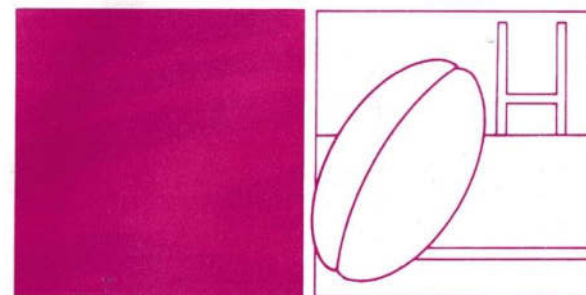


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General Manager: F. Myler

Hon Secretary: F. Howarth, B.A.

Coaching Staff: G. Starkey, G. Gartland

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Hon. Doctors: Dr Grey, Dr Johnson

Dental Surgeon: Mr N. Gibbison

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

Physiotherapist: Mr A. Bonnelle

Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr J. Watkins

Lifeline: L. Bostock

Official Timekeeper: J. Roscoe

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v. Liverpool City, April 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £9,100 v Wakefield, 24th February, 1980

Record Transfer Fee Paid: \$40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February, 1985

Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries, 1921-22 season

Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957-58 season

Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest number of points scored: Bernard Ganley, 2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233. Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69

Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80

CLUB NOTES

Congratulations to all concerned for that magnificent triumph over Wigan in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on Wednesday night of last week. It was a marvellous performance by our boys to knock out the 9-4 favourites for the cup, and with a 10,000 plus crowd providing a fantastic atmosphere, it became a Watersheddings night to remember when Paddy Kirwain squeezed in for the try that levelled the scores almost on time and Mick Burke stepped up to land the winning goal.

Wigan hadn't time to come back at us – and seconds later the hooter sounded and the pitch was invaded with thousands of Oldhamers who were overjoyed at seeing yet another surprise in a first round of several shocks. If you were lucky enough to snatch a glimpse of the second round draw when it was announced fleetingly at the end of the BBC North-West Tonight television programme last Thursday (one continually wonders why our game rarely gets the promotion it deserves) you will know that we were drawn with the winners of that evening's Dewsbury v St Helens tie.

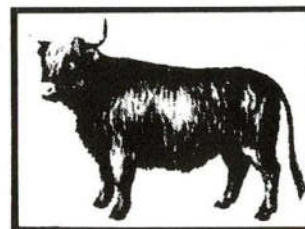
Saints had no trouble in beating their Second Division rivals to set up today's Oldham/St Helens crowd puller. It means that after knocking out the 9-4 favourites we now have to try and remove the new favourites, priced at 7-2. Such a tie was clearly going to be a candidate for television purposes and, sure enough, the League announced last Friday morning that the match had been picked out to fulfil the television contract for round two.

After talks involving club officials, police and safety officers it was decided there was still a need to apply all-ticket regulations although the tie is now to be televised – at least in part – and will clash with the Athletic/Ipswich game at Boundary Park. Such is the popularity of our game when it comes to the big occasion!

The decision was also taken to keep faith with our supporters and keep admission prices the same as they were for the first round. In short, we are looking for another bumper crowd with thousands of Oldham fans getting behind the team to try and help them into the third round against stiff opposition.

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Matthew Brown

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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 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. 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. His 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.

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 – Stand-off Half. An Australian form 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 stand-off half, and has proved to be a prolific try scorer with a terrific burst of speed especially in the opponents 25.

Paul Doherty – Stand-off 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 after just three minutes on his debut for the Saints in the thrashing of Cup Finalists Castleford 62-12 last season.

Mark Bailey – 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 pace 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 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 season's '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 – 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 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 dissatisfied 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 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 for the following December also against France. His full international debut came v New Zealand in October 1985 at Headingley. Prior to the recent 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.

