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1970**

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Message from the President of the Supporters' Club

Dear Friends,

Once again we are at the start of a new season which I hope will be better than the last. We have a new Committee with Mr. Walker as Chairman and we wish them all a successful season. There has been plenty of action already as you will see when you enter the ground — volunteers have been painting round the stands and the canteens have got a new look. The Supporters' Club is hoping to get more members than last year, so why not join now and get your friends to join also. Members' forms can be got in any canteen on match days.

Yours sincerely,

T. GUEST,

President O.F.C.S.C.

Front Cover Photograph:

Oldham fullback Derek Whitehead being tackled just short of the Huyton line after a brilliant run.

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Secretary's Message

18 Gordon Avenue,
Oldham.

June, 1970

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with hope that we face the season 1970 - 71 at Watersheddings. We have a new Committee of Oldham Football Club; we wish Mr. Walker, the Chairman, and his Committee a successful season.

Already we have seen a new coat of paint going on round the ground and with other plans for the season Watersheddings is once again going to be the venue where one will meet old and new friends on match days.

The Supporters' Club have handed to the club during the past season a cash prize of £5, won with our float in the Oldham Carnival Parade, £30 to do what the Committee want to do with it, and a set of new jerseys for the game against Wigan which was on T.V. Also, we have now handed over the new canteen which cost over £400. This represents some very hard work on the part of the Committee and helpers.

We held a Carnival Day on May 23rd which I think was the first to be organised by any Supporters' Club, and from this we may have a profit of some £40.

The Club this year pledges its support to the parent body, and with their help and co-operation we shall once again have a club to be proud of at Oldham. My thanks go to many people this year including Mr. L. Robinson, the Secretary of O.F.C., Mrs. M. Murphy, of the National Carnival Association, and The Oldham Chronicle, and many others who have made my job as Secretary easier.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN CRAIG

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

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Message from the Chairman of the Club

Glen Villa,
Buckley Hill,
Milnrow,

June 11th, 1970.

Tel. 29 - 50164.

This is my first address as the Chairman of Oldham Football Club and I am proud to have been asked to lead the new Committee in what we hope will be a restoration of this famous Club's fortunes.

But to be proud and hopeful is not enough. Restoration of the Club's fortunes can only be achieved with your help, support and backing, and I assure you that the Committee and myself will leave no stone unturned to bring this about.

The Club is at present running with a limited financial purse and the next year will be crucial, and I ask you without prejudice to help in every Club avenue that is available.

Membership, pools and other subsidiary efforts along with the Supporters' Club will, I hope, play a major part in providing some of the much-needed money. Voluntary help will be rewarded, we hope, by being able to assemble a team of which we can all be rightly proud, and I wish the best of luck to Oldham Football Club and also to you, the supporters.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WALKER.

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A New Beginning . . . And All That

By ROGER HALSTEAD

(Oldham Chronicle Rugby League writer)

Nearly 12 months ago, a handful of Oldham supporters, having seen their once-famous side humbled at Keighley, got together over a few drinks in the humblest of under-the-stand bars at Lawkholme Lane and began to plot the part they might play in the restoration of Oldham F.C. and all it stands for.

It was between whitewashed walls, with pie and sandwiches washed down by bottled ale, that the now-famous ginger group began their campaign to take over control at Watersheddings.

The group had the humblest of beginnings. And I would never have believed that the handful of chaps present at that after-the-match get-together at Keighley could have stayed the course or, indeed, led such an efficient and powerful campaign to bring changes in the Watersheddings Committee room.

We all know now what a powerful organisation it developed into — and it was thanks to the tremendous amount of hard work, electioneering if you like, and the togetherness of the group's members, coupled with a single-minded purpose to ACT rather than merely MOAN which saw the group pull off such a grand slam at the May election.

For nearly 100 years now, Oldham F.C. has been a power in local sporting circles — but the old ginger group, now sitting pretty as the establishment, with one exception, is sure to be remembered for ever in the annals of the club's history.

At the election, the members showed they wanted a change.

