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R. Carter - Yellow Flag

HALIFAX

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- Steve Smith 1.
- Bob Priestley 2.
- Malcolm Agar 3.
- Graham Garrod 4.
- Keith Waite 5.
- Gary Cawood 6.
- Jim Marshall 7.
- Ian Van Bellen 8.
- Nigel Whitehouse 9.
- Neil Goodwin 10.
- Alan Shillito 11.
- Greg Sharp 12.
- Steve Bond 13.

Subs:

- T.B.A. 14.
- T.B.A. 15.

SCRUMS					PENALTIES					SCRUMS					PENALTIES				
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NEXT MATCHES AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Easter Monday, 4th April, 1983 Oldham v. Barrow, K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Sunday, 17th April, 1983 Oldham v. Castleford K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Slalom Lager

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION ONE

OLDHAM

versus

HALIFAX

SUNDAY

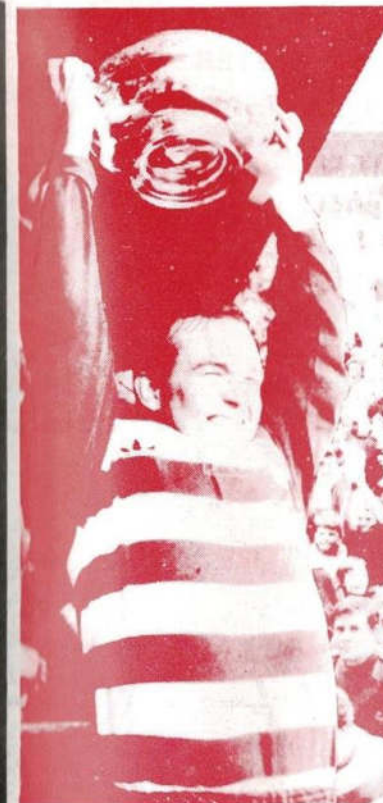
MARCH 20, 1983

AT

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Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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Leslie Cook - Stephen Dobb - Terry Flanagan - Des Foy - Andrew Goodway
Kevin Greaves - Colin Hawkyard - Paddy Kirwan - Steve Littler - Paul Lowndes
Bob Mordell - Geoff Munro - David Nicholson - Tony Ogden - Denis O'Neill
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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

THOSE fans who travelled to Widnes last Sunday were treated to a terrific show from an Oldham side that was full value for its 23-13 victory — our first win at Naughton Park for more than a decade.

Teamwork was the secret of our success with every man backing up and handling well on attack and the whole side moving up swiftly to tackle the Widnes men when they had the ball.

The result was that we produced some terrific football in the first half and rocked the Chemics with three lovely tries by Gary Bishop, Alan McCurrie and Mick Parrish to go into a 17-2 lead.

It must be a long time since Widnes found themselves on the wrong end of a score like that on their own Naughton Park pitch.

They hit back later to score three tries, but they never really looked like catching us. The damage had already been done and with Parrish stroking home penalty goals and both Bishop and Ray Ashton landing drop goals we managed to secure a thoroughly deserved victory.

Going off previous years the win ought to put us home and dry in the First Division for next season. Our No. 1 target this season was to get sufficient points to warrant another season in the top flight and with 26 points in the bag already and five games still to play we are well on target.

Indeed, if we can reproduce the sort of display that shocked the Chemics we will be looking for a lot more points this season to earn a place in the Premiership play off.

We are currently in seventh position with 26 points from 25 games — one point more than Leigh who are in eighth place.

Below Leigh come several clubs who are desperate for points to avoid slipping into the Second Division, but who, with a good run, could also be pressing for a top-eight place.

Over the next few weeks most of the First Division results will be important to us — both those of the teams above us and those of the teams beneath us.

We have never played in the Premiership since the introduction of two divisions ten years ago and we now have a great chance of qualifying so long as we continue to pick up points.

Our remaining matches are against Halifax at home today, Leigh away on Good Friday, Barrow at Watersheddings on Easter Monday, Wigan away on April 10, and Castleford at Watersheddings on April 17.

It promises to be a very exciting run-in to the end of the season so long as we can maintain the form of last Sunday.

It is interesting to note, too, that of the four teams who have qualified for the State Express Challenge Cup semi-finals, we have beaten Castleford at Wheldon Road, Hull at the Boulevard, Bradford home and away, and Featherstone at Watersheddings. If only...

Talking of the cup final we have at Watersheddings a supply of £3.50 standing tickets for the Wembley final. These are available and can be purchased from the office during normal hours.

We have a blank date next Sunday, but we have two splendid Easter holiday matches with the game at Leigh on Good Friday and the visit of Frank Foster's Barrow to Watersheddings on Easter Monday.

