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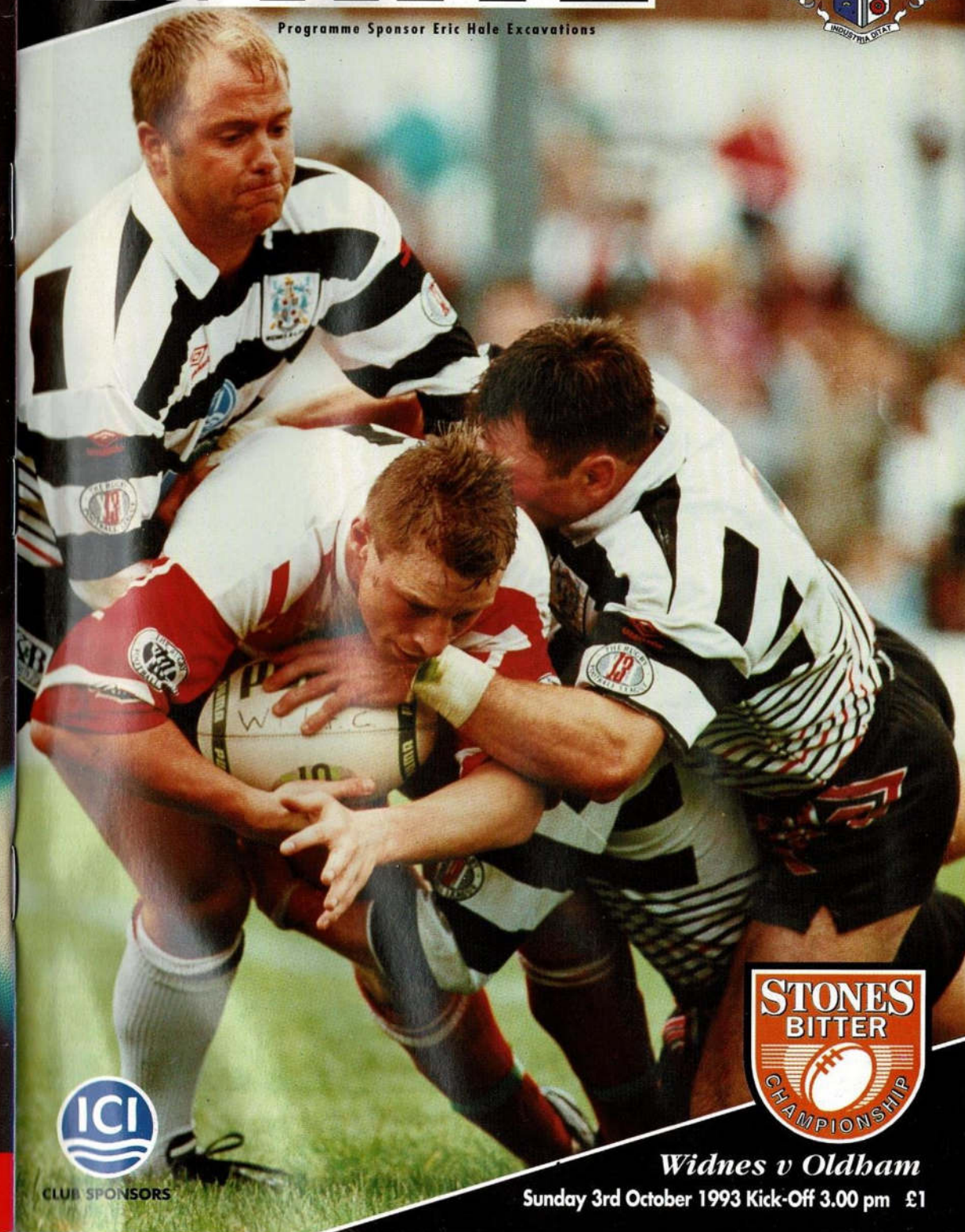
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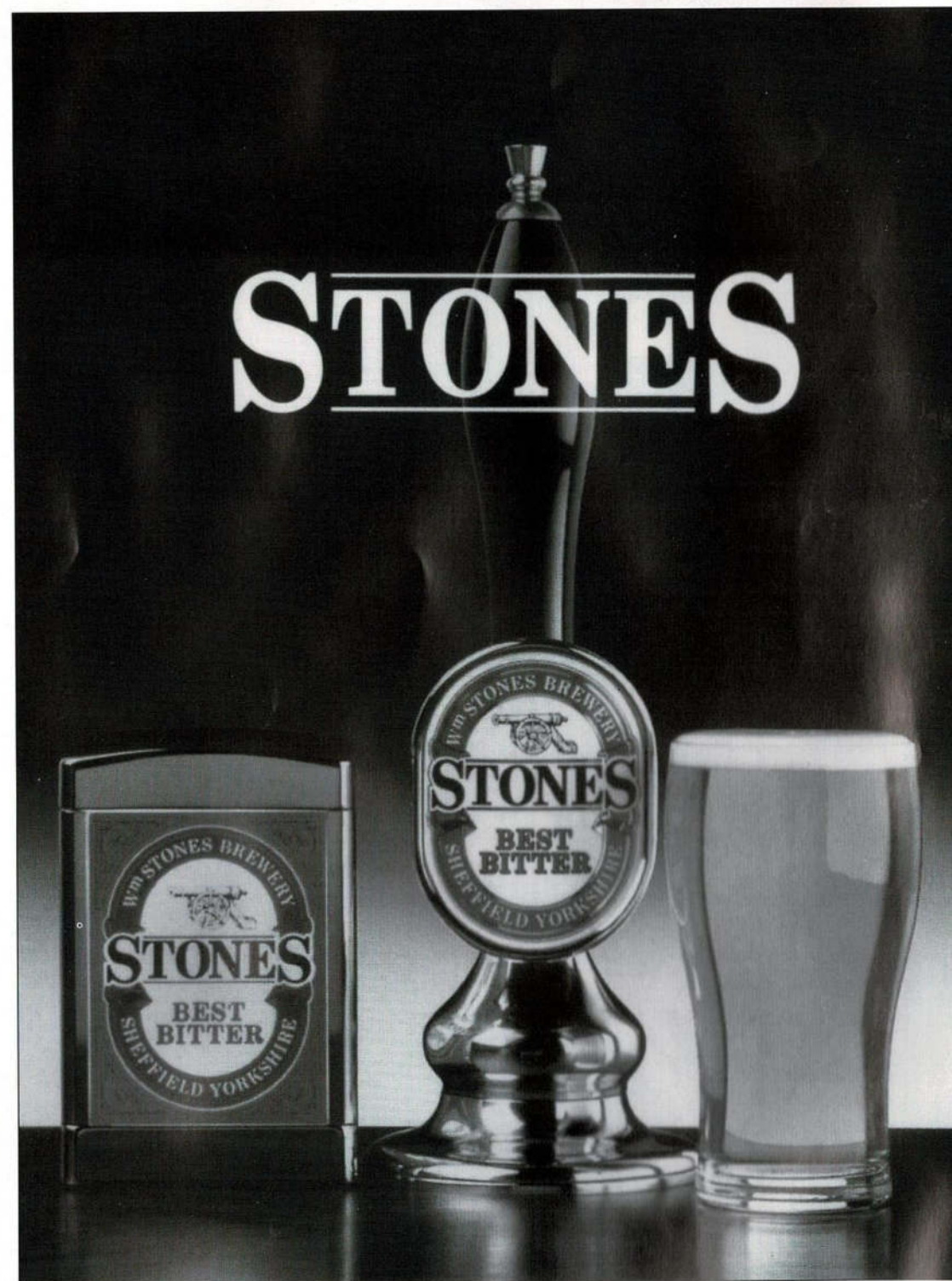
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Note: Views expressed by contributors and
correspondents do not necessarily reflect the
opinions of the Editor or Widnes RLFC.

