

Don't Miss

The Rugby League International Match

AUSTRALIA

v.

WALES

at

WEMBLEY STADIUM

SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER, 1933

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THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LONDON
HIGHFIELD

Wednesday,
20th December,
1933



versus

OLDHAM

(Match No. 11)

WHITE CITY STADIUM

2^{D.}

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

2^{D.}

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NEXT HOME MATCH



London Highfield

versus

SWINTON

at WHITE CITY STADIUM

WEDNESDAY, 3rd JANUARY

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LONDON HIGHFIELD SUPPORTERS CLUB

WHITE CITY STADIUM

The History of The Rugby League.

(Continued)

TEN THOUSAND AMATEURS PLAYING IN THE CODE

By FRED A. MARSH.

Those who are critical of the Rugby Football League because it permits players to receive remuneration for football services, are apt to overlook the code's amateur activities.

Many of my Rugby Union friends will perhaps be surprised to learn that the professional clubs of the Rugby League, are solely confined to the twenty-eight organisations in membership with the Northern Rugby League. The great majority of these clubs have reserve teams who play in the Yorkshire Senior competition, the Lancashire Rugby League Combination and the Rugby Combination, these tournaments being governed by the respective county committees.

A Satisfactory Mixing.

In this season's official guide appears three hundred and twenty other clubs and teams, and they are all amateur. In addition, there are school-boy leagues in Cumberland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and we have an Amateur County Championship Tournament. Twenty-eight clubs professional and over four hundred teams all comprised of purely amateur players.

I anticipate the scepticism of the host of critics, who hold the view that although amateurs can mix without difficulty in other sports, this co-operation of interests is not possible in Rugby football. I can only reply that it is satisfactory in the Rugby Football League.

Amateurism Strictly Defined

Read this definition of a Rugby League amateur "Any player receiving remuneration or consideration of any sort, above his necessary hotel and travelling expenses *actually paid*, is a professional. Training expenses of amateurs, other than the wages paid to a trainer or coach, must be paid by the players themselves.

Amateur players receiving any payment must give a written receipt for same, stating particulars of expenses, and secretaries must produce such receipt to the Council at any time if required to do so.

If an amateur player is engaged by a club in any capacity, for which he receives remuneration, the club may be required to prove, to the satisfaction of the Council, that his services as a player do not affect the amount of remuneration paid to him."

Rules are Enforced Strictly

I have italicised this latter clause for reasons, which many Rugby Union amateurs will appreciate. Further "When an amateur player is injured whilst playing football, he shall, upon obtaining the consent of the Council, be entitled to receive his Doctor's fees or the proceeds of any benefit match, subscription, or collection without losing his amateur status."

Note the stipulation that before any effort in this direction can be made, the consent of the Council must be first obtained.

These rules and regulations are strictly enforced and as a simple calculation, estimated upon the fact that these four hundred clubs each have twenty-five playing members (in the majority of instances this will be more) gives to-day, probably ten thousand amateur players associated with Rugby League football, in the counties of Cumberland, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Professionals on Saturday Afternoons

And professionalism in the Rugby League is a vastly different matter to professionalism in Cricket, Association Football and other sports which permits "mixing."

Ninety-eight per cent. of Rugby League professionals do not utilise the game as their sole means of livelihood. This ninety-eight per cent. follow legitimate employment during the week and are professionals only on a Saturday afternoon and occasions in which mid-week games call for their services. And many League clubs, for mid-week games are deprived of the services of some of their players, because the men cannot secure release from their work.

All agreements between clubs and professional players, as regards the terms of payment, are not by annual or weekly payments, but by match only. No play is no pay. A professional also does not receive payments during the close season or during suspension.

Professionalism in the Rugby League is far from being what the term implies and what our critics like to infer.

