

OLDHAM

RUGBY NEWS

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SPRINGBOKS SEEK ENGLISH STARS FOR NEW LEAGUE

South African sports promoter Buddy Fuller has appointed a Contact Man in Lancashire to recruit British Rugby League professionals for the proposed new League in South Africa.

This news was cabled exclusively to 'The News' this week by our Man on the Spot in Durban.

He said "Buddy is playing it pretty close to the chest, because he does

not want to reveal anything that would bring retaliation from British clubs at this stage".

"But Fuller has admitted to me that his contact has sounded out potential prospects for South Africa with a view to offering them contracts in about a year's time."

Our correspondent adds "Fuller's number one problem at this moment is not a lack of players - it is finding sufficient suitable grounds for his brand new South African pro rugby organisation. But he has just had encouraging news from Western Province."

"There, Chris Muller, manager of the huge Western Province Agricultural Society, has placed the showgrounds at Goodwood at the disposal of the new Rugby League. And now work is to be started to improve the surface to playing pitch standard and to provide

mass spectator comfort facilities".

Oldham Rugby News announced exclusively in October that millionaire promoters Buddy Fuller, of Johannesburg, and Maurice Smith, of Durban, are planning to introduce Rugby League to the Springbok scene next year. Both were instrumental in launching stock car and speedway in South Africa.

Mr Fuller declared yesterday "We are not going about launching our new league in a slapdash or careless way. That is how the last attempt at pro rugby out here failed."

"We are making world wide contacts in Britain, Australia, New Zealand and France to ensure we get the players we want. And, of course, we are offering highly lucrative contracts to Springbok Rugby Union stars who have no international future since the ever

increasing isolation of South Africa in the world Rugby Union scene."

But already the new League has had a set back in that one of its proposed stars, Springbok centre Peter Swanson, has signed for the Penrith Rugby League Club in Sydney, Australia.

But Mr. Maurice Smith, co-promoter of the League, commented "There are literally hundreds of stars who, we think, will jump at the sort of money we are going to offer, plus of course the free gift of the fantastic South African climate."

So, it looks as though star starved British clubs may have more problems added to their already overflowing worry lists. International signing prohibitions may once more be introduced if there is any large scale player poaching by the ambitious South Africans.



Fog, rain, sleet, wind - you name it weatherwise and Watersheddings had it when Wigan were here. Daley goes down under a fog-bound tackle.

Xmas luxury for lucky 100

A strict limit of 100 - that is the membership ceiling fixed this week for the brand new vice-presidents' suite being built in the Oldham Rugby Pavilion.

Said Club Secretary Mr. K. J. Wilkinson "I know this figure will make membership pretty exclusive, but it is a matter of comfort for those vice presidents who are paying their five guinea membership fees. And of course, players and their wives will be going into the lounge after matches."

Work is well under way on the project. Major contractors on the £3,000-plus scheme are Geometric Furniture Ltd., of Bell street, Oldham.

They are ripping out the old interior of the huge bar over the pavilion frontage and re-equipping it to match the latest exacting modern standards in comfort and decor.

Heads of the Geometric company are brothers Keith and Raymond Broadbent, both themselves vice-presidents and keenly interested supporters of Oldham Rugby Club.

With club architect John Hall, the Broadbent brothers have worked out a scheme for the lounge which includes building a new, warmer eiling four feet below the existing high, old fashioned inner level. The walls are to be panelled in ash, and there will be concealed lighting, heavy grade contract fitted purple carpets, and ceiling to floor hessian curtains.

The Broadbent brothers started up their business some years ago

making revolutionary open sided beech furniture which has since been exported with their many other products to all parts of the world. Their designs and products are used extensively in schools, universities, hotels and clubs.

One of their new chairs with a trampoline type base is used by the hundred in Manchester University and in many local authority offices. It gives both comfort and working efficiency.

It is hoped the new lounge will be in full swing for the Christmas holidays, which means a round the clock working schedule for the Broadbent brothers and their staff.



Mick McCone is tackled by Bill Francis (front), while behind Ashurst grabs Phil Lander, who had taken Phil's pass.

SHARP SHOTS

TONIC FOR TERRY

Although there were a few anxious faces in the 'A' team a fortnight ago they are all smiles now after their great wins over Wigan at Central Park and St. Helens at Watersheddings.

Terry Gorman, the 'A' team's chirpy player coach, said: "The lads are much happier now. We knew the talent was there and a couple of wins would improve matters."

GET WELL SOON

Supporters club president Eric Schofield who had a spell in hospital recently is now back at home, and we hope to see him back at Watersheddings soon.

AUSSIE BOYS

The Australian schoolboys touring team will play East Lancashire schools at Watersheddings on Wednesday, December 20th.

FINAL DATE

If Wakefield Trinity won their Floodlit Cup semi-final against Widnes, due to be played last night (Tuesday), the final of the BBC2 competition will be played at Watersheddings on December 19th.

If Widnes won, the final will be played at Wigan.

BRAVE KEN

Wilson the brave. That is the new name for Oldham prop Ken Wilson. Despite a nasty attack of flu he went out in some terrible conditions and played a magnificent game for Oldham in their cup defeat at Leigh.

CLIFF TRAINS

Cliff Hill, Oldham's clever outhalf and skipper, is on the comeback trail. Wigan-based Cliff, who has missed the last few games because of a hamstring injury, is now back in light training and should be back in action soon.

