

# GREAT DUEL AT FARTOWN

## THIS WAS THE "TOPS"

HUDDERSFIELD 5—5—25      WARRINGTON 1—5—17

By "D'ARTAGNAN"

ONCE again Huddersfield and Warrington have shown how it should be done. This was Rugby in excelsis with attack predominating throughout. Mistakes there were, of course, especially defensive ones, but with such brilliant attacking moves being worked out by both sides these can be overlooked and forgiven.

Warrington got away to a good start with a Bevan try and by the time the same player closed the scoring with another try right on time the score-board tins must have been red-hot. The lead changed hands five times, and until the last ten minutes it was anybody's game. That the teams were well matched is shown by the fact that each scored five tries. The balance of points depended upon

goal-kicking, in which sphere Bawden was more successful than Palin.

There were innumerable personal duels, all fought out in good spirit, and in almost every instance it was the man with the ball who shone. The halves on both sides were happiest when the ball was coming out their way. Cooper and Bevan renewed their Maine Road contest, with Bevan having the numerical advantage of three tries to two on this occasion.

### BEVAN v. COOPER

It was interesting to watch the contrasting styles of these two Australians. Bevan, with his long striding side-step, darting here and there, and Cooper matching this with straight, forceful running and his powerful

hand-off. Whatever the Other Nationalities team may lack, it should not be striking power on the flanks so long as these two wingers are available.

There was very little between the teams and it is perhaps a tribute to Huddersfield that they won despite Warrington having the better of scrum possession. Ten tries were scored, the cheekiest being that of Ferguson who stole the ball from a Pimblett back-pass to Bevan and won the race to the line to give Huddersfield the lead for the first time. Which was the best try? Bevan's second or Cooper's second? Anderson's? Personally I think the one by young Humphries ranked with any of them. But whatever your choice I think it will be generally agreed that the game as a whole was a credit to the code.



# RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW

EDITOR—STANLEY CHADWICK

FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

## FOOTBALL OR CIRCUSES?

IF the Yorkshire Challenge Cup-tie played at Fartown between Huddersfield and Leeds on September 10th is to be taken as the shape of things to come in Rugby League football, then sports editors will have to arrange for musical critics to accompany their usual reporters to these matches. The Band of the Coldstream Guards was the "star" attraction at this Fartown match, and the half-time interval was extended to eighteen minutes while they performed a funeral march across the playing arena. From "crack" military bands to musical comedy and bathing beauty choruses is not a far cry, and soon we may expect some R.L. club to arrange with their local theatre manager to present a half-time interval show as a free boost for a production which has failed to attract public support. In plain language that was the only reason for the attendance of the Coldstream Guards Band at Fartown on September 10th. We do not know whether their display resulted in a harvest of recruits to the local Territorial unit, but it has raised several important points of principle in the conduct of our game.

With the engagement of a military band to play selections of music before the kick-off there is no objection. Perhaps it was unfortunate after the recent condemnation of "The Entry of the Gladiators" by the local sports reporter that the band commenced their programme with

this "fifth-rate" piece of music, but no other musical feelings were outraged. At the interval the parade of the Band in full dress uniforms around the playing pitch was a fine spectacle and fully merited the applause which it received. This performance occupied six minutes but instead of the bandsmen being dismissed and the match resumed, the players of both teams had to sit on the touch line for a further twelve minutes. The by-laws of the Yorkshire County Rugby League state that the Laws of the Game as passed and construed by the Rugby Football League shall govern the Laws of the Game of the County Rugby League and of every club member thereof. Why, then, did the half-time interval in this match exceed the five minutes allowed by Law 50 (i)?

It is understood that the Huddersfield club asked and received permission from the Yorkshire County Rugby League Committee to extend the half-time interval to fifteen minutes because the Coldstream Guards Band had refused to play for a shorter period. Far from having any authority to alter the Laws of the Game, the Yorkshire County Committee is required to "observe and enforce" the by-laws, rules and regulations of the Rugby Football League. This is their clear duty as laid down in by-law thirty. The secretary of the Rugby Football League was present at the Fartown match. Did he take any steps to see

that the Laws of the Game and the by-laws were enforced? Had he prior to the playing of the match informed both the Yorkshire County Committee and the Huddersfield club that what they contemplated doing was a contravention of the Laws? Since his appointment the R.L. secretary has displayed a keen interest in the Laws of the Game, and we trust his enthusiasm did not desert him on this occasion.

If, as we expect to find, the League secretary faithfully discharged his duty, we trust he will not hesitate to report the full circumstances to the next meeting of the R.L. Council. No organisation can tolerate a state of affairs in which its constituent bodies are permitted to set aside for their own purpose properly reached decisions, and replace them with their own rulings. That way lies chaos. Drastic punishment should be meted out to the men responsible, who by their actions have shown that not only do they know very little about its constitution but care less for the prestige of our game. This is a case where the club and its supporters should not suffer a fine or be made to replay the match because of the egoistic designs of certain individuals. **But the guilty men must be taught a sharp lesson otherwise their action will be an invitation to others to take further liberties with the Laws of the Game.**

## THE COURSE OF EVENTS

### A STRANGE OMISSION

THIS week the editorial expenses of the paper have been increased by one shilling expended on the purchase of a copy of the R.F.L. official guide. For the favoured few specially bound Press copies have been supplied, but "Rugby League Review" must buy its own copy. (That will larn 'em and

bring 'em to their senses!). After all the thunder about South Wales it is surprising to discover that the official guide does not contain a single reference to the Welsh Commission. The district leagues are fully listed but the new South Wales clubs are apparently unworthy of a place. Similar treatment is accorded to the new

London amateur league. The chairman of the R.L. Press and Publicity Committee recently stated that Rugby League has come to stay in South Wales, but the compiler of the official guide has apparently other ideas, and is not going to risk having to rearrange his pages in the next edition.

Publishing and Advertisement Office:

38, Byram Arcade, Westgate, Huddersfield. Tel.: Milnsbridge 171.

Subscription Rates (including postage): 13 numbers 8s. 8d.; 26 numbers 17s. 4d.; 52 numbers £1 14s. 8d. Contributions, Photographs, etc., should be forwarded to 5, Gramfield Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield.

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## MATCH OF THE WEEK

By VINCENT FIRTH

## THE GUARDS WERE ON PARADE!

## LOTS OF MUSIC AND A LITTLE FOOTBALL AT FARTOWN

THE first game of the first round in the Yorkshire Challenge Cup Competition between Huddersfield and Leeds was a hard fought struggle in which thrills abounded and a high level of excitement maintained throughout the game. It was brilliant only in parts as there were many lapses from the classical tradition which quite definitely stamped the quality of football as "Cup-tie."

The day, although still warm for football, was not quite so tropical as playing conditions have been in recent weeks, and after forty minutes of much appreciated music from the band of the Coldstream Guards, Leeds kicked off having lost the toss.

The opening exchanges were in true copy-book style, good to watch although never dangerous. Both sides probed for openings and were obviously wary of each other. The Fartowners seemed to be the least comfortable as well they might in view of the fact that their first team had been seriously affected by injuries.

Leeds began to force the pace and a movement begun by Williams and Clarkson enabled Verranckamp to provide the first real thrill of the game when he made a terrific burst down the wing to within inches of the Fartown line. Leeds were penalised a moment later but Bawden failed badly with the kick.

## A GRAND TRY

A magnificent try was scored by G. R. Pepperell from a movement in which a number of the home team figured, but it was when the ball came to Cooper that a try seemed certain although three other players handled it before Pepperell finally went over. Bawden did not convert.

Leeds at once sprung into the attack and superbly led by their captain, Dicky Williams, made repeated raids which tested the Huddersfield defence to the utmost. Cook was just short with a long-range shot at goal from a penalty.

The business of successfully tackling Cooper, the Fartown winger, becomes more and more of a problem to opposing sides. Leeds more or less solved the problem in this game by deputing three of their men

to keep the Australian in check and it was only with the greatest difficulty that they succeeded.

After Bawden had missed a penalty Leeds were awarded one which was successfully taken by Cook. The same player failed to put his side ahead when he missed a penalty some minutes later.

Mention must here be made of the resolute and dogged performance of Stanley Pepperell, who was a tower of strength to his side and received well-earned plaudits from the crowd for an afternoon of hard work.

Nicholson now figured prominently in a great dash and a little later Bawden was successful with a penalty goal from a difficult angle. Scrum-maging was not of the best and at one point the referee cautioned both hookers. Scrum infringements were

dersfield Town and Arsenal, we were able to settle down for the second half of our game.

Leeds attacked strongly and Bartlett led a determined burst well backed by Wright. Swallow, Huddersfield's reserve full-back, who had played a sound game, now became more prominent and the Fartowners had much to thank him for.

## SCORES LEVEL

When Ferguson dropped a pass Williams was in like a flash to gather it and send Wright over. Cook failed to add the extra points. Only three minutes later Verranckamp had very hard lines when he was brought down by Swallow.

In the first quarter of an hour of the second half Leeds were the better team and were rather unlucky not to take the lead. Slowly but surely, however, Fartown forced them back into their own half and gradually gained the upper hand. Good work came from S. V. Pepperell at this point in both attack and defence. Finally Anderson was able to go over and Bawden made sure of the conversion.

The rest of the game was good to see. The play opened out and although played at a terrific speed was at the same time clever and resourceful. The outstanding men were S. V. Pepperell for Huddersfield and Dicky Williams for Leeds. The latter is now definitely contending with Cecil Mountford for the stand-off half crown (no pun intended). He is a perfect joy to watch and plays eighty minutes of fast, skilful football which is as near faultless as is humanly possible. He is one of the game's best exponents of style.

Good work also came from Anderson, Nicholson, Swallow and G. R. Pepperell for Fartown, while Verranckamp, Clarkson, Wright and Clues were outstanding for Leeds. Ferguson was having an off-day and made one or two costly errors, nor was I very much impressed with McMaster.

## GOOD FINISH

The final scoring of the match began with some nice work by S. V. Pepperell which put Valentine in possession who, in a lightning move,

Continued overleaf

## SOCCER'S ECLIPSE

A significant feature of the day was the clash of this fixture with that of Huddersfield Town v. Arsenal. The respective "gates" were: Fartown 24,927; Leeds Road 20,822. This must surely be the first time in Arsenal's history when they have failed to attract a larger crowd than was present at a Rugby League match in the same town.

frequent. The game was now very fast and exciting and for the last five minutes of the first half Huddersfield did everything but score. The Leeds line was under almost continuous bombardment and their defence did well to keep the intrepid Fartowners out.

## Half-Time

	G.	T.	Pts.
HUDDERSFIELD:	1	1	5
LEEDS:	1	0	2

After eighteen minutes of pageantry by the band of the Coldstream Guards, the announcing of the result of the St. Leger over the public address system, together with the half-time score of the Association match at Leeds Road between Hud-



## ESSAYS OF A MODERN ELIA

## ON EXPANSION FLAPDOODLE

**HARRY SUNDERLAND** (whom Heaven preserve) has recently started up yet another expansionist hare, this time three thousand miles south of Timbuctoo, or to be a little more precise, in the Union of South Africa. In glowing terms the redoubtable "Sundy" paints a most convincing picture of South African Rugby League corn ripening unto harvest. But before we hitch up the old covered waggon to begin the mighty trek, let us examine the proposal a little more carefully.