■ We extend a warm welcome this afternoon to the players, officials and supporters of Oldham for this Stones Bitter Championship fixture.

CRUEL LUCK

Elsewhere in this edition of Black & White, club captain David Hulme says of our early season problems "it is time for the excuses to stop and time to get on with the job." True enough, but even so it's hard not to sympathise with coach Phil Larder in his current predicament. After a record of four heavy defeats from five difficult games some coaches might by now be looking over their shoulders but not even the most critical Widnes supporter could possibly blame the man at the helm for our difficult start to the season.

The departure of so many players during the summer was an unfortunate but necessary fact of life given our financial crisis but to then be saddled with loss through injury of senior players like Darren Wright, John Devereux, Bobby Goulding and Paul Hulme (all GB Test players, remember), the continued absence of Harvey



John Grieve.

Howard, not to mention the early departure last week of in-form Stuart Spruce and new Aussie Jon Grieve was beyond everybody's worst nightmare.

We've enjoyed plenty of good times here at Naughton Park over the last 20 years, with our share of good luck as well as bad, but I think what David Hulme is driving at is that Widnes RLFC has its back well and truly to the wall at the moment and we won't win out by feeling sorry for ourselves. It's time for everyone, from the committee, the sponsors, coaching and playing staff and, of course, the supporters to stand up and be counted. Only by standing by the club in its hour of need can we hope to see it back where we believe it to belong; in the forefront of Rugby League Football.

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Everyone connected with the Club from Big Jim, the chairman down to the ball boys has suffered because of the summer sales of Eyres, Sorensen, Holliday, Davies, Currier, McKenzie, Ashurst and Marsh and the enforced retirement of Barry Dowd. But no one has suffered more than the players.

Upon returning from Wembley the established stars were confident that this season we could build on the hard work of last and be a realistic challenge to Wigan for the games major honours, and of course playing in a successful side would help them attract the eye of Malcolm Reilly, or in the case of Esene and Emosi, Howie Tamati. Obviously the sale of over a third of the team has made that extremely difficult.

Last years A teamers trained hard throughout the summer determined to break into the successful team. The sales however resulted in far too many of them being promoted at the same time. Peter Smith, Karl Hammond Chris Tyrer Jason Hunter, Andy Ireland, David Smith, Paul Davidson and Chris Makin would all have preferred to have been given their opportunity in a winning team full of established first teamers, who would then have helped and guided their progress, rather than being thrown in all together and making the backbone of the team.

The effects lower down the line have also been disastrous. The A team pack at Castleford contained four amateurs and two young Academy players, making it almost impossible for promising youngsters like Chris Kelly and Colin

"HARVEY, YOUR TEAM MATES NEED YOU!"

Wilson to develop. The Academy too have suffered. A fortnight ago Scott Walker, Steve Barrow and Ian Carden played full games on Friday night against Salford established Alliance team and then lived up against Wigan's Academy which kicked off at 12.30 the following day.

With only 33 signed professionals, and with injuries that include Paul Moriarty, John Devereux, Darren Wright, Adrian Hadley, Aiden Halliwell, Paul Hulme, Paul Harris, Christian Tyrer and Steve O'Reilly times are very hard.

The spirit at the club has always been strong and therefore it is really irksome that Harvey Howard can completely ignore calls from his team mates.

I have only known Harvey for 12 months but until recently I had only praise for him. He is an excellent trainer, determined to succeed with exceptional speed and power. He is coachable, eager to progress and enthusiastic in

developing his skills.

I was extremely pleased with his progress in my first season at the Club, and it was no surprise to me when Malcolm Reilly intended to include him in the train on squad for the coming Kiwi international. Obviously Malcolm cannot

(continued on page 7).



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select him until he resumes playing, but I am sure that with Kelvin Skerrett and Andy Platt injured Harvey would have been an automatic choice.

The problem with Harvey started at the end of last season when he receive a lucrative offer from Jack Gibson to play for Eastern Suburbs. I was reluctant for him to go because I felt that last season was his first real season in Big League and it was essential to have a summer rest from the rigours of playing front row, and also needed time in the close season to bulk up once again.

Harvey ranted, pointed out that his contract was low, and that he needed the money. At that time the Club was unable to increase his contract so the decision was reluctantly taken to allow him to play a dozen games for Eastern Suburbs in order for him to increase his earnings. Jack Gibson also promised to develop his Front Row Skills.

Harvey returned to England on the Tuesday prior to our first League game with Bradford, and I met him in the presence of his agent on Thursday morning. The Committee had previously agreed to slightly increase his contract. So I was able to give him good news.

Harvey was pleasant, gave me the impression that he was eager to play that weekend, but was adamant that the increase was not quite high enough.

Harvey still has one season of his contract to run, but he had now elevated himself from a young rookie with promise to an established First Teamer playing on the verge of international honours. I do believe that he is by far the best young prop forward in the game.

Therefore, immediately I returned from the meeting I telephoned Tom Fleet, explained Harvey's request and gave the advice that it should be met. The financial situation at the Club had now altered with the sale of Currier, Holliday, Ashurst, Marsh and the imminent departure of



Harvey Howard

Eyres, and in fairness to Tom he phoned round the rest of the Committee and they agreed to give Harvey a substantial increase.

This was the Thursday before the start of the season. Harvey trained, worked fit and mixed well the rest of the boys. I told him he was selected at blind side prop, and said see you tomorrow.

That was the last I have seen of him and despite telephoning (he lives with his parents) on numerous occasions and visiting the house half a dozen times. I have not been fortunate enough to speak to him since. Jim and David Hulme have had similar fortunes.

Harvey's father has told me to deal directly with David McKnight, his agent and David has assured the Club that his advice was for Harvey to immediately resume playing for Widnes.

Perhaps Harvey has taken to the backwood, with his gun and fly rod, and is unaware of the situation at the Club. Hopefully then these programme notes will reach him when all else has failed.

If so Harvey your team mates need you, and so does your country!!

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LARDER

UPDATE

REGAL DRAW

The 1993-94 Regal Trophy with the new style draw for the first round will be broadcast "live" on BBC Radio Leeds and networked to all other relevant local radio stations on Monday, 4th October 1993 at 7.45 a.m.

The draw heralds a new era of Cup Rugby League with the introduction of many new leading amateur teams, the continued inclusion of the two leading French teams and, for the first time, no First Division professional teams who are all seeded through to the second round.

WALES IN WORLD CUP

Wales are to compete in the Rugby League Centenary World Cup in the autumn of 1995.

The International Board meeting last June confirmed eight countries to take part in the Centenary World Cup—Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Western Samoa and Fiji.

Britain will now be divided into England and Wales as plans are made to extend the entry to 12 nations.

Mr. Ken Arthurson, Director-General of the International Board, said today: "We are delighted to include Wales in the Centenary World Cup as a side packed with personality and patriotism, reflecting a rich heritage of Rugby League in the Principality dating back to their international debut in 1908."

Rugby League Chief Executive Maurice Lindsay, who has been appointed Centenary World Cup Tournament Director, said today: "We are delighted that Wales have now been accepted and are certain that no only are they worthy participants but also extremely competitive. At this stage Wales have been added to Pool B which includes New Zealand, France, Papua New Guinea and Fiji."

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■ For those fortunate amongst you to have watched the Kiwis take on the might of Australia during the summer in a tough closely fought series in New Zealand, you will have seen for yourselves, one or two tigerish encounters especially from the forwards; so choosing the right pack to pitch into battle against a rugged international formation that doesn't take a backward step will again be an important choice.

