

OLDHAM Team Check WORKINGTON

KEITH ATKINSON	1	DAVID LOWDEN
PAUL SHERMAN	2	IAN BOWER
DES FOY	3	PHIL HURST
GARY WARNECKE	4	JOHN BEATTIE
MICK TAYLOR	5	DAVID BECK
DAVID TOPLISS	6	GARY SMITH
RAY ASHTON/PADDY KIRWAN	7	HOWARD BURNS
BRUCE CLARK	8	ERROL HILLIER
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	JOHN BANKS
TOM NADIOLE	10	GARY NIXON
MICK WORRALL	11	BILLY PATTERSON
COLIN HAWKYARD	12	DAVID COURSEY
STUART RAPER	13	DAVID McGUIRE
JEFF EDWARDS	14	GEOFF REA
DAVID HOBBS	15	COLIN FALCON

Referee: P. N. Houghton Touch Judges: B. D. Norbury, P. Hind

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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

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OLDHAM CHRONICLE



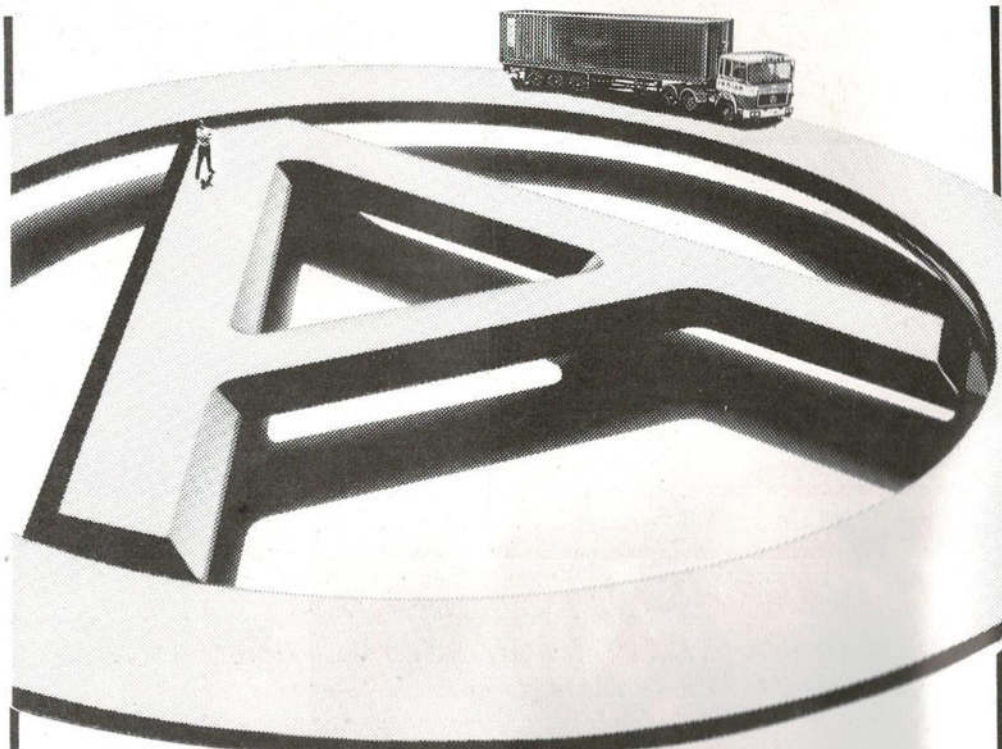
OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
50p

OLDHAM

Tonight's Match Sponsor: KENNETH F. FISHER

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Grunhülle Lancashire Cup 2nd Round
WORKINGTON
Wed., 24th September, 1986
kick off 7.30 p.m.



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

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

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Professional Playing Staff:

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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 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, 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

The decision was taken by the club last week to transfer list Mick Parrish at a fee of £25,000. Mick came to Oldham from Hunslet in 1980 for a fee of £18,500 and since then has been a regular member of our first team squad. A prolific scorer, Mick has scored more than 1,200 points in his Oldham career and he has scored more than 100 goals a season on three separate occasions

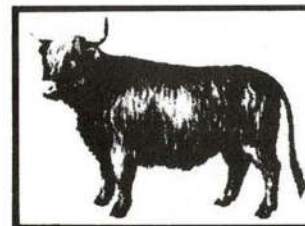
In fact, he is the only player in Rugby League to score in each of his team's matches throughout a season for two separate clubs. He did this for Hunslet in 1979-80 and again for Oldham in 1980-81 when he took the Second Division by storm to win the championship. Another event of note was the departure of our commercial manager Tom Morley. This was a decision taken in the interests of both parties and by mutual consent. Inevitably, this will mean changes in the operation of the commercial department and we trust that all our fans, supporters, friends and members will bear with us during the interim period and until all our development plans are finalised.

