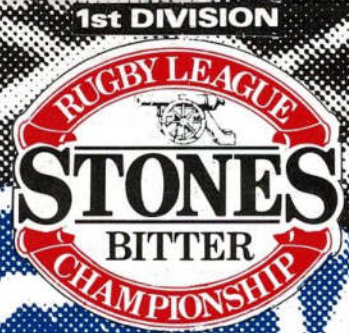




60p

Featherstone Rovers
v Oldham
 Sunday 11th September
 K.O. 3.30pm

ROVERS -v- OLDHAM

Navy Blue & White COLOURS Red & White

Peter Fox TEAM MANAGER Eric Fitzsimons

Full Backs
 CHRIS BIBB SPONSOR St. Oswald Arms, Priory Road, Featherstone.

Half Backs
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 PAUL LYMAN Bay Horse Inn, Fairburn.
 ALAN BANKS Diamond Seal, 8 The Precinct, Feath.
 RICHARD MARSH D & S White Mobile Catering



Three Quarters
 GRAHAM STEADMAN Terry Hudson, Station Hotel, Streethouse.
 DERVYCK FOX - (Capt) Featherstone Carpet & Furnishings.

Forwards
 JEFF GRAYSHON Brian's Sweets, Wakefield.
 KEITH BELL Brian Palmer, Joiner/Builder
 JOHN BASTIAN Andrew Way
 KARL HARRISON John Hill
 PAUL HUGHES Ross Travel
 PETER SMITH Sun Inn, North Featherstone.

Subs
 JOHN CROSSLEY Roy Barker, Station Lane, Featherstone.
 GARY SIDDALL Barracks Pub, Pontefract.

Referee: Mr. K. SPENCER (Warrington) Mr. B. Turgoose — York (Amber Flag)

Touch Judges: Mr. S. Evans — York (Cerule Flag)

Man of the Match Sponsor :- **EMMA HINCHCLIFF — AGED 13 YEARS**
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Patron: The Earl of Swinton
Ground: Post Office Road, Featherstone. Tel: Pontefract 702386
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Management Committee
R. Evans (Chairman), D. Hunt (Vice-Chairman)
M. Ashby, R. Ashby, E. Gardner, J. Hill, T. Mullaney
Secretary: T. Jones, 21 The Croft, Batley Road, West Ardsley.
Rugby League Council Representative: R. Ashby
Yorkshire County Representative: E. Gardner
R.L. Alliance Representative: E. Gardner **Colts Representative:** T. Mullaney

Team Manager: P. Fox
Assistant Coach: K. Loxton
Colts Coach: P. Bell **Conditioner:** S. Young
Medical Consultants: Dr. S. Ball, Dr. D. Durie
Hon. Dental Surgeon: J. G. Milne, B.Ch.D.
Club Photographer: E. Lorriam **Timekeeper:** R. Hinchcliffe
Programme Editor: T. Mullaney **Groundsman:** F. Lavine

Club Honours & Statistics.

Club founded: 1902 and Reformed 1908. Elected to N.R.F.L. June 1921.

Representative Players:

Great Britain: T. Askin, J. Bridges, T. Clawson, M. Dixon, S. Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox, D. Hobbs, G. Jordan, A. Morgan, S. Nash, P. Smith, J. Thompson.

Great Britain under 21's: Deryck Fox, P. Lyman, C. Bibb.

Great Britain under 24's: K. Bell, S. Evans, D. Fennell, V. Farrar, M. Gibbins, J. Gilbert, D. Hobbs, T. Ramshaw, P. Smith, V. Thomas, J. Thompson, L. Tonks.

England: J. Bridges, M. Dixon, S. Evans, V. Farrar, J. Hirst, A. Morgan, J. Mullaney, P. Smith, R. Stone, J. Thompson, A. Wood.

Wales: P. Banner, H. Box.

John Jepson Memorial Trophy 1987-88: P. Smith.

Club Honours: RL Cup — Winners 1967, 1973, 1983. Runners-up 1952, 1974.
 RL Championship — Winners 1977. Runners-up 1928, 1976.
 RL Championship 2nd Division — Winners 1980.
 Arrowfast Try Scoring Trophy — Winners 1980.
 Yorkshire Cup — Winners 1940, 1959.
 Runners-up 1928, 1963, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1976, 1977.
 Yorkshire League — Runners-up 1928, 1962.
 YSC Cup — Winners 1946, 1974. Runners-up 1955, 1960.
 YSC Shield — Winners 1946, 1962, 1972.

Ground Records: RL Cup — Attendance 17,531 v St. Helens 1959.
 Receipts: £12,287 v Widnes 1981.
 Yorkshire Cup — Attendance: 10,700 v Leeds 1959.
 Receipts: £8,681 v Hull 1980.
 League Attendance 14,990 v Wakefield Trinity 1962.

The week at Post Office Road

SEPTEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
•	•	•	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	•

TODAY'S GAME

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome to Post Office Road this afternoon, the Players, Officials and Supporters of Oldham RLFC.

No one will need reminding of the last meeting between todays opponents when Oldham just managed to 'pip' Rovers in that classic Stones Bitter 2nd Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford in May. That game, which will be remembered by all Rugby League fans for a very long time, proved beyond any doubt that both Rovers and Oldham are more than worthy of a place in Division one.

Early season results have shown to both sides how important it is to adjust quickly to the demands of 1st Div. Rugby. Oldham and Rovers have suffered home defeats at the hands of Leeds and in both instances basic errors in play by the home sides have led to their downfall. Rovers, however, did manage to bounce back last Sunday with a splendid win over Hull KR when they totally outplayed a very strong looking Robins outfit. Provided that Rovers can maintain that sort of form there should be little problem in maintaining their position in the top flight this season. It is vital that home games are won and so Rovers must go all out today to ensure a victory that may well give them a 4-point 'cushion' from the bottom clubs after today's fixtures are over.

Eric Fitzsimmons and his players will, however have other ideas as they seek to give the Oldham club its first league points of the season. It should prove to be an enthralling encounter that will provide an anticipated large crowd with a great deal of excitement this afternoon.

WELCOME TREVOR

This afternoon may well see the debut of Rovers first overseas signing, Trevor Clark who was due to arrive from New Zealand on Thursday. The Maori International is mainly known as a hooker but can in fact play in most positions when required. Trevor has already had successful spells in England with Leeds & York and we at Post Office Road hope that his stay with Rovers will be a happy and rewarding one.

Phil Carey, the Canberra utility back, is due to arrive in this country some time next week.

