

# Warrington 20

Blue Jerseys,  
Blue Shorts

1—Derek WHITEHEAD *3 goals*

Full Back

2—John HART  
3—Frank REYNOLDS  
4—John GRANT  
5—Derek NOONAN

Right Wing  
Right Centre  
Left Centre  
Left Wing

6—Alex MURPHY *goal*  
7—Parry GORDON *try*

Stand Off  
Scrum Half

8—David CHISNALL  
9—Kevin ASHCROFT *try*  
10—Brian BRADY *try*  
11—Bobby WANBON  
12—Brian GREGORY  
13—Mick NICHOLAS *Jones try*

Front Row  
Hooker  
Front Row  
Second Row  
Second Row  
Loose Forward

Substitutes  
14—~~Dennis~~ CURLING/Wilf BRIGGS  
15—Clive JONES *Wright*

# Oldham 10

Jerseys: Red and White Hoops  
Shorts: White Black

1—Martin MURPHY

2—Mike ELLIOTT *try*  
3—Phil LARDER *2 goals*  
4—Tommy DAVIES  
5—Norman HODGKINSON

6—Tony WAINWRIGHT  
7—Mick McCONE

8—Ken WILSON  
9—Kevin TAYLOR  
10—Frank WALKER  
11—Bob IRVING *try*  
12—Keith ASHCROFT  
13—Jimmy REYNOLDS

Substitutes:  
14—~~Stuart~~ BOTTOM  
15—Ray HICKS

REFEREE: Mr. R. JACKSON (Halifax)  
TOUCH JUDGES: Mr. G. T. SCHOLEFIELD (Salford); Mr. T. CLAYTON (Widnes)

## PROGRAMME PRODUCTION TEAM:

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# WARRINGTON 20

## Rugby League Football Club

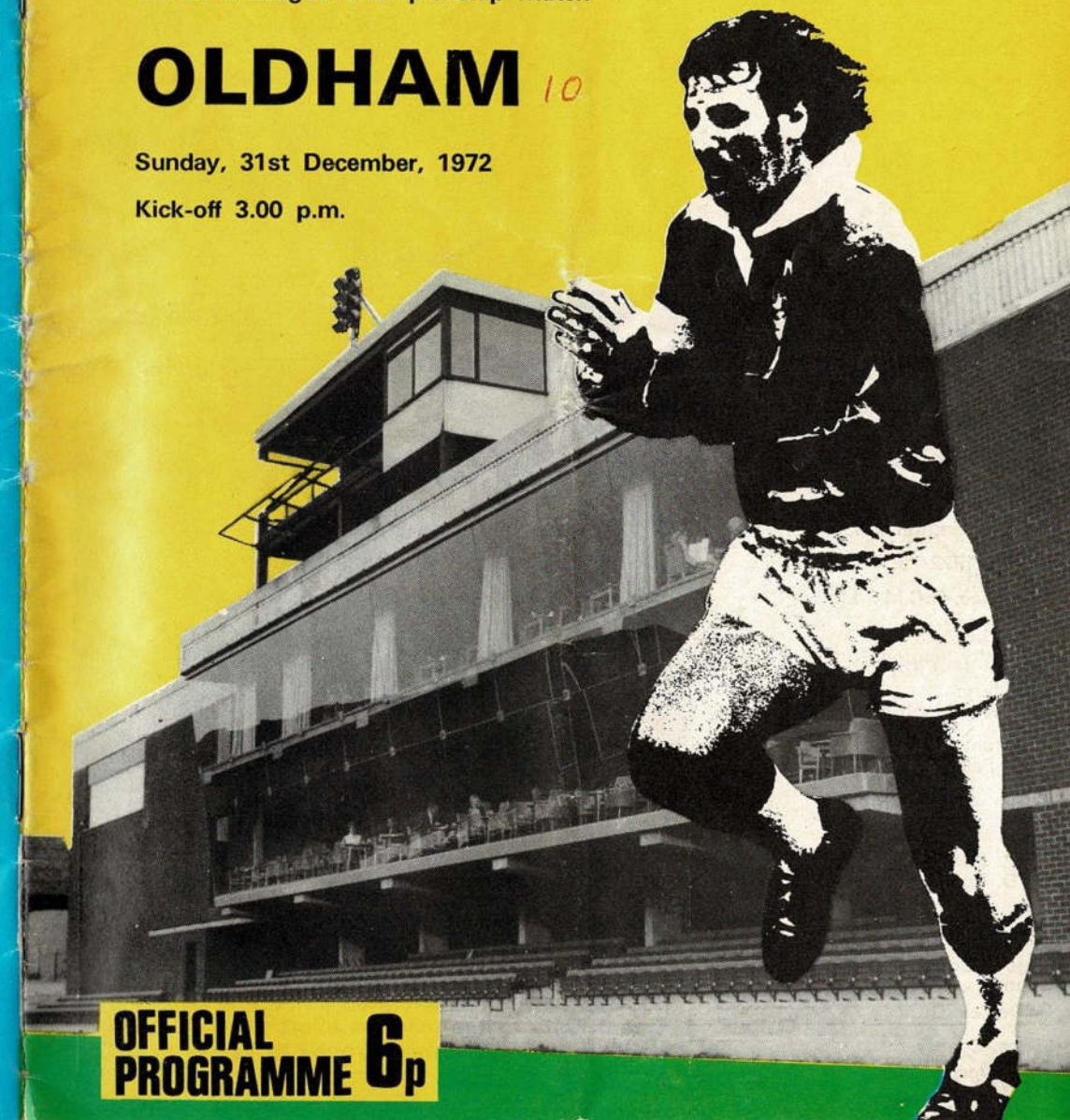
RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Northern League Championship Match

