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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday February 17th. 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops, Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. PHIL WARD
4. STEVE LUND
5. ERIC FITZSIMONS
6. RAY ASHTON
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALAN FORSTER
9. RAY MARTLAND
10. FRED HALL
11. STEVE HERBERT
12. BOB BLACKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

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REFEREE: Mr. J. Holdsworth (Leeds)

Red Flag: Mr. K.L. Gaskell (Wigan)

Yellow Flag: Mr. D. Watson (Heywood)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 24th February, 3.00 pm. Wakefield Trinity.

HUDDERSFIELD

Claret/Gold Hoops, White Shorts.

1. GORDON PRITCHARD
2. PETER CRAMP
3. TREVOR LEATHLEY
4. EDDIE BARTON
5. DAVID POTTS
6. IAN SLATER
7. MICHAEL SHEPHERD
8. ALAN WALKER
9. DAVID SCHOFIELD
10. STEVE LYONS
11. CHRIS BURTON
12. JIMMY JOHNSON
13. MALCOLM BRANCH

- 14.
- 15.

OLDHAM

RUGBY LEAGUE



HUDDERSFIELD



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Bill Francis (Player/Coach) Bob Welding (A Team Coach)
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley - Glen Crehan -
Pasquale D'Adamo - Peter Deakin - Jim Fidler - Eric Fitzsimmons -
Kevin Flanagan - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Dave Fricker -
Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert -
Keith Jackson - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder - Steve Littler -
Steve Lund - Bob Mordell - Ray Martland - Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy -
Tony Newall - Chris O'Brien - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Kevin O'Rourke -
Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Alan Platt - Ian Radcliffe - Warren Ryans -
Ian Taylor - Norman Turley - Garry Walczak - John Walls - Mike Worrall

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Secretary & P.R.O. Barbara Wilde 061-624 4865
Groundsman: F. Brookes **Asst. Groundsman:** M. Bashforth

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

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, 1933-34, 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

HOW FORTUNES CAN CHANGE

FEW clubs have experienced, within a few short weeks, the dramatic change in fortunes which overtook Huddersfield early in the season.

They won their first five games in the Second Division this season to sit on top of the league in early October.

Then crash! They were on the wrong end of a shock 11 - 7 win by Batley at Fartown which began a disastrous spell of six consecutive defeats including Oldham's 12 - 3 win at Fartown on November 4th.

Since that defeat by Batley they have won only two of 11 Second Division games, both at home against Bramley and Doncaster.

Maybe Huddersfield flattered to deceive in the first few weeks of the season when they beat Rochdale and Whitehaven by only one point and Keighley with a margin of only two points. Nevertheless, they proved hard opponents for Oldham at Fartown and many an Oldham heart skipped a beat until Steve Lund made the game safe with an interception try in the closing stages. One player well known to Oldham fans who did not play in that game was our former scrum-half Alan Bates.

Alan has been back in the side recently while Mick Shepherd has been out with a broken toe and he might well return to Watersheddings today to play against some of his old mates.

Bates and Shepherd have been in competition for the No.7 jersey for most of the season and Alan even played a game of two at stand-off before the £10,000 purchase from Leeds of Ian Slater.

The signing of Slater, a former captain of Great Britain colts while with Bradford Northern, was a club record lay-out for Huddersfield who, four days later recouped their "brass" when they sold prop Andy Wilson to Rochdale Hornets for another club record fee - £12,000.

Wilson had been unsettled for some time and did, in fact, attract an inquiry from Oldham midway through last season.

Also available at Fartown is second-row man Tony Johnson who is on the list at £15,000 at his own request. He is a strong, hard-running forward who gave Oldham a lot of trouble in the clash on their ground. The Fartown coach is Ian Brooke, the former Wakefield and Great Britain centre, who was promoted from assistant at the start of the season following the resignation of Keith Goulding.

Huddersfield always seem to reserve their best for Oldham - there have been some cracking games between the sides in recent years - and this will especially apply if scrum-half Bates is in the side.

Alan is still a clever and experienced player and his talent is such that First Division title chasers Salford sought him on loan two weeks ago when injury ruled out both Steve Nash and David Harris. Salford were willing to pay £2,500 for Bates if they wished to keep him at the end of the loan period, but Huddersfield rejected their approach.



