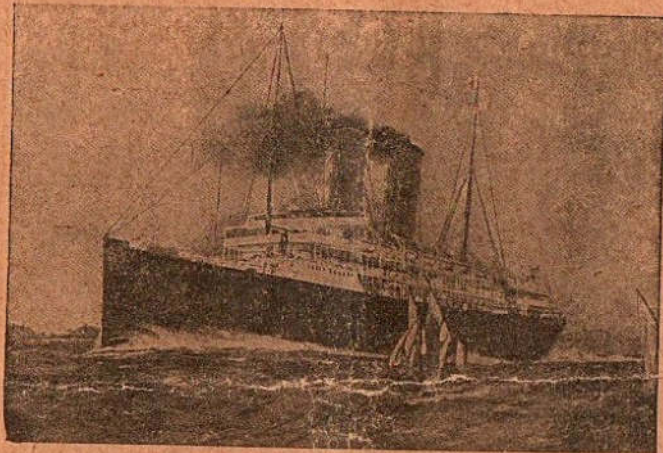


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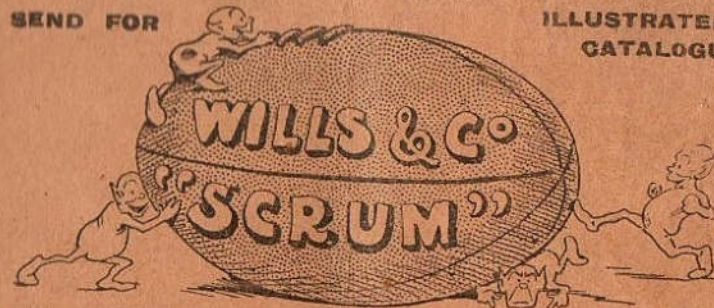
No. 34.] Saturday April 8th, 1911. [One Penny.

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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 34.]

Saturday, April 8th, 1911.

[One Penny.]

MEN AND MATTERS.

The League championship **The First** question is now within easy **Four.** reach of settlement. The four aspirants for the supplementary competition all won their games last week, for Widnes safely overcame their formidable obstacle at St. Helens. But although Hunslet are practically out of the running, Hull Kingston Rovers still threaten danger, and we are promised a most exciting finish.

The Australian Tour. The arrangements for the tour which is expected to commence with the arrival of the Colonials in England, next September, are well advanced. As is well known, it is the intention of the Northern Union officials to play the majority of the representative games on the grounds of Association clubs. We learn that already the favourable replies to the Union's applications for grounds, are so numerous, that a much more extensive programme will be arranged, than was the case, either for the "All Blacks" or the "Kangaroos."

Frivolous Protests. It is evident that some alteration will have to be made in the cup-tie rules. Another protest was during the week dismissed as frivolous by the committee, and the only remedy appears to be an increase in the deposit which must accompany the protest. Then dissatisfied clubs will think twice before calling the committee together.

As we expected the amount **Big Transfer** of the transfer fee required **Fee.** by Leigh, before William Winstanley went to Wigan, has at last leaked out. It is stated to be £150, and the amount is a record for an English forward. Colonial scrummagers have of course cost more.

Salford have been of late, so **Salford's** unfortunate, that few will cavil **Luck.** at their financial luck to-day. They take a third share of Wigan's cup-tie receipts at Fartown; ten per cent of the semi-final between Broughton Rangers and Rochdale Hornets, and Wigan have agreed to kick-off at six o'clock in the postponed League game next Wednesday.

In addition to sending a representative side to England, **Australia's** **Enterprise.** next autumn, there is some talk in Sydney of the New South Wales League sending two sides to play exhibition matches in America. If the scheme matures, it will mean that at least sixty first-class footballers will leave Sydney in August. This points to vast resources as regards football wealth, and is a striking tribute to the progress made by the Northern Union in so short a time.

Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

P'ts. Per-								P'ts. Per-							
P. W. L. D. ForAgs.centge								P. W. L. D. ForAgs.centge							
Oldham	31	26	4	1	425	200	85.48	Rochdale H.	30	14	15	1	355	362	48.33
Wigan	30	25	5	0	556	168	83.33	St. Helens	30	14	15	1	355	362	48.33
Wakefield T.	29	23	5	1	423	186	81.03	Batley	28	13	14	1	262	213	48.21
Widnes	28	17	8	3	271	135	66.07	Salford	29	13	15	1	299	300	46.55
Hull K.R.	29	17	9	3	513	283	63.79	Broughton R.	28	12	15	1	189	266	44.64
Hunslet	31	19	12	0	372	354	61.29	Leigh	27	11	16	0	192	294	40.74
Hull	32	17	12	3	375	283	63.79	Bradford	28	10	17	1	163	313	37.50
Dewsbury	28	16	12	0	282	262	57.14	Runcorn	28	8	17	3	200	323	33.92
Halifax	31	17	13	1	328	228	56.45	Barrow	29	9	19	1	237	381	32.75
Huddersfield	32	18	14	0	568	264	56.25	Ebbw Vale	27	8	19	0	162	276	29.62
Leeds	28	14	12	2	310	260	53.57	Merthyr T.	18	5	13	0	90	337	27.77
Warrington	28	13	10	5	234	265	55.35	York	26	7	19	0	204	369	26.92
Swinton	28	14	14	0	231	195	50.00	Coventry	28	5	22	1	232	459	19.64
Keighley	25	12	12	1	204	375	50.00	Bramley	30	5	24	1	143	485	18.33

