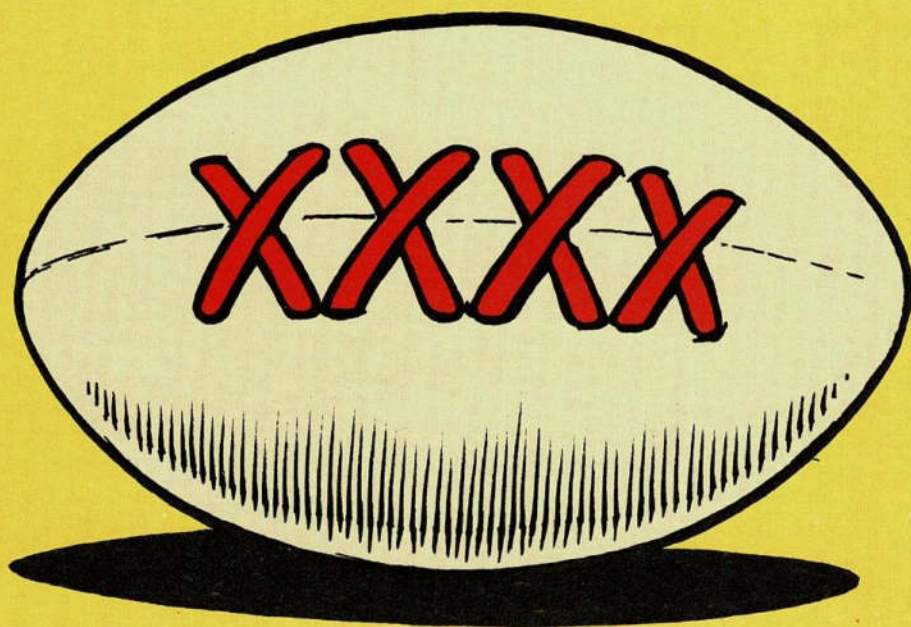


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OLDHAM v HALIFAX Sunday, December 19th, 1993. Kick Off 3.00 p.m.

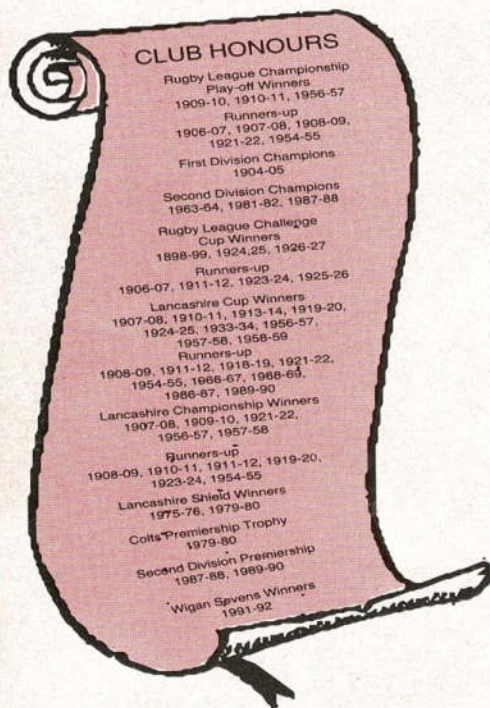
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Record Receipts: £37,505.50 v Wigan, 5th October, 1989
Record Transfer Fee Paid: £70,000 to Halifax for Tony Anderson, March 1990
Record Try Scorer: Ref Farrar, 49 tries, 1921-22 season
Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 224 goals, 1957-58 season
Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959
First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest Number of Points Scored: Bernard Ganley, 2,881
Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685
Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jach Hirst, 233
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O.R.L.F.C. VICE-PRESIDENTS SEASON 1993/94

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FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



Voices of protest against BSkyB's coverage of Rugby League and Soccer have been raised recently in some sporting circles, but I would like it to be known that, in my view, "Sky" provides excellent coverage and is helping to spread the Rugby League gospel.

I cannot comment on its relationship with soccer, but as far as Rugby League is concerned, the promotion our game gets from the "Sky" is putting the game to the forefront from John O'Groats to Lands End – and beyond.

If you accept that, in 1993, the game has to be striking out beyond its traditional boundaries, and you surely must, then it is not difficult to appreciate that "Sky's" world-wide coverage is taking Rugby League into all sorts of places it rarely got to before.

Our game's marketing and publicity people did a survey on the crowd at the first Test between Great Britain and New Zealand at Wembley in October and a surprisingly high percentage of tickets were sold in the South of England.

It is well known that the southern editions of the National papers give little coverage to Rugby League, which they still regard as a Northern game, so one has to conclude that

the nationwide coverage to Rugby League provided by the satellite channel had a major influence on the Wembley attendance.

We get three bites of the cherry, the Boots N All Magazine programme on Thursday evenings, the live game on Fridays and the recorded match on Sunday evenings.

One thing often strikes me when Steve and Eddie give the winners of competitions or put viewers' letters on the screen and that is the number of people writing in from Scotland, the South of England or other parts of the British Isles.

On a more personal note, let me tell you a little story which also relates to Rugby League on "Sky". I have many friends and business contacts in Ireland and most of them are interested in Soccer or Rugby Union.

Major efforts are being made just now to push amateur Rugby League in Ireland and our local Development Officer, Niel Wood, is playing a major role in that. Good luck to him and everyone else who is working hard to lay down some Rugby League roots in the Colleges and Universities over there.

Anyway, to get back to my story. Two friends of mine in Dublin and their two sons, flew to Manchester the

other weekend to watch United play Norwich. The boys play Union in Dublin for the club that our former player, Sean Quinlan, is still connected with.

