

OLDHAM Team Check ST HELENS

HUSSEIN M'BARKI	1	PHIL VIEVERS
PAUL SHERMAN	2	BARRY LEDGER
DES FOY	3	PAUL LOUGHLIN
GARY WARNECKE	4	STEVE HALLIWELL
MIKE TAYLOR	5	KEVIN McCORMACK
DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.)	6	BRETT CLARK
RAY ASHTON	7	NEIL HOLDING
BRUCE CLARK	8	PAT JARVIS/TONY BURKE
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	GRAHAM LIPTROTT
NEIL CLAWSON	10	JOHN FIELDHOUSE/PAUL FORBER
MICK WORRALL	11	ANDY PLATT
TOM NADIOLE	12	ROY HAGGERTY
STUART RAPER	13	CHRIS ARKWRIGHT
T.B.A.	14	T.B.A.
T.B.A.	15	T.B.A.

Referee: G. Berry Touch Judges: P.M. Oliver, J. Fishwick

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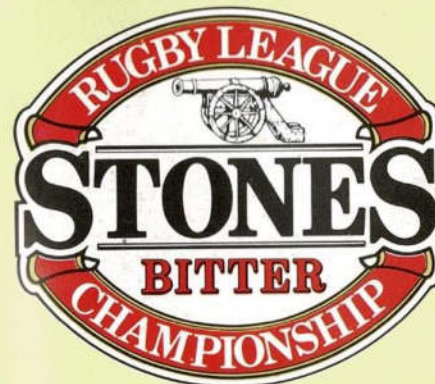
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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

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ST. HELENS

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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

We trust you all enjoyed that marvellous night on Tuesday of last week when we played – and shocked – the Australian tourists.

Many fans have since expressed the view that it was the best game they have seen for years, so we hope you will all stick with us and encourage a friend or work mate to come, too.

Oldham did everyone proud that night and it was gratifying to see some marvellous match reports in the Press as well as some good comments for Oldham in the build-up to the second Test.

“Follow Oldham” screamed a Manchester Evening News headline over Jack MacNamara’s second Test preview in which he pointed out that Great Britain could take a leaf out of Oldham’s book.

Alan Thomas in the Daily Express also made reference to what Oldham had achieved when setting the Elland Road scene... and it just goes to show what good publicity can be obtained if a team does well in a major match.

Just such another match is today’s encounter with unbeaten First Division leaders St Helens, who have not been beaten in the League for a record 22 games.

How the League would sit up if we retained our unbeaten home record (the Aussie match apart) and topped the Saints at last!

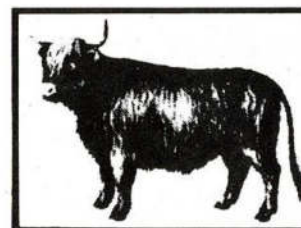
Matches of this nature are fast becoming commonplace, of course, at Watersheddings this season.

Three home games in the Lancashire Cup was followed by the Aussie match, today we have a crowd-puller with Saints, and in a fortnight we are at home again in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy to a side that is hot on the heels of Saints at the top of the League – Bradford Northern.

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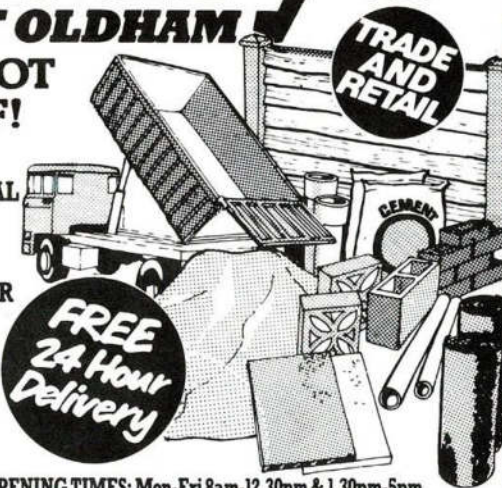
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SAINTS ALIVE . . . and HOW!

The St Helens side that comes to Watersheddings today has gone a record 22 League games without defeat and deservedly set the pace at the top of the First Division. In League football, Saints were last beaten by Bradford Northern, surprisingly enough at Knowsley Road, in January of this year, so they obviously fancy their chances of taking the League championship home this season. As Oldham are unbeaten at home in domestic competition this season — only the Aussies have won here — there should be a titanic struggle today and a match worthy of what could well be our biggest game of the season.

