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DIVISION ONE**

OLDHAM

versus

FEATHERSTONE

SUNDAY
5th JANUARY, 1986
9th April 1986 at

WATERSHEDDINGS
Kick-off 3.00pm

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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 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 1959
First game October 21st, 1876 v. Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored Bernard Ganley, 2,881
Most appearances Joe Ferguson, 685
Most tries 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
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55
First Division Champions: 1904-05
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

HAPPY New Year to you all! We have every reason to believe that, on the field at least, it will be a happy 1986 for the Oldham club.

As the old year rang out, we could celebrate a run of ten consecutive First Division games without defeat, not counting the Widnes home game on Boxing Day because notes had to be submitted to the printer before then due to the holidays.

Indeed, out of the 12 matches in all competitions leading up to our top-of-the-table clash with the Chemics we had lost only one and that was a narrow 8-7 reverse at Hull KR in the second round of the John Player Special Trophy when we played the whole of the second half without David Liddiard.

Whatever happened on Boxing Day, therefore, we have reason to believe that 1986 can be a very pleasing one on the field of play.

We still have three competitions open to us in the First Division championship, the Premiership and the Challenge Cup.

We also have a good run of home games coming up with Featherstone here today, York here next Sunday, and St Helens here on January 26 before we turn into February and the cup.

You must be aware by now that, while things are going well with the team, the club has been having considerable difficulty off the field in fund-raising to ease our acute cash flow problem.

This all came to a head when we had a sequence of only two home games out of 12 played. It goes without saying, therefore, that we need every penny we can get our hands on so that we can try and keep pace with our chief rivals.

Shortly before Christmas, the committee had a five-hour meeting which was devoted almost entirely to the cash plight, and this was followed by a second meeting, during the day on the Friday after Christmas.

By now you may well have read of several new ideas that we are putting forward to increase the amount of money that is coming into the club.

It is generally felt that the way out of our problem is not by cutting back and chancing a spin-off on efficiency, but by earning more and more so that we can maintain our standards and keep pace with teams such as Hull KR, St Helens and especially Wigan who are setting a tremendous lead in terms of money and ambition.

As a members' club we are at some disadvantage, so it is up to every one of us with the Oldham club at heart to try and do our bit in fund-raising to try and cut the gap between what is coming in and what is going out.

On the playing front, you will be pleased to know that, at the time of writing, there was encouraging news about our long-term injury victims, David Liddiard and David Finch.

David Finch has successfully got over his knee cartilage operation and is now engaged in the process of building up the strength in his knee so that he can make a return to full training. We confidently expect David to be back in action in the not-too-distant future.

The same goes for David Liddiard, who was delighted to have the wires removed from his broken jaw just in time for Christmas and his favourite meal of egg and chips.

David has now devised a six-week programme of swimming, road running and gymnasium work so that as soon as he is cleared to play again by the specialist he will be sufficiently fit generally to come straight back into the side.

He plans to be working out every night of the week and spending some time at the Gallagher Boys Boxing Club. He is a fitness fanatic and he intends to use this period when he is out of the game to ensure that he will be fully fit — and at top speed — when he gets the all-clear to play again.

Hopefully, this should be in good time to allow David to settle back into the side in time for the first round of the Challenge Cup.

First things first, however, and that means a good performance against Rovers today so that we can earn a good crowd for next Sunday's visit by York.

It really is essential that we pull in some good crowds now that we have home matches in the offing. So do your best to attend ALL our home games and, if possible, bring a friend or relative to help swell the gate.

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- 1980 BREWEX SILVER MEDAL. Slalom Lager – for draught lager.
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WELCOME TO FEATHERSTONE

ROVERS ROARING AGAIN!

TODAY we play our first home game in 1986 and trust it will be a very enjoyable one with the visit of our old friends from Featherstone.

Rovers held us to a 14-14 draw at Post Office Road in our second game of the ten-match unbeaten league sequence before Christmas, so they will be coming to Watersheddings today all fired up to at least match that performance.

They have experienced a few trials and tribulations this season, not least the resignation of coach Allan Agar during a run of seven consecutive defeats which came to an end with a stunning home win over Warrington on the Sunday before Christmas.

Since then, the Rovers have played Hull home and away, but due to the holidays these notes had to be submitted before the Christmas matches were played.

