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THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

HULL KINGSTON

Saturday, 26th January

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

TUESDAY, 21ST MAY - KICK-OFF 7 P.M.

SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 22—Tuesday, 21st May, 1963

Kick-off 7 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HULL KINGSTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

On Saturday last we once again suffered a home defeat, this time at the hands of Halifax and at no time when we had a full compliment of players on the field could we match the Halifax team. Playing with a strong wind in the first half nothing appeared to go right for us and the usual bad knocks came our way, resulting in our scrum half, Fallon, being off the field for a period. We never finished off what appeared to be good scoring chances and we retired a well beaten team at the finish.

It is amazing how the injury problem is still with us and the number of injured players keeps mounting up. In the game last Saturday, John Cheshire received a head injury and was taken to hospital. A team of doctors after X ray examination had taken place, kept him in hospital overnight. We hope that his injury is not as serious as expected. In ten days time Peter Smethurst enters hospital for the removal of a cartleage. This injury happened in the early part of the season and an operation was deemed advisable at the time, but the second injury happened against Bramley on April 19th and on medical advice an operation is the only cure. We expect to have the services of Smethurst for the commencement of next season.

RELEGATION

It is obvious that we are doomed for a season in the second division, after a season of events that must be profitted by the experience of the large number of injuries and the lack of competent replacements for such injured players. It is now very obvious that our reserve strength is not yet ready for first team football, not that it will not eventually be, as we

consider that we have some promising material coming along, but experience can only bring along that qualification for promotion to the first team. It is obvious that our first team will have to be strengthened for the hurley burley of second division football. Our presence in the second division MUST not be of long duration. From time immemorial we have been used to first class football at Watersheddings, and nothing but the best will satisfy our members and supporters, it is the only way to bring back the crowds to our ground, and to put ourselves in the rightful position which we belong.

MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Members of this Club was held on Thursday last, 16th May 1963 and considering the light of events of the past season, passed off very well indeed.

This is the one meeting of the year that members can expound their views on the management of the Club by the committee. One must not lose sight of the fact that the members elect the committee by postal ballot and it is their obvious choice to place confidence in the elected representatives, if they fail in their duty it is the members choice. To come into football management is not everyone's ambition and those elected for the first time must find out that all is not plain sailing and it requires some experience to get into the intricacy of football management. It is so varied, bristling with difficult problems. Today it is a business not a sport, it requires an insight of the workings of a club, in other words one must serve his time of apprenticeship to make a success of his stewardship.

Averting to the Annual General Meeting one must realize that this is a members Club, one of the few remaining in the Northern Rugby Football League, and anyone seeking membership and accepted must adhere to the rules of the Club which are constituted by the members themselves at some period. I point this out because an impression is created that members can change the rules of the Club at a General Meeting. This is right up to a point, but for any alteration or amendment to Rules, 21 days notice must be given to the members and then the point deliberated upon before the members for the acceptance or refusal of such alteration or amendments to Rules. It must be done constitutionally and in accordance with the accepted rules of the Club as they stand at present.

BRIEFS

It was pleasing to see Malcolm Price at our match on Saturday last, and he now appears to have recovered from his second operation for appendicitis. We wonder what his thoughts were watching the Halifax match. Our consultant has recommended getting his stomach muscles strengthened and we shall have a further opinion before the commencement of training for next season.

The price of members cards for season 1963/64 will come before the new committee at their initial meeting. It is obvious that we cannot expect members to pay the charges of the present season. We shall not have the attraction of the leading teams at Watersheddings next season, not that the football is inferior in the second division, infact we might see better games than we have had at Watersheddings in the season just ending. There is one charge we cannot alter and that is the minimum charge of admission, which must be 2/6 as on all grounds in the Rugby League.

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	16-10	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	.....Home	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	18	HALIFAX	.....Home	0-12
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	.....Away	19-12				
8	WIGANHome	0-19				
15	CASTLEFORDHome	2-10				
22	HALIFAXAway	14-16				
Feb. 2	WIDNESAway	0-3				

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- 3—BURWELL, A.
- 4—BURWELL, B.
- 5—HARRIS
- 6—ELLIOTT
- 7—BUNTING
- 8—COVERDALE
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THE CHANGING SCENE

Time has rung many changes in the Rugby League game, and I'm afraid that some of the changes have not been all to the good of the code. I will leave the rules, and the rulers, to the swops and alterations for I'm not to write today on law-tinkering, but on the changing times.

