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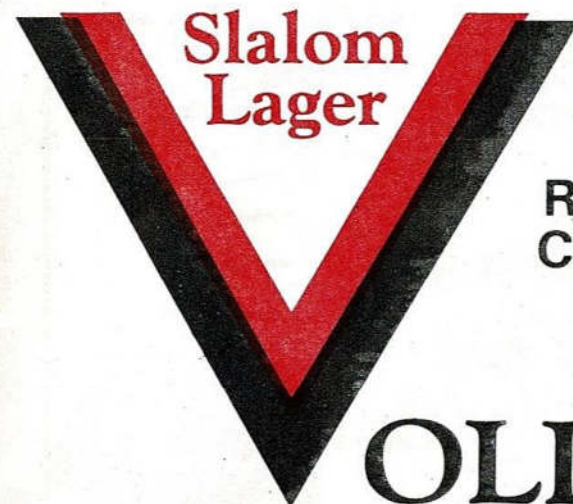


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CLUB RECORDS
Record victory 67-6 against Liverpool City, April 1959
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Record transfer fee paid £40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February 1985
Record transfer fee received
Record try scorer 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 1959
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
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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, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

AS this is our opening fixture in the 1985-6 campaign, may we take this opportunity of welcoming you all back to Watersheddings for another season of First Division football.

It promises to be another exciting, action-packed season in Rugby League and despite the game's problems arising from ground safety, financial worries, and objections to limitations imposed on the number of overseas players registered by each club, there is every reason to be optimistic about the season that began in earnest last weekend.

Whatever views you hold about the long-term affect of overseas players in our game, there is no doubt that they swell crowds, create interest, and add a new and exciting dimension to British Rugby League football.

The impact on our scene made last season by players like Brett Kenny, Peter Sterling, Mal Meninga and John Ferguson will be continued this time with another batch of imports.

But that does not mean home-produced lads are being overlooked.

As RL secretary David Oxley told the pre-season Slalom Lager Luncheon gathering: "For every Kenny there was a Hanley; for every Sterling there was a Fox; for every Meninga there was a Schofield; for every Ferguson there was a Gill."

In the season now under way there will be new names in the English game — Liddiard and Warneki here at Oldham; French and Conlon at St. Helens; Ella and Dowling at Wigan; Blake and Boyd at Warrington.

Steve Rogers will be at Widnes and there is talk of possible appearances in the English game, too, of Gene Miles and Wally Lewis.

Here at Watersheddings, we will have three Australians in the side within a few weeks — Liddiard, Warneki and a player who was well known in our game last season, Mal Graham.

Liddiard is a real flyer — a 22 year old part-Aborigine winger or full back, who comes from the Parramatta club which a year ago provided us with Paul Taylor and Chris Phelan.

Warneki is older and is a utility player from Western Suburbs, Sydney. He is at present operating at stand-off in Sydney football, but can also play centre or loose-forward and is a player who has enjoyed a good season Down Under.

Graham, a second-row or loose-forward, made a massive impact on our game last season when he scored 18 tries for Hunslet, but could not prevent them getting relegated. He impressed regularly in a side that was not one of the strongest in the First Division, and that in itself shows that he must be a good player.

At the time of writing that was the sum total of our overseas contingent, but we did, of course, enlist the services of former Great Britain skipper David Topliss early in the close season, and we will be hoping that our record buy, David Hobbs, will have better luck this year than he did following his signing at the back end of last season.

Topliss comes to Oldham as one of the most experienced middle backs in the English game and we will be looking to him to bring a bit more organisation into the middle of the field and use his know-how to bring out the best in the backs.

Finally, we have to record the departure of Andy Goodway for a substantial fee to the Wigan club.

No club likes to see a departure of good players, and you can rest assured that no one at Watersheddings relished the thought of losing a player of Andy's ability.

Suffice to say that it was the unanimous verdict of all concerned that the transfer had to go through in the best interests of both parties.

A whole season of top-class football now lies ahead of us and it will be a season in which the Oldham club, like the Rugby League as a whole, rises up to meet the challenges thrown down to us over the next eight months.

