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2nd prize: 50 pints of beer in the pub of your choice.

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How to enter

On the photograph, the Rugby Ball has been removed. Using your skill and judgement decide the most likely place the ball would be and mark the position with a cross. Whoever places the ball closest to where our panel of experts decide it should be will be judged the winner. Then fill in your name and address and hand your entry in at the bar of your Burtonwood Pub or Club. Closing date November 7th 1976.

RULES

- 1) One entry per person only.
- 2) The judges decision is final. Judges will be impartial experts appointed by Burtonwood Brewery (Forshaw's) Ltd., hereinafter called the Company.
- 3) Employees of the company and its agents, or their relatives are ineligible.
- 4) All entries become the property of the Company.
- 5) All entrants must be over eighteen years of age when they enter.
- 6) No correspondence will be entered into.
- 7) "Free beer for a year" means 365 pints of beer served in the Burtonwood public house nominated by the winner. Any beer unclaimed one year after the presentation of the prize will be forfeit. Pints need not be claimed daily and may be allowed to accumulate, but such accumulated quantities will be served in any one session at the discretion of the landlord.
- 8) The accumulation rule and discretion of the landlord will apply to the second prize of 50 free pints of beer also.
- 9) Winners will be notified by post, and results of the competition will be published in the Competitors Journal.

Name _____

Address _____

I would like my free beer at _____ (Pub or Club)

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them.

Signed _____

Centenary Season

OLDHAM V

LEEDS

SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Kick Off 3-30 p.m.

TODAY'S MATCH BALL
presented by
SADDLEWORTH SPORTS CENTRE
Chew Valley Road
Greenfield

10p

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THE PAVILION, WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM

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Social Club Manageress: Mrs. E. BOWDEN, Tel. 061-624 7240

Coach: J. CHALLINOR

Assistant Coach: K. WILSON

Physiotherapist: F. NEVESEY

Assistant Physiotherapist: B. CHURM

Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLLEY

HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55.

First Division Champions: 1904-05.

Second Division Champions: 1963-64.

Rugby League Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26.

Lancashire Cup winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69.

Lancashire Championship winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55.



Oldham 1976-77. Standing (left to right): Frank Nevesey (physiotherapist), Gareth Owen, Kevin Flanagan, Brian Hughes, Warren Ryans, Barry Kear, Steve Herbert, Bob Welding, Mike Elliott, Phil Holmes, Tony Wainwright, David Treasure, Terry Ramshaw. Kneeling: Steve Lund, Tony Peters, John Paterson, Martin Murphy, Kevin Taylor, John Blair, Phil Larder.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

MAY we take this opportunity of welcoming you all back to Watersheddings after the summer lay-off for what is not only our first home league game of 1976-77—our centenary season—but one of the best we could have hoped for to launch us off on a new campaign.

Leeds are always attractive opponents and today's team from Headingley will be no exception.

After the bitter disappointment of losing at Blackpool in the first round of the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup let us hope we can kick-off our home league programme on the right foot today against one of the better sides of the First Division.

The defeat at Blackpool was indeed a disaster. Not only were we on the wrong end of one of the biggest R.L. upsets for years but Phil Larder and Dickie Brown suffered serious injuries which are going to keep them out of action for several months.

Phil broke a bone in his right arm and two or three days later had to go into hospital in Oldham for an operation to have the arm "pinned".

Dickie badly dislocated a shoulder to add to our scrum-half problems.

In wishing both players speedy recoveries and a return to full fitness may we point out that ill luck appears to have dogged us yet again in our efforts to get off to a good start.

Last year, you will recall, Johnnie Farrell went down with illness on a training run before the start and will never play again.

Incidentally, it was good to see John at Blackpool. He is keeping as well as can be expected and is, in fact, putting his efforts and interests into helping with the running of a youth club in the Wigan area, where he lives.

He has been appointed chairman of the new club which is doing a lot of work in aid of old folk and other worthy causes.

