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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday March 9th. 1980

OLDHAM

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Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. PHIL LARDER
4. PHIL WARD
5. BILL FRANCIS
6. RAY ASHTON
7. IAN OGDEN
8. ERIC FITZSIMONS
9. KEN GWILLIAM
10. ALEC ALEXANDER
11. ROGER O'MAHONEY
12. RAY MARTLAND
13. FRED HALL

SUBS FROM
FRED HERBERT, BOB MORDELL,
BOB BLACKWOOD,
COLIN HAWKYARD,
TERRY FLANAGAN,
GARRY WALCZAK

WHITEHAVEN

White/Chocolate/Royal Blue/Gold Hoops,
White Shorts.

1. RAY DUTTON
2. KEITH HODSON
3. JOE STEWART
4. PETER STODDART
5. JOHN McGUIRE
6. JIMMY O'NEILL
7. ARNOLD WALKER
8. WILSON WRAE
9. JOHN DORAN/MICHEAL BARWISE
10. VINCE FOX
11. IAN LITT
12. DAVID MARTIN
13. TOMMY THOMPSON

— REFEREE: Mr. D.W. Fox (Wakefield)
Red Flag: Mr. E. Glazebrook (Wigan)
Yellow Flag: Mr. J.W. Fairhurst (Wigan)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 16th. March, 3. 00pm. Keighley

9-3-80
OLDHAM

RUGBY LEAGUE



WHITEHAVEN



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Coaching Staff: Graham Starkey (Manager) Terry Gorman (Asst. Manager)
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, 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

WHITEHAVEN CHASE THE BIG TIME

ONE of the most pleasing aspects of the current season is the magnificent progress made by Whitehaven, the little club from the west Cumbria coast which can now boast very big ideas. Whitehaven are going places - and they have a record to prove it!

At the time these notes were written the Cumbrians had won nine Second Division matches out of 12 to lift themselves from the lower reaches of the division to a position just outside the top four. They hit the headlines, and shook several First Division clubs in the bargain, with their record capture of Workington scrum-half Arnie Walker in January.

And the first month of the new decade was crowned for them when they were awarded the Daily Mirror Shopcheck team-of-the-month award.

Their nine wins were against Doncaster, Huyton, Swinton, Rochdale, Batley and Huddersfield at the Recreation Ground and Keighley, Doncaster and Dewsbury away from home.

Scrum-half Walker, generally regarded as one of the game's best half-backs, cost Whitehaven a cool £34,500 to take him just a few miles down the coast from Derwent Park a £30,000 fee plus V.A.T.!

It was that sort of enterprise, coupled with their terrific sequence of results, that earned them the team-of-the-month title for January.

And Whitehaven believe they have what it takes on the field and off it to go forward into the eighties as a team of the future.

At 47, long-serving George Nixon is the oldest member of a young and progressive administrative body which proved, with the Walker signing, that they really do mean business.

They regarded the capture of Arnie as an investment which could give them the push to reach a promotion spot by the end of the season and that's why today's game here at Watersheddings is of particular importance to them.

To back their pledge of progress, the Whitehaven board are launching out with the sort of development association set-up that has been proved a huge success at Oldham.

"We will no longer be regarded as an also-ran", says George enthusiastically. "We are on the move just like Oldham and, like them, when we get back to the First Division we will be there to stay".

When you look at Whitehaven's record over the past two months and consider the money they have spent you've just got to believe him!



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R.L.ROADSHOW - 4 CUPS ON VIEW

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

OLDHAM is to turn back the clock to that May day in 1957 when the team of all talents won the championship trophy to crown a magnificent season of four cups. They won the Law Cup, the Lancashire Cup, the old Lancashire League championship trophy and all four trophies will be on view at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Wednesday, March 19.

The occasion will be the first visit to Oldham of the popular Rugby League Roadshow which does a great job in entertaining RL fans and raising cash for players' benefits. Seven shows have been staged so far and each has raised about £1,000 - a figure officials confidently expect to beat with their Oldham show for the testimonial fund of centre Phil Larder.

