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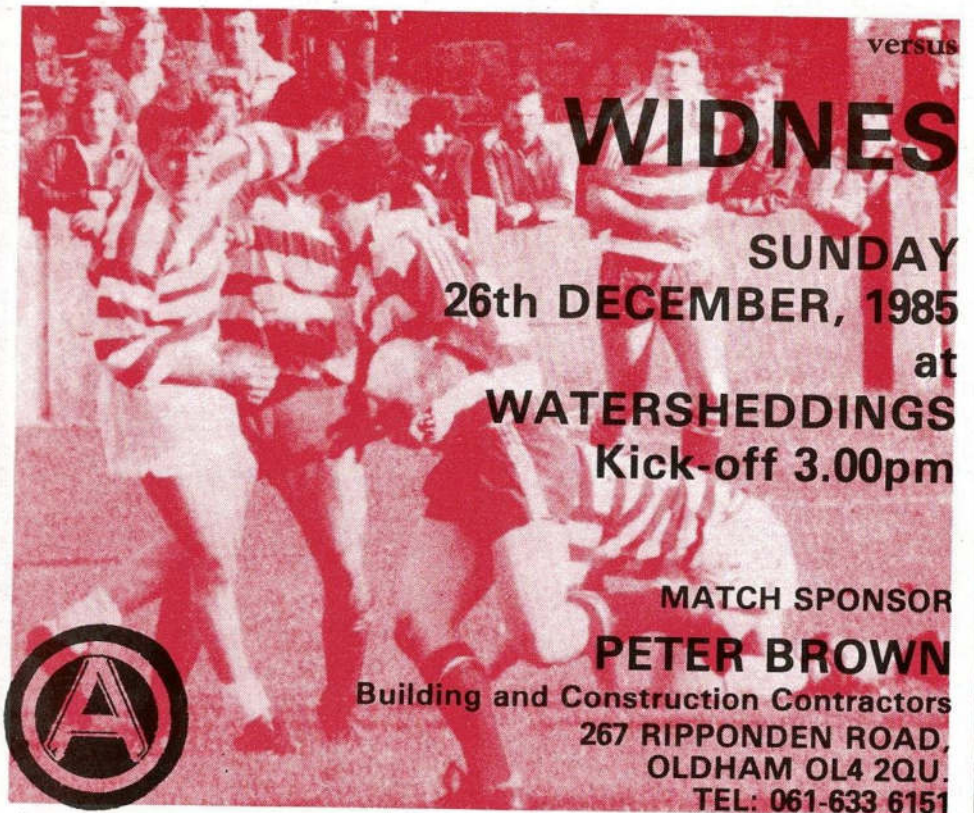


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CLUB RECORDS

Record victory 67-6 against Liverpool City, April 1959
Record defeat 11-67 by Hull K.R., September 1978
Record attendance 28,000 v. Huddersfield, February 24th 1912
Record receipts £9,100 v. Wakefield, 24th February 1980
Record transfer fee paid £40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February 1985
Record transfer fee received
Record try scorer
Record goal scorer
Record point scorer
First game
Highest number of points scored
Most appearances
Most tries

Reg Farrar, 49 tries, 1921/22 season
Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957/58 season
Bernard Ganley, 28 points v. Liverpool City, April 1959
October 21st, 1876 v. Stalybridge
Bernard Ganley, 2,881
Joe Ferguson, 685
Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233. Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57
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Second Division Champions: 1963-64 and 1981-82
Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25 and 1926-27
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
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

TODAY we welcome Widnes to Watersheddings and, in so doing, wish all our members, supporters, sponsors and backers and friends a very happy festive season and a prosperous New Year when it comes.

We did not have a game last Sunday due to circumstances beyond our control. We were due to play Hull KR away but Rovers were in the John Player Trophy semi-final against St Helens — perhaps where we should have been? — and an alternative fixture could not be arranged.

We had already played Salford twice (they were due to play Saints) and all other teams were involved in a full programme of First Division fixtures.

We had provisionally arranged to play Swinton at Station Road, but that would only have been possible if Hull had beaten St Helens in the quarter-final and, as you know, Hull were on the wrong end of a hiding.

The players, therefore, had a day off last Sunday — and you will all agree that it has been well and truly earned over the past three months.

