

OLDHAM Team Check BARROW

JEFF EDWARDS	1	STEVE TICKLE
PAUL SHERMAN	2	MICK JAMES
DES FOY	3	TONY KAY
GARY WARNECKE	4	BRIAN BLACKER
MIKE TAYLOR	5	LES QUIRK
DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.)	6	NICKY MUIR
PADDY KIRWAN	7	DAVID KEARNS
BRUCE CLARK	8	MARK MASKELL
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	STUART WILKINSON
DAVID HOBBS	10	DAVID WOODS
MICK WORRALL	11	RUSS WALKER
TOM NADIOLE	12	STEVE MOSSOP
STUART RAPER	13	KEVIN HASTINGS
T.B.A.	14	DAVE KENDALL
T.B.A.	15	NORMAN TURLEY

Referee: G. F. Tickle Touch Judges: M. J. Hesketh, A. J. Brown

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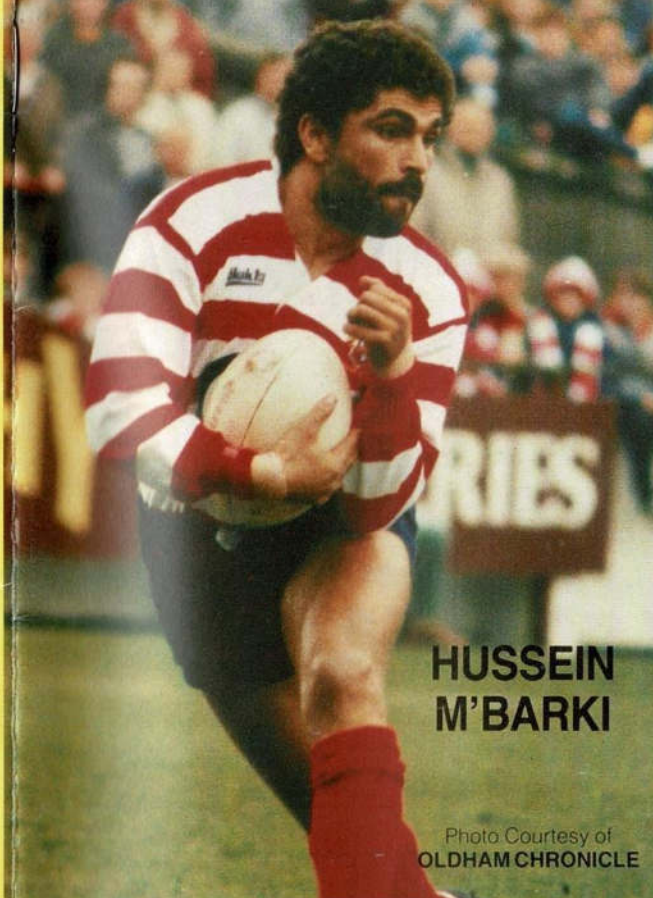


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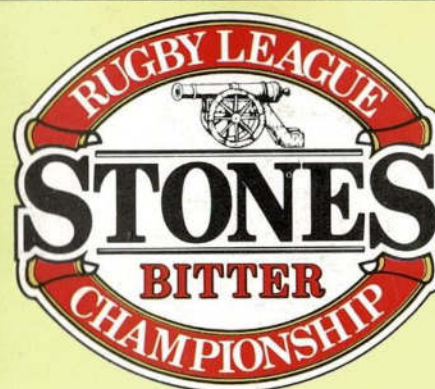
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Today's Match Sponsor: AUSTINS TIMBER

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Stones Bitter Championship
BARROW
Sunday, 2nd November, 1986
kick off 3:00 p.m.



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Oldham Rugby League Football Club

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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, 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, C. Myler, D. Nicholson, T. Ogden, A. Taylor, D. Topliss, G. Walczack, S. Raper

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

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

May we take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all our supporters for the magnificent way they got behind us in the Lancashire Cup final.

The crowd for the Oldham-Wigan match at Knowsley Road, St. Helens, was a tremendous 20,180, producing receipts of more than \$60,000 – another sign of the increasing popularity of the Rugby League code.

A large slice of that crowd came from Oldham and we would like to place on record that the club and the players are extremely grateful for the backing they received up to and on the big day.

