

## Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 MUNRO, G.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 JACKSON, K.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 HUGHES, W.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 OWEN, G.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 RYANS, W.
- 13 PETERS, T.
- 14 LUND, S.
- 15 FLANAGAN, K.

Referee:

H. G. HUNT (Prestbury)

## Widnes

- 1 BOLAN, R.
- 2 PRESCOTT, A.
- 3 GEORGE, M.
- 4 JENKINS, D.
- 5 TILLY, S.
- 6 ECKERSLEY, D.
- 7 BISHOP, A.
- 8 STEVENS, J.
- 9 ELWELL, K.
- 10 NELSON M.
- 11 FORAN, J.
- 12 ADAMS, M.
- 13 LAUGHTON, D.
- 14
- 15

E. Glazebrook (Wigan) Orange

A. E. Ryder (Littleborough) Red

### 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

v WIDNES

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**

BRADFORD

K. TAYLOR

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

# OLDHAM v WIDNES

SUNDAY 25th APRIL

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



We've won the Shield! The Oldham "A" team players proudly display their trophy in the dressing room after Saturday's triumph against Salford in the Lancashire Shield final.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TODAY'S MATCH BALL  
presented by  
P. H. SELLARS

8p

# OLDHAM OUTLOOK

IN winding up the season with today's visit of Wembley finalists Widnes to Watersheddings may we take this opportunity of offering sincere congratulations to our "A" team on their triumph in the Lancashire Shield.

Those who have regularly watched the reserves in action this season will appreciate that they have always endeavoured to play with maximum effort and team spirit, combining those qualities with a desire to produce good, open football.

At one time they were on course for a Cup and League double but, in the weeks preceding the Shield final they lapsed a little and their title hopes vanished.

It was no real surprise, however, to find them refinding their poise and purpose when they met Salford last week in the two legs of the Shield final.

The match was really won and lost in the last 15 minutes of the first leg at the Willows when Oldham steadied superbly after seeing Salford creep back to level at 12-12.

Showing the character that has epitomised their displays over the whole season Oldham hit back to score another seven points—a valuable lead with which to enter the second leg.

It was a lead which always looked too big for Salford to pull back and Oldham went on to win 13-5 and thus clinch an aggregate victory of 32-17.

The Lancashire Shield was duly presented to skipper John Hammond by Mrs. Fay Bowden, our own social club manageress, who is wife of committee-man Jack Bowden, the current president of the Lancashire County Rugby League.

Congratulations are in order to all the players who have assisted the "A" team throughout the season and to coach Ken Wilson and the man who has helped him a lot—Brian Churm.

The progress of the "A" team, and some of the younger players in it, has been one of the brightest aspects of the season now ending.

It is widely known by those who regularly read these notes that the opinion of the Oldham club is that "A" team football is still of great importance.

That policy was confirmed at this week's committee meeting when officials sat down to discuss the four outstanding "A" team matches still to be played.

They are against Huyton, home and away, Widnes at home and Swinton away.

As the season is now virtually over we believe many clubs would have taken the opportunity to save expense and cancelled their outstanding "A" team fixtures, particularly as the Combination title has been won by St. Helens.

However, the Oldham committee decided that, where possible, the four remaining matches should be completed and secretary, Kevin Wilkinson, was asked to try and re-arrange them as quickly as possible.

Turning to the first team it goes without saying that there was a big sigh of relief at Watersheddings last Monday when we won at Swinton and Dewsbury were beaten at Wakefield later in the day.

Barring an absolute catastrophe — Widnes would have to win today's game by more than 100 points—we are now safe from relegation.

It has been a torrid few weeks as we have struggled to overcome injuries in the face of a massive fixture pile-up.

And although Swinton were very poor on the day when it really mattered to us, the players representing Oldham summoned up a lot of effort and determination to win comfortably 17-2.

Again one of the brighter aspects of the performance was the form of young forwards Gareth Owen and Steve Herbert.

