

44 OLDHAM Team Check SHEFFIELD 20

MICK BURKE	1	PAUL McDERMOTT	Gamson
RICHARD IRVING	2	STEVE LIDBURY	
Des Foy KEITH ATKINSON	3	MARK GAMSON	Wilkinson
BRYAN MCCARTHY	4	DAVID NELSON	
KEVIN MEADOWS	5	ROY RAFFERTY	26
66 PETER WALSH	6	MARK ASTON	
PADDY KIRWAN	7	DAVID CLOSE	
NEIL CLAWSON	8	NEIL KELLETT	Bridgeman
IAN SANDERSON	9	MICK COOK	
HUGH WADDELL	10	PETER WILDERS	
PAUL ROUND	11	JOHN CLANCY	
COLIN HAWKYARD	12	DEREK BRIDGEMAN	McDermott
keith Atkinson MAL GRAHAM	13	DARYL POWELL	
PAUL SHERMAN	14	GARY HETHERINGTON	
TERRY FLANAGAN	15	PAUL BROADBENT	Farrell

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Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan,
4th February, 1987

Record Transfer Fee Paid: \$65,000 to
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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

Most Tries: in a Season Reg Farrar 49

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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, 1986-87

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

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PLAYERS PROFILE



PLAYER PROFILE NO. 1

Full Name: Mallory Watson Graham
Nick Name: Malboy
Birthdate: 6.3.60
Birthplace: Wauchop, N.S.W., Australia.
Married Status: Wife, Shelley
Occupation: Rugby Player
Car: Nissan Sunny
Fav. T.V. Show: Any Sports
Fav. Film: Lethal Weapon
Fav. Music: Billy Joel, Phil Collins
Fav. Food/Drink: Seafood/Lager
Fav. Reading: Sport
Hobbies: Squash, Beach
Fav. Other Sports: Tennis
Likes About Game: Opportunities, Friends, Competition
Dislikes About Game: Critics who don't know what they are talking about.
Superstitions: Go through same routine before match.
Fav. Ground: Elland Road.
Fav. Position: Second-Row
Best Moment: First game in First-Grade, Sydney
Worst Moment: Losing Cup Semi against Castleford
Hardest Player Tackle: Hanley Haggerty
Hardest Tackler: Hobbs
Fav. All Time Player: Bobby Foulton

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date Signed on: Summer 1985
Summer, 1986 (joined Bradford)
Summer, 1987 (rejoined Oldham)
Debut: v Warrington (H) 29/9/85
Appearances: 34
Tries: 23
Goals: 0
Drop Goals: 0
Total Points: 92

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- 1983 BREWEX BRONZE MEDAL. Slalom D draught lager.
- 1983 BREWEX CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS. Voted best international bottled lager.
- 1983 BREWEX MEDAL AND DIPLOMA. Slalom Lager – Best in Class One for bottled lager.
- 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS GOLD MEDAL. Slalom Lager – First in Class for bottled lager.
- 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS SILVER MEDAL. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
- 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom International Strong Lager – for bottled lager.
- 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
- 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom Lager – for packaging and bottle dress.
- 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal with Palm Leaves and Certificate.
- Slalom International – for bottled lager.
- 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate.
- Slalom D – for bottled lager.
- 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate.
- Slalom Lager – for bottled lager.

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- 1986 B.B.I. AWARDS GOLD MEDAL – Theakston Best Bitter – for bottled beer.
- 1986 B.B.I. AWARDS SILVER MEDAL – Slalom International – for bottled lager.
- 1986 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE – John Peel Export – for bottled beer.
- 1986 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE – Theakston Old Peculier – for bottled beer.