They got one. And so the 1970 - 71 season sees a new beginning at Watersheddings with nine completely fresh Committeemen, a new Chairman, a new Coach, a new Pools Organiser, and the new ideas which come with them.

I gave to the ginger group's candidates all the help I could in their pre-election battle. Not because I held any personal grudge against the former regime but merely because I was convinced that the town of Oldham, no matter how the club members felt, was generally looking for a big change in the set-up and a completely new start.

Now, the new men are in office — and it is up to them to put the promises made in their election manifesto into fruition.

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Over the last few years, Oldham F.C. has been generally stagnant. A negative approach by those in office merely drove the hammer of extinction ever nearer.

I have every sympathy with the former officials in that they did what they considered to be their best. Last season's results proved that their best, collectively, was not good enough, however, and it is now up to the new Committee to put things back on an even keel.

They have made a sound start. I feel you, the supporter, will have noticed a big difference to the condition of the ground already this season.

The programme, too, is expected to have taken on a much brighter and busier appearance while tremendous forward strides have been made in the business of attracting income through advertising, both on the ground and in the programme.

But, if you are like me, you will be really looking towards what takes place on the field of play as your yardstick for the success, or otherwise, of the new men.

At the time of writing little has happened in that sphere. But it is early days yet . . . and if the promise shown already by the new men develops satisfactorily, there is no telling what might be achieved in the next few years.

I am not expecting miracles — just a steady and industrious climb back up the ladder by a bunch of chaps who need only work together in office, as successfully as they did before their election, to make Watersheddings more than a mere dot on the R.L. map.

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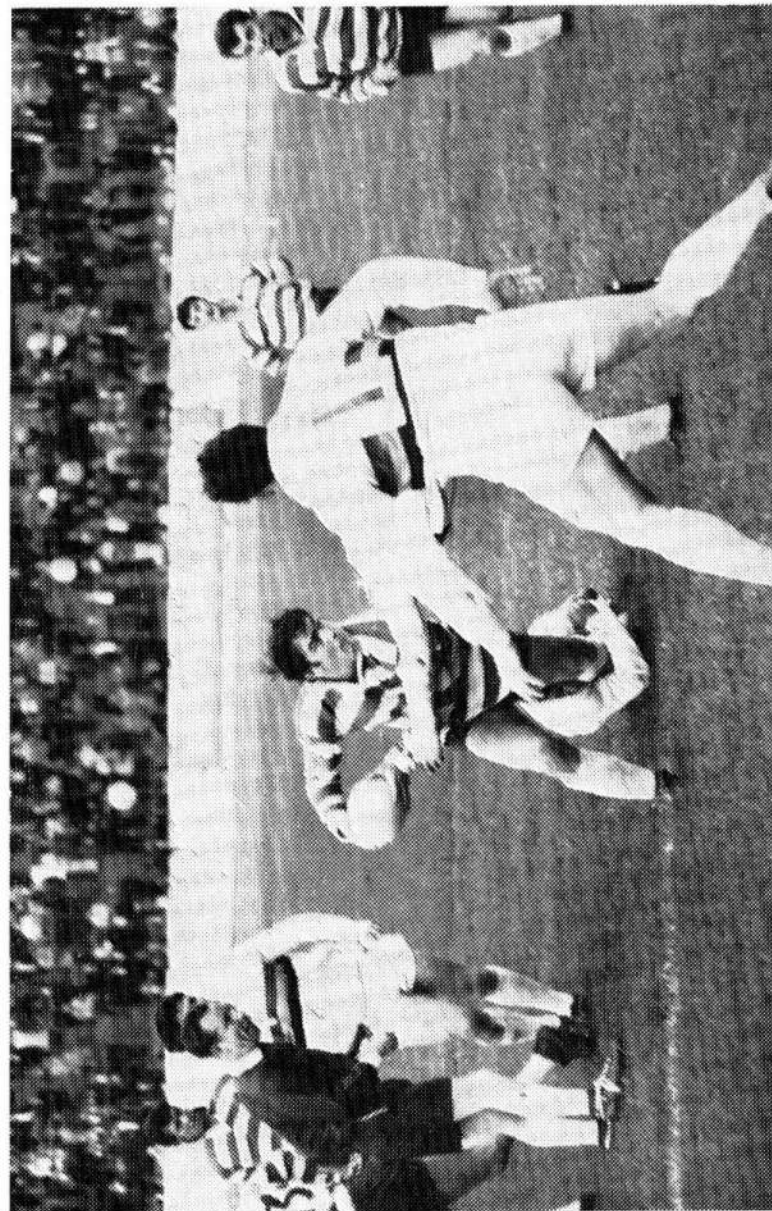
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FIXTURES FOR NEXT SEASON 1970-71

