

Oldham

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

Referee:

J. E. Jackson (Pudsey)

Hull K R

- 1 SMITHIES, B.
- 2 DUNN, G. *try*
- 3 HALL, D. *try*
- 4 COUPLAND, D.
- 5 SULLIVAN, C.
- 6 HARTLEY, S.
- 7 MILLWARD, R.
- 8 MILLINGTON, J.
- 9 HESLOP, D.
- 10 LYONS, S.
- 11 FOX, N.
- 12 WALLACE, E.
- 13 MOORE, J.
- 14 WATSON, B.
- 15 ROSE, P.

T. A. Rynn (Wigan)

J. Casey (St. Helens)

Orange

Red

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OLDHAM

V

HULL K R



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

Barry Kenyon, our first pools agent of the year, pictured with promotions man Alan Taylor and club chairman Arthur Walker.

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

HULL K R

was *Fred Hall*

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 BATLEY
M. MURPHY

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

CONGRATULATIONS are the order of the day today . . . congratulations to our team for their magnificent win at Workington last Sunday and congratulations to Mr. Barry Kenyon, first-ever winner or our pools-agent-of-the-year award.

Few people, we believe, would have backed Oldham to win at Derwent Park. After all, no other side has won there this season and the Cumbrians are always a tough proposition on their own ground.

But not only did we win: we won in the best possible way with four tries and a real display of guts and determination, particularly in the second half.

It was a fine effort by our players and there is no doubt that all concerned were encouraged by the tremendous support we received from a small but very enthusiastic band of fans who made the long trip.

When Workington took the field there was silence. When Martin Murphy led out Oldham there was a tremendous response. It's surprising what a difference these little things can make and we hope and trust you will all get behind the Oldham side again today for what is a crucial match in the Second Division championship fight.

Turning to the promotion side of the club's affairs — always an important factor — you can see on the front cover of this programme the results of our first effort to create a little more interest in the weekly results of that other Water-sheddings team — the pools agents.

It is a team effort and the pools office stress that too much importance must not be attached to our agent-of-the-year scheme.

We now boast a loyal and enthusiastic band of 350 agents, and pools boss Alan Taylor says: "It was very difficult indeed to choose our first winner.

"It's importance must not be over-exaggerated or taken too seriously because it is merely intended to create a little bit more interest."

Barry Kenyon, who lives in Derker Street, Oldham, was the first winner and was duly presented with a tankard at the highly successful agents' social and get-together in the social club on Tuesday.

His contribution to our money-raising efforts, aided and abetted by that of his wife, Renee, was absolutely fantastic . . . but in no way should Barry's achievement detract from the magnificent job being done by all his fellow agents. To them all we say, as we said on Wednesday, THANK-YOU.

There are, among the agents, some who have served the club loyally over many, many years. A few have completed more than 20 years' service, since the start of our first pool in the early fifties and we are currently attempting to find out exactly who has put in such long service so that, in some small way, we can honour them and thank them.

One man who has done 20 years is Mr. Squire Leech of Longley Street, Shaw. Last week, Mr. Leech had to enter hospital for a stay of about three weeks. He went into Ward E1 at Oldham and District General Hospital . . . but not before he had handed in his pools contributions FOR THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

Words cannot be found to merit that sort of loyalty and diligence and we duly sent him a get-well telegram, on behalf of all agents, wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

The Sunday Shopping Club continues to make ground and all concerned were thrilled last Sunday when attendance jumped three-fold from that of the previous week.

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ONE hopes that the weather will be kind to us today for what should be a tremendous match against one of the best sides in the Second Division. The last time Rovers were here, in the first leg of the preliminary round of the Floodlit Trophy, we were treated to a feast of football and Tony Wainwright's late drop goal put the cream on the cake by giving us an 8-7 win — the first time Rovers suffered a defeat this season.

There will be no complaints if today's game is as entertaining as the last one... but what a pity so much has to depend on the weather!

I have always been a strong advocate of summer rugby and I see no reason to change my views after one of the wettest autumns for years.

We have all seen, in the last few weeks, how wretched weather can keep the supporters at home and impede players' attempts to produce open, crowd-pleasing football.

Top-quality football is what supporters want but on wet, windy days, when the ball is slippery and conditions underfoot are poor, one has to be wary of making mistakes and very often the football suffers because of it.

How much better it would be if we could play in the summer time with dry, firm conditions for the players and better weather for the fans.

There are many arguments put against the plan, of course, and I accept that there would be problems to overcome, such as the matter of tours, holidays, and hard grounds.

