

St. Helens

1. **PIMBLETT, G.**, *Full Back*
2. **JONES, L.**, *Right Wing*
3. **BENYON, W.**, *Right Centre*
4. **CUNNINGHAM, E.**, *Left Centre*
5. **MATHIAS, R.**, *Left Wing*
6. **GLYNN, P.**, *Stand Off*
7. **GWILLIAM, K.**, *Scrum Half*
8. **COURTNEY, N.**, *Front Row*
9. **KARALIUS, A.**, *Hooker*
10. **JAMES, M.**, *Front Row*
11. **NICHOLLS, G.**, *Second Row*
12. **CHISNALL, E.**, *Second Row*
13. **PINNER, H.**, *Loose Forward*

14. ASHTON, A.
15. BROWN/CHARLES

T	G	D/G	Pts

Oldham

1. MURPHY, M., *Full Back*
2. ELLIOTT, M., *Right Wing*
3. JACKSON, K., *Right Centre*
4. WAINWRIGHT, T., *Left Centre*
5. LUND, S., *Left Wing*
6. TREASURE, D., *Stand Off*
7. PATERSON, J., *Scrum Half*
8. RAMSHAW, T., *Front Row*
9. O'MAHONEY, R., *Hooker*
10. HUGHES, B., *Front Row*
11. WELDING, R., *Second Row*
12. HERBERT, S., *Second Row*
13. REYNOLDS, J., *Loose Forward*

14.
15.

T	G	D/G	Pts.

Touch Judges: Mr. E. Glazebrook Mr. T. A. Thornbury

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SAINTS REVIEW

RL

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DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**



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Picture by courtesy of Rugby Leaguer

SAINTS v. OLDHAM

Sunday, 9th January, 1977

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

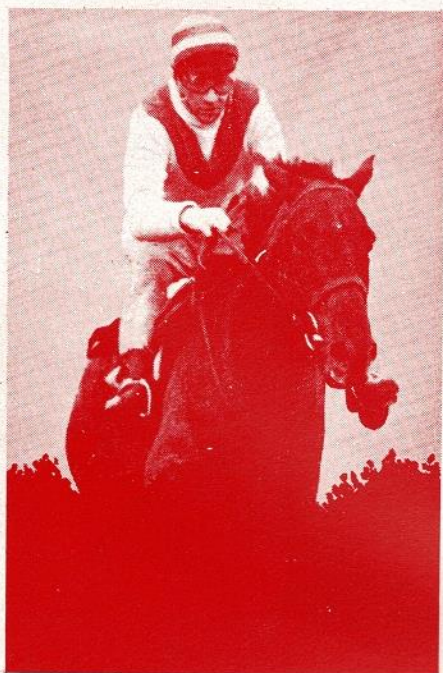
Programme

10p

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"A" Team Coach: W. Boycott

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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

Winners: 1975/76

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, 1975

Runners-up: 1965, 1968, 1970

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MATCH REVIEW

by DON YATES

With the Christmas festivities well and truly behind us, Saints can now buckle down to the demanding task of retaining their league leadership with the hope that May brings about as much glamour and excitement as it did last year. They commence their trophy hunt this afternoon with a visit from Oldham who have been struggling of late but with a change of coaching staff they, too, will be hoping for success in 1977.

In recent seasons Saints have had by far the better of the exchanges with Oldham and although Saints did suffer a one point home defeat to Oldham last February it was the Watersheddings club's first win at Knowsley Road since their 9-8 league win here way back in season 1961-62. Last season's win was also Oldham's last victory over Saints since December, 1973 when they again won by just one point—12-11 on that occasion. This afternoon Saints will be attempting to record their fourth successive victory over Oldham for since last February's defeat they knocked their opponents out of the Challenge Cup by 17-9 and have twice visited Watersheddings on league business, winning by 15-8 and then by 20 points to 9. In April, 1970 Saints went to Oldham and crushed the home side 43-0, the biggest home defeat ever suffered by Oldham. The following season, 1971-72, Saints again scored two emphatic victories over Oldham when they won here by 50 points to 2 and then beat their opponents by 28 points to 0 at foggy Watersheddings a couple of months later.

