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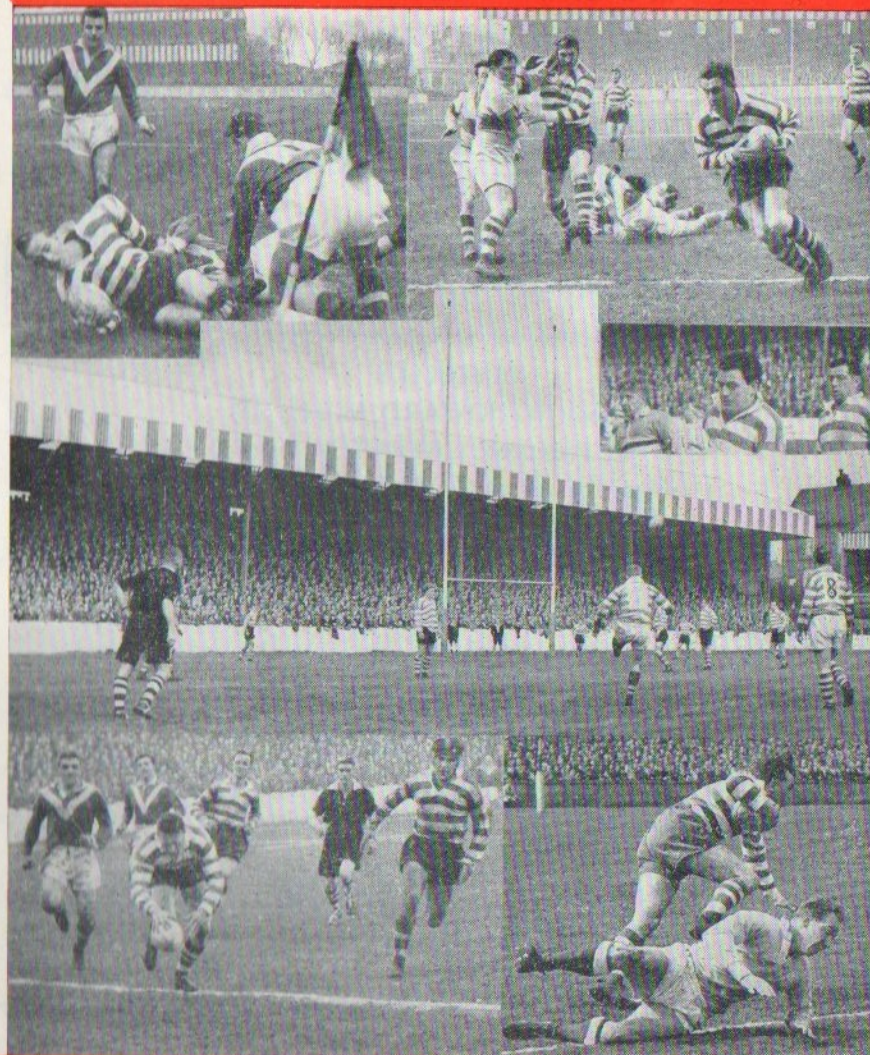
Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
1960			
Aug. 6	ROCHDALE (Charity)	away	
13	ST. HELENS	home	
17	WARRINGTON	away	.....
20	LEEDS	away	.....
27	WIGAN, Lancs. Cup 1st Rd.	away	.....
30	LEIGH	home	.....
Sept. 3	FEATHERSTONE R.	away	.....
10	HALIFAX	home	.....
17	ST. HELENS	away	.....
20	FEATHERSTONE R.	home	.....
24	WORLD CUP		.....
27	BLACKPOOL B.	away	.....
Oct. 1	WORLD CUP		.....
8	WORLD CUP		.....
15	HULL K. R.	away	.....
22	WIDNES	home	.....
29	ROCHDALE H.	away	.....
Nov. 5	LIVERPOOL C.	home	.....
12	KEIGHLEY	away	.....
19	SALFORD	home	.....
26	WHITEHAVEN	away	.....
Dec. 3	LEEDS	home	.....
10	WIGAN	away	.....

