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Teams

Watersheddings - Sunday 24th August, 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts

1. Martin Murphy
2. Geoff Munro
3. Clive Hunter
4. Bill Francis
5. Clive Sullivan
6. Ray Ashton
7. Ken Gwilliam
8. Alec Alexander
9. Roger O'Mahoney
10. Brian Lockwood
11. Mike Worrall
12. Bob Blackwood
13. Terry Flanagan

SUBS FROM

Phil Ward
Steve Herbert
Bob Mordell
Alan Platt
Mike Cowley

REFEREE: R. Moore (Wakefield) D. Drinkwater (Warrington)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 31st August, 1980 - Castleford R.L. First Division.

SALFORD

Red Shirts, White Shorts

1. Frank Stead
2. Keith Fielding
3. David Stephenson
4. Colin Whitfield
5. Maurice Richards
6. Frank Wilson
7. Steve Nash
8. Kevin Ashcroft
9. Paul O'Neill
10. Harold Henry
11. Jonathan Critch
12. Sammy Turnbull
13. Stuart Williams

SUBS FROM

David Major
Eric Prescott
David Driver

TOUCH JUDGES:

H. Worth (Widnes)

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SECOND ROUND



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Secretary: J. Chadwick

Coaching Staff: Graham Starkey (Manager), Terry Gorman (Asst. Manager),
Bill Francis (Player/Coach), Bob Welding (A Team Coach),
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

Professional Playing Staff

Adrian Alexander - Jimmy Arnold - Dennis Ashcroft - Ray Ashton - Bob Blackwood -
Brian Caffrey - Chris Charles - Barry Conner - Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley -
Glen Crehan - Pasquale D'Adamo - Stephen Dobb - Eric Fitzsimons - Kevin Flanagan -
Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall -
Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert - Clive Hunter - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder -
Steve Littler - Brian Lockwood - Paul Lowndes - Steve Lund - Ray Martland - Bob Mordell -
Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - Gerrard Nolan - Colin North - Tony Ogden - Ian Ogden -
Roger O'Mahoney - Mike O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Alan Platt -
Gordon Pollard - Warren Ryans - Derrick Seabrook - Clive Sullivan - Dave Taylor - Ian Taylor -
Garry Walczak - John Walls - Joe Warburton - Phil Ward - Mike Worrall

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Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonelle **Asst. Physiotherapist:** Mr. J. Watkins
Financial & Admin. Manager: Mr. David Oakes Tel: 061-624 4870
Commercial Manager: Keith Masters **Social Club Manager:** Kevin Wilkinson
Groundsman: J. Walker **Asst. Groundsman:** W. Caine

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
First game	October 21 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of Points Scored	Bernard Ganley 2881
Most Appearances	Joe Ferguson 685
Most Tries	Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233 Since 1900 Alan Davies 182

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
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

SALFORD SCENE

YOUNGSTERS are proudly carrying the Salford flag into battle so far this season after a traumatic few weeks at the Willows.

The close season has proved a very difficult time for the Red Devils whose pack strength has been torn apart by the retirement of Kevin Ashcroft, Chris McGreal and Colin Dixon and the transfer to newcomers Fulham of prop Tony Gourley.

Mike Coulman had also announced his retirement but such were the problems facing the club that he agreed to bring his boots out of the cupboard and help out.

Eric Prescott has not played yet this season and ace schemer Ken Gill is not training because of pressure of business.

On top of all that there was newspaper speculation last week that all was not well between Salford and coach Alex Murphy. Salford later stated that the story leaked to the Press had been blown up out of all proportion.

Behind the scenes Salford have clearly not experienced one of their happiest summers but the youngsters called in to help in the crisis have done a wonderful job and the fact is that Salford come to Watersheddings today unbeaten after three games.

They easily beat Swinton in a friendly before winning at Dewsbury narrowly in their second pre-season run-out.

