



MR STUART CUMMINGS
Teacher of physical education from Up Holland High School, Orrell, Stuart is married with one daughter Sophie. Stuart's boyhood hero was Ian Botham. His greatest player is named as Laurie Daley. He dreams of driving a Grand Prix racing car and his favourite TV shows are They Think it's all over and sports programmes in general and Coronation Street. Stuart enjoys the music of Michael Bolton, his favourite city is Milan and apart from enjoying amateur matches his favourite pastimes are rock climbing, eating pasta and drinking red wine and Southern Comfort but not necessarily altogether!!



Oldham Bears

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Warrington

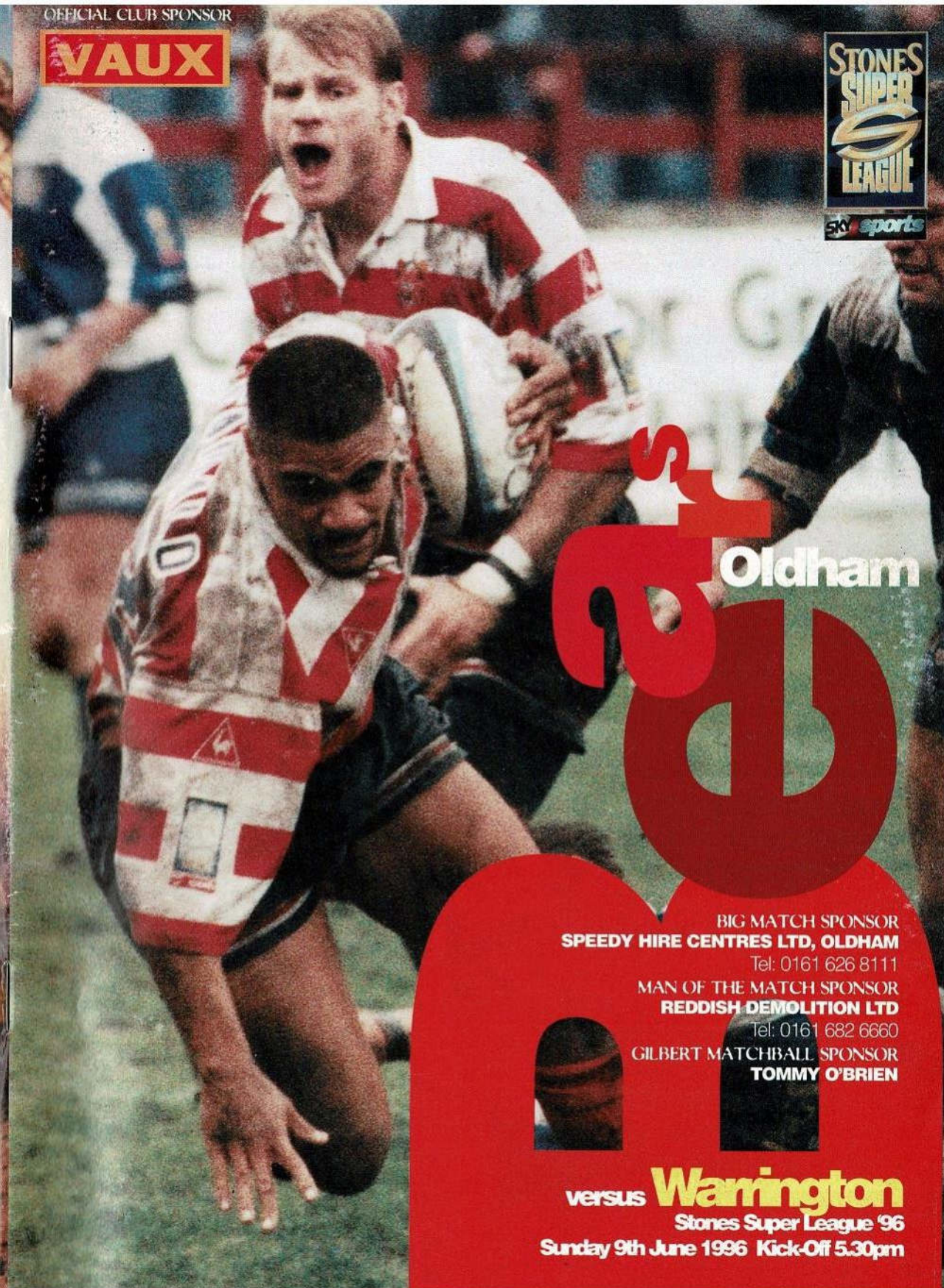
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Photos courtesy of The Oldham Evening Chronicle
Comments in this programme are not necessarily
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Club Directory

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0161 624 4865 (3 lines) General Office
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RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57 Runners Up
1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

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1904-05

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1899, 1925, 1927 Runners Up 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958 Runners Up
1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Second Division Premiership Winners

1988, 1990 Runners Up 1992

Club Records

RECORD VICTORY

63-0 v Goole, March 18th 1899 (Challenge Cup Rd 1)
67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959 (League)

RECORD SCORE

70-10 v Bramley, Feb 12th 1995 (Challenge Cup Rd4)
67-6 v Liverpool City, 4th April 1959 (League)

RECORD ATTENDANCE

28,000 v Huddersfield, Feb 24th 1912

Individual Records

TRIES IN A SEASON

Reg Farrar 49 1921-22

TRIES IN A CAREER

Alan Davies 174 1950-1961

TRIES IN A MATCH

James Miller 7 v Barry, Oct 31st 1908

GOALS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 200 1957-58

GOALS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 1,358 1950-1961

GOALS IN A MATCH

Bernard Ganley 14 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959

POINTS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 412 1957-58

POINTS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 2,761 1950-1961

POINTS IN A MATCH

Abe Johnson 30 v Widnes (12 goals - 2 tries), April 9th 1928

MOST APPEARANCES

Joe Ferguson 628 Sept 1899 - April 1923

MOST CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES

Joe Lawton 134 Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

ALL THE ABOVE RECORDS ARE RELEVANT
TO OLDHAM FIRST CLASS FIXTURES ONLY

Talking

AN exciting development for Rugby League in this borough took place at the Civic Centre on Monday morning when plans were unveiled to the Press for the new stadium which is to be built on the Westwood site in time for the start of our 1998 Super League season.

Here at Watersheddings we are hoping sincerely that Oldham Athletic, our friends from Boundary Park, will also decide to move into the new stadium, which will be built at a cost of between £10 and £11 million pounds.

It will cater for 15,000 supporters if Athletic row in with the scheme and 10,000 if it is to be home only to Oldham Bears, but Council officials made it

clear at Monday's launch that the only difference between the two alternatives was the number of seats for spectators.

Other features of the stadium, such as its banqueting suite, restaurant and corporate hospitality facilities would remain the same whether both clubs were to use it or merely the Bears.

Whatever happens, it will be a magnificent achievement for the town, but I would like to see Athletic there with us because it could then be developed into a superb showpiece which would be a centrepiece for ALL the town's professional sport.

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Council for all they have achieved in recent years. It was, indeed, very interesting to listen to the views of Councillor John Battye when he urged, at the launch, more positive thinking in the town so that the borough of Oldham can get things done.

I agree wholeheartedly. Negative thinking is a dreadful thing. Like Councillor Battye, I think

there is far too much of it in our society. We see it in all walks of life.

As John said, negative thinking did not provide Spindles or the Sixth-Form College, two major projects of which this town can be proud. I am sure the new stadium will provide an excellent facility for this town for many, many years to come. To be honest, it cannot come quickly enough for us at Watersheddings because our existing facilities do not give us the Super League platform we need to enable us to compete with the best.

We have a lot of fond memories of our 100 years at Watersheddings, but to be brutally frank it is

well past its sell-by date and the sooner we are out of here the better.

It looks as though we will be playing most of our games for the rest of this season and for the 1997 season here at Watersheddings, although I have no doubt that several games will be taken to Boundary Park, starting with the visit

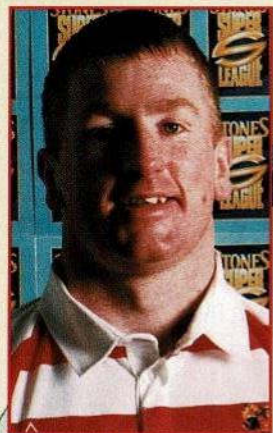


Chairman JIM QUINN with JOHN BATTYE leader of the Council showing off a segment of the new stadium.

of Paris at the end of the month.

We can all look forward eagerly to the spring of 1998 and the start of a brand new era for Oldham Bears down at Westwood. It is exciting and exhilarating, not only for Oldham Bears but for the town as a whole.

