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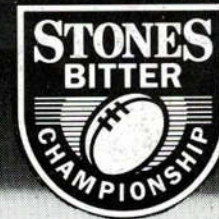
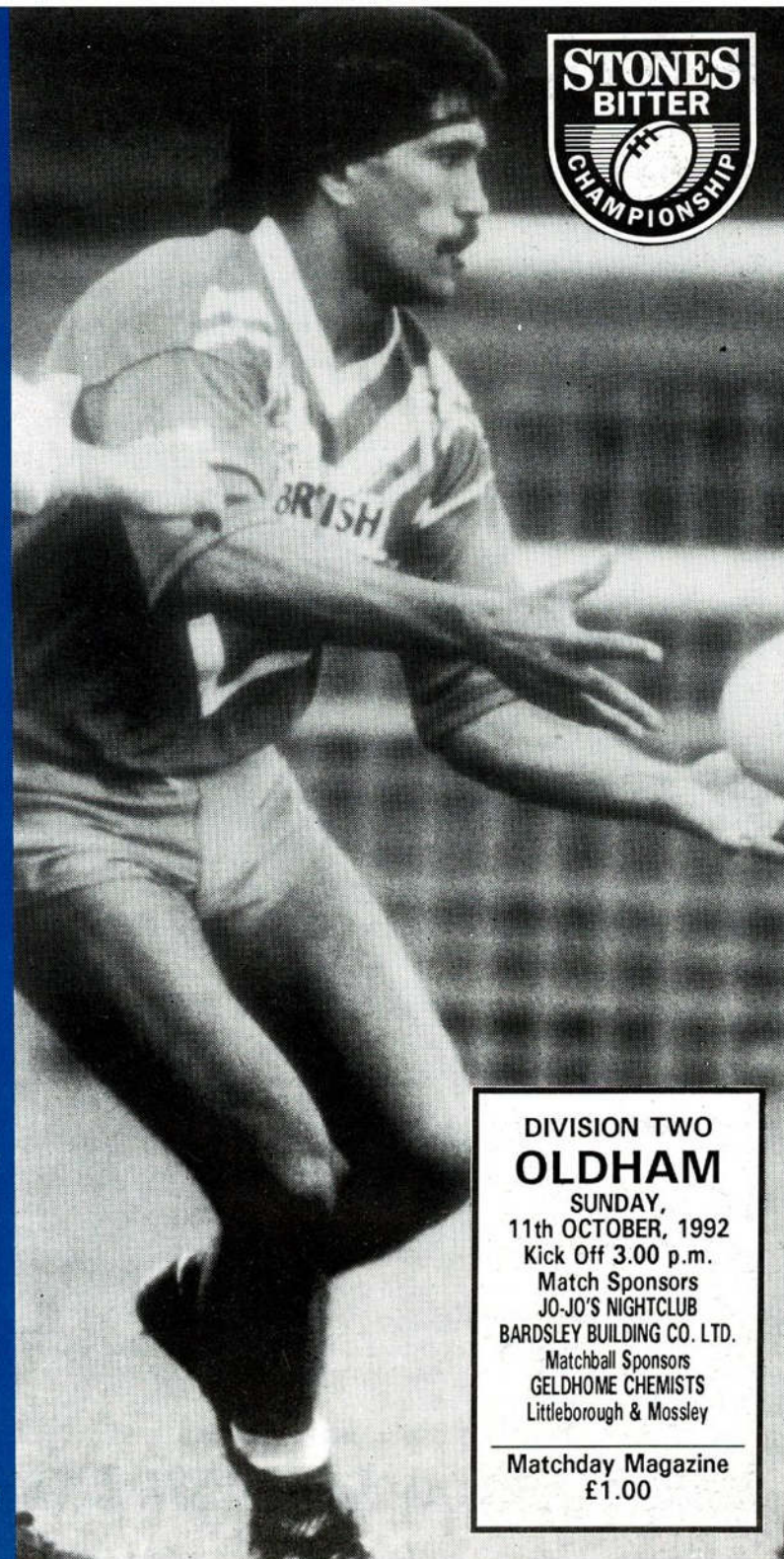
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HORNETS CLUB RECORDS

Attendance: 26,664 v Oldham (R.L. Cup) 25 March 1922

Tries in a match: 5; J. Corsi v Barrow 31 Dec. 1921 & v Broughton Moor 25 Feb. 1922.

J. Williams v St. Helens 4 April 1933.

N. Brelsford v Whitehaven 3 Sept. 1972.

Tries in a season: 30 by J. Williams 1934-35

Goals in a match: 14 by Steve Turner v Runcorn H. 5 Nov. 1989.

Goals in a season: 115 by K. Harcombe 1985-86

Biggest Victory: 92 - 0 v Runcorn H. 1989-90

Heaviest Defeat: 79 - 2 v Hull 1920-21

Highest Transfer Fee: £60,000 for Ian Gormley from Salford 1990

Highest Transfer Out: £65,000 for Neil Cowie 1991 (plus £15,000 if he plays for Gt. Britain, which he has!)

DIVISION TWO RECORDS

Widest winning margin: 92 points v Runcorn H. 5 Nov. 1989.

Most points by losing side: Dewsbury 36 Hornets 34 - 9 Oct. 1988

Scoreless Draw: v Dewsbury 30 Jan. 1983

stan says



All our hard work of the previous weeks amounted to nothing as we came down with a bump at Carlisle last week.

Despite losing Mike Kuiti before half time, the stern defence of our earlier games wasn't much in evidence as we failed to contain a very mediocre Raiders' attack.

A lack of concentration in the middle of the field, an inability to control the football and some intolerable indiscipline all contributed to a performance that was well below the expected standard and we paid the penalty.

Everyone at the club knows what is expected of them and places in the first team are only available to those willing to show the necessary commitment. The margin of error in this division is a narrow one and we must remember that, as points will be hard to come by, we mustn't squander any as we did last week.

Today we welcome our close rivals Oldham whose expected solid start to the season hiccuped last week at home to Featherstone, but as Peter Tunks continues his team building at "The 'Sheddings", this afternoon's game has all the makings of another tense derby.

