

26 OLDHAM Team Check CARLISLE 4

Barke	KEVIN MEADOWS	1	BRIAN TUNSTALL
T Meadows	BRYAN McCARTHY	2	PAUL LYTHGOW
Foy	GARRY WARNECKE	3	KEVIN PAPE
Warnecke	CHARLIE McALISTER	4	STEPHEN MILLS
T McAlister	DES FOY	5	COLIN COLES
38	PETER WALSH	6	STEVE LANGTON
	MIKE FORD	7	GARY MURDOCH
	NEIL CLAWSON	8	COLIN ARMSTRONG
T	TERRY FLANAGAN	9	MALCOLM THOMASON
	HUGH WADDELL	10	GARY SCHUBERT
	COLIN HAWKYARD	11	ALAN McMULLEN
T	PAUL ROUND	12	STEVE BRIERLEY
McCarthy	MAL GRAHAM	13	TONY SCOTT
Casey	MARTIN HALL	14	TBA P Murdoch
	TONY MORRISON	15	TBA County

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4th February, 1987

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

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1957-58 season

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v Liverpool City, April, 1959

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Bernard Ganley, 2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

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Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

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Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners:
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Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22,
1954-55

First Division Champions: 1904-05

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

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

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1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57,
1957-58, 1958-59

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PLAYERS PROFILE

BRYAN MCCARTHY



PLAYER PROFILE NO.9

Full Name: Bryan William McCarthy
Nick Name: Answer to anything
Birthdate: 12.1.63
Birthplace: Sydney, Aust.
Marital Status: Single
Occupation: Lifeguard
Car: Nissan
Fav.TV Show: St. Elsewhere
Fav.Film: The Natural
Fav.Music: U2/Tears for Fears/Aggy Pop

Fav.food/drink: Spaghetti, beer
Fav.reading: Autobiographies
Hobbies: Surfing, swimming
Fav.other sports: Surfing
Likes about game: Friendships made
Dislikes about game: Single-minded people
Superstitions: Walk onto field last
Fav.Ground: Endeavour Field (Cronulla)

Fav.position: Full back
Best Moment: Winning
Worst Moment: Getting replaced
Hardest player to tackle: Mal Meninga
Hardest tackler: David Gillespie
Fav.all-time player: Steve Rogers

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date sign on: September, 1987
Debut: v Huddersfield (a)
Div 2 4.10.87
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Tries: 10
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Drop goals: 0
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 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 DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE – John Peel Export – for bottled beer.
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Oldham	17	8	0	1	259	138	6	0	2	160	78	28
Wakefield	17	8	0	1	288	97	5	1	2	152	89	27
Sheffield	20	7	1	2	187	117	6	0	4	180	126	27
Workington	18	6	0	3	148	99	6	0	3	111	126	24
Springfield	18	5	0	3	115	106	6	0	4	157	163	22
Barrow	19	8	0	1	139	81	2	1	7	98	211	21
Runcorn	16	7	0	1	189	130	3	0	5	90	119	20
Keighley	20	7	0	3	206	114	2	0	8	117	212	18
Rochdale	18	8	0	2	135	82	1	0	7	70	209	18
York	17	4	0	4	143	154	4	1	4	164	169	17
Mansfield	20	5	1	4	126	147	3	0	7	170	209	17
Doncaster	21	5	1	4	172	177	2	1	8	147	212	16
Carlisle	15	5	1	1	132	83	2	0	6	77	156	15
Whitehaven	17	5	0	3	117	75	1	1	7	125	169	13
Fulham	19	5	0	4	145	135	1	0	9	102	12	
Bramley	20	4	0	6	138	168	2	0	8	133	260	12
Batley	18	3	1	6	117	151	2	0	6	72	101	11
Huddersfield	17	4	1	6	197	204	0	0	6	46	103	9
Dewsbury	18	3	0	5	121	122	1	0	9	122	236	8

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MAL'S MESSAGE

Bitterly disappointing though it was to lose at Warrington in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup I can honestly say it was easier to accept than losing in the semi-final to Castleford a couple of years ago.

