

BELLE VUE

1836—1947



Since the Reign of William the Fourth, through one hundred and eleven years, the prestige of this famous Amusement Centre has progressed until to-day it is not only Manchester's foremost entertainment rendezvous but the venue that is rightly called the "Showground of the World".

In the sphere of sport and entertainment it is incomparable. It entertains millions of visitors a year. It is famous for its great Stadium, home of Belle Vue Speedway and Belle Vue Rangers Rugby Football Team; the Kings Hall, scene of so many thrilling Boxing Championships, Wrestling Contests, Circuses and Celebrity Concerts—the spacious Exhibition Hall—the Huge Amusement Park—the North's Finest Ballroom — the most interesting Zoo in the provinces.

Every year countless Conventions, Dinners, Dances and other Social functions are held in its many up-to-date restaurants and reception halls. These are but a few of the attractions embodied within this great playground, all providing the "Gateway to a Thousand Pleasures".

# BELLE VUE RANGERS



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

4d



Sportsmen say "Good Health" in

## FINE ALES • EMBEE • B.B.

ALL BREWED BY  
**WALKER & HOMFRAY'S**  
SALFORD

AND BOTTLED BY  
**PALATINE BOTTLING CO.**  
MANCHESTER

SOLD IN ALL BELLE VUE BARS



GUINNESS (Harp Label) — TETLEY  
BASS — YOUNGER  
WORTHINGTON — JOHN SMITH'S

Bottled by the well-known firm of

## SLACK & COX LIMITED

HYDE ROAD, MANCHESTER 12

Telephone: ARDwick 3117 (2 lines)

Suppliers to Belle Vue Bars and Hotels



Official Programme of Belle Vue Rangers Edited and Published by  
The Press Department, Belle Vue.

Belle Vue Rangers R.F.C. (Broughton Rangers Belle Vue Limited)

Directors—B. L. Atkinson, Esq. Ald. W. H. Oldfield, J.P., M.P. T. Spedding, Esq.  
Secretary-Manager—T. Spedding. Hon. Club Physician—Dr. L. Loughran.

## Tom Longworth Sports-casting

**Before I kick-off, let me wish  
you all that you wish yourselves  
in the New Year.**

As I sat among you in the fog during the New Zealand match and listened to your noisy, yet justified, vocal comment on the referee's unfathomable interpretation of the off-side rule, I thought: "How does it come about that the Rangers for two tours in succession should have to take the last club fixture?"

I cannot answer the question, but I sincerely hope that when the Australians are over next term the Rangers will be favoured with a match in the early part of the tour, when the weather is good and before the freshness of the tour has worn off.

Belle Vue thus achieved the distinction of being the only ground in the country on which both the Australian Rugby Union and the New Zealanders have played this season.

Looking back on the first half of the season I cannot find anything to go into raptures about; yet there is no cause to be pessimistic. Things have not worked out in a general sense any more than clubs have achieved what their supporters most desired.

While I think there is a more general desire than for many years past for clubs to play the open



**ELWYN GWYTHER**

Belle Vue Rangers

game, there is still a long way to go before all clubs develop the technique of Wigan and Huddersfield. The black spots of our game are illegal scrummaging and indifferent playing of the ball made still more annoying by the lack of uniform decision by referees.

While I admit the rules could be made more explicit, they can have but one meaning; yet there seems to be dozens.

On the subject I mentioned in a recent programme, that our game was rescued from oblivion by the visit of the "All Blacks" in 1907-8, your chairman, Mr. Bert Atkinson, considers that the reformation was the result of the Rugby Union tour of 1905-6. "It was such a huge success from every angle," he says, "that if it had not taken place we might have thought 'rugger' only existed in the British Isles."

There is no question that had the 1905-6 tour been a failure there would have been no 1907-8 tour, and Mr. Atkinson's reasoning is sound. Most of you are well aware that the Union team carried all before them and only sustained one defeat by Wales in 35 matches. Included in the party were George Smith, who subsequently played for Oldham, and Charlie Seeling, of Wigan.

Their splendid combination, brilliant passing, speedy running and general accuracy of their play aroused tremendous interest. They made a profit of £9,500, the greater part of which was applied by the New Zealand Rugby Union to fostering the game.

