Teams

OLDHAM

(Red/White hoops, Blue shorts)

1 Martin Murphy
2 Eric Fitzsimmons
3 Phil Larder
4 Phil Ward
5 Geoff Munro
6 Bill Francis
7 Johnny Paterson
8 Jim Fiddler
9 Roger O'Mahoney
10 Ian Taylor
11 Alan Forster
12 Gary Walczak
13 Colin Hawkyard

14 Jimmy Arnold
15 Terry Flanagan

Warrington

(white/primrose & blue chevron)

1 Derek Finnegan
2. David Sutton
3. Steve Hesford
4. Billy Benyon
5. John Bevan
6. Ken Kelly
7. Jimmy Fairhurst
8. Steve Hogan
9. Tony Waller
10 Roy Lester
11 Brian Case
12 John Whittaker
13 Alan Gwilliam

14 Eddie Hurter
15 Anthony Worrall

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th
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HUYTON

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Vice-chairman - J. Bowden
Treasurer - K. Broadbent

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Coaching Staff : Graham Starkey (manager) Terry Gorman (asst. manager)
Bill Francis (player/coach) Bob Welding (A team coach)
Brian Gartland (colt's coach)

Professional playing staff:
Jimmy Arnold - Dennis Ashcroft - Ray Ashton - Harold Byram - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley - Peter Deakin - Jim Fiddler - Eric Fitzsimons - Kevin Flanagan - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Dave Fricker - Andrew Goodway - Fred Hall - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Hebert - Keith Jackson - Clive Jones - Paddy Kerwin - Phil Larder - Steve Littler - Steve Lund - Jeff Munro - Martin Murphy - Tony Newall - Chris O'Brien - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Kevin O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Ian Radcliffe - Warren Ryans - Ian Taylor - Garry Walczak - John Walls - Mike Worrall.

Physiotherapist: **Asst. Physiotherapist:**
Secretary - K. Wilkinson
Commercial Manager - Peter Mason
Public relations officer - Barbara Wilde
Groundsman : F. Brookes **Asst. Groundsman :** M. Bashforth

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K.R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£4,897 v Leeds 3rd March 1968
Record transfer fee paid	£10,650 to Workington for Ike Southward March 1959
Record transfer fee received	£11,002 : 10s from workington for Ike Southward Jan 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 pts v Liverpool City April 59

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners:	1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55.
First Division Champions:	1904-05
Second Division Champions:	1963-64
Rugby League Challenge Cup winners:	1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up:	1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
Lancashire Cup winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners:	1907-08, 1909-10, 1021-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield winners:	1975-76

'We Welcome Our Visitors'

WARRINGTON, the First Division giants, come to Watersheddings today in the second round of the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup, and they must be among the favourites to take the trophy off their near and deadly rivals, Widnes.

Last season the Wires did superbly under the guidance of player-coach Bill Benyon, the former St. Helens centre, and finished as runners-up to Hull KR in the First Division.

They ended up only two points behind the Rovers, winning 22 of their 30 matches and producing the second best defensive record in the division behind Widnes.

They also reached the final of the John Player Competition in one of their most successful seasons for a long time.

Perhaps the surprising thing was that many people expected the famous Wires to go through a period of transition following the departure of coach Alex Murphy and the appointment of Benyon as his successor. Not on your life!

Benyon continued where Murphy had left off and the Wires went from strength to strength. They are indeed a side which could well challenge for more honours this season.

They have a nice blend of experience and youth, a tough pack, and one of the game's best goalkickers in centre, Steve Hesford, who finished second behind Hull's Sammy Lloyd in the game's goal-scoring charts last season.

And Hesford continued where he left off by kicking seven brilliant goals in the first round win against Wigan, two of them from near half way.

For various reasons Warrington might well be without some of their better known players today - players like Mike Nicholas, Tommy Martyn, Ian Potter and Bob Eccles.

But they will still field a side capable of beating the best with player-coach Benyon and Test winger John Bevan forming one of the strongest left-flank partnerships in the game.