Good fortune on the injury front often makes all the difference between a good side and winning the title and just missing out. To that end, Saints have fared pretty well this season so far as their back line is concerned and up to and including last Sunday's game at Featherstone, positions 1 to 7 had been virtually the same all season. A full-back, Saints possess Aussie Phil Veivers from Brisbane Souths, now in his third season at Knowsley Road and a very reliable full back. Speed merchant Barrie Ledger, who got a call-up to play for Britain last Sunday against Australia, is always dangerous on the right wing.

In the centres are two youngsters — Paul Loughlin and Wigan-born Steve Halliwell, who emigrated with his parents to Australia when he was a small boy. Halliwell came back last year to play for Leigh where he was top try scorer in their Second Division championship winning side. He has continued his try-scoring feats with Saints, but is exempt from the overseas quota, so Saints still have four overseas stars in Veivers, stand-off Brett Clark from Western Suburbs, Sydney St George prop Pat Jarvis and New Zealand Test back Mark Elia, who is currently struggling to overcome a hamstring injury. Kevin McCormick — no relation to Stan — is on the left-wing, with Aussie Clark at stand-off and local lad Neil Holding at the base of the scrum.

Holding, as quick and elusive as ever, forms a dangerous half-back partnership with Clark, operating behind a strong and mobile pack which always take some holding. Having served a two-match suspension, Aussie prop Jarvis should be back in the Saints line-up today to do battle with Bruce Clark. Roy Haggerty's appearance was in some doubt as he was due to have a trial-by-video at the disciplinary committee on Thursday, but coach Alex Murphy still has plenty of pack talent from which to choose.

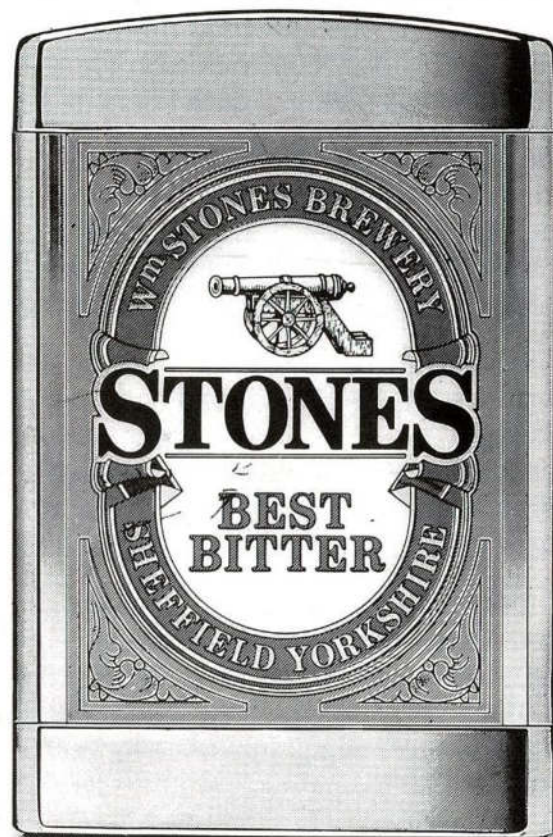
Graham Liptrot needs no introduction as hooker, while the forward resources have seen a major change in the swop of Harry Pinner for John Fieldhouse. Big Tony Burke is going well at prop, so Fieldhouse may have to fight for his place in the second-row alongside Andy Platt, who was great Britain's substitute in the first two Tests.

Paul Round is also on hand for a call-up if necessary while Chris Arkwright has taken over the loose-forward job that was once exclusively Pinner's and has made such a good job of it that he would surely have been to the fore in Maurice Bamford's Test plans but for problems associated with his full-time employment.

There appears to be a rich seam of talent at Knowsley Road this season — as, indeed, there usually is — and when Kiwi Elia is fit to resume his playing career it will be a case of who to leave out of the back Division. The New Zealander arrived with hamstringing trouble after playing for the Te Atatu club that our own Craig Coyle and Alan Sinclair played for when they were here three seasons ago.

Local rivals Wigan knocked out of the Lancashire Cup after a thrilling Cerntral Park semi-final. That will only strengthen the resolve of the Knowsley Road men to do well in the other competitions over the rest of the season, and they are already emerging as favourites for the Stones Bitter championship.

