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Oldham 18



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SECOND DIVISION GAME

LEIGH v. OLDHAM

Sunday, 16th February, 1975

Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

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MATCH BALL?**

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WELCOME TO OLDHAM . . .

For this afternoon's "warm-up" to next weekend's R.L. Cup tough 2nd round clash with Bradford Northern, we welcome equally difficult opposition in the form of our good friends from Oldham.

We are very pleased to have Oldham's players, officials and supporters at Hilton Park for this 2nd division clash which should be an exciting, entertaining affair.

Oldham are now going great guns at the top of the 2nd Division and are hopeful of promotion back into the upper ranks next season.

They began this season's campaign rather shakily but, after their slow start, they have settled down into one of the division's better sides, under the guidance of former St. Helens & Great Britain coach, Jim Challinor.

At full-back is Martin Murphy, who recently made his 1st appearance for England after many seasons classed as the best uncapped full-back in the League. Murphy, an ex Astley & Tyldesley R.L. amateur, gained useful experience 'guesting' in Australia for the summer.

Goal-kicker of the side is ex-Sale R.U. star Phil Larder, who has been regular centre for Oldham for several seasons.

The other regular centre is former Leeds favourite, and now a popular Watersheddings player, Tony Wainwright.

Welshman Mike Elliott, signed from Cwmellyn R.U. club over 11 years ago, is playing well on the wing, running with determination and always looking for tries.

Former Fairwater R.U. player Chris O'Brien and transfer-listed Ian Holland, the goal-kicking ex-Salford starlet, are also wingers.

Stand-off is David Treasure, ex-York and Bradford, currently in superb form and an integral part of the Oldham revival.

His half-back partner is clever little scrum-half Mick McCone, ex-Doncaster.

Four young backs who Oldham have a lot of hope for are strong running winger Steve Lund, full-back Gordon Pollard who comes from the Huddersfield area, centre Ian Taylor and Geoff Munro, the latter signed from Oldham 'B'.

Hooker Kevin Taylor, signed at 16 from local club Werneth, has made over 400 1st team appearances in his 12 seasons with Oldham.

Other forwards are local Fred Hall, a prop who began his professional career with Blackpool, useful prop Brian Hughes, stand-in goal-kicker Johnny Blair, an ex-Oldham junior, prop Ray Hicks who had trials at Leigh some time ago, 17-years-old Castleford based 2nd rower Paul Starbuck, Gareth Owen, former Tyldesley R.U. ace and son of ever-popular Stan Owen, Wigan based loose forward Johnny Farrell and free-transfer man Dickie Brown who has established himself firmly in the 2nd row with some good performances.

★★

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP — 2nd ROUND

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1975 — Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

LEIGH v. BRADFORD NORTHERN

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Sunday, February 23rd, 1975

(2nd Round Rugby League Cup)

LEIGH v. BRADFORD N.

KICK-OFF 3.30 p.m.

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The other ties in the 2nd Round are as follows and for a bit of a laugh the writer has made his forecasts which are in Capitals—

Salford v. **LEEDS**

Wakefield T. v. **ST. HELENS**

Rochdale H. v. **OLDHAM**

WIGAN v. Warrington

Hull v. **WIDNES**

Batley v. **YORK**

HULL K. R. v. Workington Town

—**—

JOHN WHITTLE . . .

Last week in the Doncaster match programme we included a welcome to John Whittle, our signing from Wigan, but because of pressure of space it was left out.

Our welcome to John, even though belated, is none the less most sincere. He is a player who has played many first team matches in Wigan colours but in recent months has not been able to impress the selectors sufficiently enough to gain him a regular place in the Wigan centre positions.

We liked the look of John's play on a couple of occasions this season especially when he played against the Leigh 'A' team some weeks ago.

Last Sunday in his first team debut for Leigh he showed some nice touches and he is a player who could be a great asset to the Club once he has settled down.

—**—

GORDON LEADBETTER . . .

We can now reveal that the mystery player who played on the wing at Workington as well as in a couple of 'A' team matches previously was former England Amateur open age winger Gordon Leadbetter.

Leadbetter impressed Leigh officials when playing against the Leigh 'A' team at Widnes earlier this season and when Widnes did not agree terms with the lad the Leigh Club stepped in to sign him for trials. As we have said previously he played one of his trials in the first team and he has now signed on professional forms for the Leigh Club.

We wish him well in his professional career.

—**—

PLEASE COME EARLY . . .

Rugby League attendances in recent seasons have not been too exciting. Here at Leigh especially this season, 'gates' have been very poor indeed.

