

OLDHAM Team Check HULL KR

KEITH ATKINSON	1	GEORGE FAIRBURN
PAUL SHERMAN	2	GARRY CLARK
DES FOY	3	JOHN LYDIAT
GARY WARNECKE	4	DAVID LAWS
MICK TAYLOR	5	RAY STEAD
DAVID TOPLISS	6	JOHN DORAHY
RAY ASHTON/PADDY KIRWAN	7	WAYNE PARKER
BRUCE CLARK	8	MARK BROADHURST
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	CHRIS RUDD
TOM NADIOLE	10	ZOOK EMA
MICK WORRALL	11	CHRIS BURTON
COLIN HAWKYARD	12	ANDY KELLY
STUART RAPER	13	GAVIN MILLER
JEFF EDWARDS	14	T.B.A.
DAVID HOBBS	15	T.B.A.

Referee: T. M. Beaumont Touch Judges: A. J. BROWN, D. DRINKWATER

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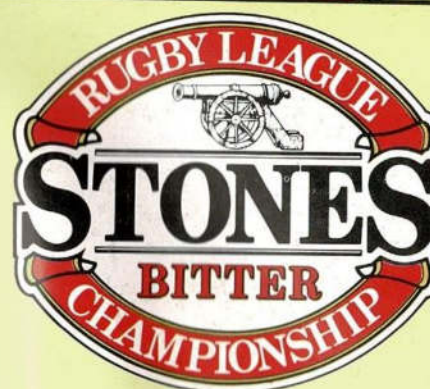
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HULL K.R.

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kick off 3 p.m.



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President: R. Hatton

Chairman: H. Ashworth

Vice-Chairman: K. Potter

Treasurer: E. Bayliss

Committee: E. Bayliss, K. Broadbent, R. Ogden, M. A. Richardson, B. Boustead, David Lord, J. Hall

Hon. Architects: J. Hall R.I.B.A.

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

General Manager: F. Myler

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

Coaching Staff: G. Starkey, B. Gartland

Professional Playing Staff:

A. Alexander, R. Ashton, K. Atkinson, L. Casey, N. Clawson, T. Foley, M. Hall, C. Hawkyard, W. Jones, P. Kirwan, P. Lord, T. Naidole, J. Ogburn, M. Parrish, I. Sanderson, M. Worrall, D. Allen, C. Chisnall, J. Edwards, T. Flanagan, D. Foy, D. Hobbs, P. Lowndes, H. M'Barki, R. Marsden, A. Morrison, S. Patterson, P. Sherman, M. Taylor, G. Warnecke, G. Bishop, G. Bridge, B. Caffrey, L. Chadwick, B. Clark, L. Cook, P. Morris, D. Nicholson, T. Ogden, A. Taylor, D. Topliss, G. Walczack

Hon. Doctors: Dr Grey, Dr Johnson

Dental Surgeon: Mr N. Gibbison

Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr H. Thompson, Mr D. Walker

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle

Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr J. Watkins

Lifeline: L. Bostock

Commercial Manager: T. Morley

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 Slatybridge

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, 1968-69

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 Photo Courtesy of OLDHAM CHRONICLE

CLUB NOTES

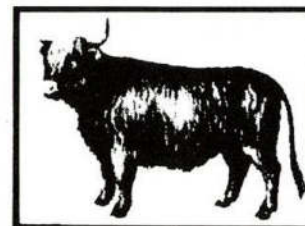
Arthur Gartshore manager of the Social Club, left the Club on Sunday after the Leigh game and negotiations are in an advanced state to replace him with a person who will provide the Club with a new look and will also provide food and entertainment facilities. The popular belief that the Club was being taken over by Melvyn Leatherbarrow has had to change due to Mr Leatherbarrow letting us down at the last minute. However, it was always that he was never in a one horse race, and we look forward to seeing a vast improvement in the profitability to the Club and in welcoming the new person to the Club as soon as we can announce details.

The V.I.P. lounges have been re-furnished and a new bar has been opened for the Vice-Presidents, on the ground floor of the Pavilion. We would like to hear from anyone interested in using these facilities.

