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FIRST ROUND

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versus

BLACKPOOL

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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K. R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
Record transfer fee received	£11,002, 10s. from Workington for Ike Southward Jan. 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 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

WE get a break from First Division rugby today with the staging of the first round of the Burtonwood Brewery Lancashire Cup — a competition in which the Oldham club has not exactly covered itself with glory in the past 25 years.

Since winning the trophy on three consecutive occasions in 1956, 1957 and 1958, we have not had the county cup on the Watersheddings sideboard, so no one can say it isn't overdue.

We did reach the final twice in the 1960's, losing on each occasion to St. Helens and Wigan, but oftener than not we have gone out at the first or second hurdle, so the time has certainly arrived when we could do to be making some impact in this competition.

Blackpool provide our first-round opposition and though we have played several cup-ties over the years at Borough Park, this will be Borough's first visit to Oldham in this particular competition.

The Burtonwood Lancashire Cup is worth a record £13,250 this year and the breakdown for each club is as follows:

First-round losers £350; second-round losers £510; losing semi-finalists £905; runners-up £1,700; winners £3,400.

The full draw is: Workington v Rochdale Hornets; Barrow v Carlisle; Salford v Whitehaven; Fulham v Swinton; St. Helens v Runcorn Highfield; OLDHAM v Blackpool; Leigh v Warrington; Wigan v Widnes.

We are happy to report good news on two fronts — the financial scene and the injury situation. Membership for the current season has reached our target of £15,000, which represents a considerable increase on last year, and the early signs are that the response to our vitally-important Lifeline Appeal will be most encouraging.

More than 700 pledges had been received to join the scheme by last weekend and as we were due to have a big push over the past few days we are confident that the figure will have increased substantially by now.

The importance of the success of this scheme, of course, cannot be overestimated so if you have not enrolled so far, and intend to do so, please call in at the office as soon as possible or send in your completed form.

We are moving back to the town centre offices in Clegg Street to run the Lifeline Appeal, and eventually the lottery organisation may also return there. Remember, the Lifeline Appeal is going to form the life-blood of our club, so do give it your most serious consideration if you have not already done so.

On the injury front, the news of Ray Ashton, Mick Worrall and Wally Jones is most encouraging. It is still too early to say just when the trio will be ready for action, but all three are pleased at the progress they are making.

Mick Worrall is now out of plaster after his knee cartilage operation and as soon as he gets rid of the fluid and swelling he will be able to start the process of building up the strength before he can resume light training.

Wally Jones and Ray Ashton also give similarly favourable reports after hospital visits, so it may be that all three are ready to resume at about the same time.

With Terry Flanagan also to come back into the reckoning and Australian recruit Paul Taylor set to join us in the middle of October we should have a much stronger squad within the next few weeks.

On a sadder note, we have to report the enforced retirement through injury of Gareth Owen, who has broken his knee cap and now faces another lengthy absence from the game.

Gareth signed for Oldham on January 5, 1971 from Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, but his career has been dogged by injury and he was able to play in only 77 senior games for Oldham, though he did have spells on loan to Workington and Salford.

In the 1980-81 season he was twice picked to represent Wales. He played for the Reds against France in Narbonne and against England at Hull, earning excellent reports on each occasion.

At 31, Gareth has now decided it is time to call it a day, so all supporters will wish him well as they will wish Mick Coombes and all the other injured players a speedy recovery.

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON BLACKPOOL

by Tom Webb

THE "Rugby League Review" of January 21, 1954 reported the foundation of the Blackpool Rugby League Club Limited. Incidentally to avoid confusion with the soccer club the word "Borough" was added to the title.

The account read: "Company Registered - The current issue of Jordan's Daily Register of Companies includes the Registration on January 2nd of the Blackpool Rugby League Club Limited.

The club's registered office is given as 23, King Street, Blackpool and the nominal capital as £15,000 in £1 shares. The directors are named as Messrs. J.H. Shoesmith of West Park Drive, Blackpool; E.W. King of Westmorland Avenue, Blackpool; and A.P. Forty, G.C. Kilby, C. Brockbank, R.C. Taylor, J.P., R.G. Emery and E.E. Walker. The club has been registered as a public company."