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

	Scores.									
	P.W.L.D. For Ag't. Pts									
Oldham	21	17	3	1	261	119	35			
Wigan	20	17	3	0	376	96	34			
Widnes	22	12	7	3	200	116	27			
Warrington	22	11	8	3	183	179	25			
Rochdale H.	20	9	10	1	199	189	19			
Salford	21	9	11	1	180	212	19			
St. Helens	19	8	10	1	215	214	17			
Swinton	21	8	13	0	168	165	16			
Leigh	20	8	12	0	126	208	16			
Broughton R.	19	7	12	0	122	214	14			
Barrow	20	6	13	1	124	289	13			
Runcorn	21	4	14	3	120	273	11			

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

	P.W.L.D.				Scores Per-	
					F.	A. centage
Wigan	23	18	2	3	429	95 84.78
Oldham	23	19	4	0	375	81 82.60
Wigan H.	24	17	6	1	281	147 72.91
Warrington ..	23	15	8	0	260	132 65.21
Runcorn	23	14	9	0	190	182 60.86
Pemberton ..	19	10	7	1	161	135 55.26
St. Helens ..	21	11	9	1	172	179 54.76
Leigh Sham..	16	7	7	2	100	114 50.00
Leigh	24	11	12	1	215	264 47.91
Swinton	20	5	12	3	106	183 32.50
Broughton R.	22	7	14	1	127	222 34.09
Rochdale H.	22	6	15	1	124	251 29.54
Salford	21	5	15	1	109	201 26.19
Millom	11	3	8	0	76	159 25.00
Widnes	22	3	16	3	82	289 20.45
Barrow	11	2	9	0	56	193 18.18

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

Scores.									
P.W.L.D. For Ag't. Pts									
Wakefield T.	20	15	4	1	269	127	31		
Huddersfield	23	14	9	0	481	162	28		
Halifax	21	14	7	0	233	173	28		
Kingston R.	22	12	7	3	311	192	27		
Leeds	21	12	7	2	263	189	26		
Hunslet	21	13	8	0	253	251	26		
Hull	22	11	9	2	253	220	24		
Dewsbury	23	12	11	0	235	240	24		
Batley	22	11	10	1	212	137	23		
Keighley	21	9	11	1	167	349	19		
Bradford	22	6	15	1	116	280	13		
Bramley	22	3	19	1	97	375	7		
York	22	3	19	0	151	346	6		

YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.

					Scores Per-			
	P.W.L.D.				F. A. centage			
Wakefield T.	15	12	2	1	237	55	83.33	
Halifax	16	13	3	0	208	74	81.25	
Huddersfield	14	9	5	0	209	104	64.28	
Purston W.H.	13	8	5	0	113	169	61.53	
Dewsbury	14	15	6	3	112	147	46.42	
Leeds	15	5	10	0	105	138	33.33	
Batley	15	4	9	2	91	185	33.33	
Featherst'cR	16	4	11	1	81	217	28.12	
Hunslet	14	1	10	3	55	200	17.85	

MY NOTE BOOK.

(By THE EDITOR).

The International match at Ebbw Vale was terribly disappointing to the Welsh spectators. For some reason or other, Welsh victories in Wales have been looked for, as a matter of course, and the brilliant exhibition of the English forwards and backs came as a terrible shock to the enthusiastic crowds who bravely sported the leak, even when the fortunes of war had already deserted them.

The English Forwards.

Primarily, the cause of the Welsh disaster, was the overwhelming superiority of the English forwards who went in for good solid scrummaging and obtaining possession of the ball for their backs. And the three-quarter backs were particularly responsive. They played for attack, left defence in the capable hands of Clarkson, and completely turned the tables on the usually aggressive Welshmen. It was a game in direct contrast to that of the previous season, when readers will perhaps remember that Wales completely overwhelmed England. Saturday's match was England's first success on Welsh soil.

Wonderful Wagstaff.

I should be lacking in my duty did I omit to mention the clever play of Harold Wagstaff, in the English three-quarter line. The Huddersfield centre gave a perfect exhibition. His resource and judgement was worthy of the game, and of that occasion. I have long held a good opinion of Wagstaff's abilities, but his display at Ebbw Vale, even to me came as a revelation.

English Ideal Combination.

Probably one or two criticisms of the game will be interesting. The "Argus" says:—

"One of the best expositions of the Rugby code seen in Monmouthshire for quite a long time was that which was given at Ebbw Vale this afternoon. The English team, all star artistes, delighted the large crowd by combining in ideal style. The exhibition they gave was as well-nigh perfect as it could possibly have been.

The Welshmen were a disappointment, and seeing the talent which was included in the ranks of the side, the inability of the men to more accurately pass and tackle cannot well be explained away; but one thing is certain—England were masters almost throughout, and one can readily understand how it is that Northern Union football has such a hold in the North."

A Great Object Lesson.

Says "Forward" in the "Athletic News."

"Such a convincing victory for England was, I think, never expected by the most pessimistic Welshman on the ground. But the margin of points does not in the slightest degree flatter the victors. The unexpected weakness of the home forwards was, of course, primarily responsible for the Welsh disaster, and for a pack, boasting giants like Shugars, Blackmore, and Evan Thomas, to be so woefully weak in the scrummages is a problem which I cannot solve.