Looking back over the year of 1985 we have had a satisfactory year overall and a very pleasing one on the playing side.

We have suffered a few highs and a few lows. One of the first of these was our poor showing in the first round of the Challenge Cup against Castleford at Boundary Park.

Nevertheless, we recovered to finish in fifth place in the First Division — the club's highest placing for 25 years.

So to this season, and a very poor start which we can put down to a massive pile up of injuries, sheer bad luck, and the fact that our three Australian players did not arrive until mid-October or thereabouts.

SINCE WINNING OUR FIRST LEAGUE GAME AGAINST WARRINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 29, HOWEVER, OUR PLAYING RECORD HAS BEEN TRULY REMARKABLE AND MEMORABLE.

Including the Warrington match we have played 12 matches in both league and John Player Trophy with a record which reads: won 9, drawn 2, lost 1.

Our only defeat was at the hands of Hull KR in the second round of the John Player Trophy at Craven Park on December 1 — and even that narrow 8-7 reverse was in controversial circumstances in which we played the whole of the second half without David Liddiard.

David was sent off for an alleged high tackle on winger David Laws, but we felt all along he should not have gone and this was confirmed when we submitted a video of the incident to the disciplinary committee who found that he was NOT GUILTY.

As a club we wish to stress that in no way was our action designed to undermine the authority of the referee.

The referee is the man in charge and he has to make up his mind in a split second without the advantages of video play-backs.

He acted as he felt right in the circumstances and in the heat of the moment. That's fair enough.

At the same time we felt it was important to clear David's name. It was important to him. It was also important to the club.

A week later David was involved in another controversial incident in which he was seriously injured in a tackle for which Oldham were awarded a penalty.

He continued to play for a short time afterwards but eventually he had to leave the field and it was later established that his jaw was broken.

The player concerned in the incident was not sent off, but the League have since asked for — and been provided with — a video recording of the match.

As a follow-up to that, the disciplinary committee have studied the tape and have summoned Salford centre Keiron O'Loughlin to appear before them at their next meeting on December 30.

The injury robs Oldham of an exciting and talented attacking player for six to eight weeks, and we have pencilled in the start of Challenge Cup in early February as the target comeback date.

(Continued on page 9)

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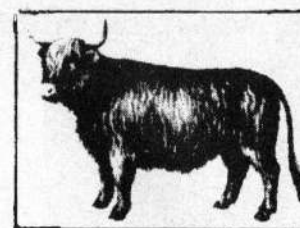
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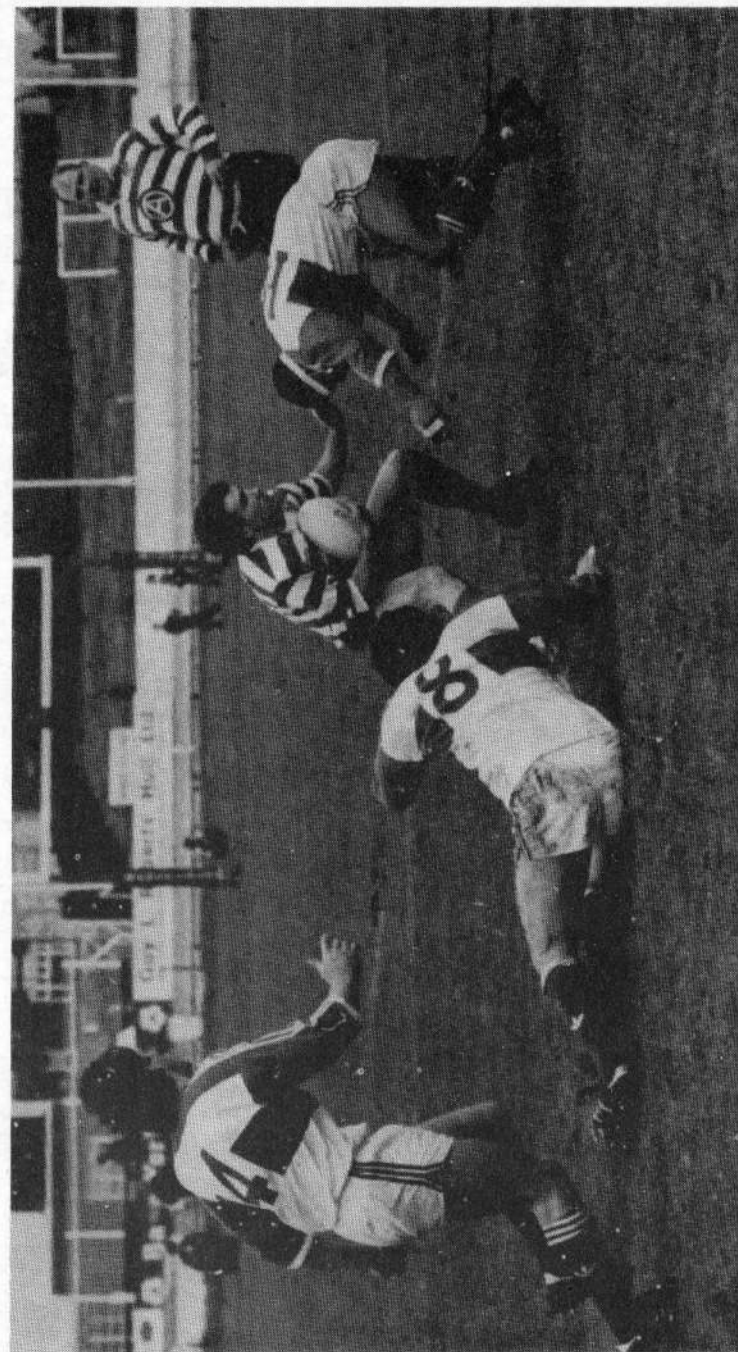
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Having skipped around Harrison (No. 8), Des Foy prepares to go round Ema in the cup-tie at Hull KR.

