

SEVENS PROGRESS CHART

CASTLEFORD

V

OLDHAM...

OLDHAM

...OLDHAM...

HUNSLET

V

ST. HELENS

ST. HELENS

...WIGAN...

LEEDS

V

LEEDS...

WAKEFIELD

...WIGAN...

WIDNES

V

WIGAN...

WIGAN

Wigan



SUNDAY 7th AUGUST 1988

WIGAN SUMMER SEVENS

KICK OFF 2.15 p.m.



WHITBREAD



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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; *Try scoring
record:* 62 by Johnny Ring in season 1925-
26; *Goal kicking record:* 176 by F. Griffiths
in season 1958-9; *Point scoring record:* 394
by F. Griffiths in season 1958-59.

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

First Division Championship winners: 1986-
87

Challenge Cup winners: 1923-24, 1928-29,
1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1964-
65 and 1984-85.

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

Division One Premiership Winners: 1986-87

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, 1973-
74, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88.

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, 1974-75 and 1985-86

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, 1985-
86 and 1986-87

Lancashire War League winners: 1940-41
War League Championship winners: 1943-
44

Runners-up: 1940-41

Charity Shield winners: 1985-86 1987/88

Welcome to Central Park

A VERY warm welcome to Central Park for the start of what promises to be, one of the most exciting seasons in the history of our game.

The top clubs do seem determined to equal or better the achievements of ourselves! Whether they will or not we'll have to wait and see, but I can promise you this, they will have to go some, to knock us off our rightful perch at the top of the Rugby League tree.

We are delighted to welcome to Wigan today our sponsors, 'Whitbread' and in particular, Ray O'Hara, Whitbread's free trade sales manager who has been a great help in organising today's event. There can be little doubt that the 'Wigan Summer Sevens' has become one of the most prestigious pre-season events in British sport.

There can't be many occasions that create that special atmosphere, for both player and spectator, that is felt at Central Park on Sevens Day.

The anticipation of seeing a super afternoon's entertainment and a feast of fast open rugby all goes to create a great occasion.

Wigan Rugby League fans have the reputation of being some of the best in British sport, and I must say you all lived up to that reputation last season.

Not many clubs, soccer or rugby, can boast an average gate of around 15,000 and have less crowd problems than we have at Central Park.

In fact Central Park has been described as one giant family enclosure, and I suppose that that is a fair description and a tribute to each and every one of you, once again, many thanks and enjoy today's games.



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The

LOWDOWN



I WOULD like to welcome all our loyal fans back to Central Park for the new season and the traditional Sevens tournament.

As a coach, this annual competition is very important as it gives me an early opportunity to check on the players' fitness after the summer holidays. In fact the slimmed down format is a fine testing ground as there are few sports more physically demanding than rugby league Sevens.

And I am happy to report that I could have turned out at least three fit sides today!

All the lads have spent the off season sticking to their training schedules — a lot have done even more — and I was delighted to see the general level of fitness when I returned from Down Under.

Of course the lads who were on tour are fighting fit and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Great Britain side on their fine performance in the Third Test.

OK, we lost the Ashes but that victory proves the Aussies are not invincible by a long chalk and has given the Kiwis great heart for the forthcoming World Cup final.

The Wigan lads who toured are naturally in peak condition, but they need to be as the competition for places at Central Park this season will demand extraordinary fitness.

That, however, can only be good for the club and the spectators.

