

OLDHAM 6 Team Check 24 WIGAN

<i>JEFF EDWARDS</i> MICK BURKE	1	SHAUN EDWARDS <i>HAMPSON</i>
<i>PAUL LORD</i> PAUL SHERMAN	2	RONNIE BRAITHWAITE <i>MORIT</i>
<i>DAVE FOX</i> JEFF EDWARDS	3	DAVID STEVENSON
<i>KEVIN HAMPSON</i> GARY WARNECKE	4	DEAN BELL
<i>STEVE HARRIS</i> MICK TAYLOR	5	HENDERSON GILL <i>RUSSELL</i>
DAVID TOPLISS	6	JOE LYNDON <i>BIG DICK</i>
PADDY KIRWAN	7	CLIFF BERRY <i>GREGORY</i>
IAN SHERRATT	8	GRAEME WEST <i>CASE</i>
IAN SANDERSON	9	NICKY KISS
<i>WILLY TOWERS</i> HUGH WADDLE	10	IAN LUCAS <i>WANE</i>
<i>HUGH WADDLE</i> COLIN HAWKYARD	11	GERALD STAZIKA <i>WOODLEY</i>
NEIL CLAWSON	12	ELLERY HANLEY <i>POTTER</i>
TERRY FLANAGAN	13	SHAUN WANE <i>HANLEY</i>
<i>TONY HARRISON</i> T.B.A.	14	T.B.A. <i>LYNCH</i>
<i>DAVE BARRIS</i> T.B.A.	15	T.B.A. <i>LUCAS</i>

Referee: **B. Simpson** Touch Judges: **W. Greenhalgh**, Pink Flag; J. N. Fisher, Yellow Flag

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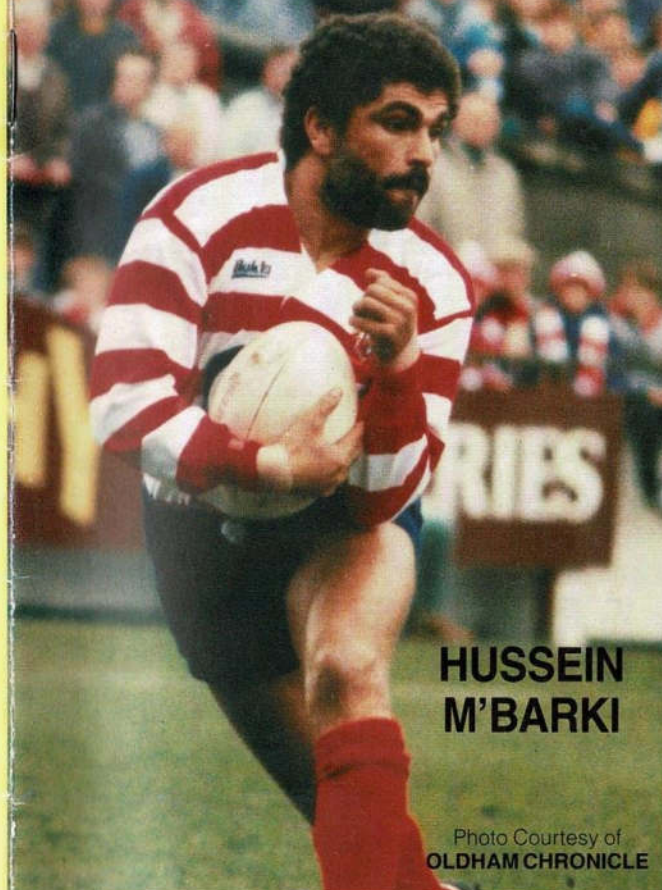
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STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

WIGAN

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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



Today sees the lowering of the curtain on another Watersheddings season. The home defeat by Leigh last weekend was our fourth consecutive defeat and a bad one, too, in which we conceded 54 points. There are several reasons for our poor run of results in recent weeks, such as the return of Aussies Gary Bridge and Bruce Clark, followed by a terrible run of bad luck with injuries which have robbed us of the services of players such as David Topliss, Mick Worrall and Des Foy.

These notes had to be written before our game at Salford on Good Friday, so let's hope we pulled off the win which would ensure that we stayed in the First Division. The prospect of relegation is unlikely, although to be mathematically certain we needed at least a point from our game at the Willows. As today's game is the last home match of the season we can also reflect on some of the campaign's better moments — like the appearance in the Lancashire Cup final last autumn — like the splendid first round Challenge Cup win over Wigan.

In more recent weeks we have tended to struggle but, to keep matters in perspective, we should point out that other so-called leading teams, particularly Hull and Widnes, are suffering similar problems. Hull K.R. and Leeds are in the same mould and Bradford had a run of 11 consecutive League defeats until they began to pull themselves together.

We must thank you all for your support throughout the season. Have a good summer and we will look forward to meeting again in four months time.

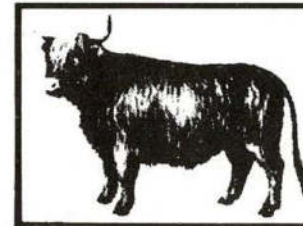
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CLUB NOTES

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WIGAN - HERE COME THE CHAMPIONS

Mighty Wigan, the newly-crowned Rugby League champions, return to Watersheddings today – the scene of their saddest night of the season just ten weeks ago.

