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G.F. HUTCHINS

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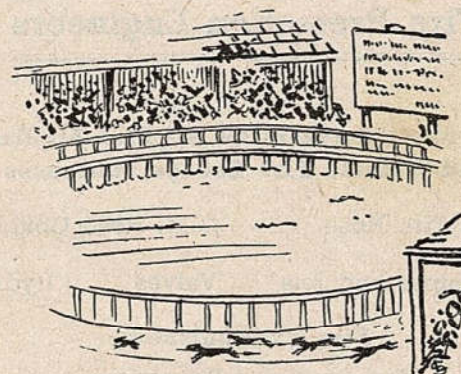
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EXTINCTUMOldham Football Club Supporters' Club assisted by
the Oldham Junior and Continuation League**"AN APPEAL"**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Committees of the above club are very desirous of submitting this Appeal to you on behalf of a fund whereby we hope to commemorate the memory of that Great Sportsman, the late George Frederick Hutchins, who for many years was a devoted servant of the Oldham Football Club, a leading official of the Rugby League Council (having served for many years on the Committee) and finally as President of the Controlling Body, a compliment well earned for his strict sense of loyalty to this Great Empire game. Further he had the honour of being appointed Joint Manager of Two Australian Rugby League Tours and as Robert Anderton of Warrington, one of his co-Directors has said, Fred Hutchins was a true propagandist of the Game and was a real John Bull, creating friendship and goodwill wherever the team went.

Mr. Hutchins was for many years a controlling figure of Rugby League Junior Football having long served in fostering the Juniors in the finer points of the game and finally joining the Oldham Football Clubs Committee and serving on all committees and at last being appointed President of the Senior Club and completing a life well spent in the advancement of true sportsmanship of the Rugby League Football Game.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Supporters' Club Committee is very desirous of commemorating the memory of this well-known and faithful Sportsman by reconstructing the stand at the Waterhead end (better known as over the Penny Rush), which was officially condemned as being structurally unsafe for the use of the public and when completed to christen it the "G. F. Hutchins Memorial Stand" to be a lasting memorial to the man who sacrificed so much of his leisure time to the sport of his fellowmen.

The Committee knows quite well this effort will entail a large amount of hard work and money, yet we realize this will be forthcoming when an honest appeal is made to the sports loving people of Oldham and their many friends.

May we therefore make this Appeal to all, and by giving generously you will help in this worthy cause "The Fred Hutchins Memorial Fund."

Please oblige by sending your donation, no matter how small, to the President, Treasurer, or Secretary.

During our efforts to raise the Funds we are hoping to run a series of competitions in addition to issuing this sports periodical. Any suggestions from well-wishers will be welcome and will be given every consideration.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE.

President: H. H. SUTCLIFFE.

Vice-President: R. MOORES.

Treasurer: J. HOLLINGWORTH.

Secretary: A. BOARDMAN.

Committee:

GEO. BURNETT. S. BRIERLEY. F. COCKER. H. DRONSFIELD.
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An Appreciation of Fred Hutchins

George Frederick Hutchins, Fred to his friends, and their name was legion, was the third in succession of outstanding legislators representing the Oldham Club; Joe Platt, George Holden, and Fred Hutchins will go down in our game's history as the three from one club, who have rendered the greatest service to the Rugby League Game. He had been Chairman of the Council, the League Management Committee, and the Lancashire County Committee, all honours of which he was justly proud, and which he so truly deserved, but perhaps the honour he prized most was to be sent out to the Antipodes as a manager in both the 1928 and 1932 Tours, and to return with the Ashes on each occasion.

Returning from the 1928 Tour, across Canada from Vancouver to Montreal, an exhibition match was played between two thirteens of the Tourists named England v. Wales at Montreal, and the referee was Mr. Hutchins. He had done a lot of refereeing and was quite a capable official, but he never carried the whistle in a match like this. The spectators of course, knew nothing about the game, and the late Mr. Harry Dawcett of Hull, who had crossed from England to Montreal to meet the homecoming party, was given the mike to make a running commentary. The commentator for most of the game was in front of the referee, and what he said and the referee's decisions did not always agree. What the conversation was at half-time between Fred and Harry-history does not relate, but we who knew both, can have a good idea. At any rate there was no running commentary in the second half.

Fred used to tell with gusto the story how he was last on the morning of departure of the 1932 team. The party were in the Russell Hotel, and when everybody was in or ready to get into the coach taking the party to the station the manager was absent and couldn't be found in the Hotel. Actually the coach had the go without him, but he duly arrived in a taxi, sans shave, sans breakfast, in time for the boat train. His version of that taxi ride from the Russell to the station quite put Dick Turpin and his ride to York in the shade. The explanation for his being temporarily mislaid was simple enough. He had been entertained the night before by his agent and business associates in London. On returning to the Russell after midnight, he hadn't his key, and could not remember the number of his room, so the night porter put him in a room of which none of us knew the number, and he couldn't be called.

He made a number of visits to France, where he was a prime favourite, during the early days when Rugby League Football was being established there, and to which establishment he made a valuable contribution. His one and only appearance at Perpignone, where a representative team played a match, will be remembered by all who were there for an amusing incident. He was the England touch judge, the other being a French player. In the second half the referee, a Frenchman, awarded a try scored by Dennis Madden of Huddersfield and Leeds, which the French touch judge disputed (and he was right). The referee, like a good official, stuck to his decision, and the protest ended by the touch-judge throwing down his flag behind the goal-posts and walking off. Another Frenchman took on the job, a member of Perpignau Club Committee this time, and he in his turn got into an angry dispute with supporters in the stand which ended in him climbing over the rails, and engaging in a bout of fisticuffs. Meanwhile the ball went into touch at the other end of the field, there was no touch judge, and a third had to be found to finish the match. Fred was told by the players that he had had a narrow escape from being called upon to officiate on both sides of the field.

