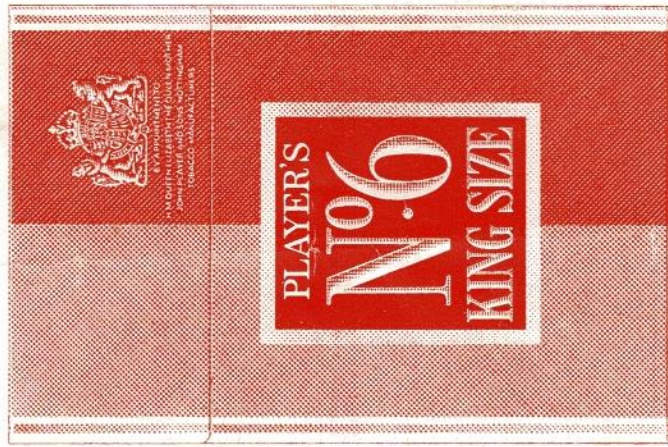


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Borough Notes

Blackpool Borough's unbeaten run in the League now extends to seven matches, but postponement of the game at Halifax last week robbed us of a chance to make it eight.

Borough were anxious to switch fixtures and bring the match to Borough Park in exchange for the re-arranged home fixture on May 17th.

Halifax showed a lack of enthusiasm for this idea—understandably perhaps, when you consider how important the two games are certain to be to the two clubs' promotion ambitions.

Either side would prefer home advantage in the first game, to try to get "one-up" on the opposition and give themselves a better chance in the return.

It's getting to the stage now where every Second Division result has to be scrutinised for its relevance to the promotion issues.

Borough's enforced idleness gave Dewsbury the chance to ease their way into fourth place, on the strength of a slightly better points difference; but that is balanced by York's defeat at the hands of New Hunslet.

Borough now have two games in hand on third-placed York, and are only a point behind. The promotion race is clearly poised on a knife-edge.

The last visitors to Borough Park were one of the few teams without any chance of going up, Doncaster.

Despite their lowly position, they put up a gutsy performance against a Borough team that was never quite at its best.

Mayor, Redford, Turley and Brelsford got tries—the final touch-down was a real classic effort. Turley and Fairhurst dropped goals and Fairhurst also put three place kicks over to bring up his hundred points for the season.

Alan, who is so far ahead of the field in the Supporters' Club Player of the Year voting, that he cannot be caught, is the first Borough player for several years to top the century.

The last centurion for Borough was Brian Curry with 113. Alan should overhaul him within the next game or two, but he still has some way to go to match Peter Fearis' club record of 201.

The Doncaster match was also notable for the debut of Mick Murphy, Borough's quick signing to replace the injured Jimmy Hamilton.

The club was very fortunate to find a prop of Murphy's skill and experience at such short notice, and the hope is that his four-match loan from his French Club, St. Jacques, will be extended to the end of the season.

Murphy certainly looks a valuable acquisition in his first game. It's now a question of Borough looking for the clever way he gets rid of the ball in the tackle, and cashing in on it.

The man he replaced, Jim Hamilton, was a very welcome spectator at the match, looking cheerful despite his disappointment, and moving around on his crutches with considerable agility.

Batty's Scene

by BRIAN BATTY (Daily Mail)

Humberside's hopes of a Wembley triumph have been destroyed for another season by one club — Bradford Northern.

But there is no doubt that this area of the game has begun to match that on Merseyside as a hotbed of sport in terms of support.

In a week that saw Widnes take around 70 coaches and more than 6,000 fans to Huddersfield for their third round tie, the masses were on the march from Hull.

The result was that Bradford Northern who already boast powerful support were packing in a 20,000 crowd at the Odsal stadium to the strains of 'Old Faithful'.

And those of us at nearby Fartown that same afternoon were delighted to see a 10,000 crowd defying the bitter weather to form a colourful backcloth on those little trod Huddersfield terraces.

Hull had not finished giving us a taste of its magnificent support for the third round replay at the Boulevard was another memorable occasion.

We had 17,000 fans jamming in tightly with youngsters lining the roof of the famous Threepenny Stand for a sight that won't easily be forgotten.

And along the road at Craven Park we have Roger Millward's men determined to reward their great band of fans with something tangible this season.

Rodger the Dodger must wonder now if Wembley has eluded him completely when a lot of people had fancied the Rovers for a long Cup run.

