

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

64
118
HAWK
3
T
T
T

MICK BURKE — 1
PAUL ROUND — 2
DES FOY — 3
KEITH ATKINSON — 4
KEVIN MEADOWS — 5
CHRIS O'SULLIVAN — 6
MIKE FORD — 7
NEIL CLAWSON — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
LEO CASEY — 10
ASHLEY GILBERT — 11
TERRY FLANAGAN — 12
PAUL TAYLOR — 13
COLIN HAWKYARD — 14
JOHN FAIRBANK — 15

WORKINGTON

2
6
2

DAVID LOWDEN
PAUL GORGE
PAUL PENRICE
MARK MAWSON
DAVID BECK
GARY SMITH
GEOFF REA
RAY TABERN
DAVID WARD
COLIN FALCON
JOE SULLIVAN
PAUL VANNETT
MICK HIGGINS
PETER STODDART
IAN BOWER

Referee: Mr. P. Houghton (Warrington) Touch Judges: Mr. P. Hind (Red Flag), Mr. B. Norbury (Orange Flag)

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
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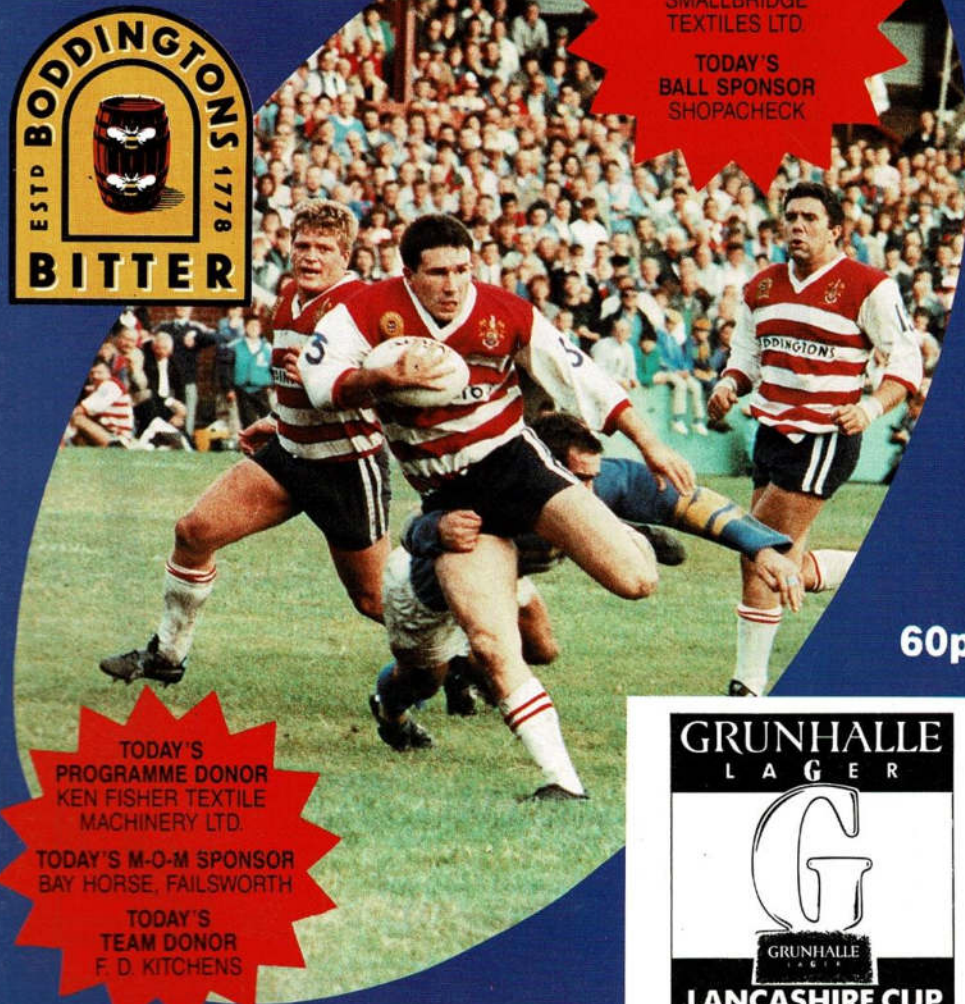
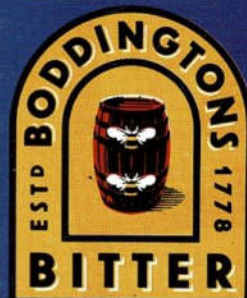
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Conditioner: O. Rowe

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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959
Record Defeat: 11:67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978
Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24 February, 1912
Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan, 4th February, 1987
Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to St. Helens for Paul Round August 1987 and £65,000 for Mike Ford January 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

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55
First Division Champions: 1904-05
Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88
Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87
Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80
Second Division Premiership: 1987-88

