

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		HULL KR	
DUNCAN PLATT	- 1	- GEORGE FAIRBAIRN	
STEVE ROBINSON	- 2	- GARY CLARK	
RICHARD IRVING	- 3	- MIKE FLETCHER	
GARY HYDE	- 4	- GREG AUSTIN	
PAUL LORD	- 5	- RICHARD PRATT	
BRETT CLARK	- 6	- WAYNE PARKER	
MIKE FORD	- 7	- DAVID BISHOP	
LEO CASEY	- 8	- COLIN ARMSTRONG	
ANDY RUANE	- 9	- CHRIS RUDD	
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	- 10	- BRYAN NEIBLING	
KEITH NEWTON	- 11	- PAUL LYMAN	
SHAUN ALLEN	- 12	- TONY BOTICA	
JOHN COGGER	- 13	- MIKE SMITH	
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 14	- TONY SULLIVAN	
JOHN FAIRBANK	- 15	- ZOOK EMA	

Referee: Mr. D. Asquith (York). Touch Judges: Mr. D. Nathan (Red Flag). Mr. F. Lofthouse (Orange Flag)

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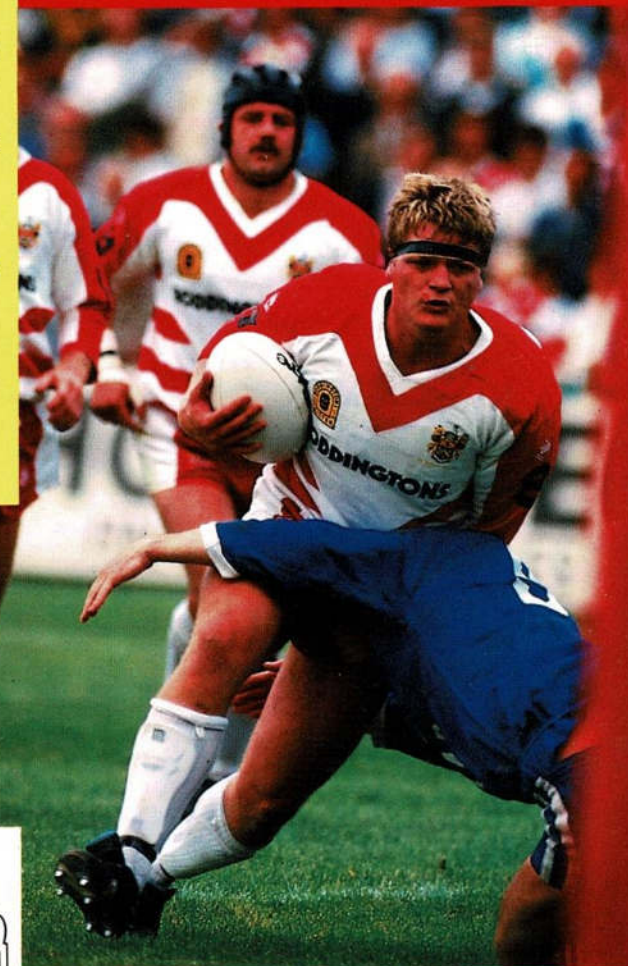
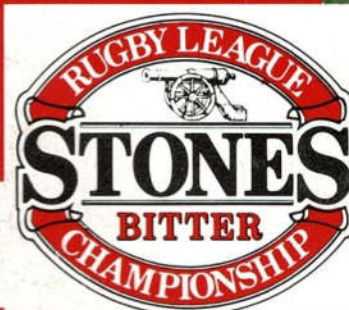
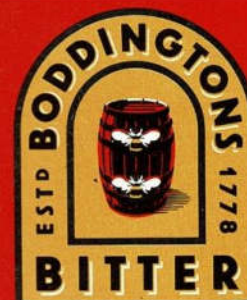
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S. Robinson, P. Round, A. Ruane,
I. Sanderson, Brett Clark.

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

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW

BRITAIN still stands supreme in the world of Rugby League when it comes to ball skills. In recent years the Aussies may have had the edge in fitness and strength — although we are rapidly catching up in that direction, too — but there is nothing to compare with good, old fashioned British ball play.

