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- 1 WALLY GIBSON
- 2 ADRIAN BELLE
- 3 PAUL ATCHESON
- 4 DARREN ABRAM
- 5 MIKE NEAL
- 6 FRANCIS MALONEY
- 7 MARTIN CROMPTON
- 8 IAN SHERRATT
- 9 JOHN CLARKE
- 10 CRAIG RICHARDS
- 11 GARY LORD
- 12 JOE FAIMALO
- 13 HOWARD HILL
- 14 PAUL TOPPING
- 15 IAN GILDART
- 16 JASON TEMU
- 17 IYAN GREEN

LONDON BRONCOS

- 1 CRAIG GREEN
- 2 IKRAM BUTT
- 3 EVAN COCKBURN
- 4 CHRIS MCKENNA
- 5 SHANE VINCENT
- 6 PETER GILL
- 7 KEVIN LANGER
- 8 TONY MESTROV
- 9 DAVID O'DONNELL
- 10 DARREN SHAW
- 11 RUSSELL BALDWIN
- 12 JUSTIN BRYANT
- 13 STEVE ROSOLEN
- 14 DARRYL PITT
- 15 SCOTT ROSKELL
- 16 MARK RILEY
- 17 CRAIG BOOTH

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TOUCH JUDGES
MR D BLOOD
(Leigh)

MR K LEYLAND
(Wigan)

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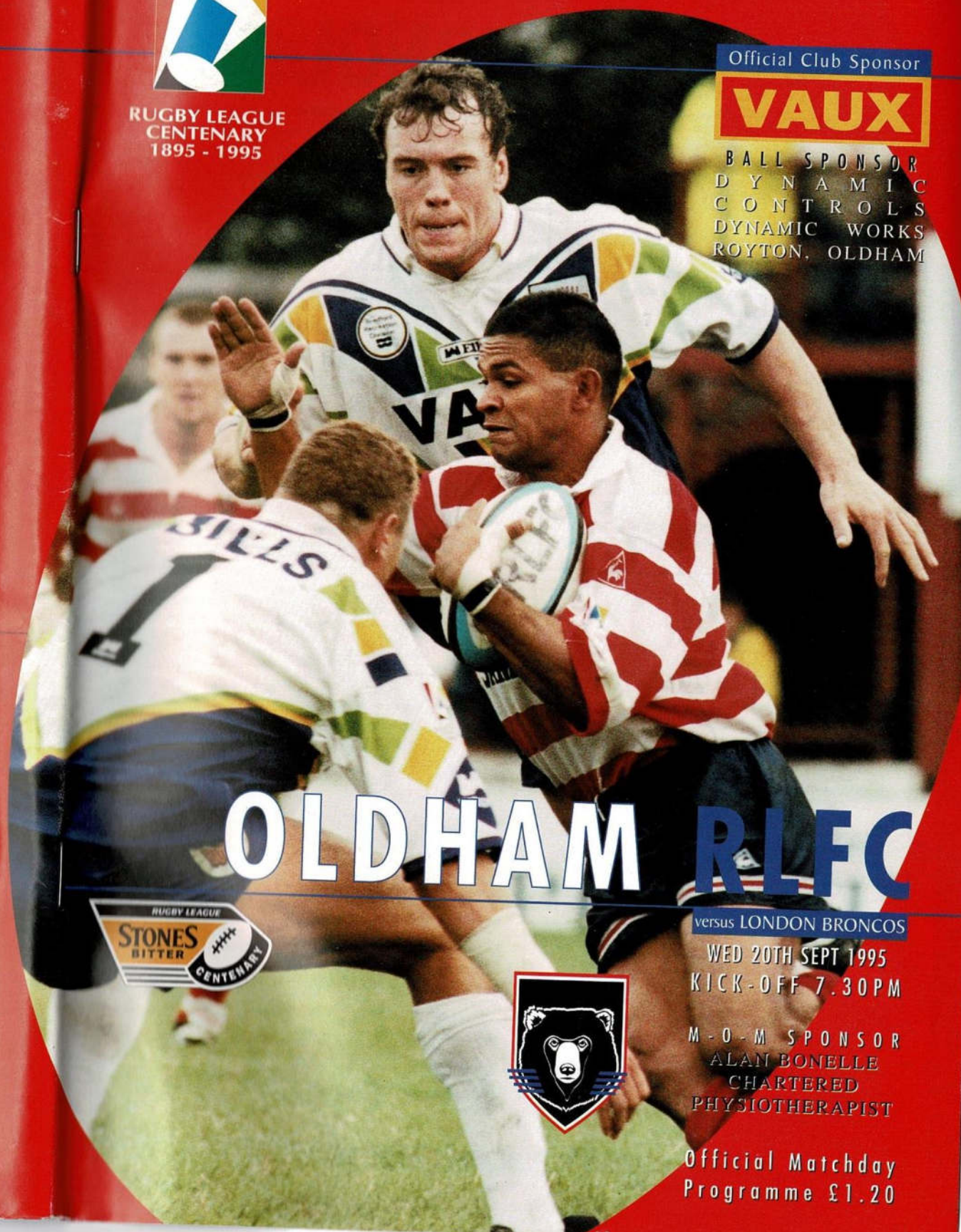


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CLUB HONOURS

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, 1986-87, 1989-90

Lancashire Championship Winners

1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22,
1956-57, 1957-58

Runners Up

1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12,
1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners

1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy

1979-80, 1989-90

Second Division Premiership

1987-88

Wigan Sevens Winners

1991-92

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: £70,000 to Halifax for
Tony Anderson

Fee Paid: March 1990

Record Try: Ref Farrar, 49 Tries,
1921-22 season

Scorer: Bernard Ganley,
224 goals, 1957-58

Scorer: season

Record Point: Bernard Ganley,
28 points v

Scorer: Liverpool City,
April 1959

First Game: 21st October 1876
v Stalybridge

Highest Number: Bernard Ganley, 2,881

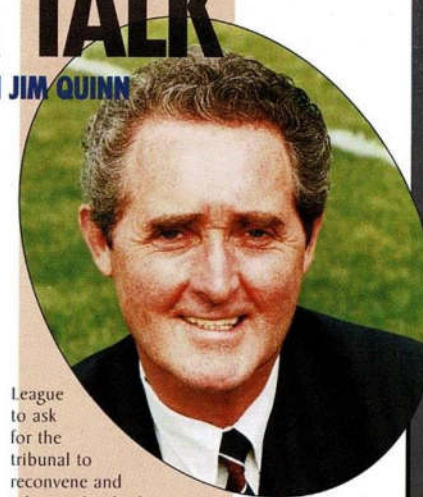
of Points Scored: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Appearances: Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233

Most Tries: Since 1900
Alan Davies 182

BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN



We welcome the London Broncos to Watersheddings this evening and in doing so, wish them every success in their efforts to

establish Rugby League as a vibrant force in our nation's capital city.

