

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

PAUL ROUND — 1
KEVIN MEADOWS — 2
JOHN HENDERSON — 3
DES FOY — 4
STEVE ROBINSON — 5
CHRIS O'SULLIVAN — 6
MIKE FORD — 7
NEIL CLAWSON — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
JOHN FAIRBANK — 10
COLIN HAWKYARD — 11
TERRY FLANAGAN — 12
PAUL TAYLOR — 13
RICHARD IRVING — 14
MICK BARDSLEY — 15

ST HELENS

PHIL VEIVERS — 1
MIKE CARRINGTON — 2
PAUL LOUGHLIN — 3
MICHAEL O'CONNOR — 4
LES QUIRK — 5
SHANE COOPER — 6
DARREN BLOOR — 7
TONY BURKE — 8
PAUL GROVES — 9
PAUL FORBER — 10
JOHN FIELDHOUSE — 11
ROY HAGGERTY — 12
PAUL VAUTIN — 13
NEIL HOLDING — 14
JOHN HARRISON — 15

Referee: Mr. B. Simpson (Irlam) 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
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11	12	13	14	15
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PENALTIES

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SCRUMS

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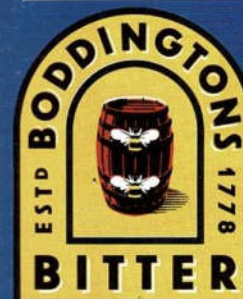
OLDHAM

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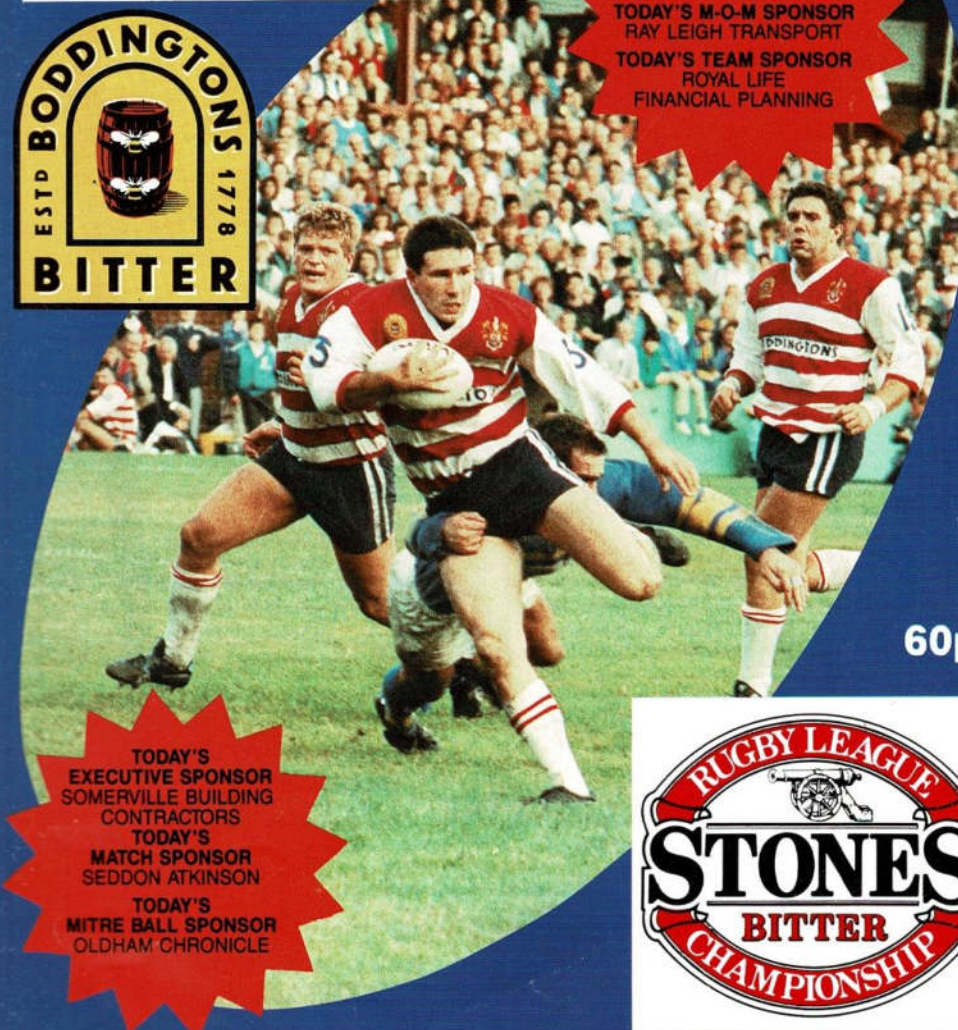
Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.



