

OLDHAM

RUGBY NEWS

Vol. 1 Number 4
Oldham v Huddersfield
Saturday, November 4th (3.00 p.m.)
Oldham v Castleford
(Floodlight Cup, Round 2)
Tuesday, November 7th (7.15p.m.)

6p

Brewery waves the magic wand

WHO SAID 13

WAS UNLUCKY?

A WHISPER that a rival brewery could be making a play for Oldham's flourishing Rugby Social Club sent Greenall Whitley's sales director Colin Diamond racing to Watersheddings with a £13,000 cash aid offer.

He was met by Club Chairman, Arthur Walker, and directors Jack Bowden and Cyril Farnworth. They said 'Thanks very much, we'll take the money and put it to good use.'

A GREAT TRY, NORM



Norman Hodgkinson follows through after touching down for a great try against Widnes.

Frank dives below waves



Frank Foster — and company — submerge a swift-moving Widnes Back. Now Frank is going to go under . . . see story right.

YO HO HO AND A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH. IT'S GOING TO BE A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVES, OR RATHER UNDER THE WAVES, FOR OLDHAM'S POWERHOUSE FORWARD FRANK FOSTER

Frank, an electrical expert with Vickers' Barrow shipyard, has been seconded to the Royal Navy for a short underwater testing tour with a British nuclear sub.

He starts out from Inverary on Loch Fyne, next week and may well miss the Castleford, Huyton and Hull games. We've asked Frank to keep an eye out for any monsters he may come across while sitting at the bottom of Scottish lochs. Although if any of Nessie's chums have heard of Frank's own Polaris reputation, they may well make for the open sea in sheer self preservation.

SAUNA DAY'S WORK

If you notice an extra healthy sparkle among the Oldham players, it's because they've been taking free Sauna baths — thanks to the generosity of the Peter Francis Salon at 151 Drury Lane, Hollinwood.

Says proprietor Peter

Johnson 'Sauna gives immediate relief to muscle strain and tension, both bodily and mentally. The ancient Greeks were using it more than 2,000 years ago, and in Finland today it is of course a ritual.'

Sounds a great way to relax.

Morning to the Dark Blues

Winger Mick Wilde is leaving Oldham — for the time being — to wear the dark blue colours of the police force.

Mick came up through the Oldham 'B' team, and signed professional forms in December 1970. Now 21, he played ten times in the first team last season, and once in the previous season.

Mick, who is married, goes for six weeks to the police training college at Preston, then on for more specialised training to Warrington. He and his wife live at Fitton Hill.

NOW WE STAGE LECTURE COURSE

IT ALL HAPPENS at Oldham. First Watersheddings stages the World Cup trial, and now it is to be the venue for the Rugby League's top coaching course.

Starting tomorrow, Sunday, big name coaches such as Oldham's Graham Starkey, and Bradford Northern's Albert Fearnley will be running a six week coaching course together with referees Terry Keane and Alex Givvons.

The course is aimed at mature players who intend to secure coaching jobs when their full time playing days are over. Among the players who have already signed up are Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Johnny Blair and Chris O'Brien. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the course.

Mr. Wilkinson said that the new club cocktail bar will take the heavy load from the club's main bar. Apart from extensions to the Social Club concert lounge, it is intended eventually to build next to the club a whole new office administration complex so that the main football club, pools, and social club offices can be housed under one roof.

Tenders for the work will go out immediately, and it is hoped that subject to planning permission a start will be made within weeks.

Every night in the week it is virtually 'Standing Room Only' at the Social Club, which hands over substantial sums of cash to the parent football club. This financial year since April nearly £4,000 has been given in this way.

Because of a scarcity of comfortable halls in Oldham, there is no shortage of outside bookings for the club's concert lounge. This was packed to capacity for the recent boxing matches between Oldham and Bradford schoolboys — and the Club decided in the general interests of sport they would give the lounge free of charge for the evening.

One snag: most of the parents accompanying the boys turned out to be non-drinkers, so sales were pretty low that night. Said Kevin Wilkinson, 'Well, we can't win 'em all.'

NOSE OPERATION

Joe Collins is going into Oldham Royal Infirmary next week for a nose operation to enable him to breathe more easily. This involves cutting part of the nose bone away, and Joe expects to be out of action for about two weeks.

TEASER ANSWER

Answer to last Do You Remember teaser. This was pictured after the 1956 Lancashire Cup Final against St. Helens at Wigan. Among the players are Eddy Jackson, Ayres, Stirrup, Little, Winslade, Pritchard.

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 need to revive interest in the county championship competition has never been so great as it is at present.

It is unfortunate for those officials who put so much time and effort into running the championship that attendances have dipped alarmingly in recent seasons.