It was on that eventful February evening that Graham Lowe's star-studded side was knocked off the Wembley trail and the bitter taste of defeat was hard to swallow for Lowe and his not-so-merry men on that night.

As coach Lowe stated recently: "That was the last time there was any sign of panic within the team. I am really jealous we can't be at Wembley."

However, a typically professional reaction to the defeat has seen Wigan remain unbeaten since their cup crash (not including the Good Friday clash with Saints) and striding emphatically to their first championship success for 27 years.

Nobody can begrudge Wigan their title glory as dynamic, exciting players of the class of Lydon, Bell, Hanley, Edwards, Gregory, Gill and Stephenson have turned on the heat to "razzle-dazzle" their bewildered opponents on attack and "zilch" them on defence.

The modern day try-scoring hero, Ellery Hanley, remarkably playing now in the No. 13 jersey, has enjoyed a blitz of tries and is close to smashing the Wigan tries-in-a-season record set by Johnny Ring way back in the 1920's.

Just which is Hanley's best position on a rugby field is open to debate. But his critics who claim that he is not the most comfortable of players when using the ball can only admire the unbelievable regularity with which he scores the tries.

Who knows, is it too far fetched to believe that one day Ellery may wear the Great Britain No. 13 jersey in Test match battle?

Wherever he plays, however, Ellery is a real handful be it loose-forward, stand-off, centre or even on the wing where Frank Myler played him on the 1984 Great Britain tour down under.

Hanley's switch to the pack has made competition for places in Wigan's back division slightly less intense. Big money signing Andy Gregory is repaying his fee with superb performances, while stand-off Shaun Edwards links excellently with his half-back partner, to cause havoc in the centre of the field.

The mercurial talents of the enigma – Henderson Gill – blend with the more polished skills of centres Dean Bell and David Stephenson, while the sheer pace of Joe Lydon is breathtaking at times.

But the unsung hero of the Wigan backs is undoubtedly full-back Steve Hampson, whose brilliance in fielding high balls earned him the ultimate accolade recently from Wigan vice-chairman Maurice Lindsay who compared him favourably with that great Aussie No. 1 Gary Jack.

Coach Lowe feels that in Hampson and Lydon, he has the best two full-backs in the British game and two certainties for the full back job on next year's tour to Australia.

Young Oldhamer Richard Russell could come into contention for a place in the side after appearing for the Great Britain under-21's against France recently.

Up front, skipper Graeme West has been an inspiration this season and his bulldozing front-row play has been a feature of the Wigan success.

Hooker Martin Dermott has impressed enough to earn under-21 honours and Brian Case has been a tower of strength up front also.

Dermott, in fact, may miss today's game with injury which will give a recall to Oldhamer Nicky Kiss – that popular hooker from Saddleworth.

Our former star Andy Goodway will be in the second-row, probably alongside tough-tackling Ian Potter, with Hanley and loose-forward.

Wigan's attack is what captures the imagination of RL fans, but their defence, magnificently organised by Lowe's methods, is far and away the best in the league.

Lowe feels that Wigan's championship success is just the start of years of dominance by the Riversiders. Next season, with a year's experience of British RL behind him, he will guide his men in his own meticulous way towards that coveted grand slam of five trophies.

At present, however, he can celebrate the clinching of the title to add to the Lancashire Cup and the John Player Trophy and set his sights on Old Trafford in the Premiership – even though his mind may wander back to that fateful night at Watersheddings when Halifax and St Helens do battle at Wembley a week on Saturday.

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLE-HEADER

*Seat tickets can now be ordered for the new-style end of season finale . . .
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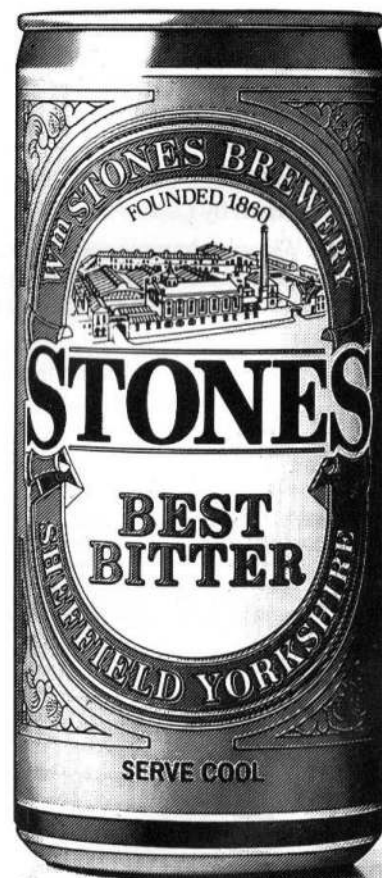
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Around the League... with Roughyed

Hull centre Gary Schofield, that magnificent poacher of tries, notched up a career century of tries with two against Widnes recently. This really is a remarkable achievement by this young star, who is set to turn out for Sydney giants Balmain again this summer. In the last Aussie season, Schofield starred for the Tigers alongside fellow Briton, Tony Myler, and this time his Hull team mate Lee Crooks will wear the Balmain colours.

Crooks leaves Bruce Clark's Aussie team, Western Suburbs, generally regarded as one of Sydney's weaker sides, to join Balmain, who must have a real chance of success.

