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# OLDHAM

v

# HUYTON

SUNDAY, 11th MARCH, 1979 Kick off 3.0 pm



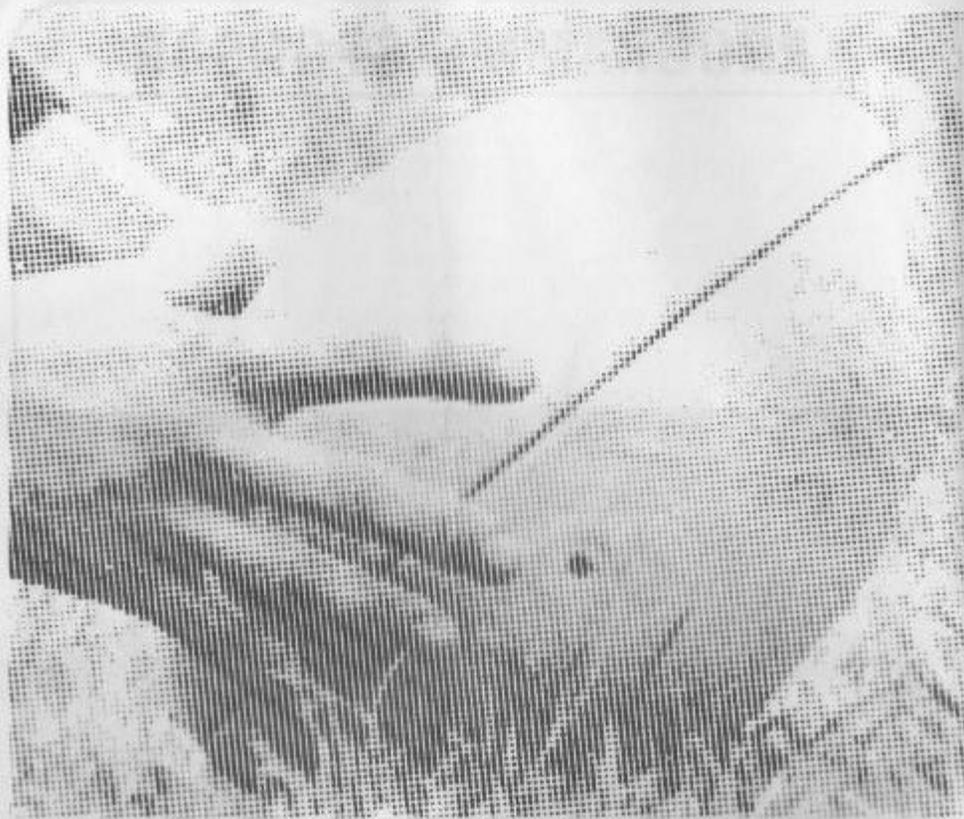
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Rugby League Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27.

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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.

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## OLDHAM OUTLOOK

CAN we clinch promotion this time? That is the big talking point at Watersheddings right now, following our exit from the Challenge Cup at the second-round against Wakefield Trinity last Sunday.

It was a brave bid by an injury-hit side and Trinity were certainly worried in the first half when we made them battle every inch of the way.

Attention now turns to our 12 remaining Second Division matches and the lee-way we must make up on the teams above us if we are to reach the top four.

A glance at the current league table shows just how much we have to do, but despite the injuries to Martin Murphy and Bob Blackwood, which could keep them out for several weeks, we firmly believe we can reach our target given anything like a reasonable amount of luck.

---

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We have 12 games left and at the time of writing these notes the dates of ten of them were known. After today's match against Huyton, the nine fixed are as follows:

March 18	Bramley (A)	March 25	Bramley (H)
April 1	Blackpool (A)	April 8	Doncaster (H)
April 13	Swinton (A)	April 15	Batley (A)
April 22	New Hunslet (A)	April 29	Whitehaven (H)
May 20	York (A)		

The games still outstanding are those against Dewsbury at Crown Flatt and Hull at Watersheddings. We hope Hull will come here on Sunday, May 13 and what a cracker that should be if we need the points to clinch a passport to the big time!

It can be reasonably safely assumed that we must win at least ten of the remaining dozen games to be in with a decent chance of qualifying: a tough target, indeed.

It is especially hard when considering we have to play Hull, the runaway leaders, New Hunslet (second), York (third) and Blackpool (fourth).

But we firmly believe we can do it in what should be a keen and thoroughly absorbing run-in to the end of the season, now extends until May 20 for Second Division clubs.

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### WEMBLEY TICKETS

Following last year's full house at Wembley, seating tickets for this year's Challenge Cup Final on Saturday, 5th May, are already a sell out.

However, Standing Tickets priced only £2.00 are now available. Simply contact the Club Secretary.

**DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?** Questions supplied by Alex Givvons.

### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTIONS.

- 1 PENALTY; 5 yds. in from touch.
- 2 NO;
- 3 YES; Providing the ball has been grounded and the strike is not dangerous kicking.
- 4 TRY; At the point of scoring. A further penalty under the post after the conversion attempt. (Note the foul, must be in the in-goal area)

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NOW SOME FURTHER QUESTIONS.

