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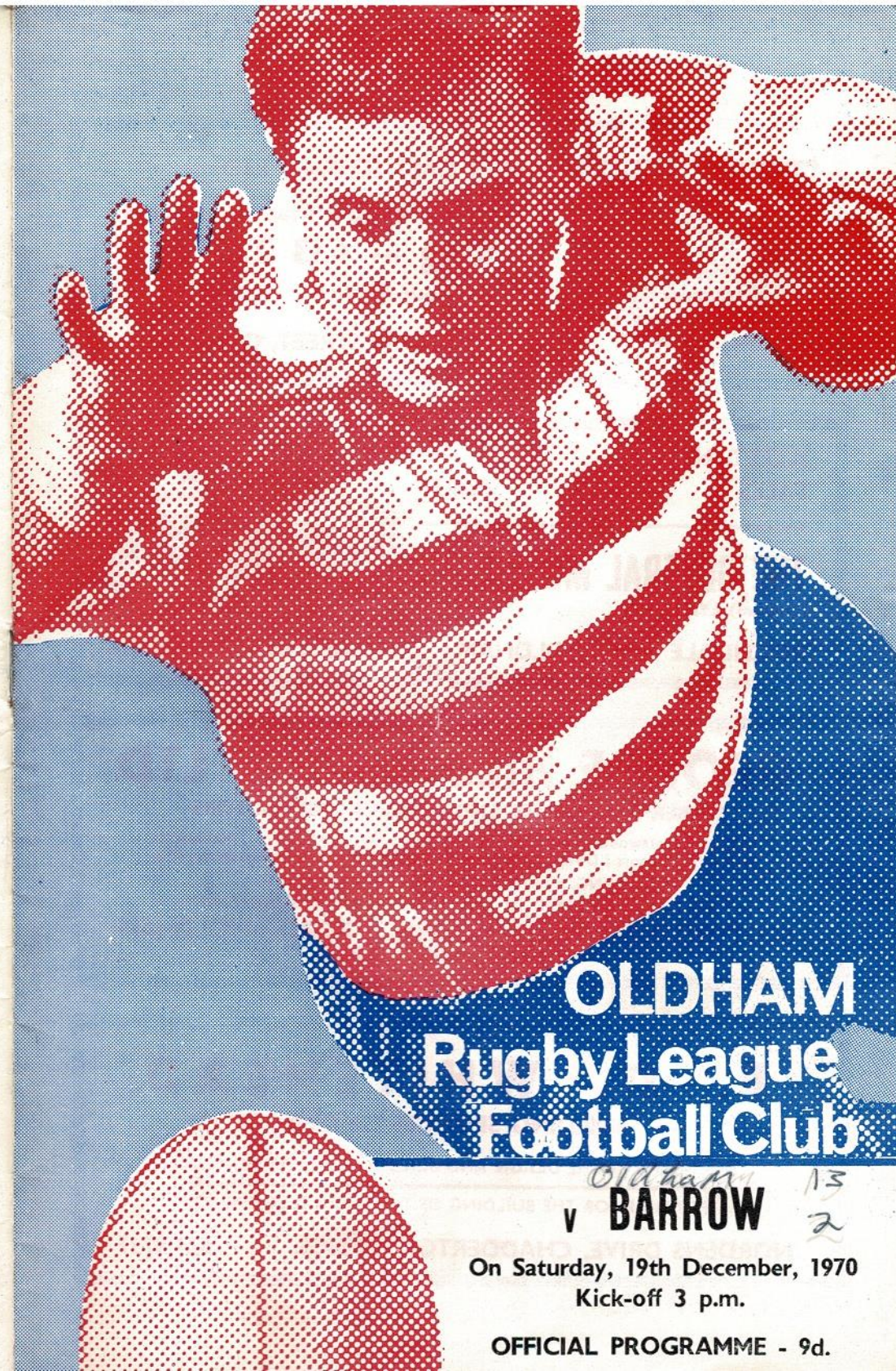
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THE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE, STAFF AND PLAYERS WISH ALL SUPPORTERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEWS AND VIEWS

Although the Club are in a fairly good position in the league we cannot afford to relax at all as several of the teams below us have quite a number of games in hand. The recent results have not been as good as the early season ones but Graham Starkey must be a worried man considering the very troublesome injuries sustained by Keith Ashcroft at Wakefield and the heavy suspension incurred by Dick Bonser, two players who have been strong forces in the pack this season. He has got his selection problems.