George Frederick Hutchins was a sound legislator, a fine judge of a player, a real sportsman, and the best friend a man could ever have.

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To the Memory of George Frederick Hutchins over 50 years in Rugby League Football

by
W. WOOD

To commemorate the Fine Gesture of the Supporters Club of the Oldham R. L. F. Club, in reconstructing the Stand on the South Side of the Ground, to the memory of the late George Frederick Hutchins who passed this way on July 3rd, 1947, I would like to pay my tribute by giving a synopsis of his career in the sport that he so loved, and for which he devoted so much of his leisure hours. Having been directly connected with Fred for more than 50 years, I think I can write with some authority, and knowledge when I say that no finer legislator ever graced a committee.

In the year 1893, Fred was then a youth of 16, and along with his playmates, decided to form the finest (wishful thinking) Rugby Football Club. The first meeting was held on a Factory Steps in Robson Street, and there was founded the Roscoe Hornets Rugby Football Club, with Fred appointed Hon. Secy. He continued to act in this capacity for a good number of years.

As is well known, the year 1895 brought the Big Split in Rugby Circles and the Northern Union was formed with the late Joe Platt of Oldham as Honorary Secretary, and I might add that it was this gentleman's influence which assisted to mould the character of G.F.H.. It was at this time that the youthful secretary wrote to the Editor of the Oldham Chronicle suggesting that there was sufficient Young Players to form a Junior League under Northern Union Rules. The result was surprising, and when the preliminaries had been gone through, a Junior League comprising 33 Clubs in Three Divisions was formed, and the first President was the late George Hirst of the Oldham Chronicle, who presented a Silver Shield for competition. This you will agree was a very fine achievement for so young a boy.

In the season 1899/1900, the first Oldham Junior Rugby League Handbook was issued, and it may recall some memories by submitting the following list of Officials, (here it will be noted that Fred was to receive his second big position).

President: John Hirst, Esq.

Hon. Secy.: G. F. Hutchins (Roscoe II.).

Treasurer: H. Mayfall (Abbey Hills).

Committee:

J. W. Cocker, Chairman.
J. W. Wrigley (Millcroft F.C.).
J. Spencer (Rochdale Rangers F.C.).
W. Dent (Saddleworth Rangers F.C.).
W. Pearson (Belgrave F.C.).
R. Greenwood (Springhead F.C.).
J. Gartside (Melbourne F.C.).
J. Cadd (Central Rangers F.C.).
R. Brooks (Abbey Hills F.C.).
S. Egerton (Lars F.C.).
J. Whitehead (Glenby Hornets F.C.).
H. Middeley (Glenby F.C.).
T. Bradley (Oldham Central F.C.).
W. Slater (Scouthead Hornets F.C.).
J. Whitehead (Glodwick Baptists F.C.).
H. Parker (Central Hornets F.C.).

Auditors: J. C. Jenkinson and J. T. Simpson.

Up to that time the following Clubs had secured Championship Honours.

Season 1896/7.

First Division: Glenby Hornets.

Second Division: Cranbrook Hornets.

Season 1897/8.

First Division: Millcroft.

Second Division: Watersheddings Juniors.

Third Division: Grosvenor Albion.

Season 1898/9.

First Division: Glenby.

Second Division: Oldham Central.

The Headquarters were the Royal Oak Hotel, Union Street, and many were the scenes outside that Hotel at the conclusion of the Committee's deliberations, and many a referee had to run faster over Union St. than he did on the field after he had given his evidence, and a club or player had been penalized by the committee. To show how the enthusiasm pertained in Junior Circles in those days, there was, on one occasion when the crowd outside the Hotel was so large that the police had to be called to control it. Happily the whole committee got home that night. In addition to being Hon. Secretary of the Junior League and Roscoe Hornets, G. F. H. had some pretensions of being a wing threequarter, his chief claim being that he could run. When Roscoe Hornets ran a Handicap on the Borough Grounds the distance was 200 yards, and being scratch runner, and giving 15 yards to "Nigger Carroll" (who afterwards won many sprint races) and winning the Leather Handbag in which he carried his playing gear for a few years.

Fred never made any great claim about his prowess as a player, being too fragile in build and a damaged shoulder in a game played on the old Oldham Football Ground at Clarksfield, against Salford Adelphians, caused his retirement as a player. He turned his attention to refereeing, and was given charge of the most important Junior matches in the district, and one story he was fond of relating, was the match between the great rivals, Glenby v. Glenby Hornets, upon the result depended league honours. The match was played on the ground adjoining the Boat Horse Hotel, Chadderton, and the approach to the field was over the Canal, and after the teams had crossed, Fred followed and was met by a few excited supporters who, pointing to the Canal informed him that, that was the place all referees went if their team did not win. Their team did not win that day, but first over the bridge was the referee after the final whistle. His connections with the Rochdale public was, to him pleasant if variable. When the "Standard" Cup was presented by the proprietors of that Newspaper (Mr. Stevenson) the first finalists on the Oldham F.C. ground were Rochdale Rangers v. Heyside. Lancashire's County Committee were asked to appoint the referee but he failed to put in an appearance, and at the request of the two teams Fred took charge, and after that he controlled every Final of that Competition up to his retirement as a referee.