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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.

SALFORD HONOURS

Colours: Red jerseys with white 'V', white shorts.
Ground: The Willows
Nickname: The Red Devils
Joined Rugby League in 1896
Attendance record: 26,470 v. Warrington (Challenge Cup) 1936-37
Goal and Point Scoring Record - 29 tries and 193 goals, 473 points by David Watkins in 1971-72
Try Scoring Record: 46 by R. Brown in 1933-34
Record Win: 78-0 v. L'pool 1906-07
Record defeat: 5-63 v. Wigan in 1924-25
Rugby League Champions: 1913-14, 1932-33, 1936-37, 1938-39
Runners-up: 1901-02, 1902-03, 1903-04, 1933-34
Challenge Cup Winners: 1937-38
Runners-up: 1899-1900, 1901-02, 1902-03, 1905-06, 1938-39, 1968-69
Lancashire League Champions 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1936-37, 1938-39
Runners-up: 1913-14, 1929-30, 1939-40
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1931-32, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1972-73
Runners-up: 1929-30, 1938-39

LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

IN SEASON 1897-8 Oldham Football Club won the championship of the Lancashire Senior Competition, which corresponded with the Lancashire County League and which was a feature of our game for some sixty years. After the trophy had been won the Oldham team and the Oldham "A" team toured the town in wagonettes and were led by the Oldham Rifle Band on their triumphal journey. Over 80,000 people lined the streets on this occasion!

The mainstays of the team at this time were R.L. Thomas full back; T. Martin, S. Lees (captain), I.P. Taylor, J. Hurst and S. Williams, threequarters; A. Lees and J.R. Lawton halfbacks, G. Frater, E. W. Teifer, J. Lees, H. Ellis, H. Broome, F. W. Davies, R. Porter, E. Bonser, J. Moffatt, and J. Merrill forwards. Hurst 23, Lawton 18, Martin 18, Taylor 10, Davies 9, and Edwards 7 were leading try scorers with S. Lees landing 36 out of the 50 goals scored during the season.

It was during this season that Crompton F.C., which was then a semi-senior Northern Union club, closed down after playing Millom on January 29 1898. Oldham had beaten the local rivals 14-0 at Crompton and 12-0 at Watersheddings, both matches taking place

during September. In 14 meetings between the clubs Crompton had lost each time although running the major club to a couple of points on two or three occasions. It is pleasing to note that two Crompton junior schools have taken up Rugby League football this season and are in full membership of the Oldham Schools' Rugby Football League.

In the following season, 1898-9, Oldham were under the leadership of James Ashton president and Councillor J.C. Buckley as secretary, Arthur Lees had the honour of receiving the Northern Union Challenge Cup at Fallowfield at the end of the season when Hunslet were beaten in the final by 19-9. The passage to the final had been fairly easy in spite of the standing of the

clubs who provided the opposition.

Goole were beaten 63-0 at home, Warrington were conquered in the second round by 14-0 which would be regarded as an easy victory in those days, and Bradford were vanquished at Park Avenue in the third round by 23-3. Widnes appeared at Watersheddings in the fourth round only to retire defeated by 20-0 and Leigh were walloped 16-2 in the semifinal at Broughton. Hunslet's three goals and a try in the final exceeded the number of points scored against Oldham in the five previous rounds.

S. Williams with 39 tries, T. Davies 28 tries, T. Martin 19 tries, J. Lawton 15 tries, A. Lees 10 tries and T. Fletcher 10 tries all reached double figures with S. Lees 23 goals and G. Frater 21 goals dominating the goal scoring.

During the close season Councillor Buckley resigned as secretary and from over 80 applicants George Kilner of Brighouse, a journalist with the Brighouse Echo and the Brighouse News was chosen. He served until the end of the 1911-2 season.

Joe Ferguson played his first game for Oldham against Morecambe on September 2 1899. He

BY
TOM
WEBB



was still with us as a player until the close of the 1922-3 season. He was an international, captaining England and played for both Cumberland his native county and Lancashire his adopted one. He was selected to go on the first tour of Australia but declined. He made more appearances in the Oldham colours than any other player in the history of the club.

An innovation was the appointment of Jack Richards of Hollinwood as trainer of Oldham Football Club. He was a famous athlete and won two Sheffield Handicaps. He had trained Oldham County the first professional soccer club in the town and he was employed by Messrs Platt Brothers.

J.R. Lawton had the honour of captaining the Lancashire side that won the County Championship of that season, 1899-1900.

