

1965/66

1965/6

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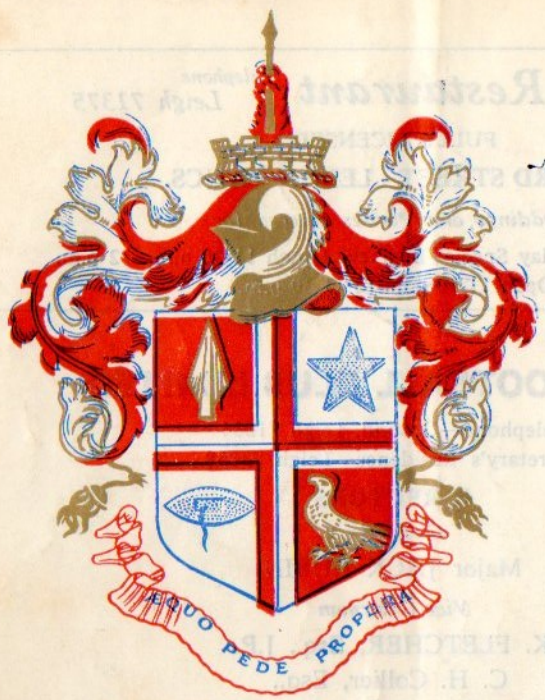
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- THE 5 PERIODS ARE:
- August 18 to October 2
 - October 4 to November 27
 - November 29 to January 22
 - January 24 to March 19
 - March 21 to May 21



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**Leigh
 Football
 Club Ltd.**

**Headquarters:
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Rugby League Fixture

LEIGH v. OLDHAM

Friday, 22nd April, 1966

Kick-Off 7-30 p.m.

Official Programme

6^d.



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THE MEN FROM WATERSHEDDINGS

Undoubtedly, one of the most attractive teams to visit Hilton Park at any time is the Oldham outfit. Unlike ourselves, they are in the top 16 tournament, and just one of the teams likely to do very well, although there is some doubt at the time of writing, whether they will get a home game in this supplementary competition.

Although we have made determined efforts to retain a place in the top 16 we have not succeeded. Displays like that seen against Warrington would have gained us that place.

At Wigan on Monday we were without Gordon Lewis, our captain, and Bill Robinson, both internationals.

There have been times during the season when the team has risen to great heights, but unfortunately that satisfactory form has not been maintained. Inconsistency has lost us several games, but it has to be recognised that hardly a week has passed without several players have been injured, some seriously.

NO EXCUSES

We are not by any means making excuses, but unless some kind of level can be attained, then there are bound to be disappointing results. It is very hard to strike a balance. Players do well with this or that man whereas the opposite is the case with other individuals. Blending is a hard thing to accomplish, but the selectors have done their best to field a winning combination.

Teams getting bigger public support than Leigh are also worried about performances. Every possible angle has been explored at Leigh, and we are hopeful of better results being attained in the new season. A good start is essential and we feel that given solid support—some people rarely miss a match, and we are grateful to them all—there will be no feeling of despondency in 1966-67. Many things are under review and we have great hopes for the future.

THANKS A MILLION

To those people who support our pools with regularity, we tender our best thanks. Without this support the club would be in financial difficulties. Where does the money go to, the proceeds of the Pools? This question is put to us week after week. Well, there's players' wages to be considered, administration costs, etc. Playing gear is dearer than ever and jerseys, at the best of times, only last a season. This is not a fault in manufacture, but because of wear and tear. Rugby gear does not last as long as that used in soccer.

Another big outgoing concerns the reserve team. Wages and gate officials' fees are far greater by many times than the actual gate, and there will have to be some pruning somewhere. The 'A' team position in Lancashire is dealt with by a special writer elsewhere in this programme.

Back to tonight's visitors. In John Winton, the South African, they have a fine goalkicker who can win games on his own. He was previously with Wigan. Stan McLeod and Jim McCormick, other backs, were also with Wigan at one time, while young Warburton, the stand-off half is well known to local folk. In the pack are such strong men as Bott, the international, Whitehead, Wilson, Smethurst and Parker.

