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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	.....

14-4-62

# OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION :: WATERSHEDDINGS



SEASON - 1961-62

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - 3d.



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No. 21—Saturday, 14th April, 1962

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## OLDHAM v. WIDNES

### WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Another three weeks will see the end of the Rugby League 1961/62 tournament and some clubs will look back with regret and others with satisfaction. Clubs will know what there is in store for them in the 1962/63 season. We shall have division 1 and division 2, clubs fighting for promotion and others fighting against relegation. We consider that the first division consisting of sixteen clubs will not see the heavy scoring that has taken place in the past, cricket scores between teams, which we consider does the game no good. Teams will be more evenly matched, of course there will be teams in the second division which may be equal in playing ability to those in the first division, but through misfortune and bad luck find themselves in the lower section, this in fact, will always be so. However there is no harm in giving two divisions a try out.

Reports from Headquarters state that attendances are up this season in comparison to the previous season, in the aggregate this may be so, but take clubs individually, and we shall find that some clubs have reached rock bottom. It is only the top clubs that may possibly show an increase in attendances. The general trend of events shows that attendances in sport all round are on the decline. The attendances at our home matches this season are somewhat down on last season and the last three matches played at Watersheddings were attended by only 10,319 spectators and even allowing for the unfavourable weather conditions, this is very unsatisfactory, winning all three matches against Liverpool, Salford and Hunslet takes the lion's share of the gate receipts in players wages and leaves very little to meet overhead charges. Even allowing for the vile conditions the attendances leave much to be desired, for the covered accommodation on our ground is 16,000.

### WINNING BONUSES

Controversy is being aroused in Rugby League circles regarding the granting of winning bonuses to teams and their effect on the game from a playing point of view.

Years ago the Wigan Club sponsored a standardisation of maximum wages to be paid to Rugby League Players. The idea was an excellent one but it fell on stoney ground. It was comparable with the scheme which the Football Association work on.

At present and at the commencement of each season, players sign a contract for match terms for the season, so much for a win, a draw, or a lose, and these naturally vary according to what the clubs can offer, but these appear to be only basic playing terms, but not expressed as such in the contract.

For special matches, special bonuses are offered plus the contract terms, and it has been known that at half time, if matters have not been going too well, this special bonus has been increased to incite a win. Does this condition of affairs tend to increase the standard of play or does it create spirit to win at all costs, and ignore the spectator who has paid his money to be entertained, and do not forget that the spectator is the one who keeps the game going by his patronage.

By all means have a basic wage as specified in contract, even if it means higher pay for some clubs and then special bonuses at the end of the season for those who have earned it. Say that a club occupying one of the top four position in the final league table shall be permitted to distribute to its players a bonus of say £500. A club winning the semi-final in the play-offs of the League Championship be permitted to distribute a special bonus of say £200. Any League Club winning the League Championship be permitted to distribute an additional bonus of say £150. And so it could be prepared for the Challenge Cup finalists and County Cup finalists.

One hears of fantastic winning winning match fees being paid, sometimes in the region of £40 to £50 per man.

This basic wage problem requires careful thought and a thorough control and investigation would do the game a great amount of good, especially as we shall have two divisions in operation next season.

## OUR VISITORS

Today we welcome the Widnes Club to Watersheddings, who in the past few weeks have considerably strengthened their team by the acquisition of Karalius and Measures, forwards from St. Helens. We can expect a tough game today as the Widnes team appear to be reaching to form, and ten days ago beat the formidable Wigan team at Widnes

We hope, however, to avenge our recent defeat in February at Widnes by fourteen points to eight points, but it will be after a great struggle and our team will have to be in top form to achieve victory.

## NOT A FAIR COMPLAINT

Because occasions have arisen when some Rugby League clubs have failed to recognise the difficulties of their supporters, I have complained bitterly on their behalf. (writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

But I'm not at all sympathetic with the Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity Supporters' Clubs in the recent protests concerning the fixing of the challenge cup semi-final between the Rovers and Trinity at Odsal Stadium for a mid-week evening kick-off.

The kick-off scheduled at 6-30 p.m. was time enough for R.L. folk in Featherstone and Wakefield to arrive before the start, and I fail to understand the grumble about "stealing" time off to see this match. Moreover, if the supporters who are complaining about the R.L. decision to play the semi final match in mid-week would examine their consciences, I'm sure that quite a few would agree that they have committed larceny of hours in the past.

## TWICE THE JOURNEY

Featherstone and Wakefield people should consider themselves fortunate in having a semi final in Yorkshire. I realise that their favourite teams are engaged but they should spare a thought for the keen R.L. fans in Cumberland, Lancashire and the very Northerly parts of Yorkshire who had to travel twice the distance of the Rovers and Trinity fans.

The cup semi-final is on ordinary game between the respective clubs, otherwise I may have some sympathy with the complaining supporters. The semi-final falls into a different category. If it did not do so then there would perhaps be only the Wakefield and Featherstone people at the match, and that would not be satisfactory to the treasurers of the clubs.



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- 2—LORD, B. *GT*
- 3—HOLDEN, K. *J*
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—NESTOR, V.
- 6—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F. *PCYROFT*
- 8—PAYNE, W.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—ROBINSON, G.
- 11—SMETHURST, P.
- 12—PARKER, T.
- 13—PARKER, D.

