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Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 14th September, 1980

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
 2. GEOFF MUNRO
 3. CLIVE HUNTER
 4. BRIAN CAFFREY
 5. CLIVE SULLIVAN
 6. BILL FRANCIS
 7. KEN GWILLIAM
 8. ALAN FORSTER
 9. ROGER O'MAHONEY
 10. STEVE HERBERT
 11. BOB BLACKWOOD
 12. BRIAN LOCKWOOD
 13. TERRY FLANAGAN
- SUBS FROM:
14. RAY ASHTON
 15. BOB MORDELL
 16. MIKE WORRALL
 17. COLIN HAWKYARD
 18. PHIL WARD
 19. ALAN PLATT
 20. MIKE COWLEY

FEATHERSTONE

Blue/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

1. JOHN MARSDEN
2. JOHN GILBERT
3. STEVE QUINN
4. PAUL COVENTRY
5. KEN KELLETT
6. STEVE EVANS
7. TERRY HUDSON
8. GARY SIDALL
9. RAY HAWSCOMBE
10. MICK GIBBINS
11. PETER SMITH
12. STEVE HAWKINS
13. DAVID HOBBS

14. GRAHAM ROBINSON
15. MICHAEL MORGAN

Referee: J.V. Moss (Manchester)
Touch Judges: D.M. Russell (Rochdale)
D. Watson (Heywood)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 5th October, 1980 - R.L. Div. 1 v LEIGH
Forshaw's Lancashire Cup - Semi-Final

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OLDHAM

V

Featherstone

Watersheddings - Sunday 14th September, 1980

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Secretary: J. Chadwick

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

Adrian Alexander - Jimmy Arnold - Dennis Ashcroft - Ray Ashton - Bob Blackwood -
Brian Caffrey - Chris Charles - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley -
Glen Crehan - Pasquale D'Adamo - Stephen Dobb - Eric Fitzsimons - Kevin Flanagan -
Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall -
Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert - Clive Hunter - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder -
Steve Littler - Brian Lockwood - Paul Lowndes - Steve Lund - Ray Martland - Bob Mordell -
Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - Gerrard Nolan - Colin North - Tony Ogden - Ian Ogden -
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Commercial Manager: Keith Masters **Social Club Manager:** Kevin Wilkinson

Groundsman: J. Walker **Asst. Groundsman:** W. Caine

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
First game	October 21 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of Points Scored	Bernard Ganley 2881
Most Appearances	Joe Ferguson 685
Most Tries	Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233 Since 1900 Alan Davies 182

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, 1933-24, 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
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1975-76, 1979-80

HARDWORKING COLLIERS!

AFTER Wednesday's visit of Warrington to Watersheddings in the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup semi-final we again have attractive opposition today in the shape of Featherstone Rovers.

Rovers roared to the Second Division championship last year with Halifax in second place, Oldham third and Barrow fourth.

Mind you, the Colliers of Post Office Road will have good reason to remember their clashes with Oldham in the Second Division last year because we beat them 23-22 at Watersheddings and then, at the turn of the year, drew 8-8 in a real thriller at Post Office Road.

The game at Watersheddings was also a cracker with Rovers soaring into a commanding lead thanks to the brilliant attacking play of their backs which include such talented young performers as John Gilbert, Paul Coventry, Steve Evans and the mighty Quinn, one of the most consistent goal kickers in the game today.

Oldham hit back to take the lead before never-say-die Rovers levelled again and then, in an exciting finale, Ray Ashton stepped up to drop the winning goal. It was just as tight several weeks later at Featherstone with Ashton again dropping a goal, Eric Fitzsimons landing two goals and our only try coming from scrum-half Ken Gwilliam, who went in just before half-time on Terry Flanagan's timely pass.

Most Second Division teams, however, were not in the same class as Rovers, who ought never really to have been in the lower division in the first place. They won immediate promotion after only one season and they ought to do quite well this year on their return to the top flight.

They have too much talent at Post Office Road -- and a good youth policy, too -- to be kept out of the limelight for long.

Harold Box at full back, although a long-serving player, is still one of the best full backs in the game and Rovers are blessed with pace and class right through their back division.

