

OLDHAM **Team Check** **LEIGH**

K. ATKINSON	1	C. JOHNSON
P. SHERMAN	2	N. McCULLOCH
H. M'BARKI	3	J. HENDERSON
D. FOY	4	J. KERR
M. TAYLOR	5	P. FOX
D. TOPLISS	6	M. DAVIES
R. ASHTON/P. KIRWAN	7	P. JOHNSON
W. JONES	8	B. GELLING
T. FLANAGAN	9	R. TABARN
B. CLARKE	10	D. PYKE Capt.
C. HALKYARD	11	T. COTTRELL
N. CLAWSON/T. NADIOLA	12	G. HOWELL
M. WORRALL	13	I. SCHUBURT
T.B.A.	14	T.B.A.
T.B.A.	15	T.B.A.

Referee: M. R. WHITFIELD Touch Judges: G. E. LIGHTFOOT, P. M. OLIVER

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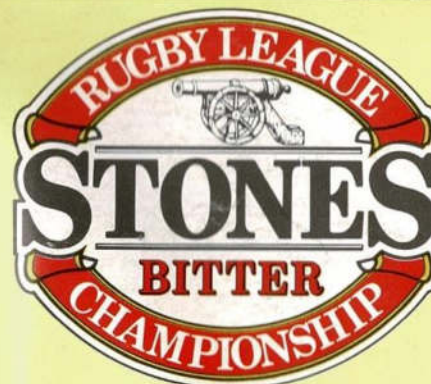
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LEIGH

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Hon. Club Solicitor: A. J. Adler L.L.B

General Manager: F. Myler

Hon. Secretary: F. Howarth, B.A.

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Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle

Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr J. Watkins

Lifeline: L. Bostock

Commercial Manager: T. Morley

Social Club Manager: A. Gartshore

Official Timekeeper: J. Roscoe

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v. Liverpool City, April 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £9,100 v Wakefield, 24th February, 1980

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February, 1985

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: 21st October, 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, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55:

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 19668-69

Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80



GLEN LIDDIARD

CLUB NOTES

The First Colour Programme to be published by the Club for 1986 was for the Leeds game, we feel it was an unqualified success. We started the season with a Splash of Colour and a fantastic win over Leeds. We went to Halifax full of confidence and gave them a good reason to worry, and I feel we should have "Stuffed Them".

Warrington was a similar story with lost chances and hard luck. The pack looks good and I have every confidence that this season we are going to do well.

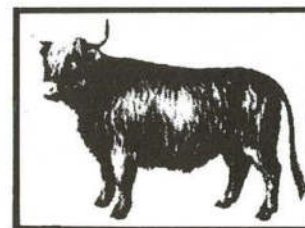
On 18th September, 1986, we are having a meeting in the Social Club when all supporters and Members are invited to attend.

The object is to explain and give details of the new Limited Company, Players Policies and plans for 1987/88. We would like all to attend who can and members of staff will be available to answer queries. We hope this will be a productive meeting and will lay foundations for a full members meeting in the latter part of October.

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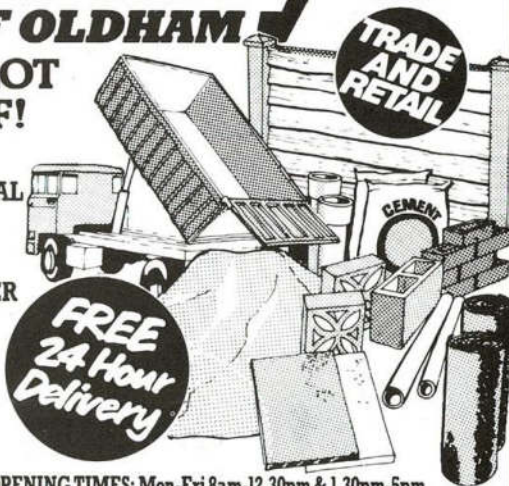
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A LOOK AT THE

Today's Grunhalls Lancashire Cup first-round tie against Leigh will provide a welcome respite for both teams from the demands of the First Division which will be just as competitive as ever during the 1986-87 season. Within the space of eight days Leigh had to open up the campaign with matches against St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. At least, it didn't take them long to realise they were back in the First Division!

