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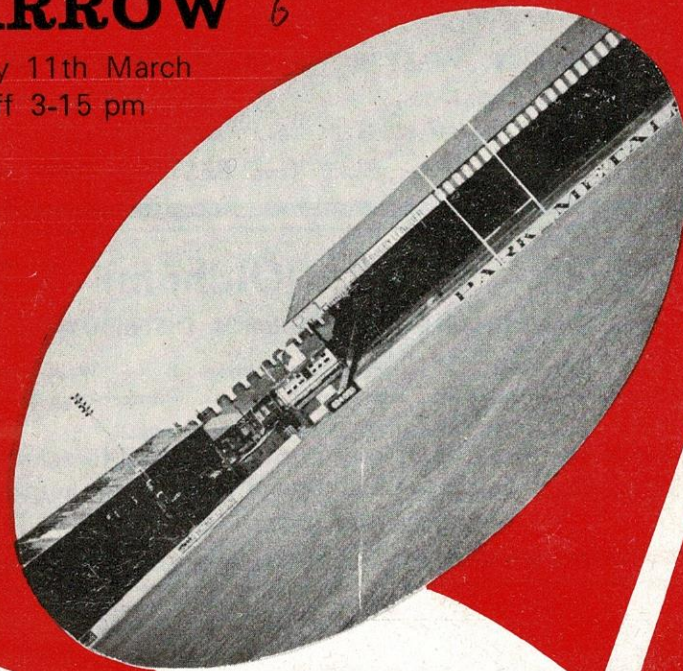
**OLDHAM 37**

v

**BARROW 6**

Sunday 11th March

Kick-off 3-15 pm



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## Brian Batty of the Mail

With the League returning to two divisions next season it is interesting to consider the claims of clubs for a greater consistency in the playing of fixtures at the weekend.

The swing to Sunday games has not proved completely satisfactory as had been hoped and several clubs are talking of reverting to a Saturday.

There are many problems, some affect certain clubs more than others, but I would think that Sunday is still the best day for the majority of clubs unless they have a social set-up that calls for Friday night games.

I realise that Leeds have an established following for Saturday and they have maintained this by continuing with this day for this season at home.

Swinton secretary Vic Jones says: "We shall consider going back to Saturday next season even though our gates have been up seven per cent.

"If we have an attractive fixture then Saturday is all right but it is different when the opposition is otherwise. I don't think the players go for a Sunday for it seriously affects their social life at the weekend and it does not appeal to all spectators.

"I think some fans must be sick to death of not knowing when and at what time games are being played, there is so much confusion over present fixtures."

Warrington secretary Phil Worthington says: "For two consecutive seasons our gates have shown a substantial increase with Sunday matches but I would agree that inconsistency of fixtures is causing confusion.

"Our position is that we are between Liverpool, Everton and Manchester soccer areas and we feel there is a big amateur League and Union following around Warrington on a Saturday.

"So we shall be sticking to a Sunday for gates like those against Oldham are double what they were in the previous season and this applies for several other matches."

Bradford Northern manager Albert Fearnley says: "Our gates are up 2,000 per match on a Sunday and we will stick to this day. T.V. has such a big pull and we have found Saturdays are a disaster."

Wigan secretary Geoff Sutcliffe says: "We have always thought Sunday is all right for the special matches when you are expecting a big crowd and don't want traffic problems.

"But the crowds have been no bigger for the League games and I think we will be going back to Saturday next season. We would like Friday night really but the weather seems to be against this with so many cold spells in mid winter."

# Around the League with - DAVE PARKER

The Castleford-Oldham third round Cup tie last weekend had a special little point of interest all of its own. When Gary Brook substituted for Phil Johnson on the Castleford team it saw two former Doncaster half-backs of two seasons ago in opposition to each other. Oldham scrum-half Mick McCone and Gary I would say, have been probably the Dons' best pair of halves since League was commenced at Tattersfield.

Keighley, who have signed in the past week five players from their junior team, coached by former scrum-half Roy Sabine, have purchased special club badges for the youngsters to proudly wear on new blazers which they will buy. The club has also asked them to have grey trousers ready for the final of the Yorkshire Under-19 Cup and then they can all turn out in style for the final which may be played at Headingley.

