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*Centenary  
Season*

**OLDHAM**  
v  
**CASTLEFORD**

SUNDAY 20th MARCH

Kick Off 3-30 p.m.

Programme  
**10p**

# OLDHAM OUTLOOK

## OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION, WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM

President: H. V. ASHWORTH

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Social Club Manageress: Mrs. F. BOWDEN, Tel. 061-624 7240

Physiotherapist: F. NAVESEY

Assistant Physiotherapist: J. WATKINS

Groundsman: P. HARTER

### HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55.

First Division Champions: 1904-05.

Second Division Champions: 1963-64.

Rugby League Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26.

Lancashire Cup winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69.

Lancashire Championship winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55.

Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Steve Herbert touches down for his seventh try of the season.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to Watersheddings the former England soccer goalkeeper, Eddie Hopkinson, who has taken over the responsibility for the players' fitness on a voluntary basis.

Eddie, a qualified FA coach, is something of a fitness fanatic and is very experienced in the methods of helping sportsmen of various kinds to reach the peak of physical condition.

Maybe some eyebrows were raised when Eddie first came here two weeks ago because of his life - long connections with "the other game".

But ask any of those supporters who regularly watch training what sort of difference Eddie has made and they will be full of praise for his efforts.

More important, perhaps, is the fact that the players are already very much on Eddie's side. He drives them hard in training but like true professionals they realise this is all for their own good and already Eddie is held in the highest esteem among the players.

It is welcome time, too, for Ken Wilson. Ken resigned the post of coach in December but has now offered to come back and help us out on a temporary basis until the end of the season.

This means that he teams up once more with Brian Churm to form the partnership that was so successful in guiding our "A" team to Lancashire Shield success last season.

We are delighted that Ken has returned to the fold - albeit temporarily - and we firmly believe that in Ken, Brian and Eddie we have a threesome that can do a splendid job for the club.

Of course, we face a tremendous task now in winning sufficient points to stay in the First Division.

These notes had to be written before the mid - week match at Leeds and before the Leigh v Widnes fixture on the same night.

At the time of writing, however, it looked almost certain that the four relegation clubs would be from Barrow, Leigh, Oldham, Rochdale and Wakefield.

If we assume that Barrow are already doomed, that leaves Leigh, Oldham, Rochdale and Wakefield in contention for the big drop.

It is interesting, therefore, to compare the programmes of these clubs between now and the seasons end.

They are: OLDHAM - Castleford (H), Bradford (A), Wakefield (H), Salford (H) Rochdale (A), Leigh (H), Warrington (A) and Widnes (H).

ROCHDALE - Barrow (H), Salford (H), Widnes (A), Oldham (H), Castleford (H), Hull KR. (A), Wigan (H), Leigh (H).

LEIGH - Wigan (H), Wakefield (A), Rochdale (A), Wakefield (H), Workington (H) Oldham (A), Barrow (A), St. Helens (A), Bradford (A).

WAKEFIELD - Leigh (H), Leigh (A), Hull KR (H), Hull KR (A), Castleford (A), Oldham (A), Leeds (H), Featherstone (H), Workington (H).

Changing the subject to the "A" team we would like to extend our congratulations to coach Brian Churm and his players at their achievement in reaching the Shield final for the second consecutive year.

They now meet Wigan, coached by Peter Smethurst, whose team has not been beaten even once all season! It all makes for a terrific clash in the final.

Details of the match, which will be played on two legs, home and away, will be announced in the press as soon as they are finalised.

YOU'LL FIND ALL THE OLDHAM LOCAL SPORT

IN DEPTH

IN MONDAY'S

**OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE**

# OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

Englands European Championship match against France at Carcassonne this afternoon has deprived visitors Castleford of the services of two star players, ace loose-forward Steve Norton and top try scorer and Young England skipper Bruce Burton, for today's vital match which will have an important bearing on both the Championship and relegation issues.

Castleford's unexpected defeat at Barrow on Tuesday has left them in fourth place in the league table and they seem unlikely now to catch top club Featherstone but they still look set to qualify for a home tie in the Premiership quarter-finals. They have already won both the Floodlit Cup and Players Trophy this season with final victories over Leigh 12-4 and Blackpool Borough 25-15 respectively but their deep involvement in cup competition has seen them slip a little in First Division games although they still managed to beat Wigan and Warrington away as well as completing 'double' successes over both Leigh and Workington Town so, following their 11-5 win over Oldham earlier this season, will be out to record their third 'double' of the season today.

