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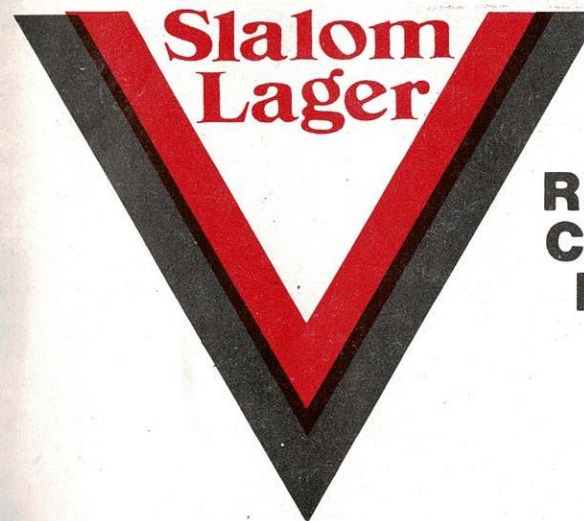
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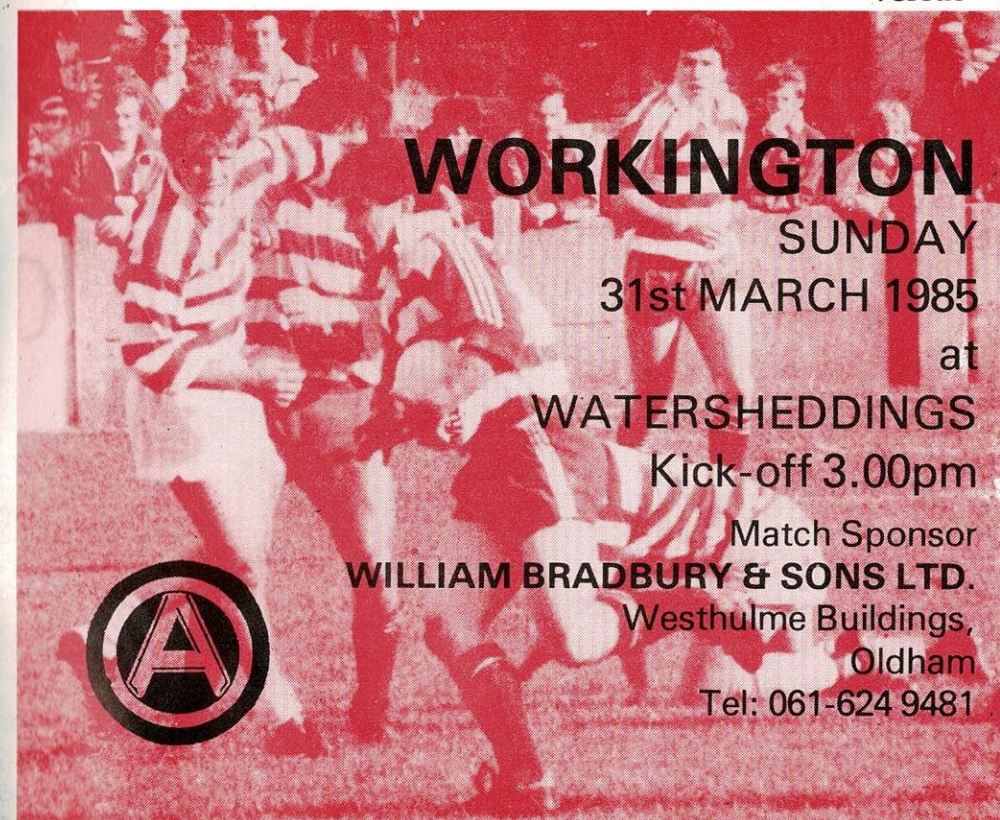
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	1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
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Lancashire Shield Winners:	1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

# WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

THAT massive win by St Helens over Hull, seen by most Rugby League fans on television ten days ago, proved just what what Frank Myler had been saying in the Oldham Chronicle earlier in the day — at this time of the season anything can happen in the exhausting rush towards Slalom Lager championship honours.

