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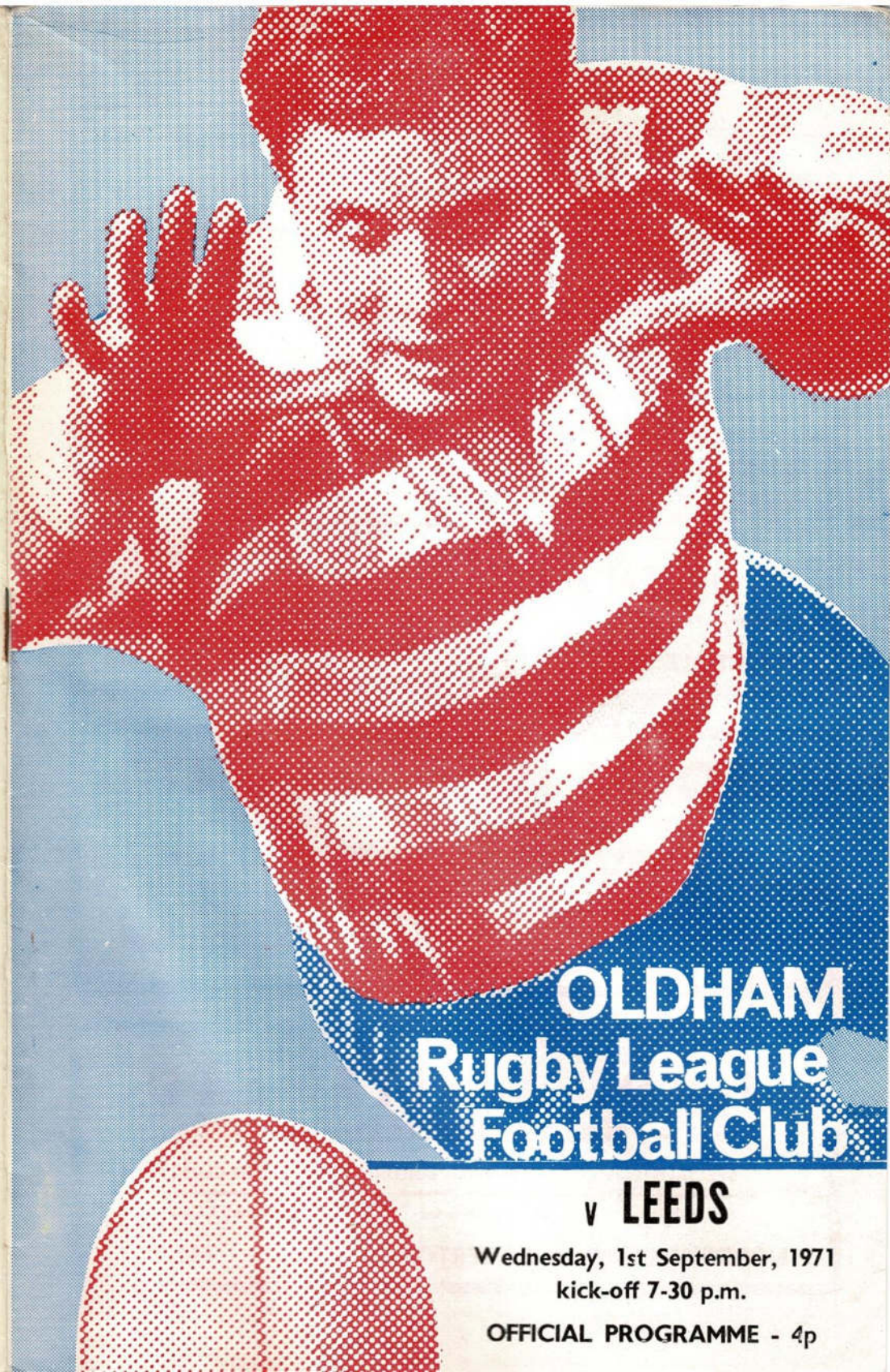
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Wednesday, 1st September, 1971

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

In an endeavour to strengthen our playing staff we have engaged scouts in Wales, West Country, Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Border Counties and Scotland. With the efforts of these experienced men, plus the fact that our policy of bringing young players to Watersheddings, which should prove successful within the next two seasons, points to a much healthier future for the Club.