To begin with we believe we are representing the true feelings of the majority of the supporters of our game when we say that expansion, like charity, should begin at home. In the first League games of the present season only one match in Yorkshire drew a five figure gate. Bradford City, at the time of writing, having secured only a single point, and right at the bottom of the Association Third Division, are attracting "gates" that compare favourably with Bradford Northern, Cup Finalists for the past three seasons and winners twice. Huddersfield Town, pathetically struggling to avoid relegation season after season can still attract bigger

average "gates" than the mighty Fartown.

"Rugby League Review" has repeatedly drawn attention to the very shaky financial position of many of the clubs, while the really wealthy clubs can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

While we are not opposed to expansion as such, we cannot help feeling that the hundred pounds offered by the Rugby Football League to Mr. Sunderland towards his proposed trip to South Africa could have been better spent in Lancashire, Yorkshire or Cumberland rather than in trying to build a cardboard Rugby League empire in the Southern hemisphere.

It might be true to say that nothing but good has accrued from the fact that the game is played in Australia, New Zealand and France. It should not be forgotten, however, that there is a limit to the number of International tours that can be arranged without seriously affecting the home fixtures which are always by far the most important.

What never seems to occur to our expansionist friends is the fact that

there is heaps of room for expansion in the counties where our game is already played, perhaps later spreading out to Northumberland, Cheshire and Derbyshire. There would, of course, be no sea or air trips involved in this and consequently no glamour. Perhaps that is why our photogenic friends are not interested.

The plain truth is that ninety-nine per cent. of the support for Rugby League football comes from cotton and wool operatives, miners, shipyard workers and so forth, and for the most part they are chiefly interested in the progress of their own particular team. One of the major attractions of Rugby League is that supporters can, at no great expense, watch their favourites both at home and away. Most of them realise this and prefer to keep it that way—few of them in deed are fools with their eyes on the ends of the earth.

We therefore suggest to Mr. Sunderland that he takes the idea to the B.B.C. where they don't appear to know the difference between Rugby League football and dry-fly fishing—there is much more important work to be done on our own doorstep.

ELIA II

## The Guards were on Parade!

Continued from previous page

dashed towards the line but was held inches short. Cooper, however, was fortuitously placed to receive the short pass from Valentine enabling him to touch-down. Bawden failed with the conversion.

In an effort to reduce their arrears Leeds attacked fiercely and Swallow saved an awkward situation for Huddersfield when he forced Wright into touch near the corner. An easy penalty right in front of the posts was missed by Cook.

It cannot be allowed to pass unrecorded that among the younger supporters at least, the will to win is beginning to interfere with the traditional Fartown sportsmanship. There was much barracking of Cook as he was about to kick. This sort of thing was unknown at Fartown last season and we want no more of it this.

On the whole it was a grand game in which Fartown deserved to win for the sheer hard work they put in and the dogged persistence they showed.

## MY VERDICT

## Standard of Play—

Remarkably high for Cup-tie football.

## Man of the Match—

S. V. Pepperell (Huddersfield).

## Goal-kicking—

Only fair.

## Refereeing—

Official lacked experience. Players allowed to "get away with murder."

## Ground arrangements—

Apparently announced as "All-ticket" just for laughs.

## Programmes—

Notes excellent but the number of bookmakers' advertisements make them unsuitable for sale to young people.

## Opinion of Match—

A good rousing local "Derby" between two old friendly rivals!

## Result

G. T. Pts.

HUDDERSFIELD : 2 3 13

LEEDS : 1 1 5

**Scorers:** Huddersfield. — Goals: Bawden (2). Tries: G. R. Pepperell, Anderson, Cooper.

Leeds.—Goal: Cook. Try: Wright.

**Teams:** Huddersfield. — Swallow; Anderson, Bawden (Capt.), Ferguson and Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and S. V. Pepperell; Maiden, Meek, Daly, Owens, Nicholson and Valentine.

Leeds.—Cook; Wright, Bartlett, Proctor and Verrenkamp; R. Williams (Capt.) and Feather; McMaster, Kearney, Kendrick, Clues, Murphy and Clarkson.

Referee: M. Coates, of Pudsey.

Attendance: 24,927. Receipts: £2,738.



# RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW



The Journal of Rugby League Football

FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

EDITOR—STANLEY CHADWICK

Vol. 4 No. 48

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1949

Price 7d.

## “HE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR . . .”



“It’s that man again.”—Hudson (Wigan) scoring a flying try against Huddersfield at Central Park in last Saturday’s match, one of four of his characteristic efforts registered in recent games.

Exclusive Picture by “Rugby League Review” cameraman Vincent Reynolds.

**MORE PICTURES OF WIGAN v. HUDDERSFIELD MATCH ON PAGE 9**





J. Egan (Wigan) wins the toss  
Inset : Referee M. Coates (Pudsey)



Valentine (Huddersfield) fails to check a Wigan  
"break through"



Nordgren (Wigan) tests the Huddersfield defence . . .



...and a minute later a high speed Wigan shot misfired  
on the line



Huddersfield strike back, Cooper racing through . . .



... to beat Ryan (standing) and Ashcroft (Wigan) with  
this spectacular try



## MATCH OF THE WEEK

By VINCENT FIRTH

## THE CHAMPIONS DEFEATED

## DISAPPOINTING GAME AT CENTRAL PARK

WHEN Huddersfield to all intents and purposes lost Anderson in the first two minutes, my interest in the game at Central Park, to which I had been looking forward for weeks, evaporated completely. No twelve-man team in the country is, in my view, capable of beating Wigan on their own ground. It is true that Wigan were without the services of Gee, Mountford, Hilton and Ratcliffe, but it must not be forgotten that they have the most formidable reserves in the Rugby League.

## EARLY SUPERIORITY

To say—as some writers have said—that the final score flattered Wigan is just nonsense. The Lancashire men dominated the game right from the commencement and although Huddersfield showed brilliant glimpses of their Championship form from time to time, the issue was never seriously in doubt.

Ted Ward kicked the first of five beautiful goals five minutes from the start. His goal-kicking was delightful to watch and out of seven attempts (most of them difficult) he missed only twice.

Broome appears to be fulfilling all expectations at Central Park and he was certainly a thorn in the side of the Fartowners last Saturday. He was brought down by Cooper when almost over the line and only three minutes later he touched down in the corner after a smart piece of work by Bradshaw. From where I was sitting it looked as though Nicholson was deliberately obstructed as he made to tackle Broome.

Banks displayed a marvellous return to form to coincide with his return to the team and began a movement with Devery that for a moment looked like bearing fruit. An infringement by Wigan, however, put an end to the move although it gave Bawden the opportunity to kick a good penalty goal.

The Huddersfield line was now hardly pressed and finally Hudson took a high pass and broke through to score one of his now famous "flying tries." For the next few minutes almost every Wigan player from Ryan to Blan was prominent for some clever piece of work and Huddersfield were lucky not to have their arrears increased.

Then Cooper led a terrific offensive for the Fartowners and was only thwarted by the combined efforts of Ryan and Broome who desperately clawed him down when he seemed all set for scoring. After Large had been cautioned for obstruction, Devery found touch in the Wigan "25" and from the ensuing scrum Cooper got possession and scored one of his rip-roaring tries, giving three opponents each a perfect example of his faultless hand-off. Bawden converted. The rest of the first half was dull and uninspiring.

## MY VERDICT

## Standard of Play—

Much below what we had every reason to expect.

## Man of the Match—

There was not a pin to choose between W. Hudson (Wigan) and L. W. Cooper (Huddersfield).

## Goal-kicking—

Wigan: Outstanding.

Huddersfield: Fair.

## Refereeing—

This official appears to be getting more than his share of important appointments which, in view of his short experience, is unfair to him and inexcusable from the point of view of the game.

## Behaviour of Spectators—

Grand.

## Ground arrangements—

Excellent.

## Programmes—

The quality of the paper only has improved since last season.

## Opinion of Match—

Anderson's injury probably spoilt everybody's fun.

## Half-Time

	G.	T.	Pts.
WIGAN	3	2	12
HUDDERSFIELD	2	1	7

Huddersfield resumed without Anderson who indeed had been little more than a passenger in the first half. Wigan were soon on the attack and the second half was only two minutes old when Hudson cut in to snap up a short pass and score his second "flying try" of the afternoon, Ward adding the goal points.

## COOPER AGAIN

Bawden failed with a penalty kick and a few minutes later missed another one from a very easy position. Ward had to retire injured but it was not long before he was able to return.

Banks, who a few minutes before had tried unsuccessfully to lead a Fartown attack, again cut through and paved the way for Cooper to score another beautiful try, which was vigorously but ineffectually opposed by three Wigan defenders in the great winger's forty-yard solo dash for the line. When Bawden kicked for the conversion and the referee signalled a goal, a howl of dismay came up from the spectators standing behind the posts. From the Press-box it was difficult to determine what exactly had happened but all the same a goal must go down for the record.

Ward kicked a good penalty and Barton began a lovely move which resulted in Blan sending Ashcroft over the line in grand style for a try which Ward did not convert.

Well, friends, there you have it. A superb display of goal-kicking by Ted Ward; a couple of "flying tries" by Hudson and a pair of "typical Cooper" tries. Good work by every member of the Wigan team but nothing much outstanding from the Fartowners except Devery, Banks and, of course, Cooper. Scintillating flashes of class football relieved long periods of incredible dullness.

## Result

	G.	T.	Pts.
WIGAN	5	4	22
HUDDERSFIELD	3	2	12

Scorers: Wigan.—Goals: E. Ward (5). Tries: Broome, Hudson (2), Ashcroft.

Huddersfield.—Goals: Bawden (3). Tries: Cooper (2).

Teams: Wigan.—Ryan; Broome, E. H. Ward, Ashcroft and Nordgren; Cunliffe and Bradshaw; Slevin, Egan, Barton, Hudson, Large and Blan.

Huddersfield.—S. V. Pepperell; Anderson, Bawden, Devery (Capt.) and Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and Banks; Maiden, Pritchard, Daly, Owens, Nicholson and Valentine.

Referee: M. Coates, of Pudsey.

Attendance: 35,700. Receipts: £2,268.



## EVENING AT FARTOWN

By VINCENT FIRTH

# THANKS TO BANKS

## HUDDERSFIELD ARE IN YORKSHIRE CUP SEMI-FINAL

It is in the nature of human experience to forget things that have been painful and remember only those that have seemed pleasant. That being true, there will be little remembered of the match between Huddersfield and Wakefield Trinity that is not to Trinity's credit.

First must come the splendid display by Ron Rylance, whose generalship as well as his own play almost proved to be Fartown's undoing. Second there was the wonder goal kicked by Desmond Foreman. From a point about six feet from both half-way and touch lines it looked like a goal from the moment it left the kicker's foot. It was one of those goals that young children might well have been held up to see, so that when they grow old they can boast, "I saw Foreman's goal at Fartown in '49."