This year, alas, it has been the turn of our coach, Jim Challinor. He was unwell for much of the early summer and, following visits to his doctor and then a specialist, he went into hospital for the removal of a kidney.

About a month elapsed and then he went back into hospital for a more minor type of operation.

The latest report we have is that Jim is progressing well at his Warrington home and that he is as well as can be expected.

It goes without saying, of course, that we wish him well in his recovery and hope that it will not be long before he is back with us at Watersheddings.

In the meantime Ken Wilson has stepped up from the "A" team to take charge of the senior side. We were fortunate to have a man of Ken's capabilities on the staff and it says much for his regard for the club that he was not only able but also willing to step into the breach in a temporary capacity.

The same applies to Brian Churm, who is now looking after the "A" team.

He had his first success recently with the easy two-leg victory against Huyton "A" in the first round of the Lancashire Shield—a competition we have to win again if we want to keep the shield at Watersheddings.

Even in that game we suffered a blow when John Paterson was sent off. John immediately ran to the referee before leaving the field to show him teeth marks in his arm. It was this, he claimed, that led him to retaliate as he did.

John will be making a personal appearance before the next meeting of the R.L. disciplinary committee and we will all be keeping fingers crossed that justice is done.

Apart from any other consideration John is our only recognised No. 7 during Mick McCone's absence and Dickie Brown's injury lay-off.

In closing may we welcome to the club a new physiotherapist in Mr. Frank Nevesey. The word "new" is perhaps wrong for Frank was with us for several years during the 1950s. Now he is back—and we all wish him a long and happy stay.



John Blair scoring his try in the 21-21 draw with Rochdale Hornets in the Law Cup.
Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

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Oldham FC Down the Years

(The start of a new Centenary-season series by TOM WEBB)

OLDHAM F.C. is generally believed to have been formed in 1873 but extensive research has convinced me that it was formed in September, 1876. I have examined every available copy of the Oldham Chronicle, Oldham Standard and Oldham Express for the 1870s and the first reference to the club was a small advertisement in the Oldham Evening Express for a match to be played at Glodwick on the afternoon of October 21, 1876, between Oldham F.C. and Stalybridge F.C.

The Oldham Standard report of the game was brief and to the point: "A football match was played on Saturday between the Oldham and Stalybridge clubs and the game resulted in a victory for the latter team, who secured two goals, two tries and three touchdowns against one try and three touchdowns scored by the Oldham club".

Confirmatory evidence is found in the Athletic News of December 8, 1877, which stated that about the middle of September, 1876, a meeting to form the club was held and the principal promoters were Messrs. F. Wild, J. and A. M. Fletcher, W. Chadwick and W. Buckley.

The meeting probably took place at the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street West, and it followed a challenge match, I am given to understand, between members of the Oldham Lyceum and Werneth Rangers.

The latter are believed to have been the first football team in the town whose players learned their game at school.

As expected, the Lyceum members lost easily but the game provided the necessary impetus that led to the formation of Oldham F.C.

The club secured a field at the back of the Glodwick Spinning Company's mill and the players dressed at the Shakespeare Hotel, Glodwick. The headquarters were at the Black Swan Hotel, Bottom o' th' Moor, and the first match was on Glodwick Downs.

At the start of the second season the Athletic News, in reviewing the club, said: "For a new organisation they have done extremely well".

The operative word is "new" which gives credence to the establishment of the club in 1876 as does the Oldham Chronicle of 1901 when reviewing Oldham F.C.'s handbook of that year. It specifically mentions the establishment in September, 1876, according to Smirk's Handbook which was once very popular.

The club's annual dinner was held in April, 1878, when the Oldham Standard commented on the excellent progress made by the club which "was barely two years old".

I have found very few references to the names of players representing the club in its first season but in the second year the club's playing membership included some very prominent Oldham citizens.

