

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		HALIFAX
DUNCAN PLATT	- 1	- COLIN WHITFIELD
STEVE ROBINSON	- 2	- COLIN ATKINSON
GARY HYDE	- 3	- TONY ANDERSON
RICHARD IRVING	- 4	- BRIAN HETHERINGTON
PAUL LORD	- 5	- WILF GEORGE
BRETT CLARK	- 6	- JOHN DORAHY
MIKE FORD	- 7	- DAVID HOLMES
LEO CASEY	- 8	- LINDSAY JOHNSTON
ANDY RUANE	- 9	- SEAMUS McCALLION
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	- 10	- BRENDAN HILL
SHAUN ALLEN	- 11	- LES HOLLIDAY
KEITH NEWTON	- 12	- RICHARD MILNER
JOHN COGGER	- 13	- MARTIN WOOD
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 14	- STEVE SMITH
JOHN FAIRBANK	- 15	- ROY DICKINSON

Referee: Mr. S. Cross (Humberside). Touch Judges: Mr. A. C. Randerson (Red Flag). Mr. D. W. Simpson (Orange Flag)

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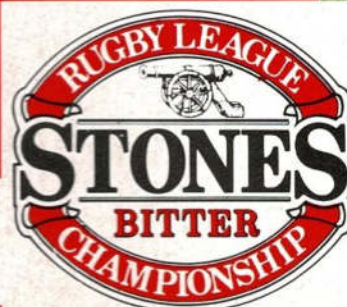
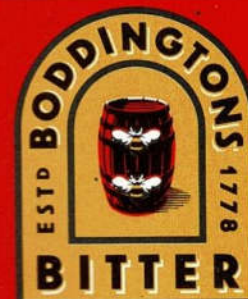
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CLUB HONOURS

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

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

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



NOTHING can hide our disappointment at losing the Grünhalle Lancashire Cup final to Warrington at Knowsley Road on Saturday, but wasn't it a marvellous fightback from our boys after they had gone behind 12-0?

I was proud of them all . . . and that's what I told them afterwards.

In the past 12 months we have come a long way together and if we can reach the Lancashire Cup final in that time, beating St. Helens and Wigan on the way and coming so close to inflicting the first defeat of the season on Warrington.

I have to ask myself: what can we do in two years?

We all felt we were unlucky to have a try disallowed when Richard Irving kicked the ball on midway through the first half and if we had been awarded a try at that stage, under the posts as well, the whole course of the game might have changed.

It was another blow to lose Duncan Platt. He was carried off with ankle ligament damage and well though Richard Russell did as his replacement — and I thought he did very well — we missed Platt's long, loping runs through the Warrington defence which he had cut to ribbons several times before he was hurt.

I also thought our half-backs, Mike Ford and Brett Clark, did particularly well. Ford had an outstanding game and showed what a good player he is.

I am sure we will all benefit from the experience of having played in the Lancashire Cup final and the lessons we learned will probably stand us in good stead when the Regal Trophy starts in the next week or two.

In the meantime, we have to concentrate on the Second Division and we could not have a tougher match, so soon after our final, than to meet our arch rivals Halifax in tonight's encounter at Watersheddings.

The match should have been played last Sunday but it was postponed because we were in the final of the Lancashire competition and Halifax faced a Yorkshire Cup semi-final replay with Bradford.

In that respect both teams go into tonight's game level pegging and we will be out to avenge our early-season defeat at Thrum Hall.

My thanks, too, to all those fans who made the trip to St. Helens and gave us a resounding reception. Your support is truly appreciated and you can rest assured that we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to produce some silverware.

TONY BARROW

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TODAY'S

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Welcome to Halifax

HALIFAX come to Watersheddings tonight as the only unbeaten side in the Second Division — and a team Oldham will be anxious to beat after their 22-12 defeat at Thrum Hall on September 10.

Since then, the Yorkshiremen have been further strengthened by the arrival of Australian centre **Brian Hetherington**, a former Illawarra star who has made a big impression in his early games at Thrum Hall.

