

OLDHAM Team Check KEIGHLEY

34	T MICK BURKE	1	GEOFF BUTTERFIELD	24
	RICHARD IRVING	2	PETER RICHARDSON	DIXON
	DES FOY	3	IAN BRAGGER	
20	T CHARLIE McALISTER	4	TERRY MANNING	
2T	KEVIN MEADOWS	5	KEITH DIXON	RICHARDSON T
	PETER WALSH	6	CARL HIRST	45
20	MIKE FORD	7	PAUL MOSES	
	IAN SHERRATT	8	BRENDON WHITE	ROBINSON
	IAN SANDERSON	9	ROB PROCTER	
	HUGH WADDELL	10	TREVOR SHERRATT	
	LEO CASEY	11	MARK FAIRBANK	ROSE
2T	COLIN HAWKYARD	12	GARY MOORBY	FAIRBANK T
	WARNECKE	13	MARK RAGAN	
	PAUL ROUND	14	RICKIE WINTERBOTTOM	T
	TERRY FLANAGAN	15	GARRY ROSE	MOORBY T

Referee: J. Smith Halifax Touch Judges: D.J. Barrett (Red), W. Brown (Orange)

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Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,
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Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan,
4th February, 1987

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to
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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

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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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

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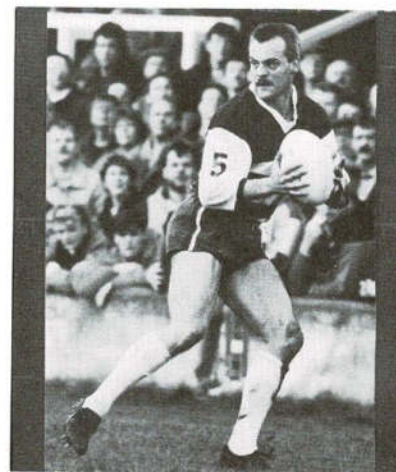
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PLAYERS PROFILE

KEVIN MEADOWS



PLAYER PROFILE NO.13

Full Name: Kevin George Meadows
Nick name: Fields
Birthdate: 27.2.61
Birthplace: St Helens
Marital Status: Donna/baby Rachel
(10 days old)
Occupation: Psychiatric nurse
Car: Escort
Fav.TV Show: Neighbours
Fav.Film: One Flew Over The
Cuckoo's Nest
Fav.music: All types
Fav.Food/drink: Indian food/bitter
Fav.reading: About work
Hobbies: Nutgrove (open-age side)
Fav.other sports: Squash, golf
Likes about game: Winning
Dislikes: Losing
Superstitions: None, really
Fav.ground: The Willows, Salford
Fav.position: Wing
Best moment: Beating Saints in JPS
(86-7)
Worst moment: Losing JPS final (v Wigan)
Hardest player to
tackle: Dean Bell
Hardest tackler: Mick Burke
Fav.all-time player: Roy Matthias

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Date signed on: April, 1984 (on trial for
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(from Warrington)
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Debut: v Widnes (trial)
8.4.84 Full debut v
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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.
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 Slalom International – for bottled lager.
 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate.
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(FINAL TABLE)

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Featherstone	28	12	1	1	448	156	9	1	4	264	197	44
Wakefield	28	12	0	2	412	137	8	1	5	254	178	41
Springfield	28	11	0	3	262	146	7	0	7	186	210	36
Sheffield	28	9	1	4	262	193	7	0	7	228	236	33
York	28	10	0	4	335	209	5	1	8	223	317	31
Mansfield	28	9	1	4	189	169	6	0	8	250	243	31
Keighley	28	10	0	4	296	162	5	0	9	199	266	30
Barrow	28	10	1	3	227	140	4	1	9	153	257	30
Workington	28	9	0	5	237	192	6	0	8	143	249	30
Carlisle	28	8	1	5	229	197	6	0	8	159	247	29
Runcorn	28	10	0	4	280	212	4	0	10	146	257	28
Whitehaven	28	9	0	5	233	137	1	1	12	184	315	21
Bramley	28	7	0	7	223	251	3	1	10	177	349	21
Dewsbury	28	8	0	6	253	203	2	0	12	164	316	20
Doncaster	28	7	1	6	245	234	2	1	11	161	278	20
Fulham	28	7	0	7	222	236	3	0	11	160	323	20
Rochdale	28	8	0	6	165	186	2	0	12	157	326	20
Huddersfield	28	5	1	8	244	264	2	0	12	139	333	15
Batley	28	3	1	10	156	239	3	0	11	149	284	13

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MAL'S MESSAGE

(A few words from Oldham's captain).

