




The MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST

*Organised by Whitbread & Co. Ltd. in
association with The Rugby Football League*

 The Mackeson Rugby League Contest Trophy and a cheque for 200 guineas goes to the team with the best scoring record for the season. Cheques for 100 guineas and 50 guineas go to the runners-up.

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The 5 periods are:

AUGUST 22 to SEPTEMBER 26

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NOVEMBER 23 to JANUARY 9

JANUARY 11 to MARCH 6

MARCH 8 to MAY 8

1964/5

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

WATERSHEDDINGS - OLDHAM

041965 (1)

OFFICIALS

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Club Doctors : Dr. A. CAMPBELL and Dr. A. R. NETTLETON

Secretary : H. SUMMERSCALES

Pavilion Telephone No. : MAIn (Oldham) 4 65



Standing, left to right : McIntyre, Parker, Mumberson, Bott, Wilson, Major. Sitting, left to right : Price, Nestor, Sims, Dyson, McCormack, Donovan. Kneeling : Pycroft

SEASON — 1964/65

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Saturday, 6th March, 1965—

No 216

OLDHAM v. LEIGH 25

—Kick-off 3 p.m.

OUR GAME

Discussions are still taking place regarding the effort to improve attendances at Rugby League matches, and a meeting of Lancashire club directors and committeemen was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester on Wednesday last, for the purpose of each club airing its views on the matter and we hope some good will come of it. Attendances at the second round Challenge Cup matches on Saturday last, in our opinion, reached rock bottom. Ignoring the game between Wigan and St. Helens, which attracted 39,318 spectators, the attendances at the remaining seven ties totalled only 51,092, giving an average of 7,440. The weather was fine but cold, and the ties warranted better 'gates' than those recorded. The attendance at the Warrington v Salford match was only 8,559. This game was televised and we must leave the guess to the reader as to how it affected the 'gate'. From an advertisement point, this match had received much publicity from the Manchester Press, but it is obvious that the fans went elsewhere on Saturday afternoon. If the show is good enough the fans will roll up, as shown by the attendance of over 39,000 at Wigan, but here again, from people who attended the match, it was far from satisfactory.

Numerous supporters have made suggestions explaining the decline in our game. Some say that wages are too high and that makes teams win at any cost and neglect the entertainment for the customer who pays. A basic wage should be introduced. Revert to the old play-the-ball rule on a five or even ten yards basis. Some blame the standard of refereeing, but here let us state that the referee does not stop the players from playing the game, that is if the players are good enough. A further retirement of five or ten yards would prevent the old cry "offside", an infringement that holds up the game and which is one of the most annoying.

May we thank all members and supporters who have written regarding improvements, the letters have been handed to Mr. Jack Errock, one of the seven legislators representing the Rugby League.

OUR VISITORS

Once again we welcome our old friends from Leigh to Watersheddings. In the game at Leigh on October 3rd last we were victorious by 20 point to 10 points. This was the match in which Trevor Simms broke a leg.

In the early part of the season the Leigh team were badly hit by injuries and even now are having their full share, and there is one player we shall

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ASHTON - UNDER - LYNE

miss in today's match, Mick Martyn, the leading forward of the team. However, they have some capable reserves and we hope that today's game will prove worthy of the Rugby League.

PLAYING STAFF

The search for new players for the improvement of the team still goes on, and the players we fancy, which shall be nameless, are not for sale. Clubs don't part with their best players. It is an irksome problem going after players and asking clubs to part, and if they are agreeable, up goes the price to inflation value. Some say it is Oldham, so make them pay. It is the easiest thing in the world to spend other people's money and especially on inferior goods. The search must go on and must be intensified until the goods are secured and at a reasonable price. It is no use buying something that is no better than what you have, that proves inefficiency.

INJURED PLAYERS

Our injury problem and sickness of players appears to be mounting, the latest being Peter Smethurst who has a badly bruised ankle and we are now awaiting a Consultant's opinion of the extent of the injury. The following players are also out of action :—

Tug Wilson has been advised to have a three weeks rest, being in a run down condition.

Jack Pycroft has been laid up with a severe chest injury, but we hope he re-appears today.

Jim McCormack has a severe attack of bronchitis.

Geoff Crowther is awaiting a possible knee operation for ligament trouble.

Bill Broomhead, continued concussion, is waiting for a neuro consultant for examination.

Harry Major is slowly recovering from a dislocated shoulder.

Trevor is slowly recovering from a broken leg, but it is doubtful if he will re-appear this season.

Terence Tomlinson, broken bone in the wrist, is being operated upon.

PEN PICTURE

This pen picture must be one of the shortest on record, seeing that we have chosen Robert Alan Irving, our up-and-coming young starlet.

This second row forward only started playing Rugby League football in 1962, with a junior team in the Huddersfield League named St. Joseph's.

