

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

DUNCAN PLATT — 1
KEVIN MEADOWS — 2
JOHN HENDERSON — 3
GARY HYDE — 4
CHARLIE McALISTER — 5
CHRIS O'SULLIVAN — 6
MIKE FORD — 7
NEIL CLAWSON — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
LEO CASEY — 10
PAUL ROUND — 11
MICK BARDSLEY — 12
PAUL TAYLOR — 13
STEVE ROBINSON — 14
COLIN HAWKYARD — 15

SALFORD

STEVE GIBSON
KEN JONES
IAN BRAGGER
PETER WILLIAMS
KEITH BENTLEY
STEVE KERRY
DAVID CAIRNS
STEVE HERBERT
IAN GORMLEY
PETER BROWN
MICK WORRALL
IAN BLEASE
MARK HORO
TEX EVANS
DAVID MAJOR

Referee: Mr. J. Holdsworth (Kippax) 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
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SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
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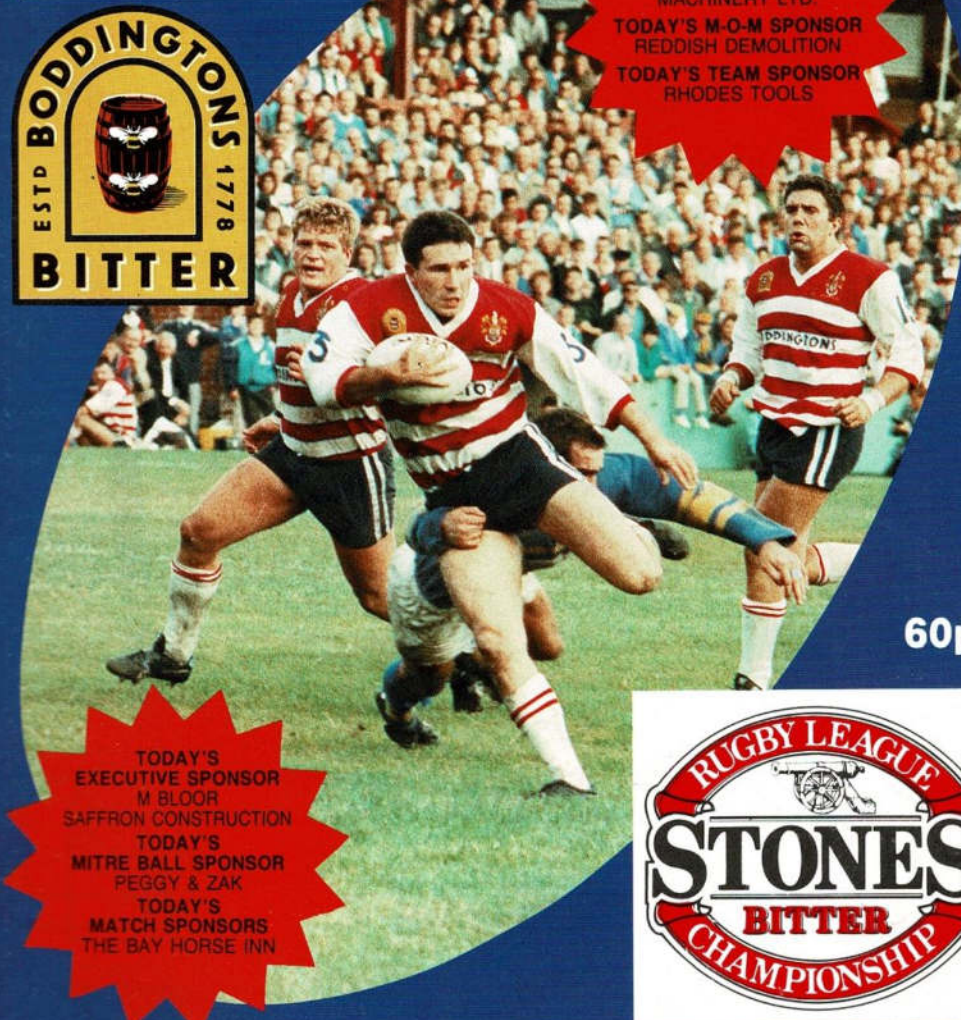
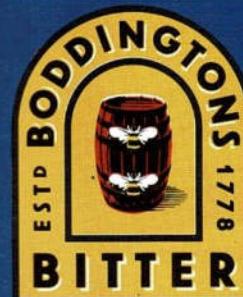
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CLUB RECORDS

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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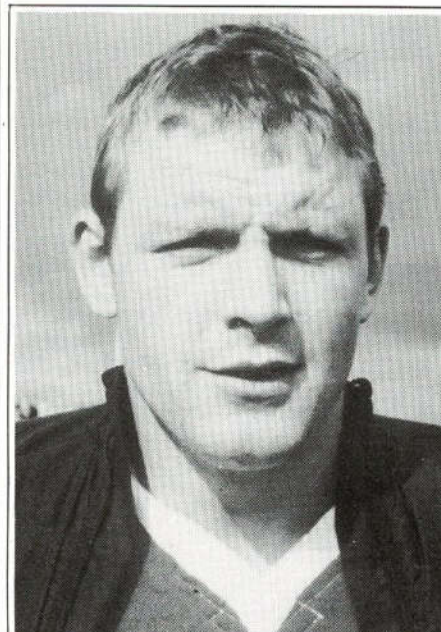
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PLAYERS PROFILE

