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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—Rochdale Hornets	Away		25—Swinton	Home	2-30
16—Halifax	Home	3-0	26—Hunslet	Away	
19—Blackpool	Away		27—St Helens	Away	
23—Wakefield	Away		1959		
30—Whitehaven (L.C.)	Home	3-0	Jan. 3—Leigh	Home	2-30
Sept. 2—Workington	Home	6-15	10—Barrow	Away	
6—Halifax	Away		17—St Helens	Home	2-30
13—Wakefield	Home	3-0	24—Salford	Home	3-0
20—Rochdale H.	Away		31—Leeds	Away	
27—Blackpool	Home	3-0	Feb. 7—Warrington	Home	3-0
Oct. 4—Warrington	Away		14—Leigh	Away	
11—Rochdale H.	Home	3-0	21—R.L. Cup		
18—Liverpool	Away		23—Whitehaven	Away	
25—Hunslet	Home	3-0	Mar. 7—R.L. Cup		
Nov. 1—Featherstone	Away		14—Hull	Away	
8—Featherstone	Home	3-0	21—Barrow	Home	3-0
15—Salford	Away		27—Swinton (G.F.)	Away	
22—Leeds	Home	2-30	28—E.S.		
29—Wigan	Away		30—Hull (E.M.)	Home	3-0
Dec. 6—Widnes	Home	2-30	April 4—Liverpool	Home	3-0
13—Workington	Away		11—Widnes	Away	
20—Wigan	Home	2-30	18—Whitehaven	Home	3-0

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No. 13—Thursday, 25th December, 1958

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

To our players, members and supporters and to our friends far away
over the sea we wish the old, old, wish.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our time honoured fixture with our friends from Swinton has come round once again and from our records this fixture dates from Christmas Day 1913, a period which has only been broken occasionally by war and one other cause. Prior to 1913 our visitors used to be Hull Kingston Rovers Huddersfield and Rochdale Hornets. Now it appears to be Christmas Day at Oldham and Good Friday at Swinton, for a long time we hope. However we welcome the Swinton Club to Watersheddings and we are delighted they are having a successful season from a playing point of view having only lost three matches out of seventeen league games played so far. They appear to be coming back to the old Swinton style and playing attractive football.

It is often said that a winning team will draw the crowds but unfortunately the Swinton Club have not enjoyed increased attendances in comparison with the improved form of the team. It is obvious that spectators lost in past seasons are hard to bring back to the fold. There is no doubt that the Swinton Club deserve better attendances at their home matches and a continuance of their form will no doubt in due course bring along the crowds to Station Road for the enterprise which the Directors and players are showing.

It is a fickle job providing entertainment for the public and one wonders whether Christmas Day matches have their attraction as in the past. Many times we have had capacity gates on Christmas Day against Swinton, but the last few seasons the crowd has not come up to expectations. Why this is requires some explanation, possibly television and home parties are partly responsible.

We hope that today will prove an exception and that we see a good crowd at Watersheddings, a good game and everybody satisfied with a home win, of course, our Swinton friends will have something to say about this. This makes a game worth while.

WIGAN MATCH

What a match we had against Wigan, just Rugby League at its best and to give the people something to talk about for some time to come. This match was on television during the afternoon for a 30 minutes flash

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OR . . .

By Cyril Briggs

Closer examination of boot studs following some nasty scratches on arms and bodies in recent Rugby League games are suggested to referees by officials of certain clubs. One well-known ex player who is now a notable coach has also been grumbling about long finger nails. He does not for one moment say that Rugby League players should attend a beautician's shop for a manicure, but he does claim that finger nails which are long and uncared for can cause some serious damage.

Early in the season a young player received a painful eye injury and has not played since. It is not alleged that an opponent deliberately caused the injury, but it is seriously thought that a finger nail protruding a fraction of an inch over the usual standard, hurt the player in a tackle. So much for the players who bite their nails almost "to the quick!"

But it is no joke at all to have the optic injured, in fact the player in question has not been able to start training. He may even have to hang up his boots although he is barely 20 yrs. old. For some time he has been going around wearing dark spectacles and equipped with pin-hole apertures which have enabled him to see glimpses of a few matches. He has also undergone two operations.

Now a little care could have avoided this accident and prevented many hours of pain to the young player. Thoughtlessness and carelessness are responsible and it is hoped that if the referee is too busy measuring the ball before the start or examining the colours of the jerseys, he should delegate other duties to the touch judges. Surely they can do that job, because flag wagging in R.L. is much easier than it is in Soccer.

