

OLDHAM Team Check BRADFORD

HUSSEIN M'BARKI	1	KEITH MUNDY
PAUL SHERMAN	2	PHIL FORD
DES FOY	3	GARY SIDEBOTHAM
GARY WARNECKE	4	PHIL HELLIWELL
MIKE TAYLOR	5	WAYNE RACE
DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.)	6	JOHN WOODS
GARY BRIDGE	7	TERRY HOLMES
BRUCE CLARK	8	IAN SHERRATT
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	GARY BRENTLEY
NEIL CLAWSON	10	IAN HOWSCROFT
MICK WORRALL	11	DICK JASIEWICZ
TOM NADIOLE	12	MARIO SENECH
STUART RAPER	13	MAL GRAHAM
T.B.A.	14	T.B.A.
T.B.A.	15	T.B.A.

Referee: R. Whitfield Touch Judges: G. Lightfoot, B. D. Norbury

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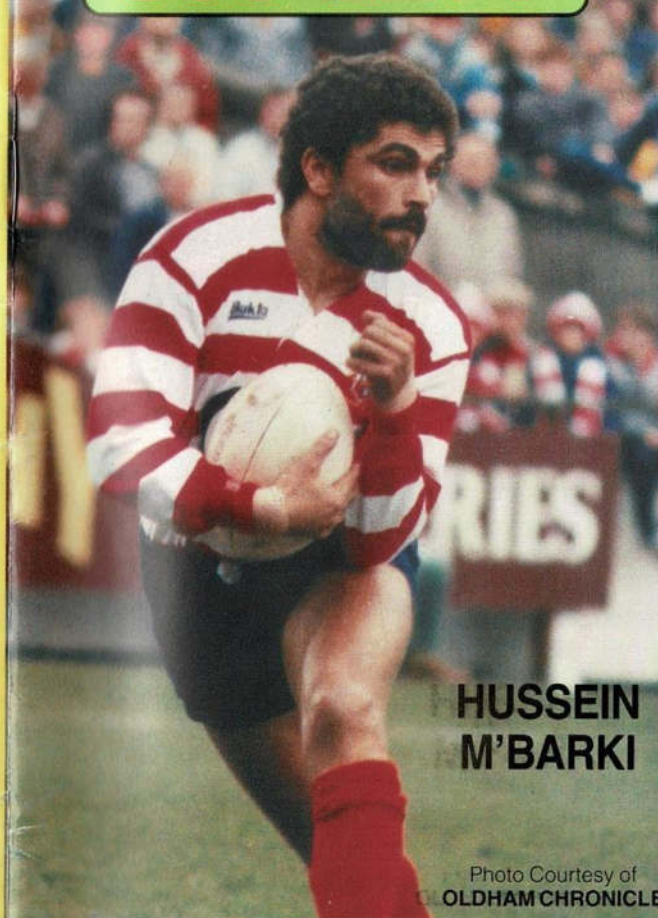


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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

Photo Courtesy of
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50p

OLDHAM

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JOHN PLAYER TROPHY

BRADFORD

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

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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

After sterling performances against Australia, Hull KR and St Helens without much reward, it was gratifying to become only the second side this season to beat Bradford at Odsal in the First Division.

The 18-10 victory last Sunday provided us with our second away win of the season and put us in good heart for today's first-round tie against Northern at Watersheddings in the John Player Special Trophy.

Having reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup last season, and the final of the Lancashire Cup this season, we are starting out on another cup campaign today with a certain amount of confidence.

We have the distinction of taking the Aussies to six points – the lowest points difference in the whole of their tour and we are still wondering how we came to lose to St Helens a fortnight ago.

They scraped home 18-17 to continue their record-breaking run of consecutive League wins, but didn't our performance look good when the news came through last Sunday that Saints had put 50 points on Hull?

On the same day we were beating a Bradford side that had some excellent wins under its belt, so we are hopeful of starting off another good cup run today although Northern will not be underestimated.

They are a good side and our win at Odsal will make them all the more determined to put things right in the return game today.

