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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

THIRD ROUND



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25th 1989

Kick-Off 2.15p.m.

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Conditioner: O. Rowe

Professional Playing Staff:

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Dental Surgeon: Mr. N. Gibbison

Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr. H. Thompson, Mr. D. Walker

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle **Asst. Physiotherapist:** Mr. J. Watkins

Commercial Manager: R. Hill

Official Timekeeper: J. Roscoe

Official Sin Bin Man: David Whitehead

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959
Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978
Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24 February, 1912
Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan, 4th February, 1987
Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to St. Helens for Paul Round August 1987 and £65,000 for Mike Ford January 1988
Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries, 1921-22 season
Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957-58 season
Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959
First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored: Bernard Ganley, 2,881
Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685
Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233 Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55
First Division Champions: 1904-05
Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88
Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87
Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80
Second Division Premiership: 1987-88

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PLAYERS PROFILE

TREVOR CROSTON



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	<i>Trevor Croston</i>
Nick Name:	<i>None</i>
Birthdate:	<i>27.9.68</i>
Birthplace:	<i>Wigan</i>
Marital Status:	<i>Single</i>
Occupation:	<i>Trainee Mechanic</i>
Car:	<i>Nova 1300</i>
Fav. TV Show:	<i>Neighbours</i>
Fav. Film:	<i>Platoon</i>
Fav. Music:	<i>Pop</i>
Fav. Food/Drink:	<i>Steak/Chicken/Orange</i>
Fav. Reading:	<i>Rugby Magazines</i>
Hobbies:	<i>None</i>
Fav. other sport:	<i>Swimming</i>
Likes about game:	<i>Everything</i>
Dislikes about game:	<i>Unfair Criticism</i>
Superstitions:	<i>None</i>
Fav. position:	<i>Second Row</i>
Fav. ground:	<i>Elland Road Leeds</i>
Best moment:	<i>Turning Pro for Oldham</i>
Worst moment:	<i>Losing v Junior Kiwis</i>
Hardest player to tackle:	<i>Kevin Iro</i>
Hardest tackler:	<i>None</i>
Fav. all-time player:	<i>Ellery Hanley</i>

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on:	<i>December 11, 1987</i>
Debut:	<i>v Dewsbury (Cup)</i>
	<i>29.1.89</i>
Appearances:	<i>4</i>
Tries:	<i>0</i>
Goals:	<i>0</i>
Drop goals:	<i>0</i>
Total points:	<i>0</i>

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



THERE'S nothing like the Silk Cut Challenge Cup to get the adrenalin flowing. . . and one of the main reasons for that lies in the fact that the final is at Wembley.

The very name conjurs up memories of great occasions, high drama, brilliant rugby, and matches that will never be forgotten so long as this great game of ours is played.

As a player I was lucky enough to go to Wembley twice — first in 1966 as the St. Helens substitute and again five years later as stand-off to Alex Murphy in the Leigh side that beat Leeds to produce one of the biggest Wembley upsets of all time.

I've been telling my Oldham players now that there is nothing in the game that can compare with a visit to the Empire Stadium, and I'm sure the Wigan players, who were there last year, will vouch for that.

Some of the Aussie coaches who come here cannot understand what all the fuss is about when the Challenge Cup matches come around. If ever they go to Wembley they'll know.

Today's match, therefore, is bound to be something special with Wigan trying to make a return trip and Oldham out to repeat their

magnificent victory, in similar circumstances, two years ago when Paddy Kirwan grabbed the winning try almost on full time.

For us in the Oldham camp, we are now down to the 'nitty-gritty' after wins on the grounds of Second Division teams in the first two rounds, at Dewsbury in round one and at Sheffield in round two.

First Division teams going to places like that are really on a hiding to nothing. I'm sure Wigan will endorse that view after playing at Doncaster in the first round.

On both occasions we scored early points to grab the initiative from the start. After that there wasn't much doubt who would win, but Dewsbury raised their game in the second half and Sheffield, to their credit, kept coming back at us.

Today, the boot is on the other foot. Wigan are the bookies' favourites to win the cup and, as such, all the pressure will be on them.