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Matthew Brown 

6

HISTORICAL NOTES ON HALIFAX

by Tom Webb

Following an advertisement in the local press on November 1st, 1873 and a couple of meetings at the Upper George Hotel, the Halifax Football Club came into being. During the first season, 1873-74, only practice matches were played. The elected officials were A. Walsh, captain, Major Brown, vice-captain and A. Nichol, secretary.

Just about a year later Halifax played its first match against Leeds Athletic Club on November 22nd, 1874 away from home. Halifax had only sixteen players and with two unavailable were compelled to play a man short, as games were fifteen-a-side those days. The game ended in a draw. Leeds Athletic Club scored six tries against one touch down by Halifax but as only goals counted, the teams finished level.

The first home game was played on December 26th, 1874 on the Halifax Trinity Cricket Club pitch which was covered with snow. Wakefield Trinity, the visitors scored one try and one touch down to one try and three touch downs by Halifax.

The Trinity ground was wanted for building purposes so Halifax moved to the Ovenden cricket ground for a spell, but as this was well out of town, and there were no tramcars, permission was obtained to play at Savile Park. Here crowds of up to four thousand were reported and men on horseback were required to keep onlookers off the pitch. In 1876 a move was made to Hanson Lane and finally the move to Thrum Hall took place ten years later.

In late December 1877 the first trophy, the Yorkshire Challenge Cup was won by Halifax. Sixteen clubs entered, Wakefield, Hull, Halifax, Mirfield, York, Bradford, Leeds, Dewsbury, Huddersfield etc., providing one or more entries. On the way to the final Halifax defeated Wakefield, Wakefield Trinity and Bradford while their rivals York accounted for Bradford Caledonians, Kirkstall (Leeds) and Hull.

It was intended to play the game at Huddersfield but on account of the depth of snow on the pitch, the committee resolved to play the game at the Holbeck Recreation Ground, now the home of Leeds United and Hunslet.

Halifax had a back (presumably full back), two threequarter backs, two half backs and ten forwards. York played two backs, two threequarter backs, two half backs and nine forwards. Halifax finally ran out winners by one goal, one try, seven touch downs and one touch-in-goal to nil, after leading by one goal, one touchdown and one touch-in-goal to nil at half time.

That was the first ever of the Yorkshire Cup and before leaving Rugby Union for Northern Union football in 1895, Halifax won the trophy on six occasions.

From very humble beginnings and only seven people at the inaugural meeting, Halifax developed into one of the leading clubs in the North of England. The first match, a practice match played on December 6th, 1873, was contested by only ten players so it must have been five-a-side. S. Duckitt who called the first meeting later became vice-president of the Yorkshire County Rugby Union.

HERE COME HALIFAX

WE have had some tremendous games against Halifax in the last few years and today's encounter may be no exception because another win today should ensure our survival in the First Division. It is as important as that.

Being realistic, Halifax must recognise that they are bound for relegation—barring a miracle—but there is much of the derby-match element about Oldham-Halifax clashes and pride alone will ensure the men from Thrum Hall give us a good run for our money today.

On the playing side many changes have taken place at Halifax in recent years. Experienced men like Mick Blacker, Ken Loxton, Jimmy Birts, and Tony Garforth have moved on.

By recruiting from local youth rugby and making one or two signings of experienced men, Halifax are building a side which, if relegated, can be expected to be among the Second Division powers next season and may well bounce back at the first attempt.

Men signed in the last couple of seasons or so include centres Malcolm Agar (from Dewsbury) and Paul Martin (Castleford), stand-off Gary Cawood (Bramley), and forwards Ian Van Bellen (Blackpool), Neil Goodwin (Wakefield), Francis Jarvis (Hunslet) and Steve Bond (Bramley).

Agar is not only a strong-running centre, but an accomplished goalkicker. Martin is a more recent signing.

Halifax have exceedingly high hopes of stand-off Gary Cawood. He is only 20 and a very good prospect indeed.

He joined Halifax early on this season as part of an exchange deal which took Garforth and Loxton to Bramley, where they teamed up once more with their former Thrum Hall boss, Maurice Bamford.

Van Bellen, the big, No. 8 forward, certainly needs no introduction. He had a good game against us in our win at Thrum Hall last autumn. Not only is he one of the biggest props in the game, but almost one of the most experienced, having seen service with Huddersfield, Castleford, Bradford, Fulham and Blackpool Borough.

Neil Goodwin once had a spell here at Watersheddings while Francis Jarvis played for Bradford and Featherstone before joining Halifax from Hunslet.

Loose-forward Steve Bond cost about £20,000 from Bramley and is one of the Halifax club's most expensive signings.

Halifax have not neglected local junior talent, however, and in today's game there could be several players who have come up through the ranks of colts and "A" team football.

Among the lesser-known players will be full back Steve Smith, right-winger Bob Priestley, possibly scrum-half Nigel Marshall and forwards Greg Sharpe, Brett Greenwood and Steve Laws.

