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LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

1958

OLDHAM V. ST. HELENS

SATURDAY
25th OCTOBER
1958

At STATION ROAD
SWINTON

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.



OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME - Price 6d.

GIDEON SHAW, PRINTER, CASTLEFORD

Scrum-ptious



A forward needs enormous calves,
A back needs mounds of muscle,
Three-quarters, not to mention halves,
Need sinew for the tussle.
And Rugger men whose thinnish thews
Have hardly any kick in 'em,
Know Guinness is the stuff to choose
To build 'em up and thicken 'em.

GUINNESS

FOR STRENGTH

G.E.3085

Lancashire County Rugby League

President: Mr. J. Edden, Swinton. Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. Devonald, Widnes.

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CUP

The Lancashire County Challenge Cup, for which Oldham and St. Helens meet this afternoon, on the ground of the Swinton Club, was first played for on December 2nd, 1905, when Wigan beat Leigh after a replay by 8 points to nil.

Ever since the Cup was first put up for competition it has never failed to attract large crowds. The Clubs have profited, so has the County Committee, and always has the Final pulled in a crowd of a size which has told adequately of the place taken in the game by the competition, in which today's is the forty-sixth Final.

Oldham have figured in the Final on thirteen occasions, winning the Cup eight times in seasons 1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956 and 1957.

St. Helens have figured in the Final on five occasions, winning the Cup twice in seasons 1926 and 1953.

I thought it would make very interesting reading to record the winning St. Helens team in 1926, which is as follows—Crooks, Ellaby, Lewis, Frodsham, Cotton, Fairclough, Groves, Atkin, Clariy, Houghton, Halfpenny, Roffey, Shaw. There were three Internationals in the team—Alf. Ellaby, Frodsham and Fairclough.

Today's finalists have only met once in the competition and that was in 1956, at Wigan, when Oldham won by 10 points to 3 points.

Followers of the game could not have wished for a more attractive match than today's, for both teams hold the top two positions in the League table.

St. Helens are the more unfortunate for they will be without their captain, Allan Prescott, who has not fully recovered from the injury he sustained whilst touring Australia. Allan is a fine leader and will be sadly missed, for his great display in the second Test at Brisbane when he stayed on the field with a broken arm and rallied his depleted team to victory will live long in our memory. Another doubtful starter is Glen Moses with a damaged knee.

Oldham, who have won the Cup on the last two occasions, will be out to perform the hat trick which only Wigan have done in the past, having won it six times in a row.

Today's game is still very open, let's hope it will be a classic and may the best team win.

GIDEON SHAW.

If you wish to back
your fancy . . .

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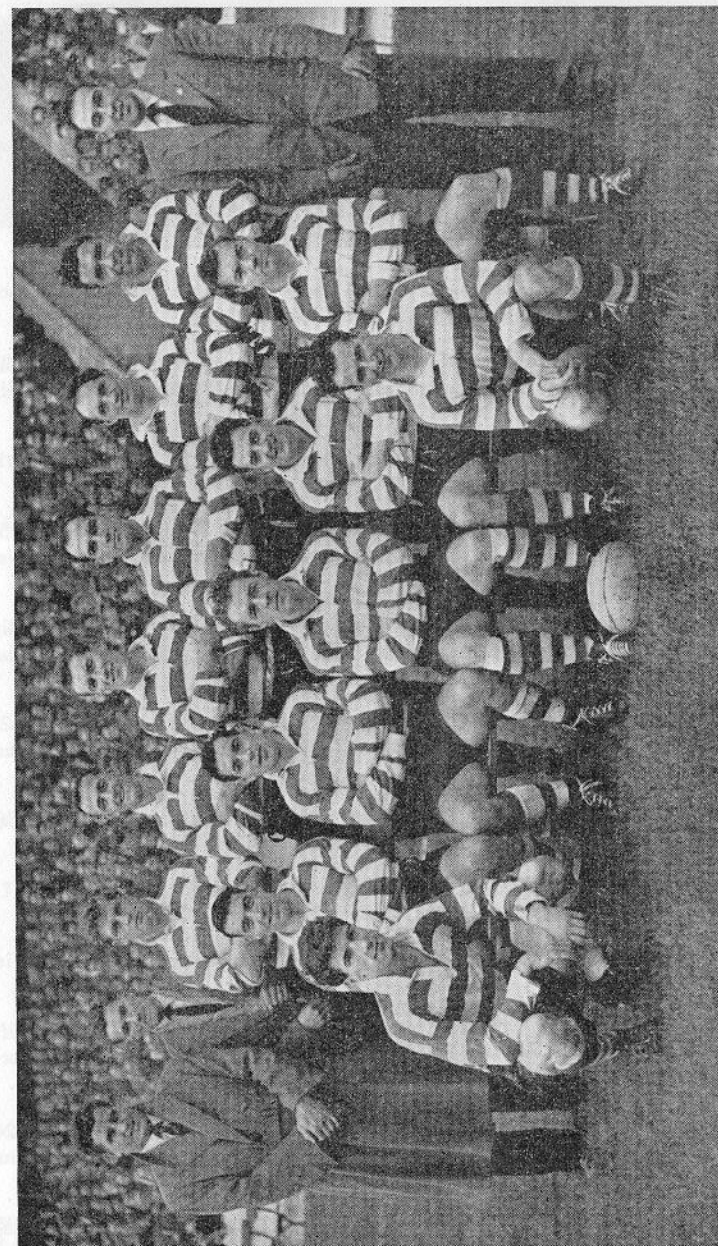
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Horses : Football : Greyhounds

