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Rugby League Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27.
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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.



So near-yet so far! Scrum-half Alan Bates is halted within sight of the Hornets line by Dave Hartley, the Hornets loose-forward.
Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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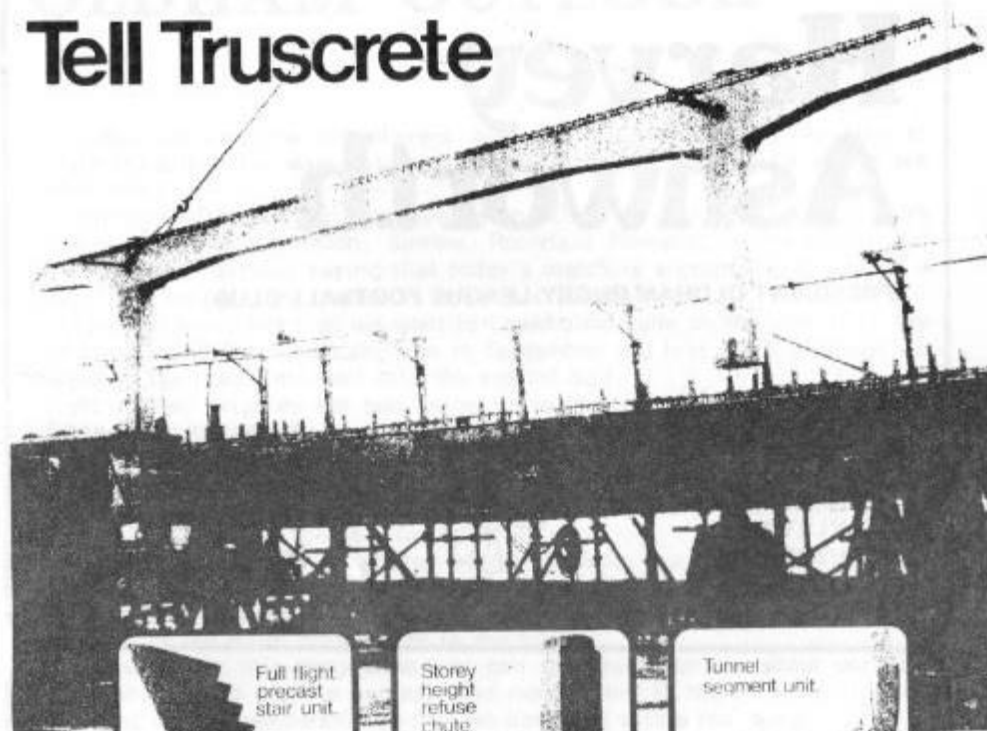
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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

Today we welcome the players and officials of the Keighley club to Watersheddings for what will be a very important fixture so far as we are concerned.

Having lost four of our last five Second Division games against clubs in competition for promotion, Barrow, Rochdale Hornets, Huddersfield and York, it goes without saying that today's match is a crucial one against a team that has already beaten us once this season.

You will remember that we went to Lawkholme Lane on the very first day of the Second Division campaign in September and lost 15-5 although we were in the lead until well into the second half.

At present Keighley are just below us in the table but if we are to keep in touch with the top four we must win today and hope that the other results go our way.

It has already proved a very happy New Year for Mrs. A. Meanock of Stevenson Drive, Oldham who recently became the very first winner of our £500 bingo prize on the new ticket.

The £500 prize will be offered every month for the time being but after March it will be a fortnightly prize. We would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs. Meanock and hope that she is but the first of many contented winners of our major bingo prize in the future.

Elsewhere in this programme you can also read details about our new pool which is to start in earnest next month. Now is the time for us to be building up the membership so that we can start with a real bang.

Basically there is a top prize of £1,000 EVERY WEEK. Yes, every seven days you can stand to win the £1,000 jackpot, so that can't be bad. The cost is 20p per week per share for a pool which we are calling the MAXI POOL for the very obvious reason that we are paying out the maximum amount of prize money as allowed by the law.

