

INDIVIDUAL MATCH SPONSORSHIP

One of the most popular methods of promoting a company has proved to be our **INDIVIDUAL MATCH SPONSORSHIP** scheme. In most cases one company has undertaken to sponsor a game, but there have been occasions when two allied business concerns have undertaken a joint-sponsorship. The basic **INDIVIDUAL MATCH SPONSORSHIP** fee is £350, for which a company receives the following benefits:-

1. Illuminated Display on our new Electronic Scoreboard - including your own Company Message.
2. Four Directors' Box seats, plus Boardroom hospitality.
3. Ten Prestige Guest Tickets in prime stand, plus after match buffet and hospitality in the Vice-Presidents Lounge.
4. The company's name, shown on the programme cover, as match sponsor.
5. Full page advertisement in match programme.
6. Announcements of the company's name and message, over the public-address system, pre-match and at half-time on the match-day sponsored.
7. A special Match Sponsor's Advertisement incorporated in pre-match advertising in "Lancashire Evening Post & Chronicle" and the "Wigan Observer".
8. Match Sponsor displayed on Wigan match advertising posters on prominent sites, town centre and districts.
9. A presentation ceremony when the match ball, signed by both sides, is presented to a member of your company.

MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP

A comparatively inexpensive, but highly popular way of promoting your company is our **MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP** scheme.

Accepted practice is that a new ball be used for each first team game, and our **MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP** scheme, attractively priced at £75 allows Wigan Rugby, to meet this requirement, and, at the same time, provide a valuable sponsorship opportunity. The sponsoring company is offered:-

- ★ Two Prestige Main Stand Tickets, and generous after game hospitality, for the game selected by the company for **MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP** involvement.
- ★ Acknowledgements over the public-address system, pre-match and at half-time.
- ★ A mention of the company, in a prominent position, on the page of the match programme detailing the teams selected for the game.
- ★ The company's name, and message, on centre of team sheet page in match programme. Prominent display.

All enquiries relating to **INDIVIDUAL MATCH AND MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIPS** to be directed to:
THE SECRETARY W.R.F.C.,
CENTRAL PARK, WIGAN.

WIGAN



Sunday 11th August 1985 — Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Matthew Brown



WIGAN SEVENS

35p

WIGAN FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Ground: Central Park, Wigan — Tel: Wigan 31321

Colours: Jersey — Cherry & White Hoops

Shorts — White

Stockings — White with Red Turnovers

Directors:

J. Hilton (Chairman), M.P. Lindsay (Vice-Chairman)

J. Robinson, T.A. Rathbone

R.L. Council Member: M.P. Lindsay

Lancs. County Representative: A. Close

Club Doctor: Dr. R. Bullough

Joint Coach: Alan McInnes and Colin Clarke

"A" Team Coach: C. Clarke Chief Scout: W. Cunliffe

Physio: K. Mills

Colts Coach: J.T. Hurst

WIGAN STATISTICS and HONOURS

Nickname: The Riversiders *Founded:* 1872 (Limited 1921) *Ground:* Central Park *Colours:* Cherry and white hooped jerseys, white shorts *Attendance record:* 47,747, Wigan v. St. Helens 1959; *Record win:* 116-0 v. Flimby and Fothergill in 1925; *Record defeat:* 3-58 v. Leeds in 1972; *Tryscoring record:* 64 by Brian Nordgren in season 1949-50; *Goal kicking record:* 206 by Jim Sullivan in season 1933-34; *Point scoring record:* 430 by Jim Sullivan in season 1933-34.

Rugby League Championship winners: 1908-09, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52 and 1959-60.

Runners-up: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1923-24 and 1970-71

Challenge Cup winners: 1923-24, 1928-29, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1964-65

Runners-up: 1910-11, 1919-20, 1943-44, 1945-46, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1965-66, 1969-70, and 1983-84.

Floodlit Cup winners: 1968-69

Runners-up: 1969-70

Lancashire Cup winners: 1905-06, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1973-74

Runners-up: 1913-14, 1914-15, 1925-26, 1927-28, 1930-31, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1945-46, 1953-54, 1957-58, 1977-78, 1980-81 and 1984-85

First Division Championship runners-up: 1963-64 and 1974-75

League Leaders' Trophy winners: 1970-71

Lancashire Championship winners: 1908-09, 1910-11, 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 and 1969-70.

