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	P. FLETCHER	15	ANNOUNCED

Referee: MR. C. Tidball

Touch Judges: Mr. R. Duckworth (Red) Mr B. Hope (Yellow)

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

PENALTIES				
1	2	3	4	5
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SCRUMS				
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versus

Oldham



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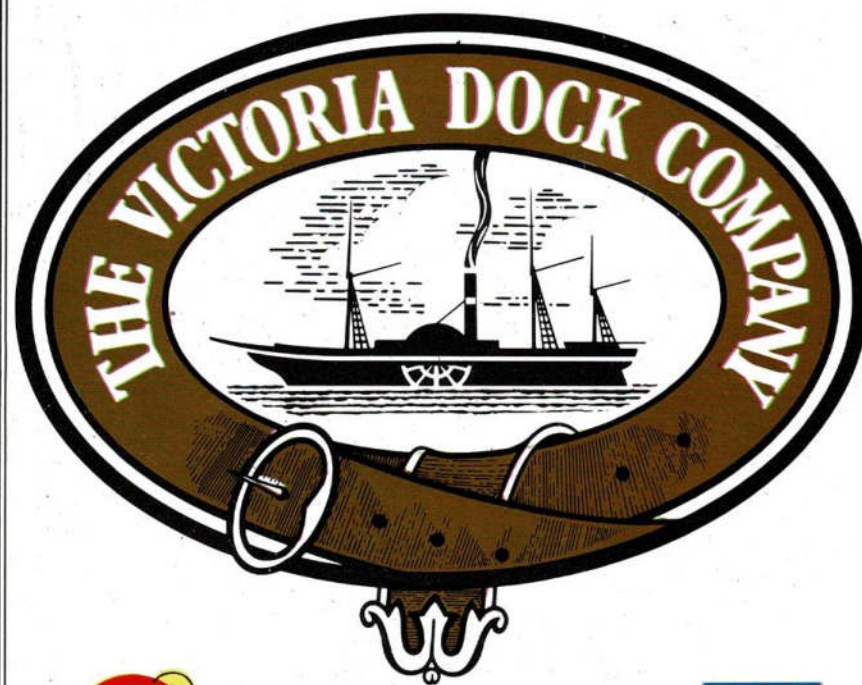


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**HULL
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OUR VISITORS

Not so much a New Year, but a new decade faces us, and for our first home match of the '90's we stage what is surely the most vital match of our entire second division campaign as we welcome Oldham as our guests. The recent shock defeat of Halifax by Ryedale York has left Rochdale, Oldham and ourselves emerging as chell contenders for the Championship.

We do not meet Rochdale in the league, whilst it will be remembered that oldham are the only side to defeat us in league football so far this season. Tonight's game therefore can be crucial in the race for the Championship as we seek revenge for our earlier setback at the Watersheddings.

On their day Oldham can beat anybody - including Wigan, Knocked out of the Lancashire Cup by Oldham on their way to the final. They won the second division title and premiership a couple of years ago, but coach **Tony Barrow** has almost completely rebuilt the side since he came from Warrington a year or so ago in succession to **Eric Fitzsimmons**.

Former captain and international forward **Terry Flanagan** picked up a club record benefit cheque in mid July, but when he rejected terms for the current season he was listed at £60,000, moving to swinton a few days ago in exchange for **Derek Bate**. Pen pictures of the Oldham squad appear towards the end of this programme.

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(who has officiated at every match throughout the Tournament)

Kick - off; 6.50 p.m.

The game will be played before the senior game; 15 minutes each way.

7.20 p.m.

Presentation of Cup & Medals
MR. MAX GOLD, Director of Hull K.R. and Sponsor of this Tournament) will present his CUP to the Winning Captain and commorative MEDALS to all the players.

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Villa	10	Northern Dairies	16
Hull Boys Club	18	Beverley Panthers	4
Eureka	26	Cottingham	0
MineHead	36	Bransholme North	4
Maybury	12	Northern Dairies	22
Hull Boys Club	0	Eureka	12
Minehead	16	Northern Dairies	12

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OR CALL INTO THE FOOTBALL OFFICE

FIRST TEAM FOCUS

FULHAM 6 ROVERS 60

(Played 17th December, 1989).

With Fulham fancying their chances of presenting us with a tough challenge on their own North London ground, our pre-match preparation had to be just right.

The result would suggest that this was indeed the case. We travelled to the London area the previous day. Not because a lively weekend in the Capital was planned, but we were taking no risks of motorway traffic problems or weather delays. At our West of London hotel we studied Fulham performances on video, on the morning of the match our players went to have a look at the Chiswick Stadium, and as a result of what we saw it was decided not to arrive at the ground too early!

The playing surface showed the effects of a match played there the previous day, Fulham had early advantage of wind and rain, but Rovers made light of the miserable conditions. **Mike Fletcher** opened affairs with an early penalty, then converted the opening try, finished off by **Greg Austin** from **Jimmy Irvine's** speedy break.

Anthony Sullivan was next to race over from a skilled passing move, before strong work by **Colin Armstrong** led to **Mike Fletcher** being blatantly obstructed and the referee awarded the try. (Statisticians please note, Rugby League records indicate the centre was the scorer and not Garry Clark as erroneously reported in the Local press). With goals to both tries Rovers were 20 points up in almost as many minutes.

The home side enjoyed a brief look in with six points, but right on the break **Anthony Sullivan** was sent sprinting clear to give us a 24 - 6 lead, a pleasing scoreline since we had the elements at our backs for the second half.

