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OLDHAM

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v.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH

27

SATURDAY,
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WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM

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HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

Yes, another season is with us again and we hope that this afternoon's friendly game against Blackpool Borough will set our boys off on the victory trail in readiness to face a tough programme ahead.

Last season, of course, was a season of frustration. We had our worst season for years as far as the League programme went but in the Challenge Cup we redeemed ourselves somewhat with exciting wins against Hunslet and Bradford Northern, only to lose to Leeds in Round 3.

Turning back to this season and our prospects of winning a few trophies and doing well in the League programme.

The boys are certainly looking forward to their task. They have trained very hard during the close season and have gone 'all out' in the pre season trial to create a good impression with the sole team selector, coach Gerry Helme.

WELCOME TO BLACKPOOL.

Blackpool are here today for this Annual Charity game and then they come again in just over a week to open our League programme at Watersheddings. Their team will certainly have a new look about it, their Directors having signed Keith Holden and Ray Ashby from Wigan and Tony Colloby

from Workington Town. All these players should prove valuable purchases and no doubt will soon settle down with the 'Borough'.

I understand Colloby and Holden will be making their debuts this afternoon although it is unlikely that Ashby will be available.

Stan Owen, the former Leigh, St. Helens and Rochdale forward is now in charge of the coaching at Blackpool and it may be that Stan's generalship will certainly be of great advantage in Borough's attempt to get established among the leading Clubs in the League.

At the time of these notes going to press neither team had been selected due to mid-week trials but it is likely that both Oldham and Blackpool will be relying on their strongest possible sides.

NEW FACES.

During the close season the Club signed four players from Amateur football.

Perhaps the most distinguished figure is that of former Manchester and Sale R.U. player Phil Larder. Phil was signed after weeks of negotiation and made his professional debut in the sevens tourney at Wigan on Saturday last.

John Mullarkey and Raymond Hicks were signed from the Ditton Youth Club, Widnes and Tom Leyland was signed from Royton.

Mullarkey is an Amateur International centre and was at Wigan last Saturday but only as a reserve.

Tom Leyland is also a centre and Raymond Hicks a very promising second rower.

We wish all these lads the very best of luck in their professional careers and hope their stay at Oldham will be both successful and memorable.

NEW COMPETITION.

During the course of the season a brand new competition will be introduced. The Competition is for Lancashire Clubs equipped with Floodlights. There is one preliminary round in order to have eight teams in the first round proper. The draw is as follows:- Leigh v St. Helens (Preliminary match); Swinton v Wigan, Barrow v St. Helens or Leigh, Rochdale v Oldham, Salford v Widnes.

The games will be played on a two legged basis (home and away), the first round games having to be completed during February.

More definite details of this competition will be given when they are to hand.

OBITUARY

It is my displeasure to refer in this programme to the tragic loss the Club suffered in the death of Mr. William Howard, M.B.E., J.P. earlier this year.

Mr. Howard was, to say the least, a very much respected member of the Club Committee and was a great asset to the Club with his experience which he gained during ten years as Club President.

Mr. Howard's death meant a return to the Committee of Mr. A. F. Campbell who had been narrowly defeated at the elections and had been replaced by Mr. Alan Marlor.

HON. PRESIDENT

Following the recent changes in the Club's constitution we have now a Club Honorary President who is local businessman Mr. Jack Hartley. Mr. Hartley is known to many Oldham supporters and is a gentleman in his own business and in his business so far with the Football Club. He is a great supporter of the Club and it is hoped his term of office as the Club Honorary President will be a happy one.

Mr. Herbert Jones, last year's President, was appointed by the Committee as their Chairman and Mr. P. G. Carter was elected Vice Chairman. Mr. K. Fisher was returned to the Treasurership.

