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Gareth OWEN
Steve LITTLER
Steve HERBERT

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3. Barry BANKS
4. Tim WILBY
5. Paul PRENDIVILLE
6. Bob GARTLEY
7. Clive PICKEVILL
8. Trevor SKERRETT
9. Tony DUKE
10. Charlie STONE
11. Charlie BIRDSALL
12. Keith BOXALL
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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday 11th January, 1981 - LEEDS

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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 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

HULLABALOO!

A new Rugby League catchword was coined when Hull FC and Hull KR met at Wembley last May in the first-ever all-Humberside Challenge Cup final - Hullabaloo!

And that just about sums up Rugby League on Humberside, now the game's mecca, and especially Rugby League at the Boulevard where the game has become almost a religion in the past few seasons.

Hull are known throughout the Rugby League world for the size of their gates, their almost fanatical support and their board's attempts to ensure that interest is always maintained.

Their latest headline-hitting venture was the capture -- still to be ratified by the New Zealand League -- of Kiwi Test stars Fred Ah Kuoi, winger Dane O'Hara and centre James Leuluai.

What a trio they will make if Hull succeed in their attempts to bring them to the Boulevard next season!

All three were key members of the New Zealand side with vice-captain Ah Kuoi a brilliant performer in the three Tests and one of the most sought-after players in the world.

O'Hara was the tourists' top try scorer while centre Leuluai was an excellent performer wherever the tourists played.

Hull director Dick Gemmell pulled off the coup in France two weeks ago, before the Kiwis returned to Auckland, and Boulevard officials are confident that the New Zealand League will give the triple signings its blessing.

Such a move was typical of the enterprise shown by the Hull board who are now attracting record gates to the Boulevard where a home crowd this season has yet to drop below 10,000.

Success breeds success and Hull are being rewarded for their ambition over the past three or four years.

They broke the world record transfer fee in January, 1977 when Steve Norton moved to Humberside from Castleford in a part-exchange deal with Jimmy Crampton reported to be worth £25,000.

The record went when Hull KR signed Barrow's Phil Hogen for £35,000 and later paid £38,000 to take Len Casey back to Craven Park but Hull replied again in the best possible way with a £40,000 capture of Wakefield's Test Prop Trevor Skerrett last summer.

Skerrett is now the driving force in a tough and experienced Hull pack which includes Charlie Birsall, Norton and prolific goalkicker Sammy Lloyd.

Outside the pack there are a couple of Welsh dragons in Paul Prendiville on the wing and the versatile Paul Woods as Hull parade a side that can more than hold its own in the First Division and will be out to reach the final of the John Player Trophy next month.

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RL - BIGGER PRESS COVERAGE

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

A SURE sign that Rugby League is generally healthy and vibrant is the greater space being afforded to it by the national Press.

For years League clubs have argued that more space would create more interest which in turn would produce bigger crowds.

Sports editors of the national papers, who have tremendous demands made upon their column inches, have always and will always take the view that it is their job to reflect interest not promote it.

And now that League is generally increasing its crowds and spectator appeal unlike soccer there can be no complaints about the treatment provided by the Press.

Fulham, of course, has helped a great deal to whip up interest nationally and the spin-off has been very noticeable in the morning papers.

We now have two guest writers in the nationals Steve Evans, the Featherstone and Great Britain stand-off star, in the Daily Mirror and Alex Murphy, Leigh's new manager, in the Daily Express. Len Casey, the Hull KR captain, also wrote in the Mirror during the recent Test Series.

It must be very gratifying, too, for League officials to see their code described in an Express headline as: "The game they're all talking about".

The publicity given to Fulham's Player's Trophy win over Leeds at Craven Cottage doubtless encouraged by the crowd of 12,000 was a fantastic advertisement for Rugby League.

To those of us closely linked with the game and deeply involved in it the excitement makes one wonder what sort of publicity we might attract if we could improve League even further.

The scrums are still a mess; the increasing numbers of broken jaw injuries are a constant source of worry; the Australians, and now the New Zealanders, have underlined once more how far we have dropped behind them in terms of fitness and proper application of the game's basics.

