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Nº 3512

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OLD RIVALS RETURN

THERE has always been keen rivalry between Oldham, our visitors this afternoon (weather permitting) and ourselves. Thoughts wander to the time when Warrington beat Oldham in the final of the R.L. challenge cup many years ago, of the 1921 final of the Lancashire Challenge Cup when Warrington won the trophy for the first time ever at the old Broughton Rangers ground, Warrington playing for most of the second half with 12 men, Collins being injured.

Then in the post war struggles there have been meetings between the clubs in some of the later rounds of the Lancashire Challenge Cup and also the R.L. cup. Few who saw the match at Watersheddings are likely to forget the

dramatic change of events on the extreme weather conditions. Oldham were leading by a slight margin and then in swept Brian Bevan for a fine interception in his own half. He raced to the posts and the goal-kick was a mere formality. This was in 1954 when Warrington went to Wembley, made a draw with Halifax and then lifted the cup at the replay at Odsal Stadium, Bradford.

But of course the winning hand has not always been held by Warrington, in fact Oldham have won at Wilderspool and they defeated an experimental Wire side most convincingly at Watersheddings this season. It was not long after that set back that the Warrington Directors decided to make strong efforts to obtain the signature

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of Charlie Winslade, the Welshman who had been on the books of the Oldham club for quite a time. We were successful and now Charlie is a popular member of our pack.

There have been other links between the clubs, and one recalls the time when quite a few Warrington born lads have assisted the Oldham teams, including Arthur Tomlinson, a sturdy forward of post war seasons. Tomlinson played some hard games for the Oldhamers, and eventually he decided to go abroad. Before we pass from the keen games we have had with Oldham, one must not forget that Championship final of a few years ago when Warrington won a tenacious tussle at Maine Road, Manchester, the game being played in a mud bath. Pictures of this famous game have been recently published, and the mud caked Warrington team of that time are featured in the book *Rugby Revels*.

The present day Oldham side is quite formidable although it has to be agreed that it will take a sturdy effort to get back to the first four. However there have been some changes at Watersheddings over the last 12 months. Gus Risman, the manager

has departed while Alan Davies, in whom Warrington were keenly interested is now at Wigan and doing quite well. Charlie Winslade is now with another ex-Oldhamer, Terry O'Grady our chief try getter, while Roger Dufty has also gone to another club.

Still there are some outstanding personalities. Geoff Sims, is following in the footsteps of Bernard Ganley as an exceptional goal-kicker and is well up in the league list. He is also a fine attacker, and is well on the way to honours in other directions. Scrum-half Frank Pitchford has played many fine games against Warrington sides in the past, and he is now helping in the coaching of the team following the departure of Gus Risman. On his day there are few if any half-backs to beat Frank.

Bird, the ex-Welsh policeman, Keith Holden of Leigh and Wigan fame, Alan Kellett, Johnny Noon and forwards Geoff Robinson, and Johnny Rae are players of exceptional merit, in fact the Oldham side has now settled down to better form and everyone at Oldham is keen to see that former glories are re-captured.

What of ourselves? Well it has been

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a period of gloom over the fixture postponements, although nearly every club has now a back log of games to re-arrange. We have the Leeds, Barrow, Wigan, Leigh matches to play. It will be remembered that as far as Leeds are concerned they were engaged in the Yorkshire Cup battle at a time when they should have appeared at Wilderspool. The cluttering up of fixtures is a hard blow to R.L. football and the end result is that it will affect the league placings of quite a number of clubs. There is little anyone can do at the moment about frozen grounds.

We are delighted to see Jim Challinor and Peter Donoghue fully recovered from their cartilage operations. It is rather remarkable that each player should have the same complaint—an "outside" cartilage being damaged. It is unusual to have one player suffering from this complaint, but two is quite exceptional, so it is said by the medical men. Writing of operations everyone is hoping that Tony Davies, our popular prop forward, who hails from local football, and Tom Baynam the young hooker from Widnes,

will soon be out and about again. They entered the Warrington Infirmary this week. Tony has cartilage trouble and Tom is having an operation on his shoulder.

MR ANDERTON

CANDIDATE FOR TOUR

It will have been noted from the Press that Mr R. F. Anderton, a member of the Board of Directors is among the candidates for the position of Great Britain team's Manager of the Tour to Australia and New Zealand during the summer. Mr Anderton has been a manager of two previous Tours and created a great impression on each occasion.

Mr Anderton, who has held every possible position in the Rugby League world, and has been associated with the game since 1919, recently returned from a holiday in Australia. We sincerely hope that the club will again have an official in charge of the party, and also that several of our players will be accompanying him. Incidentally on one of the tours, Mr Anderton was accompanied by an Oldham stalwart official of the past, the late Mr G. F. Hutchins.

