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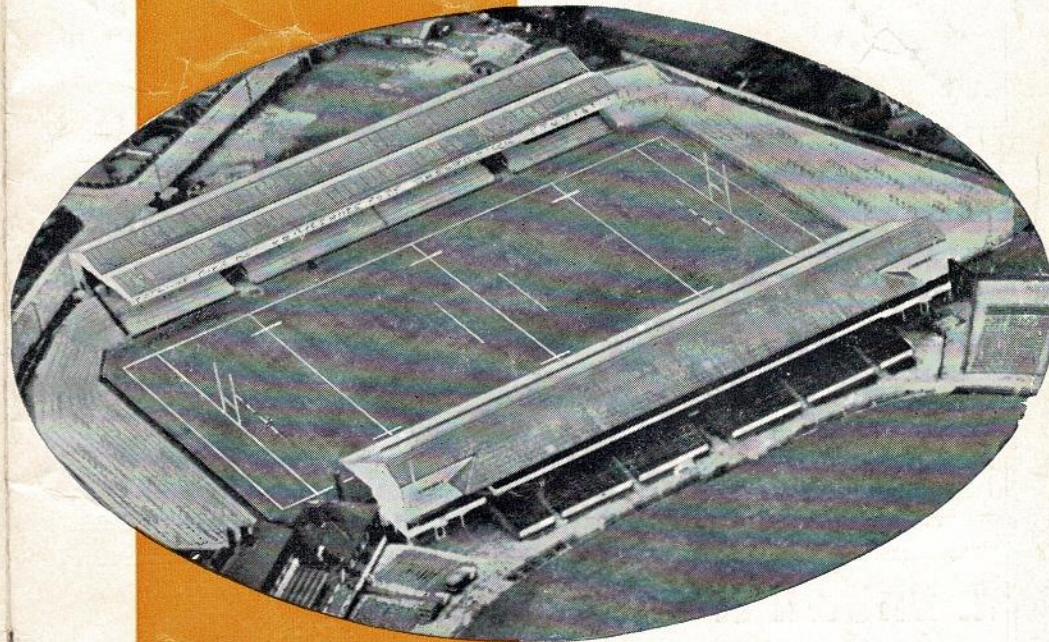
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*Rugby League Football Club*



**RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
 Northern Rugby Football League  
 Championship Play-off — 1st Round  
**LEEDS**  
 v.  
**OLDHAM**  
 FRIDAY, 25th APRIL, 1969  
 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.



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## CLUB NOTES

**ANOTHER TROPHY.** Before tonight's match, the Leeds team will be presented with the Rugby League Leadership Trophy, which thus becomes yet another major honour to add to the Yorkshire Cup and the Yorkshire League Championship won earlier this season. The Challenge Cup having eluded us after the cup-tie defeat at Castleford, there now remains one final trophy to aim for—the Rugby League Championship Title—and this evening's match brings us to the commencement of our bid to take the title which Leeds have won only once previously, in 1961.

We could have no more attractive opposition from Lancashire for the occasion than our friends from Oldham, whom we are indeed pleased to see at Headingley once again, after an absence of more than three years. Their last visit was in December, 1965, and against a full-strength Leeds team, Oldham proved worthy opposition, and indeed, eventual winners, by 13 points to 10, of a closely contested game. The Leeds team was: Thornett; Cowan, Wriglesworth, Gemmell, Ratcliffe; Shoebottom, Rollin; Clark, Lockwood, Firth, Joyce, Davies, Poole.

We have met Oldham twice since that date, and in each case in a Rugby League Challenge Cup-tie, but both these games were played at Oldham, and both resulted in victory for Leeds. The first time was in February, 1967, when Leeds won 13-4, and the second occasion was on our route to Wembley last year, when two tries from Alan Smith, one from Mick Joyce, and two goals from Bev Risman, gave Leeds a 13-0 win.

