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

Referee: Mr. R. WHITFIELD
(Widnes)

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OLDHAM

Sunday, 16th December, 1990

Kick Off 3.15 p.m.

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CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship: 1920, 1921, 1936, 1956, 1958, 1983. (Runners-up): 1957, 1982, 1984.

Rugby League Second Division Championship: 1977, 1979.

Rugby League Challenge Cup: 1914, 1982.

(Runners-up): 1908, 1909, 1910, 1922, 1923, 1959, 1960, 1980, 1983, 1985.

John Player Trophy: 1982. (Runners-up): 1976, 1985.

B.B.C. 2 Floodlit Trophy: 1979.

Slalom Lager Premiership: (Runners-up): 1981, 1982, 1983, 1989.

Yorkshire League Championship: 1919, 1923, 1927, 1936.

(Runners-up): 1914, 1920, 1921, 1935, 1941, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960.

Yorkshire County Challenge Cup: 1923, 1969, 1982, 1983, 1984.

(Runners-up): 1912, 1914, 1920, 1927, 1938, 1946, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1967, 1986.

Alliance League Champions: 1985/86, 1989/90. Alliance Challenge Cup: 1987, 1989/90.

CLUB RECORDS

Highest win: 86-0 v Eiland (Northern Union Challenge Cup 1st Round) April 1st, 1989.

Highest defeat: 2-64 v St. Helens, February 17th, 1988.

Highest attendance: 28,798 v Leeds (R.L. Challenge Cup Round 3) March 7th, 1936.

Points in career: 1,776, Joe Oliver, 1928-1938.

Points in season: 369, Sammy Lloyd, 1978-1979.

Tries in career: 250, Clive Sullivan, M.B.E. 1961-1974 and 1981-82.

Tries in season: 52, Jack Harrison, V.C., 1914-1915.

Tries in season: Post War: 37 Garry Schofield 1983-1984.

Goals in career: 674, John Maloney, 1965-1971 and 1972-1973.

Goals in season: 170, Sammy Lloyd, 1978-1979.

Points in match: 36, Jim Kennedy v Keighley, January 29th, 1921.

Tries in match: 7, Clive Sullivan, M.B.E. v Doncaster, April 15th, 1968.

Goals in match: 14, Jim Kennedy v Rochdale Hornets, April 7th, 1921.

14, Sammy Lloyd v Oldham, September 10th, 1978.

Appearances in career: 503, Ned Rogers, 1906-1925.

Consecutive club games in which Tries were scored:

8, Mick Crane, December 1975 to February 1976.

8, James Leuluai, Aug. to Sept., 1983

Consecutive club games in which Goals were scored: 36, John Maloney, February to December, 1967.

Consecutive club appearances: 101, Freddie Miller, April 1934 to Sept. 1936.

101, M. G. Short, Oct. 1927 to Nov. 1929.

Record receipts: (Cuptie) £20,578, v Halifax, 14th March, 1982. (State Express Quarter Final Tie).

Record receipts: (League) £21,700, v Hull K.R., 8th April, 1983.

(All time League game record to 26/12/85.)

Record receipts: (other match) £63,009, v Australia, 14th November, 1990.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH AWARD



LEE JACKSON, receives his Man-of-the-Match award from a delighted Samir Pathak who represented LEXINGTON AVENUE and SADOFSKY & Co. joint sponsors of the Warrington match.

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Brian Smith Talking

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP HULL F.C. v OLDHAM

Sunday, 16th December, 1990

Kick off 3.15 p.m.

As this season progresses a couple of factors are clearly emerging in the competitive atmosphere of Rugby League 1990's style.

Firstly the pace and intensity of almost every First Division championship fixture has clearly increased. Looking through some tapes of the past two seasons shows that this time round, play the balls are much quicker, kick chasing is far more sophisticated, defensive patterns are part of almost every teams strategy and generally players are better equipped physically to handle the demands of this quicker game.

The fans are definitely the ones to prosper in this development. In the 80 minutes allotted to each fixture so much action is packed in that there is never a minute goes by without some form of excitement — great run in possession, a great try, a great tackle and I am pleased to say many great decisions by referees.

Secondly it has become even more obvious that Cup football is going to have a major effect on club's chances of success in the League. If you look at the programme set for those teams who have progressed to the quarter finals of the Regal Trophy, you will see that the demands placed on them are huge. Semi-finalists and finalists will be asked to perform superhuman levels of consistency to remain in the winners circle regularly.

The other effect of course is the disruption to the championship programme. Some very big games over the Xmas, New Year period are going to be deferred causing massive losses in gates. It may even be us and we were

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knocked out in the first round. Now if that makes sense I'd like someone to explain it to me.

All this leads to professional players and coaches adopting a "one game at a time" attitude. So with all that in mind you can see how important today's fixture v Oldham is to both clubs.

P.S. — Merry Christmas to all Rugby League Supporters. I'm looking forward to my last Xmas in Hull.

P.P.S. — You can read my last contribution to "OPEN RUGBY" in the Xmas issue.

Smithy

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Trainer: Mr. Tom Butler

Referee: Appointed by Hull Referees' Society

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Souvenir Shop Christmas Shopping

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We shall be opening the Souvenir and Programme Shop Monday to Friday next week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday morning 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

MANY CHRISTMAS BARGAINS AND IDEAL PRESENTS

NEXT HOME MATCH

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

HULL F.C. v CASTLEFORD

BOXING DAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1990

Kick off 3.15 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE

If Castleford beat Rochdale and qualify for the semi-final of the Regal Trophy and are drawn in the first semi-final on 22nd December then our Boxing Day fixture will go ahead as scheduled but if they are drawn in the second semi-final on 29th December then our game will be postponed.

RE-ARRANGED SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE FIXTURE

HULL 'A' v CASTLEFORD 'A'

THURSDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 1990

Kick off 7.30 p.m.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



This being our last home fixture before the Festive Season may we wish all our Supporters a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. 1991 is going to be an intriguing year for Hull F.C. followers because it will commence in sad fashion with the return, after our home fixture with Leeds on January 6th, of Brian Smith to his homeland to coach St. George.

As one door closes another one opens and Brian's fellow countryman Noel Cleal will hope to emulate Brian's achievements and keep Hull in pole position in the Stones Bitter Championship race.



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Looking back on 1989/90 with Oldham

After a season's absence Oldham returned to the top flight having enjoyed one of the finest seasons for years, taking the Second Division Premiership with one of the outstanding comebacks in history.

