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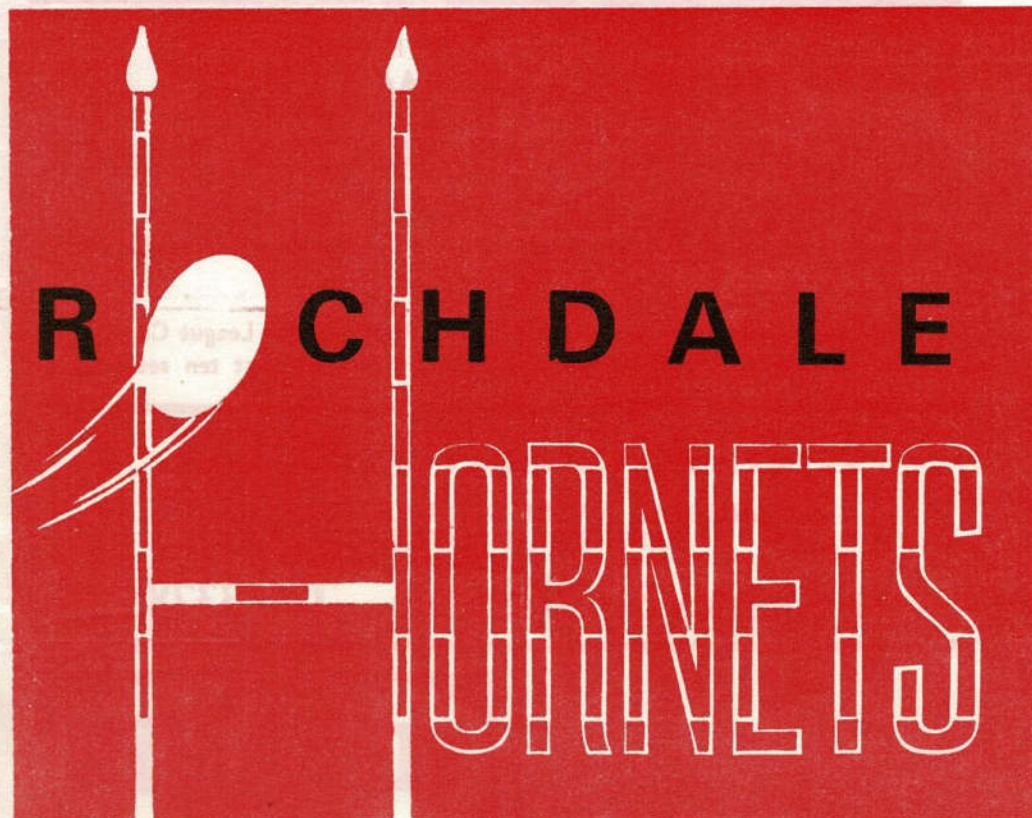
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HORNETS v OLDHAM

Sunday 23rd February 1975

kick-off 3.0 pm

PROGRAMME 8p

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Club News

THERE'S nothing like the Challenge Cup competition to rekindle interest in Rugby League football and we at Rochdale could not have picked a better tie than the one we have today. When the draw for the second round was made and paired us with our old rivals and friends, we knew we would have the biggest crowd at the Athletic Grounds for three or four seasons.

As far as both clubs are concerned, it's a plum tie. Both teams fancy their chances and the winners, of course, are only two games away from Wembley. Although both Hornets and Oldham have won the cup, it was in the days before the finals were played at Wembley.

The remarkable point about today's game is that it will be the first meeting between the two clubs in this competition for 42 years. The last clash was way back in February, 1933, when Oldham won 13-8.

In all there have been eight meetings (one a replay) in the Challenge Cup. In 1911 Hornets won 4-3 after an 8-8 draw at Watersheddings and then, on their way to the 1922 final triumph against Hull at Headingley, Hornets beat Oldham in the third round at the Athletic Grounds in front of 27,000.

Then there were meetings in three successive seasons—1924, 1925 and 1926. All three were won by Oldham, including a 9-0 semi-final triumph at Wigan in 1925.

There was then a gap of six years before the next clash when Hornets won 18-8 at Watersheddings, but 12 months later Oldham got their revenge in the last meeting until today.

