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# The Northern Union News.

And Club Official Programme.

No. 7.]

Saturday, Oct. 8th, 1910.

[One Penny.]

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# THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 7.]

Saturday, Oct. 8th, 1910.

[One Penny.]

## TOUCHING THE STRINGS.

### The Advance of the Northern Union Game.

**T**HESE are great days for our game. We are making headway everywhere, and that headway can only be reckoned by the attendances at our matches.

We are making fresh records. New figures are being entered on the books of our clubs. At Hull last Saturday, the attendance was 18,000, and the "gate" receipts, £438. At Widnes and at Leigh record attendances brought in record receipts. What does this mean? As clear as daylight it signifies that we are making progress; that our game is forcing its way more and more into the favours of the public; that it is becoming more and more popular.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have touched the popular string. The public are showing an ever increasing fondness for our game, as they are bound to do once they have seen it, and compared it with our rival attractions.

That is all we want. There are thousands of people in the country, even in Lancashire and Yorkshire, who have never seen one of our games. Our only desire is that they would condescend to come, then we feel confident their translocation would be complete. There is no game played in the country to-day like Northern Union football.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are pleased beyond measure to be continually making new friends, but it is only what we have expected. We are merely on the threshold of our career. The Colonial tour has helped us a very great deal, but it is naturally the game at home which concerns us most.

It is for this reason that we rejoice in the record attendances to which we have referred. They signify fresh friends, fresh converts, in those large and populous centres, in each of which we have some opposition to meet.

\*\*\*\*\*

The chief of course was the one at Hull, where £438 was taken at the receipt of custom for the meeting between the two local rivals. But £387 is a handsome "gate" at Leigh, and it has never happened before that 10,000 spectators have witnessed a match at Widnes. To some people these figures may not mean much; to us they mean a very great deal.

They impress on us the fact that we are on the right line; that we have provided a game which is beloved of the public, a game which will draw, and a game which has not touched its zenith by a long way.

\*\*\*\*\*

Northern Union football has never failed yet wherever it has been played. Even on the big Association grounds where we have occasionally played exhibition matches, we have found many admirers. In the Midlands we are making progress, and we can see the time coming when our game will, in point of widespread popularity, equal that of the great rival code. We live and thrive.

## Northern Union League—Results up to this morning.

| P'ts. Percent- |   |   |   |    |     |      | P'ts. Percent- |              |   |   |    |    |      |     |       |
|----------------|---|---|---|----|-----|------|----------------|--------------|---|---|----|----|------|-----|-------|
| P.W.L.D.       |   |   |   | F. | A.  | age. | P.W.L.D.       |              |   |   | F. | A. | age. |     |       |
| Wigan          | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0  | 133 | 19   | 100.00         | Bradford     | 5 | 2 | 2  | 1  | 23   | 42  | 50.00 |
| Wakef'd Trin   | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0  | 94  | 22   | 100.00         | Huddersfield | 7 | 3 | 4  | 0  | 73   | 78  | 42.85 |
| Widnes         | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1  | 56  | 20   | 90.00          | Swinton      | 5 | 2 | 3  | 0  | 63   | 18  | 40.00 |
| Dewsbury       | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0  | 44  | 27   | 80.00          | R'hdale H'ts | 5 | 2 | 3  | 0  | 70   | 68  | 40.00 |
| Oldham         | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0  | 84  | 61   | 80.00          | B'hton R'gs. | 5 | 2 | 3  | 0  | 22   | 46  | 40.00 |
| Halifax        | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0  | 78  | 49   | 80.00          | Salford      | 5 | 2 | 3  | 0  | 80   | 73  | 40.00 |
| Keighley       | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0  | 62  | 32   | 80.00          | Hull K. R.   | 5 | 1 | 3  | 1  | 62   | 58  | 30.00 |
| Runcorn        | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1  | 55  | 45   | 70.00          | Coventry     | 5 | 1 | 3  | 1  | 54   | 114 | 30.00 |
| Leigh          | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0  | 58  | 59   | 66.66          | Ebbw Vale    | 5 | 1 | 4  | 0  | 32   | 93  | 20.00 |
| St. Helens     | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0  | 68  | 61   | 60.00          | Batley       | 6 | 1 | 5  | 0  | 28   | 44  | 16.66 |
| Hunslet        | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0  | 77  | 48   | 60.00          | Bramley      | 5 | 0 | 4  | 1  | 29   | 63  | 10.00 |
| Leeds          | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0  | 60  | 44   | 60.00          | Barrow       | 5 | 0 | 5  | 0  | 22   | 121 | 00.00 |
| Hull           | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1  | 78  | 52   | 58.33          | Merthyr      | 5 | 0 | 5  | 0  | 24   | 166 | 00.00 |
| Warrington     | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1  | 64  | 64   | 58.33          | York         | 5 | 0 | 5  | 0  | 25   | 90  | 00.00 |