But the fact was apparent, and England's forwards seemed to secure possession at will. And their backs were not slow to respond. Defence was not thought of. Out came the ball, and the dazzling runs, the beautifully judged passing, and the wonderful heaves to the inside men caused the English spectators to be unduly enthusiastic. It was, of course, so unexpected, and Wales, beaten at her own particular game, was an object lesson which will not be forgotten in Ebbw Vale for some time.

League Registrations.

The League committee had a large list of registrations to consider at their weekly meeting, and the following were put on the club lists:—

Barrow, J. Threlfall, (Vale of Lune); Bramley, L. Marshall (Leeds) and H. Thorpe (Burley Old Boys); Broughton Rangers, W. J. Larkin (local) and J. Nelson (Wigan); Coventry, J. Mosedale (St. Helens); Dewsbury, A. O. Haigh (Batley R.U.), R. Bartholomew (Morecambe R.U.), and T. M'Loughlin (Barrow); Halifax, W. Cartinan (Caddyfield); Huddersfield, H. Habron (Lofthouse Congregational); Hull, A. Taylor (North Cave F.C.), and J. E. Smith (Hull Sculcoates); Hull Kingston Rovers, H. Jackett (local), and W. Moulds (North Cave); Keighley, P. Barrett (Keighley Zingari) and H. Wade (Lawholme United); Leeds, Walter Harrison (Featherstone Rovers); Leigh, T. Causey (Swinley Hornets); Rochdale Hornets, T. Taylor (Heyside) and E. Hodgson (Northern Rangers); St. Helens, A. E. Clare (Stockton Heath); Wakefield Trinity, H. Rafter (Streethouse Intermediate); Warrington, G. Marshall (Whalley F.C.); Millom, H. Rees (Barrow) and D. Young (local); Wigan Highfield, H. H. Udson (Hindley); Wigan, W. Winstanley (Leigh).

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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

The next fortnight is to be a particularly busy one for both players and officials. All League matches having any bearing on the championship must be played before Easter Tuesday. This has brought extra work upon the clubs, especially those in the running for the "first four," and in addition to the usual heavy holiday programme, there are a number of matches postponed on account of the cup-ties, which have to be brought to a conclusion. All arrangements for the semi-finals will have to be made in the meantime.

An Unusual Event.

There has been—as is fairly generally known—for some years an agreement between the Northern Union and the football Association, in which each body agrees to recognise the others professional registrations and suspensions. Very few cases have arisen in respect to the latter, but one has now occurred under rather unusual circumstances. It appears that a certain player, registered as a professional under the Northern Union has been reported to the Football Association, for playing with one of their clubs as an amateur. Upon investigation they found the report true and suspended him, and have also reported the matter to the Northern Union authorities. The player is therefore debarred from playing under either code, until such time as his suspension is removed.

Another Protest.

Another protest under the Lancashire Shield competition, arising out of the semi-finals last Saturday, was heard by the sub-committee on Tuesday last. This was laid by the Runcorn club against the result of their match against Broughton Rangers 'A.' The grounds of the protest were that one of their opponents left the field without the permission of the referee. It was elicited, during the hearing of the case, that one of the players did step over the touch line to take a piece of string from one of the attendants. This, however, does not constitute leaving the field, but even if it did it is no violation of the rules, as now constituted. There had used to be a clause in the rules on this point but it was deleted, and now only refers to attendance upon the players on the field of play. The protest was therefore dismissed.

Another Breach of Professional Laws.

There have been too many cases of breaches of the professional laws this season, and in the majority of cases these have been committed by junior clubs, who, I am afraid, do not study them as they ought to. The present is a case in point. Laverthorpe, a junior club in the York district, played a player who is registered as a professional of the York club. This was done in violation of the latter club's wishes. In fact they required the player's services themselves and instructed Laverthorpe to this effect, and warned them against playing him. However, the warning was ignored, and they have now been fined £1 ls, and the player stands suspended.

Pemberton's Protest—An Apology.

I have, during the week, received a communication from the secretary of the Pemberton club, pointing out one or two alleged errors in my report upon their case last week. He states that the ground upon which they laid their protest, was that one of the Leigh spectators went on to the field and threatened one of their players (not a Shamrock's player) and that the spectator referred to, was not an ex-Pemberton player. I sincerely regret that the errors crept into my remarks, but either I misunderstood the information—received from a reliable source—or else my information was wrong. However, whatever it was, I give this explanation to allay any wrong impressions which may have been formed.

Referees and other officials desiring copies by post, should forward P.O. for 1/- to the publisher, 10a, Fountain Street, Manchester, who will forward 10 successive weekly issues.

Owing to extreme pressure on our space "Answers of Correspondents" is held over.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

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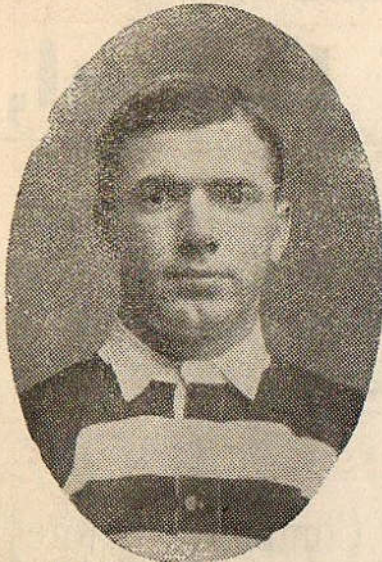
"Northern League."

