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

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No. 10, Saturday, November 14th, 1959

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. BLACKPOOL BOROUGH

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

On Saturday last, our team even surprised themselves in their great win at Rochdale by 45 points to nil. It was indeed a splendid victory and the team played one of the best games this season. Even our supporters were surprised at the manner in which the players backed one another up, if we can do this once surely it can happen in every game. Although the Hornets had a depleted team it was obvious that with their full selection the result would have been the same, not as the Hornets played bad, they tried and some of their efforts were commendable but lacked finish and to their credit they never attempted to close the game up, open football all the time and which received the ovation of the crowd of just over 5,000.

It is a great pity that the day was not one that would bring people from their firesides and whereas the Hornets expected, as usual, the best gate of the season the gate receipts flopped to just under £600. This is a pity as the Hornets want all the money they can get to build up a team and which there are obvious weak places that want to be filled as soon as possible. A Hornets team in the top flight of clubs would be a great asset not only to the game but to this club also as we consider that the Hornets versus Oldham match is a derby match. Many times have we played to capacity crowds and partisanship has run high. May we hope to see this renewal of the great games of the past played once again.

Not often does one of our players accomplish the hat trick but our young winger, Geoff Sims achieved this on Saturday last. Geoff came into the team at the last moment owing to Vin Nestor being unable to secure leave from his depot at Catterick. Our ace goal kicker, Bernard Ganley, is still on the target and last Saturday kicked 9 goals from 10 attempts and which included some very good goals indeed. In all matches this season Bernard has kicked 89 goals so he looks like accomplishing the feat of 100 goals before Christmas, so good luck to him.

OUR VISITORS

Today it is a pleasure to entertain the Blackpool Club to Watersheddings and although the team occupy a low position in the Rugby League table they are capable of giving the best a tough game. Of the 13 matches played they have won 3 and lost 10, scoring 164 points and against them 331 points.

There team today contains three of our local boys in Molloy, O'Brien and Payne and this is rather a unique position that three of our locals should escape the net, but then again we cannot have them all, and this is for the good of the game. We wish them well in their efforts to establish themselves in first grade Rugby League.

The rest of the team contains players of experience. Brophy came from South Africa to join St. Helens and eventually teamed up with his present team, Parker, Hinchley and Healey are all ex Barrow players, Lowe and Hutson are ex Leigh players.

In our match at Blackpool on 26th September, 1959, we were successful by 29 points to 13 points. We are hoping today to keep our winning sequence up but our opponents may have something to say about that. However we hope for a good game and a good crowd to cheer the boys on—yes, both sides—in their efforts to produce R.L. at its best.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS — NOVEMBER

21—**WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM**, Mr. G. Philpot

28—**OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE**, Mr. D. T. H. Davies

Next home match, Rugby League Combination

Saturday, 21st November, 1959

OLDHAM "A" v. HUDDERSFIELD "A"

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

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THE RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREE

WHO "CAME BACK"

by Cyril Briggs

It is often said that many sports-folk attempt a "come back" at some time in their career, but few are successful, simply because limbs are not so strong and slick as the will power. Now I'm harking back a few years (and I'll be tickling the memories of those who have helped to make Watersheddings what it is today) by relating a true story of something which caused a mild sensation at the time.

Albert Holbrook, the Warrington referee, who has just passed on, was then at the very height of his career. He was looked upon as a very promising official, and many kind things were said about him at the time. Like all referees, whether good, indifferent or just very ordinary (we get 'em in all sports) Albert had to run into his period of trouble.

And when he ordered an Oldham star to the dressing room (and at Oldham too) there was quite an outcry. Oldham protested, fans were up in arms and, lo and behold, Albert had a period when he was not allowed to take the whistle. But did Albert give up the game to which he was eventually to devote the whole of his life? Not a bit of it.

RE-INSTATED

He took the criticism like a good sportsman. He smiled and said "Well, I have my own opinion and I'm sticking to it." Came the time when Albert was again in the middle. And he was officiating just as well, so much so that the league officials remarked, "He's the man for the R.L. Challenge Cup final at Wembley." He was given charge of the Hunslet-Widnes game in 1934. That was quite a test for Albert because he lived within half a dozen miles of the Widnes town centre!

Four years before the inevitable had happened. Widnes a team of locals, led by Van Rooyen, a South African who had been given a free transfer from Wigan, toppled the great Saints team. They did more than that. They set the St. Helens club back many years. Players like Alf Ellaby, Charlie Crooks, and so forth were in the St. Helens ranks that day, but what did it matter, the Widnes locals were no respecters of reputations. The Chemics won.

FAIR CRACK

But it was the Chemics turn to take a tumble in 1934, and though the Widnesians had to admit that the better team had won on the day—they had faced Hunslet of the "Dolly" Dawson period—they also ack-

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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY W. B.
- 2—SOUTHWARD I.
- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—NOON J.
- 5—SIMS G.
- 6—KELLETT
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—JACKSON K.
- 9—McINTRE L.
- 10—DUFTY R.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—McKEOWN D.
- 13—ROBINSON G.

