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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—	Rochdale H. (Charity Match)	Away	Dec. 7—		
17—	Halifax	Home 3-0	14—	Liverpool	Away
22—	Barrow (Thurs.)	Away	21—	Whitehaven	Home 2-30
24—	Wakefield	Away	25—	Swinton (Wed.)	Home 2-30
26—	St. Helens (Mon.)	Home 7-0	25—	Hull (Thurs.)	Away
31—	Barrow (L.C.)	Home 3-0	28—	Warrington	Away
Sept. 2—	Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away	Jan. 4—	Leeds	Home 2-30
7—	Halifax	Away	11—	Barrow	Home 2-30
14—	Warrington	Home 3-0	18—	Widnes	Away
21—	Leigh	Home 3-0	25—	Workington	Home 3-0
28—	Workington	Away	Feb. 1—	Wigan	Away
Oct. 5—	Hunslet	Home 3-0	8—	R.L. Cup	
12—	Rochdale	Away	15—	St. Helens	Away
19—	Hull	Home 3-0	22—	R.L. Cup	
26—	Blackpool	Away	Mar. 1—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
Nov. 2—	Wakefield	Home 3-0	8—	Widnes	Home 3-0
9—	Salford	Away	15—	Whitehaven	Away
16—	Liverpool	Home 2-30	22—	Rochdale	Home 3-0
23—	Leigh	Away	29—	R.L. Cup semi-final	
30—	Salford	Home 2-30	Apr. 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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Kick-off 5-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HUDDERSFIELD

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is the last of our semi-holiday fixtures, and we have pleasure in welcoming very worthy visitors from Huddersfield. Their visits to our enclosure are too infrequent. Even in an indifferent playing season the name of Huddersfield does appeal to our members and supporters. Great have been the games of the past between Oldham and Huddersfield and watched by capacity crowds. Although our opponents are not enjoying a successful season from a playing point of view, they are always an attractive team to watch and are a capable team to watch in action. Surprises they have created this season, winning when unexpected and losing matches when the result should have been a foregone conclusion. However, that is football, with the uncertainty of it and no doubt inconsistency. May today's game prove no exception to the stirring games of the past and at the conclusion may we all say we have had a good feast of holiday football.

FIXTURE FORMULA 1958-59

Monday, April 14th, will be a historic day for the Rugby League. This day the Rugby League Council will decide to give the two division competition a try out next season.

The reason for this meeting is that the two years trial of the present fixture formula expires at the end of this season and it is essential that this meeting should take place, as the fixtures for next season will be compiled in May. Various schemes may be put forward by clubs and it may happen that no scheme will secure a required two thirds majority necessary for incorporation in the Bye-Laws and the Management Committee will take the precautionary measure and seek authority to compile next year's fixtures in accordance with the scheme receiving the greatest number of votes in favour. The Management Committee have placed on the Agenda for consideration, two alternative schemes, the current scheme a two divisional one.

In the event of the two division scheme, this will consist of fifteen clubs each, with a promotion and relegation system (four clubs per year). Matches played between clubs of the same County divisional football shall also count towards the County League Championship. Each Club play four extra fixtures against Clubs in its own County. The County League Champions shall be determined by a top-four play-off in each County at the end of the season.

R.L. HAS ITS OWN BRAND OF HUMOUR

by CYRIL BRIGGS

(Sports Editor, "Warrington Guardian Series," and B.B.C. Reporter)

Mr. R. F. Anderton J.P., the Warrington director, tells a number of good stories about the R.L. game. Mr. Anderton was once a manager on a couple of tours to Australia and New Zealand. He brought back with him a number of films which he showed to many audiences in various parts of the country. He was invited to a well known H.M. Prison and the "guests" received his lecture with glee. Suddenly one convict shouted "Now the Wire", so another casually remarked "you see where Warrington supporters eventually arrive".

Mr. Anderton was at one Test match in Australia when a noted Great Britain scrummager was sent off during some rough play. They make a big fuss of the games in Australia, with brass bands and so forth. As the player who had come under the ban of the referee walked to the dressing room, the band struck up the tune "Goodnight, Sweetheart". And didn't the Aussies roar.

SULLIVAN GOALS

On another occasion at Sydney Cricket Ground a late-comer heard a terrific noise. When he got through the turnstile he asked whether Australia had scored. He was told this was not so. "Well, why the din"? he inquired. Back came the reply, "Sullivan has kicked a goal for Great Britain." The late-comer looked puzzled and said "Blimey, I thought he had missed it".

