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Teams

WATERSHEDDINGS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24th. 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops, Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. PHIL WARD
4. STEVE LUND
5. ERIC FITZSIMONS
6. BILL FRANCIS/RAY ASHTON
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALEX ALEXANDER
9. RAY MARTLAND
10. STEVE HERBERT
11. BOB MORDELL
12. BOB BLACKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN
14. RAY ASHTON/BILL FRANCIS
15. ALAN FORSTER

WAKEFIELD TRINITY

White/Red/Blue Hoops, White Shorts.

1. TREVOR MIDGLEY
2. ANDREW FLETCHER
3. MARK GUEST
4. STEVE DIAMOND
5. BRIAN JULIFFE
6. KEITH SMITH
7. MIKE LAMPKOWSKI
8. BILL KIRKBRIDE
9. ALAN McCURRIE
10. TREVOR SKERRETT
11. KEITH RAYNE
12. GRAHAM IDLE
13. PAUL McDERMOTT

Referee: Mr. T.M. Beaumont (Huddersfield)

Red Flag: Mr. D. Bowes (Swinton) Yellow Flag: Mr. P.D. Knight (Warrington)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 9th. March, 3.00p.m. Whitehaven

24-2-80

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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 -
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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, 1021-22, 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

ENTERPRISING TRINITY

WAKEFIELD TRINITY, whom we welcome to Watersheddings today in what should be a cracking second-round Challenge cup-tie, have always been bold and forward-looking in their bid to get the best that Rugby League has to offer at Belle Vue.

They have attracted players from all over the world to Wakefield and, in more recent years, have been quick to enter the Rugby Union market and swift to attract to Belle Vue players coming "home" from Australia.

Indeed, Trinity's present player-coach Bill Kirkbride, the former Workington, Castleford, Halifax, Leigh and Salford forward, was snapped up by Trinity on his return from a spell with Southern Suburbs, Brisbane.

Test forward Brian Lockwood, now with Hull KR, joined Trinity on returning from Down Under to his native Yorkshire.

And one of the biggest "plums" for many years was pulled out of the Trinity bag when former Wigan star Bill Ashurst signed on at Belle Vue.

Trinity have always been a progressive club but, in recent months, they have been riddled with injuries and bad luck which has prevented them from making a real impact on the First Division title race.

Ashurst, one of the best second-row men in the world, is out for the rest of the season with a bad knee injury.

Test star David Topliss, the Trinity skipper, is certainly out of this tie with a pelvic complaint, affecting his stomach muscles, which has kept him in the sidelines for several weeks.

Prop John Burke, a tower of strength in the Trinity front-row last season and a major influence on Wakefield's drive to Wembley last May, left a big hole in the pack when he announced his retirement.

"With a full-strength side I reckon we would be a match for anyone", says stand-off Topliss - and it is difficult to argue with that.

The side for today's game will probably show only a few changes from that which beat us here at Watersheddings 19 - 7 in the second round of last year's Challenge Cup tournament.

Former Welsh RU stars Brian Juliffe and Steve Diamond, both of whom have won Welsh RL honours this season, will figure in a pacy back division which also includes former England RU men Keith Smith and Mike Lampkowski.

Smith, who played for England at league last year, has been playing at stand-off as Topliss's deputy but he was severely concussed in the first round win against Hunslet and at the time these notes were written it was not known whether he would be in the side.

An experienced pack includes the first man in league to have a £50,000 valuation put on his head - Test man Trevor Skerrett.

Skerrett was a real hit on last summer's tour of Australia and New Zealand and many judges made him the best forward on tour.

Hooker Alan McCurrie, the former Whitehaven player, is a very clever footballer and will have to be watched from dummy half, particularly close to the line.

Trinity have several players from whom to choose for the back three, including the Rayne twins, Paul McDermott and the vastly experienced Graham Idle.

All in all they are a competent and solid side and Oldham will have to be really "on song" to gain revenge for that defeat a year ago.

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WHO DO YOU FANCY FOR WEMBLEY?

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

Who do you fancy to reach Wembley? One of my fancied outsiders fell at the first hurdle when Second Division pace-setters Featherstone tumbled at home to Halifax in round one.

Of my original four only three are now left Widnes, 4-1 favourites, Bradford Northern and Hull.

