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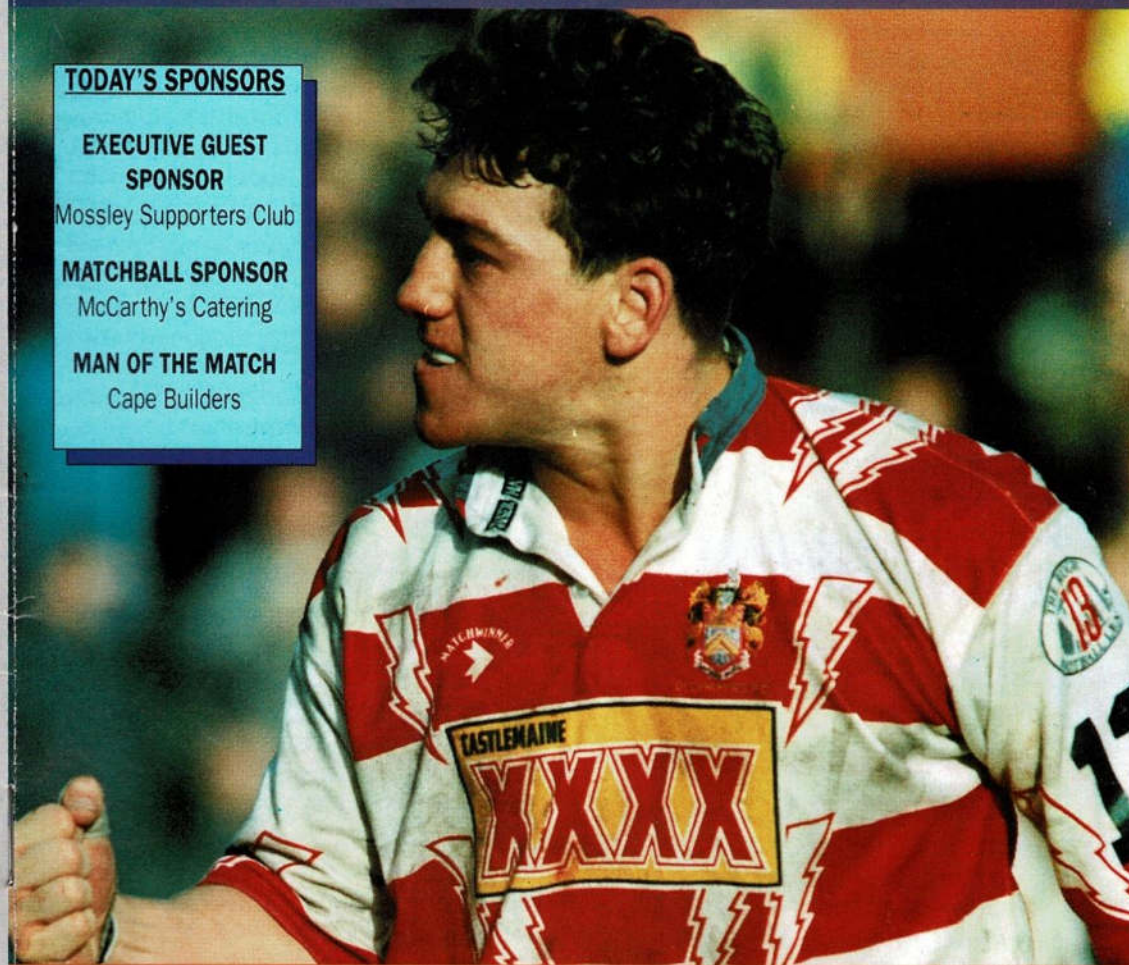
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OLDHAM v WAKEFIELD. Sunday, March 20th, 1994. Kick Off 3.00 p.m.

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

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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, 1908-09,
1921-22, 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, 1966-67, 1968-69
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

General Manager: T. Donovan

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Physiotherapists: Mr. N. Hodgson

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
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FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



We had a successful sportsmen's dinner at Birch Hall the other night and I was able to inform about 170 diners that all is not doom and gloom on the Oldham front - far from it.

Shareholders and supporters are naturally anxious to know how and when the current negotiations with Oldham Council and a property developer are going to be drawn to a conclusion.

I cannot give much information at present, other than to say that negotiations are continuing and we will hopefully be at the point of exchanging contracts in the near future.

The talks should be resolved shortly and we will then have a meeting of shareholders and I will give everyone chapter and verse from the start of the season, when we were doing a lot of swapping and trading on the playing side to the more recent events off the field.

Our talks with the Council

started last November. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then, but a certain amount of confidentiality is vital for the negotiations to be brought to a successful conclusion.

I can say, however, that I think everyone will be pleased at the outcome, when the full facts are known and everyone will be able to look forward to a successful future, arising from the difficult position we are now in.

On the playing side, our Academy team is top of the JJB Sports Academy (Second Division) at the time of writing and I am sure a lot of young boys will want to play for the Oldham Academy side next season.

The success of the Alliance side has been well documented. Full marks to Shane Tupaea and all concerned.