We are now looking to do just as well in future competitions this season and the support you gave us at St Helens and back in the social club at night makes us all the more determined to put a trophy on the sideboard at last.

We got back to winning ways with a crowd-pleasing 54-10 win at Wakefield last Sunday, but unfortunately the occasion was marred by a serious shoulder injury to Gary Bridge, who probably faces a lay-off of several weeks.

Best wishes to Gary for a speedy recovery, especially with the John Player Special Trophy about to start soon.

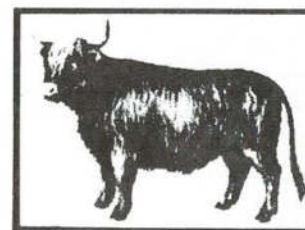
Finally, don't forget our big match against the Australians on Tuesday night. The match is all-ticket, so don't delay if you haven't purchased already.

Incidentally, it IS important we get a good crowd and as teh Aussies are something special who only come to these shores every four years why not try to bring some friends and workmates too. Remember... our game is on the up and up. It is up to all of us to try and "sell" it even more.

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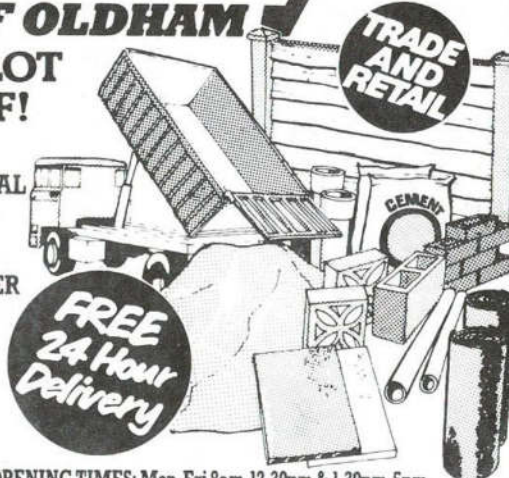
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WELCOME TO THE

Like most teams coming from the Second Division, Barrow have found it a most difficult transition after finishing runners-up to Leigh in the Second Division campaign of 1985-86.

They had a marvellous result on the opening day of the season when they trounced Hull K.R. 24-6 at home, but that early promise has not really been maintained and the Shibuilders will be coming to Watersheddings today determined to become the first side to win here this season.

Of their four Australians, the best known is without doubt the Easter Suburbs (Sydney) player Kevin Hastings, who commands an exceedingly high reputation Down Under and has maintained his form in England. Hastings, said to be one of the best uncapped players in Australia, is best known as a scrum-half, but like most Aussies he is a very versatile performer, and his wide variety of skills have also been put to good use for Barrow at outside-half and loose-forward.

Prop Mark Maskell, from the Brisbane club, Souths, has also made an impact at Craven Park this season, playing an outstanding game against Hull K.R. to produce a result that made the rest of the League sit up and take note.

Parramatta reserve grade prop David Woods and Easts (Brisbane) stand-off Nicky Muir have also been brought across the world to try and enhance Barrow's bid to consolidate in the First Division this time.

Barrow had five players in the Cumbrian county team which recently tackled the Australian tourists at Craven Park, headed by scrum-half David Cairns, who captained his county team on that occasion. Also in the side were second-row Steve Mossop, winger Mick James, centre Tony Kay and prop Dave Kendall.

A reserve for Cumbria was a sixth Craven Park man in winger Les Quirk, who is a player with terrific pace that has earned him international recognition for Great Britain at both Colts and Under 21 levels.

BARROW BOYS

That long-serving stalwart Steve Tickle continues to perform well at full-back, with Quirk and James on the wings and coach Ivor Kelland choosing his centres in the main from Tony McNicholl, Tony Kay and former Huddersfield player Brian Blacker.

With Cairns holding down the No. 7 position, Hastings has been used at outside-half, but he has also figured at loose-forward with fellow Aussie Nicky Muir pushing for a place at outside-half. The half-backs today seem certain to come from Cairns, Hastings and Muir.

Mark Maskell will be at No. 8, but Barrow have suffered somewhat from a severe shoulder injury received by first-choice hooker John Lightfoot. They have tried Stuart Wilkinson and Dane Carter in the No. 9 jersey and it is expected that Carter will be hooking today with local lad Kendall or Aussie Woods at blind-side.