Herbert, particularly, had an outstanding match and with other youngsters also coming to the fore there is room for cautious optimism that the future is not as bleak as some would have us believe.

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Skipper John Hammond proudly holds the Lancashire Shield aloft as the "A" team players do a lap of honour following their winning performance last Saturday.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

## TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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## OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Oldham bring to an end their First Division campaign this afternoon with a visit from highly successful cup fighters Widnes who have already defeated Oldham once this season in a First Division match on Merseyside. Their 10-5 victory over Oldham last month gives them the opportunity to register their first "double" victory over Oldham since season 1969-70 when they won here 7-5 and then beat Oldham at Naughton Park 25-5.

Oldham's best win over Widnes in recent seasons was at Naughton Park in September 1971 when they won 19-7 in the first leg of a double victory. There was a crowd of 2,000 to watch that Friday evening match with the teams lining up as follows:

Widnes—Mick Adams; Alan Prescott, Mick McLoughlin, Reg Bowden, Johnny Gaydon; Denis O'Neill, Alan Ashton; Alan Walsh, Keith Elwell, Nick Nelson, George Nicholls, Nick Kelly and Ged Lowe. Substitutes: Eric Hughes (for McLoughlin) and Tony Atherton (for Nelson).

Oldham—Martin Murphy; Billy Wilkinson, Phil Larder, Trevor Buckley, Mike Elliott; Alan Kellett, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Bob Irving, Billy Churm, John Alchin and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Tony Scahill (for Kellett) and Gareth Owen (for Churm).

Oldham played exceptionally well that evening and tackled Widnes right off their game and, at the same time, gave a splendid display of handling and backing up with veteran Alan Kellett prompting the side and generally encouraging the younger members of the team. At half-time Oldham led 12-2 and they went on to win 19-7 with tries from Phil Larder, Bob Irving and Ray Clark plus goals from Phil Larder (4) and Alan Kellett. Widnes scored two goals through Mick Adams and a try by Reg Bowden.

Later that season Oldham beat Widnes at Watersheddings 13-7 to complete the double, a feat they have not been able to repeat since that season.

During the past two seasons Widnes have built up a tremendous reputation as cup fighters for last season they won the Lancashire Cup and the Challenge Cup as well as reaching the final of the Player's No. 6 Trophy.

This season they successfully defended the Lancashire Cup and then won the Player's No. 6 Trophy and are now preparing for another trip to Wembley in two weeks time when they meet Saint Helens. In fact, the only cup defeat which Widnes have suffered this season was here at Watersheddings last autumn in the Floodlit Cup when Oldham beat Widnes 16-10 in an exciting and controversial match. Because of the tremendous involvement Widnes have had in cup football this season, their League programme has suffered slightly and the Chemics have slipped down the table recently after looking Championship challengers for most of the season. The biggest blow to Widnes's First Division hopes came with the double defeat to League favourites Featherstone Rovers and Leeds also beat Widnes twice, with the defeat at Huddersfield being particularly heavy at 37-3. On the credit side Widnes scored double victories over Huddersfield (21-9 at home and 15-14 away), Bradford Northern (23-5 home, 13-8 away), Swinton (17-5 home, 7-3 away) and Dewsbury (21-13 home, 19-1 away) so will be out to complete their fifth double this afternoon.

Oldham cannot afford to face another defeat and go into today's game determined to repeat last autumn's Floodlit Cup victory but they also know that only a tremendous effort will see them ending their First Division season on a winning note.

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## Brian Batty

The decision to return to a Great Britain squad for next year's World championship in Australia and New Zealand will have surprised few people in the game.

With so much planning to be completed with fixtures, venues and travel for the competition it was clear the Council had not a lot of time to waste.

They obviously appreciated that the present position surrounding the Welsh set-up was against them continuing in the competition.

The stalwarts of the pack in John Mantle, Kel Coslett, Tony Fisher, Colin Dixon and Bobby Wanbon have given admirable service.

But like skipper David Watkins they have to accept the inevitable, especially when considered in the light of the much younger sides that both Australia and England could field.