WELCOME TO WIDNES

A CLASH of Widnes and Oldham is always a bit special — but for Widnes to be here at Christmas this year is a little bit extra special as both teams are strongly challenging for the Slalom Lager championship.

At the time of writing the two teams were joint top. Widnes having a couple of games in hand.

Like Oldham with David Liddiard, the Chemics have also suffered a cruel blow involving an Aussie. They brought over former Aussie Test centre star Steve Rogers for this season but, in his debut game at Wigan, he broke a leg. On the same day, prop Steve O'Neill did likewise. That's what you call cruel luck!

Rogers has now returned home to Sydney and there is still no sign of a comeback by Steve O'Neill.

However, the Chemics have enjoyed a roaring success story surrounding another Aussie. The name is Noel Cleal — big, bearded, and brilliant, Cleal is a tremendously strong man, who has played a major part in Widnes's consistency in the league.

By the time the Chemics arrive here today they will also be strengthened by one of the big stars of the recent New Zealand tour — the strong and aggressive Kurt Sorenson.

Sorenson had a vital bearing on the outcome of the first and third Tests and his arrival at Naughton Park following the Kiwis tour in France should provide Widnes with one of the strongest packs in the game.

Any clash of Widnes and Oldham is almost like a family affair. To start with our manager Frank Myler played most of his career at Widnes — his home town where he still lives only a spin pass's distance from Naughton Park.

He was also coach there for a time and he guided the black-and-whites to their one and only championship success as well as taking them to Wembley.

Moreover, Frank is the uncle of Tony and John Myler and the father-in-law of David Hulme, who married his daughter last summer. Needless to say there will be some friendly family rivalry here today.

The connection is still not finished because our own Des Foy started his pro career at Widnes, and Ray Ashton is a Widnes lad born and bred, who supported the Chemics as a boy.

Also, our Lifeline boss Les Bostock is the father-in-law of Widnes's Great Britain full back Mick Burke. A family affair, indeed!

Burke, who played for Britain in all three Tests against the Kiwis, is but one of several Test stars in the Widnes line-up.

Joe Lydon needs no introduction in the Widnes centre, nor does John Basnett who plays on the wing. Another winger, Wilf George, caused us problems when we drew 10-10 at Naughton Park on October 27.

Both half-backs, Hulme and Tony Myler, are currently in the Great Britain squad. Myler had two excellent matches in the first two Tests against the Kiwis and his absence from the third and drawn Test at Elland Road through injury dealt Britain a cruel blow.