Why? Simply because our priorities this season have always been a) promotion b) the Second Division title c) the Second Division Premiership.

Even as someone with no roots in Oldham I have grown to appreciate the depth of feeling for an Oldham trip to Wembley, and, believe me, no one was more disappointed than I after that semi-final at Central Park.

But the club is rebuilding now and that has to mean that we get into the First Division because so many things, not least the successful sale of the shares, will hinge on it to some degree.

We must now aim to win all our remansining matches and I think we can safely assume that, so far as the title is concerned, a great deal will hinge on our next two games - Featherstone away and Featherstone at home.

It's a tall order, but we must try and take four points off the Post Office Road men and if we manage that and follow up by avenging our home defeat by Wakefield when we go to Belle Vue later in the season we will be well on the way to lifting the championship.

MAL GRAHAM



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FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

FAST building a reputation as 'The Entertainers', aided and abetted by the slick and professional Aussie accent of Bryan McCarthy on the public address system, the 'A' team have recorded two excellent victories over Huddersfield 'A' at Watersheddings.

It is widely known now that coach Iain MacCorquodale is insisting on good habits and good football to such an extent that 'A' team pay is not geared to winning at all costs.

Performance counts more than pounds - and it was a super performance that enabled a young side which contained nine Oldhamers and ten players aged 21 or under to demolish Huddersfield 42-6 in an Alliance clash.

The club is keen to put pride into 'A' team performances by bringing down the average age of the side, developing a large local element, and encouraging good habits and good rugby at all times.

Eight tries were scored against the men from Fartown, but it was a man who did not figure on the scoresheet - trialist Charlie McAlister - who brought the house down with his skills in the centre.

The New Zealander had a brilliant match and created four tries for Richard Irving, Steve Robinson (2) and Keith Atkinson, who scored a total of 24 points with three tries and five goals. Irving finished with two tries and the only try scored by a forward came from Ian Sherratt.

A week later Oldham again met Huddersfield in the first round of the Slalom Lager Alliance Cup, but many changes had to be made following the promotion to the senior side of Martin Hall, McAlister and Tony Morrison, injury to Robinson, whose hand is in plaster, and the absence of Irving, who was on a business course in Scotland.

The kick-off was delayed several minutes before the match finally got underway in a blizzard and conditions that would prove a great leveller.

A glut of ball from the scrums helped the Yorkshiremen who led 6-0 just before half-time when a blistering break by Paul Lord, who had covered himself in glory for the first team at Warrington a day or two before, set up position from which Keith Atkinson scored a try with a determined run.

Another Lord burst down the middle put Oldham back on the attack and Steve Patterson went in. Atkinson goaled and then added a penalty as Oldham booked their ticket to the second round.

Ian Bates had a stunning game at scrum-half, while there was some strong running up front by Ian Sherratt, Trevor Croston and Leo Casey, who also produced some dreadnought tackling.

It was an excellent match in atrocious conditions, again enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd which was again entertained by the smooth-talking McCarthy on the loudspeaker.

Incidentally, there is no truth in the rumour that he is due to take over from Rex Mossop, one of Australia's leading RL commentators, when he gets back home to Sydney!

CORKY'S COMMENTS...

(Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene)

I am indebted to Trevor Widdop, secretary of the Oldham Junior Schools' Rugby League Association for submitting the following report.

BY TREVOR WIDDOP.

Rugby League in Oldham junior schools has started to expand after three or four years in the doldrums. Several new schools are showing interest and taking part in both league and cup matches and 8 and 13-a-side. Sadly, there are areas of Oldham where boys are hungry for rugby but they are in traditionally soccer schools and staff are either reluctant or afraid to try both games.