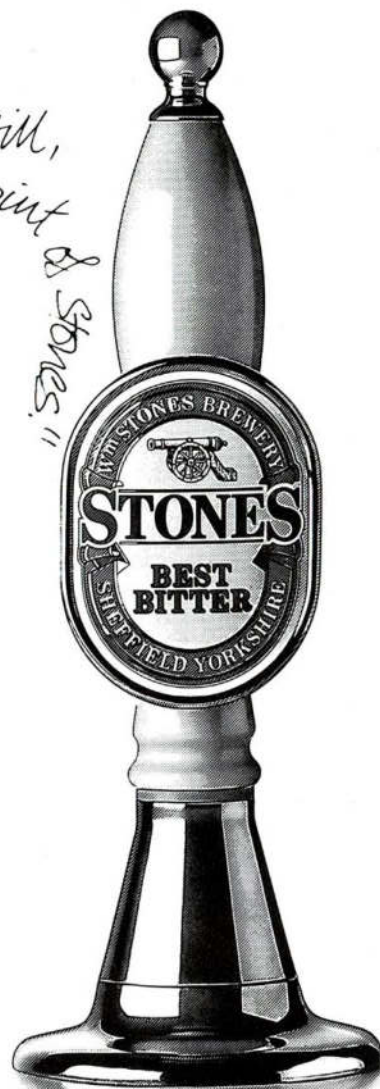
Roy Haggerty – Second Row. Leading try scorer with the club last season with 21. Without doubt the Saints crowd favourite, being one of today's great characters. Not the biggest forward, but his heart makes up for his lack of weight. A former Colts international who has successfully made the conversion 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 for Great Britain in the recent Test against France.

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 21s 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 stand-off, but has been successfully moved to the pack, where he has featured at prop, second to 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 as the best loose forward in the game today.

*There was a young full back called Jones,
Who said, "I can't understand
why everyone moans,"
Then they lost 40-nil,
He said, "Bother, but still,
I'll just have a quick pint*

& Stones."



Stones. Sheer poetry.

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Around the League... with Roughyed

If recently history counts for anything, ground advantage could be vital in today's televised second round tie in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup between Oldham and St Helens. This will be Oldham's ninth consecutive home tie in knock-out competitions over the past 12 months, and Frank Myler's men have won seven of the previous eight. Their only defeat was to Bradford in the first round of this season's John Player Special Trophy and among the seven successes have been wins over the First Division clubs such as Warrington, Bradford, Leigh, Widnes and Wigan. This sequence started a year ago with the Challenge Cup. Carlisle came to Oldham in round one (played at Boundary Park), followed by Warrington and then Bradford on route to our semi-final appearance against Castleford at Wigan. In this season's Grunhalls Lancashire Cup, we had Leigh at home in round one, followed by Workington and then Widnes before earning our final appearance against Wigan at St Helens. True to form, we came out of the hat first when drawn at home to Bradford in this season's John Player, but we fell at the first hurdle before beating Wigan — again at Watersheddings — in round one of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The record book shows that, so far as Oldham is concerned, it is truly a case of 'home sweet home'.

The Stones Bitter premiership final double header at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground on Sunday, 17th May will get the big sell out treatment from the sponsors, who are planning a massive media and advertising promotion. The League are banking on a crowd of about 30,000 for this history-making venture in which Old Trafford will house the first Second Division play-off final as well as the big one in four and a half hours of big-match Rugby League. Lancashire County Cricket Club have loaned their dressing rooms to the teams who will contest the Second Division premiership final which will kick-off at 1.00 p.m. — two hours before the start of the First Division premiership final. Use of the cricket ground facilities will relieve dressing room congestion at the United ground.

Ground sharing and use of soccer grounds is the 'in' thing at the moment — and now comes news of a possible link-up, on a permanent basis, between Halifax and the Town's soccer club. The Town soccer men are already to sell their Shay ground for supermarket development and move to Thrum Hall. All parties appear to be in agreement, including the town council which will be involved in the financial arrangements but there is a snag caused by a legality which prevents soccer ever taking place on the Thrum Hall ground. Legal advisors will have to get round the obstacle if the sharing plan is to materialise.