It will give not only Rugby League but sport as a whole in this town a massive boost. Good luck to everyone associated with the project as it unfolds before our very eyes in the next two years. Finally, a warm welcome to everyone from Wilderspool for this evening's Super League clash. Let's hope it is a cracking game to whet the appetite for the second half of the season.



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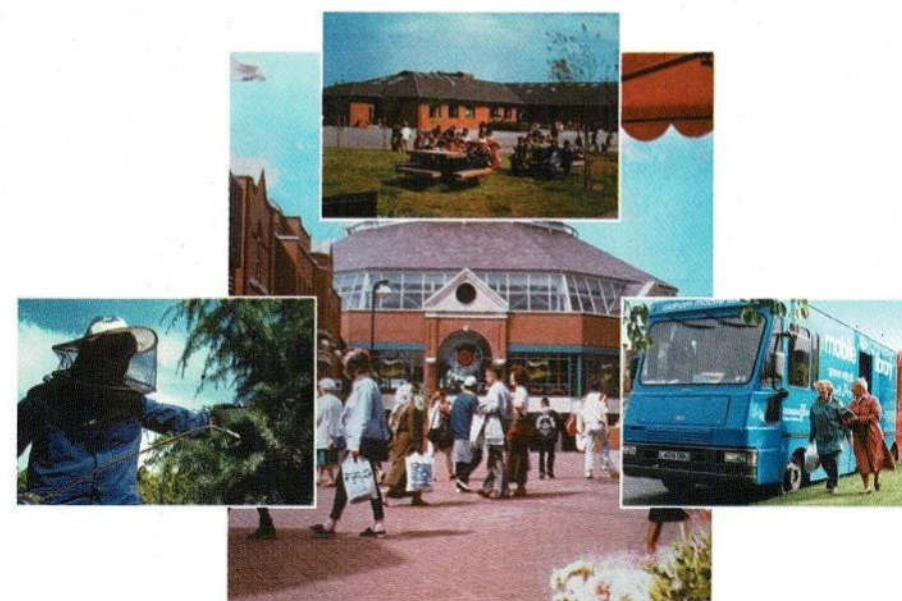
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Bears



Hi,
and welcome to Watersheddings and a warm welcome to the 'Wire' fans who have travelled from Warrington for today's match.

After a run of poor results let's hope we can start to pick up those points again today.

Tuesday saw our second Junior Bears meeting, but our first to be held in the Sheddings club, I hope a good time was had by all who attended.

At the meeting the mascot for today's game was chosen, however I had to write these notes before the meeting, so whoever was named for today will get their mention in our next programme. The mascot sponsor for this match is Nedloh Designs many thanks to them. The answer to the teaser I posed in the last notes is Alex Murphy, the other half of the Warrington set-up. Did you all get that??

Today's teaser is **Which team did Martin Offiah play for before Wigan?**

Answer in the next programme.

The next home match is against Paris and is to be played at Boundary Park, along with the Sky TV cameras, let's hope for a big attendance there. Let's here those cheers, loud and clear 'Come on you Bears' all around the ground.

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Memory Lane

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear.

After enjoying a successful start to their season, Warrington will be hoping that they at least qualify for the Premiership play-off at the end of this inaugural Super League campaign.

The last time Warrington won this lucrative end-of-season play-off was in 1986 when they hit their best form just at the right time. First Division Champions that season were Halifax who managed to draw no fewer than six of their 30 league matches. Warrington ended the campaign in fourth spot whilst Oldham were placed 9th, just failing to qualify for this end-of-season money spinner. In the quarter-final ties, Halifax defeated Hull comfortably enough 32-20 whilst Warrington had a much tougher match at home to arch rivals Widnes. The Chemics led 8-6 at Wilderspool as the match approached injury time but then Paul Bishop put Ronnie Duane over for the winning try in a 10-8 Warrington victory. The other quarter-finals saw Leeds win 38-22 at St Helens and Wigan hammer Hull KR 47-0 at Central Park.

The two semi-finals were also interesting encounters. Halifax beat Leeds at home for the first time in 22 years but it was a close thing. The eventual 16-13 victory came at the end of a pulsating see-saw encounter. Following up his match winning performance in the quarter-finals, Paul Bishop also played a significant part in Warrington's fine 23-12 win at Wigan. He landed five dropped goals as Warrington claimed a victory which was more comfortable than the scoreline suggests. That 1986 Premiership final was staged at Elland Road, Leeds and attracted a crowd of 13,683. The teams for the final lined up as follows:

Halifax: Colin Whitfield; Eddie Riddlesden, Tony Anderson, Chris Anderson, Scott Wilson; John Crossley, Gary Stephens; Mick Scott, Seamus McCallion, Geoff Robinson, Brian Juliff, Neil James & Paul Dixon. Substitutes - Steve Smith & Steve Bond.
Warrington: Paul Ford; Mark Forster, Paul Cullen, Ronnie Duane, Brian Carbert; Paul Bishop, Andy Gregory; Les Boyd, Kevin Tamati, Bob Jackson, Gary Sanderson, Mark Roberts & Mike Gregory. Substitutes - Brian Johnson & Billy McGinty.

Champions Halifax were favourites to lift the Premiership trophy but Warrington, well led by skipper Les Boyd, had different ideas and they showed their intentions as early as the second minute when eventual man-of-the-match Les Boyd crossed for his first try. Halifax recovered from that shock to lead 8-4 after ten minutes. By half-time the scores were level at 10-10 but within five minutes of the restart Warrington had the match virtually won with two converted tries. They continued to dominate the second-half and ran out winners 38-10. It was a surprising yet well deserved victory.

The Halifax try was scored by skipper Chris Anderson whilst Colin Whitfield landed three goals. Warrington crossed for seven tries, their try scorers being Les Boyd (2), Kevin Tamati, Bob Jackson, Brian Johnson, Mark Forster & Paul Bishop who also landed five goals. That fine Warrington success is their only triumph so far in that particular competition. They will be especially anxious to finish in the top four this year so that they can have another crack at lifting the trophy which gave their followers such happy memories of that trip to Leeds in the spring of 1986.

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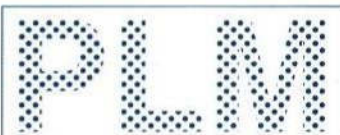
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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

Not surprisingly, most of the action which has taken place on this day in previous years has done so on the other side of the World. In 1984 for instance, Great Britain met Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground in the first test of that 1984 tour. There were three Oldham players in the British line-up - stand-off Des Foy, prop Andy Goodway and second-rower Mick Worrall. Britain had won their opening six matches of that tour but they could not beat the Aussies who triumphed 25-8. The British try was scored by 18 years old Gary Schofield and in a typically torrid Anglo-Australia test, substitute David Hobbs was sent off in the second half. Things had been much easier for Britain 27 years earlier as they warmed up for the 1957 World Cup competition. It was on Sunday, 9th June 1957 that they met and defeated Western Australia 66-5 in Perth. Star of the show was winger Mick Sullivan who crossed for seven of the sixteen British tries. Oldham had three players in that World Cup squad and all three scored in that match. Prop Syd Little and loose-forward Derek Turner each scored a try whilst substitute Alan Davies scored

two tries and also landed three goals. Warrington's sole representative in the party, stand-off Ray Price, also played but somehow failed to get on the scoresheet. On Wednesday 9th June 1982 a crowd of 2,000 were attracted to Wewak, Papua New Guinea where a North Coast Select outfit drew 5-5 with BARLA, the Great Britain amateurs. Right-winger John Taylor (Egremont Rangers) scored the British try whilst the other wingman, Martin Amor (Wath Brow Hornets) landed a goal. It was a good performance by the BARLA lads who had to contend with a 22-2 penalty count against them as well as the intense heat. Finally it was on this day in 1988, Thursday 9th June, that a young Leigh lad, Scott Naylor, turned professional with Wigan. Naylor never quite made it at Central Park so he moved on to Salford. Since moving to the Willows almost three years ago Naylor's form has been exceptional and his reward is a place in the England squad for next Wednesday's match against the French at Gateshead.

