

PROGRAMME SPONSOR



Teams

Watersheddings - Wednesday 10th September, 1980.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Hoops,
Blue Shorts.

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. CLIVE HUNTER
4. BRIAN CAFFREY
5. CLIVE SULLIVAN
6. BILL FRANCIS
7. KEN GWILLIAM
8. ALAN FORSTER
9. ROGER O'MAHONEY
10. STEVE HERBERT
11. BOB BLACKWOOD
12. BRIAN LOCKWOOD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

SUBS FROM:

14. RAY ASHTON
15. BOB MORDELL
16. MIKE WORRALL
17. COLIN HAWKYARD
18. PHIL WARD
19. ALAN PLATT
20. MIKE COWLEY

WARRINGTON

White Shirt/Primrose/Blue Chevron,
White Shorts.

1. DEREK FINNIGAN
2. RICHARD THACKRAY
3. IAN DUANE
4. JOHN BEVAN
5. STEVE HESFORD
6. KEN KELLY
7. HARRY GORDON
8. NEIL COURTENEY
9. TONY WALLER
10. BRIAN CASE
11. TOMMY MARTIN
12. BOB ECCLES
13. EDDIE HUNTER

14. ALAN GWILLIAM
15. TONY WARRELL

Referee: Mr. G.F. Lindop (Wakefield)
Touch Judges: Mr. D. Bowes (Swinton)
Mr. E. Glazebrook (Wigan)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 14th September, 1980 - 3.00p.m. v FEATHERSTONE

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Secretary: J. Chadwick

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

Professional Playing Staff

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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 -
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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
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, 1933-24, 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:	1975-76, 1979-80

WELCOME TO THE WIRES

WARRINGTON last won the Lancashire Cup way back in 1965 when they beat Rochdale Hornets in the final. One of the Hornets centres that night was Graham Starky, now manager at Watersheddings.

Three years later the Wires were beaten by St. Helens in the final and, since then, they have been so near but yet so far, having been knocked out in the semi-final stage in each of the last four years. Last season, Billy Benyon's first as player-coach, they reached the third round of the John Player Trophy and the third round of the State Express Challenge Cup but they just failed to qualify for the Premiership on scoring averages.

They won 15 of their 30 games in the First Division and drew two to pick up 32 points the same number as St. Helens, who finished in eighth place by virtue of their 505 points to Warrington's 362. On their way to the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup semi-final last year they won a second-round tie against Oldham here at Watersheddings by 34 points to 6 in front of a crowd of 3,624. Oldham tackled poorly on the night and Warrington had their semi-final passage booked by half-time when they led 17-3.

For the record the Oldham team that night was: Murphy, O'Brien, Larder, Ward, Munro, Francis, Paterson, Fiddler, O'Mahoney, Taylor, Forster, Hall, Hawkyard. Subs: Arnold, Walczak. The Warrington side is also likely to show several changes from that which knocked us out of the county cup a year ago. Benyon has set his heart on taking the Wires to success this season and he will doubtless get a lot of backing from the evergreen Parry Gordon, now starting a phenomenal 19th season at Wilderspool.

At the time of writing, Warrington were again out of luck on the injury front. Young loose-forward Ian Potter, listed at £50,000 and said to be one of the finest loose-forwards in the game, is unlikely to play tonight because of a knee injury received in the second round win at Barrow. Benyon himself was on the injured list together with half-back Alan Gwilliam brother of Oldham's Ken.

Stand-off Ken Kelly missed the first three matches of the season because of suspension while hooker John Dalgren, now back after serious ankle and shoulder injuries, missed the start of the Sialom Lager First Division championship because of a suspension.

He got a two-match ban at the August meeting of the Disciplinary Committee but will be free to play tonight as the Wires bid to break their semi-final hoodoo.

They have several big names in their line-up and none come bigger than Welshman John Bevan and second-row forward Tommy Martyn. Both are proven internationals and both have earned their reputations as players of the highest calibre.

