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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—	Rochdale Hornets	Away	25—	Swinton	Home 2-30
16—	Halifax	Home 3-0	26—	Hunslet	Away
19—	Blackpool	Away	27—	St Helens	Away
23—	Wakefield	Away	1959		
30—	Whitehaven (L. C.)	Home 3-0	Jan. 3—	Leigh	Home 2-30
Sept. 2—	Workington	Home 6-15	10—	Barrow	Away
6—	Halifax	Away	17—	St Helens	Home 2-30
13—	Wakefield	Home 3-0	24—	Salford	Home 3-0
20—	Rochdale H.	Away	31—	Leeds	Away
27—	Blackpool	Home 3-0	Feb. 7—	Warrington	Home 3-0
Oct. 4—	Warrington	Away	14—	Leigh	Away
11—	Rochdale H.	Home 3-0	21—	R. L. Cup	
18—	Liverpool	Away	28—	Whitehaven	Away
25—	Hunslet	Home 3-0	Mar. 7—	R. L. Cup	
Nov. 1—	Featherstone	Away	14—	Hull	Away
8—	Featherstone	Home 3-0	21—	Barrow	Home 3-0
15—	Salford	Away	27—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
22—	Leeds	Home 2-30	28—	E.S.	
29—	Wigan	Away	30—	Hull (E M.)	Home 3-0
Dec. 6—	Widnes	Home 2-30	April 4—	Liverpool	Home 3-0
13—	Workington	Away	11—	Widnes	Away
20—	Wigan	Home 2-30	18—	Whitehaven	Home 3-0

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OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

We think that all our members and supporters were well satisfied with the game and the result with our match against Hunslet on Tuesday last.

It was a game to be much remembered and our thanks go to the Hunslet team in making it such a fine game to watch. Our opponents came to Watersheddings that evening fully expecting to take two much needed points back over the Pennines with them—this, of course, is as it should be (the expectation we mean). Up to half time they appeared to have the whip hand—and also the wind behind them and we in turn seemed to do a good amount of fumbling with the ball which resulted in Hunslet seizing the opportunity to secure possession of anything that ran loose and it would seem that they monopolised the ball during this period. Our thanks must go to Captain Ganley for keeping us just in front with his magnificent goal kicking. He struck perfection and his final tally was ten from ten attempts—good eh!

After the interval our team had a new lease of life and put plenty of fire into their play. It was soon obvious that the further the match went the greater would be the margin in the scores and there was not the slightest chance of Hunslet's victory hopes coming to fruition. Our latest capture, Ike Southward, fairly captured the imagination of the crowd with his two brilliant tries. One of them will be long remembered by the way he avoided the tackles of three players in a very confined space and his change of speed and swerve had his opponents guessing.

After last Saturday at Widnes when the whole team gave only a mediocre display it makes one wonder how it is possible to turn on such a brilliant exhibition only a few days later. There is no doubt, consistent play will get just rewards and pay high dividends. All teams can have off days, admittedly, but how to reach rock bottom defies explanation.

However, the game goes on and we still have a chance of being in the top four of the Rugby League table and thus get a crack at the Championship. The road is not easy. Whitehaven, our visitors to-day, St. Helens at Watersheddings on Monday, 27th April, and a visit to our old friends at Barrow next Monday. All these three matches **must be won**. Our players look forward with every confidence that this can be achieved and with a little luck we think that we shall be there alright.

THIS CODE OF OURS—ITS PROBLEMS

by Cyril Briggs

Are referees always wrong? Many spectators seem to think so, but the crowd would do well to study the Official Guide, published by the Rugby League, and refresh their memories about certain rules. However, on Saturday last, at the Warrington-Barrow match I disagreed with many in the crowd and the referee regarding one decision.

Perhaps the referee and the majority of the crowd saw an incident in a different light than I did, but nevertheless I contend that Brian Bevan did **not** score a try in this instance. But had the referee disallowed the try there would have been a terrific outcry. The movement richly deserved three points, but I still think that the famous Australian, who is trying so hard to be the league's leading try scorer at the end of the season, was guilty of a technicality.