GARY SIDDALL BENEFIT

Two major events are coming up shortly in

Gary's Benefit Year. A 'Hoe Down' and Supper will be held at the Top Farm, West Hardwick on Friday 23rd Sept. at 8pm. Tickets are available now from Gary or from the Cashline office in Station Lane price £6.50. For this event FREE local transport will be provided. There will also be an end of season draw for a Peugeot 205 car supplied by Carr's of Castleford or alternatively £4,000 in cash for the winner. Tickets are £1 each and will be available at all home games and also at the Cashline Office and most pubs, clubs and shops in the area. The winning ticket will be drawn at the last home game of the season.

CUP TICKETS

Seating tickets for the home Yorkshire Cup Tie against Doncaster next Sunday are available to existing seat members at today's game. From tomorrow they will go on sale on a first come, first served basis.

GRAHAM STEADMAN

Graham Steadman notched up two tries for a career century of touchdowns last Sunday at Hull KR. The stand-off has scored 37 for his present Featherstone Rovers club and 63 for York. An amateur from the Featherstone area, Steadman made his debut for York as an unnamed trialist stand-off at Hull KR on 24th March 1982. York lost the Division One match 36-7 but Steadman played in the next match as a trialist being signed. Steadman was transferred to Featherstone in Feb. 1986 for £50,000, a record for both clubs. He made his debut for Featherstone at Leeds on 16 Feb. 1986 when he scored the try and goal in a 44-6 Division One defeat. Steadman's most prolific season was 1983-84 when he scored 25 for York and was 7th in the chart, the only time he has finished in the top ten. His career total of 100 tries includes four hat-tricks, three of them for York. Steadman's season by season totals are as follows :-

YORK	Tries	FEATHERSTONE
1981-82	1	1985-86 5
1982-83	9	1986-87 12
1983-84	25	1987-88 17
1984-85	20	1988-89 3
1985-86	8	

Totals: York 63, Featherstone 37.

GRAND TOTAL — 100.

WIDNES — Naughton Park, Lowerhouse Lane.
 From M62: Junction 7 (A57/A569). Follow signs Widnes A569. Junction with A568/A5080 At mini-roundabout turn left then at next roundabout turn right A568. In 1.2 miles turn right into Highfield Road unclassified. In 0.4 mile at crossroads forward into Lowerhouse Lane — Ground on Left.

ROVERS ROUTEWAY



Karl Harrison who had a fine game for Rovers last week.

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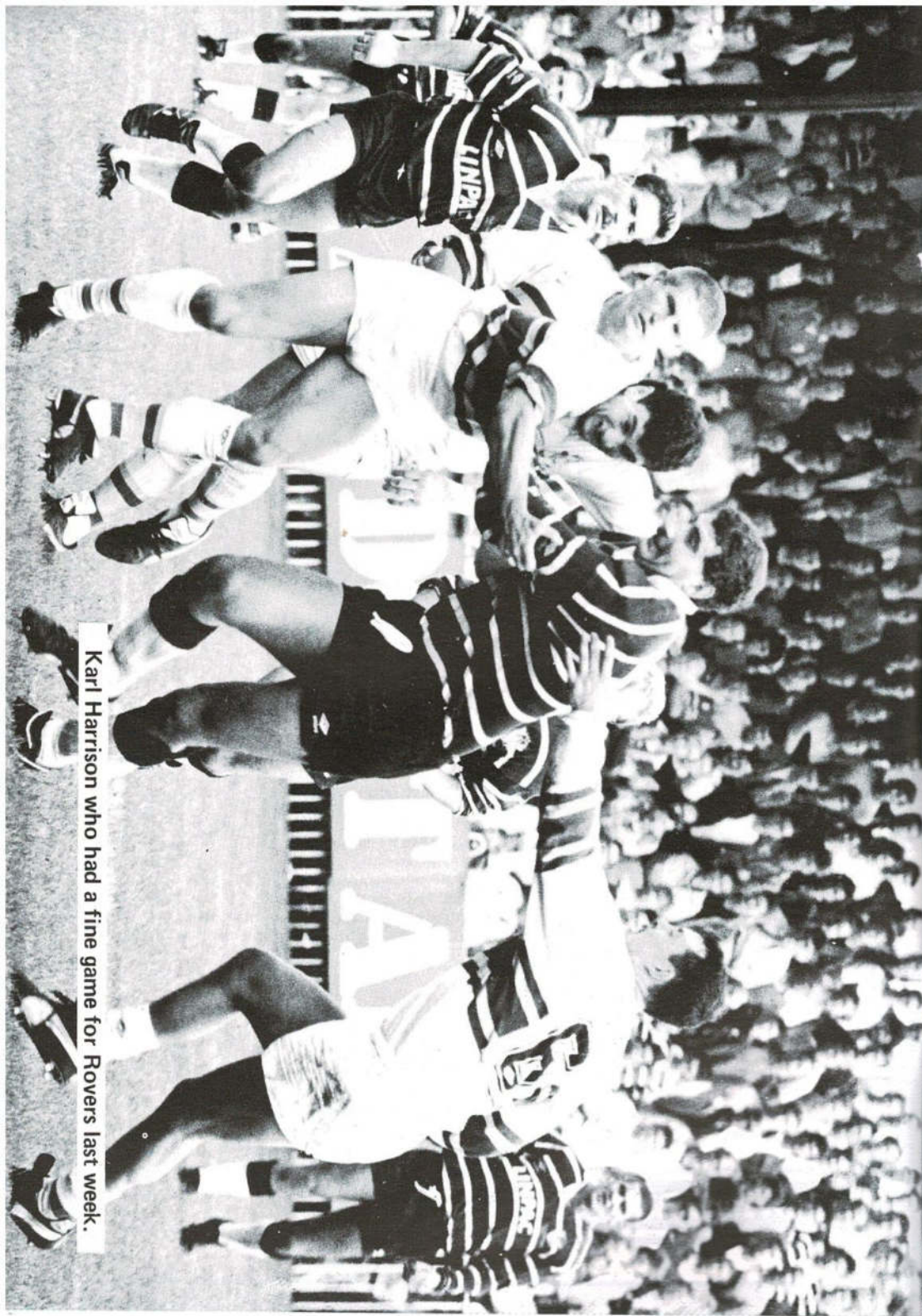
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Karl Harrison who had a fine game for Rovers last week.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Good start!

I think it is fair to say that throughout the game the season has set off with great enthusiasm and excitement.

We were all disappointed with the defeat by Leeds but absolutely delighted with the game at Craven Park. Both games brought tremendous fast rugby for us to see and no-one could say that they did not have value for money.

