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Fixtures for the Season

1955-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1956-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 11	*Rochdale	Home	3-0	22	Warrington	Away	2-30
18	Bramley	Home	3-0	25	Swinton	Home	2-30
20	Halifax	Away	7-0	26	Blackpool	Away	2-30
25	Rochdale	Away	3-0	29	Widnes	Away	2-30
28	Leigh	Home	7-0	Jan. 5	Hunslet	Home	2-30
Sept. 1	*Wigan (Lancs C.)	Away	3-0	12	Salford	Home	2-30
8	St. Helens	Away	3-0	19	Whitehaven	Away	2-30
15	Wakefield	Home	3-0	26	Warrington	Home	3-0
22	Barrow	Home	3-0	Feb. 2	Salford	Away	3-0
29	Liverpool	Away	3-0	9	R.L. Cup		
Oct. 6	Wigan	Away	3-0	16	Widnes	Home	3-0
13	Halifax	Home	3-0	23	R.L. Cup		
20	Barrow	Away	3-0	Mar. 2	Liverpool	Home	3-0
27	Keighley	Home	3-0	9	York	Away	3-0
Nov. 3	Workington	Away	3-0	16	Whitehaven	Home	3-0
7	*Australi	Home	3-0	23	Bramley	Away	3-0
10	Workington	Home	3-0	30	Wigan	Home	3-0
17	Keighley	Away	2-30	Apr. 6	Leigh	Away	3-0
24	Blackpool	Home	2-30	13			
Dec. 1	York	Home	2-30	19	Swinton	Away	3-0
8	St. Helens	Home	2-30	20	Hunslet	Away	3-0
15	Wakefield	Away	2-30	22	Rochdale	Home	3-0

*All Pay

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Club Doctor: Dr. JOHN OLIVER

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No. 22—Monday, 22nd April, 1957

Kick-off 6-45 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

We still go on from success to success and our last home match against Swinton was worthy of a great team and, may we say, worthy opponents. The game was one that will be remembered for the splendid running and passing by our team, and with such high-speed play mistakes are bound to happen.

It would be hard to fault any member of our team, so well did they fit into the scheme of things, every man a trier and every man going all out in his endeavours to entertain the good crowd who attended the match.

It was indeed a treat to witness our scrum-half, Frank Pitchford, coming back to that great form that has gained him honours this season. A great little player is Frank and he makes the essential link of a great attacking team which we possess.

We must give a word of praise to our opponents, Swinton, for the entertaining opposition which they provided. They made the game one of interest and showed how it should be played, both teams sportsmen to the end and a credit to the code. It was a model of a game which many other clubs could do well to copy. If only the game could be played as this by all other league clubs there would not be as much financial embarrassment. Such exhibitions of our game would advertise themselves and the crowds would roll up knowing that they would be sure of their money's worth and something to talk about after the game.

OUR VISITORS

To-day, being our last league match for season 1956-7, it is indeed a great pleasure to entertain our old and friends and "foes" from Rochdale.

Although the Hornets started off the season in grand style and were among the leading clubs for the first few weeks, they appeared to strike a bad patch and prior to the holiday matches their record read as follows: Played, 34, won 17, lost 17. However, we expect the Hornets to go all out to show us that they still have a sting and that they occupy a quite false position in the table.

So, a special welcome to-day and may the game be equal to the many excellent performances we have seen between the two clubs at Watersheddings on so many previous occasions.

BRIEF—AND TO THE POINT!

Do you know that up to and including the Swinton match on Monday last—April 15th—our team had played 35 league matches, won 30 and lost five, and we have scored 812 points against 330 points?

With regard to the points scored, this is a record for the club in its long existence. A wonderful achievement by a wonderful team.

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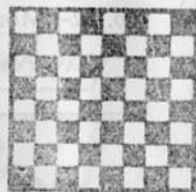
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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—LITTLE, S. D.
- 12—WINSLADE, C.
- 13—TURNER, D.

ROCHDALE HORNETS

Red, White and Blue

- 1—CAHILL
- 2—RALPH
- 3—JONES
- 4—ROACH
- 5—PLATT
- 6—CHISNALL
- 7—FISHWICK/EVANS
- 8—LIVESEY/LILL
- 9—BOWDEN
- 10—HANSON
- 11—KELLY
- 12—TIERNEY
- 13—TRUMBLE

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Referee: Mr. E. CLAY of Rothwell

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Jackson, Barrow (Red)

Mr. S. J. Heesom, Warrington (Blue)

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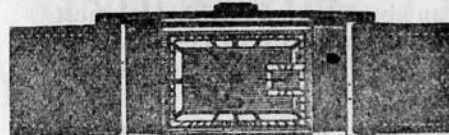
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ENTERTAINMENT DUTY

Much controversy is taking place regarding Entertainment Duty and the abolition of same, and spectators are wondering what clubs will do now that the "gate" receipts will be free of tax after 4th May, 1957.

Many clubs state that they cannot live at the present rate of taxation and that the exemption of this duty will relieve them of going further into debt, and that they have been fighting for years to have the tax removed for their—that is, the club's—benefit.

Now that the relief has come, statements are made that the extra moneys received will be ploughed back into the game and will be used for better accommodation and more cover for inclement weather, higher wages for players, and also to meet the growing increases for the financial running of the club.

Will this lead to inflation in transfer fees and increased bonuses being paid to amateurs? The clubs at the annual meeting of the Rugby League will decide the issue of what takes place regarding the extra moneys taken at the "gates" and as to whether they should retain it or distribute it to their patrons.

The large majority of clubs in the Rugby League are in the "red" at the bank and large amounts are owing to creditors. Of course, we shall always have the rich clubs, and the others, for as in all walks of life, "the poor will always be with us."

The problem of added wealth is knowing what to do with it when you have it, and, like the squirrel, it is well to save for the lean times—and this applies to football just as much as it does to any other well conducted business. Even a reduction in admission charges to matches would not necessarily increase the crowds. The public want value for money and that is what the customer pays for.

Let the legislators of our game be fair, firm, and just, and most, if not all, will agree with their decision. The game is the thing that matters but let it be worth while to attract the customers.

GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

During the close season and commencing after the semi-final of the league Championship, the centre portion of our playing area, i.e., between the two 25's will be completely taken down to the drains. These will be re-laid, fresh clinkers put in, new soil and re-turfed. This is a large scheme but we are given to understand that the contractors who are doing that work that three weeks, weather permitting, we will see the job completed.

It is on expert advice that we have decided to get this job done in the manner in which it is going to be done. It is an absolute necessity that we must have a ground that is quick drying and porous enough to take heavy rain to allow our team to play under the best of conditions. We have a first-class team and we must have a first-class playing area.

Another scheme which is down for attention—but not this season—is the covering of the Watersheddings Street end of the ground with a similar structure as we see at St. Helens and Wigan at the back of their goals. This is a big project will cost in the region of £10,000. The Committee are making financial provision for this and consider that the money will be well spent.

Other projects are for more cover for the side and centre stand patrons on the Pavilion side. So it looks that the face of Watersheddings will appear very much different in, say, eighteen months time.

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