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YEAR BOOK- 1971 1972





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MESSAGE FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

July, 1971

Dear Members and Friends,

As this is the first opportunity I have had to write in the Supporters' Club Year Book, I would like to thank the officials and committee of the Supporters' Club for all the help and backing I received during last season.

I am sure that I speak for all of them when I say it was a most successful season from our point of view.

Breaking with tradition, this year's book has been produced by the Supporters' Club officials and committee, and in my opinion this is a big step forward in our efforts to produce more finance.

Previously, the book was published by an outside organisation which was responsible for advertisement-collection. In return for the receipts they pulled in from advertising, they published the book for us and gave us a donation of a little more than £50.

This year, however, we have collected our own advertisements and acquired our own printer—a move which, I am sure, will lead to us at least trebling the amount of cash we have received via the Year Book in the past.

May I also thank Mr. A. Walker and his committee for the co-operation we received from them last season. On behalf of my committee, I would like, too, to wish Mr. Walker, the committee the coaches Mr. G. Starkey and Mr. A. Kellett, and the players, a most happy and successful 1971/2 season.

"Team spirit" is a phrase of only two, small words but if everyone at Watersheddings, from Mr. Walker down to the ball boys, uses it as their motto, I have no doubt that before long we can put Oldham R.L.F.C. back where it belongs—on top in Rugby League.

Thanks again for all the help, voluntary or otherwise, which was given last year, and many thanks, too, to those fans who travel on our coaches to away games.

Don't forget—join the Supporters' Club and play an active part in giving vital support to the parent committee and the team.

Yours sincerely,

E. SCHOFIELD, President O.R.L.F.C.S.C.



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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters,

This year is the first time I have had the pleasure of contributing to the Year Book with a message. I hope that, as you read it, you will notice that it is thicker than it has been in previous years; the reason being that the committee undertook to obtain the advertisements and so increase the revenue.

The Supporters' Club have handed over £400 to the parent body. This was earned by the hard work of the committee in the canteens and the recently re-opened bar behind the scoreboard. We also held a sponsored walk and several other functions which helped increase our funds. The committee also contributed to the organising of the Christmas Draw which raised a further £500.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Supporters' Club and me as Secretary, in the past season.

On behalf of the supporters I would like to wish the parent committee and the players every success for the coming season and an increase in attendances throughout the Rugby League.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID S. BLACKBURN, Hon. Secretary, O.R.L.F.C.S.C.

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**MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB**

Glen Villa,
Buckley Hill,
Milnrow
July, 1971

Dear Friends,

Last season proved the wisdom of what we said at the outset . . . "Let's pull together".

We have done just that, with the result that your Supporters' Club has produced a greater contribution to the parent body than in previous seasons.

This has been achieved by co-operation between the two committees, and I must congratulate the Supporters' Club on their enterprise in undertaking events such as the "Lancashire Night" and the sponsored walk, which proved very successful.

May I, therefore, thank your committee for the good results achieved last year, and wish you every success in all the ventures to be undertaken in the forthcoming season.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WALKER, Chairman, O.R.L.F.C.

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VITAL

by **ROGER HALSTEAD**
(Oldham Evening Chronicle R.L. Reporter)

Few seasons have been as vital in Oldham's history as the one which recently got under way. All the good work put in when the hoped-for revival began last year will very rapidly go to seed unless the fans get at least a fair degree of success this time against much tougher opposition.

The peculiarities of Rugby League football mean that, although Oldham finished in 16th place last season and, as such, are still deemed a bottom-strata club, their fixture programme is one of the toughest for seasons.

Who can describe Swinton, Warrington with Alex Murphy, Featherstone and Widnes as "bottom half" clubs? They are down there for only one reason: they missed out in the first season of the two-way split.

Throw in Leeds, Wigan, and St. Helens, the teams from the upper half who Oldham have to meet, and one quickly gets the measure of the sort of strong opposition with which Oldham will have to contend in this most important of seasons.

Of course, it's an ill wind . . . and all that. The more attractive opposition should make the committee's job of attracting back the missing thousands a little easier to undertake successfully.

But they will only do that if the team performs creditably on the meadow against these top teams—and it's pretty clear in view of last season's balance sheet that there is going to be little, if any, cash available with which to strengthen the side.

Certainly, coach Graham Starkey's second season at Watersheddings is going to be a real test of his ability to bring out the best in talent which is available.

