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∴ Today's Curtain Raiser ∴  
ALMONDBURY SCHOOL  
v. THE REST  
OFFICIAL NOTES.

The brief, but fairly heavy snowfall of last Friday and Saturday put paid to our hopes of playing the Leigh match. This means that we have now two fixtures outstanding, for Wakefield Trinity should have visited Fartown today in a league match. Should Trinity beat Bradford Northern this afternoon there will be yet another, as we are due to go to Wakefield on March 13th, which is the date for the third round of the R.L. Cup Competition.

### WELCOME TO HALIFAX.

Faced with the possibility of a blank week-end we lost no time in fixing up a game with Halifax, old and neighbourly rivals of ours, to whom we extend a warm welcome. Until last year the Charity Cup

matches were a regular "pipe-opener" for the men of Fartown and Thrum Hall. This season's friendly encounter comes a little later than usual, but is none the less welcome on that account.

This afternoon's game is of great interest in that it is intended to try out some of the suggested rule alterations, by which it is hoped to brighten our game up and do away with many of the present stoppages. The line-out from touch, scrummaging, and play-the-ball rule, will all receive attention, and the men taking part today have had a talk from a League official on the experimental rules.

There is another interesting angle attached to the visit of Halifax, reference being to the number of Colonials who may be on view. There are nine among the "selected from," Halifax including their four New Zealanders, while in addition to

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Hunter, Cooper and Devery, we have Clark and Morrison on our team sheet for the first time. We add a special word of welcome to those newcomers who will be making their first appearance at Fartown.

### THE PROPOSED NEW RULES.

Here are a few notes on the experimental rules which will be tried out today.

The proposed reversion to the line-out allows the ball to be thrown in at right angles to the touch-line, or inclined towards the thrower's own in-goal, so that the thrower may throw it back towards his own players, who will be lined up ready to begin a passing round.

No player may stand nearer than ten yards to the touch-line from which the ball is being thrown, but after the ball leaves the thrower's hands all players can run into any position they wish.

"Ball-Back" will operate. From a direct kick to touch the ball will be thrown in opposite the place where the ball was kicked. In the case of a free-kick the ball will be thrown in by a member of the kicker's side.

In the play-the-ball rule heeling will be abolished. A player may play the ball forward, sideways, or inclined to his own line, but in the last case the ball must pass in front of the foot not playing the ball.

The player marking the man playing the ball may not touch it until it has first been played by the tackled player, who, after playing the ball, may not touch it again until it has been played by another player.

The acting half-back is dispensed with and all players who are not five yards behind the players taking part in the play-the-ball are offside.

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The new scrummage rule is that the scrum-half must put the ball into the scrum from a height not greater than the knee, in order that the hookers may see the ball before it leaves the half-back's hands.

It has been emphasised that the game should not be turned into an exhibition match but that both sides should play serious football.

Does the game need these changes? That is one of the big topics of the day in Rugby League football, and widely conflicting views are held. Many consider that if the present rules are played to, and if the control of the game is efficient, no changes are required. Several of this season's matches have been cited as cases in point. Other critics hold that there are

too many stoppages and scrums, and that the play-the-ball rule must be altered.

Maybe much will be learned from this afternoon's game, which is probably the fore-runner of other experimental matches.

### OUR RESERVES.

This afternoon our "A" team play their Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup game at Batley. This first-round tie is played on the home and away principal, and the second game will take place at Fartown a fortnight today, March 13th.

**Quiz-question No. 1.**—A Lancashire club are giving a benefit this season to one of their players, an international, who has been with them for fourteen seasons. He played with Huddersfield as a war-time "guest." Can you name him? Answer on a later page.

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### OUR CUP DEFEAT.

Well, the Odsal obstacle proved too great for us after all and our Wembley hopes and aspirations were shattered, as was the case twelve months ago, by our Bradford opponents. We soon saw our slender lead and though our boys put all they knew in an attempt to get in front again, they just could not make it. A score during that early second half period when, only a point behind, we were having our share of attacking play, might have put a different light on the situation. But supporters can be assured that their disappointment was no keener than that of our players, who had high hopes of making 1948 a Wembley year. Now that the Challenge Cup is beyond our reach—for this year at any rate—our boys are eager to atone by the capture of the League Championship Cup, and the Yorkshire League Cup.

### HERE AND THERE.

Halifax are asking £500 for Friend Taylor, their full-back and captain, who is on the transfer list at his own request.

The proposed French R.L. tour of Australia during 1948 has been cancelled, and the Australians have extended an invitation to the New Zealanders. In view of their successful tour of England, the Kiwis should prove a great attraction in Australia, where thoughts are centred on the touring side they are building for season 1948-49.