The event will be hosted by television and radio personality Keith Macklin and presented by Rugby League official David Howes.

The evening will begin with a 50 - minute film of outstanding moments of League in the last few seasons. It will show highlights of the Leeds v Widnes and Leeds v St. Helens Challenge Cup finals, the Hull KR v St. Helens Floodlit Trophy final and that Leeds - Wigan John Player cup-tie at Headingley in which Wigan winger Green Vigo scored a spectacular hat-trick of tries.

This will be followed by a panel of Rugby League personalities answering questions from the floor, Rugby League's own version of the Generation Game, a 15-minute film from America made by Mike Mayer, who is trying to establish the code on the other side of the Atlantic.

There will also be a raffle and auction and disco dancing until past midnight. And officials of Larder's testimonial committee, who are helping to organise the event, hope also to have available highlights on film of Oldham's championship winning performance against Hull at Odsal.

Many members of that side have promised to attend what will be a big reunion of Watersheddings stars from 20 years ago.

They include Alan Davies, Denis Ayres, John Noon, John Etty, Frank Stirrup, Frank Pitchford, Frank Daley, Don Vines, Sid Little and Dick Cracknell.

The present - day Oldham side will be there along with many top players and personalities from outside the area.

Tickets at £1.50 are available from the Oldham club of the Queen Elizabeth Hall and further information can be obtained at 652 2640 or 624 4865 (day) or 624 2677 or 458 4596 (evening).



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ALEX RULES, O.K.

TREATMENT OF INJURIES ON THE FIELD OF PLAY.

Laws of the Game Section 7, Paragraph 5.

The Rugby League Council are disturbed that we in the U.K. had fallen into the habit of liberally interpreting the above law, in so far as it relates to the treatment on the field of minor injuries of the "Running Repairs" kind.

Often contrary to the international board ruling, the practise in this country has increasingly been that when a minor injury coincides with a normal stoppage in play, (scrum or penalty), then play has not recommenced until the injured player is able to continue or he is removed from the field.

Many players have been seen to take advantage of this practise to "Gain Time", particularly if their team is under pressure.

The Referees have been advised to strictly apply the international interpretation of this law, i.e. the Referee should endeavour to reduce stoppages to a minimum. Injured players should be removed from the field-of-play to receive attention as quickly as possible, taking into account the gravity and nature of injury. Treatment to an injured player by not more than one attendant, may be permitted while play proceeds if, in the opinion of the, such treatment is not likely to interfere with play, and in the opinion of the Referee endanger the player.

In the past a player could be having treatment for 18 tackles without a natural stoppage. Therefore now as then greater co-operation between Referee and Trainer is required.

The players welfare will always be paramount, but we are not stopping any player from having treatment.

REFEREES SIGNALS:- DIFFERENTIAL PENALTY.

It has been agreed for Referees to discontinue the bent arm signal for the differential penalty. This signal was added for the benefit of spectators, but players are bringing the tap penalty into play so quickly, very few people notice the signal.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade I 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.

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 A NATIONAL WINNER!

We believe our Development Association has come up with a real winner in it's latest fund-raising project the Grand National sweepstake.

The National will be run at Aintree on March 29 and we have already launched what we consider to be the biggest and best sweepstake on the National ever to be run locally except by national concerns.

Tickets are priced at 25p and total prize money will top £8,000.

It works like this. If you are not lucky enough to draw a runner there are thousands of 50p prizes for all numbers ending in 20, 40, 60, 80 or 00.

The big attraction, of course, is the chance of drawing a runner. All declared non-runners will earn you £1, runners other than those in the first five will land you £10 and then the big money really starts.

If you draw a horse that comes home in fifth place you will receive £100, fourth place £250, third place £500, second place £1,000 and the winner will net you a cool £2,000.

We feel this is a very interesting sweepstake for the punter and a good fund-raising scheme for the club.

We trust it will get your support and if any of our fans and friends would like to become agents for the sweepstake or indeed our regular lottery we would be delighted to hear from them at the development association office in Clegg Street, (phone 620 - 4870).

...