THE
GREEN
FIRE
N L

for all
local
sport

Northern Rugby League Championship

1. Warrington	15	14	0	1	28
2. Leeds	13	12	0	1	24
3. Saint Helens	14	11	1	2	23
4. OLDHAM	15	10	2	3	22
5. Wakefield Trinity	15	11	0	4	22
6. Widnes	15	11	0	4	22
7. Featherstone Rovers	14	11	0	3	22
8. Castleford	15	10	0	5	20
9. SALFORD	14	9	0	5	18
10. Dewsbury	14	9	0	5	18
11. Batley	15	9	0	6	18
12. Hull Kingston Rovers	15	8	0	7	16
13. York	15	8	0	7	16
14. Rochdale Hornets	14	7	1	6	15
15. Halifax	15	7	0	8	14
16. Wigan	16	7	0	9	14
17. Bramley	14	7	0	7	14
18. Keighley	15	7	0	8	14
19. Huddersfield	15	6	1	8	13
20. Swinton	13	5	1	7	11
21. Leigh	14	5	1	8	11
22. Bradford Northern	14	5	0	9	10
23. Hull	15	5	0	10	10
24. Workington Town	16	5	0	11	10
25. Whitehaven	16	5	0	11	10
26. Doncaster	16	5	0	11	10
27. Barrow	16	3	0	13	6
28. Hunslet	16	3	0	13	6
29. Huyton	16	2	1	13	5
30. Blackpool Borough	16	2	0	14	4



Grünhülle
Lager

Brewed in the Bavarian Way

IN MY VIEW

by Brian Batty
Daily Mail



RAY 'CHICO' HOPKINS has become the latest personality to emerge from the Welsh Rugby Union scene with a reputation as a character who should enrich the Rugby League.

Yet it may surprise many fans to learn that Hopkins might well have made his mark in League football three years ago - in Australia.

Swinton's new £8,000 scrum half toured Australia and New Zealand with both the Welsh side and the record breaking British Lions squad.

'It was when we were in Sydney that I was offered the chance to turn professional.'

to the Australian players before I signed for Swinton and I was staggered at the size of them, particularly the backs.' That comment, coming from a half back who has tangled successfully with the All Blacks, is rather significant.

It inspired me to ask the £4,000 dollar question about Barry John. Would he have become as big a success in League as he was in Union?

'I don't think so,' said

ANOTHER TAFFY TO ENRICH THE SCENE

recalls Hopkins.

'We were invited to the fabulous Sydney St. George club on several occasions, and it was during one of these visits that they asked me to sign for them.

'It was very tempting, for I had never seen a set-up to compare with this club. But it was impossible for me to come to any decision at that time.'

Hopkins has now taken the plunge, and I don't think he will have any regrets although he could have made a lot more money in Australia at that particular time.

'Apart from the financial aspect, I would love to win some honours in League,' he admits. 'But I've seen Steve Nash on the television, and he is doing a wonderful job for Great Britain.'

'I was also introduced

Hopkins. 'League is so different in many respects, and I don't think he would have done well'.

This is a personal view I have long held, after watching the way men like Alan Hardisty survive the knocks in the most strenuous programmes, and still turn on the skill and class.

Hopkins is recognised as a hard, little player with a flair for producing football and he can, I understand, kick a ball in pretty useful fashion.

He faces a tall task in succeeding Ken Gowers, who has given such great and distinguished service in 19 years with Swinton, and who is one of the finest sportsmen you could wish to meet.

But it will benefit the game as well as the ambitious Lancashire club if Hopkins makes the grade.

Keith in action



KEITH ASHCROFT, who may be included in tonight's line - up, in top gear.

OLDHAM HOLIDAYS - 1973

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MIKE ELLIOT Oldham's ever popular right-winger has a Rugby pedigree that stretches right back to his childhood in the Village of Monmouthshire, S. Wales.

After playing Rugby Union for his home village he moved North to Oldham when he was 17. But he left behind him another famous son of the Principality who was to make the journey to Rugby League much later, a certain David Watkins.

Mike remembered the Salford flyer well. He said, "I know David. We went to the same school".

He lives with his wife Joan and their son at Park Bridge, Ashton from where he operates as an electrician.

Mike now likes living in the North. But it was not always so. He recalled, "It took me a long time to settle in Lancashire and I was home sick for Wales for quite some time."

"When I go home for a weekend I often think I would like to stay, but after two weeks back in Lancashire I have forgotten all about it."

When Mike signed for Oldham it was the first season of the two division set up. He said, "The first season was not very good. We finished bottom of the first division, and were relegated."

But, again, matters have improved and Mike

reckons this season has been his happiest at the club.

"I feel much more confident. All the rest of the players seem much happier, too, and this makes a considerable difference."

Not only has the club improved, but so has the game. Says Mike: "It has got much better this season with the introduction of the six tackle rule. Under the old four tackle rule, the three quarters were never really allowed to get to grips with the game. Now we can take a chance on running with the ball without being panicked into kicking or dying with the ball."

I asked him which player had had the most effect on his Rugby career, but he simply shrugged his shoulders. "None really, I have formed my own career."

But he would admit to two players he particularly admires. He named Warrington player-coach Alex Murphy, and Hornets player-coach Frank Myler.

"While Murphy is a great player, I rate Myler among the greatest I have ever seen," he said.

Mike is now 27, and

when I asked him what he thought about his own future in the game he said, "I think I have another three years of top class football left. After that I will just have to wait and see."

I asked him to reflect on what might happen after he has finished with Oldham and Rugby



League. Would he go back to his native Wales?

"I have not had many thoughts about that really, but we shall just have to wait and see what happens". So there it is.

Until then, Mike we hope you will continue to play for Oldham and run in the many tries that both you and the team deserve.