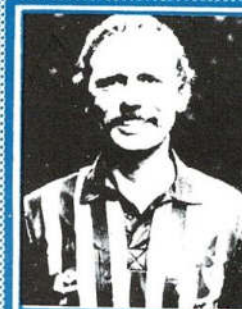
We welcome today our first New Zealand guest player for some years and we hope that Trevor and wife enjoy their stay with us in our community as well as with the club.

It is a special day for the youngsters today with the launch of the local Crime Prevention Committees 'Rovers Tips' cards. The scheme is that at every home match the duty policeman will carry one of a series of players cards which will be given out to any youngster who asks for one. The cards are a very attractive set of eighteen and each one carries a crime prevention message and a rugby message as well as a photograph of an individual player. A starter of two, Deryck Fox and Graham Steadman will be given out today. I will leave it to others to decide at what age you stop being young!

If you have not yet started watching our Alliance team can I advise you to get started soon. Two victories of 38-0 and 26-0 should speak for itself.

Finally I trust that work being carried out at the ground does not inconvenience anyone but it is all in the cause of greater comfort and safety at matches.

The man



KEN SPENCER
(Warrington)

Date of Birth:
29th August 1947

Grade Two:
1974-75

Grade One:
1983-84

in the middle

IN TOWN TODAY

In the past few seasons matches between Oldham and Featherstone Rovers have been close, exciting and entertaining, but never so much as last year when we played three matches, the total points difference for the matches was only 5; one match drawn and one win by either side. You cannot get anything much closer than that. Both sides won thousands of new friends for that fantastic battle at Old Trafford, which was supposed to be the curtain-raiser for the first division final, but I am afraid that match came a poor second to "our" match.

Regarding overseas players the two clubs seem to have much the same idea. We had talks with Ashley Gilbert and believed that he was our player for the season but Ashley changed his mind and decided to join the men from Oldham.

MICK BURKE (full back). Won almost every honour in the game with Widnes and joined Oldham in a £40,000 deal in January last year. The only player to have won both the Lance Todd Trophy for the outstanding display at Wembley and the Harry Sunderland Trophy for winning the man-of-the-match award in a championship final.

KEVIN MEADOWS (wing) experienced wingman who has seen service with St. Helens and Warrington. Joined Oldham with team-mate Steve Peters, at the start of last season and was an ever-present in Oldham's Second Division championship-winning side. Also scored the vital try that gave Oldham the Second Division premiership trophy in that thrilling final against Featherstone at Old Trafford.

RICHARD IRVINE (wing) snapped up by Oldham from amateur rugby in Huddersfield. Richard won both Yorkshire and Great Britain amateur honours in youth football and Oldham expect big things of him as he gains in experience.

DES FOY (centre) one of five Oldham players who toured Down Under in 1984 and the younger brother of former Wigan player, Martin Foy. Des won stacks of honours in schoolboy rugby and signed for Widnes before transferring to Oldham in a deal that took Brian Hogan back to Naughton Park. Pacy and penetrative, he played in the first Test against Australia in Sydney on the '84 tour.

CHARLIE McALISTER (centre) hit the headlines last season when he turned pro for Oldham after having a 'secret' trial. His name leaked out, the RU banned him, and the former All Blacks trialist took the pro ticket. A big favourite with the Oldham fans, Charlie has spent the summer playing for Newcastle Knights in the Sydney League.

CHRIS O'SULLIVAN (stand off) an Aussie from Canberra Raiders, Chris will fill the Oldham stand-off job this season. One of the most experienced half-backs in the Sydney league.

MIKE FORD (scrum-half) Spent several good seasons at Central Park and played in that magnificent Wembley final against Hull alongside Brett Kenny. Moved on to Leigh, finally joined Oldham early this year and toured down-under this summer with Britain.

ANDY RUANE (hooker) a new signing from Rochdale, Andy made his name with home-

town Widnes. Joined Rochdale for £15,000 at the start of last season. Transferred to Oldham recently for £8,000 plus utility back Chris Myler.

HUGH WATTELL (prop) what an impact Hugh made on the GB tour! Got his big chance in the third Test at Sydney Sports Ground and had a blinder in Britain's shock victory. A £15,000 buy from the old Blackpool Borough club in January last year. Hugh is currently on the list at £90,000.

PAUL ROUND (second row) joined Oldham at the start of last season. Tribunal fixed a £60,000 fee. Fast and long-striding, Paul is a player of great potential, as he displayed recently by scoring 6 tries as Oldham reached the final of the Central Park sevens.

COLIN HAWKYARD (second-row) a real stalwart of the Oldham pack, Colin a workhorse from Huddersfield. Due to enjoy a benefit next year he has given terrific service over the years after joining Oldham from junior rugby in the Huddersfield area.

ASHLEY GILBERT (second-row) another Aussie from Canberra Ashley will be travelling with O'Sullivan and his arrival will depend upon how the Raiders fare in the Sydney play-off. A player with a good try-scoring record Gilbert was in fact the leading forward try scorer in the Sydney League a fortnight ago.

LEO CASEY (prop or second-row) local lad who won the BARLA youth player of the year award some years ago. A hard worker and sound tackler. Leo will be out to break into the senior pack this term.

TERRY FLANAGAN (loose-forward) in his benefit year, Terry has made more than 300 senior appearances for his home-town club. Former club captain, first appointed at 19, County, Test and Tour honours. Terry went down-under with Britain in 1984.

PAUL TAYLOR (loose-forward) the third of Oldham's Aussies. A workaholic with Paramatta Paul played for Oldham four years ago and comes back with a proven reputation as a great tackler and sound defender.

NEIL CLAWSON (prop) son of former GB ace Terry, Neil was a £5,000 bargain buy from Featherstone 2 years ago. Made his name as a regular member of the Oldham pack last season winning the man-of-the-match award in Oldham's shock John Player victory v Warr'ton.