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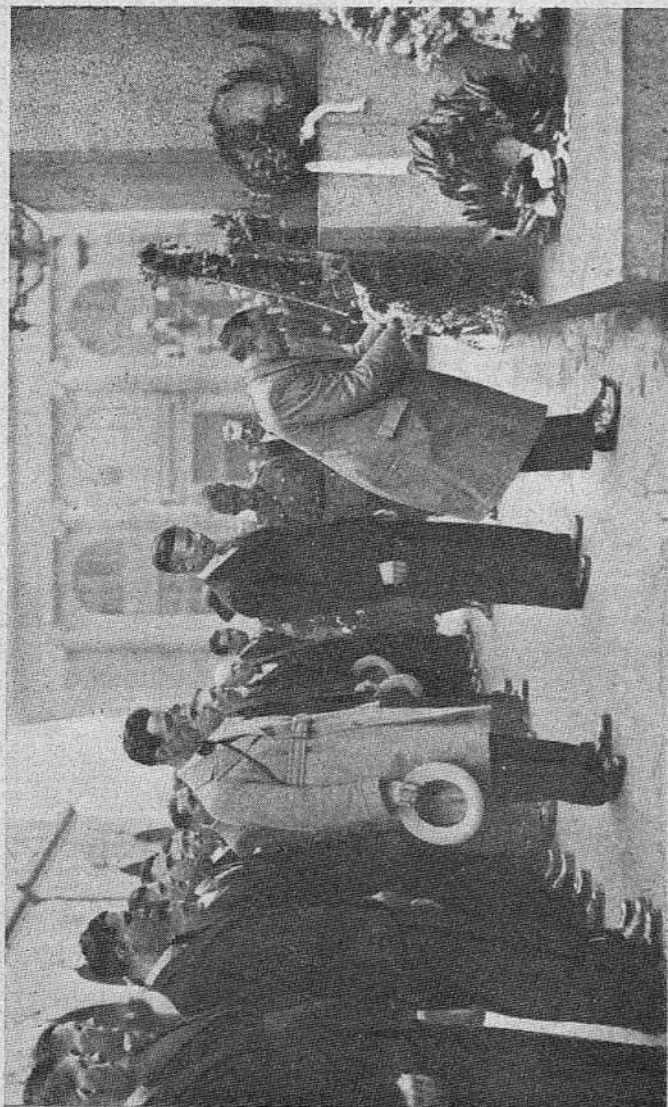
Many of his friends of those days will remember him as the only referee to officiate in a mackintosh. This was on Rochdale Hornets ground between Rochdale Rangers (for whom his old and most esteemed friend "Bob Brierley" was Hon. Secretary) v. Heyside, in the Rochdale Charity Cup Competition. It was at Rochdale that he started his official career with Oldham Football Club. Rochdale Rangers played a friendly game with Oldham 'A' Team and the Rangers invited him to referee on their ground off Milnrow Road. After the match the late Percy Ingham, one of the Officials in charge of the Oldham 'A' Team, asked him if he would care to take over the management of Oldham 'A' Team, with a result he was appointed at their next meeting, and continued to act in that capacity up to the outbreak of war in 1914. At this time there was little to choose between Oldham First and Second Teams; the 'A' Team winning the Championship on many occasions and Fred was naturally proud when one season after receiving their gold championship medals the players subscribed and presented him with one. This he wore for many years and strange to relate, he lost it whilst acting as referee in a practice game on the Oldham ground he never saw it again. The rivalry referred to between the First and 'A' Teams became so keen that the 'A' Team challenged the First Team, and a game was played between them, although the Committee would not recognise it as a test. It was a tough struggle and the First Team only won by a few points.

When war came in 1914 the late Dr. Paterson was the Football Club's Medical attendant and held the rank of Colonel in the army. He at once rejoined the Colours and quickly approached the F. C. Committee asking for a meeting of the players to be called. This was done and the Colonel addressed them at length, with the result, practically all the First Team's players joined the army under the Colonel's command. They were soon followed by the Secretary, Mr. A. J. Swamp. This naturally presented a real problem for the Committee, and at their next meeting invited Fred to take over the Secretarial duties, which he did in a Honorary capacity until peace was declared in 1918. Luckily the players were drafted to Southport for training and during that period, through the courtesy of Colonel Paterson, the services of many of them was had each Saturday and Oldham was able to continue their programme of matches. Incidentally, no playing fees were paid during the war. All the players received was bare travelling expenses plus 2/6d. each for tea and it's grand to relate that there was no refusal to play on that account. At this time Oldham players were stationed at Southport and for a period were able to have their services, among which it will be remembered were the brothers Farnsworth and Anlezark our Australian stars, also it is interesting to recall that through Fred's influence the great Jack Fish of Warrington fame played one game for Oldham, whilst he was stationed at Bury Barracks, but Jack was obviously out of condition, and decided never to attempt a come back.

When the players left Southport for overseas, things began to look black, for the Officials of the Oldham Club, and it was feared that they would have to close down, but to everyone's relief, there arrived at Chadderton Camp, no other than the New Zealand Brigade. Here was an opportunity not to be missed and Fred immediately

contacted Major Hume and Lt. Jones, and ascertained that they had many good players with them who would be glad to play for Oldham. This welcome assistance enabled Oldham to carry on another season and more often than not Oldham Committee had the choice of as many as twenty useful players.

