

OLDHAM TEAM CHECK HUDDERSFIELD

DUNCAN PLATT	1	WALLY GIBSON
RICHARD IRVING	2	BOB JOWETT
DES FOY	3	ANTHONY EDWARDS
JOHN HENDERSON	4	STUART COCKER
PAUL LORD	5	LEE ST HILAIRE
BRETT CLARK	6	ANDY MACKINTOSH
MIKE FORD	7	GREG SHUTTLEWORTH
LEO CASEY	8	GARY SIDDALL
RICHARD RUSSELL	9	PHIL HUCK
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	10	CRAIG WHITEHEAD
KEITH NEWTON	11	FRANK SIMPSON
SHAUN ALLEN	12	ANDY DICKINSON
JOHN COGGER	13	PETER SUBRITZKY
TOMMY MARTYN	14	GARY SENIOR
KEITH ATKINSON	15	DAVE NELSON

Referee: Mr. C. Steele (Barrow). Touch Judges: Mr. W. Brown (Red Flag). Mr. J. R. Lindsay (Orange Flag)

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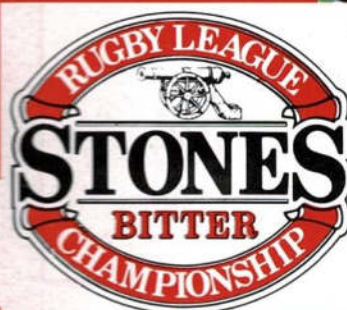
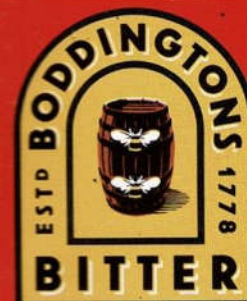
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OLDHAM v HUDDERSFIELD
Sunday, March 4th
Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.

80p

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Conditioner: Ossie Rowe

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Orthopaedic Surgeons:

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Official Timekeeper: Mr. J. Roscoe

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L. Casey, B. Clark, N. Clawson, J. Cogger,
T. Croston, S. J. Entwistle, J. Fairbank,
J. Fieldhouse, N. 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

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

WHAT a marvellous performance our boys produced at Widnes to put us into the semi-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup! I was proud of every one of them. We were easily the better side on the day. Not only did we score two tries to nil, but we defended in brilliant fashion — one of the best defensive performances I have seen from any team anywhere.

We also had tremendous backing from our fans and on behalf of the players I would like to thank each and every one of you for giving us your support on the day.

I'll bet thousands of Oldhamers were glued to their television screens on Monday evening for the draw and, as you all know by now, we were paired with my old team, Warrington, in a semi-final tie which will be played at Central Park, Wigan, on March 31.

For sentimental reasons I would have preferred to play Warrington at Wembley because I spent a lot of happy years at Wilderspool and it would have been a marvellous thing for me, on a personal note, if both clubs could have enjoyed the big day out.

Anyway, that is not to be. Instead, we have to do battle in the semi-final at Central Park and everyone at Water-sheddings, from the boardroom down, is confident we can gain revenge for our Lancashire Cup final defeat last October and go on to reach Wembley for the very first time in this great club's history.

If ever a club deserves to go to Wembley — not only for what we are striving to achieve now, but for all that has been achieved in years gone by — it is Oldham.

It is one of Rugby League's great tragedies that this club, and its supporters, have never had the Wembley taste and if I can play some part this year in putting things to rights I will be the happiest man in the world, not for personal achievement but for all you wonderful fans out there who give so much support to the club.

I know that goes for the directors and the players, too. My players are a great bunch of boys — true professionals, good mates together, and a team in the real sense of the word.

I think they proved that at Widnes last Sunday, didn't they?

We still see promotion as our priority, of course, and every league point is vital not only to ensure that we go up but as a possible step towards the title or a place in the top two for a home run in the Premiership.

We have a terrific three months to look forward to . . . and I know you will back us every inch of the way as we look for glory on three fronts: the Challenge Cup, promotion or the Second Division championship, and the Premiership with its big day out at Old Trafford.

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Spotlight on... **RICHARD IRVING**

ONE of the unsung heroes who has been a sheer revelation during Oldham's triumphant season is speedy, tough tackling winger Richard Irving.