Chris Brockbank, former Warrington secretary-manager and a great player in his day, announced a few months previously that agreement had been arrived at to use the plot of grass in the centre of the greyhound track, which was of good turf like that at Belle Vue, Manchester. The area was quite long enough for a Rugby League pitch but was a trifle narrow - 70 yards. The Rugby League's recommended size for playing areas was 110 yards by 75 yards. The stadium was capable of housing a 10,000 crowd.

The first attempt to start a club had been made in 1950-51 when an application to join the league was turned down. A year's wait was advised. A year later rumours were spreading that a well known Lancashire Rugby League Club could be transferring "lock, stock and barrel" to Blackpool. "Could this be Belle Vue Rangers?" everyone was asking. Tom Spedding of Belle Vue denied this. As it turned out Blackpool Borough made its appearance in 1954-55 season when Belle Vue Rangers were still playing, albeit in their last season. Borough and Rangers met at home and away of the playing field.

There were one or two possible sites for the new club before a start was made at St. Annes Road.

A plan to have a ground on the Poulton Road brickworks was first. Then came a plan to use the old Stanley Airport. The Town Council actually allocated an eight acre site on the Poulton New Road at Layton in 1952.

However a start was made at the St. Annes Road Stadium, Blackpool in spite of only lukewarm support. Of the £15,000 capital visualised, only £5,967 had been subscribed stated the editorial in a club programme. At the time the club had lost every match, the programme in question from which the cutting was taken was probably for the Oldham match at Blackpool on October 2nd, 1954.

That same programme mentioned that Matt Campbell the former Rochdale Hornets loose forward and Wilson Hall the New Zealand scrum half who saw service with both Hull and Castleford in the 1930's had charge of the "A" team and they were overjoyed when Warrington "A" were beaten the previous Saturday by 16-13. The front row forward and former amateur international John Hill claimed 13 of the 16 points in what was described as a "personal triumph" for him by the club secretary.

During the last week in November Borough tasted victory in their first season when Hull Kingston Rovers were vanquished by 19-3. For those who had only known defeat, this must have been the highlight of the season for them.

The club prospectus which gave details of the lease of the greyhound stadium showed that the rent was to be £600 per annum and that the lease was for "three years certain and thereafter from year to year subject to three calendar months notice in writing to terminate the tenancy by either party."

Plans included estimated costs of £1,000 for necessary alterations at the stadium, £10,000 for players' transfer fees, £400 for the preliminary expenses and £600 for working capital.

The first playing staff included Ron Ryder, ex-Warrington and Great Britain and Royal Navy Rugby Union centre-threequarter as their skipper. Other early signings were Vincent Jolley (Widnes), Charlie Armitt (Huddersfield), Kia Rika (Halifax) and Warrington players John Bebe, Ron Fisher, Ted Higham and Ray Perkins. Altogether 42 players appeared for the first team during the inaugural season.

BATTLING BOROUGH

BLACKPOOL Borough are at Watersheddings today in the first round of the Burtonwood Brewery Lancashire Cup, and we are delighted to welcome their players, officials and spectators.

Over the years Borough have given us one or two nasty shocks and you can rest assured they will be going all out today to pull off a giant-killing act at Watersheddings.

There have been changes on and off the field at Borough Park in recent seasons, and the club is now seeking stability under the guidance of coach Tommy Dickens and his right-hand man, Norman Turley.

Borough did well to reach the final of the pre-season Wigan sevens in which loose-forward Turley, assistant player-coach, bossed the show for them, but they struggled in their opening Second Division game at Swinton, largely due to injuries and suspensions.

At full strength they will prove a difficult side to overcome in a cup-tie because they have plenty of experience in the team, and they don't come any more so than the crafty Turley, who once had a spell here at Watersheddings.

Norman is a shrewd footballer who recognises the value of tactical kicking, and you can rest assured he will pose problems for us today with his educated boot and his clever ball distribution.

Graeme Johns, the former Swinton player and a Welsh international, will probably fill the Borough's full back spot, with a large contingent of former Wigan players in the back division.

Martin Sivori, one of the ex-Central Park men, has occupied one of the wing spot for a few seasons, while former Widnes player John Stockley, fast and direct, will play on the opposite flank.

