

Salford

(Red Jerseys, white shorts, red stockings)

1. **DAVID WATKINS** (*ex-Newport R.U.*)
2. **KEITH FIELDING** (*Moseley R.U.*)
3. **JOHN BUTLER** (*Rochdale Hornets*)
4. **CHRIS HESKETH** (*(Wigan)*)
5. **MAURICE RICHARDS** (*Cardiff R.U.*)
6. **KEN GILL** (*St. Helens Recs.*)
7. **STEVE NASH** (*Featherstone Rovers*)
8. **MIKE COULMAN** (*Moseley R.U.*)
9. **ALAN GRICE** (*Blackbrook*)
10. **GRAHAM MacKAY** (*Swinton*)
11. **SAMMY TURNBULL** (*Salford Colls*)
12. **JOHN KNIGHTON** (*Heaton Moor R.U.*)
13. **ERIC PRESCOTT** (*St. Helens*)
14. **GORDON GRAHAM** (*Sale R.U.*)
15. **JOHN CORCORAN** (*Wigan St. Patrick's*)

Tries (3 pts)	Goals (2 pts)	Drop Goals (1 pt)	Points

Oldham

(Red and white jerseys, white shorts)

1. **MARTIN MURPHY** (*Lough Milla*)
2. **MIKE ELLIOTT** (*Ruthin R.U.*)
3. **PHIL LARDER** (*Salisbury R.U.*)
4. **STUART BOTTOM** (*Oldham*)
5. **CHRIS O'BRIEN** (*Cardiff R.U.*)
6. **DAVID TREASURE** (*Bradford Northern*)
7. **JOHN PATERSON** (*Castleford Amateur R.L.*)
8. **TERRY RAMSHAW** (*Hull K.R.*)
9. **KEVIN TAYLOR** (*Oldham Juniors*)
10. **BOB WELDING** (*Rochdale*)
11. **FRED HALL** (*Blackpool*)
12. **BARRY KEAR** (*Hull*)
13. **DICK BROWN** (*Castleford*)
14. **JOHN BLAIR** (*Oldham Juniors*)
15. **RAY HICKS** (*Warrington Juniors*)

[illegible]

Referee: Mr. W. H. THOMPSON (Huddersfield)
Touch Judges: Mr. J. F. Jones and Mr. R. J. Percival

Half-time:

Attendance:

The logo for Salford RL Scene is a circular emblem. The words "SALFORD" and "SCENE" are written in a large, bold, red, blocky font with black outlines, curving along the top and bottom of the circle respectively. In the center of the circle, the letters "RL" are written in a smaller, bold, red, blocky font with a black outline and a 3D shadow effect.

Vol. 4

NOVEMBER 9, 1975

No. 10



Chris Hesketh goes over to score a fine try against Castleford

Picture: Manchester Evening News

Salford v Oldham

10p



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OLDHAM SCENE

By DON YATES

WITH the World Championship series now completed we turn our sights to the domestic programme and an equally interesting visit from local rivals.

The Oldham skipper and full-back is Martin Murphy, a fine attacking player who joined Oldham from the Astley and Tyldesley Colliery junior club in April 1967. He has played twice for Lancashire and was a try scorer for England last season when they won 11-9 in France.

Last season winger Mike Elliott crossed for 22 tries and was most unlucky not to be chosen in the Welsh World Cup squad. He is a former Cwmcllyn RUFC player who turned professional with Oldham in August 1962.

Utility back Tony Wainwright joined Oldham from Leeds in September 1972 for £3,000. A former Leeds Intermediates junior, he appeared at Wembley with Leeds in 1971 and also won a Floodlit Cup winners medal whilst at Headingley.

Oldham's leading point scorer last season was Phil Larder with 10 tries and 77 goals. He is an Oldham lad who joined the Watersheddings staff in August 1968 from Sale RUFC.

Stand-off David Treasure, 24, visited Australasia last summer with the Welsh World Championship squad and he has played in six full internationals for Wales.