It was a pity that the weather should cause so much disruption of early Challenge Cup-ties to hit gates.

But the response in certain ties has been tremendous and has proved that this competition still has the greatest drawing power of all.

I am confident that we can look forward to another top crowd for the Wembley final.

It is just a blow on the other hand that some clubs needing cash from the bread and butter stakes are losing out in gates for the League matches.

With so many postponements clubs are going to have to hope that fans will dig into their pockets several times in a short space as they complete their programmes.

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West Lancs. Evening Gazette

FOR ALL SPORT

RESULTS

REPORTS — COMMENTS

First and Foremost in the Fylde

The Gazette
Green

OLDHAM

Cherry and White

- 1—CHRIS O'BRIEN
- 2—MIKE ELLIOTT
- 3—PHIL LARDER
- 4—STEVE LUND
- 5—ERIC FITZSIMONS
- 6—GEOFF MUNRO
- 7—JOHN PATERSON
- 8—JIM FIDDLER
- 9—ROGER O'MAHONEY
- 10—IAN TAYLOR
- 11—COLIN HAWKYARD
- 12—STEVE HERBERT
- 13—PETER JEWITT
- 14—
- 15—

Referee : R. Moore (Wakefield)

Touch Judges : D. Bowes (Swinton) E. Glazebrook (Wigan)

BOROUGH

(Tangerine, Black and White)

- 1—DOUG ROBINSON
- 2—NORMAN BRELSFORD
- 3—PAUL MACHEN
- 4—TONY REDFORD
- 5—GRAHAM MAYOR
- 6—ALAN FAIRHURST
- 7—BAK DIABIRA
- 8—MICK MURPHY
- 9—PETER CLARKE
- 10—PAUL GAMBLE
- 11—NEVILLE PARKER
- 12—JIM MOLYNEUX
- 13—NORMAN TURLEY
- 14—MIKE CHESTER
- 15—BILL LOMAX

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BODDINGTON'S BITTER

Oldham

It's been an up and down sort of season for Oldham. They were unbeaten at home until Borough won there on November 26th, but their form since then has been too inconsistent to take them beyond the fringes of the promotion battle.

Defeat at home to promotion rivals Bramley last week gave a further dent to their hopes, but, with the highly-respected Graham Starkey at the helm, Oldham are one of the sides that could still come good with a late run.

A man who they hope will do a good deal to help is their recent signing from Leigh, Jim Fiddler.

Fiddler started his career at Leigh and won a Challenge Cup Winners' medal in 1971. After that he had spells with Salford and Bramley before moving back to Leigh briefly. He also came on loan to Blackpool for a few games in 1969.

Oldham paid £8,000 for him a couple of months ago, and for that they got one of the best all-round kickers in the game.

Although a reliable goalkicker, it is Fiddler's shrewd tactical kicking that catches the eye most.

His prop forward play is also distinguished by some very slick handling.

Like Borough, Oldham have recently been involved in a 'French Connection' transfer deal.

Their man from across the Channel is former Bradford Northern and Great Britain Colts centre, Tony Newell.

Tony cost £2,000 from the Perpignan club, St. Esteve. Oldham have had some bad luck with injuries to some of their other recent purchases.

Ex-Workington loose forward Bob Blackwood has been out with an infected foot, while former Swinton centre, Phil Ward, has had injury problems in the year since he came to Watersheddings.

Another key man who has been out is lively little scrum half John Paterson, who broke an arm early in the season and has just made his comeback.

After his injury, Oldham invested in two half backs, both of them highly promising. Jimmy Arnold came from Swinton, and scrum half Chris Ogden from junior rugby; both made a considerable early impact.

Of the longer-serving backs, full back Martin Murphy is probably the best known. He has spent all his career as a loyal servant of Oldham, and many think that he is the best uncapped full back in the game—a situation which might have been rectified if he had played for a bigger club.

Experienced centre, Phil Larder has been superseded as goalkicker by Fiddler, but he holds his place for his considerable all-round ability.

Others who have had their moments this season are strong wingman Steve Lund, and utility back, Colin North.

Experience is the keynote in the pack, where Fiddler and Blackwood are supported by such as Chris Charles and Peter Frodsham. These two props signed from St. Helens and Salford respectively, have now both settled differences with the club.

Roger O'Mahoney is a consistent hooker who is regarded as a good striker for the ball, and former Borough man, Fred Hall, is still grafting away in the second row.

