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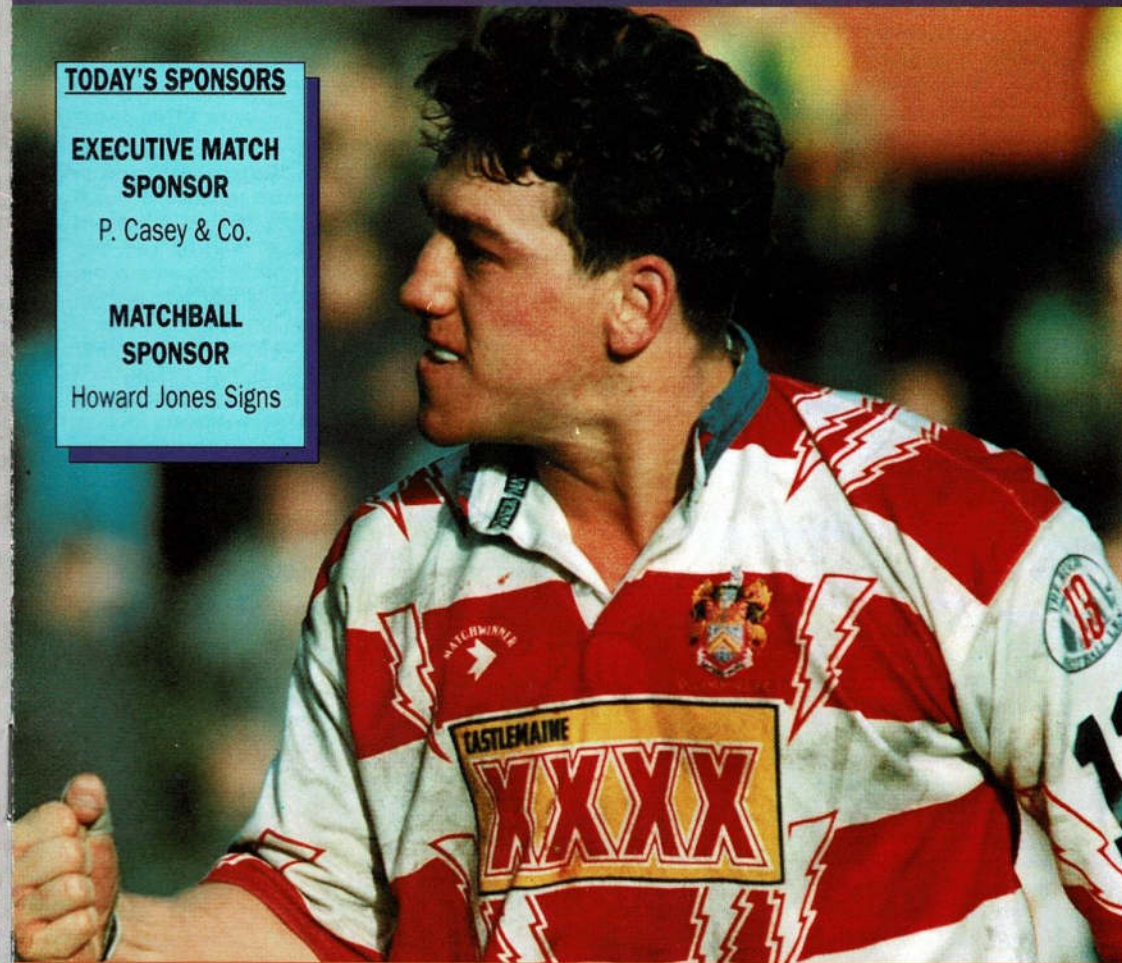
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OLDHAM v HULL. Sunday, March 13th, 1994. Kick Off 3.00 p.m.

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The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
Telephone: 061-652 5244 and 061-624 4865

ROLL OF HONOUR

CHAIRMAN: Jim Quinn

DIRECTORS: John Chadwick, Tom Patterson, Mike Winterbottom

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship
Play-off Winners
1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
Runners-up
1906-07, 1907-08, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1954-55
First Division Champions
1904-05
Second Division Champions
1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88
Rugby League Challenge
Cup Winners
1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up
1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners
1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59
Runners-up
1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1956-57, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90
Lancashire Championship Winners
1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58
Runners-up
1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners
1975-76, 1979-80
Colts' Premiership Trophy
1979-80
Second Division Premiership
1987-88, 1989-90
Wigan Sevens Winners
1991-92

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Mr. A. Bonnelle (Advisor)

Assistant Physiotherapist:

Mr. J. Watkins

Hon. Freeman: Mr. F. Howarth, B.A.

