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**RUGBY FOOTBALL
LEAGUE**

Northern League
Championship Match

**OLDHAM
v.
ROCHDALE H.**

**SATURDAY,
16th SEPTEMBER,
1967**

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

6^d

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OUR BAD LUCK CONTINUES

Never mind what the Lancashire selectors say, Kevin Taylor is the best hooker in Lancashire.

He proved this last Saturday week in our game against Whitehaven. His three first-half tries were a treat to watch, his tackling was sound and effective, and he won the scrums as well. What's more, Kevin was only there for 40 minutes. Just after the interval he sustained a nasty looking dislocation of the elbow and was taken to hospital for X-rays.

We are pleased to report that he is making steady progress, but it will be another week or two before we will see him in action again.

Our points spree against Whitehaven was something of a change following our recent disappointments, and more disappointments have followed this week with three more defeats.

Blackpool beat us narrowly at Borough Park last Monday week and on Thursday in the same week we fell in the second round of the Lancashire Cup to Swinton at Station Road. Several Swinton supporters stated they had never even heard of some of the players we had in our side, but from now on I don't suppose they will forget them. Swinton were practising their chants of 'Easy, Easy' before the game but when the game got under way the chanting ceased.

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Yes, it was a tremendous show by the team, particularly the forwards, who tackled and tackled their hearts out. With a little luck we could have won this match and that would have caused an upset, but once again luck was not on our side and we returned to Oldham a defeated but happy team.

We lost at Warrington rather heavily and perhaps we were a little unkind to expect 'another Swinton' from the lads. They held the swift-moving Warrington side till half-time but afterwards there was only one team in it, and Thursday's tedious cup-tie was certainly telling on them.

What of today's match. It should prove interesting, as all our local 'derbys' with the Hornets seem to do.

WELCOME TO ROCHDALE

We extend a hearty welcome to players, officials and supporters of Rochdale Hornets.

Rochdale, like ourselves, are having a poor spell of form at the moment and have been looking for pack replacements.

Api Toga recently returned to Fiji Islands, Stan Owen has been suspended, Kevin Ashcroft has joined Leigh, Johnny Noon has departed company, and last season Ken Parr left the Athletic Grounds for Warrington.

These certainly need some replacing and the Hornets' Board are hoping to have been successful in their efforts to sign Salford forwards Arthur Hughes and Joe Argent in time for this afternoon's game.

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Last Saturday, Rochdale hit perhaps their worst form for seasons when they were defeated 20 points to nine by Blackpool Borough. They have, however, had their share of ill-luck and former Oldham junior David Taylor has had a cartilage operation.

So both sides are hit by injuries for this afternoon's encounter. At the time of writing our injury position is not known and it is hoped that one or two key players will be ready to return.

PETER SMETHURST

As you all know, this popular figure left Watersheddings last Friday evening, donned a Salford jersey and he played for his new club just one hour after he had signed the blue form.

Why was he allowed to go? That is the question asked by numerous supporters who enjoyed Peter's approach to the game of Rugby football. The answer is simple. Peter was selected to play at Blackpool against the Borough on Monday, September 4th, and just 45 minutes before the coach was due to leave for the seaside, Peter stated on the telephone that he had no intention of playing for Oldham again. There wasn't time to argue, as a replacement had to be found.

The team went to Blackpool and lost. They felt he had let them down; consequently, the Committee had no alternative but to agree to Peter's request for a transfer. They didn't want him to go but he didn't give the Committee any option in view of what he had said.

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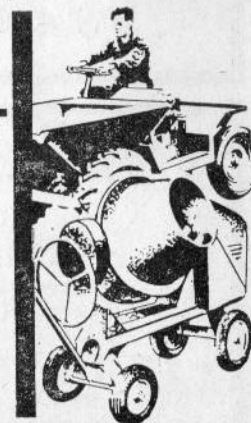
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 - 11—IRVING, R.
 - 12—HILL, J.
 - 13—FLETCHER, G.
- Substitutes—
- 14—DOLLY, T.
 - 15—MADERS, D.