—(says CYRIL BRIGGS)

This week I met a loyalist who claims to have seen every Wembley final with the exception of the 1934 battle when he had the misfortune to be in hospital. My contact when asked about the Rugby League game, said he was as keen as ever to lend his support to the professional handling code, but he felt that some of the atmosphere at weekly matches had been lost.

Before the war we were entertained by a brass band, not this sort of canned music which is so annoying that we delay our visit to the ground. At Workington I have enjoyed the programmes before the match by the instrumentalists even though they have "murdered" John Peel over and over again.

The twanging guitars are all right in their place, but we older folk don't want to listen to them at football matches. The disc jockeys have gone mad at football grounds.

I realise that many people don't want to play brass band instruments these days otherwise there would be more bands, but surely one can be assembled once a week. After all, the bands could be paid for under the Performing Rights Society, clubs have to pay a donation for the right to amplify records.

My friend went into other matters which he claims are not pleasing the average supporter.

Years ago we used to see foot races between two local rivals, or even professionals from other areas. There were other attractions before the start of the big game, and in addition, we were always sure that there would be a 'curtain raiser'.

Now we are lucky if we see a junior match as a preliminary to the senior fixture, once every "blue moon." I cannot understand this in view of the fact that clubs have practice grounds and only use the main pitch once a week.

ABOUT GROUNDS

Senior clubs complain that in bad weather junior teams are likely to cut up the ground so much that it offers a handicap to the players in the match which follows. I think that is sheer bunkum. And after all, the senior are glad when the youngsters take the 'bone' out of a frosty pitch. The senior clubs cannot have it all their own way.

Another annoying thing to supporters is that if they have been delayed in traffic jams they are not able to get official programmes because sellers have disappeared into the crowd and are intent on seeing the game rather than selling their wares.

And why cannot all the clubs in the league follow the excellent of some others? The man at the mike announces the teams ten minutes before the start of the encounter for the benefit of the early arrivals, and then a few minutes after the kick-off for late comers.

I don't like the Rugby League arrangement of five minutes at half time. The rules say that the clubs can take a ten minute break. But the players rule the roost. They say they don't like hanging about. Then what about Soccer? They have ten minutes rest at half time.

If supporters are to have 'a cuppa' in comfort at half time they must have more than five minutes in which to leave their place on stand or terrace and get in the queue, be served and then drink up.

And as a final shot or two, could we have the right numbers on the forwards shirts? Often we get second row men having incorrect numbers. It is all so annoying. I'm not pin pricking, but if we buy a programme we want the correct information.

Well, I admit my friend has some good points. Pressmen would welcome the ten minute half time break and also the curtailment of the jazz sessions. They could transmit their 'copy' much quicker and under better conditions.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Oldham Schools Rugby League wound up their 1962/63 season with the annual Cup Final evening at Watersheddings, on Tuesday, 14th May. This year eight teams were engaged in four finals.

A large and vociferous crowd of schoolboys and girls turned up to cheer their favourites. Many of the adult spectators were most impressed by the high standard of rugby played by these young men, and we have received some pleasing comment from people who were present. In particular our Senior Final (15 year old) between Hollinwood and St. Anselm's turned out to be a most thrilling encounter. Here is a quote from a tribute received on this particular game :-

"This was my first experience of schoolboy rugby league and what a pleasure it was, thrilling length of the field tries, good scrums, quick heels, astute kicking by one of the centres, tremendous enthusiasm by all the players, no displays of temper, a pleasure to watch."

St. Anselm's won three of the four finals, Breeze Hill being the other winners, St. Patrick's won the Junior Challenge Cup in an earlier final. We are most grateful to all who made the finals a success, players for their efforts, spectators for their support, Oldham Football Club for the use of the ground and facilities, the referees for their services and all the teachers who so willingly give of their time to further the interests of schoolboy rugby league. Our thanks are also due to the printer of this programme for his help on co-operation during the past season.

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