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MATCH MAGAZINE. PRICE ONE POUND



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STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP
WIGAN v OLDHAM
SUN. 4th NOV. 1990 - KICK OFF 3 p.m.
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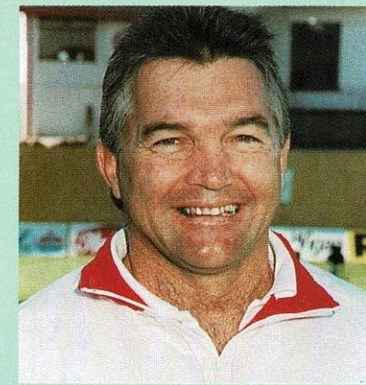
So for a gift for everyone this Christmas, step into Boots.

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monie talks

RED CROSS

Wigan Rugby League Club would like to point out that all matches at Central Park are patrolled by the Red Cross Association.

Cover: Shaun Edwards beats Mal Meninga to the loose ball to score Wigan's only try of the afternoon against the Australians.
Cover, Pin Up, Team picture - Eric Clemens
Action shot - Frano Botica - Stewart Ritchie
Head & shoulders - Frano Botica & Action shots - Wigan Evening Post

I HAVE to start off today by congratulating Great Britain on their fine victory in the first Kangaroo Test at Wembley. My whole-hearted praise goes out to all the players, the coaching staff and the administrators for a fine job well done and a win which has set the sport alight in this country.

These might seem strange sentiments coming from an Australian, but I appreciate it when the better team wins and when I see a side well prepared.

Indeed, I had trouble deciding if I was an Englishman or an Australian last weekend.

I was honoured to be asked by the BBC to work alongside Ray French in the commentary team, although I think they expected me to be rooting for Australia so that the match analysis was balanced.

I think at first I was favouring the Kangaroos, but during an interview before the game with Desmond Lynam, I actually said that I fancied Great Britain to win, only for my lucky guess to be edited out.

As the game progressed it became more and more obvious that my unheard prediction was about to come true.

The British lads grew in confidence and stature as the game wore on, their tackling was top class and the Aussies were rattled into uncharacteristic mistakes.

The Brits had more ideas, more tactics and a far superior kicking game, the latter was to win them the Test although all three

tries were polished off in a thoroughly professional fashion.

Mid-way through the second half I think I was turning into an Englishman so impressed was I with the performance.

The Great Britain results stands in stark contrast to our efforts against the tourists last month, and I would like it to be known that I shared the bitter disappointment of the thousands of fans who turned up that day.

We learned a few lessons from that match, especially about the wisdom of selecting players who are not a hundred percent fit.

We must not make the same mistake again. Finally, allow me to welcome our visitors Oldham to Central Park today.

Our Pennine neighbours and friends are a prime example of the strength in depth throughout the current first division.

The coaching staff have built up a fine team of all-round strength, and I was impressed when I watched them beat Warrington at the Watersheddings the other week.

They no doubt intend to repeat the medicine here today and we will need to be at our best to beat them.

Enjoy the entertainment.



WIGAN RUGBY LEAGUE



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 Lancashire League Winners: 1901-02, 1908-09, 1911, 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, 1969-70
 Lancashire War League Winners: 1940-41
 Lancashire Cup Winners: 1905-06, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39, 1946-47, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1966-67, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89
 John Player Trophy Winners: 1982-83, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1988-89
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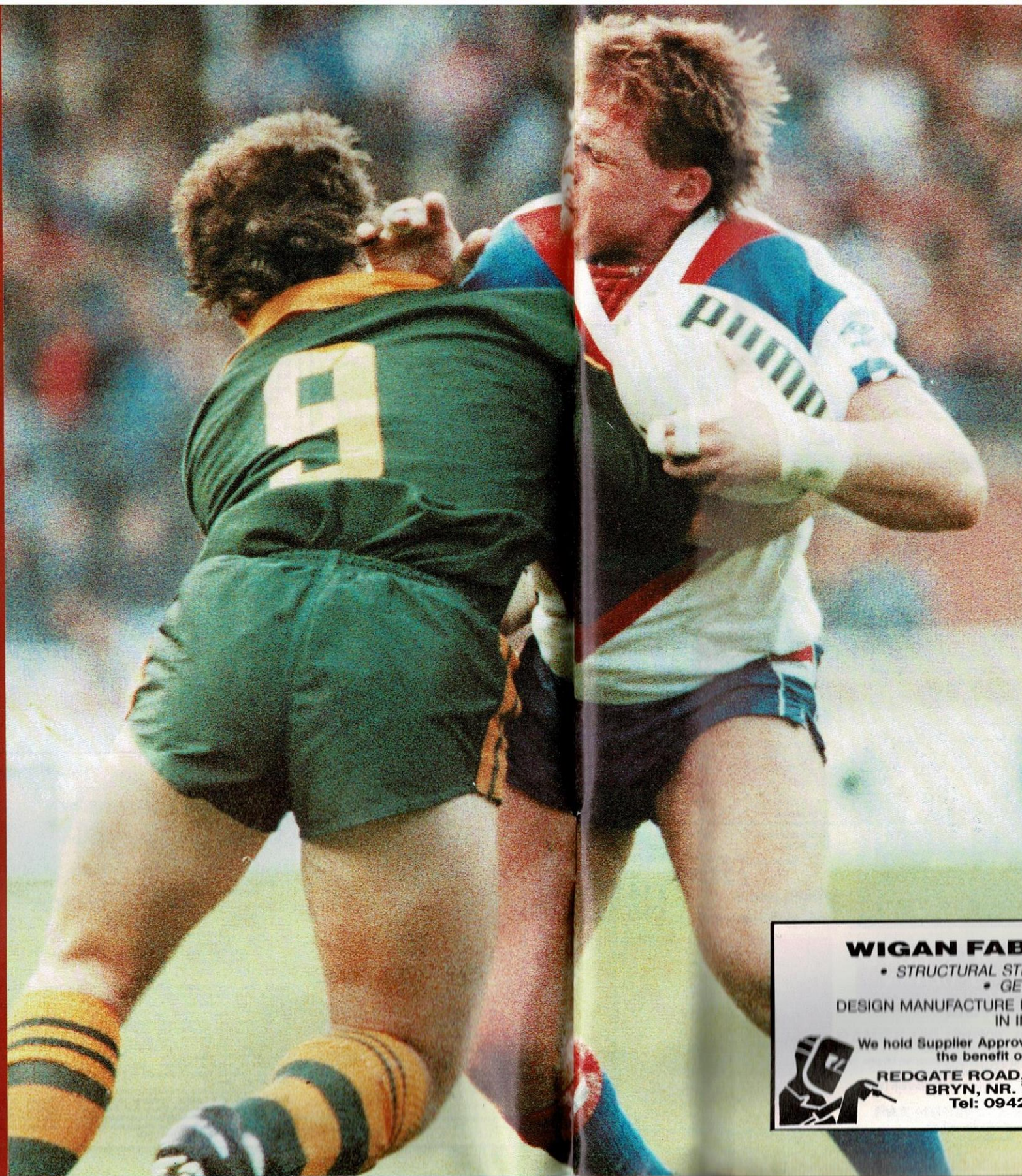
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 Try Scoring Record: 176 in 1958-59 by Fred Griffiths
 Points Scoring Record: 394 in 1958-59 by Fred Griffiths

CLOSE FOCUS

WITH WIGAN FABRICATION

Crunch — Great Britain scrum half Andy Gregory meets Kangaroo hooker Kerrod Walters and Greg feels the pain.



MATCH REPORT

Great Britain 19pts Australia 12

ELLERY HANLEY and his gallant warriors finally silenced the Aussies at Wembley yesterday.

The Kangaroos had notched 37 consecutive wins on British soil in the last 12 years.

But coach Mal Reilly's men ripped the form book apart in the first Test.

And how skipper Hanley, winger Paul Eastwood and stand-off Garry Schofield deserved a rousing standing ovation from the 52,000 crowd.

Heart

Hanley proved beyond doubt that he is the finest player in the world with a magnificent man-of-the-match performance.

Eastwood, drafted into the squad in place of Welsh wizard Jonathan Davies, scored two magnificent tries and kicked three goals.

And Schofield, switched to stand-off during Britain's successful tour of New Zealand in the summer, ripped the heart out of the Aussies with some superb tactical kicking.

But the entire British team played their part in Britain's first Test triumph for years.

World champions Australia, so confident of victory, were cut down to size and face a tremendous battle if they are to come back and stop Britain carrying off the Ashes for the first time in 20 years.

It was Britain who created all the early pressure and midway through the half they got their reward when Eastwood landed a penalty after Aussie loose forward Robert Lindner had been penalised at the play-the-ball.

Just before the interval Steve Hampson, who had brilliantly taken a high ball, was penalised for kicking out in a tackle and Aussie skipper Mal Meninga levelled the scores.

Power

Britain rocked them five minutes into the second half when Hanley made a superb break before kicking ahead and from the play-the-ball centre Daryl Powell put Eastwood over for a try.

The Australians hit back almost immediately with a superb break from centre Mark McGaw, who put Meninga in for a try.

But Hanley hoisted a high kick from which fullback Gary Belcher fumbled and there was Offiah to pick up and plunge over for a try that Eastwood goaled.

Schofield dropped a goal but McGaw raced in for a try that Meninga superbly goaled.

The Aussies were just one point behind but Britain never gave up and when Schofield kicked ahead, collected the ball and passed to Powell, there was Eastwood to power over for another try.

In the final two minutes Eastwood made certain of victory when he landed a penalty.

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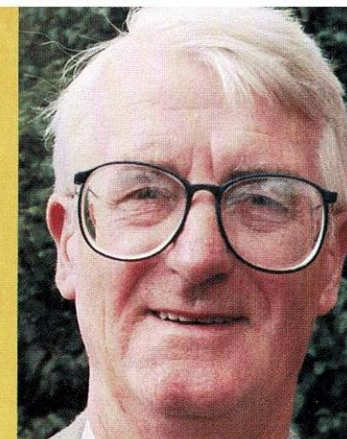
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"A WORD IN YOUR EAR"

Jack Winstanley

RUGBY LEAGUE CORRESPONDENT
MAIL ON SUNDAY

EVEN after a full week it is difficult to shrug off the euphoria that surrounded Great Britain's historic First Test victory over the ex-invincible Australians.

