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**Lancashire County Rugby Football  
Challenge Cup Final**

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**OLDHAM**

versus

**WIGAN**

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STATION ROAD, SWINTON, MANCHESTER  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1957, AT 3 P.M.

★ ★ ★

***Official Programme 6d.***

## ***Round the Rugby League Clubs***

**with ARNOLD EVANS**

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## **LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP FINAL, 1957.**

### **OLDHAM *v.* WIGAN**

Today the Swinton Club is privileged to stage the forty-fifth Final of the Lancashire County Challenge Cup. This will be the twelfth Final of this Competition to be played at Station Road. The record attendance and receipts for the Competition were established on this ground in 1953 when the two finalists were St. Helens and Wigan.

This is only the third occasion on which Oldham and Wigan have contested the Final of the County Challenge Cup. Each club has one victory over the other, Wigan winning in 1908 and Oldham in 1913. The last time the clubs played against each other in any Final was in 1924 when Wigan defeated Oldham in the Final of the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

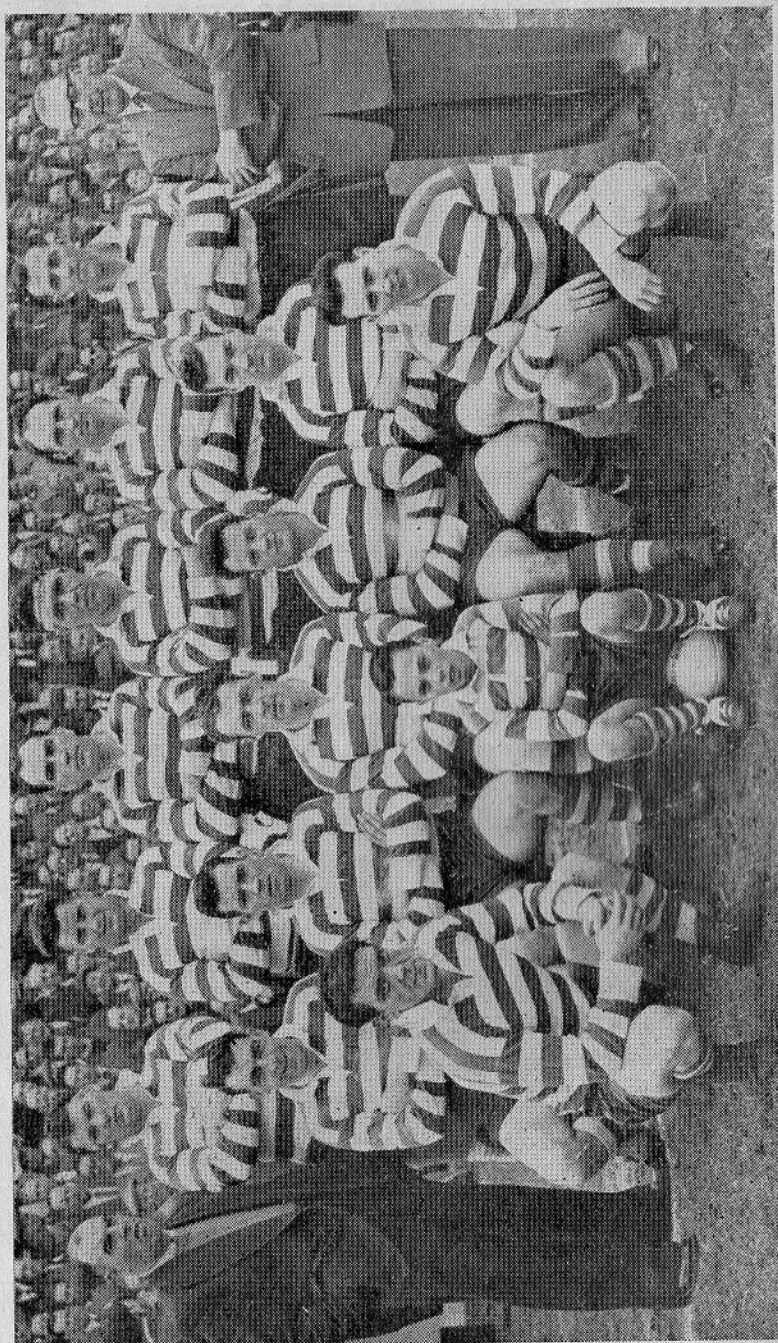
The attendances and receipts at the previous Finals of this competition at Swinton are as follows:—

