

Stones Bitter Championship

LINE UP

WIDNES

Colours:
White Jerseys
Black Shorts

BARRY DOWD

RICK THACKRAY

DARREN WRIGHT

DAVID HULME

DAVE MYERS/BRIMAH KEBBIE

JONATHAN DAVIES

PAUL HULME

DEREK PYKE

PHIL McKENZIE

JOE GRIMA

MIKE O'NEILL

EMOSI KOLOTO

RICHARD EYRES

DAVE MARSH

CHRIS ASHURST

OLDHAM

Colours:
Red and White Hooped Jerseys
Blue Shorts

DUNCAN PLATT

STEVE ROBINSON

JOHN HENDERSON

MARK LORD

KEVIN MEADOWS

MIKE FORD

CHRIS O'SULLIVAN

IAN SHERRATT

ANDY RUANE

ASHLEY GILBERT

TREVOR CROSTON

PAUL ROUND

KEITH NEWTON

PAUL LORD

TERRY FLANAGAN

Referee:

Mr. B. SIMPSON
(Irlam)

Touch Judges:

Mr. D. C. LOWE
(pink flag)

Mr. J. FISHWICK
(orange flag)

WIDNES WEEKLY NEWS — EVERY THURSDAY



WIDNES

OLDHAM

Sunday, Feb. 5th, 1989

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Championship Winners 1988

Premiership Winners 1988

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

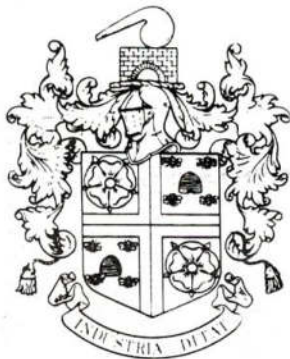
60p



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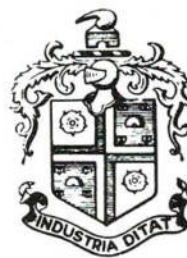
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R.L.F.C.**



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THE WINNING TEAM



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Mrs. V. GLEAVE

Front cover photographs
courtesy of:
M. W. Leigh (Championship)
and
Rugby Leaguer (Premiership)

WIDNES—CLUB HONOURS, 1895—1988

DIVISION ONE Champions, 1977-78, 1987-88
CHAMPIONSHIP Beaten Finalists, 1935-36
CHALLENGE CUP Winners, 1929-30, 1936-37, 1963-64, 1974-75, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1983-84.
Beaten Finalists, 1933-34, 1949-50, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1981-1982.
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE Winners, 1919-20.
LANCASHIRE CUP Winners, 1945-46, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1979-80.
Beaten Finalists, 1928-29, 1939-40, 1955-56, 1971-72, 1981-82, 1983-84.
JOHN PLAYER TROPHY Winners, 1975-76, 1978-79.
Beaten Finalists, 1974-75, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1983-84, 1988-89.
PREMIERSHIP Winners, 1979-80, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1987-88.
Beaten Finalists, 1977-78.
BBC2 FLOODLIT TROPHY Winners, 1978-79.
Beaten Finalists, 1972-73, 1973-74.
WESTERN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP Beaten Finalists, 1962-63.
OKELL'S CHARITY SHIELD Winners, 1988-89

WIDNES—CLUB RECORDS—1895-1988

WIDNES PLAYERS TO PLAY FOR GREAT BRITAIN
(Tests and World Cup matches)

M. Adams, J. Basnett, K. Bentley, M. Burke, F. Collier, R. Dutton, K. Elwell, J. Fieldhouse, R. French, L. Gorley, A. Gregory, I. Hare, F. Higgins, H. Higgins, E. Hughes, D. Hulme, P. Hulme, A. Johnson, G. Kemel, V. Karalius, D. Laughton, J. Lydon, T. McCue, J. Measures, J. Mills, A. Myler, F. Myler, G. Nicholls, M. Offiah, D. O'Neill, M. O'Neill, H. Pinner, G. Shaw, N. Silcock, J. Warlow, D. Wright, S. Wright. TOTAL 37.

TOURISTS

1914—A. Johnson, J. O'Garra; 1920—A. Johnson, W. Reid; 1932—N. Silcock; 1936—T. McCue, N. Silcock; 1946—T. McCue; 1950—F. Higgins, D. Naughton; 1966—F. Myler; 1970—R. Dutton; 1974—J. Mills; 1979—M. Adams, E. Hughes, D. Laughton, J. Mills; 1984—M. Adams, J. Basnett, M. Burke, A. Gregory, J. Lydon, A. Myler, M. O'Neill; 1988—A. Currier, R. Eyres, D. Hulme, P. Hulme, M. Offiah, D. Wright.

CLUB RECORDS

Highest Score FOR—82 v Dewsbury, 30 November, 1986.
AGAINST—60 v Oldham, 9 April, 1928.

MATCH RECORDS

Most Tries: 5, E. Cunningham v Doncaster, 15 February, 1981.
5, J. Basnett v Hunslet, 17 October, 1981.
5, J. Basnett v Hull K.R., 2 November, 1986.
5, D. Hulme v Dewsbury, 30 November, 1986.
5, A. Currier v Featherstone R., 25 September, 1988.

Most Goals: 11, R. Whitfield v Oldham, 28 October, 1965.
Most Points: 34, A. Currier v Featherstone R., 25 September, 1988.

SEASONAL RECORDS

Most Tries—42, M. Offiah, 1987-88. Most Goals—140, M. Burke, 1978-79.
Most Points—316, M. Burke, 1978-79.

