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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—Rochdale H.	Away		Dec. 7—		
(Charity Match)			14—Liverpool	Away	
17—Halifax	Home	3-0	21—Whitehaven	Home	2-30
22—Barrow (Thurs.)	Away		25—Swinton (Wed.)	Home	2-30
24—Wakefield	Away		26—Hull (Thurs.)	Away	
26—St. Helens (Mon.)	Home	7-0	28—Warrington	Away	
31—Barrow (L.C.)	Home	3-0	Jan. 4—Leeds	Home	2-30
Sept. 2—Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away		11—Barrow	Home	2-30
7—Halifax	Away		18—Widnes	Away	
14—Warrington	Home	3-0	25—Workington	Home	3-0
21—Leigh	Home	3-0	Feb. 1—Wigan	Away	
28—Workington	Away		8—R.L. Cup		
Oct. 5—Hunslet	Home	3-0	15—St. Helens	Away	
12—Rochdale	Away		22—R.L. Cup		
19—Hull	Home	3-0	Mar. 1—Blackpool	Home	3-0
26—Blackpool	Away		8—Widnes	Home	3-0
Nov. 2—Wakefield	Home	3-0	15—Whitehaven	Away	
9—Salford	Away		22—Rochdale	Home	3-0
16—Liverpool	Home	2-30	29—R.L. Cup semi-final		
23—Leigh	Away		Apl. 4—Swinton (G.F.)	Away	
30—Salford	Home	2-30	5—Wigan	Home	3-0
			7—Huddersfield (E.M.)	Home	7-0
			12—Hunslet	Away	
			19—Leeds	Away	

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No. 14—Saturday, 11th January, 1958

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OLDHAM v. BARROW

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Saturday last showed a great improvement in the play of our first team and was a very creditable win over such worthy opponents as Leeds. The mid-field play and approach work was good to see and the handling being very much to the crowds delight. The final finishing, however was not there. We have no doubt that this will come now that we have once again got a settled team which in injury free—with the exception of Frank Daley, broken little finger. Although we were up against a dour and determined side, which contained several changes owing to the indifferent form of the Leeds displaced players, they played football of a high quality—the type of football for which they are so well noted.

Regarding our team, it was pleasing to see the return of Dennis Ayres, Don Vines and Charlie Winslade, the inclusion of whom no doubt added considerable strength to our side. Ayres showed the form which we know only too well he is capable of and we can look forward to far more penetration by the backs with this player in form. Don Vines and Charlie Winslade appear to have fully recovered from their injuries which have kept them from the team far too long.

OUR VISITORS

To-day, we welcome to Watersheddings the Barrow club who are always noted for their open style play. Since the season opened the Barrow club have been doing some recruiting for forwards, knowing quite well that they must have a good pack of forwards. Recent additions are McIntyre from St. Helens as hooker, and Armstrong from Wigan, front row. One of the biggest centres of the game, Dennis Goodwin, has been converted into a forward and has secured international honours in this position during the current season, recently he has been playing at loose-forward with success. The evergreen Billy Horne is still captain and coach, and this great hearted player still wears well and is still a model of efficiency.

We hope to see in action that great Test player, Phil Jackson, who is always a delight to watch—but, we hope that our backs will keep a sharp eye on him to prevent the damage we know he can do. In the second-row, they have Reg Parker and Jack Grundy, very capable men who have rendered great service to the club and the game.

"GIVE TOUCH JUDGES MORE AUTHORITY"

by Cyril Briggs

Alter the touch-judging system! That's the view of thousands of supporters who have been annoyed at some of the incidents which have happened this season. From Whitehaven to Hull; from Leeds to Liverpool, there are grumbles about the present system. The amateur critics are yelling still harder after seeing certain Soccer games during the holidays. Don't cast these people as "traitors" because not all of them were able to see a Rugby game on Christmas Day or Boxing Day and therefore went to see the "next best."

The R.L. folk who have been to Soccer fixtures are amazed at the amount of authority vested in the linesmen. Off-side, as well as other points of play are in the Soccer linesman's job. He has not merely to wag a flag when the ball crosses the side-line, but he can offer his opinion when the ball has been netted.

