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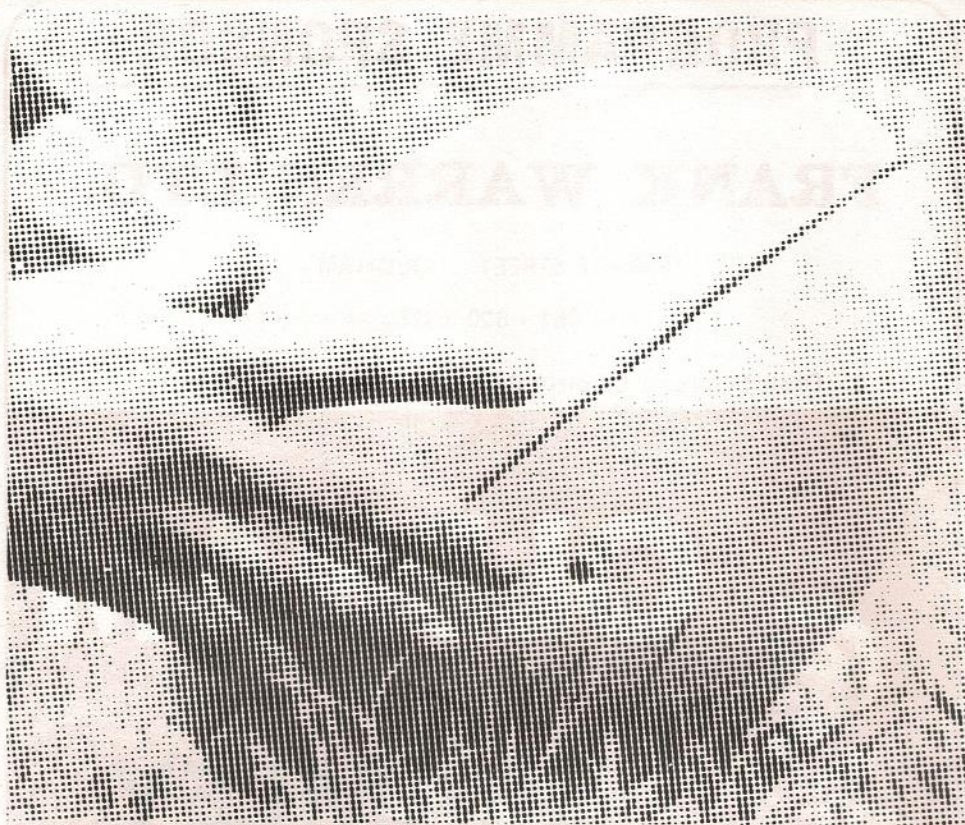
SUNDAY, 25th MARCH, 1979 Kick off 3.0 pm



10p

TODAY'S MATCH BALL
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A FRIEND DROPPING IN Manchester Evening News

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB THE PAVILION, WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM

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Assistant Coach R. WELDING

Physiotherapist: R. JAY

Assistant Physiotherapist: J. WATKINS

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

Tel. 061-652 5244

Groundsman: F. BROOKES

Assistant Groundsman: M. BASHFORTH

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.

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

ONE of the most exciting things to happen at Watersheddings since the war is the massive £36,000 project now being undertaken to convert our old pavilion into a modern sports complex.

The basement of the old building, which would have many an interesting tale to tell about rugby over the last century if only it could talk, is being ripped out to provide first-class facilities for the club and the public.

Of the total cost, nearly £27,000 has been provided by Sports Council grant with the remaining £9,000 supplied by the club.

We hope to obtain another grant next year and, if successful, we plan to build a two-storey extension on the car park side of the pavilion to provide a modern and impressive main entrance.

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The first phase of the job, which has been going on for several weeks now, involves the creating of four dressing rooms, accommodating men and women; a multi-gym area for weight training and other exercises; three shower and bathing areas, one of them for the exclusive use of colts and schoolboy players; newly-furnished bar and tea room facilities.