## OLDHAM 10

Sunday, 31st December, 1972

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME 6p

Warrington Rugby Football Club  
(Affiliated to the Rugby League)

Registered Office:  
Wilderspool Stadium,  
Warrington.  
Tel.: Warrington 35338

Season 1972/73.

O. Davies, D.C.M., J.P.  
(Chairman)  
B. J. Pitchford  
J. P. Worthington

Secretary:  
J. P. Worthington

Assistant Secretary:  
A. H. Palmer

Coach: Alex. Murphy

Honorary Surgeons:  
Dr. G. Manning  
Dr. D. Rothwell

Representatives:

Rugby Football League  
Council:

O. Davies, D.C.M., J.P.

Lancs. County R.L.:  
J. P. Worthington



"To have been a Warrington player in 1972 was a marvellous experience because the spirit in the club has been tremendous and the supporters have given us wonderful encouragement," says right-wing John Hart, who has been in great form this season. "1973 promises to be a year to remember for Warrington and I only hope that I contribute to the massive effort which is being applied, to bring a major trophy to Wilderspool."

# THE ALEX MURPHY

Warrington came down to earth with a bang against Leigh and quite frankly I'm very glad.

I have continually warned the players about complacency and I think that they went out against Leigh thinking that it was going to be easy. Well they were taught otherwise.

I could tell after the first five minutes that we were sluggish and were not moving forward with enough determination.

## ACCOMPLISHED

The result was that Leigh accomplished what they set out to do and we fell for them hook, line and sinker.

We forgot about all the good football we have played in recent weeks and allowed ourselves to play it Leigh's way instead of the Wire way.

The result was a bitter brawl with rugby at a premium and I am very sorry for the spectators who turned out to watch us.

## LESSON

If there is anything to be salvaged from the game it is the fact that we got a point and that is better than nothing at all. In addition we were taught a very severe lesson and that is simply that you do not win points in this game by divine right, you have got to work hard for them—very hard.

One of our biggest problems was not having played a match for ten days and having the Christmas period slap bang in the middle.

There is little doubt in my mind that my players were full of good cheer and Christmas pud after the holiday. I am not too worried about that because I had a drink myself. It would be unnatural for a man to get through Christmas without celebrating.

## COMPETITIVE

However, I think ten days is too long a period for players to go without a competitive match.

If you are to remain on key you have to play this game regularly.

This week we set about putting matters to right to ensure that we will enter 1973 with our targets fully set on the trophies to be won.

Thursday night will be a night my players will remember for some time to come, I can assure you.

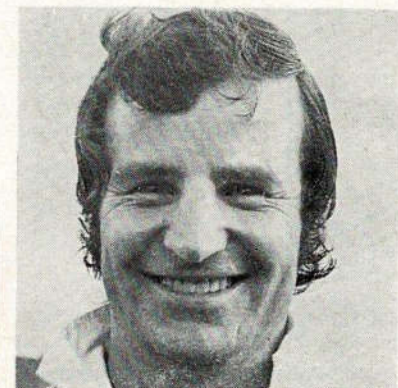
## EXERCISES

We trained like demons possessed. Exercises followed sprints; the sprints followed a healthy long-distance run. There was no slacking in any quarter and I would lay odds that when heads touched pillows that night one or two of my men whispered a silent prayer.

Whatever Christmas spirit was left inside the players when they reported for training that night was certainly chased away by the end of the punishing session.

Today we face the revived Oldham and I will be very happy if we win because I am confident it will signal once and for all, that Warrington are odds-on favourites to win the Rugby League Championship in 1973.

