

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

DUNCAN PLATT — 1
KEVIN MEADOWS — 2
MICK BURKE — 3
CHARLIE McALISTER — 4
STEVE ROBINSON — 5
PAUL LORD — 6
IAN BATES — 7
IAN SHERRATT — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
LEO CASEY — 10
PAUL ROUND — 11
KEITH NEWTON — 12
JOHN COGGER — 13
TONY MORRISON — 14
TREVOR CROSTON — 15

FEATHERSTONE

CHRIS BIBB — 1
IAN SMALES — 2
PAUL NEWLOVE — 3
ALAN BANKS — 4
DANNY BEACH — 5
GRAHAM STEADMAN — 6
DERYCK FOX — 7
JEFF GRAYSHON — 8
TREVOR CLARK — 9
GLEN BELL — 10
CARL HARRISON — 11
CHRIS BURTON — 12
PETER SMITH — 13
NIGEL BARKER — 14
PAUL HUGHES — 15

Referee: Mr. S. W. Cross (Hull) Touch Judges: Mr. D. W. Simpson (Red Flag), Mr. J. Easter (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

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16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

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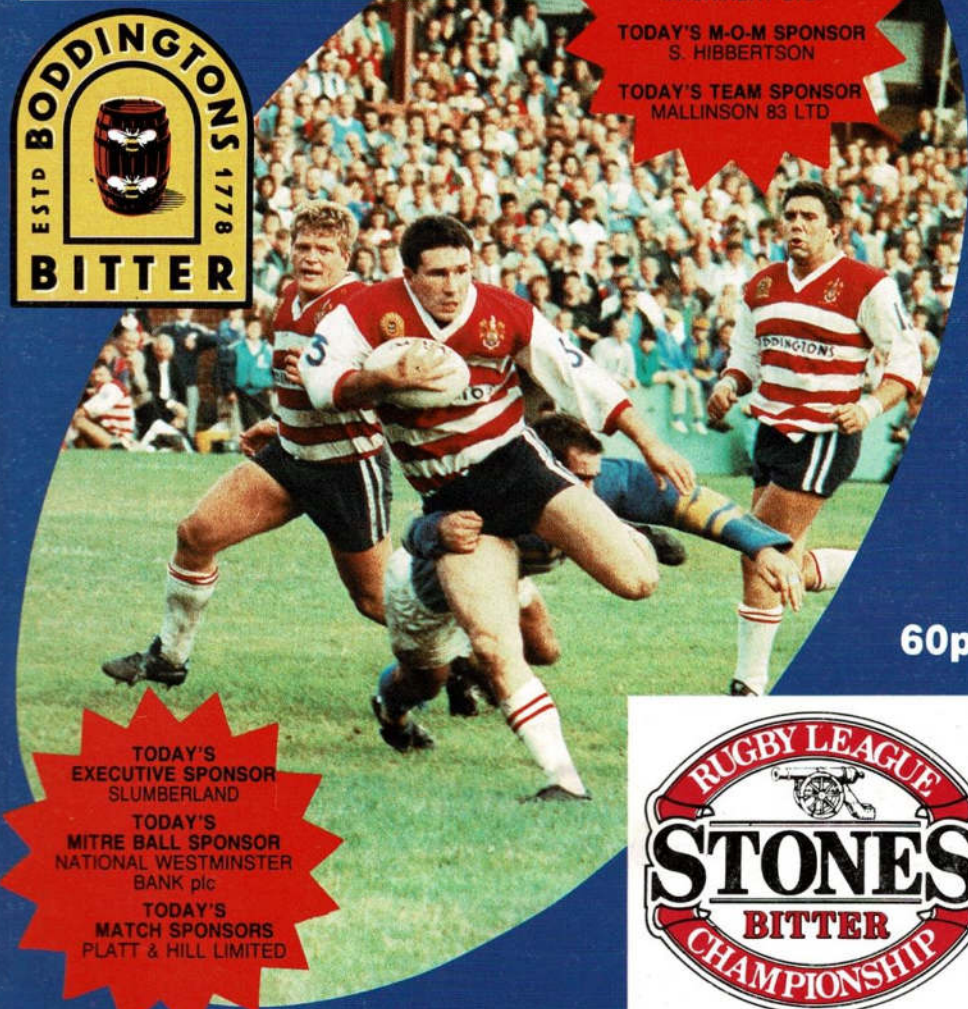
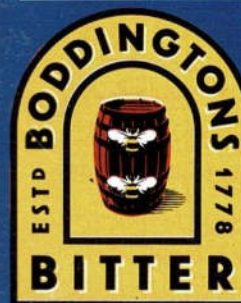
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Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959

