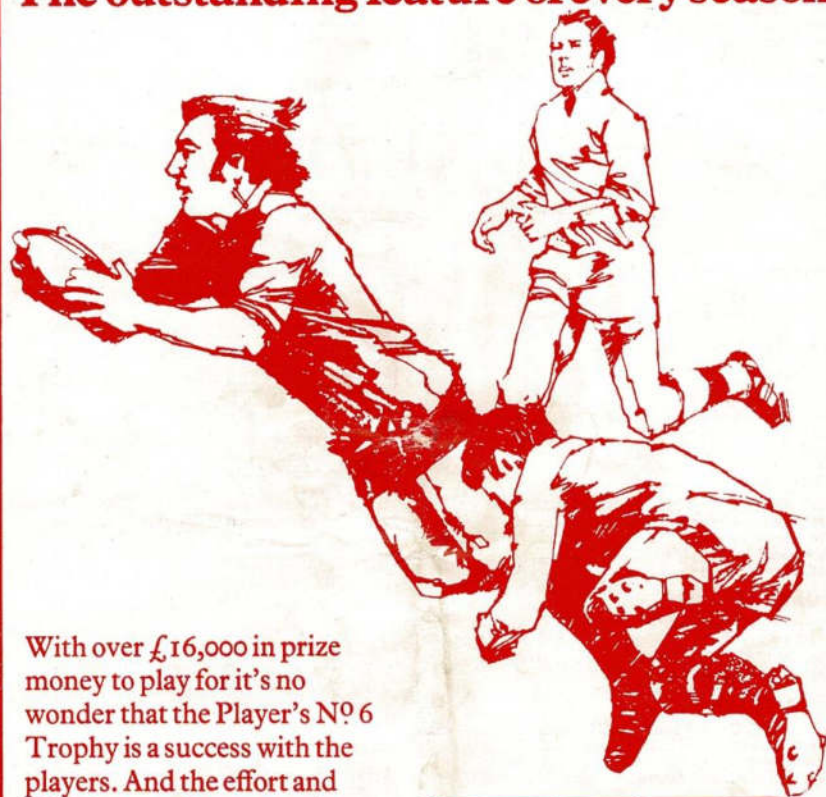


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B.B.C. 2 T.V. FLOODLIT COMPETITION
 Preliminary Round — Second Leg

Central Park

WIGAN

v OLDHAM 16

Tuesday, 18th Sept. 1973

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.



Official Programme

5p

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Tel. Wigan 43079

Colours: Cherry and White Hooped Jerseys, White Shorts

* * *

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A. E. Walls, H. T. Gostelow, W. Ackers, M. Ryan, C. H. Ratcliffe,
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Secretary: D. Bradley

Coach: G. Starkey

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Cover Picture: A flashback to the Sevens triumph—Colin Clarke shows the Trophy to the crowd.

Photograph by courtesy of "THE EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

Brian Batty on Rugby League

By
Brian
Batty
of the
"Daily Mail"



Rugby League has long been neglected in the world of literature when it comes to sporting publications. There have been several annuals and magazines but few have measured up to those in the field of soccer, cricket, golf and Rugby Union. But at last the game is given the sort of recognition and respect it deserves with the birth of the John Player Rugby League Year-book.

This edition is presented in a highly attractive and interesting form which should help lift the game's sagging image. It should fill a tremendous gap on the bookshelves of Rugby League fans who yearn to learn more about their own team, other teams and the game in general. It provides the sort of statistics that the average fan should enjoy reading about for after all Rugby League has a varied following from the professions, the offices, the mills and the mines.

These fans all have the same interests at heart and have helped to push the cloth cap image into the background in what some people like to insist is purely a working class game. There is a fine blend of the factual down-to-earth approach and sophisticated style in this book, which caters for the tastes of all

types of followers. It traces the breakaway from Rugby Union and provides histories of the game in this country, Australia, New Zealand, and France.

One of the most appealing features of this book, which I feel is reasonably priced even at £1.50, is the large number of photographs and the general glossy presentation. It has already met with an encouraging response from those players and officials who have had a chance to devour its contents.

Great Britain scrum half Steve Nash says: "I think it is a fine book and one which was needed in the game. I've enjoyed reading it and feel it is a book which you can repeatedly refer to as the season goes on." Welsh star David Watkins said: "It is a most comprehensive publication, attractively presented and I think it will appeal to everyone in the game."