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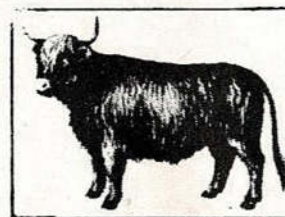
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Historical Notes on Swinton Football Club

The Swinton Church Magazine of October 1866 recorded the fact that the members of the local cricket club decided to have football during the winter months on Saturday afternoons.

The bulk of the early games were side matches with a break from the monotony with the annual matches against the local volunteer regiment, the Number 1 Company, 46th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers. These were veritable red letter days said the club historian.

The first match on an organised basis was on January 2nd 1868 when two sides of seven players each turned out. The game was much on a par with soccer.

The Rugby Union was formed in 1871 and on October 16th of that year a meeting of the club members held at St. Peter's School adopted the rules of the newly formed national body and the club became the Swinton and Pendlebury Football Club. In due course that was altered to Swinton Football Club.

The first president was William Longshaw an employer who served in that capacity until his death in 1888, John Dorning was secretary, George Townsend, treasurer and the committee consisted of R. Dorning, N. Howarth, E. Farr, J.T. McLaren and J. Owen. Captain Harry Longshaw of the Volunteers was the first captain but in 1872 his brother Walter, a powerful forward took over until 1879, during which time the club had that glorious run of three successive years without defeat.

In 1873 the games were 20 a side, later reduced to 15 a side. There could be two full backs, one three-quarter, two or three half-backs and the rest of the players were forwards. It was a trial of strength when a scrum was formed.

An old magazine, "Goal" contained an article in 1873-74. The writer deplored the loss of the old game. "Full Hacking" instead of present "Shoving."

The writer added that "hooking with the hand is certainly illegal and with the foot unsporting." Obviously the opposition had to be shoved off the ball to allow it to be taken up.

Surprisingly C.W. Allcock, secretary of the Football Association, did not mention Swinton in his "Football Annual" although he did refer to Manchester, Warrington, Rochdale Hornets, Sale, Bradford, York and Hull.

The first printed accounts published in August 1879 that with £32 brought forward the club finished with £34 to start the following season. A sum of £163 had been taken at the gate, members' subscriptions had totalled £5 and honorary members had paid £22. On the expenditure side £45 was shown for railway and omnibus fares and £26 for entertaining visiting teams.

By 1888-89, the season the Maoris came over, gate money had reached £1,261 and subscriptions had amounted to £134. Travelling expenses had soared to £178 and entertainment for visiting teams to £132.

By this time Swinton were meeting Yorkshire clubs from Halifax, Wakefield Trinity, Kirkstall and Dewsbury and matches had been arranged with the leading club Manchester.

Leading clubs who arranged fixtures with the Lions included Oxford University, Edinburgh University, Durham City, Moseley, Leicester, Burton, Edinburgh High School, Hartlepool Rovers, Hawick, Kettering, Swansea, Cardiff, Llanelli, Devonport Albion, Bective Rangers (Dublin) and Douglas (Isle of Man) plus such clubs as Wigan, Warrington, Oldham, St. Helens and Rochdale Hornets.

There were scores of outstanding players in those early years but James Valentine is probably the best known. From 1883-84 to 1897-98 he scored 354 tries, 176 placed goals, 21 dropped goals, 7 penalty goals and 2 from free kicks after a mark had been made when a player caught a kicked ball cleanly.

With regret we record the death of Tom Webb, who over the years has been one of our most stalwart supporters. We offer our deepest condolences to Molly and family. We will all miss his programme notes which he has supplied free of charge over many years.

At Tom's own request we have scattered his ashes on the playing area.

WELCOME TO SWINTON

BRING ON THE LIONS

TONIGHT we welcome Swinton to Watersheddings — and the Lions will certainly be roaring as they bid to establish themselves in the First Division by making a flying start.

They came out of the Second Division as champions with 24 wins and a draw out of their 28 league matches to continue a winning habit that began when that canny Cumbrian Jim Crellin took over control at Station Road early in the previous season.

Swinton were sixth off the bottom of the Second Division when Crellin succeeded Tom Grainey on November 6, 1983.

It was just after Bonfire Night, but there has been no shortage of fireworks at Station Road since then.

