

Today's Line-up

St. Helens

Colours: Blue Jersey
White Shorts.

1. **PIMBLETT, G.**, Full Back
2. **JONES, L.**, Right Wing
3. **BENYON, W.**, Right Centre
4. **NOONAN, D.**, Left Centre
5. **MATHIAS, R.**, Left Wing
6. **WILSON, F. H.**, Stand Off
7. **HEATON, J.**, Scrum Half
8. **MANTLE, J.**, Front Row
9. **KARALIUS, A.**, Hooker
10. **CHARLES, C.**, Front Row
11. **CUNNINGHAM/COSLETT**, Second Row
12. **CHISNALL, E.**, Second Row
13. **HULL, D.**, Loose Forward

Substitutes:

- 14.
- 15.

T	G	D/G	Pts

Oldham

Colours: Red & White Hooped Jersey
Blue Shorts.

1. **MURPHY, M.**, Full Back
2. **ELLIOTT, M.**, Right Wing
3. **BARTON, E.**, Right Centre
4. **BOTTOM, S.**, Left Centre
5. **O'BRIEN, C.**, Left Wing
6. **TREASURE, D.**, Stand Off
7. **McCONE, M.**, Scrum Half
8. **RAMSHAW, T.**, Front Row
9. **TAYLOR, K.**, Hooker
10. **FLANAGAN/WELDING**, Front Row
11. **HALL, F.**, Second Row
12. **KEAR, B.**, Second Row
13. **PETERS, A.**, Loose Forward

Substitutes:

- 14.
- 15.

Referee: Mr. T. J. COURT (Bradford)

Touch Judges: Mr. D. Scott Mr. H. Worth

T	G	D/G	Pts

WELCOME TO KNOWSLEY RD.

SAINTS REVIEW

The Official Match Day Magazine
of St. Helens Rugby League
Football Club Ltd.

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP



1st DIVISION CHAMPIONS 1974/75



Picture by courtesy of Rugby Leaguer

SAINTS v. OLDHAM

Sunday, 8th February, 1976

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Programme

10p

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White Shorts

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against Manchester Rangers

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Captain: T. K. Coslett

"A" Team Coach: W. Boycott

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HONOURS

Challenge Cup Competition

Winners: 1956, 1961, 1966, 1972

Runners-up: 1897, 1915, 1930, 1953

Rugby League Championship

Winners: 1931/32, 1952/53, 1958/59

1965/66, 1969/70, 1970/71

Runners-up: 1964/65, 1966/67, 1971/72

League Leaders' Trophy

Winners: 1964/65, 1965/66

1st Division Championship

Winners: 1974/75

Runners-up: 1962/63, 1973/74

Merit Championship Competition

Runners-up: 1973/74

Premiership Competition

Runners-up: 1974/75

Lancashire Challenge Cup

Winners: 1926, 1953, 1960, 1961, 1962,

1963, 1964, 1967, 1968

Runners-up: 1932, 1952, 1956, 1958,
1959, 1970

Lancashire League

Winners: 1929/30, 1931/32, 1952/53,

1959/60, 1963/64, 1964/65, 1965/66,

1966/67, 1968/69

Runners-up: 1953/54, 1955/56,
1957/58, 1958/59, 1960/61, 1967/68

Western Divisional Championship

Winners: 1963/64

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy

Winners: 1971

Runners-up: 1965, 1968, 1970

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PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

The surprise home defeat by Warrington in the last league match here at Knowsley Road has left Saints trailing by four points behind leaders Featherstone but, with five games in hand, Saints are still confident of landing the trophy and hope to return to winning ways this afternoon with a victory over Oldham (writes Don Yates).

When Oldham visited Saints last season in the opening round of the Premiership play-off they were soundly beaten 42-5 and prior to that Oldham have suffered many heavy defeats against Saints here at Knowsley Road. The last time they came here for a First Division match was in 1973-74 when they lost 33-12 whilst their heaviest defeat here was in 1971-72 when the score was 50 points to 2.

