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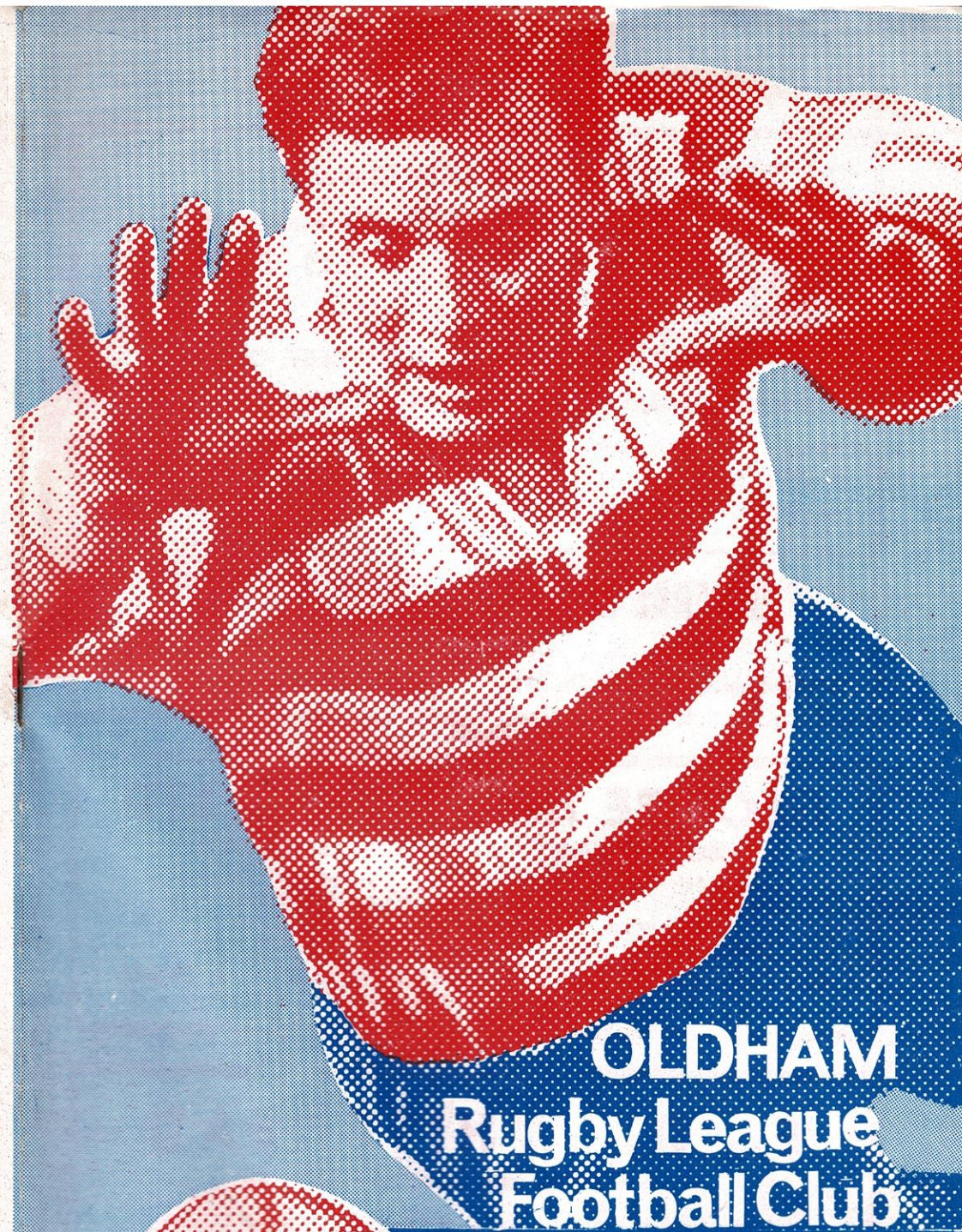
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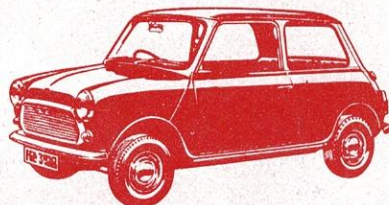
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OUR VISITORS

After those four fine successive away wins Oldham approach today's cup-tie in much better spirit than when the draw was first made. Saints last visited Watersheddings in Challenge Cup football in February 1969 for a second round tie which they won 15-6. Oldham supporters will be hoping that the present Saints line-up is not as successful this afternoon.

