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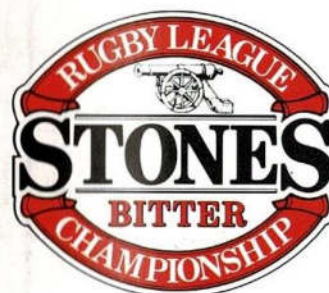
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1987/88

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Good afternoon to everyone – and, if the outstanding attendance last week is anything to go by, – that will mean a lot of people this afternoon.



First, let me welcome Directors, Officials and Players from the famous Oldham Club. They found themselves in the same predicament as Halifax last Season – and this, for that matter – and will be as keen as ourselves to return, immediately, into the 1st Division.

Obviously, we can do them no favours on the field today – quite the contrary, – but they are far too good a Club to be languishing in the lower ranks and apart from this game and the "Return" on 15th October we wish them well.

One down and 27 to go. That's the position after what, eventually, turned out to be a good Win against Rochdale Hornets.

John Dorahy had the best comment last Sunday evening when he said to me "Fair enough but still a bit of work to do".

That just about sums it up!

Certainly some plus points in the performance of David Holmes, Tony Anderson and Dick Fairbank with, in the second half, a fairly good all round performance by everyone.

A few touches of magic from Joe Cool himself, giving promise, I am certain, of the shape of things to come.

Once Lindsay Johnston is recovered completely from his jet lag and has settled down he, too, must be a valuable asset to the Team.

All being well – and not without a bit of last minute hassle from Eastern Suburbs, Brisbane – Brendan Hill will have returned and might just be recovered sufficiently to put in an appearance this afternoon (I mean, hopefully, on the field).

With the performance of most players against Rochdale, Brendan and Lindsay in the Squad and Brian Hetherington to come, you could say that our Player/Coach has some hard decisions to make – however, these are the kind of options which are a lot better to have than those regarding injured or non-available players – as I am sure he would agree.

It almost goes without saying that I return to my original point about attendance. There was a lot of talk about a record 1st Division turn out last Sunday but I'll bet, Wigan included, it is a heck of a long time, if ever, since there was a 2nd Division Club on nearly 7,000 at an Opening League match. (Actually no one, including David Howes, picked that up and it would be interesting to know whether we did break the record for a 2nd Division Opening game).

My thanks to all you loyal supporters – we simply have to do our best, on and off the field, to justify such enormous faith and support.

Talk about 4-pointers. Oldham and Hull K.R. are the ones we simply have to beat if we are going to return to the top in triumph and I know you will get behind us as we go all out for success in this vital match. Then, it is the Yorkshire Cup and, who knows, the beginning of a big "Run".

Here's to the Blue and Whites and Keep Smiling!

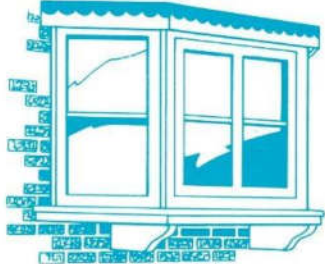
DAVID BROOK, M.A., M.B.E.

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From The President's Pulpit

Whatever the weather, one thing's sure.

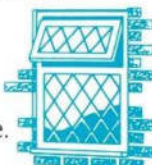
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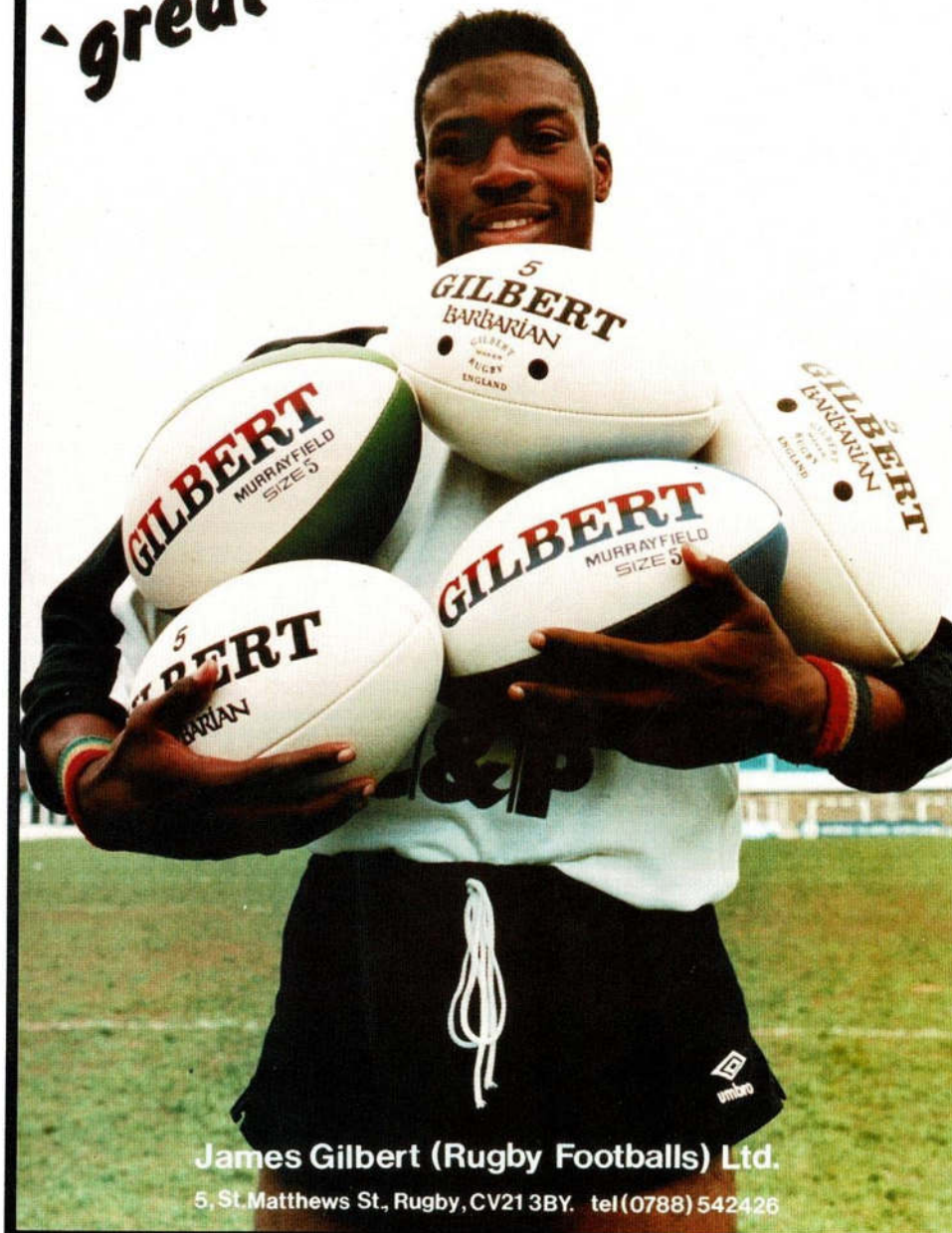
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STONES BITTER RECORD PRIZE MONEY

The 1989-90 Stones Bitter Champions will receive a Rugby League record £40,000 prize cheque... a 60% annual increase.

