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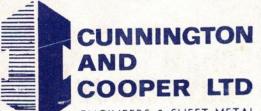
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## Brian Batty of the Mail

The lure of the Challenge Cup and the prospect of playing at Wembley proves an irresistible challenge to every player.

It can set the adrenalin coursing through the veins of a seasoned campaigner as strongly as it can inspire the rawest youngster to reach

out for new heights.

Which makes it easy to understand why Dennis Hartley will still settle for the hard life of the front row rather than his favourite arm-

When you've reached 36 via two successful Wembley finals and the most successful tour of Australia and New Zealand the chance to put your feet up on the mantelpiece must prove a temptation.

But the giant Hartley is built differently. He has enjoyed winning a fair share of the game's top honours but he's lost none of his love for

And while he wouldn't argue that he's lost a little more pace and the knocks take longer to overcome, he's happy to help Castleford stage their present revival.

"At the beginning of the season it looked as

if I was doomed for the second team but the new six tackle rule has helped me earn a first

team place," he claims.

"It has helped me bring the forwards more into the game. We can afford to take the ball in a couple of times before a move is worked.

"We have been able to field a settled side at Castleford for several weeks now and this has enabled us to work up an understanding.

"I have been glad to help out while Ian Van Bellen has been out with an injury and he will no doubt be back before long.

"I don't know how much longer I can carry on but I'm in no hurry to finish. I would certainly love to help Castleford collect the Cup for a third time.

"There's nothing like a final at Wembley. I would have liked to have had a crack at the Aussies in the World Cup recently but I was glad to see our boys put up a great show.
"Perhaps if I stick around I may get a game

against them next season when they tour this country. I love beating the Aussies — bringing them down to earth."

I well recall the damage Dennis did on that

memorable 1970 tour for his toughness did a lot to win those Ashes after a disastrous first

Now he seems a lot gentler, more like an old warhorse waiting to be put out to graze, although he still throws himself into the No.

8 role with plenty of relish.
"I haven't been sent off for a couple of years,"
he says. "I'm a changed man since I got a four-

match ban last time."

## Around the League with - DAVE PARKER

Huddersfield referee Maurice Oldroyd, who as President of the Hu&dersfield Referees' Society has done sterling work organising Junior Football in his area and throughout the North, has been invited by Warrington R.L. Club Colts manager, Len McIntyre to tour France with his team at Easter. Maurice, who has an extensive milk round in the Huddersfield area, is seriously thinking over the offer and has had plenty of offers from friends to take over the round while he is away. In the meantime he is a little concerned over the way things are going with his intended plan for a Schoolboys' National Seven-a-Side Competition with the final at Wembley prior to the Challenge Cup Final. He has contacted members of the Rugby League Council and hopes they can get together with the schoolboy chiefs and sort something out for next season.

Shortly before Hull pursuaded Castelford centre Ian Stanton to join them Swinton moved in with an offer of almost £2,000, but Ian decided to continue his career in the White Rose county.

Salford's new signing Barry Kear had just bought a new house when he heard Salford had made a bid for him. He took only 24 hours to think over the move when he heard the benefits for him at Weaste.

Through pressure of work Bill Ramsey, Leeds second row forward, is thinking of retiring from the game at the end of the season despite being only 29. Some weeks he cannot train at all, and therefore is not selected leaving Leeds fans mystified at his exclusion from the side. It is no secret that Bill would like a player-coaching appointment in the near future, but he cannot think of such a move with his present business pressures.

Rochdale Hornets offered £2,000 for Widnes and former international and county fullback Ray Dutton. Dutton, who was listed earlier in the season at £12,000 and then two weeks ago with George Nicholls and Dave Macko, at £4,000, is a snip at that price

Wakefield Trinity still owe York £700 for former Leeds, Bradford N. and York centre Geoff Wrigglesworth. They offered unsettled centre Jackie Marston in exchange with some money for the Belle Vue club, but this was turned down on the eve of the Cup deadline, and that is where Bradford moved in again for Marston. Their offer was £1,500 down with £750 before V.A.T. comes in in April.

Finally I would advise all clubs to rearrange all their postponed matches before April 1st to avoid V.A.T.

