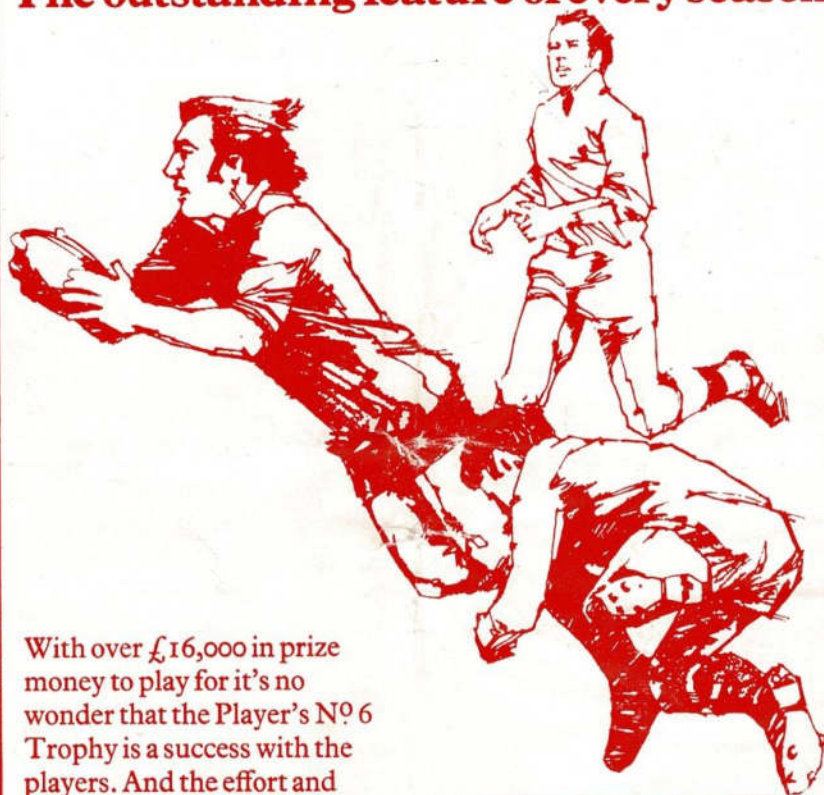


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**Northern Rugby Football League
Central Park**

WIGAN

v OLDHAM

Saturday, 29th Sept., 1973

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.



Official Programme

5p

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* * *

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Monday, 1st October,
BARBARA DIXON

Monday, 8th October,
MIKE HARDING

Brian Batty on Rugby League

By
Brian
Batty
of the
"Daily Mail"



The sporting life of Doug Laughton has been clouded by a succession of injuries since he exploded onto the international scene in 1970. Laughton was the aggressive running second row forward who helped lift Britain off the floor to win the high scoring Second and Third Test in Sydney and clinch the Ashes. He captained Britain when they swamped New Zealand at Swinton in the World Cup but was switched from the loose forward for the final, which Britain lost to Australia. Since those action-packed times Laughton has battled to overcome one of the worst injury records suffered by an English player and has changed clubs into the bargain.

At the start of the 1972 season Laughton was out for four weeks with a broken thumb and then for five months with cartilage trouble, ruling him out of the Kiwi Tests after being named as skipper. He was set to return to the international scene against France when it was discovered he had broken his jaw. So Laughton set his sights on the World Cup in France until his hopes and ambitions collapsed when his knee went yet again and he talked of quitting the game.

"I was sick to the teeth with injuries and hospitals," recalls Doug. "I thought I might as well pack it

in and concentrate on my business interests. "It seemed there was a jinx sitting on my shoulder and I couldn't get cracking at either club or international level." Wigan finally sold their star to Widnes, where he is now making a determined effort to regain his Great Britain spot under the guidance of the great loose forward Vince Karalius.

"Doug is looking really fast and dangerous and he must have wonderful chance of making the side," says Vince. With a summer spent on weight lifting training and riding a bike to strengthen his knee muscles, Laughton is down to 13 stone 6 lb. — almost a stone lighter than when he toured Down Under. "I'd love to have another crack at the Aussies for I reckon we can field a side to beat them," he says. "They'll bring a big pack and will be fit but we've got the skill and pace to overcome that."

For the best of Wigan Rugby League news and views read

Cliff Webb in the WIGAN OBSERVER

★ EVERY FRIDAY — 4p. ★

The top paper for accurate reports and action pictures.

Cover Picture: John Gray reaches high above the Batley defence to get his pass in.

Photograph by courtesy of "THE EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

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Inside Central Park

September has been a month of mixed fortunes for Wigan. It began well with the first-round Lancashire Cup win at Oldham and continued in the same vein, and at the same ground, when another victory was achieved in the first leg of the Floodlit Competition match. This was followed by the defeat of Batley in the first round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy in a match which never really came alive, although there were some very good tries.

