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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday, 16th March, 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops, Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. PHIL LARDER
4. PHIL WARD
5. ERIC FITZSIMONS
6. BILL FRANCIS
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALEX ALEXANDER
9. RAY MARTLAND
10. FRED HALL
11. STEVE HERBERT
12. BOB MORDELL
13. TERRY FLANAGAN
14. RAYASHTON
15. BOB BLACKWOOD

KEIGHLEY

White with Red and Green 'V's',
White Shorts.

1. ANDY SCANLON
2. DAVID MOLL
3. LEE GREENWOOD
4. JOE BARDGETT
5. GRAHAM BEALE
6. BILLY ROWETT
7. JEFF NICHOLSON
8. TONY CHESHIRE
9. DEAN RAISTRICK
10. KEVAN ROBINSON
11. KEVIN FARRELL
12. PAUL QUINN
13. IAN ELLIS
14. COLIN ROBINSON
15. JOHN STEPHENSON

REFEREE: Mr. S. Wall (Leigh)

Red Flag: Mr. D.M. Russell (Rochdale)

Yellow Flag: Mr. G.E. Lightfoot (Bolton)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

16-3-80

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KEIGHLEY



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

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Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert -
Keith Jackson - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder - Steve Littler -
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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, 1921-22, 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

WELCOME TO KEIGHLEY!

THE visit to Watersheddings today of our friends from Keighley will surely stir memories of our thrilling one-point win at Lawkholme Lane in January.

With a comfortable half-time lead and the benefits of the slope to follow Oldham fans probably never anticipated the fright Keighley were to give us in the later stages.

But the Yorkshiremen really turned it on in the second-half and in the end we were doubtless grateful to come away with a one-point lead.

Since then Keighley have made two notable signings - centre of wing Billy Rowett from Bramley and hooker Dean Raistrick from Halifax.

Both players went to Lawkholme Lane in swap deals with prop Tony Garforth going to Halifax in exchange for Raistrick and hooker Billy Woolford going to Bramley in the Rowett deal.

Because of injuries Rowett has not been able to settle into his regular centre spot at Keighley, but he has certainly proved his versatility, having already turned out for his new club at wing, centre and stand-off and having even moved to scrum-half during one match when injuries forced a reshuffle.

Raistrick is well known as one of the best respected hookers in the game and his move to Keighley means that the Yorkshire club have entirely refashioned their front-row this season.

They now possess one of the most experienced front formations in the game with John Mantle on the open side and former Huddersfield stalwart Frank Davies at No. 10

Davies returned to the side against Batley last week after a leg injury and it was perhaps no coincidence that Keighley won comfortably after going down at Rochdale the previous week.

Davies, a fine handler and tactical kicker, had an excellent game when we played at Keighley, as did speedy and strong-running second-row man Kevin Farrell.

Farrell scored a splendid try against us and he is certainly a pacy and penetrative second-row runner whom we need to watch out for this afternoon.

Keighley can field a big back line and a strong stand-off in Joe Bardgett. But they may be without scrum-half Bak Diabira, who damaged his ribs in the Challenge Cup defeat by Castleford and has not played since.

Diabira, the former Bradford and Blackpool player, takes a lot of responsibility for providing the football in the Keighley team and he will certainly be missed if he is still out of action today.

But Keighley, who have probably now resigned themselves to the fact that promotion is beyond them for another year, must not be taken lightly.

They nearly surprised us at Lawkholme and a week before that they won at Barrow and we all know how Oldham fared at Craven Park a fortnight ago!

Keighley are coached by our former half-back star Alan Kellett and we reserve a special "welcome home" for Alan today.

His return to Watersheddings must surely be a sentimental one and many fans will still vividly recall his great games for Oldham about 20 years ago.



Alan Kellett "Welcome home"

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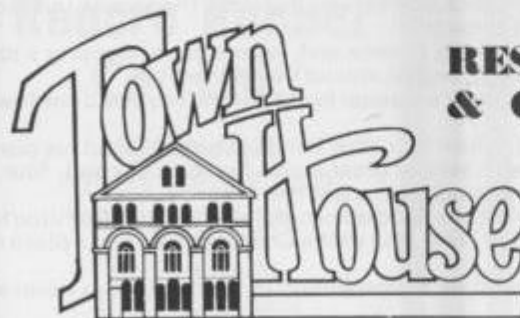
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WELL DONE, JOHN BLAIR!