Finally, we had an informal meeting of fans in the social club last Thursday night when we showed some video films and then answered questions from all interested people. We felt this was a success and perhaps we may repeat the exercise later in the season.

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Ray Ashton	Allsard, 364 Ripponden Road, Oldham
Wally Jones	A1 Windscreens, 14 Wales Street, Oldham
Ian Sanderson	Harry Brereton
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TOWN BATTLING BACK...

Workington Town, once the pride and joy of West Cumbria, are fighting back — and the people of the closely-knit communities that form the narrow industrial belt between the Irish Sea and the Lake District are starting to sit up and take note.

Like the man who paid his first visit to Derwent Park, to see Town beat Swinton in the first round of the Lancashire Cup, for several years. Later he phoned Secretary John Bell to say "I'm hooked again! Keep up the good work." Says John who doubles up as Secretary and Vice-Chairman "When you get calls like that it makes all the hard work worthwhile. In the past few months an incredible amount of work has been put into the club, and there is no doubt that Workington Town is on the march again. The spectators are getting behind us, there is a terrific spirit right through the club, and we are making a real effort to put Town back on the Rugby League map."

Men with a mission behind the scenes are Tom Mitchell, Chairman George Graham, John Bell, and associate director Ike Southward, who will be remembered by older Oldham fans as our flying winger of about 25 years ago. Says John "We all have our jobs and we get on with them. We are trying to rebuild the club and I am confident that we are succeeding." Two former Town stalwarts look after the coaching side — former England under 24 threequarter Keith Davies is in charge of the first team and another ex-Town favourite, Jackie Newell, looks after the newly formed Alliance side. The reformation of the reserve team is just one of several positive moves undertaken by the club. The Town youngsters are now back in the Second Division of the Alliance and in recent months no less than 11 new signings have been made from amateur RL of local RU, including winger Neil Rooney, a former England RU colt, and prop Neil Lynch, who was playing top-class RU with Gosforth in the North East.

Many more signings have been made from around the thriving amateur RL clubs in Cumbria... signings such as 19 year old full-back David Lowden from Glasson, 21 year old winger Ian Bower from Seaton, stand-off Gary Smith from Egremont, scrum-half

AND GOOD LUCK TO THEM

Geoff Rea from Millom and loose-forward Dave Courty from Ellenborough Rangers. Town have also gone Down Under to add to their playing resources and have benefited from the friendship between Tom Mitchell and top Sydney coach Jack Gibson, who put the Cumbrians in touch with the centre Phil Hirst and hard-tackling prop Errol Hillier. Jack was asked to find a fast back and a tough forward and the two Aussies have already settled in well at Derwent Park where they are providing signs of big things to come over the next few months.

Hirst scored two tries against Carlisle and won the man of the match award, while both he and Hillier had good games in the first-round win over Swinton. David Lowden — no relation to Sid — is proving himself an accurate marksman, while there is plenty of experience in the back division as provided by centres Hirst and long serving John Beattie, and the powerful David Beck on the left flank. Scrum-half Howard Burns now has a terrific opposition from Rea and there is a similar battle for the hooking job between Colin Falcon and John Banks. Both seem to have been around for ages, but both are only 22. Aussie Hillier will be one prop, and 21 year old Gary Nixon the other.

Nixon, like his second-row partner, Steve McGuire, has attracted the attention of Great Britain boss Maurice Bamford, McGuire actually playing for Great Britain XIII at St Helens a few weeks ago. Alongside McGuire in the second-row will be well known Billy Pattinson, while a comparative newcomer, Dave Courty, is proving sound on defence at loose-forward from where he has also won man of the match awards. The Alliance team won two of their first three matches and the senior side is now proving a more than useful combination after losing to Doncaster in the last minute and going down at Blackpool only because they lacked a recognised goalkicker that day.

The final word belongs to John Bell. "We will be the underdogs at Oldham," he says, "but you can rest assured we will be producing 100% effort and determination. Workington Town Rugby League Club is on the way back... make no mistake about that."