The prop forward position is probably the one causing a sleepless night or two for coach Malcolm Reilly, the loss of Andy Platt must be a severe blow to his plans, Malcolms concern lies with the fact that there is a national shortage of adequate replacements, Kelvin Skerrett is an odds on favourite for the number eight spot, the term of wrap him up in cotton wool readily comes to mind, so who will join the Wigan prop in the front row? Karl Harrison must come into the reckoning after obviously impressing the G.B. coach whilst in charge of the proceedings at Halifax, other pretenders to the front row throne may well come in the shape of Hull's Mark Jones, a good performance for the Welsh in the

opening game of the Tour against the Kiwis could persuade Mr. Reilly that Jones the Prop is the man for the Series. The number nine spot could be interesting especially if Wigan's Martin Dermott is still struggling with his injury, "Eagles" new signing Lee Jackson was always the more than able deputy whenever he was called upon and like Dermott he his quick to see an opening, plus the main attribute for a hooker these days an excellent passer of the ball. Bernard Dwyer will almost certainly be knocking on the door for membership to the front rows guild, Saint Bernard (sorry I couldn't resist that one) is a player with that non-stop attitude, and his game has improved tremendously over the last couple of years.

There is a youngster who may overtake them all, Widnes's Stephen McCurrie a talented footballer in the Aussie Testman Kevin Walters mould, The second row is a little less complicated unless you enjoy a good argument, I personally can't see past Wigan's Denis Betts for one spot behind the front row, but who will pack down with Denis, Leeds new signing will fancy his chances even though he has yet to run and tackle in



Denis Betts

anger, but may face stiff competition from Bradfords hardman Karl Fairbank who could play equally well in the front row, and the strong running St. Helens' second row combination of Sonny Nickle and Chris Joynt, the latter has to be the find of last season and possesses that incredible workrate which always pleases the coach that matters. There can't be many who thought the loose forward position was Ellery Hanleys for the taking, until the surprising announcement that it was time to bring the curtain down on his glorious International career, Ellery must be admired for 'the decision, one I feel was not an easy one to reach, the loss is cushioned however with probably the finest forward in the World at the present moment Wigans Philip Clarke, for many purists in the game the absolute professional, he just gets better and better with every season.

John Potter.



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In Town TODAY

Oldham come to Naughton Park today with an identical record to our own, just one victory from their first five attempts, so even this early in the season they must already be thinking in terms of a fight to preserve the First Division status they last enjoyed in 1990/91, having finished third in the Second Division the following year and been promoted from second place last term.

Their coach is, of course, the Aussie Peter Tunks who became the fifteenth man in seventeen years to hold the reins at the Watersheddings when he took over from John Fieldhouse in April 1991. Tunks has certainly not let the grass grow under his feet and in a short time he has become a legend for his wheeler dealings on the transfer market. This season alone has brought a whole host of



Kiwi Mike Kuiti... the ex-Leeds back rower is back to his best form with Oldham.

OLDHAM

new faces to the Oldham club and it may be that the side, with plenty of well known players in its ranks, has still to gel together as a unit.

Full back is the talented Aussie Wally Gibson, a fast and elusive attacker who plays behind a dangerous looking threequarter line which has plenty of

CURRENT FORM

Oldham's current 1993/94 form is: P5 W1 D0 L4 F87 A104.

Five Match Formguide

Halifax	26	Oldham	12
Oldham	20	Bradford	24
Hull KR	14	Oldham	28
Oldham	12	Warrington	18
Oldham	15	Sheffield	22

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WELCOME TO CASTLEFORD

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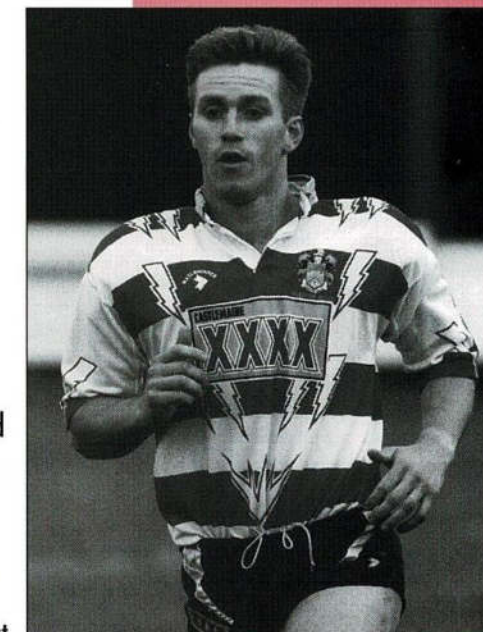
Bob Lindner

competition for places. Former Wakefield winger David Jones, England RU international Nigel Heslop, ex-Castleford and GB ace Shaun Irwin (two tries this season), giant Maori Charlie McAlister in his second spell at the club, Darren Abram the former Rochdale centre and one of the paciest players in the league, and the ex Swinton duo of Paul Topping and Scott Ranson (another speedster) all vie for jerseys number two, three, four and five.

Martin Strett appeared at stand off for the Roughyeds last week, although Topping and Abram have also lined up in that position already this season. First choice scrum half is their summer signing from Wigan, Martin Crompton who has so far weighed in with two tries and a drop goal for his new club.

The Oldham forwards are a highly experienced unit and Australian legend Bob Lindner is the stand out figure after a decade at the top in both Test and State of Origin football—he represents a big investment in the future for our visitors. Tiny Solomona looks set to prop for New Zealand in the forthcoming series whilst the former Leeds and Rochdale second row Mike Kuiti has also enjoyed international honours for the Kiwis. Andy Goodway returned to his first club recently after a distinguished career at Central Park and ex-Saint Paul Groves is another GB capped player to find his way to Watersheddings recently.

With so many new faces around



Nigel Heslop

him, prop Ian Sherratt might almost be called a veteran, in his third season at the club after a spell at Salford which included a 1990 Lancs Cup Final appearance against Widnes. The remainder of the forward panel is made up of Craig Richards, David Bradbury, and Shane Tupea.

CONNECTIONS

Many players have appeared both for Oldham and Widnes including, in the last ten years, such as Mick Burke, Duncan Platt, Keith Newton, Andy Ruane, Joe Grima and Neil Holding. In addition our coach Phil Larder was a former Watersheddings favourite, earning a testimonial in the process.

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RON GIRVIN REFLECTIONS



Frano Botica's goalkicking has been the talk of the Rugby League for a few seasons now.

He's even overshadowed Jonathan Davies, who won many a game for Widnes and is doing the same for Warrington.

Frano's accuracy is incredible. It would be interesting to know just what percentage of kicks he has missed. I'll bet it is no more than 10 percent.

Whether they are close in or out on the touchline, it doesn't make the slightest difference to the likeable New Zealander.

But there have been some great kickers in the past—Oldham certainly had one of the best of the lot—Bernard Ganley, who played his rugby in the 50s.

He sent record after record tumbling and you will still find his name in current records.

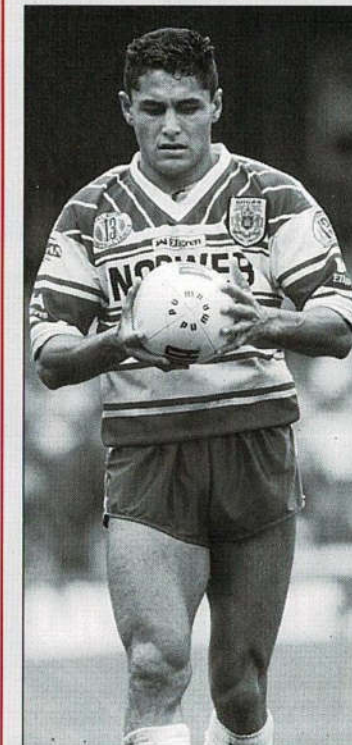
Undoubtedly Ganley's kicking won many a game and that is probably why the 50s were Oldham's best years. As captain he led them to the Championship with a 15-14 win over Hull in 1956-57. That win denied Hull—with ex-Widnes centre Colin Hutton in their ranks—the chance of a hat-trick of title wins. They had beaten Halifax 10-9 the previous season with Hutton kicking a last minute winner off the touchline, and the following year crushed Workington Town 20-3.

