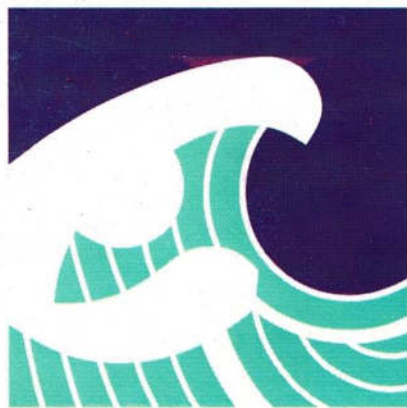


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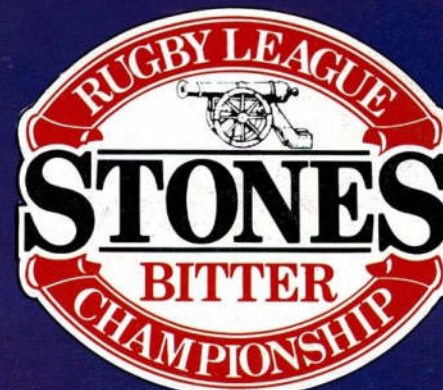
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Good Afternoon..

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Spotland for this Good Friday fixture against our near neighbours Oldham, our penultimate home fixture in what has been a testing season to put it mildly.

Can we offer a special welcome to all supporters, officials and players of Oldham RLFC who are, of course, still involved in a battle for First Division survival. Unlike most teams who have come to Spotland this season they are not making their first visit. Who can forget our Christmas meeting last season when in front of a near capacity crowd Hornets put on a superb show of rugby league in attack and defence and ran out worthy winners?

Hornets will be out for revenge after suffering a narrow defeat at Watersheddings in a match that will be remembered for two excellent long range tries by Darren Abram and Mark Nixon. Oldham, too, will be aware that defeat could consign them to joining us in the Second Division (in whatever format that may take) next season.

Finally it is gratifying to see more of our youngsters being given a chance in the first experience. Although it has been a baptism of fire I'm sure that they will learn from the experience and it will stand them and the Club in good stead next term.

Enjoy the game.

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Today's Opponents

Our only Easter match this season sees our near neighbours make the short trip from Watersheddings for what is a crucial match for them. It looks ominous for the Roughyeds as relegation is a real worry. Earlier in the season things looked well for the team, some good wins at home over Leeds and Castleford and a nailbiter against Warrington were then spoiled by poor away form. However a fightback ensued and first division survival was given a boost by a crushing 37-10 victory at Odsal. At the same time a marvellous Challenge Cup run was only halted last week by a team hell bent on a fourth successive trip to the twin towers.

Throughout the season injuries have hit key players at important times but now in the most crucial phase of the season a full squad is awaiting its ultimate test — can they stay up? Last season, in two thrilling encounters, honours were shared, each team winning at home and both teams being promoted. Top try scorer was Paul Lord with 29. Top points scorer and goal kicker was Duncan Platt with 283 points and 126 goals.

Finally, who can forget the magnificent fight back in the second division Premiership Final at Old Trafford? If Oldham are to hang on to division one status, every game to the end of the season will have to be like that!

OLDHAM PEN PICTURES

JOHN COGGER: Born in Sydney, spent 2 seasons with Runcorn before signing for Oldham in February 1989. His team in Sydney was Western Suburbs. A tearaway loose forward he skippered Oldham to promotion in 1989-90.

JOHN FAIRBANK: Born in Halifax and one of the famous five farming and Rugby League brothers. John signed for Oldham in the deal that took Hugh Waddell to Leeds in the late summer of 1988. Hard working prop-forward.

JOHN FIELDHOUSE: Oldham pack leader and former Warrington, Widnes and St Helens star. Seven full caps for Gt. Britain and voted man-of-the-series against New Zealand in 1985. Joined Oldham from Saints.

MIKE FORD: A young man of 24 who has already played at Wembley and toured Australia. While with Wigan he picked up a Challenge Cup Winners medal, three Lancashire Cup medals (one losers), two John Players Trophy medals and a 1st Division Championship medal. After a short spell at Leigh he joined Oldham in January 1988.

DES FOY: First signed for Widnes as a youngster but returned 'home' to Oldham in the Brian Hogan deal in August 1982. Played twice for Gt. Britain under 24's in 1983 and went on to play in three full tests, including the 1st test against Australia in Sydney on the 1984 tour. Played stand-off opposite the great Wally Lewis. Played nearly 200 games for Oldham despite a spell with Aussie club Newcastle Knights.

Inside Information

JOHN HENDERSON: Another local lad. First turned pro for Leigh but signed for Oldham in September 1988. A prolific try scorer in a pacy Leigh back division, he has scored more than 100 tries in his career, none more vital than his first-half try in Oldham's shock 3rd round Challenge Cup win at Widnes in season 1989-90. Had a spell with Wests in Sydney.

GARY HYDE: Spent a decade with Castleford, his home town club and played twice for Gt. Britain under 24's in the early 1980's. Played at left centre in the Castleford team which beat Hull K.R. 15-14 in the 1986 Wembley final and joined Oldham in December 1988.

PAUL LORD: Signed for Oldham as a 17 year old from amateur rugby in Wakefield where his great pace attracted Oldham scouts. Came as a stand-off but has made his home on the left wing. One of Oldham's most prolific scorers.