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- 6—BRIGGS
- 7—DAVIES *T*
- 8—WILSON *T*
- 9—TAYLOR *TT*
- 10—FLETCHER
- 11—IRVING
- 12—McCOURT
- 13—HUGHES

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- 14—MULLARKEY *T*
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- 1—ASHBY *T*
- 2—OLSEN
- 3—HOLDEN
- 4—FARRELL
- 5—HOLMES
- 6—CLARKE *T T*
- 7—JONES
- 8—BELSHAW
- 9—WOOLVINE
- 10—WALKER
- 11—CHADWICK
- 12—McCARRICK *Robert*
- 13—NORMINGTON *T*

Substitutes :-

- 14—GEE
- 15—FAIRHURST

Touch Judges :
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Mr. J. HEAP, Rochdale

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HISTORY OF OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB — Part 1

In sketching the history of the Oldham Football Club and going through the records of their wonderful achievements, one is at once impressed with their consistency since gaining a position amongst the leading clubs in this part of country. Other Clubs have risen and fallen, but Oldham have generally had a side capable of finishing either at the head of the League table or very near it. For such a result great credit is due to the long array of brilliant players who have at different times donned the club colours, and also to the careful management of affairs by the officials in charge.

For almost a century the Club has now been existence, being formed at a meeting held at the Prince Albert Hotel early in 1873. Rugby football, at one time only played by public school teams, was gaining in popularity, and a few enthusiasts took up the movement locally and began to play the game. Amongst those who took a prominent part in the formation was Mr. Charles Hodgkinson, the then Chief Constable of Oldham, and Lord Emmott. A field was secured at the back of the Glodwick Spinning Company's Mill, and the players dressed at the Shakespeare Hotel, Glodwick. The Club had their headquarters at the Black Swan Hotel, Bottom o' th' Moor.

Oldham's first game was against Salybridge on the ground at Glodwick

on February 17th, 1873. Salybridge were naturally the more experienced players, and won rather easily, but Oldham were not long in reversing that result. The Club making headway, they in due course arranged with Oldham Cricket Club to play on the ground at Clarksfield, which will be ever remembered by older followers of the handling code. The playing pitch had a decided slope, and was simply roped off to prevent encroachment. For the first time it was now possible to take money at the gates, and this change materially improved the finances of the Club. In the 1877-8 season, Oldham won 12 games, drew 5, and lost 6. About the year 1880-81, the Club found themselves in troubled waters through shortage of players. Mr. G. Harrop who was the Hon. Secretary, solved the problem by inducing some members of the Oldham Juniors' Club to assist the town's team. This action eventually resulted in all the Junior players following suit, a kind of an amalgamation being arranged. For a long time the character of the football was very different to that now seen, consisting chiefly of forward rushes. Oldham, however, was gradually producing some clever exponents of the game, who in time attracted the attention of the Lancashire County Committee. Amongst the first players honoured by being selected to play for their county was Mr. A. M. Fletcher (the first county player), a forward; Mr. J. Armstrong, a forward; Mr. J. T. Walkden, a full

back Colonel J. B. Rye, a fine type of a forward; Mr. C. Barlow, a three-quarter; and Mr. H. Court, a forward.

In the season 1884-5 we find Oldham playing such Clubs as Bradford, Birch, Salford Free Wanderers, Sale, Swinton, Walton, Askam, Broughton Rangers, Rochdale Hornets, Mossley, Broughton, Widnes, and Manchester. The dressing accommodation in the hut at Clarksfield was so limited that at one time the players used to dress at the Friendship Hotel, Mumps, and be driven to the ground in waggonettes. While it is not possible in the space allowed to name the many great players who have assisted Oldham, we cannot pass along without referring to two who succeeded in practically remodeling the kind of game played at Oldham. These were Mr. W. McCutcheon, a past President of the Club, and Dai Gwynn, both of whom hailed from the Principality. To maintain the correct sequence the former first came to our town, making his debut with Oldham against Manchester Rangers, on December 8th 1888. A match still talked about was the one with the Maories, played at Clarksfield on March 4th, 1889. On that day there played for Oldham, W. H. Pennington, J. Nolan, of Rochdale, and Jack Hurst of Leigh. These three players afterwards settled down in the town, and their exploits are written in large letters in the annals of the Club. The side that met the Maories was: T. B. Broadbent, Jack Hurst, W. McCutcheon

