

WIGAN

SCORE

54 2

OLDHAM

Steve Hampson	1 Full back	Mick Burke. JEFF EDWARDS
Joe Lydon	2 Right wing	Paul Sherman HUSS M BARRI
David Stephenson	3 Right centre	Des Foy. PAUL SHERMAN
Dean Bell	4 Left centre	Gary Warnecke
Henderson Gill	5 Left wing	Mike Taylor
Shaun Edwards	6 Stand off	David Topliss MICK BURKE
Andy Gregory	7 Scrum half	Paddy Kirwan
Brian Case WEST	8 Front row	Ian Sherratt
Nicky Kiss	9 Hooker	Ian Sanderson
Shaun Wane CASE	10 Front row	Hugh Waddell
Andy Goodway	11 Second row	Colin Hawkyard
Ian Potter	12 Second row	Stuart Raper. NEIL CLAWSON
Ellery Hanley	13 Loose forward	Terry Flanagan
Ray Mordt	14 Substitute	TONY MORRISON
Graeme West WANE	15 Substitute	WALLY JONES

REFEREE: Mr. G.F. Lindop

HALF TIME

TOUCH JUDGES

Mr. J. Fishwick
Mr. J.E. Chamberlain

Scrums					Penalties				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20

JJB

Scrums					Penalties				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20



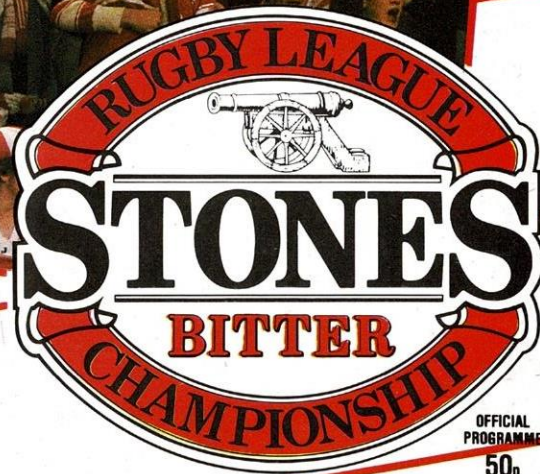
CHERRY and WHITE



Wed. 8th April 1987

WIGAN v OLDHAM

Kick off 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
50p

WIGAN FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

GROUND: CENTRAL PARK, WIGAN. TELEPHONE WIGAN 31321
COLOURS: JERSEY - CHERRY AND WHITE HOOPS. SHORTS: WHITE
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R.L. COUNCIL MEMBER: M.P. LINDSAY
LANCASHIRE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE: A.CLOSE
CLUB DOCTOR: DR.R.BULLOUGH
COACH: GRAHAM LOWE
COACHING CO-ORDINATOR: JEFF HURST
'A' TEAM COACH: TERRY CASSIDY
PHYSIO: K.MILLS
COLTS COACH: JOHN GRADY

WIGAN STATISTICS and HONOURS

Nickname: The Riversiders; *Founded:* 1872
(Limited 1921); *Ground:* Central Park;
Colours: Cherry and white hooped jerseys,
white shorts; *Attendance record:* 47,747,
Wigan v. St. Helens 1959; *Record win:* 116-0
v. Flimby and Fothergill in 1925; *Record
defeat:* 3-58 v. Leeds in 1972; *Try scoring
record:* 64 by Brian Nordgren in season
1949-50; *Goal kicking record:* 206 by Jim
Sullivan in season 1933-34; *Point scoring
record:* 430 by Jim Sullivan in season 1933-
34.

Rugby League Championship winners:
1908-09, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1945-46,
1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52 and 1959-60.

Runners-up: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12,
1912-13, 1923-24 and 1970-71

Challenge Cup winners: 1923-24, 1928-29,
1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1964-65
and 1984-85.

Runners-up: 1910-11, 1919-20, 1943-44,
1945-46, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1965-66, 1969-70
and 1983-84.

Floodlit Cup winners: 1968-69

Runners-up: 1969-70

Charity Shield Winners: 1985-86

Lancashire Cup winners: 1905-06, 1908-09,
1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39,
1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51,
1951-52, 1966-67, 1971-2, 1973-4 and 1985-86,
1986-87

Runners-up: 1913-14, 1914-15, 1925-26,
1927-28, 1930-31, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37,
1945-46, 1953-54, 1957-58, 1977-78, 1980-81
and 1984-85

First Division Championship runners-up:
1963-64 and 1974-75 and 1985-86.

League Leaders' Trophy winners: 1970-71
Lancashire Championship winners: 1908-
09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-
15, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1925-26, 1945-
46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1958-59, 1961-
62 and 1969-70.

Runners-up: 1909-10, 1921-22, 1924-25,
1928-29, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1947-48, 1948-49,
1959-60 and 1968-69

John Player Trophy winners: 1982-83 and
1985-86, 1986-87

Lancashire War League winners: 1940-41
War League Championship winners: 1943-
44

Runners-up: 1940-41



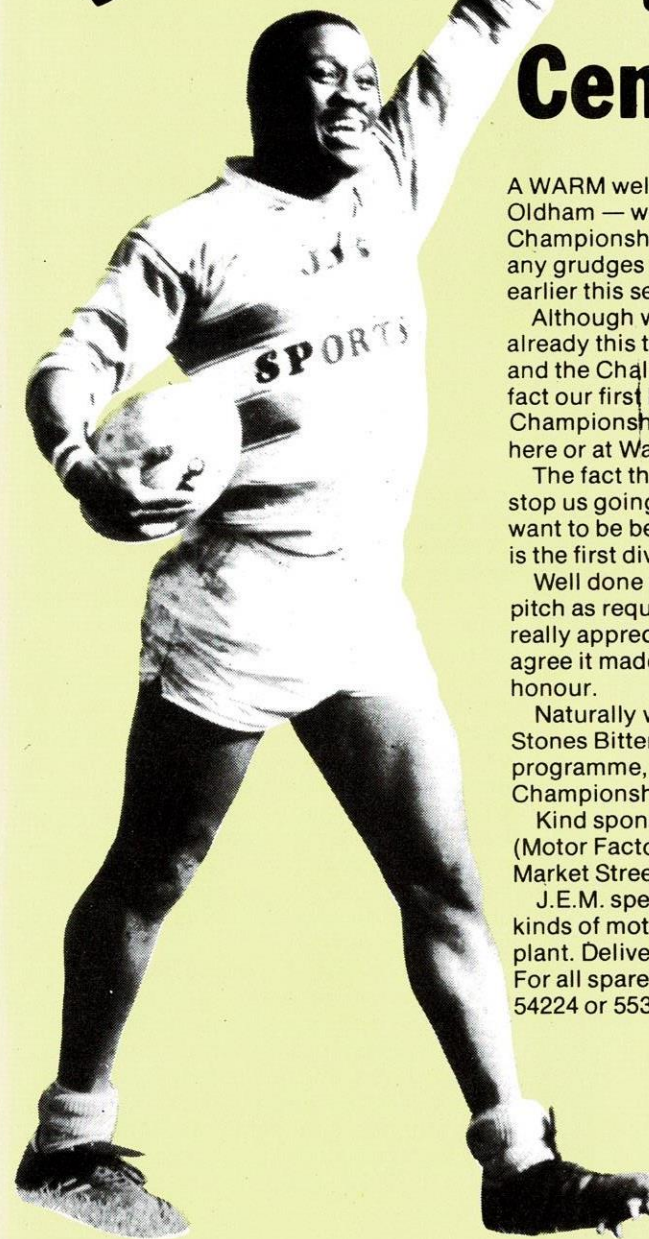
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WELCOME to Central Park



A WARM welcome to all our friends from Oldham — we've just won our first Championship in 27 years so we won't hold any grudges about the Challenge Cup result earlier this season.

Although we have played Oldham twice already this term, in the Lancashire Cup final and the Challenge Cup first round, this is in fact our first league meeting — we won the Championship without playing Oldham here or at Watersheddings.

