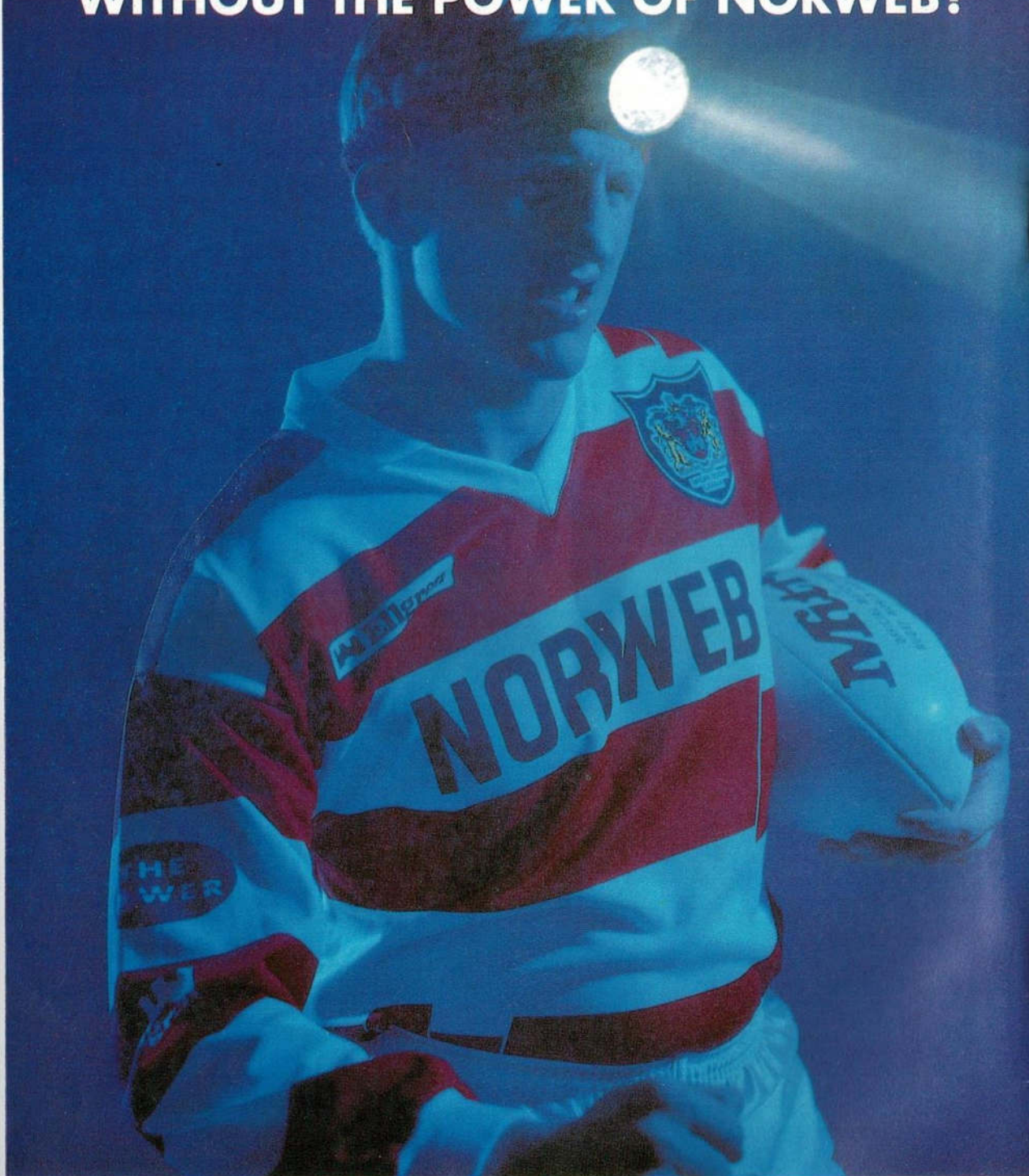


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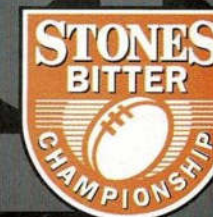
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HONOURS

World Club Championship Winners 1987, 1992
 Rugby League Championship Winners 1908/09,
 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1945-46, 1946-47,
 1949-50, 1951-52, 1959-60.
 First Division Championship Winners 1986-87,
 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93
 Challenge Cup Winners 1923-24, 1928-29,
 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1964-65,
 1984-85, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90,
 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93
 Floodlit Cup Winners 1968-69
 Div One Premiership Winners 1986-87
 1991-92
 Lancashire Cup Winners 1905-06, 1908-09,
 1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39,
 1946-47, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52,
 1966-67, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1985-86, 1986-87,
 1987-88, 1988-89, 1992-93
 League Leaders Trophy Winners 1970-71
 John Player Trophy Winners 1982-83, 1985-86,
 1986-87, 1988-89
 Regal Trophy Winners: 1989-90, 1992-93
 Charity Shield Winners 1985-86, 1987-88
 1991-92
 Nissan World Sevens Winners 1991-92
CLUB RECORDS
 Year formed 1872
 Limited Company 1921
 Home: Jersey-Cherry & White Hoops. Shorts-Red.
 Stockings-White. Away: Jersey-Blue & White
 Hoops. Shorts-Blue. Stockings-White.
 Nickname The Riversiders
 Record Attendance 47,747 v. St. Helens 1969
 Record Victory 116-0 v. Flimby & Fothergill 1925
 Record Defeat 3-58 v. Leeds 1972
 Try Scoring Record 62 in 1925-26 by Johnny Ring
 Goal Kicking Record 184 in 1992-93
 by Frano Botica
 Points Scoring Record 423 in 1992-93
 by Frano Botica



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dorahy's...

A very good afternoon to you

Winter certainly made its impact early with the abandonment of our match at fog shrouded Odsal nine days ago and then the extreme cold of the frost bitten North West during the week. The positives to come out of the Bradford match were: the possible easing of our injury situation for the return to Odsal in the future and the opportunity for us to have been a little fresher physically for the match against Sheffield last Wednesday, which hopefully we have won by the time you read this.

Today we are matched against an Oldham team strengthened by several acquisitions over the summer, notably Bob Lindner. We will have to keep his drives down the short side in check for us to win, as he helps to motivate a very enthusiastic team.

It is a game we must win to keep rolling towards that goal everyone wants to achieve come the end of the season. Of course, it would also be to our psychological advantage to win today before travelling to the Watersheddings in a fortnight's time for a cup tie which should see a full house sign. Unfortunately we again seem to miss out on being able to take all of our travelling faithful due to

limited attendance allowed. Hopefully for you who miss out we might after winning at Oldham, gain a home draw. (Touch wood, if we win). There has been a lot of talk regarding the 3rd import spot and might I say that if we were fortunate enough to gain the signature of one of these guys - Tuigamala or Little - then you would see a very good Rugby League

player in the making. But, it hasn't occurred yet and maybe it won't - watch this spot, as they say.

It's great to welcome back from injury - Denis Betts, Martin Dermott, Phil Clarke and Paul Atcheson with Jason Robinson and Billy McGinty due back in competition for places, boy, you can feel the charge now. Congratulations to Andy Farrell, Mick Cassidy, Barrie-Jon-Mather and Nigel Wright on their selection in the GB/U21 team to play France at Warrington

on the evening of Thursday 2nd December. Let's all wish them the very best of games as well as being injury free.

Many happy returns to Joe Lydon on reaching his 30th birthday on Friday and who was said to say he won't make it! Enjoy the match.

John Dorahy



Picture by Jon Snape of the Wigan Observer

...dossier

Wigan Clubcall 0891 121158

They
said it on
'Clubcall'

"The Test Series against the Kiwis was definitely disruptive to Wigan's season, but I think it's important for players to be recognised and accept international honours - having said that I'm glad it's now out of the way."

Coach John Dorahy after the Final Test win against New Zealand.

"There's no doubt about it given a fair amount of luck on the continuing emergence of young talent we can give the Aussies a run for their money next year."

Phil Clarke on the Gt. Britain Test Series Win.

"Things have gone better than I expected after returning from my injury, I have run in some tries which have helped my confidence at the moment. I feel good about the way things have gone since getting back into action, and I was also delighted to receive a Great Britain call up, and to be part of a fine series win over the Kiwis."

Martin Offiah speaking after the win against New Zealand at Headingley.

"It has been a dream come true in the last few weeks, I've had to pinch myself to make sure it's been really happening, and then to cap it all with my first Test cap, and a try on your debut - well, as I said, a dream come true."

Youngster Andy Farrell on his rapid rise to International Stardom.

Jack Dearden
 Wigan R.L. Clubcall Editor
 Don't forget to keep in touch for all the latest Central Park news
0891 121158

home and away

v Bradford Northern Friday 19th November 1993



Main Pic.
An early Bradford attack is brought to a halt.

Inset top to Bottom

1. Andrew Farrell is held... just!

2. Its that man Farrell again as he tries to break the Bradford line.

3. The ref pays close attention as Andy Platt is brought to ground.

...And then the fog came down and spoiled all the fun!

4

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away



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5

wilson's world

Chris Wilson
turns the
spotlight on the
Rugby League

Oldham visit Central Park this afternoon with both sides needing points at opposite ends of the table. The Roughyeds are level with Wakefield and Salford on six points and are in danger of falling into the second relegation position. Wigan are currently just behind the leaders and need to win to keep the pressure on Warrington at the top.

Oldham created headlines in the close season with their capture of Australian Test forward Bob Lindner on a two year contract. On and off the field the Queenslander has proved to be an inspired choice. Leading a strong pack which can contain internationals Se'e Solomona, Andy Goodway and Paul Groves as well as the impressive Craig Richards, Lindner is in the key role at loose forward. He is keen to do well and to silence the unkind whispers that during his stints with Castleford in the late 1980's he was not giving of his best. After being dumped by Leeds last year he surprised many by joining the Roughyeds.

Groves is still a crafty footballer but is having difficulty keeping his place thanks to the form of the youngsters Peter Tunks has recruited from the ranks of the BARLA tour squad and Oldham's own Academy side. Shaun Irwin is a key member of the side in the backs as is Martin Crompton who is in line to make a return to his hometown club where he could not hold down a regular first team place. Crompton made a good start for Oldham being instrumental in their win at Hull KR.

Tunks has had to wheel and deal to get the type of player he wants at Watersheddings. Now he feels the squad is more or less complete. With no money, the former Salford, Leeds, Sheffield and Canterbury prop has had to find ways and means of acquiring players that will benefit the club now and in the future. He wants the type of player that will be an ambassador for the club on and off the pitch. Bob Lindner is one such player. Tunks is aiming to restructure the club

from top to bottom. He has to struggle success on the field with wiping out the debt off it. Thus he needs to sign the kind of player who will fit the equation by being a quality footballer while not breaking the bank in either transfer fees or wage demands.

He has also managed to swap an older side which was not good enough to survive in the top flight for a side with a much younger average age which also has more ability and will hopefully



*Tiny Solomona...
in fine form in the pack*

be with the club longer.

The base of the club looks like it is getting stronger. The Academy side is in its first season while the Alliance side sits on top of the Second Division with eight wins from eight matches. Last week they contested the Alliance Lancashire Shield Final with Rochdale, having beaten Wigan A in the second round.

Oldham have been competitive all the way this season but have not got the points on the board. They were the better side at home to Bradford but Watson's late interception stole the victory after Craig Richards and Tiny

Solomona had been in fine form in the pack. They scored good wins at Hull KR (which is never an easy place to go to) and at home to Leeds. However, a much-changed side struggled to beat Highfield in the Regal Trophy - not crossing the tryline at all in the second half. Last week, they had much of the game at home to St. Helens but could not turn the pressure into the points.

Bob Lindner is unlikely to be the difference between survival and the drop but with there being a few sides in contention it will be mighty close at the foot of the table at the end of April. The Roughyeds may well have to beat Wigan at Watersheddings to remain a First Division side in the last league weekend of the season. Points today would be a great help in their struggle and they will not give the home side an inch this afternoon. The clubs also clash in a moneyspinning Regal Trophy tie in two weeks time and by the end of the season may be sick of the sight of each other.

There is little point in having short term success but big debts at the bank. Oldham are aiming to become a competitive top flight team starting from scratch. There is an adage that from little acorns, mighty oaks grow. At the moment Oldham RLFC is just a sapling.

Friday night's televised fixture saw St. Helens take on Halifax at Knowsley Road. Both matches between the sides last season were on TV and resulted in narrow Saints wins. Fax have not done too well against the top sides in the division losing to Warrington, Wigan and Castleford in recent weeks while Saints have picked up after a shaky start to go into second spot after their win over Oldham last week.

Leaders Warrington travel to Sheffield where they should maintain pole position. The Eagles were here at Central Park on Wednesday for a difficult game and their home record points to a Wire win. Bradford meet Leeds in a local derby. This is a big game for Leeds who need to stop the rot and compete with the top sides

again. They struggled to overcome a game Leigh side last week while Northern lost the chance to put some daylight between themselves and the rest thanks to the weather.

Castleford host Wakefield Trinity in another Yorkshire derby. Trinity lost to Second Division opposition in the Regal Trophy for the second year running recently and face a Tigers side in spanking form rattling in tries from all angles at Wheldon Road. The visitors could be in for a torrid time as Cas look to make amends for their defeat at Wilderspool last weekend.

Hull KR meet Widnes at New Craven Park having lost their last three home matches. The Chemics had a high scoring match with Sheffield last week although bad news followed good for Phil Larder. Firstly Harvey Howard made himself available for selection again but Bobby Goulding put in a transfer request. The Yorkshire-based number seven may be Wakefield Trinity's next target after they failed to secure Andy Gregory's signature. Gregory may make his home debut for Salford against Featherstone Rovers today just fifteen years after he first played for the club as a trialist. He had a hand in the Red Devil's win at Hull KR last week which put pressure on Oldham and Wakefield in the relegation scramble.

The black and white of Humberside travels to Leigh boasting just one point from their travels. Leigh's solitary point was in front of their own fans who would be ecstatic if their favourites could record their first win today.

In the Second Division, Dewsbury v Huddersfield is the top game in the section. The Fartowners still have maximum points after ten matches but face a tough game at Mount Pleasant. Keighley are four points adrift but should win and boost their points difference into the bargain at the expense of Highfield.

At Elland Road, Hunslet take on Swinton. The homesters' only win was over Rochdale while the Lions are also having a terrible time. The coach and the Board are under fire in the press as

results are not coming on the pitch. Consequently, crowds are down and Gigg Lane is not a happy place at the moment. Defeat today could make things worse. Tony Barrow has a new five year contract but may not see it out. Victory over Doncaster last weekend may be only a stay of execution. The Lions need to string a few wins together to start climbing the table and particularly need to beat the clubs below them in the table.

The two sides that caused major upsets in the Regal Trophy meet at Barnet today. London were in action on Wednesday against Bramley while Carlisle's good run came to an end at Leeds Road on Sunday. Barrow travel to Ryedale York on the back of a good home win over Rochdale. