

Oldham 17

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

Referee:

A. T. Parker (Hull)

Batley 2

- 1 SECKER, D.
- 2 MARSH, G.
- 3 HOLMES, P.
- 4 COTTON, K.
- 5 WALTON, P.
- 6 STOCKS, G.
- 7 DEAN, T.
- 8 CORDWELL, P.
- 9 MULLINS, P.
- 10 BRIGGS, S.
- 11 BROOKS, D. *try*
- 12 BLAKEWAY, G.
- 13 PWINSKI, V.
- 14 MASKELL, C.
- 15 COOPER, B.

A. F. Jones (Widnes) Orange
R. Dennett (Warrington) Red

TODAY'S MATCH BALL

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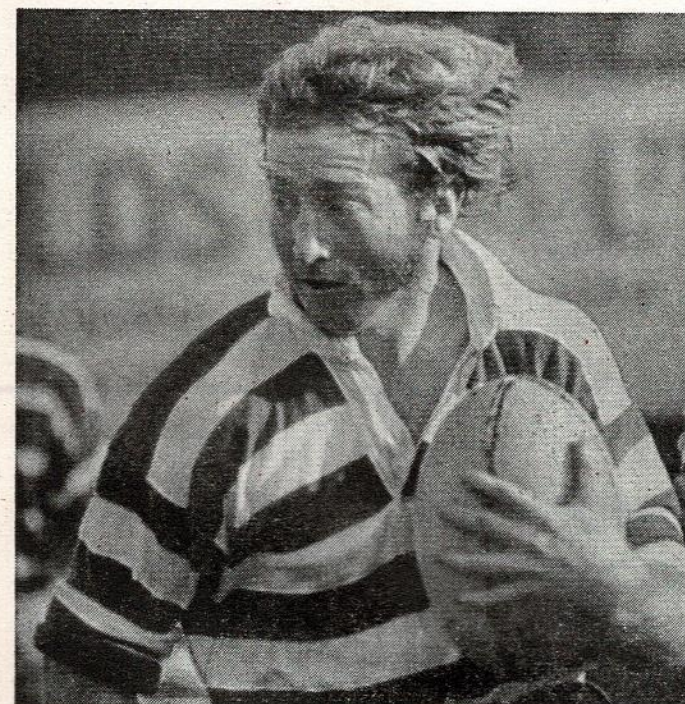
Sunday, 1st December at 10 am

Rugby Club Car Park

OLDHAM 17

V

BATLEY 2



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

MARTIN MURPHY, now thoroughly settled at Watersheddings again after his Australian venture, took over the captaincy at Doncaster on Sunday.

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

BATLEY

was *Tony Wainwright*

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

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kick-off 3.0 pm

8p

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

BARRING last-minute snags, tomorrow will see another chapter in the Oldham story when we start our first-ever Sunday Shopping Club on the Watersheddings car park.

Over the years there have been many changes and innovations at Watersheddings. One remembers when the club decided to loan £8,000 from the Rugby League for the floodlights — and the sceptics asked: "Can we afford it?"

One remembers, in the mid-sixties, when the social club was built — and again there were many people who wondered if the club had made a wise move.

Now, we are poised to start something entirely different — and, predictably, there is a certain amount of opposition.

The backcloth to our argument that it is absolutely essential for Oldham RLFC to look for extra ways and means of bringing in revenue is provided by the extremely difficult days that lie ahead for sport generally, not just Rugby League Football, not just Oldham RLFC.

One hears talk of many soccer clubs, the big-city clubs apart, finding it difficult to make ends meet while there have also been suggestions in the national press lately that county cricketers may have to become amateurs again.

* * *

MAKE NO MISTAKE — SPORT AS WE KNOW IT IS AT THE CROSS-ROADS BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE THAT WE ALL FIND OURSELVES IN.

* * *

It is up to the Oldham club, and the management of the Oldham club, to do all in its power as elected representatives to see that Oldham RLFC is ready for the challenge.

Many soccer clubs have already entered into the world of business in order to help balance their books.

Rugby League clubs are now seeing the light of day in this direction and Salford have opened their own super-market while Leigh have recently opened a toy shop in the town centre.

Our answer — a shopping club on the car park in which we will work closely with W W Shopping of West Drayton, Middlesex.

All being well, the venture will start at 10 a.m. tomorrow with about 120-plus stalls handled by 40 or 50 traders, and running through to about 1 p.m.

