

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

DUNCAN PLATT — 1
STEVE ROBINSON — 2
CHARLIE McALISTER — 3
GARY HYDE — 4
KEVIN MEADOWS — 5
CHRIS O'SULLIVAN — 6
MIKE FORD — 7
IAN SHERRATT — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
LEO CASEY — 10
TREVOR CROSTON — 11
PAUL ROUND — 12
KEITH NEWTON — 13
BOB MARSDEN — 14
TERRY FLANAGAN — 15

HULL

PAUL FLETCHER — 1
ADRIAN BULLOCK — 2
DAVID MOON — 3
BRIAN BLACKER — 4
DANE O'HARA — 5
GARY PEARCE — 6
CRAIG COLEMAN — 7
ANDY DANNATT — 8
LEE JACKSON — 9
STEVE CROOKS — 10
TIM WILBY — 11
JON SHARP — 12
GARY DIVORTY — 13
PHIL WINDLEY — 14
PAUL WELHAM — 15

Referee: Mr. R. Tennant (Castleford) Touch Judges: Mr. D. Bradshaw (Red Flag), Mr. M. Haigh (Orange Flag)

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

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

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

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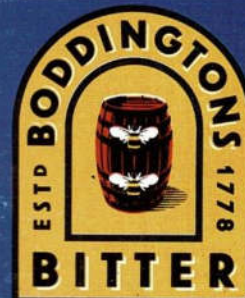


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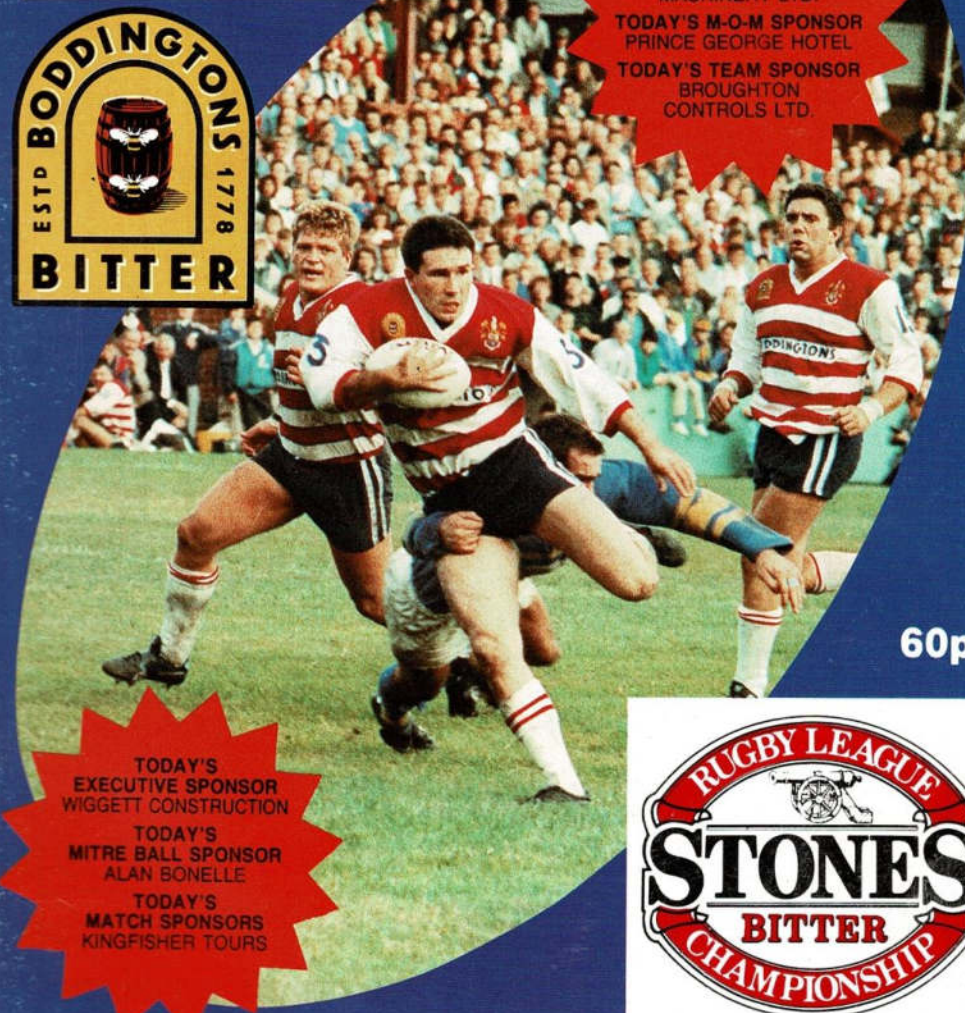
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Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978