TOMMY MARTYN: Baby of the squad at 18, Tommy has the perfect pedigree. His father and uncle both played for Gt. Britain as forwards. Signed from Leigh Miners, Tommy Jnr. toured Australia with BARLA Young Lions in 1989 and hit the headlines when he scored the winning try in Oldham's fantastic comeback against Hull K.R. in the 2nd Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford in May 1990.

CHARLIE McALISTER: Big centre or wing, now playing in the back row of the pack. Charlie was spotted playing Union for Bradford and Bingley. Signed after trials in January 1988. Before coming to England he played for New Zealand Maoris at Union and was an All Blacks trialist. Talented with the ball and a powerful runner, he had a spell with Sydney League club Newcastle Knights in 1988.

KEITH NEWTON: Widnes born and bred, Keith signed for the Chemics from local amateur rugby. Made around 50 appearances, many of them as substitute, and jumped at the chance to sign for Oldham in January 1989. He was voted man-of-the-match in the Silk Cup Challenge Cup 3rd round at Widnes in 1990.

DUNCAN PLATT: Another Widnes player, signed for Oldham in December 1988 and was one of Tony Barrow's first signings. Landed 125 goals last season despite damaging an ankle in the Lancashire Cup Final and missing the next seven matches.

PAUL ROUND: Signed from St. Helens. Played twice for Gt. Britain under 21's in 1984 and represented Saints at Wembley in 1987, scoring a try in an appearance as substitute.

ANDY RUANE: Started his career with home town Widnes and moved to Rochdale Hornets from where he joined Oldham in the summer of 1988. Scooped most of the Club's Player-of-the-Year Awards in 1988/89 but had bad luck with injuries in 1989/90 when he began to face competition for the hooking job from Richard Russell.

RICHARD RUSSELL: Oldham snapped him up from Wigan in the summer of 1989. A Gt. Britain Colts and under 21 player as a centre but switched to hooker in a master stroke.

SHAUN ALLEN: Began his career with St. Helens for whom he did enough to earn Gt. Britain under 21 honours as a centre in the 1984 match against France. Joined Oldham in March 1989. Usually plays a second-row but also turned out as loose forward, hooker and centre.

BRETT CLARK: An Aussie who first came to England to play for St. Helens. Was the Saints stand-off in their 19-18 defeat by Halifax at Wembley in 1987. Joined Oldham at the start of the 1989/90 season.

TONY ANDERSON: Signed from Halifax in the Spring of 1990. Had wretched luck since moving from Thrum Hall. In his second game for Oldham he broke his nose and on his comeback at Workington, he broke his ankle. Spent summer of 1990 getting back to fitness and looking forward to 1990-91 season after recuperating at Lilleshall.

DEREK PYKE: Former Leigh and Widnes prop, known as a ball-player, who joined Oldham from the Chemics in the summer of 1990. One of the most experienced front row men in the game and a player whose ballskills can unlock the toughest defence.

RONNIE DUANE: Signed from Warrington. Ronnie burst on to the international scene as a young centre in the early 1980s and toured in 1984 only to suffer serious knee damage in the opening game at Darwin, Northern Territory. He joined Oldham as an experienced utility man who can play in the back row of the pack or in the centre.

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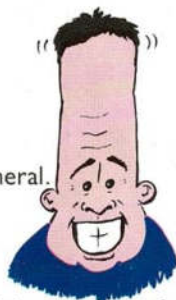
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Cerebral Corner



This week there are just six brain busting questions about the game in general. So put your thinking cap on, cast your mind back in time, and try (ha! ha!) these for size.

1. On what night of the week was the BBC Floodlit Trophy competition broadcast?
2. Two players have won at Wembley with 3 different clubs. Name them both.
3. Name the only African to win the Lance Todd Trophy.
4. Jim Mills played for Halifax, Salford, Bradford, Workington, Widnes and one other club. Who?
5. What position did Eddie Waring play?
6. What was unique about the 1987 Widnes-Castleford challenge cup tie?

- ANSWERS
1. Tuesday
 2. Alex Murphy & Brian Lockwood
 3. Len Killeen — St Helens 1966
 4. North Sydney
 5. Scrum half
 6. 4 sets of brothers played — Hulme, Myler, O'Neill & Beardmore

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BITS & BATS

May we start by offering a very happy Easter holiday to all players, officials and fans of Oldham and Hornets who are visiting Spotland today.

A word of consolation to Oldhamers who contributed to one of the most entertaining cup semi finals ever seen but proved, as we have seen to our cost this season, that momentary lapses in the top flight can be disastrous.

At half time during the 'A' Team's recent match against Trafford Borough the two teams were leaving the pitch. Youngster Mike Williams was in conversation with a team mate in earshot of that great RL stalwart Mick Hough, formerly with Waterhead, Mansfield, Nottingham and now with Trafford.

"You OK?" says team mate.

"No," says Mike, "I'm knackered."

"How come?"

"I've been on exams all week and I've been studying until about 2 o'clock at night."

Mick looks at Mike's youthful features, "Well that's the f*****!! Plus for you lad!" says he.

By way of a change and also to publicise local talent, our "In the Picture" spot today features photos by Hornets fan Lee Hardman of 145 Wardle Road. Lee can be contacted on Rochdale 341479.