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

The strange twists of life were never more emphasised than in the amazing case of John Blair a Rugby League "has been" a few months ago but now only one game away from Wembley!

Blair's signing for Halifax just before the Challenge Cup deadline never caught the headlines or the imagination of the Thrum Hall public.

But now the former Oldham half-back is the hero of the hour at cup-conscious Halifax after the way he piloted a plan which successfully knocked out First Division Wakefield in the cup third round.

His rags-to-riches Rugby League story could have been taken right out of the pages of a boys' magazine.

After nine years at Watersheddings Blair was struck off by Oldham last summer after missing a year of football because of a knee injury which threatened his career.

Many players would have been finished. But Blair battled on against the injury, finally got clearance to play again and picked up the threads with local amateurs Fitton Hill.

His sound displays for the amateurs came to the attention of Halifax coach Maurice Bamford and, just before the cup deadline, Blair became a professional again when he signed for the Thrum Hall Club.

He told me at the time: "I have always fancied having a go with another professional club and this is the chance I have been waiting for".

A month later Halifax skipper and stand-off Mick Blacker was injured in the second round of the cup at Barrow and Blair's dream had come true!

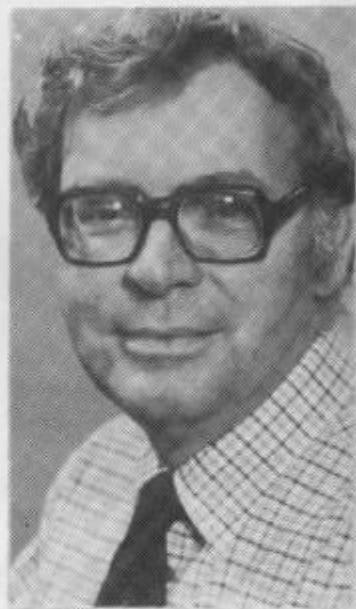
Bamford had no hesitation in giving Blair his big chance and, what's more, devising a plan to knock out Wakefield which revolved to a large degree around the Oldham lad.

Halifax knew they would be in trouble from Trinity's classier backs unless they could pin down the First Division side in their own half.

It was to the Blair boot, so well known to Oldham fans, that Bamford turned to put his plan into practice. And Johnnie came up trumps with several great touch-finding kicks and four drop goals for good measure as Halifax battled through to the last four.

Only a few weeks ago Blair was playing in front of a huddled handful of spectators for Fitton Hill. A crowd of more the 12,000 watched him kick Trinity out of the Challenge Cup and a place in the semi-final beckons him.

Well done, John - a player whose story must be an inspiration to anyone feeling down in the dumps!



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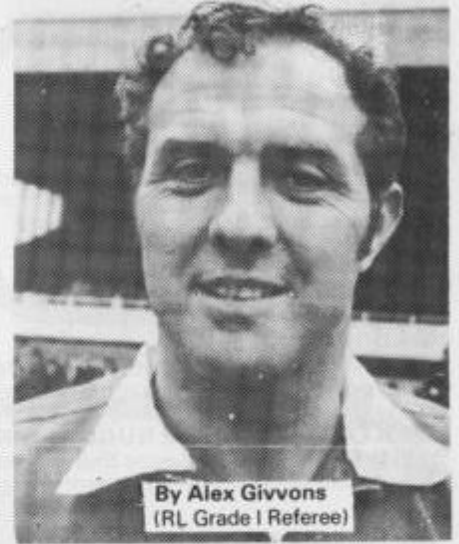
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ALEX RULES, O.K.

WHAT ARE THE DECISIONS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?



By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

- 1). "Red" player in possession is "fouled" in his opponents in-goal area as he was about to score. He lost the ball and was prevented from scoring.
- 2). "Red" player is following up a kick through. The ball has come to rest in the opponents in-goal area. He is about to touch down when an opponent obstructs him, thus preventing him from scoring a certain try.
- 3). "Red" player is tackled over "Blues" try line but cannot ground the ball.
- 4). "Red" player is 3 metres from his opponents try line, in possession and about to score. "White" full-back who missed the tackle trips him. He still manages to round the ball near the corner flag at a point "A".
- 5). "Red" player is in his opponents in-goal area and running to put the ball down between the posts. A "White" player trips him. He still manages to recover and put the ball between the posts.