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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

ANDY RUANE



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	Andrew Ruane
Nick Name:	Andy
Birthdate:	6.9.62
Birthplace:	Widnes
Marital Status:	Caroline/Kimberly
Occupation:	Damp Course Installer
Car:	Astra
Fav. TV Show:	'The Young Ones'
Fav. Film:	Midnight Express
Fav. Music:	Michael Jackson
Fav. Food/Drink:	Chicken/Lager
Fav. Reading:	Sports Magazines
Hobbies:	All Sports
Fav. other sport:	Cricket
Likes about game:	Social (After Match)
Dislikes about game:	Losing
Superstitions:	None
Fav. position:	Hooker
Fav. ground:	Naughton Park
Best moment:	Signing for Oldham
Worst moment:	Signing for Hornets
Hardest player to tackle:	None
Hardest tackler:	None
Fav. all-time player:	John Myler

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

(Excluding St. Helens game in midweek)

Date signed on:	August 1, 1988
Debut:	v Leeds, Sept. 4, 1988
Appearances:	23
Tries:	3
Goals:	10
Drop goals:	3
Total points:	35

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



NO praise of mine can be too high for the way the Oldham players got stuck into the task of taking on Wigan last Saturday in the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

We made special plans beforehand and the lads stuck to them like glue to give Wigan the biggest fright they are ever likely to get in this year's competition.

In front of the television cameras the Oldham players did everyone proud and, although we lost, I walked off the pitch and up the tunnel with my head held high.

It was a very emotional moment for me because I knew the players had given everything they possibly could in the cause of Oldham Rugby at a very important time for the club's future.

Those lads were ready to die to put Oldham into the semi-final of the cup and although we had injury problems of gigantic proportions the players never once lost their faith and their self-belief.

At 6-4 to Wigan for most of the second half it was anybody's match and had we scored at that stage — and we went close on numerous occasions — there is no doubt in my mind that we would now have been preparing for a semi-final.

After all our problems and anxieties in the week leading up to the tie fate dealt us two more cruel blows during the match.

Paul Round, who had a pre-match injection had to be pulled off at half time. To make matters worse Gary Hyde, who was playing with a knee heavily supported, took a blow

to the upper body in the early stages and had to retire at the interval with a rib cartilage injury.

I seem to have been bedevilled by injuries throughout all my coaching career, but for the players, from me, a personal thank-you and a very big hand to all you did last Saturday. The club, the spectators and the town must have been proud of you all.

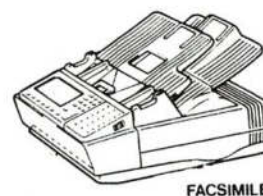
All that, of course, is now water under the bridge and it is important that we build on that cup performance to pick up vital points in the battle to scramble away from the relegation zone.

Today's match against Featherstone is a crucial one and we will be looking for a repeat of our form against Wigan to avenge our early season setback at Post Office Road.

TONY BARROW

Telephone 0204-361443

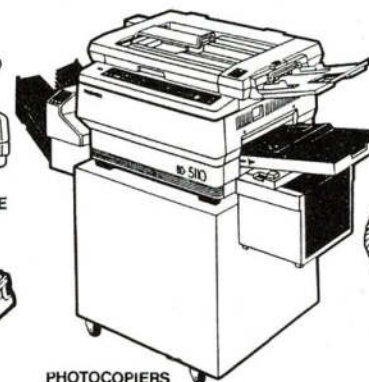
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

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 has now been extended for several weeks.

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 has to close within the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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TRAVELEADS TOP FAN 1989

TRAVELEADS Top Fan, 1989 — Rugby League's official supporter of the year — will witness the historic transatlantic meeting between Warrington and Wigan in Milwaukee in June as part of a £4,000 prize.