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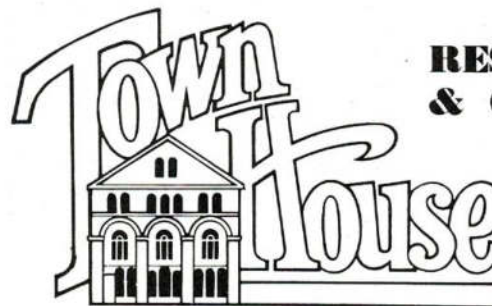
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MID-WINTER BREAK WILL

GET FROSTY RECEPTION

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

It was encouraging to learn that the Oldham club committee is to investigate all aspects of ground protection.

The good old days when grounds used to be covered with braziers and supporters would stop up most of the night stoking fires are gone for ever.

It has now been proved beyond reasonable doubt that, in the long term, many man-made aids can do more harm than good.

Just recently some clubs have bought polythene sheeting with which to cover their grounds and this can prove satisfactory, though to get maximum benefit the sheets need to be several inches above the turf.

Merely to lay the sheeting on the grass involves the risk of condensation and if this happens the moisture can also freeze in much the same way that it can happen on the windows of your house.

Even straw can do damage and while it might be used effectively for one special match it is impracticable to expect anyone to lift and re-lay straw for every match during a freeze-up that could last for two or three months.

Undersoil heating, like that at Headingley, looks to be the best answer. To install such a system would be extremely expensive but, like all major investments, it will not go any cheaper.

Even if Oldham were to take the plunge would running costs be prohibitive as the price of fuel rises alarmingly almost by the month?

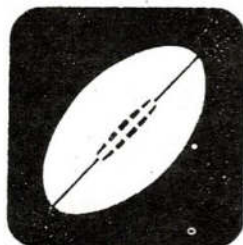
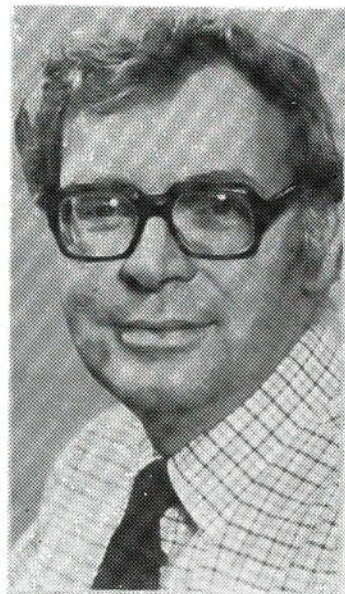
These are questions Oldham club officials are going to delve into in the next few weeks and they will do so in the knowledge that if the club could guarantee the staging of a match it might well come strongly into the running for the holding of representative matches.

One thing is certain: a mid-winter close-down, as advocated by some in the game, would certainly get a very frosty reception by the fans!

Events of last season, when Rugby League was virtually frozen off for the whole of January and February, convinced league officials that temporary shut-downs of this duration are nothing but bad for the game.

Watching sport is very much a habit. During last season's close-down the fans got out of the habit, doubtless picked up other interests, and certainly did not return to full when League resumed at the beginning of March.

Interest and publicity dried up and attendance figures during the rest of the season nose-dived pretty alarmingly.



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ALEX RULES, O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade I Referee)

OFFSIDE AT THE PLAY-THE-BALL

In a previous programme I outlined the Referees function in helping to ensure a speedy play-the-ball, i.e. the onus is not only on the tackler to release his man and stand off, but the tackled player must play the ball without delay.

If the player, after being tackled, accidentally loses possession the Referee must penalise him. Often both the tackled player and the tackler are guilty of feigning injury or that an arm is trapped, many times going to endless lengths to make the delay seem accidental. The Referee must be quickly on the spot to ensure continuous flow of play.

When the Referee feels he has to be over the play-the-ball more often during certain phases of the game he often has to forego making the five metre mark, i.e. when play becomes over rough, and of course problems which arise from slow play-the-balls. These incidents can cause niggling, and often lead to dismissals.

A Referee must not penalise an offside player simply for being offside. It is often impracticable to do this if the play-the-ball is executed quickly. Players more often than not will be unable to retire in time. Players therefore are out-of-play and must not interfere until they have moved to the five metre mark this being on-side. The Referee will often weigh up the advantage to the attacking side before penalising any offenders. He can also penalise players for passively interfering and influencing the direction of play by standing in an offside position well away from play.

Teams who are constantly penalised have only themselves to blame because they are obviously trying to close up the game.

It is also interesting to observe, as a neutral, that spectators are remarkably quiet when the opposition have the ball - "Geremonside Ref"!!!!



