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10p

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

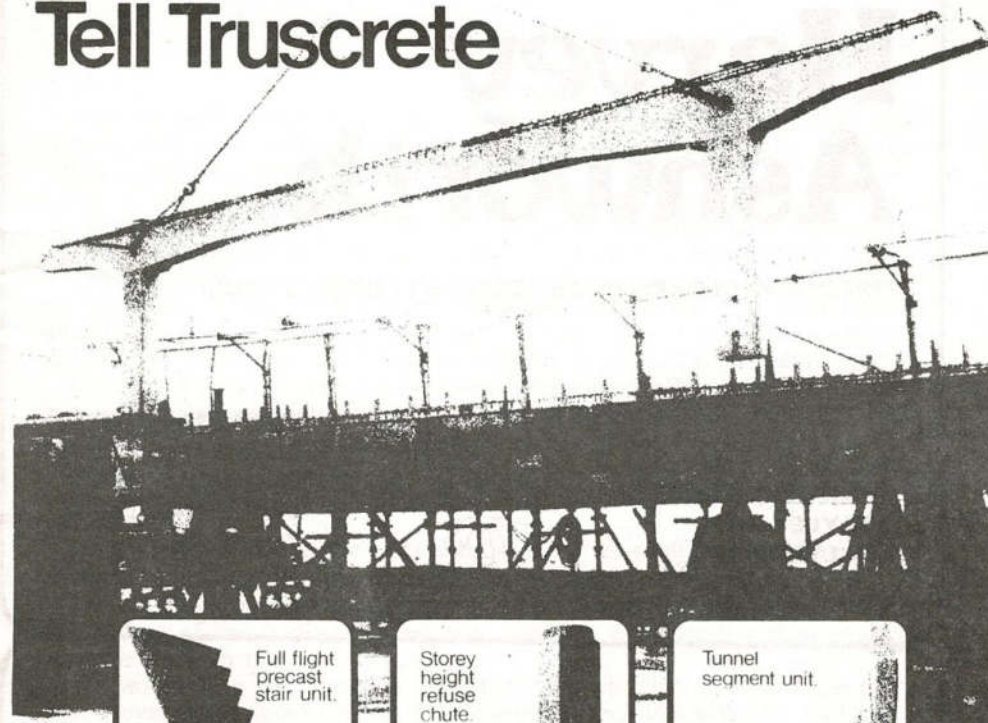
Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Ouch! Fred Hall, the Oldham forward, crashes head on with a Halifax forward in our last home match.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

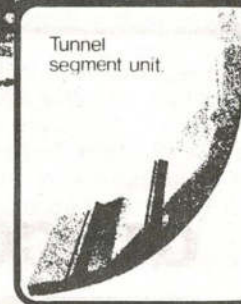
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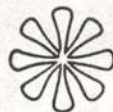
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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

May we take this opportunity of telling you about our new bingo pool, a pool which we believe is very, very attractive to the punter and gives great value for money.

For a 10p stake, you have the chance of a £500 prize compared to a £100 top prize on the old ticket. We believe that represents a good investment for the supporter and that the ticket will prove very popular indeed.

The change-over, of course, coincides with the big change of personnel in the pools office. Alan Taylor, our pools chief since 1970, has left the club because of business commitments in other directions and his successor is Kevin Wilkinson, the club secretary for the past seven years.

Kevin is a very well-known member of the club staff and he will combine his new duties as pools chief with those of secretary, a set-up that works successfully at several other Rugby League clubs, including Leigh and Widnes.

He will, of course, have more office assistance as and when it is required.

We are confident that the club will benefit from such an organisation and that the new bingo ticket will prove exceptionally popular.

In fact, the signs are very, very encouraging already and we are expecting big things of the pool which we may augment with another money-raising venture early in the New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our agents for their loyal and trusted support over the years and link with that a plea that they continue to serve the club in the best possible way.

The pools organisation, of course, is the life-blood of most clubs these days and agents old and new will find the staff Mr. Wilkinson and Carol Johnson, very helpful in advising any potential agent on how to build up a round.

Either Mr. Wilkinson or Carol can be contacted on 652-5244 and they will be delighted to hear from you.

