

10 OLDHAM Team Check 28 WAKEFIELD

MICK BURKE	1	KEVIN HARCOMBE	66
KEVIN MEADOWS	2	GARY HAGGERTY	
GARRY WARNECKE	3	STEVE HALLIWELL	
DES FOY	4	ANDY MASON	T
<i>McAllister</i> BRYAN MCCARTHY	5	PHIL FOX	2T
PETER WALSH	6	DAVID TOPLISS	<i>M Conway</i>
MIKE FORD	7	MARK CONWAY	<i>Bell</i>
NEIL CLAWSON	8	KEITH RAYNE	T
IAN SANDERSON	9	BILLY CONWAY	
<i>Round</i> MICK BARDSLEY	10	PAUL MALLINDER	
COLIN HAWKYARD	11	ANDY KELLY	
MAL GRAHAM	12	IAN DOUGLAS	
STEVE PETERS	13	IAN SHELTON	
<i>McCarthy</i> TERRY FLANAGAN	14	NIGEL BELL	<i>Topliss</i>
<i>Flanagan</i> PAUL ROUND	15	GARY VAN BELLEN	

Referee: Mr. P. Volante (Batley) Touch Judges: Mr. G. Lightfoot (Red), Mr. J. A. Unsworth (Orange)

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Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan,
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Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to
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and £65,000 for Mike Ford Jan, 1988

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

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Highest number of points scored:
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Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

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1954-55

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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,
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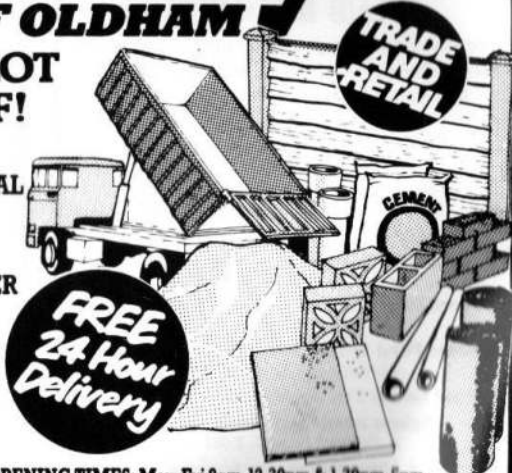
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PLAYERS PROFILE

PETER WALSH



PLAYER PROFILE NO.8

Full Name:	Peter Walsh
Nick Name:	Spider
Birthdate:	7.8.59
Birthplace:	Cootamundra, Aust.
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Footballer
Car:	Nissan Sunny
Fav. TV Show:	Dallas
Fav. Film:	Officer & a Gentleman
Fav. Music:	Ausie Rock/Jimmy Barnes/Crowded House
Fav. food/drink:	Mother's dinners
Fav. reading:	Tooheys New Sport
Hobbies:	Going to the beach
Fav. other sports:	Tennis, surfing, squash
Likes about game:	Winning, meeting people
Dislikes about game:	Losing
Superstitions:	None
Fav. Ground:	Sydney Cricket Ground
Fav. position:	Stand-off
Best Moment:	Winning Newcastle Grand Final in first year as coach
Worst Moment:	Broken jaw, smashed nose
Hardest player to tackle	Terry Fahey (Aussie winger)
Hardest tackler	Charlie Frith (Ex-South Sydney)
Fav. all-time player;	Tom Raudonika

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date sign on:	August, 1987
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Slalom International – for bottled lager.

