



THE NORTHERN
UNION NEWS.

No. 17 Dec 17th 1910 [One Penny.]

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No. 17.]]

Saturday, Dec. 17th 1910.

[One Penny.]

WHY ?

Amateurs or Professionals.

We have received a cutting from a contemporary which in effect criticises the Northern Rugby Union for their indifference to the many statements being circulated, as to one time professional Rugby players, now playing with amateur Rugby Union clubs. It is admitted that no doubt this condition of things exists, and the pleading goes so far as to suggest that the Northern Rugby Union should boldly make their charges, and these professionals at once be cleared from the amateur ranks.

No Rules Broken.

We ask why? These players have in no way infringed any law of the Northern Union. We make no distinction, and we do not admit that a player is one whit inferior as a player, because he prefers one game more than the other. To us, both the Northern Rugby Union, and the English Rugby Union, are governing bodies who have decided upon a certain code of rules. The Amateur Union insists upon certain other conditions, apart altogether from play. If these conditions are broken then it is for the aggrieved Union to investigate matters.

Once bit twice shy.

The writer of the paragraph must have a short memory, else he would remember that once upon a time, the Northern Rugby Union did take action and drew the attention of the Rugby Union to infringements in connection with their rules respecting professionalism. And the result was discouraging, for the idea

seemed to prevail that the professional players, who were willing to give particulars of their "amateur transactions," were telling untruths. Their evidence was not reliable, simply because they were professionals, and the Northern Union gave up the attempt to convince the powers that be.

Value of Registrations.

Now the Northern Rugby Union go about their business with method. They register their players, and every new player signed on and registered by a Northern League club, must state his previous club. If the Rugby Union clubs choose to utilize the services of players in a haphazard sort of way, without satisfying themselves that the players can conform with all their regulations, then the clubs must accept the responsibility.

A Northern Union player, registered by his club, will be called upon to play. Ninety-nine per cent. of Northern Union players have their agreements with the club, at a certain remuneration for each match. If they are not wanted, they receive no pay, and they may—providing they are not suspended for misconduct, play with a Rugby Union club. We have no laws to prevent it, and in this respect a player is a free agent. We make no distinctions, and providing the player does not commit a breach of the Northern Union registration laws, he may play where he likes. We are only concerned with our own Union, and the Rugby Union should look after its own preserves.

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Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

I NOTICED in a sporting contemporary this week, that reference was made to some trouble which was brewing amongst the legislators—or in the legislation—of the Union.

What is the Trouble ?

I think had there been anything of this description, some wind of it would have reached me ere this, unless the "trouble" referred to concerns Mr. Clifford, in respect to Walsh, late of the "Kangaroos." If this is the bone of contention it has now been satisfactorily cleared up, and has not produced the effect anticipated by our contemporary.

The Full Facts.

This case, which I admit to a certain extent looked awkward on the face of it, for Mr. Clifford, arose out of a grievance between P. Walsh and the Huddersfield club. The one-time "Kangaroo," in explaining how he came to Huddersfield, incidentally stated that he was first approached by Mr. Clifford during the tour. He made no charge against him, nor has any been made, but the sub-committee, considering the wide publicity, and the vague hints thrown out in the press, decided to fully investigate the matter.

The Result of the Investigation.

The sub-committee's report was submitted to the full committee on Tuesday last, in which it stated, that both Walsh and Mr. Clifford admitted that the latter had said to Walsh, that he hoped that if he stayed in England he would join Huddersfield. He did not actually ask him to do so, nor were any terms or inducements offered. The Australian manager had informed Mr. Clifford that Walsh was over here with the intention of staying, and encouraged him to speak to him in the manner he did.

The Committee's Decision.

In face of the above facts, the committee were unanimously of the opinion that no breach of the resolution, governing

the approach of touring players, had been committed. The resolution in question reads as follows:

"That the laws now in force in the Northern League, with reference to the transfer of players, shall apply to the clubs in membership with, or playing under the auspices of the Australian League, and no player shall, under any circumstance, transfer his services during the progress of the tour."

Next Season's Visit.

So much concerning the last visit. This having been satisfactorily disposed of, the committee discussed the question of terms for the forthcoming visit. It was confidently expected these would be on a more liberal scale than those given to the "Kangaroos," which were 70 per cent. of gross club "gates," 70 per cent. of net County "gates," and 60 per cent. of net receipts derived from representative matches. These were not quite as good as the "All Black" terms, but the proposals for the 1911-12 visit are even more substantial than the latter, i.e. 70 per cent. of gross club matches, and 60 per cent. of the net takings in the representative games.