As well as finishing third in the Championship race, the Roughyeds also reached the Lancashire Cup Final and went within an ace of the club's first ever Wembley appearance. Only uncharacteristic end-of-season away defeats at Workington and Swinton cost them the Division Two title, having completed a league double over eventual champions Hull K.R.

Like several others Oldham have become labelled a yo-yo club typified by the fact that promotion in 1990 was their fifth since the reintroduction of two divisions in 1973, and their tenth movement between the two leagues in that period. Coach Tony Barrow vowed, after promotion had been achieved, that he never wished to return to Second Division football because it failed to stimulate him. Certainly the Watersheddings faithful will be delighted if he can secure the club's long-term future in the top division though events to date typify the difficult task ahead.

Grounds for optimism for this season came from the 'Roughyeds' excellent showing against First Division opposition last season. In the County Trophy, Oldham eliminated Barrow and St Helens comprehensively both away from their own soil and had the satisfaction of ending Wigan's vice-like, four-year grip on the trophy. Sadly Oldham flattered to deceive in their 18th County Cup final appearance against Warrington and went down 16-24 to a Mike Gregory inspired Wire.

The other cup competitions also served to underline the fact that Oldham were a Second Division side in name only last term. Comprehensive victories over Bramley and Huddersfield took them on a return to Knowsley Road where they might well have repeated the 36-6 Lancashire Cup victory had Duncan Platt not been dismissed. His absence proved crucial as Saints gained full vengeance with a 32-18 success.

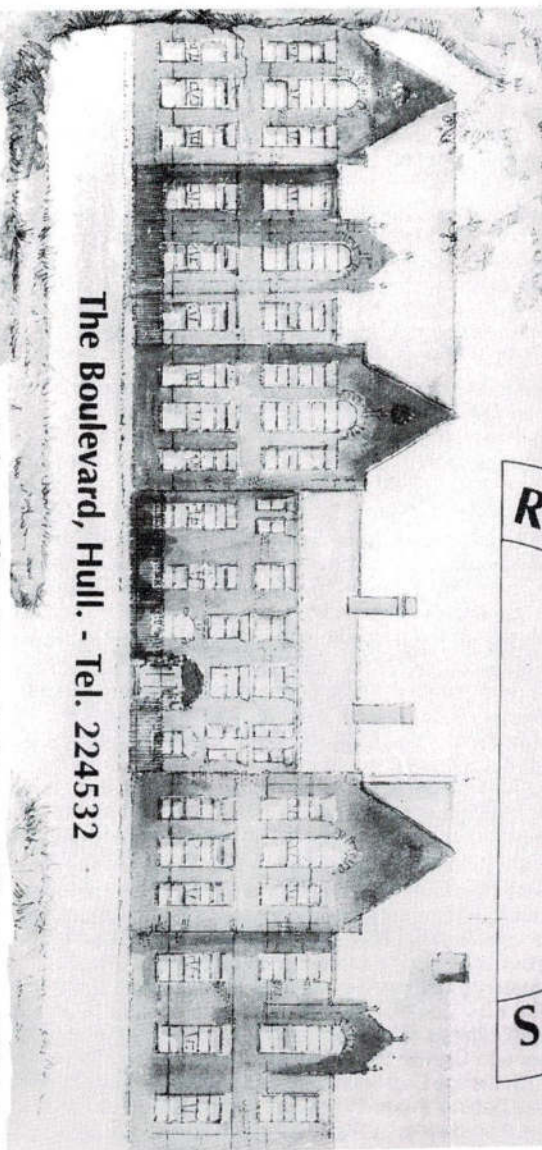
Along the Wembley route Oldham produced a fine second-round performance to win at Salford and then produced the upset of the season by shattering the Cup ambitions of joint favourites Widnes with a 16-4 quarter-final victory at Naughton Park. So the Roughyeds looked towards a possible first ever Wembley visit and yet for the fourth time in their history had to endure the bitter disappointment of falling at the final hurdle. Richard Irving's try put Oldham into the lead against First Division neighbours Warrington but Wire fought back to level matters before a late disputed score took them to the Twin Towers to face mighty Wigan. The manner in which Wigan disposed of Wire on the hallowed turf perhaps brought some relief to Oldham supporters amidst the tears.

Consolation was provided in the Second Division Premiership competition when Oldham lifted the trophy for the second time in three seasons, thanks to an astonishing Old Trafford comeback against Hull K.R. Early in the second half the Lancashire side were playing for nothing but pride having allowed their opponents to build a 29-8 lead. Slowly but surely a Mike Ford inspired Oldham clawed their way back and clinched a famous one-point victory to leave Hull K.R. players and supporters in a state of shock. The old Trafford success was Oldham's third of the season over the Robins making it the more frustrating that the title had gone to Craven Park. Oldham lost only one of their opening ten matches and went into their Challenge Cup semi-final against Warrington with a sequence of 16 cup and league victories behind them. However, a surprise defeat with a weakened side at Workington cost them so dearly.

Having drastically re-shaped his side during the 1988/89 season during the fight to avoid relegation, coach Barrow made few major signings, electing instead to successfully blood youngsters of the calibre of **Tommy Martyn** and **Trevor Croston**. Leading the points scoring was one of his previous signings, former Widnes star **Duncan Platt** and other notable captures, **Richard Russell** from Wigan, **John Henderson** from Leigh and **Paul Round** from Saints, featured regularly among the try scorers.

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Certainly Tony Barrow has the interest of Oldham fans at heart; "Oldham fans are among the most knowledgeable and fanatical in Rugby League. After last season's disappointment nothing would give me greater pleasure than to take this club to Wembley for the first time. Since arriving at the Watersheddings I must have heard the tale about the club's heatbreak 1984 Cup semi-final defeat a thousand times and Frank Myler's Oldham side almost made it in 1986 but froze on semi-final day against Castleford. The team I have here at Oldham reminds me of the Leigh side which won the Challenge Cup in 1971, tremendous team spirit binding everyone together in a common cause."

Barrow's self-confessed love of making a bargain signing has paid handsome dividends at the Watersheddings. Among the first of Barrow's signings following his arrival at Oldham in November 1988 was goalkicking Widnes full-back **Duncan Platt**, who has stepped out of the shadow of brother Andy, the Wigan and Great Britain forward.

Ex Moldgreen junior **Richard Irving** has made the right-wing berth his own in the face of competition from New Zealander **Charlie McAlister** and Castleford's 1986 Wembley centre **Gary Hyde**. Long-serving utility back **Des Foy** has made a welcome return to the Watersheddings after a brief stay in Australia where he toured with the 1984 lions and gained the first of three Great Britain caps, at stand-off, opposite Wally Lewis. Back in the centre berth, the pacy former Under-24 international scored five tries in a home defeat of Hunslet last January.