If the game is to expand to any significant degree outside its native heath, it is essential that a power base is created in London and we now have the best ever chance of seeing that happen.

The creation of Super League and the link up with the world famous Brisbane Broncos club in Australia have given the London version of the Broncos an ideal opportunity to "make it happen" in the south east.

Several players from Brisbane will have jetted across the world in the past few days to play for London and I'm sure some of them will be in the side tonight even if they didn't make it in time for last Sunday's televised game between Broncos and Leeds at Brentford.

In the days of the old eight club second division we played each other four times and frankly, got to know each other just a little too well, but we haven't played the Broncos for a season or two so it will be especially nice to welcome their "new look" club to Oldham for this evening's game.

Like all matches in this Stones Centenary Championship each team will have four substitutes on the bench and you can wager that both coaches will use all four at some time during the game in order to spread the workload and make maximum use of the resources at their disposal.

I make that point because I think there is a need for everyone connected with the game, including spectators, too fully understand that League has now become a 17 man game. At one time years ago, coaches tended only to

pull players off if they were injured.

They then graduated to withdrawing players if any one was playing particularly badly and, as such, there was some form of stigma attached to a player who was pulled off and replaced if he wasn't injured.

All that has changed. The use of substitutes is a far more sophisticated thing nowadays. Injuries and poor form play a part, of course, but tactics now come into the equation. A coach will be weighing up how a game is going, what he can do to take advantage of something he sees as a weakness in the opposition or how he might shift the make up of his team to counter a change of tactics by the opposition.

He will also want to take off a player for a breather if he thinks the player is "blowing" a bit. This applies particularly to forwards. He might also want to withdraw a player if he is running hot and looks like getting into a spot of bother with the referee or touch judges. You can understand players perhaps being a little disgruntled in the heat of a game if they are taken off when they believe they are playing as well as everyone else, but there are many, many reasons why substitutions are made these days and no one can take the field expecting to be necessarily still there at the end of the game.

The increase in the number of substitutes from two to four has given the coach even more scope to perm his options and I'm sure it won't be long before everyone in the game accepts that League is now played by 17 men. After all, the full 17 get paid, whether they take the field or not, so why not make us of all 17 so long as it is to the overall benefit of the team.

Turning to the Barrie McDermott case, I can confirm that we have written to the Rugby

League to ask for the tribunal to reconvene and take another look at what has happened to Barrie's career in the past 14 months.

By order of the tribunal we picked up £60,000 for Barrie from Wigan in the shape of an initial £40,000, plus another £20,000 when he won his first Great Britain cap. We were also going to receive £20,000 after he had played 30 matches for Wigan and another £20,000 after 60 matches.

But the chance of picking up that extra £40,000 on the number of games played has now gone following Barrie's move to Leeds for a reported £100,000. It means that, although Barrie played only 13 senior games, Wigan have made a profit of £40,000 on him and we have lost out on the possible pick up of another £40,000.

There was nothing in the tribunal ruling to cater for any percentage to Oldham if ever he left Central Park, so there you have the reasons why we feel that we have lost out once again. We are hoping the Rugby League will be sympathetic to what we have to say.



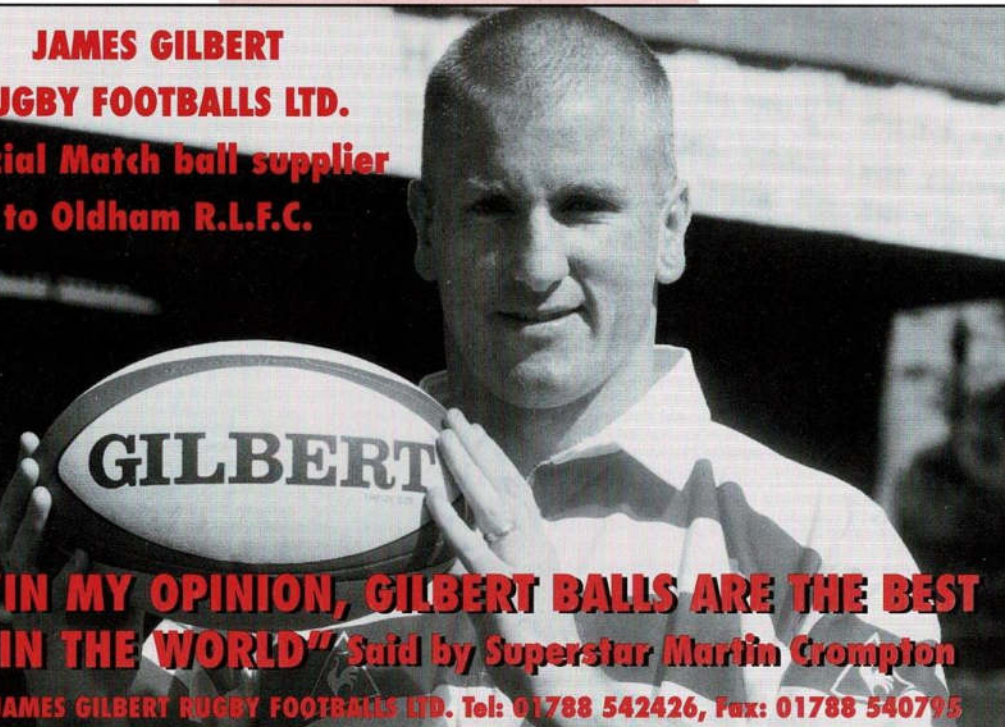
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STEVE ROSOLEN
 Bundaberg Australian who has played for 'Norths' in both Sydney and Brisbane. A strong running forward with excellent defence.

IKRAM BUTT
 The 1st Asian player ever to represent his country when he played against Wales last season. Looking to catch the eye of Phil Larder and represent his country in the upcoming World Cup.

SHANE VINCENT
 Recently acquired from Newcastle Knights in Australia. A powerful centre with enough speed to challenge most wingers.

JUSTIN BRYANT
 An Australian who came to try his luck in England and found his way into the Broncos line up after only one Alliance appearance. Played at Gold Coast and impressed Wayne Bennett with his strong appearance last season.

MARK RILEY
 The Kiwi flyer who was one of the Club's top try scorers even though he missed half of the season due to injury. Has been with the club since 1992 and is a firm favourite with the crowd.

KEVIN LANGER
 Brother of Australian Test Ace Allan. Kevin has a vast experience both at playing and coaching back in Australia for the Ipswich Jets. A real game breaker.

CRAIG GREEN
 A former Brisbane Wests player who can also play centre and stand off. An exciting back and game breaker who can also kick goals.

PAUL STEVENS
 Had a spell on loan to the Club towards the end of last season from Wigan. Was captain of the last Academy tour to Australia. Can play in a number of positions.

DARREN SHAW
 A player who was judged the Brisbane Broncos 'reserves' most consistent forward last season. Also hoping to play for Scotland in the World Cup.

