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November 11th

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Programme 6p

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Coach :

GRIFF JENKINS

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Promotions Manager :

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BRIAN BATTY — DAILY MAIL — — —

The controversy surrounding the programme for the Australian tour party will probably continue even after officials have set foot on Sydney soil again.

It seems that tour managers Charlie Gibson and Albert Bishop will be highly critical of several issues when they report back to the Australian Board of Control.

There have, of course, been disputes and disagreements between officials of the two countries whenever a tour has taken place.

English officials have had their fair share of headaches from tours of Australia and are still trying to iron out a few problems concerning next summer's tour Down Under.

I expect a certain number of snags are inevitable but a lot of people are wondering if the Australians have been unfairly treated on the present tour.

There is a growing feeling that the tour has been somewhat devalued by the attitude of some clubs in relation to fixture clashes in which domestic competitions have taken absolute priority.

Although the Australian officials must have had time to consider the itinerary they are critical of the fact that they don't play matches against Leeds, Warrington and Wigan.

The reason for this is that all three clubs were selected to stage Tests, Wigan losing their match to Wembley on the insistence of the Australians.

The English League can point out that a British tour side doesn't play the top Sydney club sides and generally meets the country teams.

So the crowds are relatively modest until the Test in Brisbane, which attracts around 40,000, and the two Tests in Sydney, which appeal to crowds of 60,000.

Unfortunately this country cannot provide the same sort of receipts from Tests so the games at club level are vital when it comes to meeting the expenses for the tour.

The outcome of the present situation is that Australia may in future insist on playing clubs like Leeds, Wigan and Warrington as well as Tests on their grounds.

And they will have a point for, after all, the tour should be regarded as an event which helps to stimulate interest and enthusiasm — not controversy.

As one Welsh star told me recently: 'You could not imagine the All Blacks coming to Wales and not playing clubs like Cardiff, Llanelli and Newport. They would lose a hell of a lot of money'.

And it is the cash that matters just as much in League.

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ON THE INSIDE by DAVE PARKER

Leeds who have been looking for a stand-off since Alan Hardisty signalled he would probably retire from senior level at the end of this season, have mentioned Dave Toppliss and Roger Millward, and considered Featherstone's starlet Mel Mason, but an unknown could be going to Headingley. He is Richard James, the Doncaster stay-away stand-off, who is very highly rated and was formerly with Wakefield R.U. and Old Rhodilians R.U. clubs. James lives and works in the Leeds area so a move up a division and up the road so to speak would probably suit him down to the ground.

Another stand-off who is getting plenty of attention from the professional clubs is 23-year-old Travellers "Saints" No. 6 John Parker. Parker's sudden leap from obscurity could be due to the club coach, Tommy Smales, the former Huddersfield international scrum-half and mine host of the Travellers public house in Castleford.

One of the reasons George Ballentyne asked for a move from Wakefield is that after one appearance for Yorkshire he expected to receive his terms under the signing-on agreement, but Trinity officials told him he would have to play two games. Dave Toppliss told me at Wembley that this also applied to him in respect of his international appearances. He is keeping his fingers crossed for selection at Leeds on November 24. Many people who made the trip and saw the Great Britain team alight from the coach were upset that they were in casual dress against the Kangaroos formal blazers and grey flannels. Surely the Rugby League Council should have made sure the players were kitted out with suits of blazers. Criticism was also launched on the fact that Huddersfield referee Billy Thompson had to travel to the match in the morning. And according to my "William Hickey" of the Rugby League in-crowd there were a lot of hangers on in the main dining room prior to the match.

I know of two clubs who missed the memorable Test to send representatives to watch the Ulster-Argentinian match last weekend. Interest in a winger and forward were their objectives. They also told me this week that the South American players possess the most lethal stiff arm they have witnessed. Apparently one player was marched after he virtually beheaded an Irishman.

Another Featherstone player who has jacked in for the time being is winger David Bailey-Lee, who at 22 is putting work before his rugby.

Roy Lester asked Leigh for a free transfer after staying away all season. Last term he was listed at £4,000. I expect Leigh, if he is not prepared to make a comeback there, will ask for a nominal fee.

Ex-Rossendale United footballer Jim Cadman, who took up Rugby League with Swinton before moving to Blackpool, has been trialing at Leigh, who have asked for another month extension of his trial period. Blackpool have agreed, but Cadman is not too happy. He thinks Leigh have seen enough and should sign him. Whitehaven are after St. Helens Dalton-in-Furness-based winger Brian Coward, who has stopped going through to Knowsley Road.

Spot the Ball



X Marks the Spot

The winner of our Spot the Ball Contest featured in the Programme v. Australia was Paul Gamson, 3 Mornington Road, Cheadle.



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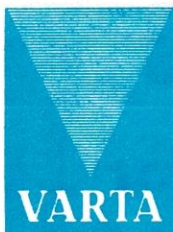
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Rugby Quiz

1. What is the record attendance for a rugby league match in Australia?
2. Which Widnes player played and scored in every match throughout a season?
3. What is the record attendance at the now defunct Cardiff Rugby League Club?
4. How many matches have Australia lost at Wembley?
5. Which record transfer took place in 1949-50?

ANSWERS —

1. 70,419 for NSW v. England at Sydney Cricket Ground in 1950.
2. Jim Hoey in 1932-33.
3. 2,500 for the visit of Widnes in 1951-52.
4. One, against Britain last weekend. Previously they had beaten Wales 26-10 in 1930, Wales 51-19 in 1933 and Britain 28-2 in 1963.
5. Alfy Naughton was transferred from Widnes to Warrington for £4,000 a record at that time.



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OLDHAM 16

Red & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—MURPHY M.
- 2—MUNRO G. *try*
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *try*
- 5—ELLIOTT M.
- 6—BLAIR J.
- 7—McCONE M. *2 tries*
- 8—CLAWSON T. *2 goals*
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—HUGHES B.
- 11—McCRACKEN W.
- 12—HALL F.
- 13—PETERS A.
- 14—
- 15—DALY A.

Referee:

R. MOORE (Wakefield)

WIDNES 12

Black and White hooped jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—DUTTON A.
- 2—BROWN D.
- 3—ASPEY M.
- 4—O'NEILL D.
- 5—O'NEILL J.
- 6—WARBURTON T.
- 7—BISHOP A.
or BOWDEN R.
- 8—MILLS J.
- 9—ELWELL K.
- 10—SHERIDAN B.
- 11—FORAN J.
- 12—ADAMS M.
- 13—LAWTON D.
or DEARDEN A.
- 14—
- 15—

Touch Judges

G. T. Scholefield (Salford) **Red**
J. W. Mean (Leyland) **Orange**

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Pools News

Two Saturdays ago saw the start of the new £100 Holiday Competition on our weekly pool. The draw will take place every 4 weeks and it promises to be a spectacular success. It is being arranged in conjunction with Holts Travel of Union Street, Oldham, who will be ensuring that the lucky winners have a holiday of a lifetime.

Some measure of the pools success can be seen in the number of clubs Rugby and Soccer who have been sent by the printers to see how we do things. This success is due to the splendid efforts of our agents whose hard work and enthusiasm have made things tick.

With the added prize money we are now hoping to do even better. Your support will be much appreciated, why not help in a practical way by becoming an agent yourself? Call at the Pools Office after the game and let us tell you how easy it is.

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Our Visitors

WIDNES

It was pleasant last weekend to see the previously unbeaten Australians fall to the might of Britain and it was particularly pleasing for Oldham supporters to see Terry Clawson playing such an important role in the destruction of the Kangaroos. Congratulations to Terry and the rest of his team mates on that success but Test Match football will be shelved until November 24th as the equally important fight for First Division points is continued this afternoon at Watersheddings with the visit of Floodlit Cup runners-up, Widnes.