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

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
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.

PLAYERS IN THE SEMI-FINALS.



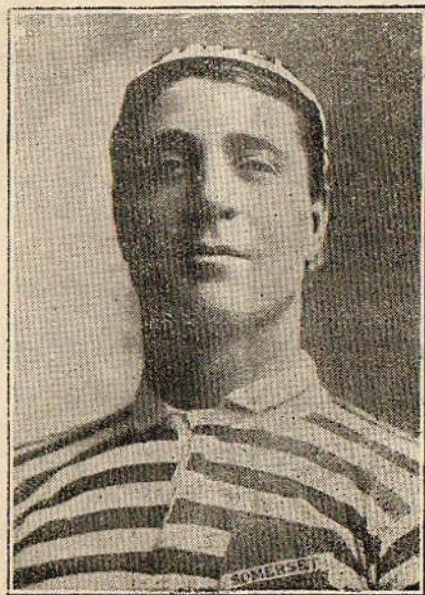
JOHN THOMAS (Wigan).

Reproduced by permission of the "Wigan Examiner."



F. BATTERSBY (Batley).

Reproduced by permission of the "Yorkshire Evening News."



W. ROMAN (Rochdale Hornets).

OLDHAM F. C. Official Programme.

Oldham v. Leeds.

AT

WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM.

Saturday, April 8th, 1911.

P AVILION GOSSIP.

Wigan won; Oldham lost. Next match it will be a case of "do you reverse?"

What a wonderful crowd that was at Wigan; in fact there were twenty thousand "Wiganers" to every twenty from Oldham.

The attendance at Wigan last Wednesday week was a record for Northern Union football in mid week. The next best figures have been at Watersheddings, when Oldham played Swinton shortly after a postponed game, owing to the death of the late Queen Victoria.

The Oldham team will have a nice little trip to Wales (well, Monmouth) next week end. They will leave Oldham early on Friday morning and journey to Newport. They will stay in the famous Rugby centre over night, and journey to Ebbw Vale on the Saturday morning, in time for the kick-off at 3 o'clock; a concession very gratefully granted by the Ebbw Vale club.

Saturday evening will find the team back in Newport for tea, and by ten o'clock the same evening they will be safely eschoned in the Royal Hotel at Gloucester. From that well-known

hostelry they will leave on Sunday in time to be in bed at—. In readiness to meet Broughton Rangers at Broughton the following (Easter) Monday morning, at 11-30, which is the time agreed upon for the kick-off.

To those people who do not care to make the journey down to Broughton, on Easter Monday, we may remind them that there will be a series of Workshops' competition games at Watersheddings, in addition to the Oldham 'A' v. Broughton 'A' game.

By the way. Speaking of Workshop competition games, our office boy informs me that the gold and silver watches for the winners and runners up are already ordered, and will in a few days be on exhibition. Of course, as the office boy states, the watches are not yet paid for, but competitors can gather some consolation by knowing that they are all "on th' tick," and going well.

Look out for Easter Announcements.

**OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB'S
WORKSHOP COMPETITION.
A FEAST OF GOOD GAMES AT
POPULAR PRICES.**

M. B.
Waterloo Hotel,
UNION STREET.

Silver Vatted Ales & Stouts

Supplied by
THE MANCHESTER BREWERY CO.

COOKSON
Bros.,

Solid Gold
Waltham Watches
At £3 - 19 - 6 each.

32, HIGH STREET.
OLDHAM.

Friendship Hotel

MUMPS, OLDHAM.

First Class Teas. Excellent Cuisine.
Caterer to Visiting Teams.
3 First Class Billiard Tables.

R. WINTERBOTTOM, Prop.

TEL., 980, (Late of the Swan Hotel, High St.)

TRY...

WRIGLEY'S
OF

Glodwick

For your next **SUIT.**

Branch—121, UNION ST.,
OLDHAM.

GRAND
THEATRE, Oldham.

Monday, April 10th, for Five Nights.

Mr. **LIONEL RIGNOLD** in

What the Butler Saw

By E. A. Parry and Fredk. Mouillot.

—O—

From Wyndham's Theatre, London.

Tel. 873.

PALACE,
OLDHAM.

Twice Nightly, at 7 & 8.

Monday, April 10th, for Five Nights.
The World-famous Illusionist

CARL HERTZ,

THE THREE LAURELS,
THE IDANIA TROUPE,
And Star Company.

Prices 2d., 4d., 6d. & 1/- Tel. 869.

Oldham v. Leeds.

OLDHAM TEAM.

- 1—W. DIXON, Junr.
- 2—G. W. SMITH
- 3—LLEWELLYN.
- 4—J. LOMAS.
- 5—W. DIXON
- 6—A. E. ANLEZARK
- 7—J. WHARTON.
- 8—FERGUSON (Capt.).
- 9—McCABE.
- 10—A. SMITH.
- 11—W. B. JARDINE
- 12—OWEN.
- 13—J. WILTSHIRE.
- 14—WRIGHT.

