

Oldham 3

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M. *try*
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 ~~HALL, F.~~ *Hughes B*
- 11 ~~GREGORY, B.~~ *Hall F*
- 12 WELDING, R.
- 13 FARRELL, J.
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 ~~HUGHES, B.~~ *Brown D*

Bradford 12

- 1 MUMBY, K. *3 goals*
- 2 LAMB, M.
- 3 WARD, P.
- 4 MARSTON, J.
- 5 REDFEARN, D.
- 6 BLACKER, M. *try*
- 7 SEABOURNE, B. *try*
- 8 RAMSEY, W.
- 9 JARVIS, F.
- 10 FORSYTH, C.
- 11 JACKSON, P.
- 12 JOYCE, G.
- 13 FEARNLEY, S.
- 14 CARLTON, S.
- 15 PATTINSON, W.

Referee:

W. H. Thompson (Huddersfield)

F. J. Tomlinson (Widnes) Orange

E. Glazebrook (Wigan) Red

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OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

The Man of the Match
v. BRADFORD

was *Keith Ashcroft*

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldhams Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote — YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted — plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH
v. HUYTON WAS —
JOHNNY FARRELL

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OLDHAM 3

v

BRADFORD N. 12

Players No. 6 Trophy 2nd Round



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

Lynn Taylor, our new Rugby League Queen, pictured with Phil Larder after her crowning at the Supporters' Club dance last week.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

PLEASE bear with us for a moment or two while we leave football matters on one side to clear up one or two points about our decision to start charging for the parking of cars on the Watersheddings car park on nights when the greyhound stadium has meetings.

If you have travelled here by car today it will have cost you 10p for the privilege of leaving your vehicle in a safe place, away from passing traffic, and in close proximity to the ground.

A charge is necessary, of course, as it is on most if not all car parks these days, because of the tremendous overheads we have to meet.

Our fans and supporters have always paid for parking and if it might be stretching a point to say they have paid up happily it is certainly true to say that they have done so without grumbles because they accept that charging for the parking of cars these days is a way of life.

It doesn't matter where you go today, you have to pay for leaving your car in a safe place, whether it be a multi-storey building, an area of land similar to ours, or even a croft or a field used as an emergency parking area wherever large numbers of people are gathered together.

We make an exception for patrons of our social club, using the club in the evenings, because it is a facility we can offer which many other night spots in the town cannot. In other words it is to our advantage — as a club we have to put the needs of the club first and foremost — to offer free parking to those people who are ultimately going to spend money over the bars in the social club.

We now come to the third section of the community who use our parking facilities — the patrons of the greyhound track and the dog owners who transport their animals to and fro for racing purposes.

We cannot, in any way, see why the greyhound lovers should park for free when our own members and supporters, the people who keep the RL club in business, have to fork out.

It is interesting to note that a survey carried out by our pools chief Alan Taylor shows that, in general terms, the greyhound fans use the car park five times to every once it is used by the rugby supporters.

His survey was based on the average number of greyhound meetings in any one year, compared with, say 20 first-team home games.

It does not take into consideration the staging of "A" team games—roughly once a fortnight over eight months of the year — but nor does it consider the times the greyhound men use it for trials, etc. on Sunday mornings.

No matter, it can be seen that the greyhound supporters use our facilities a great deal. And in absolute fairness it must be stated here that there is the added problem created on track nights of dogs causing a nuisance as they are led off the car park and through to the track.

When we considered this whole problem, in all its aspects, we felt we had no alternative but to make a charge on the greyhound supporters. To ensure that there is still free parking for the user of our own social club he will get his fee refunded on production of his ticket at the foyer.

We then had to fix a fee — and the figure we came up with was 20p.

We feel that this is not exorbitant these days considering the amount of wear and tear the car park has to take from the greyhound people and the high costs of maintenance.

You, the rugby supporter, pay only 10p but having paid that you go on to pay a whole lot more through your member's card or admission fee and what you spend throughout the year over the bars and in support of our numerous special efforts which play such a big part in the running and general upkeep of the club.

There is no extra benefit to Oldham RLFC once the greyhound man has paid his car park fee. For years he has parked for nothing on our land when the owners of that land — the club members — have had to pay. Does that make sense? We think not.



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WHEN big Artie Beetson turned up at Wigan on Monday with his Eastern Suburbs coach Jack Gibson he sparked off a lot of interest from English clubs.

The facts, as we knew them at the time, were that Wigan had previously received a clearance from Sydney for the Test prop to play in England, but the Central Park board were not keen on the idea.

Had there been no strings attached Wigan might have thought very differently, but with Beetson and Gibson here for the express purpose of signing John Gray the Central Park board were understandably not keen on any trade-in deal.