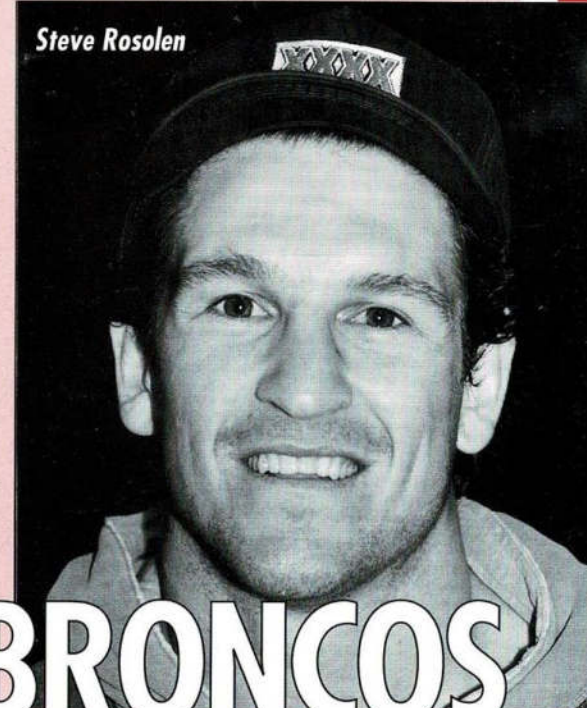
CRAIG BOOTH
 Had a spell on loan to the Club from

Oldham late in the season. Can play centre or in the forwards. Is a strong running player with an accurate boot which helped him kick 28 goals in seven games.

DARRYL PITT
 One of the longest standing players at the club. Was top try scorer in 1990-91 and has played for the club in nearly every position during his time. A very solid and versatile player who seems to get better every year.

SCOTT ROSKELL
 A Gold Coast Australian who joined the club in 1991. Has both strength and speed which resulted in him being the top try scorer last season.

Steve Rosolen



LONDON BRONCOS

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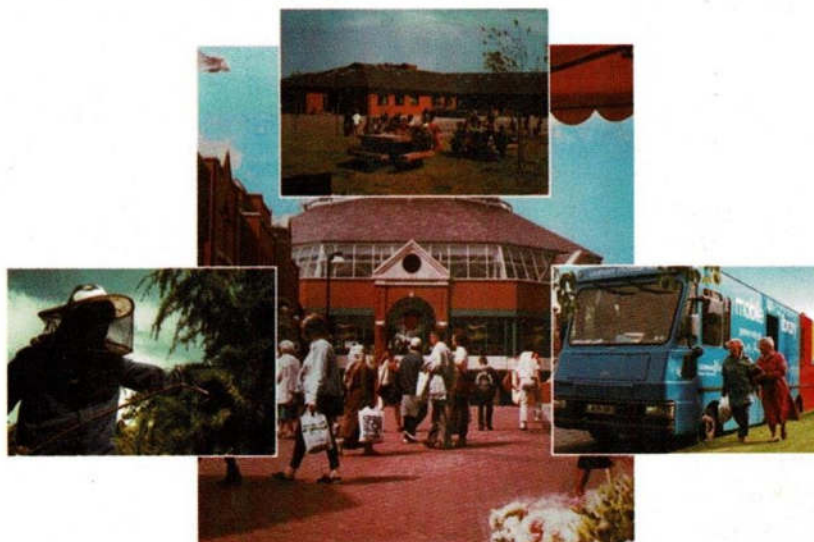
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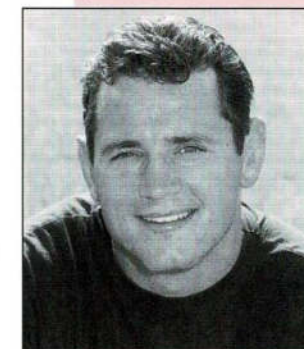
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We go into the lion's den on Sunday to play Wigan at Central Park so I popped down there last Wednesday to take a look at the champions in their game against Castleford. They won 40-8 and they were phenomenal. Castleford played well, they really did. They would have beaten most premiership sides with that performance but they were still miles behind Wigan as the score would suggest. Frankly, I don't see any club catching up with them in the foreseeable future or matching their power base. They are so far ahead it's frightening, but I think people must realise that this is no quick fix. Wigan put their strategy in place many years ago and they have slowly gone from strength to strength, improving all the time and, nine times out of ten, if not ten out of ten, making right decisions along the way. They are out on their own...and next in the pecking order come three or four teams with little to choose between them. St Helens are in that group and on the night Wigan were destroying Castleford, Saints were putting 60 points past Sheffield Eagles. Despite our disappointing start to the season I am absolutely sure that we can be very competitive against most of the teams that will figure in Super League. There will always be the odd shock when one of the top four or five lose to one of the rest, but I am confident we will perform consistently well against most teams by the time Super League comes around. If you want a quick fix you've got to pay for it in the shape of new signings and the reality is that there is little money around for us to go out and buy expensive new recruits, so we must keep

working and working and trying to improve gradually, both on and off the field, as we go along. At present, things have not been going our way, but I am sure you will see a big difference in our performances once we get that elusive first win under our belts. We all agree that we played badly against Bradford Bulls, yet there were only six points in it at the end. What would we have done if we had played well? We were all on a bit of a "downer" after the game, but we had a very straight-talking and constructive team meeting the following night and several points were aired and agreed upon. Everyone seemed much happier and more relaxed by Tuesday night when we put the Bradford game well and truly behind us and started to focus on



our opponents this evening, London Broncos. I had to pen these notes before London played Leeds last Sunday, but they were expected to give a good account of themselves in front of the Sky TV cameras at Brentford soccer ground and I know that, whatever the result, they will come to Watersheddings tonight fully prepared and eager to do well. We must be ready to face the challenge of a side that will probably be strengthened by the influx of several players from their parent club in Australia, brought in to stiffen a side that had enough firepower to worry Bradford at Odsal and to give Wigan a run for their money in the first half at Central Park. The Wigan fans were not happy at half-time, I can tell you, and Bradford supporters were none too pleased when they failed to score a try in the second half. It appears that the Broncos are alive and kicking. It will be a tough game and I know the Oldham players would really appreciate as much vocal support as possible from early in the game. We haven't yet given the fans a lot to shout about in this centenary season, but you would be surprised at the difference it can make to a team playing at home when its supporters get behind the players loud and clear. Finally, a big welcome tonight to the boys and girls of the local junior clubs who are expected to be here in force and to all the students from Oldham College and Oldham Sixth-Form College, many of whom might be watching League for the first time. Hope you all enjoy yourselves, like what you see in our great game and come back for more. Good luck.
Andy Goodway

ANDY GOODWAY

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Congratulations to 8 year old Stacey Debio from Royton. Stacey chose the name for our "Bear" who is making his debut at tonight's game. Stacey and her Mum & Dad are here tonight enjoying a V.I.P. night out and we hope they are enjoying themselves. The name which won the competition and Stacey chose it is "Buster" so come on give "Buster" the Bear a wave.



