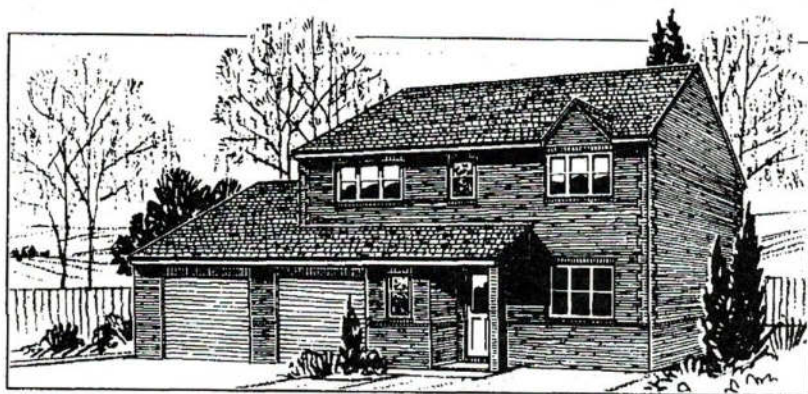


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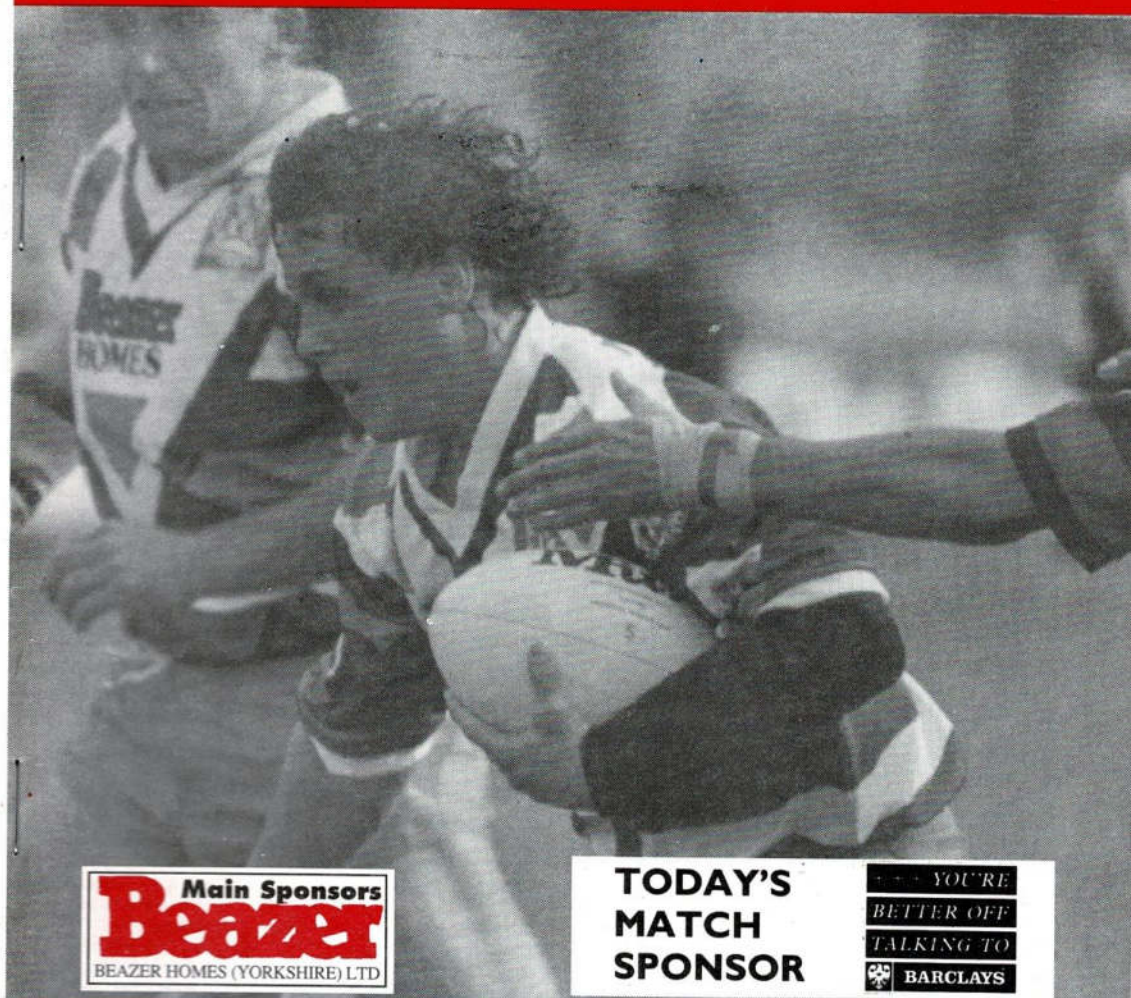
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Physiotherapists:

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RL Representative: E. Gardner

RL Alliance Representative: D. Hunt

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J. Reed, F. Williams, J. Williams

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Honours and Records

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

Great Britain:

T. Askin, C. Bibb, J. Bridges, T. Clawson, M. Dixon,
C. Dooler, S. Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox, D.
Hobbs, G. Jordan, A. Morgan, S. Nash, P. Newlove,
P. Smith, J. Thompson

Great Britain U21s:

Deryck Fox, P. Lyman, C. Bibb, P. Newlove,
I. Smales, M. Pearson

Great Britain U24s:

K. Bell, S. Evans, D. Fennell, V. Farrar, M. Gibbins, J.
Gilbert, D. Hobbs, T. Ramshaw, P. Smith,
V. Thomas, J. Thompson, L. Tonks

England:

J. Bridges, M. Dixon, S. Evans, V. Farrar, J. Hirst,
A. Morgan, J. Mullaney, P. Smith, R. Stone,
J. Thompson, A. Wood

Wales: P. Banner, H. Box

Tourists:

Deryck Fox, Chris Bibb, Ian Smales, Gary Cooper

John Jepson Memorial Trophy:

1991-92 Paul Newlove

RL Cup Winners: 1967, 1973, 1983

Runners Up: 1952, 1974

RL Championship Winners: 1977

Runners Up: 1928, 1976

RL Championship 2nd Division Winners: 1979-80

Runners Up: 1987-88

2nd Division Premiership Runners Up: 1987-88

Arrowfast Try Scoring Trophy Winners: 1980

Yorkshire Cup Winners: 1940, 1959

Runners Up:

1928, 1963, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1989

Yorkshire League Runners Up: 1928, 1962

YSC Cup Winners: 1946, 1974

Runners Up: 1955, 1960

YSC Shield Winners: 1946, 1962, 1972

GROUND RECORDS

RL Cup Attendance: 17,531 v St. Helens 1959

Yorkshire Cup Attendance: 10,700 v Leeds 1959

League Attendance:

14,990 v Wakefield Trinity 1962

'THE ROVER'

Latest News from Post Office Road

This afternoon, at Post Office Road, we are to witness the most important game of the season to date in the Stones Bitter second division championship race.

Our visitors, Oldham, are now the only obstacle in the way of Rovers bringing the Championship trophy to the club and the outcome of today's encounter may well determine its destiny. Both sides are now on level league points having won 15 games each, but Rovers have the advantage of a better scoring difference and have also a game in hand on Oldham.

With those facts taken into account a victory for the home side would certainly go a long way towards securing the title. Whatever the outcome both sides can take comfort from the fact they will be playing first division rugby again next season as there is now a virtually unassailable difference of twelve league points between Oldham and third placed Rochdale Hornets.