For the best of Wigan Rugby League news and views read

Cliff Webb in the WIGAN OBSERVER

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Inside Central Park

Wigan and Oldham should know each other pretty well by now. Tonight's match is the third meeting of the two clubs this month, and they are paired again in a Northern League match at the end of September!

This curious situation has been brought about purely by the luck of the draw and other clubs have found themselves in similar circumstances. Castleford and Huddersfield cross each other's path frequently, while Leeds and Bradford Northern are enjoying more than their usual share of derby games. In Lancashire, Salford have to tackle Widnes in the first round of the Captain Morgan Trophy after knocking the same team out of the Country Cup Competition.

As you will know, Wigan have been drawn at home to Warrington in the Captain Morgan Trophy and a date for this match will be announced shortly.

Central Park has been chosen as the venue for this season's Great Britain versus France match. It will take place on Sunday, 17th February, 1974 — a date to note in your diary. Don't forget the match which takes place at Widnes tomorrow night when Lancashire entertain Yorkshire in a game which will decide the County Championship.

Wigan are now part way through a very busy nine day period during which four games will be played. On

Thursday we travel to Workington for our third cup-tie in six days. For any supporters who may be travelling, the kick-off in this Lancashire Cup semi-final is at 5.30 p.m. Apparently most Cumbrians are taking it for granted that Whitehaven and Workington Town will be this season's finalists, but both Salford and ourselves beg to differ on this point.

There has been an innovation this season on the international Rugby League scene. Home and away matches will be played between Great Britain and France at Under-21 level. Clubs have been asked to submit the names of likely candidates for the British team.

For the second successive match, a "curtain-raiser" is being staged at Central Park. On Saturday there was a match between local school teams from John Fisher and Golborne, and tonight it is the turn of the Oldham and Wigan Under-15's. This match will commence at approximately 6.15 p.m.

The Australian Rugby League tourists begin their programme with a match at Salford on 30th September. Even though Wigan have no fixture with the "Kangaroos" this time, we hope you will take the opportunity of watching them at another venue. The full itinerary is set out on page ten.

JOHN PLAYER RUGBY LEAGUE YEAR-BOOK

Get your copy NOW from the Club Secretary, Price £1-50.

The Oldham Story

The history of rugby football in Oldham goes back to February, 1873, when at a meeting at the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street, Oldham, it was decided to form a Rugby Union football club. Although rugby had previously been played in the town at Werneth, the Oldham club date their history from 1873. The first games were on a field behind the Glodwick Mill and the dressing rooms at the Shakespeare Hotel, Glodwick. The first match was against Stalybridge on 17th February, 1873, and the club's colours were black and amber.

A move was made to Clarksfield, where admission could be charged and in 1889 they moved to the present Watersheddings ground. Swinton were the first visitors and defeated their hosts.

Oldham were one of the pioneer members of the Northern Union when the "split" occurred in 1895 and in the first season they tied with Runcorn for the Lancashire section of the Championship. Another early honour was when they won the N.U. Challenge Cup, being the first Lancashire Club to take the trophy by beating Hunslet 19 points to nine at the Fallowfield Grounds, Manchester. Although Oldham have subsequently won the Challenge

Cup in 1925 and 1927 and been runners-up on four occasions they have never appeared at Wembley.

More recent successes have been achieved in the other competitions, mainly during the mid-'fifties when they were consistently high in the League and provided internationals such as Frank Pitchford, Alan Davies, Sid Little, Bernard Ganley, Charlie Winslade and Derek Turner. The Northern League Championship was won in 1956-57 when Hull were the runners-up, the Lancashire County Cup was won on three successive occasions in 1956, '57 and '58 and the Lancashire County League trophy was obtained in seasons 1956-57 and 1957-58. Oldham won the Second Division Championship in 1963-64.

The first secretary of the Northern League from 1895 to 1920 was an Oldham man, Mr. Joseph Platt, who was elected Secretary at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, when the "split" from Rugby Union took place.

The ground capacity of Watersheddings is now 18,500 with covered accommodation on all sides. The record attendance before the new limit was imposed was 28,000 for a match against Huddersfield in 1912.

B.B.C. 2 TV FLOODLIT COMPETITION

Tonight Wigan will endeavour to improve on the two point advantage gained in the first leg of this Preliminary Round match at Oldham last Tuesday. This will entitle us to a home game against the winners of the Rochdale Hornets and Swinton tie.

