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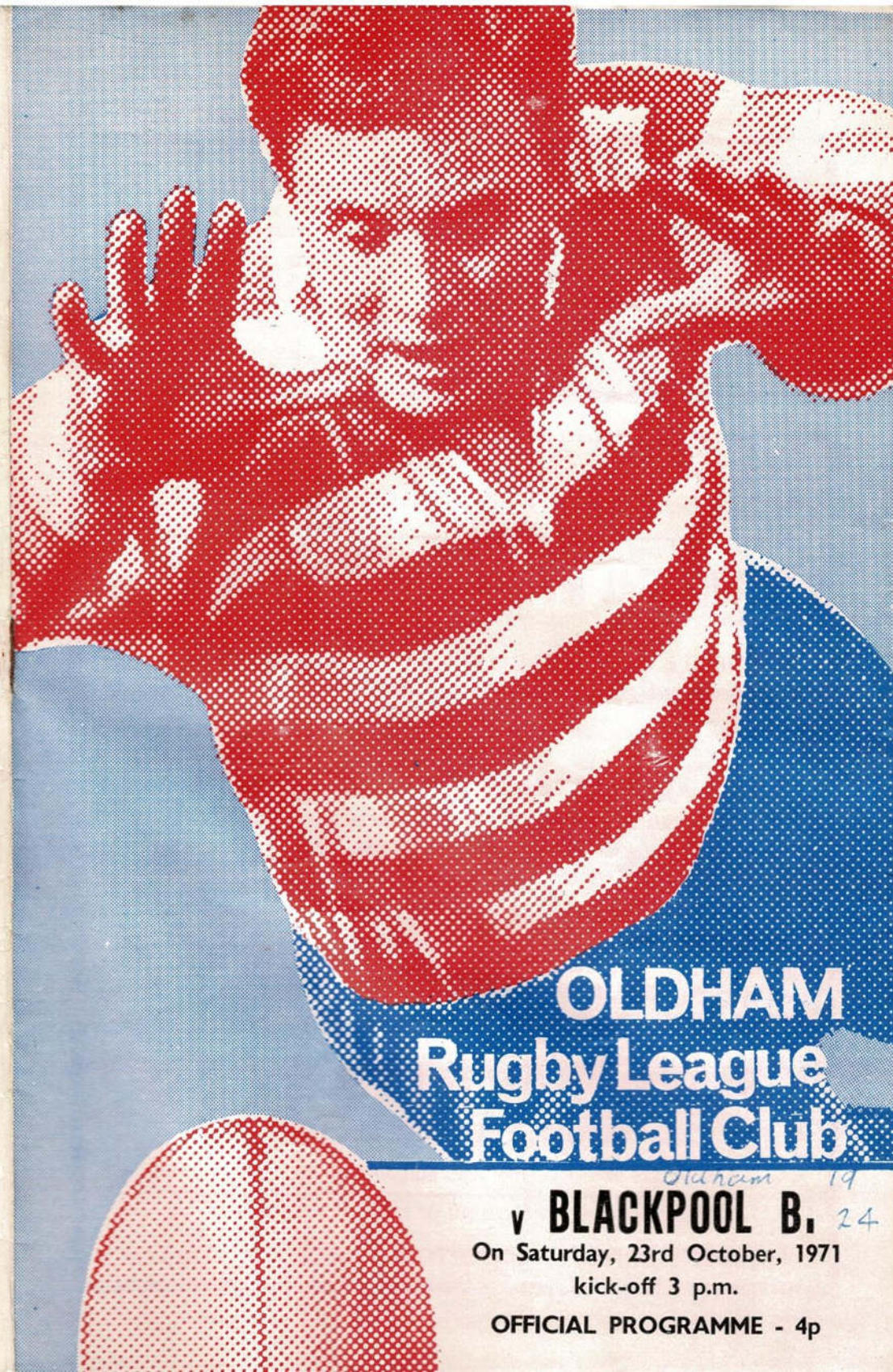
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Rugby League
Football Club**

v BLACKPOOL B. ^{Oldham 19} ₂₄

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OUR VISITORS

The youngest club in the Rugby League, Blackpool Borough, form the opposition to Oldham today. Borough were admitted to the league in March, 1954 when they played at Saint Anne's Road Greyhound Stadium, before moving to their present home, Borough Park, in 1963. It was during their first season at Borough Park that the ground's attendance record was established, when 7,614 saw Castleford win a quarter-final cup-tie there. The biggest crowd to watch a Blackpool home match was 23,000 for another quarter-final cup-tie against Leigh, which was played at Bloomfield Road, the Blackpool soccer ground.

