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Teams

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Geoff MUNRO
Mick PARRISH
Ashley McEWEN
Clive SULLIVAN
Bill FRANCIS
Ray ASHTON
Alex ALEXANDER
Tony HANDFORTH
Brian LOCKWOOD
Bob MORDELL
Geoff CLARKSON
Terry FLANAGAN

Brian CAFFREY
Roger O'MAHONEY
Gareth OWEN
Steve LITTLER
Steve HERBERT

HULL KR

Blue Jerseys,
White Shorts

1. Ian ROBINSON
2. Steve HUBBARD
3. Mike SMITH
4. Paul PROCTOR
5. Danny McHUGH
6. Steve HARTLEY
7. Paul HARKIN
8. John MILLINGTON
9. Ray PRICE
10. Steve CROOKS
11. Colin DIXON
12. Paul ROSE
13. Len CASEY

14.
15.

REFEREE: Mr. H.G. Hunt (Cheshire)

Touch Judges: Mr. B.D. Norbury (Littleborough), Mr. E. Glazebrook (Wigan)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday December 28th, 1980 - HULL

Designed & Printed by KWIKPRINT - OLDHAM



OLDHAM

v

HULL K.R.

Watersheddings - Sunday December 21st, 1980.
RUGBY LEAGUE DIVISION 1

25p



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Bill Francis (Player/Coach), Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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Stephen Dobb - Eric Fitzsimons - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis -
Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Tony Handforth - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert -
Clive Hunter - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Steve Littler - Brian Lockwood - Paul Lowndes -
Steve Lund - Ray Martland - Bob Mordell - Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - Gerrard Nolan -
Tony Ogden - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Mike O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Mike Parrish -
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Dave Taylor - Garry Walczak - John Walls - Joe Warburton - Phil Ward - Mike Worrall

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Official Time Keeper: J. Roscoe

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 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

THE ROBINS ARE CHIRPING

MENTION Hull KR to any Oldham fan and his mind will inevitably go back to those thrilling encounters between the two clubs in the Challenge Cup semi-finals of 1964.

There will always be a place in Challenge Cup folk lore for the drama of those three matches just as there will for the first ever Hull - Hull KR derby at Wembley last May.

In recent years Humberside has undoubtedly become the mecca of Rugby League football and although Hull FC have generally attracted the bigger gates most of the glory has gone to the Robins of Craven Park.

The rampant Rovers had a magnificent season in 1978-79 when they won 23 of their 30 league matches to take the First Division championship title with 46 points - two more than Warrington and Widnes, placed second and third.

Last season their slip began to show a little in the league they finished seventh but their crowning glory was another Wembley trip . . . and victory against the old enemy from west of the River Hull!

Playing a major role in that never-to-be forgotten Challenge Cup triumph were two players who, a few short months later, were to join Oldham - Clive Sullivan and Brian Lockwood.

Brian set up that sensational try for winger Steve Hubbard with a cleverly concealed and delayed pass in the middle of the field and went on to receive the Lance Todd Trophy after being voted by members of the Rugby League Writers' Association as the man of the match.

The victory crowned a magnificent two-year spell in the history of the Hull KR club and, simultaneously, put the icing on the cake for two magnificent stalwarts of League on Humberside, Sullivan and one of the code's all-time greats Roger Millward.

To receive the Challenge Cup at the end of his first visit to Wembley was the summit of Millward's career a career that ended a few months later after a succession of jaw injuries.

Maestro Millward, one of the finest players the world has ever produced, has been the driving force and the brains behind Rovers over the last decade.

As coach, he will now be looking to continue the club's success in a different way and there are already signs that Rovers are going to make another big impact on the championship trail this season.

His enforced retirement, plus the transfers of players like Lockwood, Sullivan and Agar, has transformed the Craven Park scene somewhat but Millward still has an abundance of talent under his wing.