No matter how well Tommy Dickens's side goes this season in the higher grade it will certainly be a far cry from last season when Leigh took the Second Division by storm and piled on the points in a try scoring bonanza at Hilton Park. With plenty of pace in the backs from speed merchants like Phil Fox, John Henderson and Des Drummond, and the skilful and creative ball-playing talents of prop Derek Pyke up front, Leigh were clearly a class apart in Division Two. They stormed to victory in 33 of their 34 League matches to finish with a massive 66 points, 12 more than runners-up Barrow and 17 more than third-placed Wakefield Trinity, who were also promoted. Not surprisingly, the Leigh lads figured prominently in the Rugby League scoring charts in which they topped both the try list and the goals list.

Aussie centre Steve Halliwell, Wigan-born and now with St Helens, was the game's top try-scorer with 49, 11 more than the First Division leader, Ellery Hanley of Wigan. Oldham-born Henderson was fourth in the try-charts with 31 and winger Fox, who was once on trial here at Watersheddings, was sixth in the list with 29. Between them, Halliwell, Henderson and Fox scored a total of 109 tries, which was only four short of the total scored by the entire Oldham team during its campaign in the much more competitive First Division. Full-back Chris Johnson landed 173 goals to again lead the way, ahead of Wigan's David Stephenson (128) and Doncaster's David Noble (118). Midway through the season, Dickens took over control at Hilton Park and although he guided the side effortlessly to promotion, he is too much of a realist and a professional to fall into the trap of underestimating the size of his task in the top flight. Every game will be tough," he says. "There are

LIKELY LADS OF LEIGH

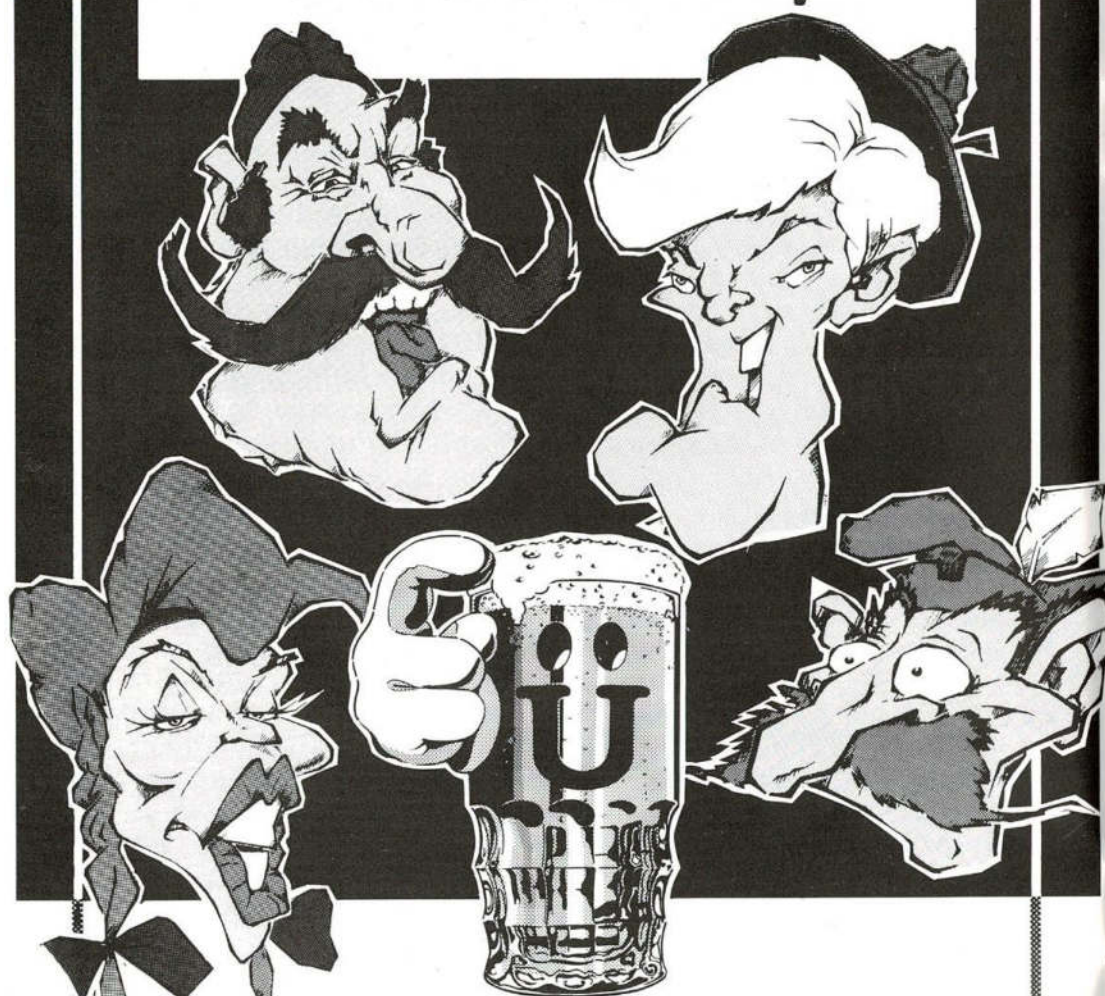
no easy games and we couldn't have a tougher start."