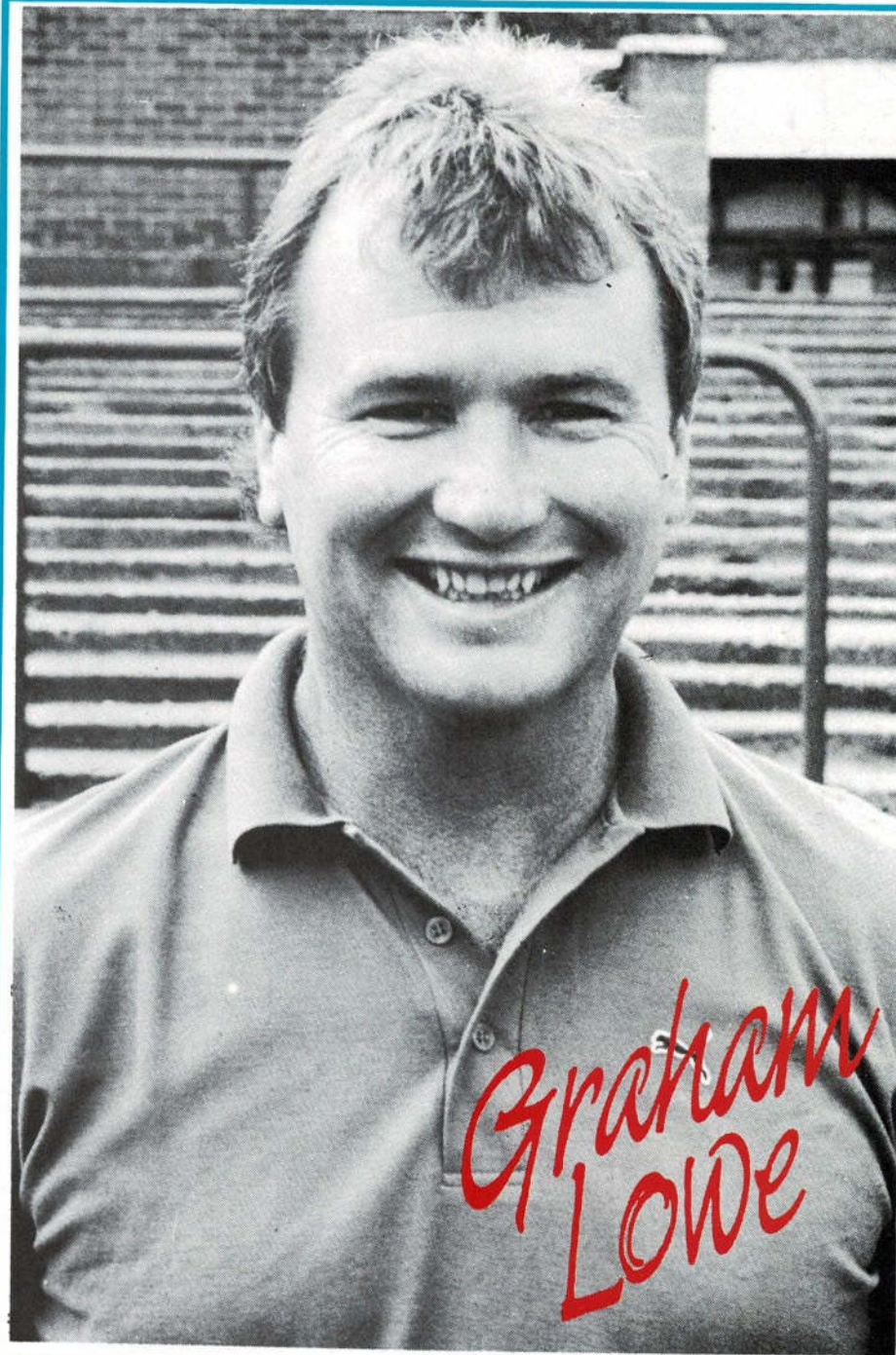
We have an exciting season ahead of us and hopefully a successful one.

As last year we shall be taking each game as it comes and concentrate on winning.

It will be no different today, we won this competition last season and are determined to hold on to every piece of silverware ... and get our hands on a few more for that matter.

With a spot of good weather this afternoon we should all see some spectacular sport and entertainment which, after all, is the name of the game.

Enjoy yourselves.



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Mark Preston — hoping to win in a few tries this afternoon.