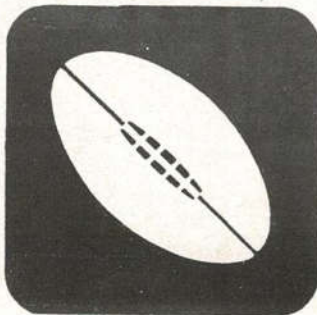
Indeed, five players have appeared in the recent Test series against New Zealand, centre Mike Smith, stand-off Steve Hartley, hooker David Watkinson, prop Roy Holdstock and Britain's Iron Man of the pack, Len Casey.

Casey captained Britain for the first time in the third Test which we won at Headingley to square the series.

Moreover, there could be eight internationals in the Robins line-up the afore mentioned quintet plus Phil Lowe, the £60,000-tagged Paul Rose and £35,000 former Barrow forward Phil Hogan, now playing in the centre.

Another feature this season has been the emergence of young scrum-half Paul Harkin, who is having a wonderful spell of form and was 16th man for the Great Britain under-24 side which met the Kiwis at Fulham.

Right-wing Hubbard has scored seven tries in six games since returning from injury a sure indication that he is back to the form that last season made him the game's joint top try scorer with Salford's Keith Fielding.



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THREE CHEERS FOR THE AUSSIES!

THREE cheers for Colin Hutton and his bright proposals to streamline our preparations for the planned visit of world champions Australia to our shores in 1982.

It might seem a long way off but in rugby terms it is little more than the end of next season before the Kangaroos come bouncing in . . . and we have a great deal of work to do in the meantime. I APPLAUD Hutton's plan for a squad of players to be named at the end of this season to provide the backbone of our international teams over the next two seasons.

I APPLAUD his idea for each member of the squad to be provided with an individually-designed training schedule, designed by the Carnegie College of Physical Education in Leeds.

I APPLAUD his suggestion for a two-day conference for all club coaches and officials at the end of the season to consider modern methods of training, coaching and pre-match preparation.

It all indicates that, at last, the people who run our Test teams have reached the conclusion that we have to get our behind-the-scenes preparation right before we have a chance of beating the Australians or even the New Zealanders for that matter.

If the recent Test series against the Kiwis proved anything it surely proved just how far we have dropped behind our southern hemisphere friends in relation to fitness and training.

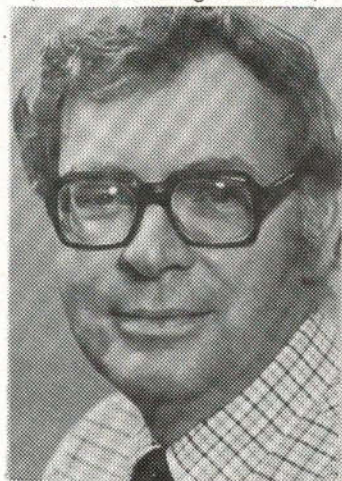
The next step is for those who control our clubs to see that the new wave of thinking at the top permeates down to club level.

For in the final reckoning we can only have success at Test level if our roots are firmly established at club level. After all, a Test player spends only a fraction of his rugby time with the Test squad. Most of his rugby days are spent at his club -- and that's where the seeds of sound planning, strict discipline and hard training have to be sown.

Two factors to emerge from the rise to the top of the Australians are worthy of note. Their success can be traced back to 1970 when, smarting from an Ashes defeat by Britain on their own soil, they decided to shake up their game. The first thing the Australian League insisted upon was that all coaches at club level must have gone through their national coaching scheme and qualified. Having got things off the ground they were eager to learn new methods from all over the world. They even sent one of their top Sydney coaches to the States to study grid-iron training methods.

Until recently anyone who had suggested that in this country would have been considered a crank. Thank heavens the message seems to be getting through at last.

