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PRELIMINARY ROUND



SUNDAY JANUARY 14th 1990

Kick-Off 3.00p.m.

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HUDDERSFIELD

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME: 80p

Team Check on Page 17

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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

**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, 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

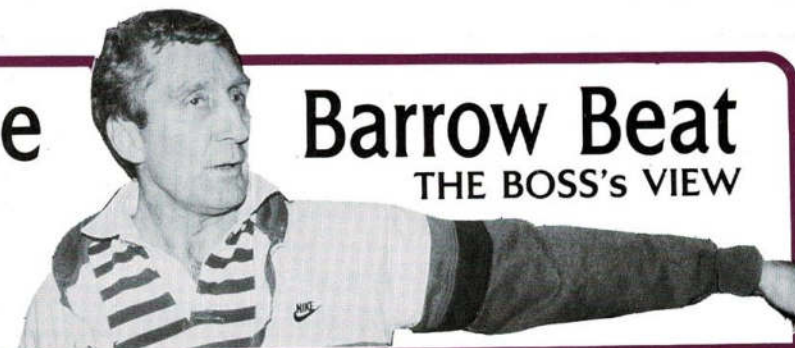
Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



The Barrow Beat THE BOSS'S VIEW



THE Challenge Cup competition is with us again and, once more, it is sure to throw up its fair share of thrills, spills, drama and upsets even before the big day at Wembley dawns.

Wembley! The very name conjures up thoughts of many of Rugby League's greatest moments and it sets the adrenalin running just to think of the place.

I was lucky to go there twice as a player ... first in 1966 as a substitute with St. Helens and then in 1971 as stand-off to Alex Murphy when Leigh pulled off one of the greatest Wembley shocks of all time by defeating Leeds.

My greatest wish now would be to go back to the famous stadium as a coach and lead out Oldham for the first time in the club's history behind my chairman, John Chadwick.

A lot of people in these parts think that Wembley would mean more to them than those in other parts of the Rugby League territory because, for Oldham, it would be a first visit.

While I can well understand how they feel, let me tell you that the attraction of Wembley never fades even if you have been on numerous occasions.

Once you have sampled the atmosphere and the big-day build-up, you want more, probably more than when you are going for the first time.

I will never forget my Wembley days. The whole experience was brilliant — something I will never forget as long as I live.

A few of the Oldham boys have played

at Wembley for other teams — such as Brett Clark, Mike Ford and John Fieldhouse — and I'm sure they will all tell you the same.

There is a magic about the Challenge Cup and Wembley that makes the tournament unique and it is with that in mind that we approach today's preliminary round tie against Huddersfield.

We would have preferred not to be in the preliminary round, obviously, but we have been blessed with a home tie, at least, and another home tie, against Workington, awaits the winners of today's confrontation.

In that respect, at least, we cannot grumble about what Lady Luck has thrown at us, and everyone can rest assured that we will not be taking Huddersfield lightly just because we beat them here in a Regal Trophy game a week or two ago.

They gave us a few problems in that match and we know they will be coming here today well prepared to seek revenge.

The winners play Workington and many Oldham fans will remember that the Cumbrians pulled off a tremendous Challenge Cup shock here a year or two ago on a cold and frosty night at Watersheddings.

Let that be a warning to those who say that cup shocks are limited to the soccer game. They happen in the Challenge Cup, too ... and it is up to us to see that such a turn-up does not happen today.

TONY BARROW

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TODAY'S

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S

Welcome to Huddersfield

Wally Gibson (full back/centre) Former Australia schoolboy international. Has only been in the country since September. Very pacy. Scored a hat-trick of tries in his first league game.

Bob Jowett (full back/wing) BARLA International who, having won all the honours in the amateur game, has recently signed for the Fartown club.

Ian Thomas (wing) Colts International local product. A very exciting player on his day.

Anthony Edwards (centre) Ex-Huddersfield Colt, recently re-signed from Rochdale where he was top try-scorer last season.

Gary Senior (centre) Huddersfield product recently re-signed from Hunslet. A very loyal, dependable player with a vast appetite for tackling.

Stuart Cocker (centre) Former Rugby Union stand-off who has been highly impressive since forcing his way into the first team.

Lee St. Hilaire (wing) Local product. Very dependable player. Strong tackler. Took over goal-kicking responsibilities last season.

Andy Mackintosh (stand-off) A very creative, knowledgeable stand-off. Promising career at Leeds spoilt by long-term injuries. Joined Huddersfield from Featherstone last year.