Today's match is the third league encounter of the season between the two sides, Rovers having won the previous two. The last meeting, at Post Office Road, proved to be a tremendously exciting affair that could have gone either way right up to the final hooter. Oldham came up with their best performance of the season and Rovers did well to take the spoils at the end of the day by the narrow margin of 24 pts to 20. However Rovers will need to be conscious of the fact that 'the Roughyeds' have the current longest winning run, in all divisions, of seven matches with six in the Stones Bitter second division plus one in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup from last Sunday when they defeated London Crusaders.

But for some cruel luck in last weekend's Challenge Cup tie against St Helens, Rovers could also have boasted a similar success rate, having had six straight consecutive wins prior to the cup game which although resulting in defeat did realistically represent a moral victory as the Rovers matched the Saints stride for stride in a classic game of rugby league that will be remembered for a long time for the sheer quality of football that was served up by both sides. Four tries were scored by each team and at the end of it all, with Rovers pressing hard on the Saints line, only an extra Paul Loughlin goal took his side through to round two.

In assessing last Sunday's game the aspect that undoubtedly cost Rovers the match was the massive penalty count against them, which with fifteen minutes to go totalled 2 for and 10 against which, taking into account their conduct over the rest of this season, is certainly uncharacteristic as Steve Martin has produced one of the most disciplined outfits for many a year at Post Office Road.

One incident that has generated a good deal of controversy and debate over the past week was when

Ian Smales recovered a loose ball and ran off instead of playing it. Viewing it on the video the referee could be forgiven for making the decision to penalise Ian although no St Helens player does actually complete the tackle. From the resultant penalty the Saints scored six points when we would have had the ball. Had that been the case then Rovers would be in the second round. Referee Mr Cummings saw it differently - and that's fair enough - it was '50-50'.

What really 'niggles' is that two very similar incidents took place in our previous home match against Swinton and on both occasions the referee of the day, Mr Kershaw, sent the player back a full ten yards to the spot where he was supposedly tackled and was told to play the ball! The writer of this column is of no doubt that the consequence of this particular infringement was interpreted correctly by Mr Cummings, but at the same time can't help thinking that if Mr Kershaw had refereed the game then Rovers would have still been in the Cup. The great game will never command the credibility it deserves until anomalies such as this, which confuse and irritate the paying public, are removed.

PLAYERS

After sustaining a cut over an eye, which turned septic, in the recent game at London, Gary Rose is now fit again and able to resume first team duty from today.

During the week Martin Pearson appeared to be making good progress after the knee strain that sidelined him during last Sunday's epic cup tie against St Helens. Hopes were reasonably high that in-form Martin would be fully recovered in time for today's match.

Another player making good progress is Richard Gunn who is now walking unaided, having had the plaster removed from his broken ankle. The talented hooker could surprise everyone by making a comeback far sooner than anticipated if he continues to progress at his present rate.

RE-ARRANGEMENT

During the week officials of the club were in discussion with those of the London Crusaders with a view to bringing forward our scheduled home game from Friday 9th April to next Sunday afternoon.

The London club appeared to be keen to go ahead with this suggestion but the Board of Directors at Chapeltown Road had, at the time of writing, still to ratify the rearrangement plans.

We hope to be able to confirm or otherwise to you over the tannoy during the course of this afternoon's match.

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*Somewhere
under that
coating of mud
is Ian Smales.*

*Well 'ard, let's hope Gary Rose is back
this week.*



ROVERS

Entertaining

OLDHAM

A NEW FACE AT CHAPELTOWN ROAD

Gordon Brittas was in exalted mood. Laura and the rest of the staff at the Whitbury Leisure Centre were even more excited. People were turning up in their droves bearing badminton racquets, wearing shell suits and expensive trainers. The pool was full, and the receptionist's children played happily in the foyer... released from their sanctuary in the cupboards under the counter. Mr. Brittas had broken the news the previous day and it had made the headlines in the local paper that morning, hence the happy throng taking full advantage of facilities they never dared use or, had failed to take advantage of through their failure to negotiate Gordon's complex triplicate forms.

Gordon Brittas was leaving Whitbury to take up a new and challenging post up North. The job was made for Gordon Brittas. It had all started when the local Council appointed a Rugby league Development officer based at the Leisure Centre. He was responding well now to the tranquillisers and counselling. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, he had told Gordon about how, the sport was run; the constantly changing League structure, the near bankruptcy of many of the clubs, the bickering, the cock ups, teams playing three games a week. The development officer was only stopped from working himself into a frenzy by an intravenous shot of something very soothing by a paramedic.

Brittas knew that he had to get himself involved in this sport he and the majority of people in his part of the world had hardly heard of. The interview went like a dream, the empathy total. Gordon was to become the joint Chief Executive of the Rugby League Football. Who better to see that the RFL's schemes and plans would be carried out to the letter? Whose imagination would ensure that there would never be any shortage of new but half baked ideas into the new century, should they make it that far?

OK so there's some bad stuff going down at the moment but we don't need to get too depressed (just depressed enough, Ed.) There's plenty of clouds hanging over other sports as well. The loss of Aldershot and Maidstone from the Football League... and the precarious positions of many others, including Premier League clubs, The African National Congress has given the Rah Rah boys permission to stage the so called Rugby World Cup over there. The SARFU are very naive if they think that that's the end of the story. The ANC are now in a strong position, you could say they have the South African Union by the... perhaps we shouldn't bring politics into sport not on a match day anyway. Talking of South Africa, welcome to Jamie Bloem, who has journeyed half way around the World almost to be a pro Rugby league player... he looks like being a good 'un and we wish him well. I saw a clip of the South Africa - Russia game the other night, both sides look to have made giant strides. But on the other hand things could be done better in Rugby league couldn't they. What's the betting that the forthcoming GB - France game is played in front of 4,000 at Headingley? When they could pack out smaller grounds, or stage the game somewhere like Sheffield, a true development area and the scene of a missed opportunity when the Aussies were over here. New Zealand is a big growth area for Rugby League with a side joining the Winfield Cup soon. Yes, the game is growing in some places. The Kiwis will be here soon. Yes NZ Rugby League fans are finding it impossible to book their Rugby league centred holidays in which they will fill stadia and spend lots of money. I wonder if the 10,000 or so British fans who went to Australia last year had the same problems? You can go on and get deeper