The fifth winner of the Traveleads Top-Fan title, and guest, will attend the first-ever all British encounter in America before rounding off the 10-day holiday with a stay in Orlando featuring a visit to Disney World.

Rugby League public affairs executive David Howes said: "The Traveleads Top Fan award is unique in British sport, designed to acknowledge and reward our loyal and knowledgeable supporters, the fastest growing sector of the country's sporting public."

Traveleads chairman David Easthope said: "We know from our most recent experience as official travel agents for last summer's Great Britain tour Down Under, and this year's American venture, that Rugby League fans are dedicated to the 13-a-side code. This inaugural United States trip is a Rugby League follower's dream holiday and we urge all fans to enter or put forward a candidate."

Nomination forms are now available from the Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

Five nominees will be interviewed by the Traveleads Top Fan panel of judges, headed by BBC Television Rugby League commentator Ray French, the winner being announced on Thursday, 30th March.

1989 GREENALLS MAN OF STEEL AWARDS

GREAT Britain scrum half Andy Gregory and Leigh's new under-21 cap Tim Street, born and bred in Oldham, are the respective Division One and Division Two leaders in the half-way stage voting in the 1989 Greenalls Man of Steel awards.

Record prizes totalling £8,000 will be presented at the 13th annual Greenalls Man of Steel award ceremony at Salford RLFC on Thursday 11th May, 1989.

The First and Second Division player-of-the-year awards are determined in a twin ballot by players in each division in January and April, with a player's first choice being awarded five points, second placed three points and third placed one point.

In the First Division poll Wigan half back Andy Gregory — voted Greenalls First Division player-of-the-year in 1987 — leads Widnes skipper, Kiwi Kurt Sorensen, and Naughton Park team mate, full back Alan Tait, the former Scottish RU international.

Other leading contenders for the prestigious players' title are Featherstone Rovers' goal kicking stand-off Graham Steadman and Warrington skipper and Great Britain back-row man Mike Gregory.

In the Second Division poll Hilton park prop-forward Street, recruited this season from Wigan for £18,000, is ahead of Sheffield Eagles captain Darryl Powell and Whitehaven's Kiwi import, Dave Watson.

Chasing the pack are Batley's Paul Gearey, York's Dean Williams and Leigh full back Chris Johnson.

The prize for the Player of the Year titles is a new record £750 plus a £200 silver memento, also awarded to the 1989 Greenalls Coach, Young Player and Referee of the year.

The 1989 Greenalls man of Steel — the personality judged to have made the most impact on the season — will receive a new record prize of £2,000 plus a £250 silver champagne goblet.



Another Great Britain youngster signed amateur forms for Oldham last week. Neil Flanagan (18), the St. Annes's scrum-half, signs on watched by director Jim Knox (left) and his father Peter. Neil is the grandson of the late Bernard Flanagan, Terry's uncle, who served amateur RL in this area for nearly a lifetime.

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NEW LOOK ABOUT THE ROVERS

THERE is something of a new look about a Featherstone Rovers side that comes to Watersheddings today looking set to occupy a comfortable mid-table place in the Stones Bitter championship at the end of the season.

As we know to our cost from a couple of years ago, nothing can be certain so far as relegation is concerned, but Rovers do look safe at this stage, having won eight of their 17 games prior to the midweek clash with Wigan which came too late for inclusion here.

In contrast, the Oldham club is badly in need of victory today to follow up the success over Hull in the last home league game and pull away from the relegation scramble.

What, then, will Oldham be up against? Well, there are one or two comparatively 'unknown' names in the Featherstone line-up these days and one or two familiar faces missing, notably that of goalkicking centre Steve Quinn, who retired from the game recently after an illustrious career at Post Office Road.

His place in the centre goes to 17-year-old Paul Newlove, who has already represented Great Britain at under-21 level — on the wing — and is regarded as one of the most exciting back division prospects in Rugby League at the present time.

Paul is the son of former Rovers stalwart John Newlove so it can be said that he has Featherstone in his blood.

In the third-round Challenge Cup tie at St. Helens last Sunday, Newlove formed an all-local back division with Ian Smales, Alan Banks and Danny Beach — a young winger who has worked his way up from the Travellers' amateur side, via the 'A' team, to senior recognition.