Inside four minutes **David Lightfoot** sliced his way clean through to increase our lead. Some tries, they say, are worth going a long way to see, and those fans who took time and inconvenience to make the long trip to Chiswick now saw a real cracker. **Andy Thompson** started it with a break only five yards from his own line. He found **Greg Austin** at his elbow for the Aussie centre to leave everyone trailing in his wake as he sped to the posts. **Garry Clark** was next to cross. Then **Dvid Bishop** looked to have missed a chance, but quickly recovered and burst his way over. **David Lightfoot** added his second before **Mike Fletcher** rounded things off with a try and his 10th goal of the afternoon.

Though they did not feature amongst the scorers, the prompting and skilled leadership of **Mike Smith** was much in evidence and there was some powerful foraging from props **Colin Armstrong** and **Bryan Niebling**, though this was essentially a fine team effort.

That teams cannot afford to be too complacent however was evidenced that afternoon when Bramley, not seriously regarded as promotion contenders, beat league leaders Rochdale at Rochdale comprehensively. The day's results thus saw Rovers move up to the top of the table.

(Played 26th December, 1989)

Although it is several years since we last met, then under the briefer title of York, recent meetings with the Wasps have proved to be dour affairs. This Boxing Day fare proved little different.

After 38 minutes **Mike Fletcher** kicked an angled penalty goal, and early in the second half missed a straightforward kick when the ball rebounded from an upright.

On the hour York fumbled a pass close to Rovers 25. **Greg Austin** snapped up the loose ball and raced away from his pursuers on a thrilling 70 yard run to the posts and gave **Mike Fletcher** an easy conversion. A minute later **David Bishop** made one of his typical blockbusting runs and a precision pass sent **Anthony Sullivan** flying for the corner to complete a brilliant try and an exciting two minute spell.

For the rest there was little to write home, or anywhere else, about. Fans anticipating another scoring feast were disappointed. Tight defences ruled on both sides for the most part - York didn't get a single kick at goal - whilst a number of scoring chances went begging.

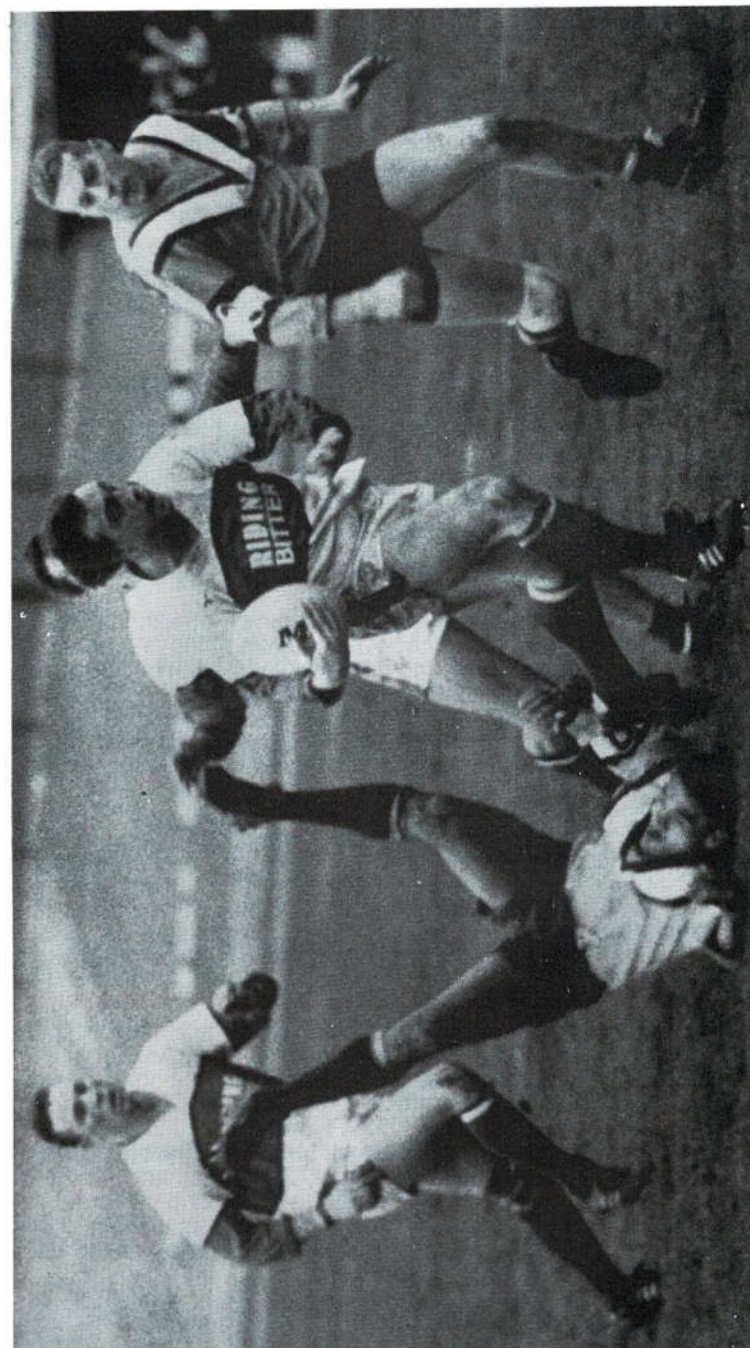
Too many players on both sides were below form, but there was a customary 80 minutes of graft from Colin Armstrong, David Bishop always looked likely to make the vital break, and the man-of-the-match award went to Bryan Niebling for a powerful foraging display.

