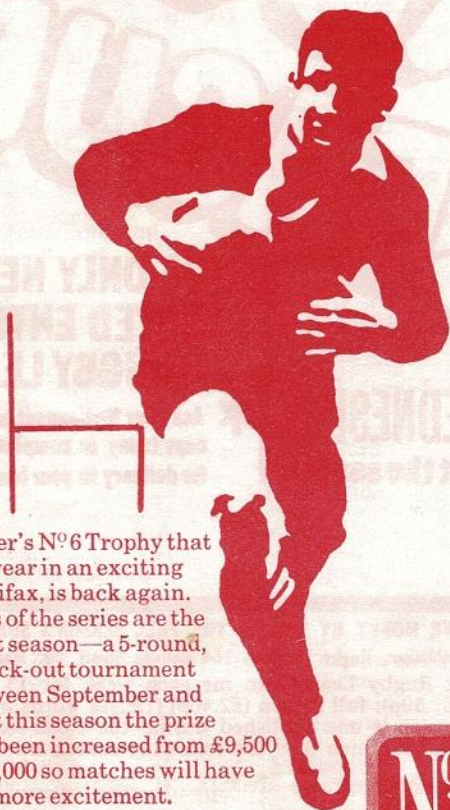


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Please note after the match is underway programme sellers stand behind the goal posts on the Railway End and programmes can be bought there during the match.

If anyone is interested in helping to sell programmes on match days please enquire at the Ladies' Shop.

Good as New Sale

Leigh Ladies' Supporters Association are to hold a Good as New Sale within the next couple of weeks and are currently collecting clothes, books, bric-a-brac, etc., suitable for selling. If anyone has anything they no longer need, please contact one of the girls and they will arrange for collection.

THE junior rugby league sides in Leigh are going great guns at the moment and last weekend the under 17's team proved their supremacy over Barrow under 17's when they won the Inter-Towns Cup.

After watching this game, no-one can say that rugby league is dying. From start to finish these two young sides played their hearts out but in the end it was Leigh who won the right to drink from the champagne filled cup.

Leigh began in fine style with an early try from Partington and a goal from Herberts, but after having two further tries disallowed, gave Barrow the chance to hit back with an unimproved try. Soon after, however, Partington raced over for his second try to give Leigh the advantage of an 8-3 interval lead.

The second half was as exciting as the first and after Barrow had equalised, Leigh captain, Joe Wood put his side back ahead with a fine diving try after the Barrow scrum-half had lost the ball at a scrum.

Bilsbury added the goal points and there followed a period of great rugby from both sides and six minutes from time Barrow were awarded a doubtful try. A Leigh forward was dismissed for disputing the try and with a man down, Barrow looked like taking charge, but they had not reckoned with the magnificent team spirit of their visitors and Bilsbury rocked the defence with a long pass which gave Partington the chance to race over for his hat-trick.

Bilsbury added the goal points to make sure the cup came to Leigh.

All the Leigh team played well and with fine spirit and determination, but outstanding were Bilsbury, Fairhurst, Grimshaw, Partington, Wood, Herberts and Ariss. The final score was Barrow 14 points, Leigh 18 points.

Leigh senior star, Tommy Martyn, turned out for the club's 'B' team in a bid to prove his fitness for Tuesday night's floodlit game at

Juniors Take Town Trophy

Wigan and his experience and class helped the team to an 8-2 victory over visitors Woolston.

The two teams produced some of the best rugby seen at Marsh Playing Fields for some time, but although the clever loose forward's presence made an obvious difference, it was team work that mastered the conditions and helped to stretch Leigh's unbeaten run even further.

After eight men had handled the ball, Hall crossed for a try but was brought back for a doubtful forward pass but minutes later Martyn made the break for Taylor to finish off a three-man move with a great try. Taylor almost added another try soon after but was brought back for a forward pass.

Woolston narrowed the score with a penalty and the game was kept open and fast after the interval and Hall was stopped inches short of the line. He played the ball to himself and dived over, only for the referee to rule he had knocked the ball over the line.

Tommy Martyn finally put the issue beyond doubt when he crossed for the try he so richly deserved and Evans added the goal to complete the scoring.

NEW coach, Les Pearce, officially takes over the reins as man in charge of Leigh from tonight's match.

The former Halifax boss signed a two-year contract with Leigh on Thursday night after spending three years in a coaching capacity at Thrum Hall.

