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Fixtures for the Season .

Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—Rochdale Hornets	Away	
16—Halifax	Home	3-0
19—Blackpool	Away	
23—Wakefield	Away	
30—Whitehaven (L.C.)	Home	3-0
Sept. 2—Workington	Home	6-15
6—Halifax	Away	
13—Wakefield	Home	3-0
20—Rochdale H.	Away	
27—Blackpool	Home	3-0
Oct. 4—Warrington	Away	
11—Rochdale H.	Home	3-0
18—Liverpool	Away	
25—Hunslet	Home	3-0
Nov. 1—Featherstone	Away	
8—Featherstone	Home	3-0
15—Salford	Away	
22—Leeds	Home	2-30
29—Wigan	Away	
Dec. 6—Widnes	Home	2-30
13—Workington	Away	
20—Wigan	Home	2-30

Date	Opponents	Venue
25—Swinton	Home	2-30
26—Hunslet	Away	
27—St. Helens	Away	
1959		
Jan. 3—Leigh	Home	2-30
10—Barrow	Away	
17—St. Helens	Home	2-30
24—Salford	Home	3-0
31—Leeds	Away	
Feb. 7—Warrington	Home	3-0
14—Leigh	Away	
21—R.L. Cup		
23—Whitehaven	Away	
Mar. 7—R.L. Cup		
14—Hull	Away	
21—Barrow	Home	3-0
27—Swinton (G.F.)	Home	
28—E.S.		
30—Hull (E.M.)	Home	3-0
Apr. 4—Liverpool	Home	3-0
11—Widnes	Away	
18—Whitehaven	Home	3-0

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No. 11—Saturday, December 6th, 1958

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIDNES

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

At last we met our Waterloo at Wigan on Saturday last after a successful run of seven previous visits in the Northern Rugby League. Of course it had to happen sometime but we did not expect such a decisive victory by the Wigan Club by 19 points to 7 points, a coincidence in the score is that we beat Wigan at Watersheddings on September 16th last by the same score in the 2nd Round of the Lancashire Cup. Our team started off with the good intent of continuing our sequence of wins and up to half time it was anybody's game. The second half we must admit the Wigan forwards appeared to get on top and a doubtful try to Wigan, (but we must accept the referee's ruling for he is in sole charge of the game) appeared to just knock our team back a little bit. We had our chances to score on three occasions but just failed at the critical moment.

Actually the score did not represent the run of the game, but we must accept defeat and hope for better things to come.

We have now lost three matches in the league competition and we cannot afford to lose many more matches if we intend finishing in the first four of the competition. Statistics prove that a team must not lose more than ten matches to be in at the play-offs, but we have a long way to go yet and we realise that the going will be hard, but we are confident that we shall be able to come back into that form which has placed us in the top flight of clubs.

However we shall soon be seeking revenge on our Wigan friends for they visit us in the return match on Saturday, 20th December and we are very hopeful of reversing the score of Saturday last.

TOUR PROFITS

The Tour profits of the last Australian and New Zealand Tour amount to £35,000 to the Rugby League and several clubs are of the opinion that this should be shared amongst the Clubs. Some have strange ideas of how this should be distributed (if it is distributed) as the more urgent need to greater the share out to clubs concerned. There is no doubt that past tours have financed the Rugby League and placed it in the position it is today by the money that has been received from these tour.

ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF TELEVISION R.L. GAMES?

By Cyril Briggs

The televising of Rugby League games is bound to be discussed in "high places" for the umpteenth time. Are you "for" or "against?" Let's give ample space to each side of this important issue. The men who are not in favour are officials of certain clubs, who on this occasion shall be nameless. They push before your very eyes vital statistics—"gates" and receipts of all R.L. games on the special occasion when a match appears on the "tele."

The men who are anti-T.V. claim that if a big match goes on the country's screens, then some of the smaller clubs suffer so much that they can hardly pay wages for that week. The critics also refer to the attendances at the corresponding games of the previous season, and complain that a big proportion of their fans are at the fire-side instead of being on the stands and terraces.

THE WAY OF CINEMAS

Sooner or later add the anti-T.V. men, the whole of the R.L. populace would be spending their time at home instead of paying their money at the turnstiles, and R.L. would go the way of many cinemas and close their doors probably for all time.