## Results and Scores of Last Saturday's Matches.

\*HULL, 1 2—8.  
Tries: Francis, Walton.  
Goal: Rogers.

\*Broughton, 2 0—4.  
Goals: Harris (2).

WIGAN, 5 7—31.  
Tries: Miller (2), Todd (2), Thomas, Jenkins, Johnston.

Goals: Leytham (3), Sharrock, Thomas  
\*WARRINGTON, 2 5—19.

Tries: Jenkins, Dickenson (2), Naylor, Chesters. Goals: Thomas (2).

\*OLDHAM, 3 4—18.  
Tries: Young (2), Anlezark, Wharton.

Goals: Ferguson, Wood, Anlezark.  
SALFORD, 3 4—18.

Tries: May, Lomas, Cook, Dai Thomas  
Goals: Lomas (2), Mesley.

\*HALIFAX, 5 1—13.  
Try: Parker.

Goals: Hilton (4), Longstaffe.  
LEEDS, 2 2—10.

Tries: Moran, Jarman.  
Goals: Fawcett, Biggs.

DEWSBURY, 2 2—10.  
Tries: Hirst, Richardson.

Goals: Walton (2).  
\*WIDNES, 5 6—28.

Tries: Reed (2), Aspey, Laws, Johnson, Taylor. Goals: Taylor (5).

\*WAKEFIELD, 4 6—26.  
Tries: J. Taylor, Sidwell (2), Simpson (2), Stephenson.

Goals: Metcalf (2), Bennett, Poynton.  
\*COVENTRY, 4 6—26.

Tries: Burdett, O'Malley, Houghton, Woodburn, Harris, Parkinson.

Goals: Woodburn (4).  
\*ROCHDALE HORNETS, 5 5—25.

Tries: Jones, Kirk (2), Robinson, Roman.

Goals: Robinson (4), Jones.  
\*KEIGHLEY, 4 1—11.

Try: Craven. Goals: Gunn (3) Madley.

\*KINGSTON ROVERS, 1 2—8.  
Tries: Dilcock, Hyam.

Goal: Carmichael.  
SWINTON, 0 0—0.

\*LEIGH, 0 0—0.

MERTHYR, 0 1—3.  
Try: Ponty Thomas.

EBBW VALE, 2 2—10.  
Tries: Burgham, Bowen.

Goals: Jenkins (2).  
\*HUNSLET, 3 2—12.

Tries: Jenkinson, Jukes.  
Goals: J. Farrar (3).

YORK, 1 2—8.  
Tries: Raywood, Plimmer.

Goal: Plimmer.  
\*BRAMLEY, 2 1—7.

Try: Orton.  
Goals: Walker (2).

\*BATLEY, 1 1—5.  
Try: Bevan. Goal: Lyons.

St. HELENS, 3 2—12.  
Tries: Barton, Creevey.

Goals: Greenwood, Turton (2).  
BRADFORD, 0 0—0.

BARROW, 2 2—10.  
Tries: J. Morgan, B. Morgan.

Goals: Ennis (2).  
RUNCORN, 2 4—16.

Tries: Deakin (2), Woods (2).  
Goals: Woods (2).

