

# TODAYS TEAMS

12th FEBRUARY 2006 • KICK OFF 3.00PM

Rochdale Hornets



Oldham RLFC

P OWEN	1	A GOREY
C MAYBERRY	2	A HADCROFT
M McCULLY	3	A WILKINSON
R VARKULIS	4	C MAYE
C GILES	5	C PERCIVAL
S BUTTERWORTH	6	S SVABIC
M FIRTH	7	C HOUGH
R BENJAFIELD	8	D NANYN
D McCONNELL	9	J KIRKLAND
J HILL	10	G CORCORAN
A GORSKI	11	I HODSON
L DORAN	12	L WINGFIELD
T GOULDEN	13	W CORCORAN
C CAMPBELL	14	G BARBER
J BUNYAN	15	D CORCORAN
C ROBINSON	16	M ROBERTS
P CANTILLON	17	C DEAN

## THE OFFICIALS

Ref K Kirkpatrick • Touch Judges L Carson, P Smith • RR N Price • MC J Smith

## NEXT HOME GAME

Rochdale Hornets v Keighley Cougars • SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2006 K.O 3.00PM



THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF

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V OLDHAM RLFC

ISSUE 1 • FEBRUARY 12th 2006 • K.O. 3.00PM • Price £2.00  
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# ROCHDALE HORNETS

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# ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC

**Reg Office:** PO Box 48, Rochdale OL16 1PE Tel: 01706 648004 Fax: 01706 344545

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**Club Secretary:** Mr K Oldham

**Directors:**

Mr N Halsall (Vice Chairman)  
Mr K Oldham  
Mr D Vining  
Mrs A Manock  
Ms K Reynolds

**Coach:** Darren Abram

**Assistant Coach:** Willie Swan  
Shaun Gartland

**Club Doctor:** Dr P C Duffy

**Groundsman:** Phil Collinson

**Life Vice President:** Mr R Bonser,  
Mr D Turner, Mr B Hollis, Mr R Taylor,

**Commercial Director:** Ms K. Reynolds

**Marketing Manager:** Mr I D Nield

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**Timekeeper:** R Myers

**Programme:** Karen Reynolds,  
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Jim Stringer,  
Mark Wynn,  
David Ledsham,  
Mike Floyd,  
Gareth Walker,  
Danny Lockwood

**Hornets Magazine Production:**  
DijiGroup Tel: 0870 333 9994

## HORNETS WEBSITE

Why not visit the Hornets supporters' website on:

**www.rochdalehornets.com**

### CLUB HONOURS

Challenge Cup Winners	1921-22
Lancashire Cup Winners	1911-12, 1914-15, 1918-19
Beaten Finalists	1912-13, 1919-20, 1965-66, 1990-91

Regal Trophy Beaten Finalists 1973-74

BBC2 Floodlight Trophy Beaten Finalists 1971-72

### CLUB RECORDS

Debut Season	1895-96
Biggest Victory, 120-4 v Illingworth ARLFC	2005
Heaviest Defeat, 10-82 v Hull Sharks	1999-2000

### MOST TRIES

In a career - 103, J. Williams	1931-37
In a season - 31, M Billy	2000-01
In a match - 5, J. Corsi, M. Billy J. Williams, N. Brelsford	1921-22 1933, 1972, 2001

### MOST GOALS

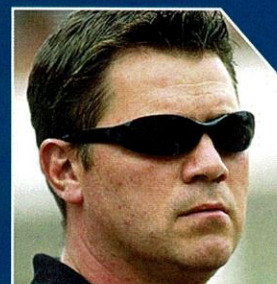
In a career - 733, W. Gowers	1922-36
In a season - 150m M. Strett	1994-95
In a match - 18, L. Birdseye	2005

### MOST POINTS

In a career - 1481, W. Gowers	1922-36
In a season - 350, M. Nanyin	2002-03
In a match - 44, L. Birdseye	2005

### MOST APPEARANCES

455, W. Gowers	1922-36
----------------	---------



BY DARREN ABRAM

# WELCOME TO ROCHDALE HORNETS

## DARREN'S VIEW:

Today brings my first real game as head coach of Rochdale Hornets.

**I**n the short space of time I have been in charge I have been welcomed by you the supporters, the players have shown great enthusiasm and dedication to the training programmes I have set, the directors are working as one board and want Hornets to go from strength to strength, the back room staff have shown great support and are offering ideas and advice on various training drills which will hopefully make us a team that will compete in the top half of the table. May I also thank the sponsors and say that on behalf of the players and coaching staff we appreciate everything you do for the club.

Today sees us against our nearest rivals Oldham, Chris and Sean work extremely hard and have had all kind of obstacles put up against them but somehow manage to keep knocking them over.

Their appointment of John Pendlebury was an excellent choice, John was always a dedicated

and true professional, and takes his rugby league very seriously, his team will no doubt play with the same pride and effort that John put into his performances and if anyone underestimates them they will come away disappointed.

As for this season with 3 full time teams and 4 teams working on a big budget it's going to be very interesting, it's going to be tough but as the head coach I will say that our team will endeavour to give 100% in everything they do win, lose or draw, I hope you will enjoy the season.

One ask is for the fans to get behind the lads every week, sing and cheer as loud as you can and be proud to be a Hornets fan.

Thanks for your support.

*Darren*

Darren

**“THE PLAYERS HAVE SHOWN GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES I HAVE SET,”**





# MATCH REPORT

Rochdale Hornets v  
Oldham RLFC

22/01/2006

Match Report courtesy  
of Jim Stringer

## OLDHAM BIFFED

A performance for Hornets to remember

**D**espite Darren Abram's non-plussed view of the validity of pre-season friendlies, he'll be waking up this morning far happier than John Pendlebury, as his side smote Oldham with a performance that set Hornets fans poring over the Law Cup record books.

