

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

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

HULL KR

GEORGE FAIRBAIRN — 1 —
 GARY CLARKE — 2 —
 CHRIS CLOSE — 3 —
 MIKE FLETCHER — 4 —
 DAVID LAWS — 5 —
 DAVID BISHOP — 6 —
 WAYNE PARKER — 7 —
 MICHAEL PORTER — 8 —
 CHRIS RUDD — 9 —
 MALCOLM BEALL — 10 —
 GAVIN MILLER — 11 —
 CHRIS BURTON — 12 —
 MIKE SMITH — 13 —
 ANDY THOMPSON — 14 —
 DAVE HARRISON — 15 —

Referee: Mr. P. Volante (Batley) Touch Judges: Mr. J. Fishwick (Red Flag), Mr. P. W. Lee (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
16	17	18	19	20

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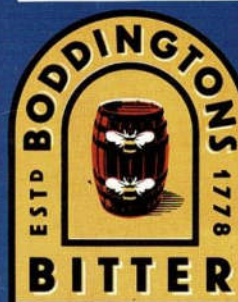
OLDHAM

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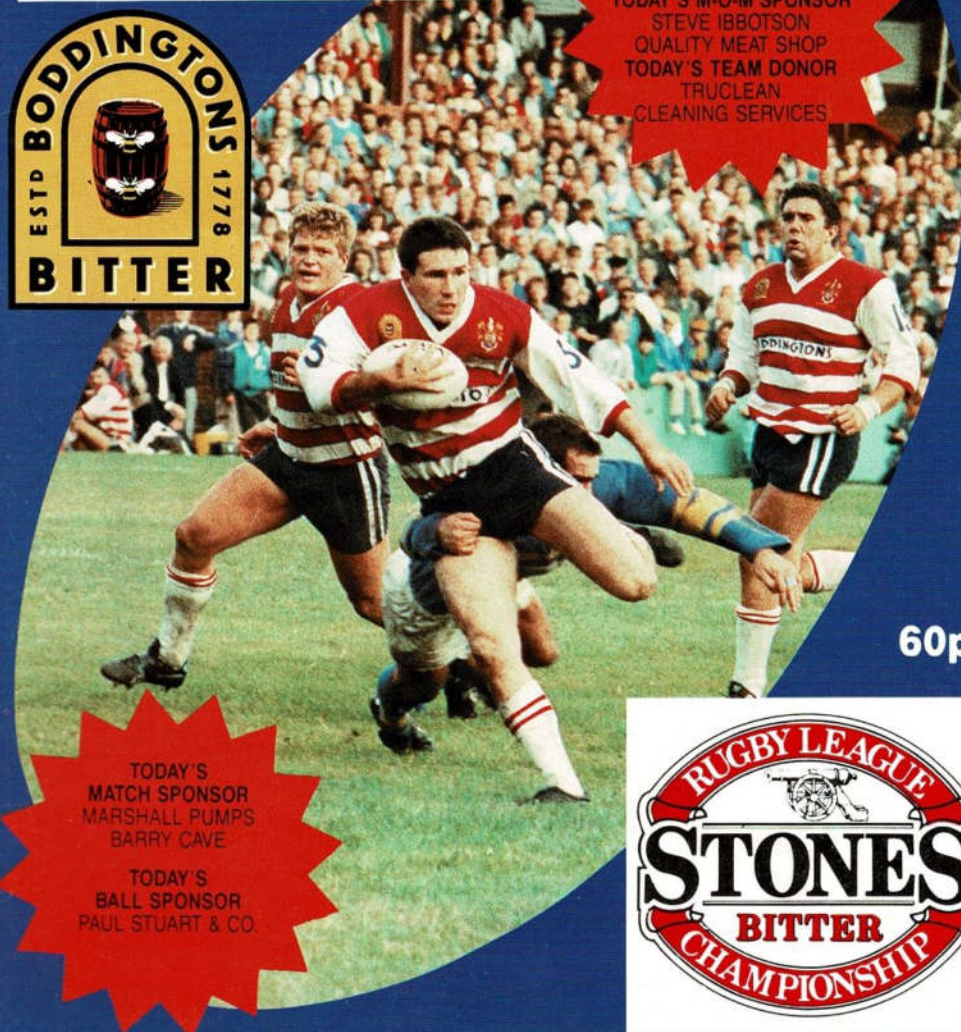
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Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.



