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SUNDAY, 8th OCTOBER

Kick Off 3-00 p.m.

10p

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Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Action at Keighley, Ian Taylor looks for support as the home defence closes in.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

Harvey Ashworth

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

It's an old but very true saying that when a club's luck is out it is really out. Not only are we having a bad time on the field just at present but we are having a terrible time off it with injuries.

The latest serious casualty is Steve Herbert, who goes into hospital early next week for a knee cartilage operation and will obviously be out of action for several weeks.

This is a real blow to us because Steve has really begun to come good this season.

But he is one of only many of our players currently having treatment. Indeed, at Tuesday's training session there was a list of 17 players out of action and some of them could be missing for some time.

John Paterson, in only his second game of the season, broke his leg at Hull KR and could well be out until near Christmas. He has to have the leg in plaster for six weeks and then it will take some time to build up the strength again because of muscle wastage.

John Blair has damaged a knee and ligament trouble is feared. He will see a specialist soon.

A typical example of our ill luck occurred last week-end when Harold Byram, our new signing from Waterhead, injured his shoulder in an "A" team match; a Welsh trialist badly damaged an ankle; and on the following day at Keighley, Phil Larder was carried off with a badly gashed thigh.

Byram later had x-rays on the shoulder but thankfully there was no serious damage just severe bruising.

Incidentally, we would like to welcome to the club three signings we have made in recent weeks Byram, Peter Deakin from St Anne's and Dave Fricker, an ex-Union player who is a teacher at Breeze Hill school.

Byram, a loose-forward, has been a leading figure at Waterhead for some time and we are sure he will do well as a pro.

Deakin, a second-row forward, has a long list of amateur honours and he, too, should do well in the paid ranks. We are confident, too, that stand-off Fricker can make a useful contribution to our cause.

He was signed after trials in which he showed plenty of speed and pace off the mark essential qualities in an orthodox stand-off half.

We also have another local lad on trial in the "A" team at scrum-half and we feel there will be more to follow as the months unfold.

Colin North, the stand-off we signed from Batley in the Mick McCone deal early in the year, has signed for Doncaster on trial. York wanted him, but Colin preferred to join the Dons and by all accounts had a good debut against Swinton last Sunday.

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

After conceding 148 points in their last three away games, Oldham will be delighted to return to the sanctuary of Watersheddings this afternoon for the visit of New Hunslet, a club with a similar record to Oldham's, won two lost two, but who are two places higher in the league table at sixth because of their superior scoring record. A victory today, then would send Oldham above their visitors in the table and, if recent results against New Hunslet are anything to go by, Oldham must feel confident of success.

Oldham, in fact, have never been beaten by New Hunslet although, of course, the old Hunslet club have beaten Oldham on several occasions, the last time being in August 1971 when they beat Oldham 14-13 in a league match at Parkside. That narrow victory was one of only two league successes which Hunslet enjoyed during that disastrous 1971-72 season when their display here at Watersheddings where they lost 31-0 indicated just what an appalling state their playing staff was in. Eighteen months later the club disbanded but, thankfully, it was immediately reformed under the fresh title and with an enthusiastic board who carried them into the First Division only four seasons after their reformation. Oldham have only met them once during that spell, in 1974-75, when they won 23-2 at Watersheddings and by 24-7 at Elland Road, emphatic enough victories which they would be pleased to repeat this afternoon.

That, however, seems highly unlikely for so far this season New Hunslet have been quite impressive. True they lost at York 15-12 and at Halifax 11-10 but last weekend they whipped Huyton 32-5 and so it seems are beginning to respond to the promptings of new player-coach Bill Ramsey who actually began his career with the old Hunslet club at Parkside 19 years ago. In those days Ramsey was a speedy and talented backrow forward who soon won international recognition, touring Australasia with Great Britain in 1966. Not long afterwards, in December 1967, he moved to Leeds for £10,000, a tremendous fee in those days but a fee which the Headingley club considered well worth paying, for Ramsey enjoyed considerable success, and three trips to Wembley, with Leeds before moving to Bradford in 1974 for £4,000. The following summer Ramsey again visited Australasia with Great Britain but his stay at Odsal lasted only 12 months before he moved on to Hull. Ramsey's next move was to Widnes in September 1976 when he made his debut against Oldham and followed this up in 1977 with another trip to Wembley, his fifth, a remarkable feat even for a player like Ramsey who has made 8 test match appearances for Great Britain. Last August he moved to New Hunslet to commence another aspect of his amazing career.

