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SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 5—Saturday, 22nd October, 1962

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Although we won our second round Lancashire Cup tie—against the Hornets from Rochdale, the game itself was nothing to write home about. The match had a real cup-tie atmosphere, keenness and give and take hard tackles that did not give the players the opportunity to produce the open play we all desire to see. It was unfortunate that one of the Hornets players had to be dismissed from the field of play through a head tackle on Smethurst. Players have been warned from Rugby League Headquarters regarding this vicious sort of tackle. Referees have been notified to deal very severely with the offenders of the head tackle. The player in question had been warned once and at the second offence the referee had no option but to exercise his right. The player dismissed is the biggest loser by way of suspension and loss of playing money, he not only penalises himself but the rest of his team through playing a man short.

However, back to the game and we must congratulate the Hornets upon the improvement the team is showing in comparison to past seasons. Can we put this down to the coaching of our old stalwart and ex-player, Frank Stirrup. There is no doubt that the Hornets look in better 'shape' than in the past. The Hornets success is our success and we hope that their efforts in the second division will be rewarded to first division status at the end of the season.

These derby matches have a special attraction, and we should not like to lose the Hornets annual visit to Watersheddings. Many are the great matches that have been played between the clubs and before capacity crowds. May we hope for a continuance and that both clubs reach that former glory that the public of the respective towns desire and require.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

The Committee have recently had under discussion the possibility of going ahead with the erection of the new stand on the Pavilion side of the ground. Various opinions are expressed as to which comes first, a good team or a new stand. A man may have a wonderful house but if he

has no furniture to put in it, internally it is obsolete. It is the same with a football club, what is the use of a palatial stand if you have no one to fill it.

It is obvious that a team must come first and with a successful team everything follows, the money flows in, the turnstiles are not going rusty and you can afford that little luxury with your surplus cash for the comfort of your patrons

Our ground at the present time has a holding capacity of 26,300, but police regulations put us at a capacity of 23,000. Is our ground big enough for present day requirements, but to put it better still, are the present amenities suitable for the comfort of our members and supporters, can they be improved with the present structures.

Take our dressing accommodation, we are still using the same process as when the club came to Watersheddings in 1889, the same old procedure of teams stripping in the Pavilion and the walk down to the ground. This might have been alright in Rugby Union days when hero worship was more pronounced than it is today, when players used to walk to the field wearing their County or International caps.

There are not many clubs today who do not have their stripping rooms under the stand and IF the new stand is not proceeded with, possible consideration will be given to make the present structure meet with present day requirements.

INJURED PLAYERS

Our list of injured players steadily mounts and the unfortunate part is that they are all recognised first team players.

Jack Pycroft has a bad strain of the ankle and will be out of action for at least ten days.

Geoff Sims has a bad strain in the back and is at present under observation and intense treatment.

Alan Kellett although with his left arm in plaster, has commenced his work as an audit clerk, but with a little difficulty, as Alan uses his left hand to write with. However, his arm is progressing satisfactorily.

Malcolm Price is still maintaining a little progress, but is still in hospital. Once again we must offer our sincere thanks to the medical and nursing staff of the Manchester Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital for their magnificent efforts on behalf of Malcolm. It is beyond words to express the service they have given in one of the most unusual cases of injury.

OLD BARRIERS ARE BEING BROKEN

I'm not yet optimistic enough to anticipate a healing of the long standing breach between the Rugby League and the Rugby Union organisations, but I do feel that during the past two or three years there has been a much less show of bigotry from the amateur code towards the breakaway body. —(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

Rugby League will be called many things by those who oppose professionalism among Rugby players. Such descriptions are "That Northern Game", "The Hybrid Sport", "Commercialised Rugby", etc. Those who apply these titles do so with a certain amount of animosity, while some of their more tolerant friends take a much different attitude to the rival handling code.

Yet when mingling with Rugby Union types of all shapes and sizes; of all manner of status, I find that some of the old barriers are breaking down, or perhaps showing signs of diminishing altogether. Maybe the process is slow, but there are definite signs . . .

A SOCCER FAN

Say what you will about TV, but it has helped in some measure to broaden the appeal of Rugby League in places where so far there is no establishment of any kind. Chatting with a true-born Midlander and a rabid Soccer fan at that, I was amazed to learn that on occasions he watched Rugby League from his favourite television chair.

What he looked forward to was either an international match or a Rugby League Challenge Cup Final. Wembley was a hardy annual with him, and to support his claim he described highlights of several finals. Furthermore, he related in quite a lot of detail the dramatic try which Tom Van Vollenhoven gained for St. Helens against Wigan in the 1960 encounter.

