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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	15	F. S.	
Dec. 5	Wigan	away 2-30	18	Whitehaven	home 3-0
12	Hull	home 2-30	23	Hull	away 3-0

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION :: WATERSHEDDINGS



SEASON - 1959-60

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - 3d.

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Secretary : Mr. H. SUMMERSCALES

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OLDHAM
60 MANLEY ROAD, COPPICE

No. 11—Saturday, 28th November, 1959

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

What a sorry show we put up at Whitehaven and to be beaten by 23 points to 9. There is no doubt about it, the Whitehaven team excelled itself on the day and their forwards led the way to such a convincing win. Up to half time we appeared to have a reasonable chance having had a score of eleven points to seven against us, but the second half the Whitehaven forwards got on top and gave our backs some hard work in tackling. Four infringements of the game gave our opponents 8 points, and these should never happen if you play to the rules of the game, they are silly infringements in getting offside and especially in your own twenty five line, but these things do happen and the lesson should be learnt by players who persistently will lie offside.

The forwards that turned out last Saturday played hard but lacked the ability to get on top of their opponents or even hold them, of course when one realises that we were short of such two big forwards in Winslade and Robinson the holding of a Cumbrian pack of forwards especially on their own ground requires some doing. It is amazing what a different proposition some pack of forwards are away from their own ground, at home they play as though their life depends on the match but away a different tale can be told.

OUR VISITORS

Welcome today for the visit of Rochdale Hornets to Watersheddings. The Hornets are having an indifferent season, playing good football one week and then the reverse the week following.

On November 7th, we visited Rochdale and won amazingly by 45 points to 0. Our team excelled itself that day, but the Hornets had a somewhat weakened team but that must not discount the victory. Today we cannot take the Hornets cheaply on account of our big victory on their ground. Let one not forget their great victory at Wigan on the 26th September, when the Hornets beat the mighty Wigan team, and beat them by good football by 18 points to 8.

Our visitors will be out to show that they can create another surprise, so it is up to our team to give of their best.

COMING FIXTURES

After our visit to Wigan on December 7th, we have three home matches in Hull, Dewsbury and Swinton. Of course our usual fixture with the old foes from Swinton is on Christmas Day.

On Boxing Day, 26th December we are due to play at Workington and our team hope to have a happy Christmas from a playing point of view but not of festivity for after the Swinton match at Watersheddings on Christmas Day we immediately leave enroute for Workington staying overnight probably at Kendal and continuing the journey Boxing Day morning.

A footballers lot is not a very happy one during the festive season. But it goes that way and they make the best of it.

TWO DIVISIONS

In the near future a special meeting of the R.L. Council will be held for a proposed two division of the League and a two thirds majority of the clubs present will be necessary for same to carry.

If two divisions come into operation can the gates of some of the clubs be any worse than those prevailing at present or would it eventually mean the end of some clubs.

The present income of some clubs is supplemented by a Pools Organisation and this keeps the majority of them alive but how long the Pools Organisation will last remains to be seen. Without this assistance one can visualise that there would have been no necessity for two divisions there would barely be enough clubs for one division as at present.

The whole project is a gamble and a struggle for existence.

SHOULD R.L. GAMES BE TELEVISED?

writes Cyril Briggs

Club treasurers did not look very pleased with themselves last Saturday, when the turnstile men turned up with the afternoon's takings. The "gates" in comparison to those of the previous season were down in most cases, and even when the Wembley cup finalists, Wigan and Hull, met at Central Park, the attendance was a little over 10,000.

This figure may seem large to some clubs, especially those in the lower part of the league, but Wigan directors have been boasting for some time that the average attendance at home games has been in the vicinity of 18,000.

Where were the missing thousands? Well, it wasn't exactly a shock ing Saturday as far as the weather was concerned, although in some instances the turn-up at several of the games could be described as such. We can make one guess—they were watching "the tele." And who can blame 'em? They pay the annual license fees, plus the upkeep or rental of the sets. Therefore they are entitled to do as they please.

Now while official permission was given for T.V. cameras to take whatever shots were required at the Headingley Test match, some R.L. officials were against simultaneous viewing—that is to say, showing the match on screens when other R.L. games are in progress.

PUSHING THE "GOSPEL"

But if R.L. wants to push the "gospel" then it must do something out of the ordinary trend to attract those who have either switched to soccer and other games, or people who have not prior knowledge of R.L. There does not seem to be any particular publicity drive for R.L., because according to page seven of the Official Guide, the Press and Publicity Committee is no longer listed! So what better medium than television to eventually attract non-attenders? The newspapers, or at least some of them, have been accused many times of being soccer-minded.

While they have to cater for the masses, it is pleasing to note that the wonderful publicity doled out for one club not a hundred miles from Watersheddings is tapering off a little. But R.L. can claim in places like Wigan, St. Helens, Warrington, Leigh, Castleford, Featherstone, and Oldham that there are for more supporters of the code than there are for soccer.

Yet, when weekly attendances are totted up you will see that in R.L. and Soccer towns, Soccer generally has the edge. This, however, is not the major point in the discussion. The burning question is to tele-

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OLDHAM

Red and White

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

Referee:

Mr. D. T. H. DAVIES,
Pendlebury

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ROCHDALE

Red White and Blue

- 1—CAHILL
- 2—UNSWORTH
- 3—ATHERTON
- 4—SHORT
- 5—HILTON
- 6—CHISNALL
- 7—FISHWICK
- 8—SCHOLES
- 9—DAGNALL
- 10—HANSON
- 11—THOMAS
- 12—PARR
- 13—McFARLANE W.