TONY BARROW



OLDHAM RLFC
WATERSHEDDINGS



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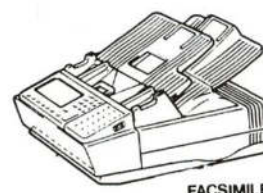
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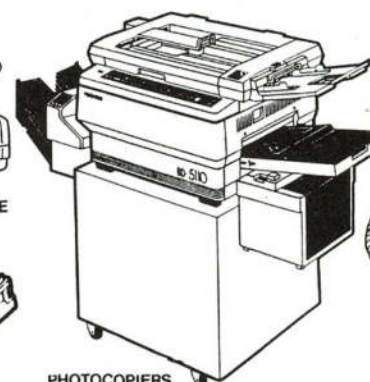
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

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 remains open until Monday at 3p.m.

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.**

Don't delay because the offer closes on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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IT isn't every day we have an all-ticket match here at Watersheddings, so we would like to appeal to ALL supporters — home and away — to co-operate fully with police and stewards so that the big game is a roaring success from the point of view of crowd control.

There will obviously be no question of changing ends at half-time because the ground is sectioned off, but we would further appeal to fans to keep off the pitch at all times.

Do YOUR bit to ensure the smooth running of the occasion by co-operating fully to the requests of police and stewards. That way, we can all enjoy the big-match atmosphere and at the end of the day Rugby League will be the winner once again.

We still have a special offer for fans in our souvenir hut situated at the pavilion corner on the inside of the ground. There is a discount of 20% on all Oldham Rugby Supporters' Club sweatshirts and jumpers — a genuine offer and one well worthy of serious consideration.

A big welcome today to all the fans from Wigan and let's hope the game is just as exciting as was

the match the last time the teams met here in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

I'm sure no one will need reminding of the Gary Bridge break in the dying seconds that created the position from which Paddy Kirwan squeezed over from dummy half. Mick Burke kicked the goal from in front and Oldham were home and dry after putting a spoke in Wigan's wheel of fortune that enabled them to carry off every other trophy that season.

The win gave us a second-round home tie with St. Helens but we could not repeat the giant-killing act in a season of entirely contrasting fortunes.

We reached the final of the Lancashire Cup, stunned the Aussie tourists with the finest performance by a club side on the tour, knocked Wigan out of the cup — and ended up with seven consecutive league defeats and relegation to the Second Division.

In the competitive First Division a few defeats on the bounce can spell disaster. Similarly, a winning sequence can take a struggling side out of trouble and that's what we will be hoping for in the league over the next few weeks.

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RUN-DOWN ON WIGAN

STEVE HAMPSON (full back) — Signed from Vulcan R.U. Club. Voted the 1st Division player-of-the-year in 1988, following a season in which he won his first caps for Lancashire and Great Britain, but sadly missed out on the Lions tour down under due to a broken arm and also missed a Wembley appearance. An immaculate fielder of the ball, rated the best full back in Britain, if not the World.

TONY IRO (winger) — Giant 21-year-old winger from New Zealand. Only arrived to keep brother Kevin company, but has proved to be very successful. Played in the Wembley Challenge Cup final and was later called into the Kiwi world cup final team.

JOE LYDON (utility back) — Brilliant big-match performer with 17 Test caps for GB plus all individual awards such as Lance Todd Trophy, Harry Sunderland Trophy, 1st Division young player and Man of Steel awards. A cup deadline signing from Widnes in 1986 in then a world-record £100,000 cash deal. Began his career with St. Patricks ARLFC. Missed out on GB tour last summer.

DEAN BELL (centre) — Current Skipper of World Cup finalists New Zealand and regarded as the best centre in the world by coach Graham Lowe. First arrived in England to play for Carlisle, joining Leeds in 1983 where he won John Player honours. Did well last season despite missing much football due to a hernia operation.

KEVIN IRO (centre or wing) — Joined Wigan in November 1987 and had a marvellous Wembley display alongside brother Tony. An international discovery of the past two years, playing a big part in New Zealand's defeat of Australia and Great Britain. From Mount Albert club in Auckland. Junior Kiwi in 1986, now sought by many top Sydney clubs.

HENDERSON GILL (winger) — Joined Wigan in October, '81 from Rochdale, having begun with Bradford Northern. Gave a breathtaking display in Britain's glorious 26-12 Test defeat of Australia last summer. Made his England and GB debut within a month of his acclaimed arrival at Central Park. Wigan's top try scorer three times between 1982 and 1985.