Other first team fixtures in season 1876-77 were against Cheetham Hill, Free Wanderers, Rochdale Hornets 2nd, Whitworth Rangers, Birch 2nd, Bridgewater, Cheetham, Stretford Rovers, a Weaste XV and Cavendish.

Some clubs were played twice, producing 16 matches, seven of which were won, six lost and three drawn. In fact, the club went eight matches without a win but in the latter half of the season won seven and lost only one of its eight games.

(To be continued)

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Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 JACKSON, K.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 BLAIR, J.
- 7 TREASURE, D.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HUGHES, W.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 WELDING, R.
- 13 PETERS, T.
- 14 PATERSON, J.
- 15

Referee:
W. A. ALLEN (York)

T G Dg P

Leeds

- 1 MARSHALL, D.
- 2 SMITH, A.
- 3 HAGUE, N.
- 4 DYL, L.
- 5 SMITH, D.
- 6 HOLMES, J.
- 7 BANNER, P.
- 8 HARRISON, M.
- 9 WARD, D.
- 10 WHITE, B.
- 11 ECCLES, G.
- 12 DICKENS, S.
- 13 COOKSON, P.
- 14 DICK, K.
- 15 ADAMS, B.

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OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

THIS afternoon Watersheddings stages its first competitive match of the 1976-77 season with Oldham entertaining attractive Yorkshire opposition in the shape of Leeds who are the present holders of the Yorkshire Cup (writes Don Yates). Although Oldham enter this match having lost both their opening matches, the performance at Widnes last Sunday was most encouraging and showed that lessons had been learned from the previous abysmal show at Blackpool.

Last season Leeds scored a league double over Oldham, but only after the controversy surrounding the unheard hooter in the first match which saw Leeds cross for the winning try in extra time and so gain an 18-15 win. Here at Watersheddings the game was just as tight with Leeds scraping through 12-11, whilst their visit here in 1974 ended in an 8-8 draw.

Although matches between these two clubs at Watersheddings have been close, it has been a far different story at Headingley where Oldham have suffered a couple of heavy defeats in recent years. At the beginning of season 1971-72 Oldham travelled to Leeds just 10 days after giving the Loiners all sorts of problems at Watersheddings and they hoped to improve on that rather unfortunate 16-12 home defeat. Making his debut for Oldham at Headingley that afternoon was winger Norman Hodgkinson, whilst back substitute for Leeds was Tony Wainwright, at present starring in the Oldham line-up. The teams took the field as follows:

Leeds: David Hick; Alan Smith, Syd Hynes, John Holmes, John Langley; Alan Hardisty, Barry Seabourne; Ted Barnard, David Ward, Phil Cookson, Bill Ramsey, Bob Haigh and Ray Batten. Substitutes: Tony Wainwright (for Hardisty) and Graham Eccles (for Batten).

Oldham: Johnny Blair; Mike Elliott, Joe Collins, Trevor Buckley, Norman Hodgkinson; Martin Murphy, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Eddie Bowden, Dick Bonser, Bob Irving, Billy Churm and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Ged Smith and Frank Walker (for Bonser).

Oldham's experiment of playing Martin Murphy at stand-off was partly successful for up to half-time his lively play kept Oldham in the game, but the crowd of 6,630 realised who the final winners would be when Leeds turned round in front by 18 points to nine. In the second-half Leeds piled up a further 30 points with their exciting brand of open football which would have been too much for any side, and Oldham should have been pleased with their contribution to a fine game despite being on the wrong end of a 49-12 scoreline. Both Oldham's tries were scored by Mike Elliott, whilst the dependable boot of Johnny Blair landed Oldham's three goals. John Holmes scored 22 of Leeds' points with 8 goals and two tries, with the other 9 tries coming from Alan Hardisty (2), David Ward (2), Bill Ramsey (2), David Hick, John Langley and Graham Eccles.