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PLAYERS PROFILE

PAUL LORD



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	<i>Paul James Lord</i>
Nick Name:	<i>Flash</i>
Birthdate:	<i>22.12.67</i>
Birthplace:	<i>Wakefield</i>
Marital Status:	<i>Single</i>
Occupation:	<i>Storeman</i>
Car:	<i>Opel Ascona</i>
Fav. TV Show:	<i>Two Ronnies</i>
Fav. Film:	<i>Rambo</i>
Fav. Music:	<i>David Bowie</i>
Fav. Food/Drink:	<i>Steak/Fruit Juice</i>
Fav. Reading:	<i>Newspapers</i>
Hobbies:	<i>Fishing</i>
Fav. other sports:	<i>Swimming</i>
Likes about game:	<i>Everything</i>
Dislikes:	<i>Unfair criticism</i>
Superstitions:	<i>None</i>
Fav. position:	<i>Stand-off</i>
Fav. ground:	<i>Watersheddings</i>
Best moment:	<i>Yorks schools' honours and turning pro</i>
Worst moment:	<i>Groin injury</i>
Hardest player to tackle:	<i>None</i>
Hardest tackler:	<i>None</i>
Fav. all-time player:	<i>David Topliss</i>

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on:	<i>8.4.85</i>
Debut:	<i>v Salford (Div. one) 27.4.87</i>
Appearances:	<i>12</i>
Tries:	<i>6</i>
Goals:	<i>0</i>
Drop goals:	<i>0</i>
Total points:	<i>24</i>

AUTOGRAPH:

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THE BOSS TALKING

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)



LOSING Hugh Waddell is as much a disappointment to the club as it is to some of the supporters. Hugh wanted to make the move to secure his future and we wish him all the best until we meet again at Headingley.

John Fairbank is an outstanding prospect and significantly younger. He has good, all-round balance in ability and will represent Great Britain if he progresses in the way I expect. The deal would not have been considered if Fairbank had not been part of it. I rate him highly.

The cash balance is welcomed with open arms and it can be used sensibly to strengthen our back division. I do not like losing good players, neither do I like holding on to a player who has his heart set somewhere else. I think the deal is a good one for the club because we have

captured one of the outstanding young props in the country in the process.

A big welcome to our signings from Australia. Paul Taylor arrived here last week with his wife of one week, Debbie, and he has quickly settled into the pattern of things. Chris O'Sullivan and Ashley Gilbert arrived a few days ago and play their first game for Oldham today. Chris is married to Vivien and he has two boys, Blake, who is two, and Troy, who is almost one year old. Ashley is married to Jill.

Both players are from the Canberra Raiders club, who went out in the semi-final of the major league competition.

I know that all will be given a typical, warm Oldham welcome as usual. On behalf of the club I wish them all success and happiness during their stay at Oldham.

ERIC FITZSIMONS

NEXT HOME LEAGUE GAME

Oldham v Hull Kingston Rovers

3.00p.m.

Sunday, October 2nd

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CORKY'S COMMENTS

Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene

CONGRATULATIONS to youngsters Damian Munro (son of former Oldham star Geoff) of St. Augustine's and Paul Highton of North Chadderton, who will represent Lancashire under-12s against Yorkshire in the curtain-raiser to the War of the Roses clash at Headingley on Wednesday. At half-time today they will be presented with free season tickets as the Oldham club continues its policy of recognising and rewarding local talent.

As many of you will have read in the Oldham Chronicle, the Oldham schoolboys' tour to Australia was an outstanding success and the boys and coaches, Eric, Fred Laughton and I would like to thank all those of you who made it possible.

The Director of Education, Dr. Kreen, and the Education Committee gave the boys sweatshirts embroidered with the town crest and the Mayor, Councillor Harry Slack, on behalf of Leisure Services, presented them with a free pass to the Oldham Stadium for the summer holidays. These were much appreciated, particularly in view of the bad weather we experienced.

The boys returned undefeated but that was in no way the aim of the exercise. The intention was to learn and I'm sure everyone

who travelled certainly learned a lot. Once again, to all who contributed so generously and to all who organised the numerous fund-raising events, our thanks.

Regional coach Ray Hicks conducted a series of sessions for prospective local coaches and it was a pleasure to see the high quality of coaches coming into the game as well as the rapidly-improving talents of the youngsters used in the assessments.

One youngster, Michael Shaw of Royton Tigers, particularly impressed me with his tigerish tackling and I hope to see a lot more of him in the future. He seems to have the ability to accelerate into the tackle rather than slow down as soon as he makes contact. Young Christian Wheeler of Oldham Juniors is another with this special skill.

Local members of the Oldham team, and everyone connected with amateur rugby in the town, were stunned and saddened by the death of Tony Cheetham, the former Saddleworth Rangers captain. Tony played regularly with Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan and Steve Robinson and was widely respected throughout the town and the amateur game. To his wife and young child we offer our deepest sympathies.

