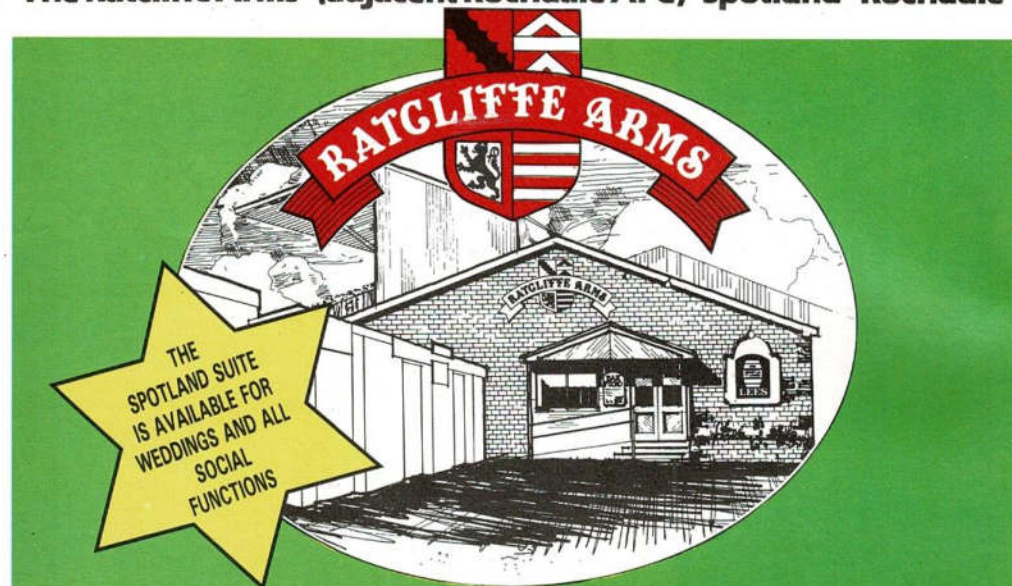
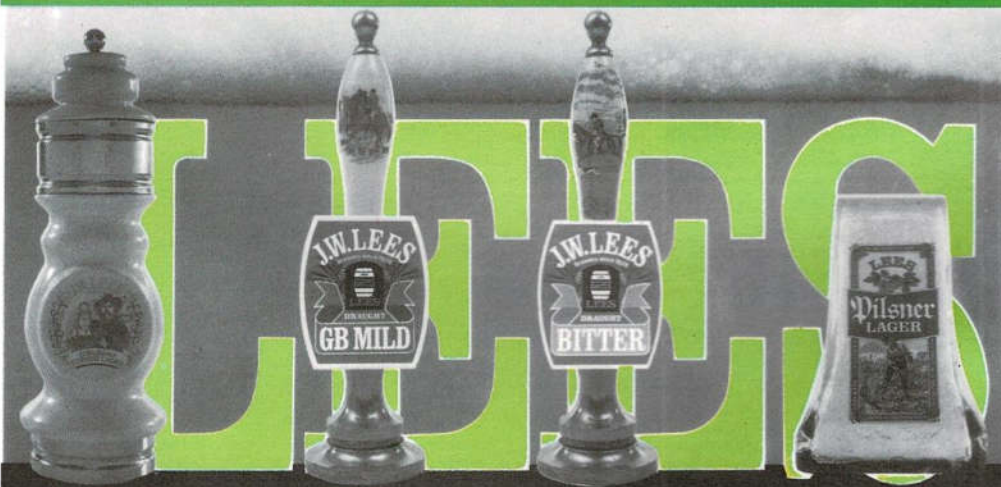


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Good Afternoon..

Welcome to Spotland for our Boxing Day fixture against neighbours Oldham, to whose Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters we offer a particularly warm welcome.

This is Oldham's first visit to Spotland and is the first meeting between the two teams since Good Friday 1987, when Oldham provided the opposition for the last ever match at the Athletic Grounds. On that occasion Oldham were emphatic winners and went on to promotion and the premiership final when they beat Featherstone Rovers. Last Sunday Oldham put up a fine performance with twelve men against St. Helens at Knowsley Road in the third round of the Regal Trophy, which is

further evidence of their all round ability.

In contrast to Oldham our performance against Bramley here at Spotland was probably our worst of the Season, it is some indication of the work that has to be done to secure our position in the top flight. We now have to put last week behind us and re-build the Season from scratch, starting with today's game.

Today sees the start of our new commercial venture the Match Day Tote, coupons are available at the Club Shop.

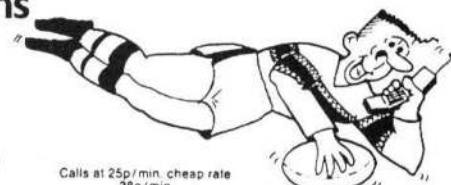
In January the Rugby Leaguer Review is producing a special colour feature on Hornets, you can order a copy of the review from your newsagent or at the shop behind the main stand.

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Today's Opponents

The festive treat of the year brings two of the top second division clubs together today. Oldham, currently lying either second or third (depending on which league table you look at) were the last visitors to the Athletic Grounds two years ago when they were promoted. That season saw Oldham win at Watersheddings 24-12 and at the Athletic Grounds 58-6. Last season saw Oldham struggle in the league but have some well deserved victories in cup matches. An inspired purchase of John Cogger caused a mini revival which saw them nearly hang on to First Division status.

Top try scorers last season were Paul Lord and Paul Round with 9 each. Top goal and points scorer was Duncan Platt with 41 goals and a total of 98 points. Finally a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all supporters of both clubs.

OLDHAM R.L.F.C.

PEN PICTURES: 1989/90 SEASON

JOHN FIELDHOUSE Recent signing from St. Helens, Gt. Britain International — man of the series against the Kiwis. Has settled in and playing the sort of rugby that made him an international.

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 1985-86 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 16 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 90 points from 16 appearances in their championship win. Excelled for Oldham and scored 41 goals and 96 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.

Inside Information

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 (1986 and 1988) 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.

STEVE ROBINSON Signed from Saddleworth Rangers 2 seasons ago and has progressed to be a very fine winger.

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.

PAUL LORD Signed from Stanley Ranger ARL as a stand-off, but recently playing on wing. Represented Yorkshire at U/19's level and Gt. Britain. Has great pace.

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 1987-88, and a further 4 last term. Played for Oldham in the 1988 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 at Salford. Played in 7 major Finals for Castleford, including their 1986 Wembley defeat of Hull K.R.

BRETT CLARK St George half back who has recently signed a 1 year contract for Oldham. Will need no introduction to Saints fans. Brett played at Knowsley Road in the 1986/87 Season. One of the most popular of Saints' recent overseas signings.