Wales still had a say in the destiny of the world title with their defeat of England in Brisbane and they contributed to fine games in New Zealand and in the return match against England at Warrington.

They even managed to finish third in the final championship table pipping New Zealand on scoring average.

But with the source of players from the Welsh Rugby Union market virtually drying up during the last 12 months, the future had begun to look distinctly bleak at international level.

The League have wisely left a loophole for the future, stating that the position will be reviewed if a number of the right players are suddenly recruited from Wales.

The competition for the Great Britain squad in 12 months' time will now be that much fiercer for there are still several Welsh players around worthy of serious consideration.

With wingers of the ability of John Bevan, Roy Mathias and Maurice Richards and centres of the class of Bill Francis and Dave Willicombe there will be a healthy challenge for places in the back division.

If the whispers of possible signings from Wales actually materialise into exciting deals then there could be plenty of cultured voices joining in Mardi Gras on Great Britain's trek across Australia.

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Assistant Coach: K. WILSON

Physiotherapist: S. TAYLOR

Assistant Physiotherapist: B. CHURM

Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

## FIXTURES 1975-76

| 1975                              | F. A. 1975                                |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup) .....A | 29- 2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...A | 12- 7 |
| 17—Warrington .....A              | Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...H       | 29-10 |
| 24—Keighley .....H                | 13-12 20—Wigan .....H                     | —     |
| 31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup)...H    | 17-19 Oct. 4—Swinton .....H               |       |
| Sept. 7—Featherstone .....A       | 5-27 18—Warrington .....H                 |       |
| 14—Lancashire Cup—round 2         | 25—Leigh .....H                           | 38-17 |
| 21—Wigan .....H                   | 10-24 Nov. 14—Salford .....A              |       |
| 28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A        | 17- 8 29—Rochdale .....A                  |       |
| Oct. 5—Keighley .....A            | 17- 8 Dec. 6—Salford .....H               |       |
| 12—Huddersfield .....H            | 17-28 13—St. Helens .....A                |       |
| 18—Leeds .....A                   | 15-18 20—Huyton .....H                    |       |
| 26—Wakefield .....A               | 23-18 27—Barrow .....H                    |       |
| Nov. 2—Dewsbury .....H            | 15- 6 1976                                |       |
| 9—Players' No. 6—round 2          | 10-37 Jan. 10—Swinton .....A              |       |
| 16—Salford .....H                 | 14-19 23—Widnes .....A                    |       |
| 22—Huddersfield .....A            | 11-12 31—Rochdale .....H                  |       |
| 30—Leeds .....H                   | — Feb. 7—St. Helens .....H                |       |
| Dec. 21—Bradford .....A           | 20-14 21—Wigan .....H                     |       |
| 26—Swinton .....H                 | 25- 5 Mar. 5—Warrington .....A            |       |
| Jan. 1—Salford .....A             | 8- 8 13—Leigh .....H                      |       |
| 4—Castleford .....H               | 6- 8 20—Widnes .....H                     |       |
| 11—Hull K.R. ....H                | 10- 3 27—Barrow .....A                    |       |
| 18—Dewsbury .....A                | 16- 4 Apr. 3—Huyton .....A                |       |
| 25—Widnes .....H                  | P.                                        |       |
| Feb. 8—St. Helens .....A          | 8- 7                                      |       |
| 21—Wigan .....A                   | 7-16                                      |       |
| Mar. 7—Wakefield .....H           | 5-10                                      |       |
| 30—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)...A     |                                           |       |
| Apr. 2—Castleford (7-30 p.m.)...A |                                           |       |
| 4—Featherstone (3-30 p.m.)...H    |                                           |       |
| 7—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)...H      |                                           |       |
| 11—Bradford N. (3-30 p.m.)...H    |                                           |       |
| 16—Hull K.R. (2-45 p.m.)...A      |                                           |       |
| 19—Swinton (3-00 p.m.)...A        |                                           |       |
| 25—Widnes (3-30 p.m.)...H         |                                           |       |

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