We are completely modernising what was the old pavilion bar and we hope that by next season this will be in use as a members' bar.

During the week it will be used for the relaxation and convenience of the members of the public, who will be joining our keep-fit club.

The existing dressing rooms will be turned into an area that will double up as a match-day tea room and special facilities for the players.

There will be a two-storey suite providing dressing and shower facilities for the colts team, to be formed next season, and for use by local schoolboys.

A trim trail or jogging track is to be constructed outside the pavilion, with various exercise stations along the route.

Though the whole scheme may sound ambitious, it is in fact only the beginning of a massive project over the next year or two.

The committee, planning for the future, have retained the services of a local firm of surveyors and valuers to consider future in-depth development of the club's facilities generally.

Squash courts are certainly envisaged and, who knows, some day might even see the construction of a huge sports hall.

We are really planning for the future and we hope that the public of the town will become an integral part of that future.

Certainly, on the playing side, the future looks very bright indeed with the formation soon of our own third team.

The boys are certainly coming through as witnessed by the progress once more to the final of the English Schools Trophy by the Oldham under-16 team, coached by Phil Larder.

We would like to offer our congratulations to the boys and wish them well in their final against Hull which will be played here at Watersheddings on Saturday, April 7th, kick-off 11.30 am.

Harvey Ashworth

(PRESIDENT OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB)

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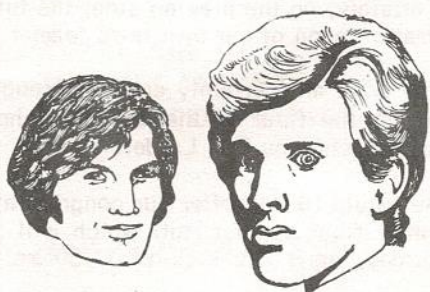


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DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?

by Alex Givvons.

BALL STEALING

For many years now, spectators and players alike, have been confused with the law on Ball Stealing.

The accepted principle. (That a one to one situation was O.K., but, any other players involved would mean a penalty.) was changed when it was ruled that if a man was making progress the ball could be stolen with any number of tackles. This meant that referees would seem to be inconsistent in their ruling; but it was their decision alone which determined if a tackle was effected.

In September, 1978 the R.L. Council modified the ruling after strong recommendations from various bodies, re. 'The ball may be stolen only in a (one to one) situation. It shall be illegal for the ball to be stolen in a tackle made by more than one player, once a tackle has been completed, no player shall take or attempt to take the ball from the tackled player.'

The referee aided by his touch judges must also watch for the tackled player who accidentally loses the ball, or in fact "gives it away". Hoping for a penalty kick.

Next Match Programme "The 7 Point Try?"

WEMBLEY TICKETS

Following last year's full house at Wembley, seating tickets for this year's Challenge Cup Final on Saturday, 5th May, are already a sell out.

However, Standing Tickets priced only £2.00 are now available. Simply contact the Club Secretary.

Supporters Club

SOCIAL CLUB:

Rooms are available to hire for Weddings; Parties; Conferences etc. Phone D Pilkington, 061 624 0368; for further details.

JUMBLE SALE

A Jumble Sale will be held on Tuesday 27th March. Anyone who wants any jumble collecting please notify any of the Supporter's Club Officials.

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Our Visitors

BRAMLEY, our visitors to Watersheddings today, are one of the four clubs who were relegated from the First Division at the end of last season.

They were joined by Hull, New Hunslet and Dewsbury but, unlike Hull and New Hunslet, they do not appear likely now to win promotion at the first attempt.

Indeed, of the four relegated clubs, Bramley are finding it the hardest in the Second Division and have currently lost eight of their 16 league games to date.

They have 15 points from seven wins and draw two fewer than Oldham, who also have a game in hand.

