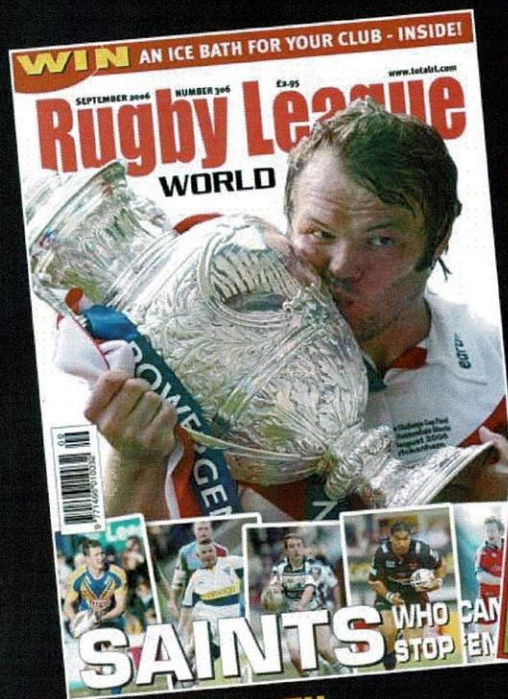


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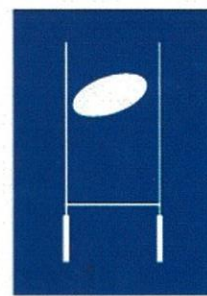


EVERY MONDAY



EVERY DAY

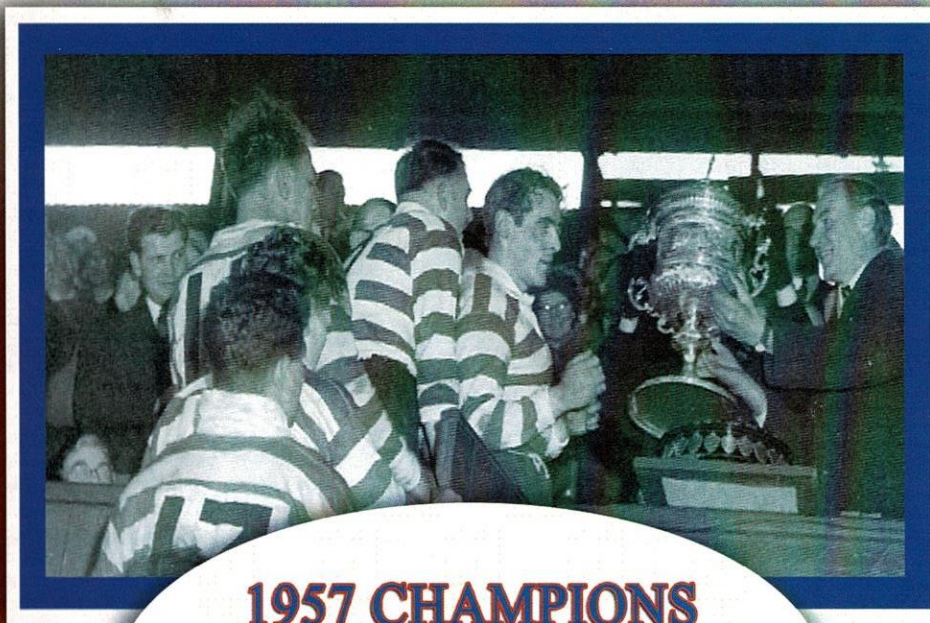
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 1957 - 2007**

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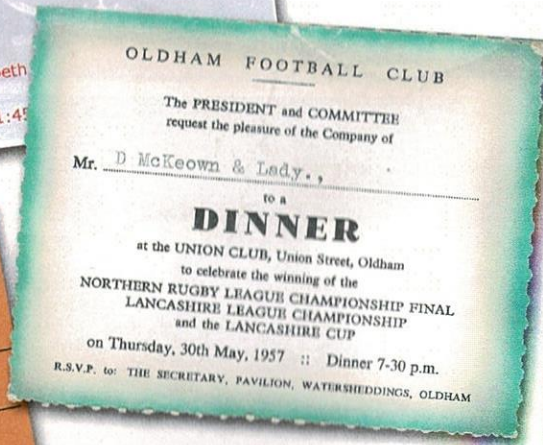
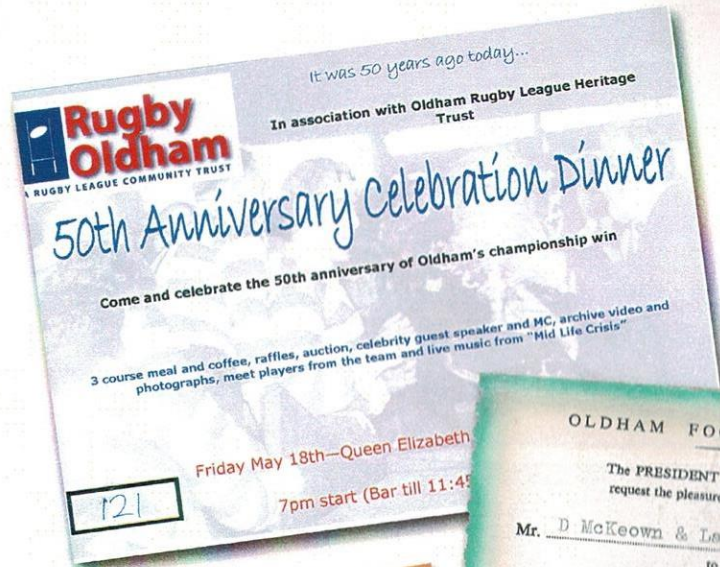


Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd

Friday 18th May 2007
 Queen Elizabeth Hall
 Oldham

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P.G.C.



It goes without saying that, as ever, without the support and backing of all our sponsors and helpers, tonight's event would have been impossible to organise.

To all of you a massive thank you!
To our guests -- enjoy the evening.

The 1957 Champions a great team

by Ian Wilson

What is it that generates a great team, one that people want to remember and commemorate / celebrate fifty years later? It is not an easy question to answer. There are lots of teams which win competitions, but little more is ever made of the feat - and certainly not the sort of function which is to take place in Oldham on May 18. And it is not just the fact that the dinner is happening, as a celebratory function; it is the fact that Oldham people still talk fondly about the "team of the mid-50s" with a pride and a nostalgia which is very unusual. As Michael Turner wrote in his marvellous history of the club, about the 1957 final, though the same sentiment would apply to the whole era: "I was two and a half years old at the time, but I have heard the story so many times it is almost as if I was there."