### COOPER HELD

Nor was that goal Foreman's only contribution. As a rule he plays second row or loose but in this game some inspired prophet had put him up against Cooper and never have I seen the great Australian winger better thwarted. Foreman's motto seemed to be, "He shall not pass!" and until the last few minutes it was just like that.

Bawden was first to register with a nice penalty goal kicked from about forty yards, then a moment later Cooper knocked-on and ushered in what must surely have been Fartown's worst exhibition for years. It was unbelievably bad, and so numerous were the mistakes that like the kindly novelist we will draw a veil over the painful scene. Wilson, from a movement started by Banks, scored an unconverted try and to add to Trinity's woes, Goodfellow was sent off after thirty minutes for alleged tripping.

To be five points in arrears and have a player sent off is not much of

an incentive to fight back, but fight back Trinity did and to some pattern. Huddersfield wilted before the gathering storm and then broke up completely. It seemed that the Fartowners were being compelled to play some sort of game of which they knew little or nothing of the rules. A try by Jones and a good conversion by Rylance brought the scores equal at half-time.

The resumption saw a try by Booth after six minutes and Rylance had hard lines when his conversion attempt hit the post. The same player kicked a penalty goal a few minutes later.

The thirtieth minute brought reward to a neat movement from a scrum when Banks sent Valentine over. Bawden added the extra points making the scores level. Then came Foreman's mighty goal and if ever a goal deserved to win a match it was that one. But it was not to be.

When everything seemed lost and Wakefield appearing to have the measure of their opponents, I suddenly remarked to a colleague that the Fartowners would win. There is only one phrase to use to describe Huddersfield at this critical stage—they pulled themselves together.

From then on we saw, what most of my readers will know what I mean when I describe it as "Maine Road form." Banks was again in the picture when Devery scored, and at long last Cooper managed to evade Foreman and add a fourth. Bawden improved both tries.

There was a good deal of cheering but none more sincere than for gallant Trinity who really deserved a better fate than to be 20-12 losers. Huddersfield had disappointed so badly that few seemed inclined to give them credit for the last ten minutes of supremely brilliant play that managed to pull the game out of the fire.



W. M. BANKS

And the architect of Fartown's recovery was unquestionably little Billy Banks.

### Result

	G.	T.	Pts.
HUDDERSFIELD	4	4	20
WAKEFIELD T.	3	2	12

**Scorers:** Huddersfield. — Goals: Bawden (4). Tries: Wilson, Valentine, Devery, Cooper.

Wakefield T.—Goals: Rylance (2), Foreman. Tries: Jones, Booth.

**Teams:** Huddersfield. — Hunter: Wilson, Bawden, Devery and Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and Banks; Maiden, Pritchard, Meek, Owens, Hughes and Hughes.

Wakefield T.—Luckman; Jones, Booker, Fletcher and Foreman; Rylance and Goodfellow; Booth, Marson, Higgins, Murphy, Howes and Hughes.

Referee: A. Hill, of Dewsbury.

Attendance: 21,737. Receipts: £2,101.

### The Course of Events

Continued from Page 3

### NORMANTON'S GRUMBLE

THE honorary secretary of the Normanton R.L.F.C., which this season has been carrying all before it in the Yorkshire Senior Competition, is not in favour of the suggestion that a team should be given a bye in the first round of the Yorkshire Challenge Cup. Last season Normanton made application to take part in this season's Competition, but despite promises of support from several

prominent Yorkshire clubs, nothing further was heard. The County secretary did not even acknowledge receipt of the letter, let alone communicate news of its consideration and reasons for rejection. Last season Normanton reached the first round proper of the R.L. Challenge Cup Competition, while this season they are unbeaten in their League Competition, with victories over the "A" teams of Batley, Huddersfield, Halifax, Dewsbury, Wakefield Trinity and Keighley. The club has also a good

following of spectators, and the secretary states that he could safely have guaranteed a gate of 3,000 if they, and not the Yorkshire Amateurs team, had played Keighley at Normanton. The Yorkshire County Committee should certainly give this matter consideration at an early meeting, for Normanton would certainly put up a better performance than the "team" which has been recruited to represent the amateur side of the code in the Yorkshire Challenge Cup during the past three seasons.





"Don't bother writing it. Here's my card. I stock 'em for these occasions."



## ESSAYS OF A MODERN ELIA

## BLUDGEON OR RAPIER?

WE revert again to the fascinating controversy—the old days versus the present. After our last essay appeared, a correspondent asked us if, the question of better or worse football apart, there is any essential and significant difference between the football played to-day and that of yesterday. We, who are at least old enough to have seen Harold Wagstaff play, answer with an unequivocal "Yes!"

The principal difference between modern Rugby League and the old-style play is that speed and science are rapidly ousting muscle and brawn, even if they have not done so already. In any brain v. brawn conflict brain must always win, otherwise Man would never have succeeded in establishing his dominion of the Earth.

The "Rugby forward" of the popular novelist's imagination, designed to describe a bulky if not always a brainy fellow, is now something of a myth. Your eighteen stone slow-moving colossus is rapidly giving way to a lighter, faster and

far more resourceful player. On the whole crowds want it that way, as although a player of elephantine proportions is good for a laugh as he makes his ponderous progress, it is his opposite who provides the thrills that bring spectators in the stand to their feet.

This fast open-style play was really developed first in Australia, and its greatest living exponent is without a doubt P. C. Devery, the Huddersfield captain. If you observe Devery closely you will see the ideal co-ordination of brain and muscle; movements being worked out with almost mathematical precision rather than charging up and down the field like a rampaging bull. The majority of Australians playing in English football have much the same technique; that is why the crowds flock to watch the teams they play with.

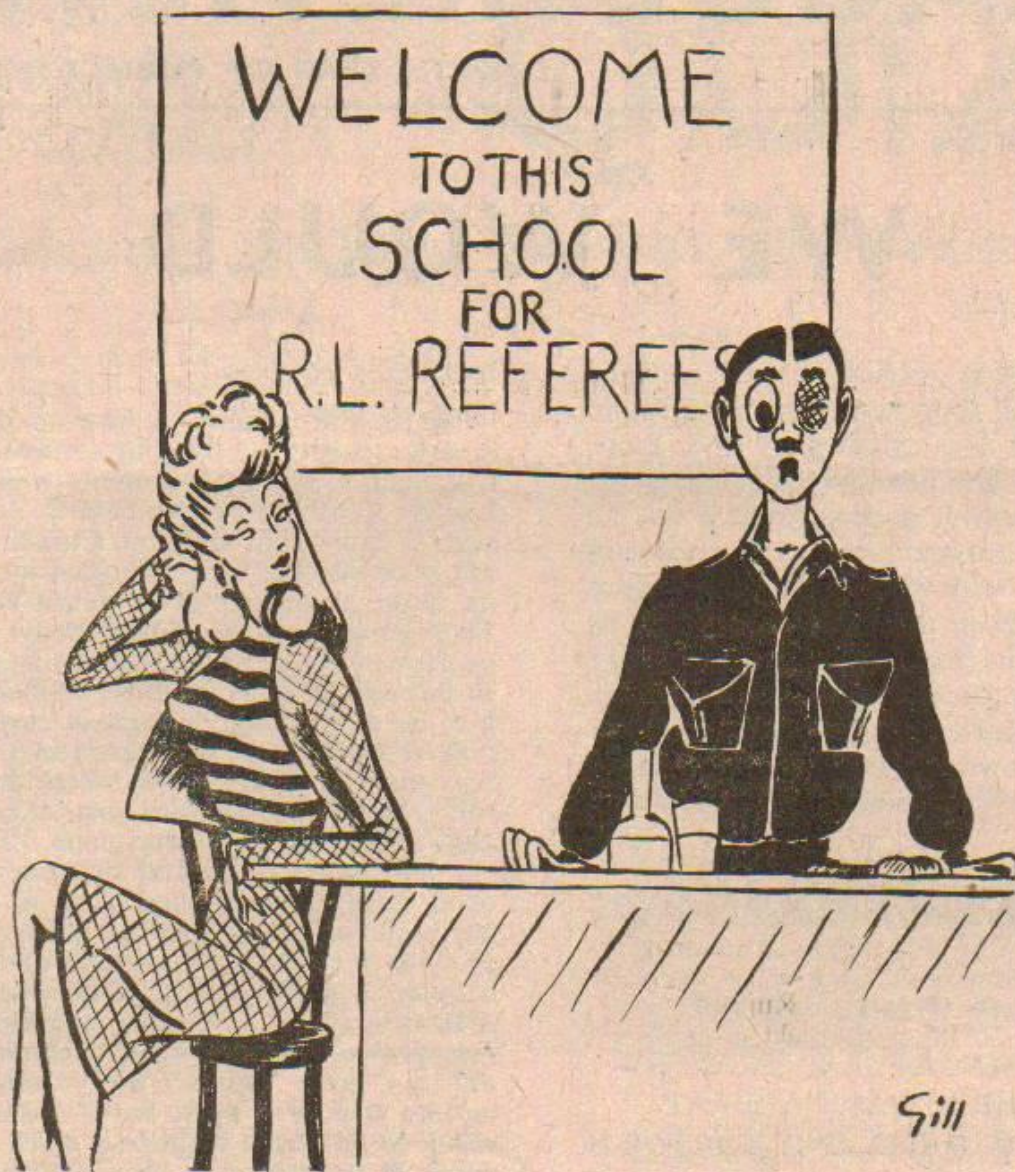
To attract large crowds, events of any kind have to be good, and Rugby League football is no exception to the rule. People as a whole are not interested in brute force; they prefer

battles of wits to battles of fists. Curiously enough this is even true of boxing; what happened to the old seventy-round slogger of fifty years ago? The question of injuries is also important in considering the more scientific approach to the handling code. Referees should be ever on the look out for the "killer" and discourage him sufficiently to eliminate him from the game.

Now don't get us wrong. We do not mean to say that only the Australians play good Rugby League. There is a large number of United Kingdom players who are fully alive to modern tendencies. Our point is, that although the Old Country sent Rugby League football to Australia with her love, it was "down under" that the game was really developed and made the spectator-attracting game it is to-day. It may well be, of course, that France will teach both Australia and ourselves something. It would indeed be a strange paradox if Rugby League became an English National game through French influence!

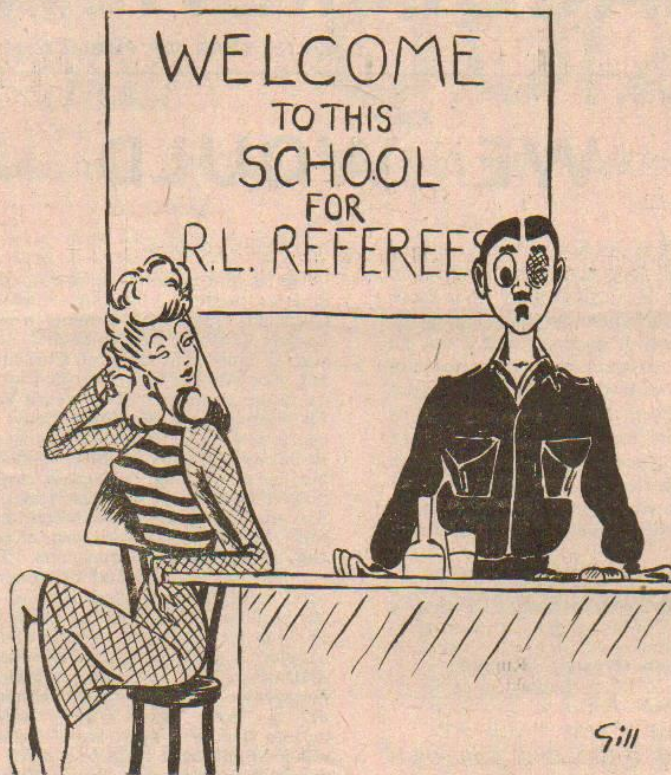
ELIA II.





