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**Saturday, February 24th, 1951    Kick-off 3.0**

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HORNETS**

VERSUS

**OLDHAM**

Curtain raiser (1.25 p.m.)—BRIMROD v. MILNROW  
(Close Cup semi-final)

NEXT HOME MATCHES:

SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd—Hornets "A" v. Leigh "A"    Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10th—HORNETS v. YORK.    Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

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## NOTES

### OUT OF THE CUP

Eliminated from the Challenge Cup competition the Hornets turn their attention to improving the league record. The aggregate score of fifty points to five in the two cup ties did not do justice to the share of the play which Hornets had against Wigan at the Athletic Grounds and Central Park. Wigan's strong pack, not their renowned back division, proved the greatest obstacle to the Hornets hopes. Against receipts of £1,177 at Rochdale the Wigan "gate" was worth only £793.

### OLD RIVALS MEET

To-day we welcome old rivals, Oldham. In the Lancashire Cup tie versus Oldham earlier in the season the attendance was 8,000 for an evening game and the receipts £656. Since that time both sides have undergone considerable change. The Hornets have introduced their Australian contingent and Oldham have spent freely in signing Ted Ward (Wigan), Herbert Goodfellow (Wakefield), Walton Nicholson (Hornets), B. Day (Belle Vue Rangers) and F. Stirrup (Salford). They have not fared too well in recent league games after holding a high position in the table, but their feat in overcoming Leeds at Watersheddings in the cup game (although they lost on the aggregate) shows that they possess a strong side.

### CURTAIN RAISER

The curtain raiser to-day is the Close Cup semi-final tie between Brimrod and Milnrow. These local sides are deciding which shall appear for the first time in the final of the competition, which is to be played at the Athletic Grounds at Easter. The collection following the curtain raiser will be divided between the Rochdale Amateur Rugby League and the Hornets Supporters Club Ground Improvement Appeal Fund. Both organisations express their thanks for the splendid collection of more than £43 from the Wigan match.

### CUP FINAL TICKETS

The Rugby League announce that at their office in Leeds they now have ground tickets only (2/6 each) for the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on May 5th.

As yet the Hornets have not received their allocation of tickets but Mr. J. J. Grundy, the secretary, is prepared to accept applications for tickets priced at 10/6 and 7/6. Applications will be ignored unless they are accompanied by a full remittance and a stamped addressed envelope.

### BEHAVIOUR

The Hornets Board have been concerned by a tendency in recent matches for a section of the Athletic Grounds crowd to cat-call and whistle when an opponent has been taking a kick at goal. This kind of behaviour is deplored, as are some remarks aimed at players of both sides. It is hoped that these incidents will end, for they do not reflect credit on the club and town.

# GOREY

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**HORNETS**

**TODAYS TEAMS**

**OLDHAM**

Full back:

1—Cahill

Threequarters:

2—Ron Stanford

3—Reg Stanford

4—R. Jones

5—Fletcher/Schofield

Half-backs:

6—Lord

7—C. R. Kelly

Forwards:

8—Jimmeson

9—Mitchell

10—Ellis

11—Duffy

12—Thorning/Booth

13—Ellean



Full back:

1—Ratchford

Threequarters:

2—Nicholson

3—Platt

4—Mitchell

5—Davies/Chalmers

Half-backs:

6—Stirrup

7—Goodfellow

Forwards:

8—Ogden

9—Keith

10—Day

11—Winslade/Leyland

12—E. Ward

13—Goldswain

Referee:

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## Supporters' Club Notes

### GROUND IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Supporters Club Ground Improvement Fund has now topped £300, and a new feature has helped considerably to carry the total to this amount. At the Wigan match on February 10th the Rochdale Amateur Rugby League workers and the players in the curtain raising match teamed up with the Supporters Club committee in the work of collecting. The grand result was that a total of £43 10s. 8d. was obtained and equally divided between the Amateur League and the Ground Improvement Fund. We are grateful to spectators who contributed—and who continue to give when faced with collecting boxes at Hornets home games—and the friendly co-operation with the local Amateur League is a most pleasing feature of which we are all proud. To-day the same procedure will be adopted, and the proceeds will be again divided. Please give generously, for we are following through with our watchword—Onward to £400. That figure is our next target. Receipt is gratefully acknowledged of the following cards: No. 73. 4s.; No. 118. 8s.; No. 119. £1 3s.; No. 178. 13s. 6d.. Ask the Secretary for a card to-day. An effort by Mr. L. Greenwood, with the generosity of Mr. F. Turner to back it up, recently brought in a sum of £2 17s., and other donations received from individuals include: Mr. Leslie Speke, 10s.; Mr. F. S. Ratcliffe, £1 1s.; Anonymous, Milnrow, £2 2s.; and Messrs. A. & W. Law, Littleborough, £5 5s. Thank you, all, and join us in renewing our efforts to build up a sound figure, so that when the Hornets directors are able to go ahead with building on the Railway Side the Supporters Club can hand over a sum of money that

will be a credit to all Rugby League followers in Rochdale. Onward, Hornets, Onward!

### DANCE AND WHIST DRIVE

As these notes are written before our Whist Drive and Dance which was held at the Carlton last night, it is impossible to give a summary of the event, but tickets have gone well and there is clear evidence of keen interest. We are grateful to Messrs. Burtons, The Walk, for kindly displaying the Whist Prizes once again. We also wish to place on record our gratitude to the gentlemen who defrayed the expense of various prizes—whist and spot—and to all who helped on the night and who supported us.

### REQUEST

In the Secretary's heavy postbag this week is a request from Mr. J. Skelton of Kells, Whitehaven, for copies of the Hornet's programmes. Many of these collectors' letters are received, and we are only too pleased to comply with them to help further the cause and give publicity to the Hornets.

### LUCKY PROGRAMME WINNERS

Winners of the prize for lucky programme numbers for the last two home games were as follows: Feb. 3rd (v. Liverpool). Mr. H. Howarth, 3, Ings Avenue; Feb. 10th (v. Wigan), Mr. S. Rothwell, 18, Rhodes Crescent, Kirkholt. Don't forget to purchase a copy of the Hornet's programme at every first team match.

The Ladies' Tea Bar is open as usual during to-day's game. The Menu includes Pies, Sandwiches, Tea, Coffee, Crisps, etc.

—R.D.F.

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