In Alan Kellett, he will have an excellent ally. The former first-team favourite, now in charge of Oldham's 'A' team, is in the opinion of many experienced judges just the man to develop the Watersheddings youngsters along the right lines.

The drawback to any youth policy is the fact that it takes time to bear fruit—and time is running out on Oldham.

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It will need a season of fair results on the field and success in ventures like the pools and the social club to keep the club's head above water.

But, most important of all, is the desperate need to increase revenue through the turnstiles. Last season's crowds, frankly, were disastrously small, and the added revenue produced by the pools, set against the cash spent in the player market, still meant that the committee had to report a near-£15,000 loss.

The crowds will only return if Oldham get out of their annoying habit of hitting the heights one match—and the depths the next.

How could one explain the team's performances last season against such teams as Wakefield, Workington home and away, Halifax at home and Wigan away in the championship play-off when compared with the defeats by lowly Yorkshire opposition?

Consistency is what is needed now . . . and there is little doubt that the club's immediate future lies with the coaches and the 15 lads who will do battle every Saturday of the season.

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FIXTURES FOR 1971/72 SEASON

Aug. 8	Swinton (Lancashire Cup)	Away
21	Barrow	Home
25	Swinton	.....	Away
28	Hunslet	.....	Away
Sept. 1	Leeds	.....	Home
8	Wigan	.....	Home
11	Leeds	.....	Away
19	Huyton	.....	Home
24	Widnes	.....	Away
Oct. 2	Featherstone Rovers	.....	Home
8	Wigan	.....	Away
16	St. Helens	.....	Away
23	Blackpool Borough	.....	Home
30	Widnes	.....	Home
Nov. 6	Hunslet	.....	Home
13	Player's No. 6 Competition (1)		
20	York	.....	Away
27	Player's No. 6 Competition (2)		
Dec. 4	St. Helens	.....	Home
11	Bradford Northern	.....	Home
18	Bradford Northern	.....	Away
27	Rochdale Hornets	.....	Home
Jan. 1	Barrow	.....	Away
8	Swinton	.....	Home
15	Whitehaven	.....	Away
22	Featherstone Rovers	.....	Away
29	R.L. Challenge Cup (1)		
Feb. 5	Bramley	.....	Home
11	Warrington	.....	Away
19	R.L. Challenge Cup (2)		
26	Blackpool Borough	.....	Away
Mar. 4	Doncaster	.....	Home
11	York	.....	Home
18	Doncaster	.....	Away
22	Rochdale Hornets	Away
25	Whitehaven	Home
Apr. 1	Huyton	Away
5	Warrington	Home
8	Bramley	Away

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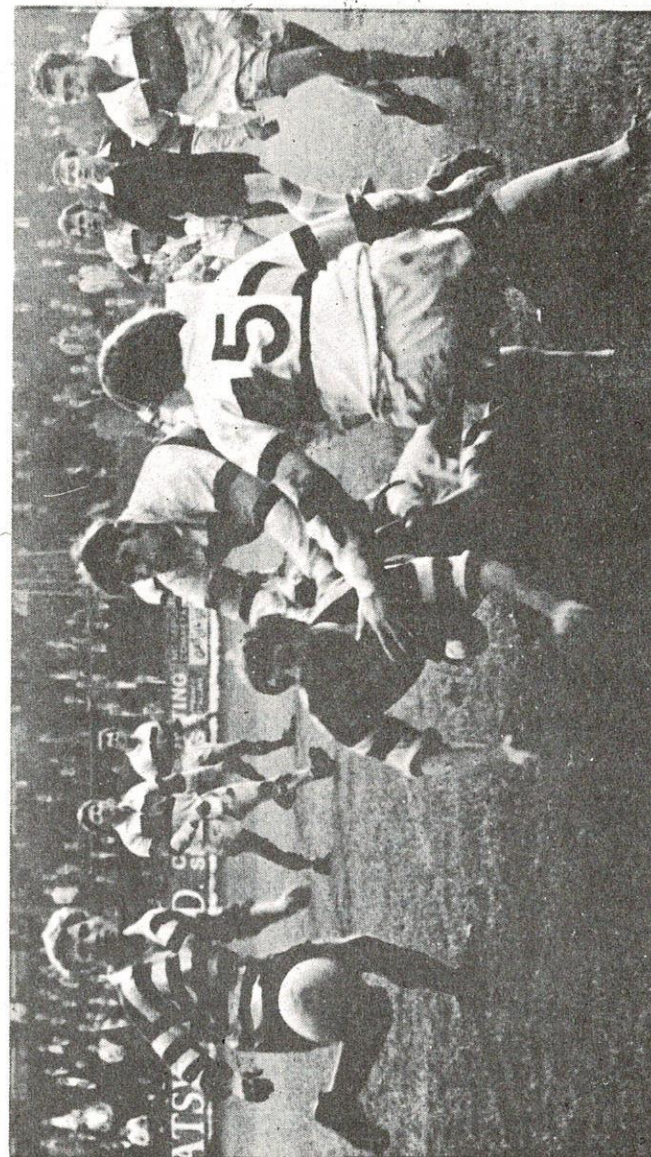
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1970-71 RESULTS