Full back Chris Bibb needs no introduction, of course — one of the fastest and most reliable full backs in the game — while much of the Featherstone scheming comes from former Great Britain scrum-half Deryck Fox and much of the scoring from his pacy stand-off partner Graham Steadman.

Fox and Steadman are one of the most dangerous half-back pairings in the game, operating behind a set of forwards that coach Peter Fox has drilled into a workmanlike set and always take a lot of holding.

Last week's pack line-up was thus: Jeff Grayson, Trevor Clark, Glen Bell, Carl Harrison, Chris Burton, Peter Smith, with Paul Hughes the forward sub.

Grayson — 40 next month and a grandfather — is the oldest player in the game. When he left Leeds last summer, he was wanted here at Oldham but in the end he chose to renew his old comradeship with Peter Fox and he has played a major part in Featherstone's bid to establish themselves this season in the higher division.

Says Jeff: "We lost a lot of games early in the season because it took time for us to adjust to the First Division. We were scoring 20 points and losing because we still had a Second Division attitude. We are looking a better side now and the signing of Chris Burton has stiffened the pack."

Much the same, of course, could be said of Oldham and a real First Division battle is in prospect so long as both clubs are not affected too much by their respective mid-week battles against St. Helens and Wigan.

It seems strange to see overseas imports in the Rovers pack, but there are two Kiwis in hooker Trevor Clark and prop Glen Bell, while the recently-signed Chris Burton gives the Colliers forward formation a vastly-different look to that of previous clashes with Oldham, in the past few seasons.

Outside the pack, Oldham will have to watch scrum-half Fox closely, while there is plenty of pace, as supplied by Bibb, Steadman and young Newlove, to test the best of defences.

Steadman has often been a thorn in Oldham's side in the past and he now has an ally in teenager Newlove, who was capped for Great Britain under-21s in his first season and, in his first 18 matches in the senior side, scored 13 tries.

Alison Walker, 10 today, of 2 Low Farm, Great Preston, Nr. Leeds, is the Featherstone mascot for today's match. **Happy birthday Alison.**

SPONSORSHIP

A Regal contract signing session to celebrate the launch of Rugby League's new three-year £825,000 deal with Imperial Tobacco — the game's longest serving sponsor.



Signing on the dotted line are Rugby League chairman Bob Ashby (right) and Imperial Tobacco Sales and Marketing Director Peter Middleton, accompanied by Rugby League Personality Girl Tracy Moore.

The new three-year agreement opens in 1989-90 with the first sponsorship instalment of £25,000 — a 50% increase on this season's investment — and rising to £300,000 in season 1991-92.

Imperial Tobacco's record deal is also marked by a change of title from the John Player Special Trophy to the Regal Trophy.

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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 KR 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 L 4-12

MARCH

1 St. Helens A
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 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

New dates for the away game at Bradford 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 W 22-8

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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CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS SULLY!

CONGRATULATIONS to Oldham's Australian skipper and stand-off Chris O'Sullivan, who is the winner of the first Evening Chronicle OB man-of-the-Month award. His outstanding displays during February won him this accolade from Chronicle journalist, Roger Halstead.

"Chris is not the creative or constructive type of stand-off, but his experience, leadership, commitment on attack and defence, and never-say-die spirit, made him an outstanding February performer."

Chris, who returned to Canberra on Monday with fellow compatriot Ashley Gilbert to prepare for the start of the Australian season, received an inscribed medal, a cheque for £100 and a case of Boddingtons bitter prior to his flight home.

OB PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ON the subject of awards, another cheque could be on its way to Australia as Chris is one of the favourites to win the OB Player Of The Year award.

Whether he does or not depends entirely upon how you vote.

So far response to the award has been extremely encouraging but we want all the supporters to have their say.

That's why more coupons are appearing in today's programme (and for the forthcoming matches against Wakefield Trinity and Wigan) so there's plenty of opportunities for you to influence the final decision.

Remember, this is your chance to thank the player you think has made the greatest contribution to the club this season so keep sending your votes in. Closing date is 3rd April.

NEXT STOP CHURCH INN

Our next weekly £1,000 Lifeline draw takes place tomorrow (6 March) at an OB pub, Royton's Church Inn at 8.00. Oldham's Commercial manager Ray Hill and a couple of the players will be on hand to draw out the name of the lucky winner — and, of course, sample landlord Dennis Taylor's excellent OB bitter and mild.

