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SUNDAY, 6th FEBRUARY, 1977

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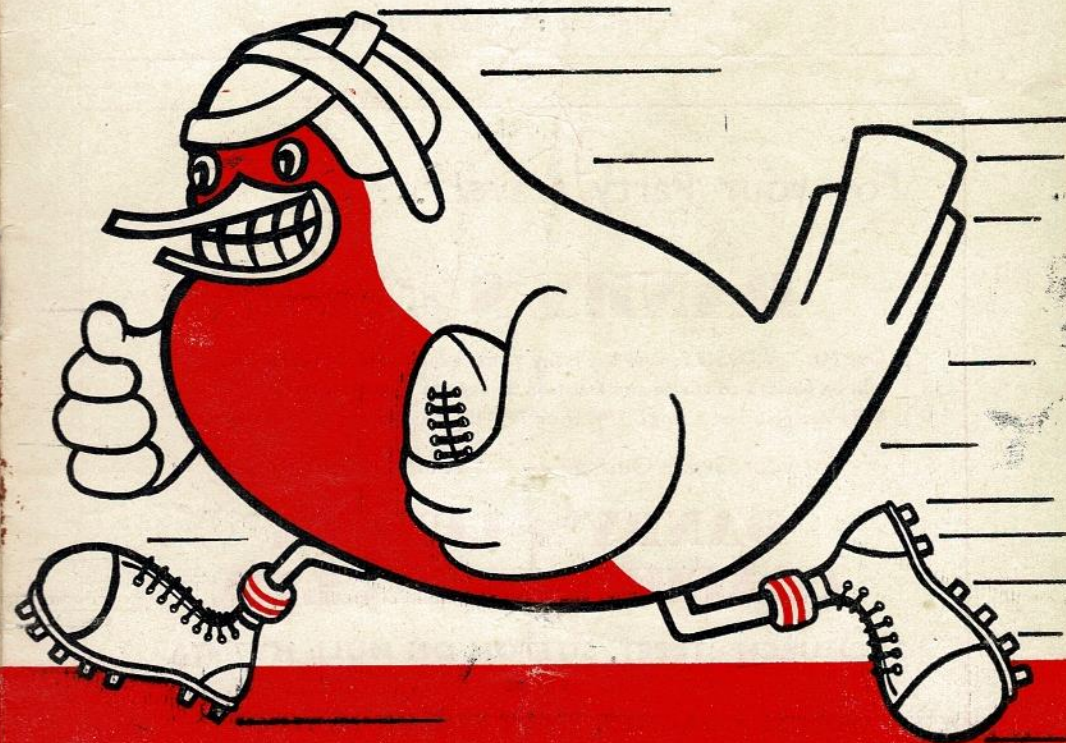


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### OUR VISITORS

	Pos.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Rovers	4th	18	10	1	7	264	259	21
Oldham	13th	17	6	—	11	216	279	12

This afternoon we extend a welcome to Oldham, a club who were promoted with us two years ago, but who escaped an immediate return to the Second Division last season by only two points, and who are again in the relegation zone this season.

Oldham were shocked in mid December last by the tragic death at 42 years of age of their coach Jim Challinor, one of the most respected figures in the game, after an illness of several months. During his absence **Ken Wilson**, their former long-serving prop, had acted as coach, but he resigned shortly after Challinor's death and the job was taken over by former Rovers prop and much travelled player **Terry Ramshaw**. Terry has proved a valuable signing for Oldham and has now come off their transfer list.

Signed from Hull F.C. within hours of Ramshaw, another widely travelled forward **Barry Kear** has been less successful, and is again on offer, this time at £4,000. Also on the list at the same price is their long-serving hooker **Kevin Taylor**, who has recovered from a broken thumb but has asked for a move after losing his place to former schoolboy international **Roger O'Mahoney**.

