

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM

DUNCAN PLATT — 1
PAUL LORD — 2
SHAUN ALLEN — 3
CHARLIE McALISTER — 4
STEVE ROBINSON — 5
MIKE FORD — 6
IAN BATES — 7
IAN SHERRATT — 8
ANDY RUANE — 9
LEO CASEY — 10
TREVOR CROSTON — 11
KEITH NEWTON — 12
JOHN COGGER — 13
TONY MORRISON — 14
NEIL CLAWSON — 15

WAKEFIELD

KEVIN HARCOMBE — 1
ANDY WILSON — 2
ANDY MASON — 3
JAMES LEULUAI — 4
PHIL FOX — 5
TRACY LAZENBY — 6
MARK CONWAY — 7
KEITH RAYNE — 8
JOHN THOMPSON — 9
PAUL MALLINDER — 10
JOHN GLANCY — 11
STEVE NORTON — 12
NIGEL BELL — 13
ANDREW FLETCHER — 14
GARY HAGGERTY — 15

Referee: Mr. B. Galtress (Bradford) Touch Judges: Mr. M. Haigh (Red Flag), Mr. J. A. Unsworth (Orange Flag)

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

SCRUMS				
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PENALTIES				
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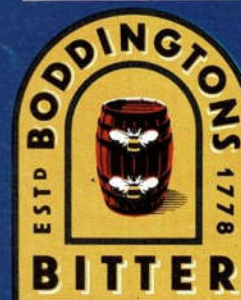


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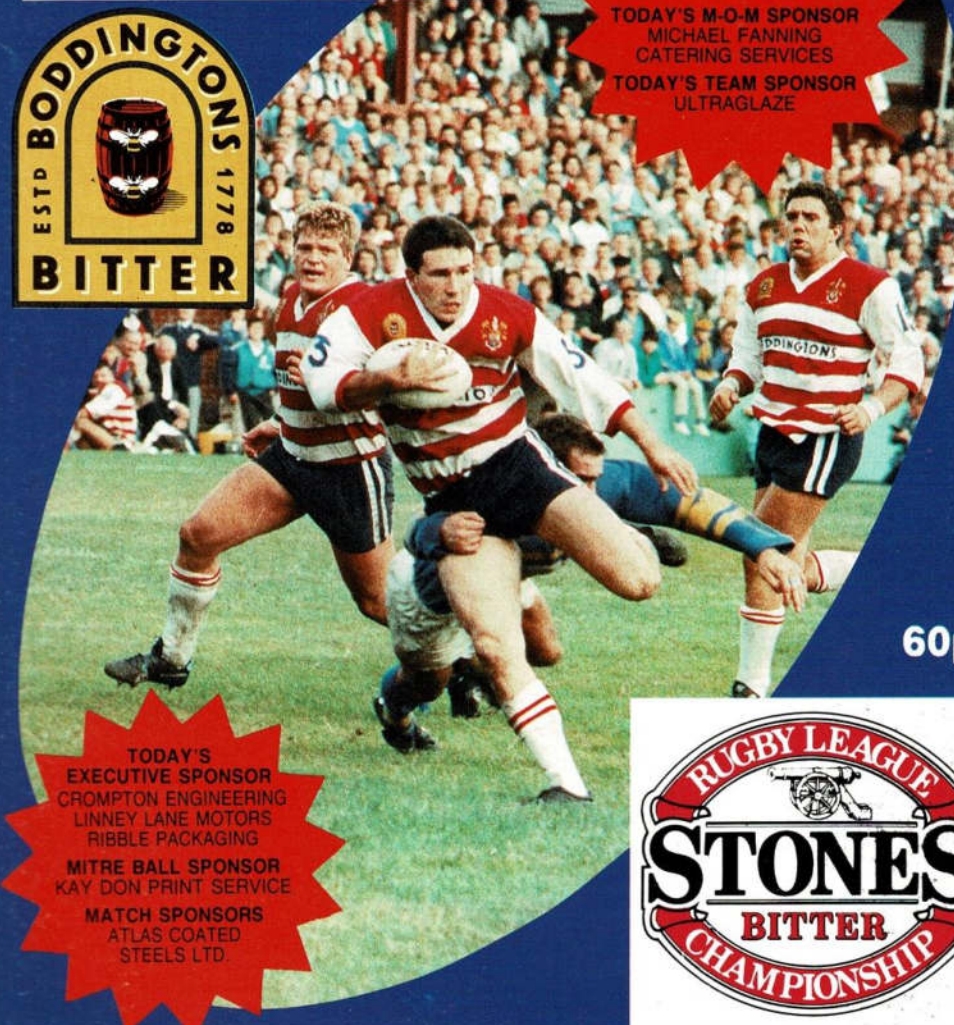
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Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978

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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

