

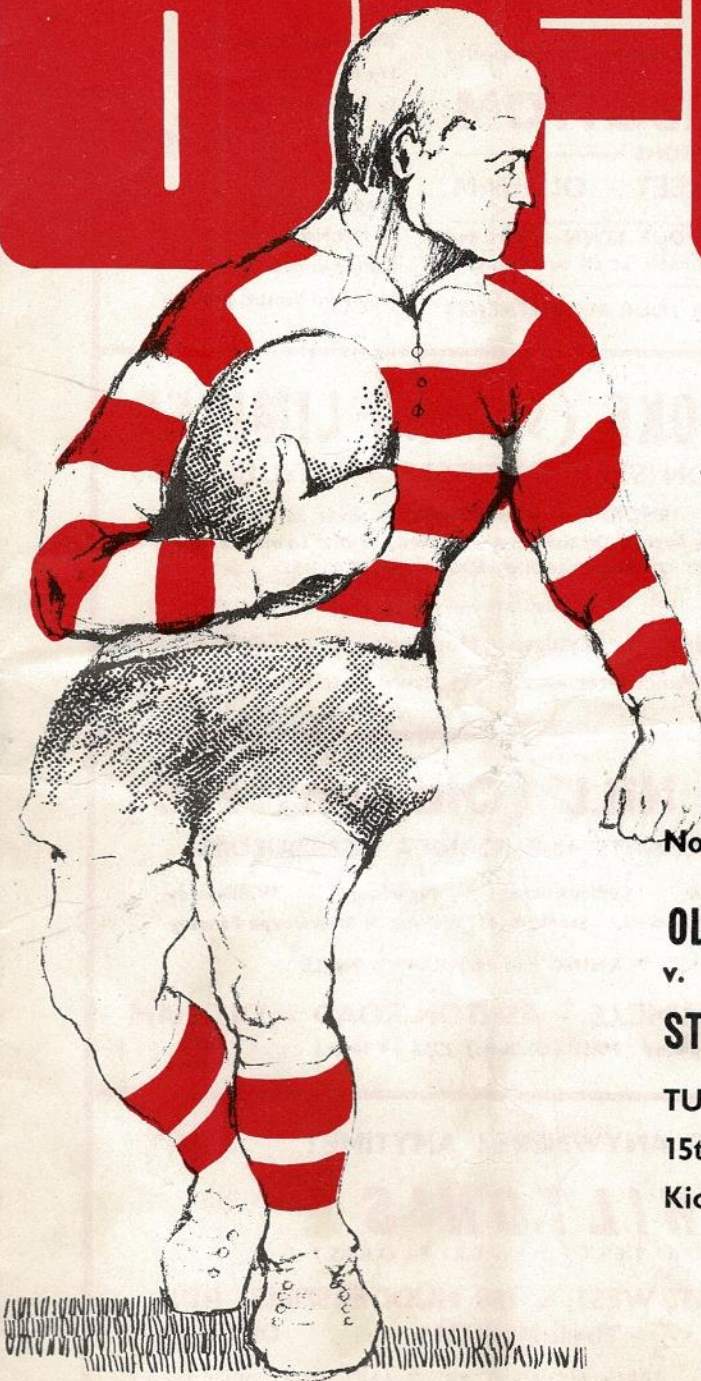


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Northern League Match

**OLDHAM**

v.

**ST. HELENS**

TUESDAY,

15th APRIL, 1969

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**



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## WILL IT BE FOURTH TIME LUCKY?

Tonight we meet our very good friends from St. Helens for the fourth time. Unfortunately for us three previous meetings have ended in triumphs for the 'Saints'.

The first encounter between the teams was way back in October when, in the Lancashire Cup Final, the St. Helens boys scored a flattering 30 pts. to 2 victory. On that occasion luck was not with us for after leading 2-0 at half time Fletcher had to retire and in the 2nd half the 'Saints' ran riot scoring 30 points without reply.