As the season draws to a close, with promotion and the Second Division title under our belts, it is now full steam ahead for the Premiership. We must not count our chickens, but if we get to the final I'm sure Old Trafford will be packed to the rafters in the Roughyeds red and white colours.

You supporters fully deserve this magnificent day out as a reward for your magnificent support all season - from the first day up at Whitehaven to the last match at Carlisle. Thanks, everyone!

Congratulations to Mick Ford on being picked for the Australian tour. Hugh Waddell is still keeping his fingers crossed, but he has been terribly unlucky not to get into the original party.

Putting aside my natural bias, I can't see Great Britain doing well in the Tests. They will go well in the country games, but they won't win a Test. The Aussies on home soil have too many class players to pick from and too much pace and power. They will also be better organised.

In terms of a Test whitewash for Aussie, this tour will be no different than 1984!

MAL GRAHAM



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FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

A combination of injuries, first-team promotions and a fixture pile-up has severely dented our hopes of climbing out of the second division of the Alliance in recent weeks.

Our magnificent run of success came to an end when we were beaten 8-6 at home by leaders Blackpool. The Seasiders fielded a very strong side, dominated the first-half, and led 8-0 at the interval. In the absence of coach Iain MacCorquodale, the reserves looked a little lost, but they rallied in the second half and could easily have won had they taken their chances.

Oldham set up a thrilling finish when Steve Patterson and Geoff Munro sent centre Steve Robinson over for a try goaled by Martin Hall, but it came too late to prevent defeat.

Oldham: Myler; Munro, Robinson, Irving, Trialist; Patterson, Bates; Foley, Hall, Marsden, Croston, Morrison, Kirwan.

In the next match against Workington at home, we scored ten tries in a 52-14 victory. Town had grey-haired Jackie Newell, their former half-back star, as sub and his son, John, at scrum-half.

Steve Robinson (3), Paul Round (2), Trevor Croston, Ian Bates, Richard Irving, and two trialists grabbed the tries, with Martin Hall kicking six goals.

Oldham: Trialist; Trialist, Irving, Robinson, Trialist; Bates, Kirwan; Marsden, Hall, Foley, Round, Croston, Morrison.

Sadly, Bob Marsden was injured in this game and he missed the next clash at Wakefield, as did Tony Morrison, who had exams. We again met a tough, hard pack and we took a 39-14 pasting in a defeat that produced another crop of injuries.

Minus Ian Sherratt, Leo Casey, Keith Atkinson, Morrison and Marsden, the side bore little resemblance to the team that was pressing for promotion. The three new injury victims were Paddy Kirwan (broken foot), Tom Foley (elbow) and Martin Hall (facial stitches), and the injury to Paddy was a particularly sad one as he had only recently returned to action after being out for several months with a broken leg.

Patterson, Irving, Robinson and Bates were Oldham's best on a night when we were well beaten.

Oldham: Patterson; Trialist, Irving, Robinson, Myler; Lord, Bates; Bardsley, Hall, Foley, Round, Croston, Kirwan.

We were forced to take a desperately depleted side, including ten trialists in the 15, to take, on promotion-hunting Whitehaven at the Recreation Ground only three days later, (we lost 16-4 after a brave display) and we were then due to meet Batley at home two days after that.

Such a fixture glut is far too hard to cope with but throughout the disappointments of the past fortnight or so there have been some most encouraging aspects, not least the powerful return to his old form of young winger Richard Irving, who looks as though he could end the season as he started it last August -with a flourish.

WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

WELL done, lads, on the Second Division championship triumph! It was a real cliff hanger at Wakefield, and we hope today's match isn't as nerve racking. Seriously, though, everything turned out right in the end and, as supporters, we are proud to be associated with a club and team that has now achieved two of its season's goals - promotion first and then the title.

