Theme 4

The Origins of the Clubs

Pupil Resource Sheet 1b

Barrow: founded in 1875 by Tom Baynes, a working man who was a shipping clerk in Barrow.

Batley: founded in 1880 when Batley Cricket Club invited other local sports' clubs to join them. Batley Athletic Club was accepted and the two clubs formed the Batley Cricket, Athletic and Football Club, which played rugby in the winter.

Bradford: founded in 1863 by Oates Ingham, a former public schoolboy and a local businessman who owned a dye works; in 1907 it changed from rugby to football and changed its name to Bradford Park Avenue; members who wanted rugby to continue formed a new rugby club, Bradford Northern, which took the place of the old Bradford club.

Bramley: founded in 1879 by the Reverend Cope and other local clergymen.

Dewsbury: founded in 1875 by pub landlord William Blackburn, who ran the Little Saddle Inn, and by the working men who were his friends and customers.

Featherstone Rovers: founded in 1902 by miners who worked at the local colliery (coal mine).

Halifax: founded in 1873 by local working men who answered advertisements placed by local businessman Mr S Duckett of brass-founding company William Duckett and Co.

Huddersfield: grew from an athletics club founded in 1864; this club started a rugby football section in 1866; in 1875 it joined with St John's Cricket Club, who played at Fartown, to become 'The Huddersfield Cricket and Athletic Club'.

Hull: founded in 1865 by three local businessmen – the head of a steamship company, a wine and spirit merchant and a local solicitor, all ex-public schoolboys; at first the club was based at a local parish church.

Hull Kingston Rovers: founded in 1883 as Kingston amateurs by local businessmen and working men who were boilermakers.

Hunslet: founded in 1883 when Hunslet Cricket Club granted £30 to Excelsior and Albion amateur rugby football clubs to join them as Hunslet Cricket and Football Club; Hunslet Rugby Club was a new branch of this club.

Keighley: founded in 1876; the Reverend F Marriner, an ex-public schoolboy who had close family connections with the owners of local worsted mills, was a main organiser of the club and its first president.

Leeds: founded as Leeds St John's in 1870, at first membership was limited to members of St John's church. The club later allowed non-church people to be members, joined with other clubs and changed its name to Leeds in 1890.

Leigh: founded in 1877 by local businessman Fred Ulph, a surveyor.

Oldham: founded in 1876 by mill owners Fred Wild and Alfred Emmott, local Chief Constable Charles Hodgkinson and the Chairman of the Watch Committee (the committee in charge of the police), William Chadwick. Alfred Emmott was later to become Lord Emmott and Member of Parliament for Oldham.

Rochdale Hornets: founded in 1871 when Rochdale Wasps, Rochdale United and Rochdale Football Club, clubs run by the sons of local businessmen who had learnt the game at public school, joined together. Local working men also helped to run the club.

Salford: founded in 1879 after local boys living in Cavendish Street in Salford formed their own team; originally called Cavendish Football Club they changed their name to Salford in 1879.

St Helens: founded in 1874 by William Douglas Herman, the head chemist at Pilkington Brothers, Britain's largest glass-making company; Herman was an ex-public schoolboy.

Swinton: founded in 1867 by the members of Swinton Cricket Club.

Wakefield Trinity: founded in 1873 as part of the young men's society of the local Holy Trinity Church.

Warrington: founded in 1875 when the Warrington Zingari Football Club, which played rugby and was founded by local businessman Thomas Grix, joined with the Padgate Football Club.

Widnes: founded in 1873 when the working men in the villages of Farnworth and Appleton formed the Farnworth and Appleton Cricket and Football Club; the name was changed to Widnes in 1876.

Wigan: founded in 1872 by the members of Wigan Cricket Club.

York: founded in 1868 by ex-pupils of St Peter's public school.