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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

WORKINGTON

Tuesday, 9th April, 1963

Kick-off 6-30 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . 3d.

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No. 17—Tuesday, 9th April, 1963

Kick-off 6-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WORKINGTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

This evening we receive a visit from our Workington friends and we give them a hearty welcome.

When we visited Workington in the League game, we were soundly beaten although we had held our own up to the interval.

We regained some of our 'stripes' when we defeated them on their own ground in the second round of the Rugby League Cup, and tonight we hope to further avenge that heavy defeat we sustained in October last.

This will be no mean task for the Workington team is a sound one well coached by Billy Iveson, that prince of ball players, who has on more than one occasion led us a merry dance.

In this Workington team there are many stars, not least being Glastonbury, who we all congratulate on being one of the leading try scorers of the season. (Under our breath) may he fail to add to his total at our expense 'tonight'. We would like to wish a speedy return to good health to one of the men behind the scenes at Workington, no less than our old friend Tom Mitchell, a former Chairman of the Rugby League. He has been in hospital with stomach trouble, and we all hope that he will soon be fit and well. The game can ill afford to lose the services of such an experienced council member.

We would also mention the illness of our own Secretary, Bert Summerscales, and we are happy to inform you all that he has been spared the necessity of undergoing an operation. It is hoped that he will be back amongst us in the very near future.

Still on this not so pleasant subject we are sorry to report that Graham Wood our reserve hooker has had the misfortune to break his wrist, and is likely to be out of action for six weeks. We most certainly wish you well Graham.

We are however happy to record the good news re Malcolm Price. After his recent re-examination by the specialist who operated and attended him, Malcolm has been given the green light to go ahead with a fairly full training schedule.

This is fitting reward for the fine spirit Malcolm has shown throughout the whole of the time he has been incapacitated.

His courage has been magnificent, and that, coupled with his faith in the specialist and the hospital staff, has made his fine recovery possible.

Welcome back Malcolm and may you soon show that you have lost none of your skill as a result of the lay-off.

Our sympathy also to our recent signing Jack Cheshire whose father died this week.

We now enter a hectic period of matches for both first and 'A' teams. The first team games are all important. We cannot afford to 'let up', for the League points are as precious as diamonds if we are to move up the table.

There is every confidence that the present team spirit and enthusiasm will produce good entertaining football, and the right result.

Now a word about the 'Pools' and the 'Jackpot'.

The former has most certainly been the life blood of the club for without it much that has been done would have been impossible. The new covered accommodation at the Watersheddings Street end of the ground—the extension to the players dressing room and installation of new toilet accommodation—the training ground behind the pavilion and the running track alongside same—the complete re-draining and re-turfing of the main playing pitch—and last but by no means least the purchase of players to try and keep our team as good as, if not better, than the next.

We would therefore enjoin all members to support the 'pools', and if they have a little spare time, to become agents, and help along this great effort. If you can help in any way please do not hesitate to call at the 'Pools' Office, Room 5, No. 2 Clegg Street, Oldham, or give your name and address to any member of the Committee of the Football Club.

The 'Jackpot' is a new innovation to our club, although it has been found to be of great benefit to many other clubs in the Rugby League.

So far it has not been the success we had hoped for, but no doubt with the increased interest at Watersheddings, brought about by the playing spirit of our team, we shall be able to improve, and whilst not emulating some of the other clubs running these 'Jackpot' schemes, yet make ours worthwhile.

In passing it is worthy of mention that four clubs running this 'Jackpot' find them so successful that after giving over £200 over in prizes, approximately 50% of the income per week, make a similar sum for their club funds. If we are to keep in the forefront of the Rugby League world, we must strive to do likewise.

May we therefore ask for your support for our efforts, and may we not appeal in vain.

The 'Jackpot' tickets are sold during the week preceding a first team home game, as well as on the day of the match.

Any one member willing to assist can do so by giving in their name and address to Mr. Foley the Organiser, or at the office, or to any member of Oldham Football Club Committee.

Last Saturday our team performed very well considering the difficulties entailed during the week.

After the Widnes game our dressing room looked like a casualty clearing station, not through any extra-ordinary roughness in the game, but just one of those trials of fate that has haunted us for most of the season. To get the players fit was no mean task and the Doctors, and the 'backroom' boys, deserve full marks.

We regret that suspension robbed us of the services of Don Platt, who will also be sorely missed for the next few games.

Fortune is supposed to favour the brave, but this has not been so for our team this season, particularly since the 'lay-off'.

However we did not show the form of previous games not doubt due to the injuries and the loss of Don Platt. We never played well enough to deserve a place in the semi-finals.

To lose to the Wigan side is not a disgrace for they must rank as one of the greatest cup fighting teams of all time.

May we wish them the best of luck in the remaining games of the competition.

We now turn all our attention to improving our position in the League, and regain some of the lustre we lost in the first half of the season.