The Lions won 17 out of their remaining 23 league matches that season to finish just two places outside the promotion bunch.

Following up with last season's championship record, Swinton can now boast an 81.5 per cent win rate in Second Division football under Crellin's command.

It reads: won 41, drawn 1, lost nine — not a bad record with which to take into the top flight.

Crellin knows better than anyone, though that life with the Lions will be a whole lot tougher this season.

"I am taking an inexperienced side into the unknown," he says, "but we have a few things in our favour and I think we will surprise one or two.

"Our team spirit is excellent, we have a burning will to win, we are a fit, young side, and we possess individual skills."

With another Cumbrian, Bill Holliday, as his assistant and with Mike Pearce as 'A' team boss, the Swinton management have put their faith in youth over the past year or two.

Sixteen young players have been signed in the past 18 months — several of them from the Oldham area.

Mark Rowbottom, Alex Melling, Steve Walsh, Darren Connor, Adrian Oxendale and Darren Chadwick, have all signed pro forms at Station Road from youth rugby in this area.

There are currently two more Oldham boys on trial there — Sean Whitehead, a loose-forward, and Mark Smalley, an outside-half.

Says Crellin, whom many Oldham fans will remember as a Watersheddings centre in the 1960s, "We have been bold enough to gamble on youth and all the hard work will produce the pay-off in about three years time, by which time we will hopefully be established in the First Division."

The latest youngster to sign for the Lions is centre or full back Paul Topping from the Wigan St. Pat's club — a player who had Great Britain youth honours and who was sought by several clubs.

Mark Viller (21), a star of Swinton's success in winning the Wigan sevens, will stake his claim for full back, while Topping could challenge Alan Ratcliffe and Clive Hunter for one of the centre spots.

Ken Jones and Derek Bate will be the front-line wingmen, with Welshman Danny Wilson looking favourite for the stand-off job, especially as Steve Snape will be out for a month with a hand injury.

The job of wearing the No. 7 shirt will be between Martin Lee and Willie Johnstone while, up front, there will be a return to Watersheddings for the veteran of the side, 35 year old prop Alan Hodgkinson, the former Rochdale stalwart.

Hodgkinson is at Swinton on loan from Barrow and is the anchor man in a young Lions pack which could see Brian Higgins or Alex Melling at hooker and Garry Arrowsmith or Bill Barrett at No. 10.

With Mark Rowbottom and Alan Derbyshire, last season's skipper, on the injured list, Jeff Brown looks a certainty for the second-row where he could be partnered by either 19 year old Mike Holliday or another youngster, former De La Salle RU man, John Horrocks.

Les Holliday, 21, will be at loose-forward in a side whose average age of 22 confirms the emphasis placed on youth by the management team and the board of directors.

Both Holliday boys are products of Folly Lane and the sons of assistant coach Bill. If they are half as good as Dad, a player who was a key member of the Rochdale Hornets side during Frank Myler's days at the Athletic Ground, they will serve Swinton well.

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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

The big question on the lips of Rugby League fans, players and officials is can this season live up to exciting pitch to which the game soared last term?

There is every reason to believe it can with the visit of the powerfully equipped New Zealand touring side and another 'invasion' of crowd pulling Australian stars.

Last season was approached with a rather low profile following the Great Britain tour defeats in Australia and New Zealand. No one anticipated the memorable moments that were to unfold right through to the death in May.

Now everyone is anxiously keyed up to see which side emerge as the pace-setters this season.

Will Wigan, after snaring Steve Ella, Greg Dowling and Andy Goodway during the summer, justify the bookies faith as title favourites?

Will Warrington, deserving to win back those missing thousands from Wilderspool, reap the rewards for their captures. Aussie forward Les Boyd, Kiwi ace Kevin Tamati and Britain's Alan Rathbone give their pack a formidable look and the prospect of young Sydney star Phil Blake partnering Andy Gregory is an exciting one.

Last season Ellery Hanley hogged the headlines week in and week out as he swept to a record breaking 55 tries and Bradford Northern have set Odsal buzzing with the signing of the prolific scoring John Woods.

