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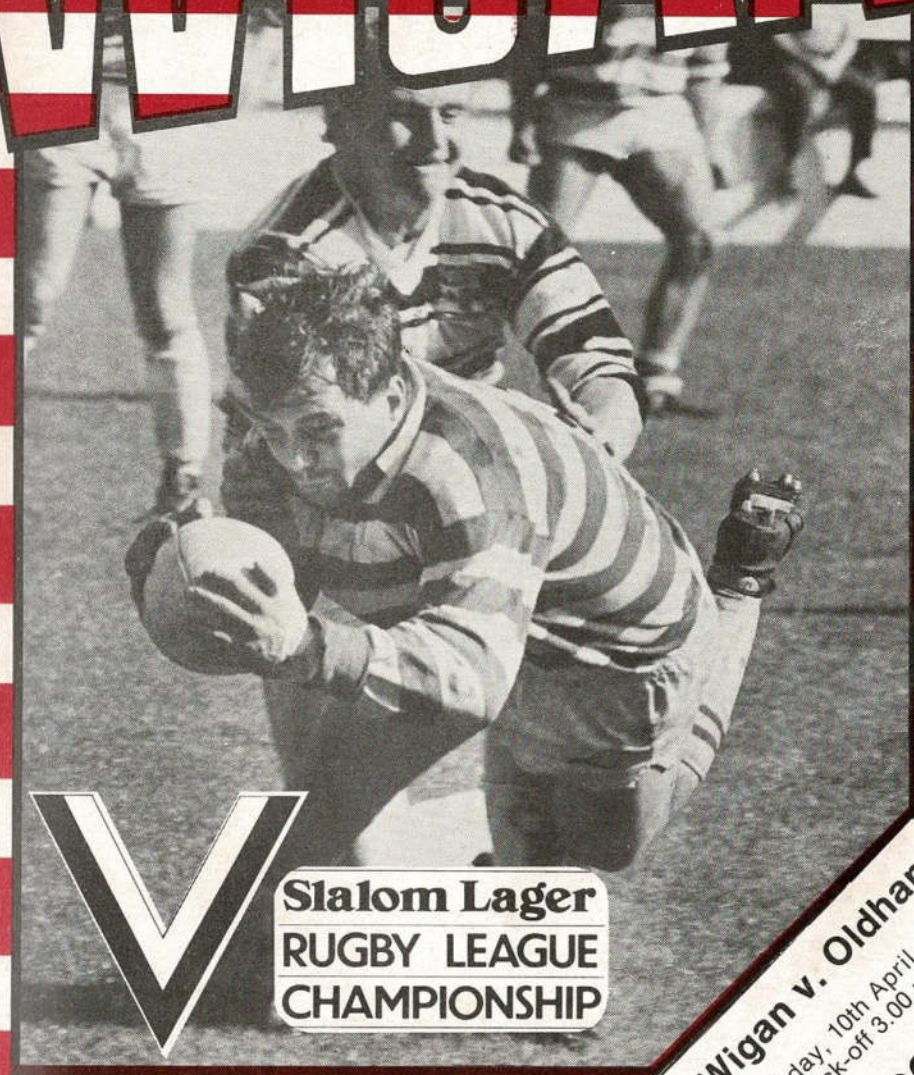
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WIGAN



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CHAMPIONSHIP

Wigan v. Oldham
Sunday, 10th April, 1983
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

30p

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Murphy



Thanks for your tremendous support during the last two games.

Our two games against St. Helens and Warrington have been hard bruising battles and on many occasions you provided the lads with that extra lift. Both St. Helens and Warrington came with something to prove and I was proud of the spirit that our lads showed in winning both games. There is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm which seems to be coming right through from the new board, the players and yourselves.

A wonderful illustration of the relationship between the lads and yourselves was the wonderful ovation you gave to Glyn Shaw on Good Friday. Glyn had a lot of success at Widnes but I am sure that he never experienced anything as warm and sincere as your reception for him on Good Friday. He thanks you all.