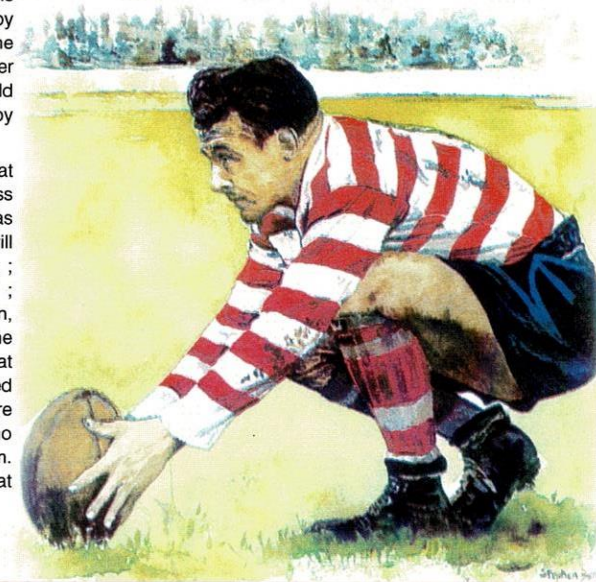
One obvious factor - and surely this would apply to all well-remembered teams - is the sheer quality of the performances which were produced. That was certainly the case for this side. Match reports and expert analyses from the time regularly make reference to the open, attractive rugby which attracted so many spectators to watch Oldham play; and there are, too, many references to occasions when factors prevented Oldham from gaining the reward which the rugby they played merited - sometimes the poor state of a pitch, or the weather conditions; sometimes the bounce of the ball; sometimes, would you believe, even the decisions of referees! There was general agreement, though, that this Oldham side played an outstanding brand of rugby league under the rules of the game which applied at the time. To quote Jack McNamara of the Manchester Evening News, "there are still plenty of fans who would rather watch a losing Oldham than a team which wins by negative steamroller methods".

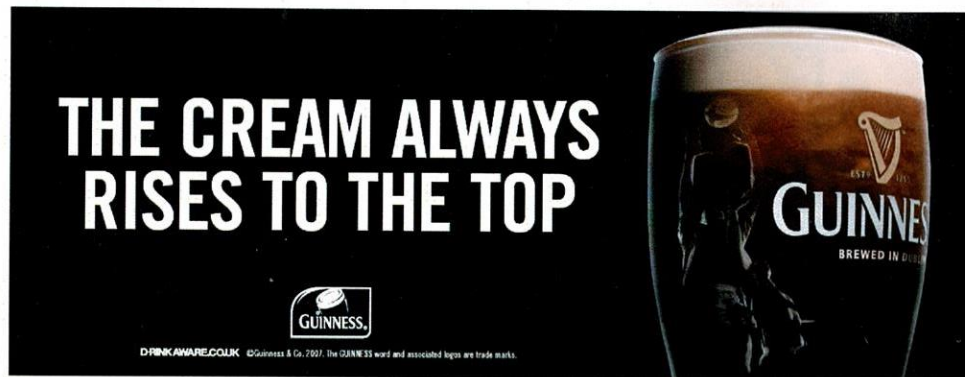
There must be more to it than that, though. I am sure that one important extra factor is the degree of closeness which exists between the team, and indeed the squad as a whole, and the supporters. More elderly readers will almost certainly recall the following names: Stirrup; O'Grady, Noon, Nestor, O'Brien; Kellest, Jones; Rowbottom, Carruthers, Jarman, McKeown, Tomlinson, Rogers. These were all players who didn't make the Championship final side, but who were in and around at the time, some as regular players [and I have ignored such as Ogden and Goldswain, who of course were regulars just before the 1956-7 season], and others who spent most of their careers at the club in the "A" team. They were all part of the whole set-up, and the fact that

the A team attracted not insignificant numbers of the local fans to support it at Watersheddings, very much added to the whole feeling of togetherness and quality which has survived to this day.

There is also another factor - that the team performs over a period of time. And this side certainly did that. It took a while to fully come together, with messrs. Etty, Vines and Turner really being the final cogs, and sadly it broke up far too quickly. But from the so-near-but-so-far season of '54-5 to the cup and championship losses to St. Helens in the spring of 1959, we were at the top of the game, even if our Challenge Cup failures and single championship win meant that the results did not fully reflect our status in the game. Maybe, indeed, the infuriating failure on a number of big occasions helped to cement the side in the hearts of its supporters. It certainly made the good days even more appreciated! There was also a small-club-takes-on-the-superstars aspect to this particular side, which always helps in keeping it in the hearts of its supporters - compare the Featherstone side which unexpectedly beat Hull at Wembley in 1983. This was particularly prominent as we beat Wigan on 14 consecutive occasions!

So here we are, in 2007. How good it will be to see the surviving players, and relatives of those of their colleagues who are sadly no longer with us, chatting together at the dinner. Let's just thank them for the memories!





1957

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50 Years... ...where's it gone?

by Brian Walker

It is 50 years to the very day since Bernard Ganley lifted the Championship trophy at Odsal to the delight of thousands and thousands of Roughyeds fans. And, for at least of those of us still around, a day of celebration.

50 years ago! Where's it gone? I was eleven at the time living in a terraced house – complete with the obligatory outside loo and a tin bath hanging on a nail on the backyard wall - hardly a Charlie Winslade pass from Watersheddings' popular side stand. Posters displayed in the downstairs window of half a dozen houses in our row offered coach seats to Bradford for Saturday's big match. Oldham vs. Hull...3/-. Success was one of only a handful of things not rationed at that time, so, despite post-war austerity business was brisk.

Coaches were commandeered from all over the county. Ours was an old job from Wigan. The driver said that the very same coach had taken Oldham fans to the 1927 Challenge Cup final when the Watersheddings' side played Swinton at Central Park and that it had been spirited away during the war so as not to be called in for scrap!

Coaches and cars (but mostly coaches) snaked over the Pennines wagon train formation. There were crates of bottled beer on board - a couple of which were compliments of the Wellington on Ripponden Rd where Oldham stalwart Percy Carter was mine-host. I remember the moans when the driver had to make yet another comfort stop. On the basis that we didn't want to get snarled up with the Hull wagon train we parked on a side street miles from Odsal.