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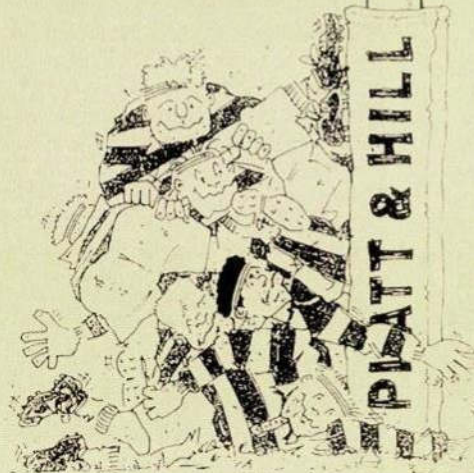


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BEARS Question

Time...

with Scott Ranson

FULL NAME: Scott Ranson

DATE OF BIRTH: 20.09.1967 BIRTHPLACE: St Helens

HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 13.04

NICKNAME AT CLUB: Scotty

OCCUPATION: Professional Rugby Player

HOME: St Helens CAR: Rover 416 GSi

MARRIED: Yes

CHILDREN: Two

FAMILY: Wife: Tina Kids: Arran age 3, Chloe age 8 months

WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? Play football for Liverpool

WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Kevin Keegan

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN RUGBY? Each time I miss a game through injury.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN RUGBY? Playing and scoring in two Premiership finals.

WHICH PRESENT DAY PLAYER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Craig Richard for reasons I don't wish to disclose.

WHO WAS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS BEEN? Tom Van Vollenhoven.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Winning

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Alice. Chief cook and bottle washer on a Saturday morning.

IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD BUY? A holiday.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY? Boyish good looks.

WHAT IS YOUR WORST QUALITY? memory.

APART FROM YOUR OWN CLUB, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

St Helens.

WHICH IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE GROUND? Sheffield

WHAT OTHER SPORTS & HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE? Golf

WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL EVENING OUT? Meal and then pictures.

WHAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU HAVE DONE? Riding the Sky



Coaster in Ayia Nappa, Cyprus.

WHAT DANGEROUS THING WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ATTEMPT? Parachute jump.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PHOBIA? Got none.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIZED POSSESSION? Family

WHICH FAMOUS PERSON WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?

Sandra Bullock

WHICH WORLD FIGURE DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Sandra Bullock's (36-24-36).

AWAY FROM RUGBY, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST SPORTING

ACHIEVEMENT? Earning NW County honours at football.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A RUGBY PITCH? A try I scored at Carlisle where three Carlisle defenders tried to kick the ball clear before I scored.

DO YOU HAVE AN UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME? No.

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS

No sooner do we seem to be getting over a spate of injuries, then it was standing room only in the treatment room, after our battling performance against London Broncos. Andrew Patmore, Jason Temu, Francis Maloney and John Clarke, all picking up injuries to join Ian Gildart, Scott Ranson, Mike Neal, Howard Hill, and Afi Leulai, on the casualty list. With Gary Burns having surgery last week, Steven Wilde due to go under the

surgeons knife any day and Craig Richards due to see a specialist, it represents an injury list which is far too long for comfort. However on the brighter side Chris McKinney is ready to resume playing after his long lay off. Hopefully Howard Hill, Ian Gildart and Mike Neal will soon be back in contention. On a last note, Chris Parr, who came through the last 'A' team match against Hull without any problems, will be back after his long lay off.

JOHN WATKINS

YOUR Points

Of View...



Love 'em or hate 'em, we can't do without 'em. Referees. At the Oldham v Halifax game in April I sat behind the referee's wife. I knew she was Karl Kirkpatrick's wife because we arrived early and I saw them walking around together before the game. When I struck up a conversation during the game Mrs K begged me not to reveal who she was because she feared she would become the target of abuse. Hang on a minute, I thought, this is Oldham: we're much too civilised for that! Nevertheless I acceded to her request just in case, as it was perfectly obvious the poor woman was a nervous wreck. So what makes a nice, young couple get involved in an occupation clearly designed to bring down opprobrium on their heads? Well, whatever you may think, the answer is almost certainly love of the game in the first instance. Let's face it we can't all be top class players, but if you realise this early enough there's nothing to stop you being a top class referee. And yes, referees are ambitious like everyone else. After all, if you become one of the game's top officials you never know when the call might come to control a game in France, Australia, New Zealand or the South Seas. So there are rewards to be had. Think about it.

In the meantime watching games on TV I get the impression that refereeing standards are improving all the time. Of course you never think so when you are watching your own team, because it always appears that every decision goes against you. But isn't it funny how, when you're not quite so emotionally involved, you can see the referee is usually right? Not that referees don't make mistakes. The ten metre rule means far too many forward passes go undetected. And the speed of the game these days means other errors can

creep in. Oldham followers can't get over the apparent penalty awarded against Paul Atcheson in the Bradford game after the full back followed his own kick to tackle the Bradford Receiver. Or, if you look closely, was it Gary Lord penalised by Mr Connolly for not retiring ten metres? Who knows? Certainly it was controversial, to say the least. Despite this the calm, authoritative approach inculcated in our top officials by Greg McCallum is paying off. The players seem to understand what is happening and aren't being screamed and shouted at by sergeant Major types, which seems to me to be all to the good. Meanwhile, innovations like in-goals judges and Sky TV's big screen have to be good for the game. The pity is that we can't have big screens at every game, because it could come down to a really tight decision as to who gets relegated at the end of the season. For example, if you saw it, Graeme Hallas' 'try' for Halifax at Workington would have stood without the screen and would probably have won the match, whereas Mark Forster got a try in Warrington's game at Leeds that would have been disallowed if shown on screen. And who would have believed that Martin Offiah had scored against Bath without seeing it replayed? All-in-all the verdict has to be that the screen is great value. Finally, next time you want to shout for offside look at the pitch markings and see how many refs go back 12 metres so they don't have to keep stopping the game when players pinch a yard. I know it's not the letter of the law (are scrums?) but it keeps the game flowing and that generally means more excitement for the spectators.

Oh!, and before I forget, no, I'm not a referee!

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GMR'S Malcolm

Lord... 'The Crack'

I had the good fortune to visit Dublin recently as a guest at the first ever Sportsman's dinner for Talbot ARLFC.



They're one of just 4 amateur clubs in Ireland at the moment but I was most impressed by the commitment and effort being shown by everyone involved.

Brian Corrigan drafted in for the night from arch-rivals the Dublin Blues gives a marvellous and totally impartial performance as MC for the evening (only managing to alienate himself from 98% of the audience) whilst Terry

Flanagan coach of the National side was - well Terry Flanagan, simply oozing with experience and

eagerness. They have a development officer who speaks with a Bradford accent and the language and way of life is similar to that seen in the film "The Commitments". But the people were brilliant, I had to socialise and unfortunately that meant drinking copious amounts of the black stuff and endure hour after hour of the night club in the hotel, it was sheer hell - but I did it for the sake of Rugby League - never once thinking of myself. They already have their own version of the State of Origin games which I assume you will be fiercely contested and I am pleased to be able to tell you that it doesn't matter whether you're Catholic, Protestant, black, white or whatever, after the games they will all enjoy what is effectively known as "the crack". It may take many years for Rugby League to fully take off in Ireland. However I can tell you that the sport is in excellent hands over there and if ever they ask me back I will be prepared to put up with the headaches, lack of sleep etc which is a mandatory part of visiting this fascinating Island.

**Malcolm Lord
BBC GMR**

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OLDHAM Bears

"A" Team



It's great to be back at Watersheddings after a gap of almost 5 years. Seeing so many familiar faces both in the offices and on the terraces made me feel instantly at home. During the first couple of weeks I've been impressed with the professionalism and attitude generally of both the staff and the players and I'm sure that with a good run on the injury front both the first team and the Alliance team will get back to winning ways.

My first game in charge of the reserves was at home against Hull with several players making their comeback after long term injuries such as Chris Parr and Paul Norman. With the impressive half backs Paul Deacon and Stephen Gartland dictating play in the first half, we came in at half time with a convincing 20-0 lead. Ball control discipline and effort throughout the first half had been excellent and I was looking forward to an emphatic victory in my first game in charge.

The name of the game with the Alliance team though is change and at half time the enforced substitution of Gartland, to cover for Martin Crompton's potential suspension, the loss of Paul Crooks and hooker Gary Ainley through injury meant that 3 big players had to be withdrawn. This showed in the first twenty minutes of the second half when we spilled the ball several times in our own half and started to concede penalties as the referee evened up the game. During this period we allowed a poor Hull side to score 14 points without a reply. As soon as the team settled down again to play sensible controlled rugby we retrieved the initiative and finished worthy winners 32-14 with late tries from Aide Meade and Mike Neale both converted by Paul Deacon.

