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1st DIVISION

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Kick-off 2-15 pm



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Programme 6p

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ON THE INSIDE—

DAVE PARKER

Dewsbury have received a transfer request from utility forward Steve Hankins, but at the time of preparing these notes they had not made a decision on his future with the club.

Hankins and the transfer-listed Joe Whittington would be good buys for any club.

Halifax have been given permission to interview the Crown Flatt club's prop Brian Taylor, who after 11 seasons with the club now fancies a change and regular first team place. I understand Dewsbury require £1,000 for his services.

The reason former Halifax captain Phil Davies wanted a move was that he would like a club nearer his Normanton home.

Wakefield Trinity, who are to lose Steve Lyons to Brisbane Souths, Queensland, and possibly full-back Geoff Wraith, will with former Halifax director and international forward Don Robinson on their committee be keeping a close eye on the Halifax full-back Tony Hepworth now staying away after injury. Hepworth was a star in the Thum Hall club's 1971 Player's No. 6 victory at which time Mr. Robinson was being co-opted onto the board. He has since resigned but he knows that the former Shaw Cross product only lives 4 miles from Belle Vue.

Whitehaven have taken Barrow's young half-back Kenny Evans on trial. Barrow are keen to do a few cash deals with some of their staff who are unsettled as finances are at a low ebb.

Workington Town are another club who will have floodlights next season. No doubt they will be another entrant in the B.B.C. 2 Floodlit Competition if the B.B.C. get their expected 4 year contract, which is still on the conference table.

I understand Bramley were on £60 a man for the day at Widnes in the B.B.C. 2 Floodlit Final. In the semi-final win over St. Helens the players netted £44.

Leigh have had a Southern Rugby Union prop forward up at Hilton Park for trials. The club's utility back Paul Kelly, who was makeweight in the Dave Eckersley move 16 months ago, has settled his differences.

It also now appears that former Widnes scrum-half Jimmy Boylan has packed his bags and decided to retire from the scene at Hilton Park.

Rule Rochdale Hornets coach Frank Myler and Leeds coach Eric Ashton out of the trip down under in the close season. Myler plans to open another betting shop and Ashton's work as a representative in West Lancashire will also prevent him going.