Over the years there have been many exciting struggles between these two clubs and one match which I remember in particular was the evening league clash in April, 1959 when Saints needed to win at Watersheddings in order to lift the Lancashire Championship. Similarly, Oldham had to win in order to qualify for a place in the top four play-off and thus a tilt at the League Championship. A crowd of 19,000 packed into Watersheddings to see battle between the following two teams:

Oldham: Bernard Ganley; Ike Southward, Alan Davies, Vin Nestor, Dick Cracknell, Alan Kellett, Frank Pitchford; Ken Jackson, Jack Keith, Syd Little, Charlie Winslade, Roger Dufty and Bob Pugsley.

St. Helens: Glyn Moses; Tom Van Vollenhoven, Duggie Greenall, Brian McGinn, Jan Prinsloo; Wilf Smith, Alec Murphy; Abe Terry, Eddie Bowden, Alan Prescott, Brian Briggs, Denis Karalius and Dick Huddart.

Not only were Saints without Vince Karalius for that vital match but, more significantly, they were also without their two regular goal kickers Peter Fearis and Austin Rhodes. Leading try scorer Vollenhoven had never scored against Oldham up to that match but John Etty, the Oldhamer who had tackled him out of all previous matches, had been transferred to Wakefield and the 'Voll' broke his duck by running in two tries. Half-backs Wilf Smith and Alec Murphy also scored tries but Saints could only land one goal, from second-rower Brian Briggs. Although Oldham scored only three tries, from Jack Keith, Vin Nestor and Ike Southward, the reliable goal kicking of Bernard Ganley—he landed three that evening—carried Oldham through by 15 points to 14. As a result of that victory, the Lancashire Championship went to Wigan but Saints were able to gain revenge for that defeat just five days later when, on their way to League Championship success, they beat Oldham in the Championship semi-final by 42 points to 4.

Saints look to be capable of recording another victory this afternoon but they cannot be complacent for in the competitive world of First Division rugby every match poses its problems, and Oldham certainly pose a few this afternoon.

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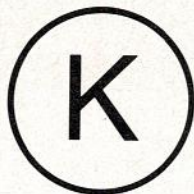


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Meet Today's Opponents

MEET OLDHAM

with Don Yates

Saints welcome in the New Year at Knowsley Road with a visit from Oldham, a strong tackling side who are at present fighting off the threat of relegation and so will form determined opponents who will be out to repeat their league win on this ground last February.

Skipper of the Oldham side is Martin Murphy, a reliable defender and speedy attacker who is considered to be amongst the top half dozen full-backs in the game. He joined Oldham from Astley and Tyldesley Colliery juniors in April, 1967 after winning Lancashire Under-17 honours. Since turning professional he has played twice for Lancashire and two seasons ago was a try scorer for England in their 11-9 victory over France in Perpignan.

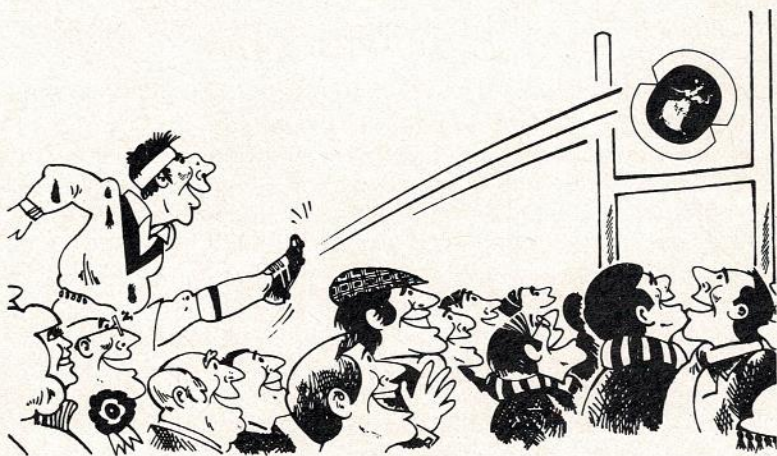
The only ever present for Oldham last season was 32-year-old Welshman Mike Elliott who was also joint top try scorer with 12 from his 39 appearances. He is a very experienced winger who joined the club in August 1962 from Cwmcllyn RUFC and last October made his 400th senior appearance against Wakefield, the club against whom he made his debut fourteen years ago.

