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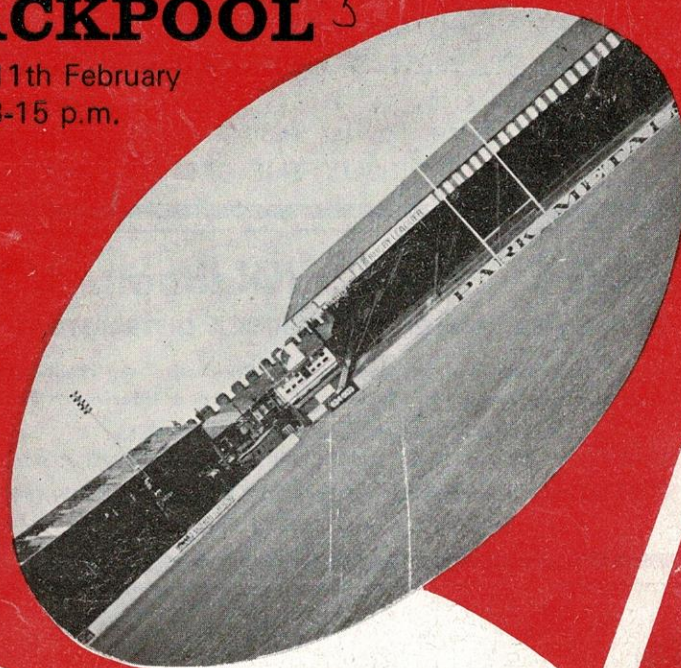
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BLACKPOOL 5

Sunday, 11th February

Kick-off 3-15 p.m.



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Brian Batty of the Mail

Comparisons between League and Union are common today but I was astounded at a recent attempt to measure Soccer stars against their Rugby counterparts.

The man taking this unusual step was Jimmy Hill, better known for his role of manager of Coventry than as a Fulham player, before joining I.T.V.

Writing in T.V. Times he declared his preference for Union rather than League, which he described as "in a hole between an enthusiastic amateur sport and a keenly professional one".

He may feel entitled to this view but what amazes me is his claim that he could pick 15 Soccer stars to take on the All Blacks.

His reasons are based on the belief that the Soccer player is way ahead in fitness and that even during a game he runs more and for longer — 90 minutes compared with 80.

He theorises on how in Rugby not so much time is devoted to tactics, to devising moves and using new ideas for future games.

He actually names a team of Soccer stars to face the All Blacks, assessing such qualifications as skill, size and courage and the ability to adapt to handling, rather than kicking, the ball.

It is all very intriguing particularly as I spent a night recently watching Manchester United grapple with Everton in an unscientific struggle that produced a goalless draw.

How different from when I covered this game in the fifties. Now there is so much negative play, countless numbers of backpasses — mainly to the goalkeeper.

There may be more money, more fans and perhaps greater fitness but there's also a glut of pettiness and niggling.

And I think that there is one aspect that would, Mr. Hill, shoot down any arguments about Soccer gods gracing Rugby.

That is one quality that every Rugby player has to have in abundance besides skill and fitness — courage.

I will never be convinced that the majority of Soccer players could withstand the tough tackling situations and general physical contact meted out in most Rugby matches.

And this view is shared by a former tough Welsh wing half, Jimmy Murphy, former assistant manager of Manchester United.

Murphy spent many a night watching his namesake Alex at St. Helens and whenever he was asked how he enjoyed a game, he would say, "Wonderful! Twenty-six players — and not a coward among them!"

Around the League with - DAVE PARKER

Two interesting and partly amusing items from the 1st Round Cup Tie dismissals of Halifax forwards Tony Halmshaw and Terry Dewhurst against Warrington. Referee Dennis Brown of Preston and formerly Dewsbury used to be Dewhurst's junior school teacher, while both Halmshaw and Dewhurst work together in a Dewsbury engineering works, so they will no doubt still be chewing over their misfortune until later this month when the disciplinary committee meets.