However, with the help of Derek Smallwood of the local education authority, Neil Wood of the Greater Manchester RL Development organisation and Oldham RLFC, who supply players like Mel Graham, Bryan McCarthy, Gary Warnecke, Peter Walsh, Hugh Waddell, Ian Sanderson and Mick Burke, a scheme is in hand to help these schools. The Oldham players are going into the schools to help with the coaching and this initiative is a great step forward.

Another great help for schools is the continued progress in the amateur clubs of under-11 teams, who filled the void when there was virtually no schools rugby.

In the schools' 13-a-side league, St. Edward's look to have the league sewn up, while Greenfield are finishing strongly. Newcomers St Ann's have struggled to find form while Beever have handed out a few shocks, but failed to maintain pressure.

In the cup, strong contenders Watersheddings went out at the first hurdle to Parish Church in a match played under atrocious conditions. Parish now face St. Edward's in the semi-final while Beever have hooked their place in the final, overcoming Stansfield Road and Hey-with-Zion. The final will be played on March 14 at Broadbent Road (kick-off 4.00 pm)

The 8-a-side games have been played on a friendly basis and some of the smaller schools have started to play, notably Friezland and Hey-with-Zion. The 8-a-side cup is under way and St Anne's, who now have a rugby field and posts on their Greenacres Road ground, have reached the semi-finals.

THIS development pleases me personally, writes IAIN McCORQUODALE, for St Anne's was one of the six schools at which I ran six-week courses last year and the enthusiasm of the youngsters and staff for rugby was incredible. Three of the schools had lady heads - Mrs. Hoggard of Thorp, Royton, Mrs. Hadfield of Mayfield, and Miss Hickey at St. Anne's - and the pupils of these schools are fortunate in having such women in charge for they are determined that their pupils shall have every opportunity available. Well done, ladies. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to our generous supporters £130 was raised in a collection at the Wakefield game and £45 in a raffle at the 'A' team match against Huddersfield. Youngster Antony Grimshaw drew the winning ticket and Eric Fitzsimons won the bottle of whisky. Thanks go to Gilbert Ashworth, who immediately gave the boys' tour fund £10 and relieved Eric of the bottle.

Thanks also to the players who are turning up at functions to raise money for the Australian trip. The 'do' at the New Museum raised £230 and there have been other money-raisers at the Ace of Spades, The Gardeners, The Temple and Bowling, Clarksfield Hotel, and the Bulls Head, Millbottom while others are planned at the Fytton Arms, the Ashton Arms, and the Phoenix Bowling Club. If any other landlord or group of supporters can arrange a 'night' on the youngsters' behalf I would be pleased to help as we still need another £10,000 before Oldham Wakes.

The Supporters' Club raised £186 at a sports quiz and on Wednesday night, February 17, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (7.30) Rob Lutener of Rockwool is promoting a Boxing night. Ten bouts, a three-course meal and a host of celebrities make it excellent value for money at £12.50, tickets available from Rob at 626-7497 or myself after today's game. On Saturday, February 27, at Waterhead RLFC, a family race night has been organised by Stuart Taylor. Admission 50p.

FACE IN THE CROWD

WE were all disappointed following our two defeats by Wakefield and Warrington, the latter in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, but now that our cup exploits for the season are over, all efforts must be put into securing promotion and going all out for a Premiership Final spot at Old Trafford, Manchester, in May.



JACK DEARDEN

— our man on the terraces

The Wakefield game saw us all well beaten, but it was refreshing to hear a Rugby League Coach (our own Eric Fitzsimons) prepared to accept his share of responsibility by admitting he made a mistake with his team selection.

This type of statement, and honesty, should be welcomed by supporters because we must not lose sight of the fact that nobody can get things right all the time.

A big game, a big gate, and unfortunately a big disappointment, but I can assure all my friends and fellow fans on the terraces that the players don't play badly on purpose and that they were all pretty subdued by the result.

On the credit side we, the fans, can take pride in the remarks made by David Topliss, who praised the Oldham public for the generous way we responded to his team's effort.

