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PROGRAMME



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Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

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PROGRAMME PRIZE

This programme may be worth Ten Shillings to you. If the number of your programme corresponds to the number which will be announced at half-time, you should take your copy to our Treasurer, who will be pleased to hand you the Ten Shilling Prize. Prize winner will be announced in our next issue.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB LTD.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH V. OLDHAM

TUESDAY, 27th DEC., 1955 Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OUR PATRONS

SPOTLIGHT ON THE VISITORS

To wind up our Christmas holiday programme, we are delighted to have as our visitors such an attractive team as the men from Watersheddings, for few, if any, teams have been playing such consistent, fast and open football, since the early part of the season and, writing before the commencement of the holiday fixtures, it was not surprising to find them making a very strong challenge for a place in the "first four."

Oldham last visited the Stadium on 27th August in the first round of the Lancashire Challenge Cup, and then, although very much below the form we had come to expect of them, they passed on to the second round, with a margin of 18-8.

As already indicated, since then they have gradually been recovering their best form, and in recent weeks they have been indulging in some scoring orgies, which suggests that they could have a great deal to say about the destination of the rest of the season's honours.

There is a galaxy of stars within the ranks of our visitors, but team work has been the keynote of their success, rather than the brilliance of individual stars, which is a pointer to our own boys that their defensive work must be of the very best, if they are to curb the scoring activities of Alan Davies and his men.

But, win or lose, we know that our own team will also make every endeavour to make the ball do the work and, given reasonable weather conditions, we should be provided with excellent Christmas fare, to keep the blood tingling.

A CHANGE OF FORTUNE ?

The holiday period has made it necessary for these notes to be penned before the first of our Christmas games, but, whatever has happened at Leigh and Liverpool, we feel that we owe to our boys to offer our sincere congratulations on their magnificent performance in defeating Leigh.

It will be generally admitted that Leigh are no mean exponents of R.L. football, and it was inspiring to see our team fight back from a 13-point deficit to a 19-18 victory, and offered some further proof that the side is considerably better than the League table suggests.

Few established clubs, let alone a newcomer to the maelstrom of competitive football, can have had so few rewards for excellent efforts to gain victories with attractive, open football, and the victory over Leigh should be a splendid tonic to our boys and give them added confidence for the future.

"WIN, LOSE OR DRAW"

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Certainly the players had begun to wonder when the ball would run kindly for them, for so often had first-class approach work been denied the due reward, and, with a change in fortune in this direction against Leigh, there was a confident air in the manner in which our players went about their task, and still kept the game open in efforts to widen the narrow margin.

In our last notes we ventured to suggest that a continuance of the policy of fast, open football must surely begin to produce dividends some time.

Let us hope, therefore, that the Leigh game was the beginning of the "pay-offs" and that a change of fortune is with us. It is certainly overdue.

But let it not be thought that, because of this Leigh victory-sweet though it was—we can now all sit back complacently. There still remains much to be done, and there is a very hard road to travel before we can aspire to Cup and League Championship honours.

Patrons can be assured that our players will continue to support wholeheartedly the instructions to play clean, attractive and entertaining football, and, win or lose, we have had few dull games at the Stadium, and we feel that our games are worthy of better patronage than has been accorded this season.

BRIEFS

David Peace was demobilised from the R.A.F. on Thursday last.

Believe it or not, but it was the first time Ron Ryder had been on the winning side while playing for the Borough, when Leigh were defeated.

Older followers of R.L. will learn with regret of the death of Miller Strong, the burly Cumberland front row forward, who was such a tower of strength to the Swinton team in the 1920's.

Centre Billy Wilkinson, who has been nursing an injured knee for some weeks, is now back in training, and hopes to resume playing on Saturday.

"A" Team hooker John Lester is now justifying the hopes entertained for him when he joined us as a raw junior last season, and just now few "A" Team hookers are getting the better of him.

Harold Whittle, former Tyldesley R.U. Captain, is turning in some sterling displays in the "A" Team second row, and a little more experience will make him a very serious challenger for a First Team position. Undoubtedly a young man with a big future, and always superbly fit, which is not surprising when one remembers that he is no novice at cross country running and also boxing.

Roy Thornley, his "A" Team second row partner, has just become a proud father.

