The Match Magazine of the Milers

Blackpool Borough Rugby League Football Club

30p





Slalom Lager RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP BLACKPOOL v OLDHAM

Sunday, 6th September, 1981



Leading the field for all local and national sport... results, comment and action

Green 6



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R.L. Council member: Mr. R. PARKER

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Club Honours: Players No. 6 Trophy:

FINALISTS 1976/77

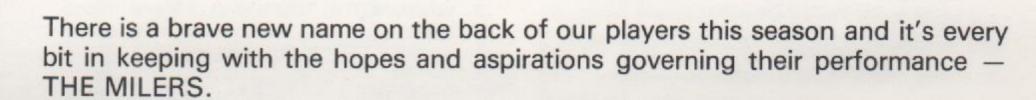
Promotion to Division 1: 1978-79

COVER PICTURE

Milers prop. Billy Lomax fends off Tony Cooper while Alan Doran waits to lend a bit of muscle in last weeks victory at Swinton.

100

Comment



"Come on the Milers _ make your mark on the game of Rugby League".

As Blackpool R.L.F.C. changes colour, great hopes appear for the future.

Think of the Milers and you think of our famous Golden Mile, think of our great record breaking milers whose performances are putting British sport at the top of its league. Not only are Milers like Coe and Ovett great sportsmen they are pace setters whose efforts gain, inch by inch, new standards with which to judge the others. And setting standards is what Blackpool R.L.F.C. are going to be all about. So what better name to pin upon the players who will take Blackpool up the League — because that's where they're going.

But they need YOUR support — give it and help put Blackpool and the Milers on the map of Rugby League — it's a great game, we've some great players and a great future in store.

"Come on the Milers"

JC's CURRENT AFFAIRS

Today heralds the start of our home League fixtures in the 1981/82 campaign and what more attractive opposition could we have than the Oldham Club.

Their team is topped by many pundits to gain promotion at the first attempt following their relegation from the top-flight last season and certainly the Milers will have to on top form to contain players of the calibre of Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan and Ray Ashton. Terry Flanagan is the Captain and whilst still only 20, he has already represented the Gt. Britain under 24's against New Zealand and been included in the full Gt. Britain squad and more recently selected for Lancashire to play against Yorkshire at Castleford on Wednesday the 9th September.

Other members of the Oldham side include Adrian Alexander the former Harlequins and Barbarians forward and Bob Mordell, the ex England Rugby Union International. Last week they played Hunslet at Watersheddings and whilst not reaching their best form won 24 points — 16 points. We also started with a hard earned victory at Swinton by 14 points — 8 points and whilst every player gave 100% special mention must be given to Jimmy Fairhurst our £12,000 signing from Warrington who scored two tries, made another and kicked a drop goal.

The "A" Team have made a good start winning 2 out of the first 3 fixtures and there seems to be some young promising players in Tim Wild a fast local winger and Jeff Steenson from New Zealand and competition for places in both teams is really hotting up with the introduction of 13 new signings.

