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Teams

Watersheddings Wednesday December 26th. 1979

OLDHAM		ROCHDALE HORNETS	
Cherry/White Hoops, Blue Shorts.		White, Blue, Red, White Shorts.	
1.	MARTIN MURPHY	1.	STEVE McGIFFEN
2.	GEOFF MUNRO	2.	IAN HOLLAND
3.	PHIL WARD	3.	GLEN BANKS
4.	STEVE LUND	4.	JOHN RAWLINSON
5.	ERIC FITZSIMONS	5.	IAN CAMPBELL
6.	BILL FRANCIS	6.	MICK NOLAN
7.	KEN GWILLIAM	7.	ROY BUCYS
8.	ALEX ALEXANDER	8.	ALAN HODKINSON
9.	RAY MARTLAND	9.	TERRY LANGAN
10.	ALAN FORSTER	10.	ANDY WILSON
11.	STEVE HERBERT	11.	JOHN GRIMES
12.	BOB BLACKWOOD	12.	BRET GARTSIDE
13.	TERRY FLANAGAN	13.	MARK SANDERSON
14.	RAY ASHTON	14.	
15.	BOB MORDELL	15.	

Referee: Mr. J. McDonald (Wigan)
Red Flag: Mr. D. Bowes (Swinton) Yellow Flag: Mr. R. G. Hayes (Leigh)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS
Sunday 6th January 3.00pm. SWINTON

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Treasurer: K. Broadbent

Committee: E. Buckley, F. Diskin, J. Hall, D. Hulme, R. Ogden, K. Potter

Coaching Staff: Graham Starkey (Manager) Terry Gorman (Asst. Manager)
Bill Francis (Player/Coach) Bob Welding (A Team Coach)
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

Professional Playing Staff

Jimmy Arnold - Dennis Ashcroft - Ray Ashton - Harold Byram - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley - Glen Crehan - Pasquale D'Adamo - Peter Deakin - Jim Fidler - Eric Fitzsimmons - Kevin Flanagan - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Dave Fricker - Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert - Keith Jackson - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder - Steve Littler - Steve Lund - Bob Mordell - Ray Martland - Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - Tony Newall - Chris O'Brien - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Kevin O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Alan Platt - Ian Radcliffe - Warren Ryans - Ian Taylor - Norman Turley - Garry Walczak - John Walls - Mike Worrall

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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

IN THE HORNETS NEST

Rochdale Hornets, our friends and neighbours from over Summit Hill, are passing through a period a great change in which many experienced players have left the club over the past 12 months.

Hornets were one of the four clubs relegated from the First Division at the end of last season and they have certainly had far more than their fair share of problems in the past few months.

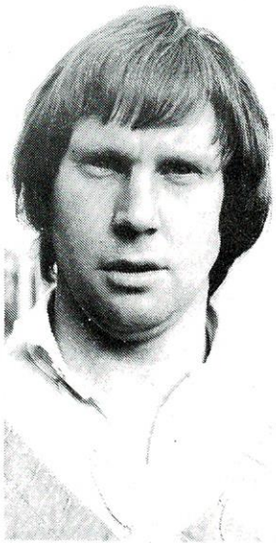
The resignation of coach Kel Coslett was a tremendous blow at the time but by all accounts his successor Paul Longstaff is doing a fine job despite massive problems.

Following the early season departure from the Athletic Grounds of players like Warren Ayres, Tony Cook, Alan Rathbone, Tony Wainwright, Charlie Birdsall and Paul Woods, plus the retirement of Jeff Heaton and Mick McLoughlin, the board had to rapidly start afresh, as it were.

They had pulled in around£40,000 from the sale of these players and embarked boldly on a youth policy plus the introduction of one or two experienced men to steady the ship-men like Alan Ashton, the scrum-half they bought from Whitehaven for £5,000 prop Andy Wilson from Huddersfield for £12,000 and stand-off Mick Nolan from St. Helens for about £2,000.

More locally they snapped up stand-off or centre Glenn Banks from Mayfield, who has already made quite an impression at the Athletic Grounds.

Hornets now are a blend of youth and experience, with a very definite leaning towards youth, as they build for the future.



Paul Longstaff

Alan Hodkinson

But there is no shifting evergreen Alan Hodkinson, that great servant of the Hornets, who is now in his testimonial season. The big prop has been a model of consistency and loyalty over his long number of years at Rochdale and he is still a key member of the pack.

