

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 KEAR, B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 HERBERT, S.
- 13 PETERS, A.

14
15

Referee:

H. T. Mason (Halifax)

Swinton

- 1 JOHNS, G.
- 2 FLEAY, R.
- 3 COOKE, J.
- 4 BOLTON, L.
- 5 HOLLAND, I.
- 6 DAINITY, S.
- 7 ATKINSON, L.
- 8 CHISNALL, D.
- 9 EVANS, R.
- 10 YOUNG, T.
- 11 DICKMAN, C.
- 12 HEATON, B.
- 13 HENIGHAN, M.

14
15

R. J. Percival (Newton le W's) Red

E. Lea (St Helens) 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

SWINTON

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 Oldham's 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 ST. HELENS

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM



SWINTON

FRIDAY 26th DECEMBER

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Eddie Barton in full flight. The Oldham winner evades a tackle by George Nicholls of St. Helens in the fog-enshrouded game which was abandoned at half-time.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

MAY we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy New Year and combine with that greeting the hope that you spent a pleasant and memorable Christmas.

Sadly, our last home game before Christmas was marred by fog—as you will no doubt recall! We do not, unfortunately, have any jurisdiction over the English weather and you can rest assured that the club was just as much concerned as the supporters at the inconvenience you had to suffer.

We do not believe, as a club, that games should be started in those conditions. We sympathise with all supporters who paid through the turnstiles to see little more than shadows and we feel that sympathy is proved by two after-the-match decisions.

FIRST, we decided to supply those fans present with tickets enabling them to get in for half price when the match is finally replayed.

SECONDLY, at the following Monday's committee meeting, we decided to submit to the Rugby League Council proposals designed to give the paying customers a much better deal on foggy days.

Had we been able, we would have issued tickets to let you in free of charge next time but, far from making money out of the foggy farce, as some may have you believe, we will be very much out of pocket on the day's proceedings.

To start with we have to meet all the usual match expenses—payment to police, referee, touch judges, gate men, etc., etc.—in addition to paying wages and it must be noted that, according to Northern League rule, half the receipts now go to St. Helens because the match was abandoned.

What it amounts to is this: by issuing half-price tickets for the replay we are already considerably reducing our anticipated "gate" because of an

event in which we have already lost money!

But we took this step because we firmly believe that the spectator ought to have value for money ... and he most certainly didn't get it on the day in question.

You may have already read in the papers that St. Helens did not want to play, but the Oldham club did. That needs qualifying to the extent of pointing out that the referee had already declared his intention to start.

Had we gone against that decision we would have been liable to get ourselves in trouble with the Rugby League whose guideline to referees is that matches should start if they can see the two corner flags from the centre of the 25-yard line.

We hotly dispute that ruling, arguing that the paying spectator should be considered to a much larger degree, and our chairman, Mr. A. Walker, will put our plans to the next meeting of Council.

What we are asking for is that matches should be postponed unless the referee or other responsible official can see all four corner flags from a vantage point on the front row of the main stand in line with half way.

We believe we are on the right lines—and we further believe we will get the backing of many clubs, particularly those which have experienced similar conditions to those here at Oldham two weeks ago.

In the past week or two Wigan have suffered twice. In two consecutive Friday night games at Central Park the match was called off midway through and the fans suffered similar treatment to that our own supporters had to contend with.

We appreciate your concern ... and, through the RL Council, we are doing everything possible to try and ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Brian Batty

It may scarcely be seasonable for Rugby League clubs to be warning players that they cannot meet cash demands — but it is true of today's economic situation.

With the plight of clubs like Huyton, Blackpool Borough and Doncaster—to name but a few—money has never been shorter in the game.

The sign of the times is how badly soccer is being affected and the size of some of the overdrafts being revealed is positively frightening.

The future looks decidedly bleak for many soccer clubs with their full-time staffs and considerable overheads.

Not that Rugby League clubs can afford to smirk as gates continue to dwindle and rarely look like reaching even the modest figures of recent seasons.

