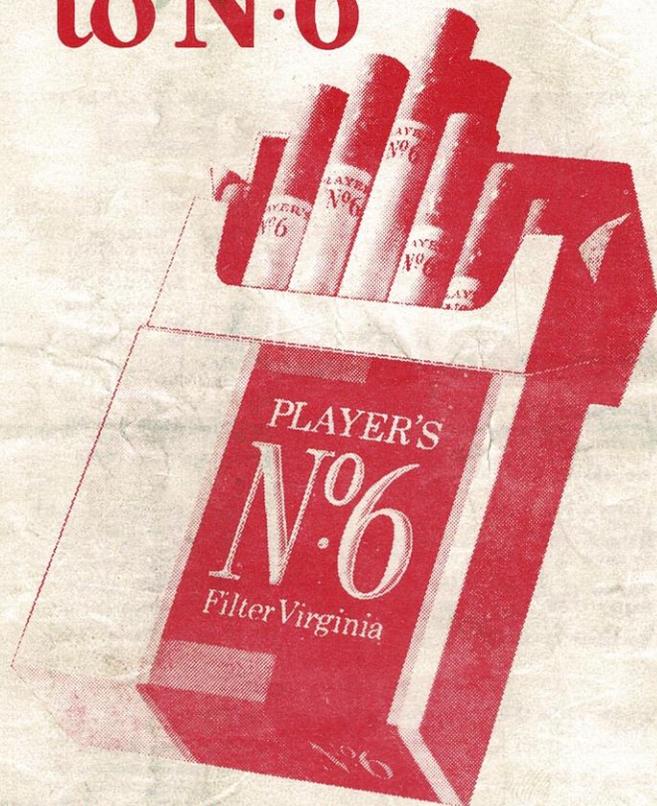


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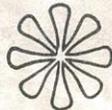
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## OLDHAM OUTLOOK

After four consecutive Second Division wins the Oldham camp is a much happier place than it has been for some time. These notes were written before Wednesday's home clash against Warrington in the Floodlit Trophy but there is no doubt that, whatever the outcome of the cup tie, wins against Barrow, Blackpool, Huyton and Doncaster have done much to inspire the belief that promotion can be gained at the first attempt.

However, it is very early days yet and in welcoming Terry Gorman and his Swinton side today we must take warning from the fact that Swinton had their first win against Batley last Sunday and will, consequently, be out to pull off a shock.

Terry will be remembered as our former "A" team coach and as such he will have an extra special reason for wanting his boys to win today. The same applies to Keith Ashcroft.

This is the first chance we have had of welcoming to Watersheddings our two most recent recruits, Peter Jewitt and Alan Bates. Peter, a local lad, has joined us from Warrington after successfully completing trials and scrum-half Alan is here from Dewsbury.

Judging by his display when he came on as substitute at Doncaster he is going to be a very popular addition to the staff!

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of Bryn Day, our former player coach and committee man. Welshman Bryn moved north in 1946 to sign for Warrington and he came to Watersheddings, from Belle Vue Rangers in 1950.

He played for Oldham for three seasons, represented Wales against both England and France, and later moved on to Leigh. His playing days finished he joined the Oldham committee and later became coach for a spell in 1962. In 1970 he was back on the committee until he resigned, for business reasons, in 1974.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife and family and trust that this will be shared by all Oldham supporters.

---

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## OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Another victory last week against the vastly improved Doncaster at Tatters Field stretched Oldham's run of successive league victories to four and they now find themselves in joint third position in the Second Division table, two points behind Rochdale Hornets, one point behind York and on level pegging with Huddersfield, Leigh and Barrow. These five clubs appear to be the ones who could bar the way to Oldham's promotion dreams and so it is vital that home matches like today's be won if those promotion ambitions are to be realised.

This afternoon Oldham face their first local 'derby' of the season when they entertain Swinton, a side they have beaten in five of the last six meetings between the two clubs. When the clubs last met, in First Division matches during season 1975-76, Oldham completed a league double over the Lions, winning by 25-5 here at Watersheddings and by 17-2 at Station Road, while one has to go back to November 1974 for Swinton's last success at the expense of Oldham, the Lions winning a home Second Division match by 15-7 on that occasion. Oldham gained revenge the following February when they won the return game 18-2 and that 1974-75 season ended happily for both clubs as each gained promotion into Division One. Unfortunately, Swinton stayed for only one season and Oldham for two and now both clubs are again seeking promotion and both have begun this season under new coaching set ups.