So far this season the young 22-year-old has played 21 matches and scored nine tries, impressive statistics which do not take into account his immaculate work on defence.

But even though Richard has been one of the outstanding successes of a very successful season, he may well have been lost to Rugby League for good had the lure of soccer proved too great.

Football was his first love during his early teens and would have remained so but for a school-teacher spotting the potential and encouraging him to give Rugby League a chance.

Richard duly gave the game a chance and hasn't looked back in the seven years since.

Comments Richard: "I'd always refused to even try rugby at school but when I did finally give it a go I was hooked right away and I hung up my football boots for good!"

After playing rugby league for Rawthorpe High School, Huddersfield, and Mold Green Amateurs, winning the Yorkshire and Barlow GB awards, Richard fulfilled his ambition by turning professional when he signed for Oldham at 19.

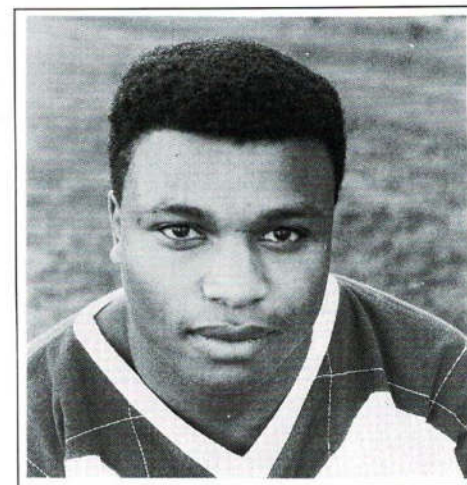
"Signing for Oldham was without doubt the best move I have ever made. Being given a chance to play professionally for the first time with the Watersheddings team was an absolute privilege.

"In the past three and a half years I couldn't have asked for more from either the team or our fans. They have always given me a fair crack of the whip."

Loyal support is vital to team morale and Huddersfield-born Richard feels that the Oldham players are lucky to have such dedicated fans.

"Our supporters are really something. They stick by us even when the chips are down and such a feeling of unity means our victories are more precious because of that!"

One such moment was last Sunday's epic defeat



of mighty Widnes 16-4 in the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup which shook the Rugby League world.

"I have never experienced such brilliant team spirit as I did last Sunday. We all went out feeling positive and our fans did wonders for our confidence. We owed it to them to get through, just as we owe it to them to get to Wembley this year. And I know we can do it," says an elated Richard.

Making it to Wembley is Richard's immediate goal but he has already set his sights on the Great Britain squad.

"I am aware of how much dedication is required to make it to represent your country, but it's something I am really working towards. Every sportsman dreams of playing for a Test side as it's the height of any career and the true test of ability."

Playing for Oldham has helped. "I've always been pushed in the right direction at Oldham but at the same time I have never come up against any 'superstars' who get preferential treatment. Fellow team members are always ready to help you out and we keep our competition between ourselves and our opposition."

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Crunch — Man of the Match Keith Newton grimaces with pain after this challenge by Kurt Sorensen in last Sunday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final against Widnes.



The deciding try — Keith Newton squeezes through to put Oldham in the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup after beating World Champions Widnes 16-4 in an epic match. Des Foy looks suitably delighted!

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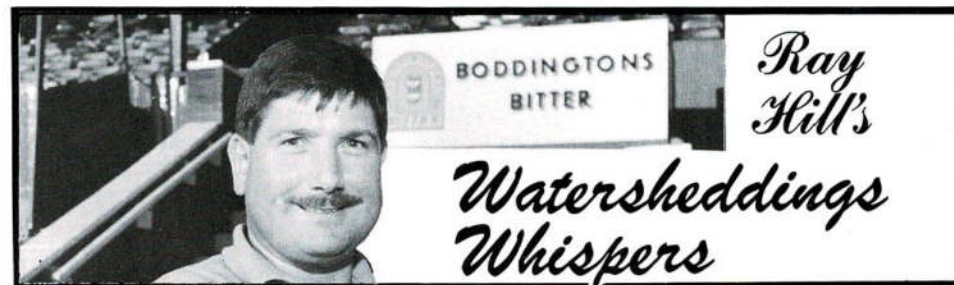
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Whispers*

WHAT a season this is turning out to be. We're looking good for promotion, with the championship still very much a reality. We've appeared in one major cup final and another — the biggie to Wembley's famous twin towers — is eighty minutes away.