Mr. Atkinson, who has always been an admirer of Wigan's style says in regard to open play: "I have told our fellows time and time again, win or lose, to throw the ball about, to stop kicking and make the other fellow do the running. In every match they have done so, notably the second half against Wigan, the play has been well worth watching."

Mr. Atkinson also has a comment to make on the Test team selection. "In my opinion," he says, "Stan McCormick should have been given a place and would have had one if I had been picking the team. He is such an unorthodox player and full of 'go' for the line that he is one who could win a match in the last minute of the game."

Stan will come into his own next season, I am confident, even if he does not attain international rank this season. There is still the France v. England match yet to be played at Bordeaux in April, by which time much will have happened.

Early in the New Year the draw will be made for the first round of the Challenge Cup and, with a reasonable amount of good fortune, the Rangers should make progress. What a wonderful fillip it would give to the game at Belle Vue if the Rangers reached Wembley.

As this programme has to serve not only to-day's match with Rochdale Hornets, but also tomorrow's game with Oldham, it is incumbent upon me to allude to both these time-honoured opponents of the Rangers.

My most pleasant recollections of the Hornets centre around 1910 to 1918. In those days the Hornets seemed to have a monopoly on recruits from the West Country.

Men like Walter Roman, Tommy Woods, Jack Robinson and Ernest Jones won my admiration. Roman and West met soldiers' deaths in the first World War.

I well remember Baxter, a grand full-back, Paddon, Dearden, Carter and Slade, the brothers Jack and Louis Corsi, George Prudence, Fitzsimmons and Joe Bowers.

In 1935 I saw the Hornets rout Wigan at the Athletic ground by 19 points to 7. Next morning I read that the grand stand had been burnt to the ground.

Another Rochdale memory was that never-to-be-forgotten Cup final of 1924 between Wigan and Oldham, when the crowd stood on the touch-lines and, in scoring one of Wigan's tries, Van Heerden, the South African winger, had to run round a mounted constable.

Since then the Hornets have re-built their stand, but not as yet regained similar strength on the field. They are progressing, and I wish them every success.

Oldham was the pivotal point of the game long before headquarters were established in Leeds. That was because Mr. Joe Platt lived there, and so long as Rugby League football exists the name of this great legislator will for ever remain honoured.



## ***The crowd roars . . . . !***

It's the thrill of the day!—It's News!—and it's reported for you, as always, in the SPORTING CHRONICLE.

Unrivalled for its coverage of all fields of sport, the SPORTING CHRONICLE brings to you the fullest reports of all big events—graphically described by a fine team of sports writers.

★

YOUR ALL-SPORTS DAILY PAPER

# **SPORTING CHRONICLE**

AND ATHLETIC NEWS

DAILY. PRICE 3d.



Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1947

Kick-off 2-15 p.m.



## BELLE VUE RANGERS TEAM

|                    |     |              |
|--------------------|-----|--------------|
| Full Back          | ... | 1. RATCHFORD |
| Right Wing         | ... | 2. PIMBLETT  |
| Right Centre       | ... | 3. TIERNEY   |
| Left Centre        | ... | 4. McCORMICK |
| Left Wing          | ... | 5. JOLLEY    |
| Out Half           | ... | 6. PRICE     |
| Scrum Half         | ... | 7. WATKINS   |
| Front Row Forward  | ... | 8. THOMAS    |
| Hooker             | ... | 9. FLANAGAN  |
| Front Row Forward  | ... | 10. GWYTHYR  |
| Second Row Forward | ... | 11. DAY      |
| Second Row Forward | ... | 12. PHILLIPS |
| Loose Forward      | ... | 13. KENNY    |



## OLDHAM TEAM

|                    |     |                        |
|--------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Full Back          | ... | 1. BARRACLOUGH         |
| Right Wing         | ... | 2. INGLEFIELD          |
| Right Centre       | ... | 3. MITCHELL            |
| Left Centre        | ... | 4. MALONEY             |
| Left Wing          | ... | 5. LARGE               |
| Out Half           | ... | 6. KENNY or HARRIS     |
| Scrum Half         | ... | 7. SMITH (R)           |
| Front Row Forward  | ... | 8. OGDEN               |
| Hooker             | ... | 9. FROST               |
| Front Row Forward  | ... | 10. TAYLOR             |
| Second Row Forward | ... | 11. AMBLER or THOMPSON |
| Second Row Forward | ... | 12. PUGH               |
| Loose Forward      | ... | 13. AYRES              |

Teams are, of course, subject to alteration.

