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Sunday, 29th March, 1981

LEIGH

VERSUS

OLDHAM

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Souvenir Programme

20p

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* * *

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Today's Visitors

OLDHAM

THE MEN FROM WATERSHEDDINGS.

Fans in and around Leigh are still talking about that last minute try by Oldham full back Martin Murphy in the Slalom Lager 1st Division Fixture at Watersheddings in October because that try proved to be the match winner as far as Oldham were concerned and two valuable league points were obtained.

Unfortunately for the Oldham fans there has not been a great deal more to cheer about this season although it can be said that only a one point deficit stopped Oldham from entering the Semi finals of the Three Fives Challenge Cup Competition when they lost 6-5 to St. Helens two weeks ago.

It very much seems that Oldham are doomed to relegation and that would be a pity because they have only just been promoted after an excellent season in the 2nd Division last term.

I am sure it will not be the end of the world if Oldham do drop into Division Two because they have some outstanding young players who would surely benefit from a lower grade of football. Players like Terry Flanagan who is one of Rugby League's brightest prospects having already gained International honours at only 20 years of age. Also his former Saddleworth colleague scrum half Paddy Kirwen who has recently been turning in some excellent performances in the first team, and second row forward Alan Platt who at only 19 years of age is a natural footballer and will obviously be a big name in the game in the not too distant future.

Ironically enough these three youngsters could all have joined Leigh. All three were spoken to and in one case actual terms were offered but in the end they signed for the Watersheddings Club who would seem to have three future Tourists.

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The Oldham personnel has changed a great deal in recent years but one player who has remained loyal to Oldham throughout his professional career is the player who we referred to at the start of these notes—Full back Martin Murphy.

Martin was picked up by the former Chairman of Oldham, now a great worker with Saddleworth Rangers, Ken Fisher who along with the then Secretary of Oldham and now Secretary-General Manager at "Hilton Park" John Stringer who were at the Leigh Miners ground watching the Leigh Open age Amateur side take on the Widnes Town team. One recalls that John Cooke who later turned professional with Swinton was the one the deputation had particularly gone to watch but it was the dash of the teenage red head Murphy who caught the eye.

Martin signed after three trial games and as we have just said has been a fine and loyal professional. At the time of this signing Martin lived in the XII Apostles Club in Nel Pan Lane but moved to live in the Oldham area some years later. He made his debut against Leigh but could not have had such a hectic baptism as he was carried off on a stretcher after a skirmish with the Leigh full back at the time Colin Tyrer.

Murphy recently broke the all time record for Oldham appearances and that certainly proves just what a loyal player he has been.

Phil Larder was another good Oldham servant who recently joined Whitehaven after completing ten years with the Oldham Club. Phil still resides in the Oldham area owning a Sports Shop in Saddleworth.

Earlier we referred to Alan Platt who of course is part of the famous Platt Rugby playing family with his father Don a fine player on his day with Leigh, Wigan, Oldham and Batley and brother Maurice who had some good days at Leigh before moving on to Wigan. Alan still lives in Gordon Street, Leigh—almost back to back with the "Hilton Park" ground.

Martin Murphy of course was a Leigh lad and another local who is making good at Oldham is youngster Gareth Owen who of course is the son of the great Stan Owen. I know that Stan and Joan (Mrs. Owen) were delighted recently when Gareth was selected to play for Wales in France. It was an honour very much deserved. Another son of yet another Great forward is Oldham prop forward Stephen Herbert. Stephen is the son of that Great Britain forward of the early sixties Norman Herbert. Stephen, together with the Leigh lads at Oldham will be all out to give a good account of themselves this afternoon in what for them is a "local derby."

NEXT MATCH AT 'HILTON PARK'

LEIGH v. WAKEFIELD T.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12th, 1981

Slalom Lager 1st Division Game. Kick-off 3.30 p.m.

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The Sponsors for todays game are, Tetley Walker Ltd., who, of course, supply the beers for our Bars. We are very grateful to the Management of this Company for their outstanding assistance to the Leigh Club a part of which has been their generous sponsorship.

We extend a warm welcome this afternoon to their Management and Staff and hope they have an enjoyable afternoon—just the same as we hope you the paying public enjoy the game and the Tetley beers afterwards.