(Played 31st December, 1989)

The stumbling display against Ryedale York was followed by another performance riddled with errors at Hunslet to round off the Old Year. So uncertain was our form in fact that we allowed the home side to snatch a shock lead. A fine try it was too, as our defence was ripped wide open and Hunslet really looked the part as they supported each other well to race over half the length of the field.

Down by 6 points, we reduced the arrears when **Jim Irvine** was able to score against his former team mates, and then on 26 minutes **Greg Austin** was sent sprinting to the line. He was felled by a tackle which earned instant dismissal for player-coach and fellow Aussie Graeme Jennings, but was still able to spin round and dive for the try, to give us a slender 8-6 interval advantage.

Against a short handed defence, tries started to come in the second half, but we continued to be our own worst enemies and fluffed probably twice as many chances as we scored. **Greg Austin** was on hand to bring his match tally to four tries, usually by capitilising on the charging runs of David Bishop or the distribution skills of **Mike Smith**. The latter scored one himself when our tacklers forced a Hunslet forward back over his own line where he dropped the ball to give the Robins' skipper the simplest of touchdowns.



DAVID BISHOP SCATTERS THE NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE

Garry Clark added a spectacular individual try when he broke out of Rovers quarter and sprinted 75 yards to the posts, leaving the Hunslet full back rooted to the spot as the winger raced round him. **Mike Fletcher** landed four goals but uncharacteristically missed rather more, and Hunslet had the last word with a closing try. The match ended with another typical error as Austin moved inside, ignoring the unmarked Sullivan, only to be tackled. The final mistake in an error ridden game which, despite the winning margin, proved another unsatisfactory performance by many of the players.

NOTTINGHAM CITY 0 ROVERS 58

(Played 7th January 1990)

Rovers started the New Year as Second Division leaders with ten straight league wins behind us and our first visit to the Harvey Haddon Athletic Stadium on the programme. Facing competition from the Nottingham Forest verses Manchester United F.A. third round tie, the attendance was below 900, with many of those favouring the red-and-whites.

In the opening stages on their very short pitch Nottingham buzzed about spiritedly and tackled well, looked lively and plucky, trying to move the ball about and not keep it tight.

Once Rovers started to send the ball out wide in a much improved display we showed far too much power and pace for the home side, who rarely visited our 25 throughout the game. After ten minutes **David Lightfoot** pounded up from full back and the support was there to send **Anthony Sullivan** clear to the corner. **Mike Fletcher** found it too far out for the conversion, but added a splendid goal from touch three minutes later after **Mike Smith** completed a round of sweet flowing football. Another three minutes and Greg Austin sped over after more flowing football.

On thirty minutes came the try of the day as **David Bishop** and **Mike Smith** got **Greg Austin** away from his own 25. The centre served **Anthony Sullivan** near halfway and the winger went fifty yards, turning inside and outside to outwit the cover and score his second unconverted try. Another 'Bish' break and skilfully delayed pass by **Mike Smith** saw the supporting **Jim Irvine** on hand to stroll over. This time **Mike Fletcher** added the goal and Rovers went in 24 - 0 ahead.

Shortly after the interval **Mike Smith's** superb break and flighted pass got **Greg Austin** away from the 25, the move finishing with **Anthony Sullivan** flying to the posts to complete his hat trick. **Mike Fletcher** goaled, as he did when **Bryan Niebling** plunged over after typical break by **Chris Rudd**.

Greg Austin crossed again at threequarter time, **Mike Fletcher** adding the goal, then substitute **Paul Lyman** went under the posts, and **Tony Botica** soon followed. **Mike Fletcher** converted both tries, and rounded off the scoring with Rovers eleventh try of the afternoon. He was unable to convert, but his tally of seven goals left him on 98 for the season, top of the League's goalkicking chart, ahead of **Paul Loughlin** on 96.

Our win represented the biggest winning margin away from home in the history of the club.

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FAST GOAL - AND TRY SCORING RECORDS

Mike Fletcher is close to equalling the record for the fastest century of goals in a season, after scoring in all of our 17 matches for a total of 98 goals. The record fastest 100 has been achieved in 18 matches and is shared by three players. **Bernard Ganley**, who did it in 17 matches for Oldham plus one for Great Britain in 1957-58. **David Watkins** equalled the record in 18 matches for Salford in 1972 - 73. **Steve Quinn** became the third joint record holder with a century in 18 matches for Featherstone Rovers in 1979 -80.

Meanwhile **John Woods** of Rochdale equalled the Division Two record of ten successive try scoring matches when he scored against Keighley on the 7th January. The record had been set by **Roger Millward** who scored in all Rovers' last ten matches of 1974 -75 before we were promoted.

'A' TEAM CUP DRAW

Rovers have been drawn away to visit Doncaster in the First Round of the Slalom Lager Alliance Challenge Cup; ties due to be played on Saturday the 3rd February.

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RESERVES REPORT

ROVERS 'A' 8 HULL 'A' 16

(Played 15 Dec. 89)

Only one thing is more disappointing than being beaten - yes, being beaten by a Hull side ! This was Rovers 'A's first defeat since back in October, but it took the base of a post to tip the scales in our opponents' favour! With the scoreboard showing the scorers locked at eight all, a kick intended for the Rovers in-goal area struck the base of the right hand upright and rebounded into the path of hull centre Harrison, who gratefully collapsed onto the ball for the decisive score.