Castleford's narrow victory over Oldham last October was their third consecutive league victory over the Watersheddings outfit for last season they scored a league 'double' by winning 8-6 here and by 31-18 at Wheldon Road. One has to go back to April 1974 for Oldham's last win at Castleford's expense for, despite being relegated that season, Oldham won at Castleford 25-12 after pulling off an exciting 14-13 win here at Watersheddings the previous October. That home victory over Castleford triggered off an amazing seven match winning sequence by Oldham in which they also beat Featherstone Rovers home and away, Widnes, Wigan and Saint Helens, an astonishing turn about after winning only two of their opening 14 matches. At scrum-half for Castleford on that trip to Watersheddings was Glen Knight, now on Oldham's books, but he is only one of several changes in both sides since that evening when the sides lined up as follows: Oldham: Martin Murphy; Geoff Munro; Mike Elliott; Tony Wainwright; Chris O'Brien; Johnny Blair; Peter Astbury; Terry Clawson; Kevin Taylor; Brian Hughes; Fred Hall; Billy McCracken and Jimmy Reynolds. Substitutes, Bob Gaitley and Arthur Daley.

Castleford: Trevor Briggs; Derek Foster; Keith Worsley; Paul Higgins; Alan Lowndes; Gary Brook; Glen Knight; Alan Ackroyd; Tony Miller; Brian Lockwood; Cliff Wallis; Sam Lloyd and Steve Norton. Substitutes, Ray Newton (for Brook) and Trevor Chawner (for Ackroyd).

Castleford actually scored three tries to Oldham's two in that game, with Paul Higgins, Cliff Wallis and Steve Norton claiming their touchdowns, but Sam Lloyd could only land two goals as opposed to Terry Clawson who landed four. Oldham's tries came from Tony Wainwright and Fred Hall.

One of the secrets of Castleford's fine run of success this season has been the influence of skipper and coach Mal Reilly, an outstanding tactician and ball player who has enjoyed tremendous personal success throughout his 10 year career. Twenty-nine years old Reilly is a product of the Kippax junior club who joined Castleford in 1967 and slotted into his Club's outstanding side of the late 1960's. He was a member of the Castleford team which was beaten in the 1969 Championship Final, a match which took place just seven days after Reilly had won his biggest prize - the Lance Todd Trophy as Castleford's star in their 11-6 victory over Salford at Wembley. Twelve months later Reilly's second ambition was realised when he toured Australasia with the Great Britain party where, whilst on tour, he was impressed by the wealthy set up in Australia. The Aussies were also impressed by Reilly and when he moved to Australia in 1971 Manly were only too pleased to pay £15,000 for his services. However, Reilly always intended returning home to Yorkshire and in October 1974 he resumed his association with Castleford where he has built the side up to be the most exciting outfit of this campaign. They have already lifted two trophies this season and last weekend's shock Challenge Cup exit will make them even more determined to succeed in their quest for the First Division title, one trophy which has eluded Castleford throughout their 51 year history.

## Brian Batty

Rugby League has been on the receiving end once again, having been used as an excuse for some of Rugby Union's failings.

The latest dig in the ribs for League will cause little pain, rather a few hearty chuckles.

The scene was Cardiff Arms Park where a Sunday sports columnist, obviously with little knowledge of League and Union was attempting to pick a few brains.

He encountered someone described later as an English enthusiast, who I would suspect was either a Union official or a critic of the 15-a-side code.

The result was the following comment on the English Rugby Union team:

"This is more like a real national team, the sort what will show what we could have done to this lot here over the years if we had not had to suffer the constant draining of our best talent into Rugby League.

"Now we have a truer representation of our Rugby Union as it is played in the tough areas of the North and West and the advantage the Welsh have always had in drawing from a tightly integrated community, and from a large reservoir of working class players, will not be nearly as great today.

"This is the match that may show the Welsh that if Rugby League had not been formed in 1895 we would have been pushing them into the Taff every other year".