There used to be a saying that Hornets were never quite the same when Coslett was not on the field.

The same applied to the days when Frank Myler was player-coach.

In much the same way the same can be said of Hodkinson about the Hornets team of today . . . and there is no doubt that the club will owe him a great debt of gratitude when the time finally arrives for him to cross the old dog track at the Athletic Grounds for the last time.

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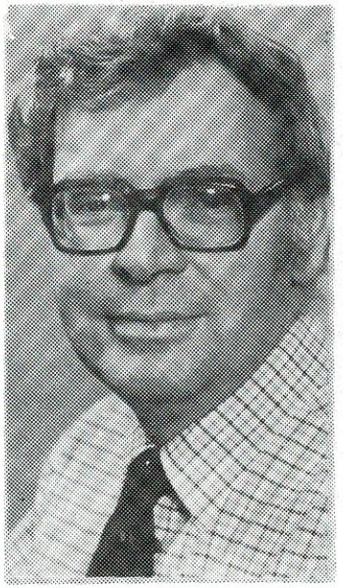
ROGER'S REPORT



By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening chronicle)

There is always something special about Oldham - Hornets derbies. Over the years there have been some memorable clashes between the local rivals and today's battle promises to be no exception.
Oldham, on the one hand, are going strongly for promotion and they still have not ruled out the possibility of going up as champions, as they did in 1964.
Hornets, relegated at the end of last term, are going through a rebuilding programme but, nevertheless, will produce something extra at Watersheddings - they always do - and still produce a sting or two!
It all seems a far cry from those days of my youth when I stood on the Athletic Grounds terraces in red, white and blue and watched Norman Short, Les Jones, and Co. do battle against the great fifties side from Watersheddings.
My earliest memories of Hornets go back to Gerry Wilde and Albert Fearnley, but it was in the mid-fifties when I really warmed to the Rochdale scene.
Those were the days, shortly before the Jim Sullivan era, when my boyhood hero Ted Cahill was taking charge of the backs and Welshman George Parsons was bossing the pack.
They were the days of the rugby specials from outside the old Electric House up Milnrow Road to the ground.
They were the days when Oldham were the old enemy and came to Rochdale with a star-spangled side that usually won . . . but every now and again had a nasty shock in store.
They were the days of big crowds and tremendous atmosphere, and while Oldham were always the kings, let us not forget that the Hornets reached the Challenge Cup semi-final in 1958 only to lose 5 - 3 to Wigan at Swinton's Station Road.
There have been some memorable derby battles and one of them was only five years ago. Do you remember that second-round Challenge Cup clash in February. 1975 when the teams drew 10 - 10 at the Athletic Grounds and Oldham won the replay 15 - 3, both matches played in front of large and partisan crowds?
Dickie Brown, killed so tragically 18 months ago in a road crash in Leeds, destroyed Hornets on that occasion with his remarkable play from dummy half.
In recent seasons, however, Hornets have had a very good record in the derby battles - and I know, as a Rochdalian who still lives in the town, that there is nothing they would like more than to put one over on Oldham and their former coach Graham Starkey this afternoon.
Over to you Oldham!

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ALEX RULES, O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade I Referee)

1. *"Red" player taking a penalty; on of his colleagues runs offside.*
2. *"Red" player tackled over the opponent's line and unable to ground the ball.*
3. *"Red" player kicks ahead, the ball is caught by an opponent on the full standing on the touchline.*
4. *"Red" winger takes a pass but fumbles it. He kicks ahead before the ball touches the ground and scores.*
5. *An attacking player kicks ahead - the ball hits the corner flag, rebounds over the try line and the player scores.*
6. *"Red" player kicks ahead "White" full back gathers on the full in his own "in goal" area. A "Red" colleague from an offside position tackles the full back before he can move.*
7. *The Referee is unsighted, but the Touch Judge sees a "White" player knock the ball out of the hands of a tackled "Red" player.*
8. *"Red" player miskicks the ball which goes in touch on the full behind him.*
9. *"Red" player kicks the ball upfield from point 'x' and is obstructed at point 'y'.*
10. *"Red" player kicks off to start the game. "White" full back and the ball hits the corner flag before going into touch.*

From myself and refereeing colleagues, I should like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ANSWERS.