Our Visitors

A TEAM OF GREAT TRADITION AND ACHIEVEMENT

SEVEN TIMES IN CUP FINAL

By FRED A. MARSH

The inaugural meeting of the Oldham Rugby Football club was held in 1873 and the chairman of the assembly, which agreed to form a Rugby Union club in the town, was the late Lord, then Mr. Alfred Emmott, a leading cotton spinner. And another stalwart was Mr. C. Hodgkinson, then the chief constable of Oldham.

After sixteen seasons on their original ground, the club moved to its present headquarters at Watersheddings, the first game there being played on September 28th, 1889.

Introduced the Four Threequarter Line

Then, as now, the officials were very enterprising and though these were amateur days, offers of employment induced many prominent Welsh players to come North. One of whom, Dia Gwynn of Swansea who, before joining Oldham, played six times for Wales. Another great Welshman to come to Oldham was William McCutcheon also of

Swansea, who, after joining the Northern club, was capped seven times for his country. McCutcheon after his playing career was over, became a leading referee and served his club in various offices, and was ultimately made the club president.

It was McCutcheon who first introduced the four threequarter formation to the Rugby code.

A Members Organisation

Other famous playing members of those bye-gone days, to mention but three, were Ab. Ashworth and Fred Buller, who played for England, and Tom Fletcher, one of the greatest of Cumberland's centre three-quarters, who also played for England.

The club, then as now, is a members organisation, the officers and committee being elected annually at a general meeting of members.

In season 1926-27, the membership was of record dimensions and reached 4,563. Today, times are bad in Oldham, but the club still possesses a band of loyal supporters who have taken out 2,250 membership cards.

Many Cup Triumphs

Joining the Northern Union at its inception, Oldham has always maintained its position amongst the leading teams in the League. Three times winners of the Rugby League Challenge Cup and four times unsuccessful finalists, is their record in this tournament.

The Lancashire Challenge Cup has also gone to Watersheddings on six occasions, their last success being this season, when in the final they defeated St. Helens Recreation by 12 clear points. And in the premier competition—the Northern Rugby League—they have thrice secured the championship trophy. Every trophy offered for competition in the Rugby League has been secured by the club.

Produced Ten Test Players

County and representative honours are too numerous to mention and the club also possesses an imposing list of ten players, who have served England in Test matches against Australia since 1910. Five of these players were forwards, of whom, Bert Avery could be said to have been one of the greatest players in his position, the game has had.

Today, the team is well balanced, if hardly possessing the all round ability of some former seasons. The full back is Tom Rees, a Welsh Rugby International. The threequarter line includes two local products of Junior Rugby League football in Bardsley and Forshaw, both capable exponents of open football methods. Taylor was secured from York and possesses pace equal to the majority of speedy wing threequarters. Stephens went to Oldham from Gloucester and though his health last season was far from good, he has fortunately recovered, and on his day can rightly claim to be regarded as a centre of great constructive ability.

Three Rugby Union Internationals

The out half-back, Egan, is a newcomer this season from Aberavon and Givvons, the scrummage half-back, despite his colour, is a Welshman from Cross Keys.



Photo by Allied Newspapers Ltd.

E. H. SADLER

The forwards are all men of proved experience. Scaife, the hooker, is a Yorkshireman, now in his eighth season, and Read, a former Gloucester player, has given the club good service for nine seasons. W. T. Thomas hails from Abertillery and played for Wales against the Australians. He is first reserve for the Rugby League at Wembley next week. Ashworth and Hodgson are Cumberland County players and the latter in this his first season, has already

secured a county championship medal and a Lancashire Cup medal.

And last, but not least, E. H. Sadler, the loose forward, who as the Army representative, played this year for England (Rugby Union) against Ireland and Scotland.

He is also in the England side to meet the Australians at Paris on Sunday week.

I might also mention that the team's coach and trainer is George W. Smith the great hurdler and the speedy wing threequarter, of the Rugby Union, New Zealand, "All Blacks" famous team of 1905.

Stars of the Rugby League

No. 8. T. E. REES, OLDHAM

By FRED A. MARSH.

