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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—	Rochdale H.	Away
	(Charity Match)	
17—	Halifax	Home 3-0
22—	Barrow (Thurs.)	Away
24—	Wakefield	Away
26—	St. Helens (Mon.)	Home 7-0
31—	Barrow (L.C.)	Home 3-0
Sept. 2—	Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away
7—	Halifax	Away
14—	Warrington	Home 3-0
21—	Leigh	Home 3-0
28—	Workington	Away
Oct. 5—	Hunslet	Home 3-0
12—	Rochdale	Away
19—	Hull	Home 3-0
26—	Blackpool	Away
Nov. 2—	Wakefield	Home 3-0
9—	Salford	Away
16—	Liverpool	Home 2-30
23—	Leigh	Away
30—	Salford	Home 2-30

Date	Opponents	Venue
Dec. 7—		
14—	Liverpool	Away
21—	Whitehaven	Home 2-30
25—	Swinton (Wed.)	Home 2-30
26—	Hull (Thurs.)	Away
28—	Warrington	Away
Jan. 4—	Leeds	Home 2-30
11—	Barrow	Home 2-30
18—	Widnes	Away
25—	Workington	Home 3-0
Feb. 1—	Wigan	Away
8—	R.L. Cup	
15—	St. Helens	Away
22—	R.L. Cup	
Mar. 1—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
8—	Widnes	Home 3-0
15—	Whitehaven	Away
22—	Rochdale	Home 3-0
29—	R.L. Cup semi-final	
Apl. 4—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
5—	Wigan	Home 3-0
7—	Huddersfield (E.M.)	Home 7-0
12—	Hunslet	Away
19—	Leeds	Away

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No. 2—Monday, 26th August, 1957

Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Although this programme is written before the Barrow and Wakefield matches, we must compliment our players on their splendid opening victory against such worthy opponents as Halifax. It was indeed a great opening victory in spite of having the bad knocks that were going around, and especially in losing Sid Little for a period of the game, and being unable to take his place in the pack when he returned to the field of play. Another pleasing feature was the attendance of 14,600 spectators in spite of the counter attractions and the holidays in the adjacent towns and villages. There is no doubt that the overlapping of the cricket and football season has its marked effect on both sports. But there it is, and we must take the good fortune that comes our way.

We must also compliment Halifax on their good display of football and for the manner they kept the game open.

Today, we welcome St. Helens to Watersheddings, and we may state, one of the most attractive teams in the Rugby League, and although last season we had the measure of them in defeating these worthy opponents three times, including the final of the Lancs. Cup. Tonight's match is a battle of the giants, and we must expect some good play and also some robust play, but let us all be fair. We are sure of a rousing match, and our boys will have to be in top form to overcome our excellent opponents.

GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Much time and money has been spent in erecting more gentlemen's toilets around our ground, and the ladies' toilets have had fresh water systems adopted. Much remains to be done, but this will take time, but the comfort of the attending spectators must be looked after. This is a necessity which the committee are well aware of. In all probability, the tender for the new cover over the open end of our ground (Watersheddings Street end) will be completed before the 1st January, 1958, so that an immediate start can be made when the 1957-58 season ends. This project is a large one, with a limited amount of time to erect same, but this is possible and the work must go ahead. The cost of this covered stand will be in the region of £10,000.

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News Chronicle
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THE GREAT FIXTURE PROBLEM

by JACK STEEL, "Warrington Guardian Series"

"I wonder what Fallowfield is thinking about?". How many times have you heard that comment? You may not have heard the alleged complaint at Watersheddings as much as fans elsewhere, although Oldham followers like others who support Rugby League clubs, are, I believe, as touchy as the rest and ready to blow off their tops. Touchy? It is the same with all supporters, and I suppose it is their privilege. They pay, and therefore call the tune — and what a tune it is at times. It is "played" more than the famous disc jockeys "murder" a popular tune.

But back to Fallowfield, or to give him his correct and proper title, Mr. William Fallowfield, M.A., Secretary of the Rugby League.

Handsome "Big Bill" often feels his ears burning, but if he could only hear what some fans say about him, he would blush from his very toes to his hair. And he's more than six feet tall!

