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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		Apl. 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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Evening Chronicle
Football Final

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS**WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

May we congratulate our team on their success in the first round of the Challenge Cup Competition against the famous Wigan team on Saturday last at Watersheddings.

It was indeed a triumph of how to win a match without possession of the ball from the set scrums. Our Wigan friends will admit that we were the better team, even without possession of the ball from the scrumage we had ample opportunities to double our score, but failed to take advantage of the golden chances that came our way. Our defence in the second half was one of determined tackling, and not an opponent could get through the barrier. As to the game itself, we cannot call it a classic as far as Rugby League football goes, but can put it down as a dour cup-tie match in which the result could have gone either way. Tactics play an important part in all games, some are constructive, and others are destructive. In the game last Saturday we had a mixture of both.

The attendance at the match was 22,371 spectators who paid the record in receipts for our ground of £3,004 10s. 3d. This amount may sound very healthy, but there are large commitments against this by payment of £640 Entertainment Tax; £236 Challenge Cup Pool; £12 British Playing Fields Society; and the expenses of running the match, one can safely say that the competing clubs divide two-thirds of the gross "gate." The drain on receipts by Entertainment Tax is a colossal amount in a seasons playing, and the majority of Clubs are hard put too financially by the imposition of this unfair tax. This tax was introduced in 1915 as a war measure, and like the poor, we suppose it will always be with us unless some kind Chancellor of the Exchequer deems to use some commonsense and treat all sporting games alike. Rugby Union football; Cricket, amateur and professional, are all exempt from Entertainment Tax, but you pay your money to watch it just the same as the CLEAN professional sport, Soccer and Rugby League.

CHALLENGE CUP

The draw for the second round of the Challenge Cup was made in Manchester on Wednesday last, and our luck was a little somewhat out, when, as second club out of the bag, we were forced to travel to Leigh. We would have preferred to play the match at Watersheddings, but what we have done before, we can do again. For as recently as January 8th we played at Leigh and were victorious by twenty-two points to ten points. But this next visit is a cup-tie, and the football can be of a very different type to League warfare. However, our team our confident in their ability to pull through, although it will be a tremendous struggle.

The second round cup matches to be played on Saturday, March 5th, kick-off 3-0 p.m., are as follows:—

Leigh v. Oldham
Salford v. Barrow
Hull Kingston v. Hunslet
Workington v. Leeds

Keighley v. St. Helens
Rochdale Hornets v. Liverpool
Bradford v. Featherstone
Hull v. Halifax

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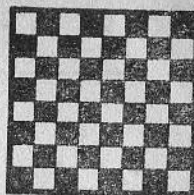
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OLDHAM Red and White

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

ST. HELENS White with Red Band

1. Moses, A. G.
2. Ledger, E.
3. Greenall, D.
4. Finnan, W.
5. Charlton, F.
6. Gullick, D.
7. Ball, J. L.
8. Prescott, A. J.
9. Lannan
10. Gaskell, J.
11. Parsons, G.
12. Silcock, N.
13. Blan, W.

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Referee: Mr. M. COATES, Pudsey

Touch Judges:

Mr. W. Twentyman, Maryport (Red) Mr. K. W. Bland, Poulton (Blue)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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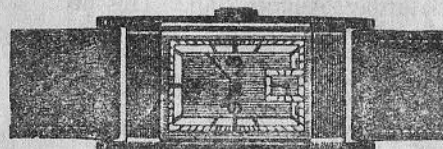
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OUR VISITORS

For the second time this season the St. Helens Club are visitors to Watersheddings. Their first visit being on September 20th in the second round of the Lancashire Senior Cup, when we secured victory by twenty points to nine points, this being a rather brilliant win by our team. In the League fixture at St. Helens on Saturday, August 28th, we were successful in winning by twenty-three points to sixteen points. To-day we hope to perform the hat trick by recording three successes against our very worthy opponents.

BRIEFS

Good news! Bryn Goldswain has reported at Watersheddings for light training after his serious throat injury. We now have high hopes that we shall have the assistance of our loose forward in the cup-tie at Leigh on Saturday, March 5th.

John Sperring, our latest acquisition as full back, has now come to reside in the town, and has commenced work at his old job as a collier. He makes his debut in the League game at St. Helens to-day in the "A" team. We wish him well.

The Batley Club have been granted permission by the Rugby League to make a grant of £650 to John Etty (now our player) as a testimonial for services rendered to Batley over a period of years. A splendid gesture by the Batley Club.

T. A. Smith, the forward we took on transfer from Bramley, is now on loan to Batley, but his contract with this Club will expire at the end of the season, and Smith will then be free to join any Club in the League. We are also under an obligation to pay his return passage back to New Zealand.

Some new ideas will be introduced into our game next season, one is that when Clubs who meet have the same registered colour of jerseys, that both teams should use an alternative colour of jersey. Another is that a smaller ball was recommended by the International Board at its meeting in November, 1954, and has since been confirmed by the majority of countries. This smaller ball was used in the World Cup Competition, and it was agreed unanimously that it lent itself to easier handling, crisper passing, and more spectacular kicking. This cannot be introduced immediately as supplies from manufacturers will have to be taken into consideration.

Recommendation has been made to the Rugby League Council that the season 1955/56 should open no earlier than Saturday, August 20th. This no doubt will be a pleasure to our cricketing friends and others.

NEXT HOME LEAGUE MATCH

OLDHAM v. WIDNES

SATURDAY, MARCH 19th, 1955

KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.

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