Dewsbury's former Bradford Northern and Hunslet centre Phil Evans (25) has told Crown Flatt officials he has played his last game for them as he moves to Chorley in the heart of Lancashire later this month owing to his work with the H.P. sauce company. Evans, a regular senior member of his three clubs, is a talented player who will no doubt fit into any Lancashire side who wish to bid for his services.

Dewsbury and Yorkshire County full-back Adrian Rushton is contemplating emigrating to Australia in the near future because of work problems. Rushton, a french polisher by trade, is rapidly finding there is not much call for his services these days. He has sounded Dewsbury out regarding how much they would require for his services if he went down under.

Widnes, Swinton and Rochdale Hornets are keeping tabs on Latchford Albion's talented 18-year-old scrum-half Kenny Parker.

Good news for Huddersfield fans is that their loose forward capture from Oldham, Ray Clark, has resumed training after his two month injury.

Halifax have taken Bradford Northern reserve centre Neil Grayshon onto their register after the Odsal officials crossed him off the register last week.

I hear there could be an exchange of personnel between Barrow and Workington Town. Craven Park centre Alan Watson, who is staying away to coach his former club, Maryport British Legion, could join Workington, who would release loose forward Paul Kavanagh.

Finally the Rugby League's Year Book, to be published in September, will cost £1.40, despite subsidisation on the part of John Player & Sons. For clubs purchasing 100 plus, there will be a deduction according to quantity ordered.

Rochdale Hornets' "A" Team skipper and former Salford scrum Trevor Rabbitt has walked out on the club after a disagreement over selection. Rabbitt, on the list at £500, was not at the Athletic Grounds this past week to see the club introduce a Rosslyn Park, London, trialist centre in their "A" Team line up. He has been recommended to the Lancashire club by their November full-back signing from the same club, Mike Farrow. Farrow, a schoolteacher at Mill Hill, London, will not be able to play for Hornets until next season when his contract at the famous school expires.

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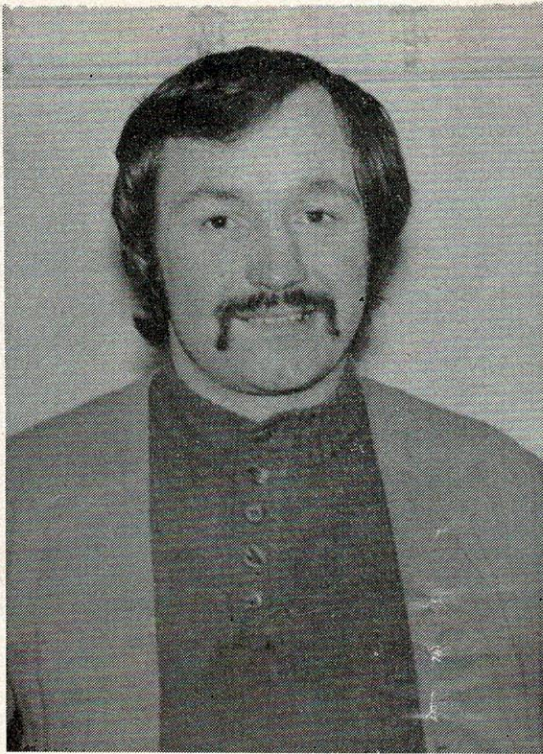


The Phil Larder
Juggling Act



Action Replay

Theres no way through
says Kevin Taylor



Spotlight on Tommy Davies

Tommy Davies is one of those Rugby League rarities — a player who spends hours of his leisure time reading about the game, rarely misses one of his home-town club's games when he is not playing himself, and has definite and distinct views on the game, which he is not afraid to air, not only as a player but as a keen spectator.

Mind you, that's perhaps not so surprising for Tommy was born not only in a Rugby League household but in a Rugby League hotbed. You've guessed it — Wigan.