He has met with much success during his time at Halifax, developing the team into an attractive side and guiding them to victory in the first Players No. 6 Competition.

Although happy with the Yorkshire club, a contract was never drawn up and Pearce didn't consider his position entirely secure. The terms Leigh offered were more attractive from a personal angle and Pearce is looking forward to the task in hand with great enthusiasm and confidence.

He knows the Leigh side has a lot of potential with the correct blend of youth and experience and while keeping an eye on the two major trophies left, the Floodlit Cup and the Challenge Cup, Pearce's first job is to take Leigh into the top sixteen, a job he should find much easier with Leigh's renewed team spirit, following their great morale-boosting win at Wigan last Tuesday.

Welshman Pearce began his professional career with Halifax when he joined them from Swansea Rugby Union Club and starred as a forward with them for ten years before moving to Dewsbury. After retiring, he coached the Crown Flatt side before returning to Halifax in 1968.

He realises his new side is capable of playing open, attractive rugby and he is confident that with the talent and spirit that is in abundance at Hilton Park, the uphill climb to success has already begun.

Leigh brought their register up to the maximum of 50 players last week when they signed 18-year-old Harold Myers. A utility back, Myers has impressed in the trial games he has played with Leigh 'A'. Myers lives in Wigan and has town and county honours at school-boy level.

Leigh 'B' team are currently riding high at the top of the second

PEARCE BIDS FOR TOP 16

division of the Warrington and District Amateur League. They have played 10 and won 10 with 263 points for and only 80 against. Their nearest challengers are Bold Hornets who have the same number of points but Leigh are a match in hand with a far better scoring average.

Owing to Widnes' commitments at St. Helens in the Players No. 6 Competition, the league match at Hilton Park, scheduled for next Sunday, December 10th, has now been postponed.

Second row forward Roy Lester has asked to have his £4,500 transfer fee reduced and the Leigh Board will discuss this at their next meeting.

PETER SMETHURST

his opinions and expert comment in the

Manchester Evening News

SCORE CHART

	Pld.	G.	T.	Pts.
Mick Stacey	18	24	2	54
Jimmy Fiddler	11	19	3	47
John Atkins	8	...	4	12
Denis Brown	3	6	...	12
Mick Collins	18	...	4	12
Paul Kelly	10	...	4	12
Tony Barrow	15	...	3	9
John McAtae	8	...	3	9
Steve Houghton	11	...	2	6
Tommy Martyn	12	...	2	6
Billy Melling	4	...	2	6
Rodney Tickle	4	...	2	6
Alan Riding	9	1	1	5
Peter Smethurst	14	1	1	5
Derek Clarke	8	...	1	3
Roy Lester	5	...	1	3
Allan Rowley	5	...	1	3
Joe Walsh	3	...	1	3
Tommy Canning	10	1	...	2
Charlie Middlehurst	2	1	...	2
Frank Barrow	14	...	...	...
Jimmy Boylan	8	...	...	...
John Carey	5	...	...	...
Dave Carey	5	...	...	...
Keith Clarke	3	...	...	...
Geoff Fletcher	16	...	...	...
Paul Grimes	5	...	...	...
Brian Highcock	1	...	...	...
Mick Hogan	8	...	...	...
Mick Mooney	3	...	...	...
Alan Ogden	3	...	...	...
Terry O'Neill	3	...	...	...
Frank Paulger	4	...	...	...
Tony Peters	4	...	...	...
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Bob Fleet	1	...	...	...

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IN the first season of the break-away Northern Union, 1895-96, Tyldesley, situated four miles from Leigh, played 45 matches, won 22, drew 9 and lost 14, scoring 26 goals, 54 tries, 274 points to their opponents' 20 goals, 26 tries, 171 points.

OLDHAM'S Bernard Ganley holds the record for the most goals in a season with the 224 he kicked in 1957-58.

OLDHAM and Leigh games over the last ten seasons have been very close with Oldham winning 11, Leigh 10 and 1 draw in the 22 matches played. Leigh have a better scoring average with 59 goals, 41 tries, 241 points to Oldham's 56 goals, 34 tries, 214 points.

THE number of players in a side was reduced from 15 to 13 in 1906. Several clubs wanted the number reduced even further to 12.

