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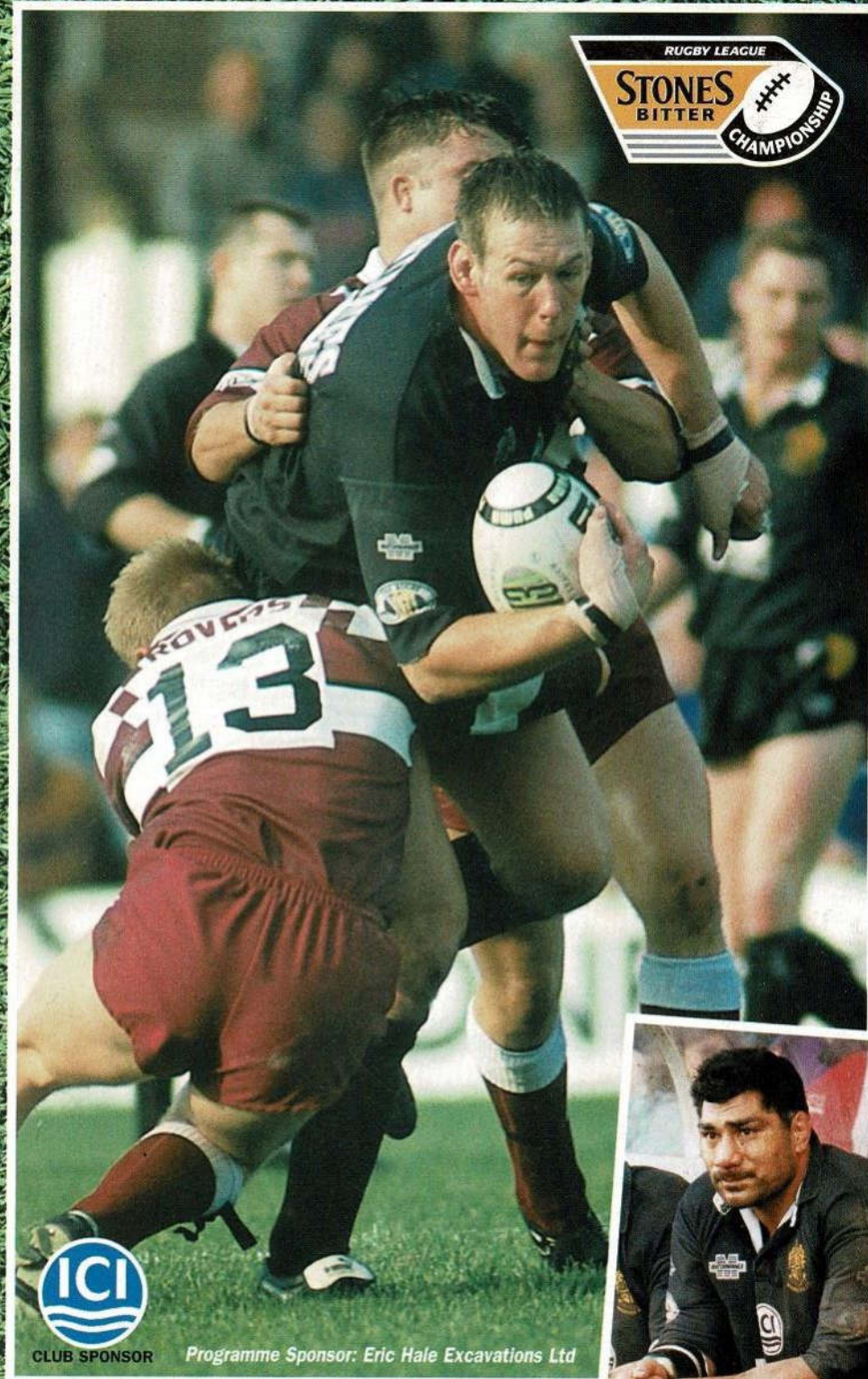
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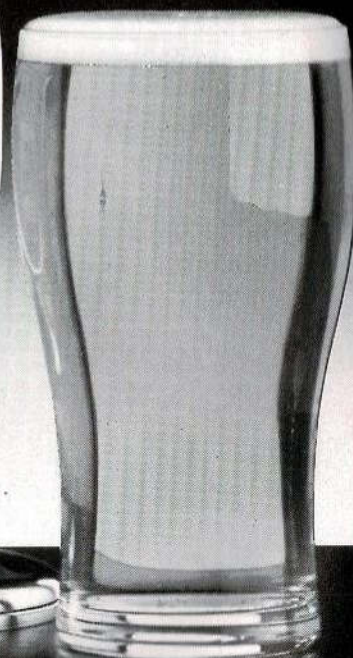
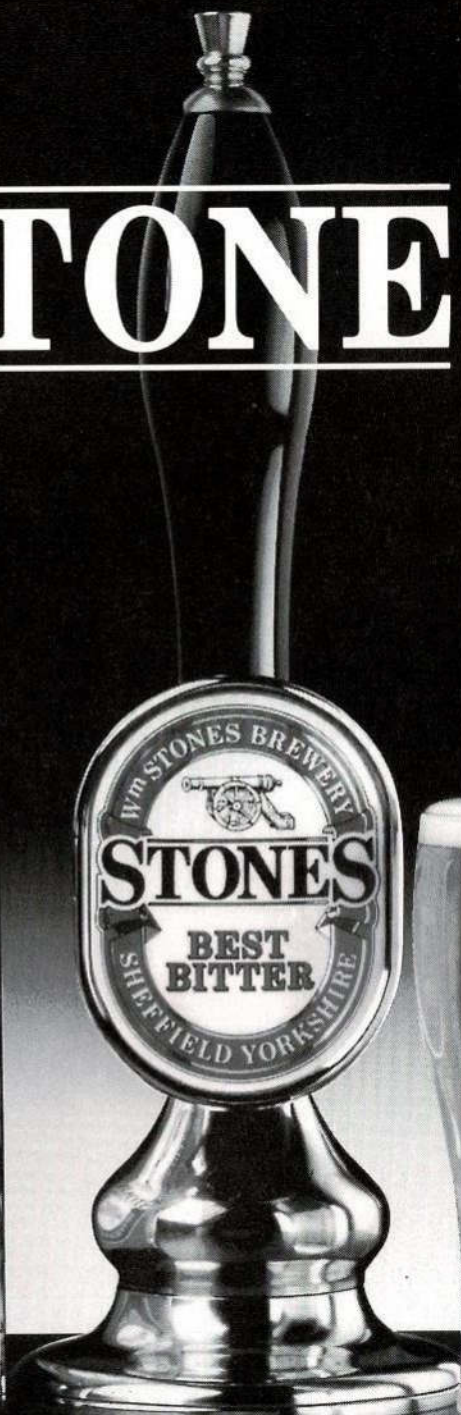
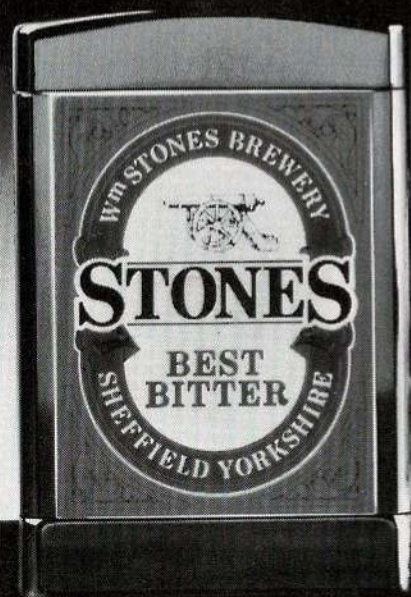
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Widnes v Oldham

Sunday 19th March 1995 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

STONES



THE MAJOR SPONSOR OF RUGBY LEAGUE.

WELCOME TO OLDHAM

We welcome the players, supporters and officials of Oldham RLFC to Naughton Park for this afternoon's Stones Bitter Championship fixture.

VITAL POINTS

At the time of writing the League's decision on the promotion and relegation issues, in the light of the Doncaster situation, had still not been declared; no doubt by the time you read these words the position will be clearer. But, as we said on this page on Wednesday, until we are mathematically certain of staying up, then every point is vital, and even then we still have pride to play for. Despite it being a rocky road at times a loyal hardcore of fans has stayed loyal to the club and with the new stadium, and perhaps brighter times, just around the corner, the playing staff, will be keen to build on their recent good form to build for the future and reward those die-hard spectators.

AWAY DAYS

Assuming that we don't finish in the top four of the table this season and so earn a home tie in the Premiership (and about a dozen clubs above us would have to announce mergers before that were even likely to come about!), then we have only two more fixtures to play at Naughton

Park this term. Hull are here next Sunday and then we have the traditional Good Friday clash with Warrington. There are still six away games to come, however, plenty of opportunity for the travelling barmy army to get behind the lads in their inimitable way.

CUP HOPES

Our visitor's, of course, have other things to look forward to, like a Challenge Cup semi-final with Wigan. No doubt the Roughyeds would have preferred to meet Featherstone, instead, just as the Rovers would have liked to play them, but it wasn't to be and even though they will be long odds against to make a first visit to Wembley, they are still in with a chance.

The Watersheddings outfit remain the only team to win at Wilderspool this season, and if they can recapture such form again, then who knows what might happen? One thing is absolutely certain; they won't be short of people willing them on to win!

CLUB OFFICIALS

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A HARRIS, J.A. HODGSON, A. MURRAY,	Academy Coach: MR. C.WHITFIELD
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PROGRAMME

Programme designed and produced by: **FRANK TOBIN** Editor: **STEVE FOX**
 Editorial: **JOHN POTTIER, CHRIS MOORE, RON GIRVIN, WILLIAM BOOT, PAT CLUSKEY, ROGER HARRISON,**
 Photography: **PETER HESTON, STUART BOGG (WEEKLY NEWS), SIG KASATKIN, CHRIS MOORE,**
DARRELL COOPER, RUGBY LEAGUER, OPEN RUGBY.

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

WIDNES RLFC



WIDNES RLFC CLUB HONOURS

Division One Champions: 1977-78, 1987-88, 1988-89

Challenge Cup Winners: 1929-30, 1936-37, 1963-64, 1974-75, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1983-84.

Lancashire League Winners: 1919-20.

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1945-46, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1990-91

John Player Trophy Winners: 1975-76, 1978-79, 1991-92.

Premiership Winners: 1979-80, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90.

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy Winners: 1978-79.