Years ago we sent out many of our finest players to Sydney and the reason they were in such big demand was that the Australians realised they had to learn and learn fast. And that's exactly what they did. They learnt fast from men like Brian Lockwood, Mal Reilly, Tommy Bishop and a score of other players who proved in those days that British is best.

I think the emergence of Australia as the world power she is today had its origins in those days and it is interesting to note that overseas players still see Britain as the place to learn the skills.

You will be staggered to discover that I have on my files no fewer than 78 names of New Zealanders who want to come to England this season — and that 15 of them are from one club! All the leading clubs are being asked to take one Kiwi or another and I think it is just as well that we have a maximum number from the quota otherwise some clubs may be tempted to overload with the men from Down Under.

English clubs, of course, seem to be changing direction somewhat now and much more emphasis is being placed on looking around other parts of the British Isles to sign Union men on long-term contracts rather than Aussies or Kiwis who

might have to return home just when the English season is preparing for its climax.

I said when Chris O'Sullivan had to leave us last February that I wouldn't sign another

Aussie on a short-term contract and I am happy to report that Brett Clark, who joined us last week, will be here until the end of the season and maybe for another year if things work out well.

Rovers showed the other way to go when they went to South Wales and returned with scrum-half David Bishop. He is one of several Welshmen who have made the trek north during the last 18 months with Widnes to the forefront thanks to the headline-hogging signings of Jonathan Davies, Paul Moriarty and John Devereux.

Without question, Bishop is a top-class player — big, strong, with good hands and an eye for the opening. He will doubtless be a key figure in today's game which should be an important one for both clubs when it comes to collecting the Second Division silverware at the end of the season.

Having lost to Halifax it is all the more important that we take the points off Rovers today. A great game is in prospect and I am sure you will get behind the players right from the start.

I'd also like to take this opportunity of officially welcoming Brett Clark to Watersheddings. He is an experienced half-back who served St. Helens well in the 1986-87 season and I am sure he will be a valuable capture as the season unfolds.

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TODAY'S

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Revitalised Rovers

Rovers have been hitting the headlines on and off the field since last season, not least since the sale of Craven Park and the recent move into a brand-new, purpose-built £3.5m stadium.

It was opened last Sunday for the visit of Trafford and such was the interest generated that police demanded it was an all-ticket match.

Indeed, Rovers' staggering £120,000 season ticket sales are a club record besides which Hull's pale into insignificance.

Why all the interest? The move to the new ground has helped but the Rovers' fans have been inspired by an impressive start and a team-building programme that has taken several top-class players to East Hull.

Among newcomers are Aussie pair **Greg Austin** and **Bryan Neibling** and New Zealander **Tony Botica**, a big man from the Mount Albert club who is making a big impression in the second row.

Austin will be remembered as the former Rochdale Hornets and Salford player. He has signed a one-year contract with a 12 month option and is adding pace and punch into the middle of the Rovers back-line.

Neibling is a vastly experienced Test star of 15 Kangaroos appearances as well as 11 appearances for Queensland in the State of Origin Series. After arriving in Hull he could not get into the side against Trafford although he was expected to make his debut last Wednesday night in the second round of the Yorkshire Cup against Castleford.

In addition to the new boys, there are many well-known league personalities in the Rovers line-up, starting with veteran full-back **George Fairburn**.

Former Test winger **Garry Clarke** is almost certain to have scored a century of tries for Rovers by the time today's game comes around. He was only 17 when he made his debut in 1982 and his most prolific season was his second when he touched down 24 times.

Tony Sullivan, son of the late Clive Sullivan, may be on the other wing with **Austin** and **Mike Fletcher** in the centre and **Wayne Parker** and **David Bishop** at half-back. Bishop, the former Welsh RU international, has made a terrific start to the campaign and will need to be closely marked in today's encounter.

The pack will feature Cumbrian **Colin Armstrong**, the former Carlisle player at prop, **Colin Rudd** at hooker and either **Neibling** or **Zook Ema** on the blind-side of the front-row.

Behind them will be **Paul Lyman**, a £90,000 signing from Featherstone last season, **Botica**, and that Rovers stalwart, **Mike Smith**, who is now appearing at loose forward after spending most of his career at outside half.