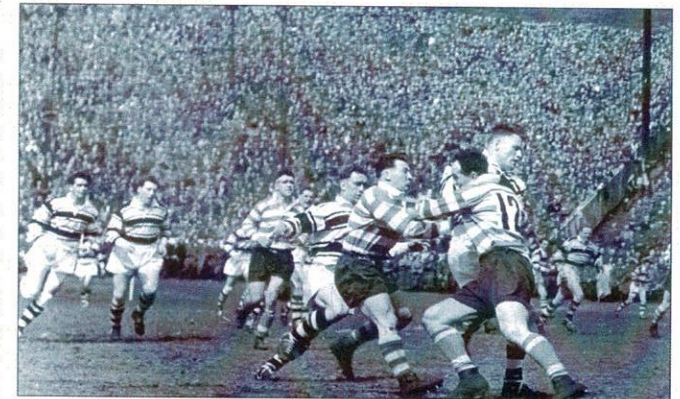
Although the lead changed hands four times and there was an exciting climax the 1956-57 Championship final wasn't a classic. All the indicators had pointed to the fact that it should have been. Oldham had won 33 league matches that season - a record for the competition at that time - their 893 points (remember only three points for a try in those days) being the greatest haul since Wagstaff's rampant Huddersfield side clocked-up 996 way back before the First World War. The Roughyeds had earned themselves the reputation of

being a team that played open rugby to some style whilst opponents and reigning champions Hull, renowned for the strength of their pack, also had a set of backs that given the opportunity could take advantage.

The Oldham Evening Chronicle's reporter of the period, wrote of his hometown side, *"Not for a long time on the field of rugby have so few brought so much colour into grimy Oldham life. Off the field too, Oldham have managed to keep things hotted-up in the world of controversy; retirements, transfer requests and revolts have all helped them to be the most talked-about team this century. But Oldham will be best remembered for its rugby.... its charming, hair-raising, honest-to-goodness, fan-winning rugby league."*

At the end of that season's campaign Oldham sat proudly at the top of the single division of 30 clubs with 66 points whilst the Boulevard side finished runners-up with 60. The top four clubs played off for the two final spots. 20,000 spectators were shoehorned into Watersheddings to watch Oldham beat fourth placed Leeds 22-12, whilst Hull slaughtered third placed Barrow 45-14.

The match was played on a bright, late spring Saturday afternoon, the 62,217 Odsal crowd almost double that for the Hull vs. Halifax final the previous season and - unlike the modern era - the stadium wasn't awash with colourful favours but a sea of cloth caps, trilbies, uniforms and gabardine. (cont page 6)...



Pitchford and Winslade take Hull's centre Dannatt watched by a crowd of 62,217!

50 Years...

(cont.)

...where's it gone?

by Brian Walker

The two teams lined up as follows:

Hull; Colin Hutton: Stan Cowan, Geoff Dannatt, Carl Turner, Ivor Watts: Rowley Moat, Tommy Finn: Mick Scott, Tommy Harris, Jim Drake, Cyril Sykes, Bill Drake, Johnny Whiteley. (Manager-coach Roy Francis).

Oldham; Bernard Ganley: Dick Cracknell, Alan Davies, Dennis Ayres, John Etty: Frank Daley, Frank Pitchford: Ken Jackson, Jack Keith, Don Vines, Sid Little, Charlie Winslade, Derek Turner. (Manager-coach Griff Jenkins).

Referee: Matt Coates (Pudsey).

Colours: Hull - black and white; Oldham - red and white.

Oldham's centre Alan Davies, forwards Sid Little and Derek Turner, along with Hull's Welsh hooker Tommy Harris, had earlier in the season figured in the Ashes- winning series against the touring Australians and subsequently all four plus Hull's loose-forward Johnny Whiteley had been selected for the forthcoming World Cup.

In Oldham the match is still remembered as the Frank Pitchford final. Roughyeds' fans still talk about how in the dying minutes the explosive scrum-half had been instrumental in extending Oldham's lead from just one point to four and then in a moment of madness almost threw the match away. It started with Hull attacking the Oldham line with seven minutes to go and the game on a knife-edge.

Scottish winger Stan Cowan dropped the ball only for the spring-heeled Oldham half to scoop it up, culminating in winger John Etty scoring an unconverted try in the corner pushing the score out to 15-11. Then came that moment of madness. Oldham fans were counting down the clock when Pitchford quite unnecessarily attempted one of his trademark long passes, only to give Cowan chance to intercept and fully make amends for his earlier error. All full-back Bernard Ganley could do was to stop the wingman from touching down under the posts. With the score at 15-14 in Oldham's favour, goal-kicker Colin Hutton had only to convert to win the game. It was all over bar the shouting. But, much to Oldham's relief and Hull's woe, the normally reliable kicker missed a sitter.

The Roughyeds' had started the match firm favourites but it was soon evident that the reigning champions weren't about to give up their title without a scrap. Hutton opened Hull's account in just the fourth minute when he kicked a penalty goal awarded for Oldham falling off-side. The Roughyeds' hooker Jack Keith was taking a pasting from Tommy Harris in the early scrums but despite being starved of the ball Oldham were first to cross for a try. In the 24th minute Welsh international second-row forward Charlie Winslade split the Hull defence with a magnificent break and passed the ball to Pitchford, who in turn put Etty in for

the first of his brace of tries. Beating Harris the winger turned inside to score close to the post, allowing marksman Ganley an easy conversion to put the score at 5-2.

Just five minutes later Oldham were again in trouble when a fussy Coates pulled them up for being offside at the scrum. Hutton again took advantage to narrow the Oldham lead to just one point. Oldham's loose-forward Derek Turner was then held up over the line and second-rower Sid Little had a try disallowed for a double movement but it was the Airlie-Birds who went into the break 6-5 in front, after Hutton dropped a goal seconds before the half time whistle.

It had been an unattractive first half. A combination of tenacious Hull tackling and Harris dominating the scrums had hardly allowed the Watersheddings' side to further practice the fast-flowing style that its fans had become to expect. And, worse was to come. Expecting the half time dressing-down to have the desired effect, Oldham supporters were driven to silence when just five minutes into the second half Hull's international loose-forward Johnny Whiteley made the gap for centre Carl Turner to break through and crash through a desperate tackle by Dennis Ayres to score under the posts. A delighted Colin Hutton added the extras to put the Humberiders 11-5 in front.

For the next 25 minutes Oldham dominated the game. The unfortunate Hull second-row Cyril Sykes (down injured) was penalised by referee Coates for not playing the ball. Ganley converted from halfway to reduce the margin to 11-7.

The Oldham forwards were now well on top with Derek Turner giving the Hull forwards a torrid time. Welsh prop-forward Don Vines got centre Alan Davies away. Davies in turn fed the ball to fellow centre Dennis Ayres, who scored just wide of the sticks. Ganley converted to take the score to 12-11. Pitchford, with the line open, was brought back for a forward pass, as later was Sid Little. Then came the Etty and Cowan tries.

