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12. Mick WORRALL
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- 14.
- 15.

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Watersheddings - Friday 17th April, 1981.

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Watersheddings - Friday 17th April, 1981.

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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	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980.
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
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

SAINTS COME MARCHING IN

By their own very high standards St. Helens are not enjoying one of their most successful seasons, having won only 11 of their 26 First Division games at the time of writing.

When Oldham and St. Helens had each played 22 league games Saints had 19 points to Oldham's 15 and they could easily have been level on 17 points apiece but for our injury-time defeat at Knowsley Road on Boxing Day.

However, the Saints are traditional cup fighters and it was no surprise to see them at Watersheddings in the last eight of the Three Fives Challenge Cup, they won 6-5 but lost to Hull KR in the semi-final.

Saints possess two of the strongest finishing wingers in the game in the long-serving Les Jones and Welshman Roy Mathias while in the bustlin Chris Arkwright they have one of the best centre prospects in the game.

Half-back is the hub of any side and here again Saints are normally well served by Peter Glynn at stand-off and young starlet Neil Holding at the base of the scrum.

Holding dislocated a shoulder in the second-round cup win against Hull but Saints have a very able deputy in Steve Peters.

Forward, Saints are very strong indeed with Welsh prop Mel James on the open side, England International Graham Liptrot as hooker, and Mick Hope on the blind-side.

There are few more experienced second-rows around than that formed by Eric Chisnall and Peter Gorley while at loose-forward Harry Pinner is a player of undoubted class as his representative record already proves.

Gorley hurt an ankle against Hull, beaten 3-2 at Knowsley Road, but Saints can call upon a veteran campaigner of the calibre of Test man George Nicholls, one of the most respected forwards in the game today.

We were very unfortunate to lose 11-10 at Knowsley Road on Boxing Day when Pinner hoisted an up-and-under in a desperate, last-ditch Saints attack and it led to a try under the posts which provided Holding with the formality of landing the winning goal.

Mick Parrish landed four goals that day and Ray Ashton landed two drop goals and if today's clash is anything like as close and exciting as that match of the 6-5 cup clash here a few weeks ago the fans will really get their money's worth.

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PRAISE THE ATTACKERS!

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evenine Chronicle)

ARE Rugby League people so defensive minded that they sometimes fail to appreciate exciting attack? Put another way, do we see only faults in our own team rather than the virtues of the opposition?

I ask the questions after listening to the comments on the Oldham-Wakefield game when the highlights were shown on television. Both sides scored three tries in an exciting match which Wakefield won 15-13 but the praise of commentator Keith Macklin and Ray French, who summed up was always qualified by references to poor defence.

French, while clearly excited about some of Oldham's football and the contribution of young half-backs Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan, made the point that both defences were poor because tries were scored from close range.

No one wants to hear the sort of eulogising we get in Rugby Union sometimes but I do believe that League people often go to the other extreme and automatically blame poor tackling or covering when a try is scored instead of examining the contribution of the attacking side. What a pity the programme from Watersheddings had to end with Agar's criticism of defences when the highlights had show some terrific attacking moves from both teams!

In fairness, French had some complimentary things to say about the match and I thought he made some excellent points.

He was lavish in his praise for Kirwan and Ashton, referred to Oldham as an entertaining side, pointed out that Wakefield were more professional in their approach, referred several times to the excellent contribution of McCurrie and summed up that the sheer strength and power of the Wakefield pack was the difference between the sides: all valid points.

His criticism of Oldham's defence when Trinity stand-off Tinker ran diagonally to score at the corner was justified.

Goodness knows what happened at that crucial scrum, but the camera spotlighted just how slow Oldham were in getting across the field to cover. Out of a total of six tries scored, therefore, only one that by Oldham's Caffrey earned any credit for the attack.

After the Leigh match, Hilton Park boss Alex Murphy described Mick Parrish as a potential Neil Fox, urged the England selectors to pick Paddy Kirwan next season, tipped Terry Flanagan as a Down Under tourist next time and recommended the selectors to keep their eye also on Ray Ashton.

If I am paranoid about Oldham's youth policy it appears I am not quite alone!