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Bruce Clark	Bottom Builders Ltd. Ripponden Road, Oldham
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A GLIMPSE AT THE ROBINS

Although Hull K.R. caused a few eyebrows to be raised when they lost their two opening First Division games against Barrow and Bradford Northern you can gamble they will be there or thereabouts when the honours are handed out over the next few action packed months of Rugby League Football. A clear cut victory over Featherstone Rovers in the third game indicated that the tide was perhaps turning at Craven Park and turn it most certainly will when overseas stars such as the incomparable Gavin Miller, John Dorahy, Kerry Boustead and Mark Broadhurst arrive back on Humberside's eastern seaboard.

New Zealand Test star Gary Prohm will not be a Robin this season, but a loose-forward Miller will be back and determined to make amends for his disappointing display in the final of the Challenge Cup at Wembley last May. On his day Miller is sheer magic and he fully deserved the honour that was bestowed upon him last year when he was named the player of the year in the whole of Rugby League. Dorahy is another class Australian, who can play equally well at stand-off or centre, thus allowing Rovers the luxury of options involving Dorahy and another player who is just as good at centre as he is at No.6, local lad Mike Smith. Dorahy is the classical steadying influence, the classy and experienced performer, who is perhaps at his best in a crisis. People who know "Mr Cool" well half expected him to land that late goal off the Wembley touch line which would have snatched victory from Castleford's grasp last May. Like Miller, Dorahy perhaps "froze" in the unique atmosphere of Wembley. They were not the first Aussies to do that. They won't be the last.

Nevertheless, they will return to England snorting for the chance to put the record straight — and the rest of the English League can watch out. Another Aussie at Craven Park this season will be winger Boustead. Kerry is one of the most experienced Test wingers in Australia, and his experience on Kangaroo tours of Europe gives him plenty of "inside" knowledge about our game here. He is sure to be a valuable asset to Rovers, who have landed their man despite protracted negotiations which at one stage looked like falling down when his Sydney club demanded a £15,000 fee. It took the intervention of the Australian players' union to get that squashed but Rovers have now received the green light to get Boustead over here and complete his signing.

A GLIMPSE AT THE ROBINS

Perhaps the biggest boost of all to Rovers this season will be the return of the burly Broadhurst, the big Kiwi Test prop, who was such an inspiration the last time the Robins lifted the championship. On that occasion, too, Rovers lost their opening two games and then, boosted by the arrival of Boustead, they went on to sweep all before them in the championship race.

It was generally felt on East Humberside last season that a prop forward of Broadhurst's bulk, size, strength, maturity, experience and no small amount of skill was the one piece of the jigsaw that was missing. Time will tell whether the Kiwis can match up to expectations after a year out of the pressures of top-class rugby, but few would back against it.

Blending in with the overseas stars, of course, are many big-name players on the domestic scene such as full back George Fairbairn, wingers Gary Clark and David Laws, the aforementioned Smith, skipper and hooker David Watkinson, and second-row man Chris Burton, internationals all. Even the manager-coach is one of the biggest names of all — Roger Millward. Never afraid to move with the times, Roger has spent part of this summer in the United States on a fact-finding mission to study American Football and see if there is anything about their training, coaching, match preparations and game plans that can be modified to suit Rugby League.

Since Oldham won promotion to the First Division four years ago they have had some sterling battles with Rovers, who have nearly always come out on top. Indeed, until Oldham won at Craven Park towards the end of last season when Rovers fielded a full "A" team during a ridiculous end of season fixture pile-up, the Robins were the only side Oldham had not beaten since their elevation to the top flight.

Some would argue that as Rovers played only their second string side that day the record still stands. It was almost broken at Boundary Park last season when it needed a spot of that old Miller magic in the last minute to give the Humbersiders victory in similar circumstances to those which saw Oldham lost their last two First Division games at Halifax and Warrington after dominating for long periods.

Will Oldham go one better today . . . or will Rovers again lay claim to being our bogey side?

Dates for the John Player Special Trophy

PRELIMINARY ROUND	Sunday, 16th November 1986
FIRST ROUND	Weekend of 29th/30th November 1986
SECOND ROUND	Weekend of 6th/7th December 1986
QUARTER FINALS	Weekend of 13th/14th December 1986
FIRST SEMI-FINAL	Saturday, 20th December 1986
SECOND SEMI-FINAL	Saturday, 27th December 1986
FINAL	Saturday, 10th January 1987

Both semi-finals and the final will be played at neutral venues.

