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**V**

**SALFORD**

SUNDAY 3rd APRIL 1977

Kick Off 3-30 p.m.

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

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

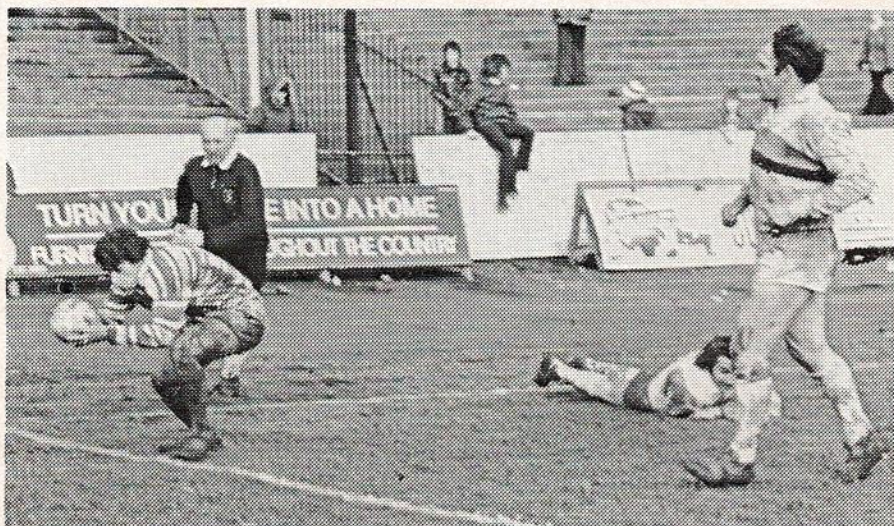
Lancashire Cup winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

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.



Winger Steve Lund crosses the Bradford line for his 12th try of the season last Sunday, Covering across is former Oldham forward Terry Clawson

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

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# OLDHAM OUTLOOK

We welcome to Watersheddings today the players and officials of the Salford club and especially our former physiotherapist Dennis Wright, who will shortly be flying out to Australia as a member of the Great Britain world championship squad.

The coach to the squad, announced last week, is David Watkins, so Salford will have a major part to play in the destiny of the world crown.

They come to Watersheddings today following what has been, by their own high standards, a disappointing season with a Challenge Cup exit at Workington the biggest disappointment of all.

Shortly after that defeat, that most likeable of coaches, Les Bettinson, handed in his resignation as Salford coach but will, happily, continue to serve the club in the role of director.

His successor, at least on a temporary basis until the season's end, is Colin Dixon, who will be anxious to see his side return to winning ways today, having dropped two crucial points in their battle to make the top eight in last week-end's match at Rochdale.

Salford have world-class players in men like Watkins, wingers Keith Fielding and Maurice Richards, centre Chris Hesketh, halves Ken Gill and Steve Nash, and forwards Mike Coulman, Eric Prescott and Dixon himself.

It will take a tremendous Oldham effort to keep the Reds at bay but we can take encouragement from the fact that in the league match at the Willows on New Year's Day we were the better side for half an hour until the enforced retirement of Dickie Brown.

Indeed, we have been bedevilled by cruel injury losses this season and we have currently a full team of players on the injured list or otherwise unavailable.

The situation changes almost daily, of course, but certainly before last Sunday's Bradford match we could name a side of Oldham players who were unavailable for one reason or another but mostly because of injuries.

How about this for an Oldham team of injured players or, in the odd case, players who were unavailable: Murphy, Elliott, Larder, Jackson, Barton, Knight, Treasure, Hughes, Brown, Owen, Herbert, Kear, Pollard. Subs: McCone, Flanagan. Reserves: Ryans, Hall.

Add to that the enforced retirement of Bob Welding and you see the sort of problems we are having to contend with.

However, the players equipped themselves well at Bradford and we trust they will go into today's match with the same determination and sense of purpose.

We have after today another four first team matches left: Rochdale away, Leigh at home on Easter Monday, Warrington away and Widnes at home.

The 'A' team have seven matches remaining plus the home and away final tie in the Lancashire Shield against Wigan. At the last meeting of the Lancashire County committee, two balls were put in a bag, one representing Wigan and the other representing the winners of the Oldham - Widnes semi-final.

Wigan came out first so they have choice of venue for the final.