This was after sixty three minutes of the game : strictly speaking the first Local Derby on the Ground, through ruined as a spectacle by fast spotting defences and the heavy ground. Hull opened the scoring with a penalty goal from Nolan after ten minutes, but as we hit back it took a good cover tackle by O'Hara to halt Steve Hadi just as he hit his stride.

Rovers had the territorial domination, and forced Hull to drop out from under their own posts no less than four times during the game, but the Boulevarders tackled very well and it took a very good try to give us the lead after twenty five minutes, with Fairbairn and Paul Fletcher opening the way for Ray Stead to go in at the corner - Fairbairn landing the touchline conversion.

The halftime scoreline of 6-2 in Rovers favour was perhaps a fair reflection of how the game had gone in the first forty minutes, but we should have learned from the fact that Hull hooker Mike Dixon had made three scuttling runs from acting half back which had us covering back desperately - and he repeated the dose on the sixth tackle ten minutes into the second half.

Nolan converted, Fairbairn landed a penalty - eight all with twenty minutes to go, but then came the Harrison try, Nolan's conversion, and a towering touchline penalty which sewed up the points.

Craig O'Brien took a bad knock in the ribs early on, which resulted in his replacement; and Fairbairn had a slight hamstring pull which required his withdrawal after an hour's play. There were a couple of bright spots in defeat - Paul Fletcher looked a lot fitter and keener than he has for some time; Graeme Hallas had his first full game of the season, and Dave Harrison came on for O'Brien to show that he lost none of the appetite for the game during his injury layoff.

ROVERS 'A' : Fairbairn; Hadi, Hallas, Lydiat, Stead; Laws, Bibby; Vannet, Richardson, O'Brien, McRae (A.), Fletcher (P.), Speckman. Subs. Robson (for Fairbairn) and Harrison, (D) (for O'Brien.)

CARLISLE 'A' 8 ROVERS 'A' 20

(Played 23rd Dec. 1989)

The haul up to Carlisle on the day before Christmas brought back the bacon in the shape of two League points after a good display by very young side in conditions which could only be described as miserable! A strong wind and sleet greeted Rovers on their arrival at Carlisle after a near five hour coach journey, but against the elements we went into a ninth minute lead when Craig O'Brien went round the fullback from twenty five yards out and Graeme Hallas converted.

With First team fullback Vickers pumping the ball into Rovers twenty five at every available opportunity, there was plenty of work for our wingers and forwards, but after

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twenty minutes David Laws sparked off a spectacular move which covered all of fifty yards and sent Mark Wildridge skidding in for our second try. Hallas landed the conversion from an acute angle, and despite Carlisle's territorial dominance we were a dozen points ahead!

Things changed twelve minutes before the interval, when Carlisle winger Jerry Nicholson produced a try from well inside his own half, which stand off Cubiss converted with a tremendous kick from touch.

Carlisle put the pressure on for the remainder of the half, and we seemed to be rocking when Hallas sliced a drop out straight into touch and Cubiss kicked the penalty. With our lead cut from twelve points to just four, we badly needed a score to stifle us down, and we got it in the form of a Hallas penalty early in the second half.

The deciding score was a beauty, and made from nothing by Andy McRae, who made the gap on halfway with a slick dummy, clapped on the pace and found Paul Vannet well up in support to charge the remaining thirty yards for the try. Hallas converted to see the Robins home, and after McRae took a nasty crack off the ball which left him dazed and dizzy, there was never any chance that Carlisle would be allowed back into the game.

ROVERS 'A': Robson; Stead, Laws, Schultz, Wildridge; Hallas, Hoe; Vannet, Harrison (D.), McRae (A.), O'Brien, Harrison (C.), Fletcher (P.). Subs: Gotts (for Fletcher) and McRae (I.)

ROVERS 'A' 42 HUNSLET 'A' '0
(Played 30 Dec. 1989)

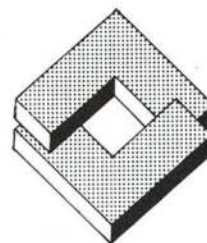
Seven high speed tries for Rovers 'A' as they rattled up their biggest score of the season so far. We had Zook Ema back on deck in the front row, and he had a typical strong match at Number Eight. David Laws had his comeback halted however, when he failed a fitness test on an injured hamstring before the game, and Dave Harrison took a bang against Carlisle which prevented his turning out. Ray Stead stepped in for Laws for a Rovers side who also had other players returning from injury in Gary Sims, John Lydiat and George Fairbairn.

It was the pre-match plan to run the Hunslet pack around during the first half, in the expectation that points would come in the second - and how well that plan worked! Already twelve points up at the break, after tries to Sean Hoe and Graeme Hallas, plus two successful Hallas conversions; five more tries followed, some covering over half the length of the field.

Paul Fletcher grabbed two tries, John Lydiat, Mark Wildridge and Ray Stead the others, with Hallas kicking a further five goals. Graeme was in fact nominated by the Hunslet coach as Rovers Player of the Match, playing the full eighty minutes and doing well in all departments : unfortunately, during the game Graeme took a heavy knock just after kicking downfield, and as a result he was hospitalised after the game with a damaged kidney being diagnosed.

This is about the latest in a series of problems which have dogged Graeme's progress since he joined us from the Dudley Hill Amateur Club - missing out on the BARLA Youth Tour. but joining Canterbury - Bankstown only to contract glandular fever and miss out on most of the season to date. This young man deserves a change of luck very soon, and when he gets it, he will make plenty of people sit up and take notice.

