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3. Ralph McConnell
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5. Mick James
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7. David Cairns
8. Alan Hodgkinson
9. Les Wall
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11. Steve Herbert
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14. T.B.A.
15. T.B.A.

SCRUMS					PENALTIES				
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NEXT MATCHES AT WATERSHEDDINGS

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

Slalom Lager

**RUGBY LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP
DIVISION ONE**

OLDHAM

versus

BARROW

MONDAY

4th APRIL, 1983

AT

WATERSHEDDINGS

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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Coaching Staff: Frank Myler (Coach), Frank Barrow (Ass. Coach)
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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Leslie Cook - Stephen Dobb - Terry Flanagan - Des Foy - Andrew Goodway
Colin Hawkyard - Paddy Kirwan - Steve Littler - Paul Lowndes - Bob Mordell
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Joe Worrall - Alan McCurrie - Michael Taylor - G. Vigo - C. Willis - L. Chadwick

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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

WITH three games to play, we are already enjoying our best-ever season in the First Division. This is our fifth season in the top flight since the two-way split was reintroduced at the start of the 1973-4 season — and, until this year, we had never previously finished above fifth from bottom.

In 1973-4 we were relegated with 25 points; in 1975-6 we just escaped the drop with 23 points; in 1976-7 we finished bottom with 14 points; in 1980-81 we were bottom with 16 points.

As we had 28 points safely in the bag before we played at Leigh last week-end and there are still three matches left against Barrow today, Wigan at Central Park next Sunday and Castleford at Watersheddings on the following Sunday, we have clearly enjoyed our best season for more than ten years.

These notes had to be written before the Leigh game, due to the Easter holiday, so it is difficult to know exactly how we stand today in relation to the battle for top-eight places.

However, win or lose at Hilton Park, it is certain that today's game with Barrow will be of tremendous significance in our bid to reach the Premiership for the first time since it was introduced ten years ago.

The Leigh game was a four-pointer in this respect and so, too, will be the Castleford game when Mal Reilly's Yorkshire lads come here on the final day of the season on April 17.

It should be a cracking tussle between two clubs who have put the accent on youth in recent seasons. An added tit-bit could well be the fact that, whoever wins, might finish up in the Premiership and whoever loses might miss out.

As it is our last chance of a good financial boost from the gate — not accounting for a possible shared gate in the Premiership — we would hope that all supporters turn up to see us sign off our best-ever season in the First Division and, hopefully, the start of a long and successful stay among the game's elite.

We broke with tradition last Friday when, for the first time in years, we did not have a Good Friday afternoon match to follow the Standard Cup final.

We were due to play Leigh at Hilton Park but Leigh requested that we went there on the previous Sunday — both clubs were without a game — and we readily agreed. It meant that we then had one match each week-end until the end of the season instead of a blank, followed by two games in four days over Easter.

It also had the extra advantage of "spending" our matches to ease the financial strain on our supporters, and we are hoping for a good crowd today, and a big following at Wigan on Sunday.

It is absolutely vital, of course, that our supporters rally round in these difficult times. Elsewhere in this programme you will read details of our new lottery ticket and we trust and hope you will support it either as agent or subscriber.

The sides that are successful in future will be those who do the best financially. We feel we have a terrific future thanks to our investment in youth over the past year or two, but if that future is to fulfil its true potential we need as much backing as is possible from the people of the town. Your support is appreciated and valued. With it we can go far, without it, not very far.

Finally, may we draw your attention to the introduction locally of an Australian version of mini-Rugby League, which is to be raised in local junior schools and among the amateur clubs.

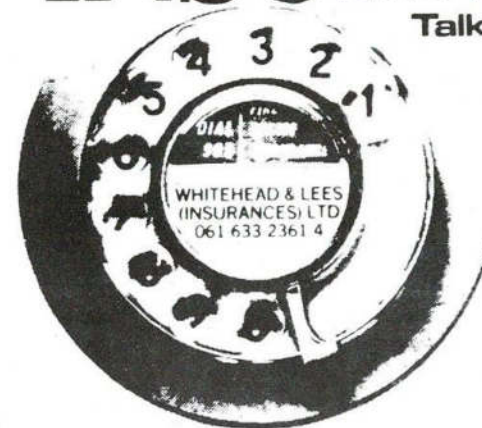
Junior town team coach Steve Rigby, with the backing of the Rugby League's Director of Coaching, Phil Larder, is trying to get the under-11 game established in the Oldham area.