Club Secretary: Karen Scott

Marketing Executive: Ian McMahon

'A' Team Coach: Shane Tupaea

Academy Manager: Jack Buckley

Hon. Consultant

Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr. H. Thompson,

Mr. D. Walker

Hon. Safety Officer: Roger Norris

Official Timekeeper: Mr. J. Roscoe

Club Records:

Record Victory: 67-6 v Liverpool City, April, 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September, 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24th February, 1912

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, Jack Hirst, 233

O.R.L.F.C. VICE-PRESIDENTS SEASON 1993/94

Ronnie Hardaker, Terry Doyle, Alan Butterworth, Mavis Butterworth, Tommy O'Brien, Major B. Howell, Harry Randall, K. Folks, C. Folks, Ken Waddington, J. L. Perrins, A. Perrins, Irene Turner, Adamsons Crash Repair Centre (2), Nigel Tench, Kevin Geany, R. Langton, Rick Coombs (2).

FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



Since my last programme article a great deal has happened at Watersheddings concerning the immediate and long-term future of the club.

First of all, I must place on record the departure of coach Peter Tunks after three years at the helm on the playing side and pay tribute to the enormous amount of work he did behind the scenes to try and prepare this club not only for its step up into the First Division this season but in the laying down of roots for its future growth and development.

The phenomenal success of our Alliance team has been well chronicled and at the time of writing it had two trophies already on the shelf and it was still on course for two more. The Academy team had just taken over on top of the JJB Sports Academy Second Division in its first season of operation.

Unfortunately, the club struggled to emulate this success at senior level in the First Division of the Stones Bitter Championship and after our disappointing defeat at Doncaster in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, Peter and the club parted by mutual consent.

In wishing Peter well for the future and thanking him for his tremendous commitment to the job and the club over the last three years, I welcome his suc-

cessor, Bob Lindner, as player-coach and wish him well on behalf of the board in his efforts to keep us in the First Division over the course of the next few weeks.

We are fortunate to have such a high-profile, world-class forward as Bob in our ranks and we can only hope that he can lead the team away from the lower reaches of the division and towards First Division safety.

Initially, Bob has been appointed to the end of the season, but he made a great start when we beat Widnes 22-12 in his first game in charge and the board is convinced that he has what it takes as one of Australia's best-ever post-war forwards to make an early impact on what will hopefully be a very successful coaching career.

Bob, in turn, was equally convinced that Andy Goodway should be his right-hand man. Andy was Bob's choice and that's how it should be, but our popular "old boy" also got the full backing of the board when the choice of No. 2 was made.

It all means that we probably have one of the youngest coaching teams in the entire Rugby League with Bob, Andy and Shane Tupaea, our Youngers Alliance team boss, all playing in the first team.

We wish the three of them a successful last two months of the season and link with that sentiment the hope that they can enjoy a successful stay with the club well beyond this season, contrary to speculation in some quarters.

Talking of speculation, I would like to take this opportunity of assuring shareholders that the full story of the club's financial position and the negotiations with Oldham Council and a private developer will be given to them at an Annual General Meeting to be held within the new few weeks.

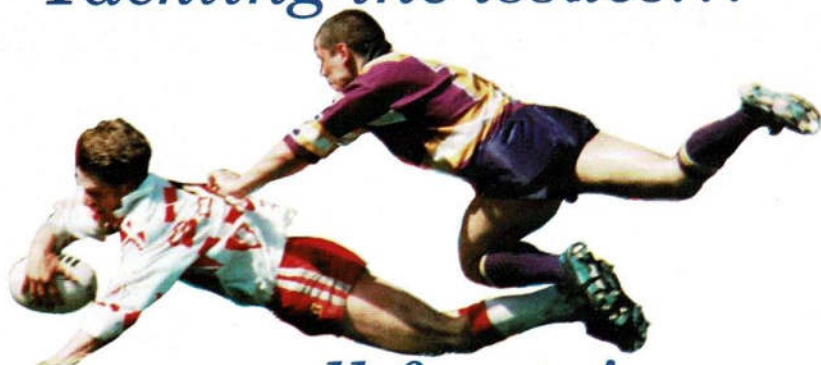
I must respect confidentiality until negotiations are complete, but I can assure you that when discussions are complete I will put everyone in the picture about what has gone on - and why it was necessary.

I am confident that, when you are fully armed with all the facts, you will conclude that we have acted in the best, long-term interests of Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

In the meantime, thank you for you attendance today and please note that we are also at home on the next two Sundays to Wakefield Trinity and Featherstone. These are vital times in our battle to stay up. Pop along to give us a lift and give your support to Bob and the boys.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to ... HULL F.C.

Mark Hewitt. Height 5ft. 7in. Weight 11st. 5lb. Scrum-half. Another signing from Northern Dairies. Hewitt is developing into a solid scrum-half. Useful all round player.

Chico Jackson. Height 5ft. Weight 14st. 10lb. Forward. plays prop or second-row, but has played on the wing. A spell in Australia did him the power of good and last season he emerged as one of the most improved players in the club.

Mark Jones. Height 6ft. 5 in. Weight 17st. 12lb. Prop. Former Welsh RU International. He has had a few injury problems since turning professional but, when he's fully fit, he is one of the most fearsome forwards in the game. Enormously powerful, Jones, when in full steam, has a good turn of pace to destroy defenders. A lethal weapon.

Rob Nolan. Height 6ft. 1in. Weight 13st. 7lb. Utility player. Product of the Colts team, switched from forwards to backs where he has played in just about every position. His ability to play full-back, centre or half-back has probably cost him a regular place in the side and he has spent a lot of his career on the subs bench.