It would be remiss at this stage not to include the following true story, which Fred used to tell in his own inimitable way. Oldham were due to play St. Helens Rec's at St. Helens and our team was largely composed of New Zealanders. Owing to travelling restrictions, the team etc., had to leave the train at St. Helens Junction and complete the journey in a two-horsed chara'. The latter was obviously very pre-war and must have been in dock a number of years, for when it moved it creaked and shook like a box of bolts. The driver and horses were a good match for the chara', which could not possibly hold all the party. The colonials soon settled the problem by climbing on the roof and commenced to dance a "Haka," with the result that just as they were ready to start one of their legs came crashing through the roof, much to the distress of the late George Holden, then the President of the Club. Of course these capers soon attracted a crowd of youngsters who were struck by the unusual hats worn by the New Zealanders and one boy raised the fallen spirits somewhat by calling to his chum to "Come and look at the Big Boy Souts." This match was anything but a pleasant one, and the colonials were soon back on the battle field. The late Jack Hirst was one of the party and soon picked out "Bilkey," a giant of a forward, who after the war, played for Wigan F.C., for one season. Go it "Bilkey," yelled Jack from the stand when he really required no encouragement. The referee completely lost control and the climax was reached when "Bilkey" was caught handing out a "Nine-penny one" to a Rec's forward. The referee had no option and ordered Bilkey to leave the field. "Alright," replied Bilkey "but he comes with me," and grabbing his opponent by the jersey, he commenced to tug him towards the touch line. This was too much for the referee who stopped a riot by calling "Bilkey" on one side and reprimanded him and allowed to remain on the field. Oldham lost the match and not a little of the good reputation they had at St. Helens that day. Happily, it was all soon forgotten and to-day there are not better friends than St. Helens and Oldham. As there was no other vehicle obtainable in the town, the journey back to the station had to be made in the ramshackle "chara" and many a sigh of relief went up when the station was reached safely. This was in the season 1916/17 and so pleased were the New Zealanders with their treatment in Oldham that they made a request for the use of the Oldham F.C. ground in order to play a match styled North Island versus South Island for the benefit of the Oldham Royal Infirmary. This was readily granted and the match was played at Watersheddings on Saturday, April 28th, 1917, and what a day that was! Dressed in their native garb with plenty of Maories among them. Headed by Lt. Flitt, a burly Maori in the full attire of a Maori chief and a full brass band, they marched in procession from the Chadderton Camp through the town to the ground, followed by thousands of spectators. That was in Fred's opinion about the busiest day he ever had in sport. The ground had to be prepared and no staff were available



Laying the Rugby League Party's Wreath at the Sydney Cenotaph—Empire Day, 24th May, 1932.

but one or two checkers. Helpers had to be collected, but when they saw the crowd arriving it was realised, how impossible it would be to get them through the turnstiles, so all that could be done was to throw open the gates and rely on the patrons dropping their contributions in buckets and other receptacles that lay at hand. It speaks volumes for the sporting qualities of the crowd, for when the money was counted the magnificent sum of £400 was realised. So delighted were the Governors of the Infirmary that they erected a tablet of commemoration giving details on the Hall of the Institution.

Now we come to the time when the New Zealanders left Chadderton Camp, and what a sad period in the History of the Club. The Oldham Committee were unable to raise a team and eventually had to close down, and it was at this time that G.F.H. used to relate how sad he felt, to see the ground equipment fast deteriorating, with the result, at not being able to procure new materials, owing to them being scarce and dear, it was decided to sell certain stocks, etc., including the wooden stand at the back of the posts at Watersheddings end of the ground, where the Hill is now. This stand had been hurriedly erected for an important game with Wigan F.C. and when disposed of brought in much more than its original cost. This of course was owing to the scarcity of timber. The two billiard tables in the pavilion followed suit, one going to the Public Assistance Institute. By these means and monetary gifts, the Club was able to keep clear of debt, and both the Officials and Fred were proud when, after peace had been declared, they were able to start playing again with a cash credit in the bank in the season 1918/19. In recognition of Fred's services, as Hon. Secretary, the Committee subscribed sixty guineas, with which, they presented him with one of his most treasured possessions, a gold watch and chain and a specially designed gold medal with enamel centre displaying a player wearing the Oldham F.C. colours, cherry and white jersey and blue pants. To Mrs. Hutchins who played no small part, in helping her husband in his duties to the Club was made the recipient of a handsome gold watch and bracelet. Many of the old players were soon back to the fold, but alas, many of them were not to be with us again. To perpetuate their deeds a handsome Roll of Honour is now displayed in the pavilion. Many thousands of our spectators may not have seen this tablet and to revive memories of the older followers here are the names of those gallant fellows.

"KILLED IN ACTION."

T. D. Jones, H. C. Mills, D. Shannon, J. Scott, T. D. West, F. Wainman.

It is said that Oldham Football Club provided more players than any other Club in the League to that war. Here again are their names.

E. A. Anlezark, J. J. Allcock, W. Biggs, T. H. Brice, G. Cook, H. Carter, W. Dixon, Junior, G. B. Evans, W. Farnworth, V. Farnworth, J. Finnerty, D. Fort, D. Holland, H. Hilton, P. Healey, T. Llewellyn, J. Marsden, E. Oliver, J. Owens, J. S. Parkinson (who held the rank of Lieutenant and afterwards became President of our Club), C. Robson, F. Speer, T. Cash (Military Medal and Bar), A. J. Swann, W. Thomas, J. Tetlow, R. E. Wylie, T. White, T. J. Williams, J. Wiltshire, C. J. Waye, F. N. Wise, D.C.M.