But the thing about it all is that Bill does not deserve this condemnation, yet there is little he can do about it. Some of the criticism is so unfair that you might as well blame the head of a foreign state for certain things which you think ought to have been carried out to your satisfaction.

Critic Criticised

I heard some years ago at a club's annual meeting (not Oldham's) that Mr. Fallowfield ought to explain why such and such a match had been fixed up. "Didn't he know," said the critic, "that this was the umpteenth time that the home club's biggest match of the season had clashed with a club in a nearby town?"

Of course Mr. Fallowfield knew. It was the critic who didn't really know the full circumstances, otherwise he would not have made the remark.

The annual fixture list is Bill's biggest headache, and it bristles with so many complexities that he can be excused from taking an overdose of aspirin to cool his weary head. First of all he has to await the publication of the Soccer fixtures. That is the first essential.

And don't forget that Soccer now starts after Rugby League (I will refer to this point later in this article). But there is a hustle to get the fixtures in the hands of the public. Before this is done, the club Secretaries have had a say in the matter.

They have consulted some of their counterparts and because of local conditions, have mutually agreed to certain alterations.

But when you have some printed matter before your eyes as a guide, isn't it easy to make suggestions and alterations? Now Mr. Fallowfield has to remember many points — points which some folk on the stand and terrace (who do the grumbling) have never thought about. For instance, in Hull there are three major teams. There are Hull, Hull Kingston Rovers and Hull City.

Soccer Attractions

It simply wouldn't do if the Rovers home games clashed every time with the Soccer club. And neither would it be fair on the Boulevarders if they were always having to put up with a counter attraction at Boothferry Park. Oldham Athletic matches have to be taken into account when putting the Watersheddings fixtures on paper.

The same sort of thing happens at Rochdale. At Leeds there is the problem of Leeds, Bramley and Hunslet. And they don't always want to clash with Leeds United. Huddersfield have the Town in opposition; Doncaster have the Rovers, and there are other parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland where Soccer opposition has to be taken into account.

So don't worry too much about date clashing. There is a general "shoot the Secretary" in South-West Lancashire, when Wigan, Leigh, or Warrington are at home on the same day. There have been occasions when all South-West Lancashire clubs have all had home matches on the same Saturday.

On occasions, date clashing is inevitable. You cannot please everyone, and if one club has a grumble look at Salford and Swinton who are faced with the City and United fixtures, and at least two "Derby" games in a season. Struggling Liverpool City don't know what it is to have no Soccer opposition unless Everton and Liverpool are drawn away in the cup.

Even if those cup ties are at Southampton and Plymouth, "Scousers" would be there in force. So please don't blame Mr. Fallowfield. If you have some suggestions, he'll be glad to have them, but don't try and teach him something about figures — he got a degree partly for that!

Previously I stated that I would refer to the early start of the season. Yes indeed, it has been a fine move. It will not have been to the satisfaction of the cricket clubs. But didn't we cringe when the cricket clubs were excused from income tax? The lads who praised the Government for that move, didn't think about our code. Or did they help unfortunate Belle Vue Rangers when they were forced to shut up shop?

Had Mr. Peter Thorneycroft been in office at the time, we might still have seen the Rangers in existence today. And there are still some Rangers fans who would delight to restart the old club again. Perhaps we may see the day when the famous blue and white shirt is seen again — maybe at Fallowfield — What, that name again?

By starting earlier than Soccer, R.L. has done a good job. The gates may not have been as big for the opening games as we would have liked — but they were bigger in several instances than the news agencies would have us believe. Don't forget that lots of people were holidaying.

The evening newspapers — not forgetting the local "Green Final" — gave R.L. a lot of space. Those covering a wider field in Manchester, Liverpool and Wigan, also did a fine job in headlining the various games in their circulation areas.

(Continued on page 8.)