That was in the days of the top four play-off to determine the championship,

but Hull had not finished top of the table—they played 38 games then—in any of their glory years.

By contrast Oldham were top in 56-57. The latter of those seasons saw Ganley at his best. He won his three Great Britain caps during that spell and scored 412 points, including 219 goals which was a league record.

Bernard, who won a BA degree at Manchester University, top the record of



Frano Botica—probably the best goalkicker in the world

the great Jim Sullivan of Wigan, who landed 204 goals.

The following season, he kicked 14 goals against Liverpool City, one of three club records which still stand today. In his career which spanned 1951-61 he collected 1,365 goals and 2,775 points.

Despite being skipper in a superb Oldham side, which also picked up a hat-trick of Lancashire Cup wins from 57-59, he managed only three caps. The fact that he did not win more I believe was twofold.

If anything he lacked a little pace and there was some excellent competition in the 50s with the likes of Jack Cunliffe (Wigan), Jimmy Ledgard (Leigh), Glyn Moses (St. Helens) and possibly the best of the lot Eric Fraser (Warrington).

On one of his three GB appearance, however, Ganley managed to set a record which still stands—10 goals against France at Central Park in 1957.

It's good to see Oldham back in the top flight. They have certainly been one of Rugby League's yo-yo teams over the years, but Peter Tunks, with his clever dealings in the transfer market, seems to be building a good squad.

He may have long way to go before Oldham have a side to match that one of the 50s, but they are heading in the right direction.

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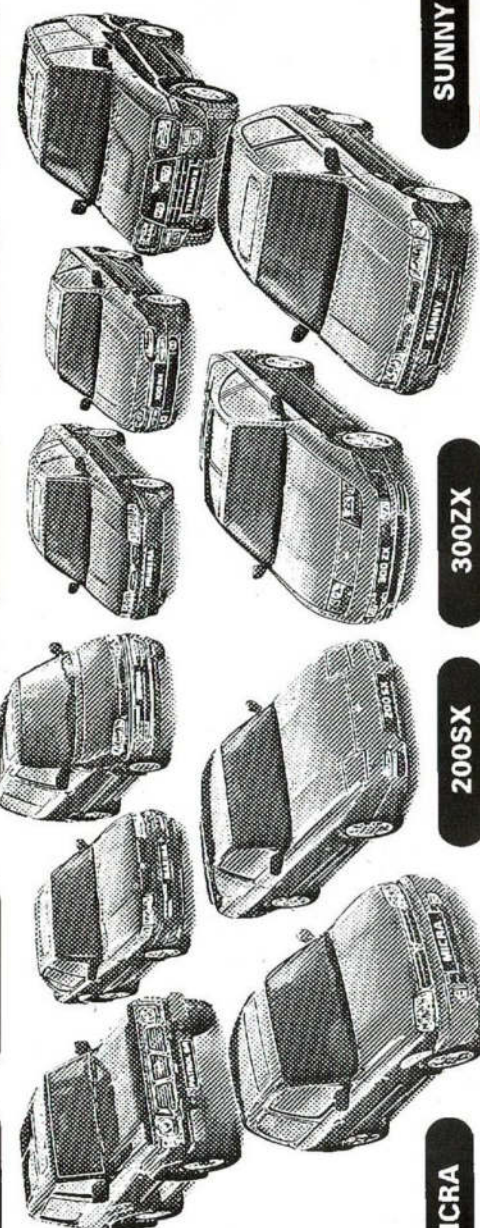
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Widnes Finance Chairman Tom Fleet answers questions on the clubs prospects

QUESTION: We understood we would hear something about the share offer in early September, why the delay?

ANSWER: That was the time frame mentioned at the last extraordinary General Meeting. What has happened so far is that the Member's list has now been drawn up as of September 5 and the reporting accountants are busy putting the financial package together, which has to be scrutinised by the Corporate Lawyer and be approved by the Business Expansion Scheme sponsor so that all can be quite certain the total package is put together and offered in a correct and proper manner. We are expecting the prospectus to be ready within the next few weeks. Meanwhile

it is worth saying that the Club still needs to add new members to the list.

If you think you can help, please contact Frank Myler or Judith Caldwell or any member of the committee.

QUESTION: Will any of the money from player transfers be used to buy new players?

ANSWER: In an ideal world the Club would not have chosen to lose any of the class players who have gone. A lot has already been said and written about the reasons and the circumstances of the individual moves. Briefly Jonathan Davies and Phil McKenzie, went not for immediate cash benefits to the Club but to make very substantial savings in the



Jim Mills welcomes Aussie John Grieve.

contracted liabilities over the next two years.

Both Andy Currier and Richie Eyres were sold for cash with immediate benefit to the club for this season. It was expected we would receive more from Leeds, for Eyres than the tribunal determined and that was a disappointment. However, the total from the two of £285,000 has gone a long way to balancing the books and the Club is

(continued on page 17).

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(continued from page 15).

comfortable in being able to meet existing Player commitments. What we cannot do at this time is use any significant portion of the income to buy international class players.

There are of course top class Aussies Jon Grieve and Rod Howe with us this season and the emphasis is on recruitment of young players. Steve O'Reilly last seasons BARLA player of the year, has been signed along with Jason Hunter, James Briers and Gary Broadbent. The local scouting network has been extended to further pursue junior recruitment. Phil Larder has also been looking at other options and one deal has brought David Ruane back to Naughton Park. It is perhaps worth stressing that despite the departures, given freedom from injury we could field a team containing 10 internationals!

QUESTION: Are you still confident the incorporation will be successful?

ANSWER: The Committee is

certainly still totally committed to the share issue being the most positive and most practical way forward. We already know the extent of likely investments from the Committee and some associates and were very encouraged by the Members'



Local prospect . . . James Briers.

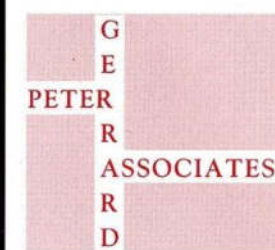
response to likely up take on August 5 at the EGM. The reality is that we will only know for sure when all the share applications come in.

QUESTION: Is the Club any better financially placed now that we were being told at

the AGM and EGM meetings?

ANSWER: In short yes. We seem to have got ourselves tagged by the media as "crisis club" or "cash strapped". In truth Widnes is recognising it's plight as other Clubs have failed to do and striving to get onto a financially stable basis.

The economies so far achieved plus the transfer income have very considerably reduced the operating deficit for this season. We cannot for one minute pretend we are in the clear but we are in a manageable situation with our creditors and contracts which hitherto would not have been possible. Sponsorship has improved, we have good advisors and a lot of dedicated input. If there are downsides it has been the lower than expected take up of season tickets and the poor attendances for the first two home games, well below last season's average. The Club is of course only ever going to be as good as its support. This is the reality; please help us to keep our gates high during this difficult transitionary period to allow us ALL to build for the future.



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Both the Alliance and Academy sides are suffering from the knock-on effect of having players called up to their respective senior squads.

However, as with the first team, their is a tremendous spirit in both squads, despite the adversity, and it cannot be long before things start to "click".

Last Sunday the Alliance side entertained Wigan in an excellent game. At half-time Alan McCurrie's side led 16-10 but couldn't sustain their efforts, the visitors running out winners by 30-16.

Widnes' tries came from man-of-the-match Graham Holden, Peter Smith and the trialist prop-forward, with Holden also kicking two goals.

Ten days earlier at Castleford, Widnes crashed 56-10 on-loan centre Paul Reynolds went in for two tries with Holden adding a goal.

Last weekend the Academy side were "Cougarised" 23-12 at Keighley. They trailed 7-6 at the interval but two quick tries after half-time clinched the game for the home side.

Gary Broadbent scored a superb try for the visitors with Andy Cheetham also touching down, Neil Auday kicking two goals.

