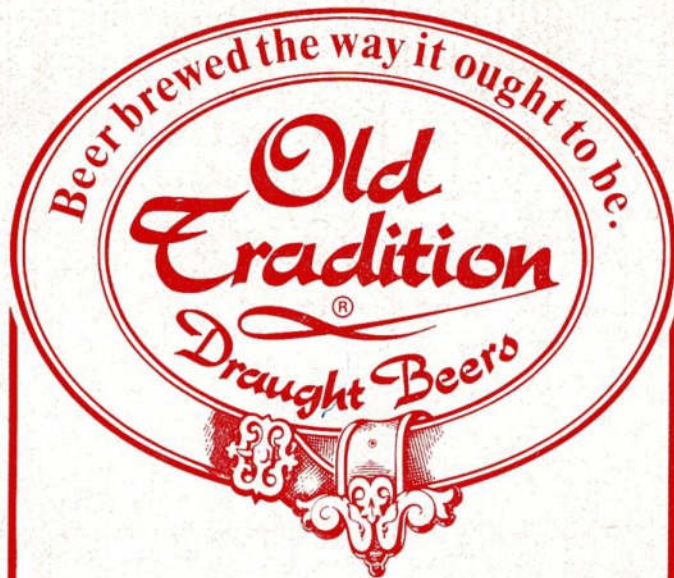




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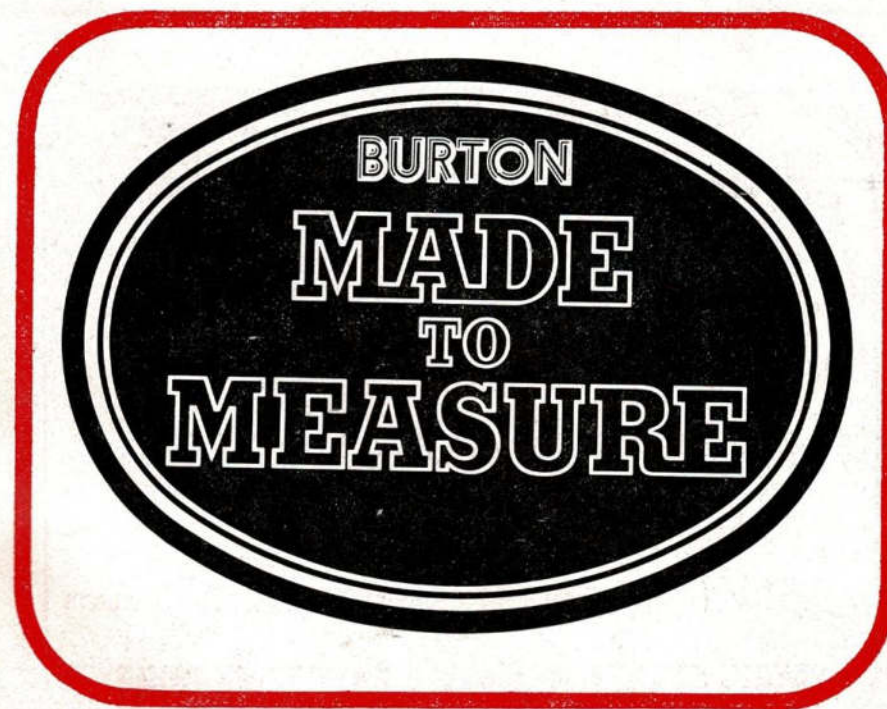
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OUR VISITORS

After the Cup excitement of last weekend, it's back today to the important matter of league points in our quest to secure a firm position in the top four. Tonight we welcome Oldham, one of the clubs struggling to avoid the yo-yo fate of many of the clubs who gain promotion from the Second Division, in a match delayed from its originally scheduled date late in February by adverse weather and ground conditions. Though they have some good results to their credit this season, as these notes are compiled they are still at the foot of the First Division table, and relegation at the end of the season appears a virtual certainty.