1970									
Aug.	22	York	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	26	Hunslet	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	31	Huddersfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
Sept.	5	Barrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	7	Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	12	Bramley	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	14	Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	19	Doncaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	21	Whitehaven	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	26	Dewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	30	Whitehaven	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
Oct.	3	Workington	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	10	York	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	17	Huyton	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
(World Cup series)									
Nov.	14	Wakefield	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	21	Keighley	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	29	Batley	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
Dec.	5	Wakefield	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	12	Warrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	19	Barrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	26	Rochdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
1971									
Jan.	1	Huddersfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	9	Huyton	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	16	Batley	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	23	Challenge Cup (first round)	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	30	Halifax	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
Feb.	6	Keighley	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	13	Warrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	20	Challenge Cup (second round)	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	27	Halifax	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
Mar.	6	Workington	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
		Challenge Cup (third round)	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	13	Dewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	20	Doncaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	27	Challenge Cup (semi-final)	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
Apr.	3	Open date	...	...	...	...	...	...	H
	9	Rochdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	12	Hunslet	...	...	...	...	...	...	A
	17	Batley	...	...	...	...	...	...	A

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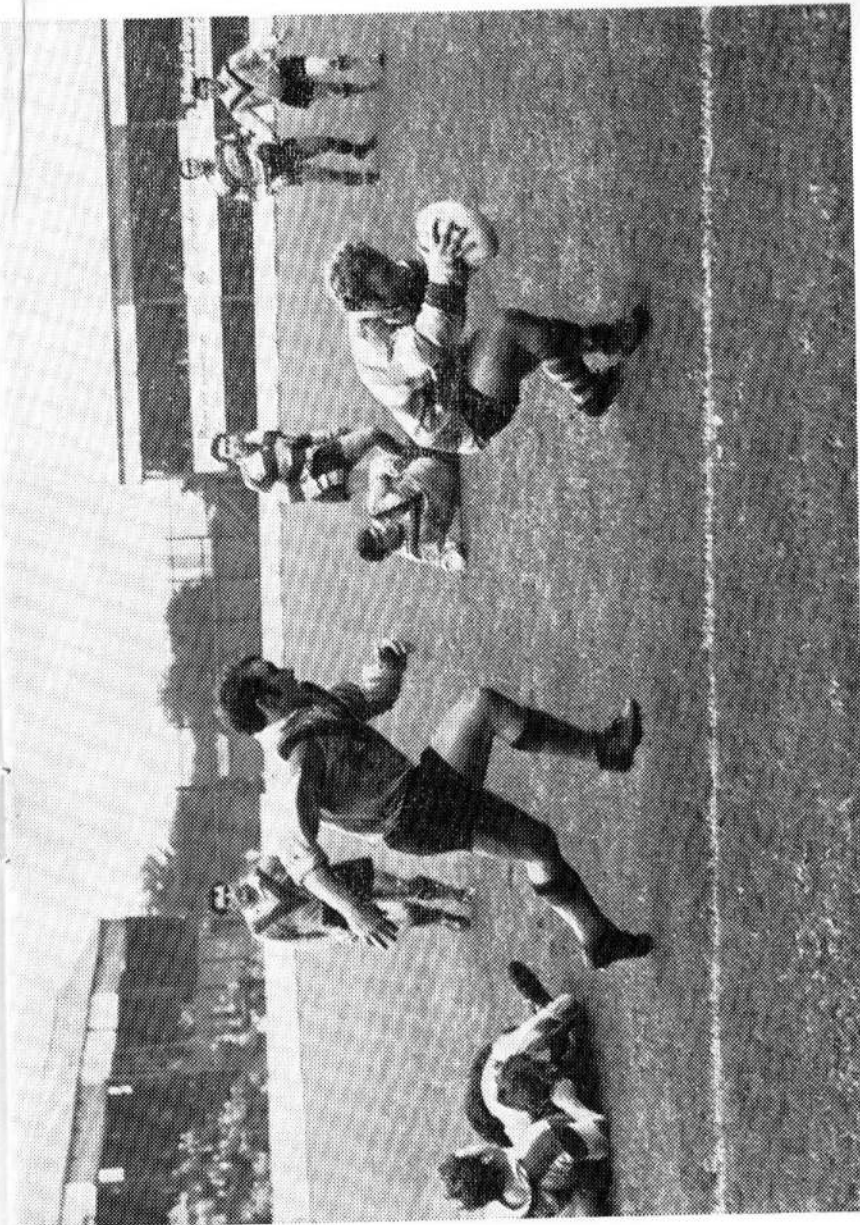
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Kevin Taylor scoring against Huyton after a pass by Bob Irving.