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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BITS & BATS

THE PERILS OF THE HOTLINE

I'm sure that fans of both Hornets and Oldham are hooked into their particular Hotlines on a regular basis, getting up to date information about the fortunes of their team. Most, of course get their "fix" from home as indeed they should but beware if using a work's phone. One of our mates was a regular caller from the office but reckoned without ... **The Itemised Bill!**

Try explaining that away. 47 quid was it? ouch!

THANKS

Talking about works facilities though, Dow Chemicals of Middleton Junction have been a great help this season by allowing us use of their faxes, phones, photocopiers and information technology equipment, without which this publication would never get finished.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rochdalian Simon Wystawnoha, formally with Mayfield U19's and now at Leeds Polytechnic, has been selected for the Gt. Britain Students squad to play France early next year.

TODAY'S REFEREE

Welcomed today for his first visit to Spotland is John Holdsworth, widely regarded to be one of the top officials in the world. Born in 1947, he qualified to grade 1 status in 1980 and since then has controlled many Internationals, 3 JPS finals, 3 Premiership Finals, 2 Lancs Cup Finals and the 1987 Challenge Cup as well as the first World Club Challenge in 1987. We wish him Season's Greetings and a good game.

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4. 24449	H Willis	M Burrows
5. 2908	J Glynn St Peters Street	J Perrins
6. 14099	N Hinchcliffe, 193 Halifax Rd	G Dove
7. 4407	J Ashworth	D Heaton
8. 18298	D Lord, 6 Waithlands Road	S Lord
9. 24916	A D Clews	D Clews
10. 24658	W J Leach, Broadfield Park	Tony Kroll
11. 22783	O Howarth	Tony Kroll
12. 19600	Bob Hollis	R. Myers
13. 30933	Cyril Fletcher	T. Stott
14. 19339	B Orson	J. Cain
15. 2789	Lee, The Pineapple	J Perrins
16. 7562	A Wild, 122 Rugby Road	M Ratcliffe
17. 20761	No Name	B Parkinson
18. 23788	Paul Brown, 5 Alicia Drive	P Brown
19. 24375	N Worral	S Partington
20. 27793	No Name	B Parkinson
21. 19247	P J Brierley	R. Irvine
22. 9361	J Sanderson 131 Bolton Road	B Jenkins
23. 8974	M Hogarth, Sudden Club	A Butterworth
24. 3171	Helen O'Sullivan, 51 Dunstable	J Perrins
25. 18993	T. Coward	R. Irving
26. 062	D Mills	J. Hanson
27. 23537	V Welsh	J. Diggle
28. 30112	Belfield Co-op	R. Irving
29. 25202	G Young, 23 Ennerdale Road	B Sutcliffe
30. 25277	Jean, 20 Thirlmere Road	B Sutcliffe
31. 25404	Rita Bratchford, 9 Prince St.	S. Smith
	Heywood	
32. 230	T Howard	J. Hanson
33. 12679	E Wild, 40 Albert Royds St.	P Stott
34. 23452	Sheila	S Hodgkinson
35. 5979	W Meredith, 14 Joseph St.	D Clough
36. 23807	Mr Ashworth, 18 Bench Carr	P Brown
37. 30264	Belfield Co-op	R. Jones
38. 3162	S Greenwood, 69 Hope St.	J Perrins
39. 11213	J Wareham, 18 Marland Hill Rd	R. Jones
40. 17117	Gillian Reed	R. Myers
41. 12859	Mary, 527476	G. Dove
42. 105	Debby Kay, Whitworth Arms	J. Hanson
43. 4633	Andy	H. Grindrod
44. 18019	L Nolan, 9 Riddough Court,	T. Lord
	Whitworth	
45. 8582	R Mills, 26 Ennerdale Road	H Butterworth
46. 27188	Doreen Top Bird	P Stott
47. 3634	Dorothy	B Pickles
48. 13208	A J Schofield, Vitaluxan	P Stott
49. 19019	No Name J J Makin	R. Irving
50. 29797	First Class Mail	P Birchall
51. 6586	23 Calderbrook Road	D Clough
52. 11877	J Nicholson	R. Jones
53. 23834	D Brown, 5 Alicia Drive	D Brown
54. 19051	G Whitehead, J J Makin	R. Irving
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56. 9432	L Whitehead	L Whitehead
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58. 23729	P Brown, 5 Alicia Drive	D Brown
59. 19925	S Toft	R. Myers
60. 18683	Maureen Cain	J. Cain
61. 8324	P Pritchard	G. Horritt
62. 11816	J Smythe	R. Jones
63. 6330	A Fletcher, 26 Stopford Court	D Clough
64. 4024	Craig Williams	B Haworth
65. 10559	P Warburton	K Warburton
66. 4817	F Lord c/o	Agent 278
		J. Whipp
67. 27979	Alan Howarth, T.B.A.	B Sharples
68. 11475	Joan Jones	R. Jones
69. 25513	Mick Darnborough	T. Stott
70. 7858	Sheila	S Hodgkinson
71. 21244	M Bancroft, Tintern Avenue	Mrs Ratcliffe
72. 26874	A Bell	R. Myers

Season by Season

ROCHDALE HORNETS SEASON 1924-25

DATE	VENUE	OPPONENTS	COMPETITION	SCORE
AUG 30	H	WIGAN HIGHFIELD	LEAGUE	W 7-8
SEPT 6	A	LEEDS	LEAGUE	L 0-12
20	H	ST HELENS RECS	LEAGUE	W 7-5
27	A	BARROW	LEAGUE	W 15-3
OCT 4	H	BROUGHTON R.	LEAGUE	W 13-0
11	H	SWINTON	LANCS CUP	W 8-0
18	H	HUDDERSFIELD	LEAGUE	W 18-0
25	A	OLDHAM	LANCS CUP	L 5-11
30	A	HULL K.R.	LEAGUE	L 3-24
NOV 1	A	SWINTON	LEAGUE	L 3-6
8	A	HALIFAX	LEAGUE	L 3-14
11	H	LEEDS	LEAGUE	W 25-0
15	A	WIDNES	LEAGUE	L 10-13
22	H	LEIGH	LEAGUE	L 5-19
29	A	WIGAN	LEAGUE	L 3-29
DEC 6	H	SALFORD	LEAGUE	L 9-10
13	A	HUDDERSFIELD	LEAGUE	L 8-15
20	H	ST HELENS	LEAGUE	W 11-0
26	H	WARRINGTON	LEAGUE	W 21-5
27	A	BROUGHTON R.	LEAGUE	W 3-2
JAN 1	A	WARRINGTON	LEAGUE	W 3-0
3	H	SWINTON	LEAGUE	W 11-5
10	A	HUNSLET	LEAGUE	W 2-7
17	H	BARROW	LEAGUE	L 3-6
20	H	WAKEFIELD T.	LEAGUE	W 8-12
24	A	OLDHAM	LEAGUE	L 2-15
31	H	OLDHAM	LEAGUE	W 14-5
FEB 7	A	WIGAN HIGHFIELD	LEAGUE	D 3-3
14	H	BARROW	CHALLENGE CUP	W 7-0
21	A	LEIGH	LEAGUE	L 3-7
28	H	HUDDERSFIELD	CHALLENGE CUP	W 5-0
MAR 2	A	ST HELENS RECS	LEAGUE	L 2-20
7	H	WIGAN	LEAGUE	L 8-13
14	H	ST HELENS RECS	CHALLENGE CUP	W 9-5
21	H	HUNSLET	LEAGUE	W 16-5
25	A	WAKEFIELD T.	LEAGUE	W 14-7
28	A	ST. HELENS	LEAGUE	L 3-34
April 4	N	OLDHAM	CHALLENGE CUP	L 0-9
10	H	HALIFAX	LEAGUE	W 23-5
11	H	HULL K.R.	LEAGUE	D 5-5
18	H	WIDNES	LEAGUE	W 31-7
20	A	SALFORD	LEAGUE	L 3-10