This Referee CAN change his decision!

And there are plenty of times in the Soccer season when the referee changes his decision after consulting a linesman. Believe me, a linesman at Soccer earns his £. s. d. I don't think they do so at R.L., but blame the system and not the men with the flags. They merely carry out their instructions, yet the job of R.L. touch judge could be carried out by a schoolboy aged 14.

If you doubt my word, then have a check with the people who stand behind the goal posts season after season. They have grouched dozens of times (not in the same season) that goals have been allowed, when, to use their own words, "the ball has been **miles** wide of the posts." Could be that some of the back-of-the-posts fans have eyesight which needs testing, but you must have been at some games when there has been a howl of protest when a goal has been awarded. And haven't we seen the funny situation of one touch judge almost waiting until his colleague has raised his flag?

At one Lancashire ground—not far from Oldham—there are followers of the game who are treated to at least half-a-dozen controversial goals each season. Sometimes the ball goes between the posts and over the bar, but "no goal" is signalled. Let us hope that it doesn't happen at a Wembley final, otherwise there will be a howl, and probably a campaign for goal nets, which is not so silly as it may sound

The Hardest Task

I think that the hardest task for a touch judge is travelling to a ground. Then comes the changing to his "uniform," and if the day is a cold one, then he is at a greater disadvantage. Other than that, he has little else to do. His lot as far as expenses are concerned, has been improved in recent times. But I'm sure that signalling touch or touch-in-goal, plus the goal testing business, is not very difficult.

Even the touch judge gets bawled when he makes a line decision which is a near thing. How can such a thing happen? You must have howled in disgust when one of your favourite wingers has been ruled to have broken the side-line, when you and your pals have been nearer to the spot than the touch judge, and have thought otherwise.

You people who chose the railings rather than the stand to watch the match from should take particular notice of the man with the flag. I have been in the crowd on the terraces for this particular purpose. I have seen this several times; a touch judge watching players' faces when they have been approaching him. I have seen touch judges keeping a close eye on two or three players being pushed or shoved towards the touch line.

Look to their Feet

But was the touch judge's eye on the player's or players' feet? No. Self-preservation seems to have been the motto of certain officials—past and present. You bear in mind what I have written and watch out for it happening again. Now don't class all touch judges alike, and don't blame them too much when they don't run on to the field after a fist or two has been flying.

One day on the Oldham ground a touch judge went on to the field two or three times to separate players who were adopting a menacing attitude. I liked him for it. But he was mildly ticked off for doing so! (And not by the Oldham officials).

Even in post-war years this happened. A touch judge, who, like the referee, shall be nameless, told me that he did not go on to the field during actual play unless it was absolutely necessary. The ref had told him to "look after the line, because I am quite capable of controlling the game!" How many touch judges see knocks-on and forward passes before tries are scored?

Poser for Refs

Can any touch judge, with hand on his heart, say that he agrees with every decision made by the ref? There **MUST** be an occasion when the touch judge observes an infringement before a try. But he is as

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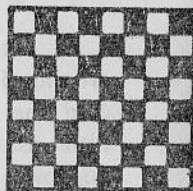
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- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

BARROW
Blue

- 1—BALL
- 2—JACKSON, F.
- 3—JACKSON, P.
- 4—SKEELS
- 5—CASTLE
- 6—HORNE
- 7—DAVIES
- 8—ARMSTRONG
- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—WILSON
- 11—GRUNDY
- 12—PARKER
- 13—GOODWIN

ALL
THE
RESULTS

Referee: Mr. M. COATES of Pudsey

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. P. Dawson, St. Helens (Crimson) Mr. L. Richmond, Salford (Yellow)

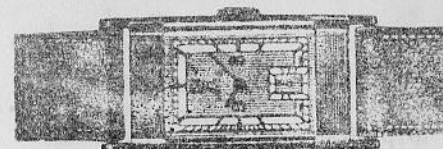
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helpless as the spectator. He cannot intervene. He can nip in when he sees UN-RUGBY-LIKE methods, but he cannot interfere even when he sees a player offside and allowed a try. That's where Soccer beats R.L.