The Guarantee.

No definite decision was arrived at regarding the amount of the Union's guarantee to the Australasians. This stands in abeyance, and in the meantime the clubs are to be asked whether or no they desire a match with the tourists, and if a Saturday or a mid-week fixture. The guarantee from the clubs is to be the same as the two previous tours, £100 for a Saturday, and £50 for a mid-week match.

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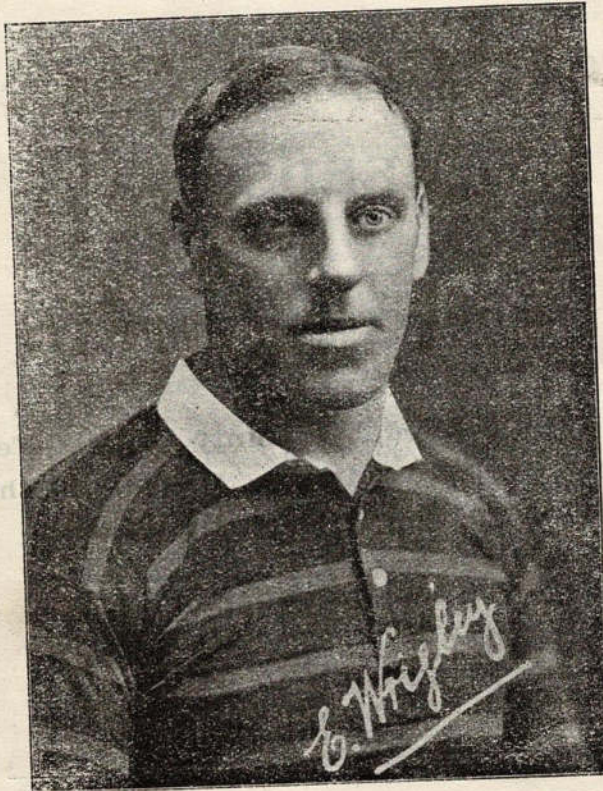
SCORES AT A GLANCE.

[illegible]

For results of HOME Matches read across. For AWAY Matches read downwards. In the latter case the last number is the score of the club whose name figures at the head of the column. Where a — appears it signifies that these clubs do not meet each other.

Huddersfield Cricket & Athletic Club

Supplement.



(Reproduced by permission of Verona, Huddersfield)

E. WRIGLEY, Huddersfield.

Local Jottings.

Admittedly our team up to now is in possession of the greatly unenviable distinction of ranking foremost amongst the most erratic, inconsistent, and uncertain clubs in the Northern Union.

In some engagements the form of our men is superb, and yet in others the play degenerates to the level of that of any third or fourth raters; and the more one studies the individual calibre of the members constituting our forces the more he realizes the difficulty of accounting for such an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Notwithstanding all our past disappointments, we, as true sportsmen, have not yet lost all heart, and with "Nil Desperandum" as our motto we are determined we will either "end" or "mend" the ways of the "claret and gold" brigade.

To accomplish this we *must* and *will* have the co-operation of all our players, otherwise their stay with us can only be of short duration. If we are called upon to dispense with the services of any, the fault rests entirely with themselves.

Our weakness unquestionably lies with the forwards who, we have not the slightest hesitation in pronouncing, are man for man almost, if not quite, the equal to any forwards playing under the code of the N.U. rules.

But our advice is they must look to their laurels. Each man must do his utmost to make himself fit in conjunction with our trainer's instructions, and there must be an unanimity of purpose whenever they go on to the field of play.

The divergencies of opinion hitherto held amongst them must be a thing of the past, and if they cannot submit to the instructions of their leader they must take the consequences. Every member has, in turn, had the seriousness of the situation pointed out to him, and in his own interests, no less than that of the club's, he has been urged and entreated to put forth his utmost endeavours to raise our combination to the pinnacle of fame which our backs are entitled to, i.e., "The best team in the Northern Union."

We hope the drastic criticisms of the *Press*, re the exhibition of our forwards in the recent Yorkshire final, together with our

outspoken remarks, will forthwith bear such good fruit as we and all our ardent supporters can only reasonably expect.