On the face it there was no way Saints should have scored nine tries and 47 points against the Yorkshire Cup winners, John Player Special Trophy runners-up and Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finalists. But that's exactly what happened and, as Frank says, there will be a lot more "freak" results over the next three weeks.

The race for honours among the top-five is tense and exciting and those who thought that Hull's games in hand would see them safely into the top-four might have done a hurried bit of reappraisal after seeing them humiliated at Knowsley Road.

Favourites for the top-four spots, therefore, must be the five clubs who have broken away from the pack — St Helens, Leeds, Wigan, Hull KR and Oldham. Who will win the title, and finish second, third and fourth to qualify for a home tie in the first round of the Premiership is anyone's guess, and Frank will probably not be too far off the mark when he says the winners and runners-up will not be finalised until the penultimate day of the league season if not the final day.

We still have four games left — Workington at home today, Halifax away on Good Friday evening, Wigan at Watersheddings on Easter Monday (what a cracking match that should be) and Castleford away on Sunday, April 21.

If we can repeat our form of earlier in the season and produce a high-flying finale to what has generally been a very satisfying season of league competition, we will certainly put a lot of pressure on the clubs who have games in hand and who will then need to pick up a lot of points if we are to be pushed out of the top-four.

In three seasons of First Division football we have never played at home in the Premiership, so that in itself would be quite an achievement if we can pull it off.

After today's match, therefore, both Easter holiday games will be vital ones and if we can succeed at Halifax where St Helens and Wigan recently drew, the scene should be set for a full-house Watersheddings when Wembley-bound Wigan come here on Easter Monday.

Wigan are certainly the talk of the Rugby League game these days and most people outside Humberside will have welcomed their semi-final victory over Hull KR which sees them return to Wembley for the second consecutive year.

Most neutral people in the game did not fancy another all-Humberside final after the clashes of Hull and Hull KR in the Yorkshire Cup final and the John Player Special Trophy final.

Wigan, of course, are also strong contenders for the league championship, so with interest at fever pitch these days, the Colliers are sure to bring a massive following here tomorrow week when we ought to boast our best crowd of the season.

It currently stands at 7,000-plus for the Hull KR game, but we would hope to attract a five-figure crowd for the appearance of Brett Kenny and Co. and, of course, the turn-out in their home town of Nicky Kiss and Mike Ford.

Wigan are sure to bring thousands of fans for what will be our final home game of the season unless we qualify for a top-four place. So don't miss the opportunity of turning up on the day, possibly with a friend or workmate, to sample what should be the keenest atmosphere at Watersheddings for many a year in front of the biggest crowd.

Injuries, of course, always play a vital part at this time of year when fixtures pile-up on top of each other, and we are no different to anyone else, with knocks, suspensions, Test calls preventing our fielding our strongest side in recent matches.

At Hull we had to play without Andy Goodway, Des Foy, Mick Worrall, Green Vigo and Chris Phelan — Goodway and Foy because they were in France with Great Britain and Worrall, Vigo and Phelan because of injury, although the popular Australian was also suspended, having received a three-match ban following his dismissal against St Helens, with Chris Arkwright, in the televised game here.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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## Historical Notes on Workington Town

*by Tom Webb*

ONE of Workington Town's foremost players in the 1970's was an Oldham lad who formerly lived in the Garden Suburb. He learned his rugby at Manchester Grammar School but his father Dougal was a great supporter of Oldham, travelling many miles to follow the team. My wife and I occasionally travelled with Doug to games. His untimely death cost the Oldham club a most enthusiastic follower.

Iain McCorquodale, the player in question joined Workington Town from Salford where he was associated with Dave Watkins. His great ability as a goalkicker overshadowed his prowess as a winger. Bill Glaisier, the Workington Town statistician sent me a breakdown of Ian's scoring record with Town. His record read:

Season	Appearances	Tries	Goals	Drop Goals
1972-73	27	15	83	
1973-74	22	3	56	
1974-75	29	9	104	
1975-76	33	11	127	3
1976-77	38	9	114	6
1977-78	40	13	129	9
1978-79	36	9	98	6
1979-80	26	3	68	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>28</b>

That wonderful record signifies that he contributed 1,802 points during his career with Town. His career record of course would show higher figures.

