

Oldham 23

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M. *2 tries*
- 3 LARDER, P. *2 goals*
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T. *try*
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D. *try*
- 7 BROWN, R. *try*
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR K.
- 10 HUGHES, B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 McCracken, W.
- 13 FARRELL, J.
- 14 LUND, S.
- 15 STARBUCK, P.

Referee:
P. Geraghty (York)

Doncaster 3

- 1 LAWRENCE, T.
- 2 PIPER, S.
- 3 PFLASTER, G.
- 4 VAREY, D.
- 5 ARRAND, G.
- 6 RUSHTON, K.
- 7 DENTON, T.
- 8 YATES, M.
- 9 GOODYEAR, A.
- 10 JEFF, T.
- 11 TOMLINSON, K.
- 12 EDMUNDS, S. *try*
- 13 GREEN, J.
- 14 EVANS, J.
- 15 MILLET, K. *Richardson*

B. Baker (Wigan) Orange
E. Lea (St. Helens) 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

DONCASTER

was *ELLIOTT M*

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 NEW HUNSLET
R. BROWN

TODAY'S MATCH BALL
presented by
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OLDHAM 23 v DONCASTER 3



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.
DICKIE BROWN ... who scored two tries in the 23-2 defeat of New Hunslet last Sunday.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

A FURTHER international honour came the way of the Oldham club this week when our physiotherapist Dennis Wright was invited to accompany the England team to France for the match in Perpignan next Sunday.

We will, therefore, have two representatives in the official party — Mr. Wright and our full-back Martin Murphy.

On behalf of members, supporters and all at Watersheddings we extended our congratulations to Martin in last week's programme. Today it is opportune to extend similar congratulations to Dennis. If ever a backroom boy, to coin a phrase, deserved recognition of this nature it was Dennis Wright.

And such a qualified, experienced, and diligent member of any backroom team is worth his weight in gold, particularly so to a team which is thousands of miles away from home and involved in an arduous tour.

That's why we sincerely hope that Dennis's trip to France will be the fore-runner of his confirmation as physiotherapist to the England team in Australasia next summer.

To our coach Jim Challinor, whose international team job has gone to Alex Murphy, we extend our sympathies. Jim has done a tremendous job on his country's behalf in the last four years and Britain's feat in lifting the World Cup in France in 1972 ranks alongside that famous 1954 World Cup victory when Dave Valentine's team of "no hopers" shocked the Rugby League world.

Perhaps the fact that we did not bring back the Ashes from Australia last summer had a lot to do with Jim's unsuccessful application this time, but despite a crippling injury list, a brave and gallant Britain came within five points of giving the Aussies the shock of their lives.

Those who saw the film of the second Test, shown in our social club a few weeks ago, realised what a task a make-shift side had before it ... and how magnificently it performed.

Their victory levelled the series at 1-1 and Britain actually led at half-time in the third and decisive Test.

To run the Aussies so close in the face of such heavy odds, stacked against them because of all those injuries, represented a fine performance indeed.

We are confident that Jim Challinor, though possibly disappointed just now, will look back with a great sense of achievement at his four years as Great Britain's boss.

On a more domestic note, you will all know by now that we play Blackpool at Watersheddings in the first round of the Challenge Cup next month.

Obviously, we are optimistic about our chances though as Jim Challinor points out elsewhere in this programme we must temper our optimism with caution. There have been bigger shocks in the Challenge Cup than a Borough win here!

Come to think of it it is only five years since the Seasiders were last at Oldham in the Challenge Cup—and we had to be content with a 5-0 victory.

The draw means that we have had a home tie on five consecutive occasions this season in the various knock-out competitions.

But it does go some way to compensating for our poor luck in recent Challenge Cup draws. The Blackpool match, in fact, will be only our third home Challenge Cup game out of the last seven.

Meanwhile the battle for promotion goes on. Following today's match against Doncaster we have two more "toughies" with the visit to Barrow and the home game against Swinton.

Barrow, coached by our old favourite Frank Foster, have won their last five matches to come strongly as an outside bet for promotion.