And it is proving to be an equally successful season off the pitch on the commercial front, too. One major triumph has been the Sheddings nightclub, which has captured the imagination of nightclubbers throughout the town. Jim Fletcher and his staff have done an excellent job at the club which can only get better.

Obviously the club is very much a part of the Watersheddings scene and to this end you can take advantage of a great offer to make Sheddings your own for the night — and raise funds to take Oldham right to the top.

On offer is a four-course meal with great entertainment, including a comedian, speaker, exotic dancer (suitable for male, female or mixed company tastes) and a compere.

All you need to do is sell a minimum 120 tickets at £10 per head, which you have to agree is great value for money for a super night out.

What's more, by selling 120 tickets we would automatically guarantee you £600 profit before you take into account extra cash raised from raffles and the like.

Interested? You should be if you want to enjoy a night to remember at a very reasonable cost.

Telephone the Sheddings on 061-624 0368 to get more details and arrange your booking today.

The club itself has already hosted some great nights at the Sheddings. The Players' Party last month immediately springs to mind.

Another great event is lined up later this month — Wednesday 21 March — when we host our St. Valentine's Day Massacre disco and casino night.

Tickets for the evening cost a mere £10. This price includes a delicious buffet and fistful of gambling chips, so you can try your hand at blackjack and roulette.

It's going to be a lot of fun so make sure you aren't disappointed by ordering your tickets after today's match.

In my last programme notes I mentioned being in the dark about money-spinning ideas to raise cash to replace floodlight bulbs. Several of you have already enlightened me with suggestions but I'd still like to hear from more of you, no matter what your idea. Remember, bright ideas are always welcome in my ohm!

Members of our Lifeline Society will soon be receiving a brand new newspaper designed to keep them fully in the picture about all the latest developments within the club's popular fundraiser which has a weekly £1,000 pay-out plus other excellent prizes.

The next major draw is for a super sun-soaked holiday to the Caribbean, which is up for grabs for a lucky Lifeline winner in June.

The Caribbean is the last place you'll need our smart new designer ski jackets. The red and navy jackets with white trim are now available in the Souvenir Shop at less than £30 and great value whether you are on the piste or watching your favourite club from the terraces.

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NEXT HOME GAME

SUNDAY, MARCH 18th
v RUNCORN

(Kick-off
3.00p.m.)

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES

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6	7	8	9	10
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11	12	13	14	15
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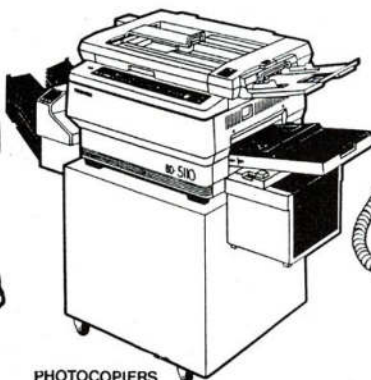
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TOSHIBA