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A	Result
Aug. 8	Halifax (Friendly)	home	25	23	won
15	Huddersfield (Chron. Cup)	home	4	18	lost
22	York	away	11	24	lost
25	Hunslet	home	54	5	won
29	Salford (Lancs. Cup)	home	12	35	lost
Sept. 2	Huddersfield	away	4	9	lost
5	Barrow	away	17	23	lost
7	Blackpool Borough	away	11	20	lost
12	Bramley	home	24	8	won
19	Doncaster	away	14	10	won
21	Whitehaven	home	15	2	won
26	Dewsbury	home	16	17	lost
30	Whitehaven	away	2	12	lost
Oct. 3	Workington Town	away	17	13	won
10	York	home	24	17	won
17	Huyton	away	23	4	won
23	Huddersfield (Floodlit Cup)	away	5	12	lost
26	Wakefield Trinity	home	15	15	draw
Nov. 2	Blackpool Borough	home	19	3	won
14	Wakefield Trinity	away	2	38	lost
21	Keighley	home	13	16	lost
29	Batley	away	9	9	draw
Dec. 12	Warrington	away	17	25	lost
19	Barrow	home	13	2	won
26	Rochdale Hornets	away	4	4	draw
Jan. 9	Huyton	home	17	2	won
16	Batley	home	7	10	lost
23	Leeds (RL Challenge Cup)	away	2	49	lost
30	Halifax	away	12	16	lost
Feb. 6	Keighley	away	8	20	lost
10	Huddersfield	home	9	9	draw
13	Warrington	home	9	23	lost
24	Halifax	home	29	7	won
Mar. 13	Dewsbury	away	12	12	draw
17	Workington Town	home	11	4	won
20	Doncaster	home	9	9	draw
Apr. 9	Rochdale Hornets	home	9	11	lost
10	Hunslet	away	22	22	draw
17	Bramley	away	9	13	lost
23	Wigan (Top 16 Play-off)	away	7	12	lost

