

22 OLDHAM Team Check 16 WIDNES

J EDWARDS	H. M'BARKI	1	M. BURKE
C HAWKYARD	P. SHERMAN	2	J. BASSNETT
K ATKINSON	D. FOY	3	J. GILBERT
P KIRWAN	G. WARNECKE	4	D. WRIGHT
W JONES	M. TAYLOR	5	D. MORAN
M HALL	D. TOPLISS	6	T. MYLER
S CLARK	R. ASHTON	7	D. HULME/G. COLEMAN
D HOBBS	B. CLARK	8	K. SORENSON
N CLAWSON	T. FLANAGAN	9	P. MCKENZIE/I. GORMLEY
M WORRALL	D. HOBBS	10	S. O'NEIL
J O'BURN	M. WORRALL	11	J. FIELDHOUSE
L CASEY	T. NAIDOLE	12	M. O'NEIL/T. STOTLEY
	S. RAPER	13	P. HULME
	T.B.A.	14	T.B.A.
	T.B.A.	15	T.B.A.

Referee: P. N. Houghton Touch Judges: M. J. Hesketh, D. Blood

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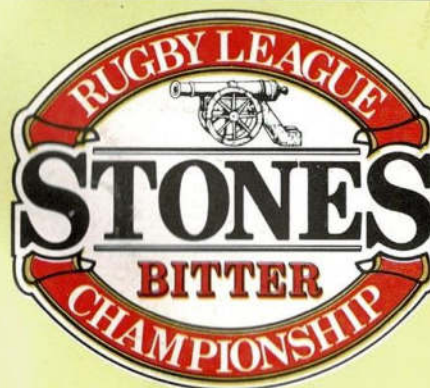
5, 6, & 7 SEATER

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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 50p

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OLDHAM

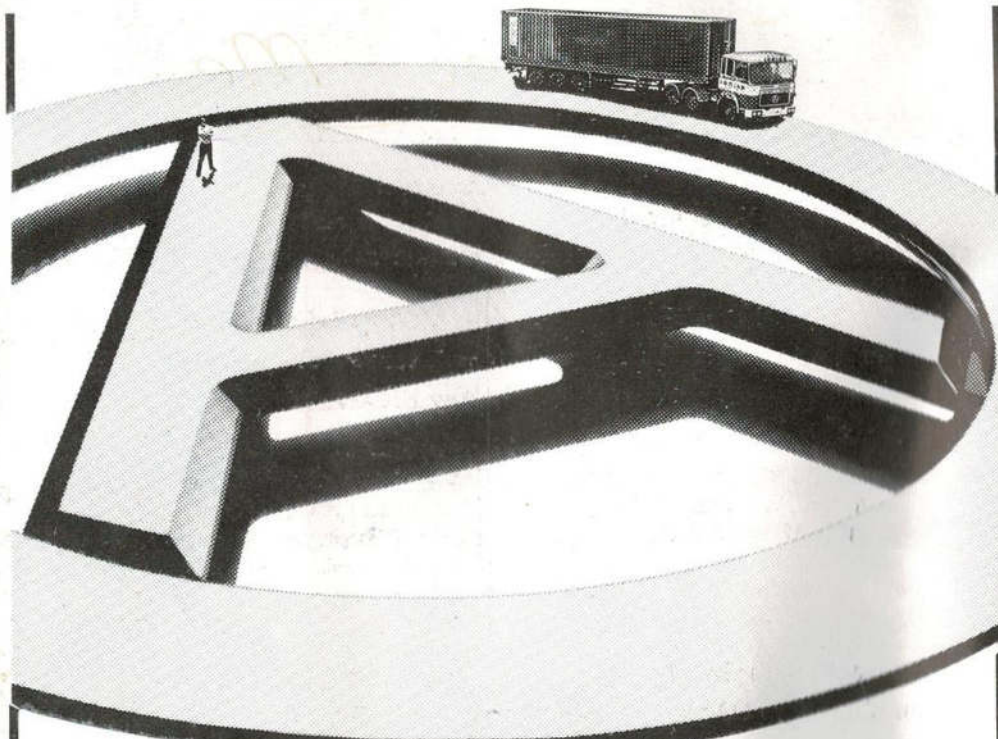
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Stones Bitter Championship

WIDNES

Sunday, 5th October, 1986
kick off 3:00 p.m.



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

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

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle

Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr J. Watkins

Lifeline: L. Bostock

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



What a splendid night it was when we beat Widnes 16-14 in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup to reach our first final in 18 years.