These ideas were put into operation by the Leeds Board of Directors and no one needs to be told of the huge success of the Leeds team, a team which cost very little in signings but whose players would fetch huge fees on the transfer market. It took three to four seasons to develop this side and we hope to emulate this feat by the next two seasons.

Vice Presidents' Subscriptions are now due. All persons wishing to become Vice Presidents should remit the £5.25p to the Secretary.

Alan Ogden and Arthur Daley are suffering from leg injuries. Unfortunately these are responding slowly to treatment.

We would like to express our appreciation to the ground staff for the immaculate condition of the playing area.

If you fancy a drink after the game, come to the Social Club. We are licensed until 1 a.m.

The next match at Watersheddings is OLDHAM versus WIGAN to be played on Wednesday, 8th September.

## COACH'S CORNER

The biggest noise to emerge this season has been from soccer players screaming because the referees, with the backing of the powers that be, have decided to enforce the laws of the game. There have been no changes; they are simply making sure that the existing laws are adhered to.

After watching quite a few scrums this season, I think it is about time we did the same in Rugby League—get back to actually playing to the rules. Scrummaging in the game today is in such a terrible state that it would need ALL the referees enforcing ALL the rules; not just one or two picking on their own pet point.

It would ruin the games for a few weeks because it would mean a lot of stoppages—a lot of players being sent off for technical offences. Yet providing the referees were backed up I feel the players would soon pack up all their tricks once they had collected a suspension or two.

Also I think players would welcome some uniformity in the application of the rules.

*All for the Good of the Game!*

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## OUR VISITORS

Tonight, for the first time since November 1966, Leeds visit Watersheddings in a League fixture. Oldham supporters have, therefore, the opportunity to watch Rugby League's most attractive combination.

The Leeds line-up is full of star material beginning with full-back John Holmes. Last season he landed 163 goals so it was no surprise when he landed 8 goals and crossed for a try in the 48-3 Lazenby Cup win over Hunslet three weeks ago. Wingers Alan Smith and John Atkinson are both regular selections for Yorkshire and Great Britain. Both toured Australasia in 1970 and were members of last year's World Cup squad as well as appearing in Britain's matches against France last season. Smith was signed from Brookhouse Juniors in 1962, whilst Atkinson joined Leeds from Roundhay R.U.F.C. in 1965. Ron Cowan, a former Scottish and British Lion Rugby Union International, was obtained from Selkirk R.U.F.C. in 1962. Castleford Junior, Les Dyl and John Langley, from Normanton, have the opportunity to clinch a centre position in the absence, through suspension, of Syd Hynes. During the summer Leeds snapped up Alan Hardisty on a free transfer following his release from Castleford, whom he had served since 1958. Hardisty is yet another Yorkshire County and Great Britain star who toured Australasia in both 1966 and 1970. His half-back partner Barry Seabourne, also toured in 1970. An amateur international, Seabourne is a product of Hunslet junior football who has captained England U/24's as well as representing Yorkshire. Another former Hunslet Junior is Bill Ramsey. He represented Great Britain in 1965 before touring Australasia in 1966 and then being transferred from Hunslet to Leeds in December 1967. Ray Batten joined Leeds from Heworth (York) in February 1963 and has since represented Yorkshire, England and Great Britain. Hooker Tony Fisher was signed by Bradford Northern in November 1964 from R.A.F. Rugby Union. His displays for Wales and on the 1970 tour were noted by Leeds who signed him last November. He was, of course, a member of the World Cup squad as was Bob Haigh. After playing in Wakefield schoolboy and junior leagues, Haigh joined Trinity in September 1962 and quickly made his mark. He played for England U/24's and was selected for the 1968 World Cup. Leeds signed him in April 1970 and last season, his first with Leeds, he crossed for 40 tries, easily a record for tries scored by a forward.

Leeds did not make such an impressive start to this season for, after winning their Charity match with Hunslet for the tenth successive season, they fell to their biggest defeat in five years when Wigan walloped them 36-2. However, they returned to something like their normal form last Tuesday in beating Saint Helens 20-13, so they should provide Oldham with plenty of problems tonight.