Tom Rees the Oldham full back, was like Sadler, bought out of the Welsh Guards after service with Newport and of course London Welsh. He went to Oldham in the summer of 1928 and had previously represented his Country under Rugby Union rules against Ireland, France, England and Australia. And in 1929 he was included in the Rugby League Test team which met the Australians at Hull.

No matter if there were weaknesses in other positions, Oldham's past history always reveals the fact that they possessed an outstanding exponent in the rearmost position.



Photo by Allied Newspapers Ltd.

Kicked 343 Goals for Oldham

Rees has proved no exception to the general rule and since 1928 he had, prior to Saturday last, made 210 appearances. A goal kicker of more than average ability, the following record testifies to his skill.

Season	Appearance	Goals
1928-29	32	37
1929-30	40	58 & 1 try
1930-31	46	82 & 1 try
1931-32	38	57 & 4 tries
1932-33	34	59 & 2 tries
1933 to date	20	50

A simple calculation reveals that in the past five seasons and this part season, Rees has kicked 343 goals and scored 8 tries—a point value to the club of 710. And as his total this season amounts to the half century, given freedom from injury and a maintenance of his present skill, he is not without hopes of securing the coveted century for the first time in his career.

The Match which was an Exception

I have frequently had the privilege of observing Rees' methods and on only one occasion can I recollect that he was seen to distinct disadvantage. This was in his second season with Oldham, when for the first Test against the Australians, the selectors preferred him to Sullivan. Unfortunately for his rapidly growing reputation, Tom that day found the Australians in one of their most virile moods and more tries (seven) were scored against England's defence than ever before or since. In justice to the Oldham star, however, I must state that he received little assistance from his colleagues.

Kicks a Great Length

Since that date, Rees has frequently demonstrated his worth and though Sullivan's remarkable consistency has prevented further representative honours, the Oldham full back is still an outstanding personality in the game.

He is a great fielder of the ball and kicks a splendid length and of consistently good direction. His touch finding is evidence of his fine judgement, and being the possessor of capital pace, he raises his clearances with persistent endeavour to connect up with his threequarter colleagues. His defence is sound and in this respect it is worthy of note to recall that in this season's Lancashire Cup ties, the only opposing side to cross the Oldham line was Wigan.

Not a Safety-First Full Back

Many aver that Rees depends over much on his left foot. Early in his football career he broke his right leg, but that is now sound and today he kicks with equal effect either with the left or right, as circumstances demand.

I regard "Guardsman" Rees as a full back the reverse of the safety-first type. He is a player who appeals, as being invariably in fine condition and he exploits to the full that spirit of adventure which provides the spectacular. Alert and enterprising to a degree, his positional powers stamp him as a full back of vision whose sole object is to vary his play to the advantage of his side.

LONDON HIGHFIELD(7)

Yellow and Blue JERSEYS
+ WHITE KNICKS.

Children under 16 admitted for 7d each



Full Back

1. BELSHAW

Right Wing Three-gr.

2. WALKER

Right Centre Three-gr.

3. HUNTER

Left Centre Three-gr.

4. MALONEY (Captain)

Left Wing Three-gr.

5. HAIGH

Scrum Half Back

7. GORDON

Out Half Back

6. SALMON

Forward

8. UNWIN

Forward

9. FAIRHURST

Forward

10. OAKLEY

Forward

11. WOODS

Forward

12. STOCK

Forward

13. SHERRINGTON

Reserve: GRIFFIN



Referee: J. EDDEN (Swinton)

Forward

13. SADLER

Forward

12. ASHWORTH

Forward

11. CLAYTON

Forward

10. HODGSON

Forward

9. SCAIFE

Forward

8. READ

Out Half Back

6. REYNOLDS

Scrum Half Back

7. GIVVONS

Left Wing Three-gr.

5. FORSHAW

Left Centre Three-gr.

4. STEPHENS

Right Centre Three-gr.

3. BARDSLEY

Right Wing Three-gr.