Jez Cassidy. Height 5ft 10 in. Weight 12st 6lb. Back-row forward. A player with tremendous natural talent and a real prospect for the future. Rep honours as a junior and could push for a senior place this season.

Gareth Cochrane. Height 5ft. 11in. Weight 12st. 9lb. Hooker or second-row. Signed from Northern Dairies. Earned representative honours as a junior and is developing into a solid second-rower.

Steve McNamara. Height 6ft. Weight 15st. 7lb. Prop or second-row. Like Gay he has had a summer spell with St. George in Australia. Earned representative honours at all levels and is currently the Great Britain Under-21 skipper. Twice played for Great Britain senior side, and was a late call up for four in Aussie last summer. Regarded as one of the best prospects in the

country and looks certain to be a regular in the senior international side.

Andy Dearlove. Height 5ft. 9 in. Weight 12st 1lb. Hooker or half-back. With Lee Jackson and Michael Dixon it was tough being a hooker at the Boulevard, so Dearlove has switched well to half-back. A skilful player, nippy and his distribution abilities are an added bonus.

Michael Dixon. Height 5ft. 4in. Weight 11st. Hooker. "The Mighty Atom." Dixon has proved a real hit, astonishing the fans and opposition with his speed and powerful play. Aggressive, cheeky and tough, Dixon is a real battler and a handful.

Gary Nolan. Height 6ft. 3in. Weight 14st. 10lb. Centre or full-back. Signed from Dockers, Nolan came to prominence in the Premiership semi-final against Leeds two years ago, when he scored the winning try. A strong player who looks better at full-back, where he has time to bring the ball forward.

Craig O'Donnell. Height 5ft. 8in. Weight 12st. Centre or full-back. Signed from Hull Boys Club, O'Donnell is developing well and had a couple of senior outings last season. He scored the match-winning try in Hull's shock 14-13 League victory against Wigan at Central Park last September.

Jon Sharp. Height 5ft. 10in. Weight 14st. 6lb. Loose-forward or second-row. He is due a Testimonial in a years time. Signed from Featherstone in 1984. He has had a few injury problems, but when firing he is an influential part of the team. Has pace, uses ball well and solid in defence.

Paul Eastwood. Height 5ft 11in. Weight 15st. Winger. Signed as a stand-off, but was switched to the wing and has never looked back. Twice toured with Great Britain to Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Over the last four years he has been Hull's top try and points-scorer, kicking over a 100 goals a season. After three

games this season, Eastwood will begin his Testimonial season.

Richard Gay. Height 6ft. Weight 12st. 3lb. Full-back. One of the most improved players in the game, Gay has just returned from a summer spell with top Sydney club St. George. Over the last three years he has developed into one of the most highly-respected players in the game and is on the verge of International honours. Great attacking player and has improved his defence.

Terry Smirk. Height 5ft. 6in. Weight 11st. 1 lb. Scrum-half. Local produced. Signed from Dockers. Hasn't been able to break into the senior side on a regular basis but an excellent stand-in.

Paul Sterling. Winger. Signed from Bradford and Bingley Rugby Union club this season. He had tremendous try-scoring record for Bradford. Has pace, strength and determination and is already a big favourite with the Boulevard fans.

Ian Stevens. Height 5ft. 9in. Weight 12st 11lb. Stand-off. Signed from Swansea RU. Welsh Under-21 International. Has pace and good sidestep, but didn't get many chances to play in first team last season.

James Grant. Height 6ft. 1in. Weight 14st. 5lb. Utility back. Former Australian Rugby Union International, Grant is in his second season with Hull. Toured Britain with the Kangaroos in 1989 before signing for Balmain. Fast and had a reasonable season last year, but needs better support.

Des Hasler. Half-back, centre or loose-forward. Played 13 years in Winfield Competition with Penrith and Manly, who he spent 10 years with. Represented Australia, toured Britain twice and state of Origin with New South Wales. Played over 300 games in Sydney and regarded as one of the top players in Aussie for over a decade.

Scott Sullivan. Height 5ft. 10in. Weight 12st. Centre or wing. Signed from Crown Malet and has earned representative honours as a junior. Had a couple of runs in the first team last season.

Russ Walker. Height 6ft. Weight 15st. 6lb. Back-row forward, or prop. Excellent work-rate and solid defence. Sets a superb example for the youngsters to follow. A true professional and a dedicated player.

Rob Wilson. Height 5ft 10in. Weight 13st. 7lb. Second-rower. A player with immense talent but needs to steady down. Has earned a reputation for being a fearless tackler.

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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 21 JOE FERGUSON



This week the Roughyed Recall column is being devoted entirely to just one player, whose outstanding record makes him probably the greatest Oldham player of all time . . . JOE FERGUSON.

A Cumbrian from Ellenboro, Joe first came to prominence with the local Brookland Rovers side. The exceptional form of the young Ferguson soon caught the attention of the senior Northern Union clubs and Oldham beat off the attentions of Halifax to capture Joe's signature. He made his debut in a

friendly match at Morecambe on September 2nd, 1899 and a week later made the first of well over 600 senior appearances for the Oldham club in the 13-5 win at Millom.