But facts and figures like this can often be misleading. In fact, only seven points separates fourth-placed Blackpool, who look like being hard to shift from the top four, and lowly Whitehaven, who are fifth from bottom.

Bramley are certainly capable of better things than their league position indicates and this will be confirmed by anyone who saw them perform in their recent Challenge Cup ties with First Division Salford.

Bramley were by far the better side in the first match at the Willows and were robbed of what would have been a spectacular win only by an equalising drop goal from David Watkins in the very last seconds of injury time.

Not to be denied, Bramley forced another draw at McLaren Field and then, despite having to come to Lancashire for the second replay, beat Salford at Swinton to become one of this year's cup giant-killers.

Maybe the supreme effort had taken its toll because they were comprehensively beaten in the next round at Huddersfield.

But Bramley had done sufficient against the Red Devils to post warning that they can still be a force to be reckoned with before this season is out.

The home defeat by Blackpool was something of a shock to them but again we must not be kidded: Bramley that day were minus at least five regular first teamers because of injury.

They may not be blessed with big names but the side is certainly capable of playing good, attractive football and has a fine goalkicker in former Leeds full-back Stuart Johnston.

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11 Colin HAWKYARD

12 Steve HERBERT

13 Peter JEWITT

14

15

Referee

W.H. THOMPSON (Huddersfield)

BRAMLEY

1 Stuart JOHNSON

2 Ian SAMPSON

3 Steve NICHOLSON

4 Malcolm DUDLEY

5 George PIENIAZEK

6 Richard WINTERBOTTOM

7 Barry LANGTON

8 Alan ACKROYD

9 Roy HAWKSLEY

10 David KNOWLES

11 Steve BOND

12 Kevin JAMES

13 Terry CROOK

14

15

Touch Judges:

P.M. Oliver (Bolton)

D.M. Russell (Rochdale)

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Congratulations Terry Flanagan! The Saddleworth Rangers' Under-18s loose-forward, and younger brother of Oldham forward Kevin Flanagan, has recently been named as captain of the Great Britain Youth team which will be playing France at Wheldon Road, Castleford on Sunday, April 8.

Terry, who has led Rangers to two consecutive BARLA Lancashire-Cumbria Youth Cup wins, made his International debut last season, when he came on as a substitute in France, while he has also previously represented Great Britain at schoolboy level. Although Terry's normal position is at loose-forward, his choice in that position was even more pleasing to local amateur league officials after the Lancashire selectors had chosen him as a second-row forward for their County matches against Cumbria and Yorkshire.

There is in fact the chance that Terry could receive another honour as Australia's Combined State High Schools Team, who made a successful tour of this country in the 1972-3 season, are planning a return trip shortly before Christmas, when it is hoped that they will play a Youth Test Match against the current Great Britain Under-18s side.

The Oldham Standard Challenge Cup again dominated the local amateur league programme yesterday, when it was hoped that the two remaining quarter-finals would have taken place, having been postponed ever since December 2. The two games saw St. Anne's entertaining Salem Hornets, and Ferranti playing hosts to Waterhead, with the winners progressing through to join Mayfield and Shaw in the semi-finals. If yesterday's games produced conclusive results then the semi-finals will be taking place this coming Tuesday (Kick-off: 6 pm.), on neutral grounds, which have as yet to be decided. However, if any of the quarter-final matches ended in a draw, the replay will be staged this Tuesday, with the affected semi-final being put back to the following Tuesday. The Standard Cup Final will, as usual, be played here at Watersheddings, on Good Friday morning (Kick-off: 11. am).

The British Amateur Rugby League Association's National Cup has also recently produced much local interest with Saddleworth Rangers being drawn at home to Saint Anne's in the 3rd Round. The match, which features the only two teams from the Oldham area to still have an interest in the competition, takes place at Greenfield, next Saturday (2.30 pm.). The only other Lancashire-based Pennine League team still in the tournament is Mayfield from Rochdale.

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