Yet it appears that a fair indication of the fans interest in the championship was reflected in the dismal attendance of 2,474 for the Yorkshire clash with Lancashire at Castleford.

The problem is that the championship has to be squeezed into an ever increasing fixture programme.

Already clubs throughout the game are finding that their supporters cannot afford to watch more than one game a week — and that has to have a certain appeal.

So while they are becoming more and more selective the problems will mount for the county officials.

They are equally hard hit when they have to call on five players who have

played for their club the previous night and one who has not seen any real action for a month.

I can sympathise with a county wanting to turn out its strongest possible side but with the ever increasing number of withdrawals these days seem to have disappeared completely.

That is why I don't think the recent

We need County boost — but how?

suggestion of altering the structure of the championship to include a Welsh side would prove successful.

And I feel it would make a mockery of the game when you imagine Wales as possible holders of the county championship. They could call on an international-looking side but it would hardly improve the image of the game.

The World Cup has intervened in this year's championship and delayed the staging of the play-off between Yorkshire, the holders, and Cumberland.

There is every

prospect of this game producing an entertaining struggle — if two top strength sides could be named and fielded!

I don't envy those responsible the job of arranging the championship play-off for whatever happens it has to follow the World Cup.

But it seems that they will have to do more than call on the patriotism of the fans

if this event is to have a future in an already crowded programme.

STEVE NASH's achievement in winning a World Cup place is another chance for him to follow further in the studmarks of his idol. For the greatest admirer of Tommy Bishop before he emigrated to Australia was a youngster who first watched him play from a bedroom window overlooking the Featherstone ground.

Bishop developed as a fine scrum half with Britain both on the tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1966 and in the World Cup over there two years later.

Now Nash, easily recognised as one of the snappiest dressers in the British side, has

moved halfway towards completing his ambition — he also wants to tour Down Under.

Few would dispute that Nash has had the right upbringing for he is a product of the Featherstone club, which has reared so many talented scrum halves in the past.

'Like most youngsters in Featherstone I was raised on League, particularly with our little terraced house backing on to the Rovers pitch,' recalls Nash.

'I used to spend hours watching matches from my bedroom window and almost fell out with excitement at some of the great Cup-ties we've had there. I somehow concentrated on the scrum half position, because of my size, and Tommy Bishop quickly became my favourite.'

'He was full of guts and courage and never shirked a battle with the Featherstone forwards, who were possibly the biggest in the game.'

'I remember thinking what a blow it was to the game over here when Tommy decided to go to Australia. He was a key man in the international side, and so many of the players responded to his enthusiastic approach.'

'I only hope that I can be half as good as him. I actually modelled my play on him but found I was taking too much punishment and getting too involved with the forwards.'

IT'S MY VIEW

by Brian Batty
Daily Mail

'Now Rovers coach Peter Fox, and World Cup coach Jim Challinor, have altered my style of play. They have got me playing more without the ball. I felt I had begun to fit in well in the two games with France and worked up a good understanding with Ken Kelly.'

Coach Challinor says: 'Nash played well against France and has matured a lot in the last 12 months. He is strong in attack and typical of the old style of British scrum halves, with his ability to break and put a forward through the gap.'

Featherstone chairman John Jepson, a long serving international selector, says: 'Nash is proving as good as men like Don Fox and Tommy Smales when they were both picked to play for Britain. He has been anxious to learn ever since the day he was made a ball boy at Featherstone. He even made his mark in that job.'

'A lot of our fans still recall the time he retrieved the ball and kicked it back so hard it hit centre Ken Greatorex in the face and knocked him out.'

MEET THE CLARET & GOLD



Here are the lads from Fartown, most of whom are in today's side. Back, left to right: Pickup, Weavill, Wild, Veivers, Chawner, Branch, Bennett, Davies, Shepherd. Front: Senior, Houson, Appleyard, Loxton, Bedford, Doyle, T. M. Kaye (mascot).

HUDDERSFIELD STATISTICS

Colours: Claret and gold hooped jerseys, white shorts.

Ground: Fartown.

Founder members of the rugby league in 1895.

Nickname: The Fartowners.

Attendance record: 35,136 in 1946-47, Cup semi-final, Leeds v Wakefield Trinity.

Record win: 119-2 v Swinton Park Rangers (Cup round 1) 1913-14.

Record defeat: 17-64 v Leeds (Yorkshire Cup round 1) 1958-59.

Try scoring record: 80 by Albert Rosenfield 1913-14.

Goal kicking record: 150 by Ben Gronow 1914-15.

Points scoring record: 339 by Ben Gronow 1919-20.

League champions: 1911-12, 1912-13, 1914-15, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1948-49, 1961-62.

Runners up: 1913-14, 1919-20, 1922-23, 1931-32, 1939-40, 1945-46, 1949-50.

