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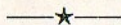
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## Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—	Rochdale Hornets	Away	25—	Swinton	Home
16—	Halifax	Home	26—	Hunslet	Away
19—	Blackpool	Away	27—	St Helens	Away
23—	Wakefield	Away	1959		
30—	Whitehaven (L.C.)	Home	Jan. 3—	Leigh	Home
Sept. 2—	Workington	Home	10—	Barrow	Away
6—	Halifax	Away	17—	St Helens	Home
13—	Wakefield	Home	24—	Salford	Home
20—	Rochdale H.	Away	31—	Leeds	Away
27—	Blackpool	Home	Feb. 7—	Warrington	Home
Oct. 4—	Warrington	Away	14—	Leigh	Away
11—	Rochdale H.	Home	21—	R.L. Cup	
18—	Liverpool	Away	28—	Whitehaven	Away
25—	Hunslet	Home	Mar. 7—	R.L. Cup	
Nov. 1—	Featherstone	Away	14—	Hull	Away
8—	Featherstone	Home	21—	Barrow	Home
15—	Salford	Away	27—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
22—	Leeds	Home	28—	E.S.	
29—	Wigan	Away	30—	Hull (E.M.)	Home
Dec. 6—	Widnes	Home	April 4—	Liverpool	Home
13—	Workington	Away	11—	Widnes	Away
20—	Wigan	Home	18—	Whitehaven	Home

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**WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

What a shock we gave our supporters at Widnes on Saturday last. This match resulted in our heaviest defeat of the season—28 points to 6—and we must admit that the score represented the day's play. Nothing appeared to go right for our players and everything seemed to run for Widnes—often the boot has been on the other foot. We were well and truly beaten and must congratulate the Widnes team on their fine display and judging by after match remarks it would appear that it was the best game they had played this season.

We saw only a glimpse of our renowned play and at times when we were in possession we were stopped only too easily. Backing up was non-existent, yet in this phase of the game, Widnes were excellent. However, our first-four in the league took a nasty knock but we haven't given up hope yet. We have an outside chance of winning our remaining four matches and any slip by other contenders would assure us of a position.

It will be touch and go for these remaining matches because, once again, the injury spectre is hovering above us. We are getting far too many injuries amongst the forwards and in this department we are not too well blessed in numbers.

**OUR VISITORS**

This evening, we welcome the Hunslet club to Watersheddings. This match was scheduled to have been played on October 25th of last year, but on that date we were creating history by winning the Lancashire Cup for the third successive time.

The Hunslet club are also in the running for a place in the top four of the league. They had no match last Saturday so this evening we can expect a very fit team taking the field against us. Our visitors have played very attractive football this season which has resulted in their position in the table and have some very capable exponents of the game in their team this evening.

Langton, the full back and goal kicker, has kicked 159 goals and scored six tries. He has the proud record of having scored in every match. Brian Gabbitas, the out half, played in France for Great Britain. Colin, the wing threequarter from South Africa, knows all about the line and the way to it when in possession.

## REVIVAL OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

by Cyril Briggs

Club officials endure many "kicks" from supporters and I will readily admit that I too have doled out columns of criticism about the game and committeemen and directors during my career as a Rugby League scribe. Constructive criticism is good for the game and it is only when we get the "destructive" variety that the code, and also the club, suffers.

"Give credit where it is due," is an old Lancashire saying that is being gradually forgotten. So that is why I have brought up the matter of reserve teams and the amount of drive put into the revival of the old Rugby League Combination by Mr. Fred Ashworth, the Oldham club's representative on the Lancashire R.L. Committee. I have attended many of this committee's meetings in the past ten years, and am most impressed with the business-like manner in which the gatherings are conducted (Mr. Ashworth is a past president) and the drive which the members put into their work.

### LANCASHIRE'S PART

For the past three or four seasons the Lancashire Committee has pushed for all its worth the revival of the R.L. Combination. They have formulated schemes and have got clubs to join, but after consultation with their Yorkshire brothers, the matter has got no further. This is an amazing fact because most Yorkshire folk think (and I suppose R.L. legislators over the Pennines are the same) that, "What Yorkshire thinks to-day, the world thinks tomorrow!" Well, I will argue on that point at any time when it comes to Rugby League football!!!

Yorkshire, so far as what I am told, have been the stumbling block to the revival of the Combination. Perhaps they have their own ideas on whether it should operate or not. I realise that the Yorkshire Senior Competition has enough fixtures of its own, even though Normanton were allowed to drop out since the war.