TONY MILLER



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name:	<i>Tony Miller</i>
Nick Name:	<i>None</i>
Birthdate:	<i>30.3.68</i>
Birthplace:	<i>Castleford</i>
Marital Status:	<i>Single</i>
Occupation:	<i>Fork Lift Truck Driver</i>
Car:	<i>None</i>
Fav. TV Show:	<i>Steptoe and Son</i>
Fav. Film:	<i>Any Action Films</i>
Fav. Music:	<i>Pop</i>
Fav. Food/Drink:	<i>Chinese/Lager</i>
Fav. Reading:	<i>Sports Magazines</i>
Hobbies:	<i>None</i>
Fav. other sport:	<i>Tennis</i>
Likes about game:	<i>Team Work</i>
Dislikes about game:	<i>Bad Decisions by Referees</i>
Superstitions:	<i>None</i>
Fav. position:	<i>Loose-Forward</i>
Fav. ground:	<i>Watersheddings</i>
Best moment:	<i>Turning Pro for Oldham</i>
Worst moment:	<i>Losing League Title Chance in Last Match as Amateur</i>
Hardest player to tackle:	<i>None</i>
Hardest tackler:	<i>None Yet</i>
Fav. all-time player:	<i>Wally Lewis</i>

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Tony signed a four-year contract with Oldham in August, 1988, after being spotted playing in a pre-season charity match at Thrum Hall. He showed up well against the Halifax professionals and came to Oldham on the strong recommendation of his Castleford amateur club coach Brian Hughes, the former Oldham player. Aged 20, Tony has yet to make his senior debut but he has time on his side and a big future is predicted.

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



NO words of mine are needed to stress the importance of today's match against Wakefield Trinity in the exciting battle for First Division points.

Six or seven clubs are sweating it out as the league campaign reaches its final stages and there is sure to be a real scrap among the clubs, including Oldham and Wakefield, who are fighting to stay up.

Wakefield's win over Castleford showed what can happen at this stage of the season . . . and Hull KR came mighty close to topping Wigan.

As far as Oldham is concerned, we should have gained a lot of confidence from our recent home form which saw us beat Hull, then give Wigan a massive scare in the cup, before running 40 points up Featherstone before earning a free weekend.

The win over Hull ended their nine-match league winning run while Featherstone came here fully expecting to return home with the points.

Like Hull, they got a shock . . . and as Hull then went on to beat Castleford at Wheldon Road, it shows that we are capable of beating the best.

There is added importance to today's match, of course, because both Oldham and Wakefield are in similar positions so the match becomes a four-pointer and it is one we need to win to prepare us for the home games against Widnes on Wednesday night and Wigan on Easter Monday.

We have five games left. Two wins might possibly

see us to safety, but I think three most certainly would. To that end we will be treating each match like a cup-tie and, in every match, we will be scrapping for every single point and working hard defensively to stop the opposition scoring.

At the end of the day, points difference could be a vital factor.

We did well against Featherstone when we were strengthened by the inclusion of our on-loan signing Shaun Allen from St. Helens.

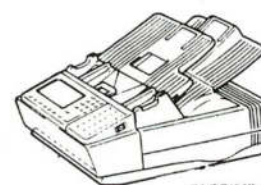
Shaun is only 23, but he is a very experienced player who can operate in several positions both in the backs and the forwards. He represented Great Britain under-21s in the centre and he came in very handy for us in that position against Rovers with both Gary Hyde and John Henderson on the injured list.

He had a pleasing debut, particularly on defence, and that's important because when you are battling for every league point available you must have a team that will run, chase and tackle for 80 minutes.

TONY BARROW

Telephone 0204-361443

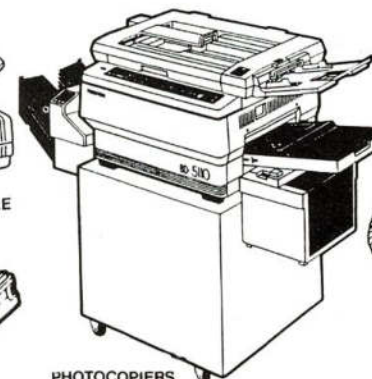
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

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 until March 31.

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 on March 31.

Yours sincerely,

GREG PACHE

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BID TO REVIVE WELSH LEAGUE SIDE

A WELSH Rugby League Players' Association has been launched with ex-British Lions Rugby Union star David Watkins as secretary.

Watkins, who switched codes to join Salford before retiring in 1980, is now hoping a Welsh Rugby League side can be revived.

The Welsh team was axed five years ago after running out of players, but Watkins said: "The increased number of Welshmen turning to League gives us hope for the future."

Brewers Whitbread are backing the Welsh Players' Association, with former Widnes International Jim Mills as chairman and Bradford Northern stalwart Trevor Foster as president.

