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**OLDHAM
v
HUYTON**

SUNDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER

Kick Off 3-30 p.m.



10p

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Coach: D. COX

Assistant Coach: R. WELDING

Physiotherapist: F. NAVESEY

Assistant Physiotherapist: J. WATKINS

Secretary: K. WILKINSON, Tel. 061-624 4865

Promotions Manager: A. TAYLOR, Tel. 061-652 5244

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

Groundsman: D. TRUELOVE

Assistant Groundsman: P. HARTER

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.



Crowning his come back with a snappy try in the corner is Phil Larder in the match against Barrow.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

After two wins, against Barrow here and at Blackpool last Sunday, everyone at Watersheddings is in a much happier frame of mind and feeling much more confident about prospects for the season.

There is a long, long way to go yet, of course, but our team spirit is absolutely excellent and we feel that, given our share of good fortune, we might extend our winning sequence for several matches.

We go to Doncaster next Sunday. This will be a very hard match, indeed. If it has escaped your notice the Dons have already won two matches this season, more than the whole of last year, and they are really going to be buzzing when we get to Tatters Field next Sunday.

Nevertheless, it is a match we will have to win if we wish to hold our heads high as promotion material, as is the home game against Swinton the following Sunday.

On the Wednesday night prior to the Swinton match, October 5th, we take on Warrington at Watersheddings in the first round of the Floodlit Trophy.

This should be a very attractive tie in the BBC competition and one that draws a much bigger crowd than the sort we are sampling for Second Division matches.

Warrington are not having one of their best starts to a new season but they are always good to watch and still possess a remarkable record in knock-out competitions.

So make a note in your diary, October 5th, Wednesday, Oldham v Warrington (7.30 kick off) in the Floodlit Trophy, first round.

A little over two weeks later, on Sunday, October 23rd, we will be at home again in another knock-out tournament, the Player's No 6 Trophy.

This is a very lucrative competition, even more so this year, and a run in this tournament would be a very big boost to all connected to the club.

We are at home to Barrow, a club we have already beaten at Watersheddings this time in the Second Division. There is no reason why we should not win again, but we must guard against complacency.

Frank Foster always hates to lose at Watersheddings and you can rest assured that Barrow will be coming here firing on all cylinders in the hope of avenging their Second Division defeat.

Both cup-ties should be well worth watching and one hopes we get as many supporters as possible rallying round to give the boys a cheer.

Talking of the players it was very pleasing to see Phil Larder back in action against Barrow and Blackpool and coming through well.

Phil has really had the odds stacked against him in his big comeback bid and it speaks much for his courage and determination that he is again wearing the Oldham jersey.

Well done, Phil!

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

After the dismal opening to the season which brought dismissal from the Lancashire Cup and defeat in the opening league game, Oldham have recovered well and go into today's game looking for their third successive win against opponents whose record on this ground is far from impressive.

In fact, this afternoon Oldham will be hoping to pull off their 11th successive victory over an Huyton side whose last taste of success against Oldham was in March 1970 when they won 9-2 in a league match at Alt Park. Since then Oldham have reeled off ten victories with league wins of 23-4 away and 17-2 at home in 1970-71, 29-9 at home and 44-5 away in 1971-72, 22-0 at home and 25-13 away in 1972-73 and then, when the sides last met in Second Division football during season 1974-75 Oldham managed an 18-7 home win and a 22-12 win at Alt Park. The following season Oldham were called upon to visit Huyton in two cup matches which turned out to be close fought and entertaining games which Oldham just won, firstly by 20-14 in the Players Trophy and then by 16-4 in the opening round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

The Challenge Cup-tie was an extremely tough match, a feature of which was the tremendous tackling of the Huyton pack. Oldham were by far the better side but so well did Huyton defend that after 30 minutes Oldham led by only 5-4 and even at half-time Huyton were still in the game, trailing by only 8-4. However, after the interval the crowd of 1,345 saw Oldham get on top to eventually win 16-4. Former Oldham player Geoff Worrall landed two goals for Huyton whilst Johnny Blair was the Oldham star with two tries and two goals. David Treasure and Martin Murphy also scored tries for Oldham.