LEADING SCORERS IN ALL GAMES

GOALS

David Watkins (Salford)	136
Eddie Tees (Bradford Northern)	86
Derek Whitehead (Warrington)	75
Kel Coslett (Saint Helens)	71
Colin Tyrer (Wigan)	66
Brian Jefferson (Keighley)	60
Neil Fox (Wakefield Trinity)	59
Phil Larder (Oldham)	59
Terry Clawson (Leeds)	57
Sammy Lloyd (Castleford)	56

TRIES

Maurice Richards (Salford)	21
Tony Colloby (Salford)	21
John Atkinson (Leeds)	20
Paul Charlton (Salford)	20
Alan Hardisty (Leeds)	19
Wilf Briggs (Warrington)	18
Norman Hodgkinson (Oldham)	18
Clive Sullivan (Hull)	17
Dave Topliss (Wakefield Trinity)	16
Frank Wilson (Saint Helens)	16

POINTS

Dave Watkins Salford)	136G, 12T	308 points
Eddie Tees (Bradford Northern)	86G, 3T	181 points
Colin Tyrer (Wigan)	66G, 8T	156 points
Derek Whitehead (Warrington)	75G, 15T	150 points
Bruce Burton (Halifax)	60G, 8T	144 points
Kel Coslett (Saint Helens)	71G, 14T	142 points
Neil Fox (Wakefield Trinity)	59 G, 5T	128 points
Phil Larder (Oldham)	59G, 5T	128 points
Brian Jefferson (Keithley)	60G, 4T	132 points
Nigel Stephenson (Dewsbury)	54G, 5T	123 points

We're not fitting out Buckingham Palace - yet

but the new Vice Presidents' suite

at Oldham Rugby Club Pavilion

is getting the Royal treatment

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LEIGH SCRAPE THROUGH

Leigh 10 pts.
Oldham 8 pts.

I bet that Leigh are still counting their blessings after knocking Oldham out in the semi-final of the Floodlit Trophy at Hilton Park last Tuesday. Even though Oldham made all the running Leigh had a charmed life and managed to battle through to a two point victory.

To add to the bitterness of defeat, acting skipper Frank Foster got his marching orders in the 74th minute after a clash with Leigh hooker Derek Clarke.

Without wishing to be accused of sour grapes it just seems more than a little strange that Clarke who looked to be seriously injured after the clash and received treatment from the medical men, should have been so active after Foster had been dismissed.

Even the weather went against Oldham. In the first half Oldham had the driving wind and rain in their faces but in the second half when it was Leigh's turn the weather improved considerably.

But all credit to Oldham, they gave everything and even in defeat they were glorious.

One of the brightest features of Oldham's performance was their handling. Even in the wet conditions with a muddy ball they constantly mesmerised the Leigh backs.

A typical example of

this was Martin Murphy's brilliant second half try. After taking a great pass from Mick McCone he sprinted 50 yards, beating the Leigh cover, to go over for the touch down.

And it was not for nothing that Leigh secretary John Stringer said after the game: 'Murphy's performance was one of the finest seen on this ground for many years.'

If the backs were outstanding, the forwards were equally good. Arthur Daley was forced to pull out with a thigh injury on the afternoon of the match and Oldham were very fortunate in having a very able deputy in the shape of Keith Ashcroft.

Ken Wilson and Kevin Taylor and Frank Foster gave their much vaunted Leigh opponents a hint of a time and it says much for their skill that in the second half they beat Leigh in eight of ten scrums for possession.

Phil Larder, who took a nasty knock on the head at St. Helens the previous week had a busy game. Although he only managed

to land one goal adding to Murphy's try, he made up with the amount of work he did in the loose. And what more can you ask of a goalkicker?

Oldham opened the scoring in the second minute when Larder went over for a try after Wainwright and Murphy had combined to carve a mighty gap in the Leigh back division. Although Leigh hit back with an unimproved goal by their skipper Tony Barrow minutes later it was Oldham who were in command. Unfortunately they could not turn this advantage into more points and Leigh went in at half time 5-3 up after Fiddler had added a goal just before the end of the half.

Oldham's hopes were boosted by Murphy's try, but much to Leigh's credit they fought back and clinched victory when scrum half McAtee went in for a try under the posts to which Fiddler added the goal points in the 65th minute.

Leading them on



Leading the lads into battle — Frank Foster and our fair-haired mascot

THE CLASS IS HERE WITHOUT DOUBT

A DEFEAT, but not a disaster, that was the summing up of coach Graham Starkey after he had watched his team well beaten by a sharp looking St Helens team at Knowsley Road a week last Friday.

'While our lads were beaten, they found out in the last 20 minutes that they could shake the top-class sides by really getting stuck in to some hard, tough tackling.'

So something good has come out of the game.

Starkey hit the nail right on the head. Although Oldham had shown some really nice touches earlier in the game, they showed St Helens in that last 20 minutes that they could mix good looking football with some really effective stuff.

While they did not reach the heights they showed against Wigan the Saturday before Oldham reinforced the view that their revival is not just a flash in the pan.

The forwards found it really hard going against the St Helens six, but they never gave up, and the backs must have embarrassed the Knowsley Road team with some of their better runs with the ball.

Kevin Taylor was again on top form, building up to a two to one advantage from the scrums over his St Helens opposite number Les Greenall.

But while Taylor shone it would be wrong to ignore his two other front row colleagues Ken Wilson and acting skipper Frank Foster.

As well as his massive efforts in the scrums Ken got through a terrific amount of work in the loose, and his turn of speed over a short distance surprised one or two of my West Lancashire colleagues in the press box.