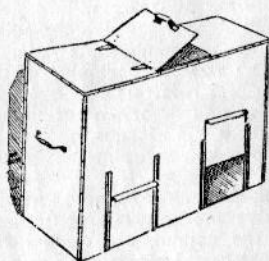
And, incidentally, we are expecting to hear similar news any time now about Lionel Emmitt, while Captain Syl Lannon is taking the plunge into matrimony early in the New Year.

Billy Blan, the former Leeds forward, signed for Rochdale recently, only an hour or so after he had agreed to talk to us with a view to him becoming a Borough player.

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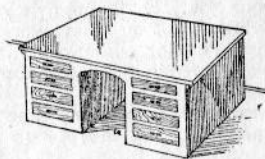
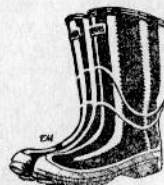
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2—EMMITT 3—WOOD 4—FEARIS 5—RYDER

6—BEBE 7—DUNN

13—LANNON

11—ARMITT 12—WALSH

8—WRIGHT 9—MUNDY 10—COLLIER



1—STIRRUP

2—CRACKNELL 3—NOON 4—DAVIES 5—ETTY

6—DALEY (or NESTOR) 7—PITCHFORD

13—TURNER

11—ROGERS 12—GOLDSWAIN

8—OGDEN (or JACKSON) 9—KEITH 10—LITTLE

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PUZZLE CORNER

This week's poser has been sent in by Mr. Tom H. Ingram, a supporter from Poulton. Here it is:

1. In what year did the first England v. Australia R.L. Test take place?
2. Where was it played?
3. In what year did the first New Zealand Team visit Britain. What connections have Blackpool Borough with it?

A Prize of 5/- will be given to the sender of the first all correct solution opened. Entries should be sent to Mr. F. W. GLEDHILL, 85 WASHINGTON AVENUE, BISPHAM, to reach him not later than first post 2nd January, 1956.

JUNIOR LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Our Colts Team ("Under 18's") has now commenced its fixtures in the Merseyside League, and has been placed in Division "B" of that League. They commenced their programme on Saturday last, at Stanley Park. Matches will be played there on alternate Saturdays, and your support will be welcomed.

The "B" Team (Open Age) took a trouncing in the Park on the 17th December, from the redoubtable St. Helens and District side, Clock Face. The defeat was occasioned by our lack of weight in the pack. We are still willing to recruit some hefty lads into this side. Any hale, hearty young fellow who is willing to "have a go" should call and see Lionel Pollard, the Junior Coach. He will be assured of a warm welcome.

As everyone knows, all games require a referee. We are definitely short of this commodity, and we are prepared to train volunteers. Anyone willing to learn this interesting side of the game is asked to come forward, and he will receive thorough training. There are many enjoyable excursions for "the man with the whistle," and our need is great. Don't be shy! Please come forward.

D.H.

"A" TEAM ANECDOTES

Our "A" Team is fast moulding into a useful side and deserves support. It is in this team that the stars of the future gain their experience. The quality of football played equals that of the Senior grade.

True it is that we have not, so far, covered ourselves with glory, but then, this is the team in which selection risks are taken and trialists placed on show. But, to those who like to watch the "youngsters come on," I heartily commend you to pay them a visit.

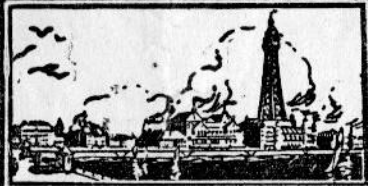
Half-back Jim Brennan is proving himself a grand club-man, being adaptable and versatile in any of the back positions. Full back Stan Davies is giving of his best these days and last week gave a delightful display. The forwards, too, are becoming a really powerful pack and can hold their own anywhere. Please make a New Year resolution and come and watch the "A" Team when you can. They love a cheer as well as the rest.

M.C.