Incidentally, the raffle for the Wakefield tickets, donated by David Topliss, raised £58 towards club funds - a grand effort. Thanks, also, to everyone who walked to Rochdale on Good Friday. Hope all the blisters are gone. We will let you know how much we raised as soon as all the sponsorship money is in. It was, however, a great effort.

The Supporters' annual Fun Run and Family Run, which has proved so popular in the past, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3 at 7.30 pm so keep an eye on the Oldham Evening Chronicle for details nearer the time.

The Lancashire Federation Of Supporters' Clubs is to run its annual player-of-the-year night at Wigan's Riverside Club on May 29, so anyone wishing to go should contact Alice Collinge or Janet Bradley, our delegates, for details of tickets and transport at today's match, or alternatively, via the secretary on 665-1832.

We are also on the scrounge again. What we would like is someone to loan or hire us a crane to lift a portacabin off the back of a lorry at the end of the season. If anyone can help they should contact Donald Pilkington on 665-1832. We are also interested to hear, on the same number, from anyone who could loan us between 30 and 50 chairs for use in the social club on Player-of-the-Year night. We would be very grateful to anyone who could help.

Videos are still available for sale at £10 or for hire at £1.50 per night and the way we have been running in the tries during our run-up to the title there are several matches well worth seeing!

If you have not yet returned your player-of-the-year voting slips please note that tomorrow is the deadline. You should also hurry to purchase your presentation night tickets at the canteens today, for there is a big demand and time is running out.

One must never count one's chickens, but we are hoping to reach the Premiership final at Old Trafford on May 15, so please make a mental note to book on the coaches as soon as possible if it looks as though we are going to qualify.

Finally, a big welcome today to our Premiership opponents. We invite all fans - home and away - to use our canteens around the ground and sample our delicious pies and beverages. Have a nice day, everyone.

FACE IN THE CROWD

TO use the famous Jimmy Greaves catch phrase - "Football's a funny old game, ain't it?". Well, Rugby League is, too, if the Second Division results of the past two or three weeks are anything to go by.



JACK DEARDEN

- our man on
the terraces.

First of all, we managed to hit a rich vein of form to peg back Wakefield's advantage on points difference thanks to running up some excellent scores. Then Wakefield and Featherstone both lost on the day we won at Sheffield.

Finally, the creme de la creme! We scored a massive 58 points in our local derby at Rochdale Hornets on Good Friday and on Easter Monday morning - at York - Wakefield lost again. We beat Runcorn at Watersheddings in the afternoon and, hey presto, it all set up a title clincher for Oldham over at Belle Vue a fortnight ago.

In my last notes for the Runcorn programme I wrote: "If we did well at Sheffield and Rochdale Hornets it could be a full house at Wakefield and if winning the title comes down to support and encouragement from the fans I know we won't be lacking as the season builds up to a thrilling climax.

"Let's keep our tremendous support going right into the Premiership and to the end of the season. The Belle Vue clash should certainly be a cracker."

That was an understatement if ever there was one! The match had everything - action-packed drama, excitement and thrills from the first minute to literally the last second. Come on, be honest, how many of you could not bear to watch that last-second goal kick attempt off the touch line?

Well, for us, it was a triumphant return to the big time as champions. I can't recall as many happy and smiling Oldham faces for a long time. We can all take pride in doing our bit to help by providing magnificent support, not just at Wakefield but throughout the season.

Now that we've won the title, let us all make a further attempt to increase support in volume and numbers by roaring on our heroes in the Premiership play-offs.

If we are fortunate enough to make it to the final at Old Trafford how does this whet your appetite: the prospect of facing Trinity again! Perhaps not good enough for the nerves, but surely good for the game.

In the meantime, of course, there are two play-off ties to be won, starting today, and the whole club should guard against complacency because, as we all know by now, "It's a funny old game, ain't it?".

JACK DEARDEN

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Manchester Evening News

COMMERCIAL CORNER

(Development Office topics with Ray Hill)

WE have another big night out coming up in the social club on Tuesday (April 26). We are to stage a Slalom Lager Rugby League Sportsnight and it will take the form of a sports forum, with free admission.