Whilst on the subject of Sponsorship a vacancy has arisen for a full sponsor for our game against Wakefield Trinity on Sunday, April 12th, 1981. The Company who we booked for the Wakefield game on the original date in December are not available for the rearranged date. If your Company is interested in this vacancy please contact the Secretary General Manager as soon as possible.

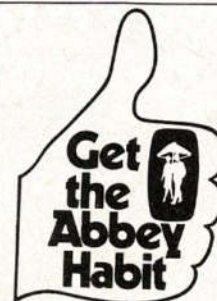
The idea of Sponsored Mascots has done really well this season and the lads have had a marvellous time acting as the Sponsored Mascot.

I am told that the idea will continue next season and we are already taking names for this very popular idea. I understand next season the cost will be £20 and the mascot will come to "Hilton Park" change into his kit, meet the players in the dressing room and assist with the "rubbing down" and then leads the team onto the field and meets the match officials at the "toss up". If you are interested in Sponsoring a small boy, perhaps your son or your errand boy please consider sponsoring him as Team Mascot. Enquiries please to the Secretary's office.

Sportsmans Dinner

The Committee responsible for the organisation of the recently held Sportsmans Dinner have asked me to thank all those who attended and enjoyed a great evening.

We hope it will not be long before the next Dinner, please watch this space and the local press for details. These will be announced as soon as a date is finalised.



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FIRST TEAM AND 'A' TEAM—REMAINING FIXTURES

Wednesday, April 1st—FEATHERSTONE R. (Away).

Sunday, April 5th—LEEDS (Away).

Sunday, April 12th—WAKEFIELD TRINITY (Home).

Wednesday, April 15th—WIGAN 'A' (Home).

Friday, April 17th—SALFORD (Away).

Monday, April 20th—WARRINGTON (Home).

COLLECTION

The Committee of the Hospital Broadcast Fund would like to express their sincere thanks to all Supporters who contributed to the collection taken at the Hull K. R. Match.

Particular thanks go to the Nurses and Staff from the local hospitals who assisted with the collection.

The amount of £148.67 was raised and this money will go towards further improving the Hospital Broadcast Network.

Everyone at the Club is very grateful for your generous contribution.

FOOTNOTE

We have also been asked by the members of the Leigh Rotary Club to thank all supporters and those of Bradford Northern for their generous contributions to the collection held for "The Year of the Disabled". The collection realised £165 and this will go to providing a holiday for THREE disabled persons in a specially designed hotel for the Disabled in Blackpool.

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LEIGH versus HULL K.R.

Last Sunday's game against Hull Kingston Rovers was our third home game in succession following the two home games against Bradford Northern and Leeds.

Everyone in the Town have been saying how unfortunate it has been for the new R.L. Action programme that their cameras have not been at "Hilton Park" during this time.

Instead of the slog and battling we saw when Wigan travelled to Huddersfield we would have seen some fabulous rugby—end to end moves and some brilliant tries.

Against Hull Kingston Rovers the Leigh lads began where they had left off throwing the ball around in fine style and building up a very useful nine point lead.

Lapses in defence then cost us dearly just a minute from half time there had been a complete turnaround and Hull K.R. had taken advantage of some weak tackling, turned on the football everyone in the league knows they can play and that scoring machine Steve Hubbard proved the programme writer correct when he stormed in for two first rate wingman tries. He later scored another at a crucial time and showed that he really can win matches.

The guts of the Leigh lads were there for all to see and the last minute drop goal from Alan Fairhurst was just reward for a good team effort.

The draw against Hull Kingston Rovers meant that we had taken three points from our two games against them this season and there are not many first division sides who can boast that, it also meant that this was our sixth successive game without defeat—five wins and a draw.



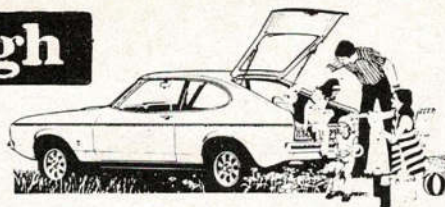
You can't see him but he is there—Referee Gerry Kershaw indicates Leighs opening try to prop forward Alf Wilkinson.