Gus Risman holds the goalkicking record for Workington, his 138 successes in 1953-54 bettering Iain's top score but the latter holds the points scoring record with 306 in 1977-78 season.

Johnny Lawrenson set up the try scoring record with 49 in 1951-52 and Ike Southward neared that figure with 45 in 1957-58. Eppie Gibson and George Wilson both scored 40 tries in 1950-51 season.

Going back to 1958, the "Sporting Chronicle and Athletic News" reviewed the club and some of its players. Among those discussed were some who were well known at the time.

John McAvooy the full back was aged 30 was the club trainer who returned to play after premature retirement from the game. He had been bought out of the Navy by Town. He played for Warrington, Hull Kingston Rovers and Whitehaven before returning to his old club.

Ike Southward, 23, had been signed from Glasston Rangers and at the time held the club record for points in a match with seven tries and six goals. He was already an international and had been chosen for a tour of Australia and New Zealand. He later had a spell at Watersheddings.

John O'Neill, 20, was, an unknown junior a year before but he had become a perfect partner for winger Southward. Danny Leatherbarrow, 26, had just joined Town in November 1957 at a fee of £2,000. Bill Wookey, 22, a winger had joined the club from Furness Rugby Union club and he too had been a tourist.

Harry Archer, 23, stand-off and his half-back partner, Sol Roper a year younger were a great combination. Archer had also toured "down under".

Norman Herbert, 24, previously with Belle Vue Rangers had joined Town in 1954. His son, Steve, in due course played for Oldham but is currently with Barrow. Herbert Eden, 22, hooker won schoolboy international and amateur international caps before signing for Town. Andy Key, 27 had also been an international as an amateur. He signed for Oldham but chose to stay in Cumberland with Town.

Brian Edgar, 22 a second row forward had joined the club at 18 and within five months had visited Wembley with the club. He too became a tourist. Ces Thompson joined the club from Hunslet and was 27. He had played against New Zealand for Great Britain. He could not read or write until a late age but made so much progress that he went to a teachers' training college. Ben Eve, 22, a loose forward was signed by Jim Brough from Maryport.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

We were still minus Goodway (flu), Vigo and Phelan when we won 14-12 at Leigh in the next game and, in fact, Phelan could be out of action for at least a further week after an operation which involved the removal of a cyst and some cartilage from a knee.

Skipper Alan Taylor hobbled off at Leigh with a groin injury, but on the credit side, Mick Worrall made his return after a month's lay-off with groin trouble, and Paddy Kirwan came on as substitute for his first senior outing since he broke a thumb at Widnes way back on Boxing Day.

All clubs need as many players as possible at this time of the season when a club's "depth" in playing terms is really tested, and to that end it is good to welcome back Alan Platt who played in the second-row at Hull and was on the subs' bench at Leigh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## HERE COME WORKINGTON

### TOUGH TIME FOR TOWN

OUR Cumbrian visitors today come to Oldham already booked for a swift return to the Second Division after achieving promotion at the end of last season.

They have had a traumatic season in the top flight, and no one would have believed, when we scored 44 points at Derwent Park last September, that Town have been struggling to put a few wins together over the next seven or eight months.

In fact, prior to last Sunday's home game against Leeds, the Cumbrians had achieved only one First Division success and two victories in cup competitions. They beat Hunslet in the John Player Trophy and Dewsbury in the Challenge Cup, their only league win coming at Derwent Park early in the season against Bradford Northern.

That was a terrific achievement for the Cumbrians because Bradford were flying high at that stage and it was during a good period which at one time took them to the top of the Slalom Lager Championship that Northern were toppled up there in Cumbria.

Sadly, Town were unable to build upon that surprise success and, as happens so often in the highly competitive First Division, one defeat followed by another and the club's strength in depth was perhaps found lacking.

Injuries, loss of form, and sheer bad luck invariably seem to follow a struggling side around, as we at Oldham know only too well from seasons past when we have also struggled to keep our head above water in the First Division.

