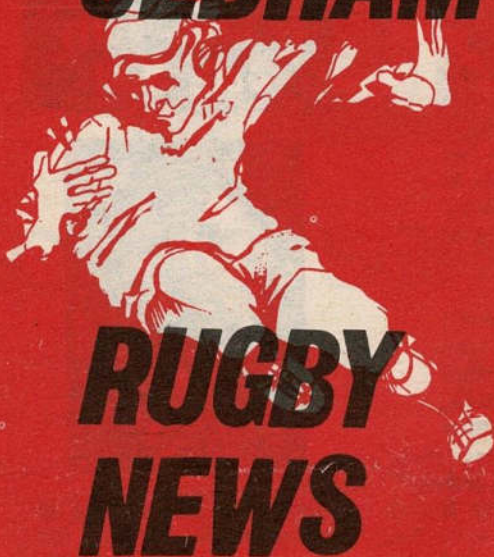


# OLDHAM



Volume 1 Number 1  
**OLDHAM v. SALFORD**  
 Tuesday, October 3rd, 1972 (7.30 p.m.)



## COME INSIDE WITH RUGBY NEWS

The wonderful world of Oldham Rugby comes right into close-up for you today through the pages of the club's own **OLDHAM RUGBY NEWS** — the Official Club Newspaper.

Your very own rugby newspaper is prepared and edited **INSIDE** the club, and so gives you the **INSIDE INFO** long before it hits the other papers.

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## Frank loses four games

Forward Frank Foster was suspended for four matches when he appeared before the Rugby League disciplinary committee in Leeds last week-end. Frank was sent off in the Lancashire County Cup game against Salford.

Club officials are mightily relieved that Foster's suspension was not more severe — as it could well have been.

Said Club Secretary Kevin Wilkinson "Frank made a personal appearance before the committee, and was accompanied by Club Treasurer Rory Hartley. I am sure the committee was favourably influenced by the fact that the Board was concerned enough about the case to send along a representative as well as Frank."

## YOUR MEN AT THE TOP



Back row : Cliff Hill, Brian Churm, Keith Ashcroft, Norman Hodgkinson, Ken Wilson, Arthur Daley, Geoff Munro, Graham Starkey. Centre : Kevin Taylor, Jim Reynolds, Phil Larder, Frank Foster, Keith Jackson, Mike Elliott. Front : Mike McCone, Johnny Blair, Martin Murphy, Mick Sidani, Tommy Lewis. Picture by courtesy of Oldham Chronicle.

# New look social club plan saves £20,000 and gives extra seats for 100

A £20,000-plus saving has just been effected by Oldham Rugby League Club.

An ingenious, do-it-yourself internal extension scheme to give nearly 100 extra seats in the Social Club's concert lounge is to be implemented, almost immediately. The scheme has been designed by Club Architect John Hall, and replaces the £20,000 brewery plan for extensive alterations to the concert area.

Football Club Secretary Mr Kevin Wilkinson said last night "The Social Club is a victim of its own fantastic success story. It is bursting at the seams most nights in the week, and

ed 100 extra seats, but which at the same time would have left the club with an extra £20,000-plus millstone around its neck.

"So we called in our Club Architect John Hall.

unit.

"This will mean the eventual re-siting of the Pools Office and the Committee Room. Obviously, this phase is some time off because priority must

it has proved a real money-spinner for the parent Football Club. Since April this year alone, it has handed over £3,290 to the Oldham Board.

A Board member told



Club Secretary Kevin Wilkinson raises one or two points with Social Club Manageress Mrs Faye Bowden

literally hundreds of people have to be turned away simply because we cannot seat them in safety and comfort in the lounge.

"We consulted the brewery, and they were prepared to put up the £20,000 needed to finance a scheme to their own design which would certainly have given the much-needed

He studied the problem carefully, and has come up with this new plan which can be carried out entirely within the club's existing resources and existing labour force.

"It is based on a complete overhaul of the seating lay-out, provision of a great deal of brand new extra seating, and the ultimate re-shaping of the concert hall as an L-shaped

be given to the re-seating part of the scheme.

"But our ultimate aim is to have all the administrative officers of the club housed in one block of offices. This has obvious advantages, and would mean that there is always a senior officer present to deal with urgent queries."

Oldham Rugby Social Club opened in 1967. Managed by Mrs Fay Bowden,

"Oldham Rugby News" last night "We just could not keep the Football Club going without Social Club income, so it is in everyone's interest to provide the finest facilities there for our customers. And that is exactly what we are doing by making an immediate start on John Hall's carefully thought out scheme."

## Welcome to trier Tony

A big welcome to Oldham from all fans and officials as well as team-mates to 21 year old Tony Wainwright.

Tony joins us from Leeds, and made his debut in the Huyton match. He is a most versatile player and can perform equally capably at full-back, stand-

off or centre.