MARK PRESTON (winger) — Outstanding wing flier signed from Fylde RUFC. Played his 1st major match in the Charity Shield. Scored 8 tries last season including a joint 1st division record of five in Wigan's 62-10 home defeat of Hunslet last April. Fast and a great prospect.

GED BYRNE (stand-off or centre) — Ex Salford utility back signed for £40,000. Wigan-born and a product of St. Patricks Club. Scored 84 tries in his six seasons at Salford.

SHAUN EDWARDS (half-back) — Brilliant 21-year-old skipper of Wigan, tragically injured in the 1st game of the 1988 Lions Tour, in his tenth appearance, against Papua New Guinea. Britain's youngest international and the youngest player ever to skipper in the Wembley history. Named Young Player of the Year for the third successive season last May. Son of former Warrington favourite Jackie Edwards.

ANDY GREGORY (scrum-half) — Britain's inspiration of the Lions Tour, saving his finest hour for the epic Third Test defeat of Australia. Another Wigan-born player who began at Widnes. An ill-fated move to Warrington did not work out and Andy was overjoyed to join hometown Wigan for £130,000. Played all five Tests on tour to take his tally to 18 caps. Signed by Illawarra for the next Sydney season.

BRIAN CASE (prop) — Took the club's player-of-the-year award for a marvellous season in the championship

season of 1987. Signed from Warrington 1 week before JPS Final. St. Helens born, winning under 24's and domestic honours, before signing for Wigan in 1983. Three Wembley finals in five seasons.

NICKY KISS (hooker) — Current beneficiary at Central Park after more than a decade of loyalty to Wigan. From Oldham Amateurs Saddleworth. A tigerish player on the pitch, who has a great reputation for stealing the ball.

ADRIAN SHELFORD (prop) — Outstanding in New Zealand's World Cup defeat of Britain in July. Made his Wigan debut against Hunslet in 1987 after a High Court ruled him a Wigan player in a contract wrangle involving St. Helens. A tower of strength in the Wigan pack during the Cup run at Wembley.

SHAUN WANE (prop) — Signed for the club in September, '81 from St. Patricks ARLFC. Man-of-the-match when Wigan overturned Manly in the World Club Championship in October '87. A series of injuries prevented him adding to the GB caps gained in '85 and '86. A strong player who has played in every pack role for the club.

IAN POTTER (second-row) — International forward signed three times in his career by Alex Murphy. One of the unsung heroes, but much appreciated by his colleagues. A tackling machine who has helped to win a series of trophies.

ANDY GOODWAY (second-row) — Signed from Oldham for a fee of £65,000. Ever present in Wigan's 1987 championship side and a member of the Wembley-winning side. Has the strength of a forward, the pace of a back. Chosen for the Great Britain 1988 tour but had to decline due to business ventures.

ELLERY HANLEY (loose-forward) — Top class loose-forward who last summer completed a marvellous spell for the Balmain club. A natural athlete, who has also captained the Lions Tour. Rated by some, the most exciting player and very strong at going forward. Joined Wigan in a £150,000 rated transfer from Bradford Northern. The game's top personality who has a phenomenal scoring record.

IAN LUCAS (prop) — A youngster with a big future. Has come up through the ranks of Central Park to win Colts and International honours. A good strong player.

MARTIN DERMOTT (hooker) — Hooker and Skipper of the Great Britain under-21's side last season. Had an outstanding schools football career. Signed from St. Patricks and destined for stardom.

ANDY PLATT (second-row) — Wigan lad signed from St. Helens in a record cash signing of £140,000. A recent member of the 1988 British Tour. Made his debut for Wigan against Hull K.R.

IAN GILDART (second-row) — A 19-year-old second-row forward with a promising future ahead. Signed from local amateur club Leigh Rangers. Recently played in both under-21 international games against France.

DENIS BETTS (second-row)



GUESS who! Andy Goodway (centre) on the day he signed for Oldham in June, 1987

— Although only 19 years of age, Denis is proving to be top-class material. He was recently voted as player-of-the-month for his outstanding efforts. Gained international honours in the under-21's games against France, both at home and away.

