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## Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 15th March, 1981.

### OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,  
Blue Shorts.

1. Martin MURPHY
2. Geoff MUNRO
3. Clive HUNTER
4. Mick PARRISH
5. Eric FITZSIMONS
6. John PATTERSON
7. Paddy KIRWAN
8. Gareth OWEN
9. Ray MARTLAND
10. Billy HARRIS
11. Bob MORDELL
12. Alan PLATT
13. Terry FLANAGAN

- 14.
- 15.

### ST. HELENS

White Shirts/Red 'V',  
White Shorts.

1. Clive GRIFFITHS
2. Les JONES
3. Chris ARKWRIGHT
4. Brian PARKS
5. Roy MATHIAS
6. Peter GLYNN
7. Steve PETERS
8. Mel JAMES
9. Graham LIPTROT
10. Mick HOPE
11. Eric CHISNALL (capt.)
12. George NICHOLS/Peter GORLEY
13. Harry PINNER

14. Dennis LITHERLAND
15. Roger OWEN

Referee: Mr. J. Holdsworth (Leeds)

Touch Judges: Mr. J.A. Southworth (Wigan), Mr. K.L. Gaskel (Wigan)

**NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS**

Tuesday, 17th March, 1981 - WIDNES

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15-3-81  
**OLDHAM**

## Three Fives Challenge



3<sup>rd</sup> Round  
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Challenge Cup**  
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**Chairman:** R. Hatton  
**Vice-Chairman:** J. Bowden  
**Treasurer:** K. Broadbent

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

**Secretary:** J. Chadwick

**Coaching Staff:** Graham Starkey (Manager), Terry Gorman (Asst. Manager),  
Brian Gartland

#### Professional Playing Staff

Adrian Alexander - Ray Ashton - Bob Blackwood - Brian Caffrey - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook -  
Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley - Pasquale D'Adamo - Stephen Dobb - Eric Fitzsimmons -  
Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Billy Harris -  
Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert - Clive Hunter - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Steve Littler -  
Paul Lowndes - John Mantle - Ray Martland - Bob Mordell - Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy -  
Gerrard Nolan - Tony Ogden - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Mike O'Rourke -  
Garth Owen - Mick Parrish - Johnny Patterson - Alan Platt - Gordon Pollard - Ian Radcliffe -  
Warren Ryans - Derek Seabrook - Clive Sullivan - Dave Taylor - Garry Walczak - John Walls -  
Dave Walker - Joe Warburton - Phil Ward - Mike Worrall

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**Financial & Admin. Manager:** Mr. David Oakes Tel: 061-620 4870

**Commercial Manager:** Keith Masters **Social Club Manager:** Kevin Wilkinson

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

**Official Time Keeper:** J. Roscoe

#### 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	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
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 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

## SAINTS COME MARCHING IN

By their own very high standards St. Helens are not enjoying one of their most successful seasons, having won only nine of their 22 First Division games at the time of writing.

When Oldham and St. Helens had each played 22 league games Saints had 19 points to Oldham's 15 and they could easily have been level on 17 points apiece but for our injury-time defeat at Knowsley Road on Boxing Day.

However, the Saints are traditional cup fighters and it is no surprise to see them here at Watersheddings today in the last eight of the Three Fives Challenge Cup and regarded by some observers of the game as a good outside bet for Wembley.

Warrington, who met Wakefield at Wilderspool yesterday, were just about joint favourites to lift the trophy at Wembley alongside Hull KR, who do battle this afternoon with Salford at Craven Park.

But no one can write off Saints when it comes to the Wembley run - and it would be only a fool who would underestimate them on the strength of their modest First Division placing.

Saints possess two of the strongest finishing wingers in the game in the long-serving Les Jones and Welshman Roy Mathias while in the bustling Chris Arkwright they have one of the best centre prospects in the game.

Half-back is the hub of any side and here again Saints are normally well served by Peter Glynn at stand-off and young starlet Neil Holding at the base of the scrum.

Holding dislocated a shoulder in the second-round win against Hull and is almost certain to miss today's game though Saints have a very able deputy in Steve Peters.