Challenge cup winners: 1912-13, 1914-15, 1919-20, 1932-33, 1944-45, 1952-53.

Runners up: 1934-35, 1961-62.

Yorkshire cup winners: 1909-10, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1918-19, 1919-20, 1926-27, 1931-32, 1938-39, 1950-51, 1952-53, 1957-58.

Runners up: 1910-11, 1923-24, 1925-26, 1930-31, 1937-38, 1942-43, 1949-50, 1960-61.

Yorkshire Champions: 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1919-20, 1921-22, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1948-49, 1949-50.

Runners up: 1922-23, 1923-24, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1952-53, 1962-63.



Grünhülle
Lager

Brewed in the Bavarian Way

LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

BY
TOM WEBB

IN THE EARLY 1880s the value of one goal outweighed any number of tries, and Oldham 'A' lost to Broughton Rangers 'A' by one goal to nine tries. Now the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction, with many people wishing to reduce the value of dropped goals while the Rugby Union have increased the value of a try to four points.

Mention of the 'A' team recalls the fact that originally to describe a team as the 'A' was a face-saving gesture. If a club could not put out its first fifteen, say being three or four good men short, it described its side as 'A team', thus saving the first team from what was likely to be a defeat. Eventually the second team became the 'A' team and that is the position today.

When the Maoris toured this country in 1888-9 it was a gala day at the

Clarksfield ground. The Oldham team, slightly reinforced, won by one dropped goal from Bill McCutcheon who also scored a try, and one try each by Jowitt and Whittaker.

The Oldham team which defeated the Maoris was T. B. Broadbent; J. Hurst (Leigh), W. McCutcheon, W. H. Pennington (Rochdale Hornets); J. B. Mills, J. Dolan (Rochdale Hornets); T. Whittaker (Manchester) H. Court, E. Blomley, J.

Armstrong, S. H. Nuttall, J. Mellor, H. Wolstencroft, W. Lees, H. Jowett (Failsworth).

Note the formation: one full back, three three-quarters, two half backs and nine forwards. The four threequarter back formation did not appear for another year or two.

In the match with Newport, the home club claimed a win but Oldham claimed a draw, and the result given in the Oldham newspapers was Newport three tries Oldham one goal. As this was played on New Year's Day 1889 it is obvious that the values of goals and tries had altered in some way.

The game following was with Leeds Parish Church, and the ground was so hard that it was decided to play the match as an ex-

hibition. When the score was two minors each the game was stopped as the crowd, unable to see the game clearly went on to the pitch, making it impossible to continue.

At this period the team was stripping at the Old Soldier Hotel, and then travelling by wagonette to the ground at Clarksfield, or Hollin Hall, as it was sometimes described. The club colours were changed at this time from amber and black to cherry and white.

On September 28, 1889, the club moved along with the Oldham Cricket Club to a district known as Knucklet, but now included in Watersheddings. The deeds of the grounds actually refer to Knucklet. The ground was first used for the Swinton game, which was the first home fixture of the season. There were

7,000 spectators but Oldham, 'in their new shirts of red and white', lost by two goals, one try and two minors to one minor.

During that season Oldham played at Leicester, and the 'Oldham Chronicle' stated that Hurst dropped a goal while the 'Oldham Standard' maintained it was McCutcheon who did so. Both agreed that McCutcheon and Hurst scored tries, but the scorer of the other try was not named, so I have query marks for that match for both the goal and try columns.

Later still that season, Oldham played Mossley and the reports stated that 'the Oldham forwards dropped on the ball for a try'.

The next year saw McCutcheon and Dai Gwynne, both Welsh recruits to the Oldham club, play for Lancashire versus the Rest of



England on residential qualifications.

These two players, along with others caused the Rev. Frank Marshall, who conducted a personal witch hunt against professionalism to report the club to the Rugby Union who investigated Oldham's case. On April 18 1891, the special meeting discharged the case, saying it 'had not been proved'.

Season's fixtures and Results SEASON 1972-73

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	9-12	A

OCTOBER

Tue 3—SALFORD (Floodlight Cup)	12-8	H
Sat 7—ST. HELENS	12-12	H
Sat 14—WORKINGTON	10-17	A
Wed 18—GT. BRITAIN	18-15	H
Sun 22—WIDNES	17-18	H

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		H
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
Sun 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

'A' Team Fixtures

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
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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



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Mick in Rugby action.

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LIKE COMEDIAN Charlie Williams, Mick McCone was once destined for professional soccer trials with Doncaster Rovers. Charlie surrendered soccer fame for stage fame, and his near neighbour Mick gave it up 'simply because the game of rugby drew me like a powerful magnet.'