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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

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Our next game is on March 2nd, at BARROW. Coaches leave the Social Club at 10.15, picking up at Oldham Chronicle Office 10.20a.m. and Oldham Tech. 10.25a.m.

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Adult Non-members £2.80

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CLUB NEWS

NOW FOR WAKEFIELD

THE draw for the second round of the Challenge Cup was kind to us on Monday when thousands of Oldham fans watched on television as we were paired to meet first division side Wakefield Trinity here at Watersheddings.

Our ball - No. 19 - was fifth out of the hat and then, having got the home tie we wanted, we waited a few seconds with baited breath until our fate was known. The visit of Wakefield will rekindle memories of their visit here exactly a year ago when they won 19 - 7 and then went on to a Wembley appearance.

The Trinity side has not changed much since then and, indeed, there are doubts about whether Test stand-off David Topliss, one of the players who played a major part in our defeat, will be fit to play this time. The changes that have taken place at Watersheddings can best be seen when looking at the team which played Trinity last time.

It was: O'Brien; Elliot, Larder, Munro, Fitzsimmons; Fricker, Paterson; Connor, O'Mahoney, Taylor, Hall, Hawkyard, Jewitt. Subs: Ogden, Byram.

Fred Hall got two drop goals and Eric Fitzsimmons grabbed a try and goal and we were very much in the hunt at half-time despite the absence through injury of players like Martin Murphy, Alan Forster, Steve Lund, Jimmy Arnold, and Bob Blackwood.

Trinity finally got on top in the second half and there were splendid second-half performances from Topliss and Trevor Skerrett, who went on to win a tour place to Australia and New Zealand last summer.

Now comes our chance for revenge and we certainly have the team to gain it in what should be a cracking match played in front of a large crowd.

It will be played next Sunday at Watersheddings, Kick-Off 3p.m.

These notes had to be compiled before details of tickets and prices were known and you will no doubt be fully aware of the situation now if you have followed our coverage in the local press.

What we can say is that we fully expect all the seat tickets to be sold long before next week-end and that if you have not got your ticket yet now is the time to do so while you are at Watersheddings today.

You may find that admission has gone up from the normal £1 for league games.

There are one or two points to bear in mind. The price at Dewsbury was £1.20 and that was merely for standing at each end or on the uncovered popular side.

To stand in the paddock on the main side cost £1.50.

Our turnstile prices will take supporters anywhere they like on the ground and we have covered accommodation at both ends, plus the overhang from the stand roofs down each side.

May we take this opportunity of paying tribute to all the fans who are now following us at home and away.

We have had a fantastic following at Featherstone, Keighley, Halifax and Dewsbury and this not only reflects well on the club but also gives tremendous encouragement to the players.

The players really appreciate the sort of backing now being given to them by the fans - you had only to see the reaction of Bob Mordell at Dewsbury to confirm that - so let's prepare to help "shout" our side to victory against Trinity in seven days time.



BOB MORDELL

OLDHAM ACTION



Our new stretchers are already proving very useful. Roger O'Mahoney is pictured being carried off in the home game against Swinton.



Loose-forward Terry Flanagan touches down for the first of his two tries in the 18 - 17 win at Keighley.

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TOM WEBB's YESTERYEAR

We are attempting to give all the Oldham R.L.F.C. results since the Club started in 1876. In the following tables the letters M, G, and T stand for Minors, Goals and Tries.

Minors were dead balls (DB), touch in goals (TIG) and touch downs (TD). Dead balls occurred when the attacking side either kicked or carried the ball over the dead line, and a touch down was when the defending side made the ball dead.

In the early Rugby Union days a goal counted more than any number of tries and on one occasion Oldham 'A' scored eight tries but lost because the opposition dropped one goal.

Unfortunately the full match details are incomplete for the 1880's. Any details would be welcomed by the Programme Editor or by me, Tom Webb, 3 haggate Crescent, Royton, Oldham. OL2 5NF, as I am researching the history of the Club.