The prize structure for the new season will be as follows (last season's structure in brackets):

PRELIMINARY ROUND	\$800 to each club (\$750)
FIRST ROUND	\$800 to losing clubs (\$750)
SECOND ROUND	\$1,000 to losing clubs (1,000)
QUARTER FINALS	\$1,700 to losing clubs (\$1,500)
SEMI FINALS	\$3,000 to losing clubs (\$2,750)
RUNNER-UP	\$6,000 (\$5,500)
WINNER	\$12,000 (\$11,000)

Prize money at stake in the 1986-87 season is \$62,000 against \$57,000 the previous season. Together with the \$23,000 contribution to the Leagues Capital Development Fund the John Player sponsorship for this season amounts to a record \$85,000

Prize money is increased in every round of this season's John Player Special Trophy Rugby League competition which will be worth a record \$85,000. The competition is the 16th in the 20 year support of Rugby League by Imperial Tobacco Limited and makes the John player Special sponsorship one of the longest running in British sport. The sponsorship again includes a \$23,000 donation to the League's Capital Development Fund to help clubs meet the stringent requirements for ground safety.

All 34 First and Second Division Rugby League clubs and two leading amateur clubs will take part in the 1986-87 competition which starts with a preliminary round of four matches on 16th November followed by the first round at the end of that month. It continues through December and Christmas followed by the final on 19th January as the first major Rugby League event of the new year.

The B.A.R.L.A. teams taking part this season are Mysons from Humberside and Millom from Cumbria as winners and runners-up respectively of The Whitbread National Cup competition. Both start in the preliminary round.

Commenting on the new season, Peter Dyke, head of sponsored events at Imperial Tobacco Limited, said: "Although this is the 16th season of the John Player Special Trophy competition it is the 20th successive year the company has sponsored Rugby League. It is right that our support of the sport should be marketed by a further substantial contribution to the League to help clubs meet the considerable financial demands placed on them by the new ground safety regulations. It has been a long and very happy association which I feel sure has been beneficial to the League and ourselves."

David Wigham, the new chairman of the Rugby League, commented: "We are delighted that this season's John Player Special Trophy competition marks the double decade of sponsorship by the company and continues the projection of the 13-a-side code through the game's longest and most supportive sponsor."

Around the League... with Roughyed

Fulham, the flagship of Rugby League in the South of England, are alive and kicking – again! The club looked gone for ever a month ago when it pulled out of the Second Division and the League pronounced the Londoners dead officially by adopting a new formula for Second Division fixtures. But Fulham will not go down without a fight. Two businessmen came forward to take on the job of reprieving the Londoners, who played their first game in the first round of the Lancashire Cup at Whitehaven last Sunday. May the fight long continue. Long live Fulham, who deserve the support of all RL followers in their bid to re-establish roots in our capital city.

Now that the War of the Roses county of origin game between Yorkshire and Lancashire at Headingley has been and gone, all thoughts turn to the forthcoming Test series against the Aussies. The first Test takes place at Old Trafford, Manchester on Saturday, 25th October, and the signs indicate that the game will attract the biggest crowd in England for years, outside Wembley. League officials are thrilled at the demand for seat tickets and they have had coach bookings from as far away as London, South Wales and the Midlands. The message is clear – if you want a seat, get off your application now to the Ticket Office, Rugby League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds. Media coverage of the match will be first class. BBC television are giving the Test the treatment normally reserved for Wembley and full coverage will also be provided by BBC national radio for the first time. More than \$50,000 worth of tickets have been sold already for the three Tests, most of it for Old Trafford. Nearly \$20,000 will be spent on colour posters to promote the series with sponsors Whitbread, who are offering discount tickets to parties booking through one of their public houses. Officials are urging all League lovers to back the series by going to the matches because crowd figures count for much in terms of attracting future media coverage, sponsorship, and national attention. B.A.R.L.A. have also helped by giving amateur clubs the chance to postpone their matches on the day of the Old Trafford Test and many clubs will be organising trips on what should be Rugby League's biggest international day in this country for years.

Having failed to land Aussie Bret Clark, Perry Haddock and Steve Mortimer, Hull are still anxious to find a new scrum-half. They were linked at one stage with our own Paddy Kirwan, but having failed in that direction they are now reported to be interested in Kevin Dick of Leeds as well as Rugby Union talent in South Wales. Dare one suggest that David Bishop of Pontypool, the controversial Welsh scrum-half, might be the subject of their interest.

