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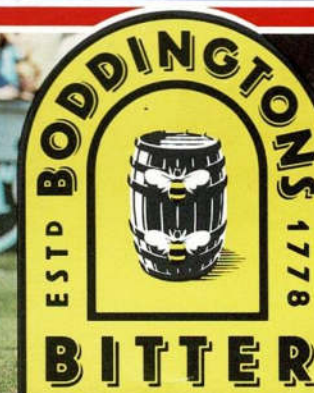
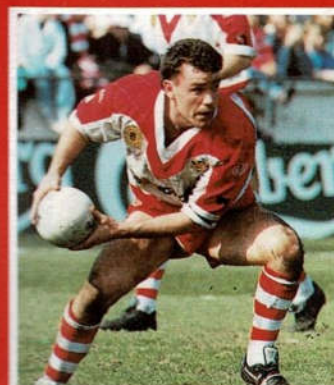


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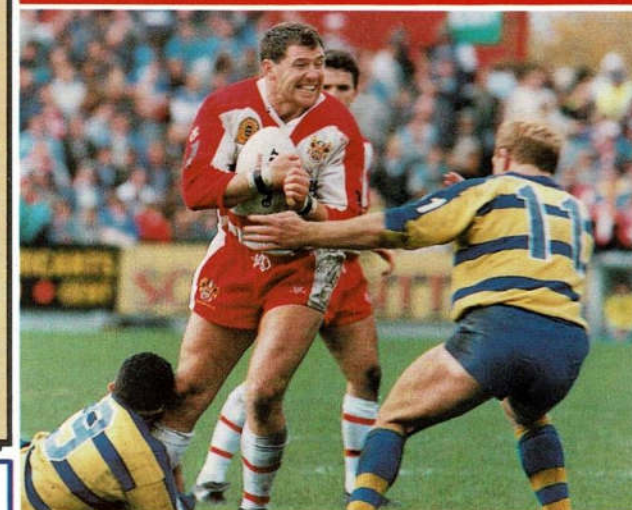
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1921-22 season

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Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

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First Division Champions:
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Second Division Champions:
1963-64, 1961-62, 1967-68

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:
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1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90

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Runners-up:
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1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners:
1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88, 1989-90

ON THE BARROW BEAT

by *Oldham coach*
TONY BARROW



WELCOME to 1991 . . . and talk of a major restructuring of the Rugby League format with the possibility of Scarborough coming into the League and the formation of three divisions.

If Scarborough was admitted, that would make a total of 36 professional clubs and already there is serious talk of splitting them into three divisions, each of 12 clubs.

I am all for this revolutionary move because the present system is unsatisfactory on several counts.

The Second Division fixture formula is unsatisfactory and I shudder to think what will happen next season to the sides that win promotion this time.

Salford, Halifax, Swinton, Ryedale York, Carlisle and Leigh are all in the running and in my opinion not one of those teams will have a realistic chance of First Division survival.

This season's First Division is probably the most competitive it has ever been and it is a shame that three teams out of the 14 will have to go down to be replaced by clubs with little chance of making an impact.

With three divisions of 12 teams each, clubs would find their level and to try and reduce Rugby League's "yo-yo" syndrome, I would opt for only one up and one down in each division.

There is also talk of automatic one-up and one-down, with another place up for grabs on a play-off basis.

I welcome anything that would reduce the possibility of clubs moving unprepared between the divisions, but first and foremost we have to hope that Scarborough are admitted and that the new club wins the necessary two-thirds majority to bring Rugby League to the Fourth Division soccer club's trim and tidy stadium.

A 12-club division would provide 22 league matches and I think that is certainly enough for First Division clubs which, in the main, will also monopolise most of the three major knock-out competitions.

A lot of people in the game think that our top players are already under too much pressure and are asked to play too many games at a time when standards at the highest level are more demanding than they have ever been.

If clubs in the Second and Third Divisions were to feel that 22 matches were not enough, a separate knock-out tournament could be provided for them with the early rounds over two legs and the final as a curtain-raiser to the premiership final at Old Trafford.

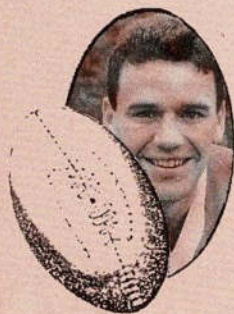
Even a Third Division outfit would then be guaranteed a minimum of 27 fixtures — 22 in the League, one each in the county cup, Regal Trophy and Challenge Cup and two in their own knock-out cup.

