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11. JEOFF GRAYSHON
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Watersheddings - Sunday November 16th, 1980.

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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
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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 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

CHASING THE TITLE!

BRADFORD NORTHERN, our visitors today, are again chasing the First Division title they narrowly won from Widnes, with one point to spare, last season.

They had won six and drawn one of their first nine matches this term to occupy joint second place in the table alongside Hull KR just two points behind the surprise packets so far, Castleford.

The match Northern drew was at Wakefield while their two defeats were both away, at Hull KR and St. Helens.

To emulate last season's fabulous success at Odsal will be a very difficult matter for Northern in 1979-80 not only took the title but they also won the John Player Trophy and finished runners-up to Widnes in the Premiership.

They are always a very difficult side to beat, coach Peter Fox having assembled a big, tough pack with arguably the best ball-winning twosome in the game in Jimmy Thompson and Keith Bridges.

They usually ensure a plentiful supply of ball for Northern and this inevitably helps to keep their "points against" record in a healthy state. The opposition cannot score if they don't have the ball!

On their way to the title last year Northern conceded only 49 tries, fewer than any other side. This season only Hull KR and Warrington have better defensive records, so that in itself is a measure of the size of the task confronting Oldham this afternoon.

In the corresponding game at Odsal earlier in the season Oldham were beaten 21-10 a match in which Geoff Clarkson, now an Oldham player, was turning out for the Odsal club.

Since then Oldham have made numerous additions to the team, having signed Clarkson for about £6,000, Mick Parrish, and Tony Handforth.

Northern will probably field a very similar side to that which played against us on their ground although they could well be without centre David Redfern, who is still recovering from an eye injury.

Redfern's blistering pace gave us all sorts of problems at Odsal and Oldham will not be sorry to see him out of action today, though wishing him a speedy recovery once this game is over!

Les Gant, who played left wing at Bradford, also troubled us a great deal with his pace and then there is the experience and skill at half-back of Nigel Stephenson and Alan Redfern a formidable pair.

The pack is also bulging at the seams with experience and know-how thanks to Thompson, Bridges, our former player Jimmy Fiddler, Geoff Grayshon and Graham Idle.

Phil Jackson could be in contention for a place while in the second-row Clarkson's old spot could well be occupied by young Gary Van Bellen, who played at No. 8 for the Great Britain under-24 side against New Zealand at Fulham last week.

All told, Northern have a very good side indeed and one that is sure to be challenging for honours come the end of the season.

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WEEKEND SEMINAR TO MAKE BRITAIN GREAT

A series of week-end seminars for club coaches and officials could go a long way towards changing Rugby League's attitude to coaching and training, a weakness in the English game that the Aussies and now the New Zealanders have cruelly exposed.

Not-so-great Britain currently stands down way down the world ratings, having been walloped home and abroad by the Aussies in the past two years and having been humbled by the Kiwis at Odsal after drawing at Wigan in the first Test. Britain is no longer a power in world Rugby League and that is an inescapable fact no matter what the outcome of yesterday's third Test against New Zealand at Headingley.

The issues go far beyond the realms of team selection or the individual and collective form of 13 players in red, white and blue.

The fact of the matter is that the second Test was won and lost not in the Odsal bowl but on the training fields and practice grounds of Waikato, Canterbury, Wigan and Castleford over the last decade.

Our illness at Test level stems from a malady among the clubs and it is only in the clubs that the cure can be found.

No way can Britain's players achieve the right degree of fitness in a couple of sessions with Johnnie Whiteley when their week-to-week training is inadequate; no way can they match the Kangaroos or the Kiwis in their mastery of the game's basics when they are not being mastered at club level.

We have some highly talented and skilful players in England but at club level the best in them is not being developed because we do not pay sufficient attention to detail in both training and coaching.

That's why I believe a series of lectures designed to educate our clubs to the importance of highly-skilled and specialised team preparation would provide the first faltering steps on the road back to respectability.

