

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		HUNSLET	
DUNCAN PLATT	- 1	STAN WARRENER	-
CHARLIE McALISTER	- 2	COLIN PENDLA	-
DES FOY	- 3	MARK WHITTINGTON	-
RICHARD IRVING	- 4	SHAUN WILKINSON	-
PAUL LORD	- 5	ANDY RAW	-
BRETT CLARK	- 6	STEVE LANGTON	-
MIKE FORD	- 7	TIM LUMB	-
JOHN FAIRBANK	- 8	KEITH MASON	-
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 9	ROY SAMPSON	-
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	- 10	ANDREW MARSON	-
KEITH NEWTON	- 11	GRAEME JENNINGS	-
KEITH ATKINSON	- 12	ANDREW PETCH	-
JOHN COGGER	- 13	MICHAEL JACKSON	-
GARY HYDE	- 14	CHRIS BOWDEN	-
TREVOR CROSTON	- 15	BRETT WALSH	-

Referee: Mr. S. Cross (Hull). Touch Judges: Mr. D. Beales (Red Flag), Mr. D. W. Simpson (Orange Flag)

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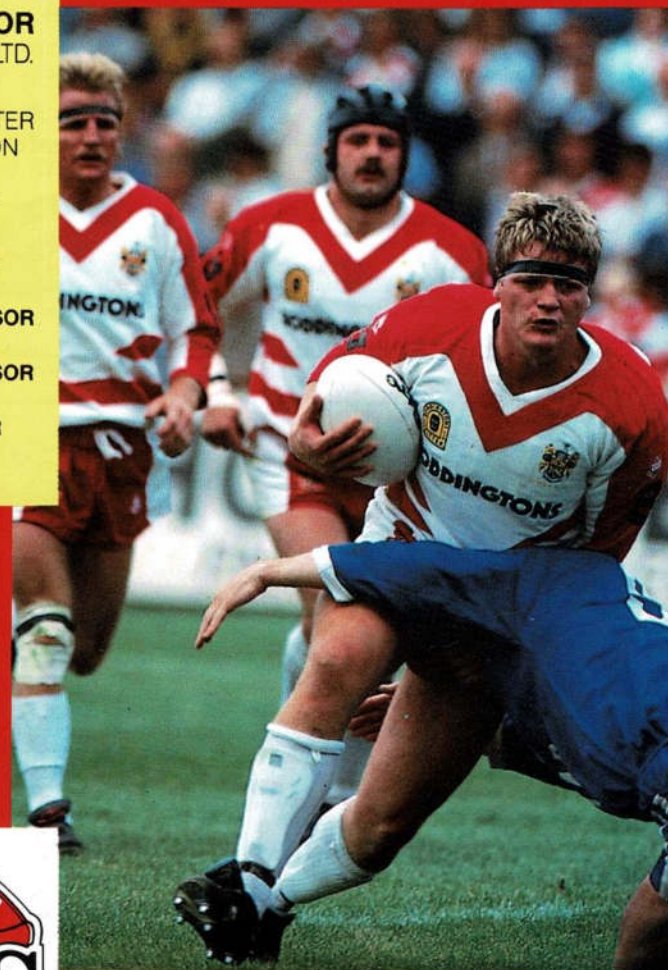
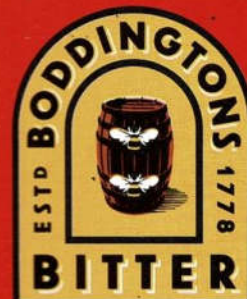
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J. Fieldhouse, N. Flanagan, T. Flanagan,
T. Foley, M. Ford, D. Foy, C. Hawkyard,
J. Henderson, G. Hyde, R. Irving, C. Joynt,
K. Kelly, M. P. Kirwan, A. Leech, P. Lord,
C. McAlister, T. L. Martyn, J. Maxwell,
K. Meadows, T. Miller, C. Mort, K. Newton,
R. Pachniuk, S. Patterson, D. Platt,
S. Robinson, P. Round, A. Ruane,
I. Sanderson.

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: £37,505.50 v Wigan,
5th October, 1989

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

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

Runners-up:
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First Division Champions:
1904-05

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

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners:
1896-99,
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, 1989-90

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

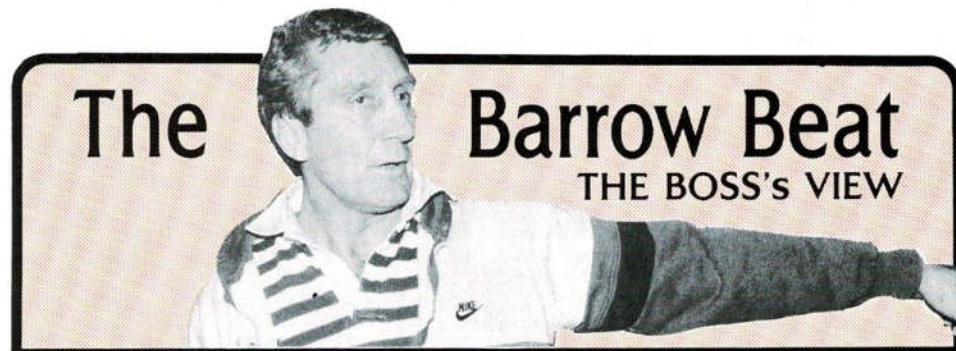
Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



I'M sure most fans were taken by surprise when the club announced the transfer-listing of Paul Round at £95,000.