Last edition's "Sporting Comment" about the urgent need for league restructuring, was picked up on by the Manchester Evening News last weekend. It's nice to be read by the press and their compliments regarding the programme were much appreciated in the Dog and Partridge "Think Tank". Unfortunately though, the effort of Hull Kingston Rovers for last week's match was sadly lacking in reading quantity. Indeed, John S's pen pictures of Hornets players made up half of the reading matter.

Rochdale Observer Sports Editor, George Dodds was rather uncomplimentary towards the referee in the recent Wigan match. This is unusual for George, whose match reports are as unbiased and as complimentary as any in local journalism, but show a genuine concern about the consistency of officials, particularly in first division fixtures. Consistency or complacency, we can never be sure. What we can be sure of though, is the rightful position in the top ten of today's man in the middle, 30 year old JOHN CONNOLLY in his first full season in the top flight. John's consistent performances and high level of fitness have ensured him success and high ratings since his debut here at Spotland in last Easter's Hornets match against Keighley.

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Supporters Club Round-up

Good afternoon and a special welcome to all Oldham supporters who have made the short journey to Spotland.

This is a vital match for Oldham who are fighting to avoid that third relegation spot, with Hornets and almost certainly Sheffield already doomed.

The farcical situation of the present system means that whilst Oldham could be in the Second Division next season, Salford, who they thrashed and totally outclassed two weeks ago, will be back playing First Division rugby.

For Hornets this is the penultimate home game in what has been a quite disastrous season. The truth has been that Hornets have not been good enough for the top flight and should promotion be attained next season the mistakes of this season must not be made.

For our final match the Supporters Club are running a special coach to Widnes. For the "last rites" it is possible that we will be stopping for lunch "on route". Anyone wishing to go on the coach should contact Tom Stott as soon as possible.

Grant Bargh

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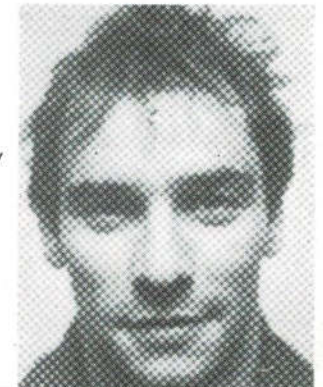
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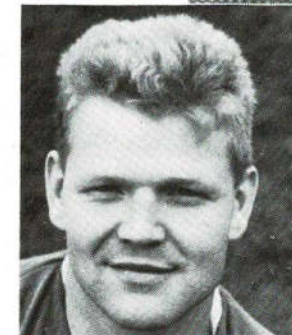


No need to cut the programme contact:
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Fixtures

Date	Opponents (HOME/away)	Result		Attend	Sponsor
19 Aug	LCP Salford	12	41	2400	
26 Aug	LCI				
2 Sep	LC2				
9 Sep	Wakefield T	6	42	4024	
16 Sep	SHEFFIELD E	20	24	2021	Albany Hotel + Bury Dale Caterers
23 Sep	Wigan	2	24	11108	
30 Sep	HULL FC	18	30	3450	David Tully — Accident Repair Specialists
7 Oct	Warrington	9	26	4978	David Tully & Co
14 Oct	BRADFORD N	19	12	3630	Sandersons Building (Milnrow) Ltd
21 Oct	Featherstone R	8	38	3983	
28 Oct	Open Date				
4 Nov	ST HELENS	18	30	3642	J & J Makin Converting
11 Nov	Leeds	4	64	8038	
18 Nov	HULL K.R.	18	32	1720	Lion Springs Cook St Pallets
25 Nov	St Helens	14	44	5546	
30 Nov	RT1 SADDLEWORTH	30	10	2434	Imperial Tobacco
9 Dec	RT2 Doncaster	14	10	1850	
16 Dec	RT2 Castleford	19	14	4043	
22 Dec	RT3 Bradford N	2	13	3788	(Semi-Final at Headingley)
26 Dec	Oldham	13	18	4800	
30 Dec	Open Date				
6 Jan	Bradford N	14	23	3751	
9 Jan	FEATHERSTONE R	12	26	1839	Carcraft of Rochdale
20 Jan	Sheffield E	16	30	3000	
23 Jan	Castleford	0	42	3850	
30 Jan	WIDNES	6	60	2836	MIDAS/BJ Gaynor/A Hamif
3 Feb	Hull FC	8	28	4500	
19 Feb	SCCC1 CHORLEY	14	10	1050	SILK CUT
24 Feb	SCCC2 WIGAN	4	72	6487	SILK CUT
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14 Apr	Widnes				

*GLC= Greenalls Lancs Cup. RT= Regal Trophy. SCCC= Silk Cut Challenge Cup

** See local press and this programme for kick off times.

Terrace Talk



No surprises at Burnden Park last weekend as our visitors today felt the force of the Wigan machine in action. Despite a stirring effort, Oldham demonstrated that you stop concentrating at your peril against a Wigan side that punishes mistakes mercilessly.

In Division One, Castleford continued to astound the casual observer in maintaining their title aspirations with a convincing win over Saints. Featherstone pushed Widnes all the way at Post Office Road and Hull virtually sealed Sheffield's fate winning at Don Valley. 'Interesting' Bradford Northern increased Wakefield's worries by taking the points at Belle Vue and Hull KR pulled clear of the danger zone courtesy of a below par Hornets performance.