Referee: Mr. PAUL COWELL. Touch Judges: Mr. G. BATTERSBY and Mr. E. E. HILL.

(Continued from page 3)

Apart from furnishing the first honorary secretary of the game and one of the greatest of all referees, Mr. Billy McCutcheon, Oldham has throughout the years played a distinguished part in the advancement of Rugby League football. We all remember Fred Hutchins, who died a few months ago, but to the present generation such players as Joe Ferguson, Tom Cash, Sam Lees, Tom Fletcher, Tom Llewellyn, Harry Varley, Bert Avery, the brothers Farns-

### THE "PEAK" OF RING ENTERTAINMENT GREAT INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS Revue

Greatest of all Belle Vue Productions

Commencing Wed., Dec. 24th - Twice Daily 2-30 &amp; 7-0

Admission: Adults 9/-, 7/6, 5/- and 3/-  
Children (14 and under): 6/-, 5/-, 4/- and 2/-

BOOK NOW at Belle Vue, Lewis's, and Forsyth's

worth, George Anlezark and Sid Deane, who came back from Australia after early tours in England, George Smith, Ernest Knapman, Albert Brough, Herman Hilton, Alf Wood, Evan Davies, Tom Helme, Billy Hall, Sid Rix and Bert Sloman were unknown.

Those who represent Oldham have great traditions to maintain. And so, with these reminiscences, I bring my contributions for 1947 to an end, with a fervent wish that 1948 will produce the fullest measure of



**DOUGLAS PHILLIPS**  
Belle Vue Rangers

★



**RAY PRICE**  
Belle Vue Rangers

(Continued from page 5)

success to all clubs, and that our game will continue to prosper.

Many years ago, Mr. Edmund Osborne, then Warrington's representative on the Council, said to me: "Our game will expand abroad before it becomes more popular in England." These words have proved true. We are making great strides across the Channel, in Australia and New Zealand, but there is no direct prospect of increasing the number of clubs in Britain. I wonder if 1948 will see a change?

Belle Vue Rangers Team and Management tender the Compliments of the Season and Good Luck, Good Health and Prosperity for 1948 to All Sportsmen.

### Belle Vue Rangers versus Wakefield —in Comfort

A Motor Coach will start from Belle Vue Main Entrance at 11-30 a.m. on New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st, for the Belle Vue Rangers v Wakefield Match at Wakefield.

The Return Fare will be 7/-. Reservation for Seats must be made immediately to Mr. Tom Spedding, Secretary-Manager of Belle Vue Rangers, at his Belle Vue Office.

There is no greater recommendation than **QUALITY**, such quality, for instance, as that upon which the famous House of Lowe's was built and has progressed across the past forty years.

## LOWE'S

QUALITY CONFECTIONERS

**76 STOCKPORT ROAD  
LEVENSHULME**

Telephone Rusholme 1915

**694 STOCKPORT ROAD  
LONGSIGHT**

Telephone Rusholme 4801

**434 WILBRAHAM ROAD  
CHORLTON**

Telephone Chorlton 1651

## WHITE CHIEF



*It's a*  
**TIP TOP LOAF**

A PRODUCT OF THE TIP TOP BAKERIES MANCHESTER 18

### Bed & Breakfast a Speciality

Should you wish to remain over night or longer in Manchester, whether singly or in parties up to 25, your best introduction to comfort cleanliness and service is