We are now 80 minutes away from our first major trophy win since the great days of the 1950's and we know we will have the total backing of the fans and the Town, when we meet Wigan at Knowsley Road, Saint Helens on Sunday 19th October in the final.

Prices, fixed by the Lancashire County Committee are seats £5, ground £3 and Pensioners and Boys £2.

The final will *not* be all ticket but there is a capacity of 23,500 and ground tickets will also be sold in advance to ease congestion on the day.

Wigan have a massive following so lets rally round and make sure we give them a surprise not only on the field but with the volume of our support.

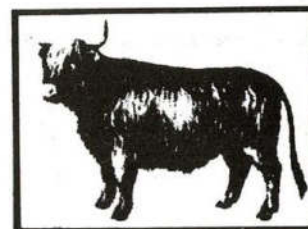
GLEN LIDDIARD Photo Courtesy of OLDHAM CHRONICLE

CLUB NOTES

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WELCOME TO WIDNES... AGAIN

Widnes are here again today... for the second time in four days! This time, two vital points are at stake in the Stones Bitter Championship and whichever side is now looking forward to the Lancashire Cup final on October 19th will discover that their beaten semi-final opponents will be keen to extract revenge today.

When Widnes play Oldham these days there is a very close affinity between the clubs and it is interesting to point out the relationships that exist between personnel in the two clubs.

Franky Myler, our manager, made his name as a player with his hometown Widnes club. He still holds the Naughton Park try scoring record, and he later returned to the club as coach, guiding the Chemics to their one and only championship victory.

Frank is still a household name in the town, where he still lives only a good goalkick's distance away from Naughton Park. For many years he was a business man in the town, where he is a well respected member of the local community.

His brother's sons — Tony and John — are well known names in the Widnes camp and Tony actually followed his uncle, first into to the Widnes No. 6 jersey and then into the Great Britain No. 6 jersey. Quite a coincidence.

But family ties do not end there. Frank's son Chris, who signed for the Oldham club a few weeks ago, is a cousin of Tony and John and brother-in-law of Widnes half back David Hulme, who is married to Frank's daughter.

Mick Burke, the Widnes captain, also figures in the Oldham-Widnes link-up. He is the son-in-law of Les Bostock, our Lifeline manager and another man with Widnes ties.

Mick, recently returned to the side after injury, will be keen to impress in his bid to hang on to his Great Britain jersey in the forthcoming Test series against Australia.

Time is running out, but it is still not too late for Mick to force himself into the running with series of top class displays and proof that he is now fully recovered from injury.

While Widnes have always given a chance to local talent they have never been afraid to spend on the domestic market and abroad, and one of their 'home' signings is centre John Gilbert from Featherstone Rovers.

John Basnett, Gilbert, Andy Currier and Co. form a useful back division, while Trevor Stockley could also play in the backs if required, although he appears to have made a niche for himself in the second-row in recent times.

Coach Doug Laughton is blessed with an abundance of talent at half back. The return from Sydney of Tony Myler gives him plenty of options at half back, especially since the arrival of young Aussie Craig Coleman for the No. 7 shirt.

Myler was due to play his first game this season in the cup semi final on Wednesday and he will no doubt be keen to prove that he is a worthy nominee for the Adidas Gold Boot Award for 1986 — one of only three British players nominated for this international award.

Another is Kiwi prop Kurt Sorensen, who is the anchor man of a strong and experienced Widnes pack which includes men of the calibre of former Rochdale Hornets hooker Phil McKenzie, the O'Neill brothers, Mick and Steve, John Fieldhouse, Stockley, and Richard Eyres.

McKenzie was a firm favourite at the Athletic Grounds last season and when Widnes signed him he made an immediate impact in the middle of the Chemics front row.

Sadly, he damaged an ankle in the second round Lancashire Cup win at Barrow and was expected to miss the semi final, although he could be back in the running today.

Sorensen is a powerful world class forward, who was a tower of strength for New Zealand in last season's Test series against Great Britain, when he shared the pack limelight at Naughton Park with Aussie Noel Cleal.

Cleal has been recently named in the Kangaroo party to tour Great Britain and France soon, and although he will be missed in the Widnes pack there is no doubt that the Chemics possess one of the strongest sets of forwards in the game today.