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)



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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

SOME POINTS OF PLAY:-

1. 'Red' side are attacking close to their opponents line. At the Play-The-Ball the acting Half Back walks over the Ball. Both Players then move forward allowing a Third Player to pick up the Ball and attack the line. **RULING!** Obstruction or Off-Side if offending Players are within 5 yards of the attacker.
- 2) A defending player is tackled in his own In-Goal area but is able to force part of his body with the ball back into the field of play. **RULING!** Play to be restarted with a drop out under the posts. **NOTE!** If any part of his body is on the goal line or over he is deemed to be tackled in the goal area. Similarly this would apply to an attacker and a 5 yard scrum would apply.
- 3) Where a penalty would normally be awarded in the In-Goal area for an offence by the attacking team, play shall be Re-Started with a place kick from the centre of the 25yd line.
- 4) For an offence by the defending team in the In-Goal area that would incur a penalty, the mark is 5 yards from the goal line and opposite where the offence occurred. The exception being when the offence is against a try scorer. This incurs a further penalty in front of the posts to be taken after the conversion.
- 5) Accidental offside and accidental obstruction where play is affected should result in a scrum. The penalty kick should be awarded when the Referee is clear that the offence was deliberate. Quite often spectators and players will shout obstruction even though the man in possession has been tackled. The Referee in most instances will play on.

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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 St. Helens on Boxing Day, 26th December, to leave at 1 p.m. **Price:** Adult member £1.40, Adult non-member £1.60. Child member £1.00 Child non-member £1.20. Please book for all coaches in our canteens or Social Club (624 0368) as soon as possible as seats are limited.

At half time the Supporters Club will make a collection in aid of the Under 17's team. The under 17's and Colts, Miss Julie Ogden, Oldham Rugby League Queen and Miss Lyn Potter, Lancashire Federation Supporters Club Queen, will carry out the collection.
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!!

LANCASHIRE HONOURS PRESENTATION

The following 8 members of Oldham Colts (Rankin, O'Rourke, Dobb, Warburton, Seabrook, Platt, Worrall & Lowdes) who represented Lancashire Colts this season will be presented with their prizes at half time by the Chairman of the Club, Mr. Ray Hatton.



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CLUB NEWS

MAY we take this opportunity today of wishing all our fans, members and friends a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It will certainly be a crucial 1981 for the Oldham club but, on the face of it, we look to have a slightly easier fixture list between now and the end of the season than we have had so far.

On Boxing Day we travel to St. Helens and then, next Sunday, we have another plum home fixture when we entertain Hull here at Watersheddings.

We are expecting a big crowd for today's visit of Hull KR and, given anything like a decent day next Sunday, we should have another big crowd for the visit of the other Humberside giants.

There is little doubt that Hull's black and white army of fans will descend upon us in their masses and may we take this opportunity of urging the support of all our fans to help combat the support which the Hull lads will undoubtedly receive.

We lost by only five points at the Boulevard and we were well worthy of a draw. It should be a cracker next Sunday. See you then!

MAY we take this opportunity of bringing to the attention of all our friends -- supporters and members -- that there are two positive ways you can help to make this a happy and highly successful Festive season for the club.

Many of you will have received Christmas Draw tickets through the post and we do urge you to do your best to make this effort a truly successful one. The draw will take place on Thursday in the Social Club and there are over 50 seasonal prizes including whisky, gin, rum, vodka, turkeys, chickens, duck, pork, cigars, cigarettes and chocolates.

Tickets represent good value at only 10p each and we would like to think we can rely, in the last few days, on a real "kill" in the selling of tickets. If you wish to have more they can be obtained from the secretary's office, so long as counterfoils and monies are returned by next Thursday at the latest.

The draw takes place next Thursday evening at 9 pm and if you wish to come along to see if you have bought or sold a winning ticket we will be delighted to see you. Remember -- four days to go. Let's have a real purge!

The other point to remember is that our weekly lottery tickets represent even greater value than normal just now because all tickets, win or lose, go in a special draw for seasonal fare organised by the Development Association. In other words, if you buy a lottery ticket in the next few days, you are getting a ticket free from the Development Association draw. Think about it!

YOU may have read in the Press of our attempts to set up a club museum here at Watersheddings.

We believe the town is full of material from our glorious past, such as old programmes, year books, photographs, newspaper cuttings and the like. Club secretary John Chadwick is anxious to receive as much material as possible. He can be contacted on 624-4865 during office hours and will gladly come and collect the material if you give him a ring.

