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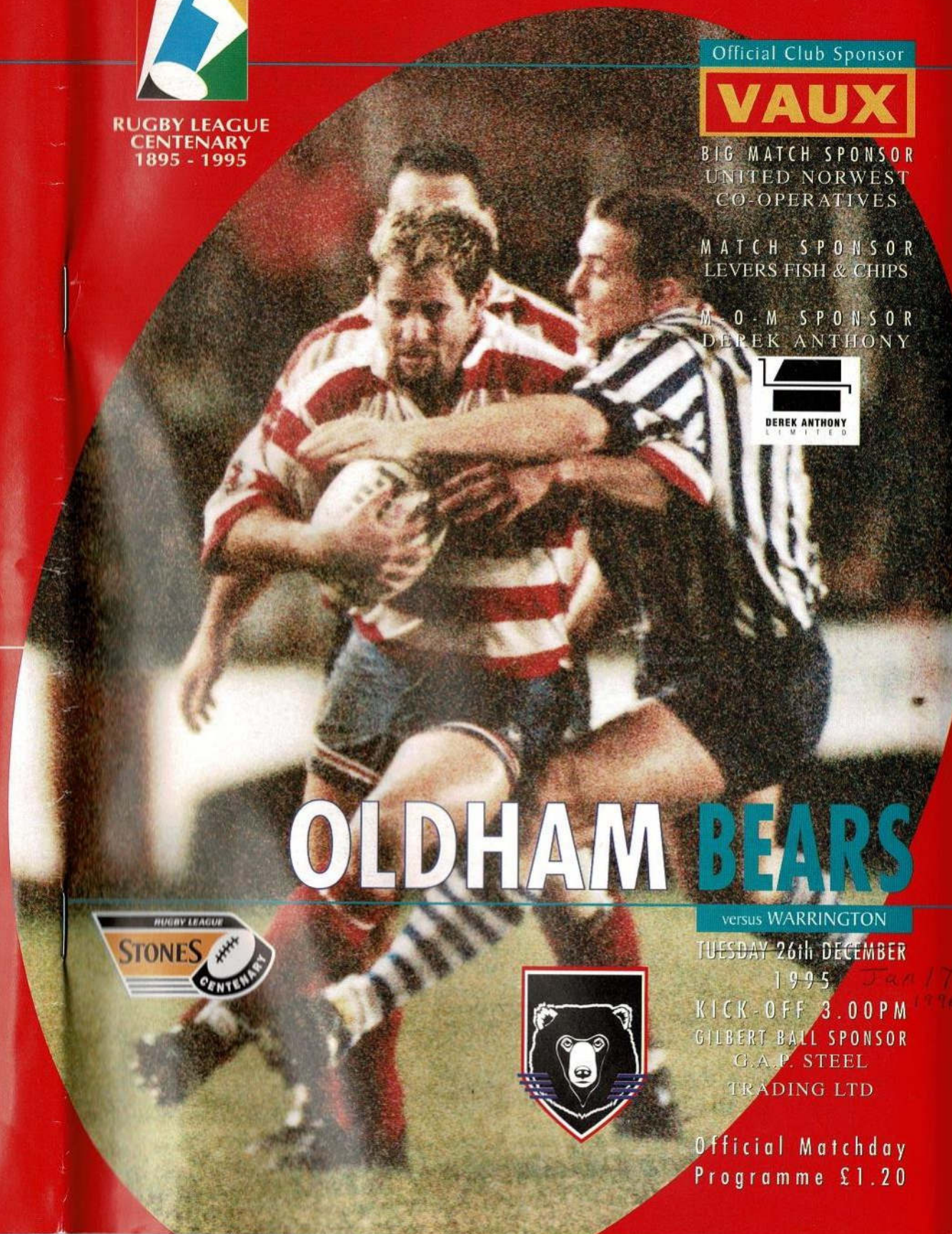
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versus WARRINGTON

TUESDAY 26th DECEMBER

1995 Jan 17 1996

KICK-OFF 3.00PM

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1921-22, 1954-55  
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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, 1923-34, 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,  
Scorer: 1921-22 season  
Record Goal: Bernard Ganley,  
Scorer: 224 goals, 1957-58  
season  
Record Point: Bernard Ganley,  
Scorer: 28 points v  
Liverpool City,  
April 1959  
First Game: 21st October 1876  
v Stalybridge  
Highest Number: Bernard Ganley, 2,081  
of Points Scored  
Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685  
Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233  
Since 1900  
Most Tries: Alan Davies 182

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# BOARDROOM TALK

BY OLDHAM RLFC CHAIRMAN JIM QUINN



WARRINGTON at home on Boxing Day...it somehow seems hard to comprehend that this type of festive season occasion will no longer figure on Rugby League's new-look calendar. Indeed, 1996 will be a momentous year for our game and particularly so for those clubs like Oldham and Warrington, who will be proudly going to the starting gate for the inaugural Super League season. Oldham are with the world's elite and I cannot stress too much what a privilege it is to be there - given our fight for survival over the last few years - and what a magnificent opportunity it provides for both club and town. Believe me, we are leaving parochialism behind, entering a worldwide stage in a sporting world that is changing by the minute. It is big, vibrant and exciting. And if you doubt that, just ask yourself why those clubs on the outside are falling over themselves to get in. We are there. From the despair of facing total failure head-on a year or two ago, sheer hard work and commitment have earned us a place in Super League. We must grasp that opportunity with both hands, not merely for the present generation of rugby league followers in

the town, but for the children of today who will be the players and supporters of tomorrow. We must do it for them, but we can't do it alone. We must have the backing of the town and we must attract new supporters to add to our hard-core loyalists who have followed us through thick and thin down the years. We are banking on those loyalists sticking with us as we make the changes which we believe are absolutely vital to our success as a Super League club. One of the main things that emerged from the Super League seminar in Los Angeles was the importance of staging sporting events in first-class, modern stadia and providing customers with decent facilities and value for money comforts. That is one of the main reasons why we plan to stage several of our home games in Super League '96 at Boundary Park or Maine Road, Manchester. There is another reason for going to Maine Road. It is vital that we try and tap into the summer sporting interests of the vast thousands of people who live on the Eastern side of Manchester in one of the most densely populated

parts of the region. By giving them a taste of Super League in '96 we may attract their attention and whet their appetite to seek more of the same in '97 when, hopefully, we will be in our new stadium at Westwood. Talking of the new stadium, it was evident when we were in America that most towns and cities regard a modern stadium as vital to the region's growth and development in both commercial and economic terms. The team and the stadium together can provide the spotlight and the attention that makes a town prosperous and I have no doubt that could apply to Oldham so long as local people get behind us in our Super League ambitions. Finally, a warm welcome to Warrington. Best wishes for the festive season and the New Year and a toast for '96 and Super League.