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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

TOMMY FOLEY



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	<i>Thomas Foley</i>
Nick Name:	<i>Ten-minute Tom</i>
Birthdate:	<i>18.11.68</i>
Birthplace:	<i>Oldham</i>
Marital Status:	<i>Single</i>
Occupation:	<i>Fitter</i>
Car:	<i>Shank's Pony</i>
Fav. TV Show:	<i>Rainbow</i>
Fav. Film:	<i>Witness</i>
Fav. Music:	<i>Any</i>
Fav. Food/Drink:	<i>Curries/Guinness</i>
Fav. Reading:	<i>None</i>
Hobbies:	<i>Training</i>
Fav. other sports:	<i>Boxing</i>
Likes about game:	<i>Everything</i>
Dislikes about game:	<i>Bad Referees</i>
Superstitions:	<i>None</i>
Fav. position:	<i>Second-row</i>
Fav. ground:	<i>Wigan</i>
Best moment:	<i>Turning pro for Oldham</i>
Worst moment:	<i>Bad neck-injury scare</i>
Hardest player to tackle:	<i>All No. 7s</i>
Hardest tackler:	<i>Not met him yet</i>
Fav. all-time player:	<i>Wayne Pearce</i>

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on:	<i>9.4.86</i>
Debut:	<i>Still to come</i>
Appearances:	<i>0</i>
Tries:	<i>0</i>
Goals:	<i>0</i>
Drop goals:	<i>0</i>
Total points:	<i>0</i>

AUTOGRAPH:

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THE BOSS TALKING

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)



WELCOME to the Saints from Knowsley Road this afternoon. They have had a mixed start to the season, but their side contains some very special players and it will not surprise anyone to see them among the honours this season.

Alex Murphy made a positive move when he appointed Eric Hughes as successor to Clive Griffiths on his coaching staff. Eric is an old friend and I'm pleased to see his change in fortune. Last season he was struggling to find 15 players at Horneast on some weekends. This year he has influence with one of the game's premier clubs.

The progress on Charlie McAlister is encouraging. He could be back within the next couple of weeks. He has worked hard during his enforced lay-off. He prowls like a caged tiger and he has a burning desire to play again.

Unfortunately, Des Foy's injury has hampered us a lot and the absence of both centres has caused problems without doubt. It will be good to be able to pick two from three rather than moving other players around out of position to do a 'patch-up' job.

Charlie's return may also solve the goalkicking duties problem. I consider we have three genuine contenders for the job. No disrespect to Andy Ruane, who has filled in satisfactorily, but goalkicking needs the type of concentration that an 'active' pack member will struggle to provide. It is best suited to wing, centre or full back. It was possible to 'carry' a goalkicker once, but in the present-day First Division it is out of the question. He has to have other strengths and certainly cannot have any outstanding weaknesses, whether they be fitness, temperament, skill deficiencies or simply a lack of discipline.

Goalkicking is a closed skill and requires, in my mind, regular practice. Every player who is a potential kicker at this club is given an in-depth coaching back-up and encouraged to go out and practice. Suffice to say only one player practices regularly without prompting.

The player who argues he does not need practice is a fool. It is the basis for all improvement, whatever you are doing.

Talking of practice, Paul Round has worked extra hard in extra time to eradicate one or two minor problems, as has Mike Ford. One or two concentrated sessions on a particular skill can go a long way towards improved self-confidence. I make this point especially for every player on the ground for today's match, professional or amateur, young or old. It all hinges around skills competence.

We will reach the stage within the next five to ten years where skills competence will need to be at a very high level to compete at professional level. The junior coaching has improved leaps and bounds and I would like to congratulate the Oldham Coaching Scheme contingent for their efforts.

Steve Deakin has taken over as regional coach from Ray Hicks. Ray did a splendid job, turning out more than 50 new coaches in his period of office and Steve will get the same support from everyone in Oldham.

Thanks to all the coaches in the Oldham junior leagues. To Oldham RLFC the fruit of your work is the number of local lads signing professional forms at Watersheddings. To you yourselves, the success is the number of players involved with and enjoying the game of Rugby League at whatever level.

ERIC FITZSIMONS

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CORKY'S COMMENTS

Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene

FIRSTLY, it is sad to report that the proposed under-19 pro-am colts competition has suffered a hiccup at Oldham, but given the goodwill that exists on both sides it should soon be all sations go.

Most of the lads who will represent the town are members of Steve Deakin's talented under-19 St Anne's side who last Sunday met Widnes Tigers, unbeaten for 22 games, in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup.

No success for the schoolboy town teams in their first two fixtures. The under-13s lost 22-8 at Leigh with tries by Green and McAndrew, but were then trounced 48-0 at Wigan. Highlight of both games was the gutsy performance of St. Augustine's John Hough at scrum-half.

Built in the Ian Bates mould, his determination and commitment are first-class and as South Lancs. officials saw both games there are high hopes that he might gain county honours this year.

The under-16s also lost both games — 22-8 at Leigh and 12-0 at Wigan after a hard, fast and entertaining game. Hooker Daniel Wilkins of Radclyffe, who came on one of our Carnegie coaching weekends a couple of years ago, has developed superbly and gave magnificent displays in both games.

The number of schools' rugby fixtures is increasing slowly and by half-term,

Breeze Hill, Kaskenmoor, Counthill, St. Augustine's, Hathershaw, North Chaderton, Saddleworth and Radclyffe will all have played inter-school fixtures.

Over the last couple of weeks on Sunday mornings we have watched several fiercely competitive local derby games — Royton Tigers v St. Anne's under-13, Higginshaw v Waterhead under-17, Oldham Juniors v Saddleworth under-14 — and we have seen good quality rugby in all of them.

The Oldham Juniors v Saddleworth fixture was a real cracker with referee Alan Clarke having a magnificent game. There were so many good things to see.

Lee Bradbury's classic solo try, Chris Eckersley's fine running and Mick Martindale's copybook tackling, but man of the match for me was undoubtedly Martin Birch. He made two try-saving tackles in the first ten minutes and then scored a brilliant try from half-way to clinch a 22-16 victory for the Juniors.