On the other flank is a comparative newcomer to first team action, Steve Lund, 19 years, who made his senior debut two years ago. He was signed in November, 1973 from Castleford 'B' and is a former English schoolboy back who I predict will go on to win full international honours.

Transfer listed utility back Tony Wainwright is keen to return to his native Yorkshire but, should that transfer take place, his unorthodox and enterprising play would be missed at Watersheddings. He is a product of Leeds Intermediates who joined the senior Leeds club and played against Saints in the 1970 Floodlit Cup final. Wainwright was transferred to Oldham for £3,000 in September 1972 and has given useful service at Watersheddings whether operating at stand-off or in his more usual role of centre.

The hardest working player in the Oldham line-up is John Paterson, normally a scrum-half but a player who has been operating at stand-off and who had one game at loose-forward. He is 22 years old and joined Oldham from Cutsyke juniors in May 1974.

Smile please, you're in Greenall Whitley land



The Oldham player-coach and a prop who had such a tremendous game in the corresponding league match here last season is Terry Ramshaw, a player of vast experience. This 32-year-old former England Under-24 and Yorkshire prop began his professional career with Featherstone Rovers and then had spells with Halifax, Bradford Northern, Wakefield Trinity, Salford and Hull Kingston Rovers before joining Oldham in October 1975 for £500. Ramshaw's experience should be a great help in bringing on the youngsters in the Oldham set-up.

Another experienced campaigner in the Oldham ranks is Bob Welding, another 32-year-old prop or second-rower, who has played once for England Under-24 and ten times for Lancashire. He began his career with Leigh and then moved to Bradford Northern and Rochdale Hornets before winding up at Oldham in March 1974 for a £2,500 fee. Whilst with Rochdale he played against Saints in the 1971 Floodlit Cup final.

The regular Oldham hooker during the past ten years has been Kevin Taylor but a thumb injury last November let in 24-year-old Roger O'Mahoney who has been Taylor's understudy since November 1971 when he was signed professionally from the club's 'B' team. O'Mahoney is a former schoolboy international who always provides the goods when called upon for first team duty, he is a lively player in the loose and would be a first team regular at most clubs.

The brightest prospect in the Oldham pack is 20-year-old Steve Herbert, a former England schoolboy and Lancashire Under-18 second-rower who was snapped up by Oldham from Leigh Colts in February 1975. He scored two tries on his debut the following April and has now developed into a regular member of the first team forward squad.

Loose-forward Jim Reynolds was signed from Leigh Miners Welfare and has been a loyal servant to Oldham despite being in and out of the side. He had a tremendous game at Wigan just before Christmas and rarely lets the side down.

Oldham will not be favourites to win this afternoon but Saints must not underestimate their enthusiasm and graft, qualities which, along with the young talent in the side, should steer them clear of relegation and able to continue their healthy rivalry with Saints in future years.

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TRIBUTE TO JIM CHALLINOR

by DON YATES

The saddest news of the 1976-77 season was the untimely death, just seven days before Christmas, of Oldham and former Saints coach Jim Challinor who, as a Warrington player, enjoyed a distinguished playing career which included full test honours.

