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Wednesday, Aug. 30th No 16



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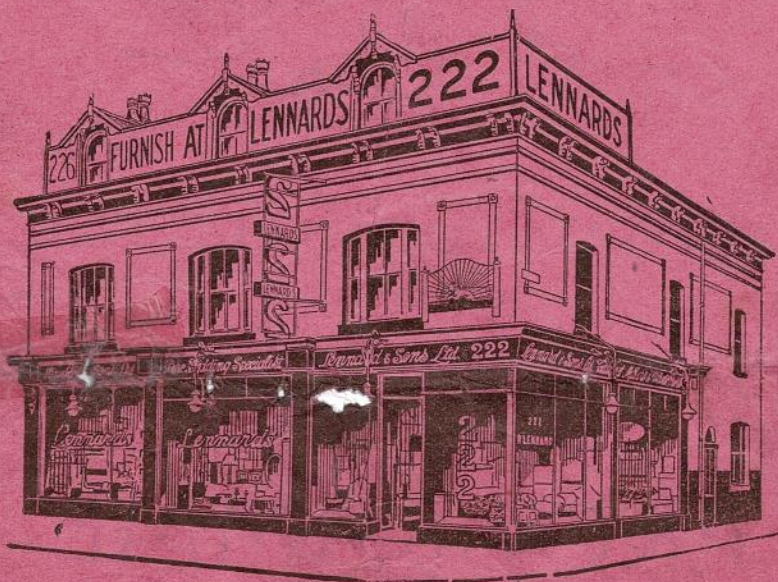
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PROGRAMME
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Season 1939-40

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H.P. Football!

For some time to come it looks as though football will have to be on the H.P. (Hitler Permitting) System. It is a pity that a Rugby League season which promises to be one of the most eventful for some years, should have opened amidst such an international mix-up and it is to be hoped that by the time these words appear in print the clouds will have lifted and we shall be in the happy position of settling down once again to the normal and more pleasant things of life. For the time being football provides us with a welcome respite and it is up to us all to get the utmost benefit from it, so away with crises for the nonce! We mentioned at the outset that the 1939-40

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NOTES—Continued.

season promises to be one of the most eventful for some years and there can be few who will dispute the assertion. Apart from the influx from the amateur ranks of undoubted "stars" whose presence in our game is bound to have a most beneficial effect, we have the New Zealand touring team now in our midst (at least they were expected to reach England to-day), and they open their programme at St. Helens next Saturday. Matches with talented touring teams such as the "Kiwis" are expected to prove themselves, are always a big "draw," and speaking for ourselves we shall look forward with keen interest to doing battle against them here on Saturday, December, 9th. Then again, all players have the utmost incentive to give of their very best during the months ahead, for at the conclusion of the season the Rugby League party to tour Australia next summer will be selected, and to be one of the lucky 26 to make the trip is one of the greatest distinctions and pleasures that can fall to the lot of any player. Competition for places will be exceedingly keen, so we should see some brilliant play from those who consider themselves to be in the running.

Our Two Captures.

So much for the game generally, now let us review in the limited space at our disposal, our own particular prospects. It is more like relating history than news to tell our loyal band of supporters that we have strengthened our resources with two big captures from the Welsh amateur ranks, but the fact must be placed on record. Our first big signing was Sid Williams from Aberavon, a winger whose brilliance is indicated by the fact that last season he was a member of the Welsh R.U. International XV, and earned golden opinions by his displays. We have the utmost confidence in Williams proving one of the best captures for some time, but it is singularly unfortunate both for him and ourselves that he will be unable to assist us for a month or so. In the first practice match he scored eight points, but two days later that it was found he had fractured his wrist in that game. It was a most unlucky happening as Williams himself was looking forward to making a great start in his professional career, but we think there will be fireworks when he does start! The other capture was Emrys Evans, the Llanelly front-row and loose forward, who played for the Welsh XV in the International matches against

NOTES—Continued.

Scotland and Ireland last season. To give him a better idea of what the Rugby League game is like and to thoroughly acclimatise him, he was given a run-out in the "A" team last Saturday. Both he and Williams have been keenly sought by other clubs, and we are feeling pleased with ourselves at persuading them to join us. The continued absence of Harold Osbaldestin, our full-back, who was so seriously injured in the Wembley Cup Final, presented us with a bit of a problem, but it has been temporarily solved by drafting Sammy Miller to the position in which he has acquitted himself so admirably on several

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occasions in the past. Even so steps are being taken to meet with contingencies, so don't be surprised to hear of another big signing before long. The trial matches we held revealed an abundance of talent, and in addition to feeling fully confident that our League team will again be among the honours this season, we have every reason for believing that our reserve side will also have a most successful campaign. They certainly started off in brilliant fashion on Saturday by routing Hunslet "A" here by 54—0.

Opening Battle.