OLDHAM BEARS ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Thursday	28/3/96	Wigan	Away	32-36
Thursday	4/4/96	Halifax	Away	30-12
Thursday	11/4/96	Leeds	Away	30-12
Thursday	18/4/96	CASTLEFORD	HOME	12-28
Thursday	2/5/96	ST. HELENS	HOME	26-39
Thursday	9/5/96	Bradford	Away	22-14
Thursday	16/5/96	SALFORD	HOME	16-42
Thursday	23/5/96	HULL	HOME	32-14
Thursday	6/6/96	Warrington	Away	7-30
Thursday	13/6/96	WIGAN	HOME	7-30
Thursday	20/6/96	HALIFAX	HOME	7-30
Friday	28/6/96	Hull K.R.	Away	7-30
Thursday	4/7/96	LEEDS	HOME	7-30
Thursday	11/7/96	Castleford	Away	7-30
Thursday	18/7/96	St. Helens	Away	7-30
Thursday	25/7/96	BRADFORD	HOME	7-30
Thursday	1/8/96	Hull	Away	8-00
Thursday	15/8/96	WARRINGTON	HOME	7-30
Friday	23/8/96	Salford	Away	8-00
Thursday	29/8/96	HULL K.R.	HOME	7-30

'Oldham Born ...

EVENING CHRONICLE

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chief of police
SEE PAGE 13



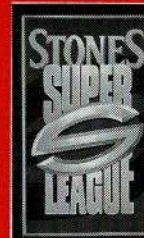
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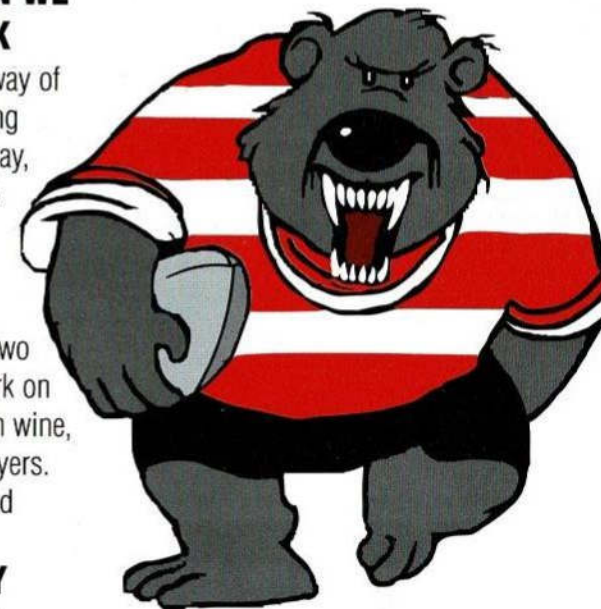
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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

WELCOME **Warrington to**

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PAUL SCULTHORPE



THE BACKS

Full back **Lee Penny** has been with the Wilderspool club since October 1991. A Great Britain Under 11 player, he picked up three caps at that level in 1993. Penny has been the regular last line of defence for the Wire throughout the Super League campaign. However it is the try scoring ability of Penny that is noteworthy, starting the Centenary season with three successive games from the substitutes bench he went on to head the Warrington try scoring list with 16 touchdowns in 24 outings. His form has continued into the Super League and he was one of six Warrington players to score a try in the 48-24 victory over Paris St Germain at Wilderspool. One of the most frequent try scorers in recent seasons has been the experienced wingman **Mark Forster**. He raced to 24 touchdowns in the 1994-95 campaign but could only manage 10 tries in the Centenary season. The former Woolston player has been with Warrington since November 1981 and has scored three tries in the current 1996 season.

A newcomer to the club, and a relative newcomer to the British game is **Richard Henare**. He made a try scoring debut from the substitutes bench against bottom club Workington. The Kiwi had already made his mark with the Carlisle Border Raiders, scoring twelve tries in just nine games including a Silk Cut Challenge Cup third round effort against the Bradford amateur opposition West bowling. The Warrington three-quarter line up is certainly a test for radio and television commentators.

Exciting centre three-quarter **Toa Kohe-Love** adds to the tongue twisters and you can expect to here his name mentioned at regular intervals, the Kiwi has scored in three of his four full outings since joining Warrington in March.

The southern hemisphere three quarter line up also includes former Olympic sprinter **Mateaki Mafi**. The Tongan took his place in the Warrington side during the Centenary season but failed to trouble the record keepers. His first try for the club was a controversial touchdown, in the eyes of Leeds fans, at Headingley on the opening weekend of the Super League season. Fellow Tongan **Salesi Finau** earned a two match suspension for his dismissal at Knowsley Road in January. Like Mafi he also had to wait until the 1996 season to record his first try for the club with a fifth round Silk Cut Challenge Cup touchdown against Leeds. A former player with Canberra Raiders he was a try scorer for Tonga against New Zealand at Wilderspool in October. Mafi was also a non-playing World Cup squad member with the Tongans who were captained by former Warrington hooker Duane Mann. The last recognised three-quarter to mention is centre **Chris Rudd**. The Cumbrian was one of three successful goalkickers for Warrington in their recent win over Paris, his try against St Germain was the first of the campaign for the player who joined Warrington in 1988.

THE PLAY MAKERS

Regular stand off and goal kicker **Iestyn Harris** can claim to be the superstar of the Warrington side. He was voted international Player of the Year in 1995 and was also selected for a fictitious World XIII by a panel of journalists and coaches after the Halifax Centenary World Cup competition. Aussie captain Brad Fittler bagged the stand off role with Harris nominated as the full back, a position he filled in each of the three Welsh games in the competition. Harris joined the Wire from Oldham amateurs St. Annes in 1993, quickly gaining selection for the Great Britain Under 21 side with outings against New Zealand and France the same year. Kiwi **Kelly Shefford** can claim the versatile tag, he has recently been filling the scrum half role whilst the club awaits the arrival of the Western Samoan half back **Willie Swann**. Shefford has also occupied the loose forward and stand off berths during his time at the Wilderspool. Swann was a World Cup try scorer for the Western Samoans and arrives at Wilderspool after experiences as a member of the Auckland Warriors outfit. However he failed to gain selection for the Warriors in the Winfield Cup competition, losing out in the battle for the half back position to Kiwi Stacey Jones (the Warriors development player of the year) and the more experienced Gene Ngamu. With Tea Ropati, ex Warrington star Phil Blake and Greg Alexander with the Warriors it is understandable that Swann has opted for new pastures.

THE ENGINE ROOM...

Warrington have selected a fairly settled pack during the Super League campaign with former England Schoolboys international **Paul Sculthorpe** the linchpin. A product of the Waterhead club in Oldham he made his first team debut during the 1994-95 campaign with half a dozen outings from the substitutes bench. Now the regular loose forward he made 16 full appearances during the Centenary season scoring seven tries.

Remember Australian second row scoring sensation Steve Menzies from the World Cup? He was the competitions top try scorer, the top try scorer in the 1995 Winfield Cup and at the time of writing is the top try scorer in the Optus Cup. Well those fantasy rugby league players had best keep an eye on Warrington's young second rower **Ian Knott**. Maybe not yet on the same level as Menzies the 19 year old Knott is already making a name as a try scoring forward with eight tries in just seventeen senior outings. He is also an able goalkicker and represented Great Britain in February's Academy international against France, and scored a try.