Frank was again in the thick of the action all the time. He hit the drop goal that put Oldham into a short-lived lead in the sixth minute, and took over the goal kicking role when Phil Larder was injured at the end of the first half.

Unfortunately the side suffered a few handling problems, but had the luck been with them they might have given St Helens a much better run for their money.

Chris O'Brian, who came on for his second successive appearance as substitute, ably filled the gap left by the injury to Larder, and once he had got used to the pace of Saints winger Roy Mathias he showed up well.

Once Foster had put Oldham in the lead Saints came back at a blistering pace to equalise in the ninth minute with a penalty goal by Saints veteran loose forward Kel Coslett.

The barrage continued with a 16th minute try

by Eric Chisnall that was goaled by Coslett, but once this burst of activity had calmed Oldham looked confident of holding them.

Unfortunately, just before half time, Willy Coslett created a hole in the Oldham defence to send Mathias over in the corner and then added salt to the wound by kicking the goal.

In the first five minutes of the second half Oldham had to endure more when Saints ran in tries by Greenall and Mathias and a goal by Coslett.

Norman Hodgkinson pulled Oldham back into the game with a brilliant try in the corner, his 17th touch-down of the season so far. Foster was literally inches wide with his goal kick.

Two expensive penalties, both kicked by Coslett set Saints back on the points trail, but it was Hodgkinson who brought the fans to their feet with the best try of the match in the 64th minute.

After taking a pass from Tommy Davies he switched inside, ran diagonally across the field, and then switched straight again to score under the posts. Frank Foster kicked the goal.

Norman's try must have inspired his team-mates to bigger efforts, and it was all Oldham from then on to the end of the game. Unfortunately the St Helens defence managed to hold on to the end.

OLDHAM RUFC 1972-73 RESULTS & ATTENDANCES

August 12	home	v. Rochdale Hornets	Friendly	18-16	2,060
19	away	v. Huddersfield	League	25-7	2,352
23	home	v. Whitehaven	"	30-13	2,701
26	home	v. Workington Town	"	19-5	2,702
28	away	v. York	"	32-8	1,719
September 1	away	v. Salford	Lancs Cup	17-41	5,815
10	home	v. Hull	League	27-2	2,372
17	away	v. Huyton	"	25-13	900
24	away	v. Hull	Players Cup	10-17	2,700
29	away	v. Wigan	League	12-9	3,000
October 3	home	v. Salford	Floodlit Cup	12-8	4,507
7	home	v. Saint Helens	League	12-12	6,574
14	away	v. Workington Town	"	10-17	823
18	home	v. Great Britain	Trial	18-15	3,829
22	home	v. Widnes	League	17-18	4,644
November 4	home	v. Huddersfield	League	7-7	1,922
7	home	v. Castleford	Floodlit Cup	9-7	2,212
12	home	v. Huyton	League	22-0	1,941
17	away	v. Hull	"	17-14	2,000
25	home	v. Wigan	"	11-6	2,866
December 1	away	v. Saint Helens	"	10-24	4,800
5	away	v. Leigh	Floodlit Cup	8-10	
13	home	v. Salford			
17	away	v. Dewsbury			
24	home	v. Leigh			
26	away	v. Rochdale Hornets			
January 6	away	v. Whitehaven			

★ QUICK QUIZ

1. What was the attendance at the 1939 Championship Final when Salford beat Castleford 8-6?
2. Which Salford player was also an International soccer player?
3. Who were the five Salford players who toured Australasia in 1946?
4. Who was Salford's scorers in the 1938 Challenge Cup final, when they defeated Barrow 7-4?
5. Who held the Salford Club point scoring record before David Watkins?

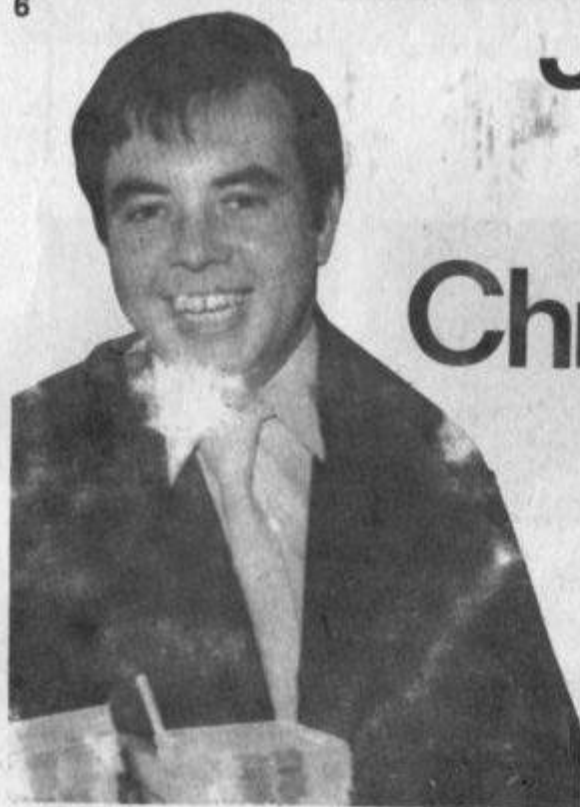
ANSWERS:

1. 69,504 at Maine Road, Manchester
2. Dai Davies, who played for Bolton Wanderers and Wales
3. Billy Watkins, Emlyn Jenkins, Gus Risman, Alan Edwards and Barney Hudson
4. Gus Risman 2 goals and Albert Gear - try
5. Gus Risman who scored 288 points in 1933-34

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Join our happy Christmas push



by Alan Taylor

A final big push is being made to swell the already gigantic sale of Christmas Draw tickets. YOU can still help by calling in at the Pools Office at Watersheddings to grab one or two books of tickets,

And supporters who have already sold their books should hand them in just as soon as possible, so that the hundred and one final details are not left to the last moment. Even when all tickets are handed in, there is still a great deal of administrative work to do, so please help us by bringing your counterfoils in now.

