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Members are admitted to the meeting only on production of this
Official Balance Sheet and Report.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 1951-52

REPORT and BALANCE SHEET

for 12 months ending 31st March, 1952.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the LARGE HALL, KING
STREET STORES, on THURSDAY, 15th MAY, 1952. Chair to be taken at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. Acceptance of Standing Orders as circularised.
2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Passing of the Balance Sheet.
5. Appointment of Scrutineers.
6. General Business.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE :

	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
PRESIDENT :		
CARTER, P. G. 4, Pierce Street, Oldham.	A. Cordwell, 22, London Road, Oldham.	F. Knowles, 107, Queens Road, Oldham.
ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT :		
COULTHARD, J., 10, Baytree Avenue, Chadderton.	F. W. Ashworth, 109, Haven Lane, Oldham.	J. W. Lewthwaite, 22, Middle Gate, Oldham.
HON. TREASURER :		
CORDWELL, A., 22, London Road, Oldham.	F. S. Holt, 314, Abbey Hills Road, Oldham.	J. W. Lewthwaite, 22, Middle Gate, Oldham.
COMMITTEE (3 required) :		
*ASHWORTH, F. W., 109, Haven Lane, Oldham.	T. W. Hurtley, Wellington Hotel, Ripponden Road, Oldham.	J. Coulthard, 10, Baytree Avenue, Chadderton.
BUCKLEY, J. B., 9, Ryeburne Street, Oldham.	T. T. Hilton, 42, Hillside Avenue, Grotton, Oldham.	J. T. Hall, 74, Green Lane, Oldham.
DAVIES, E. 19, Prince George Street, Oldham.	J. Hall, 327, Ripponden Road, Oldham.	A. Ashworth, 11, Vincent Street, Oldham.
KERSHAW, B., 2, Cummings Street, Oldham.	N. Shepherd, 91, Rochdale Road, Oldham.	T. Kershaw, 2, Cummings Street, Oldham.
*KNOWLES, F., 107, Queens Road, Oldham.	F. S. Holt, 314, Abbey Hills Road, Oldham.	F. L. Ridgway, 53, Henshaw Street, Oldham.
*LEWTHWAITE, J. W., 22, Middle Gate, Oldham.	P. G. Carter, 4, Pierce Street, Oldham.	R. L. Thomas, 16, Acre Lane, Oldham.
ROSS, W. E., 20, Villiers Street, Oldham.	A. Gartside, 16, 17th Avenue, Abbey Hills, Oldham.	C. L. Ward, 46, Kinswick Drive, New Moston, Manchester.
SELLERS, S. M., 35, Byrom Street, Hollinwood.	G. Mills, 672, Hollins Road, Hollinwood.	T. Ingham, 28, Melling Road, Oldham.
SHERIDAN, T., 103, Kolverlow Street, Oldham.	A. Campbell, 3/5, Abbey Hills Road, Oldham.	H. Braddock, 9, Alexandra Road, Oldham.
SUTCLIFFE, E., Lancashire Hotel, Higginshaw, Oldham.	W. Howard, 11, Ashton Road East, Failsworth.	W. Sutcliffe, 34, Pitt Street, Oldham.

* Denotes retiring Committee.

