

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
PAUL ROUND — 11
KEITH NEWTON — 12
JOHN COGGER — 13
TREVOR CROSTON — 14
NEIL CLAWSON — 15

WIGAN

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

Referee: Mr. J. Holdsworth (Kippax) Touch Judges: Mr. E. M. Massey (Red Flag), Mr. D. J. Barratt (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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SCRUMS				
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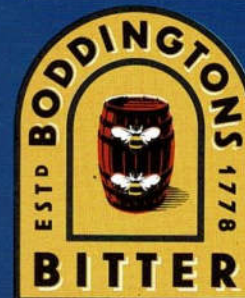


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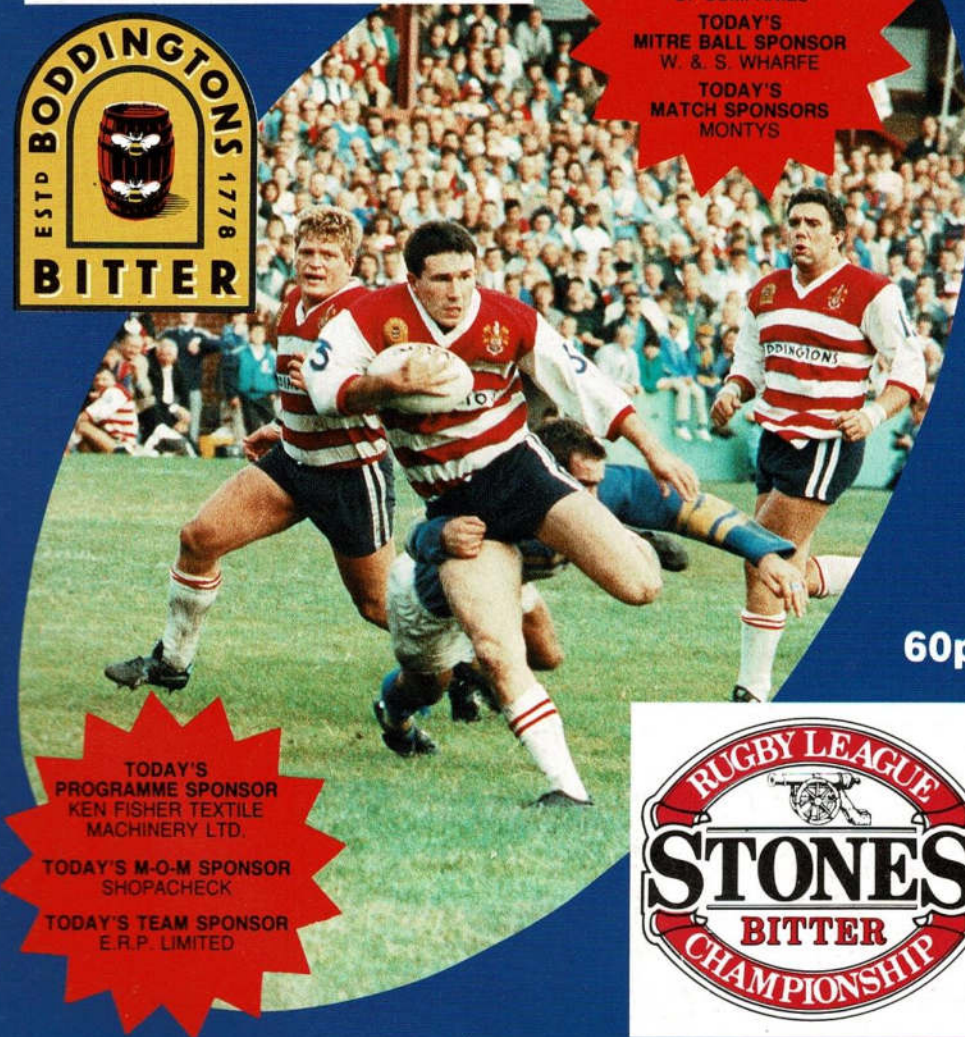
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Conditioner: O. Rowe

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Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr. J. Watkins

Commercial Manager: R. Hill

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Official Sin Bin Man: David Whitehead

CLUB RECORDS

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

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

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,
24 February, 1912

Record Receipts: £30,388.70 v Wigan,
4th February, 1987

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to St. Helens
for Paul Round August 1987
and £65,000 for Mike Ford January 1988

Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries,
1921-22 season

Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 224 goals,
1957-58 season

Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points
v Liverpool City, April 1959

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest number of points scored: Bernard Ganley,
2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233
Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners:
1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09,
1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82,
1987-88

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99,
1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14,
1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22,
1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87

Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08,
1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20,
1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80

Second Division Premiership: 1987-88

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PLAYERS PROFILE

JOHN COGGER



PLAYER PROFILE

Full Name: *John Cogger*
 Nick Name: *J.C.*
 Birthdate: *26.4.63*
 Birthplace: *Sydney, Australia*
 Marital Status: *Single*
 Occupation: *Rugby Player*
 Car: *Vauxhall Astra*
 Fav. TV Show: *Neighbours*
 Fav. Film: *Anything with Charles Bronson*
 Fav. Music: *Aussie Bands*
 Fav. Food/Drink: *Italian/Lager*
 Fav. Reading: *Sunday Sport*
 Hobbies: *Socialising*
 Fav. other sport: *All sports*
 Likes about game: *Friends made*
 Dislikes about game: *Injuries and people who back-stab*
 Superstitions: *I try and follow the same routine before every game*
 Fav. position: *Loose-forward*
 Fav. ground: *Sydney Cricket Ground*
 Best moment: *Winning the Second Division Player of the Year in 1986/7*
 Worst moment: *Breaking my jaw two years ago*
 Hardest player to tackle: *All of them*
 Hardest tackler: *Wayne Pearce*
 Fav. all-time player: *Tommy Raudonikis*

CAREER WITH OLDHAM (Excluding Wakefield game 19.3.89 and Widnes match 22.3.89)

Date signed on: *January 2, 1989*
 Debut: *v Hull, Feb. 19, 1989*
 Appearances: *3*
 Tries: *3*
 Goals: *0*
 Drop goals: *0*
 Total points: *12*

AUTOGRAPH:

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ON THE BARROW BEAT

(A regular feature with Oldham coach Tony Barrow)



A HOT topic in Rugby League right now concerns Australian players, their contracts, and the demands of the Aussie clubs and League when it comes to problems associated with the overlapping of the season.

We had to bid farewell to Chris O'Sullivan at the very time when we needed him most for the battle to stay in the First Division, but compared with many clubs we got off lightly. The return home, with injury, of Paul Taylor in early January and the fact that Ashley Gilbert did not make a first-team place his own meant that we only really suffered from the loss of one player at such a crucial time.

Some clubs had had to cope with the departure of two or three. Look at Warrington. They were weakened for Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final and in the final few weeks of the season they have to battle for League points without Steve Roach, Paul Bishop, Les Davidson and Phil Blake. That would tear a hole in any side!

Hull have been involved with a contract wrangle with South Sydney concerning Craig Coleman and there is enough evidence flying around to suggest that, this summer, English clubs will certainly be thinking twice when it comes down to 'talking turkey' with Aussie players or their clubs.

Wigan, our opponents today, seem to have it right. Not for them the loss of players back overseas at a crucial time of the campaign. Most of their overseas boys are New Zealanders and they are here on long-term contracts.

Wigan have had short-term Aussie signings, in the past, but not now.

Widnes have taken a different tack (opting for long-term contracts to Union stars) but, in each case, they have side-stepped the problem that is now badly hitting so many clubs in the English game.

As far as I am concerned, here at Oldham, there will be no short-term overseas signings from now on. We have John Cogger on a three-year contract and that's the sort of long-term deal I will be looking for in the future. I am not saying we will only sign players from overseas who are willing to come for two or three years, but I am certainly saying that we will not go for players who have to up and leave us in late February of early March.

Moreover, I will only allow Oldham players to play Down Under in our close season on the understanding that they are back here by August 7 at the latest. Our contracts now are the equal of those offered in Sydney and there is no reason why the Aussies should dictate all the terms and conditions. They will certainly not be dictating to me. My feelings on this are stronger than on any single Rugby League issue.