Bradford Northern have a very strong interest in Bramley's former Australian league player Alan Smith, who joined Halifax for a spell last season after returning from Down Under to take a shop in Leyburn, near Ripon. Smith, the club's leading try scorer, can play either centre or wing, and in past weeks Northern have had directors and coaches Ian Brooke and Albert Fearnley taking a look, possibly eyeing him as the eventual replacement for Bernard Watson, now retired to coach the club's juniors.

Blackpool Borough these days are really keeping to the straight and narrow. They dare not do anything else for in their line-up are three members of the Blackpool force of the Lancashire County Constabulary. They have a winger playing under a pseudonym, centre Robinson and prop forward Singleton. With all three players having to play for nothing, no doubt the club's wage bill is also taking a breather.

It is not generally known that Bradford Northern's goal-kicking full-back Eddie Tees played Rugby Union and League together at the same time. He played for Furness R.U. at stand-off, and for the Roose Amateur Rugby League Club when they were short. It is also not generally known that Ed has been with Barrow twice, York, Wigan and Rochdale before moving to Odsal.

Blackpool headmaster and referee Dennis Brown had to be helped from the field of play during the first half of the Barrow-Leigh match last weekend with a pulled thigh muscle.

He was replaced in the middle by senior touch judge Colin Hodgson, while Dalton-in-Furness senior referee Dick Wood, who was there as a spectator, ran the line in civvies and new suede shoes.

He had his footwear replaced at the interval by Barrow's new trainer-coach, Bill Ferguson. Altogether the hold-up saw the game go into 12 minutes of extra time.

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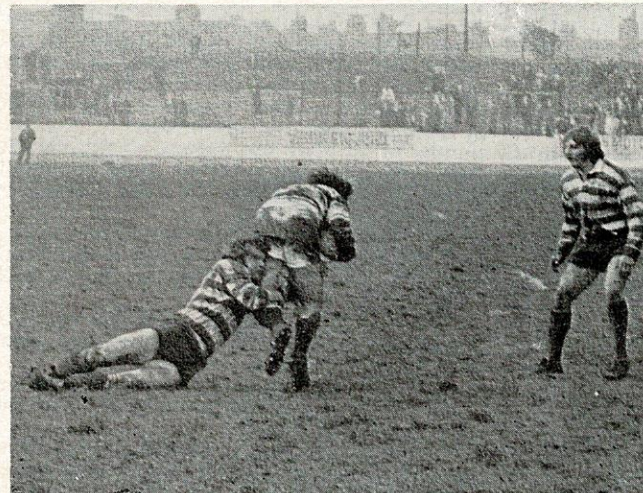
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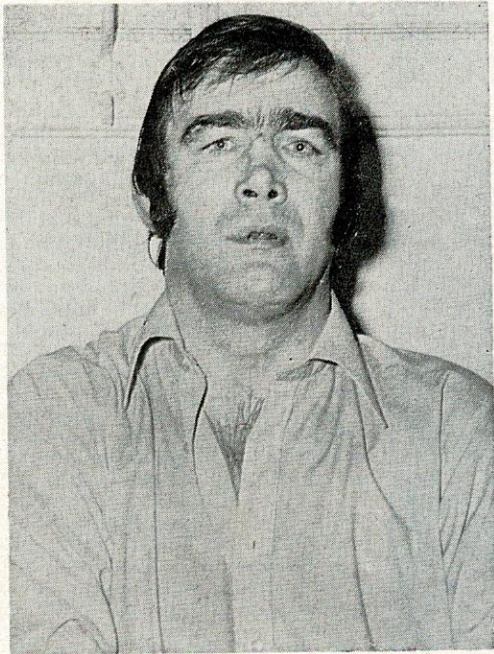
## Action Replay

Tony Wainwright receives  
attention from Dennis  
Wright



John Farrell stops  
a Hull attack

1. Leeds (home) 22-12 in the semi-final and Hull (at Bradford) 15-14 in the Final.
  2. Barrow beat Oldham 12-2 in the 1954-55 Lancashire Cup Final.
  3. Cavendish Park, Parade Ground and Little Park, Roose.
  4. Jack Grundy in 1954-55.
1. Who did Oldham beat in the Top Four Play-off to win the Championship in 1956-57?
  2. Have Oldham ever met Barrow in a Cup Final?
  3. Which grounds did Barrow occupy before moving to their present home?
  4. Which Barrow player has won the Lance Todd Trophy?