Keep the T.V. cameras away and you'll keep the bailiffs at bay, could be a witty cry by the anti-T.V. folk. They also declare that R.L. is a commercial enterprise and because there is no sentiment in business, the game has to pay its way.

Ground rents are higher, travelling costs, and wages for managers, coaches, trainers, gate-keepers and even the washerwoman are up. Why then, should we provide entertainment for the masses when the masses should be paying the turnstile man? It is also said that the fees from the Broadcasting Companies don't compensate for the loss of gate money.

BELLE VUE and CARDIFF

It's a pretty strong argument against television and the men who think this way will take a lot of convincing before they change their minds. They may also throw in the point about the failure of Belle Vue Rangers, and Cardiff to survive post-war football.

Let's hear the other side of the argument. The position of Cardiff and Belle Vue Rangers, is not a side issue, so I will take it first. If the Welsh Club and the Rangers had been able to keep going for another season or two, I'm sure they would still be with us.

They might easily have been in a pretty strong position today because at the time of their demise there were no legalised pools. And who pays towards these money-gushers? Only the men and women who pay at the turnstile. These folk, rabid R.L. fans are the folk who some people would rob of an entertainment on television.

COUNTER ATTRACTIONS

I'm not arguing about the drop in attendances. Naturally gates drop if there is a big counter attraction. We see this occur so many times when Soccer and Racing fixtures clash with R.L. games.

But surely the aim of every R.L. man or woman should be to push the code for all their worth. We want converts. How can we get them when efforts to reach them are killed? London, Midland, North East Coast and West County papers print no reports on R.L. games not even internationals. In lots of places in the British Isles the bare results of Saturday's games are ignored, much to the annoyance of R.L. people who are exiled either temporarily or permanently.

We have to advertise the game somehow and I know no better medium than having the game portrayed on the millions of the countries T.V. sets. This is a certain way to help pack the Wembley Stadium to capacity for the R.L. showpiece—the challenge cup final. Folk who have seen the R.L. game on T.V. are likely to be keen to get a peep at the actual game. Remember too, that last season's Wembley cup final was better supported by Southern and Midland people than by the North.

WAY TO A DECISION

How can we get the feeling of the people? Merely by going to the people as we find at General Election time.

Perhaps Oldham's officials could be persuaded to give permission for a ballot to be taken at the ground. The public could be invited to say "yes" or "no" against televising R.L. games. Ballot papers could be issued to spectators at the gates or turnstiles when entering the ground and the slips collected at half time and at the finish of the match. It would be a case of what Oldham said today the Rugby League said tomorrow!

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Red and White

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- 2—CRACKNELL R. 2 TRIES
- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—AYRES D. 1 TRY
- 5—ETTY J.
- 6—KELLETT A. 2 TRIES
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—ROWBOTTOM R.
- 9—KEITH J. 2 TRIES
- 10—LITTLE S. D.
- 11—WINSLADE C. 1 TRY
- 12—KELLY G.
- 13—TURNER D. 1 DROP GOAL

Referee:

Mr. A. E. DURKIN,
Dewsbury

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WIDNES
(Black and White)

- 1—WRIGHT
- 2—KINSEY
- 3—BROOME
- 4—THOMPSON W. 1 TRY
- 5—DAWSON 1 GOAL
- 6—MYLER 1 TRY
- 7—KEAVNEY
- 8—SMITH T.
- 9—KEMEL
- 10—BATE
- 11—GRIFFIN
- 12—HILL
- 13—MAJOR

Touch Judges:

Mr. W. Rigby, Leigh, (Yellow Flag)
Mr. W. E. Higginson War'ton (Crim.)

For . . .

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Way to a Decision — continued

The cost of providing the ballot papers would no doubt be provided by that hard working body of men—the Supporters' Club. The collection of the slips might be considered a terrific task but these men have overcome many obstacles in the past. This would be just another job of work for them.

After all, the idea is well worth a trial. I'm sure the vote would be an overwhelming one in favour of television. What do you think? But if the time comes to vote you must use that ballot paper.

OUR VISITORS

For the second time this season we give a welcome to Watersheddings to the Widnes Club. One cannot forget their visit to us on September 30th in the semi final of the Lancashire Cup when we won an exciting game by nine points to four points. This evening match was played in heavy rain and was a real cup tie, in the sense that our opponents played as though their lives depended upon the result and made the game really worth watching. If the game today is of the same vintage all will be satisfied.