Then came the most disappointing part of the month — the defeat by Oldham in the return leg of the Floodlit Competition match. Oldham raised their game while Wigan never got into gear; the final result was as abysmal as the weather.

But this was a prelude to a splendid Lancashire Cup semi-final win at Workington. This was a tremendous all-round performance and every Wigan player made an impression during the game. Colin Clarke, who had been suffering from a leg strain, came back to lead the forwards well, and Stuart Wright also made a welcome return after injury. Bill Francis had probably his best game of the season, scattering the Town defence time after time.

It was unfortunate that Jim Nulty broke his collar-bone late in the game. He will be out of action for about five weeks.

In their fourth game in nine days the team produced another good performance at Featherstone on Sunday. There was another late downpour which probably pleased

the Featherstone forwards, but for the first 20 minutes Wigan seemed to be getting the upperhand. Featherstone took control of the game for the next quarter but Wigan came back strongly and eventually took the lead only to lose by a late drop goal by Steve Nash. A win would have been a great boost but even in defeat the team showed plenty of spirit.

* * *

The Lancashire Cup Final will be played at Warrington on Sat., 13th October. Our opponents are Salford who defeated Whitehaven on Tuesday before a large crowd at the Recreation Ground.

* * *

Stuart Wright was ruled out of the Featherstone game because of a knock on the shoulder during the Workington Town match, but has not had to miss training. Peter Rowe is making very good progress following his cartilage operation, and Bill Davies is improving steadily. In the past two months he has progressed from using crutches to a caliper and is now walking without any aid at all.

* * *

We extend a welcome today to Oldham for our fourth meeting this month. The three previous encounters have ended in away wins, but we hope to put a stop to that today. We were very disappointed to be dismissed from the Floodlit Competition at that stage and we must make amends this afternoon.

Wigan 'A'

The 'A' team have made an encouraging start this season and have attracted crowds approaching 500 people for their last two games.

They had a successful afternoon against a strong Warrington side last Saturday. Dave Robinson made a welcome return to action in this game and played the full 80 minutes. The result was 9-6 in Wigan's favour. The only try of the match being scored by our Australian trialist John Glassington who played at stand-off.

Earlier in the season the 'A' team defeated Huyton to qualify for the second round of the Lancashire Shield. Our opponents are not yet known.

Fullback Tommy Highton has been a consistent and steadying influence on the team, whilst Jimmy Hornby has looked very useful indeed on the left wing. Wigan are in the fortunate position of having two top-class scrum-halves, and Bernard Coyle was again outstanding against Warrington.

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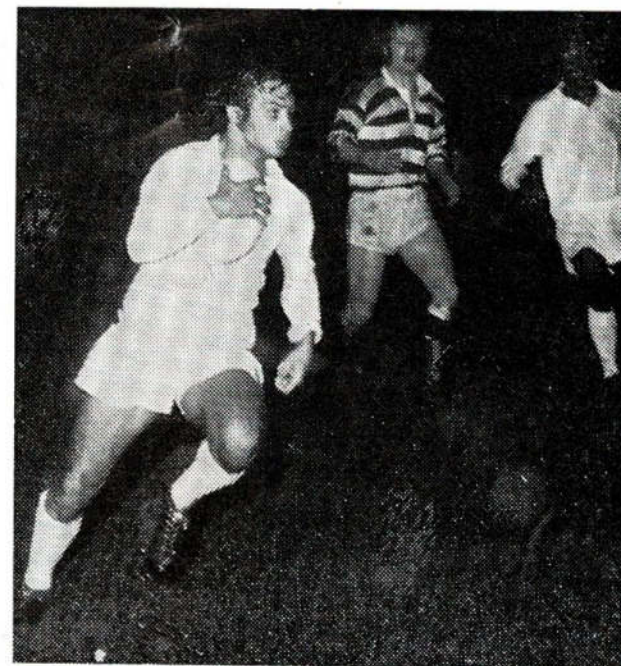
OUTFITTERS TO WIGAN FOOTBALL CLUB