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STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP/DIVISION 2

(up to and including 8.10.87)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheffield	7	3	0	0	60	31	3	0	1	80	47	12
Oldham	6	3	0	0	100	34	2	0	1	64	30	10
Runcorn	5	3	0	0	92	36	2	0	0	27	16	10
Wakefield	5	3	0	0	150	32	1	1	0	42	20	9
Featherstone . . .	6	3	0	0	93	28	1	0	2	66	66	8
Barrow	5	3	0	0	51	22	1	0	1	39	26	8
Workington	5	2	0	0	41	24	2	0	1	36	59	8
Batley	4	1	1	0	33	18	2	0	0	38	18	7
Doncaster	7	2	0	1	60	42	1	1	2	61	63	7
Springfield	6	1	0	1	38	39	2	0	2	61	58	6
Keighley	7	3	0	0	64	34	0	0	4	23	109	6
Rochdale	6	2	0	1	28	19	0	0	3	28	99	4
York	6	1	0	2	57	59	0	1	2	34	62	3
Carlisle	5	1	1	1	56	54	0	0	2	13	76	3
Fulham	5	1	0	2	58	43	0	0	2	30	45	2
Whitehaven	5	1	0	2	31	41	0	0	2	17	29	2
Dewsbury	5	0	0	2	6	30	1	0	2	46	68	2
Huddersfield	5	1	0	2	42	61	0	0	2	20	51	2
Bramley	6	1	0	2	56	75	0	0	3	31	128	2
Mansfield	6	0	1	2	38	78	0	0	3	44	84	1

Appearances & Scorers

SEASON 1987-88

(to date - 7 possible)

APPS (inc. Subs)	T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	6	1	27	58
Irving R.	7	1	—	4
Hawkyard C.	7	1	—	4
Meadows K.	7	4	—	16
Edwards J.	6	—	1	2
Peters S.	5	—	—	—
Kirwan P.	5	1	—	4
Sherratt I.	4	1	—	4
Sanderson I	7	2	—	8
Waddell H.	7	1	—	4
Worrall M.	6	2	2	12
Graham M.	7	3	—	12
Flanagan T.	6	2	—	8
Round P.	7	4	—	16
Sherman P	3	—	—	—
Copeland T.	3	—	—	—
Morrison T.	1	—	—	—
Bardsley M.	2	—	—	—
Marsden R.	1	—	—	—
Burke M.	2	—	—	—
Walsh P.	2	1	—	4
Bates I.	1	1	—	4
Clawson N	2	1	—	4
McCarthy B.	1	2	—	8

John Player Special Trophy

The draw for the preliminary and first round of the John Player Special Trophy took place at Salford on Monday and resulted in Oldham playing Second Division rivals Fulham at Watersheddings in the preliminary round on November 1st and the winners to play Bradford Northern, also at home, on November 15. At the time of going to press there was some doubt about the date of the Fulham game because the Londoners are due to play Papua New Guinea on November 10.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

(Division Two Spotlight)

BARROW, one of the clubs fancied for promotion, have been selling big in the last couple of weeks. Scrum-half David Cairns has moved to Salford in a transfer that may well go to tribunal while winger Les Quirk has gone to St. Helens.

All the signs indicate that Division Two will be tremendously competitive. Who would have believed that last Sunday's Runcorn-Workington clash, for instance, would be a battle of two unbeaten sides?

Oldham, Wakefield, Featherstone and Barrow may be favourites to do battle for the three promotion spots, but Oldham's experience in struggling against Springfield Borough and losing at Doncaster, albeit in the last minute, indicates that anything can happen over the next few months.

Accepting that most teams will raise their game against Oldham, it is difficult to see many teams winning at either Doncaster or Whitehaven, while today's visitors, Sheffield, have also made an early impact.

Despite their sales, Barrow will not lose many at Craven Park, with South African Nick Du Toit in full cry and with former Aussie superstar Rod Reddy in the pack.

Oldham are not the only fancied team who have been made to realise that life in Div Two is no cakewalk! Barrow lost at Keighley, Featherstone lost their opening two games, and on the day Oldham went down to the Dons, Wakefield dropped a point at Mansfield of all places.

Easy in the Second Division? No way. There is more competition now than in previous years and this is reflected, perhaps, in much higher attendance figures, up by around 30 per cent in the lower division.

