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OLDHAM v. BRAMLEY

SATURDAY. APRIL 21st, 1951
KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.

Watersheddings News & Views.

It was unfortunate that our scrum half, H. Goodfellow, failed to catch his train connection at Leeds for Barrow on Saturday last, and we can put the major portion of the defeat down to not playing a regular scrum half; we are of the opinion that had Goodfellow played a different story could have been told as to the game at Barrow. Our team tried hard but the deficiency was obvious in the pivot of scrum half and the experience that was lacking to open out the game.

Our game at Leigh on Monday evening was also a great disappointment, as on the day's play we were definitely the better team and had most of the play. We were leading five points to nil ten minutes from time and our opponents scored the winning points in the last two minutes of the match. If ever a visiting team deserved to win, this was the match, but we hope that our team will not be discouraged by this result, and to-day will see a return to winning sequence and a little more luck on our side.

Our Visitors.

To-day we entertain Bramley, who what we may call are not regular visitors to Watersheddings, and we extend to them a welcome. The Bramley club have struggled on for over seventy-two years without having won a single trophy or championship. Always they have fought and faced keen competition in the Leeds district, but they are optimistic and have plans of modernising their ground as well as a further scheme of building a stadium capable of holding 60,000 spectators. The club has never lacked spirit. Bramley players work on a win, draw or lose scale, which compares favourably with the best in the league, and amongst them are men whose services would certainly be welcomed elsewhere. Instead of the old custom of realising on potential stars, the official policy now is to build and keep a side together for the future. In recent years the Bramley club have produced some good players and as long as the continue to do so the calibre of the club will be sure of a worthy place in Leeds and district Rugby football.

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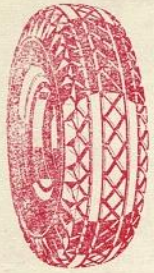
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12 EDDISON	11 BALDWIN			
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D WIDNES
v.
SWINTON

B SALFORD
v.
WARRINGTON

E ROCHDALE
v.
WHITEHAVEN

C WIGAN
v.
WORKINGTON

F BELLE VUE
v.
CASTLEFORD

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The Rugby League Combination.

Our Club is making strenuous efforts to aid the revival of the Rugby League Combination, and all clubs in the Rugby League have been circularised on this subject. Slow but steady progress is being made and so far support from eight Lancashire clubs and three Yorkshire clubs has been promised. It can be taken that all Lancashire clubs will be in favour, as the Lancashire section has been in favour of the revival of the Rugby League Combination for the past three years. There appears to be in some quarters a misunderstanding as to what the Rugby League Combination means. It is not necessary that all "A" teams in Lancashire and Yorkshire are going to join the Combination; of course more clubs the better the competition. In the season 1939-40 all fixtures were allocated but the war intervened and the competition has not functioned since. The teams that comprised the League were as follows—Lancashire—Barrow, Oldham, St. Helens, Salford, Swinton, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan; Yorkshire—Bradford, Castleford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Hunslet, Leeds, and Wakefield.

Each Lancashire club played three Yorkshire clubs home and away or *vice versa* as the case may be.

All the above Lancashire and Yorkshire clubs played each other in the respective sections, plus the formula of three matches, making twenty combination matches for each club.

The Rugby League Combination must not be confused with the respective Lancashire Combination and the Yorkshire Senior Competition; these two leagues would still be in operation, and still be competitive. In our opinion too little interest is taken by senior clubs in the running of "A" teams, which must be the stepping-stone for aspiring players to secure first team status. Many "A" teams are run at a loss financially, but if one star player per season is made from the "A" team, then the club is more than recompensed for the financial outlay. Ready-made players of first team ability cost a lot of money nowadays and it is only by efforts in encouraging juniors, who through their own ability and good coaching, the will and the spirit to make good through "A" team football, will clubs secure that financial security and stability that is necessary in football finance to-day.

R. E. HARRISON

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