The second occasion was again in a cup tie this time the 2nd round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup on Tuesday, February 25th. This was an exciting all ticket cup tie with again Saints having that little luck which made all the difference, with a Bill Benyon try coming after an amazing piece of good fortune. A hopeful up and under kick by the St. Helens centre struck an upright and bounced almost back into his hands and the try was there for the taking.

The first league match between the Clubs this season was just over two weeks ago at Knowsley Road, when St. Helens scored an impressive 19-4 victory.

What will happen this evening is anyone's guess—let us hope it is a good game of open football which both sides are capable of producing.

The St. Helens team for tonight's game had not been announced at the time of these notes going to press, but we can be sure that it will be a strong side.

One notable name which could be missing from the sheet is that of their 'Skipper' Tommy Bishop. Tommy sustained a nasty face injury in the last St. Helens v. Oldham encounter and may not have recovered sufficiently enough to resume. If this is the case his brother, Alan, will again be occupying the No. 7 role, with Alan Whittle his stand off partner.

Cliff Watson will also be absent this evening on account of a jaw break. Cliff could, however, be back for the top 16 play off which commences on Saturday April 26th.

## SUMMER FOOTBALL

All 30 Rugby League Clubs have been considering this week a circular letter sent out by the St. Helens Club on a proposed new season from March to November, instead of the present August to May season.

My own Club Committee have agreed to support the St. Helens plan

because they too realise something new has to be tried and this summer football idea is one which has been mentioned scores and scores of times but never put into operation. It could be that the weather does hold the key. We shall have to see what reaction the St. Helens circular gets from the other Clubs.

I personally feel that if summer rugby does come into being next season or the season afterwards it must stay. It would be fatal attempting to revert back to winter football should the summer idea not catch on. The winter fans will have changed their affections, turning to soccer or some other pastime and it could be a hard job getting them back to the game they once loved.

## THE BARROW MATCH

When the final whistle went at Barrow on Friday evening our boys jumped for joy. It meant, apart from picking up winning pay packets, their chances of a place in the top 16 received a fillip. It was a game they should have won far more easily. Chances were again thrown away but it was certainly a performance much improved on the recent showing against Rochdale. It is a rare occasion when Ken Wilson gets his name on the score sheet but it can be safely said that on no occasion will a Ken Wilson try be more welcome

than the one he got at Barrow towards the end of the first half. He took a Fletcher pass close to the line and ran over for a try which Whitehead converted. That score gave us a 7-2 lead for Derek Whitehead had earlier kicked a penalty which had been cancelled out by a drop goal by 'man of the match' winner, Tom Brophy.

Kevin Taylor's superiority in the set scrums again was a telling factor. At one stage in the second half Keven had heeled from nine successive scrums. The Barrow defence was stout and they let little go. The hero of the Oldham side turned out to be Mike Elliott for his match saving tackle, and what a tackle it was, on Barrow winger Shuttleworth, a couple of yards from the line and only two minutes from the end.

We had a couple of tries disallowed both in the first half. First Briggs, (playing under his new nickname of 'Tiger') sent Murphy away brilliantly but the referee, Mick Naughton, ruled a forward pass, and then Elliott, almost over the line, was badly obstructed, but to everyone's amazement the referee simply awarded a penalty when an obstruction try was surely his decision.

All in all it was a win well deserved and with a little more tightness in finishing our boys would be a force to be reckoned with.

