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Referee:
S. Wall (Leigh)

Touch Judges:
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band, White Shorts

1. Lyn Hopkins
2. Tony Roper
3. Ian Thompson
4. John Beattie
5. David Beck
6. Colin Todd
7. Howard Burns
8. Alan Varty
9. John Lightfoot
10. Alf McCarron
11. Ian Hartley
12. Robert Pattinson
13. Billy Pattinson

Subs:

14. T.B.A.
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SCRUMS					PENALTIES					SCRUMS					PENALTIES				
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21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25

NEXT MATCHES AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Oldham 'A' v. Rochdale 'A', Friday 17th December, K.O. 7.30 p.m.

Oldham v. Hull K.R., Monday 27th December, K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Slalom Lager

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DIVISION ONE**

OLDHAM

versus

WORKINGTON T.

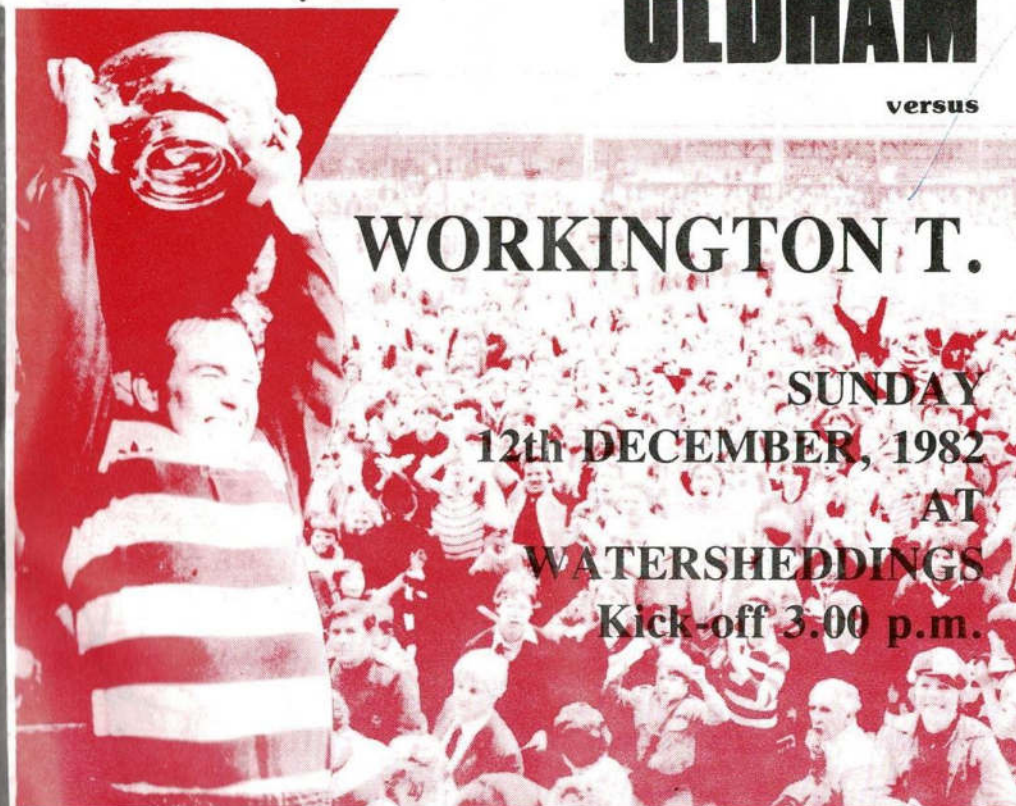
SUNDAY

12th DECEMBER, 1982

AT

WATERSHEDDINGS

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



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Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy - David Nicholson - Tony Ogden -
Denis O'Neill - Mike O'Rourke - Gareth Owen - Ian Ogden - Alan Platt - Gordon Pollard -
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Hon. Consultant Surgeon: Mr. M. Shafiq