Spring-heeled Ken Kelly, who was picked to tour but had to withdraw because of a jaw injury, will form a top-notch half-back pair with either Jimmy Fairhurst or the long-serving and evergreen Parry Gordon, who has now been elevated to a position on the Wilderspool coaching staff.

Steve Hogan, the former Barrow prop, may be at No. 8 alongside Tony Waller and Roy Lester, the ex-Leigh lad.

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ALL TYPES OF MACHINE CUT GEARS AND BEVELS IN METRIC & ENGLISH

Against Wigan last week Brian Case and John Whittaker were in the second-row but Whittaker was injured and must be doubtful for today's clash. All round, Warrington have a side that could make a big impact this season and they will provide Oldham with a huge test.

It is the first time the teams have met in the county cup since the semi-final of 1965. Let's hope the standard of play and the entertainment value make it a game worthy of the long wait!

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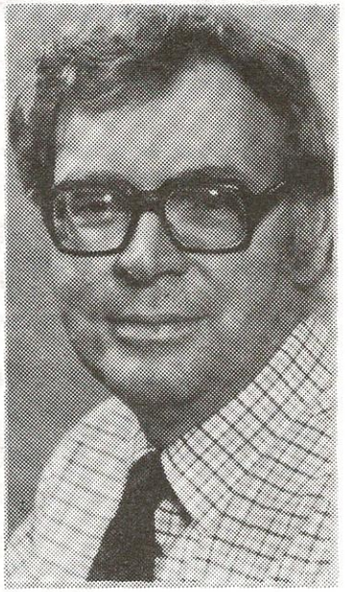
ROGER'S REPORT

BY ROGER HALSTEAD
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)



OLDHAM have made the Rugby League world sit up and take notice, thanks to their bold decision to 'sign up' a soccer-style team of managers and coaches.

Some clubs will watch with interest: other with cynicism. 'But they will all be keeping a check on Oldham's results and it they have a good season other clubs could well adopt Oldham's bold policies'', says League secretary David Oxley.

The idea is a great one. An obvious pit-fall would be a break-down of policies and ideas among the Big Five. They can't all think alike all the time, but if the 'team' continues to work well together it cannot fail, given time, to give Oldham a solid foundation on which to build the Watersheddings of tomorrow.

There is still a tremendous amount of old-fashioned thinking in the game today. It reflects itself in many ways, not least in the manner inwhich the Aussies have left us years behind in so many aspects of team preparation.

At Oldham right now, there is not only one team to prepare, but three. And that is only the tip of the iceberg. What about setting up and running an efficient scouting system? What about supervising and offering instruction in the use of the multi-gym the club has had installed in the lavish new facilities in the pavilion?

I had a little chuckle when I read the Swinton programme notes last week. The writer described Terry Gorman as Oldham's assistant manager, but seemed surprised that, in that capacity, he should be responsible for bringing young players to Watersheddings.

He had, of course, completely missed the point of the Oldham experiment, namely, that whatever titles they hold, all five men are working together for the club and will tackle anything that comes along.

They have had long talks together to ensure that they are preaching the same gospel to players right through the club, from the teenagers in the colts set-up to the senior professionals in the first team.

Indeed, when emphasis at Tuesday training sessions is placed more on fitness than teamwork it is already commonplace to see the whole staff spilt into little groups with the youngsters rubbing shoulders with players like Bill Francis, Martin Murphy, Phil Larder, Jim Fiddler and Fred Hall.

And it must have been a particular boost for the youngsters when they played their first game at Leigh last week-end and enjoyed the touch-line support not only of coach Brian Gartland, but of manager Graham Starkey, his assistant Gorman, player-coach Francis, 'A' team boss Bob Welding, and Gartland's brother Peter, who is a ready-made 'contact' man in the St. Helens area.

With a staff like that, plus the assistance of Derek Foy, the Oldham club can certainly be assured that the players will be given the best possible preparation and the best possible chance of going as far as their own talents will permit.