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THE BAVARIAN WAY

Around the League... with Roughyed

Salford and Leeds have suffered major setbacks concerning the arrival of players from Australia. The problems arise because young stars destined for the Willows and Headingley have been put on training stand-by for the forthcoming Kangaroo tour party, which will be named next Monday. The Salford man involved is forward Geoff Selby, a 21 year old from the St George club who is in competition with former Halifax man Paul Langmark for the Australian loose-forward berth now that the incomparable Wayne Pearce is extremely doubtful with a knee injury. Over at Headingley, they have now been made to wait for young centre Anrew Ettinghausen, the Cronulla star who is also in the touring party training squad from which final selection will be made.

Oldham's problem concerning utility back Gary Bridge is of a different nature. His club Balmain finished fifth in the Premiership, but at the time of writing they were still in line to become the first Sydney club to win the Grand Final from such a low position. They were due to meet Canterbury last weekend in the semi-final for the right to play Parramatta in the final, Bridge confirming his form and class with a man of the match rating in Balmain's quarter final triumph.

Steve Quinn needed only three goals last Sunday for a total of 1,000 with Featherstone Rovers. His total of 997 goals in a Rovers record, having passed Cyril Kellett's previous best of 557 five years ago. Quinn also holds the Rovers record for most goals in a season with 163 in 1979-80 when he kicked at least one in each of the Rovers' 31 matches. He began that season with a record equalling fastest century of goals, achieved in 18 matches, and finished as the game's top kicker. His best match feats are 11 goals twice, against Wakefield Trinity in January, 1977, and Workington Town in August, 1980.

St Helens's 20 try, 112-0 defeat of Carlisle in the first round of the Grünhalle Lancashire Cup produced several records. The previous highest score against a professional side was 102-0 League defeat of Coventry in 1913. The previous St Helens highest win was 73-0 against Wardley Amateurs in 1924, when Saints scored 15 tries. The previous biggest defeat for Carlisle was 72-8, also against St Helens in the Lancashire Cup first round last season when the Saints scored 13 tries. Paul Loughin's 16 goals were the most against a professional side and a St Helens record in any match. The previous best against a professional side was Mick Stacey's 15 for Leigh against Doncaster in March, 1976. The record in all matches remains with Jim Sullivan, who kicked 22 in Wigan's 116-0 defeat of Flimby and Fothergill Amateurs in 1925. Three players had shared the St Helens record of 13 goals in a match: George Lewis (v Wardley, 1924); Peter Fearis (v Barrow, 1959); and Geoff Pimblett (v Bramley, 1978). Loughin, who played in the centre, added two tries for a total of 40 points — the most against a professional side and another St Helens record.

Whitehaven's 12-home try win of 72-6 against Fulham in the Lancashire Cup first round was a club record score and the biggest defeat for the Londoners. Whitehaven's previous highest score was the 64-0 defeat of Doncaster in the first round of a John Player Special Trophy in November, 1984 when they scored 11 tries. Fulham, who played their first match of the season after being saved from extinction, suffered a record defeat. Previously, the most points they had conceded came in the 58-32 defeat at home to Warrington in April, 1984 when they conceded ten tries.

St Helens run of 16 successive wins has broken one Division One record and equalled another. The previous best winning run in Division One since the re-introduction of two Divisions in 1973 was 13 by Widnes from the start of the 1981-82 season. St Helens won their final 13 League matches of last season and have won all three this season. The run of 16 wins also equals the Division's best unbeaten run. Widnes set a record by winning their last 12 matches of 1973-74, then drawing the first and winning the next three the following season. Their unbeaten run ended with an 8-7 home defeat against Salford. The longest winning League run of all was 31 by Wigan under the old one League system between February 1970 and February 1971.

Grunhalle Lager Lancashire Cup

Record breaking St. Helens entertain neighbours Warrington in the "tie-of-the-round" in the quarter final of the Grunhalle Lager Lancashire RL Cup. That's Saints reward after blitzing Second Division Carlisle 112-0 in the first round.

The full quarter final draw, ties to be played on Wednesday, 24th September is: Barrow v Widnes; Oldham v Workington Town; St. Helens v Warrington, Wigan v Whitehaven.

St. Helens, who have scored 240 points in four opening wins this season, re-wrote the record books against the luckless Cumbrians - thrashed 72-8 in the Lancashire Cup at Knowsley Road last season.

Saints piled up a mammoth 20 tries and 16 goals with 20-year-old centre Paul Loughlin setting two club records. His 16 goal tally and 40 point haul were both best efforts for Saints. The win was the biggest in Saints 91 history - beating the 73-0 win over Wardley in 1923-24.