The forthcoming Carnegie conference on training, as I have said before, is a massive step in the right direction.

If the clubs can be educated to accept the need for a new approach the battle will be half-way won. I feel the clubs also have in their own hands the answers to problems which they tend to toss back into the League's court.

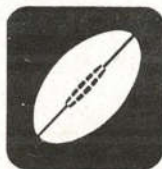
Take the case of those clubs who are understandably perturbed when they find themselves without fixtures.

Had Player's Trophy results gone differently, Oldham could have found themselves without a game on three consecutive Sundays.

In fact, that did happen to Rochdale Hornets. Due to several factors, none of them their own fault, the Hornets recently had three consecutive week-ends without a match.

In that time at least one club refused to re-arrange a game against them, as did Leeds when Oldham requested a fixture switch a week or two ago.

The League cannot always come to the rescue. The clubs themselves must learn to help each other. By doing that they are helping the game to prosper and that means helping themselves, too.



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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

Some interesting points of play:-

1. When a scrum wheels 180 the Referee will award a new scrum.
2. Both teams should retire 5 yards at the Play-the-Ball. Referees tend to concentrate on keeping the defending team onside, allowing the attacking team advantage. The attacking team must not however abuse this privilege.
3. There must be no more than 7 backs, and no more than 6 forwards. Therefore the scrum half cannot push the pack and the loose forward cannot detach from the pack during play until the ball has emerged correctly from the scrum.

Interesting points arise!

a) Forward injured having treatment from the trainer. Play can continue with only 5 forwards. The injured player is deemed out-of-play. If the attacking team won the ball from the scrum and the injured forward tackled a player, he would be penalised.

b) If the attacker accidentally bumped into the injured player and trainer, he would have to play the ball but the tackle would not count in the 6.

c) If a threequarter was injured and receiving treatment, a forward may be detached from the scrum. The injured threequarter will be penalised if he joins in the play before the next 'Stoppage' i.e., play-the-ball. The team can be adjudged to have had more than 7 backs.

It is interesting to note that a move is being made by the International, Cup and Rules Committee to ensure that all competing Rugby League Nations will play under the same rules. This will be welcomed by all Referees, but much discussion will be necessary to take care of the local domestic additions and modifications to the rules.

i.e. New Zealand and France:- Sin-Bin.

Great Britain - Differential Penalty

Yellow Card

Substitutes

Ball Stealing

Scrum formation - Pushing

Scrum Half & Loose forward positioning.

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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.**

HULL SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

"We have a welcome today to all Hull followers especially members of the Hull F.C. Supporters Clubs, from the Boulevard and the West Yorkshire Club based in Leeds. At the recent Yorkshire Federation of R.L.S. Clubs' Annual Dinner held at Featherstone, a coach load of supporters travelled from Leeds and also one from Hull. Guests included Mr. Charles Watson (Hull F.C. Chairman), Mr. Roy Waudby (Hull F.C. Vice-Chairman) and Mr. Roger Waudby (Hull F.C. Programme Editor). Around the beginning of February in 1981, we anticipate Mr. Roger Waudby will have produced a new-design pullover exclusively for all West Yorkshire members. To order your new pullovers, please contact— Sturat McLough. Hon. Secretary. Hull F.C. Supporters' Club, 42 Salisbury Road, Armley, Leeds. LS12 2BH.

WARRINGTON

A coach will be running to Warrington on 1st January, 1981, to leave at 1pm. Adult members £1.20 Non-member £1.40. Child member 80p non-member £1.00. Also a coach to Barrow will leave at 10.30am on the 4th January, Adult member £2.80 non-member £3.00 Child member £1.80 non-member £2.00.



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May we take this opportunity of wishing all
our members and fans a
Happy and Prosperous New Year



SEREENA COACH OF THE MONTH AWARDS.

Wigan Player/Coach GEORGE FAIRBAIRN, in his first season in charge at Central Park, has been merited the Sereena Second Division Coach of the Month award for November.

The First Division title goes to PAUL DALEY of Featherstone Rovers, last season's Second Division Champions who are now in second place in the Slalom Lager Championship.