With last weeks results bringing the teams in division two even closer together it is important that we maintain contact with the pace-setters at the top and victory today would be a good way to do it.

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inside *information*

The war against the 'enemy' from Oldham is always difficult and today's match will be no exception. Peter Tunks has blended together a useful outfit with some astute signings and, although defeated last week at home to Featherstone, the signs are there that this side could be on the way to Division One, even this early in the season. Speed is an important part of the game and Oldham have plenty with players like Scott Ranson, Hugh Gumbs and dangerman Iva Ropati (surely one of the best bits of dealing ever done to capture him from Sheffield). The loss of Chris Joynt to St Helens was thought might weaken the side, but players brought in have filled the gap quite adequately.

MARK SHEALS: rugged, hard-working prop, who joined Oldham in a three-for-one exchange deal with Leigh in the summer of 1992. Won a Lancashire cap last season, but missed his County debut due to suspension.

SEAN DEVINE: a 22 year-old scrum-half, whom Oldham boss, Peter Tunks also recruited in an exchange deal which took Chris Joynt to St Helens.

MARK MEADOWS: a second row forward who has seen service with Swinton and Trafford Borough when Tunks snapped him up on the eve of the 1992/93 season from the new Blackpool Gladiators club, who took Sean Allen in a straight swap.

HUGH GUMBS: a young winger from Yorkshire, who signed for Bradford Northern when David Hobbs was boss. Had a spell with Batley and then signed for Oldham as a free agent in the summer of 1992.

STUART COCKER: yet another of Tunks' wheeler-dealer signings, Cocker joined Oldham in the deal that took Neil Flanagan and Des Foy to Fartown. A try poacher, well known for his scoring habits.

PAUL JONES: at 6ft 3in and 17 stone, Leigh-based Jones had more than 60 appearances for St Helens behind him, albeit many of them as substitute, when he signed for Oldham with Sean Devine in the Chris Joynt deal.

BEN OLSEN: this Danish-born forward made a name for himself with London Crusaders and signed for Oldham in the famous swap-shop summer of 1992.

TINY SOLOMONA: a Kiwi of Western Samoan origin, Tiny signed for Oldham in early 1992 from Widnes, but did not make his debut until the start of the 1992/93 season, due to groin trouble. Has had two groin operations since the turn of the year, but is now playing at the top of his form and

won the Man of the Match award in Oldham's first round Lancashire cup win against Warrington.

DAVID BRADBURY: signed from Leigh Miners after touring New Zealand with the BARLA Under 19 squad. David is a strong-running loose forward.

IVA ROPATI: a member of the famous New Zealand footballing Ropati family, Iva was the top try scorer in the Country this year. A new signing for Oldham and an exciting prospect for the team.

SCOTT RANSON: 24 year-old St Helens player and top try scorer for his former club, Swinton. Signed for Oldham in March 1992.

SHANE TUPAEA: ex New Zealand player. Signed for Swinton then Rochdale. A hard-tackling, defensive second-row forward.

IAN SHERRATT: former Oldham and Lancashire Schoolboy. Left Oldham for Salford and returned last season. A hard grafting prop forward.

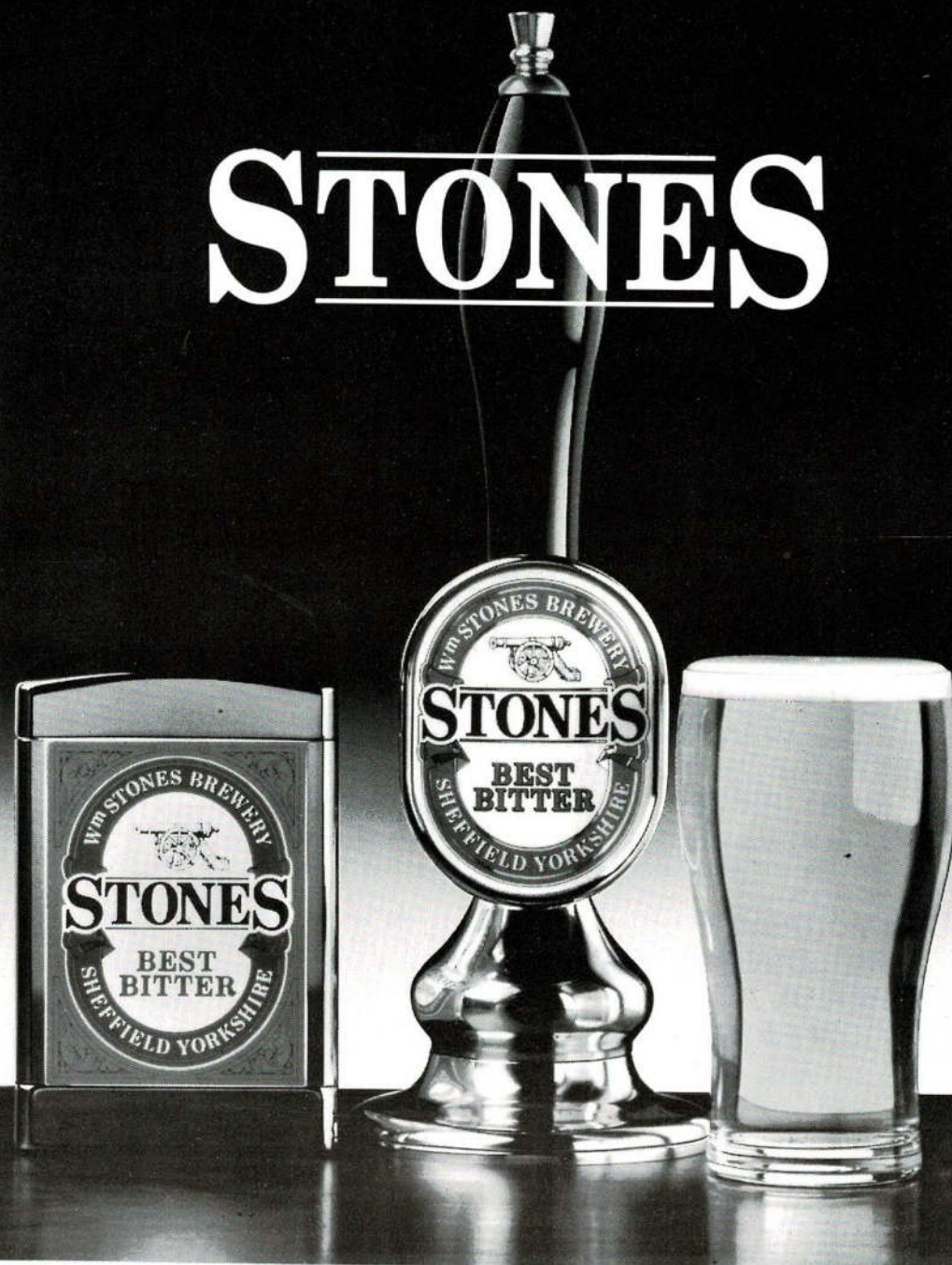
RICHARD RUSSELL: a local lad who arrived home at Watersheddings via Wigan. Played for Wigan on the wing in the World Club Championship against Manley, but is now regarded as stand-off or loose forward. Captain of the side, a creative player with a good pair of hands.