These four players and several others on display are undoubtedly stars of the future. Most of these boys are working hard at all aspects of their game. Several go sprinting, others do weight lifting, while Lee Bradbury has speeded up his reactions by going to Ossie Rowe's karate lessons.

Keep up your commitment, boys, and you will go a long way in the game.

IAIN MacCORQUODALE

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

ON Saturday, November 5, the Rugby League Collectors Federation will be staging, in conjunction with the Oldham RLFC Supporters Club, a Rugby League Programme Fair and Exhibition of RL memorabilia here at Watersheddings.

This four-hour event will be held between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend. There will be stalls to buy various Rugby League items of your choice, a licensed bar, and a chance to see one of the largest privately-owned collections of old Rugby League items in the North of England.

There will be thousands of exhibits and the organisers say the collection 'has to be seen to be believed'. Visitors will also have the chance, on the day, to win two Rugby League cup final tickets for any final of your choice.

So why not start off your Bonfire Night celebration a little earlier and pay a visit to this cracker of a show here at Watersheddings, starting at 11 a.m. on November 5. If you are a collector of any kind of Rugby League material, this is the event for which you have been waiting.

★ ★ ★

WE are hoping to run a trip to Blackpool illuminations for the juniors. A letter has gone out to all junior members asking for names and numbers and if you have not already replied please let us know something on 633 4474 so that we can book the coach or coaches if we need more than one.

We are also running a weekend trip to Wembley for the Challenge Cup final. We plan to leave on the Friday morning and return on the Monday. If numbers can be made up to a minimum of 30 the cost will be about £125. Again, we need names and numbers. This is a mixed trip. Why not treat your wife or husband to a great weekend.

★ ★ ★

ALTHOUGH you may think it's a bit early, we are now taking names for our family night on Christmas Eve. All youngsters under 18 must be accompanied by parents — not mates! This is a true family night and the same rules apply to our New Year's Eve night.

We are not killjoys, but neither are we baby sitters, and with the present clampdown on under-age drinking we have to be vigilant.

★ ★ ★

SPECIAL thanks to Iain MacCorquodale for his £5 donation to the juniors half-time draw. We are sorry if anyone's name has been drawn when he or she has not been at the match but the rule is you must be at the match to collect the prize in person. That's an extra incentive for all juniors to attend.

Anyone wishing to donate should contact any committee member. All donations are acknowledged in the following programme.

★ ★ ★

WE would like to ask all our friends and members to help the local amateur league by purchasing Christmas Draw tickets. They are only 50p a book. Most members will have received a couple of books. Please return your money and counterfoils as quickly as possible. Let's make it a good draw for our amateur friends in Oldham where many of our first team and 'A' team lads started their days as Rugby League players.

★ ★ ★

THE message concerning early bookings for coach travel seems to be getting through at last, but one or two fans are still phoning on Sunday mornings and they run the risk of being disappointed. Don't forget. You must ring by Friday on 665-1832 or 627 0235.

★ ★ ★

FINALLY, if you have not renewed your membership or you want to join for the first time DO IT NOW. It's only £1. Juniors get 50p off first team admission and free admission to 'A' team games. Adults get an Oldham Rugby diary, including photographs, articles etc plus cheaper travel on our coaches to away games. That must be good value.

★ ★ ★

LANCASHIRE NIGHT

November 7 — that's the date of Terry Flanagan's traditional Lancashire dinner, complete with Oldham Tinkers, at Werneth Music Rooms. The price is £6 and for that you get the Tinkers plus a three-course Lancashire dinner featuring black pudding, tripe, cowheel, hot-pot, and Lancashire cheese. It's for the Terry Flanagan testimonial, so see Terry or any member of his committee for tickets.

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THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN

THE Saints come marching into Water-sheddings today with all guns blazing following the signing of £78,000 scrum-half Darren Bloor from Salford, the capture of Neath and former Cardiff RU winger Mike Carrington on a reported four-year contract worth £70,000, and the arrival from Australia of Kangaroo Test stars Paul Vautin and Michael O'Connor.

Saints have not had much luck in their team-strengthening plans over the past few months with disappointments over David Bishop, Jonathan Davies and Mal Meninga, who was due to return to Knowsley Road for a second spell until he broke his arm for the third time playing for Australia against a Rest of the World side in Sydney last July.

Welshman Bishop, now with Hull KR, looked certain to be Knowsley Road-bound at one time, and the Saints have never tried to hide their respect for Jonathan Davies, the Welsh fly-half who was offered a mouth-watering contract when Wales returned from a New Zealand tour in the summer.

Saints were willing to give the town hall clock for Davies, but after weeks of speculation he finally decided to say 'no', thus giving the demanding St. Helens public another disappointment as their club strive might and main to match, or even surpass, their old and close rivals Wigan, from the other side of the East Lancs Road.

It was when Meninga was injured that Saints looked to Vautin to fill the vacancy on their overseas quota and, who knows, Vautin might have been Oldham-bound had Saints not stepped in at the 11th hour.

The Test man from Queensland, now resident in Sydney and playing for Manly, has made many appearances for Australia and is noted for his hard and uncompromising defence.

O'Connor, also from Manly and a player who took part in Australia's World Cup final win over New Zealand in Auckland a fortnight ago, is generally regarded to be one of the finest outside backs in the world of Rugby League.

It is said that Saints have paid a fee in the region of £50,000 for less than six months work out of O'Connor, who can kick goals, create tries and score tries with pace, skill and craft.