TONY BARROW



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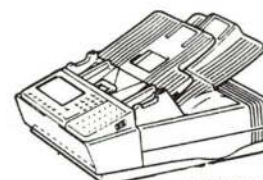
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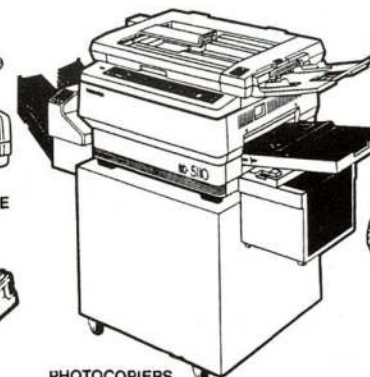
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OLDHAM'S FUTURE

A message to all from director Greg Pache



It is not very often that I speak publicly, or in the programme, but I wish to bring to the attention of supporters the importance of our share issue which 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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1948-49 KANGAROOS REVISITED (WITH CAPTAIN COLIN MAXWELL) ... by ROBERT MACKENZIE

THE seventh Kangaroos sailed on "Maloja" on August 5th, 1948, due Southampton on September 5th. The team was announced on the evening of June 19th after a four-hour meeting of selectors. It provided two major shocks: the omission of Len Smith and the appointment of Colin Maxwell as captain.

Smith was captain-coach of Australia in the two previous Tests against the touring Kiwis and was generally expected to retain this captaincy of the Kangaroos. Maxwell had not been selected for either and had not played in a representative game since May 15th, 1948, against Queensland. Maxwell said the following day that he thought his captaincy of City against Country helped the selectors in choosing him as captain. "That was a rugged match which almost developed into a donnybrook. It was a case in which control of the team was essential."

The 1948 Kangaroo tour was the first for ten years because of World War II. As a result, it was the first tour for all players. Maxwell was the oldest player at thirty. The youngest was eighteen-year-old Bob Dimond. New South Wales provided twenty of the twenty-eight members.

Smith's omission caused consternation particularly at Newtown where he played.

Maxwell realised he was in an awkward position and sensed early resentment. He knew that this situation had to be resolved immediately otherwise the tour would be a disaster. He conferred with tour management, a team meeting was held, grievances were aired and full co-operation pledged.

Tour managers Buckley and Simmonds were determined to get team harmony. Management left players in no doubt should sectarian and political discussion be vented offenders would be sent home.

The voyage had pleasant memories for Maxwell and here are some of his recollections:

"The 'Maloja' was referred to as a submarine. This was because when negotiating twenty-foot waves in The Great Australian Bight it sailed under, not over them," he said.

"Trainer 'Chloe' Furness suffered from seasickness and two members of the party convinced him the ship was sinking when they tossed a bucket of water under his cabin door. He spent the rest of the voyage in the stateroom," he said.

"Keeping fit on the month-long voyage consisted of physical training between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., being callisthenics on RAAF ABC Fitness Programme routine. Ship's Captain informed us that we were the entertainers," he said.

"From this very successful venture Bruce Hopkins, Wally O'Connell and Keith Froome developed a popular night club act on return to Sydney. Jack Horrigan was the comedian of the

tour. These routines proved so popular that we were invited to perform in First Class area," he said.

A re-scheduled tour itinerary meant instead of completing the voyage as planned, a flight from Marseilles was necessary. The Board of Control suggested that part of the team fly to London to meet the commitment to play Huddersfield on September the 22nd. The rest of the party would complete the voyage as scheduled.

"A team meeting vetoed this because it meant that the party would be split into two groups," Maxwell said. "It was agreed that the entire team would travel by air from Marseilles to London. On arrival we transferred by coach to Leeds and then to Troutbeck Hotel on Ilkley Moor.

"After four weeks on board ship, the team had two training sessions before the opening match against the then leading side, Huddersfield. It was defeated by twenty-two to three."

Maxwell remembered that the grounds were generally heavy: "A sticky, clay mud which clung to boots. When churned it froze and caused a barbed wire effect," he recalled.

Maxwell sustained an injury against Wakefield Trinity which prevented him from playing in all but nine matches of the tour.

He returned to captain Australia in the Third Test. Great Britain won the three Tests played. Maxwell's injury at first was thought to be a pulled muscle but examinations in later years showed a hairline fracture of the right thigh had occurred.

"Food rationing still applied in the United Kingdom and the Kangaroos were given no preferential treatment. We received one ration of meat per week," he said.

The Kangaroos received harsh criticism from the British press because of their "physical" but fair tackling. Experience in previous tours indicated that English players made the ball do the work. The Kangaroo strategy was to upset their momentum, to move up quickly and knock them over. British press and crowds resented this physical approach although the tackling was legitimate.

The team returned after a pleasant four-week voyage on "Canberra".

These days Colin Maxwell divides his time between his home at Nelson Bay and his property in South Western Queensland.