If only 15 of the 30 clubs bothered to attend and seven or eight of the 15 went away a little wiser it would represent a major breakthrough.

What a sound idea it would be, too, if the views of the Carnegie College of physical excellence, with whom the Rugby League are now forging a partnership, were to be sent to every club.

At one time I despaired of the day ever dawning when we would prepare our national side sufficiently well to give it an even-money chance of taking on and beating the might of Australia.

But the progressive steps taken at top level in the past 12 months give rise to optimism that all may not be lost.

Both team manager Colin Hutton and a senior lecturer from Carnegie, Rod McKenzie, had articles in the second Test programme which clearly indicated the new wave of thinking at Test level.

The mere fact that a Carnegie man was invited to write in the Test programme proved that, at long last, the message from the southern hemisphere is perhaps beginning to get through.

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)



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TOM WEBB'S HISTORY OF BRADFORD NORTHERN RLFC

Bradford Cricket Club started about 150 years ago and in due course established a football section. This Bradford Football Club joined the Northern Union in 1895 but a dozen years later the club split, the main body switching over to soccer as the Bradford (Park Avenue) A.F.C. and those loyal to rugby forming the Bradford Northern club. Thus Bradford Northern has sporting connections going back a century and a half.

However the club after a glorious history in which Northern played in three consecutive Challenge Cup finals at Bradford, dropped out of the game part way through a season. The enthusiasts led by Trevor Foster and Joe Phillips, two great players in their time, rallied round and Bradford Northern (1964) Limited came into being.

The revival has been greatly successful and the first honours of the present club came when the Yorkshire Cup was won in 1965. A decade later more successes came and Northern were second division champions in 1973-74 while the Players No. 6 Trophy went to Odsal in 1975.

Albert Fearnley, an Oldham player of some thirty years ago, became manager at Bradford and he worked miracles in raising the club to the top grade. He was very much involved in restarting Rugby League Football in Bradford schools some years ago. Harry Womersley and Jack Fricker former Halifax directors moved down the road to help Northern in 1964 and gave great service. One of their first signings was Brian Lord from Oldham. Joe Phillips, Jack Bates and several other directors have also played major parts in ensuring the success of the club. Harry Womersley in addition to being chairman to the Rugby League Council has been associated with tours of France, Australia and New Zealand. When the Oldham club celebrated its centenary four years ago, the club chosen to be our opponents in the centenary match was Bradford Northern which was one of the best supported clubs in the game.

Some well known personalities have been connected with Northern on the coaching side of the club. These include Gus Rismann, Roy Francis, John Burnett, Mike Sullivan, Albert Fearnley, Jack Wilkinson, Alan Kellet, Frank Foster and Neil Fox.

A record fee was paid to St. Helens to secure the services of Ken Kelly. The fee paid was £9,000 and Steve Gobey was transferred as well as part of the transaction. On the other hand £8,000 was received from Wakefield Trinity when they secured Ian Brooke from the Odsal club.

Some great players have been connected with the club. In the 1940s and 1950s Ernest Ward, Donald Ward, Frank Whitcombe and a host of others stood out and on one occasion the then chairman, Harry Hornby signed five New Zealand players who became great favourites.

In recent years, Ian Forsyth (ex-Oldham), Ian Van Bellin, the Redfearns, Thompson, Wolford, Mick Murphy, Mumby, Stan Fearnley, Terry Clawson, Mick Blacker, Dave Treasure and many more have had distinguished careers with the club.

NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

HAT-TRICK HOPES IN JOHN PLAYER TROPHY

The three teams with chances of completing a remarkable hat-trick of wins in the John Player Trophy all face tough matches in the first round of this season's competition.

In the draw in Manchester on Tuesday 21st October, 1980, the holders, Bradford Northern, winners in 1975 and last season, got an away match at Hull. This should attract the biggest crowd of the round. Warrington, winners in 1974 and 1978, will also attract a big following for their match against neighbours, St. Helens. The third hat-trick contender, Widnes, who won the Trophy in 1976 and 1979 and have been finalists in five of the last six competitions, have a home tie against Wakefield Trinity.