Last year Wigan progressed to the second round. Halifax were the visitors to Central Park in the first round, and they were defeated by 26 points to six. However, in the next round - another home game - Leigh gained a narrow victory by 16 points to 14. Wigan supporters

were still able to witness the final for this was contested at Central Park by Widnes and Leigh.

The highest crowd at a Floodlit Final was recorded at Central Park in 1968 when Wigan played St. Helens.

B.B.C. 2 Floodlit Final

1965	Castleford 4	St. Helens 0
1966	Castleford 7	Swinton 2
1967	Castleford 8	Leigh 5
1968	Wigan 7	St. Helens 4
1969	Leigh 11	Wigan 6
1970	Leeds 9	St. Helens 5
1971	St. Helens 8	Rochdale H. 2
1972	Leigh 5	Widnes 0

Wigan Rugby Supporters' Association

Away Travel

The Supporter's Association are running coaches to all away matches this season. Why not join us?

Coaches will leave from the Market Square, Wigan, starting with the match at Featherstone on Sunday, September 23rd.

Details can be obtained from our hut on matchdays or from the secretary's office during the week.

Souvenir Shop

We have quite a selection of items on sale at our hut on the forecourt, which is open on all match days, before and after the game.

They include:- Club Ties (both Red and Blue) - Key Rings - Pens - Lapel Badges - Car Stickers - Ladies Combs - Old Programmes and Photographs: Postcard or 10 in. x 8 in. (individual players or full team photo's).

We hope to have some of the following items on sale soon, and any other ideas for souvenirs would be welcomed. Tee-Shirts - Pennants - Coffee Mugs - Large Pens - Stainless Steel Cuff Links and Pendants.

If anyone has any old programmes which are no longer wanted would they please see any committee member or call at the hut.

* * *

On Wednesday, 5th September, we held a Film Show in the Central Park tearoom. Unfortunately, due to our lack of advertising, it was not as well attended as our previous show. Nevertheless, it was enjoyed by all who came and we hope to have another one in a few weeks time, so look-out for details.

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9

Colours: White Jersey, White Shorts,

1. KEVIN O'LOUGHLIN

2. G. VIGO

3. D. HILL

4. W. FRANCIS

5. KIERON O'LOUGHLIN

6. W. AYRES

7. J. NULTY

8. A. BENCE

9. J. GRAY

10. D. WATTS

11. R. IRVING

12. P. SMETHURST

13. E. CUNNINGHAM

Substitutes:

14. T. CASSIDY

15. T. HOLLINGSWORTH

Half-Time: 9 pts.

Final Score: 9 pts.

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LEFT CENTRE
LEFT WINGSTAND OFF
SCRUM HALFFRONT ROW
HOOKER
FRONT ROW
SECOND ROW
SECOND ROW
LOOSE FORWARD

Referee:

R. WOOD (Dalton-in-Furness)

Touch Judges:

E. Lea

T. Clayton

(Two Substitutes can be allowed at any time in the game
and may themselves be replaced, but once only)**OLDHAM**

16

Colours: Red and White Hooped Jersey,
White Shorts

1. J. BLAIR

2. M. ELLIOTT

3. T. DAVIES

4. A. WAINWRIGHT

5. C. O'BRIEN

6. M. MURPHY

7. ~~T. GORMAN~~ A.E. AVANAYLI8. ~~T. CLAWSON~~ K. ASHCROFT

9. K. TAYLOR

10. ~~K. ASHCROFT~~ F. HALL

11. N. GOODWIN

12. G. MUNRO

13. J. FARRELL

Substitutes:

14. S. WHITMORE

15. PETERS

Half-Time: 7 pts.

Final Score: 16 pts.

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1973 AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE TOUR

Sunday, 30th September	v. Salford	<i>kick-off</i> 3.00 p.m.
Wednesday, 3rd October	v. Wakefield Trinity	7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 7th October	v. Dewsbury	3.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 10th October	v. Castleford	7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 14th October	v. Widnes	3.00 p.m.
Friday, 19th October	v. Oldham	7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 24th October	v. Cumbria at Whitehaven	7.15 p.m.
Sunday, 28th October	v. Bradford Northern	3.00 p.m.
Saturday, 3rd November	v. Great Britain (1) at Wembley	3.00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7th November	v. Hull Kingston Rovers	7.30 p.m.
Saturday, 10th November	v. Huddersfield	3.00 p.m.
Sunday, 11th November	v. Leigh	3.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 13th November	v. St. Helens	7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 18th November	v. Featherstone Rovers	2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 24th November	v. Great Britain (2) at Headingley	3.15 p.m.
Saturday, 1st December	v. Great Britain (3) at War'gton	3.00 p.m.