A Club who have kept the clerk in the Rugby League Registration Office busy in the last couple of years, the side has been almost totally rebuilt in that time, and from the seventies only a handful remain.

Not that all the newcomers have stayed. Some have been on the Oldham books as little as three or four months. **Tony Handforth** for example, came from Hunslet for £4,000 in mid-October, and the ex-Wakefield, York and Rochdale hooker moved on to Bradford Northern, just before the Cup register closed, for a similar fee.

The recently built-up ex-K.R. contingent has also shown a speedy reduction. **Brian Lockwood**, subject of a controversial transfer from Rovers during the close season, moved on to Widnes for a nominal fee in January. **Geoff Clarkson**, the most travelled player in the game, bought from Bradford five months ago, subsequently listed at £9,000, rejoined the club for which he was their 1971 Wembley hero, Leigh, for a reported £1,500 fee, the 13th move of his career. **Clive Sullivan** was to discuss his future with Doncaster officials but is unluckily ruled out with a severe left arm injury, broken in two places, sustained in tackling Barrow's Steve Kirkby.

Yorkshire County and Welsh international **Bill Francis**, who had been acquired from St. Helens as captain-coach last season, quit as coach and was a £10,000 Christmas Eve transfer to Salford, and another cup deadline transfer in addition to Clarkson and Handforth was **Bob Blackwood**, whose stormy career at Watersheddings ended when he returned to the John Peel county by joining Workington Town. Another transfer out was goal-kicking centre **Phil Larder** to Whitehaven after eleven seasons at Oldham.

Martin Murphy: Full-back. One of the Club's longest serving players, Leigh born Martin, made his Oldham debut on 17th December 1966 and has made over 460 appearances to establish a new post-war club record. Has played for Lancashire and England.

Geoff Munro: Right-wing. Local lad, signed in 1969, he has really come to the fore in the last two seasons, missing only two matches. Scored 26 tries in the second division last year to set a divisional record, highlighted when he scored a hat-trick of hat-tricks in matches against Doncaster, Rochdale and Halifax.

Ashley McEwan: Centre. The only player of previous Hull K.R. connections still in the side. Subject of a controversial tug-of-war between the two clubs earlier this season. From Auckland, he played as an amateur with Blackpool last season before trials at Craven Park at the start of the current season.

Clive Hunter: Centre. Aged 21, signed last season from Leigh R.U. Club. Has established himself as a member of the first team squad this season.

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Mick Parrish: Centre. Product of Morley R.U. Club whom Oldham signed from Hunslet for a club record fee of around £20,000 last September. A Yorkshire County player, currently 5th in the goal-kicking charts and 5th in the points-scoring table.

Eric Fitzsimmons: Winger. An accurate goal-kicker, he landed 108 goals in the Second Division last season to help Oldham win promotion.

Brian Caffery: 21, and a local lad, signed from the Waterhead Amateur Club in May 1980. Impressed in trials after earning selection as back substitute for the B.A.R.L.A. Open-Age Amateur team which met France last season. Sound goal-kicker and utility player who can perform equally well at stand-off, wing, centre or full-back.

Dennis O'Neil: Experienced stand-off or centre who played for Great Britain in 1971 whilst with Widnes. One of the game's fastest inside-backs, he was signed for about £5,000 from Whitehaven a couple of months ago.

Ray Ashton: Half-back. Only 19, this talented youngster has turned out in both half-back positions. Signed on 1st May, 1979 from Widnes Amateur Football he had captained Lancashire Under-19s and was substitute back for the Great Britain Youth side.

Paddy Kirwan: Scrum-half. A 19-year-old local lad who has gained Great Britain Colts' honours. Last year's captain of Oldham Colts — winners of two trophies and the Oldham 'A' team, which won the Lancashire shield.

Adrian Alexander: Prop. Signed in autumn 1979 "Alec" as he is popularly known, was Captain of Harlequins who play their 'home' games at Twickenham. Oldham really entered the bastions of R.U. to sign this player! Has played for the Barbarians and was an England squad member. Caught the eye against the All-Blacks for London Division.