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OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1987-88

Opponents	At	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Apr 30	Whitby	3,122																
May 2	Kirby	3,124																
May 6	Brumley	2,851																
May 13	Warrington	5,554																
May 20	Springfield	3,114																
May 27	Doncaster	2,060																
Oct 4	Widderfield	1,729																
Oct 11	Widderfield																	
Oct 18	Widderfield																	
Oct 25	Barrow																	
Nov 1	Kirby																	
Nov 15	John Player																	
Nov 22	John Player																	
Nov 29	Warrington																	
Dec 6	Warrington																	
Dec 11	Barrow																	
Dec 16	Rochdale																	
Jan 3	Springfield																	
Jan 10	Whitehaven																	
Jan 17	Runcorn																	
Jan 24	Runcorn																	
Jan 31	Challenge Cup																	
Feb 14	Challenge Cup																	
Feb 21	Fatherstone																	
Feb 28	Fatherstone																	
Mar 6	Warrington																	
Mar 13	Brumley																	
Mar 20	Warrington																	
Mar 27	Warrington																	
Apr 3	Rochdale																	
Apr 10	Runcorn																	
Apr 17	Warrington																	

Richard Irving makes a break during our 26-4 win at Huddersfield last Sunday

'WATERSHEDINGS SCENE'

(News and views from inside the club)

IAN SHERRATT

Our popular prop Ian Sherratt is now out of Highfield Hospital, Rochdale, and making a good recovery, after illness, at home.

Ian was taken ill three weeks ago with what was first thought to be a flu virus but as his condition worsened it was apparent that there was more to it.

Finally, he was admitted to Highfield for tests and the verdict was that 'our big fella' had got glandular fever, a terrible thing to happen to such a fine sportsman and athlete.

It is not yet known how long Ian will be out of action, but it could be some time which is a bad blow not only to the lad himself but also to the club.

In the meantime, the best wishes of all at the club will be with one of the most popular lads in the dressing room — and on the terraces.

STEVE PETERS

The long suspension placed upon Steve does not mean that our utility back, a recent signing from Warrington, is kicking his heels.

Steve is making maximum use of his spell out of the game by working hard on building up his strength and his speed. He will be doing more weight work in the gym than normal, under the watchful eye of our expert Ossie Rowe, and he will also be working out at Westwood track under the care of another expert in his own field, Tommy Schofield.

Over the years Tommy has done a great deal for literally hundreds of runners and rugby men in this area and he will be taking Steve under his wing over the next week or two.

The club had no luck in the appeal against his six-match ban and Steve has now set his sights on being back in time for the opening round of the John Player Special trophy in November.

MICK WORRALL

THE decision has been taken to transfer—list Mick following recent talks involving himself, the board of directors and coach Eric Fitzsimons.

It appears that he was not too happy at being chosen as substitute for our recent game at Doncaster, after which he failed to attend training on the next two sessions.

The talks followed and it was then decided to make Mick available "in the best interests of both parties", the fee to be fixed at the following meeting of the board.

GRAHAM STARKEY

A valuable member of our coaching staff, Graham Starkey, has now left the club because he finds it difficult to combine the job, time wise, with his massive involvement in the National Coaching Scheme.

Before Graham went — with the best wishes of all at the club — he sent in a nice letter in which he referred to the excellent work being done by Eric Fitzsimons and Co and the wish that the public, via the board, would offer sufficient support to enable the club to buy more players and also develop the enormous wealth of talent in the local youth and schoolboy scene.

AUSSIE WELCOME

OUR two new Australian players, Peter Walsh and Bryan McCarthy are settling in nicely, and both are expected to make their home debuts against Sheffield today.

Peter played his first game at stand-off at Doncaster while Bryan made his debut in the centre at Huddersfield last week.

Both are here until the end of the season and we know that the good wishes of all supporters will be with them over the next few months.

Both are making their first trips to England so the RL scene here, to say nothing of the winter, will be a new experience.

Good wishes are also extended to our recent signing from Broughton Park RU club, Tony Copeland.

PAUL ROUND

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Round on his recent selection for Alex Murphy's Lancashire side in the Battle of the Roses clash against Yorkshire at Central Park, Wigan.