ROVERS 'A': Robson; Stead, Sims, Lydiat, Wildridge; Hallas, Hoe; Ema, Richardson, McRae, O'Brien, Harrison (c.), Fletcher (P.) Subs: Fairbairn (for Sims) and Gotts (for O'Brien.)



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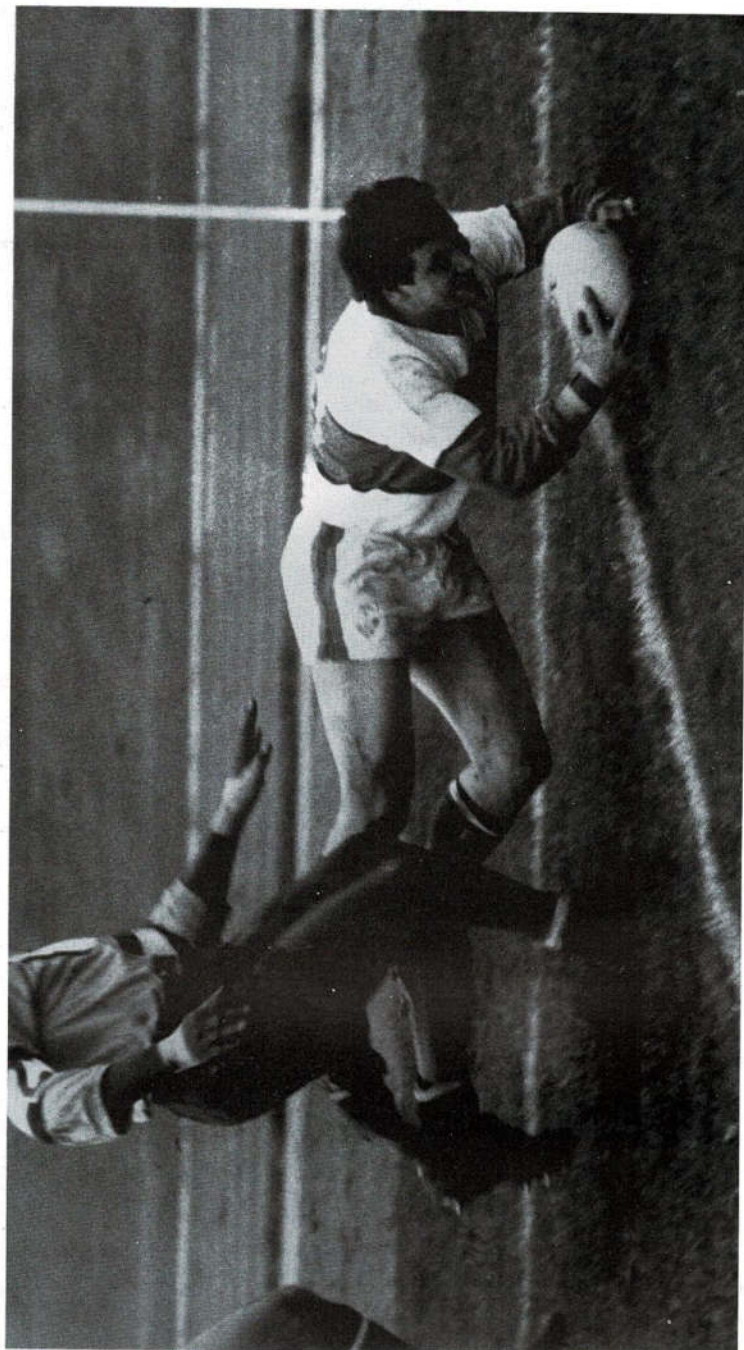
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MIKE SMITH DIVES IN TO SCORE AGAINST NOTTINGHAM

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS 'A' 18 CASTLEFORD 'A' 10

(Played 5th January 1990)

Rovers 'A' got their Year off to a good start with this well merited victory over a strong Castleford side in a fixture which was a repeat of the Yorkshire Senior Cup Final we won earlier in the season.

Castleford were able to call upon Kevin Beardmore, still regarded in many quarters as being the best hooker in the game; with Paul Speckman making a welcome return to the Rovers side after several weeks absence with an elbow injury.

The Robins had the best of starts when Zook Ema and Paul Fletcher punched holes in the Castleford defence, and young Sean Hoe showed great anticipation to be in just the right place for a scoring pass. George Fairbairn landed the conversion, but there was scarcely any time to talk about it before Cas mounted a quick counter attack and stand off Smith was in for a try.

The conversion attempt was missed, and in keeping with this fast and furious first half, Mike Bibby supported Andy Mcrae to nip over for the game's third try - and still less than half an hour on the clock! Once more Fairbairn landed the conversion - and it was a good job too, as within two minutes Castleford had struck again.

This time it was blonde winger McAllister, who had made a good impression in the Y.S.C. Final as a centre, who scored - Blackburn converting. There was no sign that the pace of this game was about to slacken, and there were near things at each end before Speckman threaded a low kick through the defence, it took a bounce from a defender - and there was Gary Sims, on as substitute for the injured John Lydiat - diving in for an unconverted touchdown under the very noses of the defence!

With just one minute to the halftime whistle, Mark Wildridge had a running chance on the left wing. He chipped ahead, only to be taken out by the Castleford fullback, Price, who was sent into the sin bin to cool his heels for ten minutes.