It is also true to form that, the longer a bad run continues, the worse it gets and that has also happened at Derwent Park where in recent weeks Town have suffered two defeats by more than 60 points — not at home but at St Helens and at Castleford.

The 62-0 defeat at Knowsley Park was the biggest margin of defeat in Workington's 40-year history, and it came only a fortnight after the heaviest-ever defeat, a 64-4 trouncing at Castleford in the second round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Cumbria, of course, is renowned for tough forwards and its something of an irony that many people in west Cumbria right now see the club's main problem as a shortage of weight, size and strength up front in the forwards.

There is a feeling around Derwent Park that there is some craft at half-back and a bit of pace in backs, but that the best is not being seen of the halves and threequarters because of deficiencies in the pack.

Some well-known names on the Derwent Park scene have now disappeared — among them those of hooker John Lightfoot, who has gone to Barrow, and back-row forward Raymond Lewis, who is at present out of the game due to work commitments.

Bobby Pattinson has also been out recently through injury, but there is a chance he could be fit to resume today after missing last Sunday's home game against Leeds.

The team last week saw Geoff Rae at full back, with Tony Roper and Ian Bower on the wings, although there was a possibility that a trialist — down as A.N. Other — might appear on the right-flank. John Jones and Ian Thompson, two strong centres with pace, who have given Oldham problems in the past, were due to wear the No. 3 and No. 4 jerseys, with Gary Smith and Howard Burns linking up at half-back.

It's a case of like father, like son in the Town back division because Tony Roper is the son of that great Town half-back Sol Roper, while Gary Smith is the boy of another former Derwent Park stalwart in Bill Smith — now the club coach.

Scrum-half Burns needs no introduction. He has already received representative honours and he is always a lifewire in the loose as well as clinically efficient around the scrum-base.

Big Paul Grimes, who made his name in the Leigh pack that Alex Murphy took to Wembley several years ago, is still going strong on the open-side of the front-row, while hooker John Banks hails from a family of Cumbrian hookers, and No. 10 Ian Hartley is a typically-rugged Town forward, who has earned Great Britain honours.

Billy Pattinson, better known as a loose-forward, was in the second-row against Leeds, alongside Kevin Gartland and with Steve McGuire at No. 13.

Most people at Derwent Park will surely be glad to see the back of the 1984-5 season, but that does not mean we can take anything for granted in this afternoon's match.

Most Watersheddings fans will still recall a certain Challenge-Cup-tie here a couple of years ago in which Town came down as no-hopers and returned home up the M6 with a prized cup scalp on their belts.

Such shocks are part and parcel of sport, and they continue to prove what can happen if the stronger side on paper fails to produce the goods on the day.



