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The 5 periods are :

AUGUST 20 to SEPTEMBER 28

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NOVEMBER 25 to JANUARY 11

JANUARY 13 to MARCH 7

MARCH 9 to MAY 9

1963/4

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

WATERSHEDDINGS - OLDHAM



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Secretary : H. SUMMERSCALES

Pavilion Telephone No. : MAIn (Oldham) 4865

OLDHAM ¹³ v. ⁴ ROCHDALE

SATURDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 1963

at Watersheddings, Oldham

Kick-off 3 p.m.



SEASON — 1963-64

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WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

We are still riding on the crest of a wave and our two recent victories over Doncaster at home and Barrow away, are very encouraging and aims well for better things to come. There is an old saying that a good start by a runner is half the battle and so it is with competitive football. In the nine second division matches we have scored 220 points for, against 75, which is an excellent result.

In the two recent matches we have played one must give some credit to our opponents for the manner in which they played the game. Not once did they attempt to close the game up by 'spotting', and this type of Rugby must be for the good of the game, in bringing more spectators to the various grounds. Referring to the Doncaster game, we were surprised at the speed of some of the Doncaster players, and it speaks well for the coaching of the team by that old stalwart of ours, Bryn Goldswain. Many times during the match our players were caught from behind after having a clear run. Speed is the most essential part of our game and one has only to look at some of our top teams in the first division to realise that speed and still more speed is one of the main ingredients of good rugby. All the brains in the world on a field of play will not overtake speed. Therefore, it behoves all players to acquire that little bit of extra pace for their own benefit.

OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the Hornets, on their second visit this season to Watersheddings. We have now played the Hornets three times and have another twice to go yet, five times in one season, this must be a record and we can only blame the system of allocation of fixtures for this. Not that we are against the Hornets, but one can see too much of our friends. However may the good relations continue between the clubs and keen rivalry still proceed. Today's match is a Regional competition one, being the second match in this competition we have played this season.

INTER-TOWN AMATEUR GAMES ON TELEVISION

At long last our amateur game is appearing on TV, and appears each Sunday on the A.B.C. Network. Transmission times will be usually from 1-30 p.m. to approximately 2-25 p.m.

On Sunday, 27th October the match at Castleford, being a Yorkshire under 19 years of age semi-final, Hull or Huddersfield v. Castleford or Leeds or Dewsbury. On Sunday, 3rd November there is an under 17 years semi-final, Halifax or Castleford or Huddersfield v. Leeds or York.

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ATTENDANCES

One has only to look at the weekend papers to notice the alarming decrease in attendances at Rugby League matches. It is, indeed, a rarity to find a 'gate' of over 10,000 nowadays and one wonders where the patrons of the past have gone. Has the game gone back as a spectacle, can it be improved by the re-introduction of the tap penalty and so obviate that objectionable offside business. Are the players wages too high, so that it is to win at any cost. There can be a multiple amount of causes and it is time that clubs did some deep thinking to brighten our game and bring the paying customers back.

In the 4 league games we have played at Watersheddings, the average paying customers amount to 4,540. This is not sufficient to keep a club of our standing going. As with other clubs, we are relying on a subsidy by way of the Pools Organisation, but this cannot possibly last for ever. Every section of any organisation must be self supporting, otherwise a court of enquiry should be held as to why, and the position rectified. Of course, like the poor who are always with us, there are bound to be some clubs more affluent than other and always will be, but that does not stop our game from attracting more spectators than it does. We all like crowing at what a great game we have in Rugby League, and so we have when played correctly, but why is it losing its attractiveness to draw the crowds, that is what we want to know and the position rectified.

THE MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST 1963/64

MAIN CONTEST

This contest is for the whole of the season and the position after matches played on October 19th is as follows.