Paul had a good game in the second-row of the Lancashire pack, crowned when he followed up Andy Gregory's up-and-under to score a late try for Lancashire.

FLASHBACK

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The start of a new feature in which we delve into the photograph files of the Oldham Chronicle.



1. 31.8.80. The late and much respected Clive Sullivan dives for the line in a 14-14 draw against Castleford.



2. 26.10.80. It's Oldham v Workington and Geoff Munro scores in the corner. Note the stand — now demolished.



3. 15.2.81. Gareth Owen shows his delight at scoring a vital Oldham try in an 11-12 Challenge Cup at Blackpool.

MATCH REPORT

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP/DIVISION 2

DONCASTER v OLDHAM

A last-minute try by Doncaster prop Peter Noble, following up a kick which hit the post and bounced back to him, cost Oldham their 100 per cent Second Division record in a disappointing display at Tattersfield.

We fielded a much changed side, bringing in Mick Burke for his first senior game of the season and fielding a new pair of halves in teenager Ian Bates and Aussie Peter Walsh.

In the pack, Neil Clawson was also in for his first senior outing. We made too many mistakes and missed too many tackles, to say nothing of goalkicks, and Doncaster led 14-10 at half-time.

Tries by Paul Round and Neil Clawson put us back in front at 18-14, but Mick Burke failed at goal and the Dons snatched it with that last-gasp score to add another scalp to their impressive list of shock home wins in the last two years against sides like Salford and Hull KR.

MATCH REPORT

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP/DIVISION 2

HUDDERSFIELD v OLDHAM

It might be called Arena '84 these days but to most RL folk it will always be Fartown ... sadly not the Fartown we used to know in yesteryear. Still, despite the long wait experienced by our army of fans who formed long queues to get in, we came away with a 26-4 win, highlighted by a constructive game from Walsh, two tries for debutant Bryan McCarthy, and another super show by Paul Round, who scored a devastating try from 40 yards out.

Nick Burke again showed his class with excellent support work, and the way he created chances when joining the threequarter line, allied to the pace wide out of Round and the finishing dash of McCarthy and Kevin Meadows merely whets the appetite for more to follow.

NEXT HOME MATCH

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CORKY'S COMMENTS . . .

Ian McCorquodale – The man in the know on the local scene.

Today's curtain-raiser between Oldham Juniors and Dewsbury Moor's under-11 sides feature two of the top sides in BARLA's rapidly expanding youth leagues.

The Oldham line-up includes Damian Munro, son of Geoff Munro, who graced Oldham's wing for several seasons.

Team: Tony Mills, Lee Maher, Steven Crowther, Damian Munro (capt.) Warren Mundy; Craig Barker, Paul Jackson; Glen Dunkerley, Paul Cook, Tony Piano, Paul Sculthorpe, Robert Fraser, Paul Highton. Subs: Ian Sinfield, John Kenway, Andrew Spencer.

The Juniors have had an excellent start to the season and have beaten East Leeds 36-0, Blackbrook 32-20, Standish 58-0 and Widnes St Maries 40-0.

Today's collection is for the Oldham schoolboys Australian tour and these local boys have been honoured by being invited to put on a display at Central Park before the World Cup game between GB and Papua New Guinea on October 24.

Pride of place in this week's inter-town competitions went to Oldham's under-15 side who made their way to the Lancashire Cup final by beating Warrington 38-0 and St. Helens 28-10. Captain Craig Mort led his side brilliantly and there were classy displays from Chris Leddy, Chris Garforth, Paddy Mitchell and Lee Garforth.

Today they meet Wigan in the curtain-raiser to the Lancashire Cup final at St. Helens and we hope to announce the score at half-time.

The team, coached by former Oldham favourite Eddie Barton, will be: Gerard Guilfoyle; Chris Leddy, John Harris, Paul Garrat, Carl Platt; Paddy Mitchell, Chris Garforth; David Bardsley, Jason McDermott, Emerson Jackman, Mark Tesz, Lee Fletcher, Craig Mort (capt).

