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6. JOHN WOODS
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8. ~~ALF WILKINSON~~ *ALEX*
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11. ~~TONY COTTRELL~~ *MC DONALD*
12. ~~MARTIN HERDMAN~~ *CLARKE*
13. ~~JEFF CLARKE~~ *WESTHEAD*

Substitutes:

14. ~~WAYNE ATHERTON~~ *HENDERSON*
15. ~~ADRIAN ALEXANDER~~ *WICKINSON*

Referee: W. H. THOMPSON (Huddersfield)

OLDHAM

Colours: Red and White Hooped Jerseys, Red
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1. ~~NICK WRIGHT~~ *HORNEY*
2. COLIN HAWKYARD
3. MICK PARRISH
4. DES FOY
5. ~~JIM HORNBY~~ *TAYLOR*
6. IAN BIRKBY
7. PADDY KIRWAN
8. WALLY JONES
9. ALAN McCURRIE
10. ANDY GOODWAY
11. ALAN SINCLAIR
12. MICK WORRALL
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

Substitutes:

14. ~~ALF DIBDI~~
15. *MORGAN*

Touch Judges: J. E. LLOYD (Red Flag)
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COLTS FIXTURES 1983-84

1983

Aug 20 Sa Hull
 27 Sa CASTLEFORD
 Sept. 3 Sa WAKEFIELD T.
 10 Sa HUNSLET
 17 Sa Bramley
 24 Sa BRADFORD N
 Oct. 1 Sa Rochdale
 8 Sa WIGAN
 15 Sa OPEN
 22 Sa Salford
 29 Sa BARROW
 Nov. 5 Sa Cardiff
 12 Sa HULL K.R.
 19 Sa York
 26 Sa St. Helens
 Dec. 3 Sa HALIFAX
 10 Sa Huddersfield
 17 Sa Leeds
 24 Sa Blank Weekend
 31 Sa Blank Weekend

A 14-32
 H 8-20
 H 16-10
 H 23-27
 A 14-14
 H 44-14
 A 30-2
 H 18-4
 A 52-8
 H 54-6
 A P
 H 22-15
 A 56-8
 A P
 H 73-10
 A P

1984

Jan. 7 Sa OLDHAM
 14 Sa Huddersfield Away, Postponed
 28 Sa Hunslet
 Feb. 4 Sa Colts Chall Cup 1st Hull K.R. H 17-2
 11 Sa Colts Chall Cup 2nd Rochdale A 68-0
 18 Sa LEEDS
 25 Sa CASTLEFORD Cup Semi Final H 24-30
 Mar. 3 Sa HULL
 10 Sa Bradford N.
 17 Sa ST. HELENS
 24 Sa Castleford
 31 Sa Hull K.R.
 Apr. 21 Sa Premiership 1st Round
 28 Sa Premiership Semi Finals

*Note

Nineteen Clubs form the Colts league and each team will play the other eighteen Clubs once only.
 The results will be entered in one league table. This league will then be split into two Pools, each team playing the other teams in their Pool once. The final table would then be produced.

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THE WIN THAT NEVER WAS

The last minute try scored by Oldham substitute back Ian Birkby in the replayed Oldham v Leigh match at Watersheddings last Sunday week robbed us of two very valuable league points.

The points, of course, had been originally 'won' on Sunday January 8th this year when Leyland Referee John Mean decided to take stern action following a brawl and abandoned the match. It is history now but the fact remains that Leigh had a convincing lead and were obvious winners.

The replay, played in typical Watersheddings conditions — snow — was a different story. Only a few points separated the teams throughout, Alan McCurrie dropped an early goal which was more than cancelled out by a superb Des Drummond try and a John Woods conversion.

From that moment we always seemed to have the upper hand and at half time when we had kept Oldham's tally to that solitary drop goal from McCurrie it seemed a formality that the two points we won in January but which were later taken away were ours once more.

Oldham had to play the second half up the notorious Watersheddings slope against driving wind, rain and sleet and a freak snowstorm but they weathered it well and scored two tries and a conversion against a couple of Woods penalties.

Oldham admit that they were a shade lucky first of all to get another bite of the cherry and secondly to see Birkby's kick through bounce kindly and catch our defenders in two minds on whether to drop on the loose ball or to kick it out of the ground. As it was the ball 'stuck' in the mud over the try line and Birkby followed through to grab the try and the two points.