Hon. Consultant Dental Surgeon: Mr. W. C. Mellor. **Club Doctor:** Dr. I. Quereshi

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle. **Asst. Physiotherapist:** Mr. J. Watkins

Development Association: Clegg Street, Oldham. Tel: 061-620 4870

Social Club Manager: Ray Fletcher **Groundsman:** J. Walker

Asst. Groundsman: W. Caine. **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 £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 points v Liverpool City April 59
First game October 21st, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored Bernard Ganley 2,881
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 and 1981-82
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, 1933-34
Runners-up: 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Lancashire Championship Winners: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Runners-up: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Lancashire Shield Winners: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Colts Premiership Trophy: 1975-76 and 1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

FOLLOWING the disappointments of our John Player Trophy first-round defeat at Leigh last Sunday, we have moved quickly to rearrange our outstanding First Division game against Workington for this afternoon.

This game, you will recall, was postponed on November 21 because Workington were involved that week-end with the preliminary round tie at Huyton.

Our defeat at Leigh by 13-12 last Sunday created the chance of a blank date today. Workington lost at York and as we had already provisionally agreed to play the outstanding league game in the event of our both losing our first-round Player's Trophy ties, the new date was quickly confirmed.

In fact, this is our first game at Watersheddings since we played Hull way back on November 7. We have gone five weeks without a home game and while Hull and Hull KR remain in the Player's Trophy there has to be doubts about our next two scheduled league games.

We are due to play Hull at the Boulevard next Sunday while Hull KR are down to come to Watersheddings for a Christmas fixture on December 27.

If Hull win at Bradford today in the second round of the Trophy they will be involved in the quarter-final next Sunday, while if Hull KR beat Leigh at Craven Park they will go a step nearer the first semi-final which will be played on Christmas week-end.

No club wants more blank Sundays than is absolutely necessary at this stage of the season—it merely creates hardships later—and we will certainly do everything possible to see that we do not have any more "blanks".

We have recently had two such days without matches—on November 21 because of the Workington postponement and a week later because all clubs were without a fixture due to the third Test at Leeds which was televised live by BBC on the Sunday afternoon.

The three week lay-off probably did not help our cause in the first-round defeat at Leigh last Sunday. It was apparent early on that the players were not just as sharp as usual and this had no doubt something to do with the fact that we had gone two Sundays without a game.

Nevertheless, we hit back to take a 12-5 lead by midway through the second half and a large following of Oldham fans must have felt we had the game in the bag.

Leigh hit back to cut the deficit to 10-12 and then, in the dying minutes, the home side pinched it with a try featuring their two Great Britain Test players John Woods and Des Drummond.

It was a real disappointment for everyone concerned, but we must hope that we can now take advantage of consolidating our position in the First Division—our main priority, after all—and look forward with renewed vigour and determination to the Challenge Cup in the New Year.

Incidentally, congratulations are due to our 17-year-old Colts player Keith Atkinson, who has been selected on the right-wing for Great Britain colts in France next month.

Keith and Harry Maher, who also plays for our colts team, represented Lancashire against Yorkshire in the recent colts game at Barrow.

The following week Keith learned that "a dream had come true", as he put it, when he was named in the Great Britain side.

Harry is one of five players who will make up the 21-man squad.

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Matthew Brown

HISTORICAL NOTES ON WORKINGTON TOWN

By Tom Webb

Just before the end of the second world war a move was started to establish a senior Rugby League club in Workington. Workington Town were elected to membership of the Northern Rugby Football League for season 1945-46. In that first season Town won 16 and lost the other 20 of their league matches, scoring 62 goals and 78 tries, 358 points in all while conceding 53 goals and 105 tries, or 421 points. The club finished 19th out of the 28 clubs. In the games with Oldham Town lost 6-3 at Watersheddings but won the return game in Cumberland by 11-0.

