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Secretary's Message

Dear Reader,

May I first of all thank you for buying this year book, and I hope that you enjoy the pages of information and photographs about the team that we in Oldham support. We in the Supporters' Club with the help of the O.F.C. committee hope to have a new canteen opened by the beginning of the season, it will be sited on the pavilion side of the ground.

I am sure that many of us want to forget the 1967-68 season and if you are like me you will be looking forward to the new season.

As Secretary of the Supporters' Club I would like to thank all the people who have in some way helped the committee to make a profit in the region of £160, this has been done by a hard working committee along with a handful of people who I wish to thank.

We congratulate Mr. H. Jones on being elected Chairman of Oldham Football Club and hope that the club will be amongst the honours at the end of the season. If you feel you can help in some way contact me on match days, or ask when the committee meets in the new Social Club.

Yours Faithfully,

A. CRAIG

Secretary, O.F.C.S.C.

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Message from the President of the Supporters' Club

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Once again I have the pleasure to contribute an introduction to our Supporters' Handbook. In this day and age the value of an active, vigorous body of support has in the main been recognised by most leading clubs, we for our part must always live up to the title of "Supporters' Club", and as the name implies, provide support to our own club and the game in general.

Presentation of this Handbook gives the opportunity to recall the efforts and events of the past year and to outline the hopes and aspirations of the new, and this we trust will be a bright one in which the football standard will be as "high as the floodlight standards" and quite as brilliant as the lights.

The Oldham Football Club are trying their hardest to make improvements in the team where weaknesses are apparent, but we must realise that the purchase price of good players is now very high indeed and only continued and increased support can bring about such improvements.

If you are not a member of the Supporters' Club, then why not "join", it is only one shilling per season and registration forms can be obtained from any Committee-man, or at the Canteens and Social-Club.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. H. Jones and his committee for their support, also our Coach, Mr. Helm and his playing staff for last seasons good efforts and hope that the coming season will bring with it the luck which is also necessary to bring home the honours I am sure we are yet still capable of achieving.

Don't forget friends!

"Support your Club, Join the Supporters' Club".

Yours Sincerely,

W. HILTON

President O.F.C.S.C.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

SEASON 1968/69

1968	Opponents	Ground	F	A
Aug. 17	Huddersfield	Away		
19	BLACKPOOL	Home	.....	.....
24	FEATHERSTONE	Home	.....	.....
28	Rochdale H.	Away	.....	.....
31	Workington	Away	.....	.....
Sept. 6	Rochdale H.	Away	.....	.....
	(Lancashire Cup 1st Round)			
9	Blackpool	Away	.....	.....
14	Hunslet	Away	.....	.....
21	WIGAN	Home	.....	.....
28	Doncaster	Away	.....	.....
Oct. 5	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	.....	.....
12	Featherstone R.	Away	.....	.....
19	WIDNES	Home	.....	.....
25	Salford	Away	.....	.....
Nov. 2	WHITEHAVEN	Home	.....	.....
9	Wigan	Away	.....	.....
16	WARRINGTON	Home	.....	.....
23	Whitehaven	Away	.....	.....
30	St. Helens	Away	.....	.....
Dec. 7	HUNSLET	Home	.....	.....
14	LEIGH	Home	.....	.....
20	Widnes	Away	.....	.....
26	SWINTON	Home	.....	.....
28	Warrington	Away	.....	.....

1969	Opponents	Ground	F	A
Jan. 4	HUYTON	Home	.....	.....
11	Huyton	Away	.....	.....
18	SALFORD	Home	.....	.....
Feb. 1	Leigh	Away	.....	.....
8	ST. HELENS	Home	.....	.....
Mar. 1	WORKINGTON	Home	.....	.....
8	BARROW	Home	.....	.....
15	DONCASTER	Home	.....	.....
Apr. 4	Swinton	Away	.....	.....
7	ROCHDALE	Home	.....	.....
11	Barrow	Away	.....	.....

