

Oldham 7

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P. *2 goals*
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 O'MAHONEY R. *try*
- 10 HUGHES, B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 REYNOLDS, B.
- 13 FARRELL, J.
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 BROWN, R.

Referee:
H. Mason (Halifax)

Workington 11

- 1 THOMPSON, T
- 2 RISMAN, J.
- 3 NICHOLSON, R.
- 4 WRIGHT, I *try*
- 5 McCORQUODALE, I *4 goals*
- 6 WILKINS, R
- or LAUDER, B
- 7 WALKER, A
- 8 MAXWELL, R
- 9 BANKS, A
- 10 BOWMAN, E
- 11 GORLEY, L
- or HENNEY, H
- 12 CURWEN, D
- 13 DOBIE, J
- 14 *Lauder*
- 15 *Henney*

R. Marton (Whitby) Orange
A. Forth (Hull) Red

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

WORKINGTON

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 Oldham's 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. BRADFORD
F. HALL

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OLDHAM 7

v

WORKINGTON 11



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

On the move . . . that's Oldham out-half David Treasure as he speeds away past Colin Forsyth in last Saturday's cup tie.

Saturday 16th NOVEMBER

kick-off 3.0 pm

8p

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

CHRISTMAS is coming . . . and that, in addition to tinsel, turkey and trimmings, means one big thing for the club — the CHRISTMAS DRAW.

Many of you will already have received your tickets for sale. Indeed, we have in our possession a good number of counter-foils and money from our friends who have already sold up.

To those people we wish to hand a very big THANK YOU. Dare we suggest that they come back for more?

To those who have tickets but haven't yet sold them may we take this opportunity of stressing once again how vital these special efforts are to the future well being of the club.

To those of you who haven't had tickets may we ask you to help us along by calling in at the pools office where our staff will be delighted to arrange things for you.

This year we have set ourselves a target of £1,000 from the Christmas Draw and we feel confident we can reach that figure. We are, as always, dependent upon the co-operation of our members, supporters and friends.

Last spring Mr. Alan Taylor, our pools boss, told a members' meeting in the social club that he was disappointed in the response by members to a money-raising activity in which pensioners had pulled in more cash, pro rata, than other members.

We trust there will be no need for Alan to speak so critically again for we all love Rugby League football — and Rugby League football as we know it at Oldham will be the beneficiary of your efforts.

We do, of course, truly appreciate your magnificent efforts in the past with regard to the weekly pool, the early-season Golden Gamble, the timed try, and all those other efforts we run to keep the club in business.

To show that gratitude in the best possible way we have arranged in the social club, on December 10, an agents' night complete with late-night cabaret.

Each agent will shortly receive two FREE tickets for an event at which we will launch a brand new agent-of-the-year competition.

Tickets for outsiders — if there are any left — will be priced at 75p.

Diaries for 1975 will be issued "on the house" to our agents and we will also be paying out to our agents the expenses they have incurred in the period since Oldham Wakes.

A free buffet will complete the night's enjoyment and we will all be anxious to know who has won the first top-agent award.

This will be based not merely on the amount of cash pulled in for the Three 'N' Easy weekly pool but on various other factors such as how much an agent contributes to the other subsidiary efforts, whether his "books" for the last 12 months show increases or decreases, and his length of service.

We hope and trust all agents will make an effort to attend.

* * *
CONGRATULATIONS are due today for our young "A" team centre Ian Taylor, who marries a Warrington girl, Miss Janet Fairbrother, at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Warrington.

* * *
A REGULAR visitor at Watersheddings is Ron Marlor of Radio Manchester. Ron lives at Moorside, only a stone's throw from the ground, and his 15-minute Rugby League Special on Radio Manchester at 6.15 on Sundays is a must for all R.L. folk. Alan Taylor, our pools chief, has already been featured on the programme and a forthcoming interview will be with our coach, Jim Chalinor.

* * *
SUPPORTERS wishing to travel to Doncaster next Sunday can do so on the Supporters' Club coach which leaves Watersheddings at 12.45.



