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OLDHAM v BRAMLEY

Sat 8th September

Kick-off 3-00 pm



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Programme 6p

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ON THE INSIDE by DAVE PARKER —

St. Helens are operating a panel of 18 players on first team pay in line with many other clubs these days, but at least one player, prop Eric Woodyer is not too happy with the set-up. He is staying away when it looked towards the close of last season that he could probably hold down a regular place this term.

Widnes coach Vince Karalius was in two minds last Friday evening at the Willows as to whether he should include his international loose forward Doug Laughton despite an ankle strain. But his mind was made up for him when Laughton travelling to the ground in his own car was held up in the traffic on the East Lancs road. This is a case in point where all players should be made to travel on the team bus unless they happen to live within a few miles of the visiting ground.

The Widnes club took their narrow defeat as a mixed blessing and immediately put in a claim as the unluckiest and best losers so they can enter the Captain Morgan Trophy.

Laieia Ravouvou, the former giant Rochdale Hornets and Blackpool Borough second row forward, is seriously ill in a Rochdale hospital. The former Fijian contingent who played with Huddersfield and Rochdale and still live in this country have visited him to keep up his spirits in their true traditional style.

Leigh have welcomed back their former Widnes stay-away scrum half Jimmy Boyland, who has been missing from the Hilton Park club for 12 months. But at the same time they have lost craggy loose forward Tommy Martin to hospital for a shoulder operation after two successive dislocations.

Still with Leigh, and it is his duties as a policeman that have stopped winger Steve Houghton, a £2,000 signing from St. Helens, training at Hilton Park this season. If Trevor Lowe at Dewsbury can "swing it" with his chief constable to swap shifts then I am sure Houghton and the Leigh club can sort something out. Houghton did play at Warrington last weekend after talks with club officials.

Leigh are to give long-serving hooker or blind-side prop Charlie Middlehurst a free transfer, and I have a hunch that he will end up at Blackpool.

With only Stuart Wright as a recognised winger Wigan are on the lookout for a big name. Last season they talked with Harrogate, Yorkshire and England R.U. winger Peter Squires, who is currently touring Australasia with the England team, but he said his main aim was to make a name for himself in Yorkshire cricket. Squires, the fastest outfielder in county cricket and the fastest wing in Rugby Union played quite a few Sunday League games, but his three day appearances were limited. I feel an offer in the £7,000 region will tempt Squires, plus the club who moves for him offering his release to play cricket.

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Pools News

In order to reward the Pools Agents who did so well during the summer months, a difficult time for most pools that are allied to winter sports, a simple competition is planned for the next few weeks, giving an opportunity for every Pools Agent to win a valuable prize.

The rules for this competition will be published in a bulletin to be circulated next week.

We should also like to take this opportunity to welcome the many new Agents that have joined the Weekly Draw during the summer.

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Brian Batty of the Mail

With the season barely in its stride we are already finding further confusion and controversy between players, officials and referees over rules.

The rule that really seems to be getting under everyone's skin at the moment concerns the one where a player attempts to take the ball from an opponent in the tackle.

We all know that for the game to run anything like smoothly we need consistency from the referees but I like to see them have a fair chance.

This doesn't seem to be the case with a rule that is open to so many different interpretations.

World Cup coach Jim Challinor is among those who feel strongly about the present situation.

'It is a ridiculous position for there were cases in a recent game I watched where the referee blew up sometimes for the offence but let it go on other occasions.

'The fans as well as the players are confused and the position wants clearing up and putting on a uniform basis,' is Jim's view.

'It should really be as clear as a knock-on but these days you find everyone is looking to the referee wondering whether or not he is going to let it go or blow up.

'I am not blaming referees for I appreciate that they are trying to put their version of the rule over.'

Wigan coach Graham Starkey says: 'I would penalise unless it was a case of one player against one when the ball is taken but there are too many variables.

'There is the question of when the player is stopped and the tackle effective. There is position of one holding a man and another coming in to steal the ball.

'I have a lot of sympathy with referees—I handle games at schoolboy level—but it is time this rule was cleared up. The trouble is that players and coaches are never given a say when the rules are drawn up.

The view of a top referee is: 'I think it is one of the worst rules in the game for provoking players. I wish they would sort it out. It seems we can't win with it.'