In Division Two the top three now look likely to

go up — all three winning last week — Match of the Day last Sunday being Halifax's narrow win over the much improved Workington in front of an impressive near 6,000 crowd.

For the second week in succession strugglers Chorley got very close to one of the 'big boys' in Ryedale York — without having anything to show. Ex-Hornet David Wood scored a try, kicked four goals and took the man-of-the-match award. Down at the bottom Runcorn couldn't repeat the home result against Dewsbury going down by an 8 point margin.

'Shock' result in last weekend's B.N.F.L. National Cup was the six-all draw between Yorkshire Cup Winners Cutsyke and London Colonials.

But before you get excited about this 'coming of age' of Southern Rugby League it's interesting to note that the Colonials fifteen comprised eight Kiwis and seven Australians, so it was, in fact, a great result for Cutsyke and a false representation of the standard of the game in the South. I know who I'm rooting for in the replay.

As for today I'm hoping for a shock Wakefield win at Leeds and a repeat of last season's Boxing Day Result. Enjoy the Game.

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What the papers said

Hornets v Wigan and the smug hordes of cherry and white 'supporters' went home bitterly disappointed as we "... escaped the humiliation of the thrashing they were given in the Challenge Cup three weeks earlier," began the M.E.N., going on to say that Hornets "... came out of the match with credit."

Once again it was Frano Botica's boot which reaped the plaudits. "Eight goal Botica holds Wigan Key" ran the M.E.N. headline and they went on to quote Neil Holding, "We didn't deserve to lose by 44 points ... Botica's kicking made the difference."

"Hornets played with keen spirit, tackled solidly and scored three smart tries ... Scrum half Steve Gartland and Adrian Belle, two new boys, shaped promisingly" — credit where it was due from the M.E.N., unlike one pie-eater, heard to shout "Narrow the pitch and pray for rain — it's the only chance you've got."

As it was, we only had to hope that one of their less intelligent forwards would take a ludicrous swing under the ref's nose and get himself sent off! The all pervading air of smugness that hangs over Central Park was admirably demonstrated in the post match radio interview on G.M.R. when, in a five minute puff by the Club Chairman, he failed to mention Hornets once and even had the audacity to claim that "... lowly teams try and antagonise your players." Maybe these less 'lowly' teams should work on their discipline a little.

Over, last Sunday, to 'New Craven Park' where, unlike Central Park, there was an all pervading air of MUD! On possibly the worst playing surface I have seen in 20 years of involvement in the game, Hornets, unlike the mud, came unstuck to give 'retiring' coach Roger Millward the perfect send-off. This was echoed in the LEAGUE EXPRESS headline "Fruitful farewell." They went on, though, to describe Hull K.R. — despite the fact that they ran in 48 points — as a side "... severely ill equipped for consistent top level competition." With regard to Hornets they said that though we "... often looked dangerous from distance and frequently exposed some indifferent defence ... they promised much, but delivered little." Sadly, but succinctly, the whole season summed up in those six words.

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It is especially gratifying to be involved in the local derby game of the towns in which we practice.

We wish all those involved in the game every success and hope that you all enjoy yourselves no matter what the outcome on the field.

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St Helens and Widnes have identical semi-final records with this being their 20th for both clubs and each having won 12.

But the only time they have met in the semi-final was two years ago when St. Helens won 16-14 at Wigan.

- St Helens have appeared in 12 finals and won five, all at Wembley. They have lost five times at Wembley, their last victory was in 1976 when they beat Widnes 20-5.
- All of Widnes's 12 final appearances have been at Wembley, where they have won seven times and drawn once. Their last appearance at the stadium was in 1984 when they beat Wigan 19-6. The only survivor from that team is David Hulme who played as a substitute, while Tony Myler was a playing substitute in the 1982 drawn final against Hull.
- The highest score and widest margin in a semi-final is Huddersfield's 35-2 defeat of Wakefield Trinity at Halifax in 1913 (not including war time two-legged semi-finals).
- The most points scored by a losing team in a semi-final is 16. Castleford lost 22-16 in a 1985 replay against Hull, and Oldham lost 30-16 against Wigan last weekend.

ANDY GREGORY

Andy Gregory of Wigan is poised to equal the Wembley record of seven final appearances. The Widnes trio of Eric Hughes, Keith Elwell and Mick Adams set the record when they won in 1975, 1979, 1981 and 1984; drew in 1982 and lost in 1976 and 1977.

Gregory already holds the record of most Wembley final wins with five and has never been on the losing side in six finals. The scrum half was

with Widnes in 1981 and 1984, plus Wigan in the last three years. He also played for Widnes in the 1982 drawn final.

- Eric Batten holds the record for most finals since the first in 1897. The winger played in a total of eight finals for Bradford Northern, Leeds and Featherstone Rovers between 1941 and 1952, among them four war time finals which included two-legged matches.

SEMI-FINAL RECORD

Oldham equalled the most points by a losing side in a Challenge Cup semi-final when they lost 30-16 against Wigan at Bolton on Saturday. They share the record with Castleford who lost 22-16 to Hull in a 1985 replay at Leeds.

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

The final of the 1991 Slalom Lager Alliance Challenge Cup will be contested by Bradford Northern and Castleford at Odsal Stadium on Friday 5 April, kick-off 7.30 pm.

