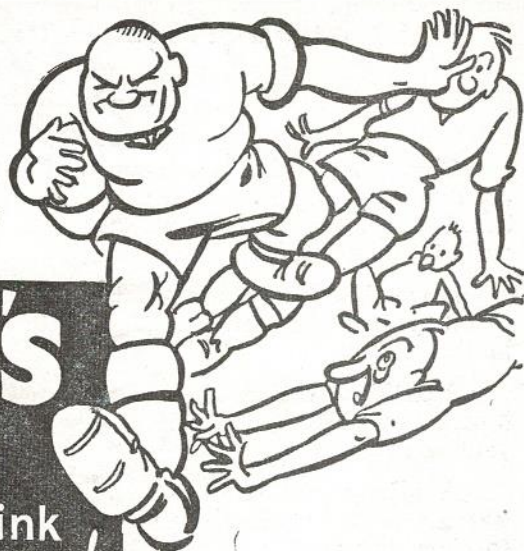


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Editorial

The "Play the Ball" rule has been a source of annoyance and irritation for too long, but a serious attempt to remedy this defect is to take place on October 8th at Odsal Stadium, when two trial games are to be played. In one game, the tackled player will play the ball in a forward direction only, and in the other game the tackled player will release the ball, similar to the method used in Rugby Union games. As to which method will find more favour is a matter of conjecture, but it is interesting to note that the public who attend these trial games will have an opportunity of expressing their opinions, as each spectator on entering the ground will be handed a voting slip, on which he will be able to record which method he thinks is the better. It can only be hoped that this is a practical step forward, and that the game of Rugby League will be all the better as a result.

Another important event taking place in the near future, is the arrival of the Australians in this country. The first match of their tour is at Knotty Ash, and, where a real welcome awaits them. This is an opportunity for Rugby League fans to rally round and attend the game which is on October 10th.

Our Visitors

These days, top of the league and good clean fast football do not necessarily go hand in hand, and because of their reputation we are especially happy to welcome Oldham to our ground today. They are second to none in their exhibitions of Rugby League as it should be played, and it surely must be taken as proved that this type of football pays dividends, when Oldham's record for this season is analysed. They are a team with several internationals, and we can anticipate with every confidence, an entertaining display of Rugby League football this afternoon.

Here and There

Ray Farnall, our "A" team full back, is to be married today.

Frank Griffin, who was a popular player at Knotty Ash a couple of years ago, was married at Wigan last week.

"Olly" Teggin became the father of a bouncing baby boy last week.

Charlie Witt still scales over 20 stones.

NEXT MATCHES AT KNOTTY ASH.

Oct. 6 CITY "A" v. ST. HELENS "A."

Oct. 10 CITY v. TOURISTS.



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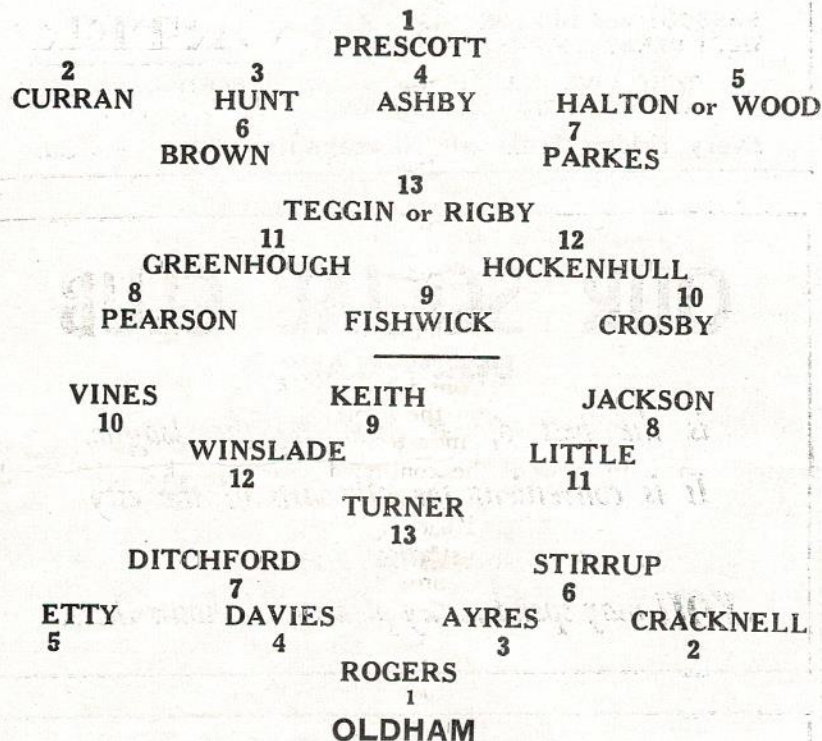
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Team Topics