To a true born Rugby League supporter this was indeed a thrill to find that the game had made its impact on a man who would never have known that Rugby League existed if it hadn't been for TV. When he put certain queries to me about offside, touch kicking and scrummaging, delighted him so much that he said he would be able to "hold forth" at his local and his club about rule technicalities.

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- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—GODDARD
- 11—BOTT
- 12—SMETHURST
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- 7—FISHWICK
- 8—BIRCHALL
- 9—SANDERSON
- 10—DRIU
- 11—JONES
- 12—KILDUFF
- 13—PARR

Touch Judges :

Mr. A. Shaw, Leigh (Crimson Flag)
Mr. D. T. James, Liverpool (Yellow)

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ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

ATTENDING WEMBLEY

It is quite true that occasional viewers in a non Rugby League centre, or areas are not contributing to the weekly upkeep of the code, but let us remember that folk who don't live in Lancashire, Yorkshire, or Cumberland are often in attendance at Wembley finals.

I have discovered this sort of Rugby League interest in parts of Wales, and perhaps after all, there will be some effort to re-introduce international games to the Principality. There is not the same beligerent attitude to Rugby League by confirmed R.U. men in this part of the British Isles. The fact that there has been an increased number of South Walians joining Rugby League clubs in the past 12 months shows that after 50 years we are overcoming in one way or another prejudices.

USE OF THE SIGNING ON FEE

R.U. supporters, or at least the more intelligent of them, realise that a player should be allowed to capitalise on his sporting ability and he would be foolish not to accept a big signing on fee which would bring security to himself, and his family.

I realise that it is extremely hard for a person to pull up roots and go elsewhere when he has spent one third of his life span in one particular area. But if he has young children, he knows that with the thousands of pounds he has received for the signing on fee, that his son and daughter are assured a better start in life than he had.

FASHIONED CAREERS

The Welsh attitude to life is generally to improve one's status, at least that is my firm conviction. The race is a keen and intellectual one which is often pushing hard for progress socially, industrially and professionally. Therefore, money offered by Rugby League comes in very useful indeed. That cash has fashioned careers of many Welsh folk, a fact that is now fully appreciated by lots of my friends in the Principality.

Rugby League followers may ask how this new attitude towards Rugby League is going to further the game? We have to consider the point that with so many switches in population caused by people coming to work and live in Rugby League areas from Soccer hotbeds, the newcomers are not now ignorant of the fundamentals of the XIII aside game.

LOST PROPERTY

Many are the items of lost property which we recover from our ground after a match. Chief items are ignition keys for cars with other keys attached, these average one per match. How the owners manage to get their cars running is one of the mysteries to us, unless all carry a duplicate set around with them. In the match against Rochdale on Tuesday last some person left his shirt—a new one of course—neatly parcelled up, and possibly an Athletic supporter, as it is a loud blue and white one, even the settled account was with same.

If the person who left this shirt will call at the Secretary's office he can have same after a fuller description is given.

P.S. The shirt is of a size that will fit several of our players!

SUPPORTERS CLUB

May we appeal for more members of the Supporters Club.

A strong and healthy Supporters Club can be a great asset to the parent club. Our Supporters Club not only require members, but active members, some who can do a little service to the Club.

May I appeal to the teenagers to take an active part in the Supporters Club, come along and help in the activities on match days, Many hands make light work.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962
(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	7	2	12	Nestor	3		
Lord	8	4		Kellett	2		
Holden	4	1		Pycroft	3		
Price	5	1		Patterson	3	1	
Simms, T.	8	3					
Noon	8	3	4				
Pitchford	5						
Robinson, G.	7	1					
McIntyre	8	1					
Goddard, P.	7						
Bott	8						
Parker, D.	7	2					
Smethurst	5	1					
Mumberson	6						

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	26	SWINTON	Home	
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	29	WARRINGTON	Home	
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	Jan. 5	ST. HELENS	Away	
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	12	HALIFAX	Home	
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	19	FEATHERSTONE R.	Away	
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			26	HULL K. R.	Home	
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home		9	R.L. Challenge Cup 1st Round		
29	LEIGH	Away		16	HULL	Away	
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away		23	ST. HELENS	Home	
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home		Mar. 2	R.L. Challenge Cup 2nd Round		
20	LEEDS	Away		9	FEATHERSTONE R.	Home	
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home		16	WARRINGTON	Away	
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away		23	HULL K. R.	Away	
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home		30	WIDNES	Home	
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away		Apr. 6	BRAMLEY	Home	
24	LEEDS	Home		12	SWINTON	Away	
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away		15	HULL	Home	
8	WIGAN	Home		20	BRAMLEY	Away	
15	CASTLEFORD	Home		27	CASTLEFORD	Away	
22	HALIFAX	Away					

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