Huddersfield are writing their own version of West side story. In the last 12 months they have crossed the hills to sign seven players from west of the Pennines and they now have more Lancashire lads than local players in their side. The seven commuters are our former Oldham winger Geoff Munro, ex-Swinton half-back Terry McGovern, Billy Platt from Rochdale Hornets, Steve Willis (Blackpool), Steve Hesford (Warrington), Tony Kinsey (Fulham) and 19 year old centre Peter Sedgewick, who played with Wigan colts last season.

Bad news for local lad Timmy Street. Having turned pro for Wigan, the former English schools hooker broke his leg on his first-team debut against Warrington in the Locker Cup clash.

One of the hottest properties in the game is emerging in the shape of Bramley centre Andy Mason – already a target for several clubs, who have made no secret of their liking for the former Roundhay RU star. Yorkshire coach Peter Fox gave him his big chance in representative company when he picked him for the White Rose county last season and since then Mason has graduated to the Great Britain squad currently preparing for the Tests against Australia.

Leeds have snapped up a top-class centre from Australia – as forecast in this programme on the opening day of the season! He is 20 year old Cronulla Sutherland star Andrew Ettingshausen, of whom BBC commentator Ray French says: "He is built like typical blockbusting Aussie centre, but he is also fast and a skilful passer of the ball."

WATERSHEDDINGS 86

A Final Look at the Players of Today

MICK PARRISH: Goalkicking centre-threequarter, who joined Oldham from Hunslet six years ago. Turned Pro for Hunslet from Morley RU club and later joined Oldham in what was then a club record £18,000 deal. A prolific marksman, has topped 100 goals a season several times in his Watersheddings career.

CHRIS MYLER: Stand-off or centre. Aged 19, and our latest signing from Youth Rugby. The Son of Frank, our manager, Chris has an excellent pedigree. He is cousin of Widnes stars Tony and John Myler and brother-in-law of Naughton Park player, David Hulme.

MICK BARDSLEY: A big prop signed last year from local amateur rugby. Made a big impact in the "A" team but then severely damaged an arm which he had to have plated. More bad luck followed with injury, but now on the verge of serious training again and hopes to be playing soon.

STEVE DOBB: Another player whom the sun has not exactly shined upon. Steve was seriously injured early last season in an "A" team game at Warrington and his fight back to fitness is a long and painstaking job. Former Great Britain colts international, Steve is noted for his turn of pace.

BRIAN CAFFERY: Local lad and a centre threequarter who gained Great Britain amateur international honours before turning pro from Waterhead. A year ago Brian retired from the game, but he has since had thoughts about resuming training and we hope to see him back in the fold soon.

LES CHADWICK: An "A" team stalwart of several seasons standing, local lad Les played a major role in leading the "A" team forwards over the past two seasons, but business has taken him out of Town and into the Scunthorpe area. That's the reason he has been missed from the reserve team so far this year.

CHRIS CHISNALL: Another forward who has been a stalwart of the "A" team over the last two seasons. Chris is a St Helens lad and the son of former Widnes winger Bob Chisnall. He has spent the last few weeks visiting friends in Australia, hence his absence from the second string.

STEVE PATTERSON: 19 year old scrum-half, who is currently battling back to fitness after an operation to put two surgical bolts into his back. This product of local amateur club St Anne's faces a long play-off, and will be wished all the best and a speedy recovery by all at Watersheddings.

MARTIN HALL: Son of our former player Fred, Martin is an intelligent hooker and play-maker who is playing a leading role in the current success of our "A" team. Signed from Waterhead after gaining representative honours and is a player rich in promise.

TOMMY FOLEY: Promising prop. Also a local lad who came to Watersheddings via Waterhead a short time after his front-row amateur colleague Martin Hall was signed. Strong and purposeful, Tommy should have a good future ahead of him.

STUART RAPER: A 21 year old Aussie from the Cronulla club in Sydney. Stuart is the son of the legendary loose-forward Johnnie Raper, who was a scourge of English sides in the days of Reg Gasnier. Graeme Langlands etc. In his own words, he is here "mainly to learn" but we have confidence that the Oldham club will benefit from his learning lessons!