A number of new men have joined the Lancashire side since then, among them full-back Derek Whitehead, centre Jim Crellin and loose-forward Ray Clark. Whitehead, who has already kicked 112 goals for Oldham this season, arrived from Swinton for a fee of £4,000 last August. He was a player in whom Leeds were interested, largely for his goalkicking ability, before we signed Bev Risman to solve the problem. Jim Crellin, a Whitehaven born player, was signed from Workington Town shortly before the Challenge Cup register closed last January, and he has settled down admirably at Watersheddings. Another arrival at the same time as Crellin was Clark, who frequently played many fine games for Warrington against Leeds, prior to leaving Wilderspool for Oldham. Ray Clark is a Lancashire County loose-forward and joined Oldham in an exchange deal when Arthur Hughes went to Warrington.

At half-back, our visitors have an outstanding points scorer in former Leigh off-half Wilf Briggs. He has this season scored twenty-six tries and eight goals, from thirty-nine matches, and he forms a sound half-back combination with lively scrum-half Tom Canning, who has always been an Oldham player since turning professional from the Vulcan Rugby Union Club in St. Helens.



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Following the departure of Gerry Helme from Oldham, prop-forward Geoff Fletcher is currently in charge of the coaching side, though he has been an absentee from the team in recent weeks, due to a shoulder injury. Geoff is an experienced front-rower and has made several appearances for the Lancashire County team. Another ex-County player, though in Rugby Union circles not Rugby League, is Oldham's prop-forward Ken Wilson, who played many outstanding games for the Gloucestershire County XV before turning professional a few years ago. Great Britain International Bobby Irving and ex-Whitehaven back-rower Charlie McCourt make up the second row. Huddersfield-born Irving, who was formerly with St. Joseph's amateur side in Huddersfield junior football, has made numerous appearances for Great Britain but has not yet been selected for the Yorkshire County side.

Having established a position in the top-sixteen, this Oldham team is always liable to pull out a top performance, since it contains such a wealth of talent, and although we have already beaten St. Helens, Leigh and Warrington at Headingley, we may yet find that our visitors today prove to be the toughest opposition of our season, from over the border. Certainly, they can take encouragement from their last visit here, for Leeds were never allowed to break the grip of some resolute Oldham tackling.

Tonight's match is, of course, one of eight Championship Play-off matches being played this weekend. The remaining seven are:—

St. Helens v Keighley

Swinton v Wakefield Trinity

Wigan v Widnes

Salford v York

Castleford v Hull

Workington Town v Leigh

Featherstone Rovers v Hull Kingston Rovers

**THE "A" TEAM.** Having defeated Keighley "A" by thirteen points to nil in a Y.S.C. second round cup-tie at Headingley last Monday, our reserves now go through to the semi-finals of the Cup Competition. They will meet the winners of the Bradford Northern or Featherstone versus Hunslet cup-tie in the semi-final, and this game will be played at Headingley on Wednesday next, 30th April, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

The "A" team is also concerned in the Y.S.C. Championship, and on Sunday meets Hull "A" at the Boulevard in the semi-final of the Championship Play-off. The kick-off time for this match is 3.0 p.m.

**MR. J. DAVIES.** It was with feelings of the deepest regret that we heard last week of the death of John Davies. He joined Dewsbury less than three months ago, after more than five years' loyal service with Leeds, and during the period of his career at Headingley, John was at all times a popular and respected figure among his playing colleagues and supporters. A gentleman and a sportsman, his passing came as a great shock to all who knew him, and we extend to Mrs. Davies and family our very deep sympathy at this time.

**HEADINGLEY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY.** The weekly pools draw takes place each Tuesday evening at various hotels and clubs throughout the city, and more agents and members can be accepted. Persons interested in joining the pools are cordially invited to call in the pools office at any time.