Stockley scored 19 tries last season to top the Borough try-scoring charts, and he will need no introduction to Oldham fans who will recall that he scored a fine interception try on our last visit to Borough Park.

Though Turley is assistant coach, the team captain is centre Steve Davies, another former Wigan player, who joined the Seasiders via Carlisle. Alongside him in the centre spots could well be yet another Wiganer, Alan Greenall.

Because of the long-standing broken arm injury suffered by Jimmy Green, Borough will probably pick their half-back permutation from three players — Kiwi Chris Towart, former Rochdale Hornets man Billy Price, and club stalwart Bernard Coyle.

Towart, a male nurse who works in the Preston area, has lived in England for some years, and is enjoying his rugby at Borough Park.

Coyle will be best remembered from his Wigan days, while Price joined Rochdale as a youngster and looked quite capable of making a name for himself at the Athletic Grounds.

Open-side prop John Glover certainly needs no introduction because he learned his rugby on Waterhead Park and he still lives only a short distance from Watersheddings. John is on loan to Borough from Whitehaven and he will certainly be very anxious to do well today.

Tony Waller is a vastly-experienced hooker who has joined Borough on loan from Warrington, while the blind-side prop is a player who has caused quite a stir in Rugby League circles since signing from Rugby Union in the Midlands.

The name is Hugh Waddell, a 24 year-old forward who is said to be strong, fast and powerful. Several bigger clubs took note of his displays last season and Hull K.R. were actually linked with him. If Glover is on form today, he and Waddell could form quite a strike force.

Paul Gamble, a policeman whose rugby has been affected by picket duty in the past month or two, will also be challenging for a pack place, alongside back-row man Carl Brisco, a 21 year-old from Wigan, and Steve Willis, signed from amateur rugby in the St. Helens area.



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Colin Hawkyard, who had a fine game, falls to a two-man tackle at Workington.



A determined dash from Jimmy Hornby at Workington.



Andy Goodway on the move at Workington during our record 44-2 win at Derwent Park.

BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

IT IS not exactly the voyage of discovery but the start of a new season that has so many people wondering just what lies ahead.

With the Second Division boasting so many new clubs and American sounding titles the First Division surely won't command all the interest.

But even so the major talking points surround the invasion of Australian stars and the growing feeling that there should be a limit on overseas signings for the sake of sanity.

I made my views clear last season in this column that I felt either three to four players per club was a fair enough limit for clubs.

I can see arguments for and against but I just hope that some of these highly paid stars don't come over for a holiday and that the development of the game in this country is not stunted by this trend.

There is the other thinking with some club officials clearly convinced that the fans won't turn up to watch the moderate fare provided by many of our players.

League secretary David Oxley put his cards firmly on the table at the recent Slalom Lager championship presentation lunch.

He said he felt that the final figure for this season's crop of overseas stars would be no higher than last.

He defends the signing glut and insists that there should be no limit enforced, stressing that clubs themselves are not in favour.

The signs in Sydney are that pressure is mounting weekly for the League to step in and try and put the brake on the number of stars now set to miss the first chunk of their seasons.

I cannot find much sympathy for the Aussies who showed no mercy in the early Seventies when they used the dollar glut to lure more than a dozen of our internationals to join the ranks of the Sydney clubs.

It suited their purposes then to parade the skilful Brits, who at the time were accepted as the world's most entertaining players.

Now, of course, the situation is reversed following the record breaking 1982 Kangaroo tour and it is the English clubs who feel they need the Aussie stars to bring back the fans through the turnstiles.

Strangely the gates are on the slide in Sydney with defensive systems having dominated the scene so once again they are messing about with the rules.

Just where the game is going financially in Sydney makes me wonder after my sixth trip out there but they do seem to be reaping the folly of those ridiculously high contracts handed out willy nilly to their stars.

I just hope their problems don't eat into our game but as I said earlier there is a host of intriguing questions to be answered before next May.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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

The Supporters Club would like to welcome all the players and the committee to the forthcoming season and to our visitors from Blackpool for today's Lancashire Cup match, hoping we have a good and entertaining match, we would like to invite all the supporters to our canteens situated at different parts of the ground and to our souvenir shop at the Pavilion end and the programme shop at the Waterhead end.

