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THE PAVILION - WATERSHEDDINGS

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versus

# BRAMLEY

Saturday, 1st June, 1963 Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SEASON - 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - 3d.

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No. 24—Saturday, 1st June, 1963 Kick-off 3 p.m.

## OLDHAM v. BRAMLEY

# Watersheddings News & Views

Today sees the final match of season 1962-63 at Watersheddings and the curtain will be rung down for a few weeks only. It is, we hope, only a temporary goodbye to first division football and with a little luck we should be back amongst the premier clubs of our game. It will be hard work no doubt, as every match will be a cup-tie, but we face the future with confidence. The new season commences with the Regional Championships, for which there will be eight play-offs. These play-offs will be spread through the season and the top four play-offs will take place at the end of the season. We already know the clubs we play and they are, Leigh, Blackpool, Whitehaven and Rochdale, in home and away matches. As these four clubs are in the second division, this means we shall play them four times in all during the season and Rochdale Hornets a fifth time in the annual Charity match. A most peculiar position is created by our final position in the league table this season and by the formula it decrees that we play all second division clubs in the Western Championship, but there it is and we shall have to make the best of it.

# 1963 Australian Tours

By the itinerary just issued, we have been allocated a match against the 1963 Australian Touring Team for Saturday, 12th October, 1963, but this fixture might be interchanged depending on Football League fixtures.

One item of interest of this tour is the playing of a Test Match (the first) at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday, 16th October, under floodlights and the kick-off is 7-30 p.m. Tickets for this match are: 30/-, 20/-, 15/-, and 10/-, obtainable in advance from Wembley Stadium or the Rugby Football League offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

The price of ground admission is 4/-. Applications for tickets should include a stamped addressed envelope.

This game is being staged as an experiment and if successful, could well set the pattern for future tours.

# Our Visitors

Today we entertain the Bramley Club and extend a welcome to them, like us they appear to become comrades in distress by their position in the League Table. However, today we hope to take ample revenge for our defeat at Bramley on Friday, 19th April when we fully expected victory, but were beaten by 13 points to 9 points. Let us finish the season with a victory and to witness a match worthy of the game of Rugby League.

# Programmes

We feel it our duty to thank the advertisers in this programme for their support in the publication of same. Without their assistance the financial return would be a big loss. The cost of publication of this programme is a large item especially when one realises that they cost  $2\frac{1}{2}d$ , each before we make a sale.

Although we try to bring you up-to-date information and the publication of articles on Rugby League generally, for next season, either the size must be reduced, or the price must be increased to 4d. However that is for the committee to decide, bearing in mind that we must give value for money in the introduction of a new programme.

# The New Committee

The new committee of this club has had its initial meeting and is getting down to the problems for a successful 1963-64 season. A lot of hard work is ahead, but it is obvious that they mean business.

The close season will be one of the shortest on record owing to the season lasting so long. No sooner are the Annual holidays over, than it is back to the grind stone for training to commence in the second week of July. A large amount of work will have to be done in a very short time, in the cultivation of the playing area and training grounds and immediately after this match the work will be put in progress in an effort to grow grass in record time. Much activity will take place in the 'spring cleaning' of our ground and its appointments, but this will be achieved in readiness for the opening date, on the second Saturday in August.

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# TOUCH JUDGES OR "LINESMEN"

Those many thousands who saw the Rugby League challenge cup final at Wembley either "in the flesh" or by means of TV, had different versions of the Eric Ashton incident, which if it had resulted in a try, may have changed the whole course of events.

# -(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

In the old Wembley Press Box I may not have had a good view of the attempted score, but in the new long room which has been established for members of the Fourth Estate, it is now possible to see more of the play, merely because the structure is nearer the play. There is an uninterrupted view. My opinion was that there had been a double movement by the Wigan captain in his thrust for the line.

Referee Davies who was well up with the play promptly said "nay", although since then quite a lot of people who were near the spot—nearer to it than Mr. Davies and myself—claim that Ashton crossed the line quite legitimately. These people are not all Wiganers, so we have to respect their opinions.