Bradford also have a new coach, former Leeds and Great Britain star Barry Seabourne taking over from Peter Fox, who has moved on to Headingley.

Can Fox bring Leeds the success that eluded them last season as they await the arrival of the brilliant young Australian half back Cliff Lyons.

Widnes can't wait to see Australian great Steve Rogers pull on a jersey at Naughton Park. Steve has been a world class centre for a long time but Widnes plan to cash in on his great club experience at loose forward.

St. Helens had to find a top replacement for mighty Mal Meninga and hope that Balmain's Ross Conlon, now working out well in the centre with Frank Stanton can keep the fans rolling in.

Oldham have been busy persuading Australian forward Mal Graham to join them along with pacy Sydney star David Liddiard.

Halifax are going to need watching with bearded Canterbury forward Geoff Robinson and Queensland's exciting full-back Joe Kilroy among their top captures.

Salford are looking to Canterbury forward Brian Battese to stiffen up their pack while Swinton also seek to consolidate on their return to the First Division.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

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The Supporters Club Committee and Members would like to welcome everyone to the coming season hoping that we can have a very successful season. Tonights visitors Swinton, newly promoted from the Second Division, we welcome them back to Watersheddings once again for a good, clean and entertaining game. We invite the supporters to visit our, souvenir shop and programme shop situated at different parts of the ground.

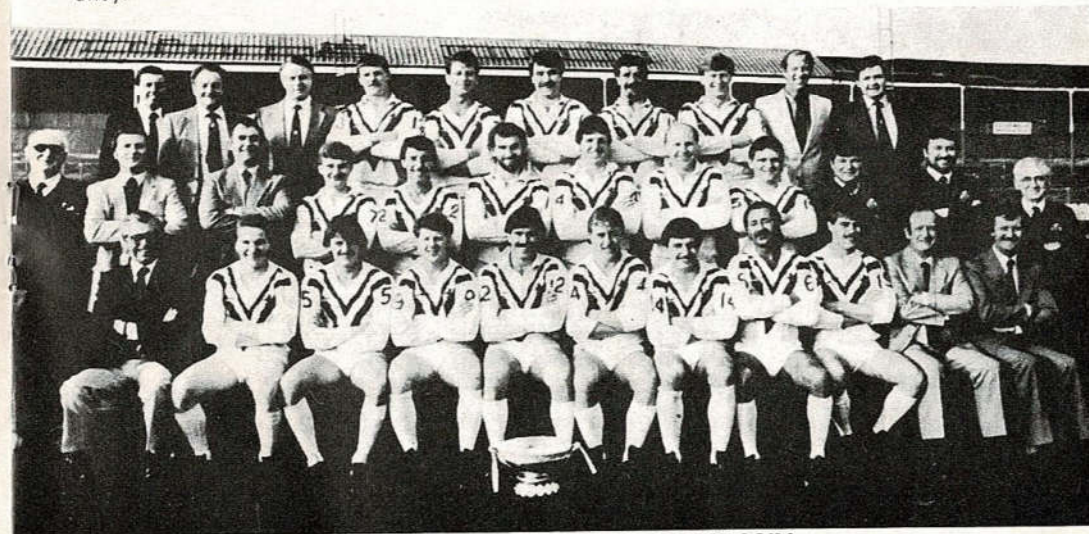
The Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion End of the ground has Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Ties, Badges, Pens etc.

The Supporters Club will be running coaches to Leigh for the County Cup Tie on Sunday September 15th and to Hull on Sunday September 22nd. Please ask for details at canteens, or phone the Social Club.

The Supporters Club subscriptions are now due. Come and join the Supporters Club Membership £1.00 (including diary). Please pay at any canteen. Also to all our Junior Reds, their membership to Mr. J. Gallagher in the Social Club.

The Supporters Club are hoping to hold a Car Boot Sale on the car park if the response is great enough. Please give your names in at any canteen. It will be held on a Sunday morning.

The Supporters Club would like to say to our new mascot Miss Joanne Kirkham, the first young lady to take on the job of leading the team on to the field, a very happy and successful season with us, and to our mascot Andrew Whittaker of last season we say thank you for attending all the matches, home and away.