Now that Ramshaw is again settled at No. 8 the club last week decided against retaining the services of 16 stone prop **Steve Breheny**, the former Blackpool player who had been taken on loan from Leigh to add weight to their pack. They have also taken **Graham Scaife**, prop or second row, on trial from Wigan after he had been playing on permit in Wakefield amateur football.

A prominent transfer out recently has been that of £5,000 valued centre **Tony Wainwright** the ex Leeds player to Rochdale, and **Steve Whitmore** a former England Under 19 back has been on loan to Blackpool. **Dave Treasure**, a lively halfback who has played with the Welsh International side was valued at £7,000 when he asked for a move earlier this season.

The club have suffered from injuries which have put several of their leading players on the sidelines for lengthy periods. Second row forward **Fred Hall**, has



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been absent since March with knee trouble which necessitated surgery. Centre and goalkicker **Phil Larder**, top scorer last season with 82 goals and 7 tries (185 points) broke his arm during the first match of this season and only recently resumed training. Their first choice scrum half **Mick McCone** has also been absent from the club.

**COLLECTIONS**—We express our appreciation to all those who donated so generously towards recent collections. Against Salford the collection for the Humberside Schools Rugby League Association raised £95.13. Against Leeds the collection to help defray the expenses of Rovers' Colts visiting London Amateur R.L. Clubs realised £102. Today a collection is being taken for a most worthy charity, the **Dr. Barnardos Homes**. We hope our supporters will again donate generously towards this collection.

**WELCOME TO THE DIRECTORS OF H. GOLDSTONE & SONS LTD.**

Today's "Man of the Match" and "Match Ball" is sponsored by H. Goldstone & Sons Ltd., and the 'Man of the Match' will be judged by Mr. L. Pliener, a Director of the Company. H. Goldstone & Sons Ltd., were established in Hull one hundred and seven years ago and today are the leading retailers of wallpapers, decorating materials, carpets and a comprehensive range of soft furnishings. Their range of wallpapers cater from the bargain offers to something extra special where cost is less important. Coupled with this is their renowned Interior Decor Advisory Service.

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**PERFORMANCES**—Tremendous ! There is no other way to describe our last two performances which brought us wins over Leeds and Widnes, and established us in the Top Four of the League. The quality of the team performance which laid the foundation of our victory over Leeds by 25-9 was probably the highest of the season. In addition there were some fine individual performances with skipper **Roger Millward** showing why he is rated the best scrum half in the world with a masterly display which earned him the "Man of the Match" award, but he was closely followed by second rower **Paul Rose** who on this form is a better player than when he went on the 1974 Tour. **Colin Tyrer** had his best game since he joined us from Barrow and once again **Len Casey** produced a fantastic work rate and completely overshadowed Leeds' £8,000 new signing **Stan Fearnley**. The game was also notable for the debut of **David Watkinson**, a late replacement for Roy Holdstock at No. 10. David, signed from York Amateur football only the previous week, gave an extremely competent display and was warmly applauded by both the crowd and his fellow players when he was substituted late in the game by John Moore.

The game against Leeds was notable for the open football played, but the match at Widnes gave an insight into the "character" of our team, because Naughton Park was no place for faint hearts. On a pitch that was very heavy, but which did great credit to the Widnes' officials who had worked for two days to get it fit for play, the teams were locked at 5-3 for 60 of the 80 minutes, and it speaks highly of the spirit and discipline of the team not to capitulate in the face of the intense pressure put on them by their desperate opponents. All in all it was a truly fantastic team performance with **Paul Rose** a giant in a tremendous pack and

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**Roger Millward** casting off his worries of England's disappointing display the previous day, to give a masterly performance at full back in place of the injured **Colin Tyrer**.

**RESERVES' REPORT**—The regrettable news from the 'A' team is that once again they have had two further fixtures cancelled, and it is a ridiculous situation that players are training twice a week and not being able to play. We are, however, making arrangements to play our game against Huddersfield in East Park and sincerely hope that the team has had a game and a good win when these notes are read.