Dave Walker: Hooker. Signed two months ago from Huyton, a former England Amateur international who had earned a reputation as one of the most reliable ball winners in the Second Division.

Gareth Owen: Prop. Son of Stan Owen, the former Leigh, Rochdale and St. Helens' star. One of the few successes of the Welsh pack beaten by France in Narbonne recently, when he had his international debut at the age of 28.

Billy Harris: Prop. Signed at the end of January, he spent eight years at Featherstone before moving to York. Bought at the same time as Walker, on completion of a trial period at Wakefield, he had been priced at £20,000 on York's transfer list.

Steve Herbert: Prop or second row. Son of Norman Herbert, that great Working-ton and Great Britain prop of the '50s. Is a top forward on his day with a powerful burst of speed. Former captain of England boys, snapped up from the Leigh area about four years ago.

Alan Platt: Second row. Only 18 and a player of great potential. Son of Don Platt, the ex-Wigan, Leigh and Oldham back-row star. Alan is currently in the Great Britain Colts' side and some Rovers' fans may remember him as a member of the England Schools' side which played France at Craven Park two years ago. Useful goal kicker.

Bob Mordell: Second row. Another Oldham recruit from the R.U. game, signed in autumn 1979 from Rosslyn Park. Played for England R.U. against Wales in 1976 and toured many parts of the world with Middlesex and Union representative sides.

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Mick Worrall: Second row. Another young forward who is getting first-team chances. Younger brother of Tony, the Warrington player.

Terry Flanagan: Loose-forward. Only 20, and surely the youngest skipper in the game. Had a meteoric rise to first-team status after signing from local junior football in the summer of 1979. Skipper of Great Britain Youth side last year and vice-captain of Great Britain Colts last season. Got into the first team almost immediately upon signing and was voted the Club's Player of the Year. Substitute for Lancashire against Cumbria after only 30 games in professional R.L. Played for Great Britain Under-24's and was a member of the Great Britain squad for the last Test series against the New Zealanders.

HALL/LOWE TESTIMONIAL FUND

In view of the glut of fixtures in which the Club is involved during the eight days beginning with the Cup semi-final last Saturday, together with the two regular weekly Greyhound Meetings tomorrow evening and Saturday, thus making great demands on the pockets of our supporters, the Testimonial Committee deemed it advisable to postpone the Sponsored Greyhound Race Meeting, originally scheduled for last night, until Tuesday the 9th June.

Other events arranged however, include a Concert at the **Apollo Club** tomorrow evening; and an Evening of Entertainment which should appeal to everyone, at **Tiffanys** on Tuesday, 21st April. Cabaret will be provided by comedy show group **Black Onyx** plus some very special features. Advance ticket sales are at £1.50; £2 at the door on the evening. Last year's show at Tiffany's for the Paul Rose Fund proved a tremendous success — we expect that this one will be at least equally as good.