The bumper payout marks the launch of a new three-year £750,000 sponsorship of the League Championship and Premiership competitions by Bass North.

Prize money for the three other Stones Bitter titles is also increased by more than 50% with £18,000 for the Second Division Champions, £15,000 for the Stones Bitter Premiership winners and £8,000 for the Second Division Premiership victors.

Half of the 1989-90 sponsorship fee of £225,000 is to be distributed in prizes, including runners-up awards, the remaining £112,500 being invested in the League's Capital Development Fund.

Rugby League Chairman, Bob Ashby said: "The lifting of the Stones Bitter Championship Trophy has been traditionally recognised as the greatest team achievement in a 13-a-side code. This massive increase in the top prize in the Stones Bitter showcase fully reflects the honour of finishing at the top of the table after a demanding eight months campaign."

"Rugby League reached new invigorating heights last season marked by a 25% increase in attendances in the streamlined Stones Bitter Championship, the League title not being decided until the last match of the season, and a record-breaking gate of 40,000-plus for the Stones Bitter Premiership doubleheader at Old Trafford."

Paul Hughes, Marketing Director of Bass North said: "We are convinced that the increased prize money further lifts the prestige of the Stones Bitter Championship and Premiership and consolidates the happy partnership that exists between Bass and the Rugby League."

"We believe the marketing programme we have developed with the Rugby League has contributed to the growth in popularity of the game and the increased crowd attendances, and we look forward to the future with confidence."

The 1989-90 prize structure will be as follows:

	1989-90	(1988-89)
Stones Bitter Championship	40,000	(25,000)
Runners-up	15,000	(10,000)
Second Division Championship	18,000	(12,000)
Runners-up	7,500	(5,000)
Stones Bitter Premiership	15,000	(10,000)
Runners-up	6,000	(4,000)
Second Division Premiership	8,000	(5,000)
Runners-up	3,000	(2,000)
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY	112,500	
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	112,500	
GRAND TOTAL	£225,000	

STONES BITTER AWARDS

Rugby League's premier Man of Steel Award scheme is to be sponsored by Stones Bitter in a new three-year £50,000 deal.

The Man of Steel title was launched in 1977 and is awarded to the personality judged to have made the most impact on the season, the 1990 award being doubled by Stones Bitter to £4,000. Prize cheques and silver goblets are also presented to the First and Second Division Players, Young Player, Coach and Referee of the Year, the 1990 title winners to receive £1,000. The two runners-up for each of these five category awards will be presented with £200 and an inscribed medal.

The Stones Bitter Man of Steel Awards will be presented at a new style gala dinner at the Holiday Inn, Manchester, on Thursday 10th May, 1990. Great Britain and Wigan skipper, Ellery Hanley lifted the 1989 Man of Steel Award to extend his record to three titles.

Right: The New Official Rugby League Logo.



WELCOME TO OLDHAM

RICHARD IRVING: Signed for Oldham in August, 1987 from Moldgreen ARLFC and impressed coach Eric Fitzsimmons with his strong-running wing displays, scoring tries against Keighley and Rochdale. Scorer of just two tries—against Wigan and Wakefield—last season.

JOHN HENDERSON: Signed from Leigh club, this prolific try-scoring centre suffered through injury for much of last season and scored 8 tries. Scored 31 tries in 1988-89 and another 27 in 1986-87 for Leigh, gaining selection for Lancashire and scoring a try, in a 22-22 draw with Papua New Guinea in 1987. Guested for Sydney Wests in 1985.

CHARLIE MCALISTER: A sensational capture from Bradford & Bingley RUFC in February, 1988, scoring 9 tries and 15 goals in 18 appearances in his debut season. Had a summer spell in Australia with the Newcastle Knights, in 1988, improving his defensive abilities. Kicked four goals in the 1988 Second Division Premiership Final. New Zealander with great strength and pace and the ability to play in a variety of back roles.

KEVIN MEADOWS: One of the First Division's most under rated wingers, having previously played for St. Helens and Warrington. Scored 16 tries in 38 appearances in 1987-88. In his second spell at Oldham where he once scored 5 tries in a First Division match against Salford in 1984. Seven tries last season included a hat-trick in a 64-2 Lancashire Cup slaughter of Workington.

DUNCAN PLATT: Goalkicking full-back signed in November, 1988, from Widnes. Brother of Wigan and Great Britain forward Andy, he was in Widnes' Premiership winning team in 1988 and contributed 80 points from 16 appearances in their championship win. Excelled for Oldham and scored 41 goals and 98 points in his debut season. Kicked 2 goals on his debut here at Thrum Hall in the 12-0 win last December.

RICHARD RUSSELL: Oldham's major off-season signing, coming from Wigan, where he had gained Great Britain Colts and two Under 21 international selections in 1987 and 1988. Played in every back role at Central Park but received very few opportunities last season. Represented Wigan in the 1987 Lancashire Cup and Premiership Finals.

MIKE FORD: BARLA Young Lions tourist to New Zealand, in 1983, signed for Wigan from the Oldham, St. Annes ARLFC in August of that year. Won Challenge Cup (1985), Lancashire Cup (1985 and 1986) and John Player (1986 and 1987) honours, before joining Leigh. Gained four Under 21 international caps between 1985 and 1987 and also had a spell with Sydney club Eastern Suburbs. Toured Down Under with the Lions last summer, scoring 5 tries in 7 appearances. Signed for hometown Oldham in January, 1988, after an unhappy spell at Hilton Park, and was outstanding as Oldham defeated Featherstone in an epic Second Division Premiership Final. Totalled 9 tries and 3 drop goals in 19 appearances as Oldham swept to the Second Division Championship in 1987-88. Three tries last season.

IAN SHERATT: Former Bradford Northern prop joining Oldham in April, 1987, as part of a deal which took Great Britain forward David Hobbs to Odsal. Has enjoyed two successful spells in Australian country football. Scored two tries in 12 appearances for Oldham in the promotion-winning 1988 season and was drafted into the side following the sale of tour man Hugh Waddell.

NEIL CLAWSON: Son of much-travelled former Trinity and Great Britain prop forward Terry, Neil is another front-rower with lots of ability. Joined Oldham from Featherstone in May, 1986 and scored 2 tries in 26 appearances 1988.

JOHN FAIRBANK: Former BARLA international forward signed by Leeds in November, 1987, from Elland ARLFC.

One of five League-playing brothers and son of former Leeds and Huddersfield forward Jack. Played 19 games in his debut season for Leeds, but was surprisingly allowed to leave Headingley last August. Strong, forceful 21 year-old whose best is yet to come.