Never again should we see the backs working out on their own because the coach is with the forwards. Never again should we see both first and 'A' teams under control of ONE man, because his partner is ill or away on business.

I have heard it said that part-timers do not need a big backroom staff. The point surely is that they need the support of a comprehensive coaching team because they are part-timers and because they have only four hours per week, at the most, to train and plot their football and tactics.

Every minute of that time must be put to good use . . . . and with the best will in the world there is no way it can be done on a shoestring.

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COLTS CORNER with Brian Gartland

OUR brand - new third team — THE COLTS— opened up with a very encouraging win a Leigh last Saturday in their first game together.

The quality of play was good and there were no holds barred as Oldham went into a 14—2 lead, Leigh hit back to level at 14—14, and then Oldham hit top gear again to finish off the stronger and pick up their first two points in the Colts League.

All the players settled down well together and there was a particular striking half-back pairing comprised of scrum-half Paddy Kirwan and stand-off Ray Ashton.

Kirwan scored two tries thanks to excellent backing up and it must have been particularly pleasing to him to do well at Leigh because it was the Hilton Park Club that were our chief rivals for his signature.

Ashton, who had a taste of first-team football in the St. Helens friendly, had an excellent match. He made the first try for Kirwan with a great break from dummy half, scored five goals and a drop goal, and then stormed in from half-way for the try that really sunk Leigh's brave challenge only minutes before the end.

It was a pity that the Oldham side was injury hit early in the second half. Centre Mike Cowley, fast and penetrative, had to go off with a shoulder injury as did aggressive second-row forward Andrew Goodway.

Goodway had made a big impression in the first half with his strong tackling and determined running into the heart of the Leigh defence.

But there were good performances too, from several other players, among them full back Steve Littler, props Kevin Wolstenhulme and Pasquele D'Adamo and second-row Joe Warburton.

A lot of Oldham fans made the journey to Leigh and the Oldham contingent by far out-numbered the home spectators.

The boys were eatched by manager Graham Starkey, assistant manager Terry Gorman, player coach Bill Francis and "A" team boss Bob Welding and their presence must also have been a source of encouragement to them.

Taken all round it was a highly successful Colts League debut by a team which we hope will do really well in its first season in the competition.

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CLUB NEWS

WELCOME to the 'new' Watersheddings. We hope you like what you have seen so far! In actual fact, much of the work that has gone on steadily throughout the summer is of the variety that cannot be noticed. For example, you will all have heard of, but probably not seen, the transformed facilities in the pavilion.

Nevertheless, the general condition of the ground is beginning to look spick and span as the club attempts to make up for something like 20 years of decay. We feel the new entrance, on to the car park, will set the tone and in the not-to-distance future most of the approach area and the car park will be resurfaced at considerable expense.

Steps are being built into the slope off the car park to provide easier access; a lot of landscaping should be started shortly; new turnstiles are to be erected at the Watersheddings end.

Inside the ground, you will probably all agree that Watersheddings looks better than it has done for years. Considerable re-roofing of the stands has taken place and a massive project for the future is the replacement of the timbers that form the back of the popular side stand from the Hutchins end to the scoreboard corner.

On the pavilion side about 1,000 seats have been installed to replace those that had been in for years and were rapidly getting into a state beyond repair. These replacement seats came from Manchester City and we hope to have another batch next year which may be installed on 'E' stand.

A quantity of brand new tip-up seats are also on their way. These will carry the name of the hirer and are proving very popular in pre-season membership sales.

Perhaps the biggest transformation is that to the boundary wall.

At no small cost the whole of the perimeter of the ground has been timber-clad and weather-proofed so that we can provide our advertisers with the best possible site for their signs.