## Spotlight on Ken Wilson

There are few more popular players at Watersheddings than Ken Wilson, our long-serving open-side prop-forward whose partnership with Kevin Taylor in the front-row of the Oldham pack has lasted for more than 300 games and many thousands of scrums!

Wilson is not Oldham's longest-serving player — that honour goes to Taylor and Mike Elliott, who are now enjoying their joint ten-year testimonial.

But it was only a matter of 12 months or so after the signing of the benefit boys that Kenneth Wilson, former police cadet, amateur boxer of some notoriety, and England Rugby Union Player came north from Gloucester to make a new life for himself in the industrial north.

While Elliott and Taylor were making their strides to the first team slowly, however, Wilson was immediately pitched right in . . . and almost ten seasons and more rugby disappointments than most blokes experience in a lifetime, Tug is still working his heart out in the cause of Oldham R.L. Club.

He is the only surviving member of that Oldham team of 1964 that reached the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup only to miss out on the Wembley trip after that "match off" fiasco at Swinton in the first replay against Hull K.R.

That was probably the first of Wilson's bitter disappointments . . . for he readily admits that, like every player in the game, his one big ambition in the code is to step out on that Wembley turf.

Since those early days for Wilson at Watersheddings, Oldham packs have crumbled around him. Scores of forwards have come; scores of forwards have gone. The list is a long one: Dave Parker, Len McIntyre, Harry Major, Peter Smethurst, Geoff Robinson, Charlie Bott, Alan Burns, Geoff Fletcher, Alf Mumberson, Stuart Whitehead, Alan Ogden, Arthur Hughes, Charlie McCourt, Ray Clark, Danny Gardiner, Bill Churm . . . but Wilson, steady as a rock in defence, a tight scrummager, and a non-stop worker, is still as much a part of the Watersheddings scene as he was all those years ago.

That's why he is such a popular and well-respected player with the supporters. They know, though Ken is the last player to seek praise or popularity, that he has overcome the greatest adversity over the years, yet still battles for the Oldham cause with the enthusiasm of a teenager just making his first, faltering steps on the ladder.

The speed that once made Wilson a running forward to be feared has gone. But there is no slowing down of that giant-sized heart.

Wilson gives his all in every match . . . and that's why he is every bit as popular in the Oldham dressing room as he is on the terraces and in the stands.

But back to those early days. As a teenager, boxing was Ken's first love. As a heavyweight he represented the R.A.F. and met many men in the ring who were later to become household names of the pugilistic profession.

Only a hand injury prevented what looked like a very rosy future in the boxing game . . . and it was then that Wilson turned to rugby.

Within a short time he was a member of the Gloucester and R.A.F. pack — and then came the big day when he walked down the tunnel at Twickenham to represent his country against France.

That was some going for a guy who handled a rugby ball for the first time in earnest when he was 19 years of age.

Soon the scouts were around . . . and in the summer of 1963 he signed the forms that made him an Oldham professional.

Few players have given Oldham the sort of loyal and enthusiastic service rendered by Wilson over the recent bitter-sweet years at Watersheddings.

Proof of his loyalty to Oldham — and to the Lancashire folk in this town of ours who have adopted him as one of their own — came with his now famous quote: "Many of my ex-colleagues have left Oldham and gone to Wembley. I want to go . . . but with OLDHAM.

"Often, when we have lost a big game, I feel a trifle down . . . and then I think how all those wonderful supporters of ours must feel who have been behind the club for years and years and years."

Bringing the story right up to date, there was yet another disappointment at Castleford last Saturday.

For all the players it was a sad end to this season's Cup run. For Ken Wilson, it must have been even sadder.

Whether Wilson ever realises his ambition to play at Wembley — for OLDHAM — only time will tell.

But while Rugby League is played on this famous ground, there will always be a place in the record book for Kenneth Wilson, not only a player and a fan, but one of the club's top-selling pools agents.