Although Saints have scored several comfortable victories over Oldham here at Knowsley Road, the matches over at Watersheddings have been quite exciting. One of the most thrilling league matches in recent seasons was the clash in October 1972 when Oldham had made such a fine start to the season. They had won 8 of their 10 previous matches and were undefeated in the league. Four days prior to the clash with Saints, Oldham had defeated Salford 12-8 at Watersheddings and so Saints were expecting a tough match. Both sides were at full strength and lined up as follows:

Oldham: Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Norman Hodgkinson; Cliff Hill, Mick McCone; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft, Bob Irving, Arthur Daley and Jim Reynolds.

Substitutes: Tommy Davies (for Hill) and Geoff Munro (for Wilson).

St. Helens: Dave Eckersley; Frank Wilson, Billy Benyon, John Walsh, Roy Mathias; Ken Kelly, Geoff Heaton; Mick Murphy, Tony Karalius, John Stephens, John Mantle, Eric Chisnall and Kel Coslett.

Substitutes: Geoff Pimblett and Graham Rees.

The match lived up to expectations and thrilled the crowd of 6,574. At half-time Oldham were in front 8-7 and the second half was just as close. Saints scored two tries to Oldham's none and so could claim to be unlucky in not taking both points but the 12-12 draw seemed to satisfy both camps. Frank Wilson and Geoff Heaton scored Saints' tries and Kel Coslett landed three goals. Oldham's 6 goals came from Phil Larder, who kicked 5, and Tony Wainwright.

This season Oldham have made a determined effort to retain their First Division status after gaining promotion last autumn. At present they lie 8th in the league table, four points behind Saints but having played three more matches. They have won 9 and drawn 1 of their 17 league matches with double victories having been recorded against both Keighley (13-12 at home and 17-8 away) and Dewsbury (15-6 home, 16-4 away). Another notable victory was the 23-18 win at Wakefield whilst they also drew 8-8 at Salford. Unfortunately for Oldham they have not shown much consistency and have allowed themselves to be beaten at home by the likes of Castleford (8-6) and Huddersfield (28-17). In cup football Oldham have shown the same inconsistency, as was shown in the Floodlit Cup when Oldham pulled off a great 16-10 win over cup experts Widnes but then lost 11-9 to Dewsbury the next time out. In the Player's Trophy Oldham won at Huyton 20-14 but then lost 46-3 at Salford and in the Lancashire Cup Saints won at Watersheddings by 19-17.

That Lancashire Cup-tie at Watersheddings proved to be an entertaining match with an exciting finish and this afternoon's match promises to be a similar affair. Saints must be favourites to win but Oldham's recent run of good form should ensure a close match and one which should provide plenty of thrills for the fans.

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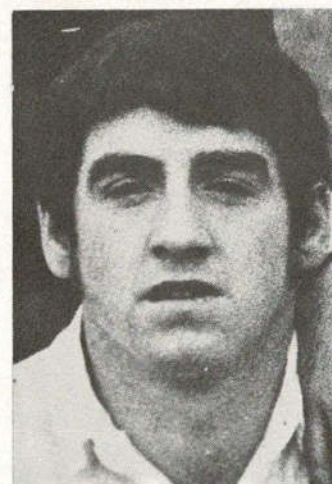
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TONY KARALIUS

*Pictures by courtesy
of Rugby Leaguer*



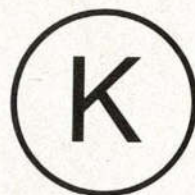
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JIM CHALLINER (Oldham Coach)



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Meet Today's Opponents

This afternoon's visitors to Knowsley Road are Oldham who lie in 9th position in the league table, and so, at present, are the most successful of last seasons four promoted clubs (writes Don Yates). They have lost only one of their last six outings and are sure to pose a few problems for the Saints today.

The Oldham skipper is Leigh born Martin Murphy, a former Lancashire under-17 player who joined Oldham in April 1967 from Astley and Tyldesley Colliery juniors. He is a fine attacking full-back who has played twice for Lancashire and once for England.

The leading try scorer at Watersheddings both last season and this is elusive winger Mike Elliott who crossed for 22 tries last season and who, so far this term, has scored 11 tries. He is an experienced player who joined Oldham from Cwmcllyn RUFC in August 1962 and has been a loyal servant to Oldham. He was most unlucky in not representing Wales in the recent World Championship series.

Eddie Barton can play either wing or centre and is a strong running back who joined Oldham in February 1974 from Manchester RUFC.

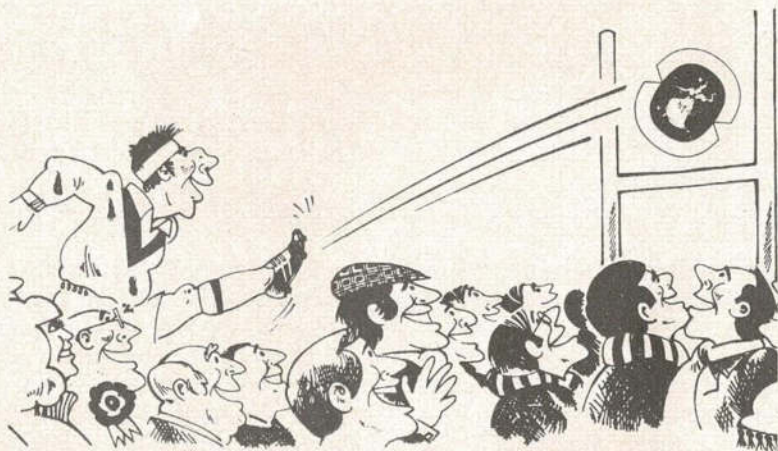
Goal kicking centre Phil Larder will be hoping to make a comeback this afternoon after receiving a leg injury on Boxing Day. He is a former Sale RUFC player who turned professional with Oldham in August 1968. Last season he was Oldham's leading point scorer with 10 tries and 77 goals whilst this season he has already scored 5 tries and 54 goals. Larder once landed 11 goals in one game against Blackpool which Oldham won 55-3.

Stuart Bottom is a promising 23-years-old centre who was signed from Oldham's 'B' team in May 1971.

The star of the Oldham back division is stand-off David Treasure whose lightening breaks have led to several Oldham scores this season. Twenty five years old Treasure is a product of the Yorkshire Copper Works junior club who turned professional with Bradford Northern in January 1971. He was transferred to Oldham for £4,500 in November 1973 and whilst at Watersheddings clinched a place in the Welsh squad for last summers World Championship series in Australasia. He played in all three full internationals on that tour and then in a further two when the series switched to Europe last autumn.

Treasure's half-back partner is Mick McCone, a former Wakefield junior who turned professional with Doncaster in 1966. Thirty years old McCone was transferred to Oldham for a bargain £1,000 fee in January

Smile please, you're in Greenall Whitley land



1972 and his form during the past few months has been outstanding. He has represented Yorkshire at under-19 level.

The Oldham hooker is thirty years old Kevin Taylor who has been with Oldham since October 1962 when he was signed from Werneth juniors. He has been a tremendous servant to the Oldham club and must rate as the best hooker never to represent Great Britain. He did, however, represent Lancashire both at schoolboy and under-17 level before turning professional and since joining Oldham has played twice for Lancashire, twice for England under-24 and once for the full England side.

The heaviest member of the Oldham team is 16st. 7lb. prop Terry Ramshaw who has made such a big difference to the Oldham pack since his inclusion into the team last October. He is an experienced campaigner who is with his seventh club. He began his career with Featherstone Rovers and then served Halifax, Bradford Northern, Wakefield Trinity, Salford and Hull Kingston Rovers before moving to Oldham for a bargain £500 fee. He has played for both Yorkshire and England under-24.

Oldham's other prop, Barry Kear, also joined his present club last October and, like Ramshaw, he began his career with Featherstone Rovers. He then moved to Salford and Hull before joining Oldham and has made one appearance for Yorkshire.

Second-rower Fred Hall is an Oldham lad who played amateur football with Waterhead before turning professional with Blackpool Borough. He made his debut in August 1968 at Oldham, the club he eventually joined for £700 in January 1973.

Loose-forward Tony Peters joined Oldham on a free transfer from Leigh in August 1973. He has developed tremendously whilst at Water-sheddings and has been one of Oldham's best forwards this season. Peters is a product of Leigh junior football who first turned professional in June 1971.