Their biggest test was at the Willows last Sunday when a very youthful pack laid the foundation for a very satisfying 23 - 12 win against Leigh in the first round of the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup.

Apparently, the secret of their success was the mobility and tackling of their young forwards and the experience and guiding hand of half-backs Steve Nash and Frank Wilson.

This experienced and tough pair are shouldering much of the responsibility and the young forwards, with David Major outstanding, are responding to their promptings in magnificent manner.

Nash, the Great Britain scrum-half, is being sought by York for the player-coach vacancy at Clarence Street and this has been yet another headache for the Salford management in the past few weeks.

He will be out to retain his No 7 shirt in the Great Britain side when the touring New Zealanders are here in the autumn and he will certainly give us a real test in today's game.

Wilson, now playing stand-off after spending most of his career on the wing or in the centre, is a hardened campaigner whose partnership with Nash provides Salford with the sort of experience which is so vital behind a youthful set of forwards.

And out on the wing there is always Keith Fielding, the fastest man in League, to cash in on half chances and turn a game with one fleeting break or burst for the line.

Salford recognise their pack of forwards needs strengthening for the demands of the First Division but, for the time being at least, their youngsters are doing a terrific job.

Nothing builds confidence like winning matches and Salford have still to lose one despite their mountain of problems!

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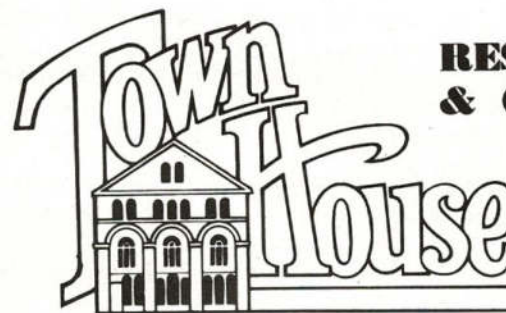
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TIME TO CALL A HALT

Has the time arrived to seriously consider scrapping pre-season charity games in their traditional form?

The question can be posed as feeling grows within the game that things are not what they used to be concerning the annual pipe-openers.

In truth it is difficult to know of anyone who is really happy about the presentation of charity games in 1980.

THE FANS must surely feel they are not getting value for money when clubs play below-strength teams and, with the use of five subs, call players on and off with gay abandon.

THE PLAYERS are not exactly over-joyed at playing for £5 the League maximum for charity match wages when they risk injury and may have to miss a "real" game that could be worth up to 20 times as much if they win.

Indeed, we have had the case on Humberside this year when the traditional Hull v Hull KR friendly was not played because the players demanded a £70 wage.

THE CLUBS, too, have little to gain except to give their players a run-out before the genuine thing and this could be done just as well in other ways.

Take the Oldham-Hornets Law Cup clash as an example. In the days when these games were at their most popular the clubs fielded their strongest possible sides. In those days the wages paid to the players represented a much higher percentage of their normal pay than today.

What's more, the Law Cup was traditionally played on the third Saturday in August not the first Sunday as it was this year.

Consequently, the public were more ready for rugby and fewer players were still absent because of holidays.

Player's wages could be increased but then we would run the risk, as the spectator by necessity becomes more selective in his rugby habits, of actually incurring losses on charity matches.

Moreover, it is debatable whether those who benefit from charity matches these days get much out of them anyway.

The crowd for this year's Law Cup game was the best for four years but still only 1,600. In the old days, before the National Health, profits used to go to the Oldham and Rochdale infirmaries.

In more recent years the receipts, after the deduction of expences, have gone to the amateur leagues and the schoolboy game in the two towns.

Worthwhile causes, of course, but each will benefit only marginally by the time the proceeds have been split around.

Perhaps the time has come for clubs to consider the soccer method genuine friendlies behind closed doors or, if they wish to admit the public, treat the games like the old-style pre-season "trials" and possibly take round the hat!



By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

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MR. HERBERT JONES

It is with deepest regret that we record the death, on Wednesday of last week, of Mr. Herbert Jones, a life-long friend of the Oldham club and a former president and chairman.

