




## The MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST

*Organised by Whitbread & Co. Ltd. in  
association with The Rugby Football League*

 The Mackeson Rugby League Contest Trophy and a cheque for 200 guineas goes to the team with the best scoring record for the season. Cheques for 100 guineas and 50 guineas go to the runners-up.

Specially inscribed silver tankards will be awarded to the top scoring team in each of five periods during the season, and a special champion's flag to be flown throughout the following period.

**The 5 periods are :**

**AUGUST 20 to SEPTEMBER 28**  
**SEPTEMBER 30 to NOVEMBER 23**  
**NOVEMBER 25 to JANUARY 11**  
**JANUARY 13 to MARCH 7**  
**MARCH 9 to MAY 9**

**1963/4**

# OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

WATERSHEDDINGS - OLDHAM



### OFFICIALS

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#### Club Doctors :

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Secretary : H. SUMMERSCALES

Pavilion Telephone No. : MAIn (Oldham) 4865

## OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE

18 17  
SATURDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 1963

at Watersheddings, Oldham

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.



SEASON — 1963-64

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

4d.



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## WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

It is pleasing to record yet another away victory, this time a fairly comfortable win at Whitehaven by 19 points to nil. It was a game which had two faces. The first half provided an excellent exhibition of Rugby League football, but the second half developed into stone-wall defensive tactics by the Whitehaven team and we had many near misses. Saturday last was one of the journeys to the outpost of our game, but we were rather fortunate with the road conditions. We set off at 8 a.m. and the run to Bolton took 45 minutes compared with the usual 30, owing to fog. Leaving Bolton however we ran into some glorious sunny weather and arrived at Keswick at 11-50 a.m. There the boys enjoyed the usual large grilled steak and poached egg, which disappeared in no time. Afterwards they set off on a leg stretching walk and the coach picked them up some two miles outside Keswick on the main road to Whitehaven, arriving at the ground at 1-40 p.m., in ample time to prepare ourselves for the match. We must congratulate our coach proprietors, Messrs. Barlows Ltd., upon their arranging of the coach, some seats being taken out and tables brought in. Some of our players are card manipulators and from observation, should secure honours in shuffling and sleight of hand!

## OUR VISITORS

Once again, in fact for the third time this season, we give a welcome to our old friends—Rochdale Hornets. This continuous meeting is the fault of the system of allocating fixtures and not the clubs. No doubt the Hornets will be feeling like ourselves, that we are seeing just a little too much of one another, but there it is, and we shall have to put up with it. However, let us hope that today's game lives up to the name of Rugby League and is thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCES

The attendances at Rugby League matches does not improve, and all clubs seem to be having a lean time. It is poor consolation to say that your fellows clubs' gates are down and that there is a general deterioration in gates. We have got to improve matters and the game must be made more attractive. It is a very difficult proposition once you have lost spectators, to call them back again. Our 'gates' at Watersheddings so far, will not keep the club out of debt. We have played 6 league matches at home and the average attendance has been 5,767, this includes members. It simply will not do, interest is on the wane and this is proved by our membership, as the following figures will show:-

	1963-4	1962-3
Enclosure & 'E' Stand Members .....	713	836
Pavilion Side Members .....	113	147
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(Red and White)

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- 2—LORD
- 3—NOON/NESTOR
- 4—SMETHURST
- 5—SIMMS
- 6—CROWTHER
- 7—PYCROFT
- 8—BOTT
- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—WILSON
- 11—MAJOR
- 12—WHITEHEAD/ROBINSON
- 13—PARKER

Referee :  
Mr. L. GANT  
of Wakefield

### ROCHDALE

(Red, White and Blue)

- 1—EVANS
- 2—UNSWORTH
- 3—FAIRCLOUGH
- 4—WALSH
- 5—LEVULA
- 6—ASHWORTH
- 7—FISHWICK
- 8—SCOTT
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—PARR, J.
- 11—PARR, K.
- 12—BROWN
- 13—BAXTER

Touch Judges :  
Mr. L. Hunt, Widnes (Yellow)  
W. Unsworth, Ashton-in-Mak'field (C)

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Birthday

## THE SECOND TEST

We must congratulate the Australians upon winning the 'Ashes' at Swinton on November 9th. Whilst we acknowledge that the present Australian team is good fast and strong, their latest victory must be discounted somewhat by the depleted forces of the Great Britain team. Put the boot on the other foot and suppose that the Australians had to play 11 men for the majority of the game, key men like their out half and a centre, we consider that a different tale would be unfolded and less mud slinging at officials and selection committee of the Great Britain team. It is easy to grumble but not many bouquets are handed out when a victory comes along, oh no, it is the players then. There are 13 selectors on the international committee and whether this is too many is a problem which we cannot comment upon.

