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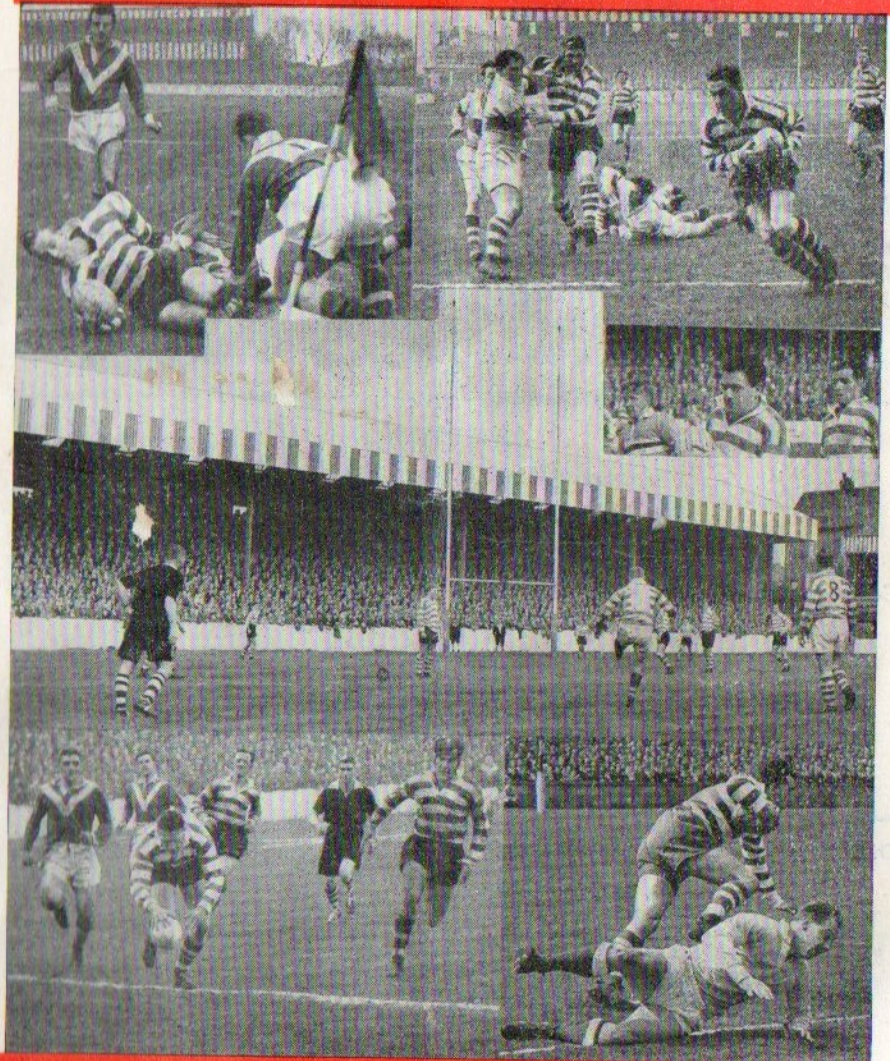
Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
Aug. 19	HALIFAX	Home	
21	BARROW	Away	
26	BLACKPOOL B.	Away	.....
28	YORK	Home	.....
Sept. 2	BARROW (Lancs. Cup)	Away	.....
4	OLDHAM/ROCHDALE 13		
	v. NEW ZEALAND	Home	.....
9	HALIFAX	Away	.....
16	ROCHDALE H.	Home	.....
23	HUNSLET	Away	.....
30	BARROW	Home	.....
Oct. 7	WORKINGTON T.	Home	.....
14	YORK	Away	.....
21	WARRINGTON	Home	.....
Nov. 4	WHITEHAVEN	Away	.....
11	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	.....
18	HULL	Home	.....
25	SALFORD	Away	.....
Dec. 2	WHITEHAVEN	Home	.....
9	WORKINGTON T.	Away	.....
16	ST. HELENS	Away	.....
23	SALFORD	Home	.....