**COLTS' COLUMN**—Since our last programme the Colts have continued their winning ways with good victories over Bradford in a re-arranged fixture by 22-13 and so avenge their defeat at Bradford ; and Rochdale who they overwhelmed by 42-3. A feature of both games has been the goal kicking of **Gary Spence** who was in particularly fine form against Bradford. With a shortage of backs to choose from both **Spence** and **Graham Douglas** have played in the centre and have turned in fine performances.

**CONGRATULATIONS**—Congratulations are due to **Phil Edmonds**, **Graham Douglas** and **Steve Crooks** on their selection for Yorkshire Colts to play against Lancashire today at Salford. Good displays in this game will put them in line for selection for Great Britain Colts when they meet France later in the season.

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1—~~Colin TYLER~~  
2—Ged DUNN  
3—Mike SMITH  
4—Bernard WATSON  
5—Clive SULLIVAN  
6—Roger MILLWARD  
7—Alan AGAR  
8—John MILLINGTON  
9—David HESLOP  
10—Roy HOLDSTOCK  
11—Paul ROSE  
12—Mike HUGHES  
13—Len CASEY  
14—Steve HARTLEY  
15—Phil LOWE

Referee—J. ENTWISTLE

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Second Row  
Second Row  
Loose Forward

Touch Judges—J. REED (Red) J. E. SMITH (Yellow)

## OLDHAM

*Red and White*

Coach—Terry RAMSHAW

- 1—Martin MURPHY  
2—Chris O'BRIEN  
3—Mike ELLIOTT  
4—Geff MUNRO  
5—Steve LUND  
6—David TREASURE  
7—John PATERSON  
8—Terry RAMSHAW  
9—Roger O'MAHONEY  
10—Barry KEAR  
11—Steve HERBERT  
12—Kevin FLANAGAN  
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15—

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**PLAYERS' NEWS**—**Phil Lowe** should be back this week after recovering from his arm operation and no doubt will be all out to regain his England second row spot for the coming International against France. **Colin Tyrer** should also be available for today's game after having to withdraw from the game at Widnes with a rib injury, a legacy of the game with Leeds. There is also good news about big **John Cunningham** who has now had two junior games in the Barrow Amateur League without any ill-effects on his knee, and no doubt his confidence will be growing all the time. Another player with a long-standing problem, **Ian Madley** enters Pindersfield Hospital at Wakefield for an operation by a Leeds surgeon on his troublesome shoulder.

York have approached us about transfer-listed **Steve Lyons** and he has been allowed to go on trial to the Wigginton Road team.

One cloud on the horizon is the transfer request by **David Hall** which was granted at a fee of £8,000 this week. Experience has shown that only clubs with a strong first team squad can compete successfully in the First Division and the Club policy this season has been to build up adequate cover for every position as well as bringing competition for places. Dave, along with **Bernard Watson** and **Mike Smith** gives us as strong a centre permutation as any club in the League and his request is most regrettable. Our disappointment, however, is tempered by the decision of **John Millington** to ask to come off the list, a request with which we were pleased to comply.

**ROGER MILLWARD BENEFIT FUND**—The Fund for Roger Millward's Benefit continues to grow steadily, and the next event is a Boxing Film Show at

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On **Tuesday, 8th March**, we have arranged a super Cabaret and Buffet at the **Birkholme Club**, Hedon, at which Royal Variety artists **Ronnie Dukes** and **Ricky Lee** are booked to appear. Amongst those who have promised to attend is Wakefield forward **Mick Morgan**, and those who were at Bailey's recently know how entertaining he can be.

Donations to the Fund are invited and will be welcomed by either Rovers' Secretary **Ron Turner** at Craven Park, or the Fund Treasurer, **Frank Morton** at the Trustee Savings Bank, Greenwich Avenue, Bilton Grange. Donations will be acknowledged in the Club programme.

This week we acknowledge donations from **Mr. Frank Henderson** of the New Brunswick Club and **Mr. Alf Mooney** of the Silver Moon Club.