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Christmas Draw Results

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Wine, 44825, G. Dew. | 54. Sherry, 42694, B. Owen. |
| 2. A Perm Voucher, 43851, H. Brewerton. | 55. Turkey, 10770, K. Geany. |
| 3. A Radio, 0982, A. Taylor. | 56. Turkey, 10160, P. Brown. |
| 4. A Clock, 12631, A. Taylor. | 57. Chocolates, 10161, E. Slater. |
| 5. 9 piece Fruit Set, 26058, T. Doyle. | 58. Chocolates, 15845, E. Slater. |
| 6. Gladstone Bag, 46523, T. Doyle. | 59. Brandy, 39253, C. Farnworth. |
| 7. Whisky, 3889, A. Walker. | 60. Chinzano, 26629, C. Farnworth. |
| 8. Whiskey, 30813, A. Walker. | 61. Port, 16541, C. Farnworth. |
| 9. Sherry, 25102, A. Walker. | 62. Sweets, 23012, C. Farnworth. |
| 10. Sherry, 24331, A. Walker. | 63. Bottle of Rum, 31702, Jim Higgins. |
| 11. Bottle, 20666, G. and J. Greenhall. | 64. Bottle of Whiskey, 25026, Jim Higgins. |
| 12. Sherry, 4602, Greenhall Whitley. | 65. Wine, 5646, R. Hartley. |
| 13. Sherry, 5034, Cambrian. | 66. Wine, 0721, R. Hartley. |
| 14. Cannisters, 19095, Ormerod. | 67. Champagne, 38515, B. Day. |
| 15. Cleaning Pack, 11853, Besbios. | 68. Champagne, 29447, B. Day. |
| 16. Breakfast Set, 10596, Supporters Club. | 69. Chocolates, 19681, W. Jinks. |
| 17. Cigarette Lighter, 39412, Supporters Club. | 70. Sherry, 35559, W. Jinks. |
| 18. Flask, 14070, Supporters Club. | 71. Gin, 37682, J. Hall. |
| 19. Lamp, 5758, Supporters Club. | 72. Liqueurs, 38689, J. Hall. |
| 20. Tea Set, 35618, Supporters Club. | 73. Sherry, 14551, J. Bowden. |
| 21. Indoor Line, 22722, Supporters Club. | 74. Whiskey, 10648, J. Bowden. |
| 22. Dishes, 12431, Supporters Club. | 75. Whiskey, 14371, D. Hulme. |
| 23. Clock, 0408, Supporters Club. | 76. Wine, 34006, D. Hulme. |
| 24. Cruet Set, 19155, Supporters Club. | 77. Whiskey, 33999, K. Potter. |
| 25. Tool Set, 22443, Supporters Club. | 78. Sherry, 35087, K. Potter. |
| 26. Pen Set, 4380, Supporters Club. | 79. Wine, 22112, Irene de Piava. |
| 27. Cigarette Lighter, 19279, T. Doyle. | 80. Bottle of Gin, 1056, Sam Ormshaw. |
| 28. Chicken, 20846, A. Potter. | 81. Glasses, 31656, K. Wilkinson. |
| 29. Sherry, 24156, K. Taylor. | 82. Sherry, 0121, Cambrian. |
| 30. Table, 24437, R. Broadbent. | 83. Whiskey, 46538, Greyhounds. |
| 31. Table, 14178, C. Broadbent. | 84. Sherry, 0088, D. Blackburn. |
| 32. Chipper, 14552, Peter Brown. | 85. Turkey, 31434, H. Ashworth. |
| 33. Glasses, 29959, Peter Brown. | 86. doz. Ale, 21871, Sam L. Smith. |
| 34. Collage, 17124, J. Armstrong. | 87. Lamp, 3927, Lord Electrics. |
| 35. Collage, 42335, J. Armstrong. | 88. doz. Ale, 31418, Sam Smith. |
| 36. Brandy, 15173, N. Cunningham. | 89. Chicken, 0995, F. Sykes. |
| 37. Whiskey, 39391, R. Hardaker. | 90. Whiskey, 11287, P. Owen. |
| 38. Chicken, 31611, R. Hardaker. | 91. Sherry, 21743, F. Hall Snr. |
| 39. Torches, 36621, F. Diskin. | 92. Turkey, 26372, P. Howard. |
| 40. Radio, 18359, F. Diskin. | 93. Sherry, 36305, Cambrian. |
| 41. Bottle, 23551, G. Jenkins. | 94. Sherry, 8102, E. Devall. |
| 42. Perfume, 19483, L. Whittaker. | 95. Whiskey, 10949, J. M. Kershaw. |
| 43. Sherry, 12395, D. Kenway. | 96. Sherry, 30160, J. Bowden Snr. |
| 44. Capon, 43323, A. Mulhall. | 97. Port, 21714, J. Roscoe. |
| 45. Port, 27102, W. Collins. | 98. Voucher, 23507, Boots Chemist. |
| 46. Torches, 24461, F. Diskin. | 99. Sherry, 31877, Cambrian. |
| 47. Dispensers, 40603, P. Brown. | 100. Garden Pack, 37482, Fisons. |
| 48. Whiskey, 37467, R. Hatton. | 101. Phone Index, 21237, P. Brown. |
| 49. Sherry, 9030, R. Hatton. | 102. Lantern, 12360, P. Brown. |
| 50. Whiskey, 15900, F. Bowden. | 103. Knife Set, 0206, P. Brown. |
| 51. Sherry, 8346, E. Wall. | 104. Scales, 3919, P. Brown. |
| 52. Blanket, 46535, E. Buckley. | 105. Stool, 21274, P. Brown. |
| 53. Brandy, 19742, J. Hartley. | |

Brian Batty of the Mail

The queue of English players ready to try their luck in Australia grows and so does the controversy surrounding this sad state of affairs.

There have been a number of suggestions aimed at softening the blow at club and country level.

One is that English clubs should invade Australia and tempt the Kangaroo stars to come and play in this country.

Cash in by swooping when the Aussie stars have completed their contracts with Sydney clubs is the bold cry.

Now I have heard some crazy ideas in my time but this one is worthy of five stars.

If we can't persuade our own players that they are better off in this country how are we going to convince the Australians that we have more to offer than their own clubs?

Tell them that our weather is really superior, that petrol rationing is aimed at keeping everyone fit and that the pound can't fall any further!

Tell them that even though the cash rewards for playing don't compare with those offered in Brisbane (see Tommy Bishop) or Sydney (see Phil Lowe) they can have plenty of 'time on the sick' with so many injuries from a crippling programme.

