season of sponsorship of Rugby League, we are delighted with the further expansion which mirrors our own rapid growth. In addition to the sponsorship fee, Slalom Lager will once again be providing an extensive promotional back-up with the Celebration Dinner to honour our title winners on Tuesday, 14th May, 1985; the Slalom Lager Photographer of the Year Award in association with Pentax Cameras; the divisional Starmen Awards in conjunction with the Daily Star; the celebrated barge trips for the media; and the sponsorship of publicity material including the Slalom Lager Routeway to Grounds."

SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP 1984-85 : BETTING ODDS

Humberside giants Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers are the bookmakers favourites to lead the challenge for the 1984-85 Slalom Lager Championship.

The four clubs relegated from the Championship last season have been made the favourites for immediate promotion with Salford quoted as 2-1 title favourites.

Leading bookmakers, William Hill, have made Hull 5-2 favourites for the Slalom Lager Championship title and £13,000 prize money, ahead of current Champions and arch rivals Hull Kingston Rovers who are quoted at 3-1 to retain the trophy.

Having finished 8th in the table last season, Leeds are third favourites at 5-1, reflecting the impending influx of stars from Australia and New Zealand. Challenge Cup holders Widnes are on offer at 6-1.

In the Second Division title race, re-structured Fulham are second favourites at 3-1 while revitalised Swinton, and last season's Challenge Cup semi-finalists York, are the best outsiders at 10-1 and 12-1 respectively. Only the leading contenders are being quoted for in the Second Division because of the lack of a form guide with the new clubs and the revamped fixture format.

The latest odds being quoted by William Hill are:-

FIRST DIVISION

5 - 2	Hull
3 - 1	Hull K.R.
5 - 1	Leeds
6 - 1	Widnes
12 - 1	St. Helens
16 - 1	Bradford N. Castleford Warrington Wigan
40 - 1	Leigh Oldham
66 - 1	Barrow Featherstone R.
100 - 1	Halifax Hunslet Workington T.

SECOND DIVISION

2 - 1	Salford
3 - 1	Fulham
4 - 1	Wakefield T.
6 - 1	Whitehaven
10 - 1	Swinton
12 - 1	York



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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

How many of our supporters remember the corresponding day 5, 10, 15 years ago?

FIVE YEARS AGO

Sunday, September 2nd, 1979

Doncaster Nil Oldham 5 5 25 (Division Two)

Doncaster: Harrison; Piper, P. Davies, Varey, Arrand; Irwin, Denton; Banham, Moody, Carrington, Saxby, Grey, T. Davies. Williams went on for Arrand and Worrall for Moody.

Oldham: O'Brien; Munro (try), Larder (2 tries), Ward, Fitzsimmons (try); Francis, Arnold (try); Fiddler (5 goals), O'Mahoney, Forster, Walczak, Hall and Hawkyard. A South Wales Rugby Union trialist replaced Ward and Taylor went on for Walczak.

Attendance 427. Referee R. Whitfield, Widnes. Half time score 0-7.

TEN YEARS AGO

Sunday September 1st, 1974

Oldham 9 Widnes 14 (Lancashire Cup first round)

Oldham: Blair (goal); Elliott, Larder (try), Wainwright, Holland (try); Treasure, Paterson; Ashcroft (dropped goal), Taylor, Hughes, Gregory, Welding, Hall.

Substitutes Munro and Walsh did not play.

Widnes: Dutton (4 goals); George, O'Neill, Aspey, Prescott; Hughes (try), Bowden; Hogan, Elwell, Sheridan, Foran, Adams, Blackwood (try).

Substitutes Warburton and Laughton did not play.

Attendance 2,959. Referee P. Geraghty, York. Half time score 7-2.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Saturday, August 30th, 1969 (League comprised one division)

Workington Town 28 Oldham 7

Workington: Charlton; Davies (2 tries), Marland (2 tries and 5 goals), Wright (try) Sewell (try); Kitchen, Newall; Moore, Allan, Curwen, H. McCourt, McFarland, Calvin. E. Bell and D. Martin the substitutes did not play.

Oldham: Whitehead (2 goals); Elliott, Crellin, Buckley, Davies; Murphy, Smith; Wilson, Taylor, Russell, Irving, C. McCourt (try), Hicks. Beverley went on for Davies and Ravitale replaced Crellin.

Attendance 1,320. Referee P. Geraghty, York. Half time score 5-2.



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During the Summer. . .

ALAN TAYLOR announced he was returning to Oldham after a spell in the Bahamas. . .

WALLY JONES was voted player of the year by the Oldham supporters club. . .

THE committee announced a loss of £33,418 on the year to March 31 last, with liabilities of £166,205. . .

JACK BOWDEN and Paul Lovett lost their committee seats to Malcolm Greenway and Eddie Bayliss. . .

MEMBERS rejected, at the annual meeting, a move for an all-pay system of admission to "A" team games. . .

FRED HOWARTH was appointed honorary secretary after Mr John Clark was made redundant in an economy measure. . .

MANSFIELD bought Chris Willis for a fee of £5,000. . .

WELL-KNOWN member Joe Gallagher, and his wife Ivy, were appointed to succeed Fred and Maureen Worrall as social club manager and manageress. . .

LOCAL lad Keith Atkinson realised a life's ambition when he turned pro for his home-town club. . .

OLDHAM were drawn at home to Blackpool in the first round of the Burtonwood Lancashire Cup on Sunday, September 16.

OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES

1984

SEPTEMBER

2—Hunslet (3.00)	H
9—Workington (2.30)	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	H
16—COUNTY CUP	
23—Leeds (3.00)	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	H

OCTOBER

7—Barrow (2.30)	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	H

NOVEMBER

4—Bradford (3.00)	A
11—Hull KR (3.00)	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
25—Warrington (3.00)	A

DECEMBER

2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
9—Barrow (3.00)	H
16—Hull KR (3.00)	A
23—Leeds (3.00)	H
26—Widnes (3.00)	A

'a' team fixtures

1984

(Subject to change)

AUGUST

31—Salford	A
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SEPTEMBER

8—Workington	H
15—Carlisle	A
21—Widnes	H
27—Leigh	A

OCTOBER

12—Warrington	A
27—Featherstone	A

NOVEMBER

2—Bradford	H
9—Salford	H
20—Wigan	A
23—Warrington	H

DECEMBER

1—Carlisle	H
8—Barrow	A
14—Swinton	H
21—Widnes	A
28—Halifax	A

1985

JANUARY

1—Halifax (3.00)	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	H
20—Castleford (3.00)	H
27—Wigan (3.00)	A

FEBRUARY

3—Hull (3.00)	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	
17—Leigh (3.30)	A
24—CHALLENGE CUP	

MARCH

10—St. Helens (3.00)	H
17—Hull (3.00)	A
24—Hunslet (3.30)	H
31—Workington (3.00)	H

APRIL

5—Halifax (7.00)	A
8—Wigan (3.00)	H
21—Castleford (3.30)	A

1985

JANUARY

5—Barrow	H
11—Bradford	A
18—St. Helens	H
25—Wigan	H

FEBRUARY

2—Swinton	A
22—Featherstone	H

MARCH

7—St. Helens	A
15—Halifax	H
22—Leigh	H
30—Workington	A

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