WELCOME KIWI!

WE hit the headlines again when we swooped to sign Kiwi centre or stand-off Ashley McEwen after a couple of good trials, the first of which - at Salford - was a real stunner.

The 25-year-old New Zealander came to this country 15 months ago and, thanks to Cec Mountford, signed as an amateur for Blackpool Borough.

He was an immediate hit at Borough Park where his slick football and strong finishing gave him 10 tries in 14 matches for Borough in the First Division.

He scored a hat-trick before half-time against Widnes and scored two more at St. Helens but then departed on a tour of Europe as several clubs began to sit up and take note.

Hull KR began to show great interest in Ashley on his return to England but ultimately he came to Watersheddings to try his hand here.

We had to be patient -- and secretive too -- because he could not even play a trial until he had been cleared to play by the New Zealand League.

Thus began the long process of trying to get the go-ahead from the New Zealand authorities. When it finally came, Ashley played his first trial as A.N. Other at Salford -- and really hit the jackpot.

He had a brilliant first game in which he helped set up a try within a couple of minutes of coming on as sub and then in the second half scored a real solo stunner from about 50 yards out.

He scored again in the Player's Trophy tie at York, ultimately turned pro, and then scored his third try in as many games when he crossed the Wakefield Trinity line at Belle Vue in our last outing two weeks ago.

The only difference to any other signing is that, under the terms of our agreement with the New Zealand League, Ashley can return home to a club in New Zealand without a fee after five years here at Oldham.

The authorities in New Zealand wanted a three-year agreement but we finally reached agreement on five years, nor does it apply if Ashley moves to another club in England or even in Australia.

On behalf of all the supporters and members at Watersheddings, we wish him a long and happy stay in England and a highly successful partnership with the Oldham club.



It's thumbs-up for New Zealander Ashley McEwen after he had signed for Oldham.



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TOM WEBB'S HISTORY OF HULL KINGSTON ROVERS RLFC

Kingston Amateurs was the first name of the Hull Kingston Rovers club and they played on some spare ground at the bottom of Gillett Street in Hesse Road. The ground was so small that the flag stones were the touch line on one side and the ground was known as "Flag-edge touch". That was in 1883-84 when some young boilermakers formed a team. The team then played in West Hull on Anlaby Road before moving to East Hull. The name was changed in 1885 to Hull Kingston Rovers and their first out of town fixtures came two years later when the team visited Doncaster. The team was known as the "Redbreasts" and it was an easy step to become known as the "Robins".

The club played at the Boulevard which Hull took over in 1895. About three years later Rovers joined the Northern Union as a semi-senior club but soon won promotion to the Yorkshire Senior Competition. When the Northern Rugby League commenced in 1901-02 the Yorkshire clubs excluded from the league stopped matches with any Lancashire clubs as a protest. Rovers however moved into the Lancashire Senior Competition for one season. About this time, give or take a year or so, the pack was known as the "Irish Eight". When the two Hull teams met for the first time, Rovers who had usually lost to Hull "A" triumphed and went on to complete the double later in the season. Over the years Hull have won more of the inter-club games but Rovers have had the edge of late.

Perhaps the most glorious day in Rovers' history occurred at Wembley in last season's Challenge Cup final when Rovers defeated Hull 10-5 in the first ever all Hull final.

Perhaps one of the features of the Rovers that has not been fully realised is the number of loose forwards who have gained distinction. Arthur Moore, George Saddington, Jack Feetham, Ted Tattersfield, Fred Brindle and Alec Dockar were great stars but the two best known in Oldham will be Bryn Goldswain and Derek Turner who both gave great service to us at Watersheddings.

The club has won most of the major trophies open to competition in the Rugby League including, Challenge Cup, Championship Cup, Yorkshire League Championship and Yorkshire Cup.

"Bunker" Carmichael held the goal scoring record with 138 in 1910-11 before it was broken by Ben Gronow of Huddersfield.

Many famous names have been associated with the Robins, including Brian Lockwood and Clive Sullivan presently gracing our colours, Roger Millward, Harry Poole, Graham Paul and of course the present side which is currently topping the first division table.

