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- 11 PETERS, A.
- 12 HERBERT, S.
- 13 BROWN, R.
- 14 PATERSON, J.
- 15 REYNOLDS, J.

Referee:
K. ALLATT
(Huddersfield)

Dewsbury

- 1 LANGLEY, J.
- 2 SIMPSON, I.
- 3 BRUNNEY, S.
- 4 STEPHENSON, N.
- 5 MITCHELL, G.
- 6 HEGARTY, J.
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Centenary Season

Rugby League Challenge Cup 1st Round

OLDHAM V DEWSBURY

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY 1977

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.

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10p

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Physiotherapist: F. NAVESEY

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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.

HILTI

welcome you to Watersheddings

GOOD afternoon and a very warm welcome to Watersheddings on this special Cup day, where our first ever fully sponsored match, by courtesy of Hilti Great Britain takes place.

We welcome today's opponents, in the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup, Dewsbury, with a special "hello" to their fans, Manager and Directors.

Hilti a well known name in the building and construction industry are kindly sponsoring today's match and included in their sponsorship is a man of the match award, which is a cash prize to be presented after the game, and the donation of the match ball.

Specialists in drilling and fixing tools, Hilti have been world leaders in their particular field for some years now, and in that time builders have come to regard Hilti products as essential tools.

And so to today's game, which although gives us a slight advantage of being the home side, will be no easy game against this formidable 2nd Division side. But however, with apologies to Hilti, we hope that both sides by the end of the game will be drilled, hammered, shot and fixed, then suspended from the hangers in the dressing room (all with Hilti Products) after a well fought game!!!



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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TODAY not only sees the start of a brand new Challenge Cup competition but, so far as Oldham is concerned, it marks what we hope will be only the beginning of sponsored Rugby League matches here at Watersheddings.

We welcome today representatives of the nationally-known firm Hilti (Great Britain) Ltd., whom we hope will have a long and happy association with Oldham R.L.F.C.

Sponsorship, of course, is now a vital part of professional sport in its entirety and it would indeed be foolhardy to fail to see the obvious benefits to be derived from the "marriage" of sport and business to the benefit of each.

So in welcoming you all to today's cup tie we greet our friends from Hilti in the hope that they see the best our game has to offer.

Because of the way the fixtures fell and the postponement of the Leigh and Wakefield matches because of frozen grounds, it is SEVEN weeks since we last played at Watersheddings.

That was on Boxing Day when we beat Rochdale Hornets, and since then we have had four away matches at Salford, St. Helens, Workington and Hull K.R.—a programme to test the best.

It ought to be explained here how the second postponement of the Wakefield game failed to appear in the Oldham Evening Chronicle, thus causing some supporters to make a wasted journey.

For this we extend our apologies, but we must point out that the information was passed on to the Oldham Evening Chronicle in the usual way several hours before edition time.

We were as shocked and as dismayed as were the supporters when the Chronicle came out that night without any reference to the postponement.

Needless to say, inquiries were made and a member of the newspaper's sports staff admitted full responsibility and apologised to us for what was a genuine oversight on his part.

Roger Halstead, the paper's Rugby League writer, was on holiday so this may have contributed to the error. Anyone can make a mistake, but judging by the number of people who jumped to the conclusion that the club was at fault we felt it fair and just that we put the record straight, so to speak.

Seven weeks is a long time and, indeed, the club has been very busy in the transfer market since we last assembled here for a match.

Tony Wainwright and Kevin Taylor have joined other clubs, Tony going to Rochdale for £5,000 and Kevin to Leigh for £2,600. Both players were on the transfer-list.

Both gave very good service and, of course, local lad Taylor set a post-war record for the number of senior appearances for the club—444.

We wish Kevin and Tony every success with their clubs and, in so doing, extend a warm welcome to Watersheddings to our trio of new players—Alan Whittle, David Hill and Glen Knight.

All three are expected to make their home debuts today, thus giving added spice to the cup tie and we wish them a long and happy stay.

On a sad note we have to report the enforced retirement, through injury, of our hard-working forward, Bob Welding. A year ago, Bob received a very nasty gash on his shin in an "A" team game at St. Helens.

It was one of the worse injuries of its kind imaginable and to give some idea of the severity of the gash he had 26 stitches inserted into the wound—on the inside, alone!