CAREER RECORDS

Most Tries—234, M. Aspey, 1964-80; Most Goals—1083, R. Dutton, 1966-78; Most Points—2195, R. Dutton, 1966-78.

CONSECUTIVE RECORDS

Most consecutive club games in which a try was scored: 15, M. Offiah, September to December 1987.
Most consecutive club games in which a goal was kicked: 41, R. Dutton, August 1973 to April 1974.
Most consecutive club appearances: 242, K. Elwell, May 1977 to September 1982.

Our Guests Today

WE welcome the players, officials and supporters of Oldham to Naughton Park this afternoon. Both sides will be putting thoughts of cup glory to one side as they chase important league points. Oldham's need, in terms of survival, are most pressing for after today's game they have only eight league fixtures in which to try and haul themselves to safety. Six of these are at Watersheddings against Castleford, Featherstone, Hull, Wakefield, Widnes and Wigan, while they have still to travel to play Bradford and St Helens. So Oldham's destiny lies very much in their own hands.

Oldham found themselves in the Second Division last season after a disastrous final run in to the 1986-87 campaign. Having looked like achieving a comfortable mid table position Oldham lost their closing six league games and were relegated in fourth from bottom spot after a combination of unlikely results from other teams. Oldham set about regaining their First Division place and came up in style as champions and also achieved a noteworthy Second Division Premiership Final victory over Featherstone in an exciting and dramatic match. The club received some fine support both home and away from spectators who remained steadfastly loyal despite the disappointment of relegation and hopes were high that Oldham would make a real impact this season.

Oldham were expected to be the promoted side most likely to avoid the 'yo yo' syndrome of a quick return to the Second Division, but things have not worked out that way. After just one win in their opening 10 league games Oldham were facing an almighty

struggle to stay in the First Division. New coach Tony Barrow inspired his charges to exciting wins at Halifax and at home to Warrington and Salford but defeats in each of their last three league games have once again raised anxieties.

Having made the ambitious step of launching a public limited company, the last thing Oldham want is relegation. Efforts have been made in recent weeks to strengthen the playing staff but time is often needed to gel things together and time is one thing not on Oldham's side.

The First Division is so competitive that a couple of league defeats can have an enormous bearing on league placings. Oldham will be regretting agonisingly close defeats at home to Leeds, St Helens and Halifax and away at Featherstone, Castleford Warrington and Hull. Seven games, all lost, in which the losing margin was by six points or less and what a difference 14 points would make to Oldham's position.

Oldham have a good record on this ground in recent seasons and will come here fired up and giving everything. Any complacency will be punished and a close and exciting game is in prospect. Enjoy the game!

OLDHAM — RESULTS SO FAR 1988-89 League

Wigan (a).....	L18-40
Leeds (h).....	L22-28
Featherstone R (a).....	L14-18
Castleford (a).....	L19-22
Hull KR (h).....	W30-16
Wakefield T (a).....	D12-12
Salford (a).....	L20-38
St Helens (h).....	L22-26
Warrington (a).....	L30-32
Halifax (h).....	L12-14

"OLDHAM'S DESTINY IN THEIR OWN HANDS"

Halifax (a).....	W12-0
Warrington (h).....	W16-2
Hull (a).....	L8-11
Salford (h).....	W23-22
Leeds (a).....	L4-48
Hull KR (a).....	L6-34
Bradford N (h).....	L14-30

Lancashire Cup

Round 1 — Workington Town (h).....	W64-2
Round 2 — Salford (a).....	L2-18

JPS Trophy

Round 1 — Warrington (a).....	L14-21
-------------------------------	--------

SC Challenge Cup

Round 1 — Dewsbury (a).....	W40-9
-----------------------------	-------

Tries (65): Henderson 7, Round 7, Meadows 6, Hawkyard 4, Casey 4, Gilbert 4, Robinson 4, O'Sullivan 3, Bardsley 3, Platt 3, Lord 2, Ford 2, Foy 2, Newton 2, Fairbank 2, McAlister 2, Irving 1, Taylor 1, Burke 1, Sherratt 1, Hyde 1, Marsden 1, Ruane 1, Trialist 1.

Goals (70 + 2 DG): McAlister 18, Burke 17, Platt 15, Ruane 10 + 1 DG, Atkinson 8, O'Sullivan 1 + 1 DG, Hyde 1.

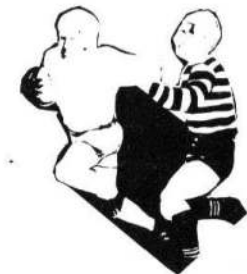
WIDNES v OLDHAM — RECENT LEAGUE MEETINGS

	At Naughton Park	At Watersheddings
1986-87	Widnes won 44-10	Oldham won 22-16
1985-86	Drawn 10-10	Drawn 10-10
1984-85	Widnes won 14-10	Oldham won 18-2
1983-84	Oldham won 34-28	Widnes won 20-10
1982-83	Oldham won 23-13	Widnes won 17-7

TODAY'S TOP TACKLE AWARD

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CUP CRUNCH AT CASTLEFORD

Next Saturday sees us again on the M62 for a Challenge Cup tie. This time a second round match in the Silk Cut Competition at Wheldon Road, Castleford.

It will be a tough game for us, but more to the point it will be a tough game for them as well.

Both sides are well fancied for the Challenge Cup but one of course will have to go out at the weekend, but that is what the Cup is all about.