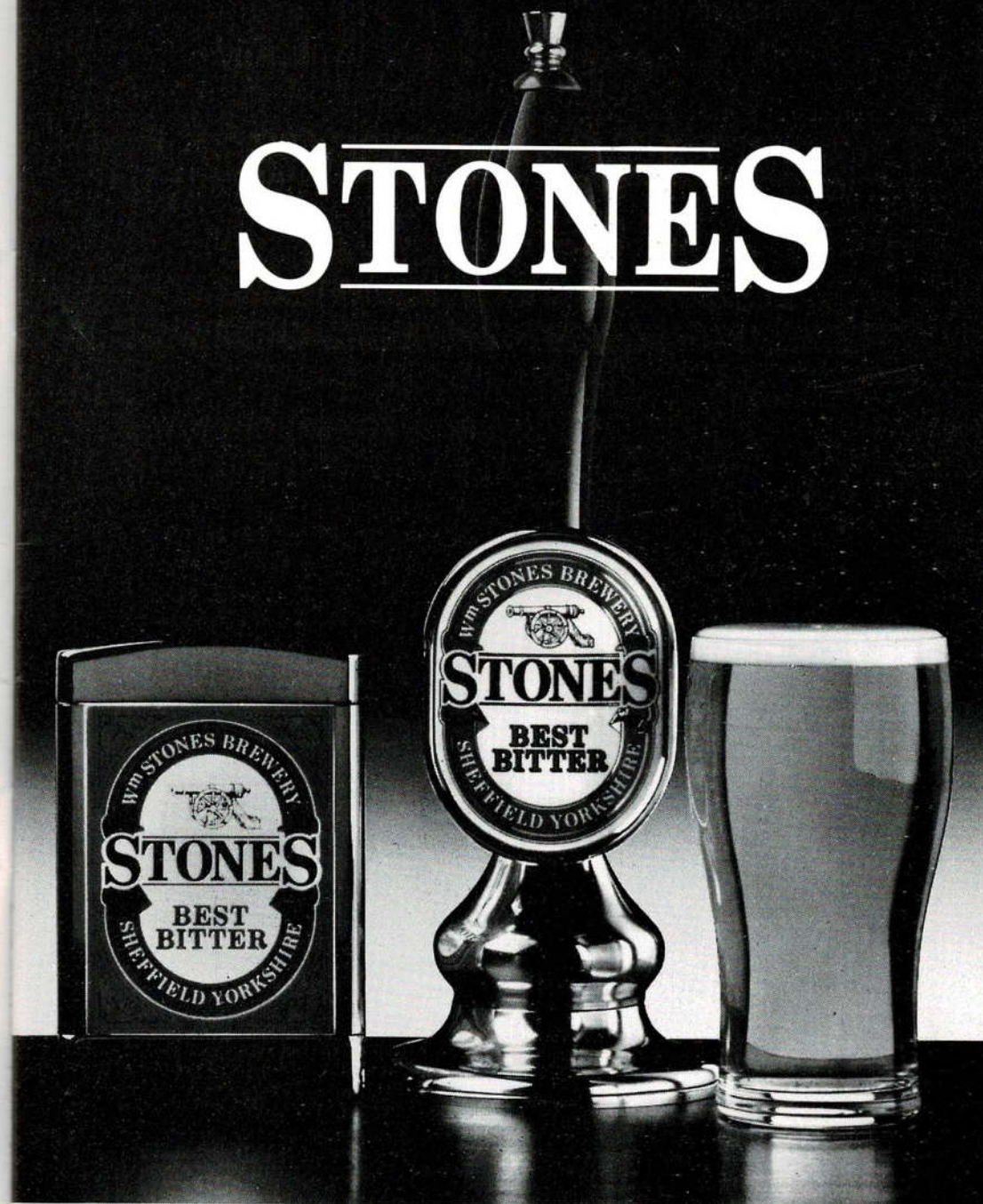
into Gordon Brittas-land, but don't bother for now because Oldham are back again for part three of what would be the Royal Rumble or something in the WWF. I watched it the other night, now that's what I call sport. I think the wrestling boys have so much to teach us, particularly with regards the rule, we should some of them the next time the RFL feel like having another tinker with them - in other words probably this weekend. I am particularly fond of the bouts where more combatants enter the ring all the time, until it's full of writhing, sequinned bodies and the last one left standing turns out the lights. This is the direction that Rugby league should be going. Obviously a radical rethink of team strips is required, although I'm sure Ellgren could come up with something suitable for Rovers in gold lamé and maybe games could start with two players on the field and gradually add people until everyone in the ground is involved. Don't worry folks, I'm only kidding, we don't do daft things in our great game do we? As usual the game is likely to be tight and the stakes are high. Both sides have kept winning but it's been Fev's ability to win by bigger margins, with a defence which knows where it is going at last, providing a platform for some exciting and often ruthless attacking play. Today's game, unless it's a draw, a not unlikely outcome, should render points difference temporarily irrelevant in terms of League placings, but watch for everyone doing their sums again when it gets nearer the end of the season, especially if Huddersfield keep upsetting the applecart. Thank goodness Rovers have seen the last of this excellent footballing side.

I read somewhere that Oldham are going to do some mega rebuilding work at the Watersheddings. This worries me. Does this mean the end of the double decker stand behind the sticks at the far end? I hope not. This is a truly original piece of architecture. If Chesterfield can have its crooked spire, Pisa its leaning tower, Castleford... well just about everything, then Oldham should retain this monument to the corrugated manufacturers art. It should be declared a listed building, or should it be listing building before it's too late.

There is a good chance that when all this is done with and we've played our quota of League games against each other, that our paths will cross again this season. Not in the cup of course, a competition which Rovers were eliminated from last week... but what a way to go, never was the cliché 'a moral victory', truer. Rovers and Oldham are more than likely to cross swords in the Second Division Premiership at Old Trafford.

Peter Tunks has done a great job at Oldham, but he faces a problem which Featherstone are going to have to confront themselves next season. This is strengthening the side for the rarefied atmosphere of Division One. This doesn't mean finding and funding extra members of his squad... where are the good players? - I know, in the Alliance and Academy sides but these are long term prospects. Newly promoted sides need experienced players to keep them competitive. There is also the psychological and physiological aspect of playing in a more intense, competitive league (yes I know the second division has been competitive, but it's not the same). Rovers' two games against Saints showed us that. The emotional charge of playing and watching Rugby League at that level grabs you by your throat and squeezes your adrenaline out if you, but you want more and that's why getting relegated is such a bummer. We've seen some good competitive Rugby league in Division Two, but it just doesn't compare.

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Have you all got your breath back yet? I think I'm about recovered. What an absolutely magnificent game. Well done to all the lads who put up such a great fight. I think perhaps the whole team should go down on your Man of the Match forms.

Anyway, today it's back to the League and a vital game for both sides. We all know how much we need and want these 2 points today. A warm welcome to all young Roughyeds and may the best team win.

● ● ●

COMPETITION

So far we have one entry for the latest competition. Where are you, all you budding rappers? Come on, let's hear you sing the Rovers' praises. You have until the end of the month – that's an extension of two weeks.

● ● ●

MAN OF THE MATCH FORMS

Keep on filling in your forms and bring them with you to the Dome. We'll collect them on the bus. Anyone not going, then let us have them and we'll issue you with new ones.

● ● ●

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members who have birthdays this month. If I happen to miss anybody

out please let me know.

5th	Luke Ward
6th	Adrian Tate
10th	Keith Glenn
13th	Christian McGuire
15th	Thomas Gowland
26th	Julie Merrick
27th	Adam Perry
28th	Steven Scott
	Sarah Ann Batty

● ● ●

KENTUCKY DRAW

Lucky winner at the St Helens match was No 34 Dale Potter. Enjoy your meal Dale. Listen out for your number at half time today.

● ● ●

MASCOTS

Today's lucky mascot is Gemma Hopkinson. Gemma is 10 and attends Cobblers Lane School in Pontefract. Her favourite player is our wiry winter Ikram Butt. Gemma receives a £10 bank account courtesy of TSB Featherstone. Enjoy your day Gemma.