Any club official we have got who can sell this sort of deal to our Aussie cousins should be working for the Government.

It is one-way traffic for the stars these days under the present system and it wouldn't be allowed in other sports.

The other suggestion which was of equal merit was that those Great Britain stars who do join Sydney clubs should still be allowed to play for the country of their birth.

They should, it is claimed, be available for selection by British touring sides to play in Tests in Australia.

I can just see the Sydney clubs agreeing to that proposal. It would cause as much horror Down Under as among the players bidding to make the 26-strong tour squad.

This trip is a reward for four years hard labour and is only within the reach of most players once or twice in a career.

But I'll let Aussie tour boss Charlie Gibson have the last word on the player-drain. 'I think the English clubs are entitled to put some sort of a ban on their stars moving to Australia. It's not good for the game'.

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Rugby Quiz

1. What were the results in the recent France v. Australia test series?
2. Who did Leigh defeat to win the Floodlit Cup last season?
3. What year was the Leigh club changed into a limited company?
4. Who holds the Oldham try scoring record?
5. What record transfer fee did Leigh pay out in 1947?

ANSWERS

1. Australia won all three tests 21-9, 24-12 and 14-3.
2. Hull Kingston Rovers (a) 12-10, Wigan (a) 16-14, Oldham (h) 10-8 and Widnes (at Wigan) 5-0.
3. 1945.
4. Reg Farrar, 49 in season 1921-22.
5. Leigh paid £2,650 to Dewsbury for Jim Ledgard, a league record at that time.



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- 2—MUNRO G. *try*
- 3—~~ELLIOTT M.~~
- 3—LARDER P. *6 goals*
- 4—WAINWRIGHT *A. Elliott M try*
- 5—O'BRIEN J.
- 6—TREASURE D.
- 7—McCONE M. *try*
- 8—ASHCROFT K. *try*
- 8—~~CLAWSON~~
- 9—TAYLOR K. *try*
- 10—HALL F.
- 11—GREGORY B. *try*
- 12—McCRACKEN W.
- 13—PETERS A. *try*
- 14—Blair
- 15—Bottom

Referee:
D. G. KERSHAW (York)

LEIGH 20

Red & White hoops
White Shorts

- 1—HOGAN M.
- 2—FISHWICK L.
- 3—~~MELLING W.~~ *Walsk try*
- 4—RIDING A. *try*
- 5—~~WALSH J.~~ *Melling*
- 6—McCATEE J.
- 7—SAYER C. *try*
- 8—FIDDLER J. *4 goals*
- 9—CLARKE D.
- 10—ROWLEY A. *try*
- 11—MARTIN T.
- 12—HICKS R.
- 13—BOYD D.
- 14—FLETCHER D.
- 15—FLANAGHAN K.

Touch Judges
R. Dennett (Warrington) Red
T. Clayton (Widnes) Orange

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OUR VISITORS

At full-back Leigh have the promising local product Mick Hogan who joined the senior club from Leigh Colts. Out on the flanks Oldham's visitors are sure to have two extremely fast wingers. Nineteen years old John Davies was signed from the St Helens junior league and he is a dangerous attacker as was proved last season when he scored five tries in Leigh's 27-2 win at Blackpool. This season he leads the list of Leigh try scorers with 7. Like Davies, the versatile Steve Houghton is a product of St. Helens junior football but when he left Pilkington Recreation he signed for his local club, St. Helens. In October, 1971, Houghton moved to Leigh for a fee of £1,500 and his highest scoring game was against Dewsbury Celtic in the first round of the Challenge Cup when he scored 4 tries in the 27-4 win. A local boy also in the running for a first team wing spot is 19 years old Alan Riding who was signed from Leigh junior football. Joe Walsh was snapped up by Leigh from the Widnes based Derby Arms junior club and his strong running and hard tackling has earned him full international honours. In 1970-71 he played three times for Lancashire and the following season he again represented Lancashire before playing in the second test match against New Zealand. In that test match he scored a try although Britain were defeated 17-14. After missing last season and the opening of this season he has now returned and is quickly regaining his old form. In the centre Leigh have Mike Collins who last season won the Supporters' Club award as 'Player of the Season'. He was born in Liverpool and turned professional from the Waterloo RUFC. Another player who has recently returned to the Hilton Park fold after missing most of last season is Stan Dorrington the Salford born centre who was signed from Langworthy juniors. He was a try scorer at Wembley in 1971. Billy Melling, who will be 19 next month, was an outstanding schoolboy star with Lancashire and when he joined Leigh in January, 1971, from Leigh Colts it was an excellent signing for the Hilton Park club. Melling is certainly a player to be watched in the future and he plays equally well whether at loose forward or in the centre.