Both Clubs have had a very in-different season with some brilliant early results but some very disappointing defeats as well.



DES DRUMMOND — superb try at Oldham.

On the credit side Oldham have taken scalps such as Castleford and Hull but allowed Whitehaven to play them off the park. We have performed quite brilliant at grounds like Wigan and Featherstone but have seen relegation bound sides like Wakefield and Salford come here and run us ever so close.

Recent lapses have placed both Clubs in the bottom half of the table. The difference between a Top 8 place and a relegation place is, of course, only four league places, so if you manage to avoid relegation you should be reasonably close to a play off spot. Our chance may have gone with the Oldham defeat last Sunday although it appears we are safe from the dreaded relegation but Oldham perhaps still fancy their chances despite their set back at Central Park last Wednesday.

ASDA CUP TOUR

The coveted 87 year old Rugby League Challenge Cup is to be on exhibition on a five week tour of Asda superstores.

The priceless original trophy — to be contested at the State Express Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday, 5th May — will be on view to the public for three days at each of the Asda stores at Wakefield, Leeds (Pudsey), Wigan, and Widnes.

The time-table for the Asda tour is:

Wakefield	: 22/23/24 March
Leeds (Pudsey)	: 29/30/31 March
Wigan	: 5/ 6/ 7 April
Widnes	: 12/13/14 April

The Cup will be on display from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday and at 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on the Saturday of each Store visit.

The State Express Challenge Cup will be accompanied by Rugby League Personality Girl, Geraldine Fuller, and the public are invited to bring along their own cameras for souvenir pictures.

State Express are sponsoring the Rugby League Challenge Cup for the sixth season. The 1983-84 sponsorship fee is £120,000, the last of a three-year £330,000 deal.



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OUR VISITORS

Oldham will come here tonight determined to record a double victory having already picked up two valuable points from us in the replayed league encounter ten days ago.

It will not be easy for them because our lads are determined also to collect the points and will be particularly keen in view of the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the first match.

Oldham had had their problems this season but none more than on the coaching front where, on the resignation of Peter Smethurst they appointed Peter's assistant — like Smethurst another ex Leigh star — Frank Barrow.

Frank did not last long however and following a crushing defeat at bottom Club Whitehaven he resigned.

Oldham then appointed Dave Cox as coach and Cox was expected to fly in from Australia three weeks ago. However, due to a personal problem Cox was not able to take up the position and the job was taken on by original 'third' in command Brian Gartland.

Brian's first game in charge was a great boost for him and the Club — a fine win against Bradford Northern where the Parrish Brothers stole the show, Mick getting five goals for Oldham whilst his brother Steve notched all Northern's points with two penalty goals.

His second game was the game against Leigh at Watersheddings — the now infamous replayed match — and again he recorded a victory, this time by 13 points to 10.

At Wigan last Wednesday saw his first defeat with Cup Semi Finalists Wigan gaining revenge for their defeat at Oldham earlier in the season.

Like most Clubs, Oldham have had their fair share of injuries and I think it fair to say that the injury to scrum half Ray Ashton was perhaps the most contributing factor to Oldham's slump in form around Christmas time. Ray of course is now back in action and is reproducing the excellent form he showed prior to his injury.

Ray is just one of a number of crucial members of the Oldham side but their success in the early part of the season was down to excellent team work and the will to win.

Individuals did play a key part and as well as Ray Ashton, players like Flanagan, Andy Goodway, Mick Worrall and Des Foy performed admirably to earn themselves places in the Great Britain squad.

At full back Oldham have been playing Leigh born Steve Littler for most of the season but just recently he lost his place to Kiwi Nick Wright. Mick Parrish too was tried at full back but Mick would be the first to admit that full back is not his favourite position.

Wingmen Jimmy Hornby the ex Wigan favourite who left Central Park just before he was due to a well earned Testimonial has done a great job for Oldham, so too has Oldham's other wing star Colin Hawkyard.

Parrish and Des Foy have more or less commanded the centre positions this season while in Ray Ashton's absence young Chris Willis has been forming an attractive half back partnership with Paddy Kirwan.