Subs (from): Paul Flanagan, Daniel Wilkins, Alan Oliver, Paul Williams, Mark Albiston, Simon Ward.

Congratulations to St. Anne's under-19s and former Oldham schools under-16 captain Mick Welden on being called up for the Great Britain under-19 squad for the fixtures against the Junior Kiwis.

Mick is one of the new breed of really dedicated players who promise a great future for our game.

He is, of course, only one of several local lads who will parade their skills here at Watersheddings on Tuesday for the Pennine League youth squad against the Kiwis.

The Kiwis will be given a civic reception in Oldham tomorrow and everyone connected with the game in Oldham is hoping for a big crowd on Tuesday (7.30) to watch the best of our local talent against the best of New Zealand.

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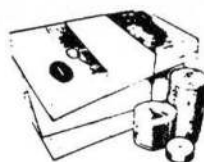
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FRANK TALK WITH FRITZ

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)

The response from the supporters to the new-look backroom team at Oldham has been very encouraging. Attendances at home have not dropped below 3,000 and considering that the team performances have not approached the desired levels, we are all delighted with the continued support.



After 12 weeks in the job I now feel it is time to let the supporters know how I feel about the general situation at the club.

This 'testing' period has included some essential signings. Paul Round, Kevin Meadows and Steve Peters were signed to help us get out of the Second Division and consolidate in the first when we get there.

Ian Bates and Richard Irving are young players of high potential who will need time, encouragement and patience on everyone's part to achieve our long-term aims.

Tony Copeland is a most welcome utility back and he typifies the type of attitude and commitment to the club that I am looking for from all the players at Oldham.

The Australian duo of Brian McCarthy and Peter Walsh are going to be settling in during the next four or five games.

A great deal has been said about the differences between Mick Burke and Oldham and vice versa. Mick is a most talented player whom most clubs would love to have in their side provided he is (a) fit and (b) in the right frame of mind. He has worked harder than he has ever done in his whole career to force himself back into contention and his first match at Doncaster underlined how good a player he is.

Mick knows what is expected of him – on and off the field – and he knows that there are other options available if he falls short.

I am satisfied with our current relationships and his general approach to the club.

Many players have been here for many years and have savoured the heights and depths of Rugby League football. The demotion issue is taboo and will not be discussed by players or coaches in my presence. It is past. What lies ahead is more important.

Whatever levels players have achieved in the past are irrelevant. What matters now is their week-by-week performance. Each player is only as good as his last performance.

In every initial period there is bound to be a surge of interest. Performance levels improve and results may not reflect the players' or the team's true ability levels.

I feel we are now beginning to see the real ability levels of the established players at the club and it is painfully obvious that many have not yet come to terms with the reality of Second Division rugby.

As 7/4 favourites, every club regards Oldham as prize meat and we haven't met one yet that hasn't tried to take a sizeable chunk.

The requirements of Second Division rugby are very simple ... but more about that in the next programme.

CONGRATS TO COLIN!

Congratulations are offered to Colin Hawkyard and his wife Helen who gave birth to a baby boy, Joel Ashley weighing in at 7 lbs 14 oz after the game at Huddersfield on Sunday.

Mother and baby are doing fine and Joel Ashley is a brother for two-year-old—Ross.

Well done Colin — and Helen!

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

President, Mr. D. Blackburn; chairman, Mr. D. Pilkington; Vice-chairman, Miss A. Collinge; Treasurer, Mr. T. Heywood; Secretary, Mrs. J. Pilkington. Committee; L. Chadderton, S. Collinge, E. Crowther, S. Doran, J. Gallagher, I. Gallagher, H. Heywood, M. Morgan, I. Pilkington, M. Pilkington, J. Sagar, L. Wolstencroft, J. Bradley, J. Shaw.

The supporters club and committee would like to welcome all our friends and supporters of Sheffield Eagles to today's game at Watersheddings — the Eagles' first visit here.

We hope for a good, clean entertaining game and invite all home and away supporters to use our canteen facilities around the ground.