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ALEX RULES O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade 1 Referee)

REFEREE'S NOTES

People often ask me what is required to become a Referee. It is no secret that we are desperately short of Referees. Since the untiring efforts of B.A.R.L.A. and the many unsung heroes who act as Club Committee Men, the Amateur game is on the crest of a wave. This often means that some Officials referee as many as three games every weekend and often referee during the week when helping out at Schools and University level.

Anyone interested can attend the local Referees' Society meetings without any obligation to join. If they then wished to join, the Society would set a number of simple questions which would ensure that they would be able to handle basic rules of refereeing and run the touch line for experience.

As their experience and confidence increases by handling more matches, they can then ask the local league for permission to apply to RL Headquarters to sit the Grade 5 exam. The local league will be monitoring their progress from match reports submitted for local clubs and, of course by watching Officials.

GRADE 5 is achieved by sitting a written examination at RL offices and consists of approximately 100 questions to be answered in one hour. This will be the only written test and if passed will enable the Official to referee all Amateur matches, act as touch judges for, "A" teams and 1st teams and also referee "A" teams. These appointments of course depend upon reports on their progress.

GRADE 4 is for Officials forty years of age, who can referee Amateur matches and also act as touch judges at 1st and "A" team matches.

GRADE 2 means that you are now a "Senior Referee". Having handled top Amateur and "A" team matches plus having been under the scrutiny of the RL Assessors Sam Shepherd and Joe Manley, you can now referee 1st and "A" team matches. Your allocation of 1st team matches will ensure a reasonable probationary period and, depending upon your marks from clubs, you would either advance or return to Grade 4 or 5.

GRADE 1 Officials handle only 1st team matches although many help out on 'FREE' weekends in the Amateur Leagues. All Senior Referees are marked by both clubs. Points that the club look out for are:-

- Application of laws and control
- Positioning and fitness
- Stoppages and signals.

A Grade 1 Official can be Down-Graded to Grade 2 or 4.

The Senior Referee now has three physical and fitness tests each season at Salford University. He will also be present at all local and Lancashire County meetings, plus attending Senior Referees meetings where they discuss all aspects of the game and indeed do meet with the RL Executive Council, and have had discussions with coaches.

The Lancashire County RL sponsor Referees' Schools run by a Senior Referee to help pass on experiences and discuss points of law to prepare your Referees for the future.

Not everyone can reach Senior Referee Status, but I can assure anyone interested of a close involvement with the game at all levels, (it must be no less a thrill to be touch judge at Wembley), and tremendous companionship with colleagues who have a 100% interest in the game.

If you are an ex-player, a teacher or a spectator why not come and join us.



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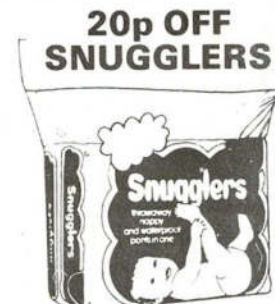
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CLUB NEWS

BAD LUCK WITH INJURIES AGAIN

THE ill luck and misfortune that has tended to cramp our style for most of the season struck again against Wakefield Trinity here at Watersheddings when we picked up three injuries...to Geoff Munro, Bob Mordell and Ashley McEwen. Geoff, our top try scorer this season with 15, broke an ankle in a second-half tackle and will be out for the rest of the season.

Also out of rugby until next August is Bob Mordell, who was forced to quit in the second-half with a recurrence of a complaint later diagnosed as arthritis of the pelvic region.

Ashley McEwen damaged a shoulder and missed the game last Wednesday night at Hull Kingston Rovers.

Billy Harris, Alan Platt and Martin Murphy were also ruled out of the Wakefield and Hull K.R. games.

And the injuries to McEwen and Munro gave us a real headache because youngsters Mike Cowley(shoulder)and Mick O'Rourke(jaw) were also out of the running and Clive Sullivan, of course, has been out since February 2 when he broke his arm.

We took the field at Hull K.R. with Brian Caffery on the wing, young Steve Littler at full back for the first time at senior level and Mick Worrall in the second-row. It was a very young side all-round with an average age of about 23 and many players only 22 or under, such as Littler, Brian Caffery, Clive Hunter, Mick Parrish, Ray Ashton, Paddy Kirwan, Mick Worrall, Terry Flanagan and Tony Oden.

We trailed only 10-9 at half-time but the injury bug struck again when Mick Parrish was forced to quit with a recurrence of neck trouble.

