

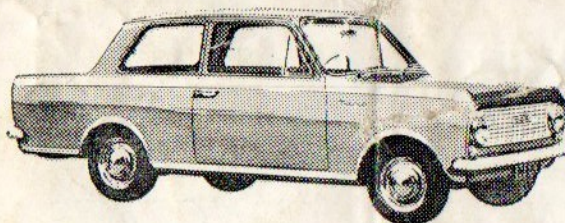
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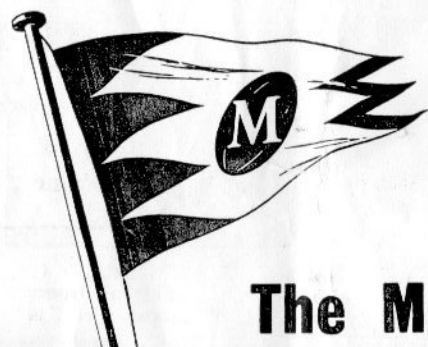
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OLDHAM 12

Northern Rugby Football League
Top 16 Play-Offs


Saturday, 24th April, 1965
Kick-off 3 p.m.


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1964/5

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OUR VISITORS

Well we made it after all. A place in the top 8, although we were not certain of it until our very last league game of the season. And so we able to welcome Oldham, who are 9th in the table, three league points behind.

Our being linked with Oldham is especially pleasing, for we have not met this season though our marathon cup semi-final of a year ago will long be remembered.

There are a few changes in the Oldham line-up from those faces which were becoming so well known to us last April. Biggest departure was that of forward **Geoff Robinson**, who was transferred to Warrington, whilst the Watersheddings Committee have a partiality to deals with Wigan. Most recent signing from Central Park has been that of South African full back and goalkicker **John Winton**, who followed centre **Jim McCormack** and off half or centre **Stan McLeod**.

Meanwhile **Frank Dyson** continues to do much for the club both on the field as captain and off it as a coach. He has kicked 71 goals this term, and was a happy day for Oldham when they persuaded him to join them two years ago. They had just been relegated to Division II, and last season he led them back to the top of the division and into the semi-finals of the R.L. Cup, Lancashire Cup and Western Division play-offs.

11 seasons in senior rugby, **Len McIntyre**, whose dramatic drop goal gave Oldham a second bite at the semi-final cherry last April, is still hooking, but has a rival in 19 year old **Kevin Taylor**. Oldham alternate between youth and experience.

Harry Major has been out of action with a shoulder dislocation since last January, but loose man **Dave Parker**, who missed many games late last year with sinus trouble is back on form.

In the backs **John Donovan** is having a good season at centre, whilst **Vince Nestor** is taking a well earned testimonial after 10 years of loyal service.

Amongst the newcomers second row man **Bob Irving** is talked of as their "find of the season," whilst many of last year's team are still in action, like scrum half

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Jack Pycroft, props **Charlie Bott** and "**Tug**" **Wilson**, and winger **Geoff Sims**. **Peter Smethurst** has had a leg injury.

Many Oldham fans claimed they were "robbed by bad light" last year, whilst our own followers argued Oldham were "dead jammy" even to get a second chance, let alone a third one. It all adds spice to today's encounter which decides who meets the winner of the St. Helen's-Featherstone tie.

Best Post-War Position—By finishing eighth in the R.L. table we have equalled our best league placing since the war—and a good many years before that. We were last eighth in the final league table in 1961-62 (before the two-divisions split) when our playing record was 24 wins from 36 matches, 48 points. This compares with this season's 22 wins from 34 matches, 44 points. It was nearly a "black" Easter for us, however. At the Boulevard we gave a rather sorry exhibition until late in the game, when we looked like pulling it off. But perhaps Hull were value for their first league win over us for four years, certainly they were much improved and **Terry Devonshire's** try deserved to win any match. Last minute enforced changes in the pack meant the switch of **Bill Holliday** to prop. As it happened this proved unfortunate for his mobility was in consequence considerably reduced.