There is no doubt in my mind that whichever side goes through to round three next weekend, then the other will surely become firm favourites for the Stones Bitter Championship title.

A good Cup run means an inevitable back-log of fixtures and it will be difficult to cope with the back-log of league fixtures as well as putting 100% into a Cup campaign.

The game against Castleford will be at Wheldon Road on Saturday, kick-off 2.15pm.

The game is ALL TICKET and fans are advised to get their tickets as soon as possible as the police in Yorkshire tell us in no uncertain terms that no tickets will be available on the day of the match.

Tickets are on sale this afternoon and

throughout the week between the following hours:

MONDAY	9-5
TUESDAY	9-5 7-9
WEDNESDAY	9-5
THURSDAY	9-5 7-9
FRIDAY	9-8

The prices are as follows:

Ground	£3.50 adult
	£2.00 child/OAP
Stand	£5.00 adult
	£4.50 child/OAP

Stand tickets went on sale yesterday to Stand Season Ticket Holders only. Today they are on general sale if any remain.

Before leaving the Cup tie at Castleford we should reflect on what has been a terrible run of bad luck in this particular competition.

In the 1986/87 season the first three rounds read like this: Castleford (away), Bradford Northern (away), Leeds (away).

In 1987/88 it was Dewsbury (away), Keighley (away) and Wigan (away).

And this season (1988/89) we have so far Salford (away), Castleford (away).

The law of averages suggests that the third round this season should be let's leave it until after Saturday shall we!

TODAY'S MASCOT



We extend a warm welcome today to our sponsored mascot Peter Clarke, age 7, of Cameron Road, Widnes.

Peter has already seen enough of Jonathan Davies to name him as his favourite player.

Peter attends St Bedes School and plays stand off for the Widnes Tigers U9s.

He is also a member of the Chemics in action.

We hope Peter and his family have a nice day with us.

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Volvo 340 GLE, Golf 1.6 CL or Escort 1.6 GL.

Tinted Glass Sunroof.

Fitted as standard on all the latest Sunny 1.3 and 1.6 litre hatchbacks and saloons. Electric touch-button on the GSX model.

... You won't find THAT on

Escort 1.6 GL - its sunroof is manual. While Volvo 340 GLE and Golf 1.6 CL don't have sunroofs.

Electric Windows all round.

Every seat in the latest Sunny, front and back, offers touch-button window control. With tinted glass for extra comfort.

... You won't find THAT on

Golf 1.6 CL, Escort 1.6 GL (no electric windows at all) or Volvo 340 GLE (front only).

Central Door Locking.

It's fast, simple and safe. And it's standard on every Sunny saloon and 5-door hatchback.

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Golf 1.6 CL. Only available with Volvo 1.7 litre
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4-Speaker, Electronic-Tune Stereo Radio/Cassette.

The four speaker system on the latest Sunny GS range delivers rich, clear all-round sound.

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Asymmetric Split-folding Rear Seats.

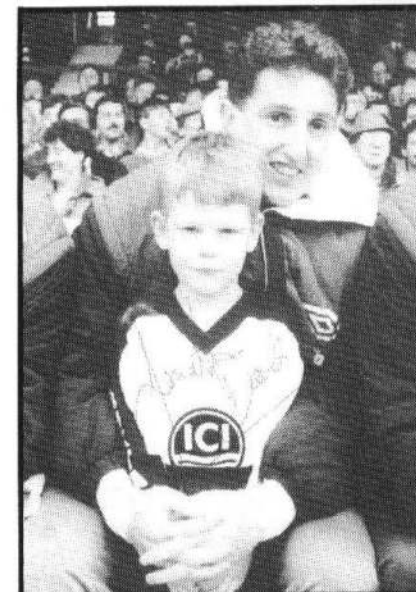
The new Sunny's roomy luggage space becomes totally flexible, with the option of leaving a seat free.

... You won't find THAT on

Volvo 340 GLE or Golf 1.6 CL.



Voted British Fuels/Daily Express personality of the month for December 1988, Alan Tait is presented with a cheque for £400 and a silver salver, before the league game with Salford.



A big day out for mascot Joseph McKeever at the Salford League game, seen here with new signing Jonathan Davies.



Jonathan Davies soon gets into action in the cup tie at The Willows against Salford after replacing Barry Dowd late in the game. He stops Peter Williams progress with a fine tackle.
(Photo: M. Flynn)



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The Weekly News

*For
all
that's
best
in
R.L.
action*



Rick Thackray looks for support from David Hulme in the match against Featherstone.

Every Thursday



Slalom Lager Alliance News

The Alliance team have experienced some disappointing defeats since our last report but it is pleasing to record two excellent victories over the last two weeks against Hull and Warrington — both at Naughton Park in front of crowds that some First Division clubs would have been proud to have.

These two victories coincided with the appearance of Jonathan Davies and some of the lads admitted that the large crowd in attendance and the fact that Davies was playing probably raised their game.

These two games certainly did bring out the best of the young lads in the 'A'

team and the four points gained in those two matches again move us into the top six in the Alliance First Division.

It is hoped the good form continued on Friday when the Alliance team took on Swinton in a re-arranged Alliance match. The game was scheduled for Friday, March 31st but was brought forward when it was found that both Swinton and ourselves had received a 'bye' in the first round of the Alliance Challenge Cup competition. This will now enable us to re-arrange one of the two outstanding games against Whitehaven on Saturday, April 1st, 1989.