It must have been a bolt out of the blue for everyone, but I was left with no alternative but to recommend a strong line of action to the directors when the player telephoned me and said he would not be coming to any more training sessions.

Paul, of course, is still under contract to Oldham, and this is just one more example of players appearing to believe that the contract system is for their benefit only.

The contract system seems to work much better in Australia, where both parties accept that the agreement is binding throughout its duration.

Here in England, the system is not working as it was intended because many players seem to think that the contract is for their benefit only. They are quick to shout 'contract' is something does not suit them but they seem to forget about its very existence at other times.

I am sure the time is not long away when a club will take a player to court for breach of contract.

Players must come to terms with the fact that a contract is a two-way agreement.

The players will quickly draw attention to the details of the contract if they feel something is wrong — and quite rightly, too — but they have to accept that they must fulfil their obligations to the letter as well.

As a general rule, contracted players are

now earning far more than they used to do and they have the added benefit of getting paid even if they are out of the game through injury, depending on the terms of their contract, of course.

It is just not on for any player to try and dictate to the club what he will or will not do if it is contrary to his agreement and I will not accept it from anyone.

During my Warrington days, Andy Gregory was involved in a similar dispute and I took a strong line with him, too.

At any Rugby League club — just as at any football club or even in business and commercial life — there can be only one boss or governing body, and there must be rules which are adhered to.

At a rugby club you can only have one man making team decisions and that is the coach or manager or whatever you wish to call him.

If the boss's authority is undermined, you quickly have anarchy and the whole thing crumbles and falls to pieces.

That's why Paul Round is on the list ... no player is bigger than the club, and especially so when, as in this case, the club has met its part of the bargain to the letter.

Over and above any contract agreements, the players here get the best possible treatment, as many who have been at other clubs will vouch for.

It must come as a kick in the teeth to the directors, as well as to me, when something like this happens.

TONY BARROW

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Welcome to Hunslet

Andy Kay — A solid, dependable full back, now in his 7th season. Previously played for Woolpack A.R.L.F.C. Noted for his attacking ability.

Mark Whittington — A young man with a vast potential. Plays centre or wing. Signed for Hunslet from Dewsbury Moor A.R.L.F.C. Good, strong tackler.

Shaun Wilkinson — Another product of the Dewsbury Moor A.R.L.F.C. Signed for Hunslet by David Ward, who rates Shaun as a good prospect. Plays centre or wing.

John Adams — Australian player signed by Hunslet on the recommendation of Graeme Jennings. Solid tackler all way up to support. Played for Aberdeen and Nambucca Heads, represented N.S.W. Juniors and Northern Division.

Andy Raw — Winger with an exciting attacking power. Holds record for four tries in a game at Batley, season 1988/89. Another local signing from amateur ranks. Rated highly by David Ward.

James Lowes — Stand-off. Signed for Hunslet from local club Hunslet Parkside A.R.L.F.C. Classy player, highly rated. Shows craft and skill above his years.

Tim Lumb — Scrum-half or stand-off. Signed from Shaw Cross A.R.L.F.C. by David Ward. Has exciting attacking skills.

Keith Mason — Signed from Dewsbury after 9 years' service as second-row/prop for the club. Good, solid tackler, always willing to take the opposition on.

Roy Sampson — Loose-forward/hooker. Solid player, good ball-getter. Yet another amateur signing, by Paul Daley, from Stanley Rangers in 1982.

Andrew Marson — Ex-Wakefield colt, signed in 1983 by Paul Daley as second-row or prop. Good tackler and willing worker.

Brett Welsh — Australian signing, again from Nambucca Heads. Rated by Graeme Jennings. Good, solid tackler, always ready to work. Good, strong runner. Represented North Coasts.

Steve Langton — Ex-Rugby Union player. Signed this season, previously played with Carlisle. Pacey stand-off. Has made an impact on the team and much is expected of him.

Chris Bowden — One of the longest-serving players for the club. Centre now playing second-row. Good attacking player.

Keith Mitchell — Castleford lad, signed as scrum-half by Paul Daley in 1981. Now playing loose-forward or hooker. Strong tackler, always in support, hard worker.

Graham King — Longest-serving player for Hunslet, now in his 11th season. Pacey scrum-half, good tackler and support player. Favourite with Hunslet fans.

Thomas Oldroyd — Young hooker from Dewsbury Moor A.R.L.F.C. Solid tackler. Recently upgraded to the first team. Much is expected of this young man. Represented Yorkshire Under-19s versus Cumbria, Lancashire and France.