JIM QUINN



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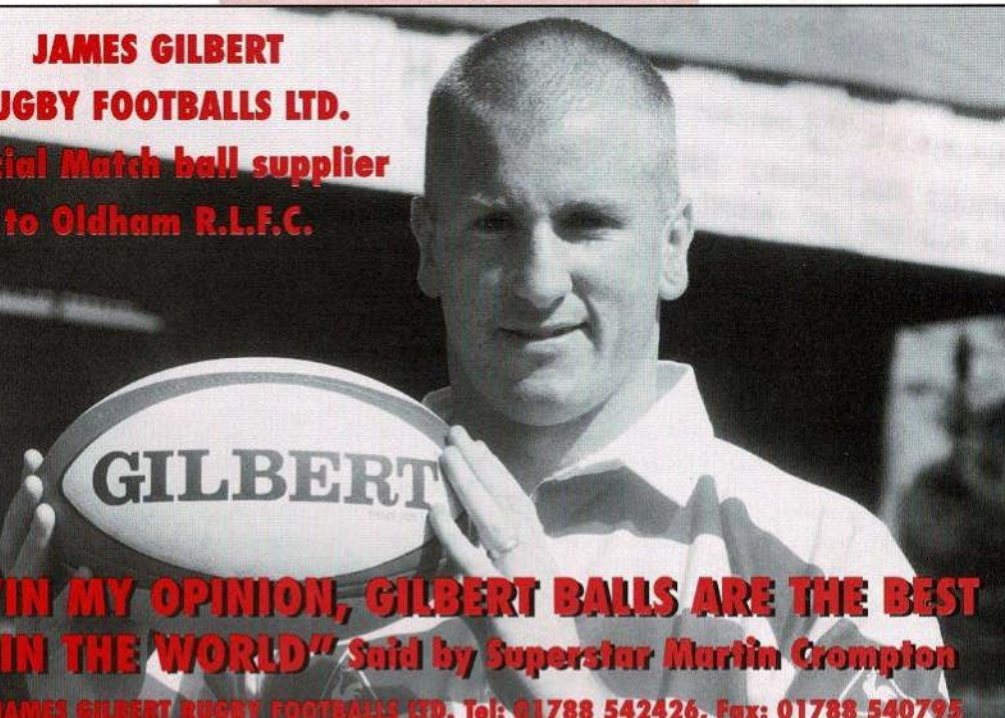
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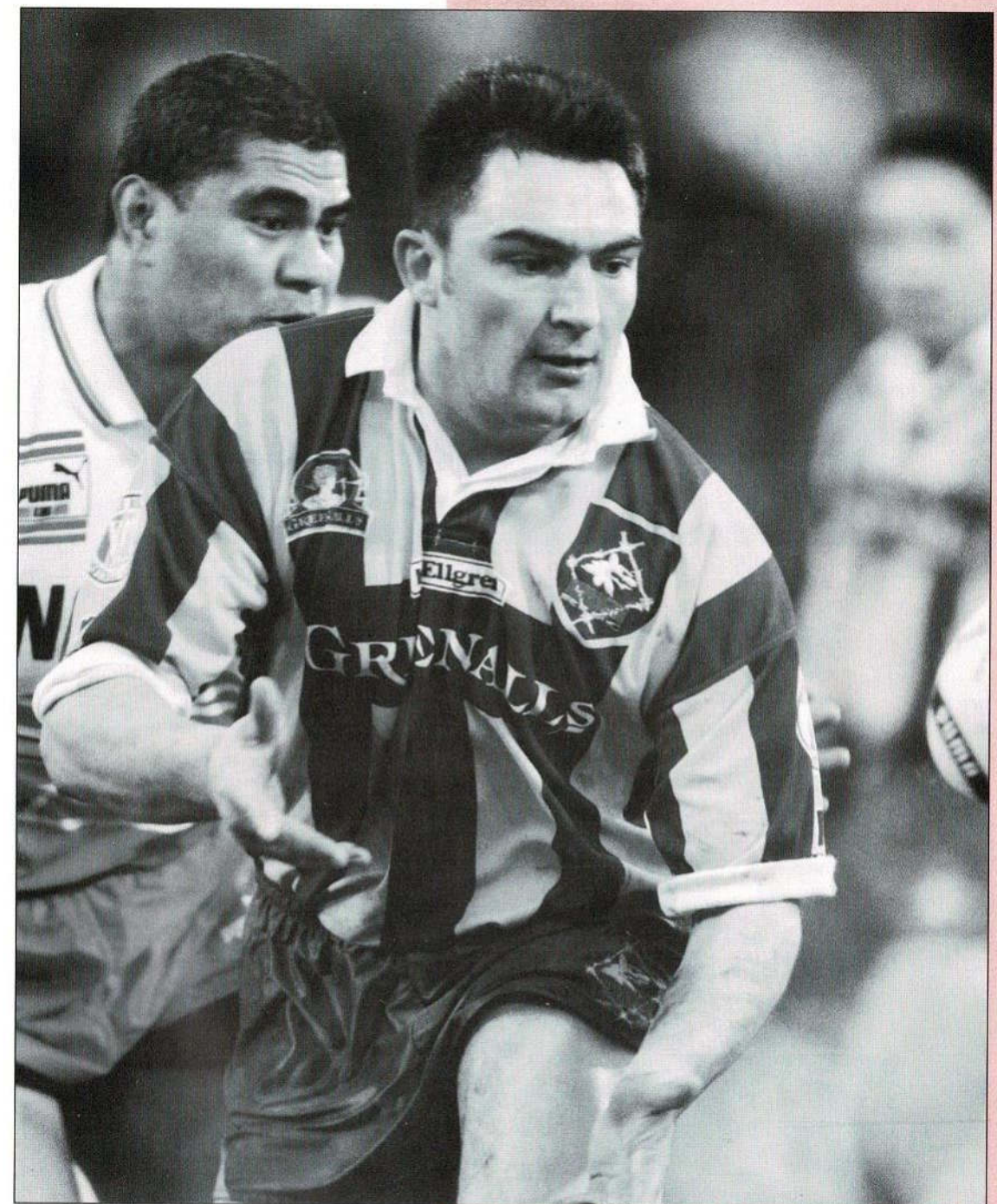
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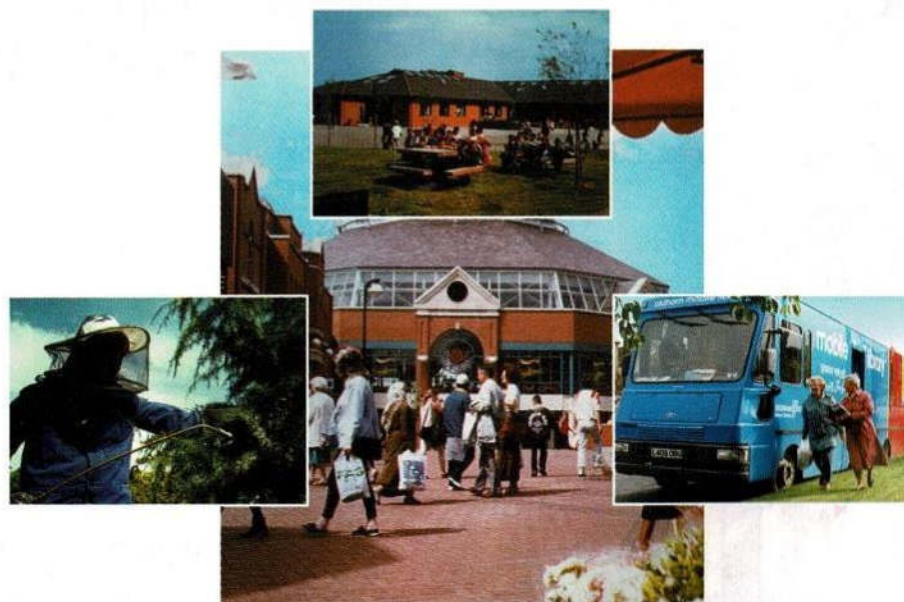
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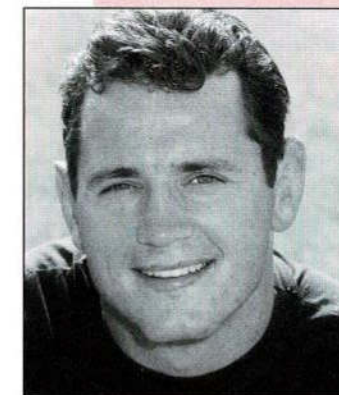
**O**n behalf of all the coaching staff, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all supporters for backing us so far this season and link with that every good wish for the festive season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