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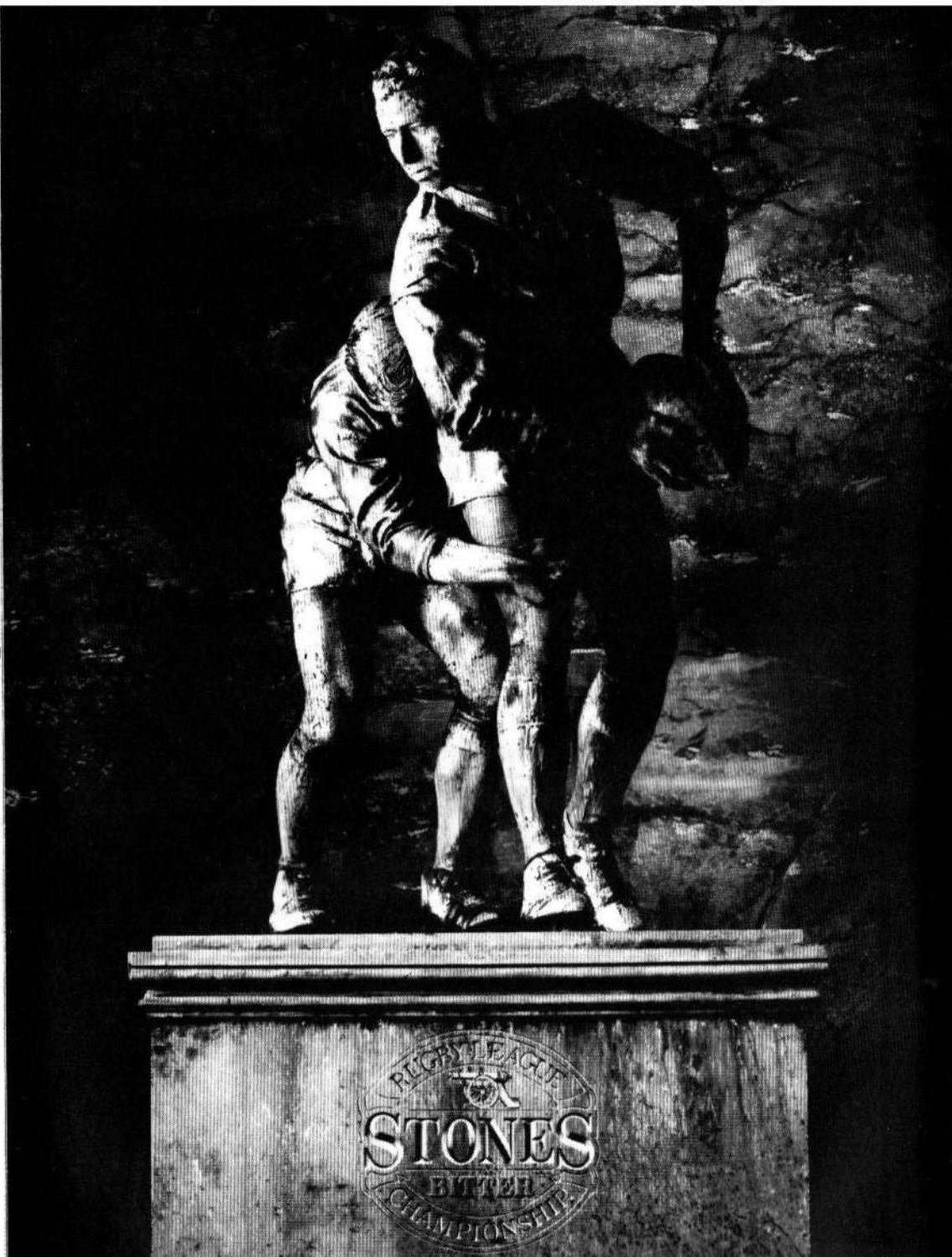
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LEAGUE ACTION AT NAUGHTON PARK



Mike O'Neill beats the Salford cover tackler with David Hulme backing him up during the league game at the Park.
(Photo: M. Flynn)



Big Joe Grima crossing the Salford line for the second Widnes try at Naughton Park in the league game.
(Photo: M. Flynn)

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Once again we are
delighted to welcome
Management and Staff of
ICI and thank them once again
for their continued support.



and



— A GREAT TEAM —

CUP-TIE ACTION versus SALFORD



Mike O'Neil brings a Salford attack to a halt during the cup tie. Emosi Koloto is in support if help is required.
(Photo: M. Flynn)



Martin Offiah beats Salford's full back Gibson on his way for the line at The Willows.
(Photo: M. Flynn).

FIXTURE NEWS

THE loss of the Hull fixture on January 22 means that we have now fallen four games behind — Castleford (home and away), Oldham (away) and Hull (away).

We have already rearranged the two Castleford matches as follows: Wednesday, March 1, 1989 — Away match at 7.30pm. Sunday, March 12, 1989 — Home match, 3.00pm.

The date for the Hull and Oldham games will be announced soon.

Please remember the two fixtures against Le Pontet in March have been called off but although the home match against Le Pontet has been cancelled altogether the away match will definitely go ahead on Sunday, 28th

May, 1989, i.e. after all the domestic competitions are out of the way.

On the Alliance front the match played last Friday night against Swinton A was actually brought forward from Friday, March 31st, this has enabled us to re-arrange the Widnes A v Whitehaven A game, postponed when we appeared in the JPS final for Saturday, April 1.

The Alliance fixture at Whitehaven, postponed earlier in the season because of 'A' team cup commitments had also been rearranged and will be played on Wednesday, March 15th, kick off 8.00pm.

