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CLUB NOTES—

I THINK that we have now had enough experience of two division rugby to be able to express an opinion about it and to start thinking about the future. So here goes. I am in favour of two division rugby but I am not in favour of the present system of running regional leagues, because to me and many others, the regional matches are considered to be no more than friendly matches. The method of fixture selection also seems to leave something to be desired when in a fixture list of only 34 matches it is necessary for Barrow to have to play Oldham four times in the season, twice in the second division and twice in the regional league. It is even worse for Oldham because in addition to playing Barrow in both the 2nd division of the league and the regional league, they also play Blackpool Boro',

—continued

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Club Notes—continued

Rochdale Hornets and Leigh in both leagues, so that in a fixture list of 34 games Oldham play 16 games against only four clubs, surely nobody considers this an ideal arrangement.

The problem is how can we have 2 divisions and give everybody a full fixture list and make the competition fully competitive and interesting for everybody. I think a good fixture list is one of 38 matches plus cup ties of which every club has at least 2 games. So the two leagues should consist of 15 teams in each league, each team to play all other teams in its own league, that gives each team 28 games, the other ten games would be played by dividing each league into 3 groups of five teams in each group. The groups to be, the top five teams in

—continued

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Club Notes—continued

each league, the middle five teams in each league, and the bottom five teams in each league. The top group in division one to play the top group in division two. The middle group in division one to play the middle group in division two, and the bottom group in division one to play the bottom group in division two. To make all games fully competitive the results of all games would count in the respective league tables and would therefore have championship and relegation interest. To explain this a little further, suppose 'team A' are a first division side, and 'team B' a 2nd division side, and they play each other on the first day of the season and 'team A' are the winners, then the league tables that night would read as follows :

1st Division — 'A' played 1, won 1 - 2 points

2nd Division — 'B' played 1, lost 1 - 0 points

—continued

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Teams for Saturday, 30th November, 1963. — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Referee: D. T. H. DAVIES (Manchester)

BARROW 15

- 1-Tees
- 2-Burgess 33
- 3-Challenor 2
- 4-Woolridge
- 5-Wear

- 6-Matthews 3
- 7-Black

- 8-Kelland
- 9-Redhead
- 10-Duffy
- 11-Little
- 12-Irving 22
- 13-Smales

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OLDHAM 9

- 1-Noon
- 2-Lord
- 3-Nester
- 4-Smethurst 3
- 5-Elliott

- 6-Crowther
- 7-Gaskell

- 8-Bott
- 9-McIntyre 3
- 10-Wilson K. 3
- 11-Major
- 12-Robinson
- 13-Parkin

Touch-Judges: J. H. Turner and J. Graley

Any team changes will be announced.

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Club Notes—continued

The points about this are that every game would be competitive, everybody would understand that there were truly only 2 leagues, the top teams in the 2nd division would have the pleasure of entertaining the top teams in the 1st division: There would be no playing of other teams four times: There would be no suggestion of friendly matches, and at the end of a season all teams would have: Played 38 games, written alongside their names in the two league tables.

At the end of a season all interested people would know at a glance who their opponents were to be the following year. I think three teams promoted and three teams relegated would be ideal.

We would be interested in what supporters think about two divisions, so if you feel like airing your views, why not drop a line to Mr. A. Hurst, Secretary, at Craven Park, Barrow.

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OLDHAM

It is our pleasure to welcome our good friends from Oldham, to Craven Park, again for the second time in six weeks, this time in a regional fixture when the result is not so vital as in a league fixture. We thought that we were a bit unlucky to lose the league match, but credit must be given to Oldham for taking their chances and they did play really top class football. I am sure we will see a good game to-day, played in the best spirit of the game.

We had a good win at Bradford last Saturday, and the league race is beginning to take shape. Oldham are high and dry at the top and must be certain for promotion. Who goes up with them? Leigh, Barrow or Dewsbury? We cannot afford to drop any more points, every match from now on must be fought like a cup-tie. Ironically enough our last two league games are against Leigh. We play at Leigh on Easter Monday and Leigh come to Barrow the following Saturday, 4th April, 1964.

These two games could decide who goes up, so what about starting now to organise some parties to go to Leigh on Easter Monday and give the players some vocal encouragement.

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The Progressive and Junior Pools

AT THE moment there are two "Pools" being run for the benefit of Rugby League in Barrow and District. No. 1 is the Pool run by the Progressive Branch, which has done, and is continuing to do, most excellent work on behalf of the Club, and for which the Board of Directors tender to them their most sincere thanks. We are asking you to continue to give your support to the Progressive Branch Pool.

No. 2 Pool is the one that is run for the Juniors and the Barrow Club. In this Pool there are still a number of vacancies and we wish to appeal to our supporters and other interested persons to take up these vacancies, and also ask their friends 'to take a chance.' If we can get another complete Pool it will afford the directors much greater confidence in their striving to obtain high-class players in the knowledge that there will be sufficient funds to make this possible.

Any person wishing to become an agent, please contact Mr. A. Hurst.

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FIXTURES

FIRST TEAM

AUGUST

24—Bramley ... (2) A
26—Rochdale Horn. (2) H
31—Bradford North. (2) H

SEPTEMBER

4—Salford ... (2) A
7—Wigan (LC 1st Rd) H
14—Doncaster (2) H
21—Oldham (2) A
28—Dewsbury (2) H

OCTOBER

5—St. Helens (R) A
12—Liverpool City (2) A
19—Oldham (2) H
26—Warrington (R) A

NOVEMBER

2—AUSTRALIA H
9—Blackpool "B" (2) A
16—York (2) H
23—Bradford North. (2) A
30—Oldham (R) H

DECEMBER

7—Rochdale Horn. (2) A
14—Batley (2) H
26—Whitehaven (2) H
28—York (2) A

1964—

JANUARY

1—Whitehaven (2) A
4—Workington T. (R) H
11—Bramley (2) H
18—Dewsbury (2) A
25—Batley (2) A

FEBRUARY

1—Liverpool City (2) H
8—1st Rd. R.L.C. CUP
15—St. Helens (R) H
22—Doncaster (2) A
...29—2nd Rd. R.L.C. CUP

MARCH

7—Salford (2) H
14—3rd Rd. R.L.C. CUP
21—Oldham (R) A
27—Blackpool "B" (2) H
28—Warrington (R) H
30—Leigh (2) A

APRIL

4—Leigh (2) H
18—Workington (R) A

"A" TEAM

AUGUST

24—Salford H
31—Rochdale Horn. A

SEPTEMBER

7—Wigan (1st Rd. L.C.O.S.) A
14—Widnes A
21—Liverpool City H
28—Wigan A

OCTOBER

5—St. Helens H
19—Oldham A
26—Warrington H

NOVEMBER

2—Whitehaven A
9—Blackpool "B" H
23—Whitehaven H
30—Blackpool "B" A

DECEMBER

7—Rochdale Horn. H
14—Swinton A
28—Swinton H

1964—JANUARY

4—Workington Town A
25—Wigan H

FEBRUARY

1—Liverpool City A
15—St. Helens A
22—Widnes H

MARCH

7—Salford A
14—Leigh H
21—Oldham... H
28—Warrington A

APRIL

18—Workington Town H
4—Leigh A