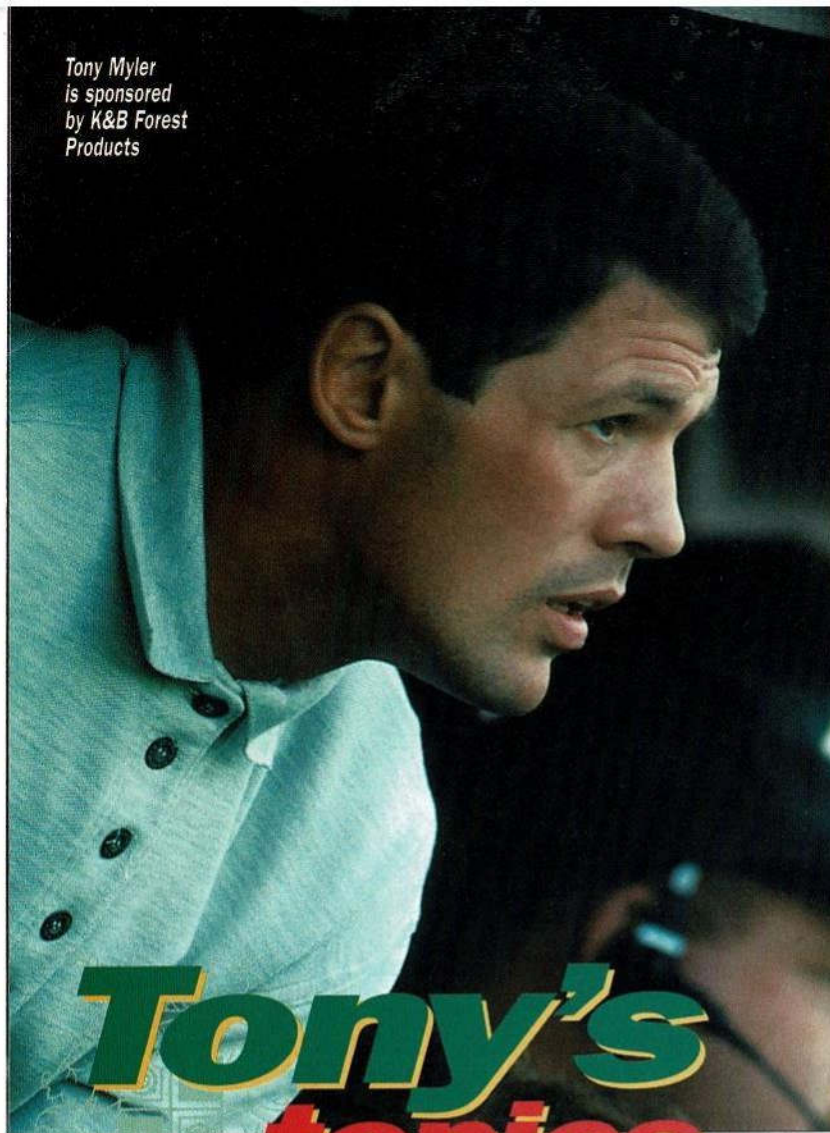
Charity Shield Winners: 1988 1989 1990

European & World Club Champions: 1989.

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Tony's topics...

■ **Congratulations to Oldham on reaching the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals. It's a pity that we're not there with them. Like most people I was obviously pleased with the way in which we tackled Wigan last Saturday.**

Before the game we realised that Wigan like to get on top very quickly, especially in Cup ties, so it was very important to ensure that this did not happen to us.

It's very encouraging for us all at the club that we are signing so many young talented players. In reality, we're not going to be able to offer the sort of money that the likes of Wigan and

TONY MYLER

Leeds can in big contracts, so our strategy is to sign the players young and bring them through slowly. The fact that we can attract such quality players (we signed four more Academy players before the Wigan Cup tie), shows how they regard Widnes and this can only auger well for the future.

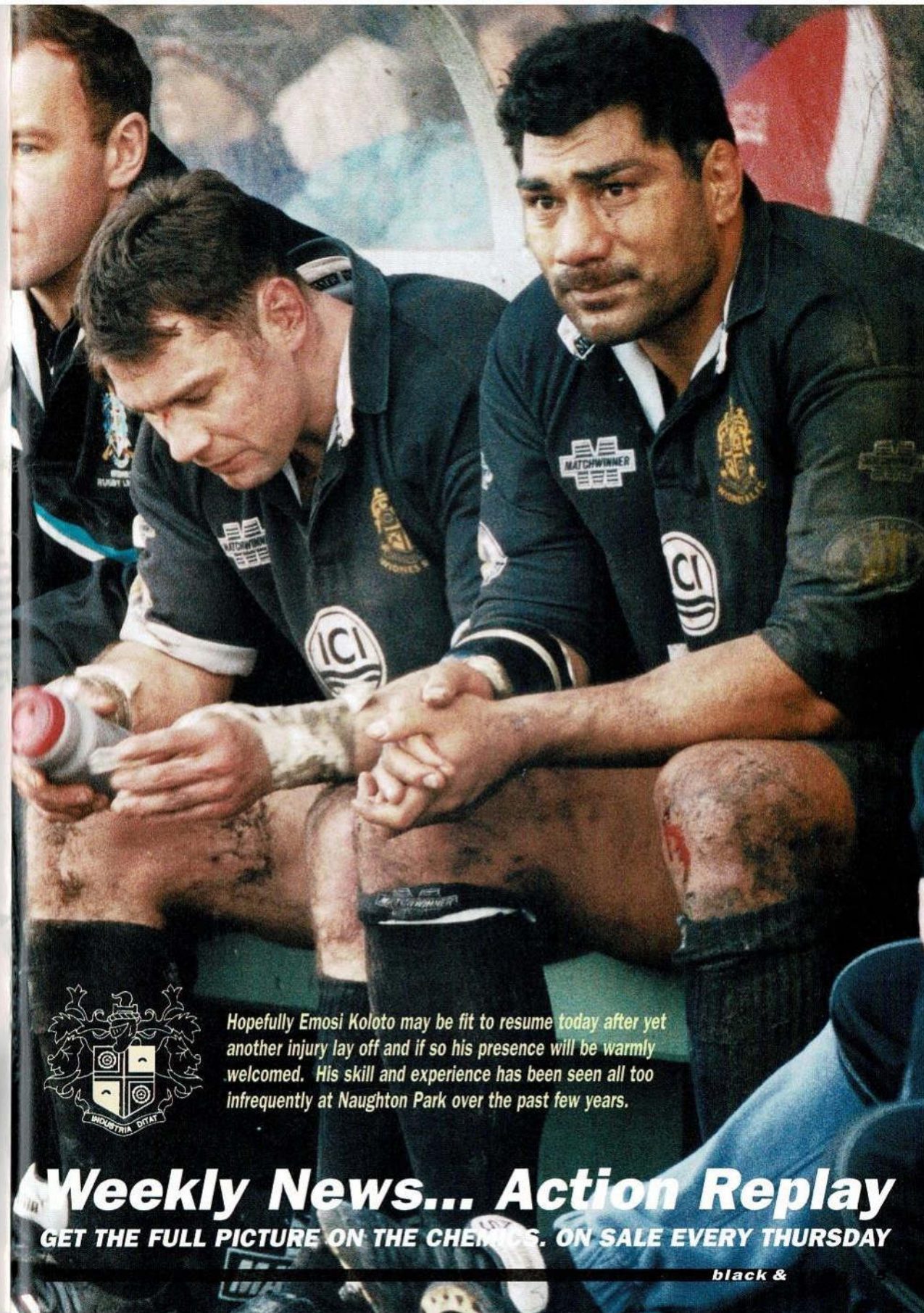
It will be interesting to see how the salary cap will affect clubs for next season. It's obviously not been tried here before and no one can predict just what's going to happen.

It's very encouraging for us all at the club that we are signing so many young talented players

The season is now rapidly gathering pace for the final run in and it's vitally important that we pick up league points if we are to get into mid-table. Of course, First Division survival is everything and we must build towards the future and greater things next term, we have the foundations laid.

OFFICIAL BALL SUPPLIERS
TO WIDNES

PUMA
AND THE RUGBY LEAGUE



Hopefully Emosi Koloto may be fit to resume today after yet another injury lay off and if so his presence will be warmly welcomed. His skill and experience has been seen all too infrequently at Naughton Park over the past few years.

Weekly News... Action Replay
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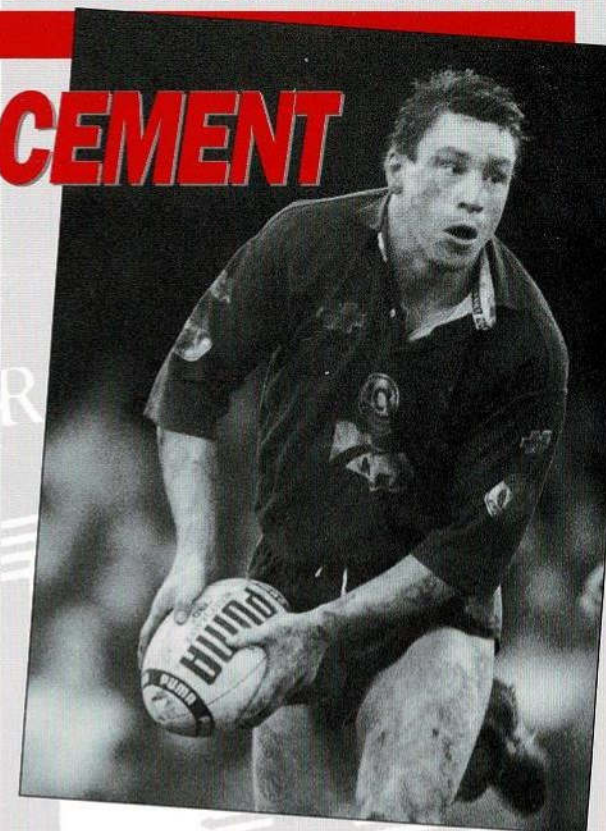
GUTSY REPLACEMENT

■ Replacing popular players who have left the Club is always a difficult task, supporters are always quick to compare the replacement. The popular Andy Collier who joined Widnes in the close season from the crisis torn Club Leigh has done much to soften the blows of the departures with gutsy all action performances we expect here at Widnes. The B&W spoke to Andy recently about his season here at Naughton Park.

"Leaving Leigh my hometown club after eight seasons with them was probably the right thing to do, they were having problems financially and with the future of Hilton Park itself not certain. I did feel genuinely sorry for the supporters of the Club, they certainly did not deserve all the problems they were having.

At the end of last season one or two Clubs did show an interest in me, Workington and Keighley made very good offers for me to join them but I did express a wish to stay within the region, so as not disrupt my studies too much. I am in my final year of BEd. course at a college near Southport and when Widnes came in for me I was delighted to sign for them.

