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FOOTBALL CLUB**

Rugby League

**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE H.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st, 1947.

KICK-OFF 2-30 P.M.

CLUB CHAT

A very successful Festive Season has been spent by our team from a playing view, and it is many years since we secured 100 per cent. wins from our holiday fixtures.

Our match against Swinton on Xmas Day, played under unfavourable weather conditions, was a worthy victory, but the receipts of £467 was considerably below the previous year of £705.

As previously stated, the weather conditions might have had an effect on this reduction of the receipts, but one must also take into consideration our soccer friends, Athletic, were playing at home. My opinion of both premier teams of this town playing at home on a holiday fixture is one of misfortune, both clubs require all the money they can get, and some way will have to be sought to avoid this in future, possibly by agreement each club could take its turn in playing a morning match. Much controversy has and will take place regarding that the sporting public of Oldham is large enough to support both codes, but that is not enough when both teams are playing at home.

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I have friends who, whilst supporters of this club, and even members, visit Boundary Park when our team is playing away, and no doubt the position is the same from the soccer friends.

And so the position remains, and I think nothing could be lost by a mutual arrangement to avoid this clashing of holiday fixtures, which would in the long run be beneficial to both clubs. Time alone brings along changes and with the advent of a working week of five days for all, we may possibly see sporting events being staged in the morning and afternoon of Saturday.

The Challenge Cup.

The draw for the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup will be made at Leeds, on Wednesday, January 8th, at 1-45 p.m.

Every club that goes in the hat will be hoping for luck, for success in the cup means also financial success and the final reward and honour of appearing at Wembley. The first round will be played February 8th and February 15th on a home and away basis, all other rounds are on one match basis, first club out of hat to have choice of ground.

Second Round - - - March 1st.

Third Round - - - March 15th.

Semi-finals - - - March 29th.

Final - - - May 3rd.

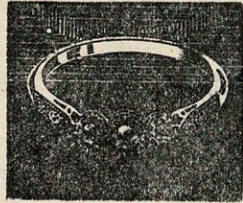
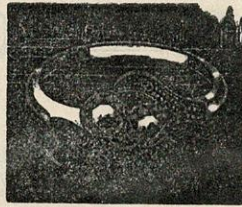
Much activity prevails amongst clubs for the strengthening of weak positions and during the month one may expect

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BY ENTHUSIASTS

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RIGHT

Red & White **OLDHAM** Jerseys

LEFT

1—GRIFFITHS, W.
2—INGLESFIELD, S. 3—GUMMER, G. 4—MAHONEY, J. B. 5—LARGE, E. DOUGHTY, V. J.
7—SMITH, R. A. 6—HARRIS, N.
AYRES, T.
13—THOMAS, L.
11—SHAW, J. D. 12—PUGH, N.
8—OGDEN, H. 9—BROOKS E./FROST, W. 10—MOORE, W. J.

Referee—
MR. F. FAIRHURST
of Wigan



Touch Judges—
C. C. SNOWDEN and
M. CARMODY

10—DAVIES, T. 9—DEAN, J. 8—WAGSTAFF, F.
12—JOEL, R. 11—FLETCHER, W.
13—FEARNLEY, A.
7—LORD, W. 6—BROGDEN, S.
5—MOLYNEUX, J. 4—LOWERY, R. 3—OXLEY, W. 2—NICHOLSON, W.
1—MOLYNEUX, R.

LEFT

Blue **ROCHDALE H.** Jerseys

RIGHT

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WINES AND SPIRITS

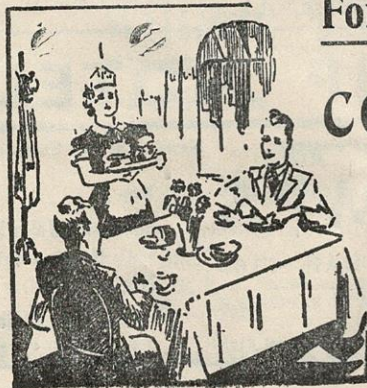
to see many Rugby Union men joining the professional code and also transfers from club to club. Many surprises will take place and may create consternation amongst club supporters, but such is the way of doing things and the uncertainty which many clubs move.

Our latest information regarding N. S. Mitchell, Centre, who is still in H.M. Forces, that he is now due for demobilisation on January 15th, so we may expect to have his services for the cup-ties.

Injured Players.

One is pleased to see Tom Rostron strolling about after a successful operation for appendicitis, but some time will elapse before he is ready for action again.

Frank Wilkinson, one of our wing-three-quarters, has now resumed work after seven weeks lay-up through a broken fore-arm, and is resuming training.



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OLDHAM

Fred Elson and S. Griffiths, forwards, are still awaiting operation for the removal of cartilage, but hopes are now more favourable for accommodation in a nursing home early this month for the removal of the cartilage.

The holiday fixtures have brought the usual injuries to players with so many matches in space of a few days.

Dai Rees and Vin. Kenny are our only players out of the team through injuries. Both are progressing and hope to return in a week or so.

Foul Play.

The Rugby League Authority have now declared the "stiff arm tackle" illegal. This vicious so-called tackle is the arm extended at a player in possession of the ball at the neck or above, and now constitutes a blow, and must be dealt with by the referee by instant dismissal from the field.

Many serious injuries have happened by this unsporting tackle and the remedy is now with the players to obviate it, otherwise very severe suspensions will be issued to any player who is guilty of such conduct on the field.

Mems.

The collection on Xmas Day, for the benefit fund of Norman Pugh realized the sum of £53 16s. 3d., a splendid contribution.

The benefit match will be played on Tuesday evening, 22nd April, 1947. Kick-off 6-15 p.m., between Jim Sullivan's International team against Oldham.

Further particulars of this match will be issued nearer the time of the match.

A collection will be made at to-day's match for the Ground Reconstruction Fund. Much money is required for the completion of the new stands, so please give generously.

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OWN PARKING GROUND

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	WIGAN v. WAKEFIELD	D	ST. HELENS v. LIVERPOOL
B	SWINTON v. SALFORD	E	LEIGH v. BATLEY
C	BELLE VUE RAN. v. YORK	F	OLDHAM ATH. v. HALIFAX

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