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M. Murphy	36	0	9	27
K. Wilson	36	0	2	6
P. Larder	35	16	17	83
R. Clark	34	0	13	39
T. Davies	33	0	9	27
T. Garrett	29	85	7	191
K. Ashcroft	23	1	0	2
M. Elliott	23	0	3	9
R. Bonser	22	0	0	0
T. Buckley	19	0	1	3
J. Reynolds	17	0	2	6
F. Walker	15	0	0	0
R. Fletcher	14	0	0	0
A. Ogden	14	0	0	0
G. Starkey	14	21	5	57
W. Churm	13	0	0	0
J. Blair	11	6	1	15
A. Daley	11	0	1	3
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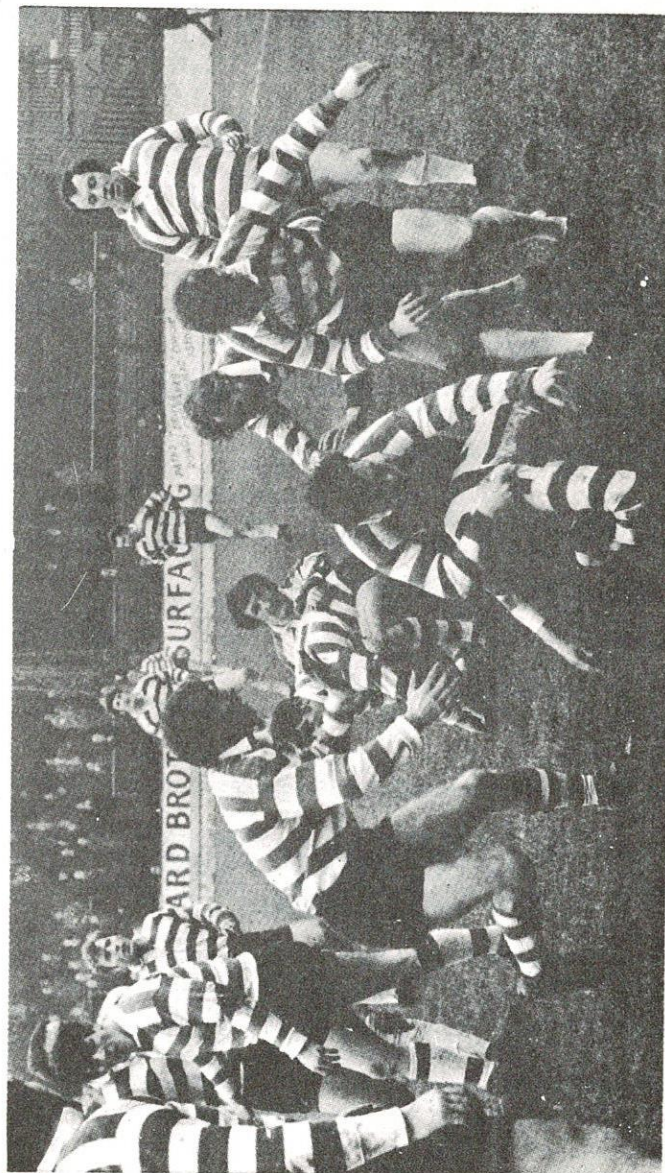
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MONTH-BY-MONTH RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
August	5	2	0	3	106	105	4
September	8	3	0	5	103	101	6
October	5	3	1	1	84	61	7
November	4	1	1	2	43	66	3
December	3	1	1	1	34	31	3
January	4	1	0	3	38	77	2
February	4	1	1	2	55	59	3
March	3	1	2	0	32	25	4
April	4	0	1	3	47	58	1
	40	13	7	20	542	583	33

TOP 16 PLAY-OFF

FIRST ROUND

Wigan 12 v Oldham 7	Wakefield 10 v Castleford 4
St. Helens 28 v Huddersfield 5	Keighley 7 v Dewsbury 20
Leeds 28 v Batley 0	Salford 33 v Halifax 3
Leigh 10 v Hull K.R. 5	Hull 14 v Workington 3

SECOND ROUND

Wigan 36 v Dewsbury 12	Leeds 37 v Salford 22
St. Helens 30 v Hull 5	Leigh 5 v Wakefield 8

SEMI-FINALS

Wigan 49 v Wakefield 15	St. Helens 22 v Leeds 7
-------------------------	-------------------------

FINAL — Played at Swinton on 22nd May, 1971

WIGAN (3) 12 v ST. HELENS (6) 16

Scorers :

Goals : Ashurst 2, Tyrer

Tries : Ashurst, Robinson

Scorers :

Goals : Coslett 5

Tries : Benyon, Blackwood

Attendance 21,706. Receipts £10,200 (Ground Record)

TEAMS

WIGAN—Tyrer ; O'Loughlin, Francis, Rowe, Wright ; Hill, Ayres ; Hogan, Clarke, Fletcher, Ashurst, Robinson, Laughton (Capt.)
Subs. : Gandy ; Cunningham (for No. 11)

ST. HELENS—Pimblett ; Jones, Benyon, Walsh, Blackwood ; Whittle, Heaton ; Stephens, Karalius, Rees, Mantle (sent off), Chisnall, Coslett (Capt.). Subs. : Kelly, Wanbon (for No. 10)

Harry Sunderland Trophy Winner : Bill Ashurst (Wigan)