Joe was a powerful front rank forward, who became the club's first recognized "hooker" when this became a specialist position after the First World War. Always in the thick of the action, he sometimes would fill in at the full-back position providing a formidable last line of defence.

Also a fine goalkicker Joe was a complete rugby footballer who could be relied upon to deliver the goods on the big occasion. A towering drop goal from half-way giving Oldham a 4-3 Lancs Cup Final victory over Swinton in 1910. On another occasion a similar last

minute effort from fully 60 yards gained the Roughyeds a 12-11 win at Widnes in 1912.

The only domestic honour to elude Joe was a Challenge Cup winners medal, although he holds the record for county caps, having played 15 times for his adopted Lancashire and 31 times for his native Cumberland. He played for England in the first ever Northern Union international in 1904 and captained his country to victory over the first New Zealand tourists in 1908. Although he was an automatic choice for the first G.B. tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1910, he declined the invitation for business reasons.

Joe played his last game for Oldham at St. Helens on April 14th 1923 and remains one of Rugby League's "all-time greats".

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EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY No. 11 MARTIN MURPHY.

Today we feature Oldham's record post-war appearance maker, Martin Murphy. Although he appeared in all the back positions for the club, Martin is best remembered as a fine defensive full-back.

The Action Gallery shows Martin racing clear of Featherstone's Cyril Kellett on 2nd October, 1971.



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 11 1/2" 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



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 CCS Round 1 Workington H (W) 38-10
Thursday 7th Leigh A (W) 26-24
Saturday 23rd CCS Round 2 Wigan A (W) 26-22
Saturday 30th Swinton A (W) 28-2

NOVEMBER
Wednesday 3rd CCS Sem 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 CCS 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
Monday 20th ASDC semi Dewsbury A (W) 32-10
Wednesday 22nd Carlisle H

JANUARY
Friday 7th Youngers ACC - Round 1
Friday 14th Huddersfield A
Saturday 22nd Barrow A (W) 48-14
Friday 28th Youngers ACC Round 2 Bradford N A (W) 27-25(AET)

FEBRUARY
Saturday 5th ASDC final Doncaster A (W) 20-14
Thursday 10th Keighley H (W) 26-12
Friday 18th Featherstone Y ACC - Rd 3(W) 46-4
Monday 21st Sheffield A (W) 14-6
Saturday 26th Carlisle A (W) 44-16

MARCH
Saturday 5th London A (W) 94-6
Thursday 10th Dewsbury H
Friday 11th Youngers ACC - Semi-final
Thursday 17th Swinton H

APRIL
Thursday 14th Youngers ACC - Final

Lifting the Cup in the Youngers A.S.D.C. Final at Doncaster was another highlight in what is becoming a memorable season for the Alliance team.

A just reward, considering one or two dubious refereeing decisions and the atrocious state of the pitch, which resembled Blackpool beach, but a solid yardage display by the forwards and some slick running and passing by our talented back line put us in control and well on the way to victory.