Mick's home town of Pontefract has one or two facets of interest which might just land it in the Visitors' Guide to the South Yorkshire Coalfields. It is, for example, the home of the succulent Pomfret cakes. It has a dog legged racecourse, and a red bricked army barracks.

But much more important for rugby fans is the fact that it is right at the centre of one of the most productive rugby talent stud farms in the world. The area of Pontefract, Castleford, Glasshoughton, Featherstone and Doncaster has almost as many potential young rugby stars as it has racing greyhounds and whippets.

So Mick McCone was born in exactly the right sort of area for his future profession, just as a youngster with fine natural basketball abilities might be if he pitchforked into life in Harlem.

Mick started playing rugby at his school in Pontefract when he was 11 — but there was a snag. Alternate weeks he had to play soccer there, which was not the best way of ensuring a smooth flow of rugby development.

Mick's sports master arranged for him to have trials with Doncaster Rovers, but Mick scotched the idea. He said, 'No thanks, I prefer rugby'. Mick used to go along to watch Doncaster Juniors playing rugby. One day he asked, 'Can you give me a game?' They could, and did.

Mick's late father used to take him from school to junior rugby training sessions, and at the weekend they would watch Doncaster, Featherstone or Castleford.

After one season with Doncaster Juniors, Mick was invited to play with the Featherstone Under-17s, where one of his team mates was Wigan's Bill Francis. The following year, Mick played for the area Under-19 team, and when he was 18 he appeared for Yorkshire Under-19s.

Mick then played a season with Ackworth's powerful open age side, followed by trials for Wakefield Trinity and York. The Minster club offered him a reasonable signing fee, but Mick was waiting for an offer from one of his home town coalfield sides.

This came when Mick was 21. He was picked for Doncaster's first match of the season at Blackpool, and kept the Number Seven spot for all the remaining games.

At the end of Mick's second season with Doncaster, he became dissatisfied because more often than not he was drawing losing pay. Doncaster were having a tough time. From early days gates of 4,000-plus after the formation of the club in the early fifties, average attendances had slumped to just over 1,000.

Doncaster listed Mick at £6,000. Halifax and Huddersfield were willing to put in tenders — but not around the price Doncaster were asking. So Mick stayed put.

He had a total of six seasons with the south Yorkshire side before he decided to cross the Pennines to Oldham. Mick had two 'A' team and three first team trials before he finally became a fully fledged Oldham player.

He says, 'I was very lucky as a young family man to switch clubs when I did. I was having to miss matches at Doncaster to work weekends in my trade as an electrician simply because we could not get by on losing rugby pay. But I came to Oldham when they were starting their record unbeaten league run, and things have worked out fabulously for me with the club.'

Mick's first game for Oldham brought back memories for him. It was at Blackpool — scene of his entry into Rugby League professionalism.

No-one could call Mick a moaner. But he does complain occasionally that different referees have their own highly individual interpretations of what is in fact meant by the rules concerning scrums. Says Mick 'They vary so much it can be very confusing.'

Mick's eagle eye in spotting the way a ball is leaving the scrums helps him in his hobby — when Pat gives him leave from baby sitting. Mick is a real pot shot with a rifle or shotgun, and from time to time decimates the wild pigeon population of Yorkshire.

Come to think of it, he goes something like a bullet himself when he's whipped the ball from the scrums. And his partnership with Cliff Hill is just about the strongest double barrel in the league.



Ian and Steven McCone riding donkeys on the beach at Scarborough.



Here's the baby of the McCone family, Stewart, who is pushing one year old.

All for the Good of the Game!

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PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS

Good reason for that first defeat since last January

KEY MEN LOST IN PRESTIGE FIXTURE

**Oldham 17pts
Widnes 18pts**
OLDHAM lost their vital League match with Widnes just four days before they took the field. That last minute 'prestige' fixture against the Great Britain World Cup side cost Oldham two key men injured and thus invited a League lambasting from Widnes.

The Oldham men showed odd flashes of the sizzling get-up-and-go which had so recently landed them right on top of the rugby roof, but more often they were just a fraction too slow and too jaded to collar the free-running Merseysiders.

In fact, Widnes blew into Watersheddings with the same sort of unpredictable ferocity as the gale force winds which Oldham had to battle against throughout the first, decisive half. While Oldham lumbered around with orthodox

precision, Widnes swished their tails smartly in rapidly changing, colourful rugby concepts.

It was Oldham's first defeat at home since last January. And it was close enough to make it a certainty that the absence of Wilson and Reynolds, plus the after effects of thrashing the Great Britain side, tipped the balance in favour of Widnes.

Our back page headline in the last issue proclaimed 'Widnes bring flying wingers'. We should have added they were also bringing eleven other on-the-ground speed merchants, for it was sheer clever ebullient pace that proved too much for Oldham.