HUDDERSFIELD, 1 0—2.  
Goal: Shalldcross.

\*Home Club.

## LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(By the EDITOR.)

I HAD this week the full intention of taking readers through the accounts of the Australasian tour. The Emergency committee held a long meeting on Tuesday, but I am not authorised to give minute particulars, other than the recent visit to Australasia, has benefitted the Northern Union to the extent in round figures of £2,000. It may be a little more or it may be a little less.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the past three weeks, many whose knowledge of Northern Union matters, to say the least, is very limited, have been amusing themselves as we stated last week, with gratuitous advice to the Union in regard to the disposal of these profits. I say leave the matter to the officials. They know best, and it is surely bad taste to criticise before the distribution is made, or the amount to be distributed, even known to those who are entitled to the knowledge.

\*\*\*\*\*

The "Northern Union News" last week, said the players would receive first consideration. I do not want to raise false hopes, and although I have no official guarantee, I again declare that when the committee meet next Tuesday, their first proposal will be to shew their esteem in a most substantial manner, for the players who took part in the tour. This I think is as it should be. I am not surprised for I know our officials, and this knowledge occasioned the resentment to our "cheap advisers."

\*\*\*\*\*

Perhaps at this stage a brief review of the financial report is opportune. Roughly the total receipts of the Northern Union were between £6,000 and £7,000, and to declare a profit of only £2,000, produced a sneer from a Midland scribe, who like others, with little real knowledge of what they write, betrays a woeful ignorance of the expenses of a trip to the Colonies.

Why, the actual passage money paid to the steamship company, exceeds £2,000. Then we have the expenses of travelling in Australia and New Zealand, the hotel charges and the cost of outfit. Further each player whilst on board the "Osterley" and the "Otranto," received an allowance of 10/- weekly and "all found," and on land the "table money" was increased to £1. Again, the married players received for their families, an extra grant of £1 per week, from the time of leaving London to the breaking up at Headingley.

\*\*\*\*\*

They were satisfied, for their agreement with the Union stipulated that in the event of any profits, the players should receive each an equal share of a third portion of the profits. Thus, if the gross profits reach £2,000, £666 is the exact proportion for the players. Divided by 26, brings the individual bonus to £26. Now to this must be added the sum of £8 14s., which each player received from the extra match played at Sydney against the "Kangaroos."

\*\*\*\*\*

I have heard folks say £30 is a paltry remuneration for a five month's strenuous football tour. But although the players were away for five months, for two thirds of that period they were on board ship. The highest possible number of matches was 17, and the average playing appearances 11 matches per man. To this must be added "the trip of their lives," for the visit to New Zealand barely paid its way. However the Northern Union will be just, and I think the players will be well satisfied with their bonus. As to the remainder, well, I have confidence in the Union officials.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reference is made elsewhere to the unquestionable boom in Northern Union football. In places other than those mentioned, a big increase is reported in attendances, and our optimism is more than justified. Our game is advancing by leaps and bounds, and if this progress can be recorded for ordinary League games, I confidently predict big things for the cup ties.

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LEEDS. Telegrams:  
"TETLEY, LEEDS."

### Mainly about Play and Players.

Over 4,900 supporters of the St. Helen's team booked to Widnes by rail last Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Coventry's first victory was due to the successful efforts of six players, who equally divided the half dozen tries.

\*\*\*\*\*

The date of the Yorkshire v. Cumberland match has been changed to October 25th, and will be played at Dewsbury.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seeling, the Wigan "All Black," was Lancashire's reserve forward for this afternoon's County match at Whitehaven.

\*\*\*\*\*

D. B. Davies, the ex Merthyr forward, played a dashing game for his new club at Wheater's Field.

\*\*\*\*\*

Widnes are the most youthful team in the Northern League. With the exception of Wigan they can also boast the best defence.

\*\*\*\*\*

The appearance of Rigg, Marsden and Mosby with the Bradford team, recalled old-time memories at Belle Vue, Wakefield.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Chick" Jenkins has announced that his last club will be Ebbw Vale. This statement should set at rest the rumours of a journey North.

