

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

WIDNES

ALAN TAIT — 1
RICK THACKERAY — 2
ANDY CURRIER — 3
DARREN WRIGHT — 4
MARTIN OFFIAH — 5
DAVID HULME — 6
PAUL HULME — 7
JOE GRIMA — 8
PHIL MCKENZIE — 9
DEREK PYKE — 10
MIKE O'NEILL — 11
EMOSI KOLOTO — 12
RICHARD EYRES — 13
JONATHAN DAVIES — 14
KURT SORENSEN — 15

Referee: Mr. R. Tennant (Castleford) Touch Judges: Mr. J. E. Lloyd (Red Flag), Mr. W. Brown (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
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PENALTIES				
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SCRUMS				
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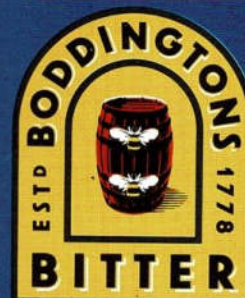


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OLDHAM

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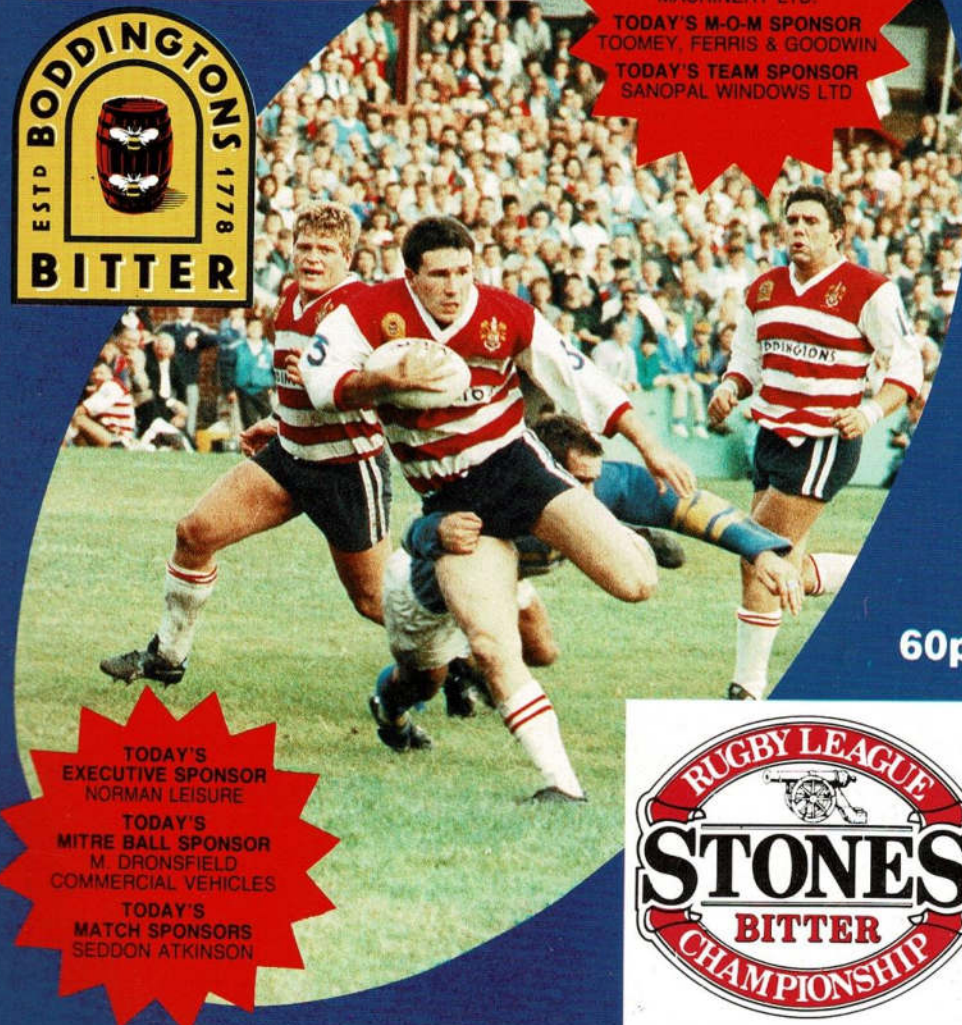
OLDHAM v WIDNES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22nd.
Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.



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CLUB RECORDS

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

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,
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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

Programme Pictures: Oldham Evening Chronicle

Programme Typeset and Printed by Hirst, Kidd & Rennie Ltd., Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1EQ.



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PLAYERS PROFILE

STEVE ROBINSON



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name: *Stephen Robinson*
 Nick Name: *Robbie*
 Birthdate: *16.2.63*
 Birthplace: *Oldham*
 Marital Status: *Isobel*
 Occupation: *Maintenance/Process Engineer*
 Car: *Metro*
 Fav. TV Show: *'Fawlty Towers'/'Cosby Show'*
 Fav. Film: *Hobson's Choice*
 Fav. Music: *All*
 Fav. Food/Drink: *Steak/Whisky*
 Fav. Reading: *Thrillers*
 Hobbies: *D-I-Y*
 Fav. other sport: *Squash*
 Likes about game: *Winning*
 Dislikes about game: *Being dropped*
 Superstitions: *None*
 Fav. position: *Winger*
 Fav. ground: *Dewsbury (before the stand burned down)*
 Best moment: *Winning JPS quarter-final v Warrington*
 Worst moment: *Being injured before JPS semi-final*
 Hardest player to tackle: *All*
 Hardest tackler: *All*
 Fav. all-time player: *Phil Ford*

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

(Excluding Wakefield game, 19.3.89)
 Date signed on: *November 20, 1987*
 Debut: *v Keighley (a) November 1, 1987 (as unnamed trialist)*
 Appearances: *29*
 Tries: *6*
 Goals: *0*
 Drop goals: *0*
 Total points: *24*

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



ONE of the big talking points concerning tonight's match will be the appearance, or non-appearance, of Jonathan Davies in the Widnes line-up.