Simon Wilby — Yet another David Ward signing from Dewsbury Moor A.R.L.F.C. Plays scrum-half or stand-off. Represented Yorkshire Under-19s versus Cumbria, Lancashire and France. Good young prospect.

Paddy Lyons — A B.A.R.L.A. representative for Yorkshire and the British Students. Played for Batley Victoria. Loose-forward. Always willing to tackle and run. Good support player.

Stan Warrener — Local product from Hunslet Nelson A.R.L.F.C. Signed in 1985. Second-row. Always willing to play in any position. Exciting attacking player.

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OB Player of the Year...

WITH half the season nearly gone, now is the time to start thinking about who you are going to select for the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Player of the Year.

There are numerous candidates for the prestigious award, won last year by Australian stand-off Chris O'Sullivan, with the player receiving the most votes being presented with a handsome trophy and a cheque for £250 before the final match of the season against Rochdale on April 16.

Voting forms will be available in the Huddersfield (March 4) and Runcorn (March 18) match day programmes, and after that can be picked up from the Souvenir Shop.

At the same time, we'll be running the OB Supporter of the Year competition, collected by Mark Holmes before the Castleford game at the end of last season.

You can nominate your Supporter of the Year when you vote for the player you think has made the biggest contribution to the club this season. A panel of judges will select Oldham's most ardent Oldham fan who will

receive a pair of season tickets, a replica kit and a striking trophy before the Rochdale match.



FLASHBACK: Fans favourite Chris O'Sullivan receives his OB Player of the Year trophy in Australia before a Canberra home game. Whoever receives the trophy this season depends upon how you cast your votes!

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Spotlight on . . . KEITH NEWTON

ONE of the players most missed during Oldham's recent run of appalling injuries was bustling, all-action forward Keith Newton, known to fans and players alike simply as 'Beefy'.

Tragically, Keith had broken his thumb in the 14-3 home win against fellow promotion contenders Halifax, ending a run of nine consecutive appearances and depriving the club of his invaluable services. Who could forget his memorable effort against mighty Wigan in the Lancashire Cup semi-final when he shrugged off three tackles to crash over the line to help set up an Oldham victory?

That hand injury is behind him as the 25-year-old second row forward is back in action and looking to return to the form that made him an automatic choice at the start of the season.

Intensive training and sheer hard work in the gym and on the training pitch has paid off in his last two games against First Division St. Helens and promotion rivals Rochdale.

Comments Keith: "The break was quite a bad one but I wanted to get back to training as soon as I possibly could — there are far worse injuries than a broken thumb!"

Fans who saw Keith in action against St. Helens would hardly have believed he had just returned from a major injury. But the dogged determination that enabled him to enjoy a successful comeback has epitomised Keith's career from the early days when he played for local amateur sides, representing Lancashire Under-17 and Under-19 teams in the process.

Keith played both codes of rugby before deciding to turn professional, signing for Widnes at the tender age of seventeen.

Putting pen to paper for a major Rugby League club like Widnes was every boy's dream come true, although Keith says that his move to Oldham in December, 1988, was the best he's made to date.

"Without doubt, one of the greatest things about playing at Watersheddings is the loyalty of our fans — they're the best supporters I've ever had. At



Widnes the fans on the terraces would be all too quick to knock you but here they always give you a second chance."

Versatile Keith — he's played centre and wing — believes he has found his ideal position in the pack. "Second row suits me best because I fit the size and have the speed the position requires," says the likeable forward, who still lives in Widnes with his wife, Marie Ann, and two young boys, Sam, 6, and two-year-old John.

When Keith's not delivering the goods on the pitch he can be found working hard running his own home delivery business.

"Whatever you do in life, you need to apply yourself. Whether it is running a business or playing rugby."

Now fully recovered from injury, Keith is looking forward to more hard work. "My long-term ambition is to earn a place with the 1992 Australian tour party, although my more immediate goal is to get there this summer playing for one of the local sides — after Oldham have won promotion to the First Division, where they and their fans belong!"

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A fit again Des Foy passes to scrum half Mike Ford as Oldham put on the pressure during the Boxing Day 24-12 defeat against local rivals and fellow promotion candidates, Rochdale Hornets.



Versatile Richard Russell, wearing the No. 9 shirt for the first time in his career, tries to weave his way through the Rochdale defence at Spotland during the Boxing Day promotion thriller.

