



HUDDERSFIELD

v.

WARRINGTON

at

MAINE ROAD, MANCHESTER

★

SATURDAY, 14th MAY, 1949

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . SIXPENCE

RUGBY LEAGUE JOTTINGS

By WILLIAM FALLOWFIELD

SECRETARY, THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THE "POOL"

Five per cent of all the nett receipts from matches played in the Northern Rugby Football League are paid into a central pool which is equally divided between all the competing clubs at the close of the season. The size of the pool is a sure indication of the interest of the public in our game.

During the last three years there has been a progressive increase in the size of the Pool and this year, it looks likely to exceed last season's record figures.

INCREASED SUPPORT

The support enjoyed by some clubs is indicated by the number of all-ticket matches which have been played during the season. Capacity gates have no longer been the exception.

PROGRESS

Interest in the game has not only been confined to local circles. An application for membership was received from a team in Glasgow, which proposed to call itself the "Glasgow Eagles R.L.F.C."

In South Wales, there is a strong move afoot to establish a local League. In years gone by the Welsh clubs were members of the Northern Rugby Football League but the vast amount of travelling was a financial millstone around their necks. The present venture intends to establish a Welsh League which will be affiliated directly to the Rugby Football League. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that as many as eight teams will function in Wales next season.

In London enthusiasts are continually trying to foster the development of the game in that Area. Unfortunately the dearth of playing fields is the chief obstacle. A match has already been played at the Mitcham Stadium between teams drawn from London and Hampshire and this month the victorious London side will play Liverpool Rangers, a Junior team in the Merseyside District League.

The newcomers, to the League, Whitehaven, although occupying a modest position in the League table have by no means disgraced themselves. They have been well supported in spite of the fact that all their home games clash with Workington Town A.F.C. Cumberland is a prolific source for players and there is no doubt that the two Cumberland clubs will be leading contenders in the League in the near future.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 1949

by TOM LONGWORTH

TO-DAY is the fifth peace-time season in succession in which Maine Road, which once housed 84,569 spectators, has been loaned by the accommodating Manchester City directorate to the Rugby League.

Each and every occasion has been a pronounced success. According to estimate, 246,580 spectators have paid £28,372 to witness the four preceding finals, breaking all records for the North of England.

The idea of utilising spacious soccer grounds was first conceived in 1937-38 when Hunslet and Leeds were the finalists.

Twelve months later Salford and Castleford were the finalists and Maine Road came into the picture for the first time with a record crowd of 69,504—figures which have still to be exceeded. The receipts totalled £4,301.

Then came the war and an interval of seven seasons. Wigan and Huddersfield were the 1945-46 finalists and, naturally, Maine Road was chosen. The attendance was 67,136 and the receipts (£8,386) smashed all previous records.

Circumstances compelled the 1946-47 final to be played as late as June 21st, when Wigan and Dewsbury met, again at Maine Road. Twelve months ago, with Warrington and Bradford Northern the contesting parties, patronage totalled 69,341—only 163 short of the record—and the receipts were £9,791, the biggest cash total taken at any match other than a Wembley Cup final.

Thus it can be said that the association of the Rugby League with Manchester City has not only proved a triumph of organisation, but an ideal arrangement for all concerned.

Why the Rugby League should "hire" soccer grounds is obvious. The best-equipped League ground in Lancashire is unquestionably at Swinton, with a 48,000 capacity. In Yorkshire, the 100,000 Odsal Stadium meets the needs.

Big Rugby—Cup finals, League finals and Test Matches—has outstripped, for the moment, the growth of accommodation of its own home.

Why should there be a championship final some may ask? The conditions are that the four clubs finishing at the head of the League play off, the first meeting the fourth and the second opposing the third in a semi-final. To reach to-day's decider Warrington (No. 1) disposed of Barrow (No. 4) and Huddersfield (No. 3) accounted for Wigan (No. 2).

On 14 occasions in the past the leading team has failed to become champions. It has been even known for the fourth club to secure the honours.

Everything to-day points to a very even contest, the verdict of which may be decided by the most trivial error, or a goal-kick.

Huddersfield are appearing in the final for the 11th time. Should they emerge successfully they will equal Wigan's record of six championship successes. Warrington became champions for the first time in their history a year ago when they beat Bradford Northern.