Seven days earlier Widnes went down 22-18 at home to Halifax. Briers, Docherty and Cain scored tries for Widnes, Auday kicking three goals.

Forthcoming fixtures at Naughton Park:
Wednesday 6th October K.O. 7.30pm
St. Bedes v. Simms Cross—Lancashire Shield 1st Round.

Friday 8th October K.O. 8.00pm
Widnes 'A' v. Hull F.C. 'A'

Saturday 9th October K.O. 2.30pm
Widnes Academy v. Whitehaven Academy.

Rugby League Academy 1993-94

First Phase Group 1

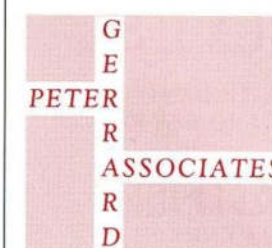
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Wigan	6	6	0	0	239	49	12
Hull K.R.	5	4	0	1	143	88	8
Keighley	5	4	0	1	142	107	8
Halifax	5	3	0	2	101	125	6
Salford	5	2	0	3	100	93	4
Widnes	5	1	0	4	86	125	2
Sheffield E.	6	1	0	5	113	156	2
Whitehaven	5	0	0	5	43	224	0

YOUNGERS ALLIANCE FIXTURES FIRST DIVISION 1993/94

1993	Aug. 27	Bradford N. (7.30)	H
	Sept. 3	Ryedale York (7.30)	A
	10	Salford (7.30)	H
	16	Castleford (Thurs. 7.30)	A
	24	Wigan (7.30)	H
	Oct. 8	Hull (8.00)	H
	29	Featherstone R. (7.30)	A
	Nov. 3	Leeds (Wed. 7.30)	A
	12	Featherstone R. (7.30)	H
	19	St. Helens (7.30)	A
	26	Ryedale York (7.30)	H
	Dec. 3	Halifax (7.30)	H
	10	Hull (8.00)	A
	16	Bradford N. (Thurs. 7.30)	A
	29	St. Helens (Wed. 7.30)	H
1994	Jan. 7	Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup-Rd 1	
	14	Salford (7.30)	A
	21	Castleford (7.30)	H
	28	Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup-Rd 2	
	Feb. 4	Wigan (7.30)	A
	11	Wakefield T. (7.30)	H
	18	Batley (7.30)	A
	Mar. 4	Warrington (7.30)	H
	11	Halifax (7.30)	A
	18	Youngers All. Challenge Cup-Semi	
	25	Leeds (7.30)	H
	31	Warrington (7.30)	A
	Apr. 8	Batley (7.30)	H
	14	Youngers All. Challenge Cup-Final	



One to watch—Graham Holden, man of the match against Wigan last Sunday.



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1993/94 FIXTURES

AUGUST		
Sun. 29	Bradford N.....	A L 18-32 7034
SEPTEMBER		
Sun. 5	Leigh.....	H W 34-18 4750
Sun. 12	Salford.....	A L 19-33 4293
Fri. 17	Castleford (7.30).....	H L 12-37 3507
Fri. 24	Wigan (7.30).....	A L 2-3213059
OCTOBER		
Sun. 3	Oldham.....	H
Sun. 10	Hull (3.15).....	A
Fri. 22	Wakefield T. (7.30).....	A
Sun. 31	Featherstone.....	H
NOVEMBER		
Tue. 2	New Zealand (7.30).....	H
Sun. 7	Leeds.....	H
Sun. 21	Sheffield Eagles.....	H
Sun. 28	Hull K.R. (3.15).....	A
DECEMBER		
Sun. 5	Halifax.....	A
Fri. 17	Bradford N. (7.30).....	H
Sun. 26	Warrington.....	H
1994		
JANUARY		
Sun. 2	St. Helens.....	A
Fri. 7	Leigh (7.30).....	A
Sun. 16	Salford.....	H
Fri. 21	Castleford (7.30).....	A
FEBRUARY		
Fri. 4	Wigan (7.30).....	H
Sun. 20	Oldham.....	A
MARCH		
Sun. 6	Hull.....	H
Sun. 13	Wakefield T.....	H
Sun. 20	Featherstone R.(3.30).....	A
Sun. 27	Leeds.....	A
APRIL		
Fri. 1	Warrington.....	A
Mon. 4	St. Helens.....	H
Sun. 10	Halifax.....	H
Sun. 17	Sheffield Eagles (3.15).....	A
Sun. 24	Hull K.R.....	H

Kick-off times:

All home games 3.00 p.m., away games 3.00 p.m. unless stated



Spruce T	Myers T	Wright	Hammond	Hadley	Hulme D. T	Goulding 3G	Ireland	McCurrie	Smith D.	Faimalo	Koloto	Hulme P.	Halliwell P	Davidson P
Spruce 4T	Smith P.	Myers	Halliwell T	Hadley	Hulme D. T	Goulding 3G	Ireland	McCurrie DG	Smith D.	Faimalo	Koloto	Hulme P.	Hammond P	Davidson P
Spruce T	Smith P.	Devereux	Reynolds	Hadley	Hulme D.	Goulding 2G	Ireland	McCurrie T	Smith D.	Davidson	Faimalo	Koloto	Hammond P	Grieve P
Spruce G	Myers	Hammond	Hunter	Hadley	Ruane	Hulme D.	Ireland	McCurrie	Faimalo	Grieve	Koloto	Hulme P.	Davidson P	Smith D. P

SCORERS & APPEARANCES 1993/94

	App.	Sub.	G.	D/G	T.	Pts.	App.	Sub.	G.	D/G	T.	Pts.
DAVIDSON P.	2	3	-	-	-	-	6	10	-	-	-	-
DEVEREUX J.	1	2	-	-	-	121	1	23	-	89	402	
FAIMALO E.	5	-	-	-	-	72	10	-	-	8	32	
GOULDING B.	4	-	15	-	-	30	35	2	29	2	3	72
GRIEVE J.	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
HADLEY A.	4	-	-	-	-	19	5	-	-	4	16	
HALLIWELL A.	1	1	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	1	4	
HAMMOND C.	2	3	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
HULME D.	5	-	-	-	2	8	361	31	-	1	145	567
HULME P.	3	-	-	-	-	237	19	-	-	36	144	
HUNTER J.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRELAND A.	5	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
KOLOTO E.	5	-	-	-	2	8	106	21	-	-	25	100
MAKIN C.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
MCCURRIE S.	5	-	-	1	1	5	32	25	-	2	14	58
MYERS D.	5	-	-	-	1	4	39	1	-	-	17	68
REYNOLDS P.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUANE D.	2	1	-	-	-	19	8	-	-	5	20	
SMITH D.	4	1	-	-	-	37	16	-	-	4	16	
SMITH P.	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPRUCE S.	5	-	1	-	6	26	62	17	1	-	25	102
WRIGHT D.	1	-	-	-	-	254	11	-	-	85	340	

UP TO AND INCLUDING FRIDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1993

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GLEBE LEAD THE WAY

Mr. Maurice Pitt of Glebe Garage, Widnes, presented Club Chairman, Jim Mills with a cheque for £1,080 this week! This represents the largest single company donation made to the appeal.

The money was raised by Glebe donating £20 for every car sold over a given period. Sincere thanks go to Mr. Pitt and everyone involved at Glebe Garage.

SPORTSMANS DINNER

Tickets are now available from the club for The Widnes in Need Sportsman's Dinner to be held at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Runcorn. October 4th 1993.

Chemics Chairman Jim Mills will be in the chair. Guest speakers are ex-R.L. referee Billy Thompson and coach Phil Larder. Top comedian Harry Black completes the bill. Ring 495 2250 to reserve your ticket.