Forward, Saints are very strong indeed with Welsh prop Mel James on the open side, England international Graham Liptrot as hooker, and Mick Hope on the blind-side.

There are few more experienced second-rows around than that formed by Eric Chisnall and Peter Gorley while at loose-forward Harry Pinner is a player of undoubted class as his representative record already proves.

Gorley hurt an ankle against Hull, beaten 3-2 at Knowsley Road, but even if he is not fit Saints can call upon a veteran cup campaigner of the calibre of Test man George Nicholls, one of the most respected forwards in the game today.

We were very unfortunate to lose 11-10 at Knowsley Road on Boxing Day when Pinner hoisted an up-and-under in a desperate, last-ditch Saints attack and it led to a try under the posts which provided Holding with the formality of landing the winning goal.

Mick Parrish landed four goals that day and Ray Ashton landed two drop goals and if today's cup clash is anything like as close and exciting the fans will really get their money's worth.

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# THE RUGBY LEAGUE ROADSHOW

**By Roger Halstead**

(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

THE Rugby League Roadshow will be back in Oldham later this month to help boost the testimonial fund for Geoff Munro and anyone who had a night out at the Show when it was in town for Phil Larder last year will no doubt want to pay a return visit.

Rugby League is short of occasions when the fans can meet the players and personalities they cheer from the terraces on Sunday afternoons and I must admit I thoroughly enjoyed the Roadshow when it was here last time.

Keith Macklin and David Howes, who do much of the presentation work on behalf of the Sunday Mirror and my former colleague John Huxley, do a tremendous job not only to help raise money for testimonials but to help promote the game. To give the Show a somewhat local flavour Phil invited many of the Oldham players of the past and it was indeed a nostalgic occasion when former "greats" like Alan Davies and Sid Little took to the stage.

This year Geoff is trying anxiously to borrow some films of the great Oldham side of the fifties to show alongside the films that will probably be brought over from RL headquarters.

It is known that films of the fifties side do exist in Oldham and if anyone can help Geoff unearth them I know he would be very grateful indeed.

He is also hoping to invite many members of the Great Britain side which won the World Cup in France in 1972, led by Clive Sullivan.

Clive, unfortunately out for the rest of the season after breaking his arm here at Watersheddings a few weeks ago, has promised to drive over from Hull and he will doubtless have many of his old Great Britain colleagues present with him at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Tickets for the Show are now available from the Social club, Geoff himself, or any member of his testimonial committee.

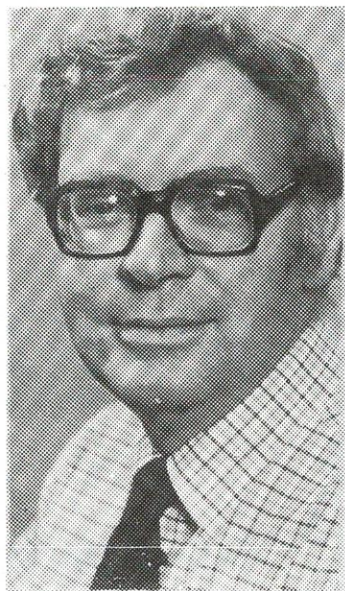
Talking of Keith Macklin and promoting the game, congratulations should be offered to the team that is presenting the new "RL Action" programme on ITV on Monday evenings.

The new programme is filling a terrific need and it got off to a bright start with some terrific football produced by Salford and Castleford in the first programme and Leeds and Barrow in the second.

What a treat, on a Monday evening, to sit in the comfort of a fireside chair and watch those silky skills of Leeds young stand-off Andy MacIntosh!

Competition is the name of the game in any walk of life and it is most encouraging now to see ITV covering League alongside the BBC.

One hopes that the Monday night slot, currently running for only nine weeks, will be merely the first of many courtships with League over the next few years.