|       |                                 |        |        |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1930. | St. Helens Recs. v. Wigan.....  | 16,710 | £1,030 |
| 1933. | Oldham v. St. Helens Recs. .... | 9,085  | £516   |
| 1934. | Salford v. Wigan .....          | 33,544 | £2,191 |
| 1938. | Salford v. Wigan .....          | 27,940 | £1,708 |
| 1946. | Belle Vue Rangers v. Wigan..... | 20,648 | £2,664 |
| 1948. | Warrington v. Wigan.....        | 39,015 | £5,531 |
| 1950. | Warrington v. Wigan.....        | 42,541 | £6,222 |
| 1951. | Leigh v. Wigan.....             | 33,230 | £5,447 |
| 1952. | Leigh v. St. Helens .....       | 34,541 | £5,804 |
| 1953. | St. Helens v. Wigan .....       | 42,793 | £6,802 |
| 1954. | Barrow v. Oldham .....          | 25,204 | £4,603 |

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.**

Thanks are extended to the Provincial Press Agency, Southport, and the *Oldham Chronicle*, for the reproduction of photographs.

Programme edited by V. H. Jones, published by the Swinton Football Club, and printed by John Roberts & Sons, Chapel Street, Salford.



## OLDHAM R.F.C.

Standing : G. J. Jenkins (Manager), Vines, Turner, Winslade, Jackson, Little, Keith, W. Howard (President).  
Kneeling : Daley, Pitchford.  
Seated : Cracknell, Davies, Ganley, Ayres, Eddy.

## The Finalists

### OLDHAM

The Oldham Club was formed in 1873 and they were one of the founder members of the Northern Union in 1895, Mr. Joseph Platt of the Oldham Club becoming the first Secretary of the Northern Union.

Northern League and Lancashire County League Champions, as well as winners of the Lancashire County Challenge Cup last season, Oldham are making their twelfth appearance in the Final.

They have made a good start to this season's League programme, only losing at home to St. Helens and sharing the points with Wakefield Trinity away. In fourth position in the League table, they have the following record:—

| Played   | Home |    |    |     | Away |    |    |     | Points |       | Pts. |
|----------|------|----|----|-----|------|----|----|-----|--------|-------|------|
|          | W.   | D. | L. |     | W.   | D. | L. |     | For    | Agst. |      |
| 10 ..... | 3    | 0  | 1  | ... | 5    | 1  | 0  | ... | 217    | 135   | 17   |

The Oldham Club's honours since the breakaway from the Rugby Union are:—

Rugby League Challenge Cup—

*Winners*—1899, 1925, 1927.

*Runners-up*—1907, 1912, 1924, 1926.

Northern Rugby League Championship—

*Winners*—1904-5, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57.

*Runners-up*—1906-7, 1907-8, 1908-9, 1921-22, 1954-55.