N = Neutral

NORTHERN UNION LEAGUE 1924-25

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	%
1. SWINTON	36	30	0	6	499	224	60	83.33
2. HULL K.R.	34	25	3	6	492	171	53	77.94
3. WIGAN	36	27	1	8	784	258	55	76.38
4. ST. HELENS REC.	38	26	3	9	564	267	55	72.36
5. OLDHAM	34	21	1	12	531	248	43	68.23
6. LEEDS	36	21	3	12	341	278	45	62.50
7. HUDDERSFIELD	36	21	1	14	458	351	43	59.72
8. DEWSBURY	36	20	2	14	310	269	42	58.33
9. WARRINGTON	36	19	2	15	427	386	40	55.55
10. ST. HELENS	34	17	3	14	332	381	37	54.41
11. BATLEY	36	19	1	16	441	350	39	54.16
12. ROCHDALE H.	36	18	2	16	348	329	38	52.72
13. HUNSLET	35	18	0	17	402	362	36	51.42
14. WAKEFIELD T.	35	17	1	17	330	314	35	50.00
15. KEIGHLEY	36	17	1	18	305	420	35	48.61
16. BARROW	34	16	1	17	288	336	33	48.52
17. FEATHERSTONE R.	34	15	0	19	315	337	30	44.11
18. HULL	36	14	3	19	368	422	31	43.05
19. SALFORD	34	13	3	18	160	399	29	42.64
20. LEIGH	34	13	1	20	328	433	27	39.70
21. HALIFAX	38	14	2	22	317	431	30	39.47
22. BROUGHTON R.	34	12	1	21	244	429	25	36.76
23. YORK	36	12	1	23	272	351	25	34.72
24. WIGAN HIGHFIELD	32	10	1	21	224	432	21	32.81
25. WIDNES	34	10	1	23	257	462	21	30.83
26. BRADFORD N.	38	8	4	26	285	584	20	26.31
27. BRAMLEY	36	2	2	32	167	565	6	8.33

As the teams did not all play the same number of games, positions were given on a percentage basis.

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Fixtures

Date	Opponents (HOME/away)	Result		Attend	Sponsor
3 sept	Halifax	12	36	6761	
6 Sept	Whitehaven	36	16	821	
10 Sept	SWINTON	26	22	2025	Rochdale M.B. Council
17 Sept	GLCI* Salford	12	52	3095	
24 Sept	DEWSBURY	46	20	1576	A Turner Painters & Decorators
1 Oct	Bramley	46	17	1150	
8 Oct	open date				
15 Oct	Fulham	18	4	1184	
22 Oct	WORKINGTON TOWN	52	14	1253	Chadderton Sawmills
29 Oct	Nottingham City	50	24	536	
5 Nov	RUNCORN HIGHFIELD	92	0	1636	Wilfred Lord Decorators
12 Nov	open date				
19 Nov	RYEDALE YORK	47	8	2412	GA Electrical Supplies
26 Nov	Hunslet	26	20	1321	
3 Dec	RTI Sheffield E	22	36	3200	(played at Thrum Hall, Halifax)
10 Dec	open date				
17 Dec	BRAMLEY	18	25	1328	H Deasey Associates
26 Dec	OLDHAM				
1 Jan	Trafford Borough				
7 Jan	Keighley				
14 Jan	FULHAM				
21 Jan	WHITEHAVEN				
28 Jan	SCCCI				
4 Feb	Ryedale York				
11 Feb	SCCC2				
18 Feb	Dewsbury				
25 Feb	NOTTINGHAM CITY				
4 Mar	Runcorn Highfield				
11 Mar	HALIFAX				
18 Mar	Workington Town				
25 Mar	HUNSLET				
1 Apr	Swinton				
8 Apr	KEIGHLEY				
13 Apr	(GF) TRAFFORD BOROUGH				
16 Apr	(EM) Oldham				

*GLC= Grunhalls Lancs Cup. RT= Regal Trophy, SCCC= Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Terrace Talk



Good afternoon everybody and a warm welcome to our near neighbours Oldham to Spotland. Today was marked down as a special day when the fixture came out, "Derby" encounters are always special, but with both teams leading the pack it's become vital for either side to take the points.

Hornets' display against Bramley in the last home match was disappointing to say the least, and it's to be hoped they can show a dramatic improvement today.

Hopefully, it was just 'one of those days', and I'm sure Mr. Agar had a few "words" with the boys after the match. Bramley worked hard for the victory, and have a good half back pairing in Carroll and Lister.

Still, let's forget that match now and concentrate on other things ... I see the Challenge Cup draw has been kind to us, giving us a home tie against Carlisle in the First Round.

No Doubt the Cumbrians will come to Spotland fired-up, but I feel sure Hornets will be in the Second Round Draw.

Today's visitors have a prelim home tie with Huddersfield, the winners being host to Workington in Round One. The League are finally getting to grips (pardon the pun) with the "Headhunters", you know ... those idiots who try and take a player's head off ... and about time as well. Steven Hampson was sent-off for a High Tackle v Leeds, and why players tackle up there anyway is beyond me.

They would do well to remember a saying my old coach used to say when I played Union ... "You can't run without legs!!" Very true that, don't you agree? So Tackle round the waist or legs and you'll stop 'em.

Despite the Hampson incident Wigan did remarkably well to gain a 10-10 draw at Headingley, and make themselves favourites for the replay.

That match has now been played, and whichever side has won, will make the semi-finals interesting.