\*\*\*\*\*

George Connell, the Hull captain, is the most popular player connected with the Boulevard club. He was born at Blyth, is 26 years of age; 5-ft. 8½-in. and 12 stones, 7-lbs. He has been playing football for nine years.

Robinson (Rochdale), Leytham (Wigan) Hilton (Halifax), Farrar (Hunslet), Taylor (Widnes), Woodburn (Coventry), Gunn (Keighley), performed the hat trick in goal placing last Saturday.

Miller (Wigan), Todd (Wigan), Dickenson (Warrington), Reid (Widnes), Sidwell (Wakefield), Simpson (Wakefield), Deakin (Runcorn), Woods (Runcorn), recorded dual successes in tries

\*\*\*\*\*

"Mr. B. Ennion, of Wigan, the well-known Northern Union referee, says the "Athletic News," has had several rather extraordinary experiences. He tells a story of his first match at Widnes. With youthful modesty he asked a gateman the situation of the dressing-room. "Under the stand," he was told. There he found a dirty room, evidently used for the storage of the groundsman's requisites. But Mr. Ennion would not complain, and spreading a newspaper on the floor commenced his preparations. In a few minutes he rushed the gateman, who had mis-directed him, and profusely apologised. He pleaded that he had been led to play the joke through Mr. Ennion's youthful appearance."

\*\*\*\*\*

"On Saturday at Hull the Wigan official had another amusing experience. It was the big "Derby" match at the Boulevard, and remarkable enthusiasm prevailed. The groundsman desired to see the kick-off, and as one of his duties was to lock the referee's and touch-judges' room, he performed his task whilst the officials were still inside. For five minutes the big crowd and the twenty-six players waited for the appearance of the officials before the excited groundsman discovered his mistake. In the meantime the imprisoned trio had kicked and shouted in their efforts to secure liberation."

"How and why England lost her first two matches."

(By J. H. Houghton.)

SO much has already been written and said on this matter, that one may find little fresh to say, and yet to have authentic reasons given, may not be without some interest to those followers of our game, who took more than a passing interest in our recent tour. I am not going to excuse our defeats, but will try and show the reasons for them.

I admit right off the reel, that on Saturday and Monday, June 4 & 6, the New South Wales teams were too good for us. On the two days play they were better than we were, and judging from the results of later matches the reader may ask why?

We must not forget that our boys, before leaving home, had just finished an eight months season of hard football, and shortly after boarding the R.M.S. Osterley, we sailed into a choppy sea. Most of the players then aboard proved to be poor sailors, as many of them were suffering, more or less, from *mal de mer*, and it was not until we had been afloat about a week—by the time we reached Marseilles—that the players then forming our party, began to feel anything like themselves.

Twenty-one days short of Sydney, real trouble began, for in addition to the ship being in an almost continual state of "roll and toss," the newly washed decks in the morning hampered our players as they attempted to run. Several of them met with slight mishaps by falling, but it was not until a serious spill to T. Helm, of Oldham—who slipped on the top end of the starboard side of the ship, and severely damaged one of his knees—that the managers very reluctantly stopped this kind of exercise.

This was a serious set-back, for we all realized that the players, although all very well, were fast losing condition. They were fast becoming "fat and stiff," and in this condition they remained until we arrived at our headquarters in Sydney. But here no time was lost, and the day after arrival, practice was resumed in right good earnest, by playing sides games, running, walking, and other exercises every day for six days.

The day of the first match arrived. We started fairly well, scoring 2 penalty goals by Lomas, before our opponents scored, yet it was soon apparent that our

men were not in real condition, for many of their movements were painfully slow, and the "blues" were simply worrying them, and from this point continued to hold the upper hand, eventually running out winners by 28 points to 14.