Next Home Game: SATURDAY, 31st DECEMBER, Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH v. WIDNES

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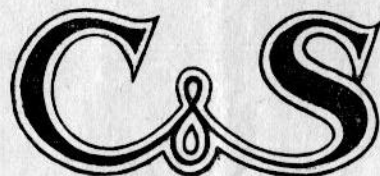
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OFFICIAL FIXTURES, SEASON 1955-56

FIRST TEAM					Points
1955					F. A.
Aug. 20—	Batley			Away	18—19
„ 23—	Wigan	.....	.....	Home	6—31
„ 27—	Oldham.	First Round Lancashire Cup	.....	Home	8—18
Sept. 3—	Warrington	.....	.....	Away	10—30
„ 10—	New Zealand (at Bloomfield Road)	.....	.....	Home	24—24
„ 14—	Warrington	.....	.....	Home	7—12
„ 17—	Workington Town	.....	.....	Away	10—42
„ 24—	Hull Kingston Rovers	.....	.....	Home	8—10
Oct. 1—	St. Helens	.....	.....	Away	19—53
„ 8—	Salford	.....	.....	Home	13—15
„ 15—	Castleford	.....	.....	Away	7—32
„ 22—	St. Helens	.....	.....	Home	4—36
„ 29—	Hull	.....	.....	Away	13—56
Nov. 5—	Batley	.....	.....	Home	29— 9
„ 12—	Hull	.....	.....	Home	10—13
„ 19—	Swinton	.....	.....	Away	10—25
Dec. 3—	Rochdale Hornets	.....	.....	Home	15—16
„ 10—	Hull Kingston Rovers	.....	.....	Away	4—18
„ 17—	Leigh	.....	.....	Home	19—18
„ 24—	Leigh	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 26—	Liverpool City	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 27—	Oldham	.....	.....	Home	.....
„ 31—	Widnes	.....	.....	Home	.....
1956					
Jan. 7—	Castleford	.....	.....	Home	.....
„ 14—	Salford	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 21—	Barrow	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 28—	Whitehaven	.....	.....	Home	.....
Feb. 4—	Widnes	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 11—	Challenge Cup	.....	.....	.....	.....
„ 18—	Barrow	.....	.....	Home	.....
„ 25—	Whitehaven	.....	.....	Away	.....
Mar. 3—	Workington Town	.....	.....	Home	.....
„ 10—	Swinton	.....	.....	Home	.....
„ 17—	Oldham	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 24—	Wigan	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 30—	Broughton Rangers	.....	.....	Away	.....
„ 31—	Rochdale Hornets	.....	.....	Away	.....
April 7—	Liverpool City	.....	.....	Home	.....

SUPPORTERS' SNIPPINGS

“A very Merry Christmas to all our members, and good wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.” It was truly a joyous send-off to the Festive Season that our team provided by defeating Leigh here 10 days ago, and we wish all our players to have a really happy and successful Christmas.

During the year now ending much hard work has been carried out by many of us. At the start of the season we climbed the heights in our match with the New Zealanders, only to be cast down again to the depths for many a long week. Once again we appear to have reached the crest of a wave, and it is now our fervent hope that we can continue to ride this crest. However, right through our darkest hours we have had the support of a really gallant band of workers. These workers not only include Committeemen, but others who, in their many fashions and ways, have kept the Borough flag flying. At the close of the year it is only right that we should publicly commend these friends for their staunch support.

At our Quarterly General Meeting, held on 13th December, 1955, Life Trustee Steve Andrew stated that, by the end of this playing season, our Supporters' Club will have contributed at least £1,000 to our parent Club. At the present rate of money-raising, we are confident that this target will be achieved. However, our enthusiastic Chairman, Ted Careless, makes a special Christmas appeal to all our members to make an all-out effort to pass the target by a goodly margin. He also asks that all members adopt the slogan “COME ALONG AND BRING A PAL.” If we do this, and carry it out, match attendances will be doubled. Don't forget: spread this slogan throughout the town!

Our Annual Dance will be held on Friday, 17th February, 1956, at the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Details will be published shortly by the Dance and Social Committee, but you can order your tickets now. A preliminary announcement concerning our second Rugby League Queen Competition will also be made in the near future. Keep close watch on this column and the *Evening Gazette* for further details.

The weekly Whist Drives, organised by the Dance and Social Committee, are proving popular, but there is room for larger attendances. These Drives are held both at South Shore and North Shore; thus we cater for both ends of the town. All enquiries should be made to Jack Sutton, 64 Waterloo Road, or Arthur Richardson, 86 Lord Street, North Shore.

“COME ON THE BOROUGH”

AND

“COME ALONG AND BRING A PAL”

F.W.G.

SNIPPETS

Christmas Oscars to

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CHEERFUL CHARLIE ARMITT, for that glorious solo try in the same match.

Christmas Bouquets to

THE SUPER-SIX FORWARDS, who knocked the Christmas stuffing out of the KIRKHALL LANE PACK.

RON RYDER on his return to form.