**Today's Match Ball presented by
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NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

TOP TEN TRIES: (As at 8th December, 1980)

1.	John CROSSLEY	York	19
2.	Steve LANE	Hunslet	13
3.	Andrew FLETCHER	Wakefield Trinity	12
	Gary HYDE	Castleford	12
	Ian BALL	Barrow	12
6.	Paul McDERMOTT	York	11
7.	Jim HORNBY	Wigan	10
	Neil HOLDING	St. Helens	10
	Dennis RAMSDALE	Wigan	10
	Ian NICHOLSON	Hunslet	10

TOP TEN GOALS: (As at 8th December, 1980)

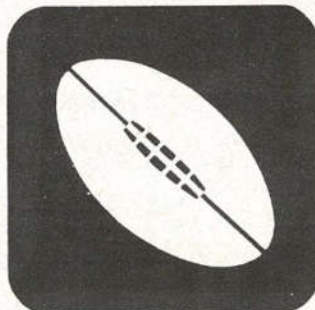
1.	Steve QUINN	Featherstone R.	80
2.	Steve HESFORD	Warrington	62
3.	Ian BALL	Barrow	59
4.	Gary HYDE	Castleford	57
	Mick BURKE	Widnes	57
	George FAIRBAIRN	Wigan	57
	MICK PARRISH	OLDHAM	57
8.	Sammy LLOYD	Hull	53
9.	Steve DIAMOND	Wakefield T.	50
10.	Jimmy BIRTS	Halifax	48

POINTS: (As at 8th December, 1980)

		Trs.	Gls.	Dr. Gls.	Pts.
1.	Steve QUINN	1	80	-	163
2.	Ian BALL	12	56	3	151
3.	Gary HYDE	12	57	-	150
4.	Steve HESFORD	5	62	-	139
5.	MICK PARRISH	4	57	-	126

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6 HONOURS FOR OLDHAM

The Oldham club has been honoured once more at colts level with the selection of five of our youngsters in the Great Britain side to meet France at Headingley on January 31 --- and another, Paul Lowndes, in the shadow squad.

The selectors met in Leeds on Monday and not only picked more Oldham players than any other club but also handed the captaincy of the side to a Watersheddings youngster.

Britain will be led by stand-off Derek Seabrook who thus follows up the honour of leadership he had last year when captaining the British amateur under-18 side.

The left flank is formed by Mick O'Rourke and Stephen Dobb and Alan Platt will be in the second-row with Mick Worrall the substitute forward.

The congratulations of the club and all fans will go out to our boys who can be assured of a great deal of support from Watersheddings when they wear red, white and blue with pride against the Frenchmen.

The team is: Stradding (Leigh); Cooper (Leeds); Merrell (Wakefield); **O'Rourke (Oldham); Dobb (Oldham); Seabrook (Oldham, Capt.);** Birkby (Castleford); Leigh (Salford); Whittle (St. Helens); Ema (Hull KR); **Platt (Oldham);** Crooks (Hull); Hurst (Hunslet). Subs: Fletcher (Salford); **Worrall (Oldham);** Campbell (Leeds).

The shadow squad is **Lowndes (Oldham);** Grattan (Rochdale); Waith (Castleford); Proctor (Hull KR); Alstead (Leigh); Screwton (Hull).

The squad will train on four consecutive Monday nights, starting on January 5, and will probably gear up with a match against a club "A" team.

We feel the selection of so many Oldham youngsters is not only an honour for the boys but credit to the Oldham club and to coach Brian Gartland, who has done such a splendid job in our two seasons of colts football.

Last season we had three players in the British squad: Terry Flanagan, Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan.

To have five players in this season's team and another on the fringe reflects great credit on all concerned.

CONGRATULATIONS!