Challinor was a product of Warrington junior rugby who won junior international honours before turning professional in 1954 and forming the wing partnership with Brian Bevan which was respected throughout the game. At the end of his first season of professional rugby, Challinor, aged just 19 years, appeared at Wembley and then in that historic Odsal replay before a world record crowd of 102,569. Challinor scored an early try in that game as Warrington completed the Cup and Championship double over Halifax. Lancashire Championship honours followed and by 1959 Challinor had won a full set of winner's medals when he played in the Warrington side which lifted the Lancashire Cup in that 5-4 thriller against Saints. But the highlight of Challinor's career came in that tremendous test triumph during Britain's 1958 tour of Australia. It was the test in which Saints' Alan Prescott played almost throughout with a broken arm and amongst the other casualties was Challinor himself who had to have pain killing injections at half-time because of a nasty shoulder injury. Challinor was a try scorer in that game and Britain went on to win 25-18. That was the first of three test appearances by Challinor, a total that would have been far greater but for the tremendous wealth of threequarter talent that was available during that period.

As Challinor's playing career drew to a close he switched to coaching and as player-coach at Barrow took his side to Wembley in 1966, twelve years after his first appearance beneath those twin towers. Challinor was to appear at Wembley a few years later for he next took over the coaching duties at Knowsley Road and shared in their Championship, Floodlit Cup and Wembley successes between 1970 and 1972.

Whilst with Saints, Challinor was chosen to coach Britain in their challenge for the 1972 World Cup in France, a trophy they lifted against all the odds in another historic and emotional final against the giants of Australia. That success was probably instrumental in Challinor touring Australasia in 1974 as coach to the British Lions, a tour which indirectly led to his tragic death. Britain suffered many injuries during that tour and one British player, John Bates, ended his playing career during that tour. In the summer of 1976 Challinor was invited to take part in a benefit game at Dewsbury for Bates, an invitation which Challinor gladly accepted. Unfortunately an injury in that match led to Challinor entering hospital and having a kidney removed.

He gradually grew weaker following this operation and handed the Oldham coaching duties over to 'A' team boss Tug Wilson. It was only then that the rugby league public began to realise the full extent of Challinor's injuries. He died on December 18th, 1976 leaving behind him a host of wonderful memories of an impeccable personality, a talented coach and one of the nicest blokes to ever be connected with the sport to which he dedicated his life. He will be missed.

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SAINTS CLUB NEWS

Despite the severe frost over the holiday period we managed to complete the traditional fixture with Wigan. Again it was a match to remember and although we lost the points the team certainly lost no friends with their tireless display in atrocious conditions. The position at the top of Division One is now very competitive with Featherstone, Castleford, Bradford Northern and Wigan all chasing us hard. It is vital that we win our home matches to maintain our position as leaders.

DIVISION ONE LEADERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. Helens	14	10	1	3	252	169	21
Featherstone Rovers.....	12	8	1	3	213	142	17
Bradford Northern.....	11	7	2	2	213	117	16
Castleford	11	7	0	4	215	154	14
Wigan.....	11	6	1	4	196	179	13
Leeds.....	12	6	1	5	178	172	13
Salford.....	13	6	1	6	222	220	13
Hull Kingston Rovers	13	6	1	6	188	205	13
Warrington	13	6	0	7	230	230	12
Workington Town.....	12	5	1	6	127	147	11
Leigh	12	5	1	6	159	192	11
Widnes.....	9	5	0	4	152	138	10

Welcome back to David Hull who resumed training last week after a dispute with the club. Dave is certainly too good a player to be languishing at home and will soon be challenging for his first team place again.

Curtain Raiser

Today's curtain raiser is the St. Helens Colts v. Widnes Colts league fixture.

Next Home Match

SAINTS v. BARROW—Sunday next, 16th January, 1977. Kick-off 3 p.m.

Match Ball Sponsors

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

There will be an historic meeting of the codes on Wednesday, 19th January at Knowsley Road, when the Saints Supporters' Club meet West Park RUFC in a sports quiz. The match commences at 8.45 p.m. in the Saints Lounge Bar and everyone is welcome.

Supporters Draw

In the draw made after the Wigan game, supporter Mr. Stevens won the talking toy terrier dog and Mrs. Bromilow won a bottle of whisky. The draw was kindly sponsored by Bernard Owen of the Seven Stars Hotel.