LEEDS TEAM.

- 1—W. PITTOCK.
- 2—FRED BARRON.
- 3—L. GILLIE.
- 4—W. JARMAN.
- 5—E. OLIVER.
- 6—J. SANDERS.
- 7—E. C. HAYCOX.
- 8—F. HARRISON.
- 9—F. WEBSTER (Capt.).
- 10—T. WAGSTAFFE.
- 11—S. WHITAKER.
- 12—F. GODWARD.
- 13—W. BIGGS.
- 14—W. WARD.

Referee—J. H. WOOD.

Touch-judges—C. GIBSON and A. JOHNSON.

EMPIRE,
OLDHAM.

Twice Nightly, at 6-50 & 8.

Monday, April 10, 1911, for Five Nights.
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Cowper and their
Company, in Ronald Grahame's Romance

"QUEEN OF THE WICKED."

—O—

GOOD FRIDAY, at 2-30 and 7-30.

MILITARY CONCERTS

By the Famous Band of H.M.

SCOTS GUARDS

By permission of Colonel G. J. Cuthbert.
For particulars see other bills.

ROYAL, Oldham

Twice Nightly, 6-50 & 8.

Matinees: Tuesday and Saturday
"The Home of Animated
Photography."

Popular Prices : : : 2d., 4d., 6d.
No Performance on Good Friday.

HIPPODROME

Twice Nightly, at 7 & 8.

Matinees: Monday and Saturday.
"THE WORLD IN MOTION."
Popular Prices : : : 2d., 4d., 6d.
No Performance on Good Friday.

Artizans' Rest,
Yorkshire Street, Oldham.
Proprietor :: ASA ROBINSON.

Oldham OB Brewery

FINE ALES, &c.

Colosseum Bell rings 2 minutes
before each Act.

Motors. Motors.

H. STREET,

Taxis. Taxis.

1/- & 1/10
Per BOTTLE.

Burnett's Emulsion
Sole Maker
TOM MARLOR,
CHEMIST,
BOTTOM O'TH MOOR.

Nat. Tel. 747.

T. Donnellan,
House & Church
Decorator.

PLUMBER, AUTHORIZED GAS
AND WATERFITTER.
327, RIPPONDEN Rd.,
OLDHAM.

H. ROBINSON, JEWELLER,

FOR
WATCH AND JEWELLERY REPAIRS.

Note Address:—108, YORKSHIRE STREET.

	Points.		Points.
A Broughton Rangers		E Leigh	
Rochdale Hornets		Huddersfield	
		F Runcorn	
B Wigan		Kelghley	
Batley		G Warrington	
		Oeentry	
C Hull		H York	
Wakefield Trinity		Halifax	
D Hunslet		K Liverpool	
Bramley		Oldham Athletic	

If received in time the INTERVAL SCORES of the above Games will be shown on the Score Boards.

"The Football House."
Salisbury Hotel,
Manager - Joe Mills.
2 Minutes from Mumps Station
CARS STOP AT THE DOOR.

RENTS COLLECTED.
PROPERTY MANAGED.
MORTGAGES NEGOCIATED.

Platt & Mayall,
LAND SURVEYORS,
ACCOUNTANTS,
ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENTS.
9, QUEEN STREET, OLDHAM.

Play and Players.

(By OBSERVER.)

J. L. CLAMPITT (Broughton Rangers).

JOHN BAXTER (Rochdale Hornets).

LIKE their opponents of to-day, Broughton Rangers owe much to their forwards, for their happy position in the Challenge cup competition.

Good honest scrummaging, and dashing play were features of the three previous rounds, and the gallant leader of the six, J. L. Clampitt, is naturally well pleased with the progress made.

Clampitt is a capital forward. He is not one of the fancy type of scrummagers but goes in for the fair and honest work in the pack, and yet is always seen to advantage when loose play is necessary. On defence he is a sure tackler. A typical Cumbrian in that he enjoys robust, but perfectly fair forward play, and is perhaps seen to best advantage when fortune favours his opponents.

This season he was appointed captain of the Broughton team, a position he is eminently qualified for. He possesses the respect and confidence of his playing colleagues and club officials, for Clampitt is one of those players who has never given any trouble either on or off the field.

A Brief Biography.

His connection with the Rangers commenced some six or seven years ago. Two Broughton officials were 'up North' on football business, when Clampitt was 'spotted' and persuaded to leave Millom for Broughton. Twenty-eight years of age, he is 5 feet, 9 inches in height, and weighs 13 stones, 4 lbs.

He has secured every honour possible to a Northern Union player, and has played for Cumberland and England. His younger brother, Richard, who now plays with Broughton, was formerly connected with the Association game at Barrow.

PROBABLY the best known player to the casual Northern Union supporter, who will witness the cup-tie at Salford, is John Baxter, the Rochdale Hornets' captain.

Born at Dalton-in-Furness, Baxter commenced playing Rugby football before he left school, but his real start in the game was when at 16 years of age he joined the Dalton White Stars, the team which brought out "Birdie" Dixon, now of Oldham.

Then he joined Dalton and played for about five seasons before coming to Rochdale in the summer of 1901. In 1903-4 he played for Lancashire, and that season was his best, for he took part in every County game, and also played for England against other nationalities.

An Unfortunate Player.