So we are still in the Championship with a shout, after a long hard season it is marvellous to still be considered as Championship contenders. We must of course give it everything we've got today against Oldham to keep up the pressure. Everyone comes here hoping to win at our famous ground, and it's up to us to make sure that we hold our present strong position.

We will give it everything we have got and if we are still in with a shout, stick with us for our final two away games.

Yours in sport,
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Central Park Chatter

WELCOME TO OLDHAM

This afternoon we welcome to Central Park our friends, and supporters from Oldham.

Last season Oldham were promoted from Division Two. They were Champions of Division Two for the 1981-82 season. At the present time they are placed in seventh position in the Division One League table. So they will be doing their utmost to win this match to keep their hopes alive for a top eight play-off in the Premiership.

Earlier in the season in the league encounter at Oldham the match ended in a draw, with the score being 11-11. Over the years Oldham like many other Clubs have had many star players in their teams. Players like Alan Davies, full-back Bernard Ganley and forwards like Terry Clawson, Derek Turner, plus many others. More present day players who have made the headlines at Oldham are men like Ray Ashton the leading try scorer for Oldham last year with 26 tries. Mick Parrish with his superb goal-kicking. Terry Flanagan and Des Foy the ex-Widnes player, all these players are capable of winning matches should the opportunity arise.

So today we look forward to an entertaining and exciting game.

MATCH SPONSORS

We welcome today's sponsors who are of course RATHBONE BROTHERS LIMITED of Central Bakery, Newtown, Wigan. Their Managing Director is, of course, Mr. Tom Rathbone, who is also a Director of the Club. Mr. Rathbone has been a life long supporter of the Club and has generously sponsored games before ever joining the Board. The company itself are of course famous quality bakers whose products are household names in the area. We sincerely hope that the company and their guests enjoy their day at Central Park.

MATCH BALL SPONSORS

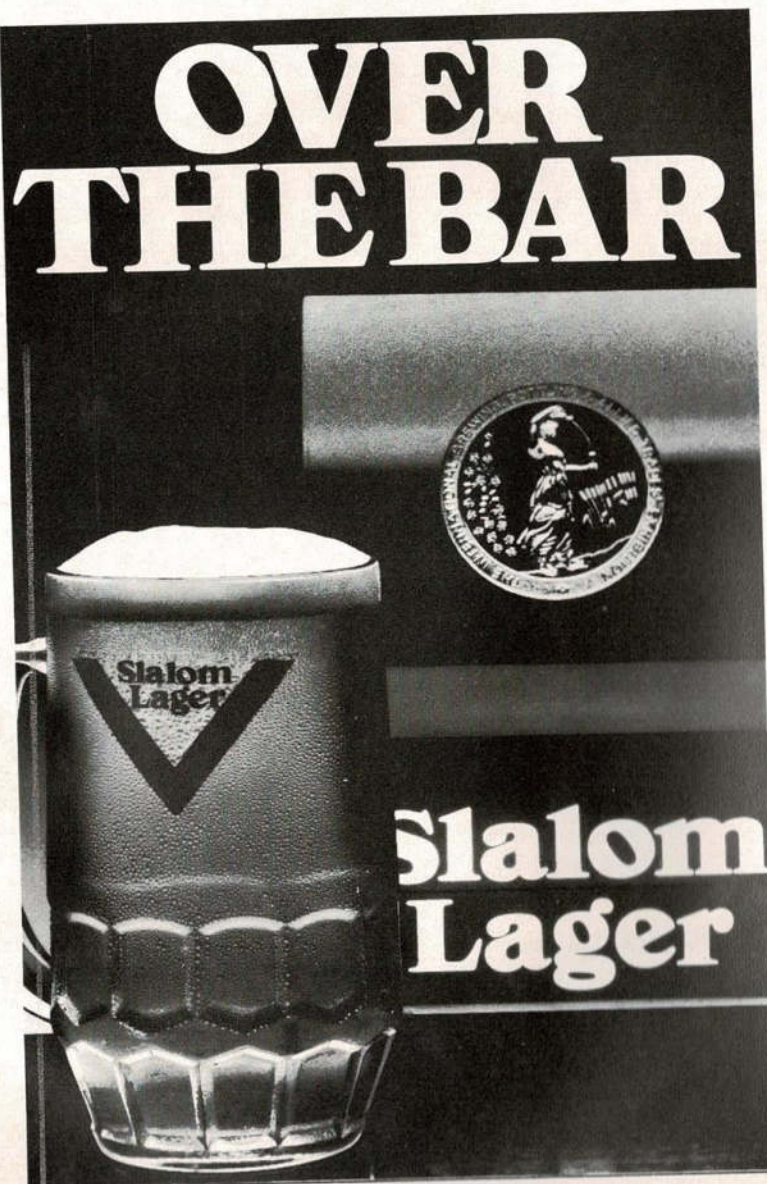
We offer our sincere thanks to this afternoon's match ball sponsors who are MODERN PLAN INSULATION (NORTH WEST) LTD. of Coniston Street, Leigh. They specialise in dri-fil cavity wall insulation, roof insulation, damp proof coursing, timber preservation and Add-a-Pane double glazing. We hope everyone connected with their company have an enjoyable afternoon.

