

Oldham

Castleford

1 MURPHY, M.

2 ELLIOTT, M.

3 BARTON, E.

4 BOTTOM, S.

5 O'BRIEN, C.

6 WAINWRIGHT, A.

7 McCONE, M.

8 RAMSHAW, T.

9 TAYLOR, K.

10 KEAR B.

11 HALL, F.

12 FLANAGHAN, K.

13 PETERS A.

14

15

Referee:

G. Lindop (Wakefield)

1 WRAITH, W.

2 WALSH, J.

3 NEWTON, R.

4 JOHNSON, P.

5 WORSLEY, K.

6 BROOK, G.

7 STEPHENS, J.

8 BENN, E.

9 SPURR, R.

10 FISHER, P.

11 REILLY, M.

12 LLOYD, G.

13 NORTON, S.

14 BRIGGS, P.

15 BIRDSALL, C.

T. A. Rynn (Wigan)

Red

J. Clarke (Warrington)

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

CASTLEFORD

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 SWINTON

K. FLANAGHAN

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM



CASTLEFORD

SUNDAY JANUARY 4th

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Phil Larder is brought to ground just inside the Bradford half during the match at Odsal. Running up in support is Terry Ramshaw.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TODAY sees our first home game of 1976—the year we celebrate our centenary. We aim to make it a year to remember with various events and functions culminating in a grand centenary Ball, probably to be held early next season around the actual time of the club's birthday—September.

The first major event will be held on Monday evening, February 2 at Royton Assembly Hall, Middleton Road, Royton. It will take the form of a Sportsman's Evening, honouring a well-known sporting personality, with evening dinner laid on, and followed by a top-class programme of amateur boxing, organised by the Gallagher Boys' Club, Oldham.

Our guest speaker is likely to be the former Rugby League secretary, Mr. W. Fallowfield, who is still active within the game in his capacity as secretary of the International Board.

We hope, however, that he will be but one of many personalities from the world of sport to honour us with their attendance at our inaugural centenary event.

That will be the start of it all. Watch these programme notes and the local press for details of other events which are also likely to include another Sportsman's Evening—without boxing but with more guest speakers—at a local venue in the Spring, the grand centenary Ball, and possibly a function or two of a different type in our own social club.

Throughout the year we also plan to have on sale centenary ties and a really first-class centenary brochure, which will be a MUST for the book shelves of all those interested in the club and its story of 100 years of Rugby here in Oldham.

The Centenary Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fred Howarth, well-known as an ardent supporter of the club and a conscientious worker for many, many years on behalf of RL in the local schools, are co-ordinating all the efforts and already meeting regu-

larly to map the programme and work out the details of what, overall, will be a mammoth task.

We are indebted to them for all the hard work they are undertaking on the club's behalf—and also to Mr. Tom Webb and Mr. Don Yates.

Assisted by Roger Halstead, of the Oldham Chronicle, these two able men, dedicated to keeping wonderful records of Rugby League in general and the Oldham club in particular, will be burning the midnight oil in the next few weeks as they sift through 100 years of Oldham history, and edit the material, to provide copy for the brochure.

So keep an eye, and an ear, open for details of all the celebrations as they come up and we trust that there will be something to appeal to all of you.

May we take this opportunity, too, of wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year and link that sentiment with the heart-felt wish that some of your best moments of 1976 will be spent here at Watersheddings.

The turn of the year saw us just out of the reach of the bottom-four relegation zone, following our satisfying 20-14 win at Bradford.

There is a long way to go yet but it does look as though Swinton, Keighley and Huddersfield will be struggling to avoid the drop, along with one other club.

It is up to us to see that the fourth club is not Oldham and the win at Odsal took a lot of the pressure because it was very much a "four pointer".

The Swinton game on Boxing Day was another "four pointer" — these notes had to be written before the match took place—and we have yet another today with the appearance at Watersheddings of Castleford.

As Castleford are also poised, like ourselves, just outside the bottom four there is plenty at stake and it should be a real, rousing game to open up in 1976 ... particularly with so many of our players these days coming from that part of the West Riding.

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, I. 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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Barry Kear in full flight. It takes a posse of Bradford defenders to haul down the Oldham forward during our 20-14 win at Odsal.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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Brian Batty

Neil Fox will go down in Rugby League history as one of the most successful free transfer signings.

There were more than a few eyebrows raised in dressing room and boardroom when, at 35, Fox stepped down into Second Division football last season.

It was felt in many quarters that he would not last the season for a number of reasons.