THE BEAR HAS ARRIVED

Come on all you Roughyeds give "Buster" the Bear a big warm welcome. "Buster" will be going around giving sweets to all our young supporters and hopefully he will be jumping up and down when we score a try. Let's hope "Buster" does not have to do any skulking about, who knows, he might bring the team the good luck we're waiting for.

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Vaux Tenanted Trade have kindly sponsored "Buster" and plan on using him for promotions in the pubs in and around Oldham. So look out for the venue of his first appearance and you could win yourself a free T-shirt.

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NEXT WEEK

Read all about the man inside "Buster the Bear". Watch this Space.

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warning by Oldham's
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GRASS ROOTS

**A look at the local amateur
rugby scene WITH DON YATES**

It is not only Paul Atcheson who will be involved in the forthcoming World Championships. He is in the Welsh squad for the senior competition involving ten nations. Now Jason Temu has been selected for the Cook Isles team who are in the emerging nations tournament which involved seven countries. Each country is to be allowed five professional players and this rule has given Temu the opportunity to further enhance his international career. He has already represented the New Zealand Residents XIII and now faces a busy week with the Cook Isles. Their schedule sees them meet the United States at Featherstone on Monday 16th October (6pm), Russia at Leigh on Wednesday 18th October (7.30) and Scotland at Castleford on Friday 20th October (7.30). On the domestic front, after an opening day defeat at West Hull, Saddleworth have made a satisfactory start to the season despite the fact that they have been without a coach. By the time these notes are in print that may have been put right. It is my understanding that a former Oldham player with international experienced will have taken up the reigns at Shaw Hall Bank Road. This Saturday Rangers entertain Leigh Miners Welfare. Kick off at Greenfield is 2.30pm. It is quite a while since the Miners left Saddleworth with anything except defeat and Rangers look capable of repeating last seasons 34-18 victory. St. Annes have been able to maintain their championship challenge despite the fact that former Oldham favourite

Neil Flanagan has left the club to play professionally with Featherstone Rovers. Next Saturday Saints visit Dewsbury Celtic where they should win. Last season Saints won 17-4 at Crow Nest Park. A week on Saturday, 30th September Rangers and Saints will be involved in the third round of the Burtonwood Brewery Lancashire Cup. Already six of our local sides have been involved in the tournament. Unfortunately Seddons fell at the first Hurdle losing 42-10 at West Sutton. Another two local sides got through the first round. Waterhead put out Portico Panthers and Higginshaw registered a comfortable 54-12 victory at Hesketh Eagles. In last Saturdays second round ties Salem Hornets were at home to Accrington and Tameside Borough entertained West Sutton. The three other local sides were drawn away. Shaw travelled to Eccles,

Higginshaw were at Irlam Hornets and Waterhead visited Milnrow Taverners. The results of these matches were not known as these notes went to press but details of these games can be seen in tomorrow's Oldham Chronicle which gives excellent coverage of the local amateur scene.

Don Yates

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Ian Gatley and his guests talking to
Bradford Bulls new coach Brian Smith

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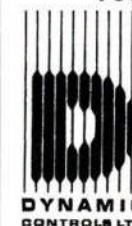
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MALCOLM LORD

THE FACE BEHIND THE VOICE OF BBC GMR'S RUGBY LEAGUE CONGRATULATIONS

To Salford and Swinton, how nice it is to see them topping their respective divisions. Andy Gregory and Billy Benyon duly supported by John Wilkinson and Tony Barrow respectively have assembled teams which are not only entering but also playing at far higher skill level. Lets hope that their success continues and that the fans turn out to support them.

IN GOAL TOUCH JUDGES?

Can difficult decisions only arise in televised matches? thats how it appears. Only at these games are these additional officials used, and I think everybody agrees what a good idea they are so why not use them at every game. Is it because we just don't have the man power? If its not lets do it I'm sure the game would benefit.

WELL DONE BRONCOS

Sky TV were there to show the nation that London Broncos are a force to be reckoned with when they covered their home game on Sunday against Leeds.

For the Broncos to win such an important game can only be good for Rugby League in the capital. Their performance was superb and their commitment and team spirit second to none. May I wish them well for the rest of the season as they look forward to the Superleague.

Malcolm Lord
BBC GMR

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ACTION REPLAY

TOP LEFT

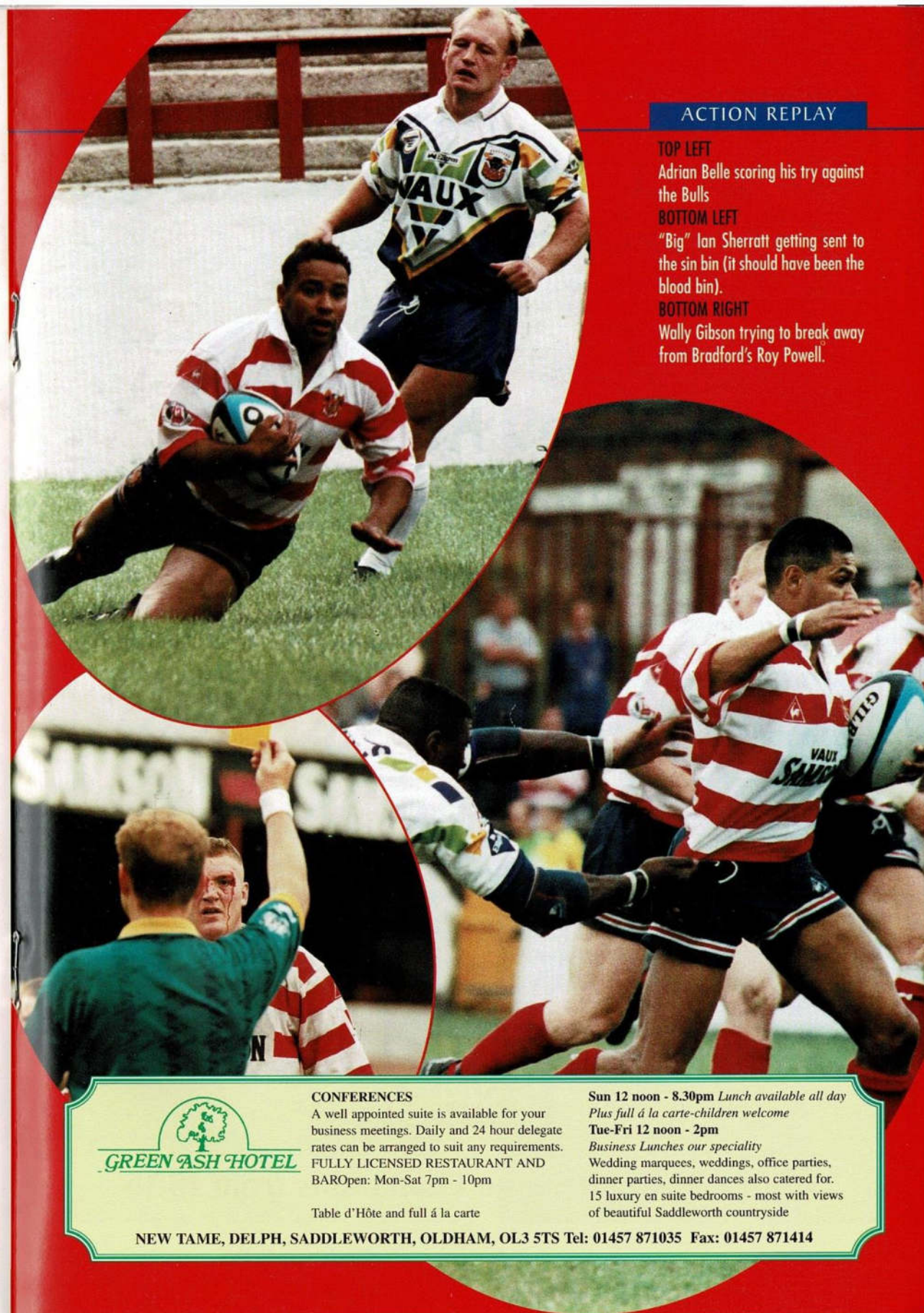
Adrian Belle scoring his try against the Bulls