Seats for the Wembley Test cost £2, £1.50, and £1. For the other Tests seats cost £1.50 and £1.

JOHN PLAYER RUGBY LEAGUE YEARBOOK 1973-74

This illustrated, informative annual, the first of its kind, is a MUST for all Rugby League supporters. Details at club and league levels, the statistics of the game, its history, articles by well-known personalities, this annual satisfies a long-felt want. It will be available shortly after mid-September but you can book your copy now either with your club or with the Rugby League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT. Price £1.50, postage and packing 15p.

Wigan in Action



Derek Watts forces his way over for one of his tries in the Lancashire Cup-tie against Oldham.

Photograph by kind permission of "EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

RUGBY LEAGUE AT CENTRAL PARK

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION

Saturday, 22nd September, 1973

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Wigan 'A' v Warrington 'A'

NORTHERN LEAGUE

WIGAN v OLDHAM

Saturday, 29th September, 1973

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Wigan in Action

John Gray outpaces Wolford of Bramley in the recent League game



Photograph by kind permission of "EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

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For The Record

Appearances, Scorers,
Results

Northern League (25th August, 1973)

Whitehaven 17 Wigan 12

Wigan: Kevin O'Loughlin; Vigo, Hill, Francis, Kieron O'Loughlin; Ayres, Nulty; Ashcroft, Hickey, Hinchcliffe, Gray, Hollingsworth, Cunningham.
Substitutes: Whittle, Watts.

Scorers - Tries: Vigo, Gray; Goals: Gray (3).

Northern League (27th August, 1973)

Wigan 9 Leigh 12

Wigan: Francis; Vigo, Hill, Whittle, Kieron O'Loughlin; Ayres, Nulty; Watts, Hickey, Smethurst, Hollingsworth, Gray, Kevin O'Loughlin.
Substitutes: Cassidy, Regan.

Scorers - Try: Regan; Goals: Nulty (2), Gray.

Attendance: 7,437

Lancashire Cup (1st September, 1973)

Oldham 12 Wigan 20

Wigan: Kevin O'Loughlin; Vigo, Whittle, Francis, Keiron O'Loughlin; Ayres, Nulty; Bence, Clarke, Watts, Irving, Smethurst, Cunningham.
Substitutes: Cassidy, Hollingsworth.

Scorers - Tries: Watts (2), Irving, Ayres; Goals: Nulty (4).

Lancashire Shield - Second Leg (29th August, 1973)

Wigan 'A' 34 Huyton 'A' 2

Wigan: Highton; Howlett, A. N. Other, Armstrong, Hornby; Cassidy, Coyle; Farrington, Hickey, Watts, Frost, Herbert, Clarke.
Substitutes: Green, Scaife.

Scorers - Tries: Coyle (2), Farrington (2), Armstrong, Hornby, Hickey, Clarke; Goals: Herbert (5).

Lancashire Combination (1st September, 1973)

Wigan 'A' 32 Rochdale Hornets 'A' 0

Wigan: Highton; Howlett, A. N. Other, Armstrong, Hornby; Green, Coyle; Farrington, Hickey, Hinchcliffe, Herbert, Gray, Frost.
Substitutes: A. N. Other, Roberts.

Scorers - Tries: A. N. Other (3), Hornby, Coyle, Gray; Goals: Herbert (7).

Lancashire Combination (4th September, 1973)

St. Helens 'A' 20 Wigan 'A' 13

Wigan: Highton; Howlett, A. N. Other, Newman, Hornby; Cassidy, Coyle; A. N. Other, Hickey, Hinchcliffe, Gray, Herbert, Frost.
Substitutes: Green, Roberts.

Scorers - Try: Cassidy; Goals: Herbert (4), Gray.

Lancashire Combination (8th September, 1973)

Wigan 'A' 15 Widnes 'A' 17

Wigan: Highton; Howlett, Whittle, Newman, Hornby; Parr, Coyle; Farrington, Hickey, Hinchcliffe, A. N. Other, Wheeler, Gray.
Substitutes: Green, Scaife.

