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## Fixtures for the Season

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

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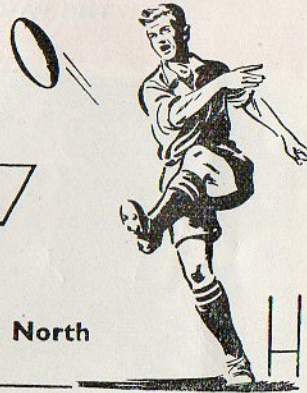
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**OLDHAM v. HUNSLET**

#### WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

It did not take us long to take our revenge over our old foes from Wigan on Saturday last. It was a victory in the wrong match if one may go back to the cup-tie. The more we think about our defeat in the Challenge Cup on March 8th, the greater the disappointment. However we must congratulate our players on the splendid victory, which proves they have not lost confidence in themselves. The crowd at this match was only a little over 15,000, well under what was expected. Taking the game as a spectacle, this fell short of what we expected also. We anticipated more of the finer points of Rugby League to be exploited but the glamour appears to have gone from the Wigan-Oldham games. Why? We cannot understand. Is the game depreciating somewhat, or are the players afraid of one another by way of playing the man instead of the ball. We hope that this never creeps into the game as a permanency. The open game will always pay and moreover attract the crowds. The majority of spectators are well satisfied in seeing a game as it should be played, thrills and try scoring, no matter which side wins, is what the crowds want.

#### OUR VISITORS

It is a pleasure to welcome to Watersheddings the Hunslet Club. This match should have been played at Hunslet according to our fixture list. The Hunslet Club should have visited us on Saturday, 5th October, but owing to an unfortunate disagreement with their players the match was called off. The Management Committee of the Rugby League decreed that we should play at Hunslet on December 7th, a match we fulfilled and what a thriller it was. We equalized in the last minutes of the match by a try near the corner flag and all eyes were on our ace goal kicker who placed the ball between the sticks to give us final victory by twenty two points to twenty.

We hope that today's match will equal the thriller we had at Park-side then all will be satisfied but victory must be on our side, as we intend to finish at the top of the League table for the second year in succession and make certain that we have a home match in the play offs.

## WILL TEAMS DROP OUT IF THERE ARE TWO DIVISIONS ?

by CYRIL BRIGGS

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

By next Monday evening we shall know what is to become of the fixture formula for next season. There are various schemes (with the usual batch of amendments) to come before the extraordinary general meeting to be held at the headquarters of the League, Chapeltown Road, Leeds.

And there will be the vexed question of two divisions. It is likely to be a keen and memorable meeting, and, of course, a two thirds majority will be required to make any one scheme operable next season. There will be many statements and counter-statements made at the meeting. I note that the Management Committee may compile (or authorise) the fixtures for 1958-9, in the event of no scheme obtaining a two thirds majority. They propose that the scheme which receives the greatest number of votes from the clubs present should be adopted. This indicates that there is likely to be a difference of opinion on many points.

### YOU LUCKY PEOPLE

You lucky people who have been able to follow a successful team for the past few years, have been advocating the introduction of two divisions for some time. You want to see good hard matches almost every week, and don't wish to come to the ground with a feeling of "it's a foregone conclusion". Mind you, teams like Liverpool City (then Stanley) and Huddersfield were not in the same position as they are today. They were rare attractions and I well remember the occasion when Liverpool Stanley almost got in the final of the Northern Championship. They were among the top clubs in those days and, what is more, they were Lancashire champions.

But this "chopping block" stuff is no good for anyone. It makes the code farsical, but what can be done under the present set-up? Strong teams in each county have to meet the poor relations and runaway results are bound to occur. The only way to success is through the two division scheme, although I would be among the first to cry aloud if the County competitions were dropped. If there were no county championships, or County Challenge Cup competitions then we could fold up the County Committees straight away.

### WORKABLE SCHEME

Two divisions can be a workable scheme, but I think the County competitions must be continued, and that the four up, four down principle should act, and a top four play off in the respective county tourna-

ments. Perhaps the teams forming the first division might display a little more generosity and present to the pool a bigger percentage of cash from their gates, although some leading clubs think that the present percentage is too high.

The big obstacle to two divisions is the old yell that it was tried before and proved unworkable. Maybe, maybe not. I have been file-searching and have discovered that in 1904 there were two divisions. The first division had eighteen clubs and the second division 17 clubs. But, alas, clubs like Holbeck, Brighouse Rangers, Pontefract, Millom, Lancaster, Birkenhead, Morecambe, South Shields, and Normanton have faded away.

### GLAMOUR NOT LOST

That statement would seem as if Rugby League has lost some of its glamour. In those days, they did not have a 103,000 attendance at a re-played cup-final. Neither did Soccer for that matter. Clubs have come to replace those who have gone. They include Featherstone Rovers, Doncaster, Castleford, Workington Town, and Whitehaven.

And it is interesting to note that Liverpool City, who are now among the lowly, are now paying their way. But it is the legalized lotteries which have helped to put a number of clubs on their feet. With two divisions I feel that there would be added incentive among the clubs who are now in the lower half of the league. After all, it's not very long ago when Halifax in the bottom half of the chart fought their way to Wembley.

### SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

As we approach the end of each season, I always contemplate on the work put in by the Supporters' Club that particular season. This season, I may say, has perhaps been the most progressive period in this history of our Supporters' Club.

This may seem strange to the members when they view the next balance sheet and they see that we have given less to the parent club this time than for many years past. But our record of service this year has surpassed anything ever in the past. It has been the policy of the Supporters' Club to try to give service to the supporters—after all, that's what we exist for—and this year it can be claimed that we have done just this.

The Canteen, having been refurbished, has much improved one of the principle amenities of the ground, and we have plans in mind to help to make the Watersheddings ground one of the best equipped in the league. in the course of a season or two. So don't be surprised at what you may see next season.

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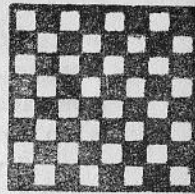
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### OLDHAM

Red and White

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

### HUNSLET

Myrtle, White and Flame

- 1—LANGTON
- 2—BYROM
- 3—WALKER
- 4—STOCKDILL
- 5—COLIN
- 6—GABBITAS
- 7—TATE
- 8—HATFIELD
- 9—SMITH
- 10—PLATT
- 11—SHAW
- 12—POOLE
- 14—GUNNEY

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Referee: Mr. H. HARRISON of Horbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. E. Lawrenson, War'ton (Crimson) Mr. K. W. Bland, Poulton (Yellow)

## OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

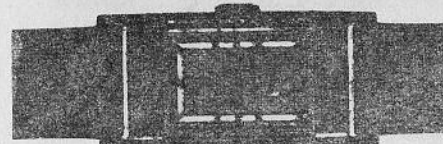
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Supporters' Club News—continued.

Members will shortly be notified of the Annual General Meeting and we would like a "full house" to this event. It is only by the points of view discussed at such meetings that the committee know what is in the mind of the average member.

The writer of these notes is not an official of the Supporters' Club so I am able to say—without blushing—that many thanks should be accorded to the President, Secretary and all other officials of this noble committee for the, literally, thousands of selfless hours they have put into the necessary work of the organisation.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that a Presentation Dance is to be held at the Central Conservative Club, Oldham, on Saturday, 3rd May. This will probably be our last dance this season, so rally round and give the boys—they are all expected to be there—a big hand for what they have treated us too this season, and let our tourists have something to remember us by when they are in the nether regions.

Tickets for this dance are now available, owing to the smallness of the hall they are strictly limited, so don't come the day before, or even the evening of the dance and expect to get in. If you want a ticket today, you can get one at the Canteen—Pavilion side—price, 4s. 0d. each.

### 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	Turner	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							.....	10-16	5-10	9-5	16-12	15-8	10-17		5-19
Salford								.....	12-7		10-8	18-3	5-16	7-14	
St. Helens									.....	43-11	14-2	26-9			29-6
Swinton										.....		5-2	0-6	5-28	13-20
Warrington											.....		28-2	21-5	10-5
Whitehaven												.....	29-19	6-16	
Widnes													.....	11-28	10-11
Wigan														.....	35-11
Workington															.....

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

### GOAL KICKING

What a wonderful asset an expert goal-kicker can be to a team is proved by our captain, Bernard Ganley. In eight competitive matches this season our opponents have scored an equal number of tries as our team, yet we have won matches comfortably by the superb goalkicking of our full back. He has kicked some marvellous and uncanny goals, long distance and from the touch line, when the odds have been against him. Including the Huddersfield match he has kicked 201 goals in competitive matches which includes the matches against France. With still a few matches to play it looks odds on him beating the record of 204 held by Jim Sullivan. Congratulations to our match winning full back.

### BRIEFS

Vincent Nestor, our up and coming young centre, has now had his medical for joining H.M. Forces. An apprentice bricklayer he has completed his time in this work and must now serve his time as a soldier. He has stated a preference for the Royal Signals, having passed A1 with his medical. He expects being called up sometime in June and we hope he will be posted to the Royal Signals at Catterick, whence we hope to have him in our teams during next season. As requested by the Army Authorities we shall notify them of a class rucker player joining their ranks and maybe some day we may read of Vincent playing for the Army at Rugby Union. Anyhow we wish him the best of luck both in soldiering and his favourite sport.

### CORRECTION — JACK KEITH

May we correct a misunderstanding which was put out over the public address system on Monday last, prior to our match against Huddersfield.

This arose owing to many people inquiring why Ian Carruthers was not playing in the match, and it was stated—in all good faith—that Jack Keith would be in the team.

In our opinion there was nothing detrimental or intended in this statement and could in no way be considered that Jack Keith had been slighted. The team is always selected on its merits.

We can say that Jack Keith has always given of his best and at all times has honoured his obligations. He has been a very good club man and an excellent servant of the team.

It is regretted that recently, Jack has been up against a certain section of unsportsmanlike spectators, and the club are very much annoyed about this. We would ask this particular section of spectators to please desist from their recent booing exhibitions, such actions are those of little children who know no better.

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