Both Coaches receive a cheque for £150, £50 worth of Sereena sportswear, and an inscribed statuette.

During November, Wigan moved from 5th place to 2nd place in the Second Division by beating fellow promotion candidates Hunslet at Mount Pleasant (16 - 9) and Fulham at home (15 - 2) while also disposing of Keighley at Central Park (36 - 17). Their only reversal was in the John Player Trophy First Round falling 17 - 9 at Salford.

In the Slalom Lager Championship, Featherstone Rovers moved from 6th spot to 2nd place with three victories, at home to Oldham (31 - 10) and St. Helens (12 - 8), crowned by an impressive 14 - 10 victory at Craven Barrow, inflicting Hull Kingston Rovers with their first League defeat of the season. The Colliers League form was reflected in the John Player Trophy First Round with a 37 - 12 hammering of Dewsbury at Crown Flatt.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are again due to Terry Flanagan on his selection for the second time in Great Britain under-24 squad. The selectors name a 16-man squad for the game in France on January 10 and 20-year-old Terry was among the forwards chosen.

He made his under-24 debut as vice-captain and pack leader against New Zealand at Fulham on November 5 and was later selected for the full Great Britain squad for the third and final Test against the Kiwis at Headingley.

Terry did not get into the side but his selection once more for the under-24 side proves that he is very much part of the future plans of coach Johnnie Whiteley and manager Colin Hutton.

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

AUSTRALIAN TOUR NOW 1984

Great Britain's extra year's wait to tour Australia in 1984 is one of the most sensible decisions to come out of the International Board meeting in France.

It means that by the time Britain return Down Under, five years will have elapsed instead of the usual four-year gap between tours.

With the playing standards so low in this country at the moment we need all the breathing space we can get to try and recapture some glory at international level.

We have Australia here as originally planned in 1982 so we have big enough task preparing to cope with them on our own soil. It would have been crazy on a number of counts to have gone ahead with plans for Britain to tour in 1983.

We discovered how big a mistake it was when we sent out a squad last year, barely six months after being on the receiving end in this country from the Aussies.

As a result the tour Down Under had little credibility for Australian fans and the crowds were understandably low as Britain suffered a whitewash in the Tests. If Britain could by some miracle - and that is what appears to be needed at the moment - regain the Ashes or even take the Aussies close it would be the fillip needed to lure back the lost Test crowds.

Even though Britain took a pasting in the First Test at Brisbane in 1970 before a packed Lang Park crowd the fans rolled up in force for the remaining clashes. We had 63,000 fans watching Britain romp home in the Second Test and 65,000 there to see them clinch the Ashes in a decider that now seems like a dream.

As much as I have enjoyed some memorable finals at Wembley none of them can quite match the sight for me of the British players scoring five tries to one before lapping the Sydney Cricket ground with the Ashes trophy.

As, those were the days. Let us pray they have not disappeared for good.





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TOM WEBB'S HISTORY OF HULL RLFC

The Hull club started in 1865 and games were played with clubs as far afield as Lincoln and Newark. Sometimes the games were played under two sets of rules, the first half under rugby rules and the second under association rules. Teams in the West Riding were not prepared to travel to Hull so the Hull club secured a ground at Selby. Later the club played in Holderness Road - now Hull Kingston Rovers territory - and took over the Boulevard from the Rovers in 1895.

Hull were the first club to join the Yorkshire Rugby Union when it was formed in 1871 and in 1895 it was among the first clubs to join the new Northern Rugby Union. The club became a limited company in that same year. The club colours were all black at the time.

Hockey Driscoll from Cardiff, C.C. Lempriere the old Oxonian, Tanner, Jacques, Townend, Franks and Thompson made a wonderful back division. In a match with Manningham - now Bradford City soccer club - Driscoll took the ball in his own in-goal area and raced the length of the field to score. He set up a club try scoring record with 26 tries but that did not last, Jack Harrison the V.C. who was killed in the first world war scoring 52 in 1914 - 15.