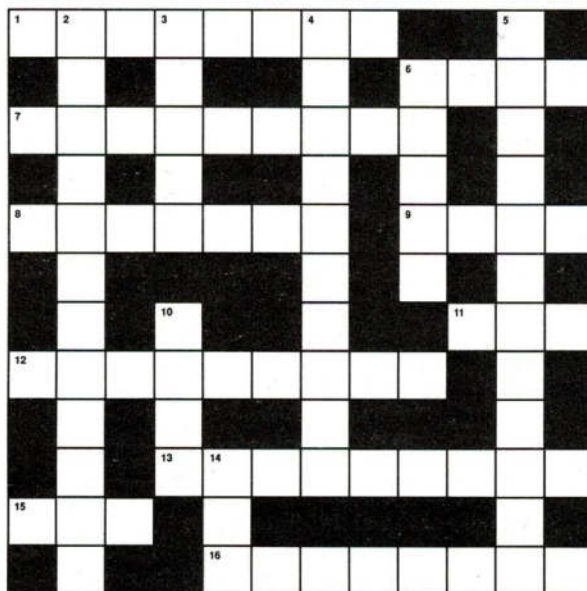


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FEV WORD

RUGBY LEAGUE BRAINSTORM

1. Which other English club has Jamie Bloem played for?
2. Which Division One club failed to sign a South African last month?
3. Whose team was Garry Schofield on in 'Question of Sport' last week?
4. From which club did Workington sign Dean Marwood from?
5. Picture Question: Name this player
6. Which club signed him from Fev?
7. Which two Winfield Cup sides did Peter Tunks play for?
8. Which First Division player has played for Oldham, Cas, Wigan and Leigh?
9. Which club did Des Drummond join Warrington from?
10. What is Wakefield's Women's Rugby team called?



CLUES

Across

1. Kevin, Kerrod, Steve
6. Taekata or Platt perhaps
7. Total crowds or scorer
8. Pat - Cumbrian fullback
9. Gary got up
11. Huyton's former park
12. Often dealt with by the physio
13. Bringing Steve Martin to Fev was one (5,4)
15. Not of the Rovers Powell

16. Sending off offence

Down

2. Diminutive Northern back
3. Clawson maybe
4. Dedicated trainer
5. Saints ex Robin (4,8)
6. Hanley and Pele are this gem
10. Kiwi brothers
14. You need one to find Crystal Palace

FEV WORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1. Brothers, 6. Prop, 7. Aggregate, 8. Traynor, 9. Rose, 11. Alt, 12. Emergency, 13. Smart Move, 15. Roy, 16. Punching, DOWN 2. Roger Simpson, 3. Terry, 4. Road Runner, 5. Tony Sullivan, 6. Pearl, 10. Iros, 14. Map.

1. Castletford
2. Wakefield
3. Ian Botham's team
4. Barrow
5. Gary Jordan
6. Castletford
7. Souths and Canterbury
8. Mike Ford
9. Leigh
10. The Panthers

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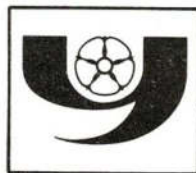
I have made a ritual out of being a couch potato on Sunday evenings. I walk home from the game, switch on the television, plump up two of our softest cushions and lie back on the sofa to watch Bullseye, then the news and sometimes I'm halfway through Harry Secombe's Highway before I stir. On Sunday last, I trudged back with heavy heart after Rovers' pulse-stopping show against St Helens. Images of what I'd just seen played, rewound and fast-forwarded through my head like some kind of Jeremy Beadle 'You've Been Framed' on amphetamines. I automatically plumped my cushions, switched on 'ITV and laid out. After all you can't beat a bit o' bully on a Sunday teatime. A man from Sheffield thought the Islets of Langerhans were in the North Sea and a woman from Kidderminster couldn't throw darts for toffee. Images of St Helens pinching the game continued to whirr in my mind's eye. A man who was 6 foot 7 inch tall won Bully's special prize. Ian Smales was penalised for nothing. And the time was fast approaching when Jim Bowen was going to say 'Look at what you . . .', except he didn't say it. He didn't say it because the lads from Sheffield won a holiday for four in

beautiful Barbados. I was thinking what might have been had not St Helens scored their last try, had not the referee penalised Ian Smales. 'Look at what they could have . . .', but then it doesn't matter does it? Featherstone Rovers won a lot of friends on Sunday, they won a lot of respect and also fostered a lot of pride that some would claim has been missing for a long time.

When I was a young lad living in Mafeking Street I used to go to see an old man on our row called Johnny Hope. After every game I gave him my report on who scored and who played well. Every week he would tell me about one great game from Rovers history, the day when in 1906 we beat Widnes in the second round of the cup. He would then start to recite the team of that day, 'Jukes, Randall, Higson, Kellett . . .' he croaked it out almost tearfully. If I live to be 90, I will find a young lad and ask him to come and give me reports about Rovers matches. And I will tell him about the time when Featherstone Rovers tackled like stags and attacked like whirling dervishes against St Helens in the first round of the cup in 1993. 'Bibb, Butt, Manning, Newlove, Tuuta, Smales . . . super, smashing, great.'

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...As I See It...

What a marvellous cup match we witnessed last Sunday. It brought back to me memories of some of the greatest matches played at Post Office Road. Such a splendid display by all our players really deserved a draw – but it was not to be. Beaten by the league leaders of the first division augurs well for the future, even if it was a 'one off' match. It was a whole-hearted display by every player. However, I thought it a disappointment that the 'Man of the Match' did not go to a home player. The award received the reception it deserved.

Having endured some undistinguished matches, with little atmosphere, it was wonderful to feel the pulsating aura of the ground last week, and to see it nearing the imposed capacity at long last.

I do believe that the cup-tie illustrated how far we have come this season under coach Steve Martin. I think he has impressed us all with his thoroughness and attention to detail. When one thinks back to that defeat at Rochdale in September, which was the first match he saw the Rovers play, to the 2 point defeat against St. Helens, the improvement has been tremendous.

One of Steve's pet 'hates' is giving away needless penalties, and he is severe on any player committing these. The biggest difference he has brought about is in defence. Last season we were losing matches although scoring something like 28 points. Whilst the defence has tightened considerably, he has kept the tries coming in a thrilling way.

As an individual, the improvement in Martin Pearson, is considerable. I have watched Martin through from the Alliance side, where his class and ability were always there to see. This season his tackling has become one of his 'strengths'. His goal-kicking has never been in doubt, being able to 'stroke' the ball beautifully.

His speed off the mark and eye for an opening help to keep him among the leading points scorers in Rugby League. If he had not been injured last Sunday would the result have been different?

Another player who has improved his game since joining Rovers is Owen Simpson. Always liable to score tries in up the best of company, his defence has stepped a gear or two as well.

Ikram Butt must be the busiest winger playing to-day. With his roving commission he is likely to see appear on the opposite wing, or taking the ball forward from a defensive position. Little needs to be said about Paul Newlove for his expertise is there for all to see, and he improves every year.

I thought Chris Bibb and Terry Manning rose to the occasion in splendid fashion against St. Helens, as did Brett Daunt, whose confidence is improving with every game.

I have left the forwards to last, because their defence and attack matched the League leaders in every department, one cannot give higher praise than that, with Brendon Tuuta the 'jewel in the crown', what a performance Brendon. My 'Man of the Match'.

The coaching staff under Steve Martin cannot be left out, well done. Keep up the good work. We were relegated in freak circumstances, let's go up in a blaze of glory!

I feel the Club's try scoring record of 31 in a season by Cyril Woolford in 1958-59 may fall this year. Paul Newlove is averaging almost a try a match, and Owen Simpson is hot on his heel. Both are in the 'Top Ten' with 22 and 20 respectively.

Martin Pearson is fast approaching 200 points for the season, also in the 'charts' for goals with 71 and 14 tries.

Donald Hunt

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Hold On A Minute!

IAN CLAYTON TALKS TO THE FANS

I decided to get some reaction from fans who saw the match last Sunday.

'I was proud in defeat. In my view Rovers had won the game apart from when I read the papers the next morning. In my heart of hearts, there was no way I expected to see what I saw. I bet St Helens didn't expect what they got either. I had to change my mind radically at half-time.'