BEFORE the Wakefield cup-tie you will no doubt have read in the Press certain figures reputed to represent the bonuses offered to our players for the various rounds of the cup competition. The figures tended to vary from newspaper to newspaper and, in any event, were incorrect. We have no intention of correcting them!

We would like to place on record our dismay at seeing such figures made public in the press. They were NOT issued in a club statement.

We believe that matters such as wages are an internal matter and not for public airing. The press have a job to do and our relations with them are good.

But would the reporters like their wages or salaries made public? We don't think so.

..

OUR home game today against Whitehaven could be the start of four consecutive Sunday matches here at Watersheddings.

Keighley are here next Sunday, followed by Halifax and Doncaster.

There may have to be a change if Halifax beat Wakefield in the third round of the Challenge Cup but, if not, we are set fair for a month-long spell of home games.

All are attractive in their own ways and we will be looking for maximum points to keep on the heels of Featherstone in the battle for the Second Division title.

Featherstone have some hard games and have still to play Halifax, Bramley and Batley at home and Keighley and Rochdale away.

The Halifax match could be a crucial one for them, too, must have their eyes on the title although the injury of Mick Blacker, which will put him out for the rest of the season, is a cruel blow.

It all points to an absolute cracker when Halifax come here with points vital and our lads looking for revenge for that defeat at Thrum Hall.

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OLDHAM ACTION



Steve Herbert tries to get past Keith Rayne and Les Sheard in the cup-tie.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



Ray Ashton made this nifty little break in the cup-tie against Wakefield.

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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	OPPONENTS POINTS			OLDHAM POINTS			RESULT
			M	G	T	M	G	T	
1882 - 3									
September 30th.	DEWSBURY	AWAY	8		1	1			Lost
October 7th.	BROUGHTON	AWAY	4	2	2	2		1	Lost
October 14th.	BROUGHTON Rangers	HOME	7		1	4		1	Draw
October 21st.	ROYTON	HOME	1	1	2	4		1	Lost
October 28th.	MANCHESTER Athletic	AWAY	Nil			6			Draw
November 4th.	SALFORD	HOME	4			4	1DG		WON
November 11th.	SWINTON	HOME	3		2	1			Lost
November 18th.	CHORLEY	HOME	2			6	1	4	WON
November 25th.	No Match								
December 2nd.	No Match								
December 9th.	LITHERLAND	Cancelled - Snow & Frost							
December 16th.	No Match								
December 23rd.	BROUGHTON	HOME	20T		1	30T		1	Draw
December 30th.	ROCHDALE HORNETS	AWAY	4		1	4			Lost

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COLTS CORNER

It will be a big occasion here at Watersheddings next Saturday when we will be honoured to stage the colts international between Great Britain and France our first representative match since 1965.

The British side, which includes Oldham Players Terry Flanagan, Paddy Kirwan and Ray Ashton, will stay at the Belgrade Hotel, Oldham next Friday night and both teams will be received by the Mayor next Saturday morning at the Civic Centre.

Though arrangements are not yet finalised, we hope to create a big-match atmosphere and plan to have a brass band entertaining the spectators before the match and at half-time.

Admission prices, fixed by the Rugby League, will be 50p for adults and 20p for boys and pensioners.

We hope to distribute a number of tickets through local schools and we would like to think that we Pasquale D'Adamo, second-row man Alan Platt, and stand-off Steve Littler, with Mick Worrall Rugby League officials will be closely watching events and it is important that our match presentation impresses so far as getting future representative games is concerned.

One big factor that might influence the powers-that-be is the turn-out of a sizeable crowd.

The appearance of the three local lads should help to swell the attendance and we are sure they will be very appreciative indeed of your support both for them and for the British team.

At domestic level our own colts team has pulled off a couple of creditable victories after the shock home defeat by Wakefield in the first round of the colts cup.

These notes were written before they met Castleford at home but they were surely confident of success after wins against Widnes (24 - 14) and Hull (23 - 5), both on the new pitch at Strinesdale.

The weather can be mighty wild up there on the hill, but it seems to suit our lads who were never really threatened in either games.