Neutral scribe that I am, I was caught up in the tide of emotion that land of Hope and Glory cascaded over Wembley. I cannot think that Sir Edward Elgar, in 1901, ever imagined how inspirational that particular section of Pomp and Circumstance would turn out to be.

A week yesterday, Land of Hope and Glory became part of some cunning psychology by the Great Britain back-room boys.

Australia were not allowed to train on the Wembley pitch. They were brought early into the tunnel where, especially for first-timers, nerve ends are at their rawest. And they had imposed upon them Wembley's traditional individual introduction of the teams.

Actually the Aussies didn't fall for the peeling off by number game, as Great Britain did in their usual manner, but their decidedly nervous start suggested to me at any rate that Britain's "delaying tactics" had a considerable affect.

How about "There's Always Be An England" as an encore at Old Trafford?

Apart from Great Britain's team triumph, there were two other notable things about a win that opens up the way for Great Britain to regain the Ashes for the first time since Frank Mayler's men — who included Wigan forwards Doug Laughton and Dave Robinson — won the 1970 Test series Down Under by 2-1.

The first was the impeccable performance of French referee Alain Sablayrolles, who gave a new meaning to sign language in the realms of sport.

When big Paul Sironen indicated that the referee had missed a knock on, Monsieur Sablayrolles made it clear that, indeed, he had NOT missed a thing, simply by pointing to his eyes.

When, in the dying minutes, Paul Eastwood clearly wasted time in his preparation for the match-clinching penalty goal, he employed the superbly unambiguous gesture of stabbing a finger at his wrist watch.

After the game, Australian coach Bobby Fulton claimed that if the referee had awarded his men as man penalties as he gave Great Britain, Australia would have won by the same score.

Was it not simply a case of Alain Sablayrolles becoming the first referee on this tour to cotton on to Australia's sly offside tactics and punishing them whenever they transgressed?

I gave the Frenchman ten out of ten.

The second notable thing was the television coverage of the game by the BBC. For once they presented the event as though they genuinely cared for Rugby League, rather than giving the impression that they were doing the game a favour.

Even more impressive than that in my book was the way Wigan coach John Monie gave the whole thing a refreshingly new articulate, authoritative and

sophisticated outlook — and the way commentator Ray French responded to him by a quite brilliant reading of the game.

Monie and French were working together for the first time. They make a fine team.

Notable is scarcely adequate to describe the towering display of Great Britain skipper Ellery Hanley whose individual and inspirational brilliance overshadowed Australia's best, thrilled TV audiences across the world and earned him the Man of the Match Award.

The Black Pearl looked fit to die — or kill — for Great Britain as he headed his warriors in the Wembley tunnel. In a sporting sense it could be said that he "murdered" the world champions with his tigerish tackling, never-say-die running and, most damagingly, classical kicking which directly produced two tries.

Malcolm Reilly told me after the game that in his opinion Hanley's performance puts him among the greatest Rugby League players of all time. He is right.

That Hanley is set to equal Billy Boston's total of 31 Great Britain caps in this series puts him on a pedestal of greatness.

That he has also successfully coped with the added responsibility as captain of our international side introduces an extra dimension that will assure Hanley of Rugby League immortality.

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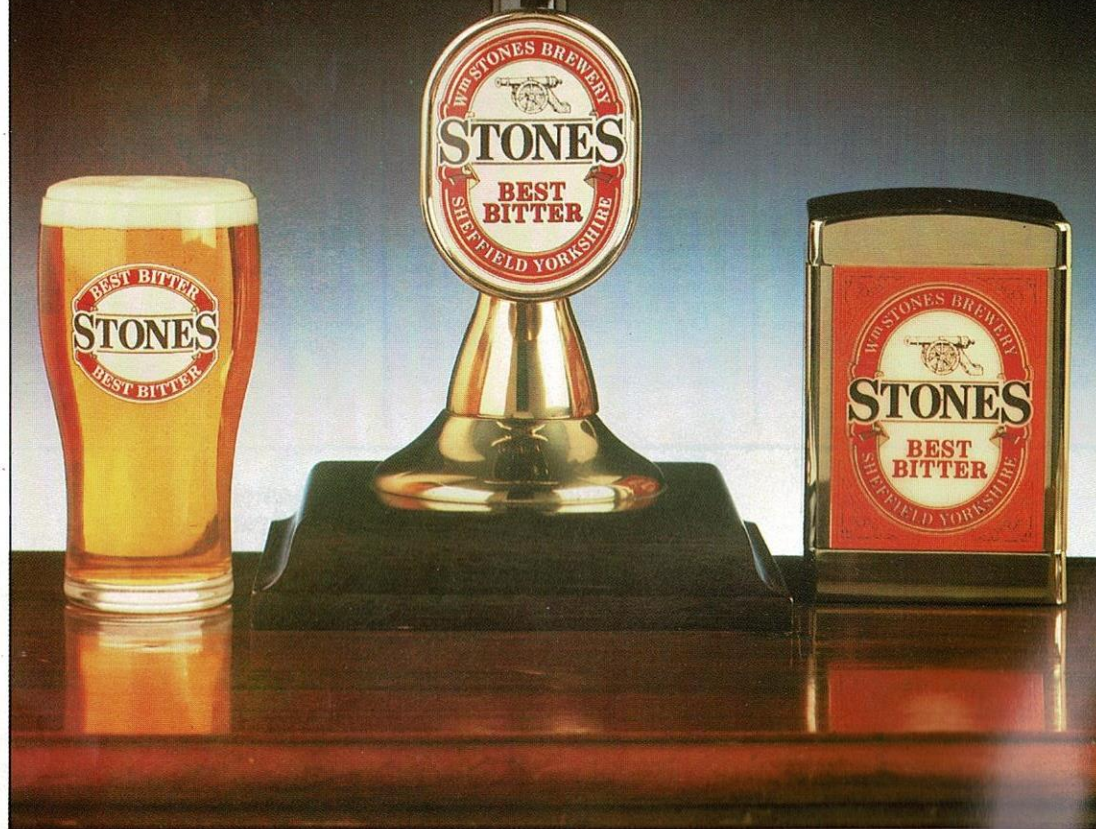
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TODAY'S MASCOT



MASCOT FILE

JOANNE MILLETT
Age 12
Byrchall High School, Ashton-in-Makerfield.
Hobbies Disco dancing, watching Wigan Rugby and watching my brother Stuart play for Ashton A.R.L.F.C. U.10s.
Favourite players: Stevie Hampson, Mark Preston, Ellery Hanley.

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HELLO and welcome to today's match against Oldham.

Our thanks go out to members who have sent entries into the 'Design a T-Shirt' competition. Please keep them coming in and don't forget the prize — a VIP day out for you and your guests at Wigan Rugby League including lunch with the sponsors. (All entries should be left at the Souvenir Shop).

Our next meetings guest is P.C. Riley from Wigan Police who will be explaining about the Wigan Rugby League/Wigan Police Cards and how you can obtain

these cards from police officers at different matches and collect a full set and win prizes.

December's meeting is again a fancy dress so get your thinking caps on and come and enjoy the party.

We are also going to the Pantomime at The Mill at The Pier (Humpty Dumpty) in December. Details available at the November meeting and finally our thanks go out to Malcolm who came and explained his duties at Wigan at our last meeting.

Enjoy the game and I look forward to seeing you on 13th November.

JULIE PARKER

DIARY
FILE

13th
NOVEMBER
7.00 pm



WE'RE
BACKING
WIGAN



**INGERSOLL
-RAND**

**British
COAL**

**XXXX Kangaroos' Tour
to
Great Britain 1990
MATCH SCHEDULE**

Stand Tickets for the 2nd & 3rd Tests are now all sold.

You will be able to pay at the turnstiles for the Terraces:
Adults £6.00, Child & OAP £3.00

Date	Opposition	K.O.
Nov.4	Castleford	3.30pm
Nov.6	Halifax	7.30pm
Nov.10	GT. BRITAIN (2nd TEST - Old Trafford, Manchester)	2.15pm
Nov.14	Hull	7.30pm
Nov.18	Widnes	3.00pm
Nov.24	GT. BRITAIN (3rd TEST - Elland Road, Leeds)	2.15pm

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News and Views



WHAT IS CLUBCALL

Clubcall represents the Rugby League side of Supercall Sports' comprehensive cover of domestic and international sporting events. We update daily with interviews from the Wigan camp, and have a match day service that starts with early team news, follows the action with commentaries or regular reports from the ground and ends, as with all our Clubcall lines, with post match reactions from the players concerned.

We are particularly proud of our match service. Apart from informing fans unable to make it to the game how events are going (though it must be stressed we do spend all week encouraging fans to go to the match!) it enables those of you who have attended, to ring the line when you return home to see if those involved on the park saw things in the same light as you did!

The beauty of Clubcall, we feel, is that we provide a genuinely in-depth service for the true supporter. We keep you informed and entertained with fresh interviews daily, we provide a platform for the club's staff to air their views and enable a club to bridge the communications gap between players and fans, and in combining public relations with journalism we promote the club and provide them with much needed revenue. The club appreciates that revenue, and gives us their fullest cooperation to ensure that a first class service is provided.

The amount of technology involved in transmitting literally hundreds of thousands of words a week is phenomenal: British Telecom, however, has invested long-term in Supercall to ensure an even better service this season. We like to think we're first with the facts... and that we separate it from the fiction. Everyone involved in football loves talking about the game of course — and we hope we provide an ideal platform; and as we always say: "You can't be misquoted in Clubcall!"
Keep in touch on 0858-12:11:58

**CALLING ALL
YOUNGSTERS**

The Wigan Rugby Cards will be available from today. There are 24 different cards to collect and they will be available from almost all Police officers on duty inside the ground at every First team game except the fixture on New Years Day 1991.