One member of the Swinton coaching staff who will need little introduction to Oldham supporters is veteran prop Keith Ashcroft who will be 37 years old later this month and who left Watersheddings during the summer to take over as assistant coach at Station Road. Although Ashcroft is a product of Wigan schools rugby, his first professional club were Wigan's great rivals St. Helens and he later had spells with Bradford Northern and Warrington before joining Wigan. Ashcroft came to Oldham in the autumn of 1970 and proved to be a popular and hard working member of the Watersheddings pack despite suffering more than his share of injuries. During his seven seasons with Oldham, Ashcroft played in 122 first team matches and scored three tries, three goals and two dropped goals, figures which do not seem too impressive but his Oldham playing colleagues will confirm that during his stay at Watersheddings he gave nothing less than 100% effort and was a tremendous asset to the side. Unfortunately he won no honours at Watersheddings but he did earn Lancashire Cup winners medals at both St. Helens and Warrington and also appeared at Wembley with Wigan in 1970.

It has not been an easy baptism to Ashcroft's coaching career for Swinton have struggled throughout the opening weeks of the season and last week's 23-2 victory over Batley was Swinton's first success of the campaign and ended an embarrassing run of seven successive defeats. It must be noted, however, that the Lions have had to face a demanding start to the season with difficult away trips to Barrow and York as well as a home game against Huddersfield. In cup football, too, luck has not been on Swinton's side for they had to visit St. Helens in the Lancashire Cup and Keighley in the Floodlit Trophy, matches which brought about inevitable defeat.

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John Paterson, the Oldham Scrum-half goes in for Oldham's first try against Huyton following a speculative kick ahead by stand-off Geln Knight.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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## Oldham

- H/TIME 12-0*
- 1 ANGLIN, A.
  - 2 ELLIOTT, M.
  - 3 BARTON, E.
  - 4 MUNRO, G.
  - 5 STONDIN, U *GGGGG*
  - 6 KNIGHT, G
  - 7 BATES, A. *T*
  - 8 HUGHES, B.
  - 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
  - 10 FRODSHAM, P.
  - 11 JEWITT, P.
  - 12 STARBUCK, P. *T*
  - 13 PETERS, A. *T*
  - 14 PATERSON, J.
  - 15 JEFF A.

Referee:

W. H. Thompson (Huddersfield)

*FULL/TIME 19-10*

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## Swinton

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- 2 POTTS, D.
- 3 BOLTON, L.
- 4 ATKINSON, L. *T*
- 5 WARD, P.
- 6 CASSIDY, T.
- 7 ARNOLD, J. *GG*
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 JOLLEY, R.
- 10 PHYTHIAN, S.
- 11 LOWE, L.
- 12 HIGHTON, T.
- 13 O'LOUGHLIN, K. *T*
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# Brian Batty

Rugby League continues to make healthy progress in taking new steps to promote the sport at the grass roots level.

This past summer has seen a different venture under national coaches Albert Fearnley and Laurie Gant.

They have been busy in alternate weeks, over a 17 week spell, at Filey's Butlins Holiday Camp.

During the time that 150,000 visitors took their holidays at the camp they have handled 25 boys a week.

The scheme was set up with the Mitre sports firm who provided £1,000 sponsorship.

League official David Howes told me he had boys from areas outside the normal League counties with many coming from Scotland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Lincolnshire.

'We invited 26 of these young players back for the final week and they competed for the title of Boy of the Year with the winner emerging as John Fieldhouse, a 16 year old from Wigan.

'The runner up was 15 year old Trevor Penrose of (Hull) and the Junior Boy of the Year, Ian Rigby a tenyear old from Lincolnshire.'

Fieldhouse won two VIP tickets for the next Wembley final along with overnight accomodation for two, plus a complete set of the attractive Mitre Kit while each of the final 26 boys got a Mitre-Rugby League teeshirt.

One of the highlights of the final week was the visit by many of the Great Britain stars, along with World championship referee Billy Thompson.

Hull K.R.'s Clive Sullivan and Roger Millward went along as did Leeds stars David Ward, John Holmes, Les Dyl and Phil Cookson.

'It does show how the coaching scheme can be extended to new areas and there is no better way to introduce these youngsters to the game,' added Howes.

'It was a huge success and now Butlins have asked to stage a repeat programme at Skegness and Pwllheli next year. This scheme certainly opens up new channels.'