The fact that we are champions will not stop us going for the points today, we do not want to be beaten again this season and there is the first division points record to aim for.

Well done to all the fans for staying off the pitch as requested on Sunday — the players really appreciated it, and we think all will agree it made a big difference to the lap of honour.

Naturally we are very proud of winning the Stones Bitter first division, and the next home programme, for the Saints game, will be a Championship special.

Kind sponsors of today's game are J.E.M. (Motor Factors), of Worthington Street, off Market Street, Hindley.

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LANCASHIRE Cup, John Player Special Trophy, and now the Stones Bitter Championship. Not bad going, is it?

It's a great feeling to win all this in my first season at Wigan — the championship especially. It's definitely the high point of my coaching career.

Not that I want to claim the glory for myself. Far from it, I'm just glad to be part of such a professional set up as the one at Wigan.

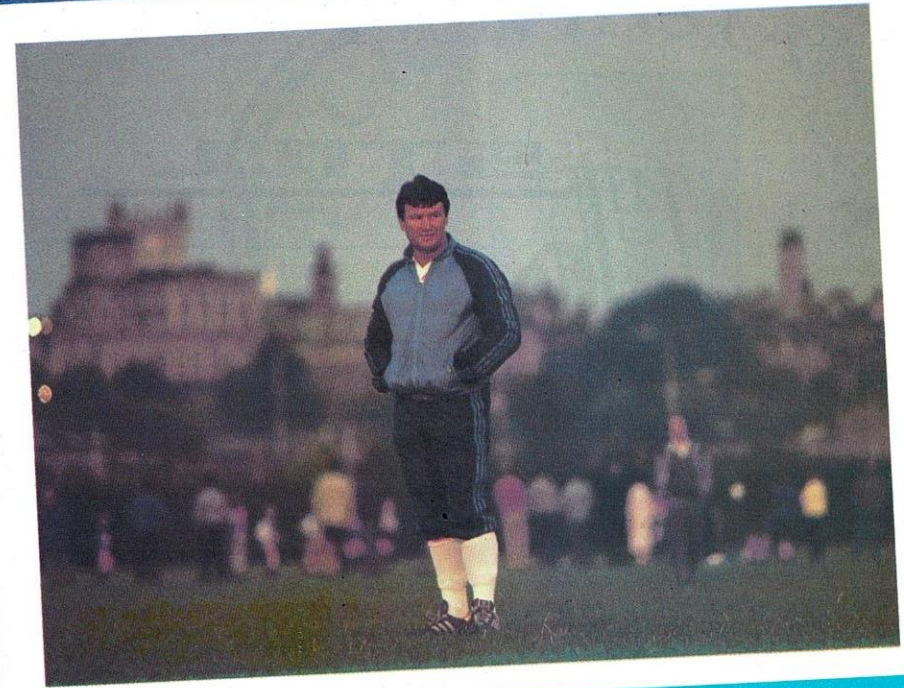
We have the best players in the world, the most go-ahead board of directors, and easily the best set of fans — coaching here is an absolute pleasure. I ought to be paying the club for the privilege!

Seriously though, I think I have made some contribution to Wigan's success in my first season here, though that season isn't over yet and there are still things left to do.

Firstly, we want to win all the remaining games in the League. This isn't just a matter of pride, it's part of being professional. If we were to take it easy between now and the Premiership, if we were to let mistakes creep into our game just through laziness, as well as being unprofessional it wouldn't exactly set us up for the Premiership.

We'd have to start again and rectify the mistakes, whereas it's much more simple to carry on where we left off. With a team like the one we have at present, playing like it is at the moment, losing a game would almost require more effort than winning. We are in the habit of winning now, we are conditioned to it, and we must be careful to use that as a springboard, and not just sit back and congratulate ourselves about it.

On the other hand, it would be a mistake to let ourselves become over-confident. We haven't made many mistakes in recent weeks, but we aren't immune to them. It's only hard work and dedicated training that has put us where we are. That's why we must continue in the same vein. When you have found a successful formula, the best plan is to stick to it. So, we'll be as well



A regular column in which Wigan coach Graham Lowe has his say . . .

prepared for tonight's match as we were for the one last week against Halifax. We'll carry on taking each match as it comes.

Anyway, we are playing Oldham. After what happened at Watersheddings in the Challenge Cup I don't think too many Wigan players will require extra motivation tonight. We don't take all that kindly to being dumped out of the Cup in the first round, and a good win tonight would be a form of revenge.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank all the Wigan supporters for everything they have done this season.

They have made me feel welcome in my first year here, and their magnificent support has brought the best out of the team. On Sunday they showed their sportsmanship and respect in letting the team do a lap of honour on their own, and I, for one, got quite emotional at the

reception they gave to the lifting of the Championship trophy. I simply haven't seen that kind of support anywhere else — it's something very special.

Enjoy the game.

Graham Lowe

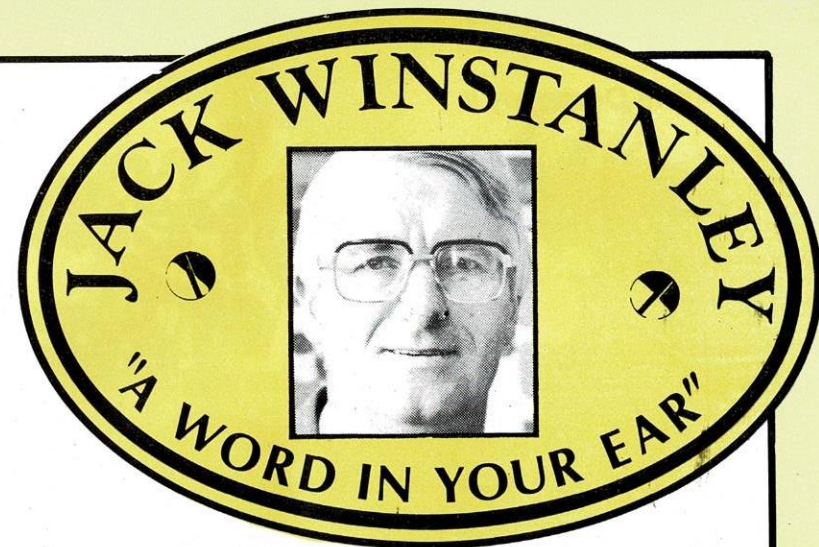




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IN case you think the Championship success has gone to my head, let me point out that the printing Gremlins got among the observations I made in last Sunday's programme.

Coach Graham Lowe was "trading" players when he should have been "praising" them; Syd Fenton appeared as "Syd Bentham" and Bill "Seggy" Bretherton became Bill "Bravecon". I don't think Wigan ever had a player named Austin yet, for one fleeting moment of glory, he took over from Boston.

Still, these things happen and I hope the unintentional errors didn't stop you tossing either bouquets or brickbats in my direction.

One point I ought to add to my comparison of present day players and those of 1959-60 (when, as it happens, Wigan last won the RL Championship) is that no previous Wigan team ever took the field looking better prepared both in tactics and discipline.

Graham Lowe obviously writes a very tight script behind the scenes and the players stick faithfully to it from the moment they enter the arena in a crocodile of deep concentration.

Whether the team is playing well or indifferently, there's always the feeling that everything has been well rehearsed. Even when a bit of a fancy move doesn't come off, spectators can always tell what was supposed to have happened, so that even in failure the intention is plain.

Without the advantage of inside information, it's clear to me that Lowe has established a "regime" at Central Park which demands 101 per cent professionalism from everybody with aspirations of a regular place in his first team.

You'd expect any professional RL side to play for each other. Well let me tell you that that expectation isn't always fulfilled. It very obviously is at Wigan and that says a lot for the dedication and responsibility and determination that has been injected into the Wigan ranks.

I don't know Graham Lowe personally, though I've nodded to him friendly-like a couple of times, but I learned why Rugby League is presented with such thorough professionalism at Central Park these days when I heard him speak briefly after last Sunday's Championship-clinching win.

