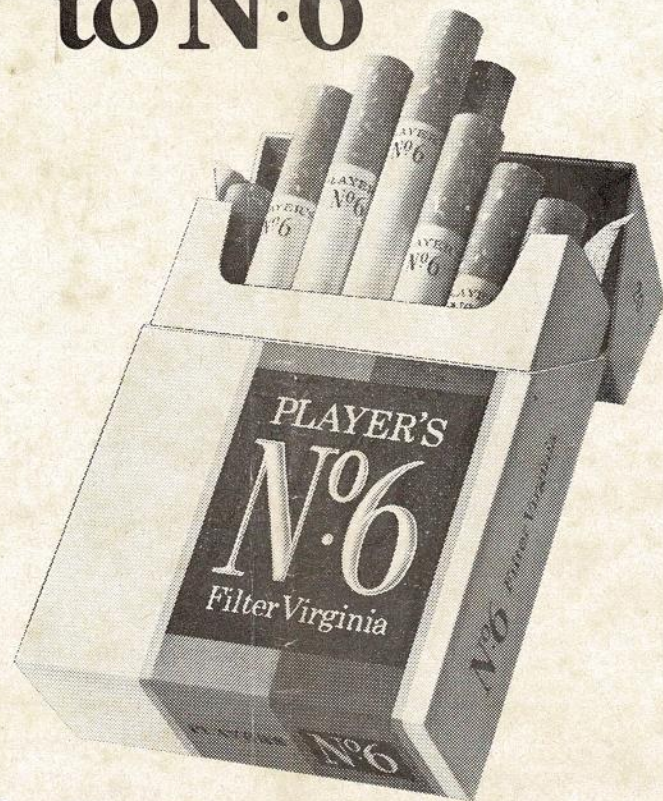


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*Centenary
Season*

OLDHAM
v
ST. HELENS

SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER

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Assistant Coach: K. WILSON

Physiotherapist: F. NAVESEY

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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.

Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Holding the money ... that's 45-year-old Mr. Roy Mellor of Lichens Crescent, Fitton Hill, who won £310 recently on the Oldham weekly pool. On the left of the picture is club chairman Arthur Walker, who presented Mr. Mellor with his money during the Leigh match. Centre is Keith Jackson, the winning agent.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

SOME of the pressure was taken off us when we got back to winning ways at Barrow last Sunday and picked up our fourth First Division win of the season.

It gives us eight points and keeps us above such teams as Wakefield, Warrington and Widnes which, considering the vast number of injuries we have had this season, is not bad going at all.

Roger Halstead, writing in the Oldham Chronicle, made the very valid point that because of the terrific number of players we have had injured he could name another Oldham side to give a good test to the one that picked up two points for us at Barrow.

We have often been accused of having no strength in depth but just look at the players who were missing from the side that did us proud up at Craven Park—John Blair, Kevin Flanagan, Fred Hall, Ray Hicks, Brian Hughes, Phil Larder, Dickie Brown, David Treasure, Tony Wainwright, Chris O'Brien, Gareth Owen, Tony Peters, Warren Ryans, Paul Starbuck, Kevin Taylor, and Barry Kear.

Obviously, they could not all be in the side at once but the majority of those players were injured, or recovering from injury, and were consequently unavailable for selection.

We believe it says something for the club and the coach that we are managing to hold our own in the First Division despite such problems.

They are problems which are intensified because of the lack of "A" team fixtures and the consequent manner in which players are forced to be delayed in making their comebacks after injury or are forced to step back to senior duty without proper and adequate preparation.

This is through no fault of the Oldham club. Admittedly, we have ourselves had to call off one reserve match very early on this season but, for the most part, we have always fielded a side even if it has meant calling on the services of ex-professionals such as Ray Fletcher and Bill Churm.

These lads are always willing to help us out and we are grateful to them, just as we are to all the other players from the local amateur scene who have played in the "A" side this season.

But if we can do it, why cannot other clubs? In the past five weeks both Widnes and Barrow have called off "A" team games involving Oldham and this, coupled with a loss of two matches by our bye into the semi-finals of the Shield, has resulted in the acute shortage of games.