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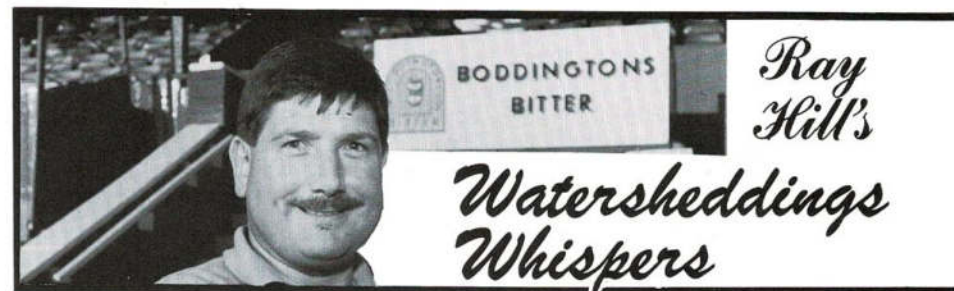
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CONGRATULATIONS to Derrick Ross, who won our special New Year's Day £15,000 Lifeline. Derrick's number was pulled out of the hat by Coronation Street's Michael LeVell during the interval at last Sunday's home match between Oldham and Swinton. Lucky Derrick will receive a cheque for £15,000 at today's match.

Congratulations too to Deborah Kelly and Mike Kenny, who won Lifeline cash prizes of £3,000 and £2,000 respectively. All three winners have had the perfect start to the year thanks to their Lifeline membership. It could be your turn next year if you join up today!

Talking of winning great prizes, there's the chance to take home some more in a couple of weeks time at the Players' Party, which takes place after the Chorley away game on 21st January. Prizes waiting to be won in our Shareholders' Draw include cash sums of £500, £250 and £100, plus tracksuits, replica shirts, an autographed ball and 24 cans of the North West's most popular bitter, Boddingtons, naturally.

The Shareholders' draw is just part of the fun at the Players' Party, which promises to be a night to remember. There's an excellent buffet to tempt your palate, plus the best in entertainment, including top rock band Morgan's Every Which Way, comedian Ven Tracey and singer and compere Tom Waite, who made a big name for himself when he starred in TV's New Faces.

A great night is guaranteed, so make sure you aren't disappointed by getting your tickets today. They only cost £10 and can be bought from either the club's ticket office or direct from the Social Club.

Another great evening is planned for

Wednesday, February 14, when the Sheddings nightclub is invaded by gangsters and their molls. That's when we host our very own St. Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night.

Tickets for this fabulous event are a mere £10 and entitle you to a free buffet and a fistful of gambling chips to chance your hand at roulette and blackjack tables.

Fancy dress is a must for the night, especially as the best dressed gangsters and molls will be walking away with 24 cans of Boddingtons bitter.

Remember, tickets for both events are in great demand, so don't run the risk of being left out when the fun starts. Buy your tickets after today's game.

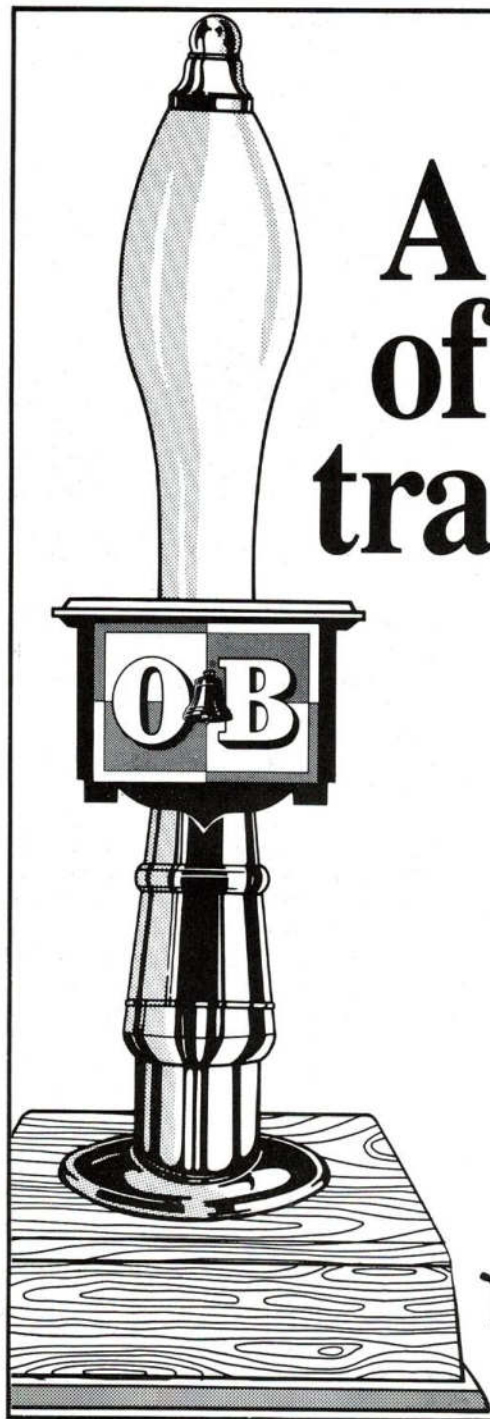
Two more great deals from the club are the trips abroad to watch top class international Rugby League. These can be booked direct through ourselves saving you a lot of time and hassle.