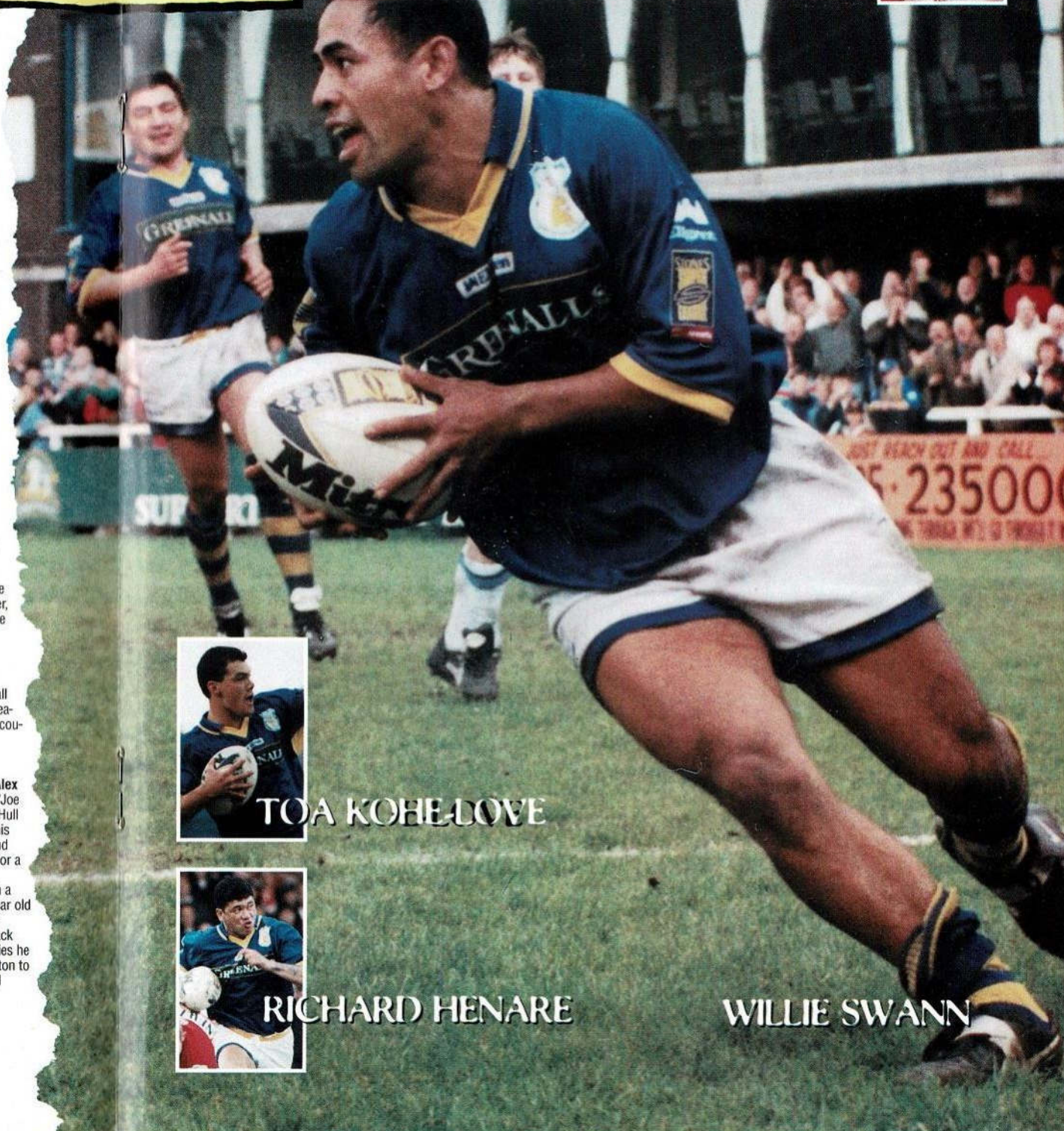
If Sculthorpe and Knott bring youth and enthusiasm to the pack forwards then **Paul Cullen** brings the experience. He has been with the Cheshire cub since 1980, making sixteen appearances in the 1981-82 season, his first campaign in the first team. Now a regular summariser with the Sky TV team his senior career started in a team which included the likes of Dave Chisnall, Bob Eccles, Phil Ford, Steve Hesford and John Bevan. Cullen's first pro try helped the Wire to a 25-17 success over Barrow in the final league game of the season.

At 26 years of age prop forward **Gary Chambers** is the senior member of the Warrington front row. One of the many former Kells players in the professional game he joined Warrington on the same day as centre Rudd in 1988. **Mark Hilton** fills the open side berth, possibly one of the youngest regular prop forwards in the European game, he celebrated his 21st birthday in March (on the day Wire trashed Leeds at Headingley) and is joined in the front row by 20 year old **John Hough**. He is the first choice hooker, now gaining selection in advance of **John Thursfield** and the more versatile **Andy Bennett**. Both are recorded in various reference books as being products of the game's top amateurs in the Warrington area, Woolston Rangers.

Other contenders for selection in the forwards are former Welsh union player **Mark Jones** and youngster **Mike Wainwright**. The tall Wainwright has been limited to substitute duty during the early season games, whilst Jones has been slightly more fortunate with a couple of starts in the first thirteen.

IN CHARGE....

The Warrington football management team of **John Dorahy** and **Alex Murphy** make an interesting pair. Australian Dorahy was dubbed "Joe Cool" during a playing career which included British clubs Leigh, Hull KR and Halifax. Twice capped for Australia (both times in 1978) his Australian career included spells with Western Suburbs, Manly and Illawara, a club he left in 1983. He returned from Britain in 1986 for a spell with North Sydney. Murphy has had a distinguished playing and coaching career with a host of Lancashire clubs. He signed for St. Helens as a sixteen year old back in 1955, by 1958 he had been selected for the Lions tour of Australia. He won 24 international caps, and was a regular half back selection for Great Britain between 1958 and 1966. By the seventies he was one of the games leading coaches, taking Leigh and Warrington to Challenge Cup success. In 1975 he coached England in the World Championships and was twice coach of his native Lancashire.



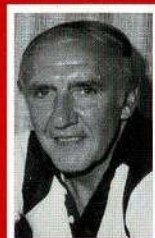
TOA KOHE-LOVE



RICHARD HENARE

WILLIE SWANN

NEWS From The Academy...



Since my last notes we have got wins against Keighley Cougars and Swinton Lions both at home. These two wins followed on the back of our victory away to Sheffield making it three wins in a row, well done lads. The victory against Keighley gave me the most satisfaction because they were a very big side and we showed great Character in coming from behind in the closing minutes to snatch victory from the Cougars grasp. I thought we showed a lot of commitment and played some good Rugby. It would be hard to single out anyone because it was a team effort, but our young players Dale Aldred and Andrew Taplin who made his debut at Sheffield must be feeling good because both are only 16 years of age and standing up well to Academy Football. Last night, Monday, we beat Swinton Lions 28 points to 20 points but I was not very pleased with our performance, I thought we looked slow and didn't play to our full potential. There will have to be changes made if we are going to beat Dewsbury. Our points came in the first half, a try and two goals, the try coming from second row Chris Nuttie who played well, two goals by Craig Barker, second half tries by Chris Wheeler and Craig Barker and another four goals by the same player. But I am sure like myself our boys know they didn't perform to the best of their ability.

OLDHAM BEARS JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Day	Date	Team	H/A	Kick-Off	Score
Monday	1/4/96	ROCHDALE	H	7.30pm	L 16-34
Friday	5/4/96	HULL K.R.	H	1.00pm CR	W 20-11
Monday	8/4/96	Batley	A	3.30pm	L 23-10
Saturday	13/4/96	SALFORD REDS	H	4.00pm CR	L 10-24
	20/4/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
	29/4/96	JJB SPORTS ACADEMY CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND			
Sunday	5/5/96	Widnes	A	1.00pm CR	L 41-4
Monday	13/5/96	HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30pm	L18-26
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	W42-32
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	W16-13
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	W28-20
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	16/6/96	Rochdale H.	A	2.00pm CR	
Sunday	23/6/96	Hull K.R.	A	4.30pm CR	
Monday	1/7/96	BATLEY	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	7/7/96	Salford Reds	A	4.00pm CR	
	15/7/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
Monday	22/7/96	WIDNES	H	7.30pm	
Monday	29/7/96	Huddersfield	A	7.30pm	
Sunday	4/8/96	Keighley Coug.	A	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	11/8/96	Swinton	A @ Radcliffe Borough	3.30pm	
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR	
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm	

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Disabled supporters: Facilities: Viewing area. Bars accessible. Wheelchair access: In front of Whitbread stand. Disabled toilets: Yes. The blind: Live commentary given from hospital commentary box.
Club shop: Address: Central Park Wigan, WN1 1XF. Also in Marketgate shopping centre. Telephone: 01942 246531 (Central Park) 01942 821484 (Marketgate) 01942 246531 (Mail order). Opening hours: 9.00am-5.00pm (Monday - Friday) Match days: 12.00 midday - 3.00pm and half hour afterwards.
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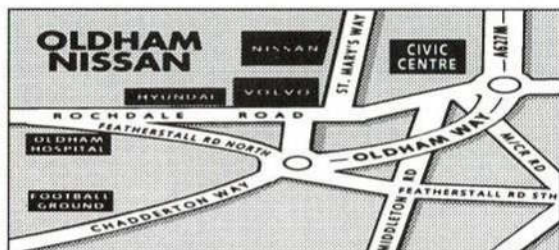
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WHAT'S New

Today Don...

PRESENTATION EVENING

Next Friday night, 14th June, the Moss Inn, Heyside stages the Saddleworth Ranger's presentation evening for their open age and under 18 sides. Everybody is welcome to attend what should be an excellent evening talking Rugby League and mixing with the personalities of the local amateur game.

THE RUGBY CHALLENGE

The great Rugby challenge of 1996 between Bath and Wigan probably achieved its objective but did it really tell us anything that we did not already know? The objective, apparently, was to make money for the two contestants. Over 60,000 spectators attended the two games so it must have succeeded on that count.