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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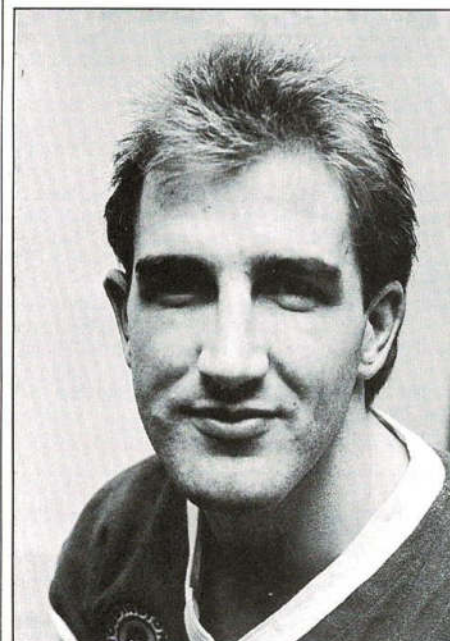
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PLAYERS PROFILE

JOHN HENDERSON



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name: *John Henderson*
 Nick Name: *Hendo*
 Birthdate: *7.10.63*
 Birthplace: *Oldham*
 Marital Status: *Single*
 Occupation: *Fitter*
 Car: *Cavalier SR*
 Fav. TV Show: *Fawlty Towers*
 Fav. Film: *An American Werewolf in London*
 Fav. Music: *U2, Simple Minds, Dire Straits*
 Fav. Food/Drink: *Big Mac/Milk*
 Fav. Reading: *Sunday Sport*
 Hobbies: *Sunday Sport*
 Fav. other sport: *Boxing*
 Likes about game: *Everything*
 Dislikes about game: *Bad Referees*
 Superstitions: *None*
 Fav. position: *Centre*
 Fav. ground: *Headingley*
 Best moment: *Scoring try v Warrington that kept Leigh up in 1986-87*
 Worst moment: *Leigh's Challenge Cup semi-final defeat by St. Helens*
 Hardest player to tackle: *Ellery Hanley*
 Hardest tackler: *Mike Ford (in training)*
 Fav. all-time player: *John Woods*

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

(Excluding Sheffield cup-tie)

Date signed on: *Sept. 22, 1988 (£50,000 from Leigh)*
 Debut: *v Castleford (away) 25.9.88*
 Appearances: *17*
 Tries: *7*
 Goals: *0*
 Drop goals: *0*
 Total points: *28*

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



THE most pleasing aspect of the Watersheddings scene recently has been the re-birth of the youth policy. The importance of a healthy and vibrant 'home-made' policy cannot be over-estimated as I said at the outset when joining the club last November.

It is very gratifying indeed, therefore, to report that we now have the makings of an excellent set-up, as shown when we signed, on amateur forms initially, two current members of the Great Britain under-19 amateur squad in stand-off Tommy Martyn from Leigh and winger Richard Blackman from Dewsbury.

I expect both lads to do well and go far in the game.

Of course, this is only the start. I expect to have several more promising young lads in the net by the end of the season because it is vital that we create a conveyor belt of young talent from an on-going youth policy.

With that in mind it was highly encouraging to watch a brilliant display from the Oldham under-19s in their 34-0 hammering of West Hull in the British Coal Youth League the other night.

The standard was first-class. I was most impressed, as I told the lads in the dressing room after the match. It was essentially a team victory

that was spiced with several top-class individual displays and the three players who particularly caught my eye were Neil Flanagan, at scrum-half, the big prop Ian Smith, and the centre Adrian Bell.

First, we have to have the scouting team to spot the young talent far and wide and that's why I have added Bob Evans to the backroom 'team'. Once here, the lads must get the best possible attention to aid their development, so we are having a four-lane running track prepared for pre-season training later in the year and I have had board approval to enlist a specialist sprint coach.

All this costs a lot of money, of course, and that's why I hope you will all give considerable support to the share issue. The subscription list closes on February 27 so time is running out. If you haven't already done so please get a prospectus and help to give us the backing to fulfil our long-term plans to take Oldham to the top.

TONY BARROW



OLDHAM RLFC
WATERSHEDDINGS



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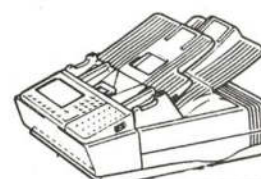
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

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 share issue which was launched on Thursday and remains open until February 27th.

