

TALKING TO ALL SPORTSMEN

Jack Steel

IN THE
Warrington Guardian

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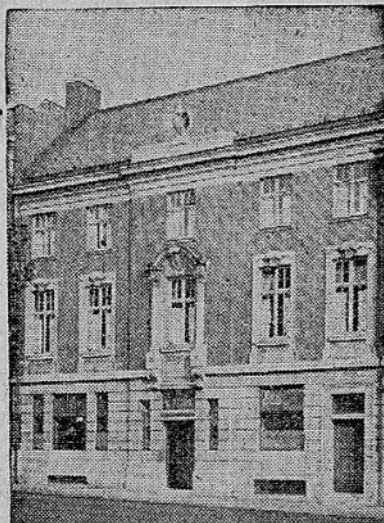
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WARRINGTON RUGBY NEWS

WILDERSPOOL STADIUM

With the season drawing to its close, and our ground scheme about to be started, we shall shortly be putting into operation, what has been described by the local journalist, Jack Steel, as "Pouring Money into Wilderspool," an operation which he evidently considers useless, the Stadium being "outdated." The idea is put out for us that the Stadium should be scrapped and that we should make a start with a new one—Just like that!

No alternative ideas are evinced. No alternative site is found for us (we might be reaching out a few miles into the country before AN AVAILABLE SITE large enough for this Dream Stadium is found). No suggestion as to what such a scheme would cost and from whence the money shall be found to bring such a scheme anywhere near the state of the present Stadium. No idea as to what we shall use for money to run the club in its present prosperous state whilst available money is poured into this Mythical Super Stadium.

No ideas as to when, where, or how, such a scheme should be started or how long it would take to complete or whether we should continue to run football at its present site, with its continuity of normal expense during the years that we should be pouring money into this new flight of fancy, or whether we should all just pack up football and set to work chasing this shadow for a number of years.

How can one, in a supposedly responsible position write what we, in our opinion, can only designate as utter drivel, we do not know. We, the Directorate, and we think the bulk of our supporters, are proud of the Stadium. We know it to be the envy of many clubs in the League. This journalist, holds up to us as examples of what can be done, the Leigh and Workington Clubs.

Knowing that he has visited these clubs, as have many of you readers, it passes our comprehension that they should be held up to us as patterns. Our friends at these clubs would be very thankful if, after a fair number of years, they felt they could approach our present standard, in fact one of them made the request to our club for any plans we might have so that they

might adopt our scheme of things as the ideal to strive for. Having said that we are proud of the Stadium, don't confuse it with our being satisfied with it. We probably never shall be.

When the opportunity affords, the capacity and the comfort of the Stadium will be improved. With regard to capacity, the main consideration is whether it is sufficient for our normal requirements.

Whilst the capacity may, generally speaking be said to be sufficient for our ordinary requirements, we feel that, with the added popularity of the game and our determination to retain the highest class rugby at Wilderspool we will need to provide for additional spectators but we are quite confident that the Stadium can be stretched to provide for all the demands that will be made upon it.

As and when the opportunity affords and the present building restrictions are eased this stretching will be taken in hand.

Wherein do lie these stretching possibilities?

1. The board are at the moment concerned in negotiations that will permit the taking back of our accommodation on the popular side to the level of the back of the Paddock. This would give us two added areas of roughly 30 yards by 6 yards and 40 yards by 4 yards.

If the persons ringed round in the photographs will identify themselves to Mr. Brockbank, they will receive the sum of 5/- each.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE VISITORS

Oldham are always popular visitors to The Stadium, for they can usually be relied upon to provide entertaining football, and it gives us pleasure to welcome them here to-day to ring down the curtain on our league fixtures.

Strangely enough we had the pleasure of opening the season at Watersheddings in August, although the result on that occasion did not give pleasure, and showed up many weaknesses in the side that day.