Thus were triggered off the events which saw both Oldham and Hull quickly in with inquiries to see what plans Beetson had about a possible winters' stay in Lancashire or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

It was only when we inquired that we discovered there had been a change of plan on the part of the two Aussies who leave England this week-end for Texas, where they are hoping to persuade a couple of American grid-iron players to try their hands and their luck in Sydney premier grade rugby.

Had Beetson been here until the spring I would have loved to have seen him at Watersheddings where his experience and class would have done a lot to help the other players in the side.

Under no circumstances would I be interested in any player — no matter how good he was — if he was only here for a week or two.

That sort of signing, and Oldham could have made one or two from Australia earlier in the season, would provide no long-term benefit for the club and would merely disrupt the side and cause problems when the player departed.

When I was in Australia in the summer with the Great Britain tour party it really was an eye-opener to see how the Aussies, for all their brash and boastful talk, respect English players and English RL.

They know that although we lost the Ashes Britain is BEST when it comes to turning out players with the all-round football skills.

That's why they have been falling over themselves in the past month or two to get British players down under. From our point of view the difficulty lies in the fact that while it is, in many instances, our top players who are going down under during the English summer most of the Aussies who are coming back are youngsters sent here with one aim in mind — to learn.

Mind you, in the past year or so we have had internationals like Beetson and Bobby Fulton in the English League and they will be the first to admit that they have returned home much better operators than when they came — another pointer to Britain's claims that in Rugby League she can still lead the world.

A big draw back is that players are being asked to play 12 months to the year and I do admit that no player, no matter how he looks after himself, could do this indefinitely.

The pressures, I feel, are more mental than physical. It is comparatively easy, for a fit young man who is prepared to make social sacrifices, to get through a year of rugby without it affecting his play from the point of view of fitness. It is not so easy to keep the mind fresh and alert without a rest between seasons.

So there are problems, of course — but overall I believe the two-way swap of players can be a good thing, particularly if we can persuade the Aussies to send some of their top men over here as they did in the years immediately after the war.

OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

WATERSHEDDINGS today stages the top tie in the lucrative John Player Trophy and the visit of star-studded Second Division Champions Bradford Northern has been eagerly awaited ever since the draw was made.

The former England amateur star **DAVE REDFEARN**, who joined Bradford from Shaw Cross Boys Club, was Northern's leading try scorer last season, with 23.

He made his representative debut in season 1972-73 when he made the first of his five Yorkshire appearances and then visited France with the British World Cup squad. Redfearn's only appearance in France was as substitute in the 53-19 defeat of New Zealand but last spring he played twice for Great Britain against France and toured Australasia during the summer.

He made 18 appearances whilst on tour including one Australian Test and all three New Zealand Tests and scored 2 goals and 18 tries including four tries in the 37-17 defeat of North Island Country.

On the other wing is **MIKE LAMB** who played Rugby Union 13 times for Yorkshire before joining Leeds in January, 1969 from Headingley RUFC. Twelve months later he was transferred to Bradford where he switched from centre to wing with instant success and he has now made six appearances for the Yorkshire county side.

Centre threequarter **PHIL WARD** was born in Rochdale and joined Salford RUFC in September, 1971 from Loughborough Colleges RUFC. He was the Salford substitute back in the 1973 Players Trophy Final and he joined Bradford last month for £4,000.

The star of this season's Other Nationalities side was **BAK DIABIRA**, the 25-years-old French born scrum-half who joined Northern from Hull Juniors. His live-wire tricky style has made him a real favourite with the Odsal crowd.

Hooker **FRANCIS JARVIS** is a product of Bradford's highly successful training school who graduated into the Other Nationalities side with his direct running and eager backing up.

Propforward **BILL RAMSEY** leads the Bradford pack where he puts his vast experience to good use. Thirty-two-years-old Ramsey began playing professionally with Hunslet and moved to Leeds in December, 1967, for £10,000 and then on to Bradford Northern last January for £4,00. His experience covers four Wembley appearances (one with Hunslet, three with Leeds) and several appearances for both Yorkshire and Great Britain. He toured Australasia in 1966 and also flew out as a replacement last summer when he appeared in 7 games and scored 2 tries and 5 goals. Along with Jim Challinor, he was one of the two British players who were never on a losing side whilst down under!

Completing the front row is **COLIN FORSYTHE** who began his professional career here at Watersheddings in November, 1964 when Oldham signed him from Howorth Juniors. He was consequently transferred to Featherstone and then York before moving to Bradford last August for a £5,000 fee.

Second-row forward **STUART GAL-**

LAGHER represented Welsh Rugby Union at under-19 "B" team and full international level and he also toured South Africa with the Barbarians in 1969 before turning professional in June, 1970 from Llanelli RUFC for a reported £6,500 fee. Earlier this season he made his professional representative debut when he played in the Other Nationalities side.

This Bradford side certainly contains some star names and Oldham will find them difficult to beat this afternoon. A close fought match is anticipated and one which should thrill the many fans who will be watching the tie both on the terraces and through their television screens.



