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Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
Aug. 19	HALIFAX	Home	
21	BARROW	Away	
26	BLACKPOOL B.	Away	.....
28	YORK	Home	.....
Sept. 2	BARROW (Lancs. Cup)	Away	.....
4	OLDHAM/ROCHDALE 13		.....
	v. NEW ZEALAND	Home	.....
9	HALIFAX	Away	.....
16	ROCHDALE H.	Home	.....
23	HUNSLET	Away	.....
30	BARROW	Home	.....
Oct. 7	WORKINGTON T.	Home	.....
14	YORK	Away	.....
21	WARRINGTON	Home	.....
Nov 4	WHITEHAVEN	Away	.....
11	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	.....
18	HULL	Home	.....
25	SALFORD	Away	.....
Dec. 2	WHITEHAVEN	Home	.....
9	WORKINGTON T.	Away	.....
16	ST. HELENS	Away	.....
23	SALFORD	Home	.....

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
25			
26	SWINTON	Home	.....
30	WIDNES	Home	.....
Jan. 1			
6	WARRINGTON	Away	.....
13	WIGAN	Away	.....
20	WIGAN	Home	.....
27	ROCHDALE H.	Away	.....
Feb. 3	LIVERPOOL CITY	Away	.....
10			
17	LEIGH	Home	.....
24	WIDNES	Away	.....
Mar. 3			
10	LEIGH	Away	.....
17	ST. HELENS	Home	.....
24	HULL	Away	.....
31	LIVERPOOL CITY	Home	.....
Apr. 7	HUNSLET	Home	
14			
20	SWINTON	Away	
21	BLACKPOOL B.	Home	
23	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	

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No. 4—Saturday, 16th September, 1961

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WARNING

It may not be generally known that a club is held responsible for the action of its spectators. Throwing missiles at referees or touch judges or other acts of hooliganism can involve the club in serious consequences and may even result in a club being suspended. Supporters of this club are asked to co-operate.

We desire it to be made known that referees and touch judges at our matches must feel assured that every possible precaution is being taken to protect them from insult or assault.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The season is now getting on its way and the league positions are now sorting themselves out. We have so far recorded three victories out of five and we can honestly say that we have not struck that form we fully expected, but there is time for this to be evident, of course a good start in any race is a happy omen and we hope our players will develop the football we know they are capable of.

At Halifax on Saturday last, we did everything but win the match, openings galore were made by good play and only by bad finishing in the final pass were we robbed of victory. The result came as a bolt from the blue and must have been a great disappointment to the large number of supporters who made the journey to Halifax.

So far we are two points down on the previous season and we cannot afford to make mistakes as on Saturday last, otherwise we shall be scratching to keep our place in Division One for next season. However, we are hopeful that our team will do better and that we will rectify our deficiencies of Saturday last.

OUR VISITORS

It is a pleasure today to entertain our old friends from Rochdale, coming so early after our Charity match on the 12th August when our victory was by 53 points to 13 points. No doubt the Hornets will make a better show in this league match. The Hornets are having a troublesome time in team building and it is our sincere wish that ere long they will

attain the former glories of the Hornets of the past. It is to our good that Rochdale should have a team worthy of the town support. Many are the great matches between the two clubs in the past with capacity gates at Rochdale and Oldham. These derby matches have an added attraction, rivalry of the highest degree and we hope that the time is not too distant when we can return to the crowd pulling games between the clubs.

THE GAME

The writer has seen several games this season and so far not one has been worthy of the name of Rugby League. Why has the game lost its attractiveness, no wonder the crowds are still diminishing. As one sees the game today there is too much barging and bullocking by forwards and in the majority of cases they consider that they are human tanks and can move houses never mind human beings. What happens, is that in nine cases out of ten the forward is tackled in possession, and the ball is dead, hidden from view, a forward say at 20 years of age bounces up, at 25 years of age he gets up and if turned 30 years of age he requires lifting up, he plays the ball, then the whistle goes for offside, and the game is held up again.