Mick McCone is a product of Yorkshire junior rugby having joined Doncaster in 1966 from Wakefield juniors. He moved to Oldham in January 1972 for £1,000 and is the architect of many of the Oldham moves.

Hooker Kevin Taylor has been a loyal servant to Oldham since he joined them in October 1962 from Werneth juniors. He has made over 400 first team appearances and has played twice for England Under-24, twice for Lancashire and once for the full England team.

Another experienced forward is Bob Welding who has one appearance for England Under-24 and ten for Lancashire to his name. He began his career with Leigh but then moved to Bradford and Rochdale before joining Oldham.

Although second-row forward Fred Hall is a former Oldham junior it was Blackpool Borough whom he joined from Waterhead in August 1968. He was transferred back to Oldham in January 1973 for £700.



FRED HALL in dashing style against Huddersfield (Picture: Oldham Chronicle)

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Secretary: G. ATKINSON

Coaching Staff

Club Coach: L. J. BETTINSON Assistant Coach: A. McINNES

'A' Team: M. TAYLOR. Colts: I. EDWARDS, V. B. HARTLEY, D. MOSES

Club Scout: C. H. EVANS

First Aid: S. HICKMAN, J. HAYWOOD

Groundsmen

The Willows: D. MOSES

Urmston: G. COPE

Professional Playing Staff

C. HESKETH (Captain), KEN GILL (Vice Captain)

L. BARTON, T. BROPHY, J. BUTLER, J. CORCORAN, M. J. COULMAN, E. DEVLIN, C. J. DIXON, J. FIDDLER, K. J. FIELDING, B. FLETCHER, P. FRODSHAM, P. GIEDZIUN, G. S. GRAHAM, A. GRICE, D. HARRIS, R. HAWKSLEY, P. HURST, J. D. KNIGHTON, G. KNOWLES, G. MacKAY, G. MAYOR, C. McGREAL, S. NASH, D. POTTS, E. PRESCOTT, R. PROSSER, J. RAWLINSON, A. REDFORD, M. C. R. RICHARDS, W. SHEFFIELD, F. STEAD, M. TAYLOR, S. TURNBULL, P. WALKER, D. WATKINS.

CLUB RECORDS

Highest win: 74-3 v. Bramley, 1933.

Highest defeat: 0-59 v. St. Helens, 1952.

Highest Attendance: 26,470 v. Warrington (R.L. Cup), 13th Feb., 1937.

CLUB RECORD HOLDERS

Points in club career: D. Watkins 1,984, (at the end of 1974-75 season).

Points in a season: D. Watkins 493 in 1972-73.

Tries in a season: R. Brown 46 in 1933-34, K. J. Fielding 46 in 1973-74.

Tries in a season by a full-back: H. P. Charlton 33 (including 2 representative) in 1972-73 (World record).

Goals in a season: D. Watkins 221 in 1972-73 (World record).

Points in a match: A. J. Risman 32 in 1933 and 1940.

Goals in a match: A. J. Risman 13 in 1933 and 1940; D. Watkins 13 in 1972.

Longest playing sequence: D. Watkins 140 matches from 12 Apr. 1971 to 25 Apr. 1974.

Longest scoring sequence: D. Watkins 92 matches from 18 Aug 1972 to 25 Apr. 1974 (R.L. record)

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship: 1914, 1933, 1937, 1939, 1974; Runners-up: 1902, 1903, 1904, 1934

Rugby League Challenge Cup: 1938. Runners-up: 1900, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1939, 1969.

Lancashire League Championship: 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939; Runners-up: 1914, 1930, 1970.

Lancashire County Challenge Cup: 1931, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1972; Runners-up: 929, 1938, 1973, 1974, 1975.

Player's No. 6 Trophy: Runners-up: 1973.

BBC 2 Floodlit Trophy: 1975

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SALFORD SCENE

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Fansbuy heroKear

By ROGER HALSTEAD, Oldham Evening Chronicle

THE first time I met Barry Kear I came to a conclusion... we had here a cross between Mohammed Ali, Bernard Manning and Dick Huddart!