It is the game that the Australians use widely to introduce their own youngsters to the skills of League.

Schools, amateur clubs, parents and boys are invited to attend one of three meetings at St. Edward's School, Lees on April 13, Lyndhurst (April 20) and Stansfield Road, Failsworth (April 27).

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON BARROW

by Tom Webb

THE first game of rugby ever played in Barrow took place in a field kindly lent by Mr. S. J. Claye on February 13, 1875 and was between Barrow and Ulverston. Ulverston won by one goal and six touch downs to nil. It was not the first game played in the district as it was a return match. A week earlier Ulverston had beaten Barrow by one goal and a touch down to a touch down.

Barrow fielded ten men and Ulverston nine. A. Drewry, a Holker man was the Barrow captain and the rest of the team consisted of Baynes, Trubshaw, Thwaites, Bruce, Akerigg, Woodall, Coulton, Crerar and Bennett.

In the following season Barrow played the Local Volunteers, Ambleside, Ulverston, Lancaster and Holker. Often teams played two or three men short when they did not have a fifteen and this was the usual practice.

At the close of the 1877-78 season Barrow had won seven, lost four and drawn two of their thirteen matches. Games with Workington had started.

On October 16, 1880 Barrow beat a very strong Cumberland fifteen at Whitehaven. On the following New Year's Day Barrow entertained Dewsbury in the first game with a Yorkshire club and were well satisfied with a draw. The return game took place at Dewsbury when it is reported that 2,000 followers travelled to support the team. Rugby had arrived at Barrow. Dewsbury had just won the Yorkshire Cup so it was not surprising that Barrow returned home well beaten.

Among the early pioneers of the club after it had changed to Northern Union football was Wilf Gabbatt. After playing soccer as a boy he joined the Furness Rugby Union side but turned to Northern Union to referee schoolboy, intermediate and Cumberland League matches. That was about 1903. Five years later as a young man among much older men he was elected to the Barrow club committee.

The Barrow committee at that time included W. Addison, J.K. Birrell, A. Bell, H. Chambers, W. Dobson, W. Fisher, J.E. Hamilton, F. Ridge, E. Stevens, W. Harrison and R. Harrison. W.W. Stables was secretary and J. Jones treasurer.

In 1910 Wilf Gabbatt was appointed secretary of the club at a salary of £25 per annum and even that small amount was a drain on the club funds. It was a part time appointment of course. Wilf spent 44 years with Barrow in one official capacity or another. At various times he was committee man, secretary, Chairman and the club representative on the Rugby League Council from 1918, being chairman in 1933-34. He also served on the Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League from 1945 to 1951. He served on the Lancashire County committee for 30 years being president in 1939.

In 1910 George Dobson and Sammy Trelore signed and a couple of years later Percy Thomas joined the club from Australia. He was signed on the boat from Ireland to Liverpool and as the boat docked in the Mersey, many other club representatives were there awaiting Percy with a view to obtaining his signature.

In 1914 the ground was requisitioned by the Army. This was Cavendish Park. The club had to look around and secured Little Park, Roose, a former ground at £30 per annum. As this was out of town, a central ground was sought. In order to buy the site now known as Craven Park, the club became a limited company. Even so without the wonderfully enthusiastic voluntary labour on the ground, the club would have had grave difficulty in meeting all the costs. Today it is a compact ground with plenty of covered accommodation.

After many years as a Lancashire club, Barrow was transferred to Cumbria and now has representatives on both the Lancashire and Cumbria county committees.

HERE COME THE BARROW 'BOYS'

IT is always a pleasure to welcome Barrow to Watersheddings and today is no exception.

We reserved one of our poorest performances of the season for the match at Craven Park in November when we were beaten 12-5 by a better Barrow side on the day.

Today, in our penultimate home game of the season, we will be seeking revenge for that defeat and also bidding to strengthen our hopes of finishing in the top eight and thus qualifying for the Premiership for the first time.

Barrow are below us in the table and they, too, will be anxious to pick up points to ease themselves even further away from the relegation zone.

It all points to a match which has much at stake and should provide excellent Easter Monday entertainment for supporters.

Barrow are currently passing through something of a transitional period with several youngsters pushing their claims to oust some of the more established players and establish regular places in the side.

Among them are 17-year-old winger Les Quirk, 20-year-old Andy Whittle and another 20-year-old, Dave Milby.