Greg Shuttleworth (scrum-half) Former captain of Australian schoolboys. Has played for both Whitehaven and Workington Town before signing for Huddersfield.

Frank Simpson (front-row) Local product who has now established himself in the first team after some years in the second row.

Gary Siddall (front-row) Very experienced campaigner who has just signed from Featherstone Rovers after a one-club career.

Phil Huck (hooker) This well-named Halifax-based player was the supporters' choice for their player-of-the-year for his hard work and consistency.

Billy Cook (hooker) Solid, hard-working player has just rejoined Huddersfield from the amateur ranks, after an earlier spell with Dewsbury.

Andy Dickinson (2nd row) A local product — very strong player with a deceptive turn of speed.

Alan Boothroyd (2nd row) Strong-running Huddersfield product of whom the best is yet to come. Has had a hard spell in Australia to improve his game.

Dave Nelson (2nd row) Strong-running second-rower who has served Huddersfield well since signing from Leeds some years ago.

Anthony Power (2nd row) Recently signed as pro from famous Huddersfield amateur club Underbank. Solid, driving forward.

Simon Kenworthy (loose forward) An extremely loyal Huddersfield-based player now looking forward to playing in a more successful team. Usual first-choice goal-kicker.

Peter Subritzky — Captain (loose forward) Now settled in Huddersfield after spells with Blackpool and Carlisle. A good organiser whose attitude to the game passes onto the rest of the team.



Photo courtesy of Huddersfield Examiner

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FIVE MINUTES FROM M62 JUNCTION 21

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Flashback . . .

1989/90

Oldham 22, Huddersfield 8



By the end of the season, we'll have played Huddersfield four times. The first was when we won 22-8 in a Regal Trophy match, which was a lot closer than the score suggests. A brace of tries by John Cogger, one from Trevor Croston, and five goals from Duncan Platt, sent the 5,205 crowd home happy. Here, Aussie skipper Cogger crashes over the line despite the attentions of the Huddersfield defence.

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Spotlight on . . . **RICHARD RUSSELL**

OLDHAM coach Tony Barrow has spent many thousands of pounds on players during his spells in charge at Warrington and Oldham, although one of his best buys has proved to be Richard Russell, who cost him next to nothing.

Tony is emphatic: "Richard's one of the best buys I've ever made!"

And although Tony originally bought the 22-year-old Oldham-born player to fill the stand-off vacancy left by Chris O'Sullivan's return to Australia, Richard has proved to be one of the most versatile players in the first-team squad.

Says Tony: "I have confidence in this boy to play almost any position on the field."

Already this season Richard has played at stand-off, centre, full back and hooker, replacing the injured Andy Ruane when he broke his thumb against St. Helens.

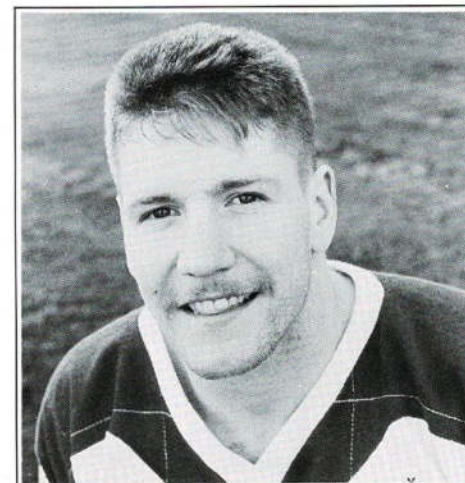
Not that Richard is too concerned about the danger of being called 'Mr. Utility'. He says: "You never know your real potential until you have faced the challenge of several positions. In addition, each different role I play helps give me a better understanding of what it takes to play the game as a whole."

Richard began his Rugby League life at the tender age of seven, when he starred for Watersheddings Junior School's Rugby League team.

One of the highlights of his school career was a Wembley appearance alongside schoolfriend and present Oldham scrum half Mike Ford when they represented the Lancashire Under-11s.

At 18, Richard signed for mighty Wigan, but although he played in several cup finals, including the World Cup match against Manly, he was unable to secure a regular place in the first team. So when Tony Barrow asked if he wanted to play for his hometown side, he jumped at the chance.

Now, very much a part of the Oldham scene, he is keen to establish himself as an automatic choice in the first team, no matter what the position.



However, his long-term ambition is getting a place in the GB international squad in the 1992 Australian tour party — and for that he's being helped by his dad, Jimmy, who played professional Rugby League for Huddersfield and Bradford.