I have deliberately excluded Oldham from my tips. With the luck that all teams need in the cup they could emulate their 1964 achievement of reaching the semi-final - at least, but I am not naming them for fear of putting the "Indian Sign" on Watersheddings. The odds against Widnes surely shortened when they were drawn to meet Second Division Huddersfield at Fartown in a repeat of their second-round clash last year.

After facing non-League opposition in the first round, Widnes look as though things are going their way once again.

The same can be said for Hull. After a somewhat shaky start to their First Division status they have picked up marvellously to establish themselves among the higher echelons of the League.

They had an easy first-round passage against the amateurs and now take on York at the Boulevard. Little wonder they are ranked fifth favourites at 7-1 behind Widnes, Leeds, St. Helens and Bradford.

Bradford have a mighty tough task at St. Helens... and nobody likes going to Knowsley Road in a cup-tie.

Indeed the winners of this clash could go a long way, be it Northern or the Saints.

I take Leeds, Widnes, Oldham, Hull KR, Salford, St. Helens, Hull and Halifax to go into the hat for Monday's third-round draw.

Despite their mid-week slip-up at Castleford last week, Leeds are coming to peak form at the right time and should just squeeze through at Warrington.

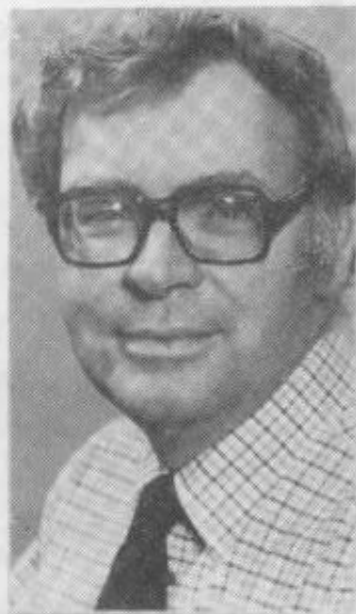
With home advantage, Oldham have what it takes to avenge their second-round defeat by Wakefield a year ago.

Roger Millward is banking all on a first visit to Wembley and that, plus home advantage, should see the Robins through against Castleford.

I don't expect Salford or Hull to have much trouble in accounting for Rochdale and York respectively.

The Saints-Bradford game could go either way but I go for Saints merely because they are at home - a vital factor in an evenly-balanced tie.

That leaves Barrow v Halifax... and who can tip against a Halifax side that can go to Post Office Road and win?



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ALEX RULES, O.K.

SECTION 10 - Knock-On and Forward Pass.

A player may be penalised if he deliberately knocks-on or passes forward.

To charge down a kick is not a knock-on. There must be a definite movement by the player to block the kick as it is rising from the kicker's boot with his hands, arms or boot. Accidental contact with the ball does not constitute a charge down.

Players going for the interception, who deliberately knock the ball down, run the risk of being penalised. Similarly, a player who deliberately passes to a colleague who is obviously in front of him can be so penalised.

In Britain Referees tend to give the benefit of the doubt to these players and a penalty is the exception rather than the rule. A scrum down is generally ordered.

The advantage law can also be applied to the knock-on and forward pass.

A ball must not be thrown forward. It may however be passed at right angles to the touch line.

A Referee follows two simple rules:-

1. A pass between stationary players who are level with each other is in order.

2. A pass between players who are running level with other towards the opponent's goal-line is a forward pass. If play is moving quickly, the offences are usually accidental rather than deliberate. If a player passes backwards, but the wind blows it forward, play is waved on. Similarly, if the ball bounces forward then play should proceed.

A player can reach behind and pull the ball toward himself along the ground. This is not a knock-on unless contact is broken in the movement and he touches the ball twice.

It is a knock-on if a player pushes the ball along the ground in front of him, unless he is holding the ball with two hands.

It is not a knock-on if a player heads or knock the ball forward with his body.

It is not a knock-on if a player accidentally knocks the ball forward but kicks it before it touches the ground.

A hazard for the Referee is to judge a high lobbed pass whilst the players are running. The direction of the ball is relating to the player making it and not the actual pass relative to the ground.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)



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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE

Any person interested in becoming a member of the supporters Club Committee, please contact any Supporters Club Official after the match or any Monday evening in the Social Club, COACHES when the Committee meets.