The Rovers management are clearly hoping that the appointment of George Pieniazek as coach in succession to Agar, followed by the encouraging 27-14 win over the Wires, will be the start of the club's uphill climb out of the relegation zone.

In the game over Warrington, Rovers gave a debut to a club record signing, prop forward Carl Harrison from Bramley, who was signed for a fee of around £15,000.

They are also hoping to sign two more forwards to strengthen their panel in time for the Challenge Cup as well as having long-serving Peter Smith back in action.

The popular forward, whose career in more recent years has been dogged by injury, has played only two matches since the 1983 Challenge Cup final at Wembley when, against all the odds and expectations, Rovers beat Hull to take the cup back to the little mining community that has produced so many Rugby League players over the years.

Two of them are currently playing leading roles in the Oldham set-up — Mick Morgan and David Hobbs, whom we signed from Featherstone for £40,000 at the end of last season.

Coach Pieniazek has inherited a bunch of players which is a good mix of youth and experience. Indeed, two of the younger players, Derryck Fox and Paul Lyman, have already achieved much at international level.

Scrum-half Fox, who apparently had a blinder in the win over Warrington, was elevated to Test status by Great Britain boss Maurice Bamford and he played a vital role in our success at Test level in the recent drawn series with the New Zealanders.

Lyman, a fast-raiding second-row man or loose forward, is a member of the Great Britain squad and is tipped to be a forward to look out for in the future.

Fox and Lyman, sadly, have recently submitted transfer-requests, but in rejecting them the Rovers management have shown that they intend to build a future around such players and once more establish the club as a force to be reckoned with in the Rugby League.

John Gilbert and the goalkicking Steve Quinn are two experienced centres in the Post Office Road set-up.

Quinn is one of the most prolific kickers in the game and if David Hobbs is in our side today, having had his sending-off case heard by the disciplinary committee on December 30, it will be interesting to compare the two marksmen.

As a goalkicker, Hobbs usually played only as Quinn's understudy, so if Hobbs is kicking for Oldham and Quinn for Rovers it will be fascinating to compare the two.

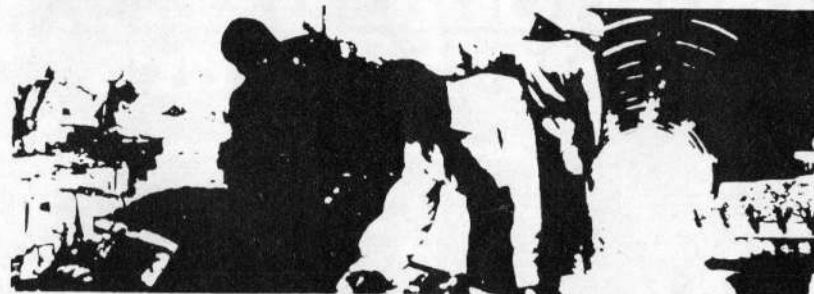
Hobbs, in fact, spent many years at Post Office Road and reached the pinnacle of his achievement at club level when he won the Lance Todd Trophy for his two tries in that shock defeat of Hull at Wembley nearly three years ago.

At present, the Rovers seem to be rebuilding and going through a transitional period. This is seen not only by the signing of Harrison for the front-row, but by the capture of 19-year-old Mark Campbell for the second-row.

(continued on page 9)