Between Maye's 17th minute effort and Wilkinson's 73rd minute consolation, Hornets steamed seven tries through an, at times, bemused Oldham defence.

After a tense opening quarter, Oldham's expansive game paid off; Maye's try trumping Danny Wood's earlier penalty to give the Roughyeds the lead.

Oldham strove to give the ball as much width as possible, and it took a superb last ditch tackle by Tommy Goulden to prevent another score.

But Hornets were making good yards up the middle as new boys Ryan Benjfield and Craig Robinson drove the Oldham defence backwards; and it was on this platform that Matt Firth fed Paul Anderson into space to score after 25 minutes.

The introduction of Sam Butterworth and Phil Cantillon

to the fray wreaked havoc in the Oldham line - Cantillon's trademark darts from acting half and Butterworth's mercurial running leaving the Oldham defence clutching air.

On the half hour, Tommy Goulden backed up a good break down Oldham's right flank to score; and four minutes later, Sam Butterworth left Svabic flat-footed as he glided in direct from a scrum.

The half was capped by Robinson's shuddering tackle on Oldham full-back Gorey that had the main stand wincing.

Half time 20-4 and Hornets gaining shape, rhythm and momentum.

Indeed, Hornets began the second half with a real bang. Just four minutes in, Cantillon exploded through the heart of Oldham's defence; Butterworth appeared on his shoulder to carry the break upfield and he drew the cover perfectly to launch Chris Giles in under the black dot. Exquisite football.

Eight minutes later, Butterworth produced a carbon-copy of his first half try: this time Barber was the fall-guy as Sam ghosted in untouched.

Despite Mr Kirkpatrick's attempts to penalise the game to a pedantic standstill, Hornets continued to capitalise on their scraps of possession.

Having withstood an Oldham barrage (that twice ended with Oldham handing over on Hornets' line and three times with goal-line drop-outs) Hornets marched smartly upfield and worked the ball wide for Richard Varkulis to score.

The impressive Robinson capped a blockbusting debut with a well deserved try; crashing through tiring defenders to score.

But Oldham plugged away and, with their fans already streaming for the exits, worked the ball down the right wing where Svabic's grubber was flapped at by Mayberry and Wilkinson took advantage to touch down.

Despite the unlimited substitutions and ever-changing line-up, Over the 80 minutes Hornets did find cohesion and fluidity. There was always the suggestion that Darren Abram would have Hornets better drilled on defence and, for long periods in this game, both line and scrambling defence looked strong, willing and organised.

So, while the Law Cup is no real barometer for forthcoming performance, it does let us know the point we're starting from. And, on this performance, it's as good a start as we could expect.

Andy Gorski received the Law Cup from Ray Taylor's wife Barbara; and Matt Firth the Carl Marriott memorial trophy as Hornets' man of the match.

*Jim Stringer*

What the papers say!

### LAW CUP

## Hornets 42 Oldham 8 By Mike Floyd

HORNETS can look forward to the new season with cautious optimism after Sunday's exhilarating victory against Oldham Roughyeds at Spotland.

And, despite a match littered with substitutions, the home team did enough to give their fans hope for what will be a tough campaign.

There were many excellent performances from the old hands and the new signings. Scrum half Matty Firth was lively and directed operations well. Prop forward Craig Robinson lived up to Darren Abram's pre-match billing of 'in the Mick Cassidy mode' with an all-action display. Chris Giles confidently handled everything thrown at him and linked well on attack, while loose forward Tommy Goulden hinted at his potential with a fine performance.

Hornets started slowly and were under the cosh in the early stages as unforced errors gave Oldham the initiative. Danny Wood gave the home team the lead with a penalty, but it was no surprise when the visitors took the lead, Chris Maye finishing off a fluent passing move.

The home team finally burst into life in the 27th minute, Paul Anderson providing the catalyst as he burst onto Firth's well-timed pass to score. Sam Butterworth converted.

Four minutes later Casey Mayberry and James Bunyan combined to send Goulden through a gap to touch down.

Butterworth was again on target with the kick.

And with Oldham reeling, the mercurial Butterworth danced through a static defence for a try which he converted to give Hornets a 20-4 advantage at half time.

Hornets final try came from the dynamic Robinson who held off three would-be tacklers to force his way over the line. McCully banged over his third conversion.

Hornets were able to rest on their laurels after the match, but they will know their are sterner tests ahead, starting with a Northern Rail Cup match against Oldham on 12 February.

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PLAYER PROFILE

## ANDY GORSKI

Position:  
SECOND ROW

**A**ndy Gorski is a model professional and a totally consistent performer since his move from Salford City Reds. Andy always leads from the front and is Mr Reliable. His trademark breaks and tough tackling were very evident last season and his performances were recognised in the Club's end of season awards. He scored a very valuable 13 tries in 28 appearances in 2005.

### LAST SEASONS STATISTICS

PLAYED: .....	28
SUB: .....	0
TRIES: .....	14
DROP GOAL: .....	0
GOAL: .....	0
TOTAL POINTS: .....	56





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# THE OPPOSITION OLDHAM RLFC

**ANDY BAILEY** - Signed during the close-season from Castleford Tigers. At 6' 3" is an ideal build for a second-row forward. Super League experience with Hull who signed him from Featherstone Rovers.