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

President: Mr D. Blackburn, Chairman: Mr D. Pilkington, Vice Chairman: Miss A. Collinge, Treasurer: Mr T. Heywood, Secretary: Mrs J. Pilkington, Committee Members: G. Brown, L. Chadderton, S. Collinge, E. Crowther, S. Doran, J. Gallagher, I. Gallagher, H. Heywood, M. Morgan, I. Pilkington, M. Pilkington, D. Pilkington, J. Sagar, L. Wostencroft, Janet Bradley

The supporters club and committee would like to welcome all our friends and supporters from Hull K.R. for today's match. We hope for a good clean entertaining game, we also invite all home and away supporters to use the canteens situated around the ground.

The souvenir shop behind the main stand will be open for sale of old replica shirts etc. throughout the match.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Away Coaches to Leigh. Sunday, 28th September.
To leave Social Club at 2.15 p.m.

AWAY BY CAR

M.62 Junction 14. Follow signs St Helens A.580 in 1½ mile join A.580 in 6 mile at roundabout take 3rd exit A.574 in 1 mile & it A.572 Leigh Centre turn right A.579 in ½ mile turn & it into Chadwick Street for Leigh Ground.

HALLOWEEN DISCO PLUS RUGBY QUEEN CONTEST

31st October – 8.00 p.m. start – Tickets: £1 Admission
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Acknowledgement in first programme following event.

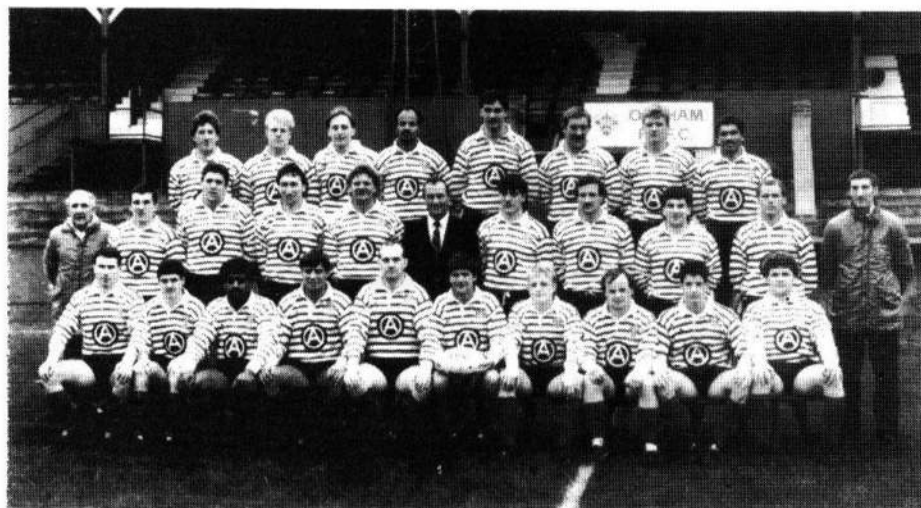
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OLDHAM RLFC

Photo Courtesy of Oldham Chronicle

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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
Aug	31 LEEDS	4,621	14	12	Atkinson IT 1G	M'Barki	Foy IT	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 2DG	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 1G	Hawkyard	Worrall	Kirwan (10)	Nadiola (4)
Sept	3 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.	Nadiola (12)
	7 WARRINGTON	4,000	18	22	Atkinson	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki IT	Taylor	Ashton	Kirwan	Clark IT	Flanagan	Hobbs 3G	Clawson	Hawkyard IT	Worrall	Edwards	Nadiola
	14 LEIGH County Cup 1	4,566	29	22	Atkinson	Sherman IT	Foy	M'Barki IT	Taylor	Toplis	Ashton	Clark IT	Flanagan	Nadiola IT	Clawson	Worrall 6G	Raper	Edwards	Hobbs IDG IT
	21 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS																		
	28 LEIGH (3-30)																		
Oct	5 WIDNES																		
	19 FEATHERSTONE																		
	26 WAKEFIELD TRINITY (3-30)																		
Nov	2 BARROW																		
	4 AUSTRALIA (7-30)																		
	9 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS																		
	16 ST HELENS																		
	23 BRADFORD NORTHERN (3-30)																		
	30 JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY 1																		
Dec	7 JOHN PLAYER TROPHY SPECIAL 2																		
	14 WARRINGTON																		
	21 ST HELENS																		
	26 SALFORD																		
Jan	1 LEEDS																		
	4 HULL																		