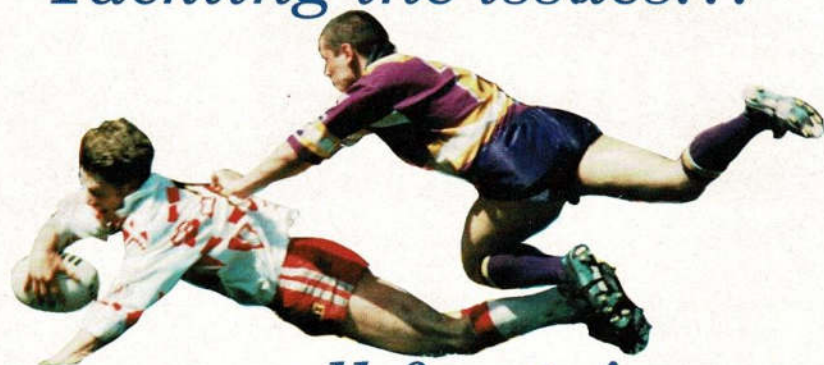
Fathers and sons are also keen on soccer, hence their trip to Old Trafford. But this is the interesting bit. Through watching Rugby League on "Sky", on a regular basis, they had become sufficiently interested to want to watch a game from the stands and they stayed in this area on the Saturday night, to take in the Oldham-Leigh game on the Sunday.

They thoroughly enjoyed it, returned to Dublin with all sorts of Oldham RLFC souvenirs and vowed to make a return trip in the not-too-distant future.

PR exercises of that nature are invaluable if we are to let the whole of the British Isles know that we have a top-quality game on offer.

It perhaps isn't an ideal thing to switch games to Friday evening, but the £20,000 that goes to the home club is good money, fair recompense and in most cases warmly welcomed. The League has also done its bit this season by working out the Sky schedules many months ahead, so that spectators would not have to be inconvenienced at short notice.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to . . .

HALIFAX

Steve Hampson (Fullback): Summer signing from Wigan, where he had an illustrious career, winning medals in every major competition and 12 Great Britain caps. His appearances so far have been limited by injury, although Steve has begun his comeback in the A-team in recent weeks.

Steve Lay (Fullback): 26 year old Kung-Fu expert who signed from Hunslet in October after an impressive loan spell during which he won Man of the Match award against Salford.

Warren Wilson (Utility Back): Fearless runner who began his pro career at Hunslet. Played at Leeds for two seasons under Mal Reilly before moving to Thrum Hall in September 1990, where he played a crucial role in that seasons promotion campaign.

John Bentley (Wing): Elusive former Cleckheaton and England Rugby Union player, capped for GB v France in 1991. Signed from Leeds RLFC in the 1992 close season. John is an instinctive player who is capable of scoring matchwinning tries, as demonstrated in two recent Man of the Match displays against Widnes and Keighley.

John Schuster (Centre): Former All-Black who joined Halifax on a two year contract this summer after a dispute with the Newcastle Knights kept him sidelined for the latter part of last season. Strong and powerful with pace and a tremendous side-step, John is also an able kicker, and hit four vital goals from four attempts in the recent home defeat of Widnes.

Graeme Hallas (Centre): Exciting young 1992 GB tourist signed 12 months ago from Hull KR. The former Dudley Hill amateur has found his form after a good close-season, and has impressed the Thrum Hall crowds with his strong running and some class try-scoring.

Mark Preston (Wing): Lancashire based former Fylde RUFC and Wigan RLFC speed merchant, with whom he won Challenge Cup and Championship Winners Medals. The former 'Wigan Flyer' is renowned for his long distance finishing, as demonstrated at St. Helens when he scored two 80 metre efforts in the recent draw.

Henry Sharp (Wing): Former Barla tourist who had a spell with Leeds in 1986, signed at Thrum Hall in 1991 and was

part of the promotion winning side that year. Henry is a fast and elusive runner, and is a valuable part of the squad following long term injury to utility back Mark Bailey.

Michael Hagan (Half-back): Another summer signing from the Newcastle Knights, 'Hages' was previously with Halifax in 1985. The State of Origin player is now back at the club after starring in two Sydney Grand Finals with Canterbury before moving to Newcastle. Mike is the architect of so many Halifax scores, and he has assumed the role of Captain during the absence of Karl Harrison.

Paul Bishop (Scrum-half): Former Wire and St. Helens half-back, who has been previously described as 'fiery' although Malcolm Reilly has instilled discipline into his game and he is now producing the best football of his career. An ever present last season, Paul had scored in every game since joining Halifax until undergoing surgery on a nagging knee injury from which he is still not fully recovered.

Chris Robinson (Scrum half): Signed from Dudley Hill ARLFC in November 1990, this 23 year old former Yorkshire youth representative is a major player in the Halifax Alliance side, and fully deserved his call-up into the first team to cover for the injured Paul Bishop, putting in some excellent performances during the last few weeks.

Karl Harrison (Prop): Team Captain. Club record signing when transferred from Hull to Thrum Hall in 1991. Formerly with Featherstone Rovers, Bramley and Leeds amateur outfit B.R.K., Karl has 11 Great Britain caps and was called out as a replacement on the Australasian tour in 1992. Currently sidelined after dislocating an elbow against St. Helens.

Roy Southernwood (Hooker): Redhill amateur and former Castleford scrum half, who has captained both England Schoolboys and Great Britain U21's. Joined Halifax during the summer of 1990. Moved to the hookers berth following the arrival of Roger Millward to the club in 1991, and has kept that position ever since. Roy is a very underrated player who consistently tops the tackle count.

John Lawless (Hooker): 19 year old local product signed from Siddal ARLFC during the 1992 close season. Johnny has

made two appearances as substitute for the GB Academy and was a try scorer against the Junior Kiwis at Wembley. Called into the first team after some sensational appearances as the Alliance captain, he made his debut in the televised clash at St. Helens.