Runners-up: 1909-10, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1928-29, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1959-60 and 1968-69

John Player Trophy winners: 1982-83

Lancashire War League Winners: 1940-41

War League Championship Winners: 1943-44

Runners Up: 1940-41

welcome

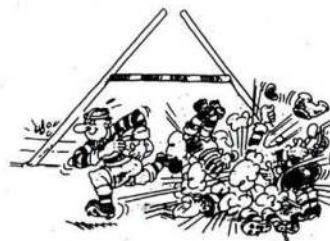
TODAY traditionally heralds the start of a new season at Central Park. The famous Wigan Sevens competition is sponsored for the first time this year by Matthew Brown PLC who of course already sponsor the Slalom Lager Championship. We are extremely grateful to them and we hope that they and their guests have an enjoyable day at Central Park. The trophies, including one for the man of the competition, will be presented by Mr. Ken Moore, Free Trade Sales Director of Matthew Brown.

The close season has seen more activity than ever before with Wigan obtaining the signatures of three world class players in Andy Goodway, Greg Dowling and Steve Ella. The Club were, in fact, prepared to be even more ambitious but the rugby league ruling on overseas players has limited them. It is still an impressive squad, however, and Wigan should be able to look forward to another exciting season of rugby league football.

Today the sevens competition should give us some evidence of the higher level of training now demanded by most rugby league clubs. Most of the clubs have been in solid training from shortly after Wembley. It is a particular pleasure to re-welcome Leeds our friends from across the Pennines who have traditionally supported the Wigan Sevens. It was sad that Leigh decided not to send a team this year but that gives us the opportunity to welcome the return of our good friends and neighbours St. Helens.

Let's all look forward to an exciting competition with further exciting football ahead during the season.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: Over goes young Wigan full back Shaun Edwards to score a super try.



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**VIEW FROM
THE
TERRACES**

The Missus may well be agog. But surprise is on your side and before she can utter Wimbledon or wallpaper, you are off down the street without a care in the world.

Our ideas alone are not enough and we should be more than interested to hear your views and suggestions as to what you would like to see in the programme.

I suggest for the programme

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 1978 B.B.I. AWARDS GOLD MEDAL & DIPLOMA. Slalom D – voted best bottled lager – Extra Strong Class.
 1980 BREWEX SILVER MEDAL. Slalom Lager – for draught lager.
 1982 B.B.I. AWARDS SILVER MEDAL & DIPLOMA. Slalom Export Lager.
 1983 BREWEX BRONZE MEDAL. Slalom D draught lager.
 1983 BREWEX CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS. Voted best international bottled lager.
 1983 BREWEX MEDAL AND DIPLOMA. Slalom Lager – Best in Class One for bottled lager.
 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS GOLD MEDAL. Slalom Lager – First in Class for bottled lager.
 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS SILVER MEDAL. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom International Strong Lager – for bottled lager.
 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
 1983 B.B.I. AWARDS DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE. Slalom Lager – for packaging and bottle dress.
 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal with Palm Leaves and Certificate. Slalom International – for bottled lager.
 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate. Slalom D – for bottled lager.
 1984 MONDE SELECTION MADRID. Gold Medal and Certificate. Slalom Lager – for bottled lager.



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WIGAN R.L.F.C. ATTENDANCES 1984-85

HOME

Bradford Northern (League)	8,483	Hull Kingston Rovers (League)	15,110
Widnes (Lancashire Cup)	10,117	Workington Town (League)	8,788
Leeds (League)	9,106	Oldham (League)	10,638
Barrow (League)	7,845	St. Helens (League)	20,012
St. Helens (Lancashire Cup)	26,074	Hunslet (League)	10,000
Halifax (League)	8,307	Hull (League)	9,461
Huddersfield Barracudas (J.P. Trophy) ..	7,375	Featherstone Rovers (League)	7,268
Leigh (League)	10,582	Hull (Premiership)	10,437
Warrington (League)	12,102	Mansfield Marksman (Friendly)	
Widnes (League)	9,078	Wigan Sevens	3,102
Castleford (League)	9,461	Locker Cup	4,729

AWAY

Castleford (League)	4,481	Warrington (R.L. Cup)	11,000
Leigh (League)	10,062	Bradford Northern (R.L. Cup)	18,000
Swinton (Lancashire Cup)	6,587	Halifax (League)	4,708
Featherstone Rovers (League)	3,514	Hull (League)	8,098
Salford (Lancashire Cup)	7,492	Leeds (League)	10,000
Hull Kingston Rovers (League)	7,609	Bradford Northern (League)	3,837
Workington Town (League)	1,740	Oldham (League)	6,038
Leeds (J.P. Trophy)	9,248	Widnes (League)	5,056
Warrington (League)	7,125	Barrow (League)	2,330
Hunslet (League)	3,404	St. Helens (Premiership)	23,355
St. Helens (League)	18,000		

NEUTRAL GROUND

Batley (R.L. Cup)	9,585
Hull Kingston Rovers (R.L. Cup)	19,275
Hull (R.L. Cup)	99,801

CLIFF WEBB

OF THE
WIGAN
OBSERVER

FOLD away the cricket flannels and dig out your cherry-and-white scarf, for the Rugby League season opens again today at Central Park with the Wigan Summer Sevens — the traditional light-hearted pipe opener to the more serious games ahead.