Here, let me say that, I think that no club should be allowed to drop out of the league. I claim, rightly or wrongly, that Lancastrians should have kept the Belle Vue Rangers flag flying. Rangers would now be enjoying the help from legalised pools and also the entertainment tax concession. Makes you think, doesn't it?

### AN IMPASSIONED APPEAL

But back to the real matter on hand—the revival of the Rugby League Combination. Recently, Mr. Ashworth made an impassioned appeal on behalf of the Oldham club. He said that the reserves had not been playing for several weeks. Was that conducive to good relations between players and club? Of course it was an intolerable situation and one which did neither players nor club any good.

Moreover, the players' form was suffering. They were not getting sufficient match practice and it was not fair to the individual who might be called upon at the last moment to play for the senior team. The set-up meant that the player in question couldn't do justice to himself on the field of play.

Mr. Ashworth also pointed out that there was also a loss of enthusiasm. "Gates" at reserve games are not good, but if attendances are to be improved, there **must** be a game at Watersheddings every week—that's my version.

Mr. Ashworth argued very forcibly indeed and pointed out that even the loyal spectators—those people who turned up at the grounds week in and week out in all kinds of weather and even when "friendlies" are being played—were getting fed up with seeing the same faces. So he pushed very hard for the visits of such 'A' teams as Huddersfield, Leeds, Hull, Halifax, Wakefield, etc.

He also said that Oldham were in a better position than many Lancashire clubs because of the nearness of the town to the Yorkshire border. But Mr. Ashworth pointed out that all Lancashire clubs would benefit in one way or another by the revival of the Combination.

### NOT ALWAYS FOR PROFIT

Mr. Ashworth got strong support from the Leigh delegate (Mr. Fred Palmer) who said that 'A' teams were not always run for a profit. They were the breeding grounds for up and coming players.

The Leigh club, as well as Oldham, Warrington, Wigan, St. Helens, Widnes and Barrow have decided to join the new league which was in operation before the war. It was a war-time casualty. But there is a snag as far as Barrow is concerned. The Hull clubs—Boulevard and Craven Park—are not at all keen in making the long trip to Furness. This is because of time and expense.

But Liverpool City (what would some critical supporters think if they had to try to push the code in a city like Liverpool?) would be willing to join the Combination, but they felt that trips beyond Leeds would be too costly.



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- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
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Salford club thinks the same. As far as Swinton are concerned, Mr. Jack Edden, the former referee who is a director of the Station Road club, and also President of the Lancashire Committee, said that the cost to their club would be in the region of £600. This amount is claimed to be "rather on the top side."

### BETTER "GATES"

Wigan, who are always willing to "have a go," thought that the idea of running the Combination was a good one and that the visits to Central Park of some of the better Yorkshire 'A' teams would tend to stimulate interest so that better gates would be the trend.

So, good luck to the Combination's future. Plans have been laid for next season. Don't blame Lancashire (or Oldham for that matter) if the experiment does not meet with every success. I think that there will be an added interest to the 'A' teams and I think Oldhamers will look forward with keener interest to the reserve team games. I sincerely hope that that the league chart will be published as frequently as possible. The matter of publicity is an important one to any new venture.

### BOB GOT MANY LAUGHS — says Cyril Briggs

Meet the man with his own brand of Rugby League humour—Robert Fletcher Anderton ("Bob" to everyone) who has held every possible appointment in the game, but while chairmen and others have collected an extra medal when their clubs have won a trophy, Bob's drawer of souvenirs lacks one of these awards.

But he possesses a library of anecdotes second to none in the R.L. world. He has a retentive memory. What usually brings the laughs to any R.L. audience is a tale told against himself. Take for instance the occasion when he was taking his cinematograph projector and Tour films to visit a well-known gaol in the North.

Inquiring the way to the prison, Bob sought the aid of a policeman. Imagine Bob's feelings when he was told, "mind yourself mate—it's a hard place to get out of once you're in." And Bob's a Magistrate!

### FILMS AND PRISONS

At another prison, Bob's film lecture was hailed with delight by the "inmates" because one of the party was a noted R.L. player who was appearing on one of the Anderton films but had recently been enjoying an enforced holiday. The rest of the audience applauded in great style when they saw the player in question on the screen. Bob's face was red when someone shouted, "Now the Wire"—Bob is a Warrington R.L.F.C. director and his club is known by this nick-name. Another prisoner yelled, "Now we know where Warrington's absent fans get to."

### LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	34	142	1	Little	27		5
Cracknell	24		13	Daley	2		
Nestor	13		5	Noon	24	16	10
Ayres	12		3	Edwards	2		
Etty	22		6	Turner	22	1	1
Kellett	33	1	13	Stirrup	7		2
Jones	2		2	McKeown	23		2
Rowbottom	20		1	Sims	15		9
Keith	31		12	Hatherall	2		
Lomas	8		2	Mee	1		
Davies	29		18	Jackson	16		
Pitchford	28		9	Kelly	11		1
Dufty	13		1	Quinlan	3		1
Winslade	34		6	Goddard	3		
McIntyre	1			Lloyd	1		
Pugsley	4			Smith	1		
Southward	3		2				

### LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington	
Barrow	.....	13- 9		15-18	21-14			28- 8	5- 7	10-5				2-7	17-23	25-5
Blackpool	9-17	.....	6-19	8- 7		12-34	10-20	11-10	19-26	9-17	21-20	23-20	9-21			
Leeds	16-13	32-20	.....		59-20	18-15	12-23		12-11	12-16	17-47	18-12		17-8	17-10	
Leigh	27-5	25-26	11-16	.....		11-7	21- 5	15-20	6-10	9-22	4-23	20-3	13-7	15-25	20-15	
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	.....	13-28	17-15	7-18	20-40		8-44	22-16	11-26	18-36	10-32	
OLDHAM	39-13	44-3	13-12	19-16		.....	22-18			8-7	19-8		44- 8	21-18	30- 4	
Rochdale	7-11	20-10	5-21	10-5	19-12	13-14	.....	16-26	5-15		5-13		16-15	16-23	10-18	
Salford	19-10			12-16	8- 6	14- 9	16-4	.....	12-28		16-22	19-15		15-38		
St. Helens	71-15	46-11	38-12			22- 6	42-12		.....	32- 3	15-7	27-3	38-4	13-9		
Swinton	13-6	27-15	3-26	10-18	35-10	8-19	23-11	11-11		.....	22-18	25-10	6-0	7-22	25-3	
Warrington		25-8	32-15	15-13	23-26		19- 0		15-29	5-15	.....	42-8	11-7	5-18	30-4	
Whitehaven	38-0	43-7	8-0	8-17	24-15	14-3		19-10	2-25		19-2	.....	2-14	24-12	0- 2	
Widnes	17- 8	46- 7	5-16		37-10		34-11	35-10	25-16	17-5	13-17	13-23	.....	21-15		
Wigan	49-16	29-11	32-3	26-12	45-7	19-7		31-14	19-14	24- 8		39-16	7-11	.....		
Workington	21-2	12-0	16-8	19-4	42-0	0-23		19-12	10-10	9-10	32-15	17-9	14-34	5-13	.....	

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



## R.L. COMBINATION

There is a danger and likelihood of the Rugby Combination being revived for next season. The Lancashire County Rugby League Committee along with a few Lancashire Clubs have been furthering this scheme of the revival of the Rugby League Combination for some years but there has always been some hitch that has prevented such from coming into being. Possibly, this has come from Yorkshire and it evident that some clubs have been putting club interests before the game.

A working scheme has been put forward and it is possible that the following teams have put their names forward: Warrington, Wigan, Leigh, Oldham, Barrow, Widnes and St. Helens. One can now expect similar response from Yorkshire. A set of rules have been drawn up and all being well, everything is set for next season.

There is no doubt that something will have to be done about 'A' team football. Much more interest will have to be taken by the management of the senior sides. Gates have dwindled through lack of interest and we in Lancashire have had to resort to friendly matches—often playing the same team two and even three times—in order to get something like a presentable fixture list.

This is not in the best interests of the game and spectators often tire of seeing the same 'old' teams and faces appearing. Yet it has had to be done and even at that, several Lancashire 'A' teams have as many as ten vacant Saturdays during the season. This is all wrong! What is the encouragement factor for 'A' team boys to report for training and then find there is no match to put that practice into operation.

In Yorkshire, the position is slightly better. There are more teams and thus the 'A' teams seem to have much more settled fixtures. This does not, of course, apply to Yorkshire senior teams. They are only too pleased to receive visitors from over the border for such visits no doubt swell their coffers. It would appear from the average gates that the Yorkshire supporters of our code have a great appreciation for the style of play served up by the Lancastrians.

If the R.L. Combination does come into operation it would not interfere with the respective Lancashire and Yorkshire independent league tables. To the clubs concerned, we say, get on with the move and think of the game and the public who support it. You cannot lose anything.

## BRIEFS

Our "over the Pennines" member of the Lancashire League for next season will be Dewsbury. They will replace Leeds who were in our league this season. Dewsbury and Castleford volunteered for this honour and the Dewsbury club were elected on a majority vote. This decision will of course, need to be confirmed by the Council.

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