So the final tally in the eight games is three Hornets wins, one draw and four defeats. We are confident we can level the score today.

Away from the cup and turning to the injury news, we are hoping that loose forward Tony Halmshaw could be back in action within the next three weeks. Since having the hip-to-toe plaster removed two weeks ago, Tony's damaged knee ligaments have responded well to treatment and he is now back in full training, although there is still only limited movement in the joint.

Terry Fogerty is now approaching 100 per cent fitness and he, too, could be back quicker than expected. But, of course, there is some bad news. Tony Cooke, our only remaining ever-present, was struck by the injury bug at Dewsbury last week. He strained the muscles above a knee and his leg is in splints. He could be out for at least three weeks.

Finally, we take this opportunity of extending a warm welcome to our friends from Watersheddings. We hope we all see a good cup tie and may the best team win.

In the event of today's match ending in a draw, the replay will take place at Watersheddings on Wednesday evening, kick off 7-30 p.m.

Next Friday evening the "A" team will meet Warrington "A" at Wilderspool Stadium in what will be the second leg of the Challenge Cup Semi-final. They hold an 18 points to 5 points lead over Warrington from the first leg, the kick off will be at 7-30 p.m.

Next Sunday the first team entertain Featherstone in a vital league match, the kick off for this match will be 3 p.m.

Our Visitors

ONE of the most tragic points about last season was the fact that we were largely responsible for plunging Oldham into the Second Division. Everything hung on the game at the Athletic Grounds last Easter Monday. Both teams had to win to stay up . . . and fortunately for us we won 9-5.

Since our last meeting, there have been quite a few changes at Watersheddings. There is a different coach—Jim Challinor for Griff Jenkins—while pack stars Brian Gregory and Terry Clawson have been sold.

Now second from the top in Division Two, Oldham have got the right blend of youth and experience and are playing attractive football. Last Sunday, for instance, they had two players sent off in the first half against Leigh—Phil Larder and John Farrell—but still pulled off a great 18-4 win at Hilton Park.

Their team today is likely to be picked from the following:-

JOHN BLAIR—a local lad, who has come through the "B" and "A" teams to win a regular spot in the first team. A fine kicker of the ball in loose play.

MIKE ELLIOTT—a Welshman from Blairstown, where he played in the same junior team as David Watkins. Now in his 12th season with Oldham, with over 100 tries to his credit.

MARTIN MURPHY—Signed from a Leigh junior club eight years ago. Been a regular for the past six years and his consistent form at fullback was rewarded with his first England appearance a month ago.

TONY WAINWRIGHT—a youngster who has already played at Wembley. He was a member of the Leeds team which was beaten by Leigh in 1971. A strong runner.

PHIL LARDER—Oldham's goalkicker. He signed from Sale R.U. seven years ago and has been a regular in the first team ever since.

Personality Parade . . .

WHEN Bill Holliday retired we were left with a big goalkicking problem. But our recent signing of **JOHN MALONEY** seems to have solved that particular worry. John, a native of Dewsbury and a close friend of Tony Halmshaw, turned professional for Hull after a sparkling display for England amateurs against France at the Athletic Grounds

EDDIE BARTON—another Oldham signing from Rugby Union. Introduced to Oldham by teaching colleague Larder.

DAVID TREASURE—another member of the Oldham side who has tasted bitter defeat at Wembley. After scoring the two tries which saw Bradford beat Dewsbury in the 1973 semi-final, he was a member of the side beaten in the final by Featherstone. Signed for Oldham last season.

DICKIE BROWN—has played hooker, prop and scrum half in the Oldham first team this season. A tricky player who needs a lot of watching.

BRIAN HUGHES—a young prop Oldham expect to go far. Signed from Leeds last season on the recommendation of Derek Turner, the ex-Oldham pack star.

KEVIN TAYLOR—a consistently good hooker who is in his 12th season with the club. Played for England and Lancashire and has over 400 first team games to his credit.

KEITH ASHCROFT—a well-travelled prop, who has given great service to St. Helens, Warrington, Oldham and Bradford Northern.

FRED HALL—a local lad, who was with Blackpool for several seasons before signing for his home-town club. They call him Mr. Dependable at Watersheddings.

JIM REYNOLDS—a product of Leigh amateur football, who has fought his way into the first team squad in a very short space of time.

BOB WELDING—needs no introduction at the Athletic Grounds. Bob signed for Oldham last season after a popular couple of seasons with us. One of the hardest working forwards in the game.

JOHN FARRELL—joined Oldham from Blackpool at the same time as Fred Hall. A grafting loose forward who never stops running and tackling.

BILL McCracken—signed from Whitehaven last season, but has been plagued with injuries. Another hard-working forward.

10 years ago. He had eight seasons at the Boulevard before moving on to York and then Dewsbury. A self-employed sheet metal worker, John's hobbies are golf and reading. A married man with two girls and a boy, his ambition is to play at Wembley . . . and be successful in business. We hope his wishes come true on both counts.

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BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

THE glamour of the Challenge Cup continues to lure the fans and there is further indication of a growth of interest in the game as clubs reach out for Wembley.

If the crowds for the first round are considered more than satisfactory then there should be some great attendances for this fascinating second round draw.

Second Division clubs Huddersfield (5,318 fans), Swinton (5,226), Barrow (4,762) and Oldham (3,606) were able, with the considerable help of away support, to swell total attendances.

With the injection of Bradford Northern's vast following, Castleford overcame the presence of television with a 6,500 attendance on the Saturday—the day Wigan attracted 6,324 fans for the visit of struggling Dewsbury.

The accent this weekend is on Sunday, for Wigan have wisely realised it will be like "old times" at Central Park.

Warrington have managed to maintain a keen following this season—injuries having hampered their bid to match last season's trophy march—and there will be a big invasion from across the East Lancashire road.

Salford expect to be bulging at the seams for an attractive inter-county clash that brings earnest rivals Leeds to The Willows.

England v. Wales at Salford, Tuesday, 25th February, 1975, kick off 7-30 p.m. Tickets at £1 (high level stand) and 70p (centre stand) from Rugby League Headquarters, or the Secretary, Salford R.L.F.C., The Willows, Weaste, Salford 5, Lancashire.

There have been some memorable cup ties between these clubs in recent years and this latest encounter should prove no exception.

Leeds fans will have to share the motorway with neighbours Bradford, who will expect to have the greater vocal backing at Leigh.

This is another "Battle of the Roses" that possesses the right ingredients for a stirring clash for Leigh are capable of ridiculing their Second Division record as they try to retrieve some glory in the cup.

The all-Lancashire derby between Rochdale Hornets and Oldham also promises thrilling football capable of attracting another big crowd—the biggest of the season at the Athletic Grounds.

New Hunslet's switch from Saturday to Sunday suits York and should be reflected in another sizeable crowd judging by the upsurge of interest among the First Division club's fans.

Hull K.R. are being mentioned as "dark horses" in this competition but their fans are already convinced they can make Wembley and will be out in force for the visit of Workington Town.

PLAYER'S No. 6 BOOKS

There are still a few copies of the Player's No. 6 book available and may be obtained from both bars and the Secretary's office this afternoon, price £1.80.

THIS afternoon we are being entertained by the Rochdale Battalion Band of the Church Lads' Brigade. Last summer the Band made a very successful tour of Viano Do Castello, North Portugal where they made several appearances under the leadership of Bandmaster Mr. David Bowskill.

Since the tour the Band has taken part in further contests winning the

Blackpool Championships and being placed second at Brighouse. They have also won the award for the best solo Bugler and the best Drum Major in Alan Harrop. During half-time they will be making a collection for their band funds, we hope you will give generously, and show your encouragement to a really worthwhile youth organisation.