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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 W 9-7
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 L 20-12
22 Leigh (7.30) H

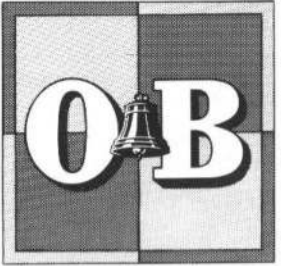
MARCH

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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BIG CASH BONANZA UP FOR GRABS

CUP fever hits Watersheddings this afternoon as we find ourselves a mere two steps from a debut Silk Cut Challenge Cup appearance at Wembley.

Obviously the players are already psyched up for today's battle with Wigan but to further motivate them our official club sponsors, OB, has pledged large cash incentives for the players should they win through to Rugby League's most glamorous occasion.

"If Oldham reach the final," says OB Brand Manager Shaun Bell, "OB will gladly donate £2,500 to the players' cup pool. And if at the end of the final, skipper Chris O'Sullivan is lifting the trophy we will double that to £5,000!"

"There's absolutely no reason why the players shouldn't be able to take full advantage of the generous offer, starting with a victory against Wigan this afternoon."

Certainly the precedent has been set in recent times with Paddy Kirwan touching down in the dying seconds to score the winning try that knocked mighty Wigan — who had won everything else that season — out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup two years ago.

So come on. Let's get behind the players this afternoon. With your help they could be downing more than a few pints of OB Bitter to celebrate another famous victory that takes them one step closer to Wembley Way.

To help get you in the right spirit for this afternoon's tussle, OB are releasing thousands of balloons just before the kick off.

What's more, 100 of these colourful black and gold balloons have special tags. If you find a balloon with a tag return it to us at OB along with your name and address. As



soon as we receive your letter we'll dispatch one of the famous Boddington's T-shirts to you. Write to Boddington's T-Shirts, Boddington's Breweries Limited, PO Box 331, FREEPOST, Manchester M60 3EL.

Don't forget to indicate whether you want a small, medium or large T-shirt.

And why not catch one of the Boddington's Bees in the ground this afternoon too! You could win yourself a colour television — or a 24-pack of Boddington's bitter!

We are running a prize draw raffle in conjunction with OB and tickets, which are on sale at 50p for a strip of five, can be purchased from any of the Boddington's Bees who can be found throughout the ground prior to kick-off.

First ticket pulled out of the draw wins a fabulous colour television set and the next 10 win cases of Boddingtons.

Finally, a warm welcome this afternoon to the Delph Brass band who are providing the pre-match and half time entertainment for your enjoyment.

One of the country's top brass bands, they certainly make a memorable sound. We trust you will too, when it comes to cheering the team this afternoon.

HATS OFF TO LOWRY

Calling all budding Lowrys!

We're planning to paint a mural, based around a typical match scene, on the white pavilion wall at the Watersheddings' gable-end entrance. In addition, the mural will include a message from us and our sponsors, OB, welcoming fans to the ground.

We're running a competition amongst the north west's art colleges, polytechnics and universities to submit mural designs for consideration.

At the same time we would like to see your designs too! So why not produce a painting or a drawing depicting an action scene from a recent match.

There's some great prizes for the best paintings. Send your entries to Andrew Field, Oldham Mural Competition, 32-33 The Crescent, Salford, Manchester M5 4PF, before the end of the season.

Who knows, we could be saluting the next Lowry!



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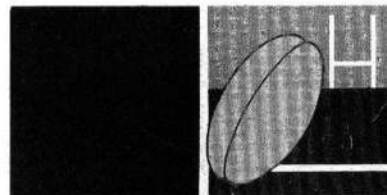
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SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

RECORD SILK CUT SPONSORSHIP ANNOUNCED

Silk Cut have announce that they are to continue their sponsorship of the Rugby League's Challenge Cup for a further three years in a record-breaking deal for a 13-a-side code.

Silk Cut are providing £900,000, broken down into annual payments of £275,000 in 1989/90, £300,000 in 1990/91 and £325,000 in 1991/92. Sixty-per-cent of the sponsorship fee will be allocated to prize money, as before, the remainder going into the Rugby League's Capital Development Fund.

Silk Cut have sponsored world Rugby League's premier knock-out event since 1985, the current five-year support totalling £750,000.

Rugby League chairman, Bob Ashby, said: "The record for sponsorship investment in Rugby League has now been broken for the third time in less than four months. Silk Cut's input of £900,000 is destined to set the highest level for several years as the Challenge Cup deal completes our portfolio of major competition sponsorship."

