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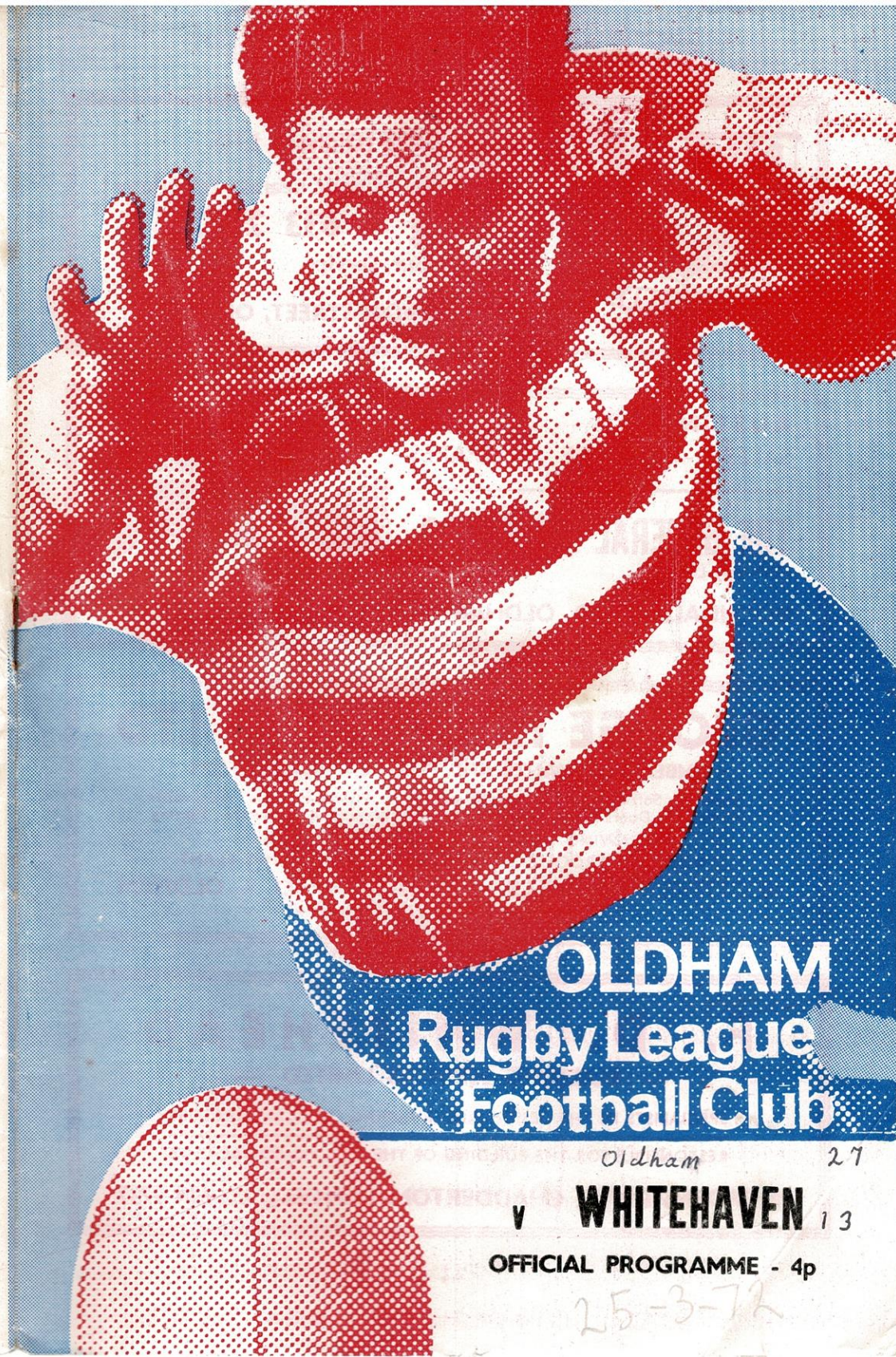
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OUR VISITORS

Just 10 matches ago Oldham were floundering close to the foot of the table with the chances of a top 16 spot as remote as victory that afternoon up at Whitehaven. But on the way up to Cumberland, Oldham called in at Barrow, recruited Frank Foster and since then have played like a title chasing outfit. Now it's Whitehaven's turn to travel and all Oldham supporters will be hoping they don't solve their problems as satisfactorily on the way down.