"OPEN RUGBY" DECEMBER ISSUE

"Open Rugby", the monthly magazine for all Rugby League people, is really making a big impression with its wide ranging coverage of the game, superb action photographs, and outspoken comment on topical affairs. The December issue looks at the recent Test series, with special emphasis on Des Drummond and Mick Adams; reviews the Kiwi Tour, including exclusive coverage of their first Test in France; there's a special feature on Rugby League in the Castleford, Featherstone, Wakefield areas, with full-colour photos of Steve Evans and John Joyner; a tribute to Saints' George Nicholls, and much, much more. All for only 40 pence. Order it from your newsagents, or obtain by post by sending 65 pence (to include postage and packing) to:

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AUSSIES SUFFERING?

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail



Whisper is softly around the English Rugby League scene but the Aussies are not suffering in the slightest from complacency since they won the last two Test series.

It looked as if the young side that toured here in '78 are returned home to greater triumphs would stand the test of time for many years. But top Australian selector Ernie Hammerton has announced he is looking towards blooding a host of new players in the green and gold next season when his country are hosts to the French.

'We are looking towards England in 1982 and it is time we started rebuilding,' declared chairman Hammerton.

He insists that several of Australia's long serving internationals are on the way out.

And that long respected Sydney commentator Frank Hyde, one of the game's best judges of rugby beef, supports these views.

He claimed that not many Australians, who played against the Kiwis last June would be back on duty to face the French.

Hyde is convinced he has seen the men who will take over from the established stars of the great Aussie side of the last two years.

The players he reckons can come in are Canterbury's Steve Mortimer and Graeme Hughes, South Sydney's Ricky Laurie and David Sinclair, St. George's Grahame Buckley and Brian Johnson and Balmain's Percy Knight.

These are the names to look out for as Hyde says: 'It is amazing to accept that none of these players has even appeared in a Test for Australia.'

His comments on stand off Knight, who once starred against Great Britain in the country side that produced Test flier Larry Corowa, will interest Widnes for they had him over as a guest player.

'Knight was finally given his chance as a first grade half-back and his form in that position made me wonder what would have been had he been there from the start of this season.

'He set up a host of tries as though he has been a half back all his career.'

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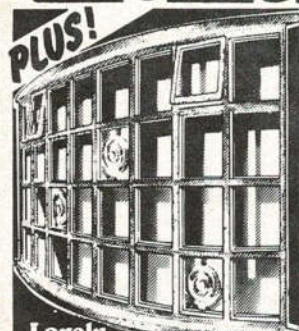
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

	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
H	Aug. 31 Sun.	Castleford	14 - 14
A	Sept. 7 Sun.	Bradford	10 - 21
H	Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	17 - 32
A	Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	11 - 16
A	Sept. 28 Sun.	Leeds	14 - 16
H	Oct. 5 Sun.	Leigh	15 - 12
A	Oct. 12 Sun.	Widnes	18 - 28
H	Oct. 19 Sun.	Workington	18 - 10
A	Oct. 26 Sun.	Featherstone	10 - 31
A	Nov. 2 Sun.	Bradford	9 - 2
A	Nov. 9 Sun.	Salford	22 - 7
H	Nov. 16 Sun.	John Player York	9 - 11
A	Nov. 23 Sun.	Wakefield	15 - 24
A	Nov. 30 Sun.	Workington	4 - 25
H	Dec. 7 Sun.	Widnes	
H	Dec. 14 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A	Dec. 21 Sun.	St. Helens	
A	Dec. 26 Fri.	Hull	
H	Boxing Day	Warrington	
A	Dec. 28 Sun.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 1 Thurs.	Leeds	
A	New Years Day	Castleford	
H	Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 11 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Jan. 18 Sun.	Challenge Cup 1st Round	
H	Jan. 25 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
H	Feb. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
A	Feb. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
A	Feb. 15 Sun.	Halifax	
A	Feb. 22 Sun.	Leigh	
A	Mar. 1 Sun.	Wakefield	
H	Mar. 8 Sun.	St. Helens	
A	Mar. 15 Sun.	Salford	
H	Mar. 22 Sun.		
A	Mar. 29 Sun.		
H	Apr. 5 Sun.		
H	Apr. 12		
H	Apr. 17 Fri.		
H	Good Friday		
H	Apr. 20 Mon.		
H	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	6 - 13
A	Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	2 - 9
H	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
H	Oct. 16 Thurs.	Widnes	12 - 11
A	Oct. 18 Sat.	Whitehaven	18 - 10
A	Oct. 25 Sat.	Workington	20 - 14
A	Oct. 30 Thurs.	Wigan	15 - 29
A	Nov. 8 Sat.	Blackpool	7 - 8
A	Nov. 14 Fri.	Salford	P
H	Nov. 20 Thurs.	Swinton	16 - 11
A	Nov. 27 Thurs.	Wigan	14 - 13
H	Dec. 4 Thurs.	Widnes	
A	Dec. 11 Thurs.	Barrow	
H	Jan. 3 Sat.	St. Helens	
A	Jan. 9 Fri.	Whitehaven	
A	Jan. 17 Sat.	Barrow	
A	Jan. 31 Sat.	Warrington	
H	Feb. 5 Thurs.	Blackpool	
H	Feb. 19 Thurs.	Warrington	
A	Mar. 6 Fri.	Workington	
H	Mar. 14 Sat.	Rochdale	
A	Mar. 19 Thurs.	Leigh	
H	Mar. 26 Thurs.		