At senior level, Bob Lindner is a world-class player and I am confident that before

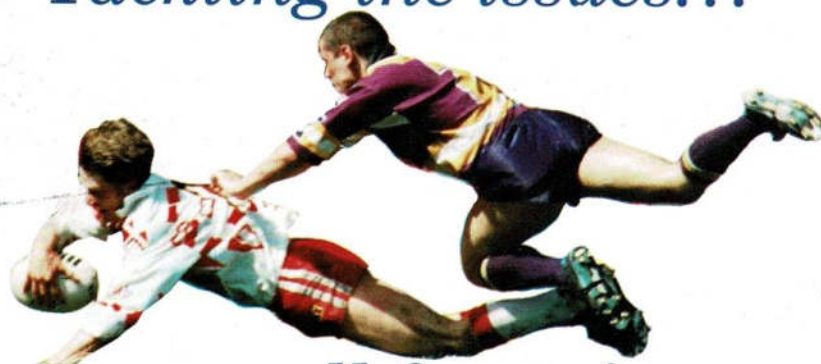
the season is out he will prove that he has all the makings of a first-class coach.

I believe we will get the results we need, over the course of the next few weeks, to steer us clear of the relegation zone. A week or two from now I think we will all be a lot happier and feeling a lot more secure, not merely in terms of First division survival but in terms of the club's immediate and long-term future.

it was our pleasure to have, as guests at the dinner, Councillor John Battye, leader of Oldham Council, and Councillor Jim Greenwood, Chairman of the Leisure Service Committee.

The Council has done a splendid job to steer us through these difficult times and, hopefully, into a bright new future and I would like to record here the Oldham board's thanks to all concerned at the Civic Centre.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to ... Wakefield T.

Matthew Fuller. 23, ex-South Sydney, is signed to play for Winfield Cup newcomers Perth Western Reds when they enter the competition in 1995. Recommended to Trinity by Reds coach Peter Mulholland, Matthew captained Australia schoolboys as a stand-off, and led Canterbury Bankstown's junior side to the President's Cup in 1991.

Dave Woods. 27, 6ft 2in, 17 stone prop or second row from the Canberra Raiders and like Matthew Fuller is signed to play for Perth Western Reds in 1995. Like Darren Fritz before him, comes highly recommended by Raiders coach Tim Sheens, and is a strong-running forward very much in the Fritz mould who has been somewhat unfortunate to be unable to secure a regular spot in the Raider's star-studded pack despite being the reserve grade's top forward try scorer and captain.

Gary Christie. 20, 5ft 11ins U/21 International secured in exchange for Gary Price from Oldham, only took up the game aged 18 with amateur club Widnes Tigers yet within 18 months had achieved representative honours. Seen by many as one of the game's brightest young prospects, Trinity snapped him up in the face of intense competition from several other top clubs.

Mark Sheals. 27, 5ft 11ins, 163stone 4lb prop, a terrific crowd favourite at the Watersheddings, where he was voted supporters' player of the year last season, as well as being voted top prop in Division Two. His departure, in exchange for Trinity winger David Jones provoked such an outcry amongst the Oldham faithful that a petition was instigated by fans incensed at the move. Renowned as a hard-working pro's pro, whose workrate and consistency earned him selection for Lancashire. Desperately unlucky to break his leg in a pre-season friendly, during an impressive debut.

Lee Hanlon. Ex-Yorkshire County under 19 star, turned pro with Hull from Middletown amateurs, failed to break through on Humberside, in the face of intense competition from overseas stars like Mackey, Entat and Gale, being snapped up by Trinity during the close season. A tricky half-back and prolific goal-kicker, who will be hoping to make his mark in the big League this season.

Mark Webster. A local lad, "Webbo" began his career at St. Helens, being a highly sought after junior, before Trinity snapped him up on a free transfer. A powerhouse prop, he is a tremendous impact player and enjoyed the best form of his career at the beginning of last season, before a virus laid him low in the winter. At any thing like his best, has the firepower to trouble any defence.

John Glancy. A man of very few words who does all his talking on the field, John is a no-nonsense grafting forward who would do the business in any team. Very much a players player, this ex-Sheffield Eagle is always near the top of the list for tackles and yardage, and is equally at home at prop or second-row.

Jason Timmins. A much-underrated utility player, Jason was signed along with Richard Slater from Normanton amateurs. Yet to find a permanent place in the first team, Jason has been one of the Alliance side's most consistent performers over the last couple of seasons, and has never looked out of place in the top flight. A valuable squad member who definitely has what it takes to seize his chance when it finally comes along.

Kieran Allen. Another exciting local prospect, Kieran is a real flyer of a half-back who has the pace and wits of a natural finisher. Though still young enough for Academy football, where he has already caught the eye of the Great Britain selectors, he has not looked out of place in his appearances in first-grade football, and will be one to watch for in the next couple of seasons.

Andy Wilson. Ex-Queens amateur and Sheffield Eagles, Andy missed a good deal of last season through injury, but he is still capable of filling the wing berth to great effect. A natural try scorer, deceptively strong and elusive with the ball in his hand, he also is a solid defender and Trinity fans will be hoping to see some more of his tricky runs this season.

Nigel Bell. A cult hero in Wakefield. Signed from local club Eastmoor, he made his debut alongside Wally Lewis at scrum half, but he spends most of his time these days in the pack, being equally at home at prop, hooker or in the back row. A ferocious tackler, and extremely mobile, he never has a bad game, according to coach Dave Topliss, and many at Belle Vue feel that his talents should have long since been recognised with representative honours. Currently in his benefit year.

Andy Mason. Ex-Leeds, Bramley and Roundhay R.U., Andy has been top try scorer for the last two seasons, as well as having as sound a defensive game as any in the League. Has represented Yorkshire on several occasions, and has the happy knack of popping up to finish off any breaks made by team mates. A financial consultant by profession, he has seemed to improve with age and last season was probably his most productive yet.