- 1 Substitute 14 replaces 15 who earlier replaced 11. Can 15 return to the field?
- 2 A defender kicks the ball direct into touch on the full from his own in-goal-area. Decision?
- 3 A attacking player punts the ball dead. How is play restarted?
- 4 A scrum is formed in team 'A's half. After their full-back had knocked-on.  
(a) Who's Head?  
(b) Who's Put In?
- 5 Team "A" Kicking off from the centre. An opponent catches the ball before it reaches the 10 yds. line. Decision?

Answers to this weeks quiz will be found elsewhere in this programme.

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## Supporters Club

SOCIAL CLUB:

Rooms are available to hire for Weddings; Parties; Conferences etc. Phone D Pilkington, 061 624 0368; for further details.

COACH TO BRAMLEY

Anyone wanting to book a seat for our match at Bramley on 18th March, can do so by contacting any of the Supporter's Club Officials.

JUMBLE SALE

A Jumble Sale will be held on Tuesday 27th March. Anyone who wants any jumble collecting please notify any of the Supporter's Club Officials.

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NEXT HOME MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday, March 25th, v BRAMLEY, K.O. 3 p.m.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY SHIELD COMPETITION

The 2nd leg v BARROW will be played at Oldham on Saturday, March 17th. K.O. 3 p.m.

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## *Our Visitors*

THE constant struggle Huyton have had to endure over the years to keep the League flag flying on soccer-mad Merseyside has never been more intense than in the last 12 months.

"Yes, we're having a rough season", admits secretary Ken Grundy, who has served Huyton loyally for 27 seasons, first as a player in the old Liverpool City days and for the last 19 years as secretary.

"We're having to sell to keep the club going, but it's desperately hard work, although we don't make a habit of going around crying poverty.

"One thing is certain : we'll still be there at the end of the road".

The men Huyton have sold this season are former Oldham forward Arthur Daley to Leigh for £4,000 and Keith Wills to big-spending Barrow for £2,500.

Daley joined Huyton on a "free" from Watersheddings, yet two weeks before his move to Hilton Park, he was the subject of a massive £8,000 offer by Second Division leaders, Hull.

Selling like this throws a huge burden on popular player-coach Geoff Fletcher, another former Oldham stalwart, who must have one of the smallest playing staffs in the whole of the Rugby League.

Most of the current crop of Huyton players have been recruited from amateur rugby -- apart from their experienced halves Jimmy O'Neill and Alan Bishop -- and many is the time Fletcher has had to recruit from the amateurs only the day before a match.

Nevertheless, Huyton can always be guaranteed to put up a brave show and, indeed there were neutral observers who felt they had played the better football in the match against Oldham at Alt Park just before Christmas.

Two great solo tries by Phil Larder swung the match Oldham's way, but there was plenty of evidence to show that coach Fletcher is succeeding in some small degree in his eternal plea for bright attractive football.

Says Geoff, "We always try to throw the ball around and play good stuff. We will certainly give Oldham a good game at Watersheddings".

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- 4
- 5 Eric FITZSIMONS
- 6 Geoff MUNRO
- 7 John PATERSON
- 8 Jim FIDDLER
- 9 Roger O'MAHONEY
- 10 Ian TAYLOR
- 11 Fred HALL
- 12 Colin HAWKYARD
- 13 Peter JEWITT
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- 7 Alan BISHOP
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- 9 David WALKER
- 10 Peter MIDDLEHURST
- 11 John COOPE
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- 13 Alec HEESOM
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- 15

Touch Judges:  
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## ANSWERS

- 1 NO; The two players who are replaced by the original substitutes may themselves act as substitutes, but only once.
- 2 DROP OUT; from under the posts.
- 3 TAP KICK; at centre of 25 yds. line.
- 4 (a) Team "B"  
(b) Team "A"
- 5 PENALTY TO "B"; at centre spot.

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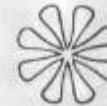
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## BRIAN BATTY

At last it looks as if one barrier between Rugby Union and League is going to be broken down.

There are increasing signs that Union is going to have to stop discriminating against the League amateurs who want to play their code.

The outcry in the face of the stubborn Union attitude has reached a pitch where we can now expect some positive action.

At the moment the Rugby Union is struggling to survive an attack brought by the growing allegations of illegal payments to many players in the form of surprisingly high expenses.

The situation has been brought to a head by the payment by Blackheath of £750 to 11 players involved in a charity raising game last April.

What has caused even greater concern is that money was lost on the match and this has upset even protective Union officials.

But it is the widespread system of generous expenses to Rugby Union players that amazes the League players who come into touch with their counterparts.

The Welsh have had a reputation for years of handing out 'payments' to their players to the point that it has become accepted in many quarters.

A famous Scottish Union star, who had toured with the British Lions, was asked down to Cardiff a few years ago for a game for the Barbarians and is reputed to have received expenses topping £200.

Now even though the tales of some of the expenses collected in Union could be exaggerated there is no doubt that many of their players are better off than they would be playing in League.

The one area where the Union player could gain is in getting a handsome signing on fee to set up in life.

I heard recently of an Orrell player claiming he was offered £25 a week expenses if he moved to join a top Cheshire club who have recruited a team of stars over the years.

It all points to the reason perhaps why Union players can afford to turn down attractive League offers.



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