Castleford junior product **Paul Lord**, brother of Leeds full-back Gary, has improved dramatically under Barrow's guidance last season whilst Australian stand-off **Brett Clark** is in his second spell in British football having helped St. Helens to the 1987 Wembley Final against Halifax. Last season the Western Suburbs half-back faced competition from brilliant former Leigh Miners teenager **Tommy Martyn** but Barrow has been able to find places for them both upon Oldham's return to the top flight.

Scrum-half **Mike Ford** is another to have graced Wembley, appearing for Wigan in their epic 1985 defeat of Hull F.C. The former Under-21 international left Central Park for Leigh, eventually retuning home to Oldham and gaining a place in the 1988 Lions tour party.

During the Summer Barrow released one of his hottest prospects, prop forward **Leo Casey** in a £100,000 plus deal with Featherstone Rovers but still has a formidable pack at his disposal. Converted hooker **Richard Russell**, switched to number nine, 'because he had all the attributes' according to Barrow — has rediscovered the form which earned him Colts and Under-21 international honours whilst at Wigan and has kept former Rochdale and Widnes livewire **Andy Ruane** on the sidelines.

Barrow's eye for a bargain has shaped one of the most effective back-row threesomes in the business in the form of second-row forwards **Keith Newton** and **Shaun Allen** and dynamic skipper **John Cogger**. Newton had the satisfaction of scoring the dynamic try against his former club Widnes in last season's Challenge Cup quarter-final victory at Naughton Park, while former Under-21 international centre Allen has found a new lease of life as a regular second rower.

Cogger, an Australian bundle of energy who won the 1987 Second Division Player of the Year award whilst with lowly Runcorn, finished second in the Oldham try chart last season with 24.

Towards the close of their promotion campaign Barrow began planning for the First Division, signing Halifax utility back **Tony Anderson** to add to the experience of ex-Leeds prop **John Fairbank** and highly rated former Saint **Paul Round**. During the close season he added Leeds' out-of-favour winger **Norman Francis** and Widnes' classy forward **Derek Pyke** and Oldham recommenced life in the top flight with high hopes.

They didn't set off on the right foot going down to a surprise 24-27 County Cup defeat at Second Division Salford but opened their league campaign in impressive style, overcoming Leeds 32-22 at the Watersheddings. A narrow 12-17 reversal at Wakefield was followed by a 28-22 home success over Castleford with debutant **Norman Francis** scoring a try and Australian stand-off **Brett Clark** an outstanding performer. Oldham's fortunes continued to fluctuate with an away defeat by Widnes and a 25-28 home defeat by Hull K.R. (who must have breathed a heavy sigh of relief following last season's results between the two sides) being followed by a 24-14 win at Sheffield and narrow 4-2 home defeat of Warrington which took Oldham into third position in the Sones Bitter Championship. From

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there events have turned decidedly sour with four consecutive league defeats (15-38 at Wigan, 16-18 at home to Bradford Northern, 10-28 at Castleford and 18-24 at home to Widnes) leaving the Roughyeds languishing in the lower reaches of the league. Some solace was provided by a 26-6 Regal Trophy defeat of Salford but further misery ensued when last Sunday Barrow saw his side surrender a 16-4 lead at Batley to suffer a shock cup exit. The game was marred by the controversial dismissal of Oldham loose-forward John Cogger following an incident involving a lady steward, a decision which Barrow described as "diabolical". At the time of going to print Oldham were awaiting the results of an appeal to the Rugby League but their immediate priority is to return to winning ways at the Boulevard this afternoon.

OLDHAM RECORD — 1989/90

LEAGUE RECORD: P 28 W 24, D 0, L 4 Points for 879 Against 325.

POSITION: 3rd, Division Two

Home Record			Away Record		
Won	22- 4	BATLEY	Won	30-14	
Won	48-16	CARLISLE	Won	32-10	
Won	66-16	CHORLEY	Won	44- 6	
Won	30- 8	DONCASTER	Won	22-20	
Won	52- 4	FULHAM	Won	40-10	
Won	14- 3	HALIFAX	Lost	12-22	
Won	23- 8	HUDDERSFIELD	Won	22-14	
Won	12- 4	HULL K.R.	Won	9- 6	
Won	48-10	HUNSLET	Won	42-14	
Won	50-34	KEIGHLEY	Won	30-10	
Won	30- 2	ROCHDALE H.	Lost	12-24	
Won	60- 2	RUNCORN	Won	34- 6	
Won	29-14	SWINTON	Lost	12-15	
Won	40- 8	WORKINGTON T.	Lost	14-21	

GRUNHALL LAGER LANCASHIRE CUP: Barrow (a) 46-2; St Helens (a) 36-6; Wigan (h) 19-18; Warrington (St. Helens) 16-24.

REGAL TROPHY: Bramley (a) 48-16; Huddersfield (h) 22-8; St. Helens (a) 18-32.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Huddersfield (h) 30-8; Workington (h) 30-8; Salford (a) 18-7; Widnes (a) 16-4; Warrington (Wigan) 6-10.

PREMIERSHIP: Swinton (h) 32-10; Ryedale York (h) 32-8; Hull K.R. (Old Trafford) 30-29.

TRY SCORERS: Lord 29; Cogger 24; Irving 17; Henderson 17; Clark 16; Foy 10; Ruane 9; Russell 8; McAlister 8; Platt 8; Ford 8; Fairbank 8; Casey 8; Martyn 7; Newton 7; Meadows 6; Allen 6; Hyde 5; Robinson 5; Round 4; Fieldhouse 4; Clawson 2; Atkinson 2; Lewis 1; Anderson 1; Flanagan 1.

GOAL SCORERS: Platt 126; Hyde 30; McAlister 16; Atkinson 16; Martyn 3; Ruane 1.

DROP GOALS: Ford 2; Platt 1; Martyn 1.



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Flashback — Hull F.C. v Oldham

Back in 1982 when Humberside Rugby League ruled the roost Hull F.C. and Hull K.R. were drawn apart in the semi-finals of the John Player Trophy. Rovers were paired with the surprise team of the tournament, Swinton who had narrowly disposed of neighbours Salford in the quarter-finals whilst Hull F.C. were drawn to meet Oldham who had caused a major surprise by disposing of Leeds at the Watersheddings. Oldham's coach Peter Smethurst was quite happy with a tie against the Airlie Birds; "we think we can beat Hull as we seem to raise our game against First Division opposition and their style of play suits us."