Marshall is another promising youngster at Thrum Hall and the No. 7 shirt will probably go to either him or to the vastly-experienced club skipper Terry Langton.

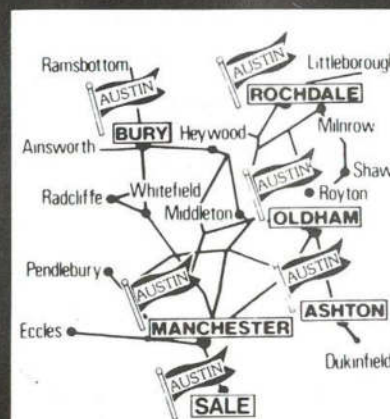
Graham Garrodd and Keith Waites in the backs and Nigel Whitehouse, at No. 9, will probably complete a squad of players who will be keen to halt our bid to finish in the top eight.



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Follow signs Leigh A572
Leigh (centre)
Forward A579
In ½ m turn left into Chadwick St.
for Leigh R.L. Ground

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Supporters Club are once again running a Wembly Draw. We will be asking all our members to sell tickets for us to make it a great success. We will have the draw tickets in the next few weeks. Anyone else being able to sell some draw tickets for us will be most welcome. Ask at any canteen for details.

"The Oldham Rugby 7" Fun Run is being held on Sunday, 15th May, 1983 at 11 a.m. "Police approved course", commemorative medals to all finishers. Proceeds to Oldham Rugby League S.C. Benefit and an Oldham Children's Hospital Charity. Entry Fee of £1.50. Closing date for entries 8th May, 1983. Entry forms will be available for details ask at Canteens. Anyone wishing to help as marshalls also ask at Canteens.

Player of Year Dance is being held on Saturday 28th May 1983. Cabaret by BRANDY GLASS. Disco by Eddie. Admission £1.50. Bar snacks will be available.



Andy Goodway produced a powerful burst in the move that led to Gary Bishop's opening try at Widnes.



Mick Parrish gets the touchdown to score our third try at Widnes.



Terry Flanagan makes a superb break down the middle during our 23-13 win at Widnes.

Photographs by courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Once again British officials are left wondering whether or not it is worth continuing to play the French at international level after the ugly, violent scenes at Hull.

Not that the British players were blameless by any means but it is both strange and sickening how these games between the two countries so often produce more fisticuffs than football.

Obviously the fact that the French had been allowed to get away with a spate of fouls in Carcassonne in the first encounter had a bearing on the attitude of the British players.

And New Zealand referee Don Wilson, brought over at considerable expense for a fortnight, never measured up to the task just as he was below par in the Carcassonne clash when he claimed he did not know the sinbin system was in operation.

This time he used the sinbin to send three players there for five-minute spells and also called the two captains together for a general warning.

But the violence called for tougher action and using the sinbin was no more punishment than slapping the players' wrists.

This was the time for dismissing players and yet we had the amazing sight of French hooker Christian Macalli going through the game tripping opponents and escaping punishment.

I think this bitter clash proved that the sinbin system is a mistake and is going to cause the game more problems rather than solve any.

We had a Second Division game recently when six players were sent to the sinbin and a lot of referees are now using it as "get out" to facing up to the proper remedy of removing players.

Yet the referees have my sympathy in one respect when they do take the necessary action and the disciplinary make a mockery of things and let players off with sending off sufficient decisions.

Surely if a player has been sent off in a game now then he must warrant collecting some punishment.

Yet two players who deserved to be sent off recently in a First Division game got off after making personal appearances and another who did not appear got two matches.

It is getting beyond a joke and the whole disciplinary situation has deteriorated and will continue to do so until we resolve things — and the faster the better.

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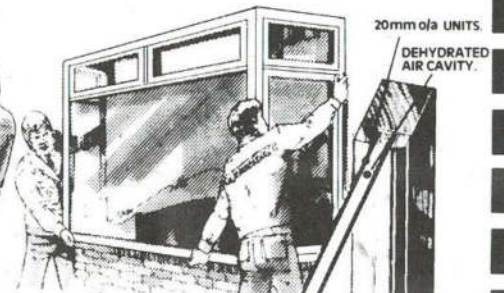
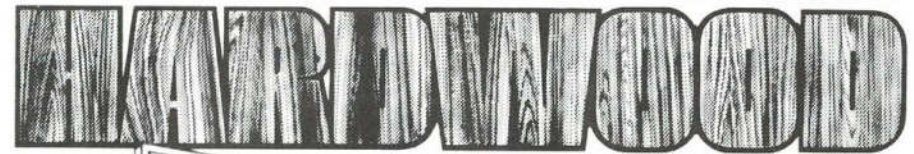
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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

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FIVE YEARS AGO

Oldham 4 1 11 Leigh 2 1 7 (Second Division)

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott, Larder, Paterson (try), O'Brien, Blair (4 goals), Bates, Charles, O'Mahoney, Owen, Hall, Herbert, Flanagan.