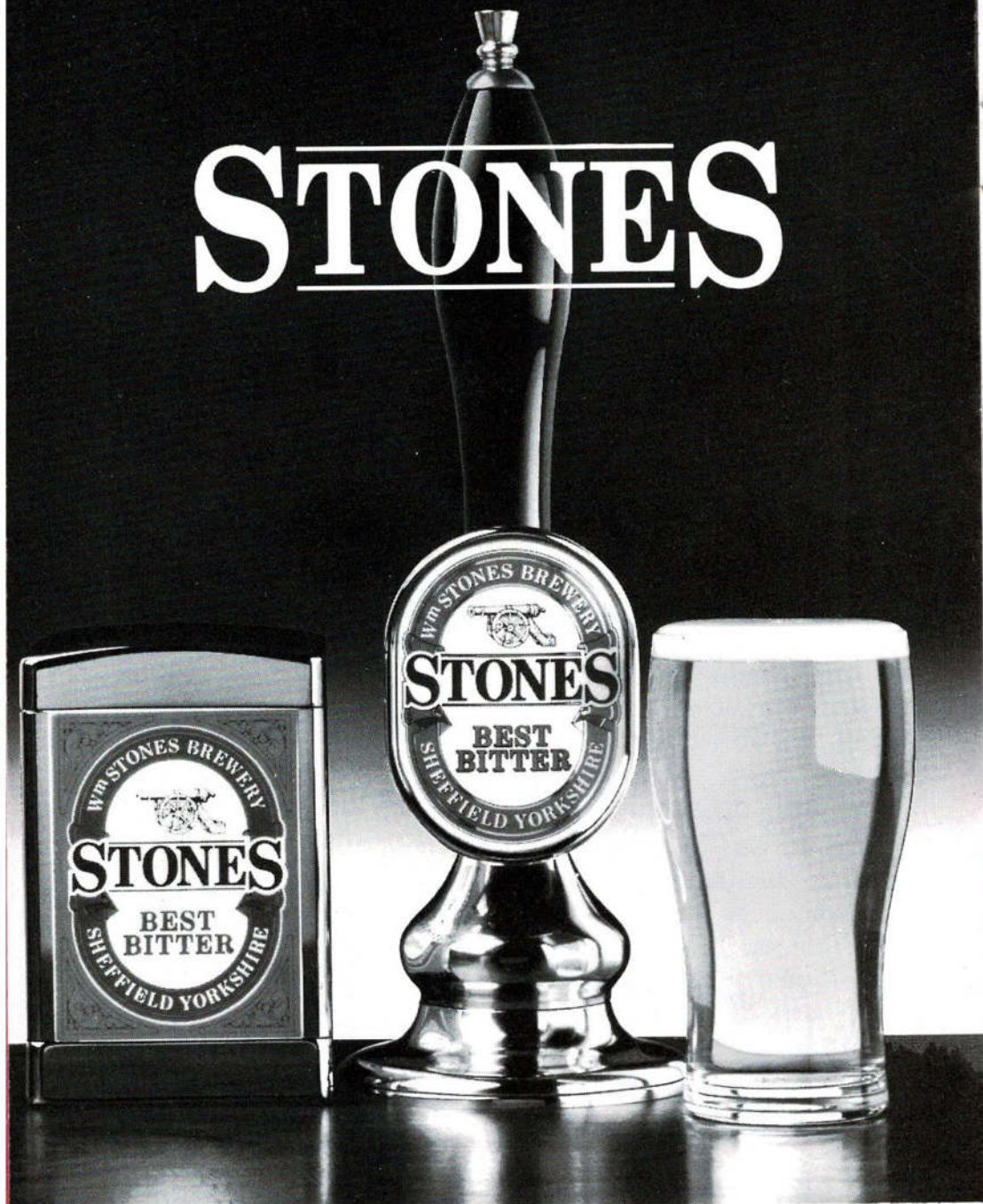
A controversial try awarded to Doncaster and the sending off of Iyan Green in the latter stages of a fiery second half didn't concern me too much as Oldham were always a class above their opponents.

Thanks are due to all the magnificent Oldham supporters, whose support amongst a hostile Doncaster following was inspirational. Your support is greatly appreciated by the players and myself.

Keep it up and remember our war cry "Markers work".

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ACTION EXTRA . . .



Mike Kuiti gets to grips on Rowland Philips

HALF-TIME TEASERS

1. Which team plays at Wheldon Road?
2. Who holds the goals in a season record for Whitehaven?
3. Which team are the current holders of the Lancashire Shield?
4. What player holds the record for most appearances for one club?
5. When was the last Test Match played at Swinton?
6. What player won the Lance Todd Trophy in 1967?
7. Which club are nicknamed the "Wasps"?
8. Which was the first Yorkshire team to win the Regal (John Player) Trophy twice?
9. Who is the only Featherstone player to play and score in every match in a season?
10. Which player has scored the most tries on career with Huddersfield?

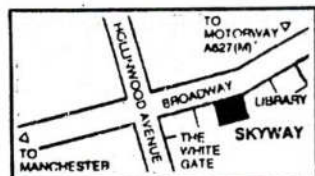
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**GOLDEN GAMBLE
DRAW**

Today's Golden Gamble is being drawn by the legendary John Etty, one of Oldham's finest-ever wingers. He also represented Great Britain on several occasions.

He will also be presenting to the club a framed photograph of a try he scored against Hull in the 1954 Championship Final.

Let's hope we see John at the Players Reunion Dinner later this year (details will be in next weeks programme).

**BIG LEAGUE CASH
BONANZA**



We are now well into the ninth week of the draw and we have been overwhelmed by its success. We are still looking for Agents, Collectors and Canvassers.

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Winner: E0552 B. Wood
Winner: G7515 D. Grundy
Winner: A4731 Marilyn Evans
Winner: H7373 C. Thornley

Agent: A. Townsend
Agent: Delph News
Agent: Mrs Kenny
Agent: Joan Lees
Agent: T. Givvons

AGENTS FREE WEEKLY DRAW FOR £50 74 Hills News

OLDHAM RESHUFFLE IMPROVES PERFORMANCE

Results for Oldham during the first half of February proved disappointing, A 22-14 defeat at the away game against Sheffield Eagles, coupled with a crushing 20-0 defeat at Doncaster in the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

These poor performances by Oldham served to prompt the sudden departure of team coach Peter Tunks in mid-month.

Due to the poor quality of play and the fact that there was only one subsequent game during the month, namely the match against Widnes at home under the leadership of new player/coach Bob Lindner, resident competition judge Roger Halstead felt that there was only one player who performed outstand-

ingly – prop forward Ian Sherratt.

During the match the whole team put up a more sustained fight to win 24-12 and provide the club with only its second victory in the Stones Bitter Championship since the 33-8 triumph at Hull on October 24th.

Commented Roger: "Sherratt was one of only several Oldham players to catch the eye, but his powerful surges through the heart of Widnes' defence particularly stood out and earned him my vote for the title of 'Man of the Match', and February's 'Man of the Month'.

