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OUR VISITORS - OLDHAM

Today we have pleasure in welcoming here to Odsal the officials, players and supporters from Oldham.

Oldham, who were promoted at last season's end, have had rather a tough time in the First division as far as results are concerned. They have, however, given some splendid performances against top class opposition. Especially the two matches against Leeds, when on each occasion, they lost the match in the last minute. They also gave a first class performance in defeating Widnes in the Floodlight Competition.

Our last meeting was in the second round of last season's Players No. 6 competition when we were successful 13 - 3 at Watersheddings.

Their team has many first class players especially in their back division. At full back is Martin Murphy, Martin is one of the game's outstanding attacking full backs and captain of the team.

On the wings are Mike Elliott and Chris O'Brien or Eddie Barton. Both Mike and Chris are former R.U. Players and are very fast and elusive.

The centres are Phil Larder and Tony Wainwright. Phil is vice captain of the team and goal kicker and a former Sale

R.U. player. Tony, signed two years ago from Leeds, is equally at home at off half and was second choice to Mike Shoebottom for a few seasons.

David Treasure signed from Northern two seasons ago is at off half. He played regularly for Wales during the World Championships but is on the transfer list at £7,000. Partnering him will be Mick McCone formerly of Doncaster. Mick is a quick, elusive player and a terrific tackler.

The forwards have former Leeds Player Brian Hughes and another former Northern player Bob Welding in the front row. Hooking will be Kevin Taylor one of the top four in the game and a man rarely beaten for the ball.

The back row will be chosen from Fred Hall formerly of Blackpool, Stan Herbert (son of former international Norman Herbert) Dicky Brown, Tony Peters formerly of Leigh and Barry Kear. Barry signed for Oldham a few weeks ago with money raised in a very short time by supporters of the club. He is a terrific forward and had a tremendous game at Leeds earlier in the season.

An attractive side whose position does not warrant their previous displays this season.

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Albert Fearnley talking Rugby



They say it never rains but what it pours and this is certainly true of our injury list, for at the time of writing no fewer than nine of our First Team Squad players are unfit for selection, namely Gant, Carlton, Ward, Stockwell, Murphy, Jarvis, Forsyth, Trotter and Joyce. Add to this list the names of Kelly, Jackson, Wills and Hicks who are unavailable for one reason or another, and it is obvious that our recent run of poor results is mainly due to our injury situation. It is hoped, however, that at least two players will have recovered in time for today's game.

Our visitors Oldham have gained the same number of points as ourselves and a close and keen struggle is anticipated as both teams are too near the relegation zone to feel comfortable, but it is hoped that, encouraged by our faithful following, our lads will rise to the occasion and gain a welcome victory.

The solution to the last picture quiz in the Salford programme was, L. to R.: Rear Hill Morgan, Fearnley, Brunning, Tonkinson, Rhodes, Ashton. Front, Williamson, Brown, Bowman, Smales, Breakespeare, Brook. The winner was Miss Gillian Whitham.

The winner of the picture quiz in the Dewsbury programme was Mr. C. Pollard.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL - SATURDAY MAY 8th 1976

There is one vacancy on the weekend trip leaving Odsal Stadium on Friday morning at 8.30 a.m. arriving back in Bradford at approx. 8.00 p.m. Sunday night.

Bookings are now being taken for the Wembley Day Trip leaving Odsal at 7.30

a.m. and arriving back in Bradford at 9.30 p.m.

Stand tickets are available at £2.00 and £4.00 for supporters booking on this trip.

Please contact Bill Ryder at the Club Shop on match days or on Thursday evenings in the club room.

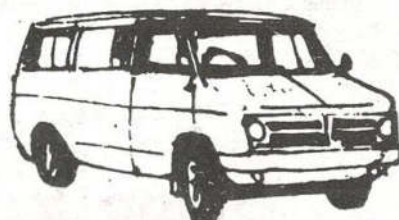
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PERSONAL FILE

JOHN PITTS

(Hooker)

Date of Birth: 7th September 1958

Family: Single

Favourite Sportsman other than Rugby League: Les Kellett

Career so far: John has played for Bradford Boys, Yorkshire Under 16's, England Under 16's, Bradford Northern Colts and odd games for the "A" Team.