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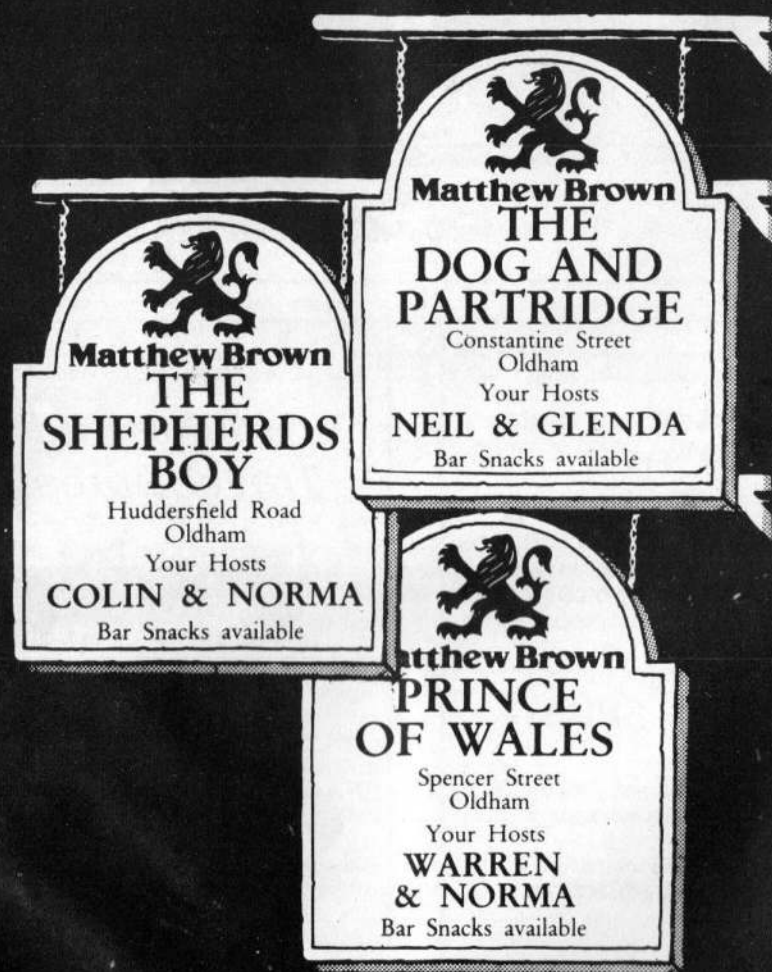
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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

This season seemed to be ticking over nicely in terms of crowd hooliganism as we reflected in the knowledge that Rugby League is not afflicted in the same way as Soccer.

We had trouble among the fans in the Yorkshire Cup final between Castleford and Hull KR which left rather a nasty taste.

This had died down nicely and things looked pretty normal until the recent John Player trophy semi-final between Wigan and Leigh at Knowlsey Road.

Unfortunately the violence flared on the terraces at this televised encounter and there were quite a few ugly scenes.

Fortunately for the reputation of the game the BBC cameras did not make anything of the fighting and concentrated on the action between the teams.

But this sort of trouble could have done plenty of harm to the games image and I notice from the letters I have received this season many fans are concerned at some of the incidents which are recurring.

League officials David Oxley and David Howes have long realised we cannot afford to be complacent just because we have an overall reputation for being a well run family sport.

Soccer had a terrible time in recent years and it has seen an alarming drop in attendances as a result.

But now Soccer reports a dramatic drop in the trouble due to the introduction of new security measures.

There has been the use of video cameras at grounds, drink restrictions, more crowd segregation and stiffer sentencing of fans to reduce violent behaviour in and outside of grounds.

Most of the major police forces testify to the value of using the video cameras to weed out the thugs at the big games.

Fans who are not caught on the day of the incidents have been tracked down by the use of the video films.

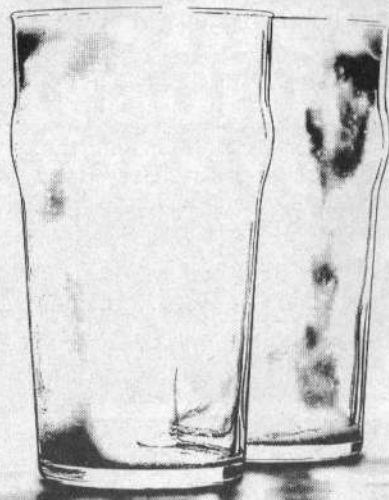
I sincerely hope that the day does not come in Rugby League when we need to go to such lengths to protect the games interests and those of the fans who take their families.

(continued from page 6)

This promising youngster made his debut against Warrington as A N Other, but he has since been signed on the strength of his performance in that match.

Nevertheless, there are still many well-known names in the Rovers side. As well as those already mentioned, watch out for Nigel Barker at full back, Chris Chappell and Richard Marsh on the wings, Alan Banks at stand-off, long-serving Mick Gibbins and Bob Spurr in the front-row, and Calvin Hopkins behind them.

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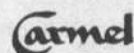
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The Supporters Club and Committee would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year and welcome all the officials and players of Featherstone Rovers to today's match. Hoping that we can have a good clean and entertaining game. Also we invite 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.

We would like to thank Mr D. Blackburn and Mrs H. Ashworth for their after the match raffle prizes on Boxing Day, also today's raffle prize donator Mr Gary Bown. Anyone who would like to donate prizes will they please put their names on the notice board in 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. v. Widnes: D. Topliss 5, D. Hobbs 3, G. Liddiard 2, Mal Graham 1.