He is active in Rotary, a very fit seventy and is happy that all the controversy surrounding the selection of the seventh Kangaroos is past.

At Kangaroo reunions the 1948-49 team has the largest attendance. Testimony to team spirit forged forty years ago which has endured the test of time.

● Robert Mackenzie is an Australian RL follower who lives in New South Wales. He has made several trips to England to watch our great game and is a personal friend of Sam Shepherd, Alan Burke and Roger Halstead.

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RUN-DOWN ON WIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRIAN CASE (prop-forward) — Took the club's player-of-the-year award for a marvellous season in the championship season of 1987. Signed from Warrington 1 week before JPS Final. St. Helens born, winning under-24s and domestic honours, before signing for Wigan in 1983. Three Wembley finals in five seasons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FIXTURES 1988/89

FIRST TEAM (Stones Bitter Championship) Excluding Widnes Game 22.3.89

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 W 24-8
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 3p.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
17 Wakefield T (7.30) A W 16-26
25 Workington (2.30) A

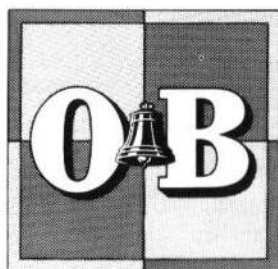
APRIL

8 Featherstone A

Runcorn have withdrawn from the competition.



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CORNER

£1,000 REASONS TO SAY THANK YOU

C. HALLIDAY has a thousand good reasons to thank four Oldham players for popping into Hollins Road's King George Hotel — even though he wasn't there.

That's because he's Lifeline's £1,000 Week 22 winner.

Making the draw were Oldham stars Mick Burke, Ian Sherratt, Steve Patterson and Shane Cummins, with a little help from new landlord Ian McIntosh and regulars Carol Thompson and Joan Yates (see picture).

They also drew an additional 40 lucky winners who will be invited to the club's VIP lounge for a champagne Grand National afternoon on April 8.

Joining in the fun was former Oldham star Adrian Alexander, who retired after a distinguished playing career a couple of years

ago. Now, Adrian is managing another OB local, the Bath Hotel.

After the Lifeline draws, a raffle was held with five pairs of ground tickets and a signed rugby ball as prizes. The latter was won by Vinny McHugh, who was presented with the ball by Ian McIntosh and Ian Sherratt (see picture on page 17).

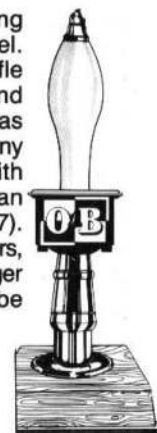
Vinny, like all good rugby players, won't be holding onto the ball longer than necessary because he'll be passing it straight to his five-year-old son, Matthew, who recently celebrated his birthday.

Another signed ball — plus free tickets for the Castleford home match — is up for grabs at Ashton Road's Hathershaw Hotel on April 3, when landlord Dennis Adams hosts the £1,000 Lifeline draw with assistance from Oldham's commercial manager, Ray Hill, and players.

TIME PLEASE, LADIES & GENTLEMEN

WE'RE calling time on the OB Player of the Year and OB Supporter of the Year awards — so make sure you have your shout by voting.

(continued on page 17).



Making C. Halliday's day in a recent £1,000 Lifeline draw at the King George Hotel are (left to right) Shane Cummins, Ian Sherratt, Carol Thompson, Ian McIntosh, Joan Yates, Steve Patterson and Mick Burke.