Although there are no big name stars in this Oldham line-up, they are a well balanced side which has been skilfully assembled by former Saints coach, Jim Challinor, who will be a delighted man if his plans to sink Saints this afternoon meet with success.

COACHING WALL CHARTS

The Rugby Football League have produced a brightly coloured wall chart to boost the new National Coaching scheme. The chart, partly sponsored by Mitre Sports and manufactured by Educational Design Limited has been produced in collaboration with the League's National Coaches, Laurie Gant and Albert Fearnley. It is available from Rugby League Headquarters, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4HT price £1.00 plus 15p. postage. The chart outlines the basic skills of our game in an attractive and modern manner.

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1st TEAM APPEARANCES AND TRY SCORERS (Up to and including Saturday 31/1/76)

	App	BBC2		Lancs Cup		Players		League		TOTAL	
		G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
Benyon	20		3		2		2		2		9
Campbell	1								4		4
Charles	13										
Chisnall	24		1				1		2		4
Courtney	2										
Coslett	17	1		7		6		20		34	
Cunningham, E.	19						2		2		4
Cunningham T.	1										
Eckersley	21		1		1		2	3	8	3	12
Glynn	3										
Gwilliam, K.	16								1		1
Gwilliam, A.	4										
Heaton	24	1D	1						5	1D	6
Hope	6						1				1
Hull	26		3						2		5
James	20										
Jones	26		5		4		5		9		23
Karalius	12						1				1
Liptrot	18										
Mantle	22		2		1		1		3		7
Mara	5		2						1		3
Mathias	24		3		1		4		4		12
Nicholls	19				1				2		3
Pimblett	24	20	1			8	1	36	3	64	5
		1D						1D		2D	
Pinner	1										
Wilson	22		4				1		5		10
TOTALS	390	21	26	7	10	14	21	59	53	101	110
		2D						1D		3D	

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SAINTS CLUB NEWS

SAINTS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

On the 23rd February the Saints Development Society will be starting their own **10p Bingo Ticket** with over £300 in prizes weekly. Anyone wishing to take a quantity of tickets on a commission basis, please contact the Pools Office.

This ticket has no connection with any other club and all proceeds will go to the betterment of the St. Helens Football Club.

Re-arranged fixtures

The game at Oldham which was abandoned through fog on 14th December has now been re-arranged for Wednesday, 24th March, kick-off 7.30 p.m. Welcome to our two new signings, Derek Noonan who joined us from Warrington and Alan Ashton from Widnes. Both have settled down well and have been impressive in training this week and could both be included in the panel from which today's team will be selected. We wish them every success for their future with the Saints.

Supporters' Club Night last Tuesday was a great success. Our thanks to Saints' players George Nicholls, Eric Chisnall and Kel Coslett, who stood in on the panel when celebrities David Watkins and Chris Hesketh were unable to attend owing to the re-arranged Salford game. Our Supporters' Association thanks also to Peter Banner, Mick Naughton and Les Woodhead who completed the panel.

Next week sees the First Round of the Challenge Cup ties and we are looking for good support for our team at Hull, so please enquire about coaches from our Supporters' Association who will be in attendance in the Cabaret Room after today's match. The full draw for the Challenge Cup tie is as follows:

Saturday, 14th February, 1976

Castleford	v.	Salford
Huddersfield	v.	Leeds

Sunday, 15th February, 1976

Bramley	v.	Wigan	Leigh	v.	Pointer Panthers
Doncaster	v.	Barrow	New Hunslet	v.	Blackpool B.
Featherstone R.	v.	Wakefield T.	Rochdale H.	v.	Bradford N.
Halifax	v.	Keighley	Warrington	v.	Leigh Miners Welfare
Hull	v.	St. Helens	Widnes	v.	Batley
Hull K. R.	v.	Whitehaven	Workington T.	v.	Swinton
Huyton	v.	Oldham	York	v.	Dewsbury

All the best from Pilkington.