Robert was born on February 15th, 1948, so that makes him just 17 years of age. He is 5ft 11ins tall and weighs 14st 6lbs, he signed professional forms for this club on January 5th, 1965 and has already made two appearances in the first team and created a very good impression. We can see a great future for this youngster and he has everything in his favour. By occupation he is a dyer in a dye and bleach works in Huddersfield.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS (All Matches)

Up to and including Saturday last

| Player | A | G | T | P | Player | A | G | T | P |
|-----------|-----|----|---|-----|-----------|-----|---|---|----|
| Dyson | 21 | 77 | 5 | 169 | Robinson | 5 | | 1 | 3 |
| Sims | 26 | 16 | 7 | 53 | Smethurst | 20 | | 3 | 9 |
| McCormack | 21 | | 2 | 6 | Gaskell | 7 | | 1 | 3 |
| Nestor | 18 | | 4 | 12 | Collins | 10½ | | 2 | 6 |
| Patterson | 4 | | 3 | 9 | Howarth | 4 | | | |
| Donovan | 21 | | 9 | 27 | Crowther | 2 | | | |
| Pycroft | 18 | | 4 | 12 | Hill | 4 | | | |
| Mumberson | 16½ | | 2 | 6 | Whitehead | 8½ | | 1 | 3 |
| McIntyre | 20½ | | 5 | 15 | Tomlinson | 1½ | 1 | | 2 |
| Wilson | 18½ | | | | Broomhead | 1½ | | | |
| Simms | ½ | | 1 | 3 | Taylor | 6 | | 1 | 3 |
| Wilkinson | 1 | | | | Elliott | 9 | | 2 | 6 |
| Major | 13 | | 1 | 3 | McLeod | 11 | | 8 | 24 |
| Parker | 19 | | 4 | 12 | Delooze | 1½ | | | |
| Bott | 24 | | 2 | 6 | Kenny | ½ | | | |
| Price | 12 | | 9 | 27 | Irving | 2 | | | |
| | | | | | Warburton | 1 | | | |

Appearances ½ indicates where a player has only played half the game
The Substitute Rule operating

NEWS FROM THE MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST

MAIN CONTEST — Position after matches played on February 27th

| CLUB | Played | Pts. F. | Average | Pts. A. |
|--------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1—St. Helens | 28 | 589 | 21.04 | 195 |
| 2—Wigan | 30 | 550 | 18.33 | 211 |
| 3—Hull K. R. | 27 | 439 | 16.26 | 279 |
| 4—Halifax | 30 | 484 | 16.13 | 315 |
| 5—Leeds | 32 | 508 | 15.88 | 340 |
| 6—Castleford | 28 | 411 | 14.68 | 263 |
| 7—Oldham | 26 | 370 | 14.23 | 260 |
| 8—Workington | 28 | 391 | 13.96 | 273 |

FIXTURES & RESULTS FOR 1964/65 SEASON

| Date | Club | Grd. | Time | F. A. | Date | Club | Grd. | Time | F. A. |
|---------|--------------------|------|------|-------|--------|-----------------------|------|------|-------|
| Aug. 15 | Rochdale (Charity) | away | 3.0 | 39-7 | 19 | Liverpool | away | 2.30 | |
| 22 | Dewsbury | away | 3.0 | 17-4 | 26 | St. Helens | home | 2.30 | |
| 25 | Widnes (Tues.) | home | 7.0 | 23-2 | 28 | Keighley (Mon.) | away | 2.30 | |
| 29 | Swinton | home | 3.0 | 13-2 | Jan. 2 | Hunslet | home | 2.30 | 36-7 |
| Sept. 4 | Whitehaven (Cup) | away | 6-30 | 31-10 | 9 | Barrow | away | 2.30 | 5-8 |
| 12 | Liverpool | home | 3.0 | 42-5 | 16 | Rochdale H. | away | 2.30 | |
| 14 | Blackpool | away | 6.0 | 13-2 | 23 | Salford | home | 3.0 | |
| 19 | Widnes | away | 3.0 | 21-2 | 30 | Warrington | away | 3.0 | 5-19 |
| 26 | Whitehaven | home | 3.0 | 4-21 | Feb. 6 | Hunslet | away | 3.0 | 4-17 |
| Oct. 3 | Leigh | away | 3.0 | 20-10 | 13 | Keighley | home | 3.0 | 26-6 |
| 10 | Rochdale H. | home | 3.0 | 14-5 | 20 | Wigan | away | 3.0 | 12-20 |
| 17 | Workington | away | 3.0 | 5-21 | 27 | (2nd Rnd. R.L. Cup) | | | |
| 24 | Warrington | home | 3.0 | 6-15 | Mar. 6 | Leigh | home | 3.0 | |
| 31 | St. Helens | away | 3.0 | 6-22 | 13 | Workington | home | 3.0 | |
| Nov. 7 | Barrow | home | 3.0 | 21-4 | 27 | Huddersfield | home | 3.0 | |
| 14 | Huddersfield | away | 2.30 | 12-10 | Apr. 3 | (Semi-Final R.L. Cup) | | | |
| 21 | Wigan | home | 2.30 | 9-18 | 10 | (Semi-Final R.L. Cup) | | | |
| 21 | Salford | away | 2.30 | 9-5 | 16 | Swinton (G.F.) | away | 3.0 | |
| Dec. 5 | Hunslet | away | 2.30 | 7-4 | 17 | Whitehaven | away | 3.0 | |
| 12 | Blackpool | home | 2.30 | | 19 | Dewsbury (E.M.) | home | 3.0 | |