The Club offer their congratulations to Billy Wilkinson and to Jim McCormack on their recent marriages and also to Ray Hicks who on his 21st birthday became engaged to Karen Fisher, the daughter of former Chairman, Ken Kisher.

And our commiserations to 'B' team captain Stuart Bottoms, who has again sustained a breakdown in training with his knee trouble but he is now receiving treatment from honorary club surgeon, Mr. C. H. Cullen, at the Jewish Hospital in Manchester. What a wonderful job the doctors and staff of this hospital have done for this Club over the years.

Entertainment today is provided by the Pipes and Drums of the Oldham St. Andrew's Band. A collection will be taken, please give generously.

WELCOME TO BARROW

For Oldham's final first team home game of 1970 we welcome to Watersheddings, Barrow, one of the League's more progressive Clubs.

The Furnessmen have been runners-up in the Lancashire League on four occasions the last time being in 1956/57, when Oldham were Champions. Barrow won their first trophy on October 23rd, 1954 when they beat Oldham 12-2, at Swinton, in the Lancashire Cup Final. The same season they defeated Workington Town 21-12 at Wembley to win the Rugby League Challenge Cup. At scrum-half for their last previous Wembley appearance in 1967 was Ged Smith. Other famous names associated with Barrow include Willie Horne, a brilliant tactician who landed six goals in Barrow's Cup win and Jack Grundy the Lance Todd Trophy winner in the same game. Both players represented Great Britain in Test Matches as did Denis Goodwin, Jim Lewthwaite and Phil Jackson, who was judged Britain's best player during the 1957 World Cup.



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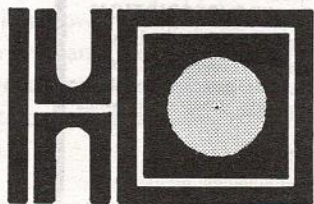
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Last season Barrow completed the double at Oldham's expense with a 26-19 victory at Craven Park and a narrow 13-12 win here at Watersheddings. The match at Barrow was marred by the serious neck injury to Charlie McCourt which terminated his rugby career. Oldham were unfortunate to lose the home match with the game's best tries coming from Phil Larder and Ray Clark. Oldham fans that afternoon were deprived of seeing Keith Jarrett who was in France representing Wales. Barrow signed Jarrett from Newport in September 1969 after a glittering rugby union career. He has already kicked 60 goals this season and last Saturday scored four tries and four goals in Barrow's 32-0 win over Huyton. Their other star rugby union signing, Tom Brophy, is suffering from a groin injury which will keep him out of the team until late January. Peter Douglas has been playing very well in his place and another player to watch is Frank Foster the former Workington, Bradford and Hull Kingston forward.

Barrow have recorded nine victories this season and lie in 13th position, just three places higher than Oldham who have the same number of points. Today's game then, is vital for both clubs as they strive for a place in the end-of-season 'Top Sixteen' play-off.

COACH'S CORNER

The drop goal is now to be reduced to one point. There are one or two aspects of this rule change I would like to comment on. Firstly when the four tackle rule was being advocated I remember that one of the arguments put forward for it was that it would bring back the "lost art of drop kicking".

Yes I know we got a spate of anyone and everyone lashing out with drop goals on the fourth tackles. But it hasn't been as prevalent of late. Two other points worth considering. A team has had to play some attacking rugby to get into the position to attempt a drop goal. Secondly the defending side generally know who is the drop kick man on the other team and if they are awake they can prevent a score by placing an acting half back behind the marker at the tackle, specifically to charge down the drop goal. If they are not awake they deserve to be scored against.

