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Brian Batty of the Mail

One of the most disturbing features for former Rugby Union stars who turn professional is the treatment they often receive when they attempt to renew contact with their 15-a-side friends.

The situation may have eased to some extent in recent years, particularly in Wales and the North but this hardly applies in most other areas.

Some players are politely shown the door when they attempt to mix in their old clubhouses, while some are prevented from getting within a mile of former clubs.

I believe Liverpool took this attitude after losing Tom Brophy and Terry Kirken, who had been the life and soul of their social side between them before turning professional.

Many of the Welsh players, like David Watkins and John Mantle, can relate entirely different stories on returning to the valleys.

But there are still a great number of players, having finished in League, who have managed to play Union again under a different name.

Then there are those players who would like to take this step but daren't and others who would like to lend a hand coaching but cannot break down the barrier between the two codes.

It is a great pity, particularly when you realise that men like John Mantle, Ray French and Keith Fielding are but a few professionals, who are able to teach Union at grammar schools.

So it is refreshing to hear that there are some officials in Union ready to end this ridiculous state of affairs if given half a chance.

Ted Wood puts his views over strongly enough in the Rugby Union publication Forward, which is produced by the Huddersfield Rugby Union club.

'Today, are we still the amateurs and the others the professionals, or are we in attitude far more professional than Rugby League . . . how does one weigh the job opportunities which arise out of participation in Rugby Union?'

These are the points Mr. Wood raises for he is a man who regrets the waste of talent among former League players anxious to coach youngsters or either codes.

He dislikes the practice that forces League players to take assumed names in Union and the barring of players from Union clubhouses.

Huddersfield have always been a club with League connections, particularly at a coaching level, but I say more power to Ted Wood's right arm.

ON THE INSIDE—

DAVE PARKER

Bradford Northern have been down into Warwickshire looking at a centre with the Moseley R. U. club. The player, who took the eye is believed to be Alan Hill, who Salford's Keith Fielding rates very highly.

Still with R. U. and in the heart of the game — Wales — comes news this week of another John Bevan, who is making a name for himself at stand-off half. He plays for the Aberavon club, Port Talbot.

Dave Curwen, Harold McCourt, Ray Morton (Workington engine room staff) and Hull K. R. halfbacks Roger Millward and Terry Hudson are players I know for a fact did not receive payment last week or this for their activities in Rugby League football. They are all employed in the mining industry. They could, I understand, be entitled to back pay when the dispute is over.

Salford's Bill Kirkbride leaves on Friday for a three year contract with Queensland club, Brisbane Souths, the same club who chased Alex Murphy. Kirkbride will be able to return after three years if he so desires. He will no doubt be able to continue his friendship with former Castleford and Leeds international Alan Hardisty, who will be playing just up the coast at Rockhampton.

Just released are the gate receipts for the Llanelli R. U. club from September to December. The turnstiles clicked to the tune of £12,500, while on Boxing Day for the match with London Welsh £2,500 was taken.

Phil Evans, the Chorley-based centre, who is still on Dewsbury's books after trials with Blackpool Borough and Swinton, has returned to Crown Flatt, where permission has been granted for him to train once a week.

Leigh, before their splendid Challenge Cup win over Widnes last weekend, received a telegram from Kippax White Swan, who they crushed in the first round.

Former Great Britain hooker Peter "Flash" Flannagan has walked out on Hull K. R. for the umpteenth time after losing his place to a 17-year-old hooker, Ian Madley.

Halifax Grade Two referee Henry Mason, after his bright whistling debut in the Wills sevens at Leeds last season, has never looked back, and is in great demand both at senior and amateur level. At present Henry, a master mason and builder, is taking two matches every weekend, and with the advent of light nights is looking forward to taking midweek games.

Former Leeds prop Albert Eyre has finished at Keighley owing to business commitments. Albert is employed in the improvement of highways and byways up and down the countryside.

Rod Tickle, the former Leigh winger, would like a free transfer from Rochdale to pursue his career with another club. Tickle never settled in with Hornets, and in January he started to stop away. Rochdale have been trialling a Cheshire-based R. U. centre, who scored two tries in their "A" team recently.

Poor old Syd Hynes, the Leeds skipper, who was helped off the field with only 8 minutes remaining against Salford last week in the Cup. He will be out of action for 3 to 4 weeks with a broken fibula. His hard luck story doesn't end there, for his wife broke her leg 2 days previous.