Bert, as he was popularly known, served on the committee at Watersheddings for nearly ten years up to 1970 and was one of the few officials to hold both top posts of president and chairman following a change in the club's constitution.

Head of a plumbing business on Huddersfield Road, Bert retired to Blackpool in 1969 and it was at his home in the Flyde village of Elswick that he passed away, aged 75.

Before our cup-tie at Swinton last week both teams held a moment's silence in memory of a man who served the Oldham club loyally and steadfastly over many years.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

The Supporter Club Committee and Members would like to wish the team all the very best on their return to First Division Rugby,

A coach will be running to BRADFORD on September 7th anyone wishing to book on this coach will they please give there names at any canteen today.

Anyone wishing to become a Supporters Club Member can do so by applying at any canteen. **Price of membership is £1.00** and this includes a Supporters Club Diary and Badge.

The following Oldham RLFC items are on sale at the canteens or Social Club.

Metal Lapel Badges **60p**

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Starting on the first Sunday of the League programme, August 31st, B.B.C. Radio Manchester will be covering Rugby League live each week from 3.30 until 6 o'clock, with commentary and up-to-the minute match reports on 206 metres medium wave and 95.1 VHF.

The Lancashire Cup Semi Final draw will be made live on Radio Manchester at 6.15 p.m. on Sunday August, 24th.



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First Team

H Aug. 3 Sun.	Rochdale (Charity Match)
A Aug. 10 Sun.	St. Helens (Friendly)
A Aug. 17 Sun.	County Cup 1st Round
A Aug. 24 Sun.	County Cup 2nd Round
H Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford
A Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford
H Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone
A Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull
A Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds
H Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh
A Oct. 12 Sun.	Widnes
A Oct. 19 Sun.	Workington
A Nov. 2 Sun.	
A Nov. 9 Sun.	Featherstone
H Nov. 16 Sun.	Bradford
A Nov. 19 Wed.	Salford
A Nov. 23 Sun.	John Player 1st Round
A Nov. 30 Sun.	Wakefield
A Dec. 7 Sun.	John Player 2nd Round
H Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes
H Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.
A Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens
Boxing Day	
H Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull
A Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington
New Years Day	
A Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow
H Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds
A Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford
A Jan. 25 Sun.	
H Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow
A Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax
A Feb. 15 Sun.	Challenge Cup 1st Round
A Feb. 22 Sun.	Hull K.R.
A Mar. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round
H Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington
A Mar. 15 Sun.	Workington
H Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax
A Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh
H Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield
Apr. 12	
H Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens
Good Friday	
H Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford
Easter Monday	

'A' Team

H Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginshaw (Friendly)
H Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers
A Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford
A Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.
H Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton
H Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens
A Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh
H Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets
H Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes
A Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven
A Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington
H Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan
A Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool
A Nov. 14 Fri.	Wigan
H Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford
A Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton
A Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes
H Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow
A Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens
H Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven
A Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow
H Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington
H Feb. 19 Thurs.	Blackpool
A Mar. 6 Fri.	Warrington
H Mar. 14 Sat.	Workington
A Mar. 19 Thurs.	Rochdale
H Mar. 26 Thurs.	Leigh