Thank you for your excellent support. On behalf of the entire club may I wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



# COLUMN

# WILDERSPOOL REFERENCE LIBRARY

FIXTURES/RESULTS/ATTENDANCES/APPEARANCES/GOAL SCORERS/TRY SCORERS

| *—Try Scorers<br>†—Goal Scorers<br>S—Substitutes<br>W—Withdrawn |                                     | Opponents |        | Result | Att. | * TRIES<br>† GOALS |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|------|--------------------|
| Date                                                            |                                     |           |        |        |      |                    |
| Aug. 19                                                         | WIGAN (H)                           | 13-28     | 6,750  |        |      |                    |
| 20                                                              | HULL (H)                            | 11-15     | 4,500  |        |      |                    |
| 22                                                              | ST. HELENS (A)                      | 17-14     | 10,322 |        |      |                    |
| 25                                                              | SWINTON (A)                         | 13-4      | 3,453  |        |      |                    |
| 28                                                              | WIDNES (H)                          | 13-4      | 7,447  |        |      |                    |
| Sept. 3                                                         | ST. HELENS (L. Cup 1st) (H)         | 16-18     | 9,283  |        |      |                    |
| 10                                                              | BLACKPOOL (A)                       | 42-8      | 1,166  |        |      |                    |
| 17                                                              | WIGAN (H)                           | 26-7      | 6,652  |        |      |                    |
| 23                                                              | HUDDERSFIELD (A)                    | 15-23     | 2,911  |        |      |                    |
| 30                                                              | Player's No. 6—1st HUDDERSFIELD (A) | 24-10     | 2,570  |        |      |                    |
| Oct. 8                                                          | BARROW (H)                          | 55-17     | 4,790  |        |      |                    |
| 15                                                              | ROCHDALE (A)                        | 26-10     | 3,697  |        |      |                    |
| 22                                                              | WORKINGTON (H)                      | 24-12     | 5,037  |        |      |                    |
| 29                                                              | BARROW (A)                          | 30-8      | 4,990  |        |      |                    |
| 31                                                              | WIDNES (H)                          | 18-18     | 7,824  |        |      |                    |
| Nov. 5                                                          | (BBC Floodlit Comp.) YORK (H)       | 34-16     | 4,785  |        |      |                    |
| 12                                                              | WHITEHAVEN (A)                      | 12-11     | 1,000  |        |      |                    |
| 14                                                              | WIDNES (A)                          | 11-14     | 7,470  |        |      |                    |
| 17                                                              | (BBC Floodlit Comp.) SALFORD (H)    | 16-11     | 5,358  |        |      |                    |
| Dec. 3                                                          | HUDDERSFIELD (H)                    | 28-5      | 5,755  |        |      |                    |
| 10                                                              | WHITEHAVEN (H)                      | 58-9      | 4,640  |        |      |                    |
| 15                                                              | HULL (A)                            | 36-8      | 1,500  |        |      |                    |
| 26                                                              | LEIGH (H)                           | 6-6       | 9,037  |        |      |                    |
| Total                                                           |                                     |           |        |        |      | 75                 |

## 1st TEAM FIXTURES

| Opponents                              | Ground | for agst. |
|----------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| August, 1972                           |        |           |
| 11—WIGAN (Locker Cup) (7.30)           | H      | 13 28     |
| 20—HULL (3.0)                          | H      | 31 20     |
| 22—St. Helens (7.30)                   | A      | 11 15     |
| 25—Swinton (7.30)                      | A      | 17 14     |
| 28—WIDNES (3.0)                        | H      | 13 4      |
| September                              |        |           |
| 3—ST. HELENS (L. Cup 1st) (3.0)        | H      | 16 18     |
| 10—Blackpool (3.30)                    | A      | 42 8      |
| 17—WIGAN (3.0)                         | H      | 26 7      |
| 23—Huddersfield (Player's No. 6—1st)   | A      | 15 23     |
| 30—Huddersfield (3.0)                  | A      | 24 10     |
| October                                |        |           |
| 8—BARROW (3.0)                         | H      | 55 17     |
| 15—Rochdale (3.0)                      | A      | 26 10     |
| 22—WORKINGTON (3.0)                    | H      | 24 12     |
| 29—Barrow (2.30)                       | A      | 30 8      |
| 31—WIDNES (BBC2 Floodlit. Com.) (7.15) | H      | 18 18     |
| November                               |        |           |
| 5—YORK (3.0)                           | H      | 34 16     |
| 12—Whitehaven (2.30)                   | A      | 12 11     |
| 14—Widnes (BBC2 Floodlit. Com.)        | A      | 11 14     |
| 17—SALFORD (7.30)                      | H      | 16 11     |
| December                               |        |           |
| 3—HUDDERSFIELD (3.0)                   | H      | 28 5      |
| 10—WHITEHAVEN (3.0)                    | H      | 58 9      |
| 15—Hull (7.30)                         | A      | 36 8      |
| 26—LEIGH (3.0)                         | H      | 6 6       |
| 31—OLDHAM (3.0)                        | H      |           |
| January, 1973                          |        |           |
| 7—Huyton (2.30)                        | A      |           |
| 14—SWINTON (3.0)                       | H      |           |
| 21—Dewsbury (2.30)                     | A      |           |
| 27—R.L. Chall. Cup 1st Round           |        |           |
| February                               |        |           |
| 3—                                     |        |           |
| 11—ST. HELENS (3.0)                    | H      |           |
| 17—R.L. Chall. Cup 2nd Round           |        |           |
| 25—ROCHDALE (3.0)                      | H      |           |
| March                                  |        |           |
| 3—R.L. Chall. Cup 3rd Round            |        |           |
| 4—Oldham (3.0)                         | A      |           |
| 11—HUYTON (3.0)                        | H      |           |
| 17—Workington (3.0)                    | A      |           |
| 25—DEWSBURY (3.0)                      | H      |           |
| 30—Salford (7.30)                      | A      |           |
| April                                  |        |           |
| 7—R.L. Chall. Cup Semi-Final (1)       |        |           |
| 8—Wigan (3.0)                          | A      |           |
| 15—BLACKPOOL (3.0)                     | H      |           |
| 20—Widnes (11.0)                       | A      |           |
| 23—Leigh (3.0)                         | A      |           |
| 28—Top 16 Play-off 1st Round           |        |           |
| May                                    |        |           |
| 12—R.L. Chall. Cup Final (3.0) Wembley |        |           |
| 19—R.L. Champ. Final Play-off          |        |           |