Former Lancashire rugby union centre Geoff Pimblett occupies the full-back berth for the Saints who signed him last January from Saints Helens R.U.F.C. Although he has only been at Knowsley Road 12 months he has already picked up cup winners medals from both St. Helens successes in the Championship and Floodlit Cups. Lancashire and Great Britain winger Les Jones, who was signed from Parr Juniors in February, 1967, is doubtful for this afternoon's encounter so it seems as if the wing positions will be occupied by John Wills and Frank Wilson. As soon as Wilson joined St. Helens, in August 1968, he became an instant success for in his first season he represented Wales against England as well as running in a total of 25 tries including two against Oldham in the Lancashire Cup Final. The following season, 1969-70, he made a further four appearances for Wales but since then Wales have not had any fixtures so Wilson has been unable to display his talent on the representative front. The centre positions will probably be filled by Bill Benyon and John Walsh although Alan Whittle is making a determined effort to regain permanent first team status. Benyon was signed in 1961 after skipping the Saint Helens and Lancashire schoolboy sides and has won numerous medals whilst with Saints. He has also represented Lancashire, England and Great Britain including both Lancashire matches and two test matches this season. Next Sunday he will be travelling to Toulouse with the British team. John Walsh is another Lancashire County representative who has been showing good form of late. He is also a useful goalkicker and in 1968-69 he landed 34 goals in his 20 appearances for Saints including 12 goals in one game. Alan Whittle is another Saint Helens born lad who was signed in 1963. He is a most reliable utility player which he proved in last season's Championship Final. 1968-69 was his best season, for in addition to gaining a Lancashire Cup winners medal against Oldham he went on to score 19 tries that season. Next Sunday Ken Kelly, the 19 year-old Saints stand-off, makes his Test debut against the French after being substitute in Britain's 12-12 draw against Leeds when he scored a try. He was signed in June 1969. Jeff Heaton joined Saints straight from school and won a Lancashire Cup winners medal in 1962 against Swinton before transferring to Huyton. Saints bought him back in August 1969 and he has since proved to be an adequate replacement for Tommy Bishop. The Saints pack consists of three Lancashire born lads, Eric Prescott,

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Eric Chisnall and Tony Karalius and three Welshmen Graham Rees, John Mantle and Kel Coslett. Prescott, a former Widnes ICI rugby union player has one Lancashire appearance to his credit and he also played in the 1969-70 Championship Final—on the wing! Eric Chisnall joined Saint Helens in December 1966 from Pilkington Recs. He has represented Lancashire on two occasions. Tony Karalius joined Saint Helens five years ago from Widnes and this season is by far his best for he has played in both Lancashire's matches as well as four of Britain's games. He, too, has been included in the British party for next week's game at Toulouse. Incidentally, Bob Irving will also be France bound, so he must be congratulated on this further honour. Veteran prop Graham Rees turned professional with Salford 11 years ago from Maestag R.U.F.C. after playing representative football with Glamorgan. Two years later he moved to Swinton where he played in a Lancashire Cup and Western Division Championship Final against St. Helens. After being chosen as substitute for Great Britain against the Australians in 1967 he was transferred to St. Helens. Since then he has made four appearances for Wales as well as appearing in most of Saints' important cup games. John Mantle was an outstanding schoolboy athlete who, in addition to playing rugby union for Welsh schoolboys, also made 5 appearances in the national schoolboy soccer team and toured South Africa in 1964. In January 1965 he joined Saint Helens from Newport R.U.F.C. where he has continued his international career. On three occasions he has represented Wales whilst this season's second test against the Kiwis was his 11th for Great Britain. He toured Australasia in 1966 and has won every medal available. Kel Coslett is another former Welsh schoolboy rugby union star who was signed from Aberavon R.U.F.C. in July 1962 after appearing in the full Welsh XV. In his first season of rugby league Coslett played in all Saints' games and only failed to score in one match. Although he has played for Wales five times he has never represented Great Britain. An expert goalkicker, he broke the Saint Helens club record last season with 189 goals and this season has already landed 142 including the four which won the Floodlit Trophy for Saints. Another former full-back, Frank Barrow, has been pressing his claims for inclusion into the pack. This wholehearted player who played in all Saints successes of the early sixties was signed from Saint Helens junior football and is now due for a benefit.

The Saints occupy fifth place in the Championship table with 16 wins and last week's 15-15 draw against Leeds. Their five defeats were all away and the one at lowly Bramley must give Oldham some encouragement for today's encounter. In the Lancashire Cup Saints defeated Leigh, 11-10, and Warrington 23-6, before losing at home 12-10 to Widnes. Oldham, it must be noted, have completed the double over Widnes this season.