Gary Lord (Prop or Second-row): Ex-Leeds and Castleford utility player who has moved up to prop after working hard in the back row for the last eighteen months. Wembley Cup Winners medal whilst at Cas under Mal Reilly and GB under 21 appearances as full back. Gary is a fierce tackler who is not short of pace.

David Boyd (Prop or second-row): The third summer signing from the Newcastle Knights, David is a tremendous defensive player, previously with Canterbury Bankstown. A founder member of the Newcastle Club, he went on to make over 100 first team appearances for them.

John Fieldhouse (Prop or second-row): Vastly experienced forward who joined Halifax in 1991 from Oldham where he was player/coach. Previously with Widnes, Warrington and St. Helens with seven GB caps to his name. John has been vital to the team during Karl Harrison's absence.

Michael Jackson (Second-row): Former Hunslet and Wakefield Trinity star signed in the close season, who has not had the best of luck with injuries, breaking his thumb in Halifax's opening game this term, but came back with a double try scoring appearance from the bench against Wigan in October. Michael played for Great Britain v Papua New Guinea in 1991 and France in 1992, and toured Australasia the same year. Returned to the GB fold for the second and third Kiwi Test matches this Autumn.

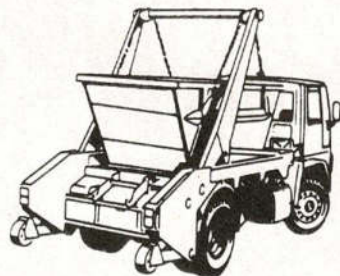
Mark Perrett (Second-row): Powerful and pacey local product signed from Ovendon ARLFC in 1991, who impressed in the Alliance and claimed his regular first team spot with a fine try-scoring debut against Widnes last November. Finally appeared for the GB under 21's v France at Wilderspool earlier this month after missing out twice through injury.

Lee Harland (Second-row): Enthusiastic and determined runner, signed in August after rejecting terms at Headingley where he made eight first team appearances last season. Made his GB debut for the under 21's versus the Kiwis at Workington in October, gaining a further cap in the recent game v France.

Gary Divorty (Loose-forward): Firm favourite with the Thrum Hall crowds, this York born hard working back row or loose forward signed from Leeds along with John Bentley in 1992. Previously with Hull FC and Heworth ARLFC, Gary was a BARLA youth international tourist in '83, made a Challenge Cup final appearance in '85, and was capped for Great Britain in '86.

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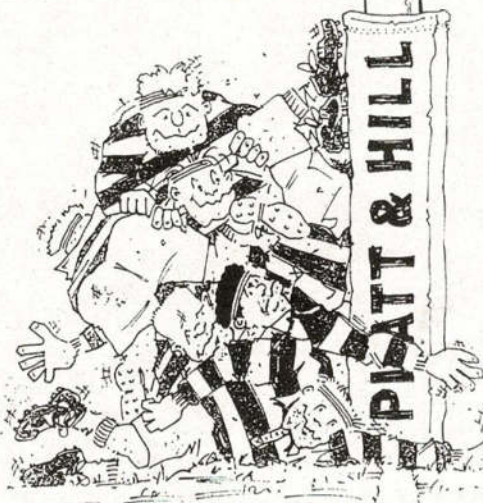
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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 13 HUSSEIN M'BARKI



Photo courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Hussein had two years at Oldham, usually playing centre or wing but occasionally filling in at full-back.

An aggressive runner and strong in defence, he played 60 games for Oldham, scoring 12 tries,

including an appearance in the 1986 Lancashire Cup Final, against Wigan.

After a short spell with Hull, Hussein returned to London to finish his career with Fulham.

No. 14

JACK

KEITH



Moroccan-born Hussein M'Barki was captain of the Rugby Union team in his native country and made 26 International appearances, before he went to try his luck at a higher level in France. It was there, across the Channel, that he first became aware of Rugby League and after declaring his interest in the game, he was soon snapped up by the newly-formed Fulham Club.

After three unsuccessful seasons with the Londoners, he left to play for Warrington and then signed for Oldham at the start of the 1985-86 season.

Signed from Junior Rugby in the Hunslet area of Leeds, in August, 1949, Jack was the successor to the popular local hooker Edgar Brooks.

Oldham were indeed fortunate that, after having Brooks perform so well in the No. 9 shirt for the best part of 17 years, they had now signed another formidable "Striker", who would occupy the position for the next decade.

Jack Keith was a canny Yorkshireman, totally confident in his own ability and not afraid to let anyone know it.

As well as his undoubted ball-winning skills, he was also an accomplished player "in the loose", a good ball handler with a deceptive turn of pace and a knack of being in the right place to finish a try-scoring movement.

Jack was the Oldham hooker throughout the club's successful period in the 1950's and scored a total of 64 tries in 351 games for the club. In a way Jack, more than any other player, represents the 1950's at Oldham, signing at the start of the 1949-50 season and leaving for Halifax in January, 1960.

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ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY No. 7 - OLDHAM v THE "KANGAROOS"

Australian star centre Reg Gasnier dives over, in Frank Pitchford's tackle, to score a try in the Oldham v Australia clash on October 3rd, 1959.



Action Gallery

To coincide with their return to the First Division of the Rugby League, Oldham R.L.F.C. are introducing this special new feature into the matchday programme for the 1993-94 season.

The ACTION GALLERY is a set of excellent water colour paintings, that depict some of the star players and dramatic moments in the club's history on the field of play.