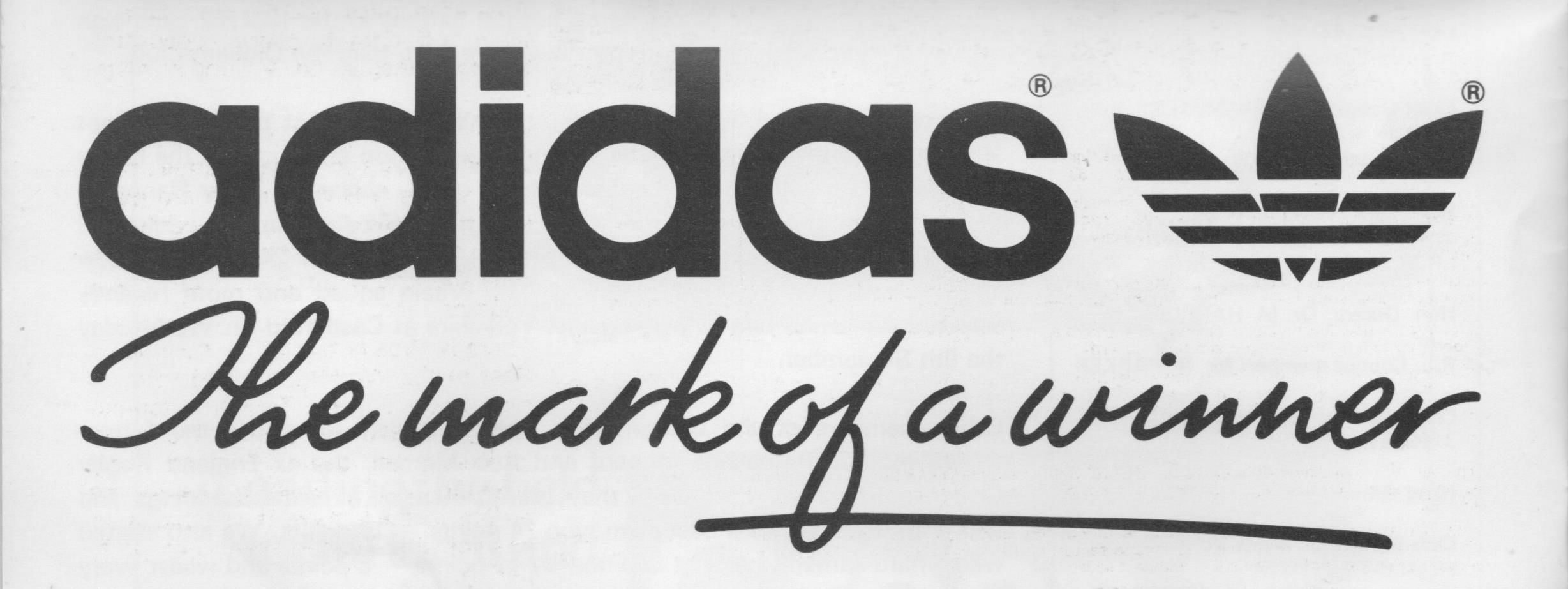
Fixtures

NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 2 FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1981-82 Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

1981		
August 30—Swinton Av	way	14
9—Workington (K.O. 6.00 p.m.) Av 13—CARLISLE Ho	ome way ome ome way	
October 4-HUDDERSFIELD Ho 11-Batley Av 18-JOHN PLAYER TROPHY - (1st Round) 25- SALFORD Ho	way	
	way way ome	
December 6—HUNSLET (K.O. 2.30 p.m.) Ho 13—Dewsbury (K.O. 3.30 p.m.) As 20—ROCHDALE HORNETS (K.O. 2.30pm) Ho 27—Doncaster (K.O. 2.30 p.m.) As	ome	

3—WORKINGTON TOWN (K.O. 2.30pm) Hom 10—Halifax	ay ne ay	
February 14—STATE EXPRESS CHALLENGE CUP(1st Rn 21—Huyton	ay	
March 7—HALIFAX Hon 14—Carlisle Awa 21—BRAMLEY Hon 28—Oldham Awa	ay ne	
April 4—KEIGHLEY	ay ne ay	
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE LANCASHIRE COMBINATION 'A' TEAM FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1981-82 Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated		
August 15—Barrow 'A' (K.O. 2.30 p.m.) Aw	ay	F A

January, 1982 3—WORKINGTON TOWN (K.O. 2.30pm) Hon 10—Halifax Aw 17—CARDIFF CITY (K.O. 2.30 p.m.) Hon 24—Hunslet Aw 31—SWINTON Hon	me vay		3-Oldham 'A' (K.O. 7.30 p.m.) 12-WORKINGTON TOWN 'A' 19-WHITEHAVEN 'A' (Lancs. County Challenge Shield 1st Rou 26-Whitehaven 'A'	Home Home nd)
February 14—STATE EXPRESS CHALLENGE CUP(1st Rn 21—Huyton Aw 28—STATE EXPRESS CHALLENGE Cup(2ndRn	ay		October 10—LEIGH 'A' 17—BARROW 'A' 24—WARRINGTON 'A' 28—Salford 'A' (K.O. 7.30 p.m.)	Home Home
March 7—HALIFAX Hon 14—Carlisle Aw 21—BRAMLEY Hon 28—Oldham Aw	nay me		November 14—ROCHDALE 'A' (K.O. 2.30 p.m.)	Away
April 4—KEIGHLEY Hor 9—Bramley (K.O. 7.30 p.m.) Aw 12—HUYTON Hor 18—Cardiff City Aw 25—DEWSBURY hor	ne me vay		December 12—ST. HELENS 'A' (K.O. 2.30 p.m.) 18—Rochdale Hornets 'A' (K.O. 7.30 p.m. January, 1982 3—Workington Town 'A' (K.O 12.30 pm) 15—Widnes 'A' (K.O. 7.30 p.m.)	Away Away Away
LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE LANCASHIRE COMBINATION 'A' TEAM FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1981-82	*		February 4—Leigh 'A' (K.O. 7.30 p.m.)	Away
Kick-off 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated August			March 13—WIGAN 'A'	
22-WIDNES 'A' Hor		12.8 17.18 23.20	April 3-WHITEHAVEN 'A'	Home