An interesting RL documentary will be screened by the BBC on the eve of the Challenge Cup final on 1st May. The BBC took their cameras to lowly Huddersfield and to mighty Wigan, hoping to show the contrasting fortunes of the first and second division clubs.

The cameras took in a Huddersfield match against Runcorn in front of a 362 crowd, so the contrasts are clear.

The TV crew spent almost six hours at the West Yorkshire club and the programme on 1st May looks to be well worth seeing.

The Premiership competition gets underway this weekend with League champions Wigan confident of reaching Old Trafford and lifting the trophy to go alongside the Lancashire Cup, the John Player Trophy, the Stones Bitter championship trophy.

Old Trafford looks set to house a massive crowd, with the added attraction of a Second Division premiership final to lure the neutral fans to Manchester for the big day. The crowd could well hit the 40,000 mark, especially if the crowd pullers from Central Park do make it all the way.

Teams of the quality of Warrington, St Helens, Castleford and Halifax are sure to be well to the fore in the quest to reach the final and Wigan will have to be at their best.

After clinching the championship, the Wigan board are now setting their sights even higher and are pressing the Rugby League Authorities to stage a World Club Championship against the winners of the Australian League's Grand Final.

How about a Parramatta v Wigan match to decide which is the world's greatest team? It would certainly set the heart beating with a real Anglo-Aussie confrontation at stake. A possibility for the future, perhaps!

What a season Doncaster have had! Once regarded as the also-rans of the Rugby League, their shock knock out competition wins over Salford and Hull K.R. in the last two years have brought a taste of the good life to Tattersfield.

Ex-Castleford 'A' team coach Barry Sheridan has done a marvellous job and deserves enormous credit for the success he has generated.

The Dons, at the time of writing, are well in the running for a spot in the top four of the Second Division and a home tie in the first round of the lower division's play-offs. What a contrast to the dark days when Doncaster regularly held up the rest as the bottom club in the Rugby League.

Other revivals in the Second Division have come at Rochdale Hornets, who seem capable of doing well in the play-off, and perhaps less significantly at Mansfield, who under the leadership of former Oldham players Jim Crellin and Ray Clark have been able to show more confidence on the field.

Former Rochdale Hornets, Blackpool Borough and Barrow loose-forward Norman Turley has recently taken over the reigns as coach of Workington Town, a proud club suffering bad times at present.

Turley will have his work cut out at Derwent Park because Town have slumped drastically this year. But if Norman can produce the sort of inspiration his own performances gave as a player, then maybe a revival is on the way for the Cumbrians.

WIGAN R.L.F.C. PEN PICTURES

STEVE HAMPSON: Full-back. Age 25. Signed in October 1983 from Vulcan R.U.F.C. after impressing for Wigan 'A' as a trialist. Missed out on a place in the 1984 and 1985 Challenge Cup final teams due to injury but has forced his way back into the first team.

JOE LYDON: Utility-back. Age 23. A cup deadline signing from Widnes in January last year in a then world record £100,000 cash deal. Joe began his R.L. career with Wigan St Patricks A.R.L.F.C. Joined Widnes in August 1982 and 2 years later picked up the Lance Todd Trophy as his team defeated Wigan at Wembley. The same season he was named 'Man of Steel', Division One Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year. Representative Appearances: G.B. (15)(+Sub. once), G.B. Under 24(3), Lancashire (2), Toured Australia and New Zealand in 1984 and is currently rated the 4th best full-back in the world by 'Open Rugby' Magazine.

RAY MORDE: Winger. Age 29. Top rate Sprinkbok Rugby Union star who joined Wigan in December 1985 along with fellow countryman Rob Louw. Made a promising debut at home to Swinton but has since suffered a number of injuries.

DAVID STEPHENSON: Centre. Age 28. This ex-Fylde and England R.U. Under 19 star joined Salford in December 1978 and it soon became obvious that he was a player of great talent. Not surprisingly several teams showed interest when Salford agreed to let him leave but it was Wigan who acquired his services — for a then club record £60,000 in February 1982. Representative Appearances: G.B. (4), Under 24 (5), Lancashire (6), Wigan Player of the Year last season.

DEAN BELL: Centre. Age 24. Current Kiwi Test star rated the 4th best winger in the world by 'Open Rugby'. This is his second spell in England, having represented Carlisle and Leeds during the 1982-83 and 1983-84 season. Played for Easteen Suburbs in Australia.

RICHARD RUSSELL: Centre. Age 19. A former England Schools' player, he was signed from Wigan St Patricks A.R.L.F.C. Under 19's in October 1985. Representative Appearances: G.B. Under 21 (1), G.B. Colts (3), Lancashire Colts (1)(+Sub. Once). His father, Jim, played for Bradford Northern and Huddersfield.

HENDERSON GILL: Winger. Age 26. Began his career with Bradford Northern Colts and turned professional for Bradford in 1978. Soon afterwards though he moved on to Rochdale Hornets for £9,000 and he remained at the Athletic ground until Wigan signed him for £30,000 in October 1981. Scored 3 tries on his G.B. Debut v France and also scored on his England debut v Wales. Representative Appearances: G.B. (10), G.B. Under 24 (1), G.B. Colts (2), England (1), Yorkshire (1). Was the club's top try scorer from 1981-82 to 1984-85 and played in Australia in 1985. Currently rated the 2nd best winger in the world by 'Open Rugby'.

