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- Dave Stephens 3.
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- Brett Kenny 6.
- Mike Ford 7.
- Neil Courtney 8.
- Nicky Kiss 9.
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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K. R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
Record transfer fee paid	£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
Record transfer fee received	£11,002, 10s. from Workington for Ike Southward Jan. 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 points v Liverpool City April 59
First game	October 21st, 1876 v Stalybridge
Highest number of points scored	Bernard Ganley 2,881
Most appearances	Joe Ferguson 685
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Runners-up:	1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55
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Runners-up:	1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34
	1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners:	1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up:	1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners:	1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy:	1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

IT all seems to have been happening on the Watersheddings scene in the past week or two, with transfer-listings and signing making it a very eventful end of season spell.

We have transfer-listed Terry Flanagan and Ray Ashton, each at their own request, at £45,000, and then we followed up last weekend by putting Andy Goodway on offer at £100,000.

Though this is certainly a club record fee, and one of the largest ever asked, we all know that Andy is one of the world's top forwards. He was one of the few British tourists to earn a contract with a Sydney League club — Manly — and he was one of only two players from England to be named in the Adidas World Rugby League XIII in the April edition of "Open Rugby".

We believe that some sort of sanity must return to transfer fees and, on current valuations, we believe the six-figure fee is about right, just as we believe the £45,000 valuations on Ray Ashton and Terry Flanagan are also realistic.

It has been decided that the club policy must be that if players do not want to play for Oldham they can seek pastures new so long as the club gets what it believes to be a fair and realistic deal for the loss of their services.

At the time of writing Ray Ashton was about to speak to Halifax officials, the clubs having previously agreed terms for his transfer.

As the signing deadline was fixed at 5pm last Tuesday evening anything might have happened in the 24 hours leading up to it.

Goodway is due to leave soon to play in Sydney, and Mick Worrall will be bound for Brisbane where he has agreed to play for Brisbane Norths during our off-season before returning to Watersheddings next August or September.

On the incoming side, we must welcome four new arrivals at Watersheddings — two permanent signings and two on-loan men.

We caught the headlines on Sunday of last week when we bought Featherstone's Great Britain forward David Hobbs for an undisclosed fee, and David did extremely well for us on his debut against Workington Town.

He is one of the game's top running forwards, having played several times for Great Britain, having toured Down Under last summer, and having scored the two tries that gave Featherstone that shock Challenge Cup final win over Hull two years ago — a performance that earned him the Lance Todd Trophy.

We trust David will have a long and happy stay at Watersheddings, and we express similar sentiments for young Tony Morrison, who has joined us from the St Helens amateur club, Blackbrook.

Tony was one of the hottest properties in the county. He has earned Lancashire under-17 and under-19 honours and he capped his amateur career at Craven Park, Barrow on Sunday of last week when he played for Great Britain youth against France.

Several clubs were chasing Tony and we regard his signing as a big feather in the cap of the Oldham club.

We have also snapped up, on loan, strong-running forward Paul Dixon from the Huddersfield club and winger Pat Mitchell from Leeds. A hearty welcome is also expressed for these two players, also.

Paul, who is listed at £12,000 by Huddersfield, came on as substitute in the second half against Workington and caught the eye with some powerful running.

Pat, who has had a spell on loan at Sheffield Eagles, scored two tries in the "A" team at Workington on the Saturday and followed up with another three on his senior debut at Watersheddings the following day.

The big win emphasised that we still have a chance of finishing in the top four, but much will depend on what happened at Halifax on Friday evening and what happens in today's classic clash with our old rivals Wigan.

If we don't make the top-four, of course, this will be our final home game of the season at first-team level.

The time is right, therefore, to thank you all for your support throughout the season. Look forward to seeing you in the Premiership — home or away!

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Historical Notes on Wigan

by Tom Webb

DIPPING into my Wigan scrap book I looked at 1957. On February 23rd the Pools Competition was commenced. Within seven weeks the takings had risen to £290 which represented 5,800 members at one shilling (old money) per week. Such tangible support allowed the club to pay a record fee of £9,500 to Huddersfield for the services of Mick Sullivan. The club programme remarked that although only 23 years old he had not missed an international appearance since he made such a wonderful debut in the World Cup in France in 1954.