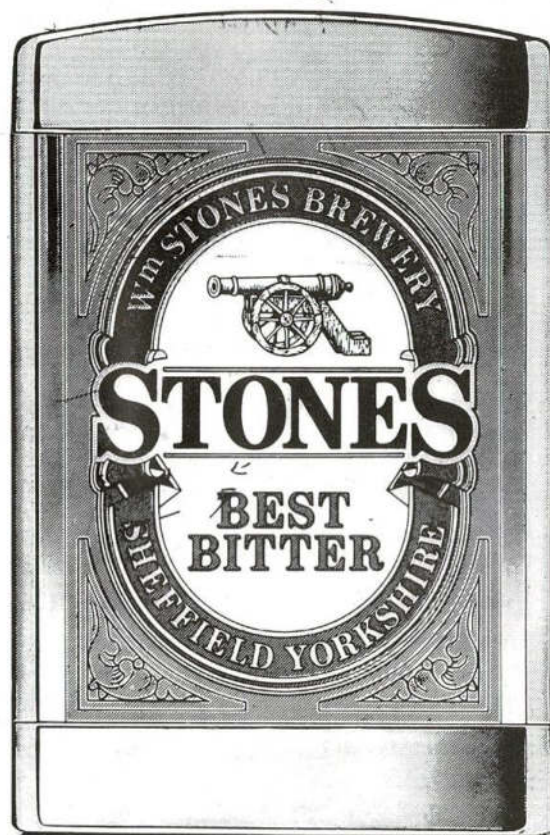
In recent times, there have been transfer dealings between Oldham and Widnes, not least our capture of prop Brian Hogan and then the veteran forward's return to Naughton Park in the deal that brought Des Foy to Watersheddings.

Widnes have built up a reputation for unearthing some of the most promising youngsters in the game in recent years. They have not been afraid to sell either when they considered the time was right.

Test scrum half Andy Gregory made his name at Naughton Park before moving on to Warrington in the deal that took Fieldhouse to Widnes. Joe Lydon also got his feet on the international ladder at Widnes before his headline catching transfer to Wigan for a fee reputed to be in the region of £100,000.

On the field and off it, Widnes are never very far away from the headlines and the public's imagination.

*When the moves aren't smoothly flowing,
And the lads can't seem to score,
Chin up, you'll soon be going,
Down the local to cheer yourself up*



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Around the League... with Roughyed

The Australians have named Wally Lewis as captain of a 28-strong party to tour England and France over ten weeks, starting next weekend. Peter Sterling will be the Kangaroos vice-captain and the coach will be Don Furner of Canberra Raiders.

Squad: Gary Jack (Balmain), Gary Belcher (Canberra), Les Kiss (North Sydney), Michael O'Connor (St George), Dale Shearer (Manly), Eric Grothe (Parramatta), Gene Miles (Wynum Manly, Brisbane), Brett Kenny (Parramatta), Mal Meninga (Canberra), Chris Mortimer (Canterbury), Wally Lewis (Wynum Manly, Brisbane), Terry Lamb (Canterbury), Peter Sterling (Parramatta), Des Hasler (Manly), Bob Lindner (Wynum-Manly), Paul Langmack (Canterbury), Noel Cleal (Manly), Bryan Niebling (Radcliffe, Brisbane), Steve Foulkes (Canterbury), Paul Sironen (Balmain), Steve Roach (Balmain), Greg Dowling (Wynum-Manly), Paul Dunn (Canterbury), Les Davidson (Balmain), Martin Bella (North Sydney), Phil Daley (Manly), Royce Simmons (Penrith), Benny Elias (Balmain).

An indication of the strength of Aussie rugby lies in the fact that not one of the 1982 Kangaroo forwards is included in the 1986 squad. There are only six survivors, all backs and they are Eric Grothe, Gene Miles, Brett Kenny, Mal Meninga, Wally Lewis and Peter Sterling. In addition to these six several other members of the squad are known to English fans after appearing for English clubs in the last few seasons.

They are Paul Langmack (Halifax), Noel Cleal (Widnes), Greg Dowling (Wigan) and Martin Bella (Halifax). Two notable absentees, both as a result of injury are Wayne Pearce, who would have been a certainty as a vice-captain had he not badly damaged a knee in the third Test against New Zealand and half-back Steve Ella, who made his name here in 1982 and starred for Wigan last season.

The Kangaroos play Oldham at Watersheddings on Tuesday, 4th November.

WIDNES are reported to have checked out the possibility of bringing Barrow star Ian Ball out of Rugby League exile. A prolific scorer, Ball quit 18 months ago with a nose injury, and Widnes have now been given permission to talk to the former England Under 24 RU centre.