The following season began his unfortunate experiences in the way of injuries, and which I think, were the turning point in a most brilliant career. He was, at that period, the Northern Union's most promising half-back. If his leg was not weak, he had his shoulder damaged, and I well remember one of the Hornet's officials remarking that "Baxter was one of the most unfortunate players who ever wore a jersey."

Baxter, at his best, was a player, who at the outset of every game attracted attention by his wonderful play, as a connecting link with the three-quarter backs. He was remarkably unorthodox in what he did, and his smart breakaways were invariably well finished. A player with a purpose, he well deserved the honours which were extended to him.

His recovery was welcomed by every Rochdale enthusiast, but Baxter has never been the power in the land he was before 1905. But he is yet most eager and enthusiastic for the game; is a clever tactician, a sturdy defender, and a triumph for Rochdale this season, would be a fitting reward to a long and honourable connection with the game.

Play and Players.

(By OBSERVER)

F. BATTERSBY (Batley).

BATLEY'S progress in this season's cup ties has been in thorough keeping with the club's past history. Invariably, even if their League record is not over convincing, when the time arrives for the challenge cup, the "Gallant Youths" are there.

Much of their success in this respect is due to their fine forwards. I mean no reflection on the many worthy backs who have sported the Batley jersey, but I have recollections of many stirring games in which brilliant scrummages have predominated.

One of the leading exponents of forward play is F. Battersby, who combines genuine scrummaging work with smart following up. He is particularly fast, realises the value of effective combination, and his genuine all-round work has justly earned him this season the reputation of being Batley's most brilliant forward.

A Brief Biography.

Battersby only joined the club last season, from a little road side Saturday afternoon organisation, playing in the City of York. Some lynx-eyed friend of the Batley organisation saw him, and at once came to the conclusion that he was likely to develop into a fine forward. That expectation has not been long in materialising.

His position in private life is probably unique amongst footballers. He has a team of donkeys on the sands of a favourite Yorkshire watering place, and all through the summer days of the season, he chases the patient moke over the silvery sea-shore.

He is only 22 years of age, weighs 12½ stones, and stands 5 feet, 8½ inches. He was married a few weeks ago.

JOHN THOMAS (Wigan).

A GOOD, reliable outside half-back is the most valuable asset to any team, and probably few will question my statement if I say that much of Wigan's success during the last two or three seasons is due to the wonderful play of Johnny Thomas.

His remarkable resource, his effective combination with the three-quarter line, and his general all-round play has placed Johnny Thomas in a class by himself, and it occasioned little surprise when he received an early invitation to make one of the team for Australasia.

He is naturally seen to most advantage behind winning forwards. Then his natural abilities are allowed to fully develop. But his defence also reveals the greatness of the player, and his nippy punts on the blind side of the scrummage, which invariably find the touch line, are most disconcerting to an attacking side. He has one ambition, he wants a Northern Union cup medal to complete a most valued collection.

A Brief Biography.

Johnny Thomas played Rugby football from a very early age. He was a mere stripling, when as full-back for the Maesteg club, he was a local hero. One day his club officials were in want of a half-back. Johnny they thought was the man for the job, and he was placed to work the scrummages.

He progressed in a manner which meant early fame, and he played in a Welsh trial game. In 1903 he was half-back in the trial match at Neath. The Wigan officials saw him play for Glamorgan against Devonshire, and he was invited to come North, but he thought Cardiff more attractive.

However, Wigan were persistent, and after a famous game with Llanelly, Johnny came to the Northern Union, and in 1904 donned the Wigan jersey. He has all the honours which the Northern Union can bestow, and last Saturday led the Welsh thirteen against England.

Was born at Aberkenfig in 1884, is 5 feet, 7-inches in height, and weighs 11 stones.

THE CUP.

PROGRESS OF THE CLUBS.

First Round. Second Round. Third Round. Semi-Finals

Runcorn 23	*Runcorn ... 3	Batley 18	Batley.....
*Broughton M 6			
*Batley 7	Batley 9		
Ebbw Vale . 2			
Salford 5	Salford ... 6	*Salford 3	Wigan.....
*Keighley 0			
*Barrow 7	*Barrow 5		
Hull 0			
*Leeds 8	Leeds 11	*Leeds 4	Wigan.....
Leigh 3			
*St. Helens 26	*St. Helens.. 6		
Bramley 7			
*Wigan 18	*Wigan 21	Wigan 13	Wigan.....
Huddersf'd 13			
Warrington. 18	Warrington 2		
*Coventry 10			
Oldham 9	*Oldham 11	*Oldham ... 8	Rochdale..
*Hull K.R. .. 7			
*Wakefield ... 15	Wakefield . 3		
Swinton 0			
*Rochdale 11	*Rochdale .. 8	Rochdale . 8	Broughton
Hunslet 5			
*Widnes 23	Widnes 0		
Lane End U. 0			
Bradford 12	Bradford .. 7	Bradford . 0	Broughton
*Pemberton . 4			
*Halifax 63	*Halifax ... 5		
York 0			
Br'ghton R 10	*Br'ghton R 9	*B'ghton R 10	Broughton
*Normanton 6			
*Dewsbury ... 47	Dewsbury. 0		
York G.U. ... 0			

*Home club.

†Re-play.

The Charms of Rugby.