Referee :
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 - 7—TIGHE, K.
 - 8—KETTLETON, B.
 - 9—ENTWISTLE, I.
 - 10—PAYNE, K.
 - 11—GODDARD, M.
 - 12—EARL, G.
 - 13—BAXTER, M.
- Substitutes—
- 14—WILLIAMS, G.
 - 15—HOPE, F.

Touch Judges :
R. WELSBY
L. HUNT

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THE MACKESON CONTEST, 1967/68

Contest Dates Announced

After the usual early season fixture flurry, three clubs have emerged as contenders for the first set of Mackeson prizes.

Wakefield's incredible 78 point tally over lowly Batley may prove to have been enough to ensure yet further additions to the Trinity men's already bulging tankard collection. But it looks as if Warrington may have sights set on their first-ever Mackeson prizes and Workington are also applying pressure in third place.

The first period of the 1967/68 contest ends with matches played on Saturday, September 23rd. Full details :

Period 1 August 12th—September 23rd
Period 2 September 25th—November 18th
Period 3 November 20th—January 13th
Period 4 January 15th—March 9th.
Period 5 March 11th—April 29th.

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Period 1 — August 12th-September 23rd

Leading positions after matches played on September 9th

	Matches Played	Points Scored	Average	Points Against
1. Wakefield Trinity	6	168	28.00	77
2. Warrington	7	194	27.71	47
3. Workington Town	7	183	26.14	86
4. Bradford Northern	6	131	21.83	57
5. Hull Kingston Rovers	7	145	20.71	78
6. Wigan	6	114	19.00	71
7. Halifax	6	112	18.67	82
8. Hull	6	111	18.50	73
9. Leeds	7	128	18.29	90
10. Hunslet	6	107	17.83	82
11. Leigh	6	101	16.83	76
12. Barrow	6	97	16.17	125
13. St. Helens	6	93	15.50	43
14. Oldham	8	118	14.75	153
15. Doncaster	6	88	14.67	127
16. Blackpool Borough	7	102	14.57	132

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION

OLDHAM 'A' v WHITEHAVEN 'A'

SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1967

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FIXTURES 1967-8

1967					1968				
Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Date	Opponents	Venue	Result		
Aug. 15 (Tu)	Liverpool City	Home L	12-13	Jan. 1 (M)	Workington T.	Away			
" 19 (S)	Leigh (Lancs Cup - 1)	Home W	17-11	" 6 (S)	Batley	Away			
" 23 (W)	Bradford Northern	Away L	10-28	" 13 (S)	Wigan	Away			
" 26 (S)	Hull	Away L	20-29	" 20 (S)	St. Helens	Home			
Sept. 2 (S)	Whitehaven	Home		" 27 (S)	Barrow	Away			
" 4 (M)	Blackpool Borough	Away		Feb. 3 (S)	(1)				
" 7 (Th)	Swinton (Lancs C - 2)	Away		" 10 (S)	Batley	Home			
" 9 (S)	Warrington	Away L	2-28	" 17 (S)	Widnes	Home			
" 16 (S)	Rochdale H.	Home		" 24 (S)	(2)				
" 23 (S)	Whitehaven	Away		Mar. 1 (F)	Rochdale H.	Away			
" 30 (S)	Wigan	Home		" 9 (S)	Workington T.	Home			
Oct. 3 (Tu)	Hull K.R.	Home		" 23 (S)	Leigh	Home			
" 14 (S)	Bradford N.	Home		Apl. 12 (F)	Swinton	Home			
" 20 (F)	Salford	Away		" 15 (M)	Hull K.R.	Away			
" 28 (S)	Blackpool Boro'	Home							
Nov. 4 (S)	Leigh	Away							
" 7 (Tu)	Salford	Home							
" 17 (F)	Widnes	Away							
" 25 (S)	Hull	Home							
Dec. 2 (S)	Liverpool C.	Away							
" 8 (F)	Warrington	Home							
" 16 (S)	St. Helens	Away							
" 26 (Tu)	Swinton	Away							
" 30 (S)	Barrow	Home							



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