He has represented Australia at both League and Union and he will be remembered as a star of the Kangaroos 1986 tour of Great Britain when he made a memorable impact on the game in this country.

Shane Cooper, the Kiwi stand-off, is another classy player, who makes Saints tick and although Welsh winger Carrington is something of an unknown quantity in League as yet, Saints are convinced that he can prove a winner in the professional code.

With Phil Veivers at full back and a back

division of Carrington, Loughlin, O'Connor and Quirk, Saints will be a potent force. At half-back, too, they have plenty of permutations available from Bloor, Cooper and Holding.

Burke, Groves, Evans and Forber will fight for front-row spots, and there is plenty of quality in a back-row that can be picked from Fieldhouse, Haggerty, Vautin, Dwyer and Harrison.

There were some red faces around Knowsley Road when Saints lost heavily at Leeds after being knocked out of the Grunhale Lancashire Cup by Widnes in the first round.

But the signing of Bloor, the capture of Carrington, and the arrival from Down-Under of Vautin and O'Connor has put the Saints back on course and put a smile on the face of coach Alex Murphy, perhaps the most famous Saint of all, despite last week's shock home defeat by Hull.



Michael O'Connor — St. Helens

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FIXTURES 1988/89

FIRST TEAM (Stones Bitter Championship)

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 W 30-16
9 Wakefield T (3.30) A D 12-12
16 Salford A L 38-20
23 St. Helens H

NOVEMBER

6 Warrington A
13 John Player — Warrington A
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
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 3p.m. unless otherwise stated

'A' TEAM (Slalom Lager Alliance League)

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 — Leigh A W 12-13
5 Wakefield T (7.30) H W 44-18
14 Lancashire Shield — Wigan H L 9-10
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

GREAT BRITAIN v REST OF THE WORLD

TO celebrate the opening of the Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame, Great Britain will entertain a Rest of the World select XIII in a Whitbread Trophy Challenge at Headingley, Leeds, on Saturday (kick-off 2.15 p.m.).

Great Britain, coached by Malcolm Reilly, will meet an invitation side featuring a host of international stars specially flown in from Australia, Papua New Guinea and France. The personality packed line-up will also include leading Test stars currently on short-term contracts in this country.

The celebration fixture is being afforded top billing with the cancellation of the Stones Bitter Championship programme for that weekend, and the gala afternoon will include a parade of the Hall of Fame entrants or their dependants.

Seat tickets can be ordered now, priced £8 from the Ticket Office, the Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT or from Leeds RLFC. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Australia's coach Don Furner is being flown in to take charge of the Rest of the World side — and invitations have gone out to many top stars including Wally Lewis, Allan Langer, John Ferguson and many others.

Furner, the Kangaroo supremo, has been coach of the national side since 1986 with an international track record of 11 victories from 13 Test encounters and he headed Australia's World Cup Final win against New Zealand in Auckland a fortnight ago. Sadly, Lewis broke his arm in that match so he cannot come.

The Rest of the World side will feature a host of international Test stars to be brought over from Australia, Papua New Guinea and France, with the remainder of the top-line players being recruited from the short-term contract players currently on duty in Britain, among them Michael O'Connor and Paul Vautin (St. Helens), Shane Cooper (St. Helens), Steve Roach, Les Davidson and Phil Blake (Warrington), Gavin Miller (Hull KR), Gary Belcher (Castleford), Sam Backo, Cliff Lyons, Andrew Ettingshausen (Leeds) and the clutch of Kiwis at Wigan.

Furner gained Test caps for Australia, including the 1956 Kangaroo Tour, in a playing career with Toowoomba, Brisbane and Queensland. A 13-year coaching stint with Queanbeyan Blues was followed with service for Sydney Suburbs, Monaro and Canberra, plus representative duties with New South Wales Country in 1969 and 1975-77.

One of the most respected coaches in international Rugby League, Furner will work with the Rest of the World squad during this week, leading up to the Whitbread Trophy Challenge match from their base at the Leeds Hilton Hotel.

1988 BRITISH COAL NINES

A REST of the World side, featuring a galaxy of overseas Test stars, is the showcase entry in the 1988 British Coal Nines to be staged at Central Park, Wigan on Wednesday, 2 November.

The World side, coached by Australian supremo Don Furner, will combine the band of international players flown round-the-world for the Whitbread Trophy Hall of Fame Challenge match at Leeds four days previously, and a selection of the overseas imports undertaking British club duty.

The top-six British clubs will also be joined by a new President's IX under the command of Rugby League President and Great Britain manager Les Bettinson. His selection will be from clubs not taking part in the 9-a-side tournament and candidates include former Welsh Rugby Union stars David Bishop, Adrian Hadley, Gary Pearce and Mike Carrington, plus ex-England RU star Peter Williams.

The half-dozen club sides taking part are the top-ranked from last season's Stones Bitter Championship... Widnes, St. Helens, Wigan, Bradford Northern, Leeds and Warrington.

The first-ever British Coal Nines was launched at Wigan last October with the home side beating Castleford 10-0 in the final in front of a crowd of 6,529.

The British Coal tournament carries prize money of £25,000, with £6,000 for the winners, £4,000 for the runners-up, £3,000 to the second-round losers and £2,000 each for the first-round losers.

The 9-a-side competition kicks-off at 7.00 p.m. with the final commencing at 9.20 p.m.

Last year's innovation of a ladies 9-a-side encounter between the second semi-final and the final will be repeated with Crosfields Ladies meeting Guiseley Angels.