He is one of four Australians in the side which is led by captain-coach **John Dorahy**, the former Hull KR player known as 'Joe Cool' for what used to be his laid-back approach to goalkicking.

The others are prop **Lindsay Johnston** from South Sydney and long-serving centre **Tony Anderson**, who has been resident in the UK for five years now and, as such, is excluded from the club's overseas quota.

Anderson is fast and inventive and forms a pacy right-flank with former Keighley flier **Colin Atkinson**, who played a leading role for England in the recent Student Rugby League World Cup.

Halifax possess a big, strong pack — as they have done traditionally down the years — but they may have to take the field tonight without Dick Fairbank (John's brother), who received a five-match ban for an alleged offence in a recent game at Nottingham.

Fairbank appealed against the decision at a hearing last Friday and the selection of the Halifax pack for tonight's game will probably hinge on that outcome.

Another big man is prop **Brendan Hill**, who was used as substitute when Oldham played at Thrum Hall last month as he had only just arrived back from a summer stint in Australia.



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Flashback . . .

1984/85

Oldham 24, Halifax 12



Nearly 6,000 fans turned up for this closely-fought First Division battle against Halifax which saw Oldham win by a clear 12 points thanks to four goals and a try by Mick Parrish and touchdowns by Alan McCurrie, Mick Taylor and Colin Hawkyard. Here, Colin Hawkyard scores to put Oldham on the road to victory and an eventual fifth place in Rugby League's top flight. Halifax were to finish tenth.

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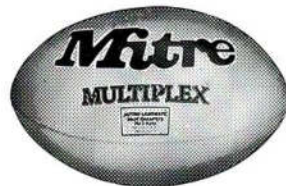
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Spotlight on ... LEO CASEY

BUSTLING Leo Casey, Oldham's all-action prop forward, has been in outstanding form this season — and to prove it he is the season's first winner of the Evening Chronicle OB Man of the Month award.

Leo, who follows in the footsteps of previous winners John Cogger, Chris O'Sullivan, Andy Ruane and Mick Ford, received an inscribed medal, a £100 cheque and case of Boddies bitter from Boddingtons representative Matthew Smith, as a reward for his industrious efforts throughout September.

Few could argue with the choice as the Northern Ireland-born 24-year-old, who is married to wife Helen with a seven-month baby boy, Leo Junior, has been one of Oldham's most improved players.

Leo, who has lived in Oldham since he was three, earned this tribute from Evening Chronicle Rugby League journalist Roger Halstead, who commented: "Leo has shrugged off neck and thigh injuries to make a massive impact on Oldham's early-season performances. His form has been particularly impressive in the two Lancashire Cup wins at Barrow and St. Helens."

That neck injury, a trapped nerve which has plagued him for 12 months, hasn't stopped him becoming an essential member of the Oldham team four years after joining the club from St. Anne's Amateur RLFC.

Initially, Leo, who made his First Division debut in a 42-12 Lancashire Cup defeat against Leigh, found it difficult to win a regular first-team place but sheer hard work and determination have proved to be decisive.

He earned a regular first-team spot at the start of last season and hasn't looked back since.

After 45 first-team games and a dozen tries, he's one of the game's most improved and ambitious players. Speaking before last Saturday's Cup Final, he said: "I want to win



a major trophy with Oldham and hopefully tour with the Great Britain international squad."

Rugby has its downside, too, as Leo discovered before the Premiership Final victory against Featherstone. "I dislocated my shoulder a couple of days before the final and my wedding. Fortunately I wasn't wearing a sling for the marriage ceremony but I couldn't carry Helen across the threshold after!"

A major inspiration throughout his career has been Steve Deacon, a coach at St. Anne's, who has helped him throughout his amateur and professional career. Steve encouraged Leo to go to Australia where he played 14 First Grade games with Sydney County Club, Marellan. The season down under proved to be a great experience and helped bring Leo's game on leaps and bounds. Less helpful was a short spell on the wing for the Oldham 'A' team.

"I couldn't get in the reserves after an injury so to get back in the team I played on the wing for four or five weeks. The experiment was not too successful and I was glad to return to the forwards."