Len Owen, Special Events Director of Silk Cut, said: "We value our association with Rugby League and are pleased to be able to announce its continuation for a further three years. The financial support we have been able to put into the game's most prestigious competition has, we hope, given the game a boost, right down to the grass roots level. In turn, Rugby League has been good to us, it has a good image, and growing popularity as well as the reputation for good sportsmanship."

Jonathan Davies, meanwhile, has earned the praise of Rugby League chief executive David Oxley for giving the sport the impetus it needs to become a national sport in time for the 1995 centenary, by when officials hope the game has spread to London and Birmingham.

The former Welsh Rugby Union captain was an expensive capture for Widnes but Oxley and fellow members of the six-man board believe he has kicked the game into a prosperous new era.

Davies took a detour on his house move from Wales to Cheshire to help officials launch the record-breaking £900,000 Silk Cut Challenge Cup sponsorship deal — the best of three

successive deals that have netted £2.5 million.

"Jonathan's is a face we have seen a lot of in the last two or three weeks. It has been inevitable and it is something that Jonathan, bless him, has borne with great forbearance, courage and co-operation," said Oxley.

"We are absolutely delighted to have Jonathan Davies in our game. We are totally convinced that he has got everything in his skills to make an outstanding professional in the very best sense of the word.

"We are impressed that he took the trouble to help us launch the Silk Cut sponsorship even though he was in the midst of moving house from Wales to Cheshire.

"His head is still firmly on his shoulders and his feet are still firmly on the ground. He is going through a learning process that we know will end with Jonathan being an outstanding Rugby League player."

Davies has boosted the board's belief that London and Birmingham are realistic targets in their bid to make Rugby League a nationwide sport by 1995.

Student competition has achieved that target and the board believe this grass roots success story could pave the way to having four professional clubs in London by the year 2000.

Marketing director and Wigan chairman Maurice Lindsay said: "It is our intention to attack the cities. We plan to move to Birmingham and we intend to make a serious effort to promote the game in the capital.

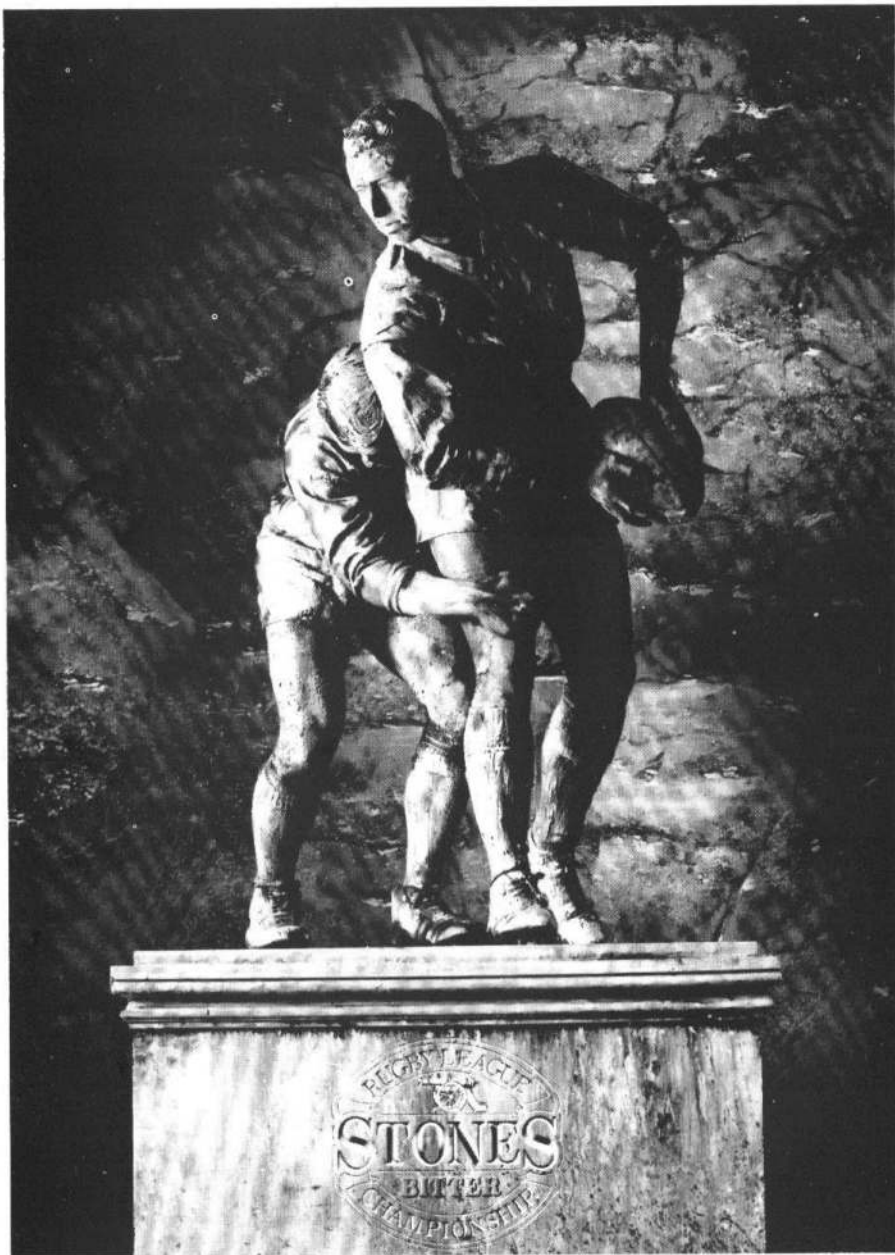
"There are getting on for nine million people in London and we have never, in our 100-year history, made an impact on this city. It is our determined intention to do so."