Cool heads were needed in this high speed clash, and during the second half Rovers concentrated much more on defence. Though Castleford sprayed the ball about in their customary manner, they hit a defence which always found the will to cover, chase, and ultimately deny them any further scores.

With twenty minutes to go, Fairbairn landed a penalty to force Castleford to have to score twice - and though they had plenty of possession, Rovers tackled them out of it.

Steve Robson had to go down onto low kicks and up for high ones, but never dropped a ball all night; Paul Fletcher and both props had strong games in the pack, with Speckman providing the options in a manner which has been missing in recent games.

In the final minutes, Rovers put together the best move of the game, going from inside their own twenty five through Craig O'Brien, out to the wing then inside to Fletcher and so on to Sims who scooted over - only for the score to be overruled on the intervention of a touch judge, who came on to report Fletcher for defending himself against a "tackler" who had gone through with an elbow.

ROVERS 'A': Robson; Stead, Fairbairn, Lydiat, Wildridge; Bibby, Hoe; Ema, Richardson, McRae (A.), O'Brien, Fletcher (p.), Speckman. Subs. Sims (for Lydiat) and Vannet (for O'Brien).



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HULL KINGSTON ROVERS R.L.F.C. ALLIANCE FIXTURES - SEASON 1989/1990

1989

SEPTEMBER

	Venue	Result	Score
Fri. 1-Hull F.C. (7.30 p.m.)	A	Lost	6-30
Fri. 8-Leeds (7.30 p.m.)	A	Won	14-8
Fri. 15-Widnes (7.30 p.m.)	A	Won	25-14
Fri. 22-Halifax (7.30 p.m.)	A	Lost	8-40
Fri. 29-Oldham (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	20-14

OCTOBER

Fri. 6-Wakefield Trinity (7.30 p.m.) (Cup)	A	Won	13-10
Fri. 13-Leeds (7.30 p.m.)	H	Lost	14-16
Fri. 20-Ryedale York (7.30 p.m.) (Y.S.C. 2)	H	Won	20-4
Fri. 27-Swinton C. (7.30 p.m.)	A	Won	36-14

NOVEMBER

Fri. 3-Halifax (7.30 p.m.)	H	Postponed	
Fri. 10-St. Helens (7.30 p.m.)	A	Postponed	
Fri. 17-Swinton C. (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	29-8
Fri. 24-Hunslet (7.30 p.m.)	A	Won	21-8

DECEMBER

Fri. 1-Widnes (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	34-6
Fri. 8-Featherstone R. (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	12-0
Fri. 15-Hull F.C. (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	8-16
Sat. 23-Carlisle (2.15 p.m.)	A	Won	20-8
Sat. 30-Hunslet (2.30 p.m.)	H	Won	42-0

1990

JANUARY

Fri. 5-Castleford (7.30 p.m.)	H	Won	18-10
Fri. 12-Oldham (7.30 p.m.)	A		
Sat. 20-Carlisle (2.30)	H		
Fri. 26-Wigan (7.30 p.m.)	H		

FEBRUARY

Fri. 9-Featherstone R. (7.30 p.m.)	A		
Sat. 3-Doncaster (alliance Cup I)	A		

MARCH

Fri. 2-Salford (7.30 p.m.)	A		
Fri. 9-St. Helens (7.30 p.m.)	H		
Fri. 16-Warrington W. (7.30 p.m.)	A		
Fri. 23-Warrington W. (7.30 p.m.)	H		

APRIL

Fri. 6-Salford (7.30 p.m.)	H		
Wed. 11-Castleford (7.30 p.m.)	A		
Fri. 20-Wigan (7.30 p.m.)	A		

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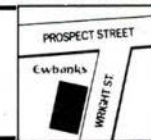
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OLDHAM R.L.F.C. PEN PICTURES

Duncan Platt: Full back: 24: 6'3": 15st. Goalkicker signed for £35,000 in November 1988 from Widnes. Younger brother of Wigan and Great Britain forward Andy, he was in Widnes' Premiership winning team in 1988. Excelled for Oldham and scored 41 goals 88 points in his debut season.

Charlie McAlister: Wing: A sensational capture from Bradford and Bingley R.U.F.C. in february 1988, scoring nine tries and 18 goals in 18 appearances in his debut season. Had a 1988 summer spell in Australia with Newcastle Knights, improving his defensive abilities, and last summer played in his native New Zealand with the Petone Club in Wellington. Great strength and pace and the ability to play in a variety of back roles.

Kevin Meadows: Wing: One of the Division's most under-rated players, having previously played for St. Helens and Warrington. In his second spell at Oldham where he once scored five tries in a First Division match against Salford in 1984.

Des Foy: Centre: Now back in action with Oldham after a spell in Australia. As lethal as ever, as his five tries verses Hunslet just over a week ago indicates.

Gary Hyde: Centre: Another of Tony Barrow's recruits, joining Oldham from Castleford after winning Great Britain Under 24 International honours in the early '80's. Has played centre and loose forward for Oldham. Played in seven major finals for castleford, including their 1986 Wembley defeat of Rovers.



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Richard Irving: Centre: Signed for Oldham in August 1987 from Moldgreen A.R.L.F.C. and impressed with his strong running displays.

John Henderson: Centre: Signed from Leigh, this prolific try scorer suffered through injury for most of last season when he scored eight tries. Had 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. Had guested for Western Suburbs, Sydney in 1985.

Paul Lord: Wing: Originally signed from Stanley Rangers A.R.L. as a stand-off half. He has represented Yorkshire at Under 17 level and Great Britain.