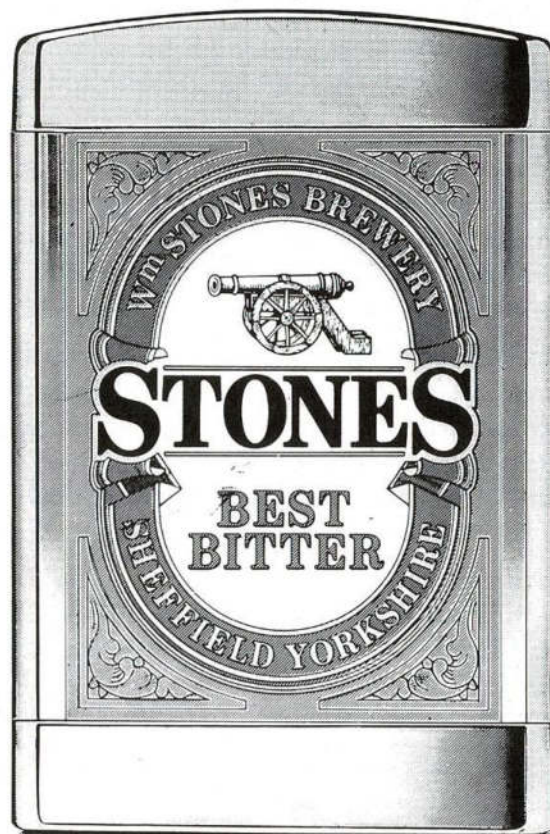
Russ Walker and Steve Mossop, two Barrow boys, form the second-row oftener than not, with either Hastings or former Oldham player Norman Turley at No. 13. Turley, who has given service to Warrington, Blackpool, Rochdale Hornets and Oldham, is now in the twilight of his career, but he can always be relied upon to kick for touch superbly, break defences with delicate chips, or drop vital goals.

Barrow followed up their victory over Hull K.R. with a 24-12 win at Salford, but they have had an exceedingly hard programme to date, and they badly need to pick up precious points now to drag themselves away from the bottom four relegation zone.

Early in the season, their defence was sound and solid, but in more recent matches the tackling and covering has not been so good, although they have continued to throw the ball around and attack convincingly.

Barrow shudder at the thought of returning to the Second Division and as there will be four teams to take the drop this time they will be all the more determined to get their act together as soon as possible – even if it means entering the transfer market.

*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

John Fieldhouse, the Widnes and Great Britain forward, looks set to join St Helens in a straight swop for Britain's former international loose-forward Harry Pinner. If the deal has gone through in time, Fieldhouse might be playing his first game for St Helens today against the Australian tourists, who then come to Oldham on Tuesday night.

Wakefield Trinity, beaten 54-10 by Oldham at Belle Vue last Sunday, are on the look-out for a running forward and have been linked with Bob Eccles and Alan Rathbone of Warrington.

The draw for the preliminary and first rounds of the John Player Special Trophy were made at Salford on Thursday and, by now, Oldham will know their fate. The competition is the 16th in a 20-year support of Rugby League by Imperial Tobacco Limited and makes the John Player 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 battle with the demands of the ground safety regulations.

The Oldham club's overseas players – Gary Bridge, Stuart Raper, Gary Warnecke, Bruce Clark and Hussein M'Barki – are currently involved in promotional work on behalf of the club and are available for presentations, hospital visits, official openings and that sort of function. The players will be delighted to help worthy causes by their attendance but we do ask that requests and invitations are extended to them via our commercial department. Contact Peter Foxcroft in the commercial building or phone 620-4870.

Since the scheme was announced, the boys have performed at various functions, including a boxing dinner at Uppermill, the presentation of coaching awards for youngsters, and the presentation of a cheque to a local children's ward by Mr John Gerrard and Mr Dave Terry.

The Australian tourists, who come to Oldham on Tuesday for the first time since they won 44-10 here in 1973, look like enjoying a cash bonanza from the 16th Kangaroos tour of Great Britain and France. A magnificent crowd of 30,000 watched them at Wigan on the opening day of the tour, there was a 10,000 crowd at Leeds, and then that record 50,000 attendance at Old Trafford, Manchester last Saturday which produced record receipts of between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

Thoughts now turn to the second Test at Elland Road, Leeds, next Saturday, and the visit of the tourists to Watersheddings for the all-ticket match on Tuesday. It is important that Oldham fans turn out in force on Tuesday – not only to give the Aussies the welcome they truly deserve but to confirm the faith shown in League fans of this area by those who arrange tour programmes.