It seems to be very much the case that a toiling side seldom gets its fair share of luck and that was true again at Craven Park where we had two tries disallowed, just as we had one disallowed against Wakefield at Watersheddings a few days earlier.

Against Trinity, the highlights of which were shown on television on the Monday night, Ray Ashton split the defence, handed to Paddy Kirwan and took the return to score only to be brought back.

At Hull K.R., Dennis O'Neill went behind the posts from Mick Parrish early in the match only to be recalled, also for a forward pass.

Then, in the second-half, Terry Flanagan "made" a lovely try for Ashton when he put in a little kick. He got to the ball first, scooped it back one-handed to Ashton, who tapped the ball over the line and touched down, but to the amazement of everyone in the Oldham camp the try was disallowed.

We played some terrific football against Wakefield and, as a result of the TV coverage, the club has received some praiseworthy comments from many sources.

Sadly, we are back in the Second Division next season but we believe it will be only a temporary stay, such is the interest now being created in the talents of many of our young players.

On television Keith Macklin and Ray French were clearly impressed by much of what they saw, while Alex Murphy had some nice things to say about us after our 25-24 defeat at Leigh recently.

Despite relegation, next season is going to be an important one...and a hard one. At the time of writing the promotion and relegation issues had not been finalised but there was every chance that Salford, Workington and Halifax would be joining us going down.

York, Wigan, Fulham and one of three - Swinton, Huddersfield or Whitehaven - look to be on their way up, but the Second Division will certainly be a hard one, and all spiced with the added attraction of new club Carlisle.

There is even talk of Cardiff joining the Second Division but that has not yet been ratified.

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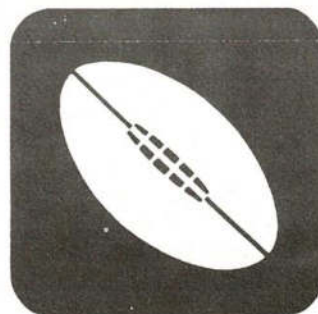
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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Supporters Club may do so at any Canteen or in the Social Club. **Price:** £1.00 (including a Diary)

Forthcoming events in our Social Club, run by the Supporters Club.

An Easter Bonnet Parade - on Saturday 18th April, 1981. Admission Adults £1.00, Children 60p. 8 p.m. - 12 Midnight (including supper)

The Player of The Year Dance on Friday 24th April, 1981. Cabaret & Disco By Vic Preston. Admission £1.00 8 p.m. - 12 Midnight.

Annual Pram Race on Monday 25th May, 1981. To leave the Social Club at 7 p.m. Followed by a Disco & Presentation from 9 p.m - 12 midnight Admission 50p.

Lancashire Federation of Rugby League Supporters Club Annual Player of the Year Awards and Rugby League Queen Competition. In our Social Club on Friday May 29th, 1981 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Cabaret & Dancing. Tickets £1.00 each. From any Supporters Club Committee Member.
(A number of Star Player's in attendance)

Wembley Draw on Tuesday 21st April, 1981 - Draw at 9 p.m. Potato Pie Supper **Free to all Supporters Club Members.** Small charge to non-members. Buy your Draw Tickets in our Canteens today or in the Social Club.
Prizes: Cup Winners £25.00 Runners up £10.00 Losing semi-finalists £2.50 All other teams £1.00 **Tickets** 50p per book.

The Trumann's Man of Steel to be held at the **Golden Garter** on Wednesday 13th May, 1981. Tickets may be ordered from any Canteens or the Social Club.

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 Stickers** 45p each. All items can be bought from any canteen or in the Social Club at any time.

UNDER 17 TEAM COACH

Ivan Williamson (Waterhead and former Ferranti player) has been appointed coach to the newly formed Oldham Supporters Club under-17 team, and the committee wish Ivan every success in his new venture as coach to the team. Any young player under-17 who would like to play for the club will be welcome to come along to training on Wednesday evenings, at 7 p.m. on the car park. So come along you young lads 14 - 17 years.

The cup winner.



Slalom Lager

Brewed by Matthew Brown



ALAN DEARDEN RETIRES THROUGH INJURY

Brian Batty
Daily Mail

Rugby League has unfortunately lost one of the men who in his own modest way helped Widnes earn the title of Team of the Seventies.

The retirement of second row forward Alan Dearden at only 29 with knee ligament trouble robs the game of a real dedicated pro, possessing admirable qualities.