So, what do the nineties hold for Hornets and R.L. in general? For Hornets things can only go better, maybe we are in for some good times in the next decade ... for the game ... surely the powers that be will make sure the game continues to go upwards, and will eventually take over soccer's mantle as

the No. 1 spectator sport.

Three divisions may become inevitable, and expansion too will be a factor, providing all the present member clubs are looked after.

My views on the 80's ... the game has progressed in the decade although media coverage could have advanced it further!!

Team of the 80's ... Wigan, without doubt, they are the games "flagship", and we should all try and copy the Central Park Style.

Supporters of the 80's ... Runcorn's tiny band deserve credit (and sympathy) for following the club through thin and thin!! They seem to have been bottom longer than the Titanic!

Player of the 80's ... Ellery Hanley ... I make no apologies for mentioning Wigan again, he's simply the best. A contender in the 90's will be Jonathan Davies at Widnes who is destined to be a "big" name in our game.

I see the R.U. are thinking of paying their top players, maybe to stop them turning pro? I realise money is a big factor when turning pro, but don't the R.U. realise many players turn to our game because it's far and away the superior of the two codes, and anyhow we all know the top R.U. men are **already** paid!!

Back to today's game, and a vital one it is. Oldham are going well this term, and were unlucky to make the drop last season, and Tony Barrow is doing a good job at Watersheddings.

Allan Agar too is doing great things here at Spotland, and both coaches can be pleased about events this far.

But the League Campaign is a marathon not a sprint (thanks Mr. Shawky) and plenty can happen between now and season's end.

No doubt Halifax and Hull K.R. will want a say in how things finish, and there's the Challenge Cup and premiership to look forward to.

So, the half-term report is good ... let's hope Hornets can graduate at end of term!

January fixtures see away games at Trafford (1st), Keighley (7th) and Home Encounters with Fulham (14th) and Whitehaven (21st) and that cup match v Carlisle (28th) and gives us plenty to watch in the first month of 1990.

Have a good new year, let's have plenty of "good natured" banter today, and let's wish both clubs success in the 90's. Enjoy the match.

COLIN WICKHAM



LOOKERS ROCHDALE

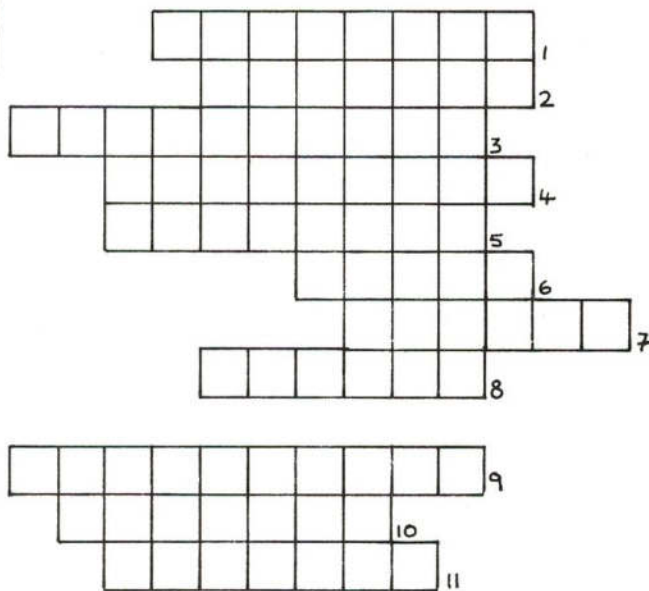
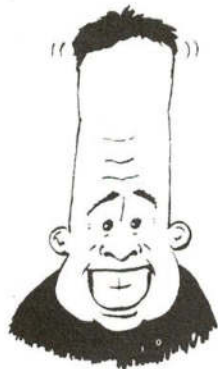


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Cerebral Corner



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The following clues should enable you to work out the teams to fill the grid. Reading down the teams gives something all teams are aiming for.

1. A red, white and blue clad hero?
2. A high speed message from a Mancunian Orchestra?
3. Definitely not a black harbour?
4. Funeral party place of a popular farmer?
5. Mr Marx and his land surrounded by water?
6. A wing and a prayer?
7. Aged Thespian?
8. Cheshire widens to Merseyside?
9. A cars main XXXX rates liquid?
10. Sprint to gather crop?
11. The Boy finds this a real bind!

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XMAS PRESENTS FOR RUGBY LEAGUE PERSONALITIES

For Jim Crellin — a five year Diary, so he can keep a record of his five year plan.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Runcorn's scoreboard operator — more beads for his abacus.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Mr. Berry — six months on a health farm.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Steve Hampson — an anatomical encyclopaedia, so he can tell the difference between heads and legs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Bramley's left winger — radar, his only chance of catching John Higgins.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Halifax R.L.F.C. — a ball of string, to tie onto the balloon they call a ball.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For David Oxley — A toothbrush, to keep that smile gleaming through another challenge cup draw.

For Barrow's Playing Staff — A tube of Colgate, to give them at least a ring of confidence.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For Martin Offiah — a ball and chain, so that the rest of the league's wingers can catch him.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For John Higgins — a ball and chain so that Martin Offiah can catch him.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For the League's Disciplinary Committee — A big screen television, so they can see that head tackles look exactly the same whether they be at Wigan or Workington.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For all Hornets Fans — A 1990-91 fixture list that doesn't include — Runcorn, Nottingham, Batley, Fulham, Carlisle & Trafford Borough, but does include Widnes, St. Helens, Leeds & Bradford Northern.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Merry Christmas —
Here's to the Nineties.**



STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 2

Results up to and including 19/12/89



AWAY TEAM	BAT	BRM	CAR	CHY	DBY	DON	FLM	HFX	HUD	HKR	HUN	KHLY	NOTT	OLD	RDLE	RUNH	R-YRK	SWN	TRAF	WHVN	WTKN
HOME TEAM																					
BATLEY	★	30-12	★	★		★	10-12		★	★			20-11		★	46-14	8-18	0-18	12-11	21-6	
BRAMLEY		★		★	★	2-12	0-17	10-46	2-14				★	★	17-46	54-14	12-22		★	★	12-14
CARLISLE	★		★	★	★	★	8-20		★	★	16-8	12-25	15-14	10-32	★	★		10-22			
CHORLEY	★		★	★	6-22	★			★	★	13-10	29-6	★	★		34-10	★	12-17	★	★	
DEWSBURY	★		★	★	★	★			★	★	12-2			20-22	★	46-6	12-12		2-27	30-9	26-4
DONCASTER			★	★	10-21	★			★	★	★			10-40	41-8	★	10-9	★		★	
FULHAM		16-6	50-6				★	★		6-60	★	★		22-12	36-12	★	★	★	24-0	★	★
HALIFAX	★			26-16	25-9	20-12	★	★		6-20	★	★				★	8-16		22-18	31-12	16-21
HUDDERSFIELD	★		★	★		★	6-8		★	★	14-10		16-10		★			38-16	48-8	34-8	34-8
HULL KR			★	★	54-6	★	44-0		★	★			54-4		★			★			
HUNSLET	12-23	22-14	26-12		19-24		★	★	10-14		★	★			20-26	★	16-36	★			★
KEIGHLEY	8-22		30-22				★	★		16-50	★	★	51-16			★		★	16-25	31-24	★
NOTTINGHAM C	10-29	★			★		20-72				12-23		★	★	24-50	13-6	★	11-17	★	★	
OLDHAM	22-4	★			★	30-8	14-3			12-4		50-34	★	★		★	★		★	★	40-8
ROCHDALE H	★	18-25	★	★	46-20	★			★	★					★	92-0	47-8	26-22			52-14
RUNCORN H	0-9	11-12					★	★	0-42		★	★	14-17	6-34		★		★			★
RYDALE-YORK		★			★				6-10		20-0	16-6	★	★			★		★	★	
SWINTON		30-11	26-14	48-4			★	★		10-30	★	★				★	8-17	★		★	★
TRAFFORD B		★			★		6-9				0-32	25-19	★	★		46-10	★	18-33	★	★	24-10
WHITEHAVEN		★			★	12-28	15-14		22-34		22-11	22-18	★	★	16-36		★	7-14	★	★	
WORKINGTON	17-28	12-20	30-22				★	★			★	★				★	2-42	★	8-35		★



NAME: Karl Marriott
DATE OF BIRTH: 21.11.69
PLACE OF BIRTH: Littleborough
EMPLOYMENT: Motor Repairer
BEST POSITION: Wing or Second Row
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Mayfield
HONOURS*: Lancs UI7 & UI9, Gt Britain UI7 & UI9
BIGGEST INFLUENCE: Gt. Britain Coaches, Brian Chambers & Dave Wright
FAVOURITE PLAYER(S): Hulme Brothers of Widnes.
FAVOURITE GROUND: Knowsley Rd, St Helens
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH
— AS A PLAYER: Lancs v Yorks 1988 Under 19's
— AS A SPECTATOR: Warrington v Wigan Cup Semi Final 1989
OTHER SPORTING INTERESTS: Snooker, Weight Lifting
MEANS OF RELAXING: Music
FAVOURITE FOOD: Chicken & Chips
FAVOURITE DRINK: Pure Orange Juice, Lager
THREE FAVOURITE FILMS: Rain Man, Working Girl, Nico
THREE FAVOURITE LP'S: Michael McDonald — Sweet Freedom,
Nite Flight,
Gimme the Reason — Luther Vandross

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In Touch With....In Touch With....



TOP TEN TRY SCORERS

1. Martin Offiah (Widnes)	25
2. Mark Preston (Wigan)	23
3. Andy Goodway (Wigan)	18
4. Steve Larder (Castleford)	17
5. Brimah Kebbie (Widnes)	16
Gerald Cordle (Bradford N)	16
Paul Newlove (Featherstone R)	16
Wilf George (Halifax)	16
9. Alan Hunte (St Helens)	15
10. Andy Williams (Batley)	14
Owen Simpson (Keighley)	14
Garry Clark (Hull KR)	14

The 1989-90 Top Try Scorer receives £25 a try from Stones Bitter

TOP TEN GOAL SCORERS

1. Paul Loughlin (St Helens)	89
2. Mike Fletcher (Hull KR)	85
3. Steve Turner (Rochdale H)	78
4. Jonathan Davies (Widnes)	62
5. Mark Aston (Sheffield E)	61
6. David Hobbs (Bradford N)	59
7. Mark Conway (Wakefield T)	51
8. Steven Kerry (Salford)	49
9. Keith Dixon (Keighley)	48
10. Robert Turner (Warrington)	46

The 1989-90 Top Goal Scorer receives £5 a goal from Stones Bitter.

OUTSTANDING FEATS IN THE 1980's

The 1980s produced many outstanding feats as follows:

Individual

Most Tries in a Match

VINCE GRIBBIN, SHANE COOPER AND CHRIS BIBB each scored six tries in a match. Gribbin was in the centre when he grabbed his half-a-dozen as Whitehaven beat Doncaster 64-0 in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy on 18 November 1984.

Cooper matched that when the stand off scored six for St Helens in a 64-2 Division One home defeat of Hull on 17 February 1988.

Then Chris Bibb raced up from full back to score six for Featherstone Rovers in an 86-18 John Smiths Yorkshire Cup first round home defeat of Keighley on 17 September 1989.

Most Goals and Points in a Match

PAUL LOUGHLIN OF St Helens, with 16 goals and 40 points in the 112-0 home defeat of Carlisle in the first round of the Grünhülle Lager Lancashire cup on 14 September 1986. The centre's total included two tries.

Team

Highest Score

St Helens, with a 112-0 home defeat of Carlisle in the first round of the Grünhülle Lager Lancashire Cup on 14 September 1986.

Highest Away Score

Leigh's 88-2 Division Two victory at Runcorn Highfield on 15 January 1989 also produced the widest winning away margin during the 1980s.

Highest Score by a Losing Team

Hunslet scored 40 points but still lost as Barrow went one better in a Division One match at Elland Road on 9 September 1984.

Highest Score Draw

There were two 32-32 draws during the decade. Hunslet and Swinton shared 64 points in a Division One match on 20 September 1988, while Huddersfield Barracudas drew 32-32 at home with Keighley on 17 April 1986.

REGAL TROPHY SEMI-FINAL — ST HELENS V HALIFAX — SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER 1989 KICK-OFF 2.15pm

Halifax are aiming for their first final appearance in the competition since they were the inaugural winners in 1971-72. Then they beat Wakefield Trinity 22-11 at Oldham when the tournament was the Players No 6 Trophy. This is only Halifax's third semi-final, their last being in 1984-85.

St Helens are appearing in their eighth semi-final with their one victory being two years ago when they went on to beat Leeds 15-14 in the Final.

Although this will be the ninth time a Division Two side has appeared in the semi-finals, Halifax are hoping to become only the third to reach the final and the first to win the Trophy. Hull lost 19-13 to Widnes in the 1975-76 final and the following season Blackpool Borough went down 25-15 to Castleford.