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## NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

There is Standing Room only for the 1981 Final. Standing Tickets, priced only £3.00, are now available from every professional club or by post from:

The Rugby Football League  
Ticket Department  
180, Chapeltown Road  
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### MARCH 'OPEN RUGBY'

Rugby League's only magazine 'OPEN RUGBY' should not be missed by anyone interested in the game. The March edition, now available, continues 'Open Rugby's' reputation for providing the very best in Rugby League action photography.

There are features on Leigh's John Woods, Barrow's Ian Ball, York's John Crossley, and Whitehaven's Brian Rose. This month's 'Open Rugby' interview is with Tommy Bishop.

There's an in-depth look at what amateur RL players can achieve today, plus many more features from all around the Rugby League world. Order 'OPEN RUGBY' this month, and every month, from your newsagent. To obtain by post, send 65 pence to:

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# CLUB NEWS

## THE THUNDERSTRIKE!

WE would like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of all our members, supporters, fans and friends to our new lottery ticket - THE THUNDERSTRIKE.

In this day and age income from off-the-field sources is absolutely vital to the success of any soccer or Rugby League club whether you are a member or a fan YOU can play a practical and very important role in the future well-being of the club by supporting the lottery as either a customer or, better still, an agent.

We recognise that times are hard because of the economic climate but that is all the more reason why those with the Oldham RLFC at heart band together to work for its future.

There are few better ways of doing that than by supporting the lottery when you come across it in the pubs, clubs and shops of the town or contacting the Development Association offices in town (phone 620-4870) and becoming an agent among your work mates or circle of friends.

There are many benefits to be derived from becoming an agent so why not give it some serious thought and know that you are helping in a genuine and practical way towards ensuring that we have a bright and breezy future at Watersheddings.

The new lottery ticket is attractively designed in the club's red and white colours and gives the punter three chances of getting among the money and all for 25p.

There are two rub-off competitions and also a chance of the ticket going into a draw: all in all a ticket which we believe represents excellent value for money. Watch out for the symbol -- A FLASH OF LIGHTNING -- and that's your opportunity not only to make a valuable contribution to the club's well-being but to have a chance of getting among the big money.

## WELL DONE, GARETH.

ON behalf of all supporters we would like to offer congratulations once again to our front-row forward Gareth Owen, who has retained his place in the Welsh squad to play England at Hull KR on Wednesday night in the final match of the European triangular tournament.

Gareth, now playing better than at any time in his career, had a sound game when making his debut for Wales against France in Narbonne a few weeks ago and was widely tipped to keep his place.

The selectors met at Salford earlier this month and sure enough Gareth was included in a 16-man squad for the final game of the championship.

As France have already beaten both Wales and England the match at Craven Park is to decide which country finishes up with the "wooden spoon".

## ENTRANCE BY TICKET

YOU may be pleased to know that at all remaining home games this season ground tickets at £1.30 may be purchased in the Social Club BEFORE kick-off to help speed up the flow of people into the ground.

We have already carried out this experiment two or three times and it is proving very popular and successful as it saves a considerable amount of time at the turnstiles.



Despite a two-man tackle, Paddy Kirwan dives in for Oldham's first try in our second-round defeat of Workington at Watersheddings.

## PROGRAMME SPONSOR

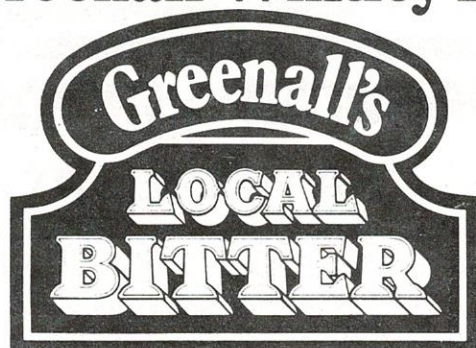
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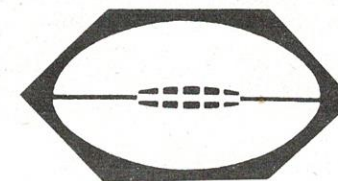
**By Alex Givvons**  
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

### THE OBSTRUCTION LAW:-

The referee's signal will endeavour to clearly indicate the offence by miming the action. Obstruction can be a complex subject to discuss because there are so many and varied types of obstruction. Good advice to a referee is to differentiate between accidental or the deliberate offence. The referee must remember that the man with the ball cannot be guilty of obstruction, neither can a colleague be blamed for the manoeuvres of the man with the ball. Being too severe on accidental obstruction may unjustly penalise good tactical manoeuvres, the "scissors" and "dummy" movements are typical examples. The increase in "dead ball" manoeuvres also increases the problems.