BARROW TRIP

The Supporters' Club ask us to point out that they will be running a coach to Barrow next Friday, leaving Watersheddings at 4.15 p.m. Please book early, enjoy an evening out, and give our players a cheer!

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THE first reaction to the news that we play Blackpool at home in the first round of the Challenge Cup next month is that the draw has dealt with us very favourably indeed.

Primarily, we were hoping for a tie at Watersheddings. There is always a sigh of relief when your team comes out of the bag first, but we must not fall into the trap of underestimating our Blackpool opponents.

Over the years the Challenge Cup road has been littered with the wreckage of fancied teams, tumbled out of the competition by so-called no-hopers. Only last week-end, in the F.A. Cup, there were some red faces among League clubs who had been put out by amateurs or part-timers!

Had we drawn a First Division club it would have been easy to motivate the Oldham players. It won't be just as easy against Blackpool, but it is a match we ought to win and the players will be getting their knuckles rapped if we are not in the hat for the second round!

While our top priority must be promotion, a good run in the Challenge Cup would do tremendous things for the club. It would create a lot of interest and boost our gates—and we ought then be able to "hold" the extra fans with what we all hope will be the run-in to the First Division.

I have no intention of making rash promises that we are going to get to Wembley. Only a fool would do so. But I believe we are capable of making good progress. Time alone will tell just how far that progress will be.

At this stage suffice to say that the players are starting to believe in themselves. They are trying to do things now which, earlier in the season, they would not have attempted and I take off my cap to them all for their persistence in trying to reproduce on the field what we practice in training ... even when it appears that their efforts are not paying off.

The players have developed a confidence in each other; a belief that the next man can be relied upon to do his whack. Whoever beats us will have to work hard for their victory, and when that happy state applies it can take you a long way.

I do not promise anything more than that, for the history of the Challenge Cup is full of "ifs" and "buts" and "what might have beens". Luck, both in the draw and the bounce of the ball, plays a very big part indeed ... as I'm sure you Oldham fans know only too well!

I have had the good fortune to be involved at Wembley on four occasions. I was there with Warrington in 1954, with Barrow, as player-coach, in 1967, with St. Helens as coach in 1972 and with Great Britain as coach against the Aussies in 1973.

There is nothing to compare with the atmosphere of a Wembley dressing room though I got a bigger kick out of going there with Barrow in '67 than I did when I went with the Wires.

In 1954 I was only 18. I had got into the side a year earlier, as Brian Bevan's centre, and everything seemed to happen so quickly that I still had my head in the clouds. The fact that we drew, and there was no cup presentation, tended to take the shine off the occasion.

Certainly, the replay at Odsal stands out much bigger in my memory. What an occasion that was! And I was fortunate enough to score a try, too.

But enough of this Wembley talk. At present we haven't even played the first round and in terms of the Challenge Cup we must restrict ourselves, for now, to concentrate on beating Blackpool.

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

OLDHAM'S much improved form of recent weeks has shot them into the championship stakes so that the destination of the Second Division title will be decided between Huddersfield, Oldham and Hull Kingston Rovers.

But Oldham's tremendous away wins against Workington Town, Whitehaven and Huyton have thrown them in with a great chance of winning their second such championship. Oldham's improved form also made the international selectors sit up and take notice and Oldham's regular followers will not have been surprised with the selection of Martin Murphy for the English team which takes on France in Perpignan next Sunday.

Murphy was born in Leigh and represented Lancashire at under-17 level before joining Oldham in April, 1967, from Astley and Tyldesley Colliery juniors. In 1970 he won his first senior representative honour when he was substitute in the Lancashire team. At the beginning of season 1972-73 Murphy was in the Lancashire team proper against Cumberland at Warrington but although Lancashire won 26-16 he lost his place in the county side.

Next Sunday he will be taking the good wishes of all Oldham fans with him to France and should he impress the selectors further he could be Australia-bound again this summer as a member of the national squad. But before the glamour of next week-end's trip both Murphy and Oldham face Doncaster in a match which should produce two valuable league points.

