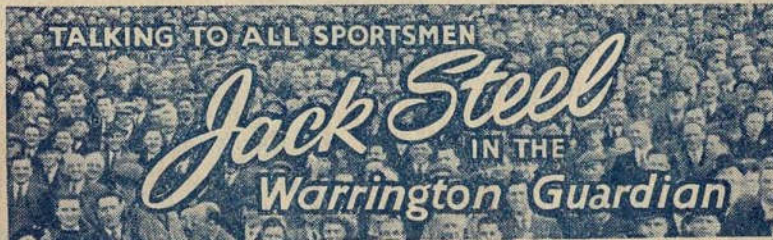


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RUGBY LEAGUE

FOOTBALL PROGRAMME

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

SATURDAY 26th MARCH 1955

Nº 5146

Warrington

v. Oldham

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at 7 p.m.

WARRINGTON STADIUM

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Serious contenders for Championship honours this season, Oldham make attractive visitors to Wilderspool this afternoon.

Oldham at present occupy second place in the Northern League table, one point behind ourselves but with two matches in hand. They have to date lost only four of 29 league matches played, and hopes are high at Watersheddings that the Rugby League Championship trophy will return there this year for the first time since 1911.

Today's match is of course vital to both teams for it may well virtually decide the destination of the Lancashire League Championship trophy. Both teams have four matches to play in this tourney and prior to this afternoon our visitors were a point ahead. In addition every league point is important in order to maintain first or second position in the Northern League table and thus secure a home Championship semi-final.

Oldham are an extremely strong and capable side, the great majority of their players having won international or county honours. Their only casualty at the moment is full-back Ganley, recovering from a cartilage operation, but a sound deputy is available in Stirrup who has received representative honours in the scrum-half position.

Their threequarter line of O'Grady, Etty, Davies and Cracknell compares favourably with that of any club, and in Pitchford, signed from Leigh junior rugby, they have probably the best young scrum-half in the game. Out-half Daley, whose style is similar to that of our own Ray Price, is another player who invariably makes his presence felt.

Our visitors are equally strong in the pack as in the back division. All six forwards are mobile and are capable of playing really constructive football, and with hooker Keith, are rarely in arrears in scrummaging.

Coached by former Warrington player and trainer Griff Jenkins, Oldham undoubtedly will not only make a great bid to strengthen their double Championship claims this afternoon but to reverse the result of the league game between our two clubs at Watersheddings earlier this year when we were successful by 12 points to 8.

Another thrilling encounter should be witnessed.

NEXT MATCH AT WILDERSPOOL STADIUM

Lancashire Combination

WARRINGTON "A" v. SALFORD "A"

TR. Tuesday, 2nd April, 1955

Kick-off 3 p.m.

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ASHTON TROPHY

The first round of this Trophy, which is being competed for by the Warrington Schools' under-11-years teams, was expected to be completed by last night.

Some first-round results have been—Parochial 28, Long Lane 0; Orford 14, St. Benedict's 3; St. Augustine's 0, Dallam 6; Bewsey 32, Hamilton Street 0.

The draw and dates for the second round are as follows:—

Monday, March 28th: St. James's v. Bolton or Woolston

Tuesday, March 29th: Parochial v. Bewsey

Wednesday, March 30th: St. Thomas's or Evelyn St. v. Orford

Friday, April 1st: St. Mary's v. Dallam

Semi-finals will be played on Monday and Tuesday, 4th and 5th April. All matches kick-off at 4.30 p.m., and admission charge is 6d. (boys 3d.). Members are admitted free to all games on production of member's ticket.

SENIOR SCHOOLS RUGBY

On Thursday, March 31st, Bewsey meet St. Joseph's (Leigh), at Wilderspool Stadium, in the second round of the "Daily Dispatch" Shield. Kick-off is at 5 p.m.

TODAY'S CURTAIN-RAISER

"Catterall" Cup. Warrington Schoolboys v. Huddersfield Schoolboys. Kick-off 1.45 p.m.

BRIAN BEVAN TESTIMONIAL FUND

The collection last Saturday in aid of the fund amounted to £69. 0s. 9d., and we express our grateful thanks to all who contributed, and to our local schoolmasters and schoolboys, Mr J. O'Day and all who helped to take the collection.

