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

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 1953-54

REPORT and BALANCE SHEET

for 12 months ending 31st March, 1954.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in the

LARGE HALL, KING STREET STORES, on THURSDAY, 20th MAY, 1954.

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. Proposed Alteration and Additional Rules.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF RULES.

1. Proposed by H. Thorpe, 327, Greenacres Road, Oldham.
Seconded by Arthur Sumner, 24, Farm Street, Failsworth.

That this meeting strongly recommends the Oldham Football Club to appoint a full-time Manager-Coach to the said Club, to be responsible for the welfare, training programme and team selection of the playing staff, said appointment to carry a salary consistent with such a position, and that notice be published in the local and national press, inviting applications for the appointment, the final choice of such appointment being agreed to by a 2/3rds. (two thirds) majority vote of the Committee of the Oldham Football Club, the adoption of this motion to entail the undermentioned alterations to Rules 10 and 15.

Rule 10. The deletion of the word "entire" on line 2, the Rule then reading :
"The Committee shall have the Management of the affairs of the Club, etc., etc."

Rule 15. Delete the word "Committee" in line 3, and insert "Manager-Coach in collaboration with Members of the Committee or Sub-Committee," the Rule then reading :
"The selection of the teams to represent the Club in all matches shall be made by the Manager-Coach in collaboration with the members of the Committee or Sub-Committee."

2. Amendment to Rule 15.
Proposed by A. Howard.
Seconded by F. Brierley.

That a sub-committee of not more than three members be formed from the General Committee, for the purpose of Team Selection.

3. Additional Rule.

Proposed by J. Stokes, 72, Bartlemore Street, Oldham.

Seconded by F. Johnson, 156, Stamford Road, Waterhead, Oldham, and eleven other Members of the Club.

In the event of any match being nominated as admission by tickets only, the following procedure be adopted :

1. All seatholders shall be supplied with seats in order of application—those unable to obtain seats shall be given the option to purchase 2 tickets for any part of the ground.
2. All other members shall be given the option to purchase 2 tickets to that part of the ground for which a members card is held.
3. The Committee must be satisfied that this Rule has been fully complied with, before any tickets are put on sale to the General Public.

4. Proposed addition to Rule 4.

Proposed by E. Slater, 35, Kipling Road, Oldham.

Seconded by T. Nicholson, 20, Talbot Street, Oldham.

That ex-officio members of the Committee may not be allowed to hold any single office for more than two successive years or may not hold ex-officio for more than four years consisting of two or more ex-officio positions and having completed such, may not be proposed for any such office for six years. That no person may stand for any such office unless he has been a serving member of the Committee during the previous three years.

6. Appointment of Scrutineers.
7. General Business.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT (One required).

HOWARD, W.,
11, Ashton Road East,
Failsworth.

PROPOSED BY

F. Kenyon,
10, Harrow Avenue,
Oldham.

SECONDED BY

Arthur Sumner,
24, Farm Street,
Failsworth.

ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT (One required).

COULTHARD, J.,
10, Baytree Avenue,
Chadderton.

W. Howard,
11, Ashton Road East,
Failsworth.

J. W. Lewthwaite,
22, Middle Gate,
Oldham.

HON. TREASURER (One required).

CORDWELL, A.,
22, London Road,
Oldham.

E. Wrigley,
512, Huddersfield Road,
Oldham.

J. Frodsham.
2, Melrose Street,
Oldham.

COMMITTEE (Three required).

BURKE, J.,
25, Webster Street,
Oldham.

E. Mullins,
44, Wallace Street,
Oldham.

C. Lingard,
262, Roundthorn Road,
Oldham.

CLEGG, JAMES E.,
1, Repton Avenue,
Oldham.

A. Bird,
316, Washbrook,
Chadderton.

E. W. Isherwood,
416, Lees Road,
Oldham.

***HOLT, F. S.,**
314, Abbey Hills Road,
Oldham.

F. Knowles,
107, Queens Road,
Oldham.

W. Howard,
11, Ashton Road East,
Failsworth.

***HURTLEY, T. W.,**
Wellington Hotel,
Ripponden Rd., Oldham.

F. L. Ridgway,
53, Henshaw Street,
Oldham.

E. Watkins,
79, Burlington Avenue,
Oldham.

KERSHAW, E.,
22, Richmond Avenue,
Chadderton.

H. Potter,
49, Shelley Road,
Chadderton.

T. Kershaw,
333, Park Road,
Oldham.

ROGERS, J.,
Artizans Rest Hotel,
Yorkshire St., Oldham.