Watkins added: "We could have a membership of more than 200 players who have left the Valleys to turn to League from Union."

Talking of Welshmen it is with regret that we report the passing of former Oldham scrum-half Ray Smith in South Wales. Well-known ex-player Doug Phillips and Elwyn Gwyther were at the funeral and we are indebted to Doug for passing on the news. Ray joined Oldham from Llanelli and friends may wish to contact the family at 131 Glebe Road, Loughor, South Wales.

NEW GREAT BRITAIN SPONSORSHIP.

BRITISH COAL is to sponsor Great Britain Rugby League's International programme in a new four year-deal starting with next season's home Test series with New Zealand.

The British Coal record International sponsorship — financial details of which will be announced at the start of next season — covers Great Britain's 26 Test fixtures to the end of 1992-93 season including the 1990 Tour to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, and the 1992 trip down under to Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The four-year package also includes Great Britain's commitments at Under-21 level with annual home and away fixtures

against their French counterparts.

British Coal Director of Sales Martin Cruttenden said: "British Coal helped Rugby League launch the highly successful Nines competition, is heavily involved in promoting the sport at the grass-root amateur level, and is now committed to the game at its highest level. We are convinced this latest agreement is good for the coal industry and the sport."

Bob Ashby, Chairman of the Rugby League, said: "British Coal have already proved to be top class, supportive sponsors with their injection of nearly £60,000 into the two British Coal Nines tournaments and their £120,000 investment into the Rugby League Foundation and the newly introduced midweek Youth League, plus their backing of the new style Rugby League Review."

"Great Britain have re-emerged as an International force, the Third Test victory in Sydney over Australia heralding a new era of success at a time when the country is crying out for victorious national sides."

TERRY FLANAGAN BENEFIT

THE next major event in the Terry Flanagan testimonial is his Rugby League Roadshow at the Pennine Lounge, Mumps on April 5th. Tickets are now available for a show that is always a great night out for RL fans.



Chris O'Sullivan, now back in Australia, was the first winner of the Boddingtons-Oldham Chronicle player-of-the month award for February, judged by Roger Halstead. Chris is pictured receiving his award — an inscribed medal, a cheque for £100 and a case of Boddingtons bitter — from Mr. Shaun Bell of Boddingtons.

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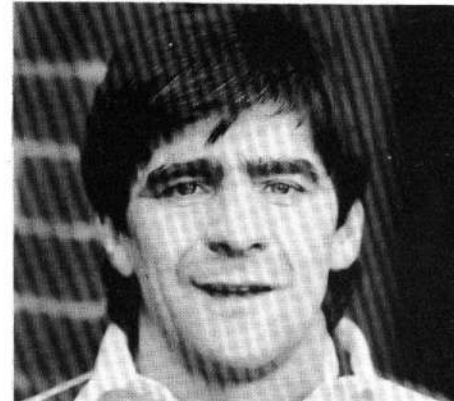
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A TALE OR TWO ABOUT TRINITY

WE welcome Wakefield Trinity to Watersheddings today for what can only be described as a battle royal — a real four-pointer for both teams in the battle for First Division survival.

The teams drew 12-12 at Belle Vue in October, to follow up some great tussles in the Second Division last season, so there is every indication that today's game will be quite a match with a cup-tie type of atmosphere.

We welcome back to Watersheddings, of course, the Trinity coach David Topliss, who was such a popular captain of Oldham before his move 'home' to Belle Vue in 1987.



David Topliss in his Oldham days.

TRINITY PROFILES.

KEVIN HARCOME (Full-Back) — Castleford junior, signed for Doncaster with whom he achieved GB U/21 honours. Came to Trinity via Rochdale Hornets. Prolific goalkicker.

ANDY WILSON (Centre/Winger) — A Leeds lad whom Trinity snapped up as a free agent this year having had experience with Sheffield Eagles. Strong and elusive.

LINDSAY ROTHERFORTH (Winger) — Signed from Redhill Club (Castleford) in 1981, he was Northern Counties 200 metres sprint champion. Has been dogged by injury problems but is one of the League's quickest wingers.

JAMES LEULUAI (Centre) — Kiwi international brought back from New Zealand by Trinity. Many successful seasons in Britain with Hull — including Wembley appearances — and latterly with Leigh.

PHIL EDEN (Centre/Winger) — A product of Trinity Colts, he gained GB U/19 honours and has now developed into a powerful, straight runner equally at home, at centre or wing.

ANDY MASON (Centre) — Has represented Yorkshire in both R.U. and R.L. codes. Came to Belle Vue after spells with Bramley and Leeds. One of the fastest centres in the game.

PHIL FOX (Winger) — Experience with Leigh and Leeds has made him one of the deadliest finishers

in the game, as his regular try-scoring feats testify.