FAVOURABLE BOUNCE

Before Bevan got the ball for the run-in, the Warrington attack had move smartly from its own quarters. Two men handled the ball before Edwards kicked forward. The ball "stood up" beautifully for the winger despite the fact that rain had fallen all afternoon and the pitch was very slippery. Bevan almost took the ball first time. Then it slipped from his grasp and went above head level. Bevan reached for the ball and **tapped it forward** before catching it again. The spectators roared with glee. It had been a delightful attacking movement and was characteristic of the Australian's wonderful eye for the slightest scoring chance.

When I suggested that the score should not be allowed, I was looked upon as a queer character. Fellow pressmen thought I had taken leave of my senses. Fortunately, for me, a noted referee was close by. He knew what I was thinking and I shook his hand warmly when he said, "don't quote me, but it was no try. Bevan deliberately knocked the ball forward." I was vindicated, but it was some time before my friends were convinced.

DELIBERATE KNOCK FORWARD

The laws of the game don't signify to what degree a player should knock the ball forward. All it says under Section 10, is, "A player shall not deliberately knock or throw the ball forward." I'm afraid that Bevan

did knock the ball deliberately, otherwise how else could he have retained possession? It was a very close thing. But later I was unable to convince many people that Bevan had been penalised for the very same thing a few seasons ago. And the referee who was in the ground on Saturday, and who confirmed my view, was himself assailed some time ago when he disallowed a try under the same circumstances.

I realise that it was a technicality, but if we don't agree with the rule, then it is up to us to have it altered.

In the recent replayed cup-tie between Salford and Leigh at the Willows, when Leigh won by six points to four, there was an incident which swung the game against Salford. The ball was whipped out by Billy Banks to Syd Lowdon. Lowdon took the pass in great style and he looked capable of going through in spectacular style. Some people, and they are not all Salfordians, think that Lowdon might have brought off a spectacular score. He might have done so, but in any case he would have made a lot of ground, and if he had not scored, perhaps a colleague may have done so.

IFS AND BUTS

I realise that it is a case of "ifs and buts." I was in a direct line with the incident and I supported the view that it was a **straight pass**. And a straight pass is not forward. Anyhow, the referee said "no," and called up to lecture a player who spoke his mind in no uncertain terms. Of course, perhaps the player thought as we did. We may be wrong, but I will not change my view, neither will a lot of people who were at this exciting game.

The crowd has often yelled "knock-on" when the full back has caught the ball for a split second and then dropped it. When play has gone on unchecked, the spectators have hooted and groaned. But it is quite possible for a player who is trying to catch the ball finds it hitting his chest and it bounces out of his grasp. He has **not** knocked the ball forward. In other words, it is a rebound and should not be penalised as a knock on. A technicality, but true.

Referees may take me up on these points. I hope they do so, but I would like to know when a referee has actually sent a scrum half off the field for persistently and wilfully breaking the rules? Surely if a referee is called upon to caution a scrum half for wrong scrum feeding, the player should be dismissed if he offends again after a caution. Section Nine says so. It is usually the poor old hooker who gets all the blame (ask Jack Keith!).

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- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
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SEND HIM OFF!

Hookers get most of the stick for things that happen in the pack, but if a hooker should be ordered off for feet up, loose arm, handing out, and so forth, and one of the bad boys punches and punches, before being dismissed from the field, then surely the man who is penalised for creeping up and takes no notice of being frequently penalised, should also be shown the way to the dressing room.

I'm all for playing the game to the book. But if we are to stop the game for every offence, then it may be a whistling solo by the referee. But offenders will continue to try to get round the laws if they go undetected. That is why I say give the touch judges more responsibility. They see a lot and say now! I think their job under present conditions is a very easy one.

Continuing —

BOB GOT MANY LAUGHS — says Cyril Briggs

In the last issue we introduced you to "Bob"—Mr. Robert Fletcher Anderton—the man who has held almost every position in our code, and whose plentiful supply of humour makes him inimitable.

This week, as far as space permits we propose to tell of some of his many experiences which, we hope, will make you—if you don't already know him—appreciate him in his fullest.