The next day at Castleford he was able to show his true form in the second row. Indeed our back three were able to show their true worth. It was a very good match indeed, full of interest to the end. So was the visit of York on Easter Monday, despite conditions reminiscent of mid-winter. To their credit York never tried to close up the game, but our extra speed always kept us on top.

'A' Team Games—The 'A' team still have a number of matches. On Monday we entertain Hull 'A' in a league game, and there is an outstanding visit from Bradford to be re-arranged. Then we are interested in the Cup semi-finals and top four play offs. The cup semi-finals are to be played on Monday 3rd May. We visit the winners of the Hunslet-Hull tie. (The other "semi" is York v. Wakefield). Date for the final is 10th May. We are hoping to finish in the top two of the league table and so qualify for a home play-off semi-final, but Castleford and Leeds are pushing hard. The Championship semi-finals are on Friday, 14th May, with the final on May 21st.

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POINTS TO NOTE

Cyril Kellett has continued to tot up the points at a faster rate than ever. This season he has reached 268 points for the Club, made up of 131 goals and two tries. His best ever season was 1962-63 when he scored 142 goals and 2 tries—290 points, playing in 42 games. This season he has played in only 34 games.

Mike Blackmore, our only player to appear in every match so far this season, scored the 50th try of his career against Doncaster, an occasion when **Norman Gillard** scored his first try in senior football. **Bill Holliday's** first try for Rovers was at Castleford, whilst **Arthur Mullins** notched his first try of the season at Keighley.

Reserve hooker **Pete Walker** made his first team debut at Castleford.

Coupland for Bisham Abbey—Rovers' contingent of four young players for the Rugby League Summer Coaching School at Bisham Abbey, is made up by the addition of recent signing **Phil Coupland**. The others named already are **Mike Stephenson**, **John Hickson** and **Gordon Young**. On the coaching staff as usual is our own coach **Colin Hutton**.

Foster Happy—We have not been able to get him fixed up yet, but supporters can rest assured that the club is doing all it can to find suitable accommodation for **Frank Foster** and his family. We should be able to have managed it without a doubt before the start of next season, and meanwhile Frank tells us he is enjoying his football more than ever before.

Injuries—**Cyril Kellett** retired at half time from Monday's match on doctor's advice and had two stitches inserted in a cut lip, but should be fit to play today. **Bill Holliday** finished the Easter games with a bruise which ran from his right knee all the way down his leg to his toes. It was a variety of colours, yet he felt no pain from it. **Brian Tyson** hurt ligaments of his leg at Castleford, and **Alan Burwell's** bruised shoulder has made only slow progress. **John Hickson** is playing again, but **Jim Drake** had to pull out on Good Friday with back trouble.

Stock Interest—Bradford Northern's Australian full-back **Errol Stock** returns home this month. They are not negotiating his return, and those fans who remember his enterprising display at Craven Park a few weeks ago will welcome the news that we have interviewed him. At present however the difficulties of a transfer from Rockhampton (his home club) seem unsurmountable and for the time being at least the matter is closed.

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Threequarters—
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3—BURWELL, B.
4—MOORE
5—BLACKMORE

