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No. 1—Saturday, 15th August, 1953

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OLDHAM v. WIGAN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

NEW PLAYER

We have up to date only one addition to our playing staff in Peter Fearis, left-centre, age 21 years, height 6ft. 1in. and weighing 13 st. 4 lbs.

Fearis comes to us with a good reputation in Rugby Union having once played for the R.A.F. and for Dorset and Wiltshire County on several occasions. Last season he appeared on thirty occasions for Bath R.U. Club.

He is due to leave the Services on August 29th when he will come to work and live in the town. At present he is stationed in Staffordshire and we expect to have his services from now onwards.



THE GAME

No alterations to the rules of the game have taken place. The play-the-ball rule is as last season. From a point of interest, we placed a motion before the Annual Meeting of the R. League Council for a three year ban on any alteration to the Rules of the Game. The motion was defeated although in principle it was accepted.

The game requires a rest from reform. No sport can be perfect in its laws, we shall always find some snags—unfairness in one rule or another—but then, two sides are playing the game and what is good for one must be also good for the other. We require a rest from continual alteration of the Rules, let the players and the public get settled to rules that must be in operation for a few years and we should see better football and a better understanding all round.

Today is the official opening of the 1953-54 season, and all clubs are optimistic in their prospects of having a good season both from a playing and financial point, but only one club can finish at the top and one must be the bottom club. There is a saying "nothing succeeds like success" and if that is so, the teams which had a successful time last season must be counted amongst those who will be in at a close finish.

It is healthy competition when a club that has been down for years comes to the front in a blaze of glory—and I anticipate that we are in for one or two surprises this season. In some clubs, and particularly in those which do not afford such satisfactory reflections, there is no better encouragement or tonic than a new face or two, especially if they are men of good reputation.

We do not remember a close season where the transfer market or the signing of R.U. men has been so quiet. Keen enthusiasts of our game never lose hope, and they find something to key them up with intimation, and always crouched in sincere terms, that intensive searches for talent are in progress.

As to our own club, keen anticipation has been aroused. Several men are still under observation, and our members and supporters can rest assured that no effort will be spared to secure class men.

Several class men have been interviewed during the close season and negotiations have been left in abeyance from the player's point of view.

However, the search still goes on and no club can afford to sit still, even the best of clubs must always be on the look-out for something better.

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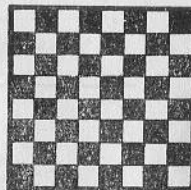
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8 OGDEN, H.
9 MUNDY, J.
10 ANTHONY, L. Jackson
11 LITTLE, S. D.
12 TOMLINSON, A.
13 GOLDSWAIN, B. V.

Reserves:

Emmitt, L.; Winslade, C.

Referee: Mr. R. GELDER of Wakefield

Touch Judges:

Mr. F. T. Hill, Warrington (Red)

Mr. W. Johnson, St. Helens (Blue)

WIGAN Red and White

- 1 CUNLIFFE, J.
2 NORDGREN, B.
3 BROOME, J.
4 ASCROFT, E. 1 TRY
5 BEVAN, D.
6 FLEMING, J.
7 KELLY, C.
8 GEE, K.
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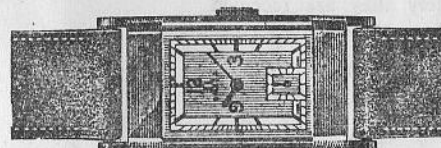
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OUR VISITORS

It is a great pleasure indeed that we open our League programme with such attractive visitors as Wigan.

The Wigan club are always attractive guests wherever they go, and there is no mistaking the fact that for consistency of open play, they have by far the best record in the Rugby League.

Like the majority of first-class sides they may have a lean season now and then, and they may not get any of the honours that are going around, but their record for a very long time stands alone in our game.

So, welcome to Wigan, we are sure of a good hard game, and our team will have to be absolutely at its best to bring off victory.



"PENNY RUSH" STAND

No doubt our members and patrons will notice a strange look about our ground due to the removal of the old "Penny Rush" stand. The removal was necessary because it was deemed dangerous to life and limb.

It is the proposal of the committee to erect a new stand on this site, similar in structure to the old one, and efforts

to secure a full licence for the complete erection are still in abeyance from the appropriate authorities. We have hopes of an early grant for same, or a part thereof, and the rebuilding will be taken in hand immediately.



SUPPORTERS' CLUB

The officials of the Supporters' Club are making a great effort to increase their membership, and we make an all out appeal to the many supporters of our game to become members.

Subscriptions are 1s. 0d. and can be paid at any of the canteens or sent to the Secretary, Mr. C. Lingard of 262 Roundthorn Road, Oldham.

We desire the Supporters' Club to have a large membership, one worthy of their organisation and of our Club.



REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

August 22nd—Mr. C. F. Appleton
Huddersfield away, kick-off 7-0 p.m.

August 26th—Mr. T. W. Watkinson
Bramley away, kick-off 6-45 p.m.

August 29th—Mr. T. Armitage
Leeds home, kick-off 3-0 p.m.

HALF-TIME SCORES

The Half-time Scores of the Matches given below will be shown on the Score Board immediately they are received

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