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Matthew Brown *

Half-Time Quiz

1. Who holds the Oldham Club record for most goals in a season?
2. Who were the 1982 Premiership winners?
3. An Oldham player scored in every match for his Club last season 1981-82. What was his name?
4. Who was Wigan's leading try scorer for the 1981-82 season?
5. How many appearances have Oldham made in the Lancashire Cup Final?
6. An ex-Great Britain wingman is now the new Doncaster coach. Name the player.

Answers on page 25

COVER PHOTO

Nicky goes over the oppositions line to score a well earned try. (Photo by courtesy of the Reporter Group.)

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BEST IN THE NORTH WEST



Cliff Webb

**Rugby League
Correspondent
of the Wigan Observer**

Today brings Wigan's last home league game of the season and they could not wish for better opponents than the successful Oldham team, whose record this season has been really impressive following their promotion to the First Division.

Personally I believe that Wigan have only an outside chance of the championship itself, in view of the two tough league games they yet face at Featherstone where they have not won since 1970—and against Widnes away.

But the Premiership will certainly see Wigan figuring prominently in the final stages, unless things go drastically wrong for the team.

Today, much interest among Wigan fans will be centred around the return of Oldham winger Green Vigo to his old Central Park stamping ground, where he once equalled the Wigan individual try scoring record for one game by scoring seven tries.

After leaving Wigan a few seasons ago, Green seemed to have mixed fortunes. He did not have a particularly successful spell with Swinton, but now with Oldham he seems to be recapturing some of his best try scoring form and Wigan will have to be at their best to keep this South African speed merchant away from their line today.

The two sides last met at Watersheddings last October, when they shared the spoils in an 11–11 draw. But that was a game which should have seen Oldham well beaten, as Wigan were winning 11–3 with only a few minutes of the match left.

However it shows the depth of talent and character in the Oldham side these days that they did not just accept the apparently inevitable. Their deadly duo of scrum half Ashton and loose forward Flanagan pulled Oldham back from defeat at the last moment.

So today Wigan, who need all the points they can get if they want to win the championship, or at least second spot in the table, will be all out to show that they have no intention of letting Oldham off the hook this time.

This has been one of Wigan's best seasons, the best in fact, since the glory days of the early 1970's, and coach Alex Murphy dearly wants to put another trophy, if not two more, on the Wigan sideboard.



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Big Danny Campbell powers forward to break the oppositions defence.
 (Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Reporter)



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FEATHERSTONE ROVERS—WEMBLEY APPEAL

Featherstone Rovers have qualified to meet current holders Hull in the 1983 State Express Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on 7th May.

Featherstone Rovers Chairman Bob Ashby has forwarded the following letter to all Lancashire Clubs:—

"This year's Wembley clash has become a David and Goliath meeting. Hull are the game's big spenders, Championship favourites with the top gate and an expensive array of International stars. We are determined to cause one of Wembley's biggest upsets, despite being relegation haunted, with our homespun talent largely recruited from our pit village of 14,000 inhabitants.

