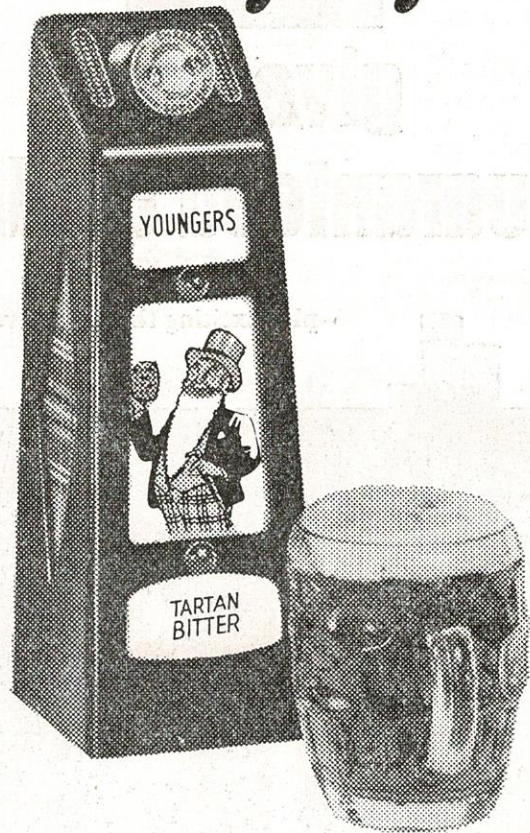


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Action from a previous Whitehaven-Oldham game By courtesy of the Whitehaven News.

TODAY'S GAME . . .

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

**WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st, 1970. KICK-OFF 3 p.m.

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Associate Directors: A. C. Halfpenny, L. Coulthard.

RECREATION GROUND PROGRAMME

**WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM**

(Jerseys: Royal Blue)  
(Shorts: White; Socks: White)

- 1—DONNELLY
- 2—BUCHANAN
- 3—SHIMMINGS
- 4—SHUTTLEWORTH
- 5—MORRIS
- 6—RYAN
- 7—MADDISON
- 8—PRINGLE
- 9—McCRACKEN
- 10—McFARLANE
- 11—GAINFORD
- 12—HUNTER
- 13—MARTIN R.

Subs: Powe; Atkinson

(Jerseys: Red and White Bars)  
(Shorts: Black; Socks: White)

- 1—MURPHY
- 2—ELLIOTT
- 3—COLLINS
- 4—GARRATT
- 5—LARDER
- 6—DAVIES
- 7—SMITH
- 8—GARDINER
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—DUNN
- 11—IRVING
- 12—STANDING
- 13—CHURM

Subs: Crellin; Clarke R.

Referee: W. H. THOMPSON, Huddersfield.

Touch Judges: Messrs. J. A. HARKER and F. ELLAM

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# THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS

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## Talking Points . . .

After playing so well and losing in three recent away games Whitehaven players must be thinking they need to be absolutely brilliant to win away from home. In consecutive matches we have contained our opponents very well, only to be robbed of victory in the closing minutes.

I do not usually make excuses for 'Haven's defeats, but in last week's game at Batley our players seemed to be hit by some sort of jinx! The ball just would not run for them, and all their hard work came to nothing. It was a very hard game, and unfortunately the referee failed to see several incidents, which left Whitehaven feeling very bitter indeed.

Batley knew they would have to subdue Sol Roper to gain the points, and this they did in no uncertain terms in an ugly incident off the ball, which led to Roper leaving the field with a broken nose, after only 15 minutes play. Ray Martin had his legs kicked from under him at a play-the-ball, which even brought shouts of disapproval from ardent Batley fanatics.

It was a forward game played at a fast pace, and because of the equal scoreline until the final minutes, it was extremely exciting. 'Haven players deserve credit for keeping their heads in the face of such frustration. They tackled magnificently, especially Ryan (whose familiar shoulder-high tackles were regarded as fouls by the referee), Gainford and winger Rod Morris. On attack our stars were substitute Harry Maddison and second-rower Keith Hunter.

We have seen several new faces recently in our team with the introduction of McCracken and James Atkinson, and trialists Shuttleworth and Morris. It certainly keeps interest high among supporters and creates more competition among the players.

We also welcome two new Board members, Mr. A. C. Halfpenny and Mr. Len Coulthard, who are to be called associate directors.

Readers will no doubt know that the Rugby League bosses are wrestling with the wisdom of dividing the League into two divisions. Many incline towards the safety of something like the present set-up, thus a scheme for three divisions, which St. Helens are putting before

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## TALKING POINTS (continued)

the Management Committee is likely to shake the game to its parochial core. However, there is little doubt it points one way towards a gradual extension of the number of clubs, while the straight Two Divisions split could well condemn many of the smaller clubs.

St. Helens suggest the top 18 in the present league form the first division, with 34 league games apiece per season. The remaining 12 clubs plus six leading amateur clubs comprise a second division. A third division will consist of reserve teams, each professional club providing one. Promotion would be two up and down throughout.

St. Helens say that R.L. football would then become a force, and new teams would be attracted. "We would become a major game with a number of leagues instead of the present one."

It is a sound enough plan, but I still consider none to be better than Barrow's scheme which meant each club played every other league club home and away over two seasons. (This is an opportune moment to point out that views expressed in this the Official Programme are entirely those of the writers, and are not necessarily official club policy).