About that time Tom Brown was the club chairman who some years earlier had been chairman of the Rugby League Council. His vice-chairman was William C. ('Bill') Gore. The board consisted of Ken Broome, Frank Fairhurst the former referee who served a term as Lancashire County president, Tom Hesketh, J. Stephens, Joe Taylor, S. Wild, W. Wilkinson and W. Wood.

Going back to early days just before the club obtained Central Park as headquarters, the club had played at Prescott Street where 7,000 was the maximum capacity and then all could not properly see the play. Two turnstiles only were used and £100 was really something to talk about. Joe Leach the celebrated Wigan journalist recorded that in 1896-97 the total receipts for the whole campaign were only £556. Before 1960 crowds of something like 50,000 could draw in £5,000 for a single match.

While the work of preparation at Greenough Street (where Central Park was developed) was going on, the club shared the ground of Wigan United soccer club at Springfield Park for a season. There were three soccer clubs before the present Wigan Athletic, Wigan County, Wigan United and Wigan Borough who all hit the dust owing to the tremendous competition of the Rugby club.

The pavilion at Wigan was not built until 1909, seven years after the club moved to Central Park. Players dressed at the Princess of Wales Hotel about 150 yards from the ground.

In 1910 wrestling was one of the attractions at the ground. Bob Berry wrestled Irstlinger who gained one fall for the middleweight championship. The gate was about £75. A couple of days later Bob Berry gained the victory.

There is always controversy about the foundation of the Wigan club. It was recorded that the Wigan Hare and Hounds Club decided to establish a football team to be known as the Wigan Wasps. When the Rugby Union club connected with the Wigan Cricket Club disbanded, the Wasps took the title of Wigan Football Club. The chief movers in the formation of Wigan Wasps were J. Slevin, J. Underwood, J. Warde and W.L. Baldwin. The president was R.A. Farrington the Mayor of Wigan.

J. Williams was the first captain. J. Slevin was vice-captain, A.J. Hodgkinson treasurer and the secretary was J. Underwood. The last named was still secretary when active as a first class referee some years later.

The Wasps had fixtures in their first season with the newly formed Aspull club, Chorley, St. Lawrence's, Lowton, Southport Grasshoppers, Bolton Wesleys, Platt Bridge, Westhoughton and Highfield. The ground was at Dicconson Street and the club played in navy blue jerseys and white knickers.

The team that first represented Wigan Wasps was J. Underwood; J. Slevin, W. Baldwin and J. Horrocks threequarters, J. Williams and A. Wardle half-backs, J. Baines, J. Berry, A. Atkinson, J. Almond, W. Marsden, W. Fleming and W.L. Baldwin forwards. The second season saw a large accession of new players and the "Wigan Examiner" some years later reviewing the club history said that "a powerful team resulted."

WELCOME TO WIGAN

IT is always a pleasure to welcome to Watersheddings our great friends from Central Park, and that is especially so this season as Wigan are already booked for a Wembley appearance on May 4 and a chance to avenge that disappointing Empire Stadium defeat by Widnes a year ago.

Wigan also fancy their chances of lifting the Slalom Lager championship, although the effects of the end-of-season fixture pile-up perhaps began to tell on them last week when they lost at Hull and at Leeds in successive matches.

The Central Park men are in the middle of a cruel and intensive spell of fixtures and they come here today after playing Hull a week last Friday night, Leeds on the Sunday, Bradford on the Tuesday and St Helens last Friday — a programme to test the best.

They do have, of course, a strong squad and it is a squad that will be tested to the full during their late run-in.

Wigan have been adopting a policy of resting players in turn over the past fortnight or so but, even so, they have had a difficult mountain to climb and the simple fact is that anything can happen yet in the race for the Slalom Lager title and the top-four positions.

The Riversiders have had a fabulous season, reaching the final of the Lancashire Cup, in which they were beaten by St Helens, and now looking forward to their second successive Wembley appearance after wins over Batley, Warrington, Bradford and Hull KR — the latter after a fabulous semi-final at Elland Road which could have gone either way until Wigan skipper Graeme West took a hand in the second half.