STEVE ELLA (Stand-off) — The 'Zip-Zip Man' from Sydney's Parramatta Club, he has represented Australia and the Rest of the World side which played Great Britain in October 1988. Had a spectacular season with Wigan in 85/86 and is proving to be a great asset to Trinity. A more-than-useful goalkicker and tactical kicker.

MARK CONWAY (Scrum-half) — A local product who was snapped up by Leeds but who has now returned to his home town team. Trinity's Player of the Year last season thanks to his pace off the mark and eye for an opening. Colts U/21's international.

BRENT TODD (Prop) — New Zealand international with a huge appetite for work. Trinity brought him over from Canberra Raiders Club whom he represented in the 1987 Grand Final in Australia.

BILLY CONWAY (Hooker) — Ex-boxer and another product of Trinity Colts, Billy is one of the smallest but fastest No. 9's in Rugby League.

KEITH PAYNE (Prop) — International who returned to Wakefield from Leeds to add power and stability to the pack. Tough as teak.

PAUL MALLINDER (Prop) — All-action player, whom Trinity bought from Bradford Northern early in 1987. Can also play second row.

MARK GRAHAM (Second Row) — Captain of Trinity, New Zealand and the Rest of the World teams: one of the finest and fairest forwards in Rugby League. Played many seasons for North Sydney before joining Wakefield. 6'5" and 16 stones make him a difficult man to stop — or beat.

ANDY KELLY (Second Row) — Another product of our Colts, he was a great success with Trinity before his £60,000 transfer to Hull K.R. Now in his second spell at Belle Vue, he is playing as well as ever.

NIGEL BELL (Loose Forward) — Wakefield's "Mr. Consistency" he rarely fails to make ground or a tackle. Signed from local club Eastmoor 6 years ago, he is equally effective at scrum-half.

IAN SHELDON (Loose Forward) — Signed from Bradford Northern 2 years ago, he can also play hooker.

STEVE NORTON (Loose Forward) — Has a wealth of club and international experience when with Castleford and Hull but has now teamed up again with Dave Topliss. Brilliant play-maker.

GARY PRICE (Loose Forward) — A local teenager whom Trinity signed for a club record fee for a junior player. Has since represented GB at U/19 and U/21 levels. A big future is predicted for this skilful ball-handler.

RICHARD SLATER (Utility back) — Signed this season from Normanton, the club which produced Dave Topliss, this 18-years-old found himself projected straight into the first team. He has not been overawed by the transition from amateur U/19 rugby to the First Division, staying cool under pressure.

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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 L 58-12
5 Featherstone R H W 40-18
19 Wakefield T H
22 Widnes (7.30) H
27 Wigan H