Quirk is 6 ft. 2 ins. and is regarded as one of the most exciting prospects to emerge from the amateur game in the Furness area for some time. He was snapped up from the Dalton amateur RL club and scored in each of his first two games in senior Rugby League against Leigh and Carlisle.

Whittle has been a regular first-teamer all season, either at stand-off half or centre. He is quick and strong and is tipped by Craven Park regulars to follow scrum-half partner David Cairns into the Great Britain under-24 side.

Another back to emerge rapidly is centre Dave Milby. Like Quirk, he has been given his big chance in recent matches and he crowned his debut against Carlisle by going on as substitute and scoring a splendid try.

While the backs have been strengthened the most by Barrow's plunge for quality local lads, the pack has not been neglected and 20-year-old hooker Mark Fitzgerald is now stamping his mark on the Craven Park scene as a rival for Les Wall for the number nine shirt.

It is a toss-up whether Wall or Fitzgerald will hook against Alan McCurrie today, but whatever happens it is odds-on that there will be several members of the Barrow side who are playing at Watersheddings for the first time.

One player who will not be around is New Zealand utility man Ron O'Regan, who flew back to New Zealand after Barrow's game against Wigan last week-end.

Full back Steve Tickle is likely to wear the No. 1 shirt — a former Union player who has settled down well at Craven Park.

Choice of centres and wings could be between Quirk, Whittle, Milby, Ralph McConnell, Keith Bentley and Mark James, with Mel Mason and David Cairns likely to team up as half-back partners.

Both Mason and Cairns had good games when we played at Craven Park — certainly one of our bogey grounds — last autumn.

A new name in the Barrow pack is that of Alan Hodgkinson, but he is certainly no stranger here! Alan will be remembered as the strong-man of the Rochdale Hornets pack for many years until his move to Wigan and ultimately to Craven Park.

It is interesting to note that if Wally Jones is at No. 8 in the Oldham pack there will be a head-on confrontation between two old mates and colleagues from their Rochdale Hornets days.

If Hodgkinson is well known to Oldham fans, his blind-side man Steve Herbert certainly is! There will doubtless be a big reception for Steve today when he returns to Watersheddings for the first time since being transferred. And if his game against us at Craven Park is anything to go by we had better be on our guard.

Peter Gee will also be in contention for a pack place as will Eddie Szymala, the hooker-turned-back-row-man, Kevin James and Derek Hadley.

Several members of the Barrow side have Cumbria county honours and one or two of them played alongside our own Alan McCurrie against the Australians at Carlisle last autumn.

Finally, a word about coach Frank Foster. Frank will not be easily forgotten at Watersheddings by those fans who watched the side in the early 1970s when Foster was pack leader and stand-off Cliff Hill was the brains of the back division.

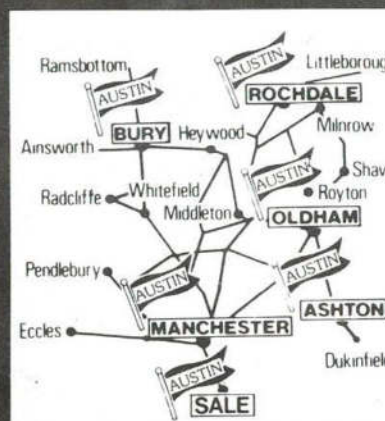
When he left here in 1973 to take over as Barrow coach few would envisage that he would still be Barrow's boss a decade later. Frank is the longest-serving club coach in the game. Well done, Frank, and a hearty welcome back to Watersheddings. The same applies to Steve Herbert.



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LOTTERY LIFE-LINE TAKES ON NEW LOOK

YOU will have read extensive coverage in the Press of the financial plight of both soccer and Rugby League clubs as the recession continues to bite.

The Oldham RL club is no exception and, as you no doubt know, various statements have already been made in the local Press.

Without doubt, the club's Development Association is a vital and essential contributor to the parent club's existence and you will be interested to know that we have now launched a new ticket which we believe will be a real winner in the highly competitive lottery market.

It contains six games and the chance of entering the video draw and winning the £1,000 jackpot are in addition which, in effect, gives eight separate ways of picking up a win.

The price remains the same at 25p and we believe this represents great value for money in the lottery field as well as giving our supporters a chance, as agents or purchasers of tickets, of really doing something positive to help the club along.

IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF OLDHAM RL CLUB TO WORK HARD ON FUND-RAISING VENTURES.