Lancashire County Challenge Cup—

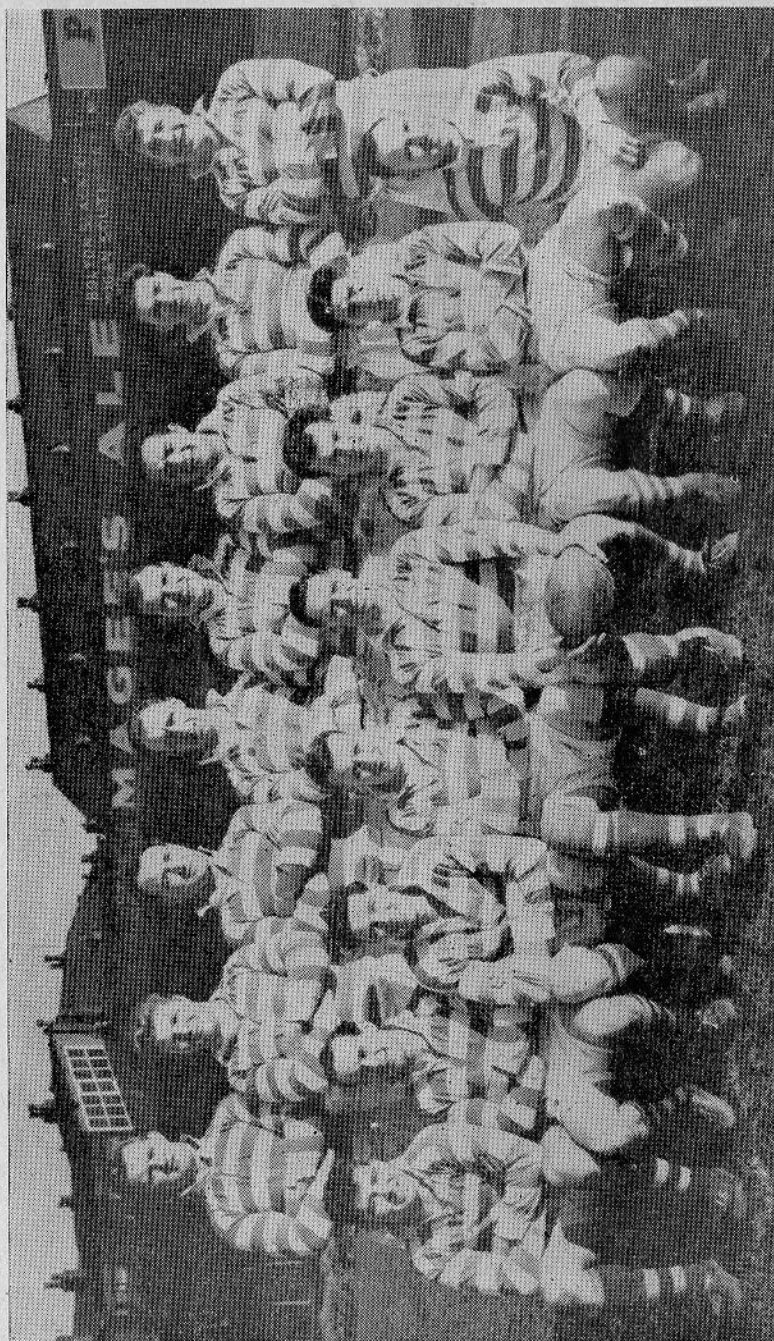
*Winners*—1907, 1910, 1913, 1919 (December), 1924, 1933, 1956.

*Runners-up*—1908, 1911, 1919 (May), 1921, 1954.

Lancashire Rugby League Championship—

*Winners*—1907-8, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57.

*Runners-up*—1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55.



## WIGAN R.F.C.

Back (left to right)—N. Cherrington, W. Bretherton, B. McTigue, R. Mather, J. Barton, W. Boston, F. Griffin, F. Collier.  
Front (left to right)—B. McGurran, R. Thomas, E. Ashton, D. Platt, E. Ashcroft, T. O'Grady, D. Bolton, J. Cunliffe.

## WIGAN

This afternoon Wigan are making their twenty-fourth appearance in the Final. They have won the trophy thirteen times, including a run of six successive victories from 1946 to 1951.

Since their defeat in the 1953 Final of the Lancashire Cup, Wigan have not reached the final of any of the competitions. This season, however, they have made an excellent start and seem likely to be among the honours once again.

In the League programme they have lost only one match, being defeated by the League leaders at Wakefield. At present second in the League table, Wigan have the following record:—

| Played   | Home |    |    | Away |    |    | Points |       | Pts.       |
|----------|------|----|----|------|----|----|--------|-------|------------|
|          | W.   | D. | L. | W.   | D. | L. | For    | Agst. |            |
| 10 ..... | 5    | 0  | 0  | ...  | 4  | 0  | 1      | ...   | 311 104 18 |

The Club's honours are:—

### Rugby League Challenge Cup—

*Winners*—1924, 1929, 1948, 1951.

*Runners-up*—1911, 1920, 1944, 1946.

### Northern Rugby League Championship—

*Winners*—1908-9, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52.

*Runners-up*—1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1923-24.

### Lancashire County Challenge Cup—

*Winners*—1905, 1908, 1909, 1912, 1922, 1928, 1938, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951.

*Runners-up*—1913, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1945, 1953.

### Lancashire Rugby League Championship—

*Winners*—1908-9, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1925-26, 1940-41, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52.

*Runners-up*—1909-10, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1928-29, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1947-48, 1948-49.

# Lancashire County Rugby Football Challenge Cup Final

## OLDHAM

(Colours—White Jerseys, Blue Shorts)

1. **W. B. GANLEY** ..... Full Back
2. **R. CRACKNELL** ..... Right Wing Three-Quarter
3. **V. NESTOR** ..... Right Centre Three-Quarter
4. **A. DAVIES** ..... Left Centre Three-Quarter
5. **J. ETTY** ..... Left Wing Three-Quarter
6. **F. DALEY** ..... Out Half
7. **F. PITCHFORD** ..... Scrum Half
8. **K. JACKSON** ..... Prop Forward
9. **J. KEITH** ..... Hooker
10. **D. VINES** ..... Prop Forward
11. **C. WINSLADE** ..... Second Row Forward
12. **S. D. LITTLE** ..... Second Row Forward
13. **D. TURNER** ..... Loose Forward

Referee :

**Mr. M. COATES** (Pudsey)

Play—40 minutes each half

In the event of a drawn game at the end of eighty minutes' play, the match will be replayed at Warrington next Wednesday, October 23rd, 1957. Kick-off at 3-0 p.m.