The collection today is for the Joe Jackson memorial fund. Joe, was a very popular colleague and a senior Referee who controlled the Wembley final last year. He tragically collapsed and died after a match at St. Helens earlier in the season.

TODAY'S COLLECTION (By kind permission of O.R.L.F.C.)

The "seven - point" try is designed to protect a player from dangerous play, from an opponent, in the in-goal area. Before, during or after scoring a try.

5). Try between posts. Further penalty kick between posts.

4). Try a point "A".

3). Scrum down 5 metres from try line.

point" penalty try.

2). Penalty try. If the Referee deemed the offence to be dangerous or vicious then he would award a "7-

a penalty 5 metres from the try line.

would only award a penalty try if he was held upright and would not have scored then the Referee would award a penalty try. This will depend upon the degree of the foul.

1). In most cases the Referee will award a penalty try.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE:

Any person interested in becoming a member of the supporters Club Committee, please contact any Supporters Club Official after the match or any Monday evening in the Social Club, when the Committee meets.

BADGES:

Metal Oldham Supporters Club Lapel Badges are now on sale in all the canteens or at the Social Club price 50p. each. Blazer badges can also be obtained for £7.50.

BUKTA RED & WHITE RUGBY SHIRTS

Bukta Red and White Rugby Shirts available from the club. £5.00 (Boys) to £8.50 (Dependant on size). Enquire at the canteens today, or any day at the Social Club.

SCARVES: - Oldham Rugby scarves available in Canteen and Social Club. Price £1.75

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CLUB NEWS

OUR SECOND DIVISION TITLE?

OUR lingering hopes of taking the Second Division title were surely crushed when we were beaten 17 - 9 at home by Whitehaven last Sunday . . . our first home defeat of the season in the League.

We did not play well in what was our third consecutive defeat and once again we missed the opportunity of gaining ground on leaders Featherstone Rovers. On the day we lost at Barrow, Featherstone crashed at Whitehaven. And when Whitehaven won here last Sunday Featherstone dropped a point at Rochdale. Had we won both those games we would have really been in a strong challenging position now for the Second Division Rose Bowl.

But, in truth, we have not been playing well recently and it is essential we put the threads together again against Keighley today and in our remaining matches this season.

We still have to play Keighley, Halifax and Doncaster at home and Rochdale and Bramley away from home.

We are due to meet Halifax here at Watersheddings next Sunday but Halifax won through to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup last Sunday with great triumph against Wakefield and this could affect next Sunday's match.

At the time these notes were written it was not known who Halifax will play in the semi-final and on what Saturday they will play.

It could be that next Sunday's game here has to be postponed, but you will probably know by now just where we stand.

To be absolutely sure of promotion we have to pick up more points. Whitehaven and Bramley could catch us if we lost all our games and they won all theirs.

That is unlikely to happen but stranger things have happened, so we must be on our mettle to get some more points in the bag.

May we remind you that on Wednesday the Rugby League Roadshow comes to Oldham for the first time.

Hosted by Keith Macklin and presented by Rugby League PRO David Howes, the show will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham, starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are £1.50 and can be obtained either from the club or the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The event is organised in aid of Phil Larder's testimonial committee.

OLDHAM ACTION



Phil Ward scoring Oldham's only try in the defeat by Whitehaven



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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, and T stand for Minors, Goals and Tries.

Minors were dead balls (DB), touch in goals (TIG) and touch downs (TD). Dead balls occurred when the attacking side either kicked or carried the ball over the dead line, and a touch down was when the defending side made the ball dead.

In the early Rugby Union days a goal counted more than any number of tries and on one occasion Oldham 'A' scored eight tries but lost because the opposition dropped one goal.

Unfortunately the full match details are incomplete for the 1880's. Any details would be welcomed by the Programme Editor or by me, Tom Webb, 3 haggate Crescent, Royton, Oldham. OL2 5NF, as I am researching the history of the Club.