Said Club Secretary Kevin Wilkinson "On his form so far, Tony must be the bargain buy of the season.

"I was really impressed in Tony's very first match with us by the way he set up two tries and gave 100 per cent effort even

after the final hooter had gone. He sent in Norman Hodgkinson at the corner in extra hooter time long after many players would have called it a day. And he has kept up that hard-working, value for money play in every match since."

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# Oldham Rugby League Club

Ground: Watersheddings, Oldham.  
Colours: Red and white hooped jerseys, blue shorts.  
Chairman: A. Walker.  
Vice-chairman: R. Hatton.  
Treasurer: R. Hartley.  
Committee: J. Bowden, B. Day, J. Higgins, D. Hulme, C. Farnworth, W. Jinks.  
Rugby League Council: A. Walker.  
Deputy: R. Hatton.  
Lancashire County: J. Bowden.  
Club Secretary: K. Wilkinson.  
Club Doctor: Dr. D. S. Preston.  
Physiotherapist: D. Wright.  
Coach: G. Starkey.  
Promotions Manager: A. Taylor.

## NEWS PEOPLE

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The World Cup competition has already produced one fascinating clash with the appointment of Jim Challinor as the Great Britain coach.

It brings Challinor up against Harry Bath, his teammate for nine years in Warrington's great post-war run.

It also spotlights a complete contrast in character and in playing and coaching styles.

Bath was a typical brash, but likeable, Australian forward, who made a tremendous impact on English Rugby League.

He came to this country with Pat Devery in a Sunderland flying boat, both having beaten the signing ban on Australian players by a mere 24 hours.

After four months with Barrow, Bath moved on to Warrington where he collected 16 medals in a memorable career and represented the Other Nationalities on ten occasions.

He was a great loss to Australian rugby but now he was making up the ground as their Test coach, putting to use the knowledge he gained from the English game.

'Failing to win an Australian Test cap was my biggest disappointment,' recalls Bath. 'But there were compensations.'

'I was proud to become the first colonial to receive the Cup at Wembley in 1950 - the day I also scored a try.'

Bath has already tasted success as a coach, having

guided Australia to their World Cup win at Headingley two years ago.

He remained in charge of the side for recent games with New Zealand and is now doing his homework for the coming World Cup.

Challinor, former Test centre and Australian tourist, is the quiet man of English rugby, having created an impressive record in his role as St. Helens coach.

He has also satisfied the international selectors with his handling of the British side in the games with France last January and March.

The man who remembers both those World Cup coaches as well as anyone is Ally Naughton, the former Warrington star.

They were mesmerised by the massive coverage of the Olympic Games and most of the highlights unfortunately coincided with Sunday matches.

After all, the opportunity to watch the Games is limited to once in every four years while the same players are appearing too regularly at rugby grounds.

I was among these who preferred to keep the inter-county fixture system and felt the return to county leagues was another backward step.

But more alarming has been that the standard of football served up so far has fallen well below expectations.

We are not getting the greater number of attacking moves we were prom-

ised by those who introduced the six tackle rule.

I have purposely withheld my views until I could see at least a couple of dozen games spread over the two main counties.

'I played alongside Jim in the centre and was at loose forward when Harry was the second row star of the Warrington pack,' recalls Naughton.

'There wasn't a harder man in the game than Harry and he and Arthur Cluse formed a frightening partnership in the Other Nationalities' side.'

'Jim is quiet but is dedicated and he can put it over well. Harry is... well a typical Aussie. But he's just as dedicated.'

It looks as if there is going to be an intriguing

## IN MY VIEW

by Brian Batty  
Daily Mail



fixtures is the decline in attendances despite the general switch towards Sunday rugby.

There has been little evidence that the new six

## AUSSIE COACHES CLASH IN WORLD CUP

battle of wits between these coaches in October.

And so to a brief look at the overall scene.

The start to the season has to put it mildly, been far from encouraging for the majority of clubs.

The main cause for despondency after only a few

tackle rule is proving the success that the Australians have claimed it has been in their country.

But I firmly believe that many of the fans missing from the terraces were tempted to stay in front of their television sets.

## APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

Played (including substitute)  
TOTAL League Lancs. Cup Players Comp. Tries Goals Points

|               |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| M. Murphy     | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 9  |
| M. Elliott    | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 4  |
| P. Larder     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 30 |
| J. Collin     | 2 | 2 |   |   | 2  | 6  |
| N. Hodgkinson | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 30 |
| C. Hill       | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 |    |    |
| M. McCone     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 3  |
| K. Wilson     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 6  |
| K. Taylor     | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 3  |
| F. Foster     | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 |    | 7  |
| R. Irving     | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 9  |
| G. Munro      | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 9  |
| B. Churm      | 5 | 4 | 1 |   | 1  | 3  |
| T. Davies     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4  | 12 |
| J. Reynolds   | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 16 |
| C. O'Brien    | 4 | 3 | 1 |   |    |    |
| K. Ashcroft   | 3 | 3 |   |   |    |    |
| G. Owen       | 3 | 2 |   | 1 |    |    |
| A. Wainright  | 2 | 1 |   | 1 |    |    |
| S. Bottom     | 1 | 1 |   |   |    |    |
| M. Sidall     | 1 | 1 |   |   |    |    |
| J. Blair      | 1 | 1 |   |   |    |    |
| K. Jackson    | 1 | 1 |   |   |    |    |

## Jim performs his washday miracle



We usually hear about "washerwomen" - but Oldham Club have their own expert washerMAN Jim Howarth, who can hold his own with any of the ladies of the twin tub, front loader, or old fashioned mangle.

Jim is seen in action here with the Oldham team wash. Above the soiled shirts from the Wigan game go into the washing machine, and below, Jim assembles the beautifully laundered jerseys ready for tonight's battle with Salford.



# LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

## Special series on Oldham's history

by  
**TOM WEBB**

In this specially commissioned Oldham Rugby News Series, our Memory Man TOM WEBB looks back over the years at the outstanding events in the glorious, incident packed history of Oldham Rugby League Club.

Oldham Football Club was born in mid-September, 1876, at a meeting at the Prince Albert Hotel, which still stands at the junction of Lee Street and Union Street West.

The previous winter some of the men who were to become of the first officials of the baby club had been interested in cross country running and were then officials of the Oldham Harriers. No doubt the growing interest in Rugby, then played 20 a side as often as 15 a side, infected the Harriers, and eventually a challenge match was played between Oldham Lyceum

who were easily beaten by Oldham Parish Church Institute. Other challenge matches took place and I have seen one account where Werneth Rangers were quoted as the first rugby team in the town. The team had learned its football at Werneth School but the conflicting evidence I have seen shows that the headmaster was a "soccer" man.

Possibly the Werneth team and the Lyceum played a game under two sets of rules, rugby union and association football, as Oldham Football Club itself did in a fixture with Southport Olympic, a team that played

a cross between association and rugby in 1883-4 season. Often one half game was played under one set of rules and the second half under the other. This was common throughout the country at the time.

The upshot of the one or more challenge matches was that Oldham decided to have a football club and the rules of the rugby union were decided upon.

The Mayor of the town, the chief constable, a Sunday School superintendent and other worthy citizens of Oldham were present at the first and some of

them even became playing members.

The first game was played with Stalybridge on a pitch at the back of the Glodwick Spinning Company's mill on Glodwick Lows. The players changed at the Shakespeare Hotel, Glodwick. The late Mr. Holt, a former Mayor of Oldham, always said that he was born because of the Oldham Football Club. His father, a player, married one of the barmaids at the Shakespeare - hence the nativity claim.

Under the old rules which allowed for minor points to be scored beside the major ones of Goals and tries, Oldham lost that first match by 2 goals, one of them a "poster", one try and one touch down, to one try,

four touch down and one dead ball. A touch down was when the defending side touched the ball dead. A dead ball was when the attacking side sent the ball dead, and there was another type of minor point, a "touch-in-goal". Some scribes called them "rouges" but this was not very common in the Oldham district.

A "poster" was a disputed goal. The goal uprights were not very high and often the ball went soaring well over the top of the posts. It was natural for the attacking side to claim a goal and just as natural for the defending side to claim that if the posts had been higher, the ball would have either gone

outside or struck the upright. There were no neutral touch judges in those days to decide the issue.

Incidentally the first match with Stalybridge was played on October 21 1876, and the return match was the last of the season. This time Oldham won by one try and four touch downs to one touch down.

The first club secretary was Fred Wild, Croft Bank Mills, Oldham along with Abraham Fletcher, superintendent of the Werneth Congregational Church on Windsor Road. The first headquarters were the Black Swan Hotel, Bottom o'th Moor.

We'll have more fascinating facets of the Oldham story in our next issue.