Despite our current ground difficulties, the Oldham club won a place on the itinerary ahead of Warrington, so let's make sure we repay that faith in a bid to top the near 7,000 crowd which watched the tourists at Hull K.R.

Due to the fact that the game is being played in the evening, under floodlights, we are somewhat restricted in what we can do in terms of providing pre-match and half-time entertainment, but you will be pleased to know that we have engaged the services of that highly-popular Boarhurst Brass Band of Greenfield to entertain you on the night. Make a special effort to turn up and try and bring a friend or workmate. It is an important event for the Oldham club.

St Helens are reported to be interested in two more members of the Kangaroos touring party in addition to Mal Meninga, who is due to return to Knowsley Road next season on a long-term contract. Full-back Gary Belcher and half-back Des Hasler are the latest Saints targets.

I hear that Rochdale are trying to get Eric Hughes out of retirement... Wigan are being linked with Aussie prop Steve Roach... Salford have signed New Zealander Terry O'Shea.

Grunhalle Lancashire Cup

Sixteen teams who took part in the Grunhalle Lancashire Cup, one of the top regional events in Rugby League, shared £15,000 worth of prize money at a finals day ceremony at St. Helens on Sunday, 19th October.

(photo right): Mr Paul Clubb (left), managing director of Grunhalle Lager International, sponsors of the knockout contest, presents a £2,150 cheque to Keith Potter, vice chairman of losing finalists Oldham.

Wigan, the holders, picked up the £4,300 winners cheque after defeating Oldham 27-6 in the action-packed final at Knowsley Road.

Grunhalle Lager International, whose top-selling lager is brewed for the north west by Greenall Whitley, sponsored the event for the first time this year.

More than 116,000 people packed Rugby League grounds throughout the region for the cup run – the highest attendance figure for 17 years. Crowds have more than doubled in the last three years, and the final was watched by more than 20,000.



NEXT HOME MATCH

AUSTRALIA

Tuesday, 4th November, 1986 kick off 7.30 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	8	4	0	0	152	59	4	0	0	148	40	16
Bradford	9	3	0	1	85	61	4	0	1	118	77	14
Widnes	8	4	0	0	136	58	2	0	2	98	81	12
Warrington	8	4	0	1	135	88	2	0	1	62	57	12
Castleford	8	3	0	0	74	29	3	0	2	93	87	12
Wigan	6	3	0	0	94	25	2	0	1	67	33	10
Hull	9	4	0	0	98	77	1	0	4	52	123	10
Halifax	9	3	0	2	96	70	1	1	2	78	94	9
Oldham	7	3	0	0	64	40	1	0	3	98	92	8
Hull K.R.	8	3	0	2	116	106	1	0	2	52	66	8
Leigh	9	2	0	2	80	84	1	0	4	92	172	6
Featherstone	8	2	1	2	118	115	0	0	3	33	85	5
Leeds	7	2	0	2	103	74	0	0	3	30	72	4
Barrow	9	1	0	4	78	104	1	0	3	64	92	4
Wakefield	8	0	0	3	38	98	0	0	5	65	160	0
Salford	9	0	0	4	42	118	0	0	5	56	178	0

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SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunslet	8	4	0	0	116	35	4	0	0	108	29	16
Blackpool	9	3	0	1	73	56	5	0	0	140	60	16
Swinton	7	4	0	0	164	47	3	0	0	70	32	14
Runcorn	8	4	0	1	126	68	2	1	0	41	34	13
Sheffield	9	4	0	1	121	66	2	0	2	127	98	12
Whitehaven	9	4	0	0	116	38	1	0	4	52	84	10
Doncaster	8	2	0	2	86	64	3	0	1	76	68	10
Batley	8	1	0	2	44	26	3	0	2	89	121	8
Huddersfield	9	1	0	3	71	91	3	0	2	100	99	8
York	9	3	0	2	84	92	1	0	3	64	80	8
Bramley	8	2	0	1	52	57	2	0	3	63	124	8
Carlisle	10	3	1	1	77	78	0	0	5	62	111	7
Rochdale	7	3	0	1	64	43	0	0	3	20	61	6
Dewsbury	8	2	0	2	67	48	0	0	4	50	112	4
Fulham	5	1	0	2	81	104	0	0	2	30	52	2
Workington	9	1	0	4	101	127	0	0	4	33	103	2
Mansfield	8	1	0	3	87	97	0	0	4	47	138	2
Keighley	9	1	0	3	37	85	0	0	5	50	161	2