Times of kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m.
Evening k.o. times as advertised
All 1st and "A" team matches

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By ROGER HALSTEAD

(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

Oldham have turned their backs now on the 1967-68 season — and there will be no sly glances over the shoulder. Let's face it, no one wants to look back the season past. The Challenge Cup run apart, it was one of those seasons which officials and supporters dread — a transitional period with players coming and going, made all the more uncertain because of an unusually-large crop of injuries

The disappointments were eased somewhat for members by the £8,000 profit, although the cream is taken from the cake when a fair portion of that profit comes from a reduced wage bill.

However, thoughts are now on the new season. What has it got in store for us? Will there be an improvement on last term?

These have been the talking points during the summer lay-off and, generally, the fans seem confident of better fortunes.

Certainly, the season cannot be worse than last. In fact, given a reasonable amount of luck, I feel Oldham could be back to the level they occupied in the three previous seasons — around tenth position in the table.

For this to materialise, however, there will have to be a tremendous improvement in the team's defensive play.

Supporters want more tries. Who can blame them? The best form of defence is attack. But we must not lose sight of the fact that, while the try scoring record last season was comparable with others in recent seasons, the defence record was appalling.

Oldham conceded 127 tries — a fantastic defensive slide when compared with 1966-7 (79), 65-6 (87) and 64-5 (66).

Of course, things invariably run badly for a team that is down and had the side enjoyed more success it is doubtful that so many tries would have been conceded.

How many times did a team with poor morale in the early part of the season open up the flood gates once the opposition got a few points in front?

I suppose this is inevitable and no doubt there will be a big improvement defensively if the side can get that all-important psychological "lift" from a degree of success in the early part of the season.

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Oldham supporters have been starved of something to really shout about for long enough. The hard core remain faithful but if the crowd potential in the town is to be really "tapped", there needs to be consistently-sound and slick shows . . . with perhaps a trophy thrown in.

The big crowds for the Bradford and Leeds cup matches showed that the town will respond to Oldham — providing the goods are put in the shop window.

It is foolhardy and pointless thinking to argue that it is up to supporters to attend matches.

The club, after all, is selling a commodity . . . professional football. If the salesmen are good, the results will come. If they are not so good, the product will remain on the production line unsold.

It is up to the salesmen — or the committee in this case — to see that their product falls in line with demands of the market it serves.

And the market at present wants, first and foremost, a football team on the field.

The Social Club and the stand alterations are all very well. But let's have the team pulling in the crowds as the top priority.

I have heard it said that the committee are hoping for much better returns from the Social Club this year.

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St. Helens	34	24	1	9	472	334	49
Warrington	34	24	0	10	539	290	48
Bradford Northern ...	34	24	0	10	560	309	48
Leigh	34	22	1	11	426	254	45
Castleford	34	22	1	11	520	344	45
Salford	34	22	0	12	470	313	44
Workington	34	21	1	12	522	355	43
Wigan	34	21	0	13	602	350	42
Hull	34	21	0	13	530	432	42
Halifax	34	19	2	13	441	459	40
Swinton	34	18	1	15	485	448	37
Huddersfield	34	17	2	15	343	336	36
Widnes	34	17	1	16	538	420	35
Dewsbury	34	17	0	17	329	426	34
Featherstone	34	16	0	18	455	437	32
Barrow	34	14	0	20	420	485	28
Bramley	34	14	0	20	380	498	28
Hunslet	34	13	0	21	430	507	26
OLDHAM	34	13	0	21	433	559	26
HORNETS	34	13	0	21	335	489	26
Liverpool City	34	11	2	21	363	493	24
Whitehaven	34	10	1	23	300	577	21
York	34	9	1	24	368	687	19
Keighley	34	8	0	26	295	475	16
Blackpool Borough ...	34	6	1	27	307	634	13
Doncaster	34	4	2	28	264	768	10
Batley	34	4	1	29	247	711	9

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	1968	Opponents	Ground	F	A
Aug.	31	—WORKINGTON	Home		
Sept.	7	—Rochdale (Shield)	Away		
	14	—ROCHDALE (shield)	Home	.....	.....
	21	—Wigan	Away	.....	.....
Oct.	12	—ROCHDALE	Home	.....	.....
	19	—Widnes	Away	.....	.....
	26	—SALFORD	Home	.....	.....
Nov.	2	—Whitehaven	Away	.....	.....
	9	—WIGAN	Home	.....	.....
	16	—Warrington	Away	.....	.....
	23	—WHITEHAVEN	Home	.....	.....
	30	—ST. HELENS...	Home	.....	.....
Dec.	14	—Leigh	Away	.....	.....
	20	—WIDNES	Home	.....	.....
	28	—WARRINGTON	Home	.....	.....