When Leigh transferred David Eckersley to St. Helens for £12,000 they also received as part of the deal Paul Kelly an exciting and skilful stand-off. Kelly learned his football with Latchford Albion before joining St. Helens in October, 1971, and consequently moving on to Leigh in September, 1972. A player who has been alternating from stand-off and scrum-half is John McAtee although Leigh's regular scrum-half this season has been former Oldham favourite Cliff Sayer who made his Oldham debut in April, 1968, after signing from Wigan St. Patrick's. He moved to Leigh in March, 1972, on a free transfer and made a most memorable debut in the Floodlit Cup Final when Leigh beat Widnes 5-0 at Wigan. One of the reasons for Leigh's winning of the Floodlit Cup was the inspired leadership of hooker Derek Clarke. Widnes born Clarke was with Swinton and Salford before transferring to Leigh in October, 1972. He was an instant success for on his debut Leigh beat high riding Dewsbury 9-5 and they went on to record that Floodlit Cup success.

The chief points scorer at Leigh this season has been Jim Fiddler who so far has scored 6 tries and landed 58 goals. Although aged only 25 years, Fiddler is a very experienced player. He was signed in 1967 from Orrell RUFC and this season

he gained county recognition. He scored a try for Lancashire against Cumbria and then dropped a neat goal as Lancashire clinched the Championship with that exciting 17—15 victory over Yorkshire. The other prop is one of Leigh's up and coming players, Alf Wilkinson, who is 18 years old and was signed last March from Leigh Colts. One of Leigh's most experienced players is second row forward Frank Barrow who although now 32 years old is still a mainstay of the Leigh pack. Barrow had a distinguished career at full-back with the outstanding St. Helens team in the 1960's. In August, 1972, he moved to Leigh to lend experience to this young and talented team. Another former Oldham player is Kevin Flanagan who began his professional career in May, 1964, at Watersheddings. From Oldham, Flanagan then moved to Rochdale Hornets but with the influx of costly forward signings he has found a first team place at Rochdale difficult to find so after a short spell with Huddersfield he now finds himself on loan to Leigh. The other contender for a second row place is former Leigh junior Alan Rowley. Loose-forward Dennis Boyd joined Leigh from Wigan at the beginning of the season when he made his debut in the 22—21 pre-season friendly win against Widnes. Boyd has a challenger for the number 13 jersey now that Tommy Martyn has recovered from injury. Twenty-four years old Martyn is a product of the enterprising Leigh Miners Welfare Club who joined Batley mainly because of his friendship with the Oldham 'A' team coach Terry Gorman who was also at Batley at that time. In October, 1971, after a lengthy dispute he moved to his home town club for £3,000 and with a little luck and less injuries he is sure to make his mark in representative football.

It has certainly been a tough baptism for Leigh's young players who, although they are gaining valuable experience, are finding life rather tough in Division One. At present they lie in 13th position with just four wins and nine defeats. On the bright side however, a glance at the fixture list reveals that Leigh have had a tough opening to the season and they should improve and avoid relegation especially when one realises that their four league victories were against fellow fighters against relegation. They have scored home wins against Bramley 7—0, Whitehaven 18—8 and a double victory against Wigan 15—2 at home and 12—9 away. Heavy defeats have been suffered at home to St. Helens 23—2 and away at Salford 31—4 and Leeds 48—5. It hasn't been any brighter for Leigh in Cup football and with the only victory being recorded away at New Hunslet in the John Player Trophy. Seven goals from Jim Fiddler led the scoring in that match which Leigh won rather comfortably despite several injuries. Last weekend in the second round Bramley knocked out Leigh 24—12 so there is only the Challenge Cup left for Leigh now. In the Floodlit Cup Leigh entertained Widnes and looked to be coasting to victory when they were winning 10—2 but they collapsed and lost 13—10. Leigh were called upon to visit Warrington in the Lancashire Cup and as expected Warrington won 20—15. It was a typical, hard fought cup-tie in which the Warrington pack just about won the day. In this match the game's outstanding player was Billy Melling. The visit of the Australians to Hilton Park is best forgotten by Leigh supporters for their team were well beaten by those super-fit Kangaroos 31—4.

