

# **OLDHAM Team Check HALIFAX**

|                       |    |                  |
|-----------------------|----|------------------|
| HUSSEIN M'BARKI       | 1  | GRAHAM EADIE     |
| PAUL SHERMAN          | 2  | SCOTT WILSON     |
| DES FOY               | 3  | NEIL HAGUE       |
| GARY WARNECKE         | 4  | GRANT RIX        |
| MIKE TAYLOR           | 5  | WILF GEORGE      |
| DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.) | 6  | CHRIS ANDERSON   |
| GARY BRIDGE           | 7  | GARY STEVENS     |
| BRUCE CLARK           | 8  | RICHARD FAIRBANK |
| TERRY FLANAGAN        | 9  | SEAMUS McCALLION |
| NEIL CLAWSON          | 10 | KEITH NELLER     |
| DAVID HOBBS           | 11 | NEIL JONES       |
| MICK WORRALL          | 12 | PETER BELL       |
| STUART RAPER          | 13 | PAUL DIXON       |
| T.B.A.                | 14 | BRIAN JULIFF     |
| T.B.A.                | 15 | JOHN PENDLEBURY  |

Referee: T. Beaumont Touch Judges: P. Hines, R. M. Moseley

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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

Photo Courtesy of  
OLDHAM CHRONICLE



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PROGRAMME  
50p

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**OLDHAM**

Today's Match Sponsor: HARVEYS OLDHAM LTD

Today's Matchball Donated By: F. D. KITCHENS

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

**HALIFAX**

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



## THE A TEAM.

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## Oldham Rugby League Football Club

THE PAVILION · WATERSHEDDINGS · OLDHAM

Telephone: 061-652 5244 and 061-624 4865

**President:** R. Hatton

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**Vice-Chairman:** K. Potter

**Treasurer:** E. Bayliss

**Committee:** K. Broadbent, R. Ogden, M. A. Richardson, B. Boustead, David Lord, J. Hall

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

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

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**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

Our disappointing first round defeat by Bradford in the John Player Special Trophy meant that we had no game last Sunday. We attempted to rearrange the home game against Wakefield and the away match at Salford, but in each case the reply was a polite no thank you. Wakefield had a pile up of injuries and did not want to come here in such circumstances, while Salford did not want to interfere with our scheduled visit to the Willows on Good Friday, especially as Manchester United were playing Tottenham Hotspur in a Sunday afternoon televised soccer match just down the road.

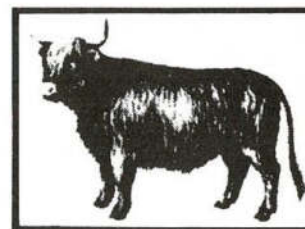
The rest will have done our players no harm, however, and it will also have helped our race to get several key men fit again and ready for action, such as Wally Jones, David Hobbs, Colin Hawkyard, Paddy Kirwan and Stuart Raper. Our defeat by Bradford was a blow, but one has to think positively and so long as we learn from the mistakes we made against Northern, we can now put that defeat behind us and concentrate on doing well in the League and the Challenge Cup, the preliminary and first round draws for which will be made in Leeds on Thursday.

With the size of our squad it would have been expecting a lot of the team to have a long run in the John Player Trophy, repeat the goods in the Challenge Cup, and all the time pick up points to make absolutely sure of no slip-up in the First Division. It is now important that we do well in the League over the Christmas period and into the New Year so that we can concentrate our efforts in February and March on the Challenge Cup. We should have been playing Warrington today but as they are involved in the quarter final of the Player's Trophy we are delighted to welcome Halifax, who were beaten by the Wires last Sunday and also faced a day off as their Scheduled opponents, Barrow, are through to the last eight of the Player's competition. Next Sunday, we are due to play St Helens at Knowsley Road, but that match is also in some doubt due to the Player's Trophy so watch the Press for announcements tomorrow.

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# HERE COME

Today we welcome to Watersheddings our friends and neighbours from just over the hill – Halifax. The men from Thrum Hall hit top note last leason when deservedly beating all the odds to win the Slalom Lager First Division title and restore the glory days at a club once renowned for its trophy winning feats. The seeds for success were sown the previous year when new president David Brook took the club by the scruff of the neck and pointed it in the right direction with an influx of Australians, among them Hagan, Regan, Langmack, Bella and Neller.

A major development in the club's forward thrust was the appointment as player-coach of another Aussie. Chris Anderson, and the Down Under influence continued last season when Kilroy, Heugh, Tony Anderson, and Robinson all made major contributions to the title triumph. It was significant that Halifax put a great deal of importance on front-row forward strength and power, both in the recruitment of Bella and Neller in 1984-85 and in the signing of Heugh and Robinson in 1985-86.