London Highfield became the first RL side to play regularly under floodlights after their 1933 launch and Fulham have settled in to a downtable Division Two role after an initial burst of success following their 1980 revival.

Birmingham, which staged Great Britain internationals against Australia in 1909 and 1912, has a number of amateur sides, but the directors believe mediocre Midlands soccer makes the area ripe for development.

Lindsay, who believes sides in either city would command regular gates of 15,000 adds: "We think Rugby League has a tremendous amount to offer. It did have an image as a regional downmarket sport perhaps played by athletes who were not as fit as they should have been.

"The likes of Jonathan Davies prove that is no longer the case and massive efforts are being made to take Rugby League to the pinnacle of world class. "We need the folk of Birmingham and London behind us and I hope by the end of the century we will have four teams in London."



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

IT still isn't too late to get a copy of our share-issue prospectus TODAY. So long as you let us have your application by 3p.m. on MONDAY it will beat the deadline. Who knows? It could be YOUR application that pushes us over the £100,000 minimum and allows the public company to proceed.

The flow of applications coming in certainly gathered momentum this week following our announcement that a speeding up of the process was essential to the very existence of the club.

There was a public meeting last Tuesday in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and we were constantly being encouraged by donations and messages of good will even though we will all be on a knife-edge until we know that the £100,000 has been reached.

★ Ike Southward, our former wing star of the 1950s and a great servant of the Workington club over many years, 'phoned from Cumbria to say he would be having shares for old time's sake.

★ An Oldham Athletic fan rang in asking for a prospectus because he felt it a neighbourly thing to do.

★ A Rochdale lady sent us £100 in memory of her late husband — a Watersheddings fan for most of his life — after hearing the appeal on GMR.

Once we have reached the initial £100,000 target from public subscription there are two very important spin-offs. First of all we can then apply to have the subscription list extended, at least until the end of the current financial year, and that would give us considerable breathing space to continue the mammoth task of canvassing the whole town.

Secondly, we could offer our creditors the option of taking some or all of their credit in shares, thus reducing the debt in a most practical manner.

We are sure no one will need any more reminding of the seriousness of the situation as outlined in the open letter from the chairman Harvey Ashworth to all our fans last week.

All that remains now is for us to point out that Monday (3p.m.) is the deadline and appeal to anyone who is still undecided at this late hour to get on board and cement an allegiance with the club like so many others.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL



THE annual meeting of our Lifeline Society, held in the social club last week, was a roaring success. It was very well attended and we were able to provide some very interesting figures on how the membership is growing.

After a lively debate on Lifeline and then on the share issue, the punters were entertained by a group in the lounge, and a light buffet, which we trust everyone enjoyed.

It was gratifying to receive the plaudits of the platform and the body of the hall for our success in lifting Lifeline contributions to the parent club from £22,000 in the previous year to £72,000.

But the operative word is 'our'. It is very much a team effort in which the girls in the office, all play a major part.