At full-back Widnes have the experienced and reliable Ray Dutton who joined Widnes from local junior football in 1964. Dutton's consistency earned him a place in the England team for their matches against Wales and France in 1969-70 when during that season he landed 130 goals. The following summer he toured Australasia but an unfortunate shoulder injury reduced his number of appearances to nine. However, he did play in two tests against New Zealand and in his nine appearances he scored 2 tries and kicked 43 goals. In season 1970-71 he played in all four of Great Britain's World Cup matches when he landed 13 goals but that 12-7 defeat by Australia in the 1970 World Cup Final ended Dutton's international career although he has played four times for Lancashire since then. Last season he landed 10 goals and scored a try in the 53-5 defeat of Barrow whilst this season, despite Widnes's limited success, he has managed to kick 36 goals. Signed the same year as Dutton was Malcolm Aspey who was the Widnes chief scorer last season with 24 tries and 66 goals including 10 goals against Leigh in Widnes's 56-14 win. Aspey is one of the most experienced threequarters for due to injuries Widnes have been introducing young recruits such as the 21 years old Mick George. The leading Widnes try scorer this season is Eric Hughes who has scored 5. Hughes is a very fast winger who has played in both Lancashire's matches this season as well as in both county matches last season. He is also an accomplished centre. Mick McLoughlin has been with Widnes four years since his signing from the St. Maries junior club. Another flying winger is Alan Prescott who was a star with the West Park RUFC before turning professional in January, 1971. The former Oldham star Tommy Warburton is also in running for a place in the Widnes backs. Twenty-eight years old Warburton joined Oldham from Tyldesley RUFC in November, 1964 and whilst at Watersheddings he represented Lancashire and England U-24. In January, 1968, he moved to Leigh as part of the deal which brought Wilf Briggs to Watersheddings but Warburton's stay at Leigh was not a very happy one and he consequently moved to Bradford Northern. It was in October, 1971, that he moved back to Lancashire when Blackpool Borough paid out £500 for his services but this proved a sound investment for the lowly seaside club received £4,000 last March when Warburton was transferred to Widnes. When he made his debut for Widnes against Workington Town, Warburton crossed for two tries in his sides 31-2 victory. Warburton has been playing in the centre whilst at Widnes but he is also an excellent stand-off half. However, the number 6 jersey is likely to be worn by one of the O'Neill brothers. The latest recruit from the O'Neill family is Jim, a former Lancashire and England U-18 player, who was signed from Widnes RUFC last May. Although only slightly built he is a fast and dangerous attacker. Denis O'Neill is a product of Widnes junior football and an established international. Since 1968 he has played six times for Lancashire and six times for Great Britain including a trip to France for last season's World Cup. In the first round of last season's Challenge Cup, despite being chosen as substitute, he scored 4 tries in the 53-3 defeat of Blackpool Borough. At scrum-half Widnes will probably have the hard working Reg Bowden who was signed five years ago from Ditton Youth Club.

Due to injuries the Widnes pack has been the subject of many changes and experiments and one most successful switch has been the playing at loose-forward of 21 years old Mick Adams who made his debut against Oldham in September, 1971, as a full-back. On his debut he kicked two goals. Another player who has had plenty of experience in the backs before switching to the pack is 25 years old Bobbie Blackwood whose professional career began in February, 1967, when he signed for St. Helens. In 1971 he was a try scorer for St. Helens in their dramatic 16-12 Championship Final victory over Wigan and the following season he made his county debut with Cumberland when he scored a try against Lancashire. Since his transfer to Widnes, Blackwood has moved from the wing to the second-row where he has been using his speed with great effect. Joe Docherty is a versatile youngster who can play at either hooker or loose-forward. Widnes signed him in September, 1972, from Warrington after he had learned his football with the Warrington Colts team. The other hooker in the Widnes first team squad is Keith Elwell whilst second-row forward John Foran, who has been at Widnes eight years, has also had experience in the hooking berth. Other players contesting a place in the Widnes pack include Dave Macko, Fred Newton and Barry Sheriden. Prop forward Jim Mills has been at Widnes just twelve months after returning from playing in Australia. Prior to going 'down under' he played for both Halifax and Salford and in 1969 he represented Wales against France. He is a tough forward who had the unfortunate distinction of being sent-off in last season's Floodlit Cup Final. With the players available there is no doubt that Widnes will provide stiff opposition for Oldham.