And the forwards is where Leo intends to stay as his powerful, all-action performances further enhance his growing reputation. That GB place might not be too far away!

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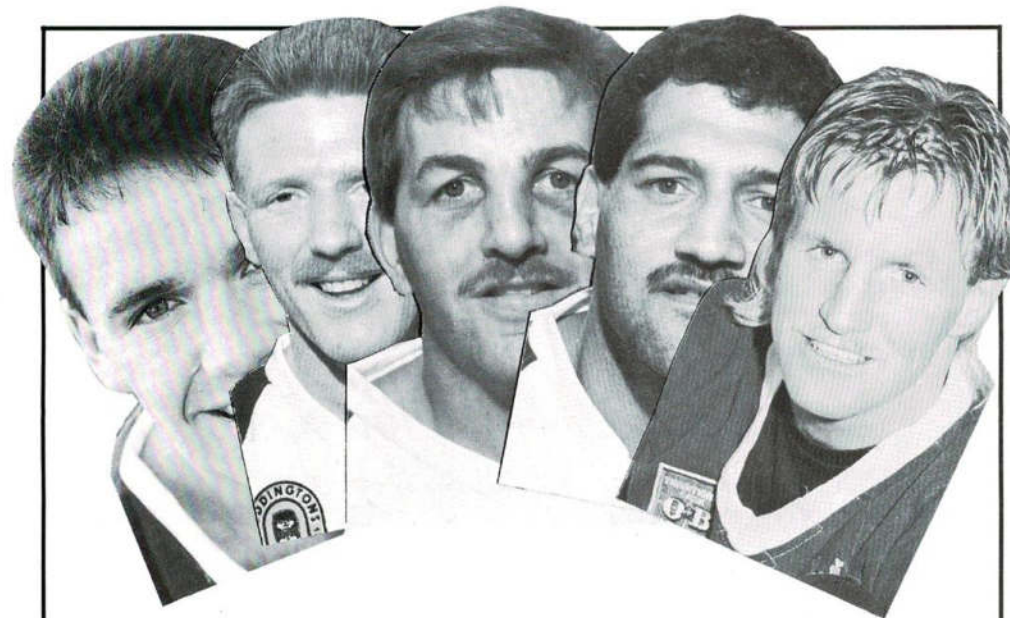
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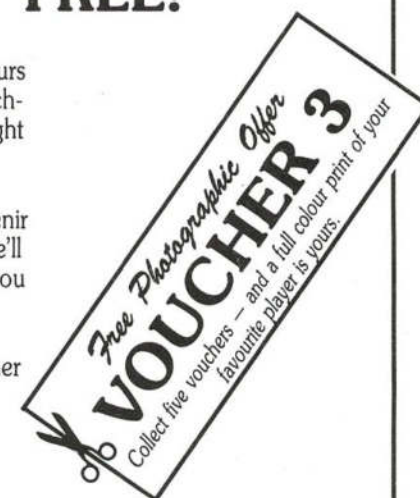
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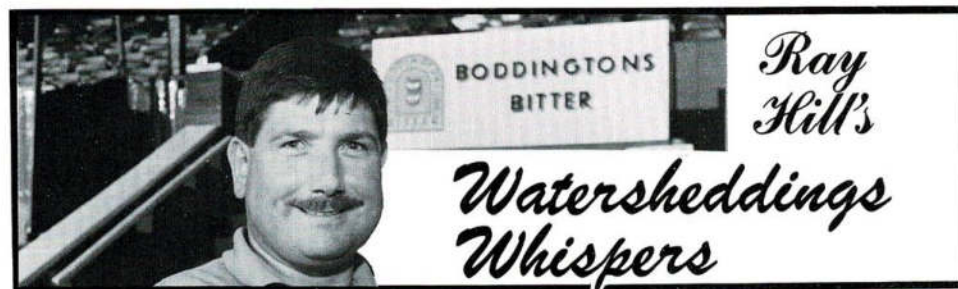


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WHAT a fabulous start to the season, even though we lost the final. We couldn't have wished for a better baptism to the campaign, beating some of the country's top teams on the road to a memorable Lancashire Cup Final against Warrington where your vocal support was truly amazing.