There are several changes in the squad from last season and Leigh's early-season prospects have not been enchanted by a situation involving Test winger Drummond which sees the long-serving winger on the sidelines on his return from a summer's stint in Sydney. Free-scoring Halliwell has followed Alex Murphy across the East Lancs Road to St Helens. Nevertheless, Leigh have shown their determination to compete in the First Division by signing up their full quota of overseas men in Aussie Mike Davies, Ian Schubert, Garry Howell and Mike Blake.

Half-back Davies, originally from Penrith, played for Fulham last year and could well figure at No.7 in today's tie. Schubert, big and blond, will be well remembered as the boy who first came to England and was a sensation in the first Australian High School side to tour here, then as a wing or centre. It was as a wing that Schubert first burst onto the Test scene, but in more recent years he has been playing in the forwards for Western Suburbs and it will be as a back-row man that he will be playing for Leigh. His second-row partner could well be another Aussie in Penrith's Howell, while Leigh could well fill the vacancy caused by Halliwell's departure by playing fellow-countryman Mike Blake at left-centre.

Blake is the brother of stand-off Phil Blake, who was at Warrington last year, and Leigh expect him to be just as effective as his predecessor in a back Division that still has a lot of finishing power and now features former B.A.R.L.A international Neil McCullough on the left flank. In the pack, Brian Gelling, Ray Tabern and skipper Pyke, currently in Maurice Bamford's Great Britain training squad for the forthcoming Test series against the Kangaroos, form a formidable front-row. Pyke has earned his challenge for representative honours with his clever ball skills and it is the Leigh hope that the recruitment of forwards like Schubert and Howell from Down Under will take a lot of weight off their skipper and enable him to be even more destructive with his skills and slight of hand.

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THE BAVARIAN WAY

Around the League... with Roughyed

Two of Great Britain's biggest hopes for the forthcoming Test series against Australia — Des Drummond and Harry Pinner could find themselves watching from the Old Trafford stands when the first clash with the Kangaroos takes place on the Manchester United soccer ground on 25th October. Leigh have officially reported Drummond as in dispute for failing to train at Hilton Park — he says he has a travelling problem from his Bolton home — and under League rules that will prevent him being picked for Britain unless he is transferred or the problem is resolved. Poor Harry Pinner is still struggling with an ankle injury that dogged him last season and time is running out if the Saints No.13 is to keep the job he did so well against the Kiwis last season.

HULL K.R., who come to Watersheddings next Sunday, started off badly with two opening defeats by Barrow and Bradford. Now the Rovers can't wait for the forthcoming arrival of former Kiwi Test prop Mark Broadhurst. Two years ago, Rovers lost their first two games, signed Broadhurst, and won the title! Will history repeat itself, I wonder?

John Fieldhouse, Widnes's Test forward, has aroused plenty of interest around the League although his transfer request has been rejected. Several clubs are reported to be interested in Fieldhouse, who went to Naughton Park two years ago in the deal that saw Andy Gregory move from Widnes to Wilderspool. Here is another case of a player having an unsettled future at the worst possible time — with the Test series looming.

Shocks from Down Under for the two Hull Clubs. Hull expected Test centre Gary Schofield to be back from his summer stint with Sydney club Balmain by the end of August, and have now complained to the English League. Rovers engaged former Kangaroo wing Kerry Boustead but have now received a shock demand for £15,000 from his Aussie club, Manly.

Terry Holmes, the £80,000 former glamour boy of Welsh RU, was just a face in the stand when Bradford sought their third League win at Salford. Coach Barry Seabourne was pleased with Holmes's come back form after twice dislocating a shoulder, but felt he would benefit from a break — and a spectator's view of his new code. Seabourne was quoted as saying: "Terry has had a lot of tension, and I think he is a bit tired mentally, rather than physically."