BOTTOM LEFT

"Big" Ian Sherratt getting sent to the sin bin (it should have been the blood bin).

BOTTOM RIGHT

Wally Gibson trying to break away from Bradford's Roy Powell.



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RUGBY RECALL

1. In which season did London (then Fulham) enter the Rugby League?
2. At the start of which season did Fulham change their name to London Crusaders?
3. Which ex-Oldham player holds the tries in a career record for London?
4. Which ex-Oldham player held the points in match record for London up to March 94 when it was surpassed by John Gallagher?
5. Which London player scored a try in each of the last three Second Division matches against Oldham in season 1992/93?
6. Which Oldham player (now left) scored a try in each of the last two games against London in season 1992/93?
7. Which ex-Oldham player scored 2 tries for London from six appearances in season 1993/94?
8. Which Oldham player was transferred to London on 29/10/93?
9. Which Oldham player scored a try against London in each of his last three matches against them, before being sold in September 1992?
10. Which player signed for Oldham from London Crusaders on 14th August 1992?

1. 1980/81 2. 1991/92 3. Hussain M Barki
4. Alan Platt (22 v Mansfield 1986)
5. Shane Buckley 6. Mark Sheals
7. Richard Blackman 8. Nathan Clark
9. Chris Joynt 10. Ben Olsen

ANSWERS

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Schools and clubs are back into full swing now and I want to tell you about two new initiatives which are bringing Rugby League to a significant number of school players. Building on the success of the Quantum Schools Cups which have involved 3000 players over the past 2 years, a school league has been formed to play a short season in September and October. There is no doubt that playing for School still holds an attraction for most pupils and it is good to see that 11 of the 14 Secondary Schools in Oldham are providing Rugby League teams for their pupils. The Leagues are organised on a regional basis in groups of 3 or 4. The top placed schools in each section will play off to determine the schools champions at under 13, 14, 15 and 16 age groups. Each schools performance at each age level will then be added together to give an overall Oldham Schools Rugby League Champion. This Autumn also brings the Halifax Centenary World Cup and Oldham Schools will be taking part. 10 Secondary Schools have



A recent Secondary School game. Can you name the referee? An Oldham Rugby League Mug for the first person to write in with the correct answer.

entered our own "World Cup" and have each taken the identity of a competing nation. They will play in a competition run on exactly the same lines as the Senior World Cup and it will be interesting to see the result of our "World Cup" compared to the other Halifax World Cup. The real impact will be that between now and November almost 1000 senior school players will play rugby league matches. All the schools matches will be publicised so try to get out and see some of our young players.

Neil Wood



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INJURY UPDATE

The break, which the fixture list has given us since the Bradford game until tonight's match has enabled us to concentrate on a few niggling problems to the senior squad.

The rest, plus treatment will have helped Gilly (Ian Gildart) to clear a niggling achilles tendon problem up.

Also in for treatment have been Wally Gibson, Paul Atcheson, Paul Topping and Gary Lord for various bumps and bruises.

At the time of writing, Paul Norman is still making progress on his medial knee ligament strain, but is still some way off full recovery.

Gary Burns has had a problem with a knee injury in recent weeks but has soldiered on and will benefit when the fixtures are on hold, while the World Cup is being played in October.

John Watkins

OLDHAM RLFC

OLDHAM v LONDON BRONCOS

STATISTICS

How the Roughyeds have fared against the Broncos

Competition	Played	Won-draw-lost
League	12	7-1-4
Regal Trophy	2	2-0-0
Challenge Cup	1	1-0-0
Premiership	1	1-0-0
Total	16	11-1-4

Oldham's biggest win at Watersheddings 52-4 League in season 1989-90

Oldham's biggest win at Chiswick 40-10 League in season 1989-90

Fulham's biggest win at Craven Cottage 21-4 League in season 1983-84

London Crusaders biggest win at Watersheddings 10-0 League in season 1991-92

The above statistics cover Oldham's matches against opponents who played under the names of Fulham and London Crusaders but who are now London Broncos. They have been based at Craven Cottage, Fulham, the Polytechnic Ground, Chiswick and the Crystal Palace Recreation Centre. This season they hope to play matches at Barnet Copthall Stadium and the Brentford soccer ground.

Oldham v London Broncos, results of all previous matches

1983-84 League (home) won 30-12	League (away) lost 4-21
1987-88 Regal Trophy (home) won 36-8	
1989-90 League (home) won 52-4	League (away) won 40-10
1991-92 Regal Trophy (home) won 16-10	
League (home) won 15-4	League (away) won 23-20
League (home) lost 0-10	League (away) won 10-8
Premiership (home) won 22-14	
1992-93 League (home) won 27-12	League (away) drew 20-20
League (home) lost 20-27	League (away) lost 18-30
Challenge Cup (home) won 34-6	

During the Second Division season of 1991-92 and 1992-93 clubs met each other in four league matches, two at home and two away.

When the Broncos last visited Watersheddings

21st March 1993 Division Two
Oldham 20 London Crusaders 27
half time 8-16 attendance 2,269
Oldham tries: Wally Gibson, Gary Christie, Darren Abram and Scott Ranson
Goals: Sean Devine (2)
Crusaders tries: Scott Roskell, Shane Buckley, Mark Riley, Nick Halafihi and Dave King.
Goals: Paul Fisher and Chris Smith (2)
Dropped goals: Paul Fisher
Oldham: Wally Gibson, Gary Christie, Darren Abram, Iva Ropati, Scott Ranson, Martin Strett, Sean Devine, Ian Sherratt, David Stephenson, Mark Sheals, Shane Tupaea, Ben Olsen and David Bradbury. Substitutes: Sean Tyrer and Roland Philips.
Crusaders: Paul Fisher, Colin Atkinson, Scott Roskell, Shane Buckley, Mark Johnson, Neville Ramsey, Mark Riley, Danny Mulkerin, Nick Halafihi, Dave King, Ian McCarron, Chris Smith and Steve Rosolen. Substitutes: Dimitri Vikochofer and Dave Rotheram.