BARRIE MCDERMOTT: strong and powerful, despite his twenty years, local lad Barrie is yet another of the BARLA squad to throw in his lot with Oldham. He is a dedicated young professional and has quickly made enough impression to earn a place in the first team squad.

TOMMY MARTYN: a player of exciting potential. He is a stand-off or centre, who can 'sniff' tries out of nothing .. 'poacher' of the Rugby League variety, who can turn a match at a stroke.

WALLY GIBSON: Australian full-back or stand-off, currently on loan from Huddersfield. Very exciting player with a habit of scoring regularly.

STONES



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back stage

I would like to welcome all supporters today to Spotland. We all hope that today's game lives up to all our expectations and turns out to be a 'cracker'.

I ask that both sets of supporters be patient with us whilst building work for the new stand is in progress. In the return fixture on Good Friday, we will all benefit from the comfort the new stand will provide to spectators, with over 1800 seats in it.

I would like to wish Oldham good luck for the season and let us all hope that this fixture next year will be a First Division one.

Enjoy the game.

Ian McMahon
General Manager/Secretary

N.B. I would like to welcome good friends of mine who happen to be avid Oldham fans - 'Prof' Peter Connolly and his lovely wife, Sharon. I hope you enjoy the game and some good old Hornets hospitality.



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page seven

According to League Express 'Uncle Maurice' is going to be the new Chief Executive of the Rugby League, with the job description being re-written to 'give a more hands-on role in the running of the game'. Does this mean the new regime will be known as the Wigan Rugby Football League?

Celebrating their Grand Final win in Brisbane, the Broncos seem to have destroyed the myth that Australians are nice quiet people who are just misunderstood. At the reception, the victory cake was cut and promptly spread around the room by such gentlemen as Glenn "the brick with eyes" Lazarus and Alfie Langer. Let's all pray for a British victory in the World Cup Final so we can show them how to really celebrate!

Who tells the BBC what's going on in the game? Last weekend, as most Hornets fans know, we lost to Carlisle 24-12, yet twice on Radio 5 we were given as 24-46 winners. I think those who made the trip north should be told if we were at the right match because I, for one, would rather have been at the Radio 5 game.

Last Saturday, Hornets A-team, led by the modest Kev Lowe, paid a visit to Hemel Hempstead in the monsoon region of Hertfordshire. Several of the more crazed supporters made their way down to offer support. Thanks to the directional skills of a certain Observer Editor, 'the ground is just off the M1, lads', one pair arrived with just 20 minutes of the game left, having circumnavigated Hemel for over an hour. It's rumoured that the same directional skills were employed last year on a trip

to London and involved passing St Paul's cathedral four times and a sign saying 'Welcome to Dover' once.

Hornets winger Matt Calland will be out for a month with a severe facial injury, caused in an innocuous looking tackle attempt at Carlisle. Matt is suffering from a rather bent nose and possible fractures of the skull, when a stray boot caught him in the face. The doctor was sufficiently worried to spend all Sunday with him. I am sure all fans wish him a speedy recovery.

One final point about the Hemel Hempstead game, although the pitch left a great deal to be desired, the clubhouse was excellent and we can't finish this column without thanking Kev Lowe for offering to buy a drink for the couple of the 'nutters' who travelled down and allowing Ticker to buy us the drink. That's the art of delegation for you! Thanks also to that most reserved character, Mark Reynolds, for the sandwiches.

Today's Referee is Mr Paul Crashley from Wakefield. A Grade One official since 1989/90, he is assisted on the touchline by Mr J D Jones and Mr R Mosley.

Brian Garrity wishes to thank all supporters at the Featherstone match for giving so generously to his benefit collection, which raised the sum of £370.

Thank you all.

B Garrity.



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JOHN HARDMAN, Director

what the papers said

It's a funny place, McLaren Field. Not only do they still have a 25 yard line (abolished this season in favour of a 20 metre line), but they appear to have put their posts in upside down - did you see the height of those crossbars!

Anyway, not long ago a rather modest win at Bramley would have done well to eke a couple of lines out of the M.E.N., but on this occasion the headline, "Hornets turn up the heat" preceded a fairly lengthy report which described us as, "... by far the most inventive of the two teams on show." - can't really argue with that.

The League Express saw matters somewhat differently - "11 man Hornets hang on". This, I think, gives Bramley a little more credit than they deserve and the line that read "... it was their pack, brilliantly marshalled by Martin Hall and second row Cavill Heugh that kept them (Hornets) in the game." which makes it sound as if Bramley were actually in danger of winning at some point.

Steve Gartland, "...brilliantly opened the way to the Bramley line with a quick shimmy, but inexplicably missed the conversion from in front of the posts (maybe the 15 ft. high crossbar had some bearing n'est pas?) and Matt 'Rocky' Calland, "... (Calland) rounded off a brilliant move.." gained praise for their performances, but the man-of-the-match verdict went the way of Martin Hall.