Not surprisingly the victory was also the highest ever in the Lancashire Cup and only seven short of the all-time record - a 119-2 win by Huddersfield against now defunct amateurs Swinton Park in the Challenge Cup on February 28th, 1914.

St. Helens boss Alex Murphy said: "We are a professional side and I told the players to throw the ball out wide and run in as many points as possible. We are very fit and it is going to take a very good side to beat us."

Scrum-half Neil Holding and winger Barry Ledger each scored four tries in the massacre. But Murphy, who coached Warrington from 1971-78, added: "I don't expect it to be as easy in the next round."

Warrington, struggling to find last season's form which landed them the Premiership, knocked out Salford 28-20 but coach Tony Barrow admitted, "I'm still not happy with our form and we will have to improve to beat St. Helens."

Holders Wigan are still the favourites after thrashing Rochdale Hornets 52-0 to book a home tie against another Second Division outfit, Whitehaven.

Wigan have won the trophy a record 17 times but it's 28 years since Oldham last tasted Lancashire Cup glory.

Widnes secretary Ron Close said after the away draw at Barrow: "We beat the Cumbrian side 26-14 on September 7th but it's the strongest Barrow team I've seen for many years - it won't be easy."

Grunhalle Lager, brewed and sold in the North West by Greenall Whitley are contest sponsors.

Lancashire Cup Records

Number of Wins:

- 17 Wigan
- 10 St. Helens
- 9 Oldham
- 8 Warrington
- 6 Widnes
- 5 Salford
- 4 Leigh
- 3 Rochdale Hornets
- 2 Swinton & Barrow
- 1 Workington Town

Most successful Final Winners: 6 by Wigan 1946-51

Most Final Appearances: 31 by Wigan

Most successful Final Appearances:

- 7 by St. Helens (1954-64)
- 6 by Wigan (1945-51)

Highest Score in Final:

Wigan 34 Warrington 8 (1985)

Biggest Final Attendance:

42,793 St. Helens v Wigan at Swinton 1953

Most Tries in Final:

4 by Brian Nordgren (Wigan) v Leigh 1949

Most Goals in Final:

7 by Jim Ledger (Leigh) v Widnes 1955
and by Steve Hesford (Warrington) v Wigan 1980

Most Points in a Final:

17 by Hesford with 7 goals and a try 1980

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.

NEXT HOME MATCH

WIDNES

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, 5th October, 1986 kick off 3 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	3	1	0	0	50	18	2	0	0	78	24	6
Wigan	3	2	0	0	60	18	1	0	0	35	0	6
Castleford	3	2	0	0	58	22	1	0	0	26	20	6
Bradford	3	1	0	0	27	14	2	0	0	52	24	6
Halifax	3	2	0	0	48	30	0	1	0	16	16	5
Widnes	3	2	0	0	72	28	0	0	1	14	27	4
Leeds	3	1	0	1	53	52	0	0	1	12	14	2
Barrow	3	1	0	0	24	6	0	0	2	20	44	2
Warrington	3	1	0	1	42	44	0	0	1	17	22	2
Oldham	3	1	0	0	14	12	0	0	2	32	42	2
Hull KR	3	1	0	1	48	44	0	0	1	6	24	2
Hull	3	1	0	0	12	6	0	0	2	22	44	2
Leigh	3	1	0	1	22	52	0	0	1	18	50	2
Featherstone	3	0	1	0	16	16	0	0	2	26	69	1
Wakefield	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	36	100	0
Salford	3	0	0	2	16	60	0	0	1	12	42	0

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SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	3	1	0	0	17	14	2	0	0	52	19	6
Rochdale	2	2	0	0	36	12	0	0	0	0	0	6
Swinton	2	1	0	0	42	0	1	0	0	18	6	4
Sheffield	2	1	0	0	40	5	1	0	0	29	16	4
Hunslet	2	1	0	0	22	12	1	0	0	36	0	4
Huddersfield	2	1	0	0	27	16	1	0	0	36	31	4
Batley	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	30	42	4
Runcorn	3	1	0	1	20	42	0	1	0	12	12	3
Whitehaven	3	1	0	0	30	10	0	0	2	12	26	2
Workington	3	1	0	1	46	40	0	0	1	14	17	2
Bramley	2	1	0	0	20	12	0	0	1	12	30	2
Doncaster	2	0	0	1	6	18	1	0	0	16	15	2
Dewsbury	2	0	0	1	14	16	0	0	1	12	22	2
York	3	1	0	1	20	44	0	0	1	10	30	2
Carlisle	4	0	1	1	17	48	0	0	2	38	51	1
Keighley	3	0	0	1	16	29	0	0	2	22	47	0
Mansfield	2	0	0	1	31	36	0	0	1	5	40	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 ITIG	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 1DG IT
	21 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS																		
	24 WORKINGTON County Cup 2																		
	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																		