Wingman Bevan, of the famous try-scoring "salute", has done it on us more than once over the years while Martyn is still one of the best back-row forwards in the business.

Bevan has been operating in the centre in more recent times with youngster Ian Duane his co-centre, Steve Hesford on one wing and another bright prospect on the other flank in Keith Thackray, signed from local RU at the back end of last season and a very quick and alert performer.

With Kelly, Gordon and Jimmy Fairhurst to choose from at half-back and a reliable full back in Derek Finnigan the Wires can be a formidable force.

In the pack Martyn is the "old head" in a comparatively young pack - average age about 24 which includes the bang-in-form under-24 international Bob Eccles in the front-row.

Eccles has been in tearaway form already this season and scored a sensational try at Barrow in the last round when he ran about 60 yards to touch down. Middleton-reared Neil Courtney, bought from St. Helens, could be the other prop, with Brian Case alongside Martyn in the second-row and possibly Eddie Hunter at No. 13 in Potter's absence.

Tony Worrall, elder brother of our own Mick, might also be in the squad and if he is you can rest assured there will be no brotherly love lost on the night!

As a guide to the individual impact on the Wires on the high-scoring Bevan and Hesford it is interesting to note that Bevan is one of the only six players to have scored more than 100 tries in First Division football while Hesford holds the record for the most number of goals in First Division season 130 in 1978-79 and is poised to become only the second player to score 1,000 points in Division One since the reintroduction of the two-division system in 1973-74.

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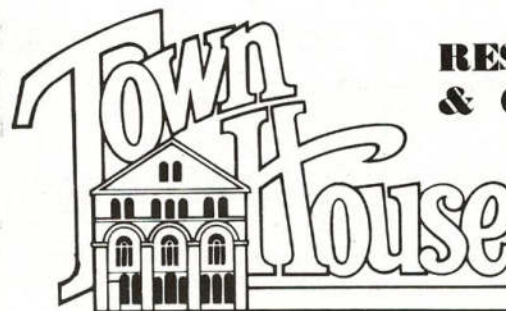
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HISTORIC DAY ON SUNDAY

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

SUNDAY will be a historic day in Rugby League when new club Fulham open up their fixtures with the visit to Craven Cottage of relegated Wigan.

Many thousands of League fans are expected to travel from the North and, come Sunday evening, there will be few supporters of our game who will not be anxious to know not only the result but the attendance at Craven Cottage.

Can Fulham succeed where the London-area clubs of the 1930s failed? There are many imponderables but I believe they can succeed and will succeed. I already have a little wager, too, that they will be promoted at the first attempt.

Much will depend on whether they are lucky or unlucky with injuries. With no "A" team and no strength in depth, a bad run of injuries could hit Fulham harder than most. But if they are lucky in that respect, the players Fulham have assembled should have what it takes to finish in the top four of the Second Division.

The rapid entry of Fulham into the League and the speed with which they bought well-known and established players has certainly caught the imagination of League fans everywhere.

The signing of Widnes star Reg Bowden was a master-stroke and since then the signings have come thick and fast.

Certainly, Reg and his assistant Mal Aspey another star of the great Widnes side of the last decade have a great reservoir of experience on which to draw. There is little doubt that go-ahead Fulham, under the leadership of Leeds-born chairman Ernie Clay, will do well. On the face of it Bowden and football director Harold Genders have done a good job in recruiting and the Fulham management are determined to give their new venture every possible chance. Only time will tell how the London and southern fans will respond. But Fulham have a much better chance of succeeding than did the London clubs between the wars.

In those days there was no television to take League into the sitting rooms of homes throughout the South; London was a day's journey away and not merely a four hour's drive down the motorway; there was nothing like as many exiled northerners living down there; there was not the huge Australian and New Zealand colony at Earl's Court.