Richard Goddard. A product of the local Stanley Rangers club that also produced Nigel Wright, Richard has tremendous potential. Represented Great Britain at Academy level last

year, and is still young enough to play Academy, even though this will be his third year in the top flight. A strong-running full-back, wing or centre, he is devastating when picking up the ball from broken play and can time a pass beautifully like all good centres. Many around Belle Vue feel that Richard has what it takes to play at the highest level, and will be hoping that he starts to really fulfil his potential this season.

Richard Slater. Small of stature but big of heart, Richard has modelled his game on that of Trinity's legendary Aussie, Ray Price, who taught him that a lack of inches definitely doesn't prevent someone making a huge impact on the field. Indeed, so young was he when he first broke into the team, that it is incredible to think that he is still in his early twenties. Noted for his tigerish defence and impeccable tackling technique, he is, however, deceptively quick in attack, and capable of unlocking the tightest defence with a deft body swerve.

John Thompson. Another local hero, J.T. "likes it hard." Signed from Eastmoor amateurs, was actually a member of Trinity's squad the last time they reached Wembley as far back as 1979, but he only really began to fulfil his potential when the club came back into the top flight five years ago. A no-nonsense, grafting forward who never gives less than 100%, he is equally effective at hooker or prop, and is one of the game's real unsung heroes.

James Mosely. Signed in the face of intense competition from all the top clubs, this ex-Moldgreen amateur enjoyed international selection at U/17 and U/19 levels before coming to Trinity. A skilful elusive threequarter, he made quite an impact on breaking into the side last season, with a sensational 90 yard effort at the Boulevard. Tipped by many at Belle Vue to pick up where Nigel Wright left off, he is another fine prospect.

Gary Spencer. Wakefield born and bred, Gary began his career at Belle Vue before joining Leeds, where he was too often passed over in favour of high-profile signings like Ettinghausen and Gallagher, despite excellent form. Rejoined Trinity four years ago and has been first-choice full-back ever since. Solid as a rock in defence, and inventive in attack, he is also capable of moving into the forwards to great effect when the situation demands it.

Adrian Flynn. Another outstanding local prospect, Adrian is a strong running second row, who has already represented Great Britain at Academy level. Spent most of last season in the Alliance side, but his consistent eye catching form and regular try scoring earned him a place in first grade towards the end of the season. With the departure of Gary Price and Michael Jackson, this season is his big chance to claim a regular first team place.

Billy Conway. A product of the Charlston U/17 side that produced Gary Spencer, Billy has been a Belle Vue mainstay since the mid eighties. A former English Schools Boxing champion, he is quick thinking and tenacious, capable of opening up the tightest defence around the rucks. In defence, he is a constant thorn in the side and always seems to pop up at just the right moment to harass the opposition.

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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 22 GARY HYDE



as a goalkicker, Gary popped over 2 vital goals during his brief spell with the Roughyeds. The first was in the dying minutes of the 1989 Lancs Cup semi-final, which gave Oldham a 19-

18 victory over Wigan and the other was the one that made the difference in the 30-29 win over Hull K.R. in the 1990 2nd division Premiership Final.

No. 23 ARTHUR TOMLINSON



Gary joined Oldham during the 1988-89 season, after having 10 successful years with Castleford. Whilst with the Wheldon road outfit, he had gained Great Britain under 24 honours in the early 1980's and also represented Yorkshire County.

Gary's position was centre and he was a regular member of the first team when they won promotion from the 2nd division in the 1989-90 season.

Although not renowned

Signed from the Bewsey Imps junior club in Warrington in December 1947, Arthur Tomlinson was a tough uncompromising prop or second row forward.

He made his debut on January 31st 1948 in the game against Wakefield Trinity and became a regular member of the Oldham pack for the next 8 years.

Arthur's career with the "Roughyeds" endured until the Championship

winning 1956-57 season in which he made 7 first team appearances.

In total he played in 174 first class matches for Oldham scoring 12 tries.

he later emigrated to New Zealand and actually coached the Kiwis against the 1962 great Britain touring team.

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EVENING CHRONICLE

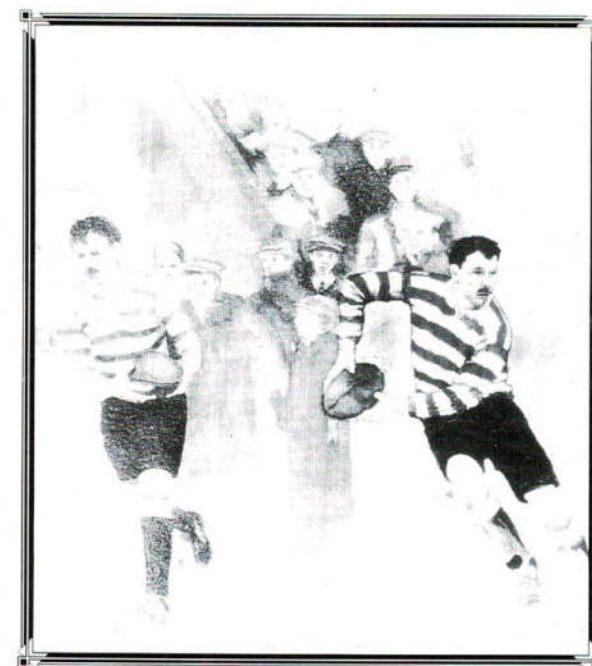
Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY

No. 12
JOE FERGUSON

*Oldham's all-time
leading
appearance maker
Joe Ferguson,
whose career with
the Roughy'eds
lasted from 1899
until 1923..*



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 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	H (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 Sem: Doncaster	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	AL1
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	
Friday	11th	Youngers ACC Sem: Hull K.R.	(W)	44-6	
Thursday	17th	Swinton	H		
APRIL					
Thursday	14th	Youngers ACC - Final			

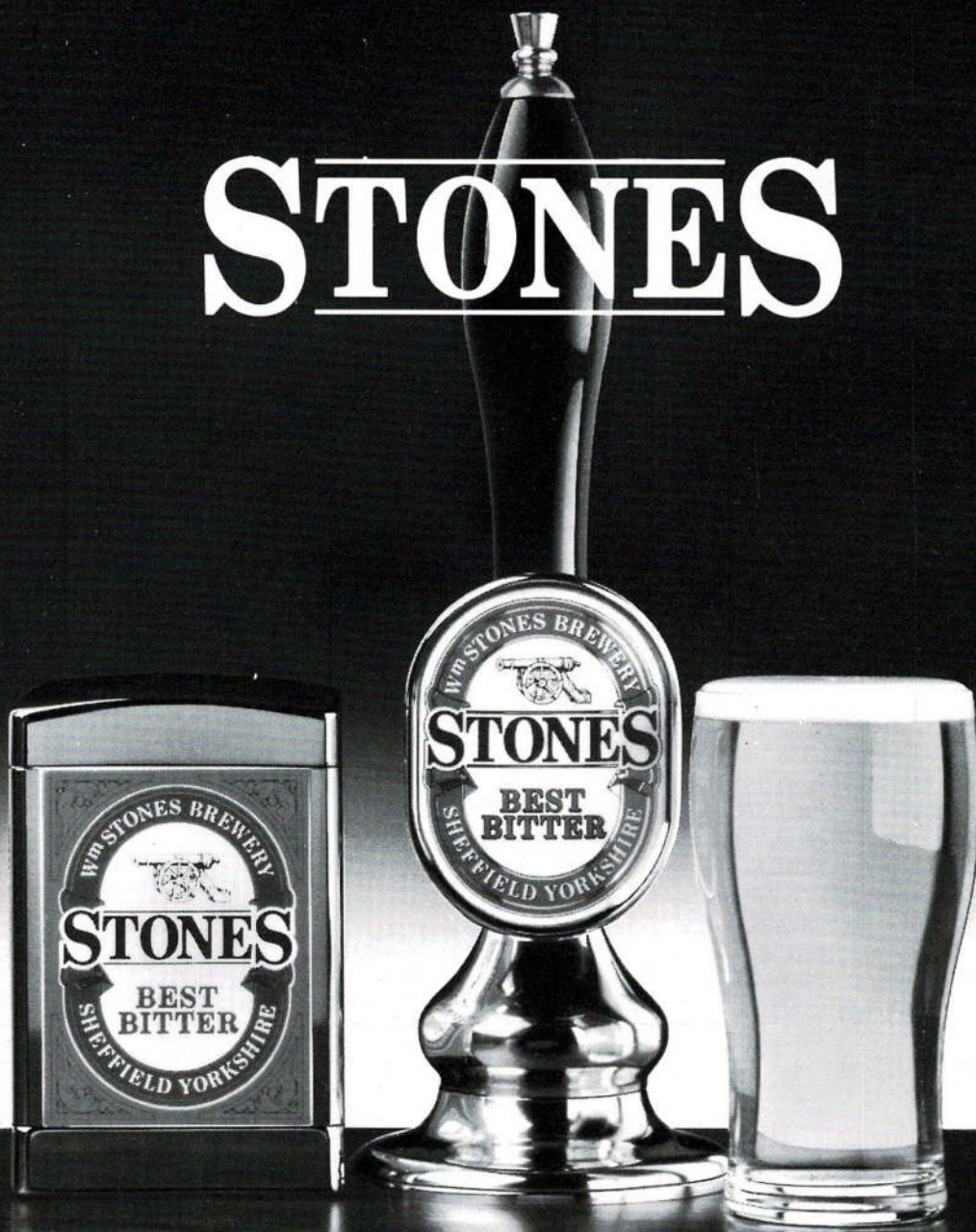
After our ASDC victory at Doncaster myself and the lads were amazed when the Doncaster loose forward was awarded Man of the Match, in fact as we listened to the after match presentations John Watkins asked me if he had dreamt that we had won the game, as there was hardly a mention of our performance. However the smile on his face said it all as the coach pulled our of Tattersfield with the Cup firmly on board as we set off back to Oldham for a couple of shandies. Our next cup game was against Featherstone in the Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup which was a pleasing 46-4 victory which put us into the semi-final but before that we had 3 important league games to come, starting with a tough game at Sheffield. We had to battle all the way to record a 14-6 victory. Special mention must go to Chris Parr who led form the front superbly. Then it was up to Carlisle for a game which the lads found too easy, which resulted in a total loss of concentration and the 44-16 victory was not one of our better displays. A demand for a tougher mental approach on our visit to London brought and emphatic 94-6 victory so I was happy to be very much on course in the league as we turned our attention to our semi against Hull K.R.