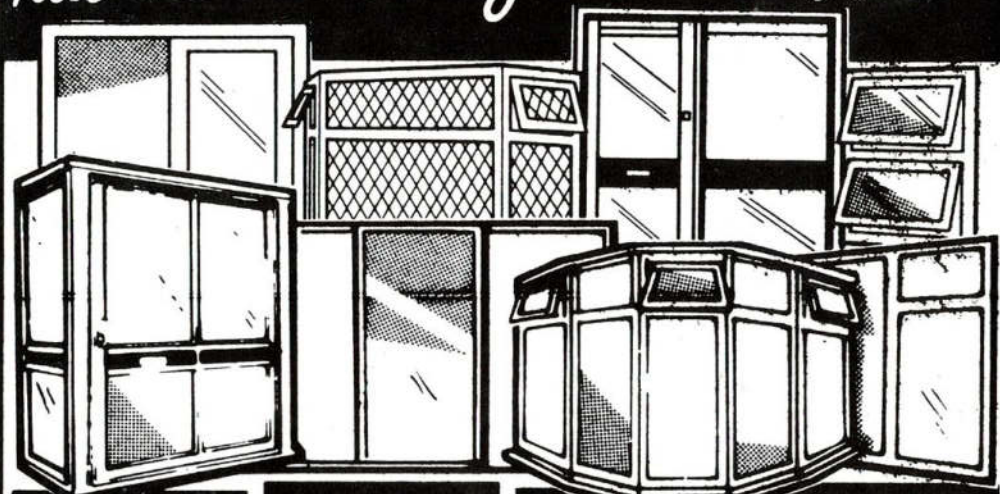
Clubs can only have three overseas men next season — and the limitations will be strictly enforced. 'Only those players who are eligible to play for Great Britain will be outside the limit,' says RL official and spokesman David Howes. 'Residential and long-term contracts will be irrelevant.' At Oldham, the new ruling will affect Hussein M'Barki. At present, he is not regarded as an 'overseas' signing because he was signed before the ban on Aussie imports was lifted and as a long-stay man who had already spent several seasons in England, first with Fulham and then a short spell with Warrington. His exclusion from the ban enabled Oldham to complete their allocation of four overseas men this season with the addition of Stuart Raper to Gary Warnecke, Bruce Clark and Gary Bridge. But next season it will be three only, including M'Barki.

Congratulations to David Hobbs, who played in Great Britain's front-row against France at Headingley recently and in the return Test in Carcassonne last Sunday. Now British coach Mal Reilly and manager Les Bettinson watched the Oldham/Wigan cup tie and were suitably impressed with Des Foy, who could force his way into 1988 Aussie tour consideration if he continues to play to top form. Incidentally, Reilly has followed the pattern set by his predecessor, Maurice Bamford, and has retained our former player Phil Larder, now the game's Director of Coaching, to assist in the British build-up.

Draw for the third round of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup will take place on Tuesday morning and will be televised by BBC at about 7.45 a.m. Due to so many first round ties being postponed, the second round draw was delayed until the following Thursday. The idea was to have it televised on Look North. It was filmed live from Leeds for Yorkshire viewers, but the North-West version was merely mentioned at the end of the programme — another TV disappointment for League fans.

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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP ROUND-UP

Silk Cut Draws — BBC Breakfast Time will stage the draws for the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Each draw will be presented at 7.50 a.m. on the Tuesday after the previous round.

Silk Cut Awards — A Silk Cut award of £75 and a Silk Cut sweater will be presented to the Man of the Match from either side, the choice being made by the Press. The Silk Cut award winner in the semi-finals will receive £100 and an inscribed memento.