As I've mentioned before, the trips are to Avignon to watch the France-Great Britain match in March, and down under for 13 days for three internationals against Papua New Guinea and the first New Zealand Test. The cost for the two excursions are £249 and £2,499 respectively, giving you great value for money. So why not give us a call on 061-620 4870 to find out more and enjoy a feast of excellent international Rugby League at its best!

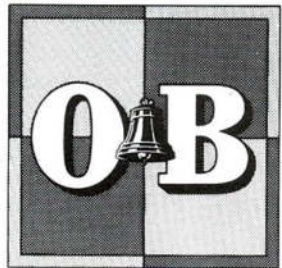
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ON CUE FOR SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

DAVE Turner, landlord of the New Museum Inn, Henshaw Street, Oldham, has completely refurbished his OB local and cued in Aussies John Cogger and Brett Clark to join in the official reopening celebrations.

The Aussie stars, like the pub's regulars and newcomers, were impressed by the transformation, which includes new windows, carpets and bars. In addition, the pub has been completely redecorated.



Seen here are (from left) John Cogger, Dave and Shirley Turner and Brett Clark.

PANTO PREMIERE

HIGHFIELD Inn customers enjoyed the world premiere of a brand new pantomime aptly titled Pinterella recently.

Pinterella, loosely based on the popular Cinderella panto, was written by school-teacher and pub regular Jan Fowler and performed by enthusiastic customers.

Landlord Mike Hardman, who cast himself as a landlord called Mike Hardup, has no ambitions to change his career for a life treading the boards. Said the cheerful

landlord: "There are no plans to find a bigger stage for Pinterella as the only Broadway we're likely to make is the one that runs through Chadderton!"



Mike is seen here with the Ugly Sisters, Jan Fowler (left) and Denise Kershaw.

ADRIAN'S HELPING HAND

FORMER Oldham Rugby League star and Bath Hotel landlord, Adrian Alexander, has lent a helping hand to his old pal Colin Hawkyard, who is currently enjoying a well-deserved benefit after 11 years at Watersheddings.

Adrian, who runs the popular OB local with Ginny Kanitshev, hosted a quiz night and ran a special raffle, with a signed ball and limited edition OB T-shirts as prizes, to boost Colin's testimonial fund.

Colin, 31, who tragically broke his leg for a second time in an 'A' Team match, is now faced with the awkward dilemma about whether it is time to hang up his boots and retire from the game he loves so much.

Whatever the decision, now is the time for Oldham fans to show their appreciation of the years of dedicated service from one of Oldham's most loyal servants by supporting his benefit.

A simple way after this match is to buy Colin's benefit review, the aptly titled 'Life in the Hard Lane'. The review not only tells the story of Colin's career but also reflects the ups and downs of the club. It's a great read and well worth the £1. Get your copy from the Souvenir Shop.

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v HUDDERSFIELD

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

SCRUMS				
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PENALTIES				
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SCRUMS				
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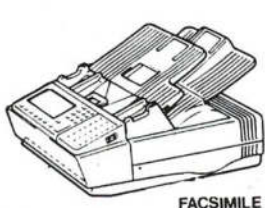
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Fixtures and Statistics

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
Nov	18 Halifax	H	7.30		W	14-3	Lord, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	6,953
	22 Carlisle	A	3.00	5	W	10-32	Fieldhouse (2), Hyde, Fairbank, Cogger, Meadows	Hyde (2), McAlister (2)	1,200
	29 Batley	H	3.00	3	W	22-4	Ruane, Martyn, Meadows, Irving	Martyn (3)	4,120
	5 Doncaster	A	3.00	2	W	22-20	Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	3,813
Dec	12 Keighley	H	3.00	2	W	50-34	Clark, Hyde, Irving, Ford, McAlister, Meadows, Ruane, Lord, Russell	Hyde (7)	4,113
	19 Fulham	A	2.30	2	W	40-10	McAlister, Ruane (2), Clark, Cogger, Allen, Ford	McAlister (6)	1,440
	26 Doncaster	H	3.00	2	W	30-8	Lord, Meadows, Ruane, Robinson, Clark	McAlister (5)	4,914
	3 Bramley (Regal Trophy)	A	3.50		W	48-16	Robinson, Cogger (2), Lord, McAlister, Clawson, Clark, Croston	Platt (8)	1,632
Jan	10 Huddersfield (Regal Trophy)	H	3.00		W	22-8	Cogger (2), Croston	Platt (5)	5,205
	17 St Helens (Regal Trophy)	A	3.00		L	18-32	Fairbank, Cogger (2), Lord	McAlister	7,752
	26 Rochdale H	A	3.00		L	24-12	McAlister, Lord	McAlister	8,150
	1 Swinton	H	3.00		W	29-14	Ford, Lord (2), Cogger, Russell	Platt (4), Ford (dg)	4,954
Feb	7 Hunslet	H	3.00						
	14 Huddersfield (SCCC)	H	3.00						
	17 Hull KR	A	7.30						
	21 Chorley	A	3.00						
Mar	28 Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
	4 Fulham	H	3.00						
	11 Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
	18 Chorley	H	3.00						
Apr	25 Keighley	A	3.15						
	4 Huddersfield	H	3.00						
	11 Batley	A	2.30						
	18 Runcorn	H	3.00						
May	25 Huddersfield	A	3.00						
	1 Hunslet	A	3.30						
	8 Carlisle	H	3.00						
	13 Swinton	A	3.00						
16 Rochdale	H	3.00							