The forwards have been the backbone of Oldham's success and in Wally Jones they have a real work horse who has to be one of the bargain buys of all time — a £2,000 snip from Rochdale Hornets — Alan McCurrie has done an excellent job for Oldham since his transfer to them from Wakefield Trinity and so too has prop forward Mick Morgan who joined Oldham from Carlisle in a very shrewd move indeed by the Oldham Committee.

HERDMAN — TABERN IN LOAN SWOP DEAL

As all Supporters know our hooker Ray Tabern has joined London Club Fulham on loan until the end of the season. Fulham's giant forward Martin Herdman comes to Hilton Park in exchange.

Most Supporters will have been pleased with Herdman's debut at Watersheddings ten days ago and he is expected to make his home debut this evening.

Ray Tabern made his first appearance for Fulham in last Sunday's game at Central Park.

Both players will be anxious to impress in a hope that their moves will be made permanent when decision time comes later next month.

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- 1982 B.B.I. AWARDS SILVER MEDAL & DIPLOMA.
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CRAIG BOLTON APPEAL

In the last match programme v Salford we referred to the unfortunate plight of young Craig Bolton who following a serious illness over twelve months ago had become totally blind.

His parents consented that he should be allowed to be 'mascot for the day' and Craig was overjoyed. He met the players in the dressing room prior to the game and the lads really responded to him. He is obviously a very courageous young man, has a big heart and is keen to overcome his set back by taking part in certain games and sports he used to enjoy before his set back.

You the Supporters helped to make his day. Not only by your generous contributions to his collection which realised nearly £300 but by the way you responded to him when he entered the field and when he left to take up his seat in the Stand.

In a short letter received from Craig a few days after the game he simply said "Would you please thank John Woods and all the players for the way they looked after me last Sunday, I enjoyed every minute. Can you please thank also those kind supporters who put money in the collection".

It certainly was a touching afternoon and Craig won the hearts of a lot of people - thank you all for your support.

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above: Disaster for young Gary Stradins as he fails to beat the rolling ball dead while (below) Ian Birkby scores the winning try.

LEIGH R.F.C.

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CONGRATULATIONS MARK AND DARREN

Our next item concerns two young men who deserve every congratulation for their outstanding efforts at Schoolboy level.

Mark Bailey and Darren Wright, aged 15 and 16 respectively have been selected for the England Schools R.L. Tour of France in April.

Mark of Brookfield Street, Leigh is the son of Leigh Rugby Club's Life Member and former player Maurice Bailey. He attends Bedford High School and has represented Lancashire Schools on two occasions as well as appearing once for Lancashire R.U.

He is the Captain of the Town Team as well as playing for Leigh Rangers Under 16s. His position is centre or stand off.

Darren attends Leigh C.E. High School and he lives in Thorneycroft, Leigh. His position is centre but is playing on the wing for England.

He has played for Lancashire R.L. against Yorkshire at both Under 13's and Under 16's level and Darren too plays for Leigh Rangers.

They fly out in early April with our good wishes.

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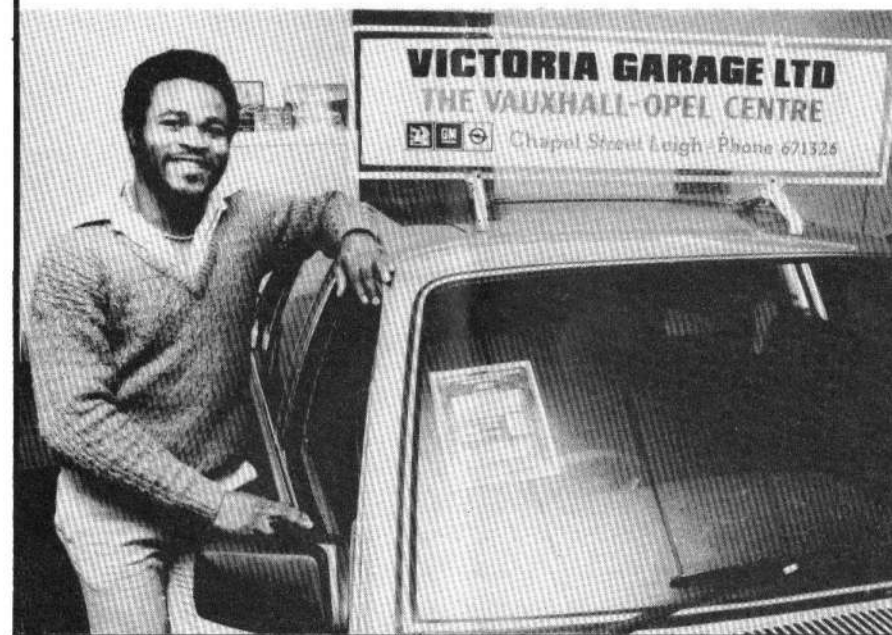
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NEW COACHING PUBLICATION