This brings me to the point about players' wearing apparell. Some while ago the R. U. decreed that players must only use a minimum of protection, but I'm all in favour of MORE protection for men who play the R.L. code.

When the Americans staged their tour to Australia, they turned up on the Aussie R.L. grounds equipped with the gear which is used in American football—the gridiron game. Helmets, padded knee breeches and puffed up jerseys to protect chests and shoulder blades, looked incongruous on the hot clammy grounds "Down Under."

Australian players lighter clad and knowing more of the wrinkles of the code because of their many season's experience, gave the learners the run around. The padding caused puffing in the Yankee ranks, and soon they had to discard much of their superfluous clothing because of the heat.

The shoulder padding in R.L. has however become a recognised thing in football gear, though we obtain them seperately whereas the French teams buy the protection built in with the jerseys.

Personally, I would like to see more protective gear in R.L. especially round the head. Recently I remarked about the unusual sight of half the Hull Kingston Rovers pack wearing skull caps. No doubt, Brookfield, Holland and Rogers had their ears unduly rubbed in the scrum. I believe there would be few cauliflower ears and less head injuries if we had helmets similar to those worn in the American counterpart of our rugby game.

Ever played in the scrum.? Well it would be an experience to everyone if they just packed down a dozen times even without handling the ball. The pulling, pushing and purple passages (???) would give you a great deal of knowledge of what goes on in modern day scrums.

All right saying that so and so doesn't pack tight. What would you do if you were playing in the front row and found yourself locked in between two fellows who had forgotten to see razor and soap for a couple of mornings! A skull cap or helmet would eliminate that.

It may be said by some folk that helmets may cause more injuries by "tupping" or going into an opponent with the head down. But surely tactics are not permissable at the moment. Any number of injuries by the unsporty methods would be more than off-set by protection against cut heads, eyebrows and so forth, which we have seen so often this season.

More and more attention is being paid to football gear these days. We have found that an ill shod team, or one without proper shoulder protection has soon suffered. I know that padding may slow down a game. But gentlemen let me present as my model—Brian Bevan. He's unusual I know, but you'll find the great Bev with bags and bags of padding round those knees which he has seldom, if ever been hurt.

Please don't say extra weight has slowed Bevan down. Not a bit of it. Perhaps that extra knee padding has helped him to keep in the top flight for a dozen seasons. And from Bevan's own lips comes the comment, "Why, I've got to dress up like a blooming race-horse for each game."

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- 2—CRACKNELL R.
- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—AYRES D.
- 5—~~BITTY~~ J. S. QUINLAN.
- 6—KELLETT A.
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—ROWBOTTOM R.
- 9—~~GODDARD~~ P. C. KELLY
- 10—LITTLE S.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—~~KELLY~~ G. D. MCKEOWN
- 13—TURNER, D.

Referee:

Mr. N. T. RAILTON,
Billinge

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SWINTON

(Blue)

- 1—GOWERS
- 2—CRITCHLEY
- 3—MATHER
- 4—BLAN
- 5—DOUGHTY
- 6—PARKINSON
- 7—CARTWRIGHT
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- 9—ROBERTS
- 10—MOSES
- 11—LAMB
- 12—NORBURN
- 13—HAYNES