This compares with Hull's population of more than 300,000 and as this is an all—Yorkshire Final, Featherstone Rovers appeal to all Lancashire Rugby League fans to adopt us for our big day on May 7th.

Come and join us at the tunnel end of Wembley as we bid to repeat the style of football which knocked out St. Helens and Bradford Northern, once again entering a cup tie as underdogs.

Featherstone is a colliery village and we hope that our mining colleagues West of the Pennines will join ranks and back us at Wembley.

OLDHAM'S RECENT SIGNINGS



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MICK MORGAN

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The sweatshirt has a silver grey body with navy blue pinstripes and navy blue sleeves and features the RL symbol and the words RUGBY LEAGUE.

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The sweatshirt is priced £8.50 plus £1.00 package and postage from:
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Brian Batty on Rugby League

An epidemic of head injuries is alarming club officials and coaches—to say nothing of players—throughout the game. This unpalatable feature of the code has been on the increase for some time and has to be stamped out as quickly as possible.

Perhaps there is more to it than mere coincidence that the spate of jaw, cheekbone and facial injuries has come with the introduction of the sinbin. Certainly this new system has done nothing for the discipline in the game . . . rather the opposite on the evidence offered from match to match.

To single out a list of those injured or subjected to the high tackling would take up too much space but there has to be a clampdown. When the Australians began their tour, manager Frank Farrington outlined how in Sydney they had gone to great lengths to erase the high and late tackling in cleaning up the game.

A few people scoffed at this talk but Farrington was genuine yet in this country we seem to be getting left behind in this business. I believe we have to act now and at the same time decide once and for all whether the sinbin system is doing more harm than good. And while we are sounding the alarm bells let's hope the League do not go ahead with this crazy idea of stopping the clock after a try has been scored while the goal kick is taken.

Already the game is being held up to ridicule in Australia after introducing this system at the start of their new season. Some games are running 20 minutes late and causing chaos and anger to all concerned.

How on earth television is going to cope when a high scoring game can hit their programmes goodness knows. The whole scene is going to rebound on the schedules of press and radio and surely we've enough problems that need sorting out without adding to them.

By
**Brian
Batty**
of the
"Daily Mail"





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WIGAN

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White Shorts

1. BARRY WILLIAMS
2. DENNIS RAMSDALE
3. DAVID STEPHENSON
4. COLIN WHITFIELD
5. HENDERSON GILL
6. MARTIN FOY
7. JIMMY FAIRHURST
8. DANNY CAMPBELL
9. NICKY KISS
10. BRIAN CASE
11. GRAHAM WEST
12. MICK SCOTT
13. JOHN PENDLEBURY
- 14.
- 15.

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Forward Substitute

OLDHAM

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2. GREEN VIGO
3. MICK PARRISH
4. DES FOY
5. MICHAEL TAYLOR
6. TERRY BILSBURY
7. RAY ASHTON
8. WALLY JONES
9. ALAN McCURRIE
10. MICK MORGAN
11. ANDY GOODWAY
12. DENNIS BOYD
13. MICK WORRALL

T	G	D/G	Pts.

T	G	D/G	Pts.

Scrums

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

Penalties

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

Half Time:

pts.

pts.

Substitutes: Each team is allowed two substitutes and the players in the original
13 who are replaced by substitutes can themselves act as substitute, but only once.
Scoring: A try counts as 3 points. A penalty goal or a conversion counts as 2 points.
A drop goal counts as 1 point.

Referee:
Mr. P. A. MASSEY
(Salford)

Touch-Judges:
Mr. R. CARTER (Red Flag)
Mr. D. MAIRS (Yellow Flag)

Final Score:

pts.

pts.

Scrums

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

Penalties

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

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Henderson Gill dives over the line to score yet another try.

(Photo by courtesy of Evening Post and Chronicle)

Player Profile

HENDERSON GILL

This afternoon's player profile is the supporters favourite, Henderson Gill, better known as 'Hendy'.

Hendy signed for Wigan in October 1981 and made his first team debut against Barrow away on the 11th October. He first played for Bradford Northern as a professional and then moved to Rochdale Hornets, his services were sought by several rugby league clubs but he decided to join Wigan.

