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- Chris Chapman 5.
- John Joyner 6.
- Robert Beardmoor 7.
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	1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

WELCOME back to Watersheddings after the big freeze...and our Challenge Cup defeat at Boundary Park.

That really was a bitter blow for everyone concerned with the club — spectators, members, players and officials.

There were several factors involved in our performance that day and most of them have been adequately covered already. Nothing is to be gained from keeping the inquest going indefinitely. The main thing now is to try and put the disappointment behind us and pick ourselves off the floor to make sure we give ourselves a fighting chance of continuing to make an impression in the Slalom Lager Championship.

We have 11 games left and we still have a lot to play for — an outside chance of the title, a realistic chance of a top-four place, and an excellent opportunity to at least finish in the top eight for the second time in our three seasons in the First Division.

At present we are in fourth place with 26 points from 19 games. We are four points behind leaders Hull KR, and they have two games in hand on us. Indeed it will be a tall order to lift the title, but the fact remains that anything can happen in Rugby League football and what we must do now is to try and ensure that we can pick up the pieces and continue to pick up the points just in case of any slips by the others.

Apart from that we have to try and ensure that we finish in the top four for the first time in our three seasons of top-grade rugby because that would give us a home tie in the first round of the play-off on April 28.

To achieve that target every point is vital because St. Helens will be particularly keen to take over from us in the top four if we should slip any more.

Fifth-placed Saints are only two points behind us with three games in hand, so this puts a lot of pressure on us to win against Castleford this evening and also to complete the double over Leeds at Watersheddings on Sunday.

The Leeds game is a real four-pointer because they have the same number of points as us, but we have a game in hand.

We cannot afford to drop points at home and with two home games in the space of four days we really do face a testing time, especially as Andy Goodway and Des Foy cannot play tonight because they are on Great Britain duty against France at Headingley on Friday night.

We must offer congratulations to Andy on his selection as captain of Britain and we wish him well in his first Test as captain of his country. Good wishes also to Des, who is named as substitute in the British line-up.

All being well, they will come through Friday's Test unscathed and they will thus be able to return to our team to face Leeds here at Watersheddings on Sunday.

The Leeds lads — Aussies and all — are a very attractive side and in mighty winger Eric Grothe they possess one of the strongest finishers in world Rugby League.

We won at Headingley earlier in the season and we will be trying to repeat the feat here on Sunday when Grothe and his fellow Aussies will be determined to extract revenge.

Leeds have also made an interesting choice of coach following Maurice Bamford's elevation to the Great Britain job. They have brought in Malcolm Clift from Sydney to complete their Aussie connection in much the same way as Halifax.

We know that our supporters were bitterly disappointed by our cup defeat, but the fact is that we cannot turn back the clock. We have to move on relentlessly, and that means making a big effort to do well in the rest of the league season.

There is still more than a third of the league season remaining and we will be doing our utmost to make amends for that cup exit.

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON CASTLEFORD

by Tom Webb

At one time Castleford rugby suffered a great decrease in popularity when the Rugby Union side was suspended and expelled from the game for rough play and the Northern Union club died after some ten years when gate receipts dwindled so much that the club could not carry on.

The supporters of soccer eventually started a senior side at Wheldon Road and after some success in the Yorkshire League moved up into the Midland League which was reckoned to be only slightly inferior to the Central League. An application to join the Third Division of the Football League was turned down and this killed the enthusiasm of the followers of association football. The Castleford Town club dropped back into the Yorkshire League and finally expired from lack of support.

Meanwhile Rugby League (or in its earlier days Northern Union) never died out and Castleford Half Acre Trinity kept the flag flying and earned inclusion in the first round of the Challenge Cup.

About 1911 the present Castleford club started up in the junior ranks, playing in the Leeds and District League. When rugby football resumed after the first war Castleford played in the Leeds League again and when the Yorkshire Senior Competition was revived in 1921-22 by the senior club "A" teams, the club entered the semi-senior ranks.

In those days the club played on the old ground at Lock Lane, known as the "Sandy Desert" when it was not being flooded by the overflowing of the two rivers, Calder and Aire. The club bought the soccer ground at Wheldon Road but owing to the incidence of the miners' lockout in 1926 (it was a lockout not a strike) the club had to wait a year before moving to the present ground.