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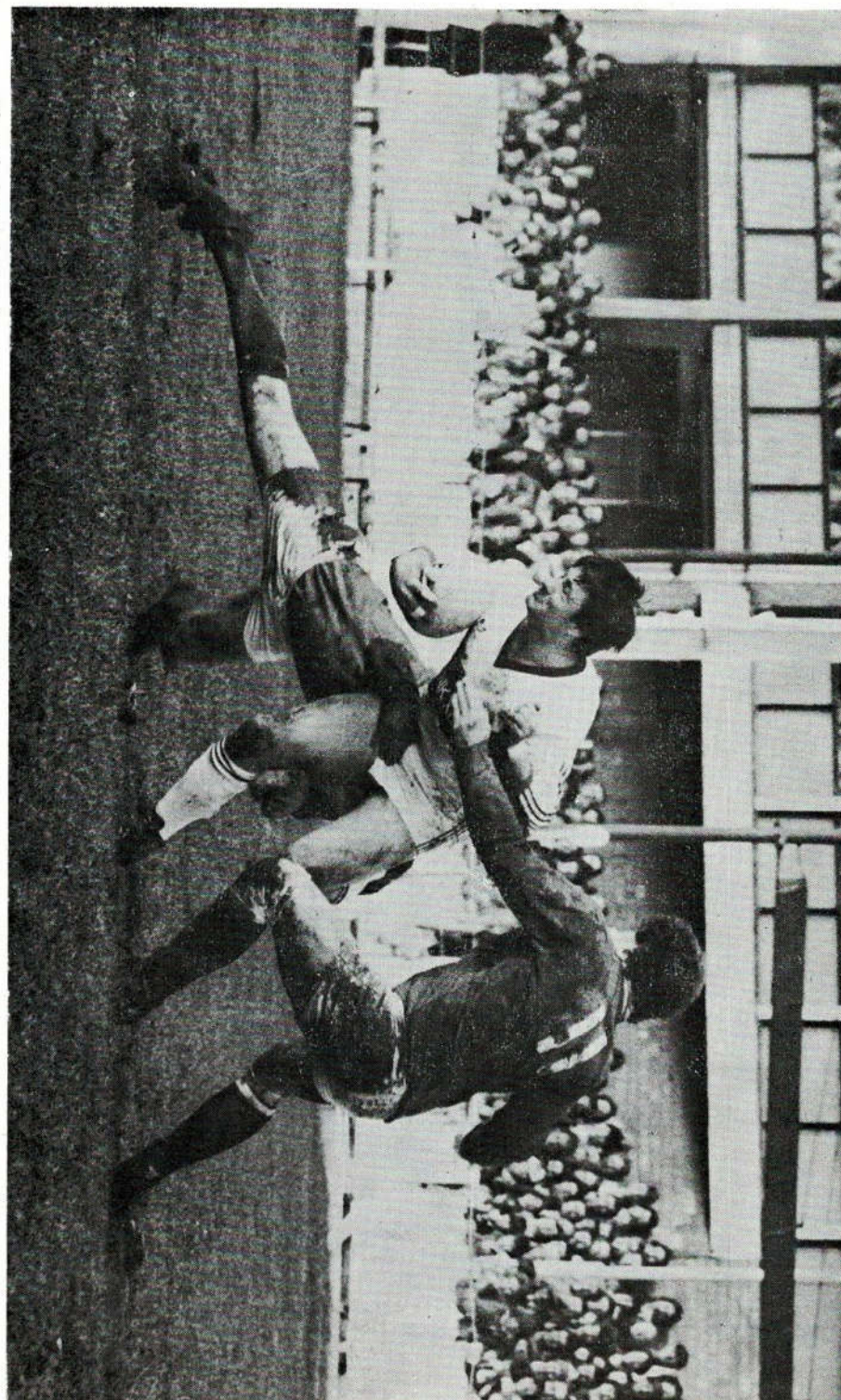


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The unlucky Paul Rose in action against Salford.

Paul injured his knee in the game at Leigh and will be out for the rest of the season.



ROVERS' PEN PICTURES — STEVE HUBBARD

Age: 24; Height, 6' 2"; Weight, 14st. 7lbs. Company Representative.

Local product Steve Hubbard played for Hull and East Riding R.U.F.C. at centre, and earned a considerable reputation as a powerful goalkicker. He made his debut for Rovers 'A' as an unnamed trialist centre at Leeds on 1st February, 1978, scoring one of our tries. The following Saturday he played his last game for Riding, and on 6th February his registration as a professional was completed.

In the few 'A' team games remaining that season Steve amassed 61 goals and 13 tries, 161 points from 11 appearances. He also came into the first team as a playing substitute, the first at home to Leeds on 27th March, the second in the last match of the season, at Widnes on 7th May, in the second leg of the Premiership semi-final, when he showed his prowess with five goals.