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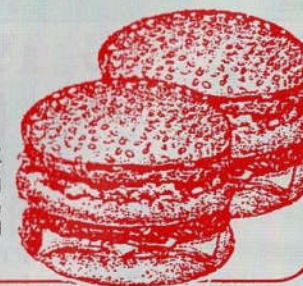
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FROM THE TOP

BLACK & WHITE SKIPPER DAVID HULME GIVES HIS VIEWS...

Q. With so many players leaving the club for one reason or another during the summer, what effect did it have on you personally?

A. Under Phil Larder's guidance the team reached Wembley and like him I believed the squad was strong enough to maintain a challenge to Wigan in the 93/94 season. With the summer months to develop and to address the team's weaker areas I was looking forward to the new season. Therefore the continual departures of not only players but good friends was very frustrating personally. I could appreciate there were critical financial pressures threatening to destroy the club but how in particular they could sell Andy Currier, in my opinion the game's best attacking centre, was unimaginable. But with the challenge of captain placed upon me I, like the rest of the senior professionals, had to put on a brave

face and try to rebuild and rejuvenate the new team structure and the determination shown both by the newcomers and the established players so far this season has gone a long way to healing the frustration.

Q. Has the present situation made your job as captain a lot more difficult or easier?

A. In the first place it is an honour for me to captain the club and, as I say, certainly a challenge considering all of the upheaval. The good thing about new young players coming into the squad is that they are impressionable and therefore it is essential that they are given guidance and encouragement which in turn produces confidence. I believe that my new role will also improve my game because I can only ask the team for what I give myself, 100% commitment and



enthusiasm, factors which become addictive within a team environment. In the long term my ultimate goal, like so many players, is to coach and so the man management and tactical awareness essential to the captain's role will prove vital.

continued on page 30

J. PRESTON
& SON

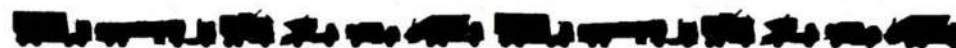
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A TINY SURPRISE

KIWI POWERHOUSE PROVES THE DOUBTERS WRONG!

The forthcoming Test series between the recently arrived Kiwi touring team and Great Britain will no doubt reveal many hero's for both sides by the time the three match series is completed. The New Zealanders have always been famous for power in the forwards, the likes of the Sorensen brothers, Adrian Shelford, Hugh McGann and Mark Graham have always enjoyed tangling with the Lions. No doubt the current side will be no exception. The British game enjoy the services of many excellent Kiwi forwards. George Mann from St. Helens along with our own Esene Faimalo will no doubt hope to feature in the Test line up. Another hopeful will be ex. Widnes star S'ee Solomona, currently he is turning in some excellent performances for today's visitors Oldham and this following his brilliant performances in the summers trans Tasman test series against the Australians. 'Tiny' could be a nap for selection.

"I'm sure if my form is good enough then the selectors will take note. The most important thing right now is that I take one game



Tiny Solomona—may have a point to prove

at a time and do my best in every game for Oldham" he says.

The season certainly began with a bang for the big Samoan. He scored a devastating try in front of the Sky TV cameras recently

against Bradford Northern showing plenty of pace, power and aggression. His time at Widnes had not been too successful, with first team opportunities being somewhat limited at the time due to the intense competition. The move to Oldham and particularly coming under the wing of coach and ex. international prop forward Peter Tunks have certainly proved beneficial, as Solomona admits: "Peter has helped me a great deal. Now I feel that my attitude is right and I have the confidence to do the job."

The withdrawal through injury of the hugely experienced Brent Todd from the touring party seems to have left the way open for 'Tiny' to establish himself once more on the international stage, certainly he will be one of the men to watch in the Oldham line up this afternoon, where his expected confrontation with rival Kiwi Esene Faimalo should prove interesting. No doubt he may feel that he has a point to prove.

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William BOOT

The Newcastle Wires

PRICES DOUBLE AT FEV!

My guess is that the clubs do it just as a perverse and sadistic retribution on journalists for all of the nasty things which appear in print and are uttered on air. I'm talking about the trend towards players with identical names appearing in the same team. Leigh were the first off the rank a few years ago when, with one Andy Collier already established in their side they proudly announced that they'd signed... yes, another Andy

“ It is time for the excuses to stop and time to get on with the job—DAVID HULME ”

Collier. Now it is Featherstone's turn to the in on the act and I see that the other Sunday it was Gary H. Price rather than plain ol' Gary Prices who got his name (or rather both their names) on the scoresheet. The fact that I've no idea as to which of the Prices is H. or for that matter what the H. stands for is neither here nor there.



No doubt even as I write, RL scouts are busy scouring the world for troupes of Tiny Solomanas and whole herds of David Hobbs to confuse us all the more.

■ What is it with all of these new style kits with stripes instead of hoops? I spent half an hour messing with the vertical hold on

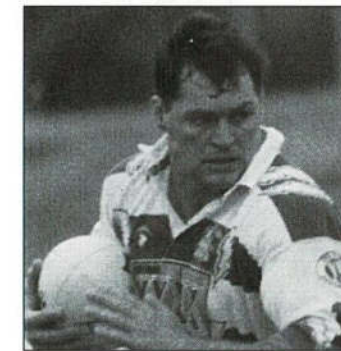
our telly recently after seeing Warrington featured on Granada TV until I realised that their jerseys were supposed to look like that. And to confuse matters even more, I saw a soccer team recently (Reading, I think) playing in blue and yellow hoops. Perhaps they and the Wires just picked up the wrong bags at the laundry!

JUST DO IT.



26 BLACK AND WHITE

all the griff from
the man in the know



Bob Lindner—Too much dash!

■ I have always believed in coincidences, and here's one I bet you never thought about. The

CAPTION CONTEST



The above pic of Paul Hulme and Bobby Goulding has brought in some amusing suggestions:—Unfortunately most are unprintable, however here are the best so far; Paul to Bobby, "Keep looking Bob that contact lens it must be somewhere."

Bobby, "I'm not feeling myself today."

Bobby to Paul, "Here's a back hander for your testimonial."

visitors for the next showpiece event at Wembley Stadium are the Kiwis whilst the last international team to grace the hallowed turf were the Polish soccer stars, a set of circumstances which should ensure shiny shoes all round.

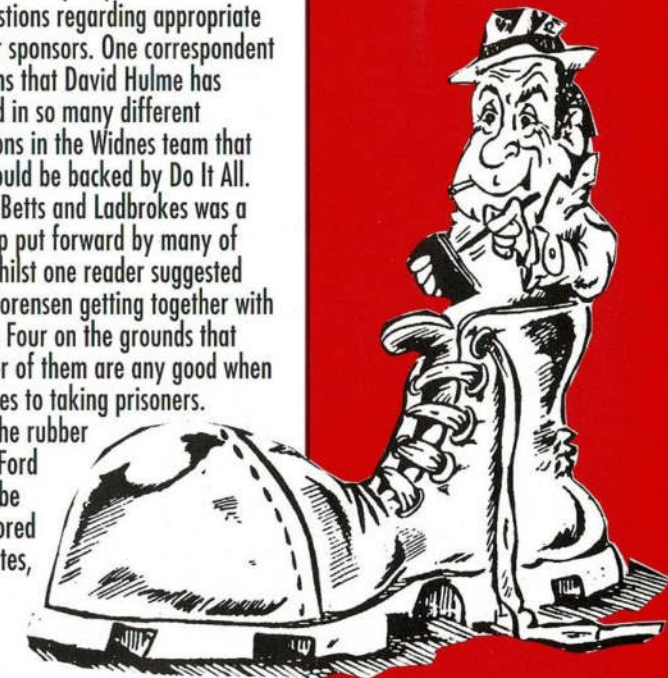
■ Bob Lindner is being handsomely paid by his new club, Oldham, and I believe he's been quoted as saying that it was too much money even for an established International player like himself. I admire Bob for his modesty but I'll wager that come January and February and those uniquely cold Watersheddings afternoons he'll have changed his mind and have decided that he's earning every penny!