ANDY RUANE: Former Widnes and Rochdale hooker, signed for Oldham by Eric Fitzsimmons, his former coach of the Hornets. A great worker in the loose, with goalkicking skills, he scored 12 tries, 15 goals and 2 drop goals for Hornets in 1987-88. Made his presence felt at Watersheddings, claiming the No.9 jersey and kicking his first goals against Workington Town in the Lancashire Cup tie. One of the most impressive performers in the relegation year, scoring 4 tries and 15 goals.

PAUL ROUND: signed for £65,000 from St. Helens in August, 1987, instantly repaying Oldham with 16 tries in 26 appearances and gaining inclusion in the Lancashire teams which opposed Yorkshire (scoring a try) and Papua New Guinea in 1987. Originally a back-row forward who has played on the wing and at full-back. Nine tries last season including ones in home and away meetings with Halifax.

LEO CASEY: Recruited from St. Annes ARLFC in April 1985, this hard grafting prop-forward scored 3 tries in 8 appearances for the club in 1987-88. 7 tries last season.

JOHN COGGER: An outstanding signing from Runcorn Highfield last season. This inspirational Aussie had picked up the Second Division Player of the Year award in 1987, and starred in Oldham's end-of-season matches, scoring a try hat-trick against Featherstone and totalling 6 tries for the club, to go alongside seven scored for the league's wooden-spoonists. Can play loose-forward or stand-off.

SHAUN ALLEN: Appeared for St. Helens in 1985 and 1988 Premiership Finals and also in their 1984 Lancashire Cup winning side, gaining an Under 21 international debut for Great Britain against France in 1984. Played centre and in the back-row for the Knowsley Road club, joining Oldham, initially on loan, last season, scoring a try against Widnes.

TERRY FLANAGAN: Long serving loose-forward/hooker who received a club record £31,000 benefit cheque during the summer and was also linked to big-spending Rochdale. Has played for Great Britain on four occasions and toured Down Under in 1984. Five Under 24 caps, plus three Lancashire caps gained in 1980-82. Good ball distributor and a real 100% trier. One of only three survivors from their 1986 Lancashire Cup Final team.

COLIN HAWKYARD: Current beneficiary and an unsung workhorse of the Roughyeds pack, being a frequent scorer and a tireless defensive player. 3 tries in 27 appearances in 1987-99, and a further 4 last term. Played for Oldham in the 1986 Lancashire Cup Final against Wigan. Had a 3-match loan spell at Huddersfield in 1981-82.

KEITH NEWTON: Strong back-row forward signed from champions Widnes last season, opening his try account for Oldham with two in the 40-9 Cup win at Dewsbury in the first round. Added another two in a big defeat of Featherstone at Watersheddings.

GARY HYDE: Another of Tony Barrow's recruits, joining Oldham from Castleford, after winning Great Britain Under 24 international honours as a centre in the early 80's. Has played centre and loose-forward for Oldham, scoring the first of four tries in a 23-22 defeat of Salford. Played in 7 major Finals for Castleford, including their 1986 Wembley defeat of Hull K.R.

Oldham continued to build for the future during the summer, with England Schools skipper **CRAIG MORT** (16) being added to the starlets already at Watersheddings. **NEIL FLANAGAN**, **TOMMY MARTYN** and **STEVE ENTWISTLE** all starred on the BARLA Youth tour of Australia this summer.

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Fixtures Statistics

Date	Opponents	V	K.O.	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att	Pos
Sept 3 Sun	Rochdale Hornets	H	3.00	W	36-12	Miner(2) Holmes(2) Holiday, Riddlesden	Whitfield(6)	6,761	
10 Sun	Oldham	H	3.00						
17 Sun	Dewsbury (Yorks Cup ¹)	A							
27 Wed	John Smiths Yorks Cup ²								
Oct 1 Sun	Nottingham City	A	3.15						
8 Sun	Doncaster	H	3.00						
15 Sun	Oldham	A	3.00						
22 Sun	Dewsbury	H	3.00						
29 Sun	Bramley	A	3.30						
Nov 5 Sun	Hull K.R.	H	3.00						
12 Sun	Trafford B	A	3.30						
19 Sun	Chorley	H	3.00						
25 Sun	Carlisle	A	2.15						
Dec 3 Sun	Regal Trophy ¹								
10 Sun	Regal Trophy ²								
17 Sun	Dewsbury	A	2.15						
26 Tues	Huddersfield	H	3.00						
Jan 1 Mon	Bramley	H	3.00						
7 Sun	Ryedale York	A	3.15						
14 Sun	Whitehaven	A	3.30						
28 Sun	S.Cut Challenge Cup ¹								
Feb 11 Sun	S.Cut Challenge Cup ²								
18 Sun	Ryedale York	H	3.00						
25 Sun	Carlisle	H	3.00						
Mar 4 Sun	Chorley	A	3.00						
11 Sun	Rochdale H	A	3.00						
18 Sun	Batley	H	3.00						
25 Sun	Batley	A	3.15						
Apl 1 Sun	Doncaster	A	3.00						
4 Wed	Hull K.R.	A	7.30						
8 Sun	Whitehaven	H	3.00						
11 Wed	Nottingham City	H	7.30						
G.Fri 13 Fri	Huddersfield	A	7.30						
E.Mon 16 Mon	Trafford B	H	3.00						

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"It was always in the back of my mind to come back to England in a coaching capacity and the opportunity here at Halifax is a fantastic one, and I'm not about to let last years débâcle to upset me"

– John Dorahy

"I'll be having a bone scan and then I'll be back – those rumours that I've finished are just rubbish"

– Ben Beevers

"That was a great way to start the season last week against Rochdale. The difference came in the final quarter when we just wore them down through what I think was greater fitness"

– Colin Atkinson

"The three teams who came down into the Second Division last season are obviously going to be very strong this season. Just look at the results from the first Sunday, Halifax, Oldham and Hull K.R. scored 125 points between them and really the three of them look very good"

– Clubcall expert Billy Thompson

"If we can do a job here then the fans will pack Thrum Hall"

– John Dorahy

"Wrong tactics in alot of games let us down last season but, that is behind us now, and just looking ahead no Second Division team has ever been to Wembley but, we could very well be the first"

– Ben Beevers

"It was a fairly good way to start the season last week against Rochdale, but, I think that there are better things to come both from myself and from the team"

– Colin Atkinson

"I'm glad that my first game is over because I was pretty nervous beforehand. I enjoyed it because there was alot more freedom than in Sydney, where the forwards tend to be used more as a battering ram"

– Lindsay Johnston

"Nobody was more surprised than me to see Halifax go down last season, because during my time at Wigan some of our most difficult games were against Halifax. But John Dorahy will do an excellent job, I'm sure about that"

– Graham Lowe



Just a selection of the things that we have been hearing about on Halifax Clubcall over the past week, so keep in touch with all the news from Thrum Hall by dialling 0898 12-15-77. Finally a reminder that Stones Bitter Rugby League Call on 0898 12-11-77 has all the Rugby League news.