1951		1952	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
March 31	43 12 1	March 31	12 0 6
To Cash in Hand		March 31	17 7
Cash in Bank			
Charity Match Account			
1951		1952	
4057 5 6	4080 17 6	16307 12 11	18144 0 8
1702 13 9	1665 2 2	502 0 0	572 0 0
2200 0 0	3925 0 0	3223 13 7	5 5 9
203 13 7	102 14 7	196 11 9	133 11 10
945 13 0	1236 16 0	124 5 6	122 12 6
287 11 0	298 3 0	154 1 0	152 7 6
26 10 0	23 10 0		
Benefit Match—			
W. S. Mitchell, net proceeds			
Cash owing Bank			
4233 9 3	573 12 1		
	37 13 10		
1951		1952	
5192 18 5	4233 9 3	5192 18 5	4233 9 3
6466 10 0	9509 0 0	2795 14 4	2727 2 0
333 15 5	346 11 0	732 15 3	893 15 5
810 17 7	502 4 6	276 1 0	225 15 7
499 19 0	648 2 8	2261 5 3	2209 14 6
10 9 0	9 19 0	498 7 5	743 6 3
185 10 10	119 14 3	364 17 3	506 3 9
393 10 8	191 4 6	1144 7 5	1279 11 5
173 16 0	195 16 0	181 13 4	186 5 0
184 11 9	132 8 8	1716 15 8	1893 4 1
30 9 0	30 9 0	28 10 10	35 9 9
6 18 0	6 18 0	112 19 6	115 2 10
7275 0 0	1350 0 0	257 6 11	88 18 2
25 4 0	5 0 0	152 7 6	157 18 6
944 16 0	1183 10 0	32 0 6	34 9 5
303 1 6	319 18 3	391 12 0	389 10 0
203 13 7	100 0 0		
Junior Organisations			
Photographs			
Charges on Property Let			
Mortgage Repayments			
Corporation Duty			
Bowling Green Expenses			
Loan to Players			
W. S. Mitchell re Benefit			
less Expenses			
508 17 2	91 2 10		
Donation			
Cash at Bank—			
Charity Match Account			
Cash in Hand			
£34268 12 11	31358 19 6	£34268 12 11	31358 19 6

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March, 1952

1951			1951			1951			1951		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4170	0	4	4170	0	4	4375	0	0	4375	0	0
LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			Land			Stands, etc.—Reconstruction		
Loan from Pavilion			House and Mill Co. Ltd.			Additions			Properties.		
Mortgage—59 Stanley Road			less Repaid			Mortgage—80 Greenwood Street			59 Stanley Road		
610	8	11	610	8	11	less Repaid			80 Greenwood Street		
			34	6	5				161 Ripponden Road		
455	6	0	455	6	0	Mortgage—80 Greenwood Street			Sundry Debtors		
			23	0	0	less Repaid			Cash at Bank		
413	1	7	413	1	7	Sundry Creditors			Charity Match Account		
						Reserve for Grants to			Cash in Hand		
17	7		17	7		Charity Organisations			Balance on Pavilion Account		
						Reserve for Ground Improvement					
4233	9	3	4233	9	3	(Donation from Oldham					
9467	13	6	9467	13	6	Supporters' Club)					
						Bank Overdraft					
						Balance of Assets over Liabilities					
19350	17	2	19350	17	2						
			20012	8	11						

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB PAVILION ACCOUNT
 CASH ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st March, 1952.

	Year to		Year to	
	1951	31.3.51	1952	31.3.51
INCOME.				
March 31 To Cash at Bank	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cash in Hand	4995	11 0	2401	1 1
March 31 To Bar Receipts	4995	11 0	Wages	413 0 0
			Gas, Water, Coal and Coke	66 0 5
			Rates, Taxes, Telephone and Insurance	75 0 0
			Printing, Stationery, Newspapers, Postages and Sundries	8 0 3
			Repairs	48 13 6
			Decorating	—
			Cleaning Materials, &c.	13 15 0
			Audit Fees	5 15 6
			Bank Charges	4 11 3
			Bar Requisites	8 15 11
			Cash at Bank	527 5 11
			Cash in Hand	45 7 9
				£3617 6 7
				£3867 3 0

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March, 1952.

	1951		1952	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
LIABILITIES.				
March 31 Balance of Assets over Liabilities	4995	11 0	249	10 10
			Stock	4170 0 4
			Loan—Oldham Football Club	3 6 2
			Debtors	527 5 11
			Cash at Bank	45 7 9
			Cash in Hand	£4995 11 0
				£4986 5 1
ASSETS.				
March 31 Balance of Assets over Liabilities	4995	11 0	358	16 10
			4170	0 4
			422	8 11
			34	19 0
				£4986 5 1

Balance of Assets over Liabilities, 1951	4995	11 0
Balance of Assets over Liabilities, 1952	4986	5 1
Loss for Year	9	5 11

I have audited the above Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers, and have obtained all the information and explanations required. I certify that, in my opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs, in accordance with the information and explanations received, and as shown by the books.