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	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	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	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	10-32	Fieldhouse (2), Hyde, Fairbank, Cogger, Meadows		Hyde (2), McAlister (2)	1,200	
	29 Batley	H	3.00	3	22-4	Ruane, Martyn, Meadows, Irving		Martyn (3)	4,120	
	5 Doncaster	A	3.00	2	22-20	Casey, Lord, Hyde, Fairbank		Hyde (3)	3,813	
Dec	12 Keighley	H	3.00	2	50-34	Clark, Hyde, Irving, Ford, McAlister, Meadows, Ruane, Lord, Russell		Hyde (7)	4,113	
	19 Fulham	A	2.30	2	40-10	McAlister, Ruane (2), Clark, Cogger, Allen, Ford		McAlister (6)	1,440	
	26 Doncaster	H	3.00	2	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	4	L	24-12	McAlister, Lord		McAlister	8,150
	7 Swinton	H	3.00	3	29-14	Ford, Lord (2), Cogger, Russell		Platt (4), Ford (dg)	4,954	
Feb	7 Hunslet	H	3.00	3	48-10	Foy (5), Cogger (3), Fairbank		Platt (6)	3,644	
	14 Huddersfield (SCCC)	H	3.00	W	30-8	Clark, Allen, Newton, Cogger, Fairbank		Platt (5)	4,593	
	17 Hull KR	A	7.30	3	9-6	Irving		Platt (2), Platt (dg)	6,530	
	21 Chorley	A	3.00	3	44-6	Irving (3), Foy (2), Cogger (2), Newton		Platt (6)	2,851	
Mar	28 Workington (SCCC Rnd 1)	H	3.00	W	30-8	Platt, Henderson (3), Clark		Platt, Atkinson (4)	3,710	
	4 Fulham	H	3.00	3	52-4	Henderson (4), Foy, Casey, Newton (2), Platt, Lord		Platt (5)	3,549	
	11 Salford (SCCC Rnd 2)	A	3.00	W	18-7	Russell, Clark		Platt (5)	6,542	
	18 Chorley	H	3.00	2	66-16	Clark (3), Russell (2), Martyn, McAlister, Casey, Cogger, Irving, Foy, Round		Platt (9)	3,576	
Apr	25 Widnes (SCCC Rnd 3)	A	3.00	W	16-4	Henderson, Newton		Platt (4)	11,820	
	28 Keighley	A								
	4 Huddersfield	H	3.00							
	11 Batley	A	2.30							
May	18 Runcorn	H	3.00							
	25 Huddersfield	A	3.00							
	31 Warrington (SCCC semi-final)	A	3.00							
	1 Hunslet	A	3.30							
Jun	8 Carlisle	H	3.00							
	13 Swinton	A	3.00							
	16 Rochdale	H	3.00							

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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen	24	1	0	0	4	16
Keith Atkinson	5	8	4	0	0	8
Mick Bardsley	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ian Bates	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leo Casey	20	0	0	0	4	16
Brett Clark	25	1	0	0	12	48
Neil Clawson	4	1	0	0	2	8
John Cogger	27	0	0	0	21	84
Trevor Croston	4	4	0	0	2	8
John Fairbank	13	10	0	0	6	24
John Fieldhouse	25	1	0	0	3	12
Neil Flanagan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford	27	0	0	2	6	26
Des Foy	11	0	0	0	9	36
John Henderson	10	2	0	0	11	44
Gary Hyde	14	2	21	0	4	58
Richard Irving	21	1	0	0	9	36
Paul Lord	27	0	0	0	15	60
Charlie McAlister	14	5	16	0	6	56
Tommy Martyn	2	1	3	0	2	14
Kevin Meadows	6	5	0	0	6	20
Keith Newton	21	0	0	0	9	36
Duncan Platt	18	0	83	1	6	191
Steve Robinson	12	4	0	0	4	16
Paul Round	1	1	0	0	1	4
Andy Ruane	16	0	0	0	6	24
Richard Russell	24	4	0	0	6	24

Up to and including Widnes match

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	20	9	0	1	445	147	8	0	2	264	161	34
Hull KR	18	8	0	1	326	49	8	0	1	358	68	32
OLDHAM	18	10	0	0	363	105	6	0	2	205	104	32
Swinton	20	8	0	2	296	132	7	0	3	211	161	30
Ryedale York	21	7	0	1	204	76	7	1	5	227	191	29
Halifax	19	10	0	1	307	117	4	0	4	197	134	28
Dewsbury	20	7	0	3	194	121	6	0	4	169	190	26
Doncaster	21	6	2	3	221	139	5	0	5	206	165	24
Batley	21	7	0	4	227	136	5	0	5	159	144	24
Huddersfield	20	5	0	5	145	129	7	0	3	212	134	24
Trafford	20	7	0	4	219	179	5	0	4	172	153	24
Fulham	20	6	0	4	175	185	5	1	4	125	199	23
Hunslet	22	4	0	7	196	219	4	0	7	151	183	16
Bramley	21	4	0	7	149	264	4	0	6	145	214	16
Whitehaven	20	5	0	5	172	192	2	0	8	129	236	14
Chorley	20	5	0	6	163	193	2	0	7	104	268	14
Carlisle	20	4	0	5	199	174	1	0	10	148	335	10
Keighley	19	3	0	6	176	251	2	0	8	150	245	10
Workington	20	1	0	8	97	242	3	0	8	124	335	8
Nottingham	21	1	0	9	114	391	1	0	10	122	400	4
Runcorn	21	0	0	10	87	233	0	0	11	96	455	0