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Chairmans View

WELCOME TO SEASON 1981/82. Today is our first home match of the season and hopefully the start of a new era. An era that I personally have looked forward to for the past twenty years. Myself and my Board of Directors welcome Mr. Derek Ferns, a former player with Bellevue Rangers in the '50's and later with Oldham, and now a club director at Blackpool.

I will, along with the other members of my Board of Directors, give this new season our utmost effort to improve the position of the club as a whole.

Prior to my encouraging Derek Ferns' involvement in Blackpool, he has financially sponsored events at Oldham, assisted wherever possible at Fulham, encouraged and assisted David Watkins at Cardiff with the formulation of that new club.

His personal and financial activities with other clubs have now been centred on Blackpool and, without promising miracles, we are very hopeful of some very interesting days ahead, but we cannot do it without *your* support.

REG PARKER CHAIRMAN

In Touch

The Rugby Football League

NEWCOMERS:

This season's introduction of Cardiff City and Carlisle into the Rugby League, following Fulham's dramatic entry last season, brings the total of Senior Clubs to 33 the largest League membership since 1902-03.

In that season, there were 36 clubs, 18 in each of two divisions. Since then, the largest number of clubs in peacetime was 25 between 1914 and 1922. The cities of Cardiff and Carlisle have both had clubs in the Rugby League before. They were both due to enter the League in 1928-29 but Cardiff withdrew having had their application accepted.

Carlisle City went ahead but after playing only ten matches, losing all but one, the Cumbrian Club withdrew. Their home matches were played at the Harraby Park Stadium which was shared with a Greyhound Company.

The Welsh side finished one place above Liverpool City who were bottom of 31 clubs. That same season, Doncaster entered the League and finished 11th.

Cardiff's first home match, at Penarth Stadium, was against Widnes in front of a crowd of 2,500. Support dwindled and Cardiff completed the season with an average home gate of around 750. They conceded 50 points on four occasions with their biggest defeat being at Wigan by 72—5.

SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP

The title of Slalom Lager Champions for 1981-82 will carry a purse of £10,000. The Slalom Lager Second Division Champions will receive £6,000 and the winners of the end-of-season Slalom Lager Premiership will also earn £6,000.

This increased prize structure is the main feature of this season's £70,000 sponsorship of the Championship and the Premiership by Slalom Lager, the second season of a three-year contract. Below is a comparison of the prize structure for the 1981-82 campaign with last season:—

1981-82 Total	1980-81	% increase	100/
Championship	£70,000	£50,000	40 %
	£10,000	£ 6,000	66 %
Second Division	£ 6,000	£ 3,000	100%
Premiership	£ 6,000	£ 4,000	50%

As part of a general Rugby League policy, the remainder of the Slalom Lager sponsorship money will be invested in the League's new Capital Development Fund for distribution to clubs for ground improvement schemes.

The Slalom Lager sponsorship is worth £215,000 over three years with the 1982-83 season being valued at £80,000. Last season, prize money was paid out to the Slalom lager Champions — Bradford Northern, Second Division Champions — York, and Premiership winners — Hull K.R.

Rugby League Chairman Bill Oxley said: "The Council feel that this season will be one of the most competitive in both Divisions and that the increase in the prize money should reward the skill and effort that will be required to lift the Slalom Lager titles. Rugby League realises that it is essential that ground improvemens are made for the benefit of a paying public and this is a major item in our development programme."

The second only Slalom Lager Celebration Dinner to honour the Champions and the Premiership Winners will be staged at the Trafalgar Hotel, near Preston, on Tuesday, 18th May, 1982.