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Action at Keighley, as Chris Charles attempts to make a break but falls to a tackle by home hooker Billy Woolford.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

DONCASTER 15-10-78

A coach for the above match will leave the Social Club at 1-15pm. Seats priced £1.50 members and £1.60 non members can be booked with any Supporters Club official at todays match.

HALIFAX 22-10-78

A coach for the above match will leave the Social Club at 2.00pm. Seats priced 80p. members and 90p. non members can be booked with any Supporters Club official at todays match.

WEMBLEY TRIP 1979

The Supporters Club are organising a trip to Wembley for the 1979 Cup Final. Details can be obtained from any Supporters Club official at todays match. Match tickets are priced £8.00.

RUGBY QUEEN DANCE.

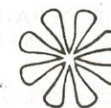
A Rugby Queen Dance is to be held in the Social Club on Friday 3rd November 1979. Tickets are available from any Supporters Club official or in the Social Club priced £1.00 including buffet.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Dickie Jeeps, the freshly-elected Chairman of the Sports Council, recently displayed his new style of leadership when he told the Government what he requires to spend on developing sport in Britain. Jeeps told the Treasury that the grant required by the Sports Council next year should be 27½ million pounds, which is double the amount they were granted last time. Although the bulk of Sports Council money goes towards the building of sports centres, swimming pools, and athletic tracks, etc., BARLA get grant aid to assist their 'Development Plan', which is mainly aimed at increasing the number of participants playing Amateur Rugby League.

Since BARLA's formation in 1973, youth rugby has increased ten-fold whilst University and College rugby league has doubled, and the introduction of schoolboy rugby at Wembley Stadium by the English Schools' Rugby League was indeed a revelation. All of this, plus the completion of two highly successful tours to Australasia by both the Under-18s and open-age International sides, could certainly not have been achieved without grant aid from the Sports Council. In fact, the BARLA accounts for the last financial year reveal that without substantial grants from the Council the Association would not flourish.

Individual Amateur Rugby League clubs have also been awarded grants, with the most recent being Oldham-based Salem Hornets who have been allowed £4,000 by the North-West Sports Council towards the building of their new clubhouse on Roundthorn Road. However, one of the largest beneficiaries from the Sports Council is the Rugby Football Union, an organisation to which Jeeps has had very strong connections, and it is noted with more than a passing interest that in the past 7 or 8 years they have been granted an astonishing total exceeding £1 million to promote their game.

However, in comparison, a grand total of £31,632 was granted to BARLA last year, of which half went in administration costs and more than £12,000 was spent on International matches both home and abroad. Although people might argue that this money should have been spent on promoting the game in this country, the grant was only allowed provided it was used for these International events. Although BARLA believe that by continuing their excellent relationships with the Sports Council it should be possible to keep up the growth of Amateur Rugby League, it will be interesting to see whether in the future they receive similar grant aid to the Rugby Football Union - who like BARLA are a totally amateur organisation.

BARLA's County Cup competitions from which the two winners will be the amateur game's representatives in the Challenge Cup later in the season, are now approaching the closing stages, with the Lancashire-Cumbria tournament, following yesterday's matches, now at the quarter-finals for which the draw can be heard tonight 'live' on Radio Manchester's "Rugby League Special" programme, which begins at 6.15pm.



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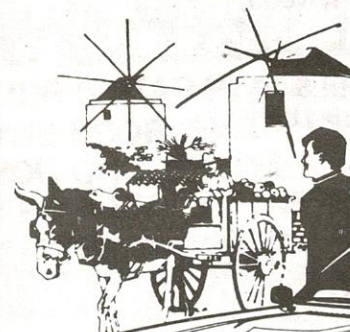
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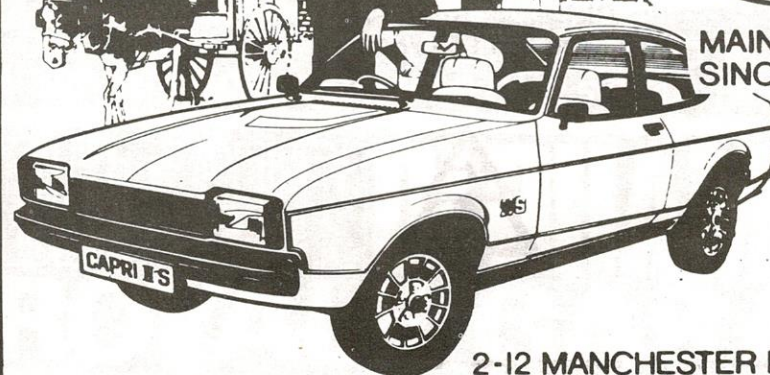
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