Halifax and St Helens have met only twice before in the competition with each winning one as follows:

1972-73 (1)	Halifax	20	St Helens	22
1984-85 (3)	St Helens	8	Halifax	14

The record score in a semi-final is Wigan's 36-8 defeat of Leigh in 1985-86 with Warrington's 35-4 defeat of Widnes in 1986-87 the widest winning margin. There has been only one drawn semi-final, in 1980-81 Castleford and Warrington drew 5-5 at Wigan before the latter won the replay 22-10 at Leeds.

The record attendance for a semi-final was set in 1987-88 when 13,538 saw Leeds beat Wigan at Bolton Wanderers soccer ground.

Wilf George, the Halifax winger, has scored at least one try in all three previous rounds for a total of six as follows:

3-2-1

He has also touched down in the two previous Division Two matches.

TRY SCORING RUN

Andy Fisher of Featherstone Rovers has scored at least one try in five successive matches. The loose forward's sequence has brought him six tries as follows

2-1-2

Mark Preston of Wigan has touched down in five successive matches for a total of seven. The winger's scoring run is as follows:

1-2-1-1-1

Wilf George of Halifax has scored tries in five successive matches. His total of eight tries came as follows:

1-1-3-2-1

Mark Lord's try scoring run ended at six when the Rochdale Hornet's winger failed to score in the 25-18 home defeat against Bramley on Sunday. The try scoring runs of Andy Goodway, Wigan, and Andy Williams, Batley, both ended at five in weekend matches.

POINT SCORING RUN

Mark Aston took his point scoring run to 53 matches when he scored Sheffield Eagle's goal in the 18-2 Regal Trophy Third Round defeat against Castleford of Chesterfield. The scrum half's run has brought him a total of 430 points from 209 goals including 16 drop goals and seven tries. He has scored in every Sheffield match since the start of last season.

WINNING RUN

Oldham's winning run ended at nine matches when they lost 32-18 at St Helens in the Third Round of the Regal Trophy. There is now no team with a winning run of five or more matches.

St Helens have gone 12 matches without defeat, including a 12-12 home draw against Dewsbury in the Regal Trophy Second Round.

LOSING RUN

Runcorn Highfield losing run was extended to 25 matches when they lost 28-10 at home to Whitehaven on Sunday. They have gone 36 matches without a win including an 8-8 draw at home to Workington Town on 22 January 1989. Their last victory was 20-12 at home to Fulham on 30 October 1988.

MILESTONES

David Hobbs of Bradford Northern needs one try for a career century of touchdowns.

Shaun Edwards needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns for Wigan.

Keith Bentley of Salford needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns.

Commercial Comment



Sheila Hodgkinson Commercial Manager.

A very good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Spotland stadium for this Boxing Day game with our close neighbours Oldham. I hope everybody has a super day win or loose.

The Supporters' Club Xmas draw; the double weekly draw and the golden share draw all took place in the Spotland Suite last Monday the 18th. It was nice to see so many faces and of course all those who won a prize.

"Congratulations" The winning golden share numbers were £1,000 number 933, £1,000 number 440, £500 Electrical Goods from Rumbelows number 430, £150 No 393 and £150 No 1375. Numbers 392/394/1374/1376 all win a bottle of whisky.

Tote tickets are on sale today as they have been all week around the pubs, a guaranteed £300 minimum is on offer for anybody who forecasts the correct score.

Tench sports of Middleton have made a generous donation towards today's match. I thank them.

Well folks just left for the Commercial Department to say A Very Happy New Year for 1990 to everyone concerned with Rochdale Hornets, agents, staff & supporters.

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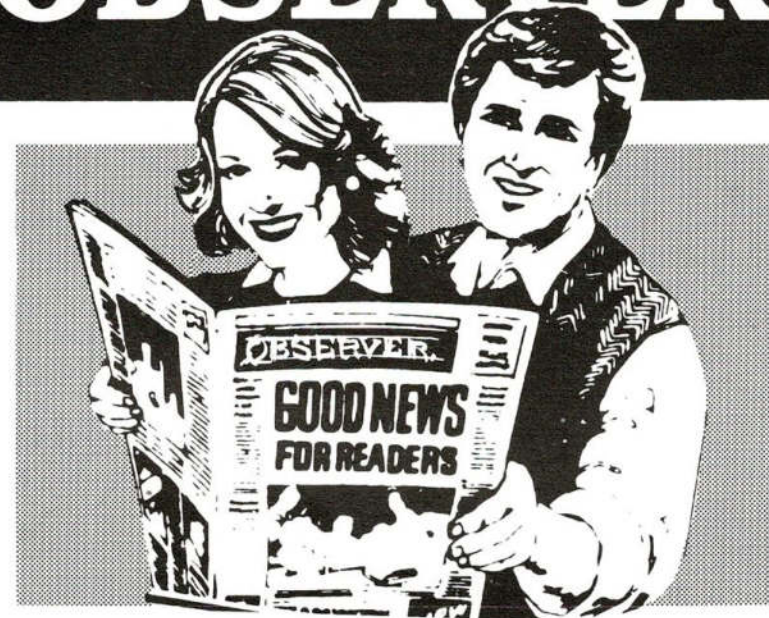


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A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

A dark night, a lonely road. A single figure wandering in the darkness. Caught in the beam of the headlamps, we stopped the car. "Are you o.k.?" A scrap of paper clutched in his hand, he collapsed in a heap on the pavement.

Back at the house the coffee began to take effect and, as he shook off his daze, the visitor told us his strange story ...

"I am not of this world. I am from a parallel universe where everything is a mirror image of the things here".

He told us how everything on his 'Earth' was the opposite to ours — how trains ran on time and how there were never any roadworks on their motorways. "What about Rugby League?" we asked, and he told us of the game in this 'backwards' world of his ...

"Mine is a world," he began, "... where Wigan fans know the rules and teams are queueing up to play in Blackpool. A world where Ray French talks sense and no-one laughs at Nottingham's floodlights, a world where Yorkshiremen talk in complete sentences and where people can get to Workington's ground without ending up at the docks ..."

He continued, "Mine is a world where Oldham fans understand the offside rule and Batley have a flat pitch, a world where

Swinton have a side that plays attractive rugby and where Jim Crellin's five year plan comes to fruition. It's a world where Fulham is only ten minutes down the motorway and their programmes only cost 50p, a world where Kurt Sorenson always tackles round the legs and where a home defeat of Mayfield doesn't warrant half a page in the local press."

As he spoke, this world of his sounded like paradise. All the things that he described would only make Rugby League better to watch.

"If you like the sound of it that much," he said, "why don't you come back with me?"

"But how do you go from this world to yours?" we asked.

"I came here through a large dark empty vacuum, a miserable wasteland, a void in time and space where souls shiver alone in a world with no atmosphere."

We started the car and headed for Station Road.

As we drove we asked how Hornets fared in this other world.