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Around the League . . . with Roughyed

Big-spending Wigan are being linked with a possible move for another overseas star. The sale of South African Nick Du Toit to Barrow has created space on the Central Park overseas quota for another recruit and the word is that Wigan want to fill it and have been checking on the short-term availability of several players on current Aussie tour.

Test prop Steve Roach, who dislocated a shoulder in the win at St Helens and had to miss the Second Test last Saturday, is said to be a possible target for Wigan as well as full back Gary Jack, centre Gene Miles, prop Greg Dowling and even Wayne Pearce, who missed the tour because of injury.

At the time of writing, Phil Fox looked set to move from Leigh to Leeds in a straight cash deal. The winger was on the Leigh list at \$25,000 and Leeds are clearly determined to fill their back division with pace and scoring potential, having bought Carl Gibson last season and followed up this year with the recruitment of Aussie centres Andrew Ettingshausen and Mark McGaw plus the \$50,000 capture of Great Britain squad centre Andy Mason from Bramley.

To help balance the books, prop Brendan Hill is available at \$35,000. He was first linked in a possible exchange deal with Leigh for Fox, but that did not materialise and it was then reported that both Oldham and Bradford Northern were interested in obtaining the big forward's services.

Oldham have also re-opened talks with Warrington for utility man Dave Allen. His \$5,000 transfer to Watersheddings was due to go through at the start of the season but it had to be shelved when the player needed a knee operation. Now Allen is due to resume training soon – he sees the specialist for all-clear next week – and Oldham have already had further talks with both Warrington and the player himself.

Frank Myler would still like Allen to add to his squad, but both he and the committee are anxious to establish that the player is over his injury completely before the deal is signed, sealed and delivered.

Oldham have also been busy in the Union market over the past few months, but the signing they hoped to complete by the end of last month has fallen through as the player in question has decided he wants to pursue his Union ambitions for another year at least.

Oldham have drawn a cracking tie against championship-chasing Bradford Northern in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy. The draw was made recently at Salford and Oldham's good fortune held fast on two counts. First, they escaped coming out of the hat for the preliminary round and then they were again given a home tie – the seventh consecutive time they have come out of the hat first in knock-out competitions – in the first round proper.

Our home tie now follows three home matches in the Challenge Cup last season – against Carlisle, Warrington and Bradford – and another hat-trick of 'home' wins in this season's Lancashire Cup against Leigh, Workington and Widnes.

It all adds up to a feast of top-class Rugby League for Oldham fans in the next week or two. After today's game against leaders Saints, we travel to Odsal next Sunday for a League game, and then play them again here in the Trophy the following week.

Former Oldham stalwart Mick Morgan refuses to accept that retirement is inevitable . . . even at the age of 38 and despite a broken arm. Mick smashed his arm in a recent 'A' team match for Castleford and has since had a plate inserted. But he has no thoughts of quitting and hopes to be back in action in the Wheldon Road reserve side by Christmas.

Another evergreen player in the news is Eric Hughes. The former Great Britain player, who gained eight Great Britain caps between 1978 and 1982, has joined Rochdale Hornets, who are looking to him to use his vast experience to weld the Athletic Grounds attack together.

Praise for Oldham from no less an authority than Sydney's top League commentator Rex Mossop. Older fans will remember Mossop as a leading forward for Leigh and Australia in the 1950's. Now, he has made a big name for himself in Sydney broadcasting. He was here for our recent game against the tourists to provide the commentary for Sydney's Channel 10 TV station that recorded the full game for viewing down under. He was full of admiration for the footballing skills of Oldham's forwards – "The Oldham forwards were more constructive than Australia's," he said, and liked the look of the size of the home pack.

Half-backs David Topliss and Ray Ashton were also praised by Mossop, and there was also praise for Oldham from Barrow Coach Ivor Kelland after our win here against the Shipbuilders. It was not one of our better displays, but Kelland was heard to remark later: "Oldham are some side. I was very impressed. They're a big team, too."

CLUB PROFILE - ST HELENS

Phil Viewers - Full Back - Joined St Helens from Brisbane Souths at the same time as Mel Meninga in June 1984, and made an immediate impression, becoming a firm favourite with the Knowsley Road crowd. Scored 13 tries in his first season at St Helens, but by his standards had a disappointing season last term. The 1986-87 season however saw a return to form, once again putting him amongst the best full backs in the league.

