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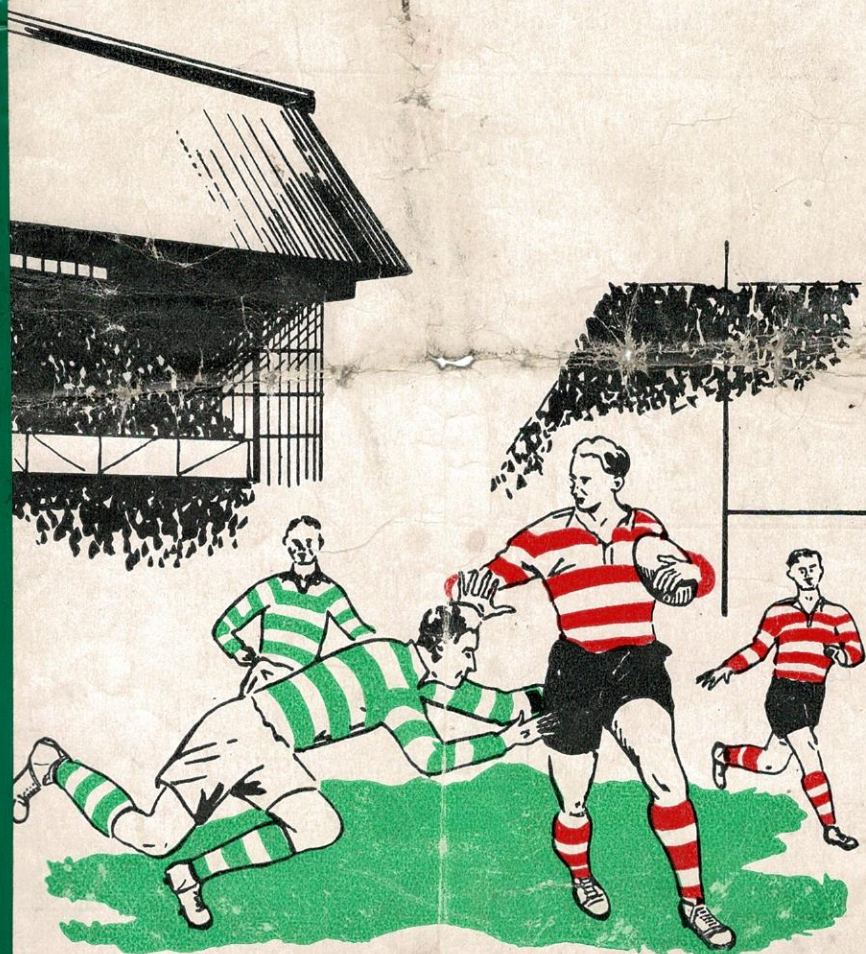
### CROFTBANK MILL - - OLDHAM

## Fixtures for the Season

1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 13	Rochdale H. (Clarity)	Away	3-0	26	Swinton (Mon.)	Home	2-30
20	Broughton R.	Away	3-0	27	Blackpool (Tues.)	Away	2-30
27	Blackpool (Lancs. Cup)	Away	3-0	31	Whitehaven	Home	2-30
30	Rochdale H. (Tues.)	Away	7-0	Jan. 2	Workington (Mon.)	Away	2-30
Sept. 3	Hunslet	Home	3-0	7	Whitehaven	Away	2-30
10	Leeds	Away	3-0	14	Workington	Home	2-30
17	Warrington	Home	3-0	21	Widnes	Away	2-30
24	York	Away	3-0	28	Rochdale H.	Home	3-0
Oct. 1	Featherstone	Home	3-0	Feb. 4	Leigh	Home	3-0
8	Hunslet	Away	3-0	11	1st Round C.C.		3-0
15	Barrow	Home	3-0	18	Wigan	Home	3-0
22	Warrington	Away	3-0	25	Featherstone	Away	3-0
29	New Zealand	Home	3-0	Mar. 3	2nd Round C.C.		3-0
Nov. 5	Leigh	Away	3-0	10	York	Home	3-0
12	Liverpool	Home	3-0	17	Blackpool	Home	3-0
19	Wigan	Away	2-30	24	3rd Round C.C.		3-0
26	Widnes	Home	2-30	30	Swinton (G.F.)	Away	3-0
Dec. 3	Liverpool	Away	2-30	31	Leeds (E.S.)	Home	3-0
10	Salford	Away	2-30	Apr. 2	Barrow (E.M.)	Away	3-0
17	Salford	Home	2-30	7	Broughton R.	Home	3-0
24	St. Helens	Away	2-30	14	St. Helens	Home	3-0

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— IN THE OLDHAM EDITION OF THE —

**MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE**

No. 15—Saturday, February 11th, 1956

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

## OLDHAM v. DEWSBURY

### WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The day has now arrived when all clubs are optimistic in blazing the trail of the Rugby League Challenge Cup for Wembley. To-day is one that will bring that little extra incentive into the game, being a cup-tie—that little extra which brings out the enthusiasm that appears to be lacking in League games.