Markers Work

Shane

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ACTION EXTRA . . .



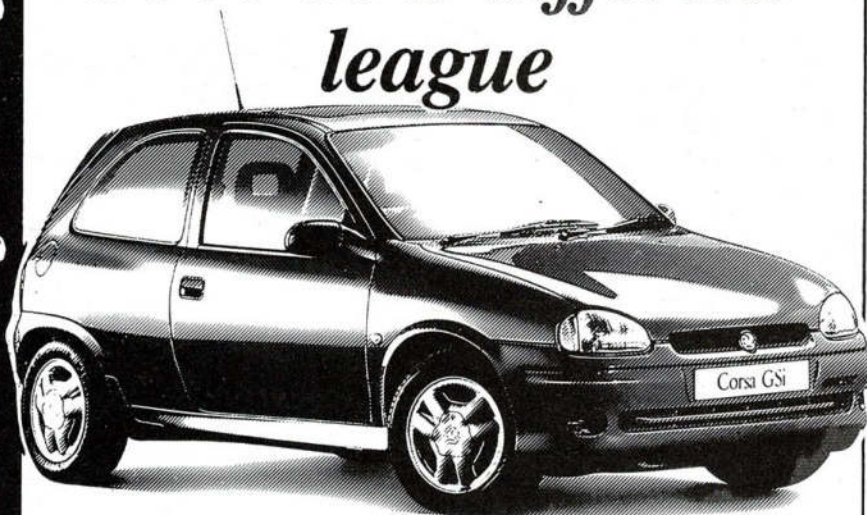
Martin Crompton was in outstanding form in last week's defeat of Hull.

HALF-TIME TEASERS

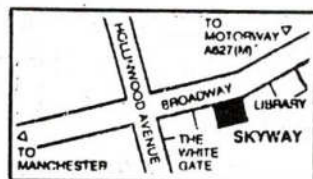
1. Which team were the 1st winners of the B.B.C. Floodlit Trophy?
2. Who holds the goals in a season record for Hunslet?
3. Which ex-Rugby League club played at The Cliff?
4. Who was the oldest player to play in a Challenge Cup Final?
5. What was the venue for the 1st ever G.B. v Australia test match in 1908?
6. Which team were the runners up in the 1st John Player (Regal) final in 1972?
7. Who captained the 1937 Australian touring team?
8. Who was the last Oldham player to captain Great Britain?
9. Who holds the tries in a career record for Leigh?
10. Who was the first G.B. player to score a hat-trick of tries against the Kiwis?

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Ex-players Reunion Dinner

We are hoping to hold a dinner for ex-players sometime this year, probably late September / Early October. (The price of the tickets will be announced at a later date.)

What a fantastic event this would be if we could attract players from the last fifty years or so. Why not come and meet up with old friends and colleagues, some of whom you may not have seen for some time. As you can imagine this is a mammoth task and that is the reason we are making people aware now.

So, if you are an ex-player or coach or staff member or you know any of these people and you would like details please send your name, address and telephone number to: IAN McMAHON, Reunion Dinner, Oldham R.L.F.C., The Pavilion,

Watersheddings, Oldham OL4 2PB. Details will be sent out to you in due course.

Your efforts will be appreciated by passing on this information.

Sportsmans' Dinner

A big thankyou to everybody who attended last weeks Sportsmans Dinner. We generated around £3,500 towards club funds.

A special thank you to Rick Coombs of C.C. Motorcycles who sponsored the event.

Also a mention to John Abbot (Flooring Contractors) Ltd whose name was accidentally missed off the programme. We are very grateful for your support and long may it continue.

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WEEK No. 9

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OLDHAM IN XXXXCELLENT FORM

Oldham's push away from the lower regions of the First Division moved another step forward with the 19-12 win against Hull.

In what proved to be a gripping game, scrum half Martin Crompton put in an impressive performance to score two tries, create two more for his team-mates and drop a crucial goal into the teeth of a gale force wind, mid-way through the second half.

Teamwork once again saw Oldham through, as they battled on in spite of the unfortunate substitution of front row forward Ian Sherratt, who damaged his ribs early in the match.

CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE



XXXXX



TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 20th MARCH, 1994

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Wally Gibson
2. Scott Ranson
3. Shaun Irwin
4. Darren Abram
5. David Jones
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. Paul Topping
15. Nigel Heslop

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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: Stuart Cummings

WAKEFIELD Team Changes

1. Henry Paul
2. Paul Brown
3. Andy Mason
4. Adrian Flynn
5. Bright Sodje
6. Lee Hanlan
7. Billy Conway
8. David Hobbs
9. Matthew Fuller
10. Ian Marlow
11. Steve Durham
12. Nigel Bell
13. Mike Forshaw
14. Richard Goddard
15. Gary Spencer

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

Touch Judges: David Mairs (Red Flag)
Ken Spencer (Yellow Flag)

New player/coach Bob Lindner was delighted with the result but recognises that there is still a considerable amount of work to be done before the target of First Division safety is achieved.

Today's game against Wakefield Trinity is particularly important because the Yorkshiremen are only two points clear of Oldham and are themselves involved in the relegation issue.

Oldham fans will need no reminding that victory for their side today would take Oldham above Trinity in the League Table on a superior scoring difference.

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IN TOUCH with H.O.

John Smith's Test at Carcassonne

Sunday, 20th March

France v Great Britain

Jonathan Davies is poised to become only the fifth player to total 50 or more goals for Great Britain in Test and World Cup matches.