We have opened the season with a list of tremendously difficult fixtures, and it was not too disappointing that we have been almost unrewarded as far as the League table is concerned. However, it was felt that the match at Dewsbury last Saturday would give us a chance to notch another couple of points in the table. This, unfortunately, was not to be, but it was the manner of our defeat which could have been won if chances had been taken, and if the defence had been a little more determined. The League table itself is significant, in that it shows our attack to be ineffectual, and our defence suspect. Although there is not the slightest grounds for complacency, it is felt that there are a number of young players on the register who have good potential, and before long, when these players blend, we will show a marked improvement.

One of our most improved players is Ashby, who has now played in several senior games, and once more "Dollar" Parkes has struck form. But it is our reserve strength, particularly in the forwards, which is causing much anxiety, for the game as it is played today shows that a good big 'un is better than a good little 'un, and weight in the pack is a vital factor in success, and the demands made on forwards today also show that even weight itself is not enough. Skill, speed and top physical fitness are also essential factors. With all these essential requirements, no wonder good forwards are difficult to find, particularly with very limited financial needs.

One experiment carried out last week in the "A" team was the playing of Gordon Curran on the wing. Even allowing for the fact that the opposition was a junior team, Gordon's display was an impressive one. In view of the continued absence of Ken Dibble, the experiment was also tried of playing Tegg in the No. 13 position, and his straight running and backing up was a feature of the game, and once again it was demonstrated that to follow the man with the ball is a quick way to success, providing, of course, the man with the ball does pass it intelligently.

It is hoped that there will be several new signings in the next couple of weeks, directed particularly towards our reserve forward strength. Two of the players concerned have already played in senior football, but the remainder have been selected from the junior field.

Next week, the First team visits Knowsley Road where we meet our old friends (and enemies) once more. They have scored 100 points against us in two matches, and while we must acknowledge them as being top class as a scoring machine, we hope to field a stronger side, and give them a good run for their money. On the same day, our "A" team is at Knotty Ash to the Saints "A" team, and we hope to put a good side out which will include a couple of the players who will be signed this week. The "A" team which we are putting in the field these days is probably the best we have ever had, which is a happy omen for the future, and they are worthy of support, for they are playing very attractive football, and is proving a fruitful nursery for some of the players we are confident will soon be first team standard.

Our heavyweight prop forward, Bill Payne, who has recently converted to our code from soccer, is improving rapidly, and Skelhorn, who had a knee operation at the end of last season, is seriously staking his claim to a place in the first team pack.

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Supporters' Club Notes

City v. Australia, Wednesday, 10th October, 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale at our Sales and Service Hut today. Stand 7/6 (numbered seat); Ground 2/6. There are only 400 Stand Seats—make sure of yours today.

November Handicap Draw. Will members please get their tickets today from Mr. McCullough, also at the hut. Please help in this effort.

Monthly Meeting. To remind you! Tuesday, October 2nd—8 p.m. at the Social Club, 19 Derby Lane. Get the news and air your views.

A disappointment! Despite the interesting talks by S. H. Yates and Harry Sunderland, the attendance last Tuesday was so poor that the Social Club have cancelled the remaining talks. Oh, Supporters!

Membership. We are not at high water mark yet—come on folk and join today.

Wembley, 1957. A long way off we know, but seats at 12/6 have been ordered and **members** can now secure theirs—as usual—cash with order.

The Shop. Sales have been excellent, and we still have a good supply of Pens 2/6, Refills 1/-, Badges and Brooches 1/3, Pencils 4d., Rugby League Guides 2/-, and "Know the Game," 2/-.

An Appeal. We want the ground to look smart for the Australian games and Mr. Vincent Lloyd wants volunteers to help on the next two Sundays to do some painting on the railings round the ground. The tools and materials have been supplied free. Give your name in at the hut if you can help.

J.C.G.

M.A.R.L.A.

In one of the best amateur games seen on Merseyside, Blackpool Borough Colts defeated Old Swan by 25 points to 22 at Longview last Saturday. Both sides have some promising lads in their ranks, who will certainly make the grade in years to come. But for an injury to Peter Alexander, the Old Swan scrum half which necessitated hospital treatment, after only twenty minutes, there is little doubt that the locals would have won.

Come and see for yourselves the progress that is being made in the amateur game. There are games at Longview Lane (10B bus terminus) every Saturday, when you will be assured of seeing a good game.