"A" Team News

Leading positions in the Combination Table are as follows:

LANCASHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

Compiled up to and including Saturday, 24th January, 1976

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
Wigan.....	15	12	—	3	290	214	24
St. Helens.....	11	9	1	1	204	110	19
Warrington.....	12	7	1	4	222	134	15
Rochdale H.	12	7	1	4	163	117	15
Oldham.....	9	7	—	2	171	77	14
Widnes.....	10	5	1	4	129	125	11
Swinton.....	12	5	—	7	161	196	10
Leigh.....	12	2	1	9	175	252	5
Barrow.....	13	2	1	10	114	237	5
Salford.....	10	2	—	8	69	155	4
Huyton.....	8	1	—	7	95	176	2

We now have much headway to make up on leaders Wigan although if we manage to win our games in hand then the race for the Combination Title will be very close indeed.

UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

BARLA will be staging their trial match at Fartown, Huddersfield on Saturday, 21st February, 1976 when Lancashire Colts, organised by Graham Starkey, take on Yorkshire Colts who are under the wings of Garth Budge. This will be an important game for all the players concerned because on March 7th an English Colts XIII visit Cannes in the first of two internationals against the French Colts. The return international takes place at Odsal Stadium, Bradford on Sunday, 28th March, 1976 kick off 2.00 p.m.

Local players in the Lancashire side are:

Gary Irvine (St. Helens), Tony Darlington (Widnes), Brian Harvey (St. Helens), Brian Parkes (St. Helens), John Canning (St. Helens), Graham Webster (St. Helens), Ian Lea (St. Helens) Willis Marshall (Widnes), Dennis Nulty (St. Helens), John Law (Widnes) and Harold Pinner (St. Helens).

CUP FINAL GUEST

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party will present the Rugby League Challenge Cup to the captain of the victorious team at Wembley on May 8th. It will be Mrs. Thatcher's first 'live' rugby league match and it is very fitting that the Rugby League's guest of honour should be a woman with 1976 being such a notable year for the fairer sex.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

The team have chosen Eric Chisnall to be the Players Representative on the Supporters Club Committee. Eric has already shown his enthusiasm at our last two meetings.

Coaches to Hull

Reservations for the trip to Hull Sunday next, can be made in the Foyer of the Cabaret Room, immediately after today's match. Bookings can also be made at the Souvenir Shop next Mon., Tues., and Thurs.—9th, 10th, and 12th between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. Departing times are Ground and Birchley Street 10.45 a.m. Ship Hotel Blackbrook 11.00 a.m. So follow the team in this our first step to Wembley.

We would like to apologise for the delay in the issuing of Membership Cards. We have incurred two problems. These have now been resolved, but unfortunately the cards are still not available. The cards are now at the printers and we hope to issue them very shortly.

With John Mantle's Testimonial drawing to a close, Members may like to make a note of the final events.

10th February	A Sports Quiz	Exchange Vaults, Union Street.
17th February	A Concert	Nupro Club, Ashton-in-Makerfield
18th February	The Bernard Manning Show	Cabaret Room, Knowsley Road
25th February	Challenge Darts Match	British Legion, Liverpool Road
2nd March	Sports Quiz	Princess Royal, Park Road.
9th March	Concert	Haydock No. 1 Labour Club

So come along to these events and make this a Bumper Testimonial for John.

Tickets available from the Testimonial Committee or from the Supporters' Club Committee.

PONTINS HOLIDAY

The week long Rugby League holiday at Pontins Holiday Village, Prestatyn, North Wales, will be graced by some of the top names in Rugby League. The Association of Commercial Managers, who are organising this first ever event, are to approach the games big names including players, referees and coaches to make guest visits to the Holiday Village during the week of 24th April—1st May. Chalets are available to the public at £21.00 for three persons plus an additional £6.00 per head for any extra occupants. Sponsors are being obtained for the major events to be staged during the Holiday Week, which will feature seven-a-side competitions, coaching courses, film shows, personality shows and quiz events. Booking details can be obtained from Rugby League Headquarters or any Commercial Manager.