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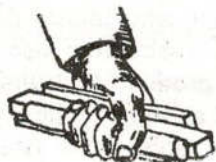
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- 3—JOE COLLINS
- 4—TREVOR BUCKLEY
- 5—PHIL LARDER
- 6—MARTIN MURPHY
- 7—CLIFF SAYER
- 8—KEN WILSON
- 9—KEVIN TAYLOR
- 10—DICK BONSER
- 11—BOB IRVING
- 12—BILL CHURM
- 13—RAY CLARK

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## KELLETT PROVES HE'S STILL GOT IT

Alan Kellett, one-time Watersheddings wonder boy—now back to whip the current crop of Oldham youngsters into shape as 'A' team player-coach—downed an after-training shandy.

He stretched back in the plush lounge of Oldham's social club and said: "I'm too old to play regular senior rugby. I enjoy training and playing—but there's a vast gulf between first and 'A' team football.

"In any case, Graham (senior coach Graham Starkey) wants youth in the first team and I agree with him that this is the right policy."

Kellett, a Halifax lad, made his name at Oldham around players like Alan Davies, Frankie Pitchford and Derek Turner.

He went on to play with Halifax, Bradford Northern, and Keighley, holding coaching appointments at Odsal and Lawkholme Lane before returning to Watersheddings in the summer.

He is clearly going to be content with developing the players of tomorrow.

"My job is with the 'A' team," he said, "and that's the job I want to do."

But Oldham fans are going to take some convincing that 33-year-old Kellett hasn't got the puff left to drag on the first team Oldham jersey that he last wore in 1963.

Since I had that interview with Alan, he has guided the 'A' team to victory and proved that what he lacks in the legs he compensates for with brain and football skills.

Against Salford 'A' he began at full-back, but with Oldham behind at half-time he moved up to loose-forward and his side suddenly began to click.

His great distribution set up two tries, and he marshalled the side superbly.

Then, the game stitched up, he reverted to full-back to let his pack have a go on their own.

"If that lad can't walk into this Oldham side, I'll do a jig on Tommyfield Market," said one fan.

"I'd play him in one of four positions," chanted another. "Full-back, stand-off, centre or loose-forward."

The reference to playing Kellett at full-back was no slight on one of the team's fastest and most consistent performers—tousle-haired Martin Murphy.

The Watersheddings own "Murph" is just about in a class of his own—and the fan's idea was to get the best out of him by pushing him up to one of the half-back positions.

The permutations are many, and I would be reluctant to weaken one position to strengthen another.

But the fans are united on one theme—more skills, brains, and pace are needed behind Oldham's pack.

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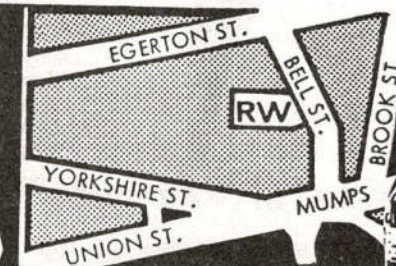
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PNS 437

And that's where Kellett could slot in—not to provide the pace, but to add flair and finesse from loose-forward.

The lad currently in the No. 13 shirt—Jim Reynolds—is a youngster who could have a big future. He's strong, possesses a clever sidestep and is a real goer. But it's an old head that the side desperately needs right now.

Well though the pack played in that Lancashire Cup-tie reverse at Swinton, it cried out for a ball-player and a leader.

Kellett has proved himself a sound leader, and a clever provider. What's more, he can swing that left boot to find many a touch—and Oldham don't possess one player who can do it effectively and consistently.

Alan may need more matches in the 'A' team before he is ready for senior selection.

Kellett for the first team? The campaign is little more than a murmur at present—but I have a hunch it could become a loud roar before the season is much older.

## **WIN £250 ! WIN £250 !**

The new style "200" CLUB commenced this week. September 1st payments can be made at the Pools Office in the Social Club, or to C. Farnworth the Promoter, F. Halliwell or Alan Taylor.

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## **TICKETS FOR TESTS**

Seating tickets at £1.50 and £1.00 are now available for the first two Tests against New Zealand.

