

38 OLDHAM Team Check WORKINGTON 10

27 ATKINSON	MICK BURKE	1	DAVID LOWDEN	26
McALISTER	KEVIN MEADOWS	2	KEITH TUBMAN	
T MEADOWS	DES FOY	3	GARY SMITH	
T LORD	GARY WARNECKE	4	PAUL PENRICE	
	CHARLIE McALISTER	5	DAVID BECK	
	PETER WALSH	6	GEOFF RAE	
	MIKE FORD	7	GLEN BURGESS	
SHERRATT	NEIL CLAWSON	8	GORDON PHILLIPS	Sullivan
T	TERRY FLANAGAN	9	COLIN FALCON	Tabern
	HUGH WADDELL	10	RAT TABERN	Riley
CLAWSON	COLIN HAWKARD	11	PETER STODDART	Higgins
GRAHAM	PAGE ROUND	12	JOE SULLIVAN	Falcon
WARNECKE	MAL GRAHAM	13	IAN BOWER	Lew
HAWKARD	PAUL LORD	14	NEIL ROONEY	
ROUND	IAN SHERRATT	15	PETER RILEY	Phillips

Referee: Mr.D.Carter (Widnes) Touch Judges: Mr.B.Norbury (Red), Mr.P.Hind (Orange)

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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

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Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99,
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1957-58, 1958-59

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1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87

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PLAYERS PROFILE

MICK BURKE



PLAYER PROFILE NO.11

Full Name: Michael Burke
Nick Name: Nick
Birthdate: 25.9.58
Birthplace: St Helens
Marital Status: Julie/Amanda, Daniel, Michael
Occupation: Sales Manager
Car: Peugeot
Fav. TV Show: Bread
Fav. Film: Good, Bad, Ugly
Fav. Music: Anything quiet
Fav. food/drink: Steak/lager
Fav. reading: Sport
Hobbies: Golf
Fav. other sports: All sports
Likes about game: Meeting people

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on: January 1987
Debut: v Featherstone (Div 1),
Maine Road, 18.1.87
Appearances: 33
Tries: 5
Goals: 39
Drop goals: 1
Total points: 99

Dislikes about game: Injuries
Superstitions: None
Fav. Ground: Wembley
Fav. position: Full-back
Best Moment: Winning Lance Todd, '81
Worst Moment: Wembley defeat by Hull, '82
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Fav. all-time player: John Walsh (Saints and Widnes)

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- 1983 BREWEX CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS. Voted best international bottled lager.
- 1983 BREWEX MEDAL AND DIPLOMA. Slalom Lager – Best in Class One for bottled lager.
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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.
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- Slalom International – for bottled lager.
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Featherstone	21	8	1	1	260	111	7	1	3	208	148	32
Oldham	20	9	0	2	300	160	6	1	2	168	86	31
Sheffield	22	7	1	3	199	135	6	0	5	186	140	27
Springfield	19	6	0	3	147	118	6	0	4	157	163	24
Workington	20	6	0	4	160	131	6	0	4	117	170	24
Runcorn	18	8	0	1	206	138	3	0	6	96	145	22
York	20	6	0	4	235	160	4	1	5	170	179	21
Mansfield	22	6	1	4	137	153	4	0	7	202	221	21
Barrow	20	8	0	1	139	81	2	1	8	106	228	21
Keighley	22	8	0	3	236	132	2	0	9	123	223	20
Rochdale	19	8	0	2	135	82	1	0	8	92	232	18
Whitehaven	20	7	0	3	167	81	1	1	8	143	199	17
Carlisle	18	5	1	2	140	105	3	0	7	97	188	17
Doncaster	22	5	1	5	178	193	2	1	8	147	212	16
Batley	20	3	1	7	137	177	3	0	6	90	113	13
Huddersfield	20	5	1	6	220	226	1	0	7	72	171	13
Fulham	20	5	0	5	157	163	1	0	9	102	245	12
Bramley	21	4	0	6	138	168	2	0	9	133	284	12
Dewsbury	20	4	0	5	131	128	1	0	10	134	268	10

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MAL'S MESSAGE

FOLLOWING today's game against Workington we have seven matches left in the championship chase - five of them away from home. That's a programme to test the best when you consider that we have to go to Bramley, Sheffield, Rochdale, Wakefield and Carlisle.