Even then the game wasn't dead. In the last few seconds a Mick Scott kick settled behind the Oldham line only for John Etty to nudge Geoff Dannatt in the race to


the ball. To Oldham fans' relief the ball was made dead, the final whistle blew and the celebrations could begin. Mr. E. Hardaker, the Hull FC chairman told the Oldham Evening Chronicle, "I'm satisfied with the result. Oldham were certainly the best team on the day and just about deserved to win", whilst Oldham's chairman, Mr. W. Howard added, "Even suffering an off-day Oldham still showed that they were worthy champions. It has been a great season." The Chronicle's man summed it up, "It was a rugged final with a fantastic finish, and though Oldham were not their normal selves they still left no doubt that as far as class went they were much better than Hull."

Looking back over all those years one of rugby league's oddities surely must be that a club of Oldham's stature, which, for almost all of its 80 years history had lorded it amongst the best, has, since that day in 1957, failed to reach the final of the Challenge Cup, Championship, First Division Premiership or even the John Player/Regal Trophy never mind winning it. Considering that there have been frequent periods during the last 50 years when the club, founder members of Super League, have been feared by the best and a trip to Watersheddings low on any club's wish list, it's quite remarkable. What odds would the bookies give last year's double winners St Helens against not appearing in another major final before 2057?


Brian Walker



Hull's winger Cowan takes a pass despite the efforts of Etty.


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every success for their
50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

If only I'd been around!

by Andy Wilson, The Guardian.

For a thirtysomething rugby league journalist, and presumably a fair proportion of the other guests at tonight's dinner who weren't born in 1957, it is hard to imagine a time when Oldham were the finest team in the land. We can only envy those of you lucky enough to be at the Osdal Stadium that day, and to watch such great names of the past as Ganley, Davies and Little – and wonder if the Roughyeds will ever rise to such heights again.

I guess the closest we've been to such heady days in my Oldham-watching era was the first two of the four Challenge Cup semi finals the club reached between 1986 and 1995, when a first Wembley appearance was so agonisingly close.

If only video referees or even in-goal judges had existed in 1986, then surely Bob Beardmore's crucial try at Central Park would not have been awarded – his legs were clearly over the dead-ball line when he grounded the ball, at least according to my slightly biased memory – and Oldham rather than Castleford would have played Hull Kingston Rovers at Wembley.

How different the club's troubled recent history might have been, too, if Paul Lord had not been ruled offside from Mike Ford's kick in the 1990 semi final against Warrington. Instead we lost 18-7 to Cas in 86, and 10-6 to Warrington four years later, and despite somehow reaching the last four twice more in 1991 and 1995, being drawn against then mighty Wigan on each occasion removed any realistic chance of going so close again.

For the last decade since relegation from the Super League in 1997 and the financial calamity that followed, even reaching a cup semi final has seemed an impossible dream – never mind getting to Wembley or winning the Championship – and like anyone connected to the Oldham club, I will always be grateful to the efforts of Chris Hamilton, Sean Whitehead and so many others for defying the odds to ensure that we even have a team to support.

Hopefully this season in National League Two the long haul back to establishing the Roughyeds among the elite of the game has begun – and I write after breaking press box etiquette, and upsetting quite a few Welshmen, by celebrating a bit too enthusiastically when Steve Deakin's brave battlers completed that famous comeback against the Celtic Crusaders in Bridgend.

With regular home support dipping below four figures, it is obviously going to take a while. But as proper Oldhamers yourselves rather than a Macclesfield-born impostor like me, you'll hopefully have more knowledge of the latent rugby league support that exists in the town.

Oldham's continued presence in the Super League through players such as Barrie McDermott, Kevin Sinfield, Iestyn Harris and the Sculthorpe brothers shows that the amateur clubs are continuing to produce the talent – and I'm told that a young scrum half currently knocking on the first team door at St Helens, Kyle Eastmond, will shortly be joining that list.

The work done by the Rugby Football League in remodelling the structure outside Super League in recent years should also help Oldham, as it provides a realistic pathway back to the top: first by winning National League Two (hopefully sooner rather than later, although that won't be easy this year with teams like Barrow and the Crusaders around); then by readjusting to the First Division, perhaps with the added bonus of a run to the Northern Rail Cup final in Blackpool; and finally showing that the club has the finance and support to merit a Super League franchise, presumably some time around 2010.

But if clubs like Salford and Wakefield have been able to make the play-offs in recent years, surely it isn't beyond Oldham to reach that level again? It would be such a boost to the town's national image, with the recent media coverage the city of Hull has enjoyed through having two clubs in the Super League underlining the potential benefits – particularly at a time when the game, certainly at the top level, is stronger than I can remember in 20-odd years following it.

For the moment I can only congratulate everyone involved with tonight's dinner and the Rugby Oldham organisation for your commitment to the cause – and repeat my jealousy of anyone who was lucky enough to be at the Osdal Stadium 50 years ago.



THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

HULL v. OLDHAM

SATURDAY

18th MAY

1957

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

At OSDAL STADIUM
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The following 16 pages are a reproduction of the
1956-57 Championship Official Souvenir Programme



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The League Championship

Like the "play-the-ball" law the method by which the Northern Rugby Football League Championship is determined has long been a source of controversy.

The Northern Rugby Football League comprises the thirty senior professional clubs whereas The Rugby Football League embraces the whole of the game. This senior league was formed in 1901, six years after the "birth" of the game.

In the three years 1902-5 two divisions were operated but in 1905 the present system of the Top-Four-Play-off was introduced.

There is no doubt that the League semi-finals and final are money-spinners and provide entertaining football for supporters.

Two Divisions

But, and it is a very big but, the system has its disadvantages and there are many who would like to revert to two divisions in order to create more competitive interest in the majority of League games.

Consequently we find that attempts are made from time to time to amend the fixture formula which is contained in N.R.F.L. Bye-Law No. 10. The latest attempt was less than two years ago when schemes for two and even three divisions were reviewed but none succeeded in obtaining the necessary two-thirds majority.

Fixture Formula

Although the Top-Four principle has been in operation for over fifty years the actual formula which determines each club's fixtures has seen many changes—most of the changes being caused by variations in the number of clubs in the League.

Present Scheme

The present formula governing last season's fixtures will operate again in 1957-58.

There are sixteen Yorkshire, twelve Lancashire and two Cumberland clubs.

The Cumberland clubs and one Yorkshire club are grouped with the Lancashire clubs in the Lancashire League making fifteen clubs in all. The remaining fifteen Yorkshire clubs play in the Yorkshire League.

Each club plays thirty-eight games, i.e. nineteen other clubs, made up as follows: fourteen clubs in its own County League and five inter-county League fixtures.

Inter-County Fixtures

The inter-county matches consist of the top five clubs in each County League playing each other, the middle five and the bottom five doing likewise.

The Yorkshire club to be transferred is that which wins the Yorkshire League the previous season.

As Leeds won the Yorkshire League this season they enter the Lancashire League next season, replacing Halifax who are grouped in the top five Yorkshire clubs for fixture compilation purposes.