One of the highlights of the match will be the duel between Lionel Cooper, the Australian left-winger, who is the League's chief try-scorer with 59, and Brian Bevan, his immediate opponent on the Warrington right wing, who has scored 56 tries.

To-day is the 38th championship match. Lancashire clubs have won 21 and Yorkshire 16. It is the 20th inter-County duel and fifth in succession. All the matches played at Maine Road have interested both counties.

PEN PICTURES OF THE PLAYERS

HUDDERSFIELD

HUNTER, JOHN—An Australian who joined Huddersfield with Cooper. Both played for Eastern Suburbs club. A fast and enterprising player. Most spectacular at times and very safe.

***ANDERSON, JOCK**—Known as the "Flying Scot." Won the 1947 Powderhall 300 yards handicap. Scottish Rugby Union international. Signed from Hawick in January, 1945.

***BAWDEN, GEOFFREY** — Leading goal kicker of the side. A grand and forceful centre. Cumberland county honours. Is a native of Whitehaven. Was originally a winger. Since conversion to the centre has developed greater thrust.

DEVERY, PAT—If "Pat" had not signed for Huddersfield in August, 1947, he may have captained this season's Australian tourists. He played in all three Tests against Risman's touring team, but at stand-off half-back. A school teacher by profession Devery has a similar style of play to Vic Hey. Is probably the best all rounder in the League to-day. Has kicked 38 goals and scored 19 tries.

COOPER, LIONEL—Another Australian of rare skill. Test star against Risman's men. Leading try scorer in the Rugby League. Total to date 59 tries. Is very fast and a difficult player to stop. Signed in February, 1947.

PEPPERELL, RUSSELL — One of three Cumberland brothers. Has done yeoman service for the club. Has played in every position among the backs and also at loose forward. Has played for England. Born at Seaton.

BANKS, WILLIAM—Formerly played for Leeds, and Wakefield Trinity. A miner, he has the right temperament for the scrum-half position. A native of Maesteg, won Welsh international honours this season against England.

DALY, JOHN—Only Irishman in the team. A grand forward obtained from Cork. Has the ability to move quickly. Has played a big part in the recent revival of the team's fortunes.

MEEK, MELVYN—Has been playing Rugby League football for 15 seasons. Veteran of the team, but a grand hooker. Originally played for Halifax. Welsh international. A native of Newport.

MAIDEN, JOHN—Another Welshman in the make-up of a cosmopolitan side. Came from Newbridge in January, 1946. Sound "prop."

OWENS, IKE—One of the greatest of Welsh loose forwards. Huddersfield obtained him from Castleford in January. Was success of Australian tour of 1946 where he played in all three Tests. "Discovered" by Leeds in 1943. Welsh international under both codes. Since joining Huddersfield has played in the second row with equal success. Was a parachute-jumping instructor during the war. One of the game's outstanding personalities.

NICHOLSON, ROBERT — Another Australian tourist, England international and Cumberland county player. Played in the first two Tests this season. A grand tackler, a solid scrummager and a player of excellent handling ability for a forward. Secured from Hensingham R.U. club in April, 1939.

VALENTINE, DAVID D.—A Scottish International Rugby Unionist, signed in 1947 from Hawick, who made rapid strides to Test match rank. Played in all three games against Australia this season. Has a perfect understanding with his half-backs. Is speedy and handles like a back.

FERGUSON, ALEC—A Scot from the same club as Alec Fiddes. Obtained in November, 1948. Originally a stand-off half-back, but deputised for Hunter at full back in the Cup semi-final against Halifax.

PEPPERELL, STANLEY—One of the club's most valued utility players. Brother to Russell. Signed in October, 1934. International and County honours,

WILSON, GEORGE — A fast and determined runner this Scot was in line for Rugby Union international selection when he turned pro in October, 1948.

*Played in the Final against Wigan at Maine Road on May 18th, 1946.

1949

HUDDERSFIELD R.L. TEAM

1949



Left to Right—Back Row : A. FIDDIS (Coach), MAIDEN, DALY, NICHOLSON, OWENS, MEEK, VALENTINE. Seated : HUNTER, COOPER, DEVERY (Capt.), BAWDEN, ANDERSON. Front : BANKS, PEPPERELL (R. S.)