Whoever wins today's match, there will be much interest in the dates for the rest of the competition, so here they are:

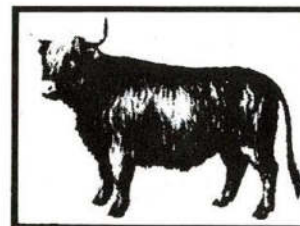
Second round, weekend of December 6-7. Third round, weekend of December 13-14.

First semi-final, Saturday, December 20.
Second semi-final, Saturday, December 27.
Final, Saturday, January 10.

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

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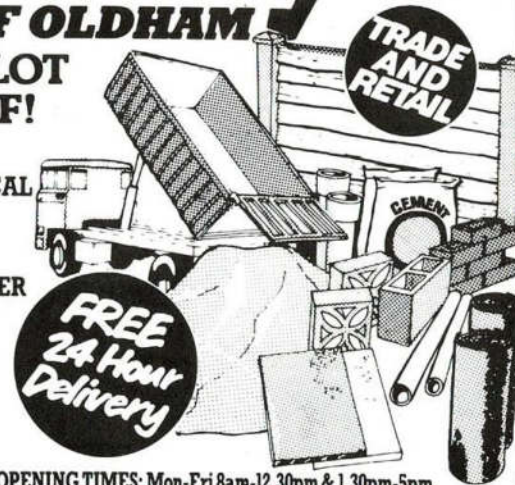
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Matthew Brown

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NORTHERN AGAIN...

Following last Sunday's game at Odsal in the Stones Bitter Championship, Bradford and Oldham clash again at Watersheddings today in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy. Northern's visit here in a cup-tie rekindles memories of last season's third round Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie when Oldham won a thriller 6-1 thanks to a late double act by the Liddiard brothers, Glen making the vital break and David finishing off under the posts. A drop goal by Brendan White had given Northern the lead and for long periods the Yorkshiremen looked capable of winning, until Oldham finally won through to their first Challenge Cup semi-final since 1964.

Within a couple of months, Oldham's Australian forward Mal Graham – the Club's top try scorer last season with 21 – was Odsal bound, and Mal's return to Watersheddings today will be eagerly awaited by the popular Aussie, who had his former Oldham pal Gary Warnecke as his best man at his recent wedding in Leeds. The appearance of Mal adds an extra tit-bit to the tie, but he is certainly not the only Northern player to arouse special interest in what is fast emerging as a highly successful season at Odsal. Full-back Keith Mumby needs only nine points for a Division One total of 1,000 and there are many people in the game who would have had the Northern Stalwart in the Test team had they been doing the selecting.

Welsh winger Phil Ford scored a hat-trick in Northern's impressive win at Widnes, to complete 100 career tries, and is enjoying a memorable season as Northern throw the ball around in crowd-pleasing fashion. Steve Donlan, unfortunately, suffered a jaw injury against the Australian tourists and will miss this match, as will second-row forward Karl Fairbank, one of the four rugby-playing sons of a former Great Britain international. Karl, a top B.A.R.L.A. international before he turned pro, suffered a serious shoulder injury against the Kangaroos and could be out for a few weeks. Another ex-B.A.R.L.A. international is centre Phil Hellewell, while Roger Simpson, on the wing, won Great Britain colts honours and is a player who takes some watching.

It is fair to say, however, that probably the two most feared players in the Northern backs are halves John Woods and Terry Holmes. Woods is proving just as prolific a scorer with Northern as he was before his record £65,000 transfer from Leigh last year, and is poised to become the top First Division points scorer since the reintroduction of two Divisions in 1973.

SECOND TIME IN A WEEK

His partner, of course, is former Welsh RU and British Lions scrum-half star Terry Holmes, who is now settling into his new code in splendid fashion following those two tragic shoulder injuries following quickly upon his signing for Northern for a reputed £80,000.

Holmes will be making his first ever Watersheddings appearance today and will clearly be the subject of a lot of interest on the terraces from both League and Union fans alike.