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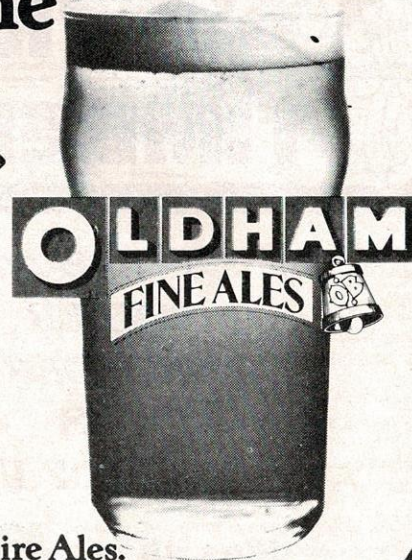
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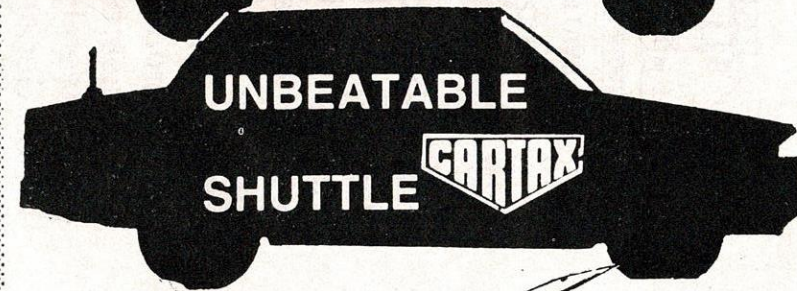
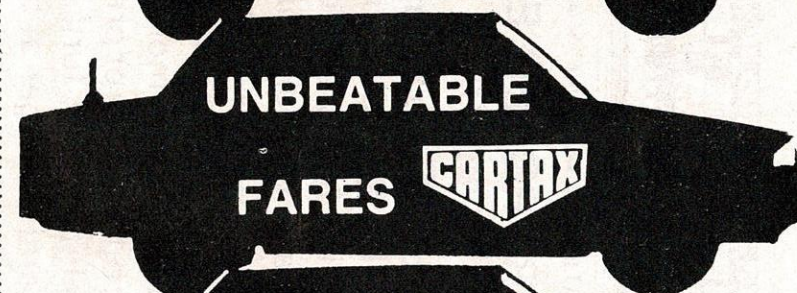
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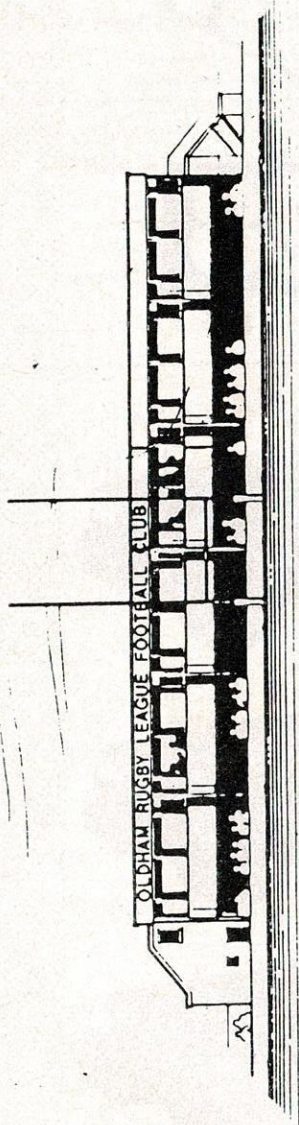
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## BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

THERE is always bound to be some criticisms of the way Rugby League is presented by the BBC on a Saturday afternoon and obviously fans keep voicing their opinions as we progress through the Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition.

However the programme is done it will not suit all of the people whether they are diehard supporters or those just regarded as casual viewers.

I use the method of videotaping games as a means of checking on incidents of a controversial nature or as a chance to enjoy a match the second time.

I was surprised at certain elements of the presentation of the quarter final tie at The Boulevard between Hull and the holders Widnes.

With no score in the first half I could see the sense of the BBC deciding to show the second half instead of the usual highlights.

But it turned out to be a frustrating experience for those fans who stayed in to watch on the Saturday afternoon.

One of the things that is bound to irk is the way the BBC repeatedly shrink the picture so that they can present a number of Soccer score flashes, some of them in my belief quite insignificant.

But on this occasion we had the game suddenly taking second place to the racing results for a moment.

Then came the complete break from the game while we had the various Soccer reports from around the country.

It all adds up to, in my view, a messy programme and I can hardly imagine Soccer tolerating such a situation if it was reversed and we had flashes and match reports from rugby grounds on top of racing results being shown.

It is not an easy life for the producer if he has no say over the Rugby League side of things and fortunately the Wembley final is treated in an entirely different fashion.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

On the commercial side the lottery and the Lifeline continue to make progress, and there was a special function for some lucky patrons on the day of the Grand National yesterday.

Punters who held horses that were declared runners on both the lottery tickets and in the Lifeline special big-race draw were invited to a buffet lunch in the social club to watch the Aintree spectacular on big-screen television.

There were big-money prizes for holders of the first four horses home in both the lottery and Lifeline National competitions, with the winner on the lottery lifting the £1,000 jackpot.

We are endeavouring at all times to give people value for money and, so far as the Lifeline goes, the next special event will be the special Easter draw on the occasion of the Wigan match when we will not only draw for the weekly £1,000, but also draw for a brand, new Vauxhall car.