At Lock Lane the club had used an old double decked tramcar for facilities, the upper deck being used as a press box and the lower one as a refreshment room. The new facilities at Wheldon Road were great improvements and brought Castleford up to a more professional standard.

The first season as a senior club saw the club finish "wooden spoonists" with five games won, one drawn and thirty lost in the Northern League with added discouragements in first round dismissals from both the Rugby League Challenge Cup and the Yorkshire Challenge Cup. There was only one way to go and that was in an upward direction. A steady climb took the club to the top ranks of the game with a wonderful Challenge Cup success over Huddersfield at Wembley in 1935.

The cup winning side was G. Lewis, B. Cunliffe, A. Atkinson, A. J. Croston, T. C. Askin, W. J. Davies, L. Adams, P. B. McManus, H. Haley, T. Taylor, F. Smith, J. Crossley and E. H. Sadler. Les ("Juicy") Adams had won Cup Final medals with Leeds and Huddersfield who had both been successful. Ted Sadler had graced the Oldham ranks at one time.

A disaster hit the club when the main stand burned down. It was a blessing in disguise as it allowed the club to build the present stand. The Supporters' Club had already provided covered accommodation on the popular side and this covered half the length of the playing pitch.

Just before the second world war Castleford finished second in the table, that was in 1938-39 and narrowly lost the top four play-off final at Maine Road, Manchester, to Salford by 8-6. That day seven of the cup winning team were in the side; George Lewis, Bernard Cunliffe, Jimmy Croston, Les Adams, Tommy Taylor, Harold Haley and Ted Sadler.

WELCOME TO CASTLEFORD

NOW TO THE LEAGUE CLASH!

THE Castleford players do not need much introduction to Oldham supporters following their win over us at Boundary Park ten days ago.

The lads from Wheldon Road are not having one of their better seasons in the Slalom Lager Championship, but they proved once more in their Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory that, on their day, they can still be one of the most difficult teams to beat.

Over the years they have been built a reputation more for exciting, crowd-pleasing football than strong defensive play. Remember that much-used phrase of a few years back, High-Speed Cas?

Nevertheless, it was their uncompromising defence that beat us in the cup-tie and that performance showed that we will have to be on our mettle tonight if we are to consolidate our position in the top four of the championship.

It is difficult to say, at this stage, whether the Castleford team will show much change from that which met Oldham at Boundary Park because they had to play Workington at home last Sunday in the second round of the Cup so tonight's team will obviously depend upon any injuries which might have been picked up against the Cumbrians.

The Castleford team that beat us in the cup was as follows: Roockley; Plange, Marchant, Hyde, Chapman; Sigsworth, R. Beardmore; Connell, K. Beardmore, Johnson, Ward, England, Joyner. Subs: Higgins, Ketteridge.

Had we been able to play the tie on the original date, centre Gary Hyde and hooker Kevin Beardmore would have missed out because of injury, but they had recovered to play at Boundary Park.

Hydes return to the centre allowed Australian Ron Sigsworth to switch from centre to stand-off and allow the vastly-experienced John Joyner to go to loose-forward.

Keith England, the former Great Britain colts forward, thus moved up from loose-forward to second-row to the exclusion of Australian forward Nigel Wilson.

David Plange proved himself to be a strong-finishing wing when he forced himself over for Castleford's second try which finally booked their passage into round two.

Tony Marchant is a centre with a nice turn of speed and an eye for the opening, and along with young England he helped to set up Plange's plunging try.

Aussie Sigsworth, one of three League-playing brothers from Sydney, was taken off with a sore head after the collision with Green Vigo, in which Green was concussed and had to be carried off on a stretcher.

Castleford then reshaped their side with Joyner taking over at stand-off — and only seconds later it was Joyner and scrum-half Bob Beardmore who spread the ball quickly wide to give substitute Barry Higgins the first try in a hard-tackling cup-tie.

Scrum-half Beardmore again showed what a key man he is in the Castleford set up. He kicked three goals to give his side an invaluable 6—2 lead, but it was his organisational ability in the middle of the field, allied to his tactical kicking, which most caught the eye.

In the forwards Gary Connell, Kevin Beardmore and the ball-handling Barry Johnson form a solid front-row, while many judges put second-row man Kevin Ward as the tie's top forward.

Ward and England got through a terrific amount of tackling, and Ward especially also did a tremendous amount of forward running and grafting to emerge as the game's top forward of the day.