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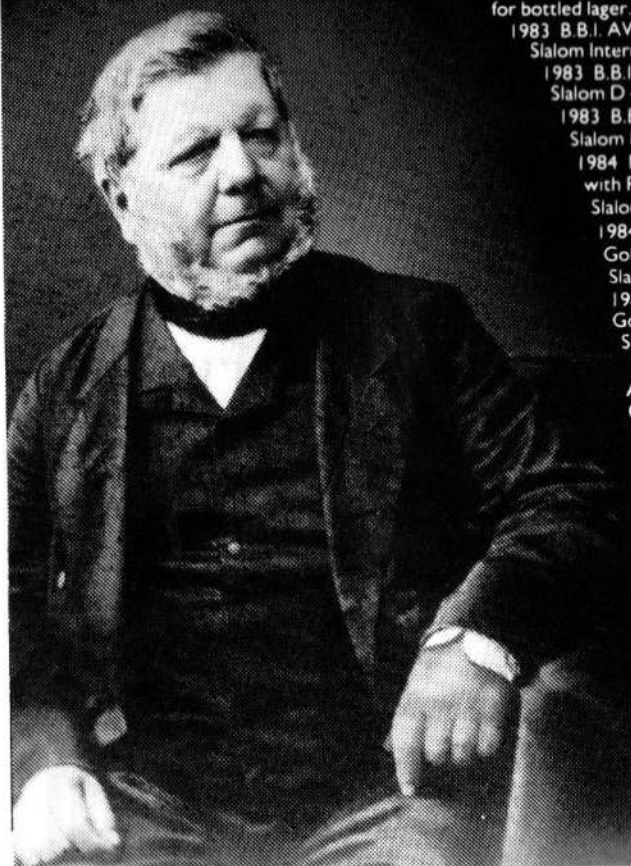
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Wakefield	15	7	0	1	274	97	4	1	2	124	79	23
Runcorn	15	7	0	1	189	130	3	0	4	84	89	20
Barrow	18	7	0	1	125	75	2	1	7	98	211	19
Springfield	16	4	0	3	101	99	5	0	4	145	157	18
Rochdale	18	8	0	2	135	82	1	0	7	70	209	18
Mansfield	18	5	1	3	118	131	3	0	6	163	195	17
Keighley	18	6	0	3	176	108	2	0	7	111	198	16
Carlisle	14	5	1	1	132	83	2	0	5	67	144	15
York	16	4	0	4	143	154	3	1	4	128	165	15
Doncaster	19	4	1	4	154	165	2	1	7	141	196	14
Fulham	17	5	0	3	141	99	1	0	8	102	231	12
Batley	16	3	1	5	113	138	2	0	5	72	87	11
Whitehaven	15	5	0	3	117	75	1	0	7	95	147	10
Bramley	18	4	0	5	132	154	1	0	8	117	252	10
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MAL'S MESSAGE

(A few words from Oldham's player-coach)

HUGH WADDELL has deserved his Great Britain chance today and I think the selectors should be looking more closely at the top teams in the Second Division. The standard has improved beyond recognition since I first arrived in England four years ago. Every team in the Second Division now has a sprinkling of very good players.

Kevin Ward is an automatic choice for No 8 but with Lee Crooks out injured, I haven't seen a prop in either division who deserves a chance above Hugh. His strengths are his ability to drive all day and bust tackles, and then produce a turn of speed, and I think that if he can work on his defence and improve his ball control, he will have an excellent chance of making the tour.

In fact, we have one or two players who can do their tour prospects a world of good if we do well as a team over the second half of the season, including Hugh himself, Paul Round, Mike Ford and Des Foy.

Mike Ford is a very talented lad and once he strikes up a sound partnership with Peter Walsh, our backs should see more of the ball than they have had all season. We have the wide runners and finishers to provide top-class entertainment and I think you will find that they are going to see a lot more chances coming their way.

MAL GRAHAM



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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

(News and views from inside the club)

THE Mike Ford signing, the sale of Mark Fairbank to Keighley for £8,000, and the call-up of Hugh Waddell into the Great Britain pack for today's Test against France in Avignon, ensured that we kept on hitting the headlines in the press - national and local - over the weekend of the Challenge Cup signing deadline.

Eric Fitzsimons got a creditable mention by a Daily Star feature writer for his astute and articulate comments as Ray French's right-hand man during the TV commentary of the John Player final and we also merit a two-page special in the current January edition of 'Open Rugby' based upon an article by Paul Fitzpatrick of the Guardian.

We also feel it says much for what we have achieved this season that the Yorkshire TV cameras are here today to screen the highlights of the Wakefield game on 'Scrumdown' tonight: the only Second Division match to be featured in the new, late-night Sunday TV spot.