However, we are optimistic of making a show in this years competition but once again it depends on what our opponents have to say about this, and the luck of the draw in future rounds.

It is not always the top of the League teams that appear at Wembley, but still the odds are slightly in their favour, many teams low down in the League Table have been fortunate enough to strike the form that means so much in a cup-tie. That is the great thing about a knock-out competition, the unexpected usually happens.

The tide of affairs has changed from the despondency of successive defeats, to one of jubilation in recording a solid victory against the Hornets from Rochdale on Saturday, January 28th, 1956.

The game was one of enjoyment and we must compliment the Rochdale team on the splendid fighting spirit they showed after being twenty-one points behind, by getting on top of our team for a good period in the second half. The spirit in which the game was played does really make the game worth while, and we can say that our visiting supporters and our own, were well satisfied with the game that was put over. Our old formation of the half-back partnership of Stirrup and Daley appears to have worked very well, not that we are discounting the ability of that great hearted little player, Frank Pitchford, who has temporarily lost his form, but which no doubt will come back again. In fact the team played as if inspired, after securing an early lead by a great goal landed by Ganley, and visions of the form which we know the team is capable of was produced.

One cannot let these notes pass without mentioning one player, and we do not want to be unfair to the rest of the team, the player is John Etty, who appears to have found his form and correct position on the wing. Since being taken off the transfer list, at his own request, Etty has revealed form that was lacking since he came from Batley to us, and it is obvious that some clubs did miss a real bargain when this player was on offer.

However, we hope our team will carry on the good work and all play their part as a team.

### OUR VISITORS

To-day we welcome as visitors to Watersheddings the Dewsbury Club. Their visits to us have been infrequent, and we are always pleased to entertain Yorkshire teams who we have not seen in action for a long period.

Although the Dewsbury team are down in the League Table, having played 26 matches, won 8 and lost 18, with points scored 248 and points against 483, we can expect a dour struggle from opponents in this cup-tie match. Our team will have to show that form which we know they are capable of, then we shall proceed on our march to Wembley.

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### OLDHAM

(Red and White)

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NOON, J.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—LITTLE, S. D.
- 11—ROGERS, J.
- 12—McKEOWN, D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

### DEWSBURY

(Amber and Black)

- 1—COX
- 2—POLLARD
- 3—CLARK
- 4—TODD
- 5—WESTBURY
- 6—POPPLEWELL
- 7—LEA
- 8—DANTER
- 9—WARING, D. M.
- 10—DOLAN
- 11—BURNELL
- 12—WITHINGTON
- 13—CALLIGHAN, E.

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Referee: Mr. E. Clay, Leeds

Touch Judges:

Mr. P. Armstrong, Egremont (Red)

Mr. J. Woodward, St. Helens (Blue)

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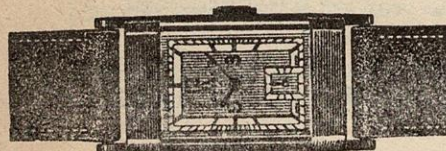
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## WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE GAME

Correspondence has been received on our comments in the last issue of the programme upon "What is wrong with the game" and the majority of the replies appear to be the "play the ball" rule being a blot on our game.

Suggestions vary, some state that to get back to the loose scrum after a tackle; pull the the forwards in and you have seven backs against seven, then we should see some of the back movements we saw years ago.

What annoys the supporters with the present "play the ball" rule is the amount of infringements for offside and the defensive barrier that is put up by opponents not in possession of the ball. This minimises open play too.

No matter what idea of the "play the ball" rule is put into operation, players will persist in standing offside and that cannot be the fault of the rule. It is the individual player, by infringements of the rules, that holds up the game and which must be a source of annoyance to the onlooker.

## TWO DIVISIONS

We understand that the Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League are going to put forward a scheme for two divisions. Various schemes have been put forward by individual legislators, but they have fallen on stoney ground by the majority of the clubs in the League. However, we understand that the best of these various schemes can be moulded into a workable and agreeable scheme for all concerned.

Something will have to be done. The game is not dead or dying, and to talk in such strains is definitely detrimental to the game itself. It is up to the clubs to try whatever scheme is put forward—for the sake of the game. The management of each club must be left to the efficiency of such management, some clubs are managed better than others, both from a playing point, and financially. It is up to each club to give value for money, insisting on the playing of the game as it should be played. A levelling up of clubs should be put into operation, not a levelling down as it at present appears.

## COACHING JUNIORS

Each year the R.L. open a Coaching Scheme for players under 21 years of age, at Bisham Abbey, situated near Maidenhead. The scheme is for one week, and commences on June 23rd.

It has been our privilege, with the exception of last year, to have some of our young players accepted. This year we have been allocated four vacancies.

Many of our players in the past have been coached at Bisham Abbey—Davies, Pitchford, Noon, and O'Grady having derived considerable knowledge of the game before arriving in our first team.

## SATURDAY NEXT AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

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