A lot of words have been written — and a lot of opinions expressed — about the Welshman's move to League in a blaze of publicity, followed by a somewhat modest entry into the professional code so far as first-team football is concerned.

A lot of people, of course, assumed wrongly that because Jonathan was a big star for Wales and British Lions in the Union game, and because he commanded a large and lucrative contract to turn pro, he would automatically cruise into the Widnes first team and start to take the opposition apart with his speed and flair.

Those of us who are in the game, of course, did not think like that at all. Doug Laughton, the Widnes coach, didn't and I have no doubt that Jonathan himself was well aware that he would have to settle in and earn his place in the side.

Let me say at the outset that Jonathan is a class player. I have no doubt that he will be very successful in Rugby League when he has had time to adapt. I saw him play in 'A' team rugby for Widnes shortly after he arrived and he was certainly one of the fastest players I have ever seen on a rugby field in nearly 30 years in the game.

All players, though, must serve their apprenticeship and must earn their place in a team. When that team is Widnes, it becomes all the harder to achieve.

Dougie is lucky to be in a position where he can afford to ask Davies to be patient. He is, nevertheless, doing things the right way, in my opinion, and I am sure that, in the long run, Jonathan will benefit, as will Widnes, from the decision to introduce him gradually into the whole new world of Rugby

League football at the highest level.

Dougie is a shrewd coach and a good judge. You can gamble he will have good reasons for tackling the Jonathan Davies issue in the way he has and judging by the way Widnes took Castleford and Leeds apart on their way to the cup semi-final showdown with St. Helens, I don't think anyone can argue with him.

He has successfully handled the transition from Union to League of men like Martin Offiah and Alan Tait and there is absolutely no reason to suggest that he might not be on the right lines with Jonathan.

Whether you are a young lad reared on League or a star from the other code, you have to serve your apprenticeship. It's the same in a trade or in any walk of life you can care to name. Once that learning process is complete, the player is all the better for it and he, more than anyone, will appreciate everybody's patience.

TONY BARROW

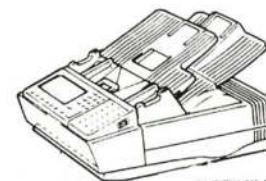
IT is with the deepest regret that we record the passing, at the age of 99, of one of Oldham Rugby's best-loved and respected personalities, Mr. James 'Jimmy' Parkinson.

As player, committee man, chairman, president and trustee, Jimmy had a love affair with Watersheddings which spanned more than 70 years.

The funeral will take place tomorrow (Thursday) at 3.30 p.m. at Oldham Crematorium.

Telephone 0204-361443

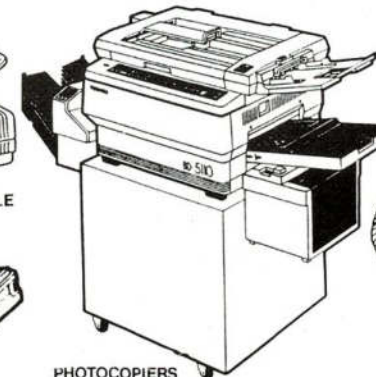
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

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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STUDENT RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP, 1989

THE greatest occasion in Student Rugby League history is due to take place during the first two weeks in August this year when the SRL World Cup will be held in this country. This event has been approved by the International Board and is receiving the full support of the RFL and BARLA.

Entries have been accepted from Australia, New Zealand, France, England, Wales and Scotland. Holland are almost certain to be competing and at this stage it is possible that teams from Papua New Guinea, USA and Ireland will be taking part. The whole event promises to be the largest single gathering of international RL teams in the history of the game and is a great boost for the ever-increasing popularity of RL in the student population in this country and other parts of the world.

All the teams will be based at the University in the City of York and the matches will be played at top professional and amateur club grounds throughout the North of England. The Grand Final is scheduled for Saturday, August 12, at Central Park, Wigan, the home of the best-supported and most famous Rugby League club.

The cost of staging the event is estimated at £87,000 and while the official RL bodies have promised their support, the bulk of this money has to be raised by the SRL through the efforts of their executive committee. Bev Risman has been appointed by the RFL to co-ordinate the event and to organise the massive fund-raising initiative.

The value of student RL to RL in general is now being recognised at both playing and administrative levels and there is great sympathy and support for the student game throughout RL circles. It is in everyone's interest therefore to try to ensure that this event is a major success and the SRL are looking for financial support from all true followers of RL.

You are asked to support any of the following fund-raising schemes: 1. Patronage of SRL World Cup; 2. Friend of SRL World Cup; 3. Donations for SRL World Cup; 4. Lottery; 5. Sale of SRL World Cup Merchandise and Brochure.

PATRONAGE

For a contribution of £100 or more, a patron will receive: Tickets and hospitality for two for all matches, invitation to Patrons' Function at the Grand Final, Souvenir Tie, Tournament Brochure with personal acknowledgement.