Silk Cut Sweaters — A limited supply of top quality Silk Cut Challenge Cup sweaters are available. The grey lambswool sweater features the official full colour Silk Cut Challenge Cup symbol with the words "Silk Cut Challenge Cup". Priced £14.95 + £1.00 postage and package, this collector's item is available in chest sizes 34"-46", from: The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

Silk Cut Tie — For the first time, a Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie is available. In grey and purple, the exclusive, top quality tie is priced £3.75 + 50p postage and packing, from: The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final Tickets — Tickets for the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final are priced at £22.00, £16.00, £10.00 for seating and £6.00 for standing. Please forward order and remittance — plus a stamped, addressed envelope — to: The Ticket Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

1987 PRIZE STRUCTURE

ROUND	DATE	PER ROUND	TOTAL
Preliminary	18th January	12 x £1,200	£14,400
First	31st January/1st Feb.	16 x £1,200	£19,200
Second	14th/15th February	8 x £1,650	£13,200
Third	28th February/1st March	4 x £2,750	£11,000
Semi-final (1)	14th March	1 x £4,500	£4,500
Semi-final (2)	28th March	1 x £4,500	£4,500
Final:	2nd May		
	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

The Cup deadline for the signing of players is noon on Monday, 12th January.

NEXT HOME MATCH

HULL

Sunday 22nd February, 1987 kick off 3 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	17	9	0	1	270	144	6	0	1	171	105	30
ST HELENS	17	7	0	1	277	101	7	0	2	269	107	28
Halifax	20	9	0	2	252	141	4	1	4	148	172	27
Wigan	15	5	0	1	191	41	8	0	1	186	73	26
Castleford	18	6	0	4	211	136	6	0	2	163	121	24
Widnes	18	8	0	2	267	156	3	0	5	138	172	22
Leeds	19	6	0	4	288	183	4	0	5	141	164	20
Hull KR	19	7	0	3	182	144	3	0	6	121	182	20
Bradford N	18	4	0	4	162	119	5	0	5	200	206	18
OLDHAM	18	6	0	2	185	132	3	0	7	178	220	18
Hull	17	7	0	1	195	149	1	0	8	102	262	16
Leigh	19	3	1	5	143	153	2	0	8	150	286	11
Barrow	20	3	0	7	174	188	1	2	7	159	252	10
Salford	19	3	0	6	123	223	2	0	8	131	273	10
Featherstone	18	3	1	5	160	203	1	0	8	108	251	9
Wakefield	20	0	1	10	108	315	0	0	9	103	330	1

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunslet	20	10	0	0	272	79	9	0	1	252	69	38
Swinton	17	10	0	0	359	104	5	0	2	131	78	30
Whitehaven	18	9	0	0	234	69	4	0	5	114	133	26
Sheffield	20	7	0	3	222	123	5	0	5	229	203	24
Doncaster	17	4	1	2	176	106	7	0	3	176	160	23
Rochdale	17	7	0	2	166	87	4	1	3	133	133	23
Blackpoll	18	5	0	4	172	146	6	0	3	185	138	22
Bramley	18	6	0	2	134	106	4	0	6	125	220	20
York	19	5	0	5	246	204	4	0	5	134	134	18
Carlisle	18	7	1	2	181	134	1	0	7	112	180	17
Runcorn	18	6	0	3	180	135	2	1	6	111	183	17
Batley	17	2	0	5	91	82	5	0	5	131	216	14
Huddersfield	21	2	0	8	164	231	4	0	7	176	297	12
Fulham	16	4	0	4	161	172	1	0	7	136	231	10
Dewsbury	18	4	0	6	139	156	1	0	7	77	199	10
Workington	18	3	0	6	167	175	1	0	8	85	267	8
Keighly	18	3	0	6	104	157	1	0	8	98	245	8
Mansfield	20	3	0	7	165	251	1	0	9	112	247	8