Now we must all make a determined bid to keep the momentum going in the remaining league fixtures by continuing our great support for the club. One of this season's most pleasing aspects for me has been the way in which we are kept informed of developments at the club. This, in my view, has improved tremendously, with regular statements to keep us notified of important issues.

At the start of the season there were people only too keen to knock what was happening, but generally speaking the club has come up with the goods.

It was rumoured that we might sign Paul Round. WE DID. It was brought to our attention that Mike Ford was keen to play for us. HE HAS. It is now general knowledge that the Oldham club could possibly become the first Rugby League company to go public and become a PLC, and in time I'm sure WE WILL.

Success does not happen overnight, but with forward planning by the directors, determined leadership from the coaches, and commitment and character from the players, I feel confident about the future.

JACK DEARDEN

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MATCH**

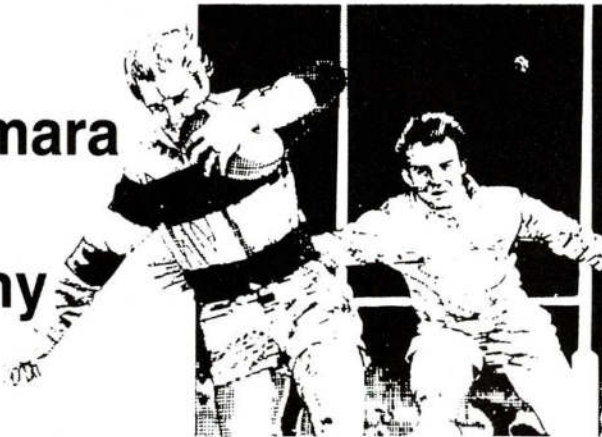
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Manchester Evening News

WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

A CHEQUE for £186 will be handed over, during half-time at today's match, to the organisers of the schoolboys' trip to Australia. That was the magnificent sum raised by the recent Quiz Night, organised by Oldham RLFC Supporters' Club, to boost the Aussie fund. Thanks must go to all the teams and friends who turned up. A smashing night was had by all and our thanks must go to people who donated prizes and items for the raffle, including the Marketing Dept., Samuel Webster's and Wilsons for cans of beer, ORLFC Development Association for a signed ball, the Supporters' Club for wine, Linfood Cash and Carry. Mr. Alan Burke for prizes and organising the questions, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burke for generous gifts, and Mr. Eddie Wolstencroft for use of the microphone speakers etc. Thanks to all. It was greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, at the last home game, certain remarks were made to Ethel and Janet regarding the raffle that day and the committee of the Supporters would like it to be known that all money raised is used to benefit Oldham RLFC. All draws are made at half-time, or at full-time in the social club, and anyone with a complaint, or who wishes to raise any matter concerning fund raising, should please contact a Supporters' Club official.

Welcome today to all our friends and fellow supporters from Carlisle. We trust that we will 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 for the sale of sweaters, scarves, badges etc. Match videos are on sale at £10 each or for hire at £1.50 per night. Orders can be given in at the club shop or on 665-3876.

Fans wishing to book away travel please ring Joe Gallagher on 627-0235 or Donald Pilkington on 665-1832, and NOT the social club. Please book early. Whenever possible, departure time will be in the local press.

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

Come and join us...and really feel part of the Watersheddings "gang".

David Gardner

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THE BOSS TALKING...

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)

Watersheddings must have been at its lowest emotional ebb three weeks ago when we last performed here. Wakefield were good value for their win. They had a few "rubs of the green" but, generally speaking, they always looked like the team that wanted to win most.



The disappointment went through the town like a dose of salts and the question on everyone's lips was: Why did it happen? It is not an easy answer. Success in any game can hinge on so many things - the correct blend of prayers, the quality of the opposition, the standard and consistency of the officials and, most important of all, the attitude and commitment of the players on the day, which can sometimes overcome any of the other obstacles.

We expected to be able to dominate their forwards, but, we failed, and on the day it seemed our only real chance of winning the game would rest with our backs getting early ball. Without the forwards making ground it was never a possibility.