	1969	Opponents	Ground	F	A
Jan.	4	—Huyton	Away	.....	.....
	11	—HUYTON	Home	.....	.....
	18	—Salford	Away	.....	.....
Feb.	1	—LEIGH	Home	.....	.....
	8	—St. Helens	Away	.....	.....
Mar.	1	—Workington Town	Away	.....	.....
	8	—Barrow	Away		
	21	—Swinton	Away		
Apr.	4	—Rochdale	Away		
	12	—BARROW	Home		
	19	—SWINTON	Home		

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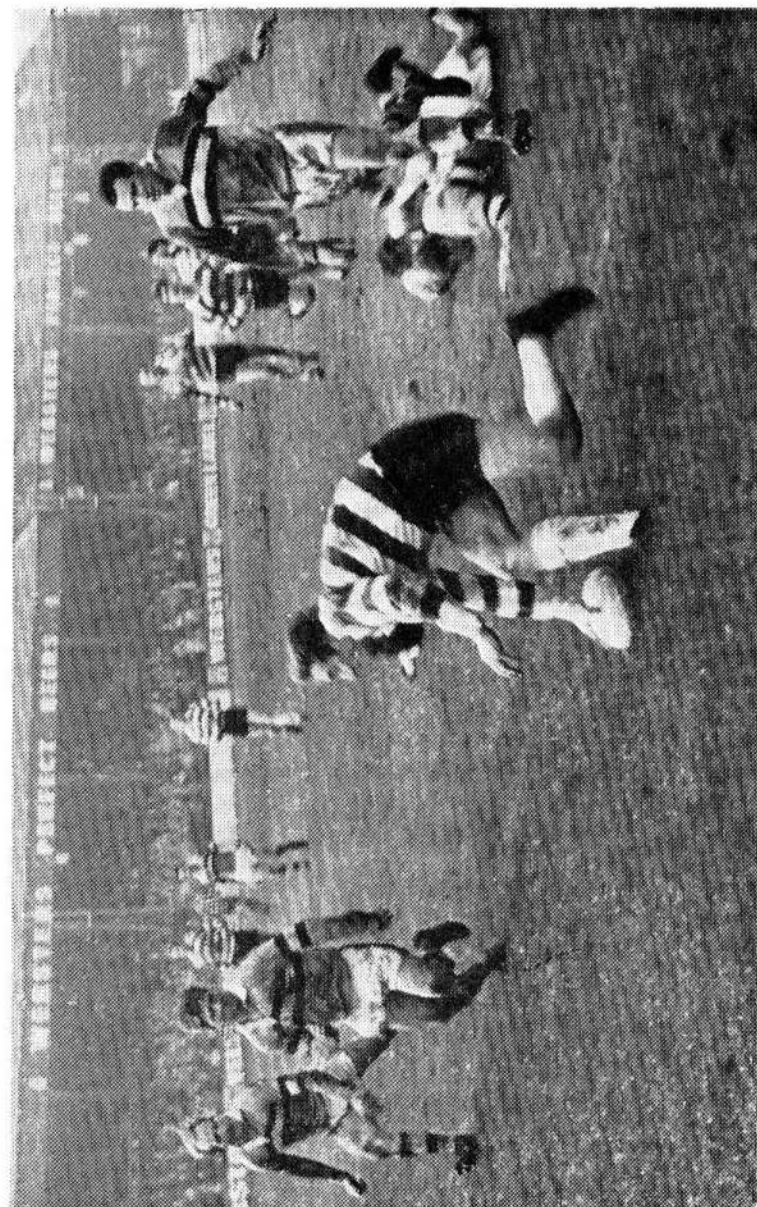
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A. Hughes	...	...	...	30	0	3	9
K. Wilson	...	...	...	30	2	2	10
M. Elliott	...	...	...	28	0	10	30
G. Fletcher	...	...	...	27	0	7	21
B. Curry	...	...	...	25	68	3	145
C. McCourt	...	...	...	23	0	3	9
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T. Warburton	...	...	...	16	35	3	79
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J. Hill	...	...	...	9	0	0	0
I. Howarth	...	...	...	9	0	0	0
D. Maders	...	...	...	9	0	0	0
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P. Smethurst	...	...	...	5	0	1	3
K. Flanagan	...	...	...	3	0	0	0
C. Sayer	...	...	...	2	0	0	0
W. Delooze	...	...	...	1	0	0	0
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PLAYING RECORD 1967/8