Jack Addison

'I was chuffed and very pleased to witness what I saw. The crowd reaction was magnificent in their support. The noise in the last five minutes was like nothing I've heard. My most memorable game apart from that was when Saints refused to come out for the second half on a frozen pitch a few seasons back.'

Ian Daley

'I liked all the banter and crowd reaction. I haven't been to many games, but that was certainly the most exciting. It was certainly the first game I've been to where I found myself shouting and

bawling. I just got swept along with the whole atmosphere. The eighty minutes flew by.'

Heather Parkinson

'I didn't go to the game because I was studying. I had it on the radio, but I could hear the cheering sat in my house in Priory Road, above the radio.'

Kay Doughty

'The game was a credit to Featherstone, to this town. It was one of the finest games I've ever seen. We were robbed. Five more minutes . . .!'

Andrew Smith

'It was one of those games where you come out and you can't get your key into the car door. You're shaking that much with excitement. It was that memorable.'

Alan Walker

'A game to live long in the memory. The partisan crowd urged their team on.'

**Raymond Fletcher,
Yorkshire Post**

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GALLERY



Brett Daunt and
Brendon Tuuta,
creators of
superb tries
against Saints.



ROVERS

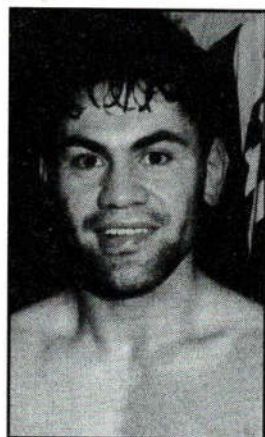
Aren't You . . .

IVA ROPATI?

HE AIN'T IVA HE'S MY BROTHER

Have you noticed how nobody admits to ringing up the club call? It's the equivalent of saying that you watch Eldorado or read Barbara Cartland books. I once rang Rovers call up from the Isle of Arran, in the pathetic hope that we'd beaten Widnes at Naughton Park. It was through the cub call that I first learned that Rovers had signed Iva Ropati. I'd seen Joe Ropati play loads of times and was well aware of the famous New Zealand Rugby family.

Iva brought to the Rovers' threequarter line something they had been traditionally been short of . . . pace. Sure enough, despite one or two problems related to naivete and inexperience, Iva got himself amongst the tries. In particular I'll always remember one he scored against Castleford, well you do don't you? Uncharacteristically the pitch was a swamp well worthy of anything they can come up with at Crystal Palace and the wind bit your face with teeth of dirty rain. It was glorious. Despite this the ball fizzed along the Rovers line in a simple yet graceful passing movement that defied the elements and which had Iva Ropati on the end of it. Wonderful.



'Our Kid', Iva's brother Tea.
Open Rugby

Iva returned to New Zealand to complete his college studies. He returned to Britain as a Sheffield Eagles player, but moved to Oldham in an exchange deal (all deals are exchange deals these days) which took Charlie McCallister to Don Valley, where he didn't reign long before moving to Whitehaven.

This could be the second time in a week that we have crossed swords with members of the

Ropati family. Iva's brother Tea played for Saints in last weekend's unforgettable game against Saints, and he's arguably the best standoff playing in British Rugby League at the moment.

As befits a sport which prides itself on its family image, there is a rich history of brothers playing in Rugby League. We are closely familiar here with the Fox brothers. How many kids in Featherstone in the Fifties and Sixties were admonished by their mams to eat their sprouts or they wouldn't grow up to be like Don Fox? Never mind what happened after he moved to Wakefield, Don Fox played the best Rugby League of his career for Featherstone Rovers in partnership with the great Joe Mullaney.

Probably the best known brothers playing Rugby League today are the Walters brothers, Kevin, Kerrod and Steve, who have been such great players for Brisbane Broncos, Canberra Raiders and their State and National sides and no doubt we'll be seeing plenty more of them in the not too distant future. You never know, if The Aussies give Warrington, Widnes and Wigan the sack from the forthcoming tour itinerary because of the World Sevens unpleasantness, then Rovers or Oldham might get a game against them.

From what I could discern at Fev's last encounter with Oldham, Iva has changed considerably since his days with Rovers. He looks to have had a major attack of the upper body strength syndrome and seems to be a better all round player . . . there have been big improvements on the game awareness front. Iva looks much more aggressive now, although I put this down to his new Brooklyn Stevedore hairstyle, a bit like a cross between Elvis when he joined the army and an extra from 'On The Waterfront'.

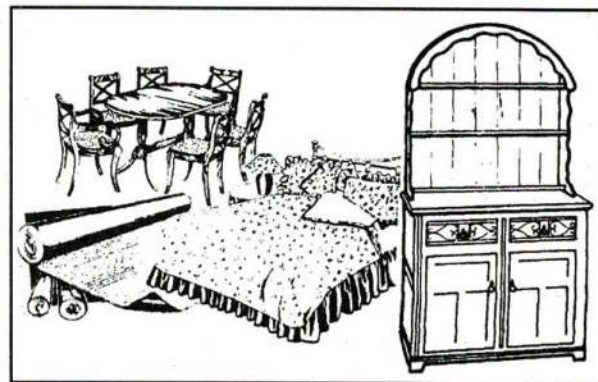
I know that there are many more examples of famous brothers in Rugby League, The Fairbanks, the Drakes, for instance . . . but you could go on forever. Meanwhile I think I'll have a few bob's worth on Rovers call, there isn't a great deal else to do here on the Outer Hebrides in February. I wonder what the greatest distance is that Rovers Call has been consulted, not that I expect anyone to admit to it.

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RESULTS CHART

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM							
	Bramley	Carlisle	Featherstone	Huddersfield	London C.	Oldham	Rochdale H.	Swinton
BRAMLEY		18-18 6-2	4-22	34-10	30-8 16-8	16-23	12-20	22-16
CARLISLE	18-10		14-38	12-28	14-46	20-25 21-32	24-12 16-12	
FEATHERSTONE		30-10		18-25 34-12	40-10	24-20	18-6	14-8 64-6
HUDDERSFIELD	18-12	4-24 36-24	15-34 20-24		18-14	24-28	14-22	37-10 19-12
LONDON C.	20-0	18-18	8-30 6-32	46-10			30-10 12-24	20-6 12-6
OLDHAM	36-0 40-2	38-14	4-24	6-17	27-12		47-22 28-12	16-8 56-6
ROCHDALE H.	29-22 62-22	26-18	26-22		25-16	20-21		
SWINTON	6-11 37-20		10-44		16-6	12-18 10-36	10-14 14-12	



Next Home Match

**ROVERS
v
LONDON
CRUSADERS**

**Sunday 14th
February 1993**

**Kick-Off
3.30pm**

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as at Tuesday 2nd February 1993

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FEATHERSTONE R	17	15	0	2	512	204	30
Oldham	18	15	0	3	501	264	30
Rochdale Hornets	17	9	0	8	354	346	18
Huddersfield	16	8	0	8	307	354	16
London C.	17	6	1	10	292	322	13
Bramley	18	6	1	11	257	393	13
Carlisle	16	4	2	10	267	379	10
Swinton	17	3	0	14	193	421	6

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BARLA Cup 1st Round

Eastmoor 0 v Travellers U15s 70

Travellers swamped Eastmoor with an outstanding display in gale force conditions. Carrying on from last week, Travs were never in trouble.

Chris Rooney opened the scoring and other tries from David Spiers and Carl Zacharow soon followed, all converted by Mathew Grace. Non-stop attacking rugby led to Lee Smith 2, John Wells 2, Chris Rooney and Mathew Grace crossing, two goals to Mathew Grace, giving Travellers a 46-0 half-time lead.