**First Test—Saturday September 25th, Gt. Britain v. New Zealand, at Salford**  
Apply to the Secretary, Salford R.L.F.C., The Pavilion, Willows Road, Weaste, Salford. (Tel. 061-736 1515)

**Second Test—Saturday, October 16th, Gt. Britain v. New Zealand at Castleford**  
Apply to the Secretary, Castleford R.L.F.C., Wheldon Road, Castleford. (Tel. Castleford 2674)

**The Third Test** will be played at Headingley, Leeds on Saturday November 6th if a decider is necessary, in which case Seating tickets at £1.50 and £1.00 will then be available from the Secretary, Leeds C.F. & A.C., The Pavilion, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 3BR. (Tel. Leeds 54181/2)

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## FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

| Date    | Club                    | Ven. | F     | A |
|---------|-------------------------|------|-------|---|
| Aug. 8  | Swinton (Lancs Cup)     | A    | 7—10  |   |
| 21      | Barrow                  | H    | 13—13 |   |
| 25      | Swinton                 | A    | 2—20  |   |
| 28      | Hunslet                 | A    | 13—14 |   |
| Sept. 1 | Leeds                   | H    |       |   |
| 8       | Wigan                   | H    |       |   |
| 11      | Leeds                   | A    |       |   |
| 15      | Rochdale (TV Cup)       |      |       |   |
| 19      | Huyton                  | H    |       |   |
| 24      | Widnes                  | A    |       |   |
| Oct. 2  | Featherstone            | H    |       |   |
| 8       | Wigan                   | A    |       |   |
| 16      | St. Helens              | A    |       |   |
| 23      | Blackpool               | H    |       |   |
| 30      | Widnes                  | H    |       |   |
| Nov. 6  | Hunslet                 | H    |       |   |
| 13      | Players No. 6 Comp. (1) |      |       |   |
| 20      | York                    | A    |       |   |
| 27      | Players No. 6 Comp. (2) |      |       |   |
| Dec. 4  | St. Helens              | H    |       |   |
| 11      | Bradford                | H    |       |   |
| 18      | Bradford                | A    |       |   |
| 27      | Rochdale                | H    |       |   |
| Jan. 1  | Barrow                  | A    |       |   |
| 8       | Swinton                 | H    |       |   |
| 15      | Whitehaven              | A    |       |   |
| 22      | Featherstone            | A    |       |   |
| 29      | Challenge Cup (1)       |      |       |   |
| Feb. 5  | Bramley                 | H    |       |   |
| 11      | Warrington              | A    |       |   |
| 19      | Challenge Cup (2)       |      |       |   |
| 26      | Blackpool               | A    |       |   |
| Mar. 4  | Doncaster               | H    |       |   |
| 11      | York                    | H    |       |   |
| 18      | Doncaster               | A    |       |   |
| 22      | Rochdale                | A    |       |   |
| 25      | Whitehaven              | H    |       |   |
| Apr. 1  | Huyton                  | A    |       |   |
| 5       | Warrington              | H    |       |   |
| 8       | Bramley                 | A    |       |   |

## 'A' TEAM FIXTURES

| Date     | Club       | Ven. | F    | A |
|----------|------------|------|------|---|
| Aug. 21  | Barrow     | A    | 13—9 |   |
| 28       | Swinton    | H    | 7—22 |   |
| Sept. 11 | Workington | H    |      |   |
| 18       | Huyton     | A    |      |   |
| 25       | Widnes     | H    |      |   |
| Oct. 2   | Wigan      | A    |      |   |
| 9        | Wigan      | H    |      |   |
| 29       | Salford    | A    |      |   |
| Nov. 6   | Workington | A    |      |   |
| 27       | St. Helens | A    |      |   |
| Dec. 18  | Salford    | H    |      |   |
| 27       | Rochdale   | A    |      |   |
| Jan. 1   | Barrow     | H    |      |   |
| 8        | Swinton    | A    |      |   |
| 22       | St. Helens | H    |      |   |
| Feb. 12  | Warrington | H    |      |   |
| 19       | Widnes     | A    |      |   |
| Mar. 18  | Leigh      | H    |      |   |
| Apr. 1   | Huyton     | H    |      |   |
| 3        | Warrington | A    |      |   |
| 8        | Rochdale   | H    |      |   |
| 15       | Leigh      | A    |      |   |

### 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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