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Souvenir Programme compiled by "SENTINEL" and printed
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FOOTBALL "QUIZ"

COMPETITION

(See page 6)

£1 PRIZE

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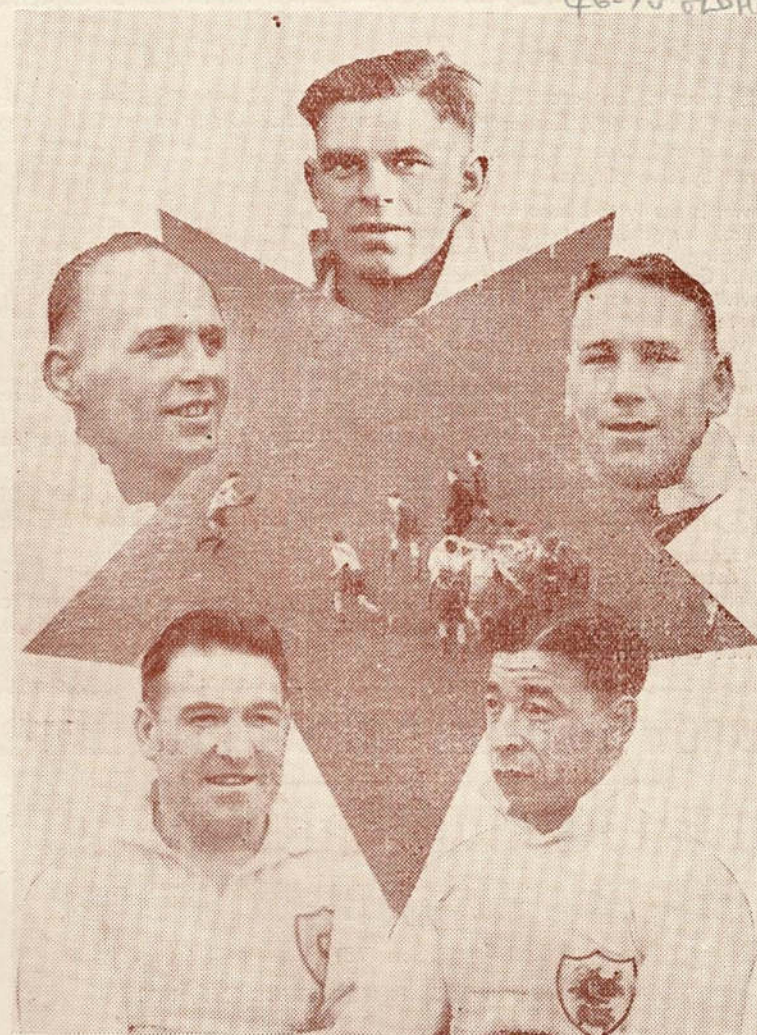
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ABOUT THE BENEFIT

To-day marks an occasion probably unique in Barrow Rugby League history—a benefit game, proceeds of which will be shared by five players.

The war is partly to blame for the state of affairs, for the topsy-turvy football played during those years was, in the good old North Country term, "neither summat nor nowt." Last season, the Barrow Club directorate decided that five of their players were worthy of recognition by the allocation of a benefit, and they named their men as Ayres, Cumberbatch, Higgin, Little and McKeating, good players all.

It was decided that these five should share the net takings of the game against Swinton, played on 27th April, 1946, and resulting in the sum of £167 15s. 2d. being set aside as a players' benefit fund.

This season the players had the offer of two dates, and chose to-day's fixture with Oldham.

In the meantime, the "Big Five" Benefit Committee came on the scene, and now

over £500 extra has been raised by voluntary effort. On to-day's takings depends the amount of the final cheque handed over to each of the quintette so aptly titled the "Big Five."

It is fitting that such recognition should be paid consistent and really good playing service. Other clubs in the League have joined in helping to swell the fund, and each and every one has paid tribute to the fine sportsmanship of the men concerned.

Cumberbatch is now with Liverpool Stanley, but he is worthy of his share by virtue of his performances for Barrow over a period of years.