The Tablet was unveiled by the President the late G. W. Holden, on June 26th, 1920.

On resuming after the war, Fred was made a Honorary Vice-President and a member of the Committee. Some idea can be gathered of the interest taken by the members at that time, when at the first election of the Committee both A. E. Anlezark, and G. F. Hutchins, polled over 1,000 each, Anlezark winning by two votes.

Ever since that date, he continued to be a member of the Committee until his death, and was first elected President whilst on tour to Australia in 1932 for the season 1932/33. He followed in the footsteps of his brother Charles who was President during the season 1929/30, and served for 30 years on the Committee. It is certainly very unusual for two brothers to serve so long on the Committee of one Club.

Then he reverted to acting Vice-President and on Jim Parkinson retiring in 1945, Fred again was elected President. He was one of the original Trustees of the Club who took over the whole of the ground at Watersheddings from the Oldham Cricket Club.

There were two ground landlords, the late Dr. Leech of Werneth and J. Dunkerley of Thornham. The Committee wished to free themselves from ground rent and after a time negotiations were completed and the whole of the grounds were purchased outright. In order that the grounds shall remain as an open space for sport for all time, Trustees were appointed who act for the members. The grounds are valued approximately at £4375 and Fred always considered it a fine investment. Writing of grounds, it may be of interest to mention that the Oldham F.C. once rented the soccer ground at Boundary Park, before Oldham Athletics went there. The idea was to use the ground as an emergency one in case play was not possible at Watersheddings. This was for one season only, and the First Team never played there, but the 'A' Team played a game there against Swinton 'A'. The famous Jim Valentine was nearing the end of his playing career and he acted as coach to Swinton 'A', and played in this match as a wing forward with his brother Bob at centre threequarter.

In 1907 Oldham Junior League were admitted on the Lancashire County Committee and Fred was chosen as representative of the Juniors, and he held that position for 37 years. It was in the year 1981 that he was elected President of the Lancashire County Committee, after serving seven years as Vice-President. During his long association with the County, he naturally came into contact with many people, but there was one man who held a very dear place in his heart, Joe Valentine, who represented the Manchester and District Junior League, of whom he always spoke very highly.

In 1918 he was elected to the dual position of Hon. Secy. and Hon. Treasurer of the County, but owing to business pressure he only held the positions for three years, and handed over to Bob Gale of Leigh. During his association with the County they won the County Championship on 15 occasions, and in the season 1924/5 the committee presented him with a gold Championship Medal which is one of his most treasured souvenirs. Fred used to tell a good story against himself whilst he was secretary of the County. It was during the season 1919/20, when Lancashire was due to meet Cumberland at Millom. After

easily defeating Yorkshire, it looked all Lombard Street to a China orange on Lancashire again being the Champions. The journey was broken at Barrow, Friday night spent there and the return was arranged for Sunday, and having all the players together, Fred interviewed a photographer in Barrow asking him if he would open on Sunday and take the photograph as County Champions. He agreed, but that photograph was never taken, as Cumberland sprang one of their usual surprises and beat Lancashire with a team which included the late Joe Ferguson and Jim Parkinson of Oldham, Parkinson scored the winning try and Ferguson kicked the goal.

Lancashire were very unlucky that day, as from the first kick, Jack Hopwood of Rochdale Hornets and formerly with Hepsdale F.C., broke down and had to retire. In spite of this handicap, Lancashire rallied in the second half and when Tat Wallace the St. Helens Rec's winger ran over for what was thought would be the winning try, everyone cheered to the echo, but to their chagrin Referee Kenton disallowed the try, stating that Wallace had stepped on the dead ball line, which actually was just a thin line of sand and almost invisible. Walking off the field after the match Ferguson and Parkinson were telling Fred how sorry they were to have beaten Lancashire, which was of course rubbing salt in the wound. It was in 1926 Fred was elected representative of Oldham F.C. on the Rugby League Council, taking the place of the late G. W. Holden, who had retired. Two years later he was chosen as Joint Manager of the English Touring Team to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Some prior to the Manager and Team being selected. He was about to leave a Council meeting in Manchester, when the late Willie Filler (Huddersfield) and J. Lewthwaite (Hunslet) all leading Yorkshire Officials at the time, approached Fred, and J. W. Wood (Leeds) being the spokesman said: "How would you like a trip to Australia." Thinking this was a practical joke (for J. W. was an adept at teasing) said pull the other leg, its shorter, but after the others had had their say, he soon realised that they all were in earnest, and promised to give the suggestion his consideration, but thought his chance of being chosen very remote, in view of his short service on the Council. The aforementioned assured him of their support and practically that of the other Yorkshire representatives. In December, 1927, he was chosen along with Ted Osborne of Warrington, as Joint Managers out of four candidates. Then came a busy spell in selecting the team for the 51 months tour, for which purpose the Tour Sub-Committee divided out, and paid visits to matches played each Saturday in search of talent. These tasks were not easy and many good players had to be left behind for various reasons. Here let me explain the colour ban was never applied, as was thought in certain quarters. There was much comment at the time when Bob Sloman of Oldham received his invitation to make his second tour and for the first time it is possible to divulge the facts. Several trial games had been played and Sloman had not been included in any of them. The selectors were holding their last meeting and had but one vacancy to fill—a second row forward. The report that came in from the various members including his own, none had reached the class of Sloman. This was quite an honest opinion and not—as some critics thought—because he played for Oldham. The process

of elimination went on until none remained but Sloman and he got the position. As the newspaper headlined the following day this was a "Suprise Selection" and so it was, but Sloman the captain of Oldham that season, was the inspiration of the team. This eventually proved a wise choice for Sloman played Great Football "Down Under."