SHAUN EDWARDS: Stand-off. Age 20. A former England schools' captain at both codes, he joined Wigan on his 17th birthday in October 1983. In his first season he became the youngest player to appear in a Wembley Challenge Cup final. The following season he became the youngest player to represent G.B. Last season he was named young player of the year. Representative Appearances: G.B. (4)(+Sub. twice), G.B. Under 21(4), G.B. Colts (2), Lancashire (1)(+Sub. once), Lancashire Colts (1), Also toured Australia with the B.U.S.C.A.R.L.A. Squad in 1984. His father, Jackie, Played for Warrington.

ANDY GREGORY: Scrum-Half. Age 25. Rated by 'Open Rugby' as the 5th best scrum-half in the world, Andy was a world record £130,000 R.L. Cup transfer deadline signing from Warrington in January. Began his career with Wigan St Patricks A.R.L.F.C. before joining Widnes in 1979. From Widnes he moved to Warrington in January 1985 with forward John Fieldhouse going in the opposite direction. Representative Appearances: G.B. (10)(+Sub. once), G.B. Under 24 (1), Lancashire (5), Toured Australia and New Zealand in 1984.

GRAEME WEST: Prop. Age 32. Captain. This 6'5", 15 stone plus giant joined Wigan on a 5 year contract worth around £60,000 in November 1982. Played for Taranaki in New Zealand and made his Test debut v Australia in 1975. Captained his country to victory over Australia in 1983 and scored a crucial try. 18 Test appearances and Wigan Player of the Year for 1983-84 and 1984-85.

NICKY KISS: Hooker. Age 27. The son of Hungarian Parents, Nicky came to Wigan from Saddleworth Rangers A.R.L.F.C. Under 19's along with Martin Foy in December 1977. Representative Appearances: G.B. (1), G.B. Colts (2), Lancashire (4). Was also a travelling reserve for G.B. Under 24 and toured Australia with the British Youth squad in 1977. A real 100% player who specialises in stealing the ball.

MARTIN DERMOTT: Hooker. Age 19. Hardworking youngster was signed from Wigan St Patricks A.R.L.F.C. in November 1984. Representative Appearances: G.B. Under 21 (2), G.B. Colts (2), Lancashire Colts (2). Looks set for a big future in the game.

BRIAN CASE: Prop. Age 19. Signed from Warrington just one week before the 1983 John Player Trophy final and played an important part in Wigan's win. Joined Warrington from amateur club Blackpool during the 1974-75 season. Representative Appearances: G.B. (4), G.B. Under 24 (3)(+Sub. once), England (1), Lancashire (2). Toured Australia and New Zealand in 1984.

SHAUN WANE: Prop. Age 22. Former Lancashire and England Schools' player who joined Wigan in November 1981 from Wigan St Patricks A.R.L.F.C. Under 17's. Representative Appearances: G.B. (2), Under 21 (3), G.B. Colts (3), Lancashire (Sub. once)

IAN LUCAS: Prop. Age 19. A member of the Wigan Colts team, Ian joined the Central Park set up in November 1984. Representative Appearances: G.B. Colts (4), Lancashire Colts (4).

ANDY GOODWAY: 2nd Row. Age 25. A then club record signing from Oldham in July 1985, Andy toured 'Down Under' in 1984 and played in Australia in 1985. Joined Oldham from Featherstone Amateur side, Redhill, in 1978. Representative Appearances: G.B. (18), G.B. Under 24 (2), England (1), Yorkshire (1). Was named man of the match in this season's John Player Special Trophy final.

IAN POTTER: 2nd Row. Age 28. International forward signed 3 times during his career by Alex Murphy. Began his professional career at Warrington during the 1975-76 season and stayed there until Leigh paid out a club record £50,000 for him in September 1981. Joined Wigan in February 1984 for a fee of around £20,000. Representative Appearances: G.B. (7)(+Sub. once), G.B. Under 24 (4), England (2), Lancashire (4).

ELLERY HANLEY: Loose-forward. Age 26. This £150,000 rated G.B. star joined Wigan in September 1985 in a deal that saw Phil Ford and Steve Donlan (plus \$85,000) go to Bradford Northern. Representative Appearances: G.B. (17)(+Sub. once), G.B. Under 24 (2), England (1), Yorkshire (2). Has scored 50 tries in a season twice and is currently rated the fourth best stand-off in the world by 'Open Rugby'. Toured Australia and New Zealand in 1984 and was Wigan's top try scorer last season.