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

Adult Members £2.50

Adult Non-Members £2.80

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No Junior Prices

Please book early as seats will be limited on coaches. Save money and become a member now.

For seating arrangements ring: 624 0368 or 624 7420 at night.

BADGES:

Metal Oldham Supporters Club Lapel Badges are now on sale in all the canteens or at the Social Club price 50p. each. Blazer badges can also be obtained for £7.50.

BUKTA RED & WHITE RUGBY SHIRTS

Bukta Red and White Rugby Shirts available from the club.

£5.00 (Boys) to £8.50 (Dependant on size). Enquire at the canteens today, or any day at the Social Club.

SCARVES: - Oldham Rugby scarves available in Canteen and Social Club. Price £1.75

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CLUB NEWS

TO HEAT OR NOT TO HEAT

AS you will have read in the Press we are seriously considering the installation of some form of underoil heating.

The big decision to go ahead has not yet been finally made - when you are considering spending in the region of £60,000 on one project there are a lot of factors to consider - but it is certainly a possibility.

Representatives of the firm that installed the Manchester City system, and have been booked to put a similar system at Boundary Park, were here at Watersheddings last week to survey the ground, explore possible sites for the gas-fired boiler and generally make sure that their system could be successfully installed.

Their estimate for the full work is expected shortly and then the committee will have to put on their thinking caps and decide whether to invest in what would certainly be the biggest ever project at Watersheddings in recent times.

This is but one of several plans in the pipeline for developing Watersheddings in an ambitious bid to make it one of the best centres of Rugby League in the north of England.

We have already gone some way along that route with our new dressing rooms, offices, approach to the ground, new seating in the pavilion-side stands, multi-gym and refurbishing of the lounges and teams' tea room in the pavilion.

Despite massive and galloping inflation we hope not to have to stop there.

In addition to the possibilities of underoil heating we have several other projects in mind, including the further extension and development of the pavilion complex.

If this comes off it would provide for a full gymnasium, a further extension of lounge facilities and increased office and administrative facilities.

All these things are essential if our club is really going to become one of the best in the Rugby League.

An all-weather training area would be a blessing at the height of winter and that is to say nothing of the need to improve the floodlights and to cater more adequately for the television people.

We do not say we will be able to tackle all this in the foreseeable future. Long term or short depends on finance. But these are the sort of ambitions we possess and they certainly will not be achieved unless we move forward in a positive manner and do not shirk from our responsibilities to make decisions which we believe are in the best interests of the Oldham club and the future of professional Rugby League in the town.

Such a decision was the one to increase the minimum admission charge for today's cup-tie from £1 to £1.50.

We do not believe it is an exorbitant price in this day and age. Moreover, the Oldham club is a non-profit making body in the sense that all that comes in directly or indirectly goes to the further promotion of the club.

To build the sort of Oldham RL club we have in mind is going to be a mammoth operation... and we certainly will not achieve it without the courage of our convictions.

OLDHAM ACTION



No Stopping Bob Mordell as he goes in for the second try in our 24 - 2 first- round cup win at Dewsbury.



Driving for the line... that's Adrian Alexander, pictured here en route for the line for Oldham's first try at Dewsbury.

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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
1881-2							
February 4th.	SWINTON	HOME	3	2	1	2	Lost
February 11th.	MANCHESTER Athletic	AWAY				2	Lost
February 18th.	ROSSENDALE	HOME	Rossendale did not turn up.				
February 25th.	CHEETHAM	AWAY	4	2	6	Nil	Lost
March 11th.	CHORLEY	HOME	3			3	Draw
March 18th.	SALFORD	AWAY			6		Lost
March 25th.	DEWSBURY	HOME	4	1		3	1 Lost
April 1st.	SALFORD	HOME				3	Draw
April 8th.	BIRCH	HOME	Birch did not turn up.				
April 15th.	DEWSBURY	AWAY	9	1	2	Nil	Lost
November 5th.	'A' v MOSS SIDE		3		2	3	2 Draw

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COLTS CORNER

Our Trio of young stars who helped Great Britain colts to win comfortably in France last month have retained their places in the British side for the return match with the French on Saturday, March 15th.

Terry Flanagan, who had a fantastic performance in the six-try victory in Perpignan, will again be the vice-captain of the side from the loose-forward position.