We all thought, Bob included, that he had got over it but a succession of bangs on the same spot has produced a weakness and a blood circulation problem.

Specialists have advised him to retire and, wisely, he has taken their advice. It was a sad blow to the club, for Bob has always been a very industrious and big hearted player. It was, too, but the latest in a long line of body blows that we have had to withstand this season.

Sooner or later our luck must change. Wouldn't it be nice if it were at the start of the Challenge Cup competition today.

That brings us to a welcome to Dewsbury, Second Division promotion candidates, for what should be a thrilling tie. It is a sobering thought to recall that Dewsbury are almost identically placed, at the top of the Second Division, to the position in which we found ourselves when we reached the cup semi-final in 1964.



Tony Wainwright's last appearance for Oldham before his £5,000 sale to Rochdale Hornets was the game at Salford, in which he is seen here creating a chance for his winger Steve Lund.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

Supporters Club

LAST week the Supporters' Club handed over another £750 to the parent body, bringing the total donations this season to £2,500.

Once again we are running a Grand National Draw, tickets priced 10p per book, and these will be on sale in all canteens and bars at today's match. Anyone interested in selling these tickets should contact any Supporters' Club official at today's match.

A new supply of lapel badges has now been received and these will now be on sale in the canteens and bars from today's match.

One forthcoming event is a Seconds' Party to be held on the 31st May, 1977, in the Social Club. Anyone interested in purchasing or selling tickets for this event should contact any official at today's match.

Any supporter with a worthwhile suggestion for fund raising efforts should contact the Supporters' Club officials at today's match.

The club's official rosettes will be on sale in the canteens and bars, priced 20p.

The club needs your support, please assist by buying Grand National Draw tickets and supporting events advertised in this space.

Oldham FC Down the Years

No. 12
by TOM WEBB

BY 1911-12 the number of members had risen to 2,010. They were to be disappointed as the club lost to Rochdale Hornets in the final of the Lancashire Cup and to Dewsbury in the Challenge Cup final. The team was fifth in the League, just missing the top-four play-off and the "A" team was second in the Lancashire Combination. Evan Davies signed this season.

George Kilner finished as secretary at the end of the season. Alf Wood kicked 41 goals, Jimmy Lomas 24, Jardine 18 and Ferguson 15 with George Smith 21, Lomas 20, Davies 18, Williams 14 and Cook 11, leading the try scorers.

The crowd broke in at the Huddersfield match when £824 gate money was taken. It was estimated that 28,000 attended the game.

In 1912-13 membership soared to 2,259 but in spite of this there was a loss on the season of between £1,300 and £1,400. There were 36 players making first team appearances, four full backs, ten threequarters, eight halves and eighteen forwards.

A. J. Swann took over as club secretary. Percy Ingham, who first played for Oldham in 1884 and who had gained Lancashire County honours in the Rugby Union days was president.

The team only fared moderately. Ferguson, with 40, led the goal kickers, while Williams 17, Holbrook 12 and Evan Davies 11 led the try-scorers.

Success in the Lancashire Cup was achieved in 1913-14 but the team finished 14th in the League, winning 17 and losing 17 games. J. Bedwelty Jones, a Welsh Rugby Union international was signed and scored a hat-trick on his debut against St. Helens at Watersheddings.

Wood was back as leading goal scorer with 64, with Ferguson next with 22. Only six other goals were scored. Viv Farnsworth, the Australian Northern Union international, who only recorded three tries in the previous season, led the try list with 17 with Hall and T. O. Jones next, each scoring a dozen. Rod Marlor made his first team debut during the season. The "A" team finished third out of the 29 members of the Northern Union Combination.

The last season before the First World War stopped normal competitions was 1914-15, which saw Oldham in ninth place in the League and third in the Lancashire League. R. Thompson was club president and the committee included the former player, Anlezark, who had gained international honours for Australia.

Holbrook was leading try scorer with 16, the only player to reach double figures. He had the distinction of playing for Oldham Football Club, Oldham Athletic and Oldham Cricket Club. His colleague Alf Wood had the odd soccer game with the Latics. Joe Ferguson, with 41, was again top goal scorer. The effect of the war virtually wiped out the "A" teams' competition and much of the junior game.

