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Fixtures for the Season

1955-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 11	*Rochdale	Home	3-0
18	Bramley	Home	3-0
20	Halifax	Away	7-0
25	Rochdale	Away	3-0
28	Leigh	Home	7-0
Sept. 1	*Wigan (Lancs C.)	Away	3-0
8	St. Helens	Away	3-0
15	Wakefield	Home	3-0
22	Barrow	Home	3-0
29	Liverpool	Away	3-0
Oct. 6	Wigan	Away	3-0
13	Halifax	Home	3-0
20	Barrow	Away	3-0
27	Keighley	Home	3-0
Nov. 3	Workington	Away	3-0
7	*Australia	Home	3-0
10	Workington	Home	3-0
17	Keighley	Away	2-30
24	Blackpool	Home	2-30
Dec. 1	York	Home	2-30
8	St. Helens	Home	2-30
15	Wakefield	Away	2-30

1956-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
22	Warrington	Away	2-30
25	Swinton	Home	2-30
26	Blackpool	Away	2-30
29	Widnes	Away	2-30
Jan. 5	Hunslet	Home	2-30
12	Salford	Home	2-30
19	Whitehaven	Away	2-30
26	Warrington	Home	3-0
Feb. 2	Salford	Away	3-0
9	R.L. Cup		
16	Widnes	Home	3-0
23	R.L. Cup		
Mar. 2	Liverpool	Home	3-0
9	York	Away	3-0
16	Whitehaven	Home	3-0
23	Bramley	Away	3-0
30	Wigan	Home	3-0
Apr. 6	Leigh	Away	3-0
13			
19	Swinton	Away	3-0
20	Hunslet	Away	3-0
22	Rochdale	Home	3-0

*All Pay

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Club Doctor: Dr. JOHN OLIVER

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Committee and myself, I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank those of our members who have taken up the duties of Agents for the Pool.

Their co-operation is enabling us to build up sufficient finance to carry out the many necessary improvements and replacements on our ground, so that we can give greater comfort to all our supporters.

These improvements and replacements can briefly be summarized as follows: covered accommodation at the Watersheddings St. end of the ground; renewal of terracing around the ground; the creation of a Car Park off Watersheddings Street; the erection of complete, modern dressing rooms under the stands; and, last but not the least, the extension of cover wherever possible to give maximum protection from the elements.

To carry out the above programme will cost many thousands of pounds, but with the support we are getting from members in their work for the Pool, we are confident that a five-year plan can see the whole of these ideas brought into reality.

In these objects we may seem to be reaching for the moon, as it were, but let us not forget the old saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

I am confident that our joint endeavours can accomplish many tasks and conclude by again thanking those who have already joined the ranks of active workers, and appealing to all those who have the time, to come along and help the Pools Organization.

This Club belongs to you, the members, so let us all work whole-heartedly for that which is ours.

Yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM HOWARD, President.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

It had to happen some day but when it does it requires some explaining, and this is the case of our visit to York on Saturday last. Not that we expected a run-away victory—but a hard match and a victorious return were the least of our expectations. To be beaten by 28 pts. to 4 pts. coupled with the fact that it was the first match this season we have not scored a try, requires some explanation. The sting is not in the defeat itself, but the obvious bad play of our team, and how it is to be avoided at such a critical period of the season. We cannot afford to make another slip if we are to finish in the first or second position in the League table which enables us to have a home fixture in the semi-final.

At York, everything seemed to go the wrong way. There can be no excuse in the narrowness of the ground or the heavy conditions, for these conditions applied to both sides. It was simply bad football tactics, and being one of those days when everything you do is wrong and the more you try the more mistakes you make. Every man tried his best, but on this day it was of no avail as we were up against a team with a do or die spirit.

Such is the spirit we are up against wherever we visit—cup-tie football every match—and our team has done well to weather several matches by playing football of the highest class, but there must come a time when that off-day comes along, but this must not be too often. It is little consolation to us when we may point out that one of the best teams in the League and in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup, Barrow, have been beaten at Watersheddings this season by 45 points and at St. Helens by 60 pts. They weathered the storm of criticism against these displays and have come back with a "bang," and we hope that we shall do the same and finish up the season in a blaze of glory.

