

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BOTTOM, S.
- 5 O'BRIEN, C.
- 6 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 WELDING, R.
- 11 KEAR B.
- 12 HALL, F.
- 13 PETERS A.
- 14 TREASURE, D.
- 15 BROWN, R.

Referee:

R. Moore (Wakefield)

Dewsbury

- 1 LANGLEY, J.
- 2 SIMPSON, I.
- 3 ARTIS, P.
- 4 STEPHENSON, N.
- 5 MITCHELL, G.
- 6 LINGARD, S.
- 7 BATES, A.
- 8 BEVERLEY, H.
- 9 PRICE, R.
- 10 HANKINS, S.
- 11 GRASHON, G.
- 12 BELL, G.
- 13 CHALKLEY, G.
- 14
- 15

G. E. Lightfoot (Bolton) Red

F. J. Tomlinson (Widnes) Orange

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

DEWSBURY

was

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 DEWSBURY

B. KEAR

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM



DEWSBURY

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.



Crowd participation ... the latest line in Rugby League. Our spectators, who gave us such tremendous help financially in the signing of Barry Kear, are pictured putting their contributions into the pillowcase of one of the collectors.

—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TONIGHT we welcome back to Watersheddings the boys from Dewsbury ... but in so doing we also welcome once again all you terrific fans and supporters who have done so much in the last 11 days to give the club a real Centenary-year "lift".

You will all agree that the signing of Barry Kear was an absolute necessity. That Barry is now safely in our possession in exchange for the £2,000 Hull were asking is as much thanks to you supporters and friends of the club as it is to anything else.

In answer to our appeal for financial help there were many "touching" instances ... like the anonymous schoolboy who sent 50p to the club, via the Oldham Chronicle, with the heart-rending plea that Barry ought to be bought.

Then there was the 86-year-old widow who sent along her 50p with Kevin Taylor. And many, many were the people who offered to loan us various sums towards the signing fee. To borrow that money would really have been defeating the object.

That's why we put out the appeal. And all you wonderful supporters soon made it clear that we had made the right decision.

The Supporters' Club came up trumps, too, with a £400 donation and we received £100 from Mr. Joe Pickavance, a director of the St. Helens club who runs the dog track here at Watersheddings.

To all of you we say thank-you — it was a magnificent response to our appeal and it proved conclusively that Rugby League in Oldham is very much alive and kicking.

Certainly, the Aussies had good reason to think so last Tuesday. What a fright we gave them! And officials of the tourists were the first to admit afterwards that, on balance of play and scoring opportunities, there certainly wasn't ten points between the teams.

The whole evening went off with a bang. You fans again turned up in big numbers, the players did their bit on the field to keep the pot boiling, and we received many tributes later in the evening for the way we organised the official reception given to the Australian party.

This sort of public relations exercise is vital if touring teams like the Aussies are to think of Oldham when drawing up their future tour itineraries—and we firmly believe they liked what they saw

at Watersheddings, both on the field and off it. Congratulations to all concerned.

Suddenly, within the space of about three weeks, our club has become a hub of activity and we have certainly hit the headlines not only in the local press but in the national press and on television, too.

To Barry Kear we say WELCOME. It might be belated but it is none the less sincere for that and we trust he will have a long and happy stay with us.

We do know that in the short space of time Barry has been here he has been suitably impressed at many things about our club and we see this as further confirmation of our belief that Oldham is indeed one of the happiest, most homely and friendliest clubs in the Rugby League.

Maybe this has something to do with it being a members' club. YOU are as much part of it as anyone and, my goodness, you have certainly proved it in the last fortnight. Thanks again and may we keep the pot boiling in terms of results and attendances.

GEORGE SHAW

IT is with the deepest regret that we put on record the passing of George Shaw. This man, who died in hospital recently after a short illness, was a loyal servant of the club over more years than one cares to remember.

Mention virtually any job behind the scenes and George had done it. He served on the committee, helped in the physiotherapy room, at one time trained the "A" team, looked after the baggage and kit, and did a thousand and one jobs over many, many years devotion to Oldham R.L.F.C.

His loss cannot be measured. For George, like so many of his predecessors, was heart and soul in the club and, to him, the club was one of the most important things in his life after his family and his full-time employment.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family, as we do to the relatives of the gentleman who collapsed and died at the back of the main stand after last week's game against Dewsbury.

He was, apparently, a supporter for 50 years and he had made to his family the express wish that his ashes be scattered on the Watersheddings ground.