Derek Bate: Wing: Making his second appearance this season at Craven Park, having played for Swinton here last October, and moved to Oldham just over a week ago. Originally from Leigh Miners' Welfare he made his debut for Swinton in 1983 and thereafter regularly topped their try scoring charts.

Richard Russell: Off half: Oldham's close season signing 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 few opportunities last season, although he had represented Wigan in the 1987 Lancashire Cup and Premiership Finals.

Brett Clark: Off half: From the St. George Club in Sydney, has recently signed a one year contract for Oldham. Previously played for St Helens in the 1986/87 season when he proved to be one of their most popular overseas signings.

Mike Ford: Scrum half: BARLA Young Lions tourist to New Zealand in 1983, signed for Wigan from 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 Eastern Suburbs, Sydney. Signed for home town club 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.

John Fairbank: Prop: Former BARLA International forward signed by Leeds in November 1987 from Elland RLFC. 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 suprisingly allowed to leave Headingley Last August. Strong, forceful 21 year old whose best is yet to come.

Andy Raune: Hooker: Former Widnes and Rochdale player, 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 two 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 their relegation year, scoring four tries and 18 goals.

Leo Casey: Prop: 24: 6'1"; 15st. 10Lbs. Recruited from Oldham St. Annes ARLFC in April 1988, this hard grafting prop scored three tries in eight appearances for the Club in 1987/88 and a further seven tries last season.

John Fieldhouse: Prop: Recent £45,000 signing from St. Helens, a former Great Britain international and "man-of-the-series" against the Kiwis. Has settled in well at Oldham and again playing the sort of Rugby that made him an international.



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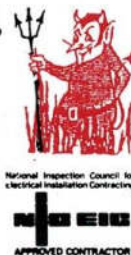
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Paul Round: Second Row: Signed Signed for £65,000 from St. Helens in August 1987, instantly repaying Oldham with 16 tries in 26 appearances and gaining inclusion in the Lancashire team which opposed Yorkshire (scoring a try) and Papua New Guinea in 1987. Originally a back row forward he has also played on the wing and at full back.

Keith Newton: Second row: Strong running forward signed for £12,000 from champions Widnes last season.

Colin Hawkyard: Second row: Current Beneficiary, having started his Benefit Year in July. The unsung workhorse of the "Roughyeds" pack being a frequent scorer and a tireless defensive player. Played for Oldham in the 1986 Lancashire Cup Final against Wigan. Has been willing to play anywhere in the forwards or middle backs, but sustained a fractured leg at the Boulevard three months ago.

Shaun Allen: Second row: 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. Has also plenty of experience at centre for the Knowsley Rd. Club.

John Cogger: Loose forward: An outstanding signing for £12,000 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 7 scored for Runcorn. Has also plenty of experience at off half. The Club Captain.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Tonight is the match of the season for the Robins when they take on Oldham for what may well be the deciding factor at the end of the season. With Oldham already one up due to their home victory over Rovers, everything points to a head on collision with a winner takes all about it. We welcome all our visitors from Oldham and look forward to welcoming members of the Oldham Supporters' Club to our clubhouse on the car park after tonight's game.

We are now taking bookings in the Clubhouse for Saturday night functions which are organised by any of our members. For further information regarding this please contact any member of the Club Committee or ask at the door, but please book early and avoid disappointment.

Great lot of athletes our Supporters' Club lot, blimey! Heard of some strange injuries but surely this one takes the biscuit. Long time member Jack Calvert, who is the self confessed star of our Dominoes section, once more proved to be the centre of attraction. Never thought anyone could break his hip playing dominoes but our Jack managed it. Hard luck mate but don't be idling your time away in Hull Royal, they're a useless lot without you, so get back pronto, there's points at stake. (and where was the physio anyway?).

Our Wembley outing is now fully booked so no possibility of travelling with the club unless a cancellation takes place.

Smashing display by the 'A' team recently when they defeated Castleford 'A' at Craven Park. Cas, who were still smarting after their Cup Final defeat by Rovers, came fully souped up for revenge but the Young Robins were having non of this and ran out worthy winners. Well done lads and thanks to "Edo" for a super season so far.

One young man sure to be tenderhooks tonight is 9 year old Grant Bithell of Oldham. One of the club's staunchest fans, Grant travels to games with Dad and is most vocal with his support and most loyal to the club. Currently starring at scrum half with Royton Tigers, his form suggests that yet another local star is bound for the Watersheddings! There you are mate, What about that, that's one conker you owe me. Happy New Year and love to Mum and Dad.

Don't forget we are open every night, so get in, have a game of darts, dominoes, pool or have a natter about the last match. It's your club, so please use it.

Last week's visit to Nottingham raised the following thoughts. If the author of the piece in the programme who could not see from his seat at Craven Park early in the season, why didn't he move? Are not hot dogs supposed to be hot with onions cooked? And could we book the P.A. Announcer and Mr. Allatt as a double act? Were they really expecting Hull as per programme? All of this is small fry, because guess whose good lady won the raffle. Now that was a first class, really super table topping display by the club. Well done Nottingham!

Watch the notice board in the clubhouse for our super Sunday night concert artists with our own resident duo in support, plus our Saturday Night Disco and other entertainments which are now planned. Dates for your diary:

Sunday 21st January - super multi - instrumentalist star Ronnie Storm.

Sunday 28th January - super vocalist Nik Martin.

Sunday 4th February - Simply Unique. New to Rovers' club and not to be missed.