LEAGUE AND CUP SUCCESS v SALFORD

THE much publicised debut of Jonathan Davies against Salford in the league match three weeks ago is now almost forgotten — the game was watched by a near 12,000 crowd and we scored a magnificent 50 points in fine style, playing some superb rugby.

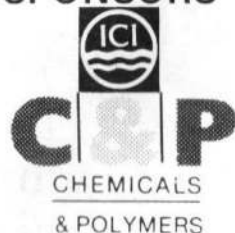
Last Sunday we played Salford again, this time in the Challenge Cup and at the Willows. Everyone predicted a completely different game and they were right. Salford tackled much better

than in the League match and contributed a lot to a very entertaining game indeed. Although the scores were close in the end, I felt we were always in control and fully deserved our success.

As Peter Smethurst from Great Manchester Radio quite rightly says, "There are no bad wins" — that has been a true saying for as long as I can remember.

MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSORS

This afternoon's
Widnes Player of the Match
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our thanks



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Sunday 14 May, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm

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LEAGUE RESULTS TO DATE

	Bradford N.	Castleford	Featherstone R.	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Oldham	St. Helens	Salford	Wakefield T.	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
Bradford N.					32-20		10-18			42-18		15-4		17-20
Castleford	38-20			30-0		38-20		22-19	46-12	38-12	38-14	23-16		
Featherstone R.	20-48	20-26		21-17			18-32	18-14	13-12	22-18	14-15			
Halifax	26-14	21-12	4-24		6-14			0-12				4-15	26-20	16-20
Hull	28-10	8-18	4-14				14-12	11-8	21-12		10-16	10-8		
Hull K.R.	24-22		15-30	12-4	12-15			34-6	22-30		38-18			
Leeds			36-18	34-12	6-13	21-8		48-4	32-0	18-16		8-22	14-30	22-14
Oldham	14-30			12-14		30-16	22-28		22-26	23-22		16-2		
St. Helens	23-16	14-14		50-16	9-20	15-6				30-14	30-14			11-18
Salford	33-18		8-12			24-14	6-24	38-20			18-8	25-18	15-12	24-18
Wakefield T.	14-23		19-12		2-11	6-12		12-12		18-36		14-10	14-28	25-20
Warrington		20-26	30-22		20-14	60-24		32-30	14-25				8-18	
Widnes			58-2	5-4	38-6	43-6	8-20		29-22	50-8	40-12			
Wigan		12-20		26-12	20-35	32-16		40-18			34-12	26-10	10-24	

TODAY'S MITRE MATCH BALL

Sponsored by



Mr. Jim Wilcock
The Globe Inn
Bradshawgate, Leigh.



What was happening . . .

One Year Ago — February 7, 1988

Martin Offiah scored a hat-trick in Widnes' 26-4 home win over Bradford Northern. There were tries too for Paul Hulme and John Myler and the latter added three goals. Oldham bounced back after two defeats with a hard earned 16-8 win at Workington. Clawson, Round and Foy scored the visitors tries.

Two Years Ago — February 8, 1987

A meagre crowd of 3,101 saw Widnes edge home 13-12 against Salford at Naughton Park. Darren Wright and Mike O'Neill scored the Chemics tries and John Myler kicked two goals and a decisive drop goal. Oldham had no game and were still basking in the glory of a dramatic midweek cup win over Wigan. Paddy Kirwan's late match winning try earned Oldham a second round home tie with St Helens. The crowd at Watersheddings was 11,906 as Oldham beat Wigan 10-8.

Three Years Ago — February 2, 1986

Widnes crashed 6-22 at Salford after a fine run of five successive wins. Darren Wright scored Widnes' only try. Oldham were engaged in a tight struggle at Wilderspool and had only two Mick Parrish goals to show for all their efforts as they went down 4-8.

Four Years Ago — February 3, 1985

Widnes slumped to their fourth successive defeat, 6-24 at home to Leeds. The following Saturday though they bounced back in fine style to win 14-4 at Headingley in a first round Challenge Cup tie. Oldham went down 10-22 at home to Hull, despite tries by Green Vigo and Wally Jones.

Five Years Ago — February 5, 1984

Widnes emerged victorious from a hard fought Challenge Cup prelim tie at Carlisle with John Basnett scoring two of their four tries in a 20-12 win. Oldham went down 8-20 at Hull, their sixth defeat in their last seven league games. Gary Bishop scored Oldham's only try.

10 Years Ago — February 4, 1979

Dave Moran scored two tries in Widnes' 25-9 home win over Featherstone Rovers. Doug Laughton was also on the scoresheet and Mick Burke kicked five goals. Oldham were still waiting to play their first fixture of the year. It was February 28th, when they played host to Ace Amateurs in the cup, before they took the field in 1979 due to the harsh winter weather.

20 Years Ago — February 1, 1969

There were two tries each for McDonnell and Nicholls in Widnes' 31-5 win at Doncaster. Whitfield added five goals. Oldham were leading 5-2 in a league game at Leigh when the match was abandoned due to torrential rain which flooded the playing area. As only 22 minutes had been played the match was replayed in March and this time Oldham lost 5-12.

50 Years Ago — February 4, 1939

Widnes began their Challenge Cup campaign with a 10-5 first round home win over Dewsbury. Shannon and Topping scored Widnes' tries and the latter tagged on two goals. Oldham were also in cup action, and tries by Rhydderch and Turner helped them to a 10-3 home win over Castleford. Oldham went out in the next round, losing at Bradford Northern. Widnes' Wembley dreams also ended in Yorkshire with a defeat at Leeds.