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Flashback . . .

1988/89

Oldham 30, Hull KR 16



Our first win back in Division One after a dismal start to the campaign last season was at home to Hull KR in front of 4,298 fans. Colin Hawkyard, Leo Casey, Mick Burke and Australian newcomer Ashley Gilbert (2) all scored tries in the 30-16 victory. Here Mick Burke, who also kicked four goals, touches down to the obvious delight of John Henderson.

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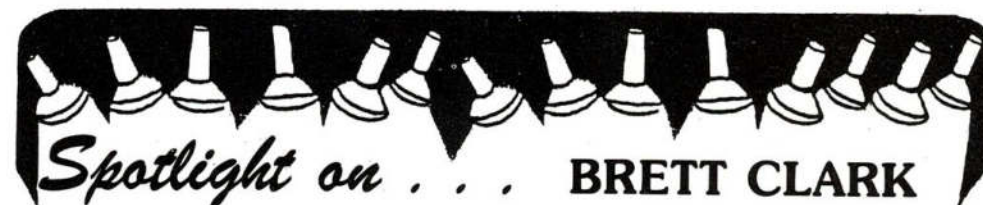
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Brett Clark, Oldham's latest signing, will feel quite at home in the Watersheddings dressing room — even though he's travelled over 12,000 miles to help the club back into the First Division at the first attempt.

Indeed, training with the squad for the first time last week was more like an old boys reunion rather than the introduction of the club's latest Down Under import.

The reason why is because the 27-year-old Aussie has already teamed up with half a dozen members of the Oldham squad at two of his previous clubs, Sydney's Western Suburbs and St. Helens. Clark played with John Cogger and John Henderson in Australia and alongside John Fieldhouse, Shaun Allen and Paul Round at Knowsley Road.

"I already know several of the players here so it'll make it a lot easier settling in at Oldham. Already I feel quite at home," says the fast-moving Australian whose pace will add extra speed to the Oldham back-line, whether he plays half-back or scrum-half.

The nippy Aussie, who first started playing top class Rugby League for Western Suburbs at the turn of the decade, further strengthens Oldham's first team squad and his arrival makes competition for shirts No. 6 and 7 extremely fierce.

Many Oldham fans will already recognise the stocky Aussie. That's because Brett, who has signed for Oldham for the rest of the season with an option of another year, is no stranger to Rugby League in England.

He first made his name during Alex Murphy's first season as Knowsley Road boss when St. Helens went to Wembley and finished runners-up to Wigan in the First Division.



During that season Brett played 36 times, scoring 19 tries in the process, taking on Oldham three times and winning on each occasion, including an infamous 24-14 cup victory on the road to Wembley's twin towers for a memorable final against Halifax.

That thrilling final has provided Clark with the high and low point of his career to date. "Getting to Wembley with St. Helens was a great moment to treasure, especially as I flew in from Australia for the match. Losing the game by a single point wasn't so pleasant!"

Brett, who signed for Oldham despite competition from other clubs, relishes the coming months having completed a two-year stint with Sydney St. George. "It's a new challenge and I'm looking forward to it. I enjoyed my time with St. Helens and I am sure I will be happy with Oldham."

His ambition now with Oldham is simple: "I want to keep on winning and playing well for as long as possible. Obviously, I'd like to help Oldham into the First Division and pick up a few cups at the same time.

For the next 12 months at least Stalybridge is going to be the home for the friendly Aussie and his wife Donna and two-year-old son, Andrew, as he sets out to emulate the success he had last time he played in the UK. However, this time Oldham will benefit rather than be on the receiving end of his considerable talents.