Full-back, too, is a position in which Halifax have put a lot of faith on their men from Down Under, the exciting Kilroy being followed this season by one of Australia's most famous post war players, Graham Eadie. Restricted to four overseas men this season, the Yorkshiremen have opted for their team boss Anderson, plus another former Kangaroo tourist in Eadie as well as young centre Grant Rix from the Valleys club in Brisbane and his Valleys team mate Keith Neller. Neller sat out the last English season due to the fact that Halifax had a full quota of overseas men, but he always intended to play again at Thrum Hall.

He was, in fact, linked with Oldham at one time about a year ago when it was felt he might want to find another English club, but in the event the Queenslander decided to sit out the season and wait for his chance again at the club where he did so well on his first visit to England in 1984-85. Despite the heavy concentration on overseas talent, however, Halifax have not shirked the English market and in signing men like Mick Scott, Neil Hague, John Pendlebury, Wilf George, Gary Stephens, Roy Dickson, Neil James, Brian Juliffe, Colin Whitfield, and Paul Dixon.

# THE CHAMPIONS

They have expressed their determination to build on the rapid progress of the last three years and lay down the foundations for more success in the years to come.

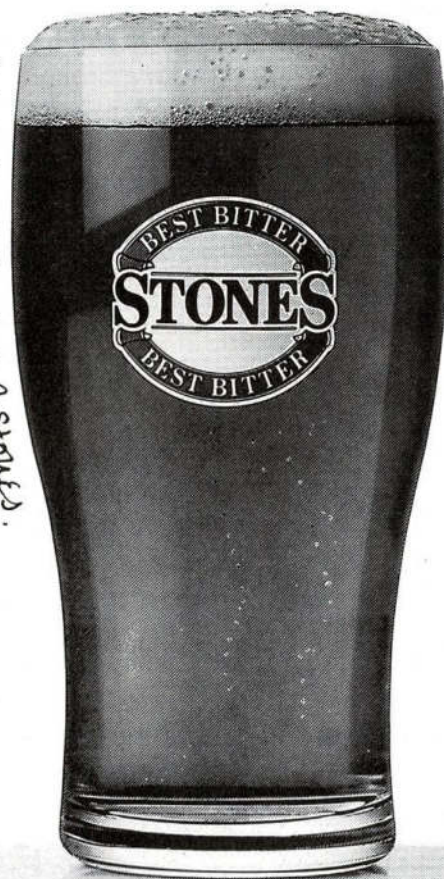
Even Halifax would be the first to admit that, last season, they were fortunate in not having many injury problems throughout the long 30-match First Division contest – a vital factor in championship success. This season, alas, things have not gone so well and the long absence of Mick Scott with a broken arm was followed by another crushing blow in the second round of the John Player Special Trophy at Warrington last Sunday when another forward, Roy Dickinson, suffered a similar injury in the opening minutes. Internal matters led to the absence from the side of goalkicker Whitfield and scrum-half Stephens with the result that loose-forward Pendlebury, a £23,000 signing from Salford, made his debut in the unusual role of scrum-half.

The side that faced Warrington lined up like this - Eadie; Wilson; Hague; Rix; George; Anderson; Pendlebury; Dickinson; McCallion; Neller; Bell; James; Dixon. Subs: Smith and Juliffe. The early loss of Dickinson was a major blow, and his replacement in the pack today could well be the highly respected Juliffe, whose strength and determination has enabled him to make the transition from winger to forward more successfully than most flankers could even imagine. It is very likely that both Stephens and Whitfield will be back in the side today, and there is no doubt that Halifax will be all the stronger for that.

Scrum-half Stephens is the team's midfield tactition, not only bringing on backs and forwards alike with his cunning distribution, but always kicking intelligently and making sure that Halifax make a maximum use to the possession at their disposal. Centre Whitfield has had a highly succesful season to date, scoring ten tries and landing nearly 50 goals. In the first week of the season, Halifax snatched a 20-14 win with a late try by Dixon at Thrum Hall and there is every reason to think that today's rearranged fixture at Watersheddings will be just as close and exciting.

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.**

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## Around the League . . . with Roughyed

Some of Rugby League's biggest names have hit the headlines recently — mainly for the wrong reasons. Personalities don't come any bigger than Great Britain stars Ellery Hanley, Gary Schofield and Andy Gregory, and their names have been screaming from the papers in inch high headlines over transfer requests, listings and the like. Hanley rocked Wigan last weekend with a transfer request; Schofield was listed by Hull at £150,000 as a disciplinary measure, and promptly had his name removed only a few days later; Gregory was left out of the Wires' side against Halifax last weekend after failing to attend training.