C. Lingard,
262, Roundthorn Road,
Oldham.

E. Mullins,
44, Wallace Street,
Oldham.

SELLERS, S.,
35, Byrom Street,
Hollinwood.

W. Mellor,
91, Thompson Lane,
Chadderton.

F. Taylor,
859, Hollins Road,
Hollinwood.

SHERIDAN, T.,
103, Kelverlow Street,
Oldham.

F. Kenyon,
10, Harrow Avenue,
Oldham.

H. Garside,
285, Shaw Road,
Royton.

SUTCLIFFE, E.,
Lancashire Hotel,
Higginshaw, Royton.

F. Cocker,
49, Franklin Street,
Oldham.

R. Wood,
3, Farrand Road,
Hollinwood.

***THOMAS, EDGAR,**
139, Oldham Road,
Springhead, Oldham.

E. Watkins,
79, Burlington Avenue,
Oldham.

W. Howard,
11, Ashton Road East,
Failsworth.

THOMAS, R. L.,
16, Acre Lane,
Oldham.

E. Saam,
121, London Road,
Oldham.

H. Spence,
20, Westminster Street,
Oldham.

*Denotes retiring Committee.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March, 1954.

1953			1953			1953			1953		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
LIABILITIES.						ASSETS.					
Loan from Pavilion						Land, &c.					
4370	0	4				Additions (Knucketts Farm)					
	60	0				4375 0 0					
						450 0 0					
House and Mill Co. Ltd. :						4825 0 0					
Mortgage—59, Stanley Road						less Depreciation—					
511	510	19 10				Amount to 31/3/53					
	9	0 6				Year 1954, 2½%					
						£110					
						£121					
Mortgage—80, Greenwood Street						Stands, &c.—Reconstruction					
392	392	5 11				7361 17 11					
	8	10 0				Additions					
						256 6 0					
Sundry Creditors						7618 3 11					
Reserve for Grants to Charity						less Depreciation—					
3		9 7 10				Amount to 31/3/53					
Organisations						Year 1954, 10%					
Reserve for New Stand and						£736 17 11					
Ground Improvements :						£761 6 0					
Oldham Supporters' Club—B/f. 1953						2755 0 0					
250	250	0 0				Properties (at cost)—					
	784	16 0				59, Stanley Road					
						860 0 0					
						80, Greenwood Street					
						625 0 0					
						161, Ripponden Road					
						450 0 0					
						14, Somersset Street.....					
						820 0 0					
Bank Overdraft						less Depreciation—					
15977						Amount to 31/3/53					
						Year 1954, 10%					
						£275 0 0					
						£275 0 0					
Sundry Debtors						550 0 0					
Cash at Bank—Charity Match Account						2205 0 0					
Cash at Bank—New Stand Account						1068 0 0					
Cash at Bank—General Account						9 7 10					
Cash in Hand.....						584 16 0					
Balance on Pavilion Account						74 6 9					
						5304 10 3					
£22039						£19960 0 10					

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB PAVILION ACCOUNT.

INCOME.		Year to 31st Mar., 1953.	
1953	1954	£	s. d.
March 31 To Cash in Hand.....	March 31 By Bar Accounts, including Duty	34	19 0
1954	Wages	2596	19 8
March 31	Gas, Water, Electricity, Coal	423	5 6
	and Coke	98	2 1
	Rates, Taxes, Telephone and	85	3 6
	Insurance	9	10 9
	Printing, Stationery, Newspapers,	16	19 1
	Postages and Sundries	72	0 0
	Repairs	11	3 9
	Decorating	5	15 6
	Cleaning Materials, etc.	7	0 7
	Audit Fees	55	16 3
	Bank Charges	200	0 0
	Bar Requisites	464	12 6
	Loan—Oldham Football Club.....	57	13 8
	Cash in Bank		
	Cash in Hand.....		
		£4104	2 10
		£3615	15 11

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March, 1954.

[illegible]

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.

P. OGDEN, F.A.C.C.A.,
Certified Accountant,
15, Queen Street, Oldham.

29th April, 1954.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I herewith present the Annual Report and Financial Statement of Accounts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1954. The Statement shows that a loss has been made of £4,416 0s. 4d., against a profit of the previous twelve months of £1,862 0s. 6d. The Pavilion Account shows a profit amounting to £114 14s. 2d., as against £203 11s. 0d. the previous year.