The Airlie Birds didn't make the ideal preparation for the Cup clash, a narrow home defeat by Bradford Northern leaving them nine points adrift of runaway leaders Widnes who registered their thirteenth consecutive league success at Featherstone. Hull's Cup opponents Oldham moved to joint pole position in the Second Division along with Carlisle following a narrow 11-5 home success over Halifax.

Hull's appeal against a one-match suspension imposed on hooker Ron Wileman failed so the lively hooker was forced to miss the Oldham confrontation. That meant Tony Duke retaining the number nine jersey and Team Manager Arthur Bunting had an anxious wait before being able to name Mick Crane in his starting line up, the classy forward having

made a remarkable recovery from an ankle injury sustained in the Bradford defeat. Terry Day and Tony Dean had also recovered from injury to replace Barry Banks and Kevin Harkin at half-back and with Trevor Skerrett overcoming a recurring ankle injury Hull were at full strength to take on ambitious Oldham. As twelve months previous when the Airlie Birds faced Barrow Hull found themselves clear favourites to go through to the final. However, the 10-13 defeat by the Cumbrians erased any fear of complacency this time around.



STEVE NORTON

Ironically Hull had disposed of Barrow in the previous round thanks primarily to a majestic performance by Steve Norton and a repeat of the repertoire of skills proved too much to handle for the Lancastrians. Norton's destruction of Oldham at Headingley had reporters searching for appropriate adjectives. As Paul Fitzpatrick of the Guardian commented after the game; "Norton is in his pomp at the moment and any rugby league devotee wishing to see a highly-gifted player performing at the limits of his talents should hurry along now to see him before the magic begins to fade. A soccer writer once said of George Best that trying to pin him down was like trying to capture a shaft of sunlight in a matchbox. Substitute the name of Norton for Best and you have the picture. Opponents can make nothing of him at present, with his changes of pace, his bewildering

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switches of direction, long passes, short passes and passes suddenly slipped out when he appears to be held in the tackle. There is a touch of arrogance about him too and more than once he invited dispossession by thrusting the ball under the opponent's nose before drawing it back into his chest and carving away on another mesmeric run.

Norton's dominating display had both colleagues and opponents handing out accolades.

Charlie Stone, Hull's captain said simply: "he is our team," while Tony Dean expressed the admiration of a scrum-half who knows the worth of a great loose-forward. "He has so much flair it is not always easy to follow him but I have become accustomed to his style and we work well together. It's made such a difference to my game — I don't have to concentrate on just the basics — that I wish I had joined Hull five years ago."

Perhaps the greatest tribute paid to Norton was by Oldham forward Bob Mordell who flattened him with a late, high tackle a few minutes after he had put through Dean for Hull's first try. Even that blow did not prevent Norton getting his pass out.

Of the 12 tries Hull had scored in the John Player competition prior to this game Norton had been involved in eight. He laid on all three in the third round victory at Barrow and was the creator of all four in the defeat of Oldham. Norton paid tribute to the supporting play of Hull's backs, in particular Day, who scored twice at Barrow and got another against Oldham coming off the loose-forward's distribution. The stand-off was also the link man who got James Leuluai away for the most spectacular try of the game after Norton had opened the way in midfield. Leuluai read the situation well to take Day's inside pass and race away in style for his second try. Norton of course got the Kiwi moving for his first try when he needed to use more power after seeming to miss the opportunity at first. The New Zealand Test centre made another long run in a second half display that was a vast improvement on the first period and other recent indifferent displays. Leuluai's five tries on the road to the final proved his capabilities when totally involved but his tendency to drift out of the game was frustrating from Hull's point of view.

Although penalties were 10-7 in Hull's favour Oldham won the scrums 12-8 yet still could not prevent Tony Dean dominating at scrum-half.

As Raymond Fletcher of the Yorkshire Post commented afterwards; "even to a hint at a Test Cap at his age would probably embarrass him but I have not seen a better scrum-half this year. None have shown the same combination of work rate and individual skill allied to teamwork."

Although the margin finally reflected the difference in class Oldham rose above their Second Division status and with less than 20 minutes left only trailed 6-7. Former RU forwards Alexander and Mordell were not out of place in a typical RL cup tie, while Nicholson rocked Hull twice with surprising pace for a prop.

The attendance of 11,400 was a semi-final record for the competition and Hull's 22 points equalled the highest score for a semi-final.

Hull K.R. went on to defeat Swinton in the second semi-final and the Airlie Birds gained revenge for their Premiership Final defeat by their neighbours the previous May with a 12-1 success in the all Humberside clash at Headingley. Ronnie Wileman's spectacular touchline run for a try in the corner was the highlight of a bruising encounter which saw the late dismissals of Roy Holdstock and Hull skipper Charlie Stone.



RON WILEMAN
Scorer of the match-winning try

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Today's Referee

ROBIN WHITFIELD (Widnes)

• Date of Birth: 26/11/43
Grade Two: 1979-80 Grade One: 1980-81
Challenge Cup: 1982-83, 1985-86
Yorkshire v Lancashire: 1981-82
Yorkshire Cup: 1981-82
New Zealand v Australia: 1983
France v Australia (2): 1982-83
Australia v New Zealand (3): 1986

RICHARD KERMAN (Hull F.C.)

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Reflections of a Decade Ago

OCTOBER 1980

Following two heavy defeats Hull F.C. attempt to restore lost pride on their visit to Salford and have been warned by Team Manager Arthur Bunting that they must show more application than they did against Hull K.R. and New Zealand. Bunting enhances the importance of correcting their defensive game and morale is boosted by the return of Trevor Skerrett after a two-match suspension. Unsettled Charlie Stone also returns to the side as does skipper Steve Norton who missed the New Zealand game through injury. New signing Barry Banks goes straight into the side at centre with Paul Woods fit to take over at full-back. Hull's task is a difficult one since Salford approach the game having rattled up 62 points in their previous two games, including an impressive 26-10 win at Widnes. At the Willows they have lost only once, 19-25 to St. Helens and Hull will have to thwart the pace of Keith Fielding and Maurice Richards on the wings.

Hull F.C. return to winning ways in fine style, producing their best display of the season to suppress Salford. Their pack function magnificently with Steve Norton an inspiration. Hull's six, with Stone a tireless worker, take charge from the opening minutes to supplement a tight and uncompromising defence.