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	OLDHAM POINTS			OPPONENTS POINTS			RESULT
			M	G	T	M	G	T	
1881-2									
October 8th.	BRIGHTMET	AWAY							
October 15th.	MANCHESTER Athletic	HOME				9	2	3	WON
October 22nd.	MANCHESTER Free Wards	HOME	7		1		2		WON
October 29th.	BRIGHTMET	HOME	1				2	5	Draw
November 12th.	CHEETHAM	HOME			1	2		1	Draw
November 26th.	MANCHESTER 'A'	AWAY	Nil			2		2	WON
INCOMPLETE									
January 7th.	SWINTON	AWAY	7	1	6	1		1	Lost
January 14th.	BROUGHTON RANGERS	AWAY	1		1	2	1		WON
January 21st.	ROSSENDALE	AWAY	2		1	2		2	WON
January 28th.	BIRCH	AWAY	1	2	1	1			Lost

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COLTS CORNER

Birthday boys made the news when our colts team renewed their challenge for the championship with a 21-13 win at Bramley.

Joe Warburton, playing centre, celebrated his 18th birthday with a try in the second half and prop Pasquale D'Adamo celebrated his 19th birthday with another rousing display.

Bramley went into a 9-0 lead early on but Oldham gradually got into their stride and went on to make good use of the monopoly of possession won for them by hooker Les Cook, who came through well in his first game after a four-month injury absence.

Tries by second-row pair Alan Platt and Andrew Goodway and winger Stephen Dobb, plus two goals by Mick Worrall, put Oldham 13-9 ahead by half-time. Warburton weighed in with Oldham's fourth try but Oldham were prone to concede penalties and Bramley kicked two of them to get back into the game at 13-16.

But Oldham were always in command and they underlined their extra strength and speed with a fifth try by winger Mike Cowley which Worrall improved. It was a game dominated by Oldham's pack, well blended to provide football and aggression, and the back-row of Platt, Goodway and Worrall was particularly outstanding.

Our cup hopes in colts football received a nasty jolt when we were humbled here at Watersheddings last Saturday in the first round of the competition by lowly Wakefield.

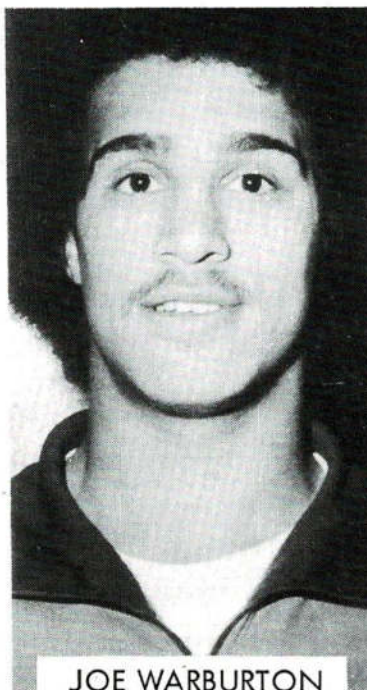
Wakefield are having a very poor time of things in the league but, on the day, they fully deserved their 6-3 win which represented a major shock.

The Oldham boys badly missed scrum-half and skipper Paddy Kirwan and powerful forward Andrew Goodway, who were both injured, and Wakefield adapted to the conditions far better than did the home side.

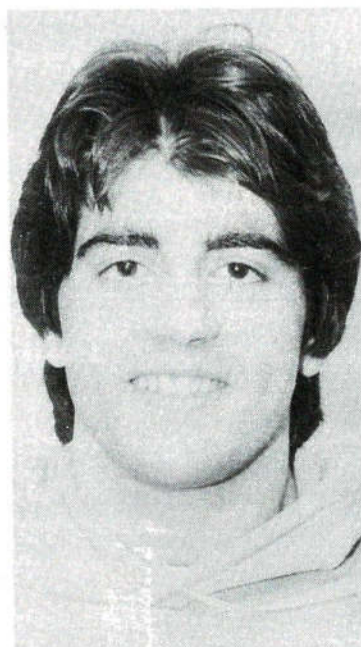
Winger Stephen Dobb got our only try midway through the second half to pull back our deficit to three points but, try as they might, Oldham could not snatch the game from the fire in the closing minutes. Pasquale D'Adamo went to within a foot of the Trinity line on one occasion but the Yorkshire lads held out to kill off our cup ambitions.

We now have to concentrate on the league title and the Premiership and every match will be vital. With so few matches played since the start of December - probably one of the reasons for our shock cup reverse - we have lost ground in the league. Leeds have taken over the leadership.

One of the few league matches to be held in recent weeks was at Dewsbury where the referee abandoned the match after 20 minutes for fighting. We still have several matches in hand over Leeds but we cannot afford more mistakes if we are to finish our first season among the honours.



