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## Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.	Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
Aug. 19	HALIFAX	Home		25			
21	BARROW	Away		26	SWINTON	Home	
26	BLACKPOOL B.	Away		30	WIDNES	Home	
28	YORK	Home		Jan. 1			
Sept. 2	BARROW (Lancs. Cup)	Away		6	WARRINGTON	Away	
4	OLDHAM/ROCHDALE 13			13	WIGAN	Away	
	v. NEW ZEALAND	Home		20	WIGAN	Home	
9	HALIFAX	Away		27	ROCHDALE H.	Away	
16	ROCHDALE H.	Home		Feb. 3	LIVERPOOL CITY	Away	
23	HUNSLET	Away		10			
30	BARROW	Home		17	LEIGH	Home	
Oct. 7	WORKINGTON T.	Home		24	WIDNES	Away	
14	YORK	Away		Mar. 3			
21	WARRINGTON	Home		10	LEIGH	Away	
Nov 4	WHITEHAVEN	Away		17	ST. HELENS	Home	
11	HUDDERSFIELD	Away		24	HULL	Away	
18	HULL	Home		31	LIVERPOOL CITY	Home	
25	SALFORD	Away		Apr. 7	HUNSLET	Home	
Dec. 2	WHITEHAVEN	Home		14			
9	WORKINGTON T.	Away		20	SWINTON	Away	
16	ST. HELENS	Away		21	BLACKPOOL B.	Home	
23	SALFORD	Home		23	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	

21-4-62

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## OLDHAM v. BLACKPOOL B.

### OUR VISITORS

Today it is our privilege to entertain the Blackpool Club and we welcome them to Watersheddings. The Club is to be congratulated in keeping the flag flying in this popular resort, known the world over.

Although not blessed with large gate receipts, the directors have got a very serviceable team together and are always a difficult team to beat on their own enclosure. Envious eyes have been cast on some of their players by clubs of standing, but so far this season they have avoided the financial gain which could be considerable, in their efforts to consolidate team building. Their directors and players are to be praised in their efforts for the GAME, and without doubt they deserve better patronage at their matches for their enterprise. They are showing the real spirit in their endeavours to secure a ground nearer the centre of Blackpool and we hope their efforts will be successful to erect a super stadium.

They could be assisted by the Rugby League financially and we consider the population of Blackpool capable of supporting both soccer and Rugby League football, provided the attraction is their and the amenities of the ground are conducive for people to come along in comfort.

So advance the "Borough" and may all your great endeavours be crowned with success.

### DIMINISHING ATTENDANCES

The Football League have spent a considerable sum of money in trying to fathom out the great reduction in attendances at soccer matches and one of the main reasons put forward for this reduction is the ladies (God bless 'em).

From our own observations we have more women watching Rugby League today than ever and this is judging by the colour scheme one may see in a crowd. Clubs do not cater as they should for women spectators, some grounds have no amenities for women whatever. If the so-called blame in reduction of attendances is blamed on the fair sex, by all means cater for them at your grounds.

Let them have powder rooms, good clean toilets, refreshment rooms where they can purchase a cup of tea at a reasonable price, clean crockery, and cleanliness of the environment. Good covered accommodation with

seats will bring back the crowds, provided the players do their share and give an entertainment worthy of the money paid. All this will aid the comfort of the spectators.

We at Watersheddings realise this, and an effort is being made to install more ladies toilets, a refreshment room under the stand on the popular side of the ground, more seating accommodation at a reasonable price, and a general clean up of the surrounding stands.

### **"A" TEAM FOOTBALL**

Whilst the Rugby League Council have given great time and thought for two divisional football for first team football, we consider that the time is appropriate to give consideration to "A" Team football. These are the forgotten men of Rugby League football, but they are more important than the first teams.

By far, the majority of players in first team football today are products of our own game, not that one discounts the ability of the influx of Rugby Union men into our game, some great players have come from Rugby Union and always will do.

In our game "A" Team football is in a peculiar position, insomuch that first team football is fully controlled from the Rugby League Headquarters in Leeds, "A" team football is controlled by the two County Committees, i.e. Lancashire and Yorkshire, and as far as we can see they are poles apart. This is no good for the GAME. "A" team football should be under one control. The Clubs comprising the Rugby League all run an "A" team, and it should be made compulsory that if you have sixteen clubs in division one next season, those sixteen clubs should play one another as "A" teams.

Tradition dies hard, but sometimes it has to be murdered and the respective County Committees should leave the fixture arrangements to be made and controlled by Headquarters. Yes this 'A' team problem is a serious one and should be tackled as such. There are far too many open Saturdays for 'A' teams, especially in Lancashire. If your first team is occupied each Saturday, so must your 'A' team, they are the supply line and where you make your future first team players.

Take our recognised first team today, we have Sims, Nestor, Noon, Lord, Kellett, Pitchford, Rae, Tom Parker and Goddard, all products of our 'A' team. These are products with an indifferent organisation, what would it be with controlled organisation.

One may say, be satisfied with what you have got, but one must never be satisfied where sport is concerned especially professionalism. As time marches on, so it brings changes and one must get up to date with such changes, we cannot afford to sit still no matter what great team you possess, one must always be looking for something better than you have.

## **'BUY ODSAL' IDEA HAS ITS SNAGS**

by Cyril Briggs

---

Once again, we are hearing murmurings from Rugby League Supporters about "a home of our own", but I'm afraid that while the R.L.'s headquarters at Chapeltown Road in Leeds are adequate for the administration side of the game, it will take a great deal of effort to convince all members of the Council that the code should have a ground to call its own.