We must now offer our congratulations to the Oldham Supporters Club quiz team which has won through to the final of the Radio Manchester quiz.

In the semi-final they beat Bolton Wanderers Supporters Club to qualify for the big night in which they meet a team representing Lancashire Cricket Club.

We would also like to wish everyone connected with the club, members, season-ticket holders, supporters, players and staff, every good wish for a happy Christmas.

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Oldham's last game before the Christmas holiday sees Batley visiting Watersheddings in a Second Division match which Oldham must win if they are to maintain their challenge for promotion.

Although Batley have not beaten Oldham since March 1970, they came very close to success on their last visit to this ground in October 1976 when they met Oldham in the opening round of the Players No6 Trophy. Indeed, on that occasion they surprised Oldham with a tremendous show of aggression and determination which left them 9-4 in front with only 20 minutes to go. At that point, however, Oldham centre Tony Wainwright was able to score a fine solo try which spurred Oldham on and further tries by Geoff Munro and Steve Herbert gave Oldham a 17-9 victory which they hardly deserved. Nevertheless it was Oldham's fourth successive victory over Batley since they lost 13-5 against them in a league match at Mount Pleasant almost eight years ago. Oldham won the return league game of that 1969-70 season by 9-7 and when the two sides last met in league football, during season 1974-75, Oldham pulled off a couple of comfortable victories, by 17-2 at home and 31-5 away.

One cannot envisage Oldham winning so easily this afternoon against a Batley side which is led by stand-off Dave Stockwell who was recently appointed player-coach at Mount Pleasant. He is a vastly experienced middle back who began his professional career with Halifax before moving to Bradford Northern in 1965. Stockwell enjoyed a great deal of success at Odsal where his loyalty and talent made him a firm favourite with the fans. Early in his career he played twice for Yorkshire but he was never able to gain a regular place in representative football. One of the highlights of Stockwell's career came in 1973 when he appeared at Wembley with Northern. Unfortunately Featherstone proved much too good for Bradford who were defeated 33-14 but at least Stockwell was able to fulfil an ambition of playing at Wembley. Last August he was transferred to Batley on a free transfer so his next aim in life must be to lift Batley away from the lower regions of the league table and if he tackles that problem with the same enthusiasm as which he has approached his own playing career then, before too long, we may see the Gallant Youths challenging for promotion.

However, it does not look as if those promotion dreams will be realised this season for last weekend's 7-5 home win over Halifax was only their third league win from 12 outings and they lie down in 11th position in the Second Division table. Batley's other two league successes this season have been against Swinton at home 22-10 and at Doncaster 19-12 but they have conceded double defeats to both Whitehaven and Rochdale Hornets as well as falling to disappointing home losses against Barrow and York. Oldham, therefore, will enter this match as favourites to win but they must not underestimate the fighting qualities of the opposition who I feel sure will help to make this match a close and interesting one.

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Oldham scrum-half John Paterson in action against Halifax.
Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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

Referee:
D. W. FOX (Wakefield)

Batley

- 1 GRAY, B.
- 2 SIMPSON, J.
- 3 RICHARDSON, J.
- 4 RIPPON, D.
- 5 WHELAN, M.
- 6 STOCKWELL, D.
- 7 WATTS, A.
- 8 WALTHAM, J.
- 9 PIWINSKI, Z.
- 10 TAYLOR, B.
- 11 FINN, B.
- 12 JARVIS, P.
- 13 SHEEHAN, D.
- 14 JAMESON, P.
- 15 HUDSON, W.

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Brian Batty

John Atkinsons decision retire from the game at the rather premature age of 31 carries a message for young players.

The Leeds left winger has put personal pride and his career in the police force before the sport he loved and lived for in a long spell at the top.

'I have not been able to give of my best because of the awkward hours involved in my job and I have decided to go out with a reasonably sound reputation rather than as a hasbeen,' Atkinson told me.

Johnny Whiteley, who had Atkinson in his 1970 Ashes winning side in Australia, handed him the Yorkshire captaincy this season.

Whiteley is not only a sound judge of a players ability but also their character and he says; 'I can understand John's feelings.