On the tours in which Fred acted as manager it was an agreement between the two managers that the Team manager should first select the teams to play and then submit same to the other manager for approval, but as the team manager had a second vote, this was merely courtesy. On the 1928 Tour Ted Osborne acted as team manager and his judgement was rarely at fault, but when Ted showed Fred his selected team for the First Test to be played at Brisbane on June 23rd, 1928, Sloman was omitted and Fred said that he thought same was a mistake. No argument was entered into, but it was agreed to call in Jonathan Parkin, the captain, and ask his opinion, and this is what he said: "There's no betting, Gentlemen, the two Test second row forwards in this team are Bob Sloman and Albert Fildes (St. Helens Rec's). Why do you think so was asked, well replied Parkin, I'm a Yorkshireman and both are from Lancashire but I wish I could play behind them two lads in every match I play." "You see," continued Parkin, "Bob knocks 'em for six one way, and Albert knocks 'em for eight coming back." That settled it, Sloman was selected and played so well that he retained his place throughout the tour. This was Fred's birthday and greetings reached him from England and all parts of Australia. The Governor General of Queensland, Mr. Godwin attended the match on the Agricultural grounds, and after he had been presented to the two teams on the field and the cameramen had taken their shots, Harry Sunderland called Fred in the centre and told the players that it was his natal day, and called for three cheers which were given.

During the week previous to this Test, that great sportsman and good "mixer" Harry Sunderland and the English managers had a rare battle over the selection of the referee. The Queensland Officials thought they had the right to appoint the referee, and did so, but having seen that official mis-interpret our rules in a previous match the managers declined to accept their choice, pointing out that in all tours in this country, the colonials were allowed to choose the referee for Test matches, and the English managers claimed equal rights. This was still declined and a deadlock was reached when the managers informed the Queensland League that unless this was granted us the Test match would not be played. On the evening before the match a special meeting of all Queensland Club delegates was called, some travelling several hundred miles to attend. Mr. Osborne and Fred attended, and laid their claim in definite terms. It was well past midnight when Sunderland brought the news that the Englishmen could select the referee. Mr. C. Broadfoot who had acted as referee in the mid-week match at Ipswich and gave the best interpretations of our rules so far, was selected. There has been much controversy over the try claimed by Busch the Australian half back in the closing stages of the Third Test at Swinton in the 1930 Tour, when Touch Judge Webster ruled that Busch had hit the corner flag, and the game ended in a

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pointless draw, but in this Test at Brisbane, Aynsley, the winger, ran round the corner flag to ground the ball, and as the touch judge took no action Referee Broadfoot had to award a try. In reporting this match the following day, one prominent pressman wrote: "If Aynsley scored a fair try at the corner, then Kingsford Smith did not fly the Pacific." The tourists could vouch for Smith's flight, because they were among the privileged guests to welcome him on the "Southern Cross" when he arrived at the Sydney aerodrome.

Hacking back to the Test at Brisbane this was a great day for the Tourists, 40,000 spectators paid £4,366, and the Englishmen's share was £2,501. England won by 15 points to 12, the scorers being Fairclough, Horton, and Ellaby, tries. Sullivan three goals. This was a great tonic to all concerned, after the shaky start of the Tour. The tradesmen of Brisbane offered a handsome bronze plaque for the best player in either team, and awarded it to Fairclough, though many thought "Billo Rees" had at least equal claim, playing in his unusual place at scrum-

half, owing to Parkin being injured. As is now well known Fred again was selected as Team manager for the 1932 Tour, and what a success it was, which can be testified by his co-manager, Bob Anderton.

You will have observed that Fred occupied every Honorary position, both in League, Lancashire County, and Oldham Football Club, with the exception of one, that being Hon. Treasurer of his own Club. When he handed the Presidency of the Club over to Fred Mills, he was proposed for this position but was outvoted by one vote. This was a big disappointment as he would have liked to finish up his career in Rugby Football by being in Office, but this was not to be, owing to lack of consideration in my opinion of his colleagues.

On July 10th, 1947, the ashes of one of the finest sportsmen who ever represented Rugby League Football, were scattered before a large number of sympathisers on the ground which he loved dearly, and upon which he had witnessed so many great matches played and for which he had given so much of his leisure time.

A Message from the Chairman of the Junior Rugby League

As Chairman of the Oldham Junior Rugby League, I wish to add our sincere appreciation of the work of the late Mr. G. F. Hutchins in our movement. For over fifty years Mr. Hutchins was connected with the Junior League in various capacities, and the fact that the Oldham League is one of the strongest in the Country is due in no small way to Mr. Hutchins' past foresight and energy. As members of the Rugby League, the Oldham Junior League have a representative on the Lancs. County Senior Committee and for nearly fifty years Mr. Hutchins served on this Committee with great dignity and honour.