When Mr. Anderton arrived in Australia—as one of the team managers—a young boy came to the team motor coach and inquired, "Mr. Manager, have you really brought the 'Angry Saxons' along with you?"

Bob thinks the Australians are a humorous race. Take for instance one of the Test matches at the famous Sydney ground—they play R.L. football a short while before the cricket season finishes. A huge crowd saw a hectic game and once of twice players on each side were injured. Then a Gt. Britain player was borne to the dressing room. As he was taken off the band (they love brass bands in Australia) played "Good night Sweetheart."

On another occasion when the great Jim Sullivan was England's full back, the Aussies simply couldn't win the "Ashes." A late-comer at an important match (how partisan can the Aussie crowds get) heard a huge roar. As he got inside, the late-comer asked, "has somebody scored?" Back came the reply, "No, Sullivan has just missed a goal shot!"

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	38	162	1	Little	29		6
Cracknell	27		19	Daley	2		
Nestor	16		5	Noon	27	16	12
Ayres	12		3	Edwards	2		
Etty	22		6	Turner	22	1	1
Kellett	37	1	18	Stirrup	7		2
Jones	2		2	McKeown	26		2
Rowbottom	21		1	Sims	16		10
Keith	35		12	Hatherall	2		
Lomas	12		2	Mee	1		
Davies	32		19	Jackson	19		1
Pitchford	32		11	Kelly	11		1
Dufty	16		1	Quinlan	3		1
Winslade	35		6	Goddard	3		
McIntyre	1			Lloyd	1		
Pugsley	7			Smith	1		
Southward	6		7				

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		6- 9
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	7-30	8-44	22-16	11-26	18-36	10-32
OLDHAM	39-13	44-3	13-12	19-16	67-6	.....	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	19-18
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	26-15	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	29-17	19-2	.....	2-14	24-12	0- 2
Widnes	17- 8	46- 7	5-16	36-16	37-10	28-6	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	38-0	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

OUR VISITORS

To-day, it is our pleasure to entertain Whitehaven, one of the outposts of the code in Cumberland. We visited them on the 28th February, and were surprisingly beaten by fourteen points to eight, and to-day it is our intention to reverse that defeat and thus prevent the "double."

Remembering that Whitehaven visited Widnes—where we came unstuck last Saturday—and defeated them by twenty points to thirteen. This match is no "push over." We must be prepared for stiff opposition. Victory will be our goal and we shall be satisfied with nothing less. The top-four is still open—even though Wigan did win on Wednesday—but it means that all our remaining fixtures must be won.

Whitehaven, on the whole, have not had a too happy season. The table shows: 15 won, 20 lost. 580 points for, 594 against.

BRIEFS

Injuries appear to be upsetting the composition of our team. We have had far above our share of this season's crop. Syd Little, our latest casualty, has damaged ribs and may possibly be out for the rest of the season. Ken Jackson is having stomach trouble but he hopes to be well again in the next few days. Len McIntyre, our newly-signed hooker from the Barrow club, is making good progress with his broken fibula but there is a great doubt whether we shall have his services again this season. Dennis Ayres who had apparently recovered from his thigh muscle injury had a try out in the 'A' team last Saturday and unfortunately had a recurrence of his trouble. How unfortunate Ayres has been this season. He has only had twelve appearances with the first team. However, we all hope that a complete rest this summer will help to strengthen his thigh muscles and then we shall witness the return to form of this great local centre in the season 1959-60.

A very interesting book can be purchased from the Secretary's office, price 3s. 6d. The book, titled, "Another Battle for Britain," is the epic story of the second Rugby League test match at Brisbane, 5th July, 1958, and it edited by Mr. Bennett Manson, one of the Managers of the last Australian Tour.

The book is well illustrated by action photographs and gives the records of the whole tour. It is well worth reading, and buying, and it will make a valuable item in the library of any Rugby League enthusiast.

Footnote. The profits on the books that are sold by us go to the local Junior Rugby League for their funds. By purchasing one of these books, you are undoubtedly adding to your R.L. knowledge and also assisting the local juniors at the same time.

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