Highlights of the British Coal Nines will be televised on BBC TV's Sportsnight later the same evening.

Rugby League Chairman Bob Ashby said: "The British Coal Nines made an impressive debut last season, the showcase event being further strengthened this year by the inclusion of the top-class Rest of the World sided and the introduction of the President's IX which will put on display a host of the new personalities gracing the 13-a-side code this season."

British Coal chairman Sir Robert Haslam said: "The Nines tournament was an instant success with players and supporters last year, and I'm sure we can look forward to another feast of enterprising rugby at Central Park, Wigan, on 2 November."

"The tournament has all the ingredients... there's the local-derby rivalry generated by the presence of four top clubs from Lancashire; the added spice provided by traditional arch-rivals from Yorkshire and the mystery and surprise element of two specially selected sides."

"British Coal are proud to be sponsoring the event, and there will be a large coal-industry contingent from both Lancashire and Yorkshire coalfields for what I hope will be a well-supported tournament."

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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THE Des Foy decision. . . the forthcoming share issue. . . and the Mick Bloor speculation. These have been the major talking points among the club's supporters since our last home game against Hull KR on October 2.

Des has decided to accept the three-year contract offer from Australian club Newcastle Knights which means that he will be emigrating to Sydney with his wife Patricia and two small boys towards the end of January.

The Oldham club did everything possible to keep him in the Watersheddings frame, not only by offering him a three-year deal here but giving him permission to play Down Under during our off-season, and letting him know that, by the end of his three-year term, he would be lined up for a testimonial.

There is no doubt that Des would have had more earning power doing it our way than he will have by going to Newcastle, but in his own mind 'it's not all about money' and he and his wife have decided they want to build a new life in the country of sun, sand and surf, while Des is eagerly looking forward to Playing in the Sydney League.

There is nothing else we can do. The International Board agreement is not exactly the most popular decision ever made so far as we are concerned, as you are no doubt aware of through comments made in the Press, but the Rugby League have endorsed it so we have to reluctantly accept that we will get for Des the statutory £18,000.

If and when he returns to play in this country there is legislation to compensate us if he goes to another English club, but in the meantime all we can do is wish Des all the best in his new life Down Under and trust that everything will go according to plan for the whole family.

On the share issue, it is now established that the Oldham club will float 750,000 ordinary shares at £1 each with a minimum holding of 25 shares and a maximum of approximately five-per-cent of the total issue.

The articles of association will prevent a 'one-man-band' and encourage the spread of shares over a wide field.

The launch, to be handled by Stockport-based public relations firm, John Fowler and Partners, is scheduled to take place soon and, initially, more than 25,000 copies of a 30-page glossy prospectus will be circulated.

Anyone purchasing at least £600-worth of shares in the first £500,000 will be entitled to tax relief under the Business Expansion Scheme. Relief will be based on the individual's rate of tax, 25% of 40%.

Anyone investing £5,000 and paying 40% tax will get obtainable relief of £2,000. The net cost of the investment would be £3,000 and the real cost per share would be only 60p.

Using the same figures for someone paying 25% tax, the real cost per share would be 75p.

Says director Greg Pache: "It is crucial to the success of the share issue for the majority of supporters and Oldham people to subscribe. We wish to encourage small investors to take up shares in the capital of the company.

"The directors also hope that Rugby League people in general will wish to take up shares and that RL followers throughout the United Kingdom will invest.

"We are also keen for local companies and businesses to become followers of the club and subscribe to the share issue, thus promoting their own company alongside that of the Rugby club."

Brokers dealing with the sale will be Bell, Houldsworth, Fairmount of Manchester and the auditors will be Ogden and Partington of Oldham. The nationally-known Peat, Marwick and McLintock firm of accountants will be heavily involved, as will Manchester-based solicitors Alsop, Wilkinson.

NatWest, Oldham, will handle the banking arrangements.

Mike Bloor, the Salford vice-chairman and a man who is well-known locally as head of Saffron Construction Co. Ltd., just across the road from here on Broadbent Road, has accepted an invitation to join the Oldham board and he is expected to move in with us as soon as he has 'tied up loose ends' down at the Willows. Mike is a well-known figure in the town and he has immense connections locally in the amateur game, through his love of Rugby League, and with Oldham Corporation through his business.

He was invited to join us after we met him for long talks in which he outlined many considerable plans concerned with the improvement of our Watersheddings ground.

There is a vast amount of work to be done on the upgrading of our famous old stadium and Mike has the connections to help us considerably and the knowledge, of course, that whatever we do to improve the surroundings or get the social club full every night there is no real substitute for putting a top-class side on the field.

Mike, alongside Salford chairman John Wilkinson, has done much to put Salford on the right road in the last couple of years and we are confident that his decision to throw his weight behind what we are doing here at Watersheddings will be a major tonic for the club and a big step in the right direction.



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER

with RAY HILL

WE promised you in a recent programme that exciting times were coming for the Commercial Department and that's just how things have turned out following the announcement of our big Lifeline programme for 1989 with the massive £20,000 jackpot prizes to be given away on Boxing Day next year.

At the last home game, of course, we had a special draw for a beautiful Vauxhall Nova car, supplied by our good friends from Skyways on Broadway, and the lucky winner was Carl Anthony Shepherd of Queens Terrace, Dukinfield, who works in Mossley. He was not present at the Hull KR game and when we phoned him on the Monday to tell him what he had won he was absolutely stuck for words! In his own words, he possessed only 'an old banger' but by the end of the week he was the proud owner of the brand-new car (pictured below) after it was presented to him on the Skyways forecourt at an official hand-over ceremony.