It was Watersheddings on a cold autumn evening last month. The gloss of Oldham's win against Widnes in the Floodlit Trophy had been stained by a disappointing home defeat by Huddersfield.

Not even a win at Keighley had done much to inspire a great deal of confidence for the club's First Division future.

Then, from out of the darkness, came Barry Kear. I had never met the lad before. He had just been signed on a month's loan. And his opening gambit? "I think I can be an international given a bit of luck and the right push!"

I almost fell from my stool. We weren't used to that sort of brash, self-confident approach at Oldham. But I needn't have feared. Within minutes it was apparent that in Kear Oldham not only had a lad to brighten up any dressing room but a player who, despite his cocky attitude, had the knack of making it all sound so innocently sweet.

He had the Huddart build, the Ali



BARRY KEAR

confidence, the Manning sense of humour. But we had to wait until the next few weeks to see whether he had the Huddart style of play.

They were weeks in which Oldham, almost overnight as it were, came out of the First Division shadows to make the Rugby League world at large begin to sit up and take notice.

They certainly took notice of Kear. Used not so much as a grafting forward but as a runner—a style that suits him down to the ground—the Castleford lad showed in his trials that he wasn't exactly as crazy as he first sounded when he talked about wearing the England shirt.

He had a magnificent game at Leeds, an even better one against Wakefield, and then brought the house down at Watersheddings by scoring the first try and making the second against Dewsbury.

In three games Oldham—unfashionable, hard-up, little Oldham—had given Leeds the fright of their lives, come back from the dead to win at Trinity when losing 18-2 after half an hour, and beaten the league leaders for the first time in League competition since they were hammered here at the Willows on the opening day of the season.

Along the way the fans jumped on the bandwagon. Said one, a supporter for 40 years: "I've never known one player have an impact at Oldham as quickly as Kear. Frank Foster caught the imagination of the fans, but nothing like so quickly as Kear has done."

"I would even say that they're talking of Kear now in the pubs and clubs of the town like they used to talk of the stars of the fifties team!"

That's some compliment... but proof of the pudding was provided when the club, unable to buy the £2,000 player, launched a public appeal.

The money poured in... and while it was pouring in during the Dewsbury game, Kear made a dream come true by tearing away under the sticks off a Dickie Brown pass to score the try that finally wrote "end" to the Crown Flatt boys' big challenge.

It could almost have been a direct lift from the pages of a boys' magazine fiction story... and Kear, the extrovert you cannot help but like, loved every minute of it.

"It was great," he said, "but it put me under a lot of pressure. However, the other boys kept prompting me and kept me going."

That, I believe, is one big reason for Kear's instant success at Oldham. The other players, realising his potential as a running forward and latching on with their own sense of humour to his pleas that he needed to be "pushed", have done just that!

They are happy for Kear to steal the limelight and it is they themselves who make him go. Kear, for his part, is happy to oblige.



MICK McCONE
evades a Huddersfield defender
(Picture: Oldham Chronicle)

OLDHAM STATISTICS

Founded: 1875.

Ground: Watersheddings.

Colours: Red and white hooped jerseys, white shorts.

Attendance record: 28,000 v. Huddersfield in February 1912.

Record win: 63-0 v. Goole in March 1899.

Record defeat: 2-54 v. Wigan in August 1934.

Try scoring record: 49 by Reg Farrar in season 1921-22.

Goal kicking record: 224 by Bernard Ganley in season 1957-58.

Points scoring record: 463 by Bernard Ganley in season 1957-58.

Honours

Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-24 and 1926-27.

runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26.

Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57.

runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55.

Lancashire Cup winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69.

First Division Champions: 1904-05.

Lancashire Championship winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, and 1957-58.

runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55.

Second Division Champions: 1963-64.