New coach at Huyton and the player the club are looking to for inspiration to launch a sustained promotion bid is the experienced former Oldham prop Geoff Fletcher. Although he is now at the twilight of his career, he will be 34 years old at Christmas, Fletcher has proved to be an inspiring captain during a career in which he has served five different clubs, one of them four times!! St. Helens born Fletcher began his career with Leigh and moved to Oldham in 1965 for £1,500. After four years at Watersheddings he was transferred to Wigan for £4,000 and whilst there won a Lancashire County cap as well as playing for them in the 1971 Championship Final. It was in August 1972 that he moved back to Leigh but in November of the following year he was back at Central Park. Fletcher's second spell at Wigan lasted until January 1975 when, inevitably, he moved to Leigh for the third time. Two years later Fletcher was on the move again, this time to Workington Town for a brief three months spell which ended last March with another transfer, yes you've guessed it -- to Leigh. With an eye to the future, Fletcher has now moved into coaching and if he approaches that challenge with the wholehearted enthusiasm which he has approached his playing career then surely Huyton will quickly develop into a real force to be reckoned with.

Although Huyton lie close to the bottom of the Second Division table, it must be noted that they have had to face a very exacting start to the campaign and are a much better side than their league placing indicates.

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Brian Batty

If ever Rugby League needed some backing from the BBC then it is now judging by events over the past month.

As long as the company continues to screen both League and Union there will inevitably be comparisons.

A lot of these may be unfair judged purely from one side of the picture but even the greatest neutral would have to admit that League gets a poor deal.

It would be wrong to claim that League has the widespread appeal offered by Union, apart from the Wembley final and Test matches.

But the Council are entitled to protest bitterly about the treatment the game was given over the televising of the Leeds - Hull League game.

Instead of showing the complete second half, as promised to viewers, the screening was reduced to 15 minutes of highlights to give the Gillette Cup greater coverage.

Consider this high handed treatment with that accorded the British-Lions game which enjoyed a feast of flashbacks on both teams, plus repeated plugs before a ball was kicked or handled.

The BBC 2 channel has over the past month or so shown three highly complimentary films on Union which must have done a great deal towards helping promote the game and encouraging future viewing.

One programme was completely about the Scottish club Hawick and its hometown commentator Bill McLaren, who does such a great job in the wonderful presentation of Union.

But how nice it would be to see a similar type of film about Featherstone Rovers, the First Division champions, who can boast a loyal following and a great record of success over the past decade.

I am sure BBC producer Nick Hunter would be behind such Programmes and in favour of giving League a better build up to all games.

But it seems that the policy is dictated elsewhere by those who regard League as no more than a useful cover for a 'thin' Saturday afternoon.

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Oldham

- 19 -
- 1 MURPHY, M.
 - 2 STONDIN, U.
 - 3 BARTON, E.
 - 4 O'BRIEN, C.
 - 5 LARDER, P.
 - 6 KNIGHT, G.
 - 7 PATERSON, J.
 - 8 HUGHES, B.
 - 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
 - 10 FRODSHAM, P.
 - 11 JEWITT, P.
 - 12 HERBERT, S.
 - 13 PETERS, A.
 - 14 BLAIR, J.
 - 15 ~~HALL, FLANNAGAN.~~

Referee:
D. W. FOX (Wakefield)

Huyton

- 13
- 1 A. N, OTHER
 - 2 CHISNALL, L.
 - 3 GRADY, B.
 - 4 BURKE, R.
 - 5 NUTTALL, A.
 - 6 TABERN, J.
 - 7 BISHOP, A.
 - 8 FLETCHER, G.
 - 9 WALKER, D.
 - 10 GOULDING, R.
 - 11 COOP, J.
 - 12 DALY, A.
 - 13 HEESOM, A.
 - 14 WILLS, K.
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Oldham Schools PHIL LARDER

The Fourth year Town Team played the First Round of the Lancashire School Cup at Leigh on Thursday and were defeated by 33 points to 20. The game began brightly for Oldham. From the first scrum Leigh heeled but P. Stott tackled the scrum half heavily, picked up the loose ball and scored under the posts. C. Willis missed the goal 0-3. It soon became apparent that Oldham would struggle to win ball against a much bigger and heavier pack. Leigh won their fourth consecutive scrum, and after constant pressure scored under the posts. The try was converted 5-3.

The next scrum was won by Oldham and the speed and skill of the Oldham backs was seen as they moved the ball via Parkin and Dobb. Immediately the ball was moved right and Foy side stepped his way over for a fine try which was converted by Stott, who also kicked a fine penalty 5-10. At this stage D. Chadwick was injured and was unable to participate any further in the game. Hargreaves substituted and Stott moved to stand off. Before half time Leigh scored two converted tries to lead 15-10.

From the restart Oldham moved the ball about well and Willis C. and Rankin were able to make a try for Hilton. Stott again converted from the touch line gradually the constant possession wore down the Oldham team and Leigh scored two converted tries before Stott scored a fine individual try. The final score was Leigh 33 points Oldham 20.