JOHN FAIRBANK



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	John William Fairbank
Nick Name:	Bull
Birthdate:	21.1.67
Birthplace:	Halifax
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Farmer
Car:	None yet
Fav. TV Show:	Taggart
Fav. Film:	Beverly Hills Cop
Fav. Music:	Any
Fav. Food/Drink:	Steak/Tetley Bitter
Fav. Reading:	Sports Magazines
Hobbies:	Fishing
Fav. other sport:	Soccer
Likes about game:	Physical aspect
Dislikes about game:	Referees
Superstitions:	None
Fav. position:	Open-Side Prop
Fav. ground:	Headingley
Best moment:	John Player Final 87-88
Worst moment:	Losing Same
Hardest player to tackle:	Andy Gregory (Wigan)
Hardest tackler:	My brother Dick (broke my leg)
Fav. all-time player:	Phil Ford

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on:	Sept. '88 (part exchange for Hugh Waddell)
Debut:	v Workington (Lancs. Cup) 18.9.88
Appearances:	10
Tries:	2
Goals:	0
Drop goals:	0
Total points:	8

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



ONE of the things that struck me forcibly when I took over at Watersheddings was the absence of young players. By that, I don't mean 20 and 21-year-olds, but talented lads of 17, 18 or 19, who are doing well in the Slalom Lager Alliance side and with a real chance of graduating successfully to senior rugby.

Trevor Croston, Tom Foley, Martin Hall and Tony Miller are among the younger players on the club's books, but they are all around the 20-mark and there is a marked absence of teenagers.

What a far cry from the days of 1979 and 1980 when the Oldham club signed up some of the best kids in Lancashire and Yorkshire (remember Goodway?) and had their very successful colts team! What a far cry, too, from what I have been used to over the last seven or eight years at Warrington!

The colts set-up these days, of course, has been replaced by the British Coal-backed under-19 pro-am league and, here again, it is noticeable that the Oldham area's team is currently a lot more 'am' than 'pro' — a fact touched upon in the last programme.

I would like to see a big change in this respect because I firmly believe that a successful youth policy is vital for any club that intends to get to the top, and stay there.

These things take time, of course, and one cannot wave a magic wand. But I have signed a long-term contract at Oldham and you can rest assured that it is my intention during that time to re-create a policy based heavily on signing the top-quality kids that are bursting to prove themselves at top level.

Believe me, they are certainly around. I have a lot of time for modern-day Rugby League lads. They are dedicated — and they are keen. You can see them pounding the streets of St. Helens, where I live, every night of the week and I daresay that applies in Oldham, too, and several other Lancashire towns.

I had a cracking set-up at Wilderspool and a load of lads worked their way through the

system until they were regular members of the first team. I think of Ronnie Duane, Billy McGinty, Gary Sanderson, Mark Roberts, Paul Cullen, Tony Thorniley, Martin Crompton, Paul Bishop, Tony Humphries, John Fieldhouse (later to join Widnes and then St. Helens), and Mike Gregory.

There were others, too, and last season there was a Warrington reserve side that included more than half a side of Great Britain under-21 or former BARLA under-19 international players.

I love an 'A' team that is packed full of young lads, who are falling over themselves to get into the first team, and one of my aims at Oldham is to provide an Alliance side — in the first division — with an average age of 19 or 20.

It is no good, however, signing second-rate youngsters and hoping that two or three, out of a load, will come good. You have to buy the best — like Oldham did when they snapped up Terry Flanagan, Ray Ashton, Mick Worrall, Andy Goodway and the rest all those years ago.

Oldham had a terrific set-up here in those days but somewhere along the way it has all gone wrong. I feel it is my job to put things right in that respect. There is no doubt that one of the major reasons why Oldham have found it difficult to compete this season at top-level is that the youth policy was allowed to deteriorate.

Talking of youth brings me round to the success currently being enjoyed by our 'A' team in the second division of the Slalom Lager Alliance.

Under Ian Taylor, they are doing superbly, but it is crucial they win promotion this time, so that next season they will be one step higher up the ladder towards what must be the ultimate goal of all young players in this club — achieving a level of ability that can cope with First Division rugby week in and week out.

TONY BARROW

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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

A message to all from director Greg Pache



It is not very often that I speak publicly, or in the programme, but I wish to bring to the attention of supporters the importance of our forthcoming share issue.

As you are probably aware, we have been a members' club since 1876 and we have never been able to compete at top level consistently. Even the little success we have had was more than 30 years ago or as far back as the 1920s.