Seton ProSport

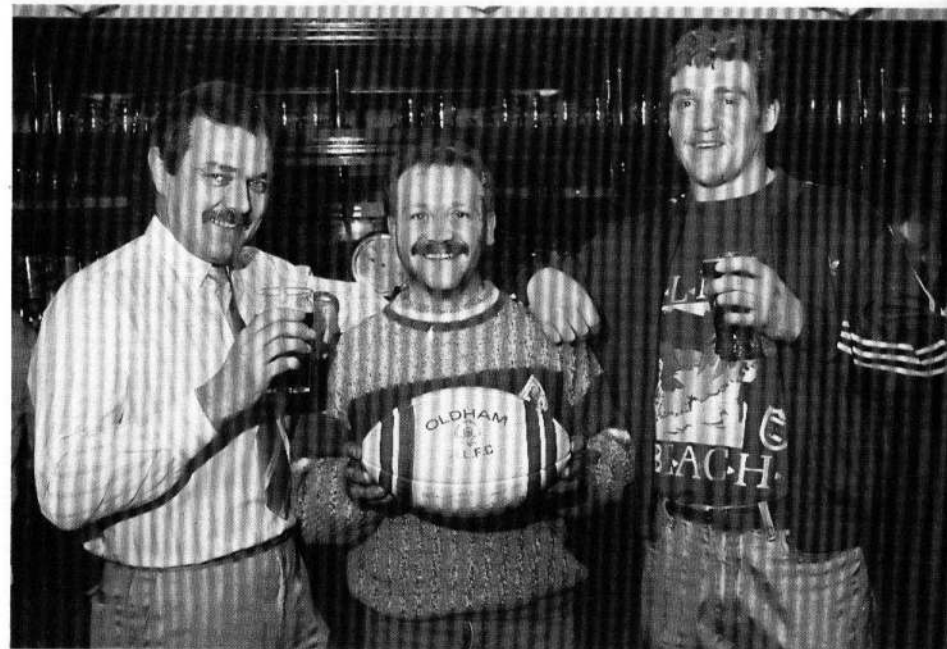
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**OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE
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Proud owner of a signed Oldham RLFC ball is Vinny McHugh (centre), who is passing it onto his five-year-old son, Matthew.

The coupon in today's programme represents the last opportunity you'll get to influence the decision for the two new awards launched by official club sponsors Boddingtons.

It's well worth participating because it is your chance to say thank you to the player you think has been the most consistent this season — and nominate a fellow supporter for the OB Supporter of the Year award at the same time.

In both cases there are fine rewards for the winners. The OB Player of the Year wins the OB Trophy and a £250 cheque while the OB Supporter of the Year walks away with a handsome trophy, brand new kit and a pair of season tickets.

Both awards will be made prior to the final home game of the season against Castleford.

And remember, everyone who votes enters a great prize draw with the first three names each receiving two cases of Boddingtons bitter — that's 48 cans to toast what should be a great finale to the season!

So make sure you post your coupon before the end of this month.

Closing date for entries is April 3, 1989.

WHO'S GREEDY?

WILL you succumb and let greed get the better of you?

That's the dilemma you'll be faced with in the near future at your OB local.

Can you resist or will you be another victim of greed!

WHO'S NEXT?

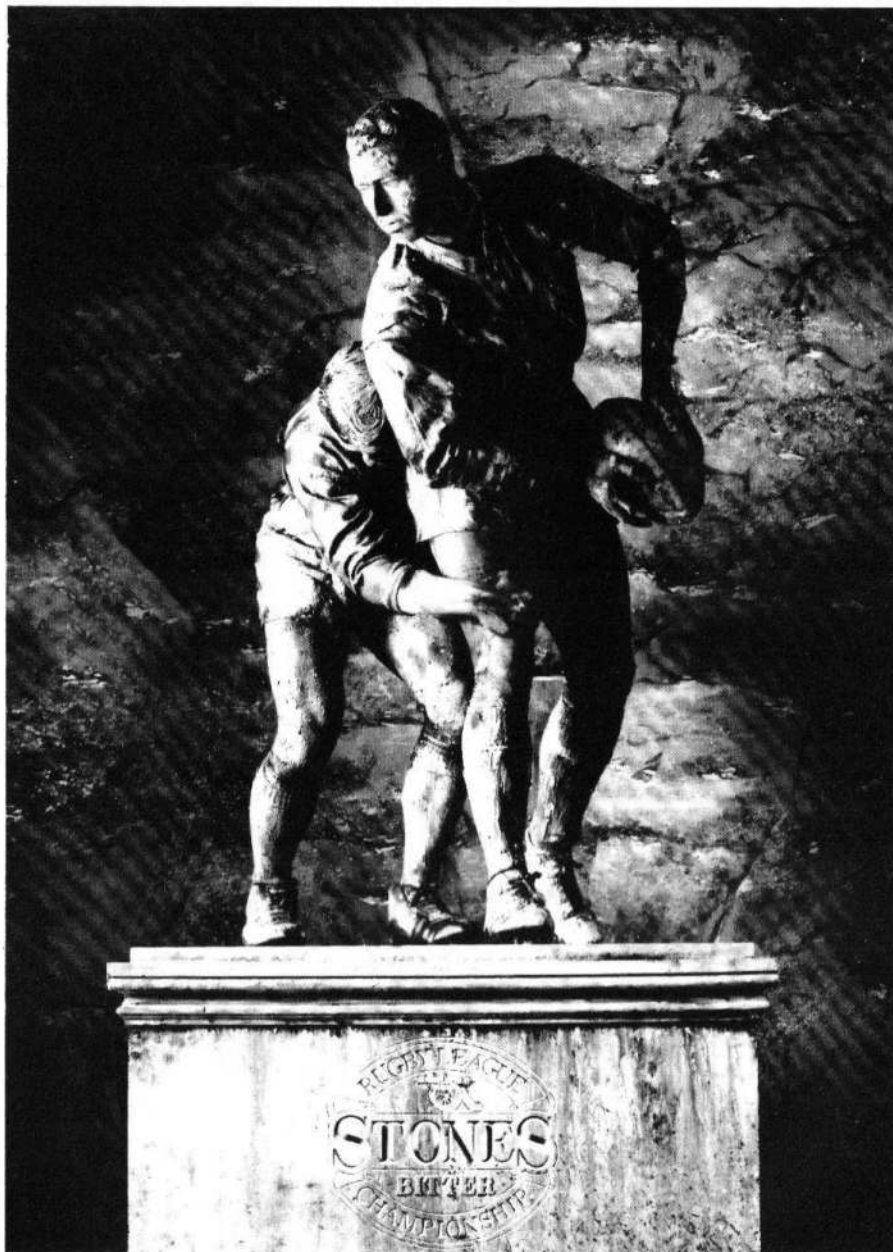
CHRIS O'Sullivan was the runaway winner in February but March's result promises to be a lot closer. Early front-runners for the Evening Chronicle OB Man of the Month award are John Cogger and Andy Ruane.