Referee : E. Lawrinson, Warrington

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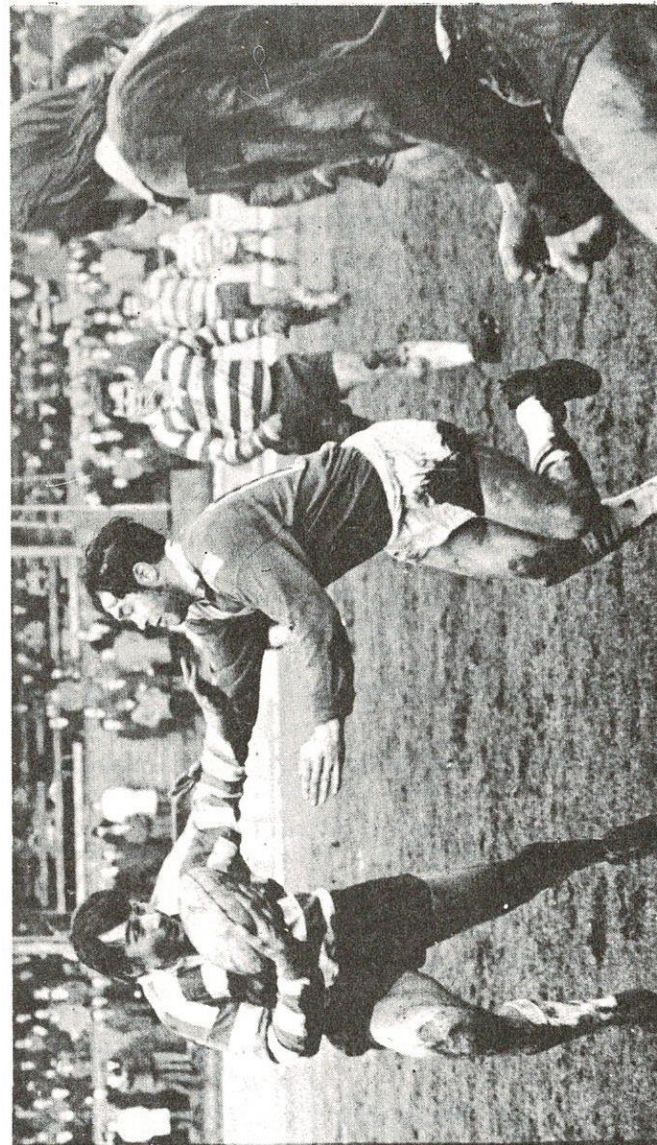
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played at Wembley

LEEDS (0) 7 v LEIGH (13) 24

Scorers :

Goals : Holmes 2

Tries : Wainwright

Scorers :

Goals : Ferguson 5, Murphy 2,

Fiddler, Eckersley. Tries : Dorrington,
Eckersley

TEAMS

LEEDS—Holmes ; Langley, Hynes (Capt.) sent off, Cowan, Atkinson ; Wainwright, Seabourne ; Burke, Fisher, Barnard, Hick, Haigh, Ramsey. Subs. : Dyl (for Cowan), Cookson

LEIGH—Eckersley ; Ferguson, Dorrington, Collins, Walsh ; Barrow, Murphy (Capt) ; Watts, Ashcroft, Fiddler, Grimes, Clarkson, Smethurst. Subs. : L. Chisnall (for Murphy), Lester

Lance Todd Trophy Winner : Alex Murphy (Leigh)

Referee : W. H. Thompson, Huddersfield.

Attendance 88,000

HOW THEY GOT THERE

LEEDS

Round 1—v. Oldham (home) 49-2

Tries : Hynes 2, Wainwright 2, Dyl, Atkinson, Hick, Cookson, Shoebottom, Batten, Haigh. Goals : Holmes 8.

Round 2—v. St. Helens (home) 4-0

Goals : Shoebottom, Holmes

Round 3—v. Bramley (away) 14-0

Tries : Smith, Shoebottom. Goals : Holmes 4

Semi-Final—v. Castleford (at Odsal) 19-8

Tries : Cowan 2, Hynes. Goals : Holmes 4, Hynes

LEIGH

Round 1—v. Bradford Northern (home) 9-2

Tries : Walsh. Goals : Ferguson 3

Round 2—v. Widnes (away) 14-11

Tries : Ashcroft, Eckersley. Goals—Ferguson 2, Murphy 2

Round 3—v. Hull (home) 8-4

Goals : Murphy 3, Ferguson

Semi-Final—v. Huddersfield (at Wigan) 10-4

Goals : Ferguson 3, Ashcroft, Fiddler

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	Winners	Runners-up
League Championship	St. Helens	Wigan
Challenge Cup	Leigh	Leeds
League Leaders	Wigan	St. Helens
Yorkshire Cup	Leeds	Featherstone R.
Lancashire Cup	Leigh	St. Helens
Floodlit TV Competition	Leeds	St. Helens

LANCASHIRE CUP (1971-72) 1st ROUND DRAW

WIDNES	v.	BLACKPOOL B.
WARRINGTON	v.	WHITEHAVEN
ST. HELENS	v.	LEIGH
SALFORD	v.	WORKINGTON
SWINTON	v.	OLDHAM
HUYTON	v.	WIGAN
BARROW	v.	ROCHDALE H.