Bob Gaitley on loan from Hunslet, gives an outstanding display, splitting Salford's cover time and again with Barry Banks making a useful debut. The return of Paul Woods at full-back adds much needed aggression while Paul Prendiville shows clinical finishing, completing a hat-trick of tries. Hull take the lead through a Gaitley try after 15 minutes which Lloyd goals and lead 11-3 at the break following a Paul Prendiville try and Woods' drop goal. They press home their dominance with further tries by Prendiville and Tim Wilby but are pegged back by a Salford revival which leaves Hull 21-16 ahead. The Airlie Birds retain their composure to race clear with tries by Charlie Birdsall, Paul Prendiville and Trevor Skerrett and two Sammy Lloyd goals clinch a 34-16 victory. The win leaves Hull F.C. eighth in the table with eight points from six games.

Statistics:-

SALFORD 16 HULL F.C. 34

Salford: Johns, (Driver), Fielding, Stephenson, Latham, Richards, McGovern, Nash, Coulman, O'Neill, Sheffield, Henney, Major, (Smith), Williams.

Scorers: Tries Latham, Richards, Driver, Smith. Goals: Smith 2.

Hull F.C.: Woods, Lloyd, Banks, Wilby, Prendiville, Gaitley, Pickerill, Skerrett, Crowther, Stone, Birdsall, Boxall, (Tindall), Norton: Sub: Chester.

Scorers: Tries: Prendiville 3, Gaitley, Wilby, Birdsall, Skerrett. Goals: Lloyd 6.

Referee: J. Holdsworth (Leeds).

Attendance: 6,000.

Hull F.C. announce plans to develop their Boulevard ground by building a new sports hall and training pitch, in addition to rebuilding the Threepenny Stand, following approval by the City Housing Committee.

Hull F.C.'s Trevor Skerrett is named in the Great Britain side to face New Zealand in the First Test at Central Park, Wigan. The full side is:-

Fairbairn (Wigan), Camilleri (Barrow), Joyner (Castleford), Smith (Hull K.R.), Bentley (Widnes), Hartley (Hull K.R.), Dick (Leeds), Holdstock (Hull K.R.), Watkinson (Hull K.R.), Skerrett (Hull F.C.), Grayshon (Bradford N.), L. Gorley (Widnes), Casey (Hull K.R.)
Subs: Burke (Widnes), Pinner (St. Helens).

Hull F.C. complete their third signing in a week and bring their spending to £31,000 in seven days when they snap up Hunslet's £5,000 transfer listed stand-off Bob Gaitley. Despite having a couple of weeks of his loan period to run, Hull clinch the deal in advance following Gaitley's impressive display at Salford. Meanwhile Team Manager Arthur Bunting only has two worries for the forthcoming home fixture with Leeds; an ankle injury sustained by Tim Wilby and Trevor Skerrett's involvement with Great Britain the previous day. In contrast Leeds have a large casualty list with Les Dyl and John Atkinson certain to be out and Roy Dickinson, Graham Eccles, Keith Payne, Phil Cookson, Mike Harrison and Dave Heron all doubtful.

Trevor Skerrett suffers a bruised shoulder and misses the second half of Great Britain's 14-14 draw with New Zealand. Despite that Skerrett is Britain's best forward, running with greater force than anyone and produces the best clear break of the match which would have brought a score with better support. Skerrett is ruled out of Hull's home fixture with Leeds the following day and is replaced by Keith Tindall.



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SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE NEWS

ALLIANCE TEAM MARCH ON RELENTLESSLY

Following the disappointment of narrow defeat in the Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup Final at Odsal, our Alliance side have returned to winning ways in the league and having extended the sequence to 12 wins now look clear favourites to retain the Championship title.

Hull's proud unbeaten record going back almost a year and comprising 26 consecutive victories was wrecked in the wind and rain of Odsal as an experienced Northern side edged home 6-4. Sadly the Airlie Birds never produced anything like their true form and didn't adapt to the conditions as well as their Second Division opponents.

In the first half when they had the wind at their backs Hull surrendered too much possession through penalties and lost five scrums against the head. A nightmare opening saw Northern take the lead after just 40 seconds with a try. Lee Hanlon levelled matters with two penalties but just before the break Bradford restored the lead with a 35 yard penalty and Hull rarely looked like taking that advantage away as they left their best form behind them.

The following Tuesday evening coach Steve Crooks had the satisfaction of seeing his side recapture their form and erase the Odsal disappointment with a 24-10 away success at Warrington though the win was marred by an injury to new signing Mark Jones. Two days later it was announced that Jones was to see a specialist following a recurrence of the ankle injury which previously had sidelined him for a fortnight.

For the derby with Hull K.R. at Craven Park Hull were strengthened by the return of Gary Pearce from his loan spell with Sheffield Eagles. In a thrilling contest Hull had to come from behind four times to retain their unbeaten league record against a determined Robins outfit.

Rovers had just cause to be very disappointed but Hull always appeared to have the edge. The fact that the visitors scored three vital tries on the sixth tackle emphasised Rovers tendency to lose concentration. It was just six minutes from time when **Dean Busby** capped a fine display to touch down for the eighth try of the game, **Lee Hanlon** added the conversion and Rovers' wholehearted challenge was finally suppressed.

The opening try was a classic effort as Rovers' **Paul Speckman** slipped a short ball to **Mike Crane** who ducked a tackle and made 70 yards before putting **Steve Hadi** over. **Graham Cook** added the conversion but Hull drew level on the half hour when **Gary Pearce** provided the link for **Jason Eastwood** to go over and the Welshman added the touchline conversion.