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	OPPONENTS POINTS			OLDHAM POINTS			RESULT
			M	G	T	M	G	T	
1882 - 3									
January 6th.	SWINTON	AWAY	6	3	3	2			Lost
January 13th.	CHEETHAM	AWAY							
January 20th.	BIRCH	Birch failed to raise a team.							
January 27th.	CHORLEY	Cancelled - Frost							
February 3rd.	THORNES	AWAY	12	1DG		1			Lost
February 10th.	BROUGHTON Rangers	AWAY							
February 17th.	ROCHDALE HORNETS	HOME			1TD	1	6	1	WON
February 24th.	ROYTON	AWAY	1		1	5	2	2	WON
March 3rd.	MANCHESTER Athletic	HOME	1		8	2			WON
March 10th.	SALFORD	AWAY	Cancelled - Frost						
March 17th.	CHEETHAM	HOME	2		9			1	WON
March 26th.	THORNES	HOME	7	1	9	3		1	Lost
March 31st.	VETERANS	HOME							WON
April 7th.	DEWSBURY (LITHELAND)	HOME Cancelled	2			6	1	2	WON

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COLTS CORNER

COLTS LEAGUE TITLE?

THE Oldham youngsters produced a tremendous display to win 18 - 17 at Hull K.R. last Saturday and further enhance their hopes of taking the Colts League title in their first season together.

The side showed tremendous guts and character in coming from 14 - 5 down early in the second-half to clinch a late triumph in the last ten minutes when Mick Worrall went in for the winning try.

The game was played on a big, wide patch and Rovers threw the ball around superbly to go into a deserved 11 - 5 lead at half-time.

Oldham's only first-half points came from a try by scrum-half David Taylor, who had an accomplished game, and the goal by Worrall.

At the interval it looked as though Oldham might be in for a real second-half caning. They had not played particularly well in the first half and Rovers looked capable of running in the points.

Coach Brian Gartland's interval pep talk did a lot of good as did his decision to introduce Great Britain international Paddy Kirwan, who was on the bench as sub as he fought to overcome a troublesome knee injury.

Kirwan went to scrum-half with Taylor moving to stand-off and centre Mike Cowley, who played despite shoulder trouble, standing down after doing very well in the first half.

When Rovers stretched their lead to 14 - 5 with a try early in the second half it looked odds-on that Oldham would capitulate.

But that was to reckon without Kirwan's ability to put some craft and organisation into the side and big forward Andrew Goodway's ability to put the ball down over the opponents' line.

Goodway put Oldham back in the game when he scattered the entire Rovers pack to score a tremendous try which Worrall goaled to put Oldham only four points in arrears.

A big problem at this stage was Oldham's inability to break even for ball from the scrums. Rovers monopolised the set pieces and again stretched their lead to 17 - 10 in a cracking second-half.

But Oldham refused to give in and Kirwan produced a lovely inside pass for Goodway to score his second try with a powerful birst in which he brushed off several attempted tackles. Worrall added the goal and at 17 - 15 the game was again wide open.

Rovers went out to grab what would have been the decisive score and they had a slice of misfortune when a penalty shot hit a post and bounced out.

Oldham immediately worked the ball back upfield in a late bid to snatch the winner and Kirwan sent Worrall from about 30 yards to earn a memorable victory.

Fitness Club (Ladies) Monday 6 - 9 p.m.

COLTS FIXTURES

1979			F. A.		1980			F. A.	
Aug. 18	Leigh	A	16-11		Jan. 5	Salford	A	P.	
25	Bradford	H	38- 2		12	Bramley	A	21-13	
					19	Hull	H	P.	
Sept. 1	Leeds	A	15-13		26	Dewsbury	A	10-0 A	
8	Bramley	H	29- 4						
15	Castleford	A	28-11		Feb. 2	Rochdale	A	P.	
29	Leeds	H	12-19		9	Cup-First Round		3-6	
					16	Widnes.	H	24-12	
Oct. 6	Widnes	A	21-17		23	Cup-2nd. Round		25- 5	
13	Hull	A	17-16						
20	St. Helens	H	P.		March 1	Castleford	H	P.	
27	Wakefield	A	37-16		8	Hull K.R.	A	18-17	
					22	Dewsbury	H		
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H	19-13		29	Wakefield	H		
10	Bradford	A	8-6						
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	P.						