**GARETH BARBER** - A local born player who started his professional career with Warrington Wolves. Primarily a stand-off who can fill most positions in the back-line. In 2005 he was also used effectively at hooker. Represented the National League under 21 side that defeated their Super League counterparts in 2001.

**MIKE CALLAN** - A prop-forward who has had Super League experience with Warrington Wolves. Hoping to make a huge impact this season under the guidance of coach John Pendlebury.

**GED CORCORAN** - 23 year old prop-forward signed for the Roughyeds after spells with Halifax (where he gained Super League experience), Dewsbury Rams and French outfit Limoux. Started his rugby career with Royton Tigers.

**WAYNE CORCORAN** - 20-year-old Irish international forward. Recruited from Halifax where he gained first team experience.

**CRAIG DEAN** - Former Chorley Lynx, Halifax and Leigh player who can turn out at full-back or in either half-back positions. Had a short spell with Saddleworth Rangers.

**ANDY GOREY** - A young full-back who is bursting with enthusiasm. He made 8 first team appearances last season albeit on the wing but is hoping to claim the number one jersey this term.

**DEAN GORTON** - Looking for regular first team action after spending two years in the Salford City Reds U21 side, where, in 2004, he picked up their Player of the Year award.

**DANNY GUEST** - A big prop who has just returned to Oldham after retiring at the end of the 2003 season following a serious knee ligament injury. Former Oldham Bear who has had experience with Keighley Cougars and Lancashire Lynx. This will be his fourth spell with Oldham.

**ALAN HADCROFT** - A robust centre who is known for his solid defence and strong running. Signed from Halifax for the 2006 season. Alan's previous club list includes Wests and his hometown side Leigh Centurions. Played for the National League against New Zealand 'A'.

**GARETH HAYES** - 20 year-old prop-forward signed from Salford City Reds during the close-season. He was voted Salford's U21 Player's Player of the Year in 2004. Leigh born Gareth stands at 6'3" tall and weighs 17 stone.

**IAN HODSON** - Signed initially on loan from Swinton Lions in 2005. After impressing he was given a contract for 2006. A hard worker who can handle the ball and who is equally at home in the second-row or at loose-forward.

**CHRIS HOUGH** - Oldham born half-back who excelled last season forming a great partnership with Marty Turner. A leader who knows how to galvanise his team-mates into action.

**JOHN HOUGH** - The first player to sign for his hometown club when it was reformed in 1997. An hooker who has signed a contract to take him to the end of the 2007 season, which will allow him to complete 10 years with the club.

Signed from Warrington Wolves, he can also play at loose-forward and is excellent at acting half-back.

**JAMES KIRKLAND** - Ex Oldham academy. A young hooker who should go far in the game. Former Waterhead Junior and Wigan Warrior student. A tough tackler and excellent acting half-back.

**CHRIS MAYE** - A 21 year-old second-row or centre signed from Swinton Lions for the 2006 season. Started his pro career at Wigan Warriors before moving to St Helens where he was on the verge of being selected for the England Academy side, but was thwarted by a wrist injury. Had a loan spell at Halifax where he gained Super League experience.

**DANNY NANYN** - Injury brought to a halt this young prop's impressive start to the 2005 season, but then managed

to pick up where he left-off. Started well against Rochdale Hornets last week.

**CHRIS PERCIVAL** - Just returned to Oldham after a spell on-loan at the end of 2003. He played for Leigh Centurions for two seasons. A quick three-quarter who scored 20 tries in 20 games in his first season with Leigh but missed out in 2005 with a broken leg. Will be seeking to rekindle his try scoring feats this year.

**MICK REDFORD** - Signed for the Roughyeds during the close-season from Blackpool Panthers. Originally from the Leigh East amateur club, has also played for Chorley Lynx. Was a crowd-pleaser at Blackpool where he played prop, second-row or centre.

**MARK ROBERTS** - Joined Oldham on loan from Warrington Wolves towards the end of the 2004 season. Initially used as a centre, where he can display a turn of pace. Also has sufficient upper-body strength to enhance the back-row of the pack.

After an injury plagued season in 2005 is keen to put things right in 2006.

**SIMON SVABIC** - Footballing half-back who made a huge impact for the Roughyeds in the second half of the 2005 season at loose-forward. Former Oldham Bear, Salford and Leigh player.

**ALEX WILKINSON** - Local born Alex, toured with Great Britain schoolboys to Australia in 1999 and with the England Academy to New Zealand and Australia in 2001. Had a loan spell with Hull F.C. where he impressed the Humberside high-flyers sufficiently for them to offer him a two year contract. Alex decided he wanted to complete his degree and when part-time rugby was the right option he chose his hometown club. Can play both centre and wing.

**LEE WINGFIELD** - 24 year-old second-row signed from amateur club Leigh Easts. He has been selected for the BARLA Great Britain team for three successive seasons, and toured both Australia and Russia. Signed a two year contract that commences with the start of the 2006 campaign.



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**Paul Anderson** (SECOND ROW / CENTRE); Spent the 2005 season bravely fighting his way back from a career threatening knee injury. There were signs at the end of the season that Paul is quite capable of making a full recovery and once more becoming a regular performer. Previous clubs include Leigh, Oldham, St Helens and Sheffield.

**Rob Ball** (PROP); Rob found the consistent level of performance he was looking for during the 2005 season and became first choice prop in the Hornets front row. His no nonsense approach was appreciated by the Hornets fans and his experience was vital at certain times of the season. Rob is another no nonsense model professional. He made 22 appearances in 2005. Previous clubs are Wigan and Leigh.

