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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	
28—	Whitehaven	Away
Mar. 7—	R.L. Cup	
14—	Hull	Away
21—	Barrow	Home 3-0
27—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
28—	E.S.	
30—	Hull (E.M.)	Home 3-0
April 4—	Liverpool	Home 3-0
11—	Widnes	Away
18—	Whitehaven	Home 3-0

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION :: WATERSHEDDINGS



SEASON - 1958-59

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No. 12—Saturday, 20th December

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Our visit to Workington on Saturday last was a very enjoyable one and we came away victorious by 23 points to 0. A great victory won by team spirit and good football. One point of view is that it is the first time since January 1955 that the Workington team has not registered a point in any match.

Our team was given a little incentive to win this match and a promise made for winning the Lancashire Cup that we travel Friday evening and stay at Keswick until Sunday morning. The trip was an enjoyable one. For the match we were forced to make changes in our team as Alan Kellett and Ron Rowbottom did not pass a fitness test on the Saturday morning thus bringing in John Noon and Des McKeown and placing Alan Davies at out half.

Although we had our anxious moments during the match there was no doubt as to the result, our forwards paved the way for success and our backs responded to their superiority in the loose play.

We must give credit to the Workington team for the manner in which they played the game, good clean game by all. The Workington club appear to be having a spate of injuries especially in the forwards but their deputies required some toiling with.

We shall very soon be coming to the holiday matches and a hard time appears in front of us inasmuch as we play Swinton at Oldham on Christmas Day, Hunslet away on Boxing Day and St. Helens away on the Saturday, a very hard programme indeed and if we can win the three matches it will be a very Merry Christmas.

These holiday fixtures are a testing time for all the leading clubs for as the league positions stand at present some many of the leading clubs meet one another, and all will be anxious to give of their best.

HUNSLET MATCH

Tickets for the stand for the Hunslet v. Oldham match, on Boxing Day can be obtained from:

The Hunslet Football Club, Parkside, Hunslet, Leeds

Tickets price 5/0 each.

SHAREHOLDERS CLUBS ARE BEST

By Cyril Briggs

The question has often been asked "which is the better of the two, a limited company to run the football club or a members' club?" Since the war more clubs have drifted into the company business, but Oldham is one of the exceptions.

What is the benefit of a club which is controlled by shareholders? The company capital, which in some instances is more than £10,000, is a guarantee against hard times, and there can be no doubt that cases can be quoted where a shareholders' club has saved the day, or days.

But there are snags about a shareholders' club. I should know because I hold a few shares in a famous Lancashire club. No doubt I could obtain the same amount of money I paid for the shares at the outset, if I decided to sell out but if the money was invested in another company or even placed in the bank, or in Government Premium Bonds, I would show a profit.

My shares in the Rugby club bring me in nothing at all. I'm not complaining. The modest sum which I have invested helps the club along, and I get several votes at the annual meeting. I can also speak my mind, though the people holding two, three, four or even 40 times more shares than I hold, can outvote me.

CLASS DISTINCTION

Under the Company Law I think there is some class distinction. Why should I with 10 votes have ten times more voting power than a man with a single share? At the same time why should a man with 40 times more shares than I make my ballot paper and others besides look ridiculous.

The block voter beats us every time. It would be better if it was one shareholder one vote. The present system means that half a dozen men holding the bulk of the company's shares could win seats every time they decided to let their names go forward. They could be unshakable until such time as one decided to drop out or passed away.

The "little man," even if he had played international football, been one of the biggest names ever in the refereeing world, would be swamped by the big shareholder even if that individual was not in a position to answer questions on elementary laws of the game. Now before some people think I'm hitting at them, or they put different constructions on this article which are simply not there, let me make it perfectly plain that these remarks apply in general terms and not to any individual club or individual. Let that be clearly understood by officials and their legal men.

The other snag to my mind against a shareholders club is that rule about proxies. A shareholder who may never attend an annual meeting, may hand his votes over to a friend. Proxy hunting is quite a job in the weeks which proceed an annual meeting. A candidate who can collect a big batch of proxies, can sweep onto the board. Reason? He can vote for himself, and ignore the whole of other candidates, although the man who has foregone his voting powers might think different if he had attended the annual meeting.

Now men with big holdings can say "well, we are risking our money when we take out a large number of shares in a football club. And don't forget either, that to be a director we have to obtain a certain number of shares to qualify. We are risking our money, far more than the average man in the street, so why shouldn't we have the biggest say in the affairs of the club?"

NO KNOWLEDGE

Quite sound reasoning, but couldn't it happen. I have not said that it has already happened, that a man who had no knowledge at all of the R.L. rules could get a seat on the board? And what is more, it would take a terrific lot of effort to remove him! There are privileges for the shareholder when tickets for the cup-ties are on sale. The shareholders are placed first in the queue. Perhaps, (???) there will be dividends all round now that the entertainment tax is no longer with us, and the legalised pools are looking after such things as ground developments and one or two other important matters.