LEEDS are hoping to complete an ambitious double deal that could be worth up to £100,000 in time for this weekend's game. Like Hull, they failed to tempt Aussie star Wayne Pearce to play in England after his disappointment in failing to land a place on the Kangaroo tour squad due to injury. Pearce's first reaction was to talk about proving the medics wrong in England but he later decided to get some Australian sun on his back and prepare for the 1987 season Down Under.

Leeds also made a move for another player who was disappointed with tour selection, scrum-half Greg Alexander. He also decided to stay put and concentrate on his career. But the Headingley outfit are confident of success much nearer home with a major coup for Bramley's promising young centre Andy Mason and for York's second-row forward Gary Price. Both played for Yorkshire in the recent War of the Roses game and former Union star Mason has attracted attention from several Yorkshire clubs in the past few weeks.

If the double deal comes off it will involve player-exchange in a swoop with a total value of six figures!

The preliminary and first-round draws for the John Player Special Trophy will take place on Thursday, 30th October at the Willows, Salford. Having had six consecutive home draws, how's that for good luck? it will be interesting to see how Oldham fare this time.

Oldham came out of the hat first in last season's Challenge Cup-ties against Carlisle, Warrington and Bradford and followed up with another hat-trick of home ties in this season's Lancashire Cup against Leigh, Workington and Widnes.

Paul Loughlin (St Helens) passed the 50-goal mark for the season in only the seventh match. He reached the milestone with the fifth of his six goals in the 36-4 win at Hull K.R. last Sunday.

Widnes Pen Pictures

MICK BURKE – Aged 27, signed May 1978 from Waterloo R.U. Club and broke the Widnes record for goals and points in his first season as a professional. He is a seasoned International and a Lance Todd Trophy winner. Is now approaching 300 games for Widnes and has kicked over 700 goals.

ANDREW CURRIER – Still only 20 years old, this powerfully built wingman signed from local amateur club Halton Hornets in June 1982, and has earned G.B. Under 21 honours. Very fast and elusive he is a frequent try scorer in any class of rugby, averaging a try every other game.

STUART WRIGHT – The veteran of the side at 36, and now celebrating a well earned testimonial season, having signed from Wigan in 1976 for £11,000. Has crossed for over 250 tries in a distinguished career that has won him many International caps. Injury has interrupted his career though never defeated it, his bravery showing in returning to the game after dislocating his shoulder several times.

DARREN WRIGHT – Another youngster, aged only 18 who having come into the side mid-way through last season has impressed immensely and is now on the fringe of International selection. Signed in March 1985 from Leigh Miners Welfare he is a strong running 6' centre with tremendous ability.

BARRY DOWD – Signed from Halton Hornets A.R.L.C. in October 1982, and after serving his apprenticeship in the "A" team, is now endeavouring to make a first team spot his own. A classy player of deceptive speed, he is a name to look for in future seasons.

JOHN GILBERT – signed just after last season's cup deadline from Featherstone Rovers for a £35,000 fee, he played only a handful of games for the Chemics last term due to injury. Age 28 his experience should prove invaluable to the young Widnes back Division.

JOHN BASNETT – Age 29, signed from New Brighton R.U.F.C. in April 1981, and has always been a popular player amongst the Widnes fans. Is a frequent try scorer having scored over 80 touch downs from twice as many games. A Great Britain tourist, he now resides in Yorkshire and is a prominent member of the powerful Chemics three-quarters.

TONY MYLER – Age 26, signed from Widnes R.U.F.C. in December 1978 and is currently a member of the Great Britain International side. A player of tremendous ability and one of the few who can turn a game inside out within the space of minutes. Recently guested in Australia for Balmain, and he too is a regular try scorer.

DAVID HULME – Another Local product, this 22 year old signed from Halton Hornets in February 1981, and made a quick impact on the game. Is extremely quick off the mark and equally at home in either half back position. A former G.B. Colts player and toured Australia with them in 1982.

Widnes Pen Pictures

KURT SORENSON – Widely regarded as one of the finest forwards in world rugby today. In his second season with Widnes, having previously played for Wigan eight seasons ago. A fiery forward who never knows when he is beaten, his experience and enthusiasm should produce a steady influence on the Widnes pack.

PHIL MCKENZIE – Came to these shores last season when he joined Rochdale Hornets from Irlowald. Made a sensational start to his career in England and was soon snapped up by Widnes. A dynamic player of many fine tries.