Now isn't it time something was done about these line decisions? I think the touch judges should be consulted, especially if there was a new system.

# Diagonal

Soccer folk were getting just tired of "offside" appeals until they hit on the diagonal system, with one linesman operating one half of the field and his colleague doing likewise with the remaining half. I know that Soccer folk still disagree with ref and linesmen, but not so much as the spectators do in Rugby League.

I am wondering what the touch judges thought of that special occasion, when Barrow were beaten at Wigan in a cup semi-final?

Poor Barrow, poor Pearson. He crossed the line and was dragged back before the late Laurie Thorpe could dodge round the Town players. If there had been a doubt, then the touch judges should have been consulted. But Mr. Thorpe, acting under the law and in his best judgment on what he saw, decided that there was no score. But in my view it was a much fairer try than I have seen awarded in many scrambles.

As most pitches, even in senior Rugby League, are not of the maximum size, it would mean that touch judges could stand almost on the "25" lines and officiate quite efficiently. They would be on the try line (lets drop that silly "goal" line description as quickly as possible), almost as quick as the scorer. And being in a direct line with the chalk line, the touch judges could make little mistakes. Their views would be invaluable to the ref.

# Watch on Bodies

There are frequent grumblings these days about touch judges making errors even about "touch." Now if you watch many of these gents in action, you will see that they are watching the bodies of the players not their feet! Here is one reason why errors take place. But I suppose the men on the line, and some of them are not young chaps, are thinking about self preservation.

It is not the first time that a touch judge has been involved in a skirmish, and has been carried quite unexpectedly and involuntarily into the crowd, or into the mud. Now surely a touch judge, even if he was 70 yards away, could see where the ball had broken the line. As for standing at the spot with his flag aloft to "mark the spot," well many packs (and refs) ignore him!

Rugby League can learn from many other games—we still see some Rugby Union laws being resurrected — and what better than to copy the water polo idea of "goal" (pardon "try" judges? Less disputes in Rugby League and fewer people would die of blood pressure. The British Medical Council will confirm that point!

# Injured Players

Our list of injured players still continues to grow and three more were added to the list in our match against Hull on Monday last, in Donovan, Elliott and Hill, E., as to whether these players will be fit for today's match is a problem, but we doubt it. Peter Smethurst entered a hospital on Tuesday last and was operated upon on Thursday for the removal of a cartlege and which has been successful.

# FIXTURES AND RESULTS - SEASON 1962/63

### OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Dat	e	Opponents Grd.	Rslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rsit.
Aug.	21 25 28	WHITEHAVEN Away BARROW Home LEIGH Home ROCHDALE Away WHITEHAVEN Home	17-0 16-10 2-10	Mar. 2 9 16. 23 30	9 FEATHERSTONEHor 6—WORKINGTON (Cup)Aw 3 HULL KINGSTONAw	up)Away	26-2 13-0 23-17
	8 15 22 29	Lancs. County Cup Competition BARROWAway ROCHDALE HHome LEIGHAway	15-13	Apr. 6 9 12 15	WIGAN (R.L. Cup WORKINGTON SWINTON	)Home Away	e 0-18 e 5-3 7 3-7
Oct.	6 13 20 27	WORKINGTON T. Away HUDDERSFIELD Home LEEDS Away WAKEFIELD T. Home	9-8 5-23	19 23 27	BRAMLEYAway	9-13 4-17 4-23	
Nov.	3 10 17 24	WIGAN Away WORKINGTON T. Home HUDDERSFIELD Away LEEDS Home	Post. 5-6	6- 9- 15- 18	—ST. HELENS  —WARRINGTON  —FEATHERSTONE  HALIFAX	Away Away Away Home	8-22 5-21 8-30 0-12
Dec.	8 15 22	WAKEFIELD T. Away WIGAN Home CASTLEFORD Home HALIFAX Away	0-19 2-10	21- 27 30		Away	15-5
Feb.	2	WIDNESAway	0-3				

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