Supporters have been able to walk leisurely up to the ground, pay at the turnstiles a few minutes before kick-off time without having to put up with a long queue.

Next Sunday it may be very different. With one of the best supported sides in the game visiting here it could be that long queues will develop just prior to the 3.30 p.m. kick-off.

Our advice to you all is **PLEASE COME EARLY.**

RE-ARRANGED MATCHES . . .

To keep supporters informed we are giving an up to date list of the fixtures remaining for both the 1st and the 'A' teams.

One or two postponements, particularly involving the 'A' team have left players and supporters alike a little confused about the proposed new dates.

The remaining fixtures for the 1st team are:—

Sunday, February 23rd—
BRADFORD NORTHERN R.L. Cup 2nd Round) 3.30 p.m. Home

Sunday, March 2nd—
BATLEY (2nd Division) 3.30 p.m. Home

Sunday, March 9th—
R.L. CUP — Third Round.

Wednesday, March 12th—
HULL K.R. (Second Division) 7.30 p.m. Away

Sunday, March 16th—
OLDHAM (2nd Division) 3.30 p.m. Away

Sunday, March 23rd—
WHITEHAVEN (2nd Division) 3.30 p.m. Home

Friday, March 28th—
SWINTON (2nd Division) 3 p.m. Away

Sunday, March 30th—
DONCASTER (2nd Division) 3 p.m. Away

Sunday, April 6th—
BLACKPOOL (2nd Division) 3.30 p.m. Home

The remaining fixtures for the 'A' team are:—

Saturday, February 22nd—
WIDNES 'A' (Lancashire Combination) 3 p.m. Home

Friday, February 28th—
SALFORD 'A' (Lancashire Combination) 7.30 p.m. Home

Saturday, March 8th—
ROCHDALE 'A' (Lancashire Combination) 3 p.m. Home

Friday, March 21st—
ST. HELENS 'A' (Lancashire Combination) 7.30 p.m. Home

Friday, April 4th—
WARRINGTON 'A' (Lancashire Combination) 7.30 p.m. Away

★★

THE 'DRAGON' HAS TEETH . . .

by Trevor Watson, Yorkshire Evening Post

Castleford director Ronnie Simpson is a loyal tyke but has adapted to the role of a Welshman with rare enthusiasm since being appointed team manager of Wales.

He has been on the Castleford board for 25 years, including 15 as vice-chairman or chairman, and last summer ended his two-years stint as chairman of the Rugby League Council.

Mr. Simpson, who has seen the Wheldon Road club rise from the ranks of strugglers to become one of the most respected teams in the game, is confident that the Welsh start will be at the top.

Since his appointment much of his time has been spent travelling around the League checking on the 54 players who are Welsh born or have suddenly discovered they have traces of the 'Dragon's Blood' in their veins.

Some of the names were, of course, well-known and one or two others were surprising, to say the least, but Mr. Simpson diligently checked each one

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3. Stacey 29als

4. Whittle

5. Walsh

6. Riding

7. Sayer

8. Fairbrother

9. Wheeler

10. Fletcher, G.

11. Rowley/Platt

12. Jones

13. Macko

Substitutes—

14. McAtee

15. Lester

Full-Back

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Stand-off

Scrum-Half

Prop Forward

Hooker

Prop Forward

2nd Row Forward

2nd Row Forward

Loose Forward

Oldham 18

1. Blair 49 2dy

2. Elliott

3. Larder 6y goal

4. Murphy

5. Barton

6. Treasure 6y

7. McCone Brown

8. Hughes

9. Taylor

10. McCracken

11. Hall

12. Brown Reynolds

13. Farrell

Substitutes—

14. Reynolds Jackson

15. Welding

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COMPETITION CORNER No. 11 . . .

We had a good response to our Competition No. 10 which appeared in the Doncaster match programme last Sunday.

The answers to the competition were as follows: Mystery Player . . Frank Paulger, an Australian who guested with Leigh a couple of seasons ago. The deliberate mistake appeared on Page 7 under the heading 'A Cup for Clangers'. We stated in the next to the last paragraph that in the mix up over the Cup Draw three years ago that Castleford was the only number left in the bag at the end of the draw, when the Leigh ball had fallen on the floor. The last ball in the bag actually belonged to Leeds and not Castleford.

The first two correct answers were sent in by Linda Taylor of 24 Brookfield Street, Leigh and William Jones of 26 Chaucer Grove, Leigh. These two people will be contacted within the next day or so and invited to select a Leigh match (home or away) and they will receive two tickets for the match of their choice.



The rules are the same today for our Competition Corner No. 11. First of all identify the player pictured and then read carefully through the programme to find the writer's deliberate mistake.