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14-9-86	LEIGH (Lancs. C.C.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Target Finishing Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	J. Bowden Ltd Oldham	Fashion Craft Middleton	Grinhalles Lager
21-9-86	HULL K.R.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Fairway Rubber Salford Automatics	Salford Automatics Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Lawrence Perrins Ltd. Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship
24-9-86	WORKINGTON (Lancs. C.C.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Frank Knowles Ltd Royton	Salford Automatics Ltd	B.C.C. Oldham	H. Ashworth Manchester	Grinhalles Lager
1-10-86	WIDNES (Lancs. C.C.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Grinhalles Lager	Salford Automatics Ltd	Barry Bromley Weir Hotel, Bacup	—	Grinhalles Lager
5-10-86	WIDNES	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	F.D. Kitchens Prestwich	Salford Automatics Ltd	B.C.C. Oldham	Bosch Services Middleton	Stones Bitter Championship
2-11-86	BARROW	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Austin Timber Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	M.A. Appleton Preston	Montys Bar Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship
4-11-86	AUSTRALIA	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Matthew Brown Ltd	Salford Automatics Ltd	Britvic Ltd Leeds	Halifax Building Soc. Oldham	Tour Match
16-11-86	ST. HELENS	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Bardsley Cleaning Ashton	Salford Automatics Ltd	NW Decoiling Warrington	Guttenberg International Rawtenstall	Stones Bitter Championship
30-11-86	BRADFORD N. (J.F.S.T.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	John Player	Salford Automatics Ltd	Fairway Rubber Manchester	Sat-1el (UK) Ltd Oldham	John Player
14-12-86	HALIFAX	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	F.D. Kitchens Prestwich	Tyson's Medical Ind. Health Ltd	Stones Bitter Championship
26-12-86	SALFORD	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Saffron Construction Co. Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	H.B.S. Builders Merchants, Bury	Leslie Powell Blazers Manchester	Stones Bitter Championship
18-1-87	FEATHERSTONE	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	—	Salford Automatics Ltd	—	—	Stones Bitter Championship
4-2-87	WIGAN (Silk Cut C.C.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Sponsor: Silk Cut Donor: Blue Bird	Donor: Salford Automatics Ltd	Donor: Commercial Vehicles, Manchester	J. Knox Fairway & Grundy	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
14-2-87	ST. HELENS (Silk Cut C.C.)	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Sponsor: Silk Cut Donor: St Helens Glass	Donor: Salford Automatics Ltd	Donor: Peter Kendall Commercial Vehicles	J. Knox Fairway & Grundy	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
22-2-87	HULL	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	B & H Decor Royton	George Dew & Co. Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship
11-3-87	WARRINGTON	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	NW Decoiling Warrington	Salford Automatics Ltd	Oldham Motor Co. Oldham	Javelin Music (NW) Ltd, Middleton	Stones Bitter Championship
15-3-87	BRADFORD N.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Nat West Bank plc Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Fairway & Grundy Manchester	Stones Bitter Championship
25-3-87	WAKEFIELD T.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	—	Salford Automatics Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Tyson's Pharmaceuticals Ltd	Stones Bitter Championship
29-3-87	CASTLEFORD	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	—	Salford Automatics Ltd	Oldham RLFC Supporters Club	Candlelight Club (Oldham) Ltd	Stones Bitter Championship
12-4-87	LEIGH	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Medlock Build. Co. Ltd Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	National & Provincial Building Society	Bosch Services Middleton	Stones Bitter Championship

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.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WIGAN	28	13	0	1	521	76	13	0	1	354	99	52
St Helens	28	12	0	2	461	195	8	1	5	338	198	41
Warrington	28	12	1	1	383	192	8	0	6	317	230	41
Castleford	29	11	0	4	385	196	9	0	5	240	213	40
Halifax	27	11	0	3	323	177	5	1	7	182	262	33
Bradford N.	28	8	1	4	250	171	6	0	9	270	346	29
Hull KR	28	11	0	3	252	184	3	0	11	153	333	28
Leeds	28	8	0	6	338	255	5	0	9	205	269	26
OLDHAM	28	10	0	4	292	275	3	0	11	226	344	26
Leigh	29	7	1	7	267	235	5	0	9	265	365	25
Salford	28	7	0	7	249	283	5	0	9	201	331	24
Hull	27	9	0	4	281	255	2	1	11	190	366	23
Widnes	26	8	0	5	291	194	3	0	10	186	340	22
Featherstone	28	7	1	7	316	309	1	0	12	164	391	17
Barrow	29	5	0	9	243	269	1	2	12	199	454	14
Wakefield	27	2	1	10	181	389	0	0	14	165	492	5

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunslet	27	13	0	0	336	103	11	0	3	344	105	48
Swinton	27	13	0	0	427	144	9	1	4	254	165	45
Whitehaven	26	13	0	0	378	113	7	1	5	172	167	41
Doncaster	25	10	1	2	344	160	8	0	4	202	186	37
Rochdale	26	11	0	3	271	130	7	1	4	201	191	37
Sheffield	27	10	0	3	308	162	7	0	7	303	248	34
Bramley	26	10	0	3	187	137	5	0	8	177	282	30
Carlisle	25	9	1	3	251	199	4	0	8	170	209	27
Blackpool	25	5	0	6	200	193	7	0	7	253	236	24
York	27	7	0	7	316	272	4	0	9	166	223	22
Runcorn	27	7	0	6	228	192	2	1	11	145	332	19
Fulham	26	6	2	5	239	237	2	0	11	197	344	18
Workington	27	7	0	7	258	256	2	0	11	125	364	18
Batley	26	3	0	10	149	187	5	0	8	151	298	16
Huddersfield	26	4	0	9	218	272	4	0	9	212	362	16
Dewsbury	25	4	0	9	161	212	2	0	10	116	293	12
Mansfield	25	3	0	9	179	281	3	0	10	147	277	12
Keighley	25	5	0	8	179	226	1	0	11	141	347	12

