

OLDHAM

RUGBY NEWS

Club comes first for Frank

BIG BOOST BY

FOSTER

FRANK FOSTER, granite-hard pack leader at Watersheddings, whom many critics believed should have earned a place in the British World Cup squad, has given Oldham a tremendous boost . . . by putting his club before a lucrative, top-secret submarine job in the West of Scotland.

Barring injury, or any unforeseen incident in Tuesday's TV Cup match against Castleford, Oldham supporters will again thrill to Foster's leadership, ball-distributing skills, and sheer physical strength against Huyton this week-end.

Yet two weeks ago it was feared that the demands of Frank's occupation as an electrical expert on nuclear submarines would rule him out of Tuesday's Castleford tie, this week-end's Huyton game, and next Friday's hard match at Hull, where our boys have already come unstuck this season in the first round of the John Player Cup.

Frank, whose regular work is on submarines being constructed by Vickers on the Barrow shipyards, had the chance to go along with some of his mates on highly-confidential Government work in the preparation of submarines on Loch Fyne, deep in the heart of remote Scotland.

Part of his duties would have involved going out in the submarines deep beneath the waters of the Scottish loch.

Decision

Typically, Frank did not want to miss his rugby; though, and as plans for the trip were formulated he always bore in mind whether he would be able to get time off to travel to

Lancashire for the three matches.

Oldham, for their part, weighed up the possibilities of bringing a player from remote Scotland. A taxi all the way . . . or a plane from Glasgow to Ringway. While Oldham were thinking, Frank telephoned club chairman Arthur Walker the night before he had to give his employers a final decision.

Said club secretary Kevin Wilkinson: 'By that time Frank had discovered the work was of such a confidential nature that it would have been impossible for him to get leave of absence.'

'He told us that, not only would he be prevented from playing rugby, but he would also be prevented from



travelling home to Barrow to see his family.

'It was so confidential that once there . . . he was stuck there.'

That wasn't for Frank and when he realised he would not be able to combine both his duties in Scotland with those here at the club, he decided to forego the chance of the working trip.

So though our side will be without Bob Irving against Huyton we trust that by now he will be joining in the celebrations for what we hope will be a British World Cup final victory, we will have both players in our ranks for that important trip to Huddersfield next week-end.

Popularity

Incidentally, the player's popularity at Watersheddings is again spotlighted by the fact that his name cropped up in the public meeting held between the committee and our supporters in the social club last week.

Talking of the decision to distribute free passes for schoolboys for entrance to the Great Britain match we repeated the gesture on Tuesday, one supporter made reference to the splendid sight provided by the hundreds of youngsters who invaded the pitch at the end.

'Part of the reason, in addition to our great win, was that the kids have come to idolise Frank Foster', said Mr. Walker.

'Some people say he is brilliant: some say he is not that good. But the kids idolise him, and every side has to have an idol.'

THE GOVERNMENT'S LOSS OF FRANK FOSTER IN SCOTLAND IS CERTAINLY OLDHAM'S GAIN.

charts, and that's why I have come along to join the Oldham boys in training.

'I think it will do me a power of good. For instance, I have just been around the first circuit gymnasium course since I left school.'

It's not every rugby club that can boast an Olympic athlete in their midst . . . but don't get ideas that Gary might one day be running down Oldham's wing with the power-plus that took him to Munich.

He admitted: 'I used to play a bit of rugby at school, on the wing, but

Continued on page eight



● MIKE ELLIOTT surges forward against Huddersfield, but is held by two defenders, as Ken Senior (No. 5) closes in.

QUICK FLASHES

IT WAS like home from home for Bob Irving and Dennis Wright, local members of the British World Cup party, when the international squad flew into Orly Airport, Paris, en route to the World Cup campaign in France. For they were greeted with scores of Aussie supporters, chanting: 'Whatever Oldham can do, we can do better'.

TAKE a bow, Fay and Jack Bowden! For the way in which the social club is now thriving is due in no small measure to the efforts of the Bowdens, club chairman Arthur Walker told members. Fay, the social club's popular manageress, is following in the footsteps of her father, Bert Moores, who isn't only a former Oldham player, but an ex-licencee, too.

THE coaching course at Watersheddings, run in conjunction with the Rugby League, got off the ground last Sunday, and the organisers were delighted at the response . . . more than FORTY prospective coaches who can be expected to pass on their knowledge to youngsters in the area.

IT'S a long, long trail from Munich to a cold, windy, rainswept Monday night up there on the rise at Counthill . . . but that's the journey taken by a British athlete who has now thrown in his lot at Watersheddings as he prepares for the 1974 Commonwealth Games in the beautiful, South Island city of Christchurch in New Zealand.

Gary Armstrong is the name — and Gary admits that, while he is very STRONG in the legs, he could be stronger in the body.

A few weeks ago he was expressing this sort of view to our physiotherapist Dennis Wright, a well-known figure in Manchester athletic circles, and Dennis suggested that he might try his hand at joining Graham Starkey's super-fit stars in action.

Graham, always ready to lend a helping hand to a sportsman irrespective of whether he is running in tries, putting the shot, or high-diving in a swimming bath, readily agreed.

So Gary Armstrong, 20-year-old member of the British team in Munich in September, joined in the Counthill gymnasium ses-

sion one night last week . . . and Gary was the first to admit afterwards that it left him gasping.

He is a member of the Manchester Athletic Club and lives in Blackley. A natural ability to run, plus long and lonely hours of training under the supervision of his coach, led Gary from the grime of Manchester to the super stadium in Munich where he donned the red, white and blue vest of his country in the 400 metres . . . the "killer" of athletics events.

To do anything in the 400 an athlete has to run flat out for something like a quarter of a mile. There is no chance of a breather: no time to break second wind.