Timms of Leigh



TELEPHONE 673401



LEIGH

Colours: Red & White Jerseys
White Shorts

1. MICK HOGAN
2. DES DRUMMOND
3. TERRY BILSBURY
4. STEVE DONLAN
5. PHIL FOX
6. JOHN WOODS
7. ALAN FAIRHURST
8. ALF WILKINSON
9. ~~GEORGE ASPINALL~~ WALL
10. TONY COOKE
11. GEOFF CLARKSON
12. ~~ARTHUR DALEY~~ ROY HOWARTH
13. ~~MICK McTIGUE~~ GIBBENS

Substitutes:

14. ~~GREEN~~
15. ~~DALEY~~

OLDHAM

Colours: Blue Jerseys
White Shorts

1. ~~MARTIN MURPHY~~ CATTARA
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. ~~ASHLEY McEWAN~~ HUNTER
4. ~~DENIS O'NEILL~~ PARRISH
5. ~~BRIAN GAFFREY~~ McEWAN
6. ~~RAY ASHTON~~ O'NEILL
7. PADDY KIRWAN
8. GARETH OWEN
9. RAY MARTLAND
10. ~~BILL HARRIS~~ ALEX
11. ~~ALAN PLATT~~ HERBERT
12. BOB MORDELL
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

Substitutes:

14. ~~STEVE HERBERT~~ ASHTON
15. ~~ADRIAN ALEXANDER~~ PLATT

Referee:
J. HOLDSWORTH
(Leeds)

Touch Judges
W. J. GREENHALGH (Pink Flag)
F. J. TOMLINSON (Orange Flag)

Timekeeper:
Mr. J. Hope

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PHOTO ACTION—LEIGH v. HULL K.R.



Dave Dunn in a determined mood.

A good action shot of prop
Alf Wilkinson, seen here running
into a two man tackle.



(Photos by courtesy of Harry
McGuire)

"A" Team "Blues"

After sitting pretty at the top of the Lancashire Combination Table for virtually the full season the "A" team look very much like finishing up in that frustrating runners up position or even lower although we have to live in hope and accept the fact that anything can happen in Rugby League.

When we printed the "A" team table in last weekend's programme we were in first position in the league, Oldham "A" were in second place and Wigan and St. Helens were in third and fourth positions.

The results of the matches last weekend changed the positions considerably and with quite a number of mid week games during the past week it is difficult to keep up to date with the league table.

However the leading positions last Monday morning were as follows:-

Oldham	22	15	0	7	30
Wigan	21	14	1	6	29
Leigh	22	14	0	8	28
St. Helens	18	12	2	4	26
Whitehaven	18	12	0	6	24
Warrington	20	11	1	8	23

We had a disastrous match last Friday at Warrington losing by one point 13-12 after a game when we had enough chances to win six matches. Our main problem was the absence of a goal kicker and three very easy kicks were missed. Roy Howarth had been called up for first team duty and he was solely missed in this particular department. Alan Fairhurst another extremely accurate marksman had also been selected for first team duty and he too was absent.

Whilst we were losing at Warrington Oldham "A" were notching up a good victory at Rochdale so they must now be odds on favourite to take the Combination title although St. Helens could come with a late challenge, or even Wigan.

One should add of course that Leigh "A" and Oldham "A" met at Watersheddings on Thursday night and a Leigh win there will really have thrown the race wide open again.

Unfortunately we went to print too early to give that particular result.

Irrespective of how and where we actually finish does not really have much significance except that the lads who have worked so hard all season like to see themselves towards the top of the table but from the Club's point of view the "A" team have, as usual been invaluable in providing players for the first team squad, and for that we have to thank the dedication of the coaching staff who have done a marvellous job of work.

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First Team Appearances and Scorers

All games (excluding friendly matches v. Blackpool and v. Widnes, and abandoned game against Leeds) Up to and including the Hull K.R. home game last Sunday. Possible games 30. Totals include substitutes who actually played.