28th April, 1952.
 P. OGDEN, F.A.C.C.A.,
 Certified Accountant,
 15, Queen Street, Oldham.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Herewith I present the Annual Report and Financial Statement of Accounts for the twelve months ending March 31st, 1952. The Statement of Accounts show a profit of £4647 10s. 10d. and the Pavilion Account shows a loss of £9 5s. 11d., which has been placed against the profit of the football section. It is indeed a pleasing duty to record such a splendid profit on the season's working and this has been achieved with the ever increasing costs of working the Club. The attendances at our 24 first team matches played at Watersheddings total 230,585, showing an average of 9,607, which is an improvement on the average of the previous season.

The average attendance for the past four seasons are as follows:

1948/49	...	8125	1949/50	...	8500
1950/51	...	8227	1951/52	...	9607

Seventeen "A" matches have been played but the attendances show a sharp decline, the total attendance being 24,599, against last year of 29,589. The average attendance this year being 1,447, against the previous year of 1,849. This may be accounted for by two reasons: the indifferent and inconsistency of form shown by the "A" team, and the possibility of more of our supporters accompanying the first team on its away matches. The total and average attendances do not include members of the Club, which number 2,204. Although the loss on the Pavilion Account of £9 5s. 11d., an examination of the Pavilion Accounts show that a sum of £200 has been spent on decorations, which were necessary for the maintenance of the Pavilion.

The financial position of the Club is now in a better condition than it has been for a considerable number of years and the prudent action which is taken by your Committee should result in a very healthy state of affairs for the future.

Playing Records.

Since the year 1946 it has been my privilege to write an Annual Report, and it has been difficult to compile this with a team that has always flattered to deceive, and has offered nothing but disappointments. Optimism has abounded at the commencement of each season and has gradually declined as the season progressed; the play of the team has been mediocre, but a splendid lot of members and supporters never deserted the Club; they have occasion to grumble, that is their privilege. I think the patience of our members and supporters is now being rewarded by the new era of playing ability that the Club possesses.

The past season has been one which we can look back upon with credit. Our team has played football of the highest order; there have been some disappointments—there always will be—no words of mine can praise the team too much, the results speak for themselves. The brilliant exposition of the Rugby League Game, as to how it should be played, we have seen by our team, not only at Watersheddings but on opponents' grounds. The National Press has praised our exhibitions and in several reports we have given the brightest display of the season. The improvement of our playing must be put, in the first place, to the policy of the Committee in insisting upon the open game and with the minimum of kicking, and in the second place the appointment of a player-coach, B. V. Goldswain, who has been in charge of the team from a playing point. There has been a creation of wonderful team spirit during the past season, and this must be the foundation for success in football and which eventually draws the crowd.

The confidence and will to win has been evident, and every man has been a trier, some players have an off day—who has not?—and they have come back again into form and fitted into the scheme of the game. We have been fortunate this season in having the minimum of injuries, which has enabled the team to be kept intact. It is a long time since we had so few first team members out of the team with injuries. I offer congratulations to the undermentioned players who have been honoured this season as follows:—

B. V. Goldswain	Wales, and Captain.	T. O'Grady	...	Lancashire County.
C. Winslade	...	L. Platt	...	Lancashire County.
K. Jackson	...			Lancashire County.

Mention must also be made that F. Daley has been reserve for England and A. Davies reserve for Great Britain.

We have finished No. 5 Club in the Northern Rugby Football League table, the highest position we have occupied since 1930/31.

A comparison of the last three seasons is as follows:—

	Position	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Against
1949/50.....	18	36	15	4	17	395	411
1950/51.....	15	36	17	2	17	403	347
1951/52.....	5	36	25	1	10	558	331

It is a long time since we had players figuring in the official list of try scorers, and principal try scorers are as follows:—

J. Warham	...	27 tries	A. Davies	...	21 tries
T. O'Grady	...	25 tries	W. Mitchell	...	12 tries
L. Platt	...	22 tries			

It is with pleasure that we record the feat of our full-back, Bernard Ganley, in kicking 106 goals during the season, an honour well earned, and we have seen some magnificent goals kicked by Ganley and some superb full-back play, ever willing to run with the ball in attack and join in some of the excellent movements with the backs.

As to the future, it appears bright, and we look forward with confidence to season 1952/53 and to commence with the same blaze of glory as we have finished season 1951/52. The new "play the ball" rule will be in operation next season and we are confident that our players will adapt themselves to the new rule and give the crowd the thrills and the success which we anticipate.