All the reserves to the field in the second half, but the referee called a halt to the game after 10 minutes following tries from Grace 2, Neil Emmerson, Andrew Wray, and Richard Newlove with 2 more conversions from Grace. Travellers will face more difficult games in later rounds, but confidence is now sky high. An outstanding all round performance with special mention to Mathew Grace.

● ● ●

BARLA Cup 1st Round

Dewsbury Moor 4, Travellers 8

This tie was not decided until the dying minutes, when Anthony Slatter went over to win the game for Travellers. Although still unbeaten, this was another lacklustre performance from Travellers. Allowing for poor conditions they struggled against inferior opposition and if they carry on in the same manner it will not be long before the unbeaten tag goes.

Travellers took the lead with an Andrew Walker try and held that lead until ten minutes from time when Dewsbury equalised. Good performances from Andrew Walker, Jamey Rooney and Lee Jordan, in an otherwise disappointing game.

● ● ●

Kings Cross (Halifax) 36, Travellers U11s 6

Travellers were never in the hunt in this Yorkshire Junior First Division game. Dominating from the start, the Halifax side kept the scoreboard ticking over. Travellers' only reply was a try by Andy MacNally, converted by himself.

This game is best forgotten and some hard work will be needed to progress in the forthcoming cup ties.

● ● ●

Kings Cross (Halifax) 4, Travellers U9s 48

Credit goes to all the Travellers squad who played some tremendous rugby under appalling conditions to run out easy winners against the Halifax side.

Lingard 3, Isherwood 2, Beard, Spurr and Jordan going over for tries with Michael Bateman converting all eight.

Woodhead, Jordan, Lingard and Spurr tackled strongly, and this victory keeps them top of the First Division.

● ● ●

Milford 26, Travellers U8s 28

Two tries in the last five minutes by Gavin Beard gave Travellers a good win over a very lively Leeds side.

Scrum half Lee Jones scored a hat trick whilst Man of the Match Paul Flaherty went over for a deserved try.

Richard Whiting, Dane Walker, Chris Box and Mark Holt were impressive in a game which the home supporters said had been the best game of the season.

● ● ●

Milford U7s 0, Travellers U7s 38

The Leeds side were never a match for the strong running, hard tackling Travellers team.

Man of the Match Michael Carter scoring three tries, Danny Johnson, Craig Emmerson, Paul Woodward, John Fowler and Damon Hughes also crossing.

Danny Gowland, Daniel Oldfield and Jonathan Lancaster all showed up well in a strong Travellers performance.

Match by Match Analysis

1992-93

T = Try G = Goal * = Star Man
Number after sub's name = Player Substituted

Date	Team	Venue	K.O. Time	Result	F-A	Att.	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1992																						
AUGUST																						
Sun 30	Huddersfield	A	3.00	W	34-15	2900	1	Bibb	Butt 1T	Manning 2T	Newlove 1T	Simpson 2T	Pearson 4G	Sharp	Burton	Gibbon	Casey	Rose	Smales 1G	Fisher	Tuuta (13)	Price (10)
SEPTEMBER																						
Sun 6	SWINTON	H	3.30	W	14-8	2841	2	Bibb	Butt	Manning 1T	Newlove	Simpson	Sharp	Appleby	Casey	Gibbon	Rose	Fisher	Smales 3G	Tuuta 1T	Price (6)	Burton (9)
Sun 13	Yorkshire Cup Rd 1 DEWSBURY	H	3.30	W	40-8	2468	2	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 2T	Simpson	Pearson 4G 1T	Sharp 1T	Casey	Whiteley	Rose	Fisher 1T	Smales 1T	Tuuta	Price (3) 2T	Burton (8)
Sun 20	Rochdale	A	3.00	L	22-26	1695	4	Bibb	Butt 1T	Manning 1T	Newlove	Simpson 1T	Pearson 2G	Sharp 1G	Casey	Whiteley	Rose	Fisher	Smales 1T	Tuuta	Price (4)	Burton (6)
Wed 23	Yorkshire Cup Rd 2 HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30	W	18-8	2385	4	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Smales	Simpson 1T	Tuuta	Sharp	Burton	Whiteley	Casey	Rose	Price	Fisher 1T	Pearson (9)	Wilson (12)
Sun 27	CARLISLE	H	3.30	W	30-10	2295	3	Bibb 1T	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson	Tuuta	Daunt	Burton	Gunn	Casey	Rose	Fisher 1T	Smales 2T 5G	Pearson	Taekata
OCTOBER																						
Fri 2	Oldham	A	7.30	W	24-4	3352	1	Pearson 1T 6G	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson	Tuuta 1T	Daunt	Casey	Gunn	Taekata	Rose	Fisher	Smales	Booth	Burton
Wed 7	Yorkshire Cup Semi WAKEFIELD	H	7.30	L	8-22	5544	1	Pearson 2G	Butt	Manning	Newlove	Simpson	Tuuta	Daunt	Casey	Gunn	Taekata	Rose	Fisher	Smales 1T	Booth (12)	Burton (8)
Sun 11	Bramley	A	3.00	W	22-4	1727	1	Pearson 3G	Butt 1T	Manning	Newlove	Simpson 2T	Tuuta	Daunt 1T	Casey	Gunn	Taekata	Rose	Fisher	Smales	Wilson (9)	Burton (8)
Sun 18	LONDON CRUSADERS	H	3.30	W	40-10	2394	1	Bibb	Butt 1T	Manning 1T	Newlove 3T	Simpson 1T	Pearson 1T 6G	Daunt	Casey	Gunn	Taekata	Rose	Fisher	Smales	Sharp (6)	Burton (8)
NOVEMBER																						
Sun 1	HUDDERSFIELD	H	3.30	L	18-25	2632	2	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson	Pearson 3G	Daunt	Casey	Gunn 1T	Taekata	Rose	Fisher	Smales 1T	Sharp (1)	Burton (7)
Sun 8	Regal Trophy Round 1 Salford	A	3.00	W	18-14	3088	2	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson 1T	Pearson 3G	Wilson	Burton	Gunn 1T	Taekata	Price	Fisher	Smales	Bonson (11)	Rose (8)
Sun 15	Swinton	A	3.00	W	44-10	1370	2	Bibb	Butt 1T	Manning 1T	Newlove 1T	Simpson 2T	Pearson 1T, 4G	Wilson	Taekata	Gunn	Price 1T	Smales 1T	Fisher	Tuuta 1T	Rose (12)	Burton (14)
Sun 22	ROCHDALE	H	3.30	W	18-6	2664	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove	Simpson 2T	Pearson 3G	Daunt 1T	Taekata	Gunn	Price	Fisher	Smales	Tuuta	Wilson (15)	Burton (11)
Sun 29	Carlisle	A	3.30	W	38-14	900	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson 1T	Pearson 2T 3G	Daunt	Taekata	Gunn 1T	Price 1T	Fisher	Smales 2T	Tuuta	Wilson (13)	Burton (11)
DECEMBER																						
Sun 6	Regal Trophy Rd 2 ST HELENS	H	3.30	L	8-25	4473	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove	Simpson	Pearson 2G	Daunt	Taekata	Gunn	Price	Fisher	Smales 1T	Tuuta	Wilson (8)	Burton (10)
Sun 13	OLDHAM	H	3.30	W	24-20	3298	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 3T	Simpson	Pearson 1T 1G	Daunt	Taekata	Gunn	Price	Fisher	Smales 1T 1G	Tuuta	Wilson (9)	Burton (6)
Sun 20	London Crusaders	A	3.00	W	30-8	600	1	Bibb 1T	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson	Pearson 3G	Daunt 1T	Taekata	Wilson	Price	Rose	Smales 2T	Tuuta	Fisher (2)	Burton (11)
1993																						
JANUARY																						
Tue 5	Huddersfield	A	7.30	W	24-20	2849	1	Bibb	Butt 1T	Manning 1T	Newlove	Simpson	Pearson 2T 4G	Daunt	Taekata	Wilson	Price	Rose	Smales	Tuuta	Burton (11)	Casey (10)
Sun 10	HUDDERSFIELD	H	3.30	W	34-12	3304	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 2T	Simpson	Pearson 1T 5G	Daunt 1T	Casey	Wilson	Taekata	Price	Smales	Tuuta 1T	Maloney 1T (6)	Rose (11)
Sun 17	SWINTON	H	3.30	W	64-6	2396	1	Bibb 1T	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson 3T	Pearson 2T 8G	Daunt 2T	Casey 1T	Wilson	Price 1T	Rose	Smales	Tuuta	Maloney (13)	Burton 1T (12)
Sun 24	London Crusaders	A	3.00	W	32-6	800	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson 2T	Pearson 1T 4G	Daunt 1T	Casey	Wilson	Taekata	Smales 1T	Price	Tuuta	Maloney (12)	Rose (8)
Sun 31	Silk Cut C. Cup Rd 1 - St Helens	H	3.30	L	22-24	5854	1	Bibb	Butt	Manning	Newlove 1T	Simpson 2T	Pearson 1T, 1G	Daunt	Burton	Wilson	Taekata	Price	Smales 2G	Tuuta	Maloney (6)	Casey (8)
FEBRUARY																						
Sun 7	OLDHAM	H	3.30																			
Sun 14	LONDON CRUSADERS	H	3.30																			
Sun 21	Swinton	A	3.00																			
Sun 28	CARLISLE	H	3.30																			
MARCH																						
Sun 7	Rochdale	A	3.00																			
Sun 14	Oldham	A	3.00																			
Sun 21	BRAMLEY	H	3.30																			
Sun 28	ROCHDALE	H	3.30																			
APRIL																						
Sun 4	Carlisle	A	3.00																			
Frid 9	LONDON CRUSADERS	H	3.30																			
Mon 12	Bramley	A	3.00																			
Sun 18	BRAMLEY	H	3.30																			

