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RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

BATLEY v. OLDHAM

Mount Pleasant, Batley.
5th February, 1978
Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Official Programme 10p.

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SUN. MARCH 5th

BATLEY

Versus

LEIGH

KICK-OFF – 3.00 P.M.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Drawn away in the Challenge Cup again!! When will our luck change? Although not a good draw from the financial side at last we have a good chance of progress into the 2nd round. We have played Swinton twice this season the results being a defeat at Station Road by 23 points to 2 but in the return match at Mount Pleasant we ran out worthy winners by 22 points to 10. In previous seasons we were drawn away at St. Helens, Widnes and Leeds, and on each occasion our opponents went on to reach the final at Wembley. Player-Coach Dave Stockwell is confident that we can win at Swinton and it is hoped that a large following will be there to cheer our lads to victory.

For those of our supporters who are unable to go to the tie, we shall be staging at Mount Pleasant the Dewsbury Celtic v. Wigan game. We wish Celtic the best of luck and a nice day so that they may be well supported. This tie will kick off at 2.30 p.m.

Today we welcome our friends from Oldham who have at their helm their young go-ahead Chairman Ray Hatton. Along with our former coach Dave Cox, he is steering the Oldham club towards the First Division. Oldham have many players who will need extra special watching this afternoon.

Firstly the brains behind the team, the former Dewsbury scrum half, Alan (Acker) Bates. Allan will long be remembered round this area especially for his stirling performance in the Championship Final between Dewsbury and Leeds. His half-back partner, Paterson, is a will o' the wisp and was the cause of our defeat at Oldham earlier in the season. At full back will be Murphy, no relation to Alex but still a very good player and a reliable goalkicker. Oldham are strong in the forwards with Hughes, Hall and Peters all stars in their own right. We hope to see a good open game of rugby played in the best spirit and may the best team win.

L. Hardy

BRIAN BATTY – DAILY MAIL

Rugby League's giants have rarely been favoured with such a liberal helping of good fortune as in the first round of this year's Challenge Cup.

There is the prospect of some mighty encounters in the second round but only half a dozen games that promise any real drama in the opening round.

The Hull K.R. derby is the top fixture for me with Roger Millward facing a tough hurdle in his continuing bid to play in the Wembley final for the first time.

Widnes will not underestimate the size of their task against Second Division pace-setters Rochdale Hornets and must be relieved they are at home to Frank Myler's former club.

Featherstone Rovers are recovering their championship poise although they have lost all hope of holding on to the title. But coach Keith Goulding was the first to recognise the problem of travelling to Leigh, who fancy their chances of a good Cup run.

It looks a more delicately balanced clash than the fascinating duel between York and Alex Murphy's Warrington, who can still expect a tough passage on the tight and well supported Second Division ground.

Yorkshire clubs Wakefield Trinity and Keighley cannot be relishing their long journeys to Cumbria to face Whitehaven and Workington Town respectively.

It is interesting to see the amateur sides Pilkington Recs and Dewsbury Celtic rewarded with attractive ties against Castleford and Wigan and I know both senior professional clubs will show them complete respect.

Wigan will no doubt have warned Castleford about how they struggled before overcoming Pilkington Recs last season before an amazing 10,000 crowd and the St. Helens side will be hoping for a repeat attendance against Mal Reilly's experienced campaigners.

With their fate in the First Division almost sealed, Bramley must be hoping to salvage something from the Cup as Salford will readily appreciate.

St. Helens are not complaining about a home tie to determined Second Division neighbours Huyton, Dewsbury being at home to New Hunslet and Oldham expect to advance at the expense of Doncaster.

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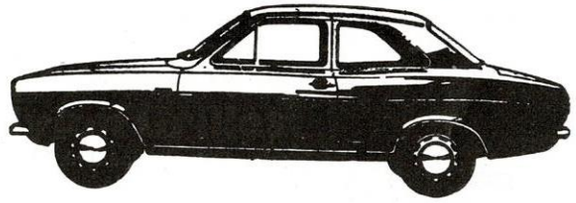

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BATLEY

COLOURS: Red Jersey with White Trim, White Shorts

Team Coach: DAVE STOCKWELL

1.	**B. Gray**	Full Back
2.	**J. Simpson**	Right Wing
3.	**J. Richardson**	Right Centre
4.	**S. Presley**	Left Centre
5.	**M. Wheelan**	Left Wing
6.	**D. Stockwell**	Stand Off
7.	**D. Rippon**	Scrum Half
8.	**J. Waltham**	Front Row Forward
9.	**Z. Piwinski**	Hooker
10.	**B. Taylor**	Front Row Forward
11.	**B. Finn**	Second Row Forward
12.	**A. Watts**	Second Row Forward
13.	**D. Sheehan**	Loose Forward
14.	**R. Jarvis**	Substitute Back
15.	**J. Fox**	Substitute Forward

OLDHAM

COLOURS: Red and White Hooped Jersey, White Shorts

Team Coach: D. COX

1.	**P. Murphy**	Full Back
2.	**D. Elliott**	Right Wing
3.	**S. Larder**	Right Centre
4.	**D. Pattinson**	Left Centre
5.	**P. O'Brien**	Left Wing
6.	**D. Blair**	Stand Off
7.	**A. Bates**	Scrum Half
8.	**J. Charles**	Front Row Forward
9.	**P. Mahoney**	Hooker
10.	**S. Owen**	Front Row Forward
11.	**B. Herbert**	Second Row Forward
12.	**D. Hall**	Second Row Forward
13.	**T.Flannighan**	Loose Forward
14.	.....	Substitute Back
15.	.....	Substitute Forward

Referee: Mr. K. Allatt (Southport)

Touch Judges: W. Fiddes, D. Watson

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Date		Opponents	Ground		Result
Aug.	20	LEEDS (Sat.)	(H)	3.30	
Sept.	4	WHITEHAVEN	(H)	3.00	
	11	Doncaster	(A)	3.00	
	18	ROCHDALE	(A)	3.00	
	25	BARROW	(H)	3.00	
Oct.	2	Swinton	(A)	3.00	
	9	YORK	(H)	3.00	
	15	Whitehaven (Sat.)	(A)	3.00	
	23	Players No. 6 Cup Rd. 1			
	30	SWINTON	(H)	3.00	
Nov.	6	Players No. 6 Cup Rd. 2			
	13	Huyton	(A)	2.30	
	20	ROCHDALE	(H)	2.30	
	27	Leigh	(A)	2.30	
Dec.	4	HALIFAX	(H)	2.30	
	11	Oldham	(A)	2.30	
	18	HUYTON	(H)	2.30	
Jan.	1	KEIGHLEY	(H)	2.30	
	8	Huddersfield	(A)	2.30	
	15	Blackpool	(A)	2.30	
	29	HUDDERSFIELD	(H)	2.30	
Feb.	5	OLDHAM	(H)	3.00	
	12	Challenge Cup Rd. 1			
	19	Halifax	(A)	3.00	
	26	Challenge Cup Rd. 2			
Mar.	5	LEIGH	(H)	3.00	
	12	Barrow	(A)	3.00	
	19	DONCASTER	(H)	3.00	
	27	York (Mon.)	(A)	3.00	
April	2	Keighley	(A)	3.00	
	9	BLACKPOOL	(H)	3.00	

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