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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 1T 1G	M'Barki	Foy 1T	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 1T	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor 1T	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 1T	Taylor	Ashton	Kirwan	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Hobbs 3G	Clawson	Hawkyard 1T	Worrall	Edwards	Nadiole
14	Leigh L.C.C. 1	4,566	29	22	Atkinson	Sherman 1T	Foy	M'Barki 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Nadiole 1T	Clawson	Worrall 6G	Raper	Edwards	Hobbs 10G 1T
21	Hull K.R.	4,069	28	12	M'Barki	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Nadiole	Worrall 3G	Hobbs 1G 1T	Raper 1T	Edwards	Clawson
24	Workington L.C.C. 2	3,412	46	13	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Hobbs 7G 1T	Nadiole	Worrall 1T	Raper 1T	Hawkyard	Clawson
28	Leigh (3-30)	4,000	12	40	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Taylor	Bridge	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 2G	Clawson	Worrall	Raper	Topliss	Casey
Oct 1	Widnes L.C.C. s/f	5,601	16	14	M'Barki	Sherman 1T	Bridge	Warnecke	Edwards	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 1T 4G	Nadiole	Worrall	Raper	Kirwan	Hawkyard
Oct 5	Widnes	3,875	22	16	Edwards	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Atkinson 1T	Topliss	Kirwan	Jones	Hall	Clark 1T	Hobbs 1T	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Ogburn	Casey
19	Wigan L.C.C. Final	20,180	6	27	M'Barki	Sherman	Bridge 1T	Warnecke	Atkinson	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 1G	Worrall	Nadiole	Raper	Hawkyard	Clawson
26	Wakefield T. (3-30)	2,740	54	10	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy 3T	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss 1T	Bridge	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 6G	Worrall 1G 1T	Raper 1T	Ashton 1T	Hawkyard
Nov 2	Barrow	3,306	32	20	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor 1T	Warnecke	Ashton 1T	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hobbs 6G 1T	Worrall 1T	Raper	Hawkyard	Nadiole
4	Australia (7-30)	5,678	16	22	Edwards	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	M'Barki	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Hobbs 1G	Raper	Hawkyard 1T	Nadiole
9	Hull K.R.	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 1T	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 1DG	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 2G	Hawkyard 1T	Raper	Edwards	Nadiole
23	Bradford N. (3-30)	4,060	18	10	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Bridge	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 1T 3G	Nadiole	Raper 1T	Lowndes	Jones
30	Bradford N. (J.P.S.)	5,642	12	22	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke 1T	Atkinson	Topliss	Bridge	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 2G	Nadiole	Raper	Ashton	Lowndes
Dec 14	Halifax	4,905	18	20	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Bridge 1T	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Worrall 1G	Hobbs	Raper 1T	Hawkyard	Clawson
21	St Helens	6,821	6	28	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Hobbs	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 1G	Hawkyard	Raper	Atkinson	Hall
26	Salford	4,011	34	18	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 1T	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hobbs 1G	Worrall 4G	Raper 1T	Edwards	Hall
Jan 1	Leeds	7,570	26	20	Bridge	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Hall	Hobbs 3G	Flanagan 2T	Worrall	Raper 1T	Nadiole	Clawson
4	Hull	4,895	16	20	Trialist	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Sanderson	Hobbs 2G	Worrall	Flanagan	Raper	Kirwan	Clawson
18	Featherstone	2,719	20	16	Burke 1T	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson 1T	Waddell 1T	Hobbs 1T	Flanagan	Raper	Edwards	Clawson
21	Widnes	2,798	10	44	Burke 1G	Sherman	Foy	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Clawson	Flanagan	Raper	Edwards	Nadiole
Feb 4	Wigan (S.C.C.C.)	10,050	10	8	Burke 3G	M'Barki	Foy	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan 1T	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs	Flanagan	Warnecke	Raper
14	St Helens (S.C.C.C.)																		
22	Hull																		
March 1	Castleford																		
8	Featherstone																		
15	Bradford																		
29	Castleford																		
April 5	Barrow																		
12	Leigh																		
17	Salford																		
20	Wigan																		