IAIN MacCORQUODALE

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

NOW that we are in the First Division it is good to have a rare opportunity this season of meeting a team from Cumbria and we offer a warm Watersheddings welcome to the fans who have made the long trip down from Workington.

We will certainly be keeping an eye open for big Ike. He is still remembered fondly at Oldham and we know he always likes to make the trip down here when Town are playing.

Supporters' Club membership is now due for both adults and juniors and we would like to remind the youngsters — and their parents — that they can save a lot of money over the course of the season by joining the Junior Reds.

If you are too old for the juniors, but would still like to help the club, have you considered selling programmes on match days? The Development Office is looking for programme sellers and there is free admission to the match, so why not have a word with Ray Hill. It is all helping the parent body.

We have now had two away games at Wigan and Featherstone and we would like to remind everybody that early booking for each trip is essential if we are to take as many fans as possible and thus avoid disappointing people.

The sooner the better but, at the latest, please book your coach seats before

Friday on 665 1832 or 627 0235 to help us to estimate how many coaches we will need. It is not pleasant having to turn people away because of late bookings, so please help us to help you and make a regular habit of booking early in the week for each away game.

We would love to take 30 coaches, instead of two or three, but it is impossible to get hold of a lot of coaches at the last minute.

We are still selling souvenirs from our shop on the main stand side of the ground and, just to whet your appetite and keep you guessing, we can report that we also hope to be offering a new service to one and all in the near future. Keep your eyes on the Press for details.

In the meantime, we are continuing to run the popular half-time draw for a £5 prize for a lucky member of the Junior Reds and we would like to reiterate our appeal for donations which will be acknowledged, of course, in the programme.

To all spectators, home and away, let's lead from the front and do our bit to ensure that Rugby League is maintained as a truly family sport and entertainment. We have much to be proud of in League.

Let's keep it that way and make sure that if we see the odd unsavoury incident the matter is reported to the police or club officials.

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NEW-LOOK TOWN LED BY MAURICE



CUMBRIANS Workington caused more than a few ripples around the Rugby League in the summer when they announced the capture as coach of former Leeds and Great Britain supremo Maurice Bamford.

Maurice, who succeeds Norman Turley as the Derwent Park boss, didn't take long to recruit one of the game's longest-serving and best-known forwards as skipper — the former Leeds captain and Test hooker David Ward.

Ward was player-coach at Hunslet last season, but he has now renewed his old partnership with Maurice up in Cumbria and the Town board's ambition and enterprise looks like paying off because they won three of their first four games this season and will be keen to give Oldham a severe test in the first round of the Grunhalls Lancashire Cup.

"I'm enjoying it very much," says Maurice. "The pressure isn't quite as intense as that in the First Division, although it is still there if you want to do well — and we certainly want to do that at Derwent Park."

Most of the Town team is made up of Cumbrians with plenty of recruitment having taken place all around the

county, from such well-known amateur strongholds as Maryport, Millom and Ellenborough.

One thing is for sure, Town should not fear anyone in the scrums, judging by the presence in the front-row of Ray Tabern, David Ward and Colin Falcon — a solid, experienced and wordly-wise trio of scrummagers who should at least ensure today's visitors of an equal share of possession.

Tabern, the former Leigh and Lancashire hooker, now in his third season with the Cumbrians, can play No. 9 or No. 8 with equal distinction and it was his ball-playing skills that caused Oldham desperate problems in a Second Division match at Derwent Park last season.

In the end, Oldham won through, but it needed a grand fightback on a day when it was so cold that Charlie McAlister and Bryan McCarthy suffered from hypothermia.

Town could well line up today something like this:
Lowden; Gorge, Penrice, Mawson, Beck; Smith, Rea; Tabern, Ward, Falcon, Sullivan, Vannett, Higgins.
Subs: Stoddart, Bower.

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FIXTURES 1988/89

FIRST TEAM

AUGUST

28 Wigan A L 40-18

SEPTEMBER

4 Leeds H L 22-28
11 Featherstone R (3.30) A L 18-14
18 County Cup—Workington H
25 Castleford (3.30) A
28 County Cup

OCTOBER

2 Hull K R H
5 County Cup Semis
9 Wakefield T (3.30) A
23 St. Helens H
(or Lancashire Cup Final)

NOVEMBER

6 Warrington A
13 John Player Special Trophy
20 Halifax H
27 John Player Special Trophy

DECEMBER

4 Bradford N (3.30) A
(or John Player Special Trophy 3rd Round)
10 John Player Special Trophy semi
11 Warrington H
17 John Player Special Trophy semi
18 Hull A
26 Salford H