CAN ANYBODY HELP?

Bill McCracken is looking for a three-bedroomed house in or around Oldham, preferably to rent. If anyone can be of help, please contact the Secretary.

POOLS NEWS

We wish to thank all our agents for their efforts during the period of the 3-day week. As we have come to expect, despite all the difficulties it introduced in changing times when customers could be contacted to collect subscriptions, not to mention the money angle, they have coped magnificently. We are very grateful to them and their efforts are much appreciated by everyone at the club.

Peter Scholes, who had been helping to run the pool for the last nine months, has left to run Wigan Athletic's pool. It was a challenge and opportunity he could not refuse. We know from his efforts at Oldham he will make a go of it and we wish him every success.

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Rugby Quiz

1. What is the Leeds record for consecutive home league victories?
2. When did Leeds move to their Headingley ground?
3. Which was the first rugby league match played under modern floodlighting?
4. What is the biggest defeat ever suffered by Wigan?
5. Who holds the Leeds try scoring record?

ANSWERS

1. Between November, 1967 and March, 1971, Leeds won 57 consecutive home league matches.
2. 1890.
3. In December, 1932, Leeds met Wigan at the White City Stadium, London.
4. In 1972-73, Wigan lost a league match at Leeds by 58-3.
5. In 1935-36, Eric Harris scored 63 tries.



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- 2—BARTON E.
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *try*
- 5—HOLLAND I. *goal*
- 6—TREASURE D.
- 7—McCONE M. *try*
- 8—ASHCROFT K.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—~~HUGHES D.~~ *Hall*
- 11—GREGORY B.
- 12—~~HALL P.~~ *Welding*
- 13—PETERS A.
- 14—*Elliott*
- 15—*Brown*

Referee:

G. F. LINDOP (Wakefield)

LEEDS 8
Blue & Amber jerseys,
White Shorts

- 1—MARSHALL D. *goal*
- 2—SMITH A. *try*
- 3—HOLMES J.
- 4—HAY J.
- 5—ATKINSON J.
- 6—SANDERSON C.
- 7—HEPWORTH K.
- 8—JEANNES D. *try*
- 9—WARD D.
~~or FISHER T.~~
- 10—~~CLARKSON G.~~ *Fisher*
- 11—COOKSON P.
- 12—ECCLES G.
- 13—BATTEN R.
- 14—*Cousins*
- 15—

Touch Judges

D. M. Russell (Rochdale) Red
R. J. Percival (Warr.) Orange

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OUR VISITORS . . .

This afternoon Oldham stage one of the highlights of their season with the visit of the glamorous Leeds side whose line-up reads more like a copy of the Rugby League's 'Who's Who'.