Chat with Challinor

WHAT a hectic but satisfying time it has been in the last few weeks! Our great display at Leeds ... our win at Wakefield ... our defeat of Dewsbury ... our good show against the Aussies ... and all the instances of spectator participation concerning the signing of Barry Kear.

One immediately wonders whether or not Oldham have led the way in something which will become an accepted thing in Rugby League in the future: namely, taking players on trial and asking the fans and supporters to contribute to a signing fee if they like what they see.

Whether this will come about or, indeed, whether it is a good thing when talking in general Rugby League terms is open for discussion. But there is no doubt that it was a success at Oldham.

All you supporters not only seemed willing to help but happy to, and I think one reason—apart from the very obvious fact that you have the interests of the club at heart—was that Barry Kear has captured the imagination.

In a vastly different sort of way I believe he can do as much, if not more, for the club than Frank Foster did. He is a completely different type of player but he obviously possesses that sort of crowd-appeal that made Foster such a hit here at Oldham.

The sort of enthusiasm that Foster aroused right through the club has been missing, to some extent, since he retired but in the space of four matches or so it has not only returned, but returned fourfold.

I think you fans, yearning for success, were just waiting for the spark to light the bonfire, as it were, and Kear has certainly caused a few sparks to fly since he arrived.

Mind you, he is just one member of a TEAM. That is an important thing to remember and I believe Barry is the first to accept that and know that, without the help of his colleagues, he

could never have hit the headlines as quickly and as justifiably as he has done since he came here.

That brings me to another point. Barry Kear, like you, I, and all the players, is only human. He is not a machine. He has failings, like we all do, and those failings have to be accepted alongside his many, many good points.

Because he is not a machine he will not turn in rip-roaring performances in EVERY match. He has set himself a very high standard indeed and it will be a very, very difficult task for him to maintain that standard week in and week out.

He has, in the past month, enjoyed terrific backing from all the supporters and it would be very disappointing for the lad if everything were to turn sour on him when, as he inevitably will, struggle through one of those patches that inflicts every players from time to time.

I don't think for one moment that what we have seen from Kear recently is a "flash in the pan". He is clearly a lad with a lot of ability but I do repeat that he has set himself a high standard and if that standard tends to drop a little I hope the fans will realise that he is flesh and blood like every player who ever put on a rugby jersey.

I firmly believe that, if we can keep up our present momentum, there is no reason why we shouldn't enjoy some REAL success this season. A lot will depend on the support of you wonderful fans and I would dearly love to see such consistently good gates that we could arrive at the situation where, if a player we thought would strengthen the team became available, we could go straight out and sign him.

In conclusion may I thank you all for your help in the last fortnight. It really does prove that despite the moans of the downhearted there are an awful lot of people who still want to see our game—and our club—thrive and flourish.

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Martin Murphy, who had a brilliant game against Dewsbury when the Crown Flatt boys were here last week, is seen here being tackled by a defender. Other Oldham players in the picture are Mick McCone, John Blair, Bob Welding and Kevin Taylor.

—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Today's referee, Mr. Ronald Moore, hails from Wakefield, where he is a representative. 42 years of age, he is married with one son and one daughter, he was promoted to Grade 2 in

1972 and upgraded to Grade 1 at the start of this season.

A former amateur rugby player, he is also a Grade 2 coach, his only hobbies are related to Rugby League.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Dewsbury's second visit of the month to Watersheddings sees them this evening contesting the right to go forward to the semi-final of the BBC-2 Floodlit Cup.

Tonight's game, of course, will be seen by quite a few thousand viewers on television who will also be listening to the comments of Eddie Waring. Perhaps Eddie could be excused this evening if he leans a little towards Dewsbury for he has a strong association with the Crown Flatt club. He was secretary at Dewsbury from 1936 throughout the war years and steered the club to victory in the Yorkshire Cup in 1942 and the Challenge Cup of 1943.

The meeting of Oldham and Dewsbury in cup football sends the historians scurrying for their books which tell the tale of when these two sides met just before the First World War in the Cup Final of season 1911-12.

The final of that Northern Union Cup which was played at Headingley in April 1912 provided one of the biggest shocks ever in a major cup final. Oldham had a great team in those days and had reached the Championship Final during each of the five seasons prior to their Cup Final appearance. They had ended the 1911-12 season in fifth position as opposed to Dewsbury's 8th spot and they had been most impressive in the semi-final when disposing of Wakefield Trinity 17-0. All was set for a weekend of great celebration in and around Watersheddings and a specially decorated coach had been hired for what everyone expected to be a triumphant home coming. The crowd at Headingley numbered 15,371 who saw the following two sides line up to do battle:

Dewsbury: Jackett; Rhodes, Ware, Ward, Sharples; Milner, Nearey; Richardson, O'Neill, Garnett, Hammill, Abbishaw and Evans.