DONATIONS

For those who do not wish to participate in either the Patrons or Friends scheme but would still like to make a contribution, simply send a donation to the SRL World Cup Fund (minimum £5).

LOTTERY

Prizes to include hospitality and tickets to major RL events and abundant RL memorabilia.

MERCHANDISE AND BROCHURE

An attractive Tournament Brochure will be produced and a full range of merchandise with distinctive SRL World Cup logo will be available for all souvenir hunters. The brochure and merchandise will be on sale direct from the SRL World Cup co-ordinator at various RL venues and functions or direct from RL Headquarters.

All contributions will be gratefully received from companies, organisations and associations (RL or otherwise), RL professional and amateur clubs, and individuals or other interested groups.

If you would like to become a Patron, Friend or give a donation, please complete the form below by placing a tick in the appropriate box and return to:

Bev Risman
SRL World Cup Co-ordinator
11 Ravenswood Avenue
CROWTHORNE
Berkshire RG11 6AX

I would like to become a patron of the SRL World Cup and enclose a cheque/PO for £ ☐

I would like to become a Friend of the SRL World Cup and enclose a cheque/PO for £ ☐

I would like to make a donation to the SRL World Cup Fund and enclose a cheque/PO for £ ☐

Name (capitals)

Address

Telephone No.

Signature

HERE COME THE CHEMICS

THE big question on the lips of most RL fans tonight is — will Jonathan Davis be in the Widnes side?

The Chemics captured world-wide headlines with their signing of the former Welsh and British Lions fly-half star in January to follow his fellow Union men Martin Offiah and Alan Tait into the League scene.

Davis (pictured) played his first full game of League against Oldham at Naughton Park on February 5 and local fans will be hoping he is on view tonight.

Star-spangled Widnes will probably choose from the following squad, plus Davies, of course . . .



ALAN TAIT: The club's latest acquisition, from the Scottish Rugby Union Club Kelso, from where George Fairbairn emerged in 1974. Holds 8 Scottish caps, four from the 1987 World Cup series and another four from last season's home internationals. Settled in admirably at Naughton Park, claiming a Premiership medal as a substitute in May and helping the Chemics win the Charity Shield on the Isle of Man in August. Looks to be another surefire winner for Widnes and already being tipped for international honours.

RICK THACKRAY: Signed from Warrington in January, 1987, having gained Under-24 international honours in 1980, at the outset

of his career. After appearing in three major Finals for Warrington, he left the game for a spell before returning with Widnes. His pace brought him 44 tries for the Wires and he scored 11 in the title win last season for Widnes.

ANDY CURRIER: Drafted into the Great Britain tour party as a replacement to Garry Schofield, scoring 3 tries and 5 goals in 5 appearances without adding a full Test to his two 1984 appearances for the Under-21s. Very fast and a useful goalkicker, as he showed in the Charity Shield match, scoring 11 tries last season and 4 goals in the Premiership Final. Has played wing, but is a much more impressive centre these days.

DARREN WRIGHT: The first of four Widnes Tour replacements to be flown out to Australia to deputise for Shaun Edwards, appearing in 8 tour matches without scoring. In the same mould as Currier — fast, incisive, confident. He scored 2 tries in the Premiership defeat of Saints and totalled 12 last season. Signed in March, 1985, and made his Under-21 International debut against France in January, 1987. Approaching his 100th first-team appearance.

MARTIN OFFIAH: Marvellous opportunist whose 44 tries made him the top try-scorer in the game last season. His 42 for Widnes were a club record and his 15 consecutive scoring appearances were just two short of Eric Harris's all-time record. From the Rosslyn Park RUFC, Offiah gained Lancashire and Great Britain selection in his debut-season, and then scored 19 tries in 11 tour appearances, including two in three Tests against Australia. Electrifying pace, great hands and an uncanny ability to beat defenders on the outside make Offiah one of the game's genuine danger men. Voted Man of Steel last season.

BARRY DOWD: The unsung member of the Champions' squad, this goalkicking utility back joined the club from nearby Halton Horne, having played for Widnes Schools in the 1975 Under-11s Wembley curtain-raiser. Can operate at centre, full-back or stand-off and rarely puts in a below-par display. Has some 70 appearances for the club behind him and kicked 21 goals last season.

TONY MYLER: One of the game's most brilliant — but unluckiest — individuals, being dogged by knee injury problems since 1984, when he made an ill-advised tour Down Under, immediately after a cartilage

(Continued on Page 27)

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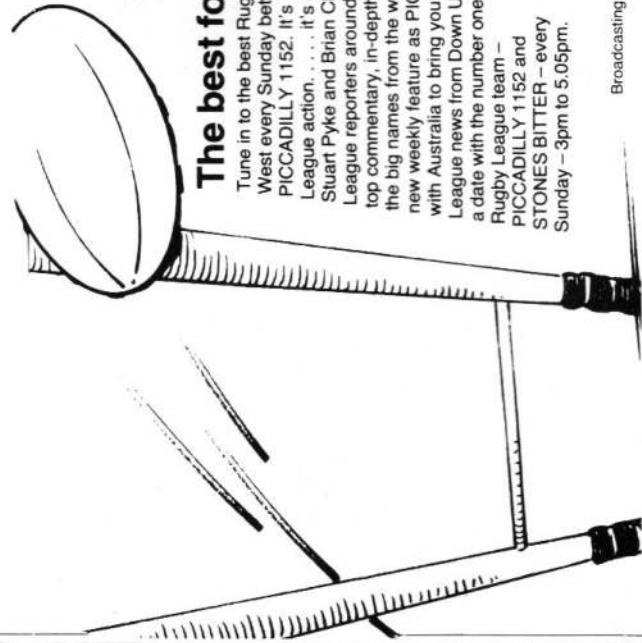
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FIXTURES 1988/89