The first thing I bumped into at Thrum Hall when Oldham played there last week was Billy Thompson. He doesn't look a day older, either, and the thought again crossed my mind that there could be some benefit in raising the retiring age for referees from 50 to 55. Billy has brought out a testimonial book to mark the end of his illustrious career as a top referee around the world and, at £1, it is a good read as well as a collectors item. Also worth a place on the bookshelf... the new Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook, the "Open Rugby" early season special, and the B.A.R.L.A. brochure to commemorate the launch of the new National League.

St Helens have until December to sort out a deal with New Zealand League for Kiwi back Mark Elia. The League have slapped a £15,000 price tag on the lad who once almost came to Oldham as a complete unknown. However, they have decided to grant a short term clearance to Saints, who have three months to decide whether to sort out a long-term deal.

A call for double-headers, with Alliance games being staged as curtain-raisers to first-team matches, is being made by Les Bettinson, the Great Britain team manager. Les believes this would provide fans with even greater value for money, would save on travelling costs to clubs, and would bring first team and "A" teams closer together within the club structure.

Although Halifax beat Castleford 9-8 in the recent Okells Charity Shield event on the Isle of Man, not all of the \$5,000 prize money has gone to Thrum Hall. Before the game, the two clubs had agreed to split the prize money and the match receipts were also divided.

OLDHAM 86

Another Look at the Players of Today

BRUCE CLARK: Affectionally nicknamed "Bruiser" in his native Sydney where he has represented the Western Suburbs club for nine years. A big and experienced front-row man, and a good ball handler.

GARY BRIDGE: A highly recommended utility back from the Sydney club, Balmain. Gary will be arriving soon and is sure to make a big impact on the Oldham scene. Can play full-back, centre and both half-back positions with equal skill and style.

COLIN HAWKYARD: One of the longest-serving players on the Oldham books and a player who can operate at centre or in the back-row of the pack. Deceptively fast with a long stride.

LEO CASEY: A young player from the local amateur club St Anne's and a former B.A.R.L.A. youth player of the year. Leo can play prop or second-row. He is a strong runner and a player of whom big things are expected as he gains in experience.

JEFF EDWARDS: Utility back from the Warrington area. Jeff is a whole-hearted and fully committed player, who fears nothing and plays well above his weight.

PAUL LORD: A teenager from the Castleford area, Paul is the younger brother of Castleford's Gary, who played full-back at Wembley last May. Signed as a 17 year old stand off from Stanley Rangers, he has a fine turn of speed.

TOM NADIOLA: A utility man who can play in the forwards or the backs. Tom is a good squad member. Originally on Wigan's books, he was snapped up by Oldham when he was released at Central Park.

BOB MARSDEN: Another young forward recruited locally, Bob is the son of a former Warrington forward. He lives in Shaw and it was for the Shaw Under-15 team that he first made his name, graduating to Oldham colts and then on to the club's professional register. A strong runner.

PAUL SHERMAN: Another son of a former pro, Paul is from Widnes and can operate at stand-off, centre or wing. Scored a hat-trick of tries in the "A" team's 56-0 win over Dewsbury on the opening day of the Alliance season.

TONY MORRISON: A former Great Britain youth international, he played in the same B.A.R.L.A. Under 19 side as Leo Casey. Hails from St Helens and is an intelligent loose forward with a good pair of hands.

JOHN OGBURN: A Widnes boy, John made a name for himself in youth rugby. Exceptionally fast for a forward, he has produced some excellent "A" team displays in the last two seasons.

PADDY KIRWAN: A rugged scrum-half who has a constant battle with Ray Ashton for the No.7 jersey. A local lad he earned many youth honours with Saddleworth Rangers and signed for Oldham in the summer of 1979. Great Britain colts international honours followed and Paddy has been a regular member of the first team squad for the past five years.

DAVID FINCH: Signed from Castleford last year. Potentially a top class player, David has been extremely unlucky with injuries. He had a knee operation last year and now looks in need of more surgery. On his day, a top class footballer with a devastating turn of pace.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

The Supporters Club would like to thank all the landlords involved in the Pub Run on Bank Holiday Monday, these were:

Wellington, Junction, White Swan, Funnies, Globe, Footballers, Weavers, Minders, Plough, Farmers Boy, Shepherds Boy, Temple, Coach & Horses, Carrion Crow and Oldham Social Club.

Also many thanks to all the competitors for their support on such a terrible night, your support is greatly appreciated. Once again Thank You to everyone involved.