"Atmosphere — that's what's missing from our game today", he says. "You rarely get a bad cup-tie. The reason: there is always excitement on the terraces and this inspires the players."

Tommy was first taken to Central Park as a seven-year-old fan by his Rugby-mad Dad — and it was his Dad who, many years later, was behind his decision to sign for Oldham.

"When Oldham began to show an interest, Wigan finally pricked up their ears, but my Dad told me: 'Go to Oldham. You'll get a better chance there'," says Tommy.

He first handled a rugby ball at St. Patrick's Junior School in Wigan under the watchful eye of headmaster Mr. McDermott — the R.L. fanatic who was screened still teaching the kids on the B.B.C. programme "Our Sporting Life" last week.

"He's been doing that now for 20 years", says Tommy, "and the number of players who have passed through his hands and turned pro is nobody's business."

Secondary school followed and then Tommy registered to play scrum-half for the Orrell R.U. Colts team — a team which included Chris Hesketh, Colin Clarke, and two current County R.U. stars, Peter Bayman and Eric Lyon.

In one season, the Colts won 31 of their 32 matches and lifted a sevens competition at Preston for good measure.

"Basically, we were all R.L. lads, and we played it R.L. style", says Tom. "It was a great side, but when I got an invitation to attend Wigan's summer school, I couldn't resist: it was the break I had always longed for."

As a result of his displays during the "school", Tommy threw in his lot with Wigan "B", playing alongside Johnnie Farrell, and under the watchful eye of coach Ted Toohey. At the time, Martin Murphy was coming along nicely in the Wigan Colts team.

Under Tommy's captaincy, Wigan "B" lifted the Warrington League title in two successive seasons, and he began to think there might be a possibility of signing pro for his home-town club.

The crunch came when Ted Toohey, who had pushed him and shown great confidence in his ability, told him to report for the Wigan "A" team.

Previously, Tommy had rejected the chance of "filling in" on the wing in the Wigan "A" team and he believed that, at last, his big chance had come.

"Just before the start, Frankie Parr turned up out of the blue — and that was me finished. Disillusioned, I left Wigan and went to play open-age for St. Patrick's."

It was while Tommy was playing outside-half for St. Patrick's that he was spotted by Oldham scout Derek Foy and brought along to Watersheddings where he signed on the dotted line after a pre-season trial.

"I've never regretted it for one minute", says Tommy. "If I had to do my time over again, I would sign for these men."

"I have known so many good young players fail to make it at Wigan. One reason, I think, is that youngsters are overawed when they walk into Central Park. I know I was."

"At Oldham I have had a good crack of the whip, though I have always possessed a secret yen for a good run at scrum-half."

"Scrum-half is my favourite position, but I believe I am right in saying that I have never had more than four consecutive games there in the Oldham first team."

"It is a difficult position which takes a lot of settling into — but these days I am happy to play anywhere."

And play-anywhere Tommy has done just that for Oldham, having turned out in the club's colours at wing, centre, and both half-back positions.

He has done seven years at Watersheddings now, and is 27 years old, married and the father of two young boys — Eamonn, aged five, and Jason, aged 17 months.

He lives at Hindley, between Wigan and Leigh, works at Leyland Motors, and to this day watches Wigan from the Central Park terraces whenever his own R.L. commitments permit.

"But I have yet to come across a better half-back than my boyhood idol — David Bolton. He was the tops", says Tommy.



Cliff Hill starts another Oldham move

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- 2—ELLIOTT M. *2 tries*
- 3—LARDER P. *2 tries 3 goals*
- 4—WAINWRIGHT T.
- 5—HODGKINSON N.
- 6—DAVIES T. *try*
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—ASHCROFT K.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—FOSTER F.
- 11—IRVING R.
- 12—DALEY A.
- 13—FARRELL J. *try*
- 14—SIDDALL M.
- 15—OWEN G.