Certainly players going in to punch the ball free are liable to start trouble and I would think the best solution is to rule that players cannot take the ball from an opponent in any situation.

We might then get an improvement in the tackling and a bit more fluency and action in the playing of the ball.



Oldham v Dewsbury



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Rugby Quiz

1. Which is the largest run of consecutive appearances by a Bramley player?
2. Who was the youngest player to make his first team debut?
3. What is the name of Castleford's home ground?
4. Which two clubs were relegated from Division One in 1962-63?
5. Who are nicknamed the Airelie Birds?

1. Jim Hainworth made 100 consecutive appearances between March, 1960 and December, 1962.
2. Harold Wagstaffe (Huddersfield) was 15 years, 175 days old when he made his debut against Bramley.
3. Wheldon Road.
4. Oldham and Bramley.
5. Hull.



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OLDHAM 17

Red & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—MURPHY M
- 2—ELLIOTT M.
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *2 tries goal*
- 5—O'BRIEN C.
- 6—GAILLEY R.
- 7—GORMAN T.
- 8—CLAWSON T. *3 goals*
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—ASHCROFT K.
- 11—DALEY A.
- 12—MUNRO G. *try*
- 13—REYNOLDS F.

- 14—DAVIES T.
- 15—GOODWIN N.

Referee: W. H. Thompson
(Hudd.)

BRAMLEY 30

Amber & Black Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—KEEGAN A.
- 2—GOODCHILD P.
- 3—SMITH A.
- 4—BOLTON K.
- 5—AUSTIN J.
- 6—BRIGGS T.
- 7—WARD B.
- 8—BRIGGS D.
- 9—FIRTH R.
- 10—ASHMAN D.
- 11—IDLE G.
- 12—SAMPSON D.
- 13—WOLFORD J.

- 14—
- 15—CHESHIRE A.

Touch Judges

R. Dennett (Warrington) Orange
P. Halstead (Rochdale) Red

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Oldham Schoolboys

v Catalan



OUR VISITORS . . .

Oldham's visitors Bramley were founded in 1879 and they joined the Northern Rugby Union in 1896. Since then Bramley have plodded on throughout their history but have never reached the final of a major competition. In fact the nearest Bramley have come to winning a major trophy was on the four occasions (in 1921, 1948, 1970 and 1971) that they reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire Cup. In addition to this, in season 1963-64 they reached the semi-final play-off in the Eastern Divisional Championship but unfortunately they were beaten 11-2 at Castleford.

However, the name of Bramley has appeared in the Rugby League history books. On October 7th, 1907, for example, Bramley became the first club to entertain an overseas touring team when the very first New Zealand "All Golds" visited Barley Mow.

Another historic match involving overseas opposition occurred in season 1921-22 when the Australian tourists of that season scored their biggest ever victory by defeating Bramley 92-7! In this match the Kangaroos kicked 10 goals and crossed for 24 tries!

There have been brighter moments in the Bramley history however, such as the record home gate of 12,600 which was attracted to the league match against Leeds in season 1946-47. That match, of course, was played at the old Barley Mow enclosure for the record attendance at Bramley's new ground, McLaren Field, is 7,600 for the visit of Bradford Northern in 1967. Last Spring, Bramley's ground was equipped with floodlights and these were used for the first time on 28th March, 1973 when a crowd of 1,000 saw Hull Kingston Rovers win a league match by 20 points to 7. All these first class facilities at Bramley helped to convince the Yorkshire County Legislators that McLaren Field was a ground worthy of representative football and so, next Wednesday, the Yorkshire v. Cumbria county fixture is to be staged by Bramley, the first such match staged by our hardworking Yorkshire guests.

There is no doubt that Bramley will have to fight hard this season in order to remain a First Division side but there is plenty of talent and experience in this Yorkshire team.

Full-back Arthur Keegan has indicated that this season will be his last as a player. Although now almost 34 years old and in his sixteen'h season, Keegan is still a more than useful player. He joined Hull from Westown Boys' Club in October, 1958 and made his first team debut the following month in Hull's 32-7 away win at Leeds. At the end of that 1958-59 season Keegan played for Hull at Wembley but although he landed 5 Wembley goals, Hull were thoroughly beaten by Wigan 30-13. Whilst with Hull, Keegan toured Australasia in 1966 when he played in two of the Australian tests and by the time he joined Bramley in May, 1971 he had played 14 times for Great Britain, twice for England and nine times for Yorkshire.