IN the early days of the rugby game, before the northern clubs broke away from the English Rugby Union, the opposing captains decided which rules would be applied. This inevitably caused disagreements and led to the appointment of two umpires. However, since they were also named by the opposing teams, their impartiality was often queried. So in 1885 the authorities called in a third arbitrator—the forerunner of our modern referee. He gradually gained complete control and the umpires became the touch judges of today.

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DEREK CLARKE

ONE of the basic essentials of any successful Rugby League team is the prowess of its hooker, something Leigh officials obviously realised when they signed Derek Clarke from Salford last month.

A clever footballing side is virtually useless unless it is getting a fair share of the scrums, and since the departure of Kevin Ashcroft to Warrington and the untimely close season injury to his young understudy, Billy Barrow, the Leigh Club has been more troubled in this department than any other.

But since the arrival at Hilton Park of ex-international Clarke, who began his career with Swinton, no-one has been able to complain about lack of possession.

Clarke has taken the scrums in every game, twice outhooking World Cup hooker, Mick Stephenson of Dewsbury and beating Leeds' international No. 9 Tony Fisher and

★ HOOKER CLARKE IS TOPS ★

Wigan's ex-international, Colin Clarke.

But it isn't just as a ball-winner that Clarke has proved his value to Leigh. In the loose he has shown he is an intelligent, quick-thinking and unselfish player and many of the side's try-scoring moves have stemmed from him.

Last weekend he was rewarded with his first try in Leigh colours. He dived over from acting half-back to give Leigh an early lead at Headingley in the second round of the Players Competition, and he was a tower of strength in the side which overpowered Wigan in last week's Floodlit quarter final.

LEIGH 'A' SLUMP

OWING to the recent slump in performances after a brilliant start to the season, Leigh 'A' are now in 7th place in the Lancashire Combination table having played 12, won 5, lost 5, drawn 2, 161 for, 180 against and 12 league points. Warrington 'A' have pulled clear at the top with 21 points from 14 games.

Leigh directors have been upset by remarks made in the Press by the Halifax chairman regarding the appointment of Les Pearce as coach. Halifax claim Leigh's transactions are underhand and that they should have been given notice in order to find themselves a new coach. But Pearce, despite being with the Yorkshire club for three years, had never been given a contract and therefore was entitled to leave immediately. Pearce wanted to better himself, as he feels he can do at Leigh, and with no loose ends to tie up at Halifax was perfectly within his rights to move to Hilton Park at short notice.

The club have approached stay-away half-back Jimmy Boylan and although he admits he has lost a little interest in the game he is prepared to meet the Leigh Board to discuss his future.

Leigh wing star, Steve Houghton, although a fitter and toolmaker by trade, has joined the Police Force and has informed the club that he will not be able to train for the next few weeks but will be available for weekend matches. Also the Police Force rules that he cannot have another job, and as Rugby League is considered to be semi-professional, Houghton will have to continue playing as an amateur.

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6. Barrow
7. McAtee
8. Grimes
9. Clarke
10. Fletcher, G.
11. Fiddler
12. ~~Barrow~~ Smethurst
13. Martyn

Substitutes—

14. Stacey
15. ~~Barrow~~

Full-Back
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Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Stand-off
Scrum-Half
Prop Forward
Hooker
Prop Forward
2nd Row Forward
2nd Row Forward
Loose Forward

Oldham 8

1. Murphy *bry*
2. Elliott
3. Larder
4. Davies *bry, goul*
5. Hodgkinson
6. Wright
7. McCone
8. Wilson
9. Taylor
10. Foster
11. Irving
12. ~~Daley~~ Ashcroft
13. Reynolds

Substitutes :

14. O'Brian
15. ~~Asherott~~ Walker

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DO YOU REMEMBER ?

Wednesday, September 30th, 1963 . . .

LEIGH v. OLDHAM at 'Hilton Park' in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup.

Result: Leigh 10 points, Oldham 0.

Attendance: 15,000.

Receipts: £2,000.

LEIGH—Tyrer: Large, Grainey, Collins, Leadbetter; Rhodes, Entwistle; Robinson, J. Lewis, Owen, Murphy, Martyn, Hurt.

OLDHAM—Dyson; Lord, Noon, Smethurst, T. Simms; Nestor, Pycroft; Bott, McIntyre, Robinson, Major, Platt, Parker.

Referee: Mr. Eric Clay (Rothwell).