Referee
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For All
Local Sport

BLACKPOOL 5

- 1—CRANK P.
- 2—JOHNSON J.
- 3—ROBINSON D. *try*
- 4—MOLINEUX J.
- 5—DELOOZE F.
- 6—WARBURTON T. *goal*
- 7—GAVAGHAN D.
- 8—SINGLETON B.
- 9—EGAN J.
- 10—~~A. N. OTHER~~ *McCanna*
- 11—SEDDON G.
- 12—HOLLAND G.
or McCANN D.
- 13—WALKER D.
- 14—*greenhof*
- 15—*Lewis*

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F. Tomlinson (Runcorn) Orange

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OUR VISITORS . . .

BLACKPOOL

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH STATISTICS

<i>Colours:</i>	White shirts, black shorts and tangerine stockings
<i>Ground:</i>	Borough Park.
<i>Founded:</i>	March, 1954.
<i>Nickname:</i>	Seasiders or the Boro' Babes.
<i>Attendance record:</i>	23,000 v Leigh (Challenge Cup, quarter-final) 1956-57 at Blackpool F.C. Ground.
<i>Try scoring record:</i>	7,614 v Castleford 1963-64 at Borough Park. 22 by Lionel Emmitt in 1958-59 and by Jim Johnson in 1970-71.
<i>Goal kicking record:</i>	90 by Jim Maughan in 1958-59.
<i>Point scoring record:</i>	201 by Peter Fearis in 1957-58.

So far Blackpool Borough have not won any major trophies although they have reached the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup and the quarter-final of the Challenge Cup on several occasions.

The return to winning ways at Leigh last Sunday helped Oldham to maintain their "top eight" status and another victory is envisaged with the appearance of popular visitors to Watersheddings, Blackpool Borough.

This afternoon Boro' could have the versatile 19-year-old Australian George Kollios at full-back. He was discovered whilst playing for Belmont, the Perth (Australia) club, and he came over to England last February and joined Wigan. In June he transferred to Blackpool and was a try scorer on his debut despite Boro' losing 25-7 at home to Batley.

No matter which two wingers are selected, Oldham will be opposed by two real flyers today. Although Jim Johnson has only crossed for six tries so far this season some indication of his prowess can be given when one realises that two seasons ago he equalled the club record of 22 tries and followed this up by scoring 16 last season. Contesting the other wing position are Joe Lewis, signed last September from United Glass Blowers, and 22-year-old Frank Delooze, a former England amateur star. Yet another former junior, Alan Bailey, signed last September from the St. Helens area, could be in the centre position, but Blackpool have made two other signings recently in an attempt to strengthen this section of the team.

Last month Geoff Holland was signed and he made his debut against Whitehaven when he crossed for a try in Boro's 21-14 defeat. Doug Robinson was signed just before Christmas after impressing in the highly successful Fylde R.U.F.C. team. Despite their recent buys Tommy Warburton continues to be the most impressive and dangerous of the Blackpool backs. He is, in fact, having his best ever season, having crossed for 16 tries as well as landing nine goals. This 28-year-old former Tyldesley R.U.F.C. star will need little introduction to Oldham's regular supporters for it was with Oldham that Warburton took the professional ticket in November 1964. In 1966-67 the impressive displays given by Warburton were rewarded when he was chosen to represent England U-24 against France at Bayonne, and although England lost 7-4 further honours came Warburton's way with his inclusion in the Lancashire side. In January 1968 a cheque for £5,350 plus Wilf Briggs were enough to induce Oldham to part with Warburton so he moved to Leigh where he never really settled, so he moved once again, this time to Bradford Northern. Warburton's stay at Odsal was even shorter and in October 1971 Blackpool Borough snapped him up for £500. He scored Blackpool's only try on his debut in the 7-12 home defeat by Dewsbury and since then he has turned in some first class performances and it is not really surprising that the seaside club have slapped a £5,000 fee on the head of this talented and experienced middle back.