SCORERS THIS SEASON

	T	G	D	Pts
Larder	3	30	—	49
Elliott	9	—	—	27
Wainwright ...	5	—	1	16
Blair	—	4	2	10
Brown	2	—	1	7
Barton	2	—	—	6
Peters	2	—	—	6
Treasure	2	—	—	6
Bottom	1	—	—	3
Flanagan	1	—	—	3
Hall	1	—	—	3
Hicks	1	—	—	3
Hughes	1	—	—	3
Kear	1	—	—	3
McCone	1	—	—	3

Facts and Figures Scene

RESULTS IN DETAIL

Friday, 17 October 1975

SALFORD 4-3-0-18

CASTLEFORD

First Division

Team.—Stead; Fielding, Butler, Hesketh (2t), Richards (t); Gill, Nash; Coulman, Hawksley, Fiddler (3g), Knighton (t), Turnbull, Prescott. Subs: Graham (for Fielding), Grice (for Coulman). H.T. 12-2. Att. 5,217. Ref.: R. Jackson (Halifax).

Sunday 2 November 1975

HUDDERSFIELD 3-2-0-13

SALFORD

First Division

Team.—Stead (t); Graham (t), Butler, Hesketh, Richards (4t); Gill, Nash (t); Coulman (2t), Hawksley, Grice, Knighton, Turnbull, Prescott (6g, d). Subs.: Redford (did not play), MacKay (for Hawksley). H.T. 0-27. Att. 3,030. Ref.: K. Spencer (Warrington).

FIRST TEAM RECORD

FIRST TEAM RECORD													
This season							Total for Salford						
	P	Sub	T	G	D	Pts.		P	Sub	T	G	D	Pts.
Butler	14	—	11	—	—	33	.....	20	—	15	—	—	45
Coulman	10	—	3	—	—	9	.....	225	10	71	—	—	213
Dixon	4	—	—	—	—	—	.....	266	7	69	1	—	209
Fiddler	6	2	3	3	—	15	.....	22	3	5	41	—	97
Fielding	12	—	10	14	—	58	.....	92	—	87	93	—	447
Gill	12	—	3	—	—	9	.....	159	4	37	7	—	125
Graham	4	7	5	—	—	15	.....	40	8	13	—	—	39
Grice	5	4	—	—	—	—	.....	113	28	1	—	—	3
Hawksley	11	—	2	—	—	6	.....	11	—	2	—	—	6
Hesketh	14	—	4	—	—	12	.....	345	2	98	—	—	294
Knighton	14	—	4	—	—	12	.....	82	15	21	—	—	63
MacKay	1	5	—	—	—	—	.....	93	12	5	—	—	15
Mayor.....	1	—	1	—	—	3	.....	1	—	1	—	—	3
McGreal	—	1	—	—	—	—	.....	2	3	—	—	—	—
Nash	13	—	5	2	2	21	.....	13	—	5	2	2	21
Prescott	13	—	1	6	1	16	.....	99	2	11	7	1	48
Richards	13	—	17	—	—	51	.....	247	—	171	32	—	577
Sheffield ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	.....	13	—	—	—	—	—
Stead	7	—	1	—	—	3	.....	20	4	4	—	—	12
Turnbull	13	1	2	—	—	6	.....	18	9	3	—	—	9
Walker	1	—	—	—	—	—	.....	72	2	1	1	—	5
Watkins.....	7	—	3	39	—	87	.....	293	1	127	845	—	2071
FIRST DIVISION													

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	— FOR —				— AGAINST —				Lgue
					T	G	D	Pts	T	G	D	Pts	Pts.
Widnes	9	7	0	2	30	38	4	170	23	25	1	120	14
Dewsbury	9	6	1	2	23	36	1	142	26	24	1	127	13
Salford	6	6	0	0	36	28	1	165	10	9	0	48	12
Featherstone R.	8	6	0	2	35	26	2	159	20	24	0	108	12
Leeds	7	5	0	2	29	28	0	143	18	26	2	108	10
Wakefield T.	9	5	0	4	40	35	0	190	29	31	0	149	10
Hull K.R.	7	5	0	2	26	26	3	133	25	26	1	128	10
Wigan	5	4	0	1	19	27	0	111	11	11	2	57	8
St. Helens	5	4	0	1	16	20	0	88	12	13	1	63	8
Oldham	8	4	0	4	22	23	3	115	26	31	1	141	8
Bradford N.	8	3	0	5	26	27	0	132	21	30	3	126	6
Castleford	9	3	0	6	25	36	0	147	29	31	0	149	6
Warrington	8	1	1	6	16	17	0	82	40	41	1	203	3
Huddersfield	9	1	0	8	28	29	2	144	42	43	2	214	2
Keighley	9	1	0	8	16	25	1	99	33	40	0	179	2
Swinton	10	1	0	9	13	21	0	81	35	37	2	181	2