One theory behind the Hanley request is that he does not take kindly to the signing on a short-term contract of Australian skipper Wally Lewis, whom the newspapers would have us believe is earning in the region of £2,000 per match. Schofield has been widely quoted as saying he is in pursuit of a long-term contract, while Hanley is said to be the highest paid player in the English game at the moment — a far cry indeed, from the days when stars like Alex Murphy and Eric Ashton signed on for £50, and a promise of a benefit ten years on!

\* \* \* \*

The quarter finals of the John Player Special Trophy, being played this weekend, are as follows — Wigan v Leigh; St Helens v Warrington; Barrow v Widnes; Bradford v Hull. The Bradford Hull game was played yesterday and televised, but the other three ties are all taking place this afternoon. Of particular interest to the Oldham club is the Saints-Wires clash. Oldham are due to go to Knowsley Road next Sunday, but if Saints win and happen to be in the first semi-final, the Oldham game will be in jeopardy.

\* \* \* \*

Gary Schofield has completed a career century of touchdowns. Still only 21, the Hull centre has recorded one of the fastest centuries of recent times and becomes one of the youngest ever to score 100 tries. His total of 101 tries is made up of 83 for Hull and 18 in representative matches. A former Hunslet Parkside junior, Schofield signed for Hull soon after captaining the Great Britain Amateur Youth squad to New Zealand in 1983. He made his professional debut in a 22-22 draw at home to Warrington on 21st August, 1983. His next appearance was as a substitute when he scored his first try in a 30-8 Yorkshire Cup Second Round win at Keighly on 14th September, 1983. It was the start of a remarkable first season in which he became the youngest player to finish at the top of the try chart with 38. He was only 18 years ten months when the season finished. Schofield's total includes three hat-tricks for Hull plus two four-try feats in representative matches. His four tries in the second Test 25-8 defeat of New Zealand at Wigan in 1985 equalled the record for a Great Britain player. He also scored four tries for the 1984 Great Britain tourists in the 44-12 defeat of North Queensland at Rockhampton.

\* \* \* \*

Gary Schofield's total of five tries was the most by a Great Britain player in a home series against Australia although Jim Leytham (Wigan) scored six in Australia in 1910. Schofield also added a drop goal for a total of 21 points to beat Neil Fox's 20 (7g., 2t.) in 1959 as the most by a British player in a home series. Fox played in only two of the Tests. Lewis Jones holds the British record in Australia with 30 points (15g.) on the 1954 tour. Schofield also became the 5th British player to score at least one try in each Test of a series and the first since Ike Southward (Workington T.) achieved it in Australia in 1958. The Hull centres total of seven tries in six appearances puts him third in the all-time list of Great Britain try scorers in Tests against Australia. The leaders are Billy Boston (Wigan) with nine between 1954-62, and Mick Sullivan (Huddersfield, Wigan, St. Helens, and York) who scored eight between 1956-63. At 21, Schofield has ample time to pass these figures. In Tests against all countries, Schofield has scored 12 tries in 13 appearances — a long way off Mick Sullivan's record total of 40 including World Cup scores.

\* \* \* \*

# SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

A Wembley-era record 38 clubs enter the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup draw this week. The 34 professional clubs, plus four top amateur sides, pursue a May 2nd appearance in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley and a competition record top prize of £16,000. The draw for this prestigious tournament – a six-tie preliminary round and 16-match first round will take place at Headingley, Leeds on Thursday, 18th December, at 10:30 a.m. broadcast live on the Northern BBC local radio stations. The quartet of amateur clubs entering the draw for the preliminary round will be the 1986 winners of the Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire Cups, and the leaders of the new Slalom Lager National League on a percentage basis as at 1st December. The Silk Cut sponsorship for 1986-87 is worth £150,000. The annual increase of £10,000 has been allocated to the increase of prize money upto and including the third round, the investment into ground safety improvement schemes rising to £58,200.

## 1987 PRIZE STRUCTURE

| ROUND                    | PER ROUND   | TOTAL £  |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Preliminary .....        | 12 x £1,200 | 14,400   |
| First .....              | 16 x £1,200 | £19,400  |
| Second .....             | 8 x £1,650  | £13,200  |
| Third .....              | 4 x £1,750  | £11,000  |
| Semi-Finals .....        | 2 x £4,500  | £9,000   |
| Runners-Up .....         | 1 x £9,000  | £9,000   |
| Winners .....            | 1 x £16,000 | £16,000  |
| Total Prize Money        |             | £91,800  |
| Capital Development Fund |             | £58,200  |
|                          |             | £150,000 |