Evans, equally at home at stand-off or centre, already has international honours and an Australian tour behind him and he will clearly be making a big impression on the selectors as they prepare for the triangular tournament and the Tests against the New Zealanders in the autumn.

Gilbert is one of the fastest and most dangerous backs in the game while no club can afford to give any penalty kicks away while Steve Quinn is around.

Quinn is also a most accomplished footballer... but no set of backs can operate unless their pack is functioning and, in that department, Rovers are also well blessed with players like the experienced Mick Morgan and Keith Bell to boss the show and youngsters like Dave Vickers to cash in.

Coach Paul Daley will have set his sights on seeing Rovers do well in the First Division -- and, as Oldham took three points off his side last year, he will probably be especially keen to pick up points today.

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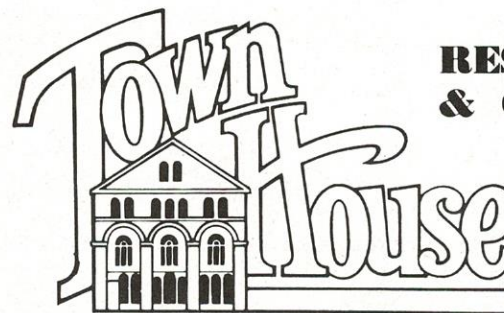
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TREAT IN STORE

By Roger Halstead.
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

HAVING watched their side for three seasons in the backwaters of the Second Division and watched them struggle for two of those seasons even in that sort of company Oldham supporters are in for a great treat this year if the home games against Salford and Castleford are any guide.

Both were thrillers with Oldham coming back from 13-7 down to beat Salford in injury time and, in the next match, conceding six points in the last few minutes as Mal Reilly snatched a draw for Castleford with a drop goal.

It was tremendous entertainment with top-class players in action in both games, a touch of atmosphere which Second Division could never provide, and Oldham holding their own to earn a Lancashire Cup semi-final place for the first time since 1968, and pick up a point with which to start their First Division programme.

If Oldham can build upon their encouraging start and they have gone progressively better with each game it is going to be a season to relish at Watersheddings. The walk-over wins of last season are a thing of the past. The tight affairs we have already seen, with the result in doubt until the hooter, will probably be what we can come to expect.

There was disappointment at Watersheddings after Castleford had come back from the dead to earn their 14-14 draw. Having led by six points so near the end the immediate reaction was to regard the result as a point lost rather than a point won.

It was certainly an anti-climax but such is the vast gulf that exists between the two divisions -- a great divide that only Hull KR, Leigh and Hull have successfully negotiated in recent years -- that any point Oldham pick up this season must be viewed as a point won.

Indeed, the management is realistic enough to state publicly that the season's top priority is First Division survival. Anything more than that will be regarded as a bonus.

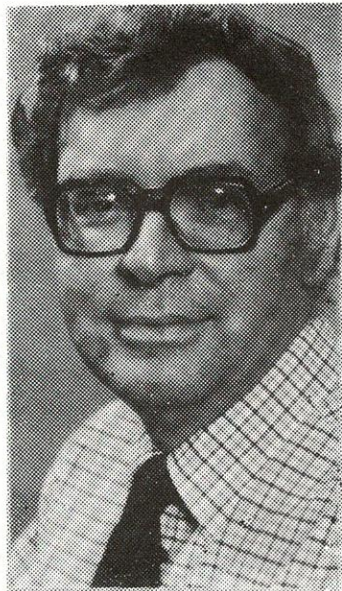
On the face of it the side at present does not have the pace or power to make a real impact. Despite the problems, however, the team has made tremendous progress since the end of last season and the signing of Brian Lockwood as pack leader must surely mean that Oldham are better off than most for skilful and creative ball players.

Clubs throughout the league are crying out for ball distributors and Oldham have two up front in Lockwood and Terry Flanagan and two in the backs in Bill Francis and Ray Ashton.

I do not go along with the view expressed in some quarters that Oldham might have too many ball players for their own good.

It is easy to understand what is meant by that criticism but so long as the side's work rate does not suffer how can it possibly be a weakness to have a surfeit of talent?