Indeed, before last Tuesday many, many of our players had not had a game in more than a month and we felt obliged to ask Saddleworth Rangers to play us at Watersheddings early this week.

Our thanks are extended to the Rangers for answering our call.

It gave a run-out to many of our players who were desperately in need of one—so anxious to play, in fact, that several of them have requested and been granted permits to play amateur football on the occasions when we do not require them.

This is not completely satisfactory, as you can imagine, but it is better that they keep in trim playing with an amateur side than go for weeks on end without match practice.

Today we welcome St. Helens to Watersheddings. But don't forget that we are also at home next Sunday to Workington Town—two home matches that will give us a thorough test and ought to provide plenty of fast, open football and entertainment for the crowd.

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



John Woods of Leigh leaps high into the air to avoid his team mate Mick Stacey, who is tackled by Tony Wainwright, during Leigh's victory at Watersheddings in the second round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy. Also in the picture (No. 5) is Oldham winger, Steve Lund.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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Oldham FC Down the Years

No. 7

by TOM WEBB

SEASON 1900-1 ushered in the new century for Oldham with notable successes. The first team won the Lancashire Senior Competition and the "A" team also topped the Lancashire Combination.

The first team had to win the last match of the competition at Millom and the Cumbrians put up such terrific opposition that Oldham only won by a try to nil.

In the annual match, Champions versus the Rest, five Swinton players failed to put in an appearance for the Rest side and Oldham, although only winning 9-5, took things comfortably under the easier circumstances.

In the match with Swinton on January 12, 1901, at home, the crowd broke in but in spite of this the receipts of £710 10s. were record takings and the highest price charged was three shillings. The match was ordered to be replayed and the second game had receipts of £554.

Friendly games with Yorkshire clubs supplemented the Lancashire Senior Competition fixtures and for the two games with Halifax the clubs played 12-a-side which provided quite a change from the normal 15-a-side which was still played at that time.

Williams again topped the try scorers. His 33 followed 37 the previous season and 39 the season before that, making 109 in three seasons.

Sammy Lees was again top goal scorer with 31 but H. P. Huzzey and Joe Ferguson were on the mark 11 times each.

A new set-up had been conceived for 1901-2 when the Northern Rugby League was formed from the leading clubs of Lancashire and Yorkshire which left the Lancashire and Yorkshire Senior competitions as lesser affairs. Indeed, they were ended at the end of that season.

As Stockport and Rochdale Hornets were left out of the Northern League a South East Lancashire was formed to keep their fixtures with Oldham, Broughton Rangers, Salford and Swinton intact. This lasted for only one season.

The redoubtable Jimmy Leytham appeared for Oldham in a friendly match with South Shields. He was a player with the Lancaster club but moved to Wigan where he helped develop that club into one of the leading ones in the game.

The local club, Werneth, opened their new ground at Sheepfoot Lane in a match with Oldham "A". Werneth had previously played at the "Track", Block Lane, and were members of the Lancashire Combination, meeting the "A" teams of the senior clubs.

Oldham "A" also played some games at Sheepfoot Lane, which is now the Boundary Park home of Oldham Athletic A.F.C.

Salford beat Batley 8-0 at Oldham in the semi-final of the Northern Union Challenge Cup this season, Oldham having been beaten in the second round by Runcorn after easily accounting for Maryport in the first one.

In the Lancashire County trial game played during the October, Oldham were represented by S. Williams, A. Lees, J. Ferguson and G. H. Wilkinson in the Probables while C. Civil, J. R. Lawton and J. B. Wilkinson were in the Possibles.

Players who did appear in the county side were Williams, Lawton, Ferguson, G. Wilkinson and Thomas, Ferguson playing in all three games in the county championship versus Yorkshire, Cheshire and Cumberland and in the one friendly game against the combined Northumberland and Durham side.

Broughton Rangers ran away with the new league but Oldham were well in the running until an astonishing collapse in which they won only two and drew one of their last 12 games. Oldham thus slumped to ninth place out of the 14 clubs.