There was the hint of the Statesman in his message as he declared quite seriously: "Rugby League is a game for young, fit, dedicated men. I couldn't have asked for more from the Wigan players this season. If more people gave the same sort of commitment, this world would be a better place."

A bit heavy, you might think? Somewhat staid among the champagne celebrations?

Not so. Graham Lowe is a highly-paid coach sending out highly-paid rugby players to entertain a public who count almost every penny. Rugby League is a way of life with him — and that's how it should be.

This season, come what may, it's been The Good Life.

Anne Dempsey's

Dream Team



CHOOSING a dream team turned out to be a much more difficult exercise than Supporters' Assoc. Secretary Anne Dempsey had anticipated.

For example, in the 60's Trevor Lake was a great favourite of mine, but Fergie had to be included before him — in those 6 months he was here he was something special!

"I've chosen only players I've seen in action, so no legends such as Gee, Egan, Sullivan, Bradshaw and Mountford, and only players who have worn the cherry and white — until I got to sub. forward and had to pick one I'd like to see in a Wigan shirt!

"Being involved with Wigan schools' R.L. I have seen Shaun and Martin progress right through from Under 11's level. Shaun has already proved himself, and Martin has the potential to be the best hooker in Great Britain".

1	George Fairbairn
2	Billy Boston
3	Eric Ashton
4	Brett Kenny
5	John Ferguson
6	Ellery Hanley
7	Shaun Edwards
8	Kurt Sorensen
9	Martin Dermott
10	Brian McTigue
11	Graeme West
12	Bill Ashurst
13	Roy Evans
14	David Bolton
15	Mark Graham

A regular feature in which we invite a variety of R.L. personalities to assemble the all-time team of their dreams. The idea is not to list the strongest team possible, or the best ever, but to form a personal choice of favourite players

Supporters Club

NOTES

IT was damp and chilly at Central Park on Sunday, but nobody seemed to notice! What's a drop of rain when you're watching the best team in the country clinch the 1st Division Championship and parade the trophy on a glorious lap of honour — and all with four games still to play!

AWAY TRAVEL

The last 2 league trips are to Hull on Sunday next, 12th April, and Oldham on Easter Monday, 20th April. Details of travel as follows:-

HULL - Coaches leave Central Park at 11.30 a.m. - Adults £5, Juniors £3.50.

OLDHAM - Coaches leave Central Park at 1.15 p.m. - Adults £2, Juniors £1.50.

Please book early, particularly for Oldham, as we need to organise the number of coaches before the Easter weekend.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON AWARDS

The tickets for the Player of the Season Presentation Evening, to be held in the Riverside on Sunday 10th May, will be on sale to members of the Supporters' Association tonight. Members will have been given two opportunities to claim their tickets, and the remainder will be put on general sale on Good Friday. Price £1.50.

*Please note that the evening is for Over 18's only!

LANCASHIRE FEDERATION PLAYER OF THE SEASON

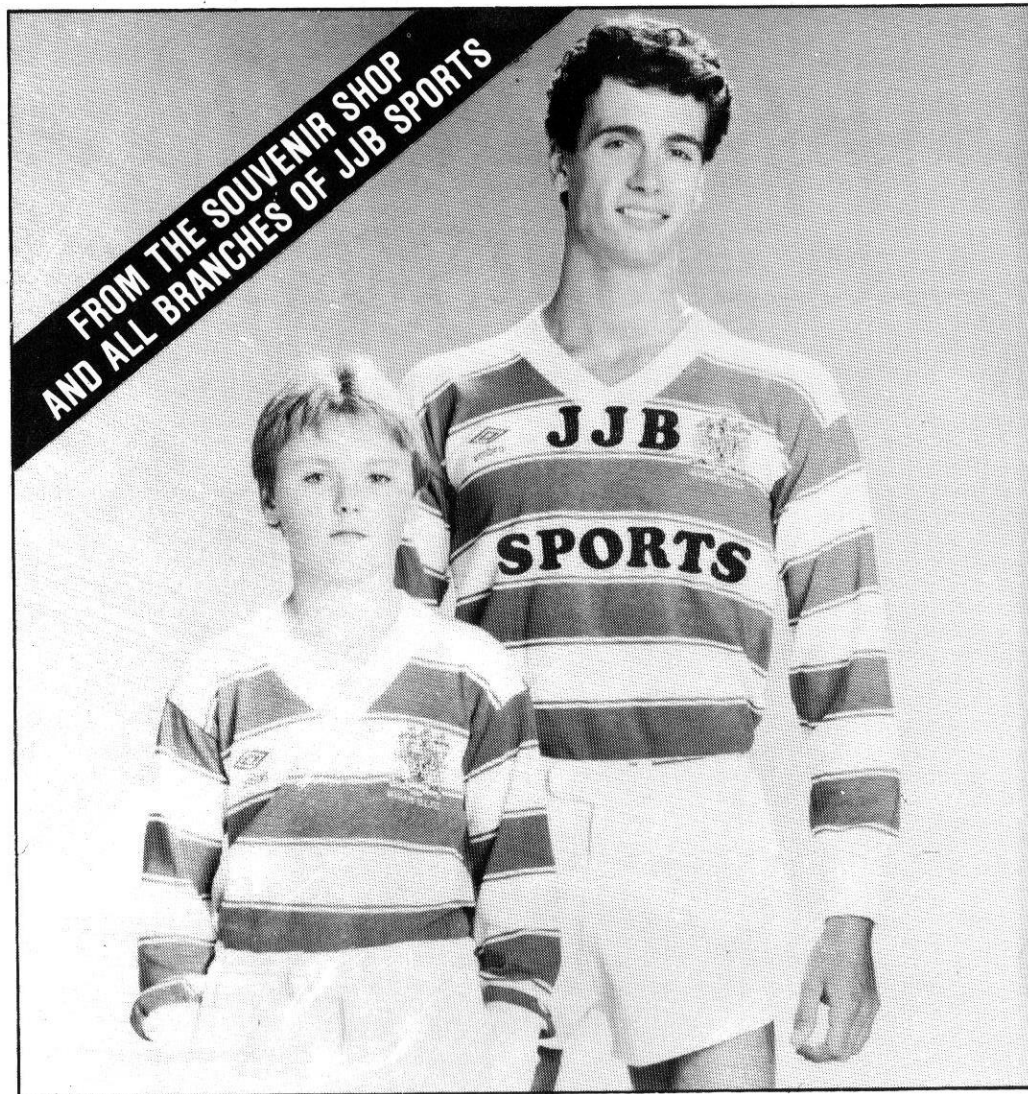
The last two Lancashire Federation of R.L. Supporters' Clubs Awards Nights have been so successful at the Riverside that clubs voted to return to Wigan this year. The sponsors, WHITBREADS, were equally delighted with last season's response and are happy to come to Central Park again. The Presentation Evening will take place on Sunday 24th May, and tickets, again at £1.50, will be on sale at the Premiership 1st Round game on 26th April.

LANCASHIRE FEDERATION A.G.M.

For years our friends from Fulham have been imploring us to hold one of the Lancashire Federation functions in their area, so this year the Annual General Meeting, will take place on Saturday 13th June at Fulham's headquarters in Chiswick. We are assured of a warm welcome and some excellent entertainment in the evening. Any supporters who are interested in this trip can obtain full details at the main souvenir shop.

SCHOOLS' GAMES

If anyone would like to see some more good rugby tomorrow night there are two Lancashire Cup Finals being played at the Robin Park Sports' complex. This will be the first time that the pitch inside the athletics track at the new stadium has been used for rugby. Under 13's kick off at 6.30 p.m., Under 16's at 7.30 p.m.



