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Fixtures for the Season

1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K. O.	1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K. O.
Aug. 7—	Rochdale (Charity)	Home	3-0	Dec. 18—	Keighley	Away	
14—	Wakefield T.	Away		25—	Swinton	Home	2-30
21—	Batley	Home	3-0	27—			
25—	Salford (Wed.)	Away	7-0	Jan. 1—	Belle Vue R.	Home	2-30
28—	St. Helens	Away		8—	Leigh	Away	
Sept. 4—	Barrow	Away		15—	Warrington	Home	2-30
11—	1st Round Lancs. Cup			22—	Workington	Away	
14—	Liverpool (Tues.)	Home	7-0	29—	Rochdale Hornets	Home	3-0
18—	Batley	Away		Feb. 5—	Barrow	Home	3-0
25—	Wakefield T.	Home	3-0	12—	First Round R.L. Cup		
Oct. 2—	Blackpool	Away		19—	St. Helens	Home	3-0
9—	Workington	Home	3-0	26—			
16—	Rochdale Hornets	Away		Mar. 5—	Second Round R.L. Cup		
23—	Hull	Home	3-0	12—	Belle Vue Rangers	Away	
30—	Liverpool S.	Away		19—	Widnes	Home	3-0
Nov. 6—	Blackpool	Home	3-0	26—	Warrington	Away	
13—	Widnes	Away		Apr. 2—	Wigan	Home	3-0
20—	Whitehaven	Home	2-30	8—	Swinton (Friday)	Away	
27—	Wigan	Away		9—	Hull	Away	
Dec. 4—	Salford	Home	2-30	11—	Keighley (Mon.)	Home	3-0
11—	Whitehaven	Away		16—	Leigh	Home	3-0

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Club Doctor : Dr. JOHN OLIVER

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Football Final

OLDHAM v. BARROW**WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

On Saturday last, we were somewhat lucky in recording a victory against our near neighbours at Rochdale. The good approach work was there, but bad finishing spoiled several movements which should have ended in tries. However, luck was on our side and a try, very late in the game, saved the situation, much to the relief of our members and supporters. The gate receipts of £1,270 was a little below our expectations, but against £1,250 of last season we cannot have much cause for complaint.

Much time has been spent in the acquisition of new players for the cup-ties and we can only add two new players to our list in John Sperring, full back from Abertillery R.U. and Allan Kellett from Ovenden Junior Rugby League team. Sperring is following a long line of Rugby League stars who have come from Abertillery and he comes with just as much promise as any. We wish him success and a happy time amongst us. Alan Kellett, a junior of much promise, we have great hope in. Possessing football ability even at the age of 17½ years, he has played in the Halifax first team on one occasion as an amateur, but terms could not be arranged between himself and the Club.

This player goes in the Services in October next but we have the option of retaining him upon completion of his military duties. Kellett plays out-half or centre and is one of the most promising boys we have seen in junior football. We wish him well.

Much publicity has been given in our efforts to secure Frank Griffin of the Wigan Club, but terms were arranged between the two Clubs and it was up to Griffin to decide. Unfortunately negotiations broke down as we could not meet the playing terms demanded by the player. Griffin decided to stay at Wigan owing to special playing terms in the "A" team.

**OUR VISITORS**

Today we welcome attractive visitors from Barrow, who are one of the Clubs that always come and give a good exhibition of the R.L. game, and have had their fair measure of success on our ground. The Club was founded in 1871, and joined the N.R.F.U. in April, 1897, two years after its formation. Before the advent of Workington and Whitehaven, Barrow was the outpost of Rugby League Football. The Club first played at Cavendish Park, moving to Little Park, Roose. Craven Park the present ground was opened with a match against Swinton on August 29th, 1931, with an estimated ground capacity of 25,000. One of our big disappointments was received this season at the hands of the Barrow Club when they beat us in the Lancashire Cup Final at Swinton on October 23rd last, not that we discount the performance of the Barrow team, they were definitely the best team on the day's play and earned their right as Lancashire Challenge Cup winners. Today we seek that little revenge, but let us achieve it by fair means, in recording a victory. We can expect a good game and our team will have to be in top form to overcome opponents who are adept at the open game.