Another Bramley player who has represented Yorkshire is winger Peter Goodchild who began his career with Doncaster. After playing for Yorkshire in 1966-67 he was signed by Halifax where he scored 38 tries in his first two seasons at Halifax before moving to Bramley.

On the other wing Bramley have Jack Austin, the 26 years old former Wakefield Trinity and Castleford star. Austin's robust style brought him 14 tries last season.

Bramley's leading try scorer last season was 25 years old Australian Alan Smith who was also Bramley's leading try scorer in season 1968-69 before returning home to play for Wollongong. In January, 1971 he returned to England to play for Halifax but the following July he switched back to Bramley and his tally of 20 tries last season created a new Bramley club record.

Partnering Smith in the centre is Keith Bollon whilst other players in line for a place in the Bramley backs are Michael Bush and Alf Weston. Bush is a rugby union signing from West Leeds RUFC in December, 1972 whilst 22 years old Weston was signed from Leeds last month. The half-back positions at Bramley are adequately covered with the club skipper Bernard Ward occupying the scrum-half berth.

Twenty-three years old Ward began his career with Wakefield Trinity who he joined from Normanton juniors. Whilst at Belle Vue, Ward represented Trinity in the first ever John Player Trophy Final but he was unable to command a regular first team spot and last October he was transferred to Bramley when he landed 3

goals on his debut in the 18-2 home defeat of Whitehaven. In all, Ward scored 3 tries and landed 59 goals for Bramley last season.

At stand-off the talented 23 years old John Hughes is attempting to win back his No. 6 shirt from Trevor Briggs, the former Leeds player who moved across the city to Bramley in January, 1971. Briggs scored a try on his debut against Batley. Peter Astbury was also signed from Leeds at the same time as Trevor Briggs and he too made his debut in the Batley game. He is a most useful utility back.

In the forwards Bramley have quite a difficult set of opponents. Derek Ashman was signed from New Market juniors and he is a good prospect who has recently forced himself into the first team. Another player who recently made his debut is David Briggs. This 24 years old prop was signed from Dewsbury and he made his debut at Wigan in the opening match of the season.

Another former New Market junior is Malcolm Craker who has been at Bramley 5 years, whilst 21 years old Geoff Greenwood was signed from Leeds Intermediates in October, 1971. Hooker Ray Price is a tough customer who has been with Bramley for quite a while, whilst in John Woolford, Bramley have a most talented loose-forward. Woolford joined Bramley from Brookhouse Rangers 11 years ago. In 1968-69 he represented England Under-24 against the French when he scored a try and 2 goals in Young England's 42-2 victory. In 1970-71 he was placed second in the John Players No. 6 'Player of the Season' Awards and he also represented Yorkshire that season. Other players hoping for a first team place this season are Graham Idle and Treasure.

Like Oldham, Bramley's record this season reads played four, lost four and they share the bottom of the table spot with Oldham. In the pre-season charity match at Headingley, Leeds comfortably beat Bramley by 35 points to 10, whilst in the First Division, defeats have been suffered at the hands of Wigan and Salford. Against Salford, Bramley put up a spirited performance and only went down 14-7, but Wigan won easily enough 23-2. Last Sunday, Featherstone Rovers visited Bramley in the first round of the Yorkshire Cup and, as expected, the Challenge Cup holders ran out winners by 19 points to 4.

Oldham's improved form in the game against Wigan last week was most encouraging for the difficult fight ahead to maintain a place in Division One. Bramley are in the same plight as Oldham so this afternoon's game promises to be a close fought encounter which is vitally important to both clubs. Next Tuesday, Wigan pay their second visit of the season to Watersheddings in the preliminary round of the BBC 2 Floodlit Cup. This tie is to be contested over two legs with the second leg being staged at Central Park on Tuesday, 18th September. The winners of this preliminary tie will be rewarded with a home tie in round one against the winners of the Rochdale Hornets against Swinton tie. It should, therefore, be a hectic week at Watersheddings with this afternoon's quest for league points followed next Tuesday with all the excitement of cup football.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	18—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
	29—Wigan	A
Oct.	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

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