Special thanks go to all at Chadderton Metal Products, Stanley Road, Chadderton, for their kind help and the donation of a barbeque for use at any time. Also to Miss A. Collinge, Mr. E. Bradley and the Supporters Club for donations of £5 for our first and 'A' team draws for the Junior Reds. Anyone wishing to donate is asked to contact any member of the supporters club committee.

Due to changes at the club, the holiday draw in conjunction with Stuart Hall Travel, Shaw will now be held on Boxing Day. Tickets are available for £1 from any canteen on match day.

Forthcoming events — Friday, October 30, Halloween fancy dress disco and family night (best witch and wizard). Tickets £1 and 50p.

Friday, November 6, Grand Bonfire family night, barbeque and dance. Bonfire and barbeque 7 to 9 pm, followed by disco. Tickets £1.50 and £1, including food.

Please book early for the coaches to Carlisle next Sunday and if you are not a member of the Supporters' Club why not consider joining. There is a sense of 'belonging' to the club, there are reductions on coach travel, and each member gets a season 1987-8 diary with interesting features and pictures about the club.

Junior Reds membership is worth considering too, for the youngsters as membership entitles a boy or girl to free 'A' team admission and a 50p reduction on first team games.

Old or young, be a real supporter — and join the club !



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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

A new feature in which a member of the board will take you behind the scenes)

This week — JIM KNOX



Most supporters are asking the same question these days — when will shares in the new company be up for sale?

Well, the situation is that we are currently going through a draft prospectus, deleting a bit here, and adding a bit there and, hopefully, about 10,000 copies of the prospectus will be ready for circulation within four to six weeks.

We have had a lot of red tape to get through and we have enlisted the services of Manchester-based financial advisers and experts in company floatation, Marwick and McLintock.

We obviously hope that everyone will rally round as and when the shares go on the market. They will be £1 shares in minimum blocks of 25 and our aim is to raise a cool £250,000 in the first issue.

After that we will go on to the second issue, but the sheer size of our initial target shows that we will be relying on the backing of all our fans and friends.

Talking of fans and friends, the board were absolutely thrilled to bits to find our crowd averaging more than 3,000 — the best in the Second Division — after three home games.

It was very gratifying indeed to see so many spectators inside the ground and you can all rest assured that everyone is contributing 100 per cent effort to see that the club can eventually repay the supporters with some great moments to cherish.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SHEFFIELD

HERE COME THE EAGLES ! (Spotlight on today's opponents)

SHEFFIELD, who come to Watersheddings for the first time today, are making valiant efforts to establish League in a city famed for snooker, steel and soccer.

Now in their fourth season, they have climbed steadily until today they are well placed among the Second Division pace-setters.

They finished third from bottom in their first season, 12th the next season, sixth last season, and now they are hoping to go even better.

It has been a remarkable success story in every respect - except gates. "The crowd figures are a disappointment to be honest", says chairman, coach, and managing director Gary Hetherington, "but we are looking to the future, we have done a lot of work in the schools, and we have just had the satisfaction of seeing a full-time development officer appointed for Rugby League in the city".

It's a real family affair at Owlerton - the stadium the Eagles share with speedway, greyhounds and stock cars - because Gary's wife Kath is secretary, director and the club's representative on the RL Council.

There are two more directors - Dr David Durie and chartered accountant Richard Pepper - and two more coaches to assist Gary on the playing side, ex-Bradford and Carlisle player Steve Ferres and former Castleford winger Howard Cartwright.

They were rewarded when the Eagles won four of their opening five Second Division fixtures, losing 10-8 at Barrow but picking up wins against Fulham, Mansfield, Rochdale Hornets and Whitehaven.

Most of the players were signed from amateur rugby in Yorkshire and apart from the much-travelled Hetherington, who still plays at the age of 29, only two members of the squad have had previous pro experience with other clubs.

Full back Paul McDermott, recently transferred back from Whitehaven, is the former Wakefield and York loose-forward, while big prop Neil Kellett was signed last season from Mansfield for a club record fee - just £2,000!