Steve McIlwham

Halifax R.L. Clubcall 0898 12-15-77

We produced enough football to comprehensively defeat a Rochdale team still very much in the throes of team building, but, anyone who was totally happy with our display would be deluding themselves. There is a lot of improvement to come.

But the spirit within the dressing-room is remarkably high, as it should be at the start of a fresh season, and there is no despondancy after the disappointment of being relegated from the First Division. That's gone, history, now, and all the players can do is ensure that we get things right from now on.



May I, firstly, take this opportunity to thank you for your welcome last Sunday, and, especially for the magnificent support which you gave to the boys. My family and I have settled immediately to this lovely area of Yorkshire – and even the weather has been kind to us on our arrival.

I know that David Brook was optimistically hoping for a 5,000 crowd for the visit of Rochdale Hornets – to get in excess of 6,000 illustrates the depth of feeling and loyalty in

and around Halifax for this club. It is appreciated, I can assure you, and it gives us a tremendous base from which to work.

Our aim is to produce good, attractive, winning football and today's match with Oldham takes on added significance. Undoubtedly, this is a 'four-pointer', even at this early stage of the promotion race. They, like us, had a big win last Sunday and their tails will be up after making a good start at home to Workington Town. I am sure that Oldham will regard this as a vital match, too, and will be hoping to repeat last season's win here.

It is astonishing to think that Halifax, my old club Hull K.R., and today's opponents Oldham are all playing Second Division football. When I went to Wembley with Rovers in 1986, Oldham were the beaten semi-finalists, while Halifax were worthy League Champions. It just shows that traditions and past history count for nothing in football.

Playing and coaching is something that I've done before, with Wests in Wollongong, three years ago, but it was less pressurised than this job at Thrum Hall. I know, and appreciate, the expectations of everyone at the club, and feel that we have a staff to fulfill those expectations.

I love my football and will continue to play while I enjoy the thrill of it all. Like everyone else, I'll only get a place on merit, though. Competition for places is the key to success.

By taking each match as it comes, and looking no further, promotion ought to take care of itself. That is the major priority this season. But the Old Trafford Premiership Final looms large in our thoughts, even at this early stage of the season. We want to get there if only to reward the remarkable support that you, the fans, have shown to your team.

Keep Cheering.

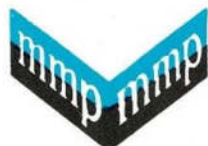
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FOUR YEARS AGO - September 8, 1985

SALFORD 22 HALIFAX 6

Halifax, still waiting for the arrival of Australian star Joe Kilroy, were beaten at the Willows, four years ago today - their third game of the new season without a victory. Who, then, could have imagined them as emerging Champions? New forward Cavill Heugh kicked a goal on his first team debut, while Salford's South Sydney half-back Neil Baker inspired the home side to a four tries to one success on his debut for the 'Reds', adding two drop goals for good measure. Teams: **SALFORD:** Fletcher (try); Marsh, O'Loughlin, Glynn, C. Griffiths (try, 2 goals); Baker (2 drop goals), Bloor (try); Jamieson, Groves (try), Disley, Major, McTigue, Pendlebury. **SUBS:** Smith.

HALIFAX: Cerchione, St.Hilaire, T.Anderson, Garrod, Juliff; C.Anderson, Stephens; White, McCallion, Beevers, Heugh, Dixon, Bond. **SUBS:** James; Riddlesden.

OLDHAM 14 LEEDS 30

Tries from David Topliss, Des Foy and Jeff Edwards could not save Oldham from slipping to a 14-30 home defeat at the hands of Leeds. Moroccan winger Hussein M'Barki made his debut for the 'Roughyeds'. The Leeds line-up contained six players who have subsequently played for Halifax - Ian Wilkinson, Neil Hague, Kevin Dick, Roy Dickinson, Brendan Hill and Paul Medley. Teams:

OLDHAM: A.Taylor; M'Barki, Foy (try), Parrish (goal), Edwards (try); Topliss (try), Kirwan; Jones, Lowndes, Hobbs, Morrison, Ogburn, Flanagan. **SUBS:** Ashton; Morgan.

LEEDS: Wilkinson (try); A.Smith (try), Wilson (try), Healy, Ingham; Hague (goal), Dick (4 goals); Dickinson, Ward, Hill (try), Moorby (try), Keith Rayne, Heron. **SUBS:** Maskill; Medley.

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO - September 7, 1975

HULL 32 HALIFAX 10

Halifax were no match for Hull in a Second Division fixture at the Boulevard, with only tries from Bruce Burton and Granville Hoyle to cheer the Thrum Hall faithful. Burton added two goals. Powerful Yorkshire County forward Keith Boxall led the home spree with a try and 7 goals as Hull avenged a 20-10 defeat at Thrum Hall just a fortnight earlier. Teams:

HULL: Hunter; Lane, Clark (try), Crane (try), Portz (try); Hancock (try), Foulkes; Ramsey (try), Duke, Robson, Walker, Boxall (try, 7 goals), Casey. **SUBS:** Salmon; Trotter.

HALIFAX: Hepworth; Tudball, Finnerty, Davies, Pitchforth; Burton (try, 2 goals), Banner; Briggs, Dyson, Jeff, Hoyle (try), Wood, Martin. **SUBS:** Shires; Frain.

FEATHERSTONE 27 OLDHAM 5

A David Treasure try and a goal from Johnny Blair could not save Oldham from a hiding at Post Office Road, where Paul Coventry and Clive Hill each scored two tries for the home side. Featherstone had York scrum-half Tony Sullivan making his debut, on loan. Teams:

FEATHERSTONE: M.Smith; Hill (2 tries), Hartley, Coventry (2 tries), K.Kellett; Newlove (try, 2 goals), Sullivan; Hollis, Bridges (try), Gibbins, P.Smith, Bell (goal), Stone (try). **SUBS:** Holden; Thompson.

OLDHAM: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Wainwright, Barton; Blair (goal), Treasure (try); Hicks, Taylor, Welding, Hall, Flanagan, Brown. **SUBS:** Hammond; Ryans.

TWENTY FOUR YEARS AGO - September 11, 1965

HALIFAX 15 FEATHERSTONE 10

Reigning Champions Halifax gained a hard-earned home success against a determined Featherstone side, with tries from Paul Daley, Barry Robinson and Charlie Renilson proving crucial. A try-scorer for Rovers was former Thrum Hall favourite Terry Ramshaw, father of Jason. The teams were:

HALIFAX: James (3 goals); Todd, Burnett, Kellett, Freeman; Robinson (try), Daley (try); Roberts, Harrison, Scroby, Dixon, Fogerty, Renilson (try).

FEATHERSTONE: Darbyshire (2 goals); Greatorex, Northern, Penketh, Thomas; Smith, Dooler (try); Tonks, Farrar, Kosanovic, Ramshaw (try), Taylor, Nicholson.

OLDHAM 21 BARROW 14

Oldham, meanwhile were defeating Barrow in the first round of the Lancashire Cup with former Wigan full-back John Winton kicking six vital goals, and tries coming from Stan McLeod, Bob Irving and Tom Warburton. Reward came with a home tie against Wigan (which they won), but Oldham went out to Warrington in the semi-finals.

