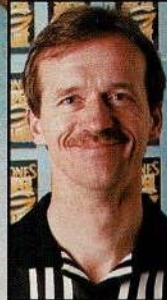




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Comments in this programme are not necessarily
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1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1986, 1989

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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

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Talking

ON and Off the field steady progress is being made here at Watersheddings and I think it is reflected in the recent records of both our Super League side and our Alliance team.

The Alliance side, under the watchful eye of Paddy Kirwan, went to Castleford on Thursday having won four games in succession and with a record of five wins out of six matches since Paddy took charge about the middle of May.

Andy Goodway's men, meantime, have won four of their last five Super League games to raise hopes of a late-season challenge for fourth place, currently occupied by Warrington.

The squad is being built up steadily, but with the acquisition of Kiwi forward Reece Guy, who has had senior substitute appearances against Paris and Leeds, we now feel there are plenty of options for pack places and that the player-search should now be concentrated on the threequarters.

Today's game should be a cracker. Our win at Leeds was particularly pleasing because we achieved it without reaching our best form and we pulled off a League double over the Headingley outfit, last achieved by an Oldham side in the 1986/87 season.

Two nights earlier, at Wigan, Castleford put up a superb show and lost by one point in somewhat controversial circumstances - a clear indication that the men from Wheldon Road are running into good form.

Our fellows will be keen to complete a third double of the season, having already taken four points off Halifax and Leeds, but Lee Crooks and his boys will want to build on their big performance at Central Park

Another top game is in prospect, but we shouldn't be surprised at that, judging by the number of first-class matches that have taken place in this first Super League season, sadly in front of disappointingly low

attendances. Some commentators are now calling for an end to summer rugby, but as an advocate of a summer season from day one I see no reason to shift my stand, given that the first campaign was always going to experience teething troubles.

For those who were never keen on summer rugby in the first place, it is easy to look at some small attendance figures and talk about switching back without reflecting on the horrors of an English winter. No Super League games have been postponed yet because of bad weather, but it's a fair bet that around Christmas time and again when the Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties used to come around in late

January there would often be a clutch of postponements, with the entire programme frosted out on some occasions.

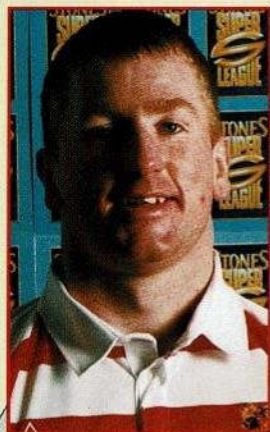
It's easy to forget that when we are enjoying decent weather in the English summer. No, I suggest it would be a massive retrograde step to reject summer rugby now and I remain optimistic that 1997 will see a major upturn in Super League fortunes.



To start with, traditionalists among supporters need to get used to the idea. We have gone through a period of massive change and we are also having to compete this year with the European soccer championships and the Olympic Games which come round only once every four years.

Having said that, I think there are lessons to be learned from what has happened so far in this first Super League campaign.

To start with I think it is fairly obvious that the spectator likes to know what he is doing well in advance. In other words, he likes clubs to fix kick-off times and stick to them, so that there is some uniformity of fixtures, whether they be played on Friday evenings or Sunday.



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Reflections



GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT

No-one would pretend that Watersheddings is the perfect rugby ground. But let's put the record straight: it isn't the worst either! In my time I have stood and sat on every side of Watersheddings and the one thing I can say with certainty is that wherever you go on the ground you will get the one thing most vital to any spectator - a good, uninterrupted view. Contrast that with Widnes, to take one example, where there is always a bloody great pylon in your line of vision. Also at Widnes, and again at Wakefield, on one part of the ground you can get a great view of players' boots and socks, but not much more!

On many grounds, unlike Watersheddings, the terracing is too shallow. Culprits here are Wigan, Castleford and Featherstone among others. If you're under 5'8" and not at the front you'll spend all match dodging around the person in front trying to see. And at Castleford the terraces slope forward, so you're in constant danger of falling on the bloke in front and likely to suffer cramp all the way home.

As for seating, on most grounds you end up with bum fag. Unless you carry a supply of cushions the old wooden seating at Castleford, St. Helens, Wigan, Leeds, Workington etc. etc. is desperate. Only grounds with plastic, bucket type seats afford any degree of comfort. These include Halifax, Bradford, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Rochdale, Salford North Stand and Wigan Whitbread stand. The problem with the latter, however, is that all the seats towards the back are booked by season ticket holders, so you end up right at the front where you can't see the play at the far end and are constantly disturbed by the locals going to buy their pies.

Meanwhile entering the main stand at Headingley is like going into a dungeon it's so dark. You half expect to find gas lighting or candles it's so medieval.

As for other facilities, well the toilets virtually everywhere are a disgrace, so Watersheddings is no worse than most. Indeed on Herbert Street the Gents is actually quite decent. Best Gents are at Headingley and Bradford (8/10); Sheffield - but only at the far end of the main stand - and Huddersfield (9/10); and Paris (10/10). Trust the French to have the best pissoirs!

Ladies, I am told, are dreadful virtually everywhere. Wigan, Sheffield and Halifax are apparently among the best, but the usual problem is that there are never enough.

Scoreboards range from the woeful, like Keighley, through the quaint, like Oldham and Leigh, to the hi-tech like Sheffield and Huddersfield which are almost an entertainment in themselves. For many people proximity to the play is all important, so although I like Sheffield myself I realise most people are not keen.

Presumably these fans also share with me a dislike of the Hull grounds, Workington and Bradford.

Finally here are my personal awards:-

Best Super League Ground: Paris (Charlery Stadium)

Best First Division Ground: Huddersfield (McAlpine Stadium)

Best Second Division Ground: Swinton (Bury F.C.)

Most Picturesque Ground: Keighley (Cougar Park)

Most Atmospheric Ground: Watersheddings for a floodlit evening game in autumn/winter.

Geoff Cooke

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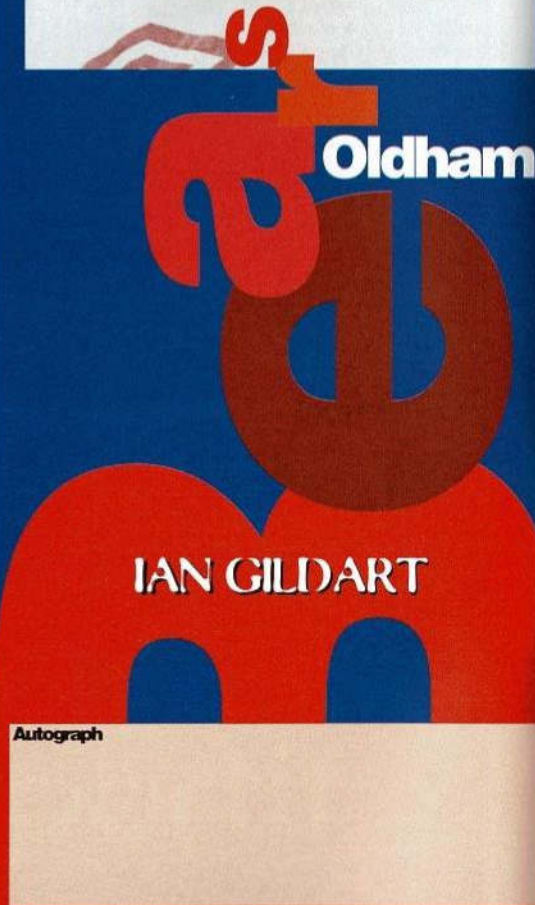
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Talks...



although we can provide more entertainment and more serious competition than we ever could before we had Super League and the Murdoch money.

I'm a great fan of Rugby League. They know their game, they call a spade a spade and I think their opinions should be listened to and respected.

They have a great deal of pride in their clubs, but there seems to be a lot of unwarranted pessimism around. It spreads like wildfire but the fact is that we have a terrific product to sell and I'm sure a lot of fans who might by staying away for reasons best known to themselves would love what they saw on the field if they would only turn up to watch.

We are still playing rugby league and despite the involvement on such a big scale of TV, it's still the peoples game. TV is heavily involved in all major sports these days and it's a credit to the pulling power of League that so much of it is now shown on the little box.