**Ryan Benjafield** (PROP); Ryan is in his second spell in England having previously played for Hull F.C. and York City Knights. He has been playing in Australia for Asquith Magpies in the Jim Beam Cup but was keen to have another go in England. Can either play in the front or back row and comes very highly rated by the Coaches at both his previous English Clubs.

**James Bunyan** (CENTRE / SECOND ROW); Another player in his second spell at the club after playing the last couple of seasons at Halifax, this was after spending a short but unhappy spell at Oldham. One of James's great assets is his versatility being at home at either centre or back row. James is renowned for his tough tackling and strong running and has always had a good tries to games ratio. James is another player on his way back to full fitness after having closed season surgery. Previous clubs include Doncaster and Huddersfield.

**Sam Butterworth** (STAND OFF); Rochdale born Sam is certain to continue his love affair with Hornets supporters in 2006 having enjoyed a highly successful 2005 season scoring some brilliant tries and displaying excellent individual skills. Sam's pace is electric and he is always willing to try the unorthodox and has

pulled Hornets out of many a sticky situation. Sam is now in his third season at the Club and is enjoying every minute of it. For the record Sam scored 9 tries in 2005.

**Chris Campbell** (WING); Chris has been a consistent performer since joining the Club in 2004. His electric pace always puts him amongst Hornets leading scorers every season and last year he scored 14 in 22 appearances. He previously had spells with Oldham and Whitehaven.

**Phil Cantillon** (HOOKER); Phil showed during the latter stages of the 2005 season that he has not lost his electric pace and quick thinking that have been his trademarks over the years. Hornets fans will be quick to remember his match winning performance off the bench at Doncaster that turned a remarkable game in our favour. He is an Irish International having captained the side in 2004. Phil made 19 appearances in 2005 scoring 12 tries. His previous clubs include Widnes, Keighley and Halifax.

**Dave Cunliffe** (CENTRE / SECOND ROW); David has certainly enjoyed variety during his sporting career, starting off as a Professional Football player then turning to Rugby Union with Liverpool St Helens before turning to Rugby League. A powerful player David has the versatility of being able to play either in the Back row or at Centre. Dave was another player who didn't really enjoy the best of fitness in 2005 but after a good pre-season under his belt he will no doubt soon rediscover the performance that made him one of the stand players of 2004.

**Lee Doran** (SECOND ROW); Lee was voted the Club's player of the year at the end of last season, an award he richly deserved and in doing so quickly became a firm fans' favourite. He frequently busted the opposition's line, with his trademark line breaking busts. Lee was also a solid performer in defence frequently topping the tackle count. He made 28 appearances in 2005

scoring 6 tries. His previous club was Oldham.

**Phil Farrell** (LOOSE FORWARD); Phil was plagued with a knee injury during the 2005 season which he will now hoping to have fully recovered from. A tough back row forward with an exceptional work rate Phil leads from the front at all times and is a very constructive leader both on and off the pitch. He made 21 appearances in 2005. Phil joined from Oldham in December 2004 having previously played for his hometown club Wigan Warriors.

**Matty Firth** (SCRUM HALF); Matt opted for a move to National League one after enjoying a hugely successful 2005 season with Keighley Cougars. Matt will be hoping to make an immediate impact due to the injury to Lee Sanderson. A classy half back Matt has a great kicking game and scores his fair share of tries. Matt came to Hornets via Keighley, Halifax and Wakefield. In 2005 Matt scored 4 tries in 23 matches for Keighley.

**Chris Giles** (FULL BACK / WING) A real stand out performer for Hornets during 2005 at either Full Back or on the Wing. In certain matches Chris's Super League experience proved invaluable and was a model of consistency. Chris scored some vital tries in the last campaign and will be looking to improve his tally in 2006. For the record he made 27 appearances in 2005 scoring a total of 6 tries. Played Super League for Widnes in 2004.

**Tommy Golden** (LOOSE FORWARD); Joined Hornets in the latter part of the 2005 season from Leigh Miners Rangers amateur side. He captained his side with distinction for many years and was also part of a very successful Great Britain amateur set up touring Australia on more than one occasion. Has come to Hornets with the reputation of being one of the toughest players around and showed immense promise in the limited appearances he made towards the end of last season.

**Andy Gorski** (SECOND ROW); A model professional and a totally



# ROCHDALE HORNETS PLAYING SQUAD

CONTINUED

consistent performer since his move from Salford City Reds. Andy always leads from the front and is Mr Reliable. His trademark breaks and tough tackling were very evident last season and his performances were recognised in the Club's end of season awards. He scored a very valuable 13 tries in 28 appearances in 2005.

**John Hill** (PROP); After signing from Blackpool in May 2005 John made a disastrous start to his Hornets career by getting dismissed five minutes into his debut at Featherstone. After that blip John had a really successful season and was a top performer in the Hornets pack. Used mainly off the bench John always had an impact and will again be a major component in the Hornets pack in 2006. John made 12 appearances in 2005

**Casey Mayberry** (WING); In his second spell at Hornets having previously served Halifax twice and Hull KR. Casey's first spell at the club was interrupted by injury and he will be hoping for an injury free 2006. Casey has got pace to burn and will for sure be amongst the division's leading try scorers if he stays injury free. Casey's tries always seem to be of the spectacular variety and Hornets fans will be looking forward to tries such as the one against Workington during the 2003 season

**Dave McConnell** (HOOKER); Another of Hornets top performers in 2005 after signing in the close season from Leigh. David's work rate is exceptional and is at the hub of most of Hornets attacking play. A very versatile player Dave can play Hooker, back row of half back.. Dave made 25 appearances in 2005 scoring 10 tries. David is a full Scottish international.