However, there is one thing, that the Australians play the type of football which is a delight to watch, their speed and handling should give encouragement for the home clubs to put their house in order. We should say without contradiction that the average Australian player covers twice as much ground in a match as the average British player.

## POSTPONING MATCHES

The President of the Australian Rugby League Board of Control, Mr. W. G. Buckley, who is at present in this country, discussed with the Rugby League Council at its last meeting, Australia's reaction to English League Clubs playing League matches in CLOSE PROXIMITY to Test matches. The Rugby League Council will now give every consideration to the postponement of games scheduled on the day of the Third Test on Saturday, 30th November.

We are due to play Barrow at Barrow on this date and we see no reason whatever why we should postpone this match, it is a far cry from Leeds to Barrow.

At the Second Test, at Swinton, we consider that a crowd of 30,883 was an excellent one considering the great counter attractions within a radius of 5 miles, such as the Manchester November Handicap (and the last day of racing ever to take place on this course) and Manchester United playing Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford.

## THE MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST 1963/64

### PERIOD 2 — SEPTEMBER 30th to NOVEMBER 23rd

Top seven positions after matches played on November 16th

CLUB	Played	Pts. For	Average	Pts. Against
1—Wigan .....	6	160	26.67	55
2—Swinton .....	5	119	23.80	30
3—Wakefield T. ...	5	101	20.20	46
4—Hull K. R. ....	6	117	19.50	57
5—Castleford .....	6	113	18.83	67
6—Oldham .....	7	127	18.14	48
7—Featherstone .....	8	133	16.63	99

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

Up to and including Saturday, 16th November, 1963

Player	A	G	T	P	Player	A	G	T	P
Dyson	18	66	2	138	Rae	6		4	12
Lord	18		5	15	Donovan	3			
Noon	10	6	6	30	Simms T.	15		14	42
Nestor	18		5	15	Smethurst	16		7	21
Elliott	8		5	15	Cheshire	1			
Davies	1				Wilson	10			
Pycroft	19		10	30	Sims G.	7		5	15
Lloyd	1				Major	13			
McIntyre	17		4	12	Platt	6			
Robinson	19		4	12	Crowther	2		2	6
Bott	19		2	6	Taylor	1			
Parker	18		4	12	Whitehead	1			

## SECOND DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Up to and including Saturday, 16th November, 1963

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Oldham .....	12	11	1	0	268	81	23
Barrow .....	11	8	0	3	193	142	16
Leigh .....	10	7	1	2	202	87	15
Dewsbury .....	10	7	1	2	109	92	15
Blackpool .....	9	6	0	3	151	113	12
Rochdale .....	10	6	0	4	117	99	12
Batley .....	12	6	0	6	143	159	12
Doncaster .....	11	4	1	6	123	152	9
Bramley .....	8	4	0	4	142	129	8
York .....	12	3	0	9	117	151	6
Liverpool .....	10	3	0	7	86	141	6
Salford .....	11	3	0	8	114	195	6
Whitehaven .....	9	2	0	7	50	156	4
Bradford .....	11	1	0	10	104	222	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	23	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	
21	Whitehaven .....home	6.30	35-4	25	Salford (2) .....home	3.0	
28	Barrow (2) .....home	3.0	35-8	Feb. 1	Dewsbury (2) .....away	3.0	
30	Blackpool (2) .....away	3.0	22-6	8	(1st Rd. R.L. Cup)		
	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	13-4	14	(3rd Rd. R.L. Cup)		
Nov. 2	Doncaster (2) .....away	3.0	12-6	21	Barrow (R) .....home	3.0	
9	York (2) .....home	2.30	15-0	27	Liverpool (2) .....home	3.0	
16	Whitehaven (2) .....away	2.30	19-0	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	