A number of completed subscription sheets have already been returned to the Stadium and we again express sincere appreciation to all who have donated and to the holders of the sheets, Mr F. Smythe (Eagle Sports), Mr Stan Morris, Mr Jack Steel, The Thames Board Mills Sports Club, The British Legion Club, Penketh, and the Howley Tannery Recreation Club.

Donations to the fund have also been received from the Warrington Borough Police, Messrs J. Glegg, J. Howard, J. Oddy, A. Ives, R. Lowe (Brussels), J. Hope, J. Kay, G. E. Tilling, A. E. Price, Beaumont Old Boys' Association, W. J. Killens (Exeter), "Eric," D. Ambulance men and nurses, Warrington "exiles," Slough, and from the St. Helens, Wigan and Salford clubs, and all officials Warrington F.C.

Our thanks to all.

The fund on Tuesday last had realised the sum of £121. 1s. 3d.

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7-Helme

13-Ryan

11-Bath

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8-Ogden

12-Little/Tomlinson

11-Winslade

13-Goldswain

7-Pitchford

6-Daley/Kellett

5-Cracknell

4-Davies

3-Etty/Barrow

2-O'Grady

1-Stirrup

OLDHAM—Red and White Jerseys, Blue Shorts

Referee—Mr. A. HILL (Dewsbury).

Touch Judges—Primrose flag, Mr. H.

OLLAND (St. Helens); Blue flag, Mr. H. J. WALTON (Barrow-in-Furness)

Wilderspool

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LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

This final will be played at Manchester City F.C. ground, Maine Road, Manchester, on Saturday, 14th May, kick-off 3 p.m., and will be ALL-TICKET.

This club has a limited number of standing enclosure tickets and applications for these tickets should be made not later than 31st March. Prices are 4/- (covered enclosure), 3/6 (scoreboard enclosure) and 3/- (ground).

In making application for tickets, please enclose correct remittance and stamped-addressed envelope.

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL AT WEMBLEY, 30th APRIL

Standing tickets, price 3/-, for this final can be obtained from the Stadium.

ENTERTAINMENTS DUTY

Naturally all sporting organisations, subject to the present high rates of entertainments duty, will be hoping that the Chancellor on 19th April will afford some relief. Representations have been made by the Rugby Football League to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. We reprint here extracts of a letter sent by the Rugby League Secretary to the Chancellor (together with many details of statistics, etc.) which may be of interest.

"Sir,—

re: Entertainments Duty

I have the honour to refer you to previous approaches which have been made to you by the Rugby Football League with a view to obtaining concessions in Entertainments Duty.

Once again on behalf of our organisation it is my duty to appeal to you for assistance.

Our code as you are aware embraces both professional and amateur sport. There are at present thirty-one professional clubs, several hundred amateur clubs and a like number of schools playing Rugby League football. Nearly all the income to the game is derived from the professional side—from International Tours, International Matches, Cup Competitions and League matches. From this income it is possible to assist the junior game by making grants and buying grounds for youths and boys to use. (See Appendix F.)

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AFTER THE MATCH—

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Mon. to Fri. Matinees 2 p.m. Evenings cont. 5.50. Sat. twice nightly at 6 & 8.15 Seats reserved—Booking Office open all day Sat. from 11 a.m.
SUNDAY, Mar. 27, cont. 4.45 — "BLOCKADE" Madeleine Carroll, Henry Fonda, Leo Carrillo; plus "The Shadow of Terror." L.C.P. 6.35
MONDAY, Mar. 28, Six days—Errol Flynn & Gina Lollobrigida in **CROSSED SWORDS** @ Pathecolor. In add. (Sat. excepted), "THE LONE GUN" @ George Montgomery, Dorothy Malone. L.F.S. 7.34

The professional side of our game is therefore an essential part of the whole and the plight of some of our professional clubs is of major concern to the League.

I am enclosing herewith the gate receipts of the thirty-one professional clubs for matches played during the current season, the details of which are available at this office at the time of writing.

A club which operates as economically as possible and which wins fifty per cent of its matches will have to pay out about £250 per match to cover staff wages, players' wages and expenses and match expenses. To cover these items alone and bearing in mind that one of every two matches is away from home it will be seen that nett receipts of £500 are required from each home match to cover such items alone. This means an average of approximately £600 in gross receipts. From the attached list it will be seen that nineteen of the thirty-one clubs have averaged less than this figure this season.