There were a couple of players here already that I knew quite well such as David Ruane with whom I played at Leigh. Darren Wright and I go back quite along way as youngsters playing in the same school teams to joining the amateur club Leigh Miners before going our separate ways in the professional ranks. Then of course there is Lee Hansen who later followed me to Naughton Park. I am really enjoying myself here at Widnes, they are a great set of lads with a sense of humour to match. I won't try to kid anybody that it as been something of an



easy time here, completely the opposite. It has been a very tough campaign playing some good sides along the way and not getting the results which were warranted by the spirited displays Widnes have given. Believe you me it is as much frustrating for the coaching staff and the players as it is for the supporters, who incidently have been absolutely magnificent this season, playing their important role of lifting the side vocally home and away. At Leigh I was given a lot of responsibility because at twenty seven I was the oldest player. I played out of position quite a lot especially in the pack, I even played quite few games at prop forward, which when you consider I first joined as a fullback could have had a damaging effect on my personal game. Since arriving here at Widnes I have been mainly selected in the much preferred second row position.

We have been winning a few league games recently, hopefully we can consolidate on those encouraging performances with some good results against sides who are also at the wrong end of the league table. We certainly have the class and the players here at Widnes to do just that".

WHO AM I? Clue No.1

*Five clues throughout the programme should give away the identity of our mystery player.
How quickly can you name him?*

I joined Widnes from local Rugby Union in the summer of 1978.
(next clue page 9)

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“Pound for pound, the lads at Leeds have always believed him to be one of our most feared opponents in the last decade.”

David Creasser



taking the **mike**

Radio Merseyside's Steve Roberts writes...

■ I was commenting on a Bradford N v Widnes game last season and summerizing the match for us was ex Leeds RL and Gt Britain centre David Creasser. He was talking about the present Widnes skipper David Hulme and today I'd like to throw my tuppence worth in.

David for me has epitomized the role of the true club professional throughout his distinguished career, but I don't really feel he has had the media praise he deserves. Since coming into the Widnes side on a regular basis after tussling for a year or so with Andy Gregory for the No 7 jersey, he has never once given less than 100% effort in the Chemics' cause.

With all due respect to Garry

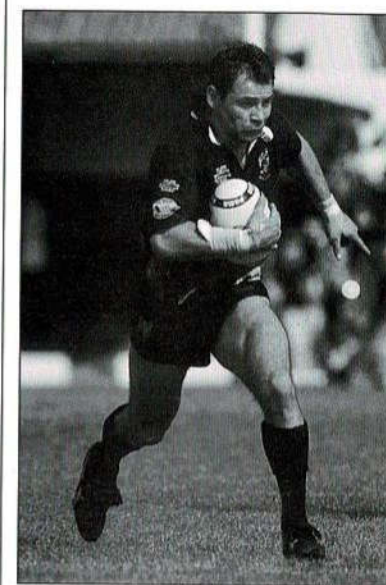
Schofield, it absolutely astounds me to see the attention the Leeds player receives in the press and on television alike. If I had the choice of 13 David Hulmes in my side or 13 Garry Schofields - I know who I would have! David can look back on many glory filled days in a glittering career with the Chemics and quite rightly he possesses a cupboard-full of awards and medals. But it is his displays in the last two Widnes games that has prompted me to put pen to paper.

Against Sheffield Eagles and Wigan in the Challenge Cup he produced two super displays, making hard yards which completely vindicate those earlier words of David Creasser.

The records will show that David Hulme has scored over 100 tries for the Chemics, but I wouldn't mind betting he has saved another 400 with his awesome cover tackling.

During the glory days of the 1970s

many great stars wore the Chemics black and white jersey - they were allowed to perform their skills thanks to the tireless and



relentless endeavours of workhorse Reg Bowden.

Without a shadow of doubt, history will show that David Hulme has done exactly the same in the '80s and '90s. In my opinion, anyway, an all-time Widnes great!

WHO AM I? Clue No. 2

My first season was spent on the wing.
(next clue page 15)

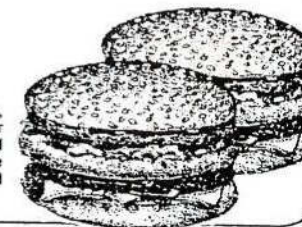
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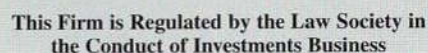
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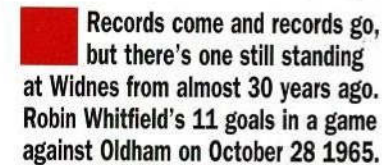
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"I remember it as if it was only yesterday," said Robin, who is now helping out in the coaching of our referees after proving to be one of the best officials in the world himself.

"That Oldham game was one of those days when everything went just right," said Robin. "Oldham had a good team in those days including South African full back John Winton, who later played for Wigan."

"We were expecting it to be hard to win the game never mind beat Oldham. But we just went out and threw the ball around. It was like Harlem Globetrotters and we won 49-5."

"The one disappointment about that game was that I hit the posts with two other kicks and was also recalled for a forward pass when I was going from half way towards the posts. Perhaps the ref couldn't keep up with the play!"

Had any of those points counted he would have beaten Harry Dawson's record of 27 points in a game scored against Liverpool City on Easter Monday in 1957. "I changed my kicking style for the game. I had been having a few problems with kicks and instead of lying the ball down in the old torpedo cannon style, I stood the ball up straight and it worked."

The try scorers made interesting reading: Brian Winstanley (2), Vince Karalius, Tony Karalius, Alan Walsh, Ged Lowe, Wally Hurstfield, Dennis Ward and Robin himself.

Dennis Ward went on to be capped by Australia and he is still involved in country rugby over there.

The Widnes team at the time was just beginning to break up after the 1964 Wembley triumph and Robin, who played at Widnes from 1960-69, had

taken over the No 1 spot from Bob Randall.

Randall was the Wembley full back but Robin almost got into the team. Bob had an attack of yellow jaundice and had only got back into the side a week before Wembley.

"You could say I missed out by a week, but I have had some great experiences as a referee at Wembley and in Tests.

"The biggest memory was refereeing at a full Sydney Cricket Ground. Not even Wembley can compare with that. I did three Winfield Cup games there, and then Australia-New Zealand Test in 1986. That really was something!" Robin deserved his success. He was always a good clubman and my everlasting memory of him was going round to Naughton Park one day to see if the pitch was fit after snow. And who should be on the terraces with a shovel in his hand but Robin Whitfield. How many would do that today?

Although it was disappointing to miss out on this season's Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final, it's nice to see Oldham within striking distance of a first Wembley.

They ought to have played Widnes in the 1964 final but for a bungle by the game's administrators at the time.

Oldham and Hull KR drew in their semi-final and when the replay kick-off time was announced, everyone knew that if extra time were needed, there was no way the game could be completed. That's exactly what happened as the game was abandoned with Oldham 17-14 ahead. Hull KR emerged triumphant 12-2 in the third game.

Had Oldham made it they could have had the unique distinction of being Division Two champions and finalists. They certainly had some good players like Frank Dyson, Trevor Simms, hooker Len McIntyre and the one and only Peter Smethurst.

[illegible]

We've done it

CHEMICALS

Widnes team the
Rugby League Champions
day night for the first time
400 people turned up to see Harry Williams in

CUP FINAL

STORY FOR WIDNES AT WEMBLEY

ABLE TO CHECK SPEEDY CHEMICS.

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final at Wembley

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WEMBLEY

First League victory in a final considered as the first step toward the first championship, as played by the American Football League, secretary of the league, speaking at the ceremony of the award of the trophy to the Chicago Bears.

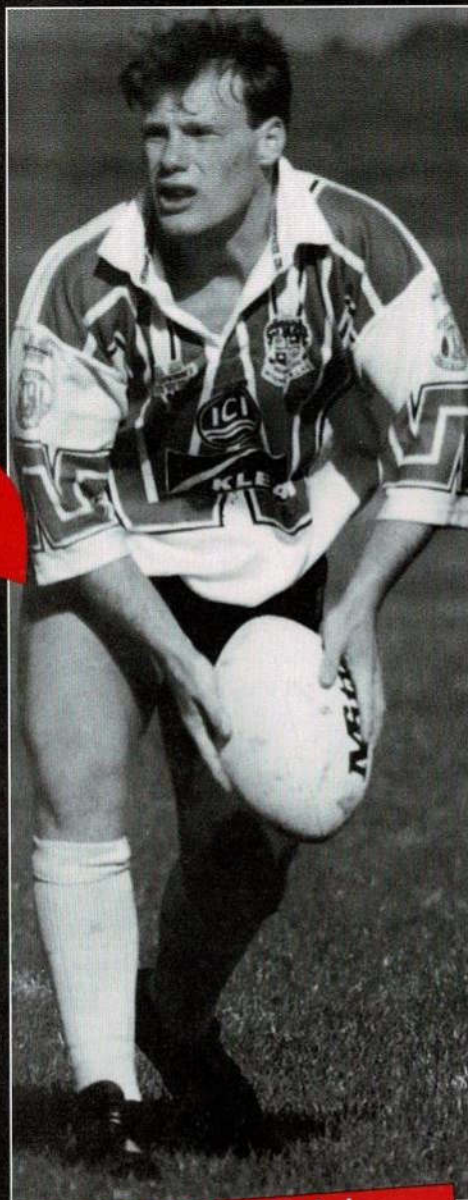
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...get on his w...

The Violent Captain
The Saints checked a couple of moves, Topping being known for Lewis and Queen. The game was kept even. After a few tricks to Walpole for a scam in the second half, the Saints came back but his attempt at goal failed. As the result of a long kick by the Saints, the Saints went over the half way line for the first time since the

[illegible]

RUGBY LEAGUE

Washing Lydon seas



PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 19/12/73 Age: 22
 Occupation: Student
 Honours: Great Britain Under 21 Squad,
 Great Britain Academy,
 Lancashire Under 11's - Under 17's