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Chairman's Statement

THE Directors are pleased to report a satisfactory year with profits of £10,086 compared with £20,057 in the previous year. The reduction in the profits is the result of exceptional expenditure during the year because the total receipts from all sources increased appreciably.

The encouraging features of the additional revenue was the income derived from sponsorship and advertising, the tremendous assistance from the Reconstruction Society Funds and the support from the Squash court revenue.

It was, therefore, possible to meet the escalating demands of increased wages and other overhead expenses and also the heavy ground expenditure including sections of terracing of almost £24,000 which together with net signing and transfer fees of £17,442 are unlikely to be as high again in a normal year.

However under today's difficult economic conditions it is impossible to make a profit forecast for the current year, but it is already obvious that stringent economies will have to be made if the rate of profits are to be maintained.

On the playing side, the Club reached the Lancashire Cup Final for the third successive season but injuries weakened the side and we were not successful. However we had the satisfaction of winning the BBC Floodlit Trophy with a replay at Warrington after an exciting no score draw game at the Willows.

Serious injury to David Watkins in Australia has caused him to announce his retirement in October and he was appointed a Director of the Company on the 15th November, 1974. Subsequently, he was persuaded to return to the game in January and therefore in accordance with the Rugby League Bye-Laws resigned his Directorship on the 16th January, 1975. In May, 1975, David Watkins was invited to captain the Welsh side and together with Kieth Fielding, Peter Banner, Ken Gill, Mike Coulman and Colin Dixon played in the World Series in Australia in June.

Since the last meeting, the signing of Bill Sheffield and John Butler from Rochdale, Jim Fiddler from Leigh, Gordon Graham from Sale R.U.F.C. and Steve Nash from Featherstone Rovers have greatly strengthened the playing staff and we should now return to one major signing each season with youngsters coming up through the Club's junior sides.

The results in the current season suggest that unless we suffer too many injuries, we can look forward to a most successful season.

G. BRIAN SNAPE, Chairman.

SALFORD SCENE

PROFIT HALVED

THE Salford directors' determination to make the Willows the best ground in the Rugby League proved a costly ambition last season, reports Bert Hughes.

The near £10,000 drop in the club's profit for the year ending May 31 can be attributed almost entirely to the fact that ground repairs and expenses—including the renewal of terracing at the North Stand end of the ground—more than doubled to a staggering £23,764.

In fact, practically all costs of running the club rose, some more substantially than others, while gate receipts and social club and restaurant profits were marginally down on the previous year.

Off the field activities made a tremendous contribution, not least being sponsorship and Reconstruction Society schemes run by Aidan Breen and Eric Shaw.

Squash courts revenue more than doubled, too, and plans are going ahead to build two more courts to cater for the increased demand the present four courts have attracted.

DISCOVERY

It appears we have made yet another goal-kicking discovery in the players' ranks.

Remember David Watkins only became our regular kicker when he took the job in an emergency—then went on to break club and world records?

Eric Prescott, who makes his 100th first-choice appearance today, got six two-pointers and a drop goal at Huddersfield on Sunday.

He should have had a try as well, but failed to touch down after crossing near the wing.

He took a lot of ribbing from his colleagues for that, but, as he retorted: "I'm doing the kicking—I want 'em between the sticks!"

Second row man Billy Sheffield is back in training after recovering from a broken bone in his foot and he should be fully fit in another couple of weeks.

Hooker Peter Walker has had the plaster removed from his broken leg and is having physiotherapy treatment.

Though Peter has been as active as the plaster allowed, there is quite a

bit of muscle wastage from the leg and he is to see a specialist in a month's time.