Many, many thanks to all the good people who have given us prizes. There really is the best ever selection of goodies being given out in our draw this year, and we have many out of the usual run prizes, apart from the usual Christmas good cheer of turkeys, whisky cigarettes, cigars, brandy - and gallons of beer!

A full list of all those who have donated prizes will be published in the next issue of this paper.

Last night (Dec 12) was the meeting when agents had a chance to learn a lot more about our new 'Three n' Easy' New Year Pool and Weekly Draw. The planned switch - over from our present draw is smoothly taking its course, and is, indeed, already in the final

stages.

A big help to us all will be the much better accommodation in our new Pools Office, which will help us give agents and their customers a much speedier and more efficient service.

I am also looking for suitable premises in the town centre of Oldham, so that agents can pay in their returns without being put to the trouble of travelling out to Watersheddings. This proposed office would be open on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

At our meeting, agents were told of our future far reaching plans, and judging from their enthusiastic reaction, the new Draw is going to bring in happiness linked with more cash for everyone.

One factor which has drawn special acclaim is the plan to publish all winners' names and addresses in the Oldham Chronicle each Monday. This will definitely be a boost for agents in their quests for new members. Coupled with the fact that prizes can now be paid out to agents on the Monday following the Saturday draw, this should enable agents to enrol

new members in the full confidence that they are selling a super speedily distributed service.

THERE IS ALWAYS LOTS OF ROOM FOR NEW AGENTS. I, OR ANY OF THE PRESENT HAPPY BAND OF AGENTS WILL BE DELIGHTED TO SIGN YOU UP AND ALLOCATE TO YOU YOUR OWN SPECIAL AGENCY.

Give it a run. By being an agent, you are demonstrating to yourself and everyone else that you are a real and genuine friend of Oldham Rugby Club.

Do please remember, that the efforts of our agents are truly the life blood of our club. They mean all the difference between being able to sign THE BEST PLAYERS and being strictly limited in any player recruitment. IT ALL STARTS OUT WITH YOUR GIVING OUR POOLS OFFICE A CALL. And in the New Year, our fantastic NEW CASH DRAW will make it easier than ever for you to make fat profits for yourself and for your members. PICK UP THAT PHONE NOW!

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I am interested in becoming a Pools Agent for Oldham R.L.F.C. and would like to find out more about it (I am over 18 years of age).

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MEET THE ELLIOTTS

Here are the Elliotts you won't see on the wings at Watersheddings - but they're all important to our star winger. They are baby David now 18 months old, Mrs Joan Elliott, and completing the family, Max the dog.



LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

POOR OLD Whitehaven they were so looking forward to owning their own set of floodlights. They thought that Carlisle United would let them have their old lights for next to nothing, but it now appears that five other sporting concerns are interested in buying the nine year old floodlight pylons with 96 lamps on them.

BACK IN action for the little Cumbrian club after a knee operation is their long-serving Scottish utility back Alex Cassie. Cassie, who is in his benefit season, played his first game of the season last weekend against Blackpool Borough, who are giving trials to a Lancashire Police County R.U. Centre.

IF IAN Wright, Workington Town's unsettled former England under-24 centre, does not return to Derwent Park after being contacted by chairman Tom Mitchell, the Town board will listen to offers. Barrow have signed until the end of the season Eastern Suburbs reserve second row forward Neil Bangle.

LEIGH'S Australian centre John Atkins has asked the Hilton Park board if he can come back next season, and they were quick to agree. Meanwhile his travelling companion from the Brisbane Easts club Frank Paulger has cabled his girlfriend to come to Leigh to help him settle and once again enjoy his rugby.

NIGEL Stephenson, Dewsbury's county goalkicking centre out with a fractured wrist since September, has resumed training and expects to be fit for the Christmas programme, while colleague Stephen Lee is also back in training after a dislocated shoulder at Workington last month. The Crown Flatt ground over the next three seasons is going to change enormously according to their effervescent chairman Michael Lumb. In January work gets under way to make their vice-president's bar into a much larger club for social activities, and there are also plans for floodlights and a stand on the Wakefield Road side of the ground.

WAKEFIELD Trinity will take £1,500 for their stay-away second row forward. Big Bob Oswald, who lives in the Castleford district and commenced his professional career with Bradford Northern. Roundhay R.U. out half Keith Smith is interesting several West Riding Rugby League clubs and would be willing to turn, I understand, for a small four figure contract.

BRADFORD Northern are kindly helping near neighbours Keighley with the knee injury of promising centre Brian Galtress, who has been sidelined since September. Physiotherapist Ronnie Barrett is treating Galtress at Odsal, and hopes to aid the strengthening process by showing Galtress, excercises with a weighted shoe.