Sevens rugby is always a delight to watch and with eight good teams taking part this afternoon we should be in for a rugby feast of speedy running and smart handling.

Who will bag the trophy is anyone's guess, but then, eventual victory for one team is secondary to spectacle at the Wigan Sevens, though every team will do its utmost to carry off the prize.

If the weather is fine, there should be a good crowd, for this season promises to be a memorable one for the Wigan club.

World class players such as Andy Goodway, Steve Ella and Greg Dowling have been signed and should be with us soon, joined by the promising Brian Jackson, a youngster from the Parramatta club.

The success at Wembley last May, coupled with the great enterprise shown in the close season by the Wigan directors to recruit the best players for the club has caused such a surge of rugby enthusiasm in the town that, on present indications at least, Wigan look like having their highest average attendances for many years during 1985-86.

Time will tell, of course, but there is no doubt that season tickets sales are higher this season than they have been since the halcyon days of the Fifties and early Sixties.

Today brings the last chance for regular season ticket holders to claim their favourite seats. Failure to do so will mean the seats being sold to anyone else who wants them.

There are some great fixtures ahead for Wigan, including a clash against New Zealand, but that tense battle is something for us to savour, as today we watch some of the best of the league's speed merchants play in their element.

A.A.

R.A.C.

BELLINGHAM HOTEL

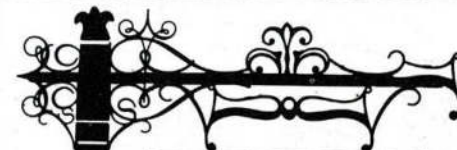
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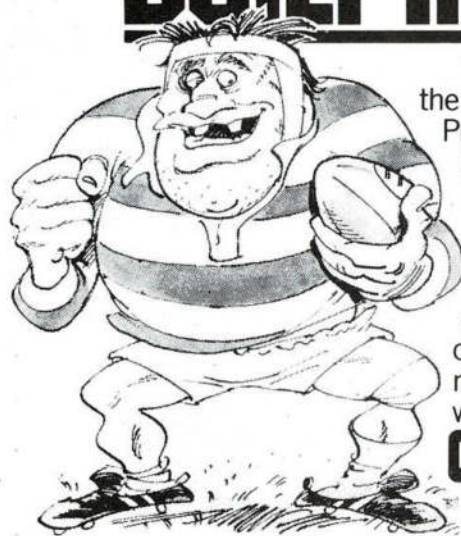
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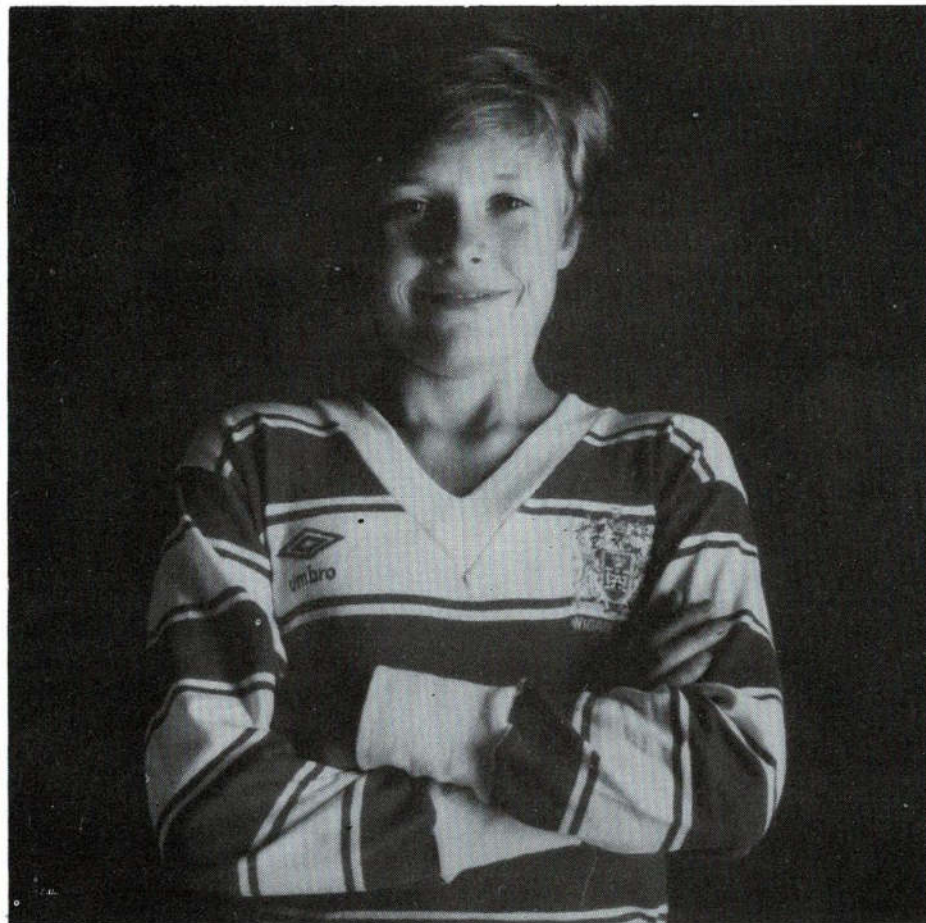
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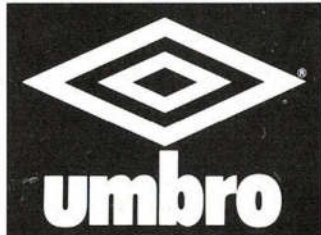