Early the following season he had one playing substitute and one full appearance before a torn cartilage necessitating an operation curtailed his progress.

He returned to the 'A' team, but 13th April, 1979 really did prove a Good Friday for him. Due to an epidemic, wholesale changes had to be made in the first team. One of these saw Steve called up for the right-wing position against Huddersfield, and a rather unfamiliar Rovers' outfit won 57-3. Steve scored a try and kicked 12 goals, the most goals kicked by a Rovers' player in post-war football and the highest total of placed goals ever kicked by a Rovers' player in the history of the club — the 15 goals landed by Alf Carmichael on 8th October, 1910 was comprised of 11 place kicks and four drop goals.

Rovers had a persistent goal-kicking problem; Hubbard appeared to provide the obvious solution. He kept his right-wing place and though he only appeared in 13 matches, and two of them were as a substitute, he ended the 1978-79 season as the Club's top points scorer with 123, 54 goals and 5 tries.

Last season he continued on the right wing, and it soon became apparent that no longer was he included for his goal-kicking alone. He held the right-wing position in his own right, scoring some sparkling tries. He drew the attentions of selectors by being named in the Great Britain Under-24 'shadow' team, for most of the season he remained an 'ever-present' until injury forced him to miss the last few league games, and he was runner-up to Roy Holdstock as Rugby League's most promising young player in the Trumann Awards.

He completed the season as the League joint top try-scorer with Salford's Keith Fielding, though the most vital of his 30 tries was the one Steve scored at Wembley, and with his three goals he played a decisive role in helping bring the Challenge Cup to Craven Park. Stretched off near the end of the game with an ankle injury, it was that injury which delayed his return to action this season. Despite missing a lot of games he is again our leading scorer, aided by a four-try haul at Bradford, and a couple of hat tricks.

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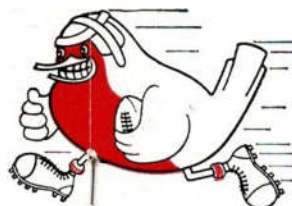


ROVERS

Red and White

- 1—Dave HALL
- 2—Steve HUBBARD
- 3—Mike SMITH
- 4—Phil HOGAN
- 5—Peter MUSCROFT
- 6—Steve HARTLEY
- 7—Paul HARKIN
- 8—Roy HOLDSTOCK
- 9—Dave WATKINSON
- 10—Steve CROOKS
- 11—Chris BURTON
- 12—Colin DIXON
- 13—Len CASEY
- 14—
- 15—

Referee—F. ROBINSON



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Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Stand Off
Scrum Half
Field Side Prop
Hooker
Blind Side Prop
Second Row
Second Row
Loose Forward

T.ŷ's.—H. MASON (Red) and D. WATSON (Yellow)

OLDHAM

Blue and White

Coach—Graham STARKEY

- 1—Brian CAFFERY
- 2—Ashley McEWAN
- 3—Clive HUNTER
- 4—Mick PARRISH
- 5—Dennis O'NEILL
- 6—Ray ASHTON
- 7—Paddy KIRWAN
- 8—Adrian ALEXANDER
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PERFORMANCES

Any lingering hopes that we might have had of taking the League title took a nose dive after our crashing home defeat by Leeds. After collecting only one point from our two matches the previous weekend, we badly needed to get back to winning ways to keep in the chase. Unfortunately, we gave one of our worst performances at Craven Park for a long time and in the last ten minutes we collapsed and allowed Leeds to score three tries to run out comfortable winners by 21-3. Up to then we were still in contention for after going seven points down, Steve Hartley scored a fine try in the corner to keep victory within our reach. We were unable to respond, however, It may have been due to us having played two games the previous weekend whilst Leeds had no game, or that we missed the flair of Paul Harkin and David Hall whereas Leeds had John Holmes to produce some variety to their play. Whatever the reason, that old adage 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going', should not be forgotten.