#### PERSONAL RECORDS — No. 13 — R. BATTEN

Ray Batten played his first match for Leeds, and scored a good try, in the Leeds v. Hull game at Headingley on 2nd November, 1963. Since that date, Ray has played 154 times for Leeds and has scored 29 tries.

**CHALLENGE CUP FINAL.** The only tickets still available for the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on 17th May, are 5/- standing enclosure tickets. These may be obtained at Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.



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- 7—SEABOURNE (Capt.) *Smoking Man*
- 8—CLARK
- 9—CROSBY *T*
- 10—EYRE, K.
- 11—JOYCE
- 12—RAMSEY *T*
- 13—BATTEN *T*

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- 15—BROWN

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- Left Centre
- Left Wing
- Stand Off
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## LEEDS R.L. SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Congratulations to the first team on becoming League Leaders for the third successive time, and hope tonight will see the first step forward towards winning the League Championship for the second time. The "A" team have also had another successful season, the good work of Jack Nelson being carried on by Mr. Ernest Seabourne (Barry's father), and as they are also in the running for honours (at Hull on Sunday) a big effort will be needed to emulate the success of the last three seasons.

Last night (Thursday) saw a Social Evening and Presentation to honour the selection of Ray Batten in the England team. He chose his own present, and this was presented by the Leeds and Yorkshire Federation R.L. Queen, Mrs. Joyce Cawthra, in a packed Social Club. The Leeds R.L. Supporters will be only too glad to provide further mementoes to prospective internationals.

As Wembley draws near, a great deal of activity and preparation for the club trips are nearing completion, but two or three vacancies are still available with Headingley Grounds Branch, and as these will be finalised shortly, immediate application should be made to Mr. Teague in the Social Club.

The new Rugby League Magazine is now on sale and copies are available tonight from Mr. J. Brooks, together with this week's "Rugby Leaguer."

We offer congratulations to our R.L. Queen on being elected the Yorkshire representative at the Yorkshire Federation dance held at Featherstone recently. This is the second time a Leeds R.L. Queen has been so honoured.

Concluding this review on a sad note, our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Davies on her sad loss, with a reminder that the pleasant and friendly John Davies will live for ever in the thoughts of Leeds R.L. supporters.

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES — SEASON 1968/69

(All matches up to and including Saturday, 19th April, 1969)

	Sub		T	G	Pts		Sub		T	G	Pts
	App.	App.					App.	App.			
Atkinson, J.	20	0	12	0	36	Holmes, P.	1	0	2	0	6
Batten, R.	41	0	11	0	33	Hick, D.	15	10	9	0	27
Broatch, A.	0	1	0	0	0	Hynes, S.	39	1	24	6	84
Brown, F.	7	2	5	1	17	Joyce, M.	13	1	1	0	3
Burke, J.	5	1	1	0	3	Lamb, M.	6	0	1	0	3
Clark, M.	36	1	7	0	21	Langley, J.	15	4	14	0	42
Cookson, P.	1	0	0	0	0	Ramsey, W.	32	0	9	1	29
Cowan, R.	20	2	15	0	45	Risman, A. B.	39	0	4	151	314
Crosby, A.	41	1	3	0	9	Seabourne, B.	37	0	10	10	50
Davies, J.	0	1	0	0	0	Shepherd, G.	0	2	0	0	0
Eccles, G.	0	1	1	0	3	Shoebottom, M.	36	0	17	1	53
Eyre, A.	36	0	6	0	18	Smith, A.	34	1	23	0	69
Eyre, K.	38	0	1	0	3	Watson, B.	43	0	18	0	54
Fawdington, C.	0	1	0	0	0						
Fozzard, P.	2	3	1	0	3				196	189	966
Handscombe, R.	2	0	0	0	0						
Holmes, J.	4	0	1	19	41						