With the centenary of the Rugby League now just two years away the ACTION GALLERY will cover the full time-span of almost 100 years of professional Rugby League in Oldham, from the early days of the "Northern Union" right up to the intense, high pressure atmosphere of the game in the 1990's.

The team that dominated the R.L. Championship in the 1906-1911 era; the cup specialists of the mid 1920's; the "great" entertaining team of the late 50's, all of these are sure to feature in this unique series which is a must for collectors of Oldham and Rugby League memorabilia in general.

FULL COLOUR copies (size 11½" x 8") are to be made available and will come complete with a detailed narrative giving particulars of the player or incident depicted in the painting. The copies will cost £3.20 each (add 80p if requiring the copies to be sent by post) and can be obtained from **Mr M. Turner, 158 Balfour Street, Oldham, OL4 1NS.**

Please note that the ACTION GALLERY series are not fabricated images and have all been painted from actual photographs.

A limited number will be available in the club shop for 30 minutes after the match.

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A-TEAM NEWS

As the season has progressed, quite a few coaches in the game have been seen more than once running the rule over our players, as our unbeaten run has attracted more than a passing interest. So much so that, at the time of writing, it appears that Mark Meadows and Ben Olsen are on the verge of a move to Leigh on a months loan. Whatever happens, we wish Mark and Ben well, as they have made a valuable contribution to the sides success this season, culminating in Leigh's interest in them.

However, we have some good young players in the squad who will now get a chance to show us what they can do, never having to lose sight of the fact that the "A" Team should always be a "Feeder" for the ultimate aim of a lad progressing into the first team.

With the Barrow game having been postponed last weekend (11.12.93), I hope that we managed to play Dewsbury at Fartown (Huddersfield) yesterday, the fixture having been moved from last Wednesday (15.12.93), due to Dewsbury's pitch difficulties or we could easily find ourselves with a fixture pile up.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas from myself and all the lads who have played in the "A" Team this season. Please keep up the support - you have been tremendous.