The problem is that the game also needs to see you on the terraces. It's your game, your club, come along and have your say.

We will be trying hard to do that next season after considering the wishes of our supporters, who have had the opportunity to let us know whether they prefer to watch games on Friday or Sunday and, if Sunday, whether they would choose an afternoon start or an early evening kick off.

I think it is also apparent that clubs need more than 11 home games in a season if they are to have any chance of meeting financial demands. The game won't survive with only 11 matches from which to draw vital income and it is now down to the Rugby League to come up with a plan to provide clubs with more opportunities to open their turnstiles.

By switching today's game to an afternoon kick off we hope to have pleased our supporters but please note that next weekend's home game against St. Helens will be screened live by Sky and will be staged at Boundary Park next Friday kicking off at 7.30pm.

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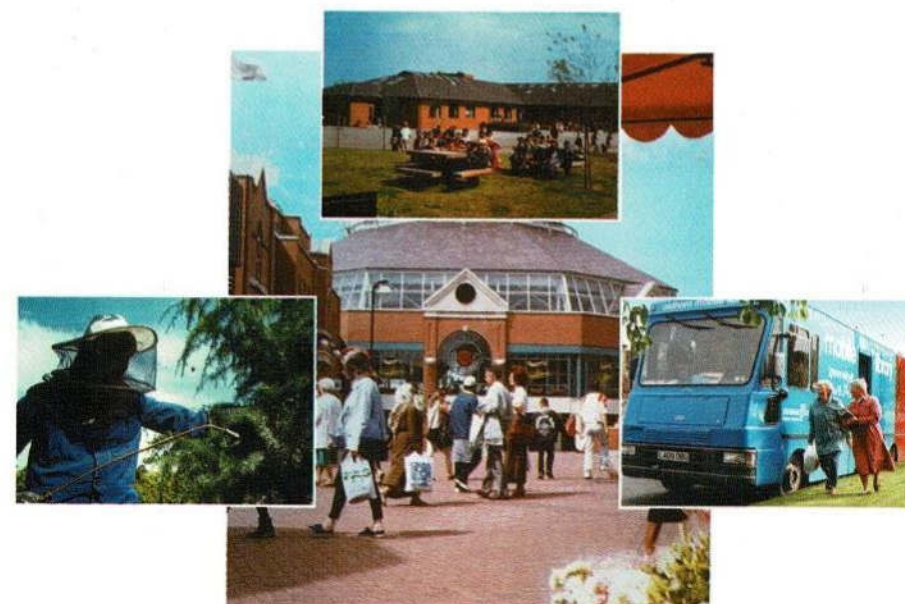
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Bears



Hi to all you Junior Bears, I'll start these notes with 'Well done to all you big Bears' for that terrific win at Leeds on Sunday, another 'double' under our belts and four more points in the bag with the win over Paris. Home again here at Watersheddings we welcome today's visitors Castleford, their supporters and 'Junior Tigers' and next week we are at Boundary Park for our next 'home' match against St Helens.

During the week we held our 'Junior Bears' meeting, which we hope everyone who attended enjoyed. Many thanks to the players who came along.

The mascot draw took place at that meeting, and since I have had to write these notes earlier so to meet the printing deadlines I have not been able to give details of the lucky 'Junior Bear' however, they will get a full mention in our next notes. The mascot sponsor for today's game is "RODSPORT" a big thank you to Rod Fairclough for his support.

How did you go with the teaser set in the Paris programme?

The answer was the Connolly twins, Robert and John from Wigan

Today's teaser asks "Who is the former Oldham player who now plays at Wheldon Road for Castleford Tigers? Not so hard really, but I will give you the answer next time. Let's see if we can hear "Come on you Bears" louder than the "Tigers Roar" from Yorkshire. Buster Bear.

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Memory Lane

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear.

Homely, little Castleford have been mixing it with the best throughout their history and have managed to pull off a number of notable successes but none have been greeted with such euphoria as their Regal Trophy victory over Wigan in January 1994.

That Regal Trophy competition of season 1993-94 was the first tournament in which the Premier League clubs were exempt from the first round. Despite this, Oldham were represented in round one by Saddleworth Rangers who put a brave performance at Swinton before bowing out 24-13. In round two the senior Oldham club visited Highfield where they led 26-0 at half-time before coasting through 26-8. Wigan had a similar comfortable ride up at Whitehaven where they won 22-8. It was much tougher for Castleford who had to rely on a late Graham Steadman try for their 16-12 victory at Hull Kingston Rovers.

Dreadful weather greeted the third round ties but that did not prevent Oldham and Wigan putting on a classic at Watersheddings where Wigan had to defend desperately in the second half before overcoming the Roughyeds 16-8. Winger Simon Middleton defied the conditions to run in a hat-trick of tries as Castleford eliminated Leigh 54-14.

Both Wigan and Castleford registered comfortable victories in the quarter-finals. Winger Jason Robinson was outstanding in Wigan's 27-10 win at Warrington whilst prop Lee Crooks stole the honours in Castleford's 44-4 home win over Carlisle.

Crooks was again in inspired form in the semi-finals as Castleford booked their place in the final with a sound 23-10 win at Bradford. Wigan found it much tougher at Salford where Barrie-Jon Mather's late try enabled the

Riversiders to win 18-12

The final was staged at Headingley and Wigan were understandably odds on to beat Castleford. Probably because of this, the attendance was a disappointing 15,626, but those present were about to witness one of the biggest upsets in the history of the competition. The teams for the final were as follows:

Castleford: Graham Steadman; Ian St John Ellis, Ritchie Blackmore, Grant Anderson, Simon Middleton; Tony Kemp, Mike Ford; Lee Crooks, Richard Russell, Martin Ketteridge, Tony Morrison, Ian Smales and Tawera Nikau. Subs: Andy Hay and Dean Sampson.

Wigan: Joe Lydon; Jason Robinson, Barrie-Jon Mather, Gary Connolly, Martin Offiah; Frano Botica, Shaun Edwards; Kelvin Skerrett, Martin Dermott, Andy Platt, Neil Cowie, Andy Farrell and Phil Clarke. Subs: Sam Panapa and Mick Cassidy.

Castleford gave what must have been one of their best performances of all time in this final. They were absolutely magnificent. Everyone in their team played to his full potential and by half-time they led by an astonishing 20 points to two. Wigan were such favourites to win that even at that stage the spectators were expecting them to launch a comeback which would rock Castleford to their very foundations. Although Wigan did show much more spirit early in the second-half, that comeback never materialised and Castleford went on to register an amazing 33-2 victory. Their points came from tries by Martin Ketteridge (2), Grant Anderson, Tawera Nikau and Lee Crooks who also landed six goals. Tony Kemp dropped a goal for Castleford whilst Frano Botica landed a solitary Wigan goal. The streets around Headingley immediately after the match resembled Christmas Eve and VE Day all rolled into one. A fantastic day when the underdog triumphed against all odds

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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

It was on this day way back in 1917 that Australian test winger Harold Horder scored five tries for South Sydney in their 31-8 victory over North Sydney, the club Horder was to join three years later.

Staying in Australia, it was on this day in 1985 that St George defeated Canterbury 16-6 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the big Wingfield Cup clash of the weekend. That match was a preview of the following September's Grand Final when Canterbury gained revenge by beating St George 7-6 also at the SCG. Switching across to New Zealand, it was on Sunday, 14th July 1991 that the Junior Kiwis defeated the BARLA under-18's by 34-16 in the first test at Greymouth. The star of the British side was Waterhead second-rower Barrie McDermott, now with Leeds, but one of six members of that BARLA party who later had spells at Watersheddings. The other five? David Bradbury, Gary Burns, Gary Christie, Alf Goulbourne and Abraham Phillips.

Seven years earlier, on Saturday 14th July 1984, the

senior New Zealand team defeated Great Britain 12-0 in the first test match at Carlaw Park, Auckland. All the Kiwi points came in the first half - James Leuluai and Fred Ah Kuoi tries, Olsen Filipaina two goals. Oldham had five representatives in that tour party but only current coach Andy Goodway played. He was in the second-row whilst current Castleford coach John Joyner was one of the British substitutes.