Being in Lifeline certainly paid dividends for Mr. Shepherd . . . and it also pays dividends for the lucky folk who win the £1,000 WEEKLY prize. In fact, membership alone can be a worthwhile venture because we have a list of local trades people and businesses who will offer discount deals to Lifeline members. Just call in and see us and pick up a leaflet.

The next bumper draw will come around Christmas time when we will offer a holiday for two in the West Indies, and then we will be straight into the fabulous, 52-week 1989 programme, running from Boxing Day to Boxing Day. During that time we will give away £1,000 every week, another new car sometime during the summer, and then the grand culmination of 52 weeks of work when, on Boxing Day, 1989 we will have three draws for a star prize of £15,000, followed by draws for £3,000 and £2,000, making the grand total of £20,000.

That really is some incentive and all you have to do to qualify for the draw to beat all draws is to make sure that, on the day of the big event, you are paid up for the previous 52 weeks, or its equivalent in terms of cash amounts. In simple terms that means you must have paid in a total of £104 at some point or another between Boxing Day this year and Boxing Day next.

For those who pay weekly, you must make sure that you

are up to date throughout the year. If you inadvertently drop behind, you must make sure you catch up because only those punters who are fully paid up will be eligible for the big draw.

If you are not already in the scheme and you fancy paying £2 a week make sure you join NOW and keep your payment going until Boxing Day next year and you will be in the draw.

Some punters, of course, will join during 1989 and will, of course, be eligible for the £1,000 draw each week while their membership lasts. But to go into the hat for THE BIG ONE they must make up the weeks lost so that, come Boxing Day next year, they will have contributed the statutory £104 during the year under review.

Taking that to its extreme there is nothing to stop anyone paying in £104 on the day before the big draw to get their numbers in the hat. But it makes financial sense to start paying as soon as possible because, that way, you will have a chance of £1,000 every week during the interim period as well as a chance at the mid-year car draw.

Whatever method you decide to choose, I am sure you will agree that **LIFELINE '89** will be an exciting venture and one which all Oldham Rugby fans should want to feel part of. £2 a week is not a lot of money these days, considering that you have the chance each week to win £1,000, plus occasional star prizes like a car and a dream holiday in an exotic part of the world, plus discount trading, plus our bumper draws for £15,000, £3,000 and £2,000 next year, plus our annual big event in the social club if you are lucky enough to draw a horse on Grand National Day and receive an invitation to a champagne buffet lunch and big-race viewing on big-screen video.

When considering details of the Boxing Day bonanza, the board also considered the possibility of putting up a house or an apartment as the star prize, but in the final analysis they decided that the one thing **EVERYBODY** would be in favour of was **MONEY** . . . loadsamoney to spend as the individual would wish.

It also means, of course, that those Lifeline members who have a weekly share with a partner or, in some cases, three other partners, can easily make the necessary splits

in the monetary prize which would not be quite as easy if something else was offered as the prize.

One last word . . . if you are not in Lifeline yet, give it a try, ring 620-4870.



Ray Hill

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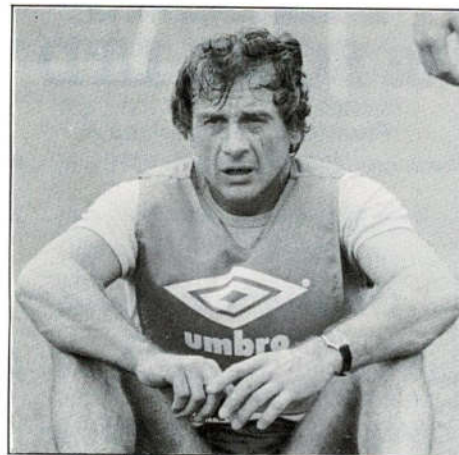
COACHING MANUAL — BOOST TO THE GAME

THE recent launch of 'The Rugby League Coaching Manual' by the BARLA Director of Coaching, Phil Larder, has been warmly welcomed throughout the game. Phil, of course, is well-known locally as a former Oldham player and a former Saddleworth School teacher.

Phil said, "When I was appointed as National Coaching Director in 1982 one of the jobs I was asked to do was to publish a coaching manual. Just about the same time Frank Stanton's Kangaroo touring team hit our shores and demolished the game. I then realised that there were very few people in the game and country who knew how to coach the way the game was developing. So I then started out on a massive education course taking in information from the Football Association, athletics, Australian Rugby League and American grid iron football. I then restructured the coaching course and this book is intended to continue that course. It is a working book for coaches at all levels in the game."

David Knight, chairman of BARLA's Coaching and Development Committee, said; "The Manual is an excellent publication which has been long overdue for the game, and Phil and his coaches can justifiably feel proud of the finished product. We would also like to thank the Rugby League Foundation, whose generous funding has made the publication possible. Although pitched at an advanced level, the manual offers much for the keen amateur coach and player to absorb and under seven broad chapter headings every aspect of the game is dealt with lucidly. Every amateur club should ensure that they have access to a copy."

The manual is now available to all from The Rugby League National Coaching Scheme, Britannic Building, 3 Upperhead Row, Huddersfield HD1 2JL, at a cost of £12 plus £1.50 p & p.