The result was to be expected. The Leigh team are by far the strongest in the country and are favourites to win the Lancashire Cup at this level.

A weakness with the Oldham boys is that they do not watch enough Rugby League. Instead of reacting like Peter Jewitt and Pete Frodsham they react like Stuart Pearson or Dennis Tueart. The Leigh, Wigan and St. Helens schoolboys live for Rugby League, watch Rugby League and therefore react like league players.



The first try seen at Watersheddings this season was scored by our livewire No 7, John Paterson. John is seen here touching down against Barrow to set us on the road to our first win of the season.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Although the 1977/78 season is less than a month old, cup-tie fever is already evident in the amateur game, with two rounds of the County Cup competition having been completed so far. It is the ultimate winners of these two tournaments who will qualify for a place in this season's Rugby League Challenge Cup, with the chance of playing against one of the top professional clubs.

In previous years the qualifying amateurs have been looked upon as being in the Challenge Cup just to make the numbers up, and for a professional club to be drawn against one of them meant a free passage into Round 2, whilst all the amateur club could hope for would be a good attendance at the match.

However, nowadays none of the thirty professional clubs can consider themselves safe if they happen to be drawn against an amateur side, either in the Challenge Cup or in the Player's No 6 Trophy. Last season's Challenge Cup competition almost turned the dreams of two amateur clubs into unbelievable reality. Beecroft & Wightman of Hull surprised everyone when they narrowly went down to Swinton, with the 'Lions' only making the game safe in the last five minutes. Even this performance was surpassed by Pilkington's of St. Helens, who were actually leading the mighty Wigan team until just a couple of minutes from time, in front of a crowd of over 11,000.

The County Cup competitions and the National Cup, from which the finalists qualify for the Player's No.6 Trophy, are of course the tournaments which can provide the best financial rewards for amateur clubs. However, for honour and prestige in one's own town there is nothing that beats winning the local cup, and in Oldham that means only one thing - The Standard Cup.

This season's Standard Cup competition will be commencing on October 29th when the First Round matches are to be played, and the Oldham Amateur Rugby League have made a great breakthrough with the news that the draw for this First Round is to be made live on Radio Manchester. The draw will be made on the 'BARLA Midweek' programme, which is broadcast every Wednesday at 7-15pm, on October 5th.

The arrangements for the draw were made before it was known that Oldham's Floodlit Trophy game with Warrington is to be played that night. However, Oldham have kindly agreed for the draw to be read out over the public-address system during half-time.

The Standard Cup should provide an excellent competition this season, with five of the entrants being members of the Pennine League's First Division, and of this quintet there are four clubs from the Oldham area. This situation means that the local league have an enormous amount of talent from which to choose their team to play in the BARLA Inter-Town competition, which begins in October. Already a squad of players have been chosen and have started special training under the watchful eye of Brian Churm, the new town-team coach.

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These players should form the basis of the Oldham League's team to play in the First Round of the tournament, but should any other player show consistently good form, he may also be drafted into the squad at a later date, whilst anyone already selected cannot afford to give less than his best for fear of being dropped.

It is from various town teams that the County sides will be selected, and it is only from these that the Great Britain team will be chosen for their tour, at the end of this season, to Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR LEAGUE NEWS AND REPORTS:

RADIO MANCHESTER: (206 medium wave; 95.1 vhf).
Rugby League Special Every Sunday 6.15 pm.
BARLA Midweek Every Wednesday 7.15 pm.

Supporters Club

RUGBY QUEEN DANCE

This year we are holding our Annual Rugby Queen Dance on Wednesday 12th October, 1977 in the Rugby Club Social Club. Tickets priced 50p. can be obtained from any Supporters Club Official or purchased at the canteens at any 1st. or 'A' Team matches prior to the Dance. Any girls wishing to enter the contest should contact Supporters Club Officials as soon as possible.

GLASS BLOWING PARTY

The Supporters Club are holding a Glass Blowing evening on Tuesday 17th October, 1977 in the Social Club. Tickets priced 20p. can be obtained from Supporters Club Officials or at canteens on match days.

RADIO MANCHESTER - TOP SCORE QUIZ

Once again we are hoping to enter a team in the Radio Manchester Top Score Quiz, and any Supporter who would like to become a member of the team should contact Supporter Club Officials at today's match.