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WHITBREAD

Wigan fixtures 1988/89

AUGUST

28 Oldham(h)

SEPTEMBER

4 Wakefield(a)
11 Hull KR(h)
18 Lancs Cup 1.
25 Bradford(a)
28 Lancs Cup 2

OCTOBER

2 Castleford.....(h)
5 Lancs Cup Semi
9 Leeds(a)
16 Wakefield(h)
23 Hull.....(a)
29 GB v RoW (Head-
ingley)

NOVEMBER

6 Widnes(h)
13 JPS 1
20 Salford(a)
27 JPS 2

DECEMBER

4 Hull.....(h)
10 JPS semi
11 Halifax.....(a)
17 JPS semi.
26 St Helens(a)

JANUARY

1 Warrington.....(h)
7 JPS Final.
8 Featherstone(a)
15 Halifax(h)
22 Warrington.....(a)
29 CC1

FEBRUARY

12 CC2
19 Leeds(h)
26 Featherstone(h)
26 CC3

MARCH

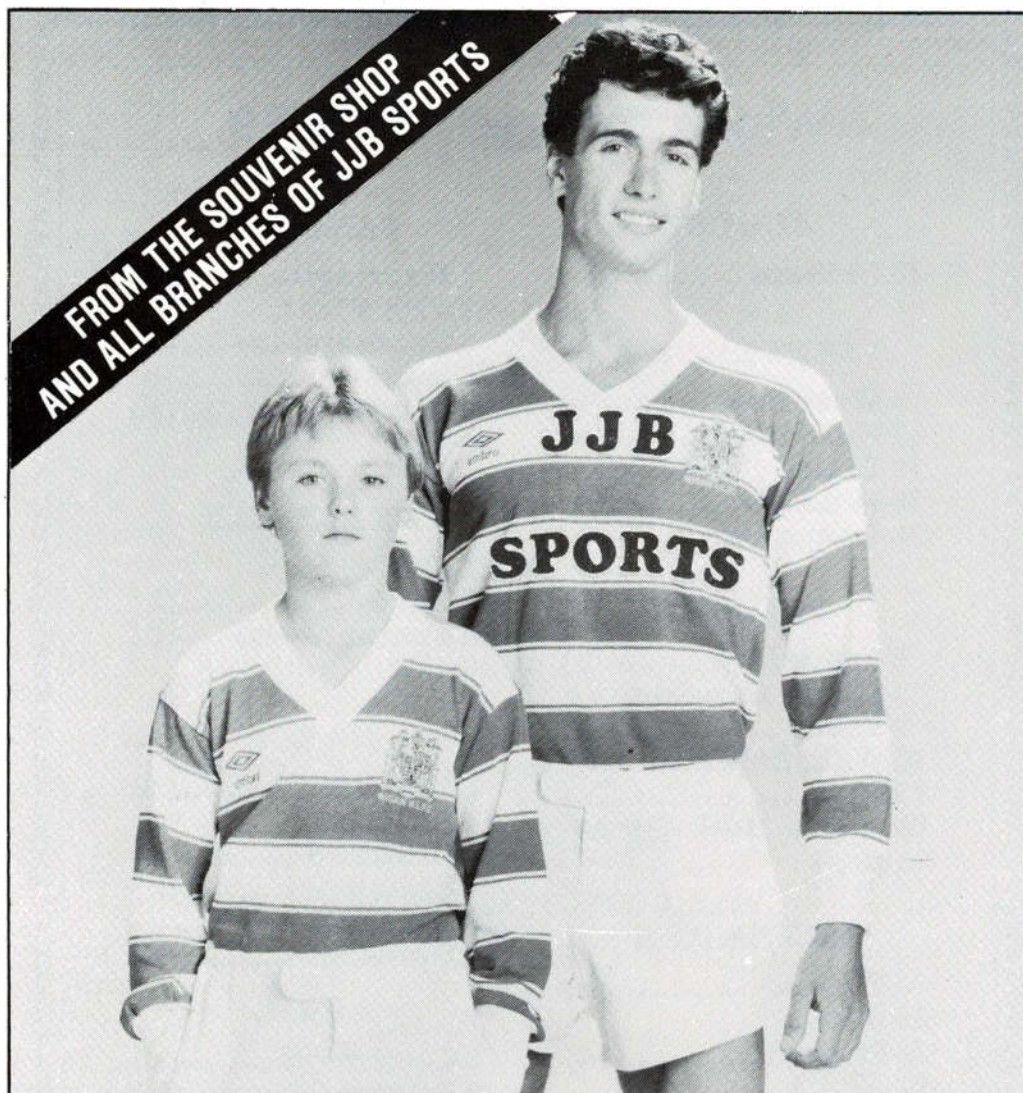
5 Hull KR(a)
11 CC semi
12 Bradford(h)
24 St Helens(h)
25 CC semi.
27 Oldham(a)

APRIL

2 Castleford.....(a)
9 Salford(h)
16 Widnes(a)
23 Prem 1
29 CC final

MAY

7 Prem semis
14 Prem final.



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VIEW FROM THE TERRACES

by
Stan
Dorfish

WELCOME back to Central Park for the first game of the season.

Now as a plain sentence in our mother tongue, that's a pretty clear, straightforward statement.

There are those, however, who would not agree.

In fact, they would argue it's not true at all.

Certain rugby league purists do not regard the Sevens tournament as the 'real' start to the season.

On this particular match day, they stay doggedly in the pub loudly proclaiming it's only a little lads run-around and usually slip, misty-eyed, back into the good old days when limitless tackles, fog and deep night frosts made rugby league a game for men.

At this point it's best to sneak away and watch a plank warp so as to avoid terminal boredom.

I always suspect that such rugby league Luddites are concealing their real feelings.

I reckon that they would actually love to go and watch the Sevens but have become so deeply entrenched in their own ancient beliefs over the years that they no longer have the bottle to break the habit.

Their pride would be just too much to swallow.

It's just like these people who go on foreign holidays and claim, en masse, they have had a completely wonderful experience.

I simply do not believe that everyone has had the 'time of their lives' in terrible Torremolinos.

Perhaps most enjoyed some of it, but it's a sad reflection on the English character that no-one is ever prepared to admit that two weeks of sun, Sangria and salmonella can in fact add up to abject misery.

It did when I went, anyway.

But, I digress.