When in possession of the ball Hendy is a difficult player to tackle and once he is on the floor he still squirms and wriggles to get free, more often than not succeeding. When he starts off on one of his swerving runs, he puts the oppositions defence in pieces. So far this season he has scored a total of 19 tries and on Wednesday evening successfully converted a try for the first time since he joined Wigan. One of his most memorably tries this season was in the John Player Trophy Final against Leeds at Elland Road, when he evaded four players from the opposition to score our first try in the corner.

Hendy is a very happy go lucky person and never seems to be in the dumps, you can always hear him coming as he is always singing his favourite "reggae" music at the top of his voice.

We just hope he keeps on scoring his tries and giving his 100% effort throughout the whole game. Keep up the good work Hendy.

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Supporters Club Notes

TODAY'S MATCH

This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Oldham. The Roughyeds have done well on their return to division one and seem certain to clinch a top eight place, though earlier in the season they were amongst the championship contenders. Their youth policy has certainly paid dividends and several players have earned international recognition since Frank Myler took over as Great Britain coach. Our game at Water-sheddings in October produced an 11-11 draw when we were yet again foxed by some poor refereeing, but a win is essential today if we are to maintain the pressure on the Hull clubs at the top of the league.

AWAY TRAVEL

Bookings can be made at the shop today for our remaining two away matches. On Wednesday, 13th April we travel to **Featherstone**. Coaches will leave Central Park at **4.15**. Prices: **Adults £2.70, Juniors £1.80**; and on Sunday, 17th April our final away league match is at **Widnes**. Coaches depart Central Park at **1.15**. Prices: **Adults £1.50, Juniors £1**.

We would like to thank everyone who has travelled with us throughout the season.

LANCASHIRE FEDERATION DANCE

The Lancashire Federation of Rugby League Supporters Clubs will be staging their annual Player of the Year Dance at St. Helens R.L. Social Club on Saturday, 21st May. We hope to arrange for some of the Wigan players to be present, including our own player of the year. Tickets for the presentation evening are priced £1 and can be obtained from the supporters club shop, or by contacting any member of the committee.

APRIL OPEN RUGBY

April's Open Rugby is now on sale at the supporters club shop. Features this month include reports and views on the Britain v. France test matches; New Zealand referee Don Wilson's opinion on Frank Mylers coaching; Fred Ah Kouli on Australian coaching methods; Mal Reilly's World XIII; and a chance for you to book your 1984 holiday in Australia with the Great Britain tourists.

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Loose forward Shaun Wane is getting his chances in the first team just now and this talented Ex-GB schoolboy star seen here in a match against Hull K.R., is justifying Alex Murphy's confidence in him.

(Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer).

ANSWERS TO HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. B. Ganley (219 goals) 1957-58.
2. Widnes.
3. Mick Parrish.
4. Henderson Gill (12 tries).
5. 16 appearances.
6. Clive Sullivan.

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Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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Leeds	26	17	2	7	457	340	36
St. Helens	27	17	1	9	448	370	35
Oldham	28	15	2	11	334	291	32
Castleford	26	14	1	11	462	433	29
Leigh	29	12	3	14	437	372	27
Warrington.....	27	11	1	15	349	380	23
Featherstone.....	27	10	3	14	308	408	23
Barrow	28	10	1	17	453	474	21
Bradford N.	25	9	2	14	236	283	20
Workington	25	5	2	18	275	563	12
Halifax	27	5	1	21	202	566	11
Carlisle	25	2	0	23	222	531	4

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Joe Egan Column

The first time Wigan won the Challenge Cup was in 1924, 30 years after the inception of the competition and they defeated our visitors of today from Oldham at Rochdale.

That is the second time of late that I have mentioned Rochdale as a neutral venue for important games. Swinton's modern ground wasn't built in those days, so I suppose Rochdale was most suitable.



It is difficult to imagine, but more so when one realises that there was a crowd of over 41,000 to see that famous game. More in fact than saw the first final at Wembley five years later. There was trouble controlling the crowd and they broke through the rails along the touch line. The old rugby tale tellers used to tell us about the Van Heerden try. The story goes that as he made his way down the touch line a policeman on horse-back was actually in the field of play as he tried to control the crowd. By all accounts South African Van Heerden was something special and he ran under "th'orses bally" to score that try.