The new London club, Fulham, make their debut in the John Player Trophy with an attractive home tie against cup specialists, Leeds.

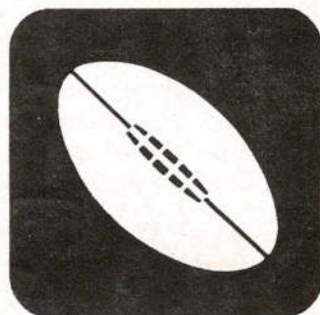
The full draw (home teams named first) is:-

Fulham	vs	Leeds
Widnes	vs	Wakefield Trinity
Dewsbury	vs	Featherstone Rovers
York	vs	Oldham
Hull	vs	Bradford Northern
Batley	vs	Huddersfield
Blackpool Borough	vs	Huyton
Hunslet	vs	Workington Town
Keighley	vs	Hull Kingston Rovers
Castleford	vs	Pilkington Recs. (BARLA)
Swinton	vs	Barrow
Doncaster	vs	Whitehaven
Leigh	vs	Rochdale Hornets
Salford	vs	Wigan
St. Helens	vs	Warrington
Bramley	vs	Halifax

All matches will be played during the weekend of November 22nd/23rd, 1980.

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CLUB NEWS

'TERRY IS THE TOPS'

CONGRATULATIONS go out today to the Oldham club's latest international Terry Flanagan. Though Terry was included in Great Britain's 20-man squad for the third Test against New Zealand at Headingley yesterday it was not known at the time of writing whether he would be in the team, on the bench as substitute, or sitting in the stand as a squad member.

Whatever it was Terry has had a fairytale rise to the top since he joined us from Saddleworth Rangers only 18 months ago.

We were all delighted when he was picked for the under-24 side which played New Zealand at Fulham, thrilled when he was named vice-captain and pack leader, overwhelmed when he produced a dazzling display which obviously put him in the front-line for selection for the Test squad.

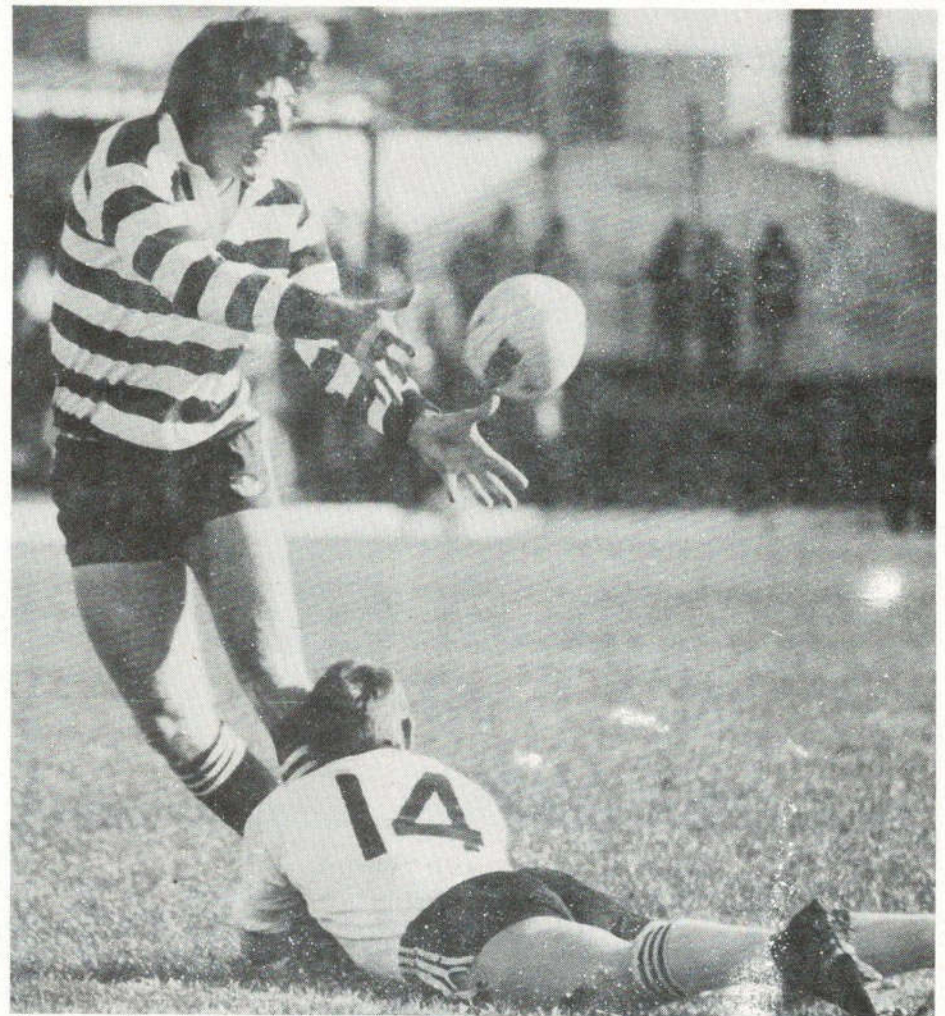
Neil Holding, the St. Helens Scrum-half and another star of the Fulham match, also got in and team manager Colin Hutton said they had been selected on the strength of their terrific displays against the tourists in London.