The top guests and main speakers will be David Howes, the Rugby League public relations officer and a leading figure in the promotion of the professional game, Alex Murphy, the controversial St Helens boss who has regular RL newspaper columns in the Daily Mirror and the Manchester Evening News, Mick Morgan, the much-travelled prop who has helped to raise thousands of pounds over the years for Rugby League charities, and Dickie Thomas, now our groundsman but better known throughout the Rugby League as one of the game's top and most respected referees of yesteryear.

There will be a lot of prizes given away and there will also be a personal appearance by the beautiful Miss Slalom Lager. The event, which we hope will attract a packed audience, will start at 8.0 pm and everyone will have a chance to fire questions at the panel.

On Grand National Day, there was a somewhat disappointing turn-out of Lifeline members who had drawn a horse, but that did not detract from the enjoyment of those who did attend, and especially those whose horses came home in the first four. D. Ratcliffe (1093) won £250 thanks to Rhyme 'n' Reason; P Derbyshire (0933) went away with £175 on Durham Edition and there were smaller prizes for M Marris (0121) on Monamore and for Diva Fashions (1277) on West Tip.

There was plenty to eat and drink and the brewery, Matthew Brown, donated two free barrels of beer, which was much appreciated.

Ready for our assault on Old Trafford, the club is now stocking new hats and tea-shirts. The tee-shirts are red, all sizes, with a loggo on the front and we also have 'clap' hats - like those you can buy at Blackpool - and some new American baseball hats.

Get your favours now, either for Old Trafford if we qualify or, if not, in readiness for next season when we are back in the First Division.

Next season, we can look forward to bumper crowds in the higher division and I know you will all want to show off your colours and be proud to be associated with the Oldham club.

Finally, I can report that membership of Lifeline has now topped 1,700 and is steadily climbing. If you are a keen fan and have still not joined us please give it some thought. We give away £1,000 every week, there are other benefits, and later in the year we hope to have a brand new car as a star prize.

RAY HILL

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THE BOSS TALKING

A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons).

Congratulations to all the Oldham supporters. Your contribution this season in both league and cup games has been first class. The players were delighted with the reception at Wakefield. I was with Keith Atkinson the day after the game and he told me the atmosphere was more charged than anything he had ever experienced before.

What a shock his back injury! Keith has played well since regaining his senior place and he has shown a different maturity in his all-round game. We all wish him a speedy recovery. We are looking realistically at next season and if its any consolation to Atky I think he has earned a contract offer and that's the recommendation I will be putting to the board.

Looking back over the season, I suppose we can rightly say that we have achieved the aims we put to the players last July - promotion and championship. Our upset at Doncaster was the first reminder to us all that nothing could be taken for granted and that, as 7/4 favourites, we were there to be knocked down.

Barrow showed us how easy it is to be carried away and lose sight of our main aim. That game was Barrow's Wembley and it is interesting to note that they - and many others who have geared up to play Oldham - have steadily deteriorated since.

Wakefield was a real sickener for everyone at the club and that defeat lifted a team that, at the time was very ordinary, to become genuine championship contenders. Wakefield that is. At Featherstone we did everything but get the vital score and the lesson learned was that in the higher levels you don't get chances all that often and when they come along they have to be taken. The defeat the following week could possibly be attributed to a lack of confidence after applying all the pressure, but failing to score the week before.

The wisdom of two fixtures in close succession has to be questioned, but it's the same for both teams and the Yorkshire lads were mentally tougher on the day.

I talk about the upsets because they are very important milestones in our learning process. Winning sometimes hides problems and papers over the cracks. All the same, winning is a good habit and generally speaking that's been the pattern this season. The players deserve recognition for their efforts.

The league programme lasts for 28 games. We are the best because we have been the most consistent over the FULL season. The division has been the toughest ever and more so for Oldham than any other team because of that 'favourites' tag. Wigan have suffered similarly in the First Division.

Today we start our cup campaign again. Two matches away from a big day out at Old Trafford, there is every incentive to perform well today. Oldham folk are already buying their tickets for the final. I'm not sure that Keighley will agree with our fans. Certainly, the message which should be on all our minds as we approach this important game today is "You're only as good as your last performance."