Well, Neil's answer was pretty convincing for he proceeded to add two more records to his lengthy and distinguished career.

The strain of scoring 5,115 points in 666 appearances with Yorkshire, Great Britain, England, Wakefield Trinity and Bradford Northern scarcely showed as he became one of Humberside's heroes.

There must have been many an envious glance cast towards the coast as he claimed 333 points, a club record for Rovers, along with his 145 goals.

Now here he is back in the First Division where his talents belong, surprisingly after spending a summer play-

ing and coaching the New Zealand side Wellington.

He found time and enthusiasm to travel up to Auckland when England played the Kiwis in the world championship but his hopes of a pleasant holiday with his wife on the way home were dashed.

"We stopped over in Fiji but it rained for five solid days so we returned to this country to try Blackpool," he told me. "It rained there so we went to Bridlington and it was foggy."

But the sun is shining on him now for Rovers Supporters' Club marked last season's feats with a presentation and obviously hope they will be repeating the performance next season.

There seems every chance the way I saw him score 13 points against Leeds—five goals and a try—for he is still the game's finest goalkicker on his day and uses his brain to save his legs when possible.

"I have no thoughts of retiring at the moment for I am still enjoying the game," he told me.

The committee wishes to take this opportunity of thanking all our supporters who gave so generously to the Barry Kear Appeal Fund. Without this support Kear could not have been signed. There were so many donations, both large and small, that it is impossible to prepare a list of everyone involved, but whether the donation was £5 or upwards, given so readily by so

many people or 50p or less by a pensioner or schoolboy, the gesture is equally appreciated.

The committee feels that this is one of the most encouraging gestures by our supporters for a long time and one that gives an indication of the basic spirit within the town towards a successful Rugby League side.

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Watersheddings Survey

(Jottings from behind the scenes)

SOME crucial Rugby League decisions, involving Oldham, will be made this week. The Executive Committee will consider our claim for either a point OR a replay following the match at Leeds which we lost, on the admission of the Leeds timekeeper, after play should have ended.

— — — — —
ALSO to be discussed this week will be the Oldham club's proposal that, on foggy days, matches should be postponed unless the referee can see all four corner flags from the centre of the main stand.

— — — — —
ON Wednesday the Council will hold a day-long conference at Salford to discuss next season's fixtures. Already in are a proposal by Halifax to return to one division and a suggestion by St. Helens to retain two divisions, but with 14 clubs in the First Division and 16 in the Second—the reverse to what applies now.

Oldham still approve, in principle, the retention of two divisions but accept that there will be a different situation, needing further discussion, if one or more clubs were to be forced out of existence.

— — — — —
BY the time you read these notes we should know the best—or the worst—from the first-round draw for the Challenge Cup. It was to be made yesterday on "Grandstand".

The second and subsequent rounds, however, will be drawn as usual and televised on the Monday tea-time after the week-end's ties.

— — — — —
THERE are some important changes in the forthcoming programme for the "A" team. On Saturday, January 10, our

Reserves play at Swinton, but the kick-off time has been brought forward to 2 p.m. at the request of the Station Road club. On the following Saturday, January 17, the "A" team go to St. Helens to play the second leg of the Lancashire Shield semi-final, which was postponed in December because of the frozen Knowsley Road pitch.

We trust as many of you as possible will try and make the trip to give our lads a cheer or two as they bid to reach the final for the first time in many, many years.

— — — — —
Mr. David Wood of Longfellow Crescent, Sholver, is our new pools agent of the year. On behalf of the development association he was presented with a tankard by club skipper Martin Murphy at a recent function.

— — — — —
The transfer fee on Tony Wainwright has been reduced, at the player's request, from £9,000 to £8,000. Tony recently had a accident while travelling through Leeds in his car and his wife of a few weeks sustained a head wound which required ten stitches.

— — — — —
DON'T forget we are at home again next Sunday when the attractive Hull K.R. side provide the opposition. The kick-off, as usual, is 3-30 p.m.

— — — — —
DICKIE BROWN, our versatile forward or scrum-half, hopes to make a summer trip Down Under to play for a Sydney club. We have given Dickie the go-ahead to make the trip on the understanding that he will be back as early as possible next season.

At present Dickie is going through the motions of trying to get himself fixed up with a Sydney club. He is confident of so doing.

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Secretary: K. WILKINSON

Promotions Manager: A. TAYLOR

Coach: J. CHALLINOR

Assistant Coach: K. WILSON

Physiotherapist: D. WRIGHT

Assistant Physiotherapist: B. CHURM

Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

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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