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**FIXTURES FOR 1968-69**

Date 1968	Opponents	Venue	Result
Aug. 12	(M) Hunslet (Lazenby Cup)	Away W	47-15
17	(S) Leigh	Away L	19-22
19	(M) Hull K.R.	Away W	17 10
24	(S) St. Helens	Home W	20-13
31	(S) Bramley	Away W	13-12
Sept. 2	(M) Huddersfield	Home W	7-4
7	(S) Hull (Yorks Cup - 1)	Away W	30-9
14	(S) Warrington	Home W	24-8
17	(Tu) Featherstone R. (Y.C.2)	Away W	18-10
21	(S) Wakefield Trinity	Away D	7-7
28	(S) Leigh	Home W	32-13
Oct. 1	(Tu) Salford (F'lit Comp.)	Home W	24-19
3	(Th) Halifax (Y.C. S-F)	Away W	12-5
5	(S) Bradford Northern	Home W	43-9
12	(S) St. Helens	Away L	3-28
19	(S) Castleford (Y.C. Final)	at Wakefield W	22-11
23	(W) Hull K.R.	Home W	30-12
26	(S) Huddersfield	Away W	32-8
Nov. 2	(S) York	Home W	26-8
9	(S) York	Away W	39-7
12	(Tu) Leigh (F'lit Comp)	Away L	11-25
16	(S) Hull	Home W	27-14
23	(S) Keighley	Away W	18-3
30	(S) Bramley	Home W	26-0
Dec. 7	(S) Dewsbury	Away W	13-9
18	(W) Warrington	Away W	16-9
21	(S) Hunslet	Home W	34-14
26	(Th) Castleford	Home W	14-5
28	(S) Hunslet	Away W	35-10

**First Team**

Date 1969	Opponents	Venue	Result
Jan. 4	(S) Wakefield Trinity	Home W	16-12
11	(S) Featherstone Rovers	Away W	29-11
18	(S) Featherstone Rovers	Home W	13-3
25	(S) Halifax (RL Cup - 1)	Away W	17-12
31	(F) Castleford	Away W	18-3
Feb. 8	(S) Halifax	Home W	29-4
15	(S) Keighley (RL Cup - 2)	Away W	17-2
Mar. 1	(S) Castleford (RL Cup-3)	Away L	9-5
8	(S) Dewsbury	Home W	25-17
22	(S) R.L. Cup 1st Semi-Final		
23	(Su) Hull	Away D	11-11
29	(S) R.L. Cup 2nd Semi-Final		
30	(Su) Halifax	Away W	20-13
Apr. 4	(F) Vacant		
5	(S) Batley	Away W	23-14
7	(M) Batley	Home W	63-11
12	(S) Keighley	Home W	16-2
19	(S) Bradford Northern	Away L	15-32
25	(F) Oldham	Home	
	(Champ. Play-off - 1)		
May 17	(S) CUP FINAL at Wembley		
24	(S) CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL		
	(Venue to be announced later)		
26	(M) Wills' Sevens at Headingley		

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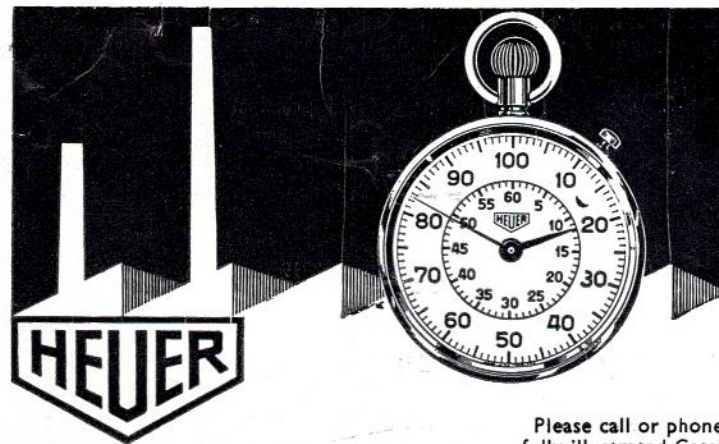


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