**Mark McCully** (CENTRE); Another player who enjoyed a really successful 2005 season topping Hornets points scoring chart in the process. Mark also had a very successful season with the kicking boot and was amongst the leading kickers in National League one. In 2005 Mark made 26 appearances scoring 13 tries and 71 goals for a total of 194 points. Mark launched his career at St Helens before moving onto Chorley and then Leigh.

**Paul Norman** (PROP) Paul signed for Hornets from Local rivals Oldham in December 2005. Regarded as one of the most consistent front row forwards in National League one with a huge work rate ethic. A very experienced campaigner Paul's other clubs include Leigh. His tough tackling style and his willingness to do the "hard yards" will quickly make him a fans' favourite.

**Paul Owen** (FULL BACK) Paul will be hoping for a better 2006 after spending the majority of time sidelined in the 2005 season with a foot injury. He is in his second spell at Hornets after having a brief spell away from the club in 2004 at Hull KR. He will be hoping to recapture the form he showed in his first spell at the Club where he was generally regarded as the best Full Back at National League one level. Paul started his career at Leeds before moving onto Keighley.

**Lee Patterson** (CENTRE); Lee was Swinton's top try scorer in 2005 so it was another coup for Hornets when he signed for the Club in November 2005 having previously been at St Helens and Chorley. Lee's pace and running style is sure to make him a fans' favourite at Hornets and the Club will be hoping he can repeat his try scoring feats this year. For the record Lee scored 21 tries for Swinton last term and he was a nominee for the National League Two Player of the year award.

**John Pickersgill** (PROP); Another of Hornets major moves of the close season when they prized John away from Warrington Wolves. He is a player that Wolves boss Cullen believes will have a major impact on the game in years to come. John is battling his way back to full fitness after having a close season operation and will be hoping to make a huge impact in the second half of the 2006 season.

**Kris Ratcliffe** (LOOSE FORWARD); Spent the early part of 2005 on loan to Blackpool which gave Kris some much needed first team experience that helped him to make a really successful contribution to Hornets' end of season run in. Kris was a product of the Student Rugby League network. Kris is now in his third season at Hornets.

**Craig Robinson** (SECOND ROW); Hornets snatched the young second

rower from under the noses of a host of Yorkshire teams all after his signature. He is the product of Wakefield's academy and has already played at Super League level. Was spotted by Darren Abram playing for the Wakefield academy a number of times against Leigh and was always recognised as a stand out performer.

**Lee Sanderson** (SCRUM HALF); Eyebrows were raised when Hornets secured the signature of Lee from Super League Club Harlequins in the close season. Lee is recognised as being a very talented Half Back with a brilliant kicking game that will add a new dimension to Hornets play. The first major battle Lee will have to win is to regain full fitness after under going constructive knee surgery in 2005

**Matt Sturm** (PROP); the popular Kiwi prop forward was another massive close season signing for Hornets. His years of experience gained playing Super League will be vital to Hornets play-off push. There is no doubt that Matt will as ever be leading from the front as he has done all his career. Matt had a loan spell at Hornets in 2004. He has played Super League for Leigh, Warrington and Huddersfield

**Richard Varkulis** (CENTRE); A major hit with all Hornets fans when he became the major close season signing of 2004 from Warrington Wolves having previously had a loan spell with the Club. His power and pace made him a formidable opponent for all teams in 2005 and he had a really consistent season. He scored 13 tries in 22 appearances and in doing so collected one of the Club's end of season awards

**Danny Wood** (STAND OFF); Danny rejoined the club in the Autumn of 2005 for his second spell. A prolific goal kicker he will be hoping to re-start his career that went flat after suffering a horrific facial injury whilst playing for Dewsbury Rams. His kicking game will be vital to Hornets this term and his trademark pressure clearing kicks are sure to be utilised by the Coaching Staff. Danny is a tremendously skilful player that can step off both feet and is very creative in attack. Left Hornets in 2003 for Hunslet.



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Dear Rob,  
Just writing to tell you how pleased I was with the job you did replacing my windows and doors. The overall finish was brilliant and the standard was excellent. It was certainly a lot better than I had hoped for and would recommend you to my friends and family. From getting the initial price to completion you made sure that everything was done right, and although we did have problems they were nothing that could not be put right.  
Once again many thanks Rob for a job well done!  
Yours gratefully,

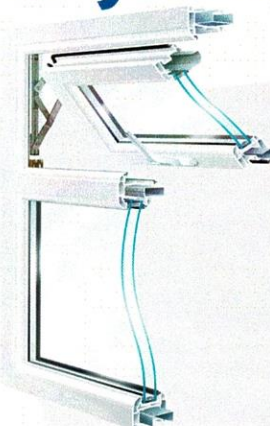
C. Crane, Littleborough

Dear Rob,  
just a little note to let you know how pleased I am with the job you carried out for me on the fascia boards. The fitters did a fantastic job and they certainly knew how to tidy up on completion of work.

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I. Carmichael, Chadderton

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# THE VIEW FROM ROW Z

Welcome to a lovely new season here at Rochdale Hornets - and there's lots of news to kick us off.

Firstly a big, big thanks to everyone who helped make last Saturday's Nest Egg fundraiser such a good event with music from the 70's and 80's, the 'School Disco' was a great success - with lots of people turning out in very tight school uniforms.