DONCASTER RECORD

Doncaster gained their highest away score and kept on course for a club record League match-winning sequence with their 52-8 Division Two win at Nottingham City on Sunday.

The Dons previous highest away score was also at Nottingham when they won 50-6 on 26 December 1989. Doncaster touched down nine times in each match.

Earlier this season Doncaster ran up their highest home score with a 58-2 defeat of Bramley. Doncaster's run of six successive Division Two wins leaves them two short of equalling the club record league sequence. That was set with eight successive Division Two wins at the start of the 1988-89 season and ended with a 22-14 defeat at Workington Town.

TRY SCORING RUN

Nick Pinkney of Ryedale-York has scored at least one try in five successive matches as follows:

1-2-1-1-2

Paul Round's try scoring sequence ended at six matches when he failed to score in Oldham's 30-16 Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final defeat by Wigan.

POINT SCORING RUN

Graham Sullivan of Ryedale-York has the longest scoring sequence covering 25 matches.

ANDY MASON

Andy Mason scored the 100th try of his career with the only one for Wakefield Trinity in their 16-6 Stones Bitter Championship home defeat by Bradford Northern on Sunday. The centre's total is made up of 32 for Bramley, five Leeds, 61 Wakefield and two for Yorkshire.

WINNING RUN

Wigan have the longest winning run of ten matches, covering six Stones Bitter Championship games and four Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties.

LOSING RUN

Hull KR's losing run ended at six matches when they won 48-14 at home to Rochdale Hornets on Sunday. Keighley's losing run also ended at six matches as they beat Barrow 24-10 at home.

Rochdale Hornets now have the longest losing sequence of six matches made up of five Stones Bitter Championship games and one Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie.

MILESTONES

Ellery Hanley of Wigan needs two tries for a Division One career total of 200.

Paul Eastwood of Hull needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns.



TOP TEN TRY SCORERS

1.	Martin Offiah (Widnes)	44
2.	Greg Austin (Halifax)	35
3.	Ellery Hanley (Wigan)	24
	Jonathan Davies (Widnes)	24
5.	Graham Steadman (Castleford)	23
6.	Anthony Sullivan (Hull KR)	22
	Adrian Hadley (Salford)	22
8.	Les Quirk (St Helens)	21
	Garry Schofield (Leeds)	21
	Martin Wood (Halifax)	21

The 1990-91 top try scorer will receive £25 a try from Stones Bitter.

TOP TEN GOAL SCORERS

1.	Steve Kerry (Salford)	147
2.	Paul Eastwood (Hull)	98
3.	Frano Botica (Wigan)	90
4.	Graham Sullivan (Ryedale-York)	87
5.	Alan Platt (Halifax)	86
	Jonathan Davies (Widnes)	86
7.	Tim Lumb (Hunslet)	83
8.	Simon Irving (Leeds)	82
	Paul Loughlin (St Helens)	82
10.	Duncan Platt (Oldham)	77

The 1990-91 top goal scorer will receive £5 a goal from Stones Bitter

TOP FIVE POINT SCORERS

		Tries	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
1.	Steve Kerry (Salford)	17	142	5	357
2.	Jonathan Davies (Widnes)	24	84	2	266
3.	Paul Eastwood (Hull)	12	98	0	244
	Frano Botica (Wigan)	16	90	0	244
5.	Graham Sullivan (Ryedale-York)	12	84	3	219

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Things you didn't know you didn't know about ... WIGAN

In November 1908 Wigan obtained a summons against Edward Croston, a well known local man, for an attempt to bribe two Wigan players. The Northern Union congratulated Wigan and banned Croston from all the grounds under their jurisdiction.

Leigh and Wigan drew 3-3 in their 1908 Lancashire Cup second round game. In the replay at Wigan the home player, W. Johnson, committed the unforgivable sin of leaving the field to change his jersey without first asking the referee for permission. Because of that Leigh objected to the result and the Lancashire County Union ordered another replay. It didn't do Leigh any good because they lost the second replay as well.

After the end of the war in November, 1918 it took some time for things to return to normal, including the weather! On New Year's Day 1919

the referee abandoned the Barrow v Wigan game because the players said that it was too cold to continue.

Four days later the Barrow v Bradford Northern game had to be put off when only three Northern players turned up.

The 1921 miners' strike caused problems for the Challenge Cup semi-finals. Coal for the steam trains was in short supply which caused many football specials to be cancelled. At the Central Park semi-final striking Wigan miners forced an entrance and got in free.

In 1932, W. Howarth, the Broughton Rangers half back, had his transfer fee reduced by the League to £350, but Wigan paid £450 for his transfer. The RL secretary was instructed to write to both clubs pointing out that such action was not in the best interests of the clubs or the game.