In the Lancashire Cup Workington beat St. Helens 9-8 at home in the first leg but by virtue of losing 21-11 in the second leg, lost on aggregate 29-20. Although disappointed that the club was ousted from the cup because of the two-leg system, Town were pleased about it when the Challenge Cup came round. In the first leg of the first round Charlston Rovers, then the oldest junior club in Yorkshire, beat the senior side by 12-7. A 16-2 win in the second leg before a crowd of ten thousand took the club to the second round. At this stage a trip to St. Helens was not a very promising prospect but a 13-6 victory took the club into the last eight. However Wakefield Trinity won the third round tie at Belle Vue by 14-4 when there was an attendance of fifteen thousand.

Stan Hayton and Hedley Rodgers played in 40 of the 42 games played in that first season and other regular players included George Jepson, Bill Irving, Jimmy Hayton, Dennis Cavanagh, Cyril Hughes, Barker (sorry I haven't the first name), Albert Pepperell, William S. Askew, Billy Jackson, Stan Inglesfield, Billy Holding, Harry Bradshaw and Jock Carr. Ned Hodgson the former Oldham favourite also played in many games as did Watson, Studholme, Billy Miller, Alvin Ackerley and Joe Shearman.

Thanks to Bill Glaister, the Workington statistician who borrowed my records and lent me those that he had, I have virtually complete records of Workington Town apart from substitute details which are really hard to complete.

Bill researched Gus Risman's playing career from his signing by Salford for £25 down, £1 a week for a year and £25 at the end of the year. From 1928-29 to 1954-55 when he was with Batley, Gus kicked 1,704 goals and scored 231 tries. With Salford he kicked a century of goals in a season on five occasions and accomplished the same feat three times for Workington Town, for whom he kicked 721 goals and ran in 33 tries. His association with Workington Town covered 1946-47 to 1953-54 inclusive and there were some great achievements by the club in that period. The Championship was won in 1950-51 and the Challenge Cup was won in 1952, a wonderful achievement for a club with such a short life at that stage. Other honours have come along since, of course.

Paul Charlton's career was also researched by Bill Glaister, and Paul too played for both Salford and Town, although at different periods. He made a grand total of 708 appearances with 225 tries and 88 goals to his credit. He made 413 of those appearances for Town for whom he scored over 100 tries and all but a couple of his goal kicks were taken for Town.

Oldham paid Workington a record fee for the services of Ike Southward and when he made the reverse journey a record fee was again paid, Town adding £2.50 to the existing record of £11,000 paid by Wigan to St. Helens for the transfer of Mike Sullivan.

Ike Southward made 373 appearances for Town scoring 302 goals and 272 tries, and 53 appearances for Oldham in which he scored 55 tries. He also made half a dozen appearances for Whitehaven. His greatest scoring achievement was in 1957-58 when he ran in 45 tries and landed 80 goals.

WELCOME TO THE TOWN

WORKINGTON TOWN, who came up to the First Division with Oldham, Carlisle and Halifax at the end of last season, provide today's opposition here at Watersheddings.

The Cumbrians are finding it tough going in the First Division, as indeed are Carlisle and Halifax, but Town are always a difficult side to beat and they can call on several very accomplished players.

We won at Derwent Park in early October, thanks to tries by forwards Andy Goodway and Mick Worrall, but the margin was only 8-4 in our favour and near the end, Town came within a whisker of scoring a try that full back Lyn Hopkins would surely have goaled.

Hopkins is a prolific scorer for Town and he has certainly proved himself an ideal successor to Iain MacCorquodale, who did so well for the Cumbrians over several seasons.

Last season he scored 30 points against Doncaster in a Second Division match—the highest individual haul in one match during the entire season.

In all, he kicked 190 goals for Town during the 1981-2 season—22 more than his nearest challenger, George Fairbairn of Hull KR. Our own Mick Parrish was in third place with 164 goals.

The Welsh full back also scored 23 tries—joint sixth in the league charts—to amass 446 points, three of his goals being drop goals.