It does mean that it is perhaps more difficult to organise the side to a set pattern. Oldham are perhaps going to be a very unorthodox side and it all adds to the glorious uncertainty that is the First Division!



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Programme collecting is increasing rapidly in popularity every year and therefore more and more people need to contact each other to buy, sell, swap and generally exchange information. Unfortunately there seems to be no publication available to unite collectors, however large or small their collection may be. This is why I have decided if enough interest is shown to form a collectors catalogue to contain advertising and articles by collectors etc. If you are interest in joining please send a stamped addressed envelope for further information.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Supporters Club can do so at any canteen or in the Social Club **Price of membership is £1.00 This includes a Supporters club Diary.**

A coach will be running to HULL on September 21st, leaving at 11.0am. **Prices:** Adult member £2.80, Adult non-member £3.00, Child member £1.80, Child non-member £2.00. Also to Leeds on September 28th, leaving at 1.30pm. **Price** Adult members £1.50, Adult non-members £1.80, Child member £1.00, Child non-member £1.30. Anyone wishing to book can do so in the canteen or Social Club.

METAL OLDHAM SUPPORTERS CLUB LAPEL BADGES are on sale in the canteen or Social Club **Price 60p. BLAZER BADGES £7.50 each.** Also on sale are our **OLDHAM R.L.F.C. Sweaters**, sizes are 34, 36, 38, 40 in Red and 40" in Blue. These are priced at £10.00 each. Anyone wishing to see these sweaters can do so in the canteens or Social Club.

We are holding our **ANNUAL RUGBY QUEEN DANCE** on Tuesday 28th October in the Social Club, from 8pm - 12am. Price by ticket £1.00. If bought on the night £1.25. **So come along all you pretty girls** (age 16 and upwards) and enter for our Rugby Queen. Give your name and address at our canteen or Social Club.

Sponsored swim Friday September 19th, Breezhill School baths for Geoff Munros' benefit. Sponsor forms available from any canteen or Social Club.



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CLUB NEWS

ALEXANDER BLOW

WE suffered our first serious injury blow of the season in the match against Castleford two weeks ago. In the opening match on our return to the First Division prop-forward Adrian Alexander went down awkwardly in a first-half tackle and had to be taken off in considerable pain.

It was obvious as soon as he was examined by the club doctor and physiotherapist that the knee injury received by "Alec" was of the more serious type and our worst fears were confirmed two days later when the player was examined by the club's orthopaedic surgeon.

It was diagnosed that Alec had torn a ligament on the inside of his knee and he was expected to be out of action for some weeks. This was a real blow to us because, since his debut last December, our former Union man had played on the open-side of the front-row in 19 out of 22 matches played.

The injury did underline, of course, the need to have strength in depth and more so now that we are in the First Division and every game is just as important to us as a cup-tie.

For instance, we had to go to Bradford last Sunday -- home of league champions Northern- without Alexander and then, on Wednesday night, we had the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup semi-final against Warrington.

Centre Clive Hunter was also hurt against Castleford -- he had a recurrence of groin trouble -- but he quickly responded to treatment and at the time of writing it was hoped he would not be out of action for too long.



Geoff Munro on the break at Bradford



No stopping Clive Hunter as he crashes over for Oldham; second try at Bradford

Talking of the Castleford match it was bitterly disappointing to end up with a 14-14 draw after we had led by six points near the end.

But we got a point to start us off on our First Division programme - and that was better than nearly half the clubs!

No matter how we fared against the Wires on Wednesday it has to be reiterated that our priority this season is the First Division.

It is a tremendous gulf to cross and, since the reintroduction of two divisions in 1973, few clubs have negotiated it successfully. The two Hull clubs, Leigh and Bradford have firmly established themselves as First Division outfits in a big way after spending time in the Second Division but there have been many casualties among clubs coming up from the lower division.

Take Oldham as an example. We have been up and down like a yo-yo but have never really looked like doing enough to become a force in the First Division. We managed to stop up one year -- by the skin of our teeth -- but we were relegated the following year and then spent three seasons in the Second Division before winning promotion last time.

This time we have to consolidate and by next season we will have had another year to strengthen where necessary and another year in which our talented youngsters will have "grown up" in football terms and gained in football maturity.