The latest addition to Rugby League's coaching library is **RUGBY LEAGUE COACHING - THE WAY FORWARD** by Allan Bancroft. The 64 page publication covers the basic skills of the 13-a-side code plus a host of personal observations by Bancroft, a Grade One Rugby League Coach and a former player with Hunslet, Blackpool Borough, Bradford Northern, Hull, Keighley, and Bramley. This thought-provoking coaching book is priced £3.75 + 50 pence p. & p. and is available from:

The Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League,
180, Chapeltown Road, LEEDS LS7 4HT.

COLTS NEWS

The Colts exit from the Challenge Cup was a bitter pill to swallow but Trevor Ramsdale's youngsters are 'big' enough to put that defeat behind them and get on with their efforts of moving up the league table.

Unfortunately their defeat at Bradford Northern last week did not help matters but Bradford are not a bad side at all and presently command a Top 6 place.

Coach Trevor Ramsdale has asked us to point out that he is always looking for new players to join the Colts ranks, we have a good set of lads here but obviously each season certain lads are lost as they become too old for Colts Rugby.

Why not consider joining the Colts team. If you will still be under 19 years old on the 1st September this year then you are very welcome indeed to come along to 'Hilton Park' any Monday or Wednesday and ask for Trevor or Senior referee Stan Wall who also assists with the running of the Colts team.

It is a great set up with a tremendous fixture list, why not give serious thought to joining their squad.

The current league table (leading positions) of the Colts League looks like this:—

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Castleford	20	19	—	1	38
Leeds	20	15	—	5	30
Wigan	19	14	—	5	28
Hull	17	14	—	3	28
Hunslet	19	13	—	6	26
Bradford N.	19	12	1	6	25
Hull K.R.	18	12	1	5	25
Huddersfield	21	12	—	9	24
Leigh	17	11	1	5	23
St. Helens	19	9	—	10	18

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R. L. ACTION

As you are aware our fixture at St. Helens on Friday, 6th April will be televised and shown on R. L. Action at 11 p.m. the same evening.

The remaining matches in the R. L. Action series are as follows:—

Friday, 23rd March to be announced.

Friday, 30th March to be announced.

Friday, 6th April St. Helens v. Leigh.

Friday, 13th April Leeds v. Featherstone R.

Friday, 20th April Hull K. R. v. Hull.

The matches scheduled for 23rd and 30th March involved two of the sides involved in the Semi Finals being played the same weekends so I.T.V. will be amending their schedule, and announcing new matches for these two dates.

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SEMI—FINALS

YORK became only the second Division Two club to reach the Rugby League Challenge Cup Semi-Finals since the re-introduction of two Divisions in 1973 when they beat Castleford 14—12. In 1980, Halifax were beaten in the Semi-Finals by Hull K.R. In another era. Oldham, who finished as Division Two Champions in 1964, reached the Semi-Finals when they were beaten by Hull K.R. after two replays.

This is only the second time in YORK's 82-year-history as a senior club that they have reached the Semi-Finals. The last time was back in 1931 when they beat Warrington 15—5 at Headingley, before losing 22—8 to Halifax at Wembley.

In contrast, WIDNES are appearing in their 8th Semi-Final in the last ten seasons, having gone on to Wembley six times in this period.

The aggregate crowd of 52,814 for the four Third Round ties was the best since there were 55,274 in 1980.

The Semi Final pairings are:

York v. Wigan at Elland Road — this coming Saturday.

Leeds v. Widnes at Swinton on Saturday, 31st March.

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A limited number of acrylic navy-blue, V-neck sweaters, featuring the high-class embroidered symbol of the Rugby League Challenge Cup in silver with the words 'State Express Challenge Cup' in gold, are now available.