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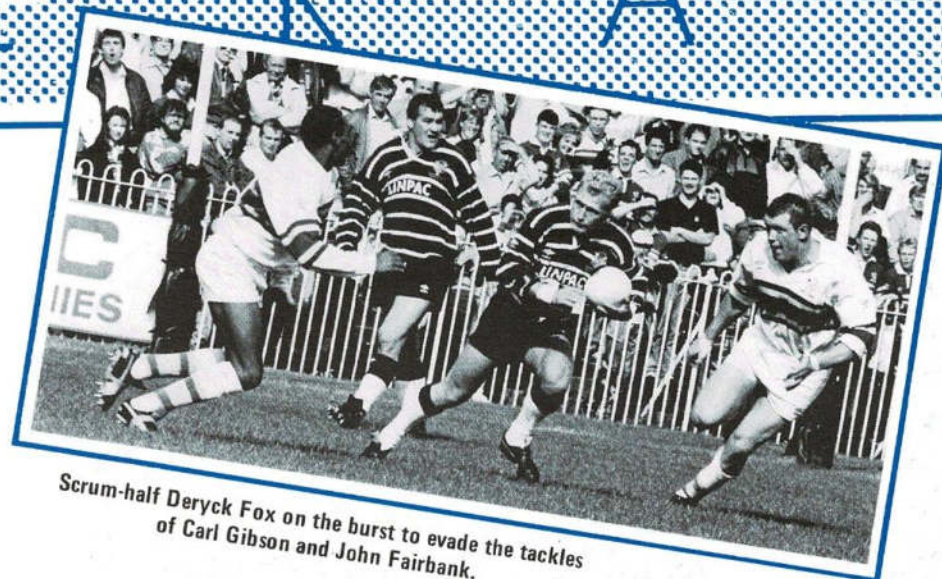


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C A M E R A



Rovers' Jeff Grayshon takes on the Leeds defence in typical blockbusting style.



Scrum-half Deryck Fox on the burst to evade the tackles of Carl Gibson and John Fairbank.

ROVERS

-v-

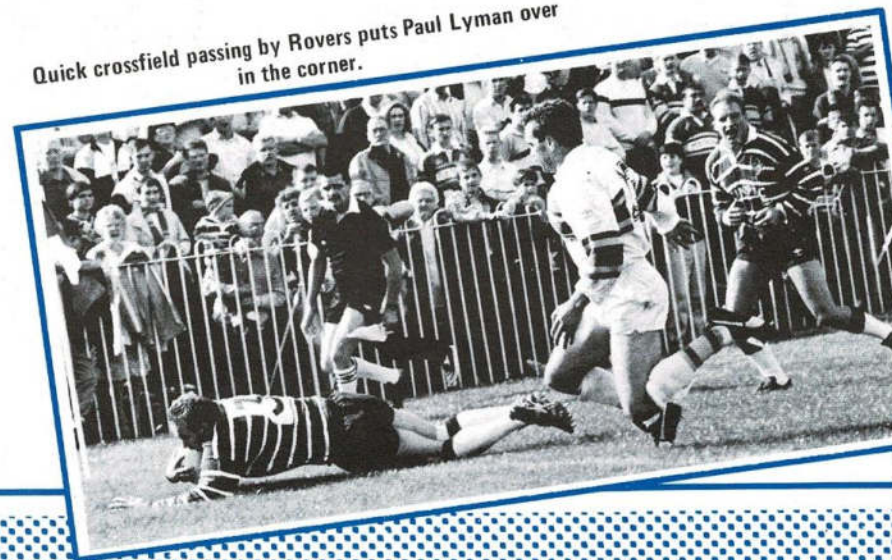
LEEDS

Sunday

28th

August

Quick crossfield passing by Rovers puts Paul Lyman over in the corner.



A C T I O N

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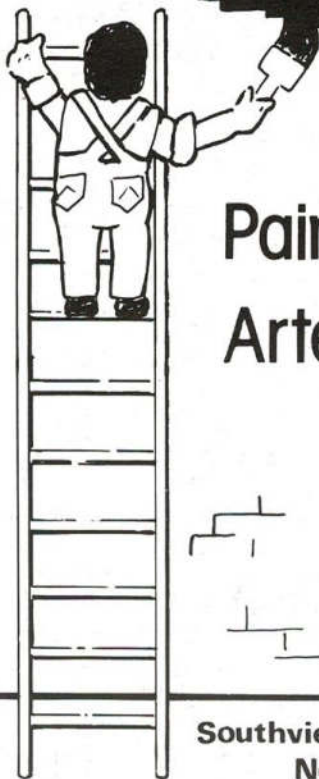
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Next Home Game
SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER
DONCASTER
1st Round John Smith's
Yorkshire Cup
Kick-Off 3.30 p.m.

1st DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE AS AT TUESDAY 6th SEPT. 1988

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.	
CASTLEFORD	2	1	0	1	30	0	1	0	0	18	8	4	
LEEDS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	60	40	4	
ST HELENS	2	1	0	0	23	16	1	0	0	25	14	4	
WAKEFIELD	2	2	0	0	39	30	0	0	0	0	0	4	
WIDNES	2	1	0	0	38	6	0	1	0	20	26	2	
BRADFORD	2	1	0	0	42	18	0	1	0	16	23	2	
WIGAN	2	1	0	0	40	18	0	1	0	20	25	2	
FEATHERSTONE	2	0	1	0	18	32	1	0	0	30	15	2	
SALFORD	2	1	0	0	24	14	0	1	0	18	42	2	
HALIFAX	2	1	0	0	26	20	0	1	0	0	30	2	
WARRINGTON	2	0	1	0	14	25	0	1	0	10	14	0	
HULL K R	2	0	1	0	15	30	0	1	0	14	24	0	
OLDHAM	2	0	1	0	22	28	0	1	0	18	40	0	
HULL	2	0	1	0	8	18	0	1	0	6	38	0	

RESULTS CHART

AWAY TEAM	Bradford	Castleford	Featherstone	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Oldham	Salford	St. Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
HOME TEAM														
Bradford									42-18					
Castleford					30-0									
Featherstone								18-32						
Halifax														26-20
Hull			8-18											
Hull K.R.				15-30										
Leeds														
Oldham									22-28					
Salford							24-14							
St. Helens		23-16												
Wakefield													14-10	25-20
Warrington													14-25	
Widnes						38-6								
Wigan									40-18					

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Yorkshire Post, Monday 29th August 1988

Late show by Leeds denies Featherstone
Featherstone R 18 Leeds 32

Four Leeds tries in the last 16 minutes shattered Featherstone Rovers hopes of an upset on the opening day of the new Stones Bitter championship campaign at Post Office Road yesterday.

Newly-promoted Featherstone fully deserved their 18-12 lead going into the closing stages but could not match Leeds' pace and devastating finishing power. Great Britain Test centre Garry Schofield gave an inspiring performance at stand-off scoring one try and producing the final pass to all but one of the five other Leeds tries.

In a classic stand-off duel Graham Steadman also stood out for Featherstone to take their man of the match award. Although Steadman was not as involved as much as Schofield he scored a brilliant solo try.

Pontefract & Castleford Express - 1/9/88

Featherstone sunk by four-try blast
Featherstone 18 Leeds 32

Featherstone's hopes of a winning start on their return to the 1st Div. were shattered by a late Leeds scoring burst. It looked as though Rovers were heading for victory when they led 18-12 with only 16 minutes remaining but it all went disastrously wrong after

that. Four tries in a 13-minute spell saw Leeds run away with things in the closing stages, leaving Rovers to ponder on how they managed to lose a match they could - and should - have won. There was little doubt Featherstone were the better side for much of the game. They buckled down in defence and showed plenty of enterprise in attack. But they let all the hard work go to waste because of their failure to see the job through to the end.