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OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1986-87

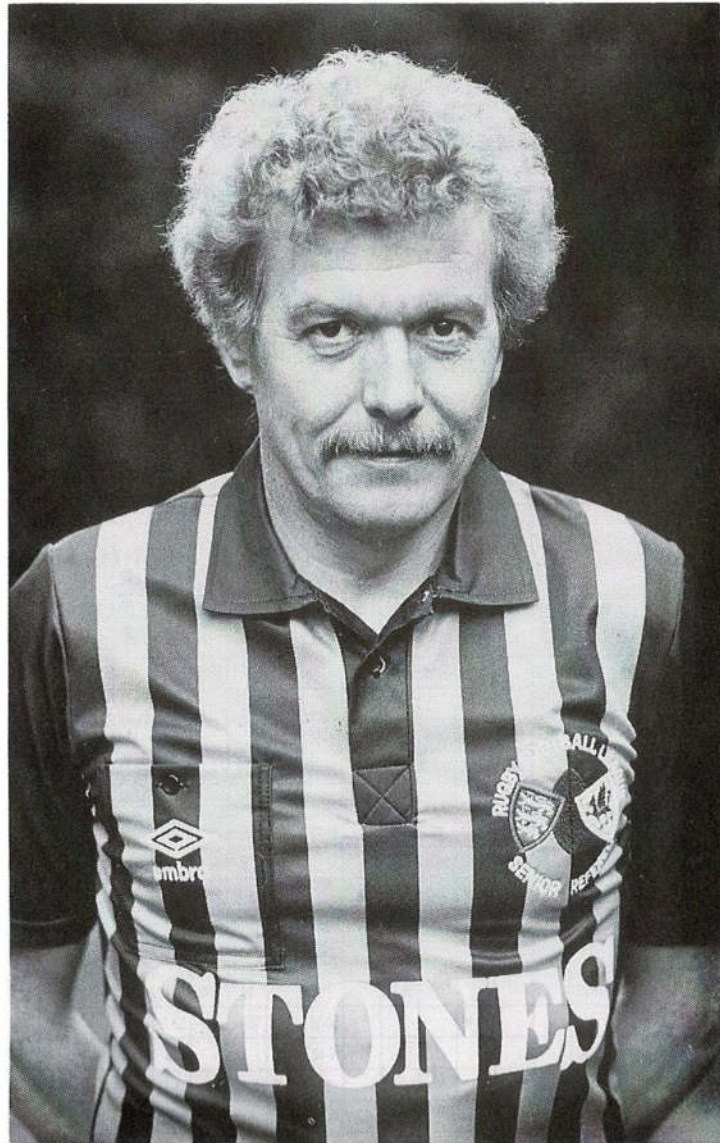
	Opponents	Att.	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug	31 LEEDS	4,621	14	12	Atkinson IT 1G	M'Barki	Foy IT	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 2DG	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 1G	Hawkyard	Worrall	Kirwan (10)	Nadiole (4)
Sept	3 HALIFAX (7-30)	4,869	14	20	Atkinson IT	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor IT	Topliss	Ashton	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 1DG 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 1G 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	Raper	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.)	5,601	16	14	M'Barki	Sherman IT	Bridge	Warnecke	Edwards	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs IT 4G	Nadiole	Worrall	Raper	Kirwan	Hawkyard
Oct	5 WIDNES	3,875	22	16	Edwards	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke IT	Atkinson IT	Topliss	Kirwan	Jones	Hall	Clark IT	Hobbs IT	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Ogburn	Casey
	19 WIGAN (Final L.C.C.)	20,180	6	27	M'Barki	Sherman	Bridge IT	Warnecke	Atkinson	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 1G	Worrall	Nadiole	Raper	Hawkyard	Clawson
	26 WAKEFIELD TRINITY (3-30)	2,740	54	10	Edwards	Sherman IT	Foy 3T	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss IT	Bridge	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 6G	Worrall 1G, IT	Raper IT	Ashton IT	Hawkyard
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		12-23	16-17	24-6						12-34			
Bradford	36-20	■	12-7												27-14	10-20
Castleford			■	16-7		16-6							42-16			
Featherstone				■	16-16			50-16		16-6				22-19	14-48	
Halifax			12-16		■	28-16		23-8		20-14				13-16		
Hull		27-22			28-23	■			31-26				12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30		36-14		29-6	■		35-20			4-36				
Leeds		4-12		33-12				■			46-10	20-40				
Leigh									■	40-12				22-17	18-20	0-35
Oldham						28-12	14-12			■					22-16	
Salford	12-24	12-22				14-34					■	4-38				
St Helens					38-16			50-18			32-14	■	32-11			
Wakefield		22-32						6-12	10-54				■			
Warrington			20-26							22-18	42-14			28-18	■	23-12
Widnes	26-14		29-20					35-10						48-14		■
Wigan	18-6					34-7					42-12					■

