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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
1959			19	Dewsbury	home 2-30
Aug. 8	Rochdale (Charity)	home 3-0	25	Swinton	home 2-30
15	Leeds	home 3-0	26	Workington	away 2-30
18	Dewsbury	away 7-0	1960		
22	Salford	away 3-0	Jan. 2	Liverpool	away 2-30
25	Warrington	home 6-30	9	Wakefield	home 2-30
29	Whitehaven	away 3-0	16	Leigh	home 2-30
Sept. 5	Halifax	away 3-0	23	St. Helens	away 3-0
8	Halifax	home 6-30	30	Widnes	away 3-0
12	Hunslet	home 3-0	Feb. 6	Salford	home 3-0
19	Widnes	home 3-0	13	R.L. Cup	
26	Blackpool	away 3-0	20	Wakefield	away 3-0
Oct. 3	AUSTRALIA	home 3-0	27	R.L. Cup	
10	Barrow	away 3-0	Mar. 5	Leeds	away 3-0
17	Workington	home 3-0	12	Wigan	home 3-0
24	Warrington	away 3-0	19	Leigh	away 3-0
31	Barrow	home 3-0	26	Hunslet	away 3-0
Nov. 7	Rochdale	away 3-0	Apr. 2	Liverpool	home 3-0
14	Blackpool	home 2-30	9	St. Helens	home 3-0
21	Whitehaven	away 2-30	15	Swinton G. F.	away 3-0
28	Rochdale	home 2-30	16	E. S.	
Dec. 5	Wigan	away 2-30	18	Whitehaven	home 3-0
12	Hull	home 2-30	23	Hull	away 3-0

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OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Rugby League football has come round once again and as a pre-season trial match we entertain Rochdale Hornets for the Law Cup. These matches were originally started by the late A. J. Law, M.P., who was a native of Rochdale and gave the cup to be played for annually for the benefit of the Rochdale and Oldham Infirmarys, but with the advent of the nationalization of the Hospitals, the committee sitting at the time thought that better use could be put to the money, after nationalization for the benefit of local charities and this continued for a long period. Eventually the Rugby League passed a Bye-Law, which is still in operation that all matches played between clubs during the month of August, prior to the opening of the season, that not less than 60% of the nett proceeds from collections and gate receipts must be made available for local Junior, Intermediate and Schoolboy football. Match expenses are allowed such as gatemen, advertising, police and railway fares of players. In the case of matches played between players from different clubs, match fees not exceeding £5 per player may be included as a match expense. This is what the players in action to-day are receiving. The proceeds are paid over to the appropriate Leagues for their distribution. If the clubs only allocate 60% to local Junior Football, the balance must be given to a recognised charity. The clubs are responsible to the Rugby League to render a statement and all monies received must be put in a separate banking account, this evidently is to stop clubs using the money for general expenses.

The late Bob Brierley who was a stalwart of Rochdale Hornets was secretary of the Charity match until his death and the records of this competition between the clubs appears to have been lost, which is regretted, however the two clubs carry on with this annual fixture and no doubt the proceeds of same are put to good purpose of encouraging junior football and local charities in each town.

Rugby League news during the close season has been prominent by its absence and one does not recall a close season where there has been so little news of the goings and comings of players and news generally of Clubs. We, ourselves have had an exceptionally quiet time but much activity has been going on regarding our ground. Replacement of two turnstiles entrances built in brick, the painting of the stands and iron work,

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT, BUT MORE REAL SUPPORTERS ARE REQUIRED

Says Cyril Briggs

We are on the threshold of another Rugby League season and now that we seem to have killed that phrase, "R.L. is dying" there are hopes of many new records being established. Already there has been an encouraging show of enthusiasm at the practice games and our neighbours Rochdale Hornets seem to have won back some of their lost support, judging by the turn up last Saturday. Good luck to the Hornets and new coach Jim Sullivan.

Over at Leigh, where there was a noticeable drop in following after the departure of the Australian stars, they were able to record the largest crowd for a practice match for the past three seasons. There have been more season tickets sold here and also at Widnes where there has been a big revival. Widnes have just spent £7,000 on covering the main stand (the roof was in need of some repair) and a big portion of the area in front of the building.

