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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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60 MANLEY ROAD, COPPICE

No. 19—Saturday, 27th February, 1960

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WALNEY CENTRAL (Barrow)

Second Round Rugby League Challenge Cup

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Saturday last we visited Wakefield and from results which the Wakefield Club are showing they are the best team in Yorkshire. Much was expected of this game but we are afraid that it fell below expectations and was a grim battle between two sets of players who tackled mightily.

The result of the game could have easily gone the other way with a little luck on our side, and the fact that we gave two tries away turned the scale in Wakefield's favour. Without doubt our players were keen to give a good account of themselves.

Much controversy has arisen regarding the footballs that were played with at Wakefield. First, the kick-off was with a plastic ball and white and which appear good on a ground of black nature which was played on. This white ball went over the stand and an ordinary leather ball was produced and still another leather one, and eventually the referee objected to it as not having enough pressure in, and this was the only object or subject that was dismissed from the field.

The type of ball that is recommended is the laceless, six panel type. This recommendation is not included in the Laws of the game because in junior football, the choice may be limited by cost. However, it has been agreed that a ball of the recommended type is to be used in senior football.

Manufacturers are requested to make balls (suitable tolerances being allowed) to the following dimensions.

Longest circumference—29 inches.

Widest circumference—23 and 1/4 inches.

A permissible increase of one half inch in the widest circumference allows a ball a fairly long life.

It should be the object of clubs, however, to play with a ball which has not expanded to any appreciable extent. It is of advantage to the players to play always with balls of the same size and shape. They become accustomed to handling and kicking them and an improvement

in general standard of play. The Council of the Rugby League do in fact encourage the use of a white ball. A ball of distinctive colour is easily seen by players, the referee, and the spectators. An old ball is sometimes almost black in colour and is difficult to follow in muddy conditions even when the light is good.

Professional football is designed to provide entertainment for the spectator and clubs should bear in mind that the spectators interest is not being well catered for if a dark coloured ball is used on a wet, winters afternoon when the light is failing. It is equally futile to use a white ball if there is a covering of snow on the ground.

OUR VISITORS

It is not very often we are drawn against a junior club in the Challenge Cup competition and more unique still is in the second round.

However, we welcome Walney Central to Watersheddings and must congratulate them on reaching the Second Round Proper.

They were drawn at home in the first round of the cup against one of the best junior teams in Yorkshire, Lock Lane, the club we secured our second row "A" team forward from—Thomas Parker. For a junior club to meet the giants of the game is a hard road to travel and the fact that Walney started playing the qualifying rounds on October 10th, last and today will be their tenth Challenge Cup match of this competition.

RUGBY OUR GAME

We have published a book "Rugby Our Game" at a price of 1/- each the proceeds of which go to the benefit fund of Ken Jackson, Jack Keith and Charlie Winslade. This book is well worth 1/- as it contains 36 pages and is three books in one. There are only a limited number for sale and every Rugby League supporter should be in possession of one. Get yours today.

POSTPONED MATCH

Our N.R.F.L. match which was postponed against Workington at Workington, Boxing Day, 26th December, 1959 will now be played at Workington, Easter Saturday, 16th April, 1960. Rather a coincidence that our "A" team play their match at Whitehaven on the same day.

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WHICH GROUND DO YOU PREFER?

asks Cyril Briggs

Which is the better venue for a representative game, Wigan's Central Park, or Swinton's Station Road? That question is being freely discussed in official R.L. circles and also among the followers of both these Lancashire clubs.

As far as accommodation is concerned, there is little in it. Wigan have improved their seating capacity through the erection of the new stand on the old popular side—on the site which was familiarly known as the "Old Dutch Barn."

Much has been said and written since the Final Test between G. Britain and the Kangaroos, played at Wigan on December 12th. The "gate" was most disappointing in view of the importance of the occasion. But television is blamed for the moderate attendance. It was believed, in view of the strong demand for seats, that there would be a crowd of about 40,000. The record attendance at Central Park is 47,000. This figure was set up last season when St. Helens were visitors in a holiday league game.

FRIENDLY BATTLE

Gates of 45,000 and over have also been recorded at Station Road, Swinton. It should be noted to that there has been a friendly battle between the Wigan and Swinton clubs' representatives at the Lancashire County R.L. Committee meetings when the "Lancashire Challenge cup final venue" has been on the agenda.

It should be noted here that this is the only game (apart from the County fixtures, Lancashire's clash with Touring teams and the Lan-R.L. Committee has control. Venues for the Test matches and other representative games are decided by higher authorities.

Now let me take you behind the scenes of the Lancashire Committee meetings. Some years ago, Lancashire officials decided that it would invite the sports writers to be present instead of keeping them on the door-step and passing on the details of the meetings after they had concluded. The representatives of the clubs who think they have rightful claim to a big game give details to the County Committee about the size of their ground, possible receipts etc.

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OLDHAM
Blue and White

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

Referee:

Mr. G. PHILPOTT,
Leeds

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WALNEY CENTRAL

Red and White

- 1—RHODES D.
- 2—HEWSON P.
- 3—HOLMES J.
- 4—WILLIAMS J.
- 5—WHALLEY J.
- 6—McMENEMY R.
- 7—OLDFIELD R.
- 8—COULTHURST C.
- 9—BLAKE E.
- 10—WOODBURN B.
- 11—GIBSON J.
- 12—MAY J.
- 13—SHARP R.