'I think young players should read into his decision just how much the game means to him.

'He feels so strongly about it he does not want to cheat. He has been at the top since he first started.

'Only his best was good enough and even though he was a player who could lose his rag in the heat of the moment he was respected by the players

The Atkinson-Smith wing has been the world's best pair for the last decade and I am sorry it has ended.'

Alan Smith feels the loss of his clubmate and friend from the Leeds scene as much as Hope regretted the death of Crosby.

Atkinson's great finishing power produced some of the most memorable tries I have seen and he could destroy defences with his swerving runs inside.

He scored a fine individual try for Yorkshire against Lancashire at Widnes recently and the game will miss his class and distinctive style.

He was always feared by the Australians who recognised him as a winger capable of turning the toughest test clash and one memory I shall always retain is of his performance in the World Cup final in France in 1972.

Atkinson ignored an ugly head wound and concussion to stay and make sure Great Britain regained the trophy from Australia.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Refereeing this afternoon's game is 38 years old Grade Two official Derek Fox of Stanley, Wakefield who passed his referees examination in 1977 and graduated to the second grade at the beginning of the season having served a year's probation under the Referee's Assessor, local personality Sam Shepherd. Mr. Fox enjoys gardening and works as a Magisterial Officer at the Wakefield Magistrates' Court.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Pride of place this week must go to Saddleworth Rangers' Under 18's side, who last Sunday beat Blackbrook (St. Helens), here at Watersheddings in the Final of the BARLA Lancashire-Cumbria Youth Cup. Many of the Saddleworth players have attracted the attention of several professional clubs this season, and it now remains to be seen as to whether or not the youngsters will soon sign for senior clubs, or play out the season as amateurs.

The man who deserves the most praise for the team's success must be coach Brian Gartland, whose side still remains unbeaten this season. As I mentioned in the previous programme, Brian looks certain to retain the appointment as coach to the Lancashire Youth side, but he must now be wondering how long it will be before his successful club-side begins to split up, due to the offers from professional teams.

A fortnight ago, the Oldham Under-18's town-team went down at Leeds in the BARLA Inter-League Youth competition, but it is hoped that the town's open-age team will have had more success this weekend, as they have been playing in the ¼-final of their Inter-League competition, at Leigh. If the team have been victorious, they will move into the semi-finals and give the local amateur league a share in the sponsorship money, which is divided between the last 4 leagues in the competition.

The coach of the Oldham open-age town-team is Brian Churm, who has recently also accepted the appointment as coach of Saint Anne's, and has said that one of his main targets with the club is to help them retain the Oldham Standard Cup, which they won last season. Their defence of the trophy should have started last Saturday, but due to overnight frost their match at Mayfield had to be postponed, as did two other ¼-finals Salem v Saddleworth "A", and Ferranti v Saddleworth. In fact, the only match played locally last Saturday was the Standard Cup ¼-final game between Fitton Hill and Langworthy Juniors, in which the Juniors, from the 1st Division of the North-West Counties League, defeated Fitton Hill, who are members of the Pennine League's 3rd Division.

Fitton Hill are another local team with a new coach, but this time the recently acquired man-in-charge is no stranger to his players, as he is Dougie Bottom, who has been a player with the Fitton Hill club for several seasons. In fact, the present Fitton Hill side includes many players with great experience, and who have given excellent service to the club, such as Eric Lowther, Steve Booth and Malc Woodhead, whilst several young players have recently come into the team, notably John Cartledge, John Whelan and Ian Cartridge. The Fitton Hill club began purely as a youth side, and produced several players who were later snapped up by the professional clubs, including Steve McGiffen and Johnny Blair, and have recently taken steps to rebuild this side with the formation of an Under-16s team, who are at present showing very good form in the Rochdale Under-16s League.

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Although they are now out of the Standard Cup, Fitton Hill are one of several Oldham sides who have received byes in the 1st Round of the Pennine Cup, which takes place next Saturday. The top match of the round is undoubtedly the all-Oldham game between Waterhead and Saint Anne's, whilst Saddleworth will entertain West Bowling "A" from Bradford, and Ferranti will be at home to Worth Village of Keighley. Higginshaw are away

Oldham Schools PHIL LARDER

Saturday November 26th. Round 1 English Schools Cup Under 16.