Photo by Blackburn, Wigan

NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE 1949 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

THE TEAMS

HUDDERSFIELD

(Colours : Claret and Gold Jerseys)

HUNTER, J.	...	1	...	Full Back
ANDERSON, J.	...	2	...	R. Wing 3/4
BAWDEN, J. or FERGUSON, A.	...	3	...	R. Centre
DEVERY, P. (Capt.)	...	4	...	L. Centre
COOPER, L.	...	5	...	L. Wing 3/4
PEPPERELL, R. S.	...	6	...	Out-Half
BANKS, W.	...	7	...	Scrum-Half
MAIDEN, J.	...	8	...	Prop. Forward
MEEK, M.	...	9	...	Hooker
DALY, J.	...	10	...	Front Row Forward
OWENS, I.	...	11	...	2nd Row Forward
NICHOLSON, R.	...	12	...	2nd Row Forward
VALENTINE, D. D.	...	13	...	Loose Forward

Reserves : Hughes, G., Davies, L., Pepperell, S. V.

WARRINGTON

(Colours : Primrose and Blue Jerseys)

JONES, L.	...	1	...	Full Back
BEVAN, B.	...	2	...	R. Wing 3/4
PIMBLETT, A.	...	3	...	R. Centre
JACKSON, W.	...	4	...	L. Centre
FRANCIS, R. L. or JOHNSON, A. E.	...	5	...	L. Wing 3/4
FLEMING, J.	...	6	...	Out-Half
HELME, G. J.	...	7	...	Scrum-Half
DERBYSHIRE, W.	...	8	...	Prop. Forward
FISHWICK, H.	...	9	...	Hooker
RILEY, W.	...	10	...	Front Row Forward
BATH, H.	...	11	...	2nd Row Forward
FEATHERSTONE, J.	...	12	...	2nd Row Forward
PALIN, H. (Capt.)	...	13	...	Loose Forward

Reserves : Knowelden, B., Ryan, R.

Referee : Mr. F. SMITH (Barrow).

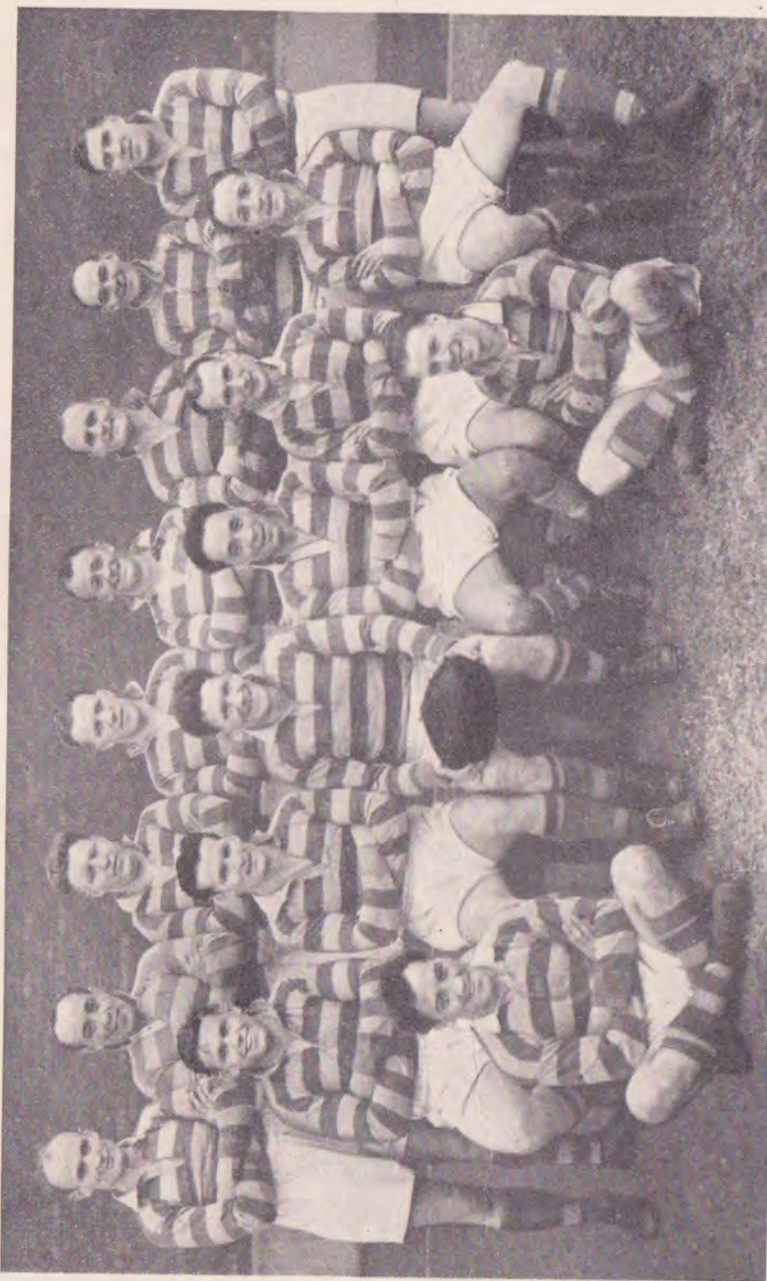
Touch Judges : Messrs. H. MORAN (Widnes), M. COATES (Leeds)