Back to the Sevens and those blokes who today are sadly not with us.

Pity really, because the Sevens can be really entertaining.

I remember Green Vigo with a head like a snooker ball running amok in the open spaces, and today Mark Preston can show us all just how quick he really is.

And try telling the players that the Sevens is just a kiddies romp in the park. It's a well known fact that getting to the final on a warm August day is as taxing as platting fog, or playing in New Zealand when Mick Stone is referee.

But of course, I am wasting my breath here, preaching to the converted, as you obviously already agree that the Sevens is indeed fine entertainment.

Mind you, at least the tournament gives me the chance to impress the missing minority at the first league game against Oldham, when I can commence: "Welcome to Central Park all RL purists, for the first real game of the season . . ."

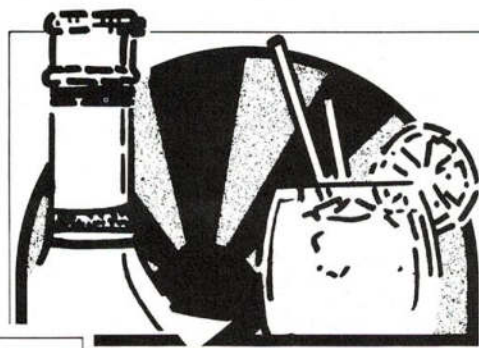


EAT

In the Laureate Restaurant at Kilhey Court you'll enjoy the finest new-style cuisine in delightful surroundings. If your mood is more casual you can dine in the Bistro K or the Inn at the Court — the food is still superb!

DRINK

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Supporters Club

THE new season begins as usual with the Summer Sevens, hopefully to be played in fine weather and provide an ideal warm-up for the eight competing teams.

TESTIMONIAL MATCH

On Wednesday next, 10th August, the Nicky Kiss Testimonial match will be played at Central Park between a Wigan Select and an All Stars 13. Kick off 7.30 p.m. Admission: Adults £1.50, Juniors £1.

Testimonial events have continued throughout the close season, and details of coming attractions will be given on this page during the next few months. There are also special testimonial souvenirs on sale, including brochures, T-Shirts, engraved glasses and ties. These can be purchased on match days from our shops inside the ground, and during the week from the souvenir shop.

ISLE OF MAN

In two weeks time we make our third visit to the Isle of Man for the Charity Shield, Cup Winners versus Champions. If anyone has still not made arrangements for travel and accommodation we have some booking forms available.

MEMBERSHIPS

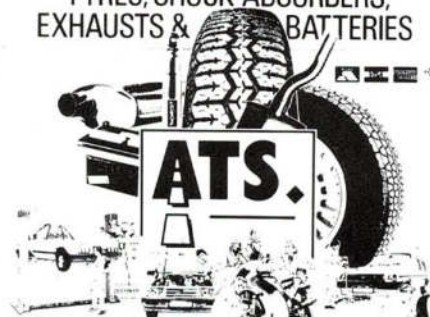
Renewal of memberships of the Supporters' Association starts today, and the shop on the Popular side terraces will remain open all afternoon to deal with these. New members are, of course, welcome to join. Prices are the same as last season — adults £1, juniors (under 16's) 50p. Our first away trip is to Wakefield on 4th September, and details of times/prices will appear in the Oldham programme the week before. It would be very helpful if supporters would renew their memberships before travelling rather than on the coaches, and we have two home games, as well as today, when this can be done.

PROGRAMME FAIR

The Lancashire Federation of R.L. Supporters' Clubs and the R.L. Collectors Federation have organised a Programme Fair in the Riverside Club before today's 7's. All member clubs have been invited to run a stall which will include badges, pens, pennants etc. as well as programmes, and there is a Rugby League exhibition, so if you have the chance before entering the ground pay it a visit. Open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and only 25p admission.

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Backchat

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
2 Marsham Street, London
SW1P 3EB

Dear Mr. Lindsey,

Many congratulations to you, the players and everyone associated with the Club's magnificent 32-12 victory over Halifax in the Silk Cut Rugby League Challenge Cup Final. It was a privilege to see such a stunning performance.

I wish you and the team continued success.

Yours sincerely,
Colin Moynihan
Minister of Sport

The little boys themselves, their eyes aflame, for eighty minutes live in Paradise— with wide-eyed wonder, gobbling up the game where ev'ry man's an angel in their eyes.

There, on the field, huge bodies crash and crunch— the burly frames all fortified by faith (and two-pound steaks with spuds and beans for lunch?); for them no fear, no doubt, no haunting wraith, no spectre of defeat darkens the sky— they know that from the chalice they will sup and all thro' life, rememb'ring ev'ry try, relive the day when Wigan won the Cup!