The Warrington back has kicked 48 goals including two drop goals, from 12 appearances, including one as substitute.

Neil Fox (Wakefield T.) is the top goalkicker of all time for Britain with 93 in 29 matches between 1959-1969. He is followed by Lewis Jones (Leeds) 66, Jim Sullivan (Wigan) 64, Eric Fraser (Warrington) 53 and Davies 48.

Davies's total includes a record-equaling 10 for Britain in the 72-6 defeat of France at Headingley last April.

He has also scored three tries for a total of 106 points, putting him in seventh place behind leader Fox with 228.

Garry Schofield will be making his 44th appearance for Great Britain, leaving the Leeds half-back only two behind Mick Sullivan's record 46 appearances between 1954-1963.

Sullivan also leads the Great Britain try chart on 41 with Schofield's 31 putting him in second place.

Britain have won their last six matches against France. Their last defeat against them was 18-25 at Headingley on 7 April 1990.

They last lost in France when they went down 24-16 at Perpignan on 17 March 1985. They drew the next match 10-10 at Avignon on 16 February 1986.

Britain's highest score and widest margin win in France was 48-6 at Carcassonne a year ago.

Great Britain - France

Test Match Records

Britain

Highest score: 72-6 at Leeds, 2 April 1993 (Also widest margin win)

Most tries in a match: 5 by Martin Offiah (Widnes) at Leeds, 16 February 1991

Most goals in a match: 10 by Bernard Ganley (Oldham) at Wigan, 23 November 1957

10 by Jonathan Davies (Widnes) at Leeds, 2 April 1993

Most points in a match:

21 (1t, 9g) by Lewis Jones (Leeds) at Leeds, 26 January 1957. 21 (1t, 9g) by Neil Fox (Wakefield T.) at Wigan, 3 April 1963

21 (1t, 9g) by Neil Fox (Wakefield T.) at Leigh, 18 March 1964

Biggest attendance:

23,250 at St. Helens, 10 April 1957

France

Highest score:

25-18 at Leeds, 7 April 1990

Widest margin win:

19-2 at Marseilles, 20 December 1981

Most tries in a match:

3 by Didier Couston at Perpignan, 17 March 1985

Most goals in a match:

7 by Pierre Lacaze at Wigan, 4 March 1967

Most points in a match:

14 by Pierre Lacaze (as above)

14 (2t, 4g) by Gilbert Benausse at Wigan, 17 February 1962

Biggest attendance:

20,000 at Grenoble, 2 March 1958

	P	W	D	L	T	G	Dr	Pts
Great Britain	58	41	3	14	280	256	1	1461
France	58	14	3	41	105	137	4	621

TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



Stuart Cummings

(WIDNES)

Date of Birth

17.11.60

Grade One:

1991-92

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Last Time Out . . .

with ROGER HALSTEAD

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of November 1st, 1993.



The story of Oldham's narrow defeat by a poor Wakefield Trinity side at Belle Vue yesterday can best be told by facts and figures.

Many people in Rugby League will be surprised if Trinity escape relegation this season, yet they scored five tries to demolish a flimsy Oldham defence.

In so doing, they became the first team since Halifax on the opening day of the season to cross Oldham's line five times and they achieved, in 80 minutes, what Widnes, Leeds and Hull failed to achieve collectively in 240 minutes of football over the previous three games.

So what went wrong for Oldham? Were Wakefield's five tries by Mason, Goddard, Forshaw, Spencer and Hanlon the result of an outstanding team performance, or were Oldham still basking in the glory of that great win at Hull last time out?

One has to conclude that Wakefield scraped and clawed their way to their first home win of the season against an Oldham side that produced a disappointing display after impressive shows against Leeds and Hull.

Both teams made dozens of handling errors, referee Niel Wood of Keighley chipped in with one or two controversial decisions and the ease with which Trinity split Oldham's weak defence added up to a game that was full of incident and excitement if very little class and defensive commitment.

On my scorecard, Wakefield won a points decision if only because they scored five tries to Oldham's three and were 4-1 up on the try-count until the last quarter of an hour.

Richard Goddard's failure to land more than one goal from numerous attempts kept Oldham in the game rather more than the visitors efforts to keep Wakefield at bay or produce try-scoring rugby of their own.

Of the three tries Oldham scored, two were solo efforts by Bob Lindner and Paul Topping and only the third, by Scott Ranson near the end, was beautifully executed by teamwork, Lindner and Shaun Irwin doing the damage out wide on the right.

Had Topping been able to tack on the extra points from the touchline, Oldham would probably have snatched it, but whether they could have gained real and lasting satisfaction from their performance is another matter completely.

They did not have the rub of the green. No doubt about that. Of all the penalties dished out to each side for holding-down after the tackle, only Lindner was sin-binned.

There was no such temporary dismissal for Wakefield full-back Gary Spencer just after half-time when he was penalised for obstruction as Wally Gibson chased his own kick to the Wakefield line.

A lucky rebound paved the way for Wakefield's fourth try by Spencer, but it was the fifth by Hanlon which caused Oldham to feel a little hard done by.

The Trinity scrum-half, tackled a few yards short of the Oldham line, seemed to regain his feet in one movement and race away to the line as Oldham appealed in vain for a penalty.

The referee must have ruled that the tackle was incomplete or, probably, that Hanlon quickly played the ball himself.