The pack took another blow at the last meeting of the disciplinary committee when Mike O'Neill received a four-match ban, but Widnes will still field a strong and experienced set of forwards with overseas men Cleal and Sorenson to the fore.

The evergreen Keith Elwell goes on and on in the No. 9 jersey, while Widnes can also boast a forward who stole much of the limelight in the Test series — John Fieldhouse.

Fieldhouse earned under-24 honours while with Warrington, but his career has really taken off since his move to Widnes in the deal that took Andy Gregory to Wilderspool.

His selection as prop in the first Test took a lot of people by surprise, but his strong running and enormous appetite for work made him one of Britain's most consistent forwards over the three-Test series.

Our game at Naughton Park was a hard-fought contest in which both sides scored one try only. We felt the George try for Widnes in the first half was a trifle fortunate, but we got back on terms when Gary Warnecke squeezed his way over early in the second half.

Late in the game there were narrow escapes for both sides. Hulme got over the Oldham line — but was judged to be on his back — and David Topliss made a brilliant break which split Widnes wide open, but the finishing was not sufficiently clear-cut.

It was tight and tense — and there is no reason to believe it will be any different in today's holiday clash.

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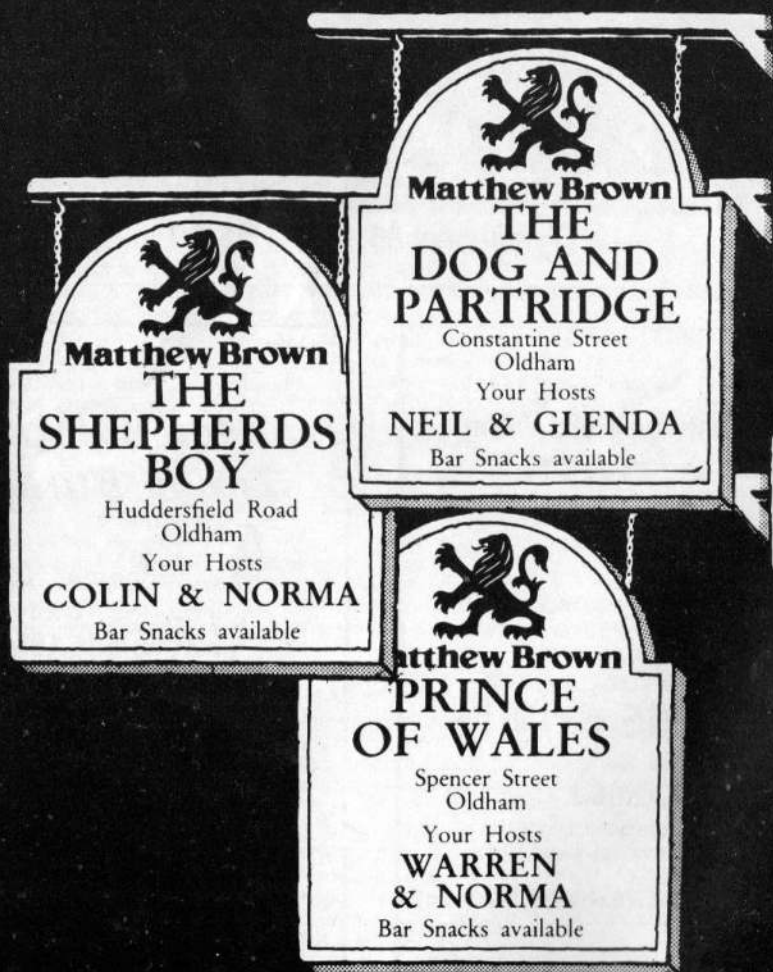
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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

The negotiations between BARLA and the Rugby Union have it is sad to say failed to bring the developments that everyone with a fair minded attitude to sport would have hoped to see arrive.

The bid to establish a free 'gangway' towards the two forms of amateur rugby have been blocked by a definite 'no' from the Rugby Union.

Naturally BARLA are bitterly disappointed that after 13 years of negotiations they should get such a decision which has been conveyed to the Sports Council and Minister for Sport.