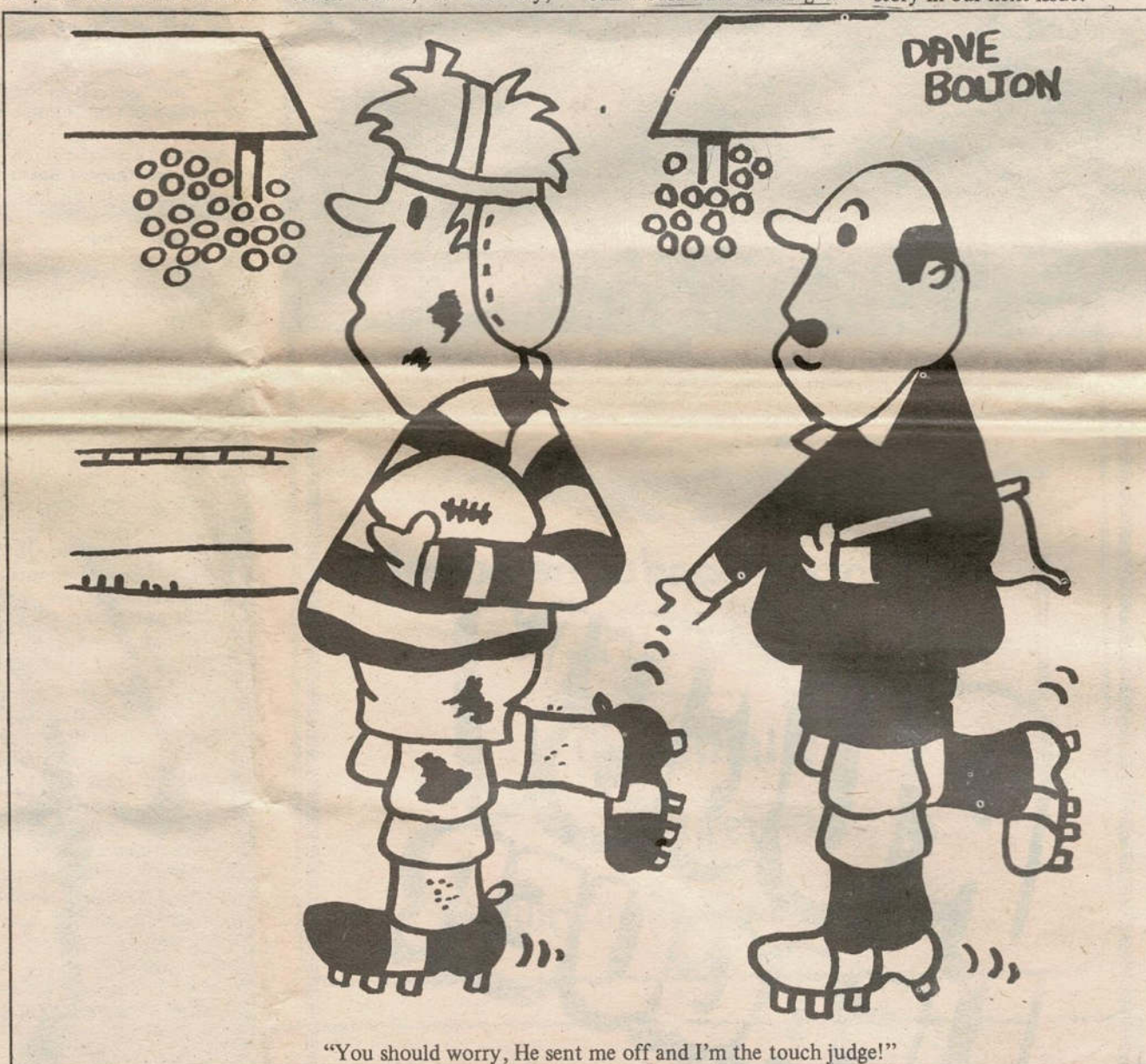
### SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

The supporters club coach which we run to every away match is proving very popular so far this season and we will be running coaches regularly to future away games.

If you wish to travel with us, please book early to avoid disappointment. You can book in the canteens to-night or any other evening in the social club after 8.30 p.m.

Why not become a member of the supporters club? It only costs 10p, and membership forms are readily available in the canteens on home match days.

The supporters' Club Year Book is now on sale around the ground and in the canteens. It costs only a few pence and is full of photos, match details, fixtures, with a special piece by Roger Halstead. If you would like a copy sent to your home address, contact the secretary, Mr. D. Blackburn, 6, Hampshire Rd, Chadderton. costing 10p (inc. postage).



### MEET ALAN TAYLOR

Meet Alan Taylor, Oldham Rugby League Club's live-wire promotions manager.

Alan has completely revitalised this all important aspect of the club activities - and so successfully that the promotions division hands over £100 plus each week to the main Board.

And even now Alan is thinking up a revolutionary racing pool designed to bring in even fatter cash bonuses for the club - and at the same time provide really

worthwhile big money prizes for punters.



\* Alan Taylor



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"Yes, madam, what can I get you?" asks the polite, quietly spoken shopkeeper at the village stores in the picturesque village of Uppermill. He is immaculate in his gleaming white nylon coat, and looks as if he would be the last man on earth to be seen roaring black faced across a rugby field as if he had just been dropped head first in a mud bath.

But appearances can be deceptive, and the gentle giant in white chatting so calmly to his customers is much better known in his other in-

ternational image as one Bob Irving, the tearaway second row terror of the Rugby League.

A critic wrote of Bob rec-

ently "He is a blinding blur as he races with almost unstoppable momentum for the line. But try to stop him, and the blur is liable to flatten you by sheer rocket power as he flies on his way past you."