At least four of those away games can be termed 'tricky' and we will have to be on our mettle over the last furlong, especially when you consider that Wakefield and Featherstone probably have slightly easier programmes. Rovers, in fact, finish off with three consecutive matches at Post Office Road.

Sheffield are playing well, Rochdale will want to bring down the curtain on Rugby League at the Athletic Grounds with a final fling. Wakefield will be a hard game, and Carlisle can be difficult opponents up at Brunton Park.

We have to make sure we don't slip-up in games we are expected to win and, with that in mind, our work on the training paddock over the next few weeks - on fitness, stamina, tactics, moves, etc will be as intense as at any time in the season, if not more so.

MAL GRAHAM



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FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

THE young Oldham reserve side extended its winning run to eight consecutive victories with a 28-6 victory at Featherstone last Friday night - a victory which should have put the side in good heart for yesterday's trip to Barrow in the quarter-final of the Slalom Lager Alliance Cup.

Iain MacCorquodale's lads qualified for the last eight with a terrific victory against First Division leaders Widnes at Naughton Park and no praise can be too high for the way in which the team shocked the Chemics and produced their first home defeat of the season.

Despite losing Ian Bates with ankle ligament trouble in the first half and conceding first-half penalties 10-1, the Oldham whiz-kids blitzed Widnes with 14 points in the first ten minutes of the second-half to set up a thrilling finish which ended with the visitors just hanging on to achieve a memorable triumph.

Every man played his part, but special mention was probably merited by Keith Atkinson, Paul Lord, Chris Myler, Richard Irving, Ian Sherratt, Martin Hall, Leo Casey, Mick Bardsley and Tony Morrison.

The power of props Sherratt and Casey, plus the strong running of Bardsley, Morrison and, in the later stages, Bob Marsden, more than matched the Widnes forwards and the fast backs did the rest with Atkinson enjoying an outstanding game at full back and Lord and Myler each scoring long-range tries in the first half.

Another super run by Myler put Irving over in the second-half and then a set-piece move enabled Hall to handle cleverly to unleash Casey on a 30-yard run to the line. Four goals by Atkinson completed the scoring for Oldham as the side stretches out for both league and cup honours.

Six consecutive league wins have lifted the side from mid-table to a position from which it can make a genuine challenge for promotion if the form is maintained. That was underlined only three days after the Widnes epic when, with a side missing Sherratt and Lord, the 'A' team stunned Featherstone at Post Office Road to score five tries to one in a 28-6 victory.

In-form Atkinson raced away for two tries in the first half one from literally on his own line - and there were more to follow from Paul Sherman, Richard Irving and Steve Patterson as Rovers fell apart and conceded 14 points in the last ten minutes.

The side is not only winning but playing top-quality, crowd-pleasing rugby. The wingers at Widnes got 20 passes and in the last five games practically every member of the team has scored - a tribute to the coaching of 'Corky'.

Barrow wanted to make yesterday's quarter-final tie a midweek match, but we stuck out for weekend to give our boys the best possible chance of victory, with more time to travel up and prepare properly.

We were hoping for victory - naturally - and confident of success in view of the team's form over the past couple of months.

The tackling is quick and decisive, the running is strong and forthright - Trevor Croston was particularly good in this respect at Featherstone - and the quality of the football is credit to everyone associated with the side.

Keep up the goodwork lads, and irrespective of what happened up in Barrow yesterday, let's have a real crack at promotion over the next few weeks. The players, incidentally, are keen to point out that they were delighted with their support at Huddersfield, Widnes and Featherstone, and from them a big thank you to the fans.

WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

BARRING one of the biggest surprises of recent years, we will see Oldham, Featherstone and Wakefield back in the First Division next season, though not necessarily in that order. The three clubs are currently involved in one of the tightest, neck-and-neck Second Division title battles for years, but we think it says much for the spirit of Rugby League that there is still a lot of goodwill among the three clubs - and a lot of friendships made - as the championship battle heightens in what should be a thrilling finale.

At Featherstone two weeks ago, our supporters were well looked after and there was a lot of friendly banter and happy rivalry despite the closeness of the score and the importance of the game.