In thanking the Barrow Club and the sporting public of the town and district for what has been accomplished, the "Big Five" Benefit Committee feel that they are right when they assert that credit is being given where credit is due. Make it a bumper benefit.

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BOB AYRES



VAL CUMBERBATCH



The man who always comes up smiling. Club captain during the war years. A product of local football, signed in 1933. Has few equals as a second row forward. International and County player

The local intermediate League produced Val Cumberbatch, now with Liverpool Stanley, having been transferred during the war. Still an entertaining player to watch. A Lancashire County winger. Signed by Barrow in 1932.

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(A)

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(U)

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A Tribute from Barrow's Chairman

(Mr. John Atkinson)

As Chairman of the Barrow Club, may I add my praise of the five players whose joint benefit falls to-day. May I say that in my long association with Rugby League football and the local club, I have watched them make progress up the ladder of fame, and become the good club men they undoubtedly are.

The smiling face of Bob Ayres; the steady, reliable play of John Higgin; the mercurial touch that is Val Cumberbatch's; Dan McKeating's remarkable performances as hooker; and the sterling worth of Bill Little, are all well known to Barrow sup-

porters. These men have done — and are indeed still doing — their share for Barrow and the game.

It gives me particular pleasure to recall my visit to Billy Little's Clifton home. Mr. Gabbatt and I, making an approach on behalf of Barrow, found him and five other Littles stripping in the wash-house after a local game. That was my first introduction to a man who typifies the spirit of the men to whom we pay tribute to-day—sportsmen all.

I say "Thank you" on behalf of the club, and I wish them all well.

DIFFICULT TIMES.

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RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ (£1 Prize)

The "Big Five" Benefit Committee offers £1 as prize in a Rugby League football "quiz." Study the ten questions below, and send in your answers, with the entry slip, below, to "Football Quiz," c/o Sports Editor, "N.W. Evening Mail," Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, giving your name and address. Closing date, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 29th January.

Entries will be judged by the Sports Editor of the "Evening Mail," whose decision must be regarded as final. The correct answers and the name of the winner of the competition will be announced in the "Evening Mail" Football Edition on Saturday, 1st February.

("Big Five" Committee members and R.L. Officials barred.)

1—When was American football played in Barrow, and what were the names of the teams competing?

2—Which town holds the record for Test match appearances?

3—Name the Welshman who captained Lancashire and also played international for Wales and England?

4—Name teams winning four cups in one season.

5—What is the record attendance for a R.L. match in England?

6—On what date was the Northern Union formed?

7—What was Jim Sullivan's record goal total, and in what season did he attain that total?

8—A Cumberland team once said goodbye to R.L. Cup chances with a 116-nil defeat. Name that team and the date of the match.

9—State the attendance and gate receipts at the Barrow-Salford Cup Final in 1938.

10—This year's Tour receipts are a record, but what are the record receipts for a Test match in England?

"BIG FIVE" QUIZ.

ENTRY SLIP.

After the
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BARROW FIXTURE LIST

February	
1—Halifax	Away
8—R.L. Cup, 1st Round	
15—R.L. Cup, 1st Round	
22—Leigh	Away
March	
1—Swinton	Home
8—Swinton	Away
15—St. Helens	Home
22—Dewsbury	Away
29—Dewsbury	Home
April	
4—(G.F.) Halifax	Home
5—Widnes	Away
7—(E.M.) Oldham	Away
12—Wigan	Home
19—Leeds	Away
26—Belle Vue R.	Home

THE CUP DATES

Round 1: February 8th and 15th.
Round 2: March 1st.
Round 3: March 15th.
Semi final: March 29th.
Final: May 3rd, at Wembley

BARROW "A" TEAM FIXTURES

February	
22—Leigh "A"	Home
March	
1—Swinton "A"	Away
8—Swinton "A"	Home
15—St. Helens "A"	Away
April	
5—Widnes "A"	Home
7—Oldham "A"	Home
12—Wigan "A"	Away
26—Belle Vue R. "A"	Away

SLUMP BUT NOT FAILURE

Six successive wet Saturdays brought Rugby League "gates" down in a sudden slump, and Hunslet, Barrow's recent visitors, stated they lost £1,000 as a result of that rainy spell. But the "Dismal Jimmies" are wrong. There is still a big future for the Rugby League code if the administrators can rid themselves of the inferiority complex which appears to have dogged the game since its inception. The 31,000 gate at Wigan on New Year's Day surely proves the point.