That was the first of four consecutive finals for Oldham, two of which they won and two they lost. It seems strange that a Club with a background like that and a side like they had in the 50's have never had a game at Wembley.

There will be plenty of readers today old enough to remember what the Wigan team of 1958 did to Oldham. A full house of 22,500 saw Wigan win a third round tie, with an 8-0 score to overcome Oldham and the blizzard that raged round the ground for most of the game. That win was exaggerated by the fact that Oldham had beaten Wigan 14 times in a row. One of them being as fine an exhibition of rugby, 'Australians and all' as ever was seen on Central Park, they beat Wigan 48 points to 23.

So far I have written about before and after my days as a player. The Oldham of my time were trying hard to recapture the glory days. I do remember some hard Lancashire Cup games there. There always seemed to be a flare up between their full back Billy Griffiths and Gordon Ratcliffe. It was a case of the irresistible force meeting an immovable object.

Getting off the ground at Oldham was a problem as one had to go through the crowd. We had to hide Ken Gee under the stands after one game. The police smuggled him out and a taxi joined him with us at Heaton Park Hotel.

That, despite the fact that Ken and I had played a match for Oldham as guests during the war. I don't think we played that bad.

Appearances, Tries and Goals scored

(Up to and including the match v. St. Helens home 1/4/83)

Tries	App	Sub Pld	Sub N/P	League	Lancs Cup	Locker Cup	John Player Trophy	Friendlys	Chall. Cup	Total
L. Bamber	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Case	10	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
J. Clare	8	3	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
D. Campbell	32	4	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
G. Cunliffe	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Dunn	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
K. Egan	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. Fairhurst	26	5	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
M. Foy	36	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
H. Gill	29	—	—	15	—	1	2	1	—	19
J. Hornby	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A. Hodgkinson	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G. Jones	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Juliff	25	6	—	8	—	—	1	—	1	10
N. Kiss	37	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
B. McLoughlin	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T. Naidole	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S. Nicholson	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
M. Nanyin	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. Pendlebury	31	3	—	5	—	—	1	—	1	7
D. Regan	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D. Ramsdale	33	—	—	11	2	1	—	—	—	14
M. Scott	37	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
G. Shaw	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G. Stephens	16	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
D. Stephenson	33	—	1	8	—	—	1	—	—	9
S. Wane	5	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D. Wood	4	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. Whitfield	35	—	—	10	1	—	1	1	—	13
B. Williams	27	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	1	6
G. West	16	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	5
				94	4	2	10	2	3	115

Goals:

J. Clare	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
J. Pendlebury	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
G. Stephens	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
C. Whitfield	70(4)	2	—	5(1)	11(1)	3	6	—	97
D. Wood	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
				83	5	5	11	7	117

N.B. Drop goals (in brackets) are included in the principle figures.