On behalf of the players and everyone involved with the club, I'd like to thank all of you for giving the team such a great lift during the final.

Also I'd like to thank the club's official sponsors, Boddingtons, for covering our hotel expenses and providing ample Boddies bitter for the journey home.

A big thanks, too, for Peter Neal and the High Point Hotel, who gave the players the perfect send-off on Friday with an excellent dinner.

The icing on the cake was provided by Cakecraft, who baked and iced a wonderful cake.

Gestures like these are really appreciated.

Now it is our turn to make a gesture back to our supporters.

After tonight's game we are holding a draw for an executive day out at the Great Britain-New Zealand Old Trafford Test match which takes place this coming Saturday.

Five lucky winners will enjoy a superb meal before the match, which they will watch from a luxury executive box. It's a great prize for Rugby League fans, especially as the raffle tickets only cost £1. They can be bought around the ground during tonight's game or at the club's souvenir shop.

Tonight is also going to be a memorable night for one of our Lifeline members because tonight's the night we are giving away a brand new £6,000 G-reg car.

Somebody, somewhere, will be getting the surprise of his or her life when we hold the Lifeline draw at half-time. It could be you!

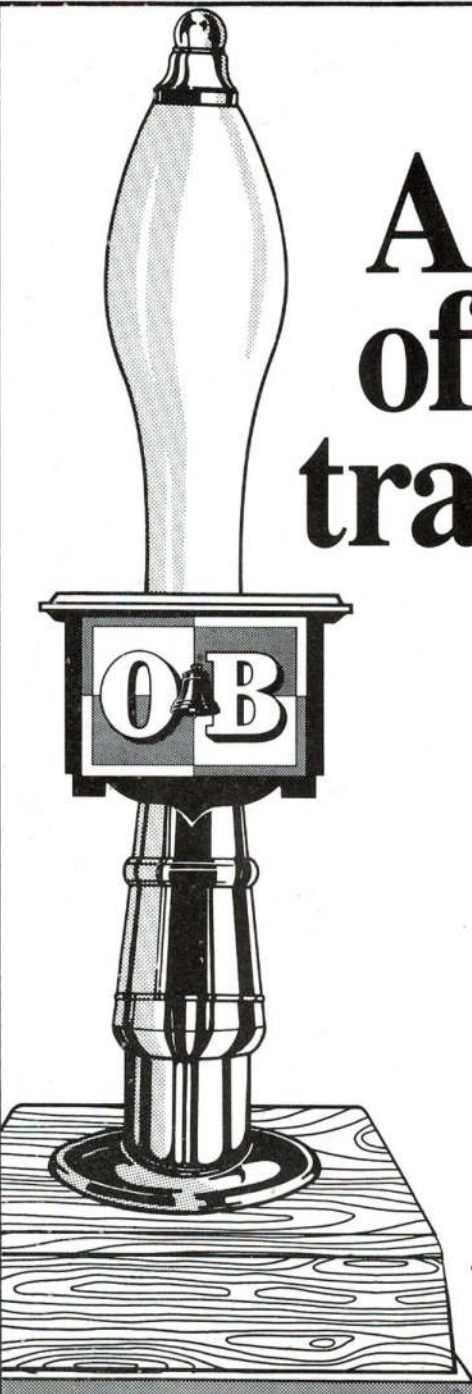
Winning cars is just one of the many benefits of Lifeline membership. Every week somebody wins £1,000. And there's other special prizes throughout the year giving members great value for a weekly £2 investment.

So why don't you join the growing number of fans who are signing up with Lifeline?

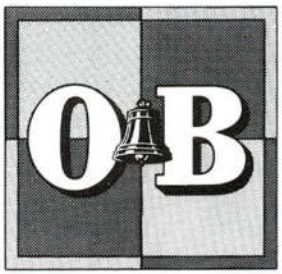
Finally, a warm welcome to championship rivals Halifax. Like us, they have had an impressive opening to the season, and tonight's game promises to be one of the highlights of the Second Division year.



John Cogger cuts into a good-luck cup final cake presented to Oldham by Cakecraft.

