

Today's Line-up

St. Helens

Colours: White Jersey Red 'V'
White Shorts.

1. PIMBLETT, G., Full Back
2. JONES, L., Right Wing
3. BENYON, W., Right Centre
4. NOONAN, D./WILSON, F. H., Left Centre
5. MATHIAS, R., Left Wing
6. GLYNN, P., Stand Off
7. HEATON, J., Scrum Half
8. MANTLE, J., Front Row
9. KARALIUS, A., Hooker
10. COSLETT, K., Front Row
11. NICHOLLS, G., 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
White Shorts.

1. MURPHY, M., Full Back
2. ELLIOTT, M., Right Wing
3. LARDER, P., Right Centre
4. BOTTOM, S., Left Centre
5. BARTON, E., Left Wing
6. TREASURE, D., Stand Off
7. McCONE, M., Scrum Half
8. RAMSHAW, T., Front Row
9. TAYLOR, K., Hooker
10. KEAR, B., Front Row
11. HALL, F., Second Row
12. FLANAGHAN, K., Second Row
13. PETERS, A., Loose Forward

Substitutes:

14. BLAIR, J.
15. HUGHES

Referee: Mr. P. GERAGHTY (York)

Touch Judges: Mr. R. J. Percival Mr. D. Bowes

T	G	D/G	Pts

WELCOME TO KNOWSLEY RD.

SAINTS REVIEW

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

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP 3rd ROUND



Today's Match Ball Sponsors—J. A. CASE (Estate Agents)



Picture by courtesy of Rugby Leaguer

SAINTS v. OLDHAM

Sunday, 14th March, 1976

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Programme

10p

Programme edited by G. Sutcliffe

Filmset and printed Litho by Lockie Press Ltd., Golborne, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.

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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

Oldham's 8-7 win here in the First Division last month was their first win over Saints at Knowsley Road since December 1961 and one has to go back to autumn 1957 for their last cup victory on this ground (writes Don Yates). On that occasion they hammered Saints 29-9 in a Lancashire Cup semi-final but since then Oldham have suffered many cup disappointments at the hands of St. Helens. These clubs last met in this competition during season 1971-72 when Saints won a first round tie at Watersheddings 8-6 after which, perhaps significantly, they went on to win the trophy with a 16-13 victory over Leeds at Wembley. Oldham's last cup visit to Knowsley Road was last spring in the opening round of the Premiership play-off when Saints gave a masterly performance in demolishing Oldham to the tune of 42 points to 5. Earlier this season these two sides met in the first round of the Lancashire Cup when Oldham staged an exciting recovery when, after finding themselves 19-2 in arrears they rocked Saints with three tries in the last ten minutes and almost snatched victory before going down 19-17 to a bemused Saints side.

One of the most exciting Challenge Cup-ties between Oldham and St. Helens in recent seasons was the second round thriller at Watersheddings in February 1969. Because of bad weather conditions on the original date, the match was postponed and played on a Tuesday evening 10 days later but this did not stop a crowd of 14,200 turning up to watch this cup classic. Oldham had lost only three of their previous 11 home games whilst Saints had suffered only two defeats in 23 outings so the scene was set for an exciting evening in which Oldham were hoping to avenge their Lancashire Cup Final defeat by Saints earlier in the season. The teams lined up as follows:

Oldham: Derek Whitehead; Mike Elliott, Jim Crellin, Phil Larder, Tommy Davies; Wilf Briggs, Tommy Canning; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Geoff Fletcher, Bob Irving, Charlie McCourt and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Trevor Buckley and Alan Ogden.

St. Helens: Ken Williams; John Wills, Bill Benyon, Frank Myler, Les Jones; Alan Whittle, Tommy Bishop; John Warlow, Bill Sayer, Cliff Watson, Graham Rees, John Mantle and Kel Coslett. Substitutes: Austin Rhodes and Eric Chisnall.

Home advantage is always a great help in cup football and the huge Watersheddings crowd urged on their favourites who led at half-time 6-5 thanks to three well placed penalties by Derek Whitehead. In the second half Saints battled on gamely and gradually wore down the home side to win 15-6. Kel Coslett landed three goals for Saints and there were tries from Bill Benyon, a hotly disputed one, John Mantle and Les Jones, who was later sent off by referee John Hebblethwaite.

A match with as much incidents as that game would certainly satisfy today's paying customers but followers of both clubs will relate that already both Oldham and St. Helens have survived exciting matches in previous rounds. Although Oldham have met two Second Division sides, no club is happy these days with a trip to Huyton or to face the much improved York. In the first round Oldham played steadily at Alt Park to run out deserved 16-4 winners over Huyton but two weeks ago they had more than their share of luck in defeating York 6-5.