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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	■	18-14	14-24		12-23	16-17	24-6	16-23	16-27	24-22	20-26	12-34	38-13	9-6	16-18	8-16
Bradford	36-20	■	12-7	41-2	8-12	20-20	24-6		18-26	10-18		18-4	15-12	26-14	27-14	10-20
Castleford	70-10	46-18	■	16-7	26-14	16-6	16-10	12-14	19-8	22-18	20-21	12-10	42-16	18-24	44-8	6-12
Featherstone	66-14	10-26	16-18	■	16-16	18-12	0-14	29-14	50-16	24-6	16-6	8-44	27-10	22-29	14-48	0-36
Halifax	40-14	20-4	12-16	34-8	■	28-16	24-18	23-8	43-24	20-14	18-8	20-19		13-16	20-0	8-12
Hull	41-18	27-22	18-16	26-6	28-23	■		10-32	31-26	20-16	8-14	36-22	12-6	12-46		12-18
Hull K.R.	26-8	12-30		36-14	14-0	29-6	■	10-6	35-20	6-4	20-16	4-36	22-11	14-10	18-0	6-23
Leeds	14-4	4-12	8-16	33-12		28-22	42-7	■	26-12	20-26	46-10	20-40	46-4	16-54	35-6	0-30
Leigh	9-9	18-16	6-12	20-18	20-28	22-10	8-12	20-8	■	40-12	10-14	8-16	46-8	22-17	18-20	0-35
Oldham	32-20	12-8	6-29	20-16	18-20	24-18	28-12	14-12	12-54	■	34-18	17-18	38-20	15-14	22-16	
Salford	12-24	12-22	36-10	26-16	16-8	29-18	14-34	12-14	20-12		■	4-38	36-12	10-25	22-16	0-34
St Helens	26-4	40-14	8-10	43-14	38-16	50-10	44-22	24-22	50-18	28-6	32-14	■	32-11	42-22		4-12
Wakefield	14-14	22-32	12-40	2-29			19-4	14-28	6-12	10-54	10-16	6-30	■	22-38	38-20	6-72
Warrington	24-20	31-10	20-26	32-15	18-10	42-10	38-0	20-6		22-18	42-14	17-17	28-18	■	26-16	23-12
Widnes	26-14	14-36	29-20		6-10	10-18	26-8	35-10	8-10	44-10	13-12	16-10	48-14		■	16-22
Wigan	18-6	60-6	16-6	62-7	42-2	34-7	26-0	30-8	31-0	54-2	42-12	62-10	4-6	40-4	■	

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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 1DG 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.)	7,698	14	24	Burke 3G	M'Barki	Foy 1T	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs	Flanagan	Warnecke	Raper 1T
	22 Hull	24	18	Burke 5G	M'Barki	Foy	Bridge	Taylor 1T	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Hobbs 1G	Sanderson	Waddell	Hawkyard 1T	Raper	Flanagan	Warnecke	Sherman	
March	1 Castleford	3,947	18	22	Burke 2G	Warnecke	Foy	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Hobbs 1G	Worrall	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Raper
	8 Featherstone	2,033	6	24	M'Barki	Sherman	Warnecke	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan 1T	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs 1G	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Raper
	11 Warrington	3,108	15	14	Burke 3G	M'Barki	Sherman	Warnecke 1T	Taylor	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Hobbs 1DG	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Raper	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Clawson
	15 Bradford N.	3,589	12	8	Burke 4G	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke	M'Barki	Topliss	Kirwan	Hobbs 1T	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Raper	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Clawson
	29 Castleford	3,659	6	29	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan	Hobbs 1G	Hall	Waddell	Worrall	Clawson	Raper 1T	Morrison	Jones
April	5 Barrow	1,720	22	24	Burke 3G	A.N. Other	Sherman	Warnecke	Taylor 1T	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Hawkyard 1T	Clawson	Flanagan 1T	Edwards	Morrison
	8 Wigan	11,102	2	54	Edwards	M'Barki	Sherman	Warnecke	Taylor	Burke 1G	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Hawkyard	Clawson	Flanagan	Morrison	Jones
	12 Leigh	3,531	12	54	Burke 2G	M'Barki	Warnecke 2T	Edwards	Taylor	Raper	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Hawkyard	Clawson	Flanagan	Morrison	Fairbank
	17 Salford																		
	20 Wigan																		

Appearances & Scorers

	APPS (inc. Subs.)	T	G	DG	PTS
ASHTON, R. (Now with Leeds RL.)	18	3	—	3	15
ATKINSON, K.	7	3	1	—	14
BRIDGE, G.	18	8	—	—	32
BURKE, M.	12	1	32	—	68
CLARK, B.	28	4	—	—	16
CLAWSON, N.	28	2	—	—	8
EDWARDS, J.	17	—	—	—	—
FLANAGAN, T.	33	3	—	—	12
FOY, D.	26	15	—	—	60
HAWKYARD, C.	25	6	—	—	24
HOBBS, D. (Now with Bradford N. RL.)	28	7	47	2	124
JONES, W.	7	—	—	—	—
KIRWAIN, P.	20	2	—	—	8
M'BARKI, H.	26	5	—	—	20
NADIOLE, T.	16	1	—	—	4
RAPER, S.	29	11	—	—	44
SANDERSON, I.	14	1	—	—	4
SHERMAN, P.	31	6	—	—	24
SHERRATT I.	3	—	—	—	—
TAYLOR, M.	31	11	—	—	44
TOPLISS, D.	32	5	—	—	20
WADDELL, H.	14	—	—	—	—
WARNECKE, G.	28	12	—	—	48
WORRALL, M.	30	4	31	—	78
CASEY, L.	2	—	—	—	—
HALL, M.	5	—	—	—	—
LOWNDES, P.	2	—	—	—	—
MARSDEN, R.	1	—	—	—	—
OGBURN, J.	1	—	—	—	—
TRIALIST	1	—	—	—	—
A.N. OTHER	2	—	—	—	—
MORRISON, A.	4	—	—	—	—
FAIRBANK, M.	1	—	—	—	—