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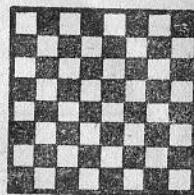
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OLDHAM (Red and White)

- 1.—Stirrup, F.
- 2.—Cracknell, R.
- 3.—Etty, J./Barrow, R.
- 4.—Davies, A. (Capt.)
- 5.—O'Grady, T.
- 6.—Daley, F.
- 7.—Pitchford, F.
- 8.—Ogden, H.
- 9.—Keith, J.
- 10.—Jackson, K./Tomlinson, A.
- 11.—Winslade, C.
- 12.—Little, S. D.
- 13.—Watson, J. H.

BARROW (Royal Blue)

- 1.—Best
- 2.—Hinckley
- 3.—Leatherbarrow
- 4.—Goodwin
- 5.—Castle
- 6.—Horne
- 7.—Toohey
- 8.—Belshaw
- 9.—McKeating
- 10.—Barton
- 11.—Grundy
- 12.—Parker
- 13.—Healey

Referee: Mr. S. Abram of Wigan

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Ostle of Maryport (Red)

Mr. H. Holland of St. Helens (Blue)

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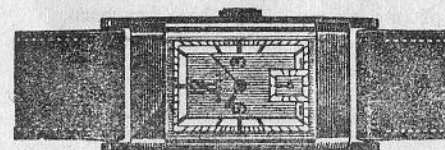
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INTERPRETATION OF LAWS OF THE GAME

Much concern is expressed by the Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League of the general standard of scrimmaging. An improvement can be effected if the offending players are dealt with more severely. A player will, often deliberately, break the Laws if he knows that his only punishment is a penalty awarded against him. A scrum-half knows that he is not allowed to throw the ball unfairly into the scrum. He has absolutely no excuse for doing so and cannot complain if the first time he does it he is penalised, the second time penalised and cautioned and the third time dismissed from the field. This will apply to all players who wilfully disregard the Laws of the Game. The Committee are concerned with the number of attempts a scrum half sometimes has to get the ball in the scrum. In many cases some player is at fault and should be penalised or the advantage law should be applied and play should proceed. We are in complete agreement with the Committee in their efforts to cut out the stoppages in our game caused by the players. The public do not want this hold up of the game, the money they pay is for a full entertainment, eighty minutes of football, not to witness a series of stoppages provided by players. Play the ball is another blot on the game and players do not play the ball in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The most obvious reason for this is that they have not been made to do so by the referee. Players regularly drop the ball between and behind their legs, charge forward after dropping it, take all the time in the world in getting to their feet, etc. It is up to the players to play within the Laws and if they fail it is up to clubs to select other players who will not fail. Players are responsible for the continuity of play, or the lack of it, and referees can assist by applying the advantage Law—not by ignoring offences.



BRIEFS

We still have a few 3s. 0d. (standing) tickets for the Wembley Final on April 30th. These can be purchased from the Secretary's office. All other priced tickets have been disposed of.

Our postponed N.R.F.L. match against Hull, which should have been played on October 23rd, 1954, has not been re-arranged as yet. We hope the R.L. Management Committee will agree to an evening match, so that all our members and supporters can attend.

It is amazing the number of players who have been offered to this Club, players who are not officially on the transfer list, but Clubs are willing to dispose of them, and the fees required are amazing. We have also been pestered by a few of the top Clubs asking for the private transfers of several of our players. But there has been nothing doing from our end, the players we should like to sign are out of our reach financially and also by the conditions laid down by the players.

NEXT HOME LEAGUE MATCH

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

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