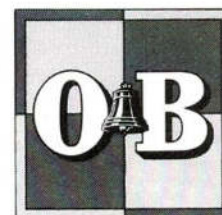


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CROSSWORD 3

ACROSS:

- 1 Terry _____, Rochdale Hornets most recent Test player (7)
- 6 One of Leeds' many Aussies in recent times — Eastern Suburbs player in 1989 (6)
- 7 Initials of former Castleford, Queensland and Australia full-back (1, 1)
- 9 Initials of Leeds and GB loose-forward (1, 1)
- 10 Sure to be a major threat to GB in this Autumn's Test series (3)
- 11 Mansfield Marksmen — Nottingham _____ (4)
- 13 _____ Alexander, 1986 Aussie tourist (4)
- 16 Former Salford goal-kicking full-back, later moved to St Helens (4)
- 17 Les _____, North Sydney winger (4)
- 18 Mountford, Lowe, Gordon, modern day coaches of _____ (initials) (1, 1)
- 19 Initials of ex-Oldham forward, signed from Castleford amateur rugby (1, 1)

DOWN:

- 1 Salford player who topped the try-scoring lists with 49 tries in his first season (8)
- 2 Ken _____, Wigan player who appeared in ten Lancashire Cup finals (3)
- 3 Former Oldham player-coach (7)
- 4 Graham Steadman's first professional club (4)
- 5 Former Widnes and GB winger (6)
- 8 Mighty Australian centre of the 70s and 80s (6)
- 9 Ex-Halifax forward, currently starring at Headingley (5)
- 12 St George, Sydney coach & former Aussie Test prop (5)
- 14 _____ Risman (3)
- 15 _____ Kellett, Post Office Rd winger at Wembley, 1983 (3)

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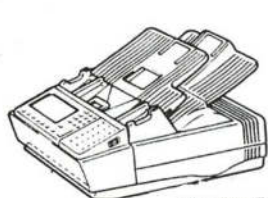
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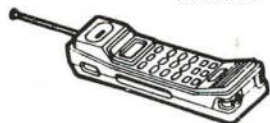
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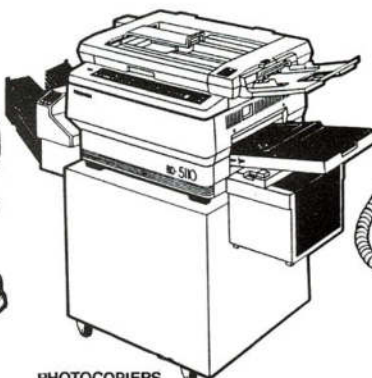
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Keith Newton touches down against Wigan in the thrilling 19-18 Lancashire Cup victory, taking three defenders over the line with him in the process. Richard Irving draws the ref's attention to the forward's superb solo effort.



Non-stop Oldham forward John Fairbank leads yet another charge against Runcorn's beleaguered defence in the Second Division match which saw the club win 34-6 to maintain the promotion push.

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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 (Lancs Cup)	A	2.30		W	46-2	Lord (2), Ford, Casey, Platt (2), Allen, Hyde, Cogger	Platt (5)	2,300
27	St. Helens (Lancs Cup)	A	7.30		W	36-6	Robinson, Ford, Platt, Cogger, Allen, Newton	Platt (6)	7,834
Oct 1	Hull KR	H	3.00	12	W	12-4	Lord	Platt (4)	5,797
5	Wigan (Lancs Cup)	H	7.30		W	19-18	Fieldhouse, Newton, Ford	Platt Hyde (2), Ford (dg)	8,603
8	Runcorn H	A	3.00	9	W	34-6	Russell, Clarke (2), Meadows (2), Clawson, Irving	Hyde (2)	2,500
14	Warrington (Lancs Cup final)	-	3.00		L	16-24	Irving, Robinson, Lord	Platt (1), Hyde (1)	9,895
18	Halifax	H	7.30						
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 (1)								
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 Rd								
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						