Daily Express, Monday 5th September 1988

Super Steadman

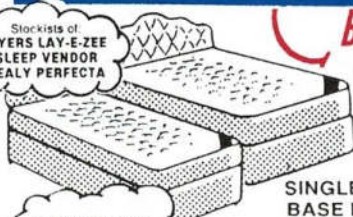
Hull KR 15 Featherstone Rovers 30

Brilliant stand-off Graham Steadman scored two tries and laid on another for John Crossley as Peter Fox's team showed the class to make a success of their return to the top flight. Fox's team outlasted Rovers, cutting loose after falling behind on the hour when Wayne Parker hit a drop goal to put his team 15-14 ahead. The slide began when Steadman sliced through to the posts for Peter Quinn to add the goal. Then Chris Bibb and Crossley got in on the act.

On this form Rovers could face a long struggle. Expensive Rugby Union recruit David Bishop was absent injured and Rovers are urgently awaiting the arrival of Australian Test forward Gavin Miller, now expected in England this week.

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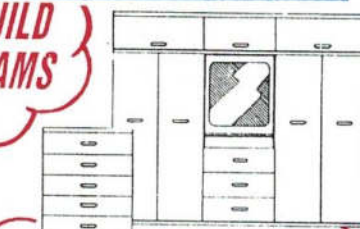
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A ROVER'S REVELATIONS

No. 2 PETER SMITH

Full Name
Peter Smith

Birthplace/Date
Featherstone, 17th September 1955.

First club played for
Featherstone Rovers Under 17s.

How became interested in Rugby League
"I played rugby league at every opportunity when I was younger. I played for Featherstone Juniors and my interest grew from there."

Greatest moment in career so far
Wembley 1983 -v- Hull.

Favourite Referee
John Holdsworth

Favourite other rugby league player
Deryck Fox

Other talents besides rugby league
"I like most sports especially cricket, football and athletics but I don't think its for me to say as to whether I'm a talented all-round sportsman."

Nickname
'Spoon' (Explanation not supplied).

Likes — Winning.

Dislikes — Losing and cheats.



Ambitions
"To keep playing for Featherstone and hopefully to play again at Wembley."

Are there any rules in the game you would like to change?
"I would not allow players to tap the ball to themselves after a tackle. Other than that I don't think changing the rules too often would do the game a lot of good."

Advice to young up-and-coming players
"Don't smoke! Drink only in moderation and train very hard."

Hopes for the future of British rugby league
"My only hope is for Featherstone to do well and become one of the major forces in the game."

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FORMERLY OF FEATHERSTONE

PETER HUTTON INTERVIEWS...

ERIC FITZSIMMONS

Eric Fitzsimmons has had a baptism of fire as a first division coach. Oldham lost 40-18 in the first game at Wigan and then had to come up against Leeds, again losing, if only by a close margin.

Fitzsimmons could be forgiven if he was shell shocked after such a start, but he's an intelligent and articulate coach and was quick to point to his side's problems in a Radio Aire interview this week. "We're making too many mistakes, the game is a lot quicker in the first division, particularly under these new rules. The first division means not only greater speed and power, but also greater speed of thought".

"Against Wigan we lost 40-18, but we won the second half 18-6 so we were learning quickly in half a game. Against Leeds we created a lot more than Leeds, but we spoiled a lot more as well. In the second half we were giving the ball away every other possession, which just means you find yourself tackling all the time".

Fitzsimmons was well known as a player, particularly for his prodigious goalkicking but now, as a coach, he finds himself under a lot more pressure. "It's a very different week. As a coach you're working hard every day of the week, trying to get the best out of your players. Then on match day you're powerless, you just have to hope".

"We're coming along the right lines, the arrival of the overseas players will be very important for us, as it will be for all the clubs in what I'd call the survival area. Leeds didn't look that much different to us and we'll catch up pretty quick. We've just got to get a toe hold in the first division.

"Only 1 in 5 sides promoted in the last decade have stayed up, but there are some success stories, look at the way Wigan have developed since being promoted. We know it will be a long and difficult battle.

Oldham are putting their faith in a new share issue but Fitzsimmons is very aware of the support he's had from the Oldham crowd. "Our crowd has treated us very well, which puts the onus on us to play entertaining rugby. Entertainment is not necessarily the order of the day. Our message is to take a little more care with the ball, don't do anything too risky".

Despite Featherstone's magnificent win at Hull Kingston Rovers Fitzsimmons' Oldham will prove a strong test today, and provide a good pointer to how both newly promoted sides will fare in the first division.



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Slalom Lager Alliance Report

What a fine start the Alliance side have made to the season winning at Bramley 38-0 and at Huddersfield 26-0. The Bramley performance was the better with the lads running in seven fine tries but more importantly keeping a clean sheet with some excellent tackling.

Ian Smales was man-of-the-match.

At Huddersfield the lads again kept a clean sheet but their attacking work left a lot to be desired. It was close for the man-of-the-match between Ian Smales, Gary Hall and Tony Staniforth. The clincher for Smales was a 75 yards try two minutes from time, his third of the game.

After yesterday's trip to Oldham we have two more difficult games. At home to Barrow next Saturday and at Leigh on Friday week. Barrow reached the Alliance Cup Final last season losing to St Helens, while Leigh were relegated from Division One and could prove one of our hardest fixtures.

The thing in our favour is the competition for team places. Martin Fox is available again after being on holiday; Danny Beech, Paddy Bradford, Kevin Tonks, Calvin Hopkins, Chris Hale and Jeremy Rodgers are all regaining fitness after injuries — plus youngsters Wayne Pearse, Lee Whiteley and Craig Palmer are on the fringe.

Competition will be keener than at the beginning of last season when our reserves were low. Another plus is the formation of the Under 19s which the club unfortunately abandoned a few years ago. Any lad who plays well will be considered for selection for the Alliance team whether he is signed or not.

DON'T FORGET

Saturday 17th Sept. K.O. 3 p.m.

ROVERS 'A' -v- BARROW 'A'

Why not come and support the Alliance Team.

KEN LOXTON

Under 19s

Our season has got under way with our first friendly against Ravensthorpe of Dewsbury — away — and I am glad to say we came away with a 38-14 win, despite losing Craig Palmer in the first minutes with an injured hip.

We came up against a very physical side but came through it well with some good disciplined play.