YOU'LL FIND ALL THE OLDHAM LOCAL SPORT

IN DEPTH

IN MONDAY'S

OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

ALTHOUGH well into the month of February, the recent bad weather has made today's Challenge Cup tie the first senior match to be played at Watersheddings in 1977 and it promises to be a hectic encounter against Second Division promotion certainties Dewsbury.

This Dewsbury side have lost only four League matches all season and their defensive record in League football is the best in either Division with only 110 points conceded in 16 matches. The best victory of the season for Dewsbury was their 18-2 win at York but they have also won twice at Huddersfield and early in the season reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire Cup. All of Dewsbury's defeats this season have been away from home with League defeats at Huyton, Whitehaven, Keighley and Bramley plus a Floodlit Cup defeat at Hull Kingston Rovers, a Yorkshire Cup defeat at Leeds and the only really poor performance of the season, a 33-5 defeat at Bramley in the first round of the John Player Trophy.

Dewsbury must be cursing their cup luck for today's match is the sixth away tie of the season for Dewsbury who, however, have won three of the last four clashes between these two clubs at Watersheddings and will travel confident of victory especially after winning here in the Floodlit Cup last season. But the last time these two clubs met in this particular competition, almost 21 years ago to the day, on February 11th, 1956, Oldham beat Dewsbury here at Watersheddings in a first round tie by 31 points to two. In registering that victory Oldham ran in seven tries, through Alan Davies, Frank Stirrup (2), Dick Cracknell, Johnny Noon, John Etty and Derek Turner whilst Bernard Ganley landed five goals. Dewsbury's points came from a Jimmy Ledgerd penalty and as the score suggests Dewsbury were no match for an Oldham side on the brink of greatness. The following season Oldham won every major trophy with the exception of the Challenge Cup for despite being the outstanding team of that period they never managed to reach Wembley. It is also 48 years since Dewsbury last visited Wembley but four years ago they did lift the Championship and they were Floodlit Cup finalists last season when their relegation was merely a temporary set back in an otherwise successful period in the club's history.

Dewsbury's present run of success has been based on an excellent defence and most of the credit for that must fall to their powerful pack which is well led by Jeff Grayshon, a big strong running forward who has fully deserved the international recognition which has befallen him during the past couple of seasons. Twenty-six years old Grayshon won his first representative honour three seasons ago with the first of his seven Yorkshire county caps but impressive county performances led to a place in the English pack against Wales at the beginning of last season and he then went on to play in all five of England's matches last season, scoring a try in the 16-13 defeat of Australia in the World Championship. Grayshon was the only member of the English pack to hit true form in the recent defeat by Wales so looks certain of a trip to Australasia for this summer's World Championship series, by which time he hopes to have steered Dewsbury back into the First Division. That must be Dewsbury's main aim this season, and it looks as if that objective will be achieved, but a lengthy run in the Challenge Cup to bolster both morale and a not too healthy bank balance would be welcomed, not only by Dewsbury but also by Oldham who, this afternoon are confident of ending their four match losing sequence.

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.

Brian Batty

THE worst winter for several years has hit more than the player, club official and spectator.

It has thrown extra pressure and problems on the men who have been the game's whipping boys for as long as we have had international football.

The task of the international selector has always carried its share of headaches in recent seasons with the demand for success at world level.

When the League sent out the English and Welsh teams for the World Championship the job was a bit simpler for the selectors.

But with the decision to revert to the Great Britain squad for the World Championship this year the fight for places has become even more intense.

The move to call in the selectors to help choose the county sides was a sensible and timely step.

By the time the selectors meet to name the Great Britain squad for New Zealand and Australia they will have watched the Under-24 international, the Triangular Tournament, the County Championship and most of the League's domestic programme.