*THAT'S KEN WILSON OF WATERSHEDDINGS.*



Chris O'Brien goes over for his first ever try for Oldham



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OLDHAM                    37

- 1—DAVIES T
- 2—ELLIOTT M. *try*
- 3—LARDER P. *3 tries 3 goals*
- 4—WAINWRIGHT T. *2 tries*
- 5—O'BRIEN C. *try*
- 6—HILL C.
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—WILSON K.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—FOSTER F.
- 11—IRVING R. *2 tries*
- 12—HALL F.
- 13—FARRELL J.
- 14—*WORRALL G. 1 goal*
- 15—*ASHCROFT K.*

Referee  
K. L. GASKELL (Wigan)

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**Kevin Taylor**

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BARROW                    6



- 1—CHAMBERLAIN J.
- 2—DAVIES G.
- 3—KNIGHT G.
- 4—JACKSON D.
- 5—McPOLAND J.
- 6—WHITTLE A.
- 7—EVANS K.
- 8—HARRISON F.
- 9—COULSON A.
- 10—NEW J.
- 11—BOWKER A.
- 12—CRAYSTON J.
- 13—CUNNINGHAM J.
- 14—
- 15—PERRY J.

Touch Judges  
E. Glazebrook (Wigan)    Red  
B.D. Norbury (Rochdale)    Orange

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## OUR VISITORS . . .

# BARROW

With all Cup interests now extinguished until next season, Oldham return to League warfare this afternoon. They do so in the knowledge that, although they were disappointed in last weekend's result, they have shown tremendous spirit in reaching the Floodlit Cup semi-final and Challenge Cup quarter-final, a fact that will give them plenty of confidence for the forthcoming Championship play-off.

It was not surprising really, when one considers the lowly league position of our visitors, that player-coach Joe Chamberlain should resign from his coaching duties although there is no doubt that he will continue to give 100% effort from the full-back berth. Joe began his professional career in November 1964 when he signed for Rochdale Hornets from the Woolston Junior Club. It was a happy stay at the Athletic Grounds for Chamberlain, with his final season at Rochdale (1971-72) being remembered for Rochdale's appearance in the Floodlit Cup Final. Although beaten 8-2, Chamberlain played well and scored the Hornets' goal. During that season he kicked 81 goals as well as crossing for seven tries. Last August he moved to Barrow as part of the deal which took Tom Brophy to Rochdale and despite the rather mediocre season that the Furnessmen are experiencing he has continued to kick goals consistently for his total has now reached 66. Barrow's wingers, when given the opportunity, are a very dangerous pair, for Oldham will still be able to recall the two tries Glyn Davies scored in Oldham's 8-5 defeat last January. On the opposite wing to Davies is 20-year-old Jim McPoland, a former Barrow junior who made his debut some 16 months ago. Much is expected of him in the future. There are four leading candidates for the centre positions at Barrow including Peter Douglas, the former Roose junior who signed for Barrow originally in January 1964. Douglas moved to St. Helens during season 1966-67 and he played for Saints in the Championship Final of that season as well as the Lancashire Cup Final of the following season before falling out of grace at Knowsley Road and moving back to Barrow. Another player enjoying his second spell with the Furnessmen is Denis Jackson. From Barrow, Jackson moved to Blackpool Borough via Workington Town, and when he made his Blackpool debut in September 1971 he was a try scorer as Borough won 13-11 up at Barrow. Not surprisingly, Barrow were happy to pay the £600 which took Jackson back into the Craven Park camp.

The other two players contesting the centre positions are former England junior Barry Leake and that most experienced campaigner Alan Whittle. Twenty-five-year-old Whittle learned his football in the St. Helens Junior League and joined his home town Saints in 1963. He played in the 1967 Lancashire Cup Final before really making an impression in season 1968-69. That season he played in 50 first team games for Saints, scoring 19 tries, and was a member of the St. Helens team which pulled off a record Lancashire Cup Final victory of 30 points to two against Oldham.