Yours in Sport

Shane Tupaea

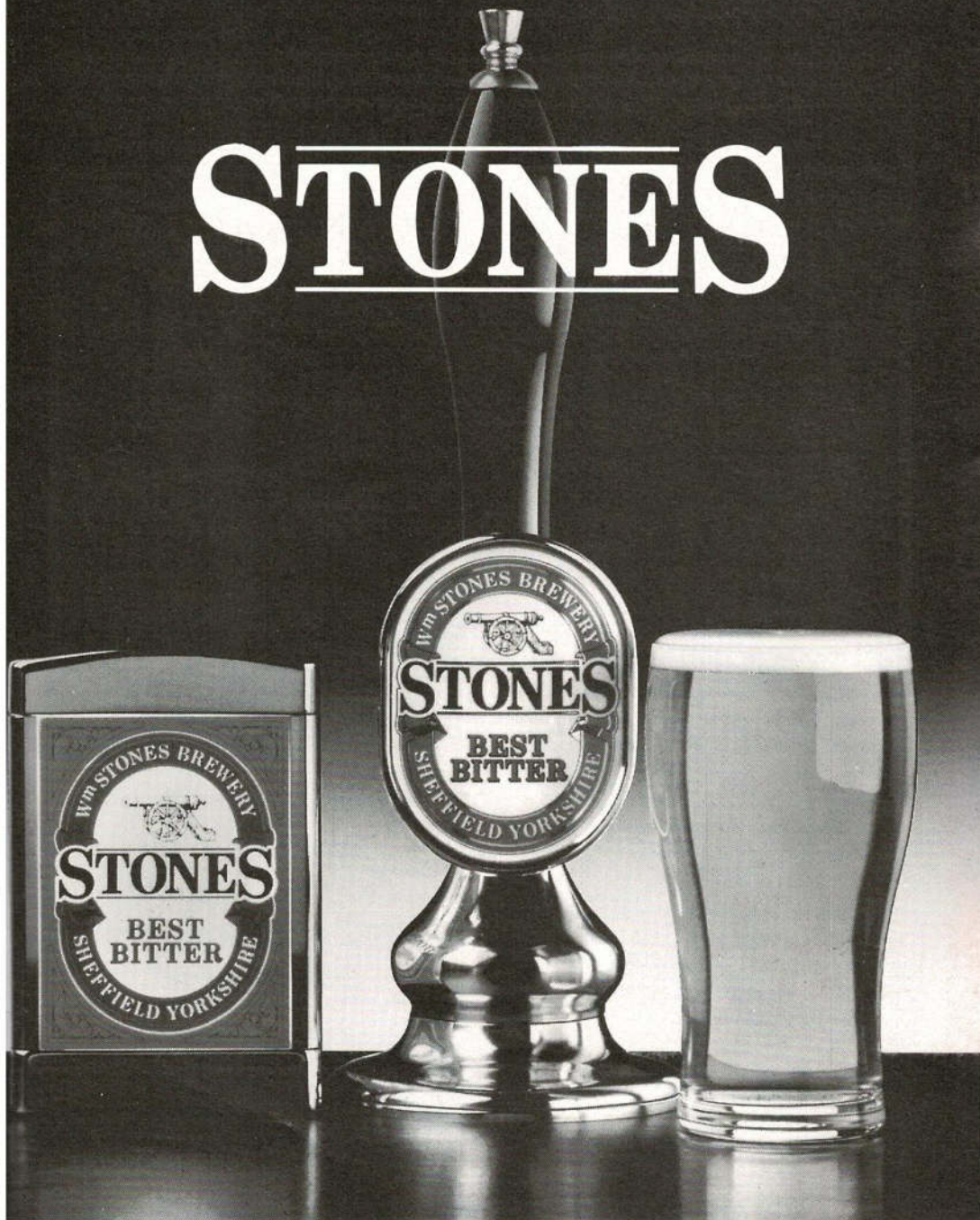


YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

AUGUST					
Saturday	28th	Workington	H (W)		44-16
SEPTEMBER					
Saturday	4th	Rochdale	A (W)		30-18
Thursday	9th	Hull K.R.	H (W)		32-12
Thursday	16th	Hunslet	A (W)		29-18
Saturday	25th	Doncaster	A (W)		36-16
OCTOBER					
Saturday	2nd	LCCS - Round 1 Workington	H (W)		38-10
Thursday	7th	Leigh	H (W)		26-24
Saturday	23rd	LCCS - Round 2 Wigan	A (W)		26-22
Saturday	30th	Swinton	A (W)		28-2
NOVEMBER					
Wednesday	3rd	LCCS-Semi Warrington	H (W)		12-6
Saturday	6th	London	H (W)		64-30
Saturday	13th	Youngers ASDC Round 1 - London	A (W)		16-6
Thursday	18th	LCCS Final Rochdale	A (W)		32-20
Saturday	27th	Youngers ASDC Round 2 - Hunslet	(W)		36-10
DECEMBER					
Wednesday	1st	Huddersfield	H (W)		48-2
Saturday	4th	Leigh	A (W)		39-16
Saturday	11th	Barrow	H		
Saturday	18th	Bramley	A		
Wednesday	22nd	Carlisle	H		
JANUARY					
Friday	7th	Youngers ACC - Round 1			
Friday	14th	Huddersfield	A		
Saturday	22nd	Barrow	A		
Friday	28th	Youngers ACC - Round 2			
FEBRUARY					
Thursday	3rd	Rochdale	H		
Thursday	10th	Keighley	H		
Friday	18th	Youngers ACC - Round 3			
Monday	21st	Sheffield	A		
Saturday	26th	Carlisle	A		
MARCH					
Saturday	5th	London	A		
Thursday	10th	Dewsbury	H		
Friday	11th	Youngers ACC - Semi-final			
Thursday	17th	Swinton	H		
APRIL					
Thursday	14th	Youngers ACC - Final			

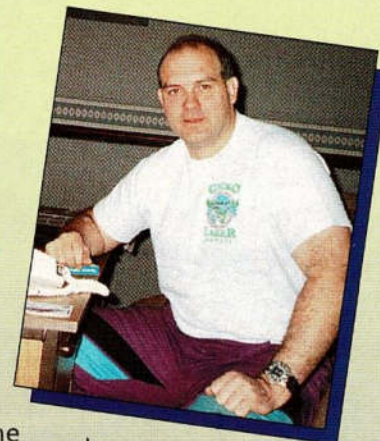
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TUNKS' TALKBACK



Halifax, today's visitors to Watersheddings, will be very keen to keep the pressure on the top three clubs who are nestled just above them in the quest for the Stones Bitter Championship.

With Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly at the helm, they have built up a very experienced squad of players who seem to be blending together quite nicely, as was shown a fortnight ago when they showed up

well in the televised game at St. Helens and looked by far the better team on the night.

It will be a stiff test but a great opportunity for some of our players to show Malcolm they are worthy of consideration for a place in his Great Britain squad and with it the chance to be involved in next year's Ashes Series, when the Aussies arrive to defend their title.

On behalf of all the

players, coaches and medical staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope we see you in great numbers on Boxing Day. (Sunday, 26th December, 1993) for the Salford game.

Get behind the lads and enjoy the game.

Peter Tunks

TUNKS TEASERS

1. Who topped the Oldham try list in season 1979-80?
2. Who holds the goals in a season record for Warrington?
3. Which team won the the R.L. Challenge Cup in 1969 and 1970?
4. What was the venue for the first ever Lancashire v Yorkshire match in 1895?
5. Who was the last player to score a hat-trick of tries in a Challenge Cup Final?
6. Who is the all time top points scorer for Great Britain?
7. Which two Oldham players toured Australia and New Zealand in 1988?
8. Who was the first British player to play in a Sydney Grand Final?
9. Which team won the Premiership in 1985?
10. Who was the Rugby League's top try scorer in season 1983-84?

ANSWERS ON STATS PAGE

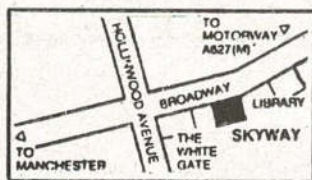
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The Club is indebted to any Company, no matter how big or small, for its financial support on match days. Obviously the Club tries hard to make the day as enjoyable as it can for the Sponsors and their Guests.

It was, therefore, most encouraging to be phoned up the day after the Wigan game by a guest of Reddish Demolition to say what a great day out he had had and praising the quality of the food provided by our new caterers "McCarthy's of Mossley".

Any Company or Group of people who are interested in Match Sponsorship, Judy Campbell will be only too pleased to hear from you.

Finally, a big Thank You to those Companies who have already taken out Sponsorship with us.

As these will be the last notes before our Boxing Day clash with Salford, we take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and remind you that we will be on the Upper Mall, in Spindles Shopping Centre, selling our range of goods right through to Christmas Eve.

We still require people to promote and sell Golden Gamble on Match Days. Please contact Judy Campbell or John Watkins on 624 4865.