Rugby League Personality Girl 1986-87, **ELAINE BURR**, keeps it in the family by being a Hull K.R. supporter. Elaine, 20 years old, and measuring 34"-22"-34" is cousin of Great Britain and Hull K.R. winger Garry Clark. She will be undertaking modelling and promotional duties for the League throughout the season, including the Sunday Mirror Rugby League Roadshows.

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NEXT HOME MATCH
HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

Sunday, 21st September, 1986, kick off 3 p.m.



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ST. HELENS	3	3	0	0	128	42	6
WIGAN	3	3	0	0	95	18	6
CASTLEFORD	3	3	0	0	84	42	6
BRADFORD N.	3	3	0	0	79	38	6
HALIFAX	3	2	1	0	64	46	5
WIDNES	3	2	0	1	86	55	4
LEEDS	3	1	0	2	65	66	2
BARROW	3	1	0	2	44	50	2
WARRINGTON	3	1	0	2	59	66	2
OLDHAM	3	1	0	2	46	54	2
HULL KR	3	1	0	2	54	68	2
HULL	3	1	0	2	34	50	2
LEIGH	3	1	0	2	40	102	2
FEATHERSTONE	3	0	1	2	42	85	1
WAKEFIELD	3	0	0	3	36	100	0
SALFORD	3	0	0	3	28	102	0

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OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1986-87

Opponents	Att.	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
LEEDS	4,621	14	12	Atkinson ITIG	M'Barki	Foy IT	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 2DG	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs IG	Hawkyard	Worrall	Kirwan (10)	Nadiole (4)
HALIFAX (7-30)	4,869	14	20	Atkinson IT	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor IT	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 3G	Hawkyard	Clawson	Worrall	Kirwan D.N.P.	Nadiole (12)
WARRINGTON	4,000	18	22	Atkinson	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor	Ashton	Kirwan	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs	Clawson	Hawkyard	Worrall	Edwards	Nadiole

LEIGH County Cup 1

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

LEIGH (3-30)

WIDNES

FEATHERSTONE

WAKEFIELD TRINITY (3-30)

BARROW

AUSTRALIA (7-30)

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

ST HELENS

BRADFORD NORTHERN (3-30)

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY 1

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY SPECIAL 2

WARRINGTON

ST HELENS

SALFORD

LEEDS

HULL

DATA SHEET

August 31 at Watersheddings: Oldham 14, Leeds 12; half time 6-2. Scorers: Oldham, drop goal, Ashton (2); goal, Hobbs (1), Atkinson (1); tries, Atkinson, Foy. Leeds, goals Creasser (1), Conway (1); tries, Medley (1), Holmes (1).

Oldham: Atkinson, M'Barki, Foy, Warnecke, Taylor, Topliss, Ashton, Jones, Flanagan, Clark, Hobbs, Hawkyard, Worrall. Subs: Nadiola, Kirwan.

Leeds: Wilkinson, Francis, Creasser, Gibson, Smith, Holmes, Dick; Keith Rayne, Maskill, Butt, Kevin Rayne, Medley, Heron. Subs: Conway, Gunn.

Referee: F. Lindop (Wakefield). Attendance: 4,621

September 3rd at Thrum Hall: Halifax 20, Oldham 14, half time 12-8. Scorers: Halifax, goals, Whitfield (4); tries, Stephens (2), Dixon. Oldham: goals, Hobbs (3); tries, Taylor, Atkinson.

Halifax: Eadie, Riddlesden, Whitfield, Hague, George, Anderson, Stephens, Fairbank, McCallion, Juliffe, Scott, James, Dixon.

Oldham: Atkinson, Sherman, Foy, M'Barki, Taylor, Topliss, Ashton, Clark, Flanagan, Hobbs, Clawson, Hawkyard, Worrall. Subs: Nadiola, Kirwan.

Referee: J. Holdsworth (Leeds). Attendance: 4,896

September 7th at Wilderspool: Warrington 22, Oldham 18, half time 8-12. Scorers: Warrington, goals, Bishop (5); tries, Duane, Humphries, Forster. Oldham: goals, Hobbs (3); tries, Hawkyard, Clark, M'Barki.

Warrington: Johnson, Meadows, Forster, Duane, Thackerey, Bishop, Gregory, Capewell, Webb, Jackson, Eccles, Rathbone, Sanderson. Subs: Kelly, Humphries.