It was a bad loss. It was painful to everyone connected with the club and, most certainly, no less so to the coaches and players than anyone else. The disappointment has hung over all the team ever since. We approach the game today determined to cast out any doubts about our ability, attitude and commitment. I have been connected with professional sport, as a player and now as a coach, for almost 20 years and I can assure you that the professional is not an uncaring, unfeeling mercenary that some would imagine. He is how he is treated, and he responds to the right cues because he wants to be the best, play with the best and play against the best to find out where he stands in life. He is a competitor and he will give blood and limb on the day for the 12 alongside him. We have many good professionals at this club and, as good professionals, they will ride the hiccups because they have to. They cannot afford the luxury of despondency and despair. They have to be confident.

Players can get defects out of their system by their next performance. The team showed great spirit and commitment at Warrington in the cup and Tony Barrow was one very relieved coach at the final hooter. I can assure you of that because he told me so himself! Going out of the cup has its blessings. We can concentrate on the most important task of getting promotion. Eleven out of eleven? Who can say? It's a long way to the end of the season, and when you consider the quality of opposition, we will have to play to our best to achieve it. We'll take each game as it comes. We will continue to pursue the policies we believe in and we will take our judgement in May alongside the rest of the promotion candidates.

I believe we have the best backroom staff, the best coaches and without any doubt whatsoever the BEST PLAYERS! Have faith, you Oldham supporters, and you will be rewarded.

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Appearances & Scorers

SEASON 1987-88
(to date - 24 possible)

	APPTS (inc.Subs)	T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	7	1	27	-	58
Irving R.	9	1	-	-	4
Hawkyard C.	19	3	-	-	12
Meadows K.	24	9	-	-	36
Edwards J.	6	-	1	-	2
Peters S.	13	-	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	-	8
Sherratt I.	4	1	-	-	4
Sanderson I.	21	4	-	-	16
Waddell H.	22	6	-	-	24
Worrall M.	6	2	2	-	12
Graham M.	24	5	-	-	20
Flanagan T.	23	3	-	-	12
Round P.	23	14	-	-	56
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-	-
Morrison T.	5	-	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-	-
Burke M.	17	4	4	1	25
Walsh P.	19	7	53	-	134
Bates I.	3	1	-	-	4
Clawson N.	19	2	-	-	8
McCarthy B.	16	10	-	-	40
Foy D.	14	8	-	-	32
Robinson S.	8	1	-	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	13	5	-	-	20
Myler C.	3	-	-	-	-
Hall M.	3	2	-	-	8
Ford M.	5	1	-	-	4
McAlister C.	4	2	1	-	10
Lord P.	1	1	-	-	4
Casey L.	1	-	-	-	-

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	At	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug 30	Widnes	3,724	20	-4	Ashurst	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round
Sep 2	Barrow	2,951	46	-11	Ashurst	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round
Sep 6	Barrow	2,951	46	-11	Ashurst	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round
Sep 20	Salford	3,104	19	-20	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Sep 27	Dewsbury	2,000	19	-20	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Oct 4	Huddersfield	1,729	26	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Oct 11	Sheffield	3,774	44	-20	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Oct 18	Carlisle	2,000	26	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Oct 25	Sheffield	3,774	44	-20	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Nov 8	FULHAM	3,197	26	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Nov 15	Bradford	4,858	22	6	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Nov 22	Barrow	2,808	44	0	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Nov 29	Warrington	5,044	14	10	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Dec 6	Dewsbury	3,551	17	-16	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Dec 13	Barrow	1,800	14	-18	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Dec 20	Sheffield	3,104	19	-20	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Dec 28	Sheffield	4,866	24	-12	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Jan 3	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Jan 10	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Jan 17	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Jan 24	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Jan 31	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Feb 7	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Feb 14	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Feb 21	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Feb 28	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Mar 6	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Mar 13	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Mar 20	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Mar 27	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Apr 3	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Apr 10	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	
Apr 17	Sheffield	2,000	20	-4	Irving	Hayward	Meadons	Edwards	Peters	Kennell	Sundern	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Paragon	Sherrin	Round	

Wallace Arnold's sales manager, Graham Balfour (left) and Sunday Mirror RL writer John Huxley, are pictured presenting Oldham star Paul Round with a £250 Wallace Arnold Holiday voucher and citation after he was voted winner of this season's third Rugby League Entertainer of the Month award.