JANUARY

1 Leeds A
7 John Player Special Trophy final
8 Widnes H
15 Hull KR A
22 Bradford N H
29 Challenge Cup 1st round

FEBRUARY

5 Widnes A
12 Challenge Cup 2nd round
19 Hull H
26 St. Helens A
(or Challenge Cup 3rd round)

MARCH

5 Featherstone R H
11 Challenge Cup semi
12 Halifax A
19 Wakefield T H
24 Salford A
25 Challenge Cup semi
27 Wigan H

APRIL

9 Castleford H
23 Premiership 1st round
29 Challenge Cup final

MAY

7 Premiership semis
14 Premiership final

Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

'A' TEAM

AUGUST

24 York (7.30) H W 38-2

SEPTEMBER

3 Dewsbury (2.30) A L 24-22
10 Featherstone R (2.30) H L 12-18
15 Bramley (7.30) A
21 Huddersfield (7.30) H

OCTOBER

1 Lancashire Shield (1st round)
5 Wakefield T (7.30) H
15 Lancashire Shield (2nd round)
21 Huddersfield (7.30) A
26 Runcorn (7.30) H

NOVEMBER

5 York (2.30) A
9 Bramley (7.30) H
12 Runcorn (2.30) A
25 Leigh (7.30) A
30 Bradford (7.30) H

DECEMBER

10 Barrow (2.30) A
17 Workington (2.30) H
31 Doncaster (2.30) H

JANUARY

7 Trafford (2.30) A
11 Trafford (7.30) H
20 Bradford (7.30) A
25 Dewsbury (7.30) H

FEBRUARY

4 Challenge Cup (1st round)
11 Doncaster (2.30) A
18 Challenge Cup (2nd round)
22 Leigh (7.30) H

MARCH

4 Featherstone (2.30) A
11 Barrow (2.30) H
18 Wakefield T (7.30) A
25 Workington (2.30) A



Paul Taylor in action when he was last here four years ago.

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

IT should be D for debut day at Watersheddings today with the distinct possibility of Aussie Paul Taylor and Yorkshire lad John Fairbank making their first home appearances and Aussie pair Ashley Gilbert and Chris O'Sullivan wearing Oldham jerseys for the first time.

We warmly welcome all the new boys and trust they will have a successful and happy association with the club, starting with today's game against Workington Town in the first round of the Grunhulle Lancashire Cup.

Paul, from Parramatta, was here four years ago when he helped an Oldham team that also included Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan, Des Foy and Colin Hawkyard to finish fifth in the First Division — our highest rating in the two-division set-up.

John, originally from Elland, was signed from Leeds last weekend as part of the Hugh Waddell deal and went in as substitute at Featherstone. With Andy Ruane playing only his second game and Taylor in at loose-forward for the first time, it was felt there would be too many new boys in at once if Fairbank was also in the starting line-up.

Aged 21, Fairbank is the youngest of the famous Fairbank farmers and younger brother of Mark, who was here until he joined Keighley in an £8,000 deal last season. A BARLA international, John was chased by a host of First Division clubs before signing for Leeds last season to leave a lot of clubs bitterly disappointed.

Maurice Bamford, Leeds boss at the time and now in charge of today's visitors Workington, is convinced that John has a big future in the game. Says Maurice: "John is a cracking prospect. He is, without doubt, the best field-side prop in the game for his age."

Gilbert and O'Sullivan — what a great duo for the headline writers! — were due to have arrived last Thursday and should, by now, be settling down at the club and in the town with their wives and families. Incidentally, Paul Taylor's wife Debbie is keen to find work in a bar or restaurant locally so if anyone has any ideas or openings they could leave a message for Paul at the club and it will be passed on to him.

Ashley Gilbert, like O'Sullivan, comes from the Canberra Raiders club in Queenbeyan, a town in New South Wales that is just outside the capital territory of Canberra. He is a strong-running second-row forward who has a liking for scoring tries — and he has a record to prove it.

He is also a good defender, but it is his try-scoring feats that have caught the eye in the Sydney League's Winfield Cup competition. He was one of the leading forward try-scorers in 1987 and, in the Aussie season that finished last weekend with the Grand Final, he was again well up in the try-scoring charts for forwards, actually leading the list at one stage.

O'Sullivan also comes with a big reputation. He is the Canberra Raiders' regular outside-half in a side that reached last year's Grand Final and also got to the semi-finals of this year's competition. Well-known colleagues of O'Sullivan and Gilbert, in a Raiders team that has been one of Sydney's strongest forces in the past two years, include Mal Meninga, Ivan Henjak (also linked with us at one stage), big Sam Backo, who is going to Leeds, Gary Belcher, who is at Castleford, Peter Jackson, the centre who starred in the recent Test series with Great Britain, and winger John Ferguson, the former Wigan star who was the top winger in Sydney last season.

You can see, therefore, that all our Aussies are used to playing with and against the best, Taylor having spent many years with a Parramatta club that has boasted stars such as Mick Cronin, Ray Price, Peter Sterling, Brett Kenny and many more of Australia's leading players.