So this time we have to concentrate on league points and regard anything else - the winning of cup-ties etc -- as an added bonus.

In the meantime our "A" team should, with luck, be in for a very interesting season. They won the Lancashire Shield last year, as you will remember, and this season they will again be hoping to get among the honours.

They began their defence of the Shield with a first-round tie at Warrington on Friday night. In the Combination our "A" team began their season at Salford and won comfortably by 13 points to 6 with tries from Paddy Kirwan, Alan Forster and Mike Cowley and two goals by Brian Caffrey.

It was an accomplished display and Salford were never really in with a chance of winning. There were particularly good displays from centre Caffrey, scrum-half Kirwan, and forwards Forster, Les Cook and Colin Hawkyard.

Greenall Whitley

LOCAL TIME



Greenall's
LOCAL
BITTER

TOM WEBB's HISTORY OF FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC

Featherstone Rovers started off as a junior club in the Wakefield, Dewsbury and District League and startled the world by reaching the third round of the Challenge Cup in 1905-06 defeating Otley in the intermediate round, Brookland Rovers (the team that produced Joe Ferguson) in the first, Widnes a senior club by 23-2 in the second before going down 3-0 at Keighley in the third.

As Irving Saxton, the club historian and statistician has told, there was a Marie Celeste mystery about the club which vanished for about three years after this notable success. The club revived and along with Featherstone and Purston White Horse kept interest alive in the Village. The club played in the Leeds League and the Yorkshire Combination along with senior "A" teams before being admitted to the Northern Rugby League in 1921-22 the last season in which our game was known as Northern Union Football. The club had a taste of senior football when it was admitted to the War Emergency League in 1915-16 along with another minor club, Brighouse Rangers and another aspiring club, St. Helens Recs.

The club was in a lowly position for a few years and on one occasion Oldham ran up 53 points against 15 by the Rovers. The writer of these notes saw that game from the Penny Rush away back in April 1924.

Within four years of that defeat Rovers reached the top four and finished as league runners-up. In those days it was said that when Rovers wanted a couple of forwards someone whistled down a pit shaft and a couple of them would come up. Today the club by virtue of its youth policy develops its own star players.

Rovers won the Rugby League Challenge Cup in 1967 and 1973 and twice lost in the final. Twice the Yorkshire Cup was won. In 1976-77 the club topped the first division but two seasons later dropped into the second division. This season the club in company with ourselves returns to the first division.

Among the many capable and dedicated officials of the club, John Jepson, Ron Bailey, George Johnson, Derek Hobbs, G.W. Ward, Arthur Berry, Alf Greaves and Arthur Higgins have been prominent at various stages in the club's history.

made 789 first team appearances and Jack Hirst. The latter must not be confused with Oldham's Jack Hirst who played for the Oldham club and set up the try scoring record before the turn of the century.

Willis Fawley, Don Fox, Joe Mullany, Freddie Miller, Malcolm Dixon, Harold Box, Terry Clawson and Tommy Smales are just a few of the outstanding Rovers' players over the past 60 years and they set the standard for players like Steve Evans, Steve Quinn, John Gilbert and company to follow.

Perhaps the outstandingly well known player today is Mick Morgan who compares and stages the Rugby League Road Show as well as doing the honours at the Featherstone Rovers Social Club.

NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

NEW ZEALAND TOUR - ITINERARY

DATE	OPPOSITION	
Tuesday 30th September	Blackpool Borough	5.15pm
Sunday 5th October	Hull	3.00pm
Wednesday 8th October	Cumbria (At Whitehaven)	7.30pm
Sunday 12th October	St. Helens	3.00pm
Tuesday 14th October	Bradford Northern	7.30pm
Saturday 18th October	GREAT BRITAIN (At Wigan)	3.00pm
Wednesday 22nd October	Hull Kingston Rovers	7.30pm
Sunday 26th October	Leeds	3.00pm
Wednesday 29th October	Warrington	7.30pm
Sunday 2nd November	GREAT BRITAIN (At Bradford)	2.30pm
Wednesday 5th November	Great Britain Under-24s (At Fulham)	7.30pm
Sunday 9th November	Widnes	3.00pm
Tuesday 11th November	Leigh	7.30pm
Saturday 15th November	GREAT BRITAIN (At Leeds)	3.00pm