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OLDHAM'S RECORD 1969 - 70

1969	Club	Ground	F	A	Res.
Aug. 9	Blackpool Borough (Charity Cup)	H	32	15	W
16	Swinton (Lanes. Cup Round 1) ...	H	24	28	L
19	Salford	H	11	20	L
23	Warrington	H	8	15	L
27	Bradford Northern	A	9	25	L
30	Workington Town	A	7	28	L
Sept. 6	Keighley	H	41	10	W
8	Blackpool Borough	A	33	6	W
13	Wigan	A	10	40	L
20	Huyton	H	37	7	W
22	Rochdale Hornets	H	12	2	W
26	Warrington	A	8	10	L
Oct. 4	Workington Town	H	8	10	L
6	Rochdale H. (Floodlit Comp. R. 1)	H	14	9	W
11	Keighley	A	9	20	L
24	Barrow	A	19	26	L
Nov. 1	Whitehaven	H	20	10	W
8	Leigh	A	4	14	L
4	Wigan (Floodlit Comp. Round 2)	A	0	12	L
16	Widnes	H	5	7	L
22	St. Helens	A	10	41	L
Dec. 13	Wigan	H	15	23	L
26	Swinton	A	2	28	L

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1970	Club	Ground	F	A	Res.
Jan. 10	Huddersfield	H	6	14	L
17	Huddersfield	A	0	17	L
24	Barrow	H	12	13	L
31	Whitehaven	A	9	11	L
Feb. 7	Blackpool B. (R.L. Chal. Cup R. 1)	H	5	0	W
21	Wigan (R.L. Chal. Cup Round 2)	H	4	17	L
27	Salford	A	3	30	L
Mar. 14	Widnes	A	4	25	L
16	Batley	A	5	13	L
20	Huyton	A	2	9	L
23	Blackpool Borough	H	3	5	L
27	Swinton	A	11	25	L
28	Rochdale Hornets	A	0	18	L
Apr. 3	Bradford Northern	H	7	12	L
6	St. Helens	H	0	43	L
10	Leigh	H	4	8	L
15	Batley	H	9	7	L

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
League Record	34	6	0	28	343	592	12
R.L. Cup	2	1	0	1	9	17	2
Floodlit Competition	2	1	0	1	14	21	2
Lancashire Cup	1	0	0	1	24	28	0
Charity Cup	1	1	0	0	32	15	2
	40	9	0	31	422	673	18