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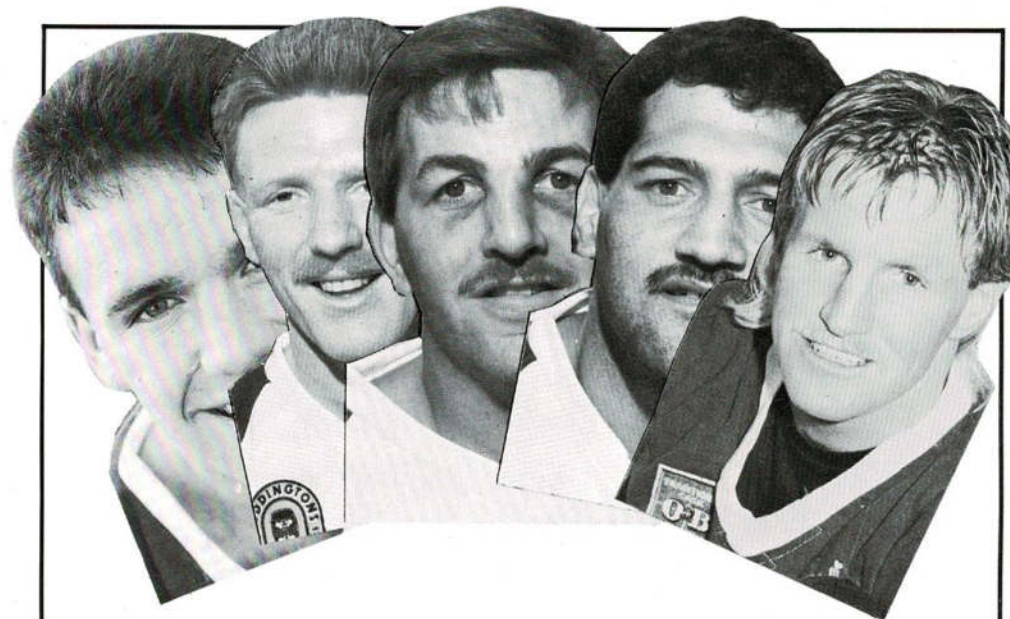
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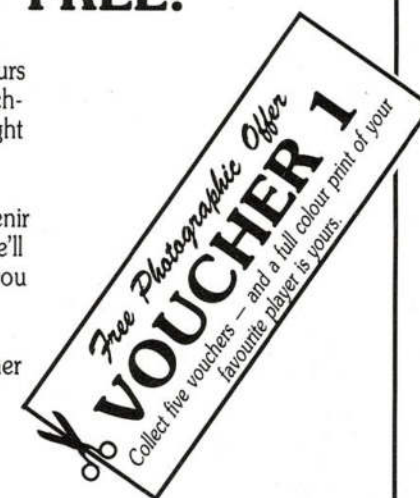
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THIS week marks a very special occasion in the history of Oldham Rugby League Football Club as we celebrate 100 memorable years at the Watersheddings. A century ago, on September 28, 1889, we took on Swinton at the ground which is now totally synonymous with Oldham Rugby.

Since that first game, Watersheddings has been the venue for thousands of thrilling matches that have captured the imagination of numerous generations of dedicated Oldham supporters. There have been many memorable and enjoyable moments for the club and its followers to enjoy in the hundred years that the Watersheddings has been our home — and there's going to be many more to come, too! Something old, something new. I hope you like the re-designed Oldham match-day programme with its brand-new front cover showing Leo Casey powering through the Workington Town defence in our opening fixture of the season. Certainly I think you'll agree the eye-catching cover will have a great chance of retaining its title as best front cover in the Rugby League bar none.

Inside, you'll find various new features which should make the programme even more interesting and informative. Last year our programme was voted fifth best. By the end of this season we hope to be number one — not only on the pitch but with the programme, too! This is my first column as Oldham's General Manager. I am very honoured to be offered the post by the board and will be doing my very best to make sure our off-the-field activities continue to generate invaluable income for the club.