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ST. HELENS

This week the club signed a promising centre threequarter from the Swinton area. He is only 17 but has been giving great satisfaction with the "A" team. The name—keep it before you because he looks like going places—is Brian Hindley, who soon showed exceptional form when playing with the Folly Lane (Swinton) amateur team. This team has headquarters close to the Swinton Football Ground at Station Road. Brian is well built for his age, being 5ft. 10ins. and weighs 12 stone 6 lbs. Other clubs including Swinton were most interested in his future. So the Warrington scouting team have done quite well to secure his signature.

## Forthcoming Matches at Wilderspool

January 13th

**Warrington v.  
Huddersfield**

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

January 20th

**Warrington "A" v.  
St. Helens "A"**

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## THOSE FROSTY DAYS

(by a Special Correspondent)

A huge brown paper parcel remained unopened in the secretary's office. It was not an unwanted seasonable gift, but a matter of a few thousand printed programmes for a match which would not be played, and except for two or three file copies, the remainder were useless.

It was the same in other areas. The frost had won and Rugby League clubs had lost—to the tune of a hundred pounds or so. The printer's bill will have to be met; the newspaper and poster advertising accounts cannot be scrapped and those meat pies and sandwiches from the tea bars went to the waste bin.

Now this sort of thing has happened far too often, but RL clubs appear to be gluttons for punishment. Of course, this season's weather has been abnormal, particularly that over the festive season. There is one way out—a close season. It must come sooner or later.

The R.L. finds itself in almost the same position as in the 1946-7 season

when "no game today" notices were all too frequent in the three counties where the professional handling game is played. There was nothing the R.L. Council could do but to extend the season to June, and that's when the championship took place at Maine Road, Manchester.

### TOUR TRIALS

This season there are 36 games on the fixture list instead of the normal 38. But this is cancelled out as far as an easier campaign is concerned for quite a number of players will be called upon to take part in the tour trials. I presume that there will be a couple, which in all fairness should take place as far as the tour candidates are concerned.

Clubs say they cannot afford to spray the pitches with straw because of the cost of this farm produce, transport and the covering, uncovering and recovering of the ground by paid labour.

Times have changed. At one time £10 would cover the cost of the straw,

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while Supporters' Clubs brought along hay forks and "blanketed" the ground. The cost of such a task was a humble cup of tea or an admission ticket for the next home game.

### STRAW RULED OUT

Because there were so many instances of lighted matches being dropped in the straw and damage to property, the insurance companies became more insistent that this or that should not be done and the premiums too were increased. So straw has been ruled out.

Wigan Club experimented with chemicals, but after a thorough test it was found that the turf had been damaged, and therefore the idea was dropped, although at one time it was thought that the answer to frost and ice had been found.

Braziers are nothing new. Widnes tried out the idea even before the war. All kinds of fuel was used, and while the game was played—as was the case at St. Helens and elsewhere in recent times—the expense was considered too high, at least for league games.

Warrington officials thought they had beaten Mother Nature when one of the bright lights on the Wilderspool Board gained support for the idea of a

sanded pitch to a depth of several inches. The job done and the attendant publicity—the newspapers are keen enough to give any new project the right amount of space—the Warrington officials just awaited for the crowds to turn up.

They turned up all right. Thousands of supporters from other teams in South-west Lancashire on finding their own team out of action, flocked to Wilderspool. It was a remarkable scene and Warrington cashed in. The only warning note was: "What will happen when the weather changes?"

The weather changed—the rainy season came and the battle of the beaches became a maul in the paddy field. The trouble was not over because the drains were choked, and when the drier days arrived the water remained on top of the soil where the turf had previously grown.

Efforts to remove the sand had no effect on the state of the ground and in the finish new drains, new soil and new turf had to be bought.

No more sand, except a sprinkling has ever been allowed at this South Lancashire venue where there have been no further experiments to beat frost or snow.