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Similar Bookings are in operation from
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Teams for SATURDAY, JAN. 25th, 1947.

Kick off 3-0 p.m.

Referee: A. HOLBROOK (Warrington).

Touch-judges: D. Halliday and S. Inman.

BARROW (Colour: Blue & White)

1 Jones

2 Lewthwaite 3 Knowelden

4 Bowker 5 Francis

6 Horne

7 Bowyer

8 Longman 9 Woods (W)

10 Hornby 11 Ayres 12 Petcher

13 Little

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1946.

A Broadcasting Brass
Band.

13 Thomas

12 Ayres

11 Shaw

10 Moore

9 Brooks

8 Ogden

7 Smith

6 Rees

5 Large

4 Harris (Capt.)

3 Mahoney

2 Evans

1 Griffiths

OLDHAM (Colour: Red & White)

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RUGBY LEAGUE MATCHES

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KELLY'S Dalton Road,
BARROW.

"May The Game Further Cement The Bonds Of Our Friendship"

Mr. Fred Mills, President of the Oldham Club, asked to send a message for inclusion in this souvenir programme, conveys his Club's sincere good wishes for a "bumper" benefit.

He writes:—

"It is with great pleasure that I write to convey greetings and congratulations to our old friends, Barrow F.C., and, in particular, to your tried and proved loyal players, Ayres, Cumberbatch, Higgin Little and McKeating, men who have proved their skill and ability, not only at Barrow, but throughout the Rugby League. On behalf of Oldham F.C. and its officials, I wish to convey our sincere good wishes for a very successful benefit.

"We, at Oldham, feel honoured to be your opponents on this occasion, and are looking forward to our usual pleasant game with you. In sending my personal good wishes, I recall the many occasions on which I had the honour of acting as referee for your games, which bring back many happy memories of when I was privileged to control such worthy expo-

nents of our grand old game as those who, to-day, are to take their well-merited recognition by your Club.

"May it be a 'bumper,' and prove not only a benefit to the players concerned, but be the means of further cementing—if that is possible—the bonds of friendship which, through all these years, have so happily existed between Barrow and Oldham.

"Wishing you all a prosperous New Year, and looking forward to being with you to-day."

WELCOME

A grand compliment to the "Big Five." We extend a welcome to-day to Mr. W. H. Hughes, Chairman of the Rugby League Council. Such was his desire to pay personal tribute to the five players that he has expressed his intention of coming to watch the game, though he landed in England from Marseilles only on Thursday. He was at the France-Wales International on Sunday.

KINGSWAY CAFE, 20 PAXTON TERRACE.

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PURE ICE CREAM

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SOMETHING ABOUT THE CLUBS

BARROW

Until last season, Barrow was the outpost of the Rugby League. Advent of Workington Town has robbed the club of that doubtful honour, but there are many who envy the firm sway held in this rather remote corner of Britain.

• • •

Founded in 1871, Barrow joined the Northern Union in 1896, one season after its formation. Since then they have had three grounds—Cavendish Park, Little Park and the present headquarters at Craven Park, and many ups and downs. Runners-up in the R.L. Cup and Lancashire Cup in 1938, and three times runners-up in the Lancashire League, Barrow are a popular club, and generally rated as attractive opposition.

• • •

Fifth in the League last season. Now able to claim four 1946 Tourists in their ranks, in addition to their international and county men.

OLDHAM

The Oldham Rugby League Club, with headquarters at The Pavilion, Water-sheddings, have a good record behind them, and were the first Lancashire club to win the Rugby League Challenge Cup, defeating Hunslet 19-9 at Manchester in 1899. Batley had twice won the trophy before then.