## 1987 TIMETABLE

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Preliminary Round | 18th January              |
| First Round       | 31st January/1st February |
| Second Round      | 14th/15th February        |
| Third Round       | 28th February/1st March   |
| Semi-Final (1)    | 14th March                |
| Semi-Final (2)    | 28th March                |
| Final             | 2nd May                   |

The Cup deadline for the signing of players is noon on Monday, 12th January. Tickets for the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final are priced at £22.00, £16.00, £10.00 for seating, £6.00 for standing and can be booked through: The Ticket Department, The Rugby League, 180 Chapel Town Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

| Date     | Opponents                             | O.R.L.F.C. CLUB SPONSOR | MATCH SPONSOR                     | PROGRAMME SPONSOR      | MATCHBALL SPONSOR               | TEAM SPONSOR                  | COMPETITION                |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 31-8-86  | <b>Leeds</b>                          | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | J. Leatherbarrow Wigan            | Salford Automatics Ltd | N.W. Decoiling Warrington       | Pennine Lounge Oldham         | Stones Bitter Championship |
| 14-9-86  | <b>Leigh</b><br>Lancs County Cup      | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Target Finishing Oldham           | Salford Automatics Ltd | J. Bowden Ltd Oldham            | Fashion Craft Middleton       | Grunhallet Lager           |
| 21-9-86  | <b>Hull K.R.</b>                      | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Fairway Rubber Salford Automatics | Salford Automatics Ltd | Harveys (Nissan) Oldham         | Lawrence Perrins Ltd, Oldham  | Stones Bitter Championship |
| 24-9-86  | <b>Workington</b><br>Lancs County Cup | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Frank Knowles Ltd., Royton        | Salford Automatics Ltd | B.C.C. Oldham                   | H. Ashworth Manchester        | Grunhallet Lager           |
| 1-10-86  | <b>Widnes</b><br>Lancs County Cup     | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     |                                   | Salford Automatics Ltd | Barry Bromley Weir Hotel, Bacup |                               | Grunhallet Lager           |
| 5-10-86  | <b>Widnes</b>                         | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | F.D. Kitchens Prestwich           | Salford Automatics Ltd | B.C.C. Oldham                   | Bosch Services Middleton      | Stones Bitter Championship |
| 2-11-86  | <b>Barrow</b>                         | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Austin Timber Oldham              | Salford Automatics Ltd | M.A. Appleton Preston           | Monty's Bar Oldham            | Stones Bitter Championship |
| 4-11-86  | <b>Australia</b>                      | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Matthew Brown Ltd                 | Salford Automatics Ltd | Britvic Ltd Leeds               | Halifax Building Soc., Oldham | Tour Match                 |
| 4-11-86  | <b>St Helens</b>                      | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | Bardsley Cleaning Oldham          | Salford Automatics Ltd | N.W. Decoiling Warrington       | Guttenberg Rawtenstall        | Stones Bitter Championship |
| 30-11-86 | <b>Bradford N. J.P.S.T.</b>           | Seddon Atkinson Ltd     | John Player                       | Salford Automatics Ltd | Fairway Rubber Manchester       | Sat-Tel (UK) Ltd Oldham       | John Player                |

The Committee would like to thank all the Sponsors and Advertisers who have supported Oldham Rugby League Football Club with their generous financial support during the 1986-87 season.

NEXT HOME MATCH

# SALFORD

Boxing Day 26th 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  |
| <b>BRADFORD</b> ..... | 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  |
| <b>OLDHAM</b> .....   | 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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## SECOND DIVISION