In the Lancashire League we have finished No. 4 and we are assured of better inter-county fixtures for next season. An excellent match programme is therefore our consolation for just missing a place in the first four of the Northern Rugby Football League.

Lancashire Cup.

For the second year in succession we advanced to the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup and for the second year in succession we were defeated at home. This was a very severe blow to our supporters as this year we fully expected taking toll of our opponents—Leigh

—and to have the honour of appearing in the final, but this was not to be and we were beaten on our merits. The sting in the defeat was more severe for the following week we played our victors again at Watersheddings and achieved a great victory by 15 points to 11 points in a league match.

Our progress in the competition was as follows:—

Rochdale Hornets	A.	won	8—7
Rochdale Hornets	H.	won	21—5
Widnes	H.	won	17—9
Leigh	H.	lost	10—14

Challenge Cup.

Like all Clubs we entered the competition thinking that this would be our Wembley year and our anticipation was more so by the manner our team had progressed in tactical play and coming into their own with team spirit and the will to win, but this was not to be.

In the first round we were drawn to play one of the leading teams in home and away matches—Hull. The first leg was played at Hull and although we lost the match by 8 points to 6 we were no doubt the best team and our prospects in the second leg at Watersheddings appeared bright. This proved to be the case and we decisively won by 24 points to nil, entering the second round by the aggregate points of 30 to 8. Round No. 2 destined that we should travel to Leeds to take on the Leeds Club. Our team, still full of confidence, duly appeared, and after a timid opening of the first quarter of the game, got territorially on top of our opponents, but we lost the match by 12 points to 9. Never has our team had a greater following of its supporters and never was the disappointment greater, to be beaten by a team that was, without doubt, inferior on the day's play. Attack after attack was hurled at the Leeds try line but the defence that was put up against us proved too much. This match will be talked about for a long time by the 34,000 spectators who attended. To be the best team and lose the match is the bitterest disappointment we have had this season.

1st Round—Hull	A.	8—6	1st leg.
1st Round—Hull	H.	0—24	2nd leg.
2nd Round—Leeds	A.	12—9	

Players.

The following players have been signed during the season:—

J. H. Watson (forward)	Saddleworth Rangers.
R. V. McBurnie (forward)	Dootsons (Leigh).
P. Hunt (scrum/out half)	Walney Central.
A. Murray (forward)	Lowermoor.
W. B. Ganley (full back)	As professional.
R. Bailey (forward)	Lowermoor.
S. Piggott (forward)	Saddleworth Rangers.
S. D. Little (forward)	Harlequins R.U.
S. Thurlow (forward)	Workington F.C.

The undermentioned players have been transferred to other Clubs:—

R. Batten (wing)	Castleford.
J. V. Tynan (scrum half)	Doncaster.
K. Ward (out-half)	Leeds.

Committee Meetings.

There have been 43 Committee Meetings and the attendances have been as follows:—

	Possible	Attendance	Sick	Absent
A. Cordwell	43	42		1
P. G. Carter	43	37		6
J. Coulthard	43	43		
F. W. Ashworth	43	43		
A. F. Campbell	43	42		1
F. S. Holt	43	42	1	
T. W. Hurtley	43	32	11	
F. Knowles	43	41	2	
J. W. Lewthwaite	43	42		1
F. L. Ridgway	43	43		
E. Thomas	43	43		
R. L. Thomas	43	42		1

Mr. F. L. Ridgway has been the representative on the Rugby League Council, and Mr. F. W. Ashworth the representative on the Lancashire County Rugby League, and both have upheld the dignity of office by the reports they have rendered regarding their activities as delegates.

Charity Match.

The Annual Charity Match was played against Rochdale Hornets at Rochdale on Saturday, August 11th, 1951, and resulted in a win by our team by 18 points to 7.

The "gate" receipts amounted to £432 19s. 0d., and the expenses being £227 9s. 9d., our net share of the receipts being £102 14s. 7d. which, with the sum of 17/7 brought forward from the previous year, gave a disposable balance of £103 12s. 2d., and which has been allocated as follows:—

	£	s	d
Oldham Junior Rugby League	50	0	0
Oldham Intermediate League	10	0	0
Oldham Continuation League	10	0	0
Oldham Schoolboys' League	20	0	0
St. John Ambulance Brigade	5	0	0
Oldham Blind Children Organisation	5	0	0

This leaves the sum of £3 12s. 2d. to carry forward for next season.