It is no secret that we agreed to pay £65,000 to Leigh for Mike Ford. Mike is an excellent player and a local lad with his heart in the club and the town. He has signed a three-year contract and we are delighted to land a player who has produced some terrific displays at the highest level.

Hugh Waddell has been performing similarly for us this season and we are hoping he will have a big game in the beautiful French city of Avignon today to enhance his hopes of making the tour party to Australia later in the year.

It is always interesting to read what others think about us so, with acknowledgments to 'Open Rugby' and The Guardian, we quote Paul Fitzpatrick from his magazine article.

'Oldham's players, now that they have got used to it, are convinced they are working under one of the best set-ups in the business. In Fitzsimons, Mal Graham, playing so well and organising things so efficiently on the pitch, and Iain MacCorquodale, who is responsible for the 'A' team, Watersheddings has a young, progressive team, receptive to ideas and attempting to make the professional club the focal point of a strong Rugby League town.

'I hope, not merely for Oldham's benefit but for the general good of the game, that they go on to great things.'

In the same edition of 'Open Rugby', which we are led to believe is selling better than ever in Oldham and surrounding districts, we have two forwards in the Second Division form team, namely Hugh Waddell at blind-side front-row forward and Paul Round in the second-row.

Next week we go to Warrington in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup and it goes without saying that our boys will be relying on cracking support to help them in their difficult task. As soon as details of ticket sales are finalised they will be announced in the Oldham Chronicle.

COMMERCIAL CORNER

(DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TOPICS WITH RAY HILL)

YOU will no doubt have realised by now that we regard public relations as a vital part of club life. The club revolves around the spectators and the customers and we are trying our best, in various ways, to come out and meet you all in your different walks of life.

A party of players went into the Park Cake bakery last week to 'sell' the club and the experiment proved a big success, not only in the recruitment of new customers for Cashline and Lifeline but in the interest in the club generally that was generated by our visit.

Thanks to Park Cake - and also to Remploy, where we made a similar visit last Tuesday. Next Tuesday we are paying a visit to Seton Products and we are also planning to go into various mail-order firms at the Earl Mill, the Durban Mill, the Lilley Mill (Shaw), the Hartford Mill (Werneth) and the Marlborough Mill (Failsworth)

Following up the 'meet the public' theme, our well-known full back Mick Burke is joining the Development Office team, assisting in the promotion of Lifeline and Cashline.

Mick is one of Rugby League's best known players. He has won every team honour in the game with the exception of a First Division championship winners' medal and he is one of the few players to have won both the Lance Todd Trophy for the outstanding display in a Rugby League Challenge Cup final and the Harry Sunderland Memorial Award for the top performance in the championship play-off final.

If you want to contact Mick for promotional work, or to get more information on what the Commercial Department has to offer, please give him a ring on 620-4870.

We now have available a large supply of replica jerseys, but only up to and including size 38. Again, we apologise to the big fellows, but the problem is totally beyond our control.

SLUMBERLAND

We are pleased to announce that, for today's game against Wakefield, we again have the benefits to be derived from shirt sponsorship by Slumberland, the local firm of bed manufacturers. They backed us with similar sponsorship in the quarter-final and semi-final ties in the John Player Trophy and we have again secured a deal for jersey backing in today's game which will be seen on Television tonight in the 'Scrumdown' series.

FACE IN THE CROWD

ORDINARILY, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is a bit special. In fact, it is one of the greatest rugby competitions in the world. To many supporters it means death or glory and a chance for a David v Goliath confrontation. Many clubs and players clutch at improbable dreams of Wembley. Very few become reality.



JACK DEARDEN

— our man on the terraces

The draw in this season's competition could have been kinder to us. Away to Warrington (Oh, no. Not again!) We all know the route to Wilderspool blindfolded after going there in the Lancashire Cup and the John Player Trophy. However, the path to fortune and glory is never easy and our players have already proved themselves capable of competing with and beating the best.

I am sure the club can rely on a tremendous following, especially in view of our recent exploits in the cup competitions. But as supporters we must surely realise that our main aim this season must be promotion back to the First Division. Anything else is a very acceptable bonus.