|                    | P  | W | D | L | F   | A   | W | D | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Hunslet .....      | 13 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 53  | 7 | 0 | 0 | 192 | 48  | 26  |
| 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  |
| York .....         | 14 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 174 | 154 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 102 | 100 | 14  |
| 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  |
| Carlisle .....     | 14 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 111 | 114 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 92  | 157 | 11  |
| Huddersfield ..... | 14 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 124 | 153 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 120 | 131 | 10  |
| Batley .....       | 11 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 44  | 26  | 4 | 0 | 4 | 117 | 196 | 10  |
| Dewsbury .....     | 12 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 121 | 104 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 56  | 128 | 8   |
| Fulham .....       | 10 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 101 | 126 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 74  | 117 | 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 .....    | 13 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 105 | 167 | 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<br>IT IG | M'Barki       | Foy<br>IT    | Warnecke       | Taylor         | Topliss       | Ashton<br>2DG | Jones       | Flanagan | Clark          | Hobbs<br>IG      | Hawkyard          | Worrall       | Kirwan<br>(10)   | Nadiole<br>(4)  |
| Sept | 3 HALIFAX (7-30) .....               | 4,869  | 14 | 20 | Atkinson<br>IT    | Sherman       | Foy          | M'Barki        | Taylor<br>IT   | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>3G    | Hawkyard         | Clawson           | Worrall       | Kirwan<br>D.N.P. | Nadiole<br>(12) |
|      | 7 WARRINGTON .....                   | 4,000  | 18 | 22 | Atkinson          | Sherman       | Foy          | M'Barki<br>IT  | Taylor         | Ashton        | Kirwan        | Clark<br>IT | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>3G    | Clawson          | Hawkyard<br>IT    | Worrall       | Edwards          | Nadiole         |
|      | 14 LEIGH County Cup 1 .....          | 4,566  | 29 | 22 | Atkinson          | Sherman<br>IT | Foy          | M'Barki<br>IT  | Taylor         | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark<br>IT | Flanagan | Nadiole<br>IT  | Clawson          | Worrall<br>6G     | Raper         | Edwards          | Hobbs<br>1DG IT |
|      | 21 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS .....        | 4,069  | 28 | 12 | M'Barki           | Sherman       | Hawkyard     | Warnecke<br>IT | Taylor<br>IT   | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Nadiole        | Worrall<br>3G    | Hobbs<br>1G IT    | Raper<br>IT   | Edwards          | Clawson         |
|      | 24 WORKINGTON County Cup 2 .....     | 3,412  | 46 | 13 | M'Barki<br>IT     | Sherman       | Foy          | Warnecke<br>2T | Taylor         | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark<br>IT | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>7G IT | Nadiole<br>IT    | Worrall<br>IT     | Raper<br>IT   | Hawkyard         | Clawson         |
|      | 28 LEIGH (3-30) .....                | 4,000  | 12 | 40 | M'Barki<br>IT     | Sherman       | Hawkyard     | Warnecke<br>IT | Taylor         | Bridge        | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>2G    | Clawson          | Worrall           | Raper         | Topliss          | Casey           |
| Oct  | 1 WIDNES (s/f L.C.) .....            | 5601   | 16 | 14 | M'Barki           | Sherman<br>IT | Bridge       | Warnecke       | Edwards        | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>1T 4G | Nadiole          | Worrall           | Raper         | Kirwan           | Hawkyard        |
| Oct  | 5 WIDNES .....                       | 3875   | 22 | 16 | Edwards           | Sherman       | Hawkyard     | Warnecke<br>IT | Atkinson<br>IT | Topliss       | Kirwan        | Jones       | Hall     | Clark<br>IT    | Hobbs<br>IT      | Clawson           | Worrall<br>3G | Ogburn           | Casey           |
|      | 19 WIGAN (Final L.C.C.) .....        | 20,180 | 6  | 27 | M'Barki           | Sherman       | Bridge<br>IT | Warnecke       | Atkinson       | Topliss       | Kirwan        | Clark       | Flanagan | Hobbs<br>1G    | Worrall          | Nadiole           | Raper         | Hawkyard         | Clawson         |
|      | 26 WAKEFIELD TRINITY (3-30) .....    | 2,740  | 54 | 10 | Edwards           | Sherman<br>IT | Foy<br>3T    | Warnecke<br>2T | Taylor         | Topliss<br>IT | Bridge        | Jones       | Flanagan | Clark          | Hobbs<br>6G      | Worrall<br>1G, IT | Raper<br>IT   | Ashton<br>IT     | Hawkyard        |
| Nov  | 2 BARROW .....                       | 3,306  | 32 | 20 | Edwards           | Sherman<br>IT | Foy          | M'Barki        | Taylor<br>IT   | Warnecke      | Ashton<br>IT  | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Hobbs<br>6G IT   | Worrall<br>IT     | Raper         | Hawkyard         | Nadiole         |
|      | 4 AUSTRALIA (7-30) .....             | 5,678  | 16 | 22 | Edwards           | Sherman       | Foy<br>IT    | Warnecke       | M'Barki        | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Worrall<br>3G    | Hobbs<br>1G       | Raper         | Hawkyard<br>IT   | Nadiole         |
|      | 9 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS .....         | 4,481  | 4  | 6  | M'Barki           | Sherman       | Foy          | Warnecke       | Taylor         | Topliss       | Ashton        | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Hawkyard         | Nadiole<br>2G     | Worrall       | Edwards          | Marsden         |
|      | 16 ST HELENS .....                   | 5,752  | 17 | 18 | M'Barki           | Sherman<br>IT | Foy<br>IT    | Warnecke       | Taylor         | Topliss       | Ashton<br>1DG | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Worrall<br>2G    | Hawkyard<br>IT    | Raper         | Edwards          | Nadiole         |
|      | 23 BRADFORD NORTHERN (3-30) .....    | 4,060  | 18 | 10 | M'Barki           | Sherman       | Foy<br>IT    | Warnecke       | Taylor         | Topliss       | Bridge        | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Worrall<br>1T 3G | Nadiole           | Raper<br>IT   | Lowndes          | Jones           |
|      | 30 BRADFORD NORTHERN (J.P.S.) .....  | 5,642  | 12 | 22 | M'Barki           | Sherman       | Foy<br>IT    | Warnecke<br>IT | Atkinson<br>IT | Topliss       | Bridge        | Clark       | Flanagan | Clawson        | Worrall<br>2G    | Nadiole           | Raper         | Ashton           | Lowndes         |
| Dec  | 7 JOHN PLAYER TROPHY SPECIAL 2 ..... |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |
|      | 14 WARRINGTON .....                  |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |
|      | 21 ST HELENS .....                   |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |
|      | 26 SALFORD .....                     |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |
| Jan  | 1 LEEDS .....                        |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |
|      | 4 HULL .....                         |        |    |    |                   |               |              |                |                |               |               |             |          |                |                  |                   |               |                  |                 |