PLAY : 40 MINUTES EACH HALF. SCORES : TRY—3 points. GOAL (Every)—2 points.

No kicking directly into touch except from a Penalty.

On being tackled, i.e. progress halted, a player must get up immediately and play the ball with his foot.

No extra time will be played in the event of the scores being equal at the end of 80 minutes.
The replay will take place on this ground. An announcement will be made by loudspeaker.



Left to Right—Back Row: B. BEVAN, W. RILEY, W. DERBYSHIRE, J. FEATHERSTONE, W. FISHWICK, A. PIMBLETT, B. KNOWELDEN, R. RYAN.
Front Row: H. BATH, W. JACKSON, H. PALIN (Capt.), R. FRANCIS, L. JONES, A. JOHNSON. Squinting: J. FLEMING, G. HELME

Photo by "Warrington Guardian" Sports Section

PEN PICTURES OF THE PLAYERS

WARRINGTON

***JONES, LESLIE**—Welsh International full back. Grand fielder of the ball. "Guested" with Huddersfield on a few occasions during the war. Native of Penycraig.

***BEVAN, BRIAN**—Rugby League's leading try scorer for the past two seasons. Challenging Cooper, of Huddersfield, for this season's honours. An Australian. Was turned down by a Leeds club before Warrington gave him a trial and signed him. Has remarkable turn of speed. A strong finisher.

***PIMBLETT, ALBERT**—A native of St. Helens. Graduated with the now defunct "Recs." Lancashire county player when 18. Seen service with Huddersfield and Halifax before joining Warrington in September, 1941. Has since gained International and Test Match honours. One of the most forceful centres in the game to-day.

JACKSON, WILLIAM—A Cumberland county player discovered by Workington Town. Obtained from Hull Kingston Rovers. A strong and speedy attacking player.

FRANCIS, ROY—Discovered by Wigan in 1936. A Welsh international and skilful winger. Joined Barrow in January, 1939, and was transferred to Warrington in June last year.

JOHNSON, ALBERT—A product of St. Helens junior football. Schoolboy international. Since joining Warrington in September, 1938, has gained every honour. Toured Australia with Risman's team in 1946. Very speedy. Employs the short kick and handles perfectly.

***FLEMING, JACK**—A former Wigan player. Won County and International honours while with Warrington whom he joined in January, 1947. A miner by occupation. An eighty minutes player, strong on defence.

***HELME, GERRY**—One of three local born players in the team. Obtained from Culcheth junior club. Now Lancashire and England's first choice as scrum-half.

***DERBYSHIRE, WILLIAM**—Another Wigan-born player. Obtained from Liverpool Stanley in September, 1947. English international. Fast for a front row man.

FISHWICK, "IKE"—One of the Rugby League's best hookers. Warrington signed him in November when veteran Dave Cotton retired. His ability in the scrums has been a big factor in Warrington's success.