The L.E. closed by describing the game as one where "...hard working forwards slugged it out, with both sides guilty of a tendency to over elaborate.". Well, if that's what an over elaborate Bramley side looks like, I'm just glad that I only have to watch it four times this season. A dull afternoon all round.

The less said about the debacle at Carlisle the better, but the L.E. quote "... (Carlisle) had a comfortable win over a Rochdale side who faded badly.." just about sums it all up despite leaning towards understatement. An even duller afternoon I'm afraid. Enjoy the game.

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head to head

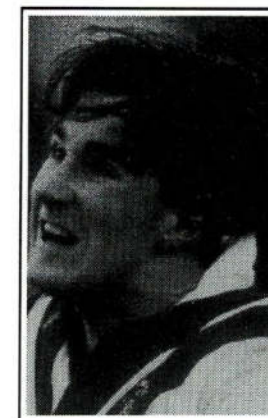
An excellent move by Oldham was that of signing Sean Devine from St Helens prior to the start of the season. He made an explosive start to his Saints career but was never a permanent fixture due to the clamour for a big name at no.7. Hopefully, he can become the big name in his own right that his talent deserves.

Hornets steady start to the season is in many ways due to the brilliant form of Steve Gartland. At last, assured of a long run in the side, confidence is allowing his great ability to shine through. Leading up to today's match against his home town club, he is leading the try and points scoring here at Hornets.

SUBJECT:
DATE OF BIRTH:
PLACE OF BIRTH:
OCCUPATION:
HEIGHT:
WEIGHT:
POSTION:
HONOURS:
PREV. CLUBS:

STEVE GARTLAND
8-10-1970
Oldham, Lancs.
BAe. Toolmaker
5ft. 9in. Approx.
11st. 0lb. Approx.
Scrum Half
GB & Lancs. U. 19
Oldham St Annes

SEAN DEVINE
25-1-1970
Leigh, Lancs.
Pro. RL Player
5ft. 9in.
11st. 0lb.
Scrum Half
None as yet
Leigh Rangers
St. Helens



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fixtures 92/93

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Attend	Match Sponsor	Matchball Sponsor
30.8.92	Swinton	A	14-10	1873		
6.9.92	London Crusaders	A	10-30	750		
11.9.92	Wigan (GLC Round 1)	Salford	8-36	2936	Greenalls	Greenalls
20.9.92	Featherstone Rovers	H	26-22	1695	Supp Club	Supp Club
27.9.92	Bramley	A	20-12	1035		
4.10.92	Carlisle	A	12-24	580		
11.10.92	Oldham	H				
18.10.92	Huddersfield	A				
24.10.92	World Cup Final	Wembley				
25.10.92	London Crusaders	A				
1.11.92	Bramley	H				
8.11.92	X111 Catalan (R T Round 1)	H				
15.11.92	London Crusaders	H				
22.11.92	Featherstone Rovers	A				
29.11.92	Bramley	H				
5.12.92	Regal Trophy Round 2					
13.12.92	Carlisle	H				
20.12.92	Swinton	A				
26.12.92	Oldham	A				
3.1.93	London Crusaders	H				
10.1.93	Carlisle	A				
24.1.93	Oldham	A				
30.1.93	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Round 1					
7.2.93	Swinton	H				
13.2.93	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Round 2					
21.2.93	Huddersfield	A				
27.2.93	Silk Cut Challenge Cup Round 3					
28.2.93	Huddersfield	H				
7.3.93	Featherstone Rovers	H				
14.3.93	Bramley	A				
21.3.93	Swinton	H				
28.3.93	Featherstone Rovers	A				
4.4.93	Huddersfield	H				
9.4.93	Oldham	H				
18.4.93	Carlisle	H				

cerebral corner

With the World Cup final now looming large on the horizon, I thought I'd grant you a respite from my usual brain boiling questions and present instead a selection of teasers about the last time our colonial cousins trod the sod in Blighty back in 1990.

1. The Aussies played nine 'midweek' games on the last tour, but two of them weren't against first division opposition. Who were they against?
2. In the 34-6 victory over Wigan which Aussie scored a hat-trick of tries?
3. Three Australians were sent off in the game against Wakefield. Name them.
4. The teams to score the highest number of points against the tourists still only managed exactly half of the Australian total. Teams & score please.

5. In the first test at Wembley the Aussies used all their substitutes, But Gt. Britain didn't use two. Which two?
6. Australia went undefeated in the 'midweek' games, but Widnes came closest only losing by 7 points, One player scored all the Chemics' points in that game. Who?
7. In the whole of the 1990 tour the Aussies only scored one drop goal. Who got the point and who were the opposition?



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supporters club *notes*

Our next game at Huddersfield once again sees the supporters' club running a coach. Numbers choosing to travel with us have been rising steadily since the start of the season allowing us to lower the prices quoted at the start of the season.

One point that has been raised is the hour we stay to socialise after the game. This is a popular part for many supporters, but we realise that some want to go straight there and back and if enough people feel this way then we will be happy to run another coach - please let us know. Bookings for the coaches can be made as usual to the Tap and Spile on 47171 or Judith on 354086.

We received sad news this week that, because of safety regulations, Huddersfield are no longer able to hold their first team fixtures at their Fartown home. These games are now being staged at Leeds Rd., home of Huddersfield Town F.C., but the Fartown Supporters' Club will still be open on matchdays before and after the game.

It is only a few minutes by car from Leeds Rd. and Hornets supporters will be most welcome there for a pre or post match drink. Staying with the social side, a reminder of our 'do' at Bernard Manning's Embassy Club on 19th November. Tickets are available now from Committee Members priced £6.50 including

coach travel there and back - top value, book now!

Finally, thanks to Bob Fletcher, Hornets' secretary for many years during the 50's and 60's, who attended the Featherstone game and made a donation of £10 to club funds. In recognition of his sterling service to the Supporters Club, Bob has been made a life member.

ROCHDALE JUNIOR HORNETS

- 1) We would like to thank Steve Gartland, Dave Webster and Matt Calland for their presence and help on the successful Blackpool trip. Also, a special mention to Neil, our coach driver, for giving his services free.
- 2) Happy Birthday to the following members: Gareth Rowland Walker, age 13, 18th October. Thomas Dobson, age 12, 27th October.
- 3) We are hoping for a firework display for November. Watch local press and programme for details.
- 4) If any parent wishes their child to join the Juniors, contact the club shop or Sheila Bramwell on 525022

Sheila Bramwell.