We knew that, given the technicalities of the Union code, any Union side would be able to beat a League side of equal status under Union rules. I think we were a little surprised by Bath's margin of victory over Wigan so we will have to concede that to the ra-ra boys.

We also knew that any League side would put 80-odd past a Union side of equal status under League rules. The only disappointment from Wigan's 16 try Maine Road victory over

Bath was the substitution of three of Wigan's top performers when the match was over after just 15 minutes. It would have been so much sweeter to see Wigan run in 150 points which they surely would have done with a full team. Anyway 82-6 will do for starters.

The only other point to come out of the exercise is that the two codes are a million miles apart. Union is a scrimmaging, kicking game and League is a running, handling and tackling game. There is little chance of the two producing a hybrid game in the foreseeable future.

So forget Union, concentrate on healing the wounds between Britain and Australia and the more superior game - League - will flourish.

BARLA TAKE ON FRANCE

Yesterday in Toulouse, the Great Britain amateur side played France 'B' in Toulouse. The result of that match, obviously, is unknown as these notes went to press. However congratulations must be afforded to Saddleworth Rangers stand-off Emerson Jackman who was included in the BARLA squad. He was the only local player involved and we expect that he will have done us proud.

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Thoughts from the Terraces...

Although there didn't seem to be many of us there, thank goodness for the performance at the Valley last Sunday. Although we lost, obviously, the level of effort and commitment left nothing to be desired, I felt. In spite of further injuries during the course of the game - at one stage, there didn't seem to be an Oldham player not suffering from one knock or other - we competed superbly. The London Broncos are a good side, let there be no doubt. They play to a clear gameplan, and are attractive to watch: I think their growth in attendances is one of the best features of Super League so far, and even though there were lots of Earls Court Aussie accents in evidence, there were also a lot of genuine Londoners too, many with families, and kitted out with all sorts of Broncos paraphernalia. My only gripe was the atrocious man with the mike; unlike the rest of their set-up, including a superb stadium, he was amateurish.

I thought that Lord, Faimalo and Sherratt in particular deserved ratings. Because of the injuries, they all had to play the full eighty minutes, and the way they battled up the middle, and were quickly in as second man in tackles to minimise the Broncos off-loading efforts, were crucial to our performance. In the third quarter, we hardly ever made it over the half-way line, but to restrict them, and then to come back so well near the end, was a superb effort. I suspect that most sides will leave Valley with defeats by more than six points, as the season progresses.

The good thing about the performance, though, was that it should get

the knockers off Andy Goodway's back, I would hope. With the season almost half way gone, surely he should be getting credit for our position in Super League, not brick-bats. We have had some poor performances, certainly - the first half v Wigan, the last few minutes in Paris, the first 20 minutes v Bradford, the games at Saints and Sheffield, and particularly the second half against Workington. But there is a lot more to be said on the credit side; I bet the knockers were shouting the loudest at Castleford, for example. We have got a small squad, with limited resources, and have a Super League place to defend. The only hope of achieving that, surely, is for everyone to pull together for the next couple of years. What the players achieve will come through maximum commitment and organisation, and they, and the coach, need full backing. Once we move to a new stadium, and hopefully gain the benefits of much improved attendances, as well as the benefits of the Sky and Murdock money, then perhaps we can think of the upper reaches of the Premier Division as a realistic long-term goal. But, in the meantime, Super League survival is the name of the game, and I can't think that anyone really believes that there is anyone better than our present coach to guide us along that path.

Finally, just a post-script on referees. What does the disciplinary committee's response to Mr Morris' display at Sheffield say about his judgement? And what a treat to see Bill Harrigan at the Valley; another referee with a feel for the game, and a rapport with the players.



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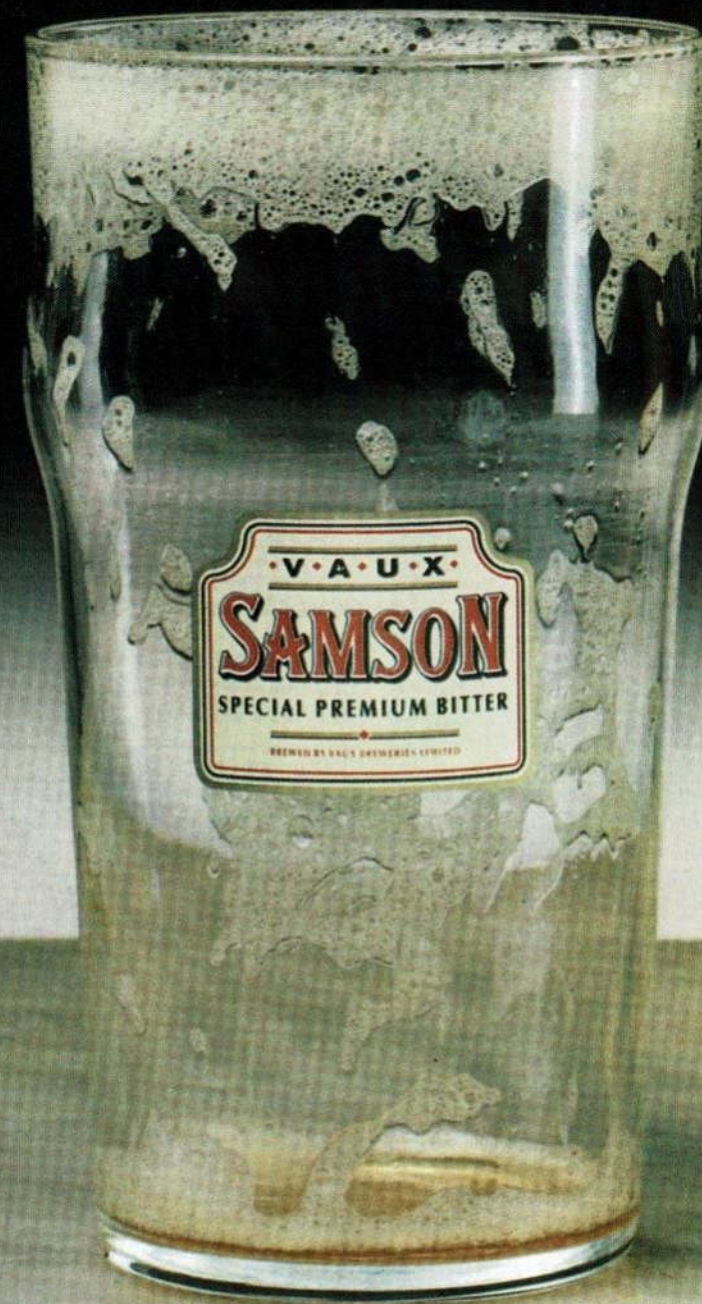
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Record

Warrington's Challenge Cup victory over Oldham here at Watersheddings last February was their 108th success against Oldham from the 200 previous meetings between these clubs. Nine of those meetings have ended in draws and Oldham have recorded 83 victories. These clubs have met in 168 League matches of which Oldham have won 74, Warrington have won 85 and nine have ended all square.

Oldham's biggest victories against the Wire occurred many years ago. In November 1898 winger Martin scored four tries when Oldham beat Warrington 35-0 in a League match at Watersheddings whilst the best Oldham victory at Wilderspool came in April 1910 when the Roughyeds won 32-0. Oldham's biggest defeat at Wilderspool came in a Lancashire Cup semi-final during September 1948 when Brian Bevan scored five tries in a 55-0 victory. Bevan scored another five tries four days later when Warrington won a League match at Watersheddings 37-0. That was not Warrington's biggest win at Watersheddings for they triumphed here 43-4 in a League match during February 1977 when winger Denis Curling was on hand to score four tries. Results of Oldham-Warrington matches during the past ten seasons (League matches except were stated).

1986-87	Warrington 22 Oldham 18	
	Oldham 15 Warrington 14	
1987-88	Oldham 14 Warrington 10	(Regal Trophy)
	Warrington 17 Oldham 6	(Challenge Cup)
1988-89	Warrington 32 Oldham 30	
	Oldham 14 Warrington 21	(Regal Trophy)
	Oldham 16 Warrington 2	
1989-90	Oldham 16 Warrington 24	(Lancashire Cup Final at St Helens)
	Oldham 6 Warrington 10	(Challenge Cup Semi-Final at Wigan)

1990-91	Oldham 4 Warrington 2	
	Warrington 22 Oldham 14	
1991-92	Oldham 3 Warrington 8	(Challenge Cup)
	Oldham 33 Warrington 20	(Lancashire Cup)
1992-93	Oldham 12 Warrington 18	
	Warrington 23 Oldham 6	
1993-94	Warrington 55 Oldham 6	
	Oldham 52 Warrington 22	
1994-95	Warrington 40 Oldham 8	
	Oldham 30 Warrington 19	
1995-96	Oldham 4 Warrington 26	(Challenge Cup)

Details of the last Wire visit to Watersheddings was Sunday, 4th February 1996.