Souvenirs in our shop are Sweaters at £10.00 each, Sweatshirts at £8.50, and juniors £6.50, Scarves (Oldham) £2.75, Ties £3.50, Lapel Badges 65p, Blazer Badges £7.50, Patches £1.00.

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Don't forget your membership of the Supporters Club is now due £1.00, and also to all our Junior Reds, see Mr. J. Gallagher with your membership.

Welcome to the new season old and new members. Now is the time to join. Ball boys for a first, ball girls. Saturday morning social club. New sew-on badge "I am a roughyed". Contact Joe at the Social Club. Membership £1, same as last year.

RECORD WIN AT WORKINGTON

OUR 44-2 win at Workington last Sunday was the highest score ever recorded by Oldham in matches against Town.

The previous highest Oldham score was the 30-4 win achieved way back on September 2, 1958. For the record our tries last Sunday were scored by Alan McCurrie, Mick Parrish, Colin Hawkyard, Paddy Kirwan (2), Green Vigo, Andy Goodway and Paul Sherman, with Mick Parrish landing six goals to follow the six he scored against Hunslet on the opening day of the season.

The 44 points scored took our total in four consecutive First Division matches to 180 including the last two games of last season, and with last Wednesday's home clash against Widnes to come it took us to the top of the Slalom Lager championship (First Division) on scoring differences.

The match was marred by the dismissal of five players, including Oldham's Tony Ogden and Tom Nadiola, and all five were due to have their cases heard by the disciplinary committee last Thursday.

JOE THE MAN TO CONTACT

Joe Gallagher, our new social club manager, is also a member of the Oldham Supporters' Club committee and, as such, he is now taking bookings from supporters who wish to travel on the Supporters' coaches to away matches. If you wish to travel with the Supporters' to all our away games Joe is the man to contact on 624-0368.

Supporters' Club souvenirs, sweatshirts, scarves, etc can also be obtained now at the social club, so you do not need to wait for match days to purchase your club colours. Just see Joe.

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY

The preliminary and first round draws for the John Player Special Trophy will be made at Salford RLFC on Monday, October 8. This season, for the first time for several years, two amateur clubs will be allowed into the draw.

The first round matches will be played on November 18 and the second round games on December 2.



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Sunday, September 16th, 1979

Oldham 7 Leeds 31 (John Player Trophy, First Round)

Oldham: Hogan (on loan from Leigh); Munro, Larder, Ward, Fitzsimons (3 goals); Francis, Arnold; Owen, Pitts, Forster, Herbert, Walczak, Hawkyard. Fiddler (drop goal) for Walczak after 2 minutes and Ashton for Arnold 34 minutes.

Leeds: Hague (try); D. Smith (try), Wilby (2 tries), Fletcher, Atkinson; Holmes, Sanderson (try); Dickinson, Ward, Pitchford, Hetherington (5 goals), Adams (2 tries), Cookson. A. Smith for Fletcher after 4 minutes and Carroll for Pitchford 70 minutes.

Referee, R. Moore, Wakefield. Attendance 3,436. Half-time score 7-10.

TEN YEARS AGO

Saturday, September 14th, 1974

Oldham 4 1 11 Huddersfield 6 1 15 (Second Division)

Oldham: Blair; Elliott, Larder (4 goals & try), Wainwright, Holland; Treasure, Paterson; Clawson, Taylor, Hall, Hughes, Gregory, Farrell. Substitutes, Jackson did not play and Maye for Hughes.

Huddersfield: Leathley; Hooson, T. Doyle, Chamberlain, Ellis; Hartley (6 goals); Sheperd; Van Bellin, Miller, Weavill, Tomlinson (try), Welsh, J. Doyle. Substitutes, T. Davies did not play and Hepplestone for Welsh.

Referee, G.F. Lindop, Wakefield. Attendance 1,249. Half-time score 7-6.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Tuesday, September 16th, 1969

Oldham had no match about this date. The club had won two and lost five games but Wilf Briggs was one of the leading try scorers in the league. Along with Alan Buckley of Swinton and Dave Hill of Wigan he shared top place with nine tries. Next came Wilson (St. Helens) and Philbin (Swinton) with eight, then Walsh of Leigh and Frank Myler of Widnes with seven.