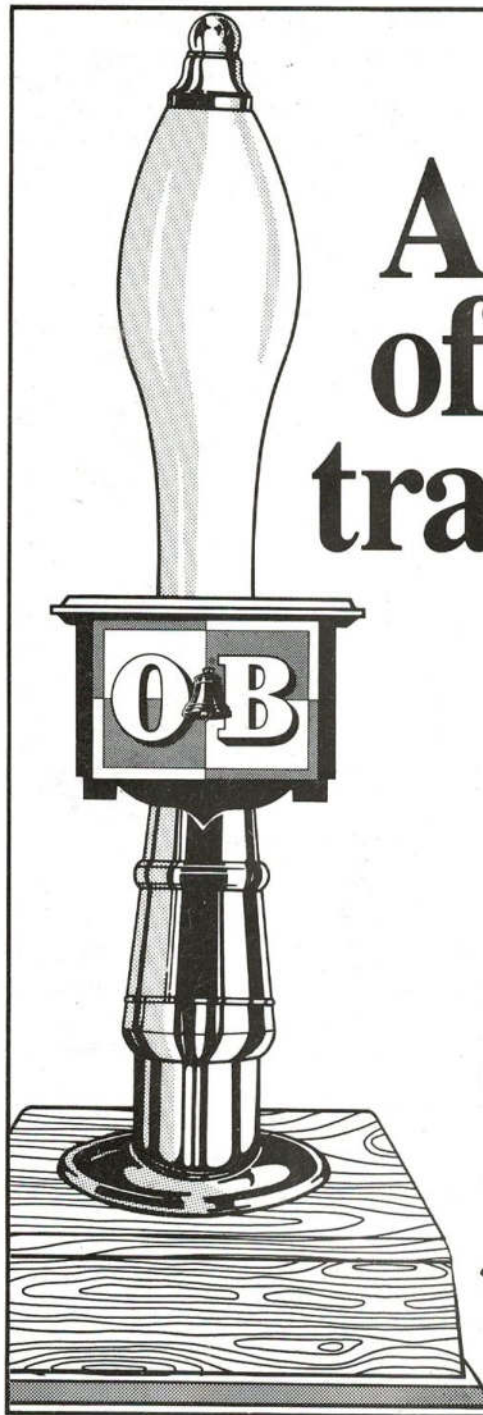
Today's successful clubs need a sound commercial policy and Oldham are no

exception. Our official club sponsors, Boddingtons, have really got behind the club as have many other local businesses and organisations. Various sponsorship deals available include executive, match-day and match-ball packages. They represent great value for money so anybody interested should contact me on 061-620 4870. I'd like to hear from old and new sponsors alike.

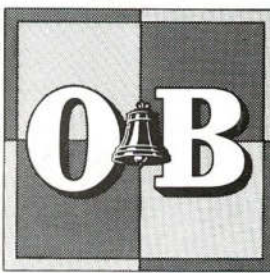
Lifeline has been one of our major successes since I joined the club and our next home match against Halifax on 15 October is one of the highlights of the year for members. A lot of people will be waiting with bated breath at the game because one lucky Lifeline winner is going to drive off with a brand new luxury G-reg £6,000 car. That could be you so it is well worth checking to see that your subscriptions are fully paid up, especially if you pay by direct debit. We've recently changed Lifeline bank account from Nat West to the Co-op so make sure you notify your bank about the change.

Remember, the money raised from both Lifeline and Cashline helps us buy the quality players we need to return to the first division. Every new member who joins either scheme not only has the chance to win some great cash prizes but is also contributing to the wellbeing of the club on the field of play where it matters most. For the record, every day of the week a Cashline member wins £100 while every week there's a £1,000 Lifeline draw.

Finally, many of you have been asking about the availability of replicas of our new, rather striking kit. Unfortunately there has been a slight delay. However, this will be rectified as soon as possible. I'll let you know in our next programme in two weeks' time when we entertain Halifax.



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CORNER

MAN-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATION

TODAY sees the first presentation of the Evening Chronicle OB Man-of-the-Month award. The winner who, in the opinion of Rugby League writer Roger Halstead, has contributed most to the team during the opening month of the season will be presented with an inscribed medal, a £100 cheque — and a case of Boddingtons bitter to celebrate in traditional style after today's game.

Two players in the running for the award are down-under stars, John Cogger and Charlie McAlister, who have also been out and about at a couple of OB locals. John and Charlie popped in at the Two Hundred, Harpurhey, to wish Boddingtons landlord John Cunningham all the best at a party to celebrate the pub's recent re-opening after a major refurbishment.