Meanwhile former Leeds prop John Burke is having treatment for inflamed tendons in the leg from Charlie Blackburn the Knottingley masseur, who treats Leeds United footballers and most West Riding Rugby League players. After having words with unsettled players Gary Stephens and Alan Ackroyd, Castleford and Rugby League chairman Ronnie Simpson has their assurance that they will settle down and give 100 per cent for the Wheldon Road Club.

HALIFAX Supporters club have just pulished a comprehensive history of the Halifax Rugby League Club to celebrate their 100 years in existence come January.

ALAN HARDISTY, Leeds former international, county and Castleford stand-off half, is unique in more ways than one, and more particularly this season as he will hold a record on his own until the curtain comes down in May. He dropped a goal against the New Zealand tourists at Headingley last month when both

teams met under international rules, and this was worth only one point.

THERE'S a remarkable situation developing round Alan Banks, the Workington Town forward. Less than three weeks ago the club thought he had quit the game on medical advice, owing to shoulder trouble, and duly announced this in their programme and the local paper, but this spurred Alan to bounce back again, and forget medical advice. "A" team coach Ike Southward is thrilled to bits with his renewed interest, and both he and Eppie Gibson know of his qualities as a utility player and his extreme value to the club.



CLUB SCOUTS please not if you are interested in pie, peas and chips washed down with a few beers on "excess". You can visit more Wednesday evenings the Upper Wharfedale R.U. club, Settle, Yorkshire, and watch a leading match under the club's splendid lights and then take yourself into the clubhouse for a chat and nosh up. Wakefield have already helped themselves to the club's top product Dave Knowles, but there is still plenty of more talent on view, including fullback Martin Shuttleworth and scrum half Jimmy McGuinn.

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Red Devils chute into league battle

For this evening's interesting league clash Oldham welcome the very attractive and powerful Lancashire Cup holders, Salford, to Watersheddings. Salford are a high scoring team which is full of individual talent.

Full back **PAUL CHARLTON**, the 30 year old Cumberland and Great Britain star, already this season has crossed for 20 tries.

Some measure of his attacking prowess can be gathered if one remembers that in 1968, whilst with Workington, he crossed for four tries and kicked seven goals in one game against Warrington. A product of the famous Kells junior club, Paul signed for Salford in October 1969 for £13,000. He has represented Cumberland 17 times and has played ten times for Great Britain, including the World Cup Competition of 1970 and 1972.

Another Cumbrian and former Workington Town player, **TONY COLLOBY** occupies the right wing berth. He joined Salford from Blackpool Borough and has been a regular selection for Cumberland since 1964. He has scored 21 tries so far this season. On the other flank is **MAURICE RICHARDS** the former Welsh rugby union international who turned professional with Salford from Cardiff RUFC in October 1969 for £7,000. Before joining Salford Richards made nine international appearances with Wales and has also visited South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji with Wales and the British Lions. Three season ago Richards represented Wales at rugby league and last season played for Britain in the trial match against Leeds. In 44 appearances last term he crossed for 35 tries and he seems to have lost none of his appetite for tries this season, for his tally is already 21 including four in the home game against Huyton.

Another signing from Wigan was centre **CHRIS HESKETH** Twenty seven year old Hesketh joined Wigan in 1963 from Orrell RUFC and he quickly made the representative grade by appearing twice for the England U24 side before moving to Salford in June 1967. Since moving to the Willows Hesketh has made eleven appearances for Lancashire and three for England (nine tries from 13 appearances) and he also either played or was substitute in all games during both the 1970 and 1972 World Cup series, as well as playing in all three New Zealand tests last season.

Hesketh's co-centre is skipper and points scorer in chief **DAVID WATKINS**. It was with Newport RUFC that Watkins first rose to fame. He has toured Australia, New Zealand and Canada with the British Lions as well as playing 21 times for Wales. He made his debut for Salford against Oldham in October 1967 after signing for a £15,000 fee. Although his league career is scattered with high scoring feats he has made only two appearances for Britain,

against France in 1970-71 and New Zealand the following season. Last season he created a new Salford club goal and points scoring record with 193 goals and 29 tries, 473 points which included a try and 13 goals in the 65-3 victory over luckless Keighley. In all games this season Watkins has already amassed 136 goals and 12 tries, with 3 tries and 9 goals being scored against Barrow the weekend before last.

As understudy to their talented three quarters, Salford have **PHIL WARD** the 22 years old Rochdale lad who was signed in September 1971 from Loughborough Colleges RUFC. Amidst all this former international rugby union talent Salford have two home grown junior league signings occupying the half back positions. Stand off **KEN GILL** was signed in September 1971 from Pilkington Recreation shortly after skipping the English junior X111 against France. **PETER BANNER** is a product of Rochdale junior football and his steady progress earned him a place in the Lancashire side for both games in this season's County Championship. So well has Banner played in recent seasons that **BOB PROSSER** has been relegated to 'A' team football. Prosser was signed from Saint Helens in October 1967 and has represented England U24 and he turned professional from Newport RUFC in August 1965 after representing both Warwickshire and the Barbarians.