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WHEN IS AN AMATEUR NOT AN AMATEUR? WHEN HE PLAYS RUGBY LEAGUE!

The British Amateur Rugby League Association recently received notice from the Rugby Football Union that, after many years of trying to breakdown the barrier which the Union authorities have placed between the two codes, a solution is gradually coming nearer.

It was in 1895 that the 'war' started, with the administrators of the Union game placing a ban on anyone who played and was connected with the newly-formed Northern Union, who allowed players to be reimbursed for wages lost while taking time off work to play rugby. The Northern Union later became known as the Rugby Football League, and although only a fraction of players in the 13-a-side game are professionals, the Rugby Football Union continue to disallow anyone from playing their sport who has competed for a team who play the other code of rugby. Therefore, although both the professional and amateur Rugby League bodies allow any Union player to try his hand at their game, should the Union administrators be made aware of this, the player would be banned immediately from playing Rugby Union ever again, even though he may only have played one game with a local amateur side.

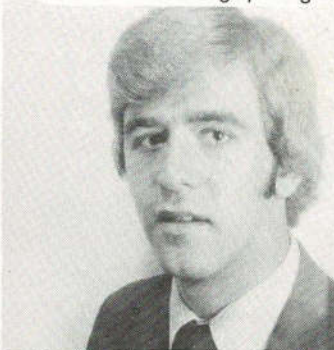
The ban, therefore, applies not only to Rugby League players who receive money, but also to the thousands of amateurs who play the game throughout the country. However, the Rugby Football Union are not adverse to allowing a professional footballer from Manchester United to play at Old Trafford on a Saturday and then turn out for a Rugby Union side the following day. However, these dual standards of the Rugby Football Union even apply within their own framework. Although the authorities might keep a keen eye on not allowing a former Rugby League player to appear for Roslyn Park, London Scottish, or Sale, are they really concerned with who is playing for any of the Northern clubs' fourth teams.

Since the formation of the British Amateur Rugby League Association in 1973, one of their main objectives has been to breakdown this ban of the Rugby Football Union, and after several meetings between the two authorities, BARLA recently were informed of the Rugby Football Union's 'solution' to the problem. The Twickenham-based administrators have suggested to BARLA that they would be willing to allow anyone who has played Rugby League, purely as an amateur, to then appear for one of their sides, but only if the player completely discontinues his associations with Rugby League, and that an official transfer form is completed.

BARLA, however, have rejected the offer. They claim that this action would then jeopardise their chances of a full reconciliation, and that this 'solution' still discriminates against their players, as no other sportsman has to sign such a form and give up his right to play any other sport in order to turn out for a Rugby Union side.

If the ban was lifted then any Rugby League player could leave the game to play the 15-a-side code. However, could it be that the Rugby Football Union are frightened that there could be an even greater exodus in the opposite direction?

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



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