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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

STEVE PATTERSON

PLAYER PROFILE



Full Name:	Steven Patterson
Nick Name:	Honest Abdul
Birthdate:	28.5.66
Birthplace:	Oldham
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Electrician
Car:	None
Fav. TV Show:	Young Ones
Fav. Film:	Top Gun
Fav. Music:	Any
Fav. Food/Drink:	Anything
Fav. Reading:	War and Peace
Hobbies:	Training
Fav. other sports:	All
Likes about game:	Everything
Dislikes about game:	Injuries
Superstitions:	None
Fav. position:	Scrum-half
Fav. ground:	Warrington
Best moment:	Picked for Lancs under-17s
Worst moment:	Serious back injury
Hardest player to tackle:	All little players
Hardest tackler:	John Myler
Fav. all-time player:	Wally Lewis

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on:	1.11.83
Debut:	v Wigan (Div. One), Central Park, 28.8.88
Appearances:	3
Tries:	0
Goals:	0
Drop goals:	0
Total points:	0

AUTOGRAPH:

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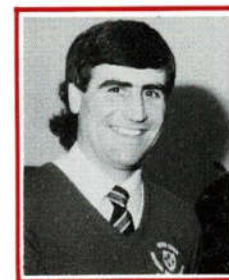
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THE BOSS TALKING

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)



WE displayed a much-improved level of professionalism in the cup-tie against Workington. Despite the fact that they were Second Division opposition (N.B. we did lose four times last year to Second Division opposition) the players never treated Workington as such.

Their respect was shown by the way we controlled the ball, reduced our mistakes and supported the ball-runners on every occasion. It is vital that we achieve the same principles match by match in our campaign for success this season.

The atmosphere in the dressing room is positive. Players are confident in themselves and in what the team can achieve. The overseas signings are obviously going to have a part to play and it is important that we pitch our personal standards upwards towards them, rather than them slowly tumbling into bad habits and poorer standards than those which they are used to.

I have every confidence in them. They are already contributing at training, in the dressing room, and off the pitch. Paul Taylor and Chris O'Sullivan may turn out to be two of the most valuable overseas signings Oldham have had for many years, and although Ashley Gilbert is taking more time to settle in I am confident he will contribute much when he finds his feet in English football.

Leo Casey has proved himself at this level and continues to improve. They used to call Len Casey 'cast-iron Casey'. Comparisons will inevitably be made, but I think Leo has a quiet strength and a good attitude that enables him to 'express' himself in the right way. Once he gets his stamina to 100-per-cent, he will be well on his way to recognition.

For the first time in 12 months I have had the luxury of genuine options for positions. Against Castleford last week five back-row forwards were available for three places. Terry Flanagan and Colin Hawkyard were selected for the bench jobs eventually . . . two players who have both made their presence felt in every game to date. Terry's form is first-class. His basketball pass to Paul Round for his try against Workington was a peach. Most players slow down a bit in their benefit season, but Terry has stepped up a gear. He has impressed me with his all-round game.

Colin's attacking game is much improved this season and his defence never alters. He is a tireless 'team man' and a thorough professional in every sense. I sincerely hope that the public of Oldham will get behind Colin in his testimonial year, in the same way you are doing with Terry.

Finally, a big welcome to John Henderson. I wish him the best of luck at Oldham. He has come home to fulfill his ambition to play as a Roughyed.

ERIC FITZSIMONS

NEXT HOME LEAGUE GAME
OLDHAM v ST. HELENS

3.00p.m.

Sunday, October 23rd

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and
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CORKY'S COMMENTS

Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene

Firstly, welcome home to John Henderson. John follows fellow Oldhamers Michael Ford and Ian Sherratt, who have returned to the fold in the last couple of years. John represented England Schools while a pupil at Fitton Hill. He scored many splendid tries and one that particularly sticks in my memory was a 75-yard effort off a long pass from John Bienias against St. Cuthbert's of St. Helens. Playing for St. Cuthbert's that day was Paul Round.

It is good to see that our local professionals take so much interest in the amateur game. Last week, at the Fitton Hill 'A' v St. Joseph's 'A' game, Tom Foley, Mick Bardsley and Ian Sherratt were all on the touch line to see a big victory for the local side. The second-row pair of Mick Hardingham and Paul Gorton starred and looked as if they would be equally at home in far more exalted company.