The present Borough team is shaping very well for new coach Wilf Smith, who joined the Blackpool training staff at the beginning of the season. Smith needs no introduction to regular Oldham fans because he has played at Watersheddings several times in the centre for Saint Helens, with whom he spent 16 successful seasons. Australian full-back Tim Pickup is at present the leading try scorer with six. Last season he was awarded the Kilkenny Trophy as Borough's outstanding player, and he is making a determined effort again this term to retain the trophy. Winger Jim Johnson is a real flyer who equalled Lionel Emmitt's 12-year-old club try scoring record last season when he crossed for 22 tries. In the centre positions are Fred Hall, the former Oldham junior, and Doug Hill who was signed from Salford last December. Hill is a former rugby union player who played for Loughborough Colleges and Warwickshire. In 1964 he was a member of the Loughborough team which won the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham when he kicked the winning goal in his side's 18-16 victory over London Scottish. Half-backs Ged Marsh and Alan Bishop have begun the season well, but a wrist injury to Marsh has kept him out of recent games. Bishop is the brother of Tommy Bishop, the fiery character making such a big impression on Australian crowds. Amongst the forwards Blackpool can rely upon Joe Egan and Don Walker, whilst Wilf Cantillon, signed last January from Wigan 'B', looks a fine prospect. Last month Borough pulled off the double signing of Terry Cook from Pilkington Recs. and Dennis Jackson from Workington and promptly played them in the tough away match at Barrow. Both players responded by scoring tries in Blackpool's surprise 13-11 win.

As well as that excellent win up at Barrow, Blackpool have also won at Hunslet 15-7 and have recorded home victories against Bramley 16-7, Halifax 27-9, Hunslet 16-9, Huyton 7-2 and Rochdale Hornets 11-9, which is a very encouraging start to the season. The highest league position Blackpool have ended the season in, was 20th, in season 1962-63, so if their present form is maintained they could find themselves in the top half of the table for the first time.

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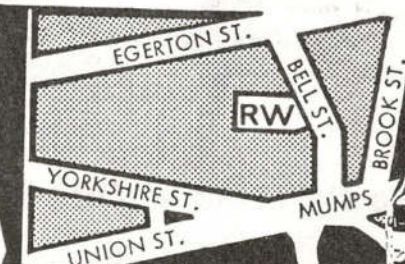
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PNS 437

Borough were not, however, very successful in the Lancashire Cup and fell 22-4 at the first hurdle, on the ground of the eventual finalists Widnes.

In the corresponding fixture last season Oldham won 19-3 with tries from Martin Murphy (2) and Bob Irving plus five Terry Garrett goals. Bal scored Blackpool's try. Earlier in the season Oldham were defeated at Blackpool by 20 points to 11. The last time Borough won at Watersheddings was during Oldham's depressing 1969-70 season on 23rd March, 1970 to be exact, when they won 5-3. Surprisingly Oldham had won at Blackpool 33-6 and had also scored a 5-0 Challenge Cup victory over Borough, as well as a 32-15 friendly win.

Today's match is most important for both sides. Borough will be hoping to continue on a winning note whilst Oldham, following hard games at Wigan and Saint Helens, must gather some points from the successive visits of Borough, Widnes and Hunslet, if they are to improve their lowly league placing.

CUP FINAL TICKETS

Other than the finalists' allocations, all Seating Tickets for the 1972 Cup Final were sold at the beginning of June. Standing Enclosure Tickets (under cover) at 50p, can still be obtained from Rugby League Headquarters, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

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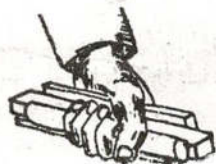
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

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	12—16	
8	Wigan	H	7—23	
11	Leeds	A	12—49	
15	Rochdale	A	2—28	
19	Huyton	H	29—9	
24	Widnes	A	19—7	
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		

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