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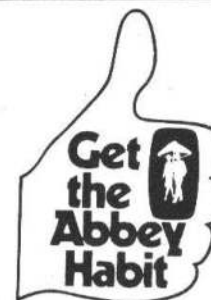


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AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE by TREVOR HUNT

Leigh and District Amateur Rugby League's U'19's team reached the semi-final of the BARLA Inter-League Youth Competition for the first time in their history when defeating the Competition favourites, Leeds by 22-21 pts. at Twist Lane last Saturday.

It was a tremendous performance from our local lads, who worked hard throughout, obviously spurred on by the taunts of the Leeds players who had boasted that they would win the game by a sixty point margin, when the draw was announced at the Lancashire/Yorkshire County Youth game. Leigh answered them in the best possible way, by beating them, although it did take them until the last minute of the game to do so. Then Leigh Miners centre, Sean Unsworth, powered his way over for the clinching try from fifteen yards out.

It was no more than Leigh deserved, as some powerful running from Mick Caffrey, Keane and Mullaney had set up tries for David Ratcliffe of Leigh East, and Tommy Hayes. With stand-off Winston Sarsfield dictating play, exciting centres, Wayne Lee, and Sean Unsworth always looked dangerous, whilst scrum-half, David Rothwell was the unluckiest player of the day, twice being tackled on his back over the Leeds line unable to ground the ball. Sarsfield landed five goals from seven attempts to complete Leigh's scoring, but all-in-all it was an excellent performance from the young Leigh lads.

Congratulations to Leigh East Under 19's who, following good wins over Hensingham and Folly Lane, have reached the semi-finals of the BARLA Whitbread Youth Trophy. Unfortunately the draw has not been kind to them, and they must now travel to Cumbria to take on the County Youth Cup winners, Kells.

Leigh Miners Under 19's also have an excellent chance of reaching the Youth Cup semi-finals. After a tremendous away victory over Yorkshire County Cup winners Redhill of Castleford, the Miners again travelled to Widnes to take on the Tigers. A ten points draw, means a replay at Twist Lane on April 8th, kick off 2.30 p.m., and for the winners, a visit to Wigan St. Pat's the semi-final draw.

In the BARLA Whitbread Trophy Open-age Competition, the draw has again been unfavourable to our local side. The Trophy holders, Leigh Miners, have had two tough ties against Milford of Leeds and Mayfield of Rochdale in the last two rounds, and now they must travel to Cumbria to take on Egremont in the quarter-finals on April 7th.

For the next two Saturdays, Leigh Miners first team is unlikely to have a game because of the inclusion of three players in the Gt. Britain squad that plays France at the Watersheddings, Oldham on April 1st, kick off 3.00 p.m. Prop Ivor Owen, hooker Steve Hulme, and second row forward Chris Gaskell all make their International debuts and we wish them and the rest of the team good luck and offer our congratulations on their selection.

Another Leigh player, Miners Under 19's prop Gary Disley, is in action this forthcoming week-end in Paris, where he will be playing for the BARLA Youth team in their annual encounter with the French. Best wishes also go to him.

Nearer to home, Culcheth Eagles won their last League fixture, the local derby against the Boars Head, by 19-14 pts., and that now ties them level at the top of division six on points with Bold Colliery, who have also completed their fixtures. Now the Championship will be decided on a play-off, details of where and when will be published in the local press. Well done Culcheth Eagles, it's a tremendous achievement in their first season.

Last week, the N.W. Counties Junior Leagues took on Humberside, and Leigh were not without their representatives at all levels.

At Under 13's, the N.W. Counties ran up a mammoth ninety points without reply, with Leigh Rangers, Dean having a tremendous game. At Under 14's level, the scoreline was only slightly less emphatic, the N.W. Counties winning by fifty points to nil. Here, the Betts brothers and young Maxwell from the Rangers, plus Juniors Sykes, were all mentioned in despatches.

The Under 15's had a tougher time of it winning 28-14 pts. with Leigh representatives being Birkhill, Mulqueeny and Ali, all from Leigh Rangers.

They were all tremendous performances, and its good to see representational honours at this level. In the near future, matches will take place, again against Hull, at Under 11's and Under 12's level, and already Juniors, Tanham, Magenty, Riding and Hudspith are included in these teams.

