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Rugby League

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## OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

# Oldham v. Batley

Monday, JANUARY 2nd, 1939.

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

### CLUB CHAT.

The festive season has not been too kind to us, both from a playing and financial point of view. To commence with, in our game against Broughton Rangers at Belle Vue, we were beaten fore and aft and were somewhat fortunate to come away with the score against us so light. On Boxing Day the financial calamity arrived when our match against Swinton could not be played owing to fog. This must mean a loss of roughly £500 to us, as whenever we now play the match we cannot expect anything like the "gate" we usually receive against Swinton. The ground was playable and had received great preparation by extra labour which we had to enrol for snow shifting and putting straw on and off. However one must face the future with confidence and our hope now is to re-coup some of this loss by a good run in the Cup-ties which commence February 4th, 1939. Our match against Rochdale Hornets last Tuesday was far from a thrilling encounter, and judging from our game at Rochdale on October 15th last, when we won by 33 points to nil, either the Hornets have improved considerably or we have gone stale. I am afraid the latter applies most, our team appears to do nothing right at the right time, penetration down the middle is sadly lacking and the whole short, sharp passing machinery of our backs has disappeared completely. Nobody but the players are more conscious of this failure and a little success on the field would re-habituate that confidence which

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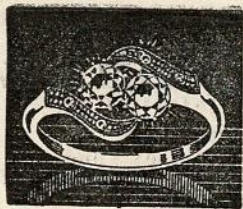
Just off Lees Road, near Glodwick Road Station.

they had but a few weeks ago. Casting one's mind back to the Hunslet and Hull matches at Watersheddings which were splendid exhibitions of good, open football proves that the personnel of players at the disposal of the Committee are capable of repeating such football. However, this being the first match of the new year, 1939, I hope we turn the corner with a good victory over our foes from Batley and to offer something to enthuse about to our patrons.

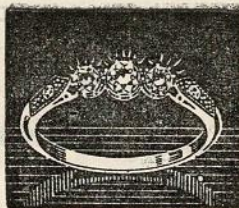
There is one stalwart playing to-day who made his first appearance for our club on January 1st, 1926, against Hull, his name is John Read. A product of Army football, the 1st Gloucester Regiment, also played rigger for Cinderford and Gloucester and five games for Gloucester County. A native of a little old-world village of Longhope, tucked away in the Wye Valley, ten miles from the city of Gloucester, Read was approached by one of our club's admirers who lives Gloucester way, Sid Dean by name (what memories in the name) with a view to joining Oldham. John had no hesitation in coming to Oldham to talk matters over, and gave a private trial on a snow covered cricket field along with Sid Rix as "trial horse." The same evening, December 22nd, 1925, Read and the club came to terms and an agreement which neither side has ever regretted was entered into. Read was on the line, ready for emergency, but did not play, in the English Rugby Union trial match at Bath on December 18th, 1925.

**OUR VISITORS.**

To-day our visitors are Batley, and although we did not meet in the league tournament last season, we have much to remember of the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup at home against them on February 19th last, when we lost by the last kick of the match by a dropped goal, making the score eight points to seven in their favour. We hope that nothing like that will happen to-day.



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### TEAMS.

#### OLDHAM

Red and White Jerseys.

1. Turner, J. F.
2. Hodkisson, W. J. C.
3. Lowe, E. E. K.
4. Mitchell, W.
5. Macrae, G.
6. Downey, M. J.
7. Smith, A. R.
8. Read, J. (capt.)
9. Brooks, E.
10. Moore, W. J.
11. Ambler, H. D.
12. Greenwood, T.
13. Elson, F.
- Ashworth, F.

#### BATLEY

Blue Jerseys.

1. Bennett, F.
2. Williams, C.
3. Thomas, R. E.
4. Nunn, H. Y.
5. Knowles, R. J.
6. Blackburn, E.
7. Ralph, A. R.
8. Rhodes, J.
9. Hall, J.
10. Sparkes, S. S.
11. Hudson, W.
12. Farrar, H.
14. Brown, G. S.

Referee:—Mr J. F. ARMSTRONG, Huddersfield.  
Touch Judges: Messrs. G. Ireland and T. Moran.

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**WHO'S WHO IN OUR VISITORS.**

**Bennett**, full-back, commenced his career with the old Wigan Highfield club, and has seen service with Barrow. Age 28, 5' 10", 12st. 2 lbs.

**Williams**, wing three-quarter, a Welshman, had service with Streatham and Mitcham and Castleford prior to joining Batley, a fast wing.