"Rochdale Hornets!!", he laughed, "They're crap."

The brakes bit hard as we screeched to a halt. "This is as far as we go together," we said, "We're staying here!"

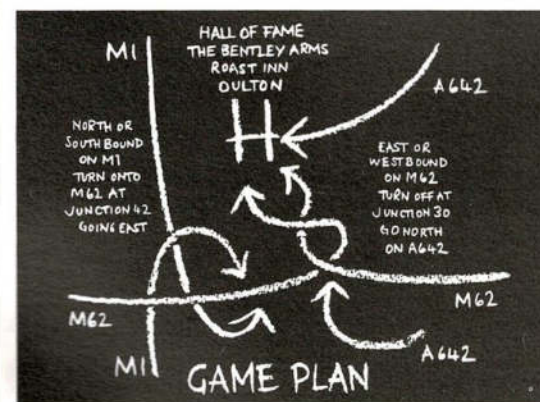


GO AWAY!

The nomads of Rugby League have finally found what they hope will be a permanent home in South Manchester at the MOSS LANE home of Altrincham Football club. At least this year's New Year's Day match is in the same part of the world, a fact one of the editorial staff is very pleased about as he won't be trying to rouse the writer at 7am this time. The best route is to follow the M62, M63 over Barton

bridge and round to Junction 7 (A56). This is WASHWAY ROAD and leads into Altrincham centre. Just past Altrincham Ice Rink, turn left onto BARRINGTON ROAD, and follow this road past the station and bus station (where it becomes STAMFORD NEW ROAD). Just past the bus station, turn left into MOSS LANE. The football ground is on the left about 3/4 mile down the road.

How to get yourself into the Hall of Fame.



The Hall of Fame is open throughout normal licensing hours and entry to those under 18 years of age is therefore limited. For further information ring: Leeds 820202.

Simply follow the tactics shown and enter a shrine dedicated to Rugby League.

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The portraits of nine league legends hang in the Hall of Fame, surrounded by the sporting memorabilia of the game.

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The Story So Far ...

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

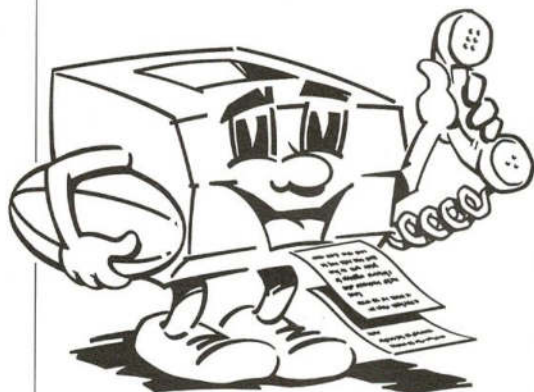
9 Sep	Sheffield E	22	Hornets	10
16 Sep	Hornets	8	Barrow 32	
22 Sep	Dewsbury	16	Hornets	16
30 Sep	Hornets	24	Bramley	16
7 Oct (CUP)	Hornets	12	Workington	14
14 Oct	Hornets	24	Bradford	17
28 Oct	Hornets	10	Wakefield	18
9 Nov	Leigh	20	Hornets	10
17 Nov	Ryd/York	16	Hornets	24
25 Nov	Hornets	8	Dewsbury	12
2 Dec	Hornets	4	Leigh	22
9 Dec	Hornets	10	Hudd'field	0

DIVISION TWO TABLE UP TO 14-12-1989

Wakefield T	14	13	1	318	153	26
Leigh	11	9	2	196	144	18
Doncaster	12	7	3	246	217	16
Dewsbury	11	6	3	178	165	14
Bradford N	12	6	5	295	197	13
Ryedale York	11	6	5	293	217	12
Huddersfield	13	5	7	212	327	11
Sheffield	13	5	8	237	289	10
Workington T	10	4	5	167	169	9
Rochdale H	11	4	6	159	191	9
Keighley	10	3	6	184	205	8
Trafford B	10	2	6	149	222	6
Whitehaven	10	3	7	198	235	6
Bramley	11	3	8	142	232	6
Barrow	9	2	7	165	176	4

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Back-Track

OLDHAM — THE ATHLETIC GROUNDS — THE FINAL ENCOUNTER

Good Friday April 1st 1988

HORNETS 6 OLDHAM 58

If Hornets had a choice of who their opponents would have been for their final match on the Athletic Grounds, I am sure the men from Watersheddings would have been their "Number One" choice. As it was fate decided that Hornets' last opponents on the ground they had occupied for over 90 years were their great rivals, who had made many an appearance on that historic venue. None more so than on 12th April 1924 when as Challenge Cup Finalists Oldham played Wigan attracting 41,831 to the Athletic Grounds.

As for the match itself it was a case of "no contest" as Oldham coached by Eric Fitzsimmons inflicted on Hornets, ironically, their heaviest home defeat in their history. Oldham were yards faster as they tore shreds in the Hornets' defence time after time. Oldham took the lead after four minutes — Foy spinning in for a try. Casey soon crossed to give Oldham a 10-0 lead. Whatever hope Hornets had of getting back into the game disappeared in the 18th minute when hooker Andy Ruane was sent off for a high tackle. Following this full back Mark Sanderson went off injured and Hornets were in complete disarray and further tries from Foy, Atkinson, and Ford gave Oldham a 24-0 lead at the interval.

It was all one-way traffic in the second half. Graham was lucky to stay on the field after a high tackle on Aaron Sawyer (it looked equally as bad as Ruane's). Then the one bright moment for Hornets as Sawyer scored the last touch down by a Hornets' player on the Athletic Grounds, after a fine pass by Neil Cowie. Oldham soon emphasised their superior pace as Foy completed his hat-trick, followed by tries by Ford and Walsh. Hornets seemed then to give up the ghost, Atkinson and Walsh soon crossed the line and substitute Irving had the significance of scoring the final try on the athletic Grounds.

In more ways than one this was a sad day for Hornets' followers, but no one could take away the fact that on the day it was Oldham who had all the class.

HORNETS: Sanderson, Diamond, McGinty, Vaafusu, Stokes, Sawyer, Hitchen, Byron, Ruane, Cowie, Nany, Idle and Williams: Subs used Marriott and Barrow.

SCORERS: TRY — Sawyer GOAL — Hitchen

OLDHAM: Burke, Atkinson, Foy, McAllister, Meadows, Walsh, Ford, Sharrett, Sanderson, Waddell, Casey, Graham and Warneke: Subs used Irving and Hawkyard.