Today's sporting gaffe comes from soccer commentator Alan Pary who once said, 'Within a couple of minutes he had scored two goals in a two minute period'.

Quote of the day 'A professional is someone who can do his best work when he doesn't feel like it' - Alistair Cooke.

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ALLIANCE UPDATE

WITH ALLIANCE COACH GRAHAM BEALE

BRADFORD 18 OLDHAM 28

The first real heavy rain just happened to be the day when we were to travel to Bradford handling would be tested also controlling the ball, mistakes were plenty on both sides in the first quarter, Bradford were the first side to score with a drop goal, the lads started to play some good football but came up with errors or the wrong option in the Bradford 22 which let them off the hook, Bradford growing in confidence scored a try and kicked the goal. From the kick off it was Bradford who came up with the error, a good set of drives and a penalty from Steve Gartland gave us the confidence we needed, good play by Oldham saw Prescott go in for a fine try and goal by Gartland put us in the lead on the half hour. Just before half time

slack marking and a bad decision by the ref awarded Bradford with a penalty try under the posts which they also goaled. 13-8 at half time, in the second half Bradford were the first to score against the run of play but failed at goal. That was just what we needed to get our act together good team work good drives by the forwards put a good platform for Burns and Gartland to cut the Bradford defence, further tries were scored by Philips, Cowans, Ranson, and Gartland, who also landed two more goals, Bradford managed one more drop goal for their effort, best for Oldham, Parr, Temu, Green, Hawkyard, Burns, Gartland.

Graham Beale

QUOTES & HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

It was on this day in 1933 that the City of London saw its first ever competitive Rugby League club match. White City Stadium was the setting for the London Highfield v Wakefield Trinity Northern Rugby League fixture. The London side scored two tries through Jimmy Walker and Joe Gordon but Trinity had the last laugh winning 9-8 thanks mainly to the efforts of Ernie Pollard who scored all Trinity's points with a try and three goals. Exactly twelve months later the Italian actress Sophia Loren was born which must make her just over thirty years of age! It was on this day in 1975 that a crowd of 63,047 attended Sydney Cricket Ground for the historic Australian Grand Final between Eastern Suburbs and St. George. Easts won 38-0 to record the biggest winning margin in a grand final. It was on this day in 1987 that Swinton forced a 32-32 draw at Hunslet in a First Division match to equal the highest ever scoring draw. It was on this day in 1987 that the first organised motor cycle race took place. Eight riders were involved in the 476 mile race from Paris to Nantes and back. The winner was M. Chevalier on a Michelin-Dion who covered the distance at an average speed of just under 23mph. And it was on this day in 1993 that Oldham signed Andy Goodway from Leeds. He was signed merely as a player but towards the end of that 1993-94 season he as appointed assistant player coach to Bob Lindner. Goodway took over as head coach at the beginning of last season and he is now regarded as one of the best young coaches in the game, hence being involved in coaching the England squad for the forthcoming World Championship competition.

Don Yates

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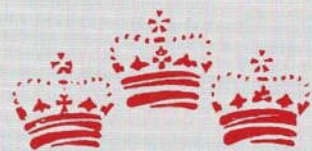
RUFF E. HEAD

BY IAN WILSON

see that the Rugby Union chaps in England at least are going to enjoy another year of not paying tax on their earnings from playing the game. Their Twickenham bosses have agreed to go officially professional - but not this season. What a farce! I know as a fact of a fifth division side in the Midlands whose players were on £70 a man when playing a 'friendly' against a side from the North West two weeks ago. And I thought I had read that Mike Catt (the South African who is being groomed to take over at stand off from that national ex-hero, Rob Andrew) has proudly proclaimed himself to be 'England's' first full-time professional R.U. player. There is currently much speculation about the likely effects on our game of the world-wide revolution in the fifteen-a-side code. One will undoubtedly be a reduction in the number of their players changing codes - for example, the New Zealand winger Lomu would surely have been playing

R.L. now had it not been for the ability of his R.U. paymasters to match the significant offers he reputedly received from both English and Winfield Cup R.L. sides. There will be an openly free market - and in general, the clubs with the biggest financial clout will get the best players, whichever the code. And almost certainly, there will be some movement the other way. In the short term, such current R.L. players as Davies, Tait and Moriarty seem very likely to seek places in the new R.U. set-up when they are contractually free to do so - and why shouldn't they? I wouldn't necessarily assume that they are going to go 'back home', though. I have already heard a story that the Newcastle United boss' takeover of Newcastle-Gosforth R.U. club will not be the only one, and that two well-known sides based in the Manchester borough of Trafford, have already had equivalent talks, and have their eyes, and their potentially very large bank balances, on one or two big-name ex-R.U. pros

currently playing in the North West. Of greater concern, I believe, is the role of the TV. moguls. It is difficult to believe that the R.U. will ever generate the cash necessary to pay their players the sort of money that will satisfy them without major T.V. contracts. And the piper ultimately plays the tune. We have to accept that R.U. has currently at least, a greater world wide profile than we do. So won't Murdoch want to invest there? And if so, will he also persist with the R.L.? How firm are our contracts with his set-up? There couldn't be a more important time for R.L. expansion to be pressed ahead, nor a worse time for rows with the fledgling S. African side to be allowed to fester. What did Wigan offer for Barry McDermott when they went to the transfer tribunal when they bought his services from us? And what did they value him at, 13 first team appearances later? As Jim Quinn said, the whole system is demonstrably shown to be a mockery