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, and now is the time to do it.**

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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We want you to tell us which player you think has made the greatest contribution to the club this season.

The player who receives the most votes will be presented with the magnificent OB Trophy (pictured) and a £250 cheque before the last home league game of the season against Castleford.

To vote simply look inside this programme. You'll find a coupon which enables you to influence the final result.

Just place the name of the player you think has consistently produced fine performances for the club this season in the box provided.

Also add your name, address and

telephone number because every supporter who votes automatically enters a great prize draw which will be drawn at the Castleford game.

The first three names out of the hat each receive two cases of Boddingtons' bitter — that's 48 cans!

Simply post the FREEPOST coupon to us to arrive no later than 3 April, 1989.

The coupon will also appear in programmes for the home matches against Featherstone Rovers, Wakefield Trinity and Wigan. So there is no excuse for not voting!



THE HUNT IS ON FOR OB SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

We also want to find the ORLFC fan who best deserves the title OB Supporter of the Year.

And we need your help!

In addition to the OB Player of the Year, Boddingtons has also introduced a new award for you, the fans.

The winner, who in the opinion of our panel of judges has done most to

deserve the title, will be presented with a handsome trophy, a full, brand-new kit that the players will be wearing next season and a pair of season tickets.

10 runners-up will be presented with two Gold Card tickets for the match of their choice next season.

All we want you to do is nominate a member of your family, a relative or a friend who you think is worthy of the title OB Supporter of the Year. Tell us why you have made your decision along with a few details about the person you have put forward.

Add the details in the section provided on the OB Player of the Year voting coupon and return it FREEPOST to us as soon as possible.

As a bonus, the nominator of the OB Supporter of the Season also picks up two VIP tickets so put pen to paper today!



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HERE COME HULL

HULL come to Watersheddings today as the form team of the First Division, having won nine consecutive league matches to soar from bottom place last October to a position among the top-four elite.

It is generally recognised that a major influence on this remarkable achievement has been Australian coach Brian Smith, a 34-year-old from Sydney, who came to England at the start of the current season and, after a shaky start, has started to hit the headlines.

Smith was a half-back with South Sydney until a severe knee injury ended his playing career and he turned to coaching, first with the South Sydney under-23 side and then the club's Reserve grade team, taking both to the premiership finals.

It was during his spell with the under-23s that he first came into contact with a young unknown by the name of Craig Coleman — a player who was to play a significant part, some years later, in Hull's surge up the First Division table.

Moving on from South Sydney, Smith spent four seasons with the Illawarra club before taking a year off and then flying across the world to join Hull thanks to the 'pull' of the club's honorary secretary Mike Stanley.

He had met Smith when Brian was in England as coach of the James Cook High School team some years earlier and he felt he was the man to restore good fortunes at the Boulevard.

Smith moved in initially on a one-year contract but he has since signed a new deal covering the next two seasons — an offer put to him during a remarkable spell of success since Hull found themselves at the foot of the First Division after a 32-20 defeat at Bradford in early October.

Since then, Hull's only defeat was in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup when Castleford triumphed at the Boulevard.

In the league, the Airlie Birds have enjoyed nine successive triumphs, including wins at St. Helens, that started the glory run, Leeds, and Wigan where the 35-20 victory was a record high for Hull at Central Park in 94 years.

The sequence also included an 11-8 win over Oldham at the Boulevard just before

Christmas, so we will be anxious today to avenge a defeat that saw Hull score the only try to be conceded by Oldham in a three-match spell.

Since that game, Hull have lost the services of Aussie prop David Boyle of South Sydney, who has had to return home to have a knee operation, so the No. 10 jersey today could well be filled by Steve Crooks in a hard-working pack that does the spade work for half-backs Coleman and Welshman Gary Pearce to do the damage with their accurate field kicking.

Young hooker Lee Jackson, robbed of an under-21 Great Britain appearance by injury, is expected to return to the side today, to be propped by Andy Dannatt and Crooks.

Tim Wilby and Jon Sharp form the second-row with Gary Divorty at loose-forward — not a pack of big-name players, but certainly a hard-working set of forwards whose tackling has been exemplary during the run of success.

Scrum-half Coleman is sharp and incisive on the break and both he and stand-off Pearce kick accurately for touch or for position, always trying to ensure that the game is played in their opponents half of the field.

Pearce is also one of the most accurate goalkickers in the game — a man with a long and reliable kick whose drop goals have also played a significant part in the big revival.

Giving a player like Pearce the scope to field kick and drop goals is a classic case of playing to one's strengths.

