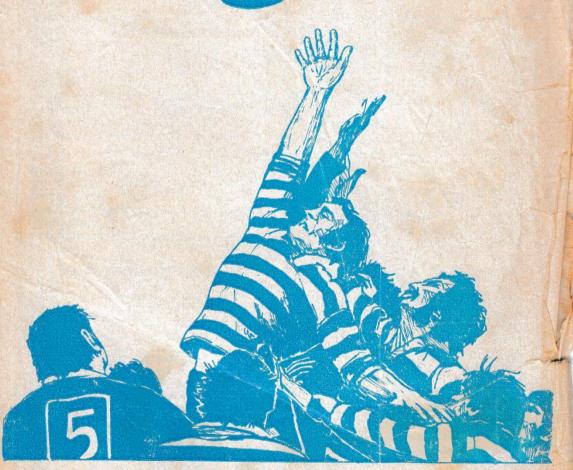
J. Watkins

# SALE FOOTBALL



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

## SALE V GLOUCESTER

Saturday, 19th April, 1980 Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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The state of the s				-
SALE			GLOUCESTER	
Colour: Blue & white				
15 S. LOWDEN	X	Full Back	15 P. BUTLER	*
14 K. HUGHES		Wing	14 R. CLEWES (Capt.)	
13 A. WRIGHT	+	Centre	13 R. MOGG	+
12 H. POOLE		Centre	12 D. POYNTON	
11 J. FISHER		Wing	11 P. TUNSTALL	
10 A. PHILLIPS	X	Fly Half	10 C. PRICE	
9 A. BARTON		Scrum Half	9 P. KINGSTON	*
1 T. SIMON	X	Forwards	1 G. SARGEANT	+
2 A. SIMPSON	+		2 S. MILLS	+
3 E. BASSETT			3 S. ASHMEAD	
4 R. KASCOW	X		4 S. BOYLE	+
5 D. HICKS	X		5 J. FIDLER	+
6 R. CREED (Capt.)	*		6 J. WATKINS	*
7 P. SHERRATT			7 J. ORWIN	
8 M. MURRAY	X		8 P. WOOD	
Replacements:			Replacements	
I. McKIE	+		S. BAKER	
A. PERCIVAL	X		A. BROOKS	
		~		
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VIKINGS FIXTURES									
Sept. 1-Morley H W37- 3									
8—Manch'ster A W 6- 7									
12—									
15—Birk'd Pk. A W 7-25									
19—									
22_Coventry HW 7- 6									
29—Chester C H W13- 6									
29—Chester C. H W13- 6 Oct. 6—Moseley A L27- 9									
13-Vale of Lune A									
20-O. Aldwinians H									
27_Man University A									
Nov. 3—Harrogate A									
10-Huddersfield A									
17-Nottingham H									
24—Livernool H									
Dec. 1—Cov. Welsh H									
5—									
8—Waterloo H 15—Headingley H									
15—Headingley H									
22-Broughton Park H									
26—O. Salians A									
29—Fylde A									
1980									
Jan. 1-Manchester H									
5-New Brighton A									
12—De La Salle A									
19—									
26—Alsager A									
Feb. 2—Liverpool A 9—O. Salians H									
9—O. Salians H									
16—Bradford A									
23—Roundhay A									
Mar. 1—Gosforth A									
8—Halifax A									
15—Orrell A									
22—Leicester A 29—Wakefield H									
29—Wakefield H									

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IN THE years to come when the analysts examine Sale's playing record this season they will dismiss it as merely mediocre for a club that can justifiably boast to be one of the best in the north,

But the figures — and unfortunately this is the yardstick by which clubs are too often judged—do not tell the story of Sale's record breaking success. The merit table placing will show that Sale failed badly after promising to set a pace that would be too hot for most of the challengers—not that three players helped England to the "Grand Slam", that six players were in the North of England team that achieved the historic victory over the All Blacks, and that seven of them played for Lancashire in their triumphant march to the county championship.

This is a record no other club in the country can equal this season, and it is only in the light of this sort of success that the club's results in normal fixture commitments can be judged. On this basis, Sale have had a tremendous season, and despite the disappointments of recent performances and the slide down the merit table this should be remembered by the club's critics.