There appears to be more offside infringements this season than ever, some blame the referee, but this is wrong, the referee is doing his duty according to the rules, the referee does not stop players from playing the game as it should be played.

Our game of Rugby League can be the finest in the world if played according to the book, too many infringements are made at present, so what is the remedy? In an isolated case a player has been dismissed from the field for persistently breaking the rules by going offside, and this referee must be complimented on his action. It is no use issuing instructions from the legislators at the Rugby League headquarters for the betterment of our game unless club directors or committees see they are carried out on the field of play. It is up to the directors and committees to instruct their players to make the game attractive, put up a good open show and the crowds will return. Give patrons their money's worth what is more thrilling than to see tries scored by a wing three-quarter in full flight for the line. The destiny of our game lies in the hands of the clubs themselves and not the headquarters in Leeds.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Len McIntyre on his selection for the British XIII v. New Zealand match at the White City, Manchester, on Wednesday, 20th September, 1961. This match will kick-off at 7-15 p.m.

Tickets for the game can be obtained from the White City Stadium, Gorton, Manchester 18. Prices of seating tickets are 7/6; 6/- and 5/-.

RUGBY UNION IS LEAVING RUGBY LEAGUE FAR BEHIND

writes CYRIL BRIGGS

Last week the Rugby Union code in Cheshire made what was for the game in the county and also in the North, formidable strides. Four grounds were opened—at Appleton, Sandbach, Macclesfield and Chester. It was one of the greatest days Cheshire Rugby Union has known for many seasons in fact it was a week when the code set new flags a-flying.

In each case the new enclosures were imposing. The headquarters at each venue showed the trend of events—many more members and many more teams. The game is flourishing and it didn't take the County team to win the championship last season to blaze the trail.

What has Rugby League to offer in comparison? There have been signs of a revival; there have been efforts to attract the crowds; there have been a few new ideas, but I'm afraid that in numbers as well as in many other aspects Rugby Union is leaving the 13 aside relation far behind. I'm told by Rugby Unionists in other parts of the country that there is a similar story in their towns and villages.

The Rugby League follower just cannot understand it all. He watches R.U. on the television and occasionally gets a peep at the team in his locality, but he cannot get really enthusiastic about it all. He often complains that there are far too many players on the field, and that the rules are too complicated for him to understand.

FAMILY AFFAIR

The average Rugby League follower could if he wished receive many tips from the R.U. people. Their game is a "family affair" in that players and supporters mix freely at the club-house and the social atmosphere is such that there are new members flocking to the clubs every week.

I don't think that R.U. as a spectacle can equal R.L. except in some international fixtures but even then the crowd is not often treated to try scoring. The R.U. game to my mind wants stream-lining if it is to compete with R.L. but the plain fact of the matter is that nobody in R.U. wants to compete with any game.

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THE

OLDHAM
(Red and White)

- 1—SIMS, G.
- 2—HOLDEN, K.
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—BIRD, M.
- 6—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—PAYNE, W.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—DUFTY, R.
- 11—ROBINSON, G.
- 12—RAE, J.
- 13—PARKER, D.

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- 4—SHORT
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- 6—ASHWORTH
- 7—DICKINSON
- 8—McFARLANE
- 9—SIVILL
- 10—BIRCHALL
- 11—THOMAS
- 12—JONES
- 13—LILL

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

The social side—that's where the R.U. game scores every time. There is nothing like it in any professional game whether it is Soccer or Rugby League. Players and spectators are not kept apart. They mix together and they swap yarns in the clubhouse after the match and even on certain evenings of the week.

We in the R.L. have supporters clubs, but in several instances the members of these organisations are not always honoured by the presence at their gatherings, of the players from the parent club. The R.L. has got to get down to this matter of social intercourse. It can be achieved, but it is not for the chief officials of the league to get on with the job, but the individual directors and committeemen of the 30 Northern clubs.