1. Scrum down where penalty was to be taken.
2. Scrum on the 5 yard line.
3. Ball back.
4. Try.
5. No try. 25 yard tap out.
6. Tap out on 25 yard line.
7. Penalty to "Reds" the Touch Judge would signal to the Referee.
8. Scrum down on the 10 yard line, where ball enters touch.
9. Penalty to Reds where the ball first bounces or is caught, presuming this is greater advantage than point 'y'.
10. "Whites" drop out from under the posts - ball dead

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

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Our next away game is on 30th December at FEATHERSTONE, and a coach will leave the Social Club for the match at 1p.m.

Adult Members.	**£1.30**	Adult Non-Members	£1.50
Junior Members	**.90p**	Junior Non-Members	£1.10p

Save money and become a member. Ask at the souvenir shop today.

BADGES:
Metal Oldham Supporters Club lapel badges are now on sale in all the canteens or at the Social Club, priced 50p each. Blazer badges can also be obtained for £7.50.

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Bukta Red and White Rugby Shirts available from the club.
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Have you anything to celebrate? Then why not hire a room in our club at very reasonable rates. Ring 624 - 0368 for details.

CHRISTMAS DRAW RESULTS

The Supporters Club wish to thank the following for the prizes donated to the Christmas Draw.

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2. *Wright & Green.*
3. *Collins Supermarket.*
4. *Ian Taylor - Confectioner.*
5. *M. Harrop.*
6. *R. Halstead.*
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8. *N. Tench.*
9. *H. Ashworth.*
10. *Greenhall Whitley.*
11. *Hawleys.*
12. *G. Barlow.*
13. *J. Rochford.*
14. *J. Gallager.*
15. *E. Fletcher.*
16. *N. Burrington.*
17. *J. Wall (Minders Arms).*

Plus anonymous prize givers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Supporters Club.

WINNING NO.s

7281, 8583, 4873, 4796 2358, 8914, 10901, 9909, 9020, 8026, 7527, 4559, 8683, 5268, 5577, 1770, 10704, 8563, 7030, 10894, 2121, 2305, 9588, 8001, 4501, 4699, 4861, 2490, 9864, 6786, 3727, 4079, 3649, 8081, 8092, 2413, 8198, 7940, 8263, 10744, 2148, 3312, 3646, 7307 3261, 2352, 7071, 2003, 7356, 3911, 5254, 5731, 3531, 6477, 3008, 8899.

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CLUB NEWS

HEADLINE-CATCHING SIGNING

The Oldham club has rarely had as much national publicity in recent years as that attracted by the recent signings of London-area Union boys, Bob Mordell and Adrian Alexander.

We enjoyed a tremendous show in the national papers when Mordell joined us at the end of October, but even that was nothing compared with the pictures and column inches reserved for the Alexander signing a fortnight ago.

Adrian - or Alec, as he is known - comes to us with a big reputation in Union circles. He was the captain of Harlequins whose home ground is Twickenham itself, and an England squad member.

He had represented Middlesex for five seasons, was his club's youngest captain for more than 100 years, had toured USA and Canada with the Barbarians and was in England's squad for the international against the All Blacks a week or two ago.

He was being widely tipped to win a full England cap in the forthcoming home internationals, but instead decided to start a new career in Rugby League with Oldham.

He had, in fact, played a secret "A" team trial for us a week or two before his signing and the deal was set up when a five-man deputation went to watch him lead Harlequin against Blackheath on the week-end that our first team played at Huyton.

Manager Graham Starkey, player-coach Bill Francis, and club officials Jack Bowden, Frank Diskin and Keith Potter made the trip south and within two or three days we had landed another big fish!

Adrian and his wife Carol, a stewardess on British Airways, hope to move into a new home in Hopwood, near Heywood in the near future.

Also moving up soon will be Bob Mordell and his wife Lynn, who are buying a house in the Greenacres area.

The pair of them have been friends for years and we trust their happy association will continue as team mates in a new code.

Adrian, a flanker in Union, has the size to make a prop in league and he had a good debut in the "A" team at Widnes.

He followed up two days later with a try-scoring debut against Batley and then had a real cracker of a game at St. Helens on the following Wednesday as the "A" team won through to the semi-final of the Lancashire Shield.