Wigan's John Ferguson evades Hull's Gary Kemble to score his second try.

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Progress to Final

Note: First Rounds/Semi-Finals 7½ minutes each way.
Final only 10 minutes each way (one minute interval all games).

First Round

Kick-off

2.30 p.m.	Oldham	_____	}	_____
	St. Helens	_____		_____
2.50 p.m.	Swinton	_____	}	_____
	Salford	_____		_____
3.10 p.m.	Leeds	_____	}	_____
	Warrington	_____		_____
3.30 p.m.	Wigan	_____	}	_____
	Blackpool	_____		_____

Semi-Finals

Final

Kick-off

3.50 p.m.	_____	}	_____
	_____		_____
4.10 p.m.	_____	}	_____
	_____		_____

4.40 p.m.

COLTS FIXTURES

AUGUST

Saturday 31st Castleford H 3.00

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th Bradford A 3.00

Saturday 14th Hunslet H 3.00

Saturday 21st Hull KR A 3.00

Saturday 28th St. Helens A 3.00

OCTOBER

Saturday 5th Wakefield T. H 3.00

Saturday 12th Castleford A 3.00

Saturday 19th Leeds H 3.00

Saturday 26th Hull H 3.00

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd Featherstone R. A 3.00

Saturday 9th St. Helens H 2.30

Saturday 16th Hull A 2.30

Saturday 23rd Hull KR H 2.30

Saturday 30th Wakefield T. A 2.30

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th Bradford N. H 2.30

Saturday 14th Hunslet A 2.30

Saturday 21st Hull H 2.30

Saturday 28th Hull K.R. A 2.30

JANUARY

Saturday 4th Leeds H 2.30

Saturday 11th Wakefield T. A 2.30

Saturday 18th Bradford N. H 2.30

Saturday 25th Leeds A 3.00

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1st Featherstone R. A 3.00

Saturday 8th Colts Challenge Cup (1st rnd.) 3.00

Saturday 15th St. Helens H 3.00

Saturday 22nd Colts Challenge Cup (2nd rnd.) 3.00

MARCH

Saturday 8th Hunslet A 3.00

Saturday 15th Featherstone R. H 3.00

Saturday 22nd Castleford A 3.00

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Jason O'Loughlin, Neil Ward, Augustine
O'Donnell, Chris Fairhurst, Jeff Collier, David
Grimshaw.

SEVEN-A-SIDE COMPETITION - RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Games will be played under the Laws of the Rugby Football League, except that:
 - at a kick-off following a score, the ball need not travel ten yards forward, and
 - the three tackle rule shall apply.
- Each side will consist of seven players, the usual formation being three forwards and four backs.
- Selection may be made from eight players, but one substitute will be allowed during any part of the game.
- The duration of each game before the Final game will be sixteen minutes, i.e.

- seven and a half minutes each way, with one minute interval at half-time. If at the end of the sixteen minutes the game is drawn, the teams shall change over and continue playing until one side scores, such side being the winner, ends being changed every seven and a half minutes if necessary. In extra time there will be no interval. The final tie will be played for ten minutes each way with an interval of one minute at half-time.
- Time is checked by an Independent Time Keeper who allows for injury time. A klaxon indicates the end of each session of play, except that if a try has been scored, the scoring side shall be allowed to attempt the conversion.

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Some of the personalities from the first New Zealand touring team in 1907. From left to right - J.C. Gleeson (treasurer), J.H. Smith, a Widnes NR referee who introduced the tourists to the new rules, H.H. (Dally) Messenger, the famous Australian 'guest' player and top scorer on the tour, H.R. (Bumper) Wright, captain of the side and G.W. Smith, the former All Black RU star.

COUNTDOWN TO THE KIWIS

by Brian Murphy (Features Editor — OPEN RUGBY Magazine)

The 1985 Kiwi Tour opens at Central Park on Sunday October 6, and a big crowd is expected for the game which will be Wigan's first against the New Zealanders since 1971.