We are expecting Keith Fielding to be back in business today. Flyer Keith suffered a severe back muscle injury against Castleford last month which put him out of club and country games.

Colin Dixon, also, has missed international engagements with a groin strain.

Phil Hurst, 'A' team second row forward, is currently on a month's loan at Blackpool Borough, who appear to like what they've seen so far.

Under suspension after being sent off in the Floodlit Trophy tie against Wigan is Jim Fiddler, this being the second game of his two-match ban.

Club captain Chris Hesketh needs only two tries to bring him his 'ton' for Salford. He is already the player with the most appearances—345—on the club's books.

PLAYER'S BONANZA

The No. 6 Trophy competition—the richest of our sponsored tournaments—has an increased prize pool of nearly £23,000 this season.

The winners receive the Trophy plus £6,000 and the runners-up £3,000. Semi-final losers cash in to the tune of £1,500, third round losers £600 and second round losers £450.

Each of the clubs knocked out of the first round are £300 richer.

The draw for the quarter-finals will be made in Leeds on Tuesday by Mr. Peter Taylor, Special Events Executive of John Player and Sons.

Of the previous winners of the Player's No. 6 Trophy, only Leeds remain in the current competition.



SALFORD '75

Standing (left to right): Mike Coulman, Keith Fielding, Eric Prescott, John Knighton, Alan Grice, Bill Sheffield, Graham MacKay, Maurice Richards, Sam Turnbull. Kneeling: Gordon Graham, Steve Nash, Chris Hesketh, Ken Gill, John Butler, Frank Stead.

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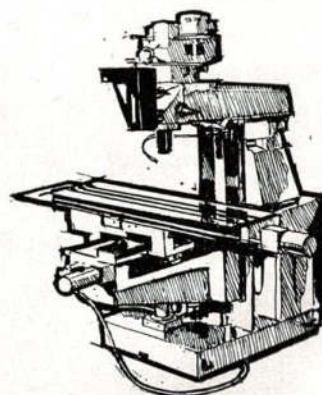
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New Salford Tee Shirts—Men's £1.40, Boys £1.20.

Teddy Bears in Salford Colours from £1.99.

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Available from the Secretary's Office:

1976 Salford Rugby Club diaries — 25p

Salford Car Stickers — 10p

Large Fixtures with colour photo of team — 10p

Rugby League All Stars Book — 30p

Bookings now being taken for the **Rugby League Festival Week**
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Details and booking forms from the Secretary's office.

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When The Spending Has To Stop

By BILL MORDEY ...

... who is in this country covering the World Championships for the Sydney Daily Mirror.

THE purse strings on the seemingly bottomless pit of Australian Rugby League wealth will shortly snap shut.

For 15 years money has been no object when top Australian clubs decided they wanted a class player, particularly if he was an English representative star. The Aussies plundered the cream of British talent in a world-wide human auction which, at times, sank to the level of reckless financial insanity.

Original offers to players jumped by thousands of pounds as up to half a dozen clubs would enter a tug-of-war to win a sought-after Englishman.

Huge transfer fees were paid, not without argument, and players such as Dick Huddart, Phil Lowe, Tommy Bishop, Mal Reilly, Cliff Watson, Merv Hicks and John Gray became Australian property.

But the first ominous signs of a spending reduction came earlier this year when Balmain, a leading Sydney club, dropped out of the race to sign the now Salford half-back Steve Nash from Featherstone Rovers. Terms between Balmain and Nash were agreeable, but the Sydney Premiership club were unable to negotiate successfully for a transfer fee.

WARNING

At the same time North Sydney's long-term President, Harry McKinnon, was warning that the "Golden Egg" of Australia's League clubs was becoming tarnished.

He described as "crazy" any league dealer who offered to pay an individual a five figure dollar amount (£7,000) or more for a season's play.

The worldwide inflation crunch had hit home to Sydney clubs which have survived on the riches of poker machine trading. Government taxes, huge staff increases in wages and general price

increases all combined to empty the annual coffer refill. Many small clubs now face closure, following in the sad line of bowls, tennis and golf clubs Down Under.