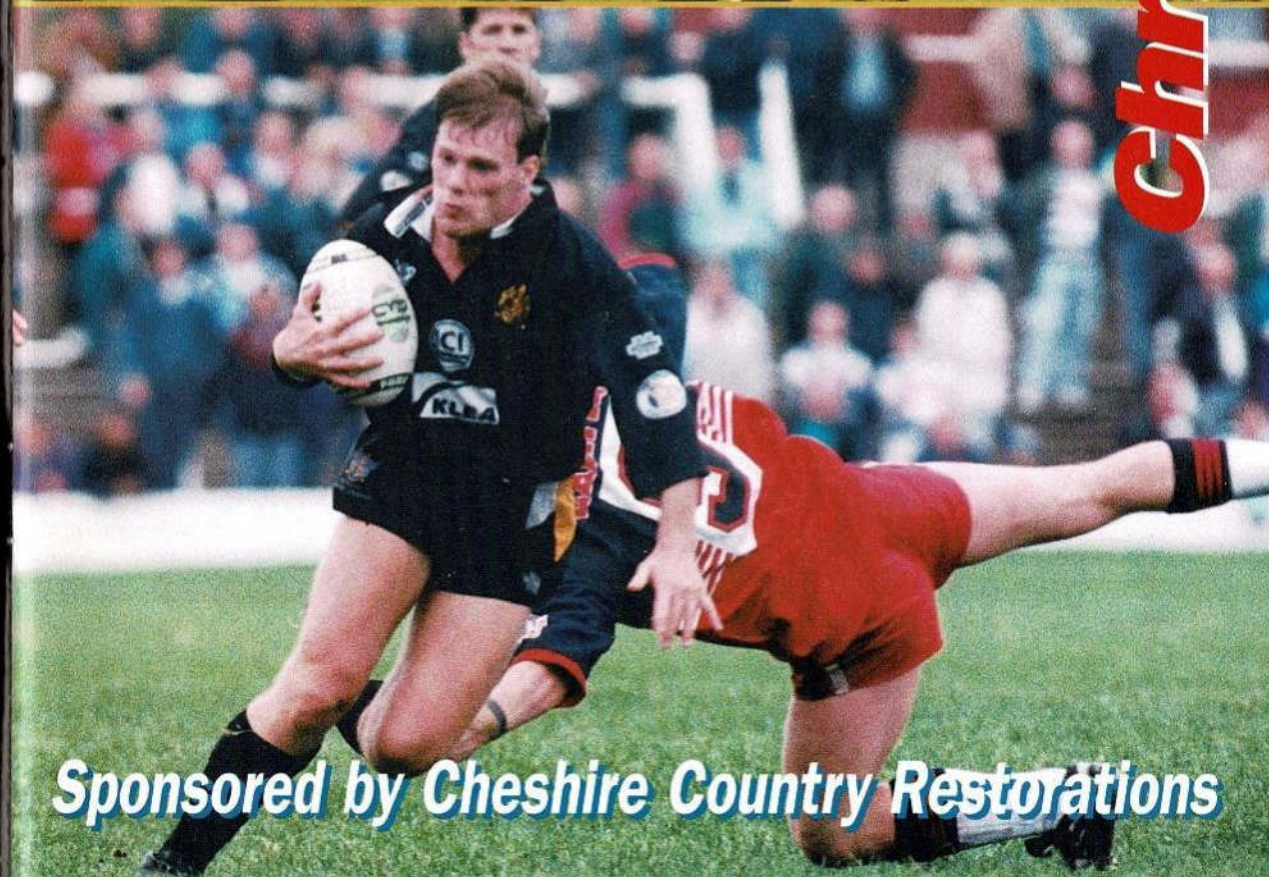
RUGBY TOPICS

At times last season Christian Tyrer looked like our most dangerous attacking player, but this campaign has been a frustrating one for the popular half-back. A series of injuries have hampered his attempts to regain his first team place and yet, though he must despair at times, his day will surely come. Having a family steeped in Rugby League tradition must be a help at times like this, with dad Colin having experienced many such ups and downs during a long and distinguished career as player and coach. The cream always rises to the top, they say, and as anyone who saw Chris's solo try at Post Office Road last March will confirm, young Chris is definitely a class act.

FAVOURITE THINGS

TV Programme: Brookside
 Music: The Beautiful South
 Food: Chinese
 Drink: Lager
 Three thing to take onto a desert island: A pub, a chinese restaurant and Michelle Pfeiffer

Christian Tyrer...



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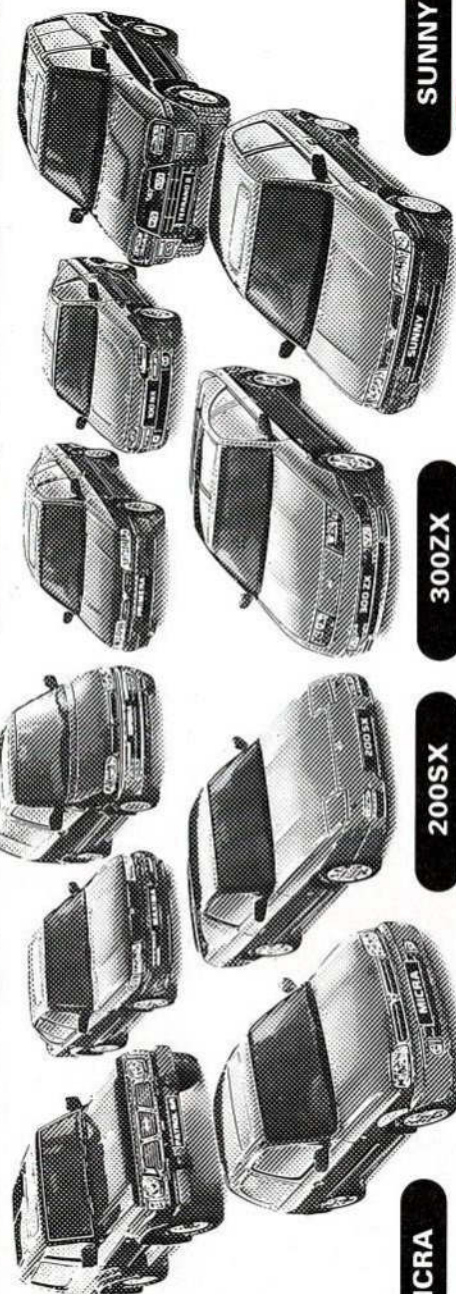
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programme notes

Over the past fifteen years or so Oldham have earned themselves something of a reputation as a yo-yo side, one which skips frequently between the divisions, and so it was when they visited Naughton Park in early October 1990. They had started the new season well after being promoted the previous April, winning on two of their first three outings in the top flight, but were unfortunately destined for the drop again.

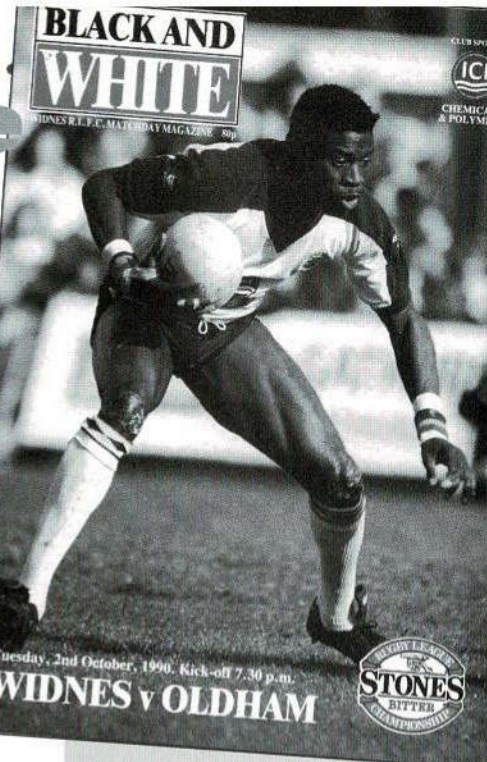
The game had been put back to midweek to accommodate our Lancashire Cup final with Salford the previous Saturday, but even so the evening kick-off did not prevent a crowd of 7361 watching the Chemics pip the Roughyeds by 24 points to 16, tries by Devereux, Currier, Tait and Offiah and four Davies goals being too much for the visitors for whom Ford, Lord and Donegan touched down, with Platt goaling twice.

The Oldham players featured on the In Town Today pages of the programme give an indication of the sheer turnover of personnel at Watersheddings in recent times. Tommy Martyn, Mike Ford and John Cogger were the three stars pictured, but others mentioned included John Fieldhouse, Paul Round (top scorers for them that season, with a total of 19 tries), Richard Russell and many more who have since moved on to pastures new.

Not that there are many of the Widnes line-up still here, either! According to the teamsheet we were due to turn out as follows: Tait, Devereux, Currier, Davies, Offiah, T.Mylar, D.Hulme, Grima, McKenzie, D.Smith, Koloto, Eyres, Holliday. Subs. Wright, Ashurst.

The Oldham fifteen was announced as: Platt, Francis, Martyn, Duane, Lord, Clark, Ford, Pyke, Russell, Fieldhouse, Round, McAlister, Barrow. Subs. Fairbank, Donegan.

Elsewhere in the programme club skipper and beneficiary, David Hulme, commented that our recent 32-6 defeat at Hull should not be a cause for panic stations. It was, after all, our only reverse so far in league and cup football. He also looked forward to the arrival of the Australian Tourists who were due to reach these shores soon, and he predicted big things from Brad Fittler and Greg Alexander in particular. This game took place at a time when the inauguration of the Widnes Hall of Fame was imminent and Ron Girvin devoted his page to a Chemic of Yesteryear, Nat Silcock, who was sure to be included in the list of Widnes greats. Nat played the game at a time when the football was often brutal and



the facilities primitive and Ron reminds us that the giant forward suffered badly with arthritis in later life. He quotes Silcock's words which must make modern professionals, hard men that they are, feel that they are well done-by. "The conditions we played in were terrible sometimes" he said. "You couldn't get a proper bath and often only in cold water. There are times when I wished I had never played the game."

WHO AM I? Clue No.3

I earned 15 GB Test caps
between 1980 and 1986.
(next clue page 19)

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■ Oldham might be forgiven for having other things on their mind as they approach today's game at Naughton Park. With a first Wembley trip only eighty minutes away, but with the might of Wigan standing between them and the twin towers, the Watersheddings outfit might be excused if they were to keep a little in reserve for that big day to come. But ultra-professional coach, Andy Goodway will no doubt be trying to banish thoughts of cup glory from his player's heads as he aims to consolidate their highly creditable eighth place in the table.

PAUL DAVIDSON

Joined Oldham this summer in a £17,000 deal with Widnes. A Cumbrian who formerly played with Hensingham,

Paul signed for Widnes three years ago and has had considerable senior experience at Naughton Park. Can play either prop or second row with equal ability.

MICHAEL EDWARDS

Signed from Parkside Goldbourne at the age of 17 after receiving honours from Lancashire and England schoolboys. Now at the age of 20 deservedly retains his place after performing consistently in our Alliance team.

STEVE GARTLAND

Needs no introduction to League fans in the Oldham or Rochdale areas. A clever stand off aged 23, he signed for Rochdale from Oldham amateur club St Annes in 1990 and established a Rochdale club record of 276 points in a season in 1992/93. A useful goal kicker he is the son of Brian Gartland,

ripping Second Division defences to shreds in his three years at Fartown. Joined Oldham two seasons ago and quickly became a firm favourite with the Watersheddings crowd thanks to his uncanny ability to turn defence into attack.

IVAN GREEN

A Wiganer formerly on St Helens books, Ivan came to Oldham as a free agent in the summer of 1993 and became a useful member of the squad, often showing his worth at senior level as a tough tackling hard grafting second row forward who also played a major roll in the Alliance team's remarkable unbeaten record throughout the season.

NIGEL HESLOP

Former England R.U. winger who won 10 caps for his country. Signed for Oldham from Orrell R.U. club in February 1993 after losing his place in England's Five Nations Cup squad for 1993.

Represented England in the World Cup 1991 and was a member of two Grand Slam winning squads.