When Wakefield came here, you will recall, their coach David Topliss later wrote a letter to the Oldham RLFC Supporters' Club in which he said how touched he was to find the Oldham fans so gracious in defeat and so warm and friendly towards his team. David included four stand tickets for the return game at Belle Vue next month and these are to be raffled off to raise money for our club, details of which you will be hearing about soon. With praise, of course, goes responsibility and we feel we must mention that as we have now set standards throughout the game - don't forget that the Runcorn club also praised Oldham fans after the game at Canal Street - it is absolutely imperative that we keep up the good work and prove to everyone, home and away, that Oldham fans are true supporters of the GAME as well as our own CLUB.

In reply to "Toppo's" letter from Wakefield, we sent him a video recording of the Oldham-Wakefield match and, in return, the Trinity club sent us a copy of their video for the match against Featherstone - a tape that no doubt came in handy as our coaches prepared for our two recent matches against Rovers.

A lot of goodwill has been built up by Oldham fans this season and in our remaining games, especially those on away grounds at Bramley, Sheffield, Rochdale, Wakefield and Carlisle, we must all make sure that not only is our reputation untarnished, but indeed enhanced.

We have never been to Sheffield before so there is a lot of good pioneer work to undertake when we go to the Owlerton Stadium and our next trip, to Rochdale, will be a particularly poignant one as it will form the last match to be played at the Athletic Grounds. We want our side to win, and win well, but we must also make sure that, as supporters, we must help to make it a glorious finale for rugby at the Athletic Grounds whatever the result.

A big welcome today to all our fellow fans from Workington. We hope for a good, clean game and, at the end of it, we trust you will have a safe and happy journey home to Cumbria. 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.

With so many away games still to come please note that fans wishing to book on our coaches should ring Joe Gallagher on 627-0235 or Donald Pilkington on 665-1832, and not the social club. Please book early so that we can get an idea of the numbers required as soon as possible.

In the meantime, take a pride in the tributes that we are now getting - and keep up the good work!

FACE IN THE CROWD

AS we approach the final two furlongs in this season's rugby, we appear to be on our way towards rediscovering our early-season form. The game against Featherstone at Post Office Road was a great advert for the Second Division and I feel sure that, whatever the result of last week's return encounter at Watersheddings, both clubs can look forward to regaining First Division status next season.



JACK DEARDEN

- our man on

the terraces.

Talking of next season, it was pleasing to hear that Neil Clawson has signed a contract. Neil is the type of player whose contributions rarely receive the accolades they deserve. In my view he has grasped an opportunity this season and benefited by having an extended run of first-team rugby. This has resulted in an improvement in nearly all aspects of his play.

Having said that, Neil is conscious that improved training methods have helped him to develop a level of consistency which has not let anyone down. Now that he has agreed terms on his new contract, it will hopefully enable him to continue his improvement.

Another plus for the club was Leo Casey's introduction to senior rugby at Featherstone - another young lad, when called into action, 'did not let the side down' and who will, without doubt, have not only enjoyed the experience, but will have benefited from it.

Whether or not some of our younger players will emerge next season remains to be seen because the First Division is vastly different. Assuming we are fortunate enough to win promotion, we will need to have a good, reliable squad of players to enable us to make an impression in the top flight.

It looks as though we could have a couple of players going to Australia this summer, which could work in our favour providing they travel with the right attitude, and are willing to learn. Many aspects of Australian play and methods are different to ours, but not all are superior. I hope we remember that.

Before finishing, a deserving tribute once again to all our great supporters. The staff at Featherstone were amazed and pleased to sell all their seat tickets for our visit and wish to pass on their thanks for our good behaviour.

We can take a pat on the back for generating a great atmosphere, something which is not only welcomed by our own players, but by everyone else in Rugby League, where we have contributed so much to improved attendance figures and provide a glowing example for other clubs to follow. I doubt if anyone will beat it though!

JACK DEARDEN

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IN THE

Manchester Evening News



COMMERCIAL CORNER

(Development Office topics with Ray Hill)

SPRING is just around the corner...and so is the Grand National at Aintree, one of the highlights of the British sporting calendar, which is not going unnoticed to members of our Lifeline Society. We are not taking you to Aintree, but we are doing the next best thing by inviting 40 Lifeline members, with a guest, to a champagne buffet here at Watersheddings on the day of the big race, April, 9.