FIRST TEAM
(Stones Bitter Championship)

AUGUST
24 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 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

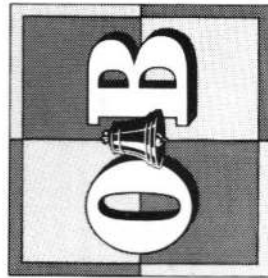
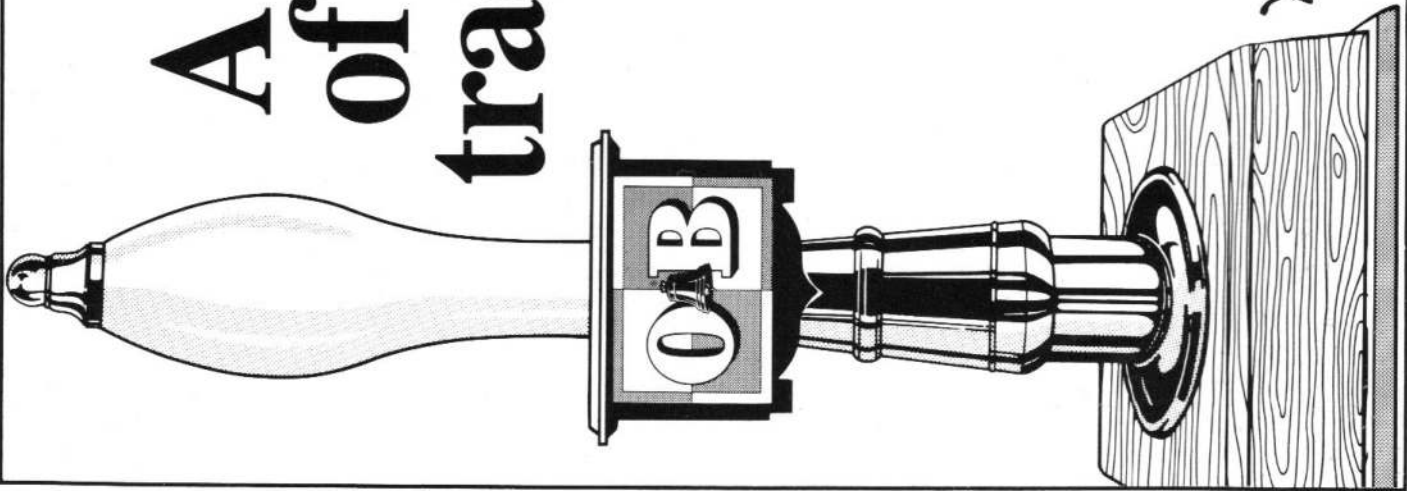
FEBRUARY
4 Challenge Cup — Dewsbury H W 26-15
11 Doncaster (2.30) A W 16-24
18 Challenge Cup — Wigan A L 20-12
22 Leigh (7.30) H W 22-8

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

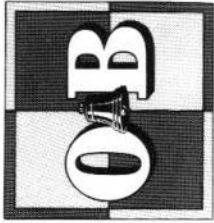
APRIL
8 Featherstone A

Runcorn have withdrawn from the competition.

A taste of local tradition.



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CORNER

SALUTE YOURSELVES

WHEN it comes to loyal supporters, few clubs in any sport can possibly match the fans of Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

Just look at the marvellous response to the share issue in the club's hour of need. And the following comments that have been flooding into us from people nominating family, friends and relatives for the OB Supporter-of-the-Year award.



Without question, the final choice of the winner of the handsome OB trophy, brand-new kit and a pair of season tickets is going to be one of the more difficult decisions faced by our panel of judges this year.

Consider the people who travel long distances to see their team in action. "My brother has watched Oldham at every ground in the league and still travels to most games from Shropshire."

Or the supporter who "Has had jobs in London, Cambridge and Bristol during the last eight years yet still drives back to Watersheddings in his rotting Datsun!"

And the fans who do anything to get to the match on time, like this chap on the road to Sheffield. "His car broke down travelling to a match in Sheffield. Rather than miss the match all three of us walked, hitched and eventually climbed into a taxi in order to get to the match on time."

And the man who had to become a journalist to watch Oldham. "He may be a reporter but he is a true

supporter in many ways. A keen rugby fan and his loyalty is second to none."

Then there are those like this fan who "Eats, drinks and sleeps Oldham Rugby and Beer", and his kindred spirit who "despite early senility and drinking and gambling problems has attended every home and away game that the police would allow."

Even the surrealists are in with a shout. One nominee was put forward because he watches Rainbow!

Finally, there's the fan who has been following Oldham for 50 years and wants his ashes scattered on the Watersheddings pitch!

The above are just some of the contenders for the title. And you can help make the judges' task even more difficult by voting for your own Supporter of the Year. You'll find nomination forms in this programme and for Easter Monday's Wigan match. Simply post the FREEPOST coupon to us no later than April 3, 1989.

And who knows, if you nominate the OB Supporter of the Year you could be picking up two VIP tickets for next season.

LIFELINE DRAW AT HATHERSHAW HOTEL

MAKE a date at the Hathershaw Hotel on Monday, April 3.

What's more, landlord Dennis Adams is running a raffle and you could end up walking away with free tickets for our last match of the season against Castleford — with a rugby ball signed by all the players under your arm.