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COMMERCIAL CORNER

(DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TOPICS WITH RAY HILL)

I AM delighted to report that total membership of our Lifeline now stands at 1,350 - the highest it has ever been - and we are confident of reaching 1,500 by Easter.

We hope to offer a car as a major prize for Lifeline members later in the year, if the membership drive continues successfully, and meantime we invite all Lifeline members to be guests of the club, with a friend, on match day.

On the day they receive their £1,000 cheque, the winner and partner gets two seat tickets for the match and is entertained before and after the game in the sponsors' lounge.

Also proving a great success is the venture in sending out our public relations team to local firms and factories. We have already been to Park Cake, Rempoy, Seatons, George Hill and the Oldham Chronicle, and we are also planning early visits to Weatherseal, Slumberland and Cobden and Chadwick, where a special welcome awaits director Jim Knox, who served his apprenticeship as an engineer there.

We have done particularly well in picking up new Cashline members on our visits around the town - 150 new members at Park Cake alone - and if any firm or company, big or small, wishes to invite us they can speak to me on 620-4870.

RAY HILL

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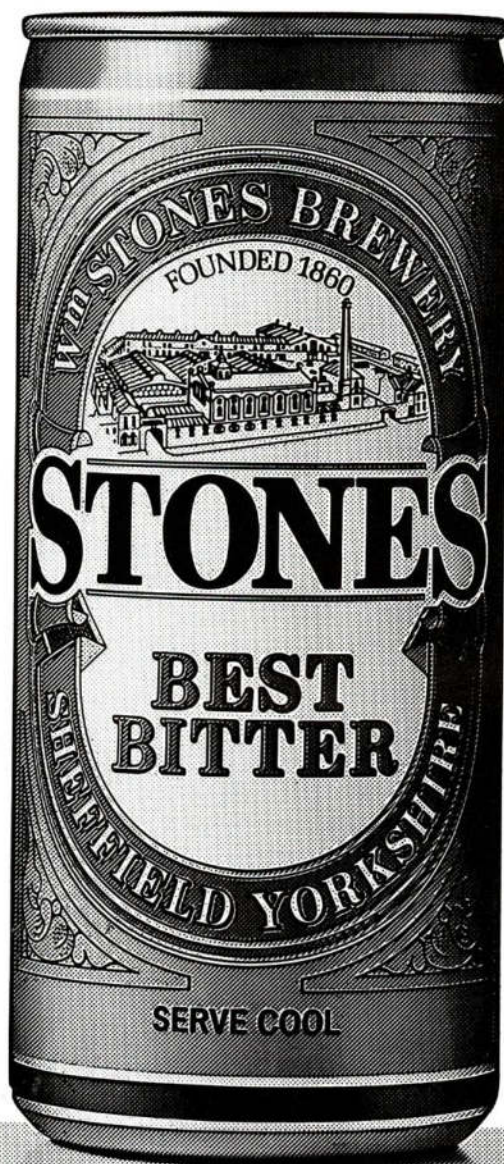
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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

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

THIS WEEK - JIM KNOX

THE moves to tighten-up the legislation relating to overseas players, and further limit the numbers of players coming in from abroad, is to be welcomed.

At present there is a "quota" of three overseas signings, but there is a limit to the number of players who are signed from abroad if they possess a British passport and do not need a work permit.

From next season, only one such player will be allowed per club over and above the "quota" of three, and a player cannot be regarded as British unless he was born here and started his rugby career in this country.

Don't get me wrong. I think the top overseas players have a great deal to offer our game and I would not like to see a total signing ban.