In addition, there will be a raffle on the night with prizes including an Oldham football signed by all the players together with OB T-shirts and umbrellas.

It promises to be a great night out so make it a date tomorrow and call in.

CHEERS

Regulars at the OB pub, the Bull's Head, Royton, have collected £260 for

the Royton & Crompton Heart Start Appeal, taking the sum raised by local charities to over £4,300. That's the total needed to buy a second lifesaving Heart Start machine, which as its name implies starts hearts again after they have stopped.

The machines will be used by ambulances operating out of Shaw Ambulance Station. The presentation of the cheque took place at the Bull's Head recently.



(Left to right) Gordon Lord, Boddingtons Area Manager; Ken Allen, landlord, Bull's Head; Ambulanceman, Dave Standing; Ambulanceman, Sharon Taylor and Leading Ambulanceman, Bob Smith

SORRY

Apologies for the raffle-that-never-was that should have taken place before the Wigan match. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, it didn't.

To make amends we are running the raffle this week. First prize is a brand-new colour television. Ten runner-up prizes are cases of Boddingtons bitter.

Tickets cost 50p for five and can be obtained from sellers around the ground. The draw will be made at half time.

MAKING WAVES

Our cup-tie against Wigan certainly captured the imagination of thousands of Rugby League fans. Local radio station, GMR, ran a competition, in conjunction with official club sponsors Boddingtons, for 25 pairs of tickets for the match.

According to GMR sports editor, Ian Frame, the competition proved to be the most popular ever run on the radio station's Sunday afternoon Rugby League programme. Tune in to GMR for future competitions.

ENDPIECE

We have received plenty of nominations for the OB Supporter of the Year award — keep them coming in — and already our judges are faced with an extremely difficult decision. One entry which would save the judges a lot of hard work simply nominated all our regular supporters who positively supported the club during a traumatic season.

Last week's tremendous support against Wigan in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup makes it hard to disagree.

Let's repeat the performance today against Featherstone Rovers and cheer the team to victory.





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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THE fans have responded superbly in the past three weeks to our share issue appeal and the directors wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to a total which passed the £100,000 minimum in time for us to extend the selling deadline for another few weeks.

In the space of a fortnight, after our second-round Challenge Cup win at Sheffield, we took more than £75,000 to top the minimum required to launch the PLC and, in the end, there was no need for Harvey Ashworth, the chairman, to make up any deficiency, as he had promised to about 500 fans at a public crisis meeting in the Civic Centre.

That meeting, in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, encouraged us enormously, because there was a good turn-up of interested spectators and Eddie Hemmings and his BBC-2 camera team also came along to give us a good feature on the following Friday evening's 'Sportsround' programme which compensated somewhat for the disappointing presentation of our share issue a fortnight earlier.

Once we had put the fans firmly in the picture about the very real threat of closure if the PLC plans had to be aborted we felt the townspeople were in a supportive mood and so it proved as the money began to come in.

We took more than £6,000 on the night at the Civic Centre and more was received at the club and at the stockbrokers, Bell Houldsworth Fairmount, as the total rose towards the £100,000 target.

As the money came in there were several interesting tit-bits to report, such as the £100 subscription from local amateur club British Aerospace, who took the opportunity of urging other amateur clubs in the town to do the same.

The Higginshaw club, through an editorial in its match programme, also urged the public to back the town's professional Rugby League body — further evidence of the growing relationship between Watersheddings and the local amateurs.

It was reported in the Oldham Chronicle that a group of fans at Torman's fabrication works in Booth Hill Lane, Oldham, had a whip-round to raise £140 for shares and one of them, Paul Saxon, said: "We've lost too many local institutions already. Oldham Rugby must not die. A lot of money will be raised if other workers in the town do the same."

At the public meeting, former official Keith Broadbent said his 85-year-old aunt — a pensioner — had bought 25 shares to help the club and suggested this was the spirit that was needed to help the club out of its plight.