Not unaturally, they chose Central Park as venue for the second leg and this has been provisionally arranged for Wednesday evening, April 20th.

For the first leg at Watersheddings we have suggested either the Tuesday or Wednesday evening of the previous week and we are now awaiting Wigan's confirmation.

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IN DEPTH

IN MONDAY'S

## OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

# OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

This afternoon First Division Champions Salford visit Watersheddings in what, for them, is a very important match for they are now fighting for a place in the top eight and with it the opportunity to compete in the Premiership play-off when, hopefully, they can gain some reward from a season which has promised much but which, so far, has left them empty handed.

They at present lie in ninth place in the league table just one point below Widnes having won 12 and drawn one of their 24 First Division matches. Salford's main problem this season has been their inconsistency, a fault which was highlighted last week when they went up to Workington and won before losing to relegation threatened Rochdale Hornets just three days later. Indeed, Salford have pulled off three magnificent away victories over Leeds, Castleford and Featherstone Rovers, victories which would have seen them high up the table but for uncharacteristic slips in losing at home to Leigh and conceding 'double' defeats to both Widnes and St. Helens. It has been a similar disheartening story in cup football where in the four knock-out cup competitions, Salford's only successes have been against Huyton, Huddersfield and the amateurs of Ace Caravans.

However, when Oldham visited the Willows in early January they caught the home side on one of their 'on' days and came home reeling from a 33-12 thrashing which halted a Salford sequence of three successive defeats. Although Oldham did draw at Salford last season, one has to go back to April 1974 for their last victory over Salford and even then it was only by the narrow margin of 4-2 and was merely Oldham's second success in the 11 meetings between the two clubs in the past five seasons. Oldham's other win in this dismal sequence came in a rousing Floodlit Cup-tie which lit up Watersheddings and provided one of the highlights of the 1972-73 season. Oldham had made a bright start to that campaign and when Salford travelled up for the match Oldham had suffered only two defeats in their opening nine matches but one of those defeats was a heavy 41-17 hammering at Salford in the Lancashire Cup. The game attracted a crowd of 4,507 to Watersheddings which was Oldham's biggest gate for 2½ years and they came to see the following two teams in action:

Oldham: Martin Murphy, Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Norman Hodgkinson, Cliff Hill, Mick McCone, Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft, Bob Irving, Arthur Daley and Jimmy Reynolds.

Salford: Paul Charlton, Tony Colloby, David Watkins, Chris Hesketh, Maurice Richards, Ken Gill, Peter Banner, Terry Ramshaw, Peter Walker, Johnny Ward, Bill Kirkbride, Doug Davies and Colin Dixon.

That bumper gate were certainly not disappointed with the fare provided and Oldham, whose tremendous tackling was a feature of the game, were able to gain revenge for their earlier cup exit by recording a magnificent and exciting 12-8 win which they thoroughly deserved for their teamwork far outmatched anything Salford could produce. Oldham scored two tries through Norman Hodgkinson and Mick McCone that evening with Phil Larder landing three goals while all Salford could muster was four goals from the trusty boot of David Watkins their brilliant Welsh international full-back who this summer will be coaching Great Britain in their quest to win the World Championship in Australasia.

Watkins, who celebrated his 35th birthday at the beginning of last month, enjoyed a tremendous international rugby union career with Newport RUFC in which he toured Australasia with the 1966 British Lions and also made 21 appearances for Wales. He turned professional with Salford in October 1967 making his league debut against Oldham later that month and developed into one of the most attractive personalities in the game. Watkins also developed into a prolific points scorer breaking his club's goal and point scoring records on no fewer than three occasions. In 1972-73 his total of 221 goals also created a World record while that season also brought him 17 tries for a total of 493 points. On the international front, Watkins has played 12 times for Wales and six times for Great Britain with trips to Australasia for the full British Tour of 1974 and again with Wales for the 1975 World Cup so he is a vastly experienced campaigner whose tremendous speed over a short distance still makes him a dangerous opponent and one who will command a good deal of respect from Oldham this afternoon.