We are also thinking of offering holiday voucher prizes as the Wakes period draws nearer, so as you can see Lifeline is a very good way of helping the club and at the same time giving yourself an excellent chance of getting in the money or landing one of our periodic and special prizes.

The message is clear...join Lifeline NOW. You won't regret it, as our 20 or so £1,000 lucky winners will certainly testify!

## SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

**President:** Mr. D. Blackburn, **Chairman:** Mr. D. Pilkington, **Treasurer:** Mr. T. Heywood, **Secretary:** Mrs. J. Pilkington, **Committee Members:** Miss. A. Collinge, Mrs. H. Heywood, Mrs. L. Wolstencroft, Mr. I. Pilkington, Mrs. E. Crowther, Mrs. L. Chadderton, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mrs. S. Collinge, Mr. B. Doleman, Mrs. A. Doleman, Mrs. G. Doleman.

The Supporters Club would like to welcome all the Players and the Committee of our visitors from Workington for today's match. Hoping we have a good, clean and entertaining match. We would like to invite all the supporters to our canteens situated at different parts of the ground and our souvenir shop at the pavilion end and programme shop at the waterhead end.

SUPPORTERS CLUB	SUPPORTERS CLUB
COACHES TO HALIFAX	COACHES TO CASTLEFORD
Friday 5th April	Sunday 21st April
Leave Social Club 5.30 p.m.	Leave Social Club 2.00 p.m.
Adults: £1.60      Juniors £1.10	Adults: £2.15      Juniors £1.50

The Supporters Club are once again holding a **Wembley Draw**, tickets are 5p each or 50p per book (12), anyone who would like any books please enquire at canteens. The prizes are: Winners £50, Runners-up £20, Semi-Final £5 each. Other teams drawn £1 each. **This years Fun Run** is being held on Sunday 19th May 1985. Once again there will be two runs, Family Run at 11 a.m. Entry Fee £1.50 (approx. 3 miles), Senior Run at 12 Noon. Entry Fee £2.00. Distance 7.6 miles. Entry forms now available from Secretary. The **Player of the Year** Dance is being held on Friday May 10th 1985 commence at 8 p.m. Tickets priced at £1.50 in the Social Club.

Souvenirs in our shop are Sweaters at £10.00 each, Sweatshirts at £8.50, and juniors £6.50, Scarves (Oldham) £2.75, Ties £3.50, Lapel Badges 65p, Blazer Badges £7.50, Patches £1.00, Gloves (small and large) £1.50, Pens 25p, Red and White Shirts with Club Badges 24" to 42".

Supporters Club membership is only £1.00 per person.

Junior Reds welcome any new members so that you can act as ballboys and ball girls. Saturday morning Social Club, new sew-on badges. Contact Joe in the Social Club. Membership £1.00 as last year. A symbol on sale, see J. Gallagher (Social Club).

## LIFELINE

A reminder to Lifeline and Lottery Members. We are now situated at the rear of the pavilion opposite the greyhound track. New agents required for Lifeline and Lottery, phone 626 4501.

Lifeline winner, Week 24, £1,000 number 0932, B. LEESE, Chadderton.

Brand new car to be drawn for on April 8th Oldham v Wigan game during half-time period. Don't miss the chance of winning this fabulous prize, phone 626 4501.

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## SIGNWRITER

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Joe Gallagher, who runs the junior reds, is still keen to recruit more youngsters. Membership costs £1 for the season, there are regular functions on Saturday mornings, and members can get the chance to act as ball boys or girls on match days. If you are interested see Joe in the Social Club.



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## FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

### 5 Years Ago

**Sunday March 30th 1980**

OLDHAM 46 DONCASTER 2 (Second Division)

**Oldham:** Murphy; Munro (3 tries), Larder (try), Hunter (try), Fitzsimmons (8 goals), Francis, Ashton (try); Alexander (try), Martland, Herbert (3 tries), Mordell, Hawkyard, Flanagan.

Substitutes Ward and Hall for Larder and Alexander.