The interesting angle on the Bradford forwards is the glut of hookers following the emergence of Gary Brentley as a No.9 of great promise during the enforced injury absence of former Great Britain skipper Brian Noble. Brentley has done a splendid job this season, but now finds himself with two rivals for the No.9 shirt in Noble himself and in Aussie recruit Mario Fenech, who made his debut as prop against the Kangaroos but who is normally a hooker for the top Sydney side South Sydney, whom he captains.

With such a glut of talent at No.9, Seabourne may be tempted to ask Fenech to play prop permanently with Ian Howcroft, another Aussie, and former Waterhead player Ian Sherratt also pressing for prop positions.

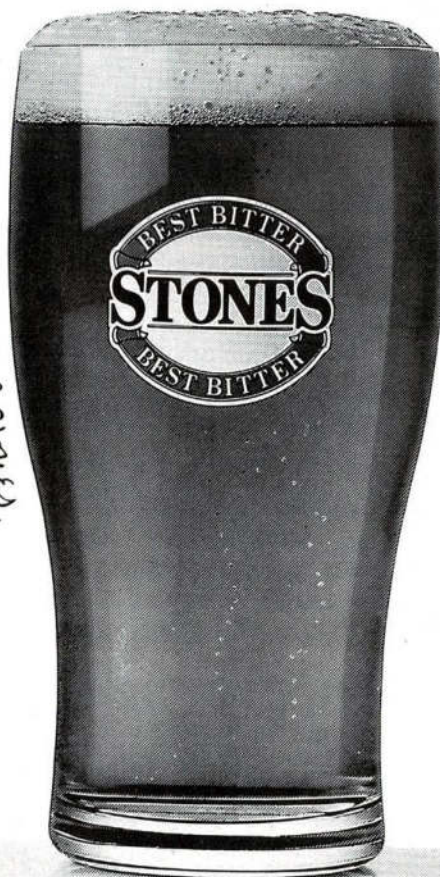
The injured Fairbank will be missed in the second-row, but Seabourne has many options open to him, Dick Jasiewicz is playing well at present, Sherratt can also play second-row, and Mark Fleming is now clear to play after an eight-match suspension. In addition, former Bramley and Halifax forward Steve Bond is part of a strong panel, while Graham continues to score the tries from loose-forward.

The Aussie Fenech is an interesting character, judging by press reports. He has been tagged as something of a hard man by the Aussie press and feels his reputation counted against him when it came to picking the tour squad. He works as a schools development officer for Souths and says the big difference between the game here and in Australia can be summed up by one word – professionalism.

His big pal is world bantamweight title holder Geoff Fenech (same name, but no relation), who has been a mentor of Joe Bugner during his comeback in Sydney. Geoff was due to fly to England last weekend to watch the Aussies in the third Test at Wigan and to renew acquaintance with his rugby-playing mate from South Sydney.

When the amber sun slips slowly,
Over the grandstand,
And the afternoon becomes still,
The whistle blows,
Your team is lolly,
And you think, "This lot's over the hill,"
For Pete's sake go and

have another pint of Stones.



Stones. Sheer poetry.

**Sponsors of
the Rugby League Championship and Premiership.**

Around the League... with Roughyed

John Woods of Bradford Northern who will probably be playing at Watersheddings today is near to taking over as the leading Division One point scorer since the re-introduction of two divisions in 1973.

The current leader is Steve Hesford, the former Warrington back, with 1,756, but his is now with Second Division Huddersfield Barracudas. Woods is only ten points behind as the following figures show.

Hesford, 32 tries, 810 goals, 35 drop goals; 1,756 points

Woods, 110 tries, 680 goals, 10 drop goals; 1,746 points

Most of Woods' points were scored for Leigh, starting with a try on his debut in a Division One 18-8 home win over Barrow on 5th September, 1976. Leigh were in Division Two the following season but since then Woods has remained a Division One player.