Barry Ledger - Winger - Has only been a regular in the St Helens first team for three seasons, but in that time has become a prolific try scorer, managing over 90 touchdowns for the club. Made his Great Britain debut in 1985 v France his only international appearance to date. He is a former Colts international who made his first team debut in 1981. On occasions has played stand off, and can also kick goals. He father Eric was also a Saints first teamer in the mid-fifties. Recently recalled to the Great Britain squad for the second test v Australia.

Paul Loughlin - Centre - Product of the Saints youth policy. Played for Great Britain in his Colts days. Gained a regular first team spot when the Saints Australian imports returned home last season. Has played in the full back, wing and centre positions, and ended last season as the clubs regular goal kicker, and indeed continued as regular kicker this season, breaking the club record with 16 goals and 40 points in the teams 112-0 win over Carlisle in the Lancashire Cup 1986.

Shaun Allen - Centre - Joined St Helens in the close season of 1983 from the amateur team Hare and Hounds. Has captained Great Britain Colts and played for Great Britain Under 24s. Gained a regular first team spot last season when the Australians returned home. Can adapt equally to the second row or loose forward spots.

Mark Elia - Centre - New Zealander who played in this country in 1985 with the New Zealand tourists, after playing with Kent/Southend Invicta for two seasons scoring 34 tries for the club. Joined St Helens after the 1985 tour, where he was the tourists leading scorer. Scored a sensational interception try from 50 yards on his Saints debut. He is on a three year contract with St Helens.

Steve Halliwell - Centre - Was a shrewd signing by Alec Murphy whilst with Leigh last season. He previously played with Australian clubs St Georges, Parramatta and Penrith. Made an immediate impact at Leigh scoring 49 tries, a record in a season for a centre, topping the leagues try scoring charts. His father was a centre for Wigan and Swinton before emigrating to Australia. Steve is not classed as an overseas player as he was born in England.

Kevin McCormack - Centre/Wing - Signed from Junior Rugby in Leigh last season, an excellent 18-year-old prospect set for a good future in the professional game. Made six first team appearances last season mainly on the wing. Started this season as a first team choice again on the wing.

Brett Clark - Standoff Half - An Australian from the Western Suburbs Club in Sydney. He replaced Great Britain International Derryk Fox in his clubs team during the summer. Joined Saints when Neil Baker couldn't sign. Can play in any back position but has settled in at standoff half, and has proved to be a prolific try scorer with a terrific burst of speed especially in the opponents 25.

Paul Doherty - Standoff Half - BARLA Youth International signed from Wigan St Patricks last season. Alec Murphy has high hopes for this youngster who is another still in his teens. Scored one of the quickest tries in history, scoring after just three minutes on his debut for Saints in the thrashing of Cup finalists Castleford 62-12 last season.

Mark Bailey - Half Back - Signed as an 18-year-old from Leigh Miners' Welfare in May 1985. Has represented Lancashire Colts and was a member of last year's successful Alliance team. Made his debut last season playing mainly as a winger, where he appeared several times in the latter part of last season. Started the season as the first choice stand off, but lost his place to Aussie Brett Clark, moving to scrum half in the Alliance team.

Neil Holding - A former schoolboy international, who turned professional on his 17th birthday for his hometown club in 1977, and since then has made over 200 appearances, and scored over 100 tries for the club. Made his first test debut in 1984 and made four international appearances in all. Very quick around the scrums. A very busy character in traditional scrum half mould.

Paul Forber - Prop - Was a colts international in 1983, two years after turning professional.

Although prior to the 1986-87 season he was never a regular first teamer he was selected to play in last seasons 'War of the Roses' match by Alec Murphy while he was still the Coach of Leigh. Paul started off the current season as the regular prop with some tremendous performances. Has a brother coming through the junior ranks, who played for the Great Britain Youth team last season.

Graham Liptrott - Hooker - Signed for Saints from Colts rugby in 1973, graduating to first team rugby the same season. Has played in close to 350 first team games for Saints. He has played international rugby for England, but despite being in the Great Britain squad has never played for Great Britain. Injury has always plagued him, breaking his jaw on no fewer than four occasions, the last time causing him to retire at the end of the 1984-85 season. Such was his enthusiasm for the game that he returned to the game early last season to reclaim a first team place. This season he played for Lancashire in the 'War of the Roses' game.