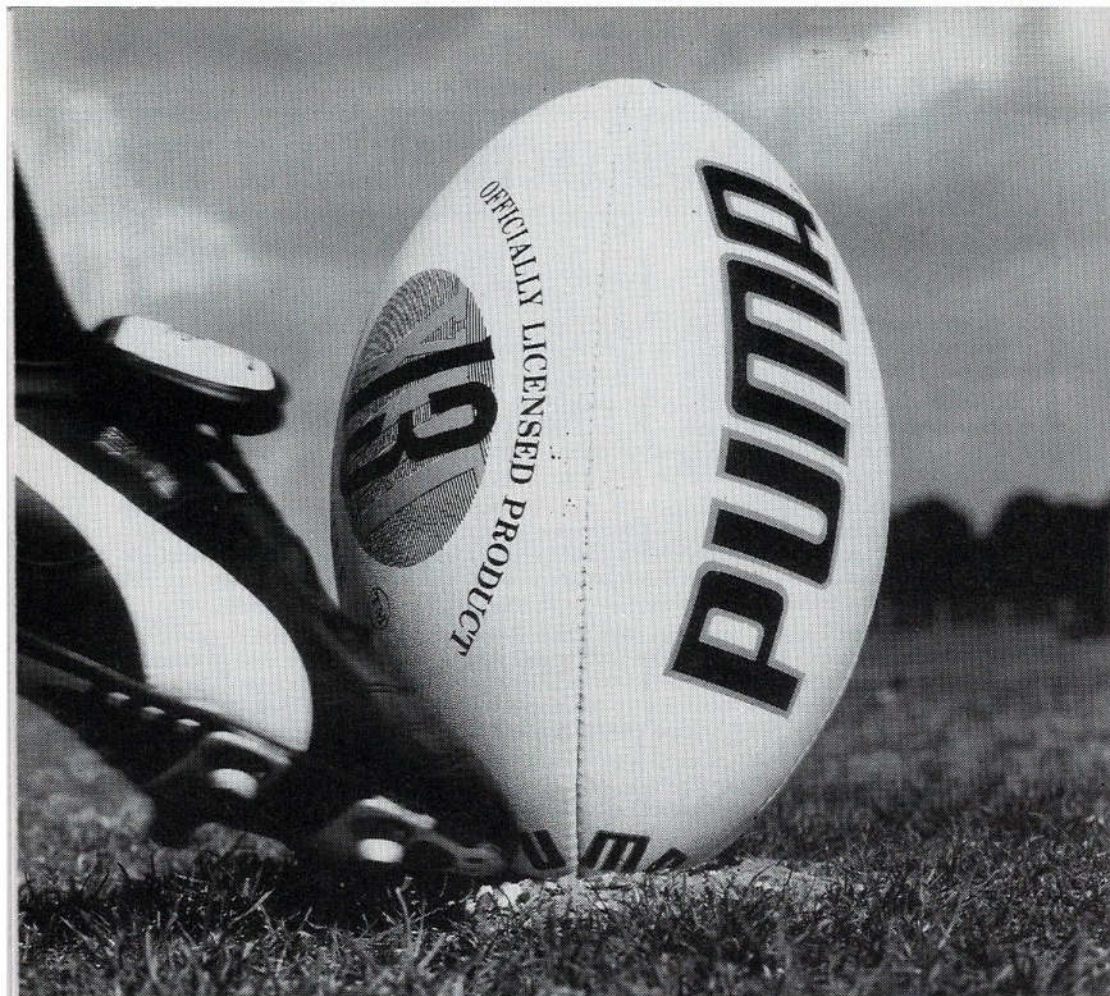
Rovers restored their lead early in the second period when Hadi outflanked the cover for his second score but the game continued to tilt both ways as **Paul Harrison** touched down for Hull, Pearce's conversion putting Hull 12-10 in front.

Rovers then enjoyed their best spell of the game and tries from **Paul Fletcher** and **Steve Richardson** seemed to have consigned Hull to their first league defeat of the campaign. To their credit the Airlie Birds demonstrated championship form and **Jason Eastwood** reduced the deficit to two points with his second try before Busby had the final say.

Halifax were the next to stand in Hull's way and the fact that the Thrum Hall side were the last side to defeat Hull in a league fixture some 12 months ago made the clash more intriguing.

Despite facing a heavier pack and conditions which made handling especially difficult, Hull were always prepared to keep the ball alive and their enterprise paid off with six fine tries.

Gary Pearce had a lively game at stand-off on his return to the Boulevard, kicking six goals and **Rob Nolan** bidding for a rapid return to the senior side did his prospects little harm with a solid display. Nolan opened the scoring when a poor clearance kick by Halifax left him with space to spare. **Chico Jackson** outwitted the cover to go under the posts from close range and with four goals by Pearce against a Peter Bell try and two goals from Lee Roberts for the visitors Hull were well on top at the interval.



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Hull continued to dominate as **Shaun Patrick**, back from his loan spell with Doncaster, scuttled over from dummy half, **Neil Turner** scorched half the length of the field after at least six Hull players had handled in their own twenty five and **Richard Price** enhanced his first team claims with two late tries as he finished off sweeping passing moves.

Pearce goaled the first two, while all Halifax had to show was a try from Ben Beevers improved by David Needham though Hull's victory was marred by an injury sustained to **Lee Marsden**.

With the senior side idle due to their early exit from the Regal Trophy, coaches Brian Smith and Noel Cleal used the following week's Alliance home fixture with Wakefield Trinity to give several senior players the chance to retain match fitness. From the first team who lost narrowly at Widnes, Brad Webb, Brian Blacker, Marquis Charles, Phil Windley, Andy Dannatt, Michael Dixon, Jon Sharp and Rob Nolan were included to face Trinity and as expected Hull had few problems in strengthening their top position. With much of the game played in heavy rain spectacular football was always at a premium and with **Andy Dannatt** outstanding Hull exerted plenty of pressure but only led by **Rob Nolan's** try, goaled by **Lee Hanlan** against two **Kevin Harcombe** penalties until the 30th minute when the lively Nolan sent **Phil Windley** over Hanlan again converting.

As conditions continued to deteriorate Hull steadily tightened their grip and added further tries through **Hanlan** (two), **Steve Feather** and **Mike Dixon**, with Nolan kicking two goals.

STONES BITTER FIRST DIVISION — 1990-91 —

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull F.C.	10	8	0	2	196	116	16
Widnes	9	7	0	2	217	130	14
Bradford N.	12	7	0	5	238	218	14
Hull K.R.	11	6	1	4	190	231	13
Wakefield T.	9	6	0	3	155	150	12
Wigan	9	5	1	3	224	132	11
Leeds	9	5	0	4	239	146	10
St. Helens	9	5	0	4	224	169	10
Castleford	10	5	0	5	217	246	10
Featherstone R. ...	11	4	1	6	190	227	9
Warrington	11	4	0	7	168	156	8
Oldham	11	4	0	7	200	237	8
Sheffield E.	10	2	1	7	177	247	5
Rochdale	11	1	0	10	136	366	2