Leading the way with two tries was forward Michael Smith, John Jepson one, Paul Harrison one (Carl's brother), hooker Lee Whiteley one, Jason Wood one and Steve Parker. Nick Frankland kicked two goals, Chris Windmill three. The forwards looked fit and strong and never gave an inch and there was a lot of pace in the backs. Stand-off Craig Booth took the man-of-the-match award followed by John Jepson who looked very sharp and Nick Frankland who looked well in his new second-row position. Props Michael Smith and Jason Wood never stopped grafting.

The next match all being well is a curtain raiser to today's game.

P. BELL

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The GOLDEN YEARS

OLDHAM R.L.F.C. — SEASONS 1955—59

During the middle and late fifties, Oldham was one of the teams that dominated Rugby League. Few teams can boast of a record like Oldham's. Championship winners 1956-7, League leaders 1957-58, beaten Finalists 1954-55, Lancashire League winners 1956-57 and 1957-58. Lancashire Cup winners 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59 and beaten Finalists 1954-55. During this period of greatness they had such fine players as Bernard Ganley, Ken Jackson, Sid Little, Terry O'Grady, Frank Pitchford, Ike Southward, Derek Turner and Charlie Winslade, all Internationals just to name a few.

From 1956-57 season to 1958-59 they dominated the Lancashire Cup winning it three years running. In 1956-57 season they beat St. Helens by 10 pts to 3, in 1957-58 season they beat Wigan by 13 pts to 8 and in 1958-59 they beat St. Helens by 12 pts to 2.

Their best ever season was in 1956-57 after winning the Lancashire Cup and winning the Lancashire League, they went on to win the Championship beating Leeds in the semi-final by 22 pts. to 12 and beating Hull in a thrilling final at Bradford by the slender margin of 15 pts to 14. In that great Season of 1956-57 they played 38 League matches winning 33, losing just 5. Most app. were as follows:— Etty 36, Jackson 36, Keith 36, Winslade 36, Cracknell 35, Ayres 33, Ganley 33, Little 33, Pitchford 33, Turner 33, Davies 29, Stirrup 27 (who was also Captain) Vines 25. Top Try Scorers were Etty with 34, Ayres 24, Cracknell 23, Pitchford 15 and Turner 14. Goals were kicked by Ganley with 161.

The Season after 1957-58 they finished as League Leaders. Being only one of a few teams to remain unbeaten at home in the League (played 19 won 19), but in the Championship Semi Finals they were beaten at home to a very strong Hull side by 20 pts. to 8.

In Season 1958-59 they once again finished in the top four only this time loosing in the Championship Semi-Finals to the eventual winners St. Helens by 42 pts to 4.

Only one honour that Oldham have not achieved is playing in a Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. Although they have won the Cup on three occasions in 1899, 1925 and 1927, they have never played at Wembley. But who knows this may be the year — let us hope it is the Rovers they meet in the Final. But one thing is for sure — Oldham in the 1950's were a great time with some great players.

P.S. Just for the record — Oldham also got to the Championship Final in Season 1954-55 only to lose by 7 pts to 3 by Warrington. OLDHAM WHAT A TEAM.

JOHN HILL



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ROVERS CASH LINE.

CASHLINE WINNERS

Sunday 28th August — £500 — Winner C4082 — Mr. M. Atkinson of Downland Crescent, Knottingley.

WEEK 2 — Commencing 29th August 1988 — Drawn by Councillor S. Vickers at the Railway Hotel, Featherstone.

£100 WINNERS — Monday — D9029 — Mr. F. Wayde, Huntwick Road, Featherstone — Agent: Alan Millward. Tuesday — C8452 — Colin Fennell, The Green, Purston. Agent: Paul Fennell. Wednesday — D0214 — Mr. R. Cass, Station Lane, Featherstone. Agent: Steve Dyas. Thursday — B1432 — Mr. N. Kent, Wentworth Terr, F'william. Agent: Harry Haddock. Friday — A0833 — Mr. Colin Fisher, Normanston ARLFC. Agent: Normanston ARLFC.

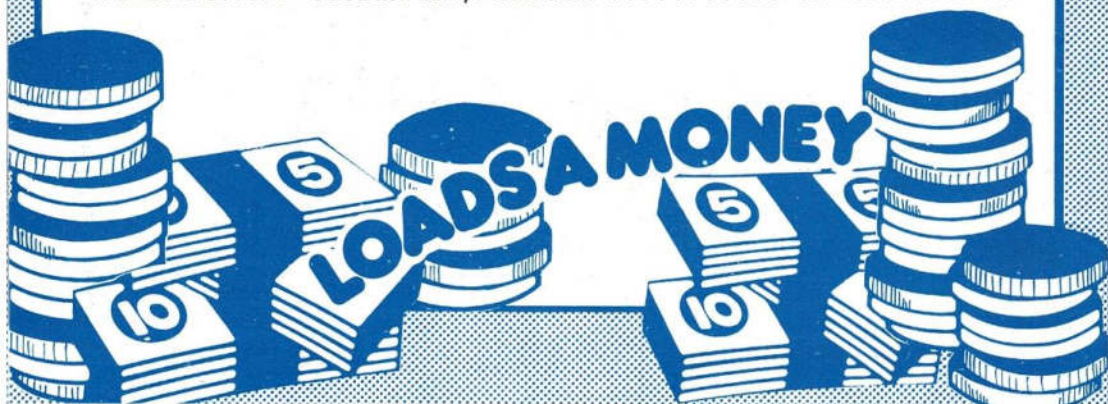
WEEK 3 — Commencing 5th September 1988 — Drawn by Kath Price at the Featherstone Hotel, Featherstone.

£100 WINNERS — Monday — C1411 — A. Mattison, North Road, Fairburn. Agent: J. Willoughby, Purston. Tuesday — B9056 — A. Bailey, Chequerfield Court, Pontefract. Agent: J. Flynn, Knott'ly Wednesday — E4675 — D. Lancaster, Princess Avenue, S. Elmsall. Agent: W. Court, Upton. Thursday — C7146 — Jacqueline Mullaney, Fernside, Sharlston. Agent: Featherstone Carpet and Furnishings. Friday — B8277 — J. Ross, Pontefract Road, Featherstone. Agent: Ross Newsagents.