In his tenth season with his only club Alan was twice called up for Lancashire when tragedy struck in the autumn of his career. 'I got in the Lancashire side twice this season and had won everything with Widnes bar a Premiership winners' medal. But the highlights were going to Wembley,' he told me.

He collected a winners' medal against Wakefield Trinity, making up for the losers' when Leeds took the honours and he was at the heart of the the club's John Player and Lancashire Cup triumphs.

Fulham player-coach Reg Bowden was always a big Dearden fan in his Widnes days Just as teammate Mick George was his pal from early schooldays.

Bowden appreciated Dearden's contribution to a great pack when he was skipper at Widnes and told me once: 'Alan is the original quiet man of rugby but don't let that fool you. This boy has made a big impact where is matters - on the field.'

Alan always admitted he hated losing yet he was disciplined and never really looked for trouble, taking the knocks and tackling himself into the ground.

Skipper Mick Adams says: 'Alan always underrated himself. He never got his fair share of the praise but he was an invaluable member of the pack and will be missed on and off the field.'

It is to be hoped that Alan will not be forgotten and that perhaps his wonderful contribution as a one-clubman can be recognised in some way.

When you hear of the testimonials being collected in sport, especially cricket, it is sad to see a player cut down in his prime.

Had he not finished up with a shattered knee, Alan might well have played on for another four or five seasons, even longer.

What makes his loss worse is that it has happened at a time when the game is suffering so much from a lack of players with his tackling power, dedication and high workrate.



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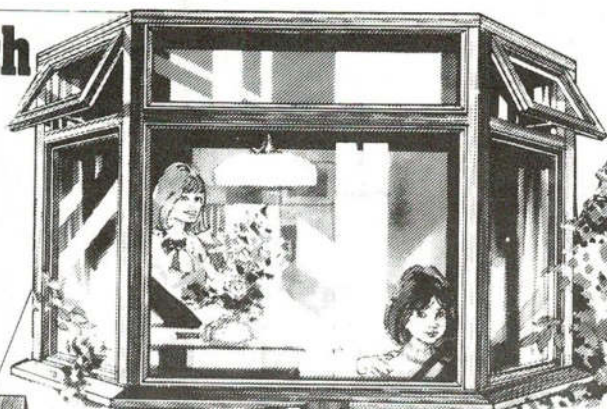
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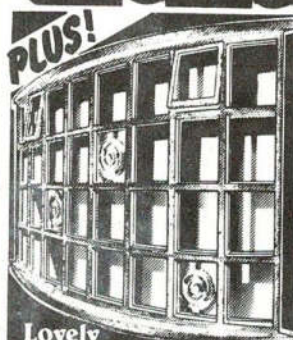
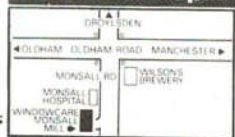
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1980/81

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
H Sept. 14 Sun.	Featherstone	17 - 32
A Sept. 21 Sun.	Hull	11 - 16
H 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	18 - 10
A Nov. 2 Sun.		
A Nov. 9 Sun.	Featherstone	10 - 31
A Nov. 16 Sun.	Bradford	9 - 2
A Nov. 19 Wed.	Salford	22 - 7
A Nov. 23 Sun.	John Player York	9 - 11
A Nov. 30 Sun.	Wakefield	15 - 24
H Dec. 7 Sun.	Workington	4 - 25
H Dec. 14 Sun.	Widnes	
H Dec. 21 Sun.	Hull K.R.	9 - 27
A Dec. 26 Fri.	St. Helens	10 - 11
A Boxing Day		2 - 1
H Dec. 28 Sun.	Hull	2 - 30
A Jan. 1 Thurs.	Warrington	11 - 27
A New Years Day		
A Jan. 4 Sun.	Barrow	
A Jan. 11 Sun.	Leeds	19 - 12
A Jan. 18 Sun.	Castleford	20 - 11
A Jan. 25 Sun.		8 - 15
A Feb. 1 Sun.	Barrow	13 - 10
A Feb. 8 Sun.	Halifax	11 - 2
A Feb. 15 Sun.	Challenge Cup Blackpool	
A Feb. 22 Sun.	Hull K.R.	
A Mar. 1 Sun.	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
A Mar. 8 Sun.	Warrington	
A Mar. 15 Sun.		
A Mar. 22 Sun.	Halifax	
A Mar. 29 Sun.	Leigh	
A Apr. 5 Sun.	Wakefield	
A Apr. 12		
H Apr. 17 Fri.	St. Helens	
H Good Friday		
H Apr. 20 Mon.	Salford	
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 6-13
A Sept. 3 Wed.	Salford	2 - 8
A Sept. 9 Fri.	Warrington L.C.C.S.	27 - 23
A 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	P
A Nov. 14 Fri.		16 - 11
A Nov. 20 Thurs.	Salford	14 - 13
A Nov. 27 Thurs.	Swinton	18 - 7
A Dec. 4 Thurs.	Wigan	10 - 8
A Dec. 11 Thurs.	Widnes	5 - 16
A Jan. 3 Sat.	Barrow	7 - 0
A Jan. 9 Fri.	St. Helens	21 - 9
A Jan. 17 Sat.	Whitehaven	8 - 14
A Jan. 31 Sat.	Barrow	11 - 0
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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LETS STOP THIS 'CIVIL WAR'