The support at Oldham this season has been the talk of the Rugby League, something for which everyone can take credit, right down to junior level. Whilst on the subject of junior support, I am reminded by Joe Gallagher and his two assistants, Donna and Bev, that by joining the Junior Reds (for youngsters up to 16 and still at school), children get a revised admission charge of £1 for first team games and free 'A' team entry, free badge, and automatic admission into a £5 draw made at each senior match. Joe would also be grateful to hear from any potential sponsors for the £5 draw and promises that they or their business will merit a mention in the club programme.

Well, after weeks of speculation, we finally did sign Mike Ford and although, by his own high standards, he had a somewhat quiet debut he demonstrated what a class player he is and I am sure he will soon settle down and prove to be a valuable asset. I am equally sure he will be warmly welcomed by our supporters on the terraces.

Today's game gives both teams an opportunity to fly the flag for Second Division rugby, as we will be appearing on Yorkshire TV's 'Scrumdown' programme tonight. As well as welcoming David Topliss and Co, we also extend a big Watersheddings welcome to John Helm, David Watkins and the Yorkshire TV staff.

Last, but not least, congratulations to Hugh Waddell, not only for the new addition to the family but also for his first Great Britain cap. Well done, Hugh!

JACK DEARDEN

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Manchester Evening News

CORKY'S COMMENTS ...

(Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene)

SEVEN Oldham boys yesterday had the honour of representing Lancashire against Yorkshire at Featherstone in schoolboy Rugby League. At under-11 level Paul Highton (Thorp School, Royton) and Damian Munro (St.Edward's, Lees) were due to play while in the under-13 age-group Lee Bradbury and Nick Martindale (St.Augustine's) and Martin Halkyard, Chris Eckersley and Philip Russell (Saddleworth) were all selected.

At half-time against Wakefield today the Oldham club will reward these boys by presenting them with a pass entitling them to free admission to all Oldham's home games for the rest of the season. Congratulations, lads!

At under-15 level the town has some exceptional talent and this was again emphasised when St Augustine's quintet Craig Mort, Paddy Mitchell, Mark Tesz, Emerson Jackman and Paul Garrett starred in the Saddleworth club's fine 18-0 win over Wigan giants St Pat's and then helped their school cruise to a 52-6 win over Leigh C of E in the Lancashire Champion School Trophy, of which they are the holders.

Congratulations to their coaches, Fred Loughton of St Augustine's and Bernard Flanagan and Mick Coates at Saddleworth for bringing on such a group of talented and disciplined boys.

These boys will play a leading role in Oldham's attempt to win the Dennis Davies Trophy back from Wigan. The trophy, named in memory of the popular Manchester referee, is played for by all the major rugby areas in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Oldham play Warrington away in the first round and hopefully meet the winners of the Wigan v Leigh tie at home in the second round.

If it is Wigan, Oldham will gain a chance of revenge for the 24-20 defeat suffered in the Lancashire Cup final this season and coach Eddie Barton is confident that his team can go all the way this time and win a trophy that last came to town when current Oldham stars Michael Ford and Ian Sherratt played leading roles in the victory.

Oldham's under-13 BARLA aide moved comfortably into the semi-final with good wins over Leigh and Widnes, with Saddleworth's Nathan Cheetham scoring a hat-trick in both games. Coaches Mick Barber and Eric Lowther have moulded a strong side and hopes are high for success.

Thanks to Gary Ainsworth, the Swinton hooker, for turning up to help with the under-11 and under-13 town team training sessions. An ex-St Anselm's pupil, Gary is the only RL player with both a first and second division premiership winners' medal, won for Saints against Hull KR three years ago and, last year, for Swinton against Hunslet, when he also took the man-of-the-match award in the Old Trafford showpiece.

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THE BOSS TALKING...

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)

THE Second Division championship programme is reaching the stage where it is possible to make some calculated guesses regarding the outcome of the promotion race.

Sheffield have maintained their form throughout the season so far. They have played more games than any other team and while the rest of us are pleased to have games in hand, Sheffield will certainly be pleased that they will not be having to cram in their missed fixtures at the end of the season, risking injury, fatigue and valuable points' loss. They are the dark horses who will creep into the picture if any of the favourites slip up.