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Results up to and including 11/03/91



HOME TEAM	BRADFORD N.	CASTLEFORD	FEATHERSTONE R.	HULL	HULL K.R.	LEEDS	OLDHAM	ROCHDALE H.	SHEFFIELD E.	ST. HELENS	WAKEFIELD T.	WARRINGTON	WIDNES	WIGAN
AWAY TEAM	BRADFORD N.	CASTLEFORD	FEATHERSTONE R.	HULL	HULL K.R.	LEEDS	OLDHAM	ROCHDALE H.	SHEFFIELD E.	ST. HELENS	WAKEFIELD T.	WARRINGTON	WIDNES	WIGAN
BRADFORD N.	***													
CASTLEFORD	9-0	***												
FEATHERSTONE R.	24-26	6-22	***											
HULL	34-6	22-6	40-22	***										
HULL K.R.	12-4	12-16	24-14	20-8	***									
LEEDS	26-8	41-16	16-18	22-24	24-18	***								
OLDHAM	16-18	28-22	18-20		25-28	32-22	***							
ROCHDALE H.	19-12	12-76	12-36	18-30	18-32	20-34	***	***						
SHEFFIELD E.	16-36	20-24	24-27	6-16		6-24	14-24	30-16	***					
ST. HELENS	24-20	16-29	54-33	12-10	42-10	22-16	33-22	44-14	34-17	***				
WAKEFIELD T.			8-16	22-6	26-6		17-12	42-6	12-4	36-14	***			
WARRINGTON	12-13	30-12	16-10	2-3	30-12	10-22		26-9	30-8	10-18	2-6	***		
WIDNES	32-14		41-14	28-2		26-8	24-16		14-23	34-6	25-6	***	***	
WIGAN			24-4	34-12	34-4		38-15	24-2	18-18	16-8	6-14	***	***	***

Sporting Comment



All gloom and doom? No of course not but hardly the image of a thrusting, vibrant sport finally ready to take the whole country by storm over the next couple of years.

The quality of play on the field is as high as it has ever been but action must be taken immediately if the sport is not to stagnate.

Three divisions must be imposed on the clubs to do away with the mockery of the unfathomable second division fixture lists.

Clubs must look for financial stability and only pay what they can afford and players must look realistically at their demands for playing the game.

Without players there is no game but without clubs there is nowhere to play.

Expansion must follow a policy with the game spread to the Midlands and North East before any attempt is made to relaunch it in London.

Fans must be given improved facilities for their money and they in turn must do their part to ensure that some of the isolated incidents of bad behaviour on the terraces remain just that.

Basically we have a sound product to sell but should always be looking for ways to consolidate the good points of the game and eradicate the bad parts.

Then we are ready to move forward into the next century.

by George Dodds, Rochdale Observer

So where do we go from here?

The euphoria of the Wembley test is behind us and although the Cup final and Premiership will give a spectacular end to the season the warning bells are ringing again.

On one hand we talk of expansion in Scarborough, Hanley, Gateshead and Hemel Hemstead and yet some of our more traditional heartlands such as Leigh and Hull KR are in the sort of financial morass which would have seen them closed down if they had been in any industry other than sport.

We have too many teams to run a sensible two division system and yet the clubs who would find themselves in the new third division perhaps not surprisingly don't want to give it the green light but cannot come up with a viable alternative.

Contract payments have been agreed which have brought clubs to the brink of bankruptcy and, in some cases, having been agreed have not been honoured.

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GO AWAY!

Our final away trip in the "Top Flight" is probably the hardest match of the campaign. Naughton Park is probably the destination of the Championship (although some may disagree) and so to see a little bit of history here is a recommended route to follow ... Head west on the **M62 to Junction 7 (A568)** and turn left. Follow this road (KINGSWAY) toward Widnes centre, and as you approach the centre, the road widens into a duel carriageway. At the first major set of traffic lights turn right onto **LEIGH AVENUE**. At the next set of lights turn left onto **LOWERHOUSE LANE**. The ground is on the left. As this is probably the game which gives Widnes the Championship I strongly advise an early arrival unless you like a long walk before a match. Parking is possible in the estate off **LEIGH AVENUE** but any vacant spot should be snapped up as soon as you see it.

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Commercial Manager

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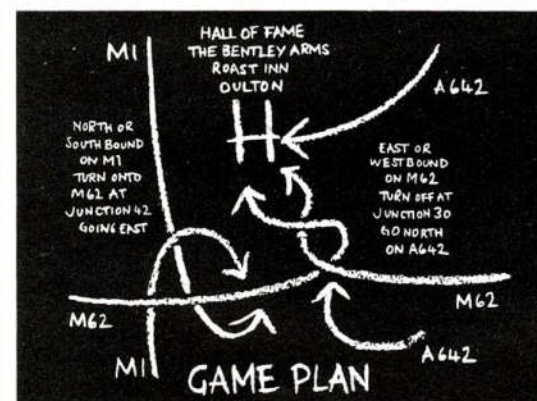
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Commercial Comment



Clubman who served Rochdale Hornets as a Player, Coach, Official and even as Supporters Club Chairman, in an association with the club that spanned over 50 years!

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1989 Ken Oldham
1990 Bill Sutcliffe

If you wish to make a nomination, this must be done in writing, setting out your reasons for the nomination and addressed to:

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Fred Selway Memorial Fund

c/o Rochdale Hornets RLFC

PO Box 48

Rochdale

Nominations must be received by 31st March this year.

An Adjudicating Panel consisting of the Trustees, who are:

Peter Birchall, Ray Walton, Paul Reynolds, Les Barlow

will select the winner and a presentation will be made at the last home match of the season (v Wakefield Trinity) on Wednesday 10th April.