VISITORS QUIZ

1. Oldham lost four league games last season, two at home and two away. Against which teams?
2. On which soccer ground did Oldham stage a home league fixture against Featherstone in January 1987?
3. Which Widnes player scored 20 points against Oldham in the league game at Naughton Park two seasons ago?
4. Which six Oldham players scored ten tries or more last season?
5. Which Australian scored Oldham's only try in their Lancashire Cup final defeat by Wigan in 1986?
6. Name the Oldham club's five tourists in 1984.

Answers on page 24

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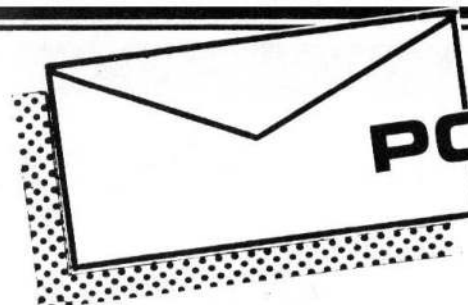
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POST BAG

Dear Sir,

I have been trying to calculate the chances of Widnes retaining the Stones Bitter Championship title and would be grateful if you could help me by listing the fixtures that Castleford and Leeds have to play.

I feel that the champions will come from one of these clubs and the fixtures of our rivals will help a great deal.

Yours faithfully,

T. Hunt (Farnworth)

Castleford have to play: Home; Featherstone R, Hull, Leeds, Widnes, Wigan. Away; Bradford N, Hull KR, Leeds, Oldham, Salford, Wakefield, Widnes.

Leeds have to play: Home; Bradford N, Castleford, Wakefield T. Away; Castleford, Halifax, Hull KR, Wakefield, Warrington, Wigan.

Dear Sir,

I wish to add my congratulations on bringing Jonathan Davies to Naughton Park. Who would have thought five years ago that Widnes would bring off the signing of the decade. Good luck Jonathan.

I have watched Widnes from the late 60s, never missing a match, home or away, until 1983, where on moving to Wigan due to work commitments I could only get to mainly the home games.

Now I travel to all games, home and away, which include travelling to Widnes from Wigan to pick up my travelling companion (brother) and then set off to the away grounds. Even the home games I have to travel 18-20 miles to see the best team in the league.

P.S. Could it be possible for Widnes to beat Wigan on the next return game? It really would be quite nice seeing 300 Wigan fans (work colleagues) contemplating suicide in the River Douglas or having an overdose of Wigan kebabs (meat pie on a stick).

P.P.S. My working Wigan colleagues inform me that Jonathan Davies looks better in his raincoat than in a Widnes jersey but wish him good luck.

G. Cain.
Wigan.

Dear Sir,

On the evening of Thursday 26th January, you made a dream come true for my little boy Daniel on his ninth birthday — by allowing him to visit Naughton Park and meet his hero of some 18 months now — Kurt Sorenson. For this I am truly grateful and would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We travel almost every Sunday from Ellesmere Port to see Widnes play at home and often away matches and this was 'the icing on the cake' so to speak for him. Coming from a town where they have no idea what Rugby League is or how to play it — Daniel is doing his utmost to spread the word that 'It's the Best Sport Ever,' he has been trying for some time to coax his teachers into letting them play it at school, so far unsuccessfully.

I believe the people of Widnes to be very fortunate to have not only a successful team to follow and unite them but also the likes of yourself running the club — acknowledging with gestures such as this — that Rugby League is a sport for young as well as old.

Once again may I thank you and ask that you might pass on my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Sorenson for taking time out of a busy training session to make my sons day.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah McDiarmid
33 Hope Farm Road,
Great Sutton.

Dear Mr. Stringer,

Thank you for letting me meet Kurt Sorenson and watching the team train. It was the best birthday present ever. I think Widnes are the greatest.

From,

Daniel McDiarmid.

Editors Note: Although we cannot possibly help everyone with their special requests, we do our best to keep people happy, especially the children.

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Letter

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write to say how my husband
and myself enjoyed our visit to Widnes last
Sunday (and I hope not the last), our first
Rugby League match. The crowd were so
friendly and it seemed like an outing for all
the family, young and old.

As you might guess, we came to see
Jonathan Davies (fellow Welshman) having
seen him play at the Cardiff Arms Park.

The junior game before the main match
had so much flair and enthusiasm, the boys
were a credit to their clubs.

May I wish the Widnes Club every success
with your new signing.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Isaac.

Answers to quiz

1. Home — Featherstone, Wakefield.
Away — Barrow, Doncaster.
2. Manchester City.
3. John Myler (two tries, six goals).
4. Foy 21, Graham 16, Meadows 16,
Round 16, Walsh 14, McCarthy 10.
5. Gary Bridge.
6. Ray Ashton, Terry Flanagan, Des
Foy, Andy Goodway, Mick Worrall.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



County and international scrum half Tommy McCue, with some of the trophies he won during
17 years as a playing member of the Widnes Football Club. (Widnes Weekly News photo).

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A TOUGH ONE!

(By Mike Flynn)

THE Challenge Cup competition is the toughest in Rugby League, but this season's cup run looks set to be one of the toughest.

There were no major upsets from the first round, except for the early exit of second division leaders Leigh, third placed Sheffield sweeping them aside in the final minutes of their tie to land another home tie in the next stage of the Wembley trail against today's visitors to the park, Oldham.