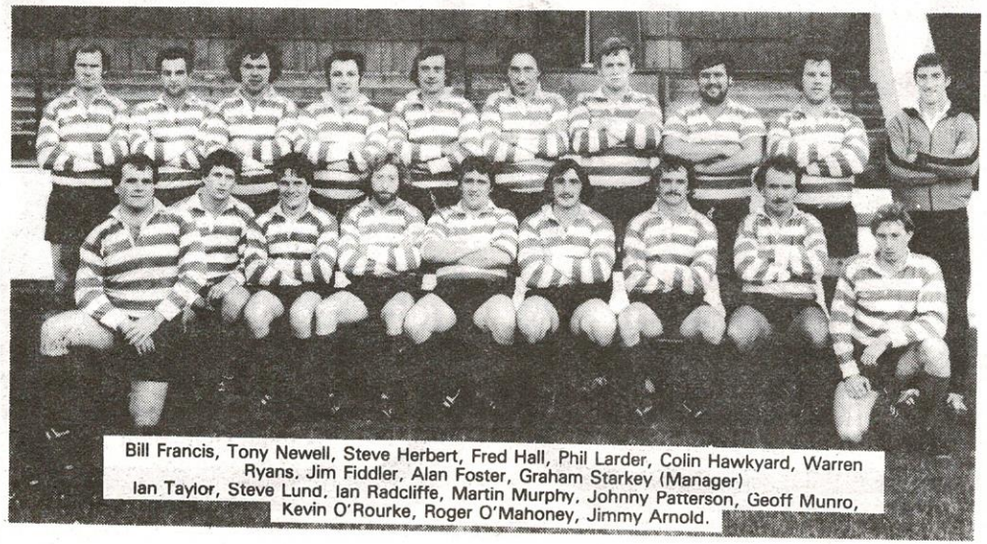
The club has been alive with activity right throughout the summer. Terry Gorman, Bill Francis and Brian Gartland have joined the staff and we have made no fewer than nine teenage signings as we build for the future and attempt to invest wisely and shrewdly in boys whom we believe will be the stars of tomorrow.

They could well be household names in League in a few years' time. For the record here they are: RAY ASHTON, a half-back from Widnes; MIKE COWLEY, centre, St. Helens; LES COOK, hooker, Widnes; ANDREW GOODWAY, back-row forward, Castleford; PADDY KIRWAN, scrumhalf, Oldham; MICK COOMBES, back-row forward, Leigh; TERRY FLANAGAN, loose-forward, Oldham; STEVE LITTLER, full back, Leigh; JOHN WALLS, centre or wing, Leigh.

Six of those boys played for the Lancashire youth side last season and three of them - Ashton, Cowley and Flanagan were in the Great Britain squad, captained by local lad Flanagan.

The capture of Flanagan in the face of practically every club in Lancashire, and a couple in Yorkshire, was a real 'scoop' and also creates a little bit of club history. It is believed to be the first time that a father, Bill Flanagan and two sons, Kevin and Terry, have all played for the club.

Oldham Rugby League Football Club **First team 1979/80**



Bill Francis, Tony Newell, Steve Herbert, Fred Hall, Phil Larder, Colin Hawkyard, Warren Ryans. Jim Fiddler, Alan Foster, Graham Starkey (Manager)
Ian Taylor, Steve Lund, Ian Radcliffe, Martin Murphy, Johnny Patterson, Geoff Munro, Kevin O'Rourke, Roger O'Mahoney, Jimmy Arnold.

BILL FRANCIS

Bill Francis, Oldham's new player-coach, is one of the most experienced and most respected players in Rugby League.

A Yorkshireman, he escaped the 'net' of Castleford, Wakefield and Featherstone and signed for Wigan - a club he served for 12 glorious seasons, earning many honours along the way.

Two years ago he transferred to St. Helens and his success story continued at Knowsley Road. Now, in the twilight of his playing career, he is embarking on a career in coaching which we feel will be just as successful as was his career with Wigan and St. Helens.

Bill has had most of the honours the game can offer and has twice toured Down Under - once with Wales and once with Great Britain's World Cup squad.

He is a clever footballer, an intelligent tactician and a natural leader, whom we are sure will prove a very considerable asset to the Oldham club.

Good Luck Bill!