In the case of the referee deciding the obstruction was accidental then a scrum should be formed. If he decides it was obstruction intentionally either actively or passively then a penalty is given. A player who has knocked on must not be obstructed. The player who kicks through must not leave his kick too late and then expect a clear passage, the opponent may be committed to the tackle.

Spectators often shout for obstruction even though the man with the ball has been tackled, the referee will play on.



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## YOUNGSTERS TURN UP TRUMPS!

If anyone doubted the wisdom of the ambitious youth policy on which we embarked nearly two seasons ago they were surely convinced of its success when our youngsters turned up trumps to help us beat Workington in the second round of the Challenge Cup.

None did better in a magnificent team performance than Paddy Kirwan, Alan Platt and Terry Flanagan, three members of our first colts side which, last year, won the colts title and the premiership cup.

Mick Worrall and Derek Seabrook have also had first-team experience and our colts side continues to turn up trumps again this year as it chases the honours.

We were honoured when a total of six Oldham youngsters were picked for the two internationals and one of them, stand-off Seabrook, captained the international side.

We are still in line for league and premiership honours and at Rochdale two weeks ago we beat the Hornets 22-7 to reach the semi-final of the one competition in which we slipped up last year - the Challenge Cup.

Fate did not treat us kindly in the semi-final draw when we were paired to play the mighty Hull side on Humber side.

Whatever the result of what should be a classic encounter it is a fair bet that the winners will probably lift the trophy and will also be there or thereabouts in league and premiership honours. Many of our youngsters have graduated through to the "A" team and we have good reason to be proud of the results of our youth policy after only two seasons.

The youngsters, by the way, are very grateful and encouraged by the support they get and we can fairly claim that our "A" team and colts sides are probably among the best supported reserve and youth teams in the game.

Even in the cup-tie at Rochdale, on a shocking day, there were hundreds of Oldhamers huddled under umbrellas along the touch lines at Firgrove.

The players think the support is terrific - and they wish us to pass on those sentiments to all concerned.



## SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Supporters Club may do so at any Canteen or in the Social Club. **Price:** £1.00 (including a Diary)

Forthcoming events in our Social Club, run by the Supporters Club.

**An Easter Bonnet Parade** - on Saturday 18th April, 1981. Admission Adults £1.00, Children 60p. 8 p.m. - 12 Midnight (including supper)

**The Player of The Year Dance** on Friday 24th April, 1981. Cabaret & Disco By Vic Preston. Admission £1.00 8 p.m. - 12 Midnight.

**Annual Pram Race** on Monday 25th May, 1981. To leave the Social Club at 7 p.m. Followed by a Disco & Presentation from 9 p.m - 12 midnight Admission 50p.

**Lancashire Federation of Rugby League Supporters Club** Annual Player of the Year Awards and Rugby League Queen Competition. In our Social Club on Friday May 29th, 1981 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Cabaret & Dancing. Tickets £1.00 each. From any Supporters Club Committee Member. **(A number of Star Player's in attendance)**

**Wembley Draw** on Tuesday 21st April, 1981 - Draw at 9 p.m. Potato Pie Supper **Free to all Supporters Club Members.** Small charge to non-members. Buy your Draw Tickets in our Canteens today or in the Social Club. **Prizes:** Cup Winners £25.00 Runners up £10.00 Losing semi-finalists £2.50 All other teams £1.00 **Tickets** 50p per book.

**The Trumanns Man of Steel** to be held at the **Golden Garter** on Wednesday 13th May, 1981. Tickets may be ordered from any Canteens or the Social Club.