That is quite a statement from a mere 'enthusiast'.

It is true that League have plucked the odd player from Northern Rugby Union clubs but only on rare occasions, certainly there has been no drain for there just is not the talent to justify spending by clubs.

If any area of Rugby Union was entitled to complain then surely it would be South Wales which has seen a great number of its stars turn professional.

Not that the Welsh have done any serious bleating. They have got on with the game and the beating of England.

I think the real tragedy about 1895 was that the Welsh did not form a professional League and then we could have seen the real rugby players if the North - the skilful and tough men of League - give them something to think about at Cardiff Arms Park.

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### Oldham

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- 2 LUND, S.
- 3 HILL, D.
- 4 WHITTLE, A.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE D.
- 7 PATERSON, D.
- 8 OWEN, G.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 HICKS, R.
- 11 TAYLOR, I.
- 12 ASHCROFT, K.
- 13 POLLARD, G.
- 14
- 15

Referee:  
A. T. PARKER  
(York)

T G Dg P

T	G	Dg	P

### Castleford

- 1 CLAUGHTON, G.
- 2 FENTON, S.
- 3 JOYNER, J.
- 4 NEWTON, R.
- 5 RICHARDSON, T.
- 6 JOHNSON, P.
- 7 STEVENS, G.
- 8 BENCE, A.
- 9 FISHER, A.
- 10 DICKINSON, A.
- 11 REILLY, M.
- 12 ORR, P.
- 13 LLOYD, G.
- 14
- 15

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Hooker Roger O'Mahoney, always a busy defender, brings down an opponent in the match against Warrington, Chris O'Brien our new full back discovery, is there to cover.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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# Oldham FC Down the Years

NO. 15 BY TOM WEBB

Football was settling down during season 1946-47. Johnny Ring, the man with the phenomenal sidestep, became trainer-coach in January 1947. Herman Hilton, one of Oldham's best home products, died during the season. Membership reached 1,877. The captain was Norman Harris and seemingly the only acquisition for the season was George Wood from Barrow. George Gummer moved to Rochdale Hornets. The club reached the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup but lost interest in the Challenge Cup at the end of the first round which was played in two legs, home and away. Griffiths (38 goals) Large (25 tries) Inglesfield (3 goals and 12 tries), Thomas (12 goals and 11 tries) and Harris (3 goals and 10 tries) led the scorers.

Johnny Ring finished his duties in the November of the 1947-48 season. Membership rose to 2,780. Bill Griffiths left for Rochdale Hornets at a fee of £100 and Tom Ayres went to Barrow for £300. Irvin Barraclough joined the club from Featherstone Rovers. Barraclough led the goal scorers with 32, Griffiths 17 and Spencer 10 coming next. Inglesfield (21), Large (14) and Mahoney (11) were at the top of the try scoring chart. The best gate was 17,239 for the New Zealand match and the takings amounted to £2,083.

During 1948-49 the average home gate was 8,125 with a membership of 3,054. The challenge cup tie with Halifax had an attendance of 18,145 and the receipts of £2,432 set up a new club record. On the wrong side of the account we lost to Warrington 55-0, 37-0 and 34-12 Stanley Smith became the trainer-coach with Alec Givvons as "A" team coach. Stan had played for Wakefield and Leeds and had been an international wing-er. Jim Chalmers (Hawick), Tommy Leyland (St. Helens), John Casey (Wigan), Ken Ward (Halifax), Les Anthony (Neath), T. Williams (Cross Keys), R. Batten (Leeds), Frank Daley (Leigh), W.G. Jones (St. Helens), Shearing (Workington Town), Jim Tynan (Leeds), Joe Silva (Llanelli), Joe Warham (Swinton), J. Sugden (Waterhead), J. Donegan (Widnes St. Marie's) and Harold Tomlinson (also Widnes St. Marie's) joined the club.

Players moving to other clubs were Norman Harris (Leigh), Joe Mahoney the Captain (Dewsbury), S.J. Inglesfield (York), Norman Thompson (Dewsbury), Thomas (Leeds), Frost (Whitehaven), V. Kenny (Swinton) and Jonathan Pilkington (St. Helens).