Established over 26 years

B.P.A. Badge No. 780

AS SAFE AND SECRET AS THE BANK



OLDHAM

Back Row, left to right—Turner, Sims, McKeown, Keith, Duffry, Winslade, Little, Jackson, Rowbottom
Sitting—Cracknell, Davies, Ganley, Noon, Erry — In front—Kellest, Pitchford
(Photo by courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle)

Pen Pictures of the Oldham Team

B. Ganley, Full back. Captain. A product of Leigh junior football. 5ft. 9in. 12st. 9lb. Age 29 Honours—Lancashire County and Rugby League International. A Manchester University boy with a degree. Accountant.

R. Cracknell, Wing. Signed from Huddersfield in 1953 at a record fee. 5ft. 10in. 13st. 2lb. Age 28 Honours—England, Great Britain, Yorkshire County.

J. Noon. Age 22. 5ft. 10½in. 12st. 6lb. A local boy, signed on from the local continuation league five years ago when he was 17 years of age.

A. Davies, Centre. Another product of Leigh junior football. 5ft. 9in. 13st. 5lb. Age 25 Honours—Great Britain, Lancashire County, World Cup, Australia tourist this year.

J. Eddy, Wing. Secured from Batley. 6ft. 12st. 12lb. Age 30 Honours—Yorkshire County, British Empire Team.

A. Kelly. Age 21. 12st. 5ft. 10½in. Signed from Hebden Bridge Juniors in 1954. Just completed his military service and gained a regular place in the first team, played for Yorkshire County this season.

F. Pitchford, Scrum Half. Another product of Leigh junior football. 5ft. 4in. 11st. 3lb. Age 24 Honours—International and Lancashire County, Australian tourist this year.

K. Jackson, Forward. A local player in his eighth season. 6ft. 14st 7lb. Age 27. Honours—Rugby League XIII and Lancashire County, Australian tourist this year but returned home owing to injury.

J. Keith, Hooker. Played his junior football at Leeds. In his ninth season. 5ft. 11in. 12st. 2lb. Age 30 Honours—Rugby League XIII.

R. Dufty. Age 23. 6ft. 1in. 15st. Signed 18 months ago from London Irish R.U. and the R.A.F., he was bought out of the services by Oldham. Clerk.

C. Winslade, Forward. Born at Maesteg. Welsh R.L. International. 6ft. 1in. 15st. 5lb. Age 26.

S. Little, Forward. A Cumbrian signed from Harlequins R.U. Club. 6ft. 14st. 7lb. Age 27. Honours—Great Britain, Cumberland and World Cup. Selected to tour Australia this year but could not make the trip owing to business reasons.

D. Turner, Loose Forward. Signed from Hull K.R. 5ft. 11in. 13st. 9lb. Age 24. Honours—Great Britain, World Cup and Yorkshire. Selected to tour Australia but declined owing to injury.

D. McKeown. Age 22. 5ft. 10in. 13st. 10lb. Signed from a local junior club and has qualified for the first team this season. Draughtsman.

Jones cranes

— a match for any load!