Too often the Oldham pack clustered together in face of a Widnes play-the-ball, leaving gaping great holes through which backs such as Brown, O'Neill, Prescott and Aspey were able to coast in comfort.

And too often Oldham's tackling was of the neck stroking variety. But this is not to say that Widnes were very much the better-side. They were only just about as far ahead as the one point margin suggests. Better handling, keener tackling, and more determination from players who stood back to let others carry the work load, would have



Keen Widnes tackling puts a full stop to this promising Oldham move.

landed winning points for Oldham.

Possibly Oldham's most spectacular move came when Wainwright kicked up for Hodgkinson to race over the line with perfect timing for a try. Larder was in his best goal kicking mood, and almost saved the match.

Full back Martin Murphy was easily the most effective of the home backs. His fielding, link-up with attacks, and no-shirk tackling deserved winning pay.

Attendance was 4,644.

Oldham scorers: tries, Elliott, Hodgkinson, Davies; goals, Larder (4).

Widnes scorers: tries, Prescott (2), O'Neill (2); goals, Ashton (2), Aspey.

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Collins, Hodgkinson; Wainwright, McCone; Ashcroft, Taylor, Foster, Irving, Munro, Churm. Substitutes, Davies, Walker.

Widnes: McLoughlin; Brown, O'Neill, Aspey, Prescott; Bowden, Ashton; Walsh, Elwell, Sheridan, Foran, Blackwood, Nicholls. Substitutes, McDonald, Macko.

Big noise

The Birmingham-based Klaxon firm is keeping a close eye — and ear — on the performance of Oldham's time-keeping hooter. This is a test model specially installed by the firm, and is the first of its kind. The club Board felt that smaller compressed-air type hooters would not be noisy or distinctive enough for the purpose of effectively calling 'time gentlemen please.'

Match Analysis by Ron Smith

In Hot Water

Work is now completed on the conversion of the players' baths heating system from a solid fuel to an oil-fired hot water supply.

AT POLYTECHNIC

Winger Ian Ratcliffe, 18, has started a three year course in business studies at Liverpool Polytechnic. Ian has just signed as a full professional with the Oldham 'A' team.

FLOODLIGHT CUP DRAW

Here is the draw for the second round of the BBC Floodlight Cup.

November 14, Wakefield v Keighley.
November 21, Warrington or Widnes v Leeds.
November 28, Wigan v Leigh.

All matches played Tuesdays, kick off 7.15 p.m.

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TEN MISTAKES TO TEST YOUR R.L. KNOWLEDGE

TERRY WOGAN makes a deliberate mistake every morning. I have made ten mistakes in this short article. There are no prizes for spotting all the errors — only the satisfaction of knowing that you are pretty good when it comes to Rugby League general knowledge.

The Rugby Football League, which is the league of all the professional clubs in England, was founded in 1901. The winners of the first Northern R.L. Championship were Belle Vue Rangers, with Salford as the runners-up.

Two divisions were introduced in the 1902/3 season, but the scheme was not successful and was abandoned after four seasons. A two-division set-up did not see the light of day again until the 1962/3 season.

Although there are now only 30 professional clubs in this country there have been many more since the great split of 1895. Famous names like Bradford Park Avenue, Lancaster, Millom, Sheffield Victoria. There have been no new clubs admitted to the League since 1954, when Whitehaven came in, although charity games were often seen at their Colliery Recreation Ground before the second World War.

Professionalism was in-

troduced into French Rugby in 1933, when the touring Australians met England in Paris. Since this time there have been many Test Matches played between Great Britain and France. It is worth noting that the French National League award three points for a win, 2 points for a draw and one point for a defeat. The immortal Jean Galia, the greatest ever French rugby player 'guested' with St. Helens during the last war.

Personalities have always abounded in Rugby League. Several world famous athletes have tried their hand at the game with varying degrees of success. One of the most famous was E. McDonald Bailey, who signed for Swinton in July 1953. His stay in the code however was very short lived. Fellow sprinters Peter Henderson, Alf Meakin and Berwyn Jones fortunately did much better.

In fact, Berwyn Jones has the distinction of scoring the most points in a season (197 goals and 37 tries). Most goals in a

season (224) were kicked by Bernard Ganley (Rochdale Hornets) in season 1957/8. The most tries in a season award goes to Albert Rosenfield (Huddersfield) who performed this feat in season 1913/4.

Soccer fans have been quick to note that R.L. referees are not to be argued with. A good or bad referee can make or break a game. Referees, by their signals, inform the crowd and the players as to the reason for their decisions. Thus the raising of a foot from the ground in front of the body signifies that the prop is striking for the ball.