By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

Welcome back to Watersheddings all of you who might have been in attendance at this morning's Oldham Standard Cup Final between Saddleworth Rangers and Waterhead. If a conclusive result was achieved then one of the teams will now be in the midst of celebrations, while should the Final have ended in a draw - therefore giving both teams an excuse for a celebration - a replay will take place here at Watersheddings on Easter Monday evening (7pm). Despite the Oldham senior club being at home to Salford earlier on Easter Monday, the club have willingly agreed to allowing any possible replay to take place on the same day, thus further strenghtening the links between themselves and the local amateur league. Unfortunately, however, this kind of situation does not exist throughout the Rugby League scene, and the game itself can only be harmed while officials of both the professional and amateur codes are in conflict.

Throughout the past season there has been constant reports about the 'civil war' which exists between the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association about the eligibility of youth players to compete under the jurisdiction of both organisations, and this type of publicity can only be bad for the image of the 13-a-side code. During the coming smmer it is the hope of the vast majority of true supporters that the situation can be resolved as it is only a handful of people from both sides who constantly oppose any form of agreement.

Professional clubs should not be cruxified for wanting to attract the top youth players to their clubs so as soon as possible and thus play them in the Colts and Under-17 teams. Indeed, a fair point is that why should a youngster be prevented from playing Rugby League Football as an amateur on two consecutive days when a professional footballer could appear for Manchester United on a Saturday and play amateur Rugby League the following day and still be eligible for all BARLA honours. BARLA are opposed to the fact that many professional rugby clubs were previously organising a Colts team on a Saturday afternoon and then playing virtually the same team in the amateur leagues on the same weekend. Despite such teams having existed for several years, BARLA have now banned such sides, and cannot be blamed for wanting to protect the interests of the ordinary amateur youth player who does not have the advantage of using a professional club's facilities.

Since the BARLA decision to ban these teams at the start of this season, many other arguments have been put forward, but the basis point is that BARLA do not want professionally organised teams, although all amateur players, from dominating their events. I therefore again submit the idea that BARLA should allow ALL amateur players to play in their competitions, but that an amateur team be limited to playing two players who are also registered with a professional side. This would prevent senior clubs from winning all the amateur honours, but would also allow the genuine players to play whenever they wanted.

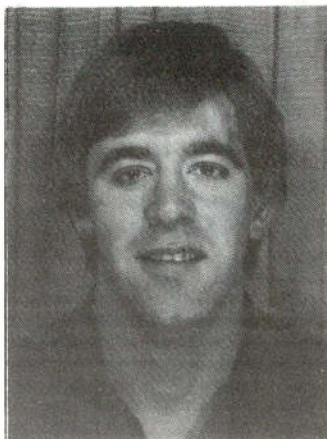
If some kind of decision is not reached in the near future then many players and supporters will eventually become tired of the whole situation. And after the magnificent efforts made in the both the professional and amateur codes in recent years to improve the game, it would certainly be a crime if Rugby League Football was allowed to suffer because of the attitude of a very small minority of people in the game itself.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:

B.B.C. Radio Manchester (206 medium wave; 95.1 vhf)

BARLA REPORTS Every Friday 6.15 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Rugby League Special Every Sunday 3.30 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Amateur news: 5.35 p.m.)



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