It all sounds very complicated but it is quite simple in operation, next season's inter-county fixtures being as follows—

(5) Halifax	}	each	}	(1) Leeds
2 Hull				1 Oldham
3 Hunslet				2 Barrow
4 Huddersfield				3 Wigan
5 Wakefield T.				4 St. Helens
6 Featherstone R.	}	each	}	6 Warrington
7 York				7 Workington
8 Keighley				8 Leigh
9 Bramley				9 Whitehaven
10 Bradford N.				10 Swinton

11 Castleford	} each	} play	11 Salford
12 Hull K.R.			12 Rochdale H.
13 Dewsbury			13 Widnes
14 Batley			14 Blackpool B.
15 Doncaster			15 Liverpool C.

The numbers indicate the positions in the respective County Leagues for 1956-7 season.

Advantages

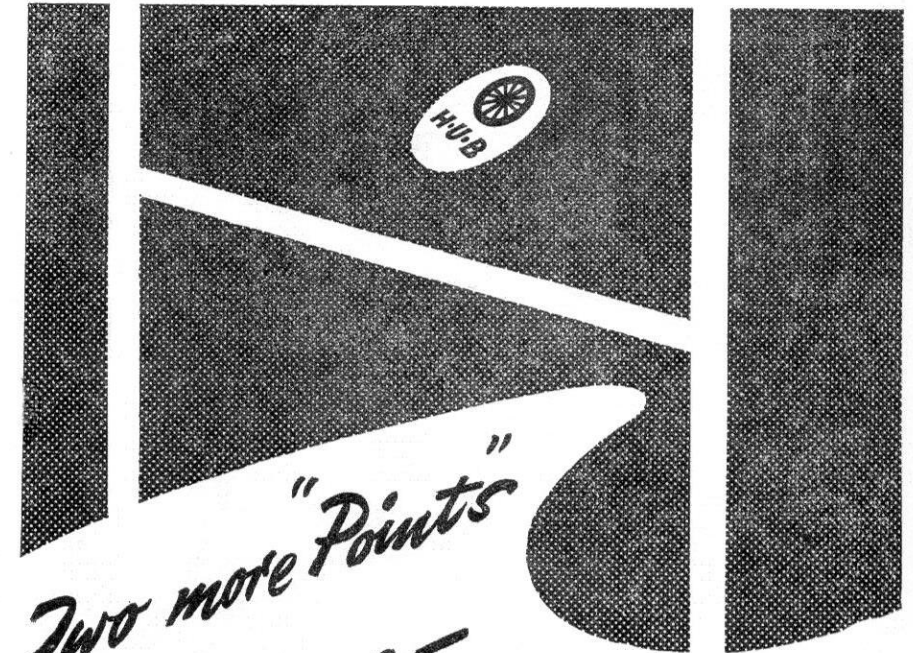
This scheme in giving harder fixtures to the stronger clubs opens up the struggle for the top four positions. This season, for example, more clubs than usual had an outside interest in the race for League leadership and interest was maintained until the Easter holidays.

There are still many supporters and officials however who feel that two divisions are essential to give the clubs in the middle of the table a much needed fillip and it can be anticipated that the clubs will want to review the controversial fixture formula yet again before the 1958-9 fixtures are compiled.

The Northern Rugby Football League

Final Table—Season 1956-7

	P.	W.	L.	D.	G.	For			Against		
						T.	Pts.	G.	T.	Pts.	Pts.
Oldham ...	38	33	5	—	181	177	893	76	71	365	66
Hull ...	38	29	7	2	148	156	764	96	80	432	60
Barrow ...	38	29	9	—	129	148	702	101	93	481	58
Leeds... ..	38	28	10	—	178	154	818	101	96	490	56
St. Helens ...	38	25	10	3	139	208	902	89	59	355	53
Wigan	38	26	12	—	126	166	750	99	73	417	52
Hunslet	38	26	12	—	122	148	688	96	75	417	52
Wakefield T. ...	38	23	14	1	144	153	747	112	107	545	47
Huddersfield ...	38	23	15	—	131	135	667	115	101	533	46
Warrington ...	38	21	16	1	119	111	571	128	103	565	43
York	38	21	17	—	130	127	641	116	102	538	42
Halifax	38	21	17	—	107	115	559	116	94	514	42
Salford	38	19	17	2	109	100	518	101	99	499	40
Workington T. ...	38	20	18	—	103	96	494	87	114	516	40
Featherstone R. ...	38	19	19	—	108	132	612	93	106	504	38
Rochdale H. ...	38	19	19	—	102	102	510	127	119	611	38
Leigh	38	18	19	1	138	136	684	121	122	608	37
Whitehaven ...	38	18	19	1	134	111	601	134	126	646	37
Swinton	38	18	20	—	117	114	576	126	114	594	36
Keighley	38	17	20	1	109	92	494	105	108	534	35
Bradford N. ...	38	17	21	—	85	103	479	138	132	672	34
Bramley	38	14	22	2	138	94	558	121	130	632	30
Widnes	38	15	23	—	92	85	439	116	98	526	30
Blackpool B. ...	38	14	24	—	103	88	470	148	193	875	28
Castleford ...	38	11	25	2	118	84	488	146	149	739	24
Hull K.R.	38	11	25	2	91	71	395	132	136	672	24
Liverpool C. ...	38	9	28	1	85	62	356	160	178	854	19
Batley	38	8	30	—	111	59	399	158	128	700	16
Dewsbury	38	5	32	1	80	77	391	139	180	818	11
Doncaster	38	3	35	—	66	63	321	146	181	835	6



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PEN PICTURES—HULL

C. Hutton Age 30. 5ft. 9½in. 13st. 7lb. Licensee. Formerly with Widnes, his home town, he joined Hull in 1951. A fine goal kicker, he has landed over 100 goals for the fourth consecutive season since he joined the club. Recently broke own and club goal scoring record for second time

S. Cowan Age 25. 5ft. 7in. 12½st. Decorator. Signed three years ago from Selkirk Rugby Union Club. Played for South of Scotland against the All Blacks in the Rugby Union Trial. A fast, strong runner, plays in either centre or wing position

G. Dannatt Age 22. 5ft. 9in. 13st. Fitter. Product of local junior football. A strong player with a good turn of speed. Equally at home in centre or stand-off-half position

C. Turner Age 27. 5ft. 10½in. 14st. 7lb. Electric Welder. Born in South Wales, he has played in the centre and on the wing and in the Semi-Final and Final of the Championship last season, played stand-off-half

I. Watts Age 30. 5ft. 7in. 12st. Motor Driver. Wing Threequarter. The longest serving player in the Hull side. Had a Benefit last season. At present the highest scorer with 28 tries. He has played many times for Cumberland County