Referee :

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THE

# GREEN FINAL

FOR  
ALL  
LOCAL  
SPORT

WIDNES  
(Black and White) 9

- 1—RANDALL *36*
- 2—GAYDON
- 3—BRIGHT *LOWE*
- 4—THOMPSON
- 5—CHISNALL
- 6—MYLER *T*
- 7—HEYES, D.
- 8—HURSTFIELD
- 9—KEMEL
- 10—BATE, E. *Winstanley*
- 11—BATE, R.
- 12—WINSTANLEY *Hughes*
- 13—KARALIUS

Touch Judges :

E. Bleasdale, Warrington (Yellow)  
E. Roberts, Newton-le-Willows (Crim.)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

The grumbling followers should spare a thought for the thousands of men and women who are engaged in the distributive trades. They are keen, most keen to see R.L., but are prevented from doing so because of their business. When Halifax and Warrington met in the re-played challenge cup final of 1954, I predicted a huge attendance, but not the 103,000 which was recorded.

### SHOPKEEPER ENTHUSIASTS

From where did the many additional thousands flock to the Bradford venue? The answer is simple, they consisted of shop-keepers, assistants, and all manner of folk who work on Saturday afternoons to earn their livelihoods.

I was delighted when I read the official announcement that the R.L. had decided to break away from convention and stage the semi-finals on different days. The Featherstone and Wakefield followers cannot have it both ways. They like anyone else (there need not have been any stolen time on April 14th) had a chance of seeing both matches, except of course the poor creatures who are hard at work on Saturday afternoons dealing with the weekend shoppers.

There would be thousands of people from Wakefield and Featherstone at Odsal for the Hull Kingston Rovers and Huddersfield tie on the 14th no matter what some may say. I feel that if the semi-finals were played on the same day and on Saturday afternoons the aggregate attendances would not reach the totals of those arranged on different days.

The protesters must remember too that the money from each match is devoted to one pool. The four competing clubs and the Rugby League Playing Fields Society and also the cup pool.

### CUP POOL CHEQUE

This season could see the best ever cup pool. I realise that when there were two "legs" for round one there were 16 additional games. But there is every indication of another £30,000 for the final. Then there are

the additional takings for the two drawn games between Huddersfield and Castleford and the Leigh v. Leeds ties.

The Odsal gates may reach very satisfactory figures and the return could please a lot of folk, particularly the treasurers of the four semi final clubs, as well as those lowly teams who are eager to hear that league communication plop in the letter box with the cup pool cheque.

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### COMING ATTRACTIONS

Please make a note of our remaining matches at Watersheddings they are:

Saturday, 21st April—Blackpool, kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Easter Monday, 23rd April—Huddersfield, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

Saturday, 28th April—Swinton, kick-off 3-0 p.m.

### "A" TEAM MATCHES

Tuesday, 1st May—Swinton "A", kick-off 7-0 p.m.

Saturday, 5th May—Barrow "A", kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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### FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS—1961-62

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	App.	T.	G	Player	App.	T.	G
Noon	30	23	13	Morgan	1		
Sims	34	10	113	Parker T	6		
Patterson	20	3		Robinson	24	5	
Holden	27	15		Nestor	25	9	
Davies	3			Bird	14	11	
Kenny	4	2	3	Smethurst	24	6	
Kellett	34	16		Pycroft	5		
Pitchford	34	8		Goddard, P.	18	4	
Payne	28			Mumberson	5		
McIntyre	32	5		Lord	17	14	
Winslade	11			Lloyd	2		
Dufty	11	3		Price	4	2	
Rae	23	7					
Parker, D.	31	4					

### LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Huddersfield	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....	20-10	9-5	21-19	33-0	11-5		7-13	2-34	9-3	2-17		5-10		8-12
Blackpool	18-10	.....	2-23	13-7	23-0	5-20	20-4				6-18	9-5	3-14	8-33	5-22
Huddersfield		33-12	.....	15-5	31-0	16-7		26-13		7-2		34-10	8-6		
Leigh	9-3	19-5		.....		18-12	4-7	33-10	7-6						23-12
Liverpool		22-10		5-9	.....	7-13		11-22		4-34		5-10		0-39	5-28
OLDHAM	40-0		22-10	41-2	.....	53-9	37-10	10-7			35-5	45-10		2-7	14-12
Rochdale		15-15	0-10		7-17	.....	8-6	2-14	10-23	8-8	6-6			8-28	4-14
Salford	16-15	2-11	8-26		8-5	4-50	28-10	.....	7-24		16-0	16-3			
St. Helens	30-6		36-5			16-5	17-12	.....	5-2	11-7	44-0	13-8			16-7
Swinton	13-7		11-9	9-11			34-10	15-6	.....	18-9	17-5	16-2	4-7		
Warrington	36-9	31-8	7-7		27-2	12-15	25-4	32-11	11-7	18-12	.....	25-4	15-10		37-5
Whitehaven			5-5	5-15	34-4	7-25	17-3		3-10	0-24	.....	4-8	6-26		
Widnes	20-18	28-10	8-18	12-0		14-8	39-3		13-12	4-3		11-7	.....		8-16
Wigan	39-3	31-5	41-3	25-6	45-0	16-13	22-5			6-13		31-11	.....		25-8
Workington	24-10	25-5	30-5		41-4	17-5	23-2	52-0	23-7	5-3	11-2		26-5	10-16	.....

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

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