Today's opposition, are a mixture of experience and youth and, although they have not enjoyed the success which they have deserved this season, they will still provide stubborn resistance to Oldham's high scoring exploits of recent weeks. At full back will be either 25 years old Peter Donnelly or perhaps George Mather, whose 23rd birthday it will be next Wednesday. Mather joined Whitehaven from Hensingham juniors after also representing Cumberland amateurs. Winger Rodney Morris is another junior signing who was snapped up from Millom. This season he represented Cumberland in both county championship matches against Lancashire and Yorkshire. The three-quarter line is made up of Brian Rose, Ken Gallagher and Mike Gracey, although at the beginning of the year Whitehaven stiffened up this department of their side considerably when they signed former Cumberland county star Alan Sewell from Workington Town. No doubt the strongest section of Whitehaven's side is at half-back where four players are contesting the two positions. Thirty-six years old Sol Roper enjoyed a very successful spell with Workington Town before transferring to Whitehaven. Roper gained international honours at U/19 level before turning professional in 1954. At the end of his first season in professional football Roper appeared at Wembley, in the Workington team which was defeated 21-12 by Barrow. Four years later Workington were back at Wembley and also in the Championship Final led by Sol Roper. Unfortunately Wigan won at Wembley 13-9 and Hull became Champions at Odsal by a 20 points to 3 margin. Since his move to Whitehaven Roper has taken over the coaching duties as well as turning on some impressive performances. In addition he has made the odd appearance for Cumberland and in 1967 was a star of the Workington/Whitehaven XIII which pulled off a memorable victory over the touring Australians. Phil Kitchen, the other star half-back and also a former Workington player, has been troubled by injury this season. Whilst with Workington he played many times for Cumberland and also represented Great Britain on one occasion against New Zealand. Alec Cassie joined Whitehaven in 1962 from Melrose R.U.F.C. and since has given sterling service. He is quite a good goal kicker and this season he has scored around 120 points for Whitehaven. Scrum-half Harry Madison is another Cumberland country player who is enjoying one of his best seasons with Whitehaven. One

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feature of Cumbrian clubs is their forward strength and throughout their history Whitehaven have always boasted a big strong pack. John Pringle, is now using the experience of his 30 years to good advantage and is having his best season for Whitehaven since he joined them from Moresby R.U.F.C. in 1965. Bill McCracken has been filling the hooking berth and must be giving capable displays to be given preference over Neil Patterson, a former England U/19 player. Another forward with junior honours is Gordon Cottier who has represented Cumberland at U/17 level. Bob McLean represented Cumberland and Westmorland at rugby union before joining Whitehaven. He has been disputing the propping spot with 19 years old John Wilson, a product of Egremont juniors. Also on the verge of first team football are Keith Hunter, Jack Davidson and Tom Gainford, another former Cumberland representative. Last January Whitehaven signed the very dependable Barrow forwards Keith Irving and Spanky McFarlane. The tough Cumbrian McFarlane began his career with Workington Town and he commanded a £6,000 fee when he moved to Barrow in January 1970. He didn't settle at Craven Park and after a spell on loan to Whitehaven at the beginning of the season he moved permanently to the Recreation Grounds last January. Thirty-three years old Dennis Martin must be drawing near to the end of his distinguished career which began in April 1959 almost 13 years ago, with Workington Town. He has played numerous times for Cumberland, the last occasion being at the beginning of this season against Yorkshire at Wakefield. Young Ray Martin, no relation to Dennis, joined Whitehaven from Kells juniors 5 years ago and this season made an outstanding debut for Cumberland against Lancashire when he scored a try in his side's 17-7 victory. He also played in Cumberland's other county engagement against Yorkshire at Wakefield.