Sunday 11th February - top group Park Lane.

Sunday 18th February - the act we have been waiting to book for a long time - DUETTE You must see this.

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LEN CASEY RETURNS

The recent Annual General Meeting of Shareholders saw our former Test Skipper **Len Casey** win the place on the Board of Directors left vacant by the decision of **David Borrill** not to seek re-election. The retiring trio of directors **Max Gold**, **Phil Lowe** and **David Robson** were all re-elected.

RING - A - ROUND

QUOTES EXTRACTED FROM A Ring-a-Round interview with **MIKE FLETCHER** after the Nottingham game:

"Started to click again, but still some areas to get right. We've been dropping the ball too many times and we're not supporting as well as we should".

(about defence) - "That's one of our strong points this year - totally changed from last".

(Concerning the possibility of breaking the record): "It was on my mind all the way through the game!". "Every time I got a kick it was 'come on - one more - you're getting closer'".

(Talking of First Division): "It would be good to get back into the big time. It's all about confidence".

(on Roger after the Nottingham match): "He had a smile on his face for a change".

HALLAS STILL UNLUCKY

In contrast to last season when the number of players on the injured list often tended to exceed the number of players available for selection, this term we have been very fortunate, a situation reflected by the fact that only 24 players have featured in the first team and 22 in the "A" team. Perhaps the most unfortunate player has been **Graeme Hallas** our highly promising centre or stand-off who returned from his term in Australia with glandular fever, causing him to miss the early part of our season. After playing only three "A" team games and improving match by match, beginning to look like his old self, Graeme took a heavy tackle in his back during the "A" team game versus Hunslet on 30th. December, causing him to be detained in a Hull hospital for four days over the New Year period. Although he appears to have recovered well he has been advised to have a six weeks lay-off.

In Rovers "A" team's fine win over a strong Castleford by 18-10, which featured good displays by last year's Juniors Mike Bibby, Shaun Hoe, Steve Robson, Paul Fletcher and Andy McRae, captain **George Fairbairn** led the side by example but unfortunately picked up a thigh injury which kept him out of last Friday's away match at Oldham which saw the return of **David Laws** after a hamstring injury.

In the Castleford game a fine team performance was highlighted by the defensive display of the whole team especially in the first twenty minutes of the second half when Castleford hammered away at our line to no avail, only to see our boys come away to score at the other end. Well done lads, keep it up.

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PLAYERS NEWS

Next Saturday 20th. January sees Rovers "A" play Carlisle at Craven Park (kick-off 2.30) and could include **Des Harrison** for the first time in three months after his successful completion of the Fire Brigade Induction course. Well done and welcome back Des.

Congratulations to two of our juniors, stand-off or centre **Mike Crane** and prop forward **Ian McRae** (younger brother of Andy) on their selection for the BARLA Great Britain Under 19 squad for the coming matches against France.

David Lightfoot is now resident in the Humberside area and the long distance travelling from Cumbria is now eliminated.

Former Rovers scrum-half **Steve Dobson** moved from Ryedale York to Sheffield Eagles just before the Challenge Cup register closed.

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF RUGBY LEAGUE SUPPORTERS CLUBS

THE BRAMLEY TROPHY

Andy McRae of Hull K.R. became the 13th winner of the Bramley Trophy when he was unanimously voted Player of the Match in the 1989 Yorkshire Senior Competition Challenge Cup Final between Castleford and Hull K.R. played at Wheldon Road on Friday 17th November. The trophy was presented to him by Miss Yorkshire R.L., Sarah McDonough of Warrington.

The trophy was donated to the Yorkshire Federation of R.L. Supporters Clubs by Mr. Callaghan of Bramley R.L. Supporters Club. The Winners since first presented in 1977 have been:

1977	P. Inns, York.	1984	S. Horton, Castleford.
1978	C. Davidson, Hull.	1985	H. Budby, Wakefield Trinity.
1979	J. Carroll, Leeds	1986	D. Sampson, Castleford.
1980	I. Birkby, Castleford.	1987	P. Bell, Halifax.
1981	J. Walsh, Castleford.	1988	J. Lyons, Leeds.
1982	K. England, Castleford.	1989	A. Mcrae, Hull K.R.
1983	A. Dannatt, Hull.		

Regal Trophy Diary

The 1990 Regal Trophy Diary is now available, featuring 24 pages of Rugby League material. Twelve full page action shots are complemented by statistical information including a review of the Regal Trophy, principal dates, Anglo-Aussie Test records and club data. The top quality Regal Trophy diary also includes traditional information including national holidays, notable dates, conversion tables and a year planner.

£3.25 Plus 50p packing and postage

Rugby League March

A cassette of the march dedicated to Rugby League Football by Halifax fan Aubrey Beswick and played by the City of Leeds Youth Concert Band is now available. Mr Beswick is Head of woodwind for the City of Leeds Instrumental Music Service and has composed the popular march as a tribute to the 13-a-side code, the self-composition being entitled Touchdown.

£1.00 plus 30p packing and postage

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CIVIL SERVANTS RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS

The Civil Service ARLA will be taking a team to France to play the French Civil Service at Avignon on 17 March (the same weekend as the France v Great Britain full international).

Although training sessions have already been held, coaches John Kain and Ken Sykes are still looking for more players to become involved. If you play Rugby League and are a serving civil servant, it's not too late to do your bit for your country. If you wish to be considered for selection contact Michael Mainon on 0494 465 871 as soon as possible.



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