Touch Judges:

Mr. W. E. Higginson, War'ton, (Yel.)
Mr. J. Tyrer, Leigh, (Crimson Flag)

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When this information has been duly given, the other representatives cash their votes—it is by a show of hands—and the majority vote counts. Now Swinton were beaten in this year's voting for the Lancashire Challenge Cup Final. This match was of course, between Warrington and St. Helens and 39,237 turned up. The receipts were £6,424. Quite a big sum a good crowd.

CROWDS AND GROUNDS

Now there are few R.L. grounds in the county which could accommodate such a big crowd as nearly 40,000 (with V.I.P.'s, Press, other officials and so forth the gate would be about that figure). But there are some people who think that with the following from Warrington and a bigger one from St. Helens, the gate should have been in the vicinity of 45,000.

It should be borne in mind however by those who favour the Swinton ground for important fixtures, that on the day of the Lancashire cup final the day was dull and an hour or two before the kick-off rain fell heavily. And, what is more, the Wigan Athletic Soccer Club was playing its F.A. cup tie against Rhyl on the same day.

A few thousand went to that game. Against this, it is stated and quite rightly too, that the Leigh Club were not engaged having played their league fixture with Blackpool Borough the previous evening under flood-lit conditions at Hilton Park so that a better gate could be recorded. Leigh are Wigan's closest neighbours and it's a Rugby town.

At Swinton for the First Test against the Kangaroos, 35,141 people turned up, and they paid £7,386 to witness the game. Compare these details with those of the Third Test at Wigan, 26,089 (£5,502) and you'll see the reason for some of the arguments.

No doubt many people stayed at home and watched the game on their T.V. sets. But still the gate was disappointing.

COUNTER ATTRACTIONS

Some people will say that the first game against the Australians did not have the same interest value as the final and deciding fixture. Now you can read into this statement as you wish. Let us also state that the First Test clashed with the Manchester City—Leicester match.

Swinton fans also point to the fact that while there were 700 more at the Wigan ground when this year's Lancashire Challenge cup final was played, there was a falling off in the takings as compared with the figures at Swinton the previous year. The drop was £500. Now that needs some explaining. The reason, I think, is that there are more "paddock" places at Station Road than at Central Park.

But Wigan have great plans for improving their ground. As I have stated already, 47,000 have been present at one match, and what is more there are plans to build a new double decker stand on the River Douglas side of Central Park. This would mean that there would be another 2,000 seats and Wigan would then be able to accommodate more stand patrons than possibly every R.L. ground in the league.

You will see that I have not taken sides in the argument, but I do think that competition is good for any trade. Future developments at Wigan and Swinton will be watched with interest, especially if Wigan directors decide to provide the first double decker in the league. Then the takings would shoot up. Wigan people claim that their town is the hub of the R.L. world, we shall see.

CHALLENGE CUP MATCHES TODAY

Halifax	10	Featherstone	16
Keighley	2	Hull	32
Leigh	8	Whitehaven	11
Rochdale	0	Bramley	4
Swinton	13	Bradford	9
Widnes	2	Wakefield	5
Wigan	14	Leeds	11
Oldham	53	Walney Central	4

OTHER MATCHES

Doncaster	Hull K. R.
Workington	Salford

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	30	150		Davies	29		11
Southward	19		21	Robinson	25		2
Ayres	2			Quinlan	3		3
Noon	32	12	20	Stirrup	4	2	1
Sims	22		8	Smith	5		
Kellett	31	1	14	Nestor	17		12
Hatherall	4			Petley	1		
Jackson	23		1	Pitchford	24		3
McIntyre	24		4	McKeown	10		2
Goddard P.	16		1	Jones	2		1
Winslade	26		4	Pendlebury	3		
Dufty	29		6	Cawthra	1		
Pugsley	5		1	Haynes	10		
Keith	14		1	Mumberson	1		
Lord	3		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	6-21		8-16		2-15	10-16		2-5	
Blackpool	11-5	...	14-5	15-30	5-5	13-29	5-9	7-46	7-26	5-12	5-11	10-20	7-4	15-5	
Dewsbury		...	9-24	26-15	7-35	14-18	13-14	15-20	11-29	2-17		7-35	9-30		
Leigh	12-12	37-4	...	22-0	11-7	25-12	14-14	4-12	10-12	12-12	22-22				
Liverpool	5-13	19-8	7-9	...	17-15	11-9	6-18	20-14	6-45	16-19				14-5	
OLDHAM	20-9	34-5	46-7	22-0	...	25-3	20-15	35-10	6-10		24-12			28-2	
Rochdale	18-13	12-5	10-6	5-8	0-45	...	7-8	7-12	4-40	5-8				10-12	
Salford	13-5	2-5	26-0	10-30	12-12	...	2-2	7-15	23-14	23-6	13-20				
Swinson	5-0	61-7	63-8		12-5	...	9-32	13-5	11-8					32-3	
St. Helens		59-17	25-4	14-10	40-17	27-6	26-2	40-11	...	40-6				11-12	
Warrington	24-10	30-12	48-12	26-8	27-8	16-0		12-19	...	30-2	9-9	16-6			
Whitehaven		33-13		5-0	23-9	34-10	13-5	12-15	7-0	...		7-7	20-4		
Widnes	36-0	19-4	25-2	24-5	22-5	0-10	14-3		14-27	22-5	...		7-8		
Wigan	43-3	47-3		12-10	17-6	27-7	8-18	37-6	7-19	34-5	31-12	16-12	...	7-11	
Workington		28-13	5-12	26-11		12-7		10-18	6-21		0-24		0-6		

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

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