Ray Ashton, our versatile Widnes lad who can play in either half-back spot, will continue at scrum-half alongside Andrew MacIntosh of Leeds.

And Paddy Kirwan, who captains both our 'A' team and colts team, sticks hold of his place on the substitutes bench.

In fact, there is only one change in the British team, Martin Smith of Widnes replacing Lee Beaumont of Hull, who broke his leg in the 29-11 win on the other side of the English Channel. Team: C. Whitfield (Salford); K. Meadows (St. Helens), T. Myler (Widnes), S. Dennison, Captain (Hull), I. Nicholson (Hunslet), A. Macintosh (Leeds), R. Ashton (Oldham); M. O'Neill (Widnes), b. Noble (Bradford Northern), M. Smith (Widnes), N. James (Castleford), W. Heron (Leeds), T. Flanagan (Oldham).

Subs: P. Kirwan (Oldham), A. Timpson (Castleford);

Reserve: P. Rose (Wakefield Trinity).

The match will take place here at Watersheddings and we are very honoured indeed to be able to stage our first international since October 20th, 1965 when Roger Millward led the England under-24's to a 12-5 win over France in the first ever floodlit match on our ground.

We hope it will be the first of many representative matches to come to Oldham in the next few years and we will certainly be doing our best to show the League that we can stage a match of this nature.

In the final reckoning, of course, much will depend on the sort of support we get from the fans so do make a note of the match in your diary - Saturday, March 15th.

To lose to Wakefield in the first round of the cup was a bitter disappointment for our young colts, who have had such a marvellous start and helped to put Oldham well and truly "on the map" at colts level.

On the day Trinity were the better side - and good luck to them in their cup run from now on. But Oldham will be back. We have the league title and then the Premiership to go for and you can rest assured that we will be doing everything in our power to compensate for that disappointing cup reverse.

COLTS FIXTURES

1979		F.	A.
Aug. 18	Leigh	A	16-11
25	Bradford	H	38-2
Sept. 1	Leeds	A	15-13
8	Bramley	H	29-4
15	Castleford	A	28-11
29	Leeds	H	12-19
Oct. 6	Widnes	A	21-17
13	Hull	A	17-16
20	St. Helens	H	P.
27	Wakefield	A	37-16
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H	19-13
10	Bradford	A	8-6
17	Salford	H	P.
24	Hunslet	A	7-12
Dec. 1	Widnes	H	P.
8	St. Helens	A	28-5
29	Leigh	H	P.

1980		F.	A.
Jan. 5	Salford	A	P.
12	Bramley	A	21-13
19	Hull	H	P.
26	Dewsbury	A	10-0 A
Feb. 2	Rochdale	A	P.
9	Cup-First Round		3-6
16	Widnes	H	24-12
23	Cup-2nd. Round		
March 1	Castleford	H	
8	Hull K.R.	A	
22	Dewsbury	H	
29	Wakefield	H	
April 5	Rochdale	H	

STATE EXPRESS CHALLENGE CUP 1980

State Express of London are sponsoring the Rugby League Challenge Cup for the second year. The Company have quickly established themselves on the Rugby League sponsorship scene by the introduction of the lucrative Challenges and high quality promotional activities. Although the sponsorship has increased this year, the prize money remains at a total of £55,500 with Clubs bidding to emulate Widnes who last season received £12,555 in addition to the coveted State Express Challenge Cup.

PRIZES:

16 First Round losers each receive £750	£12,000
8 Second Round losers each receive £1,160	£ 9,280
4 Third Round losers each receive £2,000	£ 9,280
4 Third Round losers each receive £2,000	£ 8,000
2 Beaten Semi-Finalists each receive £3,555	£ 7,110
Runners-up receive £6,555	£ 6,555
Winners receive £12,555	£12,555
	£55,500

CHALLENGES:

The challenge rewards are received by the Rugby Football League, who have been granted permission by State Express to donate 20 per cent to the club involved in the scoring achievement.

£500 each time an individual player kicks five or more goals in a State Express Challenge Cup match.