But lack of condition was not the only reason why we were defeated. The inefficiency of the referee had a good deal to do with our losses. I do not charge that official with unfairness by any means, to my mind, in these matches, he was absolutely fair, but some of his interpretations of our rules were very bad. But for this I do not blame him, but the members of the Kangaroo team which visited England two seasons before, from whom he had received instructions. I personally took more than one of these players to task on these rulings, and their reply was "we do not consider your rulings correct, and we play the game as **we** think it ought to be played." But as managers, we soon sought an opportunity for putting Mr. McMahon right, and found him most anxious, and as after events proved, quite willing to rule the game as we play it in England. This difficulty put right, and knowing that our players would soon be in better condition, we were quite sure that victory would not be long delayed.

Monday, June 6 arrived, with five alterations in our team we certainly made a better show. England again scored first. Lomas scoring a magnificent try and goal before N.S.W. realised what had happened, and then the real struggle, which always favoured the home team began, and until within 10 minutes of the close the score read N. S. Wales 27 points, England 10. The game looked quite won for N.S.W. at this stage, with this score, when our side immediately bucked up. Thomas and Lomas scored tries, Leytham adding the goal points, thus increasing England's score to 20 points. The effort to win the match came too late, for although we continued to press severely we could not score again.

From this time we felt quite certain that victory for us could not be long delayed. It was now clearly proved that the reasons we lost our first two matches were: (1). That we found the home teams in the pink of condition. (2). Our men were quite out of condition, quite unfit. (3). The referee, although absolutely fair, was quite inefficient.

“Northern Union News.”

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

[illegible]

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## "The Brain behind the Ball."

No. 4.—H. WAGSTAFF, Huddersfield.

(By OBSERVER.)

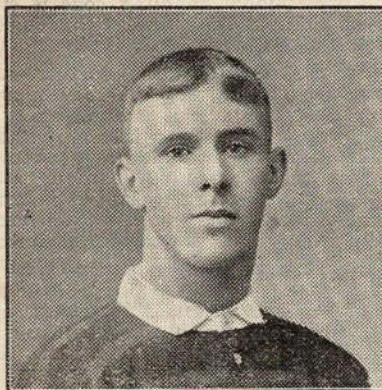


PHOTO BY TURTON, BIRKBY, HUDDERSFIELD.

I HAVE, on occasion when engaged in friendly argument, as to the advantages of Rugby over the Association game, in regard to physical development, been told that brute force will carry a player further than brainy play.

Invariably this statement is made by one who has not even a casual knowledge of our game, or a nodding acquaintance with our players.

The brain is an absolute necessity in Rugby football. Of that there is not the slightest doubt, for are not the majority of our successful backs, men of light physique!

I grant that a judicious use of physical skill will further the object in view, but at the same time, if this "force" is not supported by natural ability, by initiative and originality, the purely orthodox player will never attain high honours.

Take the case of H. Wagstaff, the centre three-quarter back of the Huddersfield club. He is young in years, of ordinary height, and of moderate physique.

Yet, two seasons ago, before his unfortunate illness, competent critics, regarded Wagstaff as the future centre three-quarter back of the Northern Union

There is not the slightest suspicion of "brute force" in his play, yet Wagstaff was, and I am confident that with ordinary fortune he will again be the centre of the future.

I was fortunate in having a few minutes conversation the other day with this favourite of the Fartown crowd. He agreed with all my remarks as to brain v. force. I asked him his thoughts when he was placed in possession of the ball, and with thirteen sturdy opponents, all anxiously waiting to bring him down.

"My first idea," he said "is invariably the position of my colleagues. Is any other player on my side better placed than myself. If he is, then I endeavour to place him in possession. If not, then I run for the line for all I am worth. Running is preferable to punting, but of course all these flashes of thought take place in less time than it takes to tell."

"As regards the best play for a centre three-quarter back, my opinion is that there can be no best in the strict sense of the term. I must adapt myself to the day and the conditions, and must change my game according to the game your opponents are playing."

"I have a duty to my wing colleague. It is to make for him as much play as I can, and to give him as much room as possible for him to work in. Of course it is essential on the part of a centre to place his wing in a good position before he (the centre) parts with the ball."