The 40 lucky members of Lifeline will be drawn out of a hat and notified by post that they have won a horse. This will entitle each of the 40 to a £10 prize plus a visit to Watersheddings to be our guest, watch the big race on television, having had plenty to eat and drink, and stand the chance of more cash prizes depending on how your horse goes on. The winner will entitle the lucky Lifeline member with the triumphant horse to a prize of £250, and there will be smaller prizes for second place (£125), third place (£75) and fourth place (£25).

It should be a great day out at the club, win or lose, so if you are a member of Lifeline watch the post to see if you have drawn a horse and, if you are not in our popular £1,000-a-week fund-raiser, now is the time to get signed up so that you, too, can be wined and dined, treated like an owner, and stand a chance of getting in the money at the Watersheddings Grand National. Don't delay, join today!

Plenty of Oldham folk are doing just that right now - so much so that agents and collectors are needed for Lifeline and Cashline so, if you are interested, please ring me on 620-4870.

We are delighted to report that, at last, we now have a lot of stock in the souvenir shop and for the benefit of our ever-growing band of supporters I want to give you a list of what you can buy, and how much it will cost you.

Ski-jackets with club badge (£25); replica jerseys (£15.99 and £21, depending on size); lambswool jumpers with badges (£20.99); sweat shirts with badge (£15.99); mugs (£1.75); keyrings (£1.20); pin-on badges (£1.20); ties (£4.50); Australian ties (£3.50); scarves (£2.50); hats (£2); car stickers (50p); team photograph (£3.50); Lifeline Society sweaters (£5).

The ski-jackets arrived only recently, but they are a terrific buy and are already proving very popular. I'm sure I don't need to remind you, either, that when you buy from Watersheddings you are not only obtaining your club favours to spread the gospel around the town, but you are contributing directly to the future financial success of the club. We all want success and the one way it is guaranteed is through the loyal and growing support of the people of the town.

RAY HILL

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THE BOSS TALKING...

(A personal view
by Oldham coach
Eric Fitzsimons)



CONGRATULATIONS to our 'A' team. Under Iain's guidance we have progressed past Widnes into the quarter-finals of the Alliance Cup. On a night when brave hearts were needed, the team endured» great pressure from opponents and some extremely 'iffy' refereeing to triumph against all odds against a reserve side previously unbeaten at Naughton Park this season.

A few nights later they did enough to beat Featherstone in their own backyard 28-6. What is pleasing from the coaching point of view is the emergence of players with the ability to step up a grade when called upon. If we can keep minds concentrated on the need for a balanced development of game, mind and body from every young player we will always be capable of such performances.

We must not see the result at 'A' team level as being the end product - the emergence of good professionals with skill, strength, speed, and most important of all, good attitude, is what we term as the objective. What is it worth to have a pot-winning reserve side with few players capable of making them jump to senior level? Yet it exists in this country. The youth are the future and we work to make them blossom and grow and be strong and to be ready to make the jump and keep their place when the time is right. My selection for outstanding performances at all levels up to last week are as follows: Featherstone (away), Ford, Clawson, Waddell, Warnecke; Widnes 'A' (away), Sherratt, Myler, Lord, Casey, Morrison, Bardsley, Featherstone 'A' (away), Atkinson, Kirwan, Croston.

It is good to see Paddy Kirwan back and buzzing. He has an incredible constitution - an injury that can keep players out for six to seven months on average and he is back playing within four - no wonder he earns the title 'cast-iron'. It was interesting to see the effect Paddy had on the lads around him - perhaps the very ingredient missing from the 'A' team earlier in the season - and his experience and decision-making shone through in a calm and unhurried fashion.

Eric Fitzsimons

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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

SEASON 1987-88
(to date - 27 possible)

	APPTS (inc.Subs) T		G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	7	1	27	-	58
Irving R.	9	1	-	-	4
Hawkyard C.	22	3	-	-	12
Meadows K.	27	10	-	-	40
Edwards J.	6	-	1	-	2
Peters S.	13	-	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	-	8
Sherratt I.	5	1	-	-	4
Sanderson I.	21	4	-	-	16
Waddell H.	25	6	-	-	24
Worrall M.	6	2	2	-	12
Graham M.	27	6	-	-	24
Flanagan T.	26	4	-	-	16
Round P.	26	15	-	-	60
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-	-
Morrison T.	5	-	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-	-
Burke M.	20	4	4	1	25
Walsh P.	22	8	61	-	154
Bates I.	3	1	-	-	4
Clawson N.	22	2	-	-	8
McCarthy B.	17	10	-	-	40
Foy D.	17	8	-	-	32
Robinson S.	8	1	-	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	16	6	-	-	24
Myler C.	3	-	-	-	-
Hall M.	3	2	-	-	8
Ford M.	8	1	-	1	5
McAlister C.	7	4	1	-	18
Lord P.	3	1	-	-	4
Casey L.	3	-	-	-	-

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Aug 30	Warrington	3,122	20	4	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 6	Keighley	3,274	20	4	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 13	Warrington	2,961	46	11	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 20	Warrington	3,554	46	11	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 27	Warrington	3,554	46	11	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 4	Huddersfield	1,799	20	4	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 11	Sheff. Albion	3,774	44	20	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 18	Carlisle	3,774	44	20	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 25	Keighley	3,929	36	8	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 1	Sheff. Albion	3,929	36	8	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 8	Sheff. Albion	3,929	36	8	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 15	Bradford	4,854	22	6	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 22	Bradford	4,854	22	6	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 29	Warrington	5,004	44	0	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 6	Doncaster	3,551	17	16	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 13	Barrow	1,800	12	16	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 19	Sheff. Albion	1,800	8	16	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 26	Sheff. Albion	4,494	34	12	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 3	Sheff. Albion	4,494	34	12	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 10	Sheff. Albion	4,494	34	12	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 17	Sheff. Albion	4,494	34	12	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 24	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 31	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 7	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 14	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 21	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 28	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 6	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 13	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 20	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 27	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 4	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 10	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 17	Warrington	5,106	10	28	Atkinson	Long	Warrington	Edwards	Peters	Kearney	Sherratt	Sunderland	Widdell	Widdell	Graham	Flanagan	Sherratt	Round

FACT FILE

The 1988 Traveleads Top Fan - Rugby League's Supporter of the Year - will be following Great Britain on the Tour Down-Under this summer.

The first prize in the fourth annual Traveleads competition will be a two week Quantas holiday for two in Australia to coincide with the second and third Great Britain Test matches with Australia.

Nomination forms are available from Rugby League Headquarters with the final being staged at Leeds RLFC on 7 April.

David Easthope, Managing Director of Traveleads, said 'The Top Fan Award scheme has captured the imagination of followers of all sports and is a fitting tribute to the Rugby League supporter who is acknowledged as one of the most loyal and knowledgeable. This year's top prize is a dream trip for any follower of the 13-a-side code, combining a round-the-world holiday with the best of Rugby League Test action. The judging panel, chaired by BBC TV commentator Ray French, have an open mind as to the qualities of the 1988 winner and we appeal to all Rugby League supporters to submit an entry.'

Five finalists will be selected to contest the final at Headingley, the four runners-up receiving travel vouchers.

Previous winners of the Traveleads Top Fan title are Doncaster supporter Mrs. Joan Martin, who received a £1,000 holiday voucher; Oldham's Eddie Olsen, recipient of a £3,000 holiday in Hong Kong; and Fulham's Bob Evans, who spent a fortnight in Canada last year.

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WELCOME TO WORKINGTON

AFTER proudly hitting top spot in the Second Division on Boxing Day, Workington come to Watersheddings today in need of points to stay in the top-eight and earn a place in the end-of-season premiership play-off.

Despite a disappointing run of results in recent weeks, which has seen the side slide down the table, Town have enjoyed a good season in which they have proved conclusively that they are 'cock of the class' in Cumbria with two wins over Carlisle, one over Barrow and one over Whitehaven - four victories, in fact, out of four county derbies.

Much of the success has been due in no small measure to player-coach Norman Turley, who did a remarkable job in the first part of the season until injuries and a run of bad luck began to take its toll.

The cruellest blow of all was injury to Turley himself against Whitehaven on Boxing Day, the side not only losing its inspirational leader, but also a most experienced and clever footballing loose-forward, whose tactical kicking is well known throughout the League.