A Product of

THE 600 GROUP OF COMPANIES

THE TEAMS

OLDHAM

Colours—White Jerseys, Blue Shorts

1	B. GANLEY	...	...	...	Full Back
2	R. CRACKNELL	...			Wing Threequarter
3	A. DAVIES	...			Centre Threequarter
4	J. NOON	...	...		Centre Threequarter
5	J. ETTY	...	...		Wing Threequarter
6	A. KELLETT	...	...	...	Out-half
7	F. PITCHFORD	...	...	...	Scrum-half
8	K. JACKSON	...	...		Prop Forward
9	J. KEITH	...	...	...	Hooker
10	D. McKEOWN	...			Front Row Forward
11	C. WINSLADE	...			Second Row Forward
12	R. DUFTY	...	...		Second Row Forward
13	D. TURNER	...	...		Loose Forward

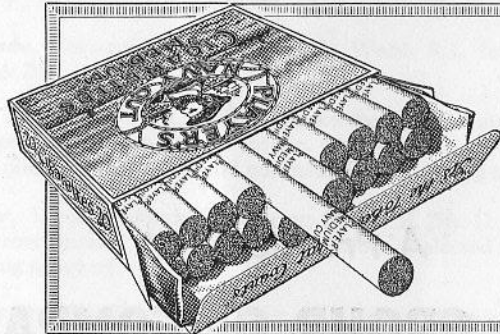
Referee—R. GELDER, Wakefield

ST. HELENS

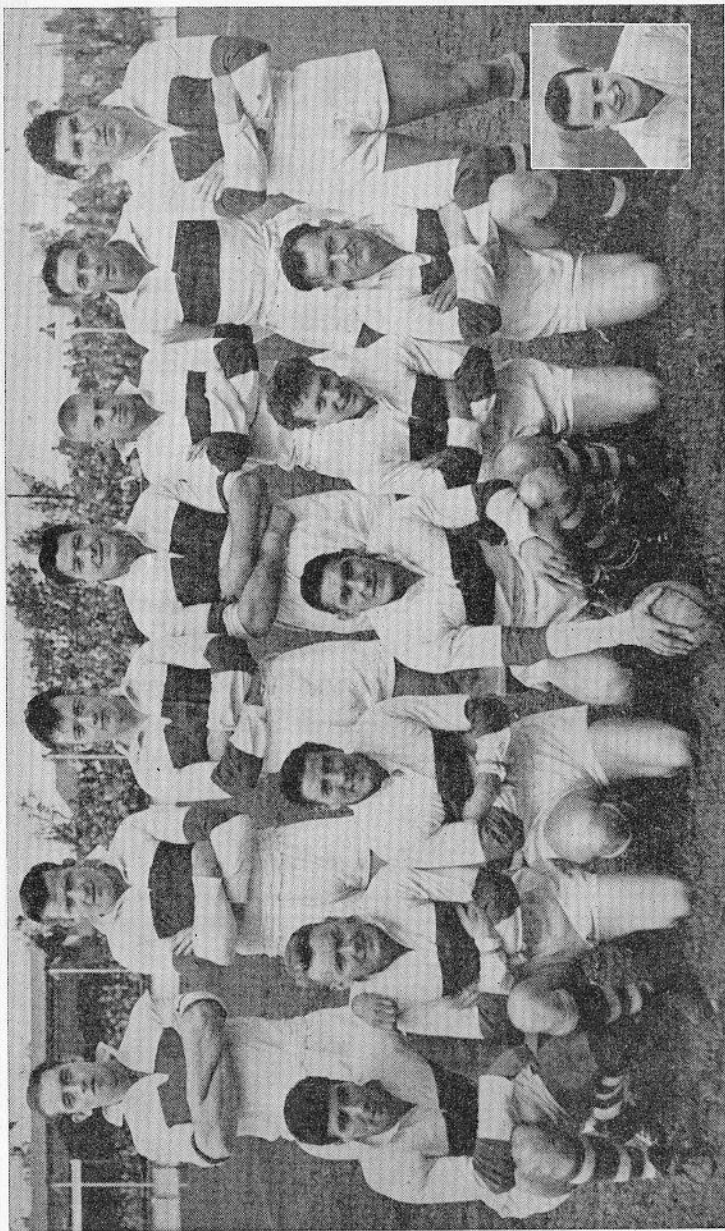
Colours—Light Blue Jerseys, White Shorts

1	P. FEARIS	...	...	...	Full Back
2	T. VAN VOLLENHOVEN	...			Wing Threequarter
3	D. GREENALL	...			Centre Threequarter
4	K. LARGE	...	...		Centre Threequarter
5	F. CARLTON	...			Wing Threequarter
6	B. HOWARD	...	...	...	Out-half
7	A. MURPHY	...	...	...	Scrum-half
8	A. TERRY	...	...		Prop Forward
9	T. McKINNEY	...	...	...	Hooker
10	D. BROWN	...			Front Row Forward
11	B. BRIGGS	...			Second Row Forward
12	W. DELVES	...			Second Row Forward
13	V. KARALIUS	...	...		Loose Forward