Being a members club has always hindered progress and limited financial support. For the first time, we can now convert to a limited company but when this was set in motion by the previous committee only £15,000 was raised by members. As it was for a closed company we could never have gained enough funds to keep Oldham Rugby afloat.

The alternative, therefore, was to look at other ideas to create a strong financial basis for success, hence the creation of the **PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**.

This gives an opportunity for everyone, not just members, to become a share holder of the club. i.e. companies, individuals, institutions, amateur club etc, both in the Oldham area and throughout Great Britain.

Putting figures into perspective, the market we are now entitled to pursue is enormous. As an example, our average home support totals about 4,000 and if each one of those 4,000 contributes, say, £100, we would be nearly half way to our target. That in itself would guarantee the survival of the club. Make no bones about it. If you want to continue to see rugby played in Oldham **BUY SHARES**.

It is no use saying: 'It'll be reet. Somebody else can put it in. I'm giving nowt. They'll only waste it. The club'll still be ere'.

WRONG. Think again. Be patient. Success takes time. You may say £100 is a lot of money. I'm saying, 'Yes, it is.' However, spread shares around the family and relatives. Ask your bosses to help. Think of every conceivable way in which you could introduce a shareholder. Mention it at your pub or club. I'm sure that, with effort, each supporter could raise £100 at least.

Don't forget also the Business Expansion Scheme. Contributions over £500 entitle the individual to tax relief, effectively reducing net cost for shares by 25 or 40 per cent.

We know supporters are not satisfied with results. Neither are we. We not only need money to reduce our deficit, but to be in a position to compete for the better class of players.

We have not become directors for the benefit of ourselves. On the contrary, we are here for the benefit of Oldham RLFC, a club which everyone should be proud of and which should be among the elite of the game.

Help us to save Oldham. Help us to make the club great. **BUY SHARES.**

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

AS the official body representing Oldham supporters, we must put our weight behind appeals from the club and the police for fans to stay put once they have decided which section of the ground they wish to populate.

The police are anxious to stop the habit of fans switching ends at half-time, in the interests of safety, and the parent club not only backs that but also appeals to fans to keep off the pitch at all times.

The condition of the Watersheddings pitch is now a source of pride to everybody — congratulations to Jack Walker — and as supporters we can play our part by encouraging everyone to keep off the grass!

There is still a tendency at the end of matches for supporters, particularly the young ones, to scramble over the wall to pat their heroes on the back, but Jack points out that a lot of damage can be caused in this way as there are a number of access points to the draining system between the touch line and the boundary wall which people can so easily, and unknowingly, knock about merely by running over them.

May we appeal to everyone, therefore, and particularly young fans and their parents to keep off the pitch at all times and to refrain from swapping ends at half-time.

A big Christmas welcome goes out, today, to all our friends from Salford and to all our Oldham spectators in the hope

that you all had a happy Christmas and can now look forward to a prosperous New Year.

Our thanks to Mr. Brian Dunkerley for his kind donation to the Junior Reds' half-time draw and may we re-iterate that anyone wishing to contribute the £5 prize should contact any member of our committee. Acknowledgement will be made in the next programme.

It is with regret that we have had to cancel our New Year's Eve family night through insufficient support.

We hope those who attended our Christmas Eve function had an enjoyable and pleasant evening. To organise these events gets harder every year. We try to give people plenty of notice, but when they come for tickets at the last minute, we don't have enough time to organise things.

We now have on sale in the souvenir shop Roughyed autograph books at £1.50 and knitted scarves, in club colours, at £4.25. These are hand made and can be made to order when supplies are low. Don't hesitate to ask Mavis in the shop about them.

Thanks to everyone who bought and sold Christmas Draw tickets. Your support was much appreciated by everyone and the effort was terrific success.

Finally, a Happy New Year to one and all . . . and don't forget to book early for away-day coach travel on 665 1832 or 627 0235.

— 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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BRING ON THE REDS

WE welcome Salford to Watersheddings today for our regular Boxing Day clash and if previous holiday games are anything to go by it should be a real Christmas cracker!

Injuries have hampered the Reds of late with former Welsh RU international Adrian Hadley wondering whether he was going to get his damaged wrist out of plaster in time for the festive holiday and Aussie stand-off star Paul Shaw delighted to know that he will not need to be invalided home after concussion.

At one time there were fears that the Manly man might have to go home but, thankfully, they were dispelled by a medical check. The 23-year-old Shaw was carried off with concussion in recent matches against St. Helens and Featherstone, but he has now been cleared to play early in the New Year.

It is unlikely he will be ready to play today, however, and that could produce a Watersheddings baptism for Salford's latest in a long line of Union recruits — 22-year-old Steve Kerry from the Preston Grasshoppers club.

Kerry, born in St. Helens but now living in Preston, had Lancashire county honours at colts, 'B', under-21 and full open-age levels in the Union code and his clash with Oldham's Chris O'Sullivan today should be quite an interesting affair.

The Salford side is full of interesting and talented players, from full back Steve Gibson to loose-forward Mark Horo, both overseas players with plenty of skill and charisma. Gibson, a long-striding attacking fullback from Brisbane, needs to be kept in check.