At the same time there is a need to restrict the number of imports, and I believe the tightening up policy will have two great benefits to our game. Firstly, it will produce quality, rather than quantity, from the overseas market and, secondly, it will enable better growth and development of our local home-produced players.

There is no finer sight than to see world-class stars enriching our game here, but as the League clamps down, clubs will inevitably be more selective and that has to be a good thing.

JIM KNOX



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CARLISLE COMEBACK! Brunton Park boys ready to climb the ladder.

COACH Roy Lester is spearheading a big comeback in the Rugby League outpost of Carlisle. Underestimate the Cumbrians - they are nearly all from the amateur game based on Carlisle, Whitehaven and Workington - and you do so at your peril.

Perhaps Warrington did just that in the first round of the John Player Trophy when it took a last gasp try by Lyon with the seconds ticking away, to prevent Carlisle pulling off a major shock.

"I was in tears after that game," says Lester, "and I'm not ashamed to admit it. "We were the better team on the day, we scored two long-range tries, and Warrington were so lucky it wasn't true."

To prove it was no fluke, Carlisle almost pulled off another giant-killing act in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Hull KR. Rovers won 14-6 at Craven Park, but with ten minutes to go it was only 8-6 and the Robins only clinched victory with a try that followed a rebound from a drop-goal attempt. Another hard-luck story, indeed, for the lads from Brunton Park.

Added Lester: "Even the Rovers directors admitted we deserved to win, so it proved that what we did to Warrington was no fluke."

To qualify for that trip to Humberside, Carlisle had to conquer county rivals Whitehaven in the preliminary round and, after drawing at Brunton Park, they trounced 'Haven 22-4 at the Recreation Ground, before demolishing Springfield Borough 29-0 at home in the Second Division.

Carlisle had a bad start to the league programme because, amazingly, they had ten men sent off in the first ten games, and that's why they are in the lower reaches of the division. Even so, they have won seven and drawn one of their 15 games and Lester is quick to point out that if his team won the five games in hand they have over fourth-placed Sheffield, for instance, they would be in fifth place.

"We are in a totally false position," he says, "and if you are talking of Sheffield or Springfield finishing fourth, there is no reason why we cannot be challenging for fourth spot, too."

"To be realistic, we are now going for a top-eight spot and a place in the premiership, and I'm confident we will reach our target."

"The lads are giving 150 per cent. I don't have a cheque book so I have concentrated on developing and building right attitudes and I think we are on the right lines."

"The team spirit is great, and the lads are queuing up to buy their own club sweaters and blazers. There is a pride in the club, and most members of the team have come through the 'A' side, earning their chance and grasping it with both hands when it came."

Best known of the Carlisle backs are centres Kevin Pape, a highly-rated Cumbrian who was in the Great Britain train-on squad a couple of years ago, and former Fulham and Widnes player Stephen Mills, who worked for Lester when both were with the Londoners.

The only Yorkshire-based player is stand-off Steve Langton and the only "outsider" in the pack is young Aussie Gary Schubert - no relation to former Aussie Test star Ian, or to a famous composer of the same name - who plays on the blind side of the front-row.

Carlisle can also boast the only Rugby League player who lives in Scotland. He is loose-forward Tony Scott, a Scottish farmer, who is said to be "like a tractor" in terms of strength and commitment.

Carlisle know that it would be a terrific feather in their cap if they could win at Watersheddings and Oldham must heed the lessons to be learned from Warrington and Hull KR and make sure they start as they mean to go on.

MATCH REPORTS

Oldham v Wakefield Trinity

This wasn't a good day...except for the magnificent attendance of 5,106. The crowd was bigger than several First Division games, and the Test match in France, but unfortunately the team 'froze' and was beaten 10-28 by Trinity - our first home defeat of the season in any competition.

Our points came from tries by Mike Ford, his first for the club, and Charlie McAlister, who was playing under his own name for the first time, plus a goal by Peter Walsh, but Trinity already led 20-6 at half-time and, on the day, they were by far the better side.