In conclusion I asked Wagstaff his advice to an aspiring back. "To take care of himself, both in training and home life, and more than all, never to be above taking advice from players older than himself."

## Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

**T**HE Australian mails to hand last week contained many items of interest to the followers of the Northern Union game. But chief amongst them was the report of a meeting of players and supporters of the Metropolitan Rugby Union, called together by Mr. L. G. Abrams. This gentleman has for some considerable time been agitating for alterations in their game.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mr. Abram's Proposals.**

The proposals which he laid before the meeting were as follows:—

"(1) That, in the opinion of this meeting of Rugby footballers and supporters, it is imperative that, in order to retain the interest of the players and public in the State and competition matches, the M.R.U. should play the game next season under rules similar to the Northern Union game, or with such improvements that are necessary and suitable for the condition of Australian and New Zealand players and public, and control the game on an amateur basis in N.S.W. (a) That the personal or out of pocket expenses of an amateur player shall not exceed 10s. per day when away from home representing the Union, without forfeiting his amateur status. (2) That the footballers present pledge themselves to have meetings of their respective clubs called at once, and vote only for delegates who are in favour of altering the constitution of the M.R.U., in accordance with the above resolutions."

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Striking Tribute to the N.U. Game.**

In giving his reasons for the proposals Mr. Abrams paid a striking tribute to the superiority of our game. He stated that "As regards the Northern Union game, it was far superior to that of the Rugby Union. At a street corner he had stopped 18 persons who were strangers to him, and in answer to his question, 15 said they preferred the Rugby League (N.U.) game." In reference to the proposal, re out-of-pocket expenses, he said: "It would do away with presentations of travelling bags, in which the recipients found two weeks wages in the corner."

Evidently "veiled" professionalism is rampant in Australia. His proposals were carried unanimously on the words "similar to the Northern Union game" being deleted.

**Midland Jealousy.**

I received last week end one of the sporting papers which circulates in the Midlands, where the progress and success of the professional handling code is evidently resented. The writer of the Rugby notes says:—

"Just now the Northern Unionists are cock-a-hoop at the progress they report the professional game is making in Australasia. Doubtless they wish they could say the same of their affairs at home. The year before last one heard a great deal of what was going to happen in London. The Metropolis was to be delivered over body and soul to the Northern Union. Somehow that great scheme has miscarried."

Space will not permit of my giving the whole of his remarks, but my readers can take it from me, that, as is usually the case with these writers—he displays a wonderful lot of knowledge on Northern Union matters.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Error of Judgement.**

Now articles of this kind, written presumably for the purpose of stifling the interest in our game have generally the opposite effect. Anyone can see the writers are inundated with antagonism towards the game. If the Northern Union is such an insignificant body, why the need of these slighting references? Persons are not in the habit of bothering about bodies who are of so little account. Readers will therefore jump to the conclusion that the N.U. is a power that in the world of sport, and as such is feared by the Rugby Union and some of their misguided writers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Yorkshire Cup.**

The first round of the Yorkshire Senior Cup will be played on Saturday next, and some very interesting and keen games should be witnessed.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is the list of matches:—

York v. Bradford Northern.  
Keighley v. Halifax.  
Hull v. Leeds.  
Hunslet v. Hull Kingston Rovers.  
Bramley v. Huddersfield.  
Batley v. Dewsbury.

Byes: Wakefield Trinity and Coventry.

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## Men of Mark.

No. 4.

[Mr. J. H. SMITH,

(WIDNES.)

(By ARGUS.)

**P**LAYER, official, and legislator. Such in brief may be described as the qualifications which have made Mr. "Jack" Smith one of the most respected officials in the Northern Union. I make bold to say that he has filled each and every position with credit.

In the practical side of football, he was a complete success. In what I might term the theoretical department of our game, his abilities are well known, and in his official connection with football, his records speak more eloquently than words.