Even if Hadley, the former Cardiff ace is not yet fit, the Reds lack nothing on the wing in Ken Jones, the former Swinton player, and the dangerous Keith Bentley, once of Widnes and Barrow fame.

There is plenty of interest in the centre, too. Peter Williams, the former Orrell, Lancashire and England RU star, has made a massive impact in the professional code and he is already being talked about as a future international in League.

Alongside him could well be a player whom Oldham once showed interest in — the former Keighley player Ian Bragger.

Former Barrow man David Cairns is an automatic choice at scrum-half following the sale of Darren Bloor to St. Helens and, to provide cover for Cairns, Salford recently went to Rochdale Hornets to snap up Mark Dobson.

So to the pack and the likelihood of two former Oldham players turning out on familiar territory today — Steve Herbert and Mick Worrall.

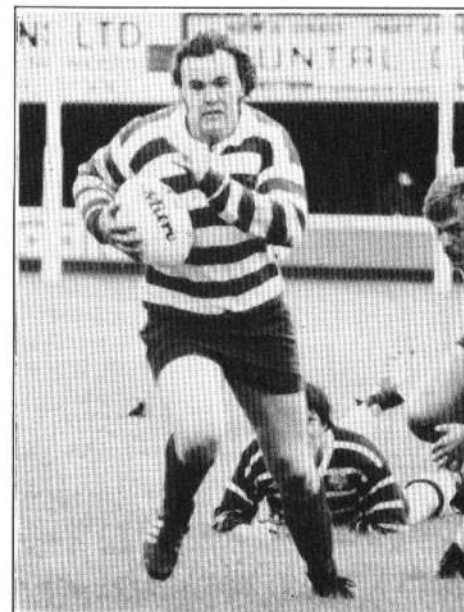
Steve left here several seasons ago, but Mick only moved to the Willows last year in a £55,000 deal and you can rest assured that both players will be out to have big games today on a Watersheddings ground where they enjoyed so many happy times.

Also figuring prominently in the Salford pack are two current Kiwi internationals in prop Peter Brown and loose man Mark Horo, two players who represented New Zealand earlier this year in the World Cup final against Australia in Auckland.

David Major, Mark Moran, Ian Gormley and Ian Blease are other forwards in contention for places.



MICK WORRALL . . . Oldham memories



STEVE HERBERT . . . those were the days

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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 L 22-26

NOVEMBER

6 Warrington A L 32-30
13 John Player — Warrington A L 21-14
20 Halifax H L 12-14

DECEMBER

4 Halifax A W 0-12
11 Warrington H W 16-2
18 Hull A L 11-8
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
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 new date for the away game at Bradford has still to be fixed.

'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 W 8-34
26 Runcorn (7.30) H W 30-0

NOVEMBER

5 York (2.30) A W 23-24
9 Bramley (7.30) H W 48-12
25 Leigh (7.30) A W 10-32
30 Bradford (7.30) H W 20-6

DECEMBER

10 Barrow (2.30) A W 14-30
17 Workington (2.30) H W 36-10
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

★ A new date for the away game at Runcorn has still to be fixed.



Welcome Gary! Gary Hyde, our new £15,000 signing from Castleford, signs on the dotted line, watched by assistant coach Derek Whitehead. Gary made his debut in the 16-2 home win over Warrington.

RUGBY LEAGUE ROUND-UP — 1989 SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

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		(1988)
Preliminary Round	12 x £1,300	(£1,200)
First Round	16 x £1,300	(£1,200)
Second Round	8 x £2,000	(£1,800)
Third Round	4 x £3,250	(£3,000)
Semi-Finals	2 x £5,500	(£5,000)
Runners-up	1 x £11,000	(£10,000)
Winners	1 x £20,000	(£18,000)
Prize Fund	£107,400	(£98,000)
Capital Dev. Fund	£62,600	(£62,000)
TOTAL	£170,000	(£160,000)

TIMETABLE

The timetable for the 1989 tournament is:

Preliminary Round	15 January
First Round	28/29 January
Second Round	11/12 February
Third Round	25/26 February
Semi-Final (1)	11 March
Semi-Final (2)	25 March
Final	29 April

SILK CUT AWARDS

The Silk Cut award of £100 plus a commemorative Silk Cut tie, will be presented to the official Man-of-the-Match, selected by a panel of the press, at each Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie between the preliminary round and the third round inclusive.

The Silk Cut award winner in each of the semi-finals will receive £125.

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL TICKETS

Saturday, 29 April, 3.00 p.m.

Wembley Stadium has undergone a facelift with the introduction of new banks of seats at either end of the ground, the ground capacity being reduced to around 76,000.

These newly-installed seats are priced at £15 each for Rugby League's showcase event, the other seating prices being pegged at last season's levels. Apart from those reserved for the finalists, standing tickets are sold out.