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Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 JACKSON, K.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 6 CLARKE, P.
- 10 WELDING, R.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 POLLARD, G.
- 13 REYNOLDS, J.
- 14
- 15

Referee:
K. ALLATT
(Huddersfield)

T G Dg P

St. Helens

- 1 PIMBLETT, G.
- 2 JONES, L.
- 3 BENNION, W.
- 4 SLATTERY, P.
- 5 MATHIAS, R.
- 6 GLYNN, P.
- 7 GWILLIAM, K.
- 8 CHARLES, C.
- 9 KARALIUS, A.
- 10 COURTNEY, N.
- 11 NICHOLLS, G.
- 12 CHISNALL, E.
- 13 PINNER, H.
- 14 ASHTON, A.
- 15 LIPROT, G.

T. Clayton (Widnes)
C. E. Lightfoot
(Bolton)

T G Dg P

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OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

THIS afternoon's visitors to Watersheddings are the globetrotters from Saint Helens who, since their triple cup triumphs of last season, have undertaken challenge matches in Australia, New Zealand and France (writes Don Yates). Unfortunately their efforts abroad have not met with the success they have achieved in this country but, nevertheless, the Saint Helens management must be congratulated for their progressive outlook in arranging these international trips.

Last season Oldham met Saint Helens on no fewer than five occasions with Oldham winning one match, Saint Helens three and the remaining game being abandoned at half-time. The solitary Oldham win was in a First Division match at Knowsley Road but Saints gained revenge for that by knocking Oldham out of the Challenge Cup and also winning the return League game here at Watersheddings. In addition, they also won a Lancashire Cup-tie at Oldham and were leading in the League game which was abandoned because of fog. The highlight of those matches for Oldham followers, of course, was that tremendous 8-7 League win achieved by a late Johnny Blair dropped goal but the Challenge Cup-tie also proved highly entertaining and the early season meeting in the Lancashire Cup provided plenty of thrills. Over the years there have been several memorable battles between these two clubs but one match in particular which I remember was the League game played here at Watersheddings in October 1972. Oldham had made a tremendous start to that 1972-73 campaign with 7 victories in their opening 7 League matches including a 32-8 win at York and an exciting 12-9 victory against Wigan at Central Park. Interest in the club was beginning to mount because of these favourable results and when Oldham knocked Salford out of the Floodlit Cup just four days before the visit of Saint Helens it boosted the attendance to a creditable 6,574 who came to watch Oldham defend their 100 per cent. League record with the following team:

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).

Saint Helens were also at full strength:

Dave Eckersley; Frank Wilson, Bill 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 was every bit as exciting as was expected with the power of Saints' John Mantle and Eric Chisnall being matched by the speed of Bob Irving and graft of Kevin Taylor. Oldham's halves, Cliff Hill and Mick McCone were also in top form but the Saints' backs created more openings than Oldham and it took the reliable boot of Phil Larder to keep the home side in the hunt. At half time Oldham led 8-7 but tries by Frank Wilson and Geoff Heaton together with three Kel Coslett goals looked likely to give Saints victory until a dropped goal by Tony Wainwright and Phil Larder's five previous goals tied the scores at 12-12.

There are several changes to the sides which fought out that exciting draw just over four years ago but today's game promises to be just as close. Oldham will be determined to continue their League success after the Cup-tie disappointments of the past couple of weeks but they will meet stern opposition from second-in-the-table Saints who have recovered from a shaky start to the season and who today seek their fourth successive League win after excellent victories over Championship rivals Featherstone and Salford in their last two League fixtures.

Supporters Club

FASHION SHOW

The Supporters' Club is presenting a Fashion Show by "Just Looking" of Lees in the Social Club on Tuesday, 23rd November, at 8 p.m. Tickets, price 25p, can be obtained from any canteen or the bar behind the scoreboard at today's game.

FILM SHOW and SPORTS QUIZ

The Oldham Rugby League Referees' Society is holding a Film Show and Sports Quiz featuring celebrity guests on Wednesday, 1 December, at the Oldham Rugby League F.C. Social Club. Tickets are now available, price 25p, and all profits will be donated to the Centenary Appeal.