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|---------------------------|--------|----------|------------|--------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|-------|
| Barrow                    | ■      | 16-21    | 12-23      | 16-07        | 24-6    |       |           |       |       |        | 12-34   |           |           |            | 16-18  | 8-16  |
| Bradford                  | 36-29  | ■        | 12-7       | 41-2         |         |       |           |       |       | 10-16  |         |           |           |            | 17-14  | 19-20 |
| Castleford                |        |          | ■          | 16-7         | 16-6    |       |           | 19-8  | 29-21 |        | 42-16   |           |           |            |        | 6-12  |
| Featherstone              |        |          | 16-19      | ■            | 16-16   |       |           | 16-16 | 16-6  | 8-44   | 22-19   | 14-48     |           |            |        |       |
| Halifax                   |        |          | 12-36      |              | ■       | 26-36 | 24-18     | 23-8  | 20-18 |        |         |           | 13-16     |            |        |       |
| Hull                      |        | 27-22    |            | 28-23        | ■       | 10-32 | 34-26     |       |       |        |         |           | 12-6      |            |        |       |
| Hull K.R.                 |        | 12-30    | 36-18      |              | 29-6    | ■     | 35-29     | 6-4   |       | 4-36   | 22-11   |           |           |            |        |       |
| Leeds                     |        | 4-12     | 33-12      |              |         |       | ■         |       |       | 46-10  | 20-40   | 16-54     |           |            |        |       |
| Leigh                     |        |          |            | 26-28        |         |       | 20-8      | ■     | 40-12 |        |         |           | 22-07     | 18-20      | 6-35   |       |
| Oldham                    | 32-29  |          |            |              |         | 28-12 | 14-12     |       | ■     |        | 17-18   |           |           | 22-16      |        |       |
| Salford                   | 12-24  | 12-22    |            |              |         | 14-34 |           |       |       | ■      | 4-36    | 10-25     | 22-16     | 8-34       |        |       |
| St Helens                 |        |          |            | 36-16        | 10-10   |       |           | 16-19 | 33-14 | ■      | 32-11   |           |           |            |        |       |
| Wakefield                 | 14-18  | 22-32    |            |              |         |       |           | 14-28 | 6-42  | 10-54  |         | ■         |           |            |        |       |
| Warrington                |        |          | 28-26      | 18-19        | 42-10   |       |           | 22-18 | 42-14 |        | 18-18   | ■         |           | 23-12      |        |       |
| Widnes                    | 26-11  | 14-16    | 29-29      |              |         |       | 26-8      | 25-10 |       |        |         |           | ■         |            |        |       |
| Wigan                     | 18-4   |          |            |              |         | 14-7  |           | 38-0  | 42-12 | 42-10  |         |           |           |            |        | ■     |