	App.	G.	T.	Pts
J. Woods	26	57 + 1dg.	11	148
A. Fairhurst	21	19 + 6dg	2	50
D. Drummond	24	—	12	36
S. Donlan	30	1 + 1dg	10	33
P. Fox	25	—	9	27
T. Gittins	26	5 + 2dg	4	24
T. Bilsbury	21	1dg	7	22
M. Hogan	15	—	3	9
A. Rathbone	15	—	3	9
T. Cooke	26	—	2	6
S. Grimshaw	12	—	2	6
I. Hobson (now with Huddersfield)	11	—	2	6
M. McTigue	16	—	2	6
G. Aspinall	7	—	1	3
K. Green	20	—	1	3
B. Platt	8	—	1	3
L. Wall	16	—	1	3
A. Wilkinson	10	—	1	3
P. Alstead	2	—	—	0
E. Bowman (now with Wigan)	9	—	—	0
D. Bullough	7	—	—	0
B. Clarke	5	—	—	0
G. Clarkson	2	—	—	0
D. Dunn	5	—	—	0
T. Garrity	3	—	—	0
R. Howarth	2	—	—	0
A. Keaveney	1	—	—	0
D. Pyke	13	—	—	0
D. Scott	8	—	—	0
M. Stacey	2	—	—	0
M. Swann	6	—	—	0
R. Tabern	19	—	—	0
G. Worgan	1	—	—	0
M. Yates (now with Salford)	3	—	—	0

The following players have scored tries in representative matches: Woods (3), Bilsbury (2), and Drummond (3), but these are **not** included in the above.

Details by courtesy of Mike Hulme (Leigh Journal)

Supporters Club Notes

Today we welcome our friends from Watersheddings, Oldham, who although seemingly destined for the second division will be expecting a swift return to the first.

I've no doubt that they will be able to consolidate their teamwork next season and after that they should be a force to be reckoned with.

Our own team, after a hard game against Hull K.R. here last Sunday and another at Castleford last Wednesday, will be feeling a bit weary, Oldham will be out to make the most of this, so we may see a turn up here today.

CLUB SHOP

Our Shop is open before and after the match, for the sale of various items of clothing including shirts, sweaters and ties.

There is also a varied assortment of novelties and souvenirs, plus programmes for the collectors.

Sample prices:- Sweaters Chest 34 to 48 £7.50 & £7.00
Rugby Shirts 28 to 34 £6.15 & £7.75
Small Tee Shirts only £1.85

The match draw will take place as usual and tickets are on sale at various points around the ground at 5p each. First prize is £15.00 with eight minor prizes.

Last weeks winning numbers:- 885, 125, 1280, 055, 033, 930, 1063, 276. Prizes may be claimed at the office next door to the shop, which may be found behind the scoreboard.

You may still be able to book for the day trip to Wembley cost £5.00. Check today at the shop.

EASTER DRAW

Tickets for the Easter Draw are available from members and players. First prize £50.00 and Giant Easter Egg, plus prizes of £25, £10, and £5. There are also 20 consolation prizes of £1 plus a signed photograph of John Woods.

Tickets cost 10p each. Get yours today they're going fast.

ANNUAL DANCE

Please note that the supporters club annual dance tickets are now on sale cost £1.00. The dance will be held at Leigh Miners Welfare, Friday, 24th April, 1981. Dancing and Cabaret, Bar open till midnight.

Your chance of a good night out for only £1.00 get your ticket now from any member of the supporters club committee.

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Thanks from Des

Everyone connected with the Leigh Club, Directors, Players, Staff and Supporters were very sorry indeed last week to hear of the death of Des's 2 years old daughter Millicent. Dozens of sympathy messages arrived at "Hilton Park" from supporters and Officials attended Millicent's funeral in Bolton on Tuesday afternoon.

Even at such a trying time Des broke away from his family and came over to the Club's representatives and simply said, "Thanks a million for coming—would you please thank all the supporters who have written to me and who observed the silence last week—A mention in the programme would be appreciated."

We are only too pleased to oblige and at the same time I think it fair to thank Des for turning out for the Club last Sunday although he had to pull out of Wednesday's match with an ankle injury.

Please remember: The final "A" team game of the season is against Wigan "A" at 'HILTON Park' on Wednesday, April 15th 1981. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

What about giving the lads great support in this game after all they have been a pleasure to watch this season.

NEW CASH CASINO

It's easy to play at the Leigh Cash Casino!—Prizes from 25p to £1000. For only 25p stakes.

The new Leigh Rugby Lottery ticket "CASH CASINO" is on sale now at all good shop, pubs, kiosks and agents throughout the Leigh area. Each ticket has 4 great chances to win one of the major cash prizes.