But there's an awful lot of brain as well as rocket power goes into Bob Irving's rugby, as well as into the smooth, successful build-up of both his own general grocery

business and the Victorian-style tea rooms run by Bob's wife Val.

Bob's road to the Oldham and Great Britain jerseys began when he was a toddler in his native Huddersfield. His dad played as an amateur for Lockwood in the Huddersfield League, and on the Saturdays when he had no match took his four young sons Bob, Geoff, John and Keith to the famous Fartown ground.

Bob and his brothers had learned to shout "Come on the claret and gold" almost as soon as they were able to say "I want my mum".

And by the time Bob was nine he was playing for the Huddersfield St. Joseph's Junior School Under-11s. Then he graduated to St. Gregory's Grammar School first team when only 14. At the same time as he was playing for the school in morning matches under the Union code, Bob was turning out in the afternoons for St. Joseph's Under-17s in the League game.

Long before he left school, Bob was playing regularly for Huddersfield Rugby Union Club. Then he was signed at 16 by Oldham.

Now 24, Bob says he has not the least wish ever to leave Watersheddings.

It has never been revealed before that when Leigh paid Oldham £5,000 for Alan Ogden last season, they secretly also approached the club with an £11,000 for Bob Irving.

Bob heard a whisper of this and told the Oldham Board "Forget it. I'm happy here, and here I stay."

Not that Oldham ever

wanted to lose Bob. He has been a tremendously strong clubman whose own power on the field has spread as effectively and warmly as a tropic fever through the ranks of his playing colleagues.

Bob went on the 1970 Australian tour and played in 15 games, including all three Tests against Australia as well as in three against New Zealand. He had met the Aussies at Test level before in the three 1967 games in this country, and over the years has played fairly regularly for the Yorkshire County side.

Bob confesses he has no hobbies outside work and rugby. He says "Quite honestly, I just haven't the time for any."

Bob Irving is one of those sensible players who realises that rugby glory is just a short interlude in a whole lifetime. And even in his early twenties he was going about consolidating and expanding his businesses with the same sort of shrewdness he displays on the field.

When Bob took over the Uppermill village stores, the shop had an old fashioned frontage and sold a strictly limited number of lines. Bob decided at once the stores needed a new attractive outside look before people could be tempted inside - so he promptly had the exterior knocked down and re-built. Then he applied for a licence to sell drinks, and now does a brisk trade in beer, wines and spirits as well as groceries. He employs one full time assistant and two part-timers. But the Irving business know-how is not confined to the male side

of the family. Mrs. Val Irving has opened up the Victoriana Tea Rooms appropriately situated next to the Museum at Uppermill. She puts on there lunches, morning coffee, and afternoon teas.

Val's speciality which brings wide acclaim and lots of new custom is her own home-made pastry. In fact, all food served by Val is cooked or baked by herself, which must be pretty well unique in any commercial eating house in 1972. Val's business is booming almost at the same rate as Bob's, and recently she opened an upstairs lounge which takes up to 30 for weddings and similar functions.

But it is, of course, as one of the finest second row forwards ever to play Rugby League that the Oldham fans know Bob Irving, and not in his secondary role as a shopkeeper. And Bob has his own definite views on Rugby League.

He says "One of the worst things a player has to contend with is the different interpretation put on the same rule by individual referees. This confuses spectators as well as players, and can well result in penalties being given against a side who are faced with an entirely varying referee's viewpoint from their previous game. And one of those penalties could well win or lose the match."

Bob's younger brother John plays hooker for Huddersfield, while 17 year old Keith, the "baby" of the Irving brothers, has already played for the Huddersfield under-19s against a French representative side.



Shopkeeper Bob has changed his white coat here for a muddy jersey as he breaks clear of a tackle by Hull Kingston Rovers' Moore.

## All for the Good of the Game!

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Val Irving pours an inaugural cup of coffee for husband Bob at the opening of her Victoriana Tea Rooms at Uppermill. But he's the only customer whose lap she sits on!

# Here's Bob in action

Blackpool's Rugby League ground is surrounded by the resort's greyhound track, and Bob Irving was moving with all his speed and determination of the racing fliers as he crashed over for this try there.



Bob and Val Irving have three children, Kim, 5, and Michelle, 7, pictured here as well as baby Julian, 20 months, who was sleeping peacefully in his cot when Bob took this back-garden snap.

## LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

Michael Anastasio Murphy, 29-year-old £2,500 signing by St. Helens last month from Barrow, has only one regret at leaving the Furness district, and that is he is unable to complete plans to get a really strong under-17 league going in the Barrow district.