Talking of the Shield, the Oldham club now has a very real chance of winning the trophy for the first time since the 1976 team did it under the guidance of Ken Wilson.

Barrow are also through to the semi-finals, but at the time of writing the other two semi-finalists were not known.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year. If we as a club make as much progress during 1980 as we did in 1979 it should be some year.

Hard and Low... down goes Adrian Alexander to tackle a Batley prop on his debut.

Bob Mordell and Adrian Alexander pictured together on Alexander's senior debut against Batley.

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CROWD CO-OPERATION

Many of our spectators have seen the Oldham Chronicle report of the court action against the trouble makers at the Oldham v Warrington match and everyone will no doubt back the magistrates 100% in connection with the stern manner in which the cases were dealt with.

We are justly proud of our record of non-violence at the Oldham ground and would ask all our supporters to co-operate with us in reporting to ourselves or the Police, any incident in the crowd which could bring the club into disrepute. In this way, with everyones help we will keep our ground one to which anyone is able to safely bring his wife and family.

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TOM WEBB's YESTERYEAR

We are attempting to give all the Oldham R.L.F.C. results since the club started in 1876. In the following tables the letters M, G, T, stand for Minors, Goals, and Tries. Minors were scored when either the attacking team kicked or carried the ball over the dead-ball line or the touch-in-goal line, or when the defending side made the ball dead.
In the early days, a goal counted more than any number of tries.
Unfortunately, the match details are incomplete for the 1880's, and any details would be welcomed by me, Tom Webb, 3 Haggate Crescent, Royton, Oldham. OL2 5NF.

DATE 1878-79		OPPONENTS	VENUE	OLDHAM M	G	T	OPPONENTS M	G	T	RESULTS
February	8th.	SWINTON	Away	2			9	1	2	Lost
	15th.	FREE WANDERERS	Home	9	1	2	3		1	WON
March	1st.	DEWSBURY	Home	4	1	1	7		1	WON
	8th.	CASTLETON	Away	6	2	8			1	WON
	15th.	BIRCH	Home	4		1				WON
	22nd.	CHEETHAM HILL	Away	11		6	Nil	-	-	WON
April	5th.	OLDHAM 2nd. XV	Home	11	1	8	2			WON

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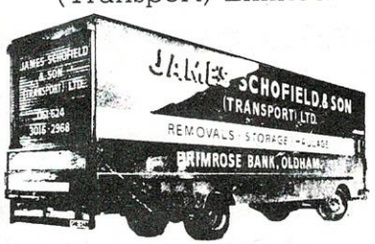

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COLTS CORNER

Congratulations are the order of the day for our three talented teenagers who have earned selection for the Great Britain Colts team to play in France in four weeks' time.

Terry Flanagan will be the British vice-captain and will play at loose-forward in a strong-looking pack.

Ray Ashton, who like Flanagan has already made a big impression in our senior side, will play at scrum-half and his link-up with his club colleague should provide an extra string to the British bow.

Paddy Kirwan, who has successfully captained both our colts team and "A" team in his first season as a pro, will go as substitute back.

Scrum-half Kirwan has had a magnificent start to his professional career and there will be many Lancashire people disappointed that he and Ashton are not partners in the British side.

They linked up together at half-back in the Lancashire side but the selectors opted for Andrew MacIntosh of Leeds at stand-off and then chose Ashton for No. 7 ahead of Kirwan because the Widnes lad has already had considerable first-team experience.

The British party will travel to Heathrow on Thursday, january 24th and fly out on the Friday. At the time of writing, the venue had not been named and it was not known whether the international would be staged on Saturday, January 26th or the following day. It will mean, of course, that none of our three representatives will be available for our home Second Division clash with Huddersfield on January 27th.

Leigh referee Stan Wall will travel with the party to handle the international and the team will be coached by Garth Budge of Rochdale hornets and managed by Mr. Harry Jepson of Leeds.

There will be training sessions for the squad on January 7th, 14th and 21st.

GREAT BRITAIN: Whitefield (Salford); Meadows (St. Helens), Myler (Widnes), Dennison (Hull, Capt), Nicholson (Hunslet), MacIntosh (Leeds), **Ashton (Oldham)**, Beaumont (Hull), Noble (Bradford), O'Neill (Widnes), James (Castleford), Heron (Leeds), **Flanagan (Oldham)**.