Tales about Alf Ellaby, the man who thrilled the crowds at St. Helens and Wigan, (and many points North, South, East and West) are many. In St. Helens they used to say "ees 'ere, nar". And along the street came Alf, sometimes blushing with the welcome he received. On one occasion Alf walked into a cafe, and suddenly three St. Helens supporters yelled, "ees 'ere nar bart baw". And that saying was repeated thousands of times when the great Alf was talked about.

RILEY TO BE SURE

Eddie Waring, the noted columnist and broadcaster once told a good one about Bill Riley, the Warrington forward. The saying went that Riley, visiting nobility in London, was seen talking to the Prime Minister. Then a member of the Irish consulate arrived and not having seen the Prime Minister before, wondered to whom Riley was talking!

Two famous Lancashire hookers were taken to one side by a certain ref—he has now retired. He lectured them about this and that infringement. Then he gave them a final warning and told them sending off would later lead to a very strong letter too headquarters. Back went the hookers into the scrum and there was no further trouble. But the referee wondered why each hooker got the ball in turn. It all seemed very uncanny. He was told the reason later in the day. The hookers had made it up not to stand the risk of being suspended, so they hooked alternatively.

THOSE PLAYER'S AGES

Of course, hookers can tell many tales. One No. 9 who shall remain nameless, once took me to task for printing his right age. You know how Rugby League players feel about their ages. They, or most of them, are like women, they knock off a year or so, until they are faced with producing their birth certificates. Well, I asked the irate player if his real age was 31. No, came back the complaint, I'm only 31 next week!

The same hooker decided he couldn't play in one match because of a badly swollen finger. So when he called at a hotel en route to the ground he was tackled about the injury by a burly licensee, who was not only an ex-player, but knew something about first aid. Out came a new razor blade and the injured finger was nicked. Then the finger was pushed into a glass of rum. The spirit killed any infection and the razor blade had brought down the swelling. The hooker was forced to keep the injured finger in the rum for half an hour. But his pals remarked that he wasn't tough enough otherwise he would have drunk the liquor.

GAS WAS THE LIMIT

One forward was noted for his dry humour, some said it was of the unconscious variety. Now it had been the practice of a certain club to present a gift to each player, on the occasion of his marriage. This player was told to choose his gift and he went to some trouble to do so. At last he decided on the object—a very nice gas stove with all the latest trimmings and tricky bits. The stove was duly delivered to his home, and then the player sent it back. He had discovered that only electricity was laid on.

The same player saw a new figure in the dressing room. "Who is that guy,?" he inquired of a colleague. "That's the new physiotherapist," was the reply. The puzzled forward thought for a moment or two and then remarked, "What position does he play?" That joke went the rounds for a long while after the player had hung up his boots. He must have thought that physiotherapist was a five eighth.

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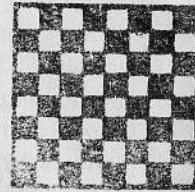
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- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J. W.
- 6—KELLETT, A. B.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—McKEOWN, D.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

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Claret and Gold

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- 2—BROWN/BREEN
- 3—KILROY
- 4—RAMSDEN
- 5—PLUNKETT/BARROW
- 6—CECIL
- 7—SMALES
- 8—SLEVIN
- 9—WOOD
- 10—KILLEN
- 11—FAIRBANK
- 12—DEVEREUX
- 14—BOWMAN/THORNLEY

Referee: Mr. G. WILSON of Dewsbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. V. Waddilove, Leigh (Crimson) Mr. J. Grayley, Rainhill (Yellow)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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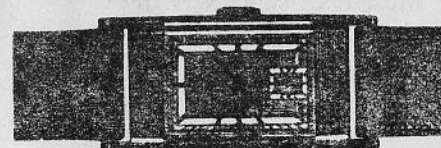
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COFFIN AT MATCH

Club mascots have enlivened the scene with their brand of humour. We have seen mascots with all kinds of gear. Then there have been dogs and even geese taken to matches with ribbons and colours attached. One set of supporters arrived at a ground complete with a coffin. Boldly printed in white letters was the name of the club which was forecast to lose, and lose they did.