Membership of the club will be FREE and available on the car park tomorrow.

The stalls will be mainly handled by local traders and we have had a tremendous response this week from local people wanting to join the club or tradesmen inquiring about stalls.

May we, on behalf of the club, ask you all to accept that this venture is a real necessity for the future well-being of the club, to give us all the support you can, and to help spread the word among your friends and neighbours.

* * *

Don't forget, too, that the closing date for return of monies and counter-foils for the Christmas Draw is rapidly drawing nearer.

* * *

On the playing side, you will all know by now that we sold Brian Gregory to Wigan for £9,500 on Monday night.

The fee we got was £2,000 more than that which we paid Warrington for his transfer a little more than a year ago.

Brian was a very good player indeed and all the best wishes from Watersheddings go with him as he begins a new part of his career with his home-town club.

But we firmly believe the deal was a good one from Oldham's point of view.



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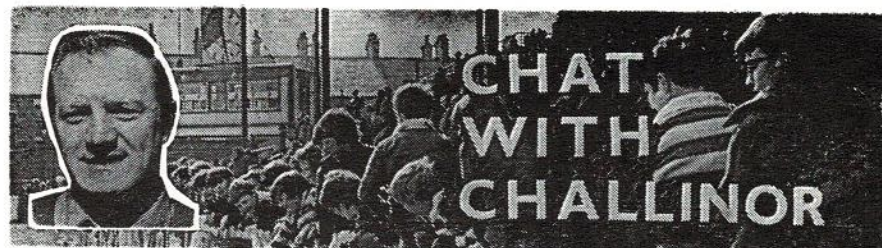
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EVERY now and again, even in these hard days for Rugby League football, there comes a little incident which makes you feel it is all worthwhile.

Take last Sunday's trip to Doncaster. Tatters Field, with the greatest of respect, is not the most attractive of Rugby League grounds.

When the team coach arrived the wind was blowing, the rain was coming down in buckets from grey, overcast skies and there was barely a soul in sight.

I went out of the tunnel to have a pre-match peep at the state of the ground . . . and there, lolling against the railings, were a man, his wife and two children all decked out in red and white.

I ambled across for a chat and they told me, quite casually during the course of our conversation, that they rarely missed an Oldham match home or away . . . and they lived, wait for it, in LANCASTER!

What tremendous supporters these people, and many others like them, are.

It was only after the match, when I mentioned the incident to some of the club officials, that I was told there were several other long-range supporters of the club who, like the couple I had met, regularly travel long distances to watch our team on the field.

A family from as far afield as Durham are at every match. They, too, were in the stands at Tatters Field. What it must have cost them in petrol alone makes the mind boggle.

It also warmed my heart to hear about them and I would like to take this opportunity, here and now, of thanking them, and any others like them whom I may have missed out unwittingly, for their displays of real loyalty that take a lot of beating.

The people from Lancaster were so full of enthusiasm for the players, the team, and the club that it really was a treat to talk to them.

One point that came out quite forcibly was that they accepted our faults, and our disappointments, as part and parcel of the game.

They were supporters in the truest sense of the word and on behalf of the club and all the players I would like to give them, and the people from Durham, a very big THANK-YOU.

Turning to the match itself I thought the game was very fair entertainment considering the state of the pitch and the general conditions.

The referee undoubtedly played a big part in seeing that there was plenty of football played because of his insistance that both sides kept well back at the play-the-ball.

In fact, he often went back many, many yards more than the statutory five and while this undoubtedly gave the players the scope to get things moving he was not strictly applying the laws of the game as they are laid down in the book.

In many games this season the referee has gone back a lot further than five yards. As it is common practice for referees to blow for offside if a player is standing in front of him, many players have been pulled up for breaking the rules when, in fact, they have been five yards, and sometimes more, away from the play-the-ball.

The five-yards can only be estimated, of course, but the tendency of referees to go back further does cause a certain amount of confusion among players who have a fair idea of what five yards looks like — and also know the rules.

Wouldn't it be simpler all round if the law was changed and made more flexible? Rather than state any specific distance why not simply bring in legislation that players line up alongside the referee?

That would at least bring some uniformity and players would know exactly what was required of them.