Newcomers Seddon Atkinson had a tremendous 100-plus victory in their first league game. Praise to coach Ray Ashton and my three former pupils, Gary Hitchins, Ivan Stansfield and Phil Lee, who all had great games.

The former Oldham RL team coach driver Roy Featherstone and his wife,

Teresa, have retired from the licensing trade. Many of the players have many reasons to be grateful to Roy, not least on the return journey from Old Trafford last May when 40 pints he provided at the Auld Lang Syne, to celebrate our premiership victory, were rapidly downed.

There was victory for Lancashire under-12s v Yorkshire at Headingley with both local representatives, Paul Highton and Damian Munro, having good games in the 14-6 victory. Thanks to the club for providing them with free season tickets.

Tony Martin, who suffered a serious eye injury over a season ago and had to have two major operations, is helping out with coaching at Fitton Hill, who are looking for someone to replace Kevin O'Rourke, who has returned to Higginshaw.

Tony intends to put something back into the game he loves, and he is going to start refereeing. I'm sure the Oldham RL Referees' Association will welcome with open arms not only Tony, but all ex-players or even current players who are free on Sunday mornings to handle youth matches. Any more volunteers?

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

WELCOME to today's visitors from Humberside. All eyes will be on new signings David Bishop. We wish him well in his new career with the Robins and we look forward today to a good, clean game in true Rugby League style.

The Supporters' Club no longer have the famous canteens to offer our Humberside friends pies and soup, but we still have our souvenir shop on the main-stand corner for sweaters, scarves, badges etc.

Regular readers of the Oldham programme will know that we have been trying for weeks to get fans to book early in the week for away-day coach seats. Last Sunday, when we went to Castleford, the phones were still ringing at 11.45 a.m. on the day of the match and we had to turn people away. Apologies for that, but it is just too late to ring on the day and expect to get a seat. To guarantee a seat, **bookings must be made before Friday**. It's impossible to book a coach at the last minute and we cannot afford to send one half full. The numbers to ring are 627 0235 and 665 1832 **BEFORE FRIDAY!**

Membership is now due at only £1 and that represents good value for both seniors and juniors. Join us NOW and you'll sure enjoy being part of the Supporters' Club.

The next social for the juniors is on Wednesday, October 26 at 8.00 p.m. Bring a friend and make them a member of the Junior Reds too.

Once again, we repeat our appeal to all fans to be vigilant on the terraces and report, to club officials or police, any

small incidents that they see flare up. There is growing concern at some grounds and, as true supporters of our great game, and no matter which club holds our allegiance, it is our duty to try and protect our family image.

The Supporters' Club is running a trip to Wembley at the end of the season. It will be a mixed party and we will be away for about four days, leaving Friday morning and returning Monday. For details phone 627 0235.

PROGRAMME POSTBAG

THE following letter comes all the way from 43 Crandon Street, Gosnells, Perth, 6110, W. Australia and is sent to coach Eric Fitzsimons by Oldham fan Mike Swinbourne.

Dear Mr. Fitzsimons,

Congratulations on winning promotion to the first Division. I watched all Oldham's games, home and away, last season. I saw my final game at Wakefield when you clinched the Second Division title and I had to miss the Premiership final as I came out to Australia.

I miss the rugby tremendously and I hope you have great success in the First Division. If you get through to the Wembley final this season I will definitely come over to watch. If possible, at your next home game, could you give my regards to Ste, Tony, Scott, Dave, Shaun and all the kids from St. Anne's rugby club under 9s and under-11s.

Also, is there any chance of you sending some signed photographs of the Oldham players for myself and my son, Scott?

All the best for the coming season, I will be following the team's progress. Give them some stick.

— BRING A FRIEND —

Rugby League gates are on the up and the average First Division crowd this season is 1,500 **BETTER** than last year. We must play our part at Oldham so . . . bring a friend!

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WELCOME TO ROVERS

HULL KR, the Red Robins of East Hull, have hit the headlines in recent times, not only with the sale of their Craven Park ground, on which they are probably playing their final season, but for the capture of Welsh RU star David Bishop and the re-signing of their great servant from Aussie club Cronulla, Gavin Miller.

The ball-playing second-row man from Down Under may not be in action today because he has finally won Test recognition and he will be playing for the green-and-golds against New Zealand in Auckland next weekend in the World Cup final.

Oldham certainly won't lose any sleep if Miller is already on the plane to link up with his Kangaroos team mates. He actually made his debut in the English game here at Watersheddings and had a blinder in a Rovers victory. And who will forget his terrific play when the Robins, apparently down and out, staged that remarkable fightback at Boundary Park in March, 1986? Oldham led 16-0 at the interval, but lost 20-16 as Miller inspired the Robins to a big revival.

Miller has come a long way since those days, of course. He has recently finished a magnificent season for Cronulla in Sydney, winning an Australian Test jumper, the Dally Messenger Gold award, the Winfield Cup players' player award and, finally, the New South Wales Rugby League Writers' award.

In 1985-6 he won the English player-of-the-year and players' player-of-the-year awards and, winning the Aussie version of these awards, now makes him unique in the world of Rugby League.

Over the years there have been a lot of downs, as well as ups, for Gavin, but there is no doubt that Miller is now respected and accepted as one of the world's finest Rugby League players.

Rovers also have big hopes for their recruit from the Valleys, David Bishop. The former Welsh RU firebrand is currently learning the rudiments of League half-back play in the stand-off position and, by all accounts, is coming along very nicely indeed. Potentially, he is a big star in his new code... and one man who is convinced that Bishop will go right to the top is none other than David Watkins, the man who skippered his country at League and Union, and is now a respected radio commentator on Rugby League.

Watkins is convinced that Bishop will become one of the finest players ever to leave the Valleys to seek fame and fortune in 'the North', and when you consider some of the fabulous players who

have come out of South Wales that is one of the finest compliments one could ever make.

Rovers also possess a host of big-name players who, even though they have grown older together in recent years, certainly lack nothing in experience or charisma. One thinks of former Great Britain stars George Fairbairn at fullback, Garry Clarke on the wing, Chris Burton in the second-row, and the versatile Mike Smith, who could be equally at home today at centre, stand-off or loose-forward.

Two other Aussies are also here with Miller: Chris Close, who can also play in the backs or forwards with equal effect, and Cronulla hooker or prop Michael Porter, who has been playing at No. 8 in the early matches for the Robins this season.

Rovers have not had the happiest starts to a new campaign and as points are vital to both teams, today's encounter should be quite a classic.

The Rovers boss, one of the longest-serving in the game, is the famous Roger Millward and he will be out for two points from Watersheddings, as will his opposite number Eric Fitzsimons, who knows the importance of a First Division side winning its home games — all the more important for Oldham today following the Garry Schofield-inspired Leeds victory here in the first home match of the season.



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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 W 64-2
25 Castleford (3.30) A L 22-19
28 County Cup — Salford H L 2-18

OCTOBER

2 Hull K R.....H
9 Wakefield T (3.30) A
23 St. Helens.....H

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 W 6-18
21 Huddersfield (7.30) H W 44-7

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



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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

WE are delighted to confirm today what you probably read in the Oldham Chronicle on Tuesday . . . figures for the first four months of the current financial year show a profit of between £13,000 and £14,000.

The directors received a mid-term financial report at the board meeting on Monday night and we were pleased to learn that the financial side of the club is improving, a trend that is due in no small measure to the wonderful backing we are receiving from all our loyal and trusted supporters.

The period under review covered April, May, June and July. It was indeed encouraging to learn that we were heading in the right direction at a time when we had a lot of expense involved in our double triumphs in the Second Division championship race and, of course, the Premiership battle.

It would be fair to say that one of the major areas we have tackled in our determined attempts to improve the financial situation lies in off-the-field fund-raising and no praise can be too high for the way in which the Commercial Department has built up the Lifeline membership and for the way in which so many of you, our valued fans, have taken the decision to have a £2-a-week flutter on our Lifeline scheme.

During the period covered by the figures with which we were presented on Monday night, the average weekly Lifeline membership was 1,585 and that provided us with income that was almost as much as came in during the previous 12 months.

That in itself shows a remarkable transformation, but when you consider that Lifeline membership is increasing all the time and that last week's figure was 2,414 you really begin to appreciate how much hard work has gone into this bold venture to push the Lifeline 'take-off' in a really big way.

Had the latest Lifeline figures applied during the months of April, May, June and July this year they would have produced additional profit of something like £24,000, so we think we have good reason to be optimistic for the future.

At the same time, it is encouraging to see the fruits of everybody's hard work and it is also creating a situation in which we can now afford to speculate to accumulate.

That's why, at today's match against Hull KR, you will see some lucky Lifeline winner taking possession of a brand-new car.