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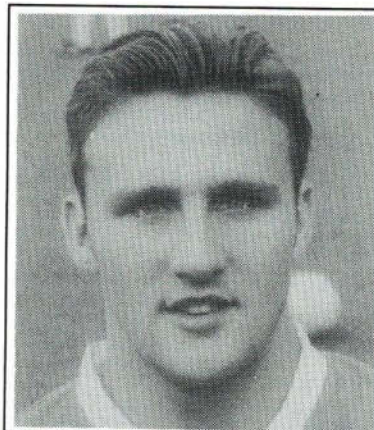
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man of *the match*

cerebral *corner*



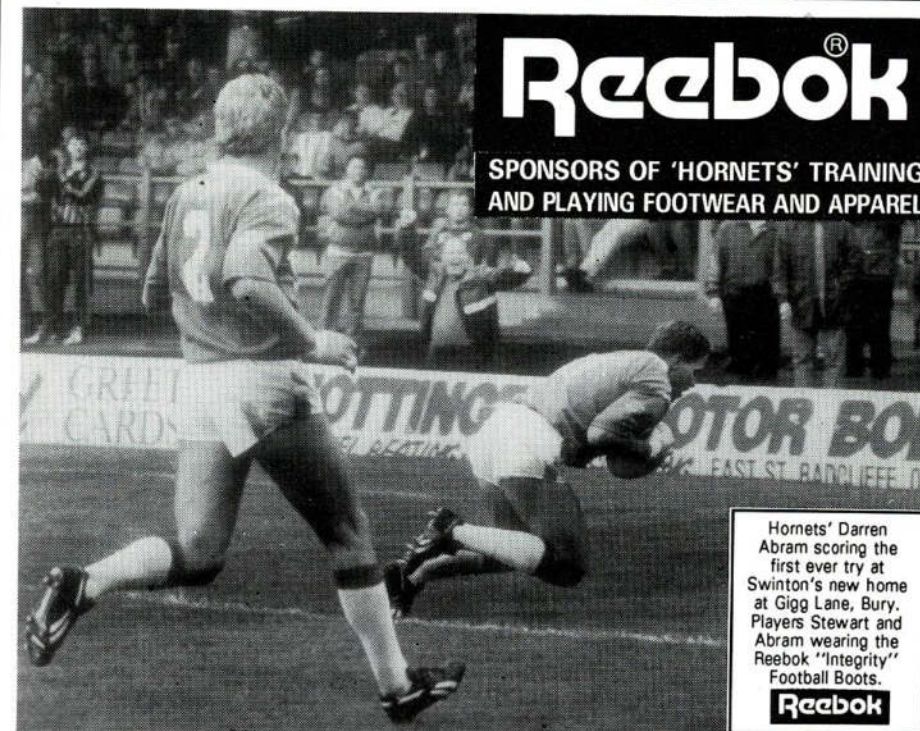
v Carlisle
STEVE GARTLAND

The Solution

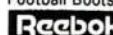
1. Cumbria & Halifax
2. Andrew Ettingshausen
3. Gillespie, Stuart & Carroll
4. Halifax & Wakefield, 18-36
5. Shaun Edwards & David Hulme
6. Jonathan Davies, 1 try 2 goals.
7. Gary Belcher v Widnes.



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Hornets' Darren Abram scoring the first ever try at Swinton's new home at Gigg Lane, Bury. Players Stewart and Abram wearing the Reebok 'Integrity' Football Boots.



results *grid*

HOME	AWAY	BRAMLEY	CARLISLE	FEATHERSTONE	HUDDERSFIELD	LONDON CRU	OLDHAM	ROCHDALE	SWINTON	
BRAMLEY		H			34-10	30-8		12-20		GAME 1
										GAME 2
CARLISLE	18-10		O			14-46		24-12		GAME 1
										GAME 2
FEATHERSTONE			30-10	R					14-8	GAME 1
										GAME 2
HUDDERSFIELD				15-34	N		24-28		37-10	GAME 1
										GAME 2
LONDON CRU					46-10	E		30-10		GAME 1
										GAME 2
OLDHAM			38-14	4-24		23-12	T		16-8	GAME 1
										GAME 2
ROCHDALE				26-22				S		GAME 1
										GAME 2
SWINTON	6-11							10-14		GAME 1
										GAME 2

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league *round-up*

Six weeks into the season and only three hundred-percent teams. Take a bow St Helens, Dewsbury and Rydale-York. Saints are certainly leading the style war as the fans flock back to Knowsley Road.

Following Saints, we have a pack of teams who one week look unbeatable only to stupefy the fans the next by presenting them with the unexpected defeat. Take Halifax, stylish destroyers of Leeds one week, taken apart by Salford the next. Hull, victors against Wigan only to be blasted asunder by Warrington, who themselves succumbed to Leeds only a week later. Other than Saints, only Sheffield Eagles seem to have any current form, but beware a Derrick Fox-inspired Bradford Northern!

Rydale-York, after a torrid season last time out, are finding the Third Division a good place to get their new team firing on all cylinders. The first team to 200 points, a good away following and fans returning also to Monks Cross in a big way.

One can never discount Dewsbury, up with the chasing bunch all last season, or Batley, but keep an

eye on Whitehaven with Clayton Friend running the show. Charlie McAllister, often a thorn in Hornets' side, is also a good signing for the Cumbrians.

Pointless still, as of yet, are Wakefield trinity, despite pushing Wigan and Saints a little too close for comfort; Leigh, with their ground up for sale and, apparently, no alternative arrangements; Swinton, whose Board are trying hard to put the club on a survival footing, but whose fans don't seem to give a toss; and finally, Highfield, with no local identity. One has to ask where are they going?!