Substitutes Hughes and Wilde did not play.

Leigh: Grimshaw, Drummond, Stacey (try), Bilsbury, Worgan, Woods (2 goals), McAtee, Mantle, K. Taylor, Yates, Macko, Grimes, Boyd.

Substitutes: M. Hogan did not play and Jones for Boyd.

Referee: W. H. Thompson, Huddersfield. Attendance 2,160. Half-time score 6-5.

TEN YEARS AGO

Oldham 3 6 24 Barrow 2 1 7 (Rugby League Challenge Cup first round)

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott (2 tries), Larder (goal), Wainwright (2 goals and a try), Hodgkinson, Hill, McCone, Wilson, K. Taylor (2 tries), Ashcroft, Irving, Hall, Farrell.

Substitutes: Davies (try) and Daley for Larder and Irving.

Barrow: Chamberlain (2 goals), Davies, Hoggarth, Jackson, McPoland, Evans, Jones, Harrison, Chappies, Sanderson, New, Bowker (try), Cunningham.

Substitute: Bangle for Jones.

Referee: R. Jackson, Halifax. Attendance 3,643. Half-time score 11-7.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Hunslet 2 0 4 Oldham 3 1 9 (Challenge Cup 1st Round)

Hunslet: Marshall (2 goals), B. Lee, Hurl, Richmond, Thompson, Chamberlain, Abbey, Larkin, Dunn, Baldwinson, Horne, Walker, Gunney.

Substitutes not known.

Oldham: Curry (3 goals), Elliott, McCormack, Donovan, Murphy, Briggs, Davies, Wilson, K. Taylor, Smith, Irving, Fletcher, Hughes (try).

Substitutes not known.

Referee: E. Lawrinson, Warrington. Attendance 4,412. Half-time score 2-4.



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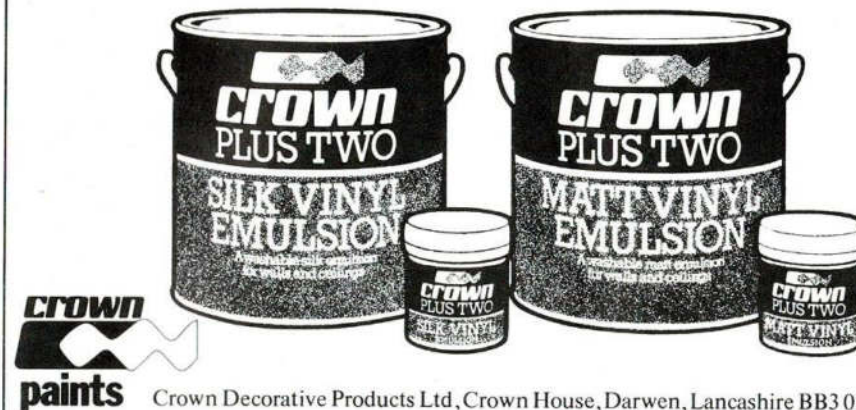
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OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1982-83

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 20-5
		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 24-19
		19	Hull (3.00)	A 8-2
		27	Hull K.R. (3.00)	H 4-5
1983	Jan.	3	Leeds (3.00)	A 12-12
		9	Featherstone R. (2.30)	A 2-5
		19	Bradford Northern (7.30)	H 12-7
		23	Warrington (2.30)	A 7-12
		30	Gt. Britain v. France U/24 Int.	H P
Feb.		6	St. Helens (3.00)	H 0-10
		13	STATE EXPRESS CHAL. CUP(1)	H 5-8
		20	Carlisle (3.00)	A 3-16
		27	Hull K.R.	A 6-11
Mar.		6	Leigh (3.00)	H 10-7
		13	Widnes (3.00)	A 23-13
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
		3	Wigan (7.30)	H 17-12
Sept.		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
Dec.		3	Swinton (7.30)	H 15-7
		11	Barrow (2.30)	A 2-8

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	A 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
		27	Hunslet	A P
Dec.		4	Barrow	H 22-5
		11	Salford	H 55-0
		18	Featherstone	H P
		28	Leigh	A 3-16
1983	Jan.	1	Bradford	H 18-15
		8	Bramley	A 12-8
		15	Halifax	H
		22	Hull K.R.	A 3-12
		29	Rochdale	H 70-4
Feb.		5	York	H P
		12	Cup (1st round) Huddersfield	A 26-10
		19	Leeds	A P
		26	Cup (2nd round) Hull K.R.	A 2-27
Mar.		5	Hunslet	H 14-13
		12	York	A
		19	Bramley	H
		26	Bradford	A
Apr.		9	Castleford	A

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