SHAUN IRWIN

Shaun joined Oldham from Castleford in 1992 in the move that took Richard Russell to Wheldon Road. A former member of Mal Reilly's Great Britain squad. Shaun is a vastly experienced inside back, sound on defence and with a deceptive turn of pace as he proved when scoring a long range try at Featherstone in the 1993/94 season.

DAVID JONES

A strong finishing winger signed from Wakefield. A Wigan born St Pat's player and as an amateur gained county and international honours. Can quickly establish himself as a firm favourite at Oldham if he continues in his current form. Had a spell in Australia during the close season.

MIKE KUITI

A New Zealand International of great repute. Played in Great Britain and France with the New Zealand tourists in 1989.

Selected for the Test team eight times, playing Great Britain, France and New Guinea, but not Australia. A strong loose forward or second rower, at the pinnacle of his career. Has played for Rochdale, Swinton, Leeds and Rochdale again. Has a good eye for making and taking scoring opportunities.

GARY LORD

A newcomer to Oldham this year, Gary started his career with Castleford and moved to Leeds before Oldham signed him from Halifax for a £35,000 fee fixed by tribunal. The brother of former Oldham winger Paul Lord, Gary began his life as a full back but now plays in the pack mainly at second row.

PAUL TOPPING

Paul joined Oldham from Leigh in the summer of 1993 after starting his career as a full back with Swinton, Oldham's top point scorer last season he is a useful goal kicker who can play equally well at full back centre or even loose forward. A groin injury caused him problems last season but he has recovered remarkably well after surgery.

IAN SHERRATT

Former Oldham and Lancashire schoolboy. Left Oldham for Salford and returned season 1991/92. A hard grafting prop-forward. Who won Oldham's Player of the Season for 1993/94 and was also voted the Players Player of the Season.

DAVID STEPHENSON

Like his fellow hooker from the Leeds area, John Clark, David learned his Rugby League in the Yorkshire city and also won BARLA youth honours. A good hooker and a clever play maker in the loose, Stephenson is highly regarded at Watersheddings.

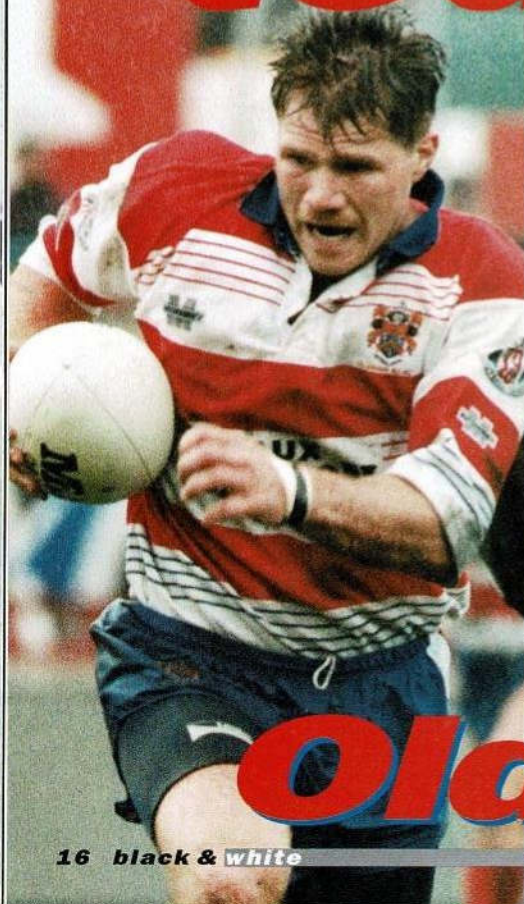
MARTIN CROMPTON

A £35,000 buy from Wigan early last season, Martin was troubled by injury in the early part of the campaign but came through magnificently last season to play a crucial role in Oldham's team which saw off the threat of relegation. Formerly with Warrington, Martin moved to Watersheddings via his home town club Wigan.

LYNCHPIN...

MARTIN CROMPTON

in town
today



Oldham...



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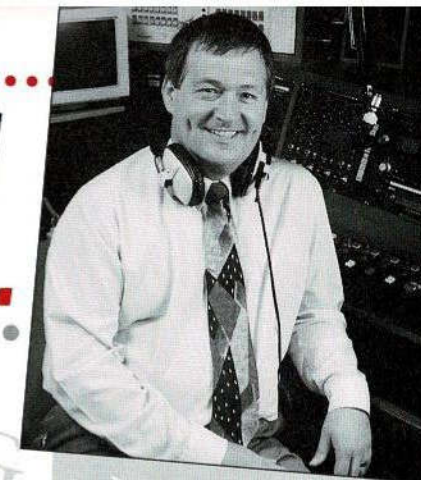


Malcolm Lord of GMR Radio writes...

■ Should we or shouldn't we have a new national stadium? Should it be in London, Birmingham or Manchester?

There are many reasoned arguments for answering yes and no to both questions - but I'm not going

I know they rip us off and something should be done about it, I know it's expensive, but our game is the best in the world and its premier event should get maximum exposure, and that means London.



may be better used by developing the game itself or indeed the youth breaking into the game.

THE STADIUM DEBATE CONTINUES...

to sit on the fence.

For me the national stadium should be in London - Wembley is not just about the game it is the magic of visiting, and in some cases sampling the delights of, the capital.

This doesn't mean however that there isn't room for another modern stadium - there's always room for more - but so many of our stadia have been upgraded over the past seven years that they are a great deal better and any spare cash

By the way, what a pleasure to visit the McAlpine Stadium recently. The facilities, the people and everything about the stadium are superb (what's the betting that the Regal Trophy has found a permanent venue?).

Simon Says...

■ This should be a very good game indeed going by recent form. Widnes have been doing very well lately after putting together a four match unbeaten run prior to Saturday's Cup defeat by Wigan, and Oldham have done tremendously well in our great tournament earning a place against Wigan in the semi-final. Hopefully Lee Hansen and Emosi Koloto will be back today and I've heard Peter Smith may too return. Although the result in Wednesday's match against Wigan is unknown at the time of writing, a win there would do the lads' confidence the world of good.

No offence, but I hope Oldham don't

beat Wigan in the semi-final, because a Wigan/Leeds final has been called for since it became clear that Leeds are Wigan's main threat to the Stone's Bitter Championship title. With Oldham, Leeds and Featherstone progressing to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup, it's been a busy little week in Yorkshire, combined with the proposed merging of Doncaster and Sheffield Eagles and the drama surrounding Bradford Northern men, Peter Fox, David Myers and Dave Watson.

On the merging, my views are that if it would save Doncaster it's worth a try. It would be a shame to see

Doncaster's defiant efforts in Division One end in such tragedy. I can, however, see Sheffield's point of view. Gary Hetherington claims that there is no financial benefits for the Eagles and how will they decide who to put on the committee, coaching and playing staff? There could be a lot of people opposing the merger if it means their jobs will come under threat. I shall watch the developments with interest.

Simon Owens

WHO AM I? Clue No.4

After a stint stand off I finally settled into the full-back slot.
(next clue page 23)

..... **today's line-up**
widnes **oldham**

colours: **black & white**

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | Gary Broadbent | | | |
| 2. | Jason Green | | | |
| 3. | John Devereux | | | |
| 4. | Darren Wright | | | |
| 5. | Adrian Hadley | | | |
| 6. | Karle Hammond | | | |
| 7. | David Hulme | | | |
| 8. | Andy Ireland | | | |
| 9. | Steve McCurrie | | | |
| 10. | Craig Makin | | | |
| 11. | Andy Collier | | | |
| 12. | Paul Myler | | | |
| 13. | Paul Hulme | | | |
| 14. | T.B.A. | | | |
| 15. | T.B.A. | | | |

coach: **Tony Myler**

Scrums					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

Penalties						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	

[illegible]

Today's Officials

Referee: **Mr. R. F. Tennant**

Touch Judges: Mr. J. Croft

Mr. J. Croft

Mr. R. Duckworth

Touch Judges: **Mr. J. Croft** **Mr. R. Duckworth**

colours: **red, white & blue**

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Wally Gibson | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. | Adrian Bell | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. | Paul Topping | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. | Darren Abram | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. | Scott Ranson | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. | Wilson Marsh | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. | Martin Crompton | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 8. | Ian Sherratt | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 9. | David Stephenson | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 10. | Jason Temu | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 11. | Joe Faimalo | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 12. | Gary Lloyd | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 13. | Mike Kuiti | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 14. | T.B.A. | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 15. | T.B.A. | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

coach: **Andy Goodway**

Scrums					
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

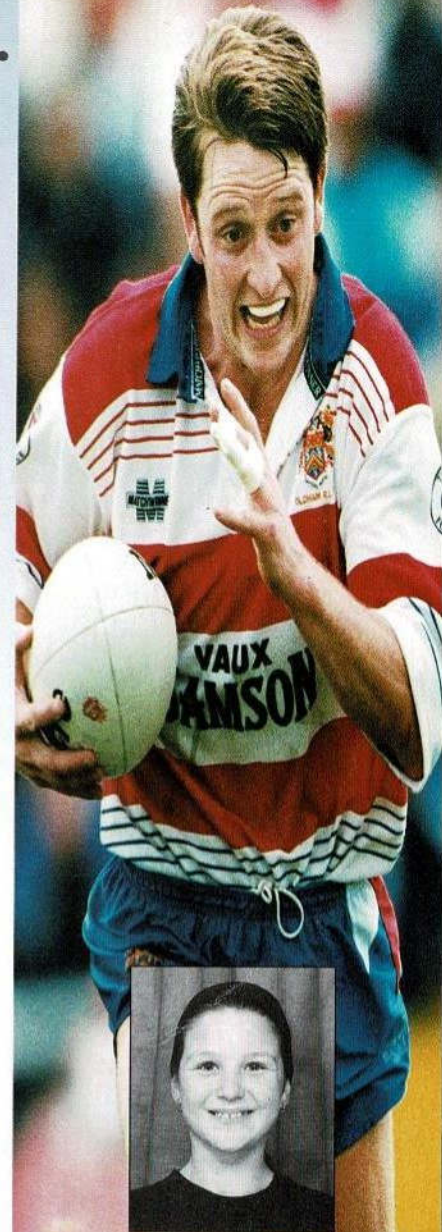
Penalties						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	



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TODAY'S MASCOT

EMMA DAWSON

Emma is aged 10 and attends St. Bedes R.C. Junior School.

Her favourite player is John Devereux.

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■ The Academy side has been thrown a lifeline in its quest for the Division Two title with a revamped end to the season planned by the executive committee involving all eight sides.

Although Widnes are currently in pole position, Dewsbury have games in hand on the Young Bulls with both sides having lost three matches but Widnes have also drawn three.

The annoying part, as far as Widnes is concerned, is that disallowed "tries" have cost them valuable league points in these matches.