Jimmy works his son hard when he isn't training at Watersheddings!

Says Richard: "My dad is a real slave-driver when it comes to training. Having been successful in the game himself, he knows just how much hard work is really involved and it helps me a lot to know my family is really behind me."

Support is something Richard is not short of — whether it's from his family, his girlfriend Tracey or from the fans on the terraces.

Says Richard: "Oldham has got to be one of the most tightly-knit clubs I know — everybody involved is concerned with your well-being. The team spirit is fantastic, with the players, coaches and directors always watching out for you. And when you're down there on the field it's the fans who really give you the support you need — they're behind you all the way!"

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Hat-trick hero John Cogger in action against Hunslet as he tries to break through the Yorkshire team's defence that conceded 48 points.



Mike Ford — who celebrated winning the Boddingtons-backed man-of-the-month award with a brilliant performance against Swinton — opens the scoring in the 24th minute as Oldham beat their local rivals 29-14.

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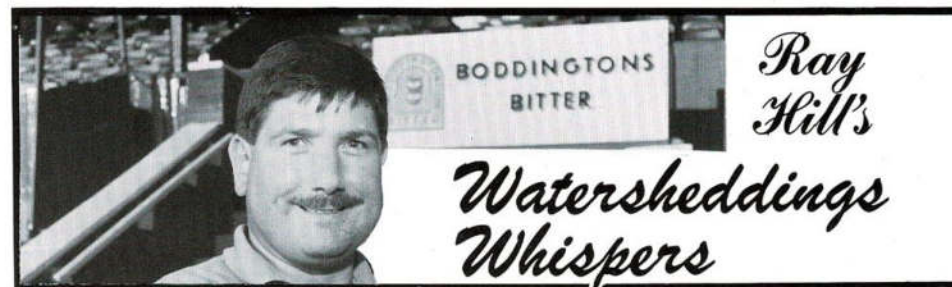
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Watersheddings
Whispers

MONEY, money, money makes the world go around, as our special Lifeline winners discovered when they arrived at Watersheddings to be presented with cheques for winning the New Year's Day bumper prize draw.

Derrick Ross, from Derker, arrived with his girlfriend, Kate Worroll, to collect the £15,000 jackpot. At the time he said: "I thought it was a wind-up!"

Nothing could be further from the truth, Derrick. You've won £15,000 because you invested £2 a week in Lifeline. Just like fellow Lifeline member, Debbie Kelly, who follows the team home and away. The 22-year-old local girl was rewarded for her loyalty when she collected a cheque for £3,000 on behalf of a five-strong syndicate at D. H. Heywood Interiors, where she works.

It is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job — and the rest of the Lifeline team including John Watkins and John Cogger — to be present at presentations where Oldham fans are the winners!

You could win, too, if you join Lifeline. When you sign up you have the chance of winning some great prizes including brand new cars, Caribbean holidays and five-figure cash sums — and, of course, the weekly £1,000 payout.

I'll leave the last word with Derrick. "I joined Lifeline when I saw that somebody had won a car, but I never dreamed of winning anything like this."

Presentations like the Lifeline ceremony are a lot of fun, just like some of the events we have lined up for you in the next couple of months.

First, there is the Players' Party at the Sheddings nightclub (21st January) after the Chorley away match. There's three superb cabaret acts and an excellent buffet — plus the chance to meet your favourite players.

Then there is the St. Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night (14th February, naturally). There's a buffet and a chance to try your luck at roulette and blackjack tables — and a whole lot more besides.

Tickets for both events are £10 and are available from either the Souvenir Shop or the Social Club. But hurry. Demand is high, so buy today so you won't be disappointed.

It was good to hear that Colin Hawkyard, who broke his leg in an 'A' Team match earlier this season, is on the mend. His plaster is off and he's looking forward to regaining full fitness in a couple of months time.

Colin is currently enjoying his benefit year and is having a collection during today's match against his hometown team. He has been a great servant to the club, always giving 100% and more, so dig deep today and show your appreciation for all his efforts on behalf of Oldham RLFC.

He's also lined up some events for the early part of 1990, including a five-course Businessman's lunch at the Park Field Hotel on 19th January. Guest speaker is the much-respected referee, Billy Thompson. Tickets are only £15 and can be obtained direct from Colin on 0484 538613.