Send your entries on the official form below (Plain paper entries cannot be accepted). Two stand tickets for any Leigh game (home or away) to the TWO winners.

send to:—

COMPETITION CORNER No. 11.
LEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.,
HILTON PARK, LEIGH.

Picture by courtesy of the Lancashire Evening Post and Chronicle.

The player photographed is

The deliberate mistake is

Name of Sender

Address

Please return to Competition Corner No. 11 Leigh Football Club Ltd., 'Hilton Park', Leigh.

IN THE EVENT OF ANY DISPUTE, THE SECRETARY'S DECISION IS FINAL.

He says: "The choice we had was tremendous, when you think we can afford to pick a player like Maurice Richards as sub. Certainly some of the names that cropped up must have knocked England's chances back a bit.

"There is a good deal of experience in the pack and a lot of class in the backs, a great combination. I am really looking forward to the challenge".

Mr. Simpson, who was with the successful 1972 Great Britain World Cup team in France, added: "There was never any question of the Welsh being there just to make up the numbers.

"We had slight doubts about the half-backs but when Peter Banner turned out to be available that was that. All we ask now is to be able to select from strength.

"I'm sure when these lads put on the red jersey of Wales there'll be no need to motivate them; the spirit will be there before we start, and the rest had better watch out, I'm not frightened of taking this team anywhere".

It is a fair warning to the other countries and Mr. Simpson adds another "Naturally, I'm a Yorkshireman, but I'm a Rugby League man at heart and I don't mind changing nationalities for a few months to bring the Welsh team back to life".

★★

GRAND NATIONAL DRAW, 1975 . . .

With Red Rum winning at Haydock Park in fine style last week most racing enthusiasts have begun to talk about this year's Grand National. "Will Red Rum win it for the third time?" they ask.

Within the next day or so the tickets for our Grand National Draw will be on sale. Most of our Pools Agents will be in possession of them and we would advise you to make sure you get a book of tickets because we understand it to be the biggest Grand National Draw in the North of England.

The prizes are as follows:—First Prize £100; Second Prize £40; Third Prize £20; Fourth Prize £10.

There will be a prize of £1 for every horse drawn and for each horse finishing the stern Aintree course there will be bottle of whisky.

Tickets will be 3 for 10p.

The draw will be run on the same lines as last year's Derby Draw but for anyone not sure on how the draw works we are pleased to explain.

All the declared runners will be listed and then a number drawn alongside each horse. That horse will represent the holder of the ticket bearing the number.

EXAMPLE:—

If you are holding a ticket which number is alongside 'Red Rum' then 'Red Rum' will be your horse in the race. If it wins then of course you will be the winner of the first prize of £100, and so on.

★★

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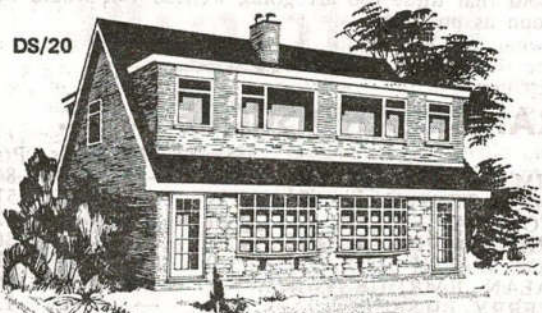
Although we have not been able to boast too much about the performances of the team during this year it can be said that we have something to boast about in the condition of our playing area, which continues to be one of the best in the game.

Today's visitors, Oldham, have had more than their fair share of worries because of their ground conditions and no doubt they will be envious of our 'park' this afternoon.

We are, in fact, very proud of our playing area and we would like to give a word of praise to our groundsman Bert Battersby and his staff for the tremendous work they put in to keep the pitch in its present excellent condition.

Even at the season's end we shall find plenty of green grass which says plenty for the experience and skill of our ground staff.

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WEMBLEY TICKETS, 1975 . . .

We have received many enquiries about the availability of stand tickets for the Rugby League Cup Final at Wembley on May 10th.

The fact is that all Stand tickets have been sold and only Ground tickets at £1 are available.

These can be obtained from the Rugby League Headquarters at 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.

We are told that these too are going well so you would be well advised to apply as soon as possible.

—**—

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS. . .