**"TOUCH DOWN"**—We regret any inconvenience caused to our regular programme buyers at the match with Leeds due to the very late arrival of the new Official Rugby League publication "Touch Down," which we had arranged to give away with every programme. In spite of many enquiries the "Touch Down" did not arrive until 45 minutes before kick off and consequently we were unable to commence the sale of programmes at the usual time. We therefore tender our apologies but the circumstances were completely beyond our control. We hope to be able to give copies of the second issue of "Touch Down" free to programme buyers again this afternoon.



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**FIRST TEAM FIXTURES LIST 1976-77**

1976		Venue	Result	Score	Att.	Receipts
Aug.	22—Castleford (Yorks Cup I)	....H	L	12-18	4,772	£2166
Sept.	5—Wigan	....H	W	25-11	4,450	£1660
	12—Barrow	....A	L	2-14	—	—
	14—Dewsbury (Floodlit Cup Prelim.)	....H	W	19-12	3,276	£1480
	19—Featherstone	....H	L	8-21	5,209	£1960
	24—Salford	....A	D	16-16	—	—
Oct.	3—Workington	....H	W	21- 8	4,550	£1682
	5—Castleford (Floodlit Cup I)	....A	L	8-16	—	—
	10—Featherstone	....A	L	13-31	—	—
	17—Widnes	....H	W	18-17	4,900	£1825
	24—St. Helens (Players No. 6) I....	....H	L	7-12	5,984	£2700
	31—Castleford	....H	W	16- 8	4,387	£1985
Nov.	14—Wigan	....A	L	11-17	—	—
	21—Warrington	....H	W	23-11	3,920	£1370
	28—St. Helens	....A	L	8-32	—	—
Dec.	10—Castleford	....A	W	23-12	—	—
	19—Rochdale	....A	L	4- 7	—	—
	27—Leigh	....H	W	23- 9	4,473	£1620

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**FIRST TEAM FIXTURE LIST—continued**

1977		Venue	Results	Score	Att.	Receipts
Jan.	1—Leeds	....A	L	8-23	—	—
	9—Salford	....H	W	15-10	4,758	£1775
	16—Bradford	....A	Postponed			
	23—Leeds	....H	W	25- 9	5,369	£2040
	30—Widnes	....A	W	5- 3	—	—
Feb.	6—Oldham	....H				
	13—R.L. Cup I	Keighley	....H			
	26—R.L. Cup II	....				
Mar.	6—Leigh	....A				
	13—Bradford	....H				
	20—Wakefield	....A				
	27—St. Helens	....H				
April	3—Workington	....A				
	11—Oldham	....A				
	17—Wakefield	....H				
	22—Rochdale	....H				
	24—Barrow	....H				

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### SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Today we welcome the supporters of the Oldham team and hope they enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

Congratulations to the lads for a great game against Leeds. This was Rugby League at its best and was much appreciated by all who saw it. The team really seems to be settling down nicely now, just in time we hope for a good cup run. We supporters can play our part in this by really getting behind the team and encouraging them all the way. Tell your friends about the game—bring them along next time. Once they have seen for themselves they will want to come again.

The Roger Millward Benefit is progressing nicely and the Committee are grateful for your continuing support at the various functions in aid of this effort. The next date for your diary is Tuesday, 15th February, 1977 at the Telstar Club when a show of Boxing Films will provide entertainment. Tickets can be obtained at the door, price 30p each.

Did you vote in the Supporters' Club 'Player of the Year' Award today? (Open to Members only in the Clubhouse before the match). Who do you think will win it this year? There are so many fine players in the team just now it really could be almost anyone.

The Supporters' Club Committee are still working extremely hard to overcome the problems associated with re-building our clubhouse. There are still a few hurdles to cross yet. Members can play their part by continuing to use the club and supporting our functions. There is an excellent concert every Sunday evening for members and bona fide guests. If you haven't been for a while please look in again. Strong support from you gives us the strength to re-build.

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