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Vol. 17. No. 15

SATURDAY, 16th MARCH, 1963

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NOTES

It is over three months since we last had a game of football on this ground, December 15th was the date to be precise, and in the meantime we have had the most atrocious winter that the game has ever had. There has been frost, snow, hail, ice, rain and wind in plenty, matches on, hopes raised, postponements and disillusion, ending up in the greatest spate of fixtures from now on that it has ever been the lot of the clubs to play since the advent of the code. In our own case we have eleven matches to play between the last day in March and the first day in May, and without reference to the list, I feel sure that we have a similar number of games to play in the month of May. However good the heart may be, flesh and blood will only stand a certain amount, and our players have more than a man-sized job in front of them from now until the end of this unfortunate season.

In the last game on this ground we were soundly beaten by Widnes. Having beaten them in the zone Final at Wigan, after a previous draw, our score with them to date is even. Since then we have played the First Round of the Cup competition at Barrow, where we had a fairly comfortable victory in spite of some of the critics. Sixteen-seven was handsome enough, but we were within an ace of scoring tries on three or four other occasions making the score rather flattering to Barrow from the writer's point of view. As a result of that victory, we today entertain the side from Watersheddings, this being the second time that they have appeared on our ground this season. The first visit was on the 6th of October last, when with a side chosen out of limited resources,

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the score went in our favour by 44 points to 15. Lowdon was out of commission at the time, so too was Roper, their places that day being taken by Ferriera and McDowell. The first half was very evenly contested, Oldham scoring an early try and a conversion, we getting a try, then a try and a goal, taking the lead at 8-5. Oldham came again with a try and a goal, making it 10-8, and hard on the interval we took the lead with a try. In the second half we ran riot, getting 13 points in four minutes and totalling up in all 44 points through tries by Ferriera, Glastonbury, Pretorius, Edgar one each, Archer, McDowell and Brennan two each, and a fine seven goal performance by Ferriera. It was the fastest game that has been seen on this ground for some time, and let us not forget that the Oldham of today are better than they were in October last. If that means anything, it means that there will have to be no quick tries allowed in this game today, for points against them will be considerably harder to get than they were on the previous occasion. The Cup is the best leveller of them all, we saw that last year, but our reward for an away win in the first round ought to be more than a home draw in round two, and one hopes that we will have more than a listening interest in the draw for round three. Roper, who was injured at Barrow, expects to be fit for this game, Norman Herbert visited Edinburgh this week to have the cast removed from his leg and should soon be in light training. John McFarlane, the promising young loose forward from the A team, is the only other casualty. He is suffering from an elbow injury received at Whitehaven, and his is a short term lay-off we are given to understand.

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- 10 MARTIN W.
- 11 EDGAR
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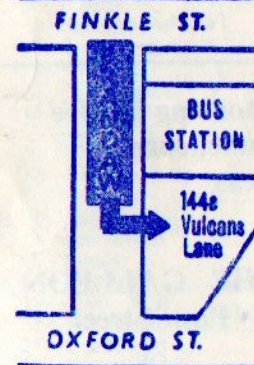
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Aug. 18—Blackpool B.	A 24 10	Dec. 15—Widnes	H 7 15
20—Rochdale H.	H 40 8	Mar. 2—Barrow (R.L. Cup) A	16 7
25—Liverpool C.	H 28 3	9—Wakefield T.	A 5 41
27—Salford	A 23 5	23—Wigan	A
Sept. 1—Blackpool B.	H 35 4	30—Leeds	H
8—Leigh (L.C.)	H 43 2	Apr. 1—St. Helens	A
15—Rochdale	A 5 0	6—Huddersfield	A
17—Wigan (L.C.)	H 16 8	9—Oldham	A
22—Salford	H 60 5	12—Warrington	H
29—Liverpool C.	A 15 9	13—Warrington	A
Oct. 3—Swinton (L.C.) ...	A 5 24	17—Hull	H
Oct. 6—Oldham	H 44 15	20—Wigan	H
13—Hull	A 25 25	24—Featherstone	A
15—Wigan	H 27 9	27—Widnes	A
20—Halifax	H 38 12	May 1—Huddersfield	H
27—St. Helens	A	4—Castleford	A
Nov. 3—Bramley	H 53 10	8—Leeds	A
10—Widnes	A 9 9	15—Swinton	A
21—Widnes (cup replay)	10 0	18—Hull K.R.	H
24—Halifax	A 10 25	22—Featherstone R. ...	H
Dec. 1—St. Helens	H 8 5	25—Castleford	H
8—Bramley	A 10 7	27—Wakefield T.	H

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