The pack and the halves certainly contain most of Hull's strengths but that is not to say that the back division can be overlooked because it boasts incisive runners in former Salford full back Paul Fletcher and evergreen Kiwi Dane O'Hara on the left-wing — a former Test man who will soon qualify for a benefit on the completion of 300 club or representative games while on Hull's books, nearly 30 of them for Auckland or for the full New Zealand international team.

Aussie David Moon and Brian Blacker, bought from Barrow for £25,000 recently, will fill the centre spots with local lad Adrian Bullock probably filling the right-wing berth.

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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 W 23-22

JANUARY

1 Leeds A L 48-4
15 Hull K R A L 34-6
22 Bradford N.....H L 14-30
29 Challenge Cup 1st round
Dewsbury A W 9-40

FEBRUARY

5 Widnes A L 38-14
12 Challenge Cup 2nd round
Sheffield.....A W 20-32
19 Hull H
25 Challenge Cup 3rd round
Wigan (2.15) H

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

New dates for away games at Bradford and St. Helens and the home game v Widnes have 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 W 38-17

JANUARY

7 Trafford (2.30).....A W 14-36
11 Trafford (7.30).....H W 30-10
20 Bradford (7.30) A D 26-26
25 Dewsbury (7.30) H W 40-6

FEBRUARY

4 Challenge Cup — Dewsbury.....H W 26-15
11 Doncaster (2.30).....A W 16-24
18 Challenge Cup — Wigan A
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

Runcorn have withdrawn from the competition.



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OB CORNER

PUMP UP THE...



OLDHAM'S overseas stars, stand-off Chris O'Sullivan and Centre Charlie McAlister manned the pumps at an OB pub recently when they officially opened Chadderton's refurbished Sun Mill Lane in Middleton Road.

As well as performing the opening ceremony, the players mixed with Sun Mill regulars — and sampled a couple of pints of OB bitter. "Like an angel crying on your tongue," said Chris, quoting another famous Australian.

Chris, Charlie or other Oldham stars will be making appearances at an OB pub near you during the coming months.

Watch this space or check your local press for details.

MAN-OF-THE-MONTH

This month sees the introduction of the Evening Chronicle OB Man-of-the-Month, a brand-new award sponsored by Boddingtons/OB in conjunction with the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Evening Chronicle journalist, Roger Halstead, will select the player who he feels has made the biggest contribution to the club at the end of each month.

Roger's choice will receive an inscribed medal to commemorate the event and cheque for £100 — and, of course, a case of Boddingtons bitter to celebrate!

CASH IN AT YOUR LOCAL

Membership of Cashline and Lifeline, our popular fund-raising promotions, can now be obtained from your local OB landlord.

Simply ask for behind the bar for a membership form when you're next down your OB local.

It would be one of the wisest moves you make this year. Every day a Cashline winner picks up a £100 while Lifeline has a weekly

£1,000 pay out and a bumper £15,000 Boxing Day prize.

Don't forget?

LOOK OUT

Look out for future editions of the Evening Chronicle — they are running a couple of competitions prior to our forthcoming home matches against Wakefield and Wigan.

Winners receive two Gold Card tickets to watch the games in complete comfort and ten runners-up get free ground tickets.

TIES & T-SHIRTS

Available now, from our souvenir shop and on mail order through your OB local, are attractive OB T-shirts, ties and pens.

The T-shirts, which are available in fashionable black and cream, cost £5 as do the grey ties with OB logo. The pens are £1.

Coming soon to the souvenir shop are sew-on Boddingtons badges as worn by the players. More details later.

ENDPIECE

Overheard in an OB local before a recent home match, and we quote:

Fella's gone to Wembley for a cup final and he's in his hotel at 3a.m. when he hears this commotion outside. Peering through a window he sees a massive orang-utan in a tree. Alarmed, he calls a local orang-utan catcher who arrives armed with a rope, shot gun and a lasso.

"Grab the gun," instructs the orang-utan catcher, as he climbs the tree next to the anthropoid ape.

Lassoing the ape's tree he shouts: "When I shake the tree the orang-utan will fall out and dog will bite its b***ls"

"OK," says this fella, "But what is the gun for?"

Says the orang-utan catcher: "If I fall out of the tree you use it to shoot the dog!"

Rugby League has a wealth of anecdotes and stories to entertain and amuse. Now let us hear yours. We'll publish the best in future programmes.

Send your entries to OB Corner, Matchday Programme, 32-33 The Crescent, Salford, Manchester M6 4PF.