Yours, Graham Tennant,
The Royd, Yarm on Tees,
Cleveland.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask if you would include the enclosed picture of Ellery Hanley in a future programme at the beginning of the next season.

I would be delighted and would hope it will encourage other fans to draw their favourite players.

Maybe if it becomes popular it will appear as a regular feature.

Thank You.

Boars Head Avenue,
Limes Farm, Standish, Wigan

Dear Sir,

I am not a Rugby fan — or perhaps I should say I was not, until this afternoon when I watched that magnificent game on T.V. Congratulations on a wonderful, sporting encounter — both teams and spectators alike. I hope that the game today will light the touchpaper to bring back the sportsmanship to Britain which has for so long been declining in other fields.

I was so impressed that I couldn't resist writing the verse enclosed, (mostly during the interval!) I hope you like it.

Rugby League Cup Final 1988:

Wigan 32 Halifax 12

Before the game they sing "Abide With Me"—

those faithful Wigan fans, who in their hearts are praying that the Lord "abides" to see the triumph of their team. The battle starts!

The Players know they'll never walk alone — the huge crowd-choir has surely told them so.

While white-haired ladies clap and grin (or groan), depending on which way their fortunes go, old men in rapturous joy jump up and down like little boys; remembering lost youth, and ev'ry try that's scored's a golden crown—symbol of honour, dignity and truth.



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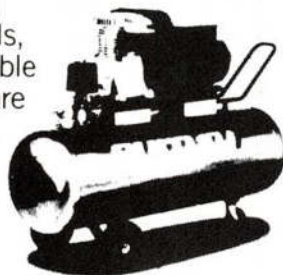
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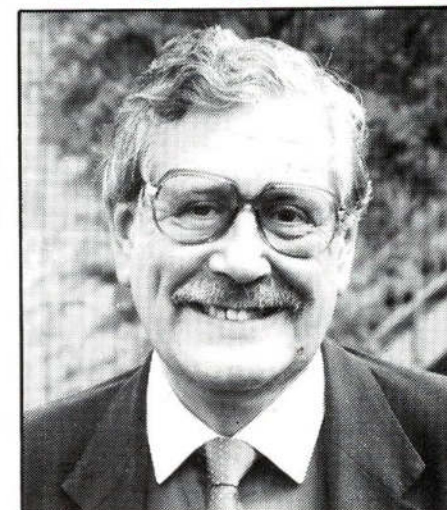


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**with
JOHN BENN
in the
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Observer**



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Shaun Allen/
Paul Jones

OLDHAM

from
Trialist
~~Kelvin Meadow~~
Steve Robinson
Paul Lord
Ian Bates
Paul Round
Martin Hall
~~Ian Sanderson~~
Andy Ruane
Leo Casey
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WIGAN

from
Mark Preston
Dave Marshall
Ged Byrne
Joe Lydon
Andy Goodway
Martin Dermott
Tony Iro
Dennis Betts

WAKEFIELD

from
Andrew Mason
Philip Fox
Philip Eden
Gary Thornton
Andrew Kelly
Billy Conway
Nigel Bell
Ian Sheldan
Linsay Rotherford

HUNSLET

from
Michael Bell
James Irvine
Warren Wilson
Jeremy Coates
Sonny Nickle
Keith Mitchell
Billy Bowden
Graham King

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from
Alan Tait
Martin Offiah
Barry Dowd
David Myers
Kurt Sorenson
Ian Gormley
Mike O'Neill
Andy Eyres

LEEDS

from
John Basnett
Carl Gibson
John Lyons
Paul Delaney
Gary Price
Ray Ashton
David Heron (Capt.)
Paul Medley

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from
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YOU MAY LIKE TO KNOW...

By Paul Ogden

vs. Warrington (Premiership) (Home) April 24th

Henderson Gill's goal took his career points total past 850 [Bradford Northern (21), Rochdale Hornets (54), Wigan (744), Representative matches (32)]

The last time Wigan beat Warrington at Central Park was on January 1st 1985, when they won 24-7 in a league game. Since then 'Wire' have won twice and drawn once in the League and won twice in the Premiership.

vs. Halifax (R.L. Cup) (Wembley) April 30th.

Joe Lydon's goal took his points total for the season to exactly 100 [Wigan (92), Representative matches (8)]. It was also Wigan's 150th goal of the season (including drop goals).

Henderson Gill's try took his points total for the season to exactly 100 [Wigan (96), Representative matches (4)].

Andy Gregory's goal took Wigan's points total for the season past 1,000.

This was Wigan's 18th R.L. Cup final appearance and the match receipts were £1,102,247. (Both these figures represent R.L. records).

G.B. vs. Central Queensland (June 17)

Ellery Hanley's first try took his career points total past 1,150 [Bradford Northern (498), Wigan (518), Representative matches (135)].