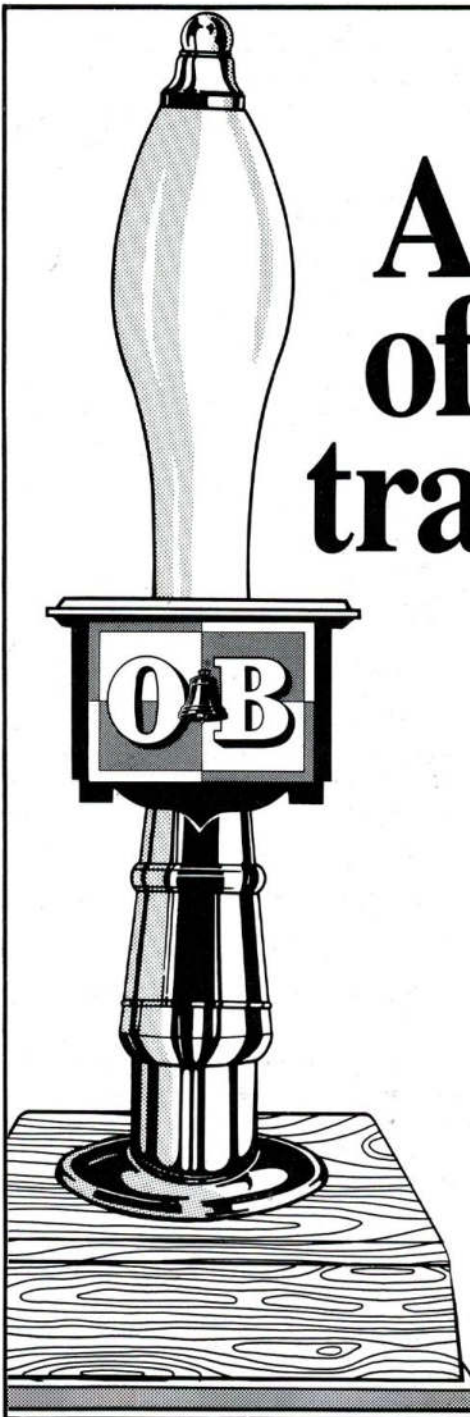
Other events planned include a horse-racing evening at the Friendship, Lees, on 26th January, and a Valentine's Dinner on 14th February. A sportsmen's dinner is being organised for March. Telephone Colin for details of any of these events.



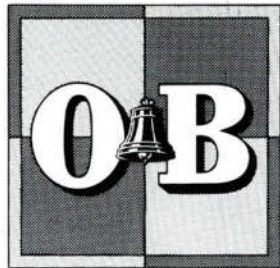
All smiles — Lifeline winners with thousands of reasons to be happy are presented with their cheques at a recent Watersheddings ceremony. (From left) Kate Worroll, Derrick Ross, Ray Hill, skipper John Cogger, John Watkins, coach Tony Barrow and Debbie Kelly.

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MIKE'S DOUBLE

IN-FORM scrum half Mike Ford became the first Oldham player to win the Boddingtons-backed Man of the Month award for a second time when he was presented with an inscribed medal, £100 cheque and 24 cans of Boddingtons for being the outstanding player during December before last Sunday's Hunslet match.

Award judge and Evening Chronicle Rugby League writer Roger Halstead commented: "Mike Ford won the award for December thanks to his consistently good performances both in attack and defence.

"His ball skills and tactical awareness were an important factor in Oldham's matches and he has started January where he left off in December with an outstanding display against Swinton."

Mike, who won the award for the first time at the end of last season, is fast rediscovering the form that won him a place in the GB squad that toured Australia two years ago.



Boddington Pub Company Promotions Executive Val Jackson (left) presents Mike Ford with his December man-of-the-month medal before the home game against Hunslet.



WHO WILL BE YOUR NUMBER ONE?

MIKE Ford is just one of the contenders for the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Player of the Year award, won last year by Aussie stand-off Chris O'Sullivan.

Whether it is Mike or another Oldham player who is presented with a £250 cheque and a magnificent trophy before the Rochdale home game depends upon how you cast your vote.

You will get the chance to have your say when voting forms appear in the match day programmes for the games against Huddersfield (March 4) and Runcorn (March 18). After that date, voting forms can be picked up from the club's Souvenir Shop.

WHO IS OLDHAM'S TOP SUPPORTER?

LAST year it was Mark Holmes — who will it be this year?

You can influence the decision of the judges by nominating your supporter of the year when you vote for the player you think has made the greatest contribution to Oldham this season.

