



The MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST

*Organised by Whitbread & Co. Ltd. in
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 The Mackeson Rugby League Contest Trophy and a cheque for 200 guineas goes to the team with the best scoring record for the season. Cheques for 100 guineas and 50 guineas go to the runners-up.

Specially inscribed silver tankards will be awarded to the top scoring team in each of five periods during the season, and a special champion's flag to be flown throughout the following period.

The 5 periods are :

AUGUST 20 to SEPTEMBER 28

SEPTEMBER 30 to NOVEMBER 23

NOVEMBER 25 to JANUARY 11

JANUARY 13 to MARCH 7

MARCH 9 to MAY 9

1963/4

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

WATERSHEDDINGS - OLDHAM



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Pavilion Telephone No. : MAIn (Oldham) 4865

OLDHAM v. AUSTRALIA

On SATURDAY, 5th OCTOBER, 1963

at Watersheddings, Oldham

Kick-off 3 p.m.



SEASON — 1963-64

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME - 4d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Welcome—to the Australians. So many times we have said this to Touring Teams and we hope to do so many times in the future, as the players from "Down Under" are noted for the attractive football they produce. We in Oldham have been fortunate over the years to have a visit from the Tourists. It is indeed a great honour to us because all Rugby League Clubs are not so favoured.

These visits of our Commonwealth friends and of our boys to Australia, are visits of goodwill, and we may say with certainty that the money brought from Australia was our salvation in the early days of the game.

Today we have the pleasure of the company of one of the original pioneers, Arthur Kelly, a member of the few surviving members of that band of pioneers called the "All Blacks" who came under the managership of the late A. H. Baskerville. This band of pioneers, who had never seen or played our game, but had been told about it by the late G. W. Smith (what memories) left New Zealand and picked up one Australian (Dally Messenger) paid their own fare, this being a deposit of £100 to come along and have a go at the cream of the then Northern Union. Our game at that time was at a very low ebb and the "All Blacks" introduced several improvements which we eventually copied.

Today is the day we in Oldham have been looking forward to and we hope to give the Australians somethings to remember their visit by. As is usual, our Mayor, Alderman J. H. Broadbent, is giving them a civic reception and we are entertaining them to lunch. This evening they are being entertained by us to a running buffet at Hill Stores, when each member will be presented with one of our club ties. Our thanks are extended to the Mayor for his co-operation and interest in their visit.

HOME AFFAIRS

Just a little news about our own affairs. On Monday last we received our first defeat of the season, in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup, at the hands of Leigh. One must be candid and admit that we were beaten on the evening's play by the better team. The tackling was great and the Leigh cover was as near perfect as could be. It was unfortunate that our full-back suffered a big shake up when he attempted a head tackle on Mick Martyn. Frank was never the same after this tackle and we retired I think worthy losers, who gave the crowd of 15,000 something to enthuse about. These defeats do happen and there are many teams that will visit Leigh and come away empty handed. They are a very much improved team from last season and our hope is that they will accompany us at the final reckoning as promotion candidates. May we congratulate our team on winning the Mackeson Rugby League contest for the period ending 28th September. Fifteen players will be presented with silver tankards prior to our match with Doncaster on Saturday, 12th October. Our Club will present members with a club tie. A special Mackeson Flag will fly over Watersheddings throughout the second period of the Contest. Of the ten matches played, we have scored 223 points, showing an average of 22.30 per match.

AN APPRECIATION

May we offer our sincere appreciation for the sporting gesture by the directors and manager of Oldham Athletic in loaning their ground to train under floodlight for the Leigh match. Our players thoroughly enjoyed the Tuesday and Thursday evening session under such ideal conditions. May the good feeling between Athletic and ourselves continue.