That's why, come Christmas, there will be another jackpot prize of a holiday for two in the West Indies, to be taken at a time convenient to the winner.

And that's why, at Monday's board meeting, the directors sanctioned another bumper Lifeline pay-day to be launched about Christmas time, 1989.

The details have not yet been released, but suffice to say that it will be the biggest ever pay-out in the club's history.

Consideration had been given to putting up a house or an apartment for the big jackpot of 1989, but when your directors gave the matter considerable thought they decided that the one prize that would suit everybody would be . . . MONEY!

There will be stipulations, of course, such as members being paid up and being in the Lifeline scheme for a certain length of time, so watch for the announcement and, if you are not already in, get in the act NOW!

You will also be pleased to learn that work is expected to start soon on upgrading the popular side terracing and rear wall so that we can once again open up the Herbert Street side and ease the congestion on other parts of the ground.

The rear wall will not be as far back as the existing wall but, nevertheless, it will still enable us to increase our ground capacity by a considerable number and, despite the fact that we have lost our first four games in the First Division, we expect brighter times around the corner and we also expect some capacity crowds before the season is through.

Today, we welcome John Henderson, our new £50,000 signing from Leigh, who will be making his home debut. John played for us for the first time at Castleford and marked his debut with a try. He was cup-tied when Salford were here on Wednesday, but he will be back in the centre today and playing for his home-town team for the first time in his home-town territory. It should be quite a day for him so let's make him feel 'at home' when he runs out in front of so many of his fellow Oldhamers on the terraces.



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RECORD TOP PRIZE FOR JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY WINNER TOURNAMENT MARKS 22 YEARS OF SPONSORSHIP

The John Player Special Trophy competition will be worth a record £170,000 to the Rugby League in the 1988-89 season, the 22nd year of Imperial Tobacco's association with the sport.

For the winner there will be the highest-ever first prize of £18,000 — 12.5 per cent more than last season — and prize money will be increased by a similar amount at every stage of the tournament.

In addition, the sponsorship's contribution to the League's Capital Development Fund for ground improvements will be an all-time high of £74,000, against £65,000 last season.

Announcing the new season's increases, Peter Dyke, director of sponsored events on behalf of Imperial Tobacco Limited, said: "We are proud that our association with the Rugby League, dating back to 1967, is the longest-running major sponsorship in British sport. It is appropriate that the value of our support to the clubs, through the prize money, and to the League, through its important Capital Development Fund, should continue to show substantial increases.

"This will be the 18th successive year of the John Player Special Trophy competition and it is rightly regarded as one of the major highlights of the Rugby League season. It has certainly played an important part in the development and success of the sport in recent years."

Bob Ashby, chairman of the Rugby League, said: "The large increases in the John Player sponsorship in recent years have been mirrored in the equally large rise in the competition's attendances and gate receipts.

"This is particularly evident in the final stages with the final itself now regularly attracting gates of over 20,000 and receipts fast approaching the £100,000 mark.

"There have also been improvements in the BBC Grandstand television coverage, including full match live screening of later stages — a great benefit to both sport and its supporters."

Thirty-four First and Second Division clubs, and two leading amateur clubs, will take part in the 1988-89 John Player Special Trophy which starts with four preliminary rounds in late October and culminates in the final on 7th January as the first major Rugby League event of the new year.

The BARLA teams taking part will be St. Patrick's (Wigan) and Elland (Halifax), as winner and runner-up respectively of the National Cup competition. They will start in the preliminary round. Dates for the John Player Special Trophy are:

Preliminary round — October 26 to November 6, 1988 (depending on international calls etc.)

First round — weekend
12/13 November, 1988.

Second round — weekend
26/27 November, 1988.

Third round — weekend
3/4 December, 1988.