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TEAM CHECK

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DUNCAN PLATT	1	WALLY GIBSON	
CHARLIE McALISTER	2	BOB JOWETT	
DES FOY	3	ANTHONY EDWARDS	
RICHARD IRVING	4	GARY SENIOR	
PAUL LORD	5	LEE ST. HILAIRE	
BRETT CLARK	6	ANDY SIMPSON	
MIKE FORD	7	GREG SHUTTLEWORTH	
JOHN FAIRBANK	8	GARY SIDDALL	
RICHARD RUSSELL	9	BILLY COOK	
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	10	TONY DISKIN	
KEITH NEWTON	11	ANDY DICKINSON	
KEITH ATKINSON	12	SIMON KENWORTHY	
JOHN COGGER	13	PETER SUBRITZKY	
JOHN HENDERSON	14	ALAN BOOTHROYD	
SHAUN ALLEN	15	ANTHONY POWER	

Referee: Mr. K. Allatt (Southport). Touch Judges: Mr. M. J. Robinson (Red Flag), Mr. S. Sharp (Orange Flag)

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v FULHAM

(Kick-off
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11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

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16	17	18	19	20

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SCRUMS				
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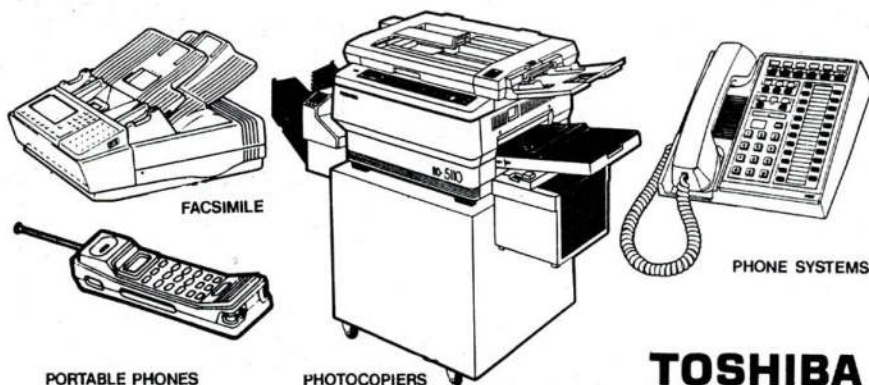
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Fixtures and Statistics

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Sep 3	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	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		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
Nov 5	Doncaster	A	3.00	2	W	22-20	Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank	Hyde (3)	3,813
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
Dec 3	Bramley (Regal Trophy)	A	3.50		W	48-16	Robinson, Cogger (2), Lord, McAlister, Clawson, Clark, Croston	Platt (8)	1,632
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	4	L	24-12	McAlister, Lord	McAlister	8,150
Jan 1	1 Swinton	H	3.00	3	W	29-14	Ford, Lord (2), Cogger, Russell	Platt (4), Ford (dg)	4,954
7	Hunslet	H	3.00	3	W	48-10	Foy (5), Cogger (3), Fairbank	Platt (6)	3,644
14	Huddersfield (SCCC)	H	3.00						
17	Hull KR	A	7.30						
21	Chorley	A	3.00						
28	Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
Feb 4	4 Fulham	H	3.00						
11	Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
18	Chorley	H	3.00						
25	Keighley	A	3.15						
Mar 4	4 Huddersfield	H	3.00						
11	Batley	A	2.30						
18	Runcorn	H	3.00						
25	Huddersfield	A	3.00						
Apr 1	1 Hunslet	A	3.30						
8	Carlisle	H	3.00						
13	Swinton	A	3.00						
16	Rochdale	H	3.00						

To be rearranged: Workington Town (A)

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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	16	1	0	0	3	12
Keith Atkinson.....	2	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.....	17	1	0	0	6	24
Neil Clawson.....	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	20	0	0	0	17	68
Trevor Croston.....	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank.....	12	6	0	0	5	20
John Fieldhouse.....	18	0	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	20	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy.....	3	0	0	0	5	20
John Henderson.....	3	2	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde.....	13	1	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving.....	15	0	0	0	4	16
Paul Lord.....	20	0	0	0	14	56
Charlie McAlister.....	11	4	16	0	5	52
Tommy Martyn.....	1	1	3	0	1	10
Keith Meadows.....	6	5	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton.....	13	0	0	0	2	8
Duncan Platt.....	11	0	46	0	4	108
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.....	17	4	0	0	4	16