Starting today and continuing until the Wigan-Kiwi clash a series of articles will appear in the Wigan programme recalling the visits of earlier NZ Touring teams with some notes on the many great New Zealanders who have played for the Wigan Club over the years.

PART 1

In 1888, before the breakaway movement which led to the formation of the Northern Union, a New Zealand Maoris team came to Britain for a tour which lasted six months and on December 17 the tourists visited Wigan to play the local RU club before 7,000 spectators at the Prescott Street ground. The score was 8 pts-one to the Maoris — a try at that time counted as one point, a goal (or converted try) counted as three.

The teams were: WIGAN - J. Pilkington, J. Slevin (capt.), R. Seddon, J. Anderton, J. Hunter, W. Halliwell, W. Atkinson, E. Wardle, J. Halton, J. Hatton, E. Dempsey, J. Lowe, E. Bullough, T. Brayshay, J. Telford.

NEW ZEALAND MAORIS - J. Warbrick (capt.), E. McCausland, W. Wynyard, D. Cage, W. Elliott, P. Keough, F. Warbrick, T.R. Ellison, G. Wynyard, A. Webster, W. Anderson, D. Stewart, H. Lee, A. Warbrick, W. Karouria. Referee: J. Mills (Swinton).

The Northern Union was formed in 1895 and soon the new code was ready to expand overseas — but how?

The answer was provided when New Zealand Rugby Union team toured the British Isles in 1905. Returning home after the tour, one of the New Zealand players reported on the new 'northern' game he had seen in England. This man was George W. Smith, a famous wing threequarter and Olympic athlete and he found an interested listener in Albert Baskerville, a 24 year old post office official from Wellington. The two of them recruited a team of Rugby Union players to tour the Northern Union clubs in 1907, thus becoming the predecessors of the modern day Kiwis.

When the side left New Zealand they were called the 'All Golds' because unlike the amateur RU All Blacks, its members were to be paid for playing football.

The New Zealanders played their first ever game under Northern Union rules with 13 a side at Bramley and on November 9 the New Zealanders, unbeaten after their first

nine matches, met Wigan at Central Park. The teams were: WIGAN - J. Sharrock, J. Leytham, B. Jenkins, T. Thomas, J. Miller, J. Thomas, W. Battersby, R. Ramsdale, W. Willcock, B. Brooks, W. Cheetham, W. Silcock, J. Blears. NEW ZEALAND were listed like this - Full back, H. Turtill, Threequarters, H.H. Messenger, H. Rowe, E. Wrigley, Five-eights, G.W. Smith, L.B. Todd, Half back, R. Wynyard, Forwards, H.R. Wright, W. Tyler, T. Cross, A. Lile, C. Pearce, C. Tyrne.

Referee, H. Farrer (Keighley).

A crowd of 30,000, still the largest for a club against New Zealand game saw a superb match which Wigan won 12 pts-8 to end the tourists unbeaten run. The star of the day was the Wigan captain Jimmy Leytham who scored a hat-trick of tries with the brilliant Welsh centre Bert Jenkins getting a fourth.

Baskerville's All Golds made a second appearance at Central Park on 11 January 1908 in an international against England. The great Jimmy Leytham was the only Wigan player in the England team and he scored one of the 4 tries which sent New Zealand to an 18 pts-16 defeat.

Three Test matches against the Northern Union were played at Leeds, Chelsea and Cheltenham and the New Zealanders set the seal on a successful tour by winning the series with victories in the second and third games.

At the end of the tour a number of the New Zealanders joined English clubs with Wigan signing the former international RU forward Williams 'Massa' Johnstone and the one and only Lance Todd.

The next New Zealand RL touring team came to this country in 1926 and played three games in Wigan.

The first of them was a Test match which England won 28pts-20. Jim Sullivan, Johnny Ring and Jack Bennett were Wigan's 'Test' representatives while the New Zealand team included Lou Brown, Benny Davidson and Len Mason who all signed for Wigan in the following year.

On 17 November 1926 the tourists played Wigan Highfield at Tunstall Lane, Pemberton. New Zealand won by 14pts-2 and the Highfield team was: Osbaldestin, Blinkhorn, Cowley, Haworth, Maloney, Oster, Whelan, Bentham, Gee, Mann, Fairhurst, Thompson, Gore.

When Wigan entertained the New Zealanders at Central Park on December 11, the tourists suffered their heaviest defeat of the tour, Wigan winning by 36pts-15.

WIGAN - Sullivan, Ring, Abram, Parker, Perkins, Van Booyesen, Owens, Bentham, Bennett, Hodder, Van Rooyen, Stephens, Price.

NEW ZEALAND - Gregory, Brown, Davidson, Kirwin, Gardiner, Brisbane, Webb, Henry, Carroll, Singe, Herring, Peterson, Avery.