Ian will no doubt crack open a few cans to celebrate, as he receives a month's free supply courtesy of Oldham's faithful sponsors, Aussie lager brand Castlemaine XXXX.

CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE

XXXXX

TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 13th MARCH, 1994

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Wally Gibson
2. Scott Ranson
3. Shaun Irwin
4. Darren Abram
5. Nigel Heslop
6. Glen Liddiard
7. Martin Crompton
8. Ian Sherratt
9. John Clarke
10. Andy Goodway
11. Shane Tupaea
12. Bob Lindner
13. Mike Kuiti
14. Charlie MacAllister
15. Paul Topping

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SPECSAVERS

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HULL Team Changes

1. Richard Gay
2. Paul Eastwood
3. James Grant
4. Gary Nolan
5. Rob Nolan
6. Des Hasler
7. Mark Hewitt
8. Russ Walker
9. Mike Dixon
10. Tim Street
11. Daniel Divet
12. Jeff Doyle
13. Jon Sharp
14. Chico Jackson
15. Mark Jones

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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: Colin Morris

Touch Judges: Ken Spencer (Red Flag)
Tony Fallon (Yellow Flag)

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TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



Colin Morris
(HUDDERSFIELD)

Date of Birth

11.3.57

Grade One:

1989-90

IN TOUCH with H.O.

FAREWELL - THANK YOU

David Howes leaves Rugby League Headquarters at the end of February, after 20 years of service as Public Affairs Executive, to fulfil a long-held ambition to run an independent consultancy specialising in PR, Sponsorship, Event Management and Public Speaking. He sends this open letter to the 13-a-Side Code.

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the greatest game in the world for the past two decades.

"New career plans centre on continuing to work for the game from another direction, being able to specialise in the promotion of Rugby League at central and club level, while extending the client base into commerce and other sports.

"I would say a big thank you to everyone connected with Rugby League for their support over the past 20 years... to the clubs, coaches and players for providing the material with which to work... the League's Council and Board of Directors for their leadership of the game... to the spectators for being so passionate and caring about the sport which thoroughly deserves its family image... to those outside the professional ranks who nurture the grass roots without seeking praise or payment.

"I am looking forward to being equally productive for Rugby League during its most exciting period of projection and development and maintaining the bond of friendship which is such an integral part of our superb sport."

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL AT HEADINGLEY, LEEDS

CASTLEFORD v. WIGAN - SATURDAY, 12th MARCH, 1994

Wigan's record run of 34 Challenge Cup victories began with a 2-0 first round home defeat of Bradford Northern in 1988, when Joe Lydon kicked the only goal.

Winners of the Cup for a record six successive seasons, Wigan were last beaten in the competition on 4th February, 1987, when they lost 10-8 at Oldham in the first round. Four of this year's probable semi-final line-up played - Joe Lydon, Shaun Edwards and Martin Dermott plus Dean Bell, who is recovering from injury.

Wigan have beaten Castleford twice in their record run. They won 28-4 at Castleford in the first round of 1991 and 28-18 at Wembley two years ago.

Castleford captain, Lee Crooks, is aiming for a fifth Wembley appearance, still seeking his first win there. He was in the beaten Hull sides of 1983 and 1985, plus the drawn final of 1982, picking up a winners medal in the replay at Elland Road, Leeds. Crooks was then in Castleford's beaten 1992 side. The 1985 and 1992 finals were against Wigan.

Wigan half-back Edwards is aiming for a record-breaking ninth Cup Final appearance at Wembley. He shares the record of eight with former Widnes and Wigan scrum-half Andy Gregory. Each has also won a record seven times.

Eric Batten (Leeds, Bradford and Featherstone) also played in eight finals but only four were at Wembley.

Edwards is the only player to have appeared in all of Wigan's 34 successive Challenge Cup-tie wins, including one as a substitute.

Leigh and Sheffield Eagles are the only current Division One sides not to have met Wigan during their Cup run.

WINNING RUN

St. Helens have the current longest winning run of six matches, covering three Silk Cut Challenge Cup and three Stones Bitter Championship.

LOSING RUN

Hunslet have the current longest losing run of seven matches, made up of six Division Two matches and one Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Starting with a draw, Hunslet have gone eight matches without a win.

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Last Time Out . . .

with ROGER HALSTEAD

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of, October 25th, 1993.



Ian Sherratt for Great Britain? "Why not", remarked Oldham boss Peter Tunks after another sensational show by the big prop in a remarkable performance by Oldham at the Boulevard yesterday.

Heavyweight Sherratt, the biggest man in the Oldham pack, had a rampaging game in the 21-6 win over Leeds last time out and he was just as ruthless in the destruction of the Hull forwards in Oldham's second win on Humberside in six weeks.

Not for the first time, Sherratt smashed his rival prop Steve McNamara out of his path to set up a crucial try on the stroke of half-time as Oldham recorded their first win at the Boulevard for ten years.

He repeatedly drove holes in the Hull defence, but his tackling also caught the eye - particularly one awesome crash tackle on Hull substitute Rob Nolan in the second half.