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THURSDAY	£100	Winner: E 9255, B. Pendleton	Agent: 044 Coppice Sewing
FRIDAY	£100	Winner: D 9097, R. A. Eastham	Agent: 087 P & J Keating
SATURDAY	£100	Winner: A 6254, D. Wetton	Agent: 065 Royal Oak
SUNDAY	£100	Winner: D 3721, A. Yedmans	Agent: 040 Lamba News

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Special Prize: Nintendo Game Boy **Winner:** 1440, T. Hodkinson

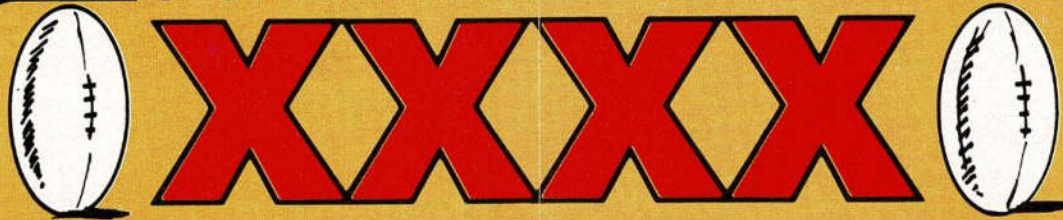
TINY IS MAN OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

Big prop forward Tiny Solomona is the "Man with the Can" as he takes the title of Castlemaine XXXX Player of the Month award for November.

The New Zealand giant has had an outstanding spell in Rugby League recently, playing for New Zealand against Great Britain at the turn of the month and following with an excellent performance in three very tough Oldham encounters; in the away matches at Featherstone and Wigan and at the home game against St. Helens.

Resident competition judge, Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle, gave Tiny his vote of approval.

CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX



TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 19th DECEMBER, 1993

OLDHAM Team Changes

- Paul Topping
- David Jones
- Charlie McAlister
- Darren Abram
- Scott Ranson
- Martin Crompton
- Steve Kerry
- Ian Sherratt
- John Clarke
- Barrie McDermott
- Mike Kuiti
- Andy Goodway
- Bob Lindner
- Iyan Green
- Shane Tupaea

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SPECSAVERS

HALIFAX Team Changes

- Steve Lay
- John Bentley
- John Schuster
- Graeme Hallas
- Mark Preston
- Michael Hagan
- Chris Robinson
- John Fieldhouse
- Johnny Lawless
- Gary Lord
- David Boyd
- Michael Jackson
- Gary Divorty
- Lee Harland
- Mark Perrett

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PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Referee: M. R. Whitfield

Touch Judges: J. Blacklock (Red Flag)
A. P. Deakin (Yellow Flag)

Commented Roger: "Tiny has been the cornerstone of the Oldham pack throughout a very difficult month. He will be sorely missed after breaking his arm in the match against Leigh at the start of December."

Unfortunately for Oldham, Tiny could be out of action for most of the season, after having surgery to insert a metal plate into his right forearm.

However, throughout his absence his colleagues will not forget his major contribution during November.

With so much free time on his hands, Tiny will have ample opportunity to enjoy his prize of a months supply of Castlemaine XXXX at his leisure!

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TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



Mr. R. Whitfield
(WIDNES)

Date of Birth

26.11.43

Grade One:

1980-81

IN TOUCH with H.Q.

MARK ROACHE

Mark Roache of Doncaster needs three tries to become the first player to total a century of career touchdowns for the club. His 97 tries have come in 233 matches, including 10 substitute appearances.

The winger also holds the Doncaster record for most tries in a season with 21 in 1989-90.

He also held the joint record of four in a match, until Carl Hall beat it this season. Roache has scored no other hat-tricks.

A former Rossington Hornets amateur, Roache began his professional career with Castleford and made a first team debut in December, 1982. Roache scored five tries in 20 appearances for Castleford.

He moved to Doncaster in an exchange deal with David Plange and made his debut while on loan, playing right wing in a 17-14 Second Division win at Southend Invicta on 3rd March, 1985.

Roache, who was born on 24th October, 1962, had a spell in the centre before settling back on the wing. His season-by-season totals for Doncaster are as follows:

	App	Tries
1984-85	10	4
1985-86	29 + 1	3
1986-87	14 + 3	6
1987-88	32	8
1988-89	31 + 1	14
1989-90	32 + 1	21
1990-91	32 + 1	15
1991-92	20 + 3	12
1992-92	11	7
1993-94	12	7
Totals	223 + 10	97

LONDON CRUSADERS RECORD RUN

London Crusaders run of 10 successive matches without defeat, is their best unbeaten sequence, since they were founded as Fulham in 1980.

The Crusaders run is made up of seven Second Division matches and three Regal Trophy ties. It includes one draw.

London's previous longest unbeaten sequence

and still their best winning run, covered nine matches in 1982-83. In the same season, they set the club record League unbeaten run with 12 Second Division wins in a row.

Their last defeat this season was 37-12 at Barrow on 3rd October.

SCORING SEQUENCE

Willie Richardson, of Carlisle, is now the only player to have scored in each of his club's matches this season, a total of 15.

WINNING RUN

Warrington have the current longest winning run of nine matches, made up of seven Stones Bitter Championship games and two Regal Trophy ties.

MILESTONES

Les Quirk of St. Helens needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns for the club.

Shaun Edwards of Wigan needs nine points for a career 1000 in club and representative matches.

YOUNGERS ALLIANCE CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND DRAW

To be played on the weekend of
8th January, 1994:

St. Helens	v.	Carlisle
Wakefield T.	v.	Halifax
London C.	v.	Sheffield E.
Leigh	v.	Ryedale-York
Rochdale H.	v.	Warrington
Bradford N.	v.	Workington T.
Batley	v.	Leeds
Barrow	v.	Featherstone R.
Widnes	v.	Keighley C.
Wigan	v.	Swinton
Hunslet	v.	Hull KR
Dewsbury	v.	Salford
Bramley	v.	Doncaster
Huddersfield	v.	Castleford

Byes: Hull and Oldham.

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Last Time Out . . .

with ROGER HALSTEAD

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of August 30th, 1993.