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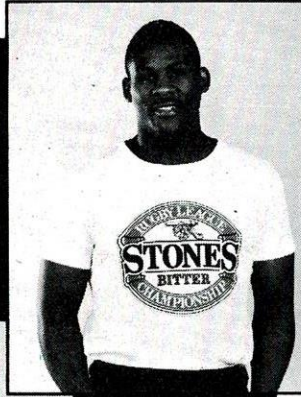
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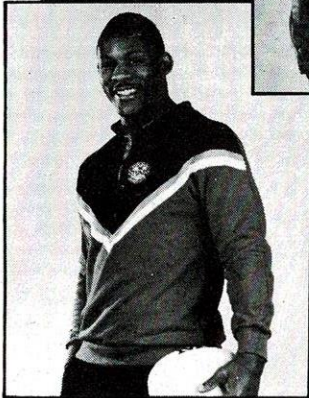
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SWEAT SHIRT	£14.95						
TIE	£3.95						

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VIEW FROM THE TERRACES

BY DOUG STAND

TAKE a bow Paddy Kirwan!

Not too many of us realised it at the time, in fact I seem to remember suspending communications with the wife for a fortnight, but that last minute try at Watersheddings actually did Wigan fans a big favour.

Were it not for you, Paddy, Wigan would now be at Wembley, and poised to win everything in sight. Nothing wrong with that, of course, but what would we do next year?

Graham Lowe has still got two seasons of his contract to run, and you can only go downhill after a clean sweep.

Much better to do it like this. A haul of the Lancashire Cup, John Player Special Trophy, Stones Bitter Championship and the Premiership still to come is not bad for one season. We'll leave Wembley for next year, so we can have something to look forward to. It'll be the icing on the cake for us.

Wigan aren't the only team with good reason to be grateful to Paddy Kirwan. Look at St. Helens. All cock-a-hoop at getting to Wembley, and who did they beat on the way? Oldham. It's quite obvious they wouldn't have got to the Challenge Cup final if they had met Wigan in the second round.

Once Saints had beaten Oldham however they were laughing, because as well as getting soft draws all the way to the final, they knew they wouldn't have to face Wigan at Wembley. That would have put a dampener on all the singing and dancing down at Knowsley Road wouldn't it? They wouldn't be getting in sly digs at Wigan in their match programmes if they had that showdown still to come.

But you can't deny St. Helens their moment of glory. They haven't won anything for ages, but thanks to Paddy K. they have a chance to borrow some of Wigan's silverware.

Talking of St. Helens, a fact not generally appreciated is that Wigan could meet Murphy's Marvels three times before the beginning of next season.

We've got them on Good Friday, as per usual, then depending on their performance in the Premiership contests and in the Wembley final, we could see them again at Old Trafford and at the Douglas Bowl on the Isle of Man. All sounds in order to me, though I wouldn't mind seeing a bit more of Halifax somewhere along the line.

It's good to see some of the old-timers grudgingly admitting that the present Wigan side can rank with some of the great sides of yesteryear.

We youngsters (OK, relative youngsters) live under a tyranny from an older generation of RL viewers, who for the most part would have you believe that nothing which happens on a rugby pitch these days could hold a candle to the sort of stuff that used to happen 30 or 40 years ago.

I say tyranny because there's nothing we can do about it. These old codgers have seen more than us, and no matter how strong the temptation to disbelieve them, or at least suspect exaggeration, they saw the old teams and we didn't.

So it's nice to be able to enjoy Wigan's first Championship for 27 years, and not have it devalued by the misty-eyed reminiscences of the old brigade. It's a privilege to be able to watch players like Gregory, Edwards, Bell and Hanley, who by common consent would have made it in any era.

The potential of this present Wigan team is frightening. Youngsters in 30 or 40 years just aren't going to believe how good Wigan used to be!



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GARY BRIDGE Australian — played last season for Balmain and on his return will join Eastern Suburbs. Equally at home in the centre at stand off, he is a strong runner with a good kicking game.

GARY WARNECKE: Affectionately known as 'The Gypsy' he played for Oldham last season, and unlike so many of his overseas colleagues never missed a game. Though centre is his natural position, he can fill in more than adequately in any of the back positions. He is a resolute defender and ever dangerous in attack.

NICK TAYLOR: Most improved player at Watersheddings — very strong and direct in attack and a fine tackler in defence. He is a product of the Huddersfield A.R.L.

DAVID TOPLISS: Needs little introduction, previously starring with Wakefield Trinity and then Hull, and appearing at Wembley for both clubs. One of the games all time greats, his experience is proving invaluable to the young Oldham side.

PADDY KIRWAN: Local lad, who signed from the Oldham Colts side — he is a great hearted player with tremendous strength complimented by a good football brain. Turned the semi final tie against Widnes in Oldham's favour with a tremendous second half performance.

STUART RAPER Son of the famous Australian tourist John, who tormented Gt. Britain on many occasions in the mid 60's. His father would no doubt be proud of him if he saw the way he has settled into the loose forward role at Watersheddings, as he shows football sense far beyond his young age. Plays his Australian football for Cronulla and under coach Jack Gibson has matured tremendously.

MICK BURKE: Needs no introduction to Wigan fans after winning most of the honours in the game in a glittering career at Widnes. A Great Britain tourist and Test ever present in Australia in 1984, he joined Oldham this season for £35,000.

COLIN HAWKYARD: Native of Huddersfield, plays equally well in the centre or in the second row. Always guarantees 100% effort and a great team player with a tremendous heart for the game.

BRUCE CLARKE: Another Australian import who plays with Western Suburbs back home. A strong running prop forward with ball skills to match, he has been known to quickly turn a game into Oldham's advantage.

MICK WORRALL: Toured Australia in 1984, and was doing well until he collected a knee injury in the 2nd Test. Alongside David Hobbs, makes a more than formidable second row pair.

WALLY JONES: Great clubman who takes the ball up whenever needed. One of the games under-rated players, and proved to be a real 'bargain buy' when he was snapped up from Rochdale two seasons ago.

TERRY FLANAGAN: Played nearly all his career at loose forward, and is the pack leader of the Oldham side, but this season has successfully reverted to the hooking role — a position forced on him because of an injury crisis in the Oldham camp. He too toured Australia with the Gt. Britain party in 1984.

HUSSEIN M'BARKI: Born in Morocco, and must be the only North African playing Rugby League today. Began his professional career with Fulham in 1981 and then moved on to Warrington before joining Oldham last season. Originally played all his rugby on the wing, but has taken over the full back role with flair and style this season.

PAUL SHERMAN: Product of the junior leagues in Widnes and is proving to be a good cover defender, who scores tries when least expected, like the one he bagged in the semi final win over Widnes. Definitely a player who one would expect to improve with experience.

DES FOY: Though Oldham born, he began his professional career with Widnes before being signed when still only 17 years old by Oldham. Played for Gt. Britain in Australia in 1984, and is a fast attacking centre, who has not yet achieved his full potential.

HUGH WADDELL: Big prop of immense promise, who cost Oldham £10,000 from Blackpool Borough prior to this season's Challenge Cup deadline.

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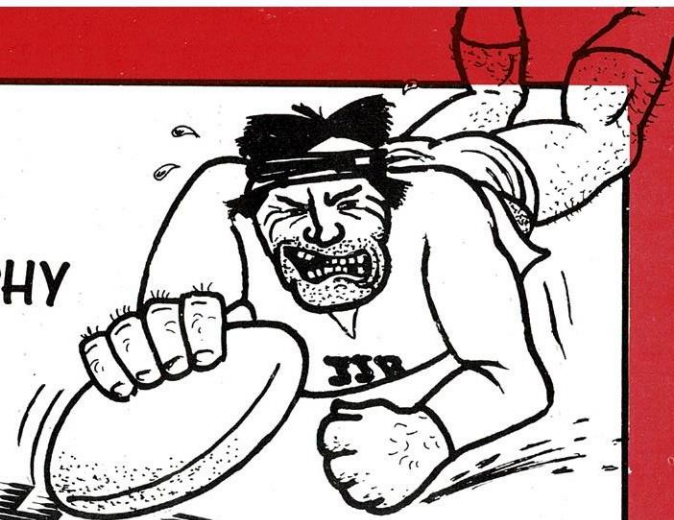
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BY
BRIAN MURPHY



TOUCH DOWN

PADDY Kirwan's injury time try which saw tonight's visitors Oldham put Wigan out of the Cup will still be a talking point 25 years from now, and even longer, while every Wigan supporter who had a view of the incident will never be able to forget the chilling sight of the referee pointing to the spot where Kirwan grounded the ball.