Phil Larder— National Coaching Director

NATIONAL LEAGUE BROCHURE

The third successive National Amateur Rugby League brochure is an excellent publication and is a credit to its author, Glyn Jones, a member of the National League Committee and the BARLA executive.

This 32-page brochure is packed with action shots and gives full details of all games played in the National League last season together with leading scorers, plus a summary of National League records including the biggest winning margin, the highest scoring draw, the longest winning and losing sequence etc. plus a host of other statistics.

It is a must for all Rugby League enthusiasts and is available from any National League club or from BARLA headquarters at a price of £1.50 plus 50p p & p.

BARLA HANDBOOK 1988/89

THIS season's BARLA Handbook is now available in a bigger and better form than ever, and includes the Laws of the Game with the latest rule changes made at the International Board meeting this summer in Australia.

The handbook is again packed with photographs and up-to-date information of all leagues and clubs, and gives full details of last season's competitions and final league tables, together with records of all BARLA major cup winners and international results since the formation, plus major articles on the historic Junior Kiwis tour to Great Britain and the visit of the Papua New Guinea Kumuls.

The handbook also includes many exciting articles written by leading Rugby League journalists with features on Cambridge University's pioneer tour to Australia, the staging of the first ever Student International between Scotland and Wales, the publication of the excellent Rugby League Coaching Manual written by the Director of Coaching, Phil Larder, the growing appeal and status of the highly-successful National League, and the appointment of National Development Officer, Tom O'Donovan and supporting regional officers, plus full details of the constitutional and bye laws changes made at this year's AGM.

The handbook, which is larger than ever with over 500 pages, could aptly be described as Amateur Rugby League's "Wisden" and is a must for all league and club officials, coaches and referees. Because of the inclusion of the Laws of the Game which gives two publications in one, the cost of the handbook is £5 plus £1 postage and packing, which represents excellent value for money, and is available from BARLA, Britannic Building, 3 Upperhead Row, Huddersfield HD1 2JL. Tel: 0484 544131.

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Year	Prize Money £	Dev. Fund £	Winner £	Winning Team	Losing Finalist	Score	Venue	Gate
1971/72	9,500		5,000	Halifax	Wakefield	22-11	Bradford	7,975
1972/73	16,100		5,000	Leeds	Salford	12-7	Huddersfield	10,102
1973/74	16,100		5,000	Warrington	Rochdale	27-16	Wigan	9,347
1974/75	16,100		5,000	Bradford N.	Widnes	3-2	Warrington	5,935
1975/76	22,800		6,000	Widnes	Hull	19-13	Leeds	9,035
1976/77	25,600		6,000	Castleford	Blackpool	25-15	Salford	4,512
1977/78	30,000		8,000	Warrington	Widnes	9-4	St. Helens	10,258
1978/79	33,000		8,000	Widnes	Warrington	16-4	St. Helens	10,743
1979/80	35,600		8,500	Bradford N.	Widnes	6-0	Leeds	9,909
1980/81	36,500	3,500	8,500	Warrington	Barrow	12-5	Wigan	12,820
1981/82	43,000	7,000	9,000	Hull	Hull KR	12-4	Leeds	25,245
1982/83	44,500	10,500	10,000	Wigan	Leeds	15-4	Elland Road, Leeds	19,553
1983/84	45,900	14,100	10,000	Leeds	Widnes	18-10	Wigan	9,510
1984/85	55,000	20,000	10,000	Hull KR	Hull	12-0	Boothferry Park, Hull	25,350
1985/86	57,000	23,000	11,000	Wigan	Hull KR	11-8	Elland Road, Leeds	17,500
1986/87	58,800	26,200	12,000	Wigan	Warrington	18-4	Burnden Park, Bolton	21,144
1987/88	85,000	65,000	16,000	St. Helens	Leeds	15-14	Wigan	16,669
1988/89	96,000	74,000	18,000					

- Oldham go to Warrington in the first round of this season's competition on November 13.
- The John Player sponsorship of the Rugby League started in the 1967-68 season with the Player of the Match and Player of the Season awards which ran until the 1971-72 season.
- In 1970-71 a goal kicking competition was introduced for one season only.
- From 1971-72 to 1979-80 the winner and runner-up of the BARLA National Cup entered the competition. In 1980-81 the winner only entered and then there was a lapse of two seasons before the winner and runner-up were again invited to enter from 1983-84.
- From 1979 to 1982 the John Player BARLA Sevens competition was played as a "curtain raiser" to the main Trophy matches. Prize money was £3,500, £4,500 and £5,000, and the winners were Waterhead, West Hull and Pilkington Recs.

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (9 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
K. Meadows	9			5	20	51
R. Irving	3			1	4	18
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	3	6			12	21
P. Lord	2			1	4	13
M. Ford	9			2	8	28
I. Bates	2					4
I. Sherratt	1					20
M. Hall	1					9
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	9			4	16	185
P. Round	9			3	12	41
T. Flanagan	9					282
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	8			2	8	20
M. Burke	6	17		1	38	49
A. Ruane	8	9	1		19	8
N. Clawson	8					60
P. Taylor	6			1	4	29
K. Atkinson	1	2			4	30
J. Fairbank	7			1	4	7
C. O'Sullivan	6			1	4	6
A. Gilbert	5			4	16	5
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	4			1	4	4
S. Robinson	4			2	8	12
R. Marsden	1					6
M. Bardsley	1			1	4	11