However, the proposed end of season Championship play-off could still see the Division Two trophy here at Naughton Park. The league fixtures are due to be completed by Wednesday 27 March when the final league positions will be known.

On April 1 position 5 will play 8 and 6 will play 7.

The following week position 3 will play the lowest placed winner of the above fixtures with position 4 playing the other winner.

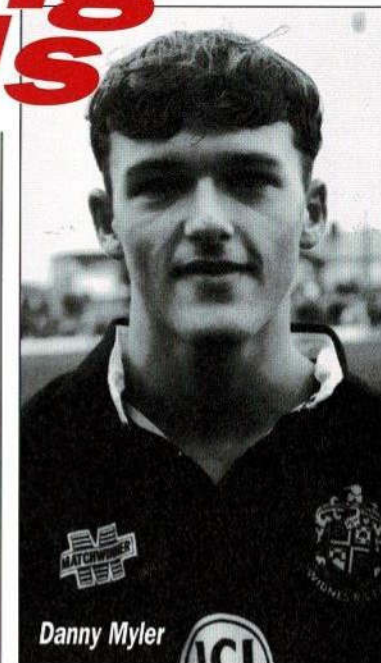
Then, on 8 April, position 1 will

WHO AM I? Clue No.5

I moved to Oldham early in 1987 having scored over 1600 points for the Chemics.
(Answer on page 31)

WIDNES RLFC

WIDNES ACADEMY *young bulls*



Danny Myler

play the lowest placed winner of the previous weeks fixtures with position 2 playing the other winner.

The winners of these two games will then play each other in the Championship Final on 15 April at a venue to be decided.

In the Academy Plate Competition Widnes travel to Sheffield Eagles on 22 April with the winners entertaining Doncaster or Hunslet on 6 May.

Widnes are making a determined effort to boost the Youth Policy here at Naughton Park with a number of players available for next year's Academy side.

Danny Myler, Alan Redcliffe, Mike

Sephton, Adam Hughes, Jody Kerner and Richard Lamey will all bolster the Young Bulls squad for the 95/96 campaign.

JJB ACADEMY DIVISION 2

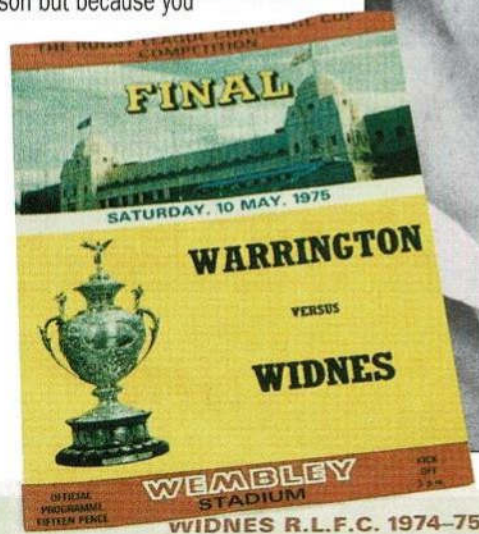
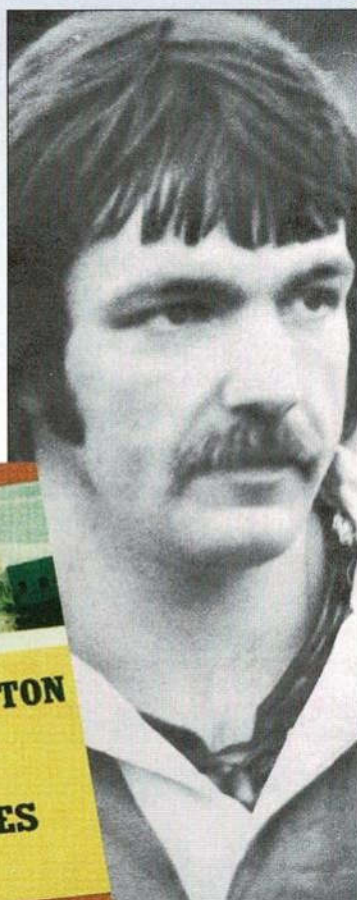
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Widnes	13	7	3	3	322	231	91	17
Sheffield	12	7	1	4	291	236	55	15
Dewsbury	10	7	0	3	238	171	67	14
Halifax	11	5	1	5	276	234	42	11
Salford	13	5	1	7	281	271	10	11
Featherstone	13	4	2	7	281	413	-132	10
Barrow	11	4	1	6	276	256	20	9
Keighley	9	2	1	6	124	277	-153	5

**TAURUS REMOVALS ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR
WIDNES ACADEMY YOUNG BULLS**

■ Alan Prescott was probably the envy of most rugby league players in this Country, why? do I hear you ask, well after Widnes won the Challenge Cup in 75 Alan was featured on the B.B.C's "Grandstand" programme every Saturday afternoon in the opening credits, running down the wing on a glorious seventy yard run. It was a pleasure not to miss the short film clip of Alan in all his glory.

Alan now recalls those memorable days and his life today working alongside another Hero of "75". "It was coach Bob Harper who signed me for Widnes back in January 1970 from West Park Rugby Union Club in St. Helens. Surprisingly I went straight into the first team. I did however play in the "A" team which went on to the Championship that season but because you

heroes of 75 ALAN PRESCOTT



BACK ROW (left to right): M. George, M. Adams, R. Dutton, J. Miles, J. French, M. Adams, S. Nelson, J. Jones, FRONT ROW: J. Hughes, A. Prescott, K. Black, J. Loughran (Capt), R. Bamford, T. Kallous, J. D. Reid

needed to have played ten games to receive a medal, I missed out. I only managed to play in nine games for the reserves, the blow was softened by the fact that I was a first team regular. The side in those days was not that good but there was plenty of spirit and a feeling that the good times were not that far away.

Those good times really started to become a reality when Vinty Karalius took over in 1972. He established much needed professionalism within the Club. The fitness campaign he introduced then is still being widely used by clubs today. Vinty was certainly a man way ahead of his time. It is no wonder that players past and present still have the greatest respect for the man who was initially responsible for bringing so much success to Widnes.

The 1975 Cup run was a tough one indeed, all of our games were away from home against sides like Swinton, Wakefield and Hull, who were no pushovers in those days. The Final saw Widnes get off to a terrible start, we conceded a try very early into the game scored by the Warrington winger John Bevan who followed up a little kick by the prop Dave Chisnall. I took personal exception to John scoring the try, I was supposed to be marking him and when he made his familiar one armed clenched fist salute, I just wanted to snap his arm off such was my displeasure.

That Bevan try spurred us on and with Ray Duttons magnificent goalkicking and Jim's try we went in at half-time 11-5 in front. The half-time talk from Vinty was inspirational, he simply said you are 40 minutes away from history, his prophecy proved correct and the final scoreline

did flatter Warrington. My wing partner was Australian Chris Anderson. Vinty had christened us the "bookends" mainly because we tackled anything that moved. Chris had quite a good game that afternoon, I recall, and more than justified his selection. That 'Grandstand' run came about after we had been under some immense pressure on our line and the ball was whipped out to me by Eric Hughes and I set off and was just caught by the Warrington fullback

Derek Whitehead, strangely he was the one player I never seemed to get past on any occasion in my career. The 76 Final was a result that was hard to accept especially living in St. Helens, I was taken off the field suffering from concussion with us trailing 6-5. I was amazed to hear that we had lost the game by that

incredible margin once my senses had been regathered. 1976 saw my departure from Naughton Park, I did not fit into the plans of coach Frank Myler and I joined Leigh in the November of 76. I



No doubt which dressing room it is... jubilant Widnes after their great semi-final win over Wakefield Trinity.

stayed with them until I broke my neck in 79 when I retired from the professional game.

Once I had fully recovered from the injury. I played a little soccer with a side that I use to take for fitness

sessions and then the ex St. Helens player Kevin Whittle asked me to coach a local side Nutgrove which I did and then went to do something similar with another amateur side called U.G.B. Sadly I parted company

after a season and half because of a lack of enthusiasm amongst the players.

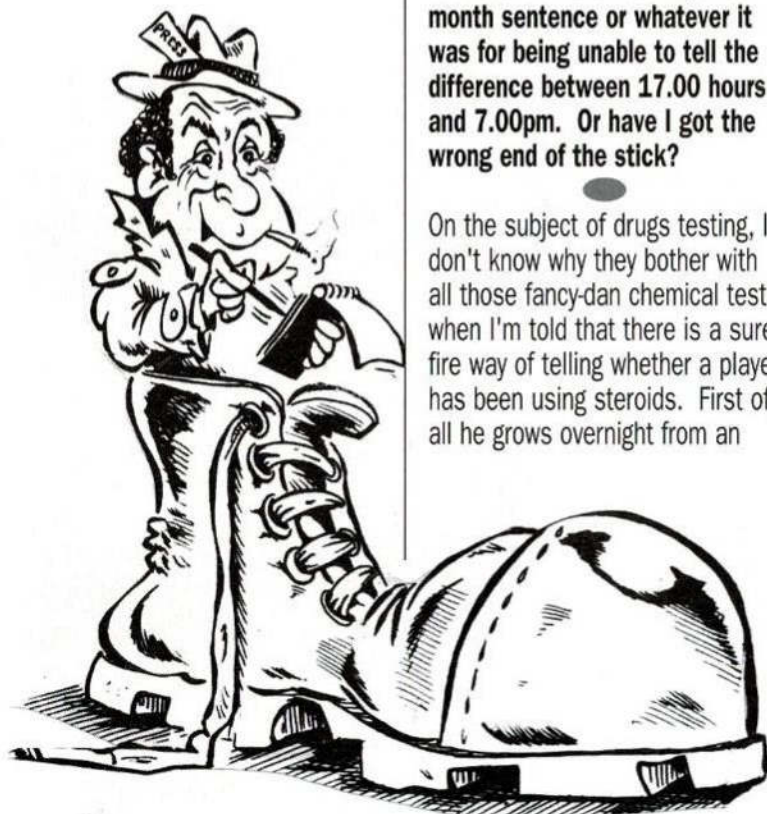
When it was announced that Eric Hughes would be taking over as coach at Knowsley Road I wrote to him congratulating him on his appointment and if he required any help with conditioning and

sprinting at the Club I was only too glad to help out. In January this year I received a phone call from Eric asking me I would be interested in doing the conditioning for the first team, I gratefully accepted the position and I am delighted to be involved with the professional game once again".