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE COLTS LEAGUE TABLE UP TO AND INCLUDING 4.3.80

					FOR			AGAINST			PTS.		
	P	W	L	D	Gls.	Trs.	Pts.	Gls.	Trs.	Pts.			
OLDHAM	16	14	2	-	1	64	75	354	2	43	30	178	28
LEEDS	19	14	4	1	2	84	117	521	1	49	40	219	29
HUNSLETT	22	13	9	-	-	56	67	313	-	57	42	240	26
BRAMLEY	21	11	9	1	1	76	84	405	1	45	55	256	23
HULL	18	11	6	1	6	55	70	326	2	46	33	193	23
ROCHDALE H.	16	10	6	-	4	47	51	251	-	45	38	204	20
HULL K.R.	16	10	6	-	1	49	64	291	1	57	53	274	20
BRADFORD N.	17	9	8	-	1	48	49	244	-	31	59	239	18
LEIGH	19	7	11	1	2	55	52	268	1	53	76	335	15
WIDNES	15	7	8	-	-	39	59	255	6	52	47	251	14
SALFORD	15	7	8	-	2	39	46	218	2	45	67	293	14
CASTLEFORD	19	6	12	1	1	68	62	323	4	77	86	416	13
ST. HELENS	17	4	12	1	2	36	33	173	2	54	70	320	9
WAKEFIELD T.	17	4	13	-	1	34	40	189	2	58	81	361	8
DEWSBURY	15	1	14	-	-	30	27	141	-	68	119	493	2

JOE GALLAGHER

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AUSTRALIAN SEASON GETS UNDER WAY

Brian Batty
Daily Mail

Australia's season is ready to get under way with its usual share of exciting changes and movement of players well completed.

Sydney players and fans are still discussing the loss of Australia's Test coach to the Brisbane club Radcliffe from wealthy club Manly.

Stanton's success in taking Australia to their Test victories in this country and then at home was suitably rewarded with a 75,000 dollar three-year contract with Redcliffe.

And when you throw in the fabulous climate of the Queensland state it all adds up to a shrewd move.

Manly's boss Ken Arthurson created something of a shock move when he turned to the country scene and brought in Allan Thomson as Stanton's successor.

But former Australian tourist forward Thomson has a sound record in Newcastle area and those of us

who toured regularly in the seventies came to respect his dedicated approach to the game. Thomson loved nothing better than a stiff challenge, trying to put one over a Great Britain side brought out the best in him and he has gone into the Manly job with his eyes wide open.

That fact is reflected in his attitude to the club's close season signing of Australia's tough, tearaway second row man Les Boyd from Western Suburbs.

'Boyd is going to have to work hard to prove he can become one of the game's great forwards,' insists Thomson, adding 'But then I intend to be hard with all my players.'

I would rate the biggest shock move by a Sydney player the departure of Tommy Raudonikis from Western Suburbs to the struggling Newton Club.

But skipper Raudonikis Australia's tough little Test star, became disillusioned with the set up at Wests and decided to move on.

There is going to be a lot of interest at Cronulla to see if new coach Tommy Bishop can make the club successful after his failure with North Sydney last season.

Bishop, along with former Great Britain Test forward Cliff Watson, were responsible for Cronulla's great revival when they played with the club.

Bishop went up to Brisbane to play for a spell, disappointed he could not get the Cronulla coaching job. But now he has the chance to prove himself in the fierce, cut-throat Sydney competition.



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First Team Fixtures 1979/80

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	3:00pm	
Sept. 16	John Player Leeds	Home	7-31	
Sept. 18	B.B.C. St. Helens		0-20	
Sept. 23	Batley	Away	17-17	
Sept. 30	John Player 2nd Round			
Oct. 7	Featherstone	Home	3:00pm	23-22
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away		13-13
Oct. 21	Brantley	Home	3:00pm	22-9
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3:00pm	P
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away		12-3
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3:00pm	6-5
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away		12-15
Nov. 25	Dewsbury	Home	3:00pm	25-6
Dec. 2	Huyton	Away		31-4
Dec. 9	Batley	Home	3:00pm	32-9
Dec. 16	Dewsbury	Away		17-14
Dec. 26	Rochdale	Home	3:00pm	13-0
Dec. 30	Featherstone	Away		8-8
Jan. 6	Swinton	Home	3:00pm	20-4
Jan. 13	Keighley	Away		18-17
Jan. 20				
Jan. 27	Huddersfield	Home	3:00pm	P
Feb. 3	Dewsbury Cup 1st Round			24-2
Feb. 17	Huddersfield			15-12
Feb. 24	Challenge Cup 2nd Round			5-10
Mar. 2	Barrow	Away		14-23
Mar. 9	Whitehaven	Home	3:00pm	9-17
Mar. 16	Rugby	Home	3:00pm	
Mar. 23	Halifax	Away		
Mar. 30	Doncaster	Home	3:00pm	
Apr. 6				
Apr. 13				
Apr. 20	Brantley	Away		
Apr. 27				