D. Parker.

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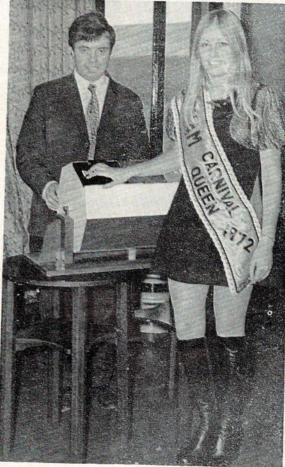
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Mike Elliott goes over in the corner, v Widnes



Action Replay

Oldham Carnival Queen, Pauline Barrow making the first draw in the New Pool.



# Spotlight on Tony Wainwright

Tony Wainwright, the Leeds lad Oldham snapped up for £2,000 early in the season despite intense competition from several Yorkshire clubs, is only 21 . . . yet pride of place on his mantelshelf goes to three Rugby League medals which he has already won in his comparatively short time in senior football.

They are a Yorkshire Cup Winners' medal, a B.B.C. Floodlit Trophy Winners' medal, and a Rugby League Challenge Cup Losers' medal, which he received after Leeds had been beaten 24—7 by Leigh — one of the tournament's biggest upsets — at Wembley in 1971.

"That was a tragic moment for me", says Tony. "People talk about the magic of Wembley, the pre-match nerves, the lush turf, but all I can recall is the intense disappointment when the final whistle blew.

"The game seemed over, almost before it had begun. I suppose it would have been different had we been in the lead."

Tony, who has made himself a popular player at Watersheddings in his short time here, played at outside-half — his favourite position — at Wembley.

But as a schoolboy in Leeds he took the first steps on the road to the Empire Stadium by playing Rugby Union . . . as a wing forward!

His pocket-battleship frame, even in the hurly-burly of Rugby League, enables him to take heavy knocks without flinching and run through opposing forwards almost like a pack man at times.

It was at the end of his schooldays that he set out to realise his life's ambition . . . to play in the famous blue and gold shirt of his Headingly favourites.

"I went along to the summer school", he says, "and was registered to play for the "B" team. The "A" team and then the first team followed."

For a spell, before the emergence of Barry Seabourne as the Leeds No. 7, teenager Tony filled the outside-half spot in the Loiners' first-team squad, with Mick Shoebottom working the scrums.

He was one of the bright young boys at Headingly, learning the rugby ropes in what must be one of Rugby League's most lucrative nurseries, if not the most lucrative.

When Shoebottom switched to outside-half and Seabourne came in at the base of the scrum, Tony temporarily lost his position, though he was several times called upon to play in other positions in the threequarter line.

Time was on his side - and it wasn't until Leeds rocked the Rugby League

world by picking up Great Britain star Alan Hardisty from Castleford for "a song" that Tony realised his future lay elsewhere.

He asked for a move, was transfer-listed, and within a short time, clubs were queuing up.

Barrow were in first — but Tony refused the chance of going to Furness on trial.

Then Oldham moved in, looking for more strength for the centre positions, and several clubs, including Bradford Northern, Hull, and York jumped on the bandwagon.

Wainwright didn't hurry. But in the end he opted for Watersheddings . . . and never for a minute has he regretted the move.

"I'm enjoying it a lot here, and I settled in with the other lads almost right away", says Tony.

He has proved his versatility and his value to Oldham by showing up well in both outside-half and centre positions, though many supporters will no doubt argue that centre, where he has more opportunity to show his pace and power, is better suited to him.

Oldham believe, and not without justification, that Wainwright will prove one of the club's best-ever buys because he has virtually the whole of his career spanning in front of him . . . a career which he seems happy to work out at Watersheddings.



Bob Irving looks for support Oldham v York



Phil Larder brought down just short of the line Oldham v Widnes



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7-JONES F.

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9-CHAPPLES B.

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11-CRAYSTON G.

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## OUR VISITORS . .

## **BARROW**

Colours—Blue with white hoop, white shorts.

Ground—Craven Park.

Founder members of the Rugby League in 1895.

Record attendance—21,651 v Salford (League) 1937—38.

Goal-kicking Record—140 by Joe Ball in 1956—57.

Try-scoring Record—50 by Jim Lewthwaite in 1951—52.

Record Win—83—3 v Maryport (Cup, Rd. 1, 1937—38).

Record Defeat—0—60 v York (League) 1971—72.