The Salford pack is as equally talented as their backs although this evening they will be without recent £3,750 signing **PETER WALKER**, the former York and Bradford Northern hooker, who is under suspension. His place in the middle of the front row will be capably filled by former West Park RUFC hooker **ELLIS DELVIN**. Salford have several first class props including **MIKE COULMAN** the former Moseley and England rugby union star who joined the paid ranks in September 1968 for £7,000. He represented Great Britain in the first two tests against New Zealand last season after being selected as substitute the previous term. A strong running forward who scored 16 tries last season.

A recent addition to the Salford pack is **GRAHAM MACKAY** who moved from Swinton last September in an exchange deal involving **PAUL JACKSON**. He is a product of Broughton Moor Juniors and he made two appearances for Cumberland last season.

A very experienced

member of the Salford club is **TERRY RAMSHAW** the former England U24 and Great Britain player who has given service to Featherstone Rovers, Halifax, Bradford Northern and Wakefield Trinity before transferring to Salford in October 1971 for £2,000. Another experienced prop who began his career as a hooker is **JOHNNY WARD** who joined Featherstone Rovers in 1959 but then moved to Castleford 12 months later. In 1963-64 he represented Great Britain against both Australia and France. He has also played for Yorkshire and England. After playing against Salford in the 1969 Challenge Cup Final he moved to the Willows and toured Australasia with Great Britain in 1970.

BILL KIRKBRIDE is the fourth Cumbrian in the Salford squad and he began his career in January 1963 with Workington Town whom he signed for from United Steel after representing Cumberland and England at junior level. In 1967 he transferred to Halifax and two years later he moved on to Castleford where in the 1970 Challenge Cup Final he won the Lance Todd Trophy in the 7-2 defeat of Wigan. The following December Salford signed this Cumberland County player for £6,000.

One of Salford's shrewdest signings is **DUGGIE DAVIES** the speedy back-row forward who was bought for £1,500 from Huyton in November 1971. But perhaps the most attractive Salford forward is **COLIN DIXON** who first entered the rugby league code with Halifax in June 1961 from Cardiff Internationals Athletic Club. Whilst at Thrum Hall Dixon represented both Wales and Great Britain and when he moved to Salford in December 1968 he commanded a £12,000 fee. Since then he has played four times for Wales and four times for Great Britain including the World Cup Tournament when he played in the game against France.

At loose-forward for Salford is **ERIC PRESCOTT**, the former Widness ICI RUFC and Saint Helens player who cost Salford £13,500 when they signed him last September. He is a Lancashire County player who gained plenty of experience with Saints.

As can be seen from the galaxy of stars, tonight's game is sure to be a tough affair although one which Oldham's supporters have been looking forward to eagerly.

LINE-UP	
OLDHAM 12	SALFORD 14
1. MARTIN MURPHY	1. CHARLTON
2. MIKE ELLIOTT	2. COLLOBY
3. PHIL LARDER	3. WATKINS
4. TOMMY DAVIES	4. HESKETH
5. NORMAN HODGKINSON	5. RICHARDS
6. TONY WAINRIGHT	6. GILL
7. MICK McCONE	7. BANNER
8. KEN WILSON	8. GRICE
9. KEVIN TAYLOR	9. DEVLIN
10. FRANK FOSTER	10. McKAY
11. BOB IRVING	11. DIXON
12. ~~ARTHUR DALEY~~ Ashcroft	12. DAVIES
13. JIMMY REYNOLDS	13. PRESCOTT
14. CHRIS O'BRIEN	14. EASTHAM
15. ~~KEITH ASHCROFT~~ Walker	15. KIRKBRIDE

Referee: Mr E. Lawrinson (Warrington)
Touch Judges: Mr J. Middlehurst
Mr G. Gleave

Your Scorecard

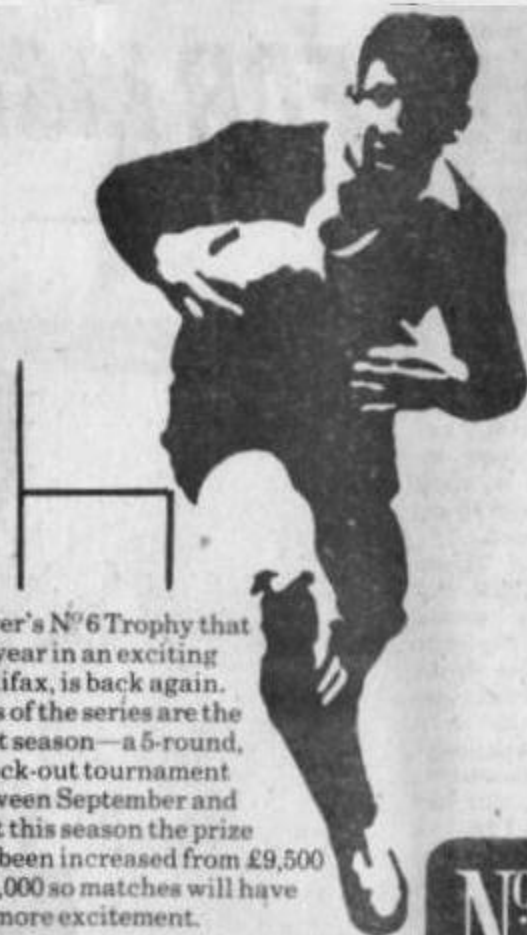
TRIES	GOALS	TRIES	GOALS

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