The congratulations of all Oldham supporters will surely go out to Terry who, in turn, wishes to express his appreciation to those fans who took the day off work to travel to Craven Cottage and give him a cheer.

The following morning papers were full of how well the British boys had played and full of praise for the Oldham player, still only 19 and still only in his second season as a professional.



Action from Widnes . . . Terry Flanagan goes away past Keith Elwell.



Action from the match at Widnes . . . Oldham centre Clive Hunter gets out a pass in a tackle by Andrew Gregory.

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY

THERE is a break from the tremendous demands of the First Division programme next week-end when the first round games in the John Player Trophy are fought out.

We have drawn a very tough away match, having to travel to York who are setting a blistering pace at the top of the Second Division.

This will certainly provide a match which is no easier than any hurdle in the First Division. With home advantage, York will fancy their chances.

We will have to be at our very best to return home triumphant and awaiting the draw eagerly for the second round.

Seat tickets for the York tie have been on sale to our members for most of the past week but there could still be a few remaining so if you are interested inquire at the office hatch today.



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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

OFFSIDE PLAY

A player is offside except when he is in his own in goal area, if the ball is kicked, touched or held by one of his own side behind him. An offside player shall not take any part in the game nor attempt in any way to influence the course of the game. He shall not encroach within 5 metres of an opponent who is waiting for the ball and shall immediately retire 5 metres from any opponent who first secures possession of the ball.

A referee must not penalise an offside player simply for being offside. It is often impracticable to do this as the play the ball is executed quickly. Players more often than not will be unable to retire in time, players are therefore out-of-play and must not interfere until they have retired to the referee (or 5 metre mark). The referee will often have to weigh up the advantage to the attacking side before penalising any offenders. He can however penalise players for passively interfering and influencing the direction of play by standing in an offside position away from play.

Teams who are constantly penalised have only themselves to blame because they are obviously trying to close up play. The referee will tend to give the benefit of the doubt to players making a genuine effort to come back to the mark.

Referees are often accused of 'coaching' players but I like to think he is more like a policeman who not only detects law breaking but helps prevent it. This is why the referee will often warn players rather than blow up instantly. This can help continuity in play but must not be allowed to get out of hand. Obviously if the game is tough and the referee has to be over the tackle quite often, then both teams must quickly retire to a reasonably estimated 5 metres. There is no excuse for not attempting to retire, and the referee can still penalise even when over the tackle.