R. Moat Age 25. 5ft. 6in. 12st. Fish Worker. Last season broke the try scoring record from the stand-off-half position by scoring 30 tries. A brilliant footballer and very fast. At present on the transfer list at £2,000. A product of local junior football

T. Finn Age 24. 5ft. 7in. 11st. 7lb. Fitter. Born in St. Helens, he played for St. Helens before joining Hull in December, 1954

M. Scott Age 26. 5ft. 11in. 15st. 8lb. Licensee. A product of local junior football. Joined the senior club in 1948 and has played for England as a junior and in full Internationals. Played in the League Thirteen against France at Marseilles in December last year

P. T. Harris Age 29. 5ft. 7½in. 12st. 10lb. Fitter. A Welshman, he joined the club from Newbridge R.U. team in 1949. Has played for Wales on eight occasions and toured Australia in 1954, playing in two Tests against New Zealand. Has played in the full Test series this season against Australia and in the Test against France at Toulouse early this year. A very fast and powerful player. Selected for World Cup tour

J. Drake Age 24. 5ft. 11in. 15½st. Slater. Born in Workington. Formerly a full back, now established as a regular prop forward. Has played for his native county Cumberland. His twin brother plays in the second-row of the pack

C. Sykes Age 22. 6ft. 1in. 14st. Driver. Second-row forward. Product of local junior football. Signed for Hull two seasons ago. (In Olympic Skiing trials)

W. D. Drake Age 24. 6ft. 1½in. 14st. 6lb. Slater. Born in Workington. Formerly a winger, he started playing as a forward two seasons ago and is now a regular second-row man. Has played several times for his native county Cumberland

J. W. Whiteley Age 26. 6ft. 1½in. 14st. 10lb. Motor Driver. Signed for Hull from a local junior club in 1951. Has played for England against France in both Junior and Senior Internationals. Was a reserve for the World Cup Team in 1954. Now captain of the Hull club and considered to be one of the best loose-forwards in the game. Selected for World Cup Tour

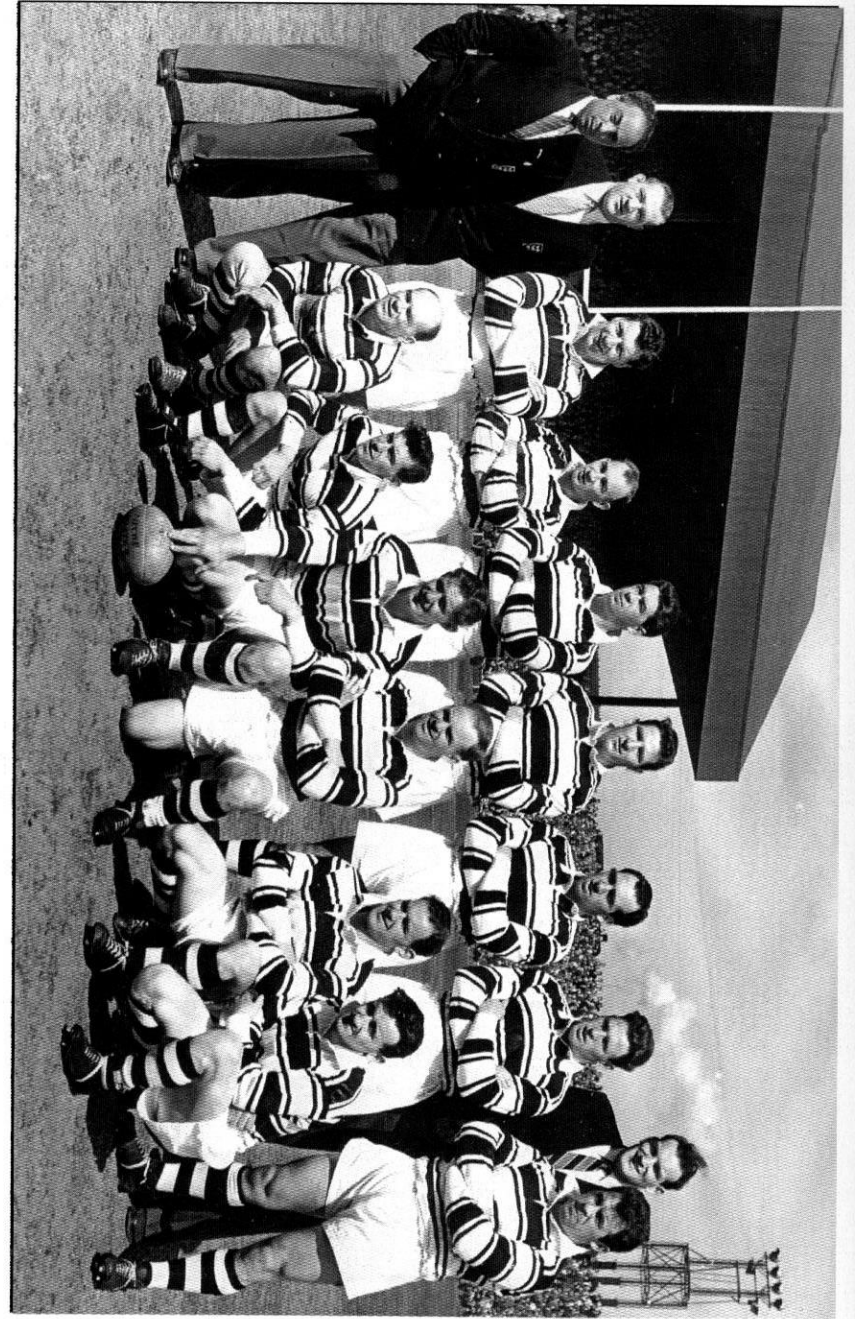
Reserves—

K. Bowman Age 27. 6ft. 1in. 14st. 7lb. Farmer. Played with Hunslet before joining Hull three seasons back. Has played for Yorkshire on several occasions. Usually a wing threequarter, has had a trial recently in the second-row forwards

C. Cole Age 22. 6ft. 3in. 15st. 7lb. Accountant. Second-row forward. Signed from a local Rugby Union club two seasons ago

B. Coulman Age 23. 5ft. 9in. 12st. 10lb. Wing threequarter. Product of local football, showing great promise, competing for a first team position

HULL—Left to Right, Back Row—R. Francis, H. Markham, M. Scott, S. Cowan, W. Drake, C. Sykes, C. Turner, G. Dannatt, C. Cole, J. Drake
Front Row—C. Hutton, T. Finn, J. Whiteley, R. Moat, T. Harris, I. Watts
(Photograph by courtesy of the Hull Daily Mail)