Up to and including Hunslet match

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR.....	14	7	0	0	284	34	6	0	1	258	60	26
Rochdale.....	15	6	0	1	307	100	7	0	1	244	133	26
OLDHAM	14	8	0	0	245	85	4	0	2	152	92	24
Rydale York.....	16	5	0	1	132	52	6	1	3	180	135	23
Swinton.....	16	4	0	2	150	86	7	0	3	211	161	22
Batley.....	17	6	0	3	165	108	5	0	3	134	109	22
Halifax.....	14	7	0	1	193	95	3	0	3	164	98	20
Doncaster.....	16	4	2	3	166	111	5	0	2	160	76	20
Huddersfield.....	15	5	0	4	145	116	5	0	1	118	68	20
Dewsbury.....	15	6	0	2	162	95	3	0	4	108	178	18
Fulham.....	15	4	0	4	130	159	4	1	2	79	91	17
Trafford.....	16	4	0	4	159	143	4	0	4	154	146	16
Whitehaven.....	16	4	0	4	140	167	2	0	6	107	168	12
Chorley.....	15	4	0	4	133	126	2	0	5	82	188	12
Bramley.....	16	3	0	5	110	163	3	0	5	109	169	12
Keighley.....	16	3	0	5	170	231	2	0	6	127	179	10
Hunslet.....	18	2	0	7	137	199	2	0	7	106	157	8
Carlisle.....	16	3	0	4	143	144	1	0	8	130	251	8
Workington.....	15	1	0	6	83	178	2	0	6	83	248	6
Nottingham.....	15	1	0	7	96	315	1	0	6	80	192	4
Runcorn.....	16	0	0	7	50	160	0	0	9	82	399	0

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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

FIRST DIVISION										Pts
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
15	10	1	4	306	195	21				
14	10	0	4	407	223	20				
13	10	0	3	374	218	20				
14	10	0	4	278	184	20				
14	9	1	4	320	202	19				
15	9	0	6	308	294	18				
12	8	0	4	292	209	16				
14	8	0	6	337	298	16				
15	7	0	8	239	370	14				
15	5	1	9	266	281	11				
14	4	1	9	310	295	9				
14	4	0	10	290	326	8				
14	4	0	10	200	431	8				
12	3	0	9	225	395	6				
15	2	0	13	167	398	4				
Hull										
Wigan										
Castleford										
Hull KR										
Leeds										
Halifax										
St Helens										
Warrington W										
Swinton C										
OLDHAM										
Salford										
Featherstone R										
Widnes										
Carlisle										
Hunslet										

'A' Team Player Profile...

CHRIS JOYNT

Wigan-born Chris Joynt, who has represented Lancashire Under-17s, was signed by coach Tony Barrow from the famous Wigan St. Patricks amateur Rugby League club that has produced scores of top professionals over the years. Big Chris, who plays prop or second row, is all set to continue the tradition in Oldham's famous red and white.

'A' Team Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Sep 1	St. Helens	A	L	2-15	
8	Halifax	H	W	24-16	
15	Castleford	H	L	16-27	
29	Hull KR	A	L	14-20	
6	Salford A (LCCS)	A	L	0-6	
12	Halifax	A	L	10-22	
27	Hull	A	L	6-20	
3	Widnes	H	L	10-14	
10	Wigan	H	L	16-20	
17	Hull	H	D	16-16	
24	Leeds	A	L	16-28	
1	Warrington	H	W	36-12	
8	St. Helens	H	W	20-18	
22	Featherstone	H	W	28-26	
29	Swinton	A	L	20-23	
5	Hunslet	A	W	32-0	
12	Hull KR	H	W		
19	Warrington	A	H		
3	SACC 1st Round	A	A		
9	Castleford	A	A		
17	SACC 2nd Round	A	A		
23	Wigan	H	H		
2	Featherstone	A	H		
16	Leeds	H	A		
23	Salford A	H	A		
30	Hunslet	H	A		
7	Carlisle	A	H		
13	Swinton	H	H		
20	Widnes	A	A		

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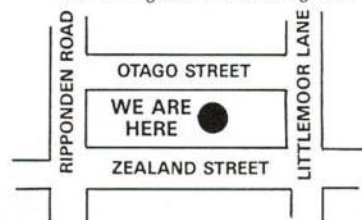
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Terrace Talk

THE Rugby League Challenge Cup. The mere sound of the most prestigious trophy in Rugby League history is enough to raise hopes and aspirations. This year we find ourselves having to contend with a preliminary round stage before we can earn the right to play Workington Town in the first round proper.