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PYCROFT, J.
MUMBERSON, A.
McINTYRE, L.
ROBINSON, G.
JOHNSON, K.
MAJOR, H.
LLOYD, K.
PARKER, D.
RAE, J.

WORKINGTON
(Blue and White)

1—LOWDON
2—GLASTONBURY
3—O'NEILL/BELL
4—BRENNAN
5—SOUTHWARD
6—ARCHER
7—McDOWELL
8—EDGAR
9—TABERN
10—MARTIN, W.
11—MARTIN, D.
12—McLEOD
13—FOSTER

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Presentation

Birthday

THEY WILL COPY OUR STYLE

Printed statements by Rugby Union writers can be taken far more seriously than quotations from idle conversation. So we of the Rugby League game were most interested in a feature written by a Rugby Union star of a few years ago, who suggested that the XV aside code could benefit by the Rugby League style of kicking for touch. Good for him, but not Rugby League. —(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

Well, in the first case a more attractive Rugby Union game could whittle away support from the professional game, although there seems to be some strange approaches to everyday problems by some Rugby Union officials and organisations.

But first things first. If Rugby Union adopted the method of touch kicking in accordance with the set plans of the XIII aside game, then thousands of players in the British Isles would have to start to learn how to kick the ball correctly.

I'm neither bigotted against Rugby Union or trying to start a rare old argument in this column with people who don't like commercialised Rugby. But I do feel that there is far more skill in Rugby League as far as kicking the ball is concerned than in Rugby Union. The 'amateur' code decrees that the ball can be kicked into touch on 'the full', that is to say that it can pass over the touch line without a bounce.

MUST "BOUNCE IN"

Not so in Rugby League. The ball cannot be kicked on the 'full' except when a penalty has been awarded. The kick must bounce in the field of play before entering touch, otherwise the team responsible for the kick must retire to the spot where the ball was last played. In short, almost every time the ball is kicked in Rugby League it must trickle into touch not be kicked OVER the side line.

Of course it wasn't always like that. When the 'split' came and Northern Union ceded from the Rugby Union game on the question of broken time payments to players—compensation for loss of wages—many of the Rugby Union laws were embraced by the new section. But gradually

this or that law was changed in an effort to make Northern Union (now Rugby League) more attractive. Two players were dropped from every side, making 13 instead of 15.

Scoring values were changed. For instance a goal in Rugby League (whether a penalty, conversion or a 'drop') is two points. But the kicking business was found to be a bugbear, and so more skill was asked for, and less reckless kicking was seen.

Men like Jim Brough, Ernie Knapman, Jim Sullivan, plus of course that Cumberland wonder compatriot of Brough — Billy Holding, and Guardsman Tommy Rees improved on the early pioneers' style and kicked for touch, thus gaining heaps of territory. And there have been fewer accurate kickers than Bernard Ganley.

By so doing these fine kickers not only saved their own legs, but conserved the energy of their forwards. Now if Rugby Union are going to follow that style, Rugby League must watch out. It will take quite a while for all Rugby Union players to become adept at kicking, in fact many may lose their places in the leading sides because they cannot master the rule—if adopted.

THE SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE

Yet when (and if) the new kicking idea is adopted Rugby Union, would become more attractive to the eye, and Rugby League could then have a greater rival. People who prefer to watch Rugby League because it seems faster and attractive, could be won over to Rugby Union. It is indeed a threat at a time when most young fellows prefer to play the XV type of code. Rugby League cannot offer—although it is trying desperately hard these days—the same social atmosphere as its competitor game.

Rugby Union in the main, is played for the benefit of the teams and not for the spectator, but improvements here and there in Rugby Union rules could put it on a much different plane. So if Rugby Union is going to put a 'kick into it', let it be on the target and not towards the stand or out of the ground!

Easter Monday at Watersheddings—

OLDHAM v. HULL

Kick-off 3 p.m.

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962

(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	17	3	31	Patterson	15	3	10
Lord	22	6		Jones	5		1
Holden	13	5		Lloyd	1		
Price	5	1		Rae	2		
Simms, T.	28	14		Gaskell	11	1	
Noon	21	7	26	Platt	11	3	1
Pitchford	5			Crowther	1	1	
Robinson, G.	28	1		Wood	2		
McIntyre	28	5		Johnson	1		
Goddard, P.	16			Fisher	14	1	
Bott	25	1		Elliott	6		
Parker, D.	15	2		Ogden	6		
Smethurst	20	1		Hill E.	1		
Mumberson	25	4		Major, H.	7	1	
Nestor	15	1		Donovan	7		
Kellett	7	1		Cheshire	1		
Pycroft	8	1					

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rsult.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rsult.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	0-3
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			30	WIDNES	Home	8-3
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	Apr. 6	WIGAN (R.L. Cup)	Home	0-18
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7				
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24				
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44				
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8				
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23				
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15				
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14				
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.				
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6				
24	LEEDS	Home	8-10				
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	19-12				
8	WIGAN	Home	0-19				
15	CASTLEFORD	Home	2-10				
22	HALIFAX	Away	14-16				

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