STEVE O'NEILL – Age 28 and was signed from Wigan in October 1981, though he is a native of Widnes. Recently returned after suffering a sickening injury at Wigan last September and all in the game wish him well. A solid scrummager who always gives a full 80 minutes effort, and he too is a full International as are so many of his colleagues.

ANDREW RUANE – Age 25, signed from Ditton Y.C. Tigers in July 1980, and for several seasons was understudy to Keith Elwell. Has now played over 40 first team games, though was recently put on the transfer list at his own request at a fee of £15,000.

MIKE O'NEILL – Age 25 and was signed in November 1977 from local club Widnes Tigers. Brother to Steve and he too is a seasoned International player, having toured Australia. A formidable front or second row forward he has also over 250 first team games to his credit.

JOHN MYLER – Age 27 and has been at Naughton Park for nine seasons. He is the brother of Tony and is widely regarded as a fine utility player, equally at home at half back or at loose forward. Has played over 200 games for Widnes scoring 30 tries.

JOHN FIELDHOUSE – Age 24, and signed from Warrington in January 1985 in a deal which took Andy Gregory to Wilderspool. Although better known as a second row forward he performed magnificently in the front row during last seasons campaign against the Kiwis and won the Great Britain man of the series award.

PAUL HULME – Just 20 years old, and proving to be a very talented player indeed. Signed in 1983 from Halton Hornets A.R.L.C. as a scrum half, but has forced his way into the first team at second row or loose forward. A gutsy performer, he is as "tough as old boots" and should have a very distinguished career in front of him.

RICHARD EYRES – Age 21 signed from Widnes Tigers in August 1984, and after only a handful of "A" team games forced his way into the first team and has played over 60 games scoring 15 tries.

NEXT HOME MATCH

FEATHERSTONE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, 19th October, 1986 kick off 3 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	5	2	0	0	88	34	3	0	0	114	28	10
Wigan	5	3	0	0	94	25	2	0	0	55	10	10
Castleford	5	3	0	0	74	29	2	0	0	50	34	10
Widnes	5	3	0	0	107	38	1	0	1	62	41	8
Bradford	5	1	0	1	37	34	3	0	0	84	46	8
Warrington	5	2	0	1	84	58	1	0	1	33	35	6
Halifax	5	2	0	1	61	46	0	1	1	32	54	5
Barrow	5	1	0	1	38	30	1	0	2	44	56	4
Oldham	5	2	0	0	42	24	0	0	3	44	82	4
Hull	5	2	0	0	43	32	0	0	3	29	78	4
Leigh	5	2	0	1	62	64	0	0	2	44	81	4
Leeds	4	1	0	1	53	52	0	0	2	22	49	2
Hull KR	5	1	0	2	52	80	0	0	2	18	52	2
Featherstone	5	0	1	1	30	64	0	0	3	33	85	1
Wakefield	4	0	0	1	22	32	0	0	3	36	100	0
Salford	5	0	0	3	28	84	0	0	2	26	84	0

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SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheffield	4	2	0	0	71	15	2	0	0	97	30	8
Hunslet	4	2	0	0	60	17	2	0	0	58	18	8
Swinton	4	2	0	0	64	9	2	0	0	37	14	8
Blackpool	5	1	0	1	33	33	3	0	0	78	27	8
Runcorn	5	2	0	1	74	50	1	1	0	31	28	7
Batley	4	1	0	0	26	2	2	0	1	55	62	6
Huddersfield	4	1	0	1	47	41	2	0	0	58	51	6
Whitehaven	5	2	0	0	74	16	0	0	3	14	52	4
Rochdale	4	2	0	1	44	31	0	0	1	14	19	4
York	5	2	0	1	36	52	0	0	2	19	52	4
Carlisle	6	1	1	1	33	60	0	0	3	44	67	3
Doncaster	4	0	0	2	24	40	1	0	1	28	31	2
Dewsbury	4	1	0	1	33	30	0	0	2	22	53	2
Workington	5	1	0	2	66	62	0	0	2	19	55	2
Bramley	4	1	0	1	28	38	0	0	2	20	46	2
Keighley	5	1	0	1	32	35	0	0	3	28	91	2
Mansfield	4	1	0	1	63	54	0	0	2	13	94	2
Fulham	2	0	0	1	14	68	0	0	1	18	32	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 IG	Hawkyard	Worrall	Kirwan (10)	Nadiole (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.	Nadiole (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	Nadiole
	14 LEIGH County Cup 1	4,566	29	22	Atkinson	Sherman IT	Foy	M'Barki IT	Taylor	Toplis	Ashton	Clark IT	Flanagan	Nadiole IT	Clawson	Worrall 6G	Raper	Edwards	Hobbs IDG IT
	21 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	4,069	28	12	M'Barki	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke IT	Taylor IT	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Nadiole	Worrall 3G	Hobbs IG IT	Raper IT	Edwards	Clawson
	24 WORKINGTON County Cup 2	3,412	46	13	M'Barki IT	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark IT	Flanagan	Hobbs 7G IT	Nadiole IT	Worrall IT	Raper IT	Hawkyard	Clawson
	28 LEIGH (3-30)	4,000	12	40	M'Barki IT	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke IT	Taylor	Bridge	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 2G	Clawson	Worrall	Raper	Topliss	Casey
Oct	1 WIDNES (s/f L.C.)		16	14	M'Barki	Sherman IT	Bridge	Warnecke	Edwards	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs IT 4G	Nadiole	Worrall	Raper	Kirwan	Hawkyard
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																		