Today's game against Wigan could clinch an inscribed medal, £100 cheque and case of Boddingtons bitter for either — or could another player get the nod from the award's judge, Evening Chronicle journalist Roger Halstead.

We'll name the winner in the Castleford programme.

**NEXT HOME GAME
Oldham v Castleford
Sunday, April 9**

(Kick-off 3 p.m.)



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

COMMERCIAL CORNER with RAY HILL

WITH only one game left at Watersheddings, after today's encounter with Wigan, it is appropriate to say 'thanks' to all our sponsors during the season. At each game we have a match sponsor, a programme sponsor, a man-of-the-match sponsor, a ball sponsor, a team sponsor, and executive sponsors and to all of them I say, on behalf of the board and the club, a big THANK-YOU.

These days, commerce has a major part to play in professional sport. All sponsorship agreements, either at League or club level, are a two-way deal, and the Rugby League has always enjoyed a terrific relationship with its major sponsors because they are made to feel part and parcel of the sport. I like to think that, here at Oldham at club level, we do the same. We really appreciate the involvement of our sponsors and, in turn, we like to give value for money.

To this end, we are delighted to thank: Saffron Construction, Atlas Trading, Platt and Hill, Norman Leisure, J. C. L. Engineering, Marshall Pumps, Kingfisher Tours, Boddingtons, Ken Fisher Textile Machinery, Two Counties, Target Finishing, Reddish Demolition, the Oldham Chronicle, R. Agar, Pennine Supplies, Montys, Slumberland, Austin Timber, Shop-a-Check, Insurances Oldham, S. Ibbotson, Diane Coffee House, Nat-West Bank, George Sumner Ltd., Temple and Somerville, A. Whitehead, North Manchester Comm. Veh., Moorside Metals, J. Brierley and Son, St. Mary's Caterers, Ribble Packaging, Adrian Peglar, Sanopal Replacement Windows, Hilary Pache, Malinsons '83 Ltd., Alan Bonelle, Rhodes Tools, Ray Leigh Transport, Prince George Hotel, E.R.P. Ltd., S. Wharfe, Norgren Martonair, Maurice Beverley, Datum Building Supplies, Guide Bridge (W. and S. Wharfe), Crompton Engineering, Seddon Atkinson, British Aerospace, North-West Decoiling, Wiggett Construction, David Gardner, Moben Kitchens, Super Spray Motor Bodies (Droylsden), Toomey, Ferris and Godwin, F. D. Kitchens, Smallbridge Textiles, Paul Stuart and Co., Bay Horse (Failsworth), Royal Life, Kay Don, Wm. Bradbury and Sons, F. Pedley and Sons Ltd., T. O'Brien, Dronsfield Commercials, Broughton Controls Ltd., Compdata Ltd., Linney Lane Motors, Crompton Engineering.