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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

SEASON 1987-88
(to date - 35 possible)

	APPTS (inc. Subs) T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	14	6	62	148
Irving R.	12	2	-	8
Hawkyard C.	29	3	-	12
Meadows K.	35	13	-	52
Edwards J.	6	-	1	2
Peters S.	13	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	8
Sherratt I.	7	1	-	8
Sanderson I.	24	4	-	16
Waddell H.	33	7	-	28
Worrall M.	6	2	2	12
Graham M.	35	13	-	52
Flanagan T.	32	5	-	20
Round P.	30	16	-	64
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-
Morrison T.	5	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-
Burke M.	27	6	4	33
Walsh P.	29	13	62	176
Bates I.	3	1	-	4
Clawson N.	26	2	-	8
McCarthy B.	17	10	-	40
Foy D.	24	17	-	68
Robinson S.	8	1	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	23	7	-	28
Myler C.	3	-	-	-
Hall M.	3	2	-	8
Ford M.	16	9	-	37
McAlister C.	15	7	6	40
Lord P.	10	5	-	20
Casey L.	8	3	-	12

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLE-HEADER

THE second Stones Bitter Premiership double-header will be staged at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground on Sunday, May 15. The Second Division premiership final will kick-off at 1.30pm, followed by 30 minutes of top-class entertainment before the kick-off of the Stones Bitter Premiership Final at 3.30 pm.

The 1988 Stones Bitter Premiership winners will receive a prize cheque of £9,000 with £3,500 to the runner-up, while the Second Division Premiership winners will be presented with a cheque for £4,000, the beaten finalists receiving £1,500.

This Premiership prize structure is one of the features of the 1987-88 Stones Bitter investment of £130,000, some £70,000 of which has been contributed to the Rugby League Development Fund for ground improvements.

Seat tickets priced £10 and £8 are now available for the Stones Bitter Premiership double-header. Please forward your order and remittance with s.a.e. to: The Premiership Ticket Office, The Rugby Football League, 180, Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 4HT.

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 Whitehaven	3,122	20	-5	Atkinson 3G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 2 Branley	2,851	32	-3	Atkinson 8G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 6 Warrington	2,851	46	-11	Atkinson 7G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 13 Salford	5,554	9	42	Atkinson 2G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Sep 27 Salford	2,860	11	-20	Atkinson 4G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 4 Huddersfield	1,729	26	-4	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 11 Sheffield	3,274	44	-20	Burke 2T	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Oct 18 Castle Match POSTPONED - NO NEW DATE YET																		
Oct 25 Barrow	3,325	36	-8	Burke IT	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 8 Barrow	3,197	36	-10	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 15 Bradford	4,858	22	-6	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Nov 22 Barrow	2,808	44	-6	Burke 3G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 6 Warrington	5,064	14	-10	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 13 Doncaster	3,351	17	-18	Burke 1G	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 13 Barrow	1,800	14	-18	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 13 Salford	8,316	8	-18	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Dec 26 Salford	4,856	24	-12	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 3 Springfield	2,907	20	-20	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 10 Whitehaven	3,007	34	-20	Burke IG	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 17 Runcorn	2,731	30	-20	Burke IG	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 24 Warrington	5,107	34	-20	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Jan 31 Warrington	7,540	7	17	Meadows	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 7 Warrington	1,257	17	0	Meadows	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 14 Carlisle	3,357	27	-4	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 21 Featherstone	3,500	8	-4	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Feb 28 Featherstone	5,804	15	-18	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 6 Warrington	2,868	38	10	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 13 Branley	1,539	36	16	Burke IT	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 20 Huddersfield	2,530	48	-15	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Mar 27 Sheffield	1,566	28	-15	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 2 Rochdale	3,250	58	-6	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 4 Runcorn	3,406	38	-22	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 10 Wakefield	6,522	23	-4	Burke	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round
Apr 17 Carlisle	2,900	34	-16	Meadows	Irving	Howlynd	Meadows	Edwards	Peters	Kirwan	Sherratt	Sanderson	Waddell	Worral	Graham	Ranagan	Sherratt	Round

CUP PRESENTATION

The presentation of the Stones Bitter Second Division Championship Bowl will be made to Oldham AFTER today's match by a leading official of Stones Bitter who are in the second year of a three year £400,000 sponsorship deal. Oldham also receive a £10,000 prize cheque to be presented at the Stones Bitter presentation dinner at the RUNCORN CREST HOTEL on Tuesday May 17th.