Wigan's ten tries were scored by Ring (2), Parker (2), Sullivan (2), Price (2), Abram and Owens, Sullivan kicking three goals. Webb, Avery, Davison, Herring and Brown scored tries for the New Zealanders.

The third New Zealand touring team in 1939 was the first to be known as the Kiwis but owing to the outbreak of the Second World War they only managed to play two games before they were forced to return home.

The second part of COUNTDOWN TO THE KIWIS will appear in the Wigan v Castleford programme on September 1st.

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POPULAR STAND:	
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Family Ticket - 3 members	£85
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Adult	£32
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REPLICA SHORTS Size 24" - 34"	£2.70 - £3.90
GLOVES	£2.00

PREVIOUS 'SUMMER SEVENS' WINNERS

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
1923	WIGAN	BARROW
1949	SALFORD	WARRINGTON
1959	WIGAN	SWINTON
1960	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1961	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1962	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1963	WIGAN	OLDHAM
1964	WIGAN	HALIFAX
1965	WARRINGTON	WIDNES
1966	OLDHAM	HALIFAX
1967	HALIFAX	WIDNES
1968	SALFORD	LEEDS
1969	SALFORD	WARRINGTON
1970	WIGAN	SALFORD
1971	WIGAN	LEEDS
1972	NOT PLAYED - SPONSORSHIP/BBC PROBLEMS	
1973	WIGAN	LEIGH
1974	LEEDS	WIGAN
1975	LEEDS	WIGAN
1976	WIGAN	WAKEFIELD T.
1977	WIGAN	LEIGH
1978	WORKINGTON	ST. HELENS
1979	WIGAN	WIDNES
1980	WIGAN	WIDNES
1981	WAKEFIELD T.	LEEDS
1982	LEEDS	WIGAN
1983	WIDNES	OLDHAM
1984	WIGAN	BLACKPOOL

Wigan RLFC appearances & scorers, 1984-5

	App.	Sub played	Sub not played	Tries	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
S. EDWARDS	34	-	-	11	1	-	46
J. FERGUSON	25	-	-	24	-	-	96
D. STEPHENSON	39	-	-	8	37	1	107
C. WHITFIELD	29	4	4	4	85	1	187
D. RAMSDALE	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
M. CANNON	14	-	1	11	-	-	44
J. FAIRHURST	12	-	-	3	-	-	12
N. COURTNEY	34	1	-	1	-	-	4
P. O'NEILL	5	-	-	1	-	-	4
B. CASE	32	-	-	1	-	-	4
I. POTTER	37	1	-	5	-	-	20
G. WEST	38	1	-	8	-	-	32
J. PENDLEBURY	7	4	5	-	20	-	40
B. JULIFF	8	5	2	1	-	-	4
B. DUNN	17	3	7	3	-	-	12
H. GILL	37	1	-	33	17	-	166
M. SCOTT	14	7	4	3	-	-	12
G. SHAW	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. KISS	30	-	-	10	-	-	40
S. WANE	11	3	-	1	-	-	4
M. FORD	21	3	2	4	-	2	18
D. WOOD	5	1	1	2	-	-	8
K. HOLDEN	11	1	-	5	-	-	20
N. du TOIT	7	9	3	5	-	-	20
B. KENNY	25	-	-	19	-	-	76
S. DONLAN	21	1	-	5	-	-	20
D. CAMPBELL	13	4	-	-	-	-	-
P. FORD	10	-	-	13	-	-	52
J. MAYO	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
M. DERMOTT	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. BERRY	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.N. OTHER	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
G. OWEN	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
S. WILLIAMS	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
J. CLARE	2	1	-	-	1	-	2
S. HAMPSON	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
G. STAZIKER	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

(Only first class games included).

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WIGAN, 1984-85

WIGAN have had ten different captains since the beginning of the 1982-83 season — Gary Stephens, Colin Whitfield, Graeme West, Jimmy Fairhurst, Glyn Shaw, Howie Tamati, Mark Cannon, Brett Kenny, Shaun Edwards and Steve Donlan. Nicky Kiss also skippered the team against France during the 1982-83 season but that match does not count in the official records.

★ ★ ★

Ten players appeared for Wigan for the first time last season (excluding the trialist Prop Forward). The ten being John Ferguson, Paul O'Neill, Nick du Toit, Brett Kenny, Steve Donlan, Phil Ford, John Mayo, Martin Dermott, Cliff Berry and Stewart Williams.

★ ★ ★

Eight players scored their first tries for the Club last season, the eight being Neil Courtney, Steve Donlan, Nick du Toit, John Ferguson, Mike Ford, Phil Ford, Brett Kenny and Paul O'Neill.