## Forthcoming Attractions:

SATURDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1973

Lancashire Combination

v. HUYTON

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 14th JANUARY, 1973

Northern League Championship

v. SWINTON

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

FRIDAY, 19th JANUARY, 1973

Lancashire Combination

v. WIDNES

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

## "A" TEAM FIXTURES

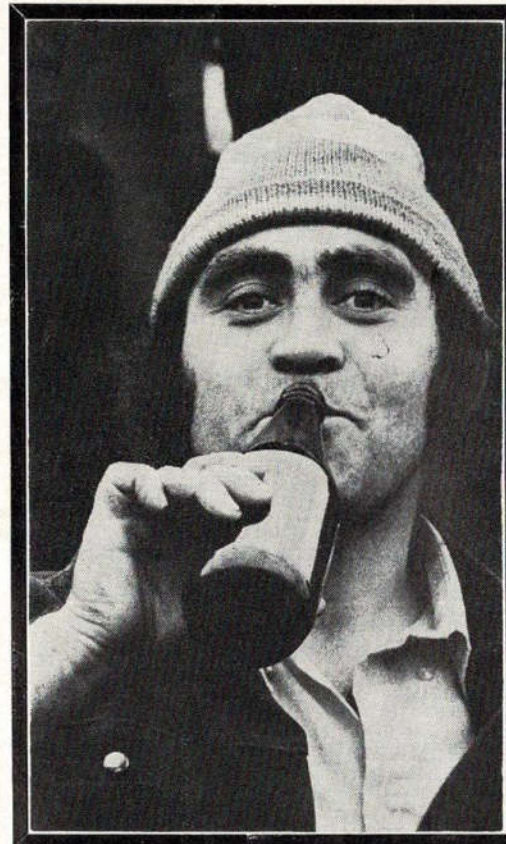
| Opponents                         | Ground | for agst. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| August, 1972                      |        |           |
| 11—Wigan (7.30)                   | A      | 17 18     |
| 18—Widnes (7.30)                  | A      | 22 10     |
| 21—ST. HELENS (L. Cup 1st) (7.30) | H      | 16 4      |
| 25—SWINTON (7.30)                 | H      | 4 9       |
| September                         |        |           |
| 4—St. Helens (L. Cup 2nd) (7.30)  | A      | 16 17     |
| 8—WIGAN (7.30)                    | H      | 17 12     |
| 16—Wigan (7.30)                   | A      | 19 5      |
| 23—BARROW (3.0)                   | H      | 46 2      |
| 30—Leigh (3.0)                    | A      | 19 13     |
| October                           |        |           |
| 7—Barrow (3.0)                    | A      | 26 11     |
| 13—ROCHDALE (7.30)                | H      | 9 16      |
| 17—Salford (7.30)                 | A      | 17 17     |
| 21—Workington (3.0)               | A      | 5 15      |
| 25—Leigh (League Cup, 2nd Round)  |        | 16 8      |
| 28—BARROW (3.0)                   | H      | 20 15     |
| November                          |        |           |
| 10—ST. HELENS (7.30)              | H      | 14 9      |
| 14—Salford (7.30)                 | A      | 11 8      |
| 25—Rochdale (3.0)                 | A      | 16 2      |
| December                          |        |           |
| 2—Barrow (3.0)                    | A      | 5 11      |
| 15—WIDNES (7.30)                  | H      | 3 5       |
| 30—Oldham (3.0)                   | A      |           |
| January, 1973                     |        |           |
| 6—HUYTON (3.0)                    | H      |           |
| 13—Swinton (3.0)                  | A      |           |
| 19—WIDNES (7.30)                  | H      |           |
| 26—Widnes (7.30)                  | A      |           |
| February                          |        |           |
| 2—ROCHDALE (7.30)                 | H      |           |
| 9—St. Helens (7.30)               | A      |           |
| 16—SALFORD (7.30)                 | H      |           |
| 24—Rochdale (3.0)                 | A      |           |
| March                             |        |           |
| 2—OLDHAM (7.30)                   | H      |           |
| 10—Huyton (3.0)                   | A      |           |
| 17—WORKINGTON (3.0)               | H      |           |
| 30—SALFORD (7.30)                 | H      |           |
| April                             |        |           |
| 6—LEIGH (7.30)                    | H      |           |

## LANCASHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

(Up to and including Saturday, 16th December, 1972)

|               | P. | W. | D. | L. | F.  | A.  | Pts. |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| Salford       | 13 | 10 | 1  | 2  | 301 | 134 | 21   |
| Warrington    | 16 | 10 | 1  | 5  | 253 | 160 | 21   |
| Swinton       | 13 | 8  | 0  | 5  | 178 | 136 | 16   |
| Rochdale H.   | 13 | 7  | 1  | 5  | 183 | 153 | 15   |
| St. Helens    | 13 | 7  | 0  | 6  | 184 | 129 | 14   |
| Workington T. | 12 | 4  | 0  | 8  | 157 | 156 | 14   |
| Leigh         | 14 | 6  | 2  | 6  | 205 | 223 | 14   |
| Widnes        | 13 | 5  | 1  | 7  | 115 | 164 | 11   |
| Barrow        | 13 | 5  | 0  | 8  | 130 | 208 | 10   |
| Huyton        | 13 | 4  | 2  | 7  | 112 | 230 | 10   |
| Wigan         | 12 | 4  | 0  | 8  | 153 | 185 | 8    |
| Oldham        | 13 | 2  | 0  | 11 | 106 | 199 | 4    |

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Two happy photographs by cameraman Mike Brett, who captured Alex Murphy and his wife, Alice, at home, over the holiday period, drinking a toast to 1973. On the right is a study of a man enjoying his leisure at Wilderspool—watching his favourite game and sampling a bottle of ale. Cheers!

### SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

Watch out for the announcement in the next programme on Sunday, January 14th, 1973, for details of a new competition to find the Warrington Supporter of the Year. There will be a special prize for the winner.

# PAUL HARRISON



Paul Harrison

Alex Murphy, Warrington's irrepressible player-coach, still reckons it will be some time before his side really get amongst the trophies.

However, the way Warrington have been turning on the style since the start of the season, I think Alex will be more than a little upset if they don't pull off at least one major trophy this season.

Warrington are flying high at the top of the League table and I wouldn't back a worn out Christmas cracker against them not staying there.

### SUCCESS

Murphy has got all his players to believe in themselves and that immediately spells success. He's not afraid to drop any of them if he thinks they deserve it and, what's more important, the players know and accept that.

This, coupled with ability and hard work, is precisely why Warrington are top of the table and why they will stay there.

But Murphy knows and the Warrington Board know, too, that it's no use winning League matches and staying in front if, when the vital Challenge Cup and Championship play-off rounds come along, they fail.

### LUXURIOUS

Although it's thanks to a winning side, and thanks to the luxurious Wilderspool Centre that the fans have started flocking back through the turnstiles, there are still plenty of people in the Warrington area who believe their team's sudden surge of success—is nothing but a flash in the pan.

Only when the Challenge Cup or the Championship trophy glitters in the Wilderspool boardroom will Warrington really be accepted as one of Rugby League's great teams again.

There are still too many people—both inside and outside of Rugby League—who are prepared to knock Warrington. They can, and will, be silenced.

But until then, Warrington are still going to take a lot of stick. Thankfully, both the Board and the team are big enough to take it and to prove all the critics wrong.

Murphy has said it will be next season before they hit the big time, I have a funny feeling that it might be this.

For my money Warrington are on the up and up and they will certainly have a happy—and a prosperous—New Year.

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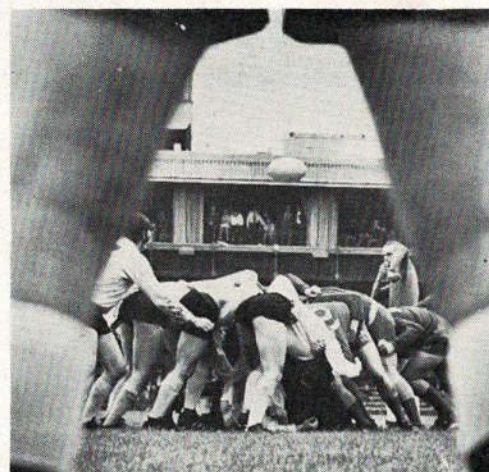
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# CAMERA

## Brian Batty of the Mail



On this, the last day of 1972, it seems fitting to reflect on some of the excitement at Wilderspool, which has helped to put Warrington back on the Rugby League map. (Left) and this unusual picture features the "Wires" in action against a backcloth of the new luxurious Wilderspool Centre, which offers the best in spectator comforts. Now for some of the personalities who have worked so hard to put Warrington at the top of the League. Below (left to right): Brilliant young Australian John Grant, the irrepressible Wilf Briggs, goal-kicking ace, Derek Whitehead, and finally the architect-in-chief of the Warrington team, Alex Murphy. Above (right) and an impish grin from the "bomber" himself, David Chisnall, who is having a great season.