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GREENALL'S MAN OF STEEL

Rugby League's top social event - the Greenall's Man of Steel awards - will be staged at the Variety Centre, Salford RLFC on Thursday, May 12.

More than £6,000 in prizes will be handed over to the 1988 Greenall's Man of Steel, the personality judged to have made the most impact on the season, the first and second division players of the year, the young player of the year, the coach of the year and the referee of the year.

At the half-way stage, our own Hugh Waddell was featuring well in the Second Division player of the year competition and it will be interesting to see how Hugh fares in the final reckoning.

Mike Ford is the only Second Division player named so far in the Great Britain tour squad to visit Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea this summer, Waddell being a member of the stand-by squad after representing Britain in the two tests against France earlier in the season.

Mike, of course, was in the First Division with Leigh for the first half of the season so it is unlikely he will figure too prominently in the Second Division awards.

The hour-long award ceremony, hosted by television's Harry Gration, with wide action, will be followed by top-line cabaret and discotheque.

Tickets are now available priced £13, including dinner, or priced £5 for a reserved seat only. Please forward order and remittance to: The Public Relations Dept., The Rugby Football League, 180, Chapel-town Road, Leeds LS7 4MT.

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STONES · PREMIERSHIP FINALS



Here they are again. The Stones Bitter RL Premiership Finals.

Remember last year? Swinton took the Second Division trophy. Wigan picked up the First. And over 40,000 fans had a great day out.

Well this year's finals will be even more spectacular.

On Sunday May 15th at Old Trafford there'll be four finalists, 50,000 excited spectators, Geoff and Dave from the Stones commercials, inflated Sumo Wrestlers, jugglers, free goodies and high jinks all around.

The fun starts at 12.15 p.m. when the gates open. On the pitch you'll find a marching band playing their instruments and a bunch of clowns playing the fool.

At 1.30 the first of our two exciting finals kicks off. Eighty fast and furious minutes later the new

Second Division Premiership winners are crowned.

The next 30 minutes sees organised chaos reign supreme in the shape of Geoff and Dave and an hilarious team of Sumo Wrestlers.

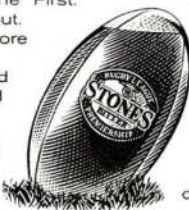
At 3.25 the Stones Bitter Parachute Team drops in with the First Division match ball and you can cut the atmosphere with a knife.

3.30 and the First Division Premiership Final gets underway. Two halves of Rugby League at its very best played by Britain's finest.

At 5.00 the Premierships have been decided. The trophies have been presented. And you've had a day out you'll never forget.

To get your tickets fill in the coupon and send your cheque/PO today.

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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 - GREG PACHE



ALTHOUGH we are trying hard to launch the share issue we are still encountering difficulties in relation to the technicalities involved in converting our club to a P.L.C.

There will definitely be a press statement as soon as is realistically possible.

In the meantime it is imperative that all our supporters back our cause in raising funds to put a team on the park which can compete at the top of the First Division.

It is our intention to bring the right players to Watersheddings but unless we get your financial backing we will be doomed to be a 'maybe' team.

You will probably have noticed baseball hats and 'T' shirts for sale around the ground. We are relying on supporters to purchase them to show our strength at Old Trafford - if we get there, of course, and next season when we will be back in the big time of the Rugby League.

There is at the moment a scheme being devised to raise money solely for a player fund. It will not be used for anything else, but the buying of players. The money will be kept in a separate bank programme and the Oldham Evening Chronicle so that you all know exactly how it is progressing.

These are just a few notes on our ideas at the moment as we look forward to a return to the First Division and, of course, to strengthening our squad so that we can do well. But please understand that if you want a good team the money has to be found.