There was a lovely little touch from Hathershaw School where kids bought 50 shares with proceeds from their tuck shop. The profits from this source always go to sporting projects of one kind or another and teachers Tom Mill and Nigel Marland felt the £50 subscription would be a thank-you for what the

club has provided for local children, directly and indirectly, over the years.

Radio Cavell donated £25 and our former wing star Ike Southward travelled all the way from Cumbria to watch the Wigan match and buy 50 shares for old time's sake.

Another star of the past, former Wigan and Great Britain full back Martin Ryan, promised to buy 100 shares.

In our last programme, of course, we reported that a Rochdale lady had sent us £100 in memory of her late husband — an Oldham fan for most of his life — after hearing the appeal on GMR.

All these are touching little stories which show that the spirit is certainly right and that Oldham Rugby will live on — thanks to the public's generosity and the backing of the directors, sponsors and fans.

We want to thank you all, at the same time pointing out that we still have a long way to go and a lot of ground to cover over the next few weeks before the subscription list finally closes.

We have on offer a total of 750,000 £1 shares, so we have plenty of selling to do yet and we aim to get around the town's businesses and firms to complete a vigorous marketing job in the time available.

If you, as an individual, can help, please do so. Several fund-raising ideas have emerged over the past few weeks from interested supporters and you can, of course, buy shares as a syndicate — a method already taken up by a lot of people.

The more shares we can sell before the list closes at the end of March or the beginning of April the better chance we will have of fulfilling our plans for the team, the ground and the club in general.



The fans queue up in the Queen Elizabeth Hall to fill in their share application forms.

If you still haven't got your prospectus please call at the office today and get one. We repeat: this is the most crucial exercise in the club's history.



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

A BIG thank-you today to everyone who helped to make our third-round cup-tie against Wigan a huge success from the commercial point of view.

We couldn't have got a worse day from the weather point of view, with several inches of snow quickly turning the car park and access roads to the ground into a waterlogged and slushy mess.

Despite the dreadful conditions, the Delph Brass Band played beautifully before the kick-off and at half-time, offering us such old-time favourites as 'Abide With Me' and 'Jerusalem'.

The balloons, from Boddingtons, were released as planned even though a handful of them didn't seem to want to get off the ground.

Behind the scenes it was a hectic time looking after all our various sponsors but at the end of the day I think everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time... largely due, of course, to that magnificent effort by our lads on the pitch!

It was a team effort, all right, but it was nice after the match to see Andy Ruane presented with the Silk Cut man-of-the-match award, judged by the Press, and Ian Bates handed a cash prize, put up by Kingfisher Tours and Malcolm Hamilton, in a new sponsorship deal for the top Oldham tackler.

There was a good crowd, a great atmosphere, and a superb battle by Oldham. From my point of view there was only one blot on the day and that was the shortage of sellers to get rid of the raffle tickets for the star draw.

We had a colour TV on offer, 10 packs of Boddingtons beers, and other prizes but, possibly due to the bad weather, we got very few people turning up to sell the tickets. It was a pity that half a book of tickets had already been sold. We had to make a decision and we decided to abandon the draw in the circumstances. Those with tickets can either keep them for a future date, when the draw will take place, or have their money refunded, if they prefer. All they have to do is produce their tickets at the Commercial Dept. and we will return the money to them, with our sincere

apologies.

It is difficult getting hold of people to assist on match days because there are so many jobs to do in and around the club.

One of these jobs is manning the shop and, talking of the shop, we now have in a new delivery of sweaters and two new lines for our customers — new, all-wool bob hats and Oldham Rugby gloves.



RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE MIDLANDS AND SOUTH-WEST

Rugby League supporters who may be involved in a future move to the Midlands or South-West should be reminded that the 13-a-side code is thriving in these development areas. Anyone wishing to take part in the spread of Rugby League either as player, referee, administrator or supporter should make contact with the following:

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David Kay Tel: 0761 221577

MIDLANDS:

John Simkin Tel: 021-707 8773

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Evening Concert

March 9, Oldham Rugby Club
Pantomime, gang show

March 13, Harry Pinner's pub, St. Helens
Race Night

March 15, School House Restaurant, Ashton
Sportsmen's Dinner (Jim Watt)

April 5, Pennine Lounge, Mumps
Rugby League Roadshow.