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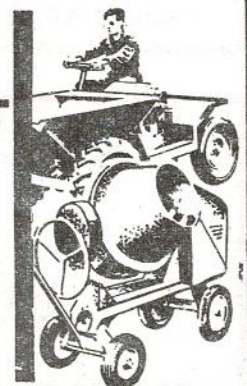
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- 1—WHITEHEAD G
- 2—ELLIOTT
- 3—CRELLIN
- 4—BRIGGS
- 5—BUCKLEY
- 6—MURPHY, M.
- 7—CANNING
- 8—WILSON
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—FLETCHER
- 11—DALEY
- 12—McCOURT
- 13—CLARK

Substitutes :

- 14—DAVIES
- 15—OGDEN

Referee :

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- 6—WHITTLE
- 7—RHODES
- 8—HALSALL
- 9—SAYER
- 10—REEVES
- 11—MANTLE
- 12—CHISNALL
- 13—COSLETT G G G

Substitutes :

- 14—GARTLAND
- 15—WANBON

Touch Judges :

Mr. F. WHITELEY (Warrington)  
Mr. J. HEAP (Rochdale)

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Andrew Howell is the son of a Jeweller in Yorkshire Street, and he comes along to the matches and is told what is going on by two friends who sit with him. I'm told that he gets very excited and enjoys the game just as much as a person with perfect sight.

We sincerely hope he continues to come along to the matches next season and continues also to enjoy his rugby.

Andrew incidentally is a Geoff Fletcher fan.

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### FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 10	Blackpool (friendly) ...	home	37...	27
17	Huddersfield .....	away	14...	19
19	Blackpool .....	home	29...	5
24	Featherstone R. ....	home	22...	24
28	Rochdale H. ....	away	14...	22
31	Workington T. ....	away	10...	29
Sept. 6	Rochdale (Lancs. Cup)	away	17...	5
9	Blackpool B. ....	away	44...	10
14	Hunslet .....	away	22...	14
21	Wigan .....	home	4...	9
28	Doncaster .....	away	26...	10
Oct. 5	Huddersfield .....	home	15...	13
12	Featherstone R. ....	away	12...	23
19	Widnes .....	home	17...	9
25	Salford .....	away	2...	4
Nov. 11	Wigan .....	away	3...	50
15	Warrington .....	home	14...	10
30	St. Helens .....	away		
Dec. 1	Whitehaven .....	away	15...	6
7	Hunslet .....	home	30...	13
20	Widnes .....	away	5	26
22	Whitehaven .....	home	17...	7
Jan. 4	Huyton .....	home	5	13
8	Warrington .....	away	19...	10
11	Huyton .....	away	3	7
18	Salford .....	home	22...	12
Mar. 1	Workington T. ....	home	13...	11
3	Leigh .....	home	20...	7
8	Barrow .....	home	18...	8
11	Swinton .....	home	9...	13
15	Doncaster .....	home		
18	Leigh .....	away	5...	12
28	St. Helens .....	away	4...	19
Apr. 4	Swinton .....	away	8...	18
7	Rochdale H. ....	home	20...	12
11	Barrow .....	away	7...	5

### 'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 31	Workington 'A' .....	home		
Sept. 7	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	away		
14	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	home		
21	Wigan 'A' .....	away		
Oct. 12	Rochdale 'A' .....	home		
19	Widnes 'A' .....	away		
26	Salford 'A' .....	home		
Nov. 2	Whitehaven 'A' .....	away		
9	Wigan 'A' .....	home		
16	Warrington 'A' .....	away		
23	Whitehaven 'A' .....	home		
30	St. Helens 'A' .....	home		
Dec. 14	Leigh 'A' .....	away		
21	Widnes 'A' .....	home		
28	Warrington 'A' .....	home		
Jan. 4	Huyton 'A' .....	away		
11	Huyton 'A' .....	home		
18	Salford 'A' .....	away		
Feb. 1	Leigh 'A' .....	home		
8	St. Helens 'A' .....	away		
Mar. 1	Workington T. 'A' ...	away		
8	Barrow 'A' .....	away		
21	Swinton 'A' .....	away		
Apr. 7	Rochdale 'A' .....	away		
12	Barrow 'A' .....	home		
19	Swinton 'A' .....	home		

#### Times of Kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m. Evening k.o.'s as advertised. All 1st & 'A' team matches.

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