David Harrison - David Harrison - Hooker - Formerly with Waterloo Rugby Union club. Joined Saints after successful trials in the Alliance side in March 1985. Signed mainly as cover for Graham Liptrott, and always gives 100% in the loose making up for his lack of experience in the professional game. St Helens Alliance Player of the Season last term.

Pat Jarvis - Prop - Another player from the legendary Australian club Sydney St George. Played his only Test match v New Zealand in 1983. A Sydney Policeman by profession. A prop in typical Australian mould.

Tony Burke - Prop - Started his career with Leeds, before moving to St Helens in exchange for Gary Moorby in 1983. Started off in grand form with the Saints but a loss of form made him dissolusioned with the game and he stayed away for a while. He returned to regain his first team place last season, but this term the signing of Pat Jarvis and the form of Paul Forber have seen him relegated to the substitute position. Man of the Match in St Helens recent match against the touring Australians.

John Fieldhouse - Prop - Started his professional career with Warrington after signing from Wigan St Patrick's in 1980, gaining a regular first team place with Warrington in the 1981-82 season. Made his Great Britain Under 24s debut v France in January 1983, scoring a try, and also appeared as sub the following December also against France. His full international debut came v New Zealand in October 1985 at Headingley. Prior to the current series v Australia he had made five full appearances for Great Britain, three at prop and two at second row. Joined Widnes in a part exchange deal which involved Andy Gregory moving to Warrington in January 1985. Made nearly 50 appearances for Widnes before again moving in an exchange deal which involved Harry Pinner in November 1986.

Andy Platt - Utility Forward - One time captain of Great Britain Under 19s joining Saints from Wigan St Patricks in 1982. Started off as a centre before switching to the pack where he has occupied every position. Made his Test debut in 1985 v France. A tremendous all round performer, who has an excellent tackle count and has scored over 40 tries for the club. Brother Duncan plays for Widnes.

Roy Haggerty - Second Row - Leading try scorer with the club last season with 21. Without doubt the Saints crowd favourite, being one of today's great characters. Not the biggest forward, but his heart makes up for his lack of weight. A former Colts international who has successfully made the conversion from the centre to the second row, has a tremendous side step and a good turn of speed. Played for Lancashire in this season's 'War of the Roses' and is certainly an international prospect.

Paul Round - Second Row - Yet another product of the Saints Colts machine. (Who says the Colts League should be scrapped?). Turned professional in 1981. He is also a Great Britain under 21's international. An exciting running forward who has also played on the wing.

Chris Arkwright - Loose Forward - Has spent all his professional career at Knowsley Road making his first team debut in 1978. Started as a centre, moved to standoff, but has been successfully moved to the pack, where he has featured at prop, second row loose forward. Third generation of the family to play for St Helens after his grandfather and father. Made his Great Britain debut in the Test series against New Zealand last season. Club captain this season, and described by Alec Murphy and the best loose forward in the game today.

NEXT HOME MATCH

Bradford Northern

Sunday, 30th November, 1986 kick off 3 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	9	4	0	0	152	59	5	0	0	192	48	18
Wigan	9	4	0	0	156	35	4	0	1	113	39	16
Widnes	10	5	0	0	162	66	3	0	2	116	97	16
Bradford	10	4	0	1	126	63	4	0	1	118	77	16
Warrington	10	5	0	1	177	98	3	0	1	87	67	16
Castleford	10	4	0	1	99	49	3	0	2	93	87	14
Halifax	10	3	0	2	96	70	2	1	2	106	114	11
OLDHAM	9	4	0	0	96	60	1	0	4	102	98	10
Hull KR	10	4	0	2	122	110	1	0	3	60	92	10
Hull	11	4	0	1	108	109	1	0	5	62	165	10
Leeds	9	2	0	2	103	74	2	0	3	90	96	8
Leigh	11	2	0	3	100	112	1	0	5	100	191	6
Featherstone	10	2	1	3	126	159	0	0	4	35	126	5
Barrow	11	1	0	5	94	122	1	0	4	84	124	4
Wakefield	10	0	0	4	52	126	0	0	6	75	222	0
Salford	11	0	0	6	52	177	0	0	5	56	178	0