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
25	SWINTON	Home	.....
26	WIDNES	Home	.....
Jan. 1			
6	WARRINGTON	Away	.....
13	WIGAN	Away	.....
20	WIGAN	Home	.....
27	ROCHDALE H.	Away	.....
Feb. 3	LIVERPOOL CITY	Away	.....
10			
17	LEIGH	Home	.....
24	WIDNES	Away	.....
Mar. 3			
10	LEIGH	Away	.....
17	ST. HELENS	Home	.....
24	HULL	Away	.....
31	LIVERPOOL CITY	Home	.....
Apr. 7	HUNSLET	Home	
14			
20	SWINTON	Away	
21	BLACKPOOL B.	Home	
23	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	

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CLUB CHAT

Today is the un-official opening of season 1961-62 at Watersheddings and in the first place we should like to issue a word of warning to a certain element of spectators known as referee baiters. People who can see nothing right that the referee does, but are so prone to give vent to their feelings, if in their opinion he makes a mistake. Granted everyone makes mistakes, but you should realise that even the best of referees make mistakes. The job of referee is a thankless one and to achieve a Grade 1 referee, i.e. first team referee, they must pass a very severe test both in theory and in practice.

An un-justified incident happened after our Blackpool match on 11th April last, and the Management Committee of the N.R.F.L., are very perturbed at the increasing number of incidents of this kind. They feel that warning notices must be put up in the club programmes so that it can be brought home to spectators the possible consequences of their actions. This is the warning issued by the N.R.F.L.

WARNING

It may not be generally known that a club is held responsible for the action of its spectators. Throwing missiles at referees or touch judges or other acts of hooliganism can involve the club in serious consequences and **may even result in a club being suspended.** Supporters of this club are asked to co-operate.

We desire it to be made known that referees and touch judges at our matches must feel assured that every possible precaution is being taken to protect them from insult or assault.

TODAY'S MATCH

Once again we come to the Annual Charity match against our old friends from Rochdale Hornets, and we give them a welcome.

The net proceeds of this match are distributed as follows:-

A minimum of 60% of the net proceeds from collection and gate receipts after deduction of match expenses, must be made available for local junior, intermediate and schoolboy football, other donations to be made to recognised charitable institutions.

For today's match each player receives a fee of £5.

Rochdale Hornets take 50% of the net gate receipts, to be donated as stated above.

All accounts of receipts and expenditure must be rendered to the Rugby League before the second Saturday in September for their audit.

The match at Rochdale last year realised a gate of £894-1-5, our share being £332-17-2, for charity distribution.

We hope to top this gate today by at least 50%.

MEMBERS CARDS

Members cards are now on sale at various agents in the town and in the Pavilion.

Prices are as follows:-

Enclosure Seat—£4-0-0

"E" Stand seats (Popular side)—£3-10-0

Pavilion Side (standing)—£2-10-0

Side Stand—£2-7-6

Paddock (popular side)—£2-2-6

Ground—£1-15-0

Juveniles—10/-

Old Age Pensioners—10/-

Enclosure seats and "E" Stand seats can only be obtained from the Secretary's Office.

The oldest Old Age Pensioner to apply for a privilege ticket so far is 92 years of age, and the youngest juvenile for privilege ticket, 5 weeks old. There is an old saying—from the cradle to the grave—and here we have it at Watersheddings.

ODDMENT

One of our players—Bill Payne—who along with his wife has an unusual hobby. The hobby is taking orphaned children from an orphanage for two or three weeks, into their home, just to give them a little home life. At present Bill has three children whose mother is in a sanatorium.

The Payne's have a little girl of their own. Bill lives at Chilwall, a suburb of Liverpool, and is a maintenance engineer at Prescott.

What a better life it would be for young lives if there were more like Bill and his wife, knocking about.

THE CLOSE SEASON

The close season has been one of the quietest known, no transfers of any importance and very few importations from Rugby Union or Overseas. However, the next few weeks will no doubt see some signings as a result of trial matches held.

As to ourselves, we have been scouting for new material but so far without success, but there is hope as a result of our trial game of Saturday last, as we are endeavouring to fix up with a wing three-quarter and a forward. It is up to the two players concerned. Any player coming from Rugby Union, desires, and rightly so, to endow himself to the future, regarding a situation which will be remunerative after he has finished his football career. The fixing of a position for a player who desires an occupation from the one he is leaving takes time, but we as a club are fortunate in having friends and advisors who are always willing to help us in this respect.