Today's line up should be something like this:

Full back,	Paul McDermott - experiences pro and former Wakefield, York and Whitehaven player.
Wing,	Steve Lidbury (21) - signed from Lock Lane, Castleford, in the Great Britain under-21 squad last season.
Centre,	Mark Gamson (21) - former Leeds colt.
Centre	David Nelson (21) - recent capture from Leeds amateur club, Queens Park.
Wing,	Roy Rafferty (22) - Ex soccer player, prolific goal kicker and holder of most of the club's scoring records.
Stand-off	Mark Aston (19) - another member of Great Britain under-21 squad, signed from Selby Gaffers RLFC.
Scrum-half,	David Close (21) - ex Yorkshire RL and RU county youth honours, signed from Pontefract Labour Club.
Prop,	Neil Kellett (23) - 17½ st and the club's record buy from Mansfield.
Hooker,	Mick Cook (22) - recent signing from Queens Park, Leeds.
Prop,	Peter Wilders (29) - more than 80 games for the club, ex-Pointer Panthers, Castleford.
Second-row.	John Glancy (22) - signed from Selby Raiders RLFC during last season.
Second-row,	Derek Bridgeman (24) - another former Queens Park lad, once a winger, now a strong-running forward.
Loose-forward,	Darryl Powell (21) - club skipper despite his tender years. Ex-Redhill (Castleford) and BARLA under-19 star, now nearing his 100th appearance for the club.
Substitute,	Gary Hetherington (29) - club founder and general factotum. Ex-York, Wakefield, Leeds, Huddersfield and Kent Invicta.
Substitute,	First chairman of the RL Players' Union. Paul Broadbent (19) - another product of Lock Lane, Castleford.

FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

The 'A' team followed up their easy victory canter against Doncaster with a first-round Lancashire Shield triumph over amateur side Thatto Heath, but it was only 22-20 and a very close run thing, indeed.

Four goals by Martin Hall and tries for Tom Nadiola and Tom Foley gave the 'A' team a 16-6 interval lead, but a very powerful Thatto Heath side came back strongly in the second half.

They are not National Cup winners for nothing. They are a very good side indeed, including several amateur internationals, and they clearly know what the game is all about.

With centre Steve Dudley in brilliant form, they took a 20-16 lead with only ten minutes to go and it looked black for us until man of the match Bob Marsden made one of many powerful breaks and Tom Nadiola took over to put Paul Sherman under the sticks.

Martin Hall added the goal and we were through, somewhat fortunately, with only two points to spare.

The team was: Edwards; Trialist, Nadiola, Copeland, Sherman; Trialist, Bates; Casey, Hall, Foley, Bardsley, Marsden, Fairbank.

The reserves were due to play York away yesterday and the intention was to give Des Foy a run-out after his longslay-off with a knee injury. If Des came through all right he is sure to be pressing for a senior place soon.

On the strength of their reserve team displays, Paul Sherman was named as substitute for the first team at Huddersfield, while Bob Marsden and Ian Bates were the reserves to travel.

COMMERCIAL CORNER

(Development Office topics with Ray Hill)

FANCY a holiday for two in Tenerife by courtesy of the club? Then join Lifeline NOW. In a special Christmas draw for Lifeline members, the holiday for two will be offered in conjunction with Neilson Travel, who are sponsoring the Hutchins stand in a £5,000 deal over three years.

For £2 a week, and a £1,000 weekly prize, Lifeline is a good bet so if you are interested in joining it, or Cashline, or selling lottery tickets contact me on 620-4870. I am also looking for canvassers etc.

We are indebted to Neilson for their support and also to Royton decorating firm, B and H Decorators (Barry Hulme and Fred Brocklehurst) who have painted the pavilion for us and will soon be doing the scoreboard and other parts of the ground.

New replica shirts are now on sale as well as brand new sweaters, with badge, in lambswool and Acrylic. They are super Christmas presents, the rugby shirts selling at £15.99 for youngsters and £20.99 for adults sizes.