Workington and Runcorn have benefited from the Second Division restructuring system and I will be surprised if they maintain their current league positions to the end of the season.

Barrow have had some terrible results since we came unstuck at Craven Park just before the John Player semi-final and they have a big hill to climb to get back into contention for those vital three places.

Springfield have inevitably found their level. However, I am impressed with the approach of the new club and in Mike Marsland they seem to have a positive leader off the pitch. Another year of building will not go amiss. The trick is not winning promotion, it is going up with a nucleus of players with the ability to stay there.

I have saved my comments on the three favourites until last because I feel Oldham, Featherstone and Wakefield will be promoted this season. Featherstone had an awful start. Peter Fox told me after the War of the Roses at Central Park that he did not expect them to be promoted. Peter is one of the shrewdest personalities in the game and I can't rule out a certain amount of kidology. I saw them totally outplay Wakefield at Belle Vue and in my opinion, Rovers are a First Division side. Peter Smith leads the pack by example. They all work very hard and in Derryck Fox they have a top play-maker as well as a very shrewd tactical kicker. Add Paul Lyman, Graham Steadman and Chris Bibb to a host of workers and you have all the necessary ingredients for a successful team.

Wakefield, our opponents today, have their fair share of talented players. I'm sure 'Topper' must have given them all their fill of Butterworth's meat puddings when I went to watch them against Sheffield and Featherstone. I am totally discarding those performances as non-representative of their real team ability. No First Division hopefuls can play like that and expect to go up and stay up. I expect our game today to be hard-fought in the forwards.

I expect the scrum-halves to be key figures and the most successful one, in my opinion, will be he who can supply the wide runners with the best ball. I also foresee a duel of the No.6s and the one who can get his back line running in a controlled manner will have most effect.

May the better team win and may Rugby League triumph by the way the game is played.

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Appearances & Scorers

SEASON 1987-88
(to date - 21 possible)

	APPTS (inc.Subs)	T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	7	1	27	-	58
Irving R.	9	1	-	-	4
Hawkyard C.	16	3	-	-	12
Meadows K.	21	9	-	-	36
Edwards J.	6	-	1	-	2
Peters S.	12	-	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	-	8
Sherratt I.	4	1	-	-	4
Sanderson I.	20	4	-	-	16
Waddell H.	20	6	-	-	24
Worrall M.	6	2	2	-	12
Graham M.	21	5	-	-	20
Flanagan T.	20	3	-	-	12
Round P.	20	13	-	-	52
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-	-
Morrison T.	3	-	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-	-
Burke M.	16	4	4	1	25
Walsh P.	16	7	50	-	128
Bates I.	3	1	-	-	4
Clawson N.	16	1	-	-	40
McCarthy B.	13	10	-	-	28
Foy D.	11	7	-	-	4
Robinson S.	8	1	-	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	10	5	-	-	20
Myler C.	3	-	-	-	-
Hall M.	2	2	-	-	8
Ford M.	2	2	-	-	0
A.N.Other	2	1	-	-	4

LAMB FOR LUNCH

A corny headline, maybe - and certainly a direct lift from the Oldham Chronicle. But we couldn't think of a more appropriate way to advertise the club's big sportsmen's lunch in the social club on Wednesday, March 2 when Northants and England cricketer Allan Lamb will be the chief speaker. Terry Flanagan will also speak. Perhaps there should be a second line to the headline: 'Flan for sweet!' Micky Finn will be the comedian and tickets priced at £12.50 are available in the commercial department ('phone 620-4870).

OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1987-88

(Opponents Abbr.)