Referee:

Mr. C. WHITELEY,
Warrington

BLACKPOOL

Tangerine

- 1—LOWE
- 2—HUTSON
- 3—MOLLOY
- 4—FOSTER
- 5—RATCLIFFE
- 6—HOOPER
- 7—O'BRIEN
- 8—BROPHY
- 9—HALL
- 10—PAYNE
- 11—PARKER
- 12—HINCHLEY
- 14—HEALEY

Touch Judges:

Mr. N. Winstanley, Orrel (Yellow)
Mr. H. Hyde, Manchester, (Crimson)

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nowledged that they had had a fair crack of the whip from Albert Holbrook. But once or twice irate Widnesians differed from Albert about his rule interpretations. And more than once I had to point out in quiet tones that Albert was up with the play.

I have seen most of the Wembley finals, and many others besides, but Albert gave a fine show that May day in 1934. In my opinion his standard of refereeing in that final has never been bettered. So his "come back" was successful.

He often fought shy of the questions put to him about the "Oldham affair" when he was cornered into discussing it years afterwards. All he would say was, "Well it's over and done with why rake it up again?" But behind that smile was something of a riddle. It always seemed to me as if he would like to discuss the pros and cons of the case which made Headlines of the day, but decided that past events could well look after themselves.

GOOD READING

The Albert Holbrook story makes good reading. He certainly won his way into many people's good books. That incident at Oldham would have rocked many officials. They would have taken the huff and said "No more for me." Not Albert. He was a great chap.

One week he would have a first-class appointment; the next he would have charge of an "A" team and then the following week he would be at one of the local parks taking a junior game whether it was in fine weather or foul. Yet he earned the reputation of "being too strict." But his attitude was, "Well, why have rules if you don't play to them?"

He was so keen that he would not let anything pass. Spectators said so often that he ruined even a workshops competition by his keen eye and quicker whistle. But the same people who criticised him one Saturday would sing his praise the following week because he had spotted an incident which had prevented a try being scored against their own team.

SMART TURN OUT

Holbrook looked the part. He said that was no need for a referee to take the field in grubby clothing. He was neat and tidy in his gear even down to those polished boots and white laces. He taught other referees to follow his example, and because he was an official of the Lancashire Referees, he guided several officials to stardom.

He believed in the local amateur leagues and when a player was suddenly pulled up and asked "Why ref?" Albert would take him to one side and quote the law to the very letter. The offending player was so impressed that when another player fell into the same trap he would give him the benefit of Albert's advice.

STILL FRIENDS

I know one present day referee whose brother (a player) was ordered to the dressing room by Albert for something he should not have done. Albert and the ref. have been life long friends and that sending off incident (which was debated at the time) made no difference at all to their friendship.

If we had more Holbrooks the world of refereeing would not be filled with so many differences of opinion. Holbrook was the man who read the official guide almost every day. That's how you get the **right** interpretations. Am I talking to you.

TODAYS R.L. GUIDE

Wigan	Australia
Bramley	Batley
Dewsbury	St. Helens
Featherstone	Hull K. R.
Halifax	Keighley
Hull	Castleford
Hunslet	Bradford
Leigh	Barrow
Liverpool	Workington
Oldham	Blackpool
Swinton	Leeds
Wakefield	Huddersfield
Whitehaven	Salford
Widnes	Rochdale
York	Warrington

BRIEFS

We hope to have the public address system in operation at Water-sheddings this afternoon and this will be a testing time for the engineers to "measure" its reception with the crowd attending the match. Much time has been spent with this equipment and there is no doubt that the makers of this new system have spent considerable time and effort to produce a system that will be to the satisfaction of all.

Bob Pugsley our forward secured from Bridgend R.U., is still suffering from a slipped disc and treatment of this troublesome complaint is somewhat slow and we cannot expect his return to fitness for some time.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	16	89		Davies	14		8
Southward	6		5	Robinson	12		2
Ayres	2			Quinlan	3		3
Noon	17	8	10	Stirrup	4	2	1
Sims	14		6	Smith	4		
Kellett	18	1	8	Nestor	10		7
Hatherall	3			Petley	1		
Jackson	11		1	Pitchford	10		2
McIntyre	11		2	McKeown	7		2
Goddard	11		1	Jones	1		1
Winslade	13		2	Pendlebury	2		
Duffy	14		3				
Pugsley	5		1				
Keith	12		1				

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Dewsbury	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	Swinson	St. Helens	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow		15-4	40-13		22-29	22-5							10-20		
Blackpool		14-5	15-30		13-29			7-46							
Dewsbury				26-15	7-35	14-18				11-29			7-35	9-30	
Leigh							11-7	25-12					22-22		
Liverpool							11-9	6-18	6-45	16-19					
OLDHAM	20-9										6-10		24-12		28-2
Rochdale	18-13					0-45		7-12			5-8				10-12
Salford			26-0			12-12					7-15	23-14			
Swinson			61-7		63-8					9-32					
St. Helens		59-17			40-17			40-11							
Warrington					26-8	27-8								16-6	
Whitehaven		33-13													20-4
Widnes	36-0		24-5						14-27						7-8
Wigan					17-6	8-18		37-6			31-12	16-12			
Workington			28-13	5-12	26-11			10-18							

Home Team on Left...Away Team on Top...Home Team's score given first

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