After our midweek defeat we travelled to Barrow determined to redeem ourselves. We needed a good result to keep us amongst the league leaders and to provide the platform from which to start our build-up to the Challenge Cup semi-final. Barrow's determination to avoid relegation meant that we needed to give an improved display to get any reward. The return of Paul Harkin made a big difference and with Steve Hartley showing glimpses of real pace and Peter Muscroft finding the positions to register a magnificent hat trick, we held the advantage for all but a few minutes of the match and ran out eventual winners by 18-10. Well led by Len Casey the pack gave a much more creditable performance. Dave Watkinson's contribution showed that he is nearing something like his old self and 'Bobo' Watson, a late replacement for Phil Lowe, had a tremendous match and produced some fine runs in the last quarter.

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The match also marked the debut of youngster Frank Parker who came on as a substitute towards the end of the game. For the record our points were scored by: Muscroft 3 tries; Hubbard 1 try and 3 goals.

'OPEN RUGBY' APRIL ISSUE

'OPEN RUGBY' is the glossy, colourful, monthly magazine no Rugby League followers should miss. The April issue, now available, contains the usual quota of superb action photographs, in-depth features, and outspoken comment from players and personalities in the game.

Comment on our International team asks "Was Steve Norton right to make his stand?" and "Was Arnold Walker sacrificed?"

The 'OPEN RUGBY' interview talks to TOM MITCHELL about his involvement in some controversial episodes in Rugby League history. There's full coverage of Schools' Rugby League and Amateur Rugby League, previewing their forthcoming International matches, plus features on Wakefield Trinity, Jimmy Thompson, Les Dyl, Fulham's Ian Van Bellen, and Hunslet's Alan Griffiths. Exclusive news from Australia, New Zealand and France and much, much more.

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RUGBY LEAGUER—Rugby League's only weekly publication, the popular tabloid 'RUGBY LEAGUER' is also approaching the climax of the season and keeps fans up-to-date with all the League Championship and Cup news. Available by mail order from: The Rugby Leaguer, 164 College Street, St. Helens, Merseyside or by placing an order with your newsagent.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

It is with pleasure we welcome our friends from Oldham to Craven Park tonight. The standard of rugby always seems to fall at this stage of the season but our tussles with Oldham are always something special and we look forward to this evening's encounter with great anticipation.

Strange mishap with team coach driver Tony last week. Reversing into the driveway of the team's hotel, the drive collapsed on one side, tilting the coach and crashing a branch from an adjacent tree through a side window. Luckily no one was hurt and after some quick first aid to the window it was business as usual. As one of the lads remarked "It's one of them Woolies' trees, they have branches everywhere."

After a very close contest in the Clubhouse last week our 'Miss Hull K.R.' contest was finally won by Glynis Allen who finished fractionally ahead of runner-up Julie Drinkell and third-placed Deborah Coldrick. The panel of judges had a tough task selecting a winner and it really was a photo-finish. Our sincere thanks to all the girls taking part and also to organisers Pete Dempsey, Tony Irwin and Les Harrison, not forgetting our judges: Rugby League Personality Girl Debbie Windass; Wally Youngman; Clive and Ros Sullivan with our own Brian Leason who acted as Chairman.

Saw a remarkable Rugby Union match last week in South Wales, semi-final of the Schweppes' Cup between Cardiff and Swansea, and how they managed to play I'll never know. The rain came down so hard it was impossible to see across the pitch and the floodlights made it even worse but the two sides turned in a great display with Cardiff coming through 18 points to 7, with their full-back kicking two incredible goals from the touch-line and with over 8,000 fans watching a truly amazing game.

Saturday night is Disco Night with Kinetic Energy Sound and this Sunday on stage in the Clubhouse the new sound of Breaker-One-Nine, supported by residents Dave and Ian.

Don't forget Easter Monday with our Easter Bonnet Party, plus the return of the Cottingham Brass Band.

FRED WARD.