Count me in on the three-division bandwagon!

A black and white advertisement for Boddingtons Bitter. On the left, a beer tap with a wooden handle and a metal body is shown. The tap has a label that reads "ESTD BODDINGTONS 1778 BITTER" and "THE CLASSIC CASK CONDITIONED BEVERAGE". To the right of the tap is a tall glass filled with beer, topped with a thick head of foam. The background is dark. The text "DISCOVER THE PERFECT PINT" is written in large, bold, white letters on the right side. At the bottom, the text "IF YOU DON'T GET BODDIES, YOU'LL JUST GET BITTER." is written in bold, white letters. A small Boddingtons logo is in the bottom right corner.

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SKIPPER'S SPOT

by
Oldham Captain
Mike Ford

I'D LIKE to wish everyone a happy New Year on behalf of all the players at the club.

To kick off this all-important year we'll be looking to recapture our early season form that took us to third place in the table.

A quick glance at our fixtures in January — Featherstone home, Hull KR away, Wakefield home and finally Featherstone away — shows that we should be picking up maximum home points as well as a couple away and moving well away from the relegation zone.

Our last home game against Rochdale, played in extremely difficult weather conditions, showed the way forward as we came back from a 13-2 half-time deficit to win.

We'll be looking to emulate that winning form throughout January — with your help. All the players have really appreciated your loyal support in 1990 and hope it continues.

In 1991 we really want to give you something to shout about — although 1990 wasn't bad with promotion, a Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final and a Lancashire Cup Final to our credit.

Our endeavours are helped by the timely return to first team action of John Henderson and John Fieldhouse, two experienced First Division players who need to perform well if the team is to do itself justice.

While it is good to welcome the two Johns back, a third — John Fairbank — has sadly broken his thumb and is now sidelined for several weeks. We'll miss John because he was producing his best form since joining Oldham.

Injuries are part and parcel of the game but we always seem to attract more than our fair share. Still, I expect every team captain says that!

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ROGER'S FOCUS

Oldham Evening
Chronicle Rugby
League writer,
Roger Halstead,
looks at today's
visitors

FEATHERSTONE Rovers are today's visitors to Watersheddings and if there was ever such a thing as a 'four-pointer', this is it.

There is a real dog-fight now towards the bottom end of the First Division and Featherstone are in alongside half the teams in the division. Makes you think, doesn't it?

Rovers did themselves a great favour by beating Wakefield on Boxing Day on the same day that Oldham beat Rochdale Hornets and both St. Helens and Warrington slipped up.

That lifted Oldham above Warrington but still one point behind Featherstone and having played one game more.

The New Year games will have slightly altered the situation but there is no denying that this is one game Oldham are desperate to win and enhance their chances of staying up in what is probably the First Division's most competitive season on record.

Who, then, will be standing between Oldham and victory?

First of all, of course, there are those stalwarts of Post Office Road, the Fox fellows — coach Peter and scrum-half Deryck, who apparently had a brilliant game on Boxing Day as partner to Ian Smales at half-back.

Then there is a young man who needs no introduction to Watersheddings — prop Leo Casey, who joined Rovers from Oldham in a club record £100,000 deal, plus another £20,000 if Leo ever plays for Great Britain.

This will be Leo's first game at Watersheddings since he left his home-town club so it will be a big day for him playing against so many of his former mates on home territory.

Chris Bibb is an international-class full-back with a penchant for swift attacking and Paul Newlove is one of the finest young centres to emerge in recent years.

Up front, Jeff Grayshon is still battling along in the front row — what a great example he is to younger forwards of today — and there are currently three Kiwis in the running for pack places, namely hooker Trevor Clark and back-row men Clarry Iiti and Brendan Tuuta.

That's a far cry from the days when the Post Office Road pack was full of local miners. It just goes to show — even in Featherstone things change with the times!



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TODAY'S

VISITORS

Featherstone . . .

Chris Bibb: A former GB Under-21 international full-back and Yorkshire county cap, he joined Rovers in 1985. Scored 13 tries in 34 games last season. Scored a record-equalling six tries against Keighley in the Yorkshire Cup.

Ikram Butt: Fast-moving three-quarter signed from Leeds at the start of the season.

Paul Newlove: Great Britain's youngest international appearing as a substitute against New Zealand last year at the tender age of 18. Centre Paul signed as a professional at the age of 17 and went straight into the first team. His father, John, captained Rovers to the club's Wembley triumph against Bradford Northern in 1973.