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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 Salford on Wednesday November, 19th leaving at 6.30pm. **Prices:** Adult members £1.10 Non-adult member £1.30 Child member 75p Child non-member 95p. A coach will be running to York on Sunday November, 23rd leaving at 1pm. **Prices:** Adult member £2.30 Adult non-member £2.50 Child member £1.60 Child non-member £1.80. A coach will go to Wakefield on Sunday November, 30th leaving at 2pm. **Prices:** Adult member £1.50 Adult non-member £1.70 Child member £1.00 Child non-member £1.20. **PLEASE BOOK FOR ALL THESE COACHES IN OUR CANTEENS OR IN THE SOCIAL CLUB (624-0368) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS SEATS ARE LIMITED.**

Metal Supporters Club Badges are on sale at **60p Blazer Badges £7.50 each. Oldham R.L.F.C. Sweaters** sizes are 34, 36, 38, 40 in red, these are priced at **£10.** Each Red & White **Rugby Shirts** sizes 30/32 **£6.50** each, 34/36 **£8.75** 40/42 **£10.35.** Red & White **Scarves** at **£1.75.** **Bobhats £1.25 each. Colts Car Sticker 45p each.** All items can be bought from any canteen or in the Social Club at any time.

A **Jumble Sale** will be held in the Social Club on Tuesday November 18th at 7pm. If you have any jumble please bring to the Social Club on Monday night November, 17th.



COLTS IN COUNTY PARADE

SEVERAL members of our high-flying colts cherish hopes of representing Lancashire colts after a series of successful trials in the past few weeks.

These notes were written before the county side was selected but we have had nine players in the trials - Stephen Dobb, David Taylor, Mick O'Rourke, Derek Seabrook, Paul Lowndes, Mick Worrall, Alan Platt, Joe Warburton and Peter Rankin.

All are in with a chance of playing for Lancashire which, in turn, would put them in with a fine chance of earning international recognition as did three of last year's crop of colts - Terry Flanagan, Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan.

Kirwan was substitute for Britain against France both here and in France while Ashton was the scrum-half and Flanagan was loose-forward and vice-captain. Those are the levels that this year's crop of young hopefuls have to aim for and it would not surprise many people to see a few Oldhamers in the Lancashire team on their first rung of the ladder to international honours.

Since our 13-5 defeat at Hull KR only our second defeat of the season our colts have enjoyed two fantastic victories in which they have scored more than 100 points in trouncing Bradford and St. Helens.

They beat Bradford 42-9 at home and then followed up with a 64-7 victory at St. Helens.

Against Bradford the tries were scored by Seabrook (2), Dobb, Taylor, Collinge, Rankin, Lowndes and Warburton with Worrall landing nine goals.

Against St. Helens there were 16 tries scored by O'Rourke (3), Dalton (3), Platt (3), Rankin (2), Willis, Warburton, Lowndes, Chadwick and Dobb while Platt (5), Seabrook (2) and O'Rourke kicked the goals.

OPEN RUGBY - NOVEMBER ISSUE

Full coverage of the Kiwi tour, both on the field and behind the scenes, is given in November's "OPEN RUGBY", the monthly magazine for all Rugby League followers. Packed with superb action photographs, many of them in full colour, "OPEN RUGBY" brings you in-depth comment on all the major topical events in the Rugby League world. As well as the current Test series, this issue includes tributes to two recently retired all-time greats, Roger Millward and Arthur Beetson, and International referee Mick Naughton. Order "OPEN RUGBY" from your newsagent. Sample copy by post for 65 pence, from:

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RL SUNDAY CLASH WITH SOCCER

Soccer's bid to try and recapture the crowds and halt the slump in attendances has led to one proposed step that would bring a clash with Rugby League.

That is the plan - if it were to go through - to try a switch to Sunday Soccer.

The immediate reaction of Soccer fans interviewed in different cities on television was that they were almost totally against such a move.

Naturally, Rugby League officials, fans and players are wondering whether or not it will hit their own sport.