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# FIXTURES FOR 1961-62

## 1st Team Fixtures

| Date                           | Opponents       | Ground |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1961                           |                 | F A    |
| Aug. 12—Wigan                  | ..... A         | 10 26  |
| (Wardonia Cup)                 |                 |        |
| 19—Hull                        | ..... A         | 16 14  |
| 23—Widnes                      | ..... H         | 15 10  |
| 26—Salford                     | ..... H         | 32 11  |
| 28—Liverpool City              | ..... A         | 30 13  |
| Sept. 2—Swinton (Lancs Cup)    | A               | 7 18   |
| 9—Featherstone R.              | ..... H         | 33 11  |
| 13—Lancs. v. New Zealand       |                 | 15 13  |
| 16—Workington T.               | ..... A         | 2 11   |
| 23—New Zealand                 | ..... H         | 9 21   |
| 30—Whitehaven                  | ..... H         | 25 4   |
| Oct. 7—Leeds                   | ..... A         | 9 10   |
| 14—Liverpool City              | ..... H         | 27 2   |
| 21—Oldham                      | ..... A         | 5 35   |
| 28—St. Helens                  | ..... H         | 11 7   |
| Nov. 4—Blackpool B.            | ..... A         | 18 6   |
| 11—Leeds (H)                   | ..... Postponed |        |
| 18—Fusnet                      | ..... A         | 18 9   |
| 25—Swinton                     | ..... H         | 18 12  |
| Dec. 2—Featherstone R.         | ..... A         | 0 19   |
| 9—Blackpool B.                 | ..... H         | 31 8   |
| 16—Whitehaven                  | ..... A         | 5 12   |
| 23—Barrow                      | ..... Postponed |        |
| 25—                            |                 |        |
| 26—Leigh                       | ..... Postponed |        |
| 30—                            |                 |        |
| 1962                           |                 |        |
| Jan. 1—Wigan                   | ..... Postponed |        |
| 6—Oldham                       | ..... Home      |        |
| 13—Huddersfield                | ..... Home      |        |
| 20—St. Helens                  | ..... Away      |        |
| 27—Hunslet                     | ..... Home      |        |
| Feb. 3—Salford                 | ..... Away      |        |
| 10—Challenge Cup—1st Round     |                 |        |
| 17—Rochdale H.                 | ..... Home      |        |
| 24—Barrow                      | ..... Away      |        |
| Mar. 3—Challenge Cup—2nd Round |                 |        |
| 10—Hull                        | ..... Home      |        |
| 17—Swinton                     | ..... Away      |        |
| 24—Huddersfield                | ..... Away      |        |
| 31—Workington T.               | ..... Home      |        |
| Apr. 7—Rochdale H.             | ..... Away      |        |
| 20—Widnes                      | ..... Away      |        |
| 21—Wigan                       | ..... Home      |        |
| 23—Leigh                       | ..... Home      |        |

## 'A' Team Fixtures

| Date                                         | Opponents       | Ground |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1961                                         |                 | F A    |
| Aug. 12—Wigan                                | ..... H         | 12 18  |
| 19—Liverpool City                            | ..... A         | 4 20   |
| 26—Salford                                   | ..... A         | 12 5   |
| Sept. 2—Swinton (L.C.C.S.)                   | ..... H         | 16 15  |
| 9—Widnes                                     | ..... A         | 10 9   |
| 16—Workington T.                             | ..... H         | 30 10  |
| 30—Whitehaven                                | ..... A         | 11 10  |
| Oct. 7—Widnes                                | ..... H         | 9 14   |
| 28—St. Helens                                | ..... Away      |        |
| 14—Whitehaven (Lancs. Chall. Shield Semi-F.) | A               | 9 11   |
| 21—Oldham                                    | ..... H         | 19 10  |
| Nov. 4—St. Helens (L.C.S. Final)             | A               | 7 37   |
| 11—Wigan                                     | ..... H         | 10 29  |
| 18—Warrington Am. Lge                        | H               | 20 19  |
| 25—Swinton                                   | ..... A         | 0 5    |
| Dec. 2—Widnes                                | ..... H         | 17 7   |
| 9—Blackpool B.                               | ..... A         | 18 13  |
| 16—Whitehaven                                | ..... H         | 18 5   |
| 23—Barrow                                    | ..... Postponed |        |
| 30—Leigh                                     | ..... Postponed |        |
| 1962                                         |                 |        |
| Jan. 6—Oldham                                | ..... Away      |        |
| 13—                                          |                 |        |
| 20—St. Helens                                | ..... Home      |        |
| 27—                                          |                 |        |
| Feb. 3—Salford                               | ..... Home      |        |
| 10—                                          |                 |        |
| 17—Rochdale H.                               | ..... Away      |        |
| 24—Barrow                                    | ..... Home      |        |
| Mar. 3—Widnes                                | ..... Away      |        |
| 10—                                          |                 |        |
| 17—Swinton                                   | ..... Home      |        |
| 24—Liverpool C.                              | ..... Home      |        |
| 31—Workington T.                             | ..... Away      |        |
| Apr. 7—Rochdale H.                           | ..... Home      |        |
| 14—Wigan                                     | ..... Home      |        |
| 21—Wigan                                     | ..... Away      |        |
| 28—Leigh                                     | ..... Away      |        |

## KICK-OFF TIMES

Beginning of season to November 8th,  
3.0 p.m.; November 9th to January 22nd,  
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