BUT NO ONE WILL CONVINCE ME THAT THE SNAGS COULDN'T BE OVERCOME OR THAT THE DISADVANTAGES OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES.

Tours would obviously have to take a different shape, but with a little thought they could be worked into the cycle, though they would have to be shorter and take place in the spring or the autumn.

This would involve co-operation with the other countries but something could be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

Holidays would also present a problem but here again they could be overcome. These days the traditional Wakes fortnights are not what they were. More and more people are taking their holidays at different times and the burden would consequently be "spread" over two or three months.

If the worst came to the worst and it was found that some clubs had difficulty raising a side in their annual Wakes fortnight, maybe the fixtures could be re-arranged for later in the season.

I am not convinced that hard grounds would provide a real obstacle. In England we don't get real scorching summers and rarely is the ground here as hard as it is in Australia, even in the winter time.

The grounds out there are often like concrete. It isn't ideal by any means but the Aussies have grown accustomed to it and if we got a cracking summer here and the grounds WERE too hard they could always be watered.

The advantages of summer rugby are numerous. There are obvious benefits to be gained from playing in ideal conditions — both for player and spectator. It stands to reason that the general quality of rugby would improve and with better rugby, to say nothing of warmer weather, the chances of getting back the fans on the terraces in their thousands would be improved enormously.

So much more could be done, too, to promote other activities on match days and thus create much more interest. One thinks immediately of curtain-raisers but in addition to those there would be nothing to prevent an extended interval with possibly an athletics event thrown in to whet the fans' appetites.

When I toured in 1958 there was a longer-than-usual half-time break in one of the Tests on Sydney Cricket Ground while the Aussies staged an international mile race. It was a top-class field and the winner actually won the race in under four minutes. The crowd loved it.

Whichever way you look at it, from the point of view of the players, the spectators, the club or the game itself summer rugby could be a winner.

OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

THIS afternoon's match, the fourth confrontation between Oldham and Hull Kingston Rovers this season, is vitally important to both clubs as the Second Division championship chase heads towards its exciting climax.

Four clubs share top billing — Huddersfield, Oldham, Whitehaven and the Robins — but with the likes of Workington Town, Leigh and Swinton also chasing hard on the heels of the top four we have the prospect of a giant seven-club promotion dog fight.

Favourites, certainly for promotion and probably the championship, are Hull Kingston Rovers whose record to date reads eight victories from 11 league matches, and they have also found time to lift the Yorkshire Cup, beating three First Division clubs in doing so.

The three league defeats suffered by Rovers this season have all been rather surprising. They have lost away against Swinton 14-6 and Huyton 21-20 and the biggest surprise of all was when they were defeated 10-5 at home by Whitehaven.

In the meantime the Rovers continued to score impressive victories such as the 47-0 thrashing of Batley and the sparkling away wins at Leigh 23-9 and Huddersfield 29-8 in between heading the Second Division title scramble, the Robins carried off the Yorkshire Cup in impressive style. In the opening round Batley visited Craven Park where they stood no chance of victory against Rovers who, however, were well below their best and who threw away several good scoring chances even though they won 16-0.

The quarter-final clash with Bramley attracted 3,086 spectators who saw Rovers play tremendous rugby in the first half when they built up a 23-2 lead and although Bramley recovered a little

after the interval they were unable to match the home pack and ended up 23-10 losers.