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TELEPHONE WIGAN 82398

Wigan in Action



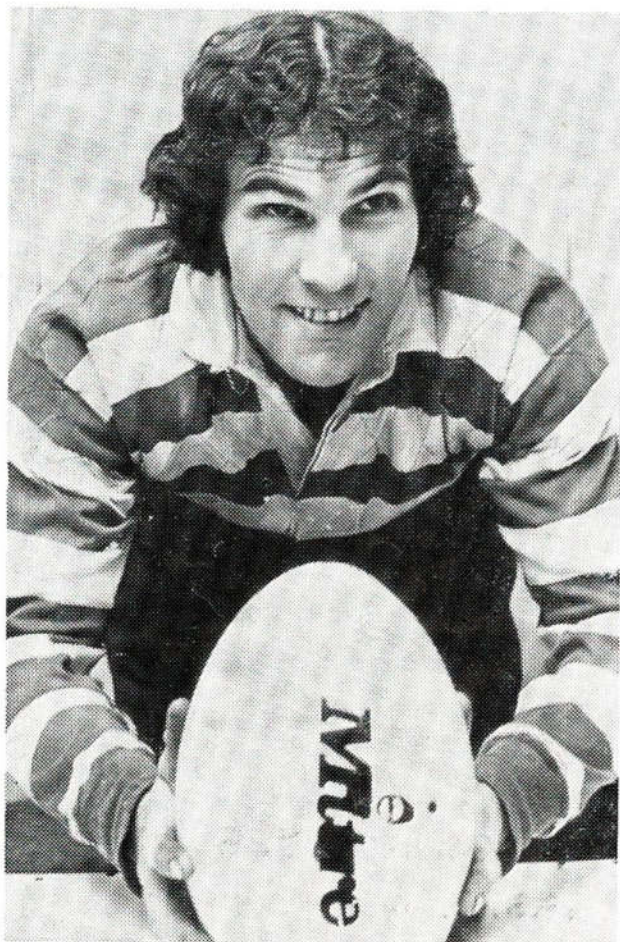
Above: A try for recent signing Bob Irving



Right:
Warren Ayres on the
attack during the Floodlit
Competition match
against Oldham.

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Colin Tyrer, our goalkicking full-back has resumed training and will soon be back in action.

Photograph by kind permission of "EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

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 with the Club Secretary, Price £1.50

Wigan Rugby Supporters' Association

Away Travel

Our next away game is the League match at Leigh on Sunday, 7th October (kick-off 3.30 p.m.).

Would anyone wanting to travel on our coach please book at the hut before or after the game, or call at the Secretary's Office during the week.

Cuff-Links

We hope to have Stainless Steel cuff-links on sale for Christmas, showing the Wigan coat of arms and inscribed "Wigan R.L.F.C."

If you are interested in buying them please call at the hut for more details.

Pens

We now have in stock a new set of cherry and white pens. They are always a very popular item in our

Souvenir Shop, and we will shortly be getting new giant pens, similarly inscribed "Wigan R.L.F.C."

Colin Clark Testimonial Year

As you will probably know, there have been various fund-raising events for Colin Clarke's testimonial which comes to a close in December. We will be keeping you informed of any forthcoming events which you may wish to attend.

There will be a testimonial draw in the Social Club on Sunday, 9th December. Prizes will include:

1st - five days in Majorca for two (arranged by Kiwi Travel).

2nd - a mini weekend in London for 2 (arranged by Nationwide).

3rd - two quart bottles of whiskey (donated by Mr. Ken Cowap).

Tickets (at five for 10p) can be obtained from the Testimonial Committee or any member of the Supporters Association Committee.

RUGBY LEAGUE AT CENTRAL PARK

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION

Saturday, 6th October, 1973

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Wigan 'A' v Leigh 'A'

NORTHERN LEAGUE

WIGAN v HULL K. R.

Saturday, 27th October, 1973

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.



Two trialists from "Down under" - John Glassington from Australia and Don Wheeler from New Zealand.

Photograph by kind permission of "EVENING POST AND CHRONICLE"

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For The Record

Appearances, Scorers,
Results

WIGAN PLAYERS RECORDS — SEASON 1973-74

(up to and including 23rd September, 1973)

1st TEAM APPEARANCES AND TRY SCORERS

	Appearances All Matches	League Matches	BBC 2 TV Competition	Players No. 6	R.L.C.C.	Lancs. Cup	1974 Club Championship	Locker Cup	TOTAL
Ashcroft	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ayres	10	2	1	1	—	3	—	—	7
Bence	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cassidy	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clarke	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cunningham	9	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Francis	9	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Gray	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Hickey	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hill	9	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Hinchcliffe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollingsworth	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Irving	5	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Nulty	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
O'Loughlin, Kieron	10	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	4
O'Loughlin, Kevin	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smethurst	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vigo	10	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Watts	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Whittle	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wright	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TRIES SCORED BY SUBSTITUTE

Regan	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	11	3	8	—	8	—	3	—	33

FIRST TEAM GOAL SCORERS

Nulty	6	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	15
Gray	4	7	5	—	—	—	1	—	17
Francis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	12	7	5	—	8	—	2	—	34

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	9 14
20 Thurs	Workington (Lancs Cup S.F. (5.30)	A	20 4
23 Sun	Featherstone (3.30)	A	13 14
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	9 6
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	