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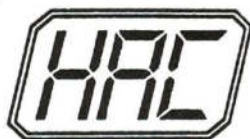
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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	16	0	0	0	3	12
Keith Atkinson.....	1	4	0	0	0	0
Mick Bardsley.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey.....	13	0	0	0	2	8
Brett Clark.....	16	1	0	0	6	24
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	19	0	0	0	14	56
Trevor Croston.....	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	11	6	0	0	4	16
John Fieldhouse.....	17	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	19	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
John Henderson.....	3	1	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde.....	13	1	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving.....	14	0	0	0	4	16
Paul Lord.....	19	0	0	0	14	56
Charlie McAlister.....	10	4	16	0	5	52
Tommy Martyn.....	1	1	3	0	1	10
Keith Meadows.....	6	5	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton.....	12	0	0	0	2	8
Duncan Platt.....	10	0	36	0	4	86
Steve Robinson.....	12	4	0	0	4	16
Paul Round.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Ruane.....	16	0	0	0	6	24
Richard Russell.....	16	4	0	0	4	16

Up to and including Swinton match

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR.....	13	7	0	0	284	34	5	0	1	200	60	24
Rochdale.....	14	6	0	1	307	100	6	0	1	206	121	24
OLDHAM	13	7	0	0	197	75	4	0	2	152	92	22
Batley.....	16	6	0	3	165	108	5	0	2	124	91	22
Rydale York.....	15	4	0	1	114	34	6	1	3	180	135	21
Halifax.....	13	7	0	1	193	95	3	0	2	150	80	20
Swinton.....	15	4	0	2	150	86	6	0	3	183	151	20
Doncaster.....	15	4	2	3	166	111	4	0	2	144	76	18
Huddersfield.....	14	4	0	4	123	106	5	0	1	118	68	18
Dewsbury.....	14	6	0	1	162	79	3	0	4	108	178	18
Fulham.....	14	4	0	3	120	139	4	1	2	79	91	17
Trafford.....	15	4	0	4	159	143	3	0	4	134	136	14
Whitehaven.....	16	4	0	4	140	167	2	0	6	107	168	12
Keighley.....	15	3	0	4	158	193	2	0	6	127	179	10
Chorley.....	14	4	0	4	133	126	1	0	5	70	182	10
Bramley.....	15	2	0	5	92	153	3	0	5	109	169	10
Hunslet.....	17	2	0	7	137	199	2	0	6	96	109	8
Carlisle.....	15	3	0	3	133	116	1	0	8	130	251	8
Workington.....	14	1	0	5	77	166	2	0	6	83	248	6
Nottingham.....	14	1	0	6	96	257	1	0	6	80	192	4
Runcorn.....	15	0	0	7	50	160	0	0	8	72	377	0

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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

FIRST DIVISION										Pts	
P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	Pts			
Hull	14	10	1	3	300	175	21				
Wigan	14	10	0	4	407	223	20				
Castleford	12	10	0	2	364	200	20				
Hull KR	13	9	0	4	260	174	18				
Halifax	14	9	0	5	287	257	18				
Leeds	12	8	1	3	240	171	17				
St Helens	11	7	0	4	255	188	14				
Swinton C	15	7	0	8	239	370	14				
Warrington W	12	6	0	6	290	266	12				
Salford	13	4	1	8	290	274	9				
OLDHAM	14	4	1	9	234	281	9				
Widnes	13	4	0	9	196	377	8				
Featherstone R	13	3	0	10	269	306	6				
Carlisle	12	3	0	9	225	395	6				
Hunslet	14	2	0	12	167	366	4				

'A' Team Player Profile...

CRAIG MORT

Skilful full back and former England schoolboys captain Craig Mort joined Oldham at 16, signing a five-year professional contract at 17. A local lad with a big future in the game, Craig is related to the Flanagan family. His recent form has been outstanding, particularly in the Swindon 'A' Team match.