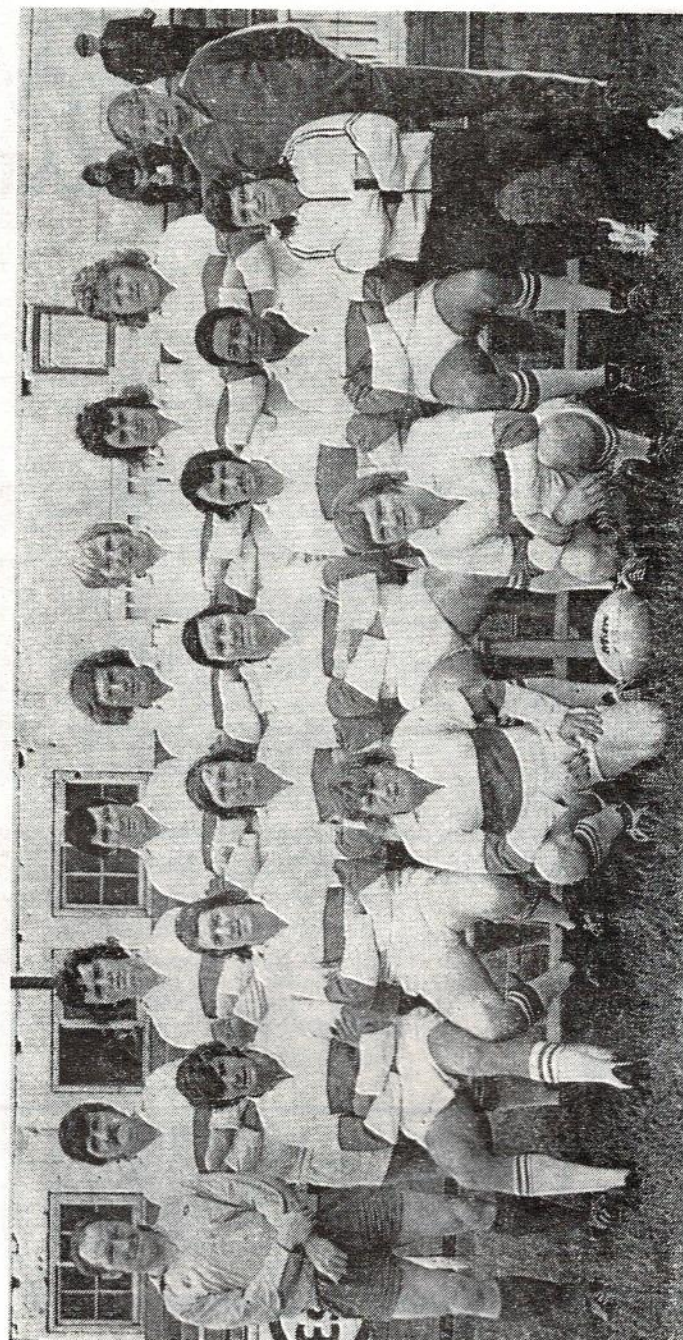
Most rugby followers thought that the Robins' cup hopes would flounder at Od-sal in the semi-final and these doubts appeared to be confirmed when Rudi Francis scored a first minute try for Bradford. That, however, was the end of Northern until the last few minutes for Rovers completely outplayed their

First Division opponents and they were desperately unlucky to concede a last minute try which gave Bradford a 16-16 draw.

The attendance for the replay was 4,047 but they were a little disappointed in what they saw for although Rovers won 5-3 it was a revitalised Bradford who took all the honours and if Keith Mumby's goal kicking had been a little more accurate then Northern would have gained the result which they deserved.

The final was a first class advertisement for the rugby league game and one of the most exciting games seen at Headingley for several seasons. Roger Millward was outstanding and won the "Red Rose Trophy" as man-of-the-match whilst Neil Fox, playing against Wakefield Trinity, his former club, was also on top form. Rovers, who trailed 7-5 at half-time, recovered to snatch a 16-13 victory but the real winners were the crowd of 5,824 who witnessed such a thrilling spectacle.

Let's hope that this afternoon's match follows the same pattern, for both sides have the reputation for open play and, given the blessing of a dry day, we could see a fine match between sides who next season should be meeting again but this time for First Division points.



HULL KR, Yorkshire Cup winners, Floodlit Trophy semi-finalists, and semi-finalists in the Player's No. 6 Trophy. In the last ten games they have scored 60 tries.

Picture by courtesy of Hull Daily Mail.



BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

Let me compliment the Council. They have saved the game becoming a laughing stock in the eyes of Australian officials and players.

They have acted wisely in turning down the international committee's proposal to enter next summer's new international championship without coaches.

It would, of course, have been ludicrous to have sent out the English and Welsh squads with two co-managers and a physiotherapist each.

The trip calls for only one manager, a coach and a physiotherapist and even that means expenses will have to be found for six officials from a competition that could be a financial flop.

It would have been wrong to have given the English and Welsh captains the added responsibility of coaching the teams on top of having to produce their best form and show the qualities of leadership.

"How would the rest of the team react to the coaching of a captain who failed to find his form on the field? He would have been in real trouble," claimed a top coach.

There will be widespread competition for the jobs of manager and coach for each squad for the trip doesn't present the business and domestic problems of a normal three-month tour.

It is important that the British teams do well if the game in this country and France are to attract reasonable attendances for the second half of the competition later in the year.

The two coaches appointed will also realise the importance of succeeding if they are to keep their jobs for the second part.

I was relieved to hear that the Council have also decided that the two squads will leave early enough to get acclimatised to the conditions and prepare themselves.

The idea of playing an extra game in Papua-New Guinea in not quite as appealing as a game in Queensland with the country having the normal problems as they near independence.

But New Guinea officials are certainly optimistic about the chances of attracting a big crowd and the game certainly needs to develop where it can these days.

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

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