MICK'S FUTURE

We were hoping that Mick Martyn would be playing tonight, but he may have to cry off through injury. There is a good deal of conjecture about Mick's future. He has said that he would be retiring at the end of the season, but that decision is hailed with disappointment by all lovers of R.L. football.

Leigh supporters would regret the move because he is still in the prime of life as a R.L. forward. Officials of other clubs have told us that if they do not see him in action again, their followers will be keenly disappointed, because he is always an attraction at their grounds.

From Australia to England, Mick had thrilled many thousands of fans with his dashing displays, and it will be a sad blow for R.L. football, and particularly the Leigh club, when he does decide to hang up his boots.

He has made a great impact on the code and has gained many honours. At the time of writing we hear that Mick is to have an interview with our Chairman, Major J. Rubin.

We all sincerely hope that Mick will be playing again in Leigh colours next season and that his try total (it is now 215) will continue to soar.

Incidentally, there are a few copies of the "Mick Martyn Story" left. This is a real souvenir for your book shelf.

IN FRANCE

Mick, together with Gordodn Lewis, has been chosen for the R.L. side to play the French League XIII in Paris on May 5th. We hope that they will meet with success in a match which is staged to popularise the game in the French capital.

The full team is—Langton (Hunslet); Raynor (Batley); Lewis (Leigh); Toohey (Bramley); Gaydon (Widnes); Kitchen (Whitehaven); Ward (Widnes); Moore (Whitehaven); Mullins (Dewsbury); Taylor (Dewsbury); Ravouvou (Rochdale Hornets); Martyn (Leigh); Karalius V. (Widnes) capt.;

Substitutes—Collins (Leigh); Walker (York).

THE FUTURE OF 'A' TEAMS (Contributed)

Lancashire Rugby League Committee are wrestling with a real problem and the outcome should prove most interesting. It could be that next season will see a contraction in the number of teams in the Lancashire Combination, because the future of Whitehaven 'A' and Blackpool Borough 'A' seems to be in the balance.

Both Whitehaven and Blackpool Borough clubs have felt for some time that the running of a reserve team has been a considerable drain on their funds, and the time has come when there has to be a most serious review of the position. If there should be a cut in the number of clubs in the Combination then there would be a lessening of interest, and gates would fall to the faithful few. New lows have been recorded this season at reserve team games, and the outlook is indeed bleak.

Rochdale Hornets directors found it more beneficial to take a collection rather than charge gate admission fees. The number of gatekeepers was cut down. Every club finds that running a reserve team is a luxury, but they cannot drop the team entirely because they require deputies in case there are injuries to first teamers.

The amazing thing about Combination games this season, is that there have been instances where they have been more attractive than some senior fixtures. In addition, the bar takings have been even greater than the money taken at the "gate".

This point is no guess work, in fact the Lancashire secretary-treasurer, Mr. Frank Devonald of Widnes pointed out to the delegates last week at Manchester that clubs who were enterprising enough to have lights as well as licensed bars often cashed in.

Let me hasten to say that Mr. Devonald was not suggesting that it was in keeping with the floodlit conditions for spectators to get lit up! It was merely a matter of experience when £. s. d. was concerned.

This season, because so many matches in South West Lancashire—first teams and reserve teams—have played fixtures under the lights, I have seen more fixtures than ever. And quite honestly I must say that the standard of play of 'A' teams has greatly improved. I have thoroughly enjoyed certain games, even if the crowd atmosphere has been lacking.

Now that we find some professional players jibbing at playing in the reserve team, let us have some different thinking about the future of the Combination. Why not cut down the number of pros in the 'A' team, for after

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all, some club delegates admitted at last week's meeting that they had to go around on Friday nights recruiting amateurs to make up the numbers for the reserve teams.