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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Treasurer: Mr T. Heywood, Secretary: Mrs J. Pilkington
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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 Wigan 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 Pavillion 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.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the Rugby Queen Contest please contact any Committee member at any of our canteens. Full advertising is given to sponsor.

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Player of the Year Dance

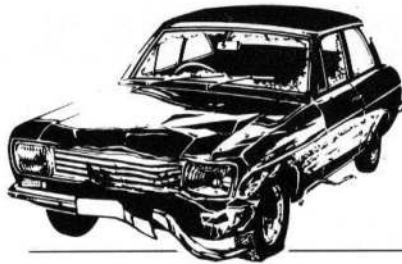
Friday, 24th April, 1987

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THE OLDHAM RUGBY QUEEN CONTEST

Friday, 28th August, 1987

Could we take this opportunity to ask all our friends and supporters to watch out for any hooligans present at home and away matches. They are slowly creeping into 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. If possible give their names to any club official who will take the necessary action.



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THE EDITOR TALKING

... on Rugby League's May Day

Rugby League's biggest day of the year comes up again a week on Saturday when St Helens and Halifax clash in front of what is expected to be a sell-out crowd at Wembley. The Challenge Cup final has seen some fine matches in recent times with that never-to-be-forgotten epic between Wigan and Hull in 1985 taking pride of place. Last year's final between Castleford and Hull K.R. paled in comparison, but nevertheless kept the large crowd entertained until the end, with John Dorahy's touchline kick just failing, and the cup returning to Wheldon Road.

Joe Lyndon's two long-range tries were the highlight of the 1984 final as cup kings Widnes overcame a developing Wigan outfit, while the 1983 match sticks in the memory as the day the little mining community of Featherstone celebrated a magnificent victory over hot favourites Hull. Twelve months earlier had seen the emergence of Elland Road as a big match Rugby League venue when, after drawing at Wembley, Hull and Widnes replayed at the famous soccer stadium, with David Topliss lifting the cup for the Humbersiders. Mick Burke won the Lance Todd Trophy as man of the match in Widnes's victory over Hull K.R. in 1981 and a year earlier saw the first all-Humberside final with the Rovers coming out on top against the black and whites from the other side of the city.

The eighties have produced some terrific finals and all the signs suggest that Wembley '87 will be no exception. Saints, under the leadership of the irrepressible Alex Murphy, are a superb attacking machine, while Halifax, magnificently rejuvenated by the Australian influence, in particular player-coach Chris Anderson, are quite capable of producing quality football themselves. The romance of the cup is evident one again this year, with Anderson and fellow Aussie Graham Eadie making farewell appearances under the Twin Towers.

Anderson played on the wing for Widnes at Wembley 12 years ago and now, after a superb career looks set to bow out in the best possible manner — appearing in an English final at Wembley. 2nd May is Anderson's 35th birthday and what a better way to celebrate than by lifting the famous trophy for Halifax. The story if full back is perhaps even more remarkable. The legendary star of several years of intense Sydney competition and Australian Test appearance actually retired from competitive rugby three years ago. It was only the persuasive tongue of old friend Anderson which tempted Eadie to return to the big time and join Halifax on a one-year contract this season.

Now in the twilight of his playing days, Eadie fulfils a personal ambition that seemed to be eluding him. I feel sure Halifax will have the support of many Aussie enthusiasts on the big day as "Opes" and the "Wombat" bow out in style. It will be a big day also for Queenslander Grant Rix and Keith Neller in the Halifax ranks and Saints' Aussies Phil Veivers and Brett Clark. Halifax must be aware of the brilliant attacking triangle of Saints half-backs Neil Holding and Clark and loose-forward Chris Arkwright, ensuring that this talented trio is kept quiet. With a powerful pack including internationals Fieldhouse, Platt and Hagerty, Saints will prove a real handful but the Thrum Hallers are in superb form with match winners of their own.

Former Wigan men Gary Stephens, Mick Scott, Colin Whitfield, John Pendlebury, Brian Juliffe are no strangers to the Wembley atmosphere and I feel the Halifax fans will be celebrating the winning of the cup on the trek back to Yorkshire. A cup winning performance will be sweet music for Anderson who, only 12 months ago, underlined Halifax as a top team, after years in the doldrums, by lifting what was then the Slalom Lager Championship title.

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COMMERCIAL CORNER

TRAVELEADS TOP FAN AWARDS

Five nominees, ranging from a 73-year-old Salford woman to an 18-year-old Leeds schoolboy, and featuring a Stock Exchange worker, lined up for the 1987 Traveleads Top Fan Award of a \$4,000 Canadian holiday in the final at Leeds on Thursday.