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The launch of the 1985-86 Slalom Lager Championship and Second Division programme is celebrated by featuring Rugby League's most attractive "front row".

The glamorous threesome is newly appointed Rugby League Personality Girl, Caroline Wilson (left), newly crowned Miss Slalom Lager, Kay Fawcett (centre) and Slalom Lager Promotional Girl, Pat Morgan.

A former Miss Lovely Legs, Bolton based Caroline will be carrying out modelling and promotional duties for the Rugby League throughout the new campaign, while Kay, from Blackburn, won her title last May.

Slalom Lager will again be mounting an extensive promotional campaign to support their 1985-86 £95,000 sponsorship investment in the Championship, Second Division and Premiership competitions, together with a newly announced backing of the Rugby League Alliance.

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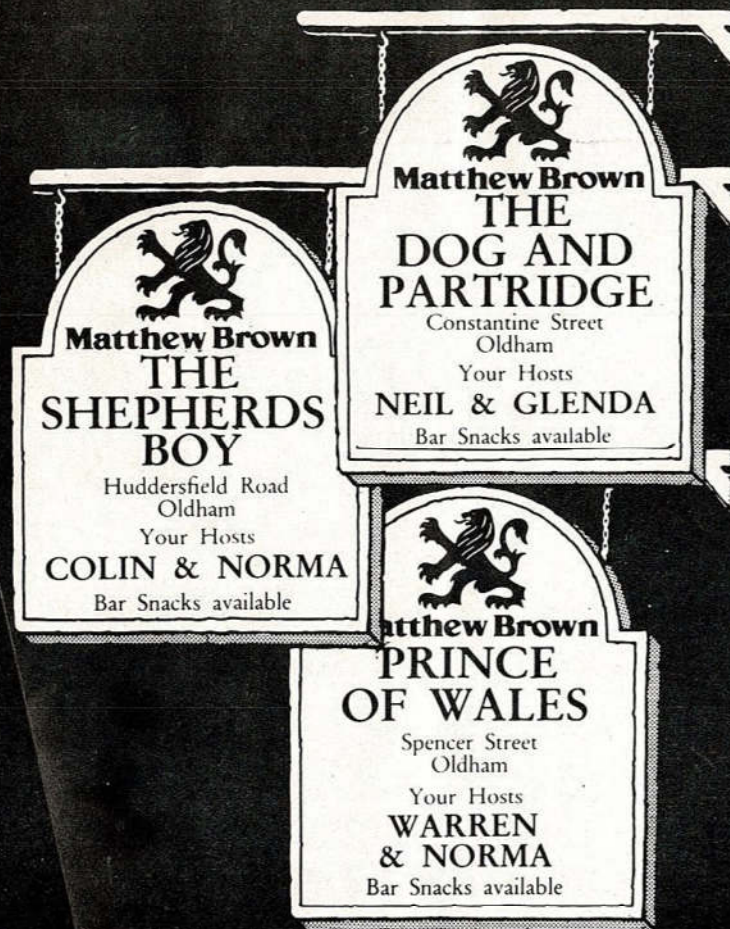
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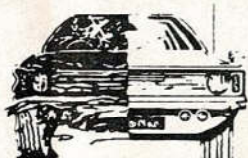
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1985

SEPTEMBER

1—Halifax
4—Swinton (7.30)
8—Leeds
15—County Cup (1)
22—Hull
29—Warrington

OCTOBER

6—Featherstone (3.30)
13—Salford
20—Castleford

NOVEMBER

3—Bradford (3.30)
10—Hull
17—Dewsbury (3.30)
24—John Player Special (1)

DECEMBER

1—John Player Special (2)
8—Salford
15—Dewsbury
22—Hull K.R.
26—Widnes

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1986

JANUARY

1—Leeds
5—Featherstone
12—York
19—Castleford (3.30)
26—St. Helens

FEBRUARY

2—Warrington
9—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (1)
16—Halifax
23—Silk Cut Challenge Cup (2)

MARCH

2—Hull K.R.
16—Widnes
23—Wigan
28—Swinton
31—Wigan

APRIL

6—Bradford
13—York (3.30)
20—St. Helens

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