THE TEAMS

HULL

Colours—Black and White Jerseys, White Shorts

1	C. HUTTON	...	...	...	Full Back
2	S. COWAN	...	...	...	Wing Threequarter
3	G. DANNATT	....	...	...	Centre Threequarter
4	C. TURNER	...	...	...	Centre Threequarter
5	I. WATTS	...	...	...	Wing Threequarter
6	R. MOAT	...	...	...	Out-half
7	T. FINN	...	...	...	Scrum-half
8	M. SCOTT	...	....	...	Prop Forward
9	P. T. HARRIS	...	...	...	Hooker
10	J. DRAKE	...	...	...	Front Row Forward
11	C. SYKES	...	...	...	Second Row Forward
12	W. D. DRAKE	...	...	...	Second Row Forward
13	J. W. WHITELEY	...	...	...	Loose Forward

Reserves—C. COLE K. BOWMAN B. COULMAN

Referee—M. COATES, Pudsey

OLDHAM

Colours—Red and White Jerseys, Blue Shorts

1	W. B. GANLEY	...	...	...	Full Back
2	R. CRACKNELL	...	...	...	Wing Threequarter
3	A. DAVIES	...	...	...	Centre Threequarter
4	D. M. AYRES	...	...	...	Centre Threequarter
5	J. W. ETTY	...	...	...	Wing Threequarter
6	F. DALEY	...	...	...	Out-half
7	F. PITCHFORD	...	...	...	Scrum-half
8	K. JACKSON	...	...	...	Prop Forward
9	J. KEITH	....	....	...	Hooker
10	D. G. VINES	...	...	...	Front Row Forward
11	C. WINSLADE	...	...	...	Second Row Forward
12	S. D. LITTLE	...	...	...	Second Row Forward
13	D. TURNER	....	....	...	Loose Forward

Reserves—V. NESTOR F. STIRRUP A. JARMAN

Touch Judges—V. Waddilove, Leigh and T. Marley, Wakefield

P.G.C.

Demolition & Skip Hire

PEN PICTURES—OLDHAM

W. B. Ganley 5ft. 8in. 12st. 6lb. Age 26. Lancashire County, one of the leading goal kickers. Has kicked 191 goals this season. Ex-Manchester University and an accountant

R. Cracknell 5ft. 10in. 13st. Age 27. England, Yorkshire and Great Britain, formerly with Huddersfield. Transferred to Oldham 1954, a versatile player who can turn out on either wing. Has scored 28 tries this season

A. Davies 5ft. 11in. 13st. 11lb. Age 23. Born in Leigh. Great Britain, Lancashire and England. A forthcoming World Cup tourist. Has scored 17 tries this season

D. M. Ayres 5ft. 9in. 12st. Age 22. A local boy who is improving with every match, came from the local R.U. club. Scored 26 tries this season

J. W. Ety 12st. 12lb. 6ft. Age 28. Transferred from Batley (his birthplace) in season 1955. Had trials with Dewsbury before signing for Batley. Yorkshire County and British Empire teams in 1951. Has scored 41 tries this season

F. Daley 5ft. 9in. 12st. 4lb. Age 29. Started his rugby career in Wigan, his home town, and played for Leigh before coming to Oldham. Has played for Lancashire

F. Pitchford 5ft. 7in. 11st. 7lb. Age 21. Born in Leigh. Frank played in school and junior football and joined Oldham in 1952-53 season. Has played for England and Lancashire. Scored 20 tries this season

K. Jackson 6ft. 14st. 10lb. A local player and has played for Lancashire County. Played for St. Mary's, the local junior team, before joining Oldham. Played R.U. in the Services

J. Keith 5ft. 11in. 12st. 6lb. Age 29. Started playing for Hunslet Schools in Leeds, his birthplace. Played for England and Yorkshire as a schoolboy. 14 tries this season

D. G. Vines 5ft. 9½in. 14st. 8lb. Age 24. A Welshman from Newbridge, in his second season with the club and has settled down to the League, plenty of energy

C. Winslade 6ft. 1in. 15st. 6lb. Age 24. Born in Maesteg, Glamorgan. Welsh Schoolboy International and Glamorgan County. Joined Oldham in 1950 and has played in several International matches for Wales since

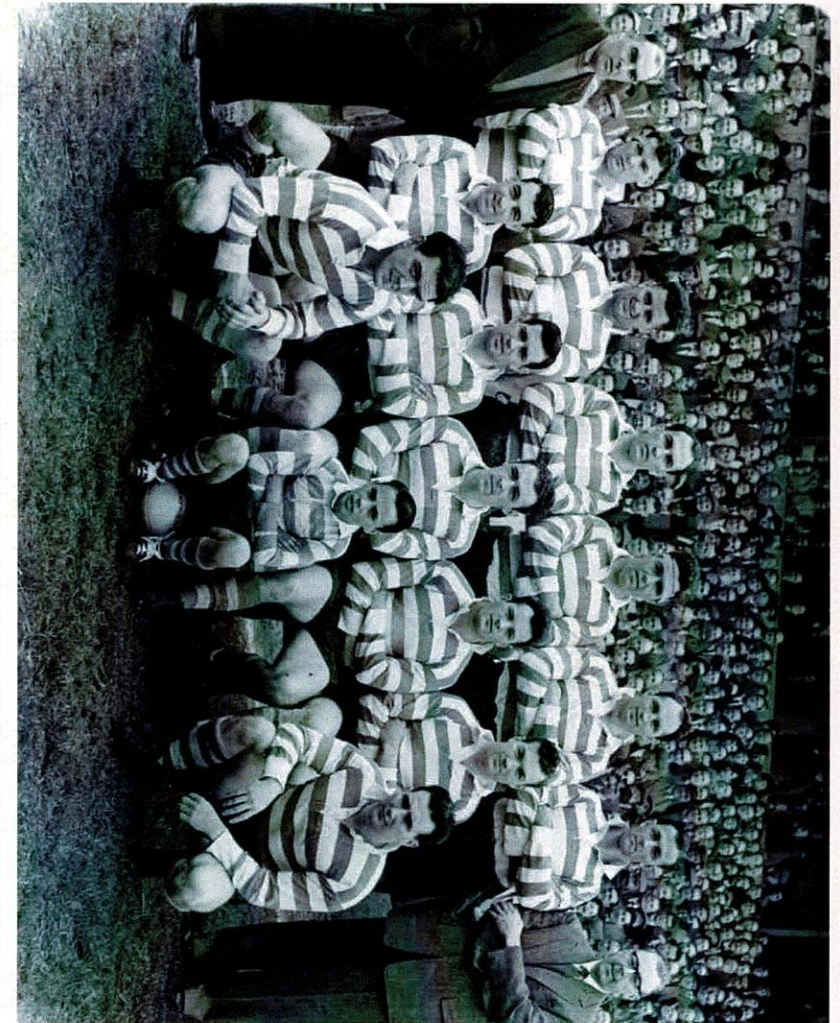
S. D. Little 6ft. 14st. 6lb. Age 24. Born Burgh-by-Sands, near Carlisle. Played for Harlequins and Cumberland and R.A.F. in R.U. before becoming a League player. Test and County player, and selected for the forthcoming World Cup team