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Hunslet	10	4	0	0	116	35	6	0	0	150	46	20
Blackpool	11	3	0	2	93	78	6	0	0	161	72	18
Swinton	9	5	0	0	178	55	3	0	1	76	40	16
Sheffield	11	5	0	1	138	74	2	0	3	141	122	14
Doncaster	10	2	1	2	114	92	4	0	1	98	88	13
Runcorn	10	4	0	2	138	89	2	1	1	43	60	13
Whitehaven	11	5	0	0	142	40	1	0	5	60	98	12
York	11	4	0	3	157	128	1	0	3	64	80	10
Huddersfield	11	2	0	3	100	109	3	0	3	110	117	10
Batley	10	1	0	2	44	26	4	0	3	113	172	10
Bramley	9	3	0	1	76	71	2	0	3	63	124	10
Rochdale	9	4	0	1	98	49	0	1	3	48	89	9
Carlisle	12	4	1	2	111	114	0	0	5	62	111	9
Dewsbury	9	3	0	2	75	54	0	0	4	50	112	6
Workington	11	2	0	4	121	131	0	0	5	43	163	4
Keighley	11	1	0	4	54	103	1	0	5	76	177	4
Fulham	7	1	0	3	85	120	0	0	3	38	69	2
Mansfield	10	1	0	3	87	97	0	0	6	69	187	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 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 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	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.)	5601	16	14	M'Barki	Sherman IT	Bridge	Warnecke	Edwards	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs IT 4G	Nadiole	Worrall	Raper	Kirwan	Hawkyard
Oct	5 WIDNES	3875	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	3,306	32	20	Edwards	Sherman IT	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor IT	Warnecke	Ashton IT	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hobbs 6G IT	Worrall IT	Raper	Hawkyard	Nadiole
	4 AUSTRALIA (7-30)	5,678	16	22	Edwards	Sherman	Foy IT	Warnecke	M'Barki	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Hobbs 1G	Raper	Hawkyard IT	Nadiole
	9 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	4,481	4	6	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hawkyard	Nadiole	Worrall 2G	Edwards	Marsden
	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																		

**STONES BITTER
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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			16-18	
Bradford	36-20	■	12-7	41-2											27-14	10-20
Castleford			■	16-7	16-6				19-8				42-16		6-12	
Featherstone				■	16-16				50-16		16-6	8-44	22-19	14-48		
Halifax			12-18		■	28-16		23-8		20-14				13-18		
Hull		27-22		28-23	■	16-32	31-26						12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30		36-14		29-6	■	35-20	6-4				4-36			
Leeds		4-12		33-12				■			46-10	20-10				
Leigh					20-28				■	40-12				22-17	18-20	0-35
Oldham	32-20						28-12	14-12		■					22-16	
Salford	12-24	12-22					14-34				■	4-38	10-25		0-34	
St Helens					38-16				50-18		32-14	■	32-11			
Wakefield			22-32					14-28	6-12	10-54			■			
Warrington				20-26		42-10			22-18	42-14		28-18	■		23-12	
Widnes	26-14			29-20			26-8	35-10				48-14		■		
Wigan	18-6					34-7					42-12	62-10				■

John Player Special Trophy

The 16th season of John Player Special Trophy Rugby League kicks off with the draws for the preliminary and first rounds of the competition.

The draws were made by Don Whiting sponsored events executive of Imperial Tobacco Limited and David Wigham, chairman of the Rugby Football League, and involved all 34 professional clubs and the two amateur clubs in last season's BARLA National Cup final, Mysons of Humberside and Millom of Cumbria. First, six professional clubs were drawn to join the two amateur clubs for the preliminary round of four matches to be held on Sunday, 16th November. A second draw was then made for the first round which will involve 16 matches over the weekend of 29/30 November.

The 1986-87 John Player Special Trophy is worth a record £85,000 with £12,000 for the winner. Prize money is increased in every round. All clubs in the preliminary round and those beaten in the first round will each receive £800.