APRIL

9 Castleford H
12 Bradford (7.30) A
23 Premiership 1st round
29 Challenge Cup final

MAY

7 Premiership semis
14 Premiership final

Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

'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

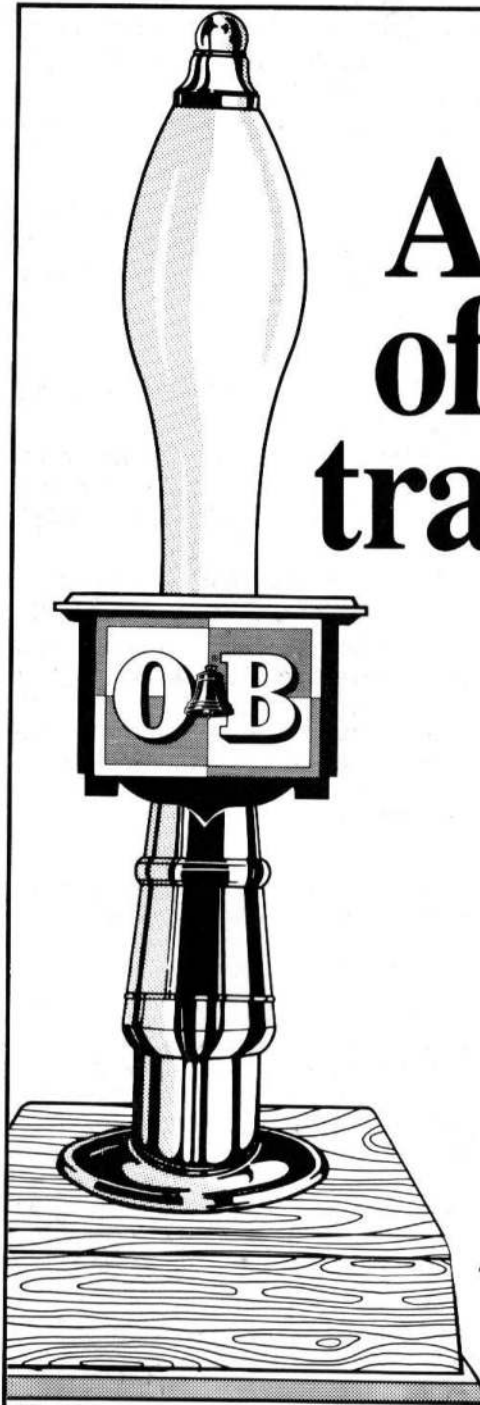
MARCH

11 Barrow (2.30) H W 18-6
17 Wakefield T (7.30) A
25 Workington (2.30) A

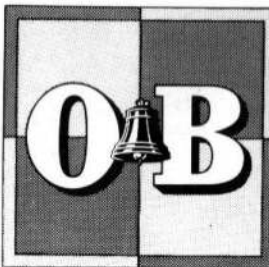
APRIL

8 Featherstone A

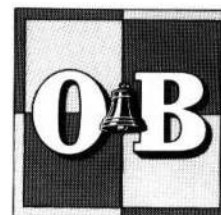
Runcorn have withdrawn from the competition.



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CORNER

CHEERS FROM DOWN UNDER

CHRIS O'SULLIVAN, Oldham's first winner of the Evening Chronicle-OB man-of-the-month award, received his inscribed medal, a cheque for £100 and, naturally, a 24-pack of bitter from Boddingtons representative, Shaun Bell.

Next month's winner, selected by Evening Chronicle journalist Roger Halstead, will be announced before our last home match of the season against front runners Castleford on April 9th.

At the same time, we'll be announcing details of the winners of the OB Player of the Year and the OB Supporter of the Year awards.

Everyone who votes for the OB Player of the Year automatically enters a prize draw. This will be held at half-time and the first name out of the draw, if they are over 18, collects two 24-packs like the one Chris enjoyed on the flight back Down Under.

HAT-TRICK HERO PULLS ANOTHER WINNER



Hat-trick hero John Cogger, whose three touch downs sent Featherstone Rovers

crashing to defeat, pulls another winner out of the bag at Royton's Church Inn.

John, and fellow player Mick Burke, popped into the OB local to carry out the weekly £1,000 Lifeline prize draw — and had a little help from the landlord Dennis Taylor and his regulars.

The lucky winner, who has a thousand reasons to thank John and Mick, is Jack Brooks from Chadderton, whose weekly £2 investment has certainly paid off.

COMING UP . . .

Want to watch your rugby in style — and enjoy a feast afterwards?

Then look out for future editions of the Oldham Evening Chronicle. They are running a competition for Easter Monday's home game against Wigan.

Prizes in the easy-to-enter competition are five sets of two Gold Card Tickets.

With a Gold Card, the ticket holder has a reserved seat next to the directors box and can enjoy a sumptuous buffet and plenty of drink after the match in the Pavilion's VIP or Gold Card lounge.

COMING UP . . . 2

Your chance to be Greedy!

What do you mean? Ask in your OB local in a couple of week's time.

GOING UP . . .

Remember, just before the Wigan cup-tie when we let off 1,000 black and gold balloons. Well, 100 of these balloons had special tags entitling the finder to claim a free Boddingtons' T-shirt. So far half a dozen have been returned from all over the north, including Pontefract, Doncaster, Castleford and Lincolnshire.

The finders have all been sent Boddingtons' T-shirts, except a Mr. A Carr, who requests we send the T-shirt to his grandson instead!





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SHARES: ANOTHER BIG PUSH

OVER the course of the next fortnight we are planning another big push on the sale of shares and, to that end, we are appealing for help from as many people as possible. If you have not bought shares yet, please give serious consideration to it because the very future of the club is at stake. If you have bought, perhaps you might be able to spare a few hours in a labour of love to help the club to conduct a concentrated marketing exercise across the town and the metropolitan borough.

At the time of writing, the share-issue figure was approaching £150,000 excluding the £50,000 contribution of the directors. That was the result of a marvellous public response once we had revealed that there was a very real threat to the club's existence if we did not hit the £100,000 minimum with which to launch the PLC.

To everyone who has contributed a very big THANK-YOU. We must not, however, believe that the club is now ready to compete on equal terms financially with clubs like Wigan and Leeds, which is our ultimate aim.

The money that has come in so far — £200,000 all told — does not even cover the club's outstanding debts of £350,000, and that's before we even start to think about strengthening the playing squad and developing the stadium and our 12 acres of land.

Tony Barrow told the public meeting that he wanted to buy four more players to strengthen the squad and that he anticipated that he would need about £350,000 to get the players he wanted and required.

What we have pulled in so far from the sale of shares soon begins to be viewed in its proper perspective and, in real terms, it has merely given us a chance to proceed with the public company.