**PRESENTATION.** Mrs. Dromgoole, wife of the President of the Lancashire County Rugby League will present the Cup and Medals to the winners and Medals to the runners-up immediately after the game

## WIGAN

(Colours—Red Jerseys, White Shorts)

1. **J. CUNLIFFE** ..... Full Back
2. **R. CHISNALL** ..... Right Wing Three-Quarter
3. **E. ASHTON** ..... Right Centre Three-Quarter
4. **E. ASHCROFT** ..... Left Centre Three-Quarter
5. **T. O'GRADY** ..... Left Wing Three-Quarter
6. **W. BOSTON** ..... Out Half
7. **D. BOLTON** ..... Scrum Half
8. **A. ARMSTRONG** ..... Prop Forward
9. **W. SAYER** ..... Hooker
10. **B. McTIGUE** ..... Prop Forward
11. **N. CHERRINGTON** ..... Second Row Forward
12. **W. BRETHERTON** ..... Second Row Forward
13. **B. McGURRIN** ..... Loose Forward

Touch Judges :

**Mr. D. T. H. DAVIES** (Red), **Mr. E. LAWRENSON** (Orange)

Interval—3-40 to 3-50 p.m.

**BAND.**—The Stalybridge Prize Band will play prior to the match and during the half-time interval.

# Pen Pictures of the Players



## OLDHAM

BERNARD GANLEY (Full Back). Captain. A product of Leigh junior football. 5 ft. 9 in. 12 st. 9 lb. Age 28. Honours—Lancashire County.

RICHARD CRACKNELL (Wing). Signed from Huddersfield in 1953 at a record fee. 5 ft. 10 in. 13 st. 2 lb. Age 27. Honours—England, Great Britain, Yorkshire County.

VINCENT NESTOR (Centre). A Leigh boy and formerly with Tyldesley R.U. Club. 5 ft. 10 in. 12 st. Age 19.

ALAN DAVIES (Centre). Another product of Leigh junior football. 5 ft. 9 in. 13 st. 5 lb. Age 24. Honours—Great Britain, Lancashire County, World Cup.

JOHN ETTY (Wing). Secured from Batley. 6 ft. 12 st. 12 lb. Age 29. Honours—Yorkshire County, British Empire Team.

FRANK DALEY (Out Half). Signed from Leigh 1949. 5 ft. 9 in. 13 st. Age 29.

FRANK PITCHFORD (Scrum Half). Another product of Leigh junior football. 5 ft. 4 in. 11 st. 3 lb. Age 23. Honours—International and Lancashire County.

KEN JACKSON (Forward). A local player in his seventh season. 6 ft. 14 st. 7 lb. Age 26. Honours—Rugby League XIII and Lancashire County.

JACK KEITH (Hooker). Played his junior football at Leeds. In his eighth season. 5 ft. 11 in. 12 st. 2 lb. Age 29. Honours—Rugby League XIII.

DON VINES (Forward). A former Welsh R.U. Schoolboy International. Monmouthshire and Welsh R.U. trialist. 5 ft. 10 in. 14 st. 10 lb. Age 24.

CHARLES WINSLADE (Forward). Born at Maesteg. Welsh R.L. International. 6 ft. 1 in. 15 st. 5 lb. Age 25.

SIDNEY LITTLE (Forward). A Cumbrian signed from Harlequins R.U. Club. 6 ft. 14 st. 7 lb. Age 26. Honours—Great Britain, Cumberland and World Cup.

DEREK TURNER (Loose Forward). Signed on from Hull K.R. 5 ft. 11 in. 13 st. 9 lb. Age 23. Honours—Gt. Britain, World Cup and Yorkshire.

## WIGAN

J. CUNLIFFE. 37 years. 12 st. 5 ft. 8½ in. In his 18th season with the club, he has gained every honour in the game and has twice toured Australasia, in 1950 and 1954. A product of local junior football.