'A' Team Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
1 Sep	St. Helens	A	L	2-15	
8 Sep	Halifax	H	W	24-16	
15 Sep	Castleford	H	L	16-27	
29 Sep	Hull KR	A	L	14-20	
6 Oct	Salford A (LCCS)	A	L	0-6	
12 Oct	Halifax	A	L	10-22	
27 Oct	Hull	A	L	6-20	
3 Nov	Widnes	H	L	10-14	
10 Nov	Wigan	H	L	16-20	
17 Nov	Hull	H	D	16-16	
24 Nov	Leeds	A	L	16-28	
1 Dec	Warrington	H	W	36-12	
8 Dec	St. Helens	H	W	20-18	
22 Dec	Featherstone	H	W	28-26	
29 Dec	Swinton	A	L	20-23	
5 Jan	Hunslet	A	L		
12 Jan	Hull KR	H	L		
19 Jan	Warrington	A	L		
3 Feb	SACC 1st Round				
9 Feb	Castleford	A			
17 Feb	SACC 2nd Round				
23 Feb	Wigan	H			
2 Mar	Featherstone	A			
16 Mar	Leeds	H			
23 Mar	Salford A	A			
30 Mar	Hunslet	H			
7 Apr	Carlisle	A			
13 Apr	Swinton	H			
20 Apr	Widnes	A			

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A SETBACK at Rochdale will serve as a warning to everyone — that no team has a divine right to return to a higher grade of rugby. However, one good thing to come from the defeat is perhaps the players will now be doubly determined to



Jack Dearden

guard against any future slip-ups. But make no mistake, Hornets themselves are certain to cause problems for teams other than ourselves, and it appears that they will have a lot to say about just who finally emerges triumphant in the quest for First Division rugby.

One player who won't be lacking in determination and spirit is our skipper, John Cogger, who is under no illusions just how hectic life can be in the Second Division. But whatever happens, as John himself declared, a move to Watersheddings for him was perfect. "A lot of clubs took more than a passing interest in me during my time at Runcorn, but Barrow were the only ones to come up with a realistic offer. But I didn't really fancy a move up there."

So were there any such worries about a move to Watersheddings? "None at all. Oldham are an ambitious, go-ahead club, and even though we didn't quite do enough to remain in the top flight last term, the challenge of playing in the top division was an opportunity, and ambition to prove myself in the best company."

I suggested to John that during his Second Division days with Runcorn, he earned himself a reputation for being a little bit of a hot-head. "One of the biggest problems I found in playing at Runcorn was the responsibility of trying to do almost everything myself. During matches, I got so involved I frequently found that I was trying to cover about five different positions at once, which is impossible, and being a naturally aggressive type of player, it probably seemed much worse than it actually was.

"In fact, when Oldham first came in for me, I was very concerned about the reception I would receive from the fans, but Tony Barrow assured me that as long as I played with the same determination for Oldham that they would respond, and thankfully that appears to be what's happened."

So what has been the biggest change so far? "The big difference in playing for Oldham means that I can concentrate on doing my own job, knowing that everyone else is producing their own efforts in the cause of the team."

Any sadness at leaving Runcorn? "I will always have a soft spot for them, and continually keep a check on their progress. I have lots of friends there and wish they could have a good spell to lift them out of the doldrums."

Finally, how does John view the current situation at Watersheddings? "Like most people, I cannot understand the Second Division fixtures, which may be a bit unfair, but we definitely have the players here who are more than capable of bringing top-flight rugby back to Oldham, and I'm just glad to be part of it."

Good luck, enjoy your sport.

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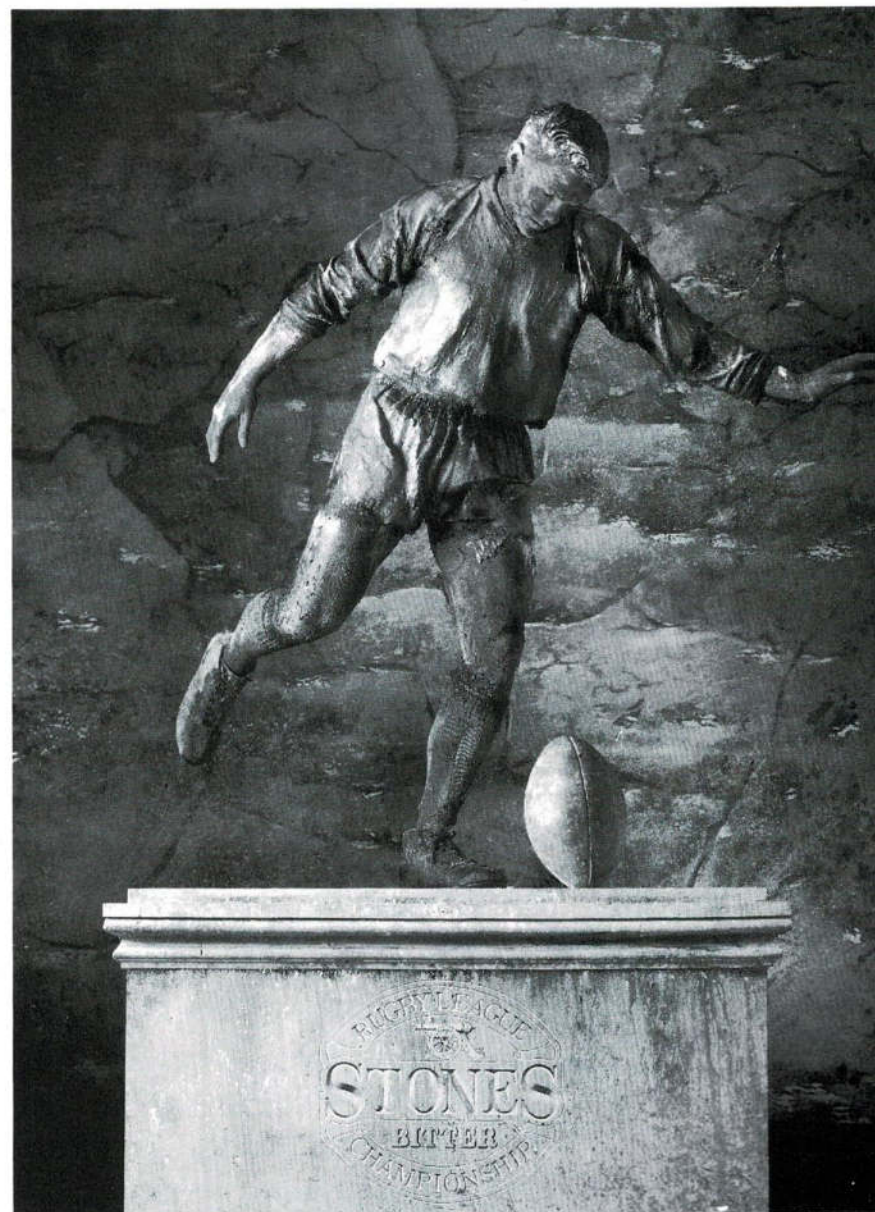