After that fantastic win at Salford in the last round, Saints are confident that this is their Wembley year but they also know that in cup football every match is difficult, whether at home or away, and are expecting a tough game this afternoon. The reward for today's winners is a semi-final spot and Saints intend to represent Lancashire at that stage and hopefully, also at Wembley on May 8th.

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(Peter Glynn evades an opponent).



(David Hull tackled by Salford's John Knighton)
Saints v. Salford (R.L.C.C. 2nd Round)

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Meet Today's Opponents

MEET THE ROUGHYEDS

After difficult away Cup wins at Hull and Salford, Saints were relieved to find themselves drawn at home to Oldham in today's quarter-final tie (writes Don Yates). Last month Oldham pulled off a surprise win here with a team containing plenty of character and skill so, even with home advantage, Saints can expect a difficult match.

The Oldham skipper is full-back Martin Murphy, a former Lancashire under-17 star who joined Oldham in April 1967 from the Astley and Tyldesley Colliery side. He is a fine attacking player who has twice represented Lancashire and made one appearance in the England team.

The leading point scorer at Watersheddings last season was centre threequarter Phil Larder with 10 tries and 77 goals. This speedy attacker was signed from Sale RUFC in August 1968 and again this season he leads the point scoring charts at Oldham with four tries and 60 goals.

Alongside Larder, and enjoying his longest run of first team rugby is Stuart Bottom, a tough centre who was signed from Oldham's 'B' team in May 1971.

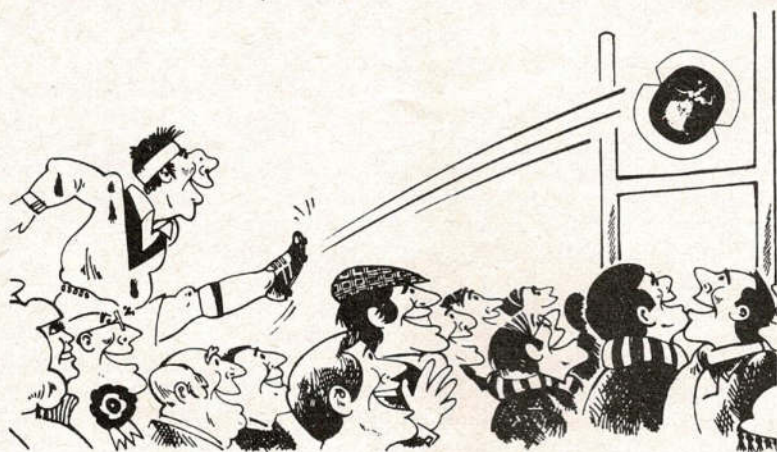
Oldham's leading try scorer both this season and last is the dashing Welshman Mike Elliott who last season scored 22 tries. He has found First Division defences a little more difficult to penetrate this term but has still managed to score 11 tries. Elliott joined Oldham from Cwmcllyn RUFC in August 1962.

The star of the Oldham back division in recent weeks has been stand-off David Treasure who was signed from Bradford Northern for £4,500 in November 1973. Treasure was with the Yorkshire Copper Works side before turning professional with Northern in January 1971. Last summer he made his international debut in Australia when he scored a try for Wales against England in the World Championship and has now made five full international appearances for Wales. He was Bradford's substitute at Wembley in 1973.

Scrum-half Mick McCone has also been in top form and he was the Oldham try scorer in the match here last month. McCone is a product of Wakefield junior football who represented Yorkshire at under-19 level before signing for Doncaster in 1966. He moved to Oldham in January 1972 for a bargain £1,000 fee which he must have repaid several times over.

In Kevin Taylor Oldham have the best uncapped hooker in the game. He joined Oldham from Werneth juniors in October 1962 after representing Lancashire at both schoolboy and under-17 level. Since then Taylor's consistency has seen him make two appearances for England under-24, two for Lancashire and one for the full England side.

Smile please, you're in Greenall Whitley land



The biggest member of the Oldham pack is Terry Ramshaw who stands 6ft 2in. and weighs in at 16 st. 7lbs. This vastly experienced prop is now at the twilight of his career but at 32 he has been showing tremendous form since he joined Oldham and a trip to Wembley would be a nice way to round off such a distinguished career. Ramshaw began his professional career with Featherstone Rovers and then moved to Halifax, Bradford Northern, Wakefield Trinity, Salford and Hull Kingston Rovers before being transferred to Oldham last October for £500. He has played for England under-24 and also for Yorkshire.

Occupying the other propping position will be Barry Kear who also began his career at Featherstone. He then moved to Salford and later to Hull before joining Oldham last October after a collection by the Watersheddings supporters. He played once for Yorkshire whilst at Featherstone.