HALIFAX 26 OLDHAM 12

Paul Bishop introduced Oldham to the First Division with a couple of killer grubber kicks, which gave Halifax a flying start with tries by Mark Bailey and Gary Divorty in the first quarter of an hour.

A lucky rebound off a defender gave Bailey a walk-in, then Divorty scored when Scott Ranson fielded an awkward ball on his own line but lost it in the tackle.

Fortune favoured Halifax on both occasions. But credit them with knowing what they were doing on the last tackle, and having a player like Bishop to make it happen.

Oldham didn't reach the fifth tackle as much as Halifax because they nearly always lost possession long before then.

But when they did get to five they often looked lost, running around and aimlessly trying to keep the ball alive, with the result that possession was handed over.

In contrast, Bishop orchestrated the Halifax performance and made life tough for Oldham's Steve Kerry, who was pulled off at half time as coach Peter Tunks looked for more authority and direction.

Oldham were 8-0 down before they had handled the ball, and 12-2 down after 17 minutes.

The signs were ominous when speedy Mark Preston was put away by Graeme Hallas, and Wally Gibson flew across to halt the Halifax winger.

Tiny Solomona and Ian Sherratt had more than matched Karl Harrison and Gary Lord, but there was a need for more second-row punch in the Oldham pack, which came with Andy Goodway.

Skipper Mike Kuiti set a sound example on defence, Solomona and Sherratt responded, and Goodway began to make inroads into Halifax.

But the outside backs toiled to

hold centre Hallas and the powerful Bentley on the right wing.

Nigel Heslop always threatened when in possession, but he found it difficult to stop his opposite number.

The impressive Paul Topping save a certain try when Bentley went outside Heslop, but there was no holding the former Leeds man when he took the same route to score the fifth and final Halifax try near the end.

Compared with Bentley, Schuster and Hallas, Oldham were lightweight in the three-quarters.

This was clear when Ranson, who made two early handling errors, was switched to centre at half-time.

Topping, Gibson and Abram held their own in the backs, but too many crucial mistakes were made out wide, leaving the forwards under pressure.

Oldham, who had opened their account with a 13th minute penalty by Kerry, came back into the game when Goodway, Kuiti and Solomona almost sent Gibson in.

When the ball went left, it needed a fine tackle by Lay to stop Abram's burst on Kuiti's slick pass.

From there, Kuiti took charge again with a long pass to the wing which gave Heslop a try.

In the second half Topping went to full-back, Gibson to scrum-half Ranson to centre and David Jones came in on the wing. Topping, gaining in confidence by the minute in his first serious game for 15 months, gave a splendid second-half display.

Sadly, the first half defensive stint began to take its toll on the forwards.

Little was seen of Harrison in the first half, but the Halifax prop was now given leeway to turn and release the ball, and it took only ten minutes for Harrison



and Hallas to set up a try for Preston.

Having played himself to a stand still, Sherratt was replaced by Green after an hour, but the forwards were flagging when Halifax took a vital scrum against the head and Kuiti made an unforced error at play-the-ball.

Topping went close from Gibson, but Schuster had already pushed the home side 22-6 in front when Abram, Topping and Kuiti fashioned a try down the middle for Groves, which Topping improved.

Scorers: Halifax - goals, Bishop (3); Tries - Bailey, Divorty, Preston, Schuster, Bentley.

Oldham - goals, Kerry, Topping. Tries - Heslop, Groves.

HALIFAX:

Lay, Bentley, Schuster, Hallas, Preston, Bailey, Bishop, Harrison, Southernwood, Lord, Jackson, Perrett, Divorty. Subs: Wilson, Harland.

OLDHAM:

Gibson, Ranson, Holden, Topping, Heslop, Abram, Kerry, Solomona, Groves, Sherratt, Green, Bradbury, Kuiti. Subs: Jones, Goodway.

Referee:

Mr D Campbell (Widnes).

Attendance: 7,445.

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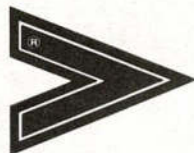
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	13	-	2	-	-	8
NIGEL HESLOP	10	-	2	-	-	8
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	12	2	1	40	-	84
SCOTT RANSON	11	-	4	-	-	16
DARREN ABRAM	12	-	8	-	-	32
STEVE KERRY	9	-	2	2	3	15
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	13	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	2	5	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	2	3	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	15	-	3	-	-	12
DAVID JONES	11	2	-	-	-	-
ANDY GOODWAY	12	1	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	6	2	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	3	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	1	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	9	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN CROMPTON	5	1	2	-	1	9
BOB LINDNER	12	-	4	-	-	16
JOHN CLARKE	8	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	1	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	2	-	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	-	1	-	-	-	-

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Warrington	13	11	0	2	290	185	22
Wigan	12	10	0	2	315	187	20
Bradford	12	10	0	2	324	244	20
Halifax	13	8	2	3	278	219	18
Castleford	13	8	1	4	333	169	17
St. Helens	13	8	1	4	313	183	17
Widnes	13	7	0	6	231	252	14
Featherstone	13	6	1	6	272	314	13
Hull	13	5	2	6	195	214	12
Leeds	13	5	1	7	278	248	11
Salford	13	5	0	8	212	299	10
Sheffield	13	4	1	8	248	345	9
Oldham	13	4	0	9	254	240	8
Hull KR	13	4	0	9	206	365	8
Wakefield T.	13	3	0	10	162	294	6
Leigh	13	0	1	12	165	363	1

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

Our last home match produced a solid victory over the talented Keighley Cougars. Homework suggested that we should keep the Cougar's scrum-half Jason Pender, as most of the play was directed by the new professional at Keighley.