Half Backs—
6—ELLIOTT
7—BUNTING

Forwards—
8—BATH
9—FLANAGAN
10—POLLARD
11—HOLLIDAY
12—FOSTER
13—POOLE

14—COOPER
15—CLARK

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1964/65					AGGREGATE				
A & S	G	T	Pts.		A & S	G	T	Pts.	
34	—	131	2	268	KELLETT C.	287	—	864	32 1824
7	1	—	1	3	MCMAMARA E.	14	1	—	1 3
6	—	—	2	6	YOUNG C.	7	—	—	2 6
36	—	—	9	27	MOORE J.	71	—	—	18 54
37	—	—	26	78	BLACKMORE M.	111	—	6	52 168
11	—	—	3	9	HARRIS R.	125	—	—	76 228
1	—	—	—	—	RAPER D.	2	—	1	1 5
18	—	—	2	6	BURWELL B.	97	—	4	10 38
13	—	—	2	6	MAJOR T.	147	—	3	29 93
4	—	—	—	—	KENNEDY G.	4	—	—	—
7	1	—	2	6	MULLINS A.	79	1	7	12 50
10	2	—	5	15	COOPER C.	18	2	2	5 19
24	—	—	9	27	BURWELL A.	79	—	—	38 114
21	2	—	4	12	ELLIOTT D.	210	2	—	43 129
1	—	—	—	—	HATCH B.	27	—	—	7 21
22	1	—	10	30	BUNTING A.	155	1	—	52 156
7	1	—	4	12	GILLARD N.	13	1	—	4 12
20	—	—	1	3	BATH J.	33	—	—	2 6
12	—	—	4	12	HOLDSTOCK A.	26	—	—	7 21
34	—	—	3	9	TYSON B.	168	—	—	10 30
13	—	—	3	9	TAYLOR J.	175	—	1	47 143
11	5	—	7	21	PALMER E.	34	5	—	12 36
3	2	—	—	—	BONNER E.	70	2	—	5 15
23	—	—	5	15	POOLE H.	113	—	—	26 78
12	—	—	—	—	FOX F.	24	—	—	—
24	—	—	4	12	FLANAGAN P.	111	—	—	13 39
15	2	1	2	8	CLARK L.	79	2	69	12 174
10	—	—	—	—	DRAKE J.	64	—	—	3 9

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2	—	—	—	—	HICKSON J.	2	—	—	—	—
12	1	—	—	—	MENNEL B.	16	1	—	—	—
2	1	—	—	—	POLLARD K.	2	1	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	COVERDALE R.	161	—	—	5	15
13	—	8	1	19	HOLLIDAY W.	13	—	8	1	19
9	—	—	—	—	FOSTER F.	14	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	WALKER, P.	1	—	—	—	—

Great Britain—Holliday 2 app; Tyson 1 app; Poole 1 app.

Yorkshire—Kellett 2 app. 9 goals; Taylor, Tyson, Poole, 2 app. each.

Cumberland—Holliday 2 app. 1 goal; Foster 2 app.

(Friendly matches not included)

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Tries—Kennedy 22; McNamara 14; M. Stephenson 13; C. Young 11; Elliott, Mullins 10; Gillard, Raper 9; Hickson, Mortimore 8; B. Burwell 6; Clark, Cooper, Palmer 5; Bunting, Major, Murphy 3; A. Burwell, Flanagan, Harris, Walker, Walton 2; Bath, Drake, Fox, Hatch, Mennell, Pollard, Taylor, Wallis 1 each.

Goals—Raper 52; Mullins 26; Clark 24; Cooper 14; Kellett 10; A. Burwell 7; Kennedy 2; B. Burwell 1.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to the members of Oldham Supporters' Club and hope that they will make use of the Clubhouse before and after the match.

Well we all know who is the "Player of the Year" elected by members. In a year which **Harry Poole** seems to have had more than his fair share of disappointments, it is hoped that this award will be of some recompense.

The first meeting of the new Committee saw changes in the officials of the club and for the next twelve months the following were elected :—

Chairman—Jim Morgan ;

Vice-Chairman—Bob Walker

Secretary—Ron Curson

Assistant Secretary—Harry Boyd

It is only fitting at this stage to pay a tribute to the work done by Bob Walker as Chairman and by Len Renshaw as Secretary over the past years. They have both seen the Club through its hard times and their very many efforts with fund raising projects is surely to be commended. On behalf of all members of the Club may I extend to both of these Robins' stalwarts a big thank you !

Have you ordered your tickets for the dinner on Friday, 28th May. It will be very informal and at a cost of 12/6d. per member this is surely good value.

If you are interested in going to Wembley next year, kindly see me as soon as possible. Orders for match tickets will be made within the next four weeks.

(signed) HARRY BOYD

Assistant Secretary

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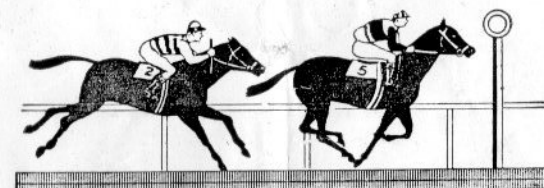
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