JOE WARBURTON



PASQUALE D'ADAMO

COLTS FIXTURES

1979		F. A.		1980		F. A.	
Aug. 18	Leigh	A	16-11	Jan. 5	Salford	A	P.
25	Bradford	H	38-2	12	Bramley	A	21-13
Sept. 1	Leeds	A	15-13	19	Hull	H	P.
8	Bramley	H	29-4	26	Dewsbury	A	10-0 A
15	Castleford	A	28-11	Feb. 2	Rochdale	A	P.
29	Leeds	H	12-19	9	Cup-First Round		3-6
Oct. 6	Widnes	A	21-17	16	Hull K.R.	H	
13	Hull	A	17-16	23	Cup-2nd. Round		
20	St. Helens	H	P.	March 1	Castleford	H	
27	Wakefield	A	37-16	8	Hull K.R.	A	
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H	19-13	22	Dewsbury	H	
10	Bradford	A	8-6	29	Wakefield	H	
17	Salford	H	P.	April 5	Rochdale	H	
24	Hunslet	A	7-12				
Dec. 1	Widnes	H	P.				
8	St. Helens	A	28-5				
29	Leigh	H	P.				



Over he goes! Winger Geoff Munro turns in for the posts after crossing the Keighley line for the first of his two tries at Lawkholme Lane.

JOE GALLAGHER

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ALL QUIET ON THE TRANSFER FRONT

Brian Batty
Daily Mail

The shortage of cash at the majority of clubs has never been more emphasised than at the start of this new year.

I do not recall less activity than before the closing of the Challenge Cup register on February 4th.

Usually the spell that precedes the run up to the cup is crammed with movement of players.

But I spoke to the club chairman in the First Division who was bemoaning the fact that they had half a dozen players on the list and had not received a single enquiry.

And that was par for the course throughout the League despite the fact that Hull K.R. had decided to set up a new world record.

They had paid out £35,000 for Phil Hogan from Barrow ... a figure they topped by £3,000 to recapture Len Casey and create a new record.

It seems that some clubs are prepared to go for the odd high priced stars but not the average performer.

'Ninety per cent of the players on the transfer list, wherever you look are no better than those already on your books,' said one official.

Take the case of Oldham - a club set to step back into the First Division.

They had £76,000 worth of talent on offer totalling 13 players but it was a case of all quiet on the Watersheddings front.

It seems to me that the sooner the transfer system is scrapped and players are put on contracts then the better it will be for all concerned.

It is a system that works so well in Sydney compared to our set up that surely time will bring a change in this country.

If we had the deals completed in the close season - when a player could take on two and three-year contracts - clubs would be able to rebuild wisely and not be forced into panic buying.

And I know players would welcome such a step for they would have tremendous incentive to maintain top form to win themselves handsome contracts.





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First team fixtures 1979/80 Oldham Rugby League Football Club

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F. A.
Aug. 19	County Cup Swinton	Away		22-15
Aug. 26	Warrington 2nd round	Home		6-34
Sept. 2	Doncaster	Away		25-0
Sept. 9	Huyton	Home	3.00 p.m.	15-3
Sept. 16	John Player Leeds	Home		7-31
Sept. 19	B.B.C. St. Helens			9-20
Sept. 23	Batley	Away		17-17
Sept. 30	John Player 2nd Round			
Oct. 7	Featherstone	Home	3.00 p.m.	23-22
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away		13-13
Oct. 21	Bramley	Home	3.00 p.m.	22-9
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3.00 p.m.	P
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away		12-3
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3.00 p.m.	6-5
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away		12-15
Nov. 25	Dewsbury	Home	3.00 p.m.	25-6
Dec. 2	Huyton	Away		31-4
Dec. 9	Batley	Home	3.00 p.m.	32-9
Dec. 16	Dewsbury	Away		17-14
Dec. 26	Rochdale	Home	3.00 p.m.	13-0
Dec. 30	Featherstone	Away		8-8
Jan. 6	Swinton	Home	3.00 p.m.	29-4
Jan. 13	Keighley	Away		18-17
Jan. 20				10-21
Jan. 27	Huddersfield	Home	3.00 p.m.	P
Feb. 3	Dewsbury Cup 1st Round			24-2
Feb. 17				
Feb. 24	Challenge Cup 2nd round			
Mar. 2	Barrow	Away		
Mar. 9	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 16	Keighley	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 23	Halifax	Away		
Mar. 30	Doncaster	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Apr. 6				
Apr. 13				
Apr. 20	Bramley	Away		
Apr. 27				

