

FIXTURES 1976-77

FIRST TEAM

1976			
Aug 15	Leigh (A&B Cup)	H	37-24
" 22	Rochdale (Lancs Cup)	H	25-13
" 29	Rochdale (F&H Cup)	A	5-2
Sept 5	Oldham	H	3.00
" 8	Leigh (Lancs Cup S/F)	A	7.30
" 12	Wigan	A	3.00
" 19	Salford	H	3.00
" 26	Workington Town	A	3.00
Oct 3	Leeds	H	3.00
" 10	Leigh	H	3.00
" 17	Hull K.R.	A	2.45
" 24	Player's No. 6, 1st rd		
" 26	Wigan (BBC-2)	H	7.30
" 31	Wigan	H	3.00
Nov 7	Player's No. 6, 2nd rd		
" 14	Rochdale	A	3.00
" 21	Wakefield Trinity	H	3.00
" 28	Barrow	A	2.30
Dec 5	Castleford	H	3.00
" 12	Leigh	A	3.30
" 19			
" 26	Salford	A	3.00

1977

Jan 1	St. Helens	H	3.00
" 9	Bradford Northern	H	3.00
" 16	Featherstone Rovers	A	2.30
" 23	Featherstone Rovers	H	3.00
" 29	Leeds	A	3.00
Feb 6	Wakefield Trinity	A	3.30
" 13	Challenge Cup, 1st rd		
" 20	Hull K.R.	H	3.00
" 27	Challenge Cup, 2nd rd		
Mar 6	Bradford Northern	A	3.00
" 13	Barrow	H	3.00
" 20	Warrington	A	3.00
" 25	Castleford	A	7.30
April 3	Rochdale	H	3.00
" 8	Warrington	H	7.30
" 11	St. Helens	A	7.30
" 17	Workington Town	H	3.00
" 24	Oldham	A	3.30

'A' TEAM

1976			
Aug 14	Leigh	A	3.00
" 27	Widnes Amat. League	H	39-7
Sept 4	Oldham	A	3.00
" 10	Wigan	H	7.30
" 25	Workington	H	3.00
Oct 2	Workington	A	3.00
" 9	Leigh	A	3.00
" 15	Oldham	H	7.30
" 22	St. Helens	H	7.30
" 30	Wigan	A	7.30
Nov 12	Rochdale	H	7.30
" 19	Warrington	A	7.30
" 27	Barrow	H	7.30
Dec 10	Leigh	H	7.30
1977			
Jan 29	Huyton	A	2.30
Feb 4	Swinton	H	7.30
" 19	Swinton	A	3.00
Mar 4	Huyton	H	7.30
" 12	Barrow	A	2.30
" 18	Warrington	H	7.30
" 25	St. Helens	A	7.30
April 1	Rochdale	A	7.30

NEXT LEAGUE MATCH AT NAUGHTON PARK

Sunday, Sept. 19th

WIDNES v. SALFORD

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

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CHEMICS VIEW

OFFICIAL

PROGRAMME



Widnes Rugby Football Club

NAUGHTON PARK
LOWERHOUSE LANE

WIDNES v. OLDHAM

Sunday, September 5th, 1976

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

8p

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Welcome to Oldham

We extend a warm welcome to the spectators, players and officials from Oldham who are celebrating their 100 years of rugby with a Centenary Year. In last season's encounters we managed a 10-5 win at home but lost away in our last league game on April 21st, 17-21, in an exciting game at Oldham.

In today's line-up we can expect to see Martin Murphy at full-back; signed from a Leigh junior side almost ten years ago, he will be having a well-earned benefit next season. Martin is also the club captain, and has played for his county and Great Britain—a player always ready to join in the attack, with a good anticipation of an opening. Mike Elliot is another long-server on the wing who has had a benefit two years ago; a speedy and elusive player who needs close marking.

Phil Larder is missing at centre; he has just come out of hospital after having a broken arm pinned. In the reckoning for the centre spots could be Phil Holmes, of Batley, brother to John of Leeds, Keith Jackson, an ex 'B' Team product, and Tony Wainwright, equally at home at centre or stand-off. Tony returns this season after a broken jaw sustained last season. The other wing will possibly be Steve Lund, a schoolboy international signed from the Castleford area. At stand-off will be David Treasure, unless a club snaps him up after these notes were written. David a Welsh international who toured with the Welsh squad in the World Series, is at present on transfer at his own request for a fee of £7,000. At scrum-half Johnny Paterson is a sound half-back, wily and speedy of service from the scrum.