Television has brought the game into millions of homes. The first game to be screened in this country was the R.L. Challenge Cup Final of 1952, between Workington Town and Featherstone Rovers. There is no doubt that falling gates are due, to some extent, to the presence of television, but at least people in other parts of the country can now enjoy the spills and thrills of our great game.

If you spotted all ten errors you're a genius

1. The first match to be screened was the Gt. Britain v New Zealand game on the 10th November 1951. The first League match was Wigan v Wakefield Trinity on 12th January 1952.

2. It was Broughton Rangers who were the first Championship winners.

3. There never was a Sheffield Victoria. Bradford Park Avenue, now a soccer club was once a R.L. club.

4. Whitehaven were admitted in 1948. It was not once a R.L. club.

5. Jean Galia did not guest. He was a French player who scored the most points.

6. E. McDonald Bailey signed for Leigh, not Swinton.

7. Wrong Jones. It was of course Lewis Jones who scored the most points.

8. Bernard Ganley played for Oldham.

9. The referee is signalling that the hooker is striking.

1. The Northern Rugby Football League is the league of the professional clubs. The Rugby Football League embraces the game as a whole.

2. It was Broughton Rangers who were the first Championship winners.

3. There never was a Sheffield Victoria. Bradford Park Avenue, now a soccer club was once a R.L. club.

4. Whitehaven were admitted in 1948. It was not once a R.L. club.

CASTLEFORD DETAILS

Colours: White jerseys with black and gold band, black shorts.

Ground: Wheldon Road.

Founded in 1913, joined league in 1926.

Nickname: Cas.

Attendance record: 25,449 v Hunslet 1934-35 Cup quarter final.

Try scoring record: 36 by Keith Howe 1963-64.

Goal kicking & Points record: 120 goals, 240 points by Albert Lunn 1958-59.

League Championship runners up: 1938-39, 1968-69.

Challenge Cup winners: 1934-35, 1968-69, 1969-70.

Yorkshire Cup runners up: 1948-49, 1950-51, 1968-69.

Yorkshire Champions: 1932-33, 1938-39, 1964-65.

Runners up: 1936-37, 1963-64, 1965-66.

Floodlit Cup winners: 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68.

Quick Quiz

QUESTIONS

1. Leeds won the Yorkshire Cup this season — who did they defeat to win it?
2. Who are the Gallant Youths?
3. Which former Widnes player is in Australia's World Cup Squad?
4. Which players have skippered different winning clubs at Wembley?
5. Oldham scored a league double last season against Widnes, what were the scores?

ANSWERS

1. Leeds defeated Hull (a) 19-8, Featherstone Rovers (h) 36-5, Huddersfield (h) 26-13 and Dewsbury 36-9 in the Final.
2. Batley.
3. Scrum-half Denis Ward.
4. Gus Rishman with Salford 1938 and Salford 1952; Vince Karalins with Workington 1952; Saint Helens 1961 and Widnes 1964.
5. Oldham 13 Widnes 7; Widnes 7 Oldham 19.

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LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

LEIGH, who have had no reply to their letters to stay-aways Jimmy Boylan and Stan Dorrington, are going to see £750 transfer-listed centre Les Chisnall and ask him if he is prepared to make a comeback with the club.

Leigh have sent an offer to Australian captain and St. George full back-coach, Graeme Langlands, but they sent it too late for him to receive it before his departure for the World Cup in France. They now intend to see him either at St. Helens on Wednesday week, or at Wigan on the Friday of that week.

The Hilton Park directorate may also like to hear that Halifax captain-loose forward, Tony Halmshaw, listed last week at £9,000 for the second time in 12 months, would this time move into Lancashire.

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS displaced full back or centre Ian Markham is to ask for a reduction in his £5000 fee, as he feels that it is far too high and restricting his possible departure from Craven Park.

WAKEFIELD TRINITY have been checking on Dewsbury Celtic's 22-year-old prop forward John Hatfield, and were most surprised when they found he was playing on permit from the Dewsbury club. Trinity officials have also been doing their homework on Rochdale's transfer-listed forwards Eddie Brown and Kevin Flannagan, but do not expect any developments in that direction. For the time being they are concentrating on the Rugby Union field after the success of David Knowles.

NIGEL STEPHENSON Dewsbury and Yorkshire goalkicking centre, had the plaster off his arm last week and started light training with a view to making a comeback later this month.

KEIGHLEY are interested in Upper Wharfedale Rugby Union Club's 22-year-old former Headingley scrum half Jimmy McGuinn. The recently-married McGuinn is moving shortly to a new job in Carnforth, only 45 minutes drive from Barrow.

WARRINGTON feel confident they will sign Morley R.U. winger Dave Hoyland after interviewing him. He is keen to join the Wilderspool set-up after hearing his friend Robin Nicholas, a recent capture by the Wires from Rugby Union, praise the club.

