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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

HALIFAX

Saturday, 12th January

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 18TH MAY - KICK-OFF 3 P.M.

SEASON — 1962-63

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6 CLEGG STREET, OLDHAM

No. 21—Saturday, 18th May, 1963

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HALIFAX

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Since our last home appearance, in a match which we lost, we have slipped further down with successive defeats at Warrington and St. Helens, but a little consolation can be gained that our football has improved. But once again the injury problem is still with us and the teams that we put in the field gave a good account of themselves as far as their ability goes. It is obvious that some of the younger members of the club are not yet ready for first team football, lacking experience, but this will come in time. It is only in exceptional circumstances that a young player strikes the grade in his first season from junior football.

Let us not forget that Alan Davies, Frank Pitchford, Bernard Ganley, stars made by this club, spent a period of probation in the 'A' team before being brought into the first team. Young players can be brought into the top class of football too early. Experience is a hard school and one often thinks that too much is expected from players who are immature, they can then become broken in spirit and heart.

OUR VISITORS

Today we give a welcome to visitors from over the border in the Halifax Club, always welcome to Watersheddings as we realise that we can be sure of attractive football. Like ourselves they have had an in and out season and no doubt anxiety has been felt by their position in the League Table. However every match to the end of the season is a needle match and of the greatest importance to both Clubs. Many are the great games that have been staged between the clubs and we hope that today's game will be no exception.

RE-ARRANGED FIXTURES

At the time of going to press, we are still unable to fix our home match with Bramley (comrades in distress) and as the season must definitely close on Thursday, 30th May, it is going to be a hectic finish to the season. On Tuesday next, we play Hull Kingston at Watersheddings and Bramley have a match on Friday, 24th May. Both clubs are vacant on Saturday, 25th May (soccer final day). We have asked Bramley to come on this date, but they object to playing two matches in two days, we would agree to a 7 p.m. kick-off on this date. This match must be completed next week, as we travel to Hull on Monday, 27th and play St. Helens on Thursday, 30th May.

Great difficulty has been experienced in fixing postponed matches, one must consider your home supporters to get to the games and take into effect our opponents views. We like to co-operate with them as there may come a time when we desire them to reciprocate. However due notice will be given in the press when the Bramley match will be played.

TWO DIVISIONS

Much food for thought is now taking place as to the wisdom of having two divisions in the Rugby League. Attendances all round are down and especially so in the second division. An example of the Dewsbury Club who in four regional matches, i.e., the Eastern League had 12,300 spectators and in the remaining 12 matches of the second division had 12,200 spectators. It is impossible for clubs to carry on and the great majority are carrying on by being subsidised from other sources. Was there anything greater than watching the top four play-offs for the League Championships? These matches had become a second Wembley, and a great source of revenue to the competing clubs, which must be their reward for consistency during the season. One must admit that little interest must be entered by the promotion and relegation of the respective leagues, but money talks all languages and one cannot go very far without it. No matter what sort of a competitive league we have, there will always be one club at the top and one at the bottom, it was always thus, but the clubs that are described as the minnows must be always on the receiving end of inadequate attendances when playing one another. Great teams have been beaten by these supposed minnows, cite the case of Rochdale Hornets beating Wigan this season at Rochdale, which was a feather in the Hornets hat, the attraction was there and the attendance.

Several clubs are regretting the advent of two divisions but these clubs voted for a three years trial, and such trial has a further two seasons to run. It required a two thirds majority of clubs to carry this innovation so the clubs can only blame themselves for the position as it now resolves itself.

LOOKING AHEAD

The season is fast drawing to a close and much hard work will have to be put in by the Committee to restore the club to its rightful position amongst the leading clubs. It is obvious that certain positions in the team will have to be considerably strengthened, and this will mean an outlay of money, and this is getting scarce enough nowadays, but an old saying is that necessity needs no law and I have no doubt that every effort will be put forward to achieve the first class status to which we must belong.