Up to date we have made one signing in Kenneth Johnson a forward from Toc H Rugby Club, Manchester. This boy has played in pre-season trial matches, and we have high hopes that he will develop on the right lines. He is a coloured boy and is sure to become a favourite with the crowd.

SEVEN-A-SIDE GAMES

We sent a team to play in the Wigan Clubs seven-a-side games on Monday last and as in the previous year we were beaten by Wigan in the final. These games are a big attraction at Wigan and resulted in a gate of nearly £1,400.

Our team consisted of Davies, Pitchford, Noon, Payne, Kellett, McIntyre and Parker D. Reserve was Holden.

In the first round we beat Huddersfield by 11pts to 6pts. meeting Halifax in the semi-final we won by 12pts. to 5pts., but retired beaten in the final by Wigan by 19pts. to 13pts.

MEMBERS' NOTICE

Will members please note that our Pavilion is closed each Wednesday in accordance with the Catering Act, issued by the Wages Councils Act of 1959....

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OLDHAM
Red and White

- 53
- 1.—NOON, J. 16/5/59
 - 2.—PATTERSON, W.
 - 3.—HOLDEN, K.
 - 4.—DAVIES, A.
 - 5.—A. N. OTHER 9/5/59
 - 6.—KELLETT, A.
 - 7.—PITCHFORD, F., Capt.
 - 8.—PAYNE, W.
 - 9.—McINTYRE, L. 11/5/59
 - 10.—A. N. OTHER Lloyd
 - 11.—WINSLADE, C.
 - 12.—DUFFY, R. 14/5/59
 - 13.—PARKER, D.

Referee:

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Warrington

THE

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FINAL

FOR
ALL
LOCAL
SPORT

ROCHDALE
(Red, White and Blue)

- 13
- 1.—ATHERTON, W. 26
 - 2.—UNSWORTH, T. 7
 - 3.—WALSH, A.
 - 4.—McGURRIN, B.
 - 5.—SHORT, N.
 - 6.—DICKINSON, J.
 - 7.—HILTON, R.
 - 8.—LILL, H.
 - 9.—PLATT, F.
 - 10.—KETTLETON, B.
 - 11.—ALLANDEN, W.
 - 12.—PARR, J.
 - 13.—BAXTER, W.

Touch Judges:

Mr. A. Bagnall, Rochdale (Yellow)
Mr. J. Keene, Oldham (Crimson)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

ALL SET FOR A SEASON OF PROGRESS

Though the "knockers" would have it that Rugby League football was not what it was, and perhaps may never likely be, the hard facts show that the game enjoyed a certain amount of progress last season.. We have only to point to the capacity crowd at Wembley to support this claim. (writes CYRIL BRIGGS).

That game, as a spectacle, fairly sizzled the T.V. tubes and even people who have said so many times that they would not touch the R.L. game with a barge pole, were glued to their seats around their television sets on that sunny Saturday last May.

The Saints and Wigan teams did not let the game down by any means, in fact the game will go down in the record books as a fine example of how the games can and should be played.

It may be argued that the Championship final at Odsal was something of a disappointment, but in any case, there were a number of fine tries scored that afternoon by Leeds who also made some new facts for the record book. Ground records were established at several grounds showing quite well that the game in general is not by any means losing its attention at certain venues.

What of the new season? Soon the New Zealand Tourists will be here and while they are not expected to cause many shocks, their very presence will bring about more interest to R.L. followers in general. If the New Zealanders are not as expert as the Australians, it cannot be denied that they are a very sporty crowd, and the fans can expect some whole hearted displays from them.

TWO DIVISIONS

Next comes the race for a position in the top-half of the league. it is to be hoped that the R.L., who are often trying changes and switches, will give the two divisions scheme a thorough try out. In the past, fine ideas have been nipped in the bud simply because they were not given adequate time to blossom forth.

Season 1962-63 sees the two divisions in operation, and therefore the teams gaining the most points will have an advantage of a stronger fixture list, the following season.

Therefore, every team and every player will be on his toes from next Saturday, and I shouldn't be at all surprised if we see more drawn games than for many seasons. Points averages are certain to play an important part in the decision of who should figure in the top half of the table and who shouldn't. We are bound to see the under dogs fighting for points even away from home, as a try and a goal could mean the difference of figuring in the top or bottom half of the table in 1962-3.