The loss can be put down to several factors, one of the chief items being the loss of income through the alarming slump in attendances at our first team matches. For the period under review we have played 18 Northern League Matches, 3 Cup-ties and 1 friendly match and the total attendance (members excluded) amount to 184,447 paying through the turnstiles against the previous season for 20 matches a total of 230,189. The average attendance this season is 8,384 against 11,509 the previous season. A sum of £5,500 0s. 0d. has been expended on the transfer of players to the Club which has also made a serious inroad of the finances of the Club. Our exit from the Challenge Cup Competition in the 2nd Round at Watersheddings was indeed itself a tragedy, as we had hopes of stabilising the finances of the Club by a good run in the Cup Competition.

The Club has generously paid the cost of a private telephone line from the ground to Boundary Park Hospital amounting to £42 for the relay of broadcasting our first team matches to the local hospitals (this item appears in Telegrams, Telephones and Postages Account). This gesture has been much appreciated by patients and staffs at the Hospitals concerned.

The average attendances at our first team matches for the last six seasons are as follows :—

1948/49	...	...	...	...	8,125
1949/50	...	...	...	...	8,500
1950/51	...	...	...	...	8,227
1951/52	...	...	...	...	9,607
1952/53	...	...	...	...	11,509
1953/54	...	...	...	...	8,384

The above figures do not include members.

The attendances at our "A" team matches also show a large decline from the previous season. We have played 14 matches at home and the total attendances (Members excluded) has been 11,151, showing an average attendance of 796 as compared with 1,272 the previous season.

The average attendances at our "A" team matches for the last three seasons are as follows :—

1951/52	...	...	...	...	1,447
1952/53	...	...	...	...	1,272
1953/54	...	...	...	...	796

Playing Record.

The 1953/54 campaign has brought in its train hopes and disappointments and we show a decline in the League Table from the 9th position to the 12th position. Of the 36 League matches played only 17 were won, 4 drawn, and we lost 15 matches. The season commenced full of optimism and we opened at home with a splendid victory over Wigan by 18 points to 7 points. Our first away match was at Huddersfield and in a splendid game we were narrowly beaten by 27 points to 20 points after holding a commanding lead. This match was probably our best exhibition of football in the season and although we lost the match it appeared that we might be in for a good season. Commencing in the match at Huddersfield we lost the services of Warham with a leg injury. He has never appeared in our first team since this injury, and a spate of injuries appeared to set in, the most serious being to F. Daley, out half, which happened at Bramley on August 26th, an injury from which we hope he will have fully recovered for the commencement of next season. Other players in Platt, Ganley, Ogden, Davies, Winslade, Little, Stirrup and O'Grady have had periods of injury which have upset the constitution of the team and with a detrimental effect on the play and finances of the club, and henceforth there was a general falling away in the team's general play, but we finished the season by winning four out of the last five matches, but the standard of play has not been up to the average of the last two seasons, although the team have given many good displays, but have not been consistent in their efforts. They have endeavoured to play good, open football despite the unfavourable weather at times that has had to be contended with. It is admitted that there have been certain weaknesses in our ranks, and your Committee, still persistent in the endeavours to provide a combination of which the Club and Town of Oldham should be proud of, are alive to this fact.

The following are the first team appearances and scorers :—

	Matches	Goals	Tries		Matches	Goals	Tries
Ganley, W.B. ...	36	129	3	Platt, L. ...	9		6
O'Grady, T. ...	36		29	Feather, J. ...	36		5
Mitchell, W. S. ...	31		4	Winslade, C. ...	28	1	1
Davies, A. ...	40		16	Pitchford, F. ...	18		5
Warham, J. ...	3		2	Emmitt, L. ...	13		6
Jones, A. ...	2		1	Anthony, L. ...	10		
Stirrup, F. ...	27	2	7	Keith, J. ...	27		2
Ogden, H. ...	24			Fearis, P. ...	5		3
Mundy, J. ...	17			Ratchford, W. ...	2	2	
Tomlinson, A. ...	33			Cracknell, R. ...	23		11
Little, S. ...	32		4	Barrow, R. ...	12		4
Lomas, H. ...	32		4	Leyland, T. ...	2		1
Goldswain, B. V. ...	42	4	3	Ayres, D. ...	3		
Jackson, K. ...	25		4	Smith, T. A. ...	18		
Daley, F. ...	9		1	Noon, J. ...	1		
Watson, J. H. ...	5						

The above appearances, goals and tries include the Law Cup and friendly match against Leigh at Blackpool.

We finished in the 12th position in the Northern Rugby League Table. Comparisons for the last five seasons are 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
1952/53	... 9	36	22	2	12	599	280
1953/54	... 12	36	17	4	15	504	366

I offer congratulations to Terry O'Grady upon his selection to the British Rugby League Touring Team to visit Australia and New Zealand during our close season and hope that he has a successful playing tour and a safe return.