Leeds, on their day, are, without doubt, the most attractive side in the rugby league and their brand of open football is reflected in the number of tries scored by their wingers John Atkinson and Alan Smith. Atkinson is the club's leading try scorer with 19 whilst Smith is not far behind on the 18 mark. It was in June, 1965 that Atkinson signed for Leeds from Roundhay R.U.F.C. and since then he has been a regular and high scoring member of the Leeds outfit. He is the veteran of three World Cup Competitions in 1968, 1970 and 1972 and he also toured Australasia in 1970. Atkinson has played for England, Yorkshire and Great Britain regularly for the past five or so years and this season he has played in both Yorkshire's matches plus the first two Tests against Australia. Since the start of season 1970-71 he has scored 127 tries including 4 last season when Leeds won at Doncaster 51-0. Alan Smith is a product of the Brookhouse junior club who joined Leeds in June, 1962. Like Atkinson he is a prolific try scorer who toured Australasia in 1970 and then took part in the World Cup the following autumn. This season he played twice for Yorkshire, scoring a hat-trick of tries against Cumbria, and he took over Atkinson's wing spot in the deciding Test against the Aussies. In recent weeks Brian Murrell has been given a run on the Leeds' wing with great success. He has scored 5 tries in 7 outings and a great future is forecast for this former Leeds junior. In John Holmes Leeds have a most versatile back who can play full-back, centre or stand-off with equal efficiency and in addition he is an excellent goal kicker having landed 51 goals this season as well as crossing for 6 tries. He has played nine times for Great Britain and once, earlier this season, for Yorkshire. Holmes is probably best known for the 2 tries and 10 goals which he scored for Britain in the 1972 World Cup against New Zealand (Britain won 53-19) but he has several other high scoring feats to his name such as the 10 goals and a try which he scored on his debut against Hunslet in 1968 and the 3 tries and 8 goals he scored last season against Halifax. Perhaps the fondest scoring memory for Holmes, though, were the three tries he scored in last season's Yorkshire Cup Final when he won the White Rose Trophy as the 'man-of-the-match'. The goal-kicking duties at Headingley have been shared this season by Dave Marshall who was signed from Hunslet last August. So far he has kicked 62 goals including 10 in the 48-5 defeat of Leigh. In season 1971-72 whilst assisting the struggling Hunslet side he scored 9 goals and a try in the unusually high scoring 39-0 victory over Doncaster. Twenty-years-old Les Dyl, the former Castleford junior, has established in the Leeds centre position and he has already played 3 times for Yorkshire and once for Britain although the British game was only the trial match against York which Britain won 28-22 with Dyl grabbing a try. John Langley provides the cover for the Leeds backs and although he seems never to hold down a regular first team spot he is a very experienced and skilful player. Last season he scored 4 tries in the 39-5 defeat of Hunslet and he also had the satisfaction of scoring Leeds' try in this season's 7-2 Yorkshire Cup Final victory against Wakefield Trinity. Since the transfer of Alan Hardisty to Australia, Syd Hynes has moved from the centre to stand-off. Hynes has been with Leeds for ten years now, having been signed from Leeds NALGO R.U.F.C. He toured Australasia with Britain in 1970 and he played in the World Cup in 1970-71. This season he appeared for Britain in all three Tests against Australia and he also played once this season for Yorkshire. In the opening First Division match of this season Hynes scored 4 tries when Oldham were beaten 46-2 and other high scoring feats of Hynes last season included 2 tries and 7 goals against Hull in the Player's Trophy. The Leeds scrum-half is Keith Hepworth who made such a fine name for himself whilst at Castleford. Before being transferred to Leeds for £4,000 in October, 1971 Hepworth had played several times for both Yorkshire and Great Britain. He took part in the 1970 World Cup after touring Australasia the previous summer. Although he has not made any representative appearances since joining Leeds, 32-years-old Hepworth has proved to be an excellent buy as was seen in this season's Yorkshire Cup Final when he fully deserved the White Rose Trophy as 'man-of-the-match'. The third former Castleford and Great Britain star to find himself at Headingley is Derek Edwards the full-back cum stand-off who cost Leeds £6,500 in

December, 1972. Although Edwards visited Australia in 1968 for the World Cup and again on tour in 1970 he has been unable to recapture that form at Headingley and is having difficulty in holding down a regular first team spot. Another of Leeds' promising young stars is Kevin Coussons, the former Yorkshire schoolboy scrum-half who joined Leeds from Townsville juniors in November, 1971.

Although Leeds rely a lot on their star-filled back line, they have an excellent set of forwards who usually provide a steady stream of possession with which to launch the threequarters into action. Swansea born hooker Tony Fisher is an experienced forward who began his professional career with Bradford Northern in 1964. He was transferred to Leeds in November, 1970 on the eve of the World Cup Final in which he represented Great Britain. Fisher toured Australasia with Britain in 1970 and he has also made a couple of appearances for the Welsh rugby league team. Despite this wealth of experience Fisher is not certain to be included in the team because of the form of 20-years-old former England schoolboy star David Ward who joined Leeds from Shaw Cross Boys' Club in May, 1971. Both Leeds props, Geoff Clarkson and David Jeanes began their careers with Wakefield Trinity. Jeanes turned professional from Wakefield R.U.F.C. in September, 1967 and spent five happy and successful years at Belle Vue before moving to Headingley in September, 1972 for £7,500. Whilst with Wakefield he played four times for Yorkshire and 7 times for Great Britain and since joining Leeds he has made a further three appearances for Britain, these matches being in last season's World Cup Competition. Geoff Clarkson, who has represented Yorkshire at both rugby league and rugby union, is at present with his fifth professional club since he bought the professional ticket in December, 1965 and signed for Wakefield. His other clubs have been Bradford Northern, Leigh and Warrington before Leeds signed him for £2,500 in December, 1972. Yet another former Wakefield player is free scoring Bob Haigh who joined Trinity in 1962 and moved to Leeds for £6,500 in April, 1970. Haigh has made several representative appearances for England under-24, Yorkshire, England and Great Britain including the 1970 Tour and 1970 World Cup Competition. In 1970-71 he scored 44 tries which is a league record for a forward and that season he scored 4 tries in the away league game at Huddersfield which Leeds won 30-8. Graham Eccles seems to be like John Langley in as much as he can be called upon to fit into any vacant position in the Leeds pack and yet, if he were with another club, he would be an automatic selection, such is the depth of talent at Headingley. The surprising fact about 22-years-old Phil Cookson is that this former Featherstone junior has only made one appearance for Yorkshire. However, time is on the side of this strong running second-row forward who, selectors please note, would make an ideal tourist! Another Leeds player who is likely to be discussed at tomorrow's tour selection meeting is Ray Batten, the Heworth junior who joined Leeds in February, 1963. Batten has, of course, played for England U24, Yorkshire, England and Great Britain but so far he has never toured Australia.