Touch Judges—R. Welsby, Warrington and L. Richmond, Salford



The finest tobacco
perfectly packed



ST. HELENS

Back Row—left to right—Delves, Briggs, Measures, Terry Vollenhoven, Fearis, Karalius
Front Row—Carlton, Critchley, Howard, Greenall, Large, McKinney, Murphy

(Photo by courtesy of the St. Helens Reporter)

Read

HENRY TOMLINSON'S

report of today's match
in tonight's

Evening Chronicle FOOTBALL PINK

For all that's best in Rugby League
be sure to say "PINK, please" on Saturdays

DRINK

Dutton's

FOR

LIFE!



Pen Pictures of the St. Helens Team

P. Fearis, 26 years 6ft. 13st. 2lb. Signed on from Blackpool in August this year. A splendid attacking player and a prolific goal-kicker.

G. Moses, 30 years 5ft. 9in. 13st. He first played for Salford, but retired from the game and returned home to Wales. Was later signed by St. Helens and since joining the club has represented England in Test matches. Was a member of the Great Britain side which toured Australia this year.

T. Van Vollenhoven, 22 years. 5ft. 10in. 12st. 6lb. Signed by St. Helens nearly twelve months ago today. Already has made a name for himself as one of the most colourful wings in the game. Is the Saints leading try scorer. Prior to joining St. Helens played Test Rugby for South Africa. Is reputed to have done 9'7 on the track, a try scorer, a try maker and a try saver.

D. Greenall, 30 years 5ft. 9½in. 11st. 8lb. A product of Rivington Road School. St. Helens. Has given yeoman service to Great Britain in Test Matches and toured Australia in 1954.

K. Large, 19 years 5ft. 8ins. 11st. 6lb. Was signed in October last season from the St. Helens Rugby Union Club.

F. Carlton, 21 years 5ft. 10ins. 11st. A local player who has played for the County and was a Great Britain tourist to Australia this year.

B. Howard, 24 years. 5ft. 10in. 13st. Number three in the local boy list, strong and powerful, noted for his tenacious defence. Will always be remembered as the player who made the winning try at Wembley in the 1956 Final against Halifax.

A. Murphy, 19 years 5ft. 7½in. 11st. 6lb. A local boy. Was selected to tour Australia in his first full season in first team football, 1958 and was the youngest player ever to tour Australia. Was a tremendous success and may be England's scrum half for many years to come.

A. Terry, 24 years. 5ft. 10in. Number 4 of the Tourists, big Abe weighs 16st. and uses every ounce of it to put the ball over the line. A ball player who has a quick eye for an opening and the speed to go through. Another local boy.

T. McKinney. 5ft. 9½in. 15st. 3lb. Signed from Warrington in January 1957, and prior to that played for Salford. King of the hookers who knows that the job of a hooker is to get the ball. Can kick goals but only from the touch line. Former Australian tourist and Other Nationalities hooker.

D. Brown, 19 years 14st. 10lb. Last season played at centre and full back in the 'A' team - was selected to play as a prop forward with the first team which proved that this is his best position.

B. Briggs, 24 years 6ft. 15st. 6lb. Was signed from Huddersfield on February 14th this year. County and International player and toured Australia with the Great Britain team in 1954.

W. Delves, 25 years 5ft. 10in. 14st. A local boy who came into the first team the hard way—through the 'B' team into the 'A' team. A good distributor of the ball and a splendid defender.

V. Karalius, 24 years 6ft. 14st. 4lb. A Widnes-born player who is one of the outstanding loose forwards of the day. Played for the County and was a member of the Great Britain team which toured Australia this year. The Australians called him the "Wild Bull of the Pampas" after the way he tackled the big Aussie forwards. One of the tour successes.

A. Rhodes, 20 years. 5ft. 8in. 11st. 6lb. A former Lancashire schoolboy player splendid in attack and a very reliable goal-kicker. Was a member of the 1957 World Cup team in Australia.