Scrum-half David Taylor scored a hat-trick of tries against Widnes and others came from prop Pasquale D'Adamo, second-row man Alan Platt, and stand-off Steve Litter, with Mick Worrall landing three goals.

Against Hull a week later Oldham romped in for three early tries and went on to win comfortably with Taylor scoring two more from the stand-off spot and D'Adamo, Platt, and Paddy Kirwan also crossing for tries. Platt (2) and Worrall added goals.

The two victories restored our lead at the top of the colts table and we are still confident of ending our first season with some silver on the sideboard.

COLTS INTERNATIONAL

Great Britain Colts entertain France at Watersheddings on Saturday 15th March, Kick Off 3 p.m. Britain will be defending their unbeaten record on British soil, having disposed of the French Challenge 4 times since colts Internationals were introduced in the 1975 - 76 season. Overall, Britain have lost only 3 of the 9 European Internationals played to date and the Internationals traditionally reflect the high standard of Rugby League played at colts level.

More than 40 former Colts Internationals have progressed to 1st team football this is a unique chance to see the stars of tomorrow in action.

The team is:-

1.	COLIN WHITEFIELD	(Salford)
2.	KEVIN MEADOWS	(St. Helens)
3.	TONY MYLER	(Widnes)
4.	STEVE DENNISON	(Hull) Capt.
5.	IAN NICHOLSON	(Hunslet)
6.	ANDREW MACKINTOSH	(Leeds)
7.	RAY ASHTON	(Oldham)
8.	MIKE O'NEILL	(Widnes)
9.	BRIAN NOBLE	(Bradford N.)
10.	MARTIN SMITH	(Widnes)
11.	NEIL JAMES	(Castleford)
12.	WAYNE HERON	(Leeds)
13.	TERRY FLANAGAN	(Oldham)
Subs;		
14.	PADDY KIRWAN	(Oldham)
15.	ANDREW TIMPSON	(Castleford)
16.	TONY ROSE	(Wakefield)

Fitness Club (Ladies) Monday 6 - 9 p.m.

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

TOP TEN

TOP TEN TRIES: (Up to and including Sunday, 24th February, 1980)

1.	Roy MATHIAS	(St. Helens)	24
2.	Peter GLYNN	(St. Helens)	23
3.	Steve HUBBARD	(Hull K.R.)	22
4.	John BEVAN	(Warrington)	21
	Keith FIELDING	(Salford)	21
6.	David SMITH	(Leeds)	20
	Chris CAMILLERI	(Barrow)	20
8.	Geoff MUNRO	(Oldham)	19
9.	Keith BENTLEY	(Widnes)	18
10.	Eric HUGHES	(Widnes)	17

TOP TEN GOALS: (Up to and including Sunday, 24th February, 1980)

	Gls	Dr. Gls	Total
1.	Steve QUINN	(Featherstone R.)	132
2.	Steve RULE	(Salford)	110
3.	Steve HUBBARD	(Hull K.R.)	99
4.	Steve HESFORD	(Warrington)	87
5.	Steve DIAMOND	(Wakefield T.)	90
6.	Mick BURKE	(Widnes)	88
7.	Ian BALL	(Barrow)	70
8.	Iain MacCORQUODALE	(Workington T.)	75
9.	Eric FITZSIMONS	(Oldham)	74
10.	Mick PARRISH	(Hunslet)	72

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TRY - SCORING CENTURIES

Brian Batty
Daily Mail



It seems that try scoring centuries are the height of fashion at the moment in Rugby League.

On the day that Stuart Wright was racing to his ton Keith Boxall was registering his 100th try across the country on Humberside.

Great Britain winger Wright could hardly have chosen a more important setting than the Widnes win over title rivals Leeds to record his two match winning tries.

And the 99th try of his First Division career will remain long in the memory as one of the finest of his elusive runs which electrify the Naughton Park fans. Second row man Boxall, one of the game's most entertaining forwards with his block busting breaks, was helping Hull beat Salford with his 100th try.

But he still needed two more for his ton scored with Hull for his century at the time included a couple collected while playing for Yorkshire.