Terry Ramshaw, the much-travelled prop signed from Salford last year, is an experienced No. 8 both in the scrum and loose. Kevin Taylor, the Under-24 international hooker with the reputation for providing his backs with ample possession, is also a power in open play. Bob Welding, signed from Rochdale three years ago, is a sound forward; and Gareth Owen, signed from a Leigh junior side, could emulate his well-known father, Stan Owen, who played for Leigh and Rochdale Hornets. Steve Herbert—another son of a famous forward, Norman Herbert—could be in the second row, and Barry Kear, who impressed the Oldham spectators so much when on trial from Hull that they collected his signing-on fee to enable the club to sign him, at loose forward. Tony Peters, who Leigh scratched off their books, is proving a sound signing, improving with every game.

Others in contention are Johnny Blair, an ex 'B' Team half-back, and Warren Ryan, a forward staking his claim for a regular spot.

The scene is set for an exciting tussle, with The Chemics' flair and speed ready to match the Oldham defence and tenacity, and establish themselves as serious contenders for league honours.

Let's be Frank

by FRANK MYLER



This week I would like to talk about the future lifeblood of rugby, the future stars on the field and the future supporters of one of the most exciting and exhilarating games both for participants and partisan supporters. Yes, I mean the youngsters from our junior and senior schools.

Next week the youngsters start the new school term after their summer recess, and I, along with Mick Naughton, the well-known referee, and at least one of our players, will be visiting local schools. Fisher-More, Simms Cross, St. Bede's, St. Michael's and Bankfield school have already accepted our offer of visits, and we will be delighted to visit any other school which is interested. Just contact Harry Greenwood, Naughton Park (telephone 051-424 2792).

Our visit includes films of Test matches between Great Britain and Australia from Australian tours; a question and answers forum, with Mick answering questions on the laws of the game, a player on questions of on-the-field incidents, and myself on coaching aspects, or any one of us answering your queries. What we hope to achieve is to stimulate interest in the game, both from a spectator angle and a player's, because I believe this sport is ideal for teaching youngsters self-discipline in a bodily contact sport, both as players and as spectator.

Mick Naughton will be providing visual aids such as wall charts which illustrate the basic moves and some of the finer points of the game, and also interpretation of rules regarding offside, scrummaging, etc. We hope that our visits will encourage youngsters to enjoy the game both as participants and spectators, and a self-disciplined code of conduct that will be a credit to themselves and the game.

These early columns have been some of my observations, but during the season we will use this column for observations of others connected with the club; possibly our next column will be from a player.

MATCH REPORTS

Our Floodlit Cup preliminary game at Rochdale was more like a dour February cup-tie when teams are bogged down on defence. In a game with few chances of open rugby due to some close marking by Rochdale, we were slightly fortunate to come away with a win, thanks to an early Mal Aspey try in the corner, converted magnificently by Ray Dutton, who later missed three easier chances. All the points were scored in the first half, and the last three or four minutes seemed endless as Hornets strove to snatch the game in the closing stages. Still, as Frank Myler usually says after such a game, a win is a win after all.

In an 'A' Team game arranged at short notice against Widnes Amateurs, The Chemics ran out worthy winners 39-7. It augurs well for the future to see our new youngsters settle in so well with our experienced players. Young Bentley and Fox showed flashes of potential brilliance, and at last it looks as though we have a foundation to build a useful second string ready and pushing for first-team spots.

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THE MICK NAUGHTON COLUMN

Helping hand for the youngsters

In one of my articles last season I wrote about the newly-formed Under-13's League, asking for people who were interested in forming up a team from their area. I am glad to report that a group of men from the Halton View area took up the challenge and did just that.



The new team is called Halton Hornets. Dave Walsh was one of the group who started by advertising in shop windows in the area, stating that any boys interested in playing rugby league would be welcomed. The interested youngsters were asked to report to Crow Wood Park on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for training.

The response was a huge success, with youngsters of all ages eagerly attending. The coaching and training was taken on by the ex Widnes and now Huyton prop-forward Bob Goulding, assisted by Tony Karalius of Wigan. These men have knocked a fairly good team into shape.

They both admitted that they really enjoy looking after the lads, and are hoping for a good season in the league. Already they have played in a couple of friendlies, winning one and losing one. The big headache is supplying kit for the lads. Alan Littler managed a secondhand kit which will give his side a start. Fund-raising by secretary Ian Butler and committeemen Dave Oldham and Keith Littler has boosted the fund somewhat.

An added attraction for the youngsters was Big Jim Mills, who was asked to give up some of his spare time to help the lads. He agreed immediately. Also with Jim was George Nicholls and Alan Ashton. It's great to see the lads' faces when these stars come along to help. Well done the professionals! Only good can come from your help.