Tonight's game is a very important one for the Oldham club because we are keen to win back our spurs after the disappointment in the cup, and give our fans something to shout about in the remaining Slalom Lager Championship matches.

But Castleford are also badly in need of the points if they are to finish in the top eight — and earn a place in the lucrative Premiership play-off.

They have 16 points from 19 matches — ten fewer than Oldham — and if they are to make the play-offs they cannot afford to drop many more points, especially now that Warrington are picking up a bit since the signing of Andy Gregory and Halifax have found the winning form again after a lean spell.

Tonight's game, therefore, is another important one for both clubs...and it gives Oldham a chance to avenge that bitterly disappointing display at Boundary Park.



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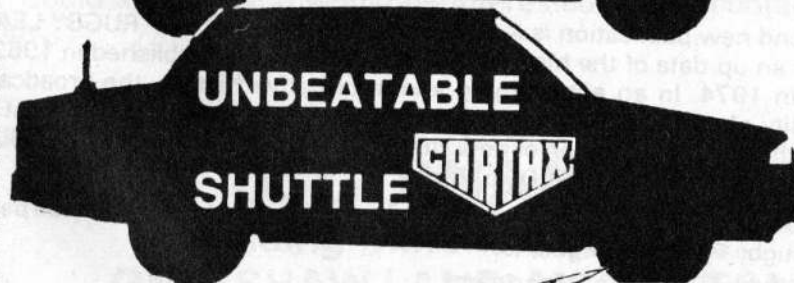
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The search is on for the Rugby League's Supporter of the Year in a first-ever official annual award scheme.

Traveleads, travel agents for the Rugby Football League, today launch the Top Fan campaign with a first prize of a £1,000 holiday voucher.

Nominations are being sought for the most dedicated supporters in the 13-a-side code.

The five-man judging panel, headed by B.B.C. TV Rugby League commentator Ray French, will select the finalists from whom the 1985 Top Fan will be named at a special presentation ceremony at Headingley, Leeds, on 28th March, 1985.

The winner will receive a £1,000 voucher towards the holiday of his or her choice, and a framed citation. Runners-up will be presented with £50 rail vouchers.

Rugby League P.R.O. David Howes said: "The Rugby League and Traveleads have decided to pay tribute to the fans who have earned the game an enviable reputation for behaviour and knowledge.

"Rugby League is justly proud of its image as the man's game for all the family. In an era when the spotlight is continually focused on crowd behaviour in all sports, we feel that this new award scheme will recognise the true sporting character of the people on the terraces".

NEW RUGBY LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS

Two top quality publications are now available to fulfil the need for authoritative information on this history of the 13-a-side code.

THE ROOTS OF RUGBY LEAGUE by Trevor Delaney is a vivid account of the crisis in English Rugby which led to the formation of the Northern Union in 1895 and the ultimate development of Rugby League. The 118-page publication is a thought-provoking essay on this historic breakaway movement and is priced £4.95 + £1.00 p. & p.

The second new publication is Keith Macklin's THE STORY OF RUGBY LEAGUE which is an up-date of the history of Rugby League, first published in 1962 and revised in 1974. In an entertaining and informative history, the broadcasting personality chronicles the major events in Rugby League's development from 1895 to the sudden explosion of new clubs in the 1980's. THE STORY OF RUGBY LEAGUE is priced £5.95 + £1.00 p. & p.

Please forward order and remittance, with cheques or postal orders made payable to The Rugby Football League, to:

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LIFELINE SOCIETY

On Easter Monday 8th March when we entertain Wigan at the Watersheddings, the **Lifeline Society** will be making a draw for its **Members** of a brand new car, namely a Vauxhall Nova.

As this is the Society's first **Car Draw** we are hoping to obtain the services of a famous celebrity to make the draw along with our own Rugby Club Queen: Kim Nolan.

The **First Numbers** to be drawn will be for **The Car**, we will then have our usual draw for the weekly £1,000 prize.

The Draw will take place during the half-time period.

Anyone wishing to join **The Lifeline Society** can do so by contacting Les Bostock at **The Pavilion** or ringing 626 4501. Membership will be open until kick-off time on the day of the Wigan match, so why not join us now and get in the draw for **this fabulous prize?**

CLUB NEWS

At the moment we are looking into the possibility of building executive suites at the Waterhead end of the ground, by utilising the upper level of the existing stand.

Having looked at some specimen plans we feel that they would provide not only a first-class amenity, but would also be a good source of income.