ALL CHILDREN ARE ASKED TO DO IS TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE RULES:

1. ONLY ONE CARD PER PERSON WILL BE GIVEN. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR MORE. PART OF THE ENJOYMENT IS SWAPPING THE CARDS WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
2. DO NOT ASK POLICE OFFICERS OUTSIDE THE GROUND FOR A CARD, THEY ARE ONLY AVAILABLE INSIDE THE GROUND.
3. SOME POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON SPECIAL DUTIES AND WILL NOT CARRY ANY CARDS.
4. REMEMBER, POLICE OFFICERS ARE THERE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SPECTATORS, IF AN OFFICER IS UNABLE TO GIVE ANY CARDS, OUT FOR SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE BE PATIENT, THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT ALL THE CARDS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

For those children who live in Wigan your local area Policeman will carry some cards with him, do not be afraid to ask him for a card and please read the messages on the back, they are important.

The cards will NOT be available at Police Stations.

We would like to thank MILLIKEN Contract Carpets for their support in this project.

Inspector Peter Fletcher
Wigan Police Community
Contact Department

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Tickets are £1.00 available from Wigan Rugby league Theme Shop, Bleakley School of Motoring, Hindley. The Wigan Evening Post & shops & businesses throughout Wigan and District.

Don't miss out on this great chance.

Spend a £1... and save a life!!

**HOSPITAL
COMMENTARY**

Commentary on every first team home and cup games is given to patients in Wigan Infirmary and Wrightington Hospital from the Box on the Popular side terrace.

If you have a relation or friend in either and you wish to send them a message (especially a humourous one) leave the details at the Club's Main Office during the week or hand them in at the Commentary Box on matchday.

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Rochdale H v St Helens
Wakefield T v Hull

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18.4	2.5	HULL K.R. RLFC	

*Taken from Rugby League Routeway.
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WIGAN RL CLUBCALL: 0858-12:11:58

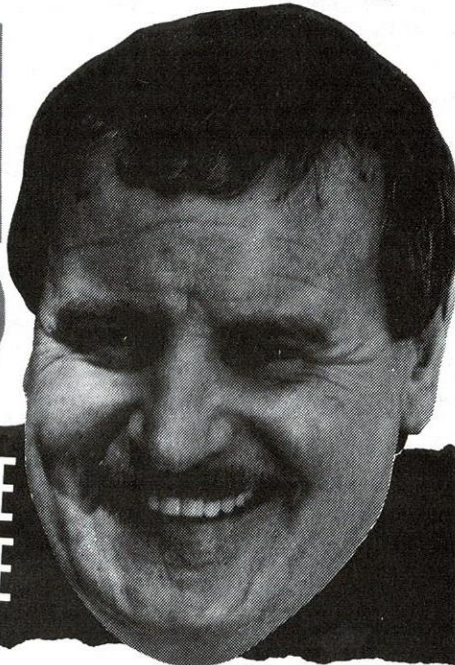
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SEVEN Asides

BY FLORIMO

DOWN in the Smoke — Florimo on a pub coach to Wembley for the first Test.

The deal on paper, well a beer mat, seemed a good one. Twenty quid for a place on the coach, no lager louts, a card table and only one great white shark.

So I handed over the bullion only to be told that the coach left at 7.30 IN THE MORNING which meant an early Friday night.

Bit tricky that one, so rolled up at rendezvous point after about five hours sleep ignoring the recommended hangover cure undertaken by my fellow passengers... a tin of strong at 7.40 am.

Rather pleasant trip to London even though the world cigarette smoking championships were being held on the back seat, the ambient on-bus atmosphere heightened by the video of the third Test win in Sydney two years ago.

The despond in the next row reckoned we will be watching this game for the next 30 years.

Arrive at Wembley just before kick off, about four hours before, and slip into a nearby boozier to get into the mood.

Amble up Wembley way very moody indeed and head for ticket office, the part leader consulting family brain cell and expressing a desire to stand up on the terraces.

Brill game, brill atmos, brill ref, and brill result all heartily agreed as post match analysis takes place in same bar.

Two hours on and an anxious-looking coach driver appears at the door pointing at his watch and gesticulating north.

Pile into coach ready for merry trip home totally unprepared for the unfolding of the night's events.

Twenty miles out of London the coach splutters to a standstill at the side of the motorway.

Not a chirp from the engine as the battery fades and an empty fuel tank is diagnosed.

Another passing coach driver picks us all up and ferries us all to the nearest service station amid cries of "where's Colin Whitfield?"

At this point something quite wonderful happened to yours truly, an experience which means I can never poke fun at Thatto Heath again.

Outside the service area a couple from St Helens noticed our plight and threw a lifeline.

They offered a lift home, well they offered me a lift anyway, all the way to Wigan, what a splendid gesture and back in time for a last pint.

I had better report that the rest of the lads did get back home that night.

A mechanic at the services repaired the coach and they hit Wigan around 1.30 am, just too late for last orders.

This might sound like a question for soccer pansies, but can a rugby league player head the ball?

St Helens loose forward Shane Cooper can — and does.

Against Leeds the other week, Cooper was one metre from the Leeds line, saw Waney growling at him, tossed the ball in the air and head-butted it forward in the general direction of the whitewash.

Several Saints players pounced and amid the melee, one of them claimed the try.

The referee, apparently as confused as everyone else, looked bewildered, turned down the claim and awarded a penalty to Leeds.

But was he right? Yours truly hasn't a clue.

I would suggest that if a full back was awaiting an approaching ball which suddenly bounced up, hit him on the forehead then dropped in front of him, most referees would wave play on.

Informed sources tell me that Saints actually practice this head-the-ball

routine so they clearly regard it as legitimate tactic.

Perhaps they know something the referee doesn't.

The BSB commentators on this game were Terry Flanagan and Eddie Hemmings and they didn't know either although our Terry reckoned that Bobby Charlton could come out of retirement and get a game.

I didn't laugh either.

I was slightly amused though by the efforts of Granada to try and fill 50 unexpected minutes of air time when the Castleford coach got stuck on the motorway en route to Widnes.

You had to feel a bit sorry for the TV people, the delay is just one of the risks of live television, and although the producer had laid a few contingency plans, he clearly wasn't prepared for such a huge gap.

Hence Doug Laughton was ambushed for a protracted interview, pinned against a wall chewing the fat on just about any topic the interviewer could chuck at him.

You can just imagine the director desperately waving a bit of cardboard behind the camera reading: "Just a few more minutes, Doug. Cas are on their way. Keep it up. Have another five."

Doug did well actually, but once he dried up, Granada dried up too.

A few more video action shots, drag some more platitudes out of Phil Larder and that was it on the RL front.

Three poxy cartoons appeared next, "Get Rich Quick with Porky Pigg", "Tease for Two" and "Daffy Duckaroo".

God only knows what the BBC would have done in similar circumstances, but at least they've got Tom and Jerry.

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EST 1926



Left:
Some of the old Central Park backroom boys. Recognisable in the centre of the front row is the indomitable Harry Lowe, while trainer Jack Hesketh, father of George and Tom, is on the extreme right.
Photo courtesy of Jack Winstanley.

1921/22 SEASON

WHEN Wigan entertained Widnes on the 27th August 1921, the crowd at Central Park witnessed the beginning of a new era. Over the next 25 years one man alone would set many individual records tumbling, and lead the club to many famous victories. That man was Jim Sullivan. During the course of his first season in the Wigan colours, Sullivan kicked 99 goals which beat the previous highest mark by 16.

In the league championship, 22 wins and 1 draw from 32 games saw Wigan take second place. Notable results included a 55 - 3, 13 try rout of Warrington at Central Park. Just 18 days later the team lost the return match 6 - 10. The longest winning streaks were both only 5 games long, although just after the start of the season Wigan had a 7 match unbeaten run (3 wins, 1 draw + 3 wins). This inconsistency led to the club missing out on top spot.

In the Lancashire League championship, 16 wins from 22 outings gave Wigan another second place, relinquishing the trophy which they had won the previous year.

The Lancashire cup was a complete non starter. The team went down 0 - 5 at Broughton Rangers in the first round. Wigan did gain some revenge with a 12 - 3 home win in the league competition a week later.

February brought the beginning of the Rugby League Challenge Cup, and a home pairing with Wakefield Trinity. A 15 - 6 victory gave them another home tie in round 2. This was

won 52 - 6 against Hunslet and set up yet another home game in round 3. Keighley provided Wigan's rivals for a semi final spot, and were overcome easily in a 11 try 45 - 0. win. Wigan faced a strong Hull team in the semi final which was played at Headingley, Leeds and that was where Wigan's cup run ended with a 5 - 18 defeat. Hull went on to lose the final 9 - 10 against Rochdale at Leeds in front of a record 32,596 crowd.

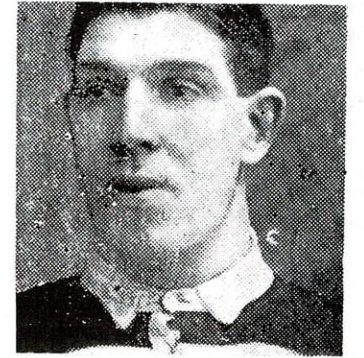
In the championship play off Wigan's second place in the league championship gave them a home game against Hull. It was a case of revenge is sweet as Wigan triumphed 27 - 8. Wigan's final opponents were Oldham, for the fourth time in 6 finals. In the previous 3 games Wigan had won the first meeting and Oldham the next two.

The final was played at the Cliff, Broughton. The only player surviving from Wigan's last championship final in 1913 was Percy Coldrick, now 34 years old and a regular in the Wigan team for 10 years. In a tight, hard-fought game the only try of the match was scored by Jerry Shea, a docker from Newport in Wales, who had been signed earlier in the season. Four goals from Jim Sullivan and one from Howley put the icing on the cake for Wigan's 13 - 2 victory.

It was trainer Tommy McCartys first Knockout competition win, and went some way towards making up for defeat in the Challenge Cup final 10 - 21 against Huddersfield two years earlier.

Compiled by PAUL HICKEY and CHRIS MOTT

WIGAN GREATS



1921/22 PERCY COLDRICK

WHEN Wigan lost the opening game of the 1924/25 season, the fans were seeing the end of a distinguished career. In the 3-8 defeat at the hands of Swinton, Percy Coldrick played his last game for the Wigan club.

Albert Percival Coldrick was born in Newport, South Wales, in 1888, and played his first match for Wigan on the 7th September, 1912. Widely regarded as the fastest forward of his day, he was capped by Wales and toured Australasia in 1914. He played in all three tests against the Australians, scoring one try, and he also played in the only test of the New Zealand leg of the tour.