To all these sponsors we express the thanks of the club and the board and hope that we can do business again next season in the boom sport of 1989 — Rugby League!

There are advantages for sponsors, of course, when a team gets on the television and the exposure also helps to spread the gospel far and wide. There is now positive proof that League

matches up here in the north are attracting fans from many parts of the country and I can vouch for that on a personal note because, for today's match, my family from Stoke-on-Trent have travelled north after thoroughly enjoying the game on television.

Watching League for the first time 'live' will be my aunt and uncle, two daughters and their families. I'm sure they will like what they see and I'm sure we will have more converts to our great game.



SECOND DIVISION BOOST FOR AMATEURS

AMATEUR Rugby League has been given a major boost by BARLA's decision to launch a national league second division next season.

BARLA are adding Castleford side Lock Lane and Rochdale Mayfield to the successful first division which is now in its third season.

The teams to form the new section are: Askam (Barrow), Barrow Island, Blackbrook (St. Helens), **British Aerospace (Oldham)**, Crosfields (Warrington), Leigh East, Redhill (Castleford), **Saddleworth**, Shaw Cross (Heavy Woollen).

BARLA chairman David Knight admitted it had been a difficult task to whittle down the handsomely oversubscribed list of applicants, adding: "We were very impressed with the quality of administration and facilities of all the successful applicants. Several clubs narrowly missed out this time.

"We feel the formation of the second division and increasing the first division to 12 clubs will give a timely boost to the National League.

"Our next target is the formation of a seven-counties Premier League which will automatically feed the second division as we begin the build-up to the game's centenary in 1995."

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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THE Oldham club's youth plans took two more significant strides recently with the signing, initially on amateur forms, of St. Helens boys Tony Leach and Tony Barrow. Leach, a centre, is 18 and comes from the well-known amateur club Blackbrook, a club that has produced many top-class players over the years.

Barrow, a loose-forward, is 17 and hails from the Thatto Heath club. The name's the same? yes, Tony is the son of Tony Barrow snr., our club coach.

Tony Leach has Lancashire under-17 honours and he is one of the leading players in a Blackbrook under-19 side that tops its section in the North-West Counties League.

Tony Barrow was an England schoolboy international and he is currently in the Lancashire squad, also captaining both that Thatto Heath and St. Helens town team at under-17 level.

Their capture, of course, means that we have now signed five highly-promising youngsters in the past few weeks — the two aforementioned plus Tommy Martyn, Richard Blackman and the local boy Neil Flanagan.

In addition we have two more teenagers

playing in the 'A' team in Steve Entwistle and Richard Pachniuk — proof positive that we fully intend to carry out our promises to re-create a youth policy on the same scale that made the club well known for its youth activity in 1979 and 1980 when Andy Goodway, Ray Ashton, Mick Worrall, Paddy Kirwan, Terry Flanagan, etc., were just starting to make their way in the game.

To bring out the best in the youngsters in readiness for next season we intend to run a summer school. A qualified and experienced sprint coach will be joining the staff soon and he will play a prominent part in the summer activity, along with coach Tony Barrow, 'A' team coach Ian Taylor, town-team youth coach Steve Deakin and possibly other local coaches.

The school will be mainly for our young players plus several other boys to whom invitations will be extended over the course of the next few weeks.

A lot of sprint work will be involved and this will take place at Westwood Park or here at Watersheddings if our plans to create a new four-lane track are completed in time.

**THE 1989 STONES BITTER
PREMIERSHIP DOUBLEHEADER**

Sunday 14 May, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm

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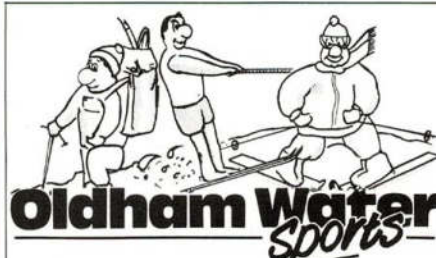
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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS 1988/89

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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PAT ON THE BACK FROM RIVAL FANS

SHORTLY after the recent Oldham-Wigan cup-tie, the Oldham club received the following letter from a Wigan supporter who must be anonymous because we have not been able to establish whether the letter was intended for publication:

Dear Sirs. Today I had the good fortune to see Wigan successfully continue their way to Wembley, at the expense of Oldham. Not the best game ever, but Oldham must be given credit for a superb attempt to ruin Wigan's Wembley return. Well done!