Mick Parrish was in second place in the points haul with 17 tries and 164 place goals for 379 points.

As well as making a big impact in all three scoring charts—goals, tries and points—Hopkins also collected four records.

The Town captain finished as top goals and points scorer and was sixth in the tries list with 23—a remarkable feat for a full back, bettered only by Paul Charlton, now Town's coach, who was third with 33 in 1972-3.

His haul of goals shattered the club record previously shared by Gus Risman and MacCorquodale, each with 138.

MacCorquodale's record of 306 points was also left well behind by Hopkins, who also established two Second Division records.

With 166 goals and 395 points he passed the 143 goals and 332 points records established by Steve Quinn of Featherstone Rovers in 1979-80.

Since Town were last down here in the final match of last season, changes have taken place at Derwent Park, not least the departure of coach Tommy Bishop and the appointment of one of the club's most popular players of the past decade, Paul Charlton.

Kiwi scrum-half Shane Varley has gone home, but the Cumbrians can still field a strong and experienced back line with players such as the powerful Beck, Wilkins, Roper, Thompson, Todd and Burns from whom to choose.

When Oldham played at Derwent Park recently, loose-forward star Billy Pattinson was out of action through injury and the pack was led by prop Alan Rowley.

Alan Varty, Bobby Pattinson, Alf McCarron, Ian Hartley and Ray Lewis are other experienced Town forwards, who will be out to show what they can do today.

In recent weeks, of course, our own Geoff Munro has been on trial at Derwent Park but at the time of writing these notes it was not known what the outcome of the trial would be.

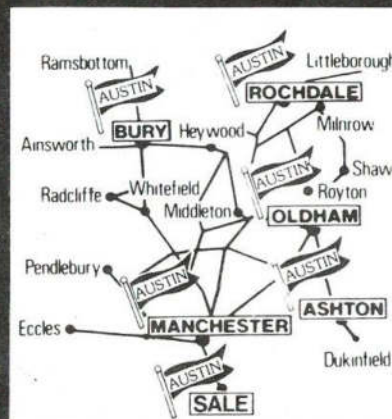
We welcome to Watersheddings today the players, officials and spectators of the Workington club, and especially our former player Ike Southward, who was such a favourite here in the late fifties and early sixties and still loves to return to Watersheddings whenever Town are playing here.



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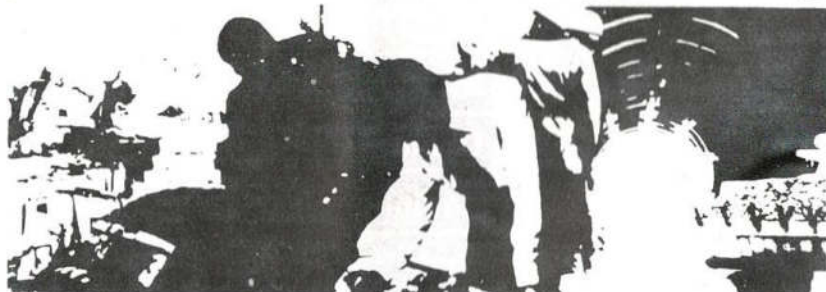
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Forthcoming Events:

The Supporters Club are once again running the Christmas Eve Dance and the New Years Eve Dance. Anyone wishing to come to these events please give their names to any of the Supporters Club Committee. The price for each event is £3.00 Adults, £2.00 Children, including supper.

TICKETS FOR THESE EVENTS ARE LIMITED

For supporters travelling to Hull on Sunday 7th November, coaches will leave the Social Club at 11.30 a.m.

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Alan Platt makes a break and heads for the Leigh line, to be stopped just short.



It takes two defenders to bring down Andy Goodway during an Oldham attack at Leigh.



Brian Caffery runs into the gap in support of Mick Worrall. An incident from our 13-12 defeat at Leigh in the first round of the Players' Trophy.

Photographs by courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Let us hope that we have heard the last of strike threats now the insurance dispute between the players and the League has been settled.