More amateurs in the 'A' teams would help the strength of the Combination. There would be a possibility of reviving such clubs as Runcorn, Stockport, Cadishead, Belle Vue Rangers, Thatto Heath, Pemberton Rovers, Wigan Highfield, Twelve Apostles (Leigh), Thatto Heath and Ince All blacks. These clubs could well get going again if they did not have a big wage bill.

So that Runcorn could get going again, Widnes might allow their ground to be used for the home fixtures for a season until the club got going. Warrington might do the same with a club in that area; St. Helens could foster Thatto Heath and Wigan and Leigh could also help. Surely it would be better for Barrow 'A' instead of having so many free Saturdays to play matches against Lancaster, Morecambe, Dalton, Millom and Ulverston.

I can well imagine some people, who think they are on the inside of so many R.L. matters, muttering to themselves "It would be a case of murdering the youngsters". Well, let me remind them of the scene at Craven Park, Barrow, where even the pros cheered the amateurs - Crosfields - after this year's R.L. cup tie.

Now if we cannot revive old names, let the local League XIII's join the Combination.

The Lancashire Combination is the very lifeblood of R.L. and it must not die or undergo any contraction. More teams are required.

IN BRIEF

Bill Hughes, our physiotherapist and trainer, is to receive a gift from the club and the supporters' club on his retirement after 30 years loyal and unstinted service to the club. A collection was taken at a recent match for Bill's testimonial by the Supporters' Club.

* * * *

John Carney and Danny Harris, our forwards, are still on the injured list. We hope they will make a speedy and complete recovery. Colin Tyrer is making good progress and should be fit for the opening of next season. Despite his lay-off, Colin is still our leading scorer and cannot now be overhauled.

* * * *

Bev Risman, our former player who joined Leeds some time ago, is in the side to meet Wigan tomorrow in the semi-final of the R.L. Challenge Cup at Huddersfield.

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- 9—Dickens
- 10—Higgs
- 11—Woodyear
- 12—Martyn
- 13—Walmsley
- Substitutes—
- 14—Hoffman
- 15—Clarke

OLDHAM

- 1—Winton
- 2—McCleod
- 3—McCormack
- 4—Donovan
- 5—Sims
- 6—Warburton
- 7—Broomhead
- 8—Bott
- 9—Taylor
- 10—Burns
- 11—Smethurst
- 12—Irving/Fletcher
- 13—Whitehead
- Substitute—
- 15—Parker

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| R. TICKLE | — | 15 | 45 |
| M. MARTYN | — | 14 | 42 |
| *B. RISMAN | 21 | — | 42 |
| W. BRIGGS | 1 | 10 | 32 |
| G. SMITH | 12 | 2 | 30 |
| T. GRAINEY | 8 | 4 | 28 |
| G. LEWIS | — | 9 | 27 |
| J. WALSH | — | 7 | 21 |
| S. WALMESLEY | 6 | 3 | 21 |
| J. PARR | — | 2 | 6 |
| J. LEADBETTER | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. DICKENS | — | 1 | 3 |
| D. HARRIS | — | 1 | 3 |
| D. HIGGS | — | 1 | 3 |
| T. ENTWISTLE | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. LEWIS | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. HOFFMAN | — | 1 | 3 |
| M. COLLINS | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. CARNEY | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. LOWE | — | 1 | 3 |
| J. HINDLEY | — | 1 | 3 |
| *W. TALLIS | 1 | — | 2 |

(Including Club, Cup and Friendly games)

*B. Risman is with Leeds - W. Tallis is in Australia

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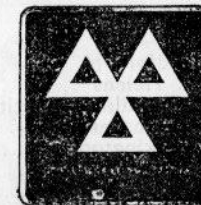
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FIXTURES AND RESULTS 1965-66