	Apps.	Tries	Goals	Pts.
JIM FIDDLER	13	—	43*	84
MICK STACEY	23	4	20	51
TOM DAVIES	24	10	1	32
JOHN DAVIES	24	10	—	30
JOE WALSH	20	9	—	27
ALAN FAIRHURST	4	—	8	16
TERRY BILSBURY	10	—	4	12
ALVA DRUMMOND	4	3	—	9
MICK HOGAN	25	3	—	9
CLIFF SAYER	26	3	—	9
TOMMY MARTYN	13	3	—	9
JOHN WHITTLE	1	2	—	6
TONY BYRNE	12	2	—	6
DAVE MACKO	15	2	—	6
ALF WILKINSON	6	1	—	3
KEITH CLARKE	7	1	—	3
DENIS BOYD	19	1	—	3
FRANK BARROW	18	1	—	3
JOHN McATEE	7	1	—	3
MICK COLLINS	19	1	—	3
ALLAN ROWLEY	24	—	—	—
ALAN RIDING	14	—	—	—
BILLY BARROW	12	—	—	—
DENIS CARDEN	10	—	—	—
JEFF SHIELD	8	—	—	—
DON WHEELER	7	—	—	—
MAURICE PLATT	6	—	—	—
JOHN RANDALL	5	—	—	—
DEREK FLETCHER	5	—	—	—
CLIVE JONES	4	—	—	—
KEITH FAIRBROTHER	4	—	—	—
ERIC HUGHES	4	—	—	—
GEOFF FLETCHER	4	—	—	—
STEPHEN GRIMSHAW	3	—	—	—
BRIAN ROBINSON	1	—	—	—
LES FISHWICK	1	—	—	—
ROY LESTER	1	—	—	—
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JOE WOOD	1	—	—	—

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Ground
1974		
August—		
16—Widnes (A. & B. Cup)	A 16-21	
23—N. Hunslet	H 13-13	
26—Swinton	H 10-2	
30—Barrow (L. Cup)	A 31-10	
1st Round		
September—		
7—OPEN DATE		
15—Hull	A 16-8	
21—Doncaster	H 43-0	
24—Bramley (Floodlit)	H 19-5	
29—Wakefield T.	A 10-44	
Players No. 6 1st Rnd.		
October—		
2—Bramley (Floodlit)	A 9-15	
4—Whitehaven	A 2-14	
9—Widnes	H 5-8	
(Lancs. Cup Semi-Final)		
12—Huyton	H 20-12	
20—Blackpool B.	A 25-9	
22—Dewsbury (Floodlit)	A 14-8	
26—Huddersfield	H 7-15	
November—		
3—Huyton	A 3-9	
9—Players No. 6 - 2nd Rd.		
15—Barrow	A 8-5	
19—Rochdale H.	H 8-0	
23—Hull K. R.	H 5-25	
December—		
1—N. Hunslet	A 8-20	
7—Hull	H 6-0	
10—Warrington		
(B.B.C. 2 Semi.)	A 0-32	
15—Huddersfield (P'oned)	A	
22—Huddersfield	A 0-36	
26—OPEN DATE		
29—Barrow	H 8-20	
1975		
January—		
5—Hull K.R.	A Post.	
12—Workington	H	
19—Batley	A 20-7	
25—OPEN DATE		
February—		
2—Workington	A 0-7	
9—Doncaster (R.L. Cup)	H	
16—Oldham	H	
22—R.L. CUP - 2nd Round		
March—		
2—Batley	H	
8—OPEN DATE		
15—Oldham	A	
23—Whitehaven	H	
28—Swinton	A	
30—Doncaster	A	
April—		
6—Blackpool B.	H	

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Ground
1974		
August—		
14—Widnes (Farrell Cup)	H 21-13	
24—Rochdale	A 4-21	
31—Barrow	H 14-13	
(Shield 1st Rnd. 1st Leg)		
September—		
14—Barrow	A 8-38	
Shield, 1st Rnd., 2nd Leg.		
21—OPEN DATE		
27—Swinton	A 17-33	
October—		
5—OPEN DATE		
12—Huyton	A 16-8	
19—Blackpool	H 46-11	
25—Widnes	A 13-6	
November—		
2—Huyton	H 10-9	
9—St. Helens	A 2-49	
16—Barrow	H 25-15	
22—Salford	A	
30—Blackpool	A Post.	
December—		
7—Wigan	A Post.	
14—St. Helens	H Post.	
21—OPEN DATE		
28—Barrow	A 19-16	
1975		
January—		
2—Wigan	H 3-10	
4—Warrington	H 7-24	
10—Oldham	H	
18—Swinton	H	
24—Warrington	A	
February—		
1—OPEN DATE		
8—Salford	H	
15—Oldham	A	
22—Widnes	H	
March—		
1—OPEN DATE		
8—Rochdale	H	
15—OPEN DATE		
22—OPEN DATE		
29—OPEN DATE		

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