On that early season form, Oldham gave promise of blending into a more than useful side, who would probably have a big say in the season's honours, but their form later has been somewhat erratic, and unsatisfying to their officials, who, we have reason to believe have searched far and wide in their efforts to obtain first-class men, but in common with other clubs, they have found that the talent available in amateur circles is well below the requirements of present day Rugby League football.

Nevertheless, as results have shown our visitors are never a team who can be treated lightly, and our boys will need all their skill, and team work if they are to claim the spoils.

Having in mind the game here last season when Oldham served up some really grand football, we look forward to a most entertaining game to-day.

SCHOOLBOY FOOTBALL

By defeating Barrow Boys recently in the second round of the Lancashire Schoolboys' Cup, Warrington Boys qualified to meet Salford Boys in the semi-final.

This will be played on this ground on Wednesday next 21st April, kick-off 6.30 p.m.

JUNIOR CUP FINALS

On Monday evening next, April 19th, our ground has been placed at the disposal of the Warrington and District Amateur League for the playing of their League Championship Finals.

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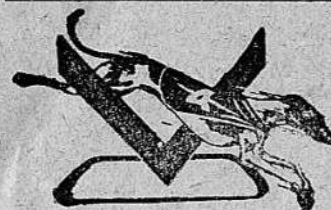
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	(1) Jones		
(2) Bevan	(3) Pimblett	(4) Knowelden	(5) Powell or Williams
	(6) Fleming	(7) Helme	
	(13) Palin		
	(11) Bath	(12) Ryan	
(8) Derbyshire	(9) Cotton	(10) Featherstone	
Referee: • F. SMITH (Barrow)			Linesmen:• J. WOODWARD (St. Helens) (Red Stripe) T. TAYLOR (Swinton) (Blue Stripe)
(10) Taylor	(9) Brooks	(8) Ogden	
	(12) Rostron	(11) Thomas	
	(13) Givvons		
	(7) Smith	(6) Kenny	
(5) Evans	(4) Mahoney	(3) Harris	(2) Inglesfield
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R.L. COACHING SCHEME

The Management Committee of the Rugby League are just now seeking the co-operation of all clubs to enable them to hold a course for coaches. Clubs are invited to submit the names of one or two players, who would be likely to make a success of this type of work, and these players will attend a course during the summer months, when they will pass out as qualified coaches (1st or 2nd class).

Later these players will be expected to supervise courses organised by their own clubs for the benefit of local Amateur organisations.

As a preliminary to the suggested scheme, a Coaching Manual (price 2/-, postage 3d.) will shortly be on sale at the R.L. Headquarters, 180, Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7, and orders can now be received.

PROGRAMME PRIZE

This programme is worth 10/- to you. Watch for the announcement of the Prize Winning Number on the scoreboard at half-time. If you are the lucky holder take your programme to Mr. C. Brockbank, who will hand you a voucher, value 10/-, to be spent with any of our advertisers.

PORTRAIT GALLERY

Although it is only a month ago since Harry Bath joined us from Barrow, he has already established himself as a firm favourite among our followers, and has proved himself to be one of the best captures of the current season.

His vigorous and bustling style of play makes him a most difficult man to check, especially near to the line, but as with most of his fellow country-men he knows the value of letting the ball go to a more favourably placed colleague, and tries can accrue by following him through as he makes his dashes for the line.

It is unfortunate for us that as he was not signed by us until after 1st March, he will not be able to assist us on Saturday next in the Championship semi-final, but we look forward with pleasurable anticipation to many sterling games from him in future seasons, and as he is only 23 years of age, he seems likely to earn as big a reputation as any Colonial forward who has come into English Rugby League Football.



Harry Bath
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featuring Warrington Team.

Harry has been greatly pleased by his reception since coming to the club, and in anticipation of spending many happy years in the town has recently purchased a house.