Percy retired, after twelve years in the Wigan colours, aged thirty-six, with a Championship winners medal from 1921/22 and Lancashire Cup winners medals from 1912/13 and 1922/23. In all, he played 281 games for Wigan and scored 80 tries. He died on the 26th December, 1953 aged 65.

Compiled by: PAUL HICKEY, CHRIS MOTT & PAUL OGDEN



EST 1926

WIGAN RL CLUBCALL: 0858-12:11:58

IN SUPPORT

Supporters Club News

EVERYONE has been elated since the tremendous performance by Great Britain at Wembley last week, and we must begin today by congratulating all the Wigan players who took part. Full marks also to whoever it was who decided on "Land of Hope and Glory" as the teams entered the stadium, as it was a master stroke that fired up the crowd as well as the players. Now we are all looking forward to the next step at Old Trafford next Saturday.

TRAVEL

As a full house is expected for next week's Second Test our coaches will leave early, especially as those supporters who are standing up will want to find good positions. Coaches leave Central Park at 11.30 a.m. Adults £3, Juniors £2. Bookings can be made today at our shop on the Douglas side, or during

the week on 46371.

Our fixture for the following day, 11th November, at Hull K.R., is likely to be postponed because we have so many players in Great Britain's squad. If this match goes ahead on the Sunday coaches will leave Central Park at 11.45 a.m., but if as expected it becomes a mid-week fixture we will leave at 4.30 p.m. Adults £6.50, Juniors £5.

We will also be organising transport to the Third Test at Elland Road on Saturday 24th November. Details in the next home programme (18th November v. Featherstone).

PROGRAMMES

At the moment we are short of display space for programmes with being based in the small shop on the Douglas side, but we are trying to obtain some programmes from every Australian tour game. Whatever pro-



grammes we have been successful in getting will be on sale this afternoon.

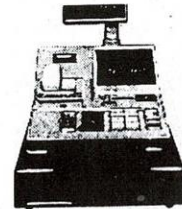
We have definitely acquired some programmes from the 1990 Salford versus Widnes Lancashire Cup Final and these will be on sale today at half price, just 50p each.

The only Wigan away programmes we have been able to get hold of this season are from the Hull match on 7th October. This is because every club we visit tends to sell out because of the large number of our travelling supporters, but Hull Supporters' Club kindly saved a few for us.

DIARIES

After the Australian game we had just 53 of our diaries left in stock. These are only 50p and will soon be snapped up, so get yours today!

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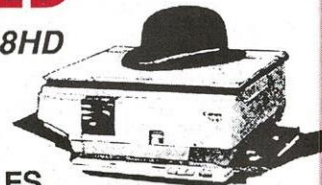


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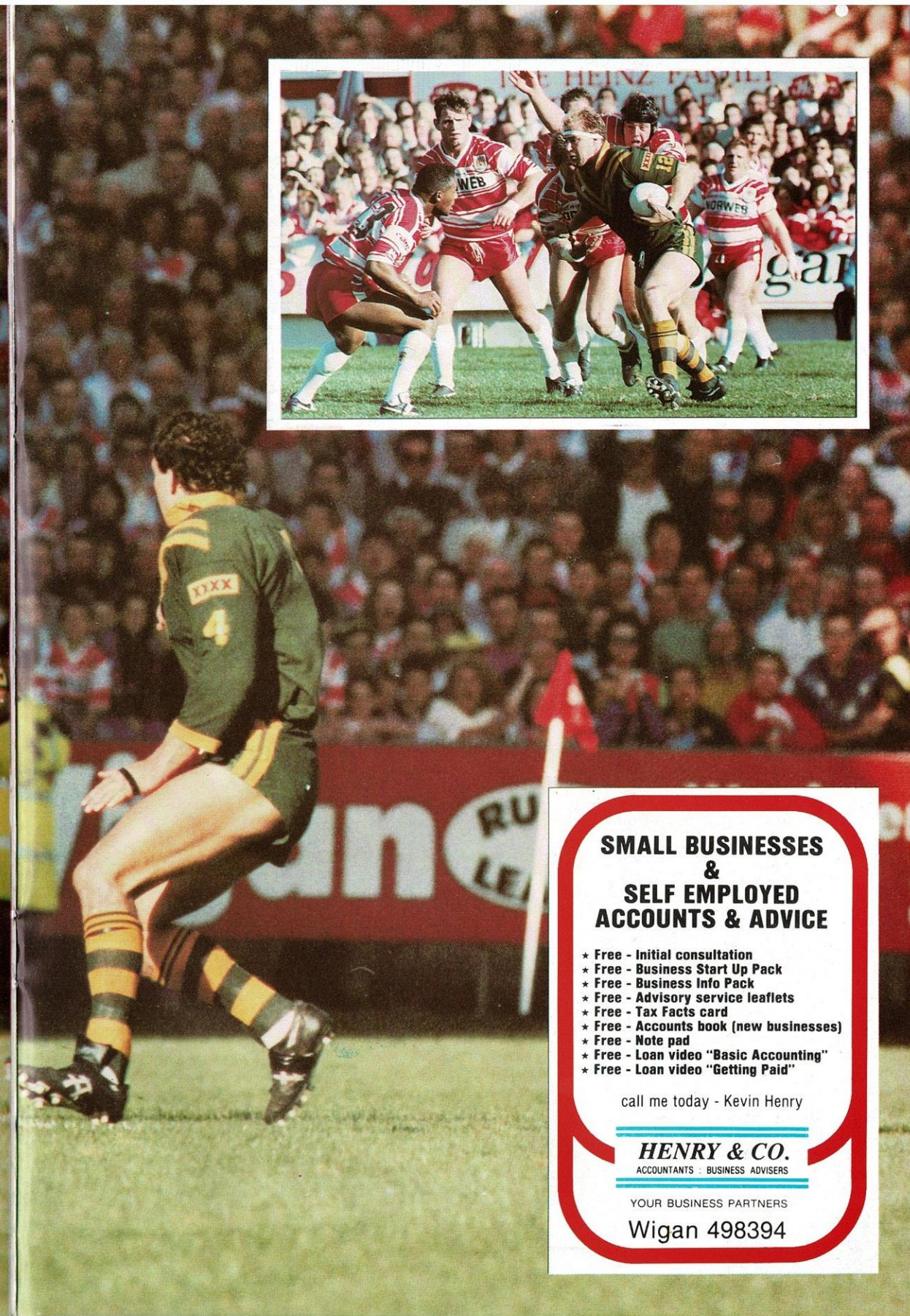
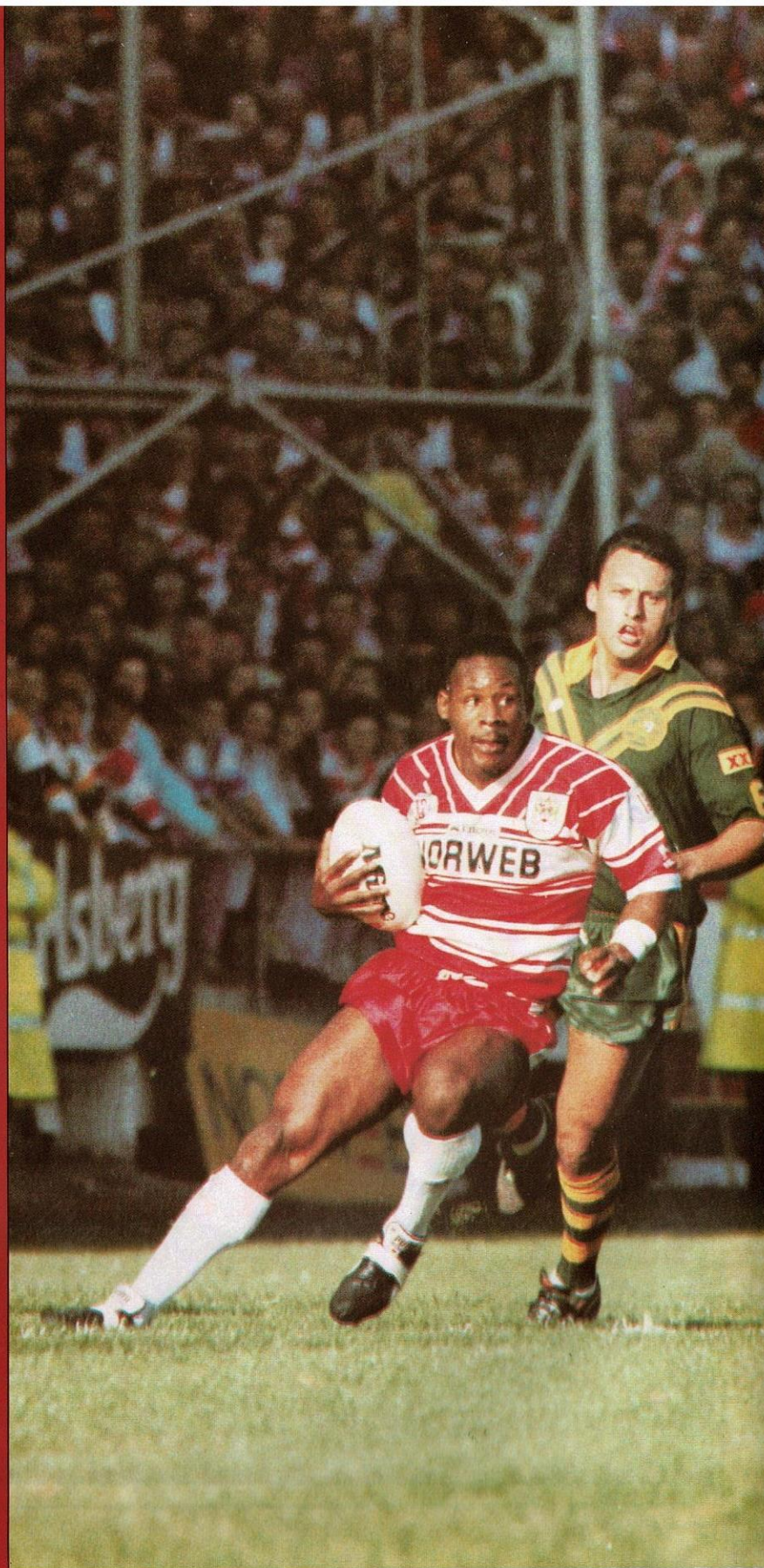
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Main picture: Ellery Hanley takes evasive action as Laurie Daley and Mark McGaw move in.
Inset: Paul Sironen finds himself surrounded as he tries to make progress.