These last three clubs are highlighted because perhaps, in these times of deepening recession, their possible departure from the ranks will make the RL look a lot closer to home regarding which way the game should be going. Add this to the current struggles of Blackpool - up for sale already - and Nottingham, who sacked their coaching staff after only four games in a cost-cutting exercise and we can see, in the not too distant future, a thirty-club league on the horizon. How's that for expansion?!!!

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face to face

Hornets v Oldham

1	DAVE WEBSTER
2	MIKE STEWART
3	DARREN ABRAM
4	PAUL REYNOLDS
5	MATT CALLAND
6	BRETT CLARK
7	STEVE GARTLAND
8	BOB MARSDEN
9	MARTIN HALL
10	CLIFF ECCLES
11	SIMON BAMBER
12	CAVILL HEUGH
13	MIKE KUITI
14	PAUL O'KEEFFE
15	TONY HUMPHRIES

SEAN TYRER	1
SCOTT RANSON	2
STUART COCKER	3
WALLY GIBSON	4
HUGH GUMBS	5
TOMMY MARTYN	6
SEAN DEVINE	7
IAN SHERRATT	8
RICHARD PACHNIUK	9
SE'E SOLOMONA	10
BARRIE McDERMOTT	11
SHANE TUPAEA	12
BEN OLSEN	13
	14
	15

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girls *talk*

ROCHDALE RAVENS

It was the back end of last season when the Ravens last reported to the Hornets programme and they certainly haven't been idle between then and now. Indeed, training continued throughout the summer, twice a week every week, with a couple of sevens' tournaments providing the only light relief. Come the start of this season and we were raring to go, as the first three results show:

v York (A) won 32-18; v Askham (H) won 32-10 and v Salford (A) won 32-6.

Several of last year's successful squad have retired, but the new 'bloods' are learning fast and enjoying the game. It is interesting to note that, apart from a couple of games lost to Hull last year (one the Cup Final by only one point), the Ravens have not been beaten since the 1st December 1991. They are currently lying equal top of their division and looking forward to another successful

season. Home fixtures are usually played at Mayfield's Castleton ground and fixtures up to the end of November are as follows:

Oct 11th v Stanningley (A); Oct 18th - no game; Oct 25th v Doncaster (H); Nov 1st v Hunslett (A); Nov 8th v York (A) Challenge Cup 2nd round; Nov 15th v Askham (A); Nov 22nd v Fulham - Aggregate Cup Round 2, 1st Leg (A); Nov 29th v Warrington (H); Dec 6th v Fulham - Aggregate Cup Round 2, 2nd Leg (H);

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in touch

TOP TEN GOAL SCORERS (Including Drop Goals)

1.	John Waysliw (Keighley C)	37
2.	Martin Birkett (Salford)	30
3.	Tommy Martyn (Oldham)	26
4.	Dean Marwood (Workington T)	25
5.	Johnathan Davies (Widnes)	25
6.	Paul Eastwood (Hull)	24
7.	Gary Pearce (Rydale-York)	24
8.	Mark Sims (Doncaster)	22
9.	Steve McGuire (Whitehaven)	22
10.	David Hobbs (Bradford N)	21
	Dean Creasser (Bramley)	21

LEADING TRY SCORERS

Shaun Edwards of Wigan has shot into a clear lead at the head of the try-scoring chart, with 17 in seven matches. The half-back is followed by Greg Austin (Halifax); Alan Hunts (St Helens) and Philford (Salford) with nine each.

LEADING POINT SCORER

John Wasyliv of Keighley Cougars is this season's leading point scorer, with 86 in seven matches from 37 goals and three tries.

RYDALE-YORK RECORDS

Gary Pearce set two club records of 12 goals and 28 points as Rydale-York ran up their highest ever score with a 84-0 Third Division win at Nottingham City. Pearce's 12 goals beat the 11 by Vic Yorks in York's 37-24 home League defeat of Whitehaven on 6th September 1958 and Chris Gibson in a 52-8 home League win over Dewsbury on 28th September 1980. Pearce added a try for the Welsh stand-off to claim a club record of 28 points. The previous record of 26

from nine goals and two tries was shared by stand-off Graham Steadman in a 54-4 Second Division home defeat of Batley on 25th November 1984 and second row Graham Sullivan in a 70-8 Second Division win at Keighley on 11th March 1990. The 70-8 win produced Rydale-York's previous highest score when they scored 12 tries, compared with 15 in the new record. Rydale-York's 84-0 win was also a record Third Division away score and winning margin, while Pearce's 12 goals equalled the match best in the new League.

SWINTON RECORD DEFEAT

Swinton suffered a record 78-0 defeat at home to Wigan in the Greenalls Lancashire Cup second round. The 14-try thrashing beat the 76-3 (18 tries) League defeats at Huddersfield on 20th April 1946 and 76-16 (14 tries) at Castleford on 6th March 1988. Point-scoring Run Mike Smith of Chorley Borough has the longest point-scoring run of 20 matches stretching back to last Boxing Day.

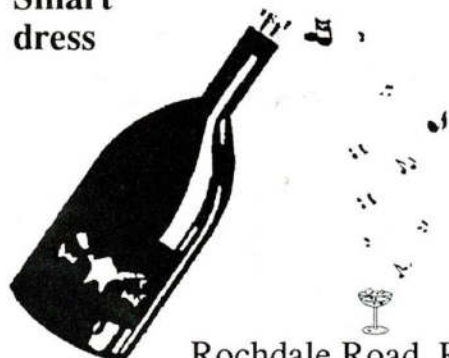
WINNING RUN

St Helens are now the only team to have won all their matches this season. Their eight victories are made up of five Stones Bitter Championship matches, two Greenalls Lancashire Cup ties and one CIS Insurance Charity shield.

LOSING RUN

Highfield are the only team without a win this season after losing all five matches - four in the Third Division and one Greenalls Lancashire Cup tie.

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telephone lines

The great bastion of the British Eccentric has become that of the Radio Phone-In programmes. The legendary Tony Butler in the Midlands, James Stanedge and James H Reeve have all attained celebrity status as a result of local radio phone in s. Since the formation of Radio 5, Danny Baker has risen from local folk hero to (inter)national cult status due to the success of his "6-06" soccer phone in programme. Now RL fans can vent their spleens as GMR now offers the same after match service.