W. H. Pennington; J. R. Mills and J. Nolan; J. Whittaker, H. Court, E. Blomley, J. Armstrong, J. Mellor, S. H. Nuttall, H. Walstencroft, W. Lees, and H. H. Jowett. Oldham were the victors by 1 goal 3 tries 4 minors to 10 minors. Oldham started the 1889-1890 season by going to Cleckheaton so late that the game was commenced over an hour after the proper time. The visitors, however, won by 1 goal 7 minors to 1 try 5 minors.

On September 28th, 1889, the ground at Watersheddings was opened, when Swinton were the visitors. The home team that day was: Walkden; Hurst, McCutcheon, Moseley; Nolan, Thomas; Armstrong, Mellalieu, Blomley, Mayers, Nuttall, Ingham, Wolstencroft, Robinson, Whittaker. Swinton got 2 goals 1 try 2 minors to 1 minor by Oldham. Our team lost three games in succession: Warrington defeated them by 1 goal 4 tries 2 minors to 1 try; and Morecambe by 3 goals 3 minors to 1 goal and 2 tries. In those days all the players selected could not be relied upon to play, and when Leicester appeared at Watersheddings it was remarked that for once the home team appeared as selected. The home side prevailed by 2 goals 4 tries 6 minors to nothing. Leeds Parish Church lost at Oldham by 3 tries 1 minor to nil, but Widnes played a drawn game here, each side getting two minors.

to be continued

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 10	Blackpool (friendly) ...	home	27	22
17	Huddersfield	away		
19	Blackpool	home		
24	Featherstone R.	home		
28	Rochdale H.	away		
31	Workington	away		
Sept. 6	Rochdale (Lancs. Cup)	away		
9	Blackpool	away		
14	Hunslet	away		
21	Wigan	home		
28	Doncaster	away		
Oct. 5	Huddersfield	home		
12	Featherstone R.	away		
19	Widnes	home		
25	Salford	away		
Nov. 2	Whitehaven	home		
9	Wigan	away		
16	Warrington	home		
23	Whitehaven	away		
30	St. Helens	away		
Dec. 7	Hunslet	home		
14	Leigh	home		
20	Widnes	away		
26	Swinton	home		
28	Warrington	away		
Jan. 4	Huyton	home		
11	Huyton	away		
18	Salford	home		
Feb. 1	Leigh	away		
8	St. Helens	home		
Mar. 1	Workington T.	home		
8	Barrow	home		
15	Doncaster	home		
Apr. 4	Swinton (G.F.)	away		
7	Rochdale H. (E.M.)	home		
11	Barrow	away		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 31	Workington 'A'	home		
Sept. 7	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	away		
14	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	home		
21	Wigan 'A'	away		
Oct. 12	Rochdale 'A'	home		
19	Widnes 'A'	away		
26	Salford 'A'	home		
Nov. 2	Whitehaven 'A'	away		
9	Wigan 'A'	home		
16	Warrington 'A'	away		
23	Whitehaven 'A'	home		
30	St. Helens 'A'	home		
Dec. 14	Leigh 'A'	away		
21	Widnes 'A'	home		
28	Warrington 'A'	home		
Jan. 4	Huyton 'A'	away		
11	Huyton 'A'	home		
18	Salford 'A'	away		
Feb. 1	Leigh 'A'	home		
8	St. Helens 'A'	away		
Mar. 1	Workington T. 'A'	away		
8	Barrow 'A'	away		
21	Swinton 'A'	away		
Apr. 7	Rochdale 'A'	away		
12	Barrow 'A'	home		
19	Swinton 'A'	home		

Times of Kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m. Evening k.o.'s as advertised. All 1st & 'A' team matches.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM v BLACKPOOL BOROUGH

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