D. Turner 5ft. 10½in. 13st. 7lb. Age 23. Born in Ossett, transferred from Hull Kingston Rovers to his present club. Test and Yorkshire County, and chosen for the forthcoming World Cup team

V. Nestor 5ft. 10in. 11st. 10lb. Age 19. Up and coming wing and centre. Signed from Tyldesley R.U. A player of the future

F. Stirrup 5ft. 9in. 10st. 7lb. Age 29. Started playing in his home town of Leigh and turned out for the senior club, from there to Salford and eventually arrived at Oldham. Formerly a scrum-half but plays anywhere

A. Jarman 5ft. 11in. 13st. 12lb. Age 23. A native of Rochdale but signed from an Oldham junior club, Higginshaw. Plays anywhere in the pack with the exception of hooker



Oldham - Left to Right: Back Row: Griff Jenkins (Coach), Don Vines, Derek Turner, Charlie Winslade, Ken Jackson, Sid Little, Jack Keith, Bill Howard (President)
Middle Row: Left to Right: Dick Cracknell, Alan Davies, Bernard Ganley, Dennis Ayres, John Ety
Front Row: Left to Right: Frank Daley, K. Tucker (Masco), Frank Pitchford

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Reading from left to right and starting with the front row the party is as follows—
G. Moses, R. Price, J. Stevenson, W. Fallowfield, A. Prescott, H. E. Rawson, M. Sullivan,
A. Rhodes, T. Harris, B. L. Jones, E. Ashton, G. Gunney, P. Jackson, J. Whiteley, S. Little,
D. Turner, W. Boston, T. McKinney, J. Grundy

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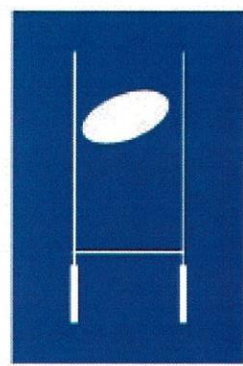


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Bernard Ganley



Alan Davies



Dennis Ayres



John Etty



Dick Cracknell



Frank Daley



Frank Pitchford



Ken Jackson



Jack Keith



Don Vines



Charlie Winslade



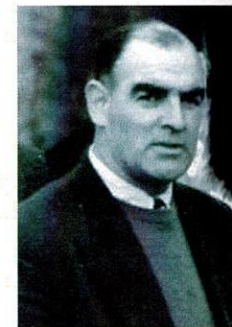
Derek Turner



Sid Little



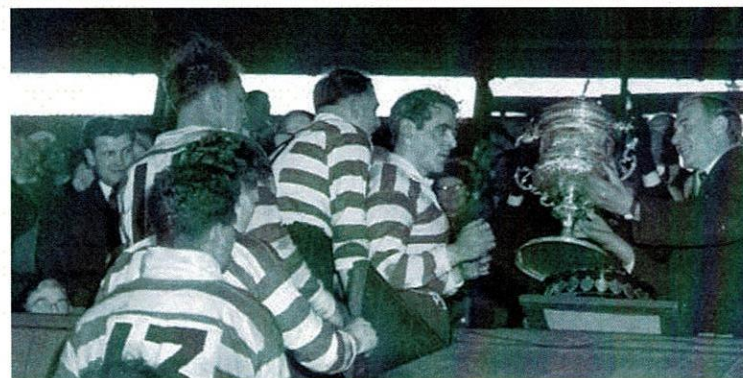
Frank Stirrup
(Club Captain)



Griff Jenkins
(Coach)

Oldham 15 v Hull 14
Rugby League
Championship Final
at Odsal Stadium, Bradford

Goals: Ganley, 3
Tries: Etty, 2. Ayres



The crowning moment: Bernard Ganley receives the
Championship trophy after the narrow victory over Hull
at Odsal.

Unfortunately lack of space won't allow for every player to be shown, but here are some more of the "Roughyeds" stars of the 1950s.



Alan Kellett



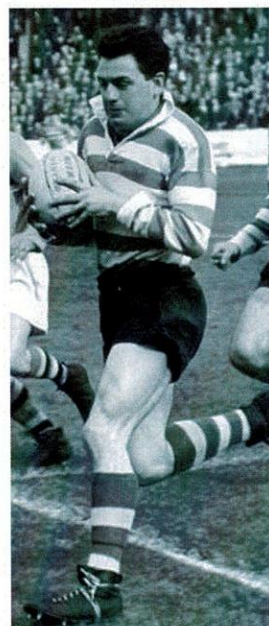
Terry O'Grady



Lawrie Platt



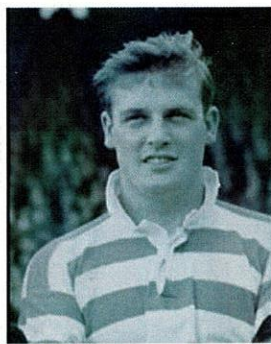
Jack Rogers



John Noon



Ian Carruthers



Des McKeown



Alan Jones



Johnny Feather



Bryn Day



Harry Ogden



Arthur Tomlinson



Ron Rowbottom



Tommy Leyland



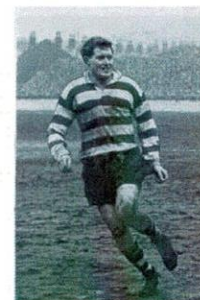
Bryn Goldswain



Joe Warham



Les Anthony



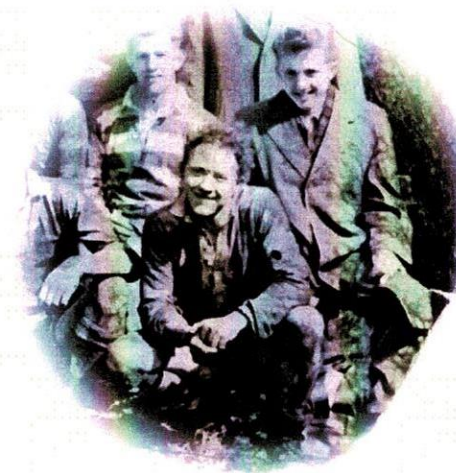
Roland Barrow



Billy Mitchell



Vince Nestor



Lewis Laverty



There have been a lot of changes over the last 50 years, It's nice to know that some things are still around.

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