The situation is that should a Rugby Union player simultaneously wish to join an amateur Rugby League club he is automatically banned for life from the Union code until such a time as he has severed all current connections with amateur Rugby League Football.

National administrator Maurice Oldroyd says 'To say the least, BARLA find this to be against all the English sporting traditions and fair play.

'The Rugby Union position becomes all the more indefensible when one considers that a Rugby Union player is free to play any other sport in the world even as a professional.

'Yet they feel it reasonable to ban any of their members for life for being associated with amateur Rugby League football.

'After a decade of negotiations BARLA are understandably disappointed at the intransigent attitude of the Rugby Football Union towards another sport which must surely be one of the most important genuine amateur sports in the world.'

The new chairman of BARLA is Jackie Reid who has set himself a target — to get a major sponsor for the amateur game.

An Egremont man who has played amateur rugby for Egremont Rangers and professional rugby for Whitehaven, Reid was elected to his new role after serving as vice-chairman for five years.

A regular choice as Great Britain youth team manager for several years he was manager of the highly successful BARLA Young Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1983.

(Continued from page 2)

This was a cruel blow — and all the more so because of the way in which the fixtures dropped throughout the Autumn.

In fact, out of the nine matches David has played for the Oldham club only two have been at Watersheddings, and he is unlikely to be seen again until late January at the earliest.

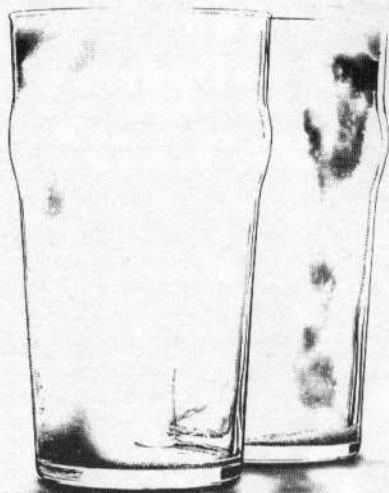
We are now coming into a period when we have a run of home matches and we are looking forward to this period to recoup a lot of money we "lost" during that amazing run of only two games at home out of 12.

We go to Leeds on New Year's Day, but three of our next four matches are at home — against Featherstone, York and St Helens.

It goes without saying that we badly need your support to maintain our thrust for some honours over the second part of the season.

Let's hope it will truly be a HAPPY NEW YEAR for all at Watersheddings!

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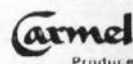
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The Supporters Club and Committee would like to welcome all the players and officials of Widnes to today's match, hoping we have a good, clean and entertaining game. Also we invite the supporters to our Canteens and Souvenir Shop situated at different parts of the ground.

The Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion End of the ground has sweaters, sweatshirts, ties, badges, pens etc. The programme shop is situated near the scoreboard in the old bar.

The Supporters Club are once again holding their Christmas Eve Social and New Years Eve Family Social in the Social Club. Anyone wishing to attend these will they please give their names to Mrs J. Pilkington as soon as possible as tickets are limited.

We would like to thank Mrs Fay Bowden for today's After the Match Raffle Prize and anyone who would like to donate a prize to a match will they please put their names on the match list on the notice board in the Social Club.

The Supporters Club subscriptions are now due. Come and join the Supporters Club membership £1.00 (including diary). Please pay at any canteen. Also to all our Junior Reds, their membership to Mr J. Gallagher in the Social Club.

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Four players will be selected on their performances. Points will be given as follows: Man of the Match 5 points, 2nd 3 points, 3rd 2 points, 4th 1 point.