**Y**ou can find Mal Harrison's incriminating photographs on [rochdalehornets.com](http://rochdalehornets.com) soon, so please drop in for a look Nest Egg thanks go to the DJs who donated their services free; Sue, Dave and the stadium staff for their usual welcome effort - and the fact that they all turned up in uniform too; and to Derek Wynn whose terrier-like sales technique on the Raffle raised £80+.

Thanks to Mark Wynn and his in-house band of helpers for heating up/dishing up the food. Thanks too to Spelly of Swinton who came with his own crew of 'schoolgirls' - your support for our events is always very much appreciated: as was the length of your companion's skirt.

Special Nest Egg thanks to Dave Withington who covered the cost of the food - which helped maximise our profits.

The total amount raised was a staggering £418! Which is - again - a remarkable effort from some most generous people.

Again, if you did come, thanks very much - and if you didn't, please do come and support our next event. We need as many people as possible to get behind us and ensure that these events succeed. Because the more we can raise, the more we can invest in Rochdale Hornets.

Talking of investment, squad sponsorship for 2006 is now available.

Rather than sponsoring individual players who may not play or who may leave the club, Hornets is this season offering playing positions 1 - 17 for sponsorship.

Squad Sponsorship money contributes to the funding of training kit, players' matchday food and team away travel. In addition to meeting these vital club expenses, this essential source of revenue is one which the players and coaching staff particularly appreciate.

The cost for the season is £175.00 - less than the equivalent player sponsorship last season - and for your contribution you will receive a personal letter of thanks from the Head Coach Darren Abram AND a signed AWAY shirt, presented to you at the end of the season.

Squad sponsorship is great for groups of fans to club together and make a real contribution towards your club. So why not pull together the people who sit near you, give yourselves a daft name and all chip in - it's easy, not too expensive and you can help make a real difference!

To arrange your Squad Sponsorship, call Karen Reynolds on 01706 712 388; email [karen@rsnwlttd.com](mailto:karen@rsnwlttd.com) or grab Karen or Ann on a matchday.

And finally... a new TV show "Code Thirteen - Rugby League" begins on Channel M on Thursday 16th Feb at 7.00pm Code Thirteen is a brand new Rugby League programme featuring Super League, National League and amateur action from around Greater Manchester.

Including a mix of match action, big game previews and reviews, player chat, club history and community activities, episode one kicks off with the thoughts of Salford City Reds Head Coach Karl Harrison plus action from the Challenge Cup 1st round.

Highlight of the show will be a feature on pre-season expectations from the Rochdale Hornets camp.

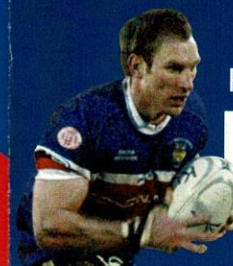
Channel M is Manchester's own TV channel and it's available through Your existing TV aerial on channel 39 (but I think it has a distinct South Manchester bias on reception) You can also view Channel M if you have access digital/cable TV on channel 26.

If you can get it, don't miss it. It's repeated Friday 12.30 & 9.00pm, Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 1.00pm.

Phew. That's it for now. 2006 starts right here. So brace yourself for another Rugby League roller coaster ride all the way to September.

Onward Hornets Onward - and Onward Together.

If you have any news, comments or opinions that you'd like to see in future programmes, please email [jim@rochdalehornets.com](mailto:jim@rochdalehornets.com) with your articles. Enjoy the game.



## ROCHDALE HORNETS 2006 ROLL CALL

NAME	PLAYED	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
Paul Anderson	0	1	1	0	0	4
Rob Ball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Bengafield	1	0	0	0	0	0
James Bunyan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sam Butterworth	0	1	2	3	0	14
Chris Campbell	0	1	0	0	0	0
Phil Cantillon	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dave Cunliffe	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phil Farrell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matty Firth	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Giles	1	0	1	0	0	4
Tommy Golden	1	0	1	0	0	4
Andy Gorski	1	0	0	0	0	0
John Hill	1	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Mayberry	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dave McConnell	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mark McCully	1	0	0	3	0	6
Paul Owen	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Paterson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kris Ratcliffe	0	1	0	0	0	0
Craig Robinson	0	1	1	0	0	4
Matt Sturm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Varkulis	1	0	1	0	0	4
Danny Wood	1	0	0	1	0	2



## ALPHA PHOTOGRAPHY



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# COMMERCIAL DIRECTORS UPDATE FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES

A very warm welcome to all our supporters also to players, directors and supporters of our guests today Oldham Roughdyeds.

**T**he start of the 2006 season is an exciting time both on and off the pitch for Rochdale Hornets.

We are delighted to welcome our Main Club Sponsors for the 2006 season Arien / Nardi this is the second season that they have generously supported the club and I know that they are very much looking forward to the 2006 season.

We offer a very warm welcome today to two special Sponsors. Our main Match Sponsors today are our great friends Roy & Marjory Hindle and our Match Ball Sponsors today are our loyal friends David and Theresa Dunn proprietors of Interbake.

### ALPHA PHOTOGRAPHY:

Thanks to Andy for the excellent action shots that he has provided of the team for inclusion in the new style programme.

Just to remind you there are still copies of the Tries of the season DVD from 2005. There is also a NEW double DVD showing tries of the seasons from the years 1993/4 and 1995/6.

### SPONSORS UPDATE:

On January 27th Hornets held its 1st Sponsors Lunch. The event was designed to highlight to existing and to potential new sponsors the massive strides that the club are making off the pitch with Community and Educational Programmes. It also provided us with a chance to sign new sponsors for a variety Match Day packages during the 2006 season.

For the 2006 season we have sold all available boxes – in fact we had too many requests!!