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	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
25	LEIGH	Home	14-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	30	WIDNES	Home	8-3
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			Apr. 6	WIGAN (R.L. Cup)	Home	0-18
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	9	WORKINGTON	Home	5-3
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7	12	SWINTON	Away	3-7
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24	15	HULL	Home	3-18
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44	19	BRAMLEY	Away	9-13
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8	23	SWINTON	Home	4-17
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23	27	CASTLEFORD	Away	4-23
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15	May 4	WARRINGTON	Home	10-15
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14	6	ST. HELENS	Away	8-22
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.	9	WARRINGTON	Away	5-21
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6	15	CASTLEFORD	Away	8-30
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				
Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	0-3				

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- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—ROBINSON
- 11—MAJOR
- 12—BOTT
- 13—PARKER

Referee :

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(Blue and White)

- 1—JAMES
- 2—JACKSON
- 3—BROWN
- 4—BURNETT
- 5—FREEMAN
- 6—ROBINSON
- 7—MARCHANT
- 8—FOX
- 9—SHAW
- 10—SCROBY
- 11—HARDCASTLE
- 12—TURNBULL
- 14—DUFFY

Touch Judges :

Mr. W. Rigby, Leigh (Crimson Flag)
Mr. F. Whiteley, Warrington (Yellow)

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WEMBLEY AND WHAT

By now we shall know all what has happened at Wembley in the Rugby League Cup Final. The 28th challenge cup final at this re-constructed stadium points to the fact that the audacious move which the men in authority took in 1929 by changing the venue to the South instead of the North has stood the test of time.

—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

“Wembley” has become a magical name in sport, particularly in Rugby League, but it's not quite so glamorous when your team has lost. Then the cry goes up all round, “has it been worth the time, trouble and expense?”

And yet it has been an experience you are never likely to forget. The atmosphere is really electric; Rugby League is shown in a different light and under different conditions from those which operate at many northern venues.

The first trip is usually the most exciting for the majority of folk. To many it can be the first and the last. They are content to have made the long journey once, while others are only Wembley bound when their favourite side is in the final. Thousands consider this final as some sort of a ritual. They are there whatever the weather and whoever is contesting the match.

HAPPY WHEN BEATEN

It may appear to be a selfish attitude, but hundreds of Northern shopkeepers as well as licensees and others engaged in the distributive trades, are happy when the local team fails to get to Wembley. Their takings before and long after the game has been played, fall to a considerable degree. Trade for them is slack for a period.

Take Wigan's position. It is estimated that 18,000 people living in or near the town's centre will have been at the game. With an average of £5 per head—train fares, meals, admission fees, and other incidentals—it means that nearly £100,000 has been spent. Some of this amount is

“recoverable” in fees to the Wigan club, and to others in the challenge cup competition, plus a cut for the league, but thousands of pounds have failed to go to the business house of the North.

It can become a really expensive day, or weekend out, if a man and his wife, as well as other members of the family are taken South yet, the attitude by the people who make Wembley a “must” in their holiday arrangements, is that it is money well spent. They point out that in addition to a holiday it gives them a chance to see one of the big fixtures of the season and also a change from the Northern scene.

Of course, it is all right for those who can afford to see the final almost every year. On the other hand, there are lots of folk who help to keep Rugby League alive, but are not in a position to pay railway fares, meals, etc for Wembley. These people are often at the first team and reserve matches in their home town. Pensioners are, in the main, the enthusiasts who could afford to pay to see a Northern Rugby League challenge cup final, but not a Southern one.

FULL DAY'S JOB

My sympathies are with those who are prevented from seeing this annual attraction, either through lack of cash, or through business ties. Saturday is a day when most trade is done and therefore the head of the business is reluctant to pass up any remuneration. It would, of course, be the same to these tradespeople if the final was played in the North. But a Wembley trip is a full day from the job, whereas a match in Lancashire, Yorkshire or Cumberland would not call for so much time to be expended.

Those who are prevented from going to Wembley must think about the folk who are not able to see a weekly or even a monthly match because they are not now living in a Rugby League area. These people make Wembley an annual Mecca. Wembley too has so many advantages over Northern venues. Even some of the bigger soccer grounds—Rugby League is not now allowed here—have proved inadequate. You cannot find a scheme to suit everyone or every pocket.

Tuesday next at Watersheddings—

OLDHAM v. HULL KINGSTON

—Kick-off 7 p.m.

UNSETTLING PLAYERS

A few clubs, especially some in the lower or middle of the League Table, are complaining of a practice that is becoming prevalent, of club officials who, when negotiations to transfer a player who is not on the transfer list break down by an absolute refusal, announce the facts to the press instead of treating them as confidential. In fact a club may fancy a star player of another club, go to the press announcing this, even before the club or the player knows anything about it, this is an appalling state of affairs and should be stopped. Negotiations between clubs about players who are not on the transfer list will take place, but these should be kept in the strictest confidence, though there is always someone to let the information go, probably for cheap popularity for the individual who gives it. Great damage is done, it unsettles the player named and the relations between the two clubs can become somewhat strained. It makes club management even more difficult than what it is at the present time, also it creates a spirit of unrest.

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