ANYBODY WANT a solid and good hooker currently disillusioned with the game? Huddersfield will listen to offers for John Irving, 21-year-old brother of Oldham's Great Britain

in Wales again is Bridgend's Vivian Jenkins. Last season this player broke the club's try scoring record with 42 tries.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH should kick themselves for letting 22-year-old Halifax inter-town goalkicking full back or centre Les Coulter leave their club after six trials in their first team last, for he is back bang in form again with the boot. He landed five from six in blustery conditions against Bradford last weekend in his side's 19-7 success.

THE HALIFAX players and their wives are taking over the bar at Thrum Hall, with a percentage of the profit going to the club and the rest to the players. Last season the bar, which is only open on match days, made just under £300. The players want to treble this.

BRADFORD NORTH-EARN last season were raving about a young scrum half they signed from Keighley Albion. His name: Geoff Shutt. He played regularly in

Players get the bar takings . . .

international forward Bob.

DONCASTER, in the meantime, have signed a hooker from the Hull junior league. He is Peter Moody, and was signed midweek after impressing in last Sunday's game with Bramley.

CASTLEFORD are interested, and I believe Dewsbury have every intention of seeing Hull Kingston Rover's free-transfer Colin Cooper. Scrum half or loose forward Cooper is only 28 and in his benefit season, which is not going too well, and therefore the directors decided to let him fix himself up with another club.

SPECULATION surrounded Halifax last weekend. People wondered whether their R.U. trialist winger was Neath's David Jenkins or Llanelli's Andy Hill, who is also a successful round the corner goalkicker.

ONE WINGER who is setting the grass alight

their 'A' team, being groomed for future stardom with the first team, but this term the 18-year-old feels he is going backwards by being asked to play in the club's under-19 side, which plays in the Leeds Intermediate League.



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LINE-UP

OLDHAM 7

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

Referee: R. Moore (Wakefield)
Touch judges: K. Ashall and J. Meadows.

HUDDERSFIELD 7

1. BEDFORD
2. HOOSON
3. BENNETT
4. PICKUP *try*
5. SENIOR
6. SHEPHERD
7. LOXTON
8. HEPPLESTON
9. WEAVILL
10. HALL *2 goals*
11. VIEVERS
12. CHAWNER
13. CLARK
14. EVANS
15. WILDE

LINE-UP

OLDHAM 9

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT *try*
3. LARDER *goal*
4. WAINWRIGHT
5. HODGKINSON
6. HILL
7. ~~McCONE~~ GORMAN *goal*
8. WILSON
9. ~~FOSTER~~ TAYLOR
10. ~~FOSTER~~ *goal*
11. ~~IRVING~~ DALEY
12. ASHCROFT
13. REYNOLDS
14. DAVIES
15. MUNRO

Referee: R. Jackson (Halifax)
Touch judges: G. T. Schofield and P. Halstead

CASTLEFORD 7

1. BRIGGS
2. FOSTER
3. WORSLEY
4. NEWTON
5. ~~LOWNDES~~
6. JOHNSON *try*
7. ~~SEWENS~~ HARERAVE
8. HARTLEY
9. DICKINSON C.
10. DICKINSON A.
11. ~~ACKROYD~~ WALLIS
12. ~~REDLEIGH~~ LLOYD *2 goals*
13. ~~WALLIS~~ NORTON
14. KNIGHT
15. ~~HEPPLESTON~~ MILLER

Now for a hectic 3-games spell

FARTOWN AUSSIES ATTRACTION

AFTER THE WELCOME rest from hostilities Oldham begin their hectic three games in eight days spell with a visit from Huddersfield.

At full-back Huddersfield have TREVOR BEDFORD who rose to fame with Dewsbury and Castleford, while both Fartown wingers are dangerous opponents and both have scored four tries in a match this season.

Former Mixenden junior DAVE HOOSON scored his four in the 39-17 defeat of Keighley, while KEN SENIOR crossed for his four against Doncaster. Senior has been at Fartown ten years. In 1965-66 he made his Great Britain debut against the touring Kiwis, and he has several Yorkshire caps under his belt.

Huddersfield are well represented in the centre positions, with BILLY PICKUP and WAYNE BENNETT, as well as having a capable reserve in Graham Evans. Bennett joined the club last September from Queensland Rugby League, and made a sensational debut, scoring a try and six goals against Keighley. The Oldham management are well aware of the talents of 22 years old Pickup for they have made tentative enquiries regarding the availability of this former junior.

Our visitors have another exciting prospect at stand-off in 17 years old MICK SHEPHERD. Following his try-scoring debut against Warrington last month, at least one critic has dubbed him as a 'future Alec Murphy'. The Fartown club do not want to hamper Shepherd's progress by giving him too much first team football so we may find MIKE CHAMBERLAIN in the No. 6 jersey.