It was on this day in 1951, Bastille Day, that the French national team, who did not travel very well, recorded one of their best ever results. It was not a victory but the 14-14 draw against New South Wales during their tour of Australia was certainly a result to be proud of. Exactly twelve months ago today, Friday, 14th July 1995, Australia completed a 3-0 test whitewash over New Zealand when they defeated the Kiwis 46-10 in the third test at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane. The Kiwis put up a brave show for an hour, pulling back to 10-10 after trailing 10-6 at the interval. However, Australia then ran in six tries in the closing quarter to leave the Kiwis mesmerised.

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BEARS Question

Time...

with Howard Hill

Full Name: Howard Lee Hill
Date of Birth: 16.1.75
Birthplace: Whitehaven, Cumbria
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 151/2 stone
Nickname at Club: King-Kong (or something like that)
Occupation: Professional rugby player
Home: Moorside, Oldham
Car: Polo, Turbo
Married: No
Children: No
Family: Dad, Mom, brother, sister
What was your ambition as a child: To do what I'm doing now
Who was your boyhood hero: Ellery Hanley
What has been your biggest disappointment in rugby: Having shoulder problems
What has been your biggest thrill in rugby: Signing professional for Oldham
Which present day player do you admire most: Andy Farrell. Because he is the same age as me and done everything
Who is the greatest player there has been: Brett Kenny
What is the best part of your job: Winning
Who is the toughest opponent you have faced: Can't think of one
If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy: A brand new Polo
What is your best quality: Can take criticism
What is your worst quality: Lack of confidence
Apart from your own club, which is your favourite ground: Central Park, Wigan
Which is your least favourite ground: Hull, too far to travel
What other sports and hobbies do you have: Kicking the Kiwis butt



at golf, tennis, and 10 pin bowling
What is your ideal evening out: A night out with the boys in Whitehaven
What is the most dangerous thing you have done: Shaving Temu's eye brow
What dangerous thing would you most like to attempt: Fly a jet
What is your biggest phobia: Spiders
What is your most prized possession: George, my dog
Which famous person would you most like to meet: Frank Bruno
Which world figure do you most admire: Nelson Mandela
Away from rugby, what has been your best sporting achievement: Winning the egg and spoon race at primary school
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a rugby pitch: Can't think of anything funny
Do you have an unusual food that improves your game: Scampi Fry's
What is the oddest piece of training that you have done: Running over Jacko's ladders
Is there a dream you would like to have achieved in a sport other than rugby: Winning Wimbledon
Favourite TV programme: PJ and Duncan (Ant and Dec Show)
Favourite TV star: Freddy Star
Favourite Film: Pulp Fiction
Favourite Film Star: Clint Eastwood
Favourite soap opera: Shortland Street (not)
Favourite soap character: Curly Watts
Favourite City: London
Favourite pop star: Bob Marley
Favourite single: No Woman, No Cry (Bob Marley)
Favourite LP: Haven't got a favourite
Favourite food: Chips, Egg, Peas
Favourite drink: Nice cup of tea

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS INJURY UPDATE

It was good news for Gary Burns this week as he was set to return to the A team squad at Castleford, following a long standing knee injury. But there was more bad news for the unlucky Rob Myler who lasted just 30

minutes at Leeds, picking up a shoulder injury that will keep Rob out of action for at least 3 weeks. Prior to the Leeds game we had a scare, as half the squad were laid low for a couple of days with a virus which fortunately cleared up to enable the lads to play. The news on Chris McKinney who was carried off on a stretcher in the A team game against Leeds was good as he was soon up and about after his blow on the back of his head and neck.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

15

League H.Q.

**KEITH DIXON**

Keith Dixon of Keighley Cougars is seven points short of a career total of 1,000 for the club. His total of 993 has come from 89 tries and 329 goals, including 21 drop goals, in 248 appearances.

Dixon's most prolific season was 1989/90 when he scored 174 points, playing in every back position except scrum half. His best match tally is 24 points from eight goals and two tries. He has kicked 10 goals in a match on one occasion, including a drop and scored four try hat tricks.

Signed from Keighley Albion amateurs, Dixon made his debut as a substitute in a 46-12 Division Two defeat at Runcorn Highfield on 21 April 1985. Dixon made one other substitute appearance before his full debut on the wing when he scored Keighley's only try in a 58-4 Division Two defeat at Barrow on 27 April 1986. He had a three match loan spell with Hunslet in 1993-94, scoring 15 points from a try and six goals including a drop goal. Born 16 September 1966.

POINTS SCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has the longest points scoring run of 33 successive club matches, including all 16 this season. The stand off's scoring run began with eight goals and a try in the 48-20 First Division win at Huddersfield on 17 September 1995. In addition Blakeley has also scored a try in two appearances for England during the sequence.

TRYSCORING RUN

Darren Rogers of Salford Reds has scored at least one try in six successive matches as follows: 1-1-1-1-1-2.

Tim Murphy of Hunslet Hawks has scored at least one try in five successive matches as follows: 1-1-3-1-3.

WINNING RUN

Salford Reds have the current longest winning run of seven matches, all in Division One. Their last defeat was 28-30 at Hull on 12 May.

Wigan have the best Super League run of 13 matches without defeat, including one draw against London Broncos. Their last defeat was 41-26 at St. Helens on 5 April.

LONGEST LOSING RUN

Paris St Germain have the longest losing run after being defeated in 11 successive Stones Super League matches. Their last victory was 34-12 at home to Workington Town on 13 April.

Batley Bulldogs have gone 13 matches without a win in Division 2, including two tries, and a current run of 10 successive defeats. Their last win was 20-13 on the opening day of the season.

MILESTONES

Phil Veivers of Huddersfield Giants needs one try for a career century of touchdowns after scoring 98 for St. Helens.

Ray Ashton of Bramley needs one try for a career century of touchdowns including representative matches plus spells with Oldham, Leeds and Workington Town.

Graham Steadman of Castleford Tigers needs 10 points for a career total of 2,000 including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers. Martin Offiah of Wigan is one short of his 50th hat trick of tries in club and representative matches.

Anthony Sullivan of St. Helens needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns.

Lord...

Trip of a lifetime!

I have just been privileged to enjoy a magnificent working holiday in Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore. Now leaving aside the fact that the holiday

was spent with some unique people such as 3 ladies from Widnes who were affectionately known as the Golden Girls, Ken, a policeman from Wigan who took a particular liking to red bean dumplings and the wheelchair bound Rita also from Wigan who achieves more than most able bodied people, the holiday was never going to be boring was it?

Well I don't intend to bore you with holiday memories

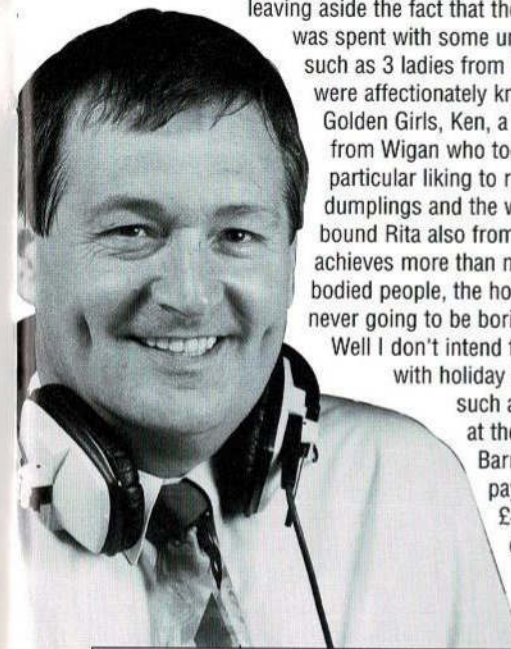
such as swimming at the Great Barrier Reef or paying over £40.00 for 4 drinks in Singapore, no I

thought I would just tell a) about the general state of the game in Australia, and b) about the latest position regarding Phil Clarke.

Firstly the game is in turmoil, falling gates and an apathy hither to unknown over there shows just how much the general public are cheesed off with the Packer/Murdoch squabbles and the average Aussie just does not give a damn. In fact the impression I got was that if it was not for the income from gambling machines, literally millions of dollars a year, clubs would not survive anyway.