This now means that Widnes have cover for more than 8,000 spectators. The Press Box here is one of the best in the league. It is entirely enclosed, and the sports writers have every comfort. Crowd noise is entirely eliminated, there is a splendid view through the big glass windows while lighting and heating as well as ventilation are installed. Widnes have tried a new experiment. You can take up any position on the ground (not stands) for half a crown. There is a general admission, and this does away with the popular side and the reserved side.

SEVEN-A-SIDE SUCCESS

On Monday at Wigan 12,000 people turned up to see the seven-a-side tournament. More than £1,200 was collected at the "gates" and after the expenses had been defrayed, the money was set apart for the purpose of encouraging schoolboy and junior R.L. football. The amazing thing about the size of the crowd is that the events of the previous Saturday did not seem to affect it. You will remember that members of the Wigan first team decided to strike because there were certain things which they did not like about payments.

I mention the crowd and ground improvement angles just to indicate that we may see more progress in various places. At the moment it does not seem that the Australian Touring Party will set the North of England on fire, but we will have to wait and see what the players can do before passing judgment. But taking every thing into account it should be quite an interesting season.

There is certainly big money for the game if it is played in the right spirit. At last season's Wembley final there was a record gate of £33,000 and on one occasion the Wigan Secretary announced that 47,000 folk had passed through the Central Park turnstiles. But one of the main worries for club officials is the dearth of new playing talent. Many clubs would pay big fees if they could improve their playing strength, but the search in the Rugby Union fields is not very fruitful.

REMOVE THAT BAN

Sooner or later it will be realised by all the clubs in the Northern League that the ban on overseas signings (as far as Australia and New Zealand R.L. and R.U. players are concerned) must be removed.

It might be said that Australia may not be able to field her best teams against Great Britain in the Test matches, but let us not forget that some Aussie stars have openly stated that they will not come here next season because the profit from the tour is not large enough.

There is big money to be made "Down Under," which shows that the game is not lacking in interest out there. We have tried to encourage the code in other countries, and while it is most difficult to start a league in Italy, some progress has been made. Nobody can say that the Frenchmen cannot play R.L. Their methods are much different from ours, but they have made ground since the code was introduced over the channel in the early 30's.

"SEND 'EM OFF!"

We hope that the standard of refereeing will improve. There are many times when some of us complain about forward passes or knocks-on are passed over by the referee, but after all he is often in a better position than us to see what is going on. Now we hear that the officials are to receive an increased fee. This may give them a sense of more importance, but what we all would like to see is faster refs, keener attention to rough play and the dismissal of those players who try their utmost to "beat the rules."

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Better playing conditions should be welcomed by the players. Clubs have spent thousands of pounds in the last few years on improved equipment and rarely a season goes by without some innovation being introduced. More and more attention is being paid to training sessions, with sprint trainers, masseurs etc. being added to the staff. And what a pile of £ s. d. has been expended on improving the playing pitches. Ask any old player what were the conditions like when he was in harness. He will reply without hesitation that the players of today get a better deal than he did—and in more ways than one.

HELP IS REQUIRED

But while I'm sanguine about the future of the game, I feel that supporters could play a bigger part from the organisation and financial angles. There are many ways they can help. The legalised pools are always requiring agents, and the agents are keen to recruit new members. Surely a bob a week is not out of the way for anyone. After all, you stand to win a great deal of cash. Please support the other efforts which are made by the club from time to time. For the young supporter there are chances to lend a hand.

Nearly every club is suffering from the lack of programme sellers. The cry from many spectators is "we cannot get a programme." But what can you do when the distribution falls down? And the lads and lassies who do this job are paid for it. At one Yorkshire venue lady members of the Supporter's Club sell the official sheet without reward. It is a labour of love to them. Surely this act should encourage other lovers of the code to follow suit.

WELCOME BACK

It is surprising how soon the season re-commences again after the closed period. The tang of the salt air we got on our holidays and the glorious summer are now behind us and once more we settle down to the winter's activities of football.

We shall, no doubt, have our moments of ecstasy and our moments of despondency—that is football—but nevertheless, the Supporters' Club bids you welcome at the commencement of yet another season.

The canteens will give you better service than ever, and remember, the subscription to the Supporter's Club is still only one shilling. Undoubtedly the best "bob's-worth" in Oldham.