Terry Manning: Joined Rovers from fellow Yorkshire club Keighley, where he had a well-earned reputation as one of the best centres in the division.

Alan Banks: Shot to prominence as a teenager in Allan Agar's 1983 Challenge Cup-winning team appearing in the final at stand-off. Injuries have hampered his career but he is now back in fine form.

Martin Pearson: An 18-year-old teenager, this young stand-off is strong, fast and has outstanding goalkicking ability. He is expected to go far in the game.

Deryck Fox: Experienced and skilful scrum-half who has played in nine full tests between 1985-1986, he signed from a local amateur side in 1983. Won his place back in the GB squad last year after a three-year absence.

Jeff Grayshon: A credit to the game after 20 years, he won every honour in the game except a Wembley appearance. He was the oldest man to play for Great Britain at 36 and gained the last of 13 test caps against New Zealand in 1986. He has played for coach Peter Fox at Bradford and Leeds.

Trevor Clark: A 1983 Maori tourist signed from Leeds, he is a versatile player who has played at centre, full-back, hooker and the back row. He has produced his best form for Rovers at No. 9.

Leo Casey: A former Oldham favourite who signed for Rovers in the close season for a record transfer fee of £100,000. This exciting prop, who needs no introduction to the Oldham faithful, is now back to full fitness after injury.

Chris Burton: Signed from Hull KR last season, he is a highly-experienced GB international with nine caps and has also appeared in nine major finals.

Gary Rose: He joined Rovers from Keighley last season and has already become a firm favourite with the crowd courtesy of his rugged tackling and straight running.

Brendan Tuuta: A New Zealand international who has made a big impact in the first team with strong running and tackling and a high work rate.

Andrew Fisher: Joined Rovers in 1989, this busy loose-forward made his debut against Castleford and has impressed since then.

Paul Hughes: A determined strong-running forward with plenty of pace, he joined Rovers from a local amateur side in 1987. He has also played on the wing.

Gary Price: Previously with York and Leeds, this hard-working back-row player cost Rovers £50,000. He was a member of the York team that was 80 minutes from a Wembley final in 1984 and played for Peter Fox at Leeds prior to moving to Featherstone.

Tim Sharp: Another Featherstone teenager who promises a lot for the future, he is the brother of the Hull forward Jon.

Owen Simpson: Signed last week from Keighley in a record £50,000 deal, he is an ex-Army Rugby Union player who was a leading try-scorer in his two seasons in Division Two.

Clarry Iiti: A New Zealand Rugby Union All Black forward, Clarry has joined Rovers on a two-year contract. He is the cousin of Brett Iiti, Bradford Northern's scrum-half.

SUMMER 1991

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*John
Henderson...*

This week's PLAYER PROFILE

THE last quarter of 1990 is one that speedy Oldham centre John Henderson would rather forget as he was struck down by a nagging groin injury at the beginning of the season. That injury restricted him to a handful of A team games as he tried to make a comeback on three separate occasions.

Now, with a new year to look forward to and two first team appearances against Hull and Rochdale to his name, John hopes to say goodbye to the injury.

"I have had three very painful anti-inflammatory injections which have helped the injury and the doctor says it is OK to carry on playing," commented John, who was signed from Leigh two years ago.

"Groin strains are notoriously difficult to shake off. Look at the number of Wigan players who have struggled with similar injuries.

"It has been a very frustrating time as I wanted to get back into the first team. One of the worst aspects was that outwardly nothing appeared to be wrong except that I couldn't play Rugby yet when I broke my jaw it was obvious I couldn't play.

"When I came back from the broken jaw last season I scored 11 tries in three games. It would be nice to get back to scoring ways as quickly," says John, who started a new job with a Manchester investment company at the beginning of January.

John made his comeback against Hull and unfortunately dislocated his collarbone. He remains philosophical. "You go through phases in your career picking up injuries. Now I hope to remain injury-free for the rest of the season."



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**WATERSHEDDINGS
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*General Manager
Ray Hill
reports on the
Watersheddings
scene*

A HAPPY New Year to everyone involved in Oldham Rugby. That includes directors, office staff, players and, most importantly, you the fans.

The players and coaching staff are working hard to get back to winning ways on the playing field. Meanwhile, off the pitch, there are already a number of winners courtesy of our special Shareholders Christmas Draw.

The winning numbers are as follows with the prizes in brackets: 074610 (£500), 093065 (£250), 003699 (£100), 023951 (autographed ball), 064794 (VIP match day tickets) and 023348 (case of Boddingtons Bitter). If you've got a winning ticket call in at the Souvenir Shop to claim your prize.