It's hell bent for the tape right from the gun — and considering the world-wide competition he was up against, and the way in which athletes in other parts of the world train full time for the Olympics — as students in America and as members of the military in the USSR — the lad from down the road did very nicely, thank you.

He reached the second round of the 400 metres,

Strong by name . . . but by nature ?

YOU, THE MEMBER, TO DECIDE

ONE of the most historic happenings at Oldham in the next 12 months is going to be the decision on the conversion, or otherwise, of the club into a limited liability company.

Run by committee and members for nearly 100 years, officials have now received a legal report on the possibilities of a conversion following talks between two

members of the committee, a Manchester solicitor, and legal experts in this particular field.

The committee members will now digest the contents of the report, before we begin a series of questions-and-answers meetings, says club chairman Arthur Walker.

Because of the confidential nature of much of the

report, the committee feel it unwise at this stage to circulate copies to members.

But Mr. Walker and the committee insist that the final decisions will be taken by YOU — the member.

'When it comes to voting time each committee man will be in exactly the same position as the members', stresses the chairman.

Oldham Rugby League Club

Ground: Watersheddings, Oldham.
Colours: Red and white hooped jerseys, blue shorts.
Chairman: A. Walker.
Vice-chairman: R. Hatton.
Treasurer: R. Hartley.
Committee: J. Bowden, B. Day, J. Higgins, D. Hulme, C. Farnworth, W. Jinks.
Rugby League Council: A. Walker.
Deputy: R. Hatton.
Lancashire County: J. Bowden.
Club Secretary: K. Wilkinson.
Club Doctor: Dr. D. S. Preston.
Physiotherapist: D. Wright.
Coach: G. Starkey.
Promotions Manager: A. Taylor.

NEWS PEOPLE

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Phone 061-624 4865.

HUYTON STATISTICS

Colours: All white, with red, black and amber hoop.
Ground: Alt Park.
Founded: 1922.
Nickname: The Mersey-siders.
Attendance Record: 14,000 v. Widnes (Championship semi-final 1935-6).
Record Win: 44-0 v. Halifax 1945-46.
Record Defeat: 0-73 v. Warrington 1950-51.
Try scoring Record: 22 by Ernie Halton in 1957-58.
Goal kicking and point scoring Record: 95 goals, 7 tries, 211 points by J. Wood in 1954-55.
Honours: Lancashire Champions: 1935-36. Runners-up 1936-37.

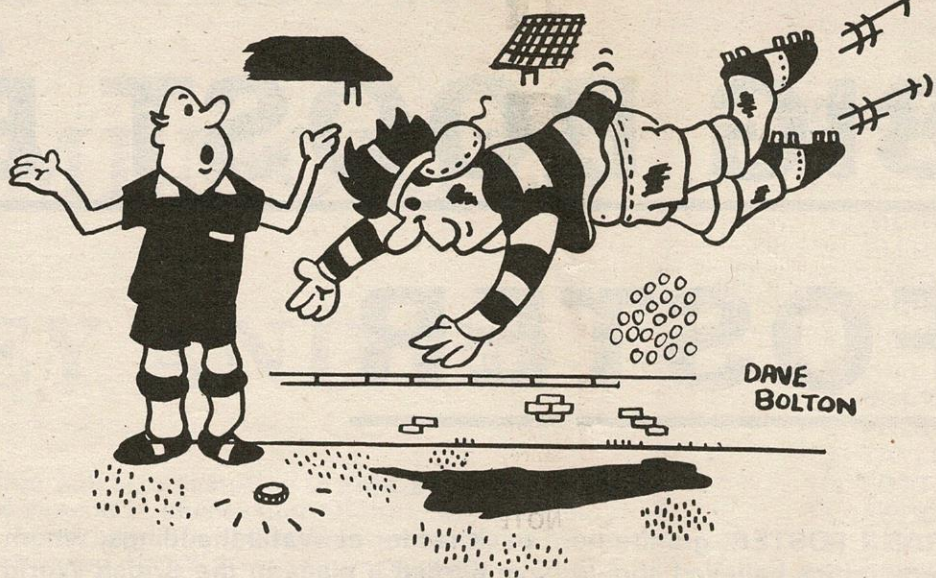
RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ

QUESTIONS

1. Who captained the 1971 New Zealand 'Kiwis'?
2. How many appearances did Bob Irving make during the 1970 tour of Australia and New Zealand?
3. What is the name of Halifax's ground?
4. Who made the most appearances for Oldham last season?
5. Who was last season's Players No. 6 'Player of the season'?

ANSWERS

1. Roy Christian.
2. 15 appearances, 6 tries.
3. Thrum Hall.
4. Martin Murphy, 42 appearances, 7 tries.
5. Bill Ashurst (Wigan).



'Has anyone found a one pence piece?'

THE thrill and honour of winning a Great Britain place for the tour of Australia may be tinged with a feeling of regret in future seasons.

For just as it is the ambition of every player to make the trip Down Under they are also aiming at an appearance on the famous Sydney Cricket Ground.

But now comes the disappointing news that the New South Wales League is not to renew its lease for the S.C.G., which expires in 1974.

Treading the well-worn Sydney turf has been likened to sampling the Wembley atmosphere, a visit to Lord's or a round at St. Andrews.

It is an experience

adding 'But I would say the football was a higher standard between the two Test sides.'

The games were always a sell out with a 70,000 crowd and a fantastic atmosphere. It is one of the few occasions in a player's career when he gets the feeling something really big is at stake.

The crowd on The Hill can get pretty involved. When we put 40 points on the Aussies in '58 they started throwing beer cans and oranges, but you don't expect any bouquets over there.

'I think it is a shame that players won't get the chance of playing there for it is such a landmark in your career.'