BOB CHISNALL. A young player just making his mark in the game. 19 years. 12 st. 5 ft. 9 in. At present on his National Service and last season played in Army games. A former St. Helens junior.

ERIC ASHTON. 23 years. 14 st. 3 lb. 6 ft. 1 in. Captain of the side since Don Platt broke his leg. Surprise choice for the World Cup team during the summer, he was one of the stars. St. Helens junior.

ERNIE ASHCROFT. 32 years. 12 st. 8 lb. 5 ft. 11 in. Another long-serving player for the club (16 years). Tourist in 1950 and 1954, he also has gained all the honours in the game. Wigan junior.

TERRY O'GRADY. 24 years. 12 st. 4 lb. 5 ft. 9 in. One of Wigan's biggest signings in recent years. He was signed from Oldham, and no one will be happier in victory today. Toured Australia in 1954. Oldham junior.

BILLY BOSTON. 22 years. 14 st. 6 lb. 5 ft. 11 in. One of the outstanding personalities in the game. Selected for tour after only six games in Rugby League and smashed the try record "down under". Signed for Wigan while still on National Service. Welsh Rugby Union.

DAVID BOLTON. 20 years. 11 st. 5 ft. 6 in. Regular County player, he has also played for Great Britain. A broken leg handicapped him last season but he has now fully recovered. Local junior.

ALAN ARMSTRONG. 26 years. 14 st. 5 ft. 9 in. After experience of uncertainty which put him in and out of first team, he has struck form this season and has been consistent all season so far. Local junior.

BILL SAYER. 23 years. 12 st. 5 ft. 9 in. This is his first full season with the first team. A speedy player for a hooker. Local junior.

BRIAN McTIGUE. 27 years. 15 st. 7 lb. 5 ft. 10 in. Gained his first honour this season by playing for Lancashire. A former boxer of prominence, he preferred to play Rugby. Gained prominence in boxing world when chosen as sparring partner for Lee Savold, American boxer. Local junior.

NORMAN CHERRINGTON. 23 years. 15 st. 7 lb. 6 ft. One of the fastest forwards in the game, he has played for Lancashire and England. Prolific try scorer. Local junior.

**BILL BRETHERTON.** 26 years. 14 st. 7 lb. 5 ft. 9 in. After making his mark with St. Helens he was transferred to Wigan in 1955-56. Local junior.

**BERNARD MCGURRIN.** 24 years. 13 st. 3 lb. 5 ft. 8 in. Utility player—normally a back, he has played mostly as scrum half and stand-off. Was signed after having had experience with Leigh. Local junior.

★

## How they reached the Final

### FIRST ROUND.

|                   |          |                      |        |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------|--------|
| Blackpool B. .... | 3-1-9    | Widnes .....         | 2-0-4  |
| Leigh .....       | 5-6-28   | Whitehaven .....     | 3-1-9  |
| Oldham.....       | 10-8-44  | Barrow .....         | 2-2-10 |
| Salford .....     | 3-0-6    | Rochdale Hornets ... | 3-2-12 |
| Swinton .....     | 2-2-10   | Wigan .....          | 3-4-18 |
| Warrington .....  | 10-10-50 | Liverpool City ..... | 2-5-19 |
| Workington T. ... | 3-2-12   | St. Helens.....      | 2-4-16 |

### SECOND ROUND.

|                       |        |                  |        |
|-----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Blackpool Bor. ....   | 3-2-12 | St. Helens.....  | 5-6-28 |
| Leigh .....           | 1-0-2  | Wigan .....      | 3-2-12 |
| Oldham.....           | 6-2-18 | Warrington ..... | 3-2-12 |
| Rochdale Hornets—Bye. |        |                  |        |

### SEMI-FINALS.

|                      |       |             |         |
|----------------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| Rochdale Hornets ... | 0-0-0 | Wigan ..... | 8-12-52 |
| St. Helens.....      | 3-1-9 | Oldham..... | 7-5-29  |

