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M 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.

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The 5 periods are:

AUGUST 22 to SEPTEMBER 26

SEPTEMBER 28 to NOVEMBER 21

NOVEMBER 23 to JANUARY 9

JANUARY 11 to MARCH 6

MARCH 8 to MAY 8

1964/5

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

WATERSHEDDINGS - OLDHAM

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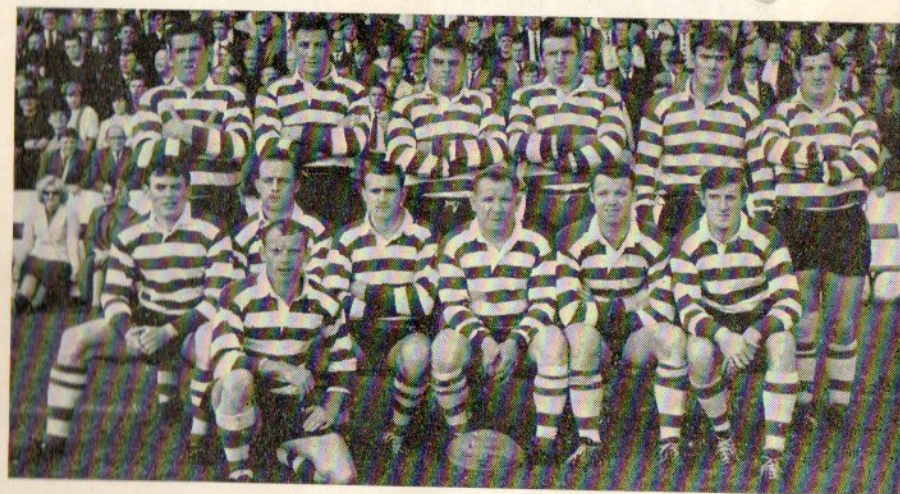
Committee :

Messrs. C. Bradley, J. Burke, A. F. Campbell, J. Errock, W. Howard, H. Jones, T. E. Rees, R. L. Thomas, E. Watkins.

Club Doctors : Dr. A. CAMPDELL and Dr. A. R. NETTLETON

Secretary : H. SUMMERSCALES

Pavilion Telephone No. : MAIn (Oldham) 4.65



Standing, left to right : McIntyre, Parker, Mumberson, Bott, Wilson, Major. Sitting, left to right : Price, Nestor, Sims, Dyson, McCormack, Donovan. Kneeling : Pycroft

SEASON — 1964/65

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No 142

Saturday, 13th March, 1965—

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

—Kick-off 3 p.m.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Saturday last saw our team hit rock bottom from a playing point of view. To lose at home by 25 points to nil requires some explanation, even allowing for the injured list, and it is evident that our reserves are not capable at present to adequately fill the places of the recognised first team. Why this fall from glory to the present state of affairs is remarkable. We commenced the season full of life and fire and won our first eight matches, scoring 199 points for, against 34 points, a somewhat formidable record, and in the words of the experts they anticipated us to be the team most likely to succeed and rightly so, but what a decline. It is evident that ringing the changes even when they are forced has not proved a success. So far this season 33 players have found places in the first team, and it is obvious that some serious thinking will have to take place and some essential first class material will have to be obtained if we are to take our rightful position amongst the leaders of the Rugby League. This fall from brilliance to mediocrity is amazing when you consider that only as far back as January 2nd when we played Hunslet at Watersheddings, and beat them by 36 points to 7, our team received a great ovation both at half time and at the final whistle. Yes, some hard thinking will have to be done and special effort put into the why and wherefore.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

Amendments to the Laws of the game have to be in the hands of the Rugby League Secretary by the 1st of March as required by Bye-Law. The various alternative methods of bringing the ball into play after a tackle are now submitted in order to provide clubs with an opportunity of voting on same. Any of these alternative methods of play the ball must secure a two thirds majority. If carried they will become operative in the 1965/66 season.

(1) To provide for the ball to be released in a tackle.

(2) Or provide for a tackled player being allowed one 'heel' free of interference after which if his team is tackled a second time the ball not having touched an opponent, the ball shall be released as in (1) above.

(3) Or to make it illegal for a player to kick the ball backwards in a play-the-ball.

(4) Or to make the tackled player kick the ball at least three yards forward, all other players to retire three yards or more to be onside.

(5) Or to make the tackled player kick the ball forward after which neither he nor the player marking him shall touch the ball again until it has been played by another player. All other players to retire one yard from play-the-ball.

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- 13—HICKS

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OUR VISITORS

Today sees one of the most important and attractive fixtures of the season in the visit of the star studded St. Helens team, who as usual are having a good season, having played 22 matches, winning 20 and losing only two, scoring 480 points for against 145, a formidable record indeed. They are the holders of the Lancashire Cup, having beaten Swinton in the final by 14 points to 4, last October. We hope that the weather will be kind to us, and that we may surprise the critics with a surprise victory. One never knows what will happen. We therefore, give the St. Helens club a welcome to Watersheddings, and hope for a great game, a game worthy of the name of Rugby League.

POSTPONED MATCHES

We have arranged to play Keighley at Keighley on Saturday next, 20th March, kick-off 3 p.m. This match was scheduled to be played on Monday, December 28th, but was postponed owing to the frozen state of the ground.