We want to begin a new era to-day against Oldham. Only three weeks ago we played them to a point at Watersheddings, and were indeed very unlucky to lose. Leigh had the honour of beating them so late as Tuesday last, and surely what Leigh can accomplish Huddersfield can do.

Come lads! give us a glimpse of your real worth, and show us what you intend to do in the future. If you will, you can yet prove yourselves Champions of the Northern Union and bring another cup to Fartown.

After his long suspension we hail with delight the return of Wimpenny Brook. His, and Trevarthen's absence have undoubtedly had an evil effect on our front division.

Better luck for the future "Wim."!

Edgar Wrigley has unanimously been appointed captain of our team for the rest of the season. May his example influence every one of his colleagues to strenuous exertion on behalf of the Club and its members.

There is not an atom of truth in the statement that Hunslet offered Batten and £100 in exchange for Moorhouse.

Such ridiculous assertions have a tendency to trouble players with what may be termed "big head," but not so with such an unassuming aspirant as Stanley.

The FOOTBALL COMMITTEE.

Scorers up to date.

	Matches played	goals	tries	points
Bartholomew, J.	15	—	1	3
Edwards, W. M.	4	1	—	2
Kitchin, W. F.	15	—	11	33
Moorhouse, S.	14	—	7	21
Rosenfeld, A. A.	14	—	8	24
Wagstaff, H.	15	—	5	15
Wrigley, E.	16	9	4	30
Davies, J.	11	—	1	3
Grey, T. H.	14	13	5	41
Holroyd, P.	8	6	1	15
Todd, G.	2	—	1	3
Byrne, C. A.	11	3	1	9
Clark, D.	16	—	2	6
Gronow, B.	10	2	2	10
Mellor, W.	9	—	1	3
Shallcross, J.	5	2	—	4
Walsh, P. B.	7	—	1	3
Watts, E.	14	—	2	6

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15 S. Moorhouse	...		<i>Three-Quarter Backs</i>		
3 E. Wrigley, captain	...		2 G. W. Smith	...	
4 H. Wagstaff	...		3 Deane	...	...
5 W. F. Kitchen	...		4 Cook	...	...
<i>Half Backs</i>			5 W. Dixon	...	...
7 J. Davies	...		<i>Half Backs</i>		
6 T. H. Grey	...		6 Anlezark	...	...
<i>Forwards</i>			7 White	...	...
8 W. Brook	...		<i>Forwards</i>		
9 C. A. Byrne	...		8 Ferguson, captain	...	
10 D. Clark	...		9 Avery	...	...
11 B. Gronow	...		10 A. Smith	...	...
12 W. Mellor	...		11 McCabe	...	...
16 E. Watts	...		12 Jardine	...	...
<i>Reserves—</i>			13 Wright	...	...
2 A. Rosenfeld	...		14 Helm	...	...
17 T. Davies	...		15 Wise	...	...
14 F. Greenwood	...		16 McLean	...	...
			17 J. Whorton	...	...

Referee—MR. S. TILLISON, Salford

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Play and Players.

No. 1—E. WRIGLEY (Huddersfield).

(By OBSERVER.)

Of the twenty-eight Colonials, who under the leadership of the late A. H. Baskerville, visited England eleven have at one time or other, attached themselves to Northern Union League clubs.

Some have improved their playing reputation by further connection with our game, some have correspondingly deteriorated. One who must be included in the favourable report is certainly E. Wrigley, the vice-captain of the Huddersfield club.

Wrigley, to me, appears to possess a style distinctly in contrast with other Colonial centre three-quarter backs now in this country. Probably his fine physique has something to do with the difference, for we have few really effective centres who somewhat easily turn the scale at thirteen stones.

Yet with his weight, Wrigley, by no means conveys the impression that he is a heavy player. His movements to a certain point are as graceful as players two stones his inferiors in weight. It is his methods which always command my attention.

He is what I should call a practical and forceful exponent. He knows how to use the powers nature has endowed him with, and when to this quality he adds his Colonial training of centre three-quarter play, you see the ideal.

A well-known International once said to me, in discussing the merits of a certain player, "that a good big one was to be preferred always to a good little one." This, I think, is more applicable to a centre three-quarter back, than to any other position in a Rugby team, for a successful middle man, must, by his play, make opportunities for his more speedy wing colleague.

It is in the performance of this duty that Wrigley should excel, and on his day, the New Zealander is a great player.

