

win over Saints no fluke

By LESLIE TEMLETT

HOW quickly things can change in Rugby League was shown by the way Bramley played in defeating St. Helens to collect two points which few, if any of the people associated with the club could have expected.

It was indeed a famous victory, one that will be talked of by Bramley and its fans for many a day. Nor was there any fluke about it, even if the Saints scored two tries to Bramley's one.

It was the goalkicking of full-back Robin Dewhurst (five goals from five shots, plus a drop-goal) which put Bramley home and dry.

All his marksmanship would have been of no avail had his side not produced team work of a high order, with the young pack surpassing themselves.

A suggestion that the number of second team matches played during the season should be reduced from 30 to 24 or 26 is made by the programme writer of Bramley.

He was commenting on the cancellation so early this season of "nearly a dozen "A" team fixtures."

"This would alleviate the position," he adds, "and especially so if the games omitted were those where travelling was most costly."

"The other and most important factor is finance.

"The cost of running our "A" team varies between £80-£120 a week. This works out at approximately £3,000 per season and where you are stretched to the limit to pay first team expenses and all incidentals this extra burden is more than a headache.

"One has to admit that our "A" team is a must. A number of years ago we opted out of the Yorkshire Senior Competition for one season — we learned our lesson the hard way.

"In the affluent society of today it is asking the impossible for a player to play simply for the love of the game. You may get the odd one or two, but no more."

What the writer did not specifically say, though one can read it into what was written, is that some clubs (I would be surprised if Bramley is not among them) are finding that with some players it is "first team, and regularly, or nothing."