DONCASTER AWAY - 2/10/77

A coach to the above away match will depart from the Social Club at 1.30 pm. Seats priced at £1.35 per adult can be booked at the canteens at today's match.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the Supporters Club now. Complete an application form at any of the canteens at today's match. Membership of the Supporters Club entitles you to cheaper away travel and other events organised by the Supporters Club throughout the year.

MARTIN MURPHY BENEFIT

The Supporters Club are running a "Sponsored Try" competition for Martin's Benefit during the 1977/78 season. If you would like to sponsor Martin in this event please contact any Supporters Club Official at today's match for a Sponsorship Form.

Fixtures 1977-8

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground
1977		
Aug. 7—(Sun.)	Rochdale (3-00) A	5-14
21—(Sun.)	Wigan (L.C. 3-00) A	5-49
28—(Sun.)	L.C. 2	
Sept. 4—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-15) A	5-15
11—(Sun.)	Barrow (3-30) H	23-7
18—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-00) A	28-2
25—(Sun.)	Huyton (3-30) H	
Oct. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-00) A	
9—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-30) H	
16—(Sun.)	Huyton (2-30) A	
23—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (1)	
30—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-30) H	
Nov. 6—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (2)	
13—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30) A	
20—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30) H	
27—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-00) A	
Dec. 4—(Sun.)	Barrow (2-30) A	
11—(Sun.)	Batley (3-30) H	
18—(Sun.)		
26—(Mon.)	Rochdale (3-00) H	
1978		
Jan. 2—(Sun.)	Huddersfield (3-00) A	
9—(Sun.)	York (2-30) A	
15—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-30) H	
22—(Sun.)		
29—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30) H	
Feb. 5—(Sun.)	Batley (3-00) A	
12—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 1	
19—(Sun.)	York (3-30) H	
26—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 2	
Mar. 5—(Sun.)		
12—(Sun.)		
19—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-30) H	
24—(Fri.)	Rochdale (3-00) A	
27—(Mon.)	Huddersfield (3-00) H	
Apr. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-30) H	
9—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-00) A	
16—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30) A	

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground
1977		
Aug. 20—(Sat.)	Widnes (L.S. 3-00) H	15-7
26—(Fri.)	Widnes (L.S. 7-30) A	8-22
Sept. 3—(Sat.)	Warrington (3-00) H	
10—(Sat.)	Barrow (2-30) A	
17—(Sat.)	Widnes (3-00) H	
30—(Fri.)	Salford (7-30) A	
Oct. 8—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00) A	
16—(Sun.)	Workington H	
28—(Fri.)	St. Helens (7-30) A	
Nov. 12—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00) H	
19—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00) A	
26—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00) H	
Dec. 3—(Sat.)	Barrow (3-00) H	
9—(Fri.)	Warrington (7-30) A	
17—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00) A	
1978		
Jan. 7—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00) H	
14—(Sat.)	Workington (2-30) A	
20—(Fri.)	Widnes (7-30) A	
28—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00) A	
Feb. 4—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00) H	
Mar. 11—(Sat.)	Salford (3-00) H	
Apr. 15—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00) H	

CUP ROUNDS

Forshaw's Lancs Cup Final:
Saturday, 29th October
Player's No. 6—Round 3: 19/20th November
1st Semi-Final: 26th November
2nd Semi-Final: 3rd December
BBC 2 Floodlight Final: 13/20th December
Player's No. 6 Final: 28th January, 1978
RLCC 3rd Round: 11/12th March
1st Semi-Final: 1st April; 2nd Semi-Final: 8th April
Premiership—Round 1: 23rd April
Semi-Final 1st Leg: 29/30th April
Semi-Final 2nd Leg: 7th May Final 20th May
RLCC FINAL: 13th May

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 STONDIN, U
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 O'BRIEN, C.
- 5 LARDER, P.
- 6 KNIGHT, G.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 FRODSHAM, P.
- 11 JEWITT, P.
- 12 HERBERT, S.
- 13 PETERS, A.
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 HALL, F.

Referee:

D. W. FOX (Wakefield)

Huyton

- 1 A. N, OTHER
- 2 CHISNALL, L.
- 3 GRADY, B.
- 4 BURKE, R.
- 5 NUTTALL, A.
- 6 TABERN, J.
- 7 BISHOP, A.
- 8 FLETCHER, G.
- 9 WALKER, D.
- 10 GOULDING, R.
- 11 COOP, J.
- 12 DALY, A.
- 13 HEESOM, A.
- 14 WILLS, K.
- 15 WESTHEAD, L.

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Sunday 25th September 1977 Admission by Programme only