I well remember his dashing display with the Colonials at Rochdale. It was a veritable eye opener, for on that occasion he used sufficient judicious force, backed up by ideas which one would associate with a player of International standard, and that day his play was perfection.

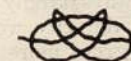
He is quick to start, and believes that before parting with the ball he must make headway himself. And as he is usually "brainy" in his movements, the Huddersfield three-quarter line suffers by his absence. He is perhaps seen to better advantage in attack, though I do not mean to infer that Wrigley is weak in defence. But give him the ball, and you see the man, a most effective factor in the making of tries.

I have even this season, been convinced that Wrigley would be worthy of his place in a team by virtue of his remarkable kicking powers. He puts power in his punts, and you have no half-hearted drops; no indifferent kicks, or useless high punting, when Wrigley takes the ball.

It is length he goes for, and he has found that even the Northern Union touch penalty does not prevent him from gaining ground, by use of touch kicking, when it is his object.

He has direction and method, and these qualities make him a great asset in effective defensive play. There are more ways than one to send back attackers, and Wrigley has thoroughly mastered the art of placing. Successful goal kicks are credited to him from positions some players would never attempt.

He had made his name before joining Baskerville's Combination, and had played with the Red Star club, Wairarapa Province, and was an Inter-Colonial International.



Tales of the Australasian Tour.

No. 12.

(By J. H. Houghton).

IN fulfilment of my promise I now come to the last contribution concerning this wonderful tour. Leaving Rotorua on the Friday, we arrived at Auckland the following day, and concluded our fourth and last engagement in New Zealand, against a New Zealand team, winning by 52 points to 20, after one of the most exciting games of the tour.

It was in this match that the home team were leaders at half time, but in the second half our boys gave a most finished exhibition, and created quite a sensation by scoring 3 tries from kicks-off, without the ball touching the ground.

We spent the week end amongst many friends, and eventually took leave of them on Monday, August 1st, after a most enjoyable visit to New Zealand.

On the following Saturday, after a turbulent passage across the Tasman Sea, we played and won our last match in Australia, against N.S.W. by 50 points to 12. Thus our tour in the Antipodes ended.

The last few days of our sojourn in this great country were spent in straightening up our affairs and saying good bye to our friends, and it was indeed gratifying to all of us to feel, that although we met as strangers, yet we parted with real friends, many of whom we shall ever hold in the highest regard. Especially was this so with the managers, we were always kindly received in whatever part of the city we went, and our relationship grew more cordial the longer we stayed amongst them.

We bade farewell to many, amongst whom were all the League Officials and Committee, on the platform of Sydney Railway Station, on the evening of Wednesday, August 10, 1910, and we steamed out of the station, amidst the ringing cheers of those whom we had left behind. I am pleased indeed, that our last promise, as managers,—that we would use our best efforts to bring about a visit from an Australian team, in season 1911-12,—looks very much like being successful, the matter, details and conditions, being now under consideration by the N.U. Executive.

Those of us who took part in this pioneer movement, will always look back with pleasure upon our experiences, and with pride, when we remember that we were members of the first team which toured Australasia under the auspices of the N.U. Football Union.

In concluding this brief series of tales, concerning our recent tour to the Antipodes, I must submit my feelings of regret that I have not been able to express in cold type, one tithe part of the pleasure which players and managers alike experienced and derived during that visit, and also the extreme satisfaction that we all have in knowing that our tour was in every sense, an unqualified success.

It would not be fitting, or at least would show an ungenerous spirit, if these tales were concluded without making special mention of the unstinted hospitality extended to us on every side, especially by the officials of the various leagues, clubs and other organisations,

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Tales of the Australasian Tour

(Continued)

with whom we were brought into contact, but I think it my duty to make special note of the unvarying kindness and the never failing courtesy extended to us by Mr. E. R. Larkin, the Secretary of the N.S.W. League. Full of resource and great tactfulness, his best efforts were always at the disposal of the managers, and it was in no small degree due to his continual watchfulness and foresight that our tour was such a financial success.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. C. H. Ford, Chairman, and the various members of the League committee, also to Mr. G. H. Cuthbertson, Honorary Secretary of the Newcastle and District League; to Mr. C. Faulkner, Chairman, and Mr. T. H. Donovan, Honorary Secretary of the Brisbane and Queensland Leagues. To the officials of the N.Z. Football Council, we also offer our warmest thanks; working as they are under very adverse circumstances, we feel that their efforts are deserving of the highest praise, and we hope that their great services to N.U. football, may soon be rewarded by the same phenomenal success which has been achieved in Australia.

With such men as Messrs. D. W. McLean, President; E. W. Watts, Hon. Secretary, and S. Birchall Houghton, Hon. Treasurer, as leading officials, the success of our game in New Zealand is assured. Messrs. Cottrell and Hill, with the possible assistance of Mr. Alfred Warbrick, are sure to foster the game in the weird region of Rotorua.

And now my stories are completed. If they have conveyed to my readers any correct idea of the Colonies which we have visited, or have given any sense of pleasure, I am more than gratified, my only regret being that they all could not only have seen as we saw, but enjoyed as we did, the pleasing and wonderful experiences which we had in our pioneer visit and mission effort on behalf of the Northern Rugby Football Union to Australasia.

MEN OF MARK.

No. 13—Mr. E. H. SMIRK, (Wigan).

(By ARGUS).

FOOTBALL has claimed from Mr. E. H. Smirk, the spare time, perhaps, of nearly twenty years of his life. I write perhaps, after reflection, because of late, our famous referee appears to have been devoting considerable attention to golf, and a few weeks ago, won the Captain's prize, at Fairhaven.

That real progress has been made, golfers will recognise, when I say that in a few months his handicap has gone from 23 to 9.

But it is to football we must devote our space. Mr. Smirk was born at Wigan, and although he was never an active participator in the game, he has been identified with the Wigan club for over 25 years. In 1901 he became a referee, and as at that time capable officials were somewhat scarce, Mr. Smirk's inclusion in the referees' list was at once taken advantage of.

Thus for ten seasons he has been closely connected with our game, for he has had charge of over 300 games. He has officiated in matches in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, and at Coventry, and had charge of the matches with the Colonials at Glasgow and Birmingham.

He has had a Northern Union Cup final, four Internationals, a test match, eight County matches, and numerous County Cup ties. Naturally he has some remarkable incidents to record, and he can tell a good story against himself. During a County match in Yorkshire, a player collided with him, and as Mr. Smirk is 6 feet in height, and perhaps a few pounds over 13-stones in weight, it was the player who was "laid out." When he came round he remarked, "I say, Mr. Smirk, I really thought I had struck a telegraph pole."

Another incident was that much talked of Cup tie, between Huddersfield and Broughton Rangers. Mr. Smirk declares that the police were unduly alarmed at the "demonstration," and to prevent undue argument, he agreed to their request, that he should don a policeman's uniform. And what is more to the point, Mr. Smirk made a really good "bobby," and in company with a temporary brother officer, left the Fartown enclosure and walked to the station, without anyone being the wiser.

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HUDDERSFIELD v. HULL.....	
WIGAN v. SWINTON.....	

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Competitor's Name.....

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Ned Jones, the Wigan half-back, has been transferred to Broughton Rangers.

Every home club won in the fourteen Northern League engagements last Saturday.

Broughton Rangers have arranged a fine holiday programme for Wheeler's Field.

Many well-known Rugby Union enthusiasts were spectators of the International at Coventry.

Only four clubs, Swinton, St. Helens, Broughton Rangers and Huddersfield, failed to score in last Saturday's matches.

It is stated that there may be another transfer of a prominent Lancashire club forward during the next few days.

"Billy" Wallwork was called upon at the last minute to assist Swinton at Bradford, and the old captain did exceptionally well under the circumstances.

With the exception of Wigan, Wakefield scored more tries than any other club in the Northern League last Saturday, yet not a solitary conversion was made out of eight tries.

Some discussion has been aroused respecting the second Welsh try, in the International match at Coventry. James Davies, D. B. Davies, and Foley, were all up and attempted to ground, but the Swinton forward was the one who actually touched for the try.

Junior Jottings.

—o—

Two protests arose out of the first round of the Qualifying stage of the Union Challenge Cup. Knottingley and Featherstone Rovers were the clubs responsible for such protests.

Only one however, came before the Cup Committee, that of Knottingley, the Featherstone club failing to comply with the rule respecting protest fee. The case therefore fell through.

The ground of Knottingley's case was their opponents—Normanton had played ineligible players. This was not upheld, but the fee was returned. A knotty point arose during this case, which will be dealt with in our "Notes and Notions" next week. It is of considerable importance to Juniors.

Huddersfield and District N.R. Union.