The draw, once again, has proved to be a great success and I'd like to thank everyone who took part.

We'll also be unveiling the winner of the Paris competition soon as today we reveal how to win this fabulous prize. See below for full details.

I'd like to thank the fans for their support on Boxing Day for the Derby match against Rochdale. The match was played in appalling weather and a difficult situation was made a lot easier thanks to your patience and understanding when we had to evacuate the Pavilion Paddock stand for safety reasons.

Finally, it was sad to see former directors Jim Knox and Greg Pache resign from the board due to business commitments. I got involved with the club at the same time as they did and saw just how hard they both worked on behalf of the club. They are both deeply committed to Oldham Rugby and I'd like to wish Jim and Greg all the best for the future.

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- Q1 Which two Oldham players played in Australia last summer?
- Q2 Oldham has three Australians on their books. Who are they?
- Q3 What is Oldham's nickname?
- Q4 Who is the Oldham captain?
- Q5 Who did Oldham beat in last year's dramatic Second Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford?
- Q6 Who is Oldham's record signing?

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1 Judging will take place at OLRFC's Pavilion on 21 January, 1991.
- 2 The winner will be notified in writing. In the event of a tie, the first correct entry out of the hat wins.
- 3 Closing date for the competition is 19 January, 1991.
- 4 Entries that are incomplete, illegible or don't contain six vouchers will not be accepted.
- 5 No prize other than that offered will be given and there is no cash alternative.
- 6 The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any aspect of the competition.
- 7 OLRFC employees, their families and agents may not enter.

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TOUCH DOWN

BUSY YEAR FOR CLUB'S SPONSORS

IT'S been a busy year for Boddingtons, Oldham's official club sponsors. For a start, there have been numerous awards throughout the year including three major presentations at the end of last season.

Oldham captain Mike Ford was your overwhelming choice as the Boddingtons Bitter player of the year.



Mike Ford — your choice as player of the year.

Tommy Martyn was an even more convincing winner of the Boddingtons Bitter Young Player of the Year award while ardent fan Brenda Rogers collected her special Supporter of the Year award in recognition of years of loyal and dedicated support.



Brenda's loyal support was rewarded at the end of last season.

In addition to the end-of-season awards, Boddingtons sponsored the player of the month awards. This

season they have been dominated by bustling forward Paul Round, who won in consecutive months in October and November for a 1990 hat-trick, with Mike Ford collecting the award twice in the year, three times overall.

December's winner is Richard Russell, who has also won the award before.

Awards judge and Oldham Chronicle writer Roger Halstead writes: "Richard has produced consistently sound performances throughout the month, particularly because of his ability to break from dummy-half or on the edge of rucks."

"Richard is fast becoming a player whose style and technique is very similar to Widnes's Phil McKenzie, who has a great reputation as that kind of hooker."

Richard will receive his award before today's game.

Off the pitch it has been just as busy.

A new Boddingtons-sponsored Miss Oldham Rugby, the delightful Amanda Norris, was crowned in front of a packed Sheddings audience.



Amanda (right) is crowned by outgoing beauty queen Angela Knox.

A lifelong Oldham supporter, Amanda is creating a big impact in her official role.

And, of course, there was the Aussie Beach Party held after the first Test won by Great Britain. The TV cameras were there to capture the Aussies' embarrassment — but as we all know they had the final laugh.

To round off the year in style, the playing staff will be visiting Boddingtons Brewery for a reception to commemorate a busy and highly successful year on and off the pitch.

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throughout the season



BODDINGTONS

TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th, 1991



OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 NORMAN FRANCIS
- 3 TONY ANDERSON
- 4 JOHN HENDERSON
- 5 PAUL LORD
- 6 BRETT CLARK
- 7 MIKE FORD
- 8 AUSTIN DONEGAN
- 9 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 10 JOHN FIELDHOUSE
- 11 PAUL ROUND
- 12 KEITH ATKINSON
- 13 RONNIE DUANE
- 14 TOMMY MARTYN
- 15 CHARLIE McALISTER

FEATHERSTONE

Team Changes

- 1 CHRIS BIBB
- 2 IKRAM BUTT
- 3 TERRY MANNING
- 4 PAUL NEWLOVE
- 5 OWEN SIMPSON
- 6 IAN SMALES
- 7 DERYCK FOX
- 8 JEFF GRAYSHON
- 9 TREVOR CLARK
- 10 LEO CASEY
- 11 GARY ROSE
- 12 CLARRY ITI
- 13 BRENDAN TUUTA
- 14 TIM SHARPE
- 15 CHRIS BURTON