"And now, Miss Jeans will lecture you on how to deal effectively with a forward pass!"





"And now, Miss Jeans will lecture you on how to deal effectively with a forward pass!"

## THE COURSE OF EVENTS

### NOT CRICKET!

**T**HE weather was so bitter last Saturday that at one football match some of the players wore gloves and one turned out complete with a flying helmet! Probably just to remind us that the sun was shining in Bombay, the B.B.C. "Sports Special" gave listeners five and a half minutes recording of the second unofficial Test Match between the Commonwealth cricket tourists and India. There would have been no objection to this if it had not been done at the expense of the usual summary of a Rugby League match. Cricket enthusiasts are very well catered for on the air during the summer, but for Rugby League to be robbed of its meagre allowance at the height of the season is sheer stupidity on the part of those responsible for the programme. It is not for us to say, as many listeners have, that there is no public interest in the Commonwealth team's tour of India. Our protest is that once again Rugby League football was pushed

on one side to permit of this cricket broadcast.

### BACK TO SCHOOL

**A**PPARENTLY the B.B.C. is not alone in incurring the displeasure of R.L. listeners. News received from Auckland, New Zealand, states that while the commentaries on the air for two of the recent matches against the Australian tourists were enjoyable, the commentator on the first Test revealed that he knew nothing about the code. He even thought a penalty goal counted three points! Our Auckland correspondent writes that apart from the first Test the general broadcast coverage of the short tour was "excellent." It is not known what arrangements our own B.B.C. have made to give listeners in the North first hand reports of the 1950 R.L. tour of Australia and New Zealand, but as they are able to cover cricket matches in mid-winter there would appear to be no obstacles to broadcasting R.L. matches during next summer. At least they will be certain of a good audience.

## EYES ON TOUR

No. 11

"PADDY" VALENTINE  
(HUDDERSFIELD)  
LOOSE FORWARD



**DAVID VALENTINE** was still in the Forces when Huddersfield signed him in October, 1947, and was noted as an athlete apart from his footballing capabilities. He had played for Scotland (R.U.) against Ireland and England, and also represented South of Scotland against the Wallabies. His first game for the Fartowners was at Dewsbury and he played in the second row.

He soon moved to loose forward, however, where his tenacious displays brought him Test Match recognition against the Australians last season. Valentine's selection produced a hostile "Press," which he partially quietened by his first Test display and completely crushed at Swinton in the second Test. At Odsal, too, he showed in the final game that he was the man for the job.

When injuries call for a reshuffle of depleted forces, "Paddy" can pull his weight in the three-quarter line, while on the few occasions that he has been called upon to deputise for the hooker he has done so well that many Fartowners will tell you he is the best hooker on the club's register!

Valentine went to France with the British Empire Team last May, and has played in both the Other Nationalities Internationals this season. He is also chosen for the French game on January 15th. In Rugby League football he has scored 22 tries.



# CHRISTMAS FARE

## AT THRUM HALL AND FARTOWN

**CHRISTMAS**, to Rugby League enthusiasts in the Halifax and Huddersfield district, means more than mince pies, carols, cards, presents, and all the other familiar and welcome things that go to make this the greatest Festival of the year. It means the annual home and away matches between the "blue and whites" and the "claret and golds."

These meetings can now be considered in the class known as "time honoured." Players come and players go, but through the years the crowds continue to assemble at Thrum Hall and at Fartown on the two holiday dates. The custom was started during the first European War, stretched across the years to the second conflagration of 1939-45, and through it to the present day. The fixtures are still as popular as ever they were.

Proof of the latter statement is given in the post-war attendances. There has never been less than a ten thousand crowd at a Halifax-Huddersfield League match since serious football was resumed in 1945. Last Christmas Day at Fartown the attendance topped the eighteen thousand mark—and remember Halifax were right in the doldrums at that time. What will the figure be this year?

It hasn't always been plain sailing, of course. Indeed, the results of the first few "home and away" Christmas fixtures led to allegations that the matches were being "squared." The Halifax committee decided in favour of playing only one game at the holiday period during 1924, but after a lapse of one year the two-match "Derbies" were resumed.

During the early 1900's Huddersfield always met Brighouse Rangers at Christmas time, the last meeting being on Boxing Day, 1905, when the Fartowners won by 2 points to nil. After the disbanding of the Brighouse club, Hull and Wakefield Trinity were Huddersfield's Christmas opponents each year until the 1914 war interfered with sport.

### EARLY EXCHANGES

In 1915 the present series was started when Halifax and Huddersfield met at Thrum Hall on

Christmas Day. The Fartowners were the victors by 18-10 and Harold Wagstaff was among their try scorers, with Ben Gronow kicking 3 goals. The post-war season of 1919-20 found Halifax gaining revenge with a 7-5 win at Halifax, and a year later Huddersfield won by 18 points to 2 at Fartown. Wagstaff and Gronow were again among the scorers, along with Stanley Williams (a member of the present Fartown Football Committee) and Stanley Moorhouse.

By  
**D'ARTAGNAN**

Two games were played at Christmas, 1921, when Huddersfield won by 11-0 at Halifax on Christmas Day and Halifax won by 11-0 at Huddersfield on Boxing Day. The following season found each team winning its away matches again and similar results obtained in 1923, although during the two latter years the scores were not identical as in 1921.

Only one game was played at Christmas, 1924, Huddersfield winning by 9 points to 3 at Fartown with

"Duggie" Clark among the try scorers. In 1925, the teams met at Fartown on Boxing Day and at Thrum Hall on December 30th, the "Claret and Gold" succeeding on each occasion. The Fartown match saw Freddie Smart making his debut for Huddersfield. Smart later played for Wakefield Trinity and England, and is now a Rugby League touch judge.

Each club won its home game in 1926 but a year later Halifax performed the "double." Cyril Halliday, the Halifax hooker, was transferred to Fartown on December 21st, 1928, and on Christmas Day he made his debut for his new club against his old one in a drawn game. Huddersfield won at home on Boxing Day and lost the services of Alby Carr, their Australian centre, with a knee injury.

The Fartowners won both games in 1929 but Halifax reversed this with two victories a year later. Two of the Halifax tries on Christmas Day, 1930, were scored by Lou Brown, whose death at his home in New Zealand was announced a little while ago. This was Halifax's first season as a member of the Lancashire Section of the Northern Rugby League.



**HAROLD WAGSTAFF AND BEN GRONOW**  
Scorers in the early Christmas meetings



## RESULTS OF THE HALIFAX—HUDDERSFIELD CHRISTMAS MEETINGS SINCE THEIR INCEPTION

### At Thrum Hall

1915	Huddersfield won, 18—10
1919	Halifax won, 7—5
1920	—
1921	Huddersfield won, 11—0
1922	Huddersfield won, 24—3
1923	Huddersfield won, 15—3
1924	—
1925	Huddersfield won, 11—8 (Dec. 30th)
1926	Halifax won, 10—0
1927	Halifax won, 9—0
1928	Drawn, 3—3
1929	Huddersfield won, 13—7
1930	Halifax won, 5—4
1931	Huddersfield won, 16—6
1932	Halifax won, 7—3
1933	Halifax won, 6—2
1934	Huddersfield won, 8—5
1935	—
1936	Halifax won, 18—10
1937	Huddersfield won, 12—11
1938	Halifax won, 10—3
1939	Huddersfield won, 10—8
1940	—
1941	Halifax won, 16—6
1942	Halifax won, 24—0
1943	Halifax won, 17—7
1944	Halifax won, 29—8
1945	Huddersfield won, 13—8
1946	Huddersfield won, 14—5
1947	Huddersfield won, 18—7
1948	—

### At Fartown

—	—
—	—
—	Huddersfield won, 18—2
—	Halifax won, 11—0
—	Halifax won, 13—2
—	Halifax won, 11—0
—	Huddersfield won, 9—3
—	Huddersfield won, 3—0
—	—
—	Huddersfield won, 13—0
—	Halifax won, 10—7
—	Huddersfield won, 10—6
—	Huddersfield won, 12—5
—	Halifax won, 13—6
—	Huddersfield won, 18—4
—	Huddersfield won, 11—6
—	Halifax won, 10—9
—	Huddersfield won, 8—7
—	—
—	Halifax won, 14—9
—	Halifax won, 19—16
—	Halifax won, 11—2
—	Halifax won, 20—8
—	Halifax won, 12—8
—	—
—	Huddersfield won, 5—4
—	Huddersfield won, 12—8
—	Halifax won, 13—7
—	Huddersfield won, 21—8
—	Halifax won, 16—5
—	Huddersfield won, 43—3
—	Huddersfield won, 32—3

Played 53. Huddersfield Won 27; Halifax Won 25. Other Match Drawn.

## POPULAR AND ENTERTAINING

The following Christmas (1931) was a "bumper" one so far as attendances went and must have been very welcome to both club exchequers in view of the prevailing industrial depression which had reduced the average "gates" in both centres. The weather proved to be very kind and close upon 40,000 saw the two games, the larger crowd being at Fartown, where nearly 22,000 spectators assembled on Christmas Day. Two fine sporting games were seen, both of which Huddersfield won. Ernie Mills, Brogden and Bowkett scored for the Fartowners in each match, while all the Halifax points—five penalty goals—came from the foot of Joe Sherburn.

The home teams were the 1932 winners but Halifax recorded a "double" the following year. The Fartown full-back and goal-kicker in 1933 was Hubert Lockwood, who in later years was to accomplish so much splendid work for the "blue and whites." Hubert, another present member of the Fartown Football Committee, still holds the Thrum Hall goal-kicking records.

Huddersfield won both the 1934 games thanks to some brilliant tries by Ray Markham. The margins were narrow and play was of Cup-tie intensity. Cyril Haliday, after a long spell as Fartown hooker, made way for a newcomer from Keighley, Willie Watson (now the Lawkholme trainer), while a new name on the Halifax team sheet was that of Mel Meek.

The continuity of the Christmas encounters was broken in 1935 owing to the rearrangement in the League fixtures. Bad weather was experienced, with frost and fog interrupting the Rugby League programme this year.

Things were back to "as you were" twelve months later and it was Halifax who celebrated the return. Hubert Lockwood was prominent for them in both matches and had seven goals as his share of the victories. George Todd, Bevan and Treen were other Halifax scorers.