Either way, I would like to see the video recording of the incident to be completely satisfied of the validity of the try.

The biggest blow to Oldham was the early departure of Ian Sherratt with an ankle injury.

Sherratt and Tiny Solomona, the props, have been a tower of strength all season, but on this occasion the Kiwi was merely a substitute after playing for New Zealand on Saturday and Sherratt contributed only 17 minutes of solid endeavour before he was injured.

Trinity had done their homework. Not that it needed much doing with Paul Round in their side. They knew Sherratt had been in splendid form and it was clear from the start they knew they had to hold him.

Honours were about even when Sherratt limped off, to be replaced by a man who had given his all for his country the previous day.

Solomona this time was not the Solomona who has been a model of consistency for Oldham over the past 18 months. He had tackled himself to a standstill in the Test and he will be the first to agree his club performance suffered badly as a result.

With Sherratt helpless in the dug-out, Solomona struggling after his exertions the previous day, Paul Groves finding it hard to make an impact after a spell in the Alliance side and No 10 Mark Meadows substituted early on by Ian Green, Oldham were up against it in the front row.

The first three forwards down made a major impact in the narrow defeat at Widnes and the wins over Leeds and Hull, but on this occasion the front-row honours belonged to Wakefield.

Trinity props Steve Durham and Ian Marlow took a lot of holding in the first half when the pattern was set. For good measure, hooker Nigel Bell took Trinity's Man of the Match Award.

Trinity were already 10-1 up when Sherratt went off, but that should not conceal the fact that Oldham were weakest in this match where they have been strongest in previous games - in the front-row.

That was the biggest single difference between this Oldham performance and better ones over the last few weeks.

Round emerged with a lot of credit for his work in the Wakefield second row, but collectively Oldham had the edge in the back row of the forwards thanks to the strong running of Mike Kuhl and Andy Goodway up the middle and Lindner out wide.

Gary Christie and Andy Wilson, on the Wakefield wings, had nightmare games, but Andy Mason - a player who never fails to impress me - was the best and busiest centre on view until Irwin came strongly into contention late on when, courtesy of Lindner, he was able to supply Ranson with an excellent service.

Simon Longstaff kicked well for the home side, but Wakefield had little to offer save for the strength of Durham, Marlow and Round in the forwards, the class of Mason out wide and a dogged determination to conquer.

Mason scored the first Trinity try and set up two more for Forshaw and Spencer, but Oldham were not sharp enough on defence around the play-the-ball and too many Trinity attacks were allowed to develop when they should have killed at source.

Wakefield's second try, was a typical example. There seemed to be no danger when Bell moved away from Groves deep inside the Trinity half, but Durham put centre Goddard through a gap and he raced up field, turned inside a wrong-footed Gibson and pulled out of Ranson's tackle to give his side a 10-1 lead.

Oldham clawed their way back to lead 11-10 with a Lindner try and three goals by Topping and at that stage they seemed capable of going on to win the match.

The balance of power swung back into Wakefield's favour when Solomona was penalised for not playing the ball properly. Tries by Forshaw and Spencer quickly followed and Oldham were never to lead again although they twice got to within one point of Wakefield with late tries by Topping and Ranson.

The Wakefield defence closed down by Kerry, never allowing him the room to shine as he did against Widnes, Leeds and Hull.

They had their homework and it paid off for them, but Oldham will be kicking themselves at having missed the opportunity to move into the top eight.

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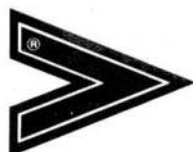
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	21	1	4	-	-	16
NIGEL HESLOP	15	-	4	-	-	16
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	15	6	2	46	-	100
SCOTT RANSON	23	-	9	-	-	36
DARREN ABRAM	23	-	15	5	-	70
STEVE KERRY	13	1	2	9	3	29
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	24	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	4	9	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	5	7	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	25	1	4	-	-	16
DAVID JONES	22	2	5	-	-	20
ANDY GOODWAY	21	3	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	8	4	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	12	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	3	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	20	-	6	-	-	24
MARTIN CROMPTON	14	1	6	-	3	27
BOB LINDNER	21	2	7	-	-	28
JOHN CLARKE	16	-	2	-	-	8
DAVID STEPHENSON	5	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	6	1	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	1	1	-	-	-	-
ADRIAN BELLE	1	-	-	-	-	-
PADDY MITCHELL	4	-	1	-	-	4
GLEN LIDDIARD	3	1	1	3	-	10

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bradford	22	18	0	4	604	401	36
Wigan	20	17	0	3	569	289	34
Warrington	23	17	0	6	470	317	34
Castleford	22	15	1	6	611	320	31
St. Helens	23	13	1	9	486	407	27
Halifax	22	12	2	8	464	381	26
Sheffield	23	12	1	10	509	526	25
Leeds	23	11	1	11	452	442	23
Featherstone	23	11	1	11	487	494	23
Widnes	23	11	0	12	400	467	22
Hull	22	8	2	12	322	374	18
Salford	22	9	0	13	406	469	18
Wakefield	23	7	0	16	321	499	14
Oldham	23	6	0	17	404	488	12
Hull K.R.	23	6	0	17	352	630	12
Leigh	23	2	1	20	282	635	5

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

We have suffered a week of setbacks since our fine victory at Dewsbury. First of all we were informed that our Academy Challenge Cup Match against St. Helens would not be televised after all, because the senior game (St. Helens v Leeds) due to be screened on the same night had been cancelled, since Leeds had few a players on International duty. However, if we progress to the next round,

you will have the opportunity to watch Oldham Academy on Sky Sports. The second set-back was the cancellation of our League match at Keighley last Saturday, due to waterlogging. The match was important to us in that a victory would have maintained our momentum as League leaders. However, it was not to be and the coaches have worked overtime this week in an effort to stimulate the squad and to foster the feeling of high confidence in the camp.