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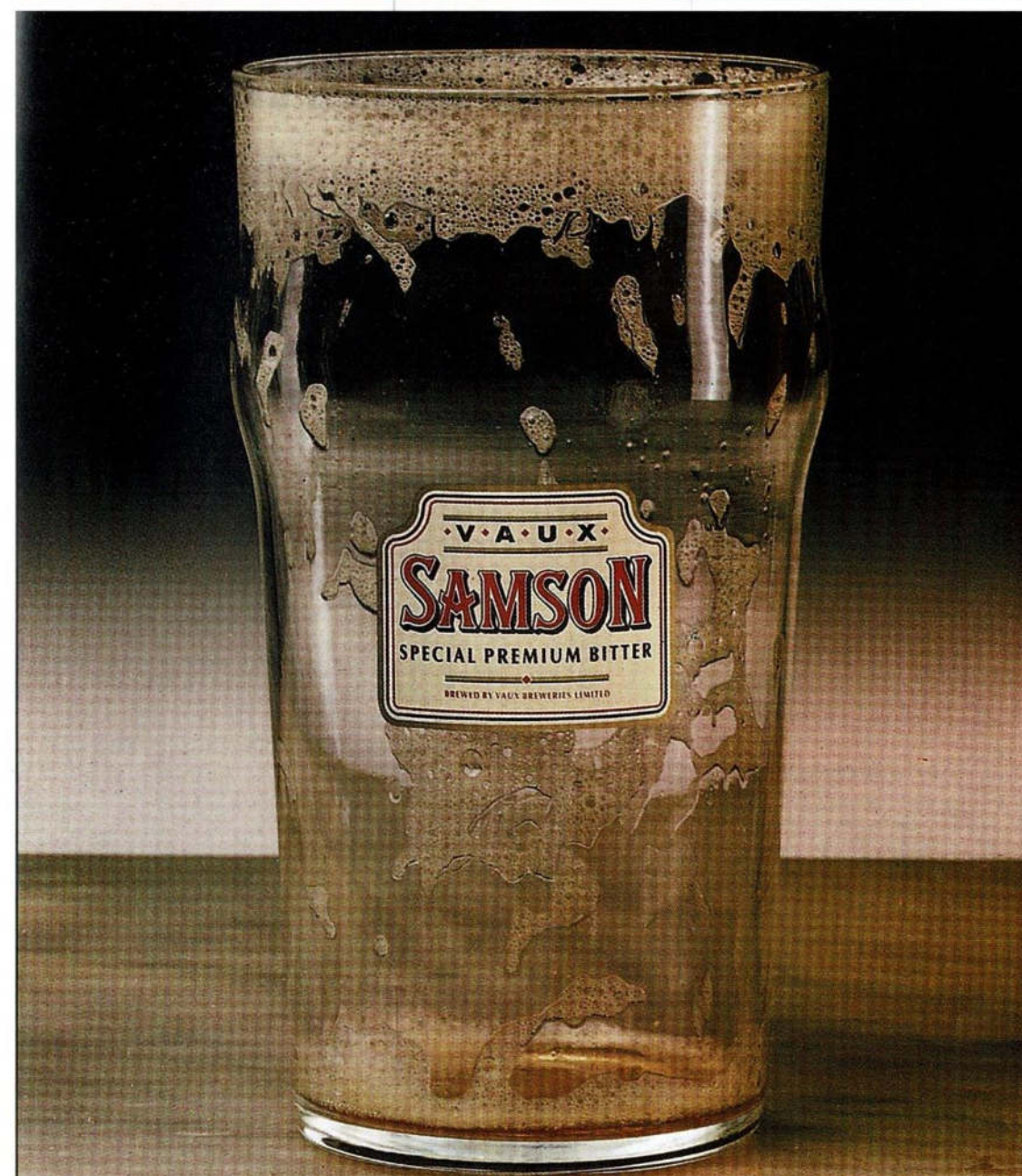
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PLAYER PROFILE

1. What is your full name and nickname at the club?
Micky Edwards. I have a new one every week
2. Where is your place of birth?
St. Helens
3. Which team did you support as a child, League/Union or other sport?
St. Helens RLFC
4. Which was the first team you played for, League or Union?
Blackbrook ARLFC
5. Who was the biggest influence on your career?
Mum and Dad
6. Which is your happiest memory in the game?
Scoring the winning try in the Alliance final scoring 46 tries in the same season.
7. Which is your saddest memory in the game?
Being injured
8. Which current opponent or teammate do you respect most?
Martin Crompton. Oldham
9. Who is the greatest player you have played with, against, seen or read about?
Ellery Hanley
10. Do you have a favourite ground? Why?
St. Helens, Knowsley Road. Every time I've played I've scored
11. Do you have a least favourite ground? Why?
Featherstone Rovers, Post Office Road. Got injured there.
12. What, if anything, would you like to change in the game?
Scrum, high tackle rule, to soft refs!
13. What aspect of your career do you enjoy most?
Training, getting new boots off Ken.
14. Is there an aspect of your career that you dislike?
Losing, bringing sand on
15. Do you have any pre match routines or superstitions?
Never go out first
16. Apart from your current playing position, what position do you enjoy playing in?
Just about every position on the field, thanks to Andy
17. Can you recall an amusing incident about the game?
Dave Pye came on as sub for 30 seconds went off after 45 seconds from a broken nose and concussion away at Dewsbury
18. What is your ambition in the game?
To stay an international with Wales, and to play for Great Britain
19. What is your ambition outside the game?
To climb Ben Nevis
20. If you were not a rugby player, what occupation would you pursue?
Royal Marines
21. What car do you drive?
Rover 216EFI
22. What is your favourite food and drink?
Spagetti Bolognese and Milk
23. Do you have any particular musical tastes?
Live and Queen
24. What is your favourite holiday resort?
Barbados, West Indies
25. What is your hobby/pastime outside rugby?
Gym and swimming, steam room
26. What is your most prized possession?
Black list on a leather rope, good luck charm
27. If you won the National Lottery, what would be the first thing you would buy?
1. Gag for Darren Abrams' mouth
2. Another Python for Craig Richards
3. A calendar for Abraham Phillips
28. What is the most dangerous thing that you have attempted?
Arguing with Andy Goodway, going in the bath with Craig Richards and Alan McCurrie
29. Which person would you most like to meet?
Abraham Phillips solicitor
30. Who do you think will win the forthcoming World Cup competition?
Wales of course

STATISTICALLY

THE CENTENARY SEASON FIXTURES

Date	Versus	Time	Score	Att
AUG				
20th	Castleford	A 3.30	L28-22	4341
23rd	ST. HELENS	H 7.30	L18-44	4316
27th	Warrington	A 3.00	L40-8	4064
SEPT				
1st	HALIFAX	H 7.30	L4-21	2938
6th	London Broncos	A 7.30		
10th	BRADFORD BULLS	H 3.00	L24-30	3222
20th	LONDON BRONCOS	H 7.30		
24th	Wigan	A 3.00		
OCT				
1st	LEEDS	H 3.00		
7th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Opening Ceremony			
21st	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 1			
22nd	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 2			
28th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Final at Wembley			
NOV				
1st	WORKINGTON	H 7.30		
5th	Sheffield Eagles	A 3.15		
12th	Regal Trophy - Round 2			
19th	CASTLEFORD	H 3.00		
26th	Regal Trophy - Round 3			
DEC				
3rd	Bradford Northern	A 3.00		
10th	Regal Trophy - Round 4			
13th	St. Helens	A 7.30		
17th	WIGAN	H 3.00		
26th	WARRINGTON	H 3.00		
30th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 1			
JAN				
1st	Halifax	A 3.00		
6th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 2			
7th	Leeds	A 3.00		
13th	Regal Trophy Final			
14th	Workington Town	A 3.00		
21st	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H 3.00		
27th	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - 1st Round			

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SPEAKING 95-96

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good Evening and welcome to all our friends from London. It is good to see you all, especially as it is such a long journey you have had to make. Let's hope we have a good game tonight. As you may have read in the last programme we are holding 2 forthcoming events and tickets are now available from any Supporters Club official at the match or you can book your place on either the Car Rally (sponsored by Lees Village Service Station) being held on Sunday 15th October or the Halloween Dinner and Disco on Saturday 21st October by calling either 633-6780 (Alice) or 681-3397 (Sue), or why not come along to both as they are both reasonably priced, the Car Rally being £10 per car and the Dinner just £13 per ticket. The Dinner was a great success in February so book early and take the opportunity to keep in touch with everybody during the lay-off month of October. Thanks Alice.