There are sure to be a few Leeds players selected for this summer's tour especially with the club pressing for Championship honours, and in the running for a trip to Wembley. At present Leeds lie in third place in Division One with 13 wins in 15 matches. Although they are 4 points behind both Salford and St. Helens they have 2 games in hand over Salford and 4 games in hand over Saints. Today's game then, is not only vital to press a late claim for a tour spot, it is also vital to Leeds as they reach out for the spring 'double' of Cup and League to add to the Yorkshire Cup which is already resting on the Headingley mantelpiece.

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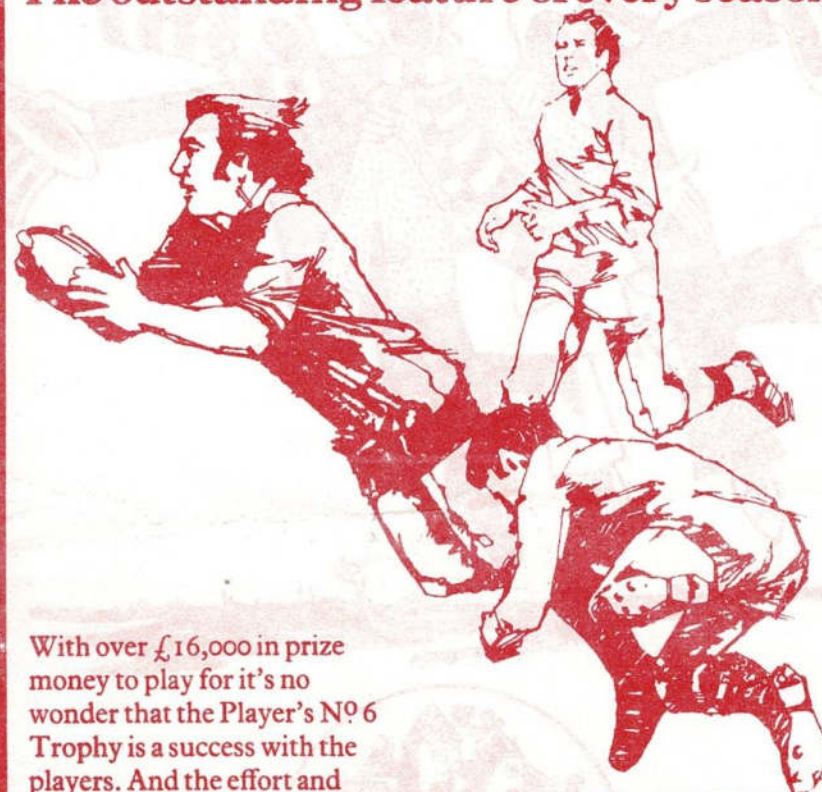
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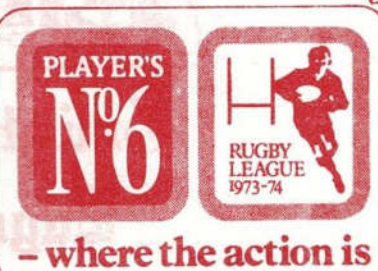
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