That's because the weekly £1,000 Lifeline draw is taking place at the Hathershaw Hotel, Ashton Road, Oldham, at 9 p.m.

Making the draw will be a couple of players from the club.

So don't forget. Monday, April 3. It promises to be a great night out. And if you belong to Lifeline, too, you could find yourself up £1,000.

SKY'S THE LIMIT!

OLDHAM'S fascinating and hard-fought Silk Cut Challenge Cup tussle-in-the-mud against Wigan attracted a capacity house, national TV coverage — and a lot of interest on the Continent thanks to Sky's recently transmitting the whole of the match on its Eurosport Channel.

We are proud of the part we played in a thrilling game and did our bit to spread the Rugby League word to our European friends.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT

DECISION time is fast approaching. There's only one week or so to cast your vote in the OB Player-of-the-Year award and influence the result.

Remember, the winner collects a handsome trophy and a £250 cheque — but, most importantly, he will know he is the fans' choice.

So don't forget to vote and show your appreciation for the player you think has helped Oldham most this season.



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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

YOUNGSTERS CLINCH PROMOTION

A VERY significant event took place at Watersheddings a week last Saturday when our young 'A' team clinched promotion to the first division of the Stalom Lager Alliance with an 18-6 win against a strong and experienced Barrow side. We had some experience in the pack, notably from Terry Flanagan and Neil Clawson, but the most encouraging aspect of the day was the fact that so many of our players were teenagers or only 20 years of age.

Richard Blackman (18) looked an exciting prospect on the wing; Steve Entwistle (18), on the other flank, continued to impress; Richard Pachniuk (17) did well at scrum-half; players like Martin Hall, Tony Miller and Tommy Foley, only 20, or just 21, showed up well in the forwards.

Blackman and Martyn, son of the former Leigh, Warrington and Great Britain star of the same name, are current Great Britain youth internationals. Entwistle is on the fringe of international honours, and our third amateur signing from that British team, Neil Flanagan, was watching from the stands as he had an important cup-tie for Oldham St. Anne's the following day.

The evergreen Rod Reddy, Barrow coach and former Aussie Test star, held his side together for the first half and, in fact, the Cumbrians led 6-4 until early in the second half when Richard Irving, also aged 21, broke from near half way to score a spectacular solo try. Martyn added a brilliant goal from off the touch line and soon afterwards finished off a great move by taking Entwistle's return, inside pass to dive over.

It was all over then and Tony Morrison, who had scored Oldham's first try off a Flanagan pass, again obliged from Terry to score try No. 4 midway through the second half.

Blackman excelled on defence in the first half, using his speed to turn and catch opponents on the break, and in the second half he was twice unlucky not to score after exciting breaks up the touch line.

Martyn, at the hub of things with No. 6 on his back, looked a class prospect, while Foley came on as substitute to produce one of his best displays of the season.

We are determined to continue the youth policy now and we know we will have the full backing of the club and its supporters in so doing. But it costs a lot of money when run in tandem with ready-made strengthening for more immediate needs — another reason why we need every penny we can get from the share issue.

COLIN HAWKYARD TESTIMONIAL

AS soon as Terry Flanagan's benefit finishes this summer, Colin Hawkyard's starts. Colin joined us from Bradley, the Huddersfield amateur club, in December, 1978, and he has made nearly 200 senior appearances. A loyal club man, he has given a decade's conscientious service and, even at the age of 30, he is ready to play for another two or three seasons in Oldham's cause.

Over the course of the next two months, Colin will be trying to recruit a benefit committee but



COLIN HAWKYARD, loyal servant who needs help on his benefit committee. you on 0484 538613.

ALL-TICKET MATCH

DON'T forget that the Wigan game at Watersheddings on Monday is an all-ticket match. Our regular season-ticket holders do NOT need special tickets, but everyone else MUST have them. They are sure to be in big demand, so make inquiries at the office tonight if you are not already fixed up.

SHARES ON OFFER

IN the ground tonight there could well be many casual visitors to Watersheddings (Jonathan Davies and all that!) so we would like to remind programme readers that copies of our PLC prospectus are still available at the pavilion office or at the Development Association portacabin on the car park. The share issue has been extended until March 31 and the office staff will be delighted to hear from you if you desire a prospectus or wish to make it known that you can help us out in our concentrated marketing over the next few days.

DIARY DATE

THURSDAY, April 27, in the social club, a ladies' evening. Tickets priced at £2.50 now available from the social club.

KEITH ATKINSON

NOW recovering after a major spinal operation, Keith Atkinson wishes to thank all supporters and friends for their personal messages of good luck and best wishes. Married on the day we played Wigan in the cup, Keith was overwhelmed with the many messages for a speedy recovery from his operation and for best wishes in married life. He asked us to say thank-you to everyone on his behalf. The best wishes of all go, too, to Leo Casey and his wife, who has presented the player with their first child, a son called Leo Jnr, who arrived at more than 8lb. Perhaps he will be another prop!

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

OUR popular Lifeline draw broke new ground today when it took place in the Town Square and was made by no less a personality than the famous Rita Fairclough of Coronation Street. There was a big turnout of shoppers and passers-by to witness the draw taking place and several players were in attendance including Charlie McAlister, John Cogger, Paul Round and Mick Burke.

We will be doing another Town Square shopping centre promotion next week. From Tuesday onwards (Monday being Easter Monday), we will have our Oldham Rugby stand outside Boots and W. H. Smiths, and we anticipate that the venture will be just as successful as it was last time.