Norman, who once had a spell here with Oldham, has been in a Warrington hospital recently for traction treatment and the best wishes of everyone at Watersheddings are with him for a speedy and complete recovery.

(continued on page 26)

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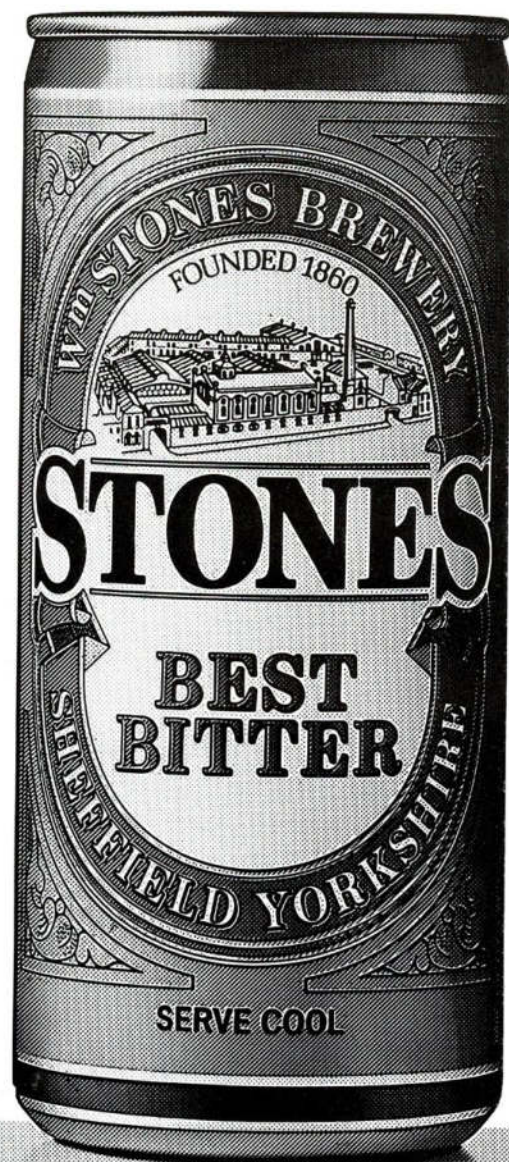
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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

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

THIS WEEK HARVEY ASHWORTH

Following up last week's theme by Greg Pache, I want to stress how vital it is that our forthcoming sales of shares in the new public company proves to be a resounding success.

It MUST go tremendously to put Oldham back on the Rugby League map as a force to be reckoned with at top level. It MUST go well to ensure our future. It MUST meet expectations because everything at the club depends on it - team strengthening, the future of the Watersheddings stadium, the very future of the club, in fact.

I will go so far as to say this: we have to make a massive success of the 'big sell' otherwise it could be the end of Oldham RLFC as we know it today.

By going PLC we are hoping to spread the net far and wide and attract major shareholders, hopefully attracted by our involvement in the Business Expansion Scheme, if we finally get it approved.

But we will be relying most of all on YOU, all you terrific fans who have got behind us on the terraces this season. It is your contribution, however big or small, which will help to see us through in the club's hour of need.

This message may seem to be somewhat repetitive, but it is crucial that everyone with the club's interests at heart realises the part they can play in building a bright new future for the club we all love so much.



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CORKY'S COMMENTS...

(Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene)

Thanks to all those who are working hard to raise funds for the schoolboys' tour of Australia. As you are probably aware the Aussies have had a recent change of heart, but our national administrators, David Oxley and Maurice Oldroyd are striving hard behind the scenes, whilst we have a considerable amount of goodwill in Australia and our friends there are trying to influence the powers that be.

It's a bit like fighting fog because it's still not really clear why, after so long, they have changed their minds. I feel sorry for the uncertainty caused to the youngsters and it's no consolation to know it's happened before when a very talented under-19 BARLA side, including several Oldhamers such as Michael Ford, had to divert to New Zealand only a month before they were due out because of a change of heart in Australia.