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Grayley, Rainhill, (Yellow)
Mr. J. W. Ellis, Widnes (Crimson)

For . . .

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wise or not to televise? Quite frankly I cannot see how the R.L. can decide against T.V. Let me give you instances of where R.L. can alight new interest in parts of the country where the game is played—and not played.

REMEMBER THE EXILES

Many folk write to me expressing disappointment with the decision of allowing only certain R.L. matches to be screened. These people are firm R.L. fans. They have in many instances helped to build up clubs, and have indeed played an active part in official circles. But owing to the nature of their jobs they have been drafted to other parts of the country.

Unfortunately, they cannot see a game, or their favourite teams every week because of travel and other difficulties. But when it is possible to do so, so they do come from distant spots to the North. Now are these keen R.L. people to be forgotten? The only way they can keep in touch with the game is either through the Radio, T.V. or their former town papers, as the Southern Press gives little or nothing in the way of space to our game.

It has to be remembered that once the spark of enthusiasm has been created, it should be fanned **Continually**. Southern folk are expected to support the Wembley final—yet if some people had their way there would be no R.L. games on the “tele.” Surely if we want the people of the South and Midlands to put in an appearance at the R.L. final we must offer them something in addition to one game in 52 weeks!

Let me give you an insight to a true story so that you can form your own opinions on the value of propaganda. In a London cafe on the morning of a Wembley final I met a number of people from Oxford. They had come to see the “Rugby match.” They weren’t exiles from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumberland or Cheshire, but had come as a party to spend a day in London and Wembley.

“FEW FLASHES”

I was intrigued by their statements. How was it, I inquired, that they had come from a city which boasted so much tradition for the XV-a-side game, to see professional Rugby? They had heard, so they said, R.L. commentaries over the radio, and a few flashes on their T.V. screens (Sutton Coldfield T.V. Station was opened before Holme Moss) and, therefore wanted to take a peep at the players in the flesh.

Here was a band of folk who had been partly won over, and there must be dozens of similar cases. R.L. officials who are anti-T.V. can argue that even keen supporters of the game who live in R.L. hot-beds, stay at home on Wembley day. And so they might. Not everyone can

make the Wembley trip either through business calls, lack of the necessary cash, illness or other real reasons. Are they to be debarred from seeing their favourite game on the “tele” or hearing the commentary on the air?

I think it would be better to allow as many games as possible to be televised for say a couple of seasons. Then we would see whether the game was suffering. There were 30,000 souls at Headingley on Saturday. And the biggest attraction in Leeds that day seemed to be the Soccer game.

Lots of people like to see the game without the aid of the “tele.” Thirty thousand proved it on Saturday. Whether the final Test is on your screens or not, the Wigan gate is bound to show a useful return. Personally, I think that if it were possible to use a few commercials during the match, advertisers would fall over themselves to get in oh what would be a wonderful medium. Sweet are the uses of advertisement.

The gates for last Saturday, were as follows:

Rochdale v. Leigh	1,965	Barrow v. Widnes	2,987
St. Helens v. Halifax	11,000	Batley v. Salford... ..	2,300
Warrington v. Dewsbury	6,000	Blackpool v. Workington	1,500
Whitehaven v. Oldham	3,700	Castleford v. Liverpool	500
Swinton v. Hunslet	3,500	Doncaster v. Bramley	350
Wigan v. Hull	10,883	Hull K. R. v. Bradford	2,500
York v. Featherstone	3,000	Keighley v. Wakefield... ..	7,000

TODAYS R.L. GUIDE

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

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	18	100		Davies	16		8
Southward	7		7	Robinson	12		2
Ayres	2			Quinlan	3		3
Noon	19	8	12	Stirrup	4	2	1
Sims	16		6	Smith	4		
Kellett	20	1	10	Nestor	11		7
Hatherall	3			Petley	1		
Jackson	13		1	Pitchford	12		2
McIntyre	13		2	McKeown	9		2
Goddard	12		1	Jones	1		1
Winslade	14		2	Pendlebury	2		
Duffy	16		4	Cawthra	1		
Pugsley	5		1				
Keith	13		1				

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Dewsbury	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	Swinton	St. Helens	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow			15-4	40-13		22-29	22-5						10-16		
Blackpool			14-5	15-30		13-29		7-46					10-20	15-5	
Dewsbury				26-15	7-35	14-18			15-20	11-29				7-35	9-30
Leigh	12-12					11-7	25-12						22-22		
Liverpool						11-9	6-18	6-45	16-19					14-5	
OLDHAM	20-9	24-5								6-10		24-12		28-2	
Rochdale	18-13			10-6		0-45		7-12		5-8				10-12	
Salford			26-0			12-12				7-15	23-14				
Swinton			61-7		63-8					9-32					
St. Helens		59-17			40-17			40-11							
Warrington			48-12		26-8	27-8					30-2		16-6		
Whitehaven		33-13				23-9		34-10		12-15				20-4	
Widnes	36-0			24-5			14-3		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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