F A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Aug 20	Whitwren	3,122	20	-8	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Aug 27	Whitwren	3,224	22	-3	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Sep 6	Barnley	2,724	8	-42	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Sep 13	Whitwren	3,554	22	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Sep 20	Whitwren	3,114	18	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Oct 4	Whitwren	2,800	18	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Oct 11	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Oct 18	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Oct 25	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Nov 1	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Nov 8	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Nov 15	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Nov 22	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Nov 29	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Dec 6	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Dec 13	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Dec 19	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Dec 26	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Jan 2	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Jan 9	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Jan 16	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Jan 23	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Jan 30	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Feb 6	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Feb 13	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Feb 20	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Feb 27	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Mar 6	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Mar 13	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Mar 20	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Mar 27	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Apr 3	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Apr 10	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round
Apr 17	Whitwren	3,174	44	-20	Admundo	Irving	Heakyd	Meadow	Edwards	Peters	Kramer	Sherritt	Sunderston	Widdell	Widdell	Round	Frangan	Sherritt	Round



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MATCH REPORTS

Oldham v Whitehaven

Mike Ford made his debut and turned in a promising display, but Oldham spluttered a bit and struggled to beat the Cumbrians 28-20. The visitors, in fact, led 14-12 until shortly before half-time when Ford sent in Peter Walsh for the Second Oldham try.

Oldham then built on their 18-14 interval lead to go 28-14 ahead, but in the closing minutes, 'Haven crossed for their third try to give the scoreline a very respectable look from the visitors' point of view.

One of the highlights of the Oldham performance was the immaculate goalkicking of Walsh, who landed six super goals from all angles and distances. Tries were scored by Des Foy, Walsh, Kevin Meadows and Hugh Waddell, but it was not a performance that the side could look back on with much satisfaction.

Runcorn v Oldham

Our 34-8 win at Runcorn last Sunday was very impressive indeed. The teamwork was first-class, the ball handling in terrible conditions was exemplary, and apart from one incident when Steve Peters was dismissed, the discipline of the Oldham team was beyond reproach.

Mike Ford had a first-class game, the backs saw a plentiful supply of good ball, and it was significant that of the seven tries scored six came from the backs, through Gary Warnecke, Des Foy (2), and Kevin Meadows (3). The other try was scored by Mal Graham, who finished off spectacularly in the corner after halves Ford and Walsh had worked the run-around, Ford supplying the defence-splitting pass.

It was not a good day for goalkickers, but Mick Burke kicked one and Welsh managed two from several attempts, most of them out wide and on a muddy and slippery surface.

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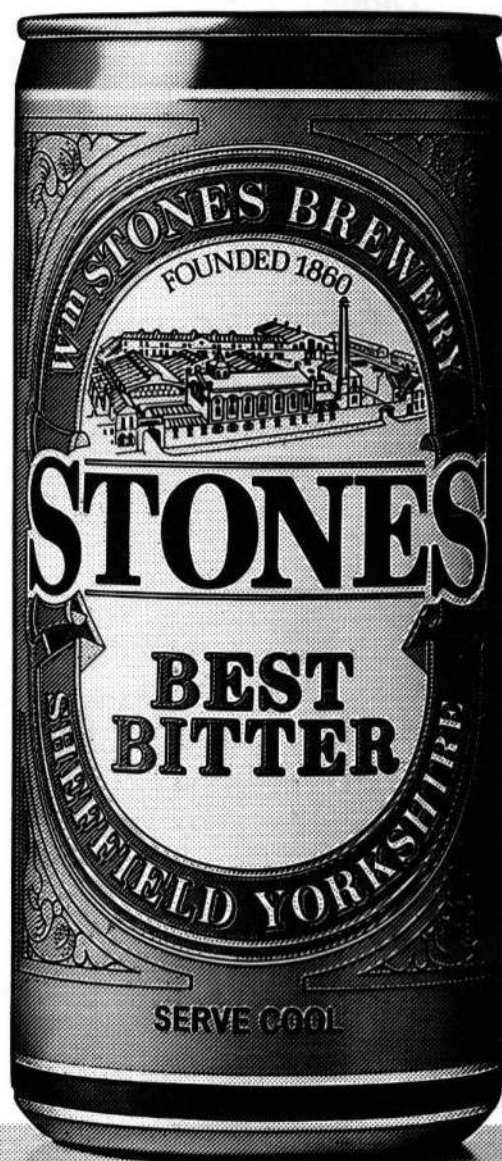
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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

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

THIS WEEK - DAVID GARDNER

A notable feature of the Watersheddings scene this season has been the remarkable contrast between the atmosphere generated by our John Player Trophy feats and that at some of our Second Division games.