And what a year it promises to be! These are exciting times for both club and game and particularly, here at Oldham with our decision to go full time professional from January 1.

The demands of the sport these days are a far cry from 1979 when I first signed for Oldham. In those days we trained on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and played at the weekend.

These days full time professionalism is a must if we are to compete with the top teams in Super League. We have been introducing it

gradually over the past two or three weeks with those players who are able coming in for training during the day under the watchful eye of our new conditioner Tony Louka. These notes had to be penned before we played St. Helens and Wigan. But I was pleased with our



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performance when beating Castleford and reasonably happy about our 14-10 defeat at Bradford. No coach can be happy about a defeat, but there were many positive aspects about our performance, particularly in the second half. We had a problem at acting half back, but I thought our second half defence was good. We stopped Bradford scoring in the second 40 minutes, and what a game on defence put up by Jason Temu! Jason had a blinder, putting in a lot of big hits and lifting the confidence of the rest of the side. The tragedy was that we picked up another load of injuries.

There is no doubt about it. With the intensity of the game these days and the switch to hard grounds in the summer we are going to need a big squad for Super League.

Andy Goodway

## ANDY GOODWAY

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SEE PAGE 13



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# MEMORY MATCH

## Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

During the history of our game there have been a number of competitions which have provided fine entertainment before being shelved for a variety of reasons. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Cup competitions were contested for over 80 years before being controversially mothballed in 1993. The County Championship lasted 77 seasons and the BBC2 Floodlit Trophy covered 15 highly successful campaigns. Other competitions such as the Eastern and Western Division Championships and the Third Division title had even shorter lives. One competition which lasted for just a matter of months was the Captain Morgan Trophy. The first match in that tournament was staged on 24th October 1973 and the final on 26th January 1974. This competition was restricted to the 15 first round winners of the County Cup competitions of the 1973-74 season plus the club who had lost their first round Lancashire Cup tie by the narrowest margin. Oldham lost 12-20 at home to Wigan in the Lancashire Cup so their involvement was over before it had even begun. Widnes were the club who suffered the narrowest Lancashire Cup defeat, a 12-11 beating at Salford. Today's visitors to Watersheddingss, Warrington, had beaten Leigh 20-15 in the Lancashire Cup and so qualified for the first round. At that stage they faced a difficult trip to Wigan but they were able to win their opening Captain Morgan Trophy tie by 12-4. In the quarter final Warrington entertained Castleford and they won comfortably enough 15-7. Warrington's reward for that success was another difficult away tie at Leeds in the semi-final. At half time in that tie Warrington trailed 11-7 but a tremendous second half revival saw Warrington win through 20-13. Featherstone Rovers provided the opposition to Warrington in that final. They had won 19-4 at Bramley in the Yorkshire