Eight players met the State Express Challenge to score 5 or more goals in the First Round of the 1980 State Express Challenge Cup. The Rugby Football League receives £500 for each of these 8 Challenges and have permission to give £100 to each of the Clubs involved. The League's £3,200 will be deposited in the new Development Fund aimed at boosting facilities at Club level. The eight players involved in the Challenge breeding feats were:-

Ian BALL	-	Barrow
Trevor BIBB	-	Bramley
Mick BURKE	-	Widnes
George FAIRBAIRN	-	Wigan
Eric FITZSIMONS	-	Oldham
Steve HESFORD	-	Warrington
Sammy LLOYD	-	Hull
Steve RULE	-	Salford

£5,000 each time an individual player scores five or more tries in a State Express Challenge Cup match.

This try scoring feat was last performed by Ike Southward, who touched down six times for Oldham in their 55-4 defeat of amateur side Walney Central in a Second Round tie on 27th. February, 1960.

£5,000 each time a team scores 55 points or more in a State Express Challenge Cup match.

This points scoring barrier was last broken by Leigh, who ran up 63 points against amateur side Kippax White Swan in a First Round tie on 3rd. February, 1973.

THIRD ROUND DRAW:

The draw for the Third Round of the State Express Challenge Cup will be made live on B.B.C. "Look North" between 5.55p.m. and 6.20p.m. on Monday, 25th. February, 1980.

Pre-match entertainment by the Delph Brass Band.

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CUP COMPETITION TO BE CAPTURED ON CANVASS

Brian Batty
Daily Mail



Rugby League's bosses have decided to bring a vivid splash of colour to the game which is encouraging news in these dark and wet days which have dragged on for so long in mid season.

A new sponsorship venture means that the game's idols are to be painted in oils by one of the country's most promising artists... believed to be an unprecedented step in sport.

The challenge by State Express has been made to Chris Brady, 23 year-old St. Helens artist with tremendous talent and potential.

He has been asked to capture the spirit of the 13-a-side code and in particular the 1980 State Express Challenge Cup competition.

Chris is to put League in the picture by producing up to 30 canvasses for exhibition in the autumn at various venues throughout the North.

League Secretary David Oxley says: 'This new venture is comparable with a regiment's appointment of an official war artist.'

'Chris will attempt to capture the character of code on canvas reflecting every individual aspect of our absorbing Rugby league.'

Chris was trained at St. Helens School of Art from 1974, graduating to Winchester School of Art in 1975, gaining a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours.

In 1978 he received the support of local companies and trusts to launch a year's study of his hometown which resulted in a successful exhibition entitled, 'The Spirit of St. Helens.'

This is a totally new development for the State Express Challenge.

Chris will portray events in the Rugby League season leading up to the Wembley Final.

Says Chris, 'The idea behind the project is unique. I am delighted to accept this State Express Challenge to do a series of paintings which will, I hope, reflect the excitement, sadness, humour, skill and character of this great Rugby League game.'

Concluded David Oxley: 'We are determined that Rugby League's unique and strong character is captured for the history annals and Chris's exceptional ability provides the ideal backcloth for this new dimension in the projection of Rugby League's image.'

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First Team Fixtures 1979/80

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	3-00pm	
Sept 16	John Player Leeds	Home	7-31	
Sept 19	B & C St Helens	Home	9-20	
Sept 23	Batley	Away	17-17	
Sept 30	John Player 2nd Round			
Oct 7	Featherstone	Home	3-00pm	23-22
Oct 14	Whitehaven	Away	13-13	
Oct 21	Bramley	Home	3-00pm	22-9
Oct 28	Huddersfield	Home	3-00pm	P
Nov 4	Huddersfield	Away	12-3	
Nov 11	Barrow	Home	3-00pm	6-5
Nov 18	Swinton	Away	12-15	
Nov 25	Dewsbury	Home	3-00pm	25-6
Dec 2	Huyton	Away	31-4	
Dec 9	Batley	Home	3-00pm	32-9
Dec 16	Dewsbury	Away	17-14	
Dec 26	Hochdale	Home	3-00pm	13-0
Dec 30	Featherstone	Away	8-8	
Jan 6	Swinton	Home	3-00pm	29-4
Jan 13	Keighley	Away	18-17	
Jan 20				
Jan 27	Huddersfield	Home	3-00pm	P
Feb 3	Dewsbury Cup 1st Round		24-2	
Feb 17	Huddersfield		15-12	
Feb 24	Challenge Cup 2nd Round			
Mar 2	Barrow	Away		
Mar 9	Whitehaven	Home	3-00pm	
Mar 16	Keighley	Home	3-00pm	
Mar 23	Hartley	Away		
Mar 30	Doncaster	Home	3-00pm	
Apr 6				
Apr 13				
Apr 20	Bramley	Away		
Apr 27				