There were some new faces from "down under" on view in 1937. On Christmas Day, Huddersfield included Ron Bailey (who captained the Australian R.L. Test team at Brisbane in 1946), while Halifax had Frank Totty in their side. For the second game Huddersfield brought in Tommy

Grahame and the New Zealand forward "Jock" MacDonald, who is related to the present Halifax players of the same name. Honours were "easy" this year, each side having a win.

The last peace-time Christmas of 1938 found the Thrum Hall men well on top, and success was theirs in both matches. Snow, fog and frost threatened, but a welcome thaw set in to save the situation.

## FROM WAR TO PEACE

Some strange looking teams were seen during the following seasons, when Halifax usually had the better of things in the annual holiday clashes. In an earlier number of "Rugby League Review" Alec Fiddes told a story of one of these games—of how he had to indulge in a long race for the try-line after he had, rather unwisely, had his share of Christmas fare. Alec claimed that what was taken for a dive over the line was, in point of fact, a collapse!

The superiority enjoyed by Halifax in the war-time Emergency League vanished when things returned to normal. Of the last eight League meetings between the two clubs Halifax have only won one—the 1946 match at Fartown. Last season frost prevented the Boxing Day game at Thrum Hall from being played and this fixture had to be fulfilled later in the season.

The 1947 Christmas Day match at Fartown produced the biggest score yet recorded in the series, Huddersfield running up 43 points against a try by Halifax. Devery, playing along with Hunter and Cooper in these games for the first time, scored three tries, while Jeff Bawden kicked eight goals.

During the past four seasons, of course, the Halifax club have had nothing like the success which has attended their efforts this time. With both the "blue and whites" and the "claret and golds" up among the Championship contenders, two stirring struggles can be safely predicted during this Christmas of 1949. A "double" for either side will be a very valuable Christmas present with which to face the New Year.

Added interest to the forthcoming encounters is given by the recent signings, and all that is required at Fartown and Thrum Hall on the Saturday and Monday are favourable weather conditions.

For many years now this friendly rivalry has continued and it is generally agreed that no more popular attraction could be arranged than these "Derby Day" fixtures. Travelling distance is limited and the hope of most Halifax and Huddersfield supporters is that the day when these meetings are discontinued will be far distant.



# THRILLING MATCHES AT FARTOWN HUDDERSFIELD

RECALLED BY

**A. N. GAULTON**

("Rugby League Review")

**T**HE third of our exclusive series of articles in which "Rugby League Review" writers describe what they regard as the most thrilling matches played at grounds with which they are intimately associated.

**T**HRILLING matches I have seen at Fartown? Well, in the past twenty-five years I have seen hundreds of matches played on this famous ground and it is no easy matter selecting even the best few. It is perhaps as well, although I have often regretted it, that I never saw Harold Wagstaff's great team in its hey-day. Otherwise my task would have been even more difficult.

Many matches there have been where odd incidents have stood out, but the general run of play has not been of such a nature as to make the whole game a truly memorable one. On the other hand the reverse has also often been the case—no outstanding happening in a thoroughly enjoyable game.

However, to get down to business. I will take the pre-1939 years first, and there are four games I would select as being the pick of those I saw at Fartown in the years leading up to the war. I proceed in the sure and certain knowledge that there are

many Fartowners who will remind me of such-and-such a game which they consider to be better than some of those I am going to mention.

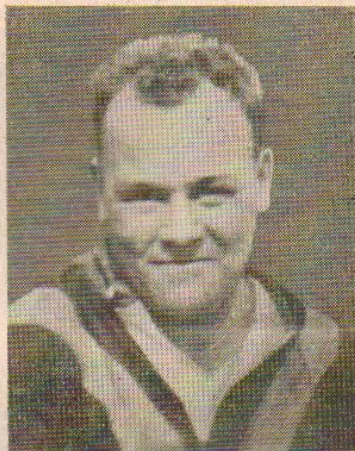
## HUNSLET'S "DOUBLE"

My first choice goes back to October, 1931, when Hunslet, led by that grand full-back, Jack Walkington, were the visitors to Fartown. Hunslet had beaten Huddersfield by 30 points to 5 at Parkside a week or two previously and were as anxious to perform the "double" as the Fartowners were to prevent them. The result was a very clean and well contested game in which goal kicking eventually settled the issue.

The final score was 24 points to 20 in favour of Hunslet, so they achieved their object. Those were the days of the Todd—Thornton—Beverley triangle, and that famous combination was at its zenith on this occasion. Walkington, too, was at his cool, imperturbable best, and the six goals he kicked—some of them real beauties—were vital factors in the Parkside's success.

There were "ifs" and "buts" of course. The Fartowners had "Tiny" Spencer off the field injured at the time when a try was cleverly engineered for Harry Beverley. This was a move which Spencer might well have stopped had he been on, for he was a devastating tackler. Then Bowkett took a long-range shot at goal, only to see the ball hit a post and go outside.

The crowning blow came when Stanley Brogden made a brilliant ruf through to the corner, only to be adjudged to have knocked the corner flag down while touching down for the try. I still remember my amazement at the calm manner in which Brogden accepted the decision of the referee (Mr. Benny Laughlin, of Batley). There was no waving of arms or sign of annoyance on the player's part. He accepted the ruling without demur and quietly



**LEN BOWKETT**

A Fartown stalwart of the 1930's

went back to his position for the re-start. Few of the Fartowners in the crowd took it quite so placidly!

Notable members of the Hunslet team, in addition to those already mentioned, were "Dolly" Dawson (now coach at Headingley), hooker L. White, Tolson and Jim Traill (father of Bradford Northern's Ken Traill). Huddersfield included their Colonials, Ernest Mills (captain) and Bob Walker. Hunslet's tries were scored by George Todd (2), Beverley and Cornell. Bob Walker (2), Mills and "Cherry" Thompson obtained the Huddersfield tries, while Bowkett kicked 4 goals.

## "THE OLD ENEMY"

The second match in my list was played against Leeds during January, 1933. In those days, perhaps more so than now, the Headingley men were "The Old Enemy" to all Fartowners. No victory was sweeter



**JACK C. WALKINGTON**  
Kicked six goals at Fartown





**THE LATE  
HERBERT SHERWOOD**  
A Fartown goal kicking "discovery"  
of 1933

than one gained at the expense of Leeds. Both teams were occupying an unusually lowly position in the League table, around the half-way mark, but there was no lack of interest in the encounter.

Leeds had most of their "stars" on view—Eric Harris, Moores, O'Rourke, Stan. Smith, Busch and Adams, Douglas (now secretary-manager at Salford) and Joe Thompson. Chief interest in the home team centred around the first appearance at Fartown of Ray Markham (just arrived from Australia) and Fred Brindle, a Hull lad, of whom more later.

Eric Harris supplied the biggest thrill of the afternoon when he dribbled the ball nearly half the length of the field for a try, with Markham hot on his heels all the way. Many spectators contended that Harris did not ground the ball properly, yet there was no doubt that such a wonderful effort did deserve a score. Huddersfield had previously gained a try, scored by Bowkett after a good run by Gwyn Richards.

Early in the second half Leeds led by 7—5, Joe Thompson (2) and Bowkett having kicked goals for their respective sides. The Fartowners gradually gained the upper hand but tries would not come and, for once, Bowkett could not find the posts with penalty shots.

Finally, in desperation, the ball was given to Herbert Sherwood when a penalty was awarded. Sherwood, except in practice, had never kicked a goal before, but amid rising excite-

ment he put the ball over the bar four times to give his side a 13—7 victory. It was said that the shouting was heard in the centre of Huddersfield as the Castleford man kept on "popping them over." Certainly the din inside the ground itself was tumultuous.

The attendance of around 15,000 at this game, which was played on a fine afternoon, was regarded as very good. Such a game played under similar circumstances nowadays would attract nearly twice as many spectators.

#### AND AGAIN!

My third pre-war selection is another Leeds match, this being played in the October following the one referred to above. Once again the home men won but Leeds gave the Fartowners an early shock by getting away to a flying start with two quick tries.

The tables were finally turned and Huddersfield triumphed by 17 points to 10 points, thanks mainly to Ernie Mills. He was in irresistible form that day and scored four tries in a masterly display. They were real "Mills-Bombs" and showed the Australian at his best. Frank O'Rourke, his fellow "Aussie" and immediate opponent, can rarely have had so unhappy an afternoon.



**ERNEST MILLS**  
"Four Mills-Bombs" against Leeds in October, 1933

Sherwood was not as successful with his goal kicking as on the former occasion, or Fartown anxieties would have ended earlier than they did. Leeds, however, were well beaten in every position except full-back, where Jim Brough put up a valiant show. Eric Harris had just returned from a summer-time visit to his home in Australia. This was his first game of the season and it was obvious that he had not regained his "land legs," even though he soon opened his try account.

A curious thing about this match was that, as near as makes no matter, Leeds scored 8 points in the first eight minutes and Huddersfield scored 8 points in the last eight minutes. Incidentally, the attendance was 13,000.

#### THE MIGHT OF SALFORD

In September, 1935, the powerful combination assembled by Lance Todd paid a visit to Fartown. Salford had, indeed, a strong team at that period and they showed us their abilities to the full. Crisp passing, fast running and keen backing-up made the "Reds" seem a wonder team and gave them a well-deserved win by 25 points to 12 points. They had a fifteen clear points lead showing on the board within twenty minutes of the kick-off.



Barney Hudson, "Gus" Risman, Bob Brown, Jenkins and Watkins at half-back, Feetham and Dalton—all were at their best in a scintillating display. Risman kicked five goals, and Feetham (2). Hudson, Jenkins and Brown were among the try getters. Yet the try beyond all others that day was scored by Ray Markham. He finished up behind the posts after a great run from half-way in which he beat man after man by sheer speed and determination.

That was the highlight in a feast of Rugby and gave Fartowners at least some consolation in their defeat. Alex Fiddes scored the other Huddersfield try and Len Bowkett kicked three goals.

### WATER (SHEDDINGS) AT FARTOWN

Those then, are the four games that remain in my memory as being the best I saw at Fartown during the years leading up to 1939. Before turning to the subsequent period perhaps the editor will allow me to mention just one or two other incidents which I don't think I shall ever forget.

There was that celebrated occasion when Oldham came to Fartown in October, 1928. Huddersfield had won their first twelve games off the reel but they lost the thirteenth. What made the match memorable, however, was Bob Sloman's famous "drop" goal. They talk about it at Fartown to this day. At the time they talked about nothing else for weeks! I'm not taking sides on the question as to whether the Oldham forward punt-

ed or drop-kicked the ball, but it was a remarkable effort from just inside his own half and near touch. The ball went high over the posts. I hear that Bob Sloman now keeps an Inn down at Paignton (Devon) and still retains an interest in Rugby League football.

Oldham were also the visitors for a friendly game during September, 1930, when play had to be abandoned twenty minutes before the end owing to torrential rain. I have seen it pour down at Fartown, both before and since, but never as it did that Wednesday evening. The world-famous Fartown terrace side looked just like a waterfall after a few minutes and spectators out in the open were drenched before they could get under cover. Even had League points been at stake I doubt whether the match could have been continued during this cloud-burst. The proceeds of the fixture were for the Stand Extension Fund, this being at the time when the Members' Stand had just been extended right up to the Pavilion corner.