During season 1970-71 Whittle represented Saints in three Cup Finals. He was sent off in the Lancashire Cup Final which Leigh won 7-4 and he also played in the Floodlit Cup Final which was won by Leeds 9-5, but he gained a great deal of consolation when Saints beat Wigan 16-12 in the Championship Final. Last season he was substitute in both the Challenge Cup and Championship Finals and it was a shrewd piece of work by Barrow when they snapped him up for £5,000 last October. Whittle is also an accomplished stand-off but Barrow seem to prefer David Elkin in that position. Elkin joined Barrow in December 1971 from Roose

Juniors and dropped a goal on his debut so this aspect of his play will have to be watched by Oldham this afternoon. Another youthful Barrow half-back is Kenny Evans who was signed by Barrow from Millom Juniors in March 1971. He is a good prospect for the future although the scrum-half berth at present is held by Frankie Jones.

One position Barrow have adequate cover for is the hooking spot where 19-year-old Bob Chappels is challenging for the No. 9 jersey currently held by Cumbrian star Eddie Thompson. This season Thompson made his county debut in the Cumberland side which comfortably defeated Yorkshire 23-14, and he retained his position for the match against Lancashire which the Red Rose side won 26-16.

It seems that no matter which two players are permed from either Frank Harrison, Brian Larkin or Mick Sanderson, Barrow will field two powerful and experienced props. Larkin was signed at the same time that Whittle moved to Barrow, but because of injury he has not yet been able to display the sort of form that made him such a firm favourite at Widnes. Before joining Widnes Larkin had a short spell at Wigan and he had been at Warrington for approaching two years before Barrow moved in for his signature, but it was whilst at Widnes in the early and middle sixties that Larkin really built up his reputation. In contrast to Larkin, Mick Sanderson has spent all his career with Barrow whom he joined in 1960 from Dalton Juniors. He has proved to be an excellent clubman and a tireless worker for Barrow, and he thoroughly deserved the Lancashire County honours which have come his way, the last occasion being three seasons ago when he was a member of the Lancashire side that defeated Cumberland by 30-10 at Workington.

In second-row forwards John Cunningham and Alan Bowker, Barrow have the two players who at present head their try-scoring lists with seven tries each. With Stan Gibson having not yet recovered from the broken leg he sustained against Oldham, it looks as if one of these players will drop back to loose-forward with the reliable John New slotting into the second-row.

This season has been a very disappointing one on Furnesside with Barrow only recording seven Cup and League victories whilst they have succumbed to defeat on 25 occasions. They lie in 26th position in the league table with no hope whatsoever of climbing into a first division position. Barrow's season began on quite a bright note with a Lancashire Cup victory over Huyton 18-12. However, this has proved to be Barrow's only Cup victory of the season for in the next round of the Lancashire Cup Swinton won up at Barrow 7-4. In the Floodlit Cup, Barrow suffered their worst Cup defeat for in the home tie against lowly Keighley they were beaten 12-9.

There was a predictable home defeat by Salford in the Player's Challenge Trophy when Barrow were able to restrict high scoring Salford to 17 points to two.

In the Challenge Cup, Oldham supporters will still be able to recall Barrow's gallant efforts here at Watersheddings when they led 7-5 after 20 minutes only for Oldham to eventually take command and force a 24-7 victory. If Barrow's Cup efforts can be described as disappointing then their League campaign must be summed up as very disheartening. They have scored one League double victory, against Huyton, by 17-16 away and 29-13 at home, but their only other away win was at Whitehaven where they won 13-8. Their home League wins have been against Oldham (8-5), Workington Town (17-14) and an excellent 10-2 home win against Challenge Cup semi-finalists Dewsbury.

Barrow, then, visit Watersheddings as decided second favourites, although they will be determined to try and score the League double over Oldham. If they do win it will be their first double victory over Oldham since 1969-70 when they won 13-12 at Watersheddings and 26-19 up at Barrow. Last season, although Oldham won 19-9 at Barrow, the match at Watersheddings ended in a 13-13 draw. Indeed, that draw is a fair indication of how Oldham-Barrow matches have ended up in recent seasons. Since the switch to a single division in 1964 Oldham have met Barrow in 17 League fixtures which have resulted in nine Oldham wins, seven Barrow wins and a draw. Of these 17 matches only one game (Oldham's 21-4 home win in 1964-65) has ended in a marginal victory of more than ten points, so it looks as if another close match is in store this afternoon.