CHURCH INN

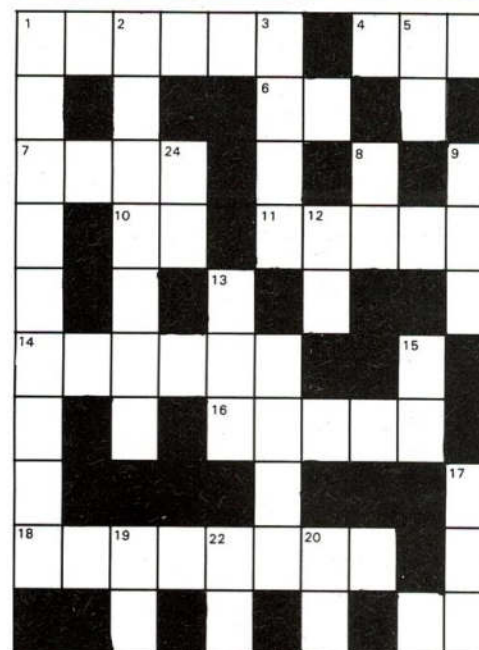
John also called in at the Church Inn, Royton, to wish landlord, Denis Adams, all the best. Denis has just spent £22,500 having his OB local refurbished and celebrated in true style by hosting a party for his regulars who packed out the pub. There was a super buffet laid on and the chance to win a couple of bottles of champagne and a signed ball which was presented by Oldham's Aussie skipper.

Finally, in the Castleford programme last season we announced various winners of prize draws for various awards organised by Boddingtons. Prizes were either VIP tickets or cases of Boddingtons bitter. Winners whose names appeared in the programme should write to Andrew Field, Field Public Relations, 24 The Crescent, Salford, Manchester M5 4PF, to obtain their prizes.

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CROSSWORD 1

ACROSS:

1. Organiser of student World Cup (6)
4. Brothers for Wigan and New Zealand (3)
6. Initials of Widnes and Balmain star (1, 1)
7. Steve _____, ex-Barrow centre (4)
10. Initials of Oldham scrum-half of 50s (1, 1)
11. Nickname of Brisbane Broncos second-rower or prop Bryan Neibling (5)
14. Derek _____, ex-Oldham loose-forward (6)
16. Colin _____, Oldham player of the 70s (5)
18. Won JPT, 1988 (2, 6)
21. Initials of former Bradford N and Warrington loose-forward (1, 1)

DOWN:

1. Nickname of South Sydney (9)
2. Play at The Willows (7)
3. Last Salford player to represent Yorkshire (4)
5. Initials of Jim Crellin's assistant at Swinton (1, 1)
8. Initials of Australian Test centre 70s and 80s (1, 1)
9. _____ Wilson, ex-Oldham and Waterhead coach (3)
12. "Play _____" regular call of a referee (2)
13. Number worn by blind-side prop (3)
15. Initials of ex-Hull KR stand-off (1, 1)
17. Initials of Huddersfield club (1, 1, 1)
19. Initials of ex-Cumbrian forward, played for Workington and Salford (1, 1)
20. Initials of Oldham's imported Kiwi fullback of early 80s (1, 1)
22. Initials of only Bramley player ever to play for England (1, 1)
24. Initials of Saints Chairman (1, 1)

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15th
v HALIFAX

(Kick-off
3.00 p.m.)