At the time of writing I am halfway through a coaching course for the youngsters on the skills and fundamentals of rugby league. At the end of the course the lads will receive a proficiency badge for their efforts.

I think Bob and his helpers are doing a great job. Maybe some day one of these youngsters will be another Frank Myler or Vin Karalius.

BEAT THE REF

1. If a defender and an attacker touch down in the in-goal area simultaneously, is it a try or a dead ball?
2. A penalty is taken at goal, ball touches opposing player on the mark before going over the crossbar. Is this a goal?
3. Penalty kick to touch, the ball is kicked touch-in-goal. How is the game re-started.
4. At a kick-off a player of kicker's side touches the ball before it travels 10 yards forward. Ref's decision?
5. If the colours of both sides clash, which team does the referee order to change?
6. Can a player drop-kick a goal from a penalty.

[Answers on page 21]

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| 7. BOWDEN | Scrum Half |
| 8. NELSON | Prop Forward |
| 9. ELWELL | Hooker |
| 10. WOOD | Front Row |
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10. HUGHES
11. WELDING
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Mr. J. Clarke (Warrington), pink flag

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EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

With the county cup competitions under way those teams with title ambitions are now testing the surface of rocky road that clearly lies ahead.

There is nothing like a local tie for flexing the muscles which scarcely have time to go soft in so short a close season.

The pace and determination displayed in many charity cup games surprised me, considering the iron hard pitches which are threatening to tear at the different shades of rich sunburn sported by most players.

I feel we are in for two exciting journeys through the county cup competitions, but naturally many fans are looking at their sides and wondering about their chances of collecting major prizes.

Will Lancashire be able to dominate the scene as strongly as last season, or have Yorkshire the men ready to redress the balance

Saints can hardly be expected to take two major trophies this time, never mind three, but they swear they have the young forwards to fill the gaps left by Kel Coslett and John Mantle, and the right man in Alan Ashton to replace Jeff Heaton.

Widnes, holders of the Player's No. 6 Trophy, look like handling the silverware for the third successive season, but whether it will be in the shape of the First Division championship trophy, the Challenge Cup or the Premiership I would not like to predict.

Salford's acquisition of John Mantle could prove decisive, for they are determined to reach out for a Wembley return with far more determination than they will apply to any other trophy.

Wigan remain a problem side when it comes to forecasting, Warrington need to spend a bit according to coach Alex Murphy, while Workington Town are relatively unknown but have a pack capable of causing plenty of major upsets.

Newly promoted Leigh, Rochdale Hornets and Barrow may produce the surprise element, while Hull will be anxious to maintain the giant-killing reputation they earned last season.

Featherstone Rovers are clearly fancied to spearhead the Yorkshire challenge, but watch Bradford Northern if they continue last season's form, while Hull K.R. and Castleford are, along with Leeds, capable of carrying off any of the major trophies.

TODAY'S REFEREE

Today's referee, Mr. Peter Geraghty, comes from York, and is married with a family. He passed the referees' exam in 1957 and had become a Grade One referee by 1963. Honours include numerous county matches, Lancashire Cup final, Championship final and the Wembley cup final. He is employed with a printing company, and hobbies include reading and amateur rugby league.



by Brian Batty
of the Daily Mail

NEWS FROM THE COLTS TEAM

As, quite naturally, any publicity concerning Widnes Rugby Club usually revolves around the accomplishments of the first team, a great many of the fans here today are probably unfamiliar with Colts rugby, and Widnes Colts in particular.

Generally speaking, Colts rugby is junior rugby for lads under 19, be they professional or not. Run virtually along a parallel to senior rugby, colts rugby has its own elague championship, top-four play-off, and even Colts Challenge Cup.

In the past Widnes Colts have tended to be somewhat remote from the senior club, relying on men such as Jack Knight, John Stapleton and Bob Carson to bear the responsibility of training and coaching.

But times have changed, and as part of senior coach Frank Myler's youth policy, and backed wholeheartedly by the committee and manager Harry Greenwood, the Colts have been absorbed into the professional set-up at Naughton Park, having been allocated training facilities, players' status, and most important of all, the appointment by the committee of a professional coach in the person of Ron Rowbottom.

It is clear to see the wisdom of such policy. Under Ron's guidance and experience the lads are already developing a far greater professional attitude than ever, and perhaps a few years hence the senior team may well reap the benefits.

GOOD START FOR THE 'B' TEAM

Widnes 'B', beaten in the final of the Blackpool A.R.L. Sevens last year, went one better this term, when they took the shield after accounting for Woolston, Milford of Leeds, and Spotland of Rochdale. Woolston won the shield last year, but Widnes were determined to gain revenge, and tries from Gilmore and Meaden earned them a narrow 6-5 win.