Tom Nadiola on the break during his fabulous display of running in last Sunday's win over Leigh

Australian Clearances to Play in Britain 1986-87

PLAYER	CLUB TO	CLUB FROM
Mark Wakefield	Salford	Cronulla Sutherland
Stuart Raper	Oldham	Cronulla Sutherland
Errol Hillier	Workington Town	Cronulla Sutherland
Phillip Hurst	Workington Town	Cronulla Sutherland
Mark Meskell	Barrow	Southern Suburbs
Rowan Brennan	Wakefield Trinity	Canberra
Kevin Hastings	Barrow	Eastern Suburbs
Michael Blake	Leigh	Canberra
Graeme Jennings	Hunslet	Western Suburbs
Robert Jackson	Warrington	Cronulla Sutherland
Brian Johnson	Warrington	Eastern Suburbs
Greg Austin	Salford	North Sydney
Dean Bell	Wigan	Eastern Suburbs
David Brown	Hull	Eastern Suburbs
Gary Howell	Leigh	Penrith
Sean Willey	York	Manly-Warringah
John Cogger	Runcorn Highfield	Western Suburbs
Bruce Clark	Oldham	Western Suburbs
Seamus O'Connell	Runcorn Highfield	Illawarra
Les Boyd	Warrington	Cootamundra
Brett Clark	St. Helens	Western Suburbs
Gerry Byron	Rochdale Hornets	Western Suburbs
Darren Strutt	York	North Sydney
Garry Schubert	Salford	Taree United
Robert Morris	Leeds	Taree United
Mark Long	York	North Sydney
Mark McInerny	Keighley	North Sydney
Peter Smith	Leeds	Illawarra
Graham Eadie	Halifax	Manly-Warringah
Gavin Miller	Hull Kingston Rovers	Cronulla Sutherland
Greg Shuttleworth	Whitehaven	Canterbury Bankstown
Terry Webb	Hunslet	Redcliffe
Keith Neller	Halifax	Valleys
Brett Atkins	Castleford	Canberra
Chris Johns	Castleford	St. Georges
John Dorahy	Hull Kingston Rovers	Illawarra
Ian Schubert	Leigh	Western Suburbs
Les Cleal	Widnes	Tumbarumba

WHO'S SCREWED EVERY STUD IN THE OLDHAM TEAM?



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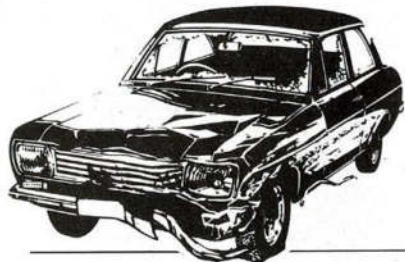
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Bruce Clark drives in powerfully while helping Oldham to a 29-22 County Cup win over Leigh.

Photo courtesy of Oldham Chronicle



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Debut-making Aussie Stuart Raper looks for support against Leigh and finds it in the form of fellow countryman Bruce Clark.

Photo courtesy of Oldham Chronicle

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... with County Cup memories

Oldham undoubtedly have a lot of ground to make up in the Lancashire Cup. Since the glorious days of the 1950s, when the cup was brought back to the town in 1956, 1957 and 1958, we have only appeared in the final twice – and lost on each occasion.

We got there in 1966 thanks to victories over Swinton, Salford, and Blackpool. It was an Oldham versus Wigan final at Station Road and we went down 13-16 in a thriller watched by 14,193 fans. Tommy Warburton had his kicking boots on and his five goals, plus a try by John Donovan, kept us in the game to the dying seconds when Stan McLeod broke through brilliantly and came within inches – literally – of giving Warburton the chance to kick us to victory. It was a close as that. For the record, the Oldham team that day was: McLeod; Dolly, McCormack, Donovan, Simms; Warburton, Canning; Wilson, Taylor, Fletcher, Smethurst, Irving, Mooney, Subs: Ogden and Holroyd.