The former Test stand-off still holds the record for the most points in Division Two match with 38 (13 goals, 4 tries) in a 62-15 home defeat of Blackpool Borough on 11th September, 1977. He also holds the Division One record with 36 points including a record equalling five tries plus eight goals in Bradford Northern's 48-20 home defeat of Swinton on 13th October, 1985.

Woods also holds the record for most points in a Division One season of 205 (102 goals including a drop plus 23 tries) for Leigh in 1983-84. He scored 1,440 points for Leigh before being transferred to Bradford Northern for \$65,000 – a record for both clubs – in 1965. He kicked one goal on his debut for Northern in a 32-7 Division One defeat at Warrington on 1st September, 1985. Woods is the only player to have totalled more than 100 tries and 500 goals in Division One.

* * * *

Leeds' 54-16 Stones Bitter Championship defeat against Warrington equalled their most points ever conceded by them at home to a club side. They lost 54-3 to Bradford Northern in a League match on 15th September, 1945, conceding 14 tries compared with 12 against Warrington. The biggest defeat of all at Headingley was 58-2 against the Queensland tourists who scored 11 tries on 29th October, 1983.

* * * *

Mysons 8-2 win at Batley in the John Player Special Trophy Preliminary Round was only the second win by the amateurs in the competition since it began in 1971. They emulated the feat of another Hull side, Cawoods, who won 9-8 at Halifax in 1977. The last non-League side to knock out professionals in the Rugby League Challenge Cup was Beverley who beat Ebbw Vale 7-2 in 1909.

* * * *

Paul Loughlin's goal scoring rate dropped when he managed only one in St Helens' 18-17 win at Oldham. The centre has now kicked 78 goals in 14 matches as he chases the record for the fastest century in a season. Three players share the record of 100 goals in 18 matches. They are Bernard Ganley (Oldham) in 1957, David Watkins (Salford) in 1972 and Steve Quinn (Featherstone) in 1979.

* * * *

Steve Dobson became the first player to total ten drop this season when he kicked one in York's 17-26 home defeat against Rochdale Hornets.

* * * *

A record prize fund for the John Player Special Trophy marks the 20th year of Rugby League sponsorship by Imperial Tobacco Limited. This is the 16th season of the John Player Special Trophy, making it one of the longest-running sponsorships in sport.

Prize money is increased by \$5,000 to \$62,000 and the sponsorship also includes a donation of \$23,000 to the Rugby League's Capital Development Fund to help clubs meet the stringent requirements for ground safety.

All 34 First and Second Division Rugby League clubs, and two leading amateur clubs, are taking part in the 1986-87 competition which started with a preliminary round of four matches on November 16, followed by the first round this weekend. It continues through December and Christmas, followed by the final on 10th January, as the first major event of the New Year.

Peter Dyke, head of sponsored events for Imperial Tobacco Limited says "It is right that our support should be marked by further substantial contribution to the RFL to help clubs meet the considerable financial demands placed on them by the new ground safety regulations. It is a long and happy association which I feel sure is beneficial to all concerned in the sport."

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

John Player Special Trophy

John Player Special Trophy

SPONSORSHIP HISTORY

Year	Prize Money	Dev. Fund	Winner	Winning Team	Losing Finalist	Score	Venue	Gate
1971-72	9,500	—	5,000	Halifax	Wakefield	22-11	Bradford	7,975
1972-73	16,100	—	5,000	Leeds	Salford	12-17	Huddersfield	10,102
1973-74	16,100	—	5,000	Warrington	Rochdale	27-16	Wigan	9,347
1974-75	16,100	—	5,000	Bradford N.	Widnes	3-2	Warrington	5,935
1975-76	22,800	—	6,000	Widnes	Hull	19-13	Leeds	9,035
1976-77	25,600	—	6,000	Castleford	Blackpool	25-15	Salford	4,512
1977-78	30,000	—	8,000	Warrington	Widnes	9-4	St Helens	10,258
1978-79	33,000	—	8,000	Widnes	Warrington	16-4	St Helens	10,743
1979-80	35,600	—	8,500	Bradford N.	Widnes	6-0	Leeds	9,909
1980-81	36,500	3,500	8,500	Warrington	Barrow	12-5	Wigan	12,820
1981-82	43,000	7,000	9,000	Hull	Hull K.R.	12-4	Leeds	25,245
1982-83	44,500	10,500	10,000	Wigan	Leeds	15-4	Elland Road	19,553
1983-84	45,900	14,100	10,000	Leeds	Widnes	18-10	Wigan	9,510
1984-85	55,000	20,000	10,000	Hull K.R.	Hull	12-0	Boothferry Pk	25,350
1985-86	57,000	23,000	11,000	Wigan	Hull K.R.	11-8	Elland Road	17,500
1986-87	62,000	23,000	12,000	-----	-----	---	-----	---