Welcome to Spotland Stadium this "Good" Friday. A very warm welcome to Binder Hamlyn, our match sponsors, thank you for your generosity. We hope you have a pleasant and rewarding day with us.

The Commercial Department and Supporters Club have joined together this year for our Annual Social Evening. It will be held in the Spotland Suite on Friday 12th April. There will be a Disco, an Artist and a Potato Pie Supper. This event is free to all Rochdale Hornets Agents and Members of the Supporters Club. Guest admission is just £1. Anyone who has not received their invitation or wishes to come and join us for the evening can obtain tickets from the Commercial Office.

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8th Sep	BATLEY	3.00	22-6
15th Sep	Workington	2.30	8-29
22nd Sep	BARROW	3.00	26-6
27th Sep	Ryedale-York	7.30	17-26
6th Oct	Lancashire Shield (Leigh)		20-23
13th Oct	Dewsbury	2.30	20-20
20th Oct	Doncaster	7.30	6-22
3rd Nov	Hunslet	2.30	Post
10th Nov	HUDDERSFIELD	2.15	38-21
15th Nov	Bramley	7.30	13-2
24th Nov	WORKINGTON	2.15	12-26
8th Dec	HUNSLET	2.15	Post
22nd Dec	RYEDALE-YORK	2.15	Post
29th Dec	Barrow	2.30	16-10
5th Jan	BRADFORD N	2.15	Post
12th Jan	Batley	3.15	24-32
19th Jan	Trafford B	2.30	18-6
26th Jan	DEWSBURY	2.15	Post
2nd Feb	DONCASTER	2.15	2-14
9th Feb	BRAMLEY	2.15	POST
22nd Feb	Bradford N	7.30	POST
23rd Feb	WHITEHAVEN (SLC)		70-6
2nd Mar	Slalom Lager Challenge Hull		8-36
7th Mar	Huddersfield	7.30	36-6
9th Mar	TRAFFORD B	2.15	24-4
16 Mar	SWINTON	2.15	14-13

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Alliance League Report



Alliance League Report

Hornets 'A' v Swinton 'A'

Score (won) 14-13

Team

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. P. Viller | 8. D. Malloy |
| 2. D. Harrison | 9. M. Kay |
| 3. D. Pitt | 10. K. Sutton |
| 4. M. Calland | 11. J. Blackburn |
| 5. G. Warhurst | 12. J. Viller |
| 6. B. Garrity | 13. R. Marsden |
| 7. M. Hulmes | 14. J. Carney |
| | 15. A. Beard |

"A superb game" was the verdict from the Spotland faithful after this thrilling Alliance 2nd Division game.

Hornets went on the attack straight from the off, but the same old story of not turning pressure into points started to prevail. A sustained period of 20 minutes on attack failed to bring any points, but at the other end, the Lions' first attack resulted in six points.

A brilliant break by Garrity led to Matt Calland being brought down inches from the line, when maybe the young centre should have done better, and the chance went begging. John Blackburn, in his first game for a month, brought the best out of Chris Johnson, as he was stopped with a last ditch tackle.

But again we fell for the five card trick of conceding another try right on the stroke of half time, so we turned around a dozen points adrift.

Choice words from Kevin Lowe at half time were in order, and also a tactical substitution with Aden Beard replacing the out of touch Jason Viller seemed to do the trick.

The same pattern of play continued in the second half

with Hornets doing all the attacking but could not turn pressure into points, Viller, Calland and Kay all came close to scoring; but good cover tackling prevented them from doing so. A good tussle was starting to develop between Brian Garrity and Tommy Frodsham, with both players making numerous mid field breaks.

Just as it looked as though Hornets were never going to score, they got the breakthrough, Garrity tore between the Swinton line, drew the full back Johnson, to send big Dale Malloy in from 10 yards out, Mike Hulmes converted to drag Hornets back into the game at 6-12.

One way traffic continued as Hornets looked to get level, and they did so with 7 minutes left. Garrity again made the break, fed Hulmes, who in turn fed Paul Viller, who touched down from 20 yards out. Hulmes kept his cool to make the score 12-12.

A mistake from Garrity at the kick off gave Swinton vital possession as both sides were starting to tire. As it got to the fifth tackle Hornets forgot about the one pointer, and allowed Chris Johnson bags of time to drop a goal; everything looked lost for Hornets, trailing 13-12 with 5 minutes left.

As it was the Gods must have been shining on Hornets as the referee gave Hornets a penalty 30 yards out, Mike Hulmes again stepped up to slot the winning points with a superb goal to give Hornets a 14-13 lead.

There was still time for Hornets to give the crowd one last scare. Dale Malloy threw out a wild pass which the Swinton winger took, raced up the touchline, and was just hauled down with a brilliant tackle by full back Paul Viller, as Hornets hung on for a well earned victory.

