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**OLDHAM**

PLAYERS' No. 6 CUP COMPETITION—FIRST ROUND  
SUNDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1978 CRAVEN PARK, HULL

Kick-off 3 p.m.

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### OUR VISITORS

For our Players' No. 6 first round tie we welcome ~~Oldham~~, who after being one of the clubs alternating between 1st and 2nd divisions, finished sixth in the lower league last season and were expected to be promotion candidates this term, especially if they could clinch some close season signings. So far however they have made an unimpressive start and with finances in a not-too-healthy state, no hoped-for summer signings have been made.

There were some movements early this year, in both directions. Signings of ex Bradford centre **Phil Ward**, prop **Chris Charles** from St. Helens and **Colin North** a former amateur international off half from Batley were offset by the sales of **Dave Treasure** to Leeds, **Glen Knight** to Huddersfield and both **Dave Hill** and **Eddie Barton** to Barrow. During the summer 21 year old second row forward **Paul Starbuck** who lives in the Castleford area and who had been in dispute with the club was sold to Bradford for £3,000.

In addition hooker **Roger O'Mahoney**, the club's only ever-present last season, who usually sees his side has an ample supply of the ball, was listed at £12,000 at his own request a couple of weeks ago. Prop **Brian Hughes** was listed at £6,000 a week earlier after asking for a move, and half back **John Paterson**, their second leading try scorer last season with 13, has had his fee increased from £4,500 to £6,000.

Top try scorer last term was experienced centre **Phil Larder** with 18, though top point scorer was winger **Uri Stondin** who had five tries and 55 goals 125 points despite missing games from Christmas due to a broken jaw.



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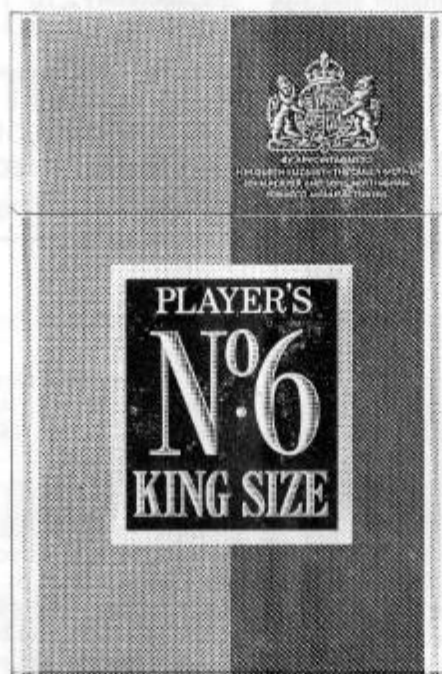
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Full back **Martin Murphy** who has a reputation as a strong tackling full back is currently in his benefit year whilst scrum half **Alan Bates**, Player-of-the-Year last April, formed a club halfback partnership with Alan Agar for years with Dewsbury.

Coach **Dave Cox** also made his reputation in the Heavy Woollen District, and he is assisted by **Bob Welding**.

**THE 1978/79 JOHN PLAYER COMPETITION**—There are again big prizes in the popular John Player Competition, the League's biggest and richest sponsored event. This season the Competition has a record £33,000 prize pool at stake, a ten per cent increase on last season. That is being shared among the clubs unlucky enough to fall in the first, second and third rounds while the winner's reward remains at £8,000. The new prize structure is :—

**WINNER**—The John Player Competition Trophy and £8,000 (Previously £8000).

**RUNNERS-UP**—£3,500 (previously £3,500).

**LOSING SEMI-FINALISTS**—£1,750 each (previously £1,750).

**LOSING THIRD ROUND CLUBS**—£900 each (previously £750).

**LOSING SECOND ROUND CLUBS**—£700 each (previously £600).

**LOSING FIRST ROUND CLUBS**—£550 each (previously £450).

Success in today's first round will mean our club goes into the draw for the second round and that will take place at the studios of BBC Radio Leeds at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 31st October. It will be made by Mr. Ian Searle, Special Events Executive of John Player & Sons accompanied by Mr. Sumner Baxendale, Chairman of the League and Mr. David Oxley, Secretary of the League. The second round matches will be played over the weekend 1st, 2nd and 3rd December.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**—To **Mike Smith**, selected as centre, and **Roy Holdstock**, named as sixteenth man (reserve to travel) and required to train with the squad, for the Great Britain Under 24 side *versus* Australia at Craven Park on 4th October. Tickets for the match are on sale for the Centre Stand at £3 and Ends £2. Ground admission will be £1 (60p for O.A.P. and boys).