The plaudits at the meeting were for us. But my plaudits are for YOU. Without YOU there would be no Lifeline success, so a very big thank-you. Please keep up the good work and introduce a friend to all we have to offer in the commercial department if it is possible to do so.

The average weekly membership figure for the year ended September 30, 1988 was 1,464. At September 30 it had risen to 1,935 and by December 31 last year it was up again to 2,441. Current membership stands at 2,750 and is still rising.

If we keep increasing membership we will be giving back even more in prizes and there are already terrific incentives in return for the £2-a-week investment.

In addition to the weekly £1,000 prize, a car was given away last summer, a West Indian holiday was the star prize last Christmas, and punters have a bumper Christmas to look forward to this year with three major cash prizes of £15,000, £3,000 and £2,000.

I am delighted to report also that Mrs Sue Angrave, who works in the commercial department has been appointed honorary secretary of the Lifeline Society.



The most crucial 'signing' in the club's history. Club officials put pen to paper on the PLC documents witnessed by project manager Brian Kirham and the solicitors.

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TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

DUNCAN PLATT — 1
PAUL LORD — 2
CHARLIE McALISTER — 3
GARY HYDE — 4
STEVE ROBINSON — 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
KEVIN MEADOWS — 14
BOB MARSDEN — 15

WIGAN

STEVE HAMPSON
DEAN BELL
KEVIN IRO
JOE LYDON
TONY IRO
SHAUN EDWARDS
ANDY GREGORY
IAN LUCAS
NICKY KISS
ADRIAN SHELFORD
ANDY PLATT
ANDY GOODWAY
ELLERY HANLEY
GED BYRNE
DENIS BETTS

Referee: Mr. D. J. Carter (Widnes) Touch Judges: Mr. W. H. Walker (Red Flag), Mr. J. J. Beech (Orange Flag)

PENALTIES

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

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES

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

SCRUMS

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

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 (25 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
J. Cogger	1					1
T. Croston	4					4
M. Lord	3					3
K. Newton	6			2	8	6
K. Meadows	24			6	24	68
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	13	18		2	44	31
P. Lord	8			3	12	19
M. Ford	21			2	8	40
I. Bates	2					4
I. Sherratt	11			1	4	30
M. Hall	2					10
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	16			4	16	191
P. Round	24			8	32	57
T. Flanagan	15					288
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	20			4	16	31
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	22	10	3	3	35	22
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	21	1	4	6	26	21
A. Gilbert	9			4	16	9
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	18			8	32	18
S. Robinson	18			4	16	26
R. Marsden	4					9
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	3					18
D. Platt	8	24		3	60	8
G. Hyde	9	1		3	12	9

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	15	8	0	0	273	113	5	1	1	136	113	27
Widnes	16	8	0	1	309	94	5	0	2	154	97	26
Leeds	18	7	0	3	239	137	5	0	3	148	109	24
Hull	19	5	0	3	106	98	7	0	4	173	160	24
St. Helens	18	6	1	2	211	118	4	0	5	155	211	21
Wigan	16	6	0	3	216	155	4	0	3	118	119	20
Warrington	19	5	0	4	218	187	3	0	7	123	148	16
Salford	19	7	0	4	215	180	1	0	7	144	241	16
Featherstone	17	4	0	5	156	204	4	0	4	134	174	16
Bradford N	16	4	0	3	158	114	3	0	6	201	220	14
OLDHAM	19	4	0	4	148	145	1	1	9	157	293	11
Hull KR	18	4	0	4	166	142	1	1	8	128	295	11
Wakefield	18	3	1	5	124	164	2	0	7	127	252	11
Halifax	18	3	1	5	115	109	1	0	8	132	220	9

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 9, HULL 7

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for all the Oldham players for their magnificent backs-to-the-wall fight that ended Hull's run of nine consecutive First Division wins.

When you consider that Paul Round had to quit as early as the 16th minute and Mike Ford had to follow him a few minutes later, it was a terrific achievement to put one over on the form team of the First Division.

Essentially, it was a team victory in every sense of the word, but it included several outstanding individual contributions, not least those from the Aussie duo of Chris O'Sullivan and John Cogger.

Cogger, on his debut, quickly won a place in the hearts of Oldham fans and it is a great pity he will be missing today because, of course, he joined us after the cup registers had closed.