Frank Myler claims

IT'S MY VIEW

by Brian Batty
Daily Mail



It won't be the same in Aussie

which most British players recall with some fondness, or possibly bitterness, depending on their fate against the Aussies.

But certainly they regard it as a highspot in their career and one they would not care to have missed.

Wigan coach Eric Ashton was one of our most distinguished and respected tourists to Australia in 1958 and 1962.

He played in the Ashes-winning side in 1958 and went one better four years later, leading the British side to their triumph from the centre position.

'I would put the experience of playing at Sydney Cricket Ground on a par with Wembley,' he told me,

that it was the finest moment of his career when he skippered Britain in the Ashes triumph in the 1970 tour.

'When I was chosen to tour Australia the first thing I looked forward to was playing at Sydney Cricket Ground,' says the Rochdale player-coach. Myler has always promised himself a return trip Down Under to watch a touring side and relive his experiences there.

'I don't think it will be the same in future Tests if they move to another venue,' he added. 'There is so much tradition and atmosphere at the cricket ground. I'll never forget it.'



Grünhülle
Lager

Brewed in the Bavarian Way

'Gentleman John' — one of the greatest

FIRST OF A NEW SERIES ON OLDHAM'S EXPLAYERS

By FRED HOWARTH

THE OLDHAM ex-players Association express their thanks to the *News* for publishing our request in the Widnes issue, for an appeal for any Oldham ex-players who have not joined the Oldham Association. The result of the appeal is that we enrolled three new members. The members of the association come from far and wide to enjoy the many social events that we organise. One such member is Ron Rowbottom, who travels along with his wife, from Widnes.

As an interest to readers we will spotlight certain members of the ex-players who have now retired from the Rugby League scene.

My first personality, who was a firm favourite with the Oldham supporters during the glorious fifties is John Etty, who was remembered as 'Gentleman John'. Religious in his home life and work, he applied the same to his Rugby League career.

John joined Oldham when the team was riding on the crest of Rugby revival in Oldham; and he featured in many memorable games while playing in the No. 2 jersey.

John was a good club man, and the late Bert Summerscales always said: 'I wish we had twelve other players like John'.

Although his playing days are behind him John still retains a keen interest in Rugby League and watches the Blackpool Borough team regular, as he now resides in nearby Fleetwood along with his wife and family. John is the deputy superintendent at the Blackpool Social Services Department. He is an active

member of the Ex-Players Association and comes along to our social events, along with his wife, when his job permits him.

John through this column, would like to be remembered to many of his Rugby friends in the Oldham area.

The Ex-Players publish their own newsletter which we send to all members, and this goes to such places as New Zealand, Australia, and more recently to Canada where one of our Ex-Players, Alf Murray, is now working.

We hope to see Alf in the near future as he will be returning to this country for a holiday.

Many of the ex-players are now scattered over the British Isles and I receive letters from many of them asking how the present team is faring, and I have kept them in touch by sending them copies of the *Oldham Rugby News* which they have enjoyed reading.

Many of them will be coming to Oldham to attend the Ex-Players Reunion Dinner which will be held at the Parkfield Club in January 20th, 1973.

LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

BY
TOM WEBB

THE WATERSHEDDINGS GROUND, 776 feet above sea level is one of the highest in the game, as only the Halifax ground could possibly have a greater altitude. Bad weather is always troublesome and frost and mist have often caused the cancellation of matches. The first year in my records in which the weather was notable for the cancellation of matches is the 1890-1 season when there was no match at Watersheddings from December 6 to January 24. We have had worse spells but this was the earliest bad spell in the club's history.

Ab Ashworth played for England versus Ireland at Whalley Range, Manchester in February, 1892. He was our first international. Only a few years later, about 1896, he was playing for Luzley Brook (roughly on the borders of Royton and Crompton) in the Oldham Junior League. During that same season Pennington kicked 37 goals from 77 tries adding two penalty goals and one dropped goal.

S. Taylor of Bankfield, Derker, was club secretary in 1892-3 when Arthur Lees, a youth aged 18, hailing from

the local club, Lees, signed on for the club. He was a great star in the early days of the Northern Union.

PROBLEMS

Again matches with Welsh clubs brought problems. When Oldham played Newport in April, 1893 a try counted two points. Oldham won by eight points to five. Normal Welsh scoring values were a try three points, a goal following a try (hence the

term conversion) five points, a dropped goal four points and a penalty goal three points.

In the match with Mossley, in which Fillingham made his debut for Oldham, both sides played four threequarters for the first time. Incidentally, Fillingham had joined the club from Werneth. Following this match Oldham refused to play any more games with Mossley on account of their rough play. This reputation killed the Mossley club at the end of 1894, as it folded up after losing its most attractive fixtures.

43 TRIES

In 1893-4 Jack Hurst scored 43 tries with Bill McCutcheon recording 24 and Fillingham 11. Pennington kicked 23 conversions from 49 tries, with Gwynne kicking 15 conversions from 27 tries. That season Oldham topped the Lancashire Senior Competition (Rugby Union), then in its second season, Salford having been the first

champions. Of the 18-game competition played, Oldham won 14, lost 2 and drew 2, but of the overall fixture list provided 29 of the 41 games were won, 8 lost and 4 drawn. The fixture list included games against Swansea, Llanelly, Hartlepool Rovers and three of the leading Yorkshire clubs, Wakefield Trinity, Leeds and Manningham. The Swansea match attendance was 10,000.

NOTEWORTHY

The last season of Oldham's connection with the Rugby Union was noteworthy for the fact that Wigan, Salford and Leigh were suspended for breaches of the laws relating to professionalism, this leaving only seven clubs in the Lancashire Senior Competition in which Oldham finished second to Tyldesley, the 'Bongers' heading the table by one point.