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6. Tony Myler
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8. Kurt Sorenson
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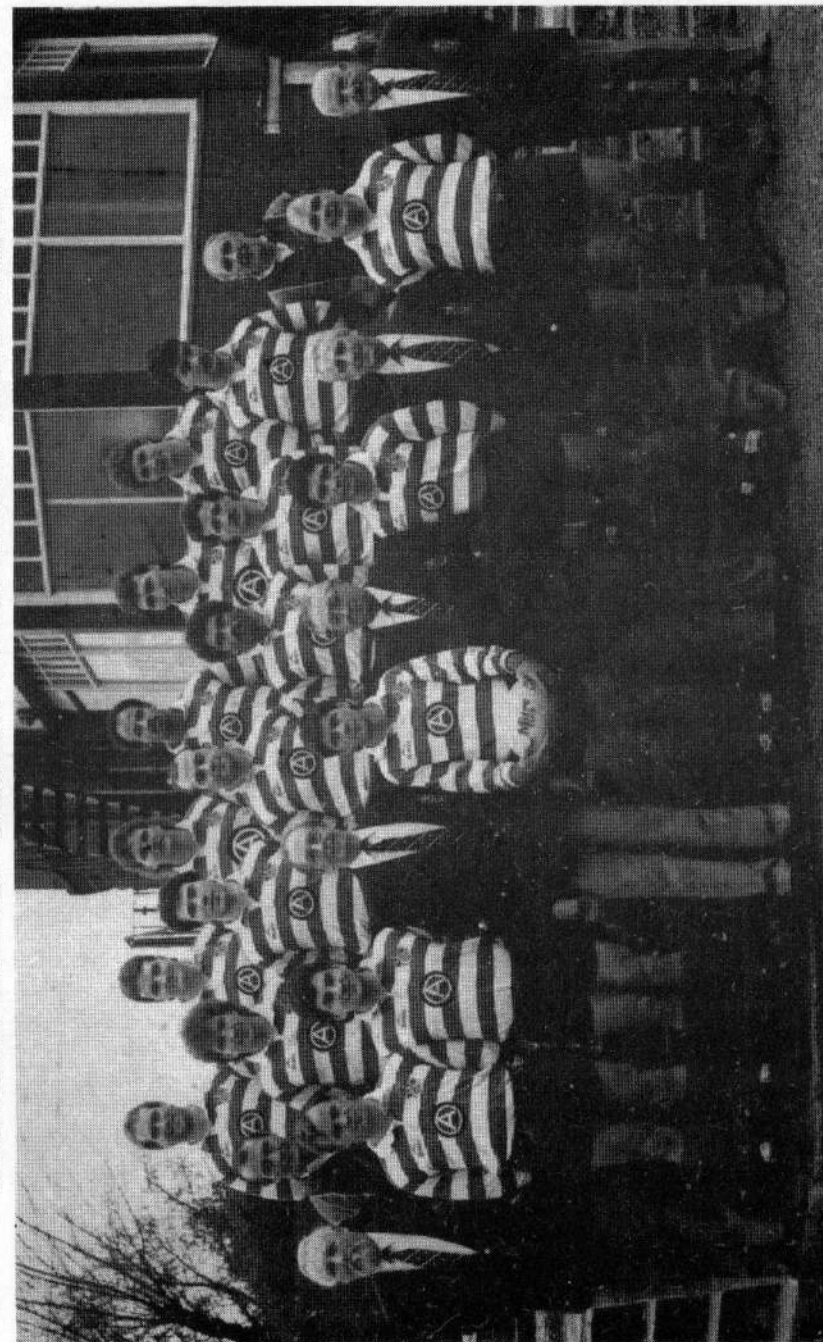
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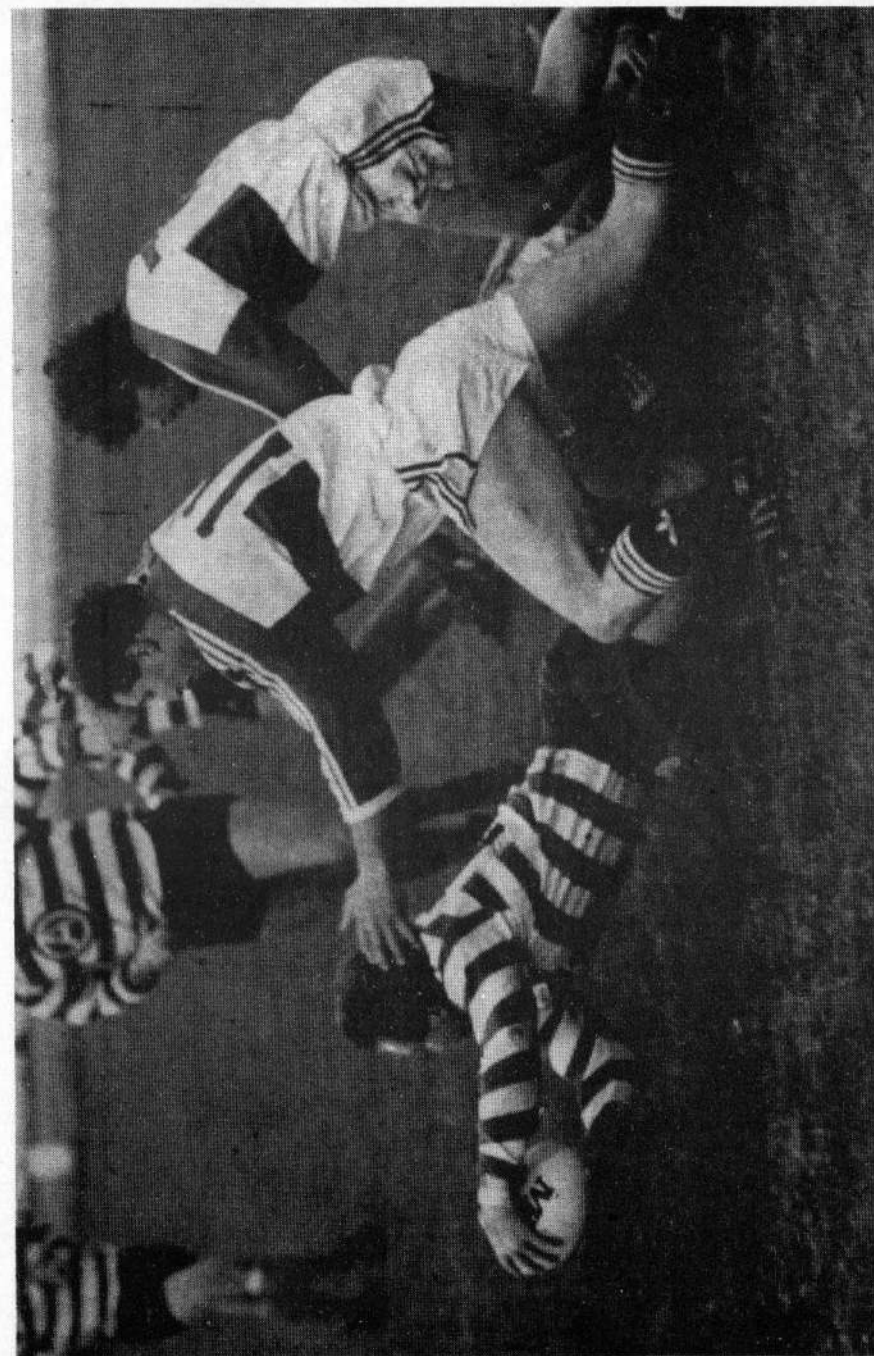
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(Home Team score first)