The Fulham venture is a very exciting one indeed and, if successful, it could be the fore-runner of more new clubs up and down the country.



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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:-

1. Substitute '14' replaces '15' who earlier replaced '11' can '15' return to the field?
2. Substitute '15' replaces '11', and '11' replaces '12' is this in order?
3. Must a substitute's name be made known to the referee before the kick-off?
4. If a substitution is effected when a kick at goal is to be taken (say the injury was to the goal-kicker) can the substitute take the kick?
5. The ball is loose in the in-goal area. A defender and attacker touch down simultaneously. What is the decision?
6. Where is a penalty try awarded - between the posts or opposite where the infringement occurred?
7. A ball is passed back but is blown forward in flight. Is this a forward pass?
8. A player being tackled drops to the ground on his back, the ball not being grounded. Can he pass the ball?

ANSWERS

1. No. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. No. 5. Try. 6. Between the posts
7. No. 8. Yes. So long as he has not made it clear that he has once
succumbed to the tackle. his the

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Supporters Club can do so at any canteen or in the Social Club **Price of membership is £1.00 This includes a Supporters club Diary.**

A coach will be running to HULL on September 21st, leaving at 11.0am. **Prices:** Adult member £2.80, Adult non-member £3.00, Child member £1.80, Child non-member £2.00. Also to Leeds on September 28th, leaving at 1.30pm. **Price** Adult members £1.50, Adult non-members £1.80, Child member £1.00, Child non-member £1.30. Anyone wishing to book can do so in the canteen or Social Club.

METAL OLDHAM SUPPORTERS CLUB LAPEL BADGES are on sale in the canteen or Social Club **Price 60p. BLAZER BADGES £7.50 each.** Also on sale are our **OLDHAM R.L.F.C. Sweaters**, sizes are 34, 36, 38, 40 in Red and 40" in Blue. These are priced at £10.00 each. Anyone wishing to see these sweaters can do so in the canteens or Social Club.

We are holding our **ANNUAL RUGBY QUEEN DANCE** on Tuesday 28th October in the Social Club, from 8pm - 12am. Price by ticket £1.00. If bought on the night £1.25. **So come along all you pretty girls** (age 16 and upwards) and enter for our Rugby Queen. Give your name and address at our canteen or Social Club.

Sponsored swim Friday September 19th, Breezhill School baths for Geoff Munros' benefit. Sponsor forms available from any canteen or Social Club.



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CLUB NEWS

LANCASHIRE CUP MEMORIES

TONIGHT'S visit to Watersheddings of Warrington revives memories of the last time Oldham were in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup.

It was way back in 1968, would you believe, and to put that in some sort of perspective it is sobering to realise that at the time our player-of-the-year Terry Flanagan was only seven!

We had won at Rochdale 17-5 in the first round and beat Workington 7-5 at home in the second round. So to the semi-final at Salford and a 12-9 victory watched by a crowd of more than 12,000.

Derek Whitehead, later to serve Warrington loyally for more than ten years, kicked three goals for us that night and the tries came from half-backs Tommy Canning and Wilf Briggs.

Briggs, who also went on to play for Warrington his home town team was in terrific try-scoring form that season. He skipped in for a vital try at the Willows his 12th in 14 games that season but many Oldham fans will easier recall his last-ditch tackle in the closing minutes of the match that undoubtedly put us into the final.

In the forwards the game most certainly belonged to Ken Wilson. Salford set out their stall to stop the ball distribution of Geoff Fletcher, and "Tug" cashed in with a powerful display of driving and running that must have made him the man of the match.

Alas, the final against St. Helens at Wigan was a disaster for Oldham. We led 2-0 at half-time but Fletcher was injured and did not resume for the second half when St. Helens ran in 30 points without reply.

Two years earlier, in 1966, we also reached the final after putting out Swinton at home, Salford away and Blackpool Borough away in the semi-final. It set us up for a final clash with Wigan at Swinton but Wigan won 16-13, our points coming from five goals by Tom Warburton and a try by John Donovan.