- ★ John Player sponsorship of Rugby League started in the 1967-68 season with the Player of the Match and Player of the Season awards which ran until the 1971-72 season.
- ★ In 1970-71 a goal-kicking competition was introduced for one season only.
- ★ From 1971-72 to 1979-80 the winner and runner-up of the B.A.R.L.A. National Cup entered the competition. In 1980-81 the winner only entered and then there was a lapse of two seasons before the winner and runner-up were again invited to enter from 1983-84.
- ★ From 1979 to 1982 the John Player B.A.R.L.A. Sevens competition was played as a "curtain-raiser" to the main Trophy matches. Prize money was £3,500, £4,500 and £5,000 and the winners were Waterhead, West Hull and Pilkington Recs.

Once again it is John Player Special Trophy time in the Rugby League and Today we give a warm welcome to our first round opponents Bradford Northern and their supporters.

This is the 16th John Player Special Trophy Competition and it is worth £85,500 in prize money and contributions to the Capital Development Fund. For the eventual winner of the Trophy the stakes are high — a record £12,000. Even today's loser receives £800. But for today's winner the prize is a place in the draw for the second round. That will again be featured on BBC's Breakfast Time television show tomorrow morning (Monday, 1st December 1986), at 7.40 a.m. when the Rugby League Chairman, David Wigham, will be joined on screen by Don Whitting, the sponsored events executive of Imperial Tobacco Limited, and David Oxley, the League Secretary.

So don't forget to tune in to Breakfast Time and look for the next big matches in this season's John Player Special Trophy competition.

JOHN PLAYER PRIZE STRUCTURE

Last season's structure in brackets

PRELIMINARY ROUND	— £800 to each club (£750)
FIRST ROUND	— £800 to losing clubs (£750)
SECOND ROUND	— £1,100 to losing clubs (£1,000)
QUARTER FINALS	— £1,700 to losing clubs (£1,500)
SEMI-FINALS	— £3,000 to losing club (£2,750)
RUNNER-UP	— £6,000 (£5,500)
WINNER	£12,000 (£1,000)

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

NEXT HOME MATCH

Warrington

Sunday, 14th December, 1986 kick off 3:00 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	11	5	0	0	202	69	6	0	0	210	65	22
Wigan	11	5	0	0	187	35	5	0	1	129	47	20
Warrington	12	6	0	1	195	108	4	0	1	141	83	20
BRADFORD	12	4	0	2	136	81	5	0	1	154	91	18
Widnes	12	5	0	1	176	102	3	0	3	132	119	16
Castleford	12	4	0	2	119	70	4	0	2	111	103	16
Halifax	12	4	0	2	120	88	2	1	3	116	132	13
OLDHAM	11	4	0	1	113	78	2	0	4	120	108	12
Hull K.R.	12	5	0	2	144	121	1	0	4	78	116	12
Hull	12	4	0	1	108	109	1	0	6	72	215	10
Leeds	11	2	0	3	119	128	2	0	4	98	116	8
Leigh	13	3	0	3	120	120	1	0	6	100	222	8
Barrow	13	1	0	6	102	138	1	1	4	98	138	5
Featherstone	11	2	1	4	142	177	0	0	4	35	126	5
Salford	13	1	0	6	74	193	1	0	5	77	198	4
Wakefield	12	0	1	4	66	140	0	0	7	86	244	1