Colts League

A Aug. 30 Sat	Bradford N.
H Sept. 6 Sat	St. Helens
A Sept. 13 Sat	Hull
H Sept. 20 Sat	Bramley
A Sept. 27 Sat	Wakefield T.
H Oct. 4 Sat	Hull K.R.
A Oct. 11 Sat	Leigh
H Oct. 18 Sat	Castleford
A Oct. 25 Sat	Hull K.R.
H Nov. 1 Sat	Bradford N.
A Nov. 8 Sat	St. Helens
H Nov. 15 Sat	Hunslet
A Nov. 22 Sat	Castleford
H Nov. 29 Sat	Leeds
A Dec. 6 Sat	Rochdale
H Dec. 13 Sat	Wakefield T.
A Dec. 20 Sat	Leeds
H Dec. 27 Sat	Leigh
H Jan. 3 Sat	Featherstone R.
A Jan. 10 Sat	Salford
H Jan. 17 Sat	Salford
H Jan. 24 Sat	Keighley
A Jan. 31 Sat	Keighley
H Feb. 7 Sat	Hull
Feb. 14 Sat	Colts Cup - First Round
Feb. 28 Sat	Colts Cup - Second Round
A Mar. 7 Sat	Featherstone R.
A Mar. 14 Sat	Bramley
H Mar. 21 Sat	Widnes
A Mar. 28 Sat	Hunslet
H Apr. 4 Sat	Rochdale H.
A Apr. 11 Sat	Widnes



OLDHAM

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Team Fixtures 1980/81

Greenall Whitley

LOCAL TIME



Greenall's
LOCAL
BITTER

TOM WEBB's HISTORY OF SALFORD RLFC

The Salford club celebrated its centenary in 1979 but strictly speaking could have done so half a dozen years earlier. The Cavendish Street Sunday School in Hulme started a rugby team and for two years the home ground was in Moss Side. Two years later a move was made to the Mile Field off Trafford Road, the famous New Barns. As the name Cavendish, which the club was now called, lacked appeal the name was changed to Salford in 1879 - 80 season and the immediate result was fixtures with Leeds St. John's (which became the Leeds club), Dewsbury and Kirkstall.

Four years later the club colours of amber, black and scarlet jerseys gave way to "turkey red" and the club's official colours today are still red. During the present century, sometime in the 1930's on a tour of France the club was honoured by the French who described them as the Red Devils, a title earned by the club long before Manchester United gained the same one.

When the Northern Rugby Football Union was formed in 1895 - 96 Salford attended the original meeting but decided to stay with the Rugby Union. After one season the club moved over to the Northern Union.

In 1901 - 02 Salford were second to Broughton Rangers in the first season of the Northern Rugby League and lost to the Rangers in the Cup final. That season saw the move to The Willows at Weaste. The club lost in their first four Challenge Cup finals but won the cup in the 1937 - 38 season. Previously the Reds had won the Lancashire Cup on four occasions. During the 1930s Salford won the Lancashire League championship on five occasions.

Just before the first world war Salford were in difficulties and the club was in the hands of the Official Receiver. In spite of these troubles the club reached the championship top four final and defeated the mighty Huddersfield side to become the league champions.

During the 1920s the club was at rock bottom but Lance Todd was appointed manager and he took the club to the top. Amongst his players were Gus Risman, Alan Edwards, Barney Hudson, Emlyn Jenkins, Billy Watkins, Harold Osbaldestin, Bob Brown, Sam Miller, Cliff Evans, Albert Gear, Paddy Dalton, Alf Middleton, Billy Williams, Aubrey Casewell, H.C. Day and Joe Bradbury.

In recent seasons a new generation of Salford stars has again brought some success to the club. Dave Watkins, who overtook Bernard Ganley's goal kicking record, Chris Hesketh, Keith Fielding, Kenny Gill, Stevie Nash, Mike Coulman, Colin Dixon, Kevin Ashcroft, Eric Prescott, Maurice Richards and others of similar status have all gained distinction.

On the administrative side, Lance Todd, Jimmy Douglas, Alex Murphy and Graham Atkinson who was also a noted county cricketer stand out. Brian Snape who took over at a difficult period raised Salford in a rags to riches story. His position as club chairman has been taken over by his brother Keith who has the same forward looking outlook.



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CLUB NEWS

BACK IN BUSINESS!

We're back in business and it's great to be back after the summer recess. It has been a hectic close season here at Watersheddings, both on the field and off it. You are sure to notice the vast amount of work that has taken place around the ground new turnstiles, new seats extending to the pavilion corner, brand-new terracing on the pavilion side, new refreshment bars, the re-roofing of the popular side stand etc, etc.