Rugby League Champions—1917—18 and 1918—19.

Second Division Championship runners-up—1904—05.

Challenge Cup Winners—1954—55.

Challenge Cup Winners—1954—55.

Lancashire Cup Winners—1937—38.

Lancashire League Championship runners-up—1932—33, 1945—46 and 1956—57.

Oldham's first opponents in this season's Challenge Cup are our victors of last weekend, Barrow.

Leading the club from the full-back spot is Joe Chamberlain who is having his first season as a player coach. Warrington-born Chamberlain began his career with Woolston Juniors before turning professional with Rochdale Hornets in November, 1964. The eight years stay at the Athletic Grounds did not bring much success for Chamberlain although he was a member of the Hornets team which was defeated 8—2 at Saint Helens in the 1971 Floodlit Cup Final. He was Rochdale's goal scorer in that match and during that 1971—72 season he landed 81 goals for Hornets as well as crossing for 7 tries. Last August Chamberlain moved up to Barrow as part of the Tom Brophy package deal and as well as giving his customary reliable full-back service he has kicked 59 goals. A big factor of Oldham's defeat last weekend was the strong running of right winger Glynn Davies. On the other wing is 20-year-old Jim McPoland, a player who sprung to prominence just over 12 months ago.

In the prolonged and, it seems, permanent absence of Keith Jarrett, Barrow have Peter Douglas and Denis Jackson on duty in the centre positions. Jackson is back at the club where he began his professional rugby career. Since he was last at Barrow he has had spells with Workington Town and Blackpool Borough. Last season Jackson scored the winning try for Blackpool in Borough's 24—19 win at Watersheddings. Peter Douglas is also having his second spell at Craven Park. He originally signed for Barrow from the local Roose Junior Club in January, 1964 but was then transferred to Saint Helens who he represented in the 1967 Championship Final. The following season he won a Lancashire Cup winners medal with Saints but then faded out of the spotlight and consequently he moved back to Furness-side. Also competing for inclusion into the Barrow threequarter line are youngsters Hoggarth and Phil Hogan, a former Lancashire school boy star who was signed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, The stand off position has been adequately filled by Kenny Evans, another reliable junior signing from Millom in March, 1971. Nineteen-year-old David Elkin provides the cover at stand off. Scrum half Frankie Jones continues to

impress in the No. 7 jersey whilst Alan Whittle is able to fill any position in the backs. Whittle was born in Saint Helens 25 years ago and he signed for his home town team Saints in 1963 after progressing through the Saint Helens Junior Leagues. Whilst at Saint Helens Whittle shared the success which Saints enjoyed in the late sixties. He played in the 1968 Lancashire Cup Final when Saints pulled off that record 30—2 win over Oldham and last season he was substitute for Saint Helens in both the Championship Final and the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. Last October he was transferred to Barrow and made his debut in the 17—14 home league victory against Workington Town. Also making his debut that afternoon was Brian Larkin that most experienced and reliable prop who has served Wigan, Widnes and Warrington so well.

Larkin will be best remembered for his displays with the successful Widnes Team in the early 1960's. The other prop forwards in the Barrow Squad are Steve Hogan and another experienced campaigner Mick Sanderson. Although he is now aged 32 and had his benefit season 2 years ago Sanderson still packs the same amount of enthusiasm into the game as he did when he first joined Barrow from Dalton Juniors in 1960. He won Lancashire County honours three seasons ago. In Eddie Thompson, Barrow have the current Cumberland County hooker on their books. He made his Cumbrian debut this season in the 23-14 defeat of Yorkshire and is a lively player in the loose as well as being a useful striker. Second row forward George Crayston has just returned after a spell on loan to Whitehaven, from where Barrow signed this 26-year-old in November, 1969. Alongside Crayston in the second row Barrow will probably field their leading try scorer John Cunningham who has crossed his opponents try line 7 times this season. At loose forward Barrow will probably field Alan Bowker, a versatile player who can play equally well in the centre and who, in fact, has scored 6 tries so far this season. He will probably take over from the unfortunate Stan Gibson, who was carried off after only 6 minutes of last weekend's game with a suspected broken leg.