■ I've had a good response from readers to my request for suggestions regarding appropriate player sponsors. One correspondent reckons that David Hulme has played in so many different positions in the Widnes team that he should be backed by Do It All. Denis Betts and Ladbroke's was a link-up put forward by many of you whilst one reader suggested Kurt Sorensen getting together with Group Four on the grounds that neither of them are any good when it comes to taking prisoners. Phil 'the rubber man' Ford could be sponsored by Mates,



Kurt Sorensen—sponsored by Group 4

several of you said, and another popular one was Michael Jackson and Pepsi. Keep your suggestions coming.



BLACK AND WHITE 27



CLIFTON OF RUNCORN TEAM UP WITH EMOSI KOLOTO NUMBER ONE FOR RENAULT

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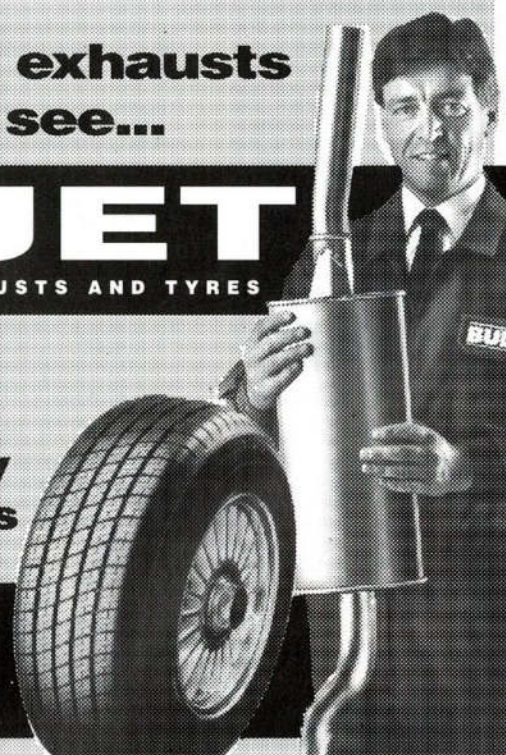
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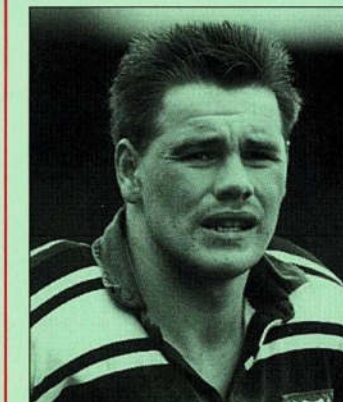
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT
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SEE YELLOW PAGES OR LOCAL PRESS



Today's home fixture with Oldham is followed by two testing trips into Yorkshire, with visits to Hull next Sunday and Wakefield a week on Friday, another game to be televised by Sky. Neither the Airlie Birds or Trinity have exactly set the world on fire so far this season but no trip across the Pennines is easy, and our recent record over there is not marvellous. Hull are hoping that Aussie half-back Des Hasler will be the man to inspire their campaign whilst to some extent Wakefield are in a similar position to ourselves, having had to transfer a number of players during the off-season. The results of both games will be a big pointer as to our prospects for the next seven months.

Sandwiched between those two league games is, of course, the small matter of the first Kiwi Test at Wembley. It's important that as many GB fans as possible make the trip to support the side and fill as many seats as we can. So if you can afford a ticket but haven't bought one yet, why not give it a go. There should be

plenty of interest for Widnes fans with Stuart Spruce, Steve McCurrie and John Devereux all pressing for places in the Lions thirteen, with Esene Faimalo a possible contender for the Tourist. There may also be a sight of our former stars Jonathan Davies and Richard Eyres.



Paul Eastwood

COMING UP

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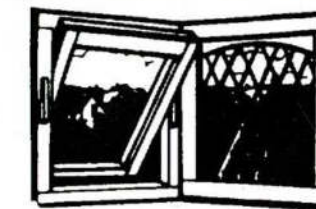
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Black And WHITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Q. Have the spirited displays by the side surprised you in any way?

A. Not at all. The main nucleus of this side have trained together during the summer and have worked harder than ever before and this has enabled the players to rely on each other and advise on skills to improve each others playing standard. All the players so far have given 100% to Widnes both on the field of play and to the club's marketing policy.

Q. Of the senior professionals that are left, what help have these been to Phil Larder in particular and the side in general?

A. I think Phil realised early in the summer that the senior pro's still at the club had to respond positively in training and eventually on match days otherwise the club would disintegrate. It has been encouraging to witness the senior people helping the others and watch them develop as better players.

Q. How have the young lads from the Alliance squad responded since being thrust into first team action?

A. Under normal circumstances young players should be introduced into the First Division arena under controlled conditions with a nucleus

of experienced players protecting and giving direction. However with the situation at Widnes there has been a major proportion of newcomers coming into the side at the same time, in some cases earlier than might have been anticipated. All of these players have performed well and can be proud of their efforts and though they lack experience, only time can provide that ingredient. Another consideration is that each player's development cycle is different, with forwards usually taking a longer period to develop their skills and positional awareness than backs.

Q. What is the spirit like within the Club at the moment?

A. The spirit in playing and coaching staff is extremely good, with plenty of characters around. I believe that there is a time to totally concentrate during training etc but also just as vital is laughing and enjoying the company of a squad. This element of Rugby League is underplayed with people only realising the significance of it when they have finished playing the game. The only thing essential to any player at Widnes is a thick skin

to withstand any personal observation made about you. For instance Dave Myers' receding hairline, Bobby Goulding's stomach and Alan McCurrie's dress sense and lycra track suit bottoms; the list is endless. Rugby League is a totally professional game but a laughing and confident team is a winning team.

Q. Finally, will this season be a case of survival in the First Division or do you think that we can still compete with the top clubs for honours.

A. Regardless of the financial problems or player departures at the club it is time for the excuses to stop and time to get on with the job. When I signed for Widnes back in 1980 I did so for two reasons, one was to play professional rugby for my hometown club and probably more importantly to play in the First Division, to win trophies and League titles. That determination still remains. I have no doubt that there is an element within the club who believe that the survival of Widnes RLFC at any divisional status is the primary concern. I myself believe that Widnes is about success and find it totally unacceptable to consider any other divisional status than the first. The whole concept of the club over the last twenty years has been winning trophies, which is why I play for Widnes RLFC; anything less would make playing pointless.

David Hulme
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DAVID HULME

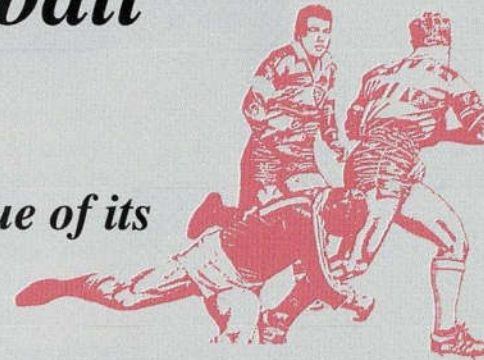


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THIS weekend in Widnes there is a Programme Fair, at Naughton Park, the first ever, we believe. So it is interesting to read from one of our KIDSCENE members about his programme and badge collection. If any other KIDSCENE CLUB members would like to write about their hobbies, write to the Editor at the address below.

One of the good things about watching games at Naughton Park is the half time rugby played by young players from our Junior Clubs. In fact even the sky T.V. cameras featured some action from the recent Widnes Tigers squad game.

Watch the game carefully, you could be watching future stars.

And if you play in any of these half time games, we would like you to tell us how you felt. Were you nervous?

MASCOT



Today's Mascot sponsored by BT Rolatrac is Steven Glynn from St. Michael's Primary School aged 10 years.