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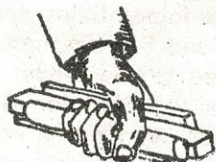
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OLDHAM ⁶

(Red/White Jerseys, Blue Shorts)

- 1—MARTIN MURPHY
- 2—MIKE ELLIOTT
- 3—PHIL LARDER ^{3 goals}
- 4—JOE COLLINS
- 5—NORMAN HODGKINSON
- 6—ALAN KELLETT
- 7—TOMMY DAVIES
- 8—KEN WILSON
- 9—KEVIN TAYLOR
- 10—FRANK FOSTER
- 11—BOB IRVING
- 12—BILL CHURM
- 13—JIMMY REYNOLDS

Substitutes

- 14—MICK SIDDALL
- 15—ARTHUR DALEY

Referee :
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(White Jerseys, Red V, White Shorts)

- 1—GEOFF PIMBLETT
- 2—JOHN WILLS
- 3—BILL BENYON
- 4—JOHN WALSH ^{1 try}
- 5—FRANK WILSON
- 6—KEN KELLY
- 7—JEFF HEATON
- 8—GRAHAM REES
- 9—TONY KARALIUS
- 10—ERIC CHISNALL
- 11—ERIC PRESCOTT
- 12—JOHN MANTLE
- 13—KEL COSLETT ^{1 try 1 goal}

Substitutes :

- 14—ALAN WHITTLE
- 15—FRANK BARROW

Touch Judges :

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T. CLAYTON, Widnes (Orange)

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Saint Helens have, however, already lifted the BBC 2 Floodlit Cup with excellent away wins at Swinton 14-9, Leigh 13-4, and Leeds 17-0. In the final they scored an 8-2 home victory over Rochdale Hornets and as can be seen from these results they form a difficult obstacle to Oldham's Cup hopes.

SUPPORTERS PLEASE NOTE

In the event of this afternoon's match ending in a draw, the re-play will be at St. Helens on Tuesday, 1st February, kick-off 7-30 p.m.

CHALLENGE CUP QUIZ

1. Which clubs have never won the Cup ?
2. How many times have Saint Helens won the Cup ?
3. Which club has won the Cup more than any other ?
4. When were Oldham last in the Cup Final ?
5. Who were the first club to win the Cup ?

First correct set of answers will win £2.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 8	Swinton (Lancs Cup)	A	7—10	
21	Barrow	H	13—13	
25	Swinton	A	2—20	
28	Hunslet	A	13—14	
Sept. 1	Leeds	H	12—16	
8	Wigan	H	7—23	
11	Leeds	A	12—49	
15	Rochdale <i>Floodlight Cup</i>	A	2—28	
19	Huyton	H	29—9	
24	Widnes	A	19—7	
Oct. 2	Featherstone	H	17—21	
8	Wigan	A	13—28	
16	St. Helens	A	2—50	
23	Blackpool	H	19—24	
30	Widnes	H	13—7	
Nov. 6	Hunslet	H	31—0	
13	Whitehaven (P.C.)	A	0—5	
30	York	A	8—9	
27	Leigh (P.Comp.)	H	5—11	
Dec. 4	St. Helens	H	0—28	
11	Bradford	H	9—13	
18	Bradford	A	14—7	
27	Rochdale	H	2—8	
Jan. 1	Barrow	A	19—9	
8	Swinton	H	2—12	
15	Whitehaven	A	14—9	
22	Featherstone	A	17—14	
29	Challenge Cup (1)			
Feb. 5	Bramley	H		
11	Warrington	A		
19	Challenge Cup (2)			
26	Blackpool	A		
Mar. 4	Doncaster	H		
11	York	H		
18	Doncaster	A		
22	Rochdale	A		
25	Whitehaven	H		
Apr. 1	Huyton	A		
5	Warrington	H		
8	Bramley	A		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 21	Barrow	A	13—9	
28	Swinton	H	7—22	
Sept. 11	Workington	H	17—2	
18	Huyton	A	25—5	
25	Widnes	H	14—5	
Oct. 2	Wigan	A	44—11	
9	Wigan	H		
29	Salford	A	12—20	
Nov. 6	Workington	A		
27	St. Helens	A		
Dec. 18	Salford	H		
27	Rochdale	A		
Jan. 1	Barrow	H		
8	Swinton	A		
22	St. Helens	H		
Feb. 12	Warrington	H		
19	Widnes	A		
Mar. 18	Leigh	H		
Apr. 1	Huyton	H		
3	Warrington	A		
8	Rochdale	H		
15	Leigh	A		

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