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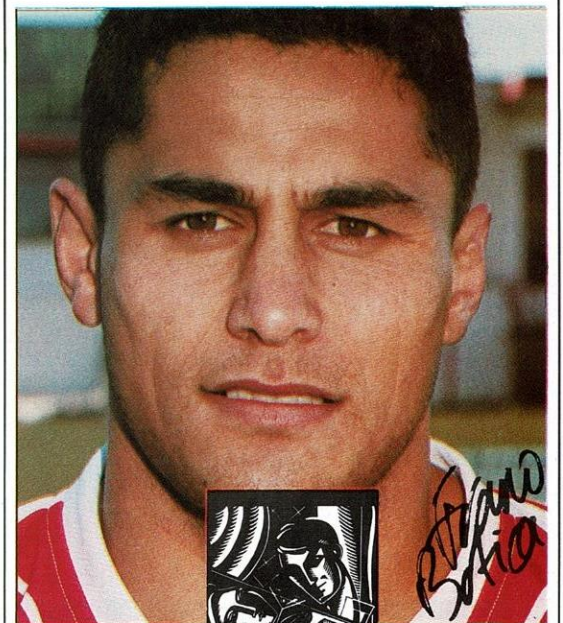
Full name: Frano Michael Botica. It's a Yugoslavian name I inherited from my grandfather.
Nickname: A few, I was known as Terry by the All Blacks but Botts seems to be in favour here at Wigan. The lads call it me even more now I've told them I don't like it.
Place of birth: Mangakino, North Island, New Zealand. It's a one-horse town and you would be hard pressed to find it on a map. My father was working on a dam construction nearby and we moved to civilisation when I was very young.
Personal: I'm married to Tracey with two children, Benjamin 11 months and Chante, three.

PLAYER PROFILE

FRANO BOTICA

Occupation: Open to offers at the moment. I was a self-employed truck driver back in New Zealand and I would like a job in Wigan. It can get boring being stuck at home all day.
Education: West Lake Boys High School in Auckland. I left with a standard school certificate, but I was more interested in playing rugby than academic pursuits.
Car: A Ford Sierra sponsored by Alan Darlington Motors.
Pets: My beautiful wife Tracey is my little cuddly pet.
Best friends: All the Wigan players are very friendly and made me feel very welcome. I also make friends quickly with anyone carrying a pack of cards.
Hobbies: Here in Wigan, playing cards with fellow Kiwis, the Iro brothers, Gary Mercer, George and Duane Mann. We play Manila and sometimes they let me win. Back home I like scuba diving for sea food, snorkelling and playing touch rugby on the beach. Limited opportunities for these pastimes here in Kitt Green.
Earliest memory: I can remember being forced to eat Macaroni when I was five. I was sick all over the table and have never touched the stuff since.
How can rugby league be improved? Referees should be more lenient around the scrums because the habit of making the scrum half feed the ball again slows the game down. It's a Micky Mouse arrangement at the moment, six pairs of legs trying to kill the ball. Just the hooker should be allowed to strike.
What do you wear in bed? Nothing. Even in winter I just pull on another blanket.
Favourite away trip: I've only been to Swansea, Castleford and Bradford so it has to be Castleford for the obvious reason.
If you weren't a rugby league player what would you have been? A skier, I have done quite a bit, especially when I played rugby union in Italy for two years. I'm not too sure I could have made a career out of it though, I have tried a few black runs, just for fun, and it wasn't.
After match routine: Go out for a few beers around town usually with Tracey if we can get a baby sitter. We like the Bees Knees, the Royal Oak and Boston's. I love English pubs, they have such a great atmosphere.
When did you last have a bet? About two hours ago when I played cards. I have been to Haydock races for a flutter and basically will bet on anything. I tried the rugby league coupon the other week but I only got one result right.
How many suits do you own? Just one and I only wear it on very special occasions. I even went to the races in my track suit.
Fantasies: To make lots of money the easy way, then to be stranded on a desert island with my wife, a big house surrounded by a big ocean teeming with seafood and not a Yorkshire forward in sight.
Greatest team: 1. Gary Jack. 2. Kevin Iro. 3. Mal Meninga. 4. Joe Stanley. 5. John Ferguson. 6. Laurie Daley. 7. Andy Gregory. 8. Steve Roach. 9. Howie Tamati. 10. Kevin Tamati. 11. Mark Graham. 12. Graeme West. 13. Michael Jones. 14. Zin Zan Brooke. 15. Dean Bell.

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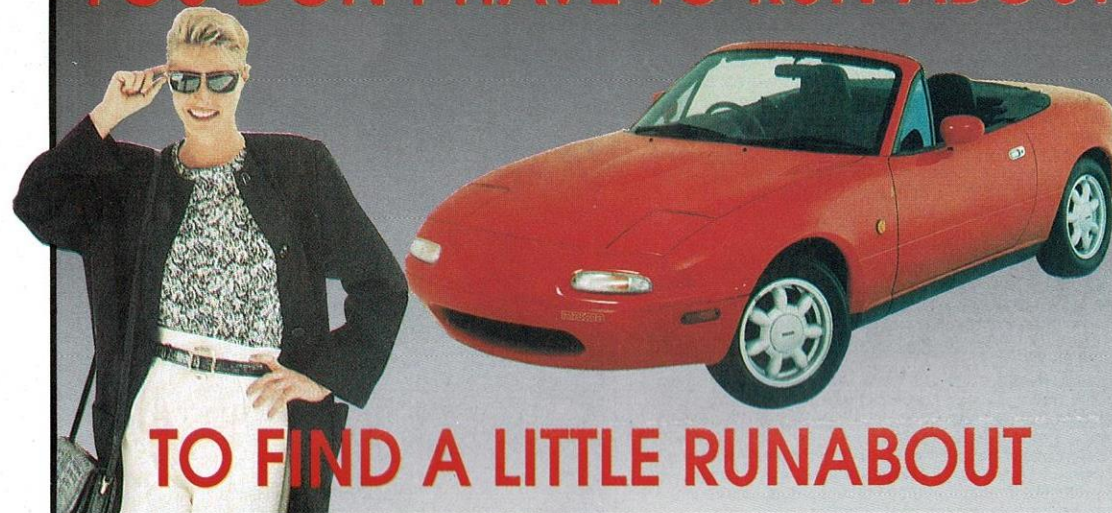


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Our other sponsors today are Mr. John Thorn's guests from Brewers, Samuel Webster & Wilson. Mr. Tim Crompton, Cromptons Opticians, Brian & Doreen Meadows of D M Posters and guest of our Club Sponsor Norweb. We wish you all an enjoyable afternoon.

Best Wishes to Wigan R.L.F.C.
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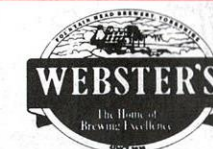
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Best wishes to
both teams
for todays game.

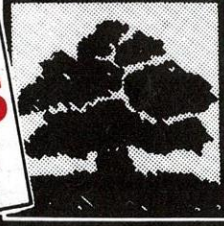
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WIGAN RL CLUBCALL: 0858-12:11:58

Your Letters

Dear Editor,

After a surfeit of success it may seem churlish for Wigan supporters to complain when the team loses. However, it was the nature of the defeat at Hull which must have caused concern to others besides myself who shelled out a considerable amount of money and time (12 hours in my case) to travel to the Boulevard.

In recent years praise has been heaped on the players' heads by management, media and supporters alike. It is not remiss, therefore, to criticize when criticism is due, and the other Sunday was one of the darker days in the annals of Wigan Rugby. Suffice it to say that it was an occasion when it was an embarrassment to be a Wigan fan.

Let us hope that there are better days ahead. It would be a start if the powers that be insist that Wigan players accept referees' decisions without question.

Yours The Reverend John Macaulay,
Liverpool College, Queens Drive,
Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 8BG.

Dear Sir,

We would like to bring to your attention the OUTRAGEOUS behaviour we were subjected to at the HULL v WIGAN match on the 7th Oct. 1990. We entered the Tripenny Stand because this is where we thought the best view was. On entering this stand we were told by the Steward that there was no segregation and we had every right to be there. It was at this point that the abuse and foul language began. Young 'so called' fans and to our surprise some of the older generation all joined in with the abuse. At one point we were told "Get out of our stand Or die." We decided that it would be best for our safety to leave this stand. We thought this was shocking behaviour as rugby is supposed to be a family game, we are

also seriously contemplating our return to the Boulevard.

Yours, Two disgusted fans.

Dear Sir,

After Ellery Hanley's dismissal for dissent following scrum penalties against Wigan at Odsal, the RL needs not the elimination of scrums but full-time, properly paid professional referees.

The scrum is the hardest part of the game to referee consistently. Surely the answer is professional referees under a regional refereeing officer who may be retired from the game or a still-serving official.

Full-time referees would be able to work on fitness and to study the laws of the game and videos of their performances and those of others.

One day a week, the referees of an area could meet under their regional controller to discuss laws, interpretation of laws and look at videos.

This practice is usual in American Football when the officials for a game are gathered in a hotel in the city in which they are to officiate several days before the game to discuss the rules and study videos of games to see how and when rules should be applied.

The variety of technical offences in RL is astonishing and the main problem is that some referees apply parts of the laws more strictly than others thus, there is no consistency. If players know they are going to be penalised, they have no excuse for breaking some laws. Standing in an offside position though not attempting to join in play; foot up in the scrum; feeding the scrum etc.

With reference to scrums, they should not be eliminated as they provide the basis from which inventive attacking moves can develop. It is easier to attack from a scrum than a play-the-ball as half the defence is involved in the struggle

for possession in the scrum.

To ensure credibility they must be controlled consistently, as should all other aspects of the game and in order to do this, full time referees will be much more able to cope.

The game is becoming more professional with players devoting more time to the game as its demands increase. There is no reason why the referees should not be able to do the same paid for out of RL's central funds.