★ ★ ★

The 1984 Lancashire Cup Final was the first peace-time final to be played on the ground of one of the competing teams.

★ ★ ★

Wigan have now appeared in a record thirty Lancashire Cup finals.

★ ★ ★

Henderson Gill, David Stephenson and Mick Scott all made their 100th appearances for the Club last season.

★ ★ ★

David Stephenson has now dropped four goals for the Club — and all four have been scored against St. Helens.

★ ★ ★

Brett Kenny, John Ferguson and Phil Ford all scored four tries in a match last season and they were the first players to achieve this feat for the Club since Kieron O'Loughlin who crossed four times against Huddersfield on September 10th, 1978.

★ ★ ★

John Ferguson (24) and Henderson Gill (33) became the first Wigan players since Kieron O'Loughlin (1978-9) to score twenty tries in a season.

★ ★ ★

The last time two Wigan players scored twenty or more tries in a season was 1968-9 (Bill Francis (40) and Colin Tyrer(21)).

★ ★ ★

The last Wigan player to score 30 tries in a season was Stuart Wright in 1970-1 (32).

★ ★ ★

A number of records were set up by Wigan in last season's Challenge Cup Final: Most-R.L. Cup final appearances (17), most Wembley appearances (13) and most Wembley wins (7) (shared with Widnes). The attendance was the highest ever at the Empire Stadium (99,801) and not surprisingly it produced the highest ever receipts (£760,000) while the aggregate score (52 points) and the number of points scored by the losing team (24) were also new highs for the final. Furthermore ten tries were scored for the first time at Wembley and Henderson Gill's meant that he had touched down in every round of the competition. Finally, Brett Kenny became the first Australian to win the Lance Todd Trophy and he was one of a record ten overseas players to take part in the final.



Wigan's Brett Kenny backed by Henderson Gill goes in to score Wigan's second try.



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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Just three months since that magnificent day at Wembley in May (although it seems much longer) and we are raring to go for a new season, beginning traditionally with the 7's competition this afternoon. Last season the 7's took place in conditions more suited to cricket than rugby, but unless there has been a dramatic change in the weather this week that is hardly likely to be the case this year. Nevertheless, we wish everyone an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

MEMBERSHIP AND AWAY TRAVEL

Supporters' Association memberships can be renewed today, the price remaining at adults 50p, juniors 25p. Any new members are also welcome.

Supporters who join the Association today can also book their places on the coaches for our first trip next Sunday, 18th August, to Warrington for the Locker Cup. Price:- Adults £1.50, juniors £1. Depart Central Park at 1.45 p.m.

OPEN RUGBY

If any fans did not obtain June's 'Open Rugby' we have some on sale at the Supporters' Shops. This issue is a must for Wigan supporters especially, with features on Wembley, and the front cover shows Graeme West lifting the Challenge Cup. 'Open Rugby' have sent a letter of apology to those supporters who ordered Wembley souvenir albums, as the demand has been so great that they have had to re-order from the manufacturer, and have promised to deliver within the next three weeks.

DENNIS RAMSDALE TESTIMONIAL

The 1985-86 season is Dennis Ramsdale's Testimonial Year. Some events have already taken place during the summer, and a testimonial brochure will be on sale in a couple of months time. A raffle has been organised, with numerous prizes:- 1st - The Wembley match ball, 2nd - Fergie's boots, plus other prizes. Tickets are on sale at the Supporters' Shops and the draw will be made at the first home league match against Castleford on 1st September.

Events taking place in August:- Tuesday 13th: Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament at Shaw Hill Golf Club, near Chorley.

Wednesday 14th: Concert at Newtown Working Mens Club, Newtown.

Saturday 31st: Cabaret night at the Riverside Club. Tickets at £1.50 available from Riverside and club office.

Any details about these events can be obtained from the club office!



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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

SATURDAY 31st AUGUST — KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

WIGAN v CASTLEFORD

COLTS LEAGUE

★ ★ ★

SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER — KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

WIGAN v CASTLEFORD

SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP

★ ★ ★

THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER — KICK-OFF 7.30

WIGAN v BRADFORD N.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE



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WIGAN R.L.F.C. GREATS

ERNIE ASHCROFT

TODAY as a tribute to the great Ernie Ashcroft, who sadly passed away during the close season, we reprint the 'Wigan R.L.F.C. Greats' article that first appeared in the Bradford Northern programme last season.

The Wigan Club was extremely successful in the period 1945 to 1952 and when one looks at a list of the players who represented the Club during that time it is not hard to understand why. Stars such as Ken Gee, Joe Egan, Les White and Billy Blain graced the pack while the backs contained the likes of Ces Mountford, Brian Nordgren, Tommy Bradshaw and Centre Ernie Ashcroft.