TODAY'S REFEREE:

FRANK TICKLE

Date of Birth: 26/10/45 Grade One 1984-85



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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 Barrow 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.

Away by Coach to Hull K.R.

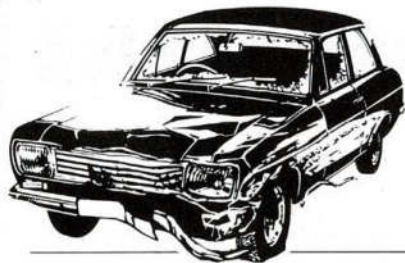
SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER, 1986

Leave club at 12 noon - £4.20 Adults; £3.20 Juniors

AWAY BY CAR: End of M62 junction 38; follow signs Hull A63; Hull (city centre); follow signs Bridlington A165 to leave by Holderness Road for Hull K.R. ground on right. Thanks to all our sponsors for the Rugby Queen Mrs Fay Bowden, Mr Brian Dunkerly, Mr Derek Dunkerly, Mr David Lord, B.C.C. Cleaners, Acorn Units, Derker.

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... on the Old Trafford bonanza

What a masterstroke it was to take last Saturday's first Whitbread Trophy Bitter Test between Great Britain and Australia to the home of Manchester United, Old Trafford.

The traditionalists offered some opposition when the idea was first approached, putting forward such negative arguments about keeping League on League grounds, and ensuring that maximum money from the Test remained within our game. Had that sort of philosophy been listened to more than 50 years ago, the Rugby League Challenge Cup final would never have been taken to Wembley.

The feeling at RL headquarters about the venues for the current Test series against the Aussies was simply this . . . to promote the game fully, to give it the exposure and projection it deserves, you must put all that is best in Rugby League (and you can't get much better than Great Britain versus Australia) in the best and biggest stadium available to you.

League public relations man David Howes has long believed that the modern-day Rugby League man WILL pay good money to see the BEST . . . and especially if he's seeing it in a stadium providing maximum spectator attraction and comfort.

That was the reasoning behind the introduction of Leeds United's Elland Road ground as a regular League venue some years ago. It has been proved time and time again that more and more people these days want to watch our code's big matches from seats in the stand. Our own Lancashire Cup final against Wigan was a seating sell-out almost before the tickets went on sale. Tickets for the third test at Wigan on November 22nd were sold out weeks ago, and the best £8 seats for the second Test at Elland Road next Saturday have long since gone, although there are seats at £7 and £6 still available.

The beauty of Elland Road is that it has so many more seats than either Headingley or Central Park – the only two RL grounds that could be considered these days for staging a Test. The economics of the game demand that if people want seats they have to be provided if at all possible . . . and that's where Old Trafford scores with its staggering total of 26,000 seats.

Proof of the success of the League's move to Old Trafford came early when it was announced that all 26,000 seats had been sold. It then seemed only a matter of time – and a dry day – before the League could boast a record Test crowd for this country. In the event it was the worst possible day, but the crowd of 50,583 easily beat the previous record of 42,000 established at Odsal in January, 1949.

One wonders if the Old Trafford capacity of 56,000 would have been reached had it not been such a terrible day, with high winds and driving rain for several hours before the match. People came from all over the country and the British Amateur Rugby League Association played its part as well by giving clubs permission to postpone matches if they wished.