I now have the honour of representing our League on this Committee and from my conversations with various other members, I can estimate the great value Mr. Hutchins gave to the Lancs. County by his wonderful legislative ability.

For over twenty-five years I have served under Mr. Hutchins both as Player, Club Secretary, and Member of the Management Committee, and I feel fully conversant to say that in all that time, I always found Mr. Hutchins scrupulously fair in all his dealings, and his ready wit and extensive knowledge of the laws of the game made him an ideal chairman.

Of his record as co-manager on two tours more will be said elsewhere, but I do want to say that several famous internationals have spoken generously of his ability to keep his men happy and contented through difficult times.

And I do wish to thank the Organisers and Sponsors of this publication for allowing me to record my deep and sincere appreciation of one, of whom it could be truly said he was one of Nature's Gentlemen, and his name and deeds will long be remembered, not only in Oldham, but wherever our game of Rugby League Football is played.

Yours sincerely,

W. N. MELLORS,

Chairman, Oldham Junior Rugby League.
Lancs. County Rugby League Committee.



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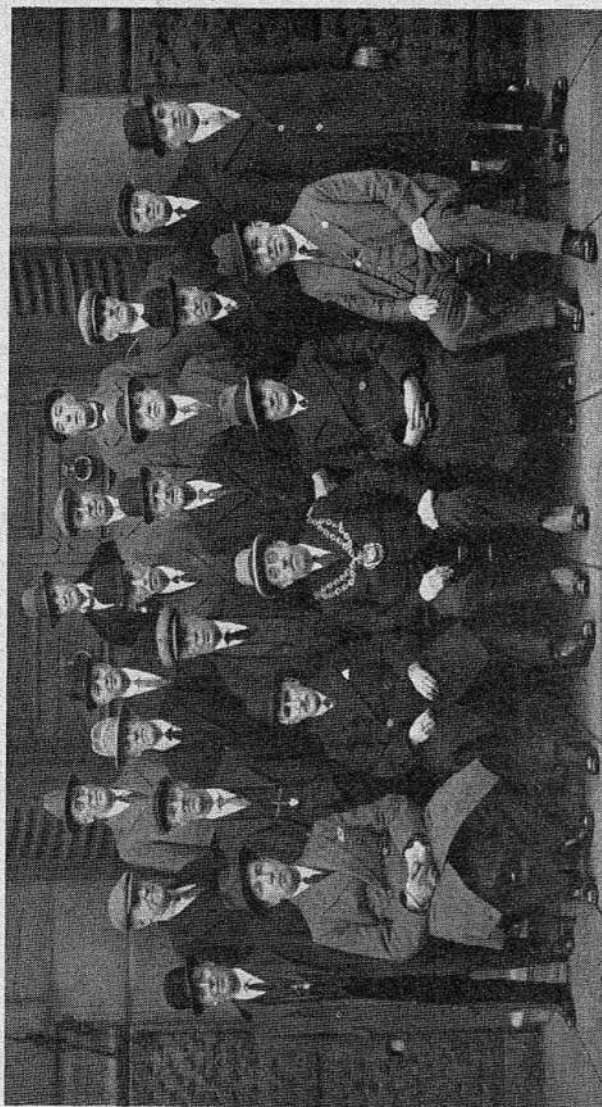
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* T. Fletcher.
* S. Williams.
A. K. Mayall, O.B.E.
I. P. Taylor.
* Denotes Cup Final Players, April 20th, 1899.

* T. Thomas.
* R. L. Thomas.
* H. Ellis.
* A. Lees.
* T. Furness.
* H. Broome.
His Worship the Mayor
(Ald. E. Bardsley, J.P.).

* T. D. Davies.
R. E. Wylie.
J. H. Wilkinson.
A. E. Tetlow.
G. F. Hutchins.
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"JOHN BULL" HUTCHINS

It is often said that one has to live with a person to know him properly. Well, I had the pleasure of living with Fred Hutchins for six months when I accompanied him as co-manager on the Rugby League Tour to Australasia in 1932, so I can claim to know something about him.

During our tour to Australia and New Zealand my association with Mr. Hutchins was one of perfect harmony and no one could have wished for a better partner. He was not only a genius as a Team Manager but was also a great success on the social side of the tour and earned the greatest respect from all those with whom he came into contact.

Yes, my friend Fred, a grand name in those two countries and one which will live for all time.

Let me say right now, I know of no legislator who has done more for our great game than Fred Hutchins of Oldham. Not only was he an excellent and long serving official of the Watersheddings Club but his work as an administrator of Rugby League Football and his efforts in connection with R.L. Junior Football will long be remembered by those who had the good fortune to serve with him.

If ever there was a real John Bull, it was Fred Hutchins of Oldham.

His sincere friend,

R. F. ANDERTON.

A FURTHER APPRECIATION

I have known the late G. F. Hutchins for a period of 53 years and there was no man associated with Rugby League Football for whom I had a greater respect or cherished a higher regard.

G. F. Hutchins was singularly well endowed by nature with those qualities of leadership which enable a man to rise to eminence in whatever sphere he may direct his energies and in G.F.'s case Rugby League Football was his abiding interest.

He made of it an ideal, a complete whole, wherein he strove to combine sane healthy enjoyment with integrity of purpose. The ethics of the game represented to him the hallmark of good faith and good fellowship. He brought into the game the richness of a varied experience and the shrewdness and administrative ability of a first class business mind.