COLTS' COLUMN

There was a big disappointment for our Colts a week last Saturday. With a blank day on the original fixture list, strenuous efforts were made to arrange a game, but despite our big backlog of games, these all proved unsuccessful.

Coach John Edson, however, has been delighted with the form his relatively small squad have shown all season; form which sees them currently in third place in the league behind Hull and Oldham, with Castleford fourth. Phil Windass at scrum half and centre Mark Hutchinson have had a tremendous season, but all the lads have raised their games to a very high level and deserve the chance to go for honours.

It would be a pity if they were deprived of the chance due to being unable to play enough games, and most of the outstanding ones are at home. The Colts' Committee have agreed to extend the season to 29th April, and the following games have been re-arranged:

11th April, Leigh (H); 17th April, Hull (A); 18th April, Bramley (H);

25th April, Salford (H); 26th April, Widnes (H).

We are also trying to arrange matches with Leigh again away, and with Hunslet, Featherstone and St. Helens.

FIXTURES AND SPONSORSHIP

We express our appreciation to the following sponsors of Rovers' home matches this season:

DIVISION 1 — FIXTURES

	1980	Venue	Result	Score	Sponsored by
Aug.	17—Wakefield (Yorks. Cup I)	H	W	21-17	Bruce R. Thornton Ltd.
	24—Featherstone (Yorks. Cup II)	H	W	33-12	Kalsom Glass (Hull) Ltd.
	31—SALFORD	H	W	28-20	Tudor Caravans Ltd.
Sept.	7—Workington	A	D	1-1	—
	10—Castleford (Yorks. Cup, S.F.)	A	W	11-7	—
	14—WARRINGTON	H	W	13-12	Northern Divers Ltd.
	21—Widnes	A	W	25-18	—
	28—HULL	H	W	25-10	East Yorkshire Glazing Co.
Oct.	12—BRADFORD NORTHERN	H	W	28-14	Aaro Caravan Co. Limited
	19—Leigh	A		—	Postponed
	22—NEW ZEALAND	H	L	12-20	Tudor Caravans Ltd.
	26—WIDNES	H	W	12-4	Runnecare
Nov.	8—Leeds (Yks. Cup Final) ..	H'field	L	7-8	—
	9—Wakefield Trinity	A		Postponed	—
	16—FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	H	L	10-14	Holts Coaches Ltd.
	23—Keighley (J. Player, Rd. I)	A	W	34-16	—
	30—Bradford Northern	A	W	26-7	—
Dec.	6—Warrington (J. Player, Rd. II)	A	L	7-11	—
	14—Wakefield	A	L	20-25	—
	21—Oldham	A	W	27-9	—
	28—WAKEFIELD TRINITY	H	W	18-14	Redispace Ltd.
	1981				
Jan.	4—Leeds	A	W	16-13	—
Jan.	11—ST. HELENS	H	L	10-12	Major & Co. Ltd.
	18—Featherstone Rovers	A	W	12-8	—
	25—LEIGH	H	L	8-12	William Hill
Feb.	1—Castleford	A	W	14-8	—
	8—Warrington	A	L	4-15	—
	14—BARROW (R.L. Cup I)	H	W	18-13	Aaro Caravans
March	1—YORK (R.L. Cup, Rd. II)	H	W	23-7	H. Goldstone & Sons Ltd.
	3—HALIFAX	H	W	20-14	Build-a-Win Lottery
	8—St. Helens	A	L	5-11	—
	15—SALFORD (R.L. Cup, 3rd Rd.)	H	W	19-8	Abbotsgate Printers
	20—Salford	A	L	15-20	—
	22—Leigh	A	D	21-21	—
	25—LEEDS	H	L	3-21	The Crystal Organisation
	29—Barrow	A	W	18-10	—
April	4—St. Helens (R.L. Leeds Semi-Final)				
	8—OLDHAM	H			
	10—CASTLEFORD	H			
	12—WORKINGTON TOWN	H			
	17—Hull	A		—	
	19—BARROW	H		—	
	20—Halifax	A		—	
	25/26—Premiership, Rd. 1			—	
May	2—CHALLENGE CUP FINAL			—	
	10—Premiership, Semi-final			—	
	16—Premiership, FINAL			—	

