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**RUGBY FOOTBALL
LEAGUE**

Northern League
Championship Match

OLDHAM 17

v.

BATLEY 3

WEDNESDAY,
14th FEBRUARY,
1968

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

6^p

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Secretary: J. STRINGER

OFFICIALS

President: H. JONES, Esq.

Acting Vice-President: A. F. CAMPBELL, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer: K. FISHER, Esq.

Committee:

Messrs. F. Ruckley, J. Burke, P. G. Carter, J. Errock, L. Eyre, W. Howard, M.B.E., J.P.,
S. McDonough, A. Parker, A. Wormald

BRADFORD, HERE WE COME!

There is a saying that forwards and luck get teams to Wembley and backs and luck win the Challenge Cup. I think it is fair to say that on several occasions in recent years we have had the players to get our team to Wembley but have not had the luck to go with it.

Our boys turned in a tremendous performance at Hunslet to defy most of the critics and return with victory tucked firmly under their belts. The spirit of the team and officials was tremendous on the return journey over the 'tops' and the second round draw was eagerly awaited.

Yes, we went to Hunslet easily the underdogs, no doubt due to Hunslet's slamming of Bradford Northern a week earlier. However, we set about the task in fine style and every man fully deserved his winning bonus for an all out effort. It would be unfair to mention any particular player because this was a great team effort right from the start.

I think it is fair to say that despite our win at Parkside, we didn't have a great deal of luck on the field of play. Doubtful scrum decisions went against us and we can't altogether say that the ball ran for us either. However, we overcame these slight setbacks to pull off a fully deserved win.

We are on the wrong side of the luck again with the second round draw, which sees us travel to play one of the best teams in Yorkshire, Bradford Northern. We were hoping for a home tie for a change but this was not to be, so we have to travel to play on what is called evil grounds in the Cup . . . Yorkshire.

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We did it at Hunslet and I am sure we can do it at Bradford as well. Let's see a maximum following from Oldham at the Cup-tie and shout as loud as possible.

The full second round Cup draw is as follows, with the writer's forecasts in capitals (one cannot do worse than the National Newspaper lads did in their first round forecasting):—

WORKINGTON v Castleford

WIDNES v Keighley

Salford v WAKEFIELD TRINITY

Bradford Northern v OLDHAM

LEEDS v Bramley

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS v York

Leigh v WIGAN

HALIFAX v Huddersfield

The referees for these games will be appointed later this week

Stand tickets for our Cup-tie are on sale tonight to Stand Seat members only. These members have until Friday, the 16th February, to claim seats for the match and are priced as follows: 10/—, Main Stand (Centre); 7/6, Main Stand (Ends); 7/6, Paddock (seating in front of Main Stand); 6/6, Popular Side Stand. Any applications by post must include appropriate remittance, stamped addressed envelope and coupon No. 88. Please listen to announcements over the loudspeaker concerning the match tickets.

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TOM WARBURTON

A few supporters are puzzled why the Committee have allowed such a valuable player to join another club. The Committee themselves are upset in many respects that the player has left, but under the exceptional circumstances in this case they have undoubtedly done the correct thing.

Warburton verbally asked for a transfer after our game at Swinton on Boxing Day but did not pursue the matter after a chat with club officials.

On Monday, January 8th, Warburton wrote to the club asking for a move. He was again asked to think the matter over and on Saturday, January 15th, officially withdrew his request in the presence of club secretary John Stringer and coach Gerry Helme.

However, two days later, after thinking the matter over, Warburton stated by telephone that he wished his request for a transfer to go forward. Consequently, at the next Committee meeting the matter was again discussed and the player was interviewed and withdrew his request yet again.

The last straw, however, was on Thursday week last when another letter was received identical to the last transfer request.

The Committee, therefore, had no hesitation in acceding to Warburton's request as it was quite obvious that the player was very unsettled and determined to move from Watersheddings.

The player, of course, has now joined his home town club, Leigh, an even money bet from the start.

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- 4—DONOVAN, J.
- 5—MURPHY, M.
- 6—BRIGGS, W.
- 7—DAVIS, T.
- 8—WILSON, K.
- 9—TAYLOR, K.
- 10—SMITH, C.
- 11—FLETCHER, G. *FFA*
- 12—IRVING, R.
- 13—HUGHES, A.

Substitutes:

- 14—DOLLY, T.
- 15—HILL, J.

Referee
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BATLEY 3

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White Shorts

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- 4—BUTTERFIELD
- 5—MORRIS *T*
- 6—OLDROYD
- 7—GORMAN
- 8—WALKER
- 9—WHITEFORD
- 10—BARLOW
- 11—HOPWOOD
- 12—SMITH, Bernard
- 13—DOYLE

Substitutes:

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- 15—SMITH, Brian

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WILF BRIGGS

Wilf Briggs joined the club in a part exchange deal when Warburton went to Leigh.

He is a brilliant attacking footballer and should prove to be a valuable acquisition to the team. Only two weeks ago when playing for Leigh at Liverpool, Wilf scored two fine tries and earned himself the 'player of the match' award.

Twenty-two year-old Wilf signed for Leigh in January, 1964, and has played 81 games and has scored 28 tries.

We wish Wilf all the very best in his new club. I know that he will give of his best at all times.

WELCOME TO BATLEY

Had the Batley Board of Directors agreed to our request this match would have been the first senior match ever to be played on a Sunday at Watersheddings.

However, the Batley Directors preferred to play the game as scheduled and so the game goes on today.