DATA SHEET

September 14 at Watersheddings:

Lancashire Cup, first round: Oldham 29, Leigh 22; half time 16-12. Scorers: Oldham, drop goal, Hobbs (1); goals, Worrall (6); tries, Nadiola, M'Barki, Sherman, Hobbs. Leigh: goals, Schubert (3); tries, Henderson (2), Fox, Kerr.

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

Leigh: Collier, McCollough, Henderson, Atherton, Fox, Kerr, Davis, Gelling, Tabern, Pyke, Manfredi, Howell, Schubert. Subs: Riding, Cottrell.

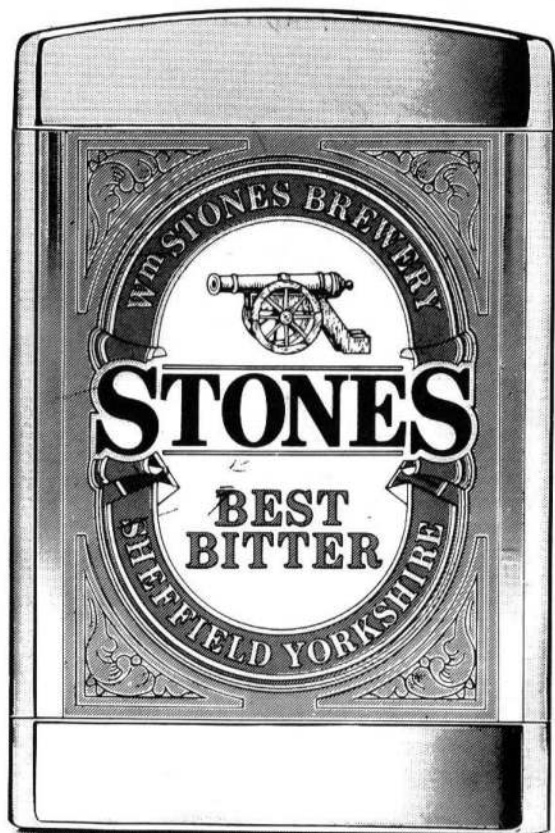
Referee: C. Whitfield (Widness).

Attendance: 4,566

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		36-14			■									
Leeds				33-12				■				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														■

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ROTHMANS RUGBY LEAGUE YEARBOOK 1986-87

Raymond Fletcher & David 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, who play Oldham here at Watersheddings on 4th November (Kick Off 7.30).

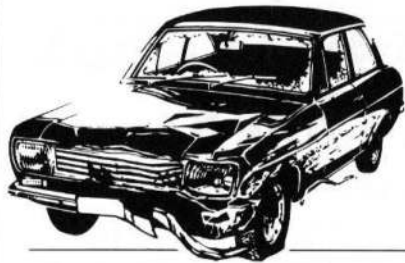
A special green and gold chapter in the sixth edition of world Rugby League's top reference book features a host of statistics published in Britain for the first time, highlighting:

- ★ Every Australian Test result, plus date and venue
- ★ A 20 year review of Australian Test line-ups and scorers
- ★ A 20 year review of Australia's playing register for Tests, World Cups and Tours
- ★ An analysis of the fifteen Kangaroo tours of Britain since 1908, including results, attendances, appearances and scorers
- ★ Australia's tour record in New Zealand and France, tour squads to New Zealand and World Cup teams

The 13 a side's best selling annual also provides a first time showcase for a diary of historical landmarks, a compilation of round-by-round results to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the John Player Special Trophy, the history of the amateurs in the Challenge Cup and a chronicle of the 1985 Kiwi tour.

A traditional feature of the *Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook* format is the most comprehensive and accurate compilation of statistics for the past campaign, the annual update of the club scene backed up by a season's review of competitions, records coaches, awards, referees, disciplinary findings, sponsorship, plus the Alliance and Colts set-up. Fixtures for the 1986-87 season cover the Kangaroo tour, the Stones Bitter Championship and the Second Division.

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.