With regard to Phil Clarke, thankfully he is on the mend! It will be quite a while before he's back playing again but he will be back. Unfortunately he may not be back over here for some time, he's committed to Sydney Suburbs and cannot see himself returning for a few years yet. On a personal note, Phil did us proud whilst we were in Sydney, taking us out for the day including lunch and a trip to Bondi Beach, I promised him that when he comes over at Christmas I would return the compliment and show him the delights of Rochdale (I bet he can't wait)

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OLDHAM Bears

"A" Team



Over the last two weeks the Alliance have played another two home games. A rearranged fixture against Hull KR and the visit of league leaders Leeds. Although these teams are at different ends of the table both games proved equally tough however we managed narrow victories in each case. Against Hull KR we faced a team who desperately needed the points and who had identified our own lowly position as an ideal opportunity to improve their position. I was pleased with the way we started with tries from Meade and McKenny converted by Paul Deacon pushing us into a 12-2 lead after 30 minutes. When Hull KR scored to make it 12-8 we replied almost immediately with a converted try by the much improved Neil Melling to lead 18-8 at half time. Just after half time a good break by Steve Gartland provided a try for the supporting Joe McNicholas again converted by Paul Deacon. After building a good 24-8 lead the team missed several chances and then slipped down a gear allowing Hull KR back into the game. To their credit Hull KR came back strongly scoring two converted tries to give a final score of 25-20. The win pushed us further up the league and Hull KR further towards the relegation zone. I was particularly pleased with the performances of Paul Norman and Neil Melling and half backs Gartland and Deacon.

Against Leeds we started with a completely different front row with Reece Guy, Chris McAndrew and Tony Nuttall in the side in place of Paul Norman, Philip Russell and Chris Parr who were all missing for different reasons. On attack in the first 30 minutes we did not play at all, however good defence restricted Leeds to an 8-0 lead. Suddenly Paul Deacon made a break from deep in our own half and Steve Gartland supported on the inside to score under the posts. This seemed to spur the team into action and a short ball from Mike Neale sent Paul Davidson on a great 45 yard run to the line just before half time. Paul Deacon converted both tries to send us in with an undeserved 12-8 half time lead. In the second half we came out a much improved team, and when Jimmy Cowan scored a superb individual try from inside his own half we always looked favourites to win. After a good set of six Gartland and Deacon combined again, this time Gartland kicking ahead for Deacon to follow up. Poor defending behind our own posts allowed Leeds a simple 6 points, before a powerful break by Tony Nuttall, fed Steve Gartland who drew the defence and gave Joe McNicholas a stroll to the line. At 26-14 we had won the game but Leeds playing to stay in top position came back strongly with two late tries. Fortunately they were unable to convert the second from the touchline giving us another narrow 26-24 victory.

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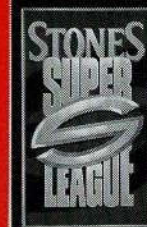
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THE Italian doctor who claims to have

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staffin**

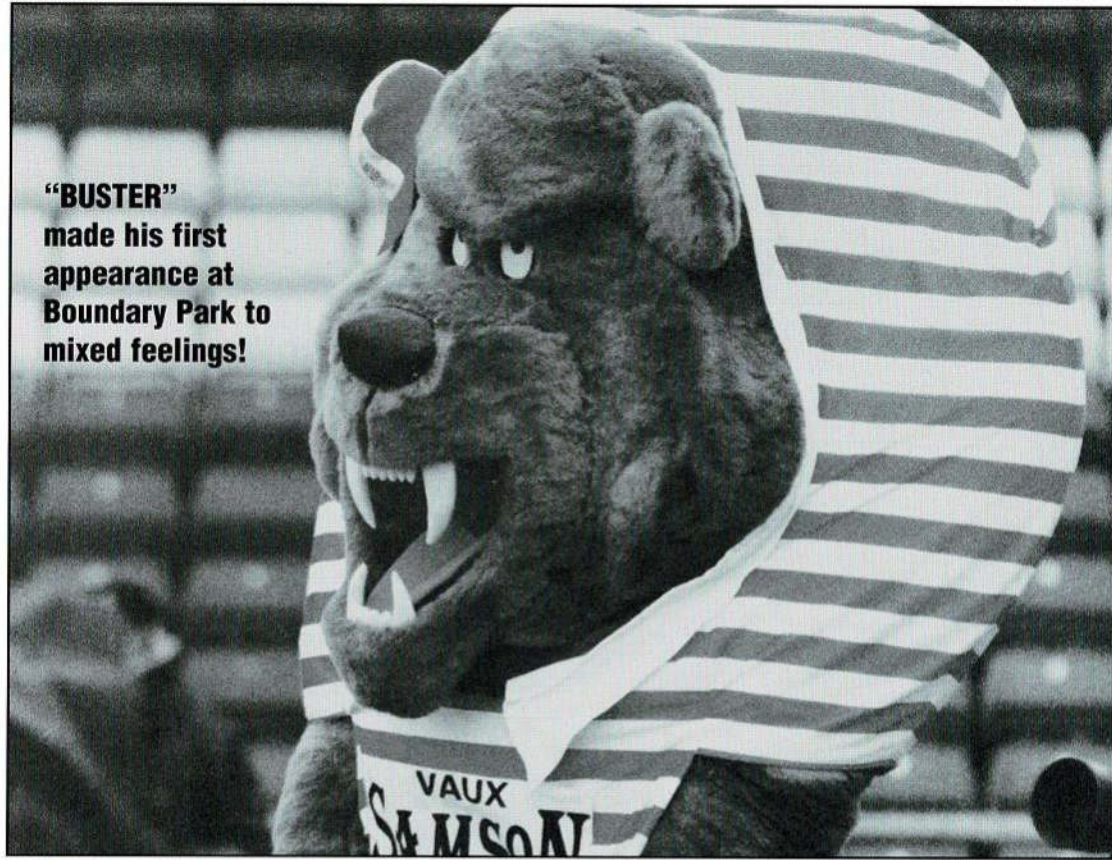
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Watersheddings

RICHARD GAY (Full Back) Captured from Hull earlier this year, although deadlines meant that Richard had to wait for Super League to make his debut. An England International from the 1995 European Championships, Richard likes to link up on attack and grabs his share of tries. Started his career with Hull Boys Club ARL and although a follower of Rovers made the grade across the City.

CHRIS SMITH (Winger) Promising youngsters who already has bags of first team experience. Chris is a local product who came from the Academy team, gaining Great Britain honours at that level including a tour to Australia in 1994. Chris subsequently stepped up a further rung winning Gt Britain Under 21 honours. Originally a half back, Chris's enthusiastic approach offers the promise of more honours if he continues to develop.

RICHARD GODDARD (Centre) Capture from Wakefield Trinity, with a £75,000 fee being set by the tribunal. Richard already has Gt Britain Under 21 honours and a full England cap and looks to have a big future in the game. A product of Stanley Rangers ARL which has over the years provided Cas with some top talent, Richard is goalkicker. Gained some useful experience when he guessed with top Aussie outfit Manley.

ADRIAN FLYNN (Centre) Another signing from neighbours Wakefield, Adrian, who was a former Dewsbury junior player joined Castleford after a drawn out transfer battle with other interested clubs, in a deal that cost the club a fee of £70,000 plus winger Jon Wray. A Great Britain Under 21 cap and Academy tourist, who also represented England in the Fiji "nines" Adrian has proved himself in both the centre and second row positions.

SIMON MIDDLETON (Winger) Simon switched codes after a long career win local rugby union and settled in quickly and well to league after his move from Knottingley RU. He has been a regular try scorer for Cas. Although normally wingman he has provided versatility by switching to the backline when called upon. Simon was missed when injury ended his Centenary season prematurely.

FRANCO BOTICA (Stand Off) Former All Black rugby union star and Kiwi international, Franco joined Cas from Auckland Warriors although he made his biggest mark in league in a glittering career at Wigan. Franco figured in many of the Riversiders' recent successes with his record breaking points scoring feats, which included reaching the quickest ever 1000 points in rugby league, playing a major part in their tremendous trophy winning exploits. A bad injury ended his brief career with the Warriors but he has fought his way back to fitness and is looking for more honours with Cas.

TONY SMITH (Half back) A key utility player, Tony has the ability to play in either half back position as well as centre where he has played much of his early first team rugby. His big break though came two years back when he was called up for the trip to Australia with the Great Britain "Sevens" squad. He then won his first full international cap for England to add to earlier GB under 21 honours. Last season he gained four more England caps on World Cup duty, including the Wembley final. A local product, Tony's great support play brings him a regular flow of tries.