At stand-off Boro' field the stockily built Ged Marsh, another tricky player who has five tries and 15 goals to his credit. He seems to have taken over the stand-off berth which was filled so adequately by Terry Cassidy last season. Cassidy scored 11 tries from 38 appearances last term although his visit to Watersheddings was not such a happy one for it ended early in the second half with his dismissal. Cassidy's scrum-half partner last season was Alan Bishop, the 23-year-old brother of test half-back Tommy Bishop, who Boro' signed three years ago from St. Helens. Also in contention for the No. 7 jersey is David Cavanagh who is in his first season of professional Rugby having been signed from Blackpool juniors.

Like the backs, the Boro' pack is a mixture of youth and experience. Hooker Joe Egan is the son of the former Wigan test forward and at 28 years of age he has amassed plenty of knowledge and technique which is essential for the hooking position. Tony Appleby is a most versatile player who is equally at home whether at loose forward or standing in for Egan in the hooking position. He was signed three years ago from Thornton Cleveleys R.U.F.C. Another strong running forward is Wilf Cantillon, signed in January 1971 from Wigan "B", whilst probably Blackpool's fastest forward is Peter Crank who joined Boro' from Salford around the same time as Cantillon. Last season he won the "Kilkenny Trophy" as Blackpool's Player of the Season. At prop Blackpool have Fred Fletcher and Paddy Loughlin as well as Phil Jones, who was transferred last July from Warrington. The players contesting the second row berth are former Wigan junior Jimmy McLoughlin, Graham Seddon and the leader of the Boro' pack Don Walker. A tireless worker, Walker has scored five tries so far this season. As can be seen a high percentage of the Blackpool first team squad are junior signings and other such plyers waiting for similar opportunities include Norman Guest, Len Myers and Dennis McCann (all from Wigan), John Pimblett (St. Helens) and Ken Kundry (Millom).

This season has not been a particularly happy one for Blackpool. Their efforts in Cup football have been a complete disaster. Their best Cup performance came in the Lancashire Cup when they lost at Swinton 28-25. In the John Player Trophy Boro' met the all conquering Leeds team of last autumn. Although Blackpool put up a tremendous fight and, in fact, were on level terms for the first 20 minutes, Leeds eventually clicked into top gear and there was no holding them as they raced to a 51-9 win. There was an even bigger defeat for Blackpool in the Challenge Cup when Widnes completely swamped the seasiders to register a 53-3 score. Widnes stand-off Reg Bowden scored two tries in the first ten minutes and then left the field with a dislocated shoulder. Unfortunately for Boro', his replacement, Denis O'Neil, carried on where Bowden left off and went on to score four tries!

In the League Boro' lie in 29th position having won just three of their 21 matches. Their three wins have been against Hunslet (12-10) and Barrow (15-11) at home and an excellent 30-17 away win at Doncaster. Apart from these matches Boro' have had quite a lean time and have conceded more points than anyone else in the League. Including Cup matches the Blackpool defence has had 809 points scored against it.

It can be seen then that Oldham are firm favourites to win this afternoon's encounter and banish the memory of last season's abject display from Oldham. Boro', in fact, came to Watersheddings last season as favourites for they already had seven victories to their credit against Oldham's two. Oldham's team included that giant American Sam Moore, and although his debut could be classed as sensational it was more for the two tries he handed to Boro' than the assistance he gave to Oldham that afternoon. Boro' duly won 24-19 with a solid all round team performance. Playing for the opposition that day were Fred Hall and John Farrell with the latter scoring a try. Oldham supporters will be hoping for another try scoring performance from Farrell today and with the return from suspension of Frank Foster. Oldham will be hoping for a successful run-out as part of the preparation for next Saturday's difficult, although far from impossible, Cup trip to Hull. A win at the Boulevard will take Oldham into the quarter-finals and from then on anything could happen, but let's first clear the immediate hurdle and deal adequately with Blackpool Borough this afternoon.