Favourite R.L. Player: Tony Fisher

Favourite Meal: Steak, chips and mushrooms

Favourite Drink: Milk

Favourite Film Star: Jimmy Cagney

Favourite T.V. Programme: Cartoon time

Hobbies: Walking

Greatest Like: Being and seeing people happy

Greatest Dislike: Violence

Person you would most like to meet: Royalty at Wembley

Favourite Singer: Lulu

Any changes in the game: None. There have been enough already during the past few seasons.

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HESKETH (Salford) checks on his teeth after trying to stop KEL EARL'S second try

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THIS WEEK'S PICTURE QUIZ

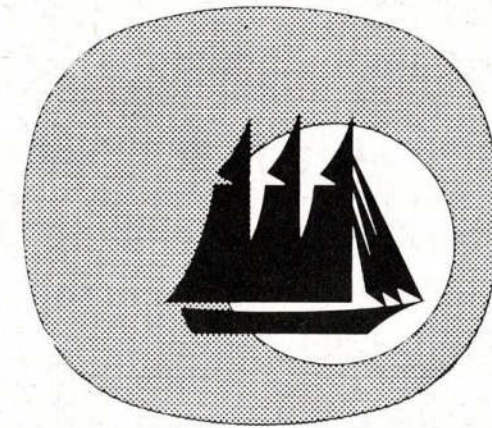


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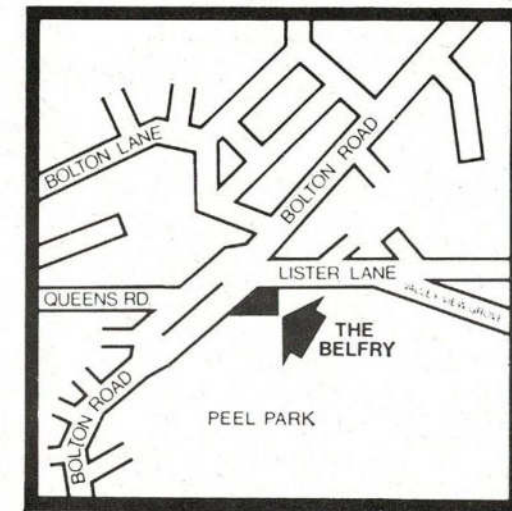
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Brian Batty on Rugby League

The County championship has again sparked off considerable controversy in the game, throwing up the annual doubts as to its future.

It has become the problem child of the Rugby League, an embarrassment as fans, players and officials clash with their views as to its worth.

There is no doubt that when you get League programmes decimated by postponements because of county calls on players then something is seriously wrong.

The original idea this season was to give the County championship two clear weekends following their plea for a fair deal 12 months ago.

But the League found they were unable to fulfill their promises when they had to fit in World championship games.

Yet we knew these World championship games would have to be played in October and November as long ago as last Spril and surely the League programme was only pencilled in at this time.

Surely it would have been wiser if the League had pointed out that this was one season when we could do without the

county championship.

Instead we have an extra team competing in the Other Nationalities and chaos grows to an extent where we have eight matches postponed in one weekend.

The gates at the county matches have been alarmingly low and possibly reflect the public's present interest in the competition.

It makes me wonder how the counties manage to pay winning bonuses to their players and justify the expense of staging the games.

It should still be an honour to play for the county side but if there is no one watching then the games will suffer and the players will have second thoughts about the value of the competition.

Widnes coach Frank Myler says: 'I always regarded it as an honour to play for the county and I would like to think my players have the same approach.

'But there were not so many other competitions running at the same time when I played so we didn't have the same problem.

NORTHERN'S FORTHCOMING GAMES

Sun. Dec. 14	WAKEFIELD	A	2-30	Thu. Jan. 1	CASTLEFORD	H	2-30
Sun. Dec. 21	OLDHAM	H	2-30	Sun. Jan. 4	HUDDERSFIELD	H	2-30
Fri. Dec. 26	WARRINGTON	A	3-00	Sun. Jan. 11	ST. HELENS	A	3-00
Sun. Dec. 28	SALFORD	A	3-00	Sun. Jan. 18	WAKEFIELD	H	2-30

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"A" TEAM NEWS

Saturday 13th December 1975. Northern "A" v Wakefield "A"
Postponed, Wakefield unable to raise a team.