The switch to Sunday has proved a success for Rugby League in most areas of the game although there are still those - in the minority - who claim it would be sense to revert to a full Saturday programme.

League secretary David Oxley, asked his feelings on Soccer's proposed switch, was confident that it would not hit Rugby League.

'We have established our game now on a Sunday but I feel Soccer would have a lot of problems to overcome,' he declared.

I support his view that it could be far more difficult for Soccer to make the change and that it was vastly easier for Rugby League to establish a new day. And I do feel that in Soccer's case it is not the answer to their problem of stayaway fans which seem to be generally caused by a loss of appeal through the poor quality of Soccer provided over the past couple of seasons.

There are those who rightly complain that Rugby League has gone back a lot in this respect but if they were to make comparisons of the two codes for entertainment value I feel sure Soccer would be judged the second best overall. I am sure Soccer has suffered as well because of over exposure on television and through the continual problem of crowd hooliganism with a lot of genuine fans being frightened to watch the game live and preferring the safety and comfort of the armchairs.

But for too long in Soccer the players have adapted a safety first style that sees the ball go backwards as often as it does forwards and this has frustrated their fans.

At least in Rugby League it is the rule rather than the exception to see teams striving to produce an all out attack and we have seen some high scoring and entertaining clashes this season.

The one drawback has been that too often it has been at the expense of some poor defensive play and this is one department in which we badly need a rapid improvement.

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail



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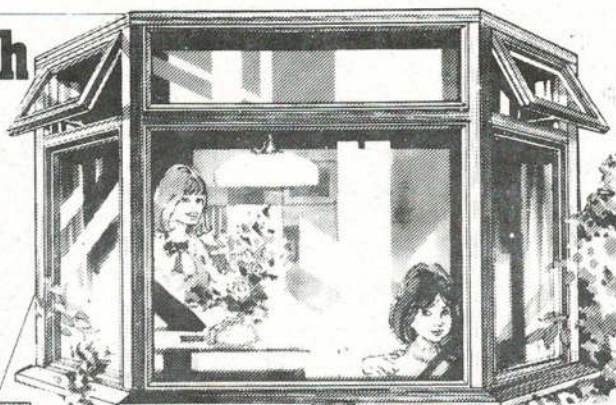
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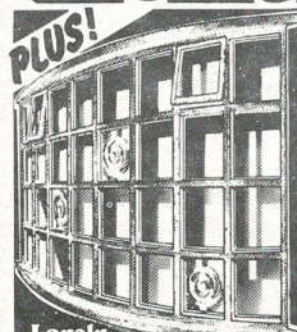
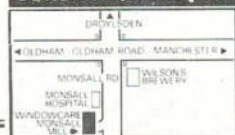
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

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	15 - 13
A Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	14 - 14
H Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	10 - 21
A Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	17 - 32
H Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	11 - 16
A Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	14 - 16
A Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	15 - 12
A Oct. 12 Sun.		
A Oct. 19 Sun.	Widnes	18 - 28
A Oct. 26 Sun.	Workington	10 - 31
A Nov. 2 Sun.		
A Nov. 9 Sun.	Featherstone	
A 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	
A Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes	
A Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens	
A Boxing Day		
A Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	
A Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	
A New Years Day		
A Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
A Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	
A Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	
A Jan. 25 Sun.		
A 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	
A Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
A Mar. 15 Sun.	Workington	
A Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax	
A Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
A Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
A Apr. 12		
A Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
A Good Friday		
A Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
A Easter Monday		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