Challenge Cup.

The advent of the R.L. Challenge Cup is always looked forward to, and with all Clubs wondering if this is going to be their Wembley Year. In the first round we were drawn away and home with Liverpool City, and we met a very much improved Liverpool team from previous years. We won both matches, at Liverpool by 15 points to 5 points and at Watersheddings by 18 point to 11 points, an aggregate of 33 points to 16 points. In the second round we could not have wished for a better draw than to have Warrington at Watersheddings on March 6th. The story of our defeat by Warrington by 7 points to 4 points is a disappointing chapter in the season's review. The manner in which Warrington scored their only try and converted was an unfortunate day for us as I am convinced that, with ordinary luck, had this match been won, we should have gone far into the competition and the possibility of appearing at Wembley. This match was a tragedy to us both from a playing point and a financial point. At this point I would like to pay tribute to Warrington, our conquerors, who eventually reached the final.

Lancashire Cup.

In the Lancashire Senior Cup Competition we proceeded no further than the second round, as in the previous year. We were drawn against Whitehaven, away and home in the first round, losing the first leg at Whitehaven by 13 points to 12 points, but in the return match our team excelled itself and won by 45 points to 6 points, so entering round No. 2. In this round we were drawn against Warrington at Warrington, a formidable obstacle, but our team performed with great credit and we were narrowly beaten by 12 points to 11 points. A little bit of luck in this game would have seen us as victors. The disappointment was great to us, and as in the Challenge Cup Competition, our victors went on to the final.

Players.

The following players have been signed during the season :—

P. Fearis	...	Centre	...	...	Bath R.U. and R.A.F.
J. Noon	...	Centre	...	...	St. Patrick's R.L.C.
R. Cracknell	...	Wing	...	...	Huddersfield.
T. A. Smith	...	Forward	...	...	Bramley.

We have four players serving in H.M. Forces : E. Wiggett, J. Marre, A. Jones and D. M. Ayres.

The undermentioned players have left the Club this season :—

B. Day	...	...	...	...	Transferred to Leigh F.C.
J. Warham	...	...	...	...	Struck off register.

Testimonial Match.

On the 16th of May, 1953, we played Huddersfield in a friendly match at Watersheddings, the gross receipts being £731 7s. 7d. After match expenses, share of gate to Huddersfield, £117 7s. 0d. donation to King George Memorial Fund, a sum of £128 6s. 0d. was donated to H. Ogden Testimonial Fund. Various efforts were made by way of dances and collections at matches for the H. Ogden Fund, and these amounted to £493 10s. 0d., a wonderful achievement by all who helped in these efforts. The Club made a donation to the Fund of £78 4s. 0d., making a total amount handed to Harry Ogden of £700.

Charity Match.

The annual Charity Cup Match with Rochdale Hornets was played at Rochdale on Saturday, 8th August, 1953, for the Law Cup, and we were surprisingly beaten by 31 points to 19 points. We had held the cup for several seasons, but were well beaten on the day, our team giving a very disappointing exhibition, especially in defence. The receipts amounted to £801 10s. 6d., and our share from Rochdale Hornets for distribution to Charity amounted to £226 8s. 3d. A sum of £2 19s. 7d. being balance brought forward from the previous season, making a total of £229 7s. 10d., and the following grants were made :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Oldham Junior R.L.	...	...	100 0 0	St. Dunstons	...	...	5 0 0
Oldham Continuation R.L.	...	...	35 0 0	R.L. Secretaries' Benevolent Fund	...	...	5 0 0
Oldham Schoolboys' R.L.	...	...	45 0 0	Inskip League of Friendship	...	...	5 0 0
Mayor's Distress Fund	...	...	5 0 0	St. John Ambulance	...	...	5 0 0
Limbley Ex-Service Men	...	...	5 0 0	Christie Hospital	...	...	5 0 0
Oldham Blind Children	...	...	5 0 0				

The sum of £220 having been distributed leaves a Balance in the Charity Match Account of £9 7s. 10d., to be carried forward for next season.

In addition to the above donation our trial match on Saturday, 1st August, 1953, a nominal charge of admittance was made and the receipts being £81 12s. 0d., and the net amount being £75 19s. 0d., which was handed to the Oldham Junior League towards their Players' Insurance Fund.

Supporters' Club.

The Supporters' Club have once again given splendid financial aid to the Club and have made grants of £200 and £100 to the Ground Development and Reconstruction Fund. These are very worthy efforts on our behalf. Much hard work has been put in by the officials of the Supporters' Club to achieve the above donations. Although the Supporters' Club membership shows an increase, it is desired that we should have more members and especially active members. May I appeal to all members and intending new members of the Oldham Football Club when purchasing your season's card to enrol as a member of the Supporters' Club. A target of 2,000/3,000 members of the Supporters' Club should be within our reach.