2. TAYLOR

Full Back

1. REES (Captain)

Reserve: THOMAS

No money will be refunded



OLDHAM(8)

Cherry and White

Alterations in the line-up will be shown on the Indicator Board.

H.T. 7.8.

SCORERS.

MALONEY 1 TRY.

OAKLEY 2 GOALS.

SCORERS.

STEPHENS 1 TRY.

TAYLOR 1 "

REES 1 GOAL

Ourselves

SALFORD'S FIRST LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DEFEAT HIGHFIELD'S HIGH DISTINCTION

A month ago to have even suggested that London Highfield would be capable of being the first Lancashire club to defeat Salford, the leaders of the Rugby League, would in the North have been received with hoots of derision.

Circumstances over which they had no control compelled our visitors to field a weakened side. To ourselves, equally with Salford, this was a matter of extreme regret. Maybe our task to successfully hold the leader's strongest thirteen would have proved extremely difficult, but improbable happenings are the charm of the game and London Highfield since the second month of the season has amply demonstrated to friend and foe that their challenge calls for the best from the strongest opposition.

Forwards at Full Strength

Salford are unquestionably the most polished and strongest club organisation playing Rugby League football to-day. And if I agree that much of their power rests with the back division more than a moderate amount of praise must also be given to their forwards. Clever and forceful backs need the ball to demonstrate their skill, and Salford's wonderful sequence of overwhelming victories are due to the effective resource of backs and forwards alike. And to those who desire to detract from the merit of our last week's success, let me state that the Salford forward section at the White City was practically at full strength.

Weakness in Finishing

Our team should have taken a commanding lead in the first quarter and would have overcome even the masterly defence of our visitors had the opportunities which were forthcoming been marked by capable finishing power.

Once again there was the old weakness of moderate positioning and a lack of quick thinking initiative. Failings not impossible to remedy if our several units realise the value of capable supporting methods which lead to that team spirit necessary to overcome the leading sides of the Rugby League. We successfully held the strong Salford forwards and it would be an injustice to the several reserve backs who gallantly filled the vacancies due to the absence of the stars to question the quality of their defence.

What the Linesman Said

Suffice it to say that London Highfield would have greatly welcomed the opportunity to receive and make the greatest endeavour to master their formidable rivals without the challengers' handicap of absentees. The match throughout abounded in spectacular incident, and though the bitter wind was a detrimental factor to accurate handling, there was no lack of thrills in this respect.

On the touch-line was an old friend of mine, the Rev. Frank H. Chambers, once a playing member of Huddersfield, but perhaps better

known as a great referee. He paid Highfield the compliment of stating that they had played fine football and that the game had been much above the average. From this source the tribute is more than an encouragement for our players to persevere in their efforts to remedy slight defects in attack, which once overcome, will bring victories over teams of like reputation to Salford.

Equal Points in League

Our task to-night will be another great test of constructive ability. Our challengers have in their last three games recorded fourteen tries against eight, and though their record is little superior to ours, their methods are of the spectacular type, which call for extra effort from opponents.

The sides commence the game with equal points in the Lancashire League and a home success would enable London Highfield to recover some of the lost ground. At last season's contest at Wigan, Highfield only yielded by 1 goal 2 tries to 2 tries. This is not an impossible margin to overcome.

This will be our last programme before the holidays and I take the opportunity of wishing our members and patrons a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Likewise to our players and officials.

England's Test Record

THREE VICTORIES IN ONE SERIES

By FRED A. MARSH.

If this season's Tests with the Australians have not given complete satisfaction to those who desire to witness constructive football from teams representative of their respective countries, the game which on Saturday decreed that the tourists must for the first time in history, return home without a solitary Test success, enhanced the reputation of victors and vanquished.

I have witnessed all the 16 games played in this country and though some have been more exhilarating, the third and last Test of 1933 series provided football satisfying to a degree.

Many aver that the better team lost. To this view I cannot altogether subscribe and prefer to sum up my observations by stating that it was a very near thing and that victory went to England, because our threequarters were the more capable finishers.