There must have been relief throughout the game that representatives of the senior clubs had successfully concluded negotiations with the League for a new deal.

It is reported that the new offer has more than doubled the benefits at present being paid out to the players.

Now the League have agreed to provide new cover which gives £25 a week for 26 weeks with a lump sum payment of £10,000 for death or permanent disability.

This replaces the existing scheme which provides £10 for 12 weeks. So the players are getting more than double the present scheme at a cost to the League of about £70,000 a season.

The Players' Association had claimed to have 700 of the 1,400 League players on their membership but I think they were wise to withdraw their threat of strike action.

League is going through a hard enough time as it is and could well have done without the wide-spread national and local publicity it received over the strike issue.

The game enjoyed such a wonderful finish to last season that its image soared and it gained a lot of new admirers.

In these times of recession and financial hardship the game has to face up to the problems of survival.

The fans need repeatedly convincing that the game still has a lot to offer and if the players had walked out then the damage could have been pretty severe for a lot of clubs.

I appreciate that the players have suffered for a long time in certain respects for injuries but a lot of the top clubs have taken pretty good care of their staffs.

There is no question that with Soccer fighting to keep its head above water many sports are going to find the future a grim fight.

I would hope that the warning of what can happen when cash demands dominate the scene will act as a brake to anybody tempted to leave the fans high and dry.

There must have been a number of Australian and Great Britain players who allowed themselves a sickly smile when they read reports about the attitude of a certain tour party.

Travel arrangements have improved so much in the last decade or so for sports stars that they are often accused of being pampered.

Then we had the English cricket side moaning as they were about to depart for Australia because they could not be allowed to travel first class.

They wanted more room to spread out and rest and also do a bit of work was the pathetic claim by the players.

Those bleatings were put completely into perspective when Observer rugby writer Clem Thomas recalled the first tour ever made by the Maori party in 1888-89.

That tour lasted 14 months, beginning on June 23, 1888 with 17 games in New Zealand and 16 in Australia—30 of which they won—before coming to this country and not by Jumbo.

On arriving in Britain they played 74 games, winning 49, drawing five and losing 20.

It was the longest and most exhausting tour ever undertaken and the party went under the title of the New Zealand Native Football Representatives but were quickly re-named the Maoris.

There were only four white players in their squad but interesting for Rugby League followers is that among the sides they played were Leigh, Oldham, Widnes, St. Helens, Salford, Rochdale Hornets and Leeds Parish Church.

Even our League tours to Australia and those by the Kangaroos to this country pale in comparison for length and endurance.

But it was interesting to read recently Joe Egan's description of the 1946 tour to Australia by aircraft carrier with those long train journeys to games.

The whole scene has now changed and I can recall how in 1970 and 1974 we flew around Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales to eliminate those long coach trips that take so much pleasure out of tours.

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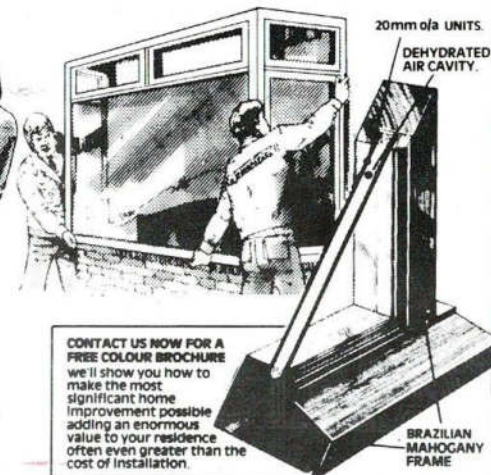
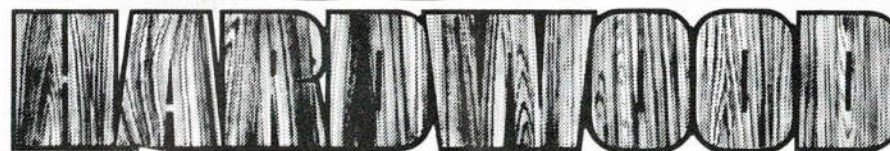
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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

How many of our supporters remember the corresponding day 5, 10, 15 years ago?