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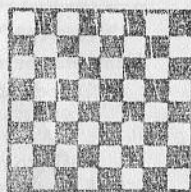
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- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—RILEY, W.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—LITTLE, S. D.
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- 13—TURNER, D.

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- 12—SHORT
- 13—STAMPER

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Referee: Mr. A. HOWGATE of Dewsbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Hyde, Manchester (Red) Mr. S. J. Heesom, Warrington (Blue)

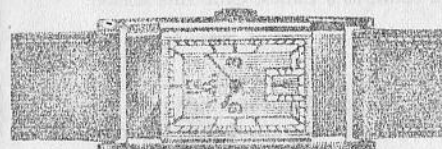
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OUR VISITORS

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome to Watersheddings our visitors from Whitehaven. These hardy Cumbrian boys have much to feel proud of this season by getting to the semi-final of the R.L. Challenge Cup, and although it would appear that they have a very stiff match at Odsal—against Leeds—the result cannot by any means be said to be a foregone conclusion. To reach this goal—although playing all their matches at home—they have beaten St. Helens, Hunslet and Widnes. Good luck, Whitehaven!

On 19th January we visited Whitehaven and came home victorious for the first time ever from this outpost of Rugby League, and, no doubt, our Cumbrian friends will be after lowering our colours to-day. Whitehaven have a nicely balanced team being about half way in the table, and their players are a mixture of youth and experience. Billy Banks, their Welsh International, has a reputation well established and his experience has been gained from Leeds, Wakefield and Huddersfield, and is a "crafty" scrum-half, to whom no freedom must be allowed. Syd. Lowden (who is one of the younger players) was originally a winger but now occupies a berth at centre. He is an extremely good all-rounder in the field of sport. He was an Amateur International and is a Cumbrian by birth.

TEAM SELECTION

Much has been written regarding the team selection at Leigh on 23rd February, and we consider that the facts should be made known. Members should be aware of this but the ordinary supporter does not know how selection is made. Below is a reprint of Rule 15—carried by a majority at the Annual General Meeting—which is strictly adhered to.

"Rule 15.—The selection of teams to represent the Club in all matches shall be made "by the manager-coach with a sub-committee acting in an advisory capacity."

At each full committee meeting team reports are given and general discussion on the play takes place in the presence of the Manager and Advisory Committee. No pressure is brought into the discussion. On selection night the Manager meets the A.C. and gives his selection. The A.C. may then ask why or wherefore and the Manager gives the necessary reason for any particular player's inclusion. The Advisory Committee may make suggestions but the Manager **always** has the last say and his word is final. If the team is "selected from," the Manager plays the team he thinks fit after consultation with the Advisory Committee. Once again, we repeat that the Manager has the last word as to who plays and if the Advisory Committee make suggestions the Manager can still say no, be they good or bad. The sole responsibility lies with the Manager, and upon results and the play of the team, we can say that they are justified.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Lancashire County League Championship is still very much open and at present we are leading the field—but only just. We cannot afford to lose another match against Lancashire opponents. Here are the League positions at the moment :

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.	
Oldham	22	18	0	4	36	Halifax count as a Lancs. Club this season.
Barrow	23	18	0	5	36	The remaining fixtures of these Clubs are as follows :
St. Helens ...	21	15	2	4	32	
Wigan	21	16	0	5	32	Oldham. Home—Whitehaven, Wigan, Swinton, Rochdale. Away—Leigh, Swinton.
Halifax	22	15	0	7	30	

Barrow. Home—St. Helens, Rochdale, Liverpool, Halifax, Whitehaven. Away—none.
St. Helens. Home—Swinton, Blackpool. Away—Barrow, Whitehaven, Wigan, Workington, Halifax.

Wigan. Home—Halifax, St. Helens. Away—Oldham, Widnes, Warrington, Salford, Swinton.

The Championship ? Why, it's anybody's guess !

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