Strange though it may seem, Mr. Smith's first game of football was with the round ball. But he soon perceived the error of his ways, and in 1879, the Rugby game occupied his attention. In 1880 he joined the Widnes team, and for ten seasons—three of which he was captain—he played regularly for the club of his native town. Before leaving the practical side of Mr. Smith's career, I might mention that his abilities also brought him fame on the cricket field, and from 1893 to 1902 inclusive, he was captain of the Widnes eleven. Another valued memento of his prowess, is a medal presented in 1883, for saving a boy from drowning.

His career as a referee is of course more extensive. His first match was on March 19, 1902, when the Rugby Union appointed him to take charge of the great Manchester "Derby" match at New Barnes, between Salford and Swinton. These games needed careful handling, as I can testify, but Mr. Smith came through with flying colours and did not need to follow the advice of a friendly pressman, who particularly impressed him with the necessity of whistling the finish when play was at one particular corner of the field.

Since that day he has made his record into 617 matches. This aggregate includes four Northern Union cup finals, six semi-finals, finals for the Lancashire and Yorkshire County cups, and also a Lancashire & Yorkshire County match; a real testimony this appointment to his fairness as a referee. In all Mr. Smith has refereed 134 games under Rugby Union rules, and 483 under Northern Union rules.

As a legislator, Mr. Smith has a wonderful record to shew. For six years he was secretary of the Widnes club, and has been a member of the committee for 30 years. He was a member of the Lancashire (Rugby Union) County committee before the "split," and since the establishment of the Northern Union in 1895, he has sat continuously on the committee.

Twice president of the Union (1899-1900 and 1905-6); president of the Lancashire Senior competition in 1896-7, and president of the Lancashire Society of Referees from 1895 to 1904. This season Mr. Smith is honorary treasurer to the Lancashire County committee.

For over eighteen years he has been in the first rank of referees, and though so far this season he has not as yet accepted an appointment, and although he has officially retired thrice, I have confident expectations of seeing him "with the whistle" at an early date. Our game can ill-spare one, who by his fair and correct interpretations has rightly earned the respect and admiration of both players and spectators.

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## Junior Jottings.

—o—

### Halifax & District Intermediate League.

The officials are most optimistic at the "Foot" that the district will soon be won back to its old love. They do not anticipate great gains this season, but are hoping by experience to build a team worthy of the traditions of old. Last Saturday the play was much improved, and to run Sowerby Bridge to a 6 points defeat is worthy of note, especially when it can be said that at least two tries were lost through the inexperience of the players.

\*\*\*\*\*

This season Caddy Field are not doing well. They have lost two out of three matches played, and were defeated by their neighbours last Saturday, by 5 points to nothing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Catherine Slack, of whom much is expected this season, made no mistake in disposing of the Artillery by 25 points to 8.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Results up to this morning.

|                    | P. | W. | L. | D. | Pts. |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Catherine Slack... | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 5    |
| Campbells .....    | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 4    |
| Beacon Hill .....  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 4    |
| Elland Wand's. ... | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 3    |
| Sowerby Bridge...  | 2  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2    |
| Luddenden Foot..   | 2  | 0  | 2  | 0  | 0    |
| Royal F. A. ....   | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0    |

\*\*\*\*\*

### Huddersfield and District N.R. Union.

Meltham have at last gained a victory, and at the expense of Slaithwaite, who seem to have fallen on evil days.

\*\*\*\*\*

Underbank and Huddersfield Res. lead the way amongst the Juniors, both having unbeaten records. The latter are much too good for the local lads, and it would be an encouragement to the other clubs, were the reserves to forego the cup and medals in the event of their being League leaders.

\*\*\*\*\*

Flockton have a first rate forward team, but are short of one or two good backs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rastrick Res. entertained Hillhouse, and a good match resulted in a win for the home team, which thus takes the lead in the Intermediate League.

\*\*\*\*\*

Marsh "A" easily accounted for Underbank Res., who seem to better at home than away, and slaithwaite Res. are doing much better than their seniors.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R.W.T.—(Halifax).—Yes, G. W. Smith, who won the world's hurdle championship, is the present Oldham player. His year was 1902, and his time 16 seconds. The distance was 120 yards.