FIVE YEARS AGO

Oldham 2 5 19 Halifax 1 1 5 (Second Division)

Oldham: Murphy, Jackson, Larder (2 tries), Barton, Standin (2 goals and a try); McCone, Paterson (fly), Hughes, O'Mahoney, Hall, Herbert, Jewett (try), Peters. Substitutes, Starbuck for Hall who returned for Hughes. Other substitute not known.

Halifax: Shires (Goal), Downey, Davies, Greenwood, Pitchforth, Brook, Finnerty, Frain, Foster, Weavill (try), Martin, Walton, Tonks. Substitutes Scott and Callon for Finnerty and Walton.

Referee: A. W. Allen, York. Attendance 1,545. Half-time score 11-2.

TEN YEARS AGO

Hull 1 2 13 Oldham 4 3 17 (The Northern League had only one division).

Hull: Owbridge, Sullivan (try), Hancock, Maloney, Macklin (try), Williams, Foulkes (2 tries), Dittmar, Firth, Wardell, Boxall, Crane, Trotter. Substitutes Kendle (goal) for Maloney and Casey for Boxall.

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott (try), Larder (2 goals), Davies (try), Hodgkinson (try), Wainwright, McCone, Wilson, K. Taylor, Foster (2 goals), Irving, Daley, Reynolds. Ashcroft took the place of Reynolds. Other substitute not known.

Referee: H. G. Hunt, Prestbury. Attendance 2,000. Half-time score 17-3.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Oldham 8 5 31 Hull 2 1 7 (Northern League had only one division).

Oldham: Murphy, Donovan, McCormack, Buckley (try), Collins; Warburton (8 goals, try), Canning (2 tries), Wilson, K. Taylor, Fletcher (try), McCourt, Irving, Hughes. Substitute Mooner for Irving.

Hull: Keegan, Oliver, Doyle-Davidson, Maloney (2 goals), Stocks, Devonshire, Davidson, Harrison, McGlone, Broome, Neale, Macklin, Sykes. Substitutes Brown (try) and Edson for Sykes and Doyle-Davidson.

Referee: G. F. Lindop, Wakefield. Attendance 2,309. Half-time score not known.



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TOP TEN TRIES (as at 29th November, 1982)

1. Chris Bowman (Bramley)	15
2. Bob ECCLES (Warrington)	14
John CROSSLEY (Fulham)	14
4. Kevin DICK (Leeds)	12
Paul McDERMOTT (York)	12
Steve EVANS (Hull)	12
7. David ALLEN (Fulham)	11
Des DRUMMOND (Leigh)	11
Paul O'NEILL (Salford)	11
Dean BELL (Carlisle)	11

TOP TEN GOALS (as at 29th November, 1982)

1. Steve DIAMOND (Fulham)	58
2. Lee CROOKS (Hull)	54
3. Kevin DICK (Leeds)	53
4. Steve BESFORD (Warrington)	51
5. Henry OULTON (Batley)	47
Steve QUINN (Featherstone R.)	47
7. Ken JONES (Swinton)	46
8. Ron SMITH (Salford)	45
9. Steve TOMLINSON (Leigh)	44
10. Mick PARRISH (Oldham)	43
George FAIRBAIRN (Hull K.R.)	43

TOP POINTS (as at 29th November, 1982)

	Trs.	Gls.	Dr.Gls.	Pts.
1. Kevin DICK (Leeds)	12	53	—	142
2. Steve DIAMOND (Fulham)	2	58	—	122
3. Lee CROOKS (Hull)	5	51	3	120
4. Ron SMITH (Salford)	9	45	—	117
5. Steve QUINN (Featherstone R.)	3	47	—	107