LEE CROOKS (Prop Forward) Club captain and inspirational pack leader Lee was a £150,000 buy from the Leeds club. He quickly became a key figure at Castleford and in turn his representative career was resurrected, with county and test call ups being added to an already healthy total of such honours. Lee started his career on his native Humberside, where he gained a string of honours whilst still a teenager, and despite not settling too well at Headingley his Hull and Cas form has ensured that he remains one of the games biggest names.

RICHARD RUSSELL (Hooker) One of John Joyner's first signings, Richard came to Cas from Oldham in exchange for Shaun Irwin. Originally a three quarter at Wigan when he gained GB junior honours before linking up with Oldham. Very lively in the loose and a top tackler Richard has made a highly successful transition to hooker and has gone on to represent England in that position.

NATHAN SYKES (Prop Forward) Signed as a highly rated junior player from the Moldgreen Cub in Huddersfield, Nathan is making good progress and has now established himself in the senior squad. Castleford beat off a host of opposition to sign him as a youngster and his promise is being realised with Academy international honours, including a tour to Australia, and a GB Under 21 cap already under his belt.

ANDREW SHICK (Second Row) The club's last capture from Australia, Andrew joined up from Brisbane league team Redcliffe. A ball handling back rower, Andrew was spotted by coach John Joyner on a summer trip "Down Under" last year and was offered a chance to come over for the Centenary season and stake a place for the Super League. Once settled he took his chance well and

did enough to clinch a new contract.

LEE HARLAND (Second Row) A product of Drihlington ARL, Lee turned professional with Leeds but with first team opportunities limited at Headingley he then moved on to Halifax. A Gt Britain under 21 international he joined Cas in exchange for Martin Ketteridge when Halifax were looking for an experienced prop. Lee has continued to develop his early promise and looks a very shrewd acquisition.

BRENDON TUUTA (Back Row Forward) New Zealand international who was signed last season from local rivals Featherstone. Brendon has Australian experience with Western Suburbs and more recently with the Perth Western Reds. His international career has taken in a tour of this country and most recently the Trans Tasman test series against Australia. He was also in the Kiwi squad for the Centenary Season World Cup. Brendon had 5 years with Rovers and although primarily a back rower he also has plenty of experience at stand off half.

GRAHAM STEADMAN (Full Back/Stand Off) Castleford's club record signing Graham joined the club from near neighbours Featherstone in a £170,000 deal seven seasons back. Previously with York he has been a consistent points scorer throughout his career. Having gained representative honours at stand off a switch to full back took Graham to even further success including a starring role on the 1992 GB tour to Australia. Last season Graham moved around the back line but his form was maintained which was recognised by his award as the sponsors player of the season.

DEAN SAMPSON (Prop Forward) Strong running prop, Dean has been a big favourite for a number of years at Cas. He won GB Under 21 honours and then added a tour call up, as a late replacement to the party in New Zealand back in 1992. It remains a mystery to many why he then seemed to drop out of the representative scene but he made a return with the England squad for last terms World Cup, winning three caps. A Stanley ARL product whose father Dave was both a player and coach with Castleford.

GARETH STEPHENS Recruited two terms back, Gareth returned to his junior roots at Cas, and the club where his father played, having started out his professional career with Leeds. Despite gaining GB under 21 honours Gareth was unable to secure a regular slot at Headingley and Cas moved in to secure his signature when their scrum half spot became vacant. The new qualification rules paved the way for Welsh representative honour for him, touring the USA last summer, gaining a place in the Wales World Cup squad and then representing the Principality in the Fiji "nines".

IAN SMALES A big money capture three years ago from neighbours Featherstone, Ian immediately established himself in the Cas second row giving 100% effort to the team cause. A Gt Britain tourist Ian has switched from his original position in the back division to the pack but still has an eye for the try-line, reaching double figures in his first season at the club. Originally with Castleford amateurs Lock Lane before joining Rovers, Ian's work rate is a big plus to the club.

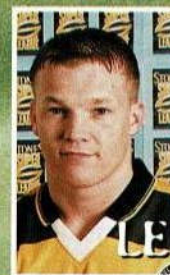
JASON FLOWERS A local product from Redhill ARL who graduated through the clubs Academy team, Jason has proved himself at first team level showing great strength on both attack and defence. Earned GB Academy representative honours in the 1994 tour of Australia and is tipped by some good judges to gain senior representative honours.

GRANT ANDERSON (Centre) Made a welcome return to the club after a two year "break" with Halifax, Grant provides a number of positional options for his coach. Many at the club were disappointed when he left Cas to link up with Mal Reilly at Thrum Hall, having appreciated his no nonsense tackling and strong bursts. Having gained four GB Under 21 caps Grant still has plenty of time to fulfil his earlier promise that looked likely to bring more honours.

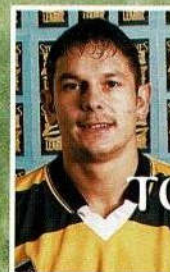
COLIN MASKILL A local product who started his professional career with Wakefield Trinity before having a long and successful spell with Leeds. He then had a term with Doncaster when the "Dons" were having their moment of glory in the top flight. Colin has been unlucky not to gain representative honours in a long career and Cas were glad to bring his experience to the club when injury ruled out Richard Russell for the whole of last season.

JAMIE COVENTRY (Utility Back) Local prospect who joined the club from the Travellers Saints ARL. A stand off as a junior, when he gained England Schools honours, Jamie had a good run on the wing last term when he deservedly won Academy representative honours. Another player who followed his father's footsteps to Castleford.

LEE CROOKS



LEE HARLAND



TONY SMITH

Academy...

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Our Academy team has lost on its last two outings, a 26 points to 20 defeat at the hands of a strong Batley side when we must have conceded nearly a stone a man in weight, but our hearts were in the right place because the lads gave everything they had. Due to holidays and injuries in the Alliance side we had to play eight of our 16 year old boys which I think was just a couple too many, but they will have benefited from this experience and hopefully go on to better things. Making their debuts were Leon Wilkes, James Bowmer, Simon Svabic, Mark Powell, Miles Mitten and Neil Kerfoot, all 16 years of age. That's besides our full back Jason Brassington and Dale Aldred our loose forward who are like seasoned campaigners because they have played a few matches, but one must not lose sight of the fact that these two are still only 16. I am confident that once these lads get used to the different pace of the game and playing on big pitches you will see a big difference in them. Commiserations must go to our scrum half Chris Wheeler who has just started to get on the bench for the 'A' team due to some outstanding displays in the Academy, when a freak injury caused him to crack his sternum in this match which will put him out for at least 6 weeks.

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	L 18-26
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	W 42-32
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	W 16-13
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	W 28-20
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	W 56-14
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 @ Roddile Borough	3.30pm	
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR	
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm	

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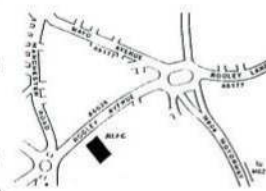
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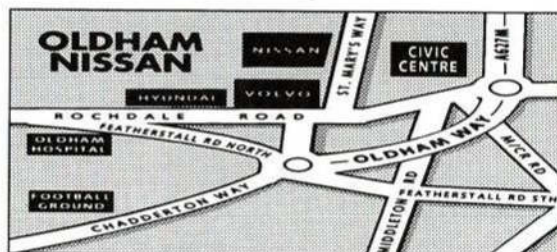
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WHAT'S New

Today Don...

Oldham Juniors Make Their Mark

Travelling around the country watching Rugby League as I do, it is interesting to watch the progress of former Oldham juniors who have made a mark in the game. It was pleasing to note that no fewer than seven former local juniors were involved in last months European Championship decider in Cardiff.

Appearing in the Welsh team were Iestyn Harris and Martin Hall and the English ranks contained Steve Molloy, Paul Sculthorpe and Barrie McDermott. Coach to the English team was Phil Larder whilst travelling reserve Matt Calland played his part by running on with the sand. The following weekend I was at Wakefield whose strings are being pulled by scrum half and former Oldham junior Mike Ford. On the bench for Trinity was Andy Proctor who has been starring in the Saddleworth Rangers pack in recent seasons. We wish him well in his professional career but I know that his presence will be badly missed up at Shaw Hall Bank Road.