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

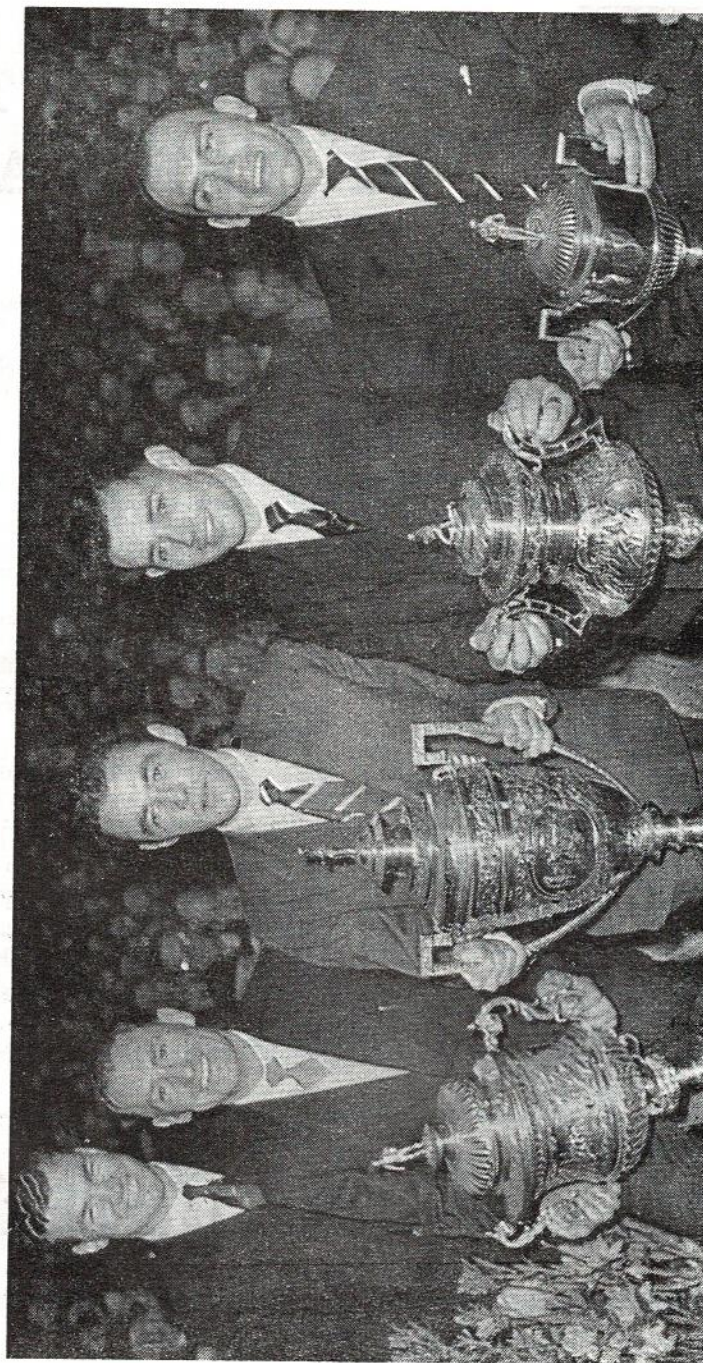
The clubs best spell in league football was in the 1920's. In season 1922-23., Batley ended the season in 15th position. The following season they finished second and won the Championship. Six years after being crowned Champions they were placed next to bottom of the League Championship table.

The final table of 1923-24 was decided on a percentage basis because of the unequal number of matches played by the clubs at that time. Top place was filled by Wigan, with Batley second, Oldham third and Leigh fourth.

Under the top four play-off Batley entertained Oldham. Entertained is not quite the right expression for Oldham lost 38-0. Batley then met Wigan in the final at the Cliff, Broughton. Because of the 1924 Tour of Australasia six players missed the final with five from Wigan, whilst skipper Frank Gallagher was missing from the Batley pack. After three minutes Batley scored a try but by half-time Wigan had replied with a penalty goal. In the second-half Batley were well on top and further tries by Murray and Leeming plus two Harry Rees goals put Batley 13-2 up. Wigan recovered to pull back to 13-7, Batley hung on to record their one and only Championship success.

The Batley team contained many stars and apart from absent tourist Frank Gallagher, the final team was; Joe Robinson, Bryn Williams, George Davidge, Harry Rees, Murray, Scott, Ike Fowler, Leeming, Brooke, George Ramsbottom, George Douglas, Smith and Carter. That Championship winning season was the first time since 1908-09 that Batley had been placed in the top four and they have not been there since.