OLDHAM: Winton (6 goals); Donovan, McLeod (try), McCormack, Simms; Warburton (try), Pycroft; Mumberson, McIntyre, Bott, Irving (try), Fletcher, Parker.

BARROW: Dawes (4 goals); Burgess (try), Challinor, Hughes, Wear; Douglas (try), Bishop; Hopwood, Redhead, Kelland, Sanderson, Watson, Cogan. **SUB:** Allen.

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Date	Opponents	V	KO	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals
Sept 1 Fri	Swinton	H	7.30	W	30 - 12	Holmes ² , Smith, Wood, Bell	Finn ⁵
8 Fri	Oldham	A	7.30				
15 Fri	Hunslet	A	7.30				
22 Fri	Hull KR	H	7.30				
29 Fri	Widnes	A	7.30				
Oct 7 Sat	Yorks Cup ¹						
13 Fri	Oldham	H	7.30				
21 Sat	Yorks Cup ²						
27 Fri	Featherstone	H	7.30				
Nov 3 Fri	Hull KR	A	7.30				
10 Fri	Hunslet	H	7.30				
17 Fri	Salford	A	7.30				
25 Sat	Carlisle	H	3.00				
Dec 1 Fri	Wigan	A	7.30				
8 Fri	Salford	H	7.30				
15 Fri	Leeds	A	7.30				
22 Fri	Hull	H	7.30				
29 Fri	Castleford A	A	7.30				
Jan 5	St Helens	A	7.30				
12 Fri	Warrington	H	7.30				
19 Fri	Featherstone	A	7.30				
26 Fri	St Helens	H	7.30				
Feb 3 Sat	SL Cup ¹						
9 Fri	Leeds	H	7.30				
17 Sat	SL Cup ²						
24 Sat	Carlisle	A	3.00				
Mar 2 Fri	Hull	A	7.30				
9 Fri	Wigan	H	7.30				
23 Fri	Swinton	A	7.30				
30 Fri	Widnes	H	7.30				
Apr 6 Fri	Warrington	A	7.30				
20 Fri	Castleford	H	7.30				

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BRENDAN HILL

Burly Brendan Hill is back from a hectic summer stint with the Easts club in Brisbane, preparing, like the majority of the Thrum Hall squad, for his first taste of Second Division football. He is determined that it will be the briefest of stays in the lower division for Halifax.

The former Leeds and Bradford Northern front-rower was the hidden, unsung British player out in Australia this summer. While superstars like Hanley, Schofield, Gregory, Lydon and Offiah strutted their stuff in front of bumper crowds, under the glare of Sydney's mass media, Hill opted to join the 'Tigers' of the low profile Brisbane league.

The 10-club Brisbane competition is a far cry from the one which was regarded as the second best in Australia, a few years ago. The advent of the glamorous Brisbane Broncos, and their subsequent entry to the Sydney Winfield Cup competition, robbed the Brisbane competition of its thirty/forty best players, including its superstars - Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Allan Langer, Greg Dowling and Kerrod Walters.

It is now, effectively, a feeder league for the Broncos, with the very real possibility of a second team from Brisbane, or at least the Queensland state, joining the Winfield Cup in the not-too-distant future.

But even as a fledgling competition, the Brisbane league manages to produce some great players, and Hill enjoyed his time at a well-respected club which was up at the top of the league for much of the summer. Easts have produced such powerful forwards as Cavill Heugh, Martin Bella, and Hill's former Leeds colleagues Trevor Paterson and Gavin Jones in the 1980's.

But now, one of Rugby League's fallen heroes is looking to get back to the big time and into representative football again. His barnstorming running qualities have made Brendan a favourite with the fans, wherever he has played - but not always with the coaches.

As a youngster at Headingley, Hill waited a couple of years to graduate from Colts football to first-team football, and then made an immediate, dramatic effect. His first try for the club was in a snow-bound confrontation with Halifax, in January, 1985.

Within months the 19 year-old Hill had been named in Peter Fox's first Yorkshire County team - defeating Lancashire at Wigan - and followed that by being chosen as a reserve for Great Britain's team for the 1985 test series against New Zealand. Early in 1986, he appeared for Maurice Bamford's Under 21 side which defeated France 6-2 at Whitehaven.

Soon, though, he became disillusioned with Leeds' spendthrift policies, and the arrival of veteran Jeff Grayson, effectively reducing his chances, was the



final straw. He wanted a transfer and eventually re-joined Barry Seabourne, his Leeds Colts coach, at Bradford Northern. That was a dream move, as he followed in father David's footsteps.

David had won a Yorkshire Cup winners medal in Northern's 1965 defeat of Hunslet, and, 22 years on, Hill emulated him by starring in Bradford's 1987 replayed Final defeat of Castleford. In a pack containing the likes of Skerrett, Noble, Hobbs and Fairbank, Hill's tank-like charges alerted the media and tour selectors.

It was no less an authority than Alex Murphy who declared that he was amazed at the omission of Kelvin Skerrett and Brendan from Great Britain's 1988 Lions touring party. Props were, after all, in short supply.

Brendan's transfer from Odsal to Thrum Hall failed to arrest Halifax's headlong slide into Division Two, but, in a determined bid to start 1989-90 season at peak fitness, he decided to spend the off-season Down Under. It was his second summer spell in the Southern Hemisphere, having appeared for Mangere East, in Auckland, during the summer of 1986.

"I prefer playing to training without a match", says Brendan, "and I'm hoping for a big season with Halifax. Relegation was a big disappointment for us all, but we must use it as a springboard to bounce back into the big time."

"All the players want a successful league season and, maybe, a cup run or two. That's not impossible for this side. And then there's the Premiership Final at Old Trafford - every Second Division player will be dreaming of that occasion on 13 May."

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- 2 COLIN ATKINSON
- 3 TONY ANDERSON
- 4 JOHN DORAHY
- 5 EDDIE RIDDLEDSON
- 6 DAVID HOLMES
- 7 JOHN LYONS
- 8 ROY DICKINSON
- 9 SEAMUS McCALLION
- 10 LINDSAY JOHNSTON
- 11 RICHARD MILNER
- 12 RICHARD FAIRBANK
- 13 LES HOLLIDAY

14
15

OLDHAM COACH : TONY BARROW

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 CHARLIE McALISTER
- 3 JOHN HENDERSON
- 4 GARY HYDE
- 5 PAUL LORD
- 6 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 7 MIKE FORD
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- 9 ANDY RUANE
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- 11 KEITH NEWTON
- 12 SHAWN ALLEN
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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

	1989-90						Career				
	A	Sub	G	D	T	Pts	A	G	D	T	Pts
Tony Anderson	1	-	-	-	-	-	122	-	-	53	212
Colin Atkinson	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Roy Dickinson	1	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	2	8
John Dorahy	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dick Fairbank	1	-	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	14	56
Wilf George	1	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	36	142
Les Holliday	1	-	-	-	1	4	31	3	3	8	41
David Holmes	-	1	-	-	2	8	17	-	-	2	8
Lindsay Johnson	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
John Lyons	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	-	1	14
Seamus McCallion	1	-	-	-	-	-	163	-	2	26	106
Richard Milner	1	-	-	-	2	8	3	-	-	2	8
Jason Ramshaw	1	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	1	4	17
Eddie Riddlesden	1	-	-	-	1	4	48	-	-	10	40
Colin Whitfield	1	-	6	-	-	12	109	252	7	37	663



Les Holliday, Dick Fairbank and Jason Ramshaw get to grips with a Hornets player during last weeks victory.