Silk Cup Challenge Cup, Round Four.

OLDHAM 4 WARRINGTON 26
Half time 4-4, attendance 4,924.

Oldham try: Francis Maloney
Warrington tries: Lee Penny, Mark Forster, John Hough, Paul Sculthorpe and Mike Ford.

Warrington goals: Iestyn Harris (3)

Oldham: Paul Atcheson,; Afi Leula, Paul Topping, Darren Abran, Adrian Belle; Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton; Ian Sherratt, Gary Burns, Jason Temu, Gary Lord, Ian Gildart and David Bradbury. Substitutes: Shaun Irwin and Chris McKinney

Warrington: Lee Penny; Mark Forster, Chris Rudd, Salesi Finau, Andy Currier; Iestyn Harris, Kelly Shelford; Mark Hilton, John Hough, Gary Chambers, Paul Cullen, Ian Knott and Paul Sculthorpe. Substitutes: Mike Ford and Mark Jones.

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For the Record Super League '96





Rd	Date	Team	Venue	Time	Score	Att	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709	●		1	●	1	1	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								●	●					
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932	1		12	●	1	●	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					●	●	●				
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327	●		1			1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●				1	●					
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm	25-16	3,350	1		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●			1	●	●	●			
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396	12	●	●	1	●	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●			
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181	●		1	●	●	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		1		●	●		●		●	●	●	●		
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm	10-30	4,228	●		●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	1	●		●	●							●	●	●				
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	5.30pm	10-23	3,200	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	26				●	●	●				
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm	27-29	2,228	1		●			25	25	●	1		●						1		●	●	●				●	●		●		
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm	28-22	4,629	●		●	12	1	●	●		●	●			1	●																
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm																																
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm																																
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm																																
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm																																
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm																																
16	Sun 14 July	CASTLEFORD	H	6.00pm																																
17	Sun 21 July	ST HELENS	H	6.00pm																																
18	Sun 28 July	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00pm																																
19	Sun 4 Aug	Workington	A	3.00pm																																
20	Sun 11 Aug	LONDON BRONCOSH	H	6.00pm																																
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																																
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLESH	H	6.00pm																																

RUGBY RECALL OLDHAM V WARRINGTON

1. In July 1991, which Australian half-back left Warrington to become player coach at Swinton?
2. Which was the first ever club to be elected as members of the Rugby League Alliance League, again in July 1991?
3. In August 1991, which massive company agreed an £80,000 three year deal, to sponsor the Charity Shield?
4. When Oldham signed Tim Street from Swinton in August 1991, which two Oldham players went to Swinton in exchange?
5. In August 1991, one of the teams promoted from Division Three were refused permission by the League, for a change in name to the? Marketmen, which team?
6. At the end of August 1991, which Third Division club were offered the incentive of £1 million for promotion?
7. In October 1991, which superstar threatened to quit Rugby League and switch to American Football?
8. Which player came to Oldham from Wakefield in exchange for Paul Round and Paul Lord?
9. In November 1991, which player went to Salford in exchange for Ian Sherratt?
10. Finally, in November 1991, which former St Helens player parted company as Wigan's assistant coach?

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1. Chris O'Sullivan. 2. Hemel Hempstead. 3. CIS Insurance. 4. John Fairbank and Neil Claxson. 5. Bramley. 6. Scarborough Pirates (Talk about the kiss of death). 7. Martin Offiah. 8. Ged Byrne. 9. Austin Donegan. 10. Harry France.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

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OLDHAM RLFC SUPER LEAGUE



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Number 2
SCOTT RANSON
Maureen Mitchell



Number 3
DARREN ABRAM
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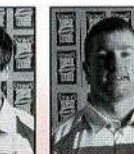
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Number 14
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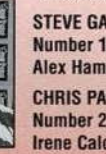
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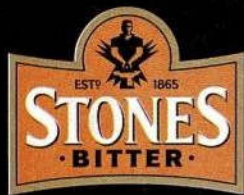
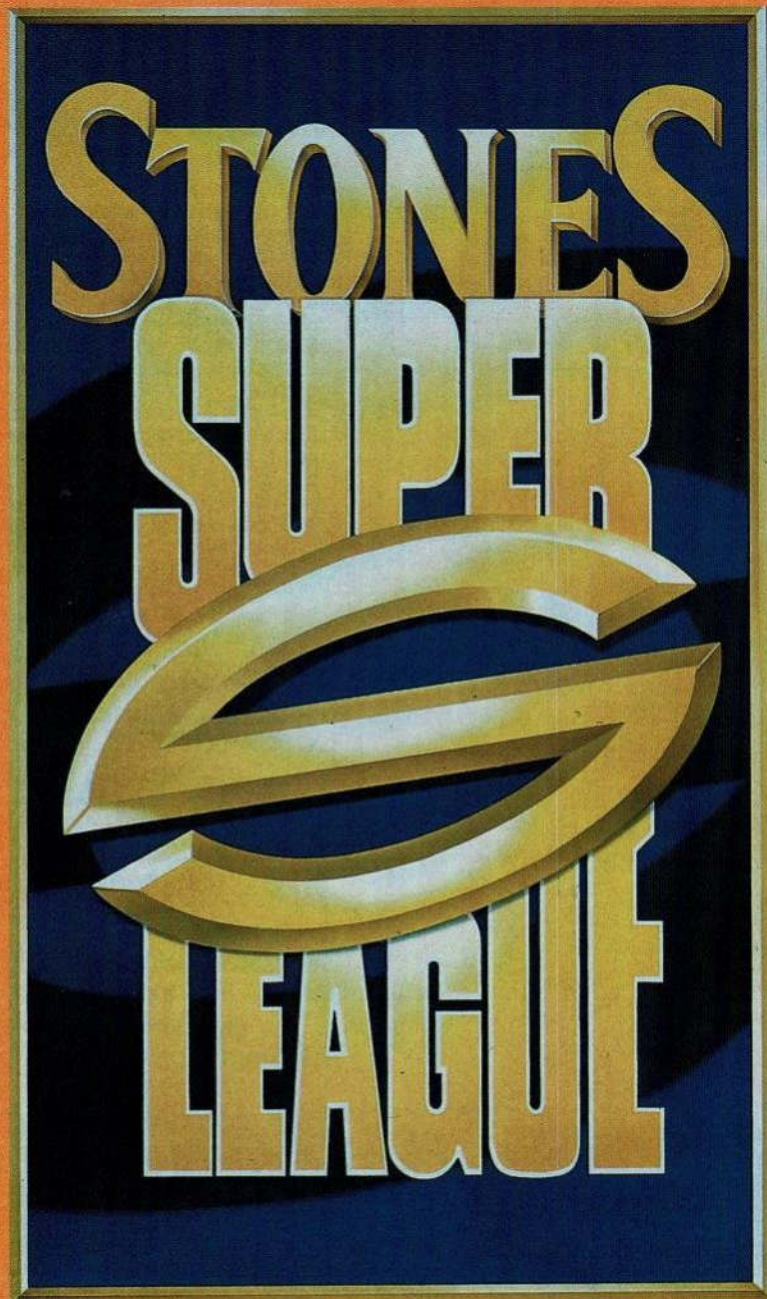


STEVE GARTLAND
Number 16
Alex Hammond

CHRIS PARR
Number 22
Irene Calow

BUSTER BEAR
Ian Clarkson

THE ACTION KICKS OFF



the **ACTION**

NEWS From

Down Under...

QUEENSLAND NEED A BIG EFFORT

The whole future of the State of Origin is on the line at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Who would have thought it a couple of years ago?

But the Origin clashes have become too predictable. Incredible defence and too few tries.

And the fans want tries!

Peter Jackson, one of the Origin heroes of yesteryear summed it up in Rugby League Week magazine: "Players are so fit, so professional and such good defenders that even the best tacklers in the game are flat out breaking the line. And with the (unlimited) interchange rule they're not wasting any energy, which make it even harder."

It seems that coaches and players alike go into Origin matches determined not to lose - when they should have a positive approach to winning (and if they go down, they do so with flare).

At the very least this game should be better than the first encounter, when the Queensland selectors shot themselves in the foot by sticking with some of those players who remained loyal to the ARL in last year's Super League battle when they should have been picking the best 17 available.

They have done something to redress the situation, but still haven't gone all the way.