## Results of Previous Final Ties

| Date                                         | Finalists and Score                            | Venue      |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1905.                                        | Wigan beat Leigh 8—0 .....                     | Broughton  |
|                                              | (after 0—0 draw at Wigan)                      |            |
| 1906.                                        | Broughton Rangers beat Warrington 15—6 .....   | Wigan      |
| 1907.                                        | Oldham beat Broughton Rangers 16—9 .....       | Rochdale   |
| 1908.                                        | Wigan beat Oldham 10—9 .....                   | Broughton  |
| 1909.                                        | Wigan beat Leigh 22—5 .....                    | Broughton  |
| 1910.                                        | Oldham beat Swinton 4—3 .....                  | Broughton  |
| 1911.                                        | Rochdale Hornets beat Oldham 12—5 .....        | Broughton  |
| 1912.                                        | Wigan beat Rochdale Hornets 21—5 .....         | Salford    |
| 1913.                                        | Oldham beat Wigan 5—0 .....                    | Broughton  |
| 1914.                                        | Rochdale Hornets beat Wigan 3—2 .....          | Broughton  |
| 1915-16, 1916-17, 1917-18—                   | No Cup Competition.                            |            |
| 1919.                                        | May 10—Rochdale Hornets beat Oldham 22—0 ..... | Salford    |
|                                              | Dec. 6—Oldham beat Rochdale Hornets 7—0 .....  | Salford    |
| 1920.                                        | Broughton Rangers beat Leigh 6—3 .....         | Salford    |
| 1921.                                        | Warrington beat Oldham 7—5 .....               | Broughton  |
| 1922.                                        | Wigan beat Leigh 20—2 .....                    | Salford    |
| 1923.                                        | St. Helens Recs. beat Swinton 17—0 .....       | Wigan      |
| 1924.                                        | Oldham beat St. Helens Recs. 10—0 .....        | Salford    |
| 1925.                                        | Swinton beat Wigan 15—11 .....                 | Broughton  |
| 1926.                                        | St. Helens beat St. Helens Recs. 10—2 .....    | Warrington |
| 1927.                                        | Swinton beat Wigan 5—2 .....                   | Oldham     |
| 1928.                                        | Wigan beat Widnes 5—4 .....                    | Warrington |
| 1929.                                        | Warrington beat Salford 15—2 .....             | Wigan      |
| 1930.                                        | St. Helens Recs. beat Wigan 18—3 .....         | Swinton    |
| 1931.                                        | Salford beat Swinton 10—8 .....                | Broughton  |
| 1932.                                        | Warrington beat St. Helens 10—9 .....          | Wigan      |
| 1933.                                        | Oldham beat St. Helens Recs. 12—0 .....        | Swinton    |
| 1934.                                        | Salford beat Wigan 21—12 .....                 | Swinton    |
| 1935.                                        | Salford beat Wigan 15—7 .....                  | Warrington |
| 1936.                                        | Salford beat Wigan 5—2 .....                   | Warrington |
| 1937.                                        | Warrington beat Barrow 8—4 .....               | Wigan      |
| 1938.                                        | Wigan beat Salford 10—7 .....                  | Swinton    |
| 1940.                                        | First Leg : Swinton beat Widnes 5—4 .....      | Widnes     |
|                                              | Second Leg : Swinton beat Widnes 16—11 .....   | Swinton    |
|                                              | (Swinton won Cup on aggregate 21—15)           |            |
| 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45— | No Cup Competition.                            |            |
| 1945.                                        | Widnes beat Wigan 7—3 .....                    | Warrington |
| 1946.                                        | Wigan beat Belle Vue Rangers 9—3 .....         | Swinton    |
| 1947.                                        | Wigan beat Belle Vue Rangers 10—7 .....        | Warrington |
| 1948.                                        | Wigan beat Warrington 14—8 .....               | Swinton    |
| 1949.                                        | Wigan beat Leigh 20—7 .....                    | Warrington |
| 1950.                                        | Wigan beat Warrington 28—5 .....               | Swinton    |
| 1951.                                        | Wigan beat Leigh 14—6 .....                    | Swinton    |
| 1952.                                        | Leigh beat St. Helens 22—5 .....               | Swinton    |
| 1953.                                        | St. Helens beat Wigan 16—8 .....               | Swinton    |
| 1954.                                        | Barrow beat Oldham 12—2 .....                  | Swinton    |
| 1955.                                        | Leigh beat Widnes 26—9 .....                   | Wigan      |
| 1956.                                        | Oldham beat St. Helens 10—3 .....              | Wigan      |

# Lancashire County Rugby League

## OFFICIALS, 1957-58

### President :

Mr. F. C. DROMGOOLE (St. Helens)

### Vice-President :

Mr. J. EDDEN (Swinton)

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Mr. J. Hattrick (Widnes)  
Mr. W. Helliwell (Liverpool City)  
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Mr. T. Mitchell (Workington Town)  
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Mr. F. J. Palmer (Leigh)  
Mr. W. R. Roe (Whitehaven)  
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Mr. W. S. Thomas (Salford)

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