He fashioned brilliant tries for centre David Stephenson and wing Henderson Gill as Wigan roared to victory.

Strangely, the man who has done so much to put Wigan on the map this season, Aussie star Brett Kenny, chose the semi-final to have a quiet day by his own high standards.

Kenny, though, was the last piece of the jigsaw and the Parramatta star, who first came to England with the 1982 Kangaroos, has proved himself one of the best outside-halves in the world today.

Earlier in the season he formed a terrific Aussie duo with his fellow countryman, wing John Ferguson, whose feats reminded many Central Park fans of the great Billy Boston.

Sadly for Wigan, Ferguson had to return home to Sydney after the second-round win at Warrington, but Wigan moved quickly to replace him by paying out £40,000 for Welsh wing Phil Ford from Warrington.

In recent games, while Shaun Edwards has been recovering at fullback, with Brian Juliffe keeping his place on the wing after scoring Wigan's first try in the semi-final, Ford being cup-tied and unable to play in the Challenge competition.

There is talk of Wigan bringing back Ferguson from the other side of the world, but so far that has still to be confirmed.

Gill, on the other wing, needs no introduction while three centres battle for the places in the middle — Stephenson, Steve Donlan, signed earlier this season from Leigh and Colin Whitfield.

Kenny is an automatic choice at stand-off while young Mike Ford, reared in Saddleworth and still living locally, has emerged superbly this season to make the No. 7 shirt his own.

Wigan have a lot of experienced forwards from whom to choose, and it is impossible to guess what their pack formation might be.

However, Neil Courtney, Nicky Kiss (two more local lads), and Brian Case are probably the first-choice front-row with West and Shaun Wane forming the second-row and Ian Potter at loose-forward.

Others to choose from are Danny Campbell, the strong-running Kiwi, former Halifax man Mick Scott, a semi-final substitute, former Great-Britain under-24 man Brian Dunn and South African Du Toit, a very strong runner indeed.

All in all Wigan have a splendid blend of strength and pace, youth and experience, skill and power and they have been blended into a formidable and attractive outfit by joint coaches Colin Clarke and Alan McInnes.



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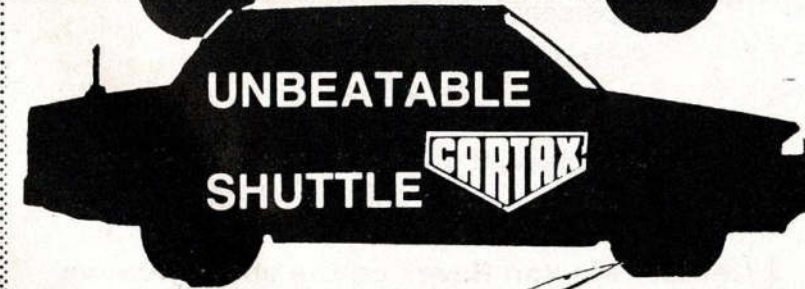
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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

The feats of Telford United in the FA Cup this season have given BARLA further ammunition in their fight to have amateur clubs back in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup competition.

There is no denying that Telford's success caught the sporting imagination of fans throughout the country and in turn did Soccer a big favour.

Whether we have any amateur rugby league sides as well equipped to make such an impact on the Wembley trail is perhaps questionable.

But at least they should be given the chance to prove how far they are capable of going and Telford have given further strength to the arm of BARLA's national administrator Maurice Oldroyd.

He says: 'Everybody loves to read of a David versus Goliath encounter and surely the time is not too far distant before the Rugby League hierarchy take off their blinkers and re-admit amateur clubs into the Challenge Cup competition'.

League secretary David Oxley has said in the past that the situation will be reviewed regularly. So the amateurs will just have to hope that something can be worked out next season.

Meanwhile there is plenty for BARLA to enjoy in the fine debuts of their former stars Deryck Fox, David Creasser and Gary Divorty in Great Britain's 50-4 drubbing of the French at Headingley.

Fox, was the BARLA Youth Player of the Year only 18 months ago and showed he has made immense strides by a mature and exciting display against France.