We are confident that it will be a roaring success. Barrow run a similar pool and because, by necessity, membership has to be restricted, there is actually a waiting list at Craven Park. We think the same could well happen here.

Full details can be obtained from the pools office before, during or after today's match or by ringing 652-5244 during normal office hours and up to 8 p.m. on Mondays.

Postal application, together with an initial 20p for membership, can also be made and your name and address will then be put on the list of a bona-fide club collector who will pay you regular visits.

May we offer congratulations to the Supporters Club whose quiz team carried off the Radio Manchester sports quiz in the final against Lancashire County Cricket Club at Maine Road, Manchester on Monday.

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Oldham's third successive defeat last week at York was a severe jolt to the club's promotion prospects and Oldham now face a difficult uphill task as they fight to regain a top four placing and with it a ticket into the First Division. However, six of the remaining ten Second Division matches are to be staged here at Watersheddings including visits from fellow promotion candidates Leigh, York and Huddersfield so, although the task is a stiff one, it is far from impossible especially if Oldham can regain the sort of form which saw them winning nine consecutive matches during September and October.

The difficult New Year programme continues this afternoon with another vital promotion clash against Keighley, a club who have lost only one of their last nine matches and so who still have hopes of playing in the First Division next season. Keighley have not lost an away match since early October and their unbeaten sequence began with a win at York and they then won at Doncaster and up at Whitehaven before drawing their last two away matches at Swinton and Batley. When these sides last met in league football during season 1975-76, when they were both in the First Division, Oldham completed a double over their rivals, winning by 13-12 here at Watersheddings and then by 17-8 over in Yorkshire but, of course, they will be unable to repeat that feat this season for they have already lost at Keighley by 15 points to five in the opening match of the league campaign.

Since Oldham lost to Keighley last September, the Lawkholme Lane club have revised their coaching set up and appointed 31 years old scrum-half Barry Seabourne as their player-coach. Seabourne is now at the twilight of a distinguished career which began in February 1963 when he turned professional with Leeds from Hunslet Schools rugby. Throughout his career Seabourne has been noted as a tricky player with a sound tactical brain and his talents have earned him numerous representative selections including the captaincy of Great Britain under-24, Yorkshire and England although, surprisingly, he has made only one test appearance for Great Britain, that being against New Zealand during the 1970 Australasian tour. Seabourne has also enjoyed tremendous success at club level, first with Leeds and then with Bradford Northern who he joined in January 1972. He has made three appearances at Wembley and was voted man-of-the-match in the 1968 Yorkshire Cup Final as well as in the 1975 Players Trophy Final when Bradford beat Widnes 3-2. He will be hoping to continue his successful career now that he has moved to Keighley who, under his expert guidance, will be making a firm challenge for promotion this spring.

The clash of rival half-backs and skippers Alan Bates and Barry Seabourne should be an outstanding feature of what promises to be an exciting match which neither club can afford to lose. Oldham, with ground advantage, should just start favourites but they will have to keep a wary eye on the Keighley dangermen, especially free scoring winger Terry Morgan, a former Great Britain Colt, who has already scored 18 tries this season and who poses a serious threat to Oldham.

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- 7 BATES, A.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 FRODSHAM, P.
- 11 HALL, F.
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- 5 STEPHENSON, J.
- 6 NICHOLSON, J.
- 7 SEABOURNE, B.
- 8 ACKROYD, A.
- 9 CARDISS, L.
- 10 DICKINSON, A.
- 11 CLARKSON, A.
- 12 SHARP, G.
- 13 BIRDSALL, C.
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Uri Stodin receives attention from Bob Welding after having his jaw broken in a high tackle by Rochdale's Alan Hodkinson in the Boxing Day derby at Watersheddings.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

The draw for the 1st Round of the BARLA National Cup has brought mixed fortunes for the Oldham teams involved in the competition, with Saint Anne's and Saddleworth "A" receiving home ties, whilst Higginshaw, Saddleworth and Waterhead have all been drawn away against Saint Helens opposition.