Forthcoming Fixtures:

Tuesday, 22nd March v Hunslet, Home.

Saturday, 26th March v Barrow, Away.

Monday, 28th March v Dewsbury, Home.

Saturday, 2nd April v Barrow, Home.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Oldham	16	13	0	3	516	232	26
Featherstone	14	12	0	2	530	171	24
Workington	17	12	0	5	476	333	24
Sheffield	15	11	0	4	502	228	22
Widnes	13	10	0	3	448	139	20
Dewsbury	12	9	0	3	333	254	18
Keighley	12	8	0	4	307	199	16
Barrow	13	6	0	7	287	304	12
Whitehaven	16	3	0	13	238	494	6
Huddersfield	14	2	0	12	272	463	4
Ryedale-York	15	2	0	13	204	517	4
Batley	12	2	0	10	108	503	4
Hunslet	13	1	0	12	132	516	2

Stats:

Leading try scorers: Munro 23, Prescott 16, Bradbury 13, Halkyard 12, Meade 11, Moran 10.

Goal Scorers: Munro 39, Badby 32.

DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development
Officer
NIEL WOOD

After the wind last week which failed to spoil a great day for Oldham Rugby League Club and for the Development Scheme, news now of two very exciting projects.

First next week's home game against

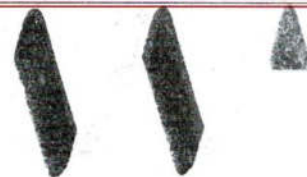
Featherstone which is sponsored by OMBC will be open to any under 16's who have ordered a ticket through their school or club. Already 500 tickets have been ordered and I hope that the figure is nearly 1,000 next week. Anyone not having ordered their tickets should do so through school tomorrow, March 21st by ringing me on 627 4497. Only tickets ordered through school or club will be issued.

The second project is to take 1,000 Oldham school children to Wembley for the First Test against Australia in October. Again tickets are to be ordered through schools and clubs and the closing date is tomorrow. The cost is £15.00 for children which represents great value.

Finally today, welcome to the women players from Lancashire and Yorkshire who are playing in the curtain raiser.

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ACTION PHOTOS

Courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



**MIKE KUITI
IN THE
THICK
OF IT**

**DARREN
ABRAM ON
A CHARGE
AT THE
HULL
DEFENCE**



BACK PAGES

by Michael Turner

The first meeting between the 2 teams in the old Northern Union took place at Watersheddings on 7th October 1895, when Oldham recorded a victory by 17 points to nil. However there would be no "double" for Oldham as Trinity won the return match 16-5 the following April.

There has always been a healthy degree of transfer activity between the two clubs going right back to the 1920's when Oldham's Welsh wingman Ned Thomas (ex Llanelli) crossed the penines to join Trinity in February 1924. Then in the 1940's, Billy Stott also went to Wakefield, where he would become the first winner of the Lance Todd Trophy in the 1946 Challenge Cup Final victory over Wigan.

Probably better remembered are the trio of players from the successful 1950's side who helped Wakefield become the Cup specialists of the early 1960's namely, Derek Turner, Don Vines and John Eddy.

All 3 gaining the Challenge Cup winners medal that had eluded them at Oldham. Turner in particular proving to be an inspirational captain lifting the Cup for Trinity in 1960-62-63 with final victories over Hull, Huddersfield and Wigan.

In more recent times, Paul Round, Paul Lord, Gary Christie and Mark Sheals have also crossed form Oldham to Wakefield, with Alan McCurrie and current winger David Jones going in the other direction. The present

Wakefield coach David Topliss and ex prop forward Mick Morgan also played for both teams.

On 2 occasions Oldham have defeated Wakefield in the Challenge Cup semi-final in 1912 and 1927.

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
Ray Martland and Alan Agar in a tussle for the ball in our home game against Wakefield on April 5th, 1981.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

**With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER**



Results went O.K. for us last weekend and today our destiny is definitely in our own hands. Make no mistake Wakefield Trinity will be superb opponents today. They have a fine coach in David Topliss and some excellent players particularly Henry Paul the young Kiwi. Anyone who saw his inspirational performances against the Great Britain Academy will have realised how talented this player is. We will have to be wary of his attacking skills.

The tenacity of last weeks second half performance showed our determination to bring success to Watersheddings and fully deserved the two points.

I spoke last week about consistency and today we need to reproduce last weeks defensive effort and the control of the ball we showed in the second half. When we do that we will be able to bank two more valuable League points.

Things in the 'A' team continue to go well, as they do with the Academy. It's disappointing that the Academy game against St. Helens is not now being televised but this should serve as an incentive for our young players to progress to the next round.

Last week was a Head Coaches dream - 1st team win, 'A' team win, Academy team win. I could get used to that!

This page is sponsored by IRENE and HELEN CALOW

NEXT HOME LEAGUE GAME
OLDHAM V. FEATHERSTONE R.
SUNDAY, 27th MARCH, 1994
K.O. 3.00 p.m.