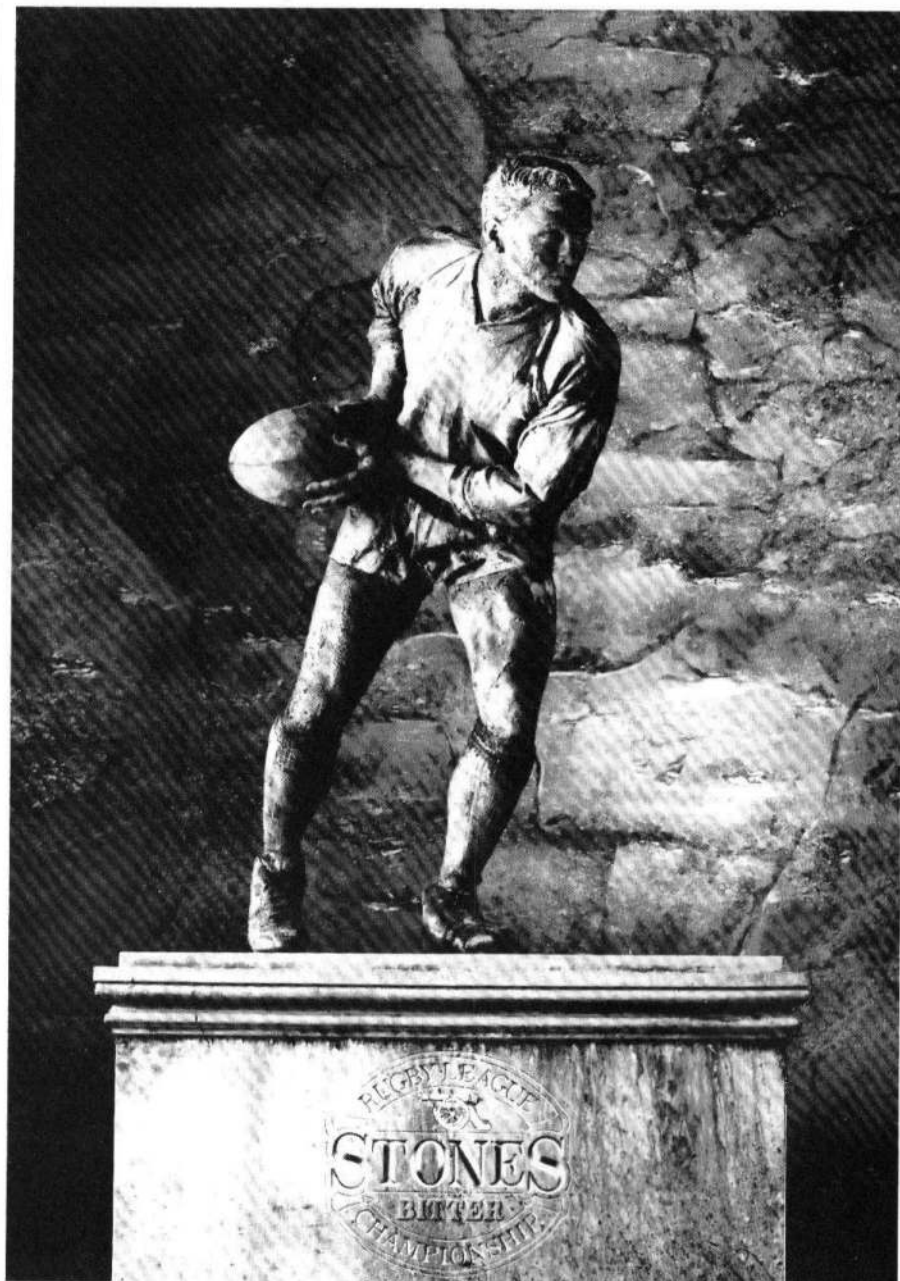
First semi-final — Saturday,
10 December, 1988.

Second semi-final — Saturday,
17 December, 1988.

Final — Saturday, 7 January, 1989.
Both semi-finals and the final will be staged at neutral venues.

The new prize structure for the season is:

	Per Team	Total (1987-88)
Preliminary round	8×£ 1,250	10,000
First round	16×£ 1,250	20,000 (1,100)
Second round	8×£ 1,850	14,800 (1,600)
Third round	4×£ 3,175	12,700 (2,825)
Semi-finals	2×£ 5,250	10,500 (4,750)
Runner-up	1×£10,000	10,000 (9,000)
Winners	1×£18,000	18,000 (16,000)
Total prize money		£ 96,000
Capital Development Fund allocation		£ 74,000
Total John Player Special Trophy fund		£170,000



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

PARDON ME for nudging the memory, but there are now only 12 weeks to Christmas . . . and we swing into our October programme today with the nights drawing in, a nip in the air, and those among you who like to be prepared in good time, already thinking about presents for the festive season.

May I respectfully suggest that, with gifts in mind, a trip to our souvenir shop in the Development Association offices on the car park is a good idea if you are going to be buying for anyone who is a keen Oldham Rugby fan, young, or old, male or female, big or small.