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**OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE
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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THERE remains eight days until the subscription list for the share issue closes and there may be many fans who are still undecided about whether to buy a future in the club.

To many thousands of Oldhamers over the years, of course, this club has been a great source of pleasure and entertainment. Many are the sentimental reasons for Oldhamers to buy a share in THEIR club and thus guarantee a future for the kids who are only just learning to like Rugby League and perhaps only just beginning to get the Oldham Rugby 'bug'.

But there are also good, old-fashioned business reasons for subscribing, too. We firmly believe that Rugby League is heading for a period when, by the turn of the century, it will not only be nationwide but it will be rivalling soccer as our national game.

At league level, big business is showing unprecedented confidence in our game. Starting next season will be a record three-year Stones Bitter sponsorship worth a cool £750,000. Yet almost before the ink had dried on the contract, the League was announcing an even bigger deal for the newly-named Regal Trophy — £825,000 for three years.

Last Thursday, the League was also due to announce another massive sponsorship deal concerning the Challenge Cup and in the near future we will be told of plans for a new sponsor to back the forthcoming Test series against the New Zealanders, taking over from Whitbread.

Big business does not put its money into sponsorship of this scale unless it believes there is a bright future for the sport it is

backing. All the right signs are there, of course... increasing gates, more media attention (particularly in the up-market papers) and push and drive from the new six-man Board of Control.

What about the Oldham club? Well, we want to be part and parcel of that big Rugby League initiative, and we will have a much better chance of success if the share issue is a success.

We believe, too, that Oldham also has the potential to 'take off' alongside the game as a whole. We have the tradition of a strong Rugby League base in the town with enormous interest at grass-roots level. Our crowds this season are up to more than 6,000 on average. What would we get with a team pushing for honours?

We are making efforts to improve the stadium facilities and, in the near future, the popular side should be re-opened.

Our commercial department is doing well — compare current Lifeline figures with the previous years to confirm that — and our sponsors, like the League's, have also shown great confidence in us.

Boddington's, our chief sponsors, are keen to develop their involvement in the club and its supporters, as you can read elsewhere in this programme. We possess, of course, a 12-acre site which, with the right share issue backing, we can start to utilise to the full, thus raising even more money and revenue to take the Oldham club to the top.

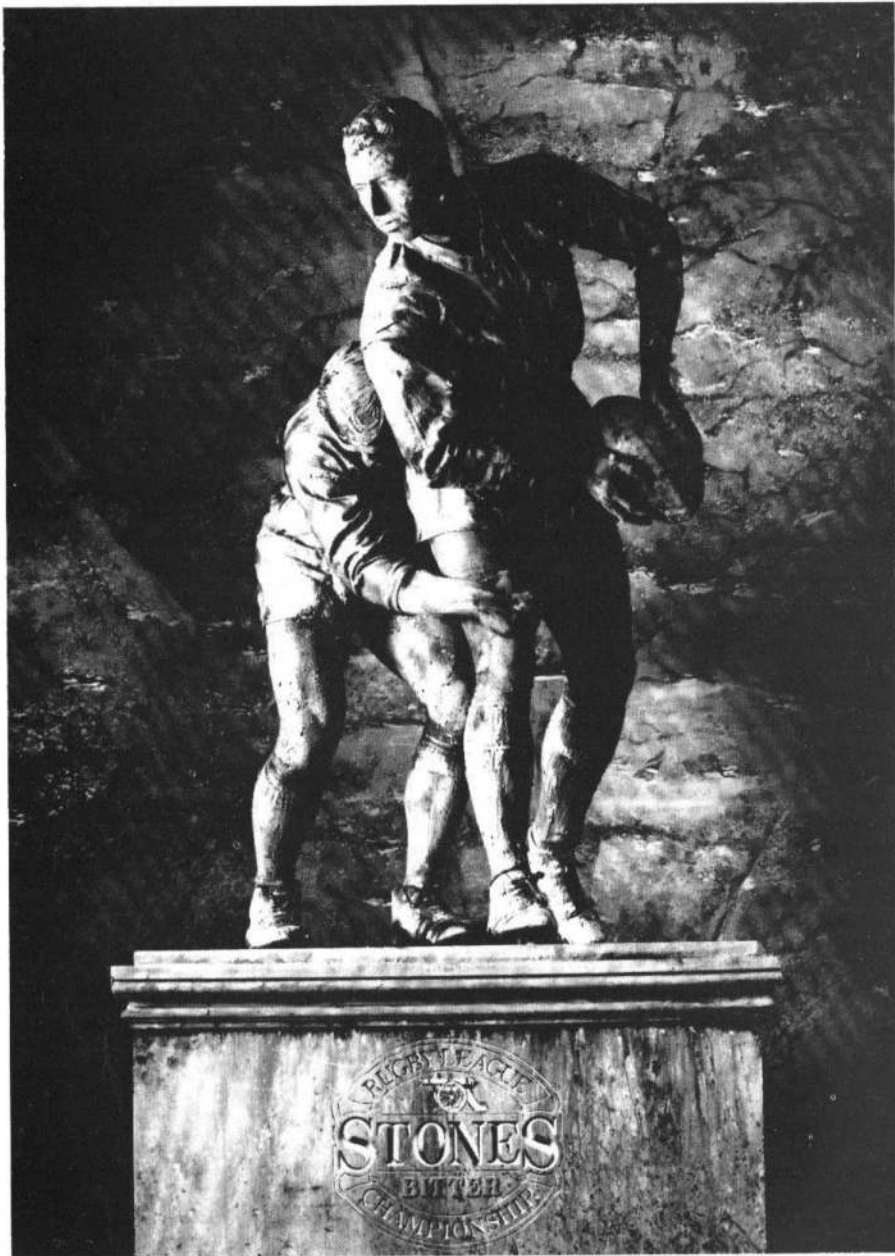
On the playing side, we have re-launched the youth policy and Tony Barrow, with the board's backing, is determined to see it through in the long-term so that we have a steady supply of young players available every year.

