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Saturday, 26th August, 1961

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Trainer-Coach: C. Thompson

Groundsmen: H. McIlwaine and G. Kelly.

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Financial Assistant: Mr. A. Newsham.

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— THE NEW SEASON —

The coming season promises to be one of the most important in the history of our code. For the first time since this century opened we are to have a two division system based on the playing results of this new campaign. All clubs are therefore faced with the urgent necessity of making extra efforts throughout. Because of all this, probably, there has been more close season activity than for many years. South Africa has attracted the attention of several clubs, notably Wakefield and Leigh while there have been quite a number of captures from Rugby Union sources, with more promised at an early date. The most important transfer so far effected has been that of Vines back to Wakefield from St. Helens. Workington have a couple of S.A. threequarters, Whitehaven, Salford and Wigan have all made notable signings from R U. sources. Even Doncaster have come into the headlines by obtaining two Welsh forwards and a S.A. centre. A point of special interest is the return of Rossi, the Italian forward, but to St. Helens, not as formerly to Wigan. Our own efforts in fixing up Brian Fallon, Billy Burgess and Duncan Pikoli will be closely watched.

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CASE'S BEER

IS BEST

— BOB LITTLE —

Bob Little is now recovering from the shoulder operation he had during the close season. It will be recalled that he had to have similar treatment before. This proved successful but in his very first subsequent match the same trouble developed in the other shoulder. Hence his absence from the game. Bob's early career was most promising and if he is now able to develop as his father did he will indeed prove a great asset to our club.

— MR. J. J. GILFILLAN —

At the Annual General Meeting Mr. Jack Gilfillan was elected a Life Member of the Barrow R.F.C. in recognition of his long and valuable services. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for twenty-five years and throughout that time has always proved most willing to undertake various duties often at very serious personal inconvenience. His honour is indeed richly deserved — May he long enjoy it!

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— PLAY THE BALL —

At its summer conference the R.L. Council spent much time in considering the ever debatable play the ball rule. This has been a bone of contention for the last sixty years. In the old days a scrum was formed after every tackle and to reduce the number of scrums a play the ball rule was introduced. Ever since then efforts to find a satisfactory solution have failed. The present is the direct cause of the possession fetish, whereby one side can retain the ball for ten minutes or longer at a time. In an effort to cure this, the Council suggested that the tackled man must stand perfectly erect and drop the ball from waist high. This was tried out in the R.L. coaching course and a cine camera exposed certain weaknesses of the suggestion. It was thereupon decided to give referees strict instructions that the rule must be properly carried out during this season and if at the end there was no notable improvement a radical alteration possibly embracing part of the R.U. method would be imposed. A feature to which particular attention must be paid is that the player must drop the ball in front of his leading foot, thus giving each side a more equal chance of getting the ball back. The whole position is to be watched very closely in the hope that a blot on the game might be removed.

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TEAMS for MONDAY, 21st AUGUST

Kick-off 5-40 p.m.

Referee: E. CLAY (Leeds)

BARROW

- 1—Dawes
- 2—Burgess
- 3—Wookey
- 4—Rea
- 5—Pikoli
- 6—Skeels
- 7—Fallon
- 8—Campbell
- 9—Wilson (J.)
- 10—Ducie
- 11—Griffin
- 12—Sanderson
- 13—Smailes

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- 2—Patterson
- 3—Holden
- 4—Davies
- 5—Kenny
- 6—Kellett
- 7—Pitchford
- 8—Payne
- 9—McIntyre
- 10—Winslade
- 11—Dufty
- 12—Rea
- 13—Parker (T.)

(Any team changes will be announced)

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OUR VISITORS

— OLDHAM —

Our new season's programme is today opened by one of our most progressive clubs. Oldham can be relied upon to occupy a leading position in the league -- last year they were eighth -- and they always field a number of personalities in their team. One who will be much missed in this campaign will be their former captain and record goal-kicker Bernard Ganley who it is reported is now to assist Rochdale. He has been replaced by Simms, a local, who last year played on the wing. The centres have both big reputations, Alan Davies, the regular international, and Keith Holden for whom Wigan received a big fee. Both half-backs are also internationals. Pitchford a scrum-half from Leigh and Kellett, the stand-off from Yorkshire. McIntyre, of course, we transferred to them while Payne (from Liverpool) commanded a big fee. David Parker, the Barrovian, is not available for a mid-week game. An interesting appearance is Rae, a young Cumbrian forward.

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— JOE BALL —

We have received a letter from Joe Ball intimating his retirement due to the recurrent injuries to his shoulder. In a long and honourable career he has graced our code for some twenty years. His tactical knowledge and, in particular, his pin-point accuracy in kicking have been of inestimable value. His personal character as a man and a sportsman as well as his playing ability command our respect. He has certainly proved one of the nicest fellows we have ever had to deal with. Surely everyone will unite in according the very best wishes for future prosperity to Joe and his family.

— CAPTAINCY —

Brian Fallon and Tom Smailes have been elected captain and vice-captain of our team. We congratulate them on these appointments and wish them every success in their important duties. At Leigh, Fallon, though not captain was leader of the backs and on him back play strategy devolved. That experience will we hope prove most valuable. Tom Smailes realises that successful forward play largely hinges on the leadership and spirit he hopes to be able to enfuse.

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BARROW and DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE

With their own Daily Draw Pool now complete, the organisers have joined forces with the Junior League in their venture. New promoters and members are now required for this effort, which will, in general, benefit Rugby League in Barrow.

-- R.L. GUIDES ON SALE --

R.L. Guides, price 2s. 6d., are now on sale at the Secretary's Office. The supply is limited, so get yours now.

A prize of 5s. 0d. and one of two free seats for the Essoldo Cinema will be given to the winners of the Programme numbers announced over the loud-speaker system at half-time. Claims should be made to the Secretary's office.

-- APPEARANCES --

-- SCORERS --

Fixture List

1961

AUGUST --

19-DONCASTER	away
21-OLDHAM	home
26-WORKINGTON T.	home
30-HUDDERSFIELD	away

SEPTEMBER --

2-OLDHAM (1st Rd. L.C)	home
9-NEW ZEALAND	home
16-YORK	away
23-ST. HELENS	home
30-OLDHAM	away

OCTOBER --

7-BRAMLEY	home
14-WORKINGTON T.	away
21-BLACKPOOL B.	away
28-WIDNES	home

NOVEMBER --

4-YORK	home
11-BLACKPOOL B.	home
18-WIGAN	away
25-LIVERPOOL C.	home

DECEMBER --

2-BRAMLEY	away
9-SALFORD	home
16-ROCHDALE H.	away

1961-DECEMBER

23-WARRINGTON	away
26-DONCASTER	home

1962

JANUARY --

1-WHITEHAVEN	away
6-ST. HELENS	away
13-LEIGH	home
20-SALFORD	away
27-HUDDERSFIELD	home

FEBRUARY --

3-BRADFORD N.	home
10-CHALLENGE CUP - 1st Rd.	
17-SWINTON	away
24-WARRINGTON	home

MARCH --

3-CHALLENGE CUP - 2nd Rd.	
10-SWINTON	home
17-WIDNES	away
24-(3) WIGAN	home
31-LEIGH	away

APRIL --

7-BRADFORD N.	away
14-(S.F.) LIVERPOOL	away
20-WHITEHAVEN	home
21-ROCHDALE H.	home