Birchcliffe, at home, had their revenge for the beating they sustained at Netherton earlier in the season. The scoring was limited to penalty goals, but had the home forwards shown elementary notions of the proper game to play downhill, their backs must have put on more than one try. As it was the wing men were starved.

Slaithwaite easily accounted for Meltham, but the "B" team at Marsh waited in vain for the Reserves from Slaithwaite. Teams are failing to put in an appearance with painful regularity, and it is most disheartening for clubs which do their best to fulfil their engagements.

Moldgreen Res. have at last had their persistency rewarded. Last Saturday they scored their first League point of the season, by drawing with Marsh "A." Other teams would do well to emulate the example of these lads, who have turned up consistently, and struggled on bravely under discouraging circumstances.

Netherton Res. had an easy task, and beat Birchcliffe Res. comfortably.

There are two new Intermediate clubs in the district, who have entered the competition for the County Intermediate Cup. They are Flockton Res. and Golder Juniors. They were formed too late to join in the League games. We wish them both success. If they are enthusiastic they will go far.

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Referee's List.

The following is a list of the officials Saturday, Dec. 24th.

Coventry v. Rochdale Hornets.—A. Hestford; R. Jones, J. McGowan.

Bramley v. York.—H. Edmondson; H. Whiteley, W. H. Shaw.

Broughton Rangers v. Salford.—G. Dickenson; E. Bennett, E. Williams.

Dewsbury v. Wakefield T.—J. F. May, F. Hardwick, H. G. Roebuck.

Halifax v. Hunslet.—W. McCutcheon; W. Emmott, C. Peel.

Huddersfield v. Hull.—W. K. Hurst; T. Walsh, F. Bennett.

Leeds v. Batley.—B. Ennion; F. Rowlands, T. Smith.

Oldham v. Hull K.R.—W. H. Wood; G. E. Dickinson, C. Gibson.

St. Helens v. Runcorn.—S. Tillison; F. Turner, A. Webster.

Widnes v. Warrington.—E. Tonge; W. O. Johnson, J. A. Blackburn.

Wigan v. Swinton.—J. C. Lumley; A. Lee, T. Foulkes.

Yorkshire Rugby Combination.

Batley 'A' v. Leeds 'A.'—J. A. Hall.

Hunslet 'A' v. Halifax 'A.'—A. Day.

Wakefield T. v. Dewsbury.—G. Fowler.

Lancashire Rugby Combination.

Leigh 'A' v. Leigh Shamrocks.—R. H. Jackson.

Pemberton v. Oldham 'A.'—W. Manwaring.

Runcorn 'A' v. St. Helens 'A.'—J. E. Dutton.

Salford 'A' v. Broughton R. 'A.'—T. Austin.

Swinton 'A' v. Wigan 'A.'—G. Moore.

Warrington 'A' v. Widnes 'A.'—H. Lowe.

Answers to Correspondents.

SURPRISED (Pendleton.)—The game was played at Hull, on January 23, 1909, and the result was, Hull Kingston Rovers, 5 goals, 9 tries; Swinton, nothing. In their last three League games that season, against Warrington, Huddersfield and Widnes, Swinton gave away 22 tries.

DOUBTFUL (Leeds.)—The explanatory note reads: "The placing of straw outside the touchlines shall not be considered a breach of the seven feet margin, so long as there is sufficient space for the touch judges to properly fulfil their duties."

A.P. (Wigan.)—You are wrong. If the referee had allowed a try, and then turned round to find the touch flag up, he has no option but to order a scrummage at the place named by the touch judge. The Union gave a clear ruling on this issue during season 1908-9.

REFEREE (Hull.)—The rule is clear, and "the referee is sole judge in all matters of fact, except as to touch, and touch in goal play."

TAKEON (Dewsbury.)—A try, three points; a goal from a try (in which case the try shall not count), five points; a dropped goal, four points, and a goal from a penalty mark, or a penalty, three points.

F. J. B. (Oldham.)—In season 1903-4, Wakefield were in the second division. Their record was 32 matches played; 27 won, 4 lost, 1 drawn; 387 points for, and 57 against. League points being 55; the next best being St. Helens and Holbeck, with 49 points.

PRO (Huddersfield.)—In Lancashire, St. Helens and Yorkshire, Bradford, Hull and Holbeck, each club had two points deducted.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, "Northern Union News," 10a, Fountain Street, Manchester. Correspondents desiring a reply other than through this column must enclose stamped addressed envelope.