Pay your money and have your say. That's the golden rule in a members' club. You can see the full season's games whether they be first team or the reserves. And when the annual meeting comes around YOUR vote is as good as anyone's.

It is a case of one man one vote and you can yell your head off at the annual meeting, knowing full well that block voting, proxy votes etc. don't count. There is no such thing in a members' club of collecting enough proxies before the annual meeting and knowing before-hand that a candidate is past the post, before the actual voting takes place.

Give me a members' club every time. The annual meeting is the place where you can get a lot of things sorted out. If the committee have not been too successful, the men who are offering themselves for re-election can be booted off.

The annual meetings of shareholders is getting less interesting every year. Even if the general body of shareholders decided on some project, the board are in a position to veto it, if they choose to do so.

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21

OLDHAM

(Blue and White)

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

Referee:

Mr. E. CLAY,
Rothwell

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18

WIGAN

(Red and White)

- 1—GRIFFITHS F. 3 GOALS
- 2—BOSTON W. 1 TRY
- 3—ASHTON E.
- 4—HOLDEN C.
- 5—SULLIVAN M. 2 TRIES
- 6—BOLTON D.
- 7—THOMAS R.
- 8—BARTON J.
- 9—SAYER W.
- 10—COLLIER F.
- 11—BRETHERTON W.
- 12—McTIQUE B.
- 13—EVANS R. 1 TRY

Touch Judges:

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Mr. E. Bleasdale, Warrington (Crim.)

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FAMOUS MEMBERS' CLUB

Of course, a great deal depends on what is contained in the limited company's Articles of Association. Then again Limited Companies don't like too much interferences from Supporters' Clubs, although some limited companies have been almost praying to Allah over the Small Lotteries Act That Act has saved several clubs including Limited Companies who run Footballs, from closing the doors of their stadiums.

Good luck to the supporter. He's the man who keeps the game alive. At Watersheddings a members' club has proved its worth. It has stood the test of time and I will regret the day if a Limited Company takes over at what is one of the most famous clubs in the Rugby League world.

OUR VISITORS

Today sees one of our major attractions at Watersheddings in the visit of the Wigan club with its team of stars. What memories are revived with the words Oldham v. Wigan no matter where played. Thrilling games before capacity crowds have always been the case.

Today we give a special welcome to our visitors insomuch as the return game in the league comes so close after our visit to Wigan on Saturday, 29th November when we lost the match by 19 points to 7 points. So today we must take ample revenge in reversing the score at Wigan. Of course we realise we are up against opponents that can play a game similar to ourselves, a team that consists of such stars as Sullivan, Ashton, Bolton, McTigue all in the last touring team to Australia.

Today we hope to see the appearance in the first team at Watersheddings of Griffiths the Wigan full back who comes from South Africa. The name of Billy Boston is known throughout the Rugby League as being a very dangerous wingman.

However our team appear today full of confidence in recording victory and there is no doubt that we shall see a game worthy of the two teams.

TRANSPORT CHRISTMAS DAY

Intending spectators coming to the match at Watersheddings on Christmas Day please make a note that all football buses on this day will commence from West Street Site, the first bus leaving for Watersheddings is at 1-20 p.m., and from then onwards.

The usual service buses will run to the centre of the town.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	21	96	1	Winslade	22		6
Cracknell	20		13	Little	15		5
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	7		3	Noon	17	14	7
Etty	13		4	Edwards	2		
Kellett	21	1	9	Turner	18	1	1
Jones	2		2	Stirrup	7		2
Rowbottom	14		1	McKeown	15		2
Keith	23		10	Sims	9		7
Lomas	2			Hatherall	2		
Davies	19		13	Mee	1		
Pitchford	14		5	Jackson	8		
Duffy	10		1	Kelly	5		1
				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			28-8						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						44-8		30-4
Rochdale	7-11			10-5		13-14	.....	16-26	5-15		5-13		16-15	16-23	
Salford				12-16	8-6	14-9		.....	12-28			16-22			
St. Helens			38-12				42-12		.....		15-7				
Swinton	13-6									.....		25-10	6-0	7-22	
Warrington			32-15		23-26		19-0		15-29		.....				30-4
Whitehaven					24-15			19-10	2-25			.....	2-14	24-12	
Widnes	17-8	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	0-23		19-12	10-10	9-10		17-9	14-34		.....

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

WEMBLEY

Cup Final tickets can still be obtained from the Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds 7. Prices are:

25/0; 15/0; 12/6; 7/6; and 3/0 (standing)

A stamped and addressed envelope should be sent with each application.

Most of the tickets have already been sold and this may be the last reminder which we can give to our supporters.

To: The Secretary,

The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds 7

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL, WEMBLEY, MAY 9th, 1959

Please reserve the following tickets for me for the 1959 Challenge Cup Final:

..... at 3/0

..... at 7/6

..... at 12/6

..... at 15/0

..... at 25/0

I agree to pay for these tickets on or before the 31st December, 1958.

Signed

NAME (block capitals)

ADDRESS (block capitals)

Date

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