Graham Joyce supporting a Northern break.
Pictures by Telegraph and Argus, Bradford.



Northern half backs Mick Blacker (foreground) and Bak Diabira, in the rear.



Tough Cumbrian Bill Pattinson, a member of the strong Northern pack.



BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

The first few months of this season have seen a flood of new faces among referees controlling both First and Second Division games.

The new men have come into the game at a difficult time when fans have been crying for the blood of officials for some time, claiming they have been ruining matches.

It is, of course, the easy way out to blame the referee. On the other hand there are those who feel they are now paid a generous fee and expenses and must earn their money.

This season has seen the League warn referees that they must tighten up on scrummaging and brawling as well as other aspects of the game.

But, in fairness, the officials need the co-operation of clubs, coaches and players in tidying up the game's ugliest features.

Now that the responsibility for brawling has been switched from clubs to their players, referees and touch judges have to pay extra special care in identifying the culprits.

This isn't as easy as might be imagined. The outbursts of fighting between opposing players can happen so swiftly that, even with the assistance of his touch judges, a referee has a tough job sorting out the trouble makers.

Still the outcome of the early season efforts by officials has led to some pretty hectic disciplinary meetings and the second half of the season will show whether the League is winning this war.

There was no doubt that in the early months a determined bid was launched to tidy up the scrums, but I have wondered in recent weeks if some referees are losing their enthusiasm for the task.

There has been a considerable number of hookers dismissed for technical offences but generally I can report no real improvement in this area of the game.

I would like to see the League help referees by clearing up the controversies which occur from the different interpretations on the stealing of the ball.

If a referee isn't in a position to hear a player shouting "Held" then we get as many as two and sometimes three men trying to steal the ball.

Some referees allow any number of players to attempt this, others will penalise unless it has been a case of a "man to man" challenge.

I think that it would simplify the whole business to make it purely a man-to-man challenge. This would end the confusion which often leads to trouble in other directions on the field.

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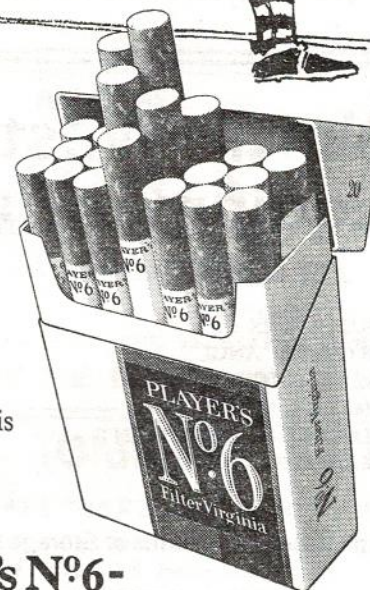
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FIXTURES 1974-75

Aug. 17—Rochdale (Law Cup) Home 27-15	Aug. 24—Blackpool Away 28-2
" 24—Blackpool Home 17-13	" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.) Away 13-10
Sept. 1—Widnes (3-15 p.m.) Home 9-14	Sept. 7—Blackpool Home
" 8—Blackpool Away	" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 14—Huddersfield Home	Oct. 5—Rochdale Home
" 20—Hull K.R. (7-30 p.m.) Away	" 12—Wigan Away
" 28—Player's No. 6 (1st Rnd.)	" 19—St. Helens Away
Lancs. Cup, Rnd. 1 Home	" 26—Huyton Away
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) Away	Nov. 2—Swinton Home
" 12—Hull Home	" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 18—Whitehaven (7-00 p.m.) Away	" 23—Widnes Home
" 26—Huyton Home	" 30—
Nov. 3—Swinton Away	" 14—
" 9—Player's No. 6 (2nd Rnd.)	" 21—
" 16—Workington Home	" 26—
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 28—Huyton Home
" 30—Batley Home	Jan. 4—
Dec. 8—Workington (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 11—
" 14—Hull K.R. Home	" 18—Barrow Home
" 21—	" 25—Swinton Away
" 26—Huddersfield Away	Feb. 1—
" 29—Huyton (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 8—St. Helens Home
Jan. 4—New Hunslet Home	" 15—Leigh Home
" 11—Doncaster Home	" 22—Salford Home
" 17—Barrow (7-00 p.m.) Away	Mar. 1—
" 25—Swinton Home	" 8—
Feb. 1—	" 15—Leigh Away
" 8—Challenge Cup (1st Rnd.)	" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.) Away	" 29—
" 22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.)	Apr. 5—Barrow Away
Mar. 1—Whitehaven Home	" 12—Warrington Home
" 8—	" 19—Wigan Home
" 15—Leigh Home	
" 23—Batley Away	
" 30—Hull Away	
Apr. 5—Barrow Home	
" 12—	
" 19—	

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