MEMORY MATCH

DON YATES LOOKS BACK AT A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

Keeping the Rugby League flag flying down in London has always been a difficult task. Prior to the formation of Fulham fifteen years ago there were three unsuccessful attempts to establish the game in our capital city. In 1933 London Highfield spent one season of their nomadic life playing out of the White City Stadium, Shepherds Bush. Two years later London had the luxury of two clubs when Acton & Willesden and Streatham & Mitcham entered the league. Unfortunately Acton & Willesden lasted just one season and Streatham & Mitcham two. The dream of a successful London club seemed to have died with these three clubs so it was a major surprise when, in June 1980, it was announced that a club based at the Fulham soccer ground would contest the 1980-81 season. Recruitment began with Reg Bowden, the experienced Widnes scrum-half, who was appointed player-coach. He assembled a talented and experienced squad which included five other former Widnes colleagues amongst his squad of 17 professionals. When the fixtures were released it was seen that the Rugby Football League had played their part by giving Fulham a home match with which to start their season. What's more, their opponents would be Wigan, relegated from the First Division during the previous season but still a glamour outfit with a capable playing staff. The media attention given to that first match on Sunday, 14th September 1980 guaranteed a big gate but there were serious doubts about the playing strength of Fulham whose squad had only trained together for a matter of nine weeks before this inaugural match. The teams for this

momentous occasion were as follows:

Fulham: John Risman; Adrian Cambriani; Mal Aspey; Derek Noonan; Iain MacCorquodale; Dave Eckersley; Reg Bowden; Ian van Bellen; Tony Karalius; Roy Lester; Tony Gourley; Dave Allen & Dave Hull. Substitutes: Neil Tuffs & John Wood. Wigan: George Fairbairn; Dennis Ramsdale; David Willicombe; Steve Davies; Jim Hornby; Bernard Coyle; Ness Flowers; Jeff Townend; John Pendlebury; Malcolm Smith; John Clough; Terry Hollingsworth & Denis Boyd. Substitutes: Les Bolton & Billy Melling. The attendance was 9,554, most of whom appeared to enjoy what for them was a new experience. Iain MacCorquodale scored the first points with an early penalty and Welsh Rugby Union recruit Adrian Cambriani scored the first try. Fulham, swept along by the momentous occasion and the enthusiastic crowd, went on to record a memorable 24-5 victory. For the record, Adrian Cambriani (2), Neil Tuffs (2) and Dave Allen scored tries with Iain MacCorquodale (4) and Dave Eckersley (drop) adding goals. Bernard Coyle scored a consolation try for Wigan and George Fairbairn landed their goal. It proved a successful opening season for Fulham who gained promotion and played before average home gates of over 7,000. Since then the club has had its share of triumphs, disappointments, changes of both venues and names but still they continue to keep the game alive in London. With the arrival of Super League, the club are confident that the Broncos will be alive and kicking in the capital for many more years to come.

MEET THE PLAYERS FROM OLDHAM R.L.F.C.

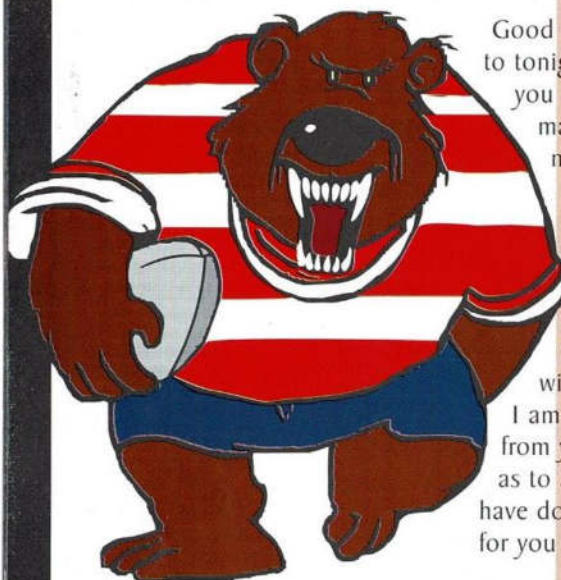
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JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

CALLING ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHY'EDS!



Good evening and welcome to tonight's match. I hope all you Junior Roughy'eds are managing these night matches and not falling asleep during school! Let's hear you all cheering tonight and see if we can cheer them on for a win (we sure could do with one)!

I am still waiting to hear from you Junior Roughy'eds as to any ideas you may have don't forget we are here for you so get writing. Also

Why not enter our competition in the programme the questions are not difficult and you may win a prize so what have you to lose!

The answer to the last question is: Andy Goodway came to Oldham from Leeds. The winner is Peter Collinge (Well done)!

This weeks question Who was last seasons top try scorer?

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ACADEMY NEWS

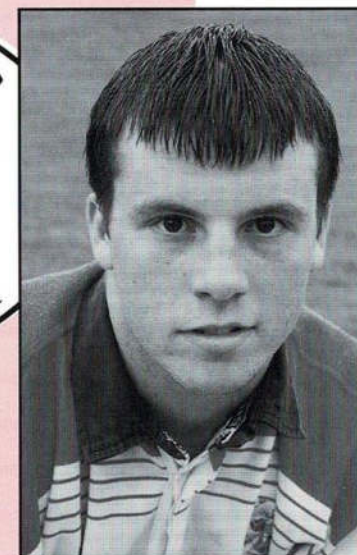
WITH BRIAN GARTLAND

Our Academy Team went down to Salford by 24 points to 6 but not after a very hard fight and some great individual displays by Man of the Match Craig Barker, Neil Melling in the second row and our young prop Ward Jones. Julian Mike at full back was also one of our stars, if only he could hold the ball he would be a real star and I am sure he could make the pro ranks another rising star. We were very disappointed when our match with Barrow was called off, I think we would certainly have had our first win of the season, which would have given the lads plenty of confidence for the games ahead. I am pleased to say we



have just got one of our local boys back in the fold from Halifax Academy - David Milne. Best of luck David for the future.

Brian Gartland
Coach



Man of the Match against Salford
Craig Barker

WE'VE CURED HEADACHES FOR THE ROUGHYEDS



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