'A' Team Fixtures 1979/80

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F.A.
Sept 1	Workington	Home	3-00pm	15-12
Sept 7	Leigh	Away	7-30pm	5-13
Sept 13	Blackpool	Home	7-30pm	25-23
Sept 21	Warrington	Away	7-30pm	13-10
Oct 6	Workington	Away	2-30pm	P
Oct 18	Wigan	Home	7-30pm	18-17
Oct 26	Wigan	Away	7-30pm	25-15
Nov 1	Leigh	Home	7-30pm	16-3
Nov 10	Barrow	Away	2-30pm	16-22
Nov 15	Swinton	Home	7-30pm	
Nov 24	Rochdale	Away	3-00pm	P
Nov 29	St Helens	Home	7-30pm	P
Dec 7	Widnes	Away	7-30pm	16-16
Dec 15	Whitehaven	Away	3-00pm	12-8
Dec 20	Rochdale	Home	7-30pm	P
Jan 4	St Helens	Away	7-30pm	12-15
Jan 10	Swinton	Away	7-30pm	6-28
Jan 17	Widnes	Home	7-30pm	P 27.9.79
Jan 19	Whitehaven	Home	3-00pm	21-8
Jan 26	Rochdale			5-5
Feb 2	St Helens			7-7
Feb 9				
Feb 14	Warrington	Home	7-30pm	P
Feb 23				
Mar 1	Barrow	Home	2-30pm	
Mar 12	Salford	Away	7-30pm	
Mar 15	Blackpool	Away	3-00pm	
Mar 20	Salford	Home	7-30pm	

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AN ALL-OLDHAM STANDARD CUP FINAL

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

Saddleworth Rangers, who are currently in their Golden Jubilee Year, celebrated the fact last Saturday in the best possible way by qualifying for this season's Oldham Standard Cup Final, with a 9-6 victory in the semi-final against the current holders, Mayfield of Rochdale, at Chamber Colliery. For Mayfield, who currently lead the Pennine League's Premier Division, the defeat was their first by a Pennine side this season, while Rangers' victory now ensures an all-Oldham Standard Cup Final at Watersheddings on Good Friday morning (11 a.m.)

The second semi-final between Fitton Hill and Saint Anne's has had to be delayed and will now take place at Saddleworth on Saturday, March 15th. Fitton Hill, from Division 2, are aiming for their first ever appearance in the Standard Cup Final, while the Saints will be hoping for a fourth consecutive Final and an all Premier Division clash against Saddleworth. The Oldham League have already ensured that this season's Final will once again be a financial success by having secured sponsorship from local firms. F.M.D. Agricultural Machinery are sponsoring the match and the programme, while the Ferranti Electronic Engineering company are covering the costs for the Ben Powell Trophy which is awarded to the Man-of-the-Match. The League are also hoping that the match receipts will beat last season's World Record figure for an amateur game of £1,071, and that the attendance will again top the 4,000 mark.

Eastertime could in fact prove to be very successful for the Saddleworth club, as their 'A' team have won through to the Rochdale league's Charity Cup Final, in which they will meet Todmorden at the Athletic Grounds, Rochdale, on Easter Monday morning (11 a.m.)

Saint Anne's were due to meet Pilkingtons of Saint Helens yesterday in the 3rd. Round of the BARLA National Cup, while next Saturday (2.30 p.m.) both Waterhead and Saddleworth face tough home games in their 3rd. Round ties. Waterhead will be entertaining the winners of a delayed 2nd. Round game between Ace (Hull) and Woolston (Warrington), while Saddleworth will be at home to the winners of another match due to take place yesterday, featuring West Hull and Ovenden (Halifax).

The Oldham League's Under-17's town-team have been drawn away to the Cumberland Amateur League in the first round of a new Inter-League competition for youths at that age-group. The match was originally scheduled for last weekend, but due to the Cumberland League having already planned a visit to France, the match will now be played next Sunday, March 2nd.



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