Milford, the champions of Leeds, were impressive in the preliminary round, but Widnes got off to a great start through a superb 90-yard run by Green and a try under the posts by Rouski, Green improving both of them. Green then added another try and two goals to give Widnes a great 17-5 victory.

The final with Spotland was a sordid affair, and according to a North West Counties A.R.L. official it could result in the Rochdale side being barred from future tournaments.

Spotland, after taking no notice of an early warning for foul play, had four players sent off for fouls. Widnes 'B' were already 8-0 up through tries from De Paulo and Green, and then Strong and Green added tries to make it an easy 20-3 victory.

Players who travelled to Blackpool and represented Widnes 'B' were Higginson, Wood, Strong, Meaden, Gilmore, De Paulo, Green, Rouski and Cunningham.

The 'B' Team, who earned promotion to the second division of the North West Counties in 1975, look forward to the coming season with confidence. With the books bulging with new signings, they hope to account for some of the teams who narrowly defeated them last season. Amongst the new signings are players of calibre—Briers, B. Woods, Green, Manning and Moss, although these players will have to justifiably earn their places. Competition for team selection promises to be stiff and not easily won. Most positions in the team are duplicated, and one criterion which will be taken into account is regular attendance at training.

The 'B' Team open their account with a match against Leigh Miners at Leigh on September 4th. The following Saturday (September 11th) sees them at home to Rylands at Leigh Rec., kick-off 2.30 p.m. Why not go along and support them?

FRANK MYLER

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The fourth edition of the Rugby League's most extensive publication is available from the end of September. This popular Rugby League encyclopaedia contains a host of facts and figures relating to the club scene and the 1975/76 season. Features include a "Sullivan Spotlight" with in-depth articles on that great trio, Jim, Mick and Clive. The 300-page annual is available from September, price £2.95 (plus 40p postage/packing).

RUGBY LEAGUE OFFICIAL GUIDE

The new League Official Guide contains more than 200 pages packed with information relating to every aspect of the game. The handbook includes 1976/77 fixtures for First Team, Reserve Team and Colts matches; a statistical review of last season; photographs of Rugby League's major trophies; Laws of the Game; a club directory including social facilities; Bye-Laws; and details of Rugby League officials, referees and supporters' clubs—making it the game's No. 1 reference book. Price 50p (plus 11p postage/packing).

RUGBY LEAGUE DIARY

A first time ever publication, the 1976/77 Rugby League Diary runs from September 1976 to August 1977, and features 15 pages of Rugby League photographs, facts and figures. Price 20p (plus 10p postage/packing).

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A quality glossy wall chart has been designed to boost the highly successful National Coaching Scheme. Measuring 3 feet by 2 feet, the attractive chart outlines the basic skills of the game. Produced in collaboration with National Coaches Laurie Gant and Albert Fearnley, the seven-colour chart features illustrations, photographs and text, and is ideal for display in schools, clubs and at home. Part sponsored by Mitre Sports, the chart comes in a handy wallet and costs £1 (plus 15p postage and packing).

MANUAL OF RUGBY LEAGUE COACHING

This is an illustrated book specially prepared for those wishing to play, to improve their efficiency, or to teach others, and costs 15p (plus 10p postage/packing).

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

Up to and including Sunday, August 29th, 1976

	Season 1976-77					All games				
	Ap	G	DG	T	Pts	Ap	G	DG	T	Pts
Allen, D.	1					8				
Aspey, M.	3			2	6	412	137		176	802
Bowden, R.	3					206	2	2	28	90
Dearden, A.	1					9			2	6
Dutton, R.	3	9			18	355	995	8	13	2037
Elwell, K.	3			1	3	223	16	3	27	116
Eckersley, D.	2	1		4	14	19	6	1	9	40
Foran, J.	2					261			37	111
George, D.	2			1	3	99			39	117
Jenkins, D.	3			2	6	37			16	48
Laughton, D.	2					81			14	42
Nelson, N.	3					67			4	12
O'Neill, D.	1			2	6	241	3		116	354
Prescott, A.	1			1	3	191			67	201
Sheridan, B.	3			1	3	135			22	66
Wood, J.	3					43			2	6
Wood, P.	1	1		1	5	2	4		2	14
Wright, S.	2					2				

RAY DUTTON TESTIMONIAL FUND

A very successful social evening in aid of the Ray Dutton Testimonial Fund was held at Widnes Cricket Club last Sunday. Meanwhile the bingo evenings continue every Wednesday at the R.A.O.B. Club in Sayce Street, and are proving very popular. Latest £5 winners in the fund's 200 Club were: Week no. 4, Mr. D. Bond; week no. 5, Mr. F. Knight.

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