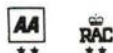
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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen	7	0	0	0	2	8
Ian Bates	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey	6	0	0	0	1	4
Brett Clark	2	0	0	0	2	8
Neil Clawson	1	1	0	0	1	4
John Cogger	6	0	0	0	5	20
Trevor Croston	1	1	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank	1	4	0	0	0	0
John Fieldhouse	7	0	0	0	1	4
Neil Flanagan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford	6	0	0	1	3	13
John Henderson	2	0	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde	7	0	5	0	1	14
Richard Irving	5	0	0	0	1	4
Paul Lord	6	0	0	0	4	16
Charlie McAlister	3	1	0	0	1	4
Keith Meadows	1	0	0	0	2	8
Keith Newton	7	0	0	0	2	8
Duncan Platt	6	0	21	0	4	58
Andy Ruane	6	0	0	0	1	4
Steve Robinson	4	3	0	0	1	4
Richard Russell	4	3	0	0	2	8

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rydale York	7	1	0	0	16	6	4	1	1	134	56	11
Swinton	7	2	0	1	82	35	3	0	1	90	56	10
Huddersfield	7	3	0	2	89	69	2	0	0	76	22	10
Rochdale	6	2	0	0	72	42	3	0	1	112	73	10
Batley	7	2	0	2	58	59	3	0	0	61	22	10
Halifax	4	3	0	0	78	36	1	0	0	72	20	8
Fulham	6	2	0	1	64	33	2	0	1	42	29	8
Dewsbury	6	2	0	1	75	33	2	0	1	65	75	8
Doncaster	6	2	1	1	98	48	1	0	1	24	22	7
Hull KR	4	2	0	0	102	12	1	0	1	54	28	6
OLDHAM	4	2	0	0	52	12	1	0	1	46	28	6
Keighley	7	2	0	1	98	90	1	0	3	56	82	6
Workington	6	1	0	2	44	84	2	0	1	43	68	6
Trafford	5	2	0	1	89	62	0	0	2	26	70	4
Bramley	6	1	0	2	65	68	1	0	2	46	64	4
Hunslet	8	1	0	3	69	97	1	0	3	52	64	4
Whitehaven	8	2	0	2	75	95	0	0	4	54	105	4
Chorley	6	2	0	2	49	62	0	0	2	14	94	4
Carlisle	5	1	0	1	66	28	0	0	3	42	106	2
Nottingham	6	0	0	3	42	124	0	0	3	31	125	0
Runcorn	7	0	0	3	6	85	0	0	4	40	180	0

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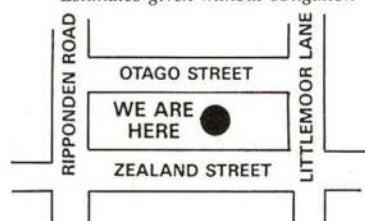
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Terrace Talk

"I COULD not hear a thing; I missed the sound of the hooter at the end, and if that's the support you can get when you are supposedly not a top team, then when you return to the top flight the support is going to be absolutely magnificent here at Watersheddings." This was Robin Whitfield speaking after that epic cup-tie defeat of Wigan.

Tony Barrow reflects on the cup run and obviously one of his best moments came at St. Helens. Tony takes it up: "Last year when we were heavily beaten at Knowsley Road, I couldn't get away quickly enough, but this year — well, what a contrast. I bragged about it for a full week! Every time John Fieldhouse went down in a tackle Alex Murphy was saying 'that's it for him, he won't get up again', but my assistant, Derek Whitehead, was urging him on even louder and in the end Alex gave it up as a bad job — it was a great night for us."

Then, of course, that brought Wigan to Watersheddings. Tony continues: "During the game we had a very bad spell ten minutes from half time, and that worried me a little, but I altered one or two things and we started to come back. I urged them at all costs to play in their half of the field and finally we got the break, and what a kick!"

Tony adds: "I'm really pleased for all concerned at Watersheddings, and that we have been able to have some success, especially for the fans who have given us tremendous support."

Well... one big name after another, or that's how it seems just at the moment. At the time of writing, the Lancashire Cup Final result is unknown, but the semi-final victory over Wigan was an absolute delight to witness, and what a nail-biting finish.