AWAY TRAVEL

The Supporters' Club is running a coach to Featherstone on Sunday, 5 December, departing at 1 p.m. from the Social Club. Anyone wishing to book for the coach can do so today at any canteen or the bar behind the scoreboard.

RADIO MANCHESTER "TOP SCORE" SPORTS QUIZ

The Supporters' Club team won its first round match against Wigan Rugby Supporters' Club by 41 points to 33. The quiz was recorded and will be broadcast on Radio Manchester at 10-03 a.m., Saturday, 11 December, and repeated the following day at 3 p.m.

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL TICKETS—7 MAY, 1977

Supporters who have ordered tickets for the 1977 Cup Final with the Rugby Football League and have only paid a deposit are reminded that the outstanding balance must be paid before 30 November, 1976, otherwise the reservation will be cancelled.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

KEVIN ALLATT is married with one son and one daughter. Passed Referees' Examination in 1963, promoted to Grade 2 in 1970 and to Grade 1 in 1972. Honours include Yorkshire Senior Competition League Final in 1970 and match between Castleford and Australia in 1973. Played amateur Rugby League. Hobbies include all sports and keeping fit. He is employed as a Field Sales Manager in the Packaging Industry.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

NOVEMBER 28th K.O. 3.30

Oldham v Workington

FIXTURES 1976-77

FIRST TEAM				"A" TEAM			
Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.	Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.
1976				Mar. 12	(Sat.) Leeds (3-00)	A	
Aug. 22	(Sun.) 1st Round County Cup—Blackpool (3-00)	A	10-17	20	(Sun.) Castleford (3-30)	H	
Sept. 5	(Sun.) Widnes (3-00)	A	20-22	27	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	A	
12	(Sun.) Leeds (3-30)	H	10-18	3	(Sun.) Salford (3-30)	H	
19	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	A	13-19	8	(G.F.) Rochdale H. (3-00)	A	
26	(Sun.) Wigan (3-30)	H	23-20	11	(E.M.) Hull K.R. (3-30)	H	
Oct. 3	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	A	13-11	17	(Sun.) Warrington (3-00)	A	
10	(Sun.) Barrow (3-30)	H	33-0	24	(Sun.) Widnes (3-30)	H	
15	(Fri.) Castleford 7-30	A	5-11				
23/24	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 1st Round Batley	H	17-9	Aug. 21	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	A	36-4
31	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	H	10-20	28	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	H	25-9
Nov. 6/7	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 2nd Round—Leigh	H	13-28	Sept. 4	(Sat.) Widnes (3-00)	H	
14	(Sun.) Barrow (2-30)	A	23-16	18	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	H	22-17
21	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-30)	H		25	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	A	15-35
28	(Sun.) Workington T. (3-30)	H		Oct. 2	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	H	26-8
Dec. 5	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (2-30)	A		9	(Sat.) Barrow (2-30)	A	22-17
12	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (3-30)	H		15	(Fri.) Widnes (7-30)	A	
19	(Sun.) Wigan (3-00)	A		Nov. 13	(Sat.) Barrow (3-00)	H	
26	(Sun.) Rochdale H. (3-30)	H		20	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	
1977				27	(Sat.) Workington (2-30)	A	
Jan. 2	(Sun.) Salford (3-00)	A		Dec. 18	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	H	
9	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-00)	A		1977			
16	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	H		Jan. 8	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	H	
23	(Sun.) Workington T. (2-30)	A		15	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	A	
30	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	H		22	(Sat.) Workington (3-00)	H	
Feb. 6	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (2-45)	A		Feb. 5	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	H	
12/13	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 1st Round			18	(Fri.) Warrington (7-30)	A	
20	(Sun.) Warrington (3-30)	H		25	(Fri.) Rochdale (7-30)	A	
26/27	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 2nd Round			Mar. 12	(Sat.) Warrington (3-00)	H	
				19	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	A	
				26	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	A	
				Apr. 9	(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00)	H	

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