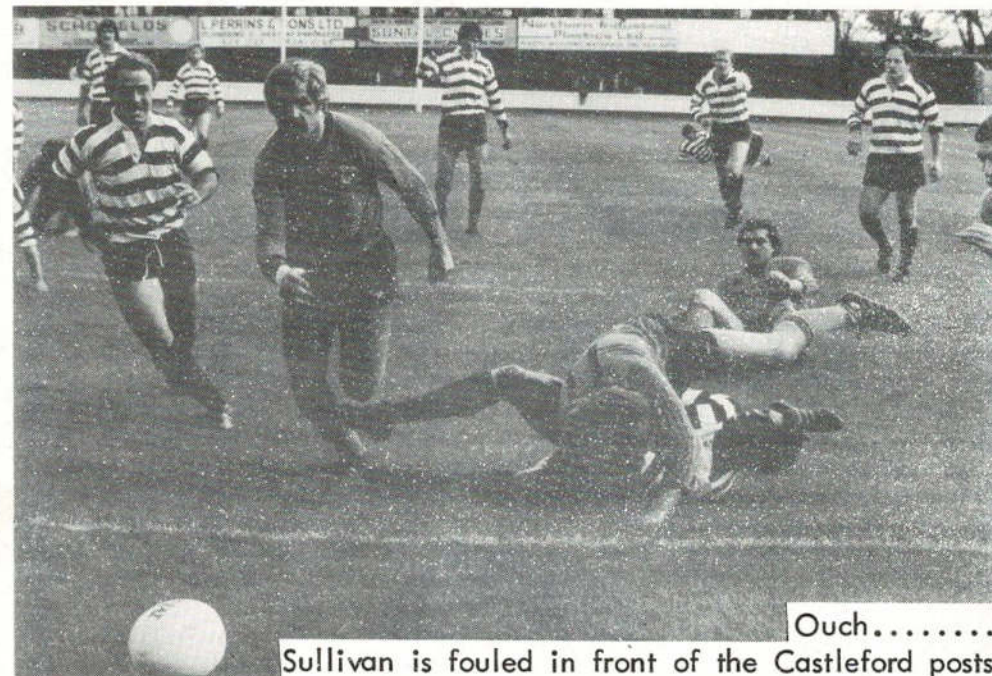
The Oldham team on that autumn Saturday afternoon at Station Road was: McLeod, Dolly, McCormack, Donovan, Simms, Warburton, Canning, Wilson, Taylor, Fletcher, Smethurst, Irving, Mooney. Subs: Holroyd, Ogden.

Having beaten Swinton and Salford this year, could it be a lucky omen for Oldham to reach the final? The Lancashire Cup was last on the Watersheddings sideboard in 1958 so we are certainly overdue.

By now we expect that our capture from New Zealand centre Lance Pupeki will be well settled in the town and getting used to his surroundings at Watersheddings.



Lockwood
in full flight
against Castleford.



Ouch.....

Sullivan is fouled in front of the Castleford posts.

Lance, who is 22, comes on a strong recommendation from a contact in New Zealand and will hopefully be with us for the remainder of the season.

He arrived at Ringway Airport on Monday of last week and we were hoping he would have got over jet lag in time for him to make his debut in the "A" team at Salford two nights later.

We wish Lance a happy and successful stay at Oldham. In recent years we have had players from Australia and even USA but it is a very long time indeed since we had a player from New Zealand at Watersheddings.

On the money-making front you will have read in the local press that our Development Association has reverted back to the lottery ticket that proved so popular in the first 12 months of our lottery venture.

Not only have we brought back the old ticket by popular demand but we have increased the prize structure to make it even better than before.

Our original ticket was a very simple one and it could well be its simplicity that made it so popular. Certainly, the Development Association has had many, many requests to put it back on the market and that's exactly what we have done.