**YORKSHIRE SENIOR COMPETITION
'A' TEAM FIXTURES**

		Venue	Result	Score	
1980					
Aug.	29—Dewsbury	.. A	L	5-8	
Sept.	6—WAKEFIELD TRINITY	.. H	L	11-20	
	12—Bramley	.. A	W	23-20	
	20—HULL	.. H	D	12-12	
	27—HUNSLET (Y.S. Comp., 1st Rd.) ..	.. H	W	23-5	
Oct.	4—BATLEY	.. H	W	40-6	
	11—Bradford Northern	.. A	W	24-11	
	25—(Leeds Y.S. Comp., 2nd Rd.) ..	.. H	L	9-12	
Nov.	1—Huddersfield	.. A	L	0-7	
	8—Featherstone Rovers	.. A	L	4-26	
	15—FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	.. H	L	11-19	
	21—HUNSLET	.. H	L	11-18	
	29—BRADFORD NORTHERN	.. H	W	31-3	
Dec.	13—Halifax	.. A	L	5-10	
	20—HUDDERSFIELD	.. H	W	11-2	
	27—Wakefield Trinity	.. A	Postponed		
1981					
Jan.	6—Hull	.. A	L	12-13	
	10—Hunslet	.. A	Postponed		
	17—BRAMLEY	.. H	Postponed		
	21—HALIFAX	.. H	W	12-5	
	24—York	.. A	W	17-7	
	28—BRAMLEY	.. H	W	12-7	
	31—CASTLEFORD	.. H	L	9-28	
Feb.	7—LEEDS	.. H	L	10-31	
	21—Keighley	.. A	L	4-9	
	28—KEIGHLEY	.. H			Postponed
Mar.	7—YORK	.. H	W	18-6	
	14—Leeds	.. A			Postponed
	21—Batley	.. A	W	18-13	
April	1—DEWSBURY	.. H	W	12-0	
	11—Doncaster	.. A			
	18—HALIFAX	.. H			

COLTS' FIXTURES

		Venue	Result	Score	
1980					
Aug.	30—Rochdale Hornets	.. A	W	21-19	
Sept.	6—WAKEFIELD TRINITY	.. H	W	30-8	
	13—Bramley	.. A	L	10-18	
	20—HULL	.. H	W	12-7	
	27—HUNSLET	.. H	Postponed		
Oct.	4—Oldham	.. A	L	8-23	
	11—Bradford Northern	.. A	Postponed		
	18—ST. HELENS	.. H	Postponed		
	25—OLDHAM	.. H	W	13-5	
Nov.	1—Widnes	.. A	W	64-6	
	8—FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	.. H	Postponed		
	15—Featherstone Rovers	.. A	W	36-8	
	22—Leigh	.. A	Postponed		
	29—BRADFORD NORTHERN	.. H	W	15-6	
Dec.	6—Hull	.. A	Postponed		
	13—KEIGHLEY	.. H	Postponed		
	20—Castleford	.. A	L	8-24	
	27—Wakefield Trinity	.. A	W	24-8	
1981					
Jan.	4—Bradford	.. A	W	19-17	
	10—Hunslet	.. A	W	15-5	
	17—BRAMLEY	.. H	Postponed		
	24—Salford	.. A	W	42-2	
	31—CASTLEFORD	.. H	W	23-0	
Feb.	7—LEEDS	.. H	W	37-8	
	14—Oldham	.. A	L	8-14	
	21—Halifax	.. A	W	40-0	
Mar.	7—ROCHDALE	.. H	W	44-3	
	14—Leeds	.. A			Postponed
	21—St. Helens	.. A			Postponed
	28—	.. A			Postponed
April	4—WIDNES	.. H			
	11—LEIGH	.. H			

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