## HOLLY BANK HOTEL

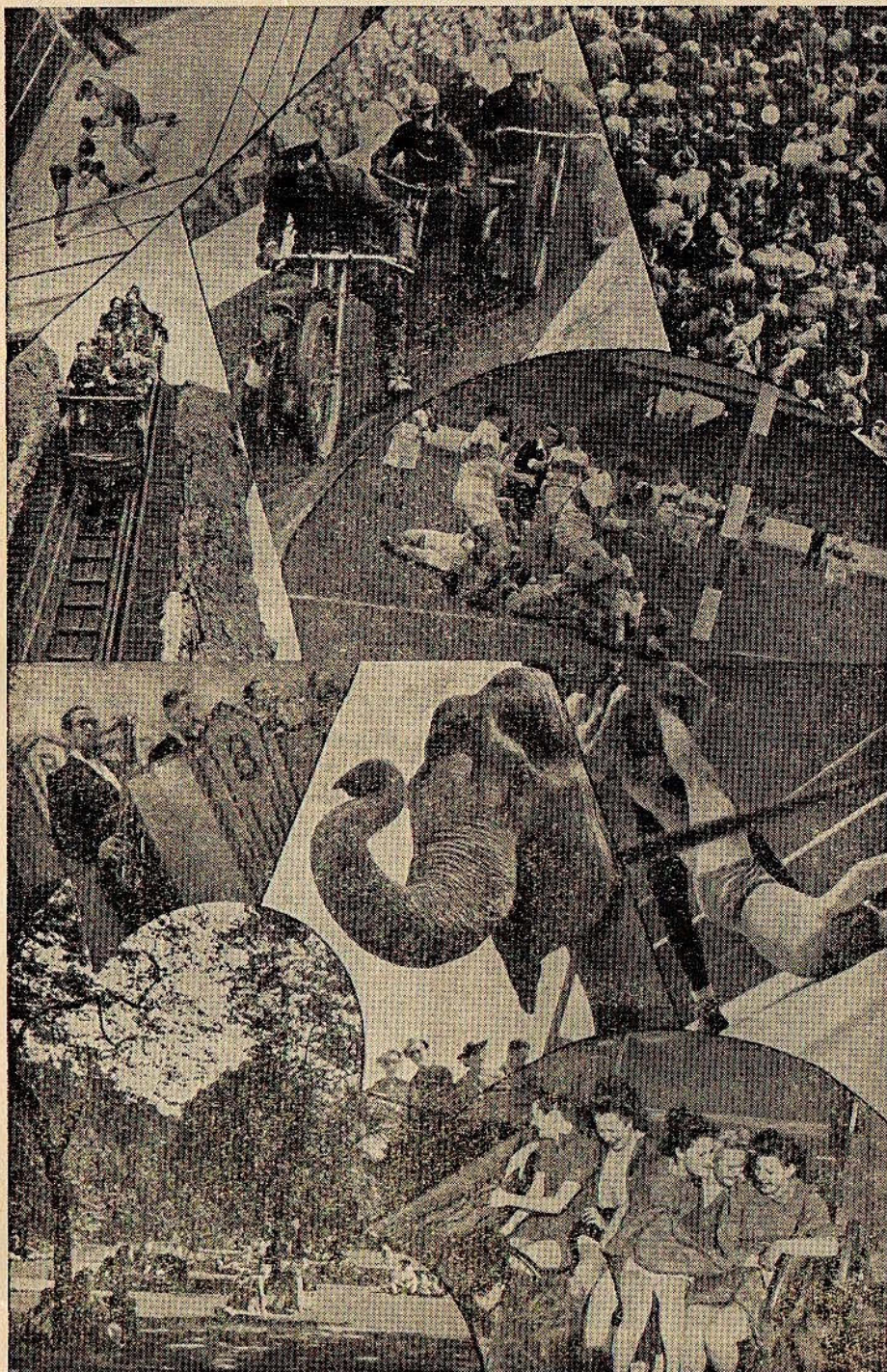
(Prop.: Mrs. M. Taylor)