Brian Batty, Daily Mail

Australia's domination of the international scene tends to overshadow the problems that have struck the game in Sydney this season.

After several bonanza seasons the game has suddenly run into trouble — and opposition. So far this season's crowds are down by at least 150,000 on last year's figures.

The code's credibility is constantly in question with referees privately accused of cheating. Also the standard of the game is under attack from many quarters yet two years ago it looked to have climbed to a tremendous level. France's recent tour has done little to help the situation — possibly the reverse — and they turned in some rather predictably pathetic displays.

On top of the worries facing the New South Wales League as they bid to halt the fall in attendances they now have to cope with the threat of rivalry from Australian Rules football. This sport has gained a lot of followers, particularly on television in Sydney during the past few years. Now the Australian rules body are to base a team in Sydney to play in opposition to rugby league on a Sunday afternoon.

It is the 75th anniversary of the founding of Rugby League in Australia next
year so the N.S.W. League are gearing themselves to a concentrated
effort to show they still have plenty to
offer the fans and can meet any challenge or crisis.

There is already talk of an Australia v Rest of the World game and this, on top of selecting the Kangaroo touring team, should create plenty of renewed interest in the game. With so many splendid clubs, making handsome profits to back them it is difficult to imagine the Sydney scene not prospering.

But no sport can afford to stand still these days and it could be that the Aussies are suffering from having served up too many of the good things in life for too long.

I am sure they will rise to the challenge and recover their grip even if it means a witch-hunt to clean up the shadier side of the game and a fullblooded drive to regain the fans' confidence.

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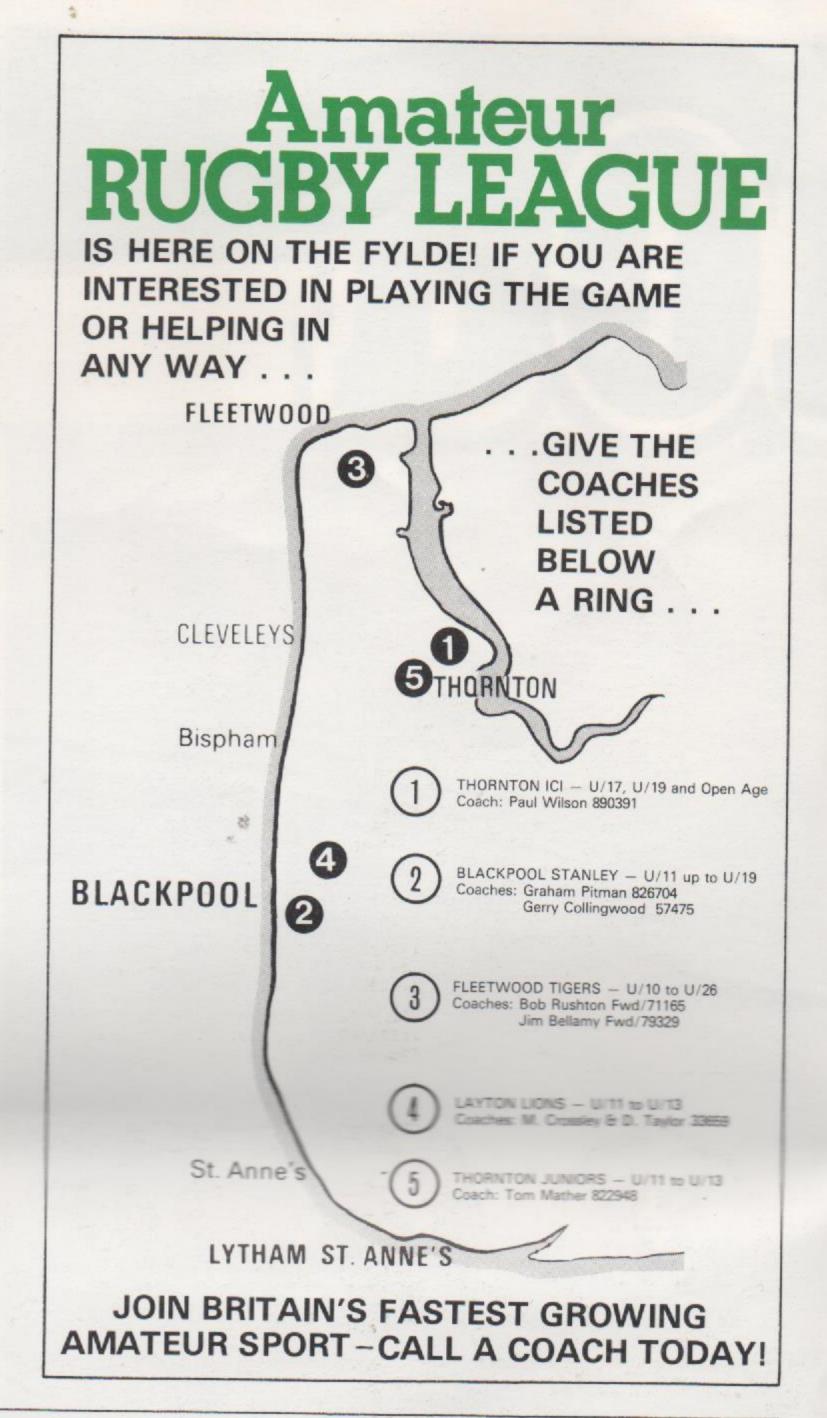
Proprietor: B. PEMBERTON

