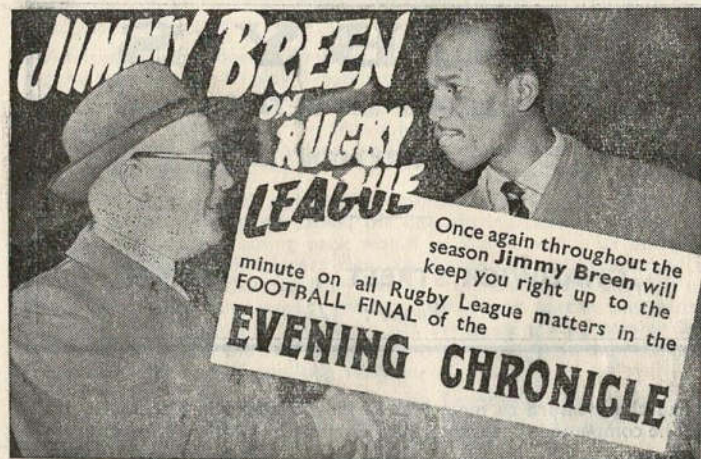




Congratulations to our team on their 'double' over Widnes in the 1st round of the Lancashire Cup and we look forward to the Semi-Final with every confidence. In every phase of life, history has a habit of repeating itself, and who knows what may lie in store this season. At least one thing is certain, now that we have hold of that coveted trophy, we shall not surrender it without a struggle.

We welcome our visitors from Oldham today, and we remember the many hard matches whenever our teams have met in the past. With a strong Leigh flavour about their team today, I know we shall be in for another epic struggle. Let us hope we shall have favourable weather and a grand match.

We have almost reached our target of 4,000 members this season, which is easily a record since our formation. Can we attain that number? It rests with you. Perhaps you know some one who is not a member. If so, why not ask him to join and help us to reach 4,000 members for the first time. I know you will help us towards that aim, and thus ensure a strong Supporters' Club and a strong Senior Club.

We have still much to do here at Leigh, although much has been done. We may appear to be a little quiet at the moment, but like a boxer in a championship fight, we are resting between rounds, so that we may get our strength back for the final count.

Don't forget that suggestions on any topics are welcomed by your Committee. We are here to help you at all times.

Happy watching,

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CLUB COMMENTARY

We have attractive visitors to Kirkhall Lane this afternoon in Oldham. The Watersheddings side have had an indifferent start to the season with excellent wins to their credit and some surprising defeats. The biggest surprise was the away defeat at the hands of Bramley, while they lost to Whitehaven in the 1st Leg of the Lancashire Senior Cup.

Absent from the Oldham team today is Frank Daley, who fractured his forearm against Bramley.

Of the three Leigh boys wearing the red and white jersey, Alan Davies, newly selected English International, will be the one most likely to be on his mettle. He has been playing excellent football this Season according to all reports.

In the forwards Oldham have two Welsh Internationals, Winslade and Goldswain. The latter is captain and coach.

Curtain Raiser

We have an entirely new attraction for our supporters this afternoon in the form of an exhibition Rounders match between two leading teams from the district.

In white blouses and navy blue shorts are Caleb Wrights, winners of the Hayes Cup 1953 and in all white are B.I. Callender's A., winners of the same trophy last year.

News of Players

Brian Chadwick fractured his arm in last Wednesday's match. The X-ray revealed the injury not to be too serious and it will mean his arm being in plaster for about four weeks. In view of Tommy Bradshaw's injury and the heavy programme this month this is a serious blow to the Club.

After today, Alan Walker will be available for the remainder of this season's fixtures. He has signed a further contract to play cricket with

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Rawtenstall next year, but he will be free to play with Leigh from the opening match next season.

Hospital Broadcasting Service

The broadcasting of our matches to the Leigh Infirmary and Atherleigh Grange are continuing to receive satisfactory reports and many of the patients have written expressing their appreciation.

Every effort is being made to improve the broadcasts, when at all possible, and patients have been most helpful by way of constructive criticism.

We are still short of commentators and appeal to any of our supporters, who feel that they can fulfil this important task, to contact the Secretary, Mr. Eric Sims. We hope eventually to have a panel of at least twelve commentators, from which to cover each match.

Congratulations from "Down-Under"

We have received many letters of congratulations on our signing of McDonald Bailey and one received from George Crawford, Australian sports writer, well-known to our Chairman and Joe Egan from the last tour, also included a short article which he thought we might like to use. We found it very interesting and have included it in this programme.

George Crawford has accompanied the last three touring teams on their travels all over Australia and reported on nearly every tour game and is generally regarded as an authority on the game "down under."