A critic who has experience of the three codes of football in England, writing to the "Evening News," Edinburgh, pays high compliment to our code. After a brief reference to the clubs number of registered players, and declaring that "the Association game has not inflicted the serious damage on the Northern Union preserves, that seemed at one time likely," he proceeds with the following interesting comments on the game:—

The Influence of Rugby Proper.

The influence of the Northern Union on the game of Rugby is now widening considerably. Australia and New Zealand are playing it, and the Northern Union have now working arrangements with the Australian and New Zealand Leagues. Indeed it is confidently believed here, that the only Rugby game in a few years in the two Colonies will be the Northern Union, and strange though it may seem to outsiders, the future of the game may rest with the amateurs. This is especially the case in New Zealand. This brings me to the consideration of the merits of the game itself. If I were asked to choose from the three football codes, the one I desired above all for my Saturday afternoon vicarious sport, I would plump for the Northern Union unhesitatingly. From the spectacular point of view, in my opinion, no other game of football can compare with a first class Northern Union match.

To compare it with Association, I should say that for every thrill you get from an ordinary Association game you have half-a-dozen from a very ordinary Northern Union game.

"At Lightning Speed."

There is indeed nothing in the Association game—at least that dull, mediocre stuff played in these latter days in England—which can bear any relation to those fierce bursts away in the Rugby code, and this is, of course, equally true of the orthodox Rugby. A round of passing, such as Northern Union tactics produces is well worth going a long distance to see. To watch a half-back gather a half volley clean and neat, swerve like some polished skater past two or three opponents, swing the ball high over a forest of hands to his three-quarter backs, who pass and re-pass from one side of the field to the other, until

the wing man, careering along the touch-line at lightning speed, without slackening his pace, grasps the last pass, and dashes in at the corner flag carrying two or three men with him, is an exhibition of human skill and dexterity which sends a crowd into a perfect delirium of excitement. I have seen nothing in the whole repertoire of the Association player to approach such a performance as this, which may be witnessed at any Rugby match many times over.

A Comparison.

As chance would have it, I had a very fortunate opportunity lately of comparing and contrasting the Northern Union game with the orthodox Rugby code. On succeeding Saturdays, I witnessed a Northern Union Cup tie at Hull, between the Hull Kingston Rovers and Oldham, and at Edinburgh, the Scottish-Irish International. The match at Inverleith, seemed to excite a considerable noise and enthusiasm of sorts, but to me it was flat and stale after the exhilarating conflict at Hull. Both the Scottish and Irish backs seemed veritable novices in what is after all the basis of the Rugby game, the handling of the ball. It is of course, a matter of opinion whether a ravening onslaught of a pack of forwards, sweeping all before them, isn't quite as attractive to watch as a bout of passing, and there was an element of the heroic about the manner in which a Scottish player, with the ball clutched desperately at his breast, in supreme contempt for all his colleagues, would disappear amidst the hordes of the enemy, giving himself a noble sacrifice for home and fatherland. It was magnificent, but it was'n't—the game.

The Underlying Principle.

The Northern Union game is based on the principle that Rugby is a game of handball, and probably its chief contribution has been its indirect influence on the whole Rugby game, in emphasising the use of the hands. There was too much shouting of "Feet, feet," at Inverleith. The Northern Union believe, and the Welsh Union have shown that the hands can beat the feet nine times out of ten. The Northern Union, he thinks, is likely to have a long life and a gay one, though he points to serious blots on the sport through over keenness on the part of players and blood partisanship from the crowds.

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Results and Scorers of Last Saturday's Matches.

ENGLAND, 3 7—27. Tries: Miller (2), Kitchen (2), Avery, Smith, Wagstaffe. Goals: Lomas (2), Wagstaffe.	*WALES, 1 2—8. Tries: Bert Jenkins, Llewellyn. Goal: Thomas (1.)
*WIGAN, 7 7—35. Tries: Rees, Todd (4), Cheetham, Sil- cock. Goals: Sharrock (7).	ROCHDALE HORNETS, 2 2—10. Tries: West (2). Goals: Paddon (2).
*WAKEFIELD T. 6 4—22. Tries: Poynton, J. Taylor, Dixon, Taylor. Goals: Holmes (6).	COVENTRY, 0 0—0.
*HALIFAX, 1 1—5. Try: Brearley. Goal: Eccles.	EBBW VALE, 0 0—0.
*DEWSBURY, 4 4—20. Tries: Milner (2), Hammill, Garrett. Goals: Loryman (4).	HULL, 2 3—13. Tries: Rogers (2), Bruce. Goals: Rogers.
OLDHAM, 2 4—16. Tries: Wharton, Smith (2), McCabe. Goals: Wood, Llewellyn.	*SWINTON, 2 3—13. Tries: Morris, D. Davies, Fairhurst. Goals: Griffiths (2).
*KINGSTON ROVERS, 4 5—23. Tries: Surman, Dilcock, Moore, Sand- ham, Brain, Goals: Carmichael (4).	HUNSLET, 0 2—6. Tries: Toft (2).
WIDNES, 2 4—16. Tries: Lally, McCarthy, Swinton, Johnson. Goals: Jones (2).	*St. HELENS, 0 2—6. Tries: Belshaw, Flanagan.
BROUGHTON RANGERS, 1 2—8. Tries: Ruddick, Bouch. Goal: Davidson.	*LEEDS, 0 0—0.
YORK, 2 4—16. Tries: Mills (2), Daniel, Inman. Goals: Naylor (2).	*LEIGH, 3 3—15. Tries: Johnson (2), Gallop. Goals: Jolley, Ganley, Boleswki.
*BARROW, 3 4—18. Tries: Taylor, Hogg (2), Gifford. Goals: Hogg (2), Hill.	SALFORD, 2 0—4. Goals: Bevan (2).
HUDDERSFIELD, 4 8—32. Tries: Bryne, Davies, Bartholomew (2) Todd, Watts (2), Davies. Goals: Wrigley (4).	*BRAMLEY, 1 1—5. Try: Seamens. Goal: Turton.