Long-serving South Sydney, a founder of the Australian League in 1908, had their League Club doors closed while the fate of the famous Rabbitohs hung perilously in the balance. Finally, with a new board of directors, and a change of management, the club was given permission to trade out of their financial disaster.

It will be at least five years before Souths totally regain their feet, and these days the club is looking towards the less-costly development of junior players rather than bidding for established stars.

St. George, first and biggest of the plush League clubs with a membership in excess of 20,000, is reported to have only broken even during the last financial year.

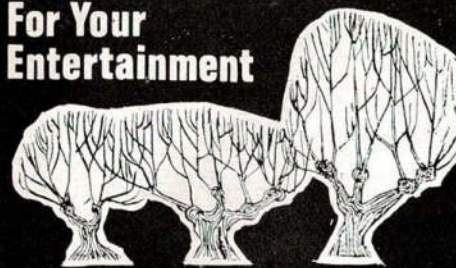
VICTIM

And the fledgling Cronulla, progressive and ambitious, have become the latest victim of the financial crunch of inflation.

Cronulla - Sutherland joined the League in 1967 and, guided by Tommy Bishop in 1973, made the Sydney Grand Final in an amazing Cinderella story. The club acquired its own ground, an achievement beyond the older and more-established groups, and began the costly project of building new premises.

Cronulla envisaged a situation such as that at Salford with the club overlooking the ground. But finance has been withdrawn, and the club must now pay a huge dead interest rate of £12,000 monthly on money previously borrowed. The club now faces a skinflint existence to fight its way out of trouble.

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Lessons From Soccer

by JIM ARNISON, Morning Star

A NEW assignment which takes me to Old Trafford for Manchester United's home games has led me to make comparisons between soccer and Rugby League in those areas where comparison is possible without senseless argument as to which game is better and why.

From what I have seen so far, it would appear that Soccer players have at last begun to learn that futile demonstrations against referees' decisions are at least unproductive.

Indeed, Manchester United's youngsters show more commonsense and maturity under the provocations which arise from negative tactics than is the case with other, more experienced teams.

It has been said often enough that Rugby League referees are the better breed because, unlike their Soccer counterparts, they stand no nonsense from the players.

MYTH

This is something of a myth which has been built on the tradition that Rugby League players generally show more discipline than has been the case with the soccer men.

It is with some sadness that I am now being forced to concede that on refereeing standards, the Rugby League men in the middle really do not compare with their colleagues who control the other game.

While it would be odious to compare the nature of the two jobs (with the difference and variety of rules), there are some lessons which the Rugby refs ought to learn from their rivals.

Soccer referees do not dominate the game to the extent that some Rugby

League referees persist in doing match after match.

They rarely ignore fouls or other violations of the rules, and they do their utmost to keep the game flowing with as little interruption as possible.

On the other hand, we have referees in Rugby League who, especially it seems when the T.V. cameras are on, love to engage in miming acts to demonstrate why they have blown the whistle.

CIRCUS

One simple movement indicating "feet up" or "loose arm" ought to be sufficient, but there are referees who regularly carry out a routine more suited to Billy Smart's circus than to a rugby match.

This may be of assistance to the television commentator in explaining the idiosyncrasies of the game to the uninitiated but it infuriates spectators and should be curbed.

As for ignoring the rules: The two outstanding examples are surely the one governing off-side at the play the ball and "lying on" in the tackle to prevent a speedy resumption of attacking play.

Last season I watched one well-known referee on five separate occasions where, in 400 minutes of play, not once did he blow up for off-side.

It is unbelievable that any match can be played without some player straying off-side, even if only by accident.

The ignoring of this rule, and of "lying on", not only frustrates spectators and players alike, it also very often determines the result of a match and no referee should be allowed to do that.