Batley, as we all know, are this season in the Lancashire League for the first time but, unfortunately, they are not having too happy a time. Ironically enough, recently they held the mighty St. Helens to a 9-9 draw at Knowsley Road and then lost rather unluckily by two points to Salford.

When we visited Batley on January 6th we turned in one of our better performances and won convincingly by 22 points to seven. Our scorers were, Warburton five goals and a try, Taylor two tries and Elliott a try, while Batley's points came from two Oldroyd goals and a Whiteford try.

Batley have no further interest in the Challenge Cup competition, having been beaten in the first round game at Keighley.

Despite their lowly position, Batley have their stars and full-back Stan Gittins, a former Leigh junior, is making a big impression at Mount Pleasant, turning in some faultless displays. Stan has been the winner of the 'Player of the Match' award on several occasions.

Half-backs Trevor Oldroyd and Terry Gorman are also players who will have to be watched. Oldroyd is an accurate marksman and must not be given too many penalties.

NEW SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME

Visit the Social Club after the Match

Top-Line Cabaret this Evening!

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We hope the Batley club are enjoying their season in the Lancashire League and are only sorry that they haven't had the anticipated success.

ST. VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Supporters' Club have organised a St. Valentine's Dance, which will be held in the Social Club tomorrow evening, commencing at 8.0 p.m. Tickets are 2/6 each and can be obtained from the Canteen on the ground or from the Social Club.

We strongly advise you to buy a ticket, as a good time is guaranteed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AUSTRALIA

Our congratulations are offered to our Australian friends, who won the Test series here in Britain by two games to one. Unfortunately, they did not have the same success on the latter stage of their tour, losing the Test series in France by two games to nil, one being drawn.

Many people interested in Rugby League did not see any results of the Tourists' games in France. Here is a complete list of matches and results:—

				T	G	Pts	T	G	Pts
Dec. 17	(Sun.)	FRANCE (1st Test)	Draw	1	2	7	1	2	7
21	(Th.)	Young Hopefuls	Won	5	1	17	1	2	7
24	(Sun.)	FRANCE (2nd Test)	Lost	1	0	3	0	5	10
28	(Th.)	Catalan XIII	Won	9	5	37	1	2	7
31	(Sun.)	French "B" Team	Won	3	2	13	0	3	6
Jan. 4	(Th.)	Selected Pyrenees Team	Won	5	0	15	0	0	0
7	(Sun.)	FRANCE (3rd Test)	Lost	3	2	13	2	5	16

Whilst on the subject of Australia, it would be very remiss of us if we did not refer to the honour conferred by Her Majesty the Queen upon the dual President of the Australian Rugby League and the New South Wales Rugby League, Mr. W. G. Buckley. Mr. Buckley has been awarded the O.B.E. in her New Year Honours list.

Mr. Buckley received the award "for services to sport, especially Rugby League, and the community." The honour conferred on Mr. Buckley, so richly deserved, was not only an outstanding tribute to himself but also the Rugby League game.

He has added lustre to the game, which he has served in Australia so admirably as player and administrator.

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FIXTURES 1967-8

1967				1968			
Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
Aug. 15 (Tu)	Liverpool City	Home	L 12-13	Dec. 30 (S)	Barrow	Home	W 15-10
" 19 (S)	Leigh (Lancs Cup - 1)	Home	W 17-11	Jan. 1 (M)	Workington Town	Away	L 5-10
" 23 (W)	Bradford Northern	Away	L 10-28	" 6 (S)	Batley	Away	W 22-7
" 26 (S)	Hull	Away	L 20-29	" 13 (S)	Wigan	Away	P'oned
Sept. 2 (S)	Whitehaven	Home	W 34-14	" 20 (S)	St. Helens	Home	L 14-26
" 4 (M)	Blackpool Borough	Away	L 19-15	" 22 (M)	Wigan	Away	L 13-39
" 7 (Th)	Swinton (Lancs C - 2)	Away	L 8-11	" 27 (S)	Barrow	Away	L 13-14
" 9 (S)	Warrington	Away	L 2-26	Feb. 3 (S)	Hunslet (RL Cup Rd 1)	Away	W 9-4
" 16 (S)	Rochdale H.	Home	W 13-12	" 14 (W)	Batley	Home	
" 23 (S)	Whitehaven	Away	W 24-12	" 17 (S)	Widnes	Home	
" 30 (S)	Wigan	Home	L 13-17	" 24 (S)	(2)		
Oct. 3 (Tu)	Hull K.R.	Home	L 7-9	Mar. 1 (F)	Rochdale H.	Away	
" 14 (S)	Bradford Northern	Home	L 14-25	" 9 (S)	Workington T.	Home	
" 20 (F)	Salford	Away	L 6-12	" 23 (S)	Leigh	Home	
" 28 (S)	Blackpool Boro'	Home	W 13-4	Apr. 12 (F)	Swinton	Home	
Nov. 4 (S)	Leigh	Away	L 2-29	" 15 (M)	Hull K.R.	Away	
" 11 (S)	Australia	Home	L 8-18				
" 13 (M)	Salford	Home	L 0-4				
" 17 (F)	Widnes	Away	L 14-33				
" 25 (S)	Hull	Home	W 31-7				
Dec. 1 (S)	Liverpool City	Away	W 13-0				
" 8 (F)	Warrington	Home	P'oned				
" 16 (S)	St. Helens	Away	L 2-10				
" 26 (Tu)	Swinton	Away	L 18-22				

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

FIRST TEAM

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1968

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OLDHAM v WIDNES



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