Prop forward Mick, a lecturer in Social Studies and Physical Education, attended a Rugby League coaching course in summer, and eventually when he retires he would like to coach a side, whether it be amateur or professional. Just nine years ago while a member of Waterloo R.U. club he had never seen a game of Rugby League, but when approached by Leigh officials he thought the £2,000 fee they were offering was too good to turn down so he decided to give this new game a go. He joined a strong looking pack which included Stan Owen, Mick Martin, Bill Robinson and present coach Derek Hurt. Mick went on to hold the captaincy until the arrival of Alex Murphy. It was not long before he was packing his bags for Craven Park to lead a revival under Tom Brophy, which unfortunately was short-lived.

Mick spent the whole of last season in and out of favour with the Barrow board, but he did stay in favour as in the previous season with the Lancashire selectors. Mick's hobbies include participation and coaching of sport, the arts, travelling and bullfighting. He was beginning to find his feet in last week's first round John Player match at Thrum Hall against Halifax shortly into the second half,

but faded badly like the rest of the "Saints" in the last 20 minutes.

Still with that match Wigan supporters maybe interested to learn that former Wigan forwards Terry Fogarty and John Stephens were two of the best forwards on the field.

Mick is likely to become a leading force this season, and may give the opposition plenty to think about as he hurls his 6' 4", 16 stone frame into the fray.

I am quite surprised Oldham's majestic and tough exponent of the thirteen-a-side game Frank Foster, a close friend of Mick's, did not give chairman Arthur Walker and his committee a strong recommendation on this player's ability.

While we have been hearing a lot about the coaching Great Britain athletes should have for the next Olympic games in Montreal, in 1976, Mick Murphy pointed out an amazing piece of financial news he picked up on his American holiday in 1968. If a schoolmaster or leading professional footballer coached a junior side out of his working hours he would receive double pay.

Huddersfield were rather disturbed when they heard that their Halifax shopkeeper, and goalkicking winger Dave Hooson, had booked a late September holiday in Spain but they decided to give it their blessing after saying he would keep in trim.

David, sporting a fine tan, emerged as the match winner for Huddersfield against Warrington in the John Player tie only 36 hours after arriving back from his fortnight's holiday. He kicked two goals and

scored a try.

Wigan are not the only club to suspend a player for a breach of contract. Keighley have suspended, very quietly I may add, their much travelled senior forward Alan Hepworth for refusing to turn out with the "A" team last week. He wanted winning pay whatever the result. His ban lasts for a month.

Halifax junior club Siddal are currently unbeaten with a points average after five games of 40 points, and they put it all down to their player-coach Alan Kellett the former Halifax, Bradford Northern, Keighley and Oldham (twice) "A" team player-coach who is the driving force from the full-back position.

One player in his side who has made a quiet return this season is Ken Roberts, the former Bradford Northern and Keighley centre. This talented 27-year-old spent the whole of last season on the sidelines after going into dispute with the Keighley club. He has had first team experience at Odsal to the tune of some 80 games, and made over 50 at Lawkholme Lane, scoring some 60 tries. I could strongly recommend this player to any club looking for a well built and fast centre ready once again to make a go of the game. He is an insurance man with the Prudential in the Halifax area.

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# OLDHAM

## FIXTURES AND RESULTS

### First Team Fixtures

#### AUGUST

|     |                      |       |   |
|-----|----------------------|-------|---|
| Sat | 19—HUDDERSFIELD      | 25-7  | A |
| Wed | 23—WHITEHAVEN (7-30) | 30-13 | H |
| Sat | 26—WORKINGTON        | 19-5  | H |
| Mon | 28—YORK              | 32-8  | A |

#### SEPTEMBER

|     |                       |       |   |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Fri | 1—SALFORD (Lancs Cup) | 17-41 | A |
| Sun | 10—HULL               | 27-2  | H |
| Sun | 17—HUYTON             | 25-13 | A |
| Sat | 23—PLAYERS CUP, HULL  | 10-17 | A |
| Fri | 29—WIGAN              | 12-9  | A |

OCTOBER 3 TV Cup SALFORD 12-8 H

|     |               |  |   |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| Sat | 7—ST. HELENS  |  | H |
| Sat | 14—WORKINGTON |  | A |
| Sun | 22—WIDNES     |  | H |
| Fri | 27—SALFORD    |  | A |

#### NOVEMBER

|     |                |  |   |
|-----|----------------|--|---|
| Sat | 4—HUDDERSFIELD |  | H |
| Sun | 12—HUYTON      |  | H |
| Fri | 17—HULL        |  | A |
| Sat | 25—WIGAN       |  | H |

#### DECEMBER

|      |               |  |   |
|------|---------------|--|---|
| Fri  | 1—ST. HELENS  |  | A |
| Sun  | 10—SALFORD    |  | H |
| Sun  | 17—DEWSBURY   |  | A |
| Sun  | 24—LEIGH      |  | H |
| Tues | 26—ROCHDALE   |  | A |
| Sun  | 31—WARRINGTON |  | A |

#### JANUARY

|     |                      |  |   |
|-----|----------------------|--|---|
| Sat | 6—WHITEHAVEN         |  | A |
| Sun | 14—YORK              |  | H |
| Fri | 19—BARROW            |  | A |
| Sat | 27—CHALLENGE CUP (1) |  |   |

#### FEBRUARY

|     |                      |  |   |
|-----|----------------------|--|---|
| Sun | 4—LEIGH              |  | A |
|     | 11—BLACKPOOL         |  | H |
| Sat | 17—CHALLENGE CUP (2) |  |   |
| Sun | 25—WIDNES            |  | A |

#### MARCH

|     |              |  |   |
|-----|--------------|--|---|
| Sun | 4—WARRINGTON |  | H |
| Sun | 11—BARROW    |  | H |
| Sun | 18—BLACKPOOL |  | A |

#### APRIL

|     |             |  |   |
|-----|-------------|--|---|
| Sun | 1—DEWSBURY  |  | H |
| Sun | 8—SWINTON   |  | H |
| Sat | 21—SWINTON  |  | A |
| Mon | 23—ROCHDALE |  | H |

All home games kick off at 3-0 p.m. unless otherwise stated

### SEASON 1972-73

### 'A' Team Fixtures

#### AUGUST

|     |               |  |   |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| Sat | 19—ROCHDALE   |  | H |
| Sat | 26—WORKINGTON |  | A |

#### SEPTEMBER

|     |            |  |   |
|-----|------------|--|---|
| Sat | 16—HUYTON  |  | H |
| Fri | 22—SWINTON |  | A |
| Sat | 30—WIGAN   |  | H |

#### OCTOBER

|     |               |  |   |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| Fri | 6—ST. HELENS  |  | A |
| Sat | 14—WORKINGTON |  | H |
| Fri | 20—WIDNES     |  | A |
| Sat | 28—SALFORD    |  | H |

#### NOVEMBER

|     |             |  |   |
|-----|-------------|--|---|
| Sat | 4—BARROW    |  | A |
| Sat | 11—HUYTON   |  | A |
| Sat | 18—ROCHDALE |  | H |
| Sat | 25—WIGAN    |  | A |

#### DECEMBER

|     |               |  |   |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| Sat | 2—ST. HELENS  |  | H |
| Fri | 8—SALFORD     |  | A |
| Sat | 16—SWINTON    |  | A |
| Sat | 23—LEIGH      |  | A |
| Sat | 30—WARRINGTON |  | H |

#### JANUARY

|     |            |  |   |
|-----|------------|--|---|
| Sat | 6—BARROW   |  | H |
| Sat | 20—BARROW  |  | H |
| Sat | 27—SWINTON |  | H |

#### FEBRUARY

|     |             |  |   |
|-----|-------------|--|---|
| Sat | 3—LEIGH     |  | H |
| Sat | 17—ROCHDALE |  | A |
| Sat | 24—WIDNES   |  | H |

#### MARCH

|     |              |  |   |
|-----|--------------|--|---|
| Sat | 3—WARRINGTON |  | A |
| Sat | 10—BARROW    |  | A |
| Sat | 17—WIGAN     |  | A |

#### APRIL

|     |            |  |   |
|-----|------------|--|---|
| Sat | 7—ROCHDALE |  | A |
| Sat | 14—WIGAN   |  | H |
| Sat | 21—SWINTON |  | H |



## LOLLY-DOLLIES

Hello to our Promotion Girls' team - a side that has done as fine a job off-field putting the club right in the public eye as have our lads on-field.

Apart from bringing a touch of much-needed feminine colour and glamour to Watersheddings, the girls have already proved their cash-value by rising much needed finance for the club.

The girls work under the leadership of Promotions Manager Alan Taylor. Said Alan "Our lolly dollies have worked tremendously hard to make

their new role in club activities an outstanding success.

"And I must thank our supporters too, who have readily accepted the girls and given them every help.

"I would like to ask the fans to dig deep into their pockets for the various fund raising ventures promoted by the girls. In buying tickets or anything else from our dolly-birds, you are boosting the club's vital cash flow."

The Promotion Girls can, of course, be seen on match

days and nights at Watersheddings. But those who want an extra peep at them can find them in full fund raising action at the Social Club on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

And their latest valuable task is to promote the sales of "Oldham Rugby News" throughout pubs and clubs in the whole area. If you want them to call at YOUR establishment, give Promotions Manager Alan Taylor a ring at 652 - 5244.

THE

GREENAL

For  
all  
local  
sport

Left to Right:  
Jocelyn Cavanagh, Janice Hilton, Wendy Clarke, Christine McEntee.

## TOP PRIORITY TO BUILDING UP RESERVES

Top priority is now being given by Oldham to the revitalising and all-round strengthening of the club's "A" team.