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First Division 1986-87	Barrow	Bradford	Castleford	Featherstone	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Leigh	Oldham	Salford	St Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
Barrow	■	16-14	14-24	12-23	16-17	24-6	16-23					12-34	28-13	16-19	8-36	
Bradford	36-29	■	12-7	41-2	8-12			18-28	19-18					27-14	19-29	
Castleford	46-19	16-7	■	16-7	16-6	16-10	12-14	19-8	29-23			42-16	18-24		6-12	
Featherstone		16-19	■	16-16	18-12	0-14	50-16	16-6	8-44			22-29	14-48			
Halifax	40-14	29-14	12-16	34-8	■	28-30	24-18	23-8	29-16	18-8	29-19		13-16			
Hull	41-18	27-22		26-6	29-23	■	19-32	31-25				12-4				
Hull K.R.	12-30	36-14	14-4	29-4		■	35-29	6-4	4-38	22-11		16-4	6-23			
Leeds	4-12		33-12		42-7	■	28-12	29-28	46-39	29-40	46-4	16-54	25-4			
Leigh	9-9	6-12	20-28	8-12	20-8	■	46-12					22-17	18-20	0-35		
Oldham	32-29		29-16	18-21	28-12	14-12	■	34-28	17-18			22-36				
Salford	12-21	12-22		29-19	14-34	20-12	■	4-38		19-25	22-16	0-34				
St Helens			43-11	38-16	50-10		50-18	28-4	32-14	■	33-11		4-42			
Wakefield	14-18	22-32	12-49	2-29		14-28	6-12	18-54	10-16	6-30	■					
Warrington	24-20	18-30	21-21	18-10	42-10	20-6	22-18	42-14	24-18	■		23-12				
Widnes	26-14	14-36	29-20		26-8	35-10	44-10	13-12	16-10	49-14	■	16-22				
Wigan	18-6				34-7		31-6	42-12	62-10	4-4	■					

Appearances & Scorers

	APPS (inc. Subs.)	T	G	DG	PTS
ATKINSON, K.	7	3	1	—	14
BRIDGE, G.	14	7	—	—	28
BURKE, M.	3	1	4	—	12
CLARK, B.	23	3	—	—	12
CLAWSON, N.	21	1	—	—	4
EDWARDS, J.	14	—	—	—	—
FLANAGAN, T.	24	2	—	—	8
FOY, D.	20	12	—	—	48
HAWKYARD, C.	16	3	—	—	12
HOBBS, D.	20	6	43	1	111
JONES, W.	5	—	—	—	—
KIRWAN, P.	11	1	—	—	4
M'BARKI, H.	18	5	—	—	20
NADIOLE, T.	16	1	—	—	4
RAPER, S.	20	8	—	—	32
SANDERSON, I.	4	1	—	—	4
SHERMAN, P.	23	6	—	—	24
TAYLOR, M.	21	7	—	—	28
TOPLISS, D.	23	1	—	—	4
WADDELL, H.	3	—	—	—	—
WARNECKE, G.	17	9	—	—	36
WORRALL, M.	23	4	31	—	78
CASEY, L.	2	—	—	—	—
HALL, M.	4	—	—	—	—
LOWNDES, P.	2	—	—	—	—
MARSDEN, R.	1	—	—	—	—
OGBURN, J.	1	—	—	—	—
TRIALIST	1	—	—	—	—

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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.

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... On The Importance Of The Right Attitude

Many of my soccer friends are totally confused when the weekend Rugby League results come in, particularly those involving First Division clubs which bear little relation to form and merely underline how difficult it is to make predictions on results. For instance, how do you explain Oldham conceding 44 points at Widnes who, in turn, let in a similar score against Leeds, beaten by Oldham on New Year's Day. For instance, how do you explain to soccer people — and even some RL folk, that Oldham's trouncing at Widnes would count for nothing when it came to assessing their chances against Wigan, the strongest team in the game, in the cup? 'If Widnes can score forty odd points against us, what will Wigan do?' asked one correspondent in the letters column of the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Well, he got his answer, didn't he? Wigan didn't do very much at all.