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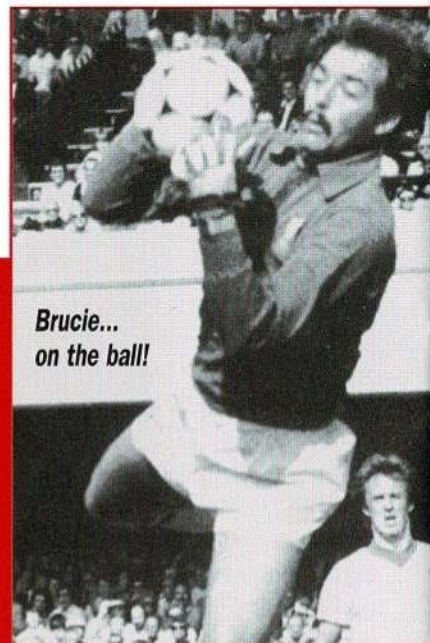
ALL THE
GRIFF
FROM THE
MAN
IN THE
KNOW...



What, I wonder, were the odds against the two biggest clubs in the RFL, Leeds and Wigan, completely avoiding each other in every round of the cup for two successive years? I must ask my old mate, Bruce Grobbelaar as he's quite hot on statistics.

■ Poor old David Myers is at the sharp end again, with another hefty fine and ban. It all seems a bit harsh to me, a four month sentence or whatever it was for being unable to tell the difference between 17.00 hours and 7.00pm. Or have I got the wrong end of the stick?

On the subject of drugs testing, I don't know why they bother with all those fancy-dan chemical tests when I'm told that there is a sure fire way of telling whether a player has been using steroids. First of all he grows overnight from an

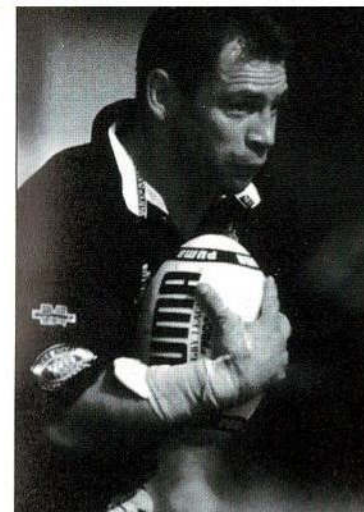


Brucie...
on the ball!

eleven stone weakling to a fourteen stone monster, and then, when he stops taking the substance he turns into a big tub of lard as all of the excess muscle transforms into fat. Or so I'm told. Mrs Boot has asked whether this means that I am an ex-steroid user, but as I pointed out in my case it was Greenall's Mild and not muscle which turned into flab!

What a cheek! Suggesting that David Hulme obstructed Shaun Edwards in the build up to Craig Makin's try last Saturday. As I understand it Dave was simply giving our Shaun a manly hug as the two Great Britain test stars forgot about the heat of the battle for a moment and took time to share a laugh and a joke about former glories. At least that's the way I saw it, unbiased as I am.

You could probably dedicate the whole of this page to the



David Hulme...
one of many heroes

individual performances by the Widnes team last weekend but can I simply say that if there was ever a game that made you feel extremely proud to be a supporter of Widnes RLFC, then this was it!

Many congratulations to today's visitors Oldham on reaching the semi-final against Wigan. I sincerely hope they take heart from the Widnes performance and go one better and reach the

famous Twin Towers for the first time in their history. Taking things a bit further, how about them meeting Fev in the final... well I can dream about it can't I?

The nation was all waiting with bated breath to hear what Denis Betts had to say about last Mondays televised draw then some clown from "Aunty" pulled the switch and it was straight over to Anne Robinson, ironically of the "Watchdog" programme to find what she thought of the draw. Typical B.B.C., they didn't even have the manners to apologise, but then why should they, it is only Rugby League after all.

I thought that Wigan's Denis Betts summed up exactly what most people thought about the display by the Black and Whites in last

Saturdays Challenge Cup quarter final Denis quoted "... Widnes were magnificent" and if I may add to that by saying that we deserved much more. Wigan were there for the taking, perhaps more so than in any match I have watched them play this season.



Betts... "Widnes were magnificent"

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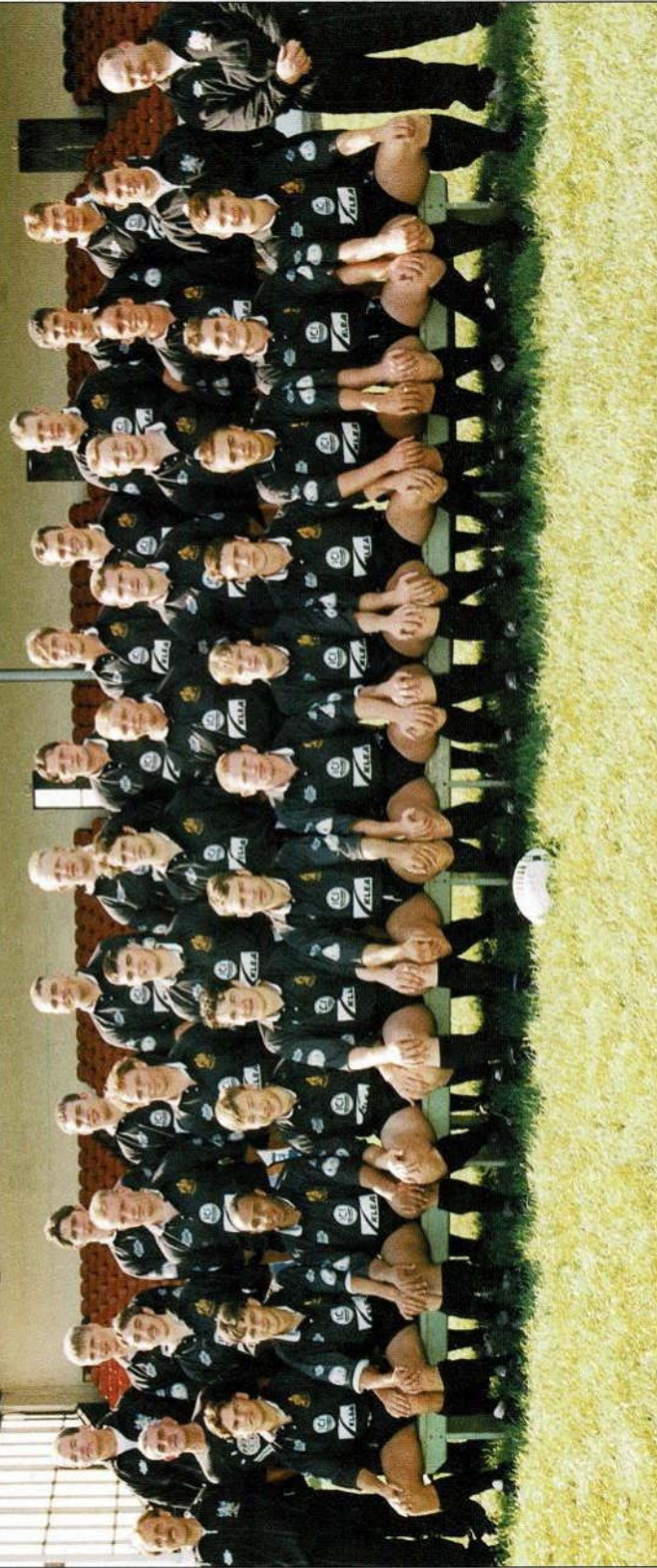
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Widnes RLFC 1994-95

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GOLF DAY

Widnes RLFC are planning a Golf Day at Widnes Golf Club on Thursday 25th May.

Teams of four will be playing for some excellent prizes. For further details contact Frank Myler at the club on

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THE IRISH INITIATIVE

■ Congratulations go to the Welsh Rugby League team for their triumph in the revamped European Championship, the victories over England and France more than justifying their inclusion in the Halifax Centenary World Cup. The irony of their victory on a weekend when their Union counterparts were made to look decidedly second rate despite the hype and clamour surrounding the Five Nations was not lost.

There are, however, discernable winds of change in the air and in the not too distant future our venture into European competition may well demand a share of the headlines the performances merit. The advent of an Irish side and the growing clamour for devolution into a Scottish team is gathering pace and their calls for inclusion in the forthcoming emerging nations Cup may prove to be increasingly irresistible.

On St Patrick's Day, the representatives of the Emerald Isle took a bold and pioneering step into the international arena with a hugely significant game in Washington against the American Eagles. The clash has generated real interest both over here, with Radio 5 carrying a prominent feature, and as importantly in the States where the game will

become the first of either rugby code to be screened live.

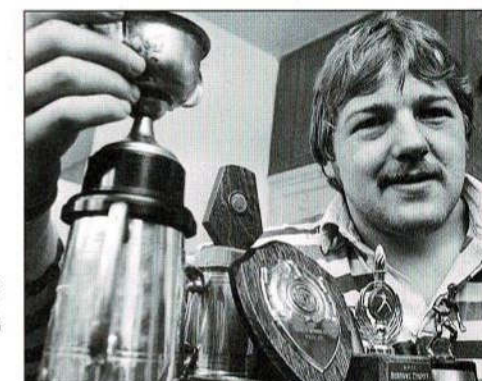
The venue, the impressive 80,000 capacity RFL Stadium, illustrates the important attached to the day and the USA coach, former St George player David Niu believes that with the positive advanced publicity generated the crowd could be a significant one.

The transition of the Irish from a predominantly student side built around the Dublin Blues Club, who performed creditably in their inaugural World Cup has been

remarkable not least with the recent huge Businessmen's Lunch in Manchester that raised funds and backing for the trip. The reuniting of backroom team Terry Flanagan as coach and the irrepressible Alex Murphy as advisor looks inspired and whilst the line up contains

no professionals, established players such as Joe Lydon, Steve Molloy and Neil Harmon are eligible. A major sponsor and development officer are already in place.

With the Charity Shield also scheduled for the Dublin Showgrounds in August there is a real impetus behind the code at international level and now not just in the southern hemisphere.



WHO AM I?

Answer... **Mick Burke**

The former Waterloo RU player who earned a place in the Widnes Hall of Fame during his years at Naughton Park and then went on to serve the Oldham club with distinction.

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ALLIANCE UPDATE

Aiden Halliwell

likely lads

This weekend's fixtures could prove to be vital to Widnes' promotion chances with several of the chasing pack playing each other.

Sheffield entertain Hull KR and a victory for the visitors would leave the Eagles having lost four matches but they would also have to lose their final two fixtures to be on level terms with Widnes.

Keighley entertain Doncaster, these sides having lost 5 and 3 respectively. Hopefully a Dons' victory will put paid to the Cougars' promotion prospects and with the proposed Doncaster/Sheffield merger, Doncaster would also be out of the running.

With Hull KR favourites for the title, having only been defeated twice, the other main rivals are Workington Town. The Cumbrians have only lost three matches and this weekend visit Barrow which should see them record another victory.