Wilkes On The Way

Last month I was up at Barrow who are currently going through a rather lean spell. On the bench for Barrow was Kristian Wilkes who was at Watersheddings twelve months ago. He is a former Barrow junior who came down to Oldham with a posse of young Barrow hopefuls. Although Wilkes did not settle here at Watersheddings he has signed for his local club and is now progressing well. There is no doubt that

first team opportunities will come his way much quicker at Craven Park than they would at Watersheddings. We wish him all the best in his professional career and hope that he is able to help Barrow regain the status in the game which they enjoyed not to many years ago.

Amateurs In Training

Rugby League amateurs throughout the country will be starting their pre season training about now for the big amateur kick off on August 24th. Fixtures have not yet been issued but when they are we will keep you informed through this page.

Champions Challenge

The big pre season tournament in the amateur game is the Champions Challenge which is staged at Twist Lane, Leigh, the home of Leigh Miners Welfare. Eight teams are involved in this competition which begins at 1.30pm on Saturday, 3rd August. Quarter final ties are on Saturday and Sunday, 3rd/4th August (1.30 & 3pm kick-offs), semi-finals on Saturday 10th August and the final on Saturday 17th August. The Quarter final draw is Ellenborough Rangers v Skirlaugh (a repeat of the BNFL National Cup Final), Wigan St. Patricks v Simms Cross, Wigan St. Judes v Thatto Heath and Leigh Miners Welfare v Woolston Rovers. This tournament is one of the highlights of the amateur season and invariably produces entertainment of the highest quality. I recommend that you attend and see just how good the amateur game can be.

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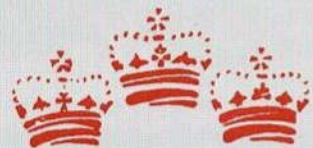
Thoughts from the Terraces...

It was no surprise to read Alex Murphy last week bemoaning the switch to summer rugby, and calling for an immediate abandonment of the change, and a reversion to winter rugby. If there was anything more designed to make the game look stupid, I can't imagine it. To decide to change after less than one full season would make us a complete laughing stock. And who says that the missing crowds would come back in winter, anyway? No, we have to stick to the change, and try harder to make it work.

On the other hand, I think Martyn Sadler in 'League Express' was much closer to the mark. He asked the rhetorical question: "Can you believe that any other organisation in the world would change its market stance in such a radical way as we have done this season without spending a penny on promotion?" The answer is obvious. Oh for a proper marketing strategy! So many opportunities have been allowed to pass by - the last RL World Cup, the games Centenary and then the launch of Super League, not to mention the superb '96 Cup Final and Wigan's RU exploits all represented major highs for the game which ought to have been the focus of a clearly targeted campaign to spread the message. Instead, we spend our time arguing about whether

Huddersfield should be fast tracked, or Blackpool allowed into Division 2. Talk about fiddling while Rome burns.

A lot of people were moaning about the Paris tactics at Boundary Park, where John Kear had obviously coached them to slow down the play the balls as much as they could get away with. But I can't agree. Prior to Kear coming in, the French side had been leaking an average of 43 points per game, and were heading nowhere. Surely a coach's job is to try to help his side win matches, and any tactics within the rules of the game are legitimate. Does anyone believe that Andy Goodway told our lads to roll away as quickly as possible after they had tackled Wigan players on December 17 1995? Of course not. The man responsible for the success of the tactics was the referee, it was he who allowed them to go on all game and any resulting lack of entertainment is surely down to him. Let us hope for a more free flowing game today, with hopefully a ref who not only insists on quick play the ball, but also stamps down on intimidatory tactics from the outset, remembering our experience at Wheldon Road earlier in the season.



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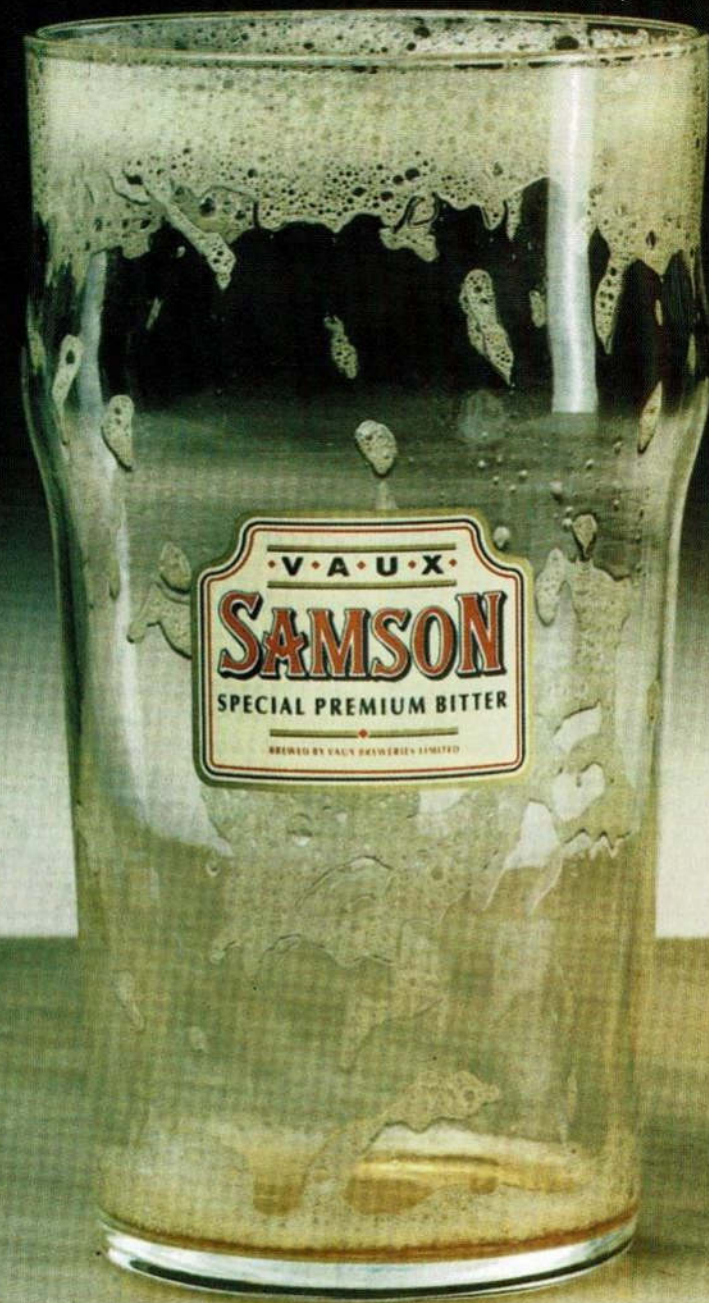
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Record

Oldham's victory at Castleford last April has enabled the Roughyeds to go into this afternoon's match looking for their first League double over Castleford since season 1973/74 when they won 14-13 at Watersheddings and followed that up with a superb 25-12 victory at Wheldon Road. Today's game is the 57th meeting between these clubs. Of the previous 56, Oldham have won 22, Castleford have won 32 and the other two have ended all square. Forty-seven of those previous matches have been League games and have ended in 18 Oldham wins, 27 Castleford victories and two draws. Oldham's biggest win at Wheldon Road came in January 1942 when winger Lees scored a hat-trick of tries in the Roughyeds 31-16 success. Oldham's biggest home win came in October 1985 when Castleford were beaten 46-22 at Watersheddings. The following January Castleford extracted revenge by recording their best home win over Oldham who crashed 28-4 at Wheldon Road. Fourteen months later, in March 1987 Castleford pulled off their biggest win at Watersheddings when they won here 29-6. Home supporters will be hoping that there is not a repeat this afternoon.

RESULTS OF THE OLDHAM - CASTLEFORD MATCHES DURING THE PAST TEN SEASONS.