In this column, we dip into the best of the phone-ins.

Soccer fans are really cheesed off with the problems getting into grounds; one poor expatriate Hampshire gent set off from his Nottingham home with his two young children and a not insubstantial 35 quid in his pocket, intending to watch Southampton play at Aston Villa. On arrival at Villa Park, he found himself classed as an "away fan" and therefore his ground entrance fee came to 36 quid! After fruitless protestations to deaf police and every level of intransigent Villa officialdom, the poor chap's only alternative was to return home to Nottingham

Coach loads of Latics fans toddled off down to Southampton recently to see Joe Royle s entertainers in action only to find that the match had been designated "All Ticket". Soccer fans also had reason to complain a few weeks ago when European competition came back to Old Trafford (standing room about 2000) with a MINIMUM seat price of 14 pounds. The 19,000 rattling around (to use an apt Stringer-ism) in the

huge stadium led to a worse atmosphere than a London Crusaders fixture and a second leg struggle for the Reds.

What comes over clearly is that, even with the invested millions in the Premier League, the main sport enjoyed by soccer chairmen is still unashamedly ripping off the fans. RL counterparts, take note.

Well done Hornets fan, Andy Birch, for exposing a new Antipodean rule bender (or Monie-ism) on GMR last month. The latest craze is to send a minion on to the pitch carrying water bottles and a phoney first aid bag to run 10 to 15 yards behind your defensive line when your opponents are trying to clear their lines. With the fullback and this other figure, at first glance another defender, in the "back field", clearing options are limited, leading to the chance of better quality ball and field position when regaining possession.

The Salford fan, complaining bitterly in the same programme, about the abysmal refereeing in their match against Halifax gave the impression that Fax had an assisted stroll. What he failed to point out though, was that Salford won the match with a

PENALTY TRY! Watch this space in future issues.

"6-06" Radio 5, Saturday 6-06 to 7-30. Tel 0345 909 693

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HUDDERSFIELD

Our first trip to Huddersfield is a trip to a new ground. Gone are the days of Fartown, the venue is now LEEDS ROAD. Head east out of Rochdale on the M62 to the Brighouse junction (A644). Turn right (as though going to Dewsbury). Keep on this road to Mirfield and at the first roundabout, turn right (Leeds Road), just before the Three Nuns Pub. The ground is about 2-3 miles down on the left hand side.

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alliance fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Time	Result
28.8.92	Hull K. R.	A	8.00 pm	6-10
4.9.92	Castleford	A	7.30 pm	18-34
10.9.92	Wakefield Trinity	A	7.30 pm	24-26
17.9.92	Featherstone Rovers	A	7.30 pm	28-14
24.9.92	Halifax	H	7.30 pm	10-16
3.10.92	H. Hempstead (Lancs Comb 1)	A		42-8
6.10.92	Hull K. R.	H	7.30 pm	
16.10.92	Widnes (Lancs Comb 2)	A		
29.10.92	Wigan	H	7.30 pm	
5.11.92	Castleford	H	7.30 pm	
13.11.92	Halifax	A	7.30 pm	
19.11.92	Featherstone Rovers	H	7.30 pm	
27.11.92	St. Helens	A	7.30 pm	
2.12.92	Leeds	A	7.30 pm	
10.12.92	Widnes	H	7.30 pm	
18.12.92	Wigan	A	7.30 pm	
31.12.92	Leeds	H	7.30 pm	
9.1.93	Youngers Alliance CC Rnd 1			
15.1.93	Bradford Northern	A	7.30 pm	
21.1.93	Wakefield Trinity	H	7.30 pm	
29.1.93	Youngers Alliance CC Rnd 2			
4.2.93	Batley	H	7.30 pm	
11.2.93	Hull F. C.	H	7.30 pm	
18.2.93	Bradford Northern	H	7.30 pm	
26.2.93	Youngers Alliance CC Rnd 3			
26.2.93	Hull F. C.	A	7.30 pm	
5.3.93	Warrington Wizards	A	7.30 pm	
11.3.93	St. Helens	H	7.30 pm	
20.3.93	Batley	A	2.30 pm	
25.3.93	Widnes	A	7.30 pm	
1.4.93	Warrington Wizards	H	7.30 pm	

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alliance review

Hornets' first visit to Hertfordshire saw them clinch a place in round two of the Lancashire Combination Challenge Cup despite torrential rain and a pitch more suited to water polo than Rugby League. With Colin Brown, Richard Gotts and Mal Reddican sidelined with injury and late withdrawals from Jason Green and Viller it was a somewhat threadbare side that made the journey South.

Hemel went into a surprise lead courtesy of a Geoff Embley penalty, but Hornets soon put the train back on the rails when, after ten minutes, a neat ball for Karl Marriott sent Ian Halsall swimming in for the opening try. Ken Jones converted his first of the afternoon despite the appalling condiditons.

14 minutes later Hornets were on the scoresheet again when Rob Hall hustled in from 15 yards for the first of his hat-trick and with Jones slotting the extras a half time score of 12-2 said more about the weather than Hemel's desperate defence.

The second half echoed the first with Hemel getting their only try of the afternoon when a clever chip over the line caught both Aidy Belle and Colin Whitfield cold to be touched down by the posts.

The simple conversion brought the score to 12-8 and this was spur enough for Hornets to step up a gear and score 30 unanswered points.

Whitfield's quick tap took him 60 yards before releasing Halsall who was well held close to the line. On the following play Hall shrugged off his tackler and Williams was close enough to round off the move, Jones converting. Jones then landed a mammoth penalty from the half way line before coming in on the end of a sweeping move to score in the corner. In between Rob Hall broke through for his second try and with just five minutes to go he rounded off a typical power-house performance with a straight drive from close range.

Right on the whistle Aidy Belle dived in at the corner, skidding off the pitch and away into the trees in the process, and Jones completed a fine afternoon's work with a superb touchline kick.

All in all it was a workmanlike performance hindered more by the weather than the opposition, Hemel tiring badly in the last quarter, and Hornets' small band of certifiable travelling supporters retired to the bar to wring out their sodden clothing, consume some truly huge cheese sandwiches and pray that the elements would be a little kinder at Naughton Park in the second round.