Could anyone who would be interested please contact Frank Myler.

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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Long after his Great Britain team-mates had called it a day, Mal Reilly finally drew the blinds on a memorable career.

The name Reilly used to strike fear in the hearts of opposing players from Yorkshire to New South Wales in the Seventies.

But it was a far different scene from those mighty Test clashes with Australia when Mal played his last game for Castleford recently.

The rampaging loose-forward, who ripped the Australian defences to shreds with his powerful running, took his last medal by helping his club win a second team championship.

'I started off in the 'A' team so I wanted to finish at that level and I certainly won't be playing again', said Reilly

It might seem a strange way to go out but one man watched his final game with perhaps a little more sadness than most.

Johnny Whiteley, as coach of Britain's last Ashes winning side in 1970, developed a tremendous admiration for Reilly's performances against Australia and New Zealand.

'Mal still looked streets ahead of the rest in skill and thought and scored a typical try,' Johnny told me.

I can still vividly recall that first tour game in 1970 in the Darwin heat when after only a few hours sleep since arriving he destroyed the Northern Territory defence.

The word that Britain had found a superb match winner travelled fast to Sydney and certainly Reilly did not disappoint them when he hit the big city.

So it was no surprise when Sydney club Manly tempted him back to become one of their stars in a successful career Down Under.

Now Mal will concentrate on the coaching aspect without any thoughts of playing again as Castleford seek to salvage some honours from a lean season so far.

Mal has now completed ten years as Castleford coach — the longest spell by a coach with the same club.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

President: Mr. D. Blackburn, **Chairman:** Mr. D. Pilkington, **Treasurer:** Mr. T. Heywood, **Secretary:** Mrs. J. Pilkington, **Committee Members:** Miss. A. Collinge, Mrs. H. Heywood, Mrs. L. Wolstencroft, Mr. I. Pilkington, Mrs. E. Crowther, Mrs. L. Chadderton, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mrs. S. Collinge, Mr. B. Doleman, Mrs. A. Doleman, Mrs. G. Doleman.

The Supporters Club would like to welcome all the Players and the Committee of our visitors from Castleford. Today's match, hoping we have a good, clean and entertaining match, we would like to invite all the supporters to our canteens situated at different parts of the ground and our souvenirs shop at the pavilion end and the programme shop at the waterhead end.

Souvenirs in our shop are Sweaters at £10.00 each, Sweatshirts at £8.50, and juniors £6.50, Scarves (Oldham) £2.75, Ties £3.50, Lapel Badges 65p, Blazer Badges £7.50, Patches £1.00, Gloves (small and large) £1.50, Pens 25p, Red and White Shirts with Club Badges 24" to 42".

Supporters Club membership is only £1.00 per person.

Junior Reds welcome any new members so that you can act as ballboys and ball girls. Saturday morning Social Club, new sew-on badges. Contact Joe in the Social Club. Membership £1.00 as last year. A symbol on sale, see J. Gallagher (Social Club).



It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of one of the club's best-known and most respected post-war players — Frank Daley.

Frank joined Oldham from Leigh in the 1949-50 season and played a major role in the club's rise to a major power in the game during the 1950s.

His partnership with Frank Stirrup was a feature of Rugby League in those days and then he continued to play a key role in the team's tremendous success with young Frank Pitchford as his partner.

Aged 62, Frank died on Monday of last week during a visit to relatives in New Zealand. His ashes are to be flown back to his home-town, Wigan, and there will be a memorial service at the Sacred Heart Church, Wigan, on a date not yet fixed.

He played in most of Oldham's big matches during the 1950s when the team of all talents appeared in two championship finals and won the Lancashire Cup in three successive seasons.

He was a member of the 1955 team that lost to Warrington in the championship final at Maine Road, but his big moment came two years later, at Odsal, when Oldham carried off the title with a thrilling win over Hull.

RUGBY LEAGUE COLLECTOR CLUB

The Rugby Football League has approved the formation of a new association for collectors of Rugby League programmes and memorabilia. The Rugby League Collector Club is a non-profit making body, designed to ease the exchange of Rugby League programmes, badges, autographs, books, etc.

Membership of the Collector Club is only £2.50 per year and the new service will include four quarterly Newsletters and a Club Directory of Members.

