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HORNETS

v.

OLDHAM

Saturday, 7th November, 1959

No 228

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 3d

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Messrs. J. C. Taylor, J. Postlethwaite, J. Bowdler, H. Litchfield and R. Seeley.
Team Manager-Coach: Mr. J. Sullivan.

Once again we feel the thrill which the visit of our neighbours from Watersheddings invariably causes, and their popular annual league match at the Athletic Grounds could not have come at a more useful time than today, when a sequence of losses (following our brilliance against the Australians and Wigan) would appear to have dimmed the enthusiasm of our followers. Oldham's visit will certainly revive the keenest of interest, and, we hope, provide us with the best gate of the season.

For the past half-dozen years they have been providing Rugby football of the most entertaining type, maintained a high position in the league table, and have fully merited the large and happy following which has enabled them to make extensive ground improvements and pay staggering prices for new stars.

In spite of the fact that they have been riding a horse high on a tidal wave of success, they were most fortunate to scrape home against us in the two league matches last season. At Oldham we played our most polished football of the year, whilst at home, Noon's brilliant touchline goal in the last minute, following a hotly disputed penalty award, was a travesty of justice. Such good fortune cannot be indefinite, and our boys will to-day take the field full of confidence and play to provide our first win for some weeks. So please give them all the vocal help and encouragement in your power.

Since our last programme was published on October 24th, wing threequarter Eric Ledger has been signed from St. Helens, and Geoff Kelly, after a bright and breezy semi-season with Oldham, has returned to the fold, and many will

welcome his reappearance. Signed from Fieldhead as a centre-three-quarter eleven years ago, Geoff is now 29 years old, and aims at a first team berth in the near future. Whatever he lacks in the finer arts of the game his all out 80 minute efforts have always been commendable, whilst his cheerful disposition and dry humour will do much to higher the morale of his team mates. This year's incredible extension of summer and consequent brick hard grounds has taken a savage toll on many clubs in the way of serious injuries, but in this direction we have been well up in the favoured list. Roy Buxton has now recovered from twisted knee ligaments; John Blears wrist bone, broken against Wigan "A" on September 26th (his first game after signing for us) is practically well again, and John Lawrenson, our most unfortunate friend, has now had his plaster jacket removed. His misfortune was a spinal injury incurred in our home match against Keighley on September 1st.

WHEN ARE BOYS NOT BOYS?

The gatekeeper on the boys' 6d. entrance has the biggest headache in the club. When is a boy no longer a boy? The basic specification is under 16 years—but really! What with the oddities of size and dress, he really has a difficult job with many smoking and others no stranger to the razor.

Although under 16 is the specified limit schoolboys over that age are permitted through the "tanner gap" without question on condition that they are wearing their school cap and blazer.

Incidentally, we give the whole of the gate money from this department to the local rugger-minded juniors.

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(ONWARD, HORNETS, ONWARD!)

Hon. General Secretary: Mr. H. Oldham 8 York Street (Tel. 49689).

Hon. General Treasurer: Mr. R. D. Fletcher, 12 Margaret Avenue (Tel. 48405)

Chairman: Mr. D. Cunningham. Hon. Bar Sec.: Mr. C. Ibberson. Tel. 48203.

Hon. Membership Secretary: Mr. J. Wild (Tel. 47359)

WEMBLEY TRIP

We are now taking bookings for the Hornets Supporters' Club Wembley Trip on May 14th, 1960. If you wish to make a reservation, please contact Herbert Oldham or Bob Fletcher at the ground this afternoon or ring either of these officials at home. The numbers are given above. So far as we know at this early stage, the cost of the trip will be in the region of that charged last season, and arrangements will be similar. A deposit is required when reservations are made. Weekly payments will be taken either at the Athletic Grounds Office or Town Office. The latter is open from 12 noon to 2.0 p.m.

TED CAHILL BENEFIT

There will be a collection this afternoon for the Ted Cahill Benefit Fund. We are appealing to supporters to give generously to this Fund, as Ted Cahill has been a splendid servant to the Hornets and we are anxious to raise a good sum with various efforts like the collection this afternoon. Thank you.

HOSPITAL BROADCASTS

Our hospital broadcasts are now well under way, and, although we have met with one or two difficulties with reception at one of the hospitals, we are very pleased with the progress made so far. Our team of commentators are settling down to their task and we hope that to-day they will

be able to pass some thrills on to the fellows in hospital.

HORNETS NIGHT

Next Tuesday at the Carlton Ballroom there will be what we have termed a "Hornets Night." This is an invitation dance for all Hornets workers, staff, players, etc., and we are looking forward to a grand night. The invitation is extended by the Hornets Board of Directors and the Supporters' Club, and all workers for the Hornets are entitled to an invitation for two persons. If you have not already had yours, please see either Herbert Oldham or Bob Fletcher to-day. There will be dancing from 8.0 p.m. to 12.30 a.m., with spot prizes, etc., and supper will be provided. We are hoping that "Miss Rochdale" will also pay us a visit during the evening.

BAR MEETING

Will all members of the Bar Committee please note that there will be a meeting in the Bar at the Athletic Grounds at 8.30 p.m. on Monday evening next.

COMMITTEE OUTING

There are only 10 vacancies left on the Supporters' Club Committee Outing to Blackpool on January 9th, 1960. Any members of the Committee or friends who wish to go are asked to give in their names, along with 5s. deposit, to Herbert Oldham without delay.
R. D. F.

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