PRELIMINARY ROUND – to be played on 16th November, 1986

HALIFAX	v	YORK
WORKINGTON	v	HUDDERSFIELD
BATLEY	v	MYSONS
MILLOM	v	WAKEFIELD

FIRST ROUND – to be played on weekend 29/30 November, 1986

LEIGH	v	ROCHDALE HORNETS
HALIFAX or YORK	v	MILLOM or WAKEFIELD
WHITEHAVEN	v	ST HELENS
SALFORD	v	HULL
BLACKPOOL	v	MANSFIELD
BATLEY or MYSONS	v	SWINTON
WIGAN	v	LEEDS
DONCASTER	v	HULL K.R.
CARLISLE	v	KEIGHLEY
FULHAM	v	CASTLEFORD
BARROW	v	RUNCORN
WARRINGTON	v	HUNSLET
SHEFFIELD	v	BRAMLEY
OLDHAM	v	BRADFORD NORTHERN
FEATHERSTONE	v	WORKINGTON or HUDDERSFIELD
WIDNES	v	DEWSBURY

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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 St Helens for today's 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.

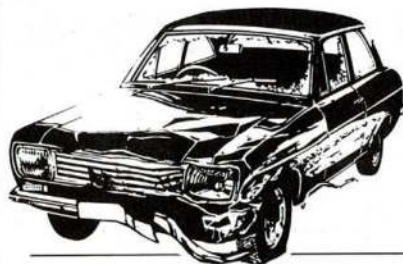
The Supporters Club subscriptions are now due. Membership £1.00 including Diary, please pay at any canteen also Junior Reds £1.00, see Joe Gallagher.

AWAY BY COACH TO BRADFORD: Coach leaves Social Club 2 p.m. - £2.90 Adult; £2.20 Junior. AWAY BY CAR: M62, Junc. 26. Follow signs Bradford M606 in 3 mile at end of motorway at roundabout take 2nd exit A6036 - SP Halifax into Rooley Lane for Bradford Northern R.L. Ground.

Could I please apologise to Mr NOEL BRADY for not including his name in acknowledgements for Sponsorship in Rugby Queen Contest. Once again thanks to all who sponsored on the night.



Hooker Terry Flanagan won the Oldham Man of the Match award against the Kangaroos. Terry is pictured receiving his Matthew Brown sponsored prizes, alongside club chairman Harvey Ashworth (left), Matthew Brown representatives and Slalom Lager girls.



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THE EDITOR TALKING

... On a Night to Remember

The Australians won't forget Tuesday, 4th November in a hurry. That was the night they came to Oldham ... the night the Invincibles mark 2 almost came a cropper! As the Aussie fans, clad in green and gold, stepped from their coaches on arrival at Watersheddings, one couple asked me how I thought Oldham would go on against the tourists.

"Hopefully, we will do well," I said, "but only time will tell." Few people, though, expected David Topliss and his side of battlers to hold the Kangaroos to six points – a remarkable achievement considering we had to play without the injured Wally Jones, Gary Bridge and Paddy Kirwan, and David Hobbs had to quit with a knee injury after only ten minutes.

In the main, the tourists fielded their second-string side. But that should not detract from what Oldham achieved on a night that will surely enhance the club's chances of getting more tour matches in the future.

Such is the wealth of talent in Sydney and Brisbane that you don't come on a Kangaroo tour unless you are a top-class performer where the standards are higher than anywhere else in the world Rugby League playing world.

Gary Belcher cannot get into the Test side because of the brilliance of Gary Jack. But we all saw Watersheddings what a brilliant player he can be.

On the wings were Dale Shearer and Michael O'Connor, who played in the second Test at Leeds only four days later. Mal Meninga was in the centre, and no words of mine can adequately describe the impact on the game big Mal has had both here and Down Under.

Terry Lamb, Sydney's top try scorer last season was at stand-off, while his partner was Greg Alexander, a 21-year-old who is said by the Aussies to be the most naturally gifted player in Sydney, behind the winner of this year's Adidas Golden Boot Award, Brett Kenny.

In the forwards there was big Martin Bella, and lively hooker Ben Elias, whose qualities of leadership are such that he usually captains the second-string side as he awaits his Test chance above the current No. 9 incumbent Royce Simmons. In the second-row was Steve Folkes, who played in all three Tests against the Kiwi's last summer and apparently enjoyed a tremendous series.