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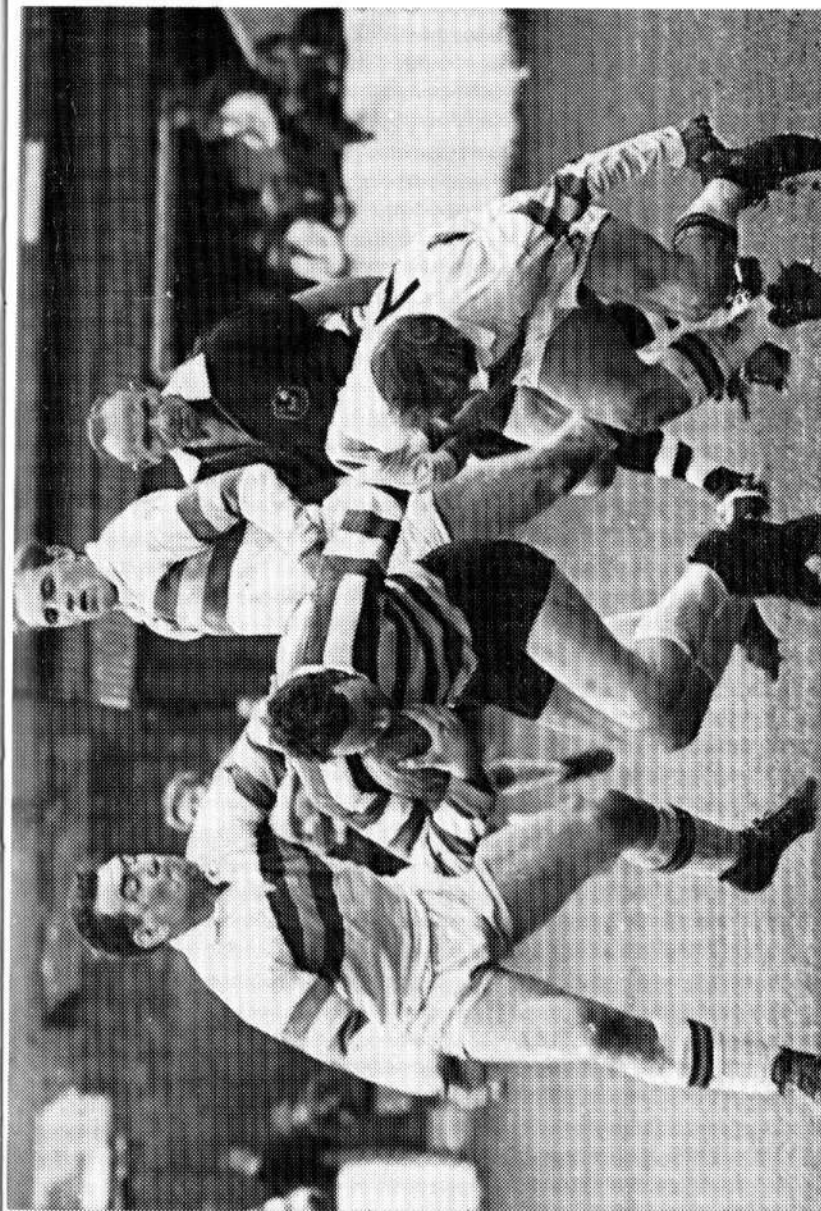
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Bob Irving

In September, 1966, when Bobby Irving was beginning to make an impression in the Rugby League world, many people predicted a great future for this stocky second-row man. Indeed, he was even being regarded in some circles as a certainty for the 1970 Australian Tour. That he was eventually picked for the tour came as a great source of satisfaction and surprise to Oldham's supporters, who have been starved of something to cheer about for so long.