## Appearances & Scorers

|                   | APPS<br>(inc. Subs.) | T | G  | DG | PTS |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|----|----|-----|
| ASHTON, R. ....   | 13                   | 2 | —  | 3  | 11  |
| ATKINSON, K. .... | 6                    | 3 | 1  | —  | 14  |
| BRIDGE, G. ....   | 6                    | 1 | —  | —  | 4   |
| CLARK, B. ....    | 17                   | 3 | —  | —  | 12  |
| CLAWSON, N. ....  | 14                   | 1 | —  | —  | 4   |
| EDWARDS, J. ....  | 10                   | — | —  | —  | —   |
| FLANAGAN, T. .... | 16                   | — | —  | —  | —   |
| FOY, D. ....      | 12                   | 8 | —  | —  | 32  |
| HAWKYARD, C. .... | 14                   | 3 | —  | —  | 12  |
| HOBBS, D. ....    | 13                   | 6 | 35 | 1  | 95  |
| JONES, W. ....    | 4                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| KIRWAN, P. ....   | 6                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| M'BARKI, H. ....  | 15                   | 4 | —  | —  | 16  |
| NADIOLE, T. ....  | 15                   | 1 | —  | —  | 4   |
| RAPER, S. ....    | 12                   | 5 | —  | —  | 20  |
| SHERMAN, P. ....  | 16                   | 5 | —  | —  | 20  |
| TAYLOR, M. ....   | 13                   | 3 | —  | —  | 12  |
| TOPLISS, D. ....  | 15                   | 1 | —  | —  | 4   |
| WARNECKE, G. .... | 14                   | 8 | —  | —  | 32  |
| WORRALL, M. ....  | 17                   | 4 | 25 | —  | 66  |
| CASEY, L. ....    | 2                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| HALL, M. ....     | 1                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| LOWNDES, P. ....  | 2                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| MARSDEN, R. ....  | 1                    | — | —  | —  | —   |
| OGBURN, J. ....   | 1                    | — | —  | —  | —   |

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## SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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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 Halifax 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

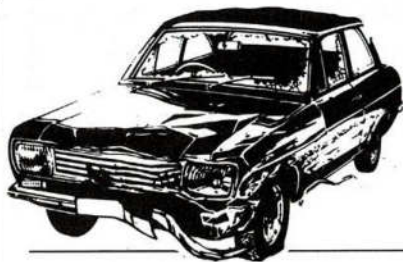
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# THE EDITOR TALKING

## ... On Two Views of Rugby League

It was fascinating to tune in to the new Sunday evening Rugby League spot on local radio last weekend and listen to some punchy and outspoken views of our game. Ray French, the BBC Rugby League commentator, and Clem Thomas, one of the Union code's top journalists, both had points to make which are well worthy of reproducing for those local fans who missed the programme. Welshman Thomas, respected throughout the world as a great authority on Rugby Union, expressed the view that League had made many advances in its administration, public relations, and spectator appeal, while in his view, Union had moved in the other direction. The International Board's decision to consider broken-time payment for international players on tour, the need to produce more fluent and crowd pleasing rugby football, and the calls to abolish the two wing forwards and play 13-a-side were all indicative, he said, of how the two codes were coming closer together. He spoke with great respect and admiration for the Australian RL tourists which was something of a contrast to Ray French's view that, good though the Aussies were on the recent tour, they were "tactically boring" compared with the 1982 party. It is easy to understand what Ray means when he talks of the Aussie forwards being boring and programmed merely to win the "midfield war of attrition" because it is a fact that they rarely passed the ball.

It was noticeable in all three Tests that the Aussie forwards played what we might call safety-first football. They rarely passed – but neither did they lose possession, which was a great fault of the English forwards in all three Tests. Where, asked Ray, were players like Johnnie Raper and Ray Price? Perhaps we could also ask – where were Brian McTigue or Vince Karalius? The Aussies played to their strengths, and that meant letting Sterling and Lewis do the ball play and tactical dictating. If you haven't got a Raper, you can't get anyone to play like one. Did Britain make the mistake, with no McTigue, or trying to turn players of lesser ability into a carbon copy of the great Wigan prop of yesteryear?

Certainly, the British forwards lost the ball time after time trying to do something the Aussie forwards never even attempted. Call the Aussies boring if you wish, but I would view it as good planning and sound common sense. To say the Aussie forwards did not possess much ball playing skill is one thing. To condemn the side as "boring" because of that possible deficiency up front is, in my view, to go over the top. You won't find a more exciting back division in world rugby than a line up of Jack, Kiss, or Shearer, Miles, Kenny, O'Connor or Meninga, Lewis, Sterling. Ray also made the point that expansive attacking play was not the tourists' forte and, to back up his argument, pointed out that the half-backs on tour scored more tries than the wings.

Figures can be made to prove anything, of course, and just because Terry Lamb got 15 tries and Greg Alexander another eight, we must not assume that they merely picked up the pieces after the raw boned forwards had worn us down physically. Take the Oldham game. Lamb's two tries were both the result of super backing up at the end of sweeping moves involving the backs, and you can gamble there were many more tries of that nature in his tour total. Alexander also scored at Oldham – a classical, old fashioned scrum-half try up the blind side of the pack. O'Connor's three tries in the first Test were the result of highly polished back play that would have been a credit to any era of rugby – and what about some of those super skills the Aussies employed when they had us on the run in the second Test and Sterling was weaving his magic.