He was indicating a try scored so close to the Wigan posts that it effectively registered six points thus wiping out Wigan's lead which, although slender, we had all felt was enough. It was curtains for the cup favourites.

There is something nightmarish about the memory of Kirwan picking up the ball at acting half back and launching himself at the best defence in the game. The nightmare continues with two solid tacklers grabbing for little Paddy who turns into a giant salmon — too slippery to hold. The salmon is allowed to flop to the ground on the wrong side of the whitewash for Wigan and then it becomes Kirwan again — looking up at the referee who signals an Oldham try.

After that, it's a blue — Mick Burke's simple conversion, the restart, the final hooter, all in rapid succession and then the dumbstruck cherry and white army shuffled towards the exits.

Around them it seemed the entire population of Oldham was going bananas and one could almost hear the squeals of delight coming from quarters where the dream of going to Wembley was still alive because, suddenly and quite unexpectedly, there was no need to worry about Wigan any more.

Later, a Wiganer who was starting to recover from the shock quipped: "It's like the end of the world, but tomorrow we'll hear St. Helens have lost and life will be worth living again."

But Saints made no mistake in seeing off their cup opponents Dewsbury the following day and the 'old enemy' rubbed salt into the wound by going to the Watersheddings and knocking out Oldham in the next round.

The mention of St. Helens in the aftermath of the Watersheddings defeat was all it needed to remind older fans of 1971 and another stunning last minute try which robbed Wigan of the Championship Trophy. It happened at Swinton in the final of the play-offs after Wigan had ended the season at the top of the league table, and just as 'Oldham 1987' is now etched in the mind, so is the

agony of Station Road on that sunny May afternoon sixteen years ago when St. Helens stole the trophy.

That was in injury time too and Wigan were leading 12pts-11 with time almost up. Saints attempted a desperate drop goal which was way off target. Two Wigan defenders were deceived by a freak bounce of the ball which popped up into the hands of Bill Benyon and over he went to score.

We all said he was offside. He must have been offside. Damn it, he WAS offside. But the referee ruled otherwise. Coslett's conversion made it 16pts-12 and Wigan had lost.

There was anger among the Wigan supporters after that one but following the Oldham game the mood was more one of shocked disbelief.

Kirwan's last ditch try was a sickener to everyone in the Central Park camp and, whereas many of us thought of 1971, coach Graham Lowe's mind must have gone back, not quite so far — to 1985 — when his Kiwis' side was leading 6pts-4 and heading for a famous victory over the Australians. At the very death, John Ribot, the Kangaroos' winger dashed in for a try and then kicked the goal to make it Australia 10 New Zealand 6.

As for the Wigan players. They must have been devastated having had the Oldham game in their grasp and then seeing victory snatched away so dramatically. But they have put the Oldham disaster behind them and after vowing to make it up to the thousands of supporters they felt they had let down, they have just gone from strength to strength.

Wigan are Champions again — after a long 27 years and this side now compares with any of those all-time great teams from the past. It is a side that has done their supporters proud.

Now there is one more target — the Premiership.

A Wigan victory at Old Trafford will certainly go a long way to compensate for the heartbreak of Paddy Kirwan's killer try in February — but I doubt if anything will ever make us forget it.

Allan Reeves' COLTS TOPICS

ARRANGING the four times postponed fixture against Barrow Colts is becoming a Chaplinesque saga.

The projected curtain raiser before Sunday's momentous game was once again left with a P.P. at the side of the result.

That Wigan Colts get some games played in the next two weeks is of paramount importance to their final bid to collect a piece of silverware.

Now lying in fifth place in the league following the deletion of Leigh's results who started the second half of the season in division two, Wigan have the opportunity to collect ten points in the next two weeks.

With no Alliance games scheduled until April 15th, Wigan will be picking from an almost certain full strength squad, barring injuries, and their is no reason why they can't pick up maximum points to secure that precious top four, even possibly third place.

Hull are on course to lift the first division title after managing to get most of their games played on schedule with a young squad almost unaffected by 'A' team call-ups.

St. Helens have crept up into second place after being back in fifth two weeks ago but a win against Barrow and no* having played Leigh, no points subtractions has seen them push Castleford, Wakefield and ourselves a place down the ladder.

On Tuesday, Wigan are yet again due to play the somewhat mythical Barrow, Thursday Wakefield at home which will be one of our most significant games of the season.

Next Saturday we face Barrow again, the following Monday Bradford and then on Good Friday the eagerly awaited showdown with St. Helens before what should be a first team epic.

In the second division, Hunslet Colts look set

to lift the league title just as their first team are in the Stones Bitter Division Two.

Holding a seven point lead over second placed Doncaster, who themselves look certainties for promotion, it is good to see the Leeds side coming back to fruition after all the faith and hard work put into them by the likes of Derek Preece and co. after temporarily dropping out of the league two seasons ago.

Their temporary absence all came about due to their own success when after lifting the Colts Challenge Cup in 1983 and providing seven players in the Yorkshire side the majority of the team were swallowed up in their first and A teams and fulfilling their fixtures became a problem. Sounds like a familiar story doesn't it.

Yorkshire clubs seem to realise the importance of running a Colts side and providing a steady stream of continuity in the progression of talent more than do most clubs this side of the Pennines and Hunslet being no different quickly reformed and are now once again set to become a force in the Colts game.

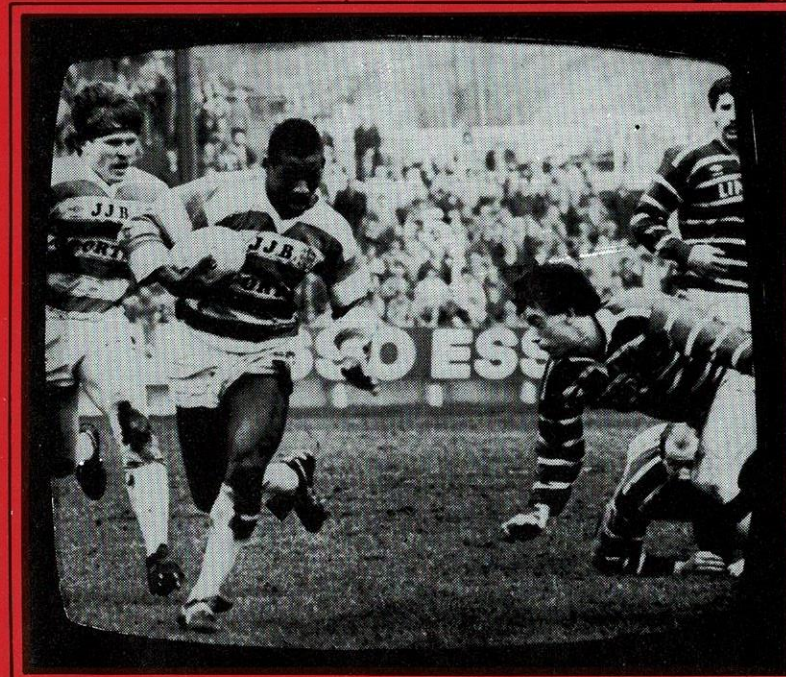
Doncaster to is a heartening success story and it should be something of an experience going to rejuvenated Tattersfield next season.

Another ex Wigan Colts player has been snapped up elsewhere.

Full back Damien Gregory has signed for Warrington and I personally will be keeping an eye on the progress of this very talented player.

