

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 McCOURT, H.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 KEAR, R.
- 13 BROWN, D.
- 14 JACKSON, K.
- 15 FLANAGAN, K.

Referee:
K. ALLATT (Huddersfield)

Warrington

- 1 FINNIGAN, D.
- 2 CURLING, D.
- 3 HESFORD, S.
- 4 BEVAN, J.
- 5 SUTTON, D.
- 6 GWILLIAM, A.
- 7 GORDON, P.
- 8 BUTLER, B.
- 9 PRICE, J.
- 10 WANBON, R.
- 11 MARTYN, T.
- 12 NICHOLAS, M.
- 13 POTTER, I.
- 14
- 15

M. J. Hesketh (St. Helens) Red
D. Hewitt (St. Helens) Orange

OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

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The Man of the Match

v WARRINGTON

was

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldham's Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote — YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted — plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH
FEATHERSTONE
S. HERBERT

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OLDHAM

v

WARRINGTON

WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.



When tonight's teams last met ... an action shot of our winger, Mike Elliott, snapping up a loose ball and breaking cover in our defeat at Warrington eight days ago.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

THE stage will soon be set for the appearance of our "A" team in the Lancashire Shield final. The actual shield carries the name of Oldham on only one previous occasion—and that was way back in 1908 when we were second winners of the trophy.

It is a trophy that, over the decades, has been used for various forms of competition. Certainly, it has not been up for competition by "A" teams since it was first introduced on to the RL scene in the early part of this century.

Nevertheless, our appearances in the Lancashire Combination knock-out final have been so spasmodic that this year's success in the competition is worthy of some recognition.

For the record, the final will be played on two legs, with the first at Salford next Wednesday night, April 14th, kick-off 7-30 p.m., and the second leg at Watersheddings on the following Saturday afternoon, April 17th, kick-off 3 p.m.

As the "A" team game at Huyton last Saturday was called off by the Merseyside club it was essential we arranged another match before the first leg of the Shield and this will take place here at Watersheddings this Friday night (7-30) against Huyton.

We must not have any slip-ups in staging the match this time but Huyton assure us that, as their Second Division programme came to an end last week-end, they will no longer be in a position of having to postpone their reserve games.

With that in mind, make a note in your diary of the forthcoming "A" team matches. For support means a lot to the lads and they have deserved it this season, despite their recent lapses in form, by attaining a place in the Shield final after a semi-final two-leg victory against a strong St. Helens "A" side that has swept all before it in the Combination and has, in fact, already clinched the league title.

We firmly believe that "A" team football must be regarded by clubs in a more professional manner and, to say the least, we were somewhat distraught when Huyton postponed the reserve match last Saturday.

We had, in fact, been assured by the Liverpool club several days beforehand that they would have no problem.

Had they warned us that the game might be off we would have re-arranged a match with Swinton. By the time we got the news of the Huyton call-off on Thursday night Swinton had already made alternative arrangements.

It was doubly disappointing to us because we had intended to give a run in that match to Harold McCourt, the Workington prop, who has joined us on loan in our bid to pick up vital points in the bid to escape relegation.

It is difficult to believe that, only a matter of a few weeks ago, we were sporting a record of only one defeat in eight matches.

But then were cruelly struck down by injuries, principally to forwards, which shattered our pack.

You cannot take from a pack men of the calibre of Terry Ramshaw, Barry Kear, and Fred Hall—to say nothing of the long-standing injury to Bob Welding—without feeling the pinch.

To make matters worse Mick McCone was ruled out of the St. Helens, Workington and Castleford matches with hamstring trouble and the settled team we had been able to field during our good spell rapidly became very much unsettled.

It was the fear of this sort of thing that prompted us, before the cup signing deadline, to go for McCourt on loan. We failed then because Workington would not release the prop for a loan period but they have since had a change of heart and we are hoping that the tough Cumbrian will be able to help us over a difficult period.

Brian Batty

The present situation in Soccer where English clubs are becoming aware of the threat of the American dollar is comparable to the position experienced in Rugby League a few seasons ago.

English Soccer clubs are suddenly finding that many players are being tempted to cross the Atlantic, lured by attractive contracts and living conditions.