Thrilling Finish in Last Test

Each team went desperately near scoring several more tries. The most spectacular movements in the many England attacks sent Stanley Smith over with a try in which the final transfer was adjudged and Australia lost a certainty when Hey, who throughout played a dazzling game, beat Sullivan, had a clear field and was brought down from behind by the alert Risman.

The lead fluctuated to a remarkable extent—Australia 3 points ahead at the conclusion of the first quarter. England, 5 in front ten minutes prior to the interval, and Australia in the lead one minute after the

resumption. England level in 43 minutes, the lead secured in 48 minutes and Australia only one point behind with eight minutes to go. A great game and a great thrilling finish.

All Close Results

The records of this season's Tests are:—

	ENGLAND			AUSTRALIA		
	Goals	Tries	Pts.	Goals	Tries	Pts.
First at Manchester	2	0	4	0	0	0
Second at Leeds	2	1	7	1	1	5
Third at Swinton	5	3	19	5	2	16
	9	4	30	6	3	21

Australia has not won a Test but England has had very little to spare. To date the Test records are:—

Matches played 33—England won 20; Australia 10 and 3 drawn. Points for England, 371. Points for Australia, 367.

Stop Press

Northern's Acquisition

T. Winnard, the St. Helen's centre-threequarter was last Saturday transferred to Bradford Northern at a fee of £375. Winnard is a local product and has kicked 21 goals and scored 10 tries this season.

Each Had Five

The leading goal-kickers, Sullivan for England and Brown for Australia, each had five successes in the Third Test match at Swinton. Sullivan's total now stands at 77 and Brown's 88.

Abandoned Games

Fog played havoc in the North with football last Saturday. The Rochdale Hornets—Swinton match was abandoned 10-2 in favour of the home side after 70 minutes play. At Featherstone, the Rovers were leading Wigan 8-6 when the game was stopped after 61 minutes. The receipts at the latter match were £18.

Ill-luck for Rochdale

The League Management Committee have power to declare all games of less than 80 minutes' duration no League match. Swinton's first visit to Rochdale last season was also abandoned short of time with the Hornets leading 5-2. In the reply Swinton won 7-0.

Forty Games in Three Days

The Rugby League's Christmas holiday programme provides for forty matches in three days. Not much of the festive season atmosphere for the players, but they receive some compensation for the over work by the payment for each match rule.

Test Player Injured

Mills, the speedy Australian winger of the Huddersfield Club, sustained a fractured rib in the game with York at Fartown. Emlyn Jenkins, the Salford half-back, playing in his first Test had the misfortune to fracture a wrist bone. This may prevent his appearance at Wembley and Paris.

Ralph for Wembley

Should Jenkins be unable to appear for Wales against the Australians, his place will be taken by A. R. Ralph, the former Newport player, who has appeared for Wales (R.U.) in six Internationals in 1931 and 1932. Ralph went to Leeds this season.

The Reserve for Paris

Todd, the Hunslet and Yorkshire outside half-back, will fill the probable vacancy in the England side at Paris. He has scored 15 tries for the Parkside team this season.

All Three Tests

Mr. Frank Peel, the Bradford referee who officiated in the Australian match at White City, again controlled the third Test match. Like a fellow townsman, Mr. Bob Robinson, he now has the distinction of having officiated in three Tests in one season. Mr. Robinson, however, holds the record with the additional fourth Test at Rochdale in 1930.

A Dual Record

Beverley, the Hunslet and Yorkshire loose forward, scored his club's only try in the drawn game at Wakefield. In the second half he was ordered off the field for alleged misconduct.

Three Stars on Transfer

The St. Helens' Club caused the sensation of the season by placing three leading players in Ellaby, Hardgrave and Griffin on the "open to transfer list." The necessity for this extreme decision is stated to be the poor support the Knowsley Road club is receiving this season.