Also to **Len Casey** and **Phil Lowe** for the prominent parts they played in Yorkshire's 37-9 win over Cumbria at the Boulevard last Wednesday. Both had fine games and each scored a try. Not forgetting **Brian Lockwood** who was named in the "shadow" team as prop forward.

Owing to a Yorkshire County rule which states that a player must have played for his Club in the match prior to the selection meeting Roger Millward, Mike Smith, David Hall and Paul Rose could not be considered for selection.

**PERFORMANCES**—Once again last weekend all three of our teams recorded victories. Even taking into consideration that Featherstone are not the formidable opposition they once were, Rovers nevertheless and particularly in the first half, produced their best form for some time. Man-of-the-match **Brian Lockwood** revealed remarkable ball distribution powers which meant that second rowers **Mike Hughes** and **Phil Lowe** were able to show their very best form. As a result of his willingness to support Lockwood on all occasions Hughes registered the first hat-trick of his career and the first scored by a Rovers' forward since 28th March 1973. New signing **Geoff Clarkson** also had a fine game and hooker **David Watkinson** as well as having his customary non-stop game gained a big supremacy in the scrums. In the backs **Clive Sullivan** scored his usual try and all in all as a combined force everyone was extremely competent.

The one blot on the game was the unfortunate accident to centre **Bernard Watson** who received a broken right ankle which medical opinion states will keep him side-lined for about two months and is most certainly a very severe blow to us.

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**RESERVES' REPORT**—Last Saturday the 'A' team visited York for the first round of the Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup with an old score to settle, as it was York who knocked us out of this competition last season. We played well in the first half and just before half time held a 17-0 lead due mainly to a solid performance by the pack. York however pulled the score back to 17-5 right on half time and on the restart put us under a lot of pressure and reduced the deficit to 17-12. With **Ian Madley** having suffered a twisted ankle we were rattled at this stage and lost our composure for a while, but settled down sufficiently to score a further eight points against five more by the Minster men to finish 25-17 winners. Tries came from Dave Heslop (2); Roy Holdstock, Graham Douglas and Gary McHugh, with five goals from Ian Robinson.

**Roy Holdstock** and **Dave Heslop** returning after suspension and injury respectively stood out, coach **John Moore** is looking to their experience for a good cup run. Rovers former international winger **Chris Young** incidentally recently resigned as York 'A' team coach.

**Steve Hubbard** was not eligible for that cup tie as he had played in two senior games and only one 'A' team game so far this season. One of the qualifications even at this early stage of the season is that a player shall not have appeared in more first team games than 'A' team games.

Our second round opponents are New Hunslet 'A' at Craven Park, week ending 14th October.

**COLTS' COLUMN**—In a near gale force wind our Colts again turned on a superb show at York last weekend to win 41-16. On the wide open spaces of the Knavesmire the high wind made handling difficult and goal kicking almost impossible. Despite this Rovers showed once more what a high degree of skill and team work they can produce whenever they are in full flight. A splendid opening saw Rovers take a 19-0 lead with two Johnny Woods tries and one each from Paul Procter, Graham Kemp and Dave Livingston. With Gary Spence landing two goals in virtually a gale things looked all over for York but they fought back scoring three quick tries and two goals making the half time score 19-13.

The break was obviously used by coach John Edson to good effect. Rovers really went to town afterwards, crossing for further tries by Mick Clayton (2), 'Bobo' Watson and Kevin Hickman with Gary Spence bringing his personal tally to 14 points with two tries and two goals. All-in-all another splendid performance played in difficult conditions. The handling throughout was excellent, the backing up and tackling leaving nothing for York to

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*Blue and White*

- 1—David HALL
- 2—Wally YOUNGMAN
- 3—Mike SMITH
- 4—Ged DUNN
- 5—Clive SULLIVAN
- 6—Roger MILLWARD
- 7—Alan AGAR
- 8—John MILLINGTON
- 9—David WATKINSON
- 10—Brian LOCKWOOD
- 11—Phil LOWE
- 12—Mike HUGHES
- 13—Len CASEY
- 14—Steve HARTLEY
- 15—Paul ROSE



## OLDHAM

*Red and White*

Coach—Dave COX

- 1—Martin MURPHY
- 2—Uri STONDIN
- 3—Phil LARDER
- 4—Geoff MUNRO
- 5—Steve LUND
- 6—John PATERSON
- 7—Alan BATES
- 8—Chris CHARLES
- 9—Roger O'MAHONEY
- 10—Brian HUGHES
- 11—Fred HALL
- 12—Steve HERBERT
- 13—Kevin FLANNAGAN
- 14—
- 15—