At the moment, apart from such stars as Rodney Marsh and George Best, it is the lesser known type of players who are going.

This is, of course, in contrast to when the Australian dollar and the prospect of the sunnier side of life led to the English Rugby League losing around a dozen Test stars.

The sight of Jim Mills, Cliff Watson, Tommy Bishop, Mal Reilly, Phil Lowe, Mike Stephenson, Bill Ashurst, Alan Burwell, Brian Lockwood and John Gray settling in Sydney had English officials wondering when the player-drain would end.

There were also many other stars such as Alan Hardisty, Johnny Ward and Bill Kirkbride travelling to take up contracts in Queensland it became a guessing game as to who would follow in their flight paths.

But the situation eased a great deal when the Sydney clubs changed their signing conditions for players and also found fees rising faster than inflation in both countries.

Now the system has become one where the bulk of players on the move are those fulfilling the shorter close season contracts.

This clearly suits the Australian clubs but how it will affect the game in this country over a long spell will have to be seen.

With the World championship being held once again next summer, following a short tour of Australia and New Zealand there will only be a few of the lesser known English players going out to join Sydney clubs.

English skipper Roger Millward, Widnes internationals Mick Adams and Eric Hughes, Wakefield's brilliant Dave Topliss and team mate Henry Oulton and Castleford stars Steve Norton and Gary Stephens are among the top players now Sydney-bound.

Great Britain prop Terry Clawson is returning to South Newcastle and taking York's Terry Day while players like Saints winger Les Jones and forward Eddie Cunningham, Wigan's Brian Hogan and Bob Blackwood are hoping to make the trip, plus Terry Ramshaw (Oldham).

"It is going to be home from home out there", says Millward, who is taking his family and has lined up the best deal of all financially.

There is no doubt that the Australian game is going to enjoy the best of both worlds for a lot of these English players will impress their fans.

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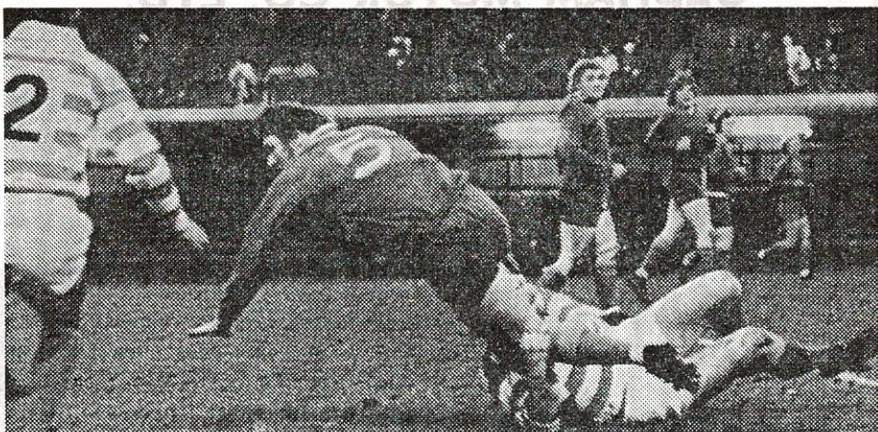
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John Bevan in full flight is still a sight to behold ... but the Warrington and former Wales and British Lion winger came to a full stop in the face of determined Oldham defence at Wilderspool last week.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Oldham's defeat at Wilderspool last Tuesday was the 11th defeat sustained by Oldham against Warrington in the last 12 matches between these two clubs. Oldham's solitary win in that depressing sequence of results was at Watersheddings in a League match during season 1971-72 but that 22-9 win by Oldham is their only victory over Warrington since 1969. The Wires come to Watersheddings this evening intent on scoring their fifth League "double" victory over Oldham in the past seven seasons and a glance at those results will give them all the confidence they require.