Oldham will be hoping for a far better result today, but Leeds, so far, are undefeated, having overcome both Bradford Northern and Castleford to reach the Yorkshire Cup semi-final and then drawing with Featherstone Rovers in the opening league encounter. They have strengthened their already formidable back division by signing Dave Smith from Wakefield and Peter Banner from Featherstone for a total of £16,000, so will be aiming to justify this expenditure with a victory, although if Oldham perform as creditably as they did last Sunday it is sure to be another close result and one which could go either way.

SEPTEMBER 26th K.O. 3.30

Oldham v Wigan

Brian Batty

THE advocates of summer rugby may have been silenced for good by the long spell of blistering weather that has left its mark on the country.

The sunshine we appreciated as the Cup Final teams prepared for Wembley as long ago as May overstayed its welcome as far as many sporting officials are concerned.

It seemed bad enough when the temperatures took off to reach the ton at Wembley but it is the months of July and August that have seen the damage to cricket, rugby and soccer pitches.

A great many players who have toured Australia in recent seasons must have imagined they were back in Queensland as they resumed training.

The first problems to greet club officials were the jarred limbs and blistered feet suffered by the training squads but now the worry is whether there will be a spate of serious injuries.

Oldham were left to count the cost of the early loss of centre Phil Larder (broken arm) and scrum-half Dickie Brown (dislocated shoulder) which they insisted was the result of rock-hard surfaces.

Even in training the players have been finding it tough going and England skipper Roger Millward reckons he has not played on any harder pitches in all his five trips to Australia.

Yet true to character the iron men of League have got on with the game and refused to shirk the issue.

They have spared nothing in the games I have seen and might well have been playing on Dunlopillo as they dived into the tackles.

One particular outstanding example of courage was the way Warrington's young centre, Steve Hesford, who has shaped well considering the short spell he has spent as a professional, ignored injury for the sake of his team.

He returned in the Forshaw's Lancashire Cup-tie after being carried off on a stretcher, and after kicking a goal and hobbling along the wing was warned he might have suffered a break in the leg he damaged last season.

He had taken a blow just above the spot where he had the first break but when I asked him in the dressing room if he was going for a check-up he calmly dismissed such talk.

It was only when the club insisted he go for X-rays was it found that he had broken the leg in the same place.

With this sort of dedication and pluck then Rugby League cannot go far wrong.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

THE Supporters Club are holding a Jumble Sale to raise funds on Tuesday, September 14, at 6-30 p.m. Anyone who has anything we can sell please let any of the Committee know and we will be out collecting the night before.

COACHES FOR LEIGH (kick-off 3-30)

Because of the Illuminations we have to book our coaches early before the match, so if you wish to go and don't want to be left disappointed please book today. We will be leaving the Social Club at 2-30. Don't forget members get a reduction in fares.

If you wish to join the Supporters Club forms are available in any canteen today. Adults 50p, juniors 25p.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 9: Seconds Party of well known branded goods. Tickets on sale next home match. Buy early, they were soon sold for our last party.

Rugby League Guides on sale in the Souvenir Shop, 50p. Full of information and good value at 50p.

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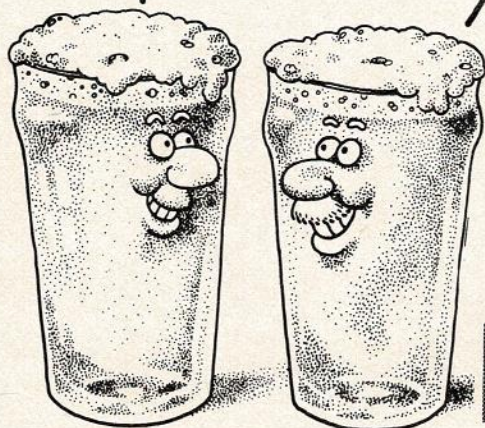
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FIXTURES 1976-77