### RACE WAS OFF

Another Leeds memory, but very different to those already recounted. Feelings ran high, the football was poor and the spirit of the game was unpleasant. This was in December, 1931, and the sensations started right from the kick-off. The ball went out to Cox, of Leeds, who charged forward and met Rudd (Huddersfield) in a head-on collision. Both players were carried off unconscious and Cox was so injured that he took no further part in the game. Leeds suffered fur-

ther depletion of their forces towards the end when Moores was sent off and Busch retired, damaged in a collision with one of his own side. Jeff Moores was one of the most brilliant centres of his day. He probably did as much for Eric Harris as any centre did for any wingman.

Huddersfield won the above match by 6 points to 2 points, Bob Walker and Ernest Mills scoring tries against a goal by Joe Thompson. The Fartown club proposed to stage a sprint race between the speed merchants of the two sides before the start of the game. The Leeds players refused to take part—rightly in my opinion. If Harris had proved himself faster than Mills, or vice versa, the rival followers would have been robbed of one of their chief sources of argument! And what's a football match without a few arguments?

A memory linking up with the Leeds match of January, 1933 (described previously) was Hull Kingston Rovers' visit in December, 1932. Fred Brindle was in the Rovers' ranks and he gave Stanley Spencer, the Fartown scrum half, a very hard time of it. The crowd showed their disapproval of Brindle in no uncertain manner and, after a "battle royal" between the two teams, staged a final demonstration at the close even although the players left the field the best of friends and with their arms around one another. Brindle was very unpopular with the Fartown followers that day, but the Fartown Football Committee, realising the value of Brindle's virile and



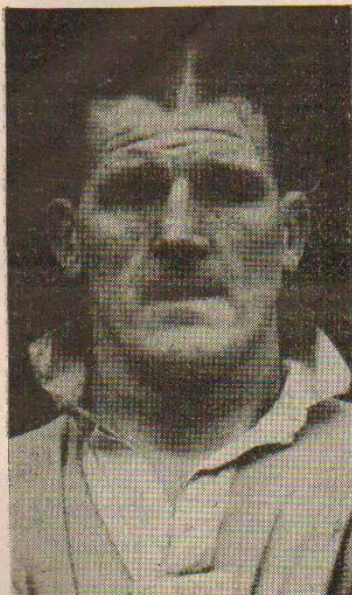
ERIC HARRIS

JEFF MOORES

STANLEY SMITH

Outstanding Personalities in pre-war Leeds—Huddersfield games



**DAVE COTTON**

Played in the Castleford "Ghost" Match of 1941

sterling play, promptly signed him on. He livened the Huddersfield pack up to such good effect that they won the Rugby League Challenge Cup at Wembley that same season!

**MARKHAM'S MARKSMANSHIP**

Featherstone Rovers provided a big scoring feat for Ray Markham on September 21st, 1935. The flying Australian scored nine tries at the prompting of Alec Fiddes, who was more concerned over the record than his wingman was. On one occasion Bill Johnson ran over half the length of the field and was actually over the try line when he gave the ball to Markham to touch-down. This was the season when Markham got away to an excellent start with thirty tries in the first thirteen matches.

Two years later we had the 1937 Australian tourists at Fartown. Probably I remember this chiefly because it was one of the very few bright spots in what was a dismal season for the Huddersfield club. During the match Sep Aspinall (who also saw service with Leeds and York) dropped the only goal of his career, while Stanley Pepperell scored a try after as palpable a knock-on as ever happened under a referee's nose. The main thing was that the Fartowners showed they could win a match, the score being 17—7 in their favour.

One last pre-war memory—another Leeds game and a mid-week Yorkshire Challenge Cup-tie this time. There were only two points in it (8—6) and a Stanley Pepperell penalty goal finally did the trick. But I remember this match as being the last occasion on which we saw those two great artistes, Eric Harris and Stanley Smith, playing at Fartown. Each, on his day, was a great source of trouble to opposing defences, but I think that their brilliance was appreciated by all lovers of Rugby League football, whether friend or foe. Eric Harris, who is now a physical training instructor in his native Queensland, left us with a typical try to remember him by.

**WITHOUT OPPOSITION**

A few flashes peep through the dark years of war. Probably the most remarkable scene ever enacted on a football field in a senior match took place at Fartown on March 22nd, 1941. Picture the situation if you can.

Huddersfield line up for the kick-off in a Yorkshire Challenge Cup-tie. There are only thirteen players on the field—all Fartowners. The referee (Mr. E. Devine) blows his whistle and Fiddes kicks the ball forward for Billy Belshaw to gather, run over between the posts for a try and kick the goal to put Huddersfield into the next round of the Cup.

This remarkable incident came at the end of a second round tie with Castleford. At the end of eighty minutes on a murky afternoon the scores were level at 3 points each. According to the Cup rules, in the event of a draw ten minutes extra time each way had to be played. Unfortunately for Castleford nearly all their players had to get back straight after the match for military, A.R.P. or other duties. After consulting on the touch line for a few minutes the majority of them went into the dressing-room, one or two remaining to watch the strange finale. Only 3,000 spectators saw this unique occurrence.

The teams for this Cup-tie were: Huddersfield — Belshaw; Johnson, Randall Lewis, Fiddes and G. R. Pepperell; S. V. Pepperell and Grahame; Sherwood, Cotton, Gray, Caley, Hughes and Chapman. Castleford—Lewis; Lane, Walker, Croston and Rennard; Robinson and Walsh; Manus, Cottingham, Taylor, Smith, Crossley and Jones. Bill Johnson scored the first try for Huddersfield and the equaliser came from Jim Croston.

**IN SCORING MOOD**

In April, 1942, Swinton brought about what must surely be the most amazing transformation ever seen at Fartown, or anywhere else for that matter. With the "Omega" Clock showing only five minutes left to play, the home men were leading by 16 points to 8, and the result seemed to be "in the bag." Yet when the referee's whistle went for time Swinton had won by 22—16! In those closing minutes they ran in no fewer than four tries and converted two of them. A worthy example of the saying that a game is never lost until it is won!

The following September came the Bradford "blitz," when Northern showered an avalanche of points on the Fartowners. Bradford were at their best, and a pretty good best it was during those years. They ran in nine tries and with Ernest Ward finding the posts with five goal kicks, Huddersfield were finally beaten by 37 points to 4. Trevor Foster and Frank Whitcombe were magnificent in the Bradford pack. The tries for Northern were scored by Walter Best (3), Ernest Ward (2), Case, Foster, Billington and Donald Ward one each. Wade, a "guest" player from Leigh, kicked the Huddersfield goals.

Last war-time memory is of Barrow paying one of their infrequent visits during February, 1944. The Barrow team had been re-formed after a period of inactivity

**JEFF BAWDEN**

Scored 35 out of 76 points in one afternoon





**A HUDDERSFIELD TEAM WHICH WORTHILY UPHELD THE CLUB'S PROUD TRADITION  
MAY 14th, 1949**

Left to Right.

**Back Row.**—A. Ferguson, M. J. Maiden, A. M. Meek, I. A. Owens, J. C. Daly, L. W. Cooper, D. D. Valentine.

**Front Row.**—J. Anderson, J. C. H. Hunter, R. Nicholson, P. C. Devery (Captain), G. R. Pepperell, W. M. Banks.



**KEN GEE**

Scored the deciding try in a  
Huddersfield—Wigan "thriller" during 1947

and practically all the names were unfamiliar ones. Fartowners received another shock that day for the Furness men won by 25 points to 5 and gave a splendid display. Bryn Knowelden made the locals sit up by scoring four tries at Fartown, while Billy Horne contributed five goals. Two years later both these players were selected for the 1946 team to tour Australasia.

#### **TALL SCORING**

At this point I must mention a game at Fartown in which Huddersfield ran up 76 points and Jeff Bawden had a field day with an individual contribution of 10 goals and 5 tries. Unfortunately this was one I missed, being ill in bed, but those of my readers who were present will appreciate a reference to it.

Swinton were the visitors and the interval score of 14 points to 3 gave little indication of the shape of things to come. The "Lions" scored first and held the lead for over twenty minutes, but they had a stroke of bad luck when Knowles was carried off with a severe leg injury before half-time.

The second half was a one-way procession over the Swinton line and Huddersfield registered 14 tries and 10 goals, a total of 62 points in the forty minutes. Of the Huddersfield players only Bill Leake and Moran failed to

Continued on Page 10





**LIONEL COOPER (above) and BRIAN BEVAN (below) leading wingmen and prolific try scorers who have thrilled with their clashes in Huddersfield—Warrington games**

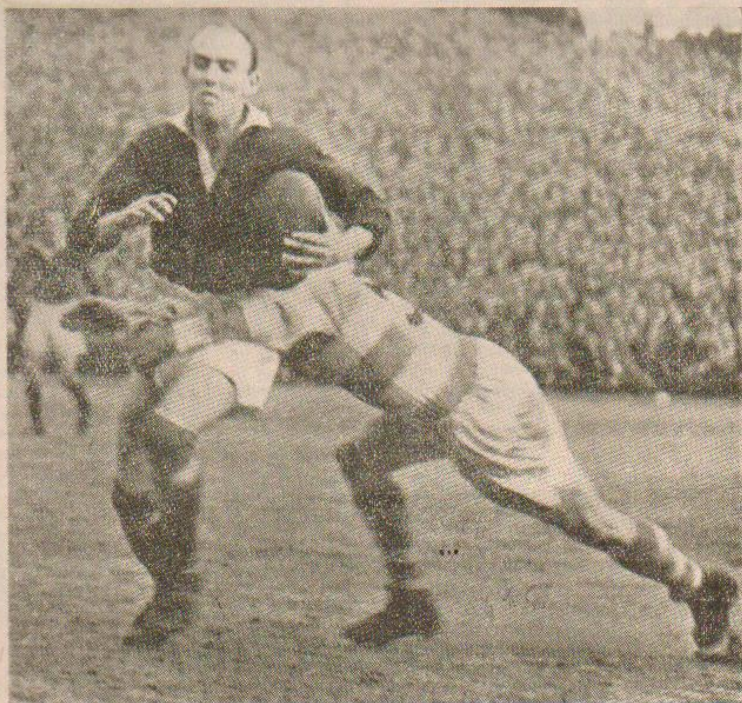


figure among the scorers. Many Fartowners have registered as many as 5 tries or kicked as many as 10 goals, but Jeff Bawden is the only one to record these feats in the same Match. To think I had to miss such an occasion!

The teams were: Huddersfield—Leake; G. R. Pepperell, Fiddes, W. T. Davies and Bawden; Grahame and W. G. Morgan (recently transferred to Oldham); Mallinson, Moran, T. Taylor, Aspinall, Baxter and Robson. Swinton—Lowe; Forgarty (scorer of Swinton's only try), K. Turner, A. R. Warry and Lewis; Thomas and Parfit; Garner, Whittaker, Walworth, Mycock, Knowles and Venn.