Yours, Bruce Partington,
Ealing, London.

Dear Sir,

Events are proceeding apace with the formation of an amateur League Club in Oxford. In the process an unlikely alliance is being forged between people from Wigan, St. Helens, Wakefield, Warrington and New Zealand etc.

If anyone has any contacts in the area please get them to contact me. In particular if anyone knows of Wiganer Tony Dillon now in Whitney, Oxon., please ask him to get in touch at the address shown.

Yours, Trevor Holcroft,
36 Fernhill Road, Begbroke,
Oxon OX5 1RP.

Dear Sir,

Gtr. Manchester Police Lifeboat Appeal

I am pleased to inform you that the collection on the 14th October, 1990, in respect of the above appeal raised £516.

Considering that the game was all-ticket we are delighted with that amount.

May I thank you on behalf of the Greater Manchester Police for your help and co-operation in making the appeal a success. A special thanks must be made to your supporters for their generosity.

Yours, Peter Fletcher,
Inspector, Wigan Community
Contact Branch.

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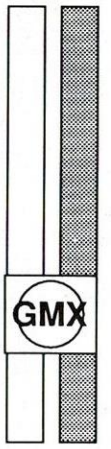
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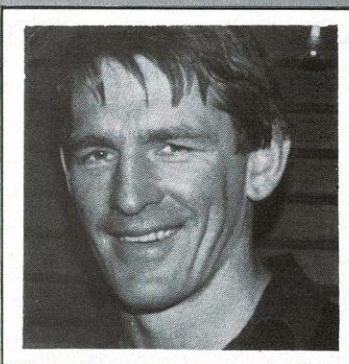
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HULL K.R. 7 WIGAN 12 (21.9.90.)

This was a well earned win at Craven Park, where we survived a fierce second half onslaught from the home side. Using the strong wind to keep us pinned in our own half Rovers put us under constant pressure, but the defence cracked only once.

Andy Collier grabbed an early try, converted from the touchline by Sean Tyrer, and Tyrer added two more points with a penalty twelve minutes before the interval. Rovers only first half points came from a penalty and a drop goal.

Soon after the break Dave Marshall forced his way past two defenders to score in the right corner after Wayne Reid and Mark Welsby moved the ball well from a scrum. This gave us a nine point lead, and despite the dubious nature of the Rovers' try we kept our concentration and finished the stronger in the final ten minutes, Paul Gartland going over near the posts but being recalled for a forward pass.

FEATHERSTONE 31 WIGAN 26 (28.9.90.)

We played most of the second half with only twelve men after Andy Collier was sent off for retaliation. Collier took the law into his own hands after a boot stud caused a nasty injury to his ear, and although his action cannot be condoned it can be understood.

It was a most unsatisfactory evening, with Mike Forshaw lucky to escape serious injury when a third tackler charged in with Forshaw already grounded by two men.

Phil Clarke and Mike Forshaw set up a try for Dave Marshall, and Wayne Reid sent Sean Tyrer over on the right, whilst Featherstone's Fisher also grabbed two tries before half time. Three goals to each side, ours kicked by Tyrer, made the score 14-14 when Collier was dismissed. Despite this Wayne Reid pulled out of two tackles to send Paul Gartland in, then Tyrer linked up from full-back for his second try and also kicked two more goals. However Featherstone's extra man proved vital in the last fifteen minutes.

ALLIANCE UPDATE

Date	Opponents	V	K.O.	R	F-A	Tries	Goals	D.Goals	M.O.M.
Sat.Aug.18	Rochdale (friendly)	H	2.00	W	18-16	Collier (2), Chambers	Tyrer (3)		
Sat.Sep.1	Salford	H	3.00	L	6-22	Collier	O'Donnell		Russ Bridge
Thu.Sep.1	Leigh	A	7.30	L	4-20	Byrne			
Fri.Sep.14	Castleford	H	7.30	W	52-0	Gartland(2), Reid, Preston, Stazicker, Tyrer(10) Welsby, Collier, Forshaw			Mike Forshaw
Fri.Sep.21	Hull K.R.	A	8.00	W	12-7	Collier, Marshall	Tyrer (2)		
Fri.Sep.28	Featherstone	A	7.30	L	26-31	Tyrer(2), Marshall, Gartland	Tyrer (5)		
Fri.Oct.5	Warrington LS1	A	7.30	W	28-24	Gartland (2), Marshall (2), Forshaw (2)	Goulding(2)		
Fri.Oct.12	Castleford	A	7.30	L	12-52	Reid	Tyrer (4)		
Sun.Oct.21	Oldham (LC2)	A	3.00	W	16-14	Chambers, Preston, Stazicker	O'Donnell(2)		
Fri.Nov.2	Salford	H	7.30						
Fri.Nov.9	Hull K.R.	H	8.00						
Fri.Nov.16	Featherstone	H	7.30						

WARRINGTON 24 WIGAN 28 (5.10.90.) Lancs. Shield 1st Round

A ten try thriller at Wilderspool was decided by a Paul Gartland try, converted by Bobby Goulding, just three minutes from the end. We scored three tries in the first half through Paul Gartland, Dave Marshall and Mike Forshaw, but Sean Tyrer could not find the target with his goalkicks. Mistakes on defence allowed Warrington to go into a 16-14 half time lead, and worse was to come early in the second half when they widened the gap to ten points, but tries from Marshall and Forshaw, plus a Goulding conversion levelled the scores. Extra time seemed inevitable, but Warrington then landed a long range penalty before Tyrer sent Gartland over for the winner.

CASTLEFORD 52 WIGAN 12 (12.10.90.)

We travelled to Wheldon Road with a young team containing five 17 year olds to take on an experienced Castleford outfit determined to gain revenge for the 52-0 beating we gave them at Central Park four weeks earlier. Despite this we did well in the first half, holding them to 12-12 until just before half time, with a neat try by Wayne Reid and four goals by Sean Tyrer, but as the game went on we just could not cope with the sheer muscle power and size of the opposition.

OLDHAM 14 WIGAN 16 (21.10.90.) Lancs. Shield 2nd Round

Despite having Bobby Goulding dismissed for dissent early in the second half we overcame this disadvantage to play our best rugby in the last twenty minutes and go through to the Lancashire Shield Semi-Finals. Playing against a strong, bitterly cold wind in the first half we trailed 10-8 at half time, scoring tries by Steve C...

DDA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

IAN DDA 82 HALIFAX DDA

an DDA Under 19's began the season with an Coal Youth League fixtures with Wigan DDA. Under 19's won unding victory over Halifax DDA. From faultless full-back Dave Whittaker on-stop loose forward Mick Cassidy player contributed to a superb display of skillful, powerful and discipline by league which a plucky Halifax side couldn't handle.

Outstanding captain Paul Gartland led the distinction however it was the visit of Wigan DDA. From scrum half Craig White and the forceful play by the tough front row of Hainsworth and Moran which laid the foundations for a spectacular performance. Wigan's high-speed backs are a real back row.

Steve Blakeley led the try scorers with a try from scrum half Chambers, Bardsley and scrum half grabbed two tries apiece. Mattam, Cassidy, Hepplestone, Whit Williams and Gartland scored a try each with Gartland kicking eleven conversions.

Despite this result, the real test is yet to come as much more difficult opposition await, beginning with the strong Oldham DDA whom we play next at the Waterworks on November 14th.

NEW KIT

The DDA have sponsored a new kit for the Wigan and District Amateur Rugby League at Open Age and Under 17's town team level. In their Inter-League competitions the Under 17 went down 21-14 to a strong Leigh side but the Open Age had an excellent away victory over Wakefield by 7 pts to 6.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ian Halsall, the ex-Wigan DDA and St. Patricks player who recently turned professional with Rochdale Hornets. During his two years with Wigan DDA Ian made rapid progress as a speedy and elusive back — we wish him all the best for the future.

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Pro, Wigan DDA

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THANKS to everyone for their support, our numbers are increasing daily. We trust you have now all received your membership cards — sorry about the delay with the packs. We are still awaiting the Handbook and the Year Book from the printers. We really did not expect such a long wait. Many thanks for your patience.

Our special November offer for Fan Club members is a 20% discount off shirts and shorts. Just bring along your

Membership Card and you will get an extra 10%. It's a great idea for early Christmas presents.

Along with the Wigan Evening Post, our Fan Club sponsors we shall be running a competition in their newspaper every night next week. The prize is an adult and child kit, why not have a go, you might win!

SPECIAL FAN CLUB DRAW
We shall be having lots of draws and competitions for our Fan Club members

throughout the season. And to get things started our first winner is: MEMBERSHIP No. 97 - MRS. JULIE TEASDALE, of ELLESMERE ROAD, PEMBERTON, WIGAN. Julie will be receiving two free Ground tickets and Players Bar tickets to our game against Featherstone Rovers on the 18th November. Congratulations Julie — our first winner.

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Promotions & Pools

BRITAIN'S GREAT NOVEMBER PLOT

LONDON'S burning after the 'guys' of Great Britain scored a fantastic Test victory at Wembley last weekend. It gave a terrific boost to Rugby League and there's so much interest surrounding the 2nd Test at Old Trafford that tickets are at a premium.

Whilst it was a fine team effort it was good to see Ellery, leading by example and so often lighting the blue touch paper creating excellent chances to win. Perhaps this is why he recommends our **Super Ten Weekly Draw** — and why not — it's the BIGGEST in Wigan. Over the past three months £15,000 has been paid out in prizes and this is for just 50p weekly subscription.