A three-man action committee has been formed specifically to handle every aspect of "A" team affairs. Its members are Ray Hatton, Jack Bowden, and Derek Hulme.

One of the first big tasks facing the committee is to appoint a coach-player to the reserve side to fill the vacancy left by Alan Kellett. Alan had to give up the job due promotion at work.

And contrary to some rugby reports from quarters which should have made sure of their accuracy, the

job of coach-player was in fact advertised widely for four weeks before the sub-committee was formed.

Now a short list has been drawn up, and the club expect to announce an appointment within seven days.

An incidental, but equally important task handed to the sub-

committee is the setting up of a national talent scout network in Britain and all other countries where rugby is played.

Said Ray Hatton "Now the first team are rolling along smoothly, proper attention can be given to the important task of maintaining and nourishing an adequate reserve strength.

"It is our intention that every player in the "A" team will be fit and talented enough to challenge for a place in the first team."

## OLDHAM RUGBY SOCIAL CLUB

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CHUGALUG - Duo

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## Salford bring big money men

TWO men in tonight's Salford line - up cost between them nearly £20,000. Loose forward Prescott was recently signed from St. Helens for £13,500, and hooker Peter Walker cost £6,000 from Bradford Northern. The talented Salford

side are currently finding top form after a slow start to the season, and ran in 62 points against Huyton on Friday. Salford captain Watkins is their accurate and reliable goalkicker.

Oldham are hoping that Reynolds will be fit, but he had five stitches in his

head after the Wigan game. Gareth Owen is out with torn ligaments from Friday, but hooker Kevin Taylor returns after being sent home from training the other evening with a heavy cold.



Salford's International winger Chris Hesketh goes down for the line.

## MATCH POINTS

by RON SMITH

OLDHAM served up a bagful of errors at Wigan on Friday night, but their speed, dash and determination more than compensated for what could have been match losing lapses.

Wigan had been having a rough time recently, but if Oldham expected to find them a pushover, they had to make a rapid reappraisal. Wigan fought heroically to end their disastrous losing spell, and Oldham had to pull out the full range of their attractive abilities right to the final whistle in a match that was as close and keen as any vital cup tie.

Without their mistakes such as dropping the ball over the try-line, Oldham would have won handsomely. And to make it all the harder, Larder had

an off-night with several not too difficult goal kicks which should really have set the winning points beyond any sort of doubt.

The half back duel between the Hill brothers resolved itself slightly in favour of Cliff. He had the edge because McCone was faster, safer and more resourceful in support than Wigan's young Jim Nulty.

Oldham's back division showed much more imagination and sparkle than the often-tattered Wigan threequarters. The most spectacular move of the

match which drew a Wembley-sized cheer from the pint-sized crowd was Mike Elliott's sizzling try. It came from a breath taking, across the field, swinging showpiece of passing between Ashcroft, Hill, Irving and Larder, rounded off by Elliott's bomb-burst over the line.

Irving, a blinding block-buster, added Oldham's second try and Larder kicked three goals.

Oldham: Murphy, Elliott, Larder, Wainright, Hodgkinson, Hill, McCone, Wilson, O'Mahoney, Ashcroft, Irving, Owen, Reynolds, substitutes: Davies, Daley. Attendance: 3,000

## DO YOU REMEMBER



Test your memory by seeing if you can identify this flash-back picture of a great Oldham

## LINE-UP

### OLDHAM 12

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT
3. LARDER 3 goals
4. WAINRIGHT
5. HODGKINSON try
6. HILL
7. McCONE try
8. WILSON
9. TAYLOR
10. ASHCROFT
11. IRVING
12. DALEY
13. REYNOLDS
14. DAVIES
15. MUNRO

### SALFORD 8

1. CHARLTON
2. COLLOBY
3. WATKINS 4 goals
4. HESKETH
5. RICHARDS
6. GILL
7. BANNER
8. RAMSHAW
9. WALKER
10. COULMAN WARD
11. KIRKBRIDE
12. DIXON DAVIES
13. PRESCOTT DIXON
14. PROSSER
15. WHITEHEAD

Referee: Mr J. Wharton (Mirfield)  
Touch Judges: Mr E. Glazebrook (Wigan)  
Mr J. F. Jones (Widnes)

## Your Scoreboard

### OLDHAM

McCone try  
Hodgkinson try  
Larder 3 goals

### SALFORD

Watkins 4 goals

Back again for another great season!

## The Player's N°6 Trophy

Bigger prizes. More excitement.



The Player's N°6 Trophy that ended last year in an exciting win for Halifax, is back again.

The rules of the series are the same as last season—a 5-round, 32 club knock-out tournament played between September and March. But this season the prize money has been increased from £9,500 to over £16,000 so matches will have that much more excitement.

Make a date with Player's

N°6