Seats . . . £25, £18, £15 and £12

Please forward order and remittance payable to the Rugby Football League, to:

The Ticket Office,
The Rugby Football League,
180 Chapeltown Road,
Leeds LS7 4HT,

enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

THE DRAW

Draws for the preliminary and first rounds of the Rugby League Silk Cut Challenge Cup were made in Leeds on Monday.

Preliminary Round

Milford v Swinton
Leeds v Hunslet
Wakefield Trinity v Bramley
West Hull v Doncaster
Barrow Island v Leigh East or Thatto Heath
York v Workington Town

First Round

Hull v Castleford
Chorley Borough v Barrow Island or
Leigh East or Thatto Heath
West Hull or Doncaster v Wigan
Warrington v Halifax
Rochdale Hornets v Hull KR
Dewsbury v Oldham
Milford or Swinton v St. Helens
York or Workington Town v Leeds or Hunslet
Wakefield Trinity or Bramley v Batley

Barrow v Huddersfield
Carlisle v Mansfield
Whitehaven v Featherstone
Runcorn v Keighley
Fulham v Bradford Northern
Sheffield Eagles v Leigh
Salford v Widnes

Preliminary round ties to be played on January 15 and first round ties on January 29.

1989 COLOUR CALENDAR

The popular Stones Bitter colour calendar is now available for 1989. The 12-sheet calendar measuring 19" x 13" features top quality colour photographs by Andrew Varley and key Rugby League dates plus autographs of the featured stars, who include Lee Crooks, Darren Bloor, Kurt Sorensen, Steve Hampson, Les Holliday, Mike Ford (Oldham), Paul Lyman and Martin Offiah.

The price of the calendar has been pegged at £2.99, plus 75p packing and postage and is available from:

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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THE Challenge Cup draw attracted the attention of most people in Rugby League this week and, while we must never take anything for granted, we cannot help but be pleased at the prospects of playing Dewsbury, even though the game will take place on Sunday, January 29 at Crown Flatt.

We have had some rousing battles over the years with the men from the Heavy Woollen area, but there is such a gulf now between the standard of play in the First and Second Divisions that we should expect to go through comfortably to round two.

As coach Tony Barrow says, in his own succinct way: "If we are worried about going there it's time to pack up."

There are some good teams to go out at the first hurdle with Hull meeting Castleford, Warrington playing Halifax and Salford entertaining Widnes, so we should be able to look forward to a good second-round tie with optimism if we can maintain the sort of solid defence that, in three games, restricted the combined strength of Halifax, Warrington and Hull to one try.

★ ★ ★

AT the time this programme went to Press, it appeared that we would probably be without a game on Sunday, January 8 when we ought to be playing Widnes in the First Division.

Widnes meet Wigan the previous day in the final of the John Player Special Trophy at Burnden Park, Bolton. Prior to the Bradford-Wigan semi-final we tried to make provisional arrangements for a rearranged match on January 8, Hull being free if Bradford had won the semi, and Featherstone being available in the event of Wigan winning.

Hull agreed to come here, but as a result of Wigan winning the semi, only Featherstone was left available to us and they declined to bring forward their match from March.

Our coach Tony Barrow was attempting to contact Rovers coach Peter Fox at the very time these notes went off to the printer to meet Christmas week deadlines, but it is more than likely that we will have no game on January 8. Keep a close eye on the Oldham Chronicle to see if there is any change in that situation.

★ ★ ★

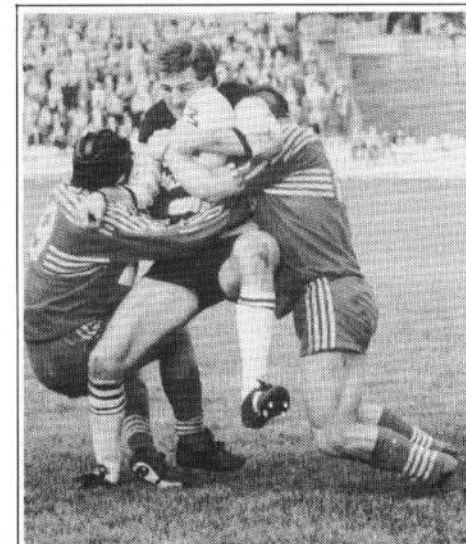
THE signing of Gary Hyde from Castleford finally went through in time for Gary to make his debut in our impressive 16-2 home win over Warrington a fortnight ago.

We wish him well in his new venture, after 11 years at Castleford, and we feel he will be

more than a useful member of the squad as a result of all his years of experience with Castleford at the top level.

His versatility came in handy in his second game at Hull last Sunday when he was not only switched to full back when Duncan Platt went off with a hand injury, but he also took over as goalkicker and landed a good angled goal after the Mick Bardsley try — his first points for the club.

We were in the wars at the Boulevard with Platt and Charlie McAlister receiving nasty hand injuries and Chris O'Sullivan and Andy Ruane clashing heads in a two-man tackle and both requiring stitches.