That was the sort of quality the Oldham players came face to face with ... yet the green-and-golds were staring defeat in the face when leading only 14-12 midway through the second half. For the first time on this tour they had a real fight on their hands, and although they finally made the game safe with late tries by Elias and Alexander – both individual efforts, mark you – the crowd erupted when Stuart Raper drilled through a splendid little grubber in the dying minutes for Des Foy to pick up and score and narrow the gap to 16-22.

The first Oldham try, on the stroke of half-time, was a gem and as good as anything the Aussies offered when Lamb scorched in for two tries in the first half. It began with a brilliant break by Mick Worrall, who is now playing with the form that earned him tour honours in 1984, and the move was carried on by Ray Ashton and Gary Warnecke. In the end, substitute Colin Hawkyard took Gary's inside pass in the tackle and went through to score as the fans went wild.

Those fans who have since seen the recording of the match, as filmed by Sydney's Channel 10 station, with commentary by Rex Mossop, will realise how much Mossop admired Oldham's performance.

"We were playing for Britain," said Terry Flanagan, who toured Down Under in 1984 with his fellow team mates Ray Ashton, Des Foy and Mick Worrall, as well as David Hobbs, who was then a Featherstone player.

The Aussie contingent of Gary Warnecke, Bruce Clark, and young Stuart Raper chipped in with wholehearted support and the result was a team display that probably eclipsed any other on the tour so far. The whole game was screened in Sydney, and you can be sure of the fact that Oldham's prestige Down Under will have grown a thousand fold as a result of the performance we produced on a memorable night.

From supporters who got value for money and enjoyed a splendid display, sponsors who must have been overjoyed at their return, and members who must surely have been proud of their team, we offer a very big thank-you to all concerned.

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COMMERCIAL CORNER

A thankyou letter from . . .

ROYTON TIGERS RUGBY LEAGUE

Dear Peter,

Many thanks from Royton Tigers for the support that Oldham Rugby Club has given us. The "loan" of Gary Bridge and Bruce Clark for a coaching session was greatly appreciated by all the boys. Also Bruce and Stuart Raper were much admired by our boys at the Presentation Evening last Friday.

Bruce, Gary and Stuart have been great ambassadors for your club and nothing has been too much trouble for them. I'm encouraging our boys to return the compliment and start supporting Oldham R.L.F.C.

Many thanks once again for your help in this matter, and may our club wish Oldham R.L.F.C. all the success that their hard work deserves.

Yours in sport,
STEPHEN BITHELL, Manager

LIFELINE

Oldham Juniors are the latest team to take advantage of our excellent playing strip offer, this due to the generosity of the Licensee and regulars of the Bull's Head, Mill Bottom who have recruited 15 members for LIFELINE. Many thanks to Brian Turner Tymms and the lads at the Bulls Head.

There is a limited number of ties from the Australian game on sale at the Club Shop, first come, first served.

LES BOSTOCK, Lifeline Manager



Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

We have played really well in our last two games against the Australians and at Hull KR last Sunday. I think everybody was delighted with our performance in the tour game. On Humberside, we suffered a disappointing 6-4 defeat in difficult conditions – disappointing not because we were below form, but because we were the better side and we produced a terrific effort only five days after making the whole of Rugby League sit up with our 22-16 show against the Kangaroos.

We didn't make maximum use of the wind at Craven Park but that was partly because David Hobbs has been doing our tactical kicking this season and he was, of course, sitting this one out due to injury.

Nevertheless, our tackling, effort and commitment was fantastic and I don't think there is a team in the game now tackling as well as us. You must have a successful defence to be a good side in the First Division and, as we have that, I think we can become the first team for a long time to topple St Helens today in our own backyard, where we are still unbeaten this season, apart from that defeat by the Aussies.

As soon as we had got over the disappointing blow of losing at Hull KR, we were thinking and talking about St Helens and I am quietly confident we can be them.

I think we are on the right lines now to enjoy a highly successful season. Maybe we won't have a big enough squad to win the League, but if we can finish in the top four, or thereabouts, and win one of the major trophies I don't think anybody will be complaining.

By reaching the Lancashire Cup final and producing the best result of any club side against the Kangaroos, we have risen in confidence and self-belief and that will stand us in good stead today against the First Division leaders. We are good enough to put them under pressure and when they have the ball we can frustrate them with our defence like we did both Australia and Hull KR, who failed to score a try.

Saints are the best team in the League and they play quality football... but we have what it takes to keep our home record intact in what should be a real thriller.

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