Speaking on a purely personal note, I sometimes think the feeling of winning a semi-final can be ALMOST as satisfying as completing the task of lifting a major trophy, mainly due to the fact of a semi-final defeat means absolutely nothing, whereas reaching the final itself and the rewards of all the build-up, anticipation, expectation and excitement of competing in the final is something to savour.

It's certainly made the Rugby League world sit up and take notice of what's happening at Watersheddings and, of course, the icing on the cake would be complete if Oldham's name were to become engraved as winners. But whatever the outcome it's been a fabulous effort and particularly gratifying to have knocked out three 1st Division clubs on the way.

Well, tonight it's a return to league action. Another mighty effort will be needed to see off the challenge of Halifax, and also an opportunity to gain some revenge for that defeat at Thrum Hall in September. Who said Second Division rugby was easy!

Enjoy your sport.

Jack Dearden

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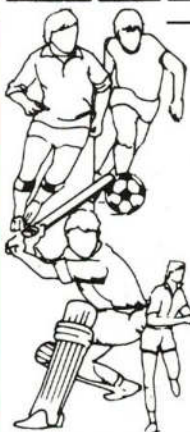
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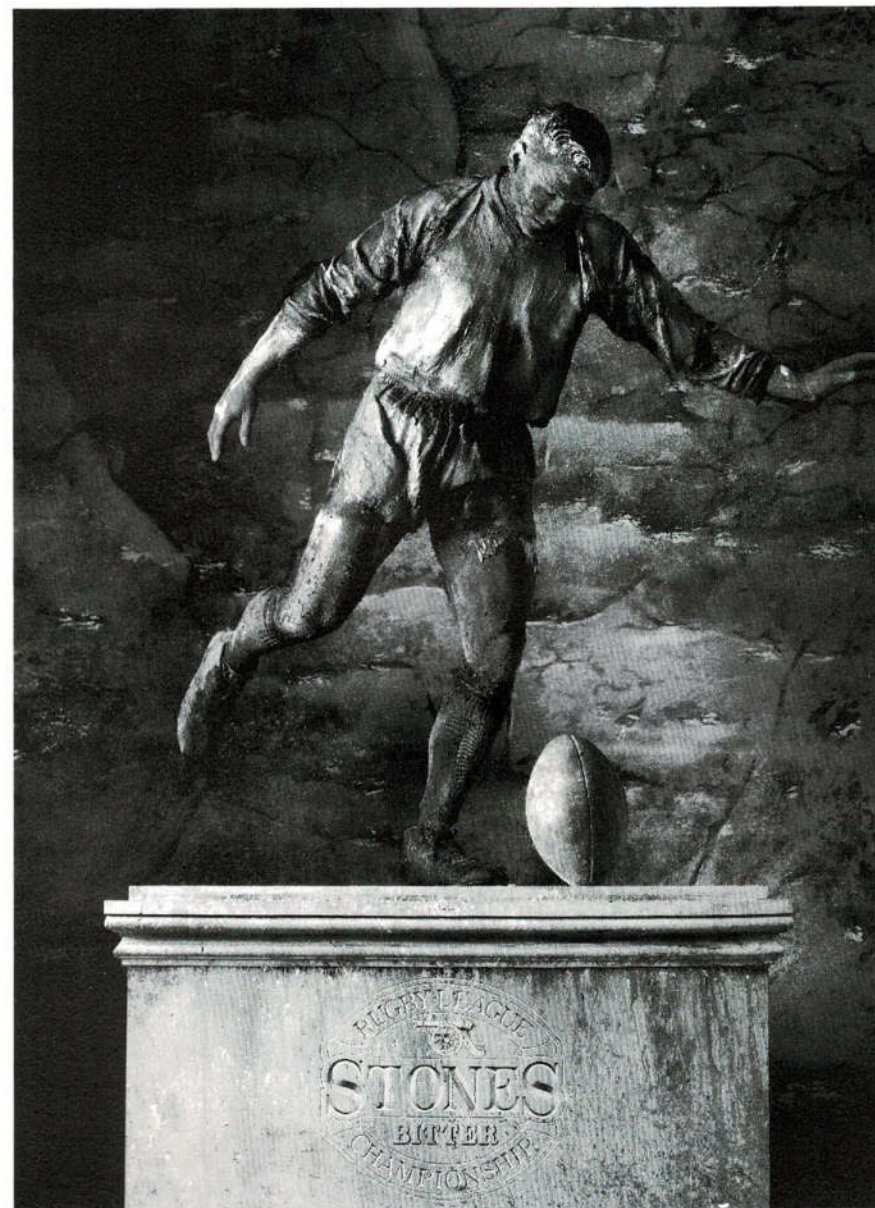