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'A' Team Round-Up

Slalom Lager Alliance League

FIRST DIVISION										Pts
P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hull	20	15	1	4	485	251	20	15	1	31
Hull KR	20	14	0	6	415	244	20	14	0	28
Leeds	18	13	1	4	506	237	18	13	1	27
Castleford	18	13	0	5	504	320	18	13	0	26
Wigan	19	12	0	7	485	314	19	12	0	24
Warrington	19	12	0	7	459	404	19	12	0	24
Halifax	20	12	0	8	378	366	20	12	0	24
St Helens	18	10	0	8	410	378	18	10	0	20
OLDHAM	20	8	1	11	357	359	20	8	1	17
Swinton	20	8	0	12	303	542	20	8	0	16
Featherstone	18	7	0	11	395	414	18	7	0	14
Widnes	19	6	0	13	284	562	19	6	0	12
Salford	19	4	1	14	402	435	19	4	1	9
Carlisle	17	3	0	14	278	528	17	3	0	6
Hunslet	19	3	0	16	221	528	19	3	0	6

'A' Team Player Profile

RICHARD PACHNIUK

Yorkshireman Richard Pachniuk originally joined Oldham as a scrum-half, but has settled in comfortably to a new role as hooker. Richard, who was signed from Dewsbury, the same amateur side as fellow player Richard Blackman, has won Yorkshire County Youth honours.

'A' Team Fixtures and Statistics

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

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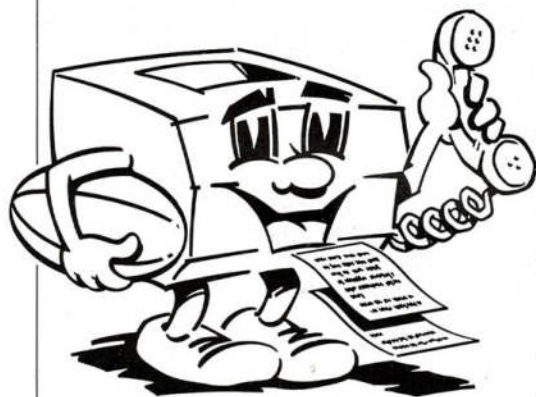
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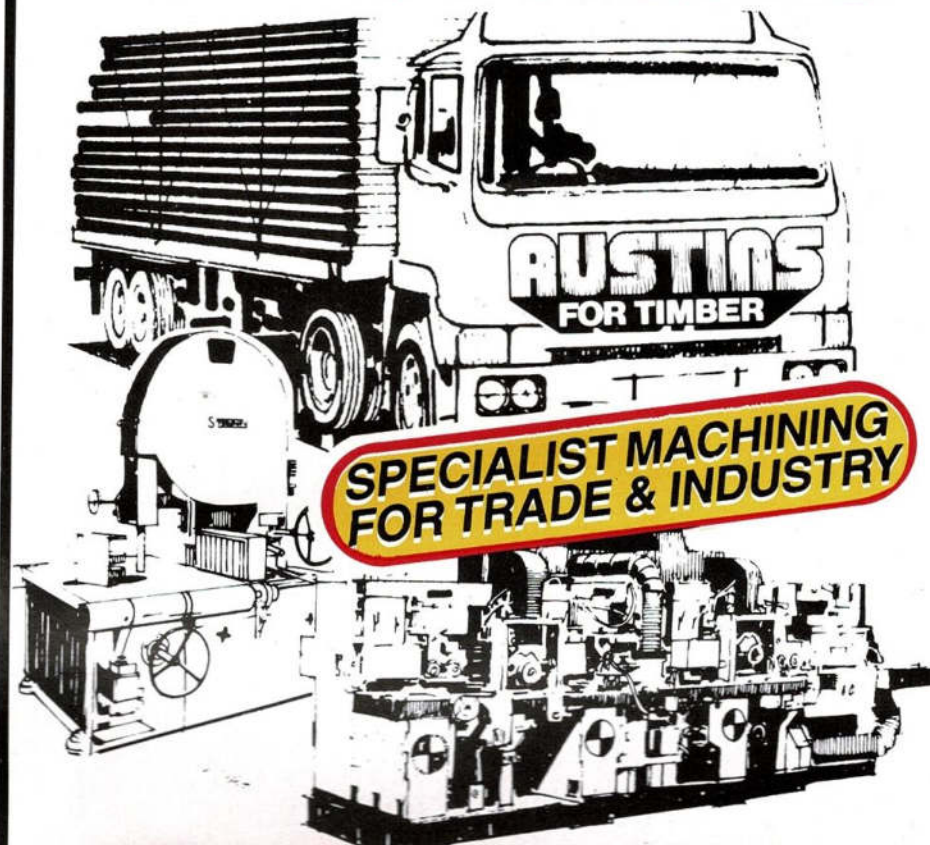
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TODAY'S