Lancashire played a county game with Westmorland and

five Oldham players, W. McCutcheon, I. P. Taylor, S. Lees, J. Hurst and H. Varley played for the Red Rose county fifteen. This match was staged at Watersheddings.

FIRST SCOTTISH SIDE

On New Year's Day, 1895, the Watsonians became the first and only Scottish side to play the Oldham club. The Oldham team was Eagland; Fillingham, Taylor, Sam Lees, Lamonby; Varley, A. Lees; Furness, Bonsor, Barnes, Hughes, Phillips, Andrews, Newby and Merritt. Taylor scored the first try, Fillingham the second and Lamonby kicked the goal. The result was a draw of eight points each.

Harry Eagland had joined the club from Yorkshire and I. P. Taylor had made the short journey from the Werneth club. Harry Varley eventually left Oldham to link up with the Leeds club. I think he hailed from Heckmondwike for which



Here's Tom after the Wigan match at Central Park.

club he played before joining Oldham.

J. B. Rye presided at the club's annual dinner. He had the honour of being the club's first county player and was in his second year as club president. He was associated with the club from about 1876 to 1934.

Season's fixtures and Results SEASON 1972-73

First Team Fixtures

AUGUST

Sat 19—HUDDERSFIELD	25-7	A
Wed 23—WHITEHAVEN (7-30)	30-13	H
Sat 26—WORKINGTON	19-5	H
Mon 28—YORK	32-8	A

SEPTEMBER

Fri 1—SALFORD (Lancs Cup)	17-41	A
Sun 10—HULL	27-2	H
Sun 17—HUYTON	25-13	A
Sat 23—PLAYERS CUP, HULL	10-17	A
Fri 29—WIGAN	12-9	A

OCTOBER

Tue 3—SALFORD (Floodlight Cup)	12-8	H
Sat 7—ST. HELENS	12-12	H
Sat 14—WORKINGTON	10-17	A
Wed 18—GT. BRITAIN	18-15	H
Sun 22—WIDNES	17-18	H

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—HUDDERSFIELD	9-7	H
Sun 12—HUYTON	22-0	H
Fri 17—HULL		A
Sat 25—WIGAN		H

DECEMBER

Fri 1—ST. HELENS		A
Sun 10—SALFORD		H
Sun 17—DEWSBURY		A
Sun 24—LEIGH		A
Tues 26—ROCHDALE		A
Sun 31—WARRINGTON		A

JANUARY

Sat 6—WHITEHAVEN		A
Sun 14—YORK		H
Fri 19—BARROW		A
Sat 27—CHALLENGE CUP (1)		

FEBRUARY

Sun 4—LEIGH		A
Sun 11—BLACKPOOL		H
Sat 17—CHALLENGE CUP (2)		
Sun 25—WIDNES		A

MARCH

Sun 4—WARRINGTON		H
Sun 11—BARROW		H
Sun 18—BLACKPOOL		A

APRIL

Sun 1—DEWSBURY		H
Sun 8—SWINTON		H
Sat 21—SWINTON		A
Mon 23—ROCHDALE		H

'A' Team Fixtures

OCTOBER

Fri 6—ST. HELENS		A
Sat 14—WORKINGTON		H
Fri 20—WIDNES		A
Sat 28—SALFORD		H

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—BARROW		A
Sat 11—HUYTON		A
Sat 18—ROCHDALE		H
Sat 25—WIGAN		A

DECEMBER

Sat 2—ST. HELENS		H
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Fri 8—SALFORD		A
Sat 16—SWINTON		A
Sat 23—LEIGH		A
Sat 30—WARRINGTON		H

JANUARY

Sat 6—BARROW		H
Sat 20—BARROW		H
Sat 27—SWINTON		H

FEBRUARY

Sat 3—LEIGH		H
Sat 17—ROCHDALE		A
Sat 24—WIDNES		H

MARCH

Sat 3—WARRINGTON		A
Sat 10—BARROW		A
Sat 17—WIGAN		A

APRIL

Sat 7—ROCHDALE		A
Sat 14—WIGAN		H
Sat 21—SWINTON		H



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HOOKED BY OLDHAM

TEN YEARS AGO—

AND STILL

GOING STRONG!

KEVIN TAYLOR, the Oldham hooker who has seen the inside of more scrums than you and I have had hot dinners, is as much a part of the Watersheddings scene as the Hutchins stand or the old pavilion — but twice as active. For it's the bounce in the loose of our bundle-of-energy hooker that has taken him so close — yet so far — from the code's top honours he used to dream about achieving in the days when he first picked up a ball and ran at the Parish Church junior school.

Twenty-six-year-old Kevin, like so many Oldham boys, learned the rudiments of a code that he was to become to thoroughly love under the expert guidance of teachers Jim Shorrocks and Tom Webb, now the *News's* memory lane correspondent, during those early days at the Parish Church rugby kindergarten.

It was 1954 — the days of the decline of ration books, when the country settled to the new Queen Elizabeth, and when a television set in Oldham was a prized possession.

There was still a post-war boom in sport — and Kevin Taylor, reared in a rugby household, wanted to be a part of it.

Watched regularly at schoolboy matches by his late father, Harold, one of Oldham RL Club's staunchest fans, and his uncle, Clifford Bayliss, Kevin was always a stocky lad for his age and, as an eight-year-old, won a place in the school team, which was packed with lads three years

older than he was.

The sporting life of many boys of that age group — even today — is governed by events normally outside their control ... like the games they play at school.

But Jim Shorrocks and Tom Webb kept a close watch on their protegee when Kevin moved on to the soccer-playing Bluecoat School.

And though Kevin became quite adept at the round-ball game, his two junior school

masters insisted that he went along for the town-team rugby trials.