In addition to the above grants from the Charity Match, the sum of £50 has been given from our General Account to the Oldham Schools R.L.

Benefit Match.

During the period under review that grand club player, William S. Mitchell, took a well-earned benefit match between selected teams and the net gate receipts amounting to £154 19s. 7d. Various efforts were made to supplement this, which brought the amount to £508 17s. 2d., and your Club made this amount into a round sum of £600. May I offer thanks to all who made this a success.

Membership.

The membership of the Club is 2204, which shows an increase of 22 over the previous season. Subscriptions from the current membership amount to £4080 17s. 6d., against £4057 5s. 6d. last season. In view of our playing record we look forward to a considerable increase of members for season 1952/53.

	1945/46	1946/47	1947/48	1948/49	1949/50	1950/51	1951/52
Life Members	88	92	97	93	91	91	90
Enclosure and "E" Stand	80	476	826	958	890	776	761
Centre Stand	80	506	762	910	716	373	357
Side Stand... ..	70	371	543	550	491	526	599
Ground	173	366	470	423	366	168	170
Juvenile		66	82	120	98	95	74
Paddock						153	153
	491	1877	2780	3054	2652	2182	2204

Supporters' Club.

To our Supporters' Club many thanks for the sum of £250 which they have given the parent body; this has been earmarked for Ground Improvement Scheme. The membership of the Supporters is not as large as they desire, more members are required. The splendid gift of £250 is a wonderful example of what a few can do for the Club. With an increase of membership an increase of revenue would result, which will be put to Ground Improvements. Plans are in operation for the reconditioning of the "Penny Rush" Stand, and if a licence is received this work will be proceeded with, so I appeal for more membership to the Supporters' Club and give that little helping hand that will mean so much for the comfort of our spectators.

Nominations for Scrutineers.

Nominations must be made by members on their entrance to the Annual Meeting. Slips will be provided, to be filled in by each proposer and seconder. No other nominations will be received.

Election of Committee.

Your attention is drawn to Rule 3 of this club regarding marking of ballot papers, as follows:—

"Each member shall have one vote for each vacancy as an official or on the Committee and any voting paper marked with an excess number of votes shall be deemed to be spoiled and none of the votes counted thereon."

Ballot papers must be returned in the enclosed envelope not later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd May, 1952, on which date the votes will be counted according to Rule. There are three vacancies on the Committee and the first three persons elected are in office for a period of three years. Each ballot paper returned **must not contain more than three votes**, otherwise same will be void.

It is essential that members should exercise their privilege in recording their votes for Committee, as the selected representatives are the members' choice, and upon whom the management of the club is vested. The ballot papers will be opened and counted at the Pavilion, Watersheddings, Thursday, 22nd May, at 7 p.m., and the result declared the same evening.

Conclusion.

Once again I must record the service rendered so willingly by our Hon. Surgeon, Dr. John Oliver, a service not only given to our players but to visiting players. Always on the spot at our first team and "A" team matches—renewed thanks for your interest in the Club and its players, and may you long continue to come amongst us. To our Hon. Solicitor, Mr. W. Buckley, although we have not called upon you so often for advice, we have always been received with courtesy and given advice worthy of your calling. To St. John Ambulance Brigade we owe a debt of gratitude for your attendance at our matches; your service to the public at our matches has been worthy of the name you possess. In finality I should like to record the service given to the Club by the retiring President, Mr. A. Cordwell, who, by diligence and attention during his two years of office, has given great service to the Club. As figurehead of the Club it has been my pleasure to work under his guidance and advice, a work that has been lightened by his encouragement and the manner in which he has carried out his duties. To his successor, Mr. P. G. Carter, I have no doubt whatever that he will carry on the good work that has been achieved, and the continuancy of the policy of the Club, then we shall be in for a good time. To others who have given that little assistance and which means so much, my thanks. To others who have written letters, from members and supporters, praising the efforts of our team and its playing ability. So many have been received, it has been impossible to reply to all—thanks. The team know of these and appreciate the remarks and have been spurred on to further efforts by encouraging comments on their play.