A magnificent display by the Leigh pack ended Oldham's 11 match unbeaten run and put Leigh in the Lancashire Cup final for the first time since 1955.

It was a tremendously exciting game with many tough forward exchanges and enough open rugby to satisfy everyone.

While the forwards hammered Oldham into submission, the backs produced a rock-like defence which Oldham found almost impossible to break through.

The visitors made their biggest mistake in trying to slog it out in mid-field instead of opening play and as they tired, Leigh began to get on top.

The home side were unlucky to turn round at the interval with only the two points lead that Tyrer had given them from a penalty kick.

They clinched the game in the 65th minute when Leadbetter scored. Tyrer had put Leigh on the attack with a penalty kick to touch and after Noon had lost the ball, Collins kicked through for Leadbetter to chase. The winger bundled Oldham full-back Dyson over the line and dropped on the loose ball for a try. Tyrer put the game out of Oldham's reach with the resulting touch line goal-kick.

Nestor put Oldham back in the picture with a good run but he was tackled yards short of the line and from then on play remained in the visitor's half.

A minute from time Entwistle somehow managed to hold on to a bad pass and gave Grainey the chance to hand on to the unmarked Large. The winger dashed 15 yards to score in the corner.

Colin Tyrer was one of Leigh's brightest stars in a great team display and the three-quarters, although weakened by the absence of Gordon Lewis, could not be faulted. Rhodes and Entwistle had a few anxious moments against the elusive Pycroft, but in the forwards, John Lewis, who took the scrums 22-20, and Bill Robinson, were at their best.

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WHEN former Rochdale chairman Arthur Walker left the Hornets he never imagined that within two years of helping to form a breakaway "Ginger" group at nearby Oldham, his new club would be as successful as the Watersheddings outfit has become.

Mr. Walker is now in charge at Oldham and his side, who are amazing in that they have so few registered players but always manage to field a strong team, are among the league leaders and have upset the odds on more occasions than one.

Starring in his familiar role of full-back is Leigh-born Martin Murphy who was transfer-listed last season at £10,000, but has now settled his differences and is happy to stay at Watersheddings.

The three-quarter line-up looks as strong as any seen at Hilton Park this season. On the wing is speedy Norman Hodgkinson, who joined Oldham from a rugby union club in the London area.

Norman is a prolific scorer and this season he has shown that given any opportunity he will find the way to the line. He and his team mate on the other flank, South Wales born Mike Elliott, the coloured lad who has been with Oldham for many seasons, are lucky in having centres who are well above par.

Twenty-two year old Tony Wainwright, a stand-off when signed from Leeds in September, was immediately moved into the left centre berth where Oldham had a weak link, and will be partnered by regular goal-kicker Phil Larder, who joined the club from Sale Rugby Union.

Oldham seem well-blessed for centres with Mick Siddall, a junior signing from Yorkshire amateur club, Ovended, Joe Collins, who has been at Watersheddings for some time but is still young enough to be challenging for a first team place, and youngsters Stuart Bottom and Keith Jackson, all looking worthy of senior selection.

Club captain Cliff Hill, signed from Wigan a couple of seasons ago, has been lending his valuable experience at stand-off but could be

WELCOME TO OLDHAM

out of action tonight with hamstring trouble. If so, his place will probably be taken by Tommy Davies. Scrum-half is Mick McCone, a bargain buy from Doncaster.

Another Leigh man, Terry Gorman, formerly captain at Batley, is now coaching Oldham's 'A' team and has assisted as player when needed. He turned out in Oldham's great victory over the World Cup team and scored two tries.

Keith Ashcroft, ex-Wigan, is an experienced player who is a useful stand-in for regular front row man Ken 'Tug' Wilson and Frank Foster, the big Cumbrian who has made such a vast difference to the Oldham power pack. Hooker Kevin Taylor makes up a very impressive trio in the front row.

County and International player Bob Irving, who came on as substitute in the World Cup Final against Australia in France, is in the second row. He will be partnered by either ex-Warrington player, Billy Churm, Widnes lad Arthur Daley, who is challenging for a first team place, Geoff Munro, who is already being tipped for future honours, or Gareth Owen, son of former Leigh, St. Helens and Rochdale Hornets favourite, Stan Owen, who can also play at prop if needed.