Ashcroft, who was born in 1925, was registered by Wigan on January 20th, 1943, and following the end of the Second World War he quickly slotted into the first team. In fact, in the 1945-6 season he made 40 appearances and scored 27 tries. One of these appearances came against Wakefield Trinity in the Rugby League Challenge Cup final at Wembley. Unfortunately Wigan went down by 13 points to 12 but Ashcroft did have the consolation of laying on a try for 'Kiwi' Wingman Brian Nordgren.

Later in 1946 Ashcroft represented England and the following year he made his Great Britain debut in the Second Test against New Zealand. This was the first of his eleven Great Britain appearances in a test career which

lasted from 1947 to 1954 and incorporated the 1950 and 1954 tours of Australia and New Zealand.

On the 1950 tour Ashcroft played in eleven games, including all three Tests against Australia and the first test against New Zealand, and scored five tries while on the 1954 tour he played in fifteen games, including all three tests against Australia and the first and third tests against New Zealand, and scored eleven tries.

Incidentally, a record eight Wigan players went on the 1950 Tour and seven of them — Martin Ryan, Gordon Ratcliffe, Jack Hilton, Tommy Bradshaw, Ken Gee, Joe Egan and Ashcroft — played in the first Test against Australia. Jack Cunliffe was the unlucky man who missed out.

In total Ashcroft played 477 times for Wigan following the return to normal rugby after the end of the Second World War and he scored 222 tries. His last appearance came against Whitehaven at Central Park on October 18th, 1958, and to mark the occasion he scored two tries as Wigan ran out winners by 39 points to 16.

Ashcroft ended his playing career at Huddersfield and then took up the coaching position at Warrington but he will always be remembered as a Wigan centre and a very fine one too.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE FIXTURES

AUGUST

Saturday 31st Carlisle-P A 3.00

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 5th Bradford N. H 7.30

Friday 13th Oldham A 7.30

Thursday 19th Widnes A 7.30

Thursday 26th Salford H 7.30

OCTOBER

Wednesday 9th Warrington H 7.30

Friday 25th Bradford N. A 7.30

Wednesday 30th Leigh H 7.30

NOVEMBER

Friday 8th Salford A 7.30

Saturday 16th Carlisle-P H 3.00

Friday 22nd Leigh A 7.30

Wednesday 27th Hull H 8.00

DECEMBER

Friday 6th Hull A 8.00

Wednesday 18th Halifax H 7.30

Friday 27th St. Helens A 7.30

JANUARY

Saturday 4th Swinton C A 2.15

Wednesday 8th Widnes H 7.30

Friday 17th Halifax A 7.30

Wednesday 22nd Swinton C H 7.30

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1st Barrow H 3.00

Saturday 8th Whitehaven A 2.30

Saturday 25th Warrington A 7.30

MARCH

Saturday 8th Whitehaven H 3.00

Saturday 15th Barrow A 3.00

Wednesday 19th Oldham H 7.30

Wednesday 26th St. Helens H 7.30

WIGAN RLFC FIXTURES 1985-86

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st Castleford H 3.00

Wednesday 4th Salford A 7.30

Sunday 8th Bradford N. A 3.30

Sunday 15th County Cup (1st rnd.) H 3.00

Sunday 22nd Widnes H 3.00

Wednesday 25th County Cup (2nd rnd.) A 3.00

Sunday 29th Hull KR A 3.00

OCTOBER

Sunday 6th New Zealand H 3.00

Sunday 13th Leeds A 3.00

Sunday 20th Dewsbury H 3.00

Sunday 27th Featherstone R H 3.00

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd York A 3.15

Sunday 10th Salford H 3.00

Sunday 17th Featherstone R A 3.30

Sunday 24th J.P.S.T. - 1st rnd. H 3.00

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st J.P.S.T. - 2nd rnd. H 3.00

Sunday 8th Hull H 3.00

Sunday 22nd Halifax A 3.00

Thursday 26th St. Helens H 3.00

JANUARY

Wednesday 1st Warrington A 3.00

Sunday 5th Swinton H 3.00

Sunday 12th Widnes A 3.00

Sunday 19th Hull KR H 3.00

Sunday 26th Swinton A 3.00

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd Dewsbury A 3.30

Sunday 9th Silk Cut Challenge Cup (1st rnd) H 3.00

Sunday 16th Warrington H 3.00

Sunday 23rd Silk Cut Challenge Cup (2nd rnd.) H 3.00

MARCH

Sunday 2nd Hull A 3.00

Sunday 9th York H 3.00

Sunday 16th Bradford N. H 3.00

Sunday 23rd Oldham A 3.00

Friday 28th St. Helens A 3.00

Monday 31st Oldham H 3.00

APRIL

Sunday 6th Halifax H 3.00

Sunday 13th Castleford A 3.00

Sunday 20th Leeds H 3.00