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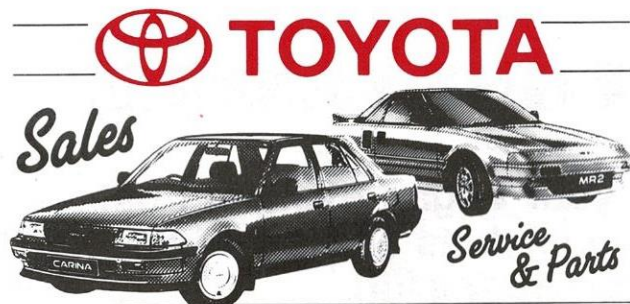
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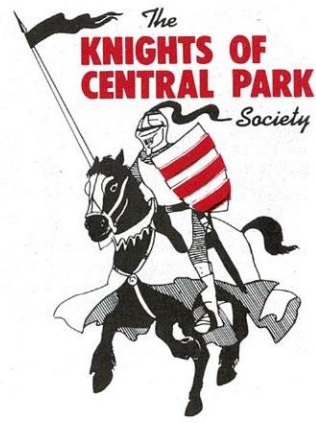
SHAUN EDWARDS SAYS 'I'm prepared to give it a run'



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Already over £350,000 paid out in prizes

Knights Function

10th November 1990

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15th November 1990

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
1990																			
AUGUST	Sun.26 Barrow (LC 1)	H 3.00	W 70-8	8,377	Hampson T	Borica T,68	Bell T2	Lydon G	Preston	Edwards T4	Gregory T	Goodway T	Dermott T2	Platt	Betts T	Gildart	Forshaw T	Byrne (4)	Goulding (9)
SEPTEMBER	Sun. 2 Widnes (LC 2)	A 3.00	L 22-24	13,889	Hampson	Preston	Bell T	Lydon G5	Edwards T	Edwards T	Gregory T	Skerrett	Dermott	Platt	Betts	Gildart	Goodway T	Goulding (8)	Forshaw (8)
Sun. 9	Sheffield E	H 3.00	D 18-18	11,808	Hampson	Myers T	Bell	Lydon G	Edwards T	Edwards T	Byrne	Skerrett	Goulding T,62	Platt	Betts	Goodway T	Hanley	Gildart (5)	Lucas (8)
Sun.16	Castleford	A 3.30	W 38-18	9,477	Hampson	Myers T2	Iro T	Bell	Edwards T	Edwards T	Gregory	Lucas	Goulding G	Goodway	Betts T	Gildart	Hanley	Dermott (9)	Clarke (12)
Sun.23	Rochdale H	H 3.00	W 24-2	11,108	Hampson	Myers T	Iro	Bell T2	Edwards T	Edwards T	Gregory	Lucas	Goulding G2	Platt	Betts	Goodway	Hanley	Lydon (3), T	Gildart (9)
Sun.30	Bradford N	A 3.30	L 30-31	9,231	Hampson	Myers T	Lydon T,63	Bell	Edwards T	Edwards T	Gregory	Lucas	Dermott T	Platt	Betts T	Goodway	Hanley	Gildart (11)	Skerrett (10)
OCTOBER	Sun. 7 Hull	A 3.15	L 4-24	9,500	Lydon	Myers	Iro	Bell	Preston	Edwards T	Gregory	Lucas	Dermott	Skerrett T	Betts	Gildart	Goodway	Marshall (12)	Clarke (7)
Sun.14	Wigan v AUSTRALIA	3.00	L 6-34	25,101	Hampson	Myers	Iro	Lydon G	Marshall	Edwards T	Gregory	Lucas	Dermott	Skerrett	Betts	Goodway	Hanley	Goulding (3)	Preston (2)
NOVEMBER	Sun. 4 Oldham	H 3.00																	
Sun.11	Hull K.R.	A 3.00																	
Sun.18	Featherstone R.	H 3.00																	
Sun.25	Wakefield T.	A 3.30																	
DECEMBER	Sun. 2	Regal Trophy - Rnd 1																	
Sun. 9	Regal Trophy - Rnd 2																		
Sun.16	Leeds	H 3.00																	
Wed.28	St Helens	A 3.00																	
1991																			
JANUARY	Tue. 1	Warrington	H 3.00																
Sun. 6	Sheffield E	A 3.15																	
Sun.13	Bradford N	H 3.00																	
Sun.20	Widnes	A 3.00																	
Sun.27	Hull	H 3.00																	
FEBRUARY	Sun. 3	Hull K.R.	H 3.00																
Sun.10	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - Rnd 1																		
Sun.17	Featherstone R	A 3.30																	
Sun.24	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - Rnd 2																		
MARCH	Sun. 3	Wakefield T	H 3.00																
Sun.10	Widnes	H 3.00																	
Sun.17	Rochdale H	A 3.00																	
Sun.24	Warrington	A 3.00																	
Fri.29	St Helens	H 3.00																	
APRIL	Mon. 1	Oldham	A 3.00																
Sun. 7	Castleford	H 3.00																	
Sun.14	Leeds	A 3.00																	

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NICKY KISS

Popular 30 year old hooker Nicky Kiss was, sadly, forced to announce his retirement from the game recently. He had been with Wigan since December 1977 when he signed from Saddleworth Rangers A.R.L.F.C. His record for the club reads as follows:

Year	App.	Sub.	App.	Tries	Goals	D.	Points
1977-78	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1978-79	15	2	—	—	—	—	3
1979-80	8	—	—	—	—	—	3
1980-81	32	—	3	—	—	—	15
1981-82	40	—	5	—	—	—	40
1982-83	9	—	—	—	—	—	32
1983-84	30	—	10	—	—	—	16
1984-85	39	—	—	—	—	—	8
1985-86	19	—	2	—	—	—	8
1986-87	31	1	4	—	—	—	8
1987-88	26	—	2	—	—	—	—
1988-89	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1989-90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1990-91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	257	3	36	—	—	—	134

Nicky also represented G.B., G.B. Collis and Lancashire and was a travelling reserve for G.B. Under 24. In 1977 he toured with the British Youth Squad and he completed a well-deserved testimonial year in 1988-89. He never gave less than 100% and was an expert in stealing the ball in the tackle. Yes, this son of Hungarian parents will be greatly missed on the Rugby League pitches of England.
By Paul Ogden

PUMA BALL CHALLENGE

To mark the launch of a new match ball specifically designed for Rugby League, Puma are to stage an international goal kicking competition before the Second British Coal Test at Old Trafford on Saturday 10 November.

Four of the world's top goal kickers will be representing their native country as follows:

- New Zealand FRANO BOTICA
- England GRAHAM STEADMAN
- Wales GARY PEARCE
- Australia A 1990 KANGAROO (to be announced)

The four goal kickers will compete for a £1,000 winner-takes-all Puma prize, the pre-match tournament kicking off at 1.30 pm.

Puma have signed a three year contract with the Rugby Football League for the launch of the official ball to be used at all major matches. Already this season the new Puma match ball has been used for the CIS Insurance Charity Shield and the First British Coach Test at Wembley.



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Michael Jackson, Pink Floyd, Fleetwood Mac, David Bowie,

Jean Michael Jarre

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	7	7	0	0	167	72	14
Widnes	7	5	0	2	167	104	10
Oldham	7	4	0	3	141	129	8
Featherstone	7	3	1	3	152	151	7
Hull K.R.	7	3	1	3	116	159	7
Leeds	6	3	0	3	126	100	6
Warrington	7	3	0	4	104	88	6
Bradford	7	3	0	4	137	142	6
Wakefield	6	3	0	3	101	122	6
Castleford	7	3	0	4	151	189	6
Wigan	5	2	1	2	114	93	5
Sheffield	7	2	1	4	136	147	5
St Helens	5	2	0	3	100	102	4
Rochdale	7	1	0	6	82	196	2

SECOND DIVISION

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salford	7	7	0	0	248	46	14
Halifax	8	6	0	2	262	93	12
Swinton	7	6	0	1	184	106	12
Carlisle	7	5	1	1	202	104	11
Leigh	6	5	0	1	188	58	10
Trafford	7	5	0	2	182	89	10
Doncaster	7	5	0	2	129	106	10
Whitehaven	7	5	0	2	114	92	10
Ryedale	7	4	1	2	165	104	9
Hunslet	7	4	0	3	189	132	8
Workington	7	4	0	3	113	100	8
Fulham	7	4	0	3	111	103	8
Huddersfield	7	3	0	4	125	146	6
Batley	5	2	0	3	57	66	4
Barrow	7	2	0	5	87	201	4
Dewsbury	7	1	0	6	69	132	2
Keighley	7	1	0	6	110	195	2
Bramley	6	1	0	5	82	198	2
Chorley	7	1	0	6	79	261	2
Nottingham C	7	1	0	7	71	247	0
Runcorn	7	0	0	7	73	261	0

NEXT AT CENTRAL PARK

WIGAN
v FEATHERSTONE R

Sunday 18th November 1990
Kick off 3.00 pm

Match of the Day WITH smiths wigan

Wigan Welcome

OLDHAM

FRIENDS and rivals Oldham are lying third in a topsy-turvy First Division which sees them and Featherstone Rovers in the top four and Wigan and St. Helens in the bottom four although the latter both have games in hand.

Oldham coach Tony Barrow is justifiably proud of his record at Central Park with his former club Warrington and will be keen to continue in the same vein with his new charges. Mike Ford and Richard Russell will be keen to prove a few points at their former club.

Wigan's best of last week's Test match Oldham will have had time to recover from their very hard contest with Warrington, which the "Roughyeds" won by 4 pts to 2.

That scoreline was a surprise in that each of their three previous home games had produced at least 50 points.

The club has recently begun a young policy along similar lines to the successful one of the 1970s which saw young talent such as Andy Goodway emerge. This time, players like Tony Barrow junior and half-back Tommy Martyn, who scored the winning try in the memorable 30pts-29 victory at Old Trafford in May, have emerged to take their place on the door of regular First Division football.

From the earliest days, Oldham were something of a boppy team, Wigan winning on 14 consecutive occasions in the 1940s and 50s with their outstanding post war side.

More recently, the Roughyeds ended Wigan's domination of the Lancashire Cup with a narrow victory in last season's semi-final.

Tony Barrow's aim is to stop the club becoming a yo-yo side and he feels that in the likes of John Henderson, Tony Anderson and the combative Australian John Cogger he has the quality in the squad to stay up and victories over Leeds and Warrington back up his claims.

Wigan's attacking style is an interesting Test victory over Australia, the game has had an injection of enthusiasm and support which should be reflected in today's crowd.

For Wigan, the third-week break could not have come at a better time.

For Oldham this afternoon will be another test of their ability to survive in the top-flight and we should be in for a fine afternoon's entertainment.

by Chris M.J. Wilson

... PEN PICTURES ...