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Welcome to Huddersfield

The men of Fartown today make their third visit to Watersheddings this season, having been beaten here 22-8 in the second round of the Regal Trophy on December 10 and 30-8 in the preliminary round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on January 14.

Since they last played here, Huddersfield have strengthened their pack with the signing from Nottingham on loan of Oldhamer Craig Whitehead, a boy who will not feel in strange surroundings here today as he was brought up at Watersheddings when he and his family occupied the house attached to the pavilion.

By all accounts Craig impressed Huddersfield while on loan and there is a possibility that a more permanent deal will have been fixed up by now, thus allowing the Oldham-born lad, who began his career at Rochdale Hornets, to return to the old haunts of his youth today.

Whitehead apart, the side will not show much change from their previous visits, with an explosive danger man at full back in Australian Wally Gibson, who scored his third hat-trick of the season at Workington recently.

Prior to last Sunday's home game against Dewsbury, Huddersfield spent a seven-week period on their travels but they came out of the spell with two hefty wins at Workington and Nottingham in which they scored 13 tries in the process.

Looking ahead to the return fixture at Fartown on March 25, we give advance warning that the game might have to be all-ticket. The current Fartown capacity is 5,770, but this may have to be cut further unless essential ground-safety work is completed in time. More news of this will be forthcoming nearer the time.

Bearing in mind that Oldham will be taking a big crowd to Fartown the all-ticket regulation is a distinct possibility, as is the possible switch of the Huddersfield-Halifax derby to the Huddersfield Town soccer ground at Leeds Road.

Huddersfield are working desperately hard on and off the pitch to revive the club's former glories and the players will be going all out today to make it third time lucky on their trips to Watersheddings this season, especially so as Oldham will be playing their third game in eight days following the midweek match at Keighley.

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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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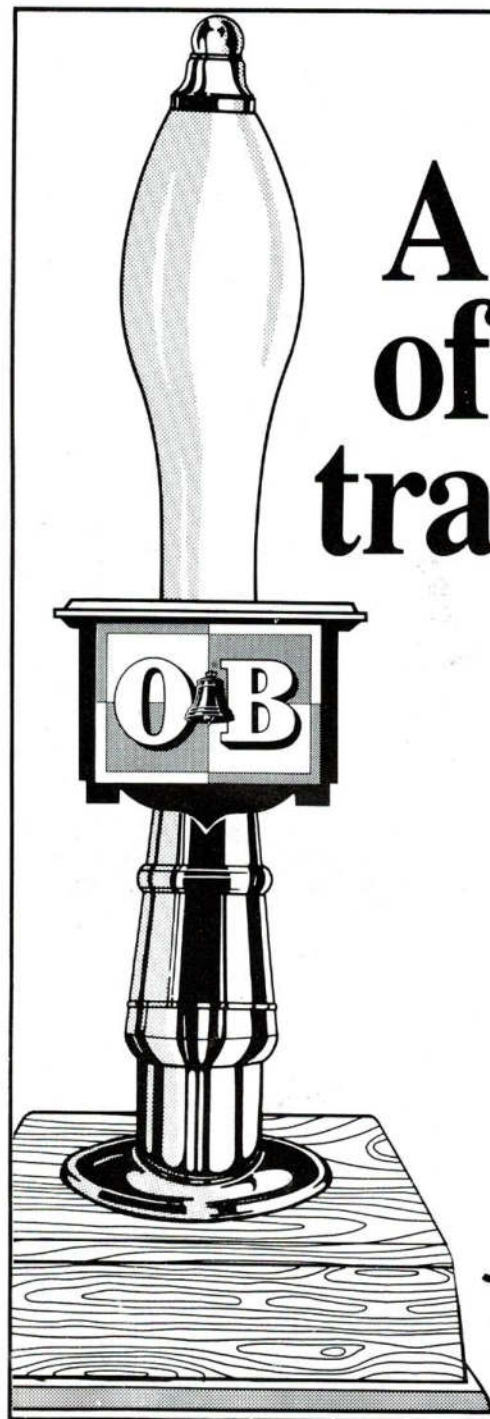
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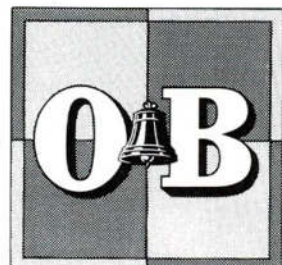
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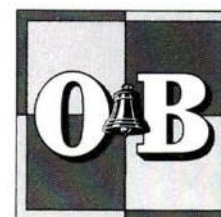
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TODAY THE VOTING STARTS