The decline in the club's fortunes can be attributed directly to the start of the county 'season', which was followed by the international programme. Key players were missing for long spells and when they eventually returned other players were absent through injury. The combination of these circumstances had an unsettling effect, and although this in no way excuses some of the lackadaisical displays that have angered and frustrated supporters in recent weeks it certainly contributed to them.

Even though the slide down the merit table has been alarming, especially as Sale have lost by a narrow margin games in which they have scored more tries than their opponents, there is still plenty to be optimistic about as the season draws to a close.

A place in next season's streamlined merit table is guaranteed on Sale's placings in recent years, and entry into next season's John Player Cup competition is the spur in next Wednesday's Cheshire Cup Final at Wilmslow (kick-off 7 p.m.).

Vociferous encouragement in this match is vital if Sale are to succeed against determined opponents keen to do a giant-killing act. Lymm have organised a large party of supporters to travel to Wilmslow and have even had the confidence to arrange a dance in their own clubhouse after the match—an event they are hoping will be a victory celebration.

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They will certainly have plenty to celebrate if they end Sale's unbeaten record in the competition that has already brought the trophy to Heywood Road eight times.

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Hence the plea to Sale's supporters to turn up in strength at Wilmslow and give the team the encouragement needed to lift the trophy for the ninth time.

TODAY'S match against our old and valued friends from Gloucester ends the season at Heywood Road, and a formidable battle it should prove to be if past encounters are the guide.

Gloucester's last visit was in 1976, when they won 13-3, but Sale have happier memories of their visit earlier in the season in the second round of the John Player Cup.

Sale won that match 16-15, and went on to beat London Welsh in the quarter finals before losing to Gosforth in the

Since then Sale have visited Gloucester twice and lost each time so the odds must be weighed in the West Country club's favour.

WELCOME back to Richard Trickey, who played his first game last week for the club since his protracted lay-off after his operation. Richard turned out for the Vikings and showed much of his old enthusiasm and ability. He is again selected for the Vikings today.

FINAL REMINDER: Tickets, priced £6 each, are available from Peter Tasker for the club's annual dinner at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham, on Friday,

A HOT POT luncheon is being held in the clubhouse on Sunday to pay tribute to England's "Grand Slam" heroes— Fran Cotton, Steve Smith and Tony Bond.

### MERIT TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	%
Orrell	18	16	1	275	121	33	93.67
Fylde	11	10	1	170	111	20	90.91
W. Hartlepl	13	10	3	200	104	20	76.92
Roundhay	16	11	3	283	111	24	75.00
Gosforth	12	8	4	281	124	16	66.67
Liverpool	16	10	5	221	133	21	65.63
Northern	14	8	4	197	122	18	64.29
Wakefield	18	11	7	208	296	22	61.11
Waterloo	10	6	4	181	62	12	60.00
Bro. Pk.	19	11	8	288	227	22	57.89
Harrogate	19	8	7	239	216	20	52.63
Sheffield	14	6	5	193	227	15	53.57
SALE	11	5	5	214	89	11	50.00
Wilmslow	19	9	10	199	322	18	47.37
Morley	17	8	9	182	187	16	47.06
H'pool R	12	4	6	100	115	10	41.67
N. Brighton	14	5	8	146	152	11	39.29
Headingley	18	6	12	177	249	12	33.33
Bk'head Pk	13	3	9	117	257	7	26.92
Middsbro	13	2	11	92	220	4	15.38
Hudd'field	14	2	12	81	230	4	14.29
Hull & ER	16	2	14	135	289	5	12.50
Manchester	15	1	14	68	378	2	6.67

### Qualifying Tables for 1980/81

Qualifying Tables for 1980/81

Four-Season Table (9 qualify): Orrell (79.45)
Gosforth (78.75), Liverpool (77.68), Waterloo (71.43), Fylde (70.65), Roundhay (66.67),
Wakefield (60.38), Sale (60), Broughton Pk.
(57.76), Non-Qualifiers: Wilmslow (46.61),
Northern (43.14), Headingley (36.67).

One Season Table (six qualify): West Hartlepool (80), Northern (66.57), Sheffield
(59.38), Harrogate (57.14), Morley (52.64),
Hartlepool R. (50). Current Non-Qualifiers:
Wilmslow (47.62), N. Brighton (40.63), Birkenhead Park (36.67), Headingley (35), Halifax (27.27), Huddersfield (25), Midlesb-ough
(20), Manchester (17.65), Bradford (16.67),
Hull & ER (11.11). Hull & ER (11.11).