Judging by the condition of the pitch itself our new groundsman Jack Walker can take a bow! Jack has been with us only a matter of months but the fantastic progress he has made even astonished the experts from the turf research centre at Bingley. We must now surely boast one of the finest playing areas in the Rugby League.

The summer also saw us appoint Mr. John Chadwick as club secretary. John is now well and truly settled into the Watersheddings office where we hope he will enjoy a long and successful stay.

Married with a young family, John originally comes from Shaw. He was educated at Chadderton Grammar School and is a life-long Oldham fan, though he spent about 13 years living in the Flyde area where he was a director of a firm of insurance brokers.

On the playing side we sold Jim Fiddler to Bradford and agreed terms with Salford for the transfer to the Willows of prop Dennis Ashcroft, but Ashcroft declined the move.

The biggest scoop of the summer was the double signing from Hull K.R. of prop Brian Lockwood and speedy winger Clive Sullivan.

We hit the headlines in early June when we "signed" Brian soon after he had won the Lance Todd Trophy in Hull K.R.'s win over rivals Hull at Wembley.

It is history now that Hull K.R. claimed Brian was still on their register and that the signing was delayed until only ten days ago after vital talks in Hull concerning Rovers, Brian and the Oldham club.

On the same day we signed Clive Sullivan, who was on the transfer list as a bargain £2,000 after his years of service to both Humberside clubs.

In one coup we signed two vastly-experienced players one for the pack and one for the backs - who should prove invaluable assets to the club as the First Division battle rages in the long months ahead.



Lockwood falls to a goal tackle at Swinton on his Oldham debut.



Clive Sullivan . . . in determined mood on his Oldham debut.

Brian Lockwood is a man of many parts an experienced prop, one of the best ball handlers in the business and a forward whom we are delighted to have as our new pack leader. He has also had experience as a coach and he will prove invaluable in bringing on so many of our young forwards. In the last two years he has won a Challenge Cup winners' medal, a championship winners' medal, the Lance Todd Trophy, and a trip to Australia and New Zealand last year.

Clive Sullivan is another exciting capture. Clive is the first to acknowledge that he is not exactly starting out in Rugby League. But we are convinced he will do a great job for Oldham in the short term and if his debut at Swinton is any guide he will soon be a favourite with the fans.

Clive is certainly one of the game's post-war greats, having captained Great Britain when they last won the World Cup in France in 1972 and having been, over many years, one of the most prolific scorers in the game. He has served both Humberside clubs proudly, and holds the MBE for his service to Rugby League.

We also welcome to Watersheddings our latest youth capture - 19 year old Gerrard Nolan from the St. Patrick's club at Wigan which won the BARLA Youth Cup at the end of last season.

Oldham fans can rest assured that the club and committee will leave no stone unturned in providing the best whether that concerns facilities, young players of great potential, or proven stars to provide the right blend.

We welcome you all back to Watersheddings at the start of a brand new season that could be one of the most exciting for years if all our plans and ideas materialise.

Don't forget that the First Division campaign which must be our priority this season begins in earnest here at Watersheddings next Sunday when Castleford are the visitors as we announce our return to the big-time after three seasons in the Second Division.



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THE SEASON OF CHANGE

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

This is the season of change for Rugby League ... a host of new, exciting challenges to be met at so many different levels.

Fulham's historic entry has not only captured the imagination of seasoned fans throughout the game but has caught the interest of observers in other sports. The League also welcomes a new chairman Jack Myerscough, the go-ahead Leeds chief, who has taken over from Sumner Baxendale.

In a two-year spell in which he toured Australia and New Zealand with the Great Britain party, Sumner Baxendale gave distinguished service to the game and it is refreshing to learn he will serve Huyton on the Council.

Jack Myerscough will be bringing a business-like approach to his role and will have ready support from his vice-chairman Bill Oxley, the long serving Barrow director.