Another major development has been the creation of the pro-am British Coal Youth League in which young players, either with their roots in this town or as members of the Oldham RLFC playing staff, combine their talents in a big RFL-BARLA joint initiative. A far cry indeed from the days of acrimony and ill-feeling between the two bodies.

Make no mistake, Rugby League is going places. The Oldham club can follow suit, too. Don't miss the chance to have a stake in an exciting future. Get a prospectus **TODAY**.



The way to the future. Club officials scrutinise the share prospectus. Get yours today — and cement your allegiance to Oldham Rugby.



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

THE Annual General Meeting of the Lifeline Society was held in the social club last Tuesday. These notes had to be presented to the printer before then, but we were able to report that the Society had donated more than £72,000 to Oldham RLFC in the year ended September 30, 1988 — a massive increase on the previous year when less than £22,000 was handed over.

This was a remarkable improvement and a tribute to all our terrific supporters and Lifeline members, any of whom were due to attend last Tuesday's get-together which not only took the form of an annual meeting but also doubled up as an annual social get-together, including buffet and entertainment.

We also took the opportunity to distribute more copies of the share-issue prospectus in the hope that as many people as possible will become shareholders of Oldham RLFC PLC before the subscription list closes on February 27.

One of the objects of the share flotation is to raise sufficient funds to finance further developments in the Commercial Department to enhance profitability which, in turn, will improve the club's buying potential for new players.

Each member of the Lifeline Society has received a copy of the prospectus and we hope everyone reading these notes will give serious consideration to becoming a shareholder in a club that has massive potential for success at a time when Rugby League generally looks set to enjoy a boom period.

A great deal of confidence is being shown in Rugby League these days by the business world and we are delighted to report that, here at Oldham, we have landed a new, three-year sponsorship deal with sportswear manufacturers Bukta — a deal that will be worth £15,000 and could rise to £20,000 if the team is successful and reaches semi-finals and finals in the next three seasons.

Part of the provision of the sponsorship deal is the supply of all items of kit to be worn by the playing and coaching staff, such as match-day strips, training gear, tracksuits, wet suits, etc. and all the replica gear for sale to our supporters through our Development Association shop on the car park.

We are delighted to enter into a two-way business deal with Bukta — one of the largest manufacturers of sports gear in the country — and we would like to offer our appreciation to Midas Sports for all their help and backing

during the term of the agreement with them that ends at the completion of this season.

The deal with Bukta was too good to turn down and Midas were the first people to wish us luck in our new venture.

We can also reveal, for the first time today, that we have a new sponsor in John Blackburn, of Cleaning Services, who

will put up a trophy and £200 in cash for Oldham's top try scorer of the season. There will also be a replica trophy for the player to keep.

You can check on page 25 of this programme who is currently in the lead in the club's try-scoring list and who looks to have a chance of challenging for the Trophy before the season is out.