The way he took his two tries and his drop goal were most rewarding to coach Maurice Bamford for having the courage to blood him but it was his all-round performance that provided great hope for the future.

There was an interesting development in Varsity match at Headingley when Oxford beat Cambridge 8-6.

When John Risman came on as substitute in the 55th minute he became the first man to represent Oxford University at both League and Union.

He had previously won a blue at Twickenham in December and his feats will give plenty of pleasure to his father Bev and grandfather Gus, the legendary star of Salford and Workington Town.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

President: Mr. D. Blackburn, **Chairman:** Mr. D. Pilkington, **Treasurer:** Mr. T. Heywood, **Secretary:** Mrs. J. Pilkington, **Committee Members:** Miss. A. Collinge, Mrs. H. Heywood, Mrs. L. Wolstencroft, Mr. I. Pilkington, Mrs. E. Crowther, Mrs. L. Chadderton, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mrs. S. Collinge, Mr. B. Doleman, Mrs. A. Doleman, Mrs. G. Doleman.

The Supporters Club would like to welcome all the Players and the Committee of our visitors from Wigan for today's match. Hoping we have a good, clean and entertaining match. We would like to invite all the supporters to our canteens situated at different parts of the ground and our souvenir shop at the pavilion end and programme shop at the waterhead end.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

COACHES TO CASTLEFORD

Sunday 21st April

Leave Social Club 2.00 p.m.

Adults: £2.15

Juniors £1.50

The Supporters Club are once again holding a **Wembley Draw**, tickets are 5p each or 50p per book (12), anyone who would like any books please enquire at canteens. The prizes are: Winners £50, Runners-up £20, Semi-Final £5 each. Other teams drawn £1 each. **This years Fun Run** is being held on Sunday 19th May 1985. Once again there will be two runs, Family Run at 11 a.m. Entry Fee £1.50 (approx. 3 miles), Senior Run at 12 Noon. Entry Fee £2.00. Distance 7.6 miles. Entry forms now available from Secretary. The **Player of the Year** Dance is being held on Friday May 10th 1985 commence at 8 p.m. Tickets priced at £1.50 in the Social Club.

Souvenirs in our shop are Sweaters at £10.00 each, Sweatshirts at £8.50, and juniors £6.50, Scarves (Oldham) £2.75, Ties £3.50, Lapel Badges 65p, Blazer Badges £7.50, Patches £1.00, Gloves (small and large) £1.50, Pens 25p, Red and White Shirts with Club Badges 24" to 42".

Supporters Club membership is only £1.00 per person.

Junior Reds welcome any new members so that you can act as ballboys and ball girls. Saturday morning Social Club, new sew-on badges. Contact Joe in the Social Club. Membership £1.00 as last year. A symbol on sale, see J. Gallagher (Social Club).

LIFELINE

A reminder to Lifeline and Lottery Members. We are now situated at the rear of the pavilion opposite the greyhound track. New agents required for Lifeline and Lottery, phone 626 4501.

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Joe Gallagher, who runs the junior reds, is still keen to recruit more youngsters. Membership costs £1 for the season, there are regular functions on Saturday mornings, and members can get the chance to act as ball boys or girls on match days. If you are interested see Joe in the Social Club.



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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb

5 Years Ago

Wednesday April 9th 1980

OLDHAM 24 HALIFAX 5 (Second Division)

Oldham: Murphy; Munro (3 tries), Larder, Ward (try), Fitzsimmons (6 goals); Francis, Gwilliam; Alexander, Martland, Herbert, Mordell, Blackwood, Flanagan. Substitutes Walczak did not play and Hall for Blackwood after 70 minutes.

Halifax: Birts (goal); O'Byrne, Garrod, Snee, Waites; Blair, Langton; Jarvis, O'Hara, Callon, Scott (try), Garforth, Loxton.

Substitutes Conway and Shillito for Callon and Scott.

Referee: Ronnie Campbell, Widnes. Attendance: 3,149. Half-time score: 19—0.

10 Years Ago

Sunday April 6th 1975

OLDHAM 21 BARROW 19 (Second Division)

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Blair (6 goals), Barton; Treasure (try), Brown; Ashcroft, Taylor, Welding, Hall, Herbert (2 tries), Farrell.