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Matches and Officials for the Holidays.

Monday, April 10th.

Swinton v. Bradford.—A. Smith; J. T. Hayes, P. H. Moore.

Tuesday, April 11th.

Keighley v. Leeds.—R. Robinson; C. E. Heydon, H. Adams.

Wednesday, April 12th.

Salford v. Wigan.—A. Smith; J. A. Blackburn, G. E. Dickenson.

Good Friday, April 14th.

Barrow v. Bradford.—J. C. Lumley; W. Cross, J. R. Robinson.

Hull v. Swinton.—W. McCutcheon; F. Wilson, D. Fitzgerald.

Kingston Rovers v. Salford.—B. Ennion; J. W. Mellor, S. Goldsmith.

Leigh v. Broughton Rangers.—W. W. Taylor; C. Gibson, W. T. Chapman.

Rochdale H. v. Coventry.—G. Dickenson; G. Hutchins, W. O. Johnson.

Wakefield T. v. Dewsbury.—J. F. May; H. Roebuck, C. Peel.

Warrington v. Halifax.—W. K. Hirst; A. Roscoe, T. Foulkes.

Wigan v. St. Helens.—A. Hestford; J. H. Crawshaw, G. Dickenson.

York v. Batley.—S. Tillison; W. Emmott, J. W. Scholes.

Saturday, April 15th.

Batley v. Leigh.—W. McCutcheon; H. Whiteley, H. Roebuck.

Bramley v. Hull K.R.—R. Robinson; T. W. Smith, J. W. Scholes.

Ebbw Vale v. Oldham.—A. Smith; L. Vaughan, W. Lewis.

Halifax v. Wigan.—C. Platt; W. Emmott, F. Bennett.

Huddersfield v. Wakefield T.—T. H. King; C. E. Heydon, S. Mortimer.

Hull v. Leeds.—J. W. Whiteley; F. R. Wilson, J. W. Mellor.

Hunslet v. Keighley.—W. K. Hirst; D. Fitzgerald, D. Longbottom.

Salford v. Rochdale Hornets.—G. Moore; R. H. Moore, T. Longden.

Swinton v. St. Helens.—F. Renton; A. Webster, R. Jones.

Easter Monday, April 17th.

Coventry v. York.—E. Tonge; A. Roscoe, W. O. Johnson.

Broughton Rangers v. Oldham.—11-30 a.m., R. Robinson; A. Johnson, J. T. Hayes.

Keighley v. Wakefield T.—A. Hestford; S. Goldsmith, W. Emmott.

Leeds v. Halifax.—B. Ennion; D. Longbottom, D. Fitzgerald.

Rochdale Hornets v. Hunslet.—A. Smith; A. Edwards, J. H. Crawshaw.

St. Helens v. Kingston Rovers.—W. W. Taylor; F. Turner, H. Ball.

Swinton v. Leigh.—E. H. Smirk; E. J. Hannaford, H. Farmer.

Warrington v. Huddersfield.—F. Renton; E. Williams, P. H. Moore.

Widnes v. Dewsbury.—J. C. Lumley; E. Bennett, C. Gibson.

Wigan v. Hull.—G. Dickenson; T. Longden, W. Cross.

Easter Tuesday, April 18th.

Ebbw Vale v. York.—F. Renton; E. J. Watkins, J. Vaughan.

Halifax v. Bradford.—J. W. Whiteley; T. W. Smith, H. Adams.

Huddersfield v. Broughton Ragers.—B. Ennion; J. R. Bowes, H. Whiteley.

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Good Friday, April 14th.

St. Helens 'A' v. Wigan 'A'—J. Dutton.

Wigan Highfield v. Warrington 'A'—R. H. Jackson.

Saturday, April 15th.

Millom v. Wigan 'A'—W. H. Hall.

Pemberton v. Widnes 'A'—R. H. Jackson.

Rochdale H. 'A' v. Salford 'A'—J. A. Blackburn.

Runcorn 'A' v. Barrow 'A'—T. Austin.

St. Helens 'A' v. Swinton 'A'—J. Winstanley.

Easter Monday, April 17th.

Leigh Shamrocks v. Warrington 'A'—G. Moore.

Leigh 'A' v. Swinton 'A'—W. Manwaring.

Oldham 'A' v. Broughton 'A'—J. Dutton.

Pemberton v. Wigan 'A'—J. A. Blackburn.

Easter Tuesday, April 18th.

Oldham 'A' v. Pemberton.—J. Winstanley.

YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.

Saturday, April 15th.

Wakefield T. 'A' v. Huddersfield 'A'—G. Fowler.

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