Our thanks to John for putting up this new prize and also thanks to our chief club sponsors, Boddington's, who are organising through this programme, a player-of-the-year and fan-of-the-year competition as well as a player of the month scheme, to be run in conjunction with the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Boddington's, who sell OB, are also to push our Lifeline and Cashline schemes through their many outlets in the town and surrounding areas and they are keen to involve **YOU**, the supporter, in their League activities, so make a point of buying a programme at home games for the rest of this season to see what Boddington's have to offer.

These are exciting times for Rugby League, both nationally and locally, and we feel the time is coming when people will want to be involved with the club and the game as much as possible.

Oldham fans, of course, have a unique opportunity to be part and parcel of their club as it enters into this exciting period. They can become shareholders in the Rugby League's first PLC. Don't throw away that opportunity now and perhaps live to regret it in years to come. It really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



Ray Hill

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

AS we enter the final run-in to the end of the season we have a special offer for fans in our souvenir hut inside the ground and situated at the pavilion corner near the entrance to the big stand behind the posts.

Starting today there will be a massive discount of 20-per-cent on all Oldham Rugby Supporters' Club sweatshirts and jumpers.

This is a genuine offer and one well worthy of serious consideration.

As the official body representing the supporters of Oldham Rugby League Football Club PLC we also appeal to as many people as possible to put their weight behind the share issue which remains open until February 27.

As supporters let's get behind the club in this crucial project and let's play our part in helping the club to get to the very top.

Will all Supporters' Club members

who travel on our coaches to away games please bring their membership cards on the day and book early on 665 1832 or 627 0235.

We are still looking for donations for the juniors half-time draw — acknowledgement in the next programme — and, on behalf of the supporters, we would like to officially welcome new boys John Cogger, Richard Blackman and Tommy Martyn.

The signing on amateur forms of the Great Britain youth internationals shows that the youth policy is taking off again. Likewise, a glance at the popular side of the ground shows that work is now being undertaken to open up the terrace again as soon as possible.

A lot of hard work is being done behind the scenes on projects that need a lot of money . . . another reason for supporting the share issue, so get your prospectus today if you haven't already done so.

THE 1989 STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLEHEADER

Sunday 14 May, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (23 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
T. Croston	3					3
M. Lord	3					3
K. Newton	5			2	8	5
K. Meadows	23			6	24	67
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	12	18		2	44	30
P. Lord	7			3	12	18
M. Ford	20			2	8	39
I. Bates	2					4
I. Sherratt	10			1	4	29
M. Hall	2					10
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	16			4	16	191
P. Round	23			8	32	56
T. Flanagan	15					288
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	19			4	16	30
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	21	10	3	2	31	21
N. Clawson	18					70
P. Taylor	9			1	4	32
K. Atkinson	7	8			16	36
J. Fairbank	10			2	8	10
C. O'Sullivan	20	1	3	5	25	20
A. Gilbert	9			4	16	9
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	18			8	32	18
S. Robinson	17			4	16	25
R. Marsden	4					9
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	3					18
D. Platt	7	22		3	56	7
G. Hyde	8	1		3	12	8

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	14	8	0	0	273	113	4	1	1	116	95	25
Widnes	15	8	0	1	309	94	4	0	2	132	87	24
Leeds	17	7	0	3	239	137	5	0	2	140	93	24
Hull	18	5	0	3	106	98	7	0	3	166	151	24
St. Helens	17	6	1	2	211	118	3	0	5	139	199	19
Wigan	14	5	0	3	200	147	3	0	3	108	115	16
Salford	18	7	0	3	197	160	1	0	7	144	241	16
Featherstone	16	4	0	4	146	182	4	0	4	134	174	16
Bradford N	15	4	0	2	146	98	3	0	6	201	220	14
Warrington	17	4	0	3	184	159	3	0	7	123	148	14
Wakefield	17	3	1	5	124	164	2	0	6	109	222	11
Hull KR	17	4	0	4	166	142	1	0	8	116	283	10
OLDHAM	18	3	0	4	139	138	1	1	9	157	293	9
Halifax	17	3	0	5	103	97	1	0	8	132	220	8

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 14, BRADFORD 30

DESPITE two tries by John Henderson, the second of which put Oldham into a 14-12 lead early in the second half, Bradford came back strongly to win thanks to the influence of substitute Harry Pinner.

DEWSBURY 9, OLDHAM 40

DEWSBURY gave Oldham first use of slope and wind in this first-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie and we took advantage to lead 30-5 at half-time. The ex-Widnes lads had a great time, with Duncan Platt, Keith Newton and Andy Ruane scoring 30 of our 40 points between them.