One of Oldham's 11 defeats which they were expected to avoid came in February, 1971, when they met a Warrington side that lay six places from the foot of the table and had suffered several humiliating defeats. Salford had scored 90 points against Warrington in League matches that season whilst Leeds had beaten them 48-8 and Hull 34-0. When Oldham visited Wilderspool the previous December, Warrington had scraped through by 25-17 so ground advantage made Oldham confident of victory as the teams lined up as follows:

Oldham — Martin Murphy; Ray Clark, Phil Larder, Trevor Buckley, Terry Garrett; Wilf Briggs, Ged Smith; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft, Dick Bonser, Arthur Daley and Bob Irving. Substitutes: Mike Elliott (for Murphy) and Frank Walker.

Warrington — Derek Whitehead; Mick Henighan, Bob Fleet, Alan McInnes, John Heritage; Willie Aspinall, Jim Brady; Brian Larkin, Dave Harrison, Brian Brady, Phil Jones, Noel Lightfoot and Ken Parr. Substitutes: Tommy Conroy (for McInnes) and Ken Halliwell (for Larkin).

Any hopes Oldham had of victory were shattered by half time for Warrington turned round 18-0 in front and the Oldham fans in the crowd of 1,854 resigned themselves to a heavy defeat. In the second half, however, Oldham

rallied a little and scored a length-of-the-field interception try by Phil Larder and three goals from Terry Garrett but Warrington still ran out comfortable winners by 23 points to 9. Their points came from five tries scored by Jim Brady (2), Mick Henighan, Alan McInnes and Willie Aspinall and four goals from former Oldham full-back Derek Whitehead who, the previous weekend, had made his debut in the Great Britain side.

Sadly, a couple of weeks ago Whitehead stated his intention of retiring from the game so he will not be a member of the Warrington side which tonight continues its late challenge to gain a place in the top eight and with it a chance to lift the Premiership Trophy.

Warrington's rather erratic form this season has left them well adrift of a top eight spot and it is touch and go whether or not they will be able to accumulate the necessary 34 points which it seems will be required to qualify. One of the most disappointing League results of the season for Warrington was the 12-10 home defeat to Bradford Northern and this contrasts sharply with the 9-3 win they scored against Saint Helens. Another big disappointment for Warrington supporters was the home defeats in three cup competitions. Wigan won at Wilderspool in both the Lancashire Cup and Floodlit Trophy whilst arch rivals Widnes won there in the Challenge Cup.

Home cup defeats would be unheard of a couple of seasons ago at Wilderspool but perhaps Warrington can end the season on a high note during the Premiership play-off. Before dreaming of success in that competition, however, the Wires must first qualify and in order to do that they must win here this evening. Oldham have equally determined thoughts to prevent a Warrington win so tonight's game promises to be another interesting and important clash.

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BILLY MOORE

IT is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Billy Moore—a former player of the club and, in more recent years, a tried and trusted supporter and a well-known member of the social club staff.

He died, after an illness lasting several weeks, in Oldham and District General Hospital on Wednesday morning of last week, aged 68.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, Fay and June. Fay, of course, is the popular manageress of the social club and the wife of our committeeman and president of the Lancashire County committee, Jack Bowden.

William John Moore, or Billy as he always preferred to be known, was also well known in the town as a former licensee of four public houses — the Park Hotel, the Waterloo Hotel, the Junction Hotel and the Friendship Hotel, Mumps.

Before he joined Oldham in 1937 as a prop-forward from Rochdale Hornets he was licensee of the Spread Eagle Hotel, Rochdale.

Three years earlier he had moved North from his native South Wales after winning five Glamorgan county caps as a forward, playing in three Welsh R.U.

trials, and finally being capped for Wales against Ireland in Belfast in the 1932-3 season.

He was also a boxer of some note, representing the RAF during the war as a heavyweight and, earlier still, acting as a regular sparring partner for Jack Peterson, who was later to win the British heavyweight crown.

Billy returned to Oldham after the war and played for Oldham until his retirement in 1948.

Since then he has supported the club with the vigour and enthusiasm he displayed as a player and even during the time of his confinement in hospital was always eager to be kept informed of what was going on at Watersheddings.

His friendly presence will be badly missed in the social club foyer, where he worked on the door, and the club extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Moore and other members of the family in their sad bereavement.

Similar sentiments are expressed to Ray Hicks and his wife, Karen. Ray's father, who had become a keen Oldham fan since his son signed for the club from Widnes junior football club several years ago, also passed away recently.

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