A.C. (Wigan).—Leigh finished at the head of the League in season 1905-6 with a percentage of 80. This was the "optional" season, the "county qualification" and "first four" rules not being in operation.

ENQUIRER (Coventry).—The highest score made by the tourists was 54 points against Rotorua. Number 3 of the "Northern Union News" will give you all the particulars you require.

SALFORDIAN.—Our announcement that Lomas had placed 53 goals during the tour was official.

H.F. (Huddersfield).—We should prefer Newbould and Thomas, though your selections are good.

"RED ROBIN" (Goole).—Taking the present season's form—we have seen both—our vote would be for Carmichael.

"HULL."—The publishers of the Northern Union Official Guide, are H. C. Lee & Co. Ltd., King Street, Oldham.



The Wigan (Northern Union Club) have supplied six backs for the Lancashire team against Cumberland this afternoon at Whitehaven. Have the Cumbrians "cleared" the six.

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## Referees List.

The following is a list of the officials Saturday, October 15th.

### NORTHERN LEAGUE.

Coventry v. Wakefield Trinity.—A. Jones (Warrington).

Ebbw Vale v. Runcorn.—F. Renton (Hunslet).

Leigh v. St. Helens.—J. C. Lumley (Leeds), J. McGowan (Broughton Rangers), A. Webster (Wigan).

Merthyr v. Barrow.—W. H. Wood (Huddersfield).

Swinton v. Rochdale Hornets.—G. F. Dickenson (Halifax), H. Ball (Wigan), D. Graham (Oldham).

Warrington v. Broughton Rangers.—H. Edmundson (Bradford), A. Lee (Leigh), H. Heath (Runcorn).

Widnes v. Salford.—H. Farrar (Keighley), W. T. Chapman (Swinton), E. Bennett (Liverpool).

### LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Broughton Rangers 'A' v. Warrington 'A'—J. R. Lawton (Oldham).

Rochdale Hornets 'A' v. Swinton 'A'—R. H. Jackson (St. Helens).

Salford 'A' v. Widnes 'A'—W. Nevins (Warrington).

St. Helens 'A' v. Leigh 'A'—G. Moore (Runcorn).

Wigan 'A' v. Oldham 'A'—W. Manwaring (Salford).

Wigan Highfield v. Millom—J. E. Smith (Rochdale).

\*\*\*\*\*

### YORKS. RUGBY COMBINATION.

Featherstone Rovers v. Purston White Horse.—G. Fowler (Leeds).

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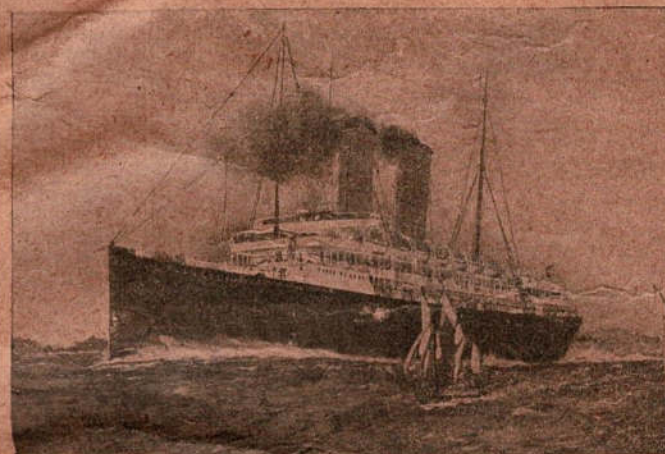
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9-NANSON  
10-WILCOCKS  
11-GROVES  
12-POWNALL  
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8-ASHWORTH  
9-HAYES  
10-BROMLEY  
11-THOMAS  
12-H.MULLIN  
13-HARRIS

**OLDHAM (22) 44    ROCHDALE HORNETS (0) 0**

**TRIES – BIRDIE DIXON 4, DEAN 4, WHITE 2, LAWTON 1, WEBSTER 1**

**GOALS – NANSON 2, WEBSTER 2**