At scrum-half could be either BRIAN DOYLE, his brother Trevor plays centre, or KEN LOXTON. The 24 years old Loxton was a surprise selection for Great Britain against

New Zealand in the third test last season and he performed exceptionally well in Britain's 12-3 victory.

Huddersfield's forwards have the same versatility and strength in depth as their backs. At prop is Frank Davies, an experienced player who has been with them ten years.

The other prop forwards are also junior signings DAVE HEPPLESTONE from Shaw Cross Boys Club, and TREVOR CHAURNER from Bison's Sports. Last weekend Huddersfield experimented with prop DAVE WEAVILL, a local junior at hooker and, depending on how he played, we may find him there this afternoon in place of regular hookers Dick Appleyard and John Irving. In the second row will be CHRIS FORSTER, who joined Huddersfield from Hull in August of last year, or perhaps Bob Tomlinson. Formerly a centre, Tomlinson, has switched to the second row with great success.

Almost certain to be included in the Fartown pack is GREG VIEVERS, the giant Queensland and Australian test forward who joined Huddersfield in September to make it five Australians now with the club. Apart from Bennett and Vievers the others are Bob West and Jim Hall, from Port Kembla, and Russell Couch from New South Wales. Hall visited Britain three seasons ago when he had a short spell playing for Hull.

Without a doubt, the tit-bit for many Oldham fans this afternoon is the return of RAY CLARK. After representing Lancashire while a member of his home town club, Warrington, Clark came to Oldham in 1969 as part of an exchange deal which took Arthur Hughes to Wilderspool. Last season Clark made 25 appearances for Oldham,

scoring five tries before becoming unsettled. It came as no surprise when he was transferred to Fartown last June for £3,000. Clark has earned some excellent press reports in the Fartown colours and he will be determined to excel this afternoon. This, plus the recent influx of Australian talent to Huddersfield, makes today's game a difficult one for Oldham, and the very least spectators will expect from this confrontation is a rousing clash with plenty of 'fireworks'.

Huddersfield's form in League Football this season has been most inconsistent with their away record — better than at home. Two victories have been recorded against these have been the matches (at Hull 26-21 and Hunslet 28-2) while their two defeats have been by narrow margins at Keighley (16-20) and Wakefield Trinity (15-12). Home wins have been recorded against Keighley (39-17) and Doncaster (28-10), but there have been four disappointing home defeats. Whilst they perhaps expected defeat at the hands of Leeds (28-2), they could have expected better results against Warrington (24-10) and Oldham (25-7) and there could be no excuse for the 12-5 defeat at the hands of York.

It has been a similar story in Cup football for in the Yorkshire Cup Huddersfield could find no answer to the skill of Leeds in the semi-final and they lost 26-13 despite an outstanding display from Ray Clark. The BBC 2 Floodlit Cup tie with Castleford looked all sewn up as Huddersfield led 9-8 with 4 minutes remaining. Suddenly Castleford sprung to life and into round two with a 15-9 winning margin. However, it is league business which brings the Fartowners to Watersheddings today.

FLOODLIGHT THRILLER

FOLLOWING that exciting victory over Salford in Oldham's first round Floodlit tie, attractive Castleford are welcomed to Watersheddings in a match that could prove to be just as thrilling as that much talked about victory over the 'Red Devils'.

Our visitors have one of the league's best full-backs on their books in DEREK EDWARDS, but he is at present in dispute with the club and the full back berth will be filled by either IAN

STENTON or TREVOR BRIGGS. Briggs is a former winger, but the flanks have been covered in recent weeks by DEREK FOSTER and ALAN LOWNDES.

In the centre could be either ROY APPLEYARD or RAY NEWTON, the former Castleford RUFC player signed in October 1970. Their leading try scorer (8) is centre KEITH WORSLEY, a bright 19 years old prospect who scored a try on his Yorkshire debut last month. At stand-off Castleford have GARY BROOK a mid-summer signing who scored 34 tries at Doncaster before moving to Wheldon Road last June for £2,500. His half-back partner will probably be TONY DEAN, a junior signing from

Glasshoughton, although GLEN KNIGHT has recently been pressing for inclusion in the first team squad.

The Castleford pack is sure to give Oldham problems, no matter which six players turn out from the rich reservoir of forward talent. Among them are junior signings ALAN ACKROYD, CHARLIE BIRDSALL and GRAHAM BLAKEWAY, while 22 years old TERRY BISCOBE is another fine prospect who joined Castleford in April 1968 from Kippax juniors. The two brothers ALAN and CLIVE DICKINSON are formidable opponents with Clive having represented Yorkshire since 1968.

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