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RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH ²⁰ OFFICIAL
v
OLDHAM ¹¹ 6d.
PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER, 1970 Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

What happened! It took only 40 minutes of Saturday's cup-tie to eradicate all memories of the two preceding matches. Although only a draw resulted Boro' deserved to win and the fact that they didn't was mainly due to three dropped passes by players in good positions. This display though, doesn't warrant criticism as praise must be given for a show of better team work, stronger tackling, and, if one person may be singled out, the excellent performance of TONY COLLOBY. Tony has his detractors who despair at his apparent unwillingness to part with the ball to a colleague in a seemingly better position, but, in my opinion, he is primarily a winger and not a centre and as such is naturally used to receiving and reluctant (like many wingers) to pass. Give him and JIMMY JOHNSON good centres and these two will go racing in for a barrowload of tries. ALAN BANCROFT (having reluctant (like many wingers) to pass. Give him and JIMMY JOHNSON good centres scrums against the vastly more experienced Widnes forwards, were only beat 14-17. No doubt many will have said that had RAY DUTTON been on form with his goal-kicking (two successes from eight attempts) Widnes would have won by a margin of at least eight points, this may be so but I detected that the Chemics were a worried side in the second half and glad to settle for a replay. The result of Thursday's tussle is not known at the time of writing and the winners are at home to Rochdale Hornets in the second round, to be played before September 27th.

As a result of Saturday's tough encounter several players were injured and a very makeshift outfit took the field against Whitehaven last Monday. Hopes were not high of a home victory, but these lads, including two trialists, excelled themselves and, above all, looked as though they enjoyed playing. Included in this team were six of the nine players I mentioned in the last programme who should be encouraged and persevered with, and of the other three, two were injured and TERRY SHAW has elected to return to Barrow. For the first time since December 26th, 1968, Boro's scored more than twenty points in a game (the one referred to was lost at home to Workington 22-38) and although 'Haven won 24-21, it was generally agreed that a heartening performance had been given by Boro'. The game itself was fine entertainment and referee Fred Lindof told me afterwards that the crowd, meagre though it was, had had their money's worth with a match containing much good, fast rugby. Again this was one Boro' should have won but the final close result is bearable when one ponders on those two brilliant tries of Tony Colloby's, the speed of execution which sent in Jimmy Johnson, the promising showing of both trialists, and the sound performance of full back Brian Curry.

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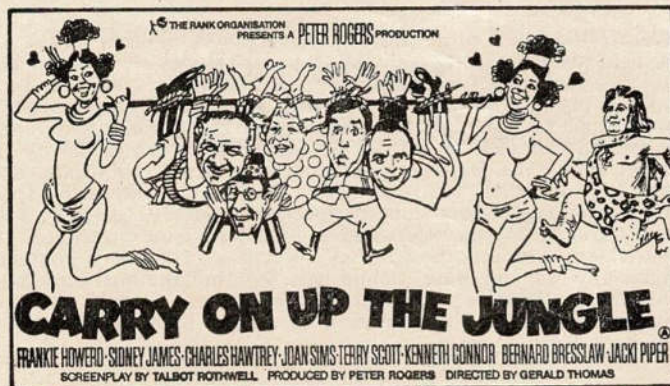
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Although this was a makeshift side, potential was shown and, in my personal view, with minimal changes an attractive team, playingwise, could eventually be blended. The danger is that players will return after injury and the youngsters and trialists displaced could become disheartened by the lack of opportunity to show their ability. This again comes back to what I have mentioned previously — no 'A' team, which I consider essential. The dilemma is, however, should an 'A' team be in operation, thus straining the finances beyond breaking point ('A' team players need paying, as do first teamers) and hope a potential and reliable Boro' team transpires, or should the Club carry on with a pool of approximately 20 players and pray that trialists are capable of immediate first class rugby league. A difficult problem of which I think everybody realises the Board is aware.

To revert back to optimism, there are now five games at home following one another and if the enthusiasm of these last two matches continues a early win will result.

G.S.