**Doncaster:** Lowe; Pflaster, Davies, Bucton, Edwards; Godfrey, Ottaway; G. Ellis (goal), Moody, Robson, K. Ellis, Saxby, Matthews, Worrall.

Substitutes Worrall for Saxby and Hossett for G. Ellis.

Referee: Cliff Hodgson, Maryport. Attendance: 1,937. Half-time score: 22—2.

### 10 Years Ago

Oldham had no match about this date. St Helens led the division one clubs with 49 points from 28 games with only two league games remaining. Wigan had 36 points from 26 games and were second which indicates the supremacy of St Helens.

In division two Huddersfield completed their fixtures to amass 42 points from their 26 games. Oldham had 36 points from 24 games and held second place and eventually finished third in the table to gain promotion, along with Hull Kingston Rovers and Swinton.

### 15 Years Ago

**Tuesday March 31st 1970**

OLDHAM 3 BLACKPOOL BOROUGH 5 (League comprised one division)

**Oldham:** Trialist; Elliott (try), Murphy, Mullarkey, Buckley; Davies, Clarke; Hopwood, Taylor, Russell, Irving, Hicks, Clark.

Substitutes Churm for Clark after 64 minutes but other one not known.

**Blackpool Borough:** Entwistle; Johnson, Stopford (goal and try), Colloby, Prior; Swift, Bishop; Bancroft, Trialist, Watson, Smith, Shaw, Hall.

Substitutes not known.

Referee: Ronnie Jackson, Halifax. Attendance: not known. Half-time score: 3—0.

Player of match: 1. T. Shaw (Blackpool) 2. R. Irving, 3. B. Clarke.



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# OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1984-5

1984

## SEPTEMBER

2—Hunslet (3.00)	W 32-10	H
9—Workington (2.30)	W 44- 2	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	W 18- 2	H
16—COUNTY CUP	L 26-32	
23—Leeds (3.00)	W 18-14	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	W 12- 8	H

## OCTOBER

7—Barrow (2.30)	W 34-12	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	L 15-16	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	L 5-32	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	W 26- 8	H

## NOVEMBER

4—Bradford (3.00)	W 23-14	A
11—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 5-31	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v York	W 22- 6	
25—Warrington (3.00)	W 18-12	A

## DECEMBER

2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v Hull	L 14- 0	
9—Barrow (3.00)	W 44- 8	H
16—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 0-14	A
26—Widnes (3.00)	L 14-10	A

## 'a' team fixtures

1984 (Subject to change)

## AUGUST

31—Salford	A
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## SEPTEMBER

8—Workington	H
15—Carlisle	A
21—Widnes	H
27—Leigh	A

## OCTOBER

12—Warrington	A
27—Featherstone	A

## NOVEMBER

2—Bradford	H
9—Salford	H
20—Wigan	A
23—Warrington	H

## DECEMBER

1—Carlisle	H
8—Barrow	A
14—Swinton	H
21—Widnes	A
28—Halifax	A

1985

## JANUARY

5—Barrow	H
11—Bradford	A
18—St. Helens	H
25—Wigan	H

1985

## JANUARY

1—Halifax (3.00)	W 24-12	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	W 6-13	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	Postponed	
20—Castleford (3.00)	Postponed	
27—Wigan (3.00)	Postponed	

## FEBRUARY

3—Hull (3.00)	L 22-10	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	Postponed	H
17—Leigh (3.30)	Postponed	
17—Castleford (Cup)	L 8-14	H
27—Castleford (7.30)	L 10-14	H

## MARCH

3—Leeds (3.00)	D 8-8	H
8—St. Helens (7.30)	W 20-18	H
17—Hull (3.00)	L 8-30	A
20—Leigh (7.30)	W 14-12	A
24—Hunslet	W 46-18	A
26—Wigan (7.30)		A
31—Workington (3.00)		H

## APRIL

5—Halifax (7.00)	A
8—Wigan (3.00)	H
21—Castleford (3.30)	A

## FEBRUARY

2—Swinton	A
22—Featherstone	H

## MARCH

7—St. Helens	A
15—Halifax	H
22—Leigh	H
30—Workington	A

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