Date	Opponent	F. A.
H Aug. 7 Thurs.	Higginsshaw (Friendly)	26 - 2
A Aug. 14 Thurs.	Saddleworth Rangers	p
A Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	6 - 13
A Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	2 - 8
A Sept. 18 Thurs.	Swinton	27 - 23
H Sept. 25 Thurs.	St. Helens	6 - 15
A Oct. 2 Thurs.	Leigh	10 - 23
H Oct. 9 Thurs.	Rochdale Hornets	16 - 13
A Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	12 - 11
A Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	20 - 14
A Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	18 - 10
A Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	15 - 29
A Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	7 - 8
A Nov. 14 Fri.	Wigan	
A Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	
A Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	
A Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	
A Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	
A Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	
A Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	
A Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	
A Feb. 5 Thurs.	Warrington	
A Feb. 19 Thurs.	Blackpool	
A Mar. 6 Fri.	Warrington	
A Mar. 14 Sat.	Workington	
A Mar. 19 Thurs.	Rochdale	
A Mar. 26 Thurs.	Leigh	

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OLDHAM AMATEUR LEAGUE RAP BARLA

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

Oldham Amateur Rugby League have yet again sent a letter of complaint to BARLA Headquarters about the non-appearance of any Lancashire or International selectors at their recent Under-19s Inter-League match away to West Cumberland. It is not the first time that the local league have had cause to cross swords with BARLA on this matter and have stated to the Association that many of the selectors are very rarely, if ever, seen watching games outside their own town. Indeed, it would be a very unique event if any of the Lancashire County selectors from West Lancashire have visited the Oldham or Rochdale areas to see any players in action in a Pennine League game.

BARLA officials select their respective County sides from players' performances in Inter-League games, with the Great Britain squad then being chosen from those who have represented either Cumbria, Lancashire, or Yorkshire. Therefore, if the Oldham Under-91s' team had lost their tie against West Cumberland, what chance would any of the local boys have of gaining County or International honours this season?

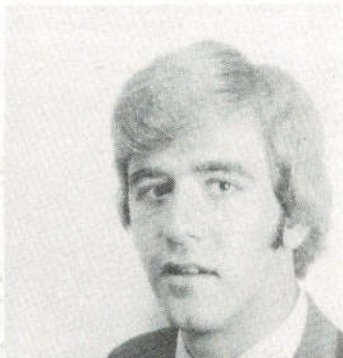
Against all the odds, however, and facing opposition including eleven of the Cumbria County side, the Oldham youth team produced an excellent overall display to qualify for the next round of the Under-19s' Inter-League tournament and a home tie against either Wigan or Bradford. Should Bradford win through to meet Oldham in the quarter-finals, which take place on Sunday, November 30th, it will complete a hat-trick of top Rugby League matches between the two towns. Today, of course, the professional sides come into contact, while yesterday Oldham also played hosts to the Bradford amateur open-age side in the Second Round of their Inter-League event.

Next weekend Waterhead begin their defences of the John Player Amateur Sevens Trophy, which they won last year in its inaugural season, and with the matches again taking place immediately prior to the professional clubs' Player's No. 6 Trophy games. Waterhead have been drawn to meet Warrington side Latchford Albion with the tie being played as a curtain-raiser to the senior game between Saint Helens and Warrington at Knowsley Road. Saddleworth Rangers are also representing the Oldham League in the competition and have to travel to Tattersfield, Doncaster, to play their local side Askern. The amateur matches kick-off at 30 minutes prior to the senior games with any Oldham Supporters arriving at York next Sunday being able to witness the encounter between INL of York and Sheffield University.

The Greater Manchester Youth League has recently been strengthened by the addition to its ranks of Stockport, whose youth team have decided to resign from the North-West Counties League due to the extensive costs incurred when travelling into West Lancashire every fortnight. Stockport will be contesting the Under-17s Championship, while League officials are also hoping that several more Manchester-based youth teams will follow their example in the near future. The League also caters for Under-15 teams, with both title races being sponsored by the local Oldham Exhausts company, who are the first-ever firm to give entire financial support to an amateur League Championship.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:
B.B.C. Radio Manchester (206 medium wave; 95.1 v.h.f.)

BARLA REPORTS Every Friday 6.30 pm - 6.45 pm
RUGBY LEAGUE SPECIAL Every Sunday 3.30 pm - 6 pm (Amateur news - 5.35 pm)



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