The ref is usually the butt of many jokes. If he falls to the ground, drops his whistle or his false teeth in the mud, the crowd will never let him alone. And if he gets in the way of the ball when the home team are attacking, then he is called many names. Most R.L. supporters think referees are "gormless". Perhaps they are or they would not take on such a job!

PLEASE NOTE!

Next Match at Watersheddings — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SATURDAY, 12th APRIL, 1958

OLDHAM v. HUNSLET

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	35	185	5	Furner	32		9
Cracknell	34		23	Stirrup	9		
Ayres	18		5	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	27		13	Daley	22		1
Etty	36		13	Noon	19	13	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	13		
Pitchford	34		11	Carruthers	4		
Jackson	32		2	Winslade	25		3
Keith	34		9	Davies	19		14
Vines	24		1	Kellett	7		1
Little	32		10	McKeown	4		
Dufty	9			Laverty	1		
				Lomas	1		

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	19-16	14-18	14-4		10-27	29-10	22-12	12-18	9-7	25-15		24-10		5-12
Blackpool		16-11	9-15	15-8	5-34	12-17	5-14	7-17	5-13	14-18	13-18	9-12	2-13	
Leeds			13-12				25-25	23-5	20-10	12-8		18-8	17-5	3-13
Leigh				18-11	14-24	12-5	12-7	15-5	24-3	8-2	25-14			13-18
Liverpool					11-15		19-24	4-28	8-4	9-18			11-39	4-19
OLDHAM							34-12	7-21	9-17	17-15	28-12	17-15		
Rochdale				2-7	4-4	21-29	.....	10-16	5-10	9-5	16-12	15-8	10-17		5-19
Salford					16-3	5-14	15-4	.....	12-7		10-8	18-3	5-16	7-14	
St. Helens					27-8	5-4	51-0		.....	43-11	14-2	26-9			29-6
Swinton				27-16	16-9		7-11	6-7	14-16	.....		5-2	0-6	5-28	13-20
Warrington					36-6	14-15		20-16	11-13	32-6	.....		28-2	21-5	10-5
Whitehaven				4-2		11-13	40-8	16-13	7-15	26-10	28-12	.....	29-19	6-16	
Widnes					21-7	2-12	4-13	12-3	13-22	15-12		11-2	.....	11-28	10-11
Wigan				7-9	44-5	6-9	22-10		9-12		22-13	28-6	18-5	.....	35-11
Workington					22-11	13-24	33-6		15-10		10-10	17-11	42-5	8-3	.....

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

THE WATERSHEDDINGS ROLL

It is a well-known historical fact that deeds of valour tend to set up a train of poetic thoughts in those minds which are subject to such urges. To name but a one, Sir Walter Scott. He was undoubtedly at his best when on the subject of Knights of Old, and Minstrel's tales.

To quote Scott, "Old times have changed, old manners gone," and so it is that one of our regular readers sends the following epistle in the modern style :

- W** stands for Watersheddings, lofty in name,
Famed for its stars of the Rugby League game.
- 1—**A** for the Art of our Number One Ace,
His misses make news in the goal-kicking race.
- 2—**T** for the tiptoeing dance and the bound,
As Dick skips the tackle to finish and "ground."
- 3—**E** for the Easy smooth running of Ayres,
He's learning the art of the game, plus the spares.
- 4—**R** for Resource, and shrewdness displayed
By Alan, late captain, still king of his trade.
- 5—**S** is for Striving, and Jack "gallant youth,"
The crowd simply love him, and why not, forsooth?
- 6—**H** is for Half-back the out-half Frank Daley,
The stalwart who tackles both grimly and gaily.
- 7—**E** for Extractor, that's Frank at the scrum,
He puts in the ball and he pulls out a plum.
- 8—**D** stands for Dodgers, but few are the men,
Who side-step the shackle-like tackles of Ken.
- 9—**D** for the Dupes of Jack Keith, he's a clinker,
They swallow his dummy moves hook, line and sinker.
- 10—**I** stands for Infant with "10" on his back,
A doyen of raiders, the Don of the Pack.
- 11—**N** stands for Nonchalance, fresh from the maul,
Comes Winslade, serenely dispensing the ball.
- 12—**G** stands for Greatness, though Little's the name,
A second-row gentleman, born to the game.
- 13—**S** stands for Superman Turner, top-gear'd
For rival defenders, a sight to be feared.
- Here's the team of all talents, Unflurried by scars,
Roar out! Watersheddings, all hail to your stars.
- Thank you, Mr. Bell.

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