It is sometimes difficult to motivate players for games against the lower Second Division games, as I am sure the coaching staff would agree, but today's game against Wakefield should be entirely different.

It is a vital match in the Second Division championship race so let's have a cracking welcome for our boys when they leave the tunnel and the sort of vocal support that was so fantastic in the cup-ties.

Congratulations from the boardroom to Hugh Waddell, who is playing for Great Britain in Avignon this afternoon, and a great big welcome to Mike Ford. We are sure he will prove a terrific buy and a great investment as we stretch out for the First Division.

DAVID GARDNER



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TRINITY TALES - AND TOPLISS, TOO! -

WAKEFIELD are certainly one of the stronger teams in the Second Division and they will be treating today's match at Watersheddings as a vital one. They have already worked out that the league championship will be theirs if they win every remaining game.

The Trinity club has undergone huge changes in the last year or two, not least in the ever-increasing participation by the local authority and the appointment at the start of this season of our former stand-off David Topliss as player-coach. Trinity people will probably laugh when we describe 'Topper' as 'our' David Topliss because he did, of course, spend more than a decade with his home-town club before moving on to Hull and subsequently to Watersheddings.

Now, 'Topper' is back home and he will certainly be hoping to play against his former team today in a crucial match which could have a distinct bearing on the outcome of the Second Division title and £10,000 prize.

David returned as substitute against Barrow last week, after being out since October through injury, and we can safely assume that the idea was to prepare himself for a full match today on the ground he knows so well.

The Trinity side has changed a lot in the past 12 months, following a big package deal in which the Belle Vue club recruited centre Andy Mason, winger Phil Fox, half-back Mark Conway and prop Keith Rayne from Leeds, plus money, for Gary Spencer and John Lyons.

Full back Kevin Harcombe was signed from Rochdale for £20,000 plus Dean Williams and a dangerous-looking back line also includes winger Gary Haggerty (brother of Roy, the St. Helens forward, and known as 'Exorcet' for the way he hurls himself into the tackle), and Aussie Steve Halliwell, who set try-scoring records at Leigh and St. Helens and is a frequent visitor to Watersheddings thanks to his friendship with the Oldham set of Aussies.

Mason, his centre partner, cost Leeds £45,000 when they bought him from Bramley, so there should be plenty of pace outside a steady half-back partnership in which either Nigel Bell or Conway will play scrum-half if Topliss decides to play himself at No 6.

Paul Mallinder, a £15,000 buy from Bradford, will probably form the front-row with Keith Rayne and Billy Conway, while the second-row contains two giants in the 6ft 3in Andy Kelly and the 6ft 4in Ian Douglas, Kelly left Belle Vue for Hull KR in a £65,000 deal in 1980 and has recently returned for an undisclosed sum.

The versatile Bell or Ian Sheldon will probably pack down in the No 13 jersey. Gary Price, a youngster who signed for Trinity for the highest contract ever offered to a junior by the club, is on Great Britain colts duty in France this weekend, so Sheldon - another ex-Bradford player - will be favourite for the loose-forward job.

Gary Van Bellen, yet another ex-Odsall man, will also be in the running as Trinity bid to become the first side this season to win at Watersheddings.

Club officials point out that, although Oldham are favourites for the title, they have the toughest run-in of those in contention and there is no doubt that there are a lot of people in West Yorkshire who still think the championship trophy will end up in the White Rose county.

Whoever wins the title, Trinity believe, they will have deserved it. Says secretary Alan Pearman: "This is certainly the toughest-ever Second Division. I don't think the teams who went up last time, Hunslet and Swinton, would have got out of this division."

And he makes this plea: "With the TV cameras present, I hope it's a game to give credibility to the leading teams in the Second Division."

FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

AFTER the disappointment of having their fourth consecutive game postponed - at Whitehaven - the 'A' team returned to winning ways with a 32-12 victory over York 'A'.

A good crowd watched Oldham's young side preserve its unbeaten home record this season and a bottle of whisky, donated by groundsman Dickie Thomas, was presented to Steve Patterson as man of the match.