TICKET PRICES:

First Test at Wigan	- Douglas Stand (reserved)	£3
	Popular Stand (reserved)	£2
Second Test at Bradford	- Main Stand (reserved)	£3
	Main Stand	
	(Paddock) (unreserved)	£2
	"New Stand" (unreserved)	£2
Third Test at Leeds	- Centre Stand (reserved)	£3
	Wing Stands (reserved)	£2
Ground admission for all Tests	- Adults	£1.50
	Boys and O.A.P.'s	£1.00

LEADING TRY SCORERS:

Keith FIELDING (Salford) last season's leading try scorer, is the early leader this season with 6.

Close behind are Davie HERON (Leeds), Chris CAMILLERI (Barrow), John CROSSLEY (York), Rick THACKRAY (Warrington), Ian SLATER (Huddersfield), Trevor LEATHLEY (Huddersfield), with 5 each.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS:

Steve QUINN (Featherstone Rovers), last season's top goal kicker, is also in front again with 24.

He is followed by Willie OULTON (Leeds) with 17, Trevor BIBB (Bramley), Colin WHITEFIELD (Salford), Phil HOGAN (Hull K.R.), who have kicked 15 each.

MILESTONES:

Sammy LLOYD (Hull) is now 4 short of his registering his 1,000th goal of his career.

Steve QUINN (Featherstone Rovers) has now played and scored in 36 consecutive Featherstone Rovers matches for a total of 428 points.

Steve HESFORD (Warrington) needs only 10 points to become the second player to score 1,000 points in Division One.

CURRENT LONGEST WINNING RUN IN ALL MATCHES:

7, by Warrington (5 League, 2 Forshaw's Lanchashire Cup.)

CURRENT LONGEST LOSING RUN IN ALL MATCHES:

8, by Keighley (7 League and one Websters Yorkshire Cup.)

CURRENT LONGEST WINNING RUN IN SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP:

6, by Widnes (2 this season, 4 last season.)

CURRENT LONGEST WINNING RUN IN THE SECOND DIVISION:

8, by Swinton. 2 this season, 6 last season.

The cup winner.



Slalom Lager

Brewed by Matthew Brown



AUSTRALIAN BOB 'THE BEAR' O'REILLY CALLS IT A DAY

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

One of Great Britain's old Test rivals Bob 'The Bear' O'Reilly has decided to call it a day as the Australian season reaches its climax.

Prop forward O'Reilly, who helped his country win the World Cup in 70 and played in the same competition in France in 72 as well as touring this country in the 73 Ashes winning squad has gone out on crutches.

He recently had a knee operated on and is in plaster to his thigh as he plans his future outside the game.

O'Reilly figured in quite a few torrid clashes with Welsh giant Jim Mills who always felt he had the upper hand on his rival after putting him in his place when he spent a spell with North Sydney.

O'Reilly, who aims to go into the hotel business has played with Parramatta, Penrith and Eastern Suburbs with his old international pal Artie Beetson.

It is interesting to players, coaches and international selectors throughout the game to hear his views as he looks back on his 14 years in the game.

He believes the biggest change he has seen has been in the standard and approach to the game in Sydney.

'It is much more professional now than when I started out,' he says. 'The players are much fitter and faster.'

'I am not saying the players today have more ability than players when I first began but more emphasis is placed on fitness and extra work is done to bring out a player's best points.'

'But the training now is three and four nights a week plus more time to watch video replays and motivation films and most clubs begin training for the next season in October or November.'

'These days you have to be pretty fit to start training for the season which means working hard through the summer as well.'