Success in this "field" is imperative if the other pieces of the jig-saw are to slot into shape. Agents and out-lets are always required. If YOU can help please contact Keith Masters (phone 620-4870).

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TOM WEBB's HISTORY OF WARRINGTON RLFC

Warrington Football Club was formed in 1875 although different researchers claim different dates for the club's formation. Unfortunately I cannot give many early details of the club as my note book on Warrington was loaned for a display on Rugby League in that town and never returned.

During the club's Rugby Union days it was never outstanding as were clubs of the standing of Swinton, Broughton and the like but it was for some years before the Northern Union started in 1895 graded as first class.

The club took its nickname "The Wires" from the wire working industry of the town. A leading junior club in the town, Rylands Recreation formed before the first world war is associated with a wire manufacturing firm.

Fair Baxter was an early captain of the club and he gained distinction first on the field and later as an administrator. Another Warrington notability was E. Warren the club secretary in 1885. In that year the Rugby Union had introduced referees to the game instead of each side providing an umpire and the appointment of the referee was left to the clubs which was a most unsatisfactory position. Mr. Warren suggested that the Lancashire County Rugby Union should provide a neutral referee when requested. This resulted in the formation of a "Referees' Committee" and gave the game a great step forward. Many supporters are dissatisfied with our current refereeing but just imagine what a blessing it has been to stop clubs providing their own men in the middle.

Not until 1947-48 did the Wire win the championship of the Northern Rugby Football League. That year the team scored 856 points in cup and league matches, a record for the club. Brian Bevan was the league's top try scorer for the second successive season.

That year the Warrington directors signed Harold Palin, Bryn Knowelden, Stanley Powell, W. Derbyshire and W. Riley and a little later Harry Bath, Roy Francis and E. Frödsam joined the club's playing strength.

In the 1930s Bob Anderton was the club secretary and he managed a couple of touring parties to Australia and New Zealand. In his days the ground capacity was 32,000 but as more and more seats were installed these reduced the capacity to 20,000. The tram fare from the town centre to Fletcher Street in 1933 was one (old) penny and this took spectators to within a minute's walk from the ground.

some editions of the John Player Year Book credit the Wire with winning the Challenge Cup in 1901 but they actually lost that final to Batley. They first won it in 1905 and two years later beat Oldham in the final. The club had a fair measure of success in the finals but the outstanding one was when they won in the 1954 replay at Odsal when over 100,000 packed the ground.

among the stars of the club we can include, Jack Fish the legendary winger the Cunliffe brothers, Bill Holding the first player to top 100 goals for the Wire, Brian Bevan the human try scoring machine, mighty goal kicker Harry Bath, Dave Chisnall, Parry Gordon, Derek Whitehead, Tommy Martyn, Steve Hesford, John Bevan, Alec Murphy and for one short spell, Bobby Fulton from Australia. He, however was not the first player from that country to play for the Wilderspool club, Dan Frawley, L. O'Malley and J. Stuntz joining the Primrose and Blue in 1909-10 season.

Len Hockenhull, Chris Brockbank, Ces Mountford, Phil Worthington, Ernie Ashcroft, Jack Fleming and Joe Egan have been among many good club administrators.

Forshaw's Lancashire Cup Sponsorship by Burtonwood Brewery Co. (Forshaw's) Ltd.

This is the fifth year that Burtonwood Brewery Company (Forshaws) Ltd, have sponsored this competition, and all clubs West of the Pennines are delighted that a new 'Five year agreement' has recently been reached with them.

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1st Round losers	£ 230

Tonight around 9pm, the finalists of this lucrative competition will be known, with the holders Widnes taking on second division Wigan, in the other semi-final at Naughton Park, with the coveted final being played on October 4th, kick off 2.45 at a venue to be decided tomorrow.

MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD

Tonights Man of the Match (selected by the Press) will receive an inscribed tankard presented by Mr. J.D. Parr FREE TRADE SALES MANAGER OF BURTONWOOD BREWERY CO.

COLTS CORNER

MANY of the players who made our inaugural season in the Colts League one to remember are now over the age limit and pushing onwards in their careers at "A" team or even first-team level.

Last year's crop of colts, who won the league title and the premiership, might well be saying right now follow that!

Well, our 1980-81 colts, again under the guiding hand of Brian Gartland, did just that on the opening day of the season at Bradford when they ran in ten tries to open up with a highly-convincing and encouraging 38-2 victory.

It was a send-off highlighted by Mick O'Rourke's hat-trick of tries, two from David Taylor, and four goals from the boot of Alan Platt. Derek Seabrook, Gary Thwaites, Stephen Dobb and two trialists one local and one from further afield also crossed the Bradford line.

On behalf of all the colts, who really value your support, may we take this opportunity of expressing the hope that our fans rally round and back our youngsters with the enthusiasm they undoubtedly displayed last season.

GEOFF MUNRO TESTIMONIAL

GEOFF MUNRO, our long-serving winger, follows up his record try-scoring feats in the Second Division last season with another important year ahead - his benefit year!

Geoff signed for the club in December 1969, as a 16-year-old and there were only three members of the present playing staff on the books at that time -

Martin Murphy, Phil Larder and Kevin Flanagan.

In the next 12 months he will be having several major events to help boost his benefit fund and they will be announce as they come up. On September 19th he is having a sponsored swim at Breezehill School and sponsorship forms can be obtained at the supporters club canteens tonight.





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OUT OF DATE - NO PROGRESS

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

It is rightly claimed that Rugby League's close season - so much like Soccer's - is far too short and it seems there are times when you just cannot escape for the game.

But it was a pleasant surprise to bump into two former League stars at the British Open Golf championship at Muirfield in July.

There working on two of the stands in the exhibition tents were former Wakefield Trinity hooker Geoff Oakes and Ron Cowan, the ex-Leeds winger.

Oakes has a fine business partnership in a firm selling golf clothing equipment while Cowan is also selling clothing having returned to live in his native Selkirk.

A £5,000 signing by Leeds in 1962, Scottish Rugby Union winger Cowan toured south Africa with the British Lions and became a popular character at Headingley.

He confided that he had been trying to get a game of rugby in Union with Selkirk even at 38 but sadly without success.

'I have now written to the Scottish Rugby Union three times to see if I could be given permission to play at Selkirk,' says Ron.

'I got a bit of encouragement after my second letter and when Jim Telfer took over as coach of Scotland I was more hopeful and wrote again but I have had no joy.

'I just thought I could have put something back into Union but it is not to be. I have taken up golf instead now and am down to seven and enjoying it very much.'

I find it impossible to believe that Ron would be doing any harm if the Union relaxed their rulings and allowed League players to be reinstated to a code where their experience could be put to good use.

When I hear about golfers being reinstated to the amateur scene so often - one player I read had been a pro for five years - I find it sickening that discrimination still exists in Union.

It just goes to show how out of date we are and how little progress has been made between the two handling codes despite all the talk over the last few years.

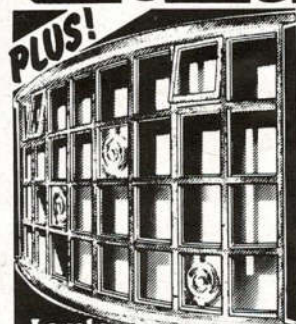
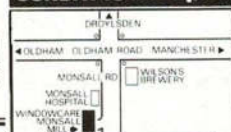


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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