The lottery is one way in which each and everyone of our regular 3,000 fans, or so, can regularly support the club.

Many of you will be in a position to actually sell the tickets on our behalf, with good commissions paid and, of course, the added benefit of a complementary ticket for matches if you sell on a regular basis.

Our existing agents have done a wonderful job for us over the past few years, but the club will benefit enormously if every one could make a special effort to get the new ticket off to a flier.

If you are not already an agent, why not contact the lottery office and have a go? We will all benefit in the long run by seeing Oldham established as a First Division side which is well in the running for honours.

We have shown already this season that we are heading in the right direction. We just need a big financial lift to help us make the final push next season.

IF YOU HAVE OLDHAM RUGBY AT HEART. OUR LOTTERY NEEDS YOU NOW!

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Touchdown . . . for Chris Willis against Halifax.



Terry Bilsbury on his way to scoring one of his two tries against Halifax



Stop me if you can! Andy Goodway dives in for the first of our five tries against Halifax.



Alan McCurrie goes behind the posts in the Halifax match.

Photographs by courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

Britain's search for new young talent to try and regain pride and prestige should not overshadow the great efforts being made at amateur level.

It seems — from the dig in the ribs I received recently — that I am among those not handing out a fair share of the credit to the clubs producing our stars of the future.

And when it comes to handing out the laurels to one particular club then it has to be Wigan St. Patricks who collect the bulk of the praise for producing a conveyor belt of top prospects.

The latest of their former stars to rise to the top of the professional ranks is young Joe Lydon, who had two years' grooming in the stables that saddled so many winners.

In 1980-81 he played in the Under 17s which went unbeaten throughout the season, winning every trophy available to them.

He also represented his town in their winning of the Inter-Town trophy as well as playing for Lancashire Under 17s which took the county championship.

In 1981-82 he played for Under 19s which won the Lancashire Youth Cup and League championship and played in the National Youth Final winning team along with Mike Gregory (Warrington), Andrew Platt (St. Helens), Ian Gormley (Widnes) and Jeff Clare (Wigan).

In the past four seasons, St. Patrick's have had thirty players become professionals.

They include Andy Gregory, Neil Poynton, Lydon, Gormley (Widnes); John Fieldhouse, Alan Scott, Mike Gregory (Warrington), Gerard Byrne, Paul O'Neill, Mick McTigue, Ronnie Smith, Trevor Stockley, (Salford), Shaun Wane, David Wood, Jeff Clare, Geoff Cunliffe, Kevin Egan, Glen Jones (Wigan), Andy Platt (St. Helens), Billy Price (Rochdale), John Stockley, Tracey Grundy (Blackpool), Neil Abbott, Peter Alstead (Leigh), John Gorton (Swinton).

Lydon admits: 'I owe a debt to St. Patricks and to Under 17 coach Jack Melling who did a great deal for me.

'They are so well organised in choosing players and building teams that they are the best club in the game for me.

'I was delighted with the help I got. It was an experience that put me on the right road.'

'A' TEAM NEWS

Quietly and confidentially, the 'A' team, under Frank Barrow and Brian Gartland need just 4 points from 3 games to secure the runners-up spot in the Combination League.

With wins home and away against Whitehaven, Workington, Swinton and Leigh, and defeat only in the Semi-Final of the Shield at Warrington on a cold and frosty night and on a very hard pitch, this has proved to be a reasonably successful season.

With the mixture of youth and experience blended together, the outlook is bright indeed, and congratulations go to coaches and players alike.

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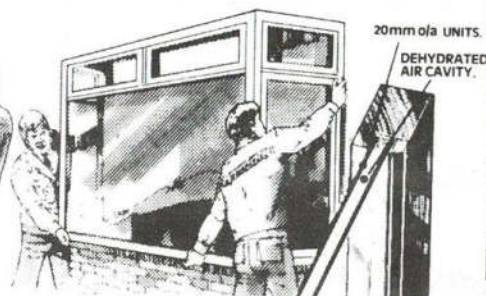
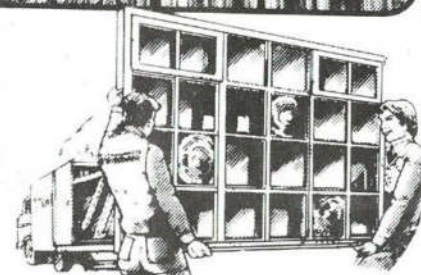
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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

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

FIVE YEARS AGO

Oldham 7 8 38 Doncaster 3 2 12 (Second Division)

Oldham: O'Brien, Jackson, Larder (7 goals, 2 tries), Ward (2 tries), Lund, Bates, Radcliffe (try), Charles O'Mahoney (2 tries), Hughes (try), Forster, Herbert, K. Flanagan.
Substitutes Redford and Pollard for Bates and Herbert.