Today's visitors, Oldham, are having a poor season despite the presence of several talented players in their ranks. Former Test player Bobby Irving is a dangerous forward, and international hooker Kevin Taylor is a regular scorer. Leading the touchdown list are Wilf Briggs, Irving and coloured winger, Mike Elliott, while their goalkicker is Jim Crellin, a native of Moresby. Their pack looks very strong on paper, including Danny Gardiner, "Tug" Wilson and ex-Warrington star Ray Clark. Despite their troubles, the Watersheddings side have the ability to raise themselves to former heights.

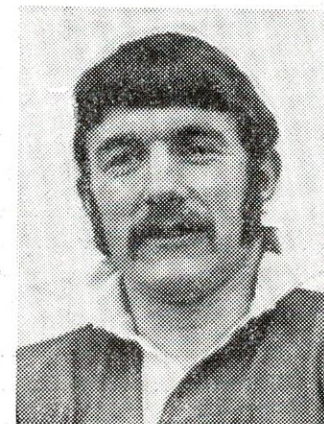
Whitehaven face a great task next week in the Challenge Cup-Tie. Warrington are a strong side, full of big names, and the last appearance in England of Australian World Cup pivot Bobbie Fulton will be something worth seeing on its own. 'Haven are playing with tremendous spirit, and we know how they raise to great heights against better opposition. Therefore this game promises to be the clash of round one, and we are determined to make it an occasion to be remembered. We ask our supporters to persuade some of their non-rugby type friends to come to the Recreation Ground next Saturday, to see, without doubt, our match of the season.

## WHITEHAVEN SCORERS, TO DATE

	T.	G.	Pts.		T.	G.	Pts.
P. J. Donnelly	—	65	130	T. M. Gainford	2	—	6
B. Buchanan	13	—	39	T. G. Fowler	2	—	6
R. Martin	8	—	24	M. Gracey	2	—	6
J. E. Bowman	8	—	24	J. Shimmings	2	—	6
A. B. Cassie	4	5	22	R. Ryan	1	—	3
M. McFarlane	1	5	13	W. Martin	1	—	3
J. Pringle	3	—	9	G. Cottier	1	—	3
J. A. Powe	2	—	6	R. Barnes	—	1	2
W. H. Ennis	2	—	6				

NEXT SATURDAY, 3 p.m.

CHALLENGE CUP — ROUND ONE



Rodney Morris

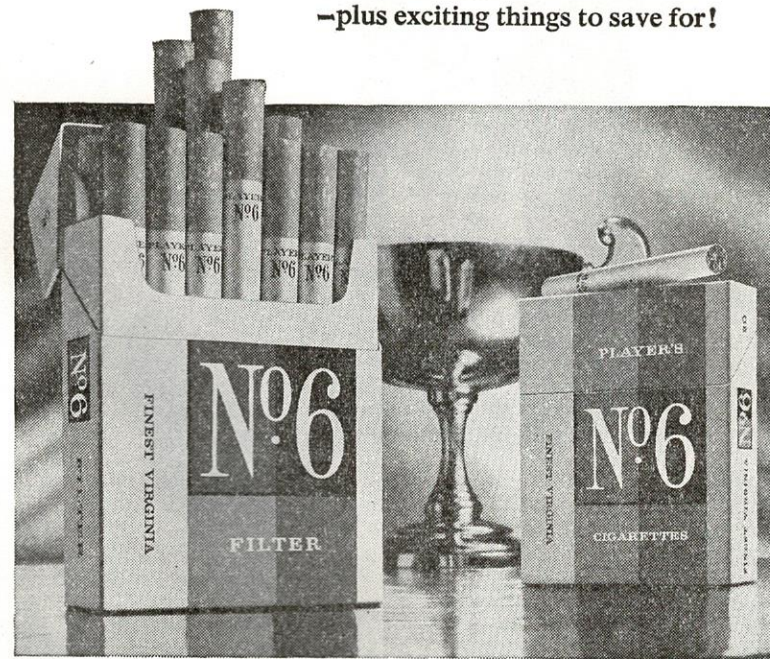


# FIXTURE GUIDE 1969-70

August 1969	F.	A.	December	F.	A.
10—Workington	A	18 13	6—Doncaster	A	8 16
16—Barrow (L.C.)	H	24 10	13—Hayton	H (Post.)	
23—Swinton	H	17 3	27—Bramley	A	13 17
30—Blackpool	A	32 10			
<b>September</b>			<b>1970</b>		
1—Workington	H	7 12	<b>January</b>		
6—Wigan	H	11 5	2—Salford	A	2 7
10—Huddersfield	A	17 5	10—Rochdale	A (Post.)	
13—Huyton	A	8 6	17—Doncaster	H	10 0
17—Huddersfield	H	20 7	24—Batley	A	2 10
20—Warrington	H	13 9	31—Oldham	H	
27—Swinton	A	7 32	<b>February</b>		
<b>October</b>			7—Warrington (R.L. Cup, 1)	H	
4—Blackpool	H	28 10	14—St. Helens	A	
11—Wigan	A	7 44	28—Widnes	H	
18—Widnes	A	8 7	<b>March</b>		
25—Batley	H	17 5	7—Warrington	A	
<b>November</b>			14—Leigh	H	
1—Oldham	A	10 20	27—Barrow	H	
8—St. Helens	H	10 9	28—Barrow	A	
15—Leigh	A	0 21	<b>April</b>		
22—Salford	H	7 13	11—Bramley	H	
29—Rochdale	H (Post.)				

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