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- 3 PETERS, A.
- 4 MUNRO, G.
- 5 O'BRIEN, C.
- 6 WHITTLE, A.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 CLARKE, C.
- 11 TAYLOR, I.
- 12 FLANAGHAN K.
- 13 REYNOLDS, J.
- 14
- 15

Referee:  
J. McDONALD  
(Wigan)

T G Dg P


### Salford

- 1 WATKINS, D.
- 2 FIELDING, K.
- 3 GRAHAM, G.
- 4 HESKETH, C.
- 5 RICHARDS, R.
- 6 GILL, K.
- 7 NASH, S.
- 8 COULMAN, M.
- 9 EVANS, R.
- 10 GRICE, A.
- 11 MANTLE, J.
- 12 DIXON, C.
- 13 PRESCOTT, E.
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# Oldham FC Down the Years

No 17 By TOM WEBB

The first success of 1957-58 was the retention of the Lancashire Cup and Wigan were our victims in the final. Unfortunately, the Wigan team gained its revenge by winning the third round R.L. cup-tie at Watersheddings. The Lancashire League championship was again won walloped Hull by 43-9 but three matches later in the semi-final we went down to Hull, the and Oldham topped the Northern Rugby League. Just before the top four play-offs Oldham walloped Hull by 43-9 but three matches later in the semi-final we went down to Hull, the fourth club at Watersheddings by 20-8.

Bernard Ganley created a goal-kicking record and, including the Law Cup match, he scored 223 goals for Oldham. Leading try scorers were Dick Cracknell 27, Vin Nester 19, Alan Davies 19, John Etty 17, Frank Pitchford 16, Sid Little 14 and Jack Kelth 12. With 3,488 members the average attendance was 13,749 at home and 14,515 away. The club made a profit of £1,084.

Ganley obliged with 192 goals in 1958-59. Cracknell again topped the try scorers with 20, followed by Davies 19, Alan Kellett 18, and Kelth Pitchford 13 each and Geoff Sims and Ike Southward 10 each. Ike's transfer fee was a record for the game at around £10,000. Sean Quinlan, Len McIntyre, Alf Mumberson and Bob Pugsley were among 17 signings by the club whilst five departures included Derek Turner, Don Vines and John Etty to Wakefield Trinity. The lucky trio were to gain cup winners' medals at Wembley. The Lancashire Cup was won for the third time running but St. Helens put us out of the Challenge Cup in the first round, at Watersheddings before a reported attendance of 23,000. The lowest crowd at home was for the match with Liverpool City. In our last league match of the season we beat St. Helens 15-14 but in the next match at St. Helens in the semi-final of the play-off we were routed by 42-4.

In 1959-60 we reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup, meeting Hull at Swinton, but a 12-9 defeat once again kept us from Wembley. Geoff Robinson from Whitehaven, Bill Payne from Liverpool City and Gordon Haynes were the major newcomers while Ron Rowbottom left for Hull Kingston Rovers, Jack Kelth for Halifax and Dennis Ayres for Swinton. Ganley kicked 166 goals. Ike Southward ran in 31 tries, Johnny Noon 22 tries in addition to 30 goals, Alan Kellett 19 tries, Vin Nester 17 tries and Alan Davies 12 tries.

Individual honours for Alan Davies in playing in World Cup and other international engagements and the winning of the Law Cup were the main items that Oldham supporters had to enthuse about in 1960-61. Ganley in his last season with the club, scored 89 goals.

Johnny Noon topped the try list with 24 (and he added 19 goals), with Kellett 18, Bill Patterson 17, Southward 14 and Dave Parker and Kelth Holden 8 each following up. The last two, along with Jack Pycroft joined the club during the season. Dick Smith left for Rochdale Hornets, Des McKeown for Wakefield Trinity and Ike Southward back to Workington Town at a fee which gave Oldham a profit on his two transfers of two pounds, ten shillings in old money.

In 1961-62 Oldham and the Hornets joined in playing the New Zealand tourists, the first time such a thing happened. Johnny Noon's five goals were too many for the four scored by the Kiwis. Our three home matches at Christmas were all cancelled on account of snow. Geoff Sims kicked 116 goals and scored 12 tries with Johnny Noon's 24 tries and 15 goals putting him second of the point scorers. Kelth Holden 19, Alan Kellett 16, Brian Lord 15 and Mike Bird 11 also registered tries. Alan Davies left for Wigan, Bill Payne for Warrington and Roger Duffy for Barrow. Other moves involved Charlie Winslade going to Warrington and Peter Smethurst and Malcolm Price joining Oldham from Swinton and Pontypool R.U. respectively.

## Brian Batty

Great Britain are wasting their time sending a side to the World championship if we are to believe the claims of some Sydney-based experts.