Cameraman: EDDIE FULLER (Warrington Guardian Series)



Paul Charlton now looks certain to place the try scoring record for a full back, completely beyond the reach of any other player.

With barely half the season gone, the Great Britain full-back has already left Colin Tyrer's previous record of 21 tries well behind and shows no sign of slackening his pace.

The popular Cumbrian is one of the reasons why Salford are challenging for top honours this season. Yet it was his form in the World Cup that finally silenced his critics.

"Where did you get that full-back?"

That was the first question Australian coach, Harry Bath, growled at me after Britain had toppled the World Cup holders in Perpignan.

"That boy has got guts and loads of ability," added Bath.

It is history now, but Charlton rarely put a foot wrong in contributing so much to Britain's feat in winning the trophy.

During his trip to England later, Bath added: "Charlton is a thrilling player and a great tackler. How did he miss the last tour?"

One of my fondest memories of the World Cup is of the tackle that Charlton made on the 15-and-a-half-stone centre, Mark Harris, when the "Aussies" were threatening to smash Britain's lead at Perpignan.

"He nearly knocked me over the stand and got me a beauty in the thigh but I was just happy to see him go down," recalls the slightly built Charlton.

"That trip, of course, was the greatest part of my career and while I would love to make the next tour to Australia I am not looking too far ahead.

"I have never enjoyed my rugby as much as I am doing now.

"It seems ridiculous that I should get 23 tries before Christmas but I am getting the breaks.

"I'd like to help Salford win something more than the Lancashire Cup.

"When I was at Workington, the only thing we won was a seven-a-side competition—and that was when we beat Salford in the final."

# IN ACTION

## DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Our Development Association Secretary, Graham Simm, is already looking ahead to 1973, when he hopes to recruit more agents to help him boost the development fund. Agents' commission is generous and each one gets special match day concessions at Wilderspool. For full details fill in the coupon below and either hand it to Graham personally or post it to the club:

Please send me full details of how to become a Warrington Development Association agent

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Address .....

Telephone Number .....

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## Warrington's Souvenir Shop—

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TANKARDS — only £1.00

"WIRE" ROCK — 5p a stick

The Warrington Souvenir Shop has been tremendously popular with the supporters over the Christmas period and the great name of Warrington is being spread far and wide through its exciting souvenirs.

The shop is open before, at half-time and after all home matches. Our prices are competitive. Here are a few more examples of souvenirs available.

Scarves ..... £1.80  
Club Ties ..... £1  
Metal Badges ..... 25p  
Pennants ..... 17p  
Car Stickers ..... 7½p

Players' Photographs ..... 8p  
Rosettes ..... 20p  
Bob Caps ..... 50p  
Cloth Badges ..... 17p  
Ball Point Pens ..... 4p

Why don't you help to spread this famous club's name still further by wearing a Warrington souvenir.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

(Up to and including 26th December, 1972)

|                 | P. | W. | D. | L. | F.  | A.  | Pts. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| Warrington      | 18 | 16 | 1  | 1  | 489 | 191 | 33   |
| Leeds           | 16 | 15 | 0  | 1  | 443 | 118 | 30   |
| St. Helens      | 17 | 12 | 2  | 3  | 364 | 167 | 26   |
| Salford         | 18 | 13 | 0  | 5  | 460 | 214 | 26   |
| Oldham          | 19 | 12 | 2  | 5  | 342 | 201 | 26   |
| Castleford      | 18 | 13 | 0  | 5  | 388 | 230 | 26   |
| Wakefield       | 18 | 13 | 0  | 5  | 377 | 224 | 26   |
| Widnes          | 18 | 13 | 0  | 5  | 334 | 201 | 26   |
| Featherstone R. | 18 | 13 | 0  | 5  | 371 | 254 | 26   |
| York            | 18 | 11 | 0  | 7  | 345 | 307 | 22   |
| Rochdale        | 17 | 10 | 1  | 6  | 219 | 243 | 21   |
| Dewsbury        | 18 | 10 | 0  | 8  | 242 | 195 | 20   |
| Bramley         | 17 | 10 | 0  | 7  | 229 | 209 | 20   |
| Batley          | 19 | 10 | 0  | 9  | 307 | 288 | 20   |
| Wigan           | 19 | 9  | 1  | 9  | 339 | 304 | 19   |
| Hull K.R.       | 17 | 9  | 0  | 8  | 291 | 275 | 18   |
| Halifax         | 18 | 9  | 0  | 9  | 289 | 298 | 18   |
| Whitehaven      | 20 | 8  | 0  | 12 | 254 | 377 | 16   |
| Workington      | 20 | 7  | 0  | 13 | 220 | 275 | 14   |
| Keighley        | 18 | 7  | 0  | 11 | 253 | 321 | 14   |
| Swinton         | 15 | 6  | 1  | 8  | 206 | 213 | 13   |
| Huddersfield    | 18 | 6  | 1  | 11 | 271 | 283 | 13   |
| Bradford N.     | 17 | 6  | 0  | 11 | 314 | 358 | 12   |
| Leigh           | 17 | 5  | 2  | 10 | 177 | 237 | 12   |
| Hull            | 18 | 5  | 0  | 13 | 275 | 349 | 10   |
| Doncaster       | 19 | 5  | 0  | 14 | 195 | 415 | 10   |
| Barrow          | 20 | 4  | 0  | 16 | 210 | 464 | 8    |
| Hirelet         | 20 | 4  | 0  | 16 | 213 | 538 | 8    |
| Blackpool       | 19 | 3  | 0  | 16 | 221 | 508 | 6    |
| Huyton          | 20 | 2  | 1  | 17 | 160 | 541 | 5    |