These, then, are the boys who are coming into the club for the season that stretches ahead. Going out, and no doubt many will be sorry to see him go, is Hugh Waddell. As a club we do not make a practice of revealing the details of transfer market activity, but if you consider the value of John Fairbank as part of the deal it was certainly a record transfer for the club.

Hugh, of course, has not been happy and settled at Oldham for some time. There has been a long-running disagreement over the terms of his contract and for many weeks now there has been rumour of Leeds coming in for him, as well as talk of Hugh eventually returning to Australia, either as player-coach of a country team or as a target for Parramatta, who were impressed with his displays Down Under last summer.

The offer from Leeds was regarded as too good to refuse, when considering all the facts and all the implications. We have sold a forward of 30, bought a forward of 21 on a three-year contract, and received a fee of nearly four times the amount we paid to Blackpool for Hugh's services only 18 months ago.

The board feels that it has done a good stroke of business and it feels time will prove the wisdom of the deal.



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EXPERT PANEL CHOOSE NINE GREATS FOR WHITBREAD TROPHY HALL OF FAME

Nine Rugby League legends have been selected to enter the first-ever Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame, to be opened in October.

The highest individual honour in the history of the 13-a-side code has been bestowed on:

Billy Batten, Alex Murphy, Albert Rosenfeld, Brian Bevan, Jonty Parkin, Jim Sullivan, Billy Boston, Gus Risman and Harold Wagstaff.

Entry has been restricted to players who graced the British scene for the majority of their career. Only players who have been retired for at least 10 years were considered.

The Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame is being developed at the Bentley Arms, Oulton, Leeds to be officially opened on Monday, 24th October. It will feature extensive displays of Rugby League memorabilia.

Rugby League chairman Bob Ashby said, "These nine players are the all-time best and the cream of the game in Britain. It was not easy to limit our selection but inclusion in the Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame is intended as the highest honour a Rugby League player can be given."

The official panel who made the selections were: Bob Ashby (Rugby League Chairman), David Oxley (Secretary-General), David Howes (Public Relations Officer), Robert Gate (Official Rugby League historian) and Ray Fletcher (Yorkshire Post).

BILLY BATTEN

Began his career with Hunslet in 1907. One of the game's finest centres, renowned for spectacularly hurdling tacklers. Transferred to Hull for a record £600 in 1913. Joined Wakefield Trinity in 1926 and finished his career with Castleford in 1927.

BRIAN BEVAN

Came to England from Australia in 1945 as an unknown trialist. Warrington right wing from 1945-64. Scored a world record 769 tries in 688 first-class fixtures. Scored 50 or more tries in nine separate seasons.

BILLY BOSTON

A great winger who scored 571 tries in 564 games. Signed by Wigan in 1953. Test career yielded 24 tries in 31 matches. Played for Wigan until 1968 and ended his career in 1970 at Blackpool Borough.

ALEX MURPHY

One of Britain's greatest scrum-halves. Debut for native St. Helens age 16 in 1956 and left 10 years, 319 games and 175 tries later. Then spent four years at Leigh and five with Warrington. Test career ran to 27 matches (1958-71).

JONTY PARKIN

Scrum-half. Began his career, age 18, at Wakefield Trinity in 1913 and played the last of his 349 games for Trinity in 1930. Paid his own transfer fee to Hull KR in 1930. Retired in 1932.

GUS RISMAN

Signed for Salford in 1929. Played in the centre, at stand-off or full-back, a phenomenal goal kicker. In 427 games for Salford scored 2,007 points. Joined Workington Town as player coach in 1946 (1,533 points in 301 games). Joined Batley for 1954 season.