Hull had a reputation for losing in cup finals starting away back in 1884 when Bradford won the Yorkshire Cup (T'owd Tin Pot) beating Hull by one goal, four tries and five minor points to one try and three minors. However, Hull have had their share of championship wins, setting up a record in the second division that can only be equalled and never beaten, of winning every league game.

The chief promoters of the club in 1865 were H.H. Hutchinson, C.B. Lambert, F.A. Scott, E. Waltham and H.J. Wade, all of whom played for Yorkshire in the early games with Lancashire under Rugby Union rules. Since then hundreds of players have won representative honours at national and county level under both codes of rugby.

Some club coaches have been Johnny Whiteley, Roy Francis, Ivor Watts and Clive Sullivan C.B.E., all of whom played for Hull. Old favourites among the Airly Birds - the name is taken from Airly Street which faces the Boulevard ground - include Joe Oliver, Freddie Miller, after whom Featherstone Rovers named a gateway, Ces Fifield who brought five young Australian players to Rochdale Hornets some years ago, Bob Taylor, Harry Taylor, Syd Dean (also Oldham) and his fellow Australian Jim Devereaux, Andrew Morton, Steve Darmody and Herb Gilbert. The "Daddy" of them all must surely be the wonderful Billy Batten, one of the greatest players ever to handle a ball.

In the 1950s the Hull team vied with Oldham for supremacy and a world beating side could have been chosen from the two clubs.

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NEWS FROM THE RUGBY LEAGUE

TOP TEN TRIES: (As at 15th December, 1980)

1.	John CROSSLEY	York	20
2.	Steve LANE	Hunslet	13
	Ian BALL	Barrow	13
4.	Andrew Fletcher	Wakefield T.	12
	Gary HYDE	Castleford	12
6.	Paul McDERMOTT	York	11
	Neil HOLDING	St. Helens	11
	Terry RICHARDSON	Castleford	11
9.	Ian SLATER	Huddersfield	10
	Trevor LEATHLEY	Huddersfield	10
	Jim HORNBY	Wigan	10
	Dennis RAMSDALE	Wigan	10
	Ian NICHOLSON	Hunslet	10
	John BEVAN	Warrington	10
	Paul PRENDIVILLE	Hull	10

TOP TEN GOALS: (As at 15th December, 1980)

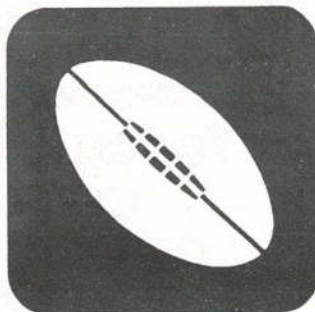
1.	Steve QUINN	Featherstone R.	80
2.	Steve HESFORD	Warrington	67
3.	Ian BALL	Barrow	62
	Mick BURKE	Widnes	62
	George FAIRBAIRN	Wigan	62
6.	Gary HYDE	Castleford	60
7.	MICK PARRISH	OLDHAM	59
8.	Sammy LLOYD	Hull	55
	Steve DIAMOND	Wakefield T.	55
10.	Jimmy BIRTS	Halifax	52

POINTS:

		Trs.	Gls.	Dr. Gls.	Pts.
1.	Steve QUINN	1	80	-	163
2.	Ian BALL	13	59	3	160
3.	Gary HYDE	12	60	-	156
4.	Steve HESFORD	5	67	-	149
5.	George FAIRBAIRN	3	62	-	133

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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.



L to R: Dobb, Lowndes, Worrall, Seabrook, O'Rourke, Coach: Brian Gartland

The cup winner.



Slalom Lager

Brewed by Matthew Brown



REFEREE EXCHANGE EXPERIMENT - O.K.

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

English officials are clearly satisfied with the experiment of exchanging referees with France at club level in recent weeks.

This step was taken in a bid to wipe out the violence and the flare ups which occur when England, Wales and France meet in the European championships.

It looked last season as if there might be a break up of this competition after England's experience in Narbonne when Huddersfield referee Billy Thompson had to be smuggled out of the ground.