WIDNES 38, OLDHAM 14

ALMOST a carbon copy of the Bradford game. We got back in the game at 16-14 after 55 minutes, but Widnes stepped up a gear to go away thanks to Phil McKenzie's exploits from dummy half.

He scored one try and made another to upstage Jonathan Davies on his first full senior game of Rugby League.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES 20, OLDHAM 32

SECOND round this time and the gulf in class between the divisions was evident once more. Eagles were expecting to beat us, but we led 19-6 at half-time and it was as good as over. Chris O'Sullivan took the Silk Cut man of the match award for a dashing display of running from the stand-off position.

BRADFORD 'A' 26, OLDHAM 'A' 26

A VITAL game for Oldham in the Slalom Lager Alliance div 2 title race was marred

by serious injury to Colin Hawkyard, who broke his leg. Mick Bardsley also had to go off with what was feared to be a serious leg injury, but the damage was not as bad as first thought.

OLDHAM 'A' 40, DEWSBURY 'A' 6

TOO easy for Oldham, who scored seven tries through Irving (2), Paul Lord, Ashley Gilbert (2), Martin Hall and Shane Cummins with Keith Atkinson kicking six goals.

OLDHAM 'A' 26, DEWSBURY 'A' 15

DEWSBURY produced a much more determined display in this Alliance Cup first-round clash, but the class of Terry Flanagan and Mick Burke, returning after injury, took us through. Keith Atkinson suffered a recurrence of back trouble late in the game.

DONCASTER 'A' 16, OLDHAM 'A' 24

TERRY FLANAGAN was outstanding in a depleted side which scored five tries through Gilbert (2), Flanagan, Hall and Bardsley with Hall kicking two goals.

THIRD ROUND DRAW

THE draw for the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup paired us with Wigan, the favourites. The match will take place next Saturday, February 25, Kick-off 2.15 p.m. and the highlights will be shown on television.

The match is all-ticket, so if you haven't already got yours now is the time to act.

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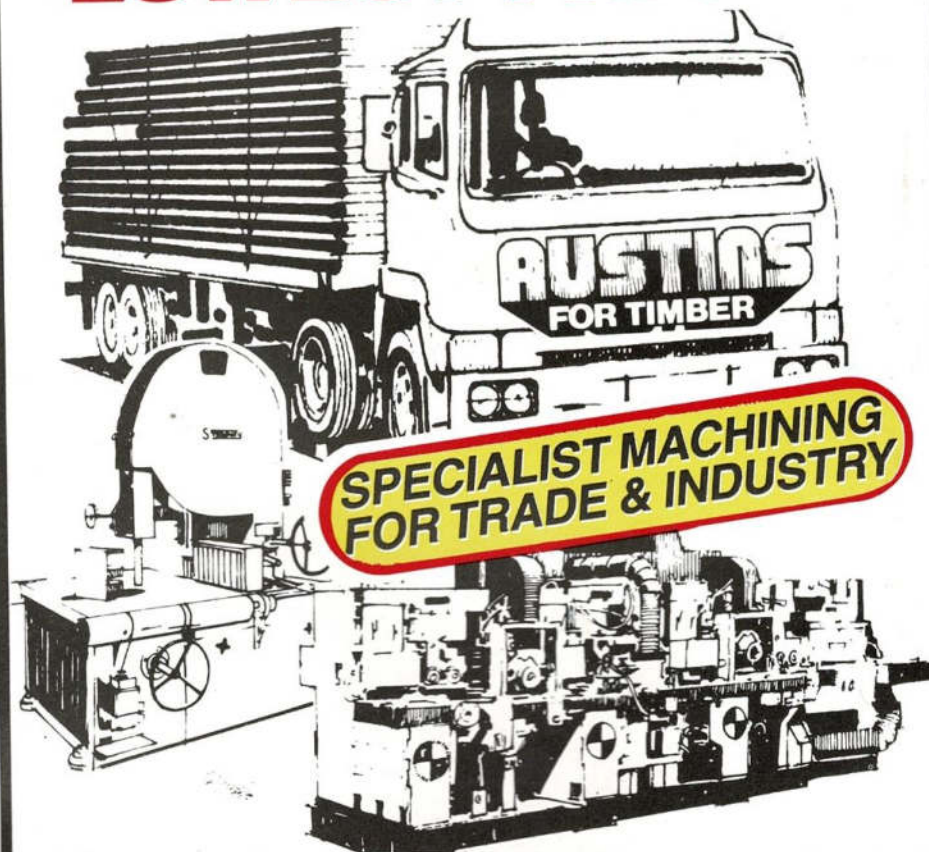
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