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PLAYING STAFF

Name & Birthplace	Height	Weight	Name & Birthplace	Height	Weight
	ft. in.	st. lb.		ft. in.	st. lb.
FULL BACKS			Pitchford, F., Leigh.....	5	7—11 6
Mee, L., Leigh.....	5	8—10 8	Stirrup, F., Leigh.....	5	7—10 10
Ganley, B., Leigh.....	5	9—12 7	FORWARDS		
THREE-QUARTERS			Carruthers, I., Oldham	5	10—11 10
Ayres, D., Oldham.....	5	10—12 8	Chatterton, D., Widnes	6	0—13 7
Cracknell, R., H'field...	5	11—13 4	Byrne, B., Leigh.....	5	10—12 7
Davies, A., Leigh.....	5	10—13 8	Duffy, R., Oxford.....	6	1—14 10
Etty, J., Batley.....	5	11—13 2	Goddard, P., Sheffield...	5	10—13 4
Edwards, J., St. Helens	5	11—12 6	Govan, J., Golborne...	5	11—14 4
Pendlebury, B., Leigh...	5	10—13 0	Hunter, J., Leigh.....	6	0—14 7
Needham, R., Oldham...	5	9—12 0	Jackson, K., Oldham...	6	0—14 12
Nestor, V., Leigh.....	5	10—11 12	Kelly, G., Rochdale...	5	11—13 10
Noon, J., Oldham.....	5	9—12 6	Keith, J., Hunslet.....	5	11—12 11
O'Brien, J., Oldham...	5	9—11 0	Little, S., Carlisle.....	6	1—14 8
Quinlan, S., Cork.....	5	9—12 0	Lomas, H., Oldham.....	6	0—15 1
Sims, G., Leigh.....	5	10—10 10	Lloyd, K., Ashley.....	6	0—13 8
HALF-BACKS			Mckeown, D., Oldham...	6	1—13 4
Daley, F., Wigan.....	5	9—12 10	Pugsley, Bridgend.....	5	10—14 2
Hatherall, B., Leigh.....	5	6—10 7	Rogers, J., Leeds.....	6	0—15 1
Jones, A., Oldham.....	5	7—10 10	Rowbottom, R., Widnes	6	0—15 7
Kellet, A., Ovington...	5	10—11 11	Turner, D., Ossett.....	6	1—14 2
Laverty, L., Oldham...	5	6—10 13	Watson, J., Oldham.....	6	1—13 6
			Winslade, C., Maesteg...	6	1—15 0

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	22	102	1	Winslade	23		6
Cracknell	20		13	Little	16		5
Nestor	4		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	8		3	Noon	17	14	7
Etty	14		4	Edwards	2		
Kellet	22	1	10	Turner	19	1	1
Jones	2		2	Stirrup	7		2
Rowbottom	15		1	McKeown	15		2
Keith	24		10	Sims	9		7
Lomas	2			Hatherall	2		
Davies	20		15	Mee	1		
Pitchford	15		5	Jackson	8		
Duffy	10		1	Kelly	6		1
				Quinlan	1		

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

THE PLAYERS and OFFICIALS

of the

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

wish all supporters a

Very Merry Christmas

and a

Prosperous New Year

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....				21-14			28- 8	5- 7					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					8-44	22-16			
OLDHAM		44- 3	13-12			.....	22-18						44- 8	21-18	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	27-15								.....		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	0- 2
Widnes	17- 8	46- 7	5-16				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

put over in sections of ten minutes each and what a thrill people looking in must have had. The B.B.C. put the match over with efficiency on all their network.

The game was exciting itself and kept the crowd on edge all through the game. Some people may argue that televising of matches put over during the match is a detriment to the attractiveness and people may stay at home. This is contrary to our match of Saturday last when we actually had 600 more people watching the match against the last league match we played against Wigan on Easter Saturday last season. This is plus £100 more in "gate" money.

What can one now say of television as a detriment to our game or any game.

STOCKTAKING

Usually at the end of the old year one can look back and take stock of what has been happening from the opening of the season 1958-59.

Although we are riding in the top flight of clubs at present, so far we can look back with a little satisfaction of having lost only three league matches out of eighteen, this prior to the Wigan match.

We commenced the season minus our Australian Tourists and received a set back in the Charity match at Rochdale on August 9th by losing the match by 25 points to 10 points. However the next two matches, Halifax at home and Blackpool away were won and gave us confidence. On August 23rd we met a heavy defeat at Wakefield by 23 points to 7.

Then came the period of the Lancashire Cup and league matches when we won 14 matches off the reel, including the Lancashire Cup final against St. Helens at Swinton, this truly a great victory and winning the trophy for the third consecutive year, another fine achievement.

During the above period of 14 matches we unfortunately had two of our players dismissed from the field, but managed to win the matches. An unexpected defeat at Salford on November 15th by 14 points to 9 points came as a big surprise and we were fortunate in defeating Leeds at Watersheddings by 13 points to 12 points. The following Saturday, we visited Wigan and received still another defeat by 19 points to 7 points.

Our return to form came when we met Widnes at home and defeated them by 44 points to 8 points followed by a visit to Workington when victory was achieved by 23 points to nil. The confidence of the team appeared to have returned.

EXPLANATION

In the last issue the headline should have read:

"ARE SHAREHOLDERS CLUBS THE BEST?"

The article was definitely in favour of Members' Clubs.

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