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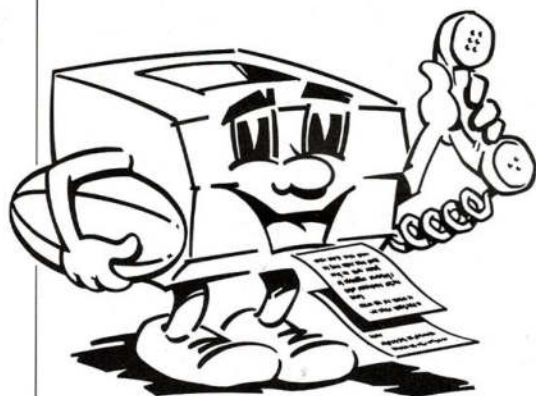
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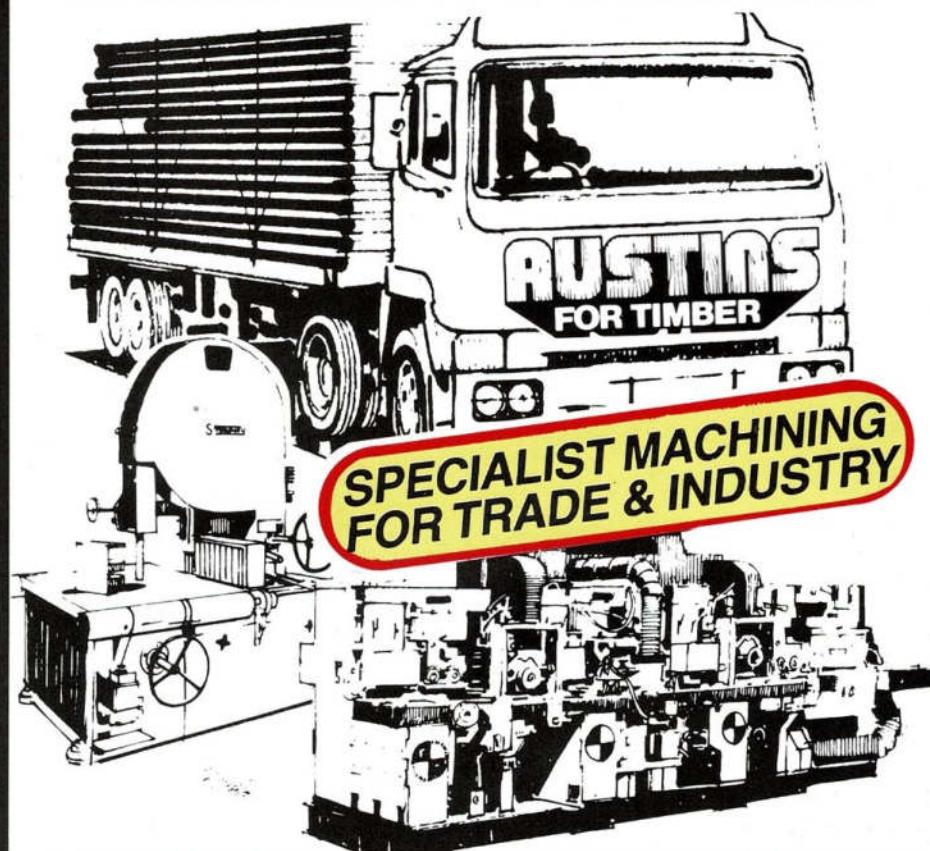
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