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OLDHAM "B" 27 — ROCHDALE "B" 2

Oldham opened up well, throwing the ball about and attacking the Hornets' line from each flank. The opening score was a penalty goal by Oldham's captain Steve Whitmore, which he soon followed with a 30-yard drop goal. Hornets replied with a penalty but the home side took a commanding lead when Kevin Buckley scored after backing up a fast right wing raid by the backs, to crash over. Whitmore converted.

It was Buckley again for Oldham to score a second try that put them in a comfortable position when Whitmore tagged on the goal points from the touchline. The Oldham half-backs Whitmore and Nigel Green were destroying the Hornets' defence. Green was proving hard to stop and when he drew the attention of extra defenders Whitmore saw the gap and danced through the gap, easily beating the cover to score under the posts for a try he easily converted. Half-time 17—2.

The Hornets resumed with plenty of buzz and sting to keep the Oldham side penned in their own 25 for long spells. The scrums were now going Hornets' way and this began to sway things to the Rochdale side who were now coming strong. Oldham kept them out and Mark Chiverall, Oldham's hooker, who was having a great game in the loose prompting and distributing the ball, began to pull the ball out of the scrums and Oldham again began a siege of the Rochdale line. Elson crossed twice but could not ground correctly after strong breaks by Green, Oldfield and Tasker. Although the Hornets' tackling never wilted it could do nothing to stop Green and Chiverall from adding further tries. Whitmore converted Green's try and dropped a fine 40-yard goal.

Although this was a sound win, Oldham still need more players for this under-18 side. Training is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. All the club facilities are open to the Colts, who are treated the same as the professionals. Lads who think they might be too young yet should still come and make an early start for next season and taste the atmosphere of a pro club set-up.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB

We are now well in progress with our Grand National Draw. If you would like to help by selling a few tickets please ask any committee man who will give you details.

We are proposing to run a trip to Wembley for the Challenge Cup Final in 1974. If you would like to go just call in at the canteen and ask for further information.

The Supporters' Club are helping with the benefits of Mike Elliott and Kevin Taylor and have already started with fund raising. One effort which should appeal to supporters can easily make plenty of money for our loyal players. We are going to sponsor the players for every try they score in the next 12 months. They have already responded with two tries each in the 1st Round of the Challenge Cup.

If you would like to help, no matter how little, please ask in the canteen.

POOLS NEWS

Up, up, up goes the New Pool. It's certainly proving a winner. Agents are finding it easy to get new members which is the way we all like it.

We are expecting a further boost to sales with our special newsagents' scheme which we embarked upon earlier this week. This is something new to Oldham, and if we do as well as other clubs with it, then it will really help the club's finances.

Plans are being made for an Agents' Night in March, which should be one of the best we have ever had. With a record-breaking number of new agents, the pool going from strength to strength, the atmosphere will be buoyant and enthusiastic.

We are hoping by the time we have this get-together we have many more agents. Give it a try yourself. It's so easy to start an agency — you only need ten members; we'll come and pick your money up at your home and give you any help and advice you need.

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1972			
Aug.	19—Huddersfield	A	25—7
	23—Whitehaven	H	30—13
	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
Oct.	3—Salford (Fl. Cup)	H	12—8
	7—St. Helens	H	12—12
	14—Workington T.	A	10—17
	22—Widnes	H	17—18
Nov.	4—Huddersfield	H	7—7
	7—Castleford F.C.	H	9—7
	12—Huyton	H	22—0
	17—Hull	A	17—14
	25—Wigan	H	11—6
Dec.	1—St. Helens	A	10—24
	5—Leigh F.Cup. Semi		8—10
	10—Salford	H	12—14
	17—Dewsbury	A	16—12
	24—Leigh	H	24—4
	26—Rochdale H.	A	14—16
	31—Warrington	A	10—20
1973			
Jan.	6—Whitehaven	A	0—9
	14—York	H	
	19—Barrow	A	
	27—Barrow Ch. Cup 1st Rd.	H	
Feb.	4—Leigh	A	
	11—Blackpool B.	H	
	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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