ALBERT ROSENFELD

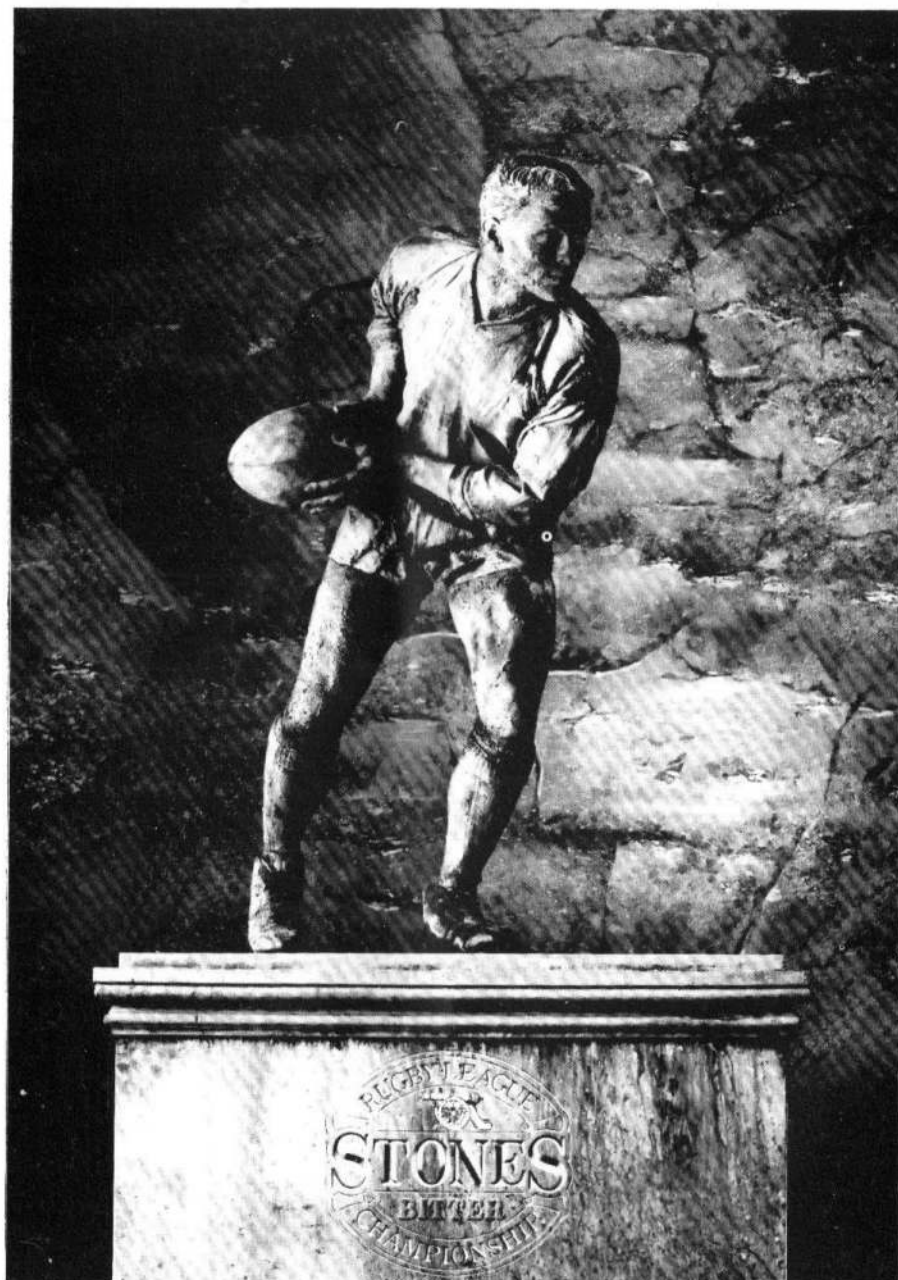
Diminutive Australian winger. Came to England as a five-eighth with the first Australian touring team in 1908. Joined Huddersfield until 1921 when he transferred to Wakefield. Played his last game as a Bradford Northern player in 1924 having scored 396 tries in 378 games.

JIM SULLIVAN

Played League from 1921-46 and established himself as the greatest full-back and most prolific goal-kicker of all time. Signed by Wigan from Cardiff RU in 1921 and stayed for 928 games.

HAROLD WAGSTAFF

Aged 15 on his debut in 1906. A great centre and successful captain. Led Huddersfield's Team of All the Talents! Played 21 Tests. Retired in 1925 having played 494 games and scored over 200 tries.



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JOIN Lifeline — and hit the jackpot! That's the message from the Development Association this week when we follow up news of the new-car prize by revealing that later in the season we will be offering a holiday-of-a-lifetime for two in the sunny, calypso islands of the Caribbean.

The new car (pictured below) will go to a lucky Lifeline winner when the draw is made at the match against Hull KR at Watersheddings on October 2nd.

The super holiday will provide Lifeline's big Christmas jackpot. It will be drawn some time over the festive season, to be taken whenever it is convenient for the lucky winner. Shimmering sands, sun-kissed beaches, and calypso evenings under the palms. What a way to spend a fortnight!

To be eligible for the prize, of course, you have to be a member of our £2-a-week

scheme which offers a £1,000 prize weekly, so if you are not already in now is the time to act.

Within the next few weeks we will reach the end of the Lifeline year, from the admin. point of view, so we will be having a big night, probably in the social club, for all members, including some entertainment and supper.

Details of everything that is going on at Watersheddings, of course, can be picked up on Roughyed Review, our new ring-a-round service which gives match reports, interviews, news and information about the entire club scene.

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 22 — LEEDS 28

TWO interception tries by Garry Schofield, Leeds's world record buy from Hull, was the big difference between the teams in Oldham's first home game in front of a crowd of 6,599 — the best Watersheddings attendance on the first day of the season for many years.

Oldham led 16-14 at half-time before slipping behind 16-24 early in the second half. But a try by Mike Ford, goaled by Charlie McAlister, cut the deficit to two points and it needed a controversial try by Leeds centre Carl Gibson, who appeared to be offside when he picked up to score, to make the game safe for the Yorkshiremen. McAlister landed two goals and Mick Burke one, while the four Oldham tries were scored by Kevin Meadows (2), Des Foy and Ford.