Special thanks to the organisers at Zolly Boshers, the Spotted Cow (Menshaw Street) and the racing-night people at Waterhead, and also to the organisers of the boxing night at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

One of the first people with the vision to realise the importance of schoolboy tours was Muriel Kirwan who, when Paddy and Terry Flanagan were under-11s, pioneered international schoolboy tours to France along with Fred Howarth. Both Paddy and Terry have some hilarious tales of events on the train journeys there. "Aunty Mu", as she is known to hundreds of schoolboys, knows over 60 local youngsters who once toured France as Oldham schoolboys and have since signed pro and she is planning a special evening with a dinner dance for them and partners at Uppermill Civic in April.

This promises to be a superb evening and knowing both her popularity and her powers of persuasion with professionals it wouldn't surprise me if she managed a 100 per cent turnout. Further details from Muriel or myself at the club.

Rugby in the schools is on the move again. North Chadderton and Royton and Crompton are competing in the national sixth-form cup whilst the top rugby-playing local school, St. Augustine's, try to retain their Lacashire title and go one better and become the first Oldham school to win a national trophy.

Their under-14 side plays Cowley (St Helens) in the Lancashire semi-final and the under-15s aim to retain the trophy at the expense of Deanery (Wigan). At national level, both teams meet Bransholme of Hull away, a school twice the size of St Augustine's and coached by Ged Dunn, the former Hull KR winger. The-under-14s play on Tuesday, March 8 and the under-15s on Thursday, March 10. Good luck, lads.

Thanks especially to the following teachers who are promoting the game so well - Bill Hainsworth and Eugene Kirwen at Counthill, Mark Ragan at Breeze Hill, Phil Maloney and Dave Clifford at North, Chadderton, Paul Scott at Hathershaw, Dave Maloney at Kaskenmoor and Fred Laughton at St Augustine's.

It is good to see Rugby League as a compulsory subject in PE lessons in nearly every secondary school in Oldham. Barry Leese, an Oldham resident and fan, is also working well to develop the game in Bolton.

WELCOME TO WORKINGTON

(continued)

Town showed what they are capable of in the first half of our game at Derwent Park a week or two ago when they scored two first-half tries to lead at the interval on a terrible day and with a French referee.

It needed the half-time introduction of Terry Flanagan, who had the proverbial 'blinder', to put Oldham on the road to recovery, so there will be no complacency in the Watersheddings ranks today.

David Lowden, a nephew of our former pack star Frank Foster, will probably be at full back today with the backs chosen from Keith Tubman, Gary Smith, Paul Penrice, David Beck and Neil Rooney. Smith normally plays at stand-off, but Town experimented with him in the centre against Mansfield last Sunday, with scrum-half Geoff Rea switching to No 6 and former Aspatia RU scrum-half Glen Burgess coming in at the scrum-base.

There is a mixture of youth and experience in the pack, which played very strongly in the first half at Derwent Park after the old campaigner Ray Tabern, playing at No 10, had floated a long pass to send centre Penrice over for an early try.

Town are blessed with two good hookers in Tabern and county man Colin Falcon, so Tabern often plays on the blind-side of the front-row, ex Carlisle man Gordon Phillips making his debut on the open-side against Mansfield a week ago.

In the back-row, Town have the choice of former Whitehaven man Peter Stoddart and former local amateurs Joe Sullivan, Ian Bower, Peter Riley and Mike Higgins - all young forwards who will run and tackle all day.

Iain MacCorquodale, of course, has a special affection for Workington and always looks for their scores first, after Oldham's, of course. He played in four successive Lancashire Cup finals for Town and created the club's all-time point scoring record of more than 1,800 points.

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PRESS BOX CHATTER



(Roger Halstead, Oldham Evening Chronicle)

Japan and California will host major international Rugby League events in the next 14 months if plans are approved by the June meeting of the International Board in Australia.

The success of the Wigan-Manly game at the start of this season has led to serious talking on a world club championship play-off in Japan in May next year, while Palm Beach is set to house the World Cup final in September featuring Australia against Great Britain or New Zealand.

These big plans have emerged from a top-level meeting in Hawaii recently between our own David Oxley, secretary of the Rugby League, and Australia's Ken Arthurson, president of the Australian League and a Major power in the International Board.

Japan are always keen to stage major sports events - as Liverpool and Notts Forest will testify! - while the choice of California for the World Cup final is based on the success of the State of Origin game between New South Wales and Queensland which was played in the States towards the end of last year.