Wright's feat made him the fifth century maker from the First Division joining Salford's wingers Keith Fielding and Maurice Richards, St. Helens winger Roy Mathias and Leeds winger Dave Smith.

Boxall, of course, bagged a lot of his tries helping lift Hull out of the Second Division last season but it is indeed a remarkable performance for a forward.

And looking around the League the ton up boys are going to be pretty thick on the ground in the second half of the season.

When Warrington knocked out Leeds in the Cup the tie finished with Welsh winger John Bevan just held inches away from scoring his 100th First Division try.

There is a personal scoring battle developing at St. Helens with winger Mathias, who has scored quite a few of his tries when playing in the pack this season, leading with 24 tries in late February. But breathing down his neck comes clubmate Peter Glynn with a two-try haul in the cup defeat by Bradford that took him to the 23 mark.

It is a healthy state of affairs to see the tries flowing, especially when the pitches are at their heaviest after so much rain at the start of the year.

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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.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	Halifax	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. 23	Rochdale	Home	3.00pm	13-0
Dec. 30	Featherstone	Away	8-6	
Jan. 6	Swinton	Home	3.00pm	29-4
Jan. 13	Keighley	Away	18-17	
Jan. 20	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	Halifax	Away		
Mar. 30	Doncaster	Home	3.00pm	
Apr. 6				
Apr. 13				
Apr. 20				
Apr. 27	Bramley	Away		

'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	18-10
Oct. 6	Workington	Away	2.30pm	P.
Oct. 16	Wigan	Home	7.30pm	18-17
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7.30pm	25-15
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30pm	18-3
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	8-28
Jan. 17	Widnes	Home	7.30pm	P. 27 & 29
Jan. 19	Whitehaven	Home	3.00pm	21-9
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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LOCAL HONOURS ARE ON THE INCREASE

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

The standard of play in the Oldham Amateur Rugby League continues to increase, and this is well reflected in the BARLA representative matches, where more and more local players are gaining County and International honours. Earlier this season, Saint Annes' second row forward Fred Howarth made his Great Britain debut against Papua New Guinea, while next month Brian Caffrey of Waterhead pulls on an international shirt for the first time after his selection as a substitute for the match against France, at Craven Park, Hull, on April 12. Fred also retains his place, while he and Brian have also recently starred for Lancashire in the BARLA County Championship.

At Under - 19 level, Higginshaw's powerful prop-forward Tony Ogden has once again been chosen for the Great Britain youth side, who travel to the continent for their International match away to France on April 5. Tony made his first appearance for his country against the Australian tourists in January, while he too has gained Lancashire honours this season, together with Steve Topham (St. Anne's), and Kevin Byrne (Saddleworth). Oldham's town-team went down away to the Cumberland Amateur League last Sunday, by 24 points to 9, in the first round of the new BARLA Inter-League competition for Under - 17s. Despite the defeat, Oldham produced a sound performance, with encouraging signs for the future, and with their points coming from a try by scrum-half Paul Kirwan (Saddleworth), and three goals from Tony Holt (Ferranti).

Next Saturday the second semi-final in this season's Oldham Standard Cup competition takes place, with Fitton Hill playing Saint Anne's at the Saddleworth Rangers' ground in Greenfield (2.30pm). Fitton Hill from the Pennine League's 2nd Division, have qualified for this stage with two victories over Division 1 opposition, and are now hoping to make their first appearance in a Standard Cup Final. In stark contrast, Saint Anne's are aiming for their fourth consecutive Cup Final, having won the trophy in 1977 and 1978 and having lost to Mayfield last year after a replay. Mayfield, of course, went out of this season's competition in the first semi-final when they lost to Saddleworth Rangers, who will now meet the winners of next Saturday's other semi-final, with the decider, as usual, taking place at Watersheddings, on Good Friday morning (11am).

The BARLA National Seven-a-side Championships also return to Watersheddings this season and will take place on Sunday, May 11, while the Oldham League's Albert Edwards Memorial Sevens Trophy will also be decided here on Sunday, April 20.



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