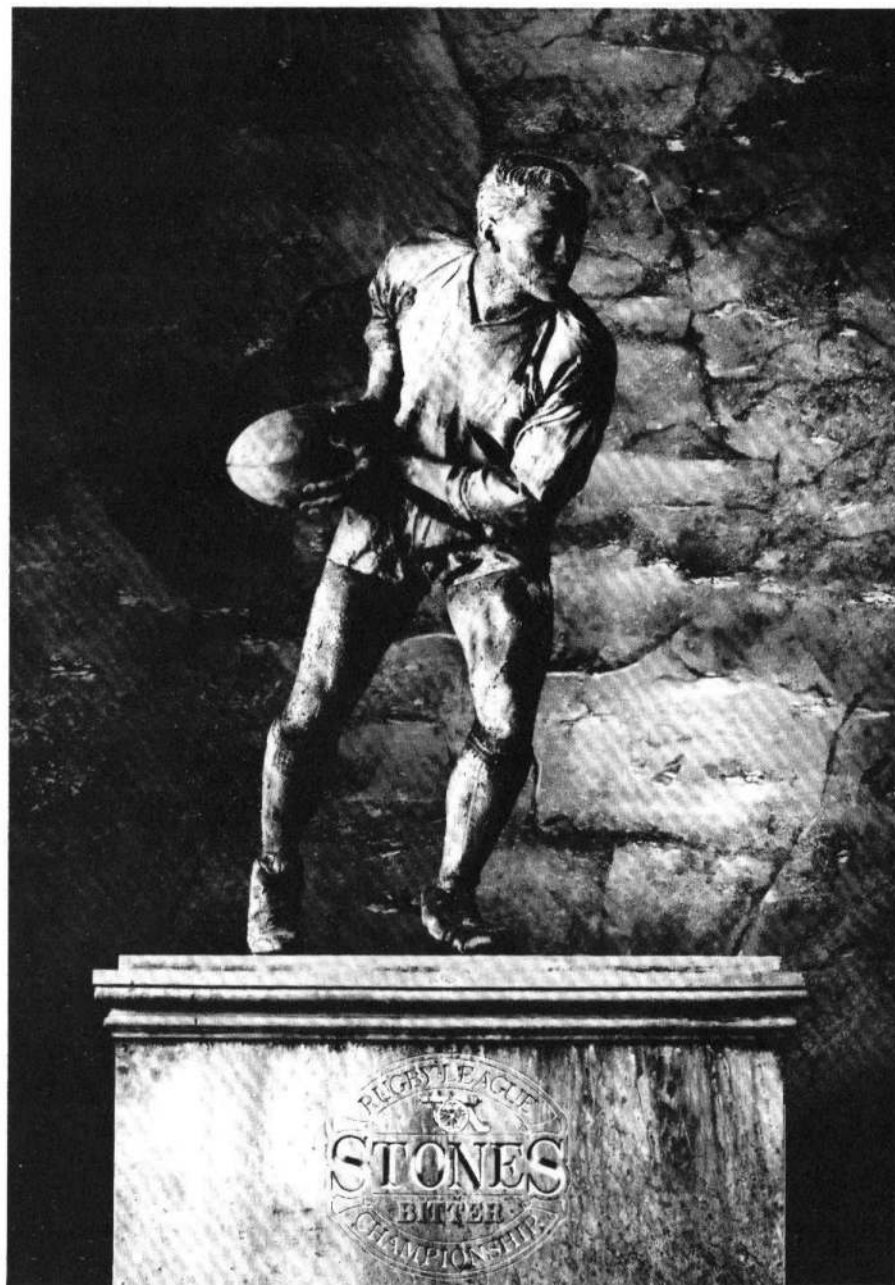


FLASHBACK — Paul Round held in a 2-man tackle when today's teams last met at the Willows on October 16, Salford winning 38-20 in a high-scoring game.

RUGBY LEAGUE DIARY 1989

Now available is the John Player Special Trophy Rugby League Diary for 1989. The top class diary, produced by Letts, includes a 24-page Rugby League section featuring photographs, diary dates and a mass of statistics. The traditional diary material includes holidays, calendars, notable dates, a year planner and rail information.

The diary is priced £2.99 plus 50p packing and postage from: The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.



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COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

THIS is the time of year when, traditionally, the thoughts of many people tend to switch from holly to holidays and that is exactly what will happen at Watersheddings today when we hold a special Lifeline draw during the interval of the game against Salford.

If you recall, one of our lucky Lifeline members won a brand-new car in mid-year and today's Christmas special will provide somebody with a superb, two-week holiday for two in the sunny West Indies.

Today of course, also sees the start of Lifeline '89, and if you are not already in the £2-a-week scheme now is the time to join because the coming year will be a really special time for Lifeline members, culminating in the grand draw this time next year for cash prizes of £15,000, £3,000 and £2,000, as well as the weekly £1,000 prize.

To qualify, members must have paid up for the 52 weeks, starting now, or the equivalent of 52 weeks if they join at any time during the year.

The big advantage, of course, by paying each week, and starting NOW, is that you also have the chance of winning £1,000 EVERY week in the build-up to Boxing Day '89.