In a bid to secure a G.B. shirt against the Aussie Youth tourists this season, Damien concentrated his efforts on making a success in local rugby after having two outstanding seasons with Wigan Colts.

In my mind, he was one of the best unsigned players in his age group and I wish him every success. But not against us of course!



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Central Park

Action



Action, this evening, from Sunday's win over Featherstone. Above Joe Lydon on route to one of his two touchdowns, while right, Andy Gregory heads towards the try line leaving the Featherstone defence in his wake. Overleaf Ellery powers past Featherstone's Chris Bibb for a first half try. Pictures courtesy of Peter Hill of the Wigan Evening Post.

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Congratulations Ellery - 55 tries this season, equalling his own record. (set at Bradford) for tries by a non-winger. Picture by Frank Orrell.



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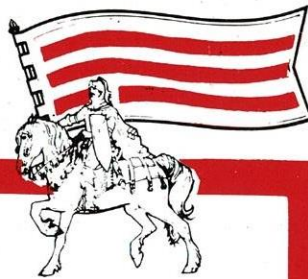
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YOU MAY LIKE TO KNOW...

By Paul Ogden

A page of milestones and
 signposts by Wigan's premier
 RL historian.

VS. HALIFAX (HOME) APRIL 1st

Ellery Hanley's second try was his 50th of the season (Wigan (46), Representative matches (4)) and it took his points total for the season past 200 (Wigan (186), Representative matches (16)).

Ellery Hanley has now scored 50 or more tries in a season on two separate occasions — a feat only achieved by eight other players in the history of the game (A.A. Rosenfeld (Huddersfield), B. Bevan (Warrington), L.W. Cooper (Huddersfield), J. Ring (Wigan), E. Harris (Leeds), J. McLean (Bradford Northern), T.K. Van Vollenhoven (St. Helens) and W.J. Boston (Wigan)).

David Stephenson's second goal was his 200th for the club (excluding drop goals).

Shaun Edwards' first try brought his points total for the season to exactly 100 (Wigan (92), Representative matches (8)).

JOHN MAYO

'A' Team forward John Mayo signed for Fulham at the end of last month for a fee of around £4,000. He made three full first team appearances for Wigan, together with five substitute appearances.

TRY RECORD

With Ellery Hanley running in tries galore at the moment people seem to be getting their facts about try scoring records a little confused. To put everyone straight Johnny Ring holds the Wigan record for tries in a season with 62 in 1925-26 and for Ellery to beat that total he is going to have to score 67 tries this season as his present total includes 3 tries for Great Britain and one for Yorkshire.

1988 TOURISTS

This month's 'Open Rugby' contains several people's Great Britain squads for the trip to Australia next year so, not to be outdone, here is mine: - S. Hampson, J. Lydon, G. Schofield, D. Stephenson, H. Gill, S. Edwards, A. Gregory, K. Ward, K. Beardmore, B. Case, A. Goodway, L. Crooks, E. Hanley, P. Ford, J. Basnett, R. Duane, T. Myler, P. Bishop, P. Medley, N. Kiss, P. Dixon, M. Roberts, I. Potter, M. Gregory, J. Pendlebury and C. Arkwright.

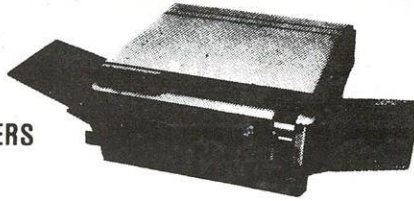
AND FINALLY

I would like to wish Miss Ruth Symes a very happy 21st birthday for April 20th.





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DIVISION ONE

	HOME					AWAY					APts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
Wigan	26	12	0	1	467	74	12	0	1	336	87	48
St. Helens ..	26	11	0	2	435	191	8	1	4	334	180	39
Castleford ..	27	11	0	4	383	193	8	0	4	218	187	38
Warrington ..	26	10	1	1	319	176	8	0	6	317	230	37
Halifax	26	10	0	3	303	177	3	1	7	182	262	31
Hull K.R.	27	11	0	3	252	184	3	0	10	153	295	28
Bradford N. ..	27	7	1	4	232	167	6	0	9	270	346	27
Leeds	27	8	0	5	330	239	5	0	9	205	269	26
Oldham	26	10	0	3	280	221	3	0	10	224	290	26
Widnes	24	9	0	4	321	194	3	0	8	170	294	24
Leigh	27	7	1	3	257	221	4	0	9	211	353	23
Salford	27	7	0	7	249	283	4	0	9	187	321	22
Hull	25	8	0	3	251	231	1	1	12	190	396	19
Featherstone ..	27	6	1	7	250	295	1	0	12	164	391	15
Barrow	27	5	0	9	243	269	1	2	10	181	362	14
Wakefield ..	27	2	1	10	181	389	0	0	14	165	492	5

DIVISION TWO

	HOME					AWAY					APts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
Hunslet	26	13	0	0	336	103	10	0	3	310	101	46
Swinton	26	13	0	0	427	144	8	1	4	219	149	43
Whitehaven ..	25	12	0	0	328	101	7	1	5	172	167	37
Doncaster ..	24	9	1	2	328	142	8	0	4	202	186	35
Rochdale	14	11	0	3	271	130	6	1	3	168	152	35
Sheffield	26	9	0	3	256	150	7	0	7	303	248	32
Bramley	26	10	0	3	187	137	5	0	8	177	282	30
Carlisle	24	9	1	2	235	164	4	0	8	170	209	27
Blackpool ..	24	5	0	6	200	193	7	0	6	239	212	24
York	26	6	0	7	292	258	4	0	9	166	223	20
Runcorn	23	7	0	5	214	177	2	1	10	133	280	19
Fulham	25	6	2	4	227	217	2	0	11	197	344	18
Batley	23	3	0	9	145	153	5	0	8	151	298	16
Huddersfield ..	25	4	0	9	218	272	4	0	8	194	326	16
Workington ..	26	6	0	7	233	238	2	0	11	125	264	16
Dewsbury ..	24	4	0	9	161	212	2	0	9	104	243	12
Keighley ...	23	5	0	8	179	226	1	0	11	141	347	12
Mansfield ..	24	3	0	9	179	281	2	0	10	127	265	10

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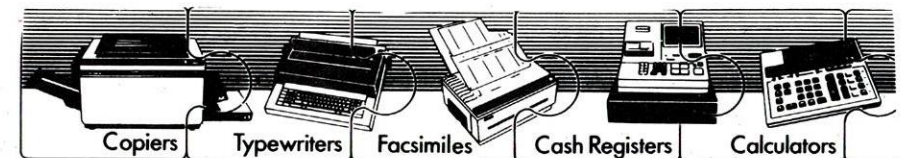


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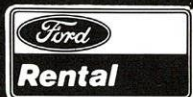
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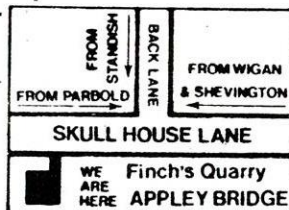
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Backchat

Congratulations to all the staff at Central Park on a remarkable season. And special best wishes to Ellery Hanley in his bid to beat the 'tries scored in a season' record at Wigan.

And finally, when are Wigan R.L.F.C. going to produce a full colour team poster? One example was for sale in the 1984-85 season, but the best Wigan squad in years has not been honoured in this way.

Yours, N. D. Armstrong (15)
Waverley Road, Hindley.

Sir, We are constantly hearing about the exploits of players like Hanley, Gill, Bell etc. However, isn't it about time that mention was made of the unsung heroes. They may not win the Man of the Match award or score many tries, but they are essential to the side. I refer of course to Messrs. Kiss, Dermott, Potter, Case, Goodway, West, Wane and co. — The Pack.

So come on, let everyone for once give them a special cheer.

Yours, I. Harrison,
Pine View, Winstanley.

Editors Note: Sorry Mr. Blackledge, of Leigh Road, Hindley Green, we couldn't read your writing. If you would like to re-submit your letter in a more legible hand, we will use it.