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
1961			
17	BLACKPOOL B.	home	.....
24	LEIGH	away	.....
26	SWINTON	home	.....
31	BARROW	away	.....
Jan. 2	WORKINGTON	away	.....
7	HALIFAX	away	.....
14	WARRINGTON	home	.....
21	LIVERPOOL CITY	away	.....
28	WIGAN	home	.....
Feb. 4	BARROW	home	.....
11	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP 1st RD.		.....
18	HULL K. R.	home	.....
25	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP 2nd RD.		.....
Mar. 4	SALFORD	away	.....
11	WIDNES	away	.....
18	WORKINGTON TOWN	home	.....
25			.....
31	SWINTON	away	.....
Apr. 1	WHITEHAVEN	home	
3	ROCHDALE H.	home	
8			
15	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL		
22			
29	KEIGHLEY	home	

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No. 14—Saturday, February 18th, 1961 Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Our trek to Wembley is over once again for another twelve months. Our visit to Hull on Saturday last proved just a little too much for us and although we were beaten we were not disgraced being just pipped on the post by 4 points to 2 points, after, in our opinion having had the best of our opponents.

Playing on a heavy ground and a drizzling rain our forwards fairly excelled themselves and surprised the Hull crowd by outplaying the Hull forwards in open play. Granted we did not receive our share of the ball, but what was lacking here was made up by splendid play from our forwards, in fact they played their best game for months.

The irony of the narrow defeat by just two points was the reason of our players in the heat of the moment transgressing the rules, but then this happens in every match and with the best of teams. For any team to go to Hull and outplay the home team and just lose the match is just hard luck, and we take it as such.

Disappointing as it must have been to our large following in the defeat but it was overheard that the one satisfaction was that our team had played the game and on the day were unlucky losers. However we can now concentrate on improving our position in the League table and make an all out effort to finish in the first four. With a little luck this should not be beyond us as we have the following matches to complete:

Home	Away
HULL KINGSTON	SWINTON
BLACKPOOL	WIGAN
WARRINGTON	SALFORD
WORKINGTON	HALIFAX
WHITEHAVEN	WIDNES
ROCHDALE	
KEIGHLEY	

Seven home matches and five away matches means that we must win all our home matches and a couple of matches away as the law of average for the first four has been that a team that loses 10 matches is an outsider.

We hope we can manage to secure a place in the first four as a little compensation to our members and supporters for our early exit from the Challenge Cup Competition.

OUR VISITORS

Today we welcome visitors from over the border in Hull Kingston Rovers in a return match, having visited the Kingston ground on October 15th, 1960, the match resulted in a draw of 11 points each. Hull K. R. scoring 4 goals and 1 try to our score of 1 goal and 3 tries, this being our only drawn match of the season so far.

Our visitors appear to be having a moderate season having played 22 matches, won 10, drawn 2 and lost 10, scoring 253 points against 278 points. We can expect a good game but our team will have to show the form of last Saturday to record a sounding victory, but we shall see what our visitors will say about that.

Our visitors are in the second round of the Challenge Cup and are drawn to play our "conquerors" Hull at the Boulevard a week from today.

THE GAME

Oh where and oh where are the spectators and supporters of the R.L. going. Take last Saturdays 15 matches in the Challenge Cup which attracted 117,822 spectators against the previous year of 131,723, a reduction of approximately 14,000 for 15 matches.

The reduction may not appear great on the face of figures but when one realises that at the Leeds v. Wigan match, 32,757 spectators were in attendance, slightly more than one quarter of the total attendances, a slightly different picture is shown.