By the same yardstick, how do you explain Bradford coming here in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy and administering a shock defeat, only seven days after Oldham had trounced them as Odsal in the League? And what about Bradford hitting back from a spell of six consecutive League defeats to pull off a massive first round Challenge Cup shock when they won at Warrington? You could go on for ever referring to examples of this sort of thing and the answer really lies, I think, not so much in ability but in whether or not a side is mentally tuned up to do a professional job on any particular day.

There are two major points to consider. The first is that there is not a great deal to choose in terms of ability and skill between most of the teams in the First Division. You could almost perhaps pick out Wigan as being ahead of the rest because of the enormous amount of individual talent assembled at Central Park. At the other end of the ladder there are probably two or three teams who are beneath the rest in ability, potential and resources, and who look certain to be relegated almost from the start of the season.

The remainder are all in a similar bracket, about 12 teams who are all capable of taking points off each other during the course of a long season. Very often the sides can be separated by things as controversial decisions, the bounce of the ball, referee interpretations, and whether or not a team is lucky or unlucky with injuries. Mental attitude on the day, therefore, is probably one of the most important factors of all in team preparation, particularly, so as Rugby League must be one of the hardest physical contact sports in existence. It is very often the team that *wants* to win most that does, and I thought that was very evident when Bradford knocked Oldham out of the John Player. Not surprising, therefore, that they did the same to Warrington a few months later in the Challenge Cup!

The reverse applies when Wigan came here in the cup last week. Oldham's insatiable appetite for cup success was evident from the start and although Wigan were well on top in the second half, Oldham's tenacity enabled them to hang on grimly, and then snatch it. Lucky Oldham, some might say. But you make your own luck to a large extent and it was the side's terrific attitude and application that kept within striking distance when Wigan applied tremendous pressure in the second half and went into an 8-4 lead with only ten minutes left.

There may be no substitute for class. But I'll tell you what, a side that is firing on all cylinders and pulling for each other can compensate tremendously for other weaknesses. That's one of the main reasons you get shock results, especially in the cup. Analyse deeply Featherstone's surprise win over Hull at Wembley, or Castleford's success win over Hull KR, and you will find that mental attitude played a significant part. In many cases, attitude on the day is the difference between winning and losing.

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OLDHAM Team Check **STHELENS**

MICK BURKE 1
HUSSEIN M'BARKI 2
DES FOY 3
GARY BRIDGE 4
MIKE TAYLOR 5
DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.) 6
PADDY KIRWAN 7
BRUCE CLARK 8
IAN SANDERSON 9
HUGH WADDLE 10
MICK WORRALL 11
DAVID HOBBS 12
TERRY FLANAGAN 13
GARY WARRENKE 14
STUART RAPER 15

PHIL VIEVERS
BARRY HEDGES
STEVE BAYLISS
PAUL LOUGHLIN
KEVIN McCORMACK
BRETT CLARK
NEIL HOLDING
TONY BURKE
GRAHAM LIPTROTT
PAT JARVIS
ANDY PLATT
ROY HAGGERTY
CHRIS ARKWRIGHT
JOHN FIELDHOUSE
PAUL FORBER

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CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

The Wigan win seems a long time ago — a lot longer than ten days. That's because, once our celebrations were over after the match, we were told by Frank Myler, the boss, that we had to forget Wigan and start to think about the next round. I must thank the fans for the part they played in our 10-8 triumph, but we now have to turn our thoughts to St Helens and I know we can rely on more magnificent support today as we prepare for a game that will be just as difficult as the first round.