And guess what? The lad from the soccer school didn't only earn selection — he was picked as skipper. For the first time in 20 years, that Oldham schools' team went on to win the Lancashire schools' cup, and so well did Kevin perform that he also represented Lancashire on three occasions.

By now, Oldham officials had begun to take notice. And when Kevin left school at 15, played a few games for the now-defunct Werneth junior club, and twice turned out for the Lancashire under-17 side, it was enough to convince the men at Watersheddings that here was a lad who mustn't be allowed to escape

the net.

Shortly after his 16th birthday, Kevin Taylor realised what was then his life's ambition ... accompanied by his Dad he signed the form that made him an Oldham player ... and when he was still only 16 he made his debut in the middle of the front-row at Castleford.

Len McIntyre, doyen of hookers, switched to prop to help the youngster through.

While McIntyre, signed several seasons before to fill the gap left by the departure of Jack Keith, held down the senior job, Taylor was learning the tricks of his rugby trade in the Watersheddings 'A' team.

His big chance came when peerless Mac finally decided to seek new pastures ... and eight years, almost 300 senior matches, and a handful of representative games later, Taylor is still raking out the ball, more often than not, on the Oldham side of the scrum.

Throughout those years, Kevin Taylor has given his all to Oldham RL club. Just once — three or four seasons ago — he asked to be placed on the transfer list ... and coming from Taylor, the lad who as a member of the 'A' team had helped to form a junior section of the Oldham Supporters' Club, it was the biggest shock since the Abdication.

Fortunately for all parties, the matter was finally settled — and Kevin has gone on, with the aid of his open-sidemat Ken Wilson, giving Oldham's backs more than their share of the ball.

Having become a regular member of a Northern League

side, Kevin set his sights on the target he dreamed about as a boy: representing his country in Australia.

Things seemed to be going according to plan when, as a 20-year-old he was picked to represent the England under-24 side against France to mark the big switch-on of the Watersheddings floodlights.

He followed up by twice playing for Lancashire, and then represented England against Wales in a match at Salford.

He blasted Tony Fisher in the scrums and, true to style, grabbed a try because of his eager backing up.

But that elusive Great Britain place was still hard to win.

Since then he has mastered all the top hookers in the game. Fisher ... his successor Tony Karalius ... and the man currently wearing Britain's number nine shirt, Mick Stephenson have all been out-hooked by Kevin in club matches.

And if even more proof was required of Taylor's ability to beat the best of 'em it came when Oldham conquered Britain in the prestige match at Watersheddings two weeks ago.

Because the Oldham pack was wrecked by injuries to Ken Wilson and Jim Reynolds, Taylor and the Oldham front-row, for most of the match, had Joe Collins, Stuart Bottom, and Geoff Munro pushing from the back in the scrums.

Now with all due respect to the three lads, who covered themselves in Oldham glory, they are hardly heavyweights

or experienced pack men.

Yet Taylor still whipped Stephenson to the tune of 3-1.

Ally his consistency in the scrums to his effectiveness in the loose — he has twice, remarkably, topped Oldham's try-scoring charts — and you see why so many Oldham followers often pose the question: Why cannot Kevin wear the red, white and blue of Great Britain?

Some give the answer that he is no 'nutter' — and that this has gone against him.

But Kevin philosophically takes the view that you go onto a rugby field to play rugby ... and his record at club level proves him right.

Now married to another keen Oldham fan — Marjorie — Kevin lives near the ground, and has no time for hobbies, rugby apart, because he is building up his own plumbing business in the town, specialising in bathroom conversions and central heating.

But he is often to be seen doing odd plumbing jobs in and around the Watersheddings ground. Last season, before the important tie against St. Helens, Oldham were in a jam when they discovered on the morning of the match that drains were blocked.

It needed an immediate repair ... and Kevin stepped in, finishing the job only an hour or so before he changed to go out and do battle with the mighty Saints.

BUT THAT'S KEVIN TAYLOR — AN OLDHAM LOYALIST THROUGH AND THROUGH.



● Far away from scrimmages, Kevin relaxes on holiday with his wife Marjorie.

All for the Good of the Game!

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'Catch me if you can?' Kevin hurtles away ... but is just captured by his shirt.

HILL SHINES, BUT MISSED CHANCES SO COSTLY

OLDHAM.....7 pts HUDDERSFIELD.....7 pts

THE worst conditions of the winter so far — and a bagful of missed chances — resulted in Oldham dropping a vital home league point against the boys from Fartown on Saturday. Phil Larder could land only two goals from six attempts, but the costliest misses of all were the two try chances thrown away in the first-half.

Early on, before the persistent drizzle made the ball greasy and conditions underfoot very slippery indeed, Oldham should have gone in front by such a margin that the Yorkshiremen could not get back into the game.

With back-to-action skipper Cliff Hill in great form, sparking moves as the ball came out of the Oldham scrum on the majority of occasions, Oldham were bang on top in the first 15 minutes.

Winger Norman Hodgkinson flew in at the corner after a great move involving McCone, Hill, Reynolds and Wainwright, but unfortunately the centre's final pass was just a fraction forward.

Before that, Oldham had fluffed what was to prove the miss of the match.

McCone, benefiting from the return of Reynolds at loose-forward

and Hill at outside-half, slipped superbly through a gap, straightened up, drew full back Bedford, and handed on to Larder.

A try was a certainty — but, alas, Phil knocked on.

Then, shortly afterwards, mighty McCone again broke intelligently out of Oldham's 25 to take play to half-way. Bedford waited for him, Wainwright came up on the inside, but the scrum-half's pass was delayed just a fraction of a second too long, and the defence held firm.

Huddersfield, though well-served in flashes by speedy outside-half Shepherd, a teenager, and Aussie forward Greg Vickers, a giant of a man on the day, never matched Oldham for rugby.