In recent weeks, Leigh Juniors have found themselves indebted to sponsors for providing team kit, and their thanks goes to Welch Mill Carpets, who provided kit for the Under 10's, Timms Main Ford Dealers (Under 11's), Victoria Garage, Leigh (Under 12's) Frank Birchall Enterprises (Under 13's) and K. T. Trophies of Leigh.

LEIGH R.L.F.C. OFFICIAL SOUVENIR SHOP



Our model is seen wearing (a) Red Pin Stripe Sweatshirt (b) Hooped Style T-Shirt (c) Sleeveless Slipover

PRICES AS NOV. 21st 1983

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Junior (with badge)	£8.50
Adult 36"-46"	£12.00
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Sleeveless Slipovers	£10.25
(36"-44")	

SWEATSHIRTS

Junior (up to 34")	£8.50
Adult (Leigh R.L.)	£9.25
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T-SHIRTS

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Badge Style (Reduced)	£2.50

RUGBY SHIRTS

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42"	£12.25
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SCARVES

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Des Drummond Super Star	£2.50

CAR STICKERS

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Oval R.L.	£0.20
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Sun Visors (Leigh)	£1.25
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Star Picture Badges	£0.60
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**First
Team**

FIXTURES

**'A'
Team**

Aug	7	Su	Leigh Miners (friendly)	H	24-20	Aug	11	Th	Swinton (friendly)	A
	14	Su	Wakefield (friendly)	A	56-22		25	Th	Widnes (friendly)	H
	21	Su	Widnes	H	12-19	Sep	8	Th	Salford	H
	24	W	Fulham	H	22-8		22	Th	Swinton	A
	28	Su	Wigan	A	26-12		29	Th	Warrington	H
Sep	4	Su	Carlisle			Oct.	4	Tu	Wigan Amateur League	H
	7	W	Lancashire Cup Salford	H	52-10		13	Th	Widnes	H
	11	Su	Hull	A	38-6		20	Th	Wigan Shield 1st leg	H
	14	W	Widnes	H	12-20		26	W	Wigan 2nd leg . . .	A
			Lancashire Cup Quarter Final . . .	H	10-27	Nov	4	F	Widnes	A
	18	Su	Castleford	A	18-28		11	F	St. Helens	A
	25	Su	Bradford N.	H	0-24		30	W	Wigan (Shield Replay)	A
Oct	2	Su	Wakefield T.	A	18-20	Dec				
	9	Su	Wigan	H	24-18		9	Fri		
	16	Su	Widnes	A	20-28		16	F		
	30	Su	Whitehaven	A	38-16		20	Th	Warr. Shield 1st leg	A
Nov	6	Su	J.P. Cup 1st Rd. Oldham	A	20-12		29	Th	Warrington	H
	13	Su	St. Helens	H	20-12	1984				
	20	Su	John Player 2nd Rnd. Carlisle . .	A	68-17	Jan	5	Th	Oldham	H
	27	Su	Cardiff C. John Player 3rd Rd. .	H	12-8		12	Th		
Dec	10	Sa	Leeds John P.	Hudd	11-18		21	Sa	Barrow	A
	18	Su	Whitehaven	H	68-14		29	Su	Warrington Shield	A
	27	Tu	Warrington	A	18-34	Feb	1	W	Wigan	A
Jan	1	Su	Wakefield T.	H	14-12		9	Th		
	8	Su	Oldham (Aban)		24-16		16	Th	Swinton	H
	19	Th	Hull	A	0-14		23	Th		
	29	Su	Featherstone R. . .	H	16-18	Mar	2	F	Salford	A
Feb	5	Su	Leeds	H	6-30		8	Th		
	12	Su	State Express Challenge Cup 1 St. Helens	A	10-16		15	Th	Wigan	H
	19	Su	Hull K.R.	A	8-47		22	Th		
	24	Fri	Featherstone . . .	A	21-5	Apr	5	Th	St. Helens	H
Mar	4	Su	Salford	H	31-22					
	11	Su	Oldham	A	10-13					
	21	W	Oldham	H						
	25	Su	Fulham	A						
Apr	1	Su	Castleford	H						
	3	Tu	Leeds	A						
	6	Fr	St. Helens	A						
	15	Su	Hull K.R.	H						
	23	M	Warrington	H						
			to be re-arranged Bradford N	A						