The PLC prospectus will be available and we will be asking people to buy shares in the history-making Oldham Rugby public company, which has now been extended until March 31.

For the benefit of Widnes fans who may be interested in buying a few shares, or any casual visitors to Watersheddings this evening who may not be aware of the situation, the following statement has been circulated by our public relations firm:

OLDHAM RUGBY SHARE OFFER INTO EXTRA TIME

"OLDHAM Rugby League FC's share offer, launched in January under the Government's Business Expansion Scheme and originally due to close on February 27, has been extended to March 31.

"The directors have been encouraged to take this initiative in response to the strong local support the club has received.

"The minimum £100,000 required to make the offer viable has been surpassed by £40,000 to date. Together with £50,000 invested in the club by its directors the club has now raised £190,000 towards its stated aim of developing Oldham PLC as one of the game's leaders.

"It is hoped that extending the closing date will result in substantial extra subscription from potential investors among supporters and the business community who may have previously hesitated."

That, then, sets the scene for our town-centre 'push' next week, but we won't merely be urging local people to become shareholders in the club.

At least one player will be working on the stand at any given time and we will be trying to 'sell' the club generally and urging shoppers, business people, office workers and passers-by to enlist in Lifeline or Cashline.

We will also be running a raffle for the person who can correctly guess the weight of our giant stick of special Oldham Rugby Rock! Tickets will be on sale at 10p each. The punter who correctly



guesses the weight, or is closest to it, will win the massive stick of rock and there will be numerous runners-up prizes from out of the stock in our souvenir shop — such things as T-shirts, keyrings, autographed rugby balls, mugs, hats, etc., all in Roughyed colours, of course.

In last Sunday's programme I told you about the competition we were now running in conjunction with NISA (National Independent Association) to find Oldham Rugby's most dedicated FAMILY of supporters.

YOU can vote through the programme for the Boddingtons player of the year and supporter of the year, but if you know of a particular FAMILY of fans that could qualify for a 'dedicated' prize, please ring me on 620 4870.

The winner will receive a trophy and a £50 shopping voucher in a little competition that is bags of fun, good publicity and worthwhile in recognising the importance of the family unit on our terraces or in the stands.

Finally, we are now in a position to publish the list of 40 lucky Lifeline winners for our Grand National Day event in the social club. Each has been notified individually and each can bring a friend along to watch the race in the social club and enjoy a champagne buffet as well as a little flutter. Each member will draw out a National runner. There will be cash prizes for the first four to finish and a lot of 'bubbly' and fun for everyone.

Turn to page 21 to discover the Lifeline members who have won a place in OUR starting line-up!