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As the first of our "In Focus" on Blackpool players who else could we start with than our initial new signing, Player Coach Bob Irving. Bob commenced his professional career with Oldham at the age of 17 and since then has represented Gt. Britain, toured Australia and been a member of the Gt. Britain World Cup winning squad in 1972. His other professional Clubs have been Wigan, Salford and Barrow. We are the first club he has coached and everyone will, we feel sure wish him every success in his new venture. Off the field Bob owns the Royal Hotel on Clifton Drive which his charming wife Val manages. He has two daughters and a rugby playing son Julian. His main interest outside Rugby is breeding Bulldogs.





Boro Managing Director Roy Evans in charge of our Commercial ventures is busy in the town promoting the new lottery Supersix which has 6 "rub-off" games on the ticket. Prize money totals over £4,000 for a 20p stake.

The popular bingo ticket "Insta-Bingo" is also in circulation with a top prize of £250 for a 10p stake.

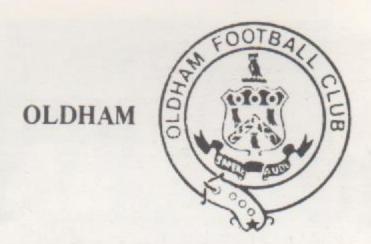
We hope you will all help the Club in its efforts to raise money through these two schemes.







Our Visitors







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BORO SUPPORTERS CLUB Notice Board

The Supporters Club Chairman and Committee would like to extend a very warm welcome to old and new supporters. Anyone wishing to become a member or join the committee should contact Caroline Evans via the parent club.

The Supporters Club will be running coaches to all away games throughout the season and details will be announced in match programmes.

We shall once again be running a player of the year award and points awarded to players will be shown in these columns regularly.

Details of our R.L. Queen Dance will be announced soon.



Match Line Up

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			THREEQUARTERS					
			Martin Sivori	2	Phil Ward			
			John Risman	3	Clive Hunter			
33			Steve Grimshaw	4	Mick Parish			
			lain MacCorquodale	5	Ashley McEwan			1
			НА	LF-BA	CKS			
			Jimmy Fairhurst	6	Ray Ashton			
		300	Mick Chester	7	Paddy Kirwan			
			FORWARDS Billy Lomax 8 Adrian Alexander					
								200
			Alan Banks	9	Roger O'Mahoney			
			Bob Irving	10	Billy Harris			
			Jimmy Molyneux	11	Bob Mordell			
			John Corcoran	12	Dave Nicholson			
			Phil Holmes	13	Terry Flanagan			
			SUBSTITUTES					
		73		14				
				15				

Scrums 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Penalties

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Officials

Referee: G.F. Lindop (Wakefield)

Touch Judges:

G.E. Lightfoot (Bolton) Red flag

S.R. Critchley (Warrington) Yellow flag



Scrums

MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD

The MILERS man of the match will be awarded £100 which is being donated at every home match by BOROUGH INSURANCE BROKERS, BOROUGH PARK, BLACKPOOL. Tel: 22246