But as the conditions worsened, so, too, did the level of Oldham's performance. It was lifted by a super try just after half-time which pushed Oldham into a 7-2 lead — both Larder and Hill having landed a goal apiece in the first half.

Hill, master-mind of the Oldham attack and a brilliant performer on the day, sliced beautifully through the Fartown centres, took the cover with him to the wing, and put in a neat overhead pass which Hodgkinson gobbled up to give Wainwright a try under the sticks which Larder goaled.

A penalty to Hall kept Huddersfield within distance, and then in the closing minutes the Fartowners gained the draw they hardly deserved when, after a melee near the Oldham line, Pickup picked up to score unopposed.

There were at least three loose balls in the events

Match Analysis by Ron Smith



● The Huddersfield defence proves too strong to prevent Ken Wilson parting with the ball in the tackles.

leading up to the try, and as a loose ball to a side under extreme pressure is not deemed any advantage in the notes on the laws of the game, it was a little harsh on Oldham.

Full marks to Huddersfield for some rousing defence — they had to because of Kevin Taylor's dominance in the scrums — but one was left with the feeling that Oldham, but for those missed chances, would never have dropped a point.

There were no squabbles though when

their second touchdown was disallowed. Foster tried a late drop goal which he screwed wide and Larder hurtled up to fly in and touch-down, only to be penalised for offside.

The attendance was below 2,000... the poorest of the season so far... but this was no doubt explained by the shocking day, and the fact that the Great Britain versus New Zealand match was being televised from Pau in France.

Oldham scorers: try, Wainwright; goals, Larder (2).

Huddersfield scorers: try, Pickup, goals, Hall (2).

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Wainwright, Hodgkinson; Hill McCone; Wilson, Taylor, Foster, Munro, Ashcroft, Reynolds. Substitutes: Davies and Jackson.

Huddersfield: Bedford; Hooson, Bennett, Pickup, Senior; Shepherd, Loxton; Heppleston, Weavill, Hall, Vickers, Chawner, Clark. Substitutes: Evans and Wilde.

YOUR QUICK QUIZ

1. What was the result of last season's Lancashire Cup Final?
2. What is the name of Bramley's ground?
3. Which player made his debut in the Cup Final at Wembley?
4. Who are nicknamed the Wire?
5. How many times have Oldham been Rugby League Champions?

AND YOUR UPSIDE DOWN ANSWERS
(Don't peep until you've tried 'em!)

1. Wigan 15 Widnes 8.
2. McLaren Field.
3. M. Smith (Hull), in the 1960 Cup Final which Wakefield won 38-5.
4. Warrington.
5. Four times, 1904-05, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57.

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NEW ROAD — BUT NOT RIPPPONDEN !

By ALAN TAYLOR

SATURDAY'S match with Huddersfield saw a first attempt at a new system of car parking — and it worked a treat! A road had been cleared during the week to allow cars to go round the back of the social club as they entered the car park.

This enables more orderly parking . . . and more cars on the park. It worked sufficiently well at the first attempt to suggest the system will be a big improvement.

Very few snags were encountered, and the police also thought it a good idea because it allowed them to get cars off the main road more quickly.

It did produce one amusing incident when one of the Cherries attempted to get the parking fee of one gentleman, who said in broken English that he was looking for an address on Ripponden Road.

It appears he had followed the stream of cars being directed into the ground by the police from the main road. He must have had a surprise to find himself on a rugby car park . . . and being asked for the 10p fee!

CHRISTMAS DRAW

EARLY indications suggest that our members and supporters are going to make this into a really bumper Xmas Draw this year.

There is already proof of this in the way money is already coming in from tickets sold.

Several members have sold up and asked for more. This shows the enthusiasm being put into the venture by all concerned.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD ANY TICKETS TO SELL PLEASE CONTACT ME IN THE POOLS OFFICE IN THE SOCIAL CLUB. DON'T FORGET — EVERY LITTLE HELPS.

THE CHERRIES

THE CHERRIES continue to make their contributions to the club's fund-raising. The weekly sum they hand over to the club will add up to quite a sizeable amount by the end of the season.

Particularly pleasing is the amount of cash being raised by the half-time draw on match days. Aided by some very worthwhile prizes, the Cherries have worked hard to more than double the takings we have achieved on other match-day money-raising efforts.

Pushing round the ground and taking some friendly wisecracks from the crowd during the first half of a match is very hard work, indeed. At half-time the girls are ready for a well-earned breather. Believe me, they are shattered but they always bounce back to help with other duties after the game, filling in wherever they are needed.

The Cherries and club committee are very grateful for the magnificent response from supporters.

We say a big THANK YOU to all of you for buying draw tickets from the girls and hope you will continue to support us in the future.



Much of the success of the social club's money raising activities is thanks to the efforts of our famous Cherries girls. In action above, selling those vital raffle tickets, is Jocelyn Cavanagh, just one of our attractive dolly birds.

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LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

SCOTTISH R.U. referee Jake Young, who had control of last week's Cardiff v New Zealand match at Cardiff Arms Park, must be a Rugby League fan on the quiet, and so must the Cardiff and New Zealand players, plus the majority of the 50,000 crowd, for nobody argued with Mr. Young's decision to follow the example set six days earlier by French R.L. referee Claude Tessiere in the Australia-Great Britain World Cup match in awarding a penalty on the halfway line instead of a restart following the committing of an offence on the try scorer.

In fact, most clubs are coming out in favour of this French rule, and it seems a very good one indeed if you have a good goalkicker. However, I did hear the World Cup was being contested under international rules, not French rules, and the referee's own likes and dislikes!