R.L. annoys many people. They become disgruntled because so much authority is vested in the ref. What ref during the post-war years (or before them) would like to say that if he had had time to change his decision, he would have done so? There must have been at least one such occasion during his refereeing career. But we will not know (unless he tells us—and that is extremely unlikely) until Judgment Day. "The ref cannot alter his decision (unless of touch)" is a stupid rule. Every R.L. Councillor will tell you that he has had second thoughts on many things, especially in business life. And second thoughts are often the best.

Tip to Touch Judges

Now before the touch judges begin to protest, why cannot they make the move for better refereeing? They can help alter the present system by a united protest to the league. They need not consult the refs. In any case the refs don't consult them when they furnish reports to the league on touch judging. Tit for tat? Maybe, but some good should come from it.

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	25	151	3	Turner	23		7
Cracknell	25		16	Stirrup	8		
Ayres	7		2	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	24		10	Daley	14		
Etty	25		9	Noon	16	10	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	10		
Pitchford	23		7	Carruthers	2		
Jackson	24		2	Winslade	15		3
Keith	25		9	Davies	12		12
Vines	16			Kellett	4		1
Little	23		6	McKeown	1		
Duffy	7			Laverty	1		
				Lomas	1		

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Team	Home				Away				F.	A.	Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.				
St. Helens	20	8	0	0	9	0	3	405	173	34	
Oldham	17	7	0	2	8	0	0	345	197	30	
Wigan	17	7	0	2	5	0	3	373	190	24	
Workington	16	6	1	1	5	0	3	258	183	23	
Salford	19	7	0	3	2	1	6	233	256	19	
Leigh	15	7	0	2	2	0	4	196	182	18	
Warrington	19	6	0	2	2	1	8	284	241	17	
Widnes	16	5	0	3	3	0	5	207	151	16	
Whitehaven	16	7	0	2	1	0	6	256	244	16	
Barrow	17	6	0	3	1	0	7	119	315	14	
Leeds	15	6	1	1	0	0	7	285	244	13	
Rochdale	18	3	1	5	3	0	6	194	334	12	
Liverpool	19	4	0	4	0	1	10	193	379	9	
Swinton	14	2	0	4	2	0	7	165	269	8	
Blackpool	17	2	0	6	0	0	9	193	401	4	

After an indifferent start to the season, the Barrow club seem to be on the up-grade. They have played 25 matches, won 12, lost 12, and drawn 1. May I mention that at their last away match they were beaten by Liverpool, 18 points to 3 points—of course, Liverpool has been the graveyard of several good teams—much to our sorrow. However, we hope that to-day the game will be full of interest and that we will maintain our improved form and thus finish victors.

CHALLENGE CUP, 1958

Much activity amongst clubs at the present time is because of the drawing near of the Challenge Cup. The strengthening of teams tends to secure that optimistic feeling that one is "going places" in the competition. We must expect surprises in the transfer market before the date—February 1st—which closes the transfer of players eligible to play in the Challenge Cup matches. Inflated prices will be the order of the day, and many very average player will bring quite a nice price. Such is life!

Note. The draw for the first round of the Challenge Cup will be televised by the B.B.C. in to-night's Sports Programme which is at 5-30 p.m. For the benefit of those who are always "on the last minute," the estimated time is 5-50 p.m.

BRIEFS

Not all clubs make provision for the protection of their grounds against frost. The purchase of straw is an expensive item and the cost of labour is also to be reckoned with. Around the ground there is straw—14 tons of it at £9 per ton—as we say, expensive but the Committee think it well worth the cost on our exposed ground. It makes it possible to play matches which would otherwise have to be cancelled through the frost and give us a very heavy burden later in the season.

Our latest first team player to be injured is Ken Jackson—a damaged knee. We hope that he will make an early recovery. Des Mc Keown is making a good recovery from his damaged elbow.

Congratulations and much happiness from everyone at Water-shedding to Roly Moat. He was married at Hull on Monday last.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

January 18—Widnes v. Oldham. Mr. C. F. Appleton. Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

January 25—Oldham v. Workington. Mr. G. Scott. Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

February 1—Wigan v. Oldham. Mr. T. W. Watkinson. Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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