The final socre:
Hemel Hemstead Stags 8 Hornets 42.

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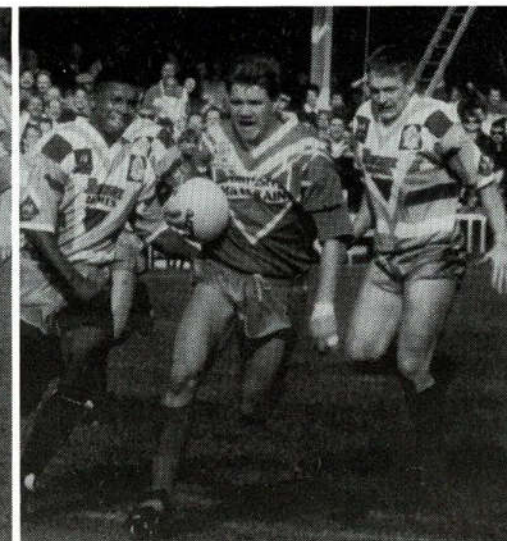


Above:
Hornets Director John Nicholson presents 'School of Excellence' award winners with their Hornets admission passes.

Left:
'Club Strength' representative and former Hornet scrum-half Tony Allen presents Chairman Dick Bonser with a cheque for £1,050.



Martin Hall in the thick of it against Featherstone



Darren Abram leaves Gt. Britain centre Paul Newlove in his wake

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who did what 92/93

Week Ending 04/10/92

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRY	GOAL	DG	PTS
Dave Webster	6	0	1	0	0	4
Mike Stewart	6	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Abram	6	0	3	2	0	16
Paul Reynolds	6	0	1	0	0	4
Matt Calland	6	0	3	0	0	12
Brett Clark	5	0	0	0	0	0
Steve Gartland	6	0	5	13	0	46
Cavill Heugh	6	0	0	0	0	0
Martin Hall	6	0	0	0	0	0
Cliff Eccles	6	0	0	0	0	0
Tony Humphries	4	2	0	0	0	0
Bob Marsden	6	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Kuiti	6	0	1	0	0	4
Mal Reddican	0	2	0	0	0	0
Simon Bamber	3	3	1	0	0	4
Steve Turner	0	1	0	0	0	0
Karl Marriott	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ken Jones	0	1	0	0	0	0
Paul O'Keeffe	0	2	0	0	0	0

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the final word

What has Previously been our popular 'Sporting Comment' feature takes up its new home here and becomes 'The Final Word'. As always we hope to publish thought provoking articles from both the world of Rugby League and sport in general.

So, how's your French? When the news broke that, due to the continuing rift between The RFL and Barla, that Two French teams were to be allowed in to the Regal Trophy a fellow Hornet said to me, "You just watch, we'll get one away from home". Well, as the league have decided that both French teams will play their games on English soil, hands up who was surprised when our ball came up out of the bag closely followed by that of XIII Catalan. And blow me down if the other half of this history making event didn't end up in the grateful lap of Uncle Maurice and Sons. O.K., its great for Hornets to play a part in making Rugby League History, but we must remember the reasons why we've got this opportunity in the first place.

The divisions between the professional and amateur game took on a bizarre twist last week when the Student Rugby League severed all ties with BARLA and confirmed a loose affiliation with the RFL. The reasons for the split seem to be that as the student game administers its own affairs and receives funding from Chapelton Road it seemed pointless to continue paying fees to BARLA for nothing in return. What remains to be

seen is whether or not the amateur game will 'blackleg' student player like their Academy counterparts for their links to the 'professional' body.

The student game's administration deny that the split has anything to do with the on-going wrangle between the RFL & BARLA and they remain committed to a unified body and this has to be the answer. To have two separate organisations running the game - one game makes no sense and the further apart the two sides become the more ridiculous the sanctions imposed by both are bound to get - no sharing of facilities, 'professionalisation' of youngsters playing in Academy sides - no amateur sides in the Regal Trophy. Where will it end? BARLA's efforts to compile a 'truce' formula received cursory attention from the RFL board and their inaction was justified by Uncle Maurice that man again, in a different hat - who merely said, "We're obviously constantly monitoring the situation." so, as yet another wonderful Public Relations opportunity goes the way of Central Park's insatiable publicity machine, one wonders if a home draw with Leigh Miners would have had the same effect. Meanwhile, we at Hornets are chuffed to bits to be playing our part and must seize the chance with both hands whilst hoping that next year the exercise won't be repeated. Salut, maintenant - Au revoir!

THOMAS SANDIFORD

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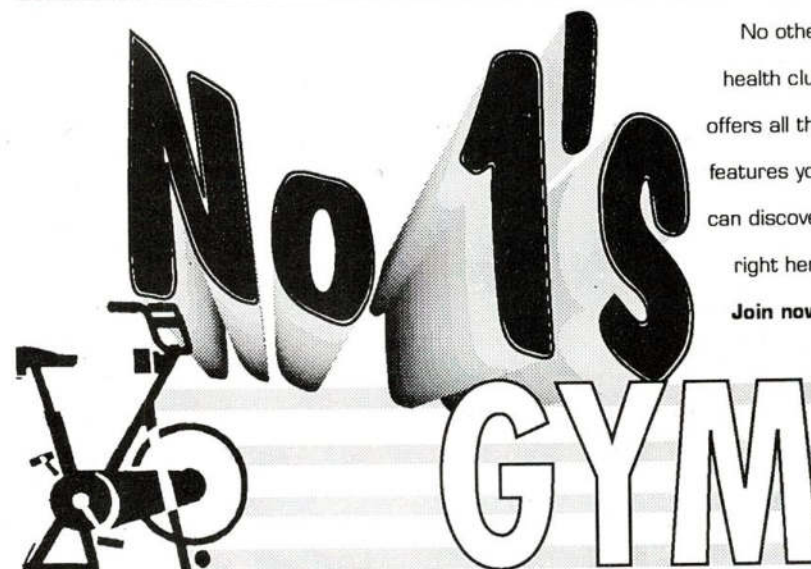
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