MEMBERS CARDS 1959-60

Members cards for season 1959-60 are on sale from the usual agents and from the Pavilion. The tickets issued are of a temporary nature, owing to the printers strike, and replacements will be made to members by post when the usual membership cards are received. Prices of members cards are as follows:

Pavilion Side—50/-

Side Stand—47/6

Paddock—42/6

Juvenile—10/-

Old Age Pensioners—10/-

All the seating accommodation has been sold.

PLAYING STAFF

Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.	Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.
D. M. Ayres, Oldham		5	8	12	2	D. McKeown, Oldham		5	10	13	6
J. Buckley, Oldham	...	5	10	12	10	L. McIntyre, Wigan	...	5	11	13	6
B. Byrne, Astley		5	9	11	10	A. Mumberson, As'tria		6	0	15	6
R. Cracknell, H'field	...	6	0	13	0	V. Nestor, Leigh		5	8	12	2
D. Chatterton, Widnes		6	1	15	6	R. Needham, Oldham		5	10	12	9
A. Davies, Leigh		5	11	13	1	J. Noon, Oldham		5	9	12	4
R. Dufty, Middlesex	...	6	1	14	7	J. O'Brien, Oldham	...	5	8	11	2
F. Daley, Wigan		5	9	12	7	T. Ogden, Oldham	...	6	0	12	9
J. Edward, St. Helens		5	11	13	1	R. Pugsley, Bridgend	...	5	11	13	10
J. Govan, Golborne	...	5	10	13	8	J. Petley, Warr'ton	...	5	9	11	10
P. Goddard, Sheffield		5	11	14	3	F. Pitchford, Leigh	...	5	7	12	0
W. B. Ganley, Leigh	...	5	9	12	8	B. Pendlebury, Leigh	...	5	9	13	1
B. Hatherall, Leigh	...	5	6	10	12	S. Quinlan, Cork		5	10	12	10
A. Jones, Oldham		5	6	10	12	R. Rowbottom, Widnes		6	0	15	0
K. Jackson, Oldham	...	6	1	15	4	G. Sims, Leigh		5	9½	11	0
G. Kelly, Rochdale	...	5	11	13	3	R. Smith, Oldham	...	5	11	15	4
A. Kellett, Halifax	...	5	10	12	0	I. Southward, Work'ton		5	11	12	8
J. Keith, Leeds		5	11	12	8	C. Winslade, Maesteg		6	0	14	12
K. Lloyd, Tyldesley	...	5	11	13	13	G. Warburton, War'ton		5	10	12	6
H. Lomas, Oldham	...	5	11	14	4						

the erection of a new flag pole—a gift from the Supporter's Club—and general extension of concrete steps at the Park end on the ground. Much work has been put in regarding the playing area, the drainage and growth of grass has received special attention.

There is also a new member of the Committee, Mr. T. E. Rees was elected to the committee in the place of Mr. A. F. Campbell. Many of the older members and supporters will remember Tommy Rees who played full back. Coming to the Club in May 1928, he rendered good service as a player until March 1939, and we hope that his service as a committee-man will be as efficient as in the days when he graced the position of full back for the Club. Mr. Campbell came on the committee in season 1950-51 and served until last season, a position which he filled with efficiency.

Coaching Scheme

Three of our players, T. Ogden, J. Petley, and G. Warburton attended a coaching scheme at Bisham Abbey, near Maidenhead on the Thames, for one week and we hope they have benefited from the scheme. About 30 young players—under 21 years of age attended the course.

Our Manager-coach, Frank Stirrup along with Alan Prescott of St. Helens attended a senior coaching scheme at Lilleshall, Shropshire, to secure Grade 1 Rugby League Coach certificate. 20 "students" attended this course which lasted one week.

WEMBLEY FINAL, 1960

Please make a note of the Wembley final of 1960 is to be played on Saturday, 14th May, 1960, kick-off 3-0 p.m. To make sure of reservation of tickets, application should be made to the Rugby League, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds, 7.

OUR VISITORS

Welcome to our near neighbours, Rochdale Hornets, who are always welcome visitors to Watersheddings. Although these "derby" matches are possibly not of the standard of the past, when capacity crowds were the order of the meeting and many a grim struggle has taken place between the two clubs. However we hope that the meetings of the clubs in the future will return to the greatness of the past. Hornets are to be complimented in securing the best "capture" of the season in securing the services of Jim Sullivan—who in Rugby League does not know or have not heard of Jim Sullivan. As a player, coach and trainer his record speaks for itself and without doubt the Hornets Club will benefit from his experience.

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