'A' Team Fixtures 1979/80

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F. A.
Sept. 1	Warrington	Home	3:00pm	15-12
Sept. 7	Leigh	Away	7:30pm	5-13
Sept. 13	Blackpool	Home	7:30pm	25-23
Sept. 21	Warrington	Away	7:30pm	18-10
Oct. 6	Warrington	Away	7:30pm	P
Oct. 16	Wigan	Home	7:30pm	18-17
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7:30pm	25-15
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7:30pm	16-3
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2:30pm	16-22
Nov. 15	Swinton	Home	7:30pm	
Nov. 24	Rochdale	Away	3:00pm	P
Nov. 29	St. Helens	Home	7:30pm	P
Dec. 7	Widnes	Away	7:30pm	16-16
Dec. 15	Whitehaven	Away	3:00pm	12-8
Dec. 20	Rochdale	Home	7:30pm	P
Jan. 4	St. Helens	Away	7:30pm	12-15
Jan. 10	Swinton	Away	7:30pm	8-26
Jan. 17	Widnes	Home	7:30pm	P 27 & 79
Jan. 19	Whitehaven	Home	3:00pm	21-9
Jan. 26	Rochdale			5-5
Feb. 2	St. Helens			7-7
Feb. 9				
Feb. 14	Warrington	Home	7:30pm	P
Feb. 23				9-8
Mar. 1	Barrow	Home	2:30pm	28-16
Mar. 17	Salford	Away	7:30pm	14-12
Mar. 15	Blackpool	Away	3:00pm	
Mar. 20	Salford	Home	7:30pm	

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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

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

In the years before the formation of the British Amateur Rugby League Association, most amateur Rugby League players were content to be playing regularly in their own district league, with the highest honour they could hope for being a place in the local town-team. Visits to grounds outside their own town were looked upon as something of a novelty, while to play an occasional away match either in Cumbria or on Humberside was the highlight of the season. Nowadays that 'highlight' has become commonplace. For many teams every other match sees them coming up against opposition from another County, while to travel the length of the country for a pre-season friendly game has now become an annual occurrence.

Previously the only time that amateur Rugby League teams from Great Britain and France met during any twelve months spell was in the annual International between the two countries. However, these days more and more amateur teams are arranging matches against French opposition, both in this country and across the Channel, while a European Championship game has now become an annual event, with a top French side taking on the winners of the BARLA Inter-League Shield.

In the coming months two French teams will be making short tours of the Oldham area, with matches taking place against local sides. The Under-19s' team of Cavillon arrive in this country at Eastertime and will be playing against the Saddleworth Rangers' youth team at Greenfield on Easter Sunday afternoon. Although the continental visitors will not be in Oldham in time to watch the Standard Cup Final, for which Saddleworth have qualified, the team are to be taken to see Rochdale Charity Cup decider on Easter Monday, in which the Rangers' "A" team meet Todmorden. Cavillon then hope to play another game in the area before they return home.

During the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, top French side Albi will be in the town, playing two matches against local open-age sides, as well as visiting the BARLA Forshaw's National Cup Final at Blackpool. On the Friday evening, Saddleworth Rangers will again be the opposition for the French visitors, while after having visited Blackpool for the Cup Final on Saturday, Albi will then meet Waterhead on Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon.

Local amateur players have, therefore, more to aim for than ever before, with even more proof of this being shown by the fact that next Summer, Wigan amateur side, Shevington, are planning to go on a tour to America.

The collection which is being made during today's half-time interval is for the family of the late Joe Jackson, the former Grade 1 referee, and will be made by members of the Oldham Rugby League Referees' Society. Joe, who controlled last year's Wembly Cup Final, tragically died of a heart attack after refereeing a match at Saint Helens earlier this season. Every club has been asked to help the fund, and we therefore request supporters to contribute generously to this very worthy cause. Thank-you.

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