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HOME AGAIN IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP

The draw for the second round of the Grunhalls Lancashire Cup has been kind to us and we will be at home again on Wednesday night (7.30) against Workington Town of the Second Division.

Cumbrians should never be underestimated in cup ties, however, and many will recall the mighty shock they handed out to us in the Challenge Cup here at Watersheddings in 1983. We were well placed in the First Division and struggling Town were virtually doomed to relegation, but they came and beat us 8-5 on a frosty night and a hard pitch. Now we have a repeat tie, though this time in the Lancashire Cup, and we will be bidding to reach the semi-final for the first time since 1980.

Make a date for Wednesday night, then, and come along to cheer the boys on in their quest to reach the last four. The full semi-final draw is:
Wigan v Whitehaven, OLDHAM v Workington, Barrow v Widnes,
St Helens v Warrington

The Yorkshire Cup is:
Hull K.R. v Featherstone, Castleford v Leeds, Bradford Northern v Dewsbury,
Hull v Wakefield

In the Lancashire Cup the winners receive £4,300 so it is a competition that is well worth winning and the draw has assured that there will be two cracking semi-finals that should really pull in the crowds. We qualified to meet the Cumbrians, of course, by beating Leigh 29-22 last Sunday in round one. It was not one of our better displays, but in the end victory was deserved in a match which produced a tremendous individual performance from Tom Nadiola and a most pleasing debut by Stuart Raper at loose-forward.

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... Watch Our Youngsters Go!

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Oldham season so far has been the success of our youngsters in the "A" team. The Alliance League management committee made a major decision in the summer to split the Alliance into two Divisions when they were boosted by the addition of three new sides. The split was achieved by adding the newcomers to the bottom of last season's final table and then splitting the League into two. In the event, Oldham just failed to reach the First Division, thus finding themselves in the lower section with most of the opposition provided by Yorkshire teams.

In fact, only Swinton, from this side of the Pennines, are in Division Two, so our youngsters had better get the liking for beating White Rose opposition. The early signs are fantastic! In the opening match, the "A" team hammered Dewsbury 56-0. In their second outing they accounted for Huddersfield 42-8 and then, on Friday of last week they demolished Batley 40-0. One must not fall into the trap of being too optimistic or getting carried away. After all, we are in the Second Division and one must assume that the "A" teams of clubs like Warrington, Wigan, St Helens, Widnes Etc. — none of whom we meet in the new League — will be much stronger than the sides we are currently hammering.

Nevertheless, we are doing very well indeed and many of the boys are making excellent progress. The decision to add Graham Starkey to our coaching staff means that we now have three men to look after the two teams and it naturally follows that more attention can be paid to the second string. The results are there for all to see and it must be encouraging to the youngsters to see more and more fans turning up on Friday nights to watch them rattle up the points.

Our latest signing is 19 year old Chris Myler. Chris, the son of our man Frank, has impressed us while on trial over the past few months and we expect big things of him in the future, as we do of several other youngsters. Congratulations to Chris, and also to David Hobbs on his selection for Yorkshire in Wednesday's county of origin clash at Headingley. David has thoroughly deserved his chance to get back into the representative arena and if he played at Headingley — in the run-up to the match he was suffering from a neck injury — there is no doubt that he will have given a good account of himself.

Back to the youngsters, though. Several trialists have been on view in the opening matches and it must be put on record that they have been helped considerably. For instance, how often go you find a more reliable goalkicker than a lad who banged over the goals against Dewsbury and Huddersfield before suffering a broken nose? Cruel luck. However, the backbone of the side is formed by young forwards such as Leo Casey, Martin Hall, Tommy Foley, John Ogburn, Bob Marsden and Tony Morrison, and all of them are making splendid progress. The real test, of course, will come if we meet stiffer opposition in either the Lancashire Shield or the Alliance Challenge Cup. Let's hope we do, because the lads will then have a real challenge and it will be interesting to see how they cope with it.

Finally, on the playing side, we would like to extend a real Oldham welcome to our two new Aussies, Bruce Clark and Stuart Raper. Bruce has already made himself a firm favourite with the fans, while Stuart got an early chance to show what he could do in the Lancashire Cup tie against Leigh. We are now awaiting the arrival of Gary Bridge but that all hinges on how Balmain figure in the later stages of the Sydney premiership. On the ground, have you thought of trying out the new seats in Hutchins stand? The view from up there is really something special and it must provide the best vantage point on the ground and one of the best in the entire Rugby League.