The only player to have appeared in all Oldham's matches this season is Fred Hall and as this record indicates he is a most consistent forward. Hall turned professional with Blackpool Borough from the Waterhead junior club whose headquarters are less than 100 yards from Watersheddings. He was transferred back to Oldham in January 1973 for £700 and has become a key member of the Oldham pack.

Hall's second-row partner, Kevin Flanagan, is also a product of Oldham junior rugby and he is having his second spell at Watersheddings. He was signed initially in May 1964 but was then allowed to move to Rochdale on a free transfer. Flanagan could not command a regular spot there either and after spells on loan to both Huddersfield and Leigh he returned to Oldham last May again on a free transfer. Since coming into the side at the turn of the year he has shown tremendous form and was the best forward in last weeks home defeat by Wakefield Trinity.

Twenty-five-year-old loose-forward Tony Peters is a product of Leigh junior football who joined the senior Leigh club in June 1971 but after being unable to gain a regular first team spot moved to Oldham on a free transfer in August 1973. Although not a spectacular player, he is solid and reliable and is enjoying his best ever season.

Although this Oldham line-up contains very few big money signings, it has been carefully built up by Jim Challinor into a reliable and hard working unit. Saints will start favourites but they will not have to underestimate their opponents if they are to reverse last months league result and edge a little closer to their supporters' Wembley dreams.



Dave Treasure

Next Home Match

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1st TEAM APPEARANCES AND TRIES up to and including Friday, 5th March

	App.	BBC2		Lancs Cup		Players		R.L.C.C.		League		Total	
		G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
Benyon	25		3		2	2		1		7		15	
Campbell	1												
Charles	15												
Chisnall	29		1			1				2		4	
Courtney	2												
Coslett	21	1		7		6				20		34	
Cunningham, E.	21					2				2		4	
Cunningham, T.	1												
Eckersley	21		1		1	2			3	8	3	12	
Glynn	8							1				1	
Gwilliam, K.	16									1		1	
Gwilliam, A.	4												
Heaton	29	1D	1							5	1D	6	
Hope	6					1						1	
Hull	31		3							2		5	
James	25												
Jones	31		5		4	5		1		10		25	
Karalius	16					1						1	
Liptrot	19												
Mantle	27		2		1	1				3		7	
Mara	5		2							1		3	
Mathias	29		3		1	4				5		13	
Nicholls	22				1					2		3	
Noonan	4							1				1	
Pimblett	29	20	1			8	1	5		43	3	76	5
		1D								1D		2D	
Pinner	1												
Thompson	1												
Wilson	26		4			1				6		11	
TOTALS	465	21	26	7	10	14	21	5	4	66	57	113	118
		2D								1D		3D	

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SAINTS CLUB NEWS

John Mantle Testimonial Fund

Last Wednesday evening John was presented with a record Saints' Testimonial cheque for £4,500 and the thanks of John and his hard working Committee are extended to all supporters who have contributed and supported his many fund raising efforts during his Testimonial year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Saints centre Derek Noonan who was married last Saturday. We wish Derek every happiness and much success in the future.

It was a relief to get back on winning ways in the League Championship race at Dewsbury last Tuesday after four successive League defeats. Although Saints were said to be the luckiest team of the season to come away with two points from Crown Flats. It was nevertheless a great display of tackling by our team which eventually saw us through to a single point victory.

With two home games to come next week against **WAKEFIELD ON WEDNESDAY AND KEIGHLEY ON FRIDAY**, we are poised to make a move up the League which will put us within striking distance of the leaders.

INJURY NEWS—Following the Dewsbury game Nicholls was still troubled with a shoulder injury but Benyon, Mantle and Hull were all expected to have overcome minor injuries and should be fit for today's game. Eddie Cunningham although still troubled by his neck injury, is now making good progress and could be fit in about a week's time.

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CHALLENGE CUP QUIZ

1. What was the attendance at Watersheddings when Oldham and Saints met in the Challenge Cup in 1972?
2. How many times have Oldham won the Cup?
3. When Oldham won the Cup in 1927 their skipper was Bob Sloman, how many times did Sloman play for Great Britain?
4. Oldham were the first Lancashire team to win the Cup in 1899, who did they beat to win the trophy?
5. Has a Cup Final ever been staged at Watersheddings?

Answers on page 19

Supporters, Club Notes

Thanks to the Directors, the Supporters' Club now has its own headquarters. The office which is situated next to the souvenir shop, will be open every weekday evening and on match days, for the benefit of members who wish to make bookings etc. We are pleased to announce that Membership Cards are now ready, and can be collected at the new office, after today's match or any evening next week.