Good performances came from Hulmes, Viller and Garrity, with my man-of-the-match being Matt Calland, on a day when Hornets managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

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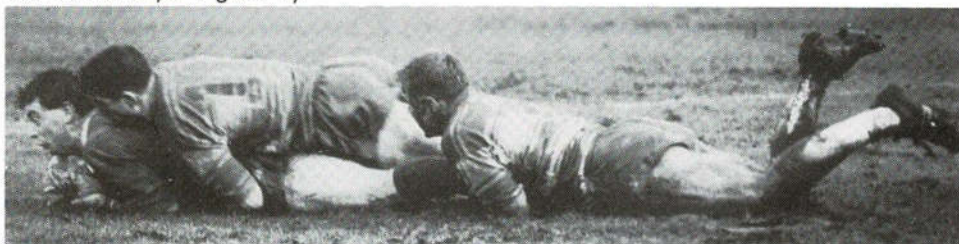


Hampson's tackle too late to stop Steve Turner unloading



Myers in to tackle John Higgins

Rob Cheval in for a great try



(All photos by Lee Hardman, Wardle Road, Rochdale. Tel: 341479)

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Who did What-1990/91

	App	Sub	Try	D.G.	Goal	Pts.
Colin WHITFIELD	27		4		31	78
Chris MYLER	5	1				0
Mark VILLER	7	6	1			4
Phil FOX	15		1			4
Mark LORD	25		10			40
Darren ABRAM	21		11			44
Mark NIXON	21		4			16
John HIGGINS	9		1			4
Brian GARRITY	14		2			8
Bob GROGAN	18	2	2			8
Stuart GALBRAITH	11	3	3			12
Neil HOLDING	21	3	2	1	4	14
Neil COWIE	23	1	4			16
Mike O'NEILL	22		3			12
Martin HALL	27		5			20
John BLACKBURN	15					0
Tony HUMPHRIES	25	2	3			12
Ian GORMLEY	17	4	2			8
Robert HALL	8	5				0
Karl MARRIOTT	9	3	1			4
Bob MARSDEN	4	2				0
Steve TURNER	9	7	1		16	36
Darren PITT	5	5				0
Mike WILLIAMS		2				0
Martin KAY	1	1				0
Mick DEAN	2					0
Simon BAMBER	1					0
Paul McDERMOTT	6	3	2			8
John MYLER	2	1		2		2
Andy SULLIVAN	3					0
Ian HALSALL	1					0
Steve GARTLAND	3					4
Adrian BELLE	4		2			8
Robert CHEVAL	1	2	2		8	
Paul VILLER	1					0
Matt CALLAND		1				0
Dale MALLOY	1	1				0
David LEVER		2				0
David GALLAGHER	5		1			4

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Face to Face

Hornets V Oldham

PAUL VILLER	1	DUNCAN PLATT
JOHN HIGGINS	2	RICHARD IRVING
DARREN ABRAM	3	DES FOY
MARK NIXON	4	TONY ANDERSON
ADRIAN BELLE	5	JOHN HENDERSON
NEIL HOLDING	6	BRETT CLARK
STEVE GARTLAND	7	MICHEAL FORD
NEIL COWIE	8	AUSTIN DONEGAN
MARTIN HALL	9	ANDY RUANE
MIKE O'NEILL	10	JOHN FIELDHOUSE
IAN GORMLEY	11	JOHN COGGER
ROBERT CHEVAL	12	CHARLIE McALISTER
STEVE TURNER	13	RICHARD RUSSELL
MATT CALLAND	14	
ROB HALL	15	

Referee: Mr John Connolly (Wigan)

Touch Judges: Mr C Summer (Red & Yellow) Mr K Leyland (Yellow)

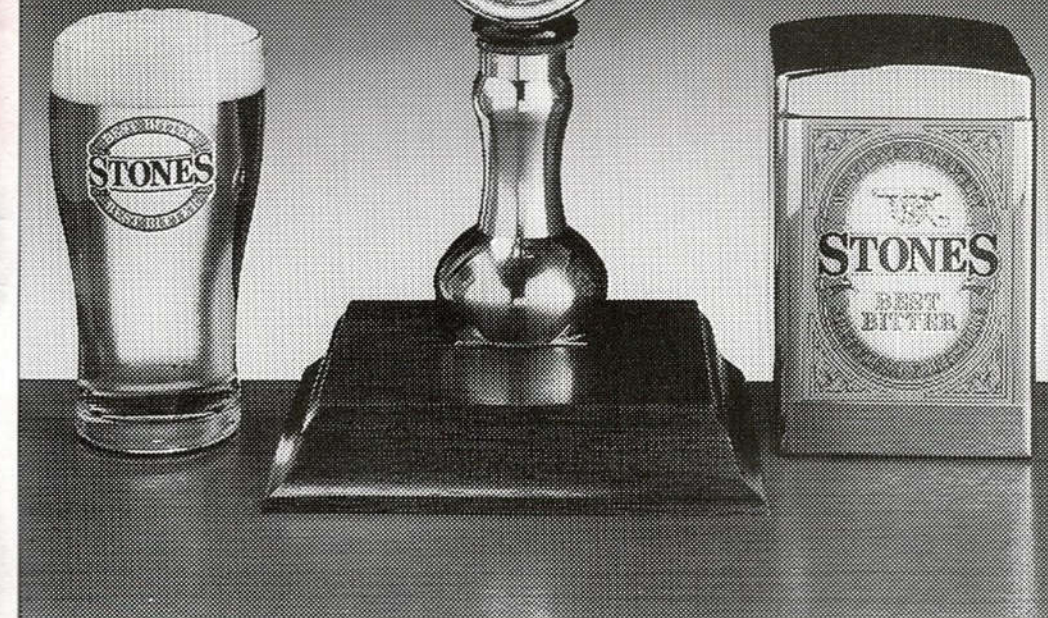
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