A commission from the Rugby League has been appointed to enquire and if possible, find out why the R.L. is losing favour with the supporters of our game. It is going to be a difficult task to find this cause. Has the game lost some of its magnetism as an attractiveness to the average spectator? Money they say is the root of all evil, are the special bonuses placed by certain clubs to great until the game becomes win at all costs by over vigour and transgression of the laws of the game. We don't blame

the referee for a continual blowing of the whistle for persistently standing offside by players, granted the ref. has the option of dismissing from the field players who persistently ignore the rules. The rules are alright if played according to the book, heaven help us if we have to make the rules fit the players.

Watch two schoolboy teams playing Rugby League and it is an enjoyment to see them playing to the rules, they are told they have to, and a referee's task is considerably easier in schoolboy football than senior football.

Adverting to the rules of the game, these are alright if the players themselves will adhere to them, continually changing of rules perplexes the average spectator and he gets bored stiff with the continual hold up of the game.

However, it will be interesting to hear the outcome of the specially appointed commission of their reasons of the decline in attendances at Rugby League matches.

Did you know that . . .

1—The present League leaders, Leeds, have never finished a season being League Leaders or winners of the Championship Play-off. Although they have won the Yorkshire League 9 times, the Yorkshire Challenge Cup 10 times, and have also appeared in 8 Wembley Challenge Cup Finals, winning 5 and losing 3.

2—During the 1953-54 season, for the first time in the history of both the R.L. Challenge Cup and the Northern Championship, the same two teams appeared in both finals. The teams were Warrington and Halifax. After drawing 4-4 at Wembley, the replay was won at Odsal by Warrington by 8 points to 4 points, and at Maine Road, Manchester Warrington again beat Halifax by 8 points to 7 points. Seventeen teams, however, have been finalists in both competitions.

3—A. J. ("Gus") Risman, Oldham's present Manager Coach from the time he played for Salford up to the time of his retirement at Batley, played 27 seasons and was 43 years old when he retired.

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Blue and White

- 1—GANLEY W. B. 32
2—LORD B./HOLDEN K. 26
3—DAVIES A. (Capt.) 27
4—NOON J.
5—PATTERSON W.
6—KELLETT A.B. T
7—PYCROFT J.
8—PAYNE W. T
9—McINTYRE L./GODDARD P.
10—DUFTY R.
11—WINSLADE C.
12—ROBINSON G.
13—PARKER D.

Referee:
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SPORT

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

White, Red Band

- 1—KELLETT 36
2—PAUL
3—MAJOR
4—RILEY Mullins
5—HARRIS Burwell
6—MATTHEWS T
7—BUNTING
8—COVERDALE
9—FLANAGAN
10—TYSON
11—JENKIN
12—TAYLOR T
13—POOLE

Touch Judges:

Mr. W. H. Gandy, Widnes, (Yellow)
Mr. W. E. Gibson, War'ton, (Crim)

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RIGHT OR WRONG TIME?

writes Cyril Briggs

Is the Rugby League Challenge Cup final played at the wrong time of the season?

This is not a new question, but we often find that teams fighting for a place in the top four are also engaged in a battle for a visit to Wembley.

Workington Town, Bradford Northern and Wakefield Trinity are just a few clubs who have failed to secure the double.

I know that since the war the two major cups have been captured by a club, but what a strain it is for the teams concerned in two cup finals within a fortnight.

I do not think it is fair competition to expect players to face such terrific tests within the space of a week.

THEY FAILED

We saw what happened last season when Wakefield tried to take another cup back to Belle Vue and it was the same for Workington Town and Bradford Northern.

I think there is a way out of it all. Let the County Championship matches be played in June or July. This would get rid of a headache which has constantly upset the Challenge Cup arrangements.

True enough grounds would be hard at certain periods of the season, yet we just have to remind the Tourists of what happens when they play on Australian soil.

How then would we dispose of the League Championship and the Challenge Cup Tournament? Well, several ways have been suggested and one is inclined to favour the idea of carrying the competition over to the beginning of the following season.