Without doubt, the toughest task of all faces Pennine League Division 2 side Higginshaw, who have to travel along the East Lancs Road to meet Pilkingtons, the team who have recently won the Lancashire-Cumbria Cup for the second year in succession, and have therefore qualified as one of the amateur representatives in this season's Rugby League Challenge Cup, along with Dewsbury Celtic. County Cup semi-finalists Waterhead face slightly easier opposition in St. Helens "B", who are at present at the foot of the 1st Division in the North-West Counties League. This 1st Division of the North-West Counties League doesn't contain the League's top clubs, as, unlike the Pennine League, there is a Premier Division, in which all the top teams compete.

The current leaders of the Pennine League, Saddleworth, are away to Bold Hornets who are at present top of the North-West Counties 2nd Division, whilst the Saddleworth "A" team will face an uphill struggle at Greenfield, against last season's North-West Counties League Champions. Crosfields of Warrington. Standard Cup holders Saint Anne's will be at home at Stoneleigh Park to Langworthy Juniors of Manchester in a game, which like all the other 1st Round ties, will take place on January 28th.

Langworthy have, of course, re-entered the Oldham Standard Cup this season, and have won through to the semi-finals, where they will be joined by the winners of yesterday's Salem Hornets-Saddleworth "A" clash, and the victors of the two all 1st Division ties Mayfield v St. Anne's and Ferranti v Saddleworth, which are to be played on February 4th. The draw for the semi-finals of the Oldham Standard Cup can be heard live on Radio Manchester's "BARLA Midweek" programme, on Wednesday January 25th, between 7.15 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Towards the end of this season the Oldham Amateur Rugby League are hoping to organise an Under-16 knockout competition, which will be open to any clubs or schools wishing to enter a team. The only stipulation is that any Under-16 players who are registered with the Pennine League will not be eligible to play in the tournament, and therefore all the competing sides should be of fairly equal calibre. Teams in the newly-formed Rochdale Under-16's League will be able to take part in the competition, and any other clubs or schools who might like to enter a team should contact the Oldham Amateur Rugby League secretary, John Burke, 14, Wester Hill Road, Oldham.

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With the Amateurs

Next Sunday several players from the Oldham League will be on view at City Road, St. Helens, the home of the Pilkingtons club, where the Lancashire County trials are taking place, both at Open-age and Under-18 level. The trial matches begin at 11 a.m. and selection for the County will put players in with a chance of International honours later in the season. At the end of the season, the Great Britain open-age team will be making a trip to Australasia, and the Oldham League are hoping that they will be represented on that tour as they were on last year's youth tour by Nicky Kiss.

BARLA have now published a brochure containing photographs, reports and comments of that historic youth tour, and for anyone interested in having a copy, the brochure can be obtained, priced 50p, form: BARLA Headquarters, Britannic Building, 3, Upperhead Row, Huddersfield.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR LEAGUE NEWS AND REPORTS:

RADIO MANCHESTER: (206 medium wave; 95.1 vhf).
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FURTHER INCREASES IN ATTENDANCE FIGURES.

Once again the Rugby League have been able to announce an increase in attendance figures with a total of 211,177 spectators attending the 58 games staged in December. This gives an average gate of 3,641 which compares very favourably with the 1975 average of 2,960. The holiday fixtures boosted the figures up tremendously with almost 84,000 people being attracted to the 17 holiday games, an average of almost 5,000.

The BBC TV Floodlit Cup also attracted increased support with the final between Hull Kingston Rovers and St. Helens being watched by a crowd of 10,099, the biggest gate in a final since 1969. A total of 52,594 spectators watched the series of matches, a tremendous increase from the 36,572 people who watched the competition in 1975.

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