Finally, we would like to apologise to fans for the teething troubles that somewhat spoiled the presentation of our first new-look programme for the Leeds match. Teething problems they were . . . and we trust you will find our new effort a well presented and readable publication which provides good value for money.

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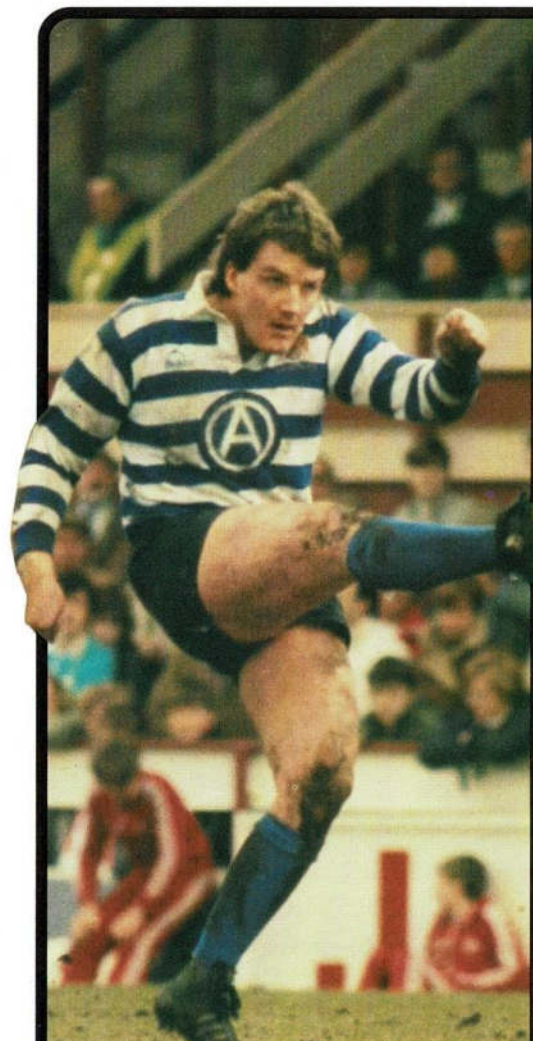
COMMERCIAL CORNER

The new Nike shirts are here together with Nike Windrunners and new items arriving daily. The response has been terrific and those persons who have ordered shirts should contact us as soon as possible to pick up their Nike replicas. Those whose details we know will have their shorts reserved with their names on.

LIFELINE

£1,000 Winner, Week 47, was A. Harvey No. 0490

The membership is looking up and plans are being laid for a Christmas Draw and this year I am planning to make it a Wine or Poultry Draw in line with the Season. Possibly it might be a good idea to have a number of presents spread throughout the Lifeline Society. We would like to hear the members opinions on this and at that time we will be sending out new Membership forms with a months membership free as a Christmas bonus.



DAVID HOBBES

Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

DAVID TOPLISS
Team Captain Says . . .

So we are through to the second round of the Lancashire Cup and what a splendid draw it is for us. We will not fall into the trap of underestimating Workington but we could not have asked for more than another home tie against Second Division opposition.

We have now to concentrate on getting our game right, starting with today's performance against Hull K.R. Unfortunately we picked up a few injuries against Leigh and a couple of players had to stay on the field, when they would normally have left for treatment, as we had already used up our substitutes.

Overall, it was not one of our better shows against Leigh and in some respects I was more disappointed in victory than I had been in defeat at Halifax and Warrington. We seemed to let our tackling go to pieces a bit and this is something that we will have to work on to make sure that we get a lot tighter on defence.

I fear that better teams than Leigh might have run in several more tries, but it is up to us to learn from that and make sure our tackling and general defensive work is a lot better today. Nevertheless, there were some good points to come out of the tie and one of them was the terrific running of Tom Nadiola, who had a cracking match on attack.

We now look forward to today's game against Rovers and the visit of Workington to Watersheddings on Wednesday. Having reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup last season, the players are looking forward to a bit of early-season cup campaigning and Wednesday's tie should see us into the hat for the semi-finals so long as we don't do anything silly.

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