Substitutes Bottom for Treasure at half-time and Hughes did not play.

Barrow: O'Brien; Clegg, Knight, Hill, Oxley; McConnell (try), Jones; New, Wood, Shaw, Perry, Hadley (try), Hogan (5 goals).

Substitutes Elkin did not play and Clough (try) for Shaw after 51 minutes.

Referee: R.I. Haigh, Bradford. Attendance: 2,202. Half-time score: 12—2.

15 Years Ago

Monday April 6th 1970

OLDHAM 0 ST HELENS 43 (League comprised one division)

Oldham: Murphy; Larder, Kersey-Brown (on loan from Huddersfield), Mullarkey, Buckley; Warburton, Sayer; Payne, Taylor, Russell, Irving, Hicks, Clark.

Substitutes Garrett for Mullarkey after 48 minutes and Fletcher for Clark after 56 minutes.

St Helens: F. Barrow; Jones, Walsh (8 goals), Myler, Wilson (2 tries); Whittle, Heaton (try); Halsall, Rees, Watson (try), Mantle (2 tries), Chisnall (try), Prescott (try).

Substitutes A. Barrow (try) for Jones in second half, other one not known.

Referee: Eric Clay, Leeds. Attendance: 1,490. Half-time score not known.



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1984

SEPTEMBER

2—Hunslet (3.00)	W 32-10	H
9—Workington (2.30)	W 44- 2	A
12—Widnes (7.30)	W 18- 2	H
16—COUNTY CUP	L 26-32	
23—Leeds (3.00)	W 18-14	A
30—Leigh (3.00)	W 12- 8	H

OCTOBER

7—Barrow (2.30)	W 34-12	A
14—Warrington (3.00)	L 15-16	H
21—St. Helens (3.00)	L 5-32	A
28—Featherstone (3.00)	W 26- 8	H

NOVEMBER

4—Bradford (3.00)	W 23-14	A
11—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 5-31	H
18—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v York	W 22- 6	
25—Warrington (3.00)	W 18-12	A

DECEMBER

2—JOHN PLAYER TROPHY v Hull	L 14-26	
9—Barrow (3.00)	W 44- 8	H
16—Hull K.R. (3.00)	L 0-14	A
26—Widnes (3.00)	L 14-10	A

'a' team fixtures

1984 (Subject to change)

AUGUST

31—Salford	A
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SEPTEMBER

8—Workington	H
15—Carlisle	A
21—Widnes	H
27—Leigh	A

OCTOBER

12—Warrington	A
27—Featherstone	A

NOVEMBER

2—Bradford	H
9—Salford	H
20—Wigan	A
23—Warrington	H

DECEMBER

1—Carlisle	H
8—Barrow	A
14—Swinton	H
21—Widnes	A
28—Halifax	A

1985

JANUARY

5—Barrow	H
11—Bradford	A
18—St. Helens	H
25—Wigan	H

1985

JANUARY

1—Halifax (3.00)	W 24-12	H
6—Featherstone (3.30)	W 6-13	A
13—Bradford (3.00)	Postponed	
20—Castleford (3.00)	Postponed	
27—Wigan (3.00)	Postponed	

FEBRUARY

3—Hull (3.00)	L 22-10	H
10—CHALLENGE CUP	Postponed	H
17—Leigh (3.30)	Postponed	
17—Castleford (Cup)	L 8-14	H
27—Castleford (7.30)	L 10-14	H

MARCH

3—Leeds (3.00)	D 8-8	H
8—St. Helens (7.30)	W 20-18	H
17—Hull (3.00)	L 8-30	A
20—Leigh (7.30)	W 14-12	A
24—Hunslet	W 46-18	A
26—Wigan (7.30)	L 30-2	A
31—Workington (3.00)	W 44-6	H

APRIL

5—Halifax (7.00)	A
8—Wigan (3.00)	H
21—Castleford (3.30)	A

FEBRUARY

2—Swinton	A
22—Featherstone	H

MARCH

7—St. Helens	A
15—Halifax	H
22—Leigh	H
30—Workington	A

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