We have on offer a total of 750,000 £1 shares, but the period of sale cannot go on indefinitely. At present it closes on March 31 and before that date we have a lot of work to do to get around the town to as many people as possible.

The four directors have their own businesses to run and they need HELP on this project — as much HELP as possible. Commercial manager Ray Hill and his helper, John Watkins, have been getting around the pubs and clubs in the past fortnight, but to cover the town properly we need volunteer helpers from among the supporters.

YOU can help in a variety of ways. If you could not get along to the public meeting in the social club on Thursday, at which we asked for volunteers to come along, call in at the office today and leave your name and address or ring the project manager, Brian Kirkham, tomorrow on 624 4865, to offer your services.

We are looking for people to help in the distribution of the prospectus, possibly on a house-to-house basis, to go into the factories and workshops of the town, or to offer their services merely as prospectus distributors before the Widnes match on Wednesday night, the Standard Cup final next Friday, and the Wigan game on Easter Monday.

Above all, we are open for ideas. Quite a lot of people have pointed out, in letters to the press, and at the public meeting, that volunteer help is always available, either for work on the popular side or for assistance in other matters as and when required.

Well, now is your chance to get involved in the marketing of the share issue. It's a one-off exercise and we don't have all the time in the world. Remember this: for every single £25 that comes in, the club moves a step nearer the sort of success we all yearn for.

We need YOUR help to spread the gospel, either indirectly as an individual in your own way or as part of the organised volunteer work force that we hoped to set up as a result of Thursday's meeting. If you want to help, please contact Ray Hill or Brian Kirkham or just ring the office on 624 4865.

ALL-TICKET CLASH

ON the advice of police and safety officials we have made the Easter Monday game with Wigan an all-ticket clash. Usual league match prices will apply and our season-ticket holders will NOT require special passes for the match.

All non-season-ticket holders MUST buy a ticket, however, and these are now on sale and will remain so over the next few days until all are sold. A big crowd is expected and, to avoid disappointment, get your ticket without delay.

CONGRATULATIONS

THE 'A' team clinched promotion to the first division of the Slalom Lager Alliance with an 18-6 victory against third-placed Barrow in the final home game of the season. A full report will appear in the programme for the Widnes game on Wednesday.



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

IN CONJUNCTION with NISA (National Independent Supermarkets Association), we are helping in the crusade to encourage the involvement of families in the support of Rugby League Football.

Several new features, involving YOU, the fan, have appeared in our match-day programme in recent weeks, not least the Boddingtons player of the year, in which you do the voting, and the supporter of the year.

Today, we bring news of another feature for the fan — the NISA Dedicated Family Award. NISA is a leading UK Supermarket buying group with headquarters at Rotherham and an annual turnover of £2.65 billion. The NISA award scheme is a bid to encourage wholesome family support. It has been done successfully in soccer — it is currently under way across town at Boundary Park — and we are delighted to accept an invitation to take part on behalf of our wonderful family units on the Watersheddings terraces.

The winning family will receive a trophy and a £50 shopping voucher and nominations should be given to me, Ray Hill, on 620 4870. I will be looking for families who are dedicated to Oldham Rugby and who have interesting off-beat stories to tell about their true support for the club.

Incidentally, you can read elsewhere in this programme about the club's plea for volunteer labour to help to sell the share issue over the next fortnight and I would merely add that if any of our agents or collectors in the commercial department would like to get involved I would be delighted to hear from them on 620 4870.

Last Monday night we did the Lifeline draw at the King George on Hollins Road and, once again, a lucky punter won £1,000. On the same evening, attended by several Oldham players, we did the annual Lifeline draw for the Grand National.

Our Grand National Day, big-race get-together in the social club is one of the highlights of the Lifeline year but we are limited in numbers so the 40 members who can attend — each with a guest — are drawn out of the hat.

Each one of the lucky 40 receives £10

in cash and is entitled to bring along a friend to our big-screen viewing of the Grand National in the club. We start usually with a 'bubbly' reception, followed by wine and first-class buffet before we enjoy the drama and excitement of the Aintree spectacular.



Each of the 40 lucky Lifeline winners draws out a horse, to add extra interest to the race, and he whose horse comes in first will walk away with £250. The lucky 'owner' of the second horse will receive £150, third £75 and fourth £25.

Each of the 40 members whose name was drawn out of the hat on Monday will have been notified and the full list of winners will appear in the programme for Wednesday's match against Widnes.

Talking of the programme, I think you will agree that it is now a well-produced, value-for-money 'read' — the sort of publication that gives you plenty to absorb and plenty of food for thought after a good browse on a Sunday night when there is nothing much on the box.

Over the course of the next eight days we have three home matches with the Easter holiday sandwiched between the Widnes game on Wednesday night and the Wigan match next Monday. The printer is closed next Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so it has meant a lot of difficulties to get out three programmes virtually at the same time.