* * *

Opponents	Venue	Competition	Res.	Score	Att.
Blackpool	A	Friendly	W	23-26	1,000
Liverpool	H	R.L.	L	12-13	3,213
Leigh	H	Lancs. Cup	W	17-11	3,950
Bradford	A	R.L.	L	28-10	13,073
Hull	A	R.L.	L	29-20	4,200
Whitehaven	H	R.L.	W	34-14	2,310
Blackpool Borough	A	R.L.	L	19-15	2,000
Swinton	A	Lancs. Cup	L	11-8	6,300
Warrington	A	R.L.	L	28-2	6,035
Rochdale Hornets	H	R.L.	W	13-12	4,415
Whitehaven	A	R.L.	W	24-12	800
Wigan	H	R.L.	L	13-17	5,053
Hull Kingston Rovers	H	R.L.	L	7-9	1,672
Bradford	H	R.L.	L	14-25	6,806
Salford	A	R.L.	L	12-6	12,000
Blackpool Borough	H	R.L.	W	13-4	2,364
Leigh	A	R.L.	L	29-4	3,961
St. Helens	A	F'light	L	14-0	6,700
Australia	H	Tour	L	8-18	3,329
Salford	H	R.L.	L	0-4	4,236
Widnes	A	R.L.	L	33-14	3,697
Hull	H	R.L.	W	31-7	2,309
Liverpool	A	R.L.	W	0-13	250
St. Helens	A	R.L.	L	10-2	4,700
Swinton	A	R.L.	L	22-18	5,623
Barrow	H	R.L.	W	15-10	2,100
Workington Town	A	R.L.	L	15-10	1,952
Batley	A	R.L.	W	7-22	1,500
St. Helens	H	R.L.	L	14-26	4,182
Wigan	A	R.L.	L	39-3	8,782
Barrow	A	R.L.	L	14-13	4,625
Hunslet	A	Cup	W	4-9	4,412
Batley	H	R.L.	W	17-3	2,026
Widnes	H	R.L.	W	19-12	3,239
Bradford	A	Cup	D	7-7	17,400
Bradford	H	Cup	W	12-2	18,206
Rochdale Hornets	A	R.L.	W	10-13	5,758
Workington Town	H	R.L.	L	5-36	3,749
Leeds	H	Cup	L	0-13	18,502
Leigh	H	R.L.	W	10-7	3,016
Hull Kingston Rovers	A	R.L.	L	23-8	6,570
Warrington	H	R.L.	L	5-23	3,032
Swinton	H	R.L.	W	19-12	4,184

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RUGBY QUEEN, 1967/68

Our new Rugby Queen is Miss Denise Bergin, of 34 Littlebank Street, Oldham. Denise who is 18 is also an attendant to the Oldham Carnival Queen. We hope to see her at most of our home matches at Watersheddings.

* * *

Our thanks go to the Oldham Chronicle, Mr. Wooley the photographer and his staff and Mr. Halstead the rugby reporter.

* * *

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* * *

Our thanks also go out to Mr. and Mrs. Davenport of the Social Club for selling ties and badges for the Supporters' Club.

* * *

Since our last publication we have moved Headquarters, we now meet in the social club. The secretary can be contacted there at 624-4131, when the Committee meets, by kind permission of Oldham Football Club.

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