Doncaster: Harrison, Piper, Pflaster, Varey, Mountain, Beale (3 goals and a try), Hanley, Lowe, Moody, Walker, Arrand, Cooper, Wilmot (try).

Substitutes: Edward and Banham for Arrand and Walker.

Referee: T. J. Court, Leeds. Attendance 1,504. Half-time score 22-7

TEN YEARS AGO

Oldham 2 0 4 Dewsbury 2 3 13 (Northern League had only one division)

Oldham: Davies, Elliott, Larder (2 goals), Wainwright, O'Brien, Hill, McCone), Wilson, K. Taylor, Ashcroft, Irving, Hall, Farrell.

Substitutes not known.

Dewsbury: Rushton, Day, Clark, N. Stephenson (2 goals), Yoward (2 tries), Agar, A. Bates (try), Bell, M. Stephenson, Lowe, Grayshon, J. Bates, Whittington.

Substitutes: Lee and Robinson did not play.

Referee: J. E. Jackson, Leeds. Attendance 3,480. Half-time score 4-5

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Hull Kingston Rovers 4 5 23 Oldham 1 2 8 (Northern League had only one division)

Hull K.R.: Wainwright, Young (try), Burwell (try), Moore, Brook (try), Millward (goal), Cooper (try), L. Foster, Flanagan, Mennell, Holliday (3 goals), F. Foster, Lowe (try).

Substitute: Mullins for Millward.

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott, McCormack (try), Buckley, Dolly (try), Briggs (goal), Canning, Wilson, K. Taylor, Smith, Irving, McCourt, Hughes.

Substitute: K. Flanagan for Wilson.

Referee D.T.H. Davies, Manchester. Attendance 6,570. Half-time score 10-5.



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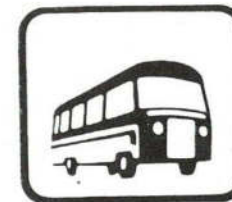
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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

President: Mr. D. Blackburn, **Chairman:** Mr. D. Pilkington, **Vice-Chairman:** Miss A. Collinge, **Treasurer:** Mr. T. Heywood, **Secretary:** Mrs. J. Pilkington, **Committee:** Mrs. H. Heywood, Mr. I. Pilkington, Mrs. L. Wolstencroft, Mrs. E. Crowther, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. S. Chadderton, Mrs. L. Chadderton, Mr. B. Doleman, Mrs. A. Doleman.

Visit our new Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion end of the ground to look at our NEW Oldham Rugby Sweatshirts.

Sweaters	£10.00
Sweat Shirts	Adults £8.50
.....	Junior £6.50
Scarves Bar	£2.50
Scarves (Oldham)	£2.75
Ties	£3.50
Lapel Badges	65p
Bob Hats	£1.25
Bags	£5.25
Route Maps	50p

OLDHAM SUPPORTERS CLUB

AWAY TRAVEL

on

SUNDAY, APRIL 10th, 1983

WIGAN

Coaches leave Social Club
at 1.45 p.m.

Members £1.50
Non Members £1.70
Junior £1.00

Tel. 624 0368

AWAY TRAVEL

BY CAR

WIGAN

M62 Junction 14 follow signs Preston
M61 Junction 5 follow signs Wigan A58
Hindley

At end turn right A577.

In 1½ miles forward unclassified and
200 yd. turn right into Schofield Lane

In ¼ mile over crossroads into
Greenhaugh Street. ¼ mile farther
cross river bridge. Then 1st right into
Hilton Street for Central Park.
Wigan R.L. Ground

The Supporters Club have approximately 21 seat Wembley tickets for sale. Anyone wishing to purchase these will they please see Miss A. Collinge.

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.

Kick off at 12 o'clock at the:-

DOG & PARTRIDGE

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KEVIN & CHRISTINE

Lunchtime Snacks available

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Matthew Brown 

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Spencer Street,
Oldham.

Your Hosts

PETER & MILDRED

Bar Snacks available

All the best from
Matthew Brown 