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Results from 3rd September 1989

Bradford N. 30 T: Cordle, Mackay, Parkin, Medley 2. G: Hobbs 5
Hull 12 T: McNamara. G: Eastwood 4.
 Att: 6,458

Castleford 20 T: Gibbs, Plange, Irwin. G: Ketteridge 2.

Featherstone R. 22 T: Newlove, Bibb, Clark, Hughes. G: Fox 3.
 Att: 8,649

Leeds 14 T: Ford, Schofield. G: Bentley 3.
Wakefield T. 22 T: Eden, Fox, Sygrove, Zelei. G: M. Conway 3.
 Att: 11,309

Leigh 42 T: Beardmore 4, Platt, Dean, Hill, Ledger. G: P. Johnson 5.

Barrow 16 T: Heugh, Tees, Kendall. G: Marwood 2.
 Att: 4,000

Sheffield E. 20 T: Broadbent, Nickle, Hardy. G: Aston 3, Dg: Aston, Powell.
St. Helens 36 T: Griffith 2, Forber, Loughlin, Veivers. G: Loughlin 8.
 Att: 6,000

Widnes 46 T: Offiah 2, P. Hulme, Kebbie, Davies, Sorensen, Grima, Koloto. G: Davies 7.
Salford 18 T: Sherratt, Williams, Evans, Hadley. G: Kerry.
 Att: 8,121

Wigan 6 T: Preston. G: Lydon.
Warrington 18 T: Thorniley, Lyon, Mackey. G: Turner 3.
 Att: 14,741

DIVISION TWO

Batley 20 T: Wilson 2, Scott. G: Stainburn 4.
Nottingham C. 11 T: Andrews, Powell. G: Oates. Dg: Willis.
 Att: 615

Carlisle 54 T: Doyle, Rae 2, Thomason, Pape 2, Southwall 2, Kendall, Brierley. G: Vickers 7.
Runcorn H. 14 T: Dooley, Ashcroft, Barrow. G: O'Gara.
 Att: 700

Doncaster 10 T: Pennant, Rayne. G: K. Jones.
Dewsbury 21 T: Charles, Bailey, Squires. G: Charles 4. Dg: Kelly.
 Att: 2,305

Fulham 10 T: Taylor, Robertson. G: Guyett.
Ryedale York 9 T: Ake. G: St. John Ellis 2. Dg: Ellis.
 Att: 774

Halifax 36 T: Milner 2, Holmes 2, Holliday, Riddlesden. G: Whitfield 6.

Rochdale H. 12 T: Lord, McDermott. G: Woods, Turner.
 Att: 6,761

Hunslet 22 T: Wilkinson, Jackson, Mitchell. G: Lumb 5.

Bramley 14 T: Rogers, Hunter. G: Rogers 3.
 Att: 1,048

Keighley 16 T: Ragan, Coulter, Dixon. G: Dixon 2.

Hull K.R. 50 T: Botica, Fletcher, Bishop, Lyman 2, Harrison 2, Clark. G: Fletcher 8, Armstrong.
 Att: 1,961

Oldham 40 T: Henderson 2, Cogger 2, McAllister, Lord, Ruane, Russell. G: Platt 4.
Workington T. 8 T: Lowden. G: Lowden 2.
 Att: 3,743

Swinton 48 T: Ranson 4, Melling 2, Snape, Scott, Ainsworth. G: Myler 6
Chorley 4 G: Smith. Dg: Smith 2.
 Att: 1,320

Whitehaven 22 T: Richardson 2, Telford, Solarie, McCarthy. G: Richardson.

Huddersfield 34 T: Gibson 3, Thomas, Crocker. G: Kenworthy 7.
 Att: 1,167

Forthcoming Fixtures Sunday, 10th September, 1989

Stones Bitter Championship

Barrow	V	Leeds
Featherstone R.	V	Sheffield E.
Hull	V	Widnes
St. Helens	V	Castleford
Wakefield T.	V	Leigh
Warrington	V	Bradford N.
Salford	V	Wigan

Second Division

Batley	V	Ryedale York
Bramley	V	Doncaster
Chorley B.	V	Whitehaven
Dewsbury	V	Keighley
Halifax	V	Oldham
Huddersfield	V	Fulham
Nottingham C.	V	Hunslet
Rochdale H.	V	Swinton
Trafford B.	V	Runcorn H.
Workington T.	V	Carlisle

Halifax R.L. Clubcall 0898 12-15-77



MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE.

Hello again and welcome to today's match against Oldham. Although first and foremost a Halifax Director and Supporter I well remember as a youngster being taken to Watersheddings in the days of the great Billy Boston a sight one doesn't easily forget, to see the great matches of the late 50s and early 60s. Let's give Oldham our traditional Thrum Hall reception, but of course wish for a Halifax victory today.

On the commercial front we are very pleased to have secured the services of Tony Thwaites, ex Commercial Manager at Halifax Town. With Tony's experience of most commercial aspects in his 12 years at the Shay he becomes a very valuable asset to the backroom team here at Thrum Hall and I am certainly looking forward to liaising with him on the commercial front. All sorts of ideas are bouncing round the walls of the office at the moment and one which is expected to take off is the hiring in future of our own away buses. Not only does this help you the supporter but all profits come directly back to the club. Details to follow shortly so keep a look out in the programme.

Talking of programmes what do you think of the new format. We always welcome ideas to improve it but I personally think it is now the best in the League. Watch out Leeds we're after the No. 1 programme spot.

Last week saw the first draw in our Executive Club promotion with Mr. Donachie (Norton Tower) winning the £700 Gold 1st Prize. As with the promotion his card is entered into **every** home game so he has the chance again to win. The other prizes were won by Mr. Holmes (Luddendenfoot) and Mr. Turner (Sowerby Bridge). If you are interested in

this superb lottery please ask for details, there are 17 Gold places, 21 Silver, and 19 Bronze places left. The cost of £200 for the Gold, £100 for the Silver and £50 for the Bronze can be paid in various ways i.e. post-dated cheques over four months or whatever. It really is a good promotion with places being limited to 100 per club. Ask for details after the game at the General Office.