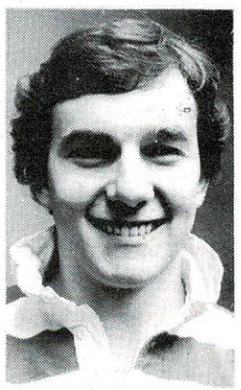
Subs: **Kirwan (Oldham)**, Timpson (Castleford).

The choice of Flanagan, Ashton and Kirwan for top colts honours reflects magnificently on our scouting system and the amazing progress our club has made at colts level in its first season.

We have a great chance of league honours, having lost only two games in the first half of the season, and are looking forward eagerly to the cup and the premiership.

Our latest win was a convincing 28-5 success at St. Helens in which back-row man Alan Platt made his debut and had a splendid game.

Our next game is on Saturday when we are at home to Leigh - and what a game that should be for Platt and our other Leigh lads like Steve Littler and John Walls.



Top - Ray Ashton Middle - Paddy Kirwan

Bottom - Terry Flanagan

COLTS FIXTURES

1979			F.A.	1980			
Aug. 18	Leigh	A	16–11	Jan. 5	Salford	A	
25	Bradford	H	38–2	12	Bramley	A	
Sept. 1	Leeds	A	15–13	19	Hull	H	
8	Bramley	H	29–4	26	Dewsbury	A	
15	Castleford	A	28–11	Feb. 2	Rochdale	A	
29	Leeds	H	12–19	9	Cup-First Round		
Oct. 6	Widnes	A	21–17	16	Hull KR	H	
13	Hull	A	17–16	23	Cup-2nd Round		
20	St. Helens	H	P	March 1	Castleford	H	
27	Wakefield	A	37–16	8	Hull KR	A	
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H	19–13	22	Dewsbury	H	
10	Bradford	A	8-6	29	Wakefield	H	
17	Salford	H	P	April 5	Rochdale	H	
24	Hunslet	A	7 - 12				
Dec. 1	Widnes	H	P				
8	St. Helens	A	28 - 5				
29	Leigh	H					

Our lottery agents now have the chance of winning a coloured television each month. The first draw was made by our RL Queen Debra Church, watched by lottery chief Keith Masters (left) and chairman Ray Hatton.

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By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

Britain's present economic plight could have a bearing on the team building of Rugby League clubs.
With mortgage interest rates having risen so dramatically and hard cash so difficult to borrow young families are feeling the pinch.
I know the same can be said about some of our clubs but sports stars, including Rugby Union players, are bound to be in a difficult position these days as they look for a sound start in life.
Since the Government took its recent belt-tightening measures we have had a number of Union players turn to League. Is it more than mere coincidence?
The percentage of players turning their backs on the 15-a-side code has risen.
Leigh landed Ray Tabern, the son of their former star Walt, at the same time as Ian Orum was signing for Castleford.
They both felt the need for a new sporting challenge and if they succeed they can collect some useful cash along the way.
The same goes for Barrow's new Welsh signing Mark McJennett and Oldham's equally powerfully built forward signing Adrian Alexander.
Harlequins skipper Alexander teams up with former Middlesex team mate Bob Mordell and Oldham have to be congratulated on their enterprise as they reach out for promotion.
Alexander marked his debut as a professional with a try from a move he claims he used to work with Mordell at County level.
A cockney, Alexander seems a lively character set to go places and he has the handling skill that should enable him to succeed in the front row.
I feel we are going to see more new faces from Rugby Union in the near future but the cash stakes can also benefit the talented amateurs in the game.
I was staggered to hear recently that one to amateur had actually turned down a £2,000 deal to join a well known Lancashire club.
I do believe that amateur players are getting better deals than in the past when the boys from Union have always seemed to have held sway.