DEWSBURY 'A' 24 — OLDHAM 'A' 22

THE Oldham reserves disappointed at Dewsbury when they lost 24-22 after looking fully capable of winning. From 16-4 down, they pulled back to 16-16 and were attacking strongly when Keith Atkinson failed to put a penalty into touch. Dewsbury went straight to the other end and scored after a trialist winger had been forced into touch on the first tackle — crucial errors in a tight game. Oldham scored four tries through man-of-the-match Mick Bardsley, Martin Hall, Keith Atkinson and Steve Robinson with Atkinson landing three goals.



FEATHERSTONE 18 — OLDHAM 14

TWO breakaway tries by Graham Steadman — haven't we heard that before somewhere? — were crucial factors in Oldham's 18-14 defeat at Post Office Road last Sunday. The Rovers stand-off went 75 yards for his first try and then dealt Oldham the killer blow midway through the second half when he intercepted a wide pass in his own 22-metre zone to go threequarters of the length of the field once again. The game was marred by what was thought to be a serious jaw injury sustained by Charlie McAlister in the first half. McAlister kicked one goal for Oldham and Keith Atkinson two, whilst tries were scored by Leo Casey and Paul Taylor, who had a splendid game on his debut.

OLDHAM 'A' 12 — FEATHERSTONE 'A' 18

A strong Featherstone 'A' side, that had scored 64 points and conceded nil in its two previous games had too many big guns for Oldham 'A' at Watersheddings last Saturday. From 2-8 down, Oldham went into a 12-8 lead, but they let it slip in the last quarter of an hour when Rovers scored two tries to finish with a six-point advantage. Keith Atkinson scored two Oldham goals, while Ian Sherratt and Richard Irving scored the tries.



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COUNTY CUP COMMENTS

HOLDERS Wigan have been drawn at Barrow in today's first round of the Grunhalle Lager Lancashire Cup. They hope it is a lucky omen as they go in search of an astonishing 20th county cup triumph.

They were also drawn at Barrow in the first round of last season's competition. They won at a canter and went on to win the trophy for the third time in four years.

Wigan chairman Maurice Lindsay said: "We always enjoy our trips to Cumbria and I'm sure we'll take about 2,000 fans with us. They are friendly people in Cumbria except for those 80 minutes on the field. Then they aren't quite so friendly. It will be a competitive game and they'll obviously be keen to topple the holders."

Wigan's arch rivals St. Helens are involved in the tie of the round at double champions Widnes, a repeat of last season's Premiership Final.

St. Helens boss Alex Murphy was sick of the sight of Widnes last term. Having knocked the Chemics out of the John Player Trophy, Murphy saw his side pushed into second place in the First Division Championship by Widnes before losing to them in the Premiership at Old Trafford.

Murphy was even pipped to the coach-of-the-year award by Widnes boss Doug Laughton.

"We could settle a few scores in this first round," declared Murphy. "It will be tough, but we don't fear any side and will be going into the tie with confidence."

Widnes v St. Helens is the only all-First Division encounter.

Swinton and Leigh, both relegated last season, could provide a feast of entertainment in their first-round clash at Station Road.

Swinton reached the semis last season before crashing to Warrington, who this year are paired with minnows Runcorn Highfield.

New club Chorley Borough must travel to Carlisle in the opening round, which means four of their first five games this season are away.

Chorley director Mike Marsland said: "I would have preferred us to have a few games at home to start the season and keep the interest in the new club going. But we face a tough start now in the league cup."

Grunhalle are offering total prize money of £19,000 for the Lancashire Cup this season, with the winners picking up £5,000.

Ron Close, the Warrington and Lancashire RL secretary, said: "Grunhalle are in their last year of the three-year sponsorship contract. But we hope to agree a new deal before the end of this season's competition."

First Round Draw:

OLDHAM v Workington
Widnes v St. Helens
Barrow v Wigan
Swinton v Leigh
Carlisle v Chorley Borough
Rochdale Hornets v Fulham
Salford v Whitehaven
Runcorn Highfield v Warrington

LANCASHIRE CUP RECORDS

Number of final wins: 19 by Wigan, 10 St. Helens, 9 OLDHAM, 8 Warrington, 6 Widnes, 5 Salford, 4 Leigh

Most successive final winners:
Wigan (1946-51).

Most successive final appearances:
7 by St. Helens (1958-64).
6 by Wigan (1946-51).

Biggest final attendance:
42,793 St. Helens v Wigan at Swinton 1953.

Last Year's Final:
Wigan 28-16 Warrington at St. Helens.

Highest score in final:
Wigan 34-8 Warrington (1984-85).