Schoolboy Rugby

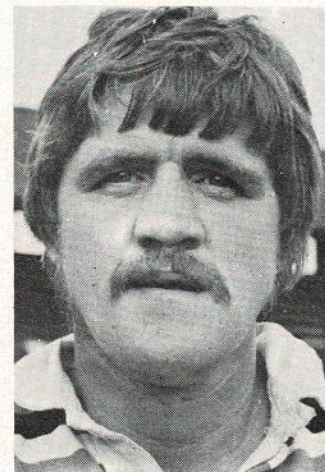
Also after the Wigan match, the Supporters' Club handed over a cheque to officials of the Schools RL Association, to provide some immediate financial aid in their hour of need.

1976 and All That

With our first year behind us, the New Saints Supporters' Club would like to thank all those who have encouraged our aims and supported our functions and activities during the past twelve months.

As a voice for the real Saints supporter, the Supporters' Club has high hopes that 1977 will be just as successful for fans and our team.

In wishing you a prosperous New Year, we hope that one of your New Year resolutions will be to make a new Saints supporter out of a relative or friend. If you get them to join the Supporters' Club as well, our voice and yours will be even stronger!



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Brian Batty on Rugby League

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The challenge for world championship places is expected to be fierce when England clash with Wales at Headingley on January 29th. This Triangular Tournament game has all the ingredients and trimmings to make the subsequent encounters with the French pale into insignificance. But Welsh coach David Watkins is determined that there will be no repeat of the incidents which earned the last clash the title of 'The Battle of Brisbane'.

By
Brian
Batty
of the
"Daily Mail"



Wales won that world championship game 12-7 and there were some ugly moments followed by the remarkable statement by referee Don Lancashire that he could easily have sent off a dozen players. A gross exaggeration but also an admission that he had failed lamentably to do at least half his job and crack down on the trouble spots. Player-coach Watkins says: "It will not be in the interests of the players or of the game for anyone to go out with the wrong intentions at Headingley. I want it to be a game worthy of the occasion. We want to win through constructive football and the ball will be there to be thrown about. I have spoken to England coach Peter Fox socially and he appreciates that it is most vital that his team aim to win the right way. There is so much at stake for him and I am sure he will not accept anything to do with the way the game was approached in Brisbane."

England skipper Roger Millward was carried off in Brisbane two minutes from the finish after being laid out several times. He says: "Looking at the pack the Welsh have chosen it is going to be hard for us again. There is a lot of experience among their forwards. But I want to forget about Brisbane and hope that this one will be entirely different."

The game is certainly worthy of a big crowd and with the Headingley blanket there is not much chance of the pitch falling foul of the weather. I feel confident that however low the temperature may fall on the day there will be enough action to keep everyone warm.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND TRIES
Up to 5th January, 1977

	Appearances		Lancs Cup		BBC 2		Player's No. 6		League		Total	
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
A. Ashton	15								1D		1D	2
W. Benyon	16											
P. Brown	3											
C. Charles	17											1
E. Chisnall	17											3
N. Courtney	9											1
E. Cunningham	15						1					12
T. Cunningham	1											
P. Glynn	19											7
K. Gwilliam	19						1					5
M. Hope	5											1
R. Howard	1											
D. Hull	4											
L. Jones	15											1
M. James	16											4
A. Karalius	17						1					2
G. Liptrot	14											3
R. Mathias	19											1
G. Nicholls	15											6
M. Nolan	1											4
D. Noonan	11											1
G. Pimblett	18											2
W. Platt	2						7/1D				66/5D	
K. Pickavance	1											
H. Pinner	16										5	
J. Smith	1											
K. Thompson	4											
F. Taylor	1											
A. N. Other	3											
P. Slattery	5											2
	300		1	1	7	5	7/1D	5	59/5D	47	71/6D	58