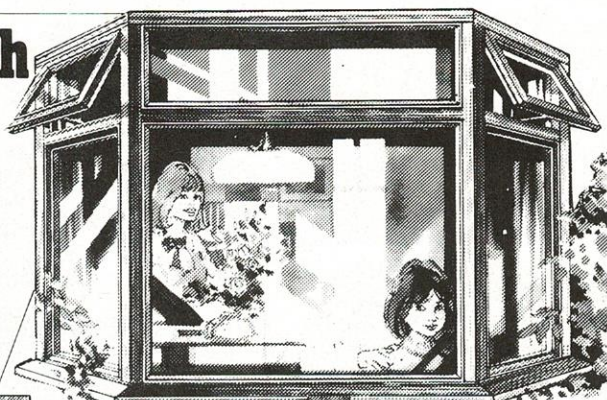
O'Reilly was never really rated highly in this country because he always seemed to fall in the shadow of Big Artie but he did some solid work in the 73 Test series.

He never showed any real flair and that is perhaps why he is not seeking to stay in the game in a coaching capacity.

Instead he wants to spend more time with his wife and young family now he has made the break and looks set to leave Sydney for a country life.

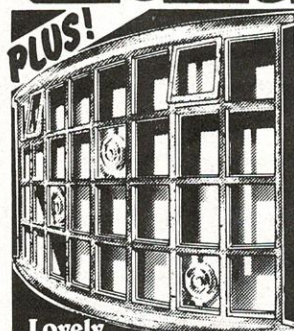
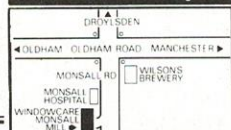


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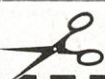
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	Date	Opponent	F. A.
H	Aug. 3 Sun.	Rochdale (Charity Match)	32 - 15
A	Aug. 10 Sun.	St. Helens (Friendly)	12 - 30
A	Aug. 17 Sun.	Swinton (County Cup)	11 - 5
A	Aug. 24 Sun.	County Cup 2nd Round	
H	Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	
A	Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	
H	Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	
A	Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	
A	Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	
H	Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	
A	Oct. 12 Sun.		
A	Oct. 19 Sun.	Widnes	
H	Oct. 26 Sun.	Workington	
A	Nov. 2 Sun.		
A	Nov. 9 Sun.	Featherstone	
H	Nov. 16 Sun.	Bradford	
A	Nov. 19 Wed.	Salford	
A	Nov. 23 Sun.	John Player 1st Round	
A	Nov. 30 Sun.	Wakefield	
A	Dec. 7 Sun.	John Player 2nd Round	
H	Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes	
A	Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
H	Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens	
A	Boxing Day		
H	Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	
A	Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	
A	New Years Day		
A	Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
H	Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	
A	Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	
A	Jan. 25 Sun.		
H	Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow	
A	Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Feb. 15 Sun.	Challenge Cup 1st Round	
A	Feb. 22 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A	Mar. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
H	Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
A	Mar. 15 Sun.	Workington	
H	Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
H	Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
A	Apr. 12		
H	Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
A	Good Friday		
H	Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
A	Easter Monday.		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	Date	Opponent	F. A.
H	Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginshaw (Friendly)	26 - 2
A	Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers	P
A	Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	
A	Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	
H	Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton	
H	Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens	
A	Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh	
H	Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets	
H	Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	
A	Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	
A	Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	
H	Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	
A	Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	
A	Nov. 14 Fri.	Wigan	
H	Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	
A	Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	
A	Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	
H	Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	
H	Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	
A	Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	
H	Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington	
H	Feb. 19 Thurs.	Blackpool	
A	Mar. 6 Fri.	Warrington	
H	Mar. 14 Sat.	Workington	
A	Mar. 19 Thurs.	Rochdale	
H	Mar. 26 Thurs.	Leigh	

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NEW LEAGUE IS THE FIRST ENTIRELY SPONSORED AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

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

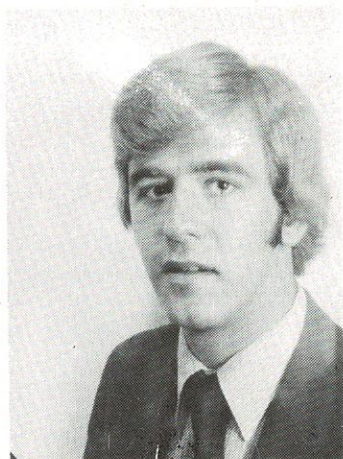
With sponsorship these days becoming an almost essential part of the sporting life, the newly formed Greater Manchester Youth League were delighted to announce last week the securing of a financial deal with a local company who have agreed to provide assistance in the League's inaugural season.