Oldham: Atkinson, Sherman, Foy, M'Barki, Taylor, Ashton, Kirwan, Clark, Flanagan, Hobbs, Clawson, Hawkyard, Worrall. Subs: Edwards, Nadiola.

Referee: McDonald (Wigan). Attendance: 4,100

First Division 1986-87	Barrow	Bradford	Castleford	Featherstone	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Leigh	Oldham	Salford	St Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
Barrow	■						24-6									
Bradford		■													27-14	
Castleford			■			16-6							42-16			
Featherstone				■	16-6											
Halifax					■	28-16				20-14						
Hull						■							12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30					■									
Leeds								■				20-40				
Leigh									■					22-17		0-35
Oldham								14-12		■						
Salford		12-22									■	4-38				
St Helens									50-18			■				
Wakefield													■			
Warrington														■		
Widnes		26-14												48-14	■	
Wigan		18-6											42-12			■

RODSTOCK WAR OF THE ROSES

The second annual Rodstock war of the Roses between Yorkshire and Lancashire on County Origin basis, will be staged at Headingley, Leeds, on Wednesday, 17th September, kick-off 7:30 p.m.

The Rodstock War of the Roses is the last big match before Great Britain Coach, Maurice Bamford, announces his team for the first Whitbread Trophy Bitter Test at Old Trafford on Saturday, 25th October

Yorkshire Coach, Peter Fox, and Lancashire Coach, Alex Murphy, name their sides on 8th September to contest the Rodstock Trophy, won last year by underdogs Yorkshire.

A curtain raiser between Yorkshire and Lancashire Under 11s will be staged at 6:30 p.m.

Seat tickets priced £4.00 can be bought in advance from Leeds R.L.F.C. Headingley, Leeds.

WHITBREAD TROPHY BITTER TESTS

Tickets are now available for the long awaited Whitbread Trophy Bitter Tests between Great Britain and all-conquering Australia

The 1986 Whitbread Trophy Bitter Test time table is:

Saturday, 25th October, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Kick off 2.15 p.m.

Saturday, 8th November, at Elland Road, Leeds.

Kick off 2.15 p.m.

Saturday, 22nd November, at Central Park, Wigan.

Kick off 2.15 p.m.

Seat tickets are priced at £8.00, £7.00 and £6.00 for the First and Second Tests and £7.00 only for the Third Test

Seat tickets can be obtained from each of the three Test venues plus tickets for all three Tests are available from:

The Ticket Office, The Rugby Football League, 18 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT

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ROTHMANS RUGBY LEAGUE YEARBOOK 1986-87

Raymond Fletcher & Davids Howes

All-conquering Australia are spotlighted in the new *Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook* to celebrate this autumn's tour of Britain by the 1986 Kangaroos.

A special green and gold chapter in the sixth edition of world Rugby League's top reference book features a host of statistics published in Britain for the first time, highlighting:

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Illustrated with 115 photographs, the *Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook* is compiled by Raymond Fletcher, from the Yorkshire Post, and Rugby League P.R.O. David Howes. It is published on 4th September and is available from all good bookshops (£14.95 hardback; £9.95 paperback) or by post + £1.00 postage and packing from the Public Relations Dept, Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

OFFICIAL GUIDE 1986-97

The official Rugby League Guide for the 1986-87 season is now available. This essential handbook contains 257 pages outlining details of Member Clubs, all Rugby League Bye-Laws, plus full information on Rugby League Associations, the Colts League, Referees, Slalom Lager Alliance, and complete fixtures for every level of professional Rugby League.

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YOUNGSTERS IMPRESS

... With The Alliance Lads

The bright boys of the Oldham "A" team have made a breathtaking start to life in the new Second Division of the Slalom Lager Alliance. They opened up with a 56-0 hammering of Dewsbury and then followed up with a 42-8 blitz on Huddersfield in a match that was switched to Watersheddings because of ground problems at Fartown.

In each game, the Oldham lads played some spectacular and crowd pleasing rugby to run in the tries, many of them from long-range. Paul Sherman scored a hat-trick against Dewsbury, and Leo Casey also had an excellent game, as he did also against Huddersfield. A triallist full-back kicked beautifully in both games and there have been impressive displays, too from forwards such as Martin Hall, Tommy Foley, John Ogburn, Bob Marsden, and Tony Morrison.