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunslet	12	6	0	0	150	53	6	0	0	150	46	24
Blackpool	13	4	0	2	113	92	6	0	1	171	98	20
Swinton	11	6	0	0	198	64	3	0	2	80	52	18
Sheffield	13	6	0	1	162	78	3	0	3	153	130	18
Whitehaven	13	6	0	0	168	50	2	0	5	84	114	16
Doncaster	12	3	1	2	144	94	4	0	2	107	108	15
Runcorn	12	5	0	2	152	99	2	1	2	57	82	15
Bramley	11	4	0	1	94	81	3	0	3	81	136	14
Rochdale	11	5	0	1	126	57	1	1	3	74	106	13
York	13	4	0	4	174	154	2	0	3	70	84	12
Carlisle	14	4	1	2	111	114	1	0	6	92	157	11
Huddersfield	13	2	0	4	108	121	3	0	4	120	131	10
Batley	11	1	0	2	44	26	4	0	4	117	196	10
Dewsbury	11	3	0	3	91	78	0	0	5	56	128	6
Fulham	9	2	0	3	101	126	0	0	4	48	87	4
Workington	12	2	0	5	125	137	0	0	5	43	163	4
Keighley	13	1	0	5	66	121	1	0	6	84	205	4
Mansfield	12	1	0	4	103	125	0	0	7	83	207	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 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	Topliss	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	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	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 IT	Bridge	Warnecke	Atkinson	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs IG	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 IG IT	Raper	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 IG	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	5,752	17	18	M'Barki	Sherman IT	Foy IT	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton IDG	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 2G	Hawkyard IT	Raper	Edwards	Nadiole
	23 BRADFORD NORTHERN (3-30)	4,060	18	10	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy IT	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Bridge	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall IT 3G	Nadiole	Raper IT	Lowndes	Jones
	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																		

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Barrow	■	18-21	12-21	16-17	24-6										36-38	8-11
Bradford	36-29	■	12-7	11-2							10-18				27-34	18-20
Castleford			■	16-7	16-6				15-8		28-23		42-18			6-12
Featherstone	16-19			■	16-18				20-16		18-6	6-11		22-19	11-18	
Halifax			12-18		■	28-30	24-18	21-9		20-11					13-16	
Hull		27-22		28-23		■	18-32	31-28					12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30	38-18		29-6		■	35-20	6-4							
Leeds		4-12		13-12				■			16-19	20-30		16-51		
Leigh				20-29				20-8	■	49-12				22-17	18-20	0-15
Oldham	32-20					28-12	14-12			■					22-16	
Salford	12-21	12-22				14-31					■	4-38		10-25	23-16	0-31
St Helens				38-16					50-18			■	32-11			
Wakefield	11-11	22-32						14-28	6-12	10-51			■			
Warrington			20-26		18-10	42-10			22-18	42-41		28-18		■		23-12
Widnes	26-11	11-16	28-20			26-8	15-10								■	
Wigan	18-6				34-7			31-9		42-12		42-10				■

MICK WORRALL SCORES THE TRY THAT SEALED VICTORY IN OLDHAM'S 18-10 TRIUMPH AT ODSAL LAST SUNDAY



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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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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 Bradford 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.

Coaches to St Helens leave Social Club at 1:30 p.m.

BY CAR – M.62 Junction 14. Follow signs St Helens A.580, in 1½ miles join A.580 Haydock Junction. Forward on A.580 in 5¾ miles and left and A.570 then Right B.5201 into Millbrow. Forward into Knowsly Road. Turn Right then Left into Willow Road for Ground.