1985

SEPTEMBER

1—Halifax	D	12-12	A
4—Swinton (7.30)	L	12-16	H
8—Leeds	L	14-30	H
15—County Cup (1)	L	40-12	
22—Hull	L	54-12	A
29—Warrington	W	26-20	H

OCTOBER

6—Featherstone (3.30)	D	14-14	A
13—Salford	W	20-34	A
20—Castleford	W	46-22	H
27—Widnes	D	10-10	A

NOVEMBER

3—Bradford (3.30)	W	24-6	A
10—York	W	2-8	A
17—Dewsbury (3.30)	W	6-37	A
24—John Player Special (1)	W	8-46	A

DECEMBER

1—John Player Special (2)	L	8-7	A
8—Salford	W	32-10	H
15—Dewsbury	W	48-14	H
26—Widnes			H

1986

JANUARY

1—Leeds	A
5—Featherstone	H
12—York	H
19—Castleford (3.30)	A
26—St. Helens	H

FEBRUARY

2—Warrington	A
9—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (1)	
16—Halifax	H
23—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (2)	

MARCH

2—Hull K.R.	H
16—Hull	H
23—Wigan	H
28—Swinton	A
31—Wigan	A

APRIL

6—Bradford	H
13—York (3.30)	A
20—St. Helens	A

Next Home Games to be Played at Watersheddings

Sunday 5th January K.O. 3.00pm Oldham v Featherstone

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