However, they have also drawn two games so in effect have lost four. With four fixtures remaining after the Barrow match there is still a possibility that they could slip up. The above scenario takes for granted that Widnes win their remaining fixture which is at home to Swinton next Saturday, the game being changed from Friday night due to the First Team fixture with Hull FC now being on Sky. Whilst Widnes have far and away

the best points difference in the League, a lack of consistency has been their downfall. Injuries to key players have not helped with Paul Harris, Scott Walker, Aidan Halliwell and Christian Tyrer all missing a large chunk of the season and Chris Kelly's broken arm ruling him out of the latter stage of the season. Happily, the injury problems have nearly all cleared up but if these players had been available for selection throughout the season there is no doubt that Widnes would have been promotion certainties. For the meantime, however, they must wait and see.

NEXT ALLIANCE HOME FIXTURE

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 1995
versus **SWINTON** Kick off 2.30 p.m.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	PTS
Sheffield	19	16	0	3	622	352	270	32
Widnes	21	15	0	6	718	287	431	30
Hull KR	17	15	0	2	455	234	221	30
Workington	17	12	2	3	406	300	106	26
Leigh	21	12	1	8	544	417	127	25
Keighley	17	11	1	5	546	255	291	23
Batley	18	11	0	7	383	317	66	22

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talking rugby

with... Chris Moore

■ Do we want Rugby League to be played nationally in every town of every county or do we just want a super league of say ten teams who will contest all of the trophies and carve everything up between them?

These questions form the basis of a dilemma that faces Rugby League today, a dilemma of such proportions that it makes Tolstoi's War and Peace look like a Mills & Boon paperback! There has, of course, been much speculation as to whether the 'top clubs' would at some stage not too far down the track go it on their own. This in theory at any rate has yet not materialised (although the voting structure at Board level

really batted an eyelid but it flagged up a warning that professional Rugby League is an expensive do. There are rumours that Brisbane Broncos are about to pull the proverbial plug on their London compatriots leaving them without a stable. Even the mighty Wigan have been reduced to including players assets in their balance sheet, a practice that seems flawed. If a club goes pop then its players become free agents! So is it inevitable then that the pro game will continue to shrink and contract rather than flourish and grow? Perhaps not. In Australia the new expanded national Australian league has just got underway. Here

clubs must show evidence of commitment to the community, to the spectators and to the interest of the game itself. They have managed to harness the popularity of the game and market it in a forceful and positive way.

"Framing the Future", the document prepared by our own RFL has gone some way down the same road as the Aussies, setting minimum standards for the member clubs and insisting on business plans, etc. My contention would be that it has not gone far enough, trying to please all of the people instead of getting to grips with the real thorny topics. The introduction of a salary cap, however well thought out, is at least a step in the right direction, let's just hope that the Board of Directors at Chapelton Road continue to make progress, I want all the existing clubs and more to be here come the bi-centenary!

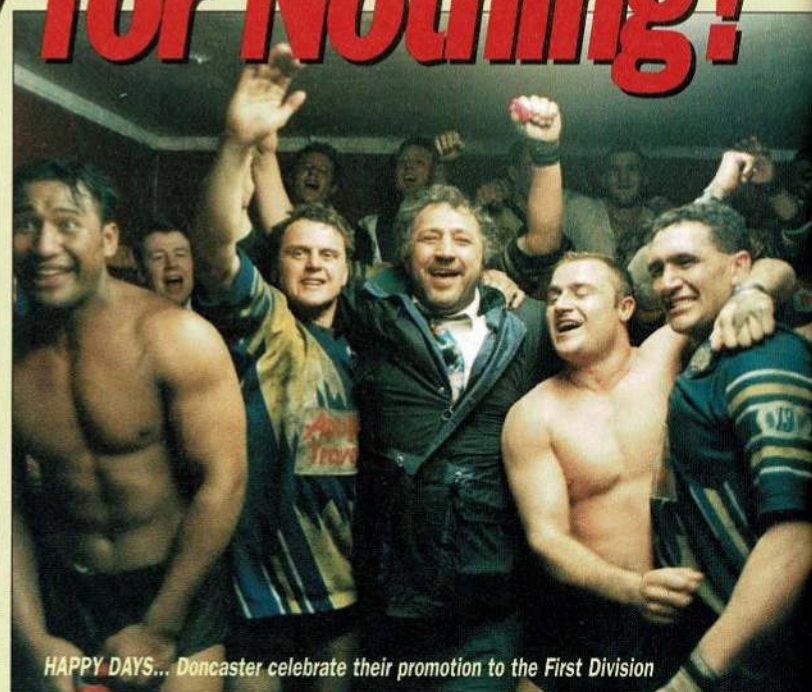
Money for Nothing!

was reorganised in their favour).

In practise, however, the 'super league' is in danger of coming about by default!

Almost every club in the two professional divisions is in some sort of financial strife or other. Doncaster are the current headline grabbers. They have effectively gone to the wall owing an alleged 1.4 million pounds. No one really believes that one of the more established names could ever go the same way, but before too long we could see some surprises.

When Scarborough went out of business some years ago no one



HAPPY DAYS... Doncaster celebrate their promotion to the First Division

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Monza Coat - Jade/White/Black	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£56.00
Boston Black Raincoat	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£26.49
Chicago Coat - Black/Grey	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£44.00
Lazio Run Out Tops	Sizes: 30"/32"	£38.99
Lazio Run Out Tops Mens:	Sizes: S/M/L/XL	£45.99
Shorts		£18.49
Dress Shirt		£17.50
Ties		£7.00

Also various items of last years stock still available. **NEW!** Now available, numbers for replica jerseys - £3.00 single number - £5.00 double number.

Pencil Case	£1.20	Home Kit Badge	£2.00
Printed Scarf	£3.00	Away Kit Badge	£2.00
Jacquard Scarf	£5.00	Birthday Cards	£0.55
Baseball Cap	£6.00	6' x 4' Photographs	£0.80
Kouchi Bear	£1.50	Balmoral Acrylic Sweater	£23.00
Wrapping Paper	£0.32	Balmoral Polo Shirt	£20.00
Socks (Black) 12 1/2 - 3 1/2	£1.80	"W" Coat reduced to	£20.00
4 - 7	£2.20	First Bite Shell Suit	£30.00
Shorts (Black) 26" - 28"	£2.45	Matchwinner Coat (L. only)	£55.00
30" - 36"	£3.00	Car Swinger	£2.50
Leather Belt	£19.99	Car Sticker	£1.00
Zip Purse	£1.50	Sun Visor	£1.50
Manicure Set	£2.30	Scarf Sticker	£1.50
Comb and Case	£1.25	Sports Bag	£12.50
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Fob Key Ring	£1.20	Balls	£9.99

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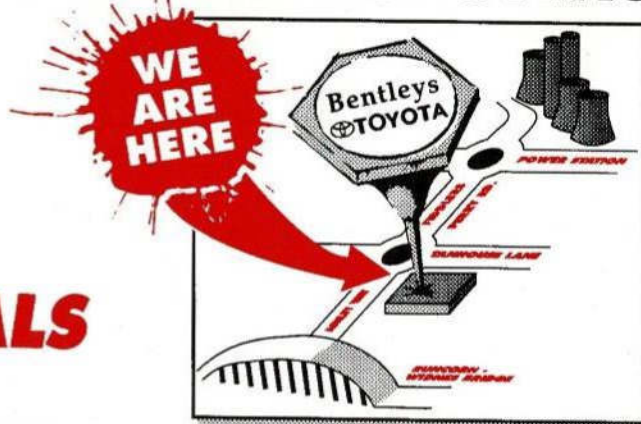
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KidsScene

DO OUR KIDS PLAY TOO MUCH?

This might seem an interesting question directed at parents, but in this instance we at Kidscene want to ask YOU, the "Kids" involved what YOU think. You are the boys who turn out in all weathers and get shouted at and screamed at by adults from the touchline. We want you to read this column and get in touch with us with

YOUR OPINIONS...

It seems to us that these days, young boys are asked to play too much rugby. For some boys it can mean playing and training every day of the week! A boy could be playing for his school, his club, and if he is good enough and fortunate enough, his town, in addition to all the training commitments involved. Surely this is too much... but what do you boys think? Very often the same boys will also be playing soccer for their school, and cross country, adding taking away even more "free" time. Can this be right? What do you boys think? There are those people who would say that once a boy is chosen for the town team, then for that season he should only play for his school and the Town i.e. he would not play for his club during that season. This would avoid him being overplayed, and would also benefit other boys being given the opportunity to represent the club. But what do you boys think?

We at Kidscene very much agree that the boys' first priority is to play for their school. Everything else must take second place. We also feel that far too much pressure is being put on young boys to perform at a consistently high level at too young an age. What do you boys think?

So there you are boys, we want to hear from you about the above topics. If you write to us C/O Naughton Park, perhaps you could enclose a photo of yourself, and tell us a bit about yourself, your school, your club. Perhaps you would also like to tell us your views about the following:

- Parents, adults shouting at you from the touchline
- Summer rugby
- Girls playing rugby

WRITE TO US NOW!

KIDSCENE PROFILE

Another boy responding to the Kidscene invitation to write to us is Daniel Stanley. "I haven't really been playing Rugby League for long. I started playing for Lunts Heath Lions Under 9s a couple of years ago, and I hope to carry on playing for them."



I managed to get into the Widnes Schools Town team for this season, and it was a big thing for me to get into the Town Team, because then I had only been playing rugby for a season and a half. I am now in my last year at Farnworth Junior School. We don't play rugby at school, but I enjoy the sports that we do play." Kidscene wishes Daniel luck as he makes progress in his rugby career.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the following boys who have been selected to represent North West Counties Schools (Lancashire Schools) in matches against Yorkshire/Humberside:

Owain Brown, Min-y-Ddol School
Gary Middlehurst, Oakfield School
Philip Wood, Moorfield School
Keiron McKween, Our Lady's School
Stephen Myler, Our Lady's School
Adam Flanagan, Ditton County School

SCHOOLS REPORT

The Fixture Secretary of the Junior Schools League, Mr Frank Leedham, informs us that the weather has played havoc with the fixtures since before Christmas, with not many games being played. However, it does appear that Ditton County and St John Fisher are still fighting it out at the top of the league, and look set for the premiership play-off. We also hear that St Michael's recently beat All Saints, but the interesting thing here is the work that the All Saints teacher, Wes Gleave is doing with younger children... in first and second year juniors. Obviously, this is the way forward and Kidscene wishes Wes luck in this venture.



YOUNG BLOOD

The writers of Kidscene get very excited with each new announcement of young Widnes boys being "signed on" by Widnes. We are sure that it must make the club coaches and teachers in the town very proud when they see their "old boys" making the grade. Kidscene would also recommend our readers to get your mums and dads to take you down to Naughton Park to see the Alliance and

Academy sides in action. There you will see the future success of our club. In the meantime, how many young players can you identify from this "old" photograph who are now with the Widnes Academy Young Bulls? Answers as always on a postcard/sealed down envelope to The Editor, c/o Naughton Park. Prizes for the first couple of most correct answers drawn out of the hat.