If you are interested and want more information just call in at the Development Association office on the car park and pick up a lifeline leaflet, or ring us on 620 4870.

While pushing Lifeline, we must not overlook those people who might prefer to join our Cashline scheme which costs only 50p per week and gives the punter many chances of winning £100 every night of the week.

Mick Burke is now working full-time on promoting the Cashline and, like Lifeline, membership is on the increase as Mick gets around the town, visiting pubs, clubs, factories etc. to sign up new members.

If Mick calls on YOU, either at home, work, or in the pub, listen to what he has to say and think seriously about signing up for a weekly flutter. You have a good chance of winning, the results are in the Oldham Chronicle every night, and you are helping the club at the same time.

While on the subject of Lifeline and

Cashline, I must point out that the popularity of the two schemes has put increasing pressure of work on everyone concerned and, come the New Year, we will not only be looking for more agents, but also more collectors.

Recently, a lot of people inquired about our vacancy for a collector and we hope that all those who showed interest on that occasion — and anyone else interested, of course — will give us a ring on 620 4870 as soon as the Christmas holiday period is over, so that we can increase our work force of agents and collectors for the big drive in '89.

The New Year, of course, will also be a milestone in the history of the club as a result of the forthcoming share issue. As a Development Association with a direct interest in the club's financial future, it goes without saying that we hope all our sponsors and wonderful supporters of Lifeline, Cashline etc can see their way to becoming involved as shareholders.

Finally, we hope you all had a Happy Christmas and we wish each and every one of you a successful and prosperous New Year.

NOVELTY NOTE: Mentioning holidays, reminds me of our latest 'best seller' in the club shop — Oldham Rugby rock at 50p a stick. I also have a giant stick of the rock, in club colours and with the Roughyeds slogan running right through it, which we will raffle off in the New Year complete with autographed team picture.

MICK BURKE — on the Cashline beat.
Sign up for Mick if you see him around.

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All smiles to go into the New Year.

Back row (left to right): Ossie Rowe, Derek Whitehead, John Watkins, Duncan Platt, Colin Hawkyard, Gary Hyde,
Neil Clawson, Mick Bardsley, Paul Round, Charlie McAlister, Leo Casey, Ian Taylor, Tony Barrow.

Front row: Ashley Gilbert, Mike Ford, Steve Robinson, Fred Howarth, Harvey Ashworth, Chris O'Sullivan, Greg
Pache, Ray Hill, Anita Lees, Paul Taylor, Andy Ruane, John Henderson.

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Oldham defence at its best in our narrow 11-8 defeat at Hull last Sunday. Chris O'Sullivan (above) brings down his opposite number Gary Pearce with a copybook tackle, and Colin Hawkyard (below) knocks the ball from Craig Coleman's grasp almost on the line.



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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (16 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
K. Meadows	16			6	24	58
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	9	18		2	44	27
P. Lord	2			1	4	13
M. Ford	14			2	8	33
I. Bates	2					4
I. Sherratt	5			1	4	24
M. Hall	1					9
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	14			4	16	189
P. Round	16			6	24	49
T. Flanagan	11					284
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	15			4	16	26
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	15	10	1		21	15
N. Clawson	14					66
P. Taylor	9			1	4	32
K. Atkinson	4	2			4	33
J. Fairbank	10			2	8	10
C. O'Sullivan	13			2	8	13
A. Gilbert	8			4	16	8
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	11			4	16	11
S. Robinson	10			3	12	18
R. Marsden	1					6
M. Bardsley	6			3	12	16
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	3					18
D. Platt	3	7		1	18	3
G. Hyde	2	1			2	2

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	10	5	0	0	159	59	4	1	0	104	74	19
Leeds	13	4	0	3	139	105	5	0	1	134	78	18
Widnes	11	5	0	1	192	50	3	0	2	114	79	16
St. Helens	12	4	1	1	156	94	3	0	3	105	157	15
Salford	13	6	0	2	173	132	1	0	4	98	150	14
Hull	12	3	0	3	68	80	3	0	3	87	111	12
Featherstone	12	3	0	3	119	155	3	0	3	98	151	12
Wigan	10	3	0	2	128	90	2	0	3	90	104	10
Warrington	11	3	0	2	116	117	2	0	4	84	90	10
Bradford N	10	2	0	2	101	76	2	0	4	141	140	8
Hull KR	11	3	0	2	111	104	1	0	5	72	156	8
OLDHAM	13	2	0	3	102	86	1	1	6	133	173	7
Wakefield	12	2	1	4	103	141	1	0	4	72	152	7
Halifax	12	2	0	4	78	96	1	0	5	55	130	6

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 16, WARRINGTON 2

OLDHAM'S second successive win — and what a beauty! This game marked the debut of Gary Hyde and the home debut of Duncan Platt, who took only a few minutes to step his way over for a great try, which he also goaled.

Platt went on to score four goals and the game was clinched late on when skipper Chris O'Sullivan short-kicked over the top, followed up and won the race to touch down under the sticks.