## Supporters' Club News

Mr. Arthur Palmer, the club secretary, has asked us to wish all members a Very Happy New Year. 1972 has proved to be another splendid year for the Club and its membership has expanded. In 1973, Arthur wants to make lots of new friends. So why not pop along and join in the fun.

Monday evening is Motor Club, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays are disco nights and Thursday evenings are devoted to Bingo. So it's eyes-down-look-in for plenty of enjoyment in 1973 at the Supporters' Club.

# INTRODUCING . . . OLDHAM

by  
**Paul Harrison**

When Oldham chairman, Arthur Walker, made a 50-mile car dash to sign Cumbrian pack star, FRANK FOSTER, last January, he couldn't have fully realised what a stroke of genius it would turn out to be.

For the arrival of Foster at Watersheddings, signalled the start of a brilliant revival that has seen Oldham shoot up from near the foot of the table—into the top eight.

Unfortunately, the much-travelled Foster is unlikely to be playing this afternoon because of suspension, but some of his hard, rugged play will certainly have rubbed off on the rest of the Oldham pack.

Undoubted star of the Oldham forwards is Bob Irving, who was a member of the recent victorious Great Britain World Cup squad.

Irving, who has also toured Australia, is a hard, powerful runner and he will take a lot of stopping.

His partner in the second row will either be Geoff Munro or Arthur Daley, if he has recovered from injury—while Jim Reynolds will be at loose-forward.

Oldham will have to shuffle their front-row because of the possible suspensions to Foster and to Albert Halsall, their recent signing from Swinton.

If both players are out, it is expected that Ken Wilson and Keith Ashcroft will be propping, with the brilliant Kevin Taylor hooking.

Taylor is one of the best hookers in the League and he will certainly ensure that Oldham get at least a fair share of the ball from the scrums.

Mick McCone, signed from Doncaster last term, will be at scrum-half and if Cliff Hill has recovered from a serious leg injury he will take his place at stand-off.

The three-quarter line should read Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright and Norman Hodgkinson, but if Hill fails a fitness test, the former Leeds ace will switch to stand-off, with Tommy Davies coming into the centre.

At full-back is the brilliant Martin Murphy. This Oldham star can certainly count himself unlucky not to have won International honours, for he is sound in defence and brilliant in attack. It's just a pity that he has come along at the same time as Salford's Paul Charlton.



In wishing you all a Very Happy New Year, coach Alex Murphy would like to remind you that the perfect way to toast 1973 is with one of the new Warrington Souvenir Tankards which are on sale today for just £1, in the souvenir shop. Alex has bought a tankard for all the members of his family and has asked them to make their New Year's toast go something like this: "Health, wealth, happiness and success to Warrington." Why don't you follow suit and help to make it a very happy new year down at Wilderspool by continuing with your excellent support.

# THE WILDERSPOOL CENTRE

a sports and entertainment showpiece!

Sauna baths and squash courts for those who want the action . . . wining, dining, music and cabaret for lovers of the good life — that's The Wilderspool Centre.

At the Sportsman's Bar you can rub shoulders with some of today's leading sports personalities, as well as enjoy your drink in a friendly and congenial atmosphere.

Stanneylands are in charge of banqueting and catering in the licensed Restaurant where every meal is a gourmet's delight — superbly cooked and efficiently served in plush, luxurious surroundings. The magnificent wine cellar makes dining out a thrilling experience.

Dance to Eric Pepp, the Centre's resident organist. If you enjoy cabaret, you can see some of the North's most talented comedians, impressionists, singers, musicians.

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

When you become a Life Member (fee £105) or a Vice-President (£20 per season) of the Wilderspool Centre:

- You will enjoy:
- \* A season ticket.
  - \* A private bar.
  - \* Your own seat in the members' enclosure.
  - \* Free admission to all other bars and the restaurant and special rates for Squash, Sauna and Massage.

NOTE: On all occasions, Gentlemen, collars and ties, please.  
Friday and Saturday:  
No admittance after 10 p.m.