1987-88	Did not meet
1988-89	Castleford 22 Oldham 19 Oldham 34 Castleford 18
1989-90	Did not meet
1990-91	Oldham 28 Castleford 22 Castleford 28 Oldham 10
1991-92	Did not meet

1992-93	Oldham 22 Castleford 40 (Regal Trophy)
1993-94	Castleford 34 Oldham 16 Oldham 10 Castleford 28
1994-95	Castleford 34 Oldham 14 Oldham 10 Castleford 18
1995-96	Castleford 28 Oldham 22 Oldham 25 Castleford 20
1996	Castleford 20 Oldham 24

DETAILS OF CASTLEFORD'S LAST VISIT TO WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday, 19th November 1995
Stones Centenary Championship
OLDHAM 25 CASTLEFORD 20
half-time 18-12, attendance 2,620
Oldham tries: Darren Abram, Paul Topping, Wally Gibson and Chris McKinney
Goals: Steve Gartland (4)
Drop-goal: Steve Gartland
Castleford tries: Adrian Flynn, Simon Middleton and Tony Smith
Goals: Lee Crooks (4)
Oldham: Paul Atcheson; Scott Ranson, Paul Topping, Darren Abram, Wally Gibson, Steve Gartland, Martin Crompton, Ian Sherratt, Iyan Green, Jason Temu, Paul Davidson, Gary Lord and Howard Hill. Subs: Rob Myler, Joe Faimalo, Francis Maloney and Chris McKinney.
Castleford: Jason Flowers; Chris Smith, Richard Goddard, Adrian Flynn, Simon Middleton; Graham Steadman, Tony Smith; Lee Crooks, Colin Maskill, Dean Sampson, Lee Harland, Andrew Schick and Tawera Nikau. Subs: Jamie Coventry, Nathan Sykes, Stuart Flowers and Ian Tonks.

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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.	31.
1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709	●																														
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932		●																													
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327																															
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm	25-16	3,350																															
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396																															
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181																															
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm	10-30	4,228																															
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	5.30pm	10-23	3,200																															
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm	27-29	2,228																															
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm	28-22	4,629																															
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm	35-24	3,243																															
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm	16-44	7,226																															
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm	14-20	4,591																															
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm	6-24	2,548																															
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm	28-26	6,754																															
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		6.00pm																																	
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																																	
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLES		6.00pm																																	

RUGBY RECALL OLDHAM V CASTLEFORD

1. In May 1992, which Wigan player was voted Stones Bitter Man of Steel?
2. Name the former Penrith Panthers hooker who succeeded Noel Cleal as coach of Hull FC in May 1992?
3. If you dialled 01535 602602 which Second Division club would you be trying to contact?
4. Which former Third Division team were nicknamed 'The Outlaws'?
5. Which former Third Division team played home matches at The McCain Stadium?
6. At the start of which season was the value of a try raised from 3 points to 4 points?
7. One player each from Oldham and Castleford went on the 1974 tour of Australia and New Zealand, can you name either?
8. One of the two players in the last question, also went on the 1979 tour, which one, and which club side did he then play for?
9. Name the five Oldham players who went on the 1984 tour?
10. Two players each from Oldham and Castleford went on the 1988 tour as part of the original squad, can you name them?

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ANSWERS
1. Dean Bell, 2. Royce Simmons, 3. Keighley Cougars, 4. Nottingham City, 5. Scarborough Pirates, 6. 1983/84, 7. Terry Clawson, Oldham and Steve Norton, 8. Steve Norton, Hull FC, 9. Ashton, Flanagan, Oldham and Steve Worrall, 10. M Ford and H Widdell, Oldham - K Beardmore and K Ward.
Castleford - Note: John Joyner went out later as a replacement

OLDHAM RLFC SUPER LEAGUE



Coach
ANDY GOODWAY
FOR SALE



Number 1
PAUL ATCHESON
Sheila & Grant Somerville



Number 2
SCOTT RANSON
Maureen Mitchell



Number 3
DARREN ABRAM
Sue Done



Number 4
PAUL TOPPING
Kevin Kershaw Assoc



Number 5
ROBERT MYLER
FOR SALE



Number 6
FRANCIS MALONEY
ARC Electrical



Number 7
MARTIN CROMPTON
Ian Taylor



Number 8
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Number 9
JOHN CLARKE
DI's HI-FRY



Number 10
JASON TEMU
SUE CORBETT



Number 11
GARY LORD
BRENDA ROGERS



Number 12
JOE FAIMALO
Dave Askew



Number 13
DAVID BRADBURY
Chris Done



Number 14
HOWARD HILL
Alex Hammond



Number 15
AFFI LEUILA
Pat & Shaun Whelan



Number 17
PAUL DAVIDSON
FOR SALE



Number 18
CHRIS MCKINNEY
FOR SALE



Number 19
IAN SHERRATT
FOR SALE



Number 21
MICHAEL NEIL
FOR SALE



Number 23
GARY BURNS
FOR SALE



Number 24
ANDREW PATMORE
FOR SALE



Number 25
MATTHEW MUNRO
Sue & Chris Done



STEVE GARTLAND
Number 16
Alex Hammond

CHRIS PARR
Number 22
Irene Calow

BUSTER BEAR
Ian Clarkson

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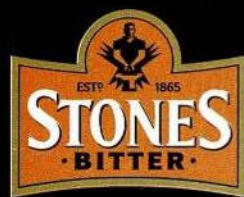
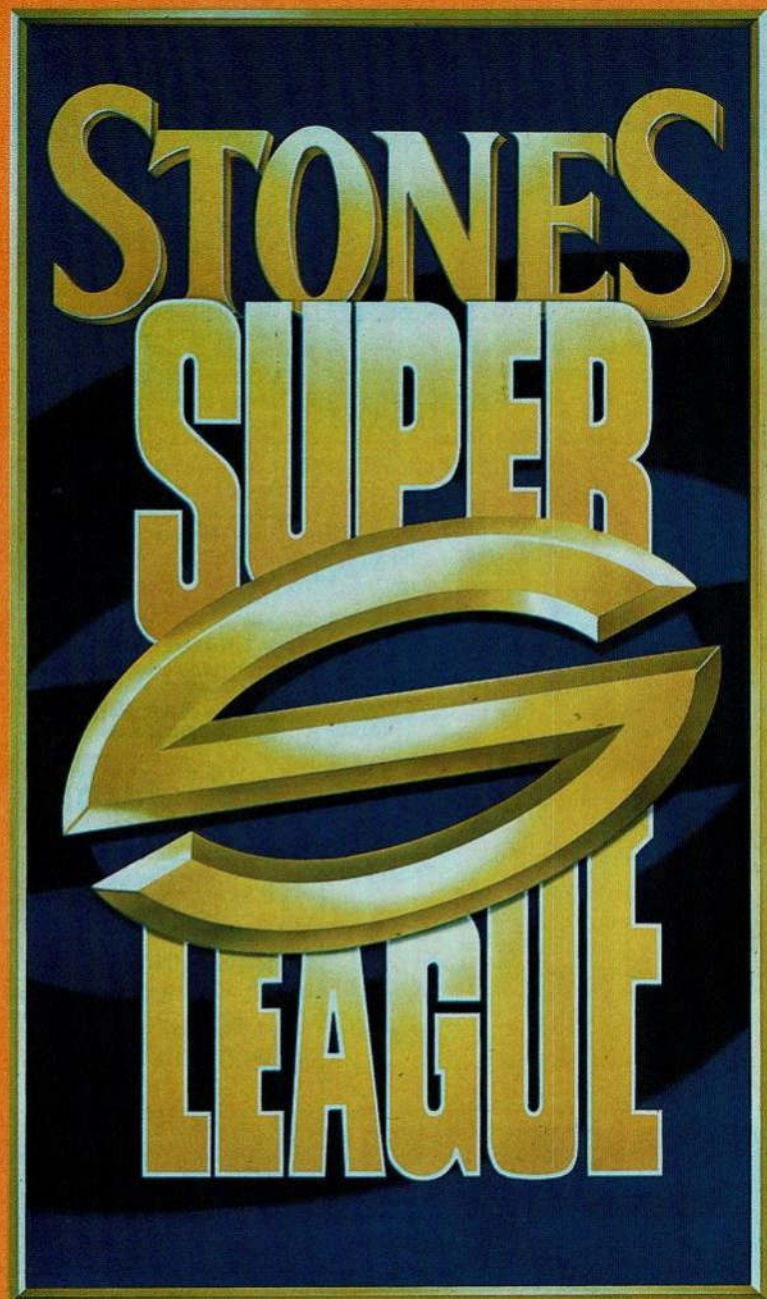
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NEWS From

Down Under...