Every man played his part, but this was a brilliant display from the entire pack which stood up to — and beat — the much lauded Warrington six, including Assie Test men Steve Roach, who was sent off late in the match, and Les Davidson.

BARROW 'A' 14, OLDHAM 'A' 30

A brilliant first-half display, with the aid of a strong wind, enabled Oldham to lead 30-0 at half-time in this Slalom Lager Alliance second division clash.

Barrow had no answer to Oldham's excellent team work and backing up, but they came more into their own in the second half when they had use of the wind.

Our try scorers were Chris Willis, Ian Bates, Bob Marsden, Tony Morrison, Paddy Kirwan and Trevor Croston.



HULL 11, OLDHAM 8

Not a happy day for Oldham who could well have notched a hat-trick of victories but for their sheer benevolence.

Another mighty defensive display restricted Hull to one try — a sheer gift when Steve Robinson lost the ball over his own line.

This was a tragedy for Steve who, otherwise, was probably our most dangerous back.

We were also in trouble with injuries, losing Duncan Platt in the first half with a hand injury, and then seeing O'Sullivan and Ruane suffer deep gashes above their eyes after a clash of heads during the second half.

In all, we made a gift of six points to Hull, for Charlie McAlister dropped out on the full and straight into touch late in the match, giving Gary Pearce an easy penalty in front of the sticks.

Pearce himself had given Oldham an easy two points with a similar error in the first half, but we didn't learn from his mistake and we paid the penalty.

OLDHAM 'A' 36, WORKINGTON 'A' 10

MOST of Oldham's problems here happend before the kick-off. Tony Morrison pulled out with flu, Paddy Kirwan had to cry-off after damaging an ankle, and Ashley Gilbert was called up to the senior squad when Paul Taylor was ruled out with back injury.

To make matters worse, Steve Patterson was carried off with concussion early in the game.

Nevertheless, Oldham led 18-4 at half-time after good tries by Tony Miller, Tom Foley and Martin Hall and they built on that with further tries in the second half by Keith Atkinson, Bob Marsden and Chris Willis.

A feature of the game was the immaculate kicking of Atkinson, who landed six goals from six attempts, two of them from wide out near touch.

The midfield pace of Paul Lord, who moved to stand-off when Patterson was hurt, and the strong running of back-row pair Bob Marsden and Trevor Croston was also decisive.

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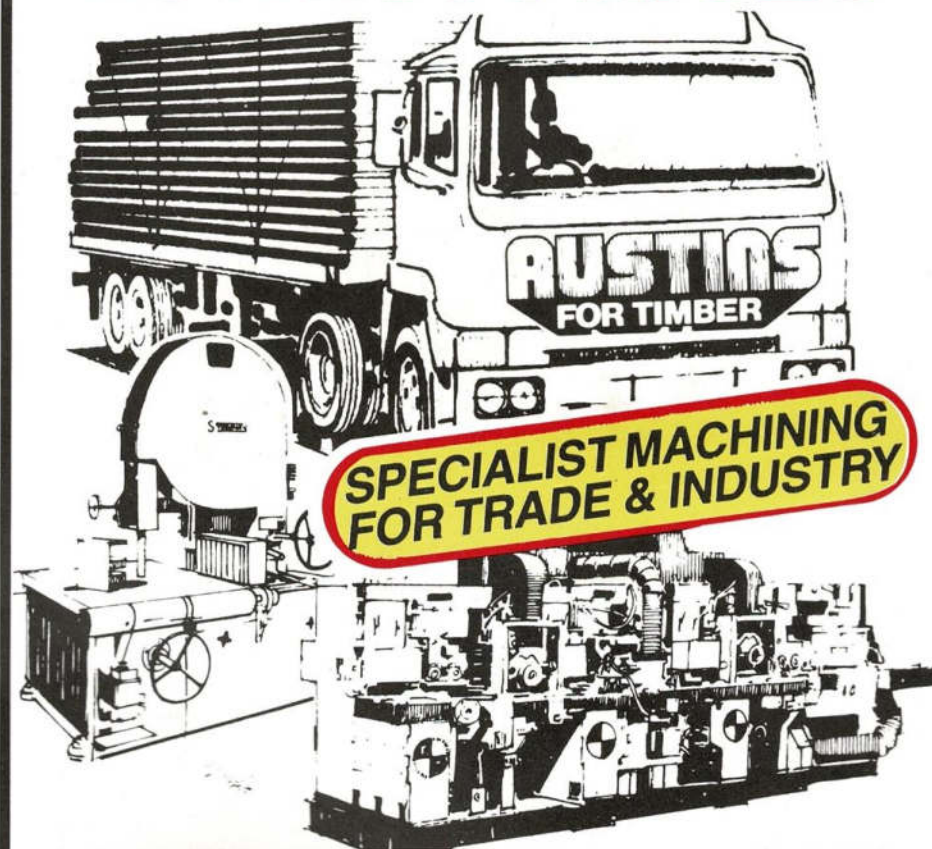
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