***RILEY, WILLIAM**—Came from Liverpool Stanley with Derbyshire. A grand forager. Not spectacular, but as energetic and hard working as any other member of the team. Lancashire County honours.

BATH, HARRY—An Australian obtained from Barrow last season. A forward with a strong and speedy burst. Has scored 16 tries this season, proof of his ability to see and seize an opening.

***FEATHERSTONE, JAMES**—Played in this season's Test matches against Australia. Obtained from Wigan in 1946. A player of great promise and ability.

***PALIN, HAROLD**—Captain and goal kicker. County and England honours. Warrington born, but transferred to Swinton for whom he played full back. Returned "home" and has played a big part in Warrington successes of the past two seasons. Club's leading goal kicker with 148 to date. A loose forward of skill.

***KNOWELDEN, BRYN**—International and Australian tourist centre. Obtained from Barrow in December, 1947. Is a first-class player and was sought by many clubs before Warrington stepped in.

***RYAN, ROBERT**—Brother of the Leigh forward. A young reserve of exceptional promise. A product of Wigan junior football.

ATHERTON, JOHN—Was a member of the St. Helens Recreation club before joining Liverpool Stanley from whom Warrington obtained his transfer in August, 1948. A forward of skill and ideal club man.

*Played in last season's successful Championship Final.

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

★ ★ ★

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

Year	Winners	Runners-up
1901-2.	BROUGHTON RANGERS	SALFORD
1902-3.	HALIFAX	SALFORD
1903-4.	BRADFORD	SALFORD
1904-5.	OLDHAM	BRADFORD
1905-6.	LEIGH	HUNSLET
1906-7.	HALIFAX	OLDHAM
1907-8.	HUNSLET	OLDHAM
1908-9.	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1909-10.	OLDHAM	WIGAN
1910-11.	OLDHAM	WIGAN
1911-12.	HUDDERSFIELD	WIGAN
1912-13.	HUDDERSFIELD	WIGAN
1913-14.	SALFORD	HUDDERSFIELD
1914-15.	HUDDERSFIELD	LEEDS
1919-20.	HULL	HUDDERSFIELD
1920-21.	HULL	HULL K. R.
1921-22.	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1922-23.	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	HUDDERSFIELD
1923-24.	BATLEY	WIGAN
1924-25.	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	SWINTON
1925-26.	WIGAN	WARRINGTON
1926-27.	SWINTON	ST. HELENS R.
1927-28.	SWINTON	FEATHERSTONE R.
1928-29.	HUDDERSFIELD	LEEDS
1929-30.	HUDDERSFIELD	LEEDS
1930-31.	SWINTON	LEEDS
1931-32.	ST. HELENS	HUDDERSFIELD
1932-33.	SALFORD	SWINTON
1933-34.	WIGAN	SALFORD
1934-35.	SWINTON	WARRINGTON
1935-36.	HULL	WIDNES
1936-37.	SALFORD	WARRINGTON
1937-38.	HUNSLET	LEEDS
1938-39.	SALFORD	CASTLEFORD
1945-46.	WIGAN	HUDDERSFIELD
1946-47.	WIGAN	DEWSBURY
1947-48.	WARRINGTON	BRADFORD N.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

★

The Northern Rugby Football League acknowledge gratefully the concession by Kemsley Press in the production of this Programme.

B.M.

RUGBY LEAGUE FOLLOWERS

have kept in touch with the game throughout the season by following the unrivalled experts of the

SPORTING CHRONICLE

Now the All Sports Daily Paper will continue to give latest scores, full reports and up-to-the-minute news and comment on all the summer sports

SPORTING CHRONICLE

AND ATHLETIC NEWS

DAILY

PRICE 3d.

OUT TO-DAY

the first issue of the

EVENING CHRONICLE

SPORTS EDITION

The Evening Chronicle Football Edition always gave you the best in Football. Commencing today this ENTIRELY NEW Sports Edition will bring to you all that is best in sport this summer

GEORGE TRIBE, Australia's record-breaking spin bowler writes exclusively, together with all the leading golf stars writing special articles on golf. There will also be eye-witness accounts of all the cricket matches with special reports on tennis and athletics

Capture all the thrills of the day's big events in the most complete sports edition in the country