Certainly Oldham will be out to gain another two valuable points in their efforts to consolidate their "top eight" spot, and with tough fixtures ahead against Dewsbury, Salford and Warrington they must not slip up this afternoon and let Barrow take advantage of any "Cup hangover" which may be left from last week's disappointment.

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## OLDHAM "B" 13, DEWSBURY 0

Oldham won their second game in three matches in the Colts Spring League. It was a very much improved performance, with both sides playing exceptionally well under very bad ground conditions. Dewsbury attacked first, using their much heavier pack to drive a way down the middle. This early assault brought the best out of Oldham's tackling which had been suspect in previous games. When the home side took the first scrum they drove down into Dewsbury's half and when the Yorkshire side ran off-side Whitmore kicked a fine penalty.

This seemed to spur Dewsbury and a tremendous pounding at the Oldham line resulted in Royales, Oldham's full-back, having to put the ball dead. From the drop-out Oldham retained the ball and Chiverall made a great break from the play ball to send Whitmore racing in from 60 yards, giving the Dewsbury full-back no chance with a sidestep and acceleration. The home side took command now and Whitmore made it 7-0 at half-time with another penalty.

Dewsbury's half-time pep talk showed results when, for 15 minutes after the resumption, the Oldham defence took a real hammering but kept the line intact. Oldham's Chiverall and Glover cleared the danger to set Oldham's smart looking back line flowing. From then on the home side took over. With Chiverall hooking the ball from successive scrums and with storming runs from Glover and Byrom, Dewsbury just had to crack. Aply served by his scrum-half Connell, Whitmore put the Yorkists on the rack. The Oldham centres Wood and Maloney went close, but it was that man Whitmore who rubbed it in with two brilliant individual scoring runs to complete his "hat-trick" of tries in front of the watching Lancashire selectors.

Although the Oldham captain scored the points, the Oldham tackling which contained the big Dewsbury side must get special praise. If they had cracked early on in this match it could have meant a complete reversal of the result. Every man tackled his heart out.

We would like to offer to Steve Whitmore, skipper of the "B" Team, our congratulations on being selected for Lancashire Under-19 to play Yorkshire at Wakefield on Sunday, 18th March.

## POOLS BONANZA

Yesterday was our ninth draw with the new Pool and already we have achieved the target we expected to reach after about one year's operation.

This gives some indication how popular the Pool is. Agents report how easy they are finding it to find customers. Everybody is delighted with the prizes and the quick pay-out.

During the next few weeks we intend to intensify our door-to-door canvassing. If you are interested in collecting one of these prepared rounds for us why not drop into the Pools Office and discuss it with us or give us a ring.

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A coach FREE TO ALL AGENTS will travel to Blackpool on Sunday, 18th March, which will leave at 1 p.m. from the Social Club.

Agents should hand their name in at the Pools Office after the match or phone 652 5244 if they wish to go. Last day for bookings will be Thursday, 15th March.

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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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# OLDHAM v BARROW

Sunday 11th March Kick-off 3-15 p.m.  
Admission by Programme only 35p

## OLDHAM

- 1—DAVIES T
- 2—ELLIOTT M.
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT T.
- 5—O'BRIEN C.
- 6—HILL C.
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—WILSON K.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—FOSTER F.
- 11—IRVING R.
- 12—HALL F.
- 13—FARRELL J.
- 14—
- 15—

Referee

K. L. GASKELL (Wigan)

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ENTRANCE

## BARROW

- 1—CHAMBERLAIN J.
- 2—DAVIES G.
- 3—KNIGHT G.
- 4—JACKSON D.
- 5—McPOLAND J.
- 6—WHITTLE A.
- 7—EVANS K.
- 8—HARRISON F.
- 9—COULSON A.
- 10—NEW J.
- 11—BOWKER A.
- 12—CRAYSTON J.
- 13—CUNNINGHAM J.
- 14—
- 15—PERRY J.

Touch Judges

E, Glazebrook (Wigan) Red  
B,D,Norbury (Rochdale) Orange