SALFORD, who after letting former Oldham centre Stuart Whitehead move to Rochdale last week, and could be losing full back Paul Charlton shortly, along with skipper Dave Watkins if a promotion in his job comes along, are checking into the form of Orrell R.U. winger Ian Fishwick.

POSSIBLY out for the rest of the season — that's Warrington winger Conrad Barton, who I hear may face operations on his knees.

ALTHOUGH Dennis 'Pancho' Jackson has signed again for Barrow from Blackpool Boro', the £1,250 fee for his signature will go to Workington, his first club.

A PROPOSED swap looks like going through between Barrow and Whitehaven concerning loose forward Gordon Cottier moving to Barrow, where he is now on trial, and prop George Crayston moving up to the Recreation Ground.

LEIGH back-row forward Tommy Martyn could be out of action for six weeks following a serious medical report on his injured hand, a legacy of their match last week with Blackpool Borough.

DONCASTER, who are to have utility back John Croft returned to them after a month's trial at Batley, are awaiting the arrival of Larry Jenkins from the

Cabramatta club in Australia.

BATLEY and Huddersfield are in the queue for Doncaster and former Halifax and Bradford winger John Simpson if he does not sign for Keighley when his month's trial expires next week.

Staying away from Tatters Field at present is talented goalkicking full back Dave 'Marra' Towle.

MEANWHILE at Wigan, stayaways Dennis Ashcroft (prop) and former Warrington centre Jackie Melling have returned to the fold after talks with manager-coach Eric Ashton and directors Ken Broome and Jack Hilton respectively. The Wigan board have agreed to pay players in the first team pool not required for first team duty, but for 'A' team selection, extra money to compensate. These sort of terms apply with the Halifax club.

WHEN John Holmes scored his second try and kicked his 10th goal against New Zealand last Saturday in Pau, many people would have thought that he had easily set up a World Cup record. But he only did it by the skin of his teeth, to break

and outs' of the professional code.

WIGAN, Warrington and Wakefield — the three big 'Ws' are all chasing Morley R.U. winger Dave Hoyland, who has now represented Yorkshire twice, scoring a try in his first match and four last weekend. Every week I understand his price goes up, and once again clubs must be kicking themselves for not moving in earlier. His Yorkshire colleague, Pete Squires, the Yorkshire County cricket colt, also bagged four tries last weekend, and his performances are being noted, although a professional Rugby League career may not go with a county cricket career. The Yorkshire wicket-keeper David Bairstow, centre forward for Bradford City, seems to be combining both very successfully, and last Saturday he netted his first goal for the Valley Paraders.

THERE will be brotherly comfort in a couple of days time for Blackpool's young scrum-half Alan Bishop from his big brother Tommy, now player-coach of Cronulla-Sutherland, when he returns to St. Helens from France on Tuesday to find Alan nursing what is feared to be a depressed fracture of the cheekbone. Bishop is one of six charter-trip leaders with over 100 to

Oui, Oui— M. Tessiere was so right!

the Eric Simms personal tally of 10 goals and a try set up on Wednesday, October 21, at Wigan, when Australia defeated New Zealand 47-11, in the 1970 series.

BARROW have made overtures to Warrington regarding South African winger Tobias Du Toit, but the player, who was all the rage at Wilderspool last season and now seems completely out of favour, was not keen on the move into one of Rugby League's outposts.

BARROW must be kicking themselves for letting the sound words of advice from their former director Norman Graveson go unheeded when he recommended shortly before leaving the board a certain Upper Wharfedale R.U. second-row man by the name of David Knowles, now with Wakefield Trinity. This player is now the rage of the Bell Vue club's pack, and was also subject of a last minute signing bid by Wigan. He has been a professional for only five weeks and is learning very fast the 'ins

look after, and I did hear they tried to hire the St. Helens stand to themselves for Wednesday's match at Knowsley Road. If they all move into the old stand at Bradford on Sunday week there will be no room for anybody else. They Australians have about 800 following them around the GLOBE.



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MERSEYSIDERS BRING BACK MEMORIES OF GANLEY AND CO

THIS AFTERNOON Oldham will be attempting to gain a league double over Huyton for the third season in succession. Oldham have already won 25-13 at Alt Park in a hard-fought encounter in which Tony Wainwright made his debut, so the Watersheddings outfit must be confident of victory this afternoon.

Oldham pulled off their first victory in last season's campaign by beating Huyton 29-9 at home and they followed this up by registering a handsome 44-5 won on Merseyside. The previous season (1970-71) Oldham won 23-4 at Alt Park and 17-2 at Watersheddings. Other double victories for Oldham in recent years have occurred in seasons 1960-61, 1964-65 and 1966-67, although Huyton shocked Oldham during season 1968-69.

That season Huyton pulled off a 13-5 win at Watersheddings, but the following Saturday Oldham travelled to Huyton confident of victory especially as they had won at Warrington during mid-week. However, the Merseysiders had different ideas and they defeated Oldham 7-3 to register a league double. The last occasion on which Huyton beat Oldham was on the 20th March, 1970 when Oldham lost 9-2 at Alt Park. This match was one of 19 successive league matches which Oldham lost during that disastrous 1969-70 campaign.

Looking back to brighter days, Oldham's older supporters will happily recall that history making encounter between Oldham and Liverpool City which took place before a crowd of 8,500 at Watersheddings in April 1959. That afternoon Oldham recorded their biggest ever win when they thrashed Liverpool 67-6. Leading the scoring avalanche was Bernard Ganley who booted 14 goals whilst Oldham's try scorers were Dick Cracknell (4), Alan Kellett (4), Ken Jackson, Frank Pitchford, Geoff Sims, Sid Little and Johnny Noon.

If the hard match Oldham were given when they visited Huyton earlier this season is anything to go by, then this afternoon's encounter will be just as close and tough as last week-end's gruelling match against Huddersfield.