Cup before sailing through to the Captain Morgan final with comfortable home victories over Keighley 27-8, Wakefield Trinity 20-14 and Workington Town 37-18. Salford was chosen as the venue for the final with the teams in that final lining up as follows:  
Featherstone Rovers: Harold Box, Paul Coventry, Mick Smith, Dave Hartley, Graham Bray, Mel Mason, Colin Wood, Les Tonks, Keith Bridges, Billy Harris, Mick Gibbins, Alan Rhodes, and Keith Bell. Substitutes John Newlove and Charlie Stone.  
Warrington: Derek Whitehead, Mike Philbin, Derek Noonan, Frank Reynolds, John Bevan, Alan Whittle, Pary Gordon, Dave Chisnall, Kevin Ashcroft, Brian Brady, Bobby Wanbon, Dave Wright and Ian Mather. Substitutes Billy Pickup and Joe Price.  
Defences were well on top in this final. Both sides were able to field powerful sets of forwards and these forwards dominated the match which was criticised in many quarters. However no one could doubt the fact that plenty of endeavour and superb defensive play was seen. Although no man of the match was awarded it was generally agreed that Warrington's Bobby Wanbon was the top performer.

Warrington enjoyed the benefit of a strong wind in the first half when Derek Whitehead landed two penalties. Featherstone were unable to benefit from the elements after the interval mainly because of Warrington's superb defensive display. So Warrington won 4-0 and they still hold the trophy by virtue of the fact that the competition was never repeated. Although the Captain Morgan Trophy was a somewhat low key affair, Warrington can be proud of their achievement in lifting what is now one of Rugby League's forgotten competitions.

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MALCOLM LORD

## THE FACE BEHIND THE VOICE OF BBC GMR'S RUGBY LEAGUE COVERAGE

# SEASONS GREETINGS

We have had some heavy subjects to write about over the past few months, what with Super League, summer rugby, promotion and relegation or not as the case maybe and many other stormy topics, the recent rule changes, the timing of them and indeed whether or not the Challenge Cup will continue to exist. The list is endless and passions run high on all of them. So I thought it might be a bit of fun to be a little light-hearted for once, especially taking into account the time of year.

I remember for instance Kevin Ashcroft saying during one commentary 'If that was a penalty I'm a Dutchman' I could not resist calling him Van Der Valk, we creased up laughing. Then there was the time when I handed him the microphone just as he put this large toffee into his mouth, he could hardly speak and yet I suspect that's the nearest he's got to pronouncing Inga's full name correctly.

I was told the other day about a guy who supposedly entered a restaurant and said 'I think I'll go mad and have the beef' to which his friend replied, 'shouldn't it be the other way round.'

I can't tell you my favourite story of the moment but if you see me and mention the name Neil Armstrong I'll be happy to pass it on.

*Seasons Greetings to all*

Malcolm Lord  
BBC GMR



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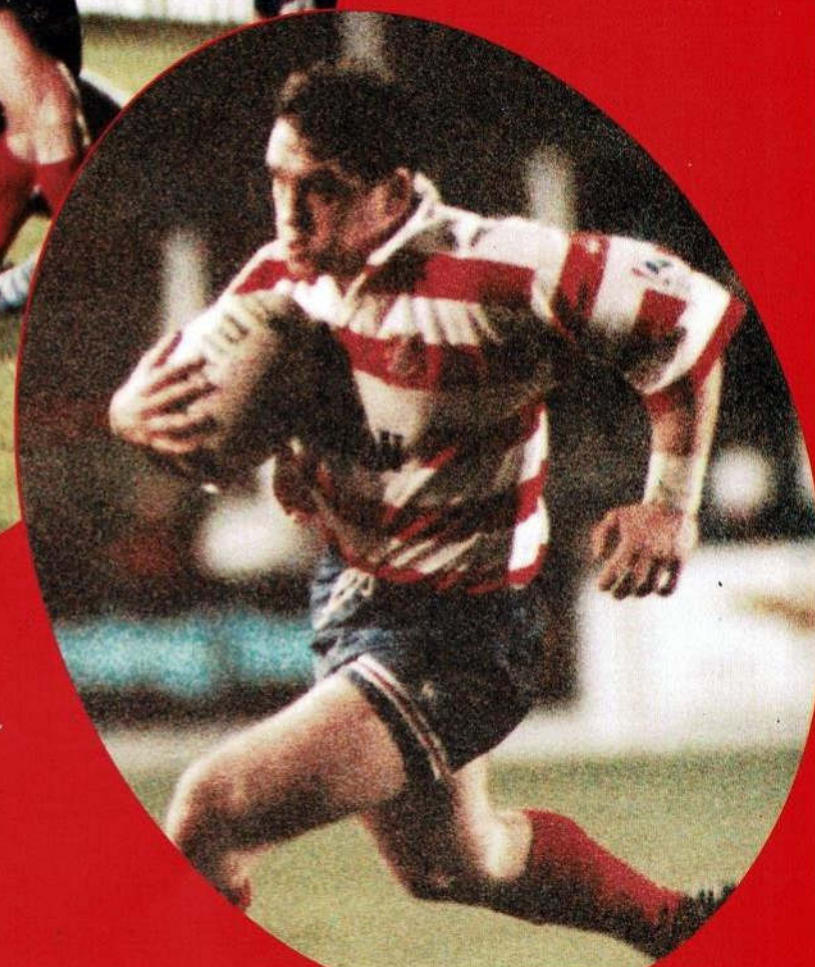
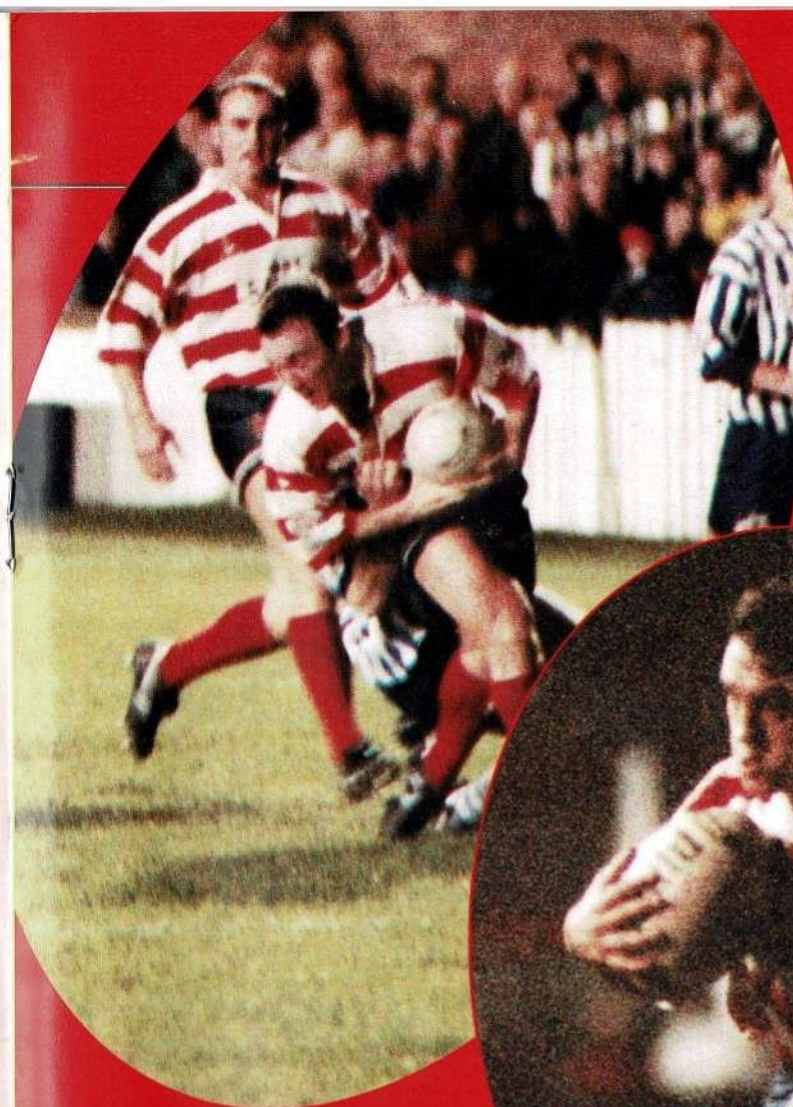
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Bradford v Widnes Old Trafford 1990