Full Back  
Right Wing  
Right Centre  
Left Centre  
Left Wing  
Stand Off  
Scrum Half  
Field Side Prop  
Hooker  
Blind Side Prop  
Second Row  
Second Row  
Loose Forward

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do but flounder in their wake. In new prop Doug Livingston, John Edson seems to have unearthed another gem. Big and strong, he was a revelation and his teaming up with fellow prop Paul Tattersfield could be a real bonus for the future. Don't forget next Saturday, 30th September, Rovers Colts v. Leeds at East Park—kick off 3 p.m.

**CURTAIN RAISER**—Today's curtain raiser and half time Under 11 years Schoolboys Seven-a-side match in the **Wilf Spaven** Memorial Trophy is between Biggin Hill and Eastfield. The referee is Mr. P. Lowthorpe.

**BOARDROOM**—At the first meeting of the Board of Directors subsequent to the recent Annual General Meeting, **Mr. David Wilkinson** was elected as Vice Chairman in succession to **Mr. Percy Johnson** who of course continues to serve on the Board. **Mr. Fred Anderton** was elected as Chairman of the Greyhound Subsidiary Company.

**VACANCY**—Applications are invited for the post of full time dressing room supervisor and baggage man. Full particulars may be obtained from the Club Secretary.

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Today's Man of the Match will be selected by Mr. Adam McKenzie, Managing Director of Practical Motorist's (Hull).

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## SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Welcome today to our visitors from Oldham with whom we look forward to renewing our friendly rivalry in Cup football. Who at Craven Park would ever forget that Rugby League Cup semi-final that seemed to go on and on before Rovers went through to Wembley only to lose to Widnes in the Final? To all Oldham supporters we welcome you and cordially invite you to use the Clubhouse before the game.

Our primary rounds for the *News of the World* Darts Competition are now well in hand and there seems to be a great deal of interest. With our normal Darts Knock-Out Competition played every Saturday and the number of league matches played in the Clubhouse each week, I suppose this makes us a hotbed of the "flight arrow game." If there is any member who thinks of himself as a budding John Lowe, let's see you any Saturday night or if you would like to run a team please call in and ask any Committee Member.

The Souvenir shop on the ground have just received several new items for the funds, including a new type of enamelled badge; lettered 'T' shirts etc. Have a look in on your way out. The shop is situated near the entrance to the best stand and our Les will always be pleased to see you.

Last week's match against Featherstone will be remembered for quite a few things. The passing moves leading to tries; Mike Hughes' hat trick; the amount of possession the Robins had; but along with those what about the little boy who spent all the second half making sand castles on the Dog Track. He even had a bucket and spade! I wonder if we should start selling rock with "Rovers" right through it; in red and white of course.

FRED WARD

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# ROVERS' PEN PICTURES—BERNARD WATSON

Centre or off-half—31 ; 5 ft. 11 ins.; 12 st. 7 lbs.

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A product of Dewsbury Thornhill as off-half or centre, Bernard Watson captained England and Yorkshire Under 19 sides before joining Leeds in April 1965. He made his first team debut in March 1966 and became a regular centre choice from the 1967-68 season, appearing in their Wembley Cup winning side in 1968 and their 1969 Championship winning side, and scored 49 tries in 116 games. He also played for England Under 24's during 1969.

On 18th September 1970 a transfer to Bradford was agreed for £6,500, Bernard making his debut versus Salford at Odsal the following day. He was appointed club captain, helped Yorkshire win the County Championship in 1971 and played for a Great Britain XIII versus Leeds in a Testimonial game.

Following a hip injury he retired from playing on medical advice and was appointed coach to Bradford's Under 19 side, but reversed his decision after feeling no ill effects in training. He regained his regular centre position, playing at Wembley again in the 1973 Final against Featherstone.

After two transfer requests he was listed at £4,000 and Rovers paid the full fee to sign him on 28th April 1974. He had made 117 appearances for Bradford, scoring 45 tries and 20 goals.

Bernard made a try scoring debut for Rovers at off half against Doncaster on 25th August, and apart from occasional games at full back and in both half back positions, has been an automatic choice at left centre, developing a fine understanding with wing partner Clive Sullivan. He is currently out of action with a broken ankle.

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