At their Meeting last week, the R.L. Secretaries decided to request that clubs should be sent a copy of the fixture lists before publication, in order that any desirable alterations may be suggested.

Their Majesties the King and Queen are to attend the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on May 1st.

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### FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ground	Time	F	A
Aug. 23	Leeds	home	7-0	6	6
" 30	Leeds	away	3-0	32	18
Sep. 6	Barrow	away	3-0	20	9
" 6	Hudd. R.U.F.C. v. Touristes				
" 13	*Bramley (Rd. 1)	home	3-0	43	3
" 17	*Bramley Yk. Cp)	away	6-0	26	12
" 20	Bramley	home	5-45	17	12
" 23	Halifax Rd 2 YC	away	5-30	18	7
" 27	Workington T.	home	3-0	5	5
Oct. 4	Workington T.	away	3-0	3	10
" 11	Castleford	home	3-0	50	5
" 15	Wakefield YC SF	away	4-45	15	18
" 18	Hull K.R.	away	3-0	15	10
" 25	Hull	away	3-0	0	8
" 25	*England v. France	at Fartown	3-0	20	15
Nov. 1	Dewsbury	away	3-0	4	10
" 1	*Leeds v. Wakefield				
" 8	Y.C. F. at Fartown				
" 8	Dewsbury	home	3-0	10	5
" 15	Hunslet	away	3-0	10	15
" 22	*New Zealand	home	2-30	12	7
" 29	Featherstone	home	2-30	35	5
Dec. 6	Keighley	home	2-30	13	12
" 13	Leigh	away	2-15	27	8
" 20	Widnes	away	2-15	0	4
" 25	Halifax	home	2-15	43	3
" 26	Halifax	away	2-15	18	7
" 27	Bradford N.	away	2-15	0	16
1948					
Jan. 1	Hull K.R.	home	2-15	28	0
" 3	Hull	home	2-15	15	5
" 10	Bramley	away	2-30	34	0
" 17	Widnes	home	2-30	20	0
" 24	Keighley	away	2-45	28	0
" 31	Hunslet	home	2-45	8	0
Feb. 7	*Brad'd N. R.L.C.	home	3-0	6	2
" 14	Brad'd N. R.L.C.	away	3-0	2	15
" 21	Leigh	home	3-0	postponed	
" 28	Halifax (Fr'dly)	home	3-0		
Mar. 6	York	away	3-0		
" 13	Wakefield	away	3-0		
" 20	York	home	3-0		
" 26	Barrow	home	3-0		
" 27	Castleford	away	3-0		
" 29	Featherstone	away	3-0		
" 30	Bradford N.	home	3-0		

Apl. 3	Batley	home	3-0		
" 10					
" 17	Batley	away	3-0		
May 15	*Seven-a-Side	home	3-0		

### "A" TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ground	Time	F	A
1947					
Aug. 23	Leeds	away	3-0	34	13
" 30	Leeds	home	3-0	26	13
Sep. 6					
" 13	Batley Carr	away	3-0	11	9
" 20	Bramley	away	3-0	17	12
" 27	Hull K.R.	away	3-0	20	29
Oct. 4	Halifax	home	3-0	13	3
" 11	Castleford	away	3-0	2	21
" 18	Hull K.R.	home	3-0	13	0
" 25	Bradford N.	away	3-0	29	0
Nov. 8	Dewsbury	away	3-0	13	12
" 15	Hunslet	home	3-0	5	18
" 22					
" 29	Featherstone	away	2-30	3	10
Dec. 6	Keighley	away	2-30	19	11
" 13	Castleford	home	2-15	5	11
" 20	Hull	home	2-15	2	15
" 27	Bradford N.	home	2-15	28	5
1948					
Jan. 3	Hull	away	2-15	12	22
" 10	Bramley	home	2-30	16	3
" 17	Halifax	away	2-30	12	7
" 24	Keighley	home	2-45	25	4
" 31	Hunslet	away	2-45	6	13
Feb. 7	Normanton	away	3-0	6	10
" 14	Leeds (Friendly)	home	3-0	9	7
" 21					
" 28	Batley (Y.S.C.C.)	away	3-0		
Mar. 6	York	home	3-0		
" 13	Batley (Y.S.C.C.)	home	3-0		
" 20	Wakefield	away	3-0		
" 27	Featherstone	home	3-0		
Apl. 3					
" 10	Wakefield	home	3-0		
" 17	Batley	home	3-0		
" 24	York	away	3-0		

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Answer to quiz-question—Edgar Brooks (Oldham)

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