Saints are not the new 7-2 favourites for nothing, and we have to approach the tie in the same mood that helped us to overcome Wigan last week. Teamwork got us over the first hurdle, and while everybody will have their own memories of the tie and their own opinions about what particular incidents were crucial, I would pick out Mike Taylor's two try-saving cover tackles on Shaun Edwards and Henderson Gill as the most crucial. Last-ditch tackles like that win cup ties and, in the final analysis, they were vital on this occasion too.

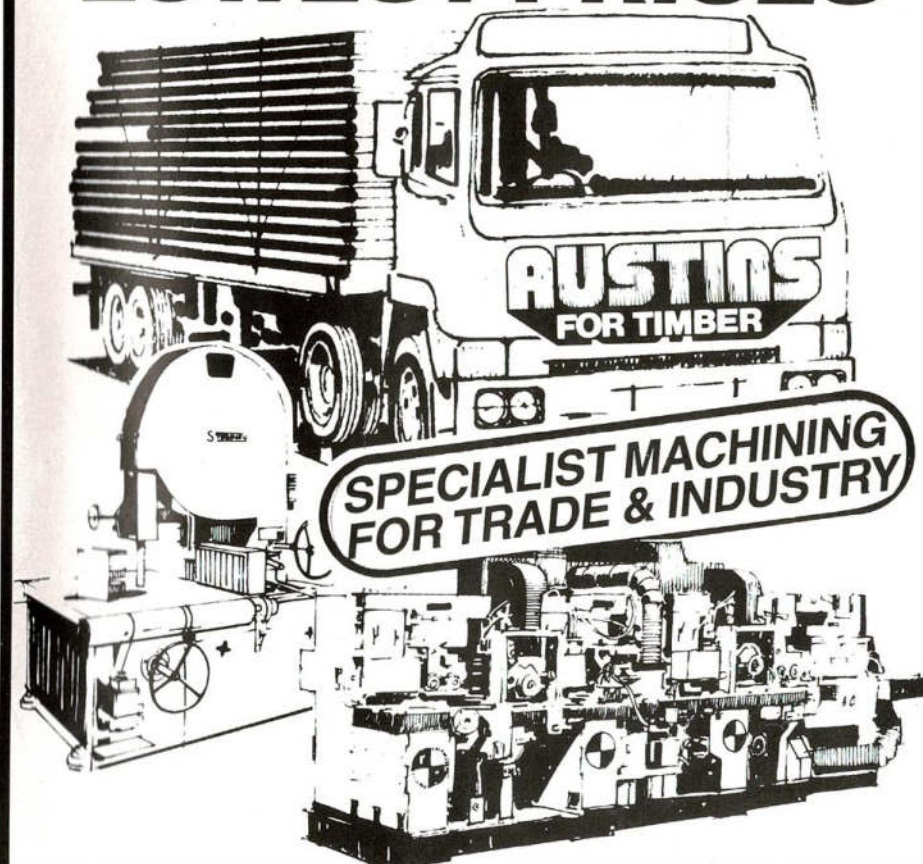
The sequence of home draws for Oldham continues when we again came out of the hat first and I am told this was the ninth consecutive time we had enjoyed a cup tie at Watersheddings in the past year. We could not have had a much harder tie than Saints, but I am sure they are saying the same about us and I don't suppose they believe they are going to get anything other than a hard contest this afternoon. I said before the Wigan match that I believed the winners could go all the way to Wembley following several first-round upsets which saw the early tumble of holders Castleford and much fancied Warrington.

I see no reason to change that opinion about today's tie. By the time Oldham and Saints, and Bradford and Widnes have battled it out, two more fancied sides will have bitten the dust, which makes today's televised match at Watersheddings all the more intriguing.

We watched Saints at Wakefield last weekend but we didn't learn a lot because they were not stretched and I expect them to play three forwards today who were out of the side at Belle Vue. I am convinced that, whoever wins today, could go all the way to Wembley and I am hoping Oldham will be carrying Lancashire's hopes all the way to London.

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