Gates alone will not cover expenditure. Have a good summer and, hopefully, a great day out at Old Trafford.

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CORKY'S COMMENTS

(Iain Mac Corquodale on the local scene)

Bryan McCarthy is in Greece for a holiday before going back to Australia and he has donated all his training gear for raffles for local schoolboy rugby. Thanks, Bryan! I will look forward to spending a night with you and your great friend, Peter Tunks, in Sydney in July.

Special thanks to the Fytton Arms and its regulars who have raised the fantastic amount of £2,260 for our local schoolboys. Tom Foley, father of our young prop. was the chief organiser and he obtained 55 prizes for a fantastic raffle. Thanks to all those who contributed to this and all the other fund-raising events held recently.

Oldham RUFC again shoed the excellent spirit of co-operation between the two rugby codes in the town by offering their ground to the Greater Manchester Youth League for its finals when the 'Sheddings pitch was ruled out of action last weekend.

The town's under-13s played their vital Lancashire semi-final at Wigan on Thursday and hopes are high that the lads will have qualified to meet Salford in the final. The selected side was Lee Bradbury, Andrew Leddy, Martin Birch, Nathan Cheetham, Chris Eckersley, Richard Badby, Joe Diviney, Phil McLean, Jason Wardel, Martin Halkyard, Mick Martindale, George Slicker and Philip Russell with subs Jonathan Eastwood, Mick McLean, Philip McAndrew and Billy Tindall.

Thanks to Mal Graham, Charlie McAlister, Paul Round, Hugh Waddell and Ian Sherratt for turning up and doing a coaching session for more than 50 delighted youngsters at Hathershaw Sports Centre on Thursday.

Nearly 200 ladies turned up and enjoyed a night of entertainment organised by Sharon Roscoe in the social club last Wednesday, to help raise funds for the schoolboy tour. Thanks to the ladies and to Peter from Leeds.

It's good to see our former scrum-half Ray Ashton so heavily involved in coaching at Seddons, who are due to enter the Pennine League next year. With three of my former Fitton Hill pupils, Ivan Stansfield, Ian 'Gadafi' Mellor and Phil Lee in his side they should do well.

The winning raffle ticket for the GB autographed ball was 401-405 white (serial number SNO CP4Q2BX). It raised £550. Claimant to see me, please. Thanks to the boys of the Phoenix Bowling Club who did so well.

Finally, thanks to the dozen or so Oldham fans who made the long trip to Whitehaven to watch the 'A' team last Saturday. I'm sure they were as delighted as I was with the performance. We had ten trialists in the team and 13 of the 15 were locals, with nine of them under 19. They gave a magnificent display of guts and determination.

Congratulations to local boy Glen Warhurst who made his Salford senior debut at Wigan. That makes five Oldhamers who have played for Salford this year - Darren and Jason Bloor, Mick Gill, Dave Needham and Glen.

IAIN MCCORQUODALE

MATCH REPORTS

ROCHDALE HORNETS V OLDHAM

WITH a 58-6 demolition of Hornets at the Athletic Grounds, this was an Easter massacre! Oldham took their try tally to 39 in five games by scoring 11 tries through Irving, Graham, Atkinson, Walsh (2), Foy (3), Ford (2) and Casey in a match which clinched promotion at the first attempt. Afterwards, it was champagne all the way as the players celebrated going up with several bottles of 'bubbly' that was rushed into the dressing room.

OLDHAM V RUNCORN

This was a match of two distinct halves. Oldham were super in the first half, leading 30-4 at the interval, but not so good later when Runcorn employed boring, containing tactics and the home side could not counteract them. Nevertheless, a 38-4 victory, with tries by Sherratt, Graham (2), Foy, Lord and Casey, kept the promotion pot boiling on a day when rivals Wakefield slipped up at York.

WAKEFIELD V OLDHAM

This was the big one. Oldham could clinch the championship with a victory. Trinity had to win to fight another day. Oldham raced into an 11-0 lead lost the advantage, regained it, and then let Trinity in for a last-minute try which would have won the game had Kevin Harcombe been able to convert off the touchline. He failed and Oldham won a thriller 23-22 to go back to the First Division as champions.