PENALTIES

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

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES

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

SCRUMS

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

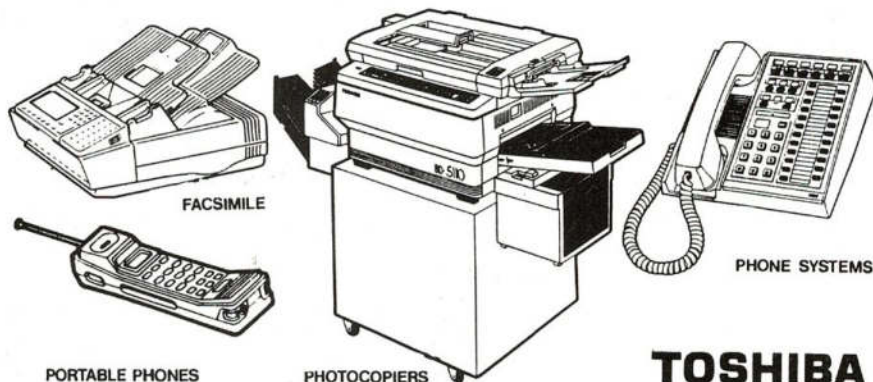
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Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	V	KO	P	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att
Sep	3 Workington T	H	3.00		W	40-8	Henderson (2), Cogger (2), McAlister, Lord, Ruane, Russell	Platt (4)	3,743
	10 Halifax	A	3.00	11	L	12-22	Platt, Cogger	Platt (2)	8,612
	16 Barrow (LC)	A	2.30		W	46-2	Lord (2), Ford, Casey, Platt (2), Allen, Hyde, Cogger	Platt (5)	2,300
	27 St. Helens (LC)	A	3.00						
Oct	1 Hull KR	H	3.00						
	8 Runcorn H	A	3.00						
	15 Halifax	H	3.00						
	22 Carlisle	A	2.30						
	29 Batley	H	3.00						
Nov	5 Doncaster	A	3.00						
	12 Keighley	H	3.00						
	19 Fulham	A	2.30						
	26 Doncaster	H	3.00						
Dec	3 Regal Trophy (I)								
	10 Regal Trophy (2)								
	17 Workington T	A	2.30						
	26 Rochdale H	A	3.00						
Jan	1 Swinton	H	3.00						
	7 Hunslet	H	3.00						
	14 Hull KR	A	3.00						
	21 Chorley	A	3.00						
	28 Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
Feb	4 Fulham	H	3.00						
	11 Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
	18 Chorley	H	3.00						
	25 Keighley	A	3.15						
Mar	4 Huddersfield	H	3.00						
	11 Batley	A	2.30						
	18 Runcorn	H	3.00						
	25 Huddersfield	A	3.00						
Apr	1 Hunslet	A	3.30						
	8 Carlisle	H	3.00						
	13 Swinton	A	3.00						
	16 Rochdale	H	3.00						

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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen	3	—	—	—	1	4
Leo Casey	3	—	—	—	1	4
Neil Clawson	—	1	—	—	—	—
John Cogger	3	—	—	—	4	16
Trevor Croston	1	1	—	—	—	—
John Fairbank	—	1	—	—	—	—
John Fieldhouse	3	—	—	—	—	—
Mick Ford	3	—	—	—	1	4
John Henderson	2	—	—	—	2	8
Gary Hyde	3	—	—	—	1	4
Richard Irving	1	—	—	—	—	—
Paul Lord	3	—	—	—	3	12
Charlie McAlister	3	—	—	—	1	4
Keith Newton	3	—	—	—	—	—
Duncan Platt	3	—	11	—	3	31
Andy Ruane	2	—	—	—	1	4
Steve Robinson	—	3	—	—	—	—
Richard Russell	3	—	—	—	1	4

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	5	3	0	0	118	62	1	0	1	48	52	8
Ryldle York	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	97	50	8
Batley	5	3	0	1	88	53	1	0	0	9	0	8
Fulham	4	1	0	0	10	9	3	0	0	48	22	8
Hull KR	3	2	0	0	96	16	1	0	0	50	16	6
Doncaster	4	2	0	1	102	33	1	0	0	12	2	6
Keighley	5	3	0	1	149	106	0	0	1	6	29	6
Workington	4	1	0	0	30	22	2	0	1	50	72	6
Swinton	5	1	0	2	64	38	1	0	1	55	44	4
Halifax	2	2	0	0	58	24	0	0	0	0	0	4
Huddersfield	5	1	0	3	52	60	1	0	0	34	22	4
Dewsbury	4	1	0	0	29	6	1	0	2	61	102	4
Whitehaven	6	2	0	2	82	92	0	0	2	33	44	4
Hunslet	6	1	0	1	38	50	1	0	3	55	70	4
Carlisle	2	1	0	0	54	14	0	0	1	22	30	2
OLDHAM	2	1	0	0	40	8	0	0	1	12	22	2
Trafford	4	1	0	1	64	43	0	0	2	16	96	2
Chorley	4	1	0	2	29	49	0	0	1	4	48	2
Bramley	4	0	0	1	2	12	0	0	3	38	82	0
Nottingham	4	0	0	1	12	23	0	0	3	43	122	0
Runcorn	5	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	4	36	192	0

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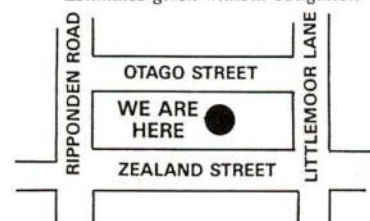
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Terrace Talk

AFTER slipping up against Halifax, Oldham will be doubly determined to grab the points at the expense of Roger Millward's Hull KR who must surely be strong competitors for the Second Division Championship.