One Thousand Pounds for Ellaby

Hardgrave is a New Zealander who has scored 14 tries this season, including the "hat trick" against Broughton Rangers last Saturday. The transfer fee asked is £1,200. Ellaby is one of the outstanding wing threequarters in the code and is valued at £1,000.

Griffin, an Irish forward, can be had at £450.

Test Gate Slump

The ambition of the Australian tourists to equal or beat the receipts of the 1929-1930 tour was shattered by the fog on Saturday. The attendance at Swinton was 11,000 and the takings £1,515 14s. 6d. The corresponding gate of the last tour was £4,186 14s. 9d., with an attendance record of 34,209.

£7,800 Behind

To take the official gross receipts for the 31 matches played are £29,063 15s. 11d. a total of £7,800 behind the 1929-30 completed returns. Five more games, including the Paris match remain in the official itinerary, but probably two additional matches will be played.

White City Receipts

The Australians are very gratified with the support received from their visit to White City. The gross gate of £1,007 16s. 10d. compares very favourably with the five other four-figure receipts from club matches.

Welsh Stars at Wembley

Isaac, the Leeds loose forward, who is in the Welsh team to oppose the Australians at Wembley on Saturday week, will be remembered by

STOP PRESS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Rugby enthusiasts of the metropolis for his fine display this year at Twickenham.

Jack Morley in Town

Other Welsh International stars on view will be Jack Morley, fourteen appearance for Wales, and Norman Fender (six times capped), with Gwyn Davies first reserve. Not to mention "Candy" Evans, the great forward, who played for Wales nine years ago.

League Tables

NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
SALFORD	16	14	2	0	28
YORK	18	13	5	0	26
WARRINGTON	18	13	5	0	26
HULL	19	12	5	2	26
HUNSLET	18	12	5	1	25
LEEDS	16	11	5	0	22
HALIFAX	17	11	6	0	22
WIDNES	17	9	5	3	21
ST. HELENS	16	10	6	0	20
OLDHAM	15	9	5	1	19
WAKEFIELD T.	18	9	8	1	19
KEIGHLEY	17	9	7	1	19
CASTLEFORD	17	9	8	0	18
SWINTON	15	9	6	0	18
WIGAN	16	8	8	0	16
ROCHDALE H.	18	8	10	0	16
LONDON HIGHFIELD	17	8	9	0	16
HUDDERSFIELD	19	7	12	0	14
BATLEY	18	7	11	0	14
HULL K. R.	17	7	10	0	14
BRAMLEY	18	7	11	0	14
LEIGH	16	6	9	1	13
BROUGHTON R.	17	6	11	0	12
ST. HELENS RECS.	16	5	10	1	11
DEWSBURY	18	5	12	1	11
BARROW	17	4	13	0	8
BRADFORD NORTHERN	18	3	15	0	6
FEATHERSTONE R.	18	3	15	0	6

LANCASHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE

RESULTS TO DATE	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
SALFORD	10	9	1	0	18
WARRINGTON	13	9	4	0	18
SWINTON	9	6	3	0	12
WIDNES	11	5	4	2	12
ST. HELENS	10	6	4	0	12
HALIFAX	12	6	6	0	12
LEIGH	13	5	7	1	11
LONDON HIGHFIELD	10	5	5	0	10
OLDHAM	10	5	5	0	10
WIGAN	11	5	6	0	10
ST. HELENS RECS.	12	4	7	1	9
ROCHDALE H.	12	4	8	0	8
BARROW	9	3	6	0	6
BROUGHTON R.	10	2	8	0	4

The Rochdale-Swinton abandoned game not included.