Since those early days, when Bob first came sensationally on to the Rugby League scene, both Irving and his club have had their fair share of difficulties. Sixteen-year-old Bob signed on for Oldham in January, 1965, and, after playing a few games towards the end of 1964 - 65 season, was regarded as a good prospect. But the following season Bob was unable to find a regular first-team place, as Stuart Whitehead took advantage of Alan Burn's brilliant ball distribution to score 15 tries. But for the beginning of 1966 - 67 season Whitehead was injured (he was transferred to Salford in September, 1966) and Irving took his chance of a first-team place sensationally. So well did Bob play in fact that he was picked to play for the Great Britain Under-24 team in France in November, 1966. A good display in this match earned him his first full "cap", against France at Perpignan, in January, 1967, at the age of 19. He played in the return match at Wigan in March, 1967, but 1967 - 68 was to be his peak season in international Rugby League. With three consecutive Test match appearances against the touring Australians Bob reached the zenith in international Rugby League; and his name thus goes in the record books alongside those of the all-time greats of our game.

However, during this season, with the Oldham club having a disastrous time, Irving put in a transfer request. He was placed on the transfer list at a club record £14,000, which was later reduced to £10,000, but still brought no buyers. Bob settled his differences with the club and for two seasons has been Oldham's most consistent forward, his reward being captaincy of the side and the attainment of a "lifetime's ambition" with a trip to Australia.

I am sure that Bob would be the first person to thank Mr. Jack Errock, Oldham's representative (1969 - 70) on both the Rugby League Council and the International Selection Committee, who did a tremendous amount to help Bob make this "trip of a lifetime".

In paying this tribute, let us hope that Bob still has many years of rugby ahead of him, with perhaps another tour in 1974!

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Odds And Ends

During the season Oldham were "nilled" four times but only Blackpool Borough failed to score against Oldham, in the first round Challenge Cup-tie. Eleven times Oldham failed to score a try in a match but only two teams failed to cross Oldham's line — Blackpool Borough (see above) and Rochdale Hornets (League). The biggest win of the season was 41 - 10 against Keighley in September, while St. Helens inflicted the biggest defeat (43 - 0) at Watersheddings in April. Wigan (40 - 10) and St. Helens (41 - 10) also scored big wins, as well as Salford (30 - 3), Swinton (28 - 2), Workington Town (28 - 7) and Widnes (25 - 4). The eighty-four points conceded in the two matches against St. Helens are the highest by either team in these matches, while the forty-three points St. Helens scored at Watersheddings rank as Oldham's biggest-ever home defeat. Only fifteen times did Oldham reach double figures during the season, while on thirty occasions opponents scored ten points or more. Oldham did not do the double all season but conceded eleven doubles.

However, for the fourth successive season, Oldham reached the 2nd round of the Rugby League Cup and, for the first time since the competition began in 1965, Oldham got past the first round of the Floodlit Competition. A brave Lancashire Cup fight against Swinton (the eventual winners) and Bob Irving's selection for the Australian Tour are the only other points of note in a depressing season.

RUGBY QUEEN, 1970 - 71

The Rugby Queen, 1970 - 71, is Miss Carol Egerton. We wish Carol a happy year in office and already she is representing the club at events which are helping to raise money for local charities. She will also be prepared to attend any event, with permission from the Committee; if you write to the Secretary he will contact the Queen for you.

THANKS

Our thanks go to the Oldham Chronicle, Mr. E. Woolley, the photographer, and his staff, also Mr. Halstead, the reporter of Club and Rugby news.

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LANCASHIRE CUP 1st ROUND DRAW (1970 - 71)

WIGAN v. BARROW
BLACKPOOL B. v. WIDNES
HUYTON v. ST. HELENS
WORKINGTON T. v. CUMBERLAND AMATEURS
ROCHDALE H. v. WHITEHAVEN
SWINTON v. ST. HELENS AMATEURS
WARRINGTON v. LEIGH
OLDHAM v. SALFORD

Ties to be played during the weekend of 29th August.

THE 1970 AUSTRALIAN TOURISTS

Fullbacks : Ray Dutton (Widnes), Derek Edwards (Castleford), Terry Price (Bradford Northern).

Wingers : John Atkinson (Leeds), Alan Smith (Leeds), Clive Sullivan (Hull).

Centres : Chris Hesketh (Salford), Syd Hynes (Leeds), Frank Myler (St. Helens) Captain.

