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SATURDAY, 24th January

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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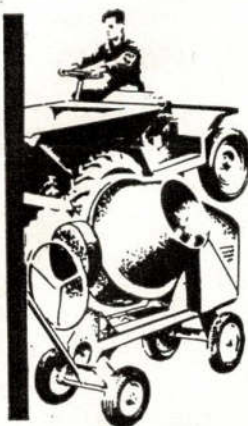
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TODAY'S VISITORS

We are very pleased today to be entertaining Barrow, who have recently achieved some fame as the big-spenders of Rugby League, with the signings of Jarrett, Foster and MacFarlane. Keith Jarrett will not, of course, be with us today as he is on International duty in France, but no doubt the other two players will be in Barrow's team.

Memories of our visit to Barrow on 24th October give rise to mixed feelings, because of the serious injury sustained in that match by our second-row forward, Charlie McCourt. However, Charlie, always smiling, is making good progress and will doubtless be watching today's game. I am sure I speak for many members and supporters when I say how much this grand player has been missed on the field of play in recent weeks. Our best wishes to Charlie for a complete recovery in the not too distant future.

WATERSHEDDINGS COMMENTARY

Recent team performances have left much to be desired — having lost 23—15 to Wigan on December 13th, 28—2 to Swinton on Boxing Day, 1969, and conceded defeat to Huddersfield in both home and away games, the outlook seems far from bright.

However, there was certainly a much more determined effort put in at Huddersfield last Saturday, but our main problem once again was lack of finishing power. Our lads must learn to steady up on attack. When a team is down, as we have been for some weeks, it is very easy to make mistakes by trying too hard. Ken Wilson and Dennis Wright have taken over training on a temporary basis and we must give these two chaps a fair chance to do something with the side. The resignation of Gerry Helme as Coach, whilst reluctantly accepted by the Committee, was exaggerated out of all proportion in the local press. Gerry felt sincerely and honestly that he was not getting the right response from the team, and so tendered his resignation. Despite press reports, he did not withdraw his resignation, but merely came up to the Club on the Tuesday after the Huddersfield home match to say his last goodbyes. The recent news of Gerry's further illness is very sad, and we all wish him the very best and a quick return to good health.

With regard to the team itself. The recent introduction to senior football of centre-threequarters Terry Garrett and second-row man Steve Baldwin is already proving a qualified success. Their lack of experience can only be improved upon by more first team outings, and I am confident we shall be seeing much more of these two players in the future.

Furthermore, now that we have a full complement of players once again, and a very short injury list, we stand a good chance of getting a settled cup squad in time for the First Round Challenge Cup Tie v. Blackpool Borough. Seat tickets will be on sale to member seat holders from Wednesday evening, 28th January, until Saturday, 31st January. As supporters are no doubt aware, one-third of the seating accommodation has to be offered to the visiting club. Seat tickets will then be on sale to the general public during the week commencing 2nd February.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Two players who have recently secured promotion from the "B" team to our "A" team are David Dowd and Brian Reddyoff, both local lads. Also showing up very well in "B" team matches is Geoff. Munro, second-row or loose forward, who signed professional forms for the Club on 21st December. Derek Fletcher, younger brother of Ray Fletcher, will also become an Oldham professional in the near future.

Tony Eccles, the Failsworth boy, aged 15, who recently played for Lancashire Schoolboys, has now become a member of the Oldham "B" team, and has already played in several matches. Unfortunately, last Saturday in the cup-tie at Rochdale, Tony sustained an injury which will put him out of action for a short time — a broken collar-bone. Hard luck, Tony, but this lad will be back for more, we are sure!

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- 3—CRELLIN, J.
- 4—COLLINS, J.
- 5—LARDER, P. J.
- 6—BRIGGS, W.
- 7—SMITH, G.
- 8—GARDINER, R. B.
- 9—TAYLOR, K.
- 10—WILSON, K.
- 11—IRVING, R. A.
- 12—OGDEN, A.
- 13—CLARKE, R.
- 14—GARRETT, T.
- 15—DUNN J.

Referee:

Mr. D. G. KERSHAW (York)

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OLDHAM JUNIOR SCHOOLS' HALFTIME SEVENS COMPETITION

The first round match today in the above Competition will be between Derker and Clarksfield, and we look forward to a good duel between these two sets of youngsters.