With both sides trying to escape from the relegation zone this afternoon's match is a vital one. The bottom seven clubs of the First Division, after last weekends games were all within four points of each other. Wigan, Rochdale Hornets and Leigh had 6 points, Castleford 5, Oldham 4, Widnes 3 and Whitehaven 2. Oldham will be favourites to win this afternoon's encounter and so step a little further up the league table. Indeed, nothing short of victory will satisfy the Oldham players and staff in their efforts to maintain a reputable league position.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	18—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
	29—Wigan	A
Oct.	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

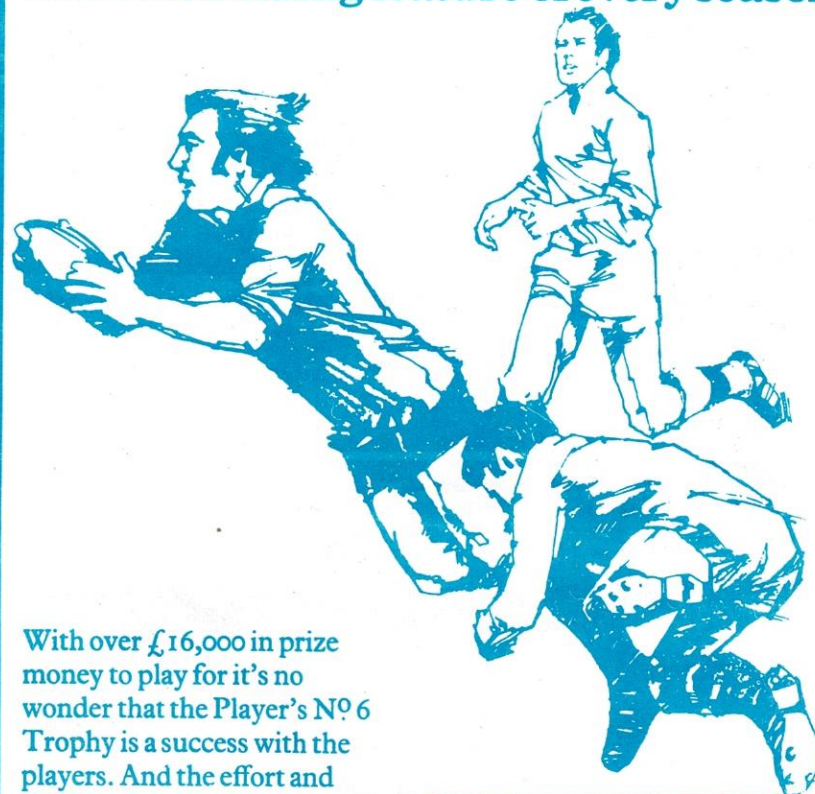
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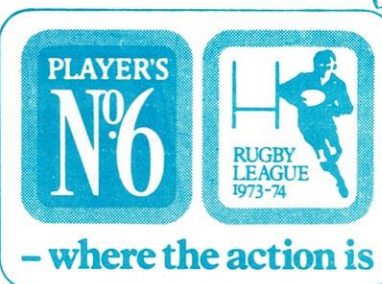
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OLDHAM v WIDNES

Sunday 11th November 1973 Kick-off 2.15 pm

Admission by Programme only

OLDHAM

18

Red & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—MURPHY M.
- 2—MUNRO G. *try*
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *try*
- 5—ELLIOTT M.
- 6—BLAIR J.
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- 15—

Referee:

R. MOORE (Wakefield)

WIDNES

12

Black and White hooped jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—DUTTON A.
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- 15—

Touch Judges

G. T. Scholefield (Salford) Red

J. W. Mean (Leyland) Orange

Next Home Match *Sun. 25th November*

v Wigan