ALBERT JOHNSON

It has been a big blow to the player and ourselves to have Albert Johnson hors de combat at this stage of the season, and although for a player who has always been a full 80 minutes player, and has never shirked anything, he has been remarkably free throughout his career from serious injury, that knowledge is small comfort to either him or us, when he is unable to play in the remaining vital games, which at the moment seems likely.

At first it seemed probable that an operation for the removal of the cartilage would be necessary, but news last week-end was more reassuring, and it is thought that the injury will respond to the daily treatment which Albert is now receiving.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

The final placings of the top four clubs will probably not be known until Monday evening, but at the time of going to press everything pointed to our opponents on Saturday next being Huddersfield, who are sure to be a popular attraction.

Stand Tickets price 7/6, and Ringside Seats price 5/- will be on sale at The Stadium next week.

Shareholders will be allowed to purchase one ticket on Monday Next, April 19th, and Stand Season Ticket Holders on Tuesday, April 20th.

Hours of sale will be 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon and 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. on Monday, and the same times on Tuesday, plus an additional two hours in the evening that day, 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

SEASON TICKETS MUST BE PRODUCED

It should be pointed out to Stand season ticket holders, that after our opponents have had their share of tickets, and the requirements of shareholders have been satisfied, there will not be sufficient stand tickets left to allow a ticket to every stand season ticket holder, and much as we regret it, it is inevitable, that 100 to 150 stand patrons will be unlucky, and will only be able to exercise their option to purchase a ringside seat.

The Balance of Ringside seats will be available to the General Public from Wednesday onwards ... again at The Stadium offices.

2. One extra line at the top of the terracing along the Reserved side, with small "bank" terraces at each end. These two items are such that we have hopes that we may be able to put this into effect shortly.

3. The steelwork was erected before the War for the continuance of the terrace at the Fletcher Street end of the ground and we are to seek power to proceed with this work also.

4. At either end of the stand we have a portion of land which, because of the stand structure is not used. In our future scheme of things the extension of the stand to the limit of the grounds boundary will bring into service two areas which provide no accommodation at all at present.

5. Another job of the future which we cannot look at as yet is the general reorganisation of the Fletcher Street end of the Ground.

It is hoped that a degree of uniformity can be reached here by taking the whole of the terracing back in the same rake, right to the boundary wall. This will mean terracing right over the turnstiles and giving quite an added area for spectators. Before the time comes for this work to be put in hand the question also, of covering it in such a manner that the top portion can be made into a covered stand will have been explored. Two other



items which will engage the attention of the board when we are able to get them done are the taking of a cover extension from the stand to the pitch boundary so that reserved side patrons will have shelter in bad weather and by the provision of seating convert the Paddock into a Stand.

Ground Capacity. At the recent Wigan match we had on the ground, 30,000. Viewing this figure and the comparative comfort of everyone the Directors decided that at any future game which called for more we should take up to 32,000. It is very many years since we had our record crowd of something over 31,000 so that we have not had to worry much about limitation of crowds and there are not many occasions when for our own matches we get more than we can at the moment accommodate, and we further feel that unless the town and its surrounds grow very considerably it is very seldom that we shall, again for our own matches need a bigger accommodation than we have at present. However, with the projected improvements we feel that we shall be able to make the Stadium capable of housing over 40,000 in comfort.

At this figure we feel we should get our share of representative games. We are of course always anxious to stage these games though they are not without their worries to clubs who are the forefront of the seasons play. A club running well in the Lancashire Cup Competition and again in the Rugby League Cup Competition only need have another match or two cancelled through either weather or Representative games to have a most formidable array of mid-week matches at the end of the season when they may be concerned in both Cup and League struggles. So that for the 10 per cent rental which the staging club take from the receipts there are attendant worries.

How far we at Warrington need to worry about accommodation for more than say 40,000 to 45,000 for the staging of these representative games we don't know, but we are quite confident that we cannot be helped by men whose mentality suggests—(quote), from Jack Steel Sportstalking!—Personally, I think Wilderspool has outlived its usefulness, or “The Scrap Wilderspool idea.”

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