On the subject of Hull, an ex-Oldham favourite, David Liddiard, is playing for David Smith's Hull. The Aussie needs no introduction to Roughyed regulars as the last time he was in the UK Oldham reached the Challenge Cup semi-final. Now I'm not sure if that's a good or bad omen, but I do know that David Smith is a very shrewd man and if Liddiard performs for the Airlie Birds as he did for Oldham then their fans are in for a treat. Today's encounter should see the home debut of another Aussie, Brett Clark. Now if he moves as quickly on the field as coach Tony Barrow did off it to secure his signature, then Clark's capture should prove to be a real bargain.

Finally, a well-known coach was seen breaking into a cigarette machine. Upon questioning he remarked: "I'm only after 10 players." When told he'd have to look elsewhere he retorted: "I've had talks with more Rugby Union players than Nigel Starmer-Smith but even the man from Del Monte said NO!"

Enjoy your rugby!
Jack Dearden

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concessions on away travel. We're always keen for new members so why not join today!

JUNIORS' HALFTIME DRAW

Despite the lack of support we are continuing with the Juniors' half-time draw although we have had to withdraw the £5 first prize. Now we're looking for people to donate prizes. If you're interested please contact any committee member. Our first donation came from Brian Dunkerly and we are grateful for his support. Who is next?

COACHES

Interested in attending away matches? Telephone either 061-665 1832 or 061-627 0235. Give us plenty of notice please and book your place no later than the Friday before a Sunday match.

SUPPORTER-OF-THE-YEAR

Will the ten runners-up please contact Andrew Field, 24 The Crescent, Salford, Manchester M5 4PF, who will notify you which match you will receive VIP tickets for. Remember to include your name and address.

NICE ONE COLIN

All members of the supporters club would like to extend their best wishes to Colin Hawkyard who has embarked upon a well-deserved benefit year. Colin has been a great servant for Oldham for over 11 years and this is a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation. Colin's benefit review, aptly titled 'Life in the Hard Lane', is on sale at the souvenir shop. Price is £1.

HELLO HULL KR

Finally, a warm welcome to Hull KR players, officials and supporters. Here's to a game to remember.

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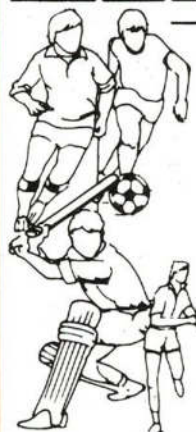
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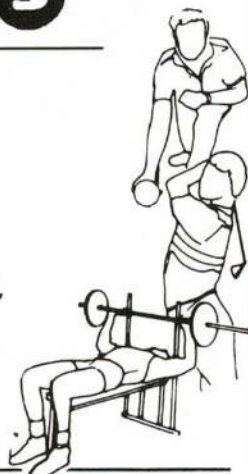
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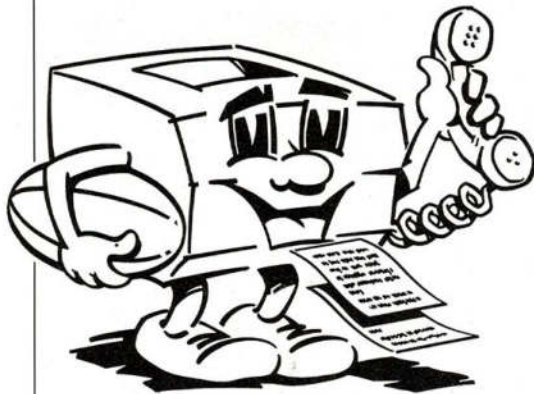
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