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

IT was a wonderful sight, at the Wigan game, to see fans clustered on the popular side again and in view of the fact that we still have a handful of important home games to come the extra room provided will come in very handy indeed.

Wigan have still to make a return trip in a league match, on Easter Monday, and it could well be a full house again if we need the points to stay up and if Wigan need them to grab a top-four place, for instance.

Widnes also have to come and that should also guarantee a big crowd, especially if former Welsh wonder boy Jonathan Davies is in the squad and ready to make his first appearance on the Watersheddings ground.

First Division pace-setters and title-chasers Castleford are here in the last game of the season so it all points to some bumper crowds with extra revenue for the club now that the popular side is back in action.

It also means, of course, that there will be a lot more activity on match day centred around the scoreboard corner and you will all be pleased to know that we are hoping to re-open the scoreboard canteen to serve people on that side of the ground with chocolate, sweets and crisps

which we also serve at the pavilion corner for fans on that side of the ground.

The Supporters' have also taken up a request by the directors to take over the sale of match-day programmes, to ease the workload on the Commercial Dept which has its hands full on match days manning the portacabin on the car park and also taking care of the sponsors etc.

We are happy to oblige in the programme selling and we hope to use the scoreboard canteen also as a centre point for programme sales and also for the sale of old programmes, match magazines, Rugby League Weeks etc. as and when we get them.

Incidentally, we still have on offer in our souvenir shop near the pavilion corner all our usual wares such as jumpers, badges, Rugby Nuts, yuppie autograph books, car stickers etc.

Please note, of course, that the programme now has additional Boddingtons features such as the player-of-the-year and fan-of-the-year competitions, as well as all the rugby news from our main sponsors. It's a good, newsy 'read' at 60p so why not start a programme collection, if you haven't already done so, and help the club at the same time.

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (26 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
J. Cogger	1					1
T. Croston	5					5
M. Lord	3					3
K. Newton	7			2	8	7
K. Meadows	25			6	24	69
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	14	18		2	44	32
P. Lord	9			4	16	20
M. Ford	21			2	8	40
I. Bates	3					5
I. Sherratt	12			1	4	31
M. Hall	2					10
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	16			4	16	191
P. Round	25			8	32	58
T. Flanagan	15					288
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	21			4	16	32
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	23	10	3	3	35	23
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	22	1	4	6	26	22
A. Gilbert	9			4	16	9
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	18			8	32	18
S. Robinson	19			4	16	27
R. Marsden	4					9
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	4					19
D. Platt	9	24		3	60	9
G. Hyde	10	1		3	12	10

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	17	8	0	0	273	113	6	1	2	164	145	29
Widnes	16	8	0	1	309	94	5	0	2	154	97	26
Hull	20	6	0	3	130	102	7	0	4	173	160	26
Leeds	18	7	0	3	239	137	5	0	3	148	109	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	17	4	0	4	164	134	3	0	6	201	220	14
Wakefield	19	4	1	5	150	172	2	0	7	127	252	13
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
Halifax	19	3	1	5	115	109	1	0	9	136	244	9

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MATCH REPORTS

OLDHAM 4, WIGAN 12

IF it is truly possible to earn friends in defeat then Oldham certainly did just that in the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie against Wigan last Saturday. Wigan came here with a team of 11 internationals, 15 games without defeat, and 17 consecutive cup-tie victories. They went home thanking their lucky stars that they had not suffered a shock defeat to follow that which they suffered here in the first round of the same competition two years ago.

As the fans filed into Watersheddings before the match there was a poignant reminder to Wigan fans of that match in 1987, the scoreboard operator having conveniently set up the score: Oldham 10, Wigan 8.

For long periods of last week's tie it looked as though Oldham might pull off a similar victory. Andy Gregory's chip-kick fashioned the only try of the first half for Shaun Edwards, but on a dry pitch Edwards would not have won the slide-over touch-down.

Trailing 0-6 at half-time, Oldham rallied magnificently, despite the blow of losing Paul Round and Gary Hyde at half-time, and scored a beautiful try in the corner by Paul Lord after slick handling by Andy Ruane, who won the man-of-the-match award, Tony Morrison and Charlie McAlister.