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
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

Referee:

Mr. B. Galtress (Bradford)

Touch Judges:

Mr. D. Booth (Red Flag)

Mr. A. Meredith (Orange Flag)

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
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

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OLDHAM STATISTICS 1990/91

Appearances and Scorers

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen	0	5	0	0	0	0
Tony Anderson	9	0	0	0	1	4
Keith Atkinson	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tony Barrow	3	1	0	0	0	0
Brett Clark	17	0	0	0	5	20
John Cogger	11	0	0	0	0	0
Austin Donegan	6	4	0	0	3	12
Ronnie Duane	14	1	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank	9	4	0	0	1	4
John Fieldhouse	7	1	0	0	0	0
Mike Ford	17	0	1	1	2	11
Des Foy	1	1	0	0	0	0
Norman Francis	13	0	0	0	4	16
John Henderson	4	0	0	0	0	0
Gary Hyde	3	1	1	0	1	6
Richard Irving	9	5	0	0	2	8
Paul Lord	17	0	0	0	6	24
Tommy Martyn	10	2	7	3	6	41
Charlie McAlister	11	2	1	0	3	14
Keith Newton	5	2	0	0	1	4
Duncan Platt	14	0	39	0	2	86
Derek Pyke	4	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Round	17	0	0	0	9	36
Andy Ruane	2	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Russell	15	2	0	0	3	12

Stones Bitter First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Widnes	12	6	0	0	179	58	4	0	2	86	90	20
Hull	13	7	0	0	180	48	3	0	3	77	98	20
Leeds	13	5	0	2	220	86	3	0	3	113	108	16
Hull KR	14	5	1	2	132	130	2	1	3	102	153	16
Wigan	12	4	1	1	132	69	3	0	3	148	108	15
Bradford	14	4	0	2	122	107	3	0	5	124	146	14
Castleford	13	5	1	1	143	97	2	0	5	111	189	14
Featherstone	13	4	1	2	135	106	2	0	4	85	137	13
Wakefield	11	4	0	2	109	68	2	0	3	62	112	12
St Helens	12	4	0	2	175	118	1	0	5	80	111	10
Warrington	14	3	0	4	110	78	2	0	5	92	112	10
OLDHAM	14	4	0	3	141	129	1	0	6	93	180	10
Sheffield	13	2	0	4	106	118	1	2	4	111	177	8
Rochdale	12	1	0	4	93	128	0	0	7	56	256	2

NEXT HOME GAME.

v WAKEFIELD (January 20th, kick-off 3 p.m.)

NEXT AWAY GAME

v HULL KR (January 13th, kick-off 3.00p.m.)

Opponents	Date	KO	Res	F/A	Att	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Salford	2.9.90	A	3.00	L	24-27	4,236	—	Platt 4g	Irving	Foy	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford g	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round t	McAlister t	Duane	Martyn t	Newton
Leeds	9.9.90	H	3.00	W	32-22	6,338	—	Platt 5g	Irving	Martyn t dg	Duane	Lord	Clark t	Ford t g dg	Pyke	Ruane	Newton t	Round t	McAlister t	Cogger	Russell*	Donegan*
Wakefield	16.9.90	A	3.30	L	12-17	5,651	8	Platt t 2g	Irving t	Martyn	Duane	Lord	Ford	Clark	Fieldhouse	Ruane	Newton	Round	McAlister	Cogger	Russell*	Fairbank*
Castleford	26.9.90	H	2.30	W	28-22	5,101	6	Platt 4g	Francis t	Martyn t	Duane	Lord	Clark t	Ford	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round 2t	McAlister	Barrow	Donegan	Fairbank
Widnes	2.10.90	A	2.30	L	16-24	7,261	8	Platt 2g	Francis	Irving	Duane	Lord t	Clark	Ford t	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round	McAlister	Barrow	Fairbank*	Donegan*
Hull KR	7.10.90	H	3.00	L	25-28	4,710	—	Platt 2g	Francis	Martyn 2g dg	Irving	Lord t	Clark	Ford t	Pyke	Russell	Fairbank	Round 2t	McAlister	Cogger	Barrow*	Donegan*
Sheffield	14.10.90	A	3.15	W	24-14	5,500	6	Martyn t 3g	Francis t	Irving	Duane	Lord	Clark t	Ford	Donegan	Russell	Fairbank t	Round	Barrow	Cogger	Newton*	Hyde
Warrington	20.10.90	H	2.45	W	4-2	4,997	3	Platt 2g	Francis	Martyn	Duane	Lord	Clark	Ford	Donegan	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round	Newton	Cogger	Irving	Fairbank
Wigan	4.11.90	A	3.00	L	15-38	13,847	6	Platt 2g	Francis	Martyn g dg	Anderson t	Lord	Clark	Ford	Fairbank	Russell	Newton	Round t	Duane	Cogger	Irving	Allen
Bradford N	11.11.90	H	3.00	L	16-18	5,874	8	Hyde g	Francis	Martyn 2t g	Anderson	Lord	Clark	Ford	Fairbank	Russell	Newton	Round t	Duane	Cogger	Irving	Allen
Castleford	18.11.90	A	3.30	L	10-28	5,974	10	Hyde t	Francis	Martyn	Anderson	Lord t	Clark	Ford	Fairbank	Russell	Round	Duane	McAlister g	Cogger	Irving	Allen
Widnes	25.11.90	H	3.00	L	18-24	5,421	12	Platt 5g t	Francis	Irving	Anderson	Lord	Clark t	Ford	Fairbank	Russell	Round	Duane	McAlister	Cogger	Hyde	Allen
Salford (Regal Trophy)	2.12.90	H	3.00	W	26-6	4,932	—	Platt 5g	Francis t	Anderson	Martyn	Lord	Clark	Ford	Donegan t	Russell t	Fairbank	Round	McAlister	Cogger	Irving t	Allen
Bulley (Regal Trophy)	9.12.90	A	3.00	L	16-20	2,054	—	Platt 2g	Francis	Anderson	Irving	Lord t	Clark	Ford	Donegan	Russell t	Fairbank	Round t	McAlister	Cogger	Duane	Fieldhouse
Hull	16.12.90	A	6.30	L	31-4	5,500	12	Platt	Irving	Anderson	Henderson	Lord t	Clark	Ford	Fieldhouse	Russell	Fairbank	Round	Atkinson	Duane	Foy	McAlister
Rochdale	26.12.90	H	3.00	W	18-13	4,818	11	Platt 3g	Francis t	Anderson	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford	Donegan t	Russell t	Fieldhouse	Round	Atkinson	Duane	Martyn	McAlister
Leeds	11.1.91	A	3.00	L	12-28	11,587	12	Platt 2g	Francis	Anderson	Henderson	Lord	Clark t	Ford	Donegan	Russell	Atkinson	Round	McAlister t	Duane	Irving	Joyn
Featherstone	6.1.91	H	3.00																			
Hull KR	13.1.91	A	3.00																			
Wakefield	20.1.91	H	3.00																			
Featherstone	27.1.91	A	3.30																			
St Helens	10.3.91	H	3.00																			
SCCR 1st Rd	10.2.91	3.00																				
Bradford	17.2.91	A	3.30																			
SCCR 2nd Rd	24.2.91	3.00																				
St Helens	10.3.91	A	3.00																			
Sheffield	17.3.91	H	3.00																			
Rochdale	29.3.91	A	3.00																			
Wigan	14.9.91	H	3.00																			
Warrington	7.4.91	A	3.00																			
Hull	14.4.91	H	3.00																			

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Key: t=try g=goal dg=drop goal *-played as substitute



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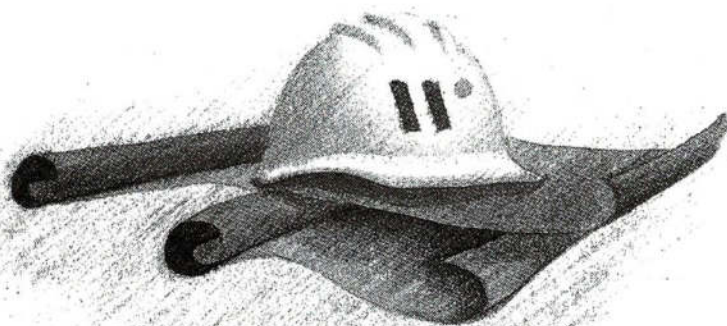
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A-TEAM ROUND-UP



*The
Coach's
View*

OUR encounter at Halifax looked at one stage as if we were going to be overwhelmed. A big and experienced Halifax team got off to a whirlwind start, scoring 18 points in the first 20 minutes.