It is interesting to record that Jim McCormack is still a keen follower of the game and now watches Wigan regularly, while Trevor Simms has two Union-playing sons, one of whom is Kevin, the England international centre. Ken Wilson and Kevin Taylor still live locally, Geoff Fletcher is still associated with his beloved Runcorn as general manager, Peter Smethurst can be heard on Radio Manchester every Sunday.

Peter went on record in the Oldham Chronicle just before the 1966 final as saying "We will play until we drop". They did, too, but on the day Wigan just held out to win.

Two years later we were back in the final. That year we beat Rochdale, Workington, Salford to earn a final clash with St Helens at Wigan. It was a peculiar match. We were right in it at half time, but Fletcher had to go off injured at the interval and the game changed completely with Saints running away with it in the second half to triumph 30-2.

The crowd was 17,008 and the Oldham team lined up thus: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, McCormack, Whitehead; Briggs, Canning; Wilson, Taylor, Fletcher, McCourt, Irving, Hughes. Subs: Buckley, Maders.

Martin Murphy has recently been back on the Watersheddings scene as a prominent member of Fred Hall's testimonial committee, while Phil Larder is now well known as Rugby League's Director of Coaching and assistant Great Britain boss.

Derek Whitehead is on Warrington's coaching staff, Charlie McCourt still lives in Oldham and may well be here tonight to watch the Cumbrians, and Dennis Maders is now associated with the youth section at Saddleworth Rangers.

That year of 1968 was to be the last time we reached the final and, in fact, we have only reached the semi-final once since ... in 1980 when we knocked out Swinton and Salford before losing to Warrington.

Between 1969 and 1979 we never once progressed beyond the first round – a dismal decade in which Swinton, Salford, Swinton, Salford, Wigan, Widnes, St Helens, Blackpool, Wigan and Salford, in that order give us the order of the boot at the first hurdle.

In more recent times, our fortunes have improved a bit in the Lancashire Cup, but we have still only reached that one semi-final and both last year – to Leigh – and the year before – to Blackpool – we had first round disappointments.

To beat Leigh in round one a week last Sunday put us in the second round for only the third time in six years and we are now bidding to reach the semi-final for only the second time in 19 years. It makes tonight's match a very important one. There is nothing like success in cup competitions to capture the glamour, the publicity and the TV and sponsorship tit-bits, which never seem to accompany league success, particularly in the early part of the season when most publicity in Rugby League surrounds the county cup competitions and the John Player Special Trophy.

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This season we are trying to get all matches sponsored by a main sponsor, a team sponsor and a ball sponsor. We are hoping for support by as many companies as possible and by as many individuals as we can get. Sponsorship is now the Lifeblood of any club and we are no exception. The Committee as you will see pitch in and players sponsors are heavily covered. However, we would like this season to have 100% sponsorship.

Help me to put a winning team on "the meadow". This is my last programme for Oldham and may I wish them every success, I hope you form a limited company and go from strength to strength.

LIFELINE

This Weeks £1,000 Winner is C. Halliday Number 1091

We have in stock some white Lifeline sweatshirts at £8.50 each and we will be getting some more in different colours. A Lifeline tie is coming and we hope that these will take on to help the Club coffers.

Any new members who are recruited by existing members will be appreciated.



Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

... By David Topliss

For half a dozen or so members of the Oldham team – including yours truly – the chance of winning a Lancashire Cup medal is a little bit special. You see, we are Yorkshire lads... and it would be nice to get a little bit of Lancashire silverware on our sideboards! Over the years I have collected a few medals with Wakefield Trinity and Hull, including three Yorkshire Cup Winners' medals with Hull and two runners-up medals with Trinity.

I also have winners and runners-up Challenge Cup medals and a Player's No.6 winners' medal as well as Premiership runners-up medals. But something inside me, as a Yorkshire born and bred, tells me it would be a little bit impish to take a Lancashire medal back over the Pennines to complete my collection.

I am sure my fellow Yorkshiremen such as Mike Taylor, Tom Nadiola, David Hobbs, Colin Hawkyard, and Neil Clawson feel the same. Believe me, winning a Lancashire medal will mean just as much to us as it will to the Lancashire lads in the side, and we will all be going out tonight as a team to try and reach the semi-finals at Workington's expense.

We must not fall into the trap of underestimating the Cumbrians, who will be in the happy position of having all to gain and nothing to lose. Apparently, the last time they came down here in a cup-tie they won against all the odds, and make no mistake, they won't have forgotten that. As a Second Division side they will raise their game in a bid to pull off a surprise and capture the headlines and it is up to us to make sure make sure that they are not celebrating all the way back up the M.6.

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