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See inside ticket for list of winning numbers

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'A'
Team

Date	Opponents	Grd.
1975		
Aug. Fri 8	Salford (Charity) (7.30)	A 15-17
Su 17	Swinton (3.00)	A 10-8
F 22	Featherstone (7.30)	H 17-3
Su 31	Oldham (Lancs. Cup) (3.30)	A 19-17
Sept. S 6	Huddersfield (3.00)	A 22-21
S 13	Swinton (L. C. 2nd R.)	A 17-2
T 16	Leeds (7.30)	H 24-2
T 23	Salford (Semi-final L. C.)	H 8-21
Su 28	Blackpool (J. Player) (3.00)	A 36-11
Oct. Su 5	Featherstone (3.30)	A 15-29
W 8	Rochdale (BBC2) (7.30)	A 15-7
Su 12	Australia (3.00)	H 7-32
Tu 22	Whitehaven (BBC2 1st) (7.30)	H 38-10
Nov. Su 9	Batley (J. Player, 2nd) (3.00)	H 47-9
Su 16	Castleford (3.00)	H 22-9
Tu 18	Hull (BBC2, 2nd) (7.25)	H 36-13
S 22	Hull (No. 6)	A 8-9
Su 23	Keighley (3.00)	A Post.
Tu 25	Lancs. v. Other Nat. (7.30)	36-7
Su 30	Huddersfield (3.00)	H 47-3
Dec. Tu 2	Barrow (BBC2) (7.25)	H 11-9
Su 14	Oldham (3.30) (Aband.)	A
Tu 16	Dewsbury (BBC2 Final)	H 22-9
F 26	Wigan (3.00)	A 12-12
Su 28	Hull K.R. (2.45)	A 18-4
1976 Jan. Th 1	Widnes (3.00)	H 12-4
Su 11	Bradford N. (3.00)	H 19-7
S 17	Leeds (3.00)	A 17-8
Tu 20	Swinton (7.30)	H 40-6
Su 25	Warrington (3.00)	H 3-9
S 31	Dewsbury (2.30)	A Post.
Feb. Su 8	Oldham (3.00)	H
Su 15	Hull (Challenge Cup 1st Rd.)	A
F 20	Castleford (7.30)	A
Su 29	Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
Mar. F 5	Salford (7.30)	A
F 12	Wakefield (7.30)	H
F 19	Keighley (7.30)	H
Su 28	Bradford N. (3.30)	A
Tu 30	Salford (7.30)	H
April Su 4	Warrington (3.00)	A
Fri 9	Dewsbury (7.30)	H
Su 11	Wakefield (3.30)	A
F 16	Wigan (3.00)	H
M 19	Widnes (7.30)	A
Su 25	Hull K.R. (3.00)	H

Date	Opponents	Grd.
1975		
Aug. F 29	Leigh (7.30)	H 32-16
Sept. F 5	Wigan (7.30)	H 37-18
S 13	Huyton (3.00)	A 20-9
F 26	Rochdale (L. Shield) (7.30)	H 22-7
Oct. S 4	Barrow (3.00)	A 3-3
Tu 14	Salford (7.30)	A 13-5
S 18	Rochdale (L. Shield) (3.00)	A 11-18
F 31	Widnes (7.30)	A 32-0
Nov. F 7	Rochdale (7.30)	H 21-15
Su 23	St. Helens ARL (3.00)	H 13-3
Dec. S 6	Wigan (3.00)	A 9-23
S 13	Oldham (3.00)	H Post.
S 20	Barrow (3.00)	H 10-8
1976		
Jan. S 3	Swinton (11.30)	A Post.
S 10	Leigh	A 19-5
S 17	Oldham (L. Shield) (3.00)	H 5-10
F 23	Warrington (7.30)	A
Feb. S 7	Oldham (3.00)	A
S 14	Oldham (3.00)	H
S 21	Swinton (3.00)	H
Mar. S 6	Salford (3.00)	H
S 13	Rochdale (3.00)	A
S 20	Swinton (3.00)	A
S 27	Huyton (3.00)	H
April F 2	Warrington (7.30)	H
F 9	Widnes (7.30)	H

Oct. 4th—LANCASHIRE CUP FINAL

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY

1st Round 27th Sep.	2nd Round 9th Nov.
3rd Round 22nd Nov.	1st S.F. 29th Nov.
2nd S.F. 13th Dec.	Final 24th Jan.

May 22nd—PREMIERSHIP CUP FINAL

CHALLENGE CUP

1st Round 15th Feb.	2nd Round 29th Feb.
3rd Round 13th Mar.	1st S.F. 27th Mar.
2nd S.F. 3rd April	Final 8th May