Recognising the appeal of the event and the venue, BBC Sport on 2 and BBC TV Grandstand both mounted their Saturday afternoon programmes from Old Trafford and, at long last, our code received the media attention it has long deserved. It was a pity the British performance did not match up . . . but well done everyone for, in the main, giving League another leg-up the ladder in the popularity stakes.

The first Test will surely be only the start of a long and happy association between Old Trafford and the Rugby Football League.

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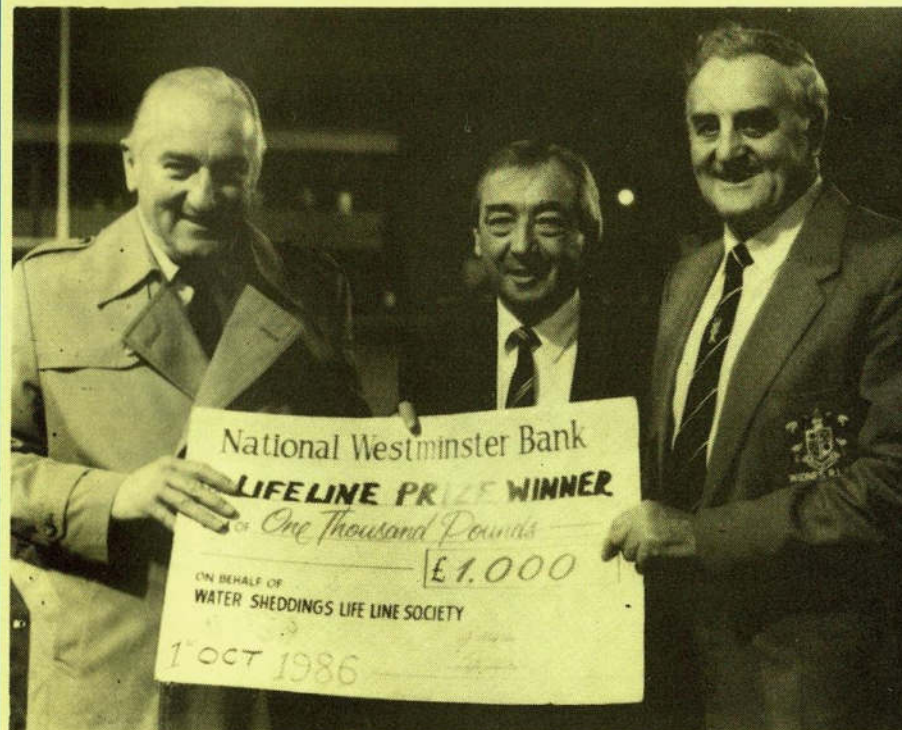


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COMMERCIAL CORNER



Our Lifeline scheme continues to prove popular and the Saddleworth Rangers amateur RL Club recently became the second local amateur club to win £1,000 (left to right): Ken Fisher (Saddleworth Rangers) Les Bostock (Lifeline), Tom Smith of Widnes RLFC, who made the presentation.



Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

DAVID
HOBBS

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

To lose in the Lancashire Cup final to Wigan was a disappointment for everyone at the club, but at least we got there and we now have to make sure we learn from our mistakes to stand us in good stead for all the other competitions coming up.

Three or four doubtful decisions did not go our way and in the ten minutes either side of half-time we went from 6-0 ahead to 10-6 behind. Wigan should not have been in front at half-time. We relaxed at the very time we shouldn't have done, and you can't afford to do that in a cup final.

We did well in the first half and I was encouraged by many aspects of our play. Sadly, our heads went down when we slipped to 16-6 down and that's another lesson from which we can learn. With a try and goal worth six points nowadays, a 12-point deficit can soon be pulled back and we must get into the habit of sticking in there.

Heads should not go down and I think they did on this occasion. I was disappointed about that more than anything.

On the credit side, I thought we were much the better side in the first half. I thought we created four first-half chances, although we took only one. I didn't think Wigan had created a single chance until Bell came out of his own 25 to put Ford over.

We also have to get into the habit of taking our chances. Chances created do not win trophies — only chances that are turned into points.

We are now looking forward to the visit of the Australians on Tuesday. That we face a formidable task is widely acknowledged by everyone, but you can rest assured we intend to make a game of it and I hope you will all turn up and bring a friend so that we get maximum support from the terraces.

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