**Metal Supporters Club Badges** are on sale at **60p**, **Blazer Badges £7.50** each. **Oldham R.L.F.C. Sweaters** sizes are 34, 36, 38, 40 in red, these are priced at **£10** each. **Red & White Rugby Shirts** sizes 30,32 **£6.50** each, 34,36 **£8.75** 40,42 **£10.35**. **Red & White Scarves** at **£1.75**. **Bobhats £1.25** each. **Colts Car Stickers 45p** each. All items can be bought from any canteen or in the Social Club at any time.



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## JIMMY 'TACKLER' THOMPSON CALLS IT A DAY!

Jimmy Thompson's decision to call it a day at the end of this season sees another fine member of our last Ashes winning side leave the playing scene.

**Brian Batty**  
Daily Mail



Thompson has been one of the game's top forwards for more than a decade, battling courageously in recent years to overcome injury troubles with plenty of character and determination.

It seems an eternity since he made his mark at Wembley in the second row of that fine Featherstone Rovers Cup winning side against Barrow in the 1967 final.

I was fortunate enough to see Thompson develop into a Test forward three years later on the successful tour of Australia and New Zealand.

'Tackler' as he became nicknamed by the respectful Aussies, had left England eager to learn the ropes but he quickly forced his way into the Test side to stay. He returned home a giant in playing terms having gone out a mere stripling but tragically ran into a crippling knee injury that threatened to wreck his fast ripening career.

But he eventually underwent an operation on the shattered knee and after almost two seasons out of the game gradually won his fight to remain in top class football.

There was no doubt that his loss of pace - a legacy of his injury - was a handicap but when Peter Fox took him from Featherstone to Bradford Northern to renew their partnership it was like the start of a second career.

Coach Fox had had Jim under his wing at Post Office Road long enough to visualise the new role he could play as a skipper and in the front row of the pack at Odsal.

It proved a shrewd move - Bradford will never get a better deal - for soon Thompson was heading for fresh honours and was back on the international front.

Since they teamed up again Bradford have won the Premiership trophy, the Yorkshire Cup, the John Player trophy and the First Division championship.

Fox had set his heart on taking Bradford to Wembley this season but that dream was to live no longer than the first round and so the chance for Jim to bow out in style was lost.

There is still the Premiership to aim for and so Bradford have an extra spur to give Jim a fine send off and I am sure he will be in there battling for a final honour.

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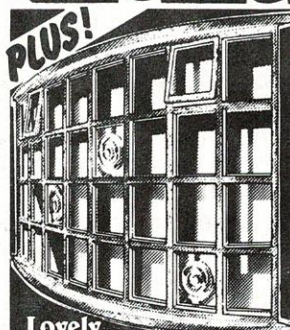
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## FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	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	15 - 13
H	Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	14 - 14
H	Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	10 - 21
A	Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	17 - 32
A	Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	11 - 16
A	Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	14 - 16
H	Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	15 - 12
A	Oct. 12 Sun.	Widnes	18 - 28
A	Oct. 19 Sun.	Workington	18 - 10
H	Nov. 2 Sun.		
A	Nov. 9 Sun.	Featherstone	10 - 31
H	Nov. 16 Sun.	Bradford	9 - 2
A	Nov. 19 Wed.	Salford	22 - 7
A	Nov. 23 Sun.	John Player York	9 - 11
A	Nov. 30 Sun.	Wakefield	15 - 24
A	Dec. 7 Sun.	Workington	4 - 25
H	Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes	
H	Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.	9 - 27
A	Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens	10 - 11
H	Boxing Day		2 - 1
A	Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	2 - 30
A	Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	11 - 27
A	New Years Day		
H	Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	19 - 12
A	Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	20 - 11
A	Jan. 25 Sun.		8 - 15
H	Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow	13 - 10
A	Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax	11 - 2
A	Feb. 15 Sun.	Challenge Cup Blackpool	
A	Feb. 22 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A	Mar. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
H	Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
A	Mar. 15 Sun.		
H	Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
H	Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
H	Apr. 12		
H	Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
H	Good Friday		
H	Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
	Easter Monday.		