The winning raffle ticket numbers for the last two home games were as follows:

WHITE TICKET NO 436 – VSWINTON

YELLOW TICKET NO 856 – ST HELENS

Raffle prizes on first team games can be claimed after the match at the Rovers Club Shop in Station Lane.

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ACADEMY & ALLIANCE REPORT



Last weekend our Alliance side suffered the same fate as our Academy team when they visited Thrum Hall Halifax and duly lost 30-10. It was very similar to the Academy game we played recently. We played up the slope first half and conceded 18 points from where there was no return. Our only points coming from a Steve Goodwin try after a good run from Spencer Longstaffe. If two simple goal chances had been taken we would have gone in at the break with a chance. The referee did not help us by giving a Halifax try from a blatant forward pass and the first half penalty count was 10-3 against, one other penalty was for feeding.

Our second half points came from a rare John Jepson try and a Craig Booth conversion.

Friday's team had an average age of 20, against the more experienced Halifax outfit which contained numerous players of first team calibre.

Rovers team: L. Senior, J. Jepson, S. Longstaffe, A. Goulbourne, S. Minter, S. Goodwin, A. Thompson, J. Wood, P. Benson, R. Hall, S. Richardson, T. Sharp, R. Agar (capt), C. Booth, N. Bradbrook. Man of the Match was Paul Benson while Spencer Longstaffe was the best back.

This week we were due to visit Bradford Northern while next Thursday we are on our travels again when we pay Belle Vue Wakefield a visit. Our next home game is Leeds on February 19th.

The Academy game at Dewsbury was postponed for the second time last week when they could not find a school field to play on. Since the start of the season Dewsbury have only played one game at Dewsbury. All their other home games have been played 'away' and so will our fixture, which will be played at Post Office Road some time in March.

The Academy League fixtures will finish on Sunday 14th March and then we start with the Academy Challenge Cup which commences the following week when the 16 teams are grouped into four groups. They will play each other just once, depending on the draw. They will have either one home game or two. These fixtures will be completed by 4th April when the top two in each group will go through to a straight knock out with the eventual finalists finishing up at Old Trafford on Premiership Day, while the bottom two go through to another straight knock out for a plate. The final of this being Sunday May 9th, the week before Old Trafford. Since our last match with Bradford our Academy squad has been strengthened by three new players, two centres, Scott Kelly and David Green, and forward Peter Lynch. All these are eligible to play with us next season and we wish them a happy and successful stay with us.

Tomorrow night the Academy travel to Salford for what looks a hard fixture. Our next home game is not until 20th February when Leigh visit.

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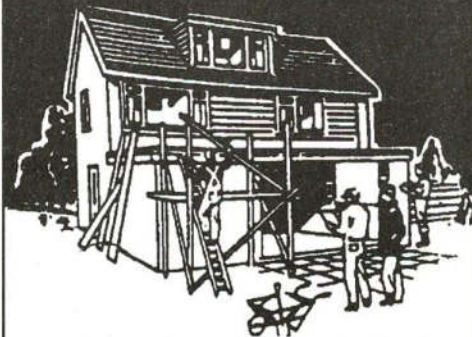
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Media Matters

BY CHRIS WESTWOOD

Go into any tap room and get involved in a conversation about any popular sport, not just Rugby league, and the talk will stand a good chance of finding its way round to the topic of commentators.

There is hardly a sports fan who doesn't think that he or she can't do better than the velvet tongued oracle who converts action into words on the telly or radio. For some reason commentators are reviled by sports fans, although adored by the blow dried, velvet dickie bowed impressionists of the chicken in a basket night club circuit. Was it a coincidence that Mike Yarwood plummeted to obscurity at the same time as Eddie Waring (and Harold Wilson to be fair) disappeared from our screens? Sporting folklore is studded with examples of the malapropisms, mixed metaphors and gobbledygook uttered by our champions of the sheepskin coat industry. No doubt you'll have your own favourites, like the one from a cricket test match between England and the West Indies, when Mike Holding was bowling to Peter Willey and the commentator said the immortal words, 'The bowlers Holding, the batsman's', you can guess the rest. Or the snooker commentator back in the early days who informed us that 'for viewers watching in black and white, the pink is behind the green'.

Rugby League maniacs are blessed with first class coverage of the sport on local radio. Probably the best and arguably the most popular is that of Radio Leeds, although I am a big fan of 'Team Talk' on Saturday evenings on Magic (sic) 828. The excellent Terry Crook, Ron Hill,

Tony Chalk . . . who incidentally also commentates on Rugby Union for the station (he must have done something wrong to have to spend his Saturday afternoons trying to think of something to say about Old Carthaginians versus Saint Trinians former pupils), provide an excellent service for those at home and the Sony Walkmen, and the switching on of car radios at five o'clock is as synonymous with Sundays as the unwrapping of Oxos at half past twelve.

The latest recruit to the Radio Leeds team is ex Leeds utility back David Creasser. David was a fine player, representing Great Britain at just about every level, as well as Yorkshire. Still only twenty seven, the sport has been robbed of his skills through persistent injury as well as a particularly nasty broken jaw a couple of seasons back.