Oldham: Wood; Cook, Deane, Davies, Williams; Anlezark, Lomas; Ferguson, Avery, Smith, Wright, Wise and Wiltshire.

Dewsbury rose to the occasion magnificently but even so they found themselves trailing to this fine Oldham side as the game drifted into its final quarter. Oldham led 5-3 thanks to a try from Joe Ferguson which had been converted by Cook but at this stage Oldham lost the services of international forward Bert Avery who was sent off by Wigan referee B. Enion. This incident gave Dewsbury the incentive to rally and winger Rhodes was able to snatch his second try which, together with Nearey's conversion, gave Dewsbury their shock 8-5 win.

Tonight's match marks the first meeting between Oldham and Dewsbury in the Floodlit Cup but this is not really surprising for Dewsbury have only entered this tournament twice previously. In season 1973-74 they lost in the opening round at Hull Kingston Rovers 28-8 whilst last season Leigh surprised the Rugby League world by winning 14-8 at Crown Flatt. This season Dewsbury scored their first ever Floodlit Cup win when they beat Wakefield Trinity 7-3 and they then had to beat Keighley 22-10 in order to qualify for tonight's quarter-final and after making such a good start to their League programme, they must feel confident of further success in cup competition. Oldham, however, always seem to excel when playing before the television cameras and if they repeat the form displayed in recent games against Widnes and Leeds then Watersheddings patrons could soon be preparing for their first cup final since October 1968.

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Brian Batty

THE Rugby League have taken another step in their determined bid to stamp out brawling this season.

This is the result of a further meeting between some of the game's top officials and the referees.

It led to a request by the League asking for referees to do all in their power to identify trouble makers involved in brawls.

Any player that is named by the referee will be severely dealt with by the disciplinary committee.

I understand that the League have been greatly concerned at a reported lack of help by some touch judges in trying to wipe out this menace to the game.

But I believe that touch judges have now been informed of the need for them to give every possible assistance to referees who have enough problems these days.

The battle against the brawling has been waged for so long now that it seems it will never be won.

Perhaps one of the reasons is that too often the main culprits have escaped in the past and the less serious offender has collected the blame and punishment.

I would agree that it is not easy for the referee always being able to spot the first trouble-makers in a brawl.

Within seconds so many players can be joining in that we get a confused situation and so often the referee decided to call up the captains for lectures rather than get down to the root of the trouble.

There is no doubt that this is where the touch judge has more time and opportunity to pick out the offenders while the referee is following the ball.

It is up to touch judges to show real character and act quickly and decisively in these situations.

Too many in the past have let things go and then when the home crowd has got on their backs they have stopped the game for relatively trivial incidents.

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Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

FIXTURES 1975-76

1975

Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup) A
17—Warrington A
24—Keighley H
31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) H
Sept. 7—Featherstone A
14—Lancashire Cup—round 2
21—Wigan H
28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A
Oct. 5—Keighley A
12—Huddersfield H
18—Leeds A
26—Wakefield A
Nov. 2—Dewsbury H
9—Players' No. 6—round 2
16—Salford H
22—Huddersfield A
30—Leeds H
Dec. 14—St. Helens H
21—Bradford A
26—Swinton H
Jan. 1—Salford A
4—Castleford H
11—Hull K.R. H
18—Dewsbury A
25—Widnes H
Feb. 8—St. Helens A
15—Challenge Cup (1) A
21—Wigan A
29—Challenge Cup (2) H
Mar. 7—Wakefield A
12—Castleford A
21—Widnes A
28—Featherstone H
Apr. 7—Warrington H
11—Bradford H
16—Hull K.R. A
19—Swinton A

F. A. 1975

29- 2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...A 12- 7
—Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...H 29-10
13-12 20—Wigan A
17-19 Oct. 4—Swinton H
5-27 18—Warrington H
— 25—Leigh H 38-17
10-24 Nov. 14—Salford A
17- 8 29—Rochdale A
17- 8 Dec. 6—Salford H
17-28 13—St. Helens A
15-18 20—Huyton H
23-18 27—Barrow H
1976
Jan. 10—Swinton A
23—Widnes A
31—Rochdale H
Feb. 7—St. Helens H
21—Wigan H
Mar. 5—Warrington A
13—Leigh H
20—Widnes H
27—Barrow A
Apr. 3—Huyton A

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