'A' Team Fixtures 1979/80 Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F. A.
Sept. 1	Workington	Home	3.00 p.m.	15-12
Sept. 7	Leigh	Away	7.30 p.m.	3-13
Sept. 13	Blackpool	Home	7.30 p.m.	25-23
Sept. 21	Warrington	Away	7.30 p.m.	18-0
Oct. 6	Workington	Away	2.30 p.m.	17-17
Oct. 18	Wigan	Home	7.30 p.m.	18-17
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7.30 p.m.	25-15
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30 p.m.	16-3
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2.30 p.m.	16-22
Nov. 15	Swinton	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Nov. 24	Rochdale	Away	3.00 p.m.	P
Nov. 29	St. Helens	Home	7.30 p.m.	P
Dec. 7	Widnes	Away	7.30 p.m.	16-16
Dec. 15	Whitehaven	Away	3.00 p.m.	12-8
Dec. 20	Rochdale	Home	7.30 p.m.	P
Jan. 4	St. Helens	Away	7.30 p.m.	12-15
Jan. 10	Swinton	Away	7.30 p.m.	6-28
Jan. 17	Widnes	Home	7.30 p.m.	Played 27.9.79
Jan. 19	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.	21-9
Jan. 26	Rochdale			5-5
Feb. 2	St. Helens			7-7
Feb. 9				
Feb. 14	Warrington	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Feb. 23				
Mar. 1	Barrow	Home	2.30 p.m.	
Mar. 12	Salford	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Mar. 15	Blackpool	Away	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 20	Salford	Home	7.30 p.m.	

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OLDHAM FOR THE CUPS

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

Cup fever has really hit Oldham in a big way recently, because while the town's professional side prepare to take on Wakefield at Watersheddings in the State Express Challenge Cup next Sunday, five local amateur teams will be hoping to make further progress in their challenge for the open-age and Under - 19 BARLA National Cups. The three Oldham sides to have entered the senior competition all had fine Second round victories over Yorkshire opposition, and have all been rewarded with outstanding home ties in Round 3.

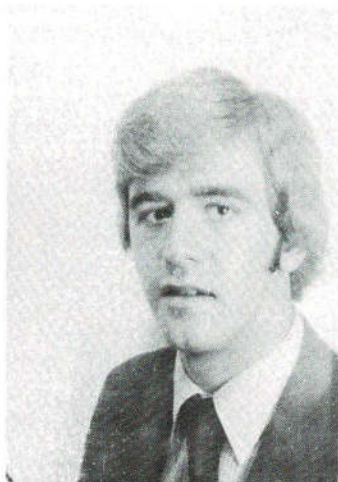
Saint Anne's have been drawn at home to the current holders of the open-age trophy, Pilkingtons of Saint Helens, who actually narrowly defeated the Saints, in Oldham earlier in the season, in the BARLA Lancashire-Cumbria Cup. The National Cup Cup game takes place next Saturday at Chamber Colliery (2.30 p.m.), while the following day at the same venue, the Saints' youth side play hosts to Bramley Supporters

in the Second Round of the Under - 19s' tournament. In the same competition, Saddleworth Rangers, last season's beaten finalists, have also received a home tie, with Wigan Saint Patrick's being the visitors to Greenfield. Both youth games also begin at 2.30 p.m.

Due to postponements, the 3rd Round open-age games involving Saddleworth and Waterhead have had to be delayed until Saturday, March 1st. The Rangers are to entertain the winners of a match between Ovenden (Halifax) and Humberside giants West Hull, who, when known as Cawoods, created Rugby League history when defeating Halifax in the Player's No.6 Trophy competition. Waterhead are also awaiting the outcome of a delayed Second Round tie, involving Woolston Rovers of Warrington and Ace Amateurs of Hull. Ace are another side who have frequently met professional opposition in recent years, and have won the BARLA Yorkshire Cup for the past two seasons.

Both of the BARLA National Cup Finals will take place at Borough Park, Blackpool, on Saturday, May 24th, while during the same weekend Saddleworth and Waterhead will also be playing hosts to French side Albi. On the Friday evening Saddleworth will entertain their visitors at Greenfield, with Albi then going to Blackpool for the BARLA Finals on Saturday. The French side then return to Oldham on Sunday afternoon to play Waterhead.

The Oldham Standard Cup Final is to be played, as usual, here at Watersheddings on Good Friday morning (11am). Yesterday the first semi-final was due to be played between Mayfield and Saddleworth, while the second qualifiers should be known on March 1st when Fitton Hill take on Saint Anne's in the other semi-final.



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