We cater for all shapes and sizes in a variety of replica sports wear designed exclusively for Watersheddings fans and those people who like to show the world where their allegiance lies.

We now have in stock full replica kits in either red and white (our home strip) or blue and white (our away strip). Jerseys, shorts and socks can be purchased collectively as a full strip — a terrific Christmas present for younger supporters — or separately, and we expect a big demand for the replica jerseys because we have been taking orders for a long time now. Shorts come in two sizes at £6.99 and £7.99 while men's jerseys, complete with badge, sell at £21.99 and boys' jerseys are going for £17.99, all depending on size, of course. Depending on size, socks are on sale at £1.99, £2.50 or £2.75.

Also available are a small number of lambswool sweaters and sweaters in various colours, priced at £12 for boys and girls and £16 for men and women.

Red and white Oldham Rugby scarves are always popular, of course, and we still have a supple of three different types of headwear flat caps at £2, baseball caps at £2.90 and the novelty clapper caps at £4.50, which proved so popular when on sale just before our appearance at Old Trafford in May in the Second Division premiership final.

Roughyed tee-shirts are available at £3.90 and club ties at £4.50.

If you want something other than things to wear, what about a signed Oldham Rugby ball, autographed by the players and designed in red and white, for £10.50, an Oldham Rugby bag for £5.50, pennants at £1.75 or metal lapel badges at £1.20?

We also have numerous samples on show of lovely trophies in a wide range of sizes and prices. If you want to offer a trophy for whatever reason — a sports quiz in your local pub, or for some event at your local amateur club, or school — why not drop into the souvenir shop, see what we have to offer, and we will take the order and

get the trophy to you as soon as possible. Unfortunately, you cannot buy off the shelf, but once you have chosen your trophy the order will go in as quickly as possible and it won't be long before you are in possession of it and also armed with the knowledge that, by buying from Oldham Rugby, you are helping the club directly.



The same principle applies, of course, to whatever you buy from the souvenir shop. All the time you are helping the club and the more money that is generated for the club, from whatever source, the better chance we have of making a real and lasting impact in the First Division.

It is my job to see that fund-raising from off-field activities continues to gather momentum and I am delighted to tell you that Lifeline membership is now up to the 2,400 mark — and still rising.

Talking of Lifeline, we will make the draw today to see who is the lucky winner of the new car. It could be YOU, or your next door neighbour, or the bloke you have a drink with in the pub, or the chap on the next bench at work. Our Lifeline net is now being cast far and wide and, as I have told you in previous programmes, once the car promotion is over and done with today, we will start to 'push' our next star prize — a holiday for two in the West Indies, to be drawn some time over the festive season. It certainly pays to be in the £2-a-week Lifeline scheme, not least for the fact that £1,000 is given away EVERY week. If you fancy it, ring 620 4870 for more details.

Watch out also for details of our big night out for Lifeline members, to be held soon — probably in the social club — to mark the end of the administrative year.

Incidentally, the kissogram novelty we had when match donor Len Buckley of Smallbridge Textiles Ltd., was making the Lifeline draw at the Workington cup-tie was generally well received as a spot of good-humoured fun.

Len saw the funny side of it, and those readers who know me personally will vouch for my belief that a laugh and a smile are better than ten thousand moans and groans. Keep on having a bit of fun . . . and, together, let's work to give our club the backing it needs to climb the ladder.

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FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

AUSTRALIA's Premiership Grand Final and State of Origin inter-state series are put under the international spotlight in the 1988-89 **Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook** (£10.95).

The first-ever 20-year dossier of the French National side, plus reviews of the 1987 Tours of Britain by Papua New Guinea and Auckland and New Zealand's visit to Australia, are other round-the-world features.

The Sydney Grand Final analysis details 11 British players who have starred in the Down-Under showpiece, starting with Dick Huddart in the victorious St. George side in 1966. Only one of the 11 — Mervyn Hicks — did not also play in the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final, the Yearbook also listing the seven Australians who have completed the Sydney-Wembley Final double.

Launched in July 1980, the celebrated State of Origin meetings between New South Wales and Queensland are chronicled with results, records, teams and players' registers.

The opening of British Rugby League's new Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame is marked by special profiles of the nine legendary entrants.

The most comprehensive and accurate compilation of statistics from the past domestic campaign includes an update of the club scene, the major competitions, records, gates, transfers and awards, plus the Alliance and Colts set-ups. Fixtures for the 1988-89 season cover the Stones Bitter Championship and Second Division.