FIRST TEAM				"A" TEAM			
1976	Date	Opponents	Ground F. A.	1976	Date	Opponents	Ground F. A.
	Aug. 22—(Sun.)	1st Round County Cup—Blackpool (3-00)	A		Aug. 21—(Sat.)	Huyton L.S. (3-00)	A 36-4
	Sept. 5—(Sun.)	Widnes (3-00)	A		28—(Sat.)	Huyton L.S. (3-00)	H 25-9
	12—(Sun.)	Leeds (3-30)	H		20-22 Sept. 4—(Sat.)	Widnes (3-00)	H
	19—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	A		18—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	H
	26—(Sun.)	Wigan (3-30)	H		25—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	A
	Oct. 3—(Sun.)	Wakefield T. (3-30)	A		Oct. 2—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	H
	10—(Sun.)	Barrow (3-30)	H		9—(Sat.)	Barrow (2-30)	A
	15—(Fri.)	Castleford 7-30	A		15—(Fri.)	Widnes (7-30)	A
	23/24—(Sat./Sun.)	Player's No. 6			Nov. 13—(Sat.)	Barrow (3-00)	H
	1st Round				20—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00)	A
	31—(Sun.)	Bradford N. (3-30)	H		27—(Sat.)	Workington (2-30)	A
	Nov. 6/7—(Sat./Sun.)	Player's No. 6			Dec. 18—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	H
	2nd Round				1977		
	14—(Sun.)	Barrow (2-30)	A		Jan. 8—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00)	H
	21—(Sun.)	St. Helens (3-30)	H		15—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	A
	28—(Sun.)	Workington T. (3-30)	H		22—(Sat.)	Workington (3-00)	H
	Dec. 5—(Sun.)	Featherstone R. (2-30)	A		Feb. 5—(Sat.)	Huyton (3-00)	H
	12—(Sun.)	Featherstone R. (3-30)	H		18—(Fri.)	Warrington (7-30)	A
	19—(Sun.)	Wigan (3-00)	A		25—(Fri.)	Rochdale (7-30)	A
	26—(Sun.)	Rochdale H. (3-30)	H		Mar. 12—(Sat.)	Warrington (3-00)	H
	1977				19—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	A
	Jan. 2—(Sun.)	Salford (3-00)	A		26—(Sat.)	Huyton (3-00)	A
	9—(Sun.)	St. Helens (3-00)	A		Apr. 9—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H
	16—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	H				
	23—(Sun.)	Workington T. (2-30)	A				
	30—(Sun.)	Wakefield T. (3-30)	H				
	Feb. 6—(Sun.)	Hull K.R. (2-45)	A				
	12/13—(Sat./Sun.)	Challenge Cup					
	1st Round						
	20—(Sun.)	Warrington (3-30)	H				
	26/27—(Sat./Sun.)	Challenge Cup					
	2nd Round						
	Mar. 12—(Sat.)	Leeds (3-00)	A				
	20—(Sun.)	Castleford (3-30)	H				
	27—(Sun.)	Bradford N. (3-30)	A				
	Apr. 3—(Sun.)	Salford (3-30)	H				
	8—(G.F.)	Rochdale H. (3-00)	A				
	11—(E.M.)	Hull K.R. (3-30)	H				
	17—(Sun.)	Warrington (3-00)	A				
	24—(Sun.)	Widnes (3-30)	H				

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IN MONDAY'S

OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 JACKSON, K.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 BLAIR, J.
- 7 TREASURE, D.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HUGHES, W.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 WELDING, R.
- 13 PETERS, T.
- 14 PATERSON, J.
- 15

Referee:

W. A. ALLEN (York)

Sunday 12th September

Leeds

- 1 MARSHALL, D.
- 2 SMITH, A.
- 3 HAGUE, N.
- 4 DYL, L.
- 5 SMITH, D.
- 6 HOLMES, J.
- 7 BANNER, P.
- 8 HARRISON, M.
- 9 WARD, D.
- 10 WHITE, B.
- 11 ECCLES, G.
- 12 DICKENS, S.
- 13 COOKSON, P.
- 14 DICK, K.
- 15 ADAMS, B.

J. Casey (St. Helens)

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