**418 HYDE ROAD,  
DEBDALE, CORTON,  
MANCHESTER 18.**

No. 19 Hyde Tram  
No. 8 Hyde Bus



**STAN McCORMICK**  
Belle Vue Rangers



## Rugby League Fixtures for 1947/48 Season

| 1947    | Opponents   | Ground | K.O. | 1948   | Opponents        | Ground | K.O. |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|------------------|--------|------|
| Aug. 23 | Bramley     | A...   | 3.00 | Jan. 1 | Wakefield        | A...   | 2.15 |
| 30      | Barrow      | A...   | 3.00 | 3      | Leigh            | H...   | 2.15 |
| Sept. 1 | Bramley     | H...   | 6.30 | 10     | Swinton          | H...   | 2.30 |
| 6       | Hull        | A...   | 3.00 | 17     | Hunslet          | A...   | 2.30 |
| 10      | Barrow      | H...   | 6.15 | 24     | Liverpool        | H...   | 2.45 |
| 13      | Workington  | H...   | 3.00 | 31     | Swinton          | A...   | 2.45 |
| 20      | Hull        | H...   | 3.00 | Feb. 7 | 1st Rd. R.L. Cup |        |      |
| 27      | Warrington  | A...   | 3.00 |        | 1st Leg          |        | 3.00 |
| Oct. 4  | Batley      | H...   | 3.00 | 14     | 1st Rd. R.L. Cup |        |      |
| 11      | Halifax     | H...   | 3.00 |        | 2nd Leg          |        | 3.00 |
| 18      | Halifax     | A...   | 3.00 | 21     | St. Helens       | H...   | 3.00 |
| 25      | Warrington  | H...   | 3.00 | 28     | Salford          | H...   | 3.00 |
| Nov. 1  | Leigh       | A...   | 3.00 | Mar. 6 | Barrow           | H...   | 3.00 |
| 8       | St. Helens  | A...   | 3.00 | 13     | Salford          | A...   | 3.00 |
| 15      | Widnes      | H...   | 3.00 | 20     | Wakefield        | H...   | 3.00 |
| 22      | Workington  | A...   | 2.30 | 26     | Liverpool        | A...   | 3.00 |
| 29      | Wigan       | H...   | 2.30 | 27     | Barrow           | A...   | 3.00 |
| Dec. 6  | Widnes      | A...   | 2.30 | 29     | —                |        |      |
| 13      | New Zealand | H...   | 2.15 | Apr. 3 | Oldham           | A...   | 3.00 |
| 20      | Batley      | A...   | 2.15 | 10     | Hunslet          | H...   | 3.00 |
| 25      | Rochdale    | A...   | 2.15 | 17     | Wigan            | A...   | 3.00 |
| 26      | Rochdale    | H...   | 2.15 |        |                  |        |      |
| 27      | Oldham      | H...   | 2.15 |        |                  |        |      |

## Lancashire Combination Fixtures 1947/48

| 1947    | Opponents  | Ground | K.O. | 1948   | Opponents  | Ground | K.O. |
|---------|------------|--------|------|--------|------------|--------|------|
| Aug. 23 | Workington | H...   | 3.00 | Jan. 1 | —          |        |      |
| 30      | Salford    | A...   | 3.00 | 3      | Leigh      | A...   | 2.15 |
| Sept. 6 | Wigan      | A...   | 3.00 | 10     | Swinton    | A...   | 2.30 |
| 13      | —          |        |      | 17     | Warrington | H...   | 2.30 |
| 20      | —          |        |      | 24     | —          |        |      |
| 27      | —          |        |      | 31     | Swinton    | H...   | 2.45 |
| Oct. 4  | —          |        |      | Feb. 7 | —          |        |      |
| 11      | —          |        |      | 14     | —          |        |      |
| 18      | Salford    | H...   | 3.00 | 21     | St. Helens | A...   | 3.00 |
| 25      | Warrington | A...   | 3.00 | 28     | —          |        |      |
| Nov. 1  | Leigh      | H...   | 3.00 | Mar. 6 | Barrow     | A...   | 3.00 |
| 8       | St. Helens | H...   | 3.00 | 13     | Barrow     | H...   | 3.00 |
| 15      | Widnes     | A...   | 3.00 | 20     | —          |        |      |
| 22      | —          |        |      | 26     | —          |        |      |
| 29      | —          |        |      | 27     | —          |        |      |
| Dec. 6  | Widnes     | H...   | 2.30 | 29     | —          |        |      |
| 13      | Workington | A...   | 2.15 | Apr. 3 | Oldham     | H...   | 3.00 |
| 20      | —          |        |      | 10     | —          |        |      |
| 25      | Rochdale   | H...   | 2.15 | 17     | Wigan      | H...   | 3.00 |
| 26      | Rochdale   | A...   | 2.15 |        |            |        |      |
| 27      | Oldham     | A...   | 2.15 |        |            |        |      |