JOHN COGGER: Born in Sydney, John spent 2½ seasons with Huncorn before becoming one of Tony Barrow's bargain boys for £15,000 in February 1989. His test debut for Wigan came in September. A year ago, he was named as skipper of Oldham to promotion in 1989/90 but has now been succeeded as captain by Mike Ford.

JOHN FAIRBANK: Born in Halifax and one of the famous five farming and Rugby League brothers, John signed for Oldham in the deal that took Hugh Waddell to Leeds in the late summer of 1988. Valued at £35,000 against Waddell's £85,000, Fairbank is now playing on the right wing after a 1990 summer stint in Australian country football.

MIKE FORD: A young man of 24 who has already played at Wembley and toured Australia. While with Wigan he picked up a Challenge Cup Winners medal, three Lancashire Cup medals (one lost), two John Players Trophy medals and a 1st Division Player of the Week award.

RICHARD RUSSELL: He joined Oldham for £65,000 in January 1989 and was an influential figure from scrum half during Oldham's headline hitting cup exploits during 1989/90.

RICHARD IRVING: Former Gt. Britain under 19 amateur international who played at left centre during Oldham's run to the Lancashire Cup Final in the Autumn of 1989. Now playing on the right wing after a 1990 summer stint in Australian country football.

PAUL LORD: Signed for Oldham as a 17-year-old from amateur rugby in Wakefield where his great pace attracted Oldham scouts. Came as a stand-off but has made his home on the left wing. One of Oldham's most prolific scorers, he has touched the gaps in the defence as well as hug the touch-line to his left.

TOMMY MARTYN: Baby of the squad at 18, Tommy has the perfect pedigree. His father and uncle both played for Gt. Britain as forwards. Remember Tony Snr. or Mick, who set scoring records for Leigh in the 50's and 60's?

Signed from Leigh Miners, Tommy Jnr. toured Australia with the BARLA Young Lions in 1989 and hit the headlines when he scored the winning try in Oldham's fantastic comeback against Hull K.F. in the 2nd Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford in May 1990.

KEITH NEWTON: Widnes born and bred, Keith

signed for the Chemicks from local amateur rugby. Made around 50 appearances, many of them substitute and jumped at the chance to sign for Oldham in January 1989. The fee of £12,000 was fixed by the Tribunal. Yet, at the time of £12,000 was a record for a player in the area. He played in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup 3rd round win at Widnes in 1990.

DUNCAN PLATT: Another Widnes player, Duncan Platt cost Oldham £35,000 in December 1988 and was one of Tony Barrow's first signings. Landed 135 goals last season despite damaging an ankle in the Lancashire Cup Final and missing the next seven matches.

PAUL ROUND: Paul was the first Oldham former Committee. The Tribunal ordered Oldham to pay St. Helens £25,000, then a club record. Played twice for Gt. Britain under 21's in 1987, and represented Saints at Widnes as substitute.

RICHARD RUSSELL: The bargain to beat all bargains. For £3,000 down Oldham snapped him up from Wigan in the summer of 1989. A Gt. Britain Colts and Under 21 player as a centre but switched to hooker in a master stroke.

BRETT CLARK: An Aussie who first came to England to play for St. Helens. Was the Saints stand-off in their 19-18 defeat by Halifax at Wembley in 1987. Joined Oldham at the start of the 1989-90 season.

TONY ANDERSON: The Club record buy at £75,000 from Halifax in the Spring of 1990. Had wrestled luck since moving from Yorkshire to Wigan as his second game for Oldham, he broke his leg. He has since returned to Yorkshire to play for the comeback, at Workington, he broke his leg.

NORMAN FRANCIS: Joined Oldham from Leeds for an undisclosed fee early on in the 1990-91 season.

RONNIE DUJANE: Signed from Warrington. Again, no fee given. Ronnie burst on to the international scene as a young centre in the early 1980s and toured in 1984 only to suffer serious knee damage in the opening game at Darwin, Northern Territory. He joined Oldham as an experienced utility man who can play in the back-row of the pack or in the centre.

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1984-85
DIV. ONE WIGAN 28-12 OLDHAM 10,628
DIV. ONE OLDHAM 19-28 WIGAN 6,038

1985-86
DIV. ONE WIGAN 18-26 OLDHAM 12,075
DIV. ONE OLDHAM 4-28 WIGAN 4,833

1986-87
LANCS OLDHAM 6-27 WIGAN 20,180
FINAL
RLCC OLDHAM 10- 8 WIGAN 10,134
RND 1
DIV. ONE WIGAN 54- 2 OLDHAM 11,108
DIV. ONE OLDHAM 6-24 WIGAN 4,592

1987-88 — DID NOT PLAY

1988-89
DIV. ONE WIGAN 40-18 OLDHAM 14,701
RLCC OLDHAM 4-12 WIGAN 9,402
RND 3
DIV. ONE OLDHAM 21-27 WIGAN 6,841

TOTAL 1989-90

PL	W	D	L	F	A	Grounds
12	9	—	2	302	148	118,135

WIGAN v OLDHAM — 1st LEAGUE MEETING

21st DEC. 1895 — OLDHAM 20 WIGAN 0

COMPLETE LEAGUE RECORD v OLDHAM

PL 168 W 96 D 6 L 66 F 2200 A 1633 GD +567

INCL. WAR & PEACE TIME LEAGUE FIXTURES

OLDHAM R.L.F.C. 1989-90 — DIVISION TWO

PL 28 W 24 D 0 L W F 879 A 325 PS 48

COMPETITION PROGRESS

LANCS. CUP

LOST FINAL v WARRINGTON 16-24

REGAL TROPHY

LOST ROUND 3 18-32 AT ST. HELENS

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP

LOST SEMI FINAL 6-10 v. WARRINGTON

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP (DIV. 2)

BEAT HULL K.R. 30-29 IN FINAL

LEADING SCORERS 1989-90

T LORD 29

G PLATT 126 + 7 T + 3 D G

MATCHFACTS Fox scores 5 tries in the win over Hun-

slet. Oldham concedes the most points of any winning

side 1989-90.

OLDHAM 50 KEIGHLEY 34

HEAD TO HEAD 1989-90

LANCS SEMI OLDHAM 19-18 WIGAN 8,603

WIGAN'S SCORERS G BLAKE, EDWARDS, PLATT G EDWARDS (3)

RECORD LEAGUE WIN v. OLDHAM

HOME 54-2 1934/35 1986/87

AWAY 28-4 1985/86

RECORD LEAGUE DEFEAT v. OLDHAM

HOME 23-48 1955/56

AWAY 0-43 1988/89

WIGAN'S LEADING SCORERS v. OLDHAM

1988-89 + 1989-90

T EDWARDS (5)

BELL (3)

BETTS (2)

7 PLAYERS SCORED 1 TRY EACH

G LYDON (8)

GREGORY (3) + 1 D.G.

EDWARDS (3)

THIS afternoon Oldham will be looking for their first win against Wigan at Central Park since March 31st, 1986, when they ran out surprise winners by 26 points to 18, thanks to tries from Warnecke, Kinwen, Foy and Hobbs and goals from Hobbs (4) and Worrall. In reply Wigan scored three tries through Hanley, Holden and Stephenson and three goals through Stephenson. Playing at left centre that day for Wigan was Richard Russell while Mike Ford occupied the number seven shirt for the 'Riversiders'. Today they are both likely to be in the Oldham line-up.

The last two league meetings between the sides at Central Park both ended in convincing victories for Wigan. In April 1987 they won 54-2 with Ellery Hanley scoring two tries, David Stephenson a try and 5 goals and Henderson Gill a try and 4 goals and in August 1988 they won 40-18 with Dean Bell grabbing a hat-trick of tries and Joe Lydon slotting over 6 goals.

The 'Roughyeds' also suffered defeat on the ground last season — at the hands of Warrington in the Rugby League Cup Semi-final — but had two controversial decisions gone their way it would probably have been Oldham and not the 'Wire' playing Wigan at Wembley earlier this year.

FIRST EVER MEETING

Oldham 20 Wigan 0 — December 21st, 1895 (League)
Oldham: Eagland, Taylor, S. Lees, Bradbury, McCutchem, Vartey, A. Lees, Bomser, Childs, Furness, J. Lees, Etchells, Hughes, Edwards, Merrill.
Tries: Taylor (2), Bradbury, S. Lees, McCutchem, Childs. Goal: S. Lees.
Wigan: Roberts, Walling, Winstanley, Jago, Walkden, W. Halliwell, Foster, Perkins, Benson, Brown, Blackburn, Yates, Unsworth, Rigby, Acton.
BIRTHDAYS

The following Wigan players have recently celebrated birthdays — Ian Gildart (21) — October 14th (the Australians didn't hand him many presents though!), Shaun Edwards (24), Steven Blakeley (18) — October 17th, Steven Bardsley (18) — October 30th and Paul Gartland (18) — November 2nd. The following will celebrate birthdays before the next home game: Ian Lucas (23) tomorrow.

by PAUL OGDEN

WIGAN		TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS ppg GLASS FIBRES Ltd.		OLDHAM																																																																																																	
Steve Hampson	1	Duncan Platt																																																																																																			
David Myers	2	Norman Francis																																																																																																			
Joe Lydon	3	Tommy Martyn																																																																																																			
Dean Bell	4	Tony Anderson																																																																																																			
Mark Preston	5	Paul Lord																																																																																																			
Shaun Edwards	6	Brett Clark																																																																																																			
Andy Gregory	7	Mick Ford																																																																																																			
Ian Lucas	8	John Fairbank																																																																																																			
Matin Dermott	9	Richard Russell																																																																																																			
Kelvin Skerrett	10	Keith Newton																																																																																																			
Andy Platt	11	Paul Round																																																																																																			
Denis Betts	12	Ronnie Duane																																																																																																			
Ellery Hanley	13	John Cogger																																																																																																			
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David Marshall	15																																																																																																				
COACH John Monie	HALF TIME	FINAL SCORE	COACH Tony Barrow																																																																																																		
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<p>MATCHBALL SPONSOR</p>		<p>CROMPTON Opticians 128 Whelley, Wigan. Tel: (0942) 496430 24 Heath Street, Golborne. Tel: (0942) 726061 6 Common Lane, Culcheth. Tel: (092576) 6888</p>		<p>THE COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL FAMILY EYECARE SERVICE</p>																																																																																																	

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