Although the most difficult prize club rugby can offer is the Championship there is no doubt that the most glamorous is the Challenge Cup. One has to go back to the turn of the century to recall Batley's winning exploits when their side won the cup three times in five seasons. The club adopted the title of the 'Gallant Youths', a nickname which has stuck with them throughout their history.



"DO YOU REMEMBER?" GOES THE THEME OF THE POPULAR TV AD. Well, do YOU remember this picture, taken by Evening Chronicle photographer Edward Woolley? It was season 1956-57 when Oldham won the four cups. Left to right: John Ett, Frank Stirrup, Bernard Ganley, Alan Davies, Charlie Winslade.



BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

THE news that two American grid-iron footballers are to be the subject of a fascinating experiment in Australia next season will bring a typical reaction from many fans in this country.

"That is just like the Aussies. They will try anything but bringing more skill into the game" is one view.

It's true that Aussies are prone to place more emphasis on size and they have certainly got a couple of giants in stars Wilbur Jackson, 6ft 5ins, and Wendell Hall, one inch taller than his teammate.

This pair, both better than even timers, have impressed Jack Gibson, Australia's top club coach, the man who has just guided Eastern Suburbs to success in the two major Sydney competitions.

Gibson is a big guy himself in many ways. He gets a handsome salary but is financially independent as a wealthy bookmaker, owning a huge home overlooking the bay where he has a yacht at anchor.

When Gibson, whose rugged features remind me of Robert Ryan, arrived in Wigan recently on the trail of John Gray I spent a day locked in combat with him and Artie Beetson on a local golf course.

Beetson, Australia's outstanding forward in recent years, is Easts skipper and told me: "Jack is always trying something different in Sydney and a lot of clubs have copied his ideas.

"At the start of last season he returned home from America after watching grid iron with a questionnaire for the players to complete. He was determined to find out the make-up and character of each player.

"He fed the answers into a computer and completed a personal file on each player, down to how they react to criticism and responsibility.

"He has experimented with revolutionary tactics on the field and I have every admiration for his approach to coaching."

Gibson explained: "I am fortunate that my friend runs the Forty-niners in America and is letting me have these players. I believe with their tremendous speed and size that they can be a success in League.

"They can also throw the ball long distances and will, I feel, with proper coaching, cause a sensation in Sydney."

Jim Challinor, former Great Britain coach, holds different views. "I remember when I was at Warrington and the base at Burtonwood was packed with Americans," he told me.

"They had a lot of grid iron players who came for trials. Huge fellows who could run and throw the ball but they had no idea how to fit in at rugby.

"They were lost for they could not time the moves or adapt to the different handling."

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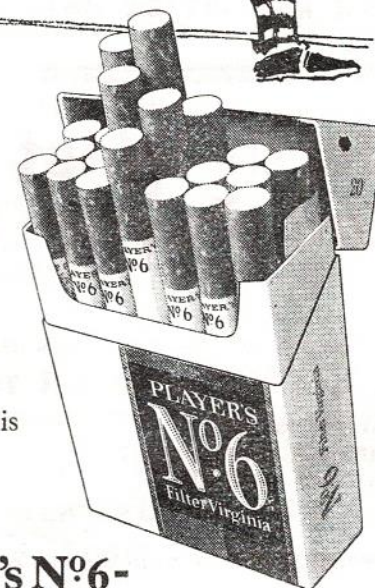
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FIXTURES 1974-75

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

Aug. 24—Blackpool	Away	28-2
" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.)	Away	13-10
Sept. 7—Blackpool	Home	
" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
Oct. 5—Rochdale	Home	
" 12—Wigan	Away	
" 19—St. Helens	Away	
" 26—Huyton	Away	
Nov. 2—Swinton	Home	
" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 23—Widnes	Home	
" 30—		
" 14—		
" 21—		
" 26—		
" 28—Huyton	Home	
Jan. 4—		
" 11—		
" 18—Barrow	Home	
" 25—Swinton	Away	
Feb. 1—		
" 8—St. Helens	Home	
" 15—Leigh	Home	
" 22—Salford	Home	
Mar. 1—		
" 8—		
" 15—Leigh	Away	
" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 29—		
Apr. 5—Barrow	Away	
" 12—Warrington	Home	
" 19—Wigan	Home	

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