Once we started to get up and meet the Halifax attack, our game improved and we got ourselves back into the match. If you look at the final score — 28-12 — and take away the first 20 minutes, we actually won from then on 12-10.

I have a saying: always look on the bright side.

Our lightweight pack at Thrum Hall was due to our forward injury list which amounts to eight players who have all played at first-team level this season.

The knock-on effect of this to the Alliance team at least has given Craig Mort a chance to try his luck in the second-row position.

Craig does not want to be typecast as a full back and wishes to play either in the pack or at centre.

With time on his side and an abundance of talent, it will be how Craig eventually fills out which could have a big bearing on the final decision.

As we now start the second half of the season can I wish you all, along with ourselves and the Alliance side, a very happy and successful New Year.

● The home game against Leeds was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, but we were hoping to get back to winning ways against Featherstone last Friday evening.

IAN TAYLOR

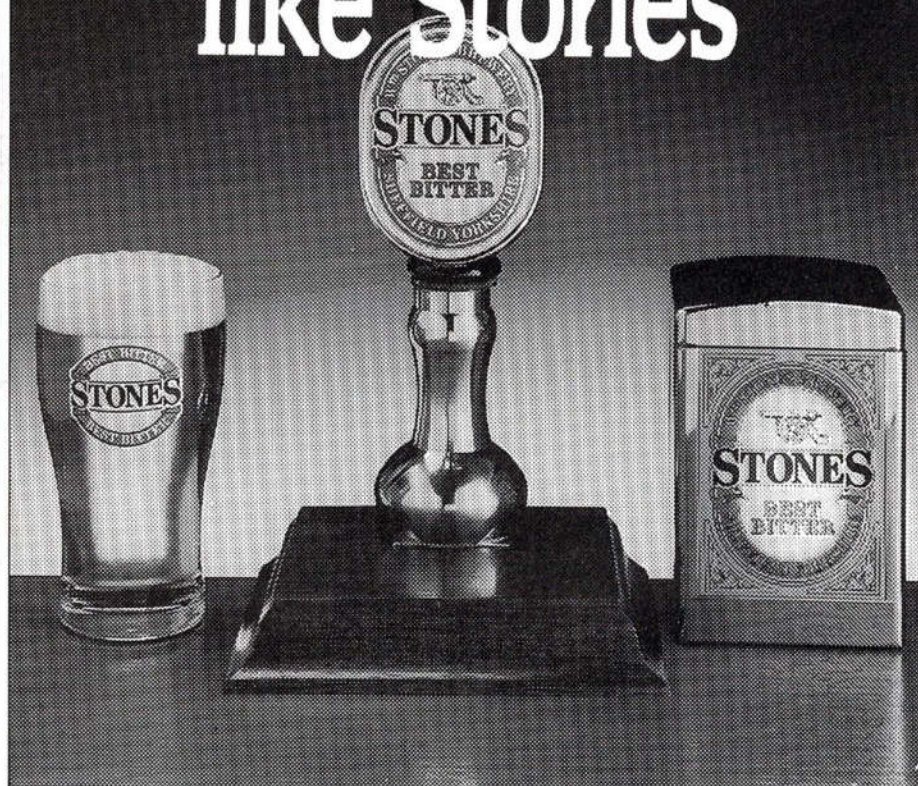
Slalom Lager Alliance Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Aug 31	St Helens	H	W	32-8	
Sept 7	Leeds	A	L	12-18	
14	Wakefield	H	W	18-12	
21	Salford	A	W	22-17	
28	Widnes	H	W	34-10	
Oct 5	Workington (Lancs Shield)	H	W	28-10	
11	Leigh (Thurs)	A	L	8-24	
21	Wigan (Lancs Shield)	H	L	14-16	
Nov 2	Warrington	H	W	34-6	
9	Widnes	A	L	6-28	
16	Salford	H	W	22-6	
23	Castleford	A	L	10-14	
Dec 7	Wigan	A			
14	Hull	H			
21	Halifax	A			
28	Leeds	H			
Jan 4	Featherstone	A			
11	Hull KR	H			
18	Wakefield	A			
25	Featherstone	H			
Feb 1	St Helens	A			
8	Castleford	H			
16	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
22	Hull	A			
Mar 2	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
8	Halifax	H			
15	Warrington	A			
22	Hull KR	A			
29	Leigh	H			

Slalom Lager Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	13	13	0	0	346	161	26
Castleford	12	8	0	4	307	275	16
Hull KR	13	8	0	5	255	234	16
Leeds	13	7	0	6	303	252	14
OLDHAM	12	7	0	5	236	194	14
Featherstone	13	7	0	6	308	271	14
Halifax	13	7	0	6	271	294	14
Widnes	11	6	0	5	229	245	12
St Helens	12	5	0	7	310	298	10
Leigh	12	5	0	7	200	261	10
Wigan	11	4	0	7	210	245	8
Salford	11	4	0	7	164	248	8
Wakefield	13	2	0	11	218	279	4
Warrington	11	2	0	9	204	304	4

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RUGBY League fans can enjoy a superb trip to watch top class international rugby in France accompanying the GB squad courtesy of the Rugby Football League.