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QUITE a number of Oldham supporters have taken the trouble, in the last week or two, to write to me about their observations on the Oldham team, and their performances.

Some of the writers thought that things were not going too badly; others made it clear that they were not terribly happy at our performances so far.

Let me make it clear here and now that I like receiving mail. I like supporters to express their views and, if they are critical, it is better for them to get their feelings off their chest in a letter to me rather than storing them up inside.

I will endeavour to write to all those people whose letters carried addresses.

Human nature being what it is it is pleasant, from time to time, to receive a letter from a fan who believes that something good or worthwhile has been achieved.

Often than not, people only put pen to paper if something is niggling them but I sincerely accept that they do it for one reason only — they are very keen, conscientious supporters who may be worried about their team.

At present everyone connected with Watersheddings is disappointed about recent performances.

Some supporters have expressed the view to me that the club ought to buy new players and then they would come and watch. But this is a classic case of a vicious circle.

You cannot build up your reserve strength and enter the market for new players when there is no money with which to do it.

Likewise, there is a much better chance of spending when the spectators are coming through the turnstiles.

A third of the season has passed and I am the first to admit that I'm disappointed because we have not shown very much improvement since the start of the season.

Certainly, with a little more steadiness, we could have had better results, been in the happy position of leading the Second Division, and still had an interest in one or other of the cup competitions.

On Saturday, against Bradford, we won a lot of ball but then lost a lot of ball and these lapses do give rise to a certain amount of concern.

The players are working hard, make no mistake about that, and I have great admiration for the way they are getting down to their training and showing a very keen willingness to do whatever is asked of them.

I don't let one or two disappointments get me down too much. To coin an old expression Rome wasn't built in a day, and it is generally true in most walks of life, not only Rugby League football, that when you are down everything seems to go wrong.

But every cloud has a silver lining and you can take it from me that my players will be putting the Bradford defeat behind them and getting down conscientiously to the task of beating Workington today and thus consolidating our position among the Second Division leaders.

At the start of the season I said promotion must be our main priority. That target is still uppermost in our minds. Recent results in the Second Division show that it won't be easy. Every match is going to be a vital one.

To be truthful I was disappointed in the gate for the Bradford match. I tried to drum up some enthusiasm in the programme and the Press because I know that spectators enjoy the excitement of a sudden-death cup tie.

And had we been able to get a little momentum from a good cup run it would have created the interest which would have drawn the supporters back again . . . and that, in turn, would have helped us to achieve our aims as far as promotion is concerned.

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

WHEN Gus Risman returned to England in August, 1946 after skippering the British Lions in their successful defence of the Rugby League Ashes he realised that the time was ripe for him to look to the managerial side of the game and he moved to the newly-formed Workington Town club as player manager.

At the time Risman was asked how long he thought it would take to build up a side capable of winning the Cup or Championship and his reply—"It should take about five years"—was given plenty of publicity in West Cumbria. Risman promptly forgot the prophecy as he set about building his side.

He selected himself at full-back where he continued to star even though his international career, which included 17 Tests, had drawn to a close.

The threequarter line included two international wingers, who each made three Test appearances. Johnny Lawrenson was signed from Wigan whilst Happy Wilson was discovered in Scottish Rugby Union.

Two of Risman's best buys were from Australia, and even though centre Tony Paskins and second-rower Johnny Mudge were slow to settle they eventually became two of the stars of this fine Workington side.

At hooker was Vince McKeating, another British Test forward whilst at loose forward was Billy Iveson who, if not the best loose forward in English Rugby League, was certainly the best uncapped loose forward of all time.

The fortunes of this fine Cumbrian side slowly improved from 19th league placing to 11th and then, at the end of season 1949-50, they were placed 5th and had Arthur Pepperell selected for the 1950 tour.

At the beginning of season 1950-51 Risman was alarmed to hear that the Cumbrian rugby public were discussing Risman's "five-year plan", but he needn't have worried unduly for Town ended the campaign in third position in the league table behind Warrington and Wigan and in addition they were runners-up in the Lancashire championship table.