## TODAY'S REFEREE

Refereeing this afternoon's match is Billy Thompson of Linthwaite, Huddersfield, the 1977 Trumann's Steel Referee of the Year and an official who is regarded as the best in the World. Mr. Thompson has refereed 14 major cup finals and numerous internationals including three World Cup games in Britain in 1970, two matches in France during the 1975 World Championships and three games in last summers World Championship series in Australia when he surely reached the pinnacle of his career by refereeing the Grand Final. He is a married man with three daughters and works as an engineer at David Brown Tractors.

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## With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

After yesterday's 3rd Round County Cup matches, the BARLA spotlight switches from the individual clubs on to the town-teams of the various amateur leagues throughout the country. Next Saturday the 1st Round matches of the BARLA Inter-League competition take place, with this being the first step for several players towards a place on the BARLA Open-age tour to Australia at the end of this season.

A player can only be selected for the tour if he has played for his county and only players who have been picked for their local town-team will be eligible for county honours. Therefore, players hoping to make the trip, which takes in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia, must first impress officials of their league and gain a place on the town-team. Although a town-team might lose its 1st Round match, the players of that team would still have the same chance of gaining representative honours as would players of the teams that reach the Inter-League final, as any promising and eligible players would then be watched at club level.

The Inter-League competition has more than just a trophy at stake, as the finalists and semi-finalists all receive much needed sponsorship money. The tournament is sponsored by Fred Haworth, the international artist, who at present is fully occupied on royal duty recording the Silver Jubilee events on canvas for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. Mr. Haworth is a vice-president of BARLA, and last season he donated £600 in prize money for the competition, with the Hull Works League taking the winners' cheque for £300. In the final the Hull side defeated St. Helens who received £200 as runners-up, whilst Leigh and West Cumbria took £50 each as beaten semi-finalists.

This season 22 teams have entered the Inter-League competition including the Southern League and a team representing the Universities and Colleges. There are six matches in the opening round, including Oldham's home tie against Widnes, with the remaining teams receiving byes into Round 2.

With four Oldham sides in the Pennine League's 1st Division the Oldham League have a wealth of talent available for town-team selection and must feel confident of progressing into the next round. For several weeks a squad of 21 players have been attending regular training sessions in readiness for this season's Inter-League competition, under the guidance of the new town-team coach Brian Churm. The present squad is made up of players from Oldham's top 4 clubs, Ferranti, Saddleworth, St. Anne's and Waterhead, but it is possible that other players could also be brought into the squad if the League progress further in the competition.

Oldham R.L.F.C. have kindly allowed the Oldham League to play their 1st Round match against Widnes at Watersheddings next Saturday, with the match kicking-off at 2.30 p.m.

The Oldham Under-18's town-team have received a bye in the Preliminary Round of the BARLA Youth Inter-League competition, which will be taking place on October 30th. There will be three matches in this Preliminary

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Round of the competition which has attracted an entry of 19 leagues. The holders of the trophy are the St. Helens League who defeated Castleford in last season's final.

The local league are hopeful of fielding a strong team in this Youth tournament, and have again appointed Brian Gartland of Saddleworth to take charge of the squad. Last season Brian was appointed coach of the Lancashire Youth team which included several Oldham-boys and which won the County Championship.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR LEAGUE NEWS AND REPORTS:

RADIO MANCHESTER: (206 medium wave; 95.1 vhf).  
Rugby League Special Every Sunday 6.15 pm.  
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## Supporters Club

HUYTON AWAY Sunday, 16th October

A coach to the above away match will depart at 1.00 p.m. from the Social Club. Seats priced at £1.50 per adult can be booked at the canteens at today's match.

GLASS BLOWING PARTY

The Supporters Club are holding a Glass Blowing evening on Tuesday 17th October, 1977 in the Social Club. Tickets priced 20p. can be obtained from Supporters Club Officials or at canteens on match days.

RADIO MANCHESTER - TOP SCORE QUIZ

Once again we are hoping to enter a team in the Radio Manchester Top Score Quiz, and any Supporter who would like to become a member of the team should contact Supporter Club Officials at today's match.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the Supporters Club now. Complete an application form at any of the canteens at today's match. Membership of the Supporters Club entitles you to cheaper away travel and other events organised by the Supporters Club throughout the year.

MARTIN MURPHY BENEFIT

The Supporters Club are running a "Sponsored Try" competition for Martin's Benefit during the 1977/78 season. If you would like to sponsor Martin in this event please contact any Supporters Club Official at today's match for a Sponsorship Form.