#### POST WAR SEASONS

So far as the post-war years are concerned my choice is much easier. The recent Warrington match is fresh in the memory of all who saw it and we can't ask for better entertainment value than was provided at Fartown that day. Then there was last season's opening home League game against Wigan, another encounter packed with good football.

From a partisan point of view the Wigan match may have given as much, or even more, enjoyment than the Warrington one. Rarely can Wigan have been so well beaten as when the Fartowners ran up 24 points against their 5. Yet, as a game of football, my vote goes to the one we saw against Warrington on September 3rd of this season. There were thrills and excitement all the way, some tip-top tries, and the losers were in the game till very near the end. It was a worthy successor to last season's Maine Road Final.

We also had the opening match of the Australian tour twelve months ago, at which there was quite a fair amount of good football before the tone of the proceedings were lowered. Readers of "Rugby League Review" can, of course, refer to the above three games in their back numbers, so I do not propose to dwell upon them.

Instead, I would like to mention three other games before concluding. The first, against Wigan, was played on April 5th, 1947; the second was a visit by Featherstone Rovers at the beginning of the same season; and the third a remarkable "reserve team" game against Bradford Northern.

#### WIGAN'S WORTHY WIN

Conditions were bad for the Wigan match with wind and rain sweeping down the pitch, but both sides put up a grand performance and proved



that R.L. football can still be spectacular and attractive, even in atrocious weather. Wigan won 3-2, Ken Gee scoring the try after Mountford had sent the defence the wrong way, while Bernard Madden kicked a penalty goal in reply.

These scores came in the first half when Wigan had the advantage of the elements, and a Fartown win was confidently looked for after the interval. Wigan had different ideas, however, and they defended magnificently against the gale. Huddersfield had plenty of "might-have-beens" and "should-have-beens" to show for their efforts, but no tries or goals on the board. Egan and his men must have been very weary when the end did come. They well earned the two League points they took back to Wigan.

### ROVERS SHINE

Featherstone are not looked upon as being among the stylists of the Rugby League, yet they have given many bright displays at Fartown. That on September 2nd, 1946 (a mid-week match) came into the "brilliant" class. The Rovers vied with their more illustrious opponents at swinging the ball about and although they retired defeated by 23 points to 12 they were far from disgraced. They took an early lead and did not relinquish it until the second half.

Huddersfield's match winner was Len Howard, a young Welsh stand-off half making his first appearance in the claret and gold jersey. He

gave an electrical display which delighted the home supporters. It was a sad blow a year later when Howard dislocated his knee-cap, an injury which ended his brief but extremely promising career.

Alec Givvons captained the Fartowners in the Featherstone match and the try scorers were Robson (2), Pimblett (now with Warrington), G. R. Pepperell and Madden (now with Hull). Bawden kicked 4 goals. Bennett and Smith scored the Featherstone tries and Barraclough landed 3 goals.

### RIISING TO THE OCCASION

One rousing game that I must not omit was the home League fixture with Bradford Northern on September 27th, 1948. This was played on a Monday evening and the lengthy Huddersfield injured list had been added to on the previous Saturday. When the Fartown team was given out over the loud-speakers it read like this: Swallow; Oughton, Brown, Clark and Valentine; Cox and S. V. Pepperell (Capt.); Davies, Gapper, Foley, Morrison, Nicholson and Bairstow. Only two regular first teamers on view and one of them playing in an unaccustomed position!

What a team to field against Bradford's Internationals, and how the crowd groaned as they digested the changes. By half-time the groans had changed to cheers. This "reserve" team got stuck in right from the start and gave the Northern "stars" no chance to do any shining.

I doubt, for instance, if Frank Whitcombe has ever been so ineffective against Huddersfield. There was no fancy football and no frills. Just hard, honest endeavour, and how the crowd loved it.

Bradford managed to win the match through tries by Edwards and Batten against a Bob Nicholson dropped goal, but they had all on to do so. I have never seen any Fartown team get such a royal reception back to the dressing-room as this one received that evening. It might have been partly due to pent-up relief that the expected heavy defeat had not materialised, yet in the main it was sincere appreciation of a gallant showing against bigger, faster and more experienced opponents. The team well deserved the winning pay which the Football Committee had no hesitation in awarding them.

### THINGS TO COME

These are the memories of Fartown I shall always treasure. To-day there is ample promise of more thrilling games, for only the brightest and best will do for the claret and gold. Although it takes two teams to make a really good game of football, as we have seen they need not always be top-of-the-table teams.

If the future at Fartown does hold a repetition of the many good things of the past the Rugby League code in Huddersfield has nothing to fear.

## RESULTS OF MATCHES

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th

#### Yorkshire Cup—Semi-final

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.	Att.
Dewsbury	1 0 2	Huddersfield	2 1 7	18,800
Goal: Thompson.		Try: Cooper.		
		Goals: Devery 2.		

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

#### International—

Wales	.....	1 1 5	Other Nats.	0 2 6	2,000
Try: J. Davies.			Tries: Bevan, Cooper,		
Goal: J. Davies.					

(Played at Abertillery)

#### League—

Barrow	...	0 1 3	Salford	.....	1 0 2	9,829
Try: Caine.			Goal: Rogers.			
Belle Vue R.	4 2 14		Warrington	1 1 5	6,000	
Tries: Morgan, Rees.			Try: Fishwick.			
Goals: Gregory 2,			Goal: Palin.			
Rees, Price.						

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.	Att.
Bradford N.	1 8 26	Hull K.R.	1 2 8	10,000
Tries: Walters 4,		Tries: Lufford, Steele,		
W. Ward, Tyler, Kit-		Goal: McWatt.		
ching, Batten.				
Goal: E. Ward.				
Dewsbury	3 3 15	Hunslet	... 0 1 3	5,000
Tries: Cowling 2,		Try: Williamson.		
Constance.				
Goals: Thompson 2,				
Constance.				
F'rt'stone R.	5 4 22	Liverpool S.	1 1 5	1,200
Tries: Crabtree 2,		Try: Forsyth.		
Church, Tennant,		Goal: Forsyth.		
Goals: Townsend 5.				
Huddersfield	9 8 42	Bramley	... 2 4 16	11,527
Tries: Bairstow 2,		Tries: Warrior 2, Cluderay,		
Ferguson, S. V. Pep-		Rock.		
perell, Cracknell,		Goals: Gibson 2.		
Bawden, Anderson,				
Meek.				
Goals: Bawden 5,				
Anderson 3, S. V.				
Pepperell.				

Continued on Page 12





"This is the B.B.C. Light Programme. We regret that owing to a technical hitch we have given the Rugby League results. The person responsible has, of course, been dealt with."



## Second Page of "Rugby League Review"

# ALBUM OF RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS

## Memories of RAY MARKHAM

By  
A. N. GAULTON

**M**ANY young Australians made the long trip to join English clubs and display their speed and guile on our Rugby League fields before the War, just as many have done since. This series of articles opened with one of the greatest of them all, Eric Harris, and now we feature another Australian "flyer" who scored some amazing tries from the left wing for Huddersfield.

Ray Markham was just a name to Huddersfield supporters when he was signed late in 1932, and they eagerly anticipated seeing its owner in the flesh. He arrived in time to play against Leeds—and the already well-established Eric Harris—early in January, 1933, and within the space of a few months was in the forefront of the many fine wingmen of the day. In that first part season Markham won a R.L. Challenge Cup medal in the Huddersfield—Warrington Final of 1933, which is still considered the best Rugby League game Wembley has seen.

Ray came from Cessnock, Newcastle, New South Wales, and made a great impression on the 1932 English Tourists in Australia. He played for Newcastle against England and his display won him golden opinions from no less a player than Jim Sullivan, captain of the Touring team. Markham was then twenty-two years of age, weighing 12 st. 2 lbs., and standing just under 5 ft. 10 ins.

A clean handler and an elusive runner, Markham allied a subtle swerve to his great speed. The Fartown officials did him a good turn when they brought Alec Fiddes down from Scotland. As Jeff Moores was to Harris, so Fiddes was to Markham. The pair formed a splendid wing and the Australian responded nobly to the promptings of his centre and captain.

### SCORING HIGHLIGHTS

Many great tries and scoring feats stand against Markham's name. It is impossible to do justice to them all. Numerically his nine tries against Featherstone Rovers at Fartown on



yet this was an unusual rather than a brilliant feat. Nine tries is certainly a big haul for one man in one game, even allowing for the fact that there was an obvious tendency to "Give it to Ray" on the part of his colleagues.

One curious point about this Featherstone game was that although Markham dominated the scoring to such an extent, at no time during the game did he register a "hat trick" of tries in the strict sense of the word, i.e., scoring three tries in succession.

Those who saw his three sparkling tries in the 1938 Yorkshire Challenge Cup Final against Hull at Odsal Stadium will probably award the palm to that display as Markham's best for Huddersfield. His second try was in the "super" class. Receiving the ball from Fiddes just inside the Hull half, he appeared to have no chance of scoring. Once he was brought to the ground but was up and away again before his opponent could make sure of the tackle. Twisting and turning in and out he weaved his way through the defence and when he dived over for the touch-down there were three beaten Hull men stretched

It was in such awkward, deceptive runs that we saw Markham at his most dangerous, and a fine sight it was to see him crowding on full sail in a straight run down the wing.

### OTHER MEMORABLE GAMES

Odsal Stadium has another happy memory of Ray Markham, for on the day the ground was officially opened he ran in four tries for Huddersfield against Bradford Northern. One of them was a remarkable length of the field effort. The Australian's speed and dash were shown to very good purpose on that first day of September, 1934.

I think, too, that Warrington people will remember a brilliant Markham try at Wilderspool which "brought down the house." Royston and Fiddes started the movement but Ray had a long distance to go when he got the ball. The cheering was tumultuous when he finally beat Shankland to score by the posts after a great run. That match was played on August 31st, 1935, and despite Markham's splendid effort (he scored again later) Warrington won by 15 points to 11.

In addition to his nine tries in one game for Huddersfield, Ray scored six tries on two occasions, five once, and four seven times. In fourteen other games he finished up with three tries. With only thirteen matches played during season 1935-36, he was a good way ahead in the scoring lists with thirty tries to his name. He finished the season as leading try scorer for the whole Rugby League, a feat repeated in 1938-39 when he graced our great game for the last time.

Markham announced his retirement from Rugby League football in the summer of 1939, when he was appointed deputy markets superintendent at Huddersfield. Twelve months later he obtained a similar position at Derby.



## Album of Rugby League Players

Continued from Page 5

## MARKHAM'S TRIES AND APPEARANCES YEAR BY YEAR

Season	App.	Tries	3 or more tries in a match	Posit'n in L'gue scoring list
1932-33	22	26	4	17
1933-34†	45	46	2	1
1934-35†	44	43	4	2
1935-36†	43	56*	7	2
1936-37	32	25	1	8
1937-38	39	30	2	3
1938-39†	44	38	5	1
	269	264	25	

† Leading Fartown try-scorer during these seasons.

\* Including nine in one match against Featherstone Rovers.

In addition to the above, Markham played with R.L. representative teams in France in 1935 and 1937, scoring three tries on the former trip. He also kicked three goals for Huddersfield.

