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SUNDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 1978
Kick Off 3-00 p.m.



10p

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

Groundsman: D. TRUELOVE

Assistant Groundsman:

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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.



Our new mascot is seven year old Wayne Halstead, seen here with Chris Charles.

Picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle

Harvey Ashworth

(PRESIDENT OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB)

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

Today sees the start of a brand, new season at Watersheddings -- and a season which will be vital to the club's future, both financially and from the playing point of view.

Financially, it is imperative that we begin to get in vital revenue from off-field sources, with the lottery the main source of income.

On the field, we are determined to do all in our power to go out and get promotion this time -- and that means not just finishing in top four but getting a side together in the next 12 months which will be good enough to stay in the First Division next season.

How can we do that without money? The answer is that we probably can't. That's why we have ALL to pull together in the next 12 months whether we are supporters, season-ticket holders, members, pools agents, players, officials or club employees.

We can all play our part -- by becoming lottery or bingo agents, by supporting the team from the terraces, by becoming season-ticket holders or members.

You will all be aware by now that we have had a drive on for members and season-ticket holders in the past few weeks. The results have been quite encouraging but there is still plenty of scope to sell a lot more before the season really gets under way.

Whichever way you look at it, it pays to be a season-ticket holder if you intend coming to all the home games. And so far as league club membership is concerned, we have to have members otherwise we do not have a club.

Many members have wondered recently what they get for their outlay of £5. 40 ?

Well, we promised at the annual meeting that we would try to provide some sort of facilities for the members and, starting today, we are making the social club concert room the members room for after-match socialising.

We cannot make it exclusively members only, but we have done the next best thing. Members will be admitted free of charge on producing their card, but non-members will have to pay an admission fee.

We hope this will also encourage our fans to become club members and strengthen the club at its roots. Lastly, may we rely on you all for your support throughout the season -- not only in practical terms but also by spreading the Watersheddings gospel around the town.

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

It has not been a very auspicious start to the season for Oldham but after being eliminated from both the Lancashire Cup and Floodlit Trophy competitions on successive Sundays, they will be hoping for a better result today in their opening Second Division fixture when they entertain Keighley, one of the three clubs who recorded double league victories over Oldham last season.

Oldham, in fact, opened last season's league campaign with a 15-5 defeat against Keighley at Lawkholme Lane, the only defeat from their opening eight league matches but a defeat which Keighley repeated when they visited Watersheddings last January, the score on that occasion being 10-7. Keighley's victory on this ground last season came when they were enjoying a run of seven matches without defeat and looking likely candidates for promotion but, unfortunately for them, they collapsed late in the season, lost their final seven matches and ended the campaign in seventh spot, one place but nine points adrift of sixth placed Oldham. Although Keighley sold their leading scorer Terry Morgan to York for £10,000, it was still a surprising decline in their playing fortunes for, during the season, the progressive Lawkholme Lane management had recruited the services of the experienced international half-back Barry Seabourne from Bradford Northern and it was hoped that his inspired leadership would carry Keighley into one of the promotion spots.

Fortunately, Keighley began the current campaign in much better form than they ended last season and they were able to return from much improved Doncaster with a very creditable 20-5 win in the opening round of the Yorkshire Cup. However, last Sunday they lost in the second round by 13-6 at York but once again they displayed quite impressive form and should be amongst the league leaders in the forthcoming Championship campaign.

During the summer months Keighley coach Barry Seabourne has strengthened his squad with four major signings, Les Sellars from Bramley, Lee Greenwood and Keith Farrell from Bradford Northern and former Oldham star David Treasure who was snapped up from Leeds last month for £3,000. Twenty-seven-years old Treasure is a product of the Yorkshire Copper Works amateur outfit who turned professional in 1971 with Bradford Northern. He appeared at Wembley with Northern in 1973 but must regard his spell at Watersheddings as the most successful of his career for it was whilst he was at Oldham that he gained international recognition with Wales. He visited Australasia in 1975 with the Welsh World Championship squad and, in all, he appeared in six full internationals during his four year stay with Oldham. During that time he made 112 appearances for Oldham and scored 41 tries, quite an impressive record and one which caused Leeds to move in with a £4,500 cheque which took him to Headingley.