Our next home match will see the appearance in the last of the first round games, of St. Hilda's and Fitton Hill. Watch the local press for details of this fixture.

PLAYER'S No. 6 PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH AWARDS

Spectators are urged to use the voting slips enclosed with each Match Programme, to vote for the player of their choice on both teams. Remember, your vote counts very much in deciding the ratings in the overall competition, which goes on to the end of the season. The player of the match today will be judged by Mr. Ronnie Jackson, the well-known Halifax referee.

Leading players in the running for the title of the Player's No. 6 "Player of the Year" are as follows:—

A. Murphy (Leigh), 36 points; R. Millward (Hull K.R.), 34; F. Myler (St. Helens), 34; S. Nash (Featherstone), 28; B. Jefferson (Keighley), 27; M. Shoebottom (Leeds), 26; G. Nicholls (Widnes), 25; R. Wallace (Huddersfield), 25; P. Lowe (Hull K.R.), 24; T. Brophy (Barrow), 23; J. Wolford (Bramley), 22; D. Marshall (Hunslett), 21; A. Bates (Dewsbury), 20; J. Roper (Whitehaven), 20.

AROUND THE CLUB WITH LAURIE ASHE

Big news for our members. This year we have reached an arrangement with Mr. Gerry Slinger, who runs one of the country's top night clubs at the Broadway, Fails-worth, for some of the big names coming to the Broadway to appear at our club, so watch out for the big names in 1970.

John and Ann Ryder, one of our biggest attractions, were unfortunately unable to appear in our New Year's Eve Show, after a serious car accident in which Ann injured her neck. Happily, the injury won't leave any permanent damage, but the couple have had to cancel a record promoting tour of the continent.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969				
Aug. 9	Blackpool (Charity)	home	32	15
16	Swinton (L.C. 1st Rd.)	home	24	28
19	Salford	home	11	20
23	Warrington	home	8	15
27	Bradford	away	9	25
30	Workington	away	7	28
Sept. 6	Keighley	home	41	10
8	Blackpool	away	33	6
13	Wigan	away	10	40
20	Huyton	home	37	7
22	Rochdale	home	12	2
26	Warrington	away	8	10
Oct. 4	Workington	home	8	10
11	Keighley	away	9	20
24	Barrow	away	19	26
Nov. 1	Whitehaven	home	20	10
8	Leigh	away	4	14
15	Widnes	home	5	7
22	St. Helens	away	10	41
Dec. 6	Huddersfield	home	P	
13	Wigan	home		
20	Huyton	away		
26	Swinton	away		
28	Batley	away		
1970				
Jan. 3	St. Helens	home		
17	Huddersfield	away		
24	Barrow	home		
31	Whitehaven	away		
Feb. 7	(Chal. Cup 1st Rd.)			
14	Leigh	home		
21	(Chal. Cup 2nd Rd.)			
27	Salford	away		
Mar. 7	Bradford	home		
14	Widnes	away		
23	Blackpool	home		
27	Swinton	home		
28	Rochdale	away		
Apr. 11	Batley	home		

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969				
Aug. 23	Warrington (Shield, 1 Rd., 1 leg)	away	6	13
30	Workington	home	20	8
Sept. 6	Rochdale	away	P	
13	Wigan	home	12	22
20	Huyton	away	18	5
27	Warrington (Shield, 1 Rd., 2 leg)	home	6	11
Oct. 4	Workington	away	P	
11	Warrington	home	15	26
17	Salford	away	10	35
25	Barrow	home	8	4
Nov. 8	Leigh	home	23	8
15	Widnes	away		
22	St. Helens	home		
Dec. 13	Wigan	away		
20	Huyton	home		
1970				
Jan. 3	St. Helens	away		
10	Swinton	home		
17	Swinton	away		
24	Barrow	away		
Feb. 14	Leigh	away		
28	Salford	home		
Mar. 14	Widnes	home		
20	(Fri.) Warrington	away		
28	Rochdale	home		

Times of kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m.
Evening k.o. times as advertised.
All 1st and "A" team matches.

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