G.B. vs. Toowoomba (June 22)

Ellery Hanley's second try was the 250th of his career [Bradford Northern (90), Wigan (125), Representative matches (35)].

G.B. vs. Western Division (July 3).

Ellery Hanley's try took his points total in Representative games past 150.

Ted Ward

Ted Ward, the ex-Wigan Welsh International goalkicking centre sadly passed away during the close season, at the age of 72. His record for Wigan reads as follows:

	Apps.	T	G	Points
1937-38	15	5	-	15
1938-39	34	8	2	28
1939-40	3	-	-	-
1940-41 to 1944-45 did not play				
1945-46	21	5	50	115
1946-47	25	7	43	107
1947-48	40	9	126	279
1948-49	42	17	146	343
1949-50	12	1	44	91
1950-51	12	3	48	105
2nd spell at the club				
1953-54	9	2	21	48
TOTAL	213	57	480	1131

Programme

Towards the end of last season I placed a request for a Halifax vs. Wigan programme in one of my articles to try and help out a Mr. Shaun Foulds of Illingworth. Well, Mr. Foulds later wrote back to me, saying that he'd received three copies of the programme from Wigan fans. One came via John Oakes of Micron Video but the other two were from anonymous sources. Mr. Foulds would like to thank all three for their kindness.

And finally

So here we are at the start of another season. Let's hope it's as good as the last two and don't forget, if there are any facts and figures that you'd like to see on this page, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, via the Club.

No.

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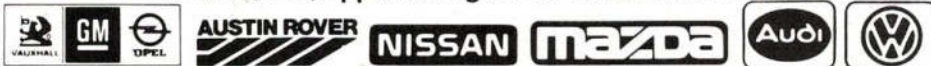
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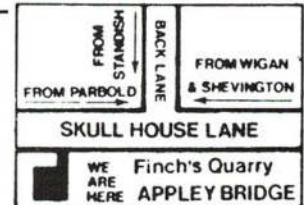
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Calling all 7 - 14 year olds!

As you know by now, Wigan Rugby League's official Junior Supporters' Association, the Junior Riversiders, was launched this week, giving you the chance to become part of the Central Park Scene!

As a member you will be able to come along to the monthly meetings where you will hear your favourite music, have the chance to win prizes in quizzes and competitions, watch Wigan in video action, meet the players and Junior Riversiders president, Graham Lowe and perhaps even become the team's mascot. From October onwards, at every home game, one lucky boy or girl will have the exciting opportunity to meet the players and officials before the game and then lead the team out onto the pitch. The mascot will watch the game from the Stand and afterwards again be able to meet the players and collect autographs.

All this and more makes the Junior Riversiders an exclusive club well worth being a member of.

Membership costs £4 each (£3 each if you have brother or sister who can join with you) and for this you will receive the official Junior Riversiders T-Shirt, badge and membership card plus birthday card, 10% discount from the Club Shop and of course, free admission to all members meetings.

Membership is limited to 450, so if you haven't already joined, please apply straightaway. Forms can be obtained from the Club Shop after today's Sevens competition.

Look for this page in every programme from now on for news and events concerning the Junior Riversiders.

Enjoy the Sevens today and remember, that you can be a great help to the players and stewards by not going on the pitch when the games are finished.

"Wigan Junior Riversiders"

ATTENTION TO ALL 7 TO 14 YEAR OLDS

*Wigan Rugby League Clubs, brand new Junior Organisation is just for you!
Just look what you get when you join "Junior Riversiders".*

- Exclusive Members T-shirt • Exclusive Members Badge •
- Meet the Players • A Chance to be a Matchday Mascot •
- Great Monthly Meetings • Fantastic Prizes •
- Quizzes & Competitions • 10% Discount in the Club Shop •
- 'Junior Riversiders' Page in the Programme •
- 'Junior Riversiders' Column in the Wigan Evening Post •

All this and more when you join
Wigan Junior Riversiders

WIGAN RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB JUNIOR RIVERSIDERS

ENROLMENT FORM

If you wish to enrol as a member of the Junior Riversiders, please complete the form below, and return it to:

NICOLA WOOD
Wigan Rugby League
Central Park,
Wigan.

Name

Address

Age Date of Birth

School

Hobbies

Chest size

Parent signature

Please send this form together with TWO PASSPORT SIZE photographs and the membership fee of *£4 to the above address.

The enrolment night is to be held on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1988

at 6.30 p.m. in the

RIVERSIDE CLUB, CENTRAL PARK

**Please note if more than one child from a family is enrolling, the fee for each child is £3.*

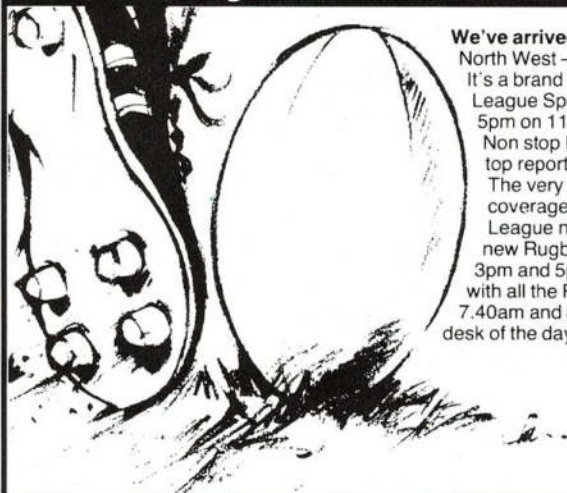
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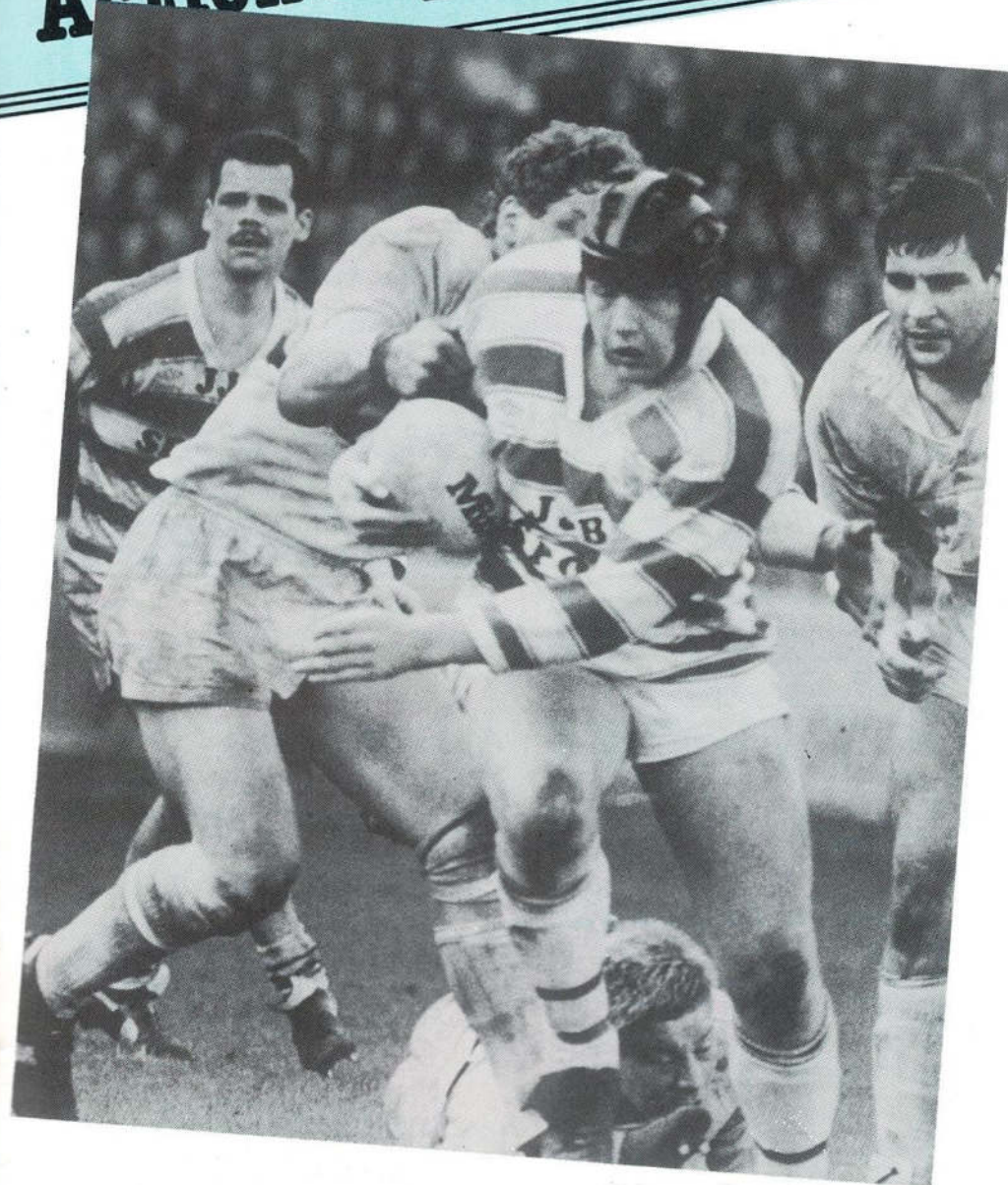


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Peeps into the past



NOW what have these four likely looking lads got in common?

Well, apart from appearing very gleeful, they are all at Wembley and clutching winners' medals. This happy shot was taken beneath the twin towers two seasons ago when Halifax beat St. Helens 19 pts-18 in a gripping final. That victory was in the main, down to John Pendlebury, for his drop goal and that crucial last ditch tackle on Mark Elia. And so to the main point of the picture. These four lads are all former Wigan players, enjoying a new lease of life at Thrum Hall.

From left to right they are: John Pendlebury, Colin Whitfield, Gary Stephens and Brian Juliff.

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GOLBORNE LIBRARY, QUEEN STREET, GOLBORNE	1ST SATURDAY IN MONTH	10.00. a.m. — 11.15 a.m.
LOWTON ST. LUKE'S C.E. SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE, LOWTON	1ST SATURDAY IN MONTH	11.30 a.m. — 12.30 p.m.
ORRELL COUNCIL OFFICES, ORRELL ROAD, ORRELL	1ST SATURDAY IN MONTH	1.30 p.m. — 2.30 p.m.
PLATT BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CEN- TRE, 80/90 RIBBLE ROAD, PLATT BRIDGE	3RD FRIDAY IN MONTH	6.30 p.m. — 8.00 p.m.
ASHTON DISTRICT OFFICE, WIGAN ROAD, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD	3RD SATURDAY IN MONTH	10.00 a.m. — 12 noon
ST. JUDE'S INFANT SCHOOL, TYRER AVENUE, WORSLEY MESNES	3RD SATURDAY IN MONTH	1.15 p.m. — 2.15 p.m.
ST. AIDAN'S SCHOOL, HOLMES HOUSE AVENUE, WINSTANLEY	3RD SATURDAY IN MONTH	2.30 p.m. — 3.30 p.m.

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10th AUGUST 1988**

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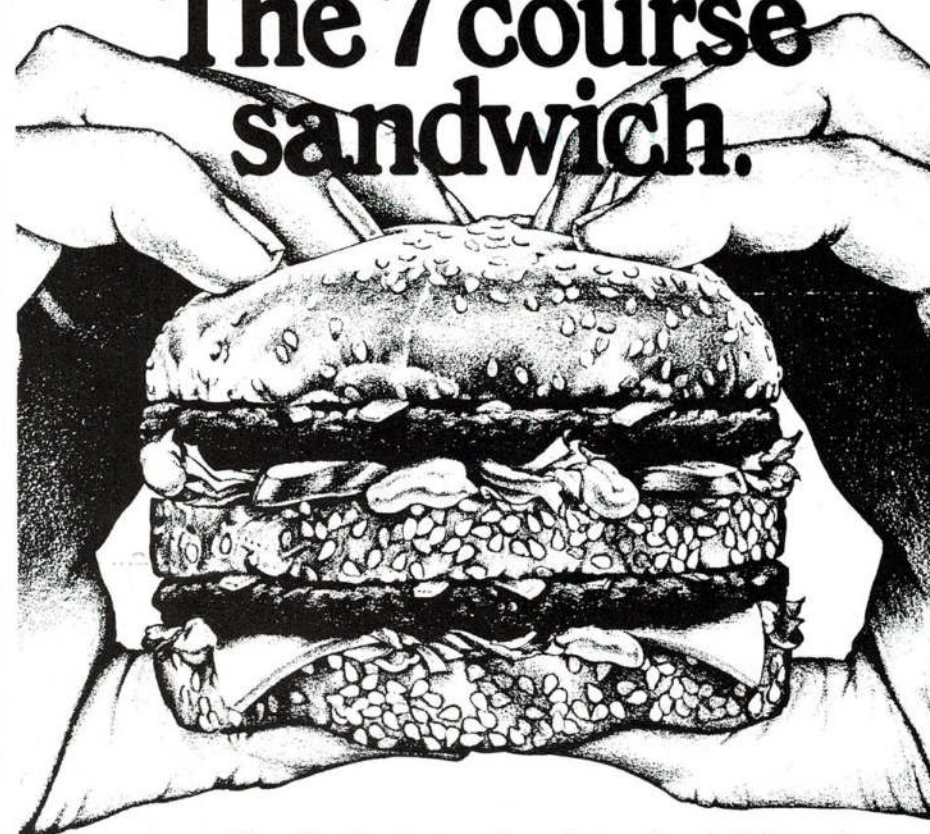
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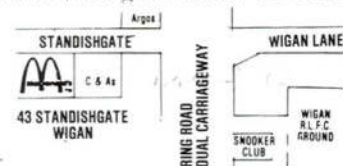
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