OLDHAM

ACTION

Oldham qualified for today's second-round Forshaw's Lancashire Cup tie with a 22-15 win at Swinton last Sunday. And the try that put Oldham in front for the first time was scored by scrum-half JOHN PATERSON seen here touching down after a break direct from the back of the pack.

Picture by courtesy of the
OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

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TOM WEBB'S YESTERYEAR

The Warrington Club was formed in the early 80's and became a limited company in 1942. The club name "WIRES" originates from the wire pulling industry in the Warrington area.

The 'Wires' biggest victory was a 78 - 3 win over St. Helens in the 1908 - 9 season. Their biggest defeat was when they went down 14 - 68 against Hunslet in the 1927 - 28 season.

Notable amongst their former players are:—
JACK FISH JIM TRANTOR BEN JOLLEY GEORGE SKELHORN
NED COTTERALL BILL HOLDING BILL DINSDALE DAI M. DAVIES
(Dai M. Davies was the only man to play in the losing side 4 times in Cup Finals and never in fact received a Cup Winners medal)
NAT BENTHAM, DAVE COTTON, LAURIE GILFEDDER, HARRY BATH, and crackman BRIAN BEVAN, world record try scorer with 771 tries in his career.

CLUB HONOURS

Challenge Cup	6 Times Winners	6 Times Runners up
League Championship	3 Times Winners	6 Times Runners up
Lancashire League	8 Times Winners	5 Times Runners up
Lancashire Cup	6 Times Winners	4 Times Runners up

Captain Morgan Cup Winners

Players Associated with both the Warrington and Oldham clubs are:-
Jack Oster, Griff Jenkins (ex. Oldham Manager), Len McIntyre, Charlie Wynslade, Bill Churm, Terry O'Grady, Jim Challinor, Derek Whitehead.

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R.L. NEWS

By Brian Batty of The Daily Mail

What a difference a year can make
That is all the time it has taken for our shattered at home an abroad.

At this time last season we were licking our lips at the prospect of the visit from the touring Kangaroos and a crowd pulling Test series.

We got the fans pouring in to produce some great attendances but we could not prevent Australia returning home with the Ashes trophy they have held since 1973.

Now, after a disastrous series Down Under, we are left to pick up the pieces despite a two-one success in the Tests in New Zealand.

It is going to be a long, hard road back to the top for British International football and there are many who fear we may never make it.

Certainly the structure of the Sydney club scene has never looked stronger and at the moment it would seem Australia could probably pick a couple of sides to beat anyone in the world.

No country can boast the depth of talent at club level to compare with that in Sydney but I believe that if we take the right steps during the next two years we can catch up on the coockahoop Aussies.

But it is important that we do not get left behind in two important departments where I would like to see an improvement from the grass roots level.

We are nowhere near to matching the Australians in fitness where the climate certainly favours them. The demands in that department are much higher at club level never mind on the international front.

And we are in a different League when it comes to pure defence which again is an outstanding feature of the successful club sides throughout Australia.

This is something our international coaches have been aware of for several seasons but with the flaws remaining at club level the gap has got wider still when we have met Australia in the Tests.

I do not think there is anything wrong with the spirit of the majority of our players or their ability as club sides like Warrington and Widnes showed in downing the Kangaroo's last season.

But we must follow Australia's example in blooding promising youngsters and hope that clubs can set the right lead this season.

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First team fixtures 1979/80
Oldham Rugby League Football Club

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F.	A.
Aug. 19	County Cup 1st round	Away			
Aug. 26	Warrington 2nd round	Home			
Sept. 2	Doncaster	Away			
Sept. 9	Huyton	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Sept. 16	John Player 1st Round				
Sept. 23	Batley	Away			
Sept. 30	John Player 2nd Round				
Oct. 7	Featherstone	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away			
Oct. 21	Bramley	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away			
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away			
Nov. 25	Dewsbury	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Dec. 2	Huyton	Away			
Dec. 9	Batley	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Dec. 16	Dewsbury	Away			
Dec. 26	Rochdale	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Dec. 30	Featherstone	Away			
Jan. 6	Swinton	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Jan. 13	Keighley	Away			
Jan. 20					
Jan. 27	Huddersfield	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Feb. 3	Challenge Cup 1st Round				
Feb. 17					
Feb. 24	Challenge Cup 2nd round				
Mar. 2	Barrow	Away			
Mar. 9	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Mar. 16	Keighley	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Mar. 23	Halifax	Away			
Mar. 30	Doncaster	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Apr. 6					
Apr. 13					
Apr. 20	Bramley	Away			
Apr. 27					

'A' Team Fixtures 1979/80
Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F.	A.
Sept. 1	Workington	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Sept. 7	Leigh	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Sept. 13	Blackpool	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Sept. 21	Warrington	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Oct. 6	Workington	Away	2.30 p.m.		
Oct. 18	Wigan	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2.30 p.m.		
Nov. 15	Swinton	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Nov. 24	Rochdale	Away	3.00 p.m.		
Nov. 29	St. Helens	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Dec. 7	Widnes	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Dec. 15	Whitehaven	Away	3.00 p.m.		
Dec. 20	Rochdale	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Jan. 4	St. Helens	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Jan. 10	Swinton	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Jan. 17	Widnes	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Jan. 19	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.		
Jan. 26					
Feb. 2					
Feb. 9					
Feb. 14	Warrington	Home	7.30 p.m.		
Feb. 23					
Mar. 1	Barrow	Home	2.30 p.m.		
Mar. 12	Salford	Away	7.30 p.m.		
Mar. 15	Blackpool	Away	3.00 p.m.		
Mar. 20	Salford	Home	7.30 p.m.		

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AMATEUR R.L. NEWS By Alan Burke

The 1979-80 Amateur Rugby League season, which in the Pennine region is due to kick-off on September 8th, already promises much excitement in the Oldham area, with three new clubs awaiting their debut to competative rugby, and with a reorganised divisional set-up coming into force in the Pennine League.

Eight teams are to form a new Premier Division, with the Oldham League having the most representatives. Locally, Premier Division matches can be seen at Greenfield and Waterhead Park, where Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead are the host clubs, and also at Chamber Colliery which is the new home of St. Anne's. Our trio in the top section will be joined by Mayfield of Rochdale and four teams from Yorkshire.

Ferranti, who are still based at Bower Lane, Hollinwood, are the only local side in Division 1, although the Second Division sees half its member from the Red Rose county. Apart from the Premier, each division comprises of ten sides, with Oldham providing three of these in Division 2. Higginshaw, who took last season's 3rd Division Championship trophy back to their Oldham Edge ground, will this term make short journeys to the Alexandra School Fields and to Greenfield, where Fitton Hill and Saddleworth 'A' will be their respective opponents.

Salem Hornets have recently become one of the most progressive local clubs, and after aquiring their own clubhouse last year at the side for the forthcoming campaign. Salem will be Oldham's only team in Division 3, while Shaw, who gained promotion last season in their first year of trying, will have local visitors to their High Crompton Park ground in the reserves of St. Anne's and Waterhead, all of whom are in Division 4

The Saints' second team will continue to play at Stoneleigh Park, while the Waterhead reserves will turn out at the same venue as their own senior side, with this also applying to the Ferranti second string, who are our sole representatives in Division 5. Due to the excessive number of new teams who are joining the Pennine League this season, a Sixth Division is possibly being formed to accomodate these clubs. Therefore, Oldham's new entrants, Hollinwood and Tudor House, respectively based at Chapel Road Fields and the Bright Grayshon Centre, New Moston, will probably come up against other newly-formed sides as well as any new 'A' teams such as the one at Salem.

Oldham's third new team are Passenger Transport, who due to their members being employed at the Oldham Bus Depot are unable to take part in the Pennine League's Saturday activities and are therefore to play in the Wakefield Sunday League, with home games taking place at Waterhead Park on Sunday mornings.

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