A lot of the trouble lay in the fact that French players failed to grasp the interpretations made by our referees, plus the fact that they are ready to put the fist or boot in before waiting for explanations.

The French have pledged themselves to cleaning up their game so this on top of the exchange of refs should benefit both countries this season.

Last month Widnes official Ron Campbell went out to France and recently we had French official Marcel Cattaneo handling the Leeds-Halifax First Division game.

English Official David Howes says: 'The move seems to have worked for both countries.'

'Ron Campbell got good reports in France - so much so they would like more of our referees to go over there to handle their games.'

French officials and players learnt a lot from his refereeing, particularly his control and his signals.

'It is a big step to have a common understanding of what is required and we hope we can build on this success.'

Wales go to France for the opening European championship game in January and will be hoping that the English official who gets the job will get some help. It is not just the refereeing aspect but having French touch judges has been a problem in the past. That is why the countries have agreed to let each referee travel with a touch judge to take charge of games.

I expect there will be never a perfect solution to such a long standing problem but at least efforts are being made to improve the situation before someone gets seriously hurt.



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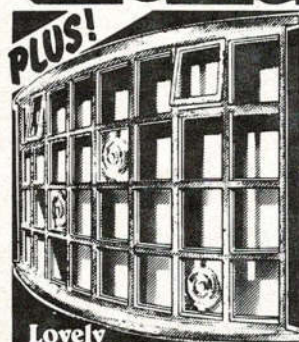
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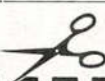
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

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

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OLDHAM AMATEURS AIM FOR DOUBLE TOP

Magnificent performances by the Oldham Amateur Rugby League town teams at open-age and under-19 levels have given them both a place in the semi-finals of their respective BARLA Inter-League competitions, where home draws for both sides have given the local league an excellent opportunity of appearing in an Inter-League Final for the first time for more than twenty years.

Following a First Round bye and then a home victory over Bradford, the Oldham open-age team qualified for their place in the last four by gaining a fine 17 - 3 success at home to Huddersfield, and have now been rewarded by being drawn with ground advantage against the Allerdale League, which covers the Workington area. The Oldham amateur youth team have already defeated opposition from that part of the country on the way to their semi-final, with a First Round away win against West Cumberland, who included eleven county players in their ranks. Another tough match followed when Oldham entertained Wigan in the quarter-finals, with the visitors including several of the Rose Bridge team who recently won the BARLA Lancashire Youth Cup. Oldham, however, achieved victory by 11 points to 5 and are now at home to Saint Helens.

Both ties will be taking place sometime in January, with the respective town-team coaches, Ken Wilson of the senior side and Ray Clark of the youth team, both confident that they can not only win a place in the two deciders, but can also create a piece of BARLA history by helping Oldham become the first amateur league to lift both trophies in the same season.

International and Country selectors will have noted that Oldham are the sole remaining Lancastrian side involved in the open-age event, a fact which naturally brings hopes that several local representatives will be selected for the Lancashire and Great Britain amateur sides later this season. Indeed, local players involved with the open-age town-team squad have a further reason for success, as the senior Inter-League Champions have for many years been invited to France to play against one of their top sides in an Armistice Day celebration game.

Oldham youth team players must also have impressed the selectors by achieving that quarter-final win against Wigan, and must have strengthened the chances of Oldham having more players in the Lancashire side that for many years. The holders of the Inter-League youth trophy, Warrington, are the third Red Rose side still to have an interest in this season's event, although their quarter-final win at home to Humberside was less than impressive. That match was watched by several local officials and the majority of the Oldham team after their game against Wigan had to be postponed on its original date.

The success of the two Oldham League teams have naturally meant postponements for several local club fixtures, including Standard Cup ties. Shaw and Waterhead have yet to resolve their First Round encounter, while Fitton Hill and Saddleworth have their quarter-final still to be played. Both these matches are now scheduled for Saturday, January 3, with the winners of the Shaw-Waterhead game then visiting Langworthy Juniors in the quarter-finals. The two teams already through to the semi-finals are Higginshaw and Mayfield.

By Alan Burke

Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.



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