We give the positions of the first seven clubs :-

CLUB	Played	Pts. For	Average	Pts. Against
1—Oldham	13	289	22.23	104
2—Wigan	12	242	20.17	110
3—Barrow	11	208	18.91	170
4—Hull K. R.	12	218	18.17	156
5—Leigh	13	236	18.15	107
6—Featherstone ...	13	235	18.07	172
7—Bramley	9	160	17.78	144

For the team that finishes at the top at the conclusion of the season, a cheque for 200 guineas goes to the team with the best scoring record for the season (points against do not count). Cheques of 100 guineas and 50 guineas go to the runners up.

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

Up to and including Saturday, 19th October, 1963

Player	A	G	T	P	Player	A	G	T	P
Dyson	14	56	2	118	Rae	6		4	12
Lord	14		4	12	Parker	14		4	12
Noon	10	6	6	30	Donovan	3			
Nestor	15		3	9	Simms T.	11		12	36
Elliott	5		4	12	Smethurst	12		6	18
Davies	1				Cheshire	1			
Pycroft	15		8	24	Wilson	6			
Lloyd	1				Sims G.	7		5	15
McIntyre	15		4	12	Major	10			
Robinson	15		2	6	Platt	6			
Bott	15		2	6					

SECOND DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Up to and including Saturday, 19th October, 1963

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Oldham	9	8	1	0	220	75	17
Leigh	9	7	1	1	200	75	15
Barrow	9	7	0	2	181	117	14
Dewsbury	8	6	0	2	90	83	12
Blackpool Borough	7	5	0	2	121	102	10
Bramley	7	4	0	3	138	120	8
Rochdale Hornets	8	4	0	4	78	80	8
Doncaster	9	4	0	5	110	133	8
Batley	9	4	0	5	105	130	8
York	9	2	0	7	110	121	4
Liverpool City	8	2	0	6	73	131	4
Whitehaven	7	2	0	5	48	125	4
Salford	9	1	0	7	91	185	2
Bradford Northern	8	1	0	7	75	163	2

FIXTURES & SCORES SEASON 1963/64

Date	Club	Grd.	Time	F. A.	Date	Club	Grd.	Time	F. A.
Aug. 17	Rochdale (Charity) home	3.0	29-13		Dec. 7	Bramley (2)	away	2.30	
24	Rochdale (2)	away	3.0	20-7	14	Bradford (2)	home	2.30	
27	Leigh (2) (Tue.)	home	7.0	6-6	21	Rochdale (R)	away	2.30	
31	Batley (2)	home	3.0	44-7	26	Leigh (2)	away	2.30	
Sept. 2	Liverpool (2)	away	6.30	20-9	21	Dewsbury (2)	home	2.30	
7	Widnes (L. C.)	home	6.30	10-5	Jan. 4	Blackpool (R)	home	2.30	
14	York (2)	away	3.0	7-4	11	Bradford (2)	away	2.30	
16	Blackpool (R)	away	6.0	24-10	18	Whitehaven (2)	home	2.30	
18	Whitehaven	home	6.30	35-4	25	Salford (2)	home	3.0	
21	Barrow (2)	home	3.0	35-8	Feb. 1	Dewsbury (2)	away	3.0	
28	Blackpool (2)	away	3.0	22-6	8	(1st Rd. R.L. Cup)			
30	Leigh	away	7.0	0-10	15	Leigh (R)	away	3.0	
Oct. 5	Australia	home	3.0	4-12	22	Blackpool (2)	home	3.0	
12	Doncaster (2)	home	3.0	45-13	29	(2nd Rd. R.L. Cup)			
19	Barrow (2)	away	3.0	21-15	Mar. 7	Batley (2)	away	3.0	
26	Rochdale (R)	home	3.0		14	(3rd Rd. R.L. Cup)			
Nov. 2	Doncaster (2)	away	3.0		21	Barrow (R)	home	3.0	
9	York (2)	home	2.30		27	Liverpool (2)	home	3.0	
16	Whitehaven (2)	away	2.30		28	Leigh (R)	home	3.0	
23	Rochdale (2)	home	2.30		30	Salford (2)	away	3.0	
30	Barrow (R)	away	2.30		Apr. 11	Bramley (2)	home	3.0	