Hull v Widnes Old Trafford 1991



Henry Paul and Scott Gibbs at the launch of the Stones Centenary season 1995

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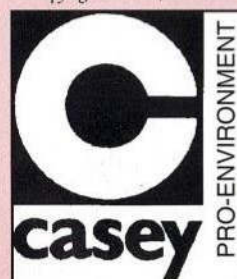
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# RUGBY RECALL

1. Which three Warrington players scored two tries each, during Oldham's 55-6 defeat at Wilderspool last season?
2. Who scored Oldham's try in the above match?
3. Which two Oldham players scored two tries each in last seasons 52-22 home defeat of Warrington?
4. Which two Warrington players scored two tries each in the above match?
5. From which Welsh Rugby Union clubs did Warrington sign Kevin Ellis and Allan Bateman?
6. Which former Oldham player still playing Championship rugby, turned down the position of player-coach at Swinton in July 1992?
7. Which Championship club claimed they had signed Kelly Sheldford in July 1992, 3 months before he signed for Warrington?
8. From which New Zealand club did Warrington sign Kelly Sheldford?
9. Which overseas player won the Harry Sunderland (Man of Match) Trophy during Warrington's Premiership final, defeat of Halifax at the end of season 1985/86?
10. Who won the Tom Bergin (M of M) Trophy during Oldham's second division Premiership final defeat of Featherstone at the end of season 1987/88?

ANSWERS  
1. Forster, Harris and Ellis 2. Martin Crompton  
3. Paul Topping and Ryan Green 4. Bennett and Sheldford 5. Bridgend and Neath 6. John Fieldhouse 7. Des Foy 8. Ospreys 9. Les Boyd

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# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Happy Christmas to everyone. I hope Santa brought all the expected goodies including a rugby ball for the kids. This Christmas I'd like to hand out a few Christmas crackers on the local Rugby League scene. Christmas cracker no 1. Oldham Bears for being in the Super League and in position to lead the whole town into the new era of Rugby League. I hope the team can seize the opportunity of starting with a clean slate and give the Bears our whole hearted support. If we we all brought a friend what a improvement to gates that would bring.

Christmas cracker no 2: All the local schools who are taking up the Sport of Rugby League. We now have over 40 schools in the family and look forward to adding more. If schools are giving our youngsters a chance to play sport then we have more chance of unearthing future Champions.

Christmas cracker no 3: To all our Junior Rugby League clubs who work so hard to give players from under 8 to under 18 a game of Rugby League. They cater for everyone from the social player with a dream to the future

superstar. Make no mistake, we have plenty of all categories. Christmas Cracker No 4: Is personal to me. It goes to all the unpaid, unsung people who help in taking the game of Rugby League to the public, and in particular to youngsters. There are far too many to mention by name but you all know who you are and I thank you. I'm looking forward to the New Year I have to say I am optimistic and excited about the future of Rugby League in Oldham. We can all have dreams and aspirations and with hard work, together, we can achieve them!



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# INJURY UPDATE

## INJURY UPDATE

Gary Lord is now happily back training with Les Davidson joining him but unfortunately neither will be fit for today's match. The treatment room has again been very busy after the Saints match - Rob Myler ruptured his quadriceps, Steve Gartland fractured his collarbone, Gary Burns required 5 stitches above his eye and Iyan Green has 3 fractured bones in his hand. These additions to the long term injury list, which includes Joe Faimalo, Scott Ranson, Mike Neal, Jon Clarke, Sam Irwin, Lord and Davidson, make the treatment register a dark page to read. Looking back to this time last year where the pages were virtually blank, one can't help thinking of injuries as a bit like a No. 9 bus - none for weeks and then 17 all at once!