We have still two home matches to arrange and provisional arrangements have been made to play Blackpool at Watersheddings on Saturday April 3rd, of course the result of the cup-ties played today will possibly have some bearing on this match, and April 3rd is one of the dates for the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. If Blackpool and Swinton win their ties today the match will again be cancelled. If both are beaten the Blackpool club play at Swinton on Friday April 2nd, but have agreed to play at Watersheddings the following day.

We have still to make arrangements to play Salford at Watersheddings, and this will probably be an evening match, seeing that summertime comes into operation on March 21st. This will probably be a late kick-off to enable all our members to come along to the match.

INJURED PLAYERS

Our injury list is gradually being reduced, but we still have Broomhead awaiting the result of a neuro-consultant examination. Smethurst will probably be another two weeks before resuming. Major is now recovering from a dislocated shoulder and will be another three weeks before resuming activities. Crowther and Tomlinson are awaiting operations upon knee and wrist respectively.

PEN PICTURE

Joseph Collins—Date of birth 21st March, 1946, born in Salford, height 5ft. 9½ins. and weight 13st. He is single and is employed as a trainee draughtsman. Commenced playing Rugby Union with De La Salle College, played with St. Patrick's under 17's Rugby League team, then proceeded to play with Ashton Rugby Union, from whom he was signed by this club in July, 1964. Played for Lancashire v. Yorkshire under 17's at Castleford on April 4th, 1962. Also played for Lancashire v. Yorkshire under 17's at Watersheddings on April 28th 1962. This player is one of our coming stars and has already appeared in the first team.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS (All Matches)

Up to and including Saturday last

Player	A	G	T	P	Player	A	G	T	P
Dyson	22	77	5	169	Robinson	5		1	3
Sims	27	16	7	53	Smethurst	20		3	9
McCormack	21		2	6	Gaskell	7		1	3
Nestor	18		4	12	Collins	11½		2	6
Patterson	4		3	9	Howarth	4			
Donovan	21		9	27	Crowther	2			
Pycroft	19		4	12	Hill	4½			
Mumberson	16½		2	6	Whitehead	9		1	3
McIntyre	20½		5	15	Tomlinson	½	1		2
Wilson	18½				Broomhead	1½			
Simms	½		1	3	Taylor	6		1	3
Wilkinson	1				Elliott	9		2	6
Major	13		1	3	McLeod	11½		8	24
Parker	20		4	12	DeJooze	1½			
Bott	25		2	6	Kenny	½			
Price	12		9	27	Irving	3			
					Warburton	2			

Appearances ½ indicates where a player has only played half the game
The Substitute Rule operating

NEWS FROM THE MACKESON RUGBY LEAGUE CONTEST

MAIN CONTEST — Position after matches played on March 6th

CLUB	Played	Pts. F.	Average	Pts. A.
1—St. Helens	28	589	21.04	195
2—Wigan	31	550	17.74	216
3—Halifax	31	524	16.90	334
4—Hull K. R.	28	458	16.36	319
5—Leeds	33	535	16.21	344
6—Castleford	29	429	14.79	265
7—Workington	28	391	13.96	273
8—Oldham	27	370	13.70	285

FIXTURES & RESULTS FOR 1964/65 SEASON

Date	Club		Grd.	Time	F. A.	Date	Club		Grd.	Time	F. A.
Aug. 15	Rochdale (Charity)	away	3.0	39-7		19	Liverpool	.....	away	2.30	
22	Dewsbury	.....	away	3.0	17-4	26	St. Helens	.....	home	2.30	
25	Widnes (Tues.)	.....	home	7.0	23-2	28	Keighley (Mon.)	.....	away	2.30	
29	Swinton	.....	home	3.0	13-2	Jan. 2	Hunslet	.....	home	2.30	36-7
Sept. 4	Whitehaven (Cup)	.....	away	6-30	31-10	9	Barrow	.....	away	2.30	5-8
12	Liverpool	.....	home	3.0	42-5	16	Rochdale H.	.....	away	2.30	
14	Blackpool	.....	away	6.0	13-2	23	Salford	.....	home	3.0	
19	Widnes	.....	away	3.0	21-2	30	Warrington	.....	away	3.0	5-19
26	Whitehaven	.....	home	3.0	4-21	Feb. 6	Hunslet	.....	away	3.0	4-17
Oct. 3	Leigh	.....	away	3.0	20-10	13	Keighley	.....	home	3.0	26-6
10	Rochdale H.	.....	home	3.0	14-5	20	Wigan	.....	away	3.0	12-20
17	Workington	.....	away	3.0	5-21	27	(2nd Rnd. R.L. Cup)				
24	Warrington	.....	home	3.0	6-15	Mar. 6	Leigh	.....	home	3.0	0-25
31	St. Helens	.....	away	3.0	6-22	13	Workington	.....	home	3.0	
Nov. 7	Barrow	.....	home	3.0	21-4	27	Huddersfield	.....	home	3.0	
14	Huddersfield	.....	away	2-30	12-10	Apr. 3	(Semi-Final R.L. Cup)				
21	Wigan	.....	home	2.70	9-18	10	(Semi-Final R.L. Cup)				
2	Salford	.....	away	2.30	9-5	16	Swinton (G.F.)	.....	away	3.0	
Dec. 5	Hunslet	.....	away	2.30	7-4	17	Whitehaven	.....	away	3.0	
12	Blackpool	.....	home	2.30		19	Dewsbury (E.M.)	.....	home	3.0	