Nevertheless, we have done our best to bring you all the latest news and views from within the club in all three programme issues. If you like today's effort buy one again on Wednesday and next Monday.

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WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

IT'S a real pleasure today to welcome to Watersheddings the players, officials and supporters of Wakefield Trinity. In the past two seasons we have had some thrilling games and it was part of the real spirit of Rugby League that our fans applauded the Trinity lads off the pitch when they had won here in the Second Division title race last year.

Genuinely touched, Trinity coach David Topliss wrote an official thank-you letter to the Oldham Supporters Club and, prior to the return match at Belle Vue, sent us some complimentary tickets as a token of his respect.

That respect, of course, is a two-way thing. David was a very popular captain in his Oldham days and we are certain that many Oldham supporters will wish him well in his battle to keep Trinity in the First Division . . . providing it is not at our expense, of course!

Today's game is a very important one for both clubs and both sets of fans. Whatever the result we know there will be a lot of friendly camaraderie on the terraces, just as there was at the Wigan cup-tie when the sportsmanship of our fans, even in defeat, encouraged a Wigan fan to write in to the Watersheddings office and ask for a share-issue prospectus.

His letter will be published in full in the programme for the Wigan match on Easter Monday, and it just goes to show the real depth of feeling for the game among true and loyal League supporters.

We all have an allegiance to our own club, but we must never lose sight of the fact that, above all, we are supporters of what we believe to be the greatest game on earth.

It's a love of the game that has prompted a lot of people from outside Oldham to take up shares in the new PLC and we can report that, as a club, we have contributed £2,000 on behalf of everyone who has a Supporters' Club membership card.

You will all know, by now, that we have taken over responsibility for selling programmes on match days as well as supervising the parking of cars.

We would merely ask you to support us by buying a programme (available from the canteen under the scoreboard if you cannot find a vendor) and by co-operating as we try to organise the car park so that supporters experience as little inconvenience as possible after the match.

Don't forget the Wednesday night match against Widnes. We'll need as much support as we can get, so make a date for Wednesday and help US to help the PLAYERS to stay in the First Division.

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (27 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
J. Cogger	3			3	12	3
T. Croston	7					7
M. Lord	3					3
K. Newton	8			4	16	8
K. Meadows	26			7	28	70
R. Irving	4			1	4	19
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	16	18		2	44	34
P. Lord	11			4	16	22
M. Ford	22			2	8	42
I. Bates	5					7
I. Sherratt	14			1	4	33
M. Hall	2					10
H. Waddell	2					54
C. Hawkyard	16			4	16	191
P. Round	27			9	36	60
T. Flanagan	15					288
S. Patterson	3					3
L. Casey	23			6	24	34
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	25	10	3	3	35	25
N. Clawson	20					72
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	30	22
A. Gilbert	9			4	16	9
A. N. Other	3			1	4	3
J. Henderson	18			8	32	18
S. Robinson	21			5	20	29
R. Marsden	4					9
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	5					20
D. Platt	11	30		3	72	11
G. Hyde	10	1		3	14	10
S. Cummins	1					1
S. Allen	1					1

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP (Up to and including Sunday, March 12)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	18	8	0	1	289	136	6	1	2	164	145	29
Hull	21	6	0	3	130	102	8	0	4	196	176	28
Widnes	16	8	0	1	309	94	5	0	2	154	97	26
Leeds	20	8	0	3	267	153	5	0	4	160	123	26
Wigan	19	7	0	3	236	168	6	0	3	161	156	26
St. Helens	19	7	1	2	269	130	4	0	5	155	211	23
Featherstone	20	5	0	6	203	234	4	0	5	152	214	18
Bradford N	19	4	0	4	164	134	4	0	7	237	262	16
Warrington	20	5	0	5	240	210	3	0	7	123	148	16
Salford	20	7	0	4	215	180	1	0	8	156	262	16
Wakefield	21	5	1	5	164	184	2	0	8	143	280	15
OLDHAM	21	5	0	4	188	163	1	1	10	169	351	13
Halifax	20	4	1	5	136	156	1	0	9	101	244	11
Hull KR	20	4	0	5	182	161	1	1	9	134	323	11

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MATCH REPORTS

ST. HELENS 58, OLDHAM 12

AFTER the great performance against Wigan in the Cup, everything seemed to go wrong on the following Wednesday night. To start with, there was a dispute between St. Helens and Oldham over the new date of this match and the League backed Saints in their demand to play so soon after the cup-ties.

It meant that we were without Chris O'Sullivan, who had left for home, but they could play Paul Vautin, who was making his last home appearance of the season.

As luck would have it, Keith Newton cried off with flu and sickness on the day of the match and with the game still in its infancy Kevin Meadows dislocated his collar bone and somehow managed to complete the match.