The postponement was a blow to Northern's "A" team as it meant they were without a game for the second Saturday in succession and a fortnight's inactivity is no use to any team. However hard they train it is only match practice that keeps them in form.

This was the fourth postponement of the season so far, Halifax, Featherstone and Wakefield being unable to raise teams and the Halifax match at Odsal being off because of fog. It was also disappointing for hooker Francis Jarvis, who has been working hard to get fit after a troublesome injury which has kept him out of football for several weeks and was hoping to have a run out against Wakefield this week-end.

Dennis Trotter injured against Keighley "A" early in November is almost fit and could have a run-out against Hull "A" next Saturday. Young forward Martin

Savage is making a good recovery after an operation to the shoulder he twice dislocated and could be back in the game in about two months.

Though not the power in the senior competition they were last season, they have won 8 out of 11 league games which isn't at all bad considering because of injury to first team players, they have been without Marston, Earl, Mordue, Teasdale and Alan Redfearn for a lengthy period, and although the young colts brought in have given of their best the rhythm of teamwork has been lost. Dave Stockwell who has also been nursing a niggling injury has been sorely missed for his experience and example he was showing to his younger colleagues.

I take this opportunity of wishing all our Directors, Staff, players and faithful supporters a very happy Christmas. J.L.M.

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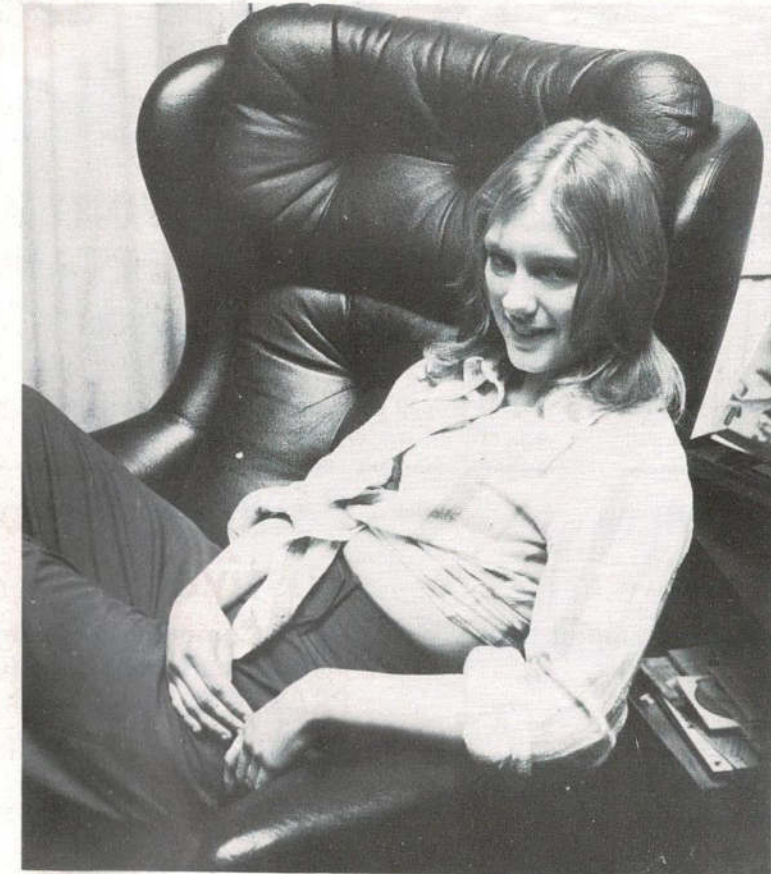
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MISS BRADFORD NORTHERN 1975-76



Miss LOUISE KNAPTON

Interests: Ice skating, horse riding Rugby. Age: 14 Height: 5' 5"

Statistics: 34, 24, 33

The above new feature is intended to give our fans the opportunity to display their charms in our new style target programme. Each girl who appears will be the guest of the Directors at a match of her own choosing. The end of season programmes will contain photographs of all girls who have participated in this competition, and supporters will be asked to vote for Miss Bradford Northern 1975-76. A suitably inscribed memento will be presented to the winner.

The success of this venture depends on your co-operation. Please send photographs and personal details to A. Fearnley, General Manager, Bradford Northern, Odsal Stadium, Bradford 6.