I think much of the opposition to drop goals is sour grapes from teams who haven't got a Watkins or a Murphy.

But the big mistake is to think that banning (or nearly) drop goals will produce tries. This is what people are claiming and just think how stupid that is. It is defenders who stop tries and at the present defensive ability is better than attacking ability in Rugby League. The way to more tries is better attacking. Drop goals add to the unorthodox and the unexpected result.

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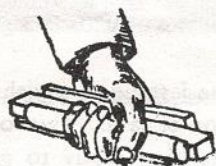
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PROFILE '70

Len Robinson, the Club's Secretary, who was appointed in 1968, is a local man who was a keen supporter during the fifties and remembers vividly the performances of Allan Davies, Bernard Ganley and Co. and is hopeful that we may be able to emulate some of that team's feats in the next two or three years.

Mr. Robinson is married and lives with his wife and son in Franklin Street, Oldham, and his hobbies are motoring and Rugby League, and he takes a keen interest in photography.

By courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle

OLDHAM JUNIOR SCHOOLS R.L. SEVENS COMPETITION

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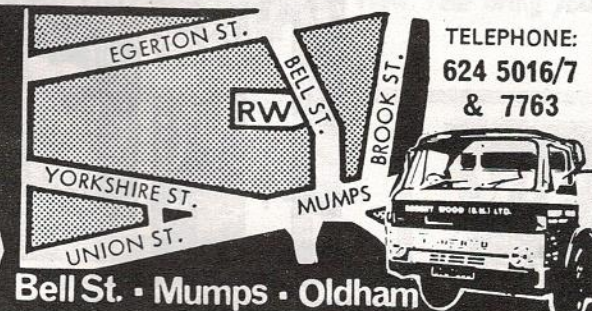
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 8	Halifax (Charity) ...	home	25	23
15	Huddersfield (Ch'city) ...	home	4	18
22	York	away	11	24
25	Hunslet	home	54	5
29	Salford (L. Cup Rd. 1)	home	12	35
Sept. 2	Huddersfield	away	4	9
5	Barrow	away	17	23
7	Blackpool	away	11	20
12	Bramley	home	24	8
19	Doncaster	away	14	10
21	Whitehaven	home	15	2
26	Dewsbury	home	16	17
30	Whitehaven	away	15	2
Oct. 3	Workington	away	17	13
10	York	home	24	17
17	Huyton	away	23	10
26	Wakefield	home	15	15
Nov. 2	Blackpool	home	19	3
14	Wakefield	away	2	38
21	Keighley	home	15	17
29	Batley	away	9	9
Dec. 12	Warrington	away	17	25
19	Barrow	home	13	2
26	Rochdale	away		
Jan. 1	Huddersfield	home		
9	Huyton	home		
16	Batley	home		
23	Challenge Cup 1st Round			
30	Halifax	away		
Feb. 6	Keighley	away		
13	Warrington	home		
20	Challenge Cup 2nd Round			
27	Halifax	home		
Mar. 6	Workington	home		
13	Dewsbury	away		
20	Doncaster	home		
Apr. 9	Rochdale	home		
10	Hunslet	away		
17	Bramley	away		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 22	Swinton	home	26	17
29	Leigh (Shield 1st leg)	away	10	19
Sept. 5	Workington	home	5	11
14	Leigh (Shield 2nd leg)	home	8	16
19	Salford	away	26	5
26	Leigh	away		
Oct. 3	Wigan	home	19	14
10	Barrow	away	4	7
17	Huyton	home	22	13
24	St. Helens	home	30	8
31	Widnes	away	0	8
Nov. 7	St. Helens	away	3	13
14	Barrow	home	18	5
28	Leigh	home		
Dec. 5	Swinton	away		
12	Warrington	home	37	5
18	Wigan	away	7	27
26	Rochdale	home		
Jan. 9	Huyton	away		
16	Whitehaven	away		
Feb. 13	Warrington	away		
Mar. 6	Workington	away		
13	Widnes	home		
Apr. 10	Rochdale	away		
17	Salford	home		
24	Whitehaven	home		

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