OLDHAM 33 WHITEHAVEN 11

Royle; Dobb; Chadderton; Derbyshire; Rawkin; Foy; Willis; Gratton; Deakin; Karach; Rainer; Kilgannon; Warburton (Capt); Subs : Stott; Mills.

A tremendous result against a previously undefeated Whitehaven. Oldham played excellent rugby, tackling well, driving the ball in hard, and then moving it quickly out to the backs who were able to utilise the wide pitch.

The team was well captained by Joe Warburton, an uncompromising loose forward, and he was well supported by Billy Rainer, Peter Kilgannon and Chris Deakin. The half backs, Chris Willis (he played for the Oldham Schools soccer XI in the morning) and Des Foy completely dictated play and provided both centres with ideal ball. Mark Derbyshire won the man of match award in the centre with some straight strong running and his ability to create three tries for his winger, Steven Dobb, who also had an outstanding game.

Tries : Dobb 3; Rainer 2; Royle; Chadderton; Derbyshire; Foy.
Goals : Chadderton; Deakin; Willis.

Saturday December 3rd. English Schools League Under 16.

OLDHAM 46 YORK 2

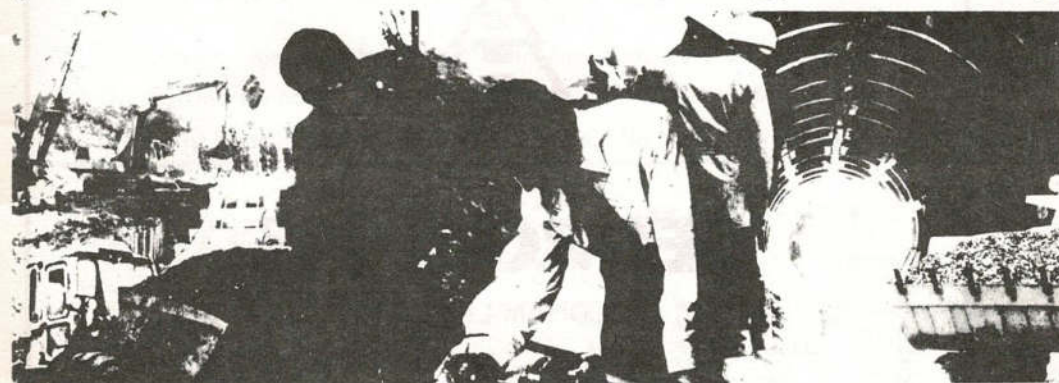
Royle; Maloney; Derbyshire; Stott; Rankin; Warburton (Capt); Chadwick; Gratton; Deakin; Karach; Kilgannon; Walsh; Rainer; Subs : Mills; McHugh.

Despite being without the injured Dobb and Foy, Oldham were far too strong for York who did not relish playing on the hard ground. Oldham could score at will, and the game was reduced by fifteen minutes so as to avoid the visitors any further embarrassment. Joe Warburton playing in the unusual role of stand off won the man of the match award; other fine performances were produced by Martin Royle; Paul Stott; Mark Derbyshire; Damien Chadwick; Martin Gratton; Chris Deakin; and Anthony Karach. Tries : Kilgannon 2; Warburton 2; Derbyshire 2; Maloney; Stott; Gratton; Deakin; Rainer; Rankin.

Goals : Stott 3; Chadwick; Deakin.