It is early days, yet but the "A" team looks as though they could make quite an impact this season as they bid to win promotion at the first attempt and also attempt to make their mark in both the Lancashire Shield and the Alliance Challenge Cup, the two knock-out competitions. Most of our home games will be taking place on Friday nights, so pick up a fixture list now from the social club or the Oldham Chronicle office and make Friday night (as well as Sunday Afternoon) a regular feature of your Watersheddings visits this season.

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... Chance of Revenge in Cup

It seems like only yesterday that Oldham went to Hilton Park in the first round of the Lancashire Cup last season and came away on the wrong side of a 40-12 scoreline. Paul Sherman scored two tries and David Hobbs and Brian Caffery landed a goal apiece, but the day belonged to Leigh, who inflicted Oldham's third consecutive defeat in a poor start to the season. The big revival soon started, of course, and after going down heavily at Hull in the next match with a badly-weakened side, we were to embark on an absorbing and thoroughly exciting run of 11 First Division games without defeat. Nevertheless, to go out of the county cup at the first hurdle — as we have done so many times in the last decade — was a major disappointment, and we will be eager to gain revenge today when Leigh come to Watersheddings in the first round of the 1986 competition, now sponsored by Grunhalle.

The full draw is:

Wigan v Rochdale Hornets; Workington v Swinton; Whitehaven v Fulham; Blackpool v Barrow;
OLDHAM v Leigh; Runcorn v Widnes; St Helens v Carlisle; Warrington v Salford.

Grunhalle will plough £17,000 into the tournament in the first year of a three year agreement which is an increase of nearly £40,000 on last year. As you can see, most of the favourites have been kept apart and barring major shocks the second round should see the big guns such as Wigan, Widnes, St Helens and Warrington all in the hat, hopefully with Oldham joining them. After today's county cup-ties, attention switches to the Rodstock War of the Roses match between Yorkshire and Lancashire at Headingley on Wednesday, and then Oldham are at home again next Sunday in another attractive fixture against Hull K. R. The second round of the county cup will be played on the following Wednesday, 24th September, and with most of the stronger clubs expected to go through, some big attendances are in prospect.

Talking of crowds, the Oldham club wishes to apologise to those members and supporters who were inconvenienced at our first home game of the season against Leeds. The root cause of problems associated with getting into the ground or transferring into the paddock was the fact that a considerable number of gatemen and stewards did not report for duty. Due to the Safety of Grounds Act, the law now demands that every club has exits, gangways, and doors manned by stewards. Due to the shortage of numbers at the Leeds game, some gatemen had to be put on stewardship duties at strategic points and there was, we admit, some confusion and inconvenience. The committee later carried out a full investigation into the cause of the problem, and possible cures, and we trust you will all find a big improvement in the administrative arrangements today.

The ground committee was to make certain recommendations to the parent body and also planned a visit to Boundary Park to look at Oldham Athletic's match-day operation with regard to gatemen and stewards. We are talking about the possibility of having direct entry into the pavilion paddock via exterior turnstiles rather than employing the transfer system once a supporter is inside the ground. The system of interior transfer to the seats also causes some difficulty now due to the fact that there are only about 70 seats available at League matches on top of those booked up by members. We have lost a lot of seats, of course, due to the demands of ground safety and it may be that we will have to sell the 70 surplus seats from the pavilion office rather than employ the transfer system as we have done in the past.

Finally, we are making every possible effort to provide a seating overflow in the upper tier of the Hutchins stand. Between 260 and 300 seats may be installed in this unique vantage point, but at the time of writing it is not known whether the job would be completed in time for today's cup-tie. The lesson we have learned so far from the experiences of the Leeds game is this: there are only a few seats now available at Watersheddings, so please bear this in mind if you are not a member and you are likely to require a seat for any particular match. Secondly, it is absolutely imperative that we have our full quota of stewards and gatemen at all matches. If you are interested in helping us out to provide this vital and essential service please let us have your name and address.

Finally, keep an eye open in the local press for the dates of two important meetings. We are soon to invite all members and supporters to a club open night at which manager Frank Myler and the committee will be pleased to meet the public and answer your questions on all aspects of club life. Next month, we will call a members meeting at which we will be asking club members to finally and formally approve the limited company articles of association.

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Week 45 £1,000 Winner was R. Timperely Number 1369
Week 46 £1,000 Winner was R. Lord Number 1309

This weeks draw is week 47 and as a lot of members will appreciate we will be asking them to check up and renew their Bankers Orders. Last year certain Bankers Orders were lapsed, not through the members fault, but because of the bank, and it would help if we could get on top of this before a problem arises again.