Due to the success of the last "Sports Forum" another Social Evening is planned for Tuesday next. This will be a "Rugby League Evening" and will include films of the 1963 3rd Test between Great Britain and Australia and the 1974 Australia v. Great Britain 2nd Test. The highlight of the evening will be a Sports Quiz between Saints and Wigan Past and Present Players. The line up includes such former players as Johnny Lawerson, Billy Blam, Tommy Bradshaw, Wilf Smith, Graham Rees and Ken Large. They will be supported by International centres Dave Willicombe, Bill Francis, Billy Benyon and Frank Wilson. Tickets 40p will be on sale after today's match and on Monday evening at the Club Office. Date to remember is Tuesday 16th March, Show starts at 7.30 p.m.

The Committee would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused in travelling to Dewsbury. A coach had been arranged but at 6.30 Monday evening no bookings had been received. It is unfortunate, but we must confirm with the Coach Proprietors at least 24 hours prior to the match. It is hoped that next seasons fixtures will be more consistent and revert to the old formula of home and away alternatively. This would enable us to arrange coaches well in advance and so avoid disappointment to our members. Bookings for the coaches to Oldham Wednesday, 24th March and Bradford Sunday, 28th March, may be made from Monday onwards.

This week starts a new feature—A Supporters Club Quiz. The first all correct entry drawn will receive two stand tickets for the Salford match.

1. Who played loose forward in the 1952-53 Championship Final?
2. From which club did Saints sign Berwyn Jones?
3. Who was top try scorer on the 1974 tour of Australia and New Zealand?
4. For which Rugby Union club did J. Mantle play prior to turning professional?
5. Who captained the 1966 Tour of Australia and New Zealand?

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CENTENARY YEAR AT OLDHAM

No matter whether Oldham win here today and go on to Wembley or fall to a disappointing defeat, the year 1976 will be one of great rejoicing for the 'Roughyeds' who, next September, celebrate 100 years of rugby in their town (writes Don Yates). The group of rugby enthusiasts who founded the club at a meeting in the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street, in September 1876 could not have realised that they were launching what was to be one of the most successful rugby organisations in the land.

Since their formation Oldham have won both the First and Second Division Championships, the Lancashire Cup nine times, the Challenge Cup three times and the League Championship on three occasions. The club can claim to have had three outstanding sides with the first coming between 1904 and 1911. In 1904-05 the club won the single division Championship prior to the top four play-off being introduced and then, between 1907 and 1911 they won their way into five successive Championship finals. The first three finals were all lost, one after a replay, but perseverance paid off in the end with two victories in 1910 and 1911.

Oldham's second wonder side was formed in the middle 1920's and became the first and, so far, only side to appear in four successive Challenge Cup Finals. Those finals were 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 and five players, Ernie Knapman, Syd Rix, George Hesketh, Albert Brough and Bob Sloman played in all four finals. The first final drew a record crowd to Rochdale who saw Wigan win 21-4 but the following year it was Oldham's turn to succeed with a 16-3 win over Hull Kingston Rovers. In 1926 Swinton's 'All Four Cups' side beat Oldham 9-3 but 12 months later revenge was gained when Swinton were well beaten 26-7.

That was Oldham's last appearance in the Challenge Cup Final and even their most attractive side of the late 1950's was unable to reach Wembley although they did win every other honour. That side was the best footballing side in the club's history and contained such stars as Bernard Ganley, Alan Davies, Frank Pitchford, Ken Jackson and Derek Turner, not to mention my own favourite John Etty.

The present Oldham side would be the first to admit that they do not possess the star qualities of the three teams mentioned, but this side will be determined to achieve, in their centenary season, what all previous sides have failed to achieve—a trip to Wembley and the final chapter in the 100 year history of Oldham Rugby League Club.

Answers to Challenge Cup Quiz

1. 3,395.
2. Three—in 1899, 1925 and 1927.
3. Five—three v. Australia and two v. New Zealand.
4. Goole (h) 63-0; Warrington (h) 14-0; Bradford (a) 23-3; Widnes (h) 20-0; Leigh (at Broughton) 16-2 and Hunslet in the Final at Fallowfield 19-9.
5. Yes—In 1915 when Huddersfield defeated St. Helens 37-3.

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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
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
Feb. Su 8	Oldham (3.00)	H 7-8
Su 15	Hull (Challenge Cup 1st Rd.)	A 5-3
F 20	Castleford (7.30)	A 10-26
Su 29	Salford (Chall. Cup-2nd Rd.)	A 17-11
Mar. F 5	Salford (7.30)	A 9-10
Tu 9	Dewsbury (7.30)	A
W 17	Wakefield (7.30)	H
F 19	Keighley (7.30)	H
W 24	Oldham (7.30)	A
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
W 14	Keighley (7.30)	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 10-8
Feb. S 7	Oldham (3.00)	A 17-2
S 14	Oldham (3.00)	H 17-0
S 21	Swinton (3.00)	H 36-3
Mar. S 6	Salford (3.00)	H 20-10
S 20	Swinton (3.00)	A
S 24	Rochdale (7.30)	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