Also for the season we have made massive strides forward with selling Match Day, Match Ball, Associate Match Day and Champagne Moment Sponsorship.

In fact this is the most sponsored season in the History of Hornets **THANK YOU!**

### SPONSOR A SQUAD POSITION:

See today's programme for details of how as an individual or as a group can be involved with sponsoring Hornets. All the monies raised from this

important activity goes directly to finance the running of the Squad – come on and get involved!!

### MASCOTS:

Fancy being a mascot? For the 2006 season we would like to see as many Junior Hornets as possible walking out with their favourite player. The price is £30 and the package includes: Photo opportunity with the player of your choice, mention in the match day programme and a GIANT 6 FOOT full colour door poster of your chosen player!!

We have many new initiatives that I look forward to announcing over the next few weeks. As always anyone wanting to be involved in Fund Raising, has new ideas for Sponsorship or would just like to be involved please contact me via the club.

*Karen*

Karen Reynolds Commercial Director

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MARJORY HINDLE**

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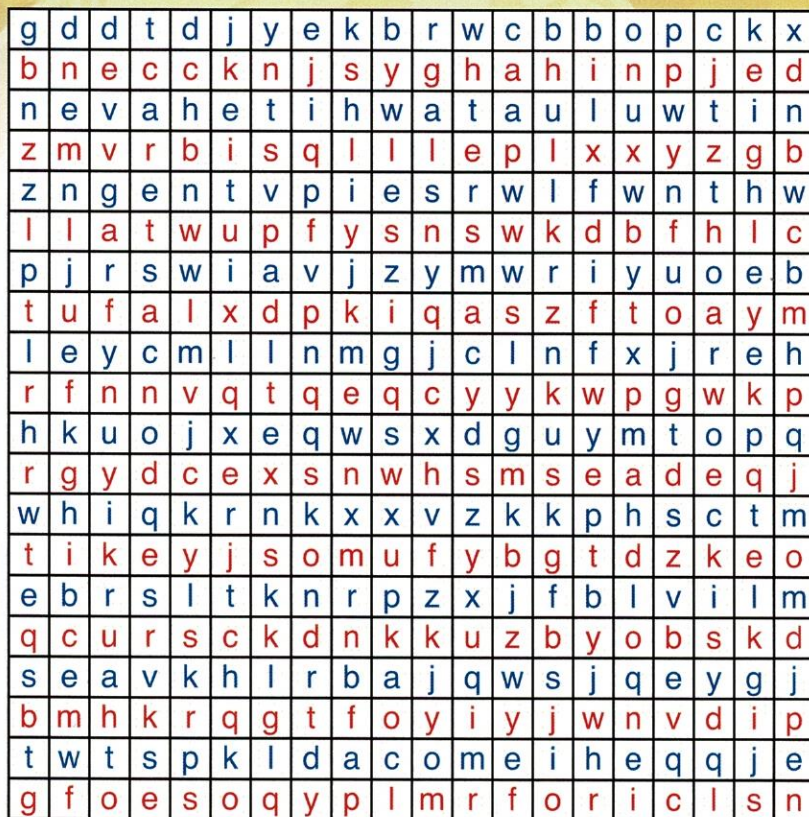
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648  
004**

# Junior Hornets

Hi Kids, welcome to today's game against Oldham, for our first fixture of the 2006 season.

This is your new Junior Hornets Section, which, throughout the season, will be full of fun things to do. Of course, adults are also welcome to take part if they wish.

Let's start with a word search, see how many teams you can find. We play them all; can you find them?



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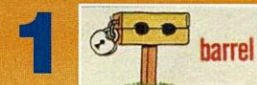
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## DINGBATS

Say what you see, can you work them out?  
Write the answers below:



1

2

3

4

All answers in the next programme.

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AMATEUR SCENE

## ROCHDALE RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM ARE NATIONAL CHAMPS!

(it's not often we can say that!)



Welcome to a new season of amateur scene where we lead today with the best result by a Rochdale based team in years! With the lads from Hopwood Hall ably coached by one of Hornets finest oldboys Matt Calland.

**L**ets hope some of these rising stars can make their way to Spotland and follow in Matts boots and become Hornets future stars.

Hopwood Hall's Rugby League Academy clinched the Student Under 19 National Cup Final with a 18-14 win against St Helens.

On 25th January 2006 the Rugby Academy celebrated their win against favourites St Helens, who had been unbeaten until the final. Hopwood's team spirit got them through the game, despite losing Captain Andy Gray and Scrum Half Gavin Clough early on with injuries.

Hopwood had been on a team building weekend a few days before the match and the team also went ten pin bowling the day of the game just to calm their nerves. These activities came at the end of two weeks of intensive training leading up to the final which included video analysis of the St Helens side.

Last year, the Academy played host to the New Zealand Kiwi Rugby League team who trained at Hopwood in preparation for the Tri Nations Championship. The Kiwis went on to become world champions, winning the tournament 24-0 against Australia.

Matt Calland, Head Coach of Hopwood's Rugby League Academy said;

"The lads are proud to be bringing the trophy back to Hopwood Hall. Their team work and determination made them worthy winners. I think the Kiwis' success must have rubbed off on us!"

Its great to be back for battle to commence, luckily we have had the "meet the players" night (pictured below) and the School Disco to stop us all going stir crazy but I'm just so glad its time for the action,

**"BRING IT ON!"**

**// "THE LADS ARE PROUD TO BE BRINGING THE TROPHY BACK TO HOPWOOD HALL. THEIR TEAM WORK AND DETERMINATION MADE THEM WORTHY WINNERS." //**

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### STEAMING AHEAD!