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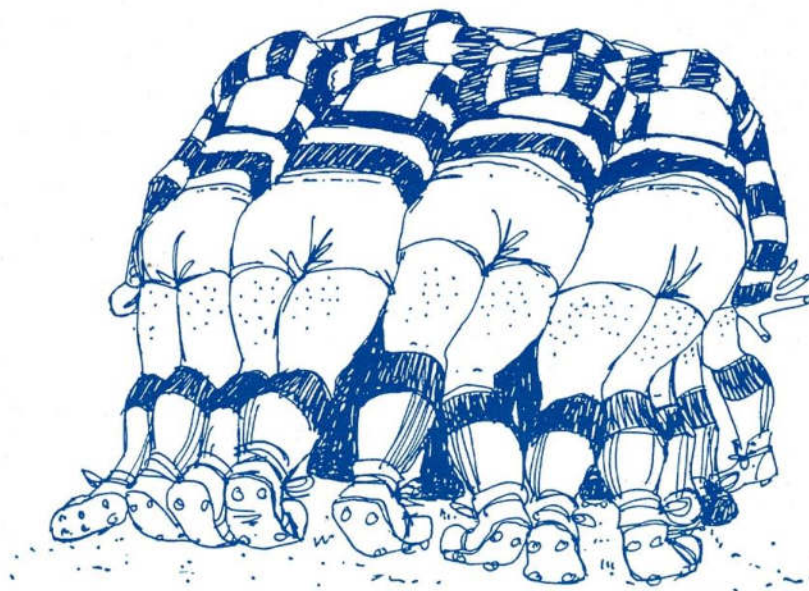
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PLAYERS'



PREDICTIONS

Difficult — is it not? Our first forecaster, Gary Siddall found some strange results on the first day of the season, and had two correct winners.

This week Keith Bell is in the "hot seat". Keith is one of a handful of players to have made over 400 appearances for the Club. His path to this tremendous total has not always been an easy one, and when things have gone against him he has fought back in the only possible way.

Keith is the youngest of five Bells that have worn the blue and white shirt, his Dad and three elder brothers have all played for the Club before him. His ambition is to capture the highest number of first team appearances for Featherstone Rovers. Keith made his first senior debut in the season of 1971-72. Signed as a hooker, his famous distributive skills was seen by Peter Fox (then in his first stint at Post Office Road) as being of greater use at loose forward and it was in that position that he played at Wembley in 1974 and in the Championship side a few years later.

He now turns his skills to forecasting and in the all Yorkshire clash he takes BRADFORD NORTHERN and their strong pack to pave the way for victory over Halifax. With a big win over Salford last week and his old club-mate Dave Hobbs in splendid kicking form, he thinks that they will chalk up their first away win.

WAKEFIELD TRINITY have had a wonderful start to their return to the first division, and although both victories have been at home, Keith thinks that they are still too strong for Hull, as they have already felt the full power of Castleford and Widnes.

For his third away win he takes the all-round strength of WIDNES to overcome Leeds at Headingley. He thinks that the strength of the Chemics forwards may be too much for the Leeds six and with speed of Offiah enabling him to carry on running in tries as he did so successfully in Australia recently.

ST. HELENS versus Castleford must be the most tricky winner to predict. John Hoyner is at his glorious best for Cas at the moment, and when he plays well his team-mates seem to pull their very best. Both teams are unbeaten so far and he takes the home advantage to just turn the match in St. Helens favour.

Warrington seem to be struggling to find their form of last season and perhaps will not be at their very best until they have their full complement of Aussies. SALFORD on the other hand are willing to spend big money on Rugby Union signings. Who can blame them if they turn out as good as Watkins, Richards and Fielding in years gone by. Keith says Salford are a hard side to beat at home, and with this thought in mind and the possibility of the R.U. signings making their presence felt, he takes them to win.

WIGAN got a nasty shock at Wakefield Trinity; Hull K.R. got a nasty shock when at home to Featherstone Rovers last week-end. At present Hull K.R. are pinning hopes on Gavin Millar and Michael Porter from Cronulla. Can Millar keep up his recent great form in Australia? It is asking a lot of a man to keep his form at the highest level for so long, AND to lift his team-mates as well. Wigan are favourites to win the league and Roger Millward will have to pull out something extra special from his men to gain their win of this campaign.

So Keith Bell's final six winners are Bradford Northern, Wakefield Trinity, Widnes, St. Helens, Salford and Wigan.

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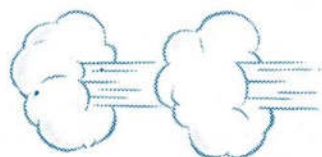
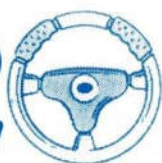
68-89 '88-'89 FIXTURES & RESULTS

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE LEAGUE FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	Results
Aug 27 Sa	Bramley	A	2.30	Won 36 - 0
Sept 2 Fri	Huddersfield	A	7.30	Won 26 - 0
10 Sa	Oldham	A	2.30	
17 Sa	Barrow	H	3.00	
23 Fri	Leigh	A	7.30	
Oct 1 Sa	York Senior Comp. 1st Round Challenge Cup			
7 Fri	Bramley	H	7.30	
15 Sa	2nd Round Chall. Cup			
22 Sa	Workington	A	2.30	
29 Sa	Trafford B	H	3.00	
Nov 4 Fri	Bradford Northern	A	7.30	
12 Sat	Doncaster	H	3.00	
18 Fri	Huddersfield	H	7.30	
26 Sa	Runcorn	H	3.00	

Dec 3 Sa	Dewsbury	A	2.30	
9 Fri	Leigh	H	7.30	
17 Sa	Doncaster	A	2.30	
30 Fri	Wakefield	H	7.30	
1989 Jan 7 Sa	York	A	2.15	
13 Fri	Bradford Northern	H	7.30	
20 Fri	Wakefield	A	7.30	
28 Sa	Trafford	A	2.30	
Feb 4 Sa	Slalom Lager All. Chall. Cup 1st Round			
10 Fri	York	H	7.30	
18 Sa	Slalom Lager Chall. Cup 2nd Round			
25 Sa	Workington	H	3.00	
Mar 4 Sa	Oldham	H	3.00	
10 Fri	Dewsbury	H	7.30	
18 Sa	Barrow	A	2.30	
25 Sa	Runcorn	A	2.30	

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I had a letter from an irate Rovers fan recently (wouldn't be surprised – ed.), who complained about the kick-off time at Rovers home games. It seems that 3.30 on Sunday afternoons is rather awkward for him, because his bus home leaves from the bottom of Station Lane at 5.00. It takes him 7½ minutes to walk from the ground to the bus stop and he suggests therefore that a more sensible kick-off time would be 3.22. I am putting this rather sensible suggestion to the Committee.

Have other readers any other sensible suggestions for a kick-off time? Send to me c/o the Club, please mark envelope "Kick Off" or "Bus Timetable". Free "Day Rover" ticket for best letter received.