Another keen fan, Noel Brady, is donating a bottle of rum to go to the man of the match in the next 'A' team game.

Trevor Croston, our new signing from Wigan St Pat's, had a promising debut on a night when our young side hurled the ball around and played some terrific rugby.

Patterson was outstanding, Leo Casey and Ian Sherratt were strong in the forwards, Martin Hall, Tony Morrison and Patterson provided the midfield craft, and Richard Irving ran strongly in the centre.

Keith Atkinson kicked four goals and six tries were scored by Steve Robinson, Bob Marsden, Atkinson, Irving, Chris Myler and Paul Lord.

We currently occupy a mid table position in the second division of the Alliance with 15 points from six wins and three draws out of 13 matches played. We are nine points behind the top two, but with three games in hand anything can happen if we put together a string of victories.

In the first round of the Alliance Cup we are at home to Huddersfield. Watch the press for the date.

One for the album. Mike Ford finally signs for Oldham, watched by club director Jim Knox, to fulfil a boyhood dream to play for his home-town club.

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PRESS BOX CHATTER



(Roger Halstead, Oldham Evening Chronicle)

THAT was more like it, Oldham! I refer, of course, to the thoroughly professional performance at Runcorn last Sunday. Not only was the commitment and attitude of the side first class, but the quality of the football and the entertainment value provided was of the highest calibre.

To score seven tries in poor conditions on a heavy pitch and with a wet ball speaks volumes for the handling skill of the side, especially the players in the middle like Peter Walsh and Mike Ford, who made it all happen.

Ford had a stunning game and had a hand in most of the tries, whilst trialist A N Other, on the wing, set the tongues wagging with a top-class display of powerful running.

Everyone has been anxious to know that Terry Flanagan will start his benefit on June 1. I was present on the night he signed in June, 1979, and it doesn't seem more than a few months ago. It is, of course, nearly nine years and 300 competitive matches for Terry. Time flies, Terry, when you're enjoying yourself, doesn't it?

ROGER HALSTEAD



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WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

MAKE a note in your diary for Tuesday night, January 26 when the Supporters' Club will be staging a sports and general knowledge quiz in the social club, starting at 8.30 pm. The entry fee is £2.50 per team of five, there will be a 2p fine for every wrong answer, and all proceeds will go to the fund to send a squad of local schoolboys to Australia during the summer.

Questions will be compiled by our good friend Alan Burke, the referee, so come along, bring a few friends, have a good night out, and help the schoolboys at the same time. We hope to have some players in attendance and as January 26 is Australia Day and this is the Bi-Centennial year it would be appropriate if some of our Aussie boys were there to put their sporting knowledge to the test!

Congratulations to Hugh Waddell on his call-up to the Great Britain team which plays France in Avignon this afternoon. We will miss Hugh at Watersheddings, but he is a firm favourite with all our fans and he will be playing for his country with the best wishes of about 4,000 Oldhamers behind him.

We are still on the look-out for sponsors for the Junior Reds' half-time draw. If you can afford to donate £5 please see a member of the supporters' committee. You will get a full acknowledgment in the programme. Thanks once again to Mrs. Rogers of Top Street for another kind donation.

Welcome to all our friends and fellow supporters from Wakefield, and especially to David Topliss, who was always a popular player here. We trust that we will all enjoy a good, clean game in the true spirit of Rugby League.

Our canteens around the ground are open for refreshments and the souvenir hut is open all through the match for the sale of sweaters, scarves, badges etc. Match videos are on sale at £10 each or for hire at £1.50 and orders can be given in at the club shop or on 665-3876 after office hours.

Fans wishing to book on the coaches for away games should ring Joe Gallagher on 627-0235 or Donald Pilkington on 665-1832 and not the social club. Please book early for the coaches. Whenever possible, we will get the departure time in the Press.

Please note too, that it is still not too late to join the Supporters' Club this season, and save money on away travel. Senior members get a club diary, which is full of interesting features and pictures covering the Oldham scene, and junior members save 50p on first-team admission and get free admission to the 'A' team games.

BE A REAL SUPPORTER - AND JOIN OUR CLUB!

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