Warrington v Oldham

A vastly-improved Oldham performance was not good enough to repeat our John Player Trophy victory at Wilderspool, but it still gave Warrington the fright of their lives in this first-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie.

Wires took an early lead, but a great try by young Paul Lord, whose speed took him clear after good work by Terry Flanagan and Gary Warnecke, rocked the home side. It was 11-6 to Wires at half-time and it stayed like that until the closing minutes when Wires made the game safe at 17-6 with a late try and goal.

Workington v Oldham

This was an amazing game played in a Derwent Park blizzard and handled by a French referee. Neither side was happy at the fact that the match official could not speak a word of English. Town had the better of the first half and led 8-6 at half-time, but the introduction of subs Terry Flanagan and Paul Round made a magnificent difference and a splendid second-half saw us maintain our title challenge with a 16-8 victory.

There were tries for Round, Neil Clawson and Des Foy and a goal apiece for Peter Walsh and Charlie McAlister.

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PRESS BOX CHATTER

(Roger Halstead, Oldham Evening Chronicle)



THE proposed legislation concerning the administration of youth Rugby League is an exciting development that hopefully will end for all time the wrangle over colts rugby between BARLA and the RFL.

Full details are not yet out, but it seems that the colts league is to be scrapped. In exchange for conceding that, the RFL will benefit from a new system of running youth rugby at amateur level.

Each pro club will be allocated a geographical area and the amateur youth sides in that area will form a "nursery" for the senior club, which will have first chance of signing potential professionals from its own "patch".

I understand other senior clubs will only be able to "poach" into the nursery areas of their rivals if a particular player is not wanted by his local pro club or if terms cannot be agreed.

In the final reckoning, of course, nothing in this world can make a boy sign for any particular club and it remains of immense importance for senior clubs to foster relations on their own doorstep, as Oldham are doing so superbly well right now.

In some respects the new system is similar to what happens in Australia. It isn't foolproof, but if it stops the bickering between BARLA and the RFL, encourages those clubs which need it to start playing a part in the development of the game at grass roots, and stimulates a more even spread of talent throughout the pro-game - instead of the top handful of clubs monopolising the market - it will prove a significant factor in the continued growth of our sport.

ROGER HALSTEAD



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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

(News and views from inside the club)

CONGRATULATIONS to Hugh Waddell on receiving his first Great Britain Test cap. Having played his second Test against France at Headingley last Saturday, Hugh qualified for his cap and is now hopefully waiting to see if he is included in the part to go Down Under in the summer.

Good luck, Hugh.

THE Oldham 'A' team have a tough nut to crack in the second round of the Alliance Cup. Having beaten Huddersfield in the first round they are drawn to play the winners of the Widnes-Salford tie, away from home, in round two. Watch the press for the date. It will probably be one night towards the end of this week.

STEVE PETERS, sent off at Runcorn, ultimately received an eight-match ban which will rule him out of contention for the next few weeks.

HOOKER Ian Sanderson submitted a written transfer request recently, but we are pleased to report that Ian later withdrew it after talks with the board. He has problems at present, due to his police training, but hopefully they will be resolved when his 14-week course is finished.

WATCH out over the next few weeks for announcements concerning the Terry Flanagan benefit year. It starts on June 1 and we can tell you that Terry, who was not interested in a tentative inquiry from Salford the other day, has some very interesting ideas up his sleeve.

WE are pleased to confirm, too, that Keith Atkinson was not interested in joining Huddersfield, Tony Morrison has come off the transfer list, and Paul Lord has settled down after a difficult patch, caused by injuries, and has pledged to build his future at the club after meeting the directors for talks, with his father.

TICKETS for the Wembley final, available from the Ticket Office, Rugby League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT, are priced at £25, £18, £12 for seating and £7 for standing.

HUGH WADDELL is the half-way leader in the Greenalls Second Division player of the year award, followed by Sheffield forward Daryl Powell and Waddell's Oldham team mate, Paul Round.

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