THE Northern Rail Cup pulls out of its station this weekend to launch another fascinating National League campaign.

With a settled slot at the beginning of the season and a memorable final day at Blackpool to reflect on from last year, the competition continues to grow in stature.

Today sees the start of the group stage, which promises to provide a wealth of entertainment.

An intriguing Group One sees Welsh newcomers Celtic Crusaders make their professional bow against a London Skolars side eager to progress from the disappointments of 2005. Throw in two ambitious NL3 clubs in Hemel Hempstead and St Albans Centurions, and the pool provides plenty of hope for the future.

In Group Two, Whitehaven will again be the clear favourites to finish top, as they have done for the past two seasons. But runners-up spot is more difficult call, though Workington Town would appear to have the edge on recently relegated Barrow Raiders and the ever-improving Gateshead Thunder.

All four clubs in Group Three will fancy their chances of progression. With Doncaster Lakers and Batley Bulldogs expected to be in the lower half of NL1 later in the year, and Dewsbury Rams and Hunslet Hawks set to challenge for promotion, nothing will be taken for granted in a fascinating pool.

Expect fireworks in Group Four, where the two

favourites for National League One, Leigh Centurions and Widnes Vikings, clash twice early on. They look certain qualifiers, though don't rule out a shock from Swinton at Park Lane, while Blackpool will be keen to use a difficult group as a positive starting point under new coach Simon Knox.

Group Five is of the most difficult to call, being the only one with three NL1 clubs in it. Halifax will be slight favourites, but both Rochdale and Oldham have much to prove under their respective new coaches, and Keighley will be keen to cause a shock or two under the returning Peter Roe.

Group Six is another tough one to predict, with no apparent weak club. Holders Hull Kingston Rovers look well placed to finish top, but there promises to be a real scramble for second, with the newly-promoted York City Knights taking on two teams expected to be at the forefront of NL2 in Sheffield Eagles and Featherstone Rovers.

With progressive NL3 clubs Bramley Buffaloes, Dewsbury Celtic and Warrington Wizards making up Group Seven, the NRC provides League outside the top flight with much to be positive about.

"I think it's a great concept, and a nice introduction to the season," Justin Morgan, coach of holders Hull KR concludes.

"It's certainly a major objective of ours to do well in the competition."

\* A team-by-team preview of the Northern Rail Cup can be found in the February edition of Rugby League World, out now

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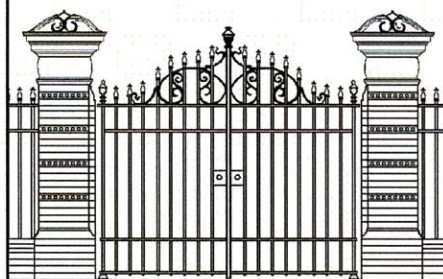
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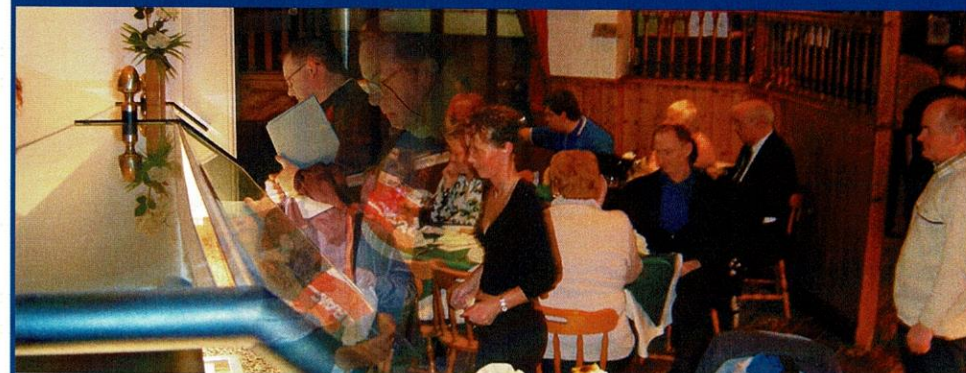


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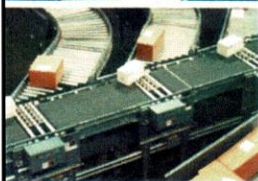
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DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP/LEAGUE	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
12/2/06	OLDHAM	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	H	3.00PM			
19/2/06	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	A	3.00PM			
26/2/06	HALIFAX	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	A	3.00PM			
5/3/06	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	H	3.00PM			
12/3/06	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	-	-			
19/3/06	OLDHAM	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	A	3.00PM			
26/3/06	HALIFAX	NORTHERN RAIL CUP	H	3.00PM			
2/4/06	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	-	-			
9/4/06	DONCASTER LAKERS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
14/4/06	OLDHAM	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
17/4/06	WHITEHAVEN	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
30/4/06	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
14/5/06	HALIFAX	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
21/5/06	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP	-	-			
28/5/06	WIDNES VIKINGS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
4/6/06	WHITEHAVEN	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
11/6/06	LEIGH CENTURIONS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
25/6/06	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
2/7/06	OLDHAM	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
9/7/06	BATLEY BULLDOGS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
23/7/06	DONCASTER LAKERS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
30/7/06	LEIGH CENTURIONS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
6/8/06	WIDNES VIKINGS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
13/8/06	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
20/8/06	HALIFAX	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			
3/9/06	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	A	3.00PM			
10/9/06	BATLEY BULLDOGS	LHF NATIONAL HEALTHPLAN LEAGUE 1	H	3.00PM			