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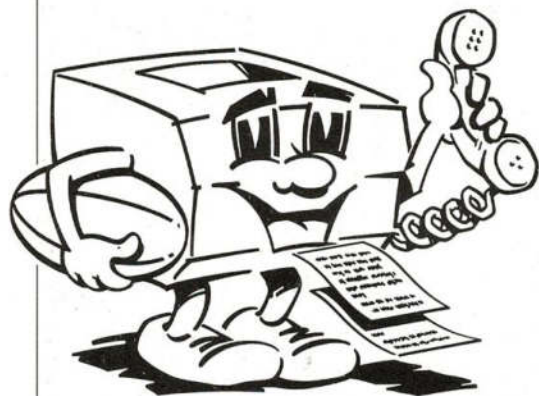
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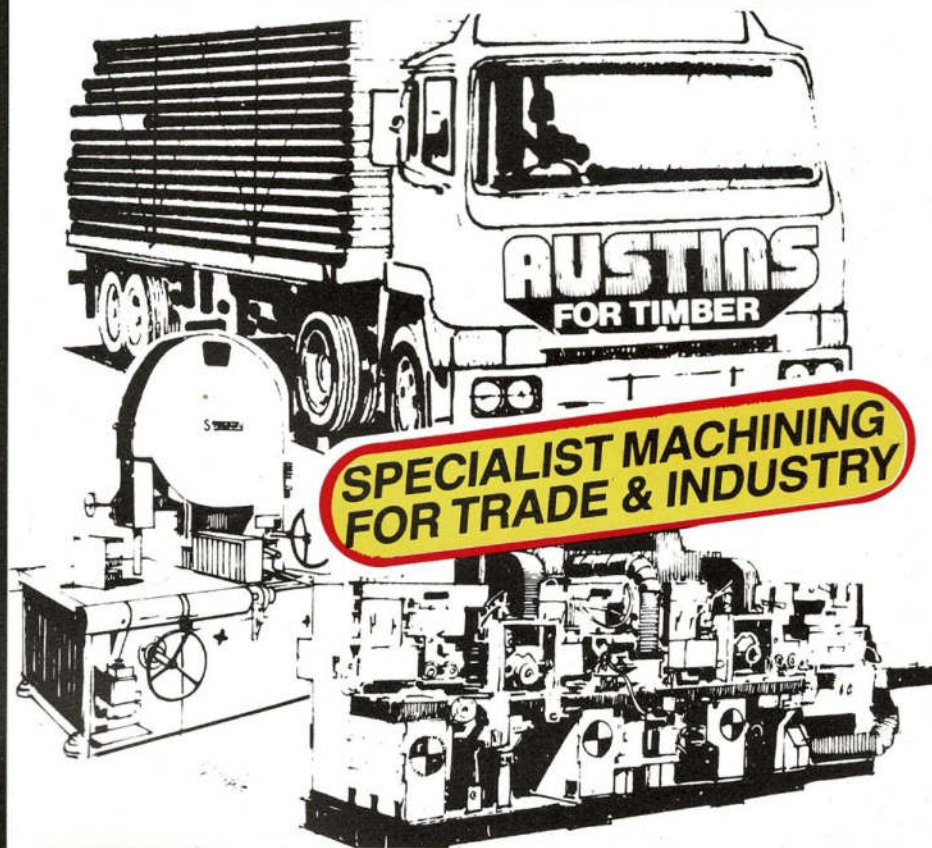
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