Some of you might have noticed that we are "doing something" under the bottom shed on Thrum Hall Lane. This will be our new Supporters Club Shop, selling everything from shirts, shorts, tracksuits, boots, trainers, etc., and our new Commercial Office. Tony Thwaites will be in situ after the 16th September and all commercial activities will take place in this office. All Season tickets, enquiries, supporters buses, etc., will all be handled from here, so as to let the General Office in the Pavillion get on with its job of administrative work without all the usual interruptions.

A new telephone system is being installed shortly which will be able to cope a little better than previous so keep all those calls coming.

Once again thanks for your support.

Kind regards.

Peter Greenway
Commercial Director
Halifax R.L.F.C.

P.S. The hotline calls are well up on last year so you must like this new format also. Keep ringing for all the latest news from Thrum Hall.

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Photo Fax

Man of the Match **David Holmes** on his way to the first of his two tries against Rochdale.



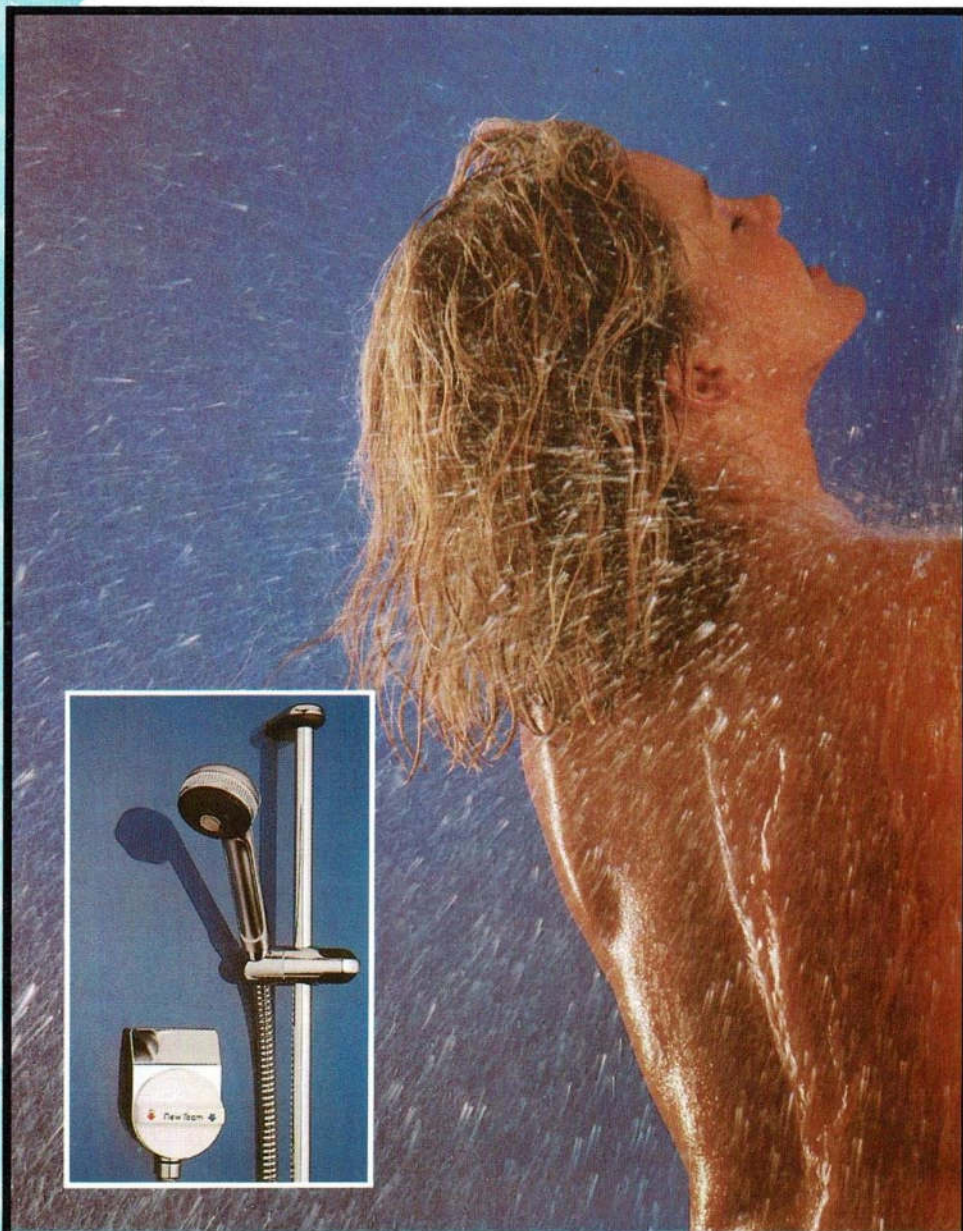
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Another two-try hero **Richard Milner** diving over for one of his touch-downs during the match against Hornets.

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FAX GANG

A new branch of the Supporters' Club for Under 15s was launched at an Open Day at Thrum Hall a few weeks ago. The Open Day was a great success, and thanks for this are due to Development Officer, Dilwyn Lewis, MacDonalds, the Halifax Building Society, the Fire Brigade, the Police, the Halifax Ladies R.L.F.C., and the Thrum Hall Backroom Boys.

Youngsters under the age of 15 who missed out on the Open Day are still welcome to join the Fax Gang. Membership is £1.50 a year; further details from the Souvenir Shop.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Those wishing to join or rejoin the Supporters' Club (price £1.50 including free 1989/90 Club diary) can pay their membership fee in the Souvenir Shop today. One of the advantages of membership is the opportunity to travel on the Supporters' Club coach to away matches at special low prices.

RUGBY LEAGUE COLLECTORS FEDERATION

This is a Rugby League approved organisation designed to preserve the heritage of R.L. through the collecting and exhibiting of R.L. memorabilia, such as programmes, photos, books and lapel badges.

The Federation run programme fairs and R.L. exhibitions at most Rugby League venues. The Federation also issues a catalogue mainly of

programmes and other printed memorabilia. Should there be any collectors who would like a copy of the catalogue (which includes many old and rare items) or who would like to join the R.L.F.C., they should send a S.A.E. Also anyone with a collection or single items to sell or loan for the exhibition, should also contact the R.L.F.C. at 17 Santa Monica Crescent, Idle, Bradford, BD10 8QQ Telephone: Bradford 611407.

WEMBLEY 1990

Those wishing to join the Supporters' Club trip to Wembley are advised to book early - limited places are available at the upgraded Wembley Stadium.