First Division 1986-87	Barrow	Bradford	Castleford	Featherstone	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Leigh	Oldham	Salford	St Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
Barrow	■		14-24				24-6									
Bradford		■													27-14	10-20
Castleford			■	16-7		16-6							42-16			
Featherstone				■	16-16										14-48	
Halifax					■	28-16				20-14				13-16		
Hull						■			31-26				12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30					■					4-36				
Leeds				33-12				■				20-40				
Leigh									■	40-12				22-17		0-35
Oldham							28-12	14-12		■						
Salford	12-24	12-22									■	4-38				
St Helens					38-16							■				
Wakefield		22-32											■			
Warrington			20-26									22-18	42-14		■	
Widnes	26-14							35-10						48-14		■
Wigan	18-6					34-7						42-12				■

TODAY'S REFEREE:

PHIL HOUGHTON

Date of Birth: 1/10/51

Grade One: 1985-86



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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. Bown, L. Chadderton, S. Collinge, E. Crother, S. Doran, J. Bradley,
J. Gallagher, I. Gallagher, H. Heywood, M. Morgan, I. Pilkington, M. Pilkington, D. Pilkington,
J. Sagar, L. Wolstencroft

The Supporters Club and Members would like to welcome all our friends from Widnes for todays match. Hoping for a good clean game. We would like to invite all home and away supporters to our canteens situated around the ground. The Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion End of the ground will be open throughout the match for sale of replica shirts, ties, badges etc. The Programme Shop is situated near the scoreboard in the old bar.

The Supporters Club subscriptions are now due. Membership £1.00 including Diary, please pay at any canteen also Junior Reds £1.00, see Joe Gallagher.

Anyone who is interested in going to the first Test Match at Old Trafford, please contact any member of committee for coach bookings.

WEMBLEY WEEKEND

Once again Miss A. Collinge is running the annual trip for the rugby final. Consists of three nights B/B, match ticket, coach fare. See Alice for details, book now, couples/singles.

We are still looking for sponsors for the Rugby Queen Contest on 31st October. Anyone willing to donate £25.00 and act as a Judge on the night please contact Supporters Club. Admission is free to all contestants over 16. Social Club, 31st October – Halloween Disco and Rugby Queen final – Admission £1.00.

CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEARS EVE

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Adidas Golden Boot Contenders

Three British players are among the contenders for the most prestigious individual award in international Rugby League, the Adidas Golden Boot. The Golden Boot presented in association with "Open Rugby" magazine in England and "Rugby League Week" in Australia was first awarded last year, with the winner being Wally Lewis, the Australian Test captain.

This year, the Adidas Golden Boot presentation ceremony will be staged in Britain for the first time, with the winner being named in Leeds on October 23rd. The contenders for the 1986 Adidas Golden Boot have been named, among them British Test stars: Ellery Hanley, Tony Myler and Garry Schofield. The others shortlisted on the world's top ten are, three from Australia: Garry Jack, Brett Kenny and Peter Sterling; three from New Zealand: Mark Graham, Hugh McGahan and Kurt Sorenson; plus one Frenchman, Marc Palanque.

The Adidas Golden Boot contenders have all been selected for their excellent performances during the past 12 months, with particular emphasis being placed on the toughest sporting arena of all, Test match Rugby League.