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MATCH REPORTS (continued)

CARLISLE V OLDHAM

Great stuff, Oldham! Fears that Oldham, with the title already won, might struggle against in-form Carlisle were totally unfounded. True, the Cumbrians hit back from 0-12 down to 10-12, but we then stepped up a gear and, in the end, won 34-16 with five goals by Charlie McAlister and tries by Leo Casey, Paul Lord (2), McAlister, and Des Foy (2).

There were even more celebrations with the fans by the Oldham players, who took a standing ovation as the curtain dropped on the league season - and then returned the compliment in an emotional end to a long league season.



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(Roger Halstead,
Oldham Evening Chronicle)

Don't let anyone decry what Oldham have achieved in winning the Second Division championship. The cynics may argue that anything other than a title triumph would have amounted to failure for a club of Oldham's standing.

Don't you believe it! The truth is that Oldham have achieved what they set out to achieve and in so doing have given their magnificent supporters some magical moments - as well as a few heartaches - along the way.

The future is clouded with uncertainty over vital issues such as the share floatation and the state of the ground. There have been problems behind the scenes, too, but those involved were professional enough to see that the team kept on winning and kept on performing.

The division was more competitive than it had been for years and the team had to endure a great deal of pressure from the day it was quoted at 7-4 to win the title before a pass was thrown last September.

Promotion is in the bag - and so is the championship. The Premiership can be a bonus. More importantly, the lessons learned this season will have made everyone a lot wiser to cope with the step up the ladder next season. That will be the real test.

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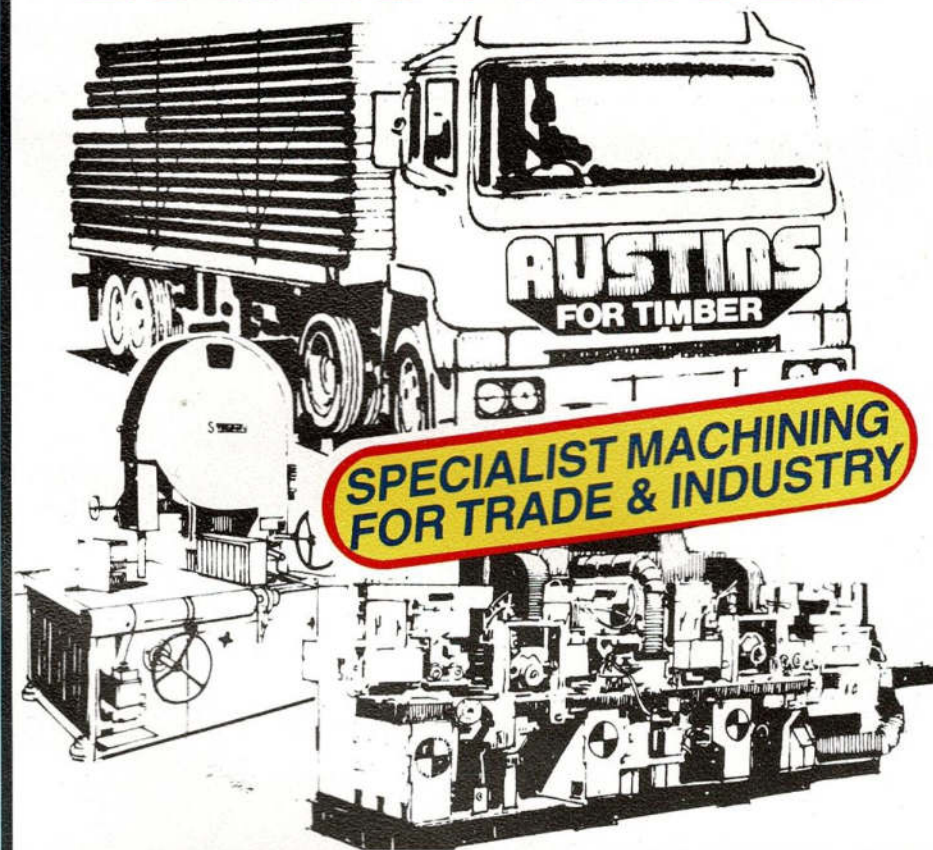
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