The fact that no Aussie forward made a break in the third Test surely cannot be seen as a Kangaroo weakness, as Ray seems to suggest, but as a terrific tribute to Britain's defence. The whole approach of Australian football is different to ours and, as Ray says, we must not try to ape them and must never forget that the British game is traditionally a footballing game built on skill and ball playing techniques. What we must also remember, surely, is that a team at any level must set out to play to its strengths. Australia did that, and did it superbly. No Raper, no Price, no Beetson, but boring? Never.

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### WELL DONE LADS!

*A Thank you from Matthew Brown (Sales) Ltd  
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Dear Peter,

May I take this opportunity of thanking both yourself and Oldham Rugby Club for your participation in a fund raising event at our Prince of Wales Hotel in Oldham.

The Oldham team played our ladies darts team at the above hotel with all proceeds being donated to the Oldham Cot Death Charity. Although at this stage the total amount of money raised is not yet known, I am sure that it will be greatly appreciated.

As I understand it a return match has been arranged for later in January and I am sure that the evening will be another great success.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Haynes.



Photo Courtesy of  
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

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HOBBS**

# CAPTAIN'S TALE

## CAPTAIN'S TALE

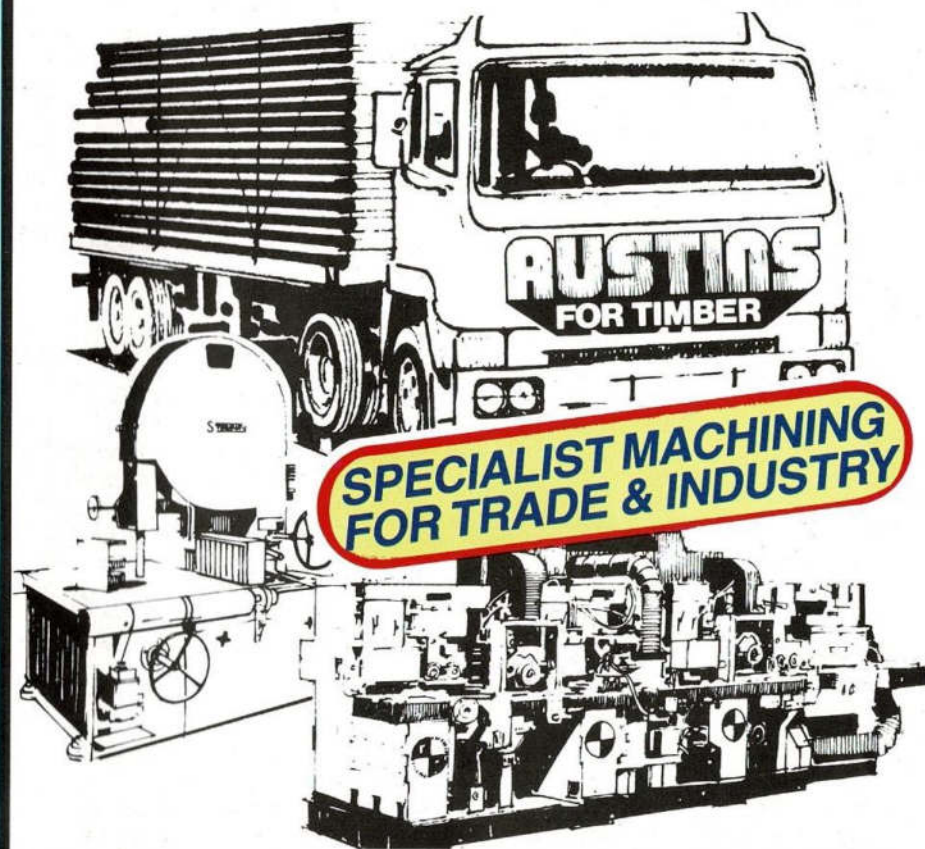
by DAVID TOPLISS

After the disappointment of losing to Bradford in the John Player Trophy, we must go into today's Halifax game in the right frame of mind as we seek to achieve some consistency in the League. I was not too disappointed at going out of the Player's Trophy, after the initial reaction, because Bradford meant business and their performances made our League win at Odsal the week before look a lot more important and deserving merit. They seemed to get on top in the first half, but I still believe we would have gone on to win if we had scored just after half time when we began to put our game together. It was at that time that we just needed that bit of luck, but we couldn't get across the line, and that was when the game was won and lost.

There is no cause for panic, for our tackling has been second to none in recent weeks. Even against Bradford, we went out in the right frame of mind, but Northern seemed to want to win a bit more than us. I still felt at half-time that we were capable of pulling it round, but on the day it didn't happen, and we have to accept that Bradford played well. Halifax come as champions and you don't become champions unless you are a good side. I know they have not been going as well this season as they did last, but they are still a considerable force. They took three points off us last season and they have already got off us this time. We will certainly be all out to make sure they don't do the double.

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