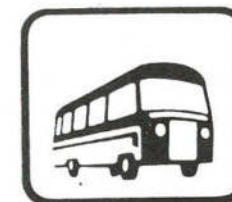
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OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1982-83

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1982			
Aug.	22	Widnes (3.00)	H 7-17
	25	Leeds (7.30)	H 8-15
	29	Bradford Northern (3.30)	A 23-10
Sept.	5	Blackpool Lancs Cup	27-10
	12	St. Helens (3.00)	A 15-20
	15	Warrington (7.30)	H 22-12
	19	Warrington Lancs Cup (3.00)	A 14-16
	22	FRANCE XIII (7.30)	H 11-15
	26	Halifax (3.00)	A 5-20
	29	Featherstone R. (7.30)	H 10-1
Oct.	3	Wigan (3.00)	H 11-11
	10	Workington T. (3.30)	A 8-4
	24	Castleford (3.30)	A 14-12
	31	Carlisle (3.00)	H 17-14
Nov.	7	Hull (3.00)	H 2-5
	14	Barrow (2.30)	A 5-12
Dec.	5	JOHN PLAYER TROPHY (1)	A 12-13
	12	Workington T. (3.00)	H
	19	Hull (3.00)	A
	27	Hull K.R. (3.00)	H

1983			
Jan.	3	Leeds (3.00)	A
	9	Featherstone R. (2.30)	A
	16	Bradford Northern (3.00)	H
	23	Warrington (3.00)	A
	30	Halifax (3.00)	H
Feb.	6	St. Helens (3.00)	H
	13	STATE EXPRESS CHAL. CUP (1)	
	20	Carlisle (3.00)	A
	27	STATE EXPRESS CHAL. CUP (2)	
Mar.	6	Leigh (3.00)	H
	13	Widnes (3.00)	A
	20	Hull K.R. (3.00)	A
Apr.	1	Leigh (3.30)	A
	4	Barrow (3.00)	H
	10	Wigan (3.00)	A
	17	Castleford (3.00)	H

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

1982			
Aug.	20	Widnes (7.30)	A 13-17
Sept.	3	Wigan (7.30)	H 17-12
	10	St. Helens (7.30)	H 3-34
	18	Warrington (2.30)	A P
	25	Whitehaven (3.00)	H 22-20
Oct.	1	Wigan (7.30)	A P
	9	Workington (3.00)	H 18-15
	15	Salford (7.30)	H 27-15
	22	Widnes (7.30)	H 18-10
	30	Whitehaven (2.30)	A 19-2
Nov.	13	Barrow (3.00)	H 11-13
	20	Workington (2.30)	A 22-19

COLTS FIXTURES

1982			
Aug.	14	Wakefield	A 11-27
	18	Huddersfield	A 5-31
	21	Hull K.R.	H 11-11
	24	Leigh	H 19-2
	28	St. Helens	A 18-20
Sept.	4	Castleford	H 15-26
	11	Rochdale	A 10-10
	18	Leeds	H 21-14
	25	Halifax	A 14-11
Oct.	2	Wakefield	H 26-35
	9	Salford	H 41-7
	16	Hull	A 25-3
	23	Huddersfield	H 23-7
	30	Barrow	A 13-11
Nov.	6	Hull	H 0-12
	13	Featherstone	A 14-25
	20	St. Helens	H 8-2
Dec.	4	Barrow	H 22-5
	11	Salford	A
	18	Featherstone	H
	28	Leigh	A

1983			
Jan.	1	Bradford	H
	8	Bramley	A
	15	Halifax	H
	22	Hull K.R.	A
	29	Rochdale	H
Feb.	5	York	H
	12	Cup (1st round)	
	19	Leeds	A
	26	Cup (2nd round)	
Mar.	5	Hunslet	H
	12	York	A
	19	Bramley	H
	26	Bradford	A
Apr.	9	Castleford	A

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