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MAN IN THE MIDDLE

This afternoon's opening league fixture is refereed by Grade One official Ron Moore of Calder Grove, Wakefield, a 35-years old representative who has been refereeing since 1963. Mr. Moore reached Grade One status in 1975 and refereed the St. Helens - Widnes Challenge Cup Final at Wembley the following year. He is a great rugby league enthusiast, having played the game as an amateur and who now coaches a local amateur side for he has also passed his Grade Two Coaching Certificate. Mr. Moore is married with two children.

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- 9 NEWTON, W.
- 10 TAYLOR, I.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 HERBERT, S.
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- 14 O'BRIEN, C.
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Referee
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- 3 GREENWOOD, L.
- 4 WATERHOUSE, A.
- 5 BEALE, G.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 SEABOURNE, B.
- 8 SELLERS, L.
- 9 WOOLFORD, W.
- 10 GARFORTH, T.
- 11 WOOLFORD, C.
- 12 FARRELL, K.
- 13 DICKINS, S.
- 14
- 15

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Uri Stondin on the move against Barrow.

MEMBERSHIP

Once again we come to a new season and the Supporters Club are looking forward to a season that will see Oldham return to Division One. Why not assist the Supporters Club to help the parent body by becoming a member of our organisation; its still only 50p.

Contact any official of the Supporters Club for a membership form at todays match, and why not take a form for a friend.

WEMBLEY 1979

This year we are organising a Weekend in London for the 1979 Wembley Cup Final and anyone interested in going on this trip should contact any Supporters Club official at todays match. Tickets for the Cup Final have been reserved priced £8. 00 each and a hotel in London has been provisionally booked.

HULL 10 - 9 - 78

A coach will be leaving the Social Club on Sunday 10th September at 12. 00 pm. to Hull, Cost/seat £2. 50 members; £2. 60 non-members Juniors £1.75, members; £1. 85 non-members.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Although today sees the curtain rising on another new season at Watersheddings, the local amateur league is already in full swing with one competition already decided, a schoolboy tour of Oldham completed, and the opening fixtures in the Pennine League having taken place yesterday.

The new Oldham Festival of Sport 7-a-side competition, which took place last week and was sponsored by the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Sports Council, was won by Saddleworth Rangers who defeated Waterhead 15-8 in the final after having previously beaten Salem Hornets and Fitton Hill. The competition also saw the birth of Oldham's newly formed team Shaw, who have acquired a pitch at the Rushcroft Playing Fields and will be competing in the 5th Division of the Pennine League.

After all the pre-season activity the local amateur clubs yesterday played their first matches of the new term in the Pennine League with last season's Champions Saddleworth Rangers having taken on another Oldham side, Waterhead. The other local team in the top division are Standard Cup holders Saint Anne's, whilst in Division 2 Oldham's only representatives are Ferranti. The town has four teams in the 3rd Division this season, namely Higginshaw, Salem Hornets, Fitton Hill, and Saddleworth "A", with just two sides, St. Anne's "A" and Waterhead "A", in Division 4. Joining Shaw in Division 5 are Ferranti "A".

The Pennine League now has a total of 60 open-age sides but during the close-season disbanded its youth divisions, which has therefore brought the formation of the Rochdale and Oldham Youth League for Under-15 and Under-17 teams. At present there are 8 teams at each age-group with matches due to take place on Sunday mornings commencing on September 17. Wherever clubs who have teams in both divisions are due to face each other it is hoped to play 'double-headers', with the Under-15s starting at 10.30 am. and being immediately followed by the Under-17s.

The young Rugby League players in the town have in fact recently been very busy playing their annual series of matches against the youth teams of the XIII Catalan club from Perpignan in France. This year it was the turn of the French to cross the Channel, but once they arrived in England their junior, intermediate, and senior sides all discovered why the Oldham schoolboy teams are among the best in the country. Although on a couple of occasions Oldham fielded weakened sides, the only glimmer of hope for the French in the 11 matches they played was when their juniors drew 3-3 against an Oldham 'B' team.

Following their open-age International team's successful tour of Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand, BARLA now turn their attention to try and find the two teams from their ranks who will represent the amateur game in the Rugby League Challenge Cup later in the season.



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