COACH TO DEWSBURY

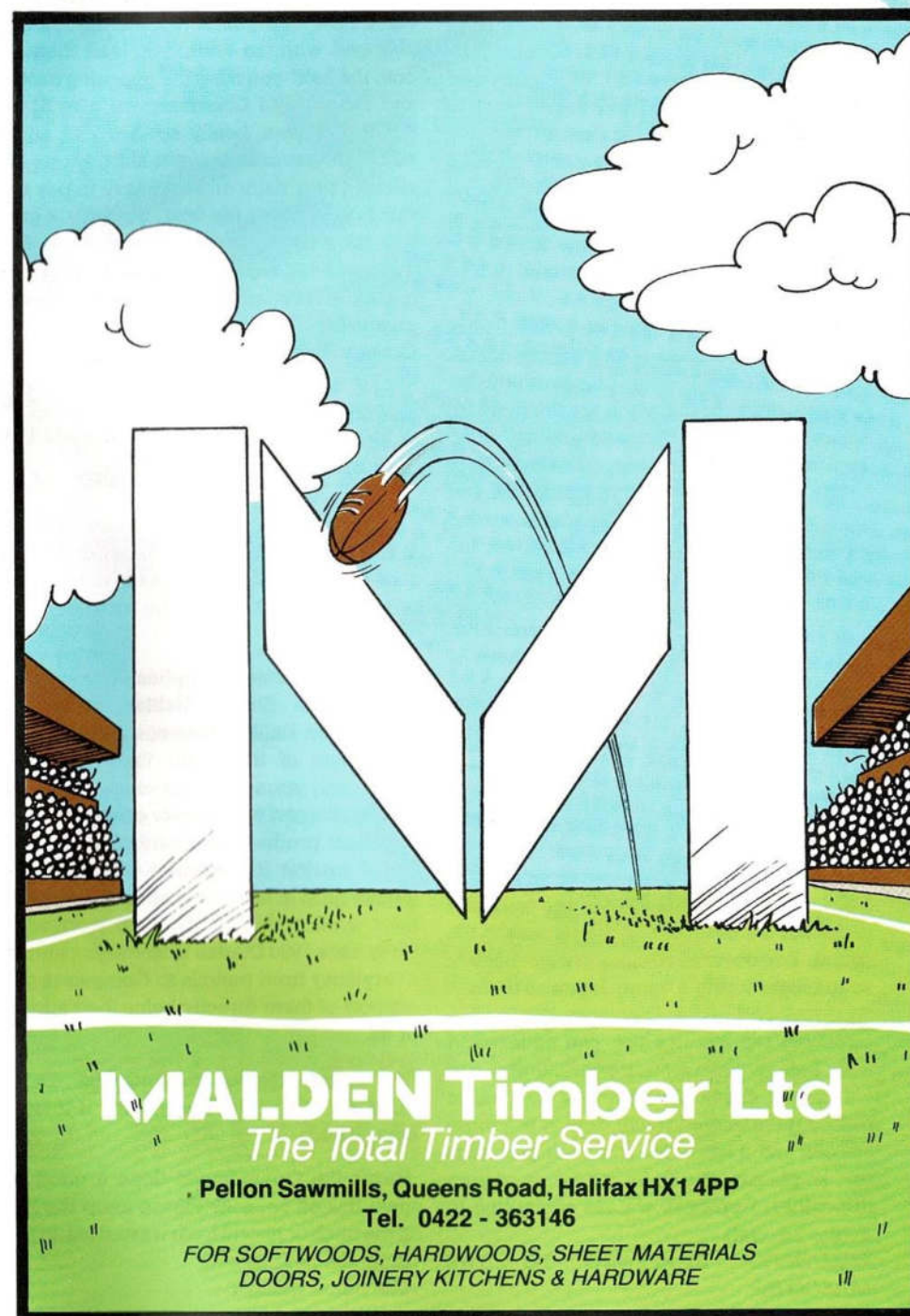
The Supporter' Club coach to Dewsbury next week will leave Thrum Hall at 12-15 p.m. and the Laura Mitchell Clinic at 12.30. Bookings must be made today or at the latest by Tuesday. Phone 369692 for details (but only up to Tuesday).

NOTES

We will swap or exchange our Lapel badges for other R.L. badges. All our goods are for Sale at Shoemiths Newsagents, Commercial Street, Halifax. Or by Mail Order if required. If you need more information ring Terry Hollingdrake on Halifax 365602 (Evenings only) or write to him at 41 Bentley Mount, Willow Hall Lane, Halifax HX6 2SQ. Who will be pleased to help you.

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Well what about that then, 6,761 loyal honest to goodness Rugby League Fans at Thrum Hall for the first Second Division game here since April 1984. Let me first of all say a very special thankyou to you all for coming and for the volume of noise that does so much to lift the lads on the Park. I know for a fact that the new guys, John Dorahy and Lindsay Johnson were particularly impressed, I know I say it over again but the noise is so important. It dosen't only lift our lads it has a daunting effect on the opposition, please keep it up,

Whilst we are talking noise levels I must tell you that through the Good offices of P.A. Halifax; (yet another Local company who get stuck in and help out when we are in need) we are completely updating and up rating our Public Address system. They have very kindly installed a new 350 watt amplifier and have made any number of additions and repairs to the speaker system. When the ground is empty the sound quality and volume are superb. However, that isn't the object of the exercise. It is our intention, as with everything else we attempt here at Thrum Hall to supply only the very best service. For that I and others in the back room staff rely heavily on informed criticism. I must emphasise that word informed. Please don't ring me and say - and I quote - "Your Bl--dy Tannoy is useless", it may well be in certain parts of the ground. The only way we can overcome the problem is if you can drop us a line and tell us where you stand and what the particular problem is with the sound. For obvious reasons we cannot run sound tests during a game. If you all thought I'd developed verbal Diarrhoea last Sunday for about ten minutes you can understand what I mean. I cannot talk over the play and we cannot check sound levels with music before the game or at half time, it has to be speech and it has to be when the ground is full, so please, please let me know of your difficulties, I promise we are attempting to do the job well.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MASCOTS?

Dear male juvenile supporters, (under 12's only please) we have a system whereby you can be the team mascot for the day, you get changed with the team, you lead them out onto the field, you meet the opposing captain and the ref and Linesmen, we give Match tickets for your family so they can attend AND you get to keep your shirt, shorts and socks. (Your mum and dad have to pay us a few bob to cover the cost) but what a great day out, what a story to tell your mates. So if mum and dad say what do you want for your birthday this year or for a Christmas Present give them this programme and ask them to Contact Peter Greenway at Thrum Hall. He'll do the rest. Sorry we cannot have ladies, there aren't any changing facilities anywhere in Rugby League to accomodate you.

THANK YOU MISTER AND MRS COTTERILL

It is always pleasant to say nice things about nice people, it is even better to be able to say a public thankyou to nice generous people.

Cotterill's Business Supplies, Arches Street, King Cross Street, Halifax is a long established Halifax Business and long time supporters of the Club. They have very generously sponsored our office equipment this Season and we are very grateful for their excellent products and services. If you are in the market for Business Office supplies please drop in and see them and help make their sponsorship of the club worthwhile. They have 1990 Diaries in stock now and sell everything from pencils to Computers your support of them directly helps their support of us.

As usual, thanks for coming, DON'T FORGET TO WRITE especially if it isn't a complaint.

Hasn't the Groundsman done a good job again this off season? Please keep the kids off the pitch or he will have wasted his time.

Untill the next time
The office wallahs!



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