Two former Widnes players played a big part in Oldham's demolition job over Dewsbury, Duncan Platt scoring 18 points and Keith Newton adding two tries and also taking the man of the match award.

The second round draw favoured first division clubs, Warrington, St Helens, Leeds and Hull KR drawing second division opponents on their home grounds. The other three ties to be fought out between first division clubs.

Cup favourites Wigan take on Bradford at Odsal. Graham Lowe's outfit will start favourites but there could be a surprise. Featherstone and Wakefield do battle at Belle Vue and success for the home side would do them a power of good. Widnes must once again travel away for the tie of the round against the current league leaders Castleford.

This will be the first encounter between the two leading championship contenders this season, the two league fixtures having to be postponed due to cup commitments. The winners of the tie could produce one of the Wembley finalists.

It is going to be a hard nut to crack for Doug Laughton's lads but he will have them fired up for this one. The Widnes camp and fans will be hoping that captain Kurt Sorensen will be fit again for the tie. The Chemics last cup encounter with Cas was also away in 1986/87 in the first round of the competition. Widnes won 24-16.

Hard work was made against Salford in the first round, although the Chemics defence

was at its best against a determined side who put the pressure on from the first whistle, but their handling mistakes became their downfall in the end while Widnes snapped up the chances that came their way.

Martin Offiah (who extended his try tally to 34), Alan Tait and Andy Currier will be missing from the home line-up this afternoon as they will be on duty in France against the French.

We extend a warm Naughton Park welcome to Tony Barrow and his Oldham team and look forward to an enjoyable game.

Jonathan Davies continues to make progress, drawing another great crowd for his second 'A' team outing. He obliged with five goals and a try, his first touchdown for Widnes. Davies also added the extra interest to the Salford tie at the Willows. He must be the best thing that has happened for the game in this country since last summers great third test victory over the 'Roos in Sydney.

This last week I have had two telephone calls from Baskingstoke and Birmingham inquiring about his progress and requesting photographs of him.

It was sad to hear of the death of former Widnes player Terence (Terry) Gallagher. 'Golly' as he was known to his many friends and football pals, who played for the club during the 1951/52 period, first playing for St Patrick's School before joining the junior and amateur leagues, then signing for the senior club. He made his senior debut at Craven Park against Barrow in the first round second leg of the RL Cup, a promising loose-forward in his day. 'Golly' also played in the centre, turning out against Liverpool City and Warrington.

The sad passing of Martin Cain, a great Widnes fan and supporter of the amateur game in the town came as a great shock to many local fans also, and to former Widnes Wembley hero of the 1930's, Peter Topping, we send best wishes for a quick recovery and hope he will soon be out of hospital.



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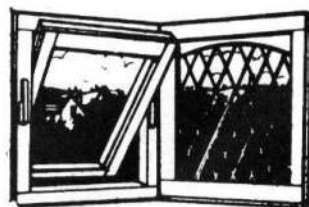
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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

Up to and including Sunday 29th January, 1989

	1988-89						ALL SEASONS					
	A	S	G	Dg	T	Pts	A	S	G	Dg	T	Pts
Ashurst, C.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Currier, A.....	24	—	79	1	10	199	88	11	98	1	43	369
Davies, J.....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dowd, B.....	8	4	2	—	1	8	83	14	68	2	20	217
Eyres, A.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
Eyres, R.....	21	3	—	—	1	4	125	21	1	2	27	112
Grima, J.....	21	—	—	—	2	8	23	12	—	—	3	12
Hulme, D.....	24	—	—	—	5	20	209	26	—	1	98	375
Hulme, P.....	21	1	—	—	2	8	106	14	—	—	19	76
Kebbie, B.....	2	—	5	—	1	14	2	—	5	—	1	14
Koloto, E.....	6	8	—	—	2	8	6	8	—	—	2	8
Marsh, D.....	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
McKenzie, P.....	23	—	—	—	5	20	94	1	—	—	28	112
Myler, A.....	20	—	—	—	9	36	170	16	—	—	76	278
Myler, J.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	206	48	251	25	36	651
Newton, K.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	29	26	—	—	3	11
Offiah, M.....	24	—	—	—	33	132	59	—	—	—	75	300
O'Neill, M.....	23	1	—	—	5	20	323	33	—	—	68	234
O'Neill, S.....	1	3	—	1	—	1	170	32	—	10	12	56
Platt, D.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	40	10	74	2	14	206
Pyke, D.....	11	4	—	—	—	—	22	4	—	—	—	—
Sorensen, K.....	16	—	—	—	7	28	122	—	—	—	30	120
Sullivan, A.....	1	1	—	—	—	—	21	7	—	—	2	8
Tait, A.....	24	—	—	1	12	49	24	3	—	1	13	53
Thackray R.....	20	—	—	—	7	28	66	—	—	—	22	88
Wright D.....	20	—	—	—	11	44	117	1	—	—	42	168