Sir, As a supporter of Wigan for over 20 years it has obviously given me great pleasure to see the current team's march to the championship after a gap of 27 years. Not only have Wigan been winning but they have done it with some superb rugby. The rugby has been so good that I must admit that this is the best Wigan team I have ever seen and that includes the team that boasted the likes of Boston, Ashton, McTigue and Bolton.

Yours, A. Banks,
Preston Rd., Standish.

Sir, May I say what an excellent season Brian Case is having. The work rate he puts in each week is tremendous and yet his talent seems to go un-noticed by the fans. Might I suggest Brian to be an excellent candidate for the 'Player of the Season' award and wish him every success in the future.

Yours, Michael Keating,
Crestwood Ave., Marus Bridge.

Sir, I would like to complain about the referee (Mr. Spencer and his cronies on the line) at Wednesday night's game against Halifax.

I have been watching Wigan for four years and I am thirteen years old. Never ever have I known a referee so bad, "why he was even worse than Mr. M.R. Whitfield (well, nearly).

Yours, M. Edwardson,
Scott Ave., Hindley.

Sir, In a moment of madness I decided to attend the recent Saints v. Hull K.R. match and was somewhat amused to read the programme which seemed full of anti-Wigan material.

Every page seemed to mention the fact that Saints had reached Wembley and Wigan hadn't. Well, I reckon anyone could reach Wembley facing three Second Division clubs, one from the lower reaches of the First, and another who couldn't fluke a result a second time.

Wembley might be a great day out, but to win the championship proves that you are the best club over thirty matches and not a handful against mediocre opposition.

They also had the cheek to suggest that Saints on their parade around the town with the Challenge Cup should continue into Wigan. Well, I suggest to Graham Lowe & co. that we flash our four trophies at them as they pass Central Park, to show them what being the best and most consistent team really means. Then tell them where to stick their tin pot!!!

Yours, Dave Edwards,
Hale Road, Hale, Liverpool

Sir, During the home game against Halifax on April 1st, I couldn't help noticing several motorists coming to a halt on 'Central Park Way' running behind the Douglas Stand in order to watch the game. Surely this is a stupid and dangerous act, and although motorists must be eager to see the greatest team in action, they should watch the game from the right place. The only alternative to stop this would be to build a wall, quite tall to screen the ground from the road, and that would be an eyesore from the impressive Central Park ground.

The Programme Editor,
Wigan R.L.,
Central Park,
Wigan.

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IN THE MIDDLE**



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Sun. 31st Salford	H 3.00	42-12	10,813	—	Hampson	Stott	Stephenson G7	Lydon	Gill T3	Hanley T2	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case T	Louw T	Potter	Goodway	Ford	du Toit (10)	
SEPTEMBER																				
Wed. 3rd Barrow	H 7.30	18-6	9,422	-	Hampson	Stott T	Stephenson G3	Lydon	Gill T2	Hanley	Edwards	West T	Dermott	Case	Louw T	Porter	Goodway	Ford (7)	du Toit (12)	
Sun. 7th Leigh	A 3.30	35-0	11,997	2	Hampson	Bell T	Stephenson G2	Lydon T2 G DG	Gill T2	Hanley T	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway T	du Toit (6)	Ware (9)	
Sun. 14th Rochdale LCC(1)	H 3.00	52-0	10,365	-	Hampson T	Bell T2	Stephenson T2G6	Lydon T	Gill T2	Hanley T2	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway T	Ford	Ware (13)	
Sun. 21st Bradford N.	A 3.30	20-10	11,277	2	Hampson T	Bell	Stephenson G	Lydon TG	Gill T	Hanley	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter T	Goodway	Ford	Ware (8)	
Wed. 24th Whitehaven LCC(2)	H 7.30	74-6	9,184	-	Hampson	Mordt T4	Bell	Lydon TG	Gill T2 G8	Hanley T4	Edwards	Case	Dermott	Wane T	Louw	Potter	Goodway T	Ford (1) T	Maye (9)	
Sun. 28th Hull	H 3.00	34-7	12,526	2	Hampson	Mordt	Bell	Lydon	Gill G7	Hanley T4	Edwards	West T	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway	Stephenson (2)	Mayo (10)	
OCTOBER																				
Wed. 1st St. Helens (LCC s-final)	H 7.45	22-16	28,186	-	Hampson	Bell	Stephenson	Lydon	Gill G5	Hanley T	Edwards	West	Dermott T	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway T	Ford	Roberts (11)	
Sun. 5th Warrington	A 3.00	L 12-23	10,800	2	Hampson	Mordt	Stephenson	Lydon G	Gill G	Bell	Ford T	West	Goodway	Case	Roberts	Louw	Potter	Holden T2	Lucas (6)	
Sun. 12th Australia	H 3.00	L 18-26	30,602	-	Hampson	Bell T	Stephenson	Lydon T	Gill G3	Edwards T	Ford	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Louw (9)	du Toit (6)	
Sun. 19th Oldham (LC final) at Knowsley Rd	A 3.30	W 27-6	20,180	-	Edwards T2	Lydon T.DG	Stephenson	Bell	Gill G5	Hanley	Ford T	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Hampson	Louw (11)	
Wed. 29th Castleford	A 7.30	W 12-6	6,813	3	Edwards T	Stephenson	Lydon	Bell	Gill G2	Hanley T	Ford	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Hampson	Louw (13)	
NOVEMBER																				
Sun. 2nd Wakefield T	H 3.00	W 62-10	10,018	3	Edwards T2	Stephenson G4	Lydon	Bell T2	Gill G2 T	Hanley G T3	Ford T	Roberts T	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway T	Hampson T (7)	Lucas (12)	
Sun. 9th Salford	A 3.00	W 34-0	5,964	2	Hampson	Stephenson	Lydon T	Bell	Gill T2 G7	Edwards	Ford T	West T	Dermott	Roberts	Potter	Wane	Goodway	Mordt (11)	Louw (9)	
Sun. 16th Leigh	H 3.00	W 31-0	12,839	2	Hampson	Stephenson T G2	Lydon	Bell T2	Gill G	Edwards T	Ford DG	West T	Dermott	Case	Roberts T	Potter	Goodway	Mordt (1)	Ware (10)	
Sun. 23rd Barrow	A 2.30	W 16-8	4,050	2	Lydon TG	Mordt T	Stephenson	Bell	Gill G	Edwards	Ford T	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Louw	Wane	Hampson (13)	Goodway (9)	
Sat. 29th Leeds J.P.S. (1)	H 2.15	W 32-10	9,032	—	Hampson	Mordt	Lydon	Bell	Gill G4	Hanley T2	Edwards T	West	Dermott	Case T	Roberts	Potter	Goodway T2	Ford (3)	Louw (11)	
DECEMBER																				
Sun. 7th Swinton J.P.S. (2)	H 3.00	W 20-14	9,794	2	Hampson	Mordt	Stephenson	Bell T	Gill G4	Edwards	Ford	West	Dermott T	Case	Roberts T	Potter	Goodway	Russell (2)	Louw (12)	
Sun. 14th Leigh J.P.S. (3)	H 3.00	W 6-2	11,881	—	Hampson	Stephenson G	Lydon	Bell	Gill	Hanley T	Edwards	Roberts	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway	Ford (8)	Russell (11)	
Sat. 20th JPS (SF) Hull	N 2.15	W 12-11	5,245	—	Hampson	Stephenson G	Lydon	Bell	Gill G	Hanley T2	Edwards	Roberts	Dermott	Case	Louw	Potter	Goodway	Ford (15)	Russell (9)	
Fri. 26th St. Helens	A 3.00	W 12-4	21,214	2	Hampson	Russell	Stephenson TG	Lydon	Gill TG	Hanley	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Ford	Louw	
JANUARY																				
Thur. 1st Warrington	H 3.00	L 4-6	17,106	2	Hampson	Bell	Stephenson G	Lydon G	Russell	Hanley	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Louw	Goodway	Goodway	Ford	Mayo
Sun. 4th Widnes	A 3.00	W 22-16	7,628	2	Hampson	Stephenson	Lydon TG3	Bell	Mordt T	Hanley T2	Edwards	West	Kiss	Case	Louw	Goodway	Russell	Ford (1)	Mayo (11)	
Sat. 10th Warrington JPS Final	N 3.00	W 18-4	21,144	—	Hampson	Stephenson	Lydon	Bell T	Gill T2G	Hanley	Edwards	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway T	Ford	Louw	
Sun. 18th Workington SCP	H 3.00	W 68-0	11,970	—	Hampson	Lydon T G7	Stephenson	Bell T	Gill G3	Edwards T3	Gregory	West T2	Dermott T	Case	Gillard	Potter	Goodway	Hanley (5) T3	Betts (3) T	
Sun. 25th Hull K.R.	A 3.00	W 23-6	7,693	3	Hampson	Mordt T2	Hanley T	Bell	Lydon G3 DG	Edwards T	Gregory	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Russell	Louw (13)	
FEBRUARY																				
Wed. 4th Oldham SSC Cup (1)	A 7.30	L 8-10	10,134	—	Hampson	Lydon G2	Hanley	Bell T	Gill	Edwards	Gregory	West	Dermott	Case	Roberts	Potter	Goodway	Stephenson (1)	Louw	
Sun. 15th Castleford	H 3.00	W 16-6	13,047	2	Hampson	Mordt	Lydon	Bell	Gill T2	Edwards T	Gregory	West	Kiss	Case	Roberts	Goodway T	Hanley	Stephenson (2)	Potter (11)	
Wed. 18th Leeds	H 7.30	W 30-8	11,261	2	Hampson	Lydon TG2	Stephenson T2	Bell	Gill	Edwards TG	Gregory	West	Kiss T	Case	Roberts	Goodway	Hanley	Russell (11)	Potter T (8)	
Sun. 22nd Widnes	H 3.00	W 40-4	13,084	2	Hampson T	Lydon G4	Stephenson	Bell T2	Gill T	Edwards T	Gregory	Wane	Kiss	Case	Potter	Goodway	Hanley T2	Russell (3) T	Lucas (5)	
MARCH																				
Sun. 1st Bradford	H 3.00	W 60-6	11,682	1	Hampson	Mordt T	Russell T	Bell T	Lydon T2 G7	Edwards TG	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley T5	Beswick	Lucas (11)	
Wed. 11th Leeds	A 7.30	W 30-0	8,141	1	Lydon	Mordt T3	Stephenson G	Bell	Russell T3	Edwards T	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley	Betts (11)	Lucas (8)	
Sun. 15th Halifax	A 3.00	W 12-8	10,000	1	Hampson	Mordt	Stephenson	Belle	Lydon	Edwards G2	Gregory T	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley T	Russell (3)	Lucas	
Sun. 22nd Hull K.R.	H 3.00	W 26-0	12,309	1	Hampson T2	Mordt	Stephenson T	Bell	Lydon T	Edwards G	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley T2	Gill (2)	Lucas (8)	
Wed. 25th Featherstone	A 7.30	W 36-0	4,501	1	Hampson	Mordt T	Lydon T G2	Bell T	Gill T2 G2	Edwards	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley T2	Stephenson (3)	West (8)	
Sun. 29th Wakefield T	A 3.00	W 72-6	5,400	1	Hampson T2	Mordt T	Stephenson TG5	Bell T	Gill T3 G2	Edwards T2 G	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway T	Potter	Hanley T3	Dermott (9)	West (12)	
APRIL																				
Wed. 1st Halifax	H 7.30	W 42-2	13,154	1	Hampson	Gill T	Stephenson TG5	Bell	Lydon	Edwards T2	Gregory	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway T	Potter	Hanley T3	Mordt	West	
Sun. 5th Featherstone	H 3.00	W 62-7		1	Hampson	Lydon T2	Stephenson TG6	Bell T	Gill T3 G	Edwards	Gregory T	Case	Kiss	Wane	Goodway	Potter	Hanley T4	Mordt	West (10)	