Duncan Platt could not improve off the touch-line and on a heavy, snowbound pitch, but the Wigan line had several narrow escapes and the general view was that had Oldham scored again they would have gone on to record another glorious cup win against the Central Park glamour side.

They came oh-so-close on numerous occasions but, in the end, Wigan finally broke out of defence and with only seven minutes left Kevin Iro scored the try that made victory secure for the visitors.

It was a magnificent team effort by all the Oldham players and it earned fulsome praise from coach Tony Barrow, who is now hoping his lads can go on and pick up enough league points to stay in the First Division.

OLDHAM 'A' 22, LEIGH 'A' 8

OUR reserves side moved a step nearer promotion to the first division of the Slalom Lager Alliance with a 22-8 victory against Leigh 'A' at Watersheddings.

The match was not a particularly entertaining one for the spectators, largely because of the abundance of penalty kicks and scrums.

Leigh's tough tackling and Oldham's concentration on forward tactics up the middle also had a part to play in the low entertaining rating.

Neil Flanagan and Richard Blackman, two of the youngsters we have signed on amateur forms, made their debuts in the 'A' team and both showed up well. For reasons outlined earlier, Richard did not get much chance to run on the wing, but it was an impressive debut by Neil, who played a key handling role in the middle of the field and also finished up third in the tackle count.

Mick Bardsley, returning after injury, crashed over for two early tries, both improved by Martin Hall, and in the second half Tony Miller scored a solo try and Richard Irving finished off well in the pavilion corner after good handling by Neil Flanagan, Mick Burke and Tony Morrison.

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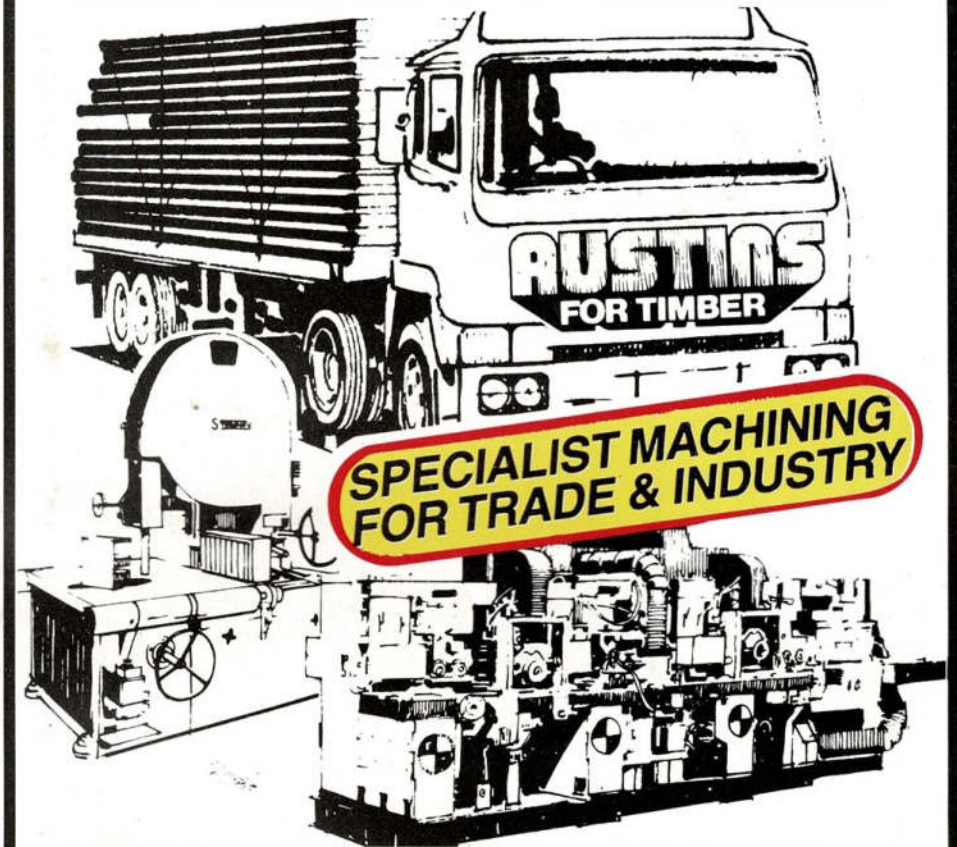
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