| 1965 | FIRST TEAM | F. A. | 1965 | 'A' TEAM | F. A. |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|------------------------|---------|
| August— | | | | | |
| 14 | Widnes (A. & B. M.C.) | H 8-20 | 13 | Widnes (Farrell Cup) | A 25-8 |
| 23 | Blackpool | A 10-19 | 21 | Warrington | A 12-12 |
| 28 | Bradford N. | A 5-17 | 28 | Rochdale H. | H 22-5 |
| 30 | Wigan | H 18-25 | 30 | Wigan | A 11-17 |
| September | | | | | |
| 4 | Salford | A 5-12 | September— | | |
| 11 | Liverpool C. (L. Cup) | H 21-7 | 3 | Salford | H 13-13 |
| 15 | Salford (2nd Rd. L.C.) | A 8-5 | 11 | Liverpool C. (L. Sh'd) | A 13-20 |
| 18 | Huddersfield | H 15-2 | 18 | Widnes | A 5-31 |
| 23 | Rochdale (L.C. Sem-F) | A 0-19 | 25 | Warrington | H 12-15 |
| 29 | Hunslet | A 12-21 | October— | | |
| 29 | New Zealand | H 5-10 | 2 | Blackpool B. | A 8-12 |
| October— | | | | | |
| 2 | Bradford N. | H 13-6 | 9 | Whitehaven—Postponed | |
| 5 | St. Helens | A 19-25 | 16 | Workington T. | H 14-31 |
| | (Floodlit Competition) | | 23 | Salford | A 11-14 |
| 9 | Whitehaven | H 20-12 | 30 | Liverpool | H 9-5 |
| 16 | Workington | A 12-37 | November— | | |
| 23 | Salford | H 23-8 | 6 | Rochdale H. | A 29-3 |
| 30 | Leeds | A 2-22 | 13 | | |
| November— | | | | | |
| 2 | Warrington (F.L.) | H 13-9 | 20 | Swinton | A 10-21 |
| 8 | Rochdale | H 10-8 | 27 | | |
| 13 | Huddersfield | A 2-24 | December— | | |
| 20 | Swinton | H 4-9 | 4 | | |
| December— | | | | | |
| 4 | Leeds | H 17-7 | 11 | St. Helens | A |
| 18 | Barrow | H 11-8 | | Postponed | |
| 1966 | | | | | |
| January— | | | | | |
| 1 | Liverpool C. | A 17-6 | 18 | Barrow | A 0-16 |
| 8 | Widnes | A 7-23 | 25 | | |
| 29 | Liverpool C. | H 13-13 | 1966 | | |
| February— | | | | | |
| 5 | Swinton | A 4-9 | January— | | |
| 12 | Barrow | A 8-4 | 1 | | |
| 14 | St. Helens | A 2-17 | 8 | Widnes 'A' | H 12-7 |
| 19 | Workington | H 6-5 | 15 | St. Helens | A |
| 26 | Liverpool C. | H 15-6 | | Postponed | |
| Ist Rnd. R. L. Cup. | | | | | |
| March— | | | | | |
| 4 | Oldham | A 5-15 | 22 | Oldham | H |
| 9 | Warrington | A 2-13 | 29 | Liverpool | A 0-19 |
| 12 | Hunslet | H 10-16 | February— | | |
| 19 | 2nd Rd. R.L. Chall. Cup | | 5 | Swinton | H 0-17 |
| | Huddersfield | A 0-8 | 12 | Barrow | H 5-13 |
| 23 | St. Helens | H 5-6 | 19 | Workington | A 0-12 |
| 26 | Widnes | H 8-2 | March— | | |
| 30 | Rochdale (6-10 p.m.) | A 2-15 | 4 | Wigan (7-15 p.m.) | H 5-31 |
| April— | | | | | |
| 2 | Blackpool | H P. | 18 | Blackpool B. | H 8-17 |
| 4 | Blackpool | H 10-4 | 22 | St. Helens | A 24-12 |
| 9 | Whitehaven | A 12-7 | April— | | |
| 11 | Warrington | H 10-3 | 5 | Oldham | A P. |
| 18 | Wigan | A 7-17 | 9 | Whitehaven | H 17-9 |
| 22 | Oldham (7-30 p.m.) | H | 13 | Oldham | H 9-2 |
| | | | 27 | St. Helens (7-30 p.m.) | H |

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