Under the old top four championship play-off system Workington had then to travel to Wigan where a most difficult task was made well nigh impossible by a first half injury which led to the withdrawal of Iveson, and there were no substitutes in those days.

Somehow Workington found themselves 8-7 in front with 15 minutes remaining and that was the signal for Town to completely shut up the game and hang on for victory.

What a bore those final 15 minutes were but Workington were in the final and the Cumbrians made sure that the 61,618 Maine Road crowd at the final was not as disillusioned as were the crowd at Wigan.

In a glorious advertisement for the Rugby League game, Town defeated top-of-the-table Warrington 26-11 in a classic. All Town's six tries came from the threequarters of a side considered to be the best ever to come out of Cumbria.

The present Cumbrian side, of course, does not possess the skills of that vintage side but they are still capable of causing an upset and should provide Oldham patrons with plenty of entertainment this afternoon.



Frolic in the mud. The ball goes loose and both Bill Ramsey (left) and David Treasure prepare to pounce. An incident from last Saturday's cup tie against Bradford.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.



BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

THE proof that Rugby League has still a great deal to offer the fans was contained in the two recent county cup finals.

These two games, richly contrasting in styles, were worthy of far bigger attendances.

It is of little consolation to the Yorkshire County officials to hear fans describing the Hull-Wakefield Trinity final as a "classic" when the crowd is no more than 5,824.

Winners Hull K.R. finished up with takings of £2,700, including sponsorship and television fees, while Wakefield Trinity received £2,000.

The Lancashire clash between Widnes and Salford kept the crowd inside the ground right up to the last second in an equally gripping contest that was expected to enjoy a far higher attendance than 7,403.

Both finals were perfectly staged at Central Park and Headingley but county officials must now be seriously concerned as they consider ways of halting the slump in final attendances.

At the present rate it may not be long before we have less at a county final than in previous rounds, which would be a tragedy.

I see that among suggestions to come from the recent meeting of the Yorkshire county committee is the setting aside of an extra Saturday for second round ties.

It does appear that few neutral fans are taking any interest in the finals but television would only have a slight bearing in this case and their fees are providing reasonable compensation.

I have heard a suggestion that to make the finals really profitable it would be a good idea to make them two-legged affairs.

This, of course, would produce two chances of television fees and the attendances could hardly be less than they have been this season.

But the problems could be that the weekend fixture programme is already crowded enough at that time of the year and the danger that a first leg would produce a runaway win for one side.

Switching to the presentation of the two finals, it was interesting to hear Wakefield's Peter Fox complaint that coaches are too often forgotten figures in the game.

Salford's Les Bettinson and Widnes coach Vince Karalius walked out with their teams — a feature missing from the Yorkshire final but one that will most likely be corrected next season.

It is true that coaches are too often left out in the cold, particularly at Wembley, when they are as much entitled to a share of the glory as players and club officials.

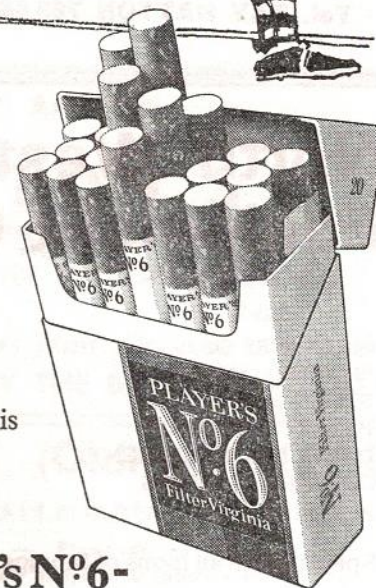
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FIXTURES 1974-75

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.) Home	" 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.) Home	" 21—.....
" 16—Workington Home	" 26—.....
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.) Away	Dec. 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.) Home	" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.) Away	" 29—.....
" 22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.) Home	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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