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FIXTURES

'A'
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Date	Opponents	Grd.	Date	Opponents	Grd.
1976			1976		
Aug. Su 15	York (Charity) (3.00)	H Canc'd	Sept. F 3	Rochdale (7.30)	H 18-10
S 21	Wigan (Lancs 1st) (3.00)	A 5-37	T 7	Swinton (Lancs Sh) (7.30)	H 14-10
Su 29	(Lancs Cup 2nd Rd)		S 18	Featherstone R. (3.00)	H 17-16
Sept. Su 5	Rochdale (3.00)	A 21-24	S 25	Swinton (Lancs Sh.) (3.00)	A 16-24
F 10	Wakefield (7.30)	H 7-7	Oct. F 8	Warrington (7.30)	H 29-5
Su 19	Barrow (2.30)	A 19-2	F 15	Warrington (7.30)	A 11-13
W 22	Leigh (7.30)	A 20-5	F 22	Widnes (7.30)	A 7-11
F 24	Castleford (7.30)	H 17-15	Th 28	Salford (7.30)	H 30-5
Oct. S 2	Bradford Northern (3.00)	A 7-17	Nov. S 6	Swinton (3.00)	A 13-9
S 9	Leeds (3.00)	A 13-23	S 20	Oldham (3.00)	H 21-3
Su 17	Warrington (3.00)	H 23-9	Dec. S 4	Workington (3.00)	H Post.
Su 24	Hull K.R. (Player's 1st Rd)	A 12-7	S 17	Leigh (7.30)	H 31-10
Tu 26	Swinton (BBC2 1st Rd)	A 22-15	F 10	Huyton (7.30)	H 39-13
Fri 29	Salford	A 18-15			
Nov. S 6	Castleford (Player's 2nd Rd)	H 18-22	1977		
Su 14	Featherstone R. (3.00)	H 22-17	Jan. S 8	Oldham (3.00)	A
Tu 16	Huddersfield (BBC2) (7.25)	A 7-9	S 15	Barrow (2.30)	A
Su 21	Oldham (3.30)	A 20-9	S 22	Huyton (3.00)	H
Su 28	Hull K.R. (3.00)	H 33-10	S 29	Leigh (3.00)	A
Dec. Su 5	Workington (2.30)	A 15-12	Feb. S 19	Rochdale (3.00)	A
Su 12	Leeds (3.00)	H 17-6	S 26	Huyton (3.00)	A
Su 19			Mar. F 11	Swinton (7.30)	H
M 27	Wigan (3.00)	H 12-14	S 19	Workington (3.00)	A
1977			F 25	Widnes (7.30)	H
Jan. Th 6	Widnes (7.30)	A	April W 6	Wigan (7.30)	H
Su 9	Oldham (3.00)	H			
Su 16	Barrow (3.00)	H	To be arranged		
Su 23	Wakefield (3.30)	A	Wigan (away); Workington T. (home).		
Su 30	Leigh (3.00)	H			
Feb. F 4	Castleford (7.30)	A	PLAYER'S No. 6 TROPHY		
Su 12	(R.L.C.C. 1st Rd)		1st Round 23rd Oct.	1st S.F. 27th Nov.	
Su 20	Rochdale (3.00)	H	2nd Round 6th Nov.	2nd S.F. 11th Dec.	
Su 27	(R.L.C.C. 2nd Rd)		3rd Round 20th Nov.	Final 22nd Jan.	
Mar. Su 6	Salford (3.00)	H	INTERNATIONAL MATCHES		
S 12	(R.L.C.C. 3rd Rd)		Nov. 13th—Gt. Britain v. France U/24s		
Su 13	Featherstone R. (3.30)	A	Feb. 5/6—Wales v. England		
Su 20	Workington (3.00)	H	Feb. 20th—France v. Wales		
S 26	(R.L.C.C. 1st Semi-Final)		Mar. 20th—France v. England		
Su 27	Hull K.R. (2.30)	A	PREMIERSHIP TROPHY		
April F 1	Bradford N. (7.30)	H	1st Round 14th May	Semi-Final 22nd May	
F 8	Wigan (Good Fri.) (3.00)	A		Final 28th May	
M 11	Widnes (7.30)	H	2nd or 9th April R.L.C.C. 2nd Semi-Final		
Su 17			7th May—CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		
Su 24	Warrington (3.00)	A	22nd May—F.A. CUP FINAL		