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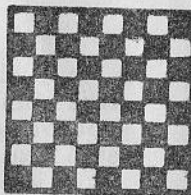
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OLDHAM

Blue and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B. (Capt.)
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—AYRES, D.
- 5—ETTY, J. W.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

ST. HELENS

Red and White

- 1—MOSES, A. G.
- 2—JOHNSON, D. H.
- 3—GREENALL, D.
- 4—FORSHAW, E.
- 5—CARLTON, F.
- 6—RHODES, A.
- 7—MURPHY, A.
- 8—PRESCOTT, A.
- 9—McKINNEY, T.
- 10—TERRY, A.
- 11—SILCOCK, N.
- 12—DELVES, W.
- 13—KARALIUS, V.

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Referee: Mr. A. HOWGATE of Dewsbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. W. Rigby, Leigh (Red)

Mr. E. Bleasdale, Warrington (Blue)

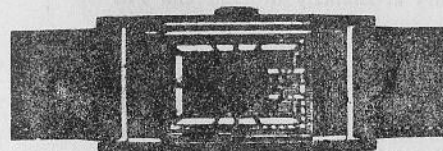
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Spotlight . . .

No. 2

JOHN WILLIAM ETTY

Born at Batley, Yorks.

Age, 29 years

Height, 6 feet

Weight, 12 st. 10 lbs.



One of the most unassuming type of player connected with our club. He has had trials with Dewsbury but could not agree on terms and signed for Batley in 1945. Played for Yorkshire County in 1948 and 1949—six appearances. He also played with the British Empire team against Wales at Llanelly in 1951 and was reserve for England in 1947.

During his service with Batley he scored a total of 97 tries, and his record there was 22 in one season. He was signed on transfer from Batley to Oldham in 1955 at a fee of £2,600. He has scored 70 tries with our club, 43 of which were scored last season—making him fourth in the try-scoring list of the league.

He is a married man with two children and is employed by the West Riding County Council as a senior clerk in the Welfare Service. He has passed Local Government and Administrative Examinations.

His younger brother is prop-forward for Batley.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

(Up to and including Friday, August 23rd, 1957)

[illegible]

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

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to and including Friday, August 23rd, 1957)

[illegible]

Continued from page 3.

Even so, the exceptional coverage by the "Manchester Evening Chronicle" and "Evening News", plus the "Liverpool Echo" and "Express" and the "Lancashire Evening Post", could not have bettered the lengthy reports from Lancashire and Yorkshire printed by the "Yorkshire Evening Post", the "Yorkshire Evening News" and the "Yorkshire Sports". As a Rugby League diehard, it really astounded me. Now if all newspapers followed this example . . . I'm now on a controversial note and even my space will not allow me to continue.

INJURED PLAYERS

At the commencement of each season there are always some clubs that start with a number of injured players, some injured from last seasons campaign and some injured in practice games. Although we have not a clean bill of health, we are fortunate in comparison to some clubs.

Alan Davies, our Test centre, is making a slow recovery after a dislocated hip received in Australia. He is, however, doing light training under specialist's orders. This accident will have its time to recover, but we hope to have his services in the near future.

Ian Carruthers, a damaged thumb, received on Easter Monday last, will probably be another five or six weeks before he can take his place in the teams.

Charlie Winslade, we expect to be back in harness in a match before this evening's match.

Sid Little, with a cut head, a wound that required four stitches, has made an excellent recovery.

"A" TEAM FOOTBALL

Much has been said and written regarding "A" team football, especially the clubs in Lancashire, and an effort was made by the N.R.F.L. Management Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Lancashire County Rugby League to bring the Lancashire County Rugby League Combination under the control of the Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League. At the annual meeting this proposal was turned down unanimously by Lancashire County, so we are just where we started. Our club has always been of the opinion that some control should be held by Headquarters, especially regarding the compilation of Combination fixtures. It is regretted that under the present system, all "A" teams in Lancashire are not engaged each Saturday, and one of the main reasons is that there are not enough clubs for competitive football each Saturday and it is most difficult to arrange friendly matches owing to ground clashes with first teams. However, we understand that arrangements are being made for the Lancashire County Secretary to arrange fixtures in future for "A" teams. It is obvious that the N.R.F.L. Management Committee after their efforts, and notice from several Lancashire clubs to support them by letter, but not by County vote, will let the matter now drop. It is regretted that the Rugby League Combination cannot now be brought into the game, it appears to be as far off as ever. More interest should be taken in "A" team football, which should be the supply line for first teams.

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