PEN PICTURES OF THE TOURISTS

Ken Thornett (Parramatta) : Outstanding in a distinguished family of three Rugby brothers. As a Randwick R.U. first grader reached inter-state standard before joining Leeds and blossoming into a match-winning full-back. Returned to play for Parramatta on loan from Leeds last year. Back in Australia permanently. Starred in the Test series against the Kiwis.

Les Johns (Canterbury) : Full-back, one of the brightest prospects in Australia Already a veteran of inter-state football since he made his big match debut against England last year. Had his Test baptism in the series against South Africa. A determined tackler, elusive runner and an ace goalkicker.

Ken Irvine (North Sydney) : Went to England and France as the "baby" of the 1959-60 Kangaroos and returned there late in 1960 with Australia's World Cup team. Regarded as the fastest man playing first-class football in the world, he is the reigning Australian professional sprint champion at distances ranging from 75 to 220 yards.

Graeme Langlands (St. George) : One of the most promising youngsters Australia has produced since Reg Gasnier came to light four years ago. Transferred from Wollongong to St. George this year and won Test honours against New Zealand as a centre and South Africa as a centre and winger. Scored six tries from full-back for Combined Country against Eacham in Queensland last year.

Peter Dimond (Western Suburbs) : Burly centre or winger who first played Tests against the 1958 British Tourists to Australia. Dropped out of big football until last year when he was chosen for the Third Test, which Australia won 18-17. Used mainly as a winger in club football.

Michael Cleary (South Sydney) : Finished third in the 100 yards event at the last Commonwealth Games in Perth. Played in the First Test against England last year, and the Second Test against the Kiwis this season. He abounds in promise and could develop on the tour of England and France.

Reg Gasnier (St. George) : Acknowledged as the world's greatest postwar centre. Burst into prominence just before the last Kangaroo tour. Took England by storm and is certain to command plenty of respect on this trip. Sydney's leading try-scorer this year. His three-try effort for St. George against the Kiwis was Gasnier at his best. Has captained Australia twice in Tests.

Barry Rushworth (Lithgow) : One of Australia's new hopes at centre, who won selection for the first Combined Sydney-Country clash early in the season. Played strongly against Sydney although the country men were outclassed and later emphasised his potential with a slashing effort for Western Division against the touring Kiwis at Parkes.

Jimmy Lisle (South Sydney) : Qualified for the N.S.W. team with only two and a half games of senior Rugby League, after switching last season from Rugby Union. Finished last season as a member of Australia's Third Test winning team against the British tourists.

Frank Stanton (Manly) : Plucky lightweight centre who came to light this year as a half-back. Worked the scrum so capably for Manly that he was immediately recognised by the representative selectors and included in the N.S.W. team that thrashed Queensland in Brisbane under floodlights.

Earl Harrison (Gilgandra) : One of the best defensive five-eighths Australia has produced in a long while. First caught the eye when he came to Sydney with last year's Combined Country Seconds. Went on to represent Australia in all Tests against the New Zealanders and the South Africans.

Johnny Gleeson (Brisbane) : A diminutive end elusive pivot. Came to Sydney with the Queensland team last year for inter-state matches and this year was a reserve for Australia for the First Test against the Kiwis. What he lacks in weight he makes up in gameness. A reliable, low defender.

Arthur Summons (Western Suburbs) : Tour Captain. Former R.U. International. First won Rugby League recognition when he toured New Zealand with the 1961 Australian team and proved the star of last year's Test series against the British Tourists. Much of the credit for Australia's Third Test win against England was attributed to his inspiring leadership. A tenacious type, his defence is good and he is very elusive in attack.

Barry Muir (Brisbane) : Mainstay of Queensland football since he reached international status. One of the stars of the last Kangaroo tour to England, when he was hailed the equal of any of his opposing scrum workers. A great cover defender and throws a beautiful long pass which gives his five-eighths every chance.