A centre, Matt Sing, on the wing. A winger, Wendell Sailor, at fullback. A fullback, Julian O'Neill, at standoff. And one of the best standoffs in the world, Kevin Walters, on the bench.

Queensland coach Paul Vautin says he won't be changing the lineup for at least 20 minutes.

We'll wait and see.

Most critics are looking forward to Kevin Walters coming on and providing that well-oiled Broncos' link between halfback Allan Langer and centre Steve Renouf. Renouf was kept in check in the first match.

But we all remember that 1992 World Cup effort at Wembley, when Walters sent him through a gap that was only there for a fleeting second for the winning try. And they have been doing the same thing regularly this season for the Broncos. Hence Renouf leading the try-scoring lists with ten tries in just eight matches. Coach Paul Vautin admits he made a mistake in replacing Wendell Sailor in the first match.

Sailor was the only Queenslander making breaks.

But "Fatty" felt he had to give all his players a fair share of time on the field.

In the cut-throat Origin battle, there is no room for sentiment.

Vautin learned the hard way.

He'll be tougher this time around.

The Queenslander will most certainly put in a do-or-die effort.

And let's hope referee David Manson can keep the two sides well apart.

Over the past couple of weeks the ARL referees have been instructed to enforce the 10-metre rule.

And that means players not moving up until the ball clears the ruck.

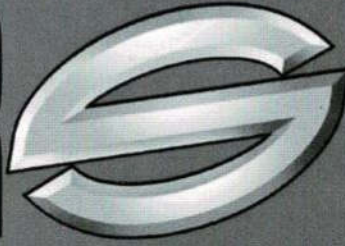
If Manson does that we could see some of that wonderful defence broken.

By Laurie Daley or Andre Wittinghausen? By Steve Renouf or Wendell Sailor?

Who cares as long as we see more than a couple of tries.

The bookmakers are giving Queensland 7 1/2 points start.

I'm not so sure they have the right.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE '96 Same Game... New Attitude...

Oldham Bears

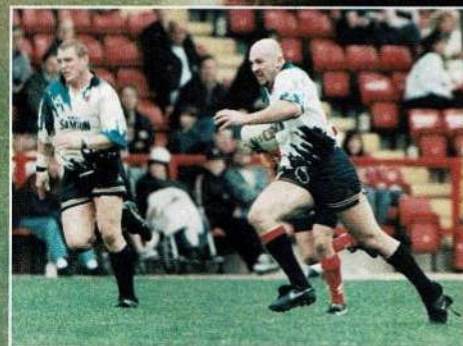


Main Picture: The Oldham defence closing in on one of London's attacks

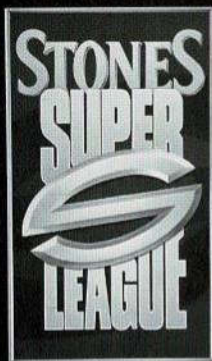
Left: John Clarke trying to squeeze through the gap

Right: Paul Davidson who showed some great form breaking through the Bronco's defence

Far Right: John Clarke feeding Andrew Patmore against Workington



PURE GOLD FROM STONES SUPER LEAGUE



Each month the Superstars of the Stones Super League will now be able to prove they are literally the best of the best as they compete for the new prestigious Stones Gold Awards.

Decided by a panel of experts drawn from representatives of all areas of the sport, the awards will be presented to

the player who has consistently demonstrated outstanding performances over the previous month.

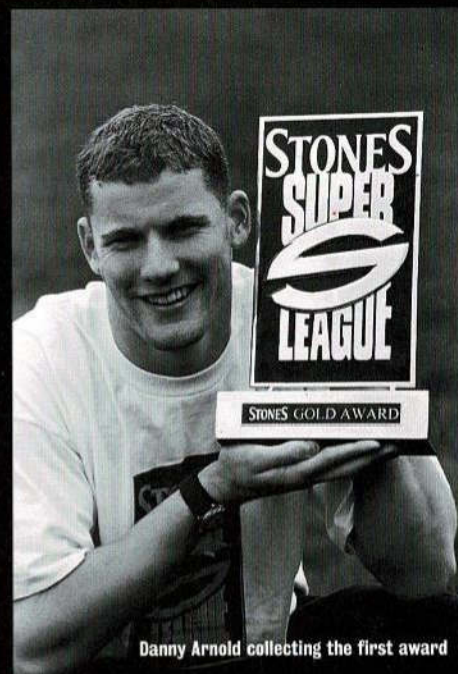
The awards launched by Stones Bitter, sponsors of the Stones Super League, have been introduced to reward excellence by players and to raise the awareness of the shooting stars of the '96 Stones Super League season.

The first Stones Gold Award went to St. Helens' new superstar Danny Arnold. Danny has had a tremendous April with some stunning performances and having scored 11 tries in 5 appearances leads the try scoring table.

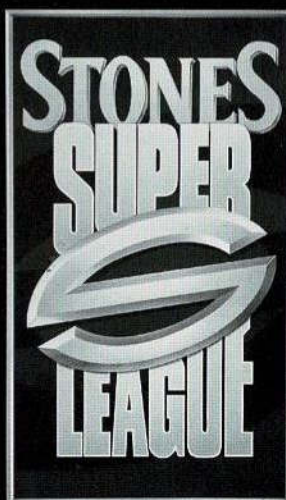
Also, at the end of what promises to be an excellent inaugural Stones Super League season, the panel of experts will get together to decide who have been the cream of the '96 season, including picking the Stones Super League dream team. So, to keep up with latest star players, watch this space for further details.



THE  TIMES



Danny Arnold collecting the first award



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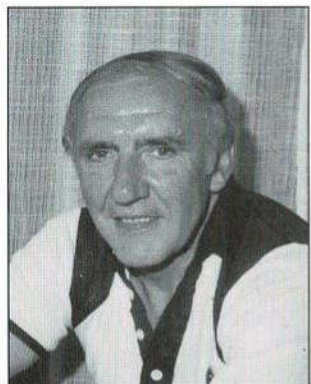
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News



Our mini League is up and running on Sunday mornings. There are about two hundred children at under 8 and under 9 playing, if their is anyone interested in their children

playing mini League they can contact Joe Warburton on 627 3318. The next venue after this Sunday will be on the 16.6.96 at Saddleworth Rangers Ground, Churchill Playing Fields, 10.30am kick off for under 8 followed by under 9 at 11.15am. Go and watch the stars of the future and better still

take your child along, boy or girl and let them get involved in a great game. We are also trying to get the Oldham Ladies Team up and running again and we are looking for a coach to train these girls, so again if there is any coach interested please give myself a ring on 652 2452.

Trials are at present being held at Hathershaw for the Greater Manchester Youth games which are being held on 15/16 of this month. I went along last Thursday evening and was very pleased at the way our teams are shaping up. We have got teams entered at under 9, under 10 and under 12. Those are then followed by a girls under 15 and there is some good talent in all our teams. I am pretty sure that all 4 teams will do well at

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Roger...

IT was very encouraging indeed, for all sports lovers, to hear Oldham Council representatives speaking so positively about the proposed new stadium at Westwood when the plans were officially unveiled at the Civic Centre on Monday. Councillor John Battye was scathing in his criticism of "negative thinking" and expressed the view that the local authority was striving to protect the Town's sporting interests for the next 100 years - a reference to the fact that Rugby League has been played in the Borough for the past 100 years. If, as is hoped, Oldham Athletic also decide to use the new stadium it will be a 15,000 all-seater operation, which will be used by the Bears and the Latics for 12 months of the year. If Latics decide to stay put at Boundary Park, the Council will be looking for other uses for the pitch and the stadium in the winter months and, to that end, inquiries are already being made about the availability of turf which will cope with year-round use.

Council officials were keen to stress that money to pay for the stadium would come from private sources and grants, but definitely **NOT** through the Council tax.

It was also made clear that the development would include offices, a banqueting suite, restaurants and corporate hospitality facilities and these would be in place whether the stadium housed 10,000 spectators of 15,000.

If Huddersfield can have the McAlpine Stadium, and many other Towns throughout the country can have new stadiums for a variety of sports and pastimes, I see no reason why the Town of Oldham cannot get in on the act.

The easiest thing in the world is to advance reasons for **NOT DOING** something.

Had this Town's leaders taken notice of such negative vibes down the years there would have been no Spindles, no Oldham Sixth-Form College and no doubt other projects would have

fallen by the wayside, too.

The stadium is coming. Of that, there is no doubt. It will be a project of which Oldham Council and Oldham Bears RLFC will be justifiably proud and it will be a milestone along the road of the Town's sporting achievements.

By Roger Halstead
of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

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