This task was achieved with efficiency and it was Oldham's Richard Badby who ran the show on the night. Martin Halkyard helped himself to a hat-trick of tries and there were further scores from Aidie Meade, Mike Prescott and Damien Munro. Three Munro goals gave us a tidy 30 points to two margin and joint leadership of the leadership of the "JJB Sports Academy Second Division" for a few days.

As the Academy squad train in two separate camps it is difficult for the coaches, Geoff Munro and Alan Robinson to orchestrate

cohesive football on the field. Last week however, the squad trained together at Watersheddings and the result was a far better team performance against Keighley than we have seen in recent weeks and we hope to repeat the procedure before forthcoming games.

As the festive season approaches we would like to thank and extend seasons greetings



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Academy

Cheque mates... celebrations at the launch of the £135,000 cash bonanza for the thriving Rugby League Academy. Showing off the £60,000 award from the Government's "Sportsman" scheme are, left to right, Charles Langhorn, Scheme Manager for the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, Rugby League Chief Executive Maurice Lindsay, and Dave Whelan, Chairman of JJB Sports, sponsors of a first-ever three-year Academy £75,000 deal. Adding star quality to the launch are Great Britain Academy trio, from left to right: Iestyn Harris (Warrington), skipper Andrew Farrell (Wigan) and Scott Martin (Leigh).

DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development
Officer
NIEL WOOD

There have been some very encouraging signs for Rugby League Development recently. Fifty-one teams have entered the Oldham Senior Schools Rugby League Cup Competitions

at Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19. The full draw will be made on January 16th with the finals taking place here at Watersheddings towards the end of April. The competition has also been sponsored and full details of that will be announced on January 16th.

Invitations have gone out to the Juniors Schools for their knock-out competition and I look forward to receiving a bumper return.

The Under 14's Development Squad will spend the first day of the Christmas holidays up at Watersheddings working alongside Peter Tunks and some senior players. The Under 15's Development Squad begin their eight week session straight after Christmas.

Congratulations to Oldham Ladies who played their first game and narrowly lost 8-2. I hope you continue to

Oldham Rugby League Development is sponsored by **P. CASEY & COMPANY**

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

(Jim Quinn on summer rugby, speaking after last weekend's game)

"Just look out there"

(Bob Lindner on last weekend's game)

"I was delighted with the second half fightback, but we gave them too much before half time and left ourselves with too much to do"

(Jim Quinn on last weekend's defeat)

"Wigan are a world-class side with world-class players but I thought our second half performance was the best we have played since returning to the First Division"

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Courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



SHERRATT IN AN ATTACKING MOOD



TUPAEA MAKES A DETERMINED BREAK

BACK PAGES

by Michael Turner

Today's visitors, Halifax, were one of the founder members of the Northern Union and in the first season under the new administration they finished runners-up in the Championship to Bradford club Manningham.

The first time a two division system was introduced in 1902-03, Halifax took the First Division title, with Salford as runners-up. The "Thrum Hallers" have a knack for being the first winners of R.L. competitions, taking the honours in the first top four Championship play-off in 1907, the first top 16 play-off in 1965 and also being the first winners of the John Player (Regal) Trophy in 1972.

It is the 1907 Championship Final (against Oldham) that is our focus for today's "Back Pages".

Halifax had finished top of the League with 56 points, with Oldham second on 53 points. The first stage of the play-off saw Halifax defeat fourth placed Keighley by 9-4. While Oldham accounted for third placed Runcorn 11-3.

So it was on to Huddersfield for a "Roses" final between "Fax" and the "Roughyeds".

On the day, the Yorkshiremen proved far superior and ran out easy winners by 18-3, with tries from Riley, Bartle, Bulmer and Morley and three goals from full-back Little. Oldham's only reply being a try by Joe Ferguson.

The Oldham team that day, 20th April, 1907 was as follows: R. L. Thomas, G. Tyson, W. Dixon, A. Avery, T. White, M. Yewlett, A. Lees, A. Smith, J. Ferguson, H. Vowles, H. Topham, J. Wilkinson, W. Longworth.

To complete a disappointing end to the season, Oldham

were defeated by Warrington in the Challenge Cup Final the following Saturday.

Two years later Oldham gained some revenge on Halifax by knocking them out of the Championship play-off, only to lose to Wigan in the Final.



I am currently researching for a book covering the complete playing records and history of OLDHAM RLFC. If anyone has any old material connected with the club (photos, programmes etc) I would be very interested in viewing such items.

Please contact:
Michael Turner,
158 Balfour Street,
Oldham OL4 1NS.
Tel: 061-620 6005.



Courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

TERRY FLANAGAN SCORES IN THE HALIFAX V OLDHAM GAME ON OCTOBER 4TH, 1981.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER



Welcome to today's
game against Halifax.

a go to push them all
the way.

We are back to the
important business of
picking up League
points as we
endeavour to climb
the table.

Halifax will be a
tough nut to crack as
their position in the
top four of the
League will testify,
but we are all in good
heart after our
tremendous second
half showing against
Wigan last week,
when we rallied after
a disappointing first
half and really gave it

The support on an
a b s o l u t e l y
horrendous day was
fantastic, as you got
behind the lads and
made it a great
atmosphere to play
in.

Back to today and the
opportunity for
people like Ian
Sherratt to have a big
game and maybe
catch the eye of the
Great Britain coach,
Mal Reilly.

We will be going flat
out to build on our

last League victory
against Leigh to
secure another two
valuable points and
with your support I
am sure we can do it
and send everybody
home happy.

Myself, the players
and all our families
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and
don't forget come
along in "droves" on
Boxing Day.

Bob Lindner.

This page is sponsored by **IRENE and HELEN CALOW**

