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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

WIGAN

Saturday, 6th April, 1963

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 16—Saturday, 6th April, 1963

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The result of our game with Widnes last Saturday was most pleasing, and the continued team spirit shown augers well for the matches still to be played.

Playing without Alan Kellett, Dave Parker and Trevor Simms, three regular first teamers, it was indeed a fine performance to defeat the League Leaders. The form shown by Jack Cheshire in his first game for the club was most encouraging, and he should prove an asset to our playing strength.

All our Members and Supporters will be pleased to know that our Secretary, Bert Summerscales, is making good progress under the hospital treatment he is receiving, at the time these notes are being written, and we all wish him a speedy recovery, and early return to Watersheddings.

OUR VISITORS

Today we give a very big welcome to our friends from Wigan with whom we enjoy the most cordial relationship. Many are the stirring games fought out between the two clubs, and today's game will be no exception.

It is not many years ago that Oldham enjoyed a run of victories against Wigan, but this was brought to an untimely end by Wigan defeating us at Watersheddings by 8 points to nil, and that was in the third round of the Rugby League Cup.

May history repeat itself and may we bring Wigan's recent run of victories against us to an end, by defeating them in this third round Rugby League Cup game today.

It is bound to be a hard game, and in saying "may the best team win," with our tongues in our cheek, permit us to repeat "may that team be Oldham."

In any event, and whatever the outcome of today's game, we hope that the amicable relationship existing between the two clubs will continue and be even more cemented by our future meetings.

OUR GAME

At two social functions this past week the game of Rugby League football was described as the greatest of all games, and with qualifications this may well be true.

It is the greatest game only when it is played as it was intended it should be played, and in accordance with the laws and rules of the game.

All the blame for not playing the game in the manner intended does not lie with any one group but must be shared by all active participants. It is agreed that the interpretation of many of the laws of the game differ as between referee's, and we have all seen instances of this.

The referee of Rugby League football has a far more difficult task than his counterpart in Soccer, yet does not receive anything like the assistance from his touch judges, not that the latter are to blame for this.

Touch judges could however assist the referee on many occasions, i.e. at the set scrums when the referee is wholly engaged in seeing the half-back puts the ball in correctly and the hooker strikes with the farthest foot. It is on these occasions that the touch judge facing the referee could quite easily signal "loose arm" on the blind side, or "offside" by the threequarters lined out behind the referee's back. Anyone wishing to pass time over could do worse than sit down, take pencil and paper, and write down all the things a referee has to watch at a scrum. The result of this exercise would no doubt be quite startling to most people.

Therefore when next we feel inclined to blame the referee think on these things, and reflect if our ability would enable us to do better.

Players and Coaches are equally responsible in making the game the greatest of all. It is of course understandable that as some part or portion of their livelihood comes from winning games, players and coaches are tempted to try and find a way around the laws of the game. Let them not forget however that professional football is played largely for the benefit of the spectators, and unless the game is made attractive the financial returns must suffer. Most supporters like to see their team win even if the football played is not of the best, but the teams that consistently draw large crowds are those who play attractive football, preferably of the open variety.

Tuesday Next at Watersheddings—

OLDHAM v. WORKINGTON

—Kick-off 6-30 p.m.

LEVELLING UP IN R.L.

Should any conclusion be drawn from the closeness of score margins in the Rugby League challenge cup? Are we at last arriving at a stage when the levelling up process has arrived quicker than we ever anticipated?

—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

Both these questions have extra significance, and it is not without merit or is a sign of the times that one second division club—Hunslet ousted their first division rivals, Halifax on their own ground. And so in round three when usually the weak and the strong have been separated more by ability than good fortune, we find two second division clubs—York is the other one—in the last eight.

Perhaps we are finding as a result of these surprising cup-tie results, details of the rise or fall in playing strengths, but whatever indications have been made possible by these shock scores, something extraordinary has emerged from this season's cup tourney clashes.

TWO "LEG" SYSTEM

And as one who has written strongly against the two "leg" system, even if it had been adopted right to the final, I have to admit that a Liverpool City-Wakefield Trinity second game would have brought the best ever crowd at Knotty Ash.