"Buy Odsal" is the demand from some enthusiasts, and I have no doubt that these fans believe that the Bradford venue could be developed into a stadium to outrival even Wembley. You, will of course, note that I have written—COULD. That word covers one or two provisos. Even if the Bradford City Corporation decided to sell the site, I'm wondering whether the R.L. could produce the necessary money to cover the purchase price.

There is a considerable amount of work to be done at Odsal if it is to be turned into the complete stadium. For instance, one stand would have to be partly pulled down and re-constructed because in its present form it blacks out a good deal of vision. Here extra thousands of spectators could be accommodated.

I will agree that the Rugby League could have cashed in this week if the stadium had belonged to them, for they would not have had to pay out rentals to the City Corporation for the right to stage last week's challenge cup semi finals. I also realise that the Northern Club would be allowed to play at Odsal and therefore the rental would go to the League.

### **TREMENDOUS COST**

Other matches such as the Yorkshire Challenge Cup final, and Test matches could be accommodated there, but would the initial outlay plus the tremendous cost of bringing the stadium up to requirements, be worth the outlay?

Economics plays an ever increasing part in our lives and therefore it takes a little to understand the pros and cons of the responsibilities in owning a stadium like Odsal. Remember Rugby League is not played at all in June or July and there are also blank weeks in May and August. Could

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# THE G R E E N F I N A L

**OLDHAM**  
(Red and White)

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

Referee :

Mr. J. MANLEY  
of Warrington

**BLACKPOOL**  
(Tangerine, Black and White)

- 1—PIMBLETT
- 2—GIVVONS ✓
- 3—MOLLOY
- 4—GEE *O. Aman*
- 5—WILKSHIRE
- 6—GLEESON
- 7—BISHOP *Sorkel*
- 8—HOPWOOD
- 9—HALL
- 10—TOPHAM *Brook*
- 11—COLLINGWOOD
- 12—PAYNE
- 13—CLAYTON

Touch Judges :

Mr. J. H. Turner, Wigan (Yellow)  
Mr. J. Grayley, Rainhill (Crimson)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

the Rugby League funds stand up to so many demands? The ground could be loaned out for certain outdoor shows even during the Rugby season. But I'm afraid that Soccer would not look at Odsal, because the F.A. have already decreed that their grounds must not be loaned out to R.L.

Odsal, apart from the big stand improvement I have mentioned, requires more terracing, plus many more amenities. Until all these have been provided then I'm afraid that there will be many more trips to Wembley where conditions are ideal in lots of instances.

### STOOD UP WELL

Those people who saw the Odsal pitch for the first time this season at the first of the semi finals, were agreeably surprised with the condition of the turf. It had stood up well to the rigorous football in abnormal weather. But there were bald patches here and there. Wembley, to those who have examined it carefully, is not the billiard type affair a first peep would suggest. The thousands of fans who are situated a long way from the playing area think the turf is almost as delicate as a Wimbledon Tennis Court.

It is remarkably good, but those players who have sprinted on the Wembley turf will tell you that it takes a lot of getting used to, although falling to a tackle on the lush grass can have its compensations.

### MANY DISADVANTAGES

To those who have an eye for architectural beauty, Wembley may be something of a concrete palace, and so, until there is a real alternative in the North, I will always plump for a Wembley final for the challenge cup tournament. There are many disadvantages of Odsal. The crowds cannot be controlled as well as they are at Wembley. The police do their best under some difficult circumstances. But the whole lay-out of Odsal and beyond, needs re-planning.

To explain the matter in detail would take up a great deal of space, but to put you in the picture, just examine the scene for yourself after a Wembley final by standing on one of the stadium's ramparts and seeing ease with which 90,000 or more people leave on various routes without much trouble.

This sort of thing just cannot happen at Bradford. There is too much congestion. On Wednesday night I was in the Odsal car park an hour

before any one of my car wheels turned the whole circumference. And there was nothing mechanically wrong with the vehicle! The outlets were not capable of taking the stream of cars with anything like speed.

### SCORES HEAVILY

There are other matters in which Wembley scores heavily over many other venues. I hate to think what would happen in the Press Box at Odsal if the Rugby League Challenge Cup final was held there. "Full" was the hastily written note on the telephone box at Bradford on Wednesday night, when barely a dozen scribes were shoulder to shoulder. At Wembley, scores can be accommodated without any trouble. I pity the photographers at Odsal especially those who have to rush prints for evening papers. It is an almost impossible task.

The people who yell "bring the final back North" might answer me this question, "will you take out a few £ shares to develop Odsal?" I know that silence would reign.

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EASTER MONDAY, at Watersheddings —

OLDHAM v. HUDDERSFIELD

kick-off 6-30 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	31	24	13	Morgan	1		
Sims	35	11	114	Parker T	7		
Patterson	20	3		Robinson	25	5	
Holden	28	16		Nestor	26	9	
Davies	3			Bird	14	11	
Kenny	4	2	3	Smethurst	25	6	
Kellett	35	16		Pycroft	6	1	
Pitchford	34	8		Goddard, P.	18	4	
Payne	29			Mumberson	5		
McIntyre	33	5		Lord	17	14	
Winslade	11			Lloyd	18	15	
Dufty	11	3		Price	4	2	
Rae	23	7					
Parker, D.	32	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		2-15		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	7-24	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	17-9	2-7	14-12
Rochdale		15-15	0-10	13-2		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	25-3	
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	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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