'UGLY' WIN FOR WARRIORS... AUCKLAND 24 SOUTH SYDNEY 10

WARRIORS coach John Monie had mixed feelings after watching his side claim two precious Premiership points on their home track last Friday night. Monie described the style of Auckland's victory as "ugly" and "disappointing" but was more than happy to claim the spoils which take his team to the edge of the Optus Cup top eight. "Souths tried to get us into the arm-wrestle type of game and we fell for it," Monie admitted. "It was a bit of a disappointment, but, once again, it proved there are no easy games in this competition. It wasn't a pretty win, but last year we came up with some sensational losses, and I know which I prefer.

It was only in the final seven minutes of the match that Auckland put away their lowly-rated opponents by rattling on twelve unanswered points. Up until then the Rabbits had shown plenty of courage and commitment in matching their all star opponents. But the visitors were let down by almost complete reliance on star half back Craig Field for creativity. While they enjoyed equality of possession and territory they really looked capable of posing a serious attacking challenge.

Disappointed coach Ken Shine attributed that to a series of events outside his team's control. Elusive Darrell Trindall had to withdraw before the match, then both David Penna and Jacin Sinclair were out of the contest during the opening twelve minutes.

Steve Kearney, Brady Malam and Andy Platt were outstanding in the Auckland forwards, but much of their good work was negated by an almost complete lack of support play. An important contributing factor was undoubtedly the loss for 30 minutes of half back Stacey Jones. Once he returned from treatment on an injured back, the Aucklanders started going forward rather than across field.

It was Jones who sealed the victory when he showed surprising strength to burst clear of the combined attentions of Field and Paul Mellor to capitalise on creative lead-up work by Kearney and Gene Ngamu. Shine was bitterly disappointed that his team's undoubted courage and effort had not been rewarded with Premiership points on a day in which its' future prospects were boosted by the announcement of a substantial sponsorship deal from South Sydney juniors. "We came here to play good football," Shine reasoned. "I honestly felt that we deserved better fate."

NORTHS SHOW TRUE GRIT

PARRAMATTA 18 NORTH SYDNEY 20 at Parramatta Stadium
ARE THE BEARS true Premiership contenders? After Saturday's gutsy performance you would have to answer in the affirmative.

A man down for more than half the game, they dug deep and found that bit extra which carried them to victory over Parramatta. Substitute Danny Williams was dismissed for an alleged high tackle on the Eels' fullback, Rod Maybon. At the time Norths held a slender 12-10 lead. But they cut down their mistakes and turned in a supreme defensive effort as the Parramatta side began to panic. The stand-out defender was David Fairleigh, celebrating his return to the 'Test' team. Fairleigh was drafted into the side to play the Fiji Selection on Friday after Dean Pay was ruled out with a broken thumb. Ironically, Parramatta sadly missed Pay's presence against Norths. Fairleigh led the tackle count with 31. He was well supported by prop Gary Larson with 25 tackles and centre Greg Florimo with 21. How we fans are being spoiled of late! After a series of sensational games in recent weeks, the trend continued on the weekend, first with the Newcastle-Canberra game and then the Parramatta-Norths clash. Saturday's Parramatta Stadium effort proved to be one of the most exciting games of the season. More displays like that and the fans, who deserted in droves at the height of the Super League war, will be back in the stands.

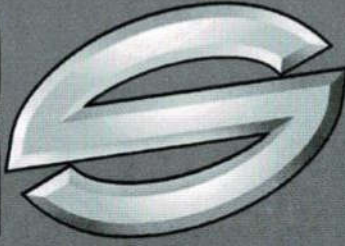
LATE TRY SNATCHES DRAW

WESTERN REDS 14 GOLD COAST 14 at WACA Ground

A TRY by winger Chris Ryan in the dying minutes of the game, enabled the Western Reds to snatch a draw against the Gold Coast.

It was very nearly a win for the home side. But Julian O'Neill's conversion attempt from wide out hit the left upright and bounced away. The Reds, on a high after their shock victory over Manly five days earlier, looked likely to have an easy evening after racing to a 10-nil lead just before half-time. But a revitalised Chargers' outfit surged back, with three tries in 13 minutes, to take the lead, 14-10, with eight minutes of the game remaining. But Ryan's try with less than three minutes on the clock evened the scores.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

33

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

Oldham Bears



Main Picture: Martin Crompton looking for support.
Inset top left: David Bradbury looking to offload.
Inset middle right: Adrian Belle congratulating Francis Maloney after scoring a great try against Leeds.
Inset bottom left: Gary Lord getting some close attention.

STONES SUPER LEAGUE CAPTION COMPETITION...



Stones Bitter, sponsors to the Stones Super League, is giving fans a great chance to have a bit of fun and at the same time win five cases of Stones Bitter.

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The best five entries will each receive five cases of Stones Bitter.



CAPTION

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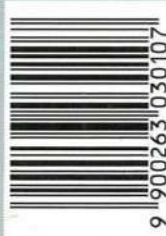
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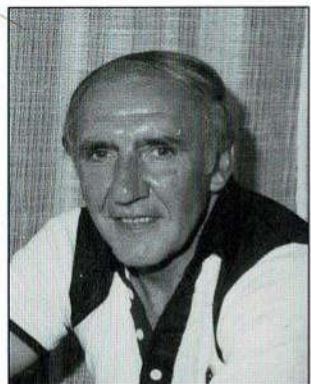
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News



Meeting of the DDA held at The Friendship Inn on Wednesday 3rd July confirmed a genuine lack of interest for the Mini League being held on Sunday mornings. This raises a great cause for concern regarding the

development of the game. We know from experience that the kids themselves love this competition, but ask, why the sudden drop off in attendance? Is it the early start? Would the parents prefer to go back to Wednesday evenings as last season?

Last season the turnouts were excellent and if it's

the Sunday morning starts that are putting you off then PLEASE TELL YOUR COACHES who are running the teams and ask them to tell us and we will arrange to have the games played midweek. **WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUNGSTERS TO FADE AWAY.**

We are trying to get our summer coaching dates out as soon as possible when youngsters will be able to go to different venues for their Cub Awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold so watch this space. Courses will be taking place at Oldham Rugby, Waterhead Park, Hathershaw Sports Centre, Churchill Playing Fields and Failsworth Sports Centre so watch out for our Rugby League summer leaflet with the times and dates of courses in.

Yours in sport
Brian Gartland

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OVER To You

Roger...

by Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

CAN Oldham make a serious challenge for a top-four play-off spot? We will have a better idea at around 4.30 this afternoon, but if the Bears can manage to complete their third Super League double of the summer there is no reason why, at least, they shouldn't make life hot for the two clubs immediately above them in the table, Warrington and London Broncos.

Before the start of round 16 on Friday night, the Bears had crept into sixth place with 15 points from 15 games - two points fewer than Broncos and three fewer than the Wire. The interesting thing is that Andy Goodway's men have still to play them both, London at home on August 20 and Warrington away the following weekend.

Then comes the final game of the season against Sheffield at home, the Eagles currently lying in seventh spot with 14 points to Oldham's 15.

Though Andy probably won't thank me for saying so, it seems to me that, while Warrington remain favourites to take fourth place in the play-off, Broncos, Oldham and possibly the Eagles will all be in with an outside shout in the event of Wire faltering in the run-in.

The race for spot No 4 was thrown wide open by the Wire's defeat at Halifax last Sunday, while London were hammering Sheffield and Oldham were gaining their fourth win in five outings with victory at Leeds.

So far as Oldham's chances are concerned I think a great deal will depend on the outcome of today's game against Cas. On the face of it, London should have won in Paris yesterday, while Warrington will not expect too much difficulty in returning to winning ways today up at Workington. Anything can happen in the Sheffield-Leeds game, but with Oldham having to take on St. Helens and Bradford in their next two rounds I would say it is imperative they beat the men from Wheldon Road if they are to mount a serious challenge. Four of the Bears' last seven games are at home and I would respectfully suggest that Andy's men have already done more

than was expected of them at the start of the season by most followers of the game in and around Oldham. It's a long time since Oldham did the double over Leeds AND Halifax.

If you like what you see today, make a date for the Saints game at Boundary Park next Friday - and take a mate as well. In victory or defeat, he might be pleasantly surprised at what Super League has to offer.

Roger Halstead

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