Steven's favourite player is Stuart Spruce, but his best position is winger, though he plays in the middle for his school. His best memory is last year's Wembley final, which he felt we could have won. When Steven grows up he wants to play R.L. for Widnes or St. Helens.

Were you excited? How did you feel when you scored or made a good tackle? Write to the address below.

A coincidence this weekend is that yesterday Widnes Schools played Oldham at Under 13 and Under 16. Listen for the results that will be announced during this afternoon.

Kidscene Editor, 55 Manston Road, Penketh.

NEWSLINES



Pictured above are the hard-working boys from the Widnes RFC Ball Boys Squad. They represent all the High Schools in Widnes, and the Junior Clubs. They have all also represented Widnes at Under 11 or Under 13. Robert Clarke, Andrew Dodd, Gareth Farthman, Christopher Hansen, Philip Mulvey, Neil Percival, Mark Shepard, and Gary Wood.

SCHOOLS AND CLUBS

The Widnes Schools representative teams are now into their season. Unfortunately, after good performances against Warrington (under 16's narrowly lost 16pts-12pts., under 13's won 32pts-0pts., under 11's won 22pts-6pts.) both the under 11's and under 16's went out of the Lancashire Cup to Wigan.

Following that shock defeat, two of the under 11's, both KIDSCENE CLUB and CHEMICS JUNIORS members sent us this humorous report:

A TRIP TO CUMBRIA

In the changing room after our first round cup defeat against Wigan, (18pts-4pts.), there was silence. Then someone said it... the phrase was to change our lives: "LIFE IS A GOLF COURSE FULL OF BUNKERS." "Yes", said another little voice, and "we need to fill them in".

So on Saturday we went up to Cumbria to fill in a few bunkers to make life easier. (Really we were playing West Cumbria in a league match.) And we certainly filled in one of life's bunkers with a win. In fact we just held on by the skin of our teeth to win 72pts-0pts.

Eleven players scored tries, but we must mention especially William Forrest. He is the third Forrest brother to play for Widnes Schools, and is the only one to score a try! Well done William.

So on to the next match and the next bunker to fill in!
By Gareth Moreton and Lee Deighton.

KIDSCENE UPDATE

Dear Editor,

My name is Ian Boyland, Kidscene Member. I am writing to tell you about my hobby of collecting Rugby League Programmes, and Badges. My collection of programmes is Widnes home and away games from 1960, although I also have a few from the 1950's.

My favourite programmes are the Wembley ones with Widnes in them, and I have all the Wembley finals from 1960. A lot of my programmes have come from car boot sales and programme fairs. The older programmes are interesting to read and have some good photographs of players like Frank Myler, Ray Dutton and Jim Mills, with cup glory and action shots.

In my badge collection I have more than 80 badges. I like to add a badge every time I go to a game. I try to collect older badges but they are not as easy to find as old programmes. My favourite badges are the new kit style.

DO ANY OTHER KIDSCENE MEMBERS HAVE COLLECTIONS? I HAVE A LOT OF SPARE PROGRAMMES TO SWAP. 80 Maple Crescent, Penketh.





■ The contract system and transfer tribunals have been big news in Rugby League over the past few weeks and Widnes have been at the forefront of both debates in view of the Harvey Howard and Richard Eyres situations.

Chairman Jim Mills described the Tribunal valuation of £135,000 on Eyres as a recipe for making the rich clubs richer and the poor poorer while at the same time hinting that the problem with Howard may be the result of the activities of one of those already rich clubs. Coach Phil Larder warned that we may end up with a Super League of just two teams and there have been calls all round for measures to keep the First Division competitive and to protect the resources of the less well off. In fact Rugby League faces an even bigger revolution even than the current contracts system over the next few years, a change which will threaten even further the status of our smaller clubs.

There is a strong possibility that over the next five or ten years the European Courts may



Garry Connolly

rule that transfer fees between clubs are illegal and a breach of a players rights. Basically the argument runs that if you or I want to change jobs then we are free to do so, so why should a professional sportsman be any different? As long as he is out of contract he would be free to sign for whoever he pleased with clubs being unable to demand compensation. Any rules brought in by the RFL to limit such freedom of movement would risk being declared illegal as a Restraint of Trade.

As I say, it might not happen for a while yet, but it almost certainly will happen so it is important that we address the issue now and not be caught on the hop like we were when the present contract set-

A QUESTION OF FINANCE

up was introduced (for similar legal reasons) in the late 1980's. You can bet your bottom dollar that players agents are watching the situation like hawks! And we do need to think about the implications of full freedom of contract. I mean, this last summer Wigan signed two outstanding young players in Garry Connolly and Nigel Wright, but at least it cost them £400,000. If they hadn't had to worry about transfer fees, who is to say that they wouldn't also have picked up Paul Newlove, Richard Eyres and Michael Jackson, too!

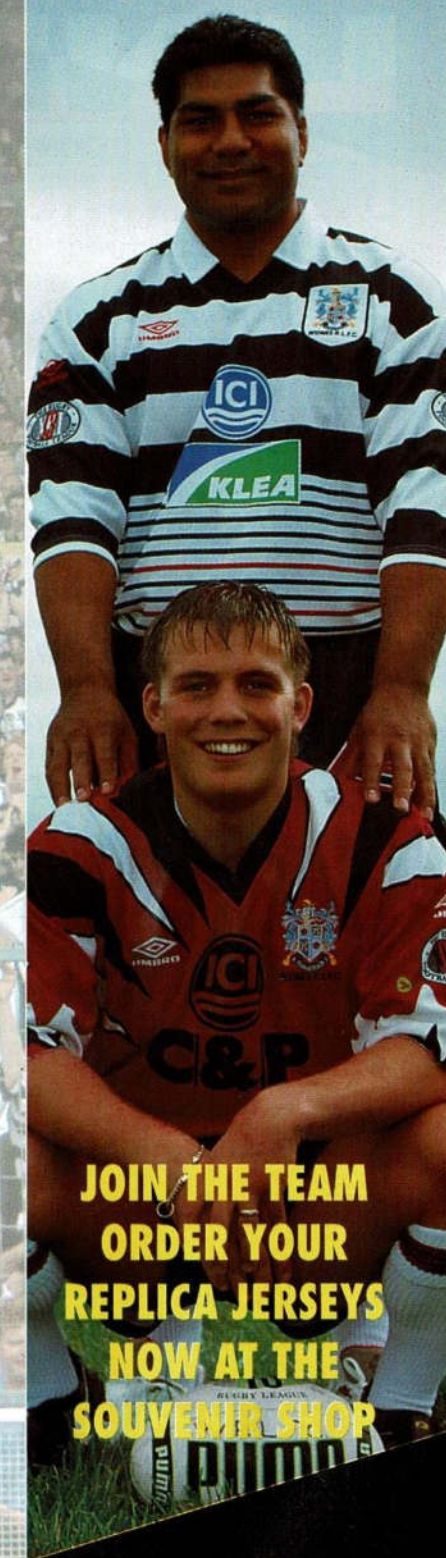
How then might we limit the effects of a transfer free for all? In Australia the salary cap, designed to limit the amount spent by each club on players wages, simply hasn't had the desired effect of creating parity in the league—the wealthier clubs are simply finding ways to bend the rules and pay their players more.

Perhaps we could introduce a scheme whereby each club

was allowed to field only one 'major' new signing every eighteen months, with the status of all players to be decided at the outset of the season by the club holding their registration. For example if Featherstone had have rated Deryck Fox and Paul Newlove as two of, say, their best five players Bradford would now only be able to field one or other of them at any one time, though they'd be allowed to have both on their books. Italian soccer has a similar framework under which clubs may have an unlimited number of foreign players (to avoid a breach of EEC law) but can only put any three on the park for each match.

All of this might seem a bit involved and somewhat far fetched even, but if Rugby League hides its head in the sand over the next few years then events will overtake us and pretty soon we might have no game left to worry about at all!

STEVE FOX



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