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Fixtures 1977-8

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground	Date	Opponents	Ground
1977			1977		
Aug. 20—(Sat.)	Widnes (L.S. 3-00)	H	Aug. 20—(Sat.)	Widnes (L.S. 3-00)	H 15-7
26—(Fri.)	Widnes (L.S. 7-30)	A	26—(Fri.)	Widnes (L.S. 7-30)	A 8-22
Sept. 3—(Sat.)	Warrington (3-00)	H	Sept. 3—(Sat.)	Warrington (3-00)	H
10—(Sat.)	Barrow (2-30)	A	10—(Sat.)	Barrow (2-30)	A
17—(Sat.)	Widnes (3-00)	H	17—(Sat.)	Widnes (3-00)	H
30—(Fri.)	Salford (7-30)	A	30—(Fri.)	Salford (7-30)	A
Oct. 8—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	A	Oct. 8—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	A
16—(Sun.)	Workington (2-30)	H	16—(Sun.)	Workington (2-30)	H
28—(Fri.)	St. Helens (7-30)	A	28—(Fri.)	St. Helens (7-30)	A
Nov. 12—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	H	Nov. 12—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	H
19—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A	19—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A
26—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	H	26—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	H
Dec. 3—(Sat.)	Barrow (3-00)	H	Dec. 3—(Sat.)	Barrow (3-00)	H
9—(Fri.)	Warrington (7-30)	A	9—(Fri.)	Warrington (7-30)	A
17—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	A	17—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	A
1978			1978		
Jan. 7—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00)	H	Jan. 7—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00)	H
14—(Sat.)	Workington (2-30)	A	14—(Sat.)	Workington (2-30)	A
20—(Fri.)	Widnes (7-30)	A	20—(Fri.)	Widnes (7-30)	A
28—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	A	28—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	A
Feb. 4—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	H	Feb. 4—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	H
Mar. 11—(Sat.)	Salford (3-00)	H	Mar. 11—(Sat.)	Salford (3-00)	H
Apr. 15—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H	Apr. 15—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H
1977			1977		
Aug. 7—(Sun.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A 5-14	Aug. 7—(Sun.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A 5-14
21—(Sun.)	Wigan (L.C. 3-00)	A 5-49	21—(Sun.)	Wigan (L.C. 3-00)	A 5-49
28—(Sun.)	L.C. 2		28—(Sun.)	L.C. 2	
Sept. 4—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-15)	A 5-15	Sept. 4—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-15)	A 5-15
11—(Sun.)	Barrow (3-30)	H 23-7	11—(Sun.)	Barrow (3-30)	H 23-7
18—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-00)	A 28-2	18—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-00)	A 28-2
25—(Sun.)	Huyton (3-30)	H 19-13	25—(Sun.)	Huyton (3-30)	H 19-13
Oct. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-00)	A 18-7	Oct. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-00)	A 18-7
9—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-30)	H 19-10	9—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-30)	H 19-10
16—(Sun.)	Huyton (2-30)	A 20-7	16—(Sun.)	Huyton (2-30)	A 20-7
23—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (1) Barrow	H 16-8	23—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (1) Barrow	H 16-8
30—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-30)	H 17-13	30—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-30)	H 17-13
Nov. 6—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (2) Salford	10-29	Nov. 6—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (2) Salford	10-29
13—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	A 3-24	13—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	A 3-24
20—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	H	20—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	H
27—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-00)	A	27—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-00)	A
Dec. 4—(Sun.)	Barrow (2-30)	A	Dec. 4—(Sun.)	Barrow (2-30)	A
11—(Sun.)	Batley (3-30)	H	11—(Sun.)	Batley (3-30)	H
18—(Sun.)			18—(Sun.)		
26—(Mon.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H	26—(Mon.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H
1978			1978		
Jan. 2—(Sun.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	A	Jan. 2—(Sun.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	A
8—(Sun.)	York (2-30)	A	8—(Sun.)	York (2-30)	A
15—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-30)	H	15—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-30)	H
22—(Sun.)			22—(Sun.)		
29—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	H	29—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	H
Feb. 5—(Sun.)	Batley (3-00)	A	Feb. 5—(Sun.)	Batley (3-00)	A
12—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 1		12—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 1	
19—(Sun.)	York (3-30)	H	19—(Sun.)	York (3-30)	H
26—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 2		26—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 2	
Mar. 5—(Sun.)			Mar. 5—(Sun.)		
12—(Sun.)			12—(Sun.)		
19—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-30)	H	19—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-30)	H
24—(Fri.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A	24—(Fri.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A
27—(Mon.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	H	27—(Mon.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	H
Apr. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-30)	H	Apr. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-30)	H
9—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-00)	A	9—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-00)	A
16—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	A	16—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	A

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.