## 'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	Date	Opponent	F. A.
H	Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginshaw (Friendly)	26 - 2
H	Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers	P
A	Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	6 - 13
A	Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	2 - 8
H	Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton	27 - 23
H	Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens	6 - 15
A	Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh	10 - 23
H	Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets	16 - 13
H	Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	12 - 11
A	Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	18 - 10
A	Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	20 - 14
H	Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	15 - 29
A	Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	7 - 8
A	Nov. 14 Fri.		P
H	Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	16 - 11
A	Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	14 - 13
H	Dec. 4 Thurs.	Wigan	18 - 7
A	Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	10 - 8
H	Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	5 - 16
A	Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	7 - 0
H	Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	21 - 9
A	Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	8 - 14
H	Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington	11 - 0
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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# 1981 OLDHAM STANDARD CUP FINAL

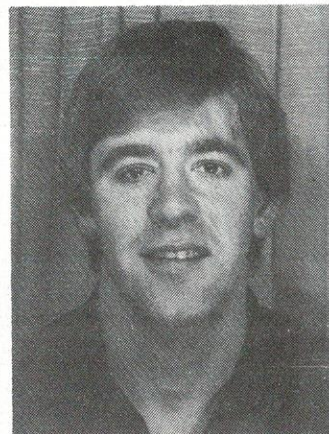
**By Alan Burke**  
Public Relations Officer  
Oldham Amateur Rugby League

Saddleworth Rangers versus Waterhead - that's the treat in store for the local Amateur Rugby League supporters in this season's Oldham Standard Cup Final, which as usual will take place at Watersheddings on Good Friday morning (11am). Saddleworth will be defending the Cup they won last year when defeating Saint Anne's, while Waterhead will be aiming to lift the famous trophy for the first time in their history, having appeared in five previous finals since the war. Despite winning the Standard Cup last year, Saddleworth were relegated to Division One of the Pennine League, but have restored their pride this season by once again reaching the final with victories against Spotland Rangers, Fitton Hill and Higginshaw. Waterhead, who are members of the Pennine League's Premier Division, won their place in the decider with away wins over Langworthy Juniors and Shaw, and a semi-final success against Mayfield.

Both teams are currently in excellent form and include many of the area's top players. Rangers will have three current Lancashire County representatives in their side, with prop-forward Paul Wilson having gained open-age honours earlier this year, while scrum-half Gary Ainsworth and second-rower Mark Rowbottom both appeared for the Red Rose under-19s outfit. Waterhead, who are coached by former Watersheddings prop-forward Ken Wilson, include two players in their ranks who have gained representative honours at University level. Full-back Mick Childs appeared for Yorkshire Universities while studying at Leeds, while second-row forward Steve Dragicevic, in his first season with Waterhead has previously gained International recognition for England against France. The two sides will also include several players from this season's very successful Oldham town-teams. The Oldham Standard Cup was first contested in the 1903-04 season after the local Amateur League had received the cup from the local "Oldham Standard" newspaper; while it is made entirely of silver, and although originally bought for a mere 30 guineas, it has recently been valued at over £1,500. The trophy itself stands three feet high and, as any winning player will testify, it holds 16 pints of beer.

The tremendous following which both Saddleworth and Waterhead attract points to another large crowd at Watersheddings for this season's final, with an attendance of over 5,000 expected at the match, while receipts for the tie could easily better last year's figure of £1,680, which itself was the highest amount ever for an amateur game in Rugby League history. As usual, supporters from throughout the country will be travelling to Oldham for the final, while local Rugby League followers will be able to make it a full day out, as in the afternoon the Oldham professional club will be at home to Saint Helens in a vital league fixture.

Next Sunday, the Oldham under-17s town-team travel to Widnes for their BARLA Inter-League quarter-final, and for the first time will be wearing the new set of playing kit presented to them by the Oldham senior club a fortnight ago.



FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:  
B.B.C Radio Manchester (206 medium wave; 95.1 v.h.f.)

BARLA REPORTS Every Friday 6.30 pm  
RUGBY LEAGUE SPECIAL Every Sunday 3.30 pm - 6 pm (Amateur news - 5.35 pm)

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