Many clubs are, of course, unhappy with the situation of having to play preliminary ties, and have requested the league to use a "seeding" of clubs, which would allow the big guns to enter at a later stage.

I must admit I personally feel that with a large number of excellent amateur clubs who would dearly love to battle for a place in the first round draw, then perhaps it is time to allow more of them the opportunity, but overall it is a typical Catch 22 situation... that being whichever way you turn and whatever you do, somebody will argue against it.

Moving on to our own cup destiny, it would appear on the face of it that we have been given a golden opportunity to progress into round two, but cup ties do not always work out that way, as any history in any sport will show, and, of course, that's all part of the attraction of cup tie football and that special romance which is always associated with cup action.

So far this season we have fared pretty well in the cup competitions, and obviously with home advantage our prospects look bright. But Huddersfield themselves have a chequered past and

must not be taken lightly.

Oldham have a double mission this season with a return to the top flight taking precedence over anything else — but that is where the tricky part comes, because a good cup run can sometimes be distracting to the initial aim. That's not to say it would be a good thing for Oldham to make an early exit, because a good run can have a complete opposite effect, as we have seen already this season.

It's certainly brought out the best in the players, particularly leading up to the Lancashire Cup final. But as history now shows, we have suffered form-wise a little after the disappointment of the final defeat. Injuries have not helped, nor would a backlog of fixtures, and all these considerations have to be taken into account.

But to his great credit, coach Tony Barrow has never once tried to offer the injuries as an excuse for failure — and I don't think he ever will. His attitude is one of "It's no use moaning about what might have been, it is up to the players who wear the jerseys to show pride and commitment." And that's the sort of attitude that wins cup ties.

Good luck, enjoy your sport.



Jack Dearden

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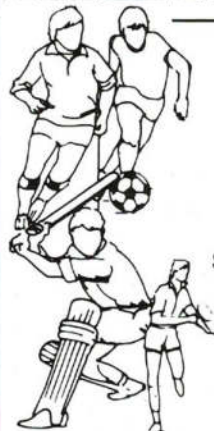
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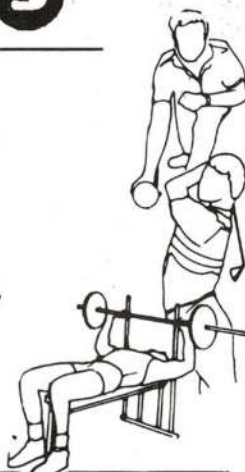
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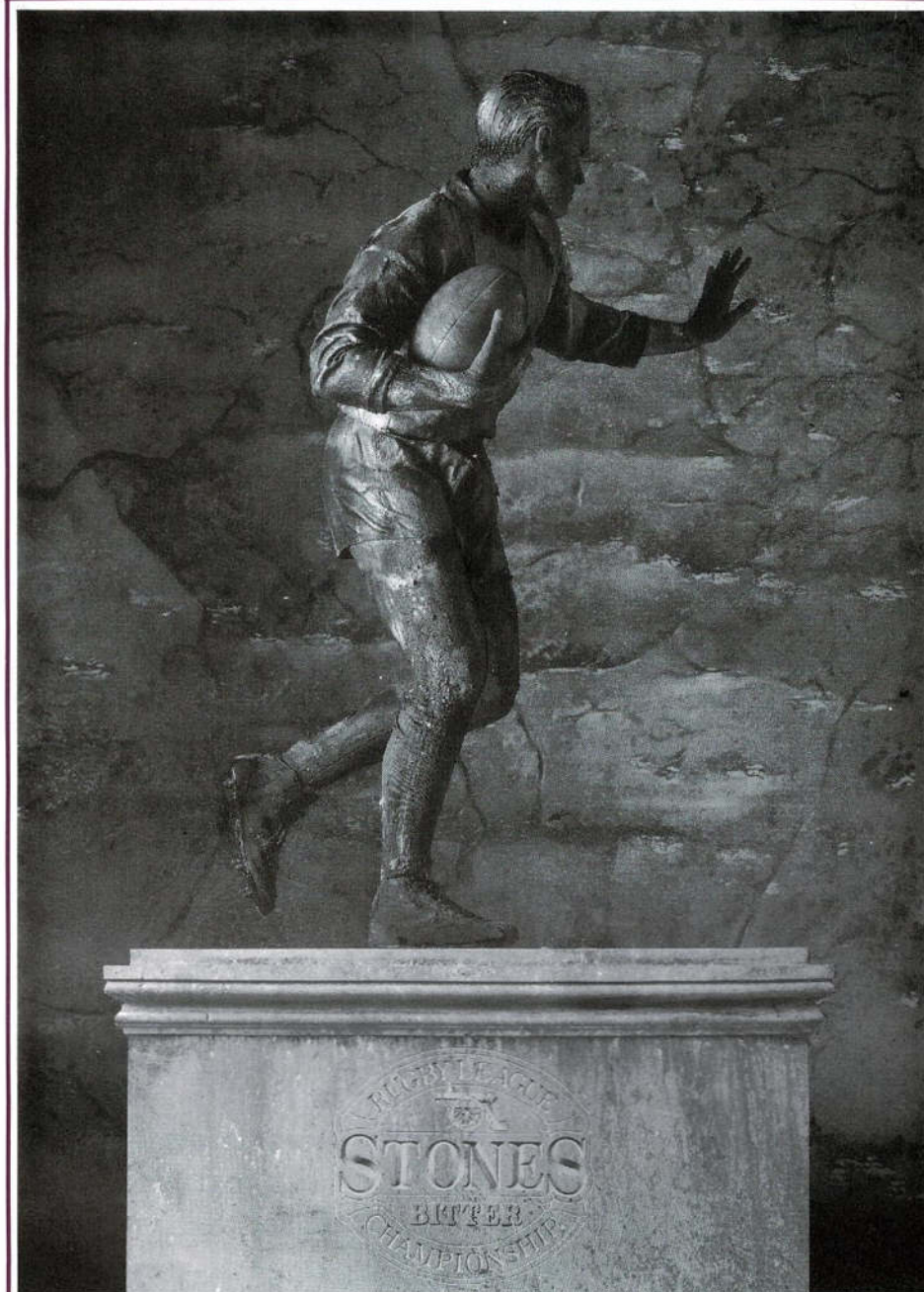