Kel Coslett (St. Helens) 42, Coil Tyrer (Wigan) 38, Ray Dutton (Widnes) 37, led the goalscorers, closely followed by Donnelly (Whitehaven), Kendle (York), Maloney (Hull), Price (Bradford), C. Kellett (Featherstone) and Gowers (Swinton). The top Oldham marksmen were Derek Whitehead 14 and Jim Crellin 12.



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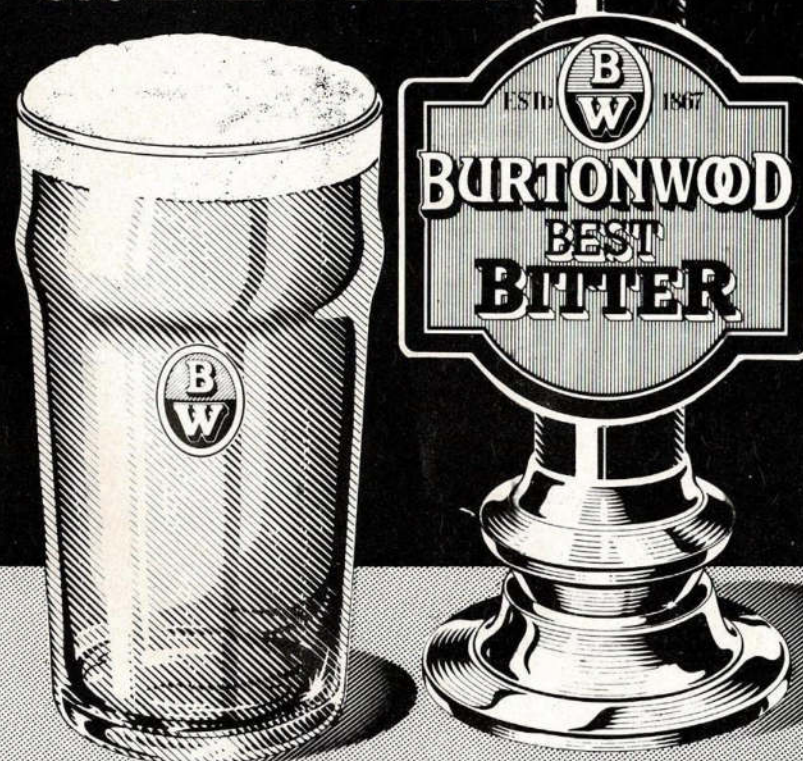
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1984

SEPTEMBER

2—Hunslet (3.00)	H
9—Workington (2.30)	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	H
16—COUNTY CUP	
23—Leeds (3.00)	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	H

OCTOBER

7—Barrow (2.30)	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	H

NOVEMBER

4—Bradford (3.00)	A
11—Hull KR (3.00)	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
25—Warrington (3.00)	A

DECEMBER

2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY	
9—Barrow (3.00)	H
16—Hull KR (3.00)	A
23—Leeds (3.00)	H
26—Widnes (3.00)	A

'a' team fixtures

1984

(Subject to change)

AUGUST

31—Salford	A
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SEPTEMBER

8—Workington	H
15—Carlisle	A
21—Widnes	H
27—Leigh	A

OCTOBER

12—Warrington	A
27—Featherstone	A

NOVEMBER

2—Bradford	H
9—Salford	H
20—Wigan	A
23—Warrington	H

DECEMBER

1—Carlisle	H
8—Barrow	A
14—Swinton	H
21—Widnes	A
28—Halifax	A

1985

JANUARY

1—Halifax (3.00)	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	H
20—Castleford (3.00)	H
27—Wigan (3.00)	A

FEBRUARY

3—Hull (3.00)	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	
17—Leigh (3.30)	A
24—CHALLENGE CUP	

MARCH

10—St. Helens (3.00)	H
17—Hull (3.00)	A
24—Hunslet (3.30)	A
31—Workington (3.00)	H

APRIL

5—Halifax (7.00)	A
8—Wigan (3.00)	H
21—Castleford (3.30)	A

1985

JANUARY

5—Barrow	H
11—Bradford	A
18—St. Helens	H
25—Wigan	H

FEBRUARY

2—Swinton	A
22—Featherstone	H

MARCH

7—St. Helens	A
15—Halifax	H
22—Leigh	H
30—Workington	A

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