Leigh lad Jimmy Reynolds, only 20-years-old but already a fine favourite with the Watersheddings crowd, will be in his usual position of loose forward to complete what looks to be a strong and workman-like Oldham outfit and it will take all that Leigh can give to prevent their visitors going through to the Floodlit Final.



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THIS is the first season at Leigh for Paul Kelly and John Atkins, pictured above in action at Hilton Park.

Although both only 20-years-old, they have firmly established themselves in the Leigh first team with Kelly starring in the stand-off role and Atkins in the centre.

Kelly came to Leigh early in the season as part of the exchange deal with St. Helens for the stay-away star David Eckersley.

He played his first full match at Hull Kingston Rovers in the Floodlit Cup and has now formed a smart partnership with clever young scrum half John McAtee and a useful understanding with the rest of the backs.

Atkins, one of three Austral-

Kelly & Atkins Put on the Star Style

ians on Leigh's books, has also been a regular first-teamer since his arrival in England. His strength and ability, both in attack and defence, helped to weld together a weak link in the three-quarters and his speed and acceleration make him a valuable try-scoring asset.

He has recovered from a bad leg gash which required six stitches and Leigh can look forward to more excellent service from him.

Next Matches on this ground

LEIGH 'A'

v.

SALFORD 'A'

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 1972—Kick-off 3 p.m.

LEIGH 'A'

v.

OLDHAM 'A'

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1972—Kick-off 3 p.m.



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'A' TEAM FIXTURES

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Fri.	18—Bramley A	13-15	19—Wigan (L.S. 1st Leg) H 16-5
Mon.	21—Workington A	8-19	26—Rochdale A 12-12
Mon.	28—Wigan (7-30 p.m.) ...H	8-13	29—Wigan (L.S. 2nd Leg) A 20-5
September—		September—	
Sun.	3—Widnes (L.C. 1st Rd.) H	6-20	2—OPEN.
Fri.	8—St. Helens A	2-9	9—St. Helens H 17-12
Sun.	17—Salford H	16-27	16—Barrow A 16-8
Sat.	23—Players No. 6 (1st Rd.)		25—Widnes H 21-15
	Workington H	10-9	27—Huyton H 17-11
October—		October—	
Sun.	1—Halifax A	7-23	30—Warrington H 13-19
Wed.	4—Floodlit Cup		7—Wigan A
	Hull K. R. A	12-10	10—Warrington H 20-5
Sun.	8—Bramley H	20-10	L.S., 2nd Rd., 1st Leg.
Sun.	15—Dewsbury H	9-5	14—Swinton A 10-14
Sat.	21—Whitehaven		21—Barrow H 23-12
	(L. C. Final) A	20-23	25—Warrington A 8-16
Sun.	29—Blackpool H	23-11	(L.S. 2nd Rd., 2nd Leg)
November—		November—	
Sun.	5—Swinton A	14-12	28—Huyton A 8-8
Sun.	12—Halifax (World Cup) H	13-6	
Sun.	19—Dewsbury A	15-5	
Sat.	25—Players 2nd Round		
	Leeds A	3-21	
Tues.	28—Floodlit Cup, 2nd Rnd.		
	Wigan A	16-14	
December—		December—	
Sun.	3—Rochdale A	7-7	
Tues.	5—Floodlit Cup, Semi-Final		
	Oldham H		
Fri.	15—Salford A		
Sun.	24—Oldham A		
Tues.	26—Warrington A		
	30—OPEN.		
Sun.	31—Huyton H		
1973		1973	
January—		January—	
Sun.	7—Keighley H		
Sun.	14—Keighley A		
Sun.	21—Workington H		
Sat.	27—R. L. Cup (1st Round)		
February—		February—	
Sun.	4—Oldham H		
Sun.	11—Widnes A		
Sat.	17—R. L. Cup (2nd Round)		
Sun.	25—Barrow H		
March—		March—	
Sun.	4—Barrow (RLC 3rd Rd.)A		
Fri.	9—Wigan A		
Sun.	18—Whitehaven H		
Sun.	25—St. Helens H		
April—		April—	
Sun.	1—Huyton A		
Sat.	7—R. L. Cup (Semi-Final) 1.		
Sun.	15—Rochdale		
	(R. L. Cup (Semi-Final) 2.		
Sat.	21—Blackpool A		
Mon.	23—Warrington (3 p.m.) ...H		

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