Incidentally, I have visited relatives of the late G.F. Hutchins, in whose memory the Hutchins stand is perpetuated, and they are delighted that we are able to get the stand sponsored if it is going to help the club.

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PRESS BOX CHATTER

(Roger Halstead, Oldham Evening Chronicle)



All being well, you should be reading a new programme now that is bigger, brighter and better.

To be honest, the programme service so far this season has been something of a disaster, particularly on day one when the printer failed to deliver on time.

The directors have had an enormous amount of work to do over the past few months and by necessity, I suppose, the programme has had to take its turn in the list of priorities.

Pre-season changes in the commercial department and the use of printers were additional problems but, hopefully, those are now behind the club and the programme on sale today will be much more polished and professional.

If you agree the new-look programme is a good, value-for-money 'read' then spread the word around because a successful programme is an essential and often underestimated part of the club scene.

It is a club's official mouthpiece and provides a means of getting across a message to the people who really matter - YOU the supporters.

Incidentally, what a pleasure it has been so far this season to be able to report that, even in the Second Division, the Oldham gates have been topping 3,000 on average.

Even RL Headquarters have started to sit up and take note. The club are delighted and are also mindful of the fact that they owe it to the paying customers to produce entertaining football to ensure that the turnstiles keep on clicking.

ROGER HALSTEAD

ACTION MEN AT FARTOWN

Sunday 4th October 1987



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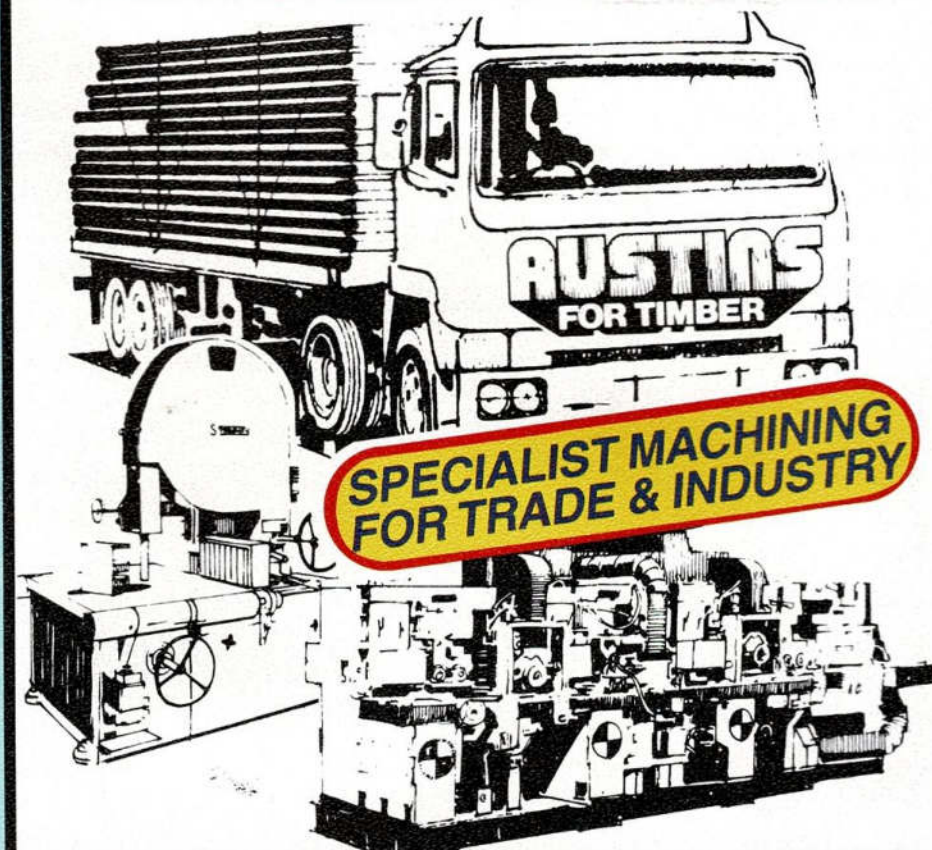
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