Whitehaven are not having a very successful season although they are lying in 23rd position which is slightly better than the 29th spot they occupied last season. Last season they won 8 games and drew one whilst this season they have already won 10 matches but have lost the other 19 games. Whitehaven have completed the double over one club, Hunslet (30-9 home, 13-10 away) and have also won at Huyton 23-6. The other eight victories have been gained at home and some of them by quite wide margins such as the 20 points to 2 victory over Doncaster and the 32-0 defeat of Batley. In the Lancashire Cup Whitehaven had a difficult away draw at Warrington where they found the irrepressible Alec Murphy too much of a handful and lost 17-9. In the Challenge Cup Castleford were called upon to visit the Recreation Grounds but, despite hectic activity on the transfer front, Whitehaven fell to their sixth successive Challenge Cup first round defeat. Whilst Whitehaven expected a tough fight the final margin of 17-0 proved a big disappointment. In the John Player Challenge Trophy a first minute try by Ken Gallagher was enough to see Whitehaven through in their home tie

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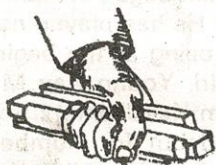
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- 5—NORMAN HODGKINSON
- 6—CLIFF HILL
- 7—TOMMY DAVIES *1try*
- 8—KEN WILSON
- 9—KEVIN TAYLOR
- 10—FRANK FOSTER
- 11—BOB IRVING *1try*
- 12—BILL CHURM
- 13—JIM REYNOLDS *1try*

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- 4—BRIAN ROSE
- 5—ALAN SEWELL
- 6—GEORGE MATHER
- 7—BARRY SMITH
- 8—DENNIS MARTIN
- 9—MIKE BARWISE *1try*
- 10—JOHN PRINGLE
- 11—JOHN McFARLANE
- 12—TOM GAINFORD *McCracken*
- 13—BILL McCracken *Gainford*

Substitutes:

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against Oldham. It was an exciting match which, however, was marred by the dismissal of Oldham's Alan Kellett. In round two the mighty St. Helens travelled up to Cumberland where they had to fight all the way before they eventually ran out winners 12-0. In their fixture with the New Zealand touring team, Whitehaven played extremely well and led 6-3 at half-time with tries from Morris and Cassie, but eventually those super fit Kiwis gained the upper hand to win 21-8.

With each team having gained a victory over the other this season, today's games takes the form of a decider. In addition, whilst Whitehaven's 5-0 win was a cup-tie, Oldham's 13-9 away win came in league warfare which gives Oldham the opportunity to register their third double of the season. Last season Oldham defeated Whitehaven 15-2 at home and the previous season they scored a 20 points to 10 victory so they must be extremely confident of victory today.

JUNIOR U/11 TOWN TEAM v. WARRINGTON

Today's curtain raiser is between the Junior Town Teams of Oldham and Warrington. The boys are all in their last year at Junior School and are ten or eleven years of age. This season has been Oldham's best ever in the Lancashire Cup Competition and a win today will give them a place in the Championship Final.

Their results to date have been :- Oldham 9 v. Widnes 0 ; Wigan 21 v. Oldham 3 ; Leigh 0 v. Oldham 14 ; and Oldham 28 v. Kirkby 0.

After the match there will be a collection in aid of the Schools' Rugby League. These collections ensure that Rugby League carries on in our schools. At present the game is expanding at schoolboy level and your money will go to provide kit for our new schools.

The Oldham team is :- 1—Steven Sharp (Parish Church) ; 2—Tony Payne (Holy Rosary) ; 3—Danny Cheetham (St. Mary's) ; 4—Martin Foy (Sacred Heart) ; 5—Anthony Wilde (Watersheddings) ; 6—Timothy Whittaker (Lyndhurst) ; 7—Leslie Hilditch (St. Patrick's) ; 8—Gary Collier (Lyndhurst) ; 9—John Cowling (Lyndhurst) ; 10—Pasquali D'adamo (St. Mary's) ; 11—Mark Henshaw (Sacred Heart) ; 12—Phillip Marshall (Lyndhurst) ; 13—Michael Nanyn (Lyndhurst), Captain. Subs. : 14—Ernie Walkden ((Lyndhurst) ; 15—Stephen Goddard (Watersheddings).