I have often heard moans from R.L. followers of clubs like Oldham. The amateur critics constantly yearn for this or that position to be strengthened. But good players are hard to come by these days. Rugby Union men don't always fit in; stars with other teams are not exactly stars when they move elsewhere; environment, bad luck regarding injuries and health also upset the man for whom a huge transfer fee has been paid.

Let us have a look at the Wigan position. Nobody can accuse the Wigan Board for lack of enterprise. They go for the best, but their South African Tour trip, which must have cost the club more than you or I get in our monthly pay packets, has yielded nothing—yet.

Leigh, on the other hand, are at this very moment expecting to sign their sixth South African. He will be a player who assisted the Springbok R.U. team on the last trip to this country. And as I have pointed, out, some stars don't make the grade.

For instance, Tom Moodie, the second Springbok to arrive at Hilton Park, is now back home again, having failed to measure up to the requirements of our game.

DID NOT TAKE THE RISK

St. Helens club were the luckiest in the world to land Tom Van Vollenhoven. Warrington were first in the field; Wigan not a very close second and St. Helens a very poor third. But Warrington with all the facts and figures at their command could not risk another R.U. signing, having experienced bad luck with Robin Thompson, the ex British Lions R.U. captain, who was dogged by injuries, and Martin Regan, the England stand-off half, who could not gain a regular place in the first team.

Wigan's entry into the South African field was not exactly successful. While Fred Griffiths was good enough, Tommy Gentles did not really measure up to what was required to fill the scrum-half berth at Central Park, at least with anything like the success of Tommy Bradshaw or Johnny Alty.

R.L. players may be tough on the field of play, are not always happy when they are away from their home town. The local scenes are not always the same as their home towns, and this proves to be a big pull especially where the Welshmen are usually concerned. It's hard enough to get them back from home at the start of the season! I pity the poor selector. He is a man who will never satisfy the average fan, simply because the average fan is a man with firm convictions who you cannot shake even if he was hit by a falling cotton mill.

The only way out of the dearth of present day stars is to keep hammering at the local talent angle. The Oldham Club have paid a tidy penny in cash and kind (such as loaning Watersheddings for special junior games), to the amateur movement. Promising talent from third, fourth and fifth teams should be encouraged more than ever, for the trek North from South Wales gets thinner and thinner each year.

There are many angles to this amateur movement which need investigating, in fact I'm rather surprised that some clubs have not gone out of their way to adopt an area where R.L. is hardly played and introduce a new league, even if it was a sevens league. It may be one way out of the present difficulty.

You, Mr. Average Supporter may have your own pet theory of how to create more talent, but if you know about a promising local lad, even if he is a schoolboy, just spend threepence on a postage stamp and mail the facts to Mr. Risman.

He may have the boy listed. He may not. So you may be the real cause of starting a lad on his way to international fame.

What pleasure you would get from your early act if the lad appeared in the Oldham team at Wembley! Oldham's time for a Wembley trip **must** come some time or another. Teams without the same class as the Watersheddings players have managed to get to the final. Luck plays a big part in the various rounds, let us hope that Oldham have a big slice of fortune this season. They have had too many bad breaks in the past. If you don't believe me, just examine that rugby brain of yours. You will be astounded about the pieces of misfortune which have gone the way of the wearers of the red and white jersey.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Final Table 1960-61

		P	W	L	D	For	Against	Pts.
Swinton	...	28	23	4	1	552	182	47
St. Helens	...	28	23	5	—	659	215	46
Warrington	...	28	22	5	1	570	191	45
Leigh	...	28	21	7	—	426	217	42
Wigan	...	28	20	8	—	502	248	40
Oldham	...	28	18	10	—	518	288	36
Workington	...	28	15	13	—	369	377	30
Halifax	...	28	13	14	1	382	369	27
Whitehaven	...	28	11	15	2	294	394	24
Widnes	...	28	10	18	—	302	428	20
Blackpool B.	...	28	8	18	2	248	393	18
Salford	...	28	7	19	2	237	569	16
Barrow	...	28	6	20	2	199	484	14
Rochdale H.	...	28	6	22	—	200	618	12
Liverpool City	...	28	1	26	1	196	681	3

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