The Widnes Club have great traditions behind them and are very well respected members of the Rugby League. One may style them a village club as they rely mostly upon local talent and some great players have been turned out wearing the black and white jersey. When visiting Widnes hospitality abounds and it is always a pleasure to meet the committee of the club.

Like ourselves they are a members club and both clubs have much in common in adhering to a strictly members club, and long may this state of affairs remain.

Widnes are number eight in the Championship table having played 17 matches, won 11 and lost 6, scoring 347 points against 196, including in the above they have played 8 matches away and won 4 losing 4. They possess a very good defence as shown by the points against them but one look at their attack having scored 347 points in 17 matches which is somewhat equal to our own.

We realise that we are up against dour opponents and our team will have to be in top form, better form than shown in the last three matches, to achieve success.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	19	83	1	Winslade	20		5
Cracknell	18		11	Little	13		4
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	5		1	Noon	16	14	6
Etty	11		4	Edwards	2		
Kellett	20	1	9	Turner	16		1
Jones	2		2	Stirrup	7		2
Rowbottom	13		1	McKeown	14		2
Keith	21		8	Sims	9		7
Lomas	2			Hatherall	2		
Davies	17		13	Mee	1		
Pitchford	12		4	Jackson	8		
Duffy	10		1	Kelly	3		
				Quinlan	1		

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	-				21-14									17-23	25-5
Blackpool	9-17	-	6-19	8-7		12-34			19-26	9-17	21-20	23-20	9-21		
Leeds		32-20	-		59-20		12-23			12-16	17-47			17-8	
Leigh		25-26		-			21-5	15-20		9-22					20-15
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	-	13-28						22-16			
OLDHAM		44-3	13-12			-	22-18								30-4
Rochdale	7-11			10-5		13-14	-	16-26	5-15		5-13		16-15	16-23	
Salford					8-6	14-9		-	12-28			16-22			
St. Helens							42-12		-		15-7				
Swinton	13-6									-		25-10	6-0		
Warrington			32-15		23-26				15-29						30-4
Whitehaven					24-15			19-10	2-25				2-14	24-12	
Widnes		46-7					34-11	35-10	25-16		13-17				21-15
Wigan	49-16			26-12		19-7				24-8		39-16			
Workington				19-4				19-12	10-10	9-10		17-9	14-34		

Home Team on left Away Team on top Home Team's score given first

For good financial business this present tour profit should be reserved and kept in a separate account to finance future tours. Each Touring team that goes from this country has to have its transport paid for and which would amount to £10,000, furthermore other large expenses must be paid for as the tour progresses and money must be found for this.

It is good financial business to have a reserve fund to meet any emergency. The next World Cup series is due to be played in this country and this will cost most probably the Rugby League a considerable amount of money. We in this country cannot guarantee the same large profits as our Australian friends do. The World Cup series run in this country may cost the Rugby League a lot of money if the "gates" do not come up to expectations, hence by having a reserve fund this can be covered, and not for the Rugby League to pawn some of its assets.

BRIEFS

Lancashire County have granted our request to present winners Lancashire Cup medals to the following players who did not take part in the final but have appeared in previous rounds.

S. D. Little, Whitehaven, Wigan and Widnes
G. Sims, Whitehaven and Widnes
R. Dufty, Wigan and Widnes
D. Ayres, Whitehaven
F. Stirrup, Whitehaven
D. Vines, Whitehaven (since transferred to Wakefield)

Thanks to the Commanding Officer of the Royal Signals at Newton Abbot, (Devon), Vincent Nestor has now been transferred to Catterick (Yorkshire) and we are now hoping to have his services in the future. Nestor could not get any Rugby down at Newton Abbot but has soon got into the Rugger fifteen at Catterick and played last Wednesday for the unit team, so he should very soon get match fit.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

December 13th—Workington away; **Mr. A. Howgate**
December 20—Wigan at home; **Mr. E. Clay**
December 25—Swinton at home; **Mr. N. T. Railton**
December 26—Hunslet, away; **Mr. T. W. Watkinson**
December 27—St. Helens, away; **Mr. A. E. Durkin**

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