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	6	3	0	0	90	31	2	1	0	52	34	11
Salford	7	4	0	0	102	64	1	0	2	66	98	10
St. Helens	7	2	1	1	76	64	2	0	1	55	68	9
Widnes	6	3	0	0	101	12	1	0	2	62	55	8
Wigan	7	3	0	1	118	66	1	0	2	54	64	8
Leeds	6	2	0	1	68	44	2	0	1	72	54	8
Wakefield	7	2	1	1	69	78	1	0	2	42	74	7
Bradford N	7	2	0	1	91	58	1	0	3	100	93	6
Warrington	6	2	0	1	64	61	1	0	2	44	43	6
Featherstone	7	2	0	2	77	111	1	0	2	54	103	6
Halifax	7	2	0	1	56	50	0	0	4	25	68	4
Hull KR	7	2	0	2	73	86	0	0	3	46	86	4
Hull	7	1	0	2	32	46	1	0	3	60	99	4
OLDHAM	7	1	0	1	52	44	0	1	4	83	130	3

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 30, HULL KR 16

A FOUR-TRY purple patch in the second half set things up for Oldham's first league win of the season against a depleted Hull KR. Oldham led 8-6 at half-time, Ashley Gilbert having scored a try with a great dummy and Mick Burke having landed two goals.

Rovers, who were brilliantly served by David Bishop, their former Welsh RU scrum-half, went 12-8 ahead early in the second half, but Oldham finally found top gear to run in tries by Gilbert, Colin Hawkyard, Leo Casey and Burke between the 48th and 65th minutes. Burke added two more goals and Andy Ruane one and although Bishop fashioned a late try for Mike Smith, Oldham came out top and deservedly so.

WAKEFIELD 12, OLDHAM 12

THIS was a tale of two distinct halves. It was all Trinity in the first half. All Oldham had to show was an early penalty goal by Mick Burke, but Trinity led 12-2 at half-time with tries by Nigel Bell and Richard Slater, both goaled by Steve Ella.

Quarter of an hour from the end it was still 12-2 but then John Fairbank crowned a great game for Oldham with a solo try. Burke goaled and with just three minutes left, Paul Round made a strong break up the right, the ball went back inside, and Mike Ford despatched a wide pass to the right where Steve Robinson went over in the corner to grab a point in a 12-12 draw.

Taken all round, it was not a good display by either side, but Fairbank's form was encouraging as was the display of Paul Round at full back.

SALFORD 38, OLDHAM 20

OLDHAM were in trouble even before the start of this rearranged fixture at the Willows when Paul Taylor, Ashley Gilbert and Leo Casey joined Des Foy and Charlie McAlister on the injured list. To make matters worse, Chris O'Sullivan pulled up with a muscle injury in training last Saturday morning. He started the match but lasted only half an hour. Bob Marsden damaged his ankle in the first tackle of the game and he, too, was a passenger until he was pulled off at half-time.

Salford hit us hard, just like they did in the Lancashire Cup tie here, right from the start and they were 12-0 up inside two minutes. From then on it was an uphill toil. Hawkyard, Robinson, Bardsley and Round scored our tries and Andy Ruane kicked two goals in a

match in which Salford full back Steve Gibson and our own John Fairbank were both dismissed in separate incidents, Gibson for striking Ruane and Fairbank for dissent.

LEIGH 'A' 12, OLDHAM 'A' 13

CHRIS WILLIS, on loan from Mansfield, played his first game for the 'A' team in a 13-12 win in the first round of the Lancashire Shield. Down 10-3 at half-time, Oldham came into the game in the second half after Willis and Keith Atkinson sent Paul Sherman over for our only try. A drop goal by Willis and four Atkinson goals were decisive in a tight cup triumph.

OLDHAM 'A' 44, WAKEFIELD 'A' 18

THIS was an easy romp for an Oldham 'A' team that was in superb form in the first half. Ian Bates and Martin Hall backed-up splendidly and the strong breaks of Bob Marsden and Mick Bardsley punched many a hole in a weak Trinity defence. Marsden was almost unstoppable at times, while the support play of Hall, who had an outstanding game, Bates and Chris Willis did much to ensure that Oldham raced away to an impressive victory, in this Slalom Lager Alliance second division match.

OLDHAM 'A' 9, WIGAN 'A' 10

DESPITE a brilliant display by the Sherratt, Hall, Bardsley front-row, Oldham were knocked out of the Lancashire Shield at the quarter-final stage by a powerful Wigan side which is placed joint top of the Slalom Lager first division.

Oldham led 9-2 into the second half, following a great try by Richard Irving, two goals by Keith Atkinson and a Martin Hall drop goal. but it all seemed to go wrong when Ian Bates was pulled off for first-team duty and Wigan grabbed the initiative with two tries in three minutes.

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCES

Division II	P	W	D	L	Pts for	Pts agst	Pts
Featherstone R.	6	6	—	—	159	64	12
Bradford N.	6	5	—	1	161	93	10
OLDHAM	6	4	—	2	178	77	8
Wakefield T.	6	4	—	2	146	106	8
Barrow	4	3	—	1	116	29	6
York	7	3	—	4	143	129	6
Workington T.	6	3	—	3	71	80	6
Bramley	6	3	—	3	98	136	6
Dewsbury	5	3	—	2	68	132	6
Leigh	6	2	—	4	90	123	4
Doncaster	5	2	—	3	83	142	4
Trafford B.	6	1	—	5	89	141	2
Huddersfield	5	1	—	4	32	108	2
Runcorn H.	6	—	—	6	100	174	0

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