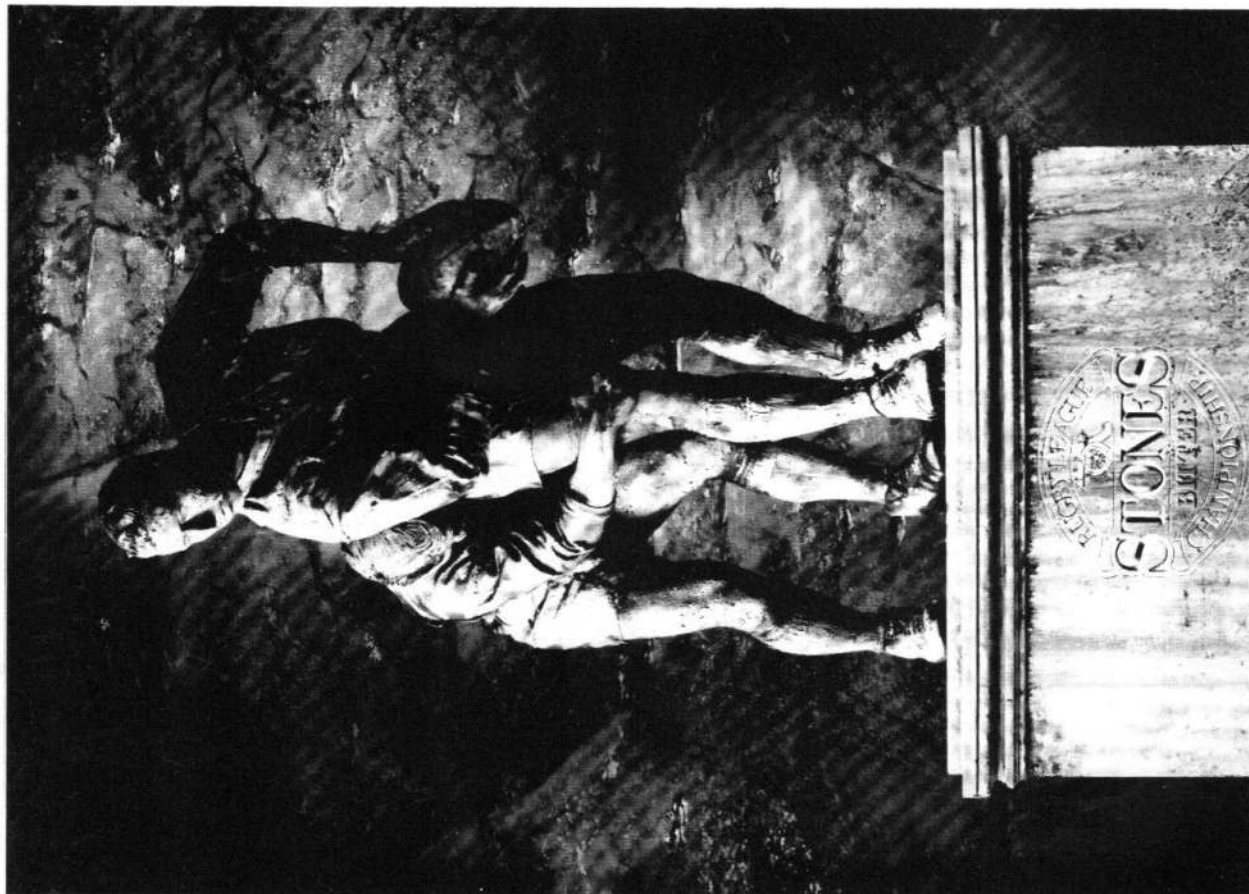
Ray Hill

WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

A WARM welcome this evening to all our friends from Widnes — and, hopefully, to Jonathan Davies! A lot of people in the ground tonight will be hoping to see the former Welsh RU star play at Watersheddings for the first time. Let's hope he is not too successful!

For the benefit of Widnes fans, our souvenir hut is open inside the ground near the pavilion corner, and chocolates, sweets, crisps, etc., will be available where we are selling programmes under the scoreboard.

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2659	—	Mrs. Tyldesley	0433	—	Ronald Walsh
0192	—	Sandra Moores	1521	—	C. Diggie
1128	—	G. Jackson	0263	—	Mrs. B. Gallagher
2254	—	Mrs. M. Gill	0621	—	A. Buckley
0116	—	A. Fleet	2232	—	W. H. Smith
1562	—	N. Mawson	2339	—	Lynne Fleming
1036	—	Mick Carlisle	1255	—	Joyce Carroll
1341	—	Kitchings	2755	—	Rumbelows
0988	—	S. Hooley	2882	—	Lorna Moorhouse
1830	—	P. Mason	1129	—	F. Renshaw
1645	—	P. Marshall	1363	—	M. Ashworth
1956	—	Mr. M. Akhtar	1597	—	I. Mayers
0261	—	R. A. Hassal	2286	—	W. Norton
2837	—	George Hunt	2764	—	Denise Allen
0909	—	A. Smallwood	0682	—	Graham Howarth
2552	—	Moore's Travel	0863	—	Colin Sutton
1217	—	Saddleworth Rangers	0617	—	I. Ratcliffe
2788	—	S. Wilcox	1771	—	C. Hey
0188	—	Mr. Warrenner	2740	—	Brian Whitley
1228	—	F. Smith	0422	—	P. Widdall

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

OLDHAM PLAYING RECORD (28 POSSIBLE) (Including Subs)

	App	G	DG	T	Pts	Total App
J. Cogger	4			3	12	4
T. Croston	87					8
M. Lord	3					3
K. Newton	9			4	16	9
K. Meadows	26			7	28	70
R. Irving	5			2	8	20
D. Foy	5			2	8	181
C. McAlister	17	18		3	48	35
P. Lord	12			6	24	23
M. Ford	23			3	12	43
I. Bates	6					8
I. Sherratt	15			1	4	34
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	24			6	24	35
M. Burke	7	17		1	38	50
A. Ruane	26	10	3	3	35	26
N. Clawson	21					73
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	22			5	20	30
R. Marsden	4					9
M. Bardsley	8			3	12	18
T. Nadiola	2					66
T. Morrison	5					20
D. Platt	12	32		3	76	12
G. Hyde	10	1		3	14	10
S. Cummins	1					1
S. Allen	2					2

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

(Up to and including Sunday, March 19)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	22	9	0	3	299	171	6	0	4	178	136	30
Widnes	18	9	0	1	341	98	5	1	2	170	113	29
Castleford	19	8	0	1	289	136	6	1	3	182	177	29
Wigan	20	7	0	3	236	168	7	0	3	189	174	28
Hull	22	6	0	4	148	130	8	0	4	196	176	28
St. Helens	21	7	1	3	279	161	4	0	6	159	233	23
Salford	22	8	0	4	237	184	2	0	8	180	280	20
Featherstone	21	5	0	6	203	234	5	0	5	183	224	20
Warrington	22	6	0	5	273	214	3	0	8	127	180	18
Bradford N	20	4	1	4	180	150	4	0	7	237	262	17
OLDHAM	22	6	0	4	212	171	1	1	10	169	351	15
Wakefield	22	5	1	5	164	184	2	0	9	151	304	15
Hull KR	22	4	0	7	213	203	1	1	9	134	323	11
Halifax	21	4	1	5	136	156	1	0	10	105	277	11

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(Continued from Page 11)

operation. Took the Harry Sunderland Award for a breath-taking performance in Widnes's 1983 Premiership Final defeat of Hull at Headingley. Made a Test debut in 1983 and has 14 Great Britain caps, a figure which might have been doubled but for injuries. A powerful runner, and a sound, resourceful defender, who stayed in Sydney for Balmain in 1986. Has not played in a major Final for Widnes since the 1983 Lancashire Cup Final defeat at the hands of Barrow.

DAVID HULME: Finally got the recognition he deserved after doing a magnificent job in the stand-off position in four Tests on tour. Appeared in 13 of the 18 games on tour and proved a model tourist. Showed his potential as a young 17-year-old scrum-half understudy to Andy Gregory at Naughton Park and developed to gain Under-21 and Lancashire honours. Last May took the Harry Sunderland Award for an outstanding display in the Premiership Final. Scored 19 tries in 1986-87 and produced a 16-try return last season. Joined Widnes from Halton Hornets in August, 1980. Outstanding all-round footballer, whose consistency matches his brilliance. Approaching his 100th try for Widnes.

