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Fixtures for the Season

1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 13—Rochdale H. (Charity)		Away	3-0	26—Swinton (Mon.)	.....	Home	2-30
20—Broughton R.		Away	3-0	27—Blackpool (Tues.)	.....	Away	2-30
27—Blackpool (Lancs. Cup)		Away	3-0	31—Whitehaven	.....	Home	2-30
30—Rochdale H. (Tues.)		Away	7-0	Jan. 2—Workington (Mon.)	.....	Away	2-30
Sept. 3—Hunslet		Home	3-0	7—Whitehaven	.....	Away	2-30
10—Leeds		Away	3-0	14—Workington	.....	Home	2-30
17—Warrington		Home	3-0	21—Widnes	.....	Away	2-30
24—York		Away	3-0	28—Rochdale H.	.....	Home	3-0
Oct. 1—Featherstone		Home	3-0	Feb. 4—Leigh	.....	Home	3-0
8—Hunslet		Away	3-0	11—1st Round C.C.	.....		3-0
15—Barrow		Home	3-0	18—Wigan	.....	Home	3-0
22—Warrington		Away	3-0	25—Featherstone	.....	Away	3-0
29—New Zealand		Home	3-0	Mar. 3—2nd Round C.C.	.....		3-0
Nov. 5—Leigh		Away	3-0	10—York	.....	Home	3-0
12—Liverpool		Home	3-0	17—Blackpool	.....	Home	3-0
19—Wigan		Away	2-30	24—3rd Round C.C.	.....		3-0
26—Widnes		Home	2-30	30—Swinton (G.F.)	.....	Away	3-0
Dec. 3—Liverpool		Away	2-30	31—Leeds (E.S.)	.....	Home	3-0
10—Salford		Away	2-30	Apr. 2—Barrow (E.M.)	.....	Away	3-0
17—Salford		Home	2-30	7—Broughton R.		Home	3-0
24—St. Helens		Away	2-30	14—St. Helens		Home	3-0

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MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE**OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS****WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

The dawn of 1956 has brought us an unhappy state of affairs inasmuch that our two matches in Cumberland, against Workington and Whitehaven, and our visit to Widnes have resulted in defeats. Our last seven matches have brought us six defeats and one victory, which on the face of it, looks very bad indeed, and now rules out any hope we may have had in appearing in the first four of the Rugby League. One cannot say that our team has not played good football in the majority of the matches, they have just failed to finish off movements that would have possibly have won the majority of the games.

In our match against Workington on January 2nd we had the worst of the bad knocks that were going, not that the game was not played in the best tradition of Rugby League Football. Harry Ogden, Jack Rogers, Derek Turner, and Jack Keith were all casualties in this game, and although having chances on three occasions to score tries when our team was in "one piece," the opportunities were lost.

With depleted ranks for our visit to Whitehaven, and the substitutes, although not possibly up to first team standard, displayed enthusiasm to make a game of it. For three-quarters of the game we had to play twelve men, James Watson having to retire with a bad eye injury. Splendid goal kicking by the Whitehaven full-back, from silly infringements by our team, made the score appear much larger than the run on the game.

Our game at Widnes on Saturday last was another unfortunate affair, chances being missed, even an easy kick at goal was missed, and we had to retire beaten by eleven points to ten points.

OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the Hornets from Rochdale—there is always a welcome at Watersheddings from our old friends and dour opponents. Many have been the thrilling games between the two clubs in the past, and when a full house was the order of the day, the meeting of the two clubs was something to look forward too. We trust that to-day will be no exception.

It will be hard going for both sides as they are capable of showing how the game should be played. Our team will have to be in first-rate form, and they must forget the recent defeats in succession, then we shall have regained our confidence and the will and ability to win, but I suppose our visitors will have a say in this. However, at the end of the game let us all say we have had a good match and, we hope, the satisfaction of a home win.

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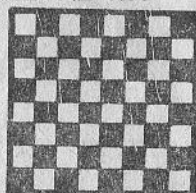
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OLDHAM

(Red and White)

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NOON, J.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—STIRRUP, F. (Capt.)
- 8—ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—LITTLE, S. D.
- 11—ROGERS, J.
- 12—McKEOWN, D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

ROCHDALE HORNETS

(Red, White and Blue)

- 1—MULLANE, J.
- 2—OLDROYD, P.
- 3—SHORT, N.
- 4—ROACH, W.
- 5—JONES, W.
- 6—BIRCHALL, R.
- 7—EVANS, R.
- 8—FEATHERSTONE, J.
- 9—DAGNALL, R.
- 10—HANSON, W.
- 11—GALLAGHER, M.
- 12—TIERNEY, M.
- 13—BLAN, W.

Referee: Mr. R. Gelder, Wakefield

Touch Judges:

Mr. S. Inman, Wigan (Red)

Mr. S. J. Heesom, Warrington (Blue)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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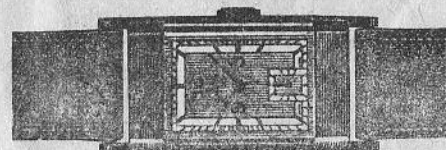
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Oldham

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GAME

Concern is felt in several quarters from clubs as to what is wrong with our game. In the first place there is an alarming decline in the attendances at matches, and one really cannot put this down to the weather or the attraction of television, soccer, and the cinema—this in my opinion is a very poor excuse.

Is the game attractive enough at the present time? Is the game suffering from the lack of personalities and glamour? Something has come unstuck and a remedy must be sought.

Although the destiny of every club must lie in its own management, the game must be made attractive enough to bring along customers, the game must be priority and must come before the individual and club. It is obvious that to-day our clubs are not represented by the stars and magnet drawing personalities that have graced the game in the past.

Are we satisfied that the coaching of teams is in the same category as in the past? Has the individual player got slower on the uptake?

Are we satisfied with the ban on players from the Commonwealth teaming up with some of our clubs? Of course this ban was put on by the clubs of the English R.L., and was also in agreement with Commonwealth Authorities—but only by a slight majority. It is obvious that to bring a doctor to a dying man is easy, and some reform will have to take place, and very quickly, to save some of our clubs from extinction.

The majority of clubs in our game are afraid to risk a revived old idea of two divisions, yet we are rather doubtful that even this would be a success. Our friends from Yorkshire admit that a better type of football is played in Lancashire, and even our standard is not up to the past. A suggestion is being put forward for more inter-county matches, extending the number of league matches played to 40, incorporating ten inter-league matches, against the present three or four matches. This would only be a slight improvement. Football of the highest standard must be put forward by all club executives, give customers value for money, then a big problem would be solved.

BRIEFS

Mr. P. G. Carter has been co-opted on the Committee in place of the late Frank Knowles. He will take the unexpired term of office of the late Mr. Knowles. This co-option is in accordance with the Rules of the club. Mr. Carter has also been made a member of the Finance Committee.

A collection is being made to-day for one of our ex-players. He has also seen service with Rochdale Hornets and Whitehaven. Possibly the majority of our supporters will remember Arthur Winstanley. Arthur had to give up football whilst with us owing to a chest complaint, and we consider his a deserving case. He has been away in a sanatorium and is unfit for further work. Dependent upon him are a wife and two children, so we appeal to all our supporters to give liberally to the collection.

NEXT HOME MATCH

February 4th. Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. LEIGH

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