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Joe Gallagher, who runs the junior reds, is still keen to recruit more youngsters. Membership costs £1 for the season, there are regular functions on Saturday mornings, and members can get the chance to act as ball boys or girls on match days. If you are interested see Joe in the Social Club.



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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

10 Years Ago

Friday 17th January 1975

BARROW 10 OLDHAM 0 (Second Division)

Barrow: Tyrer (2 goals); Clegg, Knight, Wood, O'Brien; Ayres, Jones; Murray, Crewdson, Parry, Davies (try), McLean, Hogan (try).

Sub: Harrison for Davies after 57 minutes, other one not known.

Oldham: Blair; Elliott, Larder, Wainwright, Barton; Treasure, McCone; Ashcroft, Taylor, Hughes, Hall, Reynolds, Farrell.

Subs: Peters for Ashcroft after 65 minutes, other one not known.

Referee: Ronnie Moore, Wakefield. Attendance: 1,703. Half-time score: 8-0.

15 Years Ago

Saturday 17th January 1970

HUDDERSFIELD 17 OLDHAM 0 (League comprised one division)

Huddersfield: Wallace; Major (try), Starkey, Pickup, Kersey-Brown; Leek (2 tries), Loxton; Van Bellen, Close, Davies (4 goals), Taylor, Valentine, Tomlinson.

Subs: Breakspeare did not play and Long for Tomlinson in second half.

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott, Crellin, Garrett, Larder; Briggs, Smith; Gardiner, Taylor, Wilson, Irving, Ogden, Clark.

Subs: Sayer did not play and Baldwin for Ogden in second half.

Referee: Mick Naughton, Widnes. Attendance: 2,269. Half-time score: 8-0.

JIM FIXES IT FOR OUTWARD BOUND ASSOCIATION

Whoever the February Daily Express/Frigidaire Rugby League 'Player of the Month' is, the star will be in for a presentation-with-a-difference — thanks to Jimmy Saville, OBE.

For Jim has 'fixed it' for the Outward Bound Association and he will present the player — voted for by readers of the Daily Express — with a silver salver and a £200 cheque at a Frigidaire-sponsored dance at Leeds Town Hall in aid of the movement on **Friday March 8th (8.00pm-1.00am)**.

Tickets are £4 and available from Frigidaire at Gildersome Spur Distribution Centre, Leeds LS27 7JZ (tel: Leeds 520311).

Why not pop along and support Jim and friends — MC is John Crosse of Yorkshire TV. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds will be there and the award-winning Frigidaire Misty Blues Majorettes Team will give a display. There is a bar, dancing, and lounge suits are the order of the day.



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OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1984-5

1984

SEPTEMBER

2—Hunslet (3.00)	W 32-10	H
9—Workington (2.30)	W 44- 2	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	W 18- 2	H
16—COUNTY CUP	L 26-32	
23—Leeds (3.00)	W 18-14	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	W 12- 8	H

OCTOBER

7—Barrow (2.30)	W 34-12	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	L 15-16	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	L 5-32	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	W 26- 8	H

NOVEMBER

4—Bradford (3.00)	W 23-14	A
11—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 5-31	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v York	W 22- 6	
25—Warrington (3.00)	W 18-12	A

DECEMBER

2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v Hull	L 14-26	
9—Barrow (3.00)	W 44- 8	H
16—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 0-14	A
26—Widnes (3.00)	L 14-10	A

1985

JANUARY

1—Halifax (3.00)	W 24-12	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	W 6-13	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	Postponed	
20—Castleford (3.00)	Postponed	
27—Wigan (3.00)	Postponed	

FEBRUARY

3—Hull (3.00)	L 22-10	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	L 14- 8	H
17—Leigh (3.30)	Postponed	
24—CHALLENGE CUP		
27—Castleford (7.30)		H

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

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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Leeds	20	13	0	7	436	268	26
Oldham	19	13	0	6	367	251	26
St. Helens	16	12	0	4	451	243	24
Featherstone R.	20	10	0	10	303	298	20
Widnes	19	10	0	9	298	345	20
Bradford N.	18	9	1	8	339	294	19
Hull	15	9	0	6	348	213	18
Castleford	19	8	0	11	348	322	16
Warrington	19	8	0	11	336	401	16
Halifax	18	7	0	11	324	354	14
Barrow	18	6	0	12	315	559	12
Hunslet	20	5	1	14	312	586	11
Leigh	19	5	0	14	365	489	10
Workington	17	1	0	16	145	468	2

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