SCORERS: TRIES — Foy 3, Ford 2, Walsh 2, Casey, Atkinson, Graham, Irving
GOALS — Atkinson 6, Walsh

Referee: Mr. D. Drinkwater (Warrington)

Attendance 3,260

GRANT BARGH

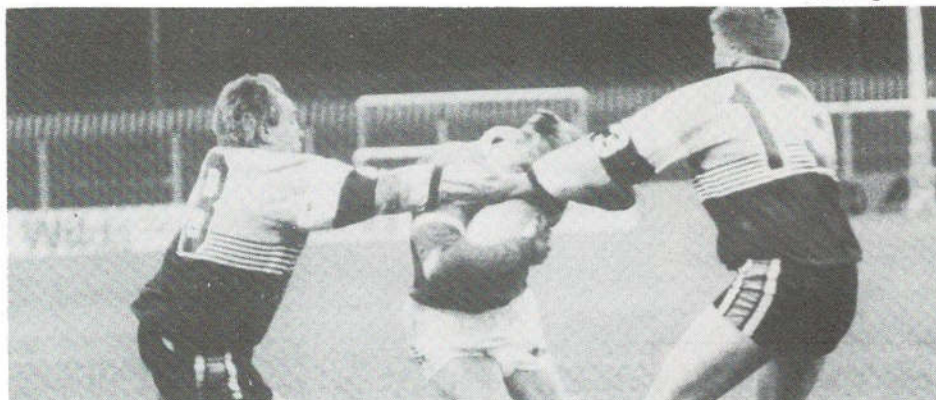
In The Picture



John Higgins on the way to his first try against Bramley



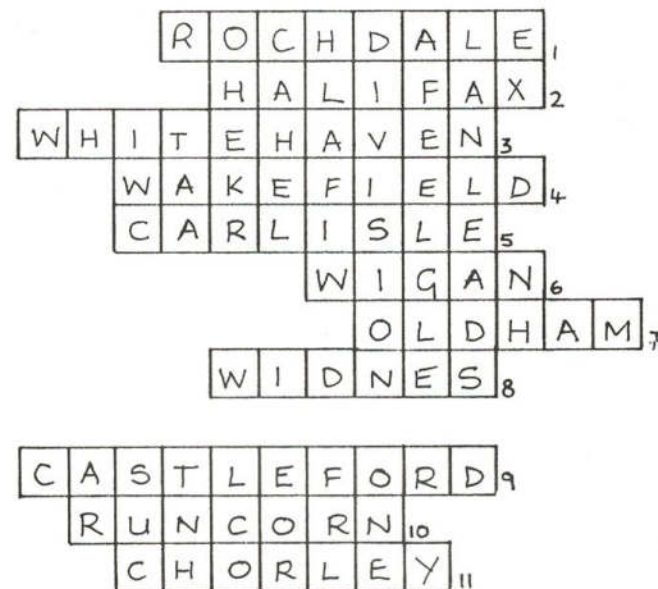
So close as Paul McDermott just misses touching down



No way through for Neil Cowie

All photo's courtesy of Rochdale Observer. 26

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Amateur Review

There is one thing which is absolutely certain in the game of Rugby League these days, the amateur game has expanded beyond everyone's wildest dreams. The game is now being played almost everywhere in the country. From North East to South West, lads are kitting up of a weekend to take part in the world's greatest collision sport!

While the game at professional level is improving at all levels with better quality rugby, higher crowds, more media coverage and stronger clubs in its traditional base, the game at amateur level has spread throughout the country and, despite what the RFU propaganda bleats, Rugby League is, by a massive majority, a largely AMATEUR sport.

We cannot expect the pro. game to expand to all corners of the country unless these people know a little about it. Good foundations are laid via the grass roots of the amateur game, then a professional club in that area has more chance of success.

Due to the sterling work done by the team of development officers, youth rugby in particular has shown a massive increase in recent years. In the traditional RL areas, this will keep our game healthy for many years to come.

However, the game cannot go at breakneck speed into a great expansion programme without a serious examination of the existing parameters of each particular area. This is more apparent at the traditional base of the game, much closer to home. New clubs spring up all the time and, while this is great in an area new to the game, problems can arise when this goes unchecked in areas like Rochdale. Two new local teams are gaining credibility in the Pennine League, Smallbridge and Trafalgar, but Milnrow/Newhey have considered scrapping their 'A' team due to a shortage of players.

No-one is suggesting that new clubs deliberately "steal" players, it is a fact that a number of players move clubs at some stage and this has had an unfortunate effect on one club. In an area like ours there can only be so many players available at any one time, so the leagues and BARLA must keep watch in order not to let expansion take place at the expense of other clubs.

BARLA is a successful organisation, they must oversee the game at grass roots and decide its future. Let's look forward to the '90s with a sound base through a STRONG club network, with expansion where it is needed.

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PROPRIETORS:

STEVE (TICKER) TURNER

D.A. SCHOFIELD

C.G. HENRY

Who did What-1989/90

	App	Sub	Try	DG.	Goal	Pts.
Chris MYLER	7		1			4
David WOOD	11	1	4			16
John HIGGINS	14		10			40
Mark LORD	14		13			52
Mark NIXON	13	1	7			28
Karl MARRIOTT	8	2	4			16
John WOODS	11		8		2	36
Andy SULLIVAN	14					0
Neil COWIE	12	1	4			16
Martin HALL	14		4			16
Tony HUMPHRIES	11	2	4			16
Dean LONERGAN	10		5			20
Logan EDWARDS	7	3	7			28
Steve TURNER	14		3	1	77	169
Bob MARSDEN	5	6	1			4
Simon BAMBER	3					0
Paul McDERMOTT	11	2	5			20
Paul GAMBLE	1					0
Kevin LOWE		2				0
Mark SANDERSON		2				0
Geoff CLUCAS		1				0
Dale MOLLOY		1				0
Vinny WEBB		1				0
Brian GARRITY		3				0
Kevin McCORMACK	3		6			24

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Face to Face

Hornets V Oldham

DAVID WOOD	1	DUNCAN PLATT
JOHN HIGGINS	2	CHARLIE McALISTER
MARK LORD	3	RICHARD RUSSELL
MARK NIXON	4	RICHARD IRVING
KARL MARRIOTT	5	PAUL LORD
JOHN WOODS	6	BRETT CLARK
ANDY SULLIVAN	7	MIKE FORD
TONY HUMPHRIES	8	NEIL CLAWSON
MARTIN HALL	9	ANDY RUANE
NEIL COWIE	10	JOHN FAIRBANK
BOB MARSDEN	11	KEITH NEWTON
DEAN LONERGAN	12	TREVOR CROSTON
STEVE TURNER	13	JOHN COGGER
	14	
	15	

Referee: Mr. JOHN HOLDSWORTH (KIPPAX)

Touch Judges: D.J. BARRATT (red flag) C. CARTER (yellow flag)

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