It might seem a little strange, but this rush of fixtures which certain clubs have to fulfil is making the game somewhat farcial.

At the beginning of the new season, interest is required and I can think of nothing better than to have the first four play off in August or September. And we would attract members of the distribution trade away to see the matches.

We all know what happened at Odsal in 1954. On this occasion, 103,000 people turned up to see Warrington play Halifax in a re-play of the R.L. final. Many of those folk were seeing their first R.L. game of the season and probably the first match for several seasons.

NEVER GOT THERE

Moreover, thousands of regular R.L. fans were stranded on both sides of the Pennines. A good job too or the game may never have been played.

I have not forgotten the County Challenge Cup Competition. Here I feel that all these games should be played in mid week.

Now for the R.L. Challenge Cup. This could be extended for the whole of the season with breaks of possibly three weeks or more between the rounds.

So here we would see a suggested scheme of: the Wembley final early in May, County Championship final in June or July, County Cup finals a few weeks later, and the first four final around September.

Revolutionary no doubt, but you would not expect spectators (or players) suffering from flu at this time of the year!

My suggestions would help to beat the mud and the rain. Finals are spoiled by bad conditions and TV or no TV the public wants to see real open R.L. football not travesties in the mud.

Of course, there are snags about it all but the Rugby League officials must have regard to the demands of the public whose commands differ very much from their fathers who were content to stand on half bricks and in all kinds of weather in order to see Northern Union Football.

Mid week football and games under floodlights are sober thoughts—R.L. must investigate all schemes to hold even the hard core of supporters.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(League and Cup Matches only—including Law Cup)

Player	A.	T.	G.	Player	A.	T.	G.
Southward	18	14		Kellett	24	11	1
Noon	25	11	13	Mumberson	5	1	
Davies	23	4		Winslade	24		
Quinlan	6	3		Goddard D.	4		
Nestor	8	1		Parker T.	6	1	
Pitchford	20	5		Sims	2		1
Payne	26	1		Goddard P.	9	1	
McIntyre	20	5		Patterson	17	10	
Duffy	25	4		Hatherall	3		
Warburton	5	1		Lerd	7	3	
Robinson	23	6		Parker D.	13	3	
Ganley	21		71	Holden K.	7	3	
Gray	2			Jones	8	3	
Pycroft	3						

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Halifax	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	...	3-3				11-2	15-3	15-0	15-29		2-5	2-13	17-9		5-26
Blackpool	11-2	...	8-8	10-7		10-11			13-24			10-13	12-24		5-20
Halifax			...		18-0		15-5			4-9	8-4	17-7	15-5		22-12
Leigh		16-5	15-9	...		13-4			13-28			6-4		7-25	18-3
Liverpool	9-14		9-31	2-10	...	10-28	4-11	22-26			3-30		7-16		
OLDHAM	10-3		17-15	9-12	49-12	...		37-0	16-4	4-6		25-5	5-15		
Rochdale			13-20			14-29	...		5-38	4-45	0-27		9-2		4-17
Salford	9-0	5-12	11-17	4-17		20-9	...	5-17	5-24			18-9			20-8
St. Helens				10-4	17-9	26-12	51-4	...		7-8	18-8		11-6	47-2	
Swinton	33-9		15-5		47-3		43-0			...	36-13	21-5	10-12	30-0	
Warrington		28-2		3-4	38-5	25-9	25-0	48-4	5-8	9-25		45-7		42-9	
Whitehaven	20-5	12-13			15-0	2-16	19-4	13-0	11-15		2-31			14-2	16-3
Widnes	26-13		10-5			28-14			7-12	10-14	17-6	...		5-3	2-5
Wigan	44-0	16-11		15-17	20-7		14-5	47-6	4-16	5-10					
Workington	11-8	8-17	22-7	11-2	36-5	2-17			18-3			11-8	10-11	...	

Home Team on left Away Team on top Home Team's score given first

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