## GOODFELLAS

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# OLDHAM v WARRINGTON

HOW THE ROUGHYEDS HAVE FARED AGAINST THE WIRE

| Competition           | Played | Won-Drawn-Lost |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------|
| League                | 167    | 73-9-85        |
| Challenge Cup         | 11     | 5-0-6          |
| Regal Trophy          | 3      | 1-0-2          |
| Floodlit Trophy       | 1      | 1-0-0          |
| Championship play-off | 1      | 0-0-1          |
| Lancashire Cup        | 15     | 2-0-13         |
| TOTAL                 | 198    | 82-9-107       |

RESULTS DURING THE PAST TEN SEASONS

|         |                                                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1986-87 | Warrington 22 Oldham 18 (League)                       |
|         | Oldham 15 Warrington 14 (League)                       |
| 1987-88 | Warrington 10 Oldham 14 (Regal Trophy)                 |
|         | Warrington 17 Oldham 6 (Cup)                           |
| 1988-89 | Warrington 32 Oldham 30 (League)                       |
|         | Oldham 14 Warrington 21 (Regal Trophy)                 |
|         | Oldham 16 Warrington 2 (League)                        |
| 1989-90 | Oldham 16 Warrington 24 (Lancs Cup Final at St Helens) |
|         | Oldham 6 Warrington 10 (Cup semi-final at Wigan)       |
| 1990-91 | Oldham 4 Warrington 2 (League)                         |
|         | Warrington 22 Oldham 14 (League)                       |
| 1991-92 | Oldham 3 Warrington 8 (Cup)                            |
| 1992-93 | Oldham 33 Warrington 20 (Lancashire Cup)               |
| 1993-94 | Oldham 12 Warrington 18 (League)                       |
|         | Warrington 23 Oldham 6 (League)                        |
| 1994-95 | Warrington 55 Oldham 6 (League)                        |
|         | Oldham 52 Warrington 22 (League)                       |
| 1995-96 | Warrington 40 Oldham 8 (League)                        |

Oldham's biggest win at Watersheddings 35-0 League in season 1898-99

Warrington's biggest win at Watersheddings 43-4 League in season 1976-77

Warrington's biggest win at Wilderspool 55-0 Lancashire Cup in season 1948-49

Oldham's biggest win at Wilderspool 32-0 League in season 1909-10

WARRINGTON'S LAST VISIT TO WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday, 11th December 1994 Division One

Oldham 52 Warrington 22

Half-time 14-16 Attendance 3,527

Oldham tries: Paul Topping (2), Iyan Green (2), Wilson

Marsh, Mike Kuiti, Martin Crompton, Scott Ranson & Darren Abram.

Goals: Paul Topping (8)

Warrington tries Andy Bennett (2) & Kelly Shellford (2)

Goals: Iestyn Harris (3)

Oldham: Wally Gibson, David Jones, Shaun Irwin, Darren Abram, Scott Ranson, Paul Topping, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, David Stephenson, Jason Temu, Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo & Mike Kuiti. Substitutes: Wilson Marsh & Iyan Green.

Warrington: Lee Penny, Mark Forster, Iestyn Harris, Jonathan Roper, Andy Bennett, Francis Maloney, Greg Mackey, Gary Tees, Tukere Barlow, Bruce McGuire, Paul Cullen, Gary Sanderson & Kelly Shellford. Substitutes: Paul Derbyshire & Gary Chambers.

Compiled by Don Yates

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## ALLIANCE UPDATE

**WITH ALLIANCE COACH GRAHAM BEALE**

### Castleford 20 Oldham 6

Not many teams go to Castleford and win, so we knew it would be a tough game, and it was. We were our own worse enemy, dropping the ball on second and third drives, giving silly penalties away. Cas scored in the corner from a kick which seemed to be well covered, but the Castleford player got a hand to the ball. 4-0 down, Oldham tried hard to get back into the game but could not hold the ball for a set of six. The forwards were working overtime to try to halt the quick football of Castleford, which saw

them score again but failed with the goal. Oldham did start to control the ball and failed to take the chances they created. A good kick through by Edward saw himself score under the posts for Cowans to goal, which rocked a confident Cas side and brought Oldham to within two points. End to end football flowed with Oldham getting the better chances, but failed to take them. Cas scored through a chip over and gathered to send them in at the corner to make 12-6 the half time score. The second half started brightly for Oldham, putting plenty of pressure on Castleford, but failed to score.

Frustration started to creep into Oldham and gave away penalties which put us under pressure. The sending-off of Mike Neal did not make things any better, as Cas goaled a penalty Oldham rallied and made good breaks but the final pass went to ground. Castleford scored again and converted to make the final score 20-6. With good discipline and sets of six we would have won the game. The forwards worked very hard and tackled more than they should have. Best for Oldham - Cowans, Goldbourne, Olsen, Norman, McIlwaine, McKinney, Edwards, Belle,

## QUOTES & HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Boxing Day is traditionally regarded as being the biggest day on the British sporting calendar. We usually have the biggest attendances on this day, although the record attendances at most grounds were set for cup-ties at other times of the year. In fact, only two record attendances were set on December 26th. In 1989 a crowd of 8,150 assembled at Spotland to watch Rochdale Hornets beat Oldham 24-12 in a Second Division match. Before that, on December 26th 1949, no fewer than 35,695 spectators crammed into Knowsley Road where St Helens beat Wigan 15-8 in a league match.

It was on this day in 1935 that the highest scoring soccer match in Football League history took place at Prenton Park, Birkenhead where Tranmere Rovers beat Oldham Athletic 13-4. Rovers centre-forward Bunny Bell scored nine of the goals.