Could we take this opportunity to ask all our friends and supporters to watch for any hooligans present at home and away matches. They are slowly creeping in to League and Cup matches throughout the R.L. Our game is known the world over for its well behaved fans. Let's keep it that way please report any idiots to the nearest policeman or steward. And if possible give their names to any club official who will take the necessary action.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

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Grade One: 1980-81
Challenge Cup: 1982-83, 1985-86
Yorkshire Cup: 1981-82
France v Australia (2) 1982-83
New Zealand v Australia 1983
Yorkshire v Lancashire 1981-82
Australia v New Zealand (3) 1985

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... On a Raw Deal for RL

Did you spot the brief reference to Rugby League on Last Saturday night's BBC sports programme to commemorate 50 years of television? If you did you were lucky – it only lasted a few seconds. Moreover it was yet another repeat of the glimpse of film the BBC always seem to show when they are looking for a Rugby League flashback. It was, of course, the try leading up to the famous Don Fox goal miss in front of the posts in that splash-along cup final between Wakefield and Leeds. Of all the brilliant tries that must be on film in the BBC library, they had to chose what was merely a kick-and-chase try, followed by the sad sight of Fox slumping to the floor after missing a goal that would have won the cup.

By comparison, the Union presentation was superb. There was that length-of-the-field try by Hancock, the England winger, against Scotland; that brilliant Barbarians try from Gareth Edwards at the end of a long move sparked by those dazzling Phil Bennett sidesteps; the spectacular try by England fly-half Richard Sharpe when he dummied his way past a defence that didn't seem to know what a tackle was; the fabulous Welsh try by Bennett at Murrayfield after another long-range attack featuring half a dozen players. Rugby men of either code can appreciate tries like that – notwithstanding the fact that Union defences are so often paper thin. But why should the Union offering be so spectacular... and the League spot so dull?

There has been so many wonderful tries screened by the BBC over the years that one can easily forget. But what about the Ken Large-Tom Van Vollenhoven link-up for Saints at Wembley? What about incidents from that fabulous 1965 Wembley final between Wigan and Hunslet? What about some of the glorious moves produced by the invincible Kangaroos that came to our shores in 1982? More recently, what about the two tries by David Hobbs that gave Featherstone one of the biggest upsets in Wembley history? Or what about one or two of the several super tries from that never-to-be-forgotten final between Peter Sterling's Hull and Brett Kenny's Wigan?

We would all chose something different – but who would chose, yet again, a piece of film that has not only been shown many, many times before but which does nothing to show the spectacular skills and free running of Rugby League, despite tackling that would make a Union man wince? It is things like this that present the many people in League who think our code gets a raw deal with plenty of ammunition, and I must admit it is difficult to argue with them. Talking of Union, it is with interest and pleasure that we today welcome to Watersheddings for the first time the former Wales and British Lions scrum-half Terry Homes, who hit the headlines when he turned pro last year.

Holmes was desperately unlucky to seriously damage a shoulder in his debut at Swinton and then to suffer a recurrence when he made his comeback in the "A" team. Happily, this season has seen the Welshman over his injury problems and, by all accounts, doing well in his new code as Bradford have casued a few sides to sit up and take note. The Welsh market seemed to have dried up at one time as clubs put their money into the overseas market and into big contracts for top B.A.R.L.A. boys.

It was fascinating and encouraging to see that in the recent first Test at Old Trafford every member of the Great Britain squad had been reared and brought up in League. We all know what a massive impact Australian and New Zealand players have made since the ban on overseas signings was lifted. Welshmen? They seemed a thing of the past, but as restrictions were placed on the overseas market – clubs can only have three overseas men next season – some emphasis was again placed on the Union market, and that inevitable meant a raid on Wales where the Union code is so much more competitive than in many other parts of the United Kingdom.

Within a relatively short space of time came three big-name signings from the Valleys – the capture by Northern of Holmes, one of the biggest names in Welsh Rugby; the deal that took Bob Ackerman, another Welsh international, North to Whitehaven in a deal sponsored by British Nuclear Fuels; Hull's swoop for Llanelli outside-half and prolific marksman Gary Pearce. Such heavy activity looks certain to promote more Welsh signings in the near future. Moves to put a break on overseas movements, plus heavy unemployment in South Wales, points heavily to more Welshmen "moving North" – especially if such an esteemed player as Holmes make a success of the switch.