• • •

Oldham have since taken it home in 1924-25 and 1926-27, and can claim three League championships, three Lancashire League championships, and have been five times Lancashire Cup winners.

The club was one of the founder members of the Northern Union, and, as a matter of interest, is two years younger than Barrow. In the first six seasons of the Northern Union, Oldham were champions twice and runners-up four times.

• • •

Fifteenth in the Rugby League final table last season. Claim George Gummer, formerly with Barrow, in their playing strength.

For Men Of The North-West

Case's Beer

Quality & Service.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY of the R.L.

"It gives me the greatest of pleasure to write a few words in praise of the contributions made to the Barrow Club, and to the Rugby League in general, by those grand players, Billy Little, Dan McKeating, John Higgin, Bob Ayres and Val Cumberbatch," says Mr. W. Fallowfield, Secretary of the Rugby League.

"They have set a standard of sportsmanship which few players can consistently maintain. Billy, with his fair, robust play; Dan, and his love for a heavy, gruelling match; Bob's 'give and take it' grin; John's unassuming efficiency; and Val's mercurial elusiveness, have formed the nucleus for good team work, combined with the touches of individuality so loved and admired by the spectator.

"I can, without hesitation, state that I have yet to meet a better sportsman than any one of these five, and I sincerely hope that the Barrow public will see that they reap ample rewards."

AND ANOTHER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"I gladly avail myself of an opportunity to pay a personal tribute to the beneficiaries, all of whom I have known throughout their long and honourable careers in the Rugby League game," writes Mr. W. H. Hughes, Chairman, R.L. Council.

"The Barrow Club is indeed fortunate to have been able to command the services of such loyal and enthusiastic servants, who by their skill and manly bearing on the field have made a substantial contribution to the progress of our game, not only in their own district, but throughout the League.

"I feel sure the sporting public of Barrow and district will support enthusiastically the effort being made to pay a well-earned tribute to these fine sportsmen who have 'played the game' so well."

JOE LOUIS (By Himself.)

Revealing many hitherto undisclosed facts about the life and rise to world fame of the greatest boxer of all time.

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FALLOWFIELD'S CAFE

Corner of Cavendish & Dalkeith streets.

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VISIT US AFTER THE GAME

DAN McKEATING



At present on Army service on the Continent, Dan McKeating came to Barrow from Whitehaven in 1932, and proved himself a grand hooker. International and Cumberland County player. A top rank man who has given yeoman service to the Barrow Club.

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Freshly made Ice Cream

OUR VISITORS TO-DAY

Founded in February, 1873, Oldham, whom we welcome to-day, have had their share of success, and have always been regarded as Lancashire stalwarts in the Rugby League.

This season has been one of mixed fortunes, and, at the present, the Watersheddings Club are "on a 50 per cent. basis." Their team has attained heights of brilliance one week, only to meet with reverse the following game. However, they appear to be settling down now, after a long period of injuries to recognised first team players. As many as ten names have been on the injured list in one week.

George Gummer, well known to Barrow supporters, and Tom Ayres (Walney), are among their clubmen, but to-day Oldham are hoping to feature two newcomers to Craven Park in J. B. Mahoney, late Cardiff centre, and Len Thomas, lately with Llanelly.

Thomas is a loose forward or second row man. A Rugby Union international for Wales, he has been on the injured

list, but is now playing up to his international form; is a fine scoring forward and one of the fastest in the game. He stands 6ft., and weighs 14 stones.

During the holiday fixtures he scored seven tries in three games!

GOOD WISHES

Good wishes for this benefit game have come from others than those actively associated with the code. Instance a letter from a local business house: "We do hope it will be a 'record' day for the benefit." To all these well-wishers the "Big Five" Benefit Committee say "Thank you."

INTEREST HERE

Before the Rugby League branch out in other directions, might not the Cumberland area be worthy of attention as a home for another first-class club? There is reported interest at Carlisle, but a few exhibition games may be needed to stimulate it.

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