TODAY'S VISITORS

We extend a welcome this afternoon to our visitors from the Watersheddings, who last season, like ourselves, had a disastrous time. In our three encounters Oldham won here in the League 33-6 and on their own ground in the Challenge Cup by 5-0. Boro' won the return League match 5-3, their first ever success at Oldham. It is strange to see an Oldham team without Derek Whitehead, Wilf Briggs and Tom Canning and no doubt many new faces could be on show today. New player-coach Graham Starkey is no stranger to Boro' Park as he was in many a Rochdale team here, neither is second row man, Bob Irving, fresh from his tour of Australia with the Great Britain team. £2,000 signing from Wigan, prop forward Keith Ashcroft should be appearing and with tiny Jed Smith buzzing about at scrum half a tough match for Boro' is in the offing, but their new-found confidence could enable them to defeat an Oldham team still trying to find their feet.

After probably their worst ever season in their long history as a Rugby League Club, the members of the Oldham Club decided in their wisdom or otherwise, that the Committee were to blame for the state of affairs, and at a special General Meeting a completely new Committee was elected. I believe that all but one of the old Committee was ousted by the "ginger group". The new Committee are led by a well known Rugby League personality, a former Chairman of the Rugby League, and of Rochdale Hornets, Mr. Arthur Walker, we wish him and his new colleagues well in their task of rebuilding an Oldham team to something like their former glory, but despite all their promise in years gone by, they have yet to appear at Wembley. Sometimes new blood on a Board of Directors, or a Club Committee, can work wonders, and the Oldham clean sweep was a drastic decision, but one can't help but feel sorry for some of the Committee men who have been displaced, I know that in their term of office they worked hard, but the lack of success on the field was apparently reflected on them.

G.L.

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- 2—BOSTON *50 yards*
- 3—HOLDEN
- 4—STOPFORD
- 5—COLLOBY
- 6—BISHOP
- 7—DERBYSHIRE
- 8—WILKINSON
- 9—MARTLAND
- 10—RIDGWAY
- 11—HALL
- 12—FARRELL
- 13—ENTWHISTLE

- 14—KNOWLES
- 15—BANCROFT

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OLDHAM 11

- 1—MURPHY *2 tries*
- 2—GARRETT *1 goal*
- 3—STARKEY
- 4—McCORMACK
- 5—LARDER
- 6—DAVIES
- 7—SMITH
- 8—WILSON
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—ASHCROFT
- 11—IRVING *1 try*
- 12—OGDEN
- 13—CLARK

- 14—BLAIR
- 15—CHURM

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T. Colloby	4	1	3	11
J. Stopford	3	2	2	10
B. Curry	2	3	0	6
J. Johnson	3	0	1	3
C. Darbyshire	2	0	1	3
D. Walker	2	0	1	3

PLAYERS No. 6 COMPETITION

The Judge for today's "Player of the Match" award, is Mr. Eric Littler of the Blackpool Evening Gazette. His selections will be announced five minutes before the end of the match.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES, 1970-71

K.O. 3 p.m. unless otherwise stated

1970		F A	1971	
AUGUST			JANUARY	
22—Workington	A	0-30	3—Huddersfield	A
25—Huyton (7 p.m.)	H	Lost	8—Barrow (7-30 p.m.)	A
29—Widnes	H	10-10	16—Keighley	H
1st Round Lanes. Cup	H	10-41	23—1st Round Challenge Cup	H
31—Whitehaven	H	21-24	30—Hunslet	H
SEPTEMBER			FEBRUARY	
5—Doncaster	A	0-30	7—Batley	A
7—Oldham	H	20-11	13—Wakefield	H
12—Dewsbury	H		27—Hunslet	A
20—Huddersfield	H		MARCH	
23—Warrington	H		6—York	H
26—Rochdale	H		12—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.)	A
OCTOBER			20—Bramley	H
3—York	A		27—1st Semi-Final	
10—Workington	H		APRIL	
17—Barrow	H		3—2nd Semi-Final	
25—Whitehaven	A		10—Huyton	A
30—Warrington (7-30 p.m.)	A		11—Halifax	H
NOVEMBER			13—Halifax	A
2—Oldham (7-30 p.m.)	A		17—Dewsbury	A
8—Bramley	A			
21—Batley	H			
28—Keighley	A			
DECEMBER				
12—Wakefield	A			
19—Doncaster	H			

BOROUGH'S NEXT HOME MATCH

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