## While I Remember

Continued from Page 7

quintet they had myself and Hudson in the backs, and Feetham in the forwards, to back them up. One effort must be mentioned for it concerned all the Salford players, with no other participants, in as spectacular a try as has ever been seen on this ground.

Feetham picked the ball up from the base of a scrum, passed to Watkins, who had run wide, and in turn transferred to Jenkins. Jenkins made the opening for me to run straight for thirty yards, with Stan Smith on my outside. Just inside the Australian half I switched direction by throwing a long pass into the centre, where Watkins was waiting for it. He took it cleanly, and then

punted short and low to the right, and Hudson, running all out, took the bouncing ball in his stride and was over the line in a flash.

It was afterwards asked: Was this movement worked out in the Salford dressing-room? England were victorious by 19-16, and for the second time in Test Matches between the two countries in England, had performed the hat trick. (England won all the "official" Tests of the first series in 1908-09).

(To be continued)

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## FIRST TEST MATCH

Belle Vue, Manchester, October 7th, 1933

ENGLAND won, 2-0-4 pts. to Australia 0-0-0 pts.

ENGLAND.—J. Sullivan (Wigan) (Capt.); A. Ellaby (St. Helens), A. J. Risman (Salford), S. Brogden (Huddersfield) and S. Smith (Leeds); W. J. Davies (Castleford) and B. Evans (Swinton); N. Silcock (Widnes), L. L. White (Hunslet), J. Miller (Warrington), W. Horton (Wakefield Trinity), M. Hodgson (Swinton) and J. Feetham (Salford).

Scorer—Goals: Sullivan (2).

..

AUSTRALIA.—F. McMillan (Capt.); A. Ridley, D. Brown, C. Pearce and J. Why; V. Thicknesse and V. J. Hey; D. Dempsey, P. Madsen, R. Stehr, F. O'Connor, S. Pearce and W. Prigg.

Referee: F. Peel, of Bradford.

Attendance: 32,500.

Receipts: £4,659.

Attendance and Receipts a record for the Belle Vue ground.

## EYES ON TOUR

No. 13

# JIMMY HAYTON

(WORKINGTON TOWN)  
PROP FORWARD



**A** CUMBERLAND lad who has been with the Town right from the very beginning—he was, in fact, the first player signed by Workington. He was playing with Broughton Moor then, a raw youth still in his 'teens, but as the Cumberland club developed so did Hayton. He helped to take them through the "teething" stage to a respectable League position while during the same period he went from club to County football and then to International honours.

With fifteen stones to throw into the scrums, Jimmy Hayton is a useful man to have around in the pack, and he will also do his whack in the loose. His tackling is of the devastating order and once he gets his hands on an opponent the latter's progress is at an end.

Cumberland called upon him during his second season in senior football and altogether he has represented his County seven times. On one other occasion he was selected but had to stand down through injury.

Hayton's International appearance was for England against Other Nationalities last September, and he did as well as anyone in the beaten England side. Workington people, with whom Hayton is a great favourite, hope he will be given another chance and be in a more successful team next time.

Jimmy, who is twenty-four, was married just before Christmas.



# RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW

EDITOR—STANLEY CHADWICK

FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

## MUD PONDS OR GRASS PLOTS?

THE shocking condition of the playing area at Fartown (Huddersfield) during recent games has brought into prominence the whole question of the care of Rugby League grounds. Over the years very little attention has been given to the majority of clubs' playing pitches, with the result that many are nothing better than dirt tracks in dry weather and mud heaps in wet. In fairness to the Huddersfield Club it should be stated that their ground has never been the same since it was the scene of anti-frost experiments during January, 1946, in a vain attempt to serve the public by playing a match down for decision. Drainage work on a large scale has since been carried out, but the promise of a playing area "equal to the best in the League" is still a thing of the future.

The time has undoubtedly arrived when the Rugby Football League will have to prescribe a standard for the grounds of all senior clubs, and delegate carefully defined powers to a Grounds Sub-Committee. A first requisite is a level playing area. At present on certain grounds the team to win the toss has a distinct advantage over their opponents when they elect to play "downhill." Some home teams know the peculiarities of their pitches and benefit accordingly. A perfectly level playing area would be fair to both teams and, indeed, it is strange that it has never been insisted upon by the ruling authority. Before good players can give of their best they require a pitch free from pot holes and which has been well rolled. It would be interesting to know how many Northern League clubs possess a roller and when it was last used on their football field. Some would require an army of workmen before a roller could effect an entry to the field!

In a game like Rugby League which thrives on swift running and keen tackling, an uneven surface

slows down the player with the ball and often causes him to lose his foothold. Many R.L. playing areas give the appearance of a herd of cattle having been driven across them in a wild stampede, with the hoofs of the animals plainly indented everywhere. While police constables are stationed to prevent persons trespassing on adjoining cricket pitches, the crowd is allowed to swarm across the football field at the conclusion of matches. It is only human nature to expect supporters to encroach upon the field of play at the conclusion of an exciting Cup Final, but no one should be allowed to set foot on the pitch at the end of an ordinary League match.

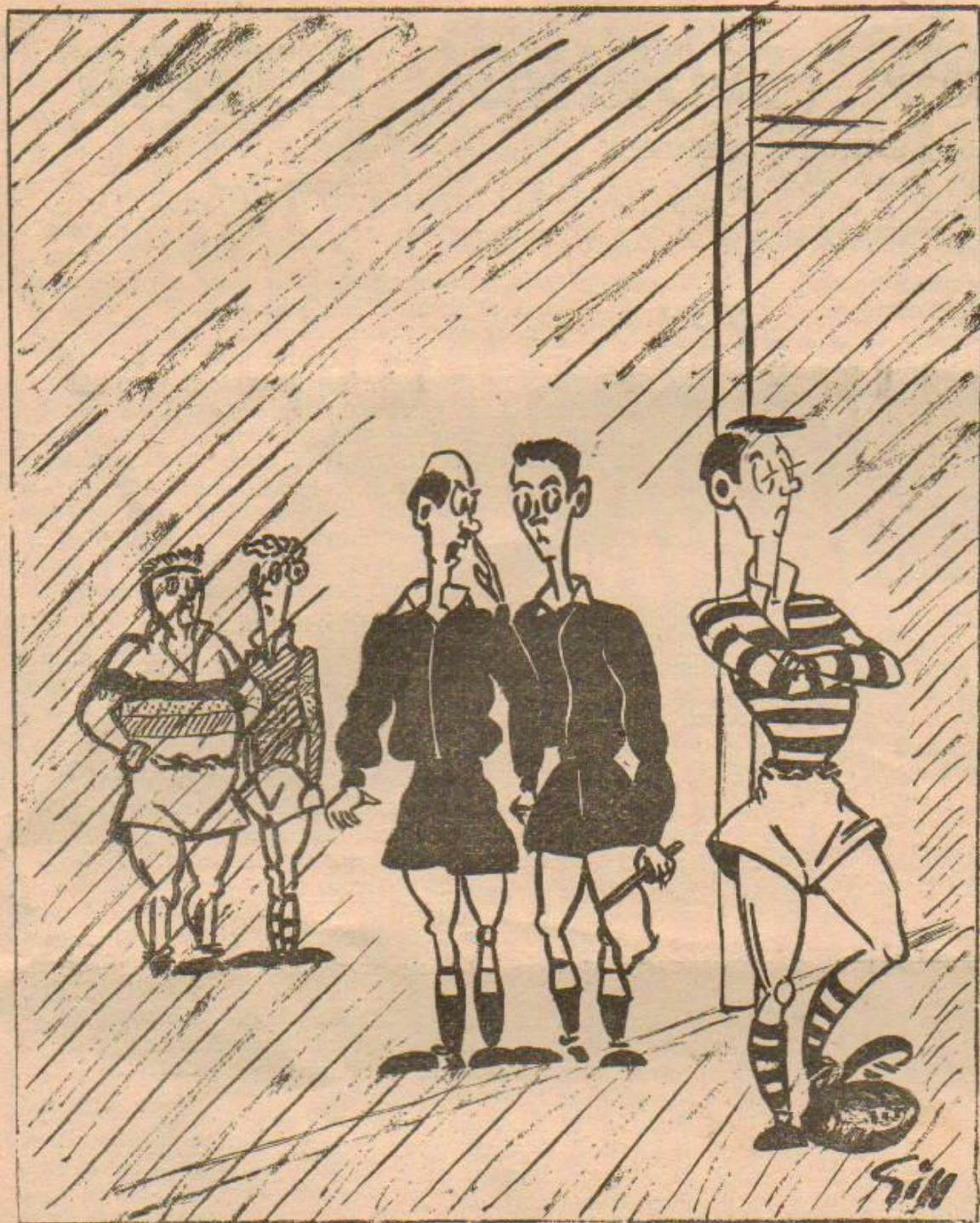
Opinions differ over the length of the grass on a R.L. field of play, and it has been argued that the long grass at Wembley gives a slippery foothold. However, R.L. pitches should have a grass area and not resemble a bald head with a few patches and single blades of grass. Good quality meadow grass is the only thing which will stand up to the hard usage our game gives to the turf. It is penny wise and pound foolish to seed a ground during the close season and in the short space of two months expect the grass to knit together. Before the practice matches are over the ground already shows signs of wear. A wet spell and the previous liberal application of sand turns the pitch into a quagmire. Players slither about in the mud; the ball weighs a ton; and what should have been a thrilling and grand exhibition of football between two first-class sides reduced to a mud bath between players who at times cannot even distinguish their own side. This is not fantasy as any reader who was present at Huddersfield on January 7th, 1950, is well aware.

The R.L. Grounds Sub-Committee would inspect each Northern League club ground before the opening of the

season, and certify it as reaching the approved standard in turf, evenness of surface, levelness, drainage and the like. Periodical inspections would follow during the season, and if a playing area was not maintained in good condition, a Club would have to fulfil its home fixtures on some other ground. This is neither drastic nor unfair when R.L. football is considered in the light of other public entertainments. A theatre manager would not engage a first-class repertory company with "stars" in the leading roles and then provide decrepit scenery and indifferent stage lighting. Yet that is just what R.L. clubs have been doing for a very long time now. What sense is there in paying large signing fees for players and then failing to provide them with a playing area upon which they can exhibit their skill to the full and provide spectacle for the spectators. A player is as good as the conditions allow him to be, and mud in place of grass, or pot holes instead of a level pitch, is breaking faith with both player and spectator.

When the standard of playing areas has been raised the R.L. Grounds Sub-Committee can then turn its attention to such things as the provision of score-boards and the proper announcements of team changes. It is surprising how many R.L. grounds have no score-board, while at others the structures are now museum pieces. Clubs sell programmes and then neglect to announce over their loud speakers or on a board the team changes. This does not exhaust the work which the new committee could undertake, and many other matters will suggest themselves to R.L. followers. If the committee by insisting on playing areas conforming to a R.L. standard improve the quality of football, they will have carried out a long needed reform and one which will confer many benefits on the game.





"He admits he started his run in a game at Fartown and got lost in the fog. But he says even if he has touched down at Odsal in the wrong game, such a run is still worth a try."