And on the international front we have a new partnership in supremo Colin Hutton teaming up with Johnny Whiteley in a bid to revive our fortunes in the face of the touring Kiwis.

Few people realised that Fulham intended to make such a serious attempt to gain success as has been underlined by their hectic recruiting drive in the close season.

With such a strong willed and forceful personality as chairman Ernie Clay at the helm then Fulham can be expected to continue to make news.

The Second Division side have left the team building to director Harold Genders and player-coach Reg Bowden and they have assembled so many experienced and talented players that promotion looks well within their reach. This has been done, as director Colin Well and predicted on joining the board, for the price of just one Soccer player of modest ability.

With Wigan as visitors for the historic first game at Craven Cottage on September 14, League officials are confident that the record Second Division gate of 12,200 held by Hull will be smashed.

There is going to be a tremendous number of fans travelling South just to be able to claim at some future date that they were present at Fulham's baptism. 'The number of calls we have had seeking information about this first Fulham game and reports of dozens of coaches making the trip South suggests the record attendance will be broken' says League official David Howes.

With the news that Fulham are to enter the John Player Trophy and the State Express Challenge Cup it becomes clear that chairman Clay and his board are looking much further ahead ... to a rewarding future.

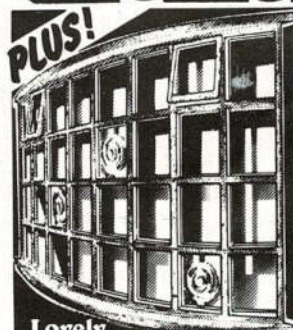
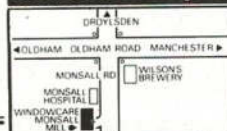


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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	Date	Opponent	F. A.
H	Aug. 3 Sun.	Rochdale (Charity Match)	32 - 15
A	Aug. 10 Sun.	St. Helens (Friendly)	12 - 30
A	Aug. 17 Sun.	Swinton (County Cup)	11 - 5
A	Aug. 24 Sun.	County Cup 2nd Round	
H	Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	
A	Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	
H	Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	
A	Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	
A	Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	
H	Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	
A	Oct. 12 Sun.	Widnes	
H	Oct. 19 Sun.	Workington	
A	Oct. 26 Sun.	Featherstone	
A	Nov. 2 Sun.	Bradford	
H	Nov. 9 Sun.	Salford	
A	Nov. 16 Sun.	John Player 1st Round	
A	Nov. 19 Wed.	Wakefield	
A	Nov. 23 Sun.	John Player 2nd Round	
A	Nov. 30 Sun.	Widnes	
H	Dec. 7 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
H	Dec. 14 Sun.	St. Helens	
A	Dec. 21 Sun.		
A	Dec. 26 Fri.		
H	Boxing Day		
A	Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	
A	Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	
A	New Years Day		
A	Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
H	Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	
A	Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	
A	Jan. 25 Sun.		
H	Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow	
A	Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Feb. 15 Sun.	Challenge Cup 1st Round	
A	Feb. 22 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
H	Mar. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
A	Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
H	Mar. 15 Sun.	Workington	
A	Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
H	Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
H	Apr. 12		
H	Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
H	Good Friday		
H	Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
	Easter Monday		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	Date	Opponent	F. A.
H	Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginshaw (Friendly)	26 - 2
H	Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers	P
A	Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	
A	Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S	
H	Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton	
H	Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens	
A	Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh	
H	Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets	
H	Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	
A	Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	
A	Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	
H	Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	
A	Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	
A	Nov. 14 Fri.	Wigan	
H	Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	
A	Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	
A	Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	
H	Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	
H	Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	
A	Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	
H	Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington	
H	Feb. 19 Thurs.	Blackpool	
A	Mar. 6 Fri.	Warrington	
H	Mar. 14 Sat.	Workington	
H	Mar. 19 Thurs.	Rochdale	
H	Mar. 26 Thurs.	Leigh	