Fixtures

First Team

1975			F	A
Aug. 5	Tu.	Swinton (Charity)	A	15 12
8	Fri.	St. Helens (Charity).....	H	17 15
15	Fri	Dewsbury (7.30).....	H	39 2
22	Fri	Warrington (7.30).....	H	25 11
25	Mon	Swinton (7.30)	H	13 2
31	Sun	Huyton (3.00)	H	44 17
(Lancs. Cup—1st Rd.)				
Sept. 5	Fri	Widnes (7.30)	H	30 10
13	Sun	Leigh	A	23 6
(Lancs. Cup—2nd Rd.)				
21	Sun	Hull K.R. (2.45)	A	P.
26	Fri	Mayfield	H	57 3
(Player's No. 6—1st Rd.)				
30	Wigan	.....	A	14 14
(Floodlit Trophy)				
Oct. 3	Fri.	Leeds (7.30)	H	P.
4	Sat	Widnes	N	7 16
Lancs. Cup—Final				
7	Tu.	Wigan.....	H	19 25
(Floodlit Trophy replay)				
10	Fri	Australia	H	6 44
St. Helens				
17	Fri	Castleford (7.30)	H	18 10
Nov. 1	Sat	Huddersfield (3.00)	A	40 13
9	Sun	Oldham	H	
Player's No. 6—2nd Rd.				
16	Sun	Oldham (3.00).....	A	
21	Fri	Wakefield T. (7.30).....	H	
Player's No. 6—3rd Rd.				
28	Fri	Featherstone R. (7.30) H		
Player's No. 6 semi-final				
Dec. 7	Sun	Bradford N. (2.30)	A	
Player's No. 6 semi-final				
13	Sat	Leeds (3.00).....	A	
14	Sun	Keighley (3.00).....	A	
26	Fri	Widnes (3.00).....	A	
28	Sun	Bradford N. (3.00).....	H	
1976				
Jan. 1	Thu	Oldham (7.30)	H	
3	Sat	Leeds (3.00)	A	
11	Sun	Warrington (3.00)	A	
16	Fri	Keighley (7.30)	H	
Player's No. 6—Final				
24	Sun	Wakefield T. (3.30)	A	
25	Sun	Wakefield T. (3.30)	A	
30	Fri	Wigan (7.30)	H	
Feb. 6	Fri	Castleford (7.30)	A	
14		Challenge Cup—1st Rd.		
28		Challenge Cup—2nd Rd.		

Mar. 5	Fri	St. Helens (7.30).....	H
13		Challenge Cup—3rd Rd.	
14	Sun	Dewsbury (3.30).....	A
21	Sun	Featherstone R. (3.30)....	A
27		Challenge Cup—	
		1st Semi-final	

April 2	Fri	Hull K.R. (7.30).....	H
3		Challenge Cup—	
		2nd Semi-final	
9	Fri	Huddersfield (7.30).....	H
16	Fri	Swinton (3.00)	A
19	Mon	Wigan (3.00)	A

May 8	Sat	Challenge Cup Final	
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'A' Team

1975				
Sept. 5	Fri	Widnes (7.30).....	A	8 31
19	Fri	Leigh (7.30)	H	20 11
(Lancs. Shield, 1st Leg)				

Oct. 4	Sat	Leigh (3.00).....	A	5 7
(Lancs. Shield, 2nd Leg)				
14	Tue	St. Helens (7.30)	H	5 13
21	Tue	Swinton (7.30).....	H	
25	Sat	Huyton (3.00).....	A	
31	Fri	Warrington (7.30).....	A	

Nov. 14	Fri	Oldham (7.30)	H	
22	Sat	Leigh (3.00).....	A	

Dec. 6	Sat	Oldham (3.00).....	A	
12	Fri	Leigh (7.30)	H	

1976				
Jan. 3	Sat	Barrow (3.00).....	A	
13	Tue	Rochdale H. (7.30).....	H	
24	Sat	Rochdale H. (3.00)	A	
31	Sat	Wigan (3.00).....	A	

Feb. 6	Fri	Widnes (7.30)	H	
17	Tue	Warrington (7.30)	H	
21	Sat	Barrow (3.00).....	H	

Mar. 6	Sat	St. Helens (3.00).....	A	
12	Fri	Huyton (7.30)	H	
19	Fri	Wigan (7.30)	H	
27	Sat	Swinton (3.00)	A	

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