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7. Ray Ashton
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10. Mick Morgan
11. Mal Graham
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7. Deryck Fox
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Front Row: K. Broadbent (Committee), P. Kirwan, R. Ashton, G. Woodhead (Managing Director, Seddon Atkinson),
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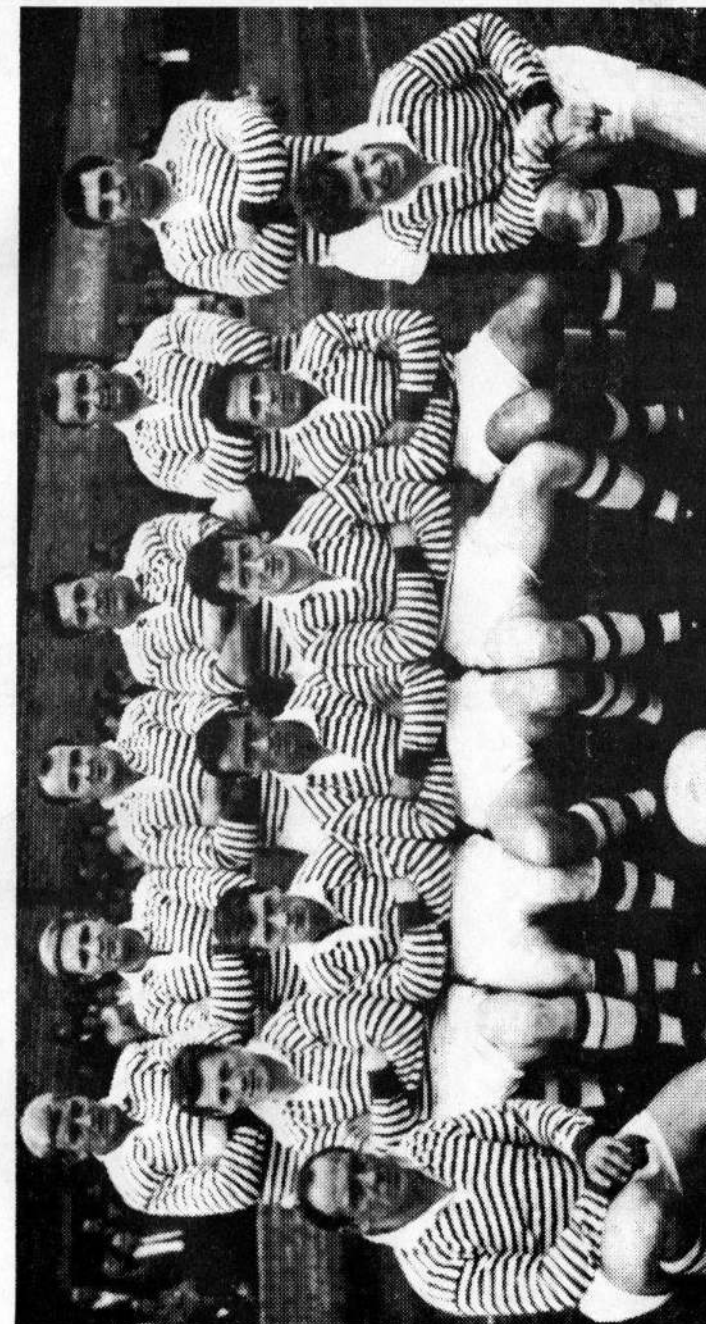
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(Home Team score first)

1985

SEPTEMBER

1—Halifax
4—Swinton (7.30)
8—Leeds
15—County Cup (1)
22—Hull
29—Warrington

OCTOBER

6—Featherstone (3.30)
13—Salford
20—Castleford
27—Widnes

NOVEMBER

3—Bradford (3.30)
10—York
17—Dewsbury (3.30)
24—John Player Special (1)

DECEMBER

1—John Player Special (2)
8—Salford
15—Dewsbury
26—Widnes

D 12-12 A
L 12-16 H
L 14-30 H
L 40-12
L 54-12 A
W 26-20 H

D 14-14 A
W 20-34 A
W 46-22 H
D 10-10 A

W 24-6 A
W 2-8 A
W 6-37
W 8-46 A

L 8-7 A
W 32-10 H
W 48-14 H
D 10-10 H

1986

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

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