Tunks, a former prop himself, was moved to comment afterwards: "On current form, Britain have called up the wrong man for the Test squad. They've gone for McNamara, but what about Sherratt?"

There were many noteworthy individual performances in the Oldham team and outstanding ones from Sherratt and Bob Lindner in the forwards and Steve Kerry and Scott Ranson in the backs.

Lindner carried on where he left off against Leeds. His tackling when Oldham were under the cosh in the first half-hour was exemplary.

Two challenges in particular, on Daniel Divet and Rob Danby, were crucial and probably stopped Hull tries. His ability to read a situation was evident when Hull put on a complicated set move in the second half, but he was there waiting to smother Hull full-back Richard Gay at the moment he received Divet's pass.

On attack, Lindner took three Hull forwards over the line with him to score the try that put Oldham ahead for the first time seconds before half-time.

Early in the second half, he made the vital half-break in the move leading to Darren Abram's try.

Kerry often found Lindner on his outside and it was the Australian's excellent pass in the tackle which enabled Shaun Irwin to send Abram scampering wide of Hull full-back Gay to score under the posts.

There was excellent work up front, too, from Tiny Solomona, David Stephenson on his First Division debut, Mike Kuiti and big Charlie McAlister, who switched from stand-off to second-row when Andy Goodway was substituted by Paul Topping after half an hour.

Behind such a rampant pack in the second half, Kerry and Ranson couldn't put a foot wrong.

Kerry pulled Oldham back into the game with an individual try in the 34th minute when he chipped over the top, regathered on the first bounce and stepped inside Gay to score by the posts.

Minutes later, it was the scrum-half's break after Sherratt's surging run that enabled Lindner to crash through a crowded defence to score Oldham's second try.

In the second half, Kerry dropped a goal, sparked the move that led

to Abram's try, moved the ball around beautifully and generally outplayed his more famous opposite number, Des Hasler.

It was a length-of-the-field touchline dash by Ranson in the 30th minute which gave a hint of Oldham's big revival after they had gone 8-0 down.

By the time Oldham had established clear-cut superiority in the second half, Ranson was almost unstoppable. His confidence soared when he ran straight through Hull stand-off Rob Danby to score the fourth Oldham try, whereupon there was panic in the home defence every time he got the ball.

Wally Gibson and substitute David Jones also threatened constantly, while Topping steadied things down at outside-half and landed six goals from eight shots after missing his first two.

Oldham were not in the game for the first half-hour. A try and two goals by Paul Eastwood put Hull 8-0 up and it could have been more had Chicko Jackson not fluffed three good chances.

First, Irwin turned him on his back over the line with a great tackle. Then, the Hull forward threw a dreadful pass with Oldham's defence in tatters. Finally, Jackson knocked-on under the posts after Gibson had failed to hold a Hasler "bomb" under pressure.

Hull threw everything at Oldham in the first 30 minutes, but the visitors hung in grimly and then discovered the home side had little left to offer when called upon to defend.

Four Oldham tries in a 15-minute spell either side of half-time completely transformed the game as Tunks's battlers charged into a 25-8 lead.

I can recall only one dropped pass in the second 40 minutes and, as the Hull defence lost its bite, Oldham scored a total of 33 points without reply, culminating in the fifth and final try by Kuiti - after good work by Kerry and Solomona - and the inevitable Topping goal.

Hasler, the man Oldham feared, was dangerous for 20 minutes only. As soon as Hull forwards Mark Jones, McNamara, Divet and Jon Sharp began to fade, Hasler faded with them.

Power up front, a clever scrum-half and pace on the outside provided Oldham's winning equation and took their points tally to 54 (only 14 against) in successive matches against Leeds and Hull.

"Monty's"



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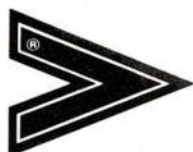
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	20	1	4	-	-	16
NIGEL HESLOP	15	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	15	5	5	45	-	98
SCOTT RANSON	22	-	8	-	-	32
DARREN ABRAM	22	-	15	5	-	70
STEVE KERRY	13	1	2	9	3	29
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	23	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	4	9	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	5	7	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	24	1	3	-	-	12
DAVID JONES	21	2	5	-	-	20
ANDY GOODWAY	20	3	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	8	4	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	11	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	3	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	19	-	6	-	-	24
MARTIN CROMPTON	13	1	4	-	2	18
BOB LINDNER	20	2	7	-	-	28
JOHN CLARKE	15	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	5	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	6	1	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	-	1	-	-	-	-
ADRIAN BELLE	1	-	-	-	-	-
PADDY MITCHELL	4	-	1	-	-	4
GLEN LIDDIARD	2	1	1	3	-	10