Committee Meetings.

There have been 47 Committee Meetings and the attendances have been as follows:—

	Possible	Attendance	Sick	Absent
W. Howard	47	44	2	1
J. Coulthard	47	45	2	
A. Cordwell	47	45		2
F. W. Ashworth	47	47		
A. F. Campbell	47	42	4	1
F. S. Holt	47	45	1	1
T. W. Hurtleley	47	47		
F. Knowles	47	46	1	
J. W. Lewthwaite	47	43	1	3
F. L. Ridgway	47	45	1	1
E. Thomas	47	47		
E. Watkins	47	47		

Mr. F. L. Ridgway has been the Club's representative on the Rugby League Council and was successful in being nominated for a seat on the Northern Rugby League Management Committee. Mr. F. W. Ashworth has been the representative on the Lancashire County Committee. Both have attended all meetings of the respective bodies and have given their reports of the meetings with efficiency to your Committee.

Membership.

The membership of the Club shows a decline as the undermentioned figures denote, but this may be accounted for by the issuing of Old Age Pensioners' Privilege tickets which numbered 257 at 10/- each.

Members' subscriptions this season amount to £5,775 5s. 0d., this amount including Old Age Pensioners' contribution of £128 10s. 0d. Owing to a new method of assessment of Entertainment Tax on Members' Cards a considerable saving of tax has been made, the sum of £701 9s. 1d. being paid this season on Members' Subscriptions of £5,775 5s. 0d., against tax payment of £1,189 11s. 7d. on Members' Subscriptions of £6,608 13s. 0d. the previous season.

	1945/46	1946/47	1947/48	1948/49	1949/50	1950/51	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54
Life Members	88	92	97	93	91	91	90	89	87
Enclosure and 'E' Stand	80	476	826	958	890	776	761	932	911
Centre Stand	80	506	762	910	716	373	357	400	425
Side Stand	70	371	543	550	491	526	599	750	620
Ground	173	366	470	423	366	168	170	250	242
Juvenile... ..		66	82	120	98	95	74	110	129
Paddock						153	153	249	166
	491	1877	2780	3054	2652	2182	2204	2778	2580

Ground Development and Re-construction.

The Committee have always had in mind the replacement of the condemned and now demolished "C" Stand (Penny Rush Stand) and a contract has been placed for the erection of a stand on similar lines to the old one. A sub-committee has been duly formed consisting of members of your Committee, two members of the Supporters' Club and two members representing the Members of this Club. Several meetings have been held and an Appeal has been issued to all members and the general public for funds to defray the cost of the new stand and development of the new training ground. The Appeal so far has realised the sum of £584 16s. 0d., plus a reserve of £450 (Supporters' Club Donation). The work of reconstruction must go on and I must appeal to all members who have not made a donation to give generous consideration to augment the fund. The new Stand and Training ground is of an urgent necessity and will be a permanent addition to our ground at Watersheddings.

Purchase of Land.

During the season the Committee had offered to them for purchase approximately 3½ acres of land adjacent to the Pavilion and paid the sum of £450. The Committee considered the purchase a wise move as the land is capable of development as a training ground and car park. The training ground could also be used for junior and schoolboy matches and will no doubt be a great asset to the Club.

Nominations for Scrutineers.

The counting of votes will be made on Thursday, 27th May, and nominations for twenty scrutineers will be made at the Annual Meeting. Papers will be provided in the entrance hall of the meeting to be filled in by each proposer and seconder. No other nominations will be received.

Election of Committee.

Attention is drawn to Club Rule No. 3, reference to the marking of ballot papers.

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

There are three vacancies for the Committee and the first three persons elected to the Committee are in office for a period of three years. Each ballot paper must not contain more than three votes, if more than three are recorded the ballot paper will be declared void. I hope that a larger number of members will exercise their privilege in recording their votes for the management of the Club. Ballot Papers must be returned in the enclosed envelope only, which will be received by our Accountant, at 15, Queen Street, Oldham, and not later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, 27th May, 1954, on which date the votes will be counted according to Rule.

Conclusion.

Once again I must offer thanks to individuals who have rendered honorary service to the Club, Dr. John Oliver for his attendance at all our matches at Watersheddings, Mr. William Buckley, Hon. Solicitor, for his able assistance in legal matters, and especially to St. John Ambulance Brigade for their service to players and the public. Services have been given most willingly and is very much appreciated.