Our League team had a much harder battle in their game with Hunslet at Parkside but that was not entirely unexpected. We opened the campaign in the best possible fashion by winning 10—8, and this in spite of the fact that we had our captain, Gus Risman, off the field for most of the game, with a badly damaged ankle. It is seldom that Gus has to retire, but this time he found it impossible to resume, and at the time of writing it appeared to be extremely unlikely that he would be fit enough to take his place in the team for to-night. The injuries bogey is thus rearing its ugly head very early in our camp, and as we are likely to be handicapped in the future by calls made on us for representative matches we hope that we shall not have to face the additional burden of a constant casualty list. Taking all the circumstances into consideration we regard our win at Parkside as an excellent performance and a most encouraging start. Like the famous brand of whisky, Barney Hudson is "still going strong" and he it was who scored our first try, Risman converting with a fine kick from the

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FULL BACK:

1—Miller

THREE-QUARTER BACKS:

5—Edwards 1—Pearson/Kenny, J. 3—Gear 2—Hudson

HALF BACKS:

6—Harrison 7—Watkins

FORWARDS:

8—Davies 9—Day 10—Bradbury/Vibart

11—Dalton 12—Thomas

13—Veetham

Referee . Mr. E. HOUGHTON (Warrington)

FORWARDS:

13—Givvons

12—Elson 11—Moloney

8—Parr 9—Brooks 10—Moore

HALF-BACKS:

6—Downey 7—Schofield

THREE-QUARTER BACKS:

2—Turner 3—Rhydderch 4—Stott 5—Large

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1—Thomas

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NOTES—continued.

touchline. Hunslet got on level terms before the interval, but soon after the resumption Billy Watkins put us in the lead again with a dropped goal and later Jack Feetham went over for a try. Hunslet replied with an unconverted try, but we held on to our slender two points lead to return victorious after a thrilling battle against the odds.

Oldham's Visit.

Our home programme is launched to-night with a visit from Oldham, who were beaten on Saturday at Hull by 27 points to 6 although they were only losing 5—2 at the half-way stage. This happens to be Oldham's Jubilee season—their ground at Watersheddings was opened in September, 1889—and naturally they want to create a big stir. It was not exactly an encouraging start they made, more so as their six points came from penalty goals and they did not even have the consolation of a try, but they have gathered together a team capable of much better things as they will almost certainly demonstrate when the season gets under leeway. Two of their players, Dave Schofield (scrum-half) and Joe Turner (wing) were with us until midway through last season. Billy Stott, the former Broughton Rangers International centre, and Gwyn Thomas (famous name, that!) the full-back, were secured about the same time. Their latest recruits include Large, a winger from the now defunct Recs. club, Parr (front-row forward) and Kerwick (outside-half), also from the Recs., together with Vincent Kenny, a young half-back from the Swinton district. Mahoney (forward) was an Irish R.U. International reserve. The team's new trainer is Harry Tufnell, a one-time Soccer "star" who won a Cup medal for Barnsley in the Final against West Bromwich. We cannot hold out much encouragement for Oldham "breaking the ice" by springing a surprise on us even though early-season upsets are by no means uncommon. Next Saturday we entertain Oldham's neighbour's, Rochdale Hornets, who were "wooden spoonists" last season, but made a bold bid to start the new season with a win at Hull K.R.'s expense, only to fail by two points (9—7).

Many Alterations and Amendments to Rules made by the governing body of the Rugby League are all embodied in the Official Handbook, printed and published by:—

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TURN TO THE FRONT OF THIS PROGRAMME.

At half-time a Board will be carried round bearing a number. If this figure corresponds with that of your Programme, please call at the Secretary's Office after the match TO-DAY and claim the sum of 5/-! Delay in claiming may invalidate the prize.

First Team.		Result For Ags	Second Team.		Result For Ags
1939			1939		
Aug. 26—Hunslet	A	10 8	Aug. 26—Hunslet A	H	54 0
30—Oldham (6.45 p.m.)	H		Sept. 2—Rochdale A	A	
Sept. 2—Rochdale	H		9—		
5—Dewsbury (6.45 p.m.)	H		16—Widnes A	A	
9—Lancs. Cup 1st Round.			23—Wigan A	H	
Swinton	A		30—Oldham A	A	
16—Widnes	H		Oct. 7—Huddersfield A	H	
23—Broughton	A		14—		
28—Barrow (5.30 p.m.)	A		21—Widnes A	H	
30—			28—		
Oct. 4—Liverpool Stan. (5.30)	H		Nov. 4—Barrow A	H	
7—Huddersfield	A		11—Wakefield A	A	
14—Broughton	H		18—Hull A	H	
21—Widnes	A		25—Hunslet A	A	
28—Leeds	H		Dec. 2—Leigh A	H	
Nov. 4—Keighley	A		9—		
11—Wakefield	H		16—Wakefield A	H	
18—Hull	A		23—Barrow A	A	
25—Hunslet	H		25—		
Dec. 2—Leigh	A		26—Warrington A	A	
9—New Zealand	H		30—		
16—Wakefield	A		1940		
23—Barrow	H		Jan. 1—		
25—Wigan	A		6—Leigh A	A	
26—Warrington	H		13—M. & D. League	H	
30—Dewsbury	A		20—Swinton A	A	
1940			27—Oldham A	H	
Jan. 1—Swinton	A		Feb. 3—Liverpool Stanley A	A	
6—Leigh	H		10—		
13—Halifax	A		17—St. Helens Dist. Lg.	H	
20—Castleford	H		24—Huddersfield A	A	
27—Oldham	A		Mar. 2—St. Helens A	H	
Feb. 3—Keighley	H		9—Hull A	A	
10—1st round R.L. Cup.			16—		
17—Leeds	A		22—Warrington A	H	
24—Huddersfield	H		23—		
Mar. 2—St. Helens	A		25—Wigan A	A	
9—Hull	H		30—Swinton A	H	
16—Halifax	H		April 6—St. Helens A	A	
22—Warrington (G.F.)	A		13—Liverpool Stanley A	H	
23—Swinton (E. Sat.)	H		20—		
25—Wigan (E. Mon.)	H		27—Rochdale A	H	
30—Castleford	A				
April 6—St. Helens	H				
13—Liverpool Stanley	A				
20—					
27—Rochdale	A				

Saturday Next, at 3-30:
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