First
Team

FIXTURES

'A'
Team

1982	F	A	1982	F	A
Aug. 15 Su—Warrington (Locker Cup)(3.00)	H	15-12 W	Aug. 17 Tu—St. Helens (7.30)	H	3-0 W
22 Su—Carlisle (3.00)	A	10-7 W	21 Sa—Whitehaven (3.00)	H	24-8 W
25 W—Leigh (7.30)	H	10-9 W	26 Th—Rochdale H. (7.30)	A	15-7 W
29 Su—Hull (3.00)	H	23-8 W	Sept. 3 Fr—Oldham (7.30)	A	12-17 L
Sept. 5 Su—Salford (County Cup 1st Rd.)(3.00)	H	18-13 W	10 Fr—Warrington (7.30)	H	18-12 W
12 Su—Warrington (3.00)	A	13-19 L	17 Fr—Widnes (7.30)	H	13-24 L
15 W—Fulham (County Cup 2nd Rd.)(7.30)	H	4-15 L	Oct. 1 Fr—Oldham (7.30)	H	Post
15 W—Featherstone R. (7.30)	H	Post	8 Fr—Salford (7.30)	A	12-20 L
19 Su—Hull K.R. (3.00)	A	6-5 W	16 Sa—Warrington (2.30)	A	16-31 L
26 Su—French National XIII (3.00)	H	11-7 W	23 Sa—Barrow (2.30)	A	2-18 L
Oct. 3 Su—Oldham (3.00)	A	11-11 D	Nov. 6 Sa—Workington (2.30)	A	Post
10 Su—Bradford N. (3.00)	H	12-4 W	12 Fr—Leigh (7.30)	H	Post
13 W—Australia (7.30)	H	9-13 L	Dec. 1 W—St. Helens (7.30)	F	11-11 D
17 Su—			9 Th—Leigh (7.30)	A	15-10 W
20 W—Halifax (7.30)	A	16-3 W	14 Tu—Oldham (2nd Rd Lanc. Shield)	H	8-13 L
24 Su—Barrow (3.00)	H	19-5 W			
30 Sa—(1st Test at Hull)					
31 Su—Hull (3.00)	A	Post			
Nov. 7 Su—Workington T. (3.00)	H	34-9 W			
14 Su—Leigh (3.30)	A	5-12 L	1983		
20 Sa—Australia (2nd Test) (2.15)	H	27-6 L	Jan. 8 Sa—Whitehaven (2.30)	A	18-25 L
21 Su—Leeds (3.00)	A	5-8 L	15 Sa—Workington (3.00)	H	23-7 W
26 Fr—Featherstone R. (7.45)	H	45-0 W	21 Fr—Widnes (7.30)	A	11-20 L
28 Su—(3rd Test at Leeds)			29 Sa—Barrow (3.00)	H	Post
Dec. 5 Su—Castleford (J.P. Trophy 1st Rd.)	A	16-10 W	Feb. 4 Fr—Swinton (7.30)	H	Post
12 Su—St. Helens (J.P. Trophy 2nd Rd.)	H	9-5 W	17 Th—Swinton (7.30)	A	12-29 L
18 Sa—Salford (John Player Trophy 3rd Rd.)	A	5-4 W	25 Fr—Salford (7.30)	H	18-15 W
19 Su—Carlisle (3.00)	H	Post	Mar. 4 Fr—Rochdale H. (7.30)	H	Post
26 Su—St. Helens (3.00)	A	8-11 L	30 W—St. Helens (7.30)	A	0-35 L
1983			Apr. 4 M—Oldham	A	13-31 L
Jan. 1 Sa—Warrington (John Player Semi)	N	15-14 W	9 Sa—Workington (2.30)	A	
2 Su—Warrington (3.00)	H	Post	12 Tu—Swinton (7.30)	H	
9 Su—Castleford (3.00)	H	20-8 W	16 Sa—Barrow (3.00)	H	
16 Su—Workington (2.30)	A	31-12 W	19 Tu—Leigh (7.30)	H	
22 Sa—Leeds (J.P. Final)(2.15)	A	15-4 W	26 Tu—Rochdale (7.30)	H	
23 Su—Widnes (3.00)	H	Post			
30 Su—Cardiff (Chall. Cup Prelim Rd.)	H	14-4 W			
Feb. 6 Su—Bradford N. (3.30)	A	4-0 W			
16 W—Castleford (Chall. Cup 1st Rd.)	H	7-17 L			
20 Su—Hull K.R. (3.00)	H	5-21 L			
27 Su—Widnes	H	6-6 D			
Mar. 6 Su—Castleford (3.30)	A	14-6 W			
13 Su—Halifax (3.00)	H	40-9 W			
16 W—Carlisle (7.30)	H	32-0 W			
20 Su—Leeds (2.30)	H	19-5 W			
22 Tu—Hull (7.30)	A	6-23 L			
27 Su—Barrow (2.30)	A	27-26 W			
Apr. 1 Fr—St. Helens (3.00)	H	13-6 W			
6 W—Warrington (7.30)	H				
10 Su—Oldham (3.00)	H				
13 W—Featherstone (6.30)	A				
17 Su—Widnes (3.00)	A				



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