I would like to hear from the lady members about what we can do in the way of promotional work for them.

Bruce Clark is joining me shortly as we shall be going round to certain venues and if you would like us to call to any promotional venue please ring me on 626 4501.

Les Bostock(Commercial Manager)



**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

On the face of it, one win from the opening three League games does not look good. But the fact of the matter is that we could have easily have had three wins and been sitting on top of the First Division now alongside St Helens, Wigan, Castleford and Bradford.

We were good enough to win at Halifax while it was even more heartbreaking to go down to a lucky try at Warrington only two minutes from the end of a hard game in which the team produced a lot of commitment and honest endeavour.

We worked very hard at Halifax, lost to a Paul Dixon try in the last few minutes, and were certainly worthy of something.

To lose in similar circumstances at Warrington was just heartbreaking. I didn't play because of a slight groin strain received in midweek, but believe me the lads were desperately sick at losing, after all their efforts and hard work, to a try that was purely the result of the bounce of the ball.

Overall though, I am quite pleased with the way we have started the season. There are a few things we have to do to get the attack functioning properly, but it will come all right so long as the forwards keep playing as strongly as they have done so far.

I have been very impressed with their efforts and commitment and to pick out one player who has started the season with a vengeance I would like to mention Colin Hawkyard. Due to his shoulder trouble, I didn't see much of him last season, but he has made us all sit up over the last few weeks. he is the typical unsung hero and every team needs one.

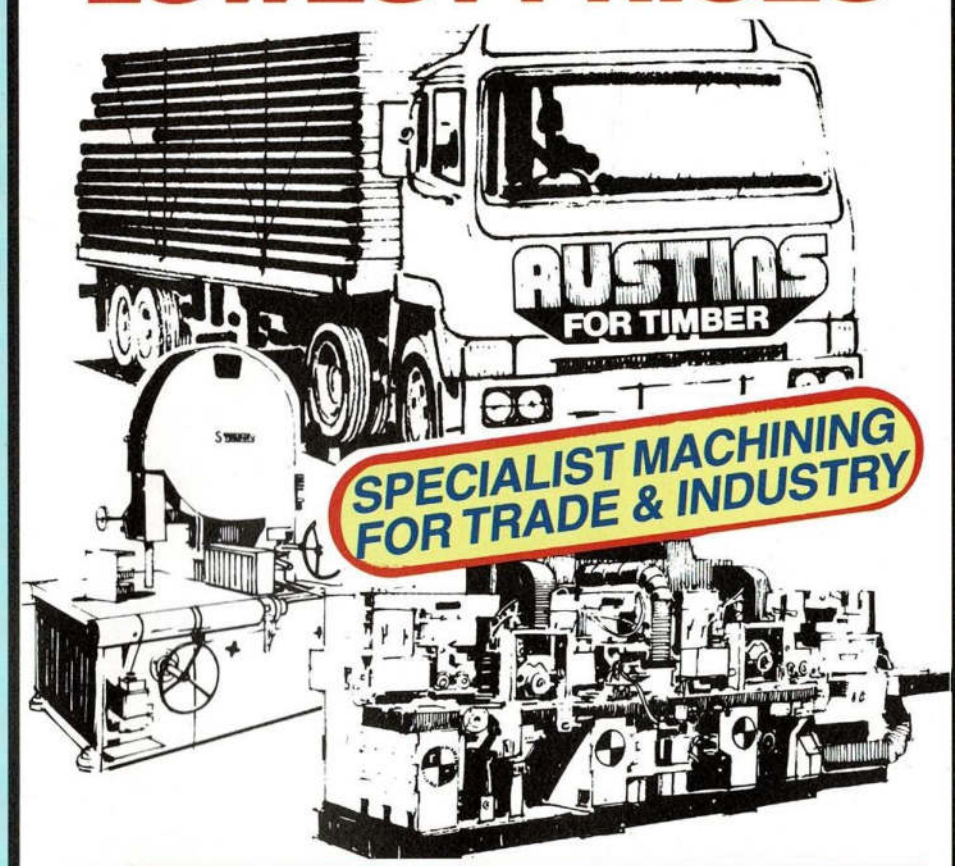
The time to worry is when you are playing badly and losing. It is disappointing to play well and lose but at least the basis is there with which to get things right and improve.

To sum up, I am far from disheartened. Just the opposite, in fact. We are on the right lines and everything will work out right in the end.

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