I know of no other man who had so comprehensive a knowledge of the game and it was a pleasure to us, his contemporaries, to serve with him. His lucid wisdom in discussion, his compelling eloquence, or his scathing condemnation of unsportsmanlike conduct, on or off the

field, were at once, an inspiration and an example I never knew him to compromise with anything which he regarded as dubious or derogatory to the prestige of Rugby League Football and he never deviated from what he regarded as right and fitting for the welfare of the game.

He sought no personal aggrandizement and the honours that were conferred upon him were earned by sheer merit. His dearest wish and most ardent desire was to see Rugby League Football attain honourable eminence in the realms of sport and few men have contributed so much towards the realisation of its achievement. To me, the name of Fred Hutchins, is synonymous with all that is best in sport and the Rugby League game is the poorer for his passing.

He will be remembered wherever the game is played, and it is a fitting tribute to his memory, that the new Stand at Watersheddings should bear the name of one of the finest men who ever occupied the Presidential Chair of the Oldham Football Club.

FRED MILLS.



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FACTS and FIGURES by T. Marlor

From September 8th, 1906, to March 16th, 1909, both dates inclusive, the Oldham Team were not defeated at Watersheddings, playing 60 consecutive matches at home, every one of which were won.

In the Cup Final at Leeds on April 27th, 1912, when Dewsbury defeated Oldham by eight points to five, the Oldham Team was: Wood, Cook, Deane, Davies, Williams, Anlezark, Lomas, Ferguson, Smith, Wright, Wiltshire, Wise, Avery.

R. L. Thomas signed for Oldham in 1897 and retired in 1909-10 season. His first game for Oldham was played at Morecambe.

Sid Rix played for the Oldham premier side for the first time against Rochdale Hornets at Rochdale in March, 1919.

W. Hall signed for Oldham on June 13th, 1913. Played his last game for the first team against Featherstone Rovers at Watersheddings on March 14th, 1925.

G. W. Smith's first match for Oldham was against Wigan at Wigan on February 19th, 1908.

Tom Fletcher played his first match for Oldham at Watersheddings on Easter Monday, 1906.

Jimmy Leytham played for Oldham at South Shields on April 19th, 1902.

Our Honours Roll.

Rugby League Championship Winners 1904/05, 1909/10, 1910/11.

Runners Up, 1906/7, 1907/8, 1908/9, 1921/2. Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners 1898/9, 1924/5, 1926/7.

Runners Up, 1906/7, 1911/2, 1923/24, 1925/6.

Lancashire Cup Winners 1907/8, 1910/1, 1913/4, 1919/20, 1924/5, 1933/4.

Runners Up, 1908/9, 1911/2, 1918/9.

Reggie Farrar signed for Oldham on October 7th, 1930. He played his first match on October 23rd against Huddersfield at Oldham. The following season 1921/2, he scored 50 Tries, a club record and he also kicked 34 Goals.

Joe Ferguson played his first match on September 2nd, 1899, against Morecambe at Morecambe. His last match with the first team was on April 14th, 1923, against St. Helen's at St. Helen's. His final game was with the 'A' Team against Wigan 'A', at Rochdale on April 28th, 1923, in the play-off for the Lancashire Senior Competition Medals, our 'A' Team won the Cup, but lost the play-off for the medals by three points to nil, George Hesketh scoring for Wigan.

J. Bedwelty Jones was signed on March 30th, 1914, his first match was on April 4th, 1914, against St. Helens at Watersheddings in which he scored three tries.

Sid Rix took his benefit on March 21st, 1931, against Hull at Watersheddings, Oldham winning by 19 points to 10, Sid Rix scoring two tries. His benefit realized £233/5/2.

Arthur Lees last played for the first Team in the Cup Final at Broughton against Warrington on April 27th, 1907.

Sam Lees (sen.) was playing for Leesfield Trinity when he joined the Oldham Club.

When Oldham beat Newport at Watersheddings on April 1st, 1893, a try counted two points.

Oldham played the Watsonians on January 1st, 1895, the game ended in a draw on eight points each.

The attendance and receipts at the Rugby Cup Final between Oldham and Wigan at Rochdale in 1923/4 were a record 41,831 spectators and £3,712/19/4 gate money.

Joseph Platt of Oldham was secretary of the Rugby League from August 29th, 1895, to June 10th, 1920.

Oldham were the last winners of the first division of the Northern Rugby League in 1904/5, Bradford being the Runners-up.

The first winners of the Lancashire Senior Cup in 1895 were Runcorn, the Runners-up being Oldham.

In the first three years of the Northern Rugby Football League Championship Oldham were the Runners-up.

We have won the Lancashire League Championship, three times, 1907/8, 1909/10, 1921/2. Runners-up, 1908/9, 1910/1, 1911/2, 1919/20, 1923/4. Five times.

Harold Wagstaff of Huddersfield made his last appearance in the first Team against Oldham on March 23rd, 1925, at Oldham.

The highest score in a Rugby League Cup Final was Huddersfield 37, St. Helens 3, at Oldham, May 1st, 1915.

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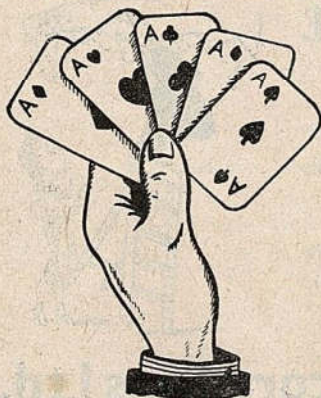
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