The Aussies have been promoting League in Californian universities and high schools and the game's top-brass at international level think there is a chance that our great game will really take off Stateside in the not-too-distant future.

ROGER HALSTEAD



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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

(News and views from inside the club).

*TOM NADIOLA has been transferred to Salford for a fee of £5000 and at the time of writing Bryn McCarthy was expected to sign also for the Reds on a short-term contract until the end of the season. Bryan did well for us during his stay here but when we signed Charlie McAlister we were overloaded on the overseas quota and reluctantly we had to part with somebody. We wish both players well in their new environment.

*CONGRATULATIONS to the 'A' team for their outstanding feat in stretching their winning sequence to eight and winning at Widnes in the Alliance Cup. Their quarter-final tie at Barrow was due to be played yesterday.

*WHAT a terrific crowd we had for the Featherstone game last week - 5,806. Many First Division clubs would not mind a gate of that size and, in fact, it was bigger than anything the club could manage in league football last season when we were in the First Division.

*MICK PARRISH, now listed at £5,000, had amicable talks with the board the other night. He is due to go into Highfield Hospital at Rochdale for a minor knee operation soon and then he will review his future, Mansfield Marksman having already expressed an interest.

MATCH REPORT

Oldham v Featherstone

Last Sunday's home game, played before a magnificent crowd of nearly 6,000, produced a disappointing result - an 18-15 win for Featherstone. Mike Ford dropped a goal, Peter Walsh landed three goals and Walsh and Charlie McAlister went in for tries, but after a poor first half we left ourselves too much to do in the second when we were facing into a stiff wind. It means we will probably have to win all our remaining matches now, including a tough one at Wakefield, and hope that Featherstone also slip up, if we are to win the Second Division title.

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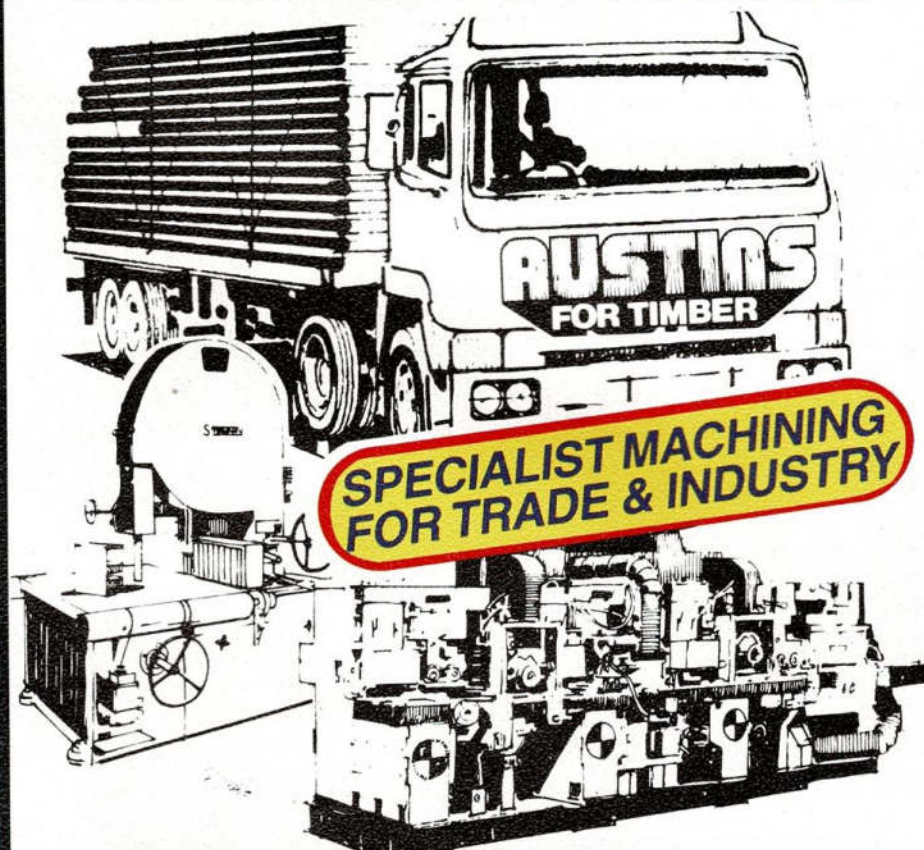
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