◆ OLDHAM FACT FILE ◆

Oldham have never won the Challenge Cup at Wembley. Remarkably they have never won the Yorkshire Cup either.

◆ OUR MOST RECENT ENCOUNTER ◆

Contrary to what most people believe, Featherstone were not in fact "pipped" by Oldham at Old Trafford last season. Indeed the Final was a "double-header" and when the combined scores of Rovers + Widnes are added together against those of St Helens and Oldham it can be clearly seen that Featherstone were in fact the winners.

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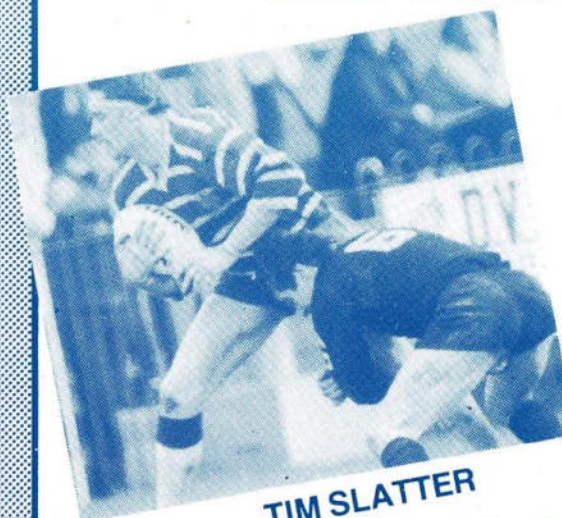
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APPEARANCES & POINTS SCORERS

Name	SEASON 1988-1989						TOTAL SENIOR RECORD					
	App	Sub	Trs	Gl's	Dgs	Pts.	App	Sub	Trs	Gl's	Dgs	Pts.
Alan Banks	2	—	—	—	—	—	149	9	29	—	—	114
John Bastian	2	—	—	—	—	—	17	7	1	—	—	4
Keith Bell	2	—	—	—	—	—	386	22	57	8	67	261
Chris Bibb	2	—	2	—	—	8	53	4	27	3	—	114
John Crossley	—	2	—	—	—	—	35	19	15	—	—	56
Deryck Fox	2	—	1	—	—	4	172	1	54	74	28	392
Jeff Grayshon	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Karl Harrison	2	—	—	—	—	—	76	6	11	—	—	44
Paul Hughes	2	—	—	—	—	—	26	2	9	—	—	36
Paul Lyman	2	—	1	—	—	4	131	14	56	—	—	219
Richard Marsh	2	—	—	—	—	—	110	5	23	—	—	89
Steve Quinn	2	—	—	8	—	16	377	3	74	1186	10	2622
Gary Siddall	—	2	—	—	—	—	165	13	25	—	—	87
Peter Smith	2	—	—	—	—	—	373	4	108	—	1	357
Graham Steadman	2	—	3	—	—	12	71	1	37	30	3	211

MEDIA TALK — continued

Yorkshire Post, Monday 5th September 1988

Steadman hits try century

Hull KR 15 Featherstone R 30

Featherstone Rovers stand-off Graham Steadman grabbed two touchdowns to bring up his career century of tries and plunge Hull KR further into gloom.

Steadman crossed in each half, the second to kill off a spirited Hull KR fight back and condemn them to their second defeat.

Hull KR opened brightly when Wayne Parker sent in Garry Clark and Paul Fletcher converted. But tries from former Great Britain scrum-half Deryck Fox and Steadman plus three Steve Quinn goals put Featherstone 14-6 ahead before Clark crossed just before half-time to edge the Humberside club back to 14-10.

Parker's second try and a drop goal straight after half-time moved the home side ahead at 15-14 before Steadman broke through to bring up his century. Five minutes later, Chris Bibb made the game safe for Featherstone with a simple try and substitute John Crossley went over almost on the whistle. Featherstone's five tries sent Hull KR to one of their heaviest opening home game defeats for many years.

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A warm welcome is extended to Oldham supporters who, like us, remember the Second Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford as a great advertisement for the game. We all hope for another great encounter but from the Rovers supporters point of view a different result.

All the fans are asked to visit the Collectors Programme Hut which is the former Souvenir Shop next to the main stand. Old Programmes are urgently required for stock and any donations of old R.L. badges are especially welcome. Open Rugby and a selection of Souvenirs are available as follows :—

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Lapel Badges	£2.00
Caps	£1.00

Tickets for the barbecue next Friday 16th September are also available price £4.00. A Disco and usual Club House facilities will be provided.

Following our performance at Hull KR bookings for coaches to Widnes on the 25th September are particularly heavy. Please book early if you wish to travel with us, the coaches will leave the ground at 1 p.m.

Finally, congratulations to our own Yorkshire Federation R.L. Queen, Lesley Ann Bullugh on her recent engagement. We wish her well and trust her new status will not interfere with her Rugby!!



Peter Smith looks for support after beating Oldham's Terry Flanagan.

· SUPPORTERS' CLUB ·

notes

Away Travel — John Smith

Wakefield 255203 (6 --9pm Monday to Friday)



A warm welcome is extended to Oldham supporters who, like us, remember the Second Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford as a great advertisement for the game. We all hope for another great encounter but from the Rovers supporters point of view a different result.

All the fans are asked to visit the Collectors Programme Hut which is the former Souvenir Shop next to the main stand. Old Programmes are urgently required for stock and any donations of old R.L. badges are especially welcome. Open Rugby and a selection of Souvenirs are available as follows :—

Address Books	50p
Car Stickers	50p
Pennants	£1.50
Key Rings	70p
Pens	30p & 60p
Lapel Badges	£2.00
Caps	£1.00

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RECORDS TO LOOK OUT FOR

TRIES—Match: 6 M.J. Smith (1968)
Season: 31 C. Woolford (1958-59)
Career: 162 D. Fox (1953-1966)
GOALS—Match: 12 D. Fox (1964)
Season: 163 S. Quinn (1979-80)
Career: ☆ S. Quinn (1976-)
POINTS—Match: 29 S. Quinn (1979)
Season: 375 S. Quinn (1979-80)
Career: ☆ S. Quinn (1971-)
APPEARANCES—Season: 46 C. Woolford (1959-60)
Career: 440 J. Denton (1921-34)
FASTEST CENTURY OF POINTS—
T. Smales (1966-67) and S. Quinn (1976-77
and 1979-80)—9 matches.
MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS—12
(1972-73).
MOST CONSECUTIVE LEAGUE WINS
—11 (1979-80)
HIGHEST SCORE—v Barrow 1986-87
—66 points
☆ See current players' records