**Thomas**, centre, secured last season from Halifax, age 25, 5' 9", 12st. 2lbs.

**Nunn**, centre or wing, native of Mirfield, a good, fast penetrative player. Age 27, 6' 1", 13st.

**Knowles**, wing, a recent addition this season, a Cornish County man, been unfortunate with injuries.

**Cecil**, half-back, a former Halifax player, age 25, 5' 9", 11st. 3lbs.

**Ralph**, half-back, secured from Leeds, played for Newport R.U. prior to coming North. Age 29, 5' 7", 10st.

**Targett**, forward, a Welshman, had service with Dewsbury, Wigan and Bradford.



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**HOLLINWOOD**

**Hall**, hooker, County man, returned to his old club after a period with Leeds. Age 32, 5' 10", 14st. 3lbs.

**Sparkes**, forward, previously with Halifax, a Welshman. Age 27, 6', 12st. 7lbs.

**Hudson**, forward, comes from a good nursery, Charlston, a good handler of a ball. Age 21, 5' 10", 13st. 2lbs.

**Foley**, forward, a native of Batley, age 27, 5' 10", 13st. 11b.

**Brown**, loose forward, a Rugby Union convert from Morley, good goal kicker. Age 23, 5' 9", 14st. 7 lbs.

**MEMS.**

Alex Givvons' injured ankle is now recovering splendidly. He attends Oldham Royal Infirmary each day for treatment and we hope for an early return to activity on the field.

The gate receipts of the games between Hull Kingston Rovers v. Hull, and Hull City v. New Brighton, played on Boxing Day, were pooled between the three Hull clubs, being equally divided after each club had deducted entertainment tax. This such pooling between rugby and soccer must be unique, but it demonstrates the good feeling that exists in Hull between the two codes. The rugby game was a morning kick-off.

Below we give comparisons of our position in the league table for the last three years, up to, and including Christmas matches for the period.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.	Pos.
Dec. 26th, 1936.	20	11	8	1	23	12
Dec. 26th, 1937.	18	11	6	1	23	6
Dec. 27th, 1938.	20	9	10	1	19	15

**HALF-YEARLY MEMBERS' CARDS.**

Half-yearly members' cards are now on sale and can be obtained from the Secretary's Office in the pavilion. Prices as follows:—

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## HALF-TIME SCORES.

The Half-time Scores in the Matches given below will be shown on the Score Board immediately they are received.

<b>A</b> SWINTON	<b>D</b> HALIFAX
<b>A</b> SALFORD	<b>D</b> LEEDS
<b>B</b> ROCHDALE HORNETS	<b>E</b> BARROW
<b>B</b> HUDDERSFIELD	<b>E</b> WARRINGTON
<b>C</b> WIGAN	<b>F</b> ST. HELENS RECS.
<b>C</b> YORK	<b>F</b> ST. HELENS

NOTE.—It is desired that the Advertisers in this programme should receive every support from the members of the Oldham Football Club.

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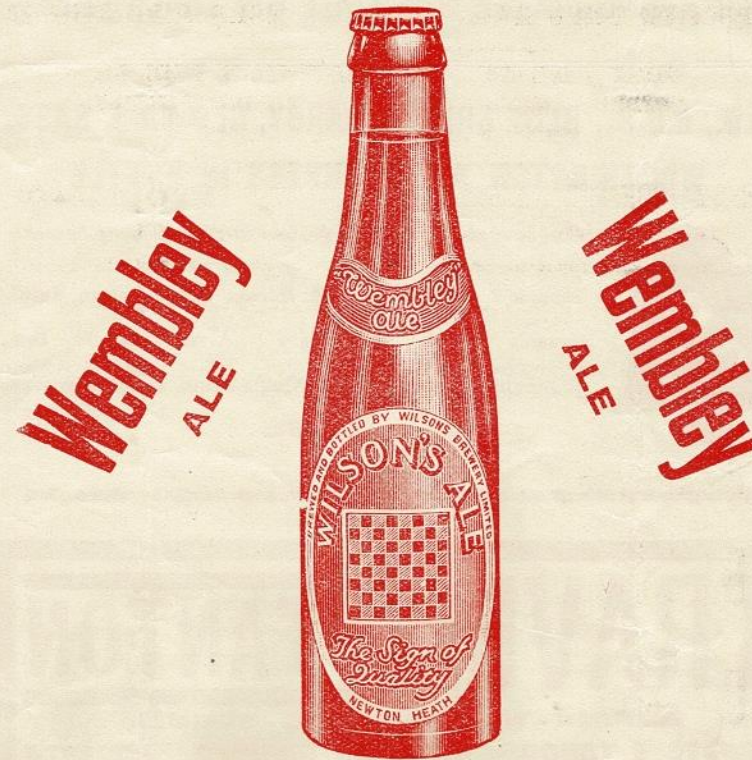
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