Scorers - Tries: Hornby, Scaife, Parr; Goals: Gray (3).

First
Team

Fixtures

'A'
Team

AUGUST

11 Sat	Sevens (2.15)	H	
14 Tues	Warrington Locker Cup (7.30)	H	13 14
18 Sat	Bramley (3.00)	H	23 2
25 Sat	Whitehaven (3.00)	A	12 17
27 Mon	Leigh (7.30)	H	9 12

SEPTEMBER

1 Sat	Oldham (Lancs. Cup) (3.00)	A	20 12
8 Sat	2nd Round Lancs. Cup	Bye	
11 Tues	Oldham B.B.C. 2 Prelim Rd. (7.30)	A	14 12
15 Sat	Batley Players No. 6 1st Rd. (3.00)	H	34 0
18 Tues	Oldham B.B.C. 2 Pre. Rd. (7.30)	H	
20 Thurs	Workington (Lancs Cup S.F. (5.30)	A	
23 Sun	Featherstone (3.30)	A	
29 Sat	Oldham (3.00)	H	

OCTOBER

7 Sun	Leigh (3.30)	A	
13 Sat	Wakefield (3.00)	H	
19 Fri	Salford (7.30)	A	
27 Sat	Hull K.R. (3.00)	H	

NOVEMBER

4 Sun	Rochdale (3.00)	A	
11 Sun	Castleford (3.00)	A	
17 Sat	Warrington (3.00)	H	
25 Sun	Oldham (3.00)	A	

DECEMBER

1 Sat	Dewsbury (3.00)	H	
8 Sat	Featherstone (3.00)	H	
15 Sat	Bramley (3.00)	A	
26 Wed	St. Helens (3.00)	H	
29 Sat	Leeds (3.00)	A	

JANUARY

1 Tues	Warrington (3.00)	A	
5 Sat	Leeds (3.00)	H	
13 Sun	Hull K.R. (3.00)	A	
26 Sat	Castleford (3.00)	H	

FEBRUARY

2 Sat	R.L.C.C. 1st Round		
9 Sat	Widnes (3.00)	H	
17 Sun	Dewsbury (3.00)	A	
23 Sat	R.L.C.C. 2nd Round		

MARCH

3 Sun	Wakefield (3.30)	A	
9 Sat	R.L.C.C. 3rd Round		
16 Sat	Whitehaven (3.00)	H	
24 Sun	Widnes (3.00)	A	
30 Sat	Rochdale (3.00)	H	

APRIL

12 Fri	St. Helens (3.00)	A	
15 Mon	Salford (3.00)	H	

F A

AUGUST

10 Fri	Warrington (Friendly)	A	20 19
21 Tues	Huyton (Lancs. Shield) (7.00)	A	21 21
29 Wed	Huyton (Lancs. Shield) (7.30)	H	34 2

SEPTEMBER

1 Sat	Rochdale (3.00)	H	32 0
4 Tues	St. Helens (7.30)	A	13 20
8 Sat	Widnes (3.00)	H	15 17
22 Sat	Warrington (3.00)	H	
29 Sat	Oldham (3.00)	A	

OCTOBER

6 Sat	Leigh (3.00)	H	
12 Fri	St. Helens (7.30)	A	
20 Sat	Salford (3.00)	H	
27 Sat	Rochdale (3.00)	A	

NOVEMBER

10 Sat	Swinton (3.00)	H	
16 Fri	Warrington (7.30)	A	
24 Sat	Oldham (3.00)	H	

DECEMBER

1 Sat	Swinton (3.00)	A	
8 Sat	Leigh (3.00)	A	
15 Sat	Workington (3.00)	H	
22 Sat	Huyton (3.00)	H	
29 Sat	Warrington (3.00)	H	

JANUARY

11 Fri	Widnes (7.30)	A	
19 Sat	Widnes (3.00)	H	

FEBRUARY

1 Fri	St. Helens (7.30)	H	
8 Fri	Widnes (7.30)	A	
16 Sat	Barrow (3.00)	H	

MARCH

1 Fri	Warrington (7.30)	A	
16 Sat	Workington (3.00)	A	
23 Sat	Barrow (3.00)	A	
30 Sat	Rochdale (3.00)	A	

APRIL

3 Wed	Huyton (7.00)	A	
12 Fri	St. Helens (11.00)	H	
16 Tues	Salford (7.30)	A	