Oldham Exhaust and Tyre Centre are to give their backing to both the Under-15 and Under-17 league fixtures, with the teams in both age-groups therefore being in contention for their respective Oldham Exhausts Championship. This is the first time ever in the history of Amateur Rugby League that an entire league programme has received sponsorship, and thus ensures that the youngsters who are part of the successful teams will themselves gain their own personal awards at the end of the season. Seven teams are to enter the Under-15 competition, with nine sides playing at Under-17 level, while knockout cup tournaments, a seven-a-side competition, and an end of season play-off are also planned, for which sponsors are also being sought.

The new Oldham Supporters Club team, who are to compete in the Under-17 age-group, have yet to receive clearance from BARLA as to whether they will be allowed to play in the amateur ranks due to their connections with the senior club. The BARLA decision to impose a ban on any team who receive professional club assistance could, in the case of the Greater Manchester Youth League, affect the Oldham and Rochdale Hornets Supporters teams, with the Hornets being represented in both divisions. The Rochdale side were in existence last season and have already been given the go-ahead by the Association, although Oldham's application has still to be vetted.

Having already accepted the Oldham side, the Greater Manchester League have written to BARLA backing the local team's application. However, should BARLA officials reject the new side, several questions could be asked of the Association in order to clarify how their ban is to be imposed. Although BARLA are against the idea of a professional rugby club entering a totally amateur side in their youth leagues, they still allow many professional companies to subsidise an open-age amateur team, including several ex-professional players, with a social club, playing area, and equipment, all provided free of charge - items which other amateur clubs have to finance out of their funds. Pilkingtons of St. Helens have won the BARLA National Cup for the past two seasons - if the glassworks firm were to start a new professional club next season would BARLA ban the amateur team?

The newly-formed Fulham professional club - who are playing their first match today - have provided BARLA with the problem of selecting just one amateur team to compete in both the Player's No.6 Trophy and the State Express Challenge cup, instead of the usual two representatives. In previous years the two finalists in the BARLA National Cup competition have qualified for the John Player event, with the winners of the Lancashire/Cumbria and Yorkshire amateur cups competing in the Challenge Cup. However, last season's National Cup victors, Pilkington's are to be the sole representatives of the amateur game in this term's Player's competition, while the eventual winners of the two BARLA County Cup tournaments will meet in a play-off match to decide who joins the professional clubs of the road to Wembley.



FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS

B.B.C. RADIO MANCHESTER:

206 medium wave; 95.1 vhf.

"BARLA Reports" Every Friday 6.30pm - 6.45pm

"Rugby League Special" Every Sunday 3.30pm - 6pm. (Amateur news: 5.30pm)

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OLDHAM

Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 14th September, 1980

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. CLIVE HUNTER
4. BRIAN CAFFREY
5. CLIVE SULLIVAN
6. BILL FRANCIS
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALAN FORSTER
9. ROGER O'MAHONEY
10. STEVE HERBERT
11. BOB BLACKWOOD
12. BRIAN LOCKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

SUBS FROM:

14. RAY ASHTON
15. BOB MORDELL
16. MIKE WORRALL
17. COLIN HAWKYARD
18. PHIL WARD
19. ALAN PLATT
20. MIKE COWLEY

FEATHERSTONE

Blue/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

1. JOHN MARSDEN
2. JOHN GILBERT
3. STEVE QUINN
4. PAUL COVENTRY
5. KEN KELLETT
6. STEVE EVANS
7. TERRY HUDSON
8. GARY SIDALL
9. RAY HAWSCOMBE
10. MICK GIBBINS
11. PETER SMITH
12. STEVE HAWKINS
13. DAVID HOBBS

14. GRAHAM ROBINSON
15. MICHAEL MORGAN

Referee: J.V. Moss (Manchester)

Touch Judges: D.M. Russell (Rochdale)
D. Watson (Heywood)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 5th October, 1980 - R.L. Div. 1 v LEIGH

Forshaw's Lancashire Cup - Semi-Final

KWIKPRINT - OLDHAM

Featherstone