It is luck such as that which has kept Barrow at the lower end of this season's League table. They lie in 26th position at the moment with only 6 wins against 17 defeats although they have won their last two matches. Their 12 points have been gained with home victories against Oldham (8-5), Dewsbury (10-2) and Workington Town (17-14) and an away win at Whitehaven (13-8) plus a League double victory over Huyton (29-13 at home and 17-16 away). In Cup football Barrow have been involved in four tough ties this season. In the Lancashire Cup, Barrow were called upon to visit Huyton where they scored their first win of the season by 18—12. A good first half display which earned them a 13—2 lead was a feature of that game. In the second round Barrow entertained Swinton in a game which saw defences well on top. Swinton's Les Atkinson was the only player who managed to score a try but this was enough to see Swinton through by 7—4. In the Floodlit Cup, Barrow were expected to make progress at the expense of Keighley but this was not to be. The Yorkshiremen surprised Barrow and won 12-9 with all Barrow's points being scored by Joe Chamberlain. For the John Player Trophy, Barrow played hosts to the attractive Salford Club and, as expected, the Red Devils managed to pull off a 17-2 win on their way to the final in which they meet Leeds at Huddersfield on March 24th. That should prove to be quite some game.

Barrow's last visit to Watersheddings was for the opening League game of last season when a crowd of 1,306 witnessed a 13—13 draw. The game will best be remembered for the dismissal of Frank Foster who was the Barrow skipper that afternoon. Cldham's skipper was Graham Starkey but late in the game he was the victim of a vicious head tackle which saw him stretchered off and he has yet to play since that incident. For the record, Oldham's scorers were Phil Larder, 2 goals, and tries from Bob Irving (2) and Gareth Cwen. Barrow's tries were scored by Tom Brophy, Brian Foster and Steve Hogan with Geoff Nicholls landing 2 goals. Barrow's last victory at Watersheddings was during season 1969—70 when they won 13—12. Despite last weekend's defeat Oldham, with ground advantage, must be favourites to progress into the second round but some improvement on recent displays will have to be made if Cldham are to make a serious attempt to reach Wembley for the first time. Most Oldham supporters and certainly the management, will be pleased if the club enjoys a reasonable run so that much needed cash can be added into the Watershedding's coffers.

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## Cup Quiz

- 1-What was the largest crowd to watch a Challenge Cup tie?
- 2-Which was the largest ever Challenge Cup-tie victory?
- 3-Which clubs have never appeared in a Challenge Cup Final?
- 4-Who did Saint Helens defeat to win the Cup last season?
- 5-What was the result of Oldham's very first R.L. Cup-tie?

#### **ANSWERS**

5-1896-97, Round One, Bradford 7 Oldham 3.

4—Oldham (away) 8—6; Huddersfield (home) 32—9; York (away) 32—5; Warrington (at Wigan) 10—10; Warrington (at Wigan) 10—6; and Leeds (at Wembley) 16—13

3-Blackpool Borough, Bramley, Doncaster, Huyton and Whitehaven.

2-1914-15 Round One, Huddersfield 119, Swinton Park Rangers 2.

102, 569.

1-1953-54 Cup Final Replay at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, Halifax 4 Warrington 8,

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	26—Workington T H 19— 5
	28—York A 32— 8
Sept.	1—Salford, Lancs, Cup. A 17—41 10—Hull H 27— 2
	17—Huyton A 25—13
	23—Play. No. 6 1st R A 10—17 29—Wigan A 12—9
	29—Wigan A 12— 9 3—Salford (Fl. Cup) H 12— 8
Oct.	3—Salford (Fl. Cup) H 12— 8
	7—St. Helens H 12—12 14—Workington T A 10—17
	22—Widnes II 1/—16
Nov.	4—Huddersfield
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Dec.	
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	24—Leigh H 24— 4 26—Rochdale H A 14—16
	31—Warrington A 10—20
	31—Wallington A 10 20
1973	
Jan.	6-Whitehaven A 0-9
	14—York H 16-10
	19—Barrow A 5- 3
	27—Barrow Ch. Cup
	Ist Rd H
Feb.	4—Leigh A
	11—Blackpool B H 17—Chal. Cup 2nd Rd.
	17—Chal, Cup 2nd Rd.
	25—Widnes A
Mar.	4-Warrington H
	11—Barrow H
	18—Blackpool B A
Apr.	1—Dewsbury H
	8—Swinton H
	21—Swinton A
	23—Rochdale H

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