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First Team Fixtures

1988				F. A.		Tries		Goals	
August									
14—St. Helens (Friendly).....	A	16-28	4,375			A. Tait, A. Currier, D. Wright		A. Currier (1), D. Platt (1)	
21—Wigan (I.O.M.).....		20-14	5,044			M. Offiah, D. Wright P. McKenzie		A. Currier (4)	
28—Halifax.....	A	20-26	9,001			P. McKenzie, M. Offiah, D. Wright, B. Dowd		A. Currier (2)	
September									
4—Hull.....	H	38-6	5,434			M. Offiah (4), M. O'Neill, K. Sorensen, D. Wright		B. Kebbie (5)	
11—Leeds.....	A	30-14	12,264			R. Thackray (3), A. Tait, K. Sorensen, P. McKenzie		B. Dowd (2) A. Currier (1)	
18—St Helens (L.C. 1st Rd).....	H	32-24	10,741			M. Offiah (2), D. Wright, A. Tait, K. Sorensen, A. Currier		A. Currier (4)	
25—Featherstone Rovers.....	H	58-2	5,195			Currier (5), Offiah (4), D. Hulme, Tait		Currier (7)	
28—Swinton (L.C. 2nd Rd).....	H	38-4	4,905			P. Hulme (2), T. Myler (2), D. Hulme, A. Tait, M. Offiah		A. Currier (5)	
October									
2—Salford.....	A	12-15	6,688			A. Tait, M. Offiah		A. Currier (2)	
9—Halifax.....	H	5-4	6,971			A. Currier		S. O'Neill (D.G.)	
12—Wigan (Lancs Cup semi-final).....	A	10-14	17,932			M. O'Neill		A. Currier (3)	
16—Castleford (postponed).....	H								
23—Wakefield Trinity.....	A	28-14	5,069			D. Wright (3), P. McKenzie, R. Thackray		A. Currier (4)	
November									
6—Wigan.....	A	24-10	16,595			K. Sorensen, A. Tait, M. Offiah, D. Wright		A. Currier (4)	
13—Featherstone R (JPS 1st Rnd).....	H	37-12	5,299			Offiah (3), T. Myler, K. Sorensen, D. Hulme		A. Currier (6) A. Tait (D.G.)	
20—Hull Kingston Rovers.....	H	48-6	5,532			K. Sorensen (2), M. Offiah (2), T. Myler (2), A. Tait, J. Grima		A. Currier (5) D. Hulme (D.G.)	
27—Sheffield (JPS Trophy 2nd Rnd).....	A	32-9	2,898			R. Thackray, M. Offiah, A. Tait, T. Myler, E. Koloto.		A. Currier (6)	
December									
3—Warrington (JPS 3rd Rnd).....	H	16-7	6,700			M. Offiah (2), P. McKenzie		A. Currier (2)	
10—St. Helens (JPS S.F.).....	at Wigan	20-18	6,610			M. Offiah (2), A. Currier, R. Eyres		A. Currier (2)	
11—Castleford.....	A	Post							
14—Wakefield T.....	H	40-12	4,060			A. Currier (2), T. Myler, A. Tait, M. Offiah, B. Kebbie, D. Hulme, E. Koloto.		A. Currier (4)	
18—Leeds.....	H	8-20	7,396			M. Offiah		A. Currier (2)	
26—Warrington.....	A	18-8				R. Thackray, D. Wright, M. O'Neill		A. Currier (3)	
1989									
January									
1—St. Helens.....	H	29-22	11,875			A. Tait, T. Myler, D. Hulme D. Wright, M. Offiah, D. Wright		A. Currier (4) Currier (D.G.) A. Currier (7)	
7—Wigan (JPS Final).....	at Bolton	6-12				M. Offiah (4), J. Grima, M. O'Neill, T. Myler, R. Thackray, A. Tait.			
15—Salford.....	H	50-8							
29—Salford Silk Cut Challenge Cup Cup 1st Rd.....	A	18-14				M. O'Neill, D. Hulme, M. Offiah, A. Tait		A. Currier	
February									
5—Oldham.....	H								
11—Castleford Silk Cut Challenge Cup 2nd Rd.....	A								
19—Featherstone Rovers.....	A								
26—Silk Cut Challenge Cup 3rd Rd.....									

March	
1—Castleford.....	A
5—.....	
12—Castleford.....	H
15—Le Pontet (Wild Club Champ., 2nd leg).....	H Post
19—Bradford Northern.....	A
24—Warrington.....	H
27—St Helens.....	A
April	
2—Bradford Northern.....	H
9—Hull Kingston Rovers.....	A
16—Wigan.....	H
23—Stones Bitter Premiership 1st Rd....	

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1988			
August		F. A.	
12—St. Helens (friendly).....	A	56-18	
26—Halifax.....	H	20-12	
September			
2—Hull.....	A	30-20	
9—Leeds.....	H	26-2	
16—Wigan.....	A	12-32	
24—Carlisle.....	H	Post.	
30—(Fri) Swinton (L.S. 1st Rd).....	H	26-18	
October			
7—Halifax.....	A	4-16	
14—St Helens (Lancs Shield 2nd Rd).....	A	34-0	
21—Hunslet.....	H	66-22	
26—Warrington.....	H	16-15	
29—Carlisle.....	A	12-24	
November			
4—Wigan.....	H	13-5	
12—Hunslet.....	A	26-24	
18—Hull K.R.....	A	15-24	
25—Hull K.R.....	H	42-12	
December			
2—Wigan (Shield Final).....	A	16-22	
9—Castleford.....	H	14-26	
16—St. Helens.....	H	24-24	
30—St Helens.....	A	4-20	
1989			
January			
7—Whitehaven.....	H	Post.	
13—Salford.....	A	12-26	
20—Hull.....	H	32-20	
27—Warrington.....	H	34-8	
February			
4—Challenge Cup 1st Rd Bye.....			
10—Swinton.....	A		
18—Challenge Cup 2nd Rd.....			
24—Salford.....	H		
March			
3—Leeds.....	A		
10—Castleford.....	A		
15—Whitehaven.....	A		
22—Warrington.....	A		
April			
1—Whitehaven.....	H		

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