#### WHAT'S ON AT WILDERSPOOL

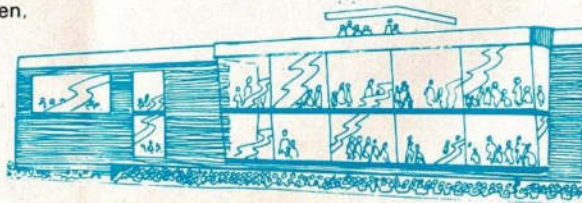
Wednesday, 3rd January  
DAWSON'S TRAVEL SHOW  
Members' Tickets 20p  
Cabaret features:  
Tommy Sutton, Artful Dodger  
Elaine Howard

Wednesday, 10th January  
ST. HELENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
STUDENTS' UNION DANCE  
Tickets 80p  
Features: Bay City Rollers  
Sweet Chariot

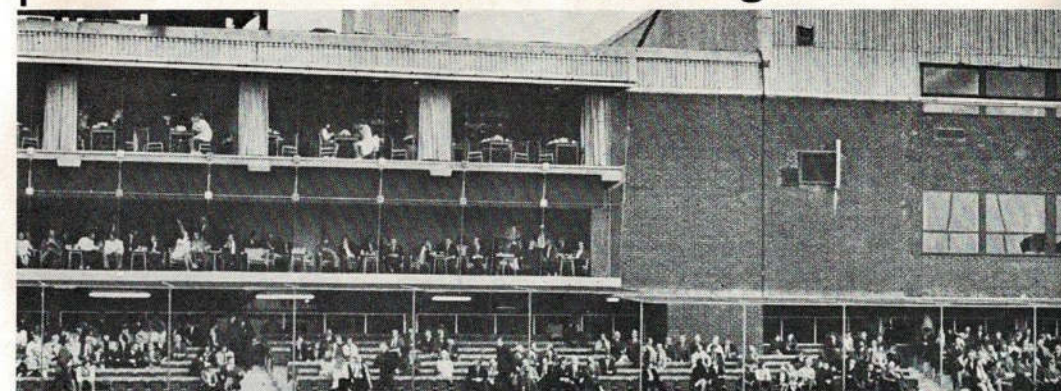
Thursday, 25th January  
THAMES BOARD AMATEUR RUGBY  
LEAGUE F.C.  
Tickets 50p  
Cabaret features:  
Frank Carson from "The Comedians"  
Plus supporting acts

Top line Cabaret every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

IMPORTANT: The management wishes to point out that under no circumstances will children be admitted to any of the bars in the Centre.



## The Wilderspool Centre for Families who follow Warrington



Make your visit to Wilderspool complete with a visit to the centre and enjoy its excellent social facilities. Before our Sunday games you can enjoy a superb lunch for only 75p per head. There is a choice of five delicious dishes.

The Restaurant is open between 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. Remember, too, that the Wilderspool Centre bars are open from noon right through until 5.30 p.m. on all match days.

So why not make it a family occasion when Warrington play at home this season — and complete your enjoyment of this fabulous game with a visit to the Wilderspool Centre—a centre designed for family entertainment.



Get your Warrington Rugby League Tickets with your weekly shopping!

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WARRINGTON RUGBY CLUB

**ALEX MURPHY**

his opinions and expert comment exclusively in the

**Manchester Evening News**

# FOCUS ...

## ON A GREAT VOLUNTEER FORCE



For no fewer than seventy-five years, the Warrington Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade have been on duty at the Wilderspool Stadium, caring for spectators and players alike. They are the volunteer force who turn out, hail, rain or shine to look after people in need. The service they provide is one which, over the years, tends to have been taken for granted because of the manner in which these volunteers go about their work. Above, is an example of their vigilance, as they help George Thornton carry Mick Nicholas off the field, during our recent match against Whitehaven. Warrington's chairman, Mr. Ossie Davies, has asked us to convey his grateful thanks to the Brigade and wish them a Very Happy New Year. Says Parry Gordon (right): "These volunteers do a marvellous job. They have helped me in the past and they provide a great source of comfort to injured footballers."

### SPORTSMAN'S NEWSAGENT

(D. M. Mannion)

127 BRIDGE STREET  
WARRINGTON

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## There's a Stanneylands welcome at The Wilderspool Centre for all Rugby League fans

Stanneylands are proud to play their part in making a big success of The Wilderspool Centre so that it becomes a focal point of entertainment and leisure activities for the citizens of Warrington and District and for all Rugby League fans. The luxurious fully-licensed restaurant, banqueting suites and conference facilities allow Stanneylands to provide a unique service embracing everything from a quiet dinner for two to a banquet for 250—from a wedding reception to a top cabaret performance. Our Manager will be pleased to discuss details with you of any private party or function.

Cocktail Parties • Wedding Receptions • Cabaret  
Anniversary Parties • Business Parties  
Dinner Dances • Luncheons • Buffet Dances  
Social Evenings • 21st Parties • Dining Out  
Conferences • Banquets

Stanneylands



Group Ltd.

For details of membership of the Social Club  
please contact the membership Secretary.