Date	Opponent	F. A.
H Aug. 3 Sun.	Rochdale (Chairty 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	
H Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	
A Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	
H Oct. 12 Sun.		
A Oct. 19 Sun.	Widnes	
H Oct. 26 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	
H Dec. 7 Sun.	John Player 2nd Round	
A Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes	
H Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A Dec. 28 Fri.	St. Helens	
H Boxing Day		
A Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	
H Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	
A New Years Day		
H Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
A Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	
H Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	
A Jan. 25 Sun.		
H Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow	
A Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax	
H 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	
H Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
A Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
H Apr. 12		
A Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
H Good Friday		
A Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
H Easter Monday		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

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

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Sponsored League to Help Local Youth Teams

By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

A new styled youth league is to operate in East Lancashire this season, named the Greater Manchester Youth League, and will be replacing the former Rochdale and Oldham divisions which have been organised at Under-15 and Under-17 levels for the past four years.

The previous competitions were organised by the Rochdale Amateur League, although the new set-up will be run by a sub-committed of officials from both the Oldham and Rochdale Leagues, with the secretary and treasurer being John Burke and Frank O'Neill, who hold similar positions with the Oldham Amateur League, and with the inaugural Chairman of the new youth league being Jimmy Green, an Oldham League Executive Committee member. Last season only five teams were in competition for the two divisional championships, although the interest already shown in the Greater Manchester League has increased these numbers before the start of the season to seven teams at Under-15 and nine in the Under-17 age-group.

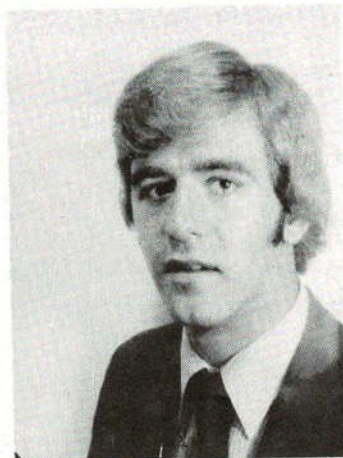
At present only teams in the Oldham and Rochdale areas have entered the new league although officials would also look favourably on any applications to join from sides anywhere in the Manchester region. The matches are to take place on Sunday mornings with 'double-headers' being played whenever a club with teams in both age-groups meet another club in a similar position. Six clubs will be entering teams at both Under-15 and Under-17 levels, namely Ferranti, Saint Anne's, Salem Hornets, Shaw, Waterhead, and Hornets Supporters. As well as these, Fitton Hill will be competing for the Under-15 Championship, while Saddleworth, Mayfield, and a newly formed Oldham Supporters team are entering the Under-17 competition.

However, following the recent BARLA decision to ban any team who are receiving professional club assistance, the Supporters Club teams of Oldham and Rochdale Hornets will firstly have to be approved by the Association's Executive Committee. The two teams will have to assure BARLA that their players are not being coached by the professional staff or that the teams themselves are not receiving any financial assistance to help them with their organisation.

Fixtures in the Greater Manchester Youth League are to commence on Sunday, October 5th, with the teams in both of the divisions beginning their challenge for their respective Oldham Exhaust Championship, following a sponsorship deal recently secured by the League with the local company covering both the Under-15 and Under-17 divisions. A knockout cup competition will also operate for both age-groups, with the junior teams competing for the Howell Cup and the senior boys contesting the Summerscales Cup, while also planned are a seven-a-side competition and an end-of-season play-off.

With regard to any assistance which a professional club might wish to give to the amateurs, BARLA have contacted the Rugby Football League asking them to encourage their member clubs to give any donations to its local league as a whole, instead of helping any one particular team. As an example, BARLA quoted the generous donation of the Oldham professional club last season when they gave a new set of playing kit to all the local amateur clubs who were running teams at youth level.

Every Friday at 6.30 p.m. B.B.C. Radio Manchester features amateur Rugby League news on 'BARLA Reports'. Don't forget also B.B.C. Radio Manchester's new style 'Rugby League Special' programme which goes out each Sunday from 3.30 p.m. till 6.00 p.m. in which reports on local amateur games will be broadcast at about 5.30 p.m.



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