TODAY is the chance for you to show your own individual appreciation of the players who performed so well during this fabulous and dramatic season by voting for your favourite in the Boddingtons-sponsored OB Player of the Year award.

Promotion to the First Division is almost guaranteed, the club has already played in the Lancashire Cup Final and is one game away from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Wembley in April.

With achievements like this, it is going to be extremely difficult for you to select the player you think has made the most outstanding contribution to the club this season.

But vote you must because the winner of this prestigious award depends upon you. Remember, this competition promises to be extremely close, so don't waste an opportunity to influence the final decision.

The winner receives a magnificent trophy, a cheque for £250 and a case of Boddingtons Bitter to celebrate in true style.

Last year's winner was Chris O'Sullivan (pictured), whose trophy was flown to Australia by Boddingtons, the club's sponsors.

Boddingtons are also supporting a brand new award for young players. This new award gives you the chance to acknowledge the youngsters at Oldham. The winner, who must be under 21, will receive a special trophy and a cheque for £150.

Both awards for the senior and young player of the year will take place before the club's last home league game against Rochdale, which could well be the championship decider.

Voting coupons, which also enable you to nominate your Oldham Supporter of the Year, are available in today's programme and in the forthcoming Runcorn programme. After that, they can be picked up from the Souvenir Shop.



OB PLAYER OF THE MONTH

TODAY'S winner of the Boddingtons-sponsored Player of the Month award is unknown at the time of going to press because of the midweek Keighley game.

However, a presentation will take place shortly before today's game, with the winner collecting an inscribed medal, £100 and a case of Boddingtons.

Previous winners this year include Leo Casey, John Fieldhouse, Shaun Allen and Mick Ford (twice). Who will it be for February?

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Terrace Talk

WHAT a marvellous result to defeat Widnes, who are recognised as one of the glamour clubs of world rugby football. The win at Naughton Park has surely surpassed most things that came before it, because very few people gave the "Roughyeds" any chance at all.

But perhaps this was the ultimate driving force which enabled us to achieve such a remarkable victory against all the odds. Everyone deserves credit for one of the sweetest triumphs in the recent history of the club, but the belief which the players continue to show in major tactician Tony Barrow should not go unnoticed.

And speaking of the players, what commitment, character and courage they displayed as they soaked up whatever Widnes threw at them, and they counter-attacked with superb combination rugby.

Victory was particularly rewarding for the former Widnes players who now perform heroically in the red and white of Water-sheddings.

Tony Barrow was an emotional and delighted coach who heaped all the praise on the players themselves. "It just goes to show that the stars don't always win. If there were any stars out there they were in the colours of Oldham, and they also shone brighter than any of the opposition."

Well, the semi-final has paired us once again with the former club of coach Tony Barrow, a difficult task no doubt, but one which should not be beyond the capabilities of a team who are going through an inspired spell of form at the moment, and what confidence added to a determined self belief which has been displayed of late. For an independent viewpoint, I sought out the

opinions of former well known referee Billy Thompson. "An intriguing situation because it once again throws up Tony Barrow and his former club. After Oldham's brilliant win against Widnes — an achievement which took everyone's breath away — I don't think they have anything to fear against Warrington, because the previous displays in defeating First Division opponents in both the Lancashire Cup and the Challenge Cup has proved beyond any doubt at all their capabilities, and they thoroughly deserve the opportunity to try and make it for the first time to the Twin Towers."