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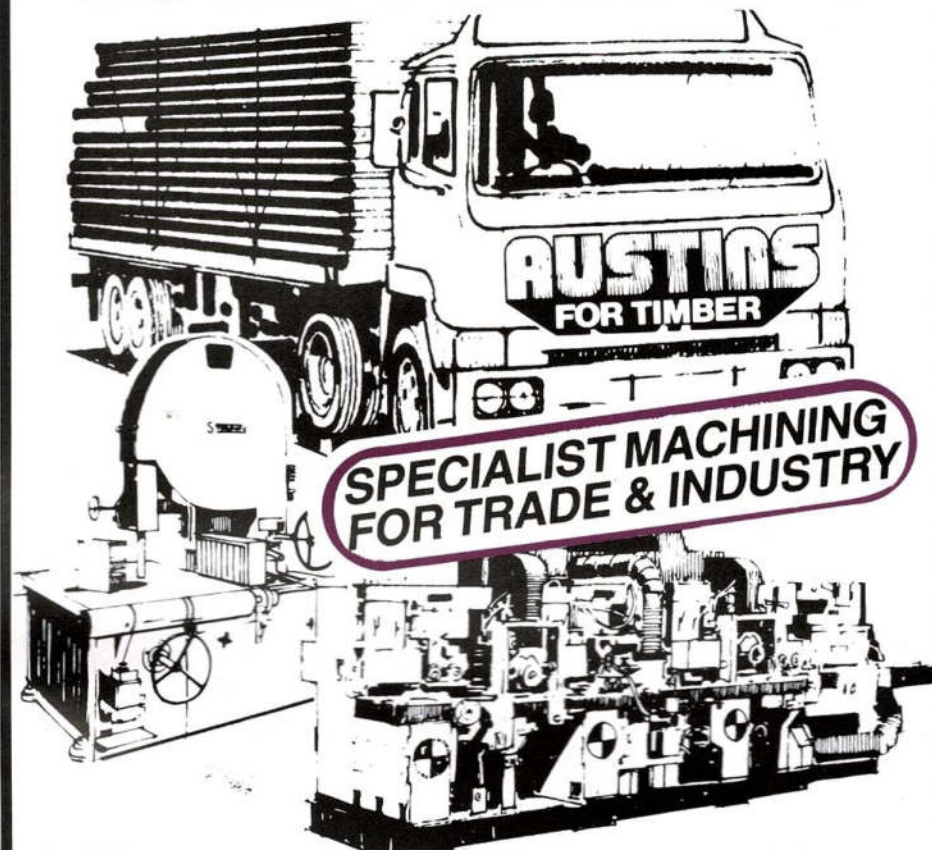
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