It was not until 1951 that Doncaster joined the league and at that time

played at the York Road Greyhound Stadium before they moved just over the road to Tatters Field, their present home. Their first game in the Northern Rugby League was a home fixture against Wakefield Trinity which the Dons managed to win 10-0.

Wakefield were also beaten in the return match, and at the season's end Doncaster were in a very satisfactory 11th place in the league. As well as being the highest league place in the club's history, Doncaster also recorded their highest attendance figure when a crowd of 10,000 witnessed the visit of Bradford Northern.

In addition, the club points and goal scoring record was established when former Newport R.U.F.C. and Halifax full-back, Tus Griffiths kicked 89 goals and also scored three tries, a total of 189 points. But following this highly satisfactory beginning, Doncaster plunged to the bottom of the league.

In 1955 the club suffered what was at that time their heaviest defeat when Hull trounced them 61-7 and this signalled a five-season spell at the bottom of the table. In those disastrous five seasons Doncaster won only 17 of their 188 league matches. The only bright spot during this spell was that in season 1957-58 Brian Wrigglesworth scored a record number of tries when he crossed for 17 touchdowns. There has been a slight improvement since, with the club's record attendance at their new home, Tatters Field, being established in 1962 with the 4,793 crowd for the visit of Wakefield Trinity and then in 1965 Doncaster ran up a record score when defeating Batley by 43-5.



MARTIN MURPHY ... congratulations to the Oldham skipper on his appointment as England full-back for the game in Perpignan next week-end.

—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

The second half of the Rugby League season is always the most interesting and important for the fans, players and officials.

There is even more at stake in 1975 with the unexpected bonus of a replay in the B.B.C's Floodlit Trophy between Warrington and Salford.

The Player's No. 6 Trophy will see a new name inscribed on it and Wembley has lost none of its lure for the Challenge Cup competition.

I know there are some clubs who still feel the return to two divisions was a mistake but the present struggle for promotion and relegation is building up towards an exciting climax.

The players are fortunate in that immediately following a tour of Australia and New Zealand they get another chance to make a trip Down Under.

The decision to scrap the World Cup and introduce the new international championship means that honours will be shared on an even greater scale.

Instead of a small party for a World Cup trip there will be the two squads with England and Wales competing in Sydney and Auckland.

There will also be a second bite at this cherry for the majority of the top players with the second part of the championship held in this country and France in October.

The only drawback is that we are fast reaching a stage when so many of our stars are suffering from competitive football with no rest in the close seasons.

It has been clear in the first half of this season that many of last summer's Great Britain tourists have been feeling jaded, physically and mentally.

This has been reflected in their performances and it is not particularly comforting to look ahead and try to assess how they will be feeling in 12 months' time after another long spell of top football.

It is important that the Wales, England and France games are presented properly in the next few months and that is why every effort must be made to switch the England-Wales game from Easter Saturday.

With so many big games on the Easter Friday and the following Monday it is crazy to try to stage a game which will obviously be cheapened by late withdrawals.

It is not going to be fair on the fans or the players to stage this game and I have yet to meet one person in the game in favour of having it on this particular day.

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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—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) Away		" 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 Home		" 21—	
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.) Away		" 26—	
" 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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3

Oldham

Doncaster

1 MURPHY, M.

1 LAWRENCE, T.

TT 2 ELLIOTT, M.

2 PIPER, S.

GGGG 3 LARDER, P.

3 PFLASTER, G.

T 4 WAINWRIGHT, T.

4 VAREY, D.

5 BARTON, E.

5 ARRAND, G.

T 6 TREASURE, D.

6 RUSHTON, K.

T 7 BROWN, R.

7 DENTON, T.

8 ASHCROFT, K.

8 YATES, M.

9 TAYLOR K.

9 GOODYEAR, A.

10 HUGHES, B.

10 JEFF, T.

11 HALL, F.

11 TOMLINSON, K.

12 McCRACKEN, W.

12 EDMUNDS, S. T

13 FARRELL, J.

13 GREEN, J.

14 LUND, S.

14 EVANS, J.

15 STARBUCK, P.

15 MILLET, K.

Referee:

B. Baker (Wigan)

Orange

P. Geraghty (York)

E. Lea (St. Helens)

Red