But the last word is reserved for Tony Barrow, and when I reminded him that there is still a job to do in the Second Division he hadn't lost sight of it.

"Yes, you are right, we must go into the First Division. But as far as today's win is concerned (after the Widnes match) I can't go into that dressing room and say right, lads, don't forget an important league fixture next week.

"We are going to enjoy this win and then we can concentrate next week and prepare in the proper manner to resume our league programme, but right now we are all going to have a good night."

Well, all that remains for me to add is let's hope we can all have an even bigger celebration on the 31st of March — here's hoping.

Enjoy your sport.



Jack Dearden

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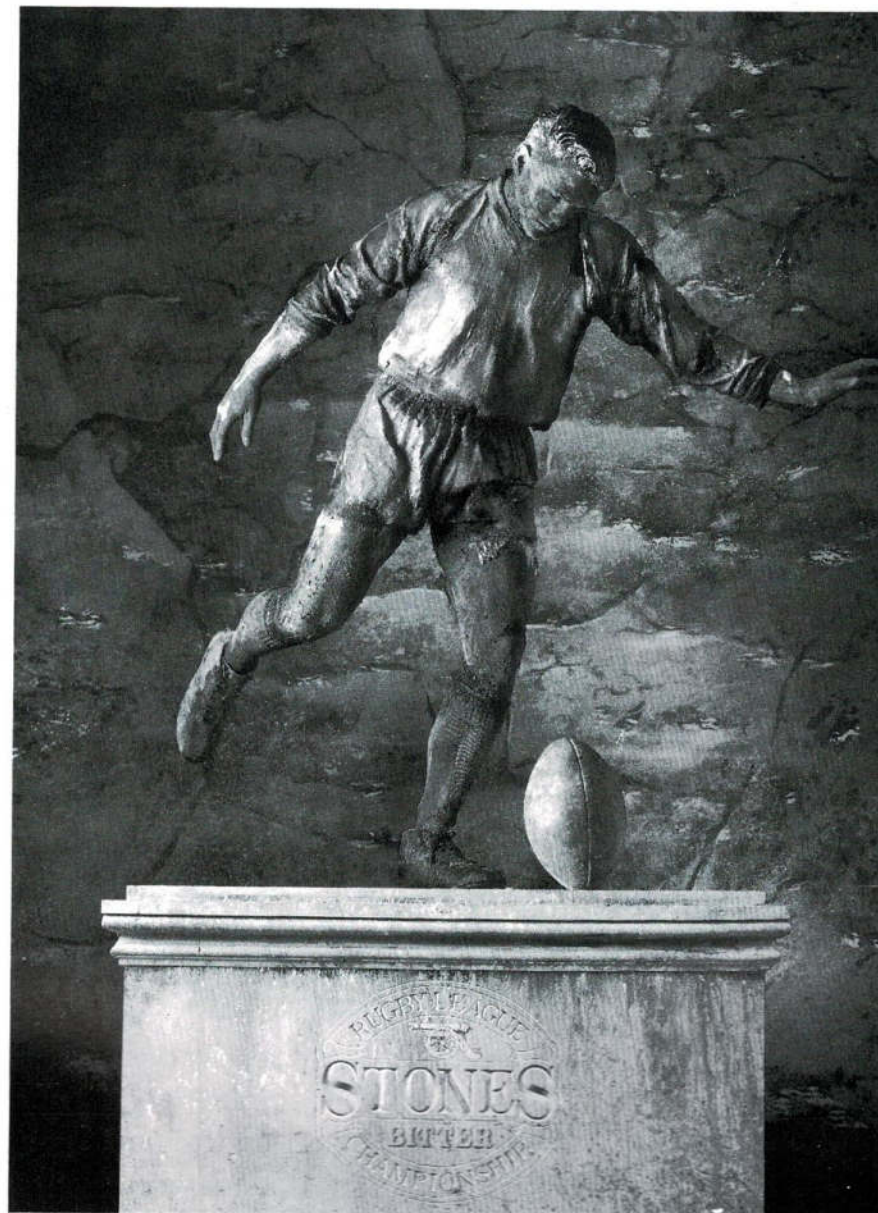


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