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Alex Murphy (Leigh)	38 points	£125
4. Brian Jefferson (Keighley)	37 points	£50
5. Jim Boylan (Widnes)	33 points	£25
Nigel Stephenson (Dewsbury)	33 points	£25

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Sept. 4	Rochdale Hornets
6	St. Helens
8	Hull K.R.
12	Widnes
15	Castleford
18	Warrington
25	First Test (at Salford)
30	Barrow
Oct. 2	Whitehaven
8	Swinton
10	Wigan
16	Second Test (at Castleford)
17	Huddersfield
20	Leigh
22	Salford
30	Bradford Northern
31	York
Nov. 6	Third Test (at Leeds)/Leeds (if decider is unnecessary)

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LEAGUE LEADERS TROPHY

	Winners	Runners-up
1960-61	Leeds	Warrington
1961-62	Wigan	Wakefield T.
1962-63	Swinton (Div. 1)	St. Helens
1963-64	Swinton (Div. 1)	Wigan
1964-65	St. Helens	Wigan
1965-66	St. Helens	Swinton
1966-67	Leeds	Hull K.R.
1967-68	Leeds	Wakefield T.
1968-69	Leeds	St. Helens
1969-70	Leeds	St. Helens
1970-71	Wigan	St. Helens

From these facts, one can see that in eleven seasons, the two top places in the League have been shared out between only seven clubs. The clubs with the best record are Leeds, who have been leaders five times (four consecutive) and St. Helens, who have finished top twice and runners-up four times (including the last three seasons).

COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS

LANCASHIRE CUP

	Winners	Runners-up
1961-62	St. Helens	Swinton
1962-63	St. Helens	Swinton
1963-64	St. Helens	Leigh
1964-65	St. Helens	Swinton
1965-66	Warrington	Rochdale H.
1966-67	Wigan	Oldham
1967-68	St. Helens	Warrington*
1968-69	St. Helens	Oldham
1969-70	Swinton	Leigh
1970-71	Leigh	St. Helens

*After a Replay

YORKSHIRE CUP

	Winners	Runners-up
1961-62	Wakefield T.	Leeds
1962-63	Hunslet	Hull K. R.
1963-64	Halifax	Featherstone
1964-65	Wakefield	Leeds
1965-66	Bradford N.	Hunslet
1966-67	Hull K. R.	Featherstone
1967-68	Hull K. R.	Hull
1968-69	Leeds	Castleford
1969-70	Hull	Featherstone
1970-71	Leeds	Featherstone

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FLOODLIT COMPETITION

	Winners	Runners-up
1964-65	Castleford	St. Helens
1965-66	Castleford	Swinton
1966-67	Castleford	Leigh
1967-68	Leigh	Castleford
1968-69	Leigh	Wigan
1969-70	Wigan	St. Helens
1970-71	Leeds	St. Helens

HARRY SUNDERLAND TROPHY WINNERS

1964-65	Terry Fogarty (Halifax v. St. Helens)
1965-66	Albert Halsall (St. Helens v. Halifax)
1966-67	Ray Owen (Wakefield Trinity v. St. Helens)
1967-68	David Jeanes (Wakefield Trinity v. Hull K.R.)
1968-69	Bev Risman (Leeds v. Castleford)
1969-70	Frank Myler (St. Helens v. Leeds)
1970-71	Bill Ashurst (Wigan v. St. Helens)

POST-WAR CHAIRMEN OF THE R.L. COUNCIL

1945-46	R. Lockwood	Huddersfield
1946-47	W. H. Hughes	Salford
1947-48	W. A. Crockford	Hull K. R.
1948-49	T. Brown	Liverpool Stanley
1949-50	H. Hornby	Bradford Northern
1950-51	A. Widdeson	East Lancs. Amateur Rep.
1951-52	Sir Edwin Airey	Leeds
1952-53	B. Manson	Swinton
1953-54	C. W. Robinson	York
1954-55	J. Hilton	Leigh
1955-56	G. Oldroyd	Dewsbury
1956-57	H. E. Rawson	Hunslet
1957-58	C. E. Horsfall	Halifax
1958-59	F. Ridgeway	Oldham
1959-60	W. Cunningham	Huddersfield
1960-61	J. S. Barritt	Bradford Northern
1961-62	T. Mitchell	Workington Town
1962-63	W. Spaven	Hull K. R.
1963-64	Dr. H. Roebuck	Liverpool City
1964-65	A. Walker	Rochdale Hornets
1965-66	A. B. Sharman	Leeds
1966-67	J. B. Harding	Leigh
1967-68	J. N. Smallwood	Keighley
1968-69	J. Jepson	Featherstone Rovers
1969-70	J. J. Davies	Widnes
1970-71	H. Lockwood	Huddersfield

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GATES SLUMP!