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1—MALONEY, John 2goals

2—BRELSFORD, Norman 2goals

3—TAYLOR, David

4—SIMKINS, Colin

5—PRATT, Tony

6—BUTLER, John

7—GARTLAND, Peter

8—BIRCHALL, Peter

9—CLARKE, Peter

10—HODKINSON, Alan

11—FOGERTY, Terry

12—SHEFFIELD, Bill

13—WHITEHEAD, Stuart

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3—MURPHY, Martin

4—LARDER, Phil

or WAINWRIGHT, Tony

5—BARTON, Eddie 6try

6—TREASURE, Dave

7—BROWN, Dickie

8—ASHCROFT, Keith

9—TAYLOR, Kevin

10—HUGHES, Brian

11—HALL, Fred

12—McCRACKEN, Bill

13—FARRELL, John

14—LARDER, Phil

15—WELDING, Bob

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THIS afternoon we welcome our close friends (and rivals!) from Oldham for our second round cup clash. Matches between our two clubs are usually hard fought affairs with Hornets just getting the better of things in recent seasons. Last year we managed a league "double", winning by 15 points to 11 at Water-sheddings and by 9 points to 5 here at the Athletic Grounds. The latter win was gained on Easter Monday and made Hornets place in the first division safe—at the expense of Oldham! This season, however, our league form has been dismal and we are now looking to the cup to revive our flagging fortunes. The prize for victory today is a place in the quarter-finals and with many top clubs drawn against each other, a good chance to go even further.

Whilst on the subject of the Chal-lenge Cup a word of praise for the local amateur team Mayfield would not be out of place here. They came very close to winning their first round tie at New Hunslet, but the sending off of hooker Mick McGuigan as the match moved into its last quarter proved too big a handicap, and the home team eventually won by 9 points to 5. It was a gallant effort by all the team and deserves the highest praise. Well done Mayfield, let's hope you're in the first round draw again next year.

Also involved in cup ties at the moment are Hornets "A" team. They

gained a place in the semi-finals of the Lancashire Shield by defeating Oldham "A" over two legs. After drawing 17-17 at Oldham the second leg also ended all square 6-6 at the Athletic Grounds and went to extra time. A Les Harris drop goal sealed things for Hornets, who were then drawn against Warring-ton "A" with the first leg to be played at home. That was just over a week ago and Hornets gained a handsome lead winning by 18 points to 5. The second leg at Wilderspool is next Friday night and we are expecting our lads to book themselves a place in the final. Playing very well in the second row of the "A" team is Mick Crocker, whose benefit season this is. Further events in support of this popular player are being arranged and details will appear in these notes.

The first competitive rugby league game to be played in Wales for some considerable time took place at Swansea last weekend. It attracted a crowd of over 20,000, certainly justifying the experiment, which seems certain to be repeated. Wales ran out worthy winners by 21 points to 8 over their French opponents and now meet England in the crunch match of the triangular tournament at Salford on Tuesday evening, England already having beaten France by 11 points to 9 at Perpignan. This has all the makings of a great game and should attract another large crowd.

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Fixtures 1974-75**FIRST TEAM FIXTURES**

Aug. 25	Featherstone (3-30 p.m.)	Away	12-32
Sept. 1	Warrington (L. Cup 1)	Home	20-12
" 6	Castleford (7-30 p.m.)	Away	16-24
" 10	Widnes (L. Cup 2)	Home	7-7
" 15	Bramley	Home	9-10
" 22	Halifax	Away	8-5
" 29	Hull K. R. (Pys. No 6 (1))	Home	12-16
Oct. 6	Bradford	Home	5-11
" 13	Wakefield (3-30 p.m.)	Away	8-7
" 20	Leeds	Home	20-8
" 25	St. Helens (7-30 p.m.)	Away	5-23
30	Hull		
	(BBC Floodlit 1) (7.30)		14-4
Nov. 3	York	Home	15-10
" 17	Halifax	Home	11-4
" 23	Wigan	Away	2-11
Dec. 1	Keighley	Home	5-10
" 15	Castleford	Home	6-15
" 26	Warrington	Home	3-13
Jan. 1	Salford	Away	0-18
" 5	York	Away	8-25
" 19	Widnes	Home	2-9
" 26	Keighley	Home	5-14
Feb. 2	Wakefield	Home	5-23
" 9	Huddersfield RLCC (1)	Away	21-18
" 16	Dewsbury	Away	2-10
" 22	Oldham RLCC (2)		
Mar. 2	Featherstone	Home	
" 8	Bramley	Away	
" 16	St. Helens	Home	
" 22	Leeds	Away	
" 28	Salford	Home	
" 31	Warrington	Away	
Apr. 6	Bradford (3-30 p.m.)	Away	
" 12			
" 20	Dewsbury	Home	