The executive package for the Great Britain-France international at Perpignan on Sunday 27th January is available to fans at an extremely competitive £385. The package includes the Under-21 international which takes place at Limoux on Saturday 26th January.

The superb programme includes travel and accommodation with the 19-man GB squad, attendance at a special Celebration dinner after the match and, of course, VIP stand seats for both internationals.

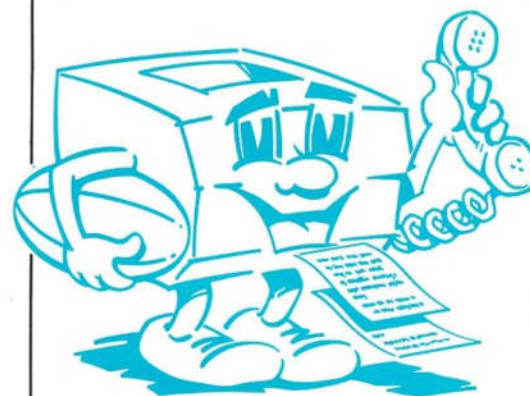
Travel is by private charter flight from Manchester to Perpignan, which leaves from Manchester International Airport at 09.50 on Friday 25th January, returning at 12.35 on Monday 28th January. Accommodation is three nights at Perpignan's Mas des Arcades hotel.

The all-inclusive price of £385 includes sharing a twin room, although there is the option of a £30 supplement for a single room.

Fans interested in taking advantage of this offer should write to The Public Affairs Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT, indicating the number of places to be booked together with room requirements and names of people attending. All cheques should be made payable to the Rugby Football League.

Remember, the offer is subject to availability and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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WHO IS YOUR BODDINGTONS PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

Voting for the Boddingtons Bitter player of the year starts next month — who will be your choice?

Voting forms will be appearing in the match-day programmes for the St. Helens and Sheffield home games, giving you the chance to thank the player you think has done most for the club this season.

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

At the same time, you can vote for the Boddingtons Bitter young player of the year — an award won last season by Tommy Martyn.

SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

Finally, you'll be able to nominate the fan you think deserves the title 'supporter of the year'.

We'll give you more details about the awards in the next home programme.



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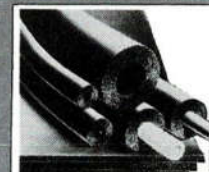
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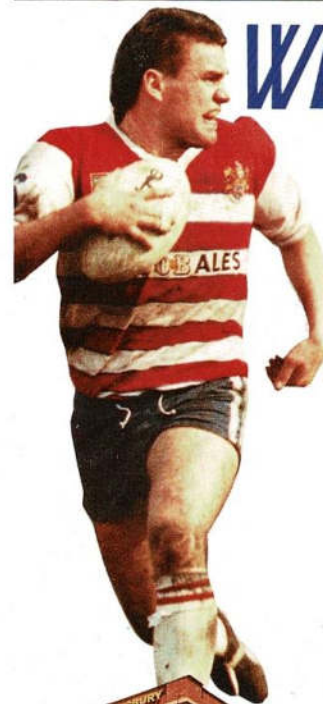
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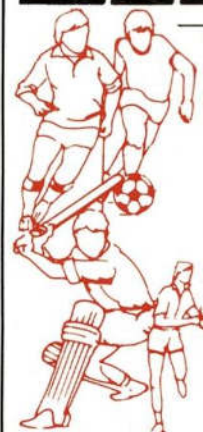
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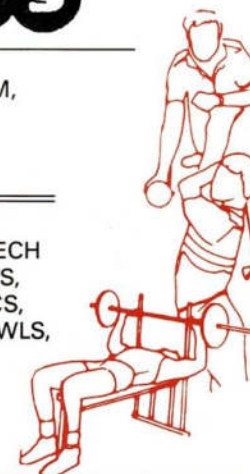
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