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WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

TO-DAY sees the unofficial opening of Season 1952-53 when we stage the annual charity match against Rochdale Hornets. All teams view the coming season with optimism, all cannot be successful, some may show an improvement on the past playing, others a depreciation.

Alteration in the Laws of the Game come along each season and the main one this season is "play the ball rule," and to a lesser degree, the forward pass being ruled by the receiver as an offside player. Success of a team will depend on the tactics adopted in "play the ball rule." Will it be more conducive to open play or a detriment to it? Time alone will prove this. A major portion of the R. L. teams employ coaches and it will be interesting to view the methods an the moves that will be adopted by various clubs.

The close season has been one of quietness in regard to the signing of new players an transfer of players. What is the reason for this? Is it a tightness of ready money and the players who are on offer being on the way out of their football career.

The ban on the signing of Australian and New Zealand players, Rugby League and Uuion, must have an effect on some clubs who are now

festering the Junior R. L. Clubs as a ways and means of supplementing their playing staff in the future. This is a step in the right direction and should be taken up by all senior Rugby League Clubs. The international of the future is the boy playing junior or schoolboy football. Without being disrespectful to the Union players (and there are some great players in this game who have no desire to play our game) a glance through the names of the players who have represented this country in our over-seas tours will show that 75% of the personnel have been reared through Junior R.L. football. By all means, let us give more support and financial backing to the R. L. Junior movement, they are our main supply for future players.

All charity matches, an there are several being played to-day, are subject to R. L. Bye Law, which states that after the deduction of tax and expenses o the match, the preceeds are equally divided between the contesting clubs, who must then allocate 60% to the Junior League movement in their respective districts and the balance to any approved charities. We, therefore, hope that to-day's receipts will be worthy of a good distribution for a good cause.

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 - 11. WINSLADE, C.
 - 12. LITTLE, S. D.
- 13. GOLDSWAIN, B. V. (Capt.) Reserves:

Warham, J., Tomlinson, A.

H. Hyde, Manchester (Red Flag) E. Cunningham, Widnes (Blue Flag)

ALES ROCHDALE HORNETS

Red. White & Blue

- 1. CAHILL, E.
- 2. REDFORD, W.
- 3. McGILVARY, J. R.
- 4. HARRIS, N. (Captain)
- 5. STANFORD, RON.
- 6. TAYLOR, A.
- 7. HELME, R.
- 8. MITCHELL, F.
- 9. DAGNALL, R.
- 10. FISHER, R.
- 11. SCHOFIELD, D.
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OUT OF THE GAME!

It is with regret that we report that the re-occurance of the knee injury to **John Sugden** will finish his career as a player of this Club. John has played in two trial games this season and his form has been good, but the knee has not stood up to the test.

Two operations on the knee have failed to cure the trouble, and so passes out of the game a player of distinct promise, a loss to himself and the club—Hard luck, John.

GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Much time and money has been spent during the close season on the appointments of our ground. Painting which was a necessity, shelters for the trainers and the temporary repair of 'C' Stand or 'penny rush.' A permit of the purchase of steel to repair this stand in its entirety was refused and we must thank the local authorities for their help and suggestions to put into effect temporary repairs so that we can use the lower portion of the stand this season. Semi concrete steps on the terracing on

part of the ground have been made in full steps which will add to the comfort of those who stand, and it is the intention to complete the whole of the terraces within the next twelve months in this manner.

INCREASED ADMITTANCE

The charges to attend our matches have increased in price as in all other out-door sport. The 1/6 minimum admittance is the Bye-Law of the R. L. and other increases have been forced upon us by the large increase in Entertainment Duty. On some charges we gain slightly and on others we lose, but taken all round, we receive the same net return after payment of Entertainment Duty as last season.



HALF TIME SCORES

The Half Time Scores of the Matches given below will be shown on the Score Board immediately they are received

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