It has been a mad first half to the season in many respects and nothing has seemed crazier than the strike notice Barrow players served on their club.

I sympathized with them after they had come within five minutes of reaching their first Foodlit Trophy final after a superb display at St. Helens.

They certainly deserved more than sympathy and losing money for a fine

fight against the odds but they lost their heads and a lot of sympathy a few days later.

To insist that the club pay them £50-a-man, which was the original bonus for winning the semi-final, whatever was said in their dressing room, was out of character with their approach on the field.

Barrow's share of the receipts for reaching the semi-final would have been swallowed up by the players' demands.

The club had pointed out that they would pay winning money of £20 and this seemed, to me anyway, a reasonable gesture from a club that has suffered a tremendous slump in attendances in recent seasons and is battling grimly to recover this term.

There was a lot of sense in the statement of Barrow chairman Bill Pears when he said: "The time is coming when players should be more appreciative of the financial situation of their club ..."

"Not just at Barrow, but at different professional clubs throughout the country. If the players disregard the obvious then sport is bound to suffer."

There is certainly a lot of truth in that last remark for sport throughout the country has to cut back rather than take financial risks if it is to survive.

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Players and officials made presentations to physiotherapist Dennis Wright, who recently joined Salford after 15 seasons at Watersheddings. Martin Murphy (left) presented Dennis with a tankard on behalf of the players while club chairman, Arthur Walker, handed over a silver salver from the club.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

In past seasons the Christmas festivities were never complete without the traditional Christmas Day visit of the Lions to Watersheddings. Nowadays, however, players are allowed to stay with their families on that special day as the sporting calendar shifts to Boxing Day when many professional sports clubs attract their biggest gate of the season.

As well as a bigger than normal attendance, Oldham will also be expecting a much needed victory over close neighbours and fellow relegation battlers, Swinton. The Lions are having a terrible season and have won only one of their sixteen League matches so on that record alone, Oldham must be favourites to win.

When these two sides met in League football last season the matches ended in two home wins with Oldham winning 18-2 at Watersheddings but losing the away game by 15-7. Swinton have not won at Watersheddings since season 1971-72 when they defeated Oldham on all three occasions that the two clubs met. In the opening game of that season Oldham lost a Lancashire Cup-tie at Station Road by 10-7 and then a couple of weeks later they fell to an heavier League defeat when Swinton beat them 20-2 on the same ground. The League game at Oldham was a little closer but Swinton came up on top for the third time by winning 12-2.

The last time Oldham managed a League double over Swinton was in April 1973 when they won 23-10 at home and then, 13 days later, won the return match 21-7. The match at Water-

sheddings was a good deal closer than the final score would suggest. Swinton, in fact, actually led 7-5 at half time but after the interval Oldham pulled away to record their 23-10 win which was watched by a crowd of 2,650. Bob Fleay and Mick Henigan scored Swinton's tries that afternoon whilst Ken Gowers landed two goals. Oldham's points came through tries by Tony Wainwright (2), Mike Elliott, Kevin Taylor and Bob Irving and Phil Larder landed four goals. The two sides for that game were as follows:

Oldham — Tommy Davies; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Chris O'Brien; Cliff Hill, Mick McCone; Tug Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Frank Foster, Bob Irving; Fred Hall and Jim Reynolds. Substitutes: Johnny Blair (for Hill) and Johnny Farrell (for Irving).

Swinton—Ken Gowers; Bob Fleay, Alan Buckley, Graham Evans, Paul Jackson; Les Atkinson, Ray Hopkins; Harold Bate, Dick Evans, Denis Murray, Kevin Whittle, Rod Smith and Mick Henigan. Substitutes: Steve Dainty (for Buckley) and Frank Hutton.

A victory similar to that would be a fine Christmas present for the Oldham staff but they know only too well that in the harsh world of professional rugby there are precious few gifts given away, especially in matches as vital as this is. Both clubs have found the step up to the premier division a rather big one and both clubs face a difficult spring attempting to escape the clutches of relegation. That is one reason why today's game will not lack fire and the other reason is simply that Oldham are playing Swinton and that's always an entertaining and thrilling occasion.