Rugby League has also seen some high scoring on this day. In 1911 free scoring winger Albert

Rosenfeld scored eight tries for Huddersfield as they demolished Wakefield Trinity 62-5. Oldham's biggest Boxing Day victory here at Watersheddings came in 1986 when Salford were beaten 34-18. The biggest home defeat suffered by the Roughyeds on Boxing Day came in 1932 when Swinton won here 23-4. On this day in 1896 Broughton Rangers were the first of 11 teams who have contested 28 Boxing Day matches here at Watersheddings. Swinton have been the most frequent visitors with eight appearances. Rochdale Hornets have come here seven times, Salford four times and Broughton Rangers twice. Today Warrington will be making their second Boxing Day appearance at Watersheddings and the other six teams who have made single Boxing Day visits to Watersheddings are Workington Town, Widnes, Hull Kingston Rovers, Bradford Northern, Liverpool Stanley and, believe it or not, Australia. The Kangaroos came here in 1908

when Oldham beat them 11-5.

Today is the third occasion that Oldham have met Warrington on Boxing Day. In 1912 Warrington came to Watersheddings where they lost 5-0. Billy Farnsworth scored the Oldham try that afternoon and Joe Ferguson landed a goal. Twelve months later these two clubs met at Wilderspool and once more Oldham won, although it was close at 5-3. The switch to summer rugby means that this is likely to be Oldham's final Boxing Day match. Let us hope that we bow out with a Christmas cracker.

Quote of the day: 'Perseverance is not a long race, it is many short races one after another.' - Walter Elliot

Fast moving pop music shows frequently throw up amusing quotes like this one from Tony Blackburn, 'That was The Police, down one place to number two - they just didn't make it to number one.'

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# RUFF E. HEAD

BY IAN WILSON

**A**part from the tradition of a delicious noon dinner of roast leftovers, followed by a trip to Watersheddings, Boxing Day has always seemed to me to be a slightly unreal day. Xmas is gone, yet the New Year is still some way away. And this time seems even stranger, with the likelihood that we shan't be here again. Even if the authorities find some way of managing to stretch the "Summer Season" to include Boxing Day - and I would be amazed if some new competition is not invented, with Wigan happening to be draw to play St. Helens in it on December 26, 1996 - we presumably won't be playing up here. So I thought it might be an idea to look forward to some of the possible highlights of the new Super League are:

1966 Bobbie Goulding swinging arm breaks Bradbury's jaw, ref shows Bradbury red card as he is stretchered off. Disciplinary committee bans Bradbury for nine months for unprovoked assault. Oldham cite Goulding, who is found not guilty on the grounds that the film was in black and white.

Paris finish 12th in Super League, Widnes top Division 1, Maurice Lindsay announces Newcastle, Paris & Widnes all to be in expanded Super League, '97 season to be February - September.

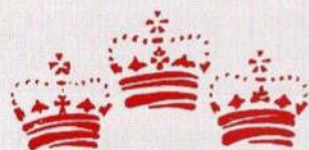
1997 Wigan play first eight matches at home - "to keep interest alive during dark nights", says Lindsay. David Stephenson's first match back is v Wigan, Sean Edwards fails random drugs test, found not guilty, doctor had prescribed Ecstasy to slow down ageing process. Paris finish 14th in Super League, Keighley top Division 1, Lindsay announces Keighley facilities unacceptable, so Paris will join Cardiff and Toulouse in expanded Super League, '98 season to be February - October.

1998 Maurice Lindsay knighted. Oldham play first ten matches away - "too cold in spring", says Lindsay. Peter Tunks swaps 10 Wakefield players for 6 from Highfield, 4 from Chorley and 2 from Wagga Wagga. Paris are 16th in Super League, Batley top

Division 1, Wakefield relegated. Lindsay announces Batley facilities not up to scratch, so Paris are reprieved, and Super League to include Bucharest and Rejkavik. '99 season to be February - November.

1999 Sir Maurice Lindsay elevated to House of Lords. Wigan to play all games at home - "they have the widest pitch", says Lindsay. Cold snap disrupts fixtures in March and April - season extended to December. Paris finish 18th in Super League, with Hull top of Division 1. Lord Lindsay announces expanded Super League, with Liechtenstein joining Hull and Paris. Millennium season to be January - November.

2000 Wigan lose first seven matches of season. Lord Lindsay announces: "Far too many fixtures - need mid-season revamp. Forced mergers put through. Hull, Newcastle, Rejkavik form North Europe, Wigan, St. Helens, Leeds form Wigan etc. Tunks swaps Wakefield for Featherstone. East Europe win Super League - formerly Paris, Toulous, Bucharest & Oldham. Happy New Year.



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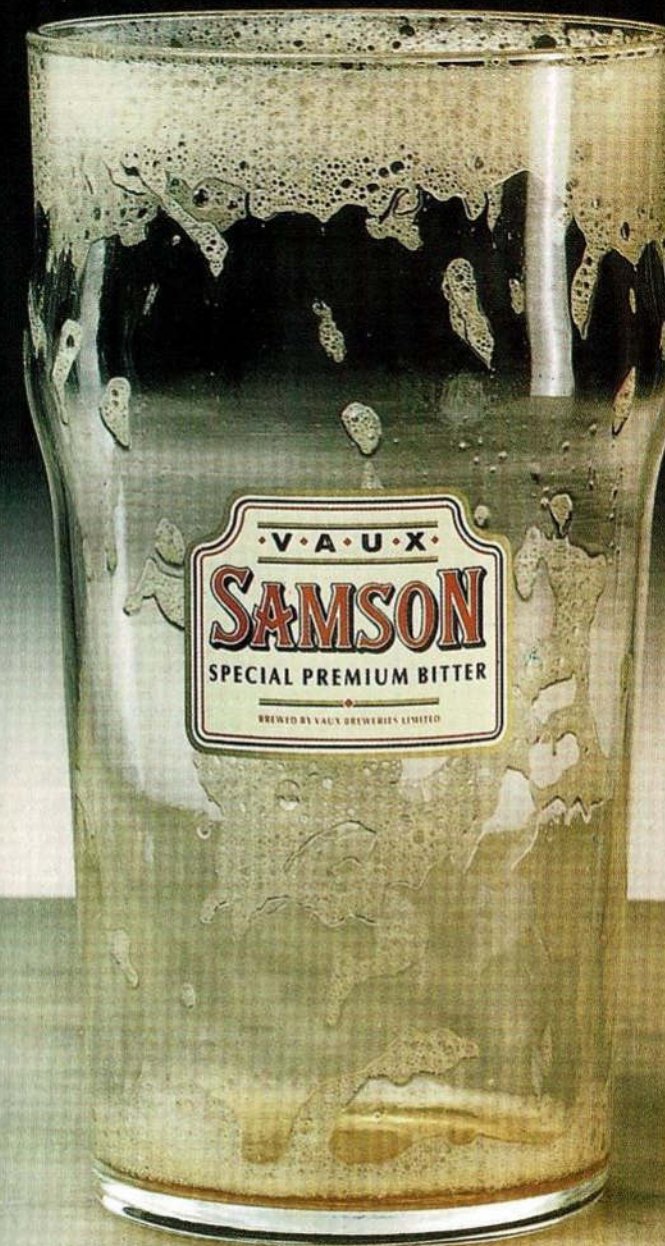
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## STANDARD CUP