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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 Swinton	Away		22–15
Aug. 26	Warrington 2nd round	Home		6–34
Sept. 2	Doncaster	Away		25–0
Sept. 9	Huyton	Home	3.00 p.m.	15–3
Sept. 16	John Player Leeds	Home		7–31
Sept. 19	B.B.C. St. Helens			9–20
Sept. 23	Batley	Away		17–17
Sept. 30	John Player 2nd Round			
Oct. 7	Featherstone	Home	3.00 p.m.	23–22
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away		13–13
Oct. 21	Bramley	Home	3.00 p.m.	22–9
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3.00 p.m.	P
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away		12–3
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3.00 p.m.	6-5
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away		12-15
Nov. 25	Dewsbury	Home	3.00 p.m.	25 - 6
Dec. 2	Huyton	Away		31 - 4
Dec. 9	Batley	Home	3.00 p.m.	32-9
Dec. 16	Dewsbury	Away		17-14
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.	15–12
Sept. 7	Leigh	Away	7.30 p.m.	5–13
Sept. 13	Blackpool	Home	7.30 p.m.	25–23
Sept. 21	Warrington	Away	7.30 p.m.	18–10
Oct. 6	Workington	Away	2.30 p.m.	P
Oct. 18	Wigan	Home	7.30 p.m.	18–17
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7.30 p.m.	25–15
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30 p.m.	16–3
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2.30 p.m.	16-22
Nov. 15	Swinton	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Nov. 24	Rochdale	Away	3.00 p.m.	P
Nov. 29	St. Helens	Home	7.30 p.m.	P
Dec. 7	Widnes	Away	7.30 p.m.	16-16
Dec. 15	Whitehaven	Away	3.00 p.m.	12-8
Dec. 20	Rochdale	Home	7.30 p.m.	P.
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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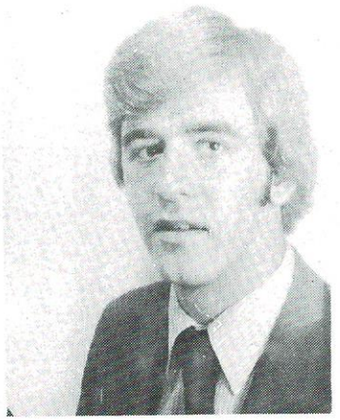
IT'S CHRISTMAS - LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO EASTER!

By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer.
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.



The local amateur teams are all currently taking a well-earned rest for the Christmas period before they begin the second-half of their season, which in Oldham culminates with the Standard Cup Final at Waterhseddings on Good Friday morning. Therefore, with local sides already beginning to think of Eastertime, it might be appropriate at this holiday period to put to one side all thought of what is presently happening in the amateur leagues, and instead look at some of the facts and records concerning the Standard Cup competition.

The trophy was donated to the local league in the 1903-03 season by the former "Oldham Standard News" evening newspaper, and although originally purchased for a mere 30 guineas it is now worth over £1,000. The silver cup stands three feet high and, as every winning player will testify, it can hold 16 pints of beer. The attendance record for the Final was obtained in 1949 when over 6,000 spectators saw Higginshaw defeat Waterhead, while last season's Good Friday morning encounter between Mayfield and St. Anne's drew receipts of £1,071.30p. which is a World Record for any amateur match in Rugby League history.

Rochdale Rangers appeared in the first four Finals (1904-07) but then went out of existance in 1908 following a dispute with the Northern Union. Since the War, Waterhead have appeared in five Finals but have yet to lift the trophy. Langworthy Juniors and Saint Anne's met in three consecutive Finals (1968-70) with each team winning one and with the third being a draw - Saints won the replay. Saddleworth Rangers achieved the highest score in the competition when they defeated Dobcross 84-0 in 1935 1st. Round game. Royton won the trophy on three consecutive occasions (1957-59), but never appeared in any other Finals. Sandfield Hornets were awarded the cup by default in 1926 when Crossfield and Choloride Recreation failed to play their semi-final within the stipulated time. In 1929, Higginshaw received the Cup after Chloride Recreation team left the field in the 8th minute of the Cup Final replay due to three of their players having already been sent off. Greenacres won the 1935 competition due to Higginshaw failing to appear for the Final replay because of a dispute with the Oldham league about the receipts of the match. Higginshaw hold the record for the most number of Cup Final wins (12) and appearances (20), and as well as being the only club to have won the trophy of five successive occasions (1929-33), they appeared in 15 out of the 19 finals which were played between 1929 and 1953.

Finally, the Oldham Amateur Rugby League would like to wish all the town's Rugby League followers, both of the professional and amateur codes, the compliments of the season, as well as thanking the Oldham senior club for their tremendous help during the last decade, and we wish them the best luck in the 80's.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:
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