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- 13—PARKER

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AUSTRALIA

(Green and Gold V)

- 1—THORNETT, K.
- 3—IRVINE
- 4—LANGLANDS
- 7—GASNIER
- 5—DIAMOND
- 11—HARRISON
- 14—MUIR
- 22—GALLAGHER
- 25—WALSH
- 21—QUINN
- 18—THORNETT, R.
- 23—RYAN
- 15—RAPER

Touch Judges :

Mr. A. Bagnall, Rochdale (Crimson)
Mr. R. Syers, Warrington (Yellow)

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8-10 MUMPS - OLDHAM

Presentation

Birthday

Johnny Raper (St. George): Burst to prominence with Newtown as a 17-year-old police cadet, playing in the second row. After switching to St. George, won Test honours against the New Zealand Kiwis in 1959. Went to England with the 1959-60 Kangaroos. Starred in the Third Test and again in France on the tour. A magnificent cover-defender, he played in all five Tests for Australia this year.

Kevin Smyth (Western Suburbs): One of the most consistent loose forwards in Sydney Grade football. Tackles well above his weight and always seems to be in position to thwart an opposing attack. Blends well with his halves and is speedy for a forward. Played his early grade football with Balmain before he was snapped up by Wests.

Ken Day (Brisbane): A strong-running forward. Showed great form to win selection in the 1961 Australian team to New Zealand, but dropped right out of big match calculations last year. After switching from Townsville to Brisbane this year, his form improved rapidly and he played in all five Tests. Very fast and using a high knee action he is hard to stop.

Dick Thornett (Parramatta): A giant second-rower, he was hailed as one of the world's outstanding R.U. forwards when he toured New Zealand with last year's Wallabies. Sacrificed a certain trip to South Africa this year to join his brother Ken in the professional ranks with Parramatta. A burly, speedy, 16-stoner, he won Test selection in his first year of Rugby League.

Graham Wilson (Newtown): A South Sydney junior product snapped up by Newtown. Showed great promise when he played in Sydney first last year against Combined Country. This year reached his top and again represented Sydney in the rout of South Africa before the first Test. Exceptionally fast for a forward and strongly built.

Brian Hambly (Parramatta): Proved one of the sensations of the last Kangaroo tour. His speed and crash tackling on that tour made him an ideal second-rower or lock and he played Tests against Gt. Britain in both positions. Considerably heavier and a little slower this year, he is essentially a second-rower now.

Paul Quinn (Gerrinong): After strong display for N.S.W. against Queensland as a prop, was made reserve for Australia for the three Tests against the Kiwis and the first Test against South Africa. Finally made his debut against South Africa when he played strongly throughout. Works hard and backs up intelligently.

Peter Gallagher (Brisbane): One of Australia's most improved forwards this year. A rugged prop forward, he was a controversial selection for the First Test against the Kiwis but thoroughly justified his inclusion, then held his place for the remaining four.

Kevin Ryan (St. George): A former international who has been on the brink of Rugby League Test selection for several seasons. Toured the British Isles with the 1957-58 Wallabies when he was one of the outstanding forwards. Was going great guns, but a severe shoulder injury cost him representative honours.

John Cleary (Ipswich): A 15½-stone prop with great scrummaging ability. He has played twice for Queensland, against the Kiwis and N.S.W. Queensland rate him another Dud Beattie and his weight will be a great asset to the Kangaroos.

Ian Walsh (St. George): Tour Vice-Captain. Was chosen as the second hooker to Noel Kelly for the 1959-60 Kangaroo tour. After Kelly was injured Walsh played in all six Tests on the tour. Has since held his place except for the 1960 World Cup series in England, which he missed through illness.

Noel Kelly (Western Suburbs): Broke into Test football as a hooker in the 1959 Test series against New Zealand in Australia. Toured England and France with the 1959-60 Kangaroos. Returned to England as Australian World Cup hooker in 1960. Switched from Ayr (Q.) to Western Suburbs in 1961. Played prop in the Tests against New Zealand but deputised as hooker for the injured Ian Walsh in the Second Test against South Africa.

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