The new fixture formula, introduced at the beginning of the season, has proved a disastrous failure. Attendances at League matches are down by a staggering 211,000, an 11½% slump, compared to a drop of only 40,000 last season.

Twenty-five of the thirty clubs in the League have lost support, the exceptions being Huddersfield, Leigh, Wakefield T., and Wigan, while St. Helens have just about broken even.

	This Season	Average	Last Season	Difference
Barrow	56,346	3,314	59,554	3,208 down
Batley	26,851	1,579	38,866	12,015 down
Blackpool B.	11,377	669	21,489	10,112 down
Bradford N.	86,018	5,059	105,833	19,815 down
Bramley	21,032	1,237	22,589	1,557 down
Castleford	76,316	4,489	83,057	6,741 down
Dewsbury	27,000	1,588	31,160	4,160 down
Doncaster	9,614	565	14,650	5,036 down
Featherstone R.	39,191	2,305	49,278	10,087 down
Halifax	31,400	1,847	41,728	10,328 down
Huddersfield	49,365	2,903	39,767	9,598 up
Hull	60,426	3,554	86,000	25,574 down
Hull K.R.	73,350	4,314	85,188	11,838 down
Hunslet	10,157	597	26,982	16,825 down
Huyton	7,290	427	13,740	6,450 down
Keighle,	30,636	1,802	45,384	14,748 down
Leeds	124,867	7,345	126,399	1,532 down
Leigh	108,746	6,396	95,714	13,032 up
Oldham	31,995	1,882	36,692	4,697 down
Rochdale H.	21,366	1,256	31,127	9,761 down
St. Helens	107,699	6,335	108,018	319 down
Salford	122,907	7,229	135,145	12,238 down
Swinton	63,316	3,724	64,950	1,634 down
Wakefield T.	81,549	4,797	70,692	10,857 up
Warrington	57,674	3,392	86,014	28,340 down
Whitehaven	27,536	1,619	34,345	6,809 down
Widnes	58,939	3,467	68,614	9,675 down
Wigan	149,244	8,779	138,341	10,903 up
Workington T.	19,134	1,125	20,712	1,578 down
York	22,530	1,325	43,379	20,849 down

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

This Season	League Average	Last Season	Attendance Drop
1,613,871	3,164	1,825,407	211,536

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POST-WAR NORTHERN R.L. CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

●

1945-46	Wigan 13 v. Huddersfield 4
1946-47	Wigan 13 v. Dewsbury 4
1947-48	Warrington 15 v. Bradford Northern 5
1948-49	Huddersfield 13 v. Warrington 12
1949-50	Wigan 20 v. Huddersfield 2
1950-51	Workington Town 26 v. Warrington 11
1951-52	Wigan 13 v. Bradford Northern 6
1952-53	St. Helens 24 v. Halifax 14
1953-54	Warrington 8 v. Halifax 7
1954-55	Warrington 7 v. Oldham 3
1955-56	Hull 10 v. Halifax 9
1956-57	Oldham 15 v. Hull 14
1957-58	Hull 20 v. Workington Town 3
1958-59	St. Helens 44 v. Hunslet 22
1959-60	Wigan 27 v. Wakefield Trinity 3
1960-61	Leeds 25 v. Warrington 12
1961-62	Huddersfield 14 v. Wakefield Trinity 5
1962-63	Swinton (First Division) v. St. Helens
1963-64	Swinton (First Division) v. Wigan
1964-65	Halifax 15 v. St. Helens 7
1965-66	St. Helens 35 v. Halifax 12
1966-67	Wakefield Trinity (7) 21 v. St. Helens (7) 9
1967-68	Wakefield Trinity 17 v. Hull Kingston Rovers 12
1968-69	Leeds 16 v. Castleford 14
1969-70	St. Helens 24 v. Leeds 12
1970-71	St. Helens 16 v. Wigan 12

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