Stand-off Halves : Alan Hardisty (Castleford), Mick Shoebottom (Leeds), Roger Millward (Hull K. R.).

Scrum Halves : Keith Hepworth (Castleford), Barry Seabourne (Leeds).

Prop Forwards : Dave Chisnall (Leigh), Denis Hartley (Castleford), Johnny Ward (Salford), Cliff Watson (St. Helens) Vice-Captain.

Hookers : Tony Fisher (Bradford Northern), Peter Flanagan (Hull K.R.).

Second-row Forwards : Bob Irving (Oldham), Phil Lowe (Hull K.R.), Dave Robinson (Wigan), Jim Thompson (Featherstone Rovers).

Loose Forwards : Doug Laughton (Wigan), Mal Reilly (Castleford).

Manager : Mr. Jack Harding (Leigh).

Assistant Manager/Coach : Mr. Johnny Whiteley (Hull).

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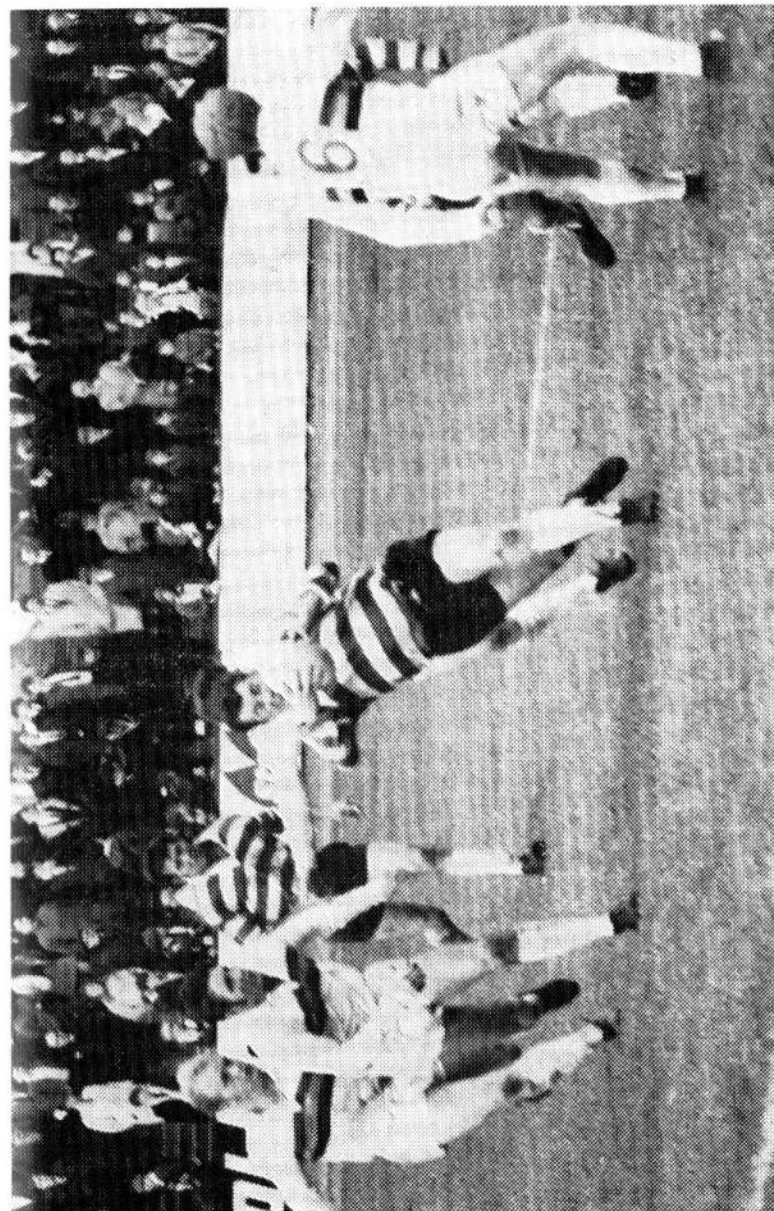
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