The Golden Boot will be presented two days before the vital first Whitbread Trophy Bitter Test between Great Britain and Australia at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Okells Isle of Man Charity Shield

The Rugby Football League has sanctioned the staging of the third Okells Charity Shield on the Isle of Man on Sunday, 23rd August, 1987. The new-style pre-season encounter between the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup winners and 1987 Stones Bitter Champions will, again, be sponsored by Okells Brewery to the tune of £5,000.

The Okells Isle of Man Charity Shield was introduced on to the Rugby League calendar in 1985 as a main feature of the Islands "Year of Sport", Cup winners Wigan beating League Champions Hull Kingston Rovers 34-6. This August, League Champions Halifax defeated Cup winners Castleford 9-8.

Special travel packages will, again, be offered to Rugby League fans for the Charity Shield encounter which will again be staged at The Bowl, in Douglas.

Rugby League Chairman David Wigham, said: "All four clubs who have taken part so far in the Okells Charity Shield have been delighted with the competitive nature of the event, the financial returns, and the unique pre-season build-up experienced by staging the match on the Isle of Man."

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... support on the increase

Do you detect, as I do, that the greater interest being shown right now in Rugby League football is reflected in a wider cross-section of support for the Oldham club? I vividly recall some years ago looking around the Watersheddings terraces and coming to the reluctant conclusion that 90 percent of the club's support was provided by men of middle age or older. How that has all changed in more recent times! Gradually at first, and almost unnoticed, the crowds began to rise when we came out of the Second Division in 1980-81. In our first three seasons of Division One rugby they went up each year and although they have levelled out at an average of about 4,500 in the last two seasons, I get the feeling there is considerably more interest being shown in the club now than there has been for several years.

Our progress to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup last season has been a similar response to our Lancashire Cup run over recent weeks. Since we last reached the Lancashire Cup final in 1968, we have progressed to the semi-final stage only once until this year, so early-season cup campaigning has not exactly been the club's strong point in the last 20 years. There is no doubt at all that the public imagination is best fired by Cup runs. It is great to be doing well in the League, but in terms of public interest, public projection through the media, and there is nothing to compare with success in the County, John Player Special Trophy and Challenge Cup competitions.

Even after our disappointing display at Leigh last Sunday, there was a constant demand for tickets for the semi-final four days later. And people who make only rare visits to Watersheddings were interested to know what the team was likely to be, whether they would be able to get tickets on the night etc. You surely must have come across a similar experience at work and among your friends generally. Whether there was an inbuilt appeal from an all-ticket match is open to debate, but I firmly believe the club could be on the threshold of big things only it could win a major trophy to end many barren years of pot hunting.

The crowds these days include many comparatively new faces. At one time a visit to Watersheddings was almost like a trip next door to see the neighbour. You knew who you were going to see before you got here. Now, the support is not only larger – but younger. Female support is growing, and there are many hundreds of younger fans and juveniles who are now beginning to outnumber the over 50's. Greater interest is reflected in the increasing numbers who are turning up to watch training and in more and more fans who are proud to display their red and white colours on away trips.

We have not exactly done ourselves proud on our travels this season, losing at Halifax, Warrington and Leigh, but we are still unbeaten at home in the First Division and as the winter draws on I am sure we will see convoys of supporters on away trips with colours flying on their way to the match. The greater interest in the game is reflected in many ways ... in the vast numbers now playing it at amateur level under the BARLA flag, in the numbers of new amateur teams that have sprung up over the last couple of years, in the overwhelming response to the Rugby League's decision to take the first Test to Old Trafford on October 25th.

As converted Rugby League enthusiasts or fans who were born in the game, we can all play a part in helping interest to grow even more rapidly. How? By helping to spread the gospel by word of mouth among friends, families, and workmates. Schoolmates, too, if you are younger. There is nothing like personal contact to influence others. Try telling your friends all about Rugby League and its entertainment value – about the Oldham club – and about the great international football that is in prospect over the next few weeks. Try it on and try and encourage them to come to Watersheddings – just try. You will be surprised at the results in the present climate when more and more people are ready to be influenced in their search for real family entertainment on a Sunday afternoon.

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COMMERCIAL CORNER

Many thanks to those companies and individuals who responded to our appeal for Sponsors. However, we still need your support for a number of matches this season.

A new drive on Lottery Ticket sales has been organised and we now need agents to sell these to regular customers on established rounds in various areas of the town.

Finally why not pay a visit to the Club Shop where new items are arriving regularly.

LIFELINE - *A Personal Message*

During the last few months my staff and I have had to endure many difficulties due to the reorganisation on the Commercial side of Oldham RLFC.