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (3 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
K. Meadows	3			2	8	45
R. Irving	2			1	4	17
D. Foy	3			1	4	179
C. McAlister	3	6			12	21
P. Lord	2			1	4	13
M. Ford	3			1	4	22
I. Bates	1					3
I. Sherratt	1					20
M. Hall	1					9
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	3			1	4	179
P. Round	3					35
T. Flanagan	3					276
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	3			1	4	15
M. Burke	2	1			2	45
A. Ruane	2					2
N. Clawson	2					54
P. Taylor	1			1	4	24
K. Atkinson	1	2			4	30
J. Fairbank	1					1

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wakefield	3	2	0	0	39	30	1	0	0	16	10	6
Castleford	3	1	0	0	30	0	1	1	0	32	22	5
St. Helens	3	1	1	0	37	30	1	0	0	25	14	5
Widnes	3	1	0	0	38	6	1	0	1	50	40	4
Wigan	3	2	0	0	72	34	0	0	1	20	25	4
Featherstone	3	1	0	1	36	46	1	0	0	30	15	4
Leeds	3	0	0	1	14	30	2	0	0	60	40	4
Salford	3	2	0	0	49	32	0	0	1	18	42	4
Halifax	3	2	0	0	52	34	0	0	1	0	30	4
Bradford N.	3	1	0	0	42	18	0	0	2	30	49	2
Warrington	3	0	0	1	14	25	0	0	2	28	39	0
OLDHAM	3	0	0	1	22	28	0	0	2	32	58	0
Hull KR	3	0	0	1	15	30	0	0	2	30	56	0
Hull	3	0	0	2	18	34	0	0	1	6	38	0

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The first 50 correct entries drawn on Monday, 10th October will each receive TWO tickets which will be despatched by post.

1. Who won the man of the match award in last seasons Grunhalle Lager Lancashire Cup Final?	☐ Shaun Edwards ☐ Graeme West ☐ Joe Lydon
2. The best ever gate for a Lancashire Cup Final was 42,793 in 1953. Where was the game played?	☐ Wigan ☐ Swinton ☐ Maine Road
3. Which was the last team prior to Wigan to win the Lancashire Cup?	☐ Warrington ☐ Widnes ☐ St. Helens
4. Which team will play their home games this season at Spotland?	☐ Carlisle ☐ Chorley Borough ☐ Rochdale Hornets
5. In which town is Grunhalle Lager brewed?	☐ St. Helens ☐ Salford ☐ Warrington

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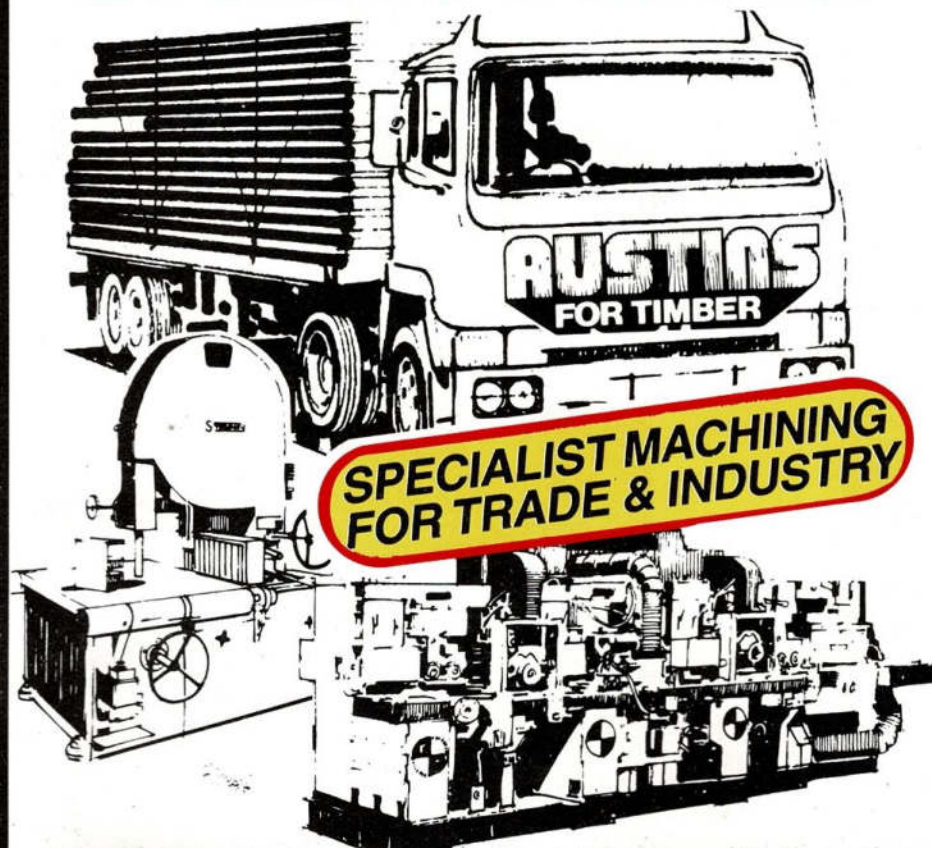
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