My main reason for writing, however, is to praise your fans. Myself and my three friends spent the game mainly surrounded by Oldham supporters. As usual, the verbal rivalry was rife; no problem. Three fans, in particular, will remain fixed in my mind forever.

Throughout the game they and my little party were "having a go" at each other. All in good humour. This, I felt, added to the event.

At the end of the game, the three fans turned around, and in true sporting fashion shook hands with us, congratulated us on our victory, and wished us well for the future.

This act, added to Wigan's victory, will remain with me always.

This incident not only emphasised the sporting camaraderie of Rugby League followers, but it also was a huge credit to Oldham RLFC.

May I wish them, and the whole of Oldham RLFC, best wishes for the future.

P.S. Please send me a share application form. Even if I can afford only £25 worth, it will be money well spent.

• To the Wigan fan concerned,
THANKS! To our supporters who made the

correspondent and his friends so welcome on the Watersheddings terraces, THANKS! To all who put their love of the game over and above club interest, THANKS! This great game of ours will continue to prosper with that sort of attitude — and as the game thrives, so will the individual clubs in the long term.

SORRY

AS today's game is our third home match in eight days, and covers the Easter Holiday period, printing deadlines necessitated this programme being completed **before** last Wednesday's Widnes game took place. This was beyond our control, so please accept an apology for features that will have to be updated in the Castleford match programme.

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.

NEXT HOME GAME OLDHAM v CASTLEFORD

Sunday, April 9th
Kick-off 3.00p.m.

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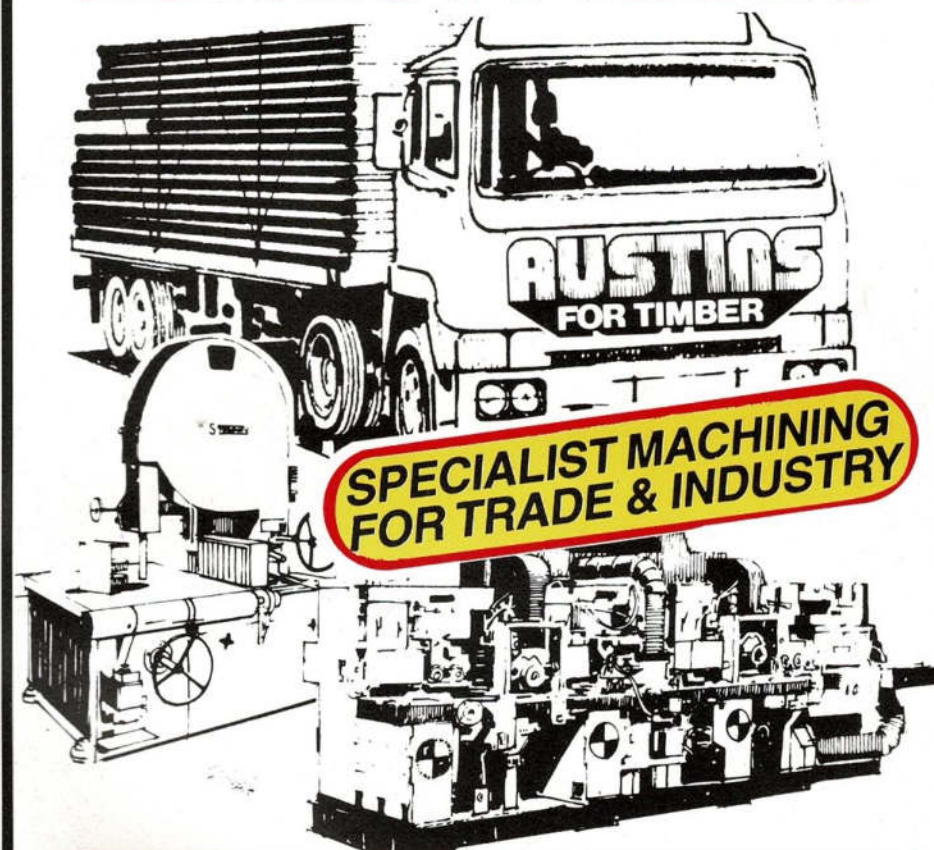
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