At full-back for Huyton could be either John Westhead or the more experienced Robin Whitfield. Westhead is one of four brothers on Huyton's books, the others being Eric, Kevin and Les. Robin Whitfield began his career with Widnes in 1960 and whilst at Naughton Park he scored 20 tries and 219 goals. It was in August 1969, that he was

transferred to Barrow but he moved back down to Merseyside in December 1970. This season has not been one of Whitfield's best although he is at present the club's leading goal kicker with 12 and he has also scored one try. On the wings Huyton field two lightly-built although elusive runners in Derek Harrison and David Leatherbarrow.

Last season Leatherbarrow was the club's leading try scorer with seven. This season centre Jim McGillicuddy heads the try scoring list with four. Partnering him in the centre will probably be Trevor Lloyd, a 23 years old who was signed from Widnes Saint Maries juniors last September. He made his debut in the tough match at Salford and although Huyton were hammered 62-10 he marked his satisfactory debut with a try.

Another centre candidate is Terry Wilson, last season's leading goal kicker with 31, who joined Huyton in December, 1970, from West Park RUFC. John Barrow is a versatile player who can play anywhere in the backs and who also has the size to play in the second row forward spot.

Oldham's visitors are well covered in the half-back positions with Kevin McKeown favourite for the stand-off role. At scrum-half could be former Warrington star Johnny Smith (brother of Ged Smith) or Johnny Jackson, a £600 buy from Wigan in September 1971.

Last month Huyton pulled off an astute signing when they bought Ray Hughes from Saint Helens. This giant forward is certain to fill one of the proping positions with the other spot being filled by either Bill Burrows, Eric Campbell or Bill Bevan. Hooker Don Parry is quite an accomplished player and more than a useful drop goal

kicker. He joined Huyton from Leigh Miners Welfare juniors in October 1971.

In the second row Huyton have Mick Bibby, a 24 years old former Widnes junior who began his professional career in January 1971 when he signed for Leigh.

Huyton secured his services last September and he makes an ideal second-row partner for Keith Wills. Last season Wills won his county cap when he represented Lancashire against Cumberland. Loose-forward Les Westhead is a hard-working forward and an inspiring leader who, however, is keen to move to a more successful club and he is at present on the transfer list at £1,500.

Perhaps Huyton have not got many big-name signings in their line-up but they have got 15 enthusiastic and willing workers who will make Oldham fight all the way this afternoon if they are to collect their winning bonus.

This season has been very discouraging for the Huyton players and supporters for out of the 13 matches played they have only won one and, not surprisingly, they lie at the foot of the Northern Rugby League table.

Their sole victory came when they defeated Hunslet 14-10 at home but since then they have lost the return match at Hunslet and in addition they have conceded double league defeats to Doncaster, Batley and Saint Helens.

It has been a similar sorry story in cup football with Swinton knocking Huyton out of the John Player Trophy 29-10 and Barrow inflicting an 18-12 home defeat in the Lancashire Cup. Against Barrow Huyton's defence was very poor in the first half and although they staged a second half revival they couldn't overcome the 13-2 half-time deficit.

LINE-UP

OLDHAM 22

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT *try*
3. LARDER *try 2 goals*
4. WAINWRIGHT
5. HODGKINSON *2 tries*
6. HILL
7. ~~McKeown~~ *Borman try*
8. WILSON *try*
9. TAYLOR
10. FOSTER
11. ~~ASHCHOFF~~ *Munro*
12. DALEY
13. REYNOLDS
14. DAVIES
15. ~~KUNNO~~ *Baldwin*

HUYTON 0

1. BENNETT
2. ~~BARROW~~ *Westhead 15*
3. ~~WESTHEAD~~ *K. Barrow*
4. ~~LOYD~~ *Westhead 15*
5. LEATHERBARROW
6. ~~McGILICUDDY~~ *Natall*
7. SMITH
8. ~~BEVAN~~ *Hughes*
9. PARRY
10. ~~HUGHES~~ *Bohrey*
11. BURROWS
12. ~~WILLS~~ *Bevan*
13. WESTHEAD, L.
14. *Heaton*
15. *Boulding*

Referee: M. J. Norton (Widnes)

Touchjudges: F. Beswick and K. Spencer

Your Scorecard

OLDHAM		HUYTON	
Tries	Goals	Tries	Goals

STRONG BY NAME...

Continued from page one

I'm afraid it's not the game for me."

And if you want to know just what it is like lining up in an Olympic stadium with the world's best alongside you, and a tape 400 metres away just itching to be broken, listen to this: "My legs were like jelly... I must admit."

"It's quite an ordeal for the most hardened athlete, and it was my first Olympics. But as I'm only 20 I might be able to squeeze in one more... and two if I'm very lucky."

Gary, my lad, the best wishes of all at Watersheddings will go with you.

VIEW-POINT

Apologies to those supporters who found TV scaffolding blocking their view from E stand during the Huddersfield and Castleford matches. All the club can do at present is offer temporary seating to those members affected, on the pavilion side. But plans are in for the erection of a permanent TV platform on the roof of E stand to solve the problem once and for all.

£120 SHORT

Supporters have welcomed the laying of the new tarmac on the approach behind the main, pavilion-side stand. The reason it hasn't — as yet — been laid down the full length is simple: cash. Portion of the kitty earmarked for the job fell just £120 short of that needed to go the full length.

SUPPORTERS' NOTES

We are hoping to hold several fund raising events during the coming months. The first is a jumble sale to be held in the Social Club on a Tuesday early in November. If you have any jumble please drop in your parcel at the canteen. We will be glad to pick it up.

Also planned is a fashion show for our lady members, further details will be given in this column.

If you have not yet joined the supporters club just fill the form below in and hand into one of the canteens.

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