Cup ties always produce surprises, and two "legs" or no two legs (it was a continuance of a war time method and was for round one only) a draw nearly came about at Wakefield. The fact that York are still in the tournament should be heartening to their supporters who may feel there is some stigma about their team playing in the second section.

Though the two second divisioners—Hunslet are at Warrington—are up against it, they are in with a chance. Even if one of the second section clubs gets through to the semi-final, people will begin to take more notice of the clubs in the lower division.

Should York or Hunslet (maybe both) reach the semi-final and then shake us all by getting to Wembley, the people who formulated the

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ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

splitting of the unweildy Northern league of 30 clubs, will have been vindicated in many ways. Remember too, that both York and Hunslet have played at Wembley but under the old league.

Has this long lay off adversely affected some teams, or has it acted as a remedy to all clubs? Could be. Big scores will always be with us in the Rugby League so long as substitution is frowned on, but when the leaders of the first division, Widnes can only put paid to Whitehaven's aspirations by a five point margin then considerable thought has to be given to present day standards.

A BLESSING?

With so many matches put off through the bad weather, and some clubs being idle for over two months, I was fully expecting the worst as far as injuries were concerned. But the teams have either kept in tip-top condition, or the enforced rest has proved beneficial. So perhaps we have found the cold snap to be a blessing in disguise. A break of two months or more could have helped the player tone up. Cup results show most encouraging signs to those who are constantly plumping for a shut down in frosty weather.

I don't claim that the football has been of a higher standard than last season, but in its first term of two sections things have not worked out at all badly. It may be that a new team may step onto the field at Wembley on May 11th, because Oldham as well as Hull Kingston Rovers, have hard but not impossible tasks. Here is another instance of the levelling up stage having been reached, or perhaps officials and players have given more time to thoughts about the future.

It's all very intriguing, and with one of last season's finalists already out of the reckoning, two different teams may fight for the cup. It could be Oldham and Hull K. R. What a wonderful boost it would be for the game in both these centres! Win or lose, going to Wembley is quite an achievement. I know that tradition can well look after itself, but cup final records are such, that encouragement is given to officials and players of the future.

It's an ill wind—and by jove we got some in December, January and February—which may have blown the Rugby League game some good. So we must not allow this season's circumstances to pass unheeded.

NOTES

Shortly we shall have reached the first stage of the experiment of two divisions, and it will be interesting to compare the attendances with those of former years.

To do this we must not consider individual clubs, but take all the clubs in both divisions and compare the total attendances. The man who can, and no doubt will do this, will be our Secretary, Mr. Fallowfield, and I am sure his findings will be eagerly scrutinised by all who are interested in the development of Rugby League Football.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Numerous enquiries have been made as to where our old full back, Bernard Ganley has got to.

Bernard is a very busy man these days, being Secretary-accountant for a Leigh firm of builders, and would one believe it, is reporting for the BBC, on Radio and TV—on Soccer matches!

Bernard still holds the record for goals kicked in one season, viz, 224 goals, in season 1957/58.

He is also a Hon. Life Member of the Oldham Football Club. And furthermore he is still a bachelor.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962

(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	17	3	31	Patterson	15	3	10
Lord	22	6		Jones	5		1
Holden	13	5		Lloyd	1		
Price	5	1		Rae	2		
Simms, T.	27	14		Gaskell	10	1	
Noon	20	7	26	Platt	11	3	1
Pitchford	5			Crowther	1	1	
Robinson, G.	27	1		Wood	2		
McIntyre	27	5		Johnson	1		
Goddard, P.	16			Fisher	13	1	
Bott	24	1		Elliott	6		
Parker, D.	14	2		Ogden	6		
Smethurst	19	1		Hill E.	1		
Mumberson	24	4		Major, H.	6	1	
Nestor	15	1		Donovan	6		
Kellett	6	1		Cheshire	1		
Pycroft	8	1					

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Reslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Reslt.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	0-3
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			30	WIDNES	Home	8-3
15	BARROW	Away	15-13				
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7				
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24				
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44				
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8				
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23				
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15				
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14				
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.				
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6				
24	LEEDS	Home	8-10				
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	19-12				
8	WIGAN	Home	0-19				
15	CASTLEFORD	Home	2-10				
22	HALIFAX	Away	14-16				

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