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A CUP WON, A TOUR STARTING, AND IT'S ONLY AUGUST

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

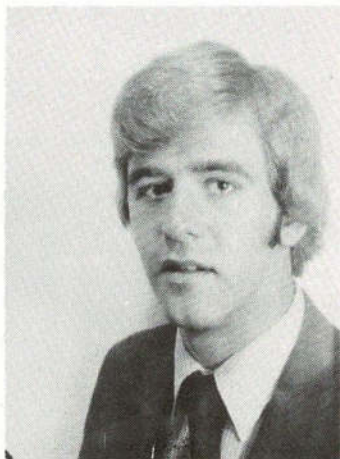
Although today sees the official opening of the 1980-81 season at Watersheddings, the activities of the local amateur league teams are already in full swing, with several pre-season friendlies having taken place, the first Pennine League competition of the new term having been decided, and with a tour of Oldham by the youngsters of the Catalan club from Perpignan in France beginning this Thursday.

The chase for the various divisional awards in the Pennine League begins next Saturday, when nine new sides will be joining the fray, thus creating a total of seventy-eight teams throughout the area, which covers Oldham, Rochdale, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Bradford. Eight sides will form the Premier Division, including Saint Anne's and Waterhead, while local interest in Division One will be centred on Fitton Hill and Saddleworth Rangers. Divisions One to Seven will each contain ten teams, with Ferranti, Higginshaw and Saddleworth 'A' being Oldham's representatives in the Second Division, while Shaw will be our only side in Division Three. The reserve teams of St. Anne's and Waterhead join Salem Hornets in Division Four, Ferranti 'A' are our sole representatives in the Fifth Division, and Hollinwood, Salem 'A' and Tudor Lodge compete for the Division Six title. The newly formed teams will all be contesting the Seventh Division Championship with Fitton Hill's reserve side being Oldham's only challengers.

Waterhead last season's inaugural winners of the John Player Amateur Seven Trophy, were one of the Oldham League's representatives in last Sunday's Pennine 7-a-side tournament, in which they defeated Worth Village (Keighley) and Illingworth (Halifax) to reach the Final. In the decider Waterhead's opponents were Bradford side Dudley Hill, who had earlier in the competition beaten Saddleworth Rangers, and who completed a double over the Oldham teams with a narrow 16-15 win against Waterhead, thus qualifying for the BARLA National Sevens next May.

The annual matches between the youngsters of Oldham and the Catalan club from Perpignan resume this Friday with a series of games at Waterhead Park, beginning at 4.30 p.m. It is almost a decade since the annual fixtures first began between boys aged eleven to sixteen, with many of the youngsters having since gained greater honours in their respective countries. Catalan are one of the leading French clubs with teams from open-age level down to Under-11s, and who currently boast three Internationals - all of whom have made journey's to Oldham on previous youth tours. The Oldham senior club have, of course, also benefited from the tours with players such as Terry Flanagan and Paddy Kirwan having visited France with the local schools' side. Catalan arrive in Oldham on Thursday, and after their opening games at Waterhead, the seniors will be playing in a curtain-raiser to next Sunday's match at Watersheddings, and will then be involved in a full day of youth rugby at Saddleworth's round in Greenfield on Wednesday, September 3, beginning at 9.30 p.m. The French will also be visiting West Lancashire for a series of games against the youngsters of Widnes Tigers.

A new sponsorship deal has recently been announced involving BARLA, Forshaw's Burtonwood Brewery, and BBC Radio Manchester, and which will benefit both players and clubs in the North-West. Each month local clubs will be asked to submit nominations for a "Clubman of the Month" award, with details and the results being given on the local radio station's "BARLA Reports" programmed, which is broadcast every Friday (6.30 p.m.). A representative from each of the organisations involved will choose the monthly winner, with the individual receiving an engraved tankard and with his club being awarded a "Medisport" treatment case, complete with medical equipment especially for use by sportsmen.



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