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## Fixtures 1977-8

### FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground
1977		
Aug. 7—(Sun.)	Rochdale (3-00) (Charity)	A 5-14
21—(Sun.)	Wigan (L.C. 3-00)	A 5-49
28—(Sun.)	L.C. 2	
Sept. 4—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-15)	A 5-15
11—(Sun.)	Barrow (3-30)	H 23-7
18—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-00)	A 28-2
25—(Sun.)	Huyton (3-30)	H
Oct. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-00)	A
9—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-30)	H
16—(Sun.)	Huyton (2-30)	A
23—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (1)	
30—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-30)	H
Nov. 6—(Sun.)	Player's No. 6 (2)	
13—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	A
20—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	H
27—(Sun.)	Swinton (3-00)	A
Dec. 4—(Sun.)	Barrow (2-30)	A
11—(Sun.)	Batley (3-30)	H
18—(Sun.)		
26—(Mon.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H
1978		
Jan. 2—(Sun.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	A
8—(Sun.)	York (2-30)	A
15—(Sun.)	Keighley (3-30)	H
22—(Sun.)		
29—(Sun.)	Leigh (3-30)	H
Feb. 5—(Sun.)	Batley (3-00)	A
12—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 1	
19—(Sun.)	York (3-30)	H
26—(Sun.)	Challenge Cup 2	
Mar. 5—(Sun.)		
12—(Sun.)		
19—(Sun.)	Blackpool (3-30)	H
24—(Fri.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A
27—(Mon.)	Huddersfield (3-00)	H
Apr. 2—(Sun.)	Doncaster (3-30)	H
9—(Sun.)	Whitehaven (3-00)	A
16—(Sun.)	Halifax (3-30)	A

### 'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground
1977		
Aug. 20—(Sat.)	Widnes (L.S. 3-00)	H 15-7
26—(Fri.)	Widnes (L.S. 7-30)	A 8-22
Sept. 3—(Sat.)	Warrington (3-00)	H
10—(Sat.)	Barrow (2-30)	A
17—(Sat.)	Widnes (3-00)	H
30—(Fri.)	Salford (7-30)	A
Oct. 8—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	A
16—(Sun.)	Workington	H
28—(Fri.)	St. Helens (7-30)	A
Nov. 12—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	H
19—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	A
26—(Sat.)	Swinton (3-00)	H
Dec. 3—(Sat.)	Barrow (3-00)	H
9—(Fri.)	Warrington (7-30)	A
17—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	A
1978		
Jan. 7—(Sat.)	St. Helens (3-00)	H
14—(Sat.)	Workington (2-30)	A
20—(Fri.)	Widnes (7-30)	A
28—(Sat.)	Leigh (3-00)	A
Feb. 4—(Sat.)	Wigan (3-00)	H
Mar. 11—(Sat.)	Salford (3-00)	H
Apr. 15—(Sat.)	Rochdale (3-00)	H

### CUP ROUNDS

#### Forshaw's Lancs Cup Final:

Saturday, 29th October

Player's No. 6—Round 3: 19/20th November

1st Semi-Final: 26th November

2nd Semi-Final: 3rd December

BBC 2 Floodlight Final: 13/20th December

Player's No. 6 Final: 28th January, 1978

RLCC 3rd Round: 11/12th March

1st Semi-Final: 1st April; 2nd Semi-Final: 8th April

Premiership—Round 1: 23rd April

Semi-Final 1st Leg: 29/30th April

Semi-Final 2nd Leg: 7th May. Final 20th May

RLCC FINAL: 13th May.

## Oldham

- 1 ANGLIN, A.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 MUNRO, G.
- 5 STONDIN, U
- 6 KNIGHT, G.
- 7 BATES, A.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 FRODSHAM, P.
- 11 JEWITT, P.
- 12 STARBUCK, P.
- 13 PETERS, A.
- 14 PATERSON, J.
- 15 JEFF A.

Referee:

W. H. Thompson (Huddersfield)

Sunday 9th October

## Swinton

- 1 DAVIES, T.
- 2 POTTS, D.
- 3 BOLTON, L.
- 4 ATKINSON, L.
- 5 WARD, P.
- 6 CASSIDY, T.
- 7 ARNOLD, J.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 JOLLEY, R.
- 10 PHYTHIAN, S.
- 11 LOWE, L.
- 12 HIGHTON, T.
- 13 O'LOUGHLIN, K.
- 14 GORTON, J.
- 15 EARLE, K.

J. Casey (St Helens) Orange

H. McQuire (Whitehaven) Red

Admission by Programme only

1977