J. Measures, 19 years. 5ft. 10½in. 14st. Just making his mark in the first team. A fast running front-row forward. Gained International honours in Junior football.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Barrow	28	Barrow	23	} Barrow 6	} St. HELENS
Blackpool	12	Workington	17		
Workington	25	Liverpool	12		
Rochdale	15	St Helens	12	} St. Helens 18	
St. Helens	20	Leigh	2		
Warrington	10	Oldham	19	} Oldham 9	} OLDHAM
Leigh	16	Wigan	7		
Oldham	49	Widnes	4		
Whitehaven	5	Widnes (Bye)			
Swinton	12				
Wigan	31				
Widnes	44				
Salford	13				

Lancashire County Rugby League

OFFICIALS, 1958-59

President: J. Edden, Swinton

Vice-President: C. Brockbank, Blackpool

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: F. Devonald, Widnes

Committee:

F.W. Ashworth, Oldham	B. Oxley, Warrington
J. Berry, Manchester & Dist. League	T. Mitchell, Workington
W. Helliwell, Liverpool	W. R. Roe, Whitehaven
J. Gerrard, Wigan	W. Smith, Oldham & Dist. League
F. J. Palmer, Leigh	W. S. Thomas, Salford
F. C. Dromgoole, St. Helens	J. Stevens, Wigan
T. Miller, Barrow	J. Bowdler, Rochdale
J. O'Garra, Widnes	

Lancashire County Amateur Representatives:

J. Gerrard, Wigan and J. O'Garra, Widnes

Life Member: R. F. Anderton, J.P., Warrington

THE PROSPECTS IN ITALY

By W. FALLOWFIELD, M.A., *Secretary, Rugby Football League.*

A lot of publicity has been given lately to the re-introduction of the Rugby League Game into Italy and I am sure that keen students of the game will appreciate a factual review of the situation.

I use the word "re-introduction" because several years ago a Rugby League club was formed in Turin. For five years it battled on gallantly "ploughing a lonely furrow" but eventually succumbed. Without government recognition and the subsidy which accompanies such recognition the odds were too great.

Rugby Stronghold

The new venture is on a much larger scale. The whole of the Veneto area of Italy—the strongest of Italian Rugby Strongholds, has switched to the 13 a side game. The area (we would call it "County") of Veneto or Venetia embraces many large cities of which Venice, Padua, Verona, Vicenza, Belluno and Treviso are some of the largest.

I first heard of the dissatisfaction with the Rugby Union administration in a letter from Toni "Rossi" (his correct name is Danieli) as recently as August of this year. Toni played for Wigan last season. As I was due to visit the Continent on a motoring holiday Toni and I fixed up a meeting in Padua for August 23rd. I was there a couple of days and since then events have moved very quickly indeed.

Quick Action

The Rugby League Council unanimously approved a plan which I drew up after my talks with the Italians. The plan included, amongst other things, the offer of financial assistance, the organising of a course in England for would-be referees and coaches, the sending to Italy of English Coaches and the playing of exhibition matches.

Parts of the plan were soon in operation. On Saturday, September 13th, the Chairman of the Rugby League (Mr. Frank Ridgway) and I attended a meeting at Treviso where over 50 delegates from various cities unanimously and enthusiastically formed a new constitution.

On Saturday, September 20th—only four weeks to the day following my first meeting with interested parties—twenty-five Italians arrived in the North for a week's intensive coaching on Rugby League Football. Several were schoolmasters and physical education organisers who have undertaken to coach the boys in their charge.

Coaching in Italy

On October 7th, a Grade 1 Rugby League Coach, Laurie Gant, the former Featherstone Rovers and Hunslet player, left this country for a three weeks' stay in Italy. His duties were to spread a knowledge of the Laws of the Game and how it is played and to coach players and teams.

The President of the new Italian Rugby League, or the Comitato Promotore Lega Amatori Italiani Rugby XIII, to give it its proper title, is a prominent surgeon from Treviso—Dr. Zava, and the Secretary is Mr. Virginio Calore of Padua (or Padova, as it is sometimes written). Mr. Calore is currently listed as one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Italian Rugby Union! Needless to say he has severed his connections with that organisation.

Switching Codes

What is the cause of the "revolution"? One of the main reasons for any change is dissatisfaction with existing conditions. From what I gathered, feeling against Rugby Union administration was very high in this Rugby stronghold. Toni "Rossi" of Padua and Ferdi "Corsi"—the former Rochdale Hornets wing-threequarter, now back in his native Treviso, have not been backward in extolling the virtues of the League game. In these circumstances the promise of immediate assistance from the English League precipitated matters and the "die was cast."

The first objective of the new League—which is for Amateur players and not professional—is to gain recognition at Government level in order to qualify for the subsidies which other sports receive. Such recognition cannot be reasonably withheld if the game consolidates and expands.

No-one can tell what the future holds for us but if Italy does become a power in International Rugby League Football, then the English League will be able to look back with some satisfaction knowing that it most certainly played its part in the further expansion of the game.

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