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CHRISTMAS DRAW

OUR annual Christmas Draw was again a roaring success, making a very valuable contribution to club funds.

Prizes can be obtained from the pools office and the full list of winning numbers is as follows:

1, 18452; 2, 24018; 3, 08718; 4, 18515;
5, 22343; 6, 21721; 7, 06007; 8, 25099;
9, 03991; 10, 07269; 11, 28709; 12,
28050; 13, 21828; 14, 24541; 15, 20634;
16, 23756; 17, 16654; 18, 20506; 19,
16651; 20, 09848; 21, 26968; 22, 05132;
23, 00517; 24, 29691; 25, 29376; 26,
28294; 27, 29361; 28, 18046; 29, 09865;
30, 03265; 31, 03332; 32, 28169; 33,
28710; 34, 29690; 35, 08606; 36, 23419;
37, 26060; 38, 27780; 39, 25351; 40,
28831; 41, 11761; 42, 10136; 43, 25960;
44, 15010; 45, 24724; 46, 28331; 47,
04627; 48, 15288; 49, 16503; 50, 09069;
51, 03789; 52, 26407; 53, 03829; 54,
10981; 55, 14664; 56, 02324; 57, 03907;
58, 27252; 59, 04035; 60, 28261; 61,
29865; 62, 00220; 63, 27895; 64,
19968; 65, 03122; 66, 27594; 67, 27360;
68, 27068; 69, 13584; 70, 08197; 71,
00403; 72, 04374; 73, 14358; 74, 08407;
75, 07656; 76, 03032; 77, 29937; 78,
22278; 79, 19647; 80, 05013; 81, 25285;
82, 25501; 83, 07171; 84, 27407; 85,
09037; 86, 29693; 87, 18666; 88, 16807;
89, 15985; 90, 29137; 91, 14349; 92,
05442; 93, 10158; 94, 18047; 95, 09583;
96, 25159; 97, 18130; 98, 15061; 99,

29819; 100, 06385; 101, 28476; 102,
00398; 103, 29640; 104, 24005; 105,
25566; 106, 07193; 107, 24608; 108,
09335; 109, 06416; 110, 25954; 111,
09468; 112, 21576; 113, 05791; 114,
05130; 115, 28067; 116, 27506; 117,
28185; 118, 28961; 119, 05353; 120,
28472.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who helped in any way. It was an all-round effort, successful only because of the joint efforts of those who sold tickets, those who bought, those who helped in making the draw and, last but by no means least, all those who very generously donated prizes.

To those donors, particularly, we say a very big THANK-YOU.

They were: J. Armstrong, A. Adler, H. Ashworth, F. Ashworth, B. Booth, B. Booth, J. Bowden, F. Bowden, G. Barlow, B. Day, T. O'Brien, H. Boyes, K. Broadbent, N. Cunningham, J. Challenor, L. Collinge, F. Diskin, I. Depaiva, E. Devall, T. Doyle, K. Fisher, C. Farnworth, D. Hulme, R. Hartley, R. Hardaker, J. Hartley, J. Hall, R. Hatton, J. Higgins, F. Hawley, R. Halstead, C. Johnson, M. Kershaw, B. Kear, K. Kershaw, P. Larder, A. Mulhall, R. Ogden, K. Potter, A. Potter, A. Pocock, J. Roscoe, E. Slater, A. Taylor, K. Taylor, K. Wilson, K. Wilkinson, J. Wall.

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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)
 21—Wigan A
 29—Challenge Cup (2)
 Mar. 7—Wakefield H
 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
 —Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield) ...H
 13-12 20—Wigan A
 17-19 Oct. 4—Swinton H
 5-27 18—Warrington H
 — 25—Leigh H
 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
 15- 6 1976
 Jan. 10—Swinton A
 10-37 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

12- 7

29-10

38-17

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