The third annual presentation of Rugby League's official Supporter of the Year award – a two week Wardair holiday for two based in Toronto and Vancouver – was at Headingley, and a five man panel of judges, headed by BBC commentator Ray French, has selected five finalists.

BOB EVANS – Employed on the floor of the Stock Exchange, the 36-year-old Londoner was converted to Rugby League with the birth of Fulham in 1980. When Fulham was rescued from liquidation in 1984 and switched to the National Sporting Centre at Crystal Palace, he was appointed on the voluntary management committee. With the club now at Chiswick, he is unpaid team administrator.

HARRY FALKINGHAM – Celebrating his 70th birthday this June, his father first took him to Headingley in 1927. Joined the Leeds Supporters' Club in 1947 and is currently organising his 40th Wembley trip. He has served on every players' benefit committee since 1971, has served the Leeds Hospital Broadcasting Service since 1952 and was secretary of the Yorkshire Federation of Supporters' Clubs for 14 years, now being a life member.

MATTHEW FLETCHER – The youngest ever Traveleads Top Fan Finalist, the 18-year-old pupil at Horsforth School, Leeds, travels on his own by public transport to watch his adopted team Doncaster – despite being totally deaf. The son of Raymond Fletcher, of the Yorkshire Post and Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook, he began following the Tattersfield Club as an 11-year-old, becoming a regular attendee two years later. At 14 he lost his hearing, but still travelled solo on bus or train to Doncaster from his Leeds home, plus saving his pocket money for regular 'away' trips.

DORIS HALL – Began following hometown Salford as a schoolgirl in 1930. Now 73, she serves the club as an unpaid volunteer operating a lottery kiosk five days a week plus helping with catering at training sessions, 'A' team games and First team matches. Before League fixtures she organises and sells official programmes. As well as attending all away matches, she is renowned for her red and white wardrobe of clothes and her Salford home is painted – red and white!

PATRICIA PARKINSON – The mother of three is secretary of Sheffield Eagles Supporters' Club and has not missed an Eagles match since their formation in 1984. A volunteer, she is the club's top fund raiser, both on match days and during the week. She also helps with catering and serves refreshments for the players.

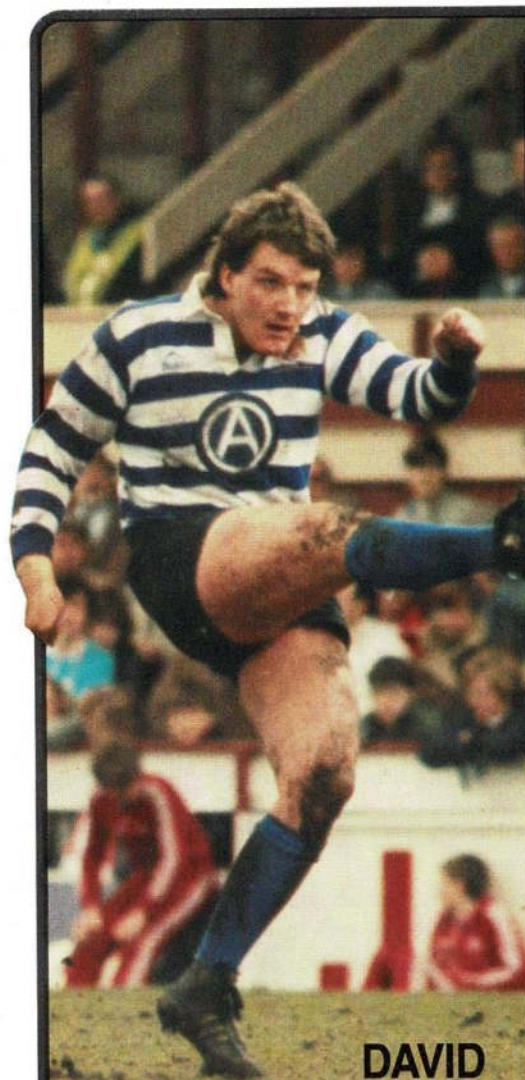


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OLDHAM CHRONICLE

**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

By DAVID TOPLISS

After our Challenge Cup win over Wigan at Watersheddings in the first round we are looking forward to meeting them in the final Stones Bitter championship of the 1986-87 season.

No doubt, Wigan will be really motivated to avenge that cup shock, especially as they beat us 54-2 at Central Park a fortnight ago and they are chasing all sorts of club and First Division records.

The Wigan camp is still smarting at the way we beat them in the Challenge Cup and that's not surprising because if they had won here on that eventful February night I think they would have walked off with every cup that is up for grabs.

We will have to be on our mettle and I am hoping I will be fit to play in what could well be my last game for Oldham.

Having played Salford at the Willows on Friday, we hope to be in a happier position by now and, hopefully the threat of relegation will be behind us.

After the terrible defeat by Leigh in our last home game let's hope we can stand up to Wigan and salvage a bit of pride against the runaway champions, who are really on song and playing at the top of their form.

It has been an up-and-down season in which we have been brilliant at times and pretty awful at other times.

Against Leigh, we did not compete in the second half and that has happened a few times this season. Let's hope we can at least produce a good display today with which to bring down the curtain on the League programme.

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