Total attendances at all first team away games in 1949-50 were 199,187 and home games 231,741. The average attendance was 8,500, the membership 2,652 and a profit of £328 was made.

Bryn Goldswain was the captain, taking over after Jim Tynan had skippered the first three games. Like Goldswain, Ken Jackson, Arthur Tomlinson, Jack Keith, Johnny Dean and Albert Fearnley made their debuts. Charlie Winslade signed but did not make the first team until the following season. Barraclough (73 goals) Joe Warham (18 tries) and R. Batten (10 tries) led the scorers.

In 1949-50 Frank Holt the Oldham cricketer was club president, Arthur Cordwell vice president and Percy Carter treasurer. Other committee men were F.W. Ashworth, J. Coulthard, T.W. Hurlley, F. Knowles, J.W. Lewthwaite, F. Ridgway, G. Shaw, E. Thomas, R.L. Thomas and J.S. Parkinson who retired during the year.

President in 1950-51 was Arthur Cordwell, the well-known swimmer and water polo player with Percy Carter as acting vice-president. Joe Coulthard took over as treasurer with Sandy Campbell the former soccer player, joining the committee.

Attendances averaged 8,227. Alan Davies and Bernard Ganley made their debuts in September and March respectively. Goldswain (53 goals), Bill Ratchford (21 goals and 1 try), Joe Warham (20 tries) and Laurie Platt (16 tries) scored most points. Terry O'Grady, Frank Stirrup, Ted Ward (Wigan), Bryn Day, Herbert Goodfellow (Wakefield) and Charlie Winslade played for the first team for the first time this season.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

MARCH 30th K.O. 7.30

## Oldham v Wakefield

FIXTURES 1976-77

FIRST TEAM				"A" TEAM			
Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.	Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.
1976				Mar. 12	(Sat.) Leeds (3-00)	A	
Aug. 22	(Sun.) 1st Round County Cup-Blackpool (3-00)	A	10-17	20	(Sun.) Castleford (3-30)	H	
Sept. 5	(Sun.) Widnes (3-00)	A	20-22	27	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	A	
12	(Sun.) Leeds (3-30)	H	10-18	Apr. 3	(Sun.) Salford (3-30)	H	
19	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	A	13-19	8	(G.F.) Rochdale H. (3-00)	A	
26	(Sun.) Wigan (3-30)	H	23-20	17	(Sun.) Warrington (3-00)	A	
Oct. 3	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	A	13-11	24	(Sun.) Widnes (3-30)	H	
10	(Sun.) Barrow (3-30)	H	33- 01				
15	(Fri.) Castleford 7-30	A	5-11				
23/24	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 1st Round Batley	H	17- 9	Aug. 21	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	A	F. A.
31	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	H	10-20	28	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	H	36- 4
Nov. 6/7	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 2nd Round Leigh	H	13-28	18	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	H	25- 9
14	(Sun.) Barrow (2-30)	A	23-16	25	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	A	22-17
21	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-30)	H	9-20	Oct. 2	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	H	15-35
28	(Sun.) Workington T. (3-30)	H	11- 2	9	(Sat.) Barrow (2-30)	A	26- 8
Dec. 5	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (2-30)	A		20	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	22-17
12	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (3-30)	A		27	(Sat.) Workington (2-30)	A	3-21
19	(Sun.) Wigan (3-00)	A		Dec. 18	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	H	
26	(Sun.) Rochdale H. (3-30)	H		5-23			8-18
				1977			
1977				8	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	H	
Jan. 2	(Sun.) Salford (3-00)	A	12-33	15	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	A	10-11
9	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	7-17	22	(Sat.) Workington (3-00)	H	10-21
16	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	H	P.P.	5	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	H	21-14
23	(Sun.) Workington T. (2-30)	A		18	(Fri.) Warrington (7-30)	A	12-11
30	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	H		25	(Fri.) Rochdale (7-30)	A	
Feb. 6	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (2-45)	A		8-23	Mar. 12	(Sat.) Warrington (3-00)	H
12/13	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 1st Round, Dewsbury	H		19	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	A	
20	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (3-30)	H		26	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	A	
27	(Sun.) Warrington (3-30)	H		Apr. 9	(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00)	H	

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