Paul Round was sent off just after half-time, after being forced to miss most of the first half through a recurrence of a rib injury, and then Paul Lord went to the sin-bin on the intervention of a touch judge.

Added to that little lot was the fact that the team was weary after its mighty effort against Wigan in the snow, so perhaps it was little wonder that St. Helens piled on the agony, scoring eight of their 11 tries in the second half following Round's departure.

Despite the score, there were some encouraging signs, mainly from an individual point of view. Neil Clawson returned as substitute after his four-match suspension and made some penetrative running.

Andy Ruane had another good game and John Cogger, captaining the side from stand-off, quickly exposed the home defence around play-the-ball.

It was Cogger who broke superbly to set up the first Oldham try for Leo Casey, while Ruane's little chip on the last tackle created the second try for Meadows, Duncan Platt adding both goals.

OLDHAM 40, FEATHERSTONE 18

WHAT a difference four days can make! Nobody would have believed this was the same Oldham side as we raced into a 16-0 lead inside the first quarter of an hour to shake Rovers rigid.

We were already 10-0 up when Chris Burton was sent off for a high tackle on John Cogger and within a minute Cogger went under the posts for Duncan Platt to goal and give us a 16-0 advantage.

Rovers came back hard considering they were a man short and they pulled back to 16-8 before we stretched the lead again with Cogger's second try on the stroke of half-time.

The Aussie went on to complete his hat-trick as we nosed into a 26-8 lead before Featherstone scored twice to cut our lead to 26-18.

It took a Paul Round try to get us back on course and we finished at a canter with Keith Newton scoring his second try of the match and Steve Robinson going over in the corner.

Newton and Ruane set up the Robinson try and that was appropriate because both the ex-Widnes lads had impressive games, particularly Ruane.

Cogger won the man of the match award, but he must have been run close by Ruane, whose tactical touch-finding and clever play in the loose was a major factor in our second consecutive home victory.

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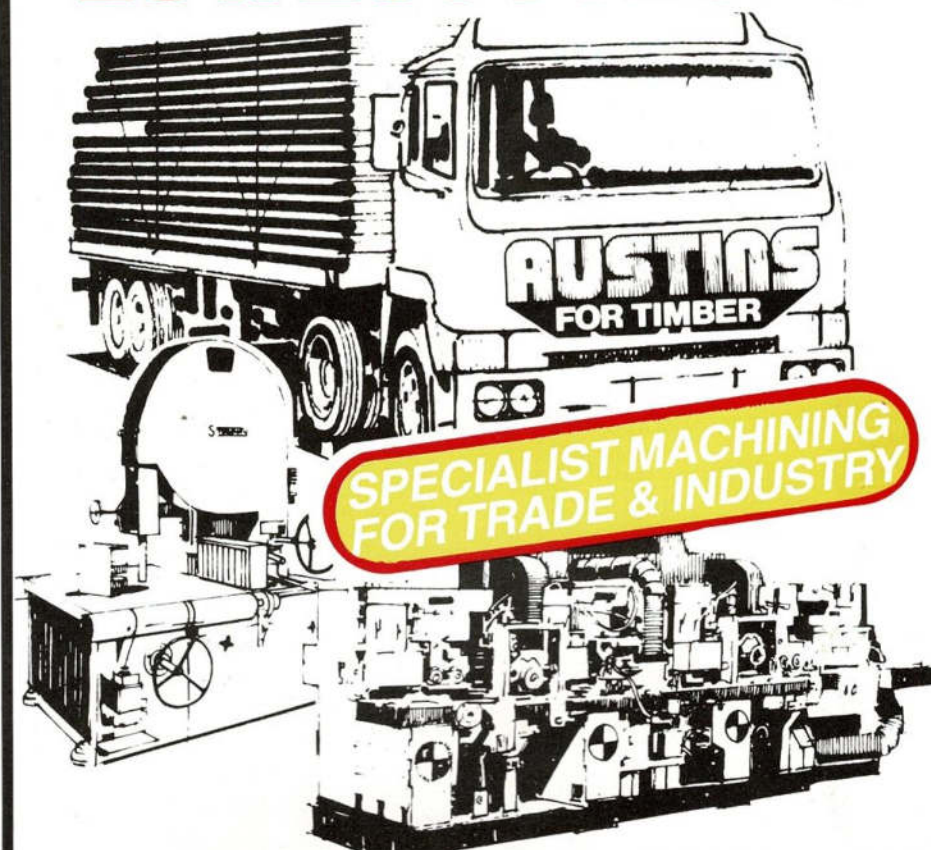
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R.L.F.C.**

**v WAKEFIELD
19th March 1989**

**TICKET MUST BE RETAINED
FOR RE-ADMITTANCE TO
THIS AREA**

Ticket No. 299