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'A' TEAM



WARRINGTON don't do Wigan many favours usually if they can help it, but last week when they beat St. Helens they put the fate of the Alliance title firmly in our own hands.

With three games now remaining, two wins will secure the title but we mean to take maximum points and finish the season in fine style

Widnes at home on April 15th will be a tough one but we should be good enough to be equal to the challenge and wins against Castleford and Hull is certainly not beyond us.

Gerard Staziker has made a timely return to action following his long lay off and he will certainly be needed.

Keith Holden's move to Warrington and John Mayo's to Fulham has robbed us of two class players who have made up the backbone of Wigan 'A's' success this season.

The sickening injury sustained by hooker Gary Owen at St. Helens has robbed us of another useful player but knowing Gary as I do he'll be bouncing back next season as ebulent as ever.

Congratulations to the first team for winning the league, the supreme challenge for any side.

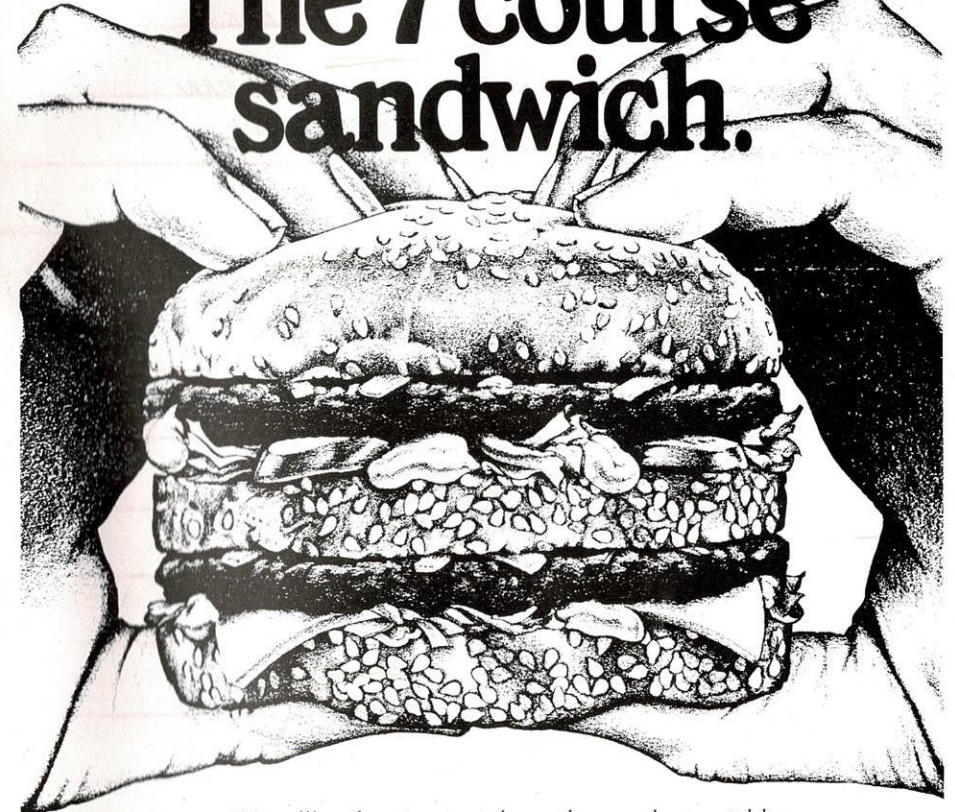
The current Alliance table reads:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wigan	20	16	4		32
Warrington.....	22	14	7	1	29
St. Helens	18	14	4		28
Widnes	21	13	8		26

Terry Cassidy

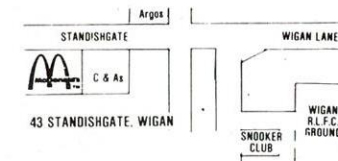
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