You will of course realise that other expenses have also to be met, e.g., national insurance, players' equipment, medical charges, ground maintenance, printing, stationery, telephone, rates, rent (in some cases), lighting, heating, insurances, etc.

Income from League matches is also derived from the sale of season tickets. Details for this season have not been collated but Appendix A, Column 5 of the enclosed Memorandum gives comparative figures for 1951-2 and 1952-3. It will be seen that income from this source is lowest in the clubs whose regular income from gate receipts is low and can in no way balance the excess of expenditure over income.

I hope these figures can convince you that some of our clubs are in a really bad way. We realise that revenue to the Treasury from our game is a mere "drop in the ocean" but that in the past revenue from sport as a whole has been considerable—particularly from Association Football. However in the Football Association they also have their struggling clubs like our own.

If it is your intention therefore to continue the imposition of Entertainments Duty on sport would it not be possible to assist the poorer clubs by allowing, say, the first £600 of gate receipts to be free of duty. We all hope of course that all sports will enjoy the same concessions as cricket and Rugby Union Football,

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but if you cannot grant these will you please give your earnest consideration to the plight of the poorer clubs.

On the enclosed sheet I have included average gate receipts for the two previous seasons, and it is of interest to note that in general there is a decline in attendances. I believe that this decline has been observed in other sports—football and cricket particularly. The decline is most certainly not due to more people playing nowadays than watching, but I think it is due to the advent of other forms of entertainment, particularly television. The reintroduction of hire purchase has also possibly had a recent effect as it will tend to reduce the money which a man can afford to spend on his entertainment.

I am drawing your attention to this trend because I firmly believe that it is one of national importance. If adults lose interest in sport their children will not be encouraged to play games and this indeed would be a tragedy. Sport is a grand character-builder and improves the health of those taking part. In addition Britain, the birthplace of most international games, cannot afford to lose further prestige in sport.

All games need every encouragement at Government level and we hope, Sir, that practical assistance in the form of a substantial reduction in Entertainment Duty will be forthcoming.

(Signed) WM. FALLOWFIELD (Secretary)
The Rugby Football League

PROGRAMME PRIZE

This programme may be worth 10/- to you. Watch for the announcement of the prize-winning number on the score board at half-time, and if yours is the lucky number take it to Mr. L. Hockenhull, who will hand you a voucher, value 10/-, to be spent with any of our advertisers.

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**SUNDAY
EXPRESS**

1st TEAM FIXTURES

for SEASON 1954-55

Date	Opponents	Ground	Result
1954			F. A.
Aug. 7	Wigan (Wardonia Cup)	home	27 14
" 14	Hull	home	29 8
" 19	Barrow (k.o. 5.45)	away	10 12
" 21	Halifax	away	0 5
" 25	Belle Vue R. (k.o. 7.0)	home	57 5
" 28	Swinton	home	28 11
Sept. 4	Workington	away	29 18
" 11	Widnes (Lancs. Cup)	away	13 16
" 18	Swinton	away	23 16
" 25	Blackpool	home	22 15
Oct. 2	Rochdale	away	17 17
" 9	Hull K.R.	home	32 11
" 16	Liverpool C.	away	8 3
" 23	Bradford	home	15 10
" 30	Whitehaven	away	18 2
Nov. 6	Salford	home	18 15
" 13	Liverpool C.	home	39 12
" 20	Hull	away	20 12
" 27	St. Helens	away	8 8
Dec. 4	Rochdale	home	8 7
" 11	Blackpool	away	23 3
" 18	Barrow	home	24 0
" 25	Widnes	away	10 0
" 27	Leigh	home	27 12
1955			
Jan. 1	Wigan	away	6 18
" 8	St. Helens	home	18 14
" 15	Oldham	away	12 8
" 22	Whitehaven	home	30 3
" 29	Hull K.R.	away	16 8
Feb. 5	Halifax	home	24 3
" 12	Bradford (R.L. Chall. Cup, 1st rd.)	away	4 9
Mar. 5	Belle Vue R.	away	31 3
" 12	Workington	home	35 9
" 19	Wigan	home	9 13
" 26	Oldham	home	
Apr. 2	Salford	away	
" 8	Widnes	home	
" 9	Bradford	away	
" 11	Leigh	away	

TIME OF KICK-OFF - 3 p.m.



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