Gary Hyde also did well to overcome a knee problem and take over at stand-off when 'Sully' had to move to the base of the scrum following the Ford injury.

There were non-stop forward displays, too, from Ian Sherratt, Andy Ruane, Leo Casey, Keith Newton and Trevor Croston, while Duncan Platt's glorious goal from near half-way won the match after we had hit back from 7-1 down in the last 20 minutes.

Coach Tony Barrow was delighted with the display which raises great expectations that we can now build on a morale-boosting win and pick enough points to stay in the First Division.

WIGAN 'A' 20, OLDHAM 'A' 12

THIS was another great rearguard action by an injury-weakened Oldham reserve side which only conceded defeat in this second-round Alliance Cup tie in the dying minutes.

Until the last minute Wigan led only 14-12 despite Oldham playing with a man fewer for all the second half.

This followed the dismissal of five players in the first half — Ashley Gilbert and Chris Willis (Oldham) and Shaun Wane and Richard Russell (Wigan) in one incident and Tony Morrison (Oldham) in a separate incident.

Gilbert scored the first Oldham try, Ian Bates added a second and Martin Hall kicked two goals, but despite playing a man fewer than Wigan, Oldham kept their second-half line intact until the dying seconds.

On the field in the second-half were three 17-year-olds in Steve Entwistle, Richard Pachniuk and Rob Hall and all distinguished themselves greatly as did little Ian Bates and Shane Cummins, who switched from centre to second-row after the interval.

A proud Oldham 'A' team coach Ian Taylor later praised every single player for devotion to duty, courage and commitment. To listen to those who were there it was almost Rorke's Drift Mk.II!

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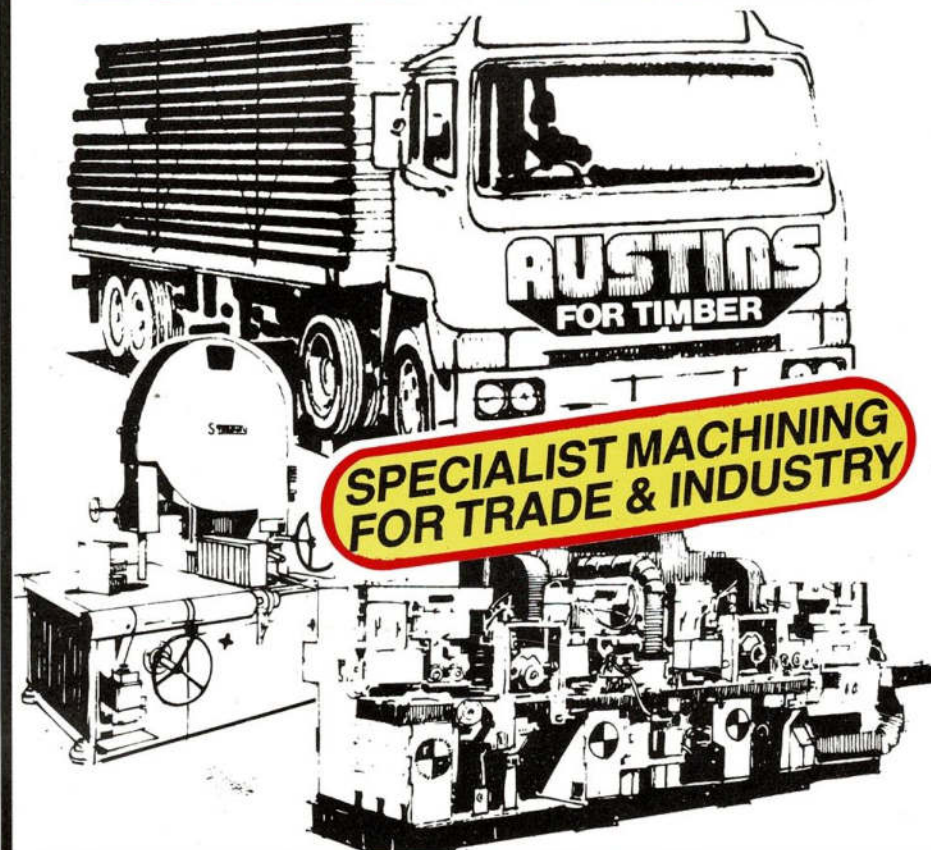
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