GET TOGETHER

I'm sure there would be less "scenes" at the annual meetings of the various clubs, and less bickering between platform and floor if there were more get-togethers. The club houses should be extended to meet with these requirements. After all it is better to have a full pavilion of happy followers instead of grand stands with very few seats occupied.

Play tombola, whist, enjoy dancing or bridge, but let us remember that R.L. has to compete with the R.U. not as far as the game itself goes, but in that off the field occasion. This week I was astounded to find that women folk were now being welcomed at the clubs of the R.U. organisations. They were barred at one time. Now a player takes his wife to "the club" and she is no mere spectator.

She goes along to help with the tea and refreshment arrangements or to sell dance or lottery tickets. She expects nothing in return, in fact at the end of the afternoon she will have spent quite a sum to help the club funds. It is the same in many counties, but not so in R.L. Most people think that because it is a commercial business they should be rewarded at all points.

R.L. must keep level with the R.U. atmosphere of comradeship—if it wants to attract more men and women to the game. It is all very well saying that the more rugby players that can be taught, the better for the professional code when it comes to buying the stars. R.U. has offered an example which the R.L. must follow sooner or later.

SATURDAY NEXT AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM "A" v. LEIGH "A"

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

NEW SIGNING

Another addition to our playing staff has been made in the signing of Ray Mitchell, second row forward of Rochdale Rugby Union Club. Ray is 18½ years of age and weighs 14st., he is a clerk by profession, working in Rochdale. We hope he has a successful career with us.

THE NEW ZEALANDERS

One redeeming feature of the New Zealand Touring Team visit to Watersheddings, is that the combined Oldham/Rochdale Hornets team beat them by 10 points to 8 points. A disappointment was the smallness of the crowd, 8,795 spectators paying the sum of £1,311-12-4. Of this amount the Tourists take £853 as their share. The previous team that visited Oldham from New Zealand was in October 1955, when 14,500 spectators paid £2,059. This match was played on a Saturday.

I do not think that combined teams playing against Tourists are a success and if the visits of Commonwealth teams are to be shortened we consider that they should play the best clubs and where the attendances justify.

The present team came from New Zealand as an unknown quantity and it contains a lot of youngsters but they appear to be improving with the experience they are deriving against our teams. We consider that the publicity given to the Tourists is very meagre, and by this we mean general publicity to where our game is played, we consider that this could have been the means of increasing attendances wherever they played.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS—1961-62

(Up to and including 21st August, 1961)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Noon	5	4	7	Morgan	1		
Sims	6		17	Parker T.	1		
Patterson	7	1		Robinson	5	2	
Holden	3	1		Nestor	4	1	
Davies	3			Bird	4	5	
Kenny	3	1	3				
Kellett	7	4					
Pitchford	7	5					
Payne	7						
McIntyre	7	2					
Winslade	7						
Duffy	5						
Rae	3						
Parker, D.	6	1					

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Final Table 1960-61

	P.	W	L	D	For	Against	Pts.	
Swinton	...	28	23	4	1	552	182	47
St. Helens	...	28	23	5	—	659	215	46
Warrington	...	28	22	5	1	570	191	45
Leigh	...	28	21	7	—	426	217	42
Wigan	...	28	20	8	—	502	248	40
Oldham	...	28	18	10	—	518	288	36
Workington	...	28	15	13	—	369	377	30
Halifax	...	28	13	14	1	382	369	27
Whitehaven	...	28	11	15	2	294	394	24
Widnes	...	28	10	18	—	302	428	20
Blackpool B.	...	28	8	18	2	248	393	18
Salford	...	28	7	19	2	237	569	16
Barrow	...	28	6	20	2	199	484	14
Rochdale H.	...	28	6	22	—	200	618	12
Liverpool City	...	28	1	26		196	681	3

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