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bradford	21	18	0	3	590	377	36
Wigan	20	17	0	3	569	289	34
Warrington	22	16	0	6	444	307	32
Castleford	22	15	1	6	611	320	31
St. Helens	22	13	1	8	480	389	27
Halifax	22	12	2	8	464	381	26
Leeds	22	11	1	10	442	406	23
Sheffield	22	11	1	10	491	520	23
Featherstone	22	10	1	11	451	484	21
Widnes	22	10	0	12	378	455	20
Hull	21	8	2	11	310	355	18
Salford	22	9	0	13	406	469	18
Wakefield	22	7	0	15	309	477	14
Hull KR	22	6	0	16	342	604	12
Oldham	22	5	0	17	385	476	10
Leigh	22	1	1	20	258	621	3

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

We are still very much in contention for the Second Division Championship, as at the time of writing we are sat at the top of the League, with other results going our way. However, there is little margin for error. Our last home match saw us take a 34-0 lead early in the second half against a lively Huddersfield team who hit back to 34-12 before hat-trick hero Alfie Goulbourne finally buried their come-

back with a killer try. We visited in-form Dewsbury last Tuesday and appeared to be on the rack just after half time, when Dewsbury led 16-4. Oldham bounced back in good style with, perhaps, the best football we have played all season. Within the last half hour we ran in 30 points, including several spectacular goals from Richard Badby. Next Friday night we visit St. Helens in the Academy Challenge Cup. Although Saints are the First Division leaders and are obviously a fine side, they will get no change from Oldham. If we can produce our best form on the night, we firmly believe that we have the all-round pace to produce an upset. We know that we will

be well-supported at Knowsley Road, as we have been at all our away matches this campaign, but if you have not seen the Academy team play, the match will be televised by Sky Sport and shown at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday, 20th March. However, we look forward to seeing as many Oldham fans as possible at St. Helens and we assure you, with your support, the team will give everything they have.

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DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development
Officer
NIEL WOOD

Today we welcome Mr. Bryan Davies, M.P., Councillor John Battye, Councillor Jim Greenwood and several of their colleagues. They will receive a cheque for £1,000.00 from the

Government's Sports Sponsorship Incentive Scheme "Sportmatch". This represents a pound-for-pound matching of the sponsorship of today's pre-match curtain raisers by P. Casey & Co. Amongst today's guests are Mike Walsh and Alan Tomkinson from P. Casey & Company and we welcome them.

The Curtain-Raiser Scheme allows 32

different Schools to play at Watersheddings each season, that's a total of over 300 players but it also allows 3,200 Schoolchildren to come up to watch an Oldham game.

Today's four Schools are from Fitton Hill, Christ Church, Thorp and St. Anne's, Greenacres.

Welcome to all of them and enjoy the day.

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Courtesy of the **OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE**



SHAUN IRWIN CRASHES OVER AT LEEDS



**NO WAY
THROUGH
THIS TIME
MR. COOK**

BACK PAGES

by **Michael Turner**

Today's visitors the "Airlie Birds" of Hull were founder members of the Northern Union and the first meeting between the teams, under the new code took place on Humberside on October 12th, 1895, when Oldham recorded a 15-8 victory. Such was the interest in the "Breakaway" clubs that Oldham were cheered on by over 200 supporters who chartered a special train for the trip, which represented quite an epic journey in those Victorian times. The return match in February, saw Oldham complete the double with an 8-5 win.

The most famous meeting between the teams was the 1957 Championship Final at Odsal Stadium, Bradford. Oldham won the match 15-14 before a crowd of 62,199 spectators (the largest ever attendance at an Oldham match). As the score suggests the game was a close fought affair with the result in doubt right up to the last minutes, when Hull forward Colin Hutton missed a kick, that would have taken the

Cup to Humberside.

Oldham's hero of the day was winger John Etty who scored two tries and also cleared the ball over his own line in the closing seconds of the match. The other Oldham try was scored by centre Dennis Ayres with Bernard Ganley landing three goals. Hull's points came from tries by Carl Turner and Stan Cowan and four goals from Hutton.

Revenge for the Yorkshiremen was soon forthcoming, as in the following season Hull came to Watersheddings in the end of the season

Top 4 play-off and shocked the "Roughyeds" with a 20 points to 8 victory and went on to defeat Workington in the Final, 20-3. This match also being played at Odsal.

To rub salt in the wound, Hull were to deprive Oldham of a Wembley appearance when they won the Challenge Cup semi-final clash between the two sides in 1960 at Swinton by 12 points to 9.

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 Chronicle

Action from the 1957 Championship Final. Hull winger Stan Cowan tries to evade the tackle of Oldham hooker Jack Keith with Dennis Ayres and John Etty in pursuit, in front of the packed Odsal terraces.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER



Welcome to Watersheddings for today's fixture against Hull. Given both teams' recent performances against Leeds the game today should be a delight for you, the spectators.

Our game last week at Headingley was disappointing in terms of the result but very encouraging in terms of performance. Today is the day to marry

performances and result together.

The last home game against Widnes was a resounding success and showed Oldham as a football team with the ability and commitment to be a top club. I am looking now for the consistency of performance from the whole squad which will take this club upwards and onwards.

One thing I find difficult to understand is how we are now in March having played only two home games this year and yet we now have a total of three home games. Don't get me wrong, these games are welcome and important and I look forward to today setting us up for a successful March.

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