Illustrated with nearly 150 photographs, the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook is again compiled by Raymond Fletcher of the Yorkshire Post and Rugby League Public Relations Officer, David Howes. It is available from all good bookshops or by post, (plus £1.25 postage and packing) from the Public Relations Department, Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

★ ★ ★

Rugby League's first official yearbook, packed with over 50 illustrations and articles penned by the game's big-name critics, is now on sale (£5.95, Heinemann Kingswood).

The 160-page, 50,000 word Yearbook, sponsored by British Coal, is a superbly written and well-illustrated record of the code's domestic and international season, spiced with a flavour of conjecture as Yorkshire Evening

Post RL correspondent Trevor Watson names his five star players of last season.

Containing an action-packed selection of colour photographs from many of the epic international, cup and league battles, the yearbook was published on Monday, September 26th and is now available, like the Rothmans publication, in good time for Christmas.

At the launch of the new British Coal-backed Yearbook in Leeds, Rugby League President Les Bettinson said: "Topicality is a main highlight of this new publication with the first chronicle of Great Britain's summer tour Down Under, plus an in-depth preview to the current British campaign.

"The frank and informed comment, which feature throughout the annual, provides a welcome addition to Rugby League's growing library, already blessed with a wealth of statistical information.

"British Coal's backing of the annual reflects their ever-growing support of the 13-a-side game, having already invested in the promotion of the British Coal Nines and the Foundation development programme."

Yearbook editor, Tony Pocock, of publishers Heinemann Kingswood says: "The British Coal-sponsored Yearbook is a volume of articles well written and illustrated by people who know the game inside out. It's not a statistical review, but a critical analysis of a season climaxed by Great Britain's brilliant victory over the Australians."

Added British Coal Chairman Sir Robert Haslam: "This is a book for the supporter who savours all that's best in the game. It's for the connoisseur. Well written, well illustrated and well produced, it's a testimony to a memorable season."

In his foreword, Sir Robert says: "Of all contemporary spectator sports, Rugby League is the one with the most appeal for miners and mining folk. Its gritty, uncompromising image has much in common with the miner's character. It is invariably played hard with speed and skills that are a revelation, and a sporting discipline that is the envy of the followers and administrators of our national sports."

In addition to the Yearbook, British Coal also sponsor the Rugby League foundation development programme, which will herald the introduction of a British Coal National Youth League, and an elite under-19 midweek league, and the Rugby League Nines' competition, to be staged at Central Park, Wigan on November 2nd and televised on BBC Sportsnight.

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (6 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
K. Meadows	6			5	20	48
R. Irving	2			1	4	17
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	3	6			12	21
P. Lord	2			1	4	13
M. Ford	6			2	8	25
I. Bates	1					3
I. Sherratt	1					20
M. Hall	1					9
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	6			2	8	182
P. Round	6			2	8	38
T. Flanagan	6					279
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	6			1	4	18
M. Burke	4	11			22	47
A. Ruane	5	6	1		13	5
N. Clawson	5					57
P. Taylor	4			1	4	27
K. Atkinson	1	2			4	30
J. Fairbank	4					4
C. O'Sullivan	3			1	4	3
A. Gilbert	3			2	8	3
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	1			1	4	1
S. Robinson	1					9

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	4	2	0	0	52	19	1	1	0	32	22	7
Widnes	4	2	0	0	96	8	1	0	1	50	40	6
Wigan	4	2	0	0	72	34	1	0	1	40	42	6
Leeds	4	1	0	1	46	30	2	0	0	60	40	6
Salford	4	2	0	0	49	32	1	0	1	54	60	6
Wakefield	4	2	0	1	57	66	1	0	0	16	10	6
St. Helens	4	1	1	0	37	30	1	0	1	25	46	5
Halifax	4	2	0	0	52	34	0	0	2	4	42	4
Featherstone	4	1	0	1	36	46	1	0	1	32	73	4
Bradford N	4	1	0	1	59	38	0	0	2	30	49	2
Warrington	4	1	0	1	34	39	0	0	2	28	39	2
Hull KR	4	1	0	1	27	34	0	0	2	30	56	2
OLDHAM	4	0	0	1	22	28	0	0	3	51	80	0
Hull	4	0	0	2	18	34	0	0	2	20	58	0

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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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