7-A-SIDE FINAL

During the half time interval the Final of the George Dew 7-a-side Cup Competition will take place between Lyndhurst (Red) and Watersheddings (White). Due to a fixture backlog many boys will be playing twice today—eight of the finalists are also Town Team players.

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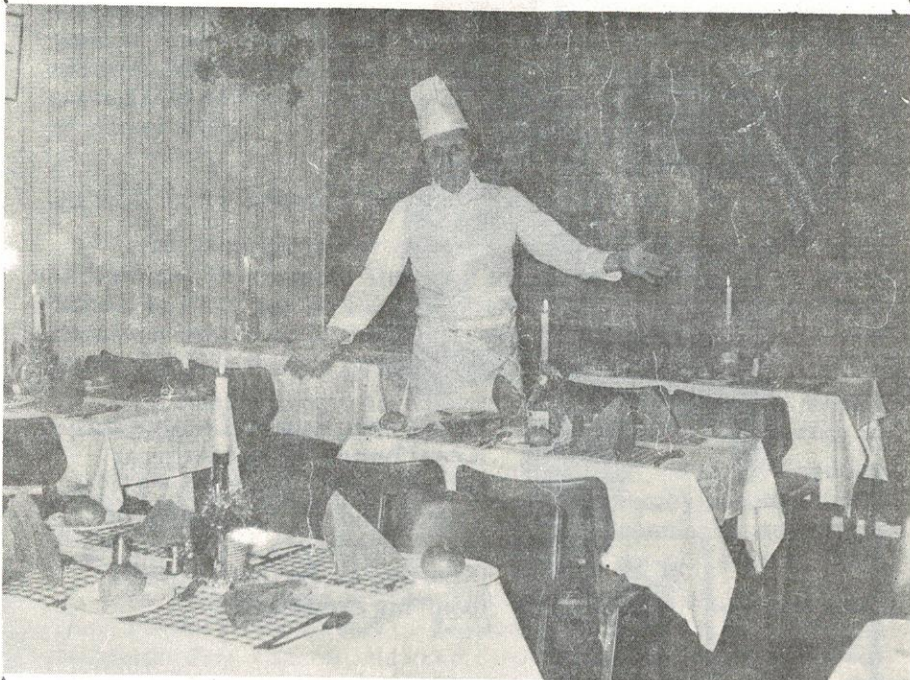
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RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ

1. Which club plays at Mount Pleasant ?
2. Which season was the most successful for Whitehaven ?
3. Who is the leading try scorer for Oldham 'A' ?
4. Who are the 'Robins' ?
5. Who holds the Whitehaven Club try scoring record ?

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

We are holding a Jumble Sale on Tuesday 11th April in the Social Club. If you have any jumble please give us your name and address and we will gladly collect it. Members of the Committee will be out collecting on Thursday April 6th.

Don't forget that both Canteens will be open for the Standard Cup Final to be played on Good Friday morning.

THE BEST WAY YOU CAN HELP THE CLUB IS BY BECOMING A POOLS AGENT

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Contact Alan Taylor at the Pools' Office in the Social Club after the match.

ANSWERS TO R.L. QUIZ

1. Batley's Ground is named Mount Pleasant.
2. In 1959-60 Whitehaven were placed 6th in the league table with 22 wins, 3 draws and 13 defeats.
3. Mick Wilde leads the Oldham 'A' try scoring chart with 7.
4. Hull Kingston Rovers are nicknamed the 'Robins'.
5. In 1956-57 Bill Smith crossed for 29 tries for Whitehaven, a club record.

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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	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—26	
11	Bradford	H	9—13	
18	Bradford	A	14—7	
27	Rochdale	H	9—13	
Jan. 1	Barrow	A	19—9	
8	Swinton	H	7—12	
15	Whitehaven	A	12—9	
22	Featherstone	A	17—14	
29	St. Helens	H	6—8	
Feb. 5	Bramley	H	15—14	
11	Warrington	A	12—15	
26	Blackpool	A	33—0	
Mar. 4	Doncaster	H	44—5	
11	York	H	32—14	
18	Doncaster	A	27—9	
22	Rochdale	A	9—2	
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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