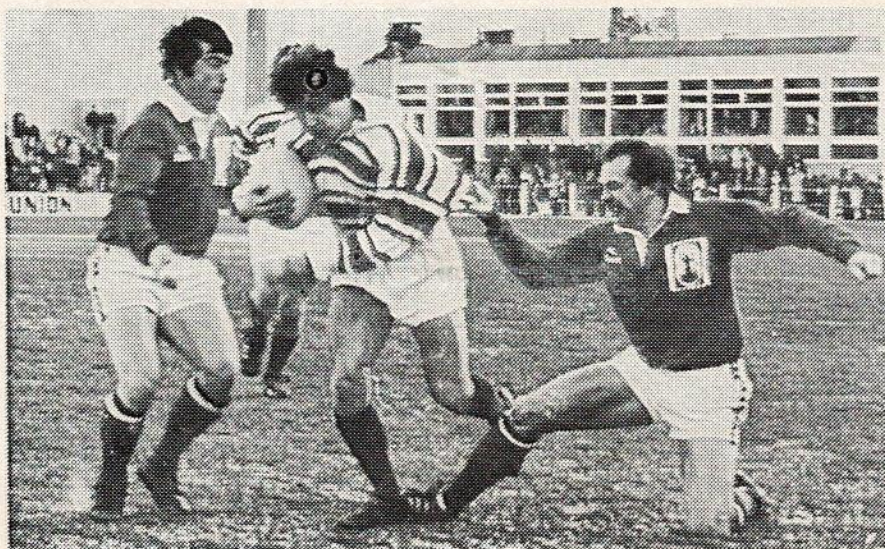
There are a lot of people who have little faith in the system of tour trials and I am inclined to agree with this view.

The selectors feel that representative matches enable them to see the players they miss at club level.

"I know a lot of fans who think selectors waste their time trailing around from match to match but if you want to do the job properly then you must cover as much ground as possible," one selector told me.

The weather has hardly helped the situation, reducing the trips across the Pennines with so many postponements. But trying to overcome this by watching games on television can prove misleading.

It is a thankless task but someone has to do it and no doubt those selectors will be right in the firing line again when the British squad is named whether they deserve to be shot or not.



Stirring action shot of Steve Lund the Oldham winger, as he tries to break away between Salford's John Butler and Keith Fielding.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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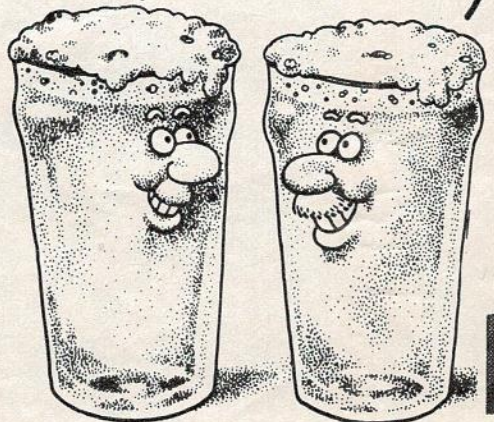
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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

FEBRUARY 20th K.O. 3.30

Oldham v Warrington

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	Apr. 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 1976				
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	18—(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)		H	22-17
14—(Sun.) Barrow (2-30)		A	23-16 Oct. 2—(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)		A	15-35	
21—(Sun.) St. Helens (3-30)		H	9-20	2—(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)		H	26-8
28—(Sun.) Workington T. (3-30)		H	11-2	9—(Sat.) Barrow (2-30)		A	22-17
Dec. 5—(Sun.) Featherstone R. (2-30)		A	5-23 Dec. 20—(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)		A	3-21	
12—(Sun.) Featherstone R. (3-30)		H	0-18 1977	27—(Sat.) Workington (2-30)		A	
19—(Sun.) Wigan (3-00)		A	14-6 Jan. 8—(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)		H	8-18	
26—(Sun.) Rochdale H. (3-30)		H	12-33	8—(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)		H	10-11
1977				15—(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)		A	10-21
Jan. 2—(Sun.) Salford (3-00)		A	12-33	22—(Sat.) Workington (3-00)		H	21-14
9—(Sun.) St. Helens (3-00)		A	7-17 Feb. 5—(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)		H	12-11	
16—(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)		H	P.P.	18—(Fri.) Warrington (7-30)		A	
23—(Sun.) Workington T. (2-30)		A	8-23	25—(Fri.) Rochdale (7-30)		A	
30—(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)		H	5-35 Mar. 12—(Sat.) Warrington (3-00)		H		
Feb. 6—(Sun.) Hull K.R. (2-45)		A	19—(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)		A		
12/13—(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 1st Round			26—(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)		A		
20—(Sun.) Warrington (3-30)		H	Apr. 9—(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00)		H		
26/27—(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 2nd Round							

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