KURT SORESEN: Outstanding New Zealand Test forward. Originally a back-row forward, making his Test debut in 1975, still going strong, appearing in the World Cup Final in Auckland. Captain/coach of the Chemics, arriving in England after spells with Cronulla and Easts, in Sydney, and a guest spell with Wigan as a teenager in 1976-77. Powerhouse forward, who leads by example and scored 6 tries in 2 appearances last season, including one in the Premiership Final defeat of St. Helens.

PHIL McKENZIE: Qualities for British citizenship in two years' time, and should be then challenging to claim the Great Britain Test jersey. Arrived from the Illawarra district of Australia to play for Rochdale Hornets in 1985-86. Outstanding form there brought 19 tries in 32 appearances and Widnes won the race for his signature. Proving a man in the Keith Elwell mould, possessing all of his try-getting, ball-

winning qualities. His 11 tries in 1986-87 included a brilliant Cup semi-final effort against Halifax at Headingley. Scored another 12 last term, including one in the Premiership Final. Man of the Match in this year's Charity Shield match on the Isle of Man.

MIKE O'NEILL: Substitute in Widnes's 1979 Wembley defeat of Wakefield Trinity, and currently in his benefit season with the Chemics. A 1984 Lions tourist, having gained his only three caps in 1982-83. Mike holds three Under-24 international caps. Has also appeared 7 times for Lancashire and in 9 major Finals for the club he joined from school. Can play front or second row. Almost 350 appearances for the club and is a model of consistency.

RICHARD EYRES: Another Widnesian to join the British party mid-way through the Lions tour during the summer, making just 3 appearances. Toured New Zealand with the Young Lions squad and joined Widnes in 1984 from Widnes Tigers.

DEREK PYKE: Former Leigh skipper who joined Widnes in a part-exchange deal which took Harry Pinner to Hilton Park. Skilful front-row man.

JOE GRIMA: Another eve-of-Cup signing, arriving at Widnes from Swinton. This New Zealander helped to win the Second Division Premiership at Old Trafford in 1987, scoring 5 tries in 18 appearances in their promotion-winning season.

PAUL HULME: Outstanding young utility player, was produced by Halton Hornets. Joined the Lions tourists as a replacement last summer and appeared in the unaccustomed role of hooker in Great Britain's Third Test victory. Made his Lancashire debut against Yorkshire at Headingley.

EMOSI KOLOTO: Age 23, 16 stone 5 pounds, Tongan-born. A Wellington RU and New Zealand junior Kiwi and unlucky to miss out on full NZ All-Blacks tour to Australia last summer. Signed after lengthy negotiation and already his a big with Widnes fans after an impressive debut.

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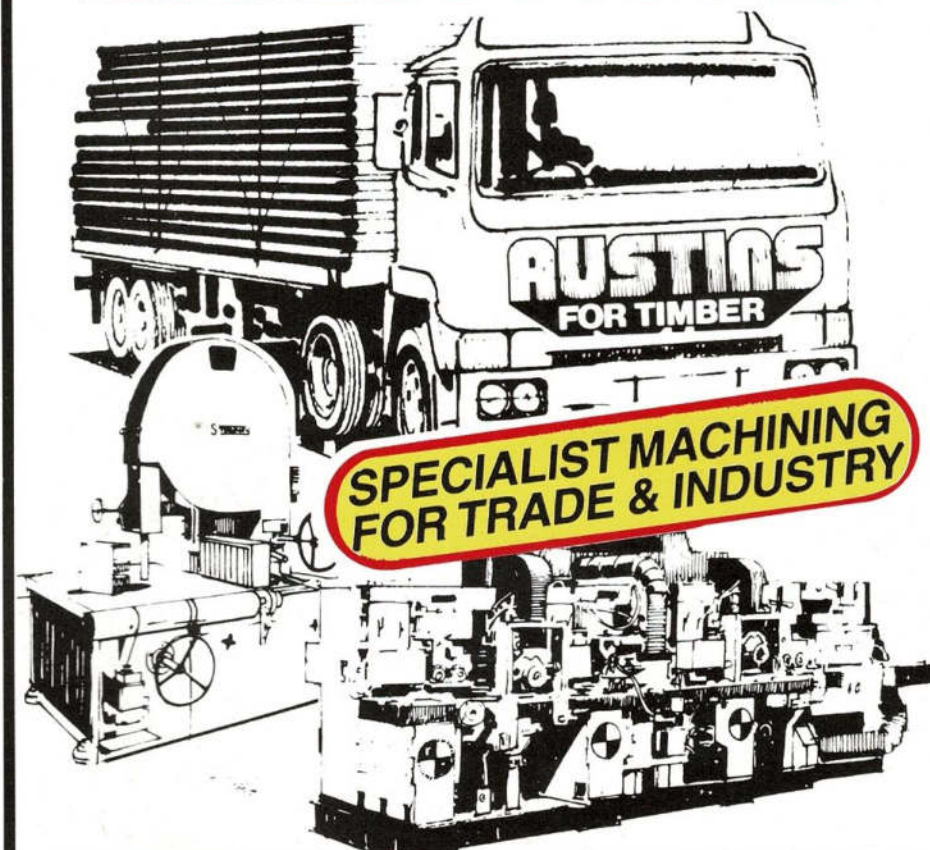
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