"A" TEAM

Date	Opponents	Ground
Aug. 24	Leigh	Home 21-4
Jan. 31	St. Helens	Away 15-15
Sept. 16	Widnes (Rd. 1 L.C.C.S.)	Home 20-5
" 21	Barrow	Home 12-11
" 27	Widnes (Rd. 1 L.C.C.S.)	Away 30-5
Oct. 5	Oldham	Away 3-18
" 12	Blackpool	Away 18-5
" 18	Warrington 7-30 p.m.)	Away 7-17
" 26	St. Helens	Home 4-12
Nov. 9	Huyton	Away 11-6
Dec. 7	Salford	Away 29-2
" 21	Oldham	Away 17-17
" 28	Swinton	Away 16-17
Jan. 4	Salford	Home 17-5
" 11	Wigan	Away 13-47
" 17	Widnes (7-30 p.m.)	Away 5-10
" 25	Oldham (Rd. 2 L.C.C.S.)	Home 7-6
Feb. 6	Swinton	Home 14-11
" 14	Warrington LCS S.F.	18-5
" 28	Warrington LCS S.F. 2nd leg	
Mar. 1	St. Helens	Away
" 8	Leigh	Away
" 15	Blackpool	Home
" 21	Oldham (7-30 p.m.)	Home
" 29	Warrington	Home
Apr. 5	Huyton	Home
" 11	Salford (7-30 p.m.)	Away

All matches unless otherwise stated kick-off at 3-00 p.m.

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COLT'S FIXTURES 1974/75

Aug. 24	Leigh	Away	3-32
Aug. 31	St. Helens	Home	5-20
Sept. 7	Hull K.R.	Away	0-43
Sept. 21	Bradford	Away	3-43
Sept. 28	Warrington	Home	5-12
Oct. 5	Castleford	Home	3-8
Oct. 12	Wigan	Home	10-10
Oct. 19	Wigan	Away	P
Oct. 26	Castleford	Away	8-10
Nov. 2	Warrington	Away	5-13
Nov. 9	Bradford	Home	9-24
Nov. 23	Hull K.R.	Home	10-19
Nov. 30	St. Helens	Away	7-6
Dec. 7	Leigh	Home	4-14
Dec. 14	Salford	Home	p.p.
Dec. 21	Keighley	Away	10-5
Dec. 28	Leeds	Home	6-21
Jan. 4	York	Home	p.p.
" 25	Wakefield	Home	8-10
Feb. 8	Keighley	Home	16-0
Feb. 15	York	Away	14-7
Feb. 22	Leeds	Away	
Mar. 1	Widnes	Away	
Mar. 8	Widnes	Home	
Mar. 15			
Mar. 22	Wakefield	Home	

QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

DISTANCE or NUMBERS NO OBJECT

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Rugby League Challenge Cup 2nd Round
HORNETS v OLDHAM

Sunday 23rd February 1975 kick-off 3.0 pm

Admission by Programme only

HORNETS

- 1—MALONEY, John
- 2—BRELSFORD, Norman
- 3—TAYLOR, David
- 4—SIMKINS, Colin
- 5—PRATT, Tony
- 6—BUTLER, John
- 7—GARTLAND, Peter
- 8—BIRCHALL, Peter
- 9—CLARKE, Peter
- 10—HODKINSON, Alan
- 11—FOGERTY, Terry
- 12—SHEFFIELD, Bill
- 13—WHITEHEAD, Stuart
- 14—ASPINALL, Bill
- 15—FLANAGAN, Kevin

Referee :

W. H THOMPSON (Huddersfield)

OLDHAM

- 1—BLAIR, John
- 2—ELLIOTT, Mike
- 3—MURPHY, Martin
- 4—LARDER, Phil
or WAINWRIGHT, Tony
- 5—BARTON, Eddie
- 6—TREASURE, Dave
- 7—BROWN, Dickle
- 8—ASHCROFT, Keith
- 9—TAYLOR, Kevin
- 10—HUGHES, Brian
- 11—HALL, Fred
- 12—McCRACKEN, Bill
- 13—FARRELL, John
- 14—
- 15—WELDING, Bob

Touch Judges :

E. Lea (St Helens)

Orange Flag

R. Dennett (Warrington)

Red Flag

Next Home Match

Sunday 2nd March v FEATHERSTONE