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**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

I firmly believe we are on the right lines in building a good side at Oldham and our last few performances tend to underline that fact.

Our result against the Aussies was the best of the tour, we were unfortunate to lose by a couple of points at Hull KR, and St Helens, whom I believe to be the side to beat this year, will never get a bigger scare than they did when pipping us 18-17 in our last home game.

To put us in good shape for today's first-round cup tie in the John Player Special Trophy we enjoyed a good win by 18-10 at Bradford last Sunday when we made maximum use of the wind in the second half.

We have to realise, of course, that Bradford will be all the more determined to put the record straight today, especially as they are still smarting from their defeat here last season in the third round of the Challenge Cup.

There is no reason why we cannot enjoy another good cup run, following our progress to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup last season and our appearance in the final of the Lancashire Cup this season, so long as we do the basics right, keep up our tackling and covering which has been very good recently, cut down on our mistakes, and play the sort of football we all know we are capable of producing.

Cup runs, of course, put more pressure on the playing staff in terms of getting League results, and that's why it was so important that we won at Odsal last Sunday.

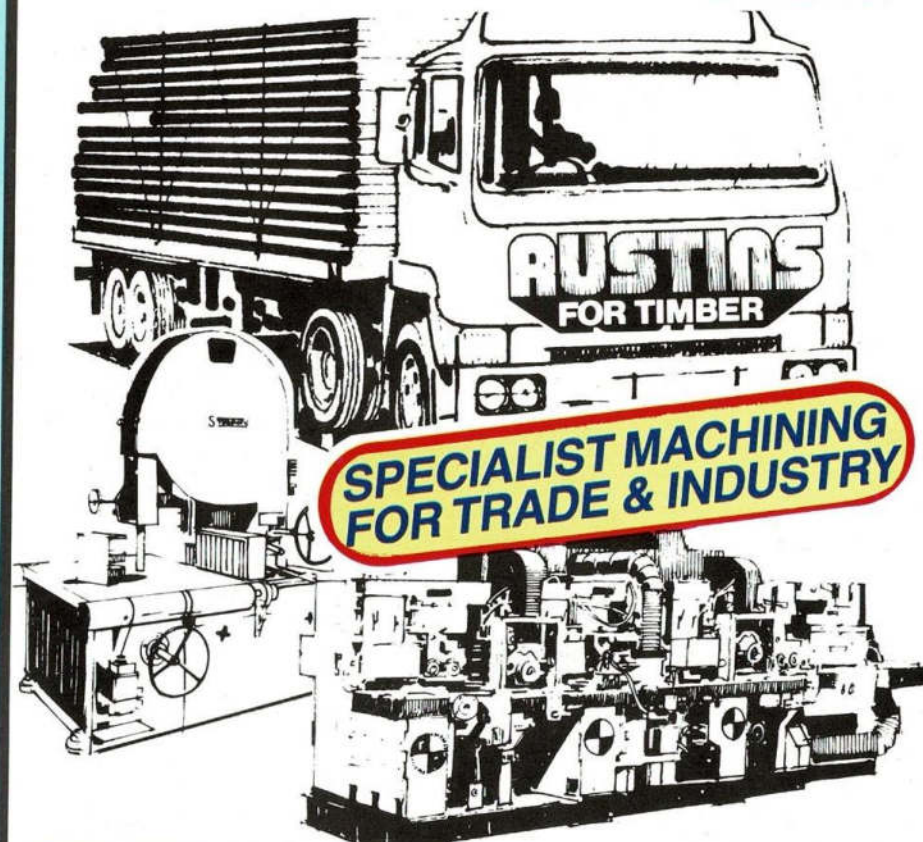
Having narrowly lost to Hull KR and Saints, we were anxious to pick up two precious points as a safety cushion in the event of our doing well in the John Player.

The ties are on consecutive weekends and any team going through to the semi-final or final is going to fall well behind in the League matches played.

We hope we will be involved, but you can rest assured there will be no complacency at all today because we realise how fired up Bradford will be after our win there a week ago.

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