This afternoon Oldham are expected to pull off another victory to consolidate their position of fifth in the table, a position which six weeks ago seemed impossible. Leigh, of course, are also desperate for points for another reason, to fight off relegation so another tough match is envisaged. On Wednesday, Boxing Day, Frank Myler and his merry men visit Watersheddings in what should be another all action affair with the extra bit of local rivalry to liven up proceedings! It's going to be a lively Christmas for Oldham and their supporters so we must hope that the right sort of presents come our way.

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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

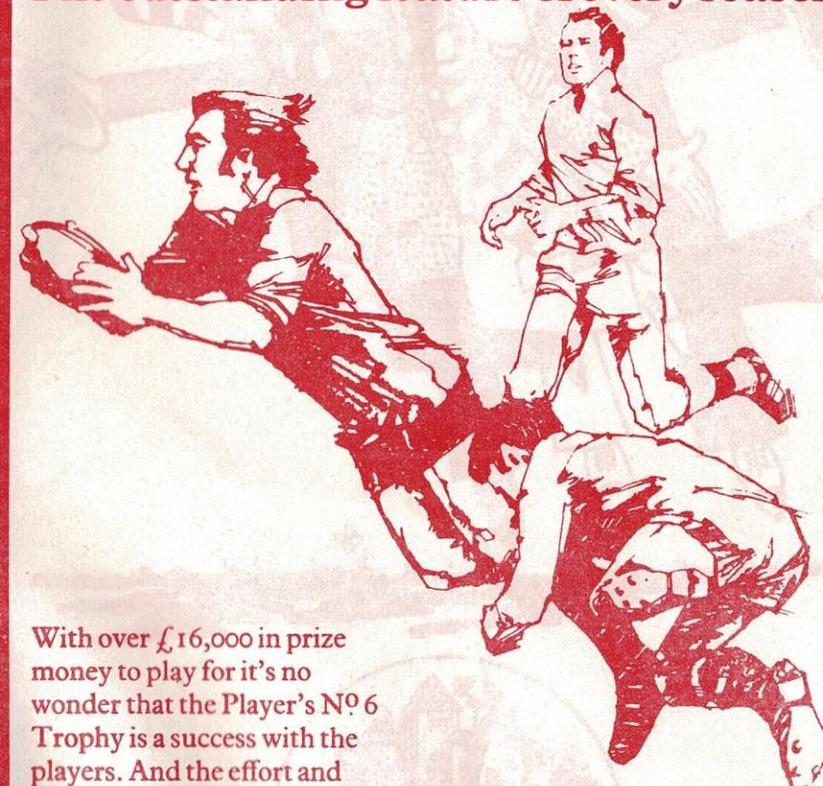
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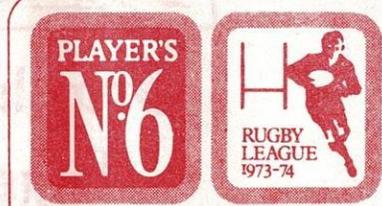
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OLDHAM v LEIGH

Sunday 23rd December 1973 30 20
kick off 2¹⁵ pm

Admission by Programme only

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Blue & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 30
- 1—MURPHY M.
 - 2—MUNRO G.
or ELLIOTT M.
 - 3—LARDER P.
 - 4—WAINWRIGHT A.
 - 5—O'BRIEN J.
 - 6—TREASURE D.
 - 7—McCONE M.
 - 8—ASHCROFT K.
or CLAWSON
 - 9—TAYLOR K.
 - 10—HALL F.
 - 11—GREGORY B.
 - 12—McCRACKEN W.
 - 13—PETERS A.
 - 14—
 - 15—

LEIGH

Red & White hoops
White Shorts

- 20
- 1—HOGAN M.
 - 2—FISHWICK I
 - 3—MELLING W
 - 4—RIDING A
 - 5—WALSH J.
 - 6—McCATEE J.
 - 7—SAYER C.
 - 8—FIDDLER J.
 - 9—CLARKE D.
 - 10—ROWLEY A
 - 11—MARTIN I
 - 12—HICKS R.
 - 13—BOYD D
 - 14—FLETCHER D.
 - 15—FLANAGHAN K.

Touch Judges

R. Dennett (Warrington) Red

T. Clayton (Widnes) Orange

Referee:

D. G. KERSHAW (York)

next home match

Tuesday, December 26th, 1973 v ROCHDALE

Kick-off 2-15 pm