As the Lifeline Manager who has personally overcome the situation, I am asking all Lifeline Society Members, because we are a society, ladies and gentlemen, to continue to support us. I in the capacity of Manager, am here to listen personally to any comments on the running of the Society in general. I will make myself personally available for discussions on any subject by which we can improve the Society as it now stands having, hopefully overcome the unsettled period we have just experienced.

I hope that our ship is still on an even keel, and will remain so with your unflinching support.

Sincerely yours – for the Lifeline Society (and ORLFC whom we do support) – **LES BOSTOCK**



Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

Our performance in slipping to a 40-12 defeat at Leigh was a bitter disappointment to everyone and I think the lesson to be learned is that we cannot afford to neglect our First Division results no matter how much we want to win a major trophy.

Yes, I do believe that we had our minds a little bit on the Lancashire Cup Semi Final. At the same time I don't think our performance was as bad as the score indicated. After all they scored 12 points in the last two minutes to make it seem much worse.

We can't afford to neglect our league position because winning is a habit and apart from that a high league placing works wonders for building confidence when cup competitions come around.

Also, with four clubs going down this time the pressure on the bottom few clubs will be all the greater. Any team that finds itself in the lower reaches of the league around Christmas time will have a big battle on to get out of the bottom four and we don't want to be in that position if we aim to have another good run in the Challenge Cup like we did last year.

Of course, we were not helped at Leigh by several things - injuries before and during the match disrupted us and then we were completely disrupted when David Hobbs was sent off.

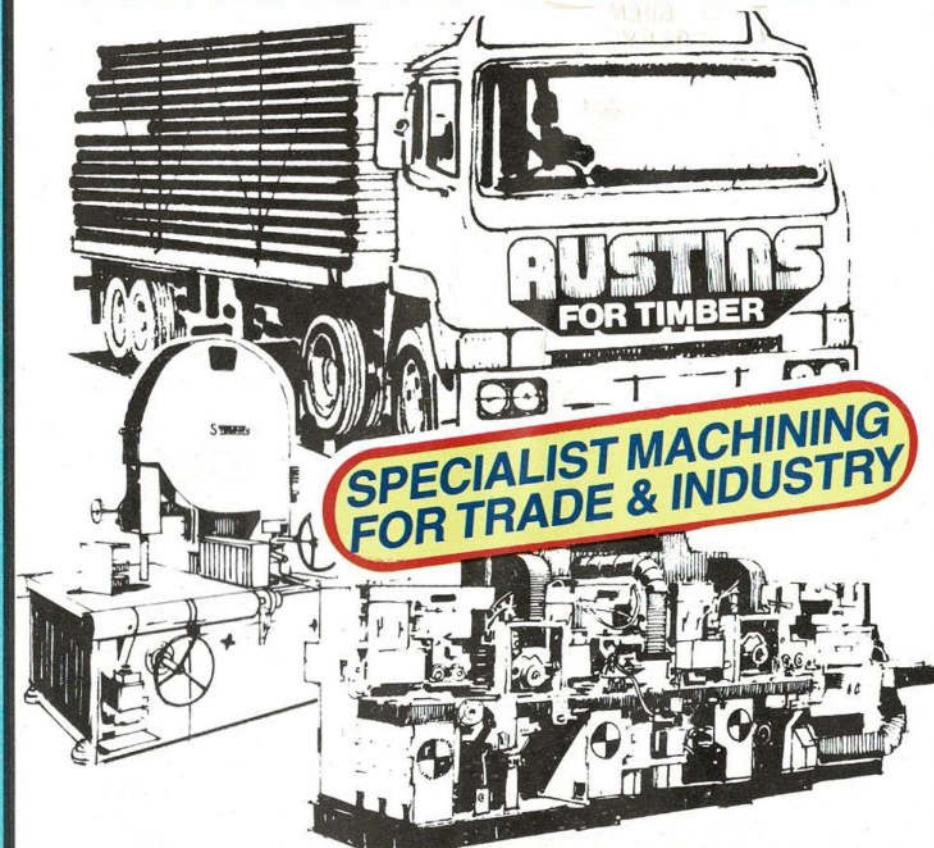
We still had the game well within our grasp, believe it or not, but we gave away two silly tries inside five minutes and then heads seemed to drop.

Leigh must be something of a hoodoo side to us. They put 40 points past us in the Lancashire Cup last season and although we got the right result in the first round of last year's competition we didn't play well.

Last Sunday's performance was probably our worst this season, but we know what we are capable of and there is no reason to panic so long as we learn from the experience.

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