David started summarising for Radio Leeds this season and has grown in confidence. It's as if he's broken through the barrier of trying to think of something fancy to say, when telling it like it is will do just fine. Now his insights into tactical situations and descriptions of action are spot on. He knows what he's talking about and just gets on with it.

David has a similar no non-

sense but dead right approach to broadcasting about Rugby league as Norman Hunter has for the same station talking about soccer on Saturday afternoons.

I'm not sure, but I don't think David has tackled a match commentary yet. I think it would be interesting to see how he would approach it. George Orwell said that it was a waste of the English language to use two words when one would do. David Creasser seems to have this approach and it works.

There are plenty of other ex players involved in broadcasting. Ron Hill, Terry Crook, Ray French and plenty more. Now that players are expected to be much more 'media friendly', we can expect many more to join their ranks as they come to the end of their careers. In Australia Peter Stirling is absolutely brilliant. But what about over here? Well, Garry Schofield does quite well, he's on 'Question Of Sport', as I write this. Mark Preston is an excellent communicator and has a future as one if he wants one. However the man who has impressed me, never fails to have something articulate yet blunt to say no matter how shattered or heart broken he is after the final hooter of a test match or cup tie, is . . . Lee Crooks, I'm serious.



David Creasser, in action for Great Britain.

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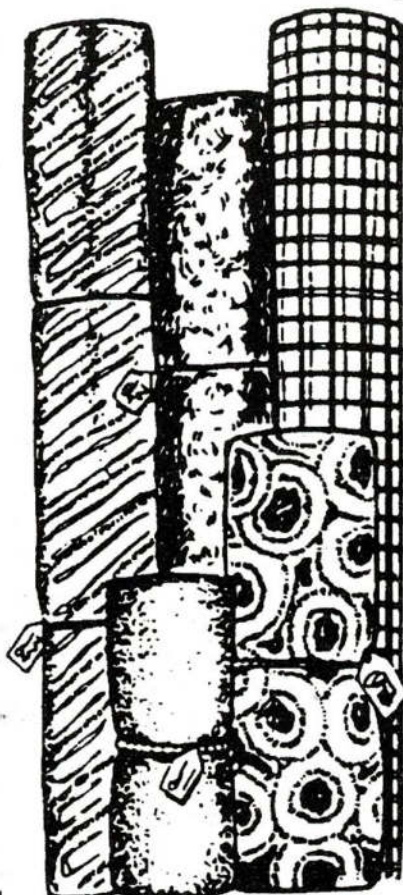
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Appearances and Points Scorers

	SEASON 1992-93						TOTAL SENIOR RECORD					
	App	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts	App	Sub	T	G	DG	Pts
Chris Bibb	20	-	3	-	-	12	199	4	73	6	-	304
Paul Bonson	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Craig Booth	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Chris Burton	5	16	1	-	-	4	93	26	4	-	-	16
Ikram Butt	23	-	6	-	-	24	91	-	37	-	-	148
Leo Casey	14	2	1	-	-	4	55	6	5	-	-	20
Brett Daunt	16	-	7	-	-	28	16	-	7	-	-	28
Andy Fisher	17	1	4	-	-	16	61	39	26	-	-	104
Mark Gibbon	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	7	-	-	-
Richard Gunn	12	-	3	-	-	12	12	-	3	-	-	12
Francis Maloney	-	4	1	-	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	4
Terry Manning	23	-	7	-	-	28	115	1	37	-	-	148
Paul Newlove	22	-	21	-	-	84	140	-	95	9	-	398
Martin Pearson	20	2	14	71	-	198	57	17	33	119	-	370
Gary Price	13	4	5	-	-	20	50	15	9	-	-	36
Gary Rose	14	4	-	-	-	-	86	9	5	-	-	20
Tim Sharp	5	2	1	6	-	16	59	29	14	6	1	69
Owen Simpson	23	-	20	-	-	72	82	-	55	-	-	220
Ian Smales	23	-	14	12	-	80	141	9	62	21	-	288
Wayne Taekata	16	1	-	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	-
Brendon Tuuta	19	1	4	-	-	16	78	3	12	-	1	49
Lee Whiteley	3	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	1	-	-	4
Mark Wilson	8	6	-	-	-	-	8	6	-	-	-	-

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OLDHAM

On reading the Rugby Leaguer last week it was of interest to note Phil Clarke, the Wigan and Great Britain loose forward, had a piece printed. Whether this piece is to become a regular event or not we shall have to wait and see. Phil Clarke stated that until someone told him that Dewsbury played at Mount Pleasant, the home of Batley, he'd no idea that the teams shared. He didn't say whether or not he knew where Dewsbury used to play before setting up. Now it strikes me that if one of our promising young internationals and possible future Captains doesn't know this, just how much does he and others players like him know? Other players like him being ones that go to a top first division side like Wigan, straight from being Amateur. Unlike players who start off at such clubs in the third division and then transfer to a top club.

It would be interesting to ask these such players questions that to most of us would be easy. Questions relating to the third division, like who plays at Tattersfield, or Cougar Park? Do these players even know how many teams are in the third division or in the league in general? If they never played for a struggling team, living life from season to season, having to sell a promising talent to balance the books for another season, then they

probably don't know much about life in the lower divisions. These players will probably finish their careers earlier than before, still with a first division club instead of moving on to lower division clubs to finish their careers, like Batley or Doncaster. If they do then they'll never know what life is like.

What is more tragic, though, is if directors and board members of the big clubs don't know what's going on with the lower division clubs. If they don't, they should. Until they do, how can any voting on the future structure of the game or other important decisions be made constructively? Big clubs' directors will look at any major decisions as to how it affects their own club first and foremost with how it affects the League secondly. This is why Rugby League will always struggle from crisis to crisis. Rugby League would be far better off if ten or twelve clubs could compete with Wigan. But unfortunately until more clubs get a bigger slice of the cake, this will never happen.

Last week's match was a fantastic advert for Rugby League and shows that being in the second division doesn't mean life's all doom and gloom. Rovers took the championship leaders and probably the best team in the country at the moment all

the way. There was no fluke or bad play from St Helens either. On that performance no other side in the first division except Wigan would've stopped Rovers being in the second round draw. Once again the turning point which eventually cost Rovers the match came down to an amazing refereeing decision. If anyone could give me a reasonable explanation as to why Ian Smales wasn't allowed to carry on running, I'd be eternally grateful. On the down side Rovers let a 16-4 lead slip, but to be fair Rovers were starved of possession for twenty minutes, forced to kick out of our own half. Rovers also lost our third of four meetings with first division clubs, but in them all Rovers competed and could have won them all, they certainly weren't disgraced in any. People have asked if Rovers should've gone for goal at the end for the draw, but a midweek trip to St Helens with this afternoon's crucial championship match a few days after. It was all or nothing, unfortunately we got nothing. Had Rovers won then what sort

of justice is there in drawing Wigan away. Great for the bank balance, but when it comes to the cup, Nottingham, Chorley and Batley for a trip to the Semis would do for me. Stuff playing the big clubs, let them knock each other out. But that's the cup draw. Rovers let nobody down and did everybody proud.

Rovers travel to Swinton on 21st February. Buses leave the ground at 1pm and cost £2.50 adults, £2 juniors/OAPs. Bookings can be made today at the supporters hut or ringing the above numbers.

Welcome to all Oldham fans this afternoon. Cup fever is still very much alive in Oldham, and with a second round tie against another second division club the third round is a very realistic proposition. With only four remaining home matches, Oldham fans are in for plenty of travelling, in the run up to the championship. Enjoy today's match – if it's half as good as last week, nobody would complain, for it would be another cracker.

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