BOROUGH SUPPORTER'S CLUB

are running a coach to Whitehaven on Sunday, April 8th.

Anyone interested please contact Mrs. Evans on St. Annes 720457 or any Committee member.

_____ :: :: _____

WEMBLEY, 1979.

Following last year's full house at Wembley, there has already been a terrific demand for tickets for this year's Challenge Cup Final on Saturday, 5th May. Seating tickets are completely sold out and demand is growing for the Standing Tickets, priced only £2.00. Standing Tickets can now be obtained from this club by simply contacting the Club Secretary or tickets can still be obtained from Rugby League Headquarters by sending the appropriate cheque or postal order together with a stamped addressed envelope to :- **The Ticket Office, The Rugby Football League, 180, Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 4HT**

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LANCASHIRE COMBINATION

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NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DIVISION II

FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1978-79

Kick-off 3 p.m. (unless otherwise stated)

August
18—Whitchaven Away L 12-15
(Lancs. Cup 1st Round)
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))

September
3—SWINTON Home Lost 7-33
10—Dewsbury Away Lost 9-14
Kick-off 3-30 p.m.
17—Batley Away Won 12-6
24—Warrington Away Lost 4-14
30—AUSTRALIA Home Lost 1-39
(Saturday)

October
8—HUYTON Home Won 22-18
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
15—NEW HUNSLET Home Lost 5-8
22—Swinton Away Won 18-16
29—KEIGHLEY Home Draw 5-5

November
12—DEWSBURY Home Won 10-3
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
19—Hull Away Lost 13-14
26—Oldham Away Won 7-6

December
3—PLAYER'S No. 6 (2)
10—BATLEY Home Won 28-10
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
17—YORK Home Won 31-12
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

February
4—BRAMLEY Home Draw 8-8
Kick-off 3-30 p.m.
25—Dewsbury (Cup) Away Lost 6-13

March
4—Keighley Away Won 14-13
Kick-off 3-15 p.m.
11—Bramley Away Won 17-8
18—DONCASTER Home Won 20-3
25—Halifax Away P
Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

April
1—OLDHAM Home
8—Whitehaven Away
15—New Hunslet Away
Kick-off 3-30 p.m.
22—Huyton Away
29—HULL Home

May
7—Doncaster Kick-off 6.30 p.m.
Monday
13—York Away
20—WHITEHAVEN Home
17—HALIFAX Home
(Kick-off 7-00 p.m.)

All First Team games to be played on Sundays (unless otherwise stated)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE
LANCASHIRE COMBINATION

'A' TEAM FIXTURES for Season 1978-9

September
2—ST. HELENS Home
(Lancashire Shield 1st Leg)
9—WIGAN Home Lost 4-39
16—SWINTON Home Lost 12-16
23—Warrington T. Away Postponed
29—Widnes Away Lost 3-31
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))

October
7—WORKINGTON Home Lost 10-24
14—Leigh Away Lost 9-23
23—St. Helens Away Draw 18-18
(Lancashire Shield 2nd Leg)
Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Monday)

November
4—WIDNES Home Lost 9-13
18—LEIGH Home Lost 5-23
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
25—ST. HELENS Home Lost 15-28
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

December
1—Salford Postponed Away
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))
8—Wigan Away Lost 8-14
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))

All 'A' Team games played on Saturdays (unless otherwise stated)

February
16—Barrow Away Lost 7-13
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

February
3—ROCHDALE Home Lost 15-17
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

March
3—BARROW Home Lost 4-15
9—St. Helens Away Lost 3-28
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))
17—Warrington T. Away Lost 2-42
Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
22—Swinton Away Lost 16-22
Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Thursday)
24—SALFORD Home P.
27—Salford Away Lost 3-16
30—Rochdale H. Kick-off 7-30 p.m.
(Kick-off 7-30 p.m. (Friday))

April
5—Oldham Kick-off 7-30 p.m. Away
Thursday
10—Warrington Kick-off 7-30 p.m. Away
Tuesday
14—OLDHAM Kick-off 7-30 p.m. Home
21—WARRINGTON Kick-off 7-30 p.m. Home

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HULL:	96-104 George Street, Hull	Tel: 041-886 5731
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LONDON:	100 London Road, Hackbridge, Wallington, Surrey	Tel: 01-428 6888
LONDON:	Hayes (Middlesex)	Tel: 01-573 184
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