If you would like to support your sport and possibly do yourself a favour at the same time then buy a ticket today. For details of your nearest agent or how you can become an agent yourself call at the Promotions Office after the game or phone 679369 during the week.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Young Supporters Notes

As promised our magazine "The Supporter" is on sale today. It is the last, for the time being at least, and is available for just 5 pence. It contains an interesting article on Walt Tabern, father of Leigh favourite Ray, an interview with Terry Bilsbury a new form of competition and all the regular features.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON COMPETITION

1.

2.

3.

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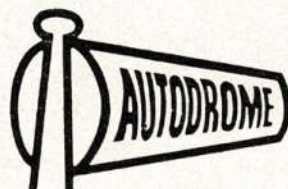
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First Team

FIXTURES

'A' Team

August 1980

6 (Wed) Blackpool B.	H	28-15
10 Widnes	A	7-41
17 Salford (Lancs Cup 1st Rd.)	A	12-23
31 Widnes	H	2-13

September

7 Wakefield Trinity	A	18-31
14 Hull	H	20-23
21 Bradford Northern	A	2-22
28 Castleford	H	22-18

October

5 Oldham	A	13-15
8 (Wed) Widnes	A	8-12
12 Workington T.	H	28-5
26 Barrow	A	7-13

November

9 St. Helens	H	7-21
11 (Tues) New Zealand	H	5-22
16 Halifax	A	10-13
23 Rochdale (J.P. 1st Rd.)	H	38-5
30 Barrow	H	24-8

December

7 Fulham (John Player 2nd Round)	H	17-9
14 Barrow (John Player 3rd Round)	H	13-15
21 Featherstone R.	H	16-3
26 (Fri.) Warrington	A	5-11

January 1981

1 (Thurs.) Salford	H	11-10
4 Hull	A	9-10
11 Halifax	H	9-17
18 Workington Town	A	4-0
25 Hull K.R.	A	12-8

February

8 St. Helens	A	10-9
15 Whitehaven (Chall. Cup 1st Rd.)	H	20-6
22 Open		

March

1 Salford (Chall. Cup 2nd Rd.)	A	3-12
8 Bradford Northern	H	18-14
15 Leeds	H	14-11
22 Hull K.R.	H	21-21
25 (Wed) Castleford	A	
29 Oldham	H	

April

1 (Wed.) Featherstone	A	
5 Leeds	A	
12 Wakefield	H	
17 (Fri.) Salford	A	
20 (Mon.) Warrington	H	

"A" team matches kick-off time details
Home matches on Thursday's 7.30 p.m.
Home matches on Saturday's 3.00 p.m.
Away matches to be announced

August 1980

22 (Fri) Widnes (Charity Match)	H	17-13
28 (Thurs.) Wigan (Shield 1st Rd.)	H	17-26

September

4 (Thurs.) Warrington	H	34-21
10 (Wed.) Salford	A	8-13
13 (Sat.) Whitehaven	A	0-11
25 (Thurs.) Widnes	A	26-10

October

2 (Thurs.) Oldham	H	23-10
11 (Sat.) Workington	A	27-3
15 (Wed.) Rochdale	A	22-8
25 (Sat.) Barrow	H	25-10

November

1 (Sat.) Blackpool	A	14-0
6 (Thurs.) St. Helens	A	10-27
15 (Sat.)		
22 (Sat.) Whitehaven	H	10-11
29 (Sat.) Barrow	A	9-23

December

4 (Thurs.) Swinton	A	21-22
13 (Sat.)		
18 (Thurs.) Rochdale	H	19-5
27 (Sat.)		

January 1981

10 (Sat.)		
13 (Tues) Swinton	H	12-3
17 (Sat.) Workington	H	15-8
22 (Thurs.) Widnes	H	11-19
30 (Fri.) Wigan	A	21-19

February

5 (Thurs.) St. Helens	H	15-5
14 (Sat.)		
19 (Thurs.) Salford	H	24-7
26 (Thurs.) Blackpool	H	30-2

March

7 (Sat.)		
20 (Fri.) Warrington	A	12-13
26 (Thurs.) Oldham	A	

April

15 (Wed.) Wigan	H	
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