Those players who made trips to Australia in the past are familiar with the controversial views of television personality Ron Casey.

Test star Bobby Fulton can also be expected to be biased if not as outrageous as Casey. But it comes as a surprise when Brian Lockwood jumps on the Aussie bandwagon.

Wakefield Trinity's player-coach had barely let the dust settle from his feet on arriving to play for Balmain before he was making the headlines with a piece of Pom-bashing. 'The game has slumped in its standards at home and I can't see Australia having any trouble keeping the Championship', announced Lockwood.

That was a lot worse to digest than Casey claiming that Australia can afford to go at half-pace to beat us and Fulton saying our boys have forgotten how to tackle.

'That's our Brian. He must feel he has to put on a show for the Aussies but he must have known in his heart he was wrong', says his cousin, Roger Millward.

What makes Lockwood's view so unpalatable is that he was a member of the 1972 World Cup winning side against Australia and played in 1973 series.

Alex Murphy has never let his feelings for the Aussies change and says: 'Lockwood is the last one who should be criticising our game in England.

'It is a disgrace. He did not crack any eggs with Wakefield while he was over and there is no need for him to knuckle down to the Aussies.

'They know that were lucky to pinch the championship from us last time. They could not beat England and were lucky to get a draw in Sydney.

'So how they can start writing off a Great Britain side I don't know. They will always be second best to us if we pick the right players for the job'.



Geoff Munro has made only nine first-team appearances this season, substitutions apart. But this try he scored at Bradford last Sunday was his fifth and one that put Oldham only four points down.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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## NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

APRIL 11th K.O. 3.30

## Oldham v Leigh

### FIXTURES 1976-77

#### FIRST TEAM

Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.
1976			
Aug. 22	(Sun.) 1st Round County Cup—Blackpool (3-00)	A	10-17
Sept. 5	(Sun.) Widnes (3-00)	A	20-22
12	(Sun.) Leeds (3-30)	H	10-18
19	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	A	13-19
26	(Sun.) Wigan (3-30)	H	23-20
Oct. 3	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	A	13-11
10	(Sun.) Barrow (3-30)	H	33-01 1976
15	(Fri.) Castleford 7-30	A	5-11 Date
23/24	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 1st Round Batley	H	17-9
31	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	H	10-20
Nov. 6/7	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 2nd Round—Leigh	H	13-28 Oct.
14	(Sun.) Barrow (2-30)	A	23-16
21	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-30)	H	9-20
28	(Sun.) Workington T. (3-30)	H	11-2
Dec. 5	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (2-30)	A	5-23 1977
12	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (3-30)	H	0-18 Jan.
19	(Sun.) Wigan (3-00)	A	14-6
26	(Sun.) Rochdale H. (3-30)	H	12-33 Feb.
1977			
Jan. 2	(Sun.) Salford (3-00)	A	7-17
9	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	18
16	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	H	25 (Fri.)
23	(Sun.) Workington T. (2-30)	A	8-23 Mar.
30	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	H	12 (Sat.)
Feb. 6	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (2-45)	A	19 (Sat.)
12/13	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 1st Round, Dewsbury	H	26 (Sat.)
20	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (3-30)	H	9 (Sat.)
27	(Sun.) Warrington (3-30)	H	8-15
			7-15
Mar. 12	(Sat.) Leeds (3-00)	A	
20	(Sun.) Castleford (3-30)	H	
27	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	A	
Apr. 3	(Sun.) Salford (3-30)	H	
8	(G.F.) Rochdale H. (3-00)	A	
17	(Sun.) Warrington (3-00)	A	
24	(Sun.) Widnes (3-30)	H	

#### "A" TEAM

Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.
Aug. 21	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	A	36-4
28	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	H	25-9
18	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	H	22-17
25	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	A	15-35
2	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	H	26-8
9	(Sat.) Barrow (2-30)	A	22-17
20	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	3-21
27	(Sat.) Workington (2-30)	A	
18	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	H	8-18
Dec. 18	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	H	10-11
15	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	A	10-21
22	(Sat.) Workington (3-00)	H	21-14
5	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	H	12-11
18	(Fri.) Warrington (7-30)	A	
25	(Fri.) Rochdale (7-30)	A	
12	(Sat.) Warrington (3-00)	H	
19	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	A	
26	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	A	
9	(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00)	H	

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