Next weekend the eight local clubs still involved in the prestigious Standard Cup competition contest the quarter-final round.

Saddleworth Rangers, high and dry at the top of the Conference Premier League table, have home advantage against Watersheddings Wanderers. When these clubs met in the first round last season Rangers ran out winners 32-8. Saddleworth will be favourites to not only win but reach the final for a record 25th time. Salem Hornets, who won 35-4 at Shaw in the first round, entertain Hollinwood, who eliminated Heyside Eagles 18-16. Hornets should make home advantage count. Higginshaw, who have won the Standard Cup a record 13 times, pulled off a magnificent 26-16 win at Conference giants St Annes in the first round. They have been called upon to travel again in the quarter-final, this time to Seddon Panthers. Another away win for Higginshaw looks on the cards. Waterhead won 24-14 at Middleton Hopwood in round one but now have home advantage when they take on Tameside Borough. On paper it looks like a comfortable home win but that was also the case last season when Borough turned in an outstanding performance before Waterhead scraped through 10-8. Next Easter's Standard Cup Final looks as if it will again be staged on Easter Monday as opposed to its traditional Good Friday date because of Super League fixtures. Nevertheless, it once again promises to be the highlight of the amateur season and certainly is one not to be missed.

# STATISTICALLY

## THE CENTENARY SEASON FIXTURES

[illegible]

## SPEAKING 95-96

## SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good afternoon and welcome to today's match. I hope you are not all too worn for wear or too full with Christmas pud, having said that I hope you are having a good Christmas. A good win today will add to the festive cheer. As we look forward to 1996 and the new Super League season I would like to take this opportunity to wish fans, directors, players and staff all the very best for the new year, don't forget get your thinking caps on and let us know what you would like next year the supporters club is here for you!

## CONFERENCE LEAGUE

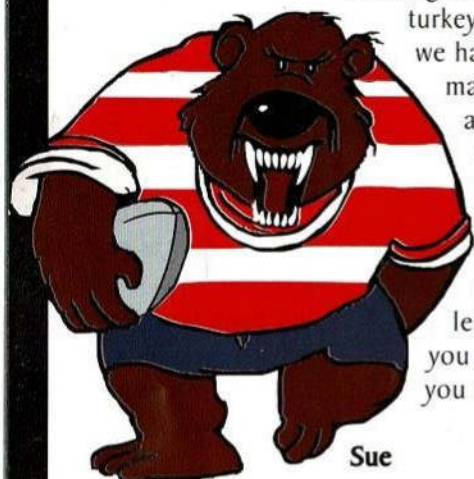
Both our local Conference League teams are still in contention for Championship honours. Saddleworth Rangers are confident that they can maintain their form and lift the title for the first time in three years. However they face tricky away matches at Wigan St. Patricks (January 6th) and Leigh Miners Welfare (January 20th) during the New Year.

St. Annes hope to finish this season, if not as Champions then certainly within the promotion frame. They have a series of matches at Higginshaw Road in the forthcoming weeks with all games kicking off at 2pm. Saints visitors are Walney Central next Saturday, Moldgreen on January 6th and Dewsbury Celtic on January 20th.

# JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

CALLING ALL YOU JUNIOR ROUGHY'EDS!

Merry Boxing Day to you all! Hope you all had a lovely day yesterday with Santa bringing all you wanted. Get cheering today and work off all that turkey and Christmas pud. As we have just 2 more home matches (except for the cup) after today keep your eyes on the programme and local press on how to rejoin the junior Roughyeds for the Super League season. All it leaves now is for me to wish you **all the best for 1996**, see you in the new year.



Sue

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# ACADEMY NEWS

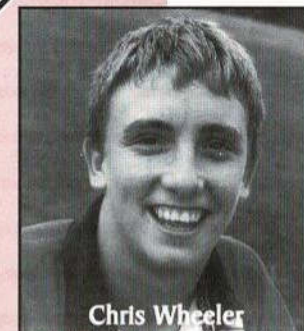
WITH BRIAN GARTLAND

Since my last notes our Academy team has come up with two great wins beating Sheffield Eagles away and a very strong Keighley Cougars side at home. The result against Sheffield was very pleasing as it was our first away victory, winning in great style by 36 points to 16. Trys were scored by wingers J. Ratcliffe 1, Joe McNicholas 2, Scrum Half and Man of the Match Paul Deacon 3 and Forwards Chris Wheeler and Craig Armstrong 1 each 2 goals by Paul Deacon. Our supporters who travelled to Sheffield would have been very pleased with the football we played to win this one. On the back of that result must come our best win of the season against



Keighley Cougars who are riding high at the top of our Division but we trained really hard for this one because when we played them away we let ourselves down badly and we were out to remedy that. Our forwards played well from 8 to 13. The backs well organised by

our two half backs who also played well. Try scorers were full back Julian Mike who again was outstanding, Craig Barker, Joe McNicholas and 6 goals out of eight by Paul Deacon. This win was a great team effort by all who took part.



Chris Wheeler

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