Australian Tour

With a tour of Australasia as a prize a lot of players are putting more effort and concentration into their training and game in the hope that they will be one of the fortunate ones to be selected. Everywhere we travel we can sense the appeal that is apparent in the prospect of a tour.

The tour managers will probably know much sooner than the players as applications to be a manager must be in before the end of September. Candidates of course must be a member of the R.L. Council.

All tours to date have been under a storm of controversy for something or other. Biggest complaint has always been that so and so should have been selected while every touring team has been regarded as the worst ever. A new form of controversy has already arisen over

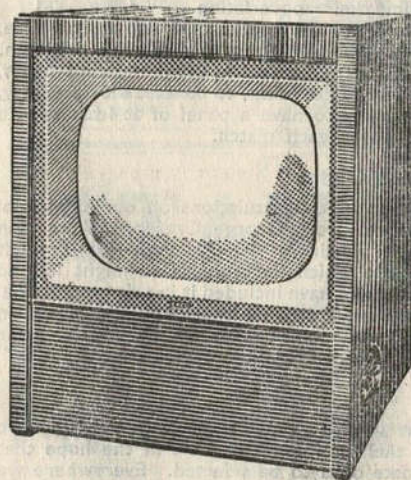
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the forthcoming tour due to the proposal of the R.L. Council to fly to Australia and back.

An itinerary has been submitted to the Australian Board of Control for the touring team to play 8 matches in Australia and 4 in New Zealand.

Flying would mean that players selected would still be able to help their teams if they are in the Wembley final or the top four play-off. Apart from this all teams would have the assistance of their players in the vital Easter games.

Even in our own club opinion is somewhat divided. Mr. Hilton, the Club Chairman, who accompanied the last touring team as a guest feels that flying there and sailing back would be the answer. By doing this clubs would have their players right to the end of the season and the players would have the necessary rest to help them face another long season when they came back. Joe Egan, who took part in the tours of 1946 and 1950, feels that they need the break going and coming back. The month on board the ship going he feels helps to revive the enthusiasm that flags at the end of our long season.

The players would undoubtedly benefit financially from flying as this would mean that playing money would be available from seven or eight games which they would normally miss by sailing.

From George Crawford, Prominent Australian Sports Writer

Leigh's signing of world famous sprinter E. McDonald Bailey made big news in Australia.

To have top class track athletes in Rugby League in England is rare indeed. But not so in Australia.

Australia's 1924 Olympic Games sprinter, E. W. "Slip" Carr, represented Australia at Rugby Union. Jimmy Carlton, the 1928 Olympian and Teddy Hampson, Australian 100 yards champion of the early 'thirties, played first grade Rugby Union. Australia's professional sprint champion of the 'twenties, Tim Banner, played first grade Rugby League. Another of Australia's greatest professional sprinters, Len Sprague, was a top class Australian Rules footballer in the 'thirties. Most competitors for the Stawell Gift, Australia's world famous professional sprint race, come from football clubs.

There has been a lot of controversial speculation on whether McDonald Bailey, at 32, can become a League star. That is something that must remain speculation at this stage. But give Mac a chance and I feel he will make the grade.

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I had the pleasure to meet Mac in New Zealand in December, 1950, when he competed in the Canterbury Games. Even then he was interested in Rugby. He asked many questions about the game, which I thought was out of mere curiosity. You can imagine my surprise when he said: "I may have a go at that game some of these days."

Mac's future as a player will depend a great deal on the co-operation he receives from his team-mates. Knowing Joe Egan, Tommy Bradshaw, Jimmy Ledgard and Trevor Allan, I have no doubt that help will not be lacking at Leigh.

To McDonald Bailey, Australia sends its best wishes for success in the greatest game of all.

International Match

Wales v. England at Knowsley Road, St. Helens, Wednesday, September 16th, 1953. Kick-off 6 p.m. Apply to the Secretary, St. Helens R.L.F.C., 2 Peet Avenue, St. Helens. Main Stand (reserved) 12/6 and 7/6. Admission on day of match: Ground 2/6, Boys 1/-, Enclosure 3/6.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

I am sure that all our supporters will join with me in expressing, on behalf of the Supporters' Club, our deepest sympathy to the family of that great Leigh forward—Joe Darwell—who passed away on Wednesday last. Our older followers will remember with pride his career as a second row forward for our Club and for his country and no doubt will be able to remember his remarkable success on the tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1924. By his passing, the game has lost one of its devoted servants, and one who had the interest of his club to heart right to the end.

On behalf of all our supporters, we extend to Jim Ledgard and Charlie Pawsey, our congratulations on being selected to play for England against Wales at St. Helens on Wednesday next. With such a great goal in view as a visit 'down under' we wish them all the best in this match, and feel certain they will live up to the great reputation they have already gained in international matches.