Fixtures

						RESULT	
						For	Against
Sat.	Sept.	2nd.	Wigan	Away		11	43
Tues.	"	12th.	Dewsbury	"		18	6
Sat.	"	16th.	Halifax	"		6	21
Wed.	"	20th.	Wakefield	White City Stadium		8	9
Wed.	"	27th.	Wakefield	Away		16	22
Wed.	Oct.	4th.	Halifax	White City Stadium		18	9
Wed.	"	11th.	Rochdale	" " "		9	7
Wed.	"	18th.	Broughton	" " "		15	11
Sat.	"	21st.	Featherstone	Away		18	3
Wed.	"	25th.	" Recs."	White City Stadium		20	12
Sat.	Nov.	4th.	Leeds	Away		7	23
Wed.	"	8th.	Leeds	White City Stadium		3	5
Wed.	"	15th.	Dewsbury	" " "		15	7
Wed.	"	22nd.	Australians	" " "		5	20
Sat.	Dec.	2nd.	Swinton	Away		8	16
Wed.	"	6th.	Warrington	White City Stadium		5	15
Sat.	"	9th.	Warrington	Away		5	8
Wed.	"	13th.	Salford	White City Stadium		15	10
Wed.	"	20th.	Oldham	" " "			
Xmas	Day	25th.	Broughton	Away			
Sat.	"	30th.	Rochdale	"			
Wed.	Jan.	3rd.	Swinton	White City Stadium			
Sat.	"	13th.	Barrow	Away			
Wed.	"	17th.	Widnes	White City Stadium			
Sat.	"	27th.	Oldham	Away			
Wed.	"	31st.	Wigan	White City Stadium			
Wed.	Feb.	14th.	Batley	" " "			
Sat.	"	17th.	Widnes	Away			
Wed.	"	28th.	Featherstone	White City Stadium			
Sat.	Mar.	3rd.	Salford	Away			
Sat.	"	10th.	Batley	"			
Wed.	"	14th.	St. Helens	White City Stadium			
Wed.	"	21st.	Bramley	" " "			
Good Friday	30th.		Bramley	Away			
Wed.	Apl.	4th.	Barrow	White City Stadium			
Sat.	"	7th.	Leigh	Away			
Wed.	"	11th.	Leigh	White City Stadium			
Sat.	"	14th.	St. Helens	Away			

N.B.—October 25th, abbreviation for St. Helens-Recs.

SINGLE POINT DECIDES

OLDHAM'S "SNAP" TRY BEATS HIGHFIELD

London Highfield 7, Oldham 8

A SLIP on the part of Belshaw, the Highfield full-back, and a try by Oldham in less than a minute after the start at the White City Stadium last night paved the way to a Lancashire victory by the narrowest margin of a goal and two tries to two goals and one try.

Now a sound full-back is worth innumerable points in the Rugby League game, and we had an example of that in the kicking and defending of T. E. Rees, the Oldham last line defender, who is an old Welsh R.U. International, of 1929.

He alone often stood between Highfield and victory, his kicking was of perfect length, and he so often turned defence into attack that the Oldham backs must have been thankful indeed.

Kicking again played a big part in the final turn of the game, for five minutes from the close Oakley—who usually gets all the Highfield goals—had the chance of a lifetime to bring victory to his side.

Oldham were penalised for offside in their own "25," and the kick looked easy. It was well-nigh perfect as the shot left Oakley's boot, but to the consternation of the home crowd, the ball hit the outside of a post, and Oldham were safe.

Highfield's three-quarter line, Walker, Maloney, Hunter and Haigh, did well up to a point—they made ground, but refused in the end to make use of each other. There was also a distinct defensive weakness on the left, where both the Oldham tries were obtained.

These came in the first minute through Stephens, and after 20 minutes' play, when Taylor crossed wide out for Rees to do his side a service by landing a fine, long shot from the touch line. Oakley then had three shots at goal in the space of three minutes, but only his third attempt succeeded.

Just before half-time Maloney cleverly got the Highfield try, after Unwin had paved the way, and Oakley goaling, the interval score of 8—7 proved in the end to be the result of an even but not spectacular game.

The Highfield pack once again distinguished itself, not only by getting the ball fairly regularly—too often for the backs, as it proved—but by harrying the Oldham eight in the loose.

Had Highfield had a fly-half of international class, they must have won, for times without number Gordon got the ball from a scrum, and with a clear field there was nothing to stop Highfield.

K. McMILLAN.