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE LEAGUE — 1990-91 —

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull F.C.	12	12	0	0	333	149	24
Castleford	12	8	0	4	307	275	16
Oldham	11	7	0	4	226	181	14
Leeds	12	6	0	6	267	235	12
Widnes	10	6	0	4	223	209	12
Featherstone R. ...	12	6	0	6	262	254	12
Halifax	11	6	0	5	245	254	12
Hull K.R.	11	6	0	5	191	220	12
St. Helens	11	5	0	6	298	280	10
Wigan	10	4	0	6	193	211	8
Salford	10	4	0	6	147	202	8
Leigh	11	4	0	7	190	252	8
Wakefield	12	2	0	10	209	269	4
Warrington	11	2	0	9	204	304	4



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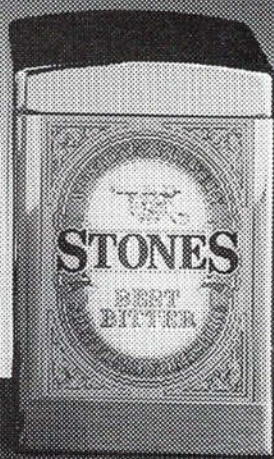
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BRADFORD N.		29 Mar	14 Apr	10 Mar	26-10	12-21	17 Feb	6 Jan	18-16	27 Jan	16 Dec	26-16	10-14	31-30
CASTLEFORD	1 Jan		24-19	1 Apr	20 Jan	3 Feb	28-10	3 Mar	24 Mar	14 Apr	42-12	16 Dec	6 Jan	18-38
FEATHERSTONE R.	24-26	6-22		14-6	14-14	7 Apr	27 Jan	38-8	13 Jan	25-22	26 Dec	10 Mar	24 Mar	17 Feb
HULL F.C.	20 Jan	26 Dec	3 Mar		29 Mar	6 Jan	16 Dec	3 Feb	20-14	34-6	17 Mar	17-8	32-6	24-4
HULL K.R.	12-4	17 Feb	24-14	1 Jan		17 Mar	13 Jan	24 Mar	27 Jan	26 Dec	12-18	20-14	22-20	6-36
LEEDS	26 Dec	41-16	16-18	22-24	3 Mar		1 Jan	64-4	23-4	13 Jan	29 Mar	27 Jan	17 Feb	14 Apr
OLDHAM	16-18	28-22	6 Jan	14 Apr	25-28	32-22		26 Dec	3 Feb	17 Mar	20 Jan	4-2	18-24	1 Apr
ROCHDALE	19-12	13 Jan	16 Dec	18-30	18-32	10 Mar	29 Mar		18-30	20-24	10 Apr	17 Feb	27 Jan	17 Mar
ST. HELENS	24-20	16-29	17 Mar	17 Feb	42-10	20 Jan	Mar 10	44-14		34-17	6 Jan	14 Apr	1 Apr	26 Dec
SHEFFIELD	16-36	10 Mar	3 Feb	24 Mar	31 Mar	18 Nov	14-24	20 Jan	16 Dec		34-6	18-20	7 Apr	6 Jan
WAKEFIELD T.	24 Mar	27 Jan	1 Jan	22-6	10 Mar	1 Apr	17-12	42-6	7 Apr	17 Feb		13 Jan	6-16	14-12
WARRINGTON	3 Feb	30-12	20 Jan	2-3	6 Jan	10-22	7 Apr	26-9	3 Mar	30-8	10-18		26 Dec	24 Mar
WIDNES	17 Mar	46-4	41-14	13 Jan	16 Dec	26-8	24-16	14 Apr	1 Jan	3 Mar	3 Feb	29 Mar		20 Jan
WIGAN	13 Jan	7 Apr	24-4	27 Jan	3 Feb	16 Dec	38-16	24-2	29 Mar	18-18	3 Mar	1 Jan	10 Mar	

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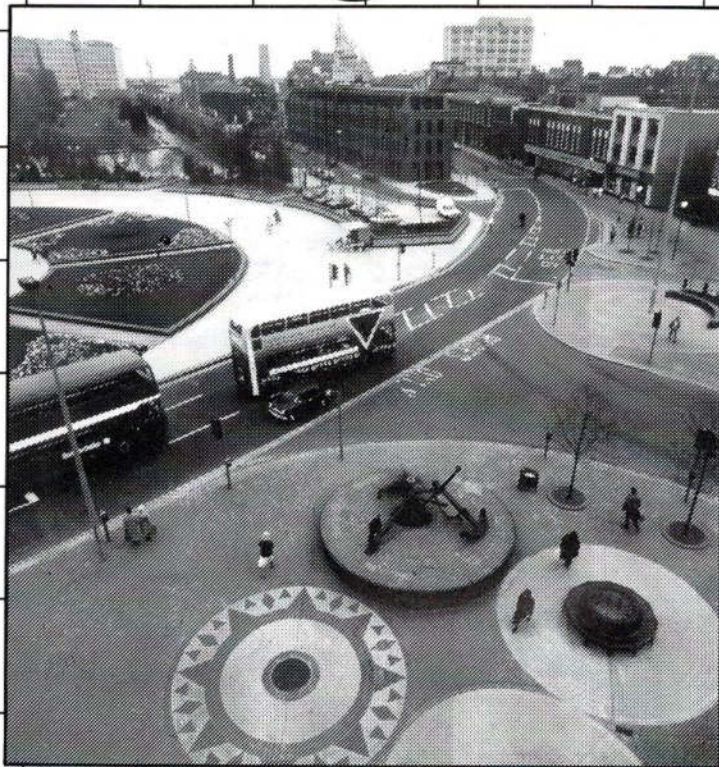
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869167**

Season 1990-91	VENUE	RESULT	ATTENDANCE	Position	Points	Richard Gay	Paul Eastwood	Richard Price	Robert Nolan	Marquis Charles	Greg Mackey	Phil Windley	Andy Darnall	Michael Dixon	Karl Harrison	Paul Welham	Russell Walker	Lee Jackson	Brad Webb	Ian Marlow	Patrick Ental	Jon Sharp	Steve McNamara	Noel Cleal	Nell Turner	Brian Blacker	Anthony Jackson
Aug 26	Castletford (J.S.Y.C. Rd 1)	H 6-10	8,000	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15								
Sept 9	St. Helens	H 20-14	6,026	4	2	1	2	3	6	10	14	8															
Sept 16	Leeds	A 24-22	11,400	3	4	1	2	14	3	6	8																
Sept 23	Widnes	H 32-6	7,712	1	6	1	2	14	3	6	8																
Sept 30	Rochdale H.	A 30-18	3,450	1	8	1	2	3	6	10	8																
Oct 7	Wigan	H 24-4	10,917	1	10	1	2	3	6	10	8																
Oct 13	Warrington	A 3-2	4,679	1	12	1	2	3	6	10	8																
Oct 21	Sheffield Eagles	H 34-6	6,997	1	14	1	2	3	6	10	8																
Nov 4	Wakefield Trinity (3.00)	A 6-22	6,654	1	14	1	2	3	6	10	8																
Nov 14	Australia (8.00)	H 4-34	13,500	—	1	2	3	6	14	10	17																
Nov 18	Warrington	H 17-8	5,900	1	16	1	2	13	6	10	14	8															
Nov 25	Featherstone Rovers (3.30)	A 6-14	4,877	1	16	1	2	13	6	10	14	8															
Dec 1	Widnes (Regal Trophy Rd 1)	A 16-26	4,940	1	16	1	2	15	5	6	7	10	14	8													
Dec 9	(Regal Trophy Rd 2)																										
Dec 16	Oldham	H																									
Dec 26	Castletford	H																									
Jan 1	Hull K.R.	A																									
Jan 6	Leeds	H																									
Jan 13	Widnes	A																									
Jan 20	Bradford Northern	H																									
Jan 27	Wigan	A																									
Feb 3	Rochdale Hornets	H																									
Feb 10	(S.C. Chail Cup 1)																										
Feb 17	St. Helens	A																									
Feb 24	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Rd 2																										
Mar 3	Featherstone Rovers	H																									
Mar 10	Bradford Northern	A																									
Mar 17	Wakefield Trinity	H																									
Mar 24	Sheffield Eagles	A																									
Mar 29	Hull K.R.	H																									
Apr 1	Castletford (3.30 p.m.)	A																									
Apr 14	Oldham	A																									

Thanks to Supporters

Hull and District Asthma Society

Mrs. J. Wood, Chairman writes — I would like to express our grateful thanks to the Directors and Supporters of Hull F.C. for the magnificent collection which we held at the Boulevard ground.

The total raised was £458.61. We are going to buy a video for the Chest Clinic at the Hull Royal Infirmary. Thanks again for your help.

EYG

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EXCELLENCE



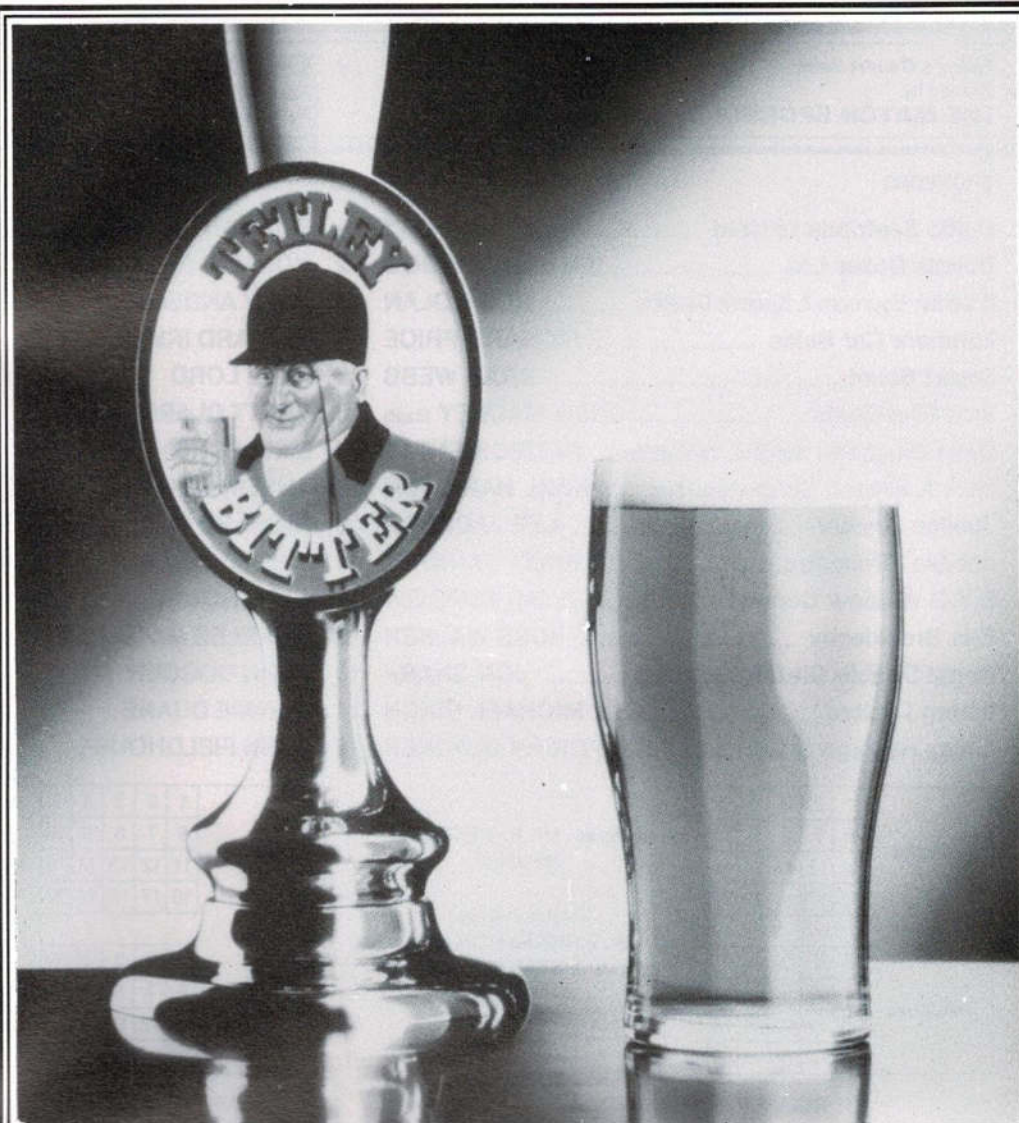
Helen Green poses with the two captains and
the officials before the match against Warrington.

Now it is the turn of 8 year old Alun Jones,
who today leads the team out for the match
against Oldham. Alun attends Newington Primary
School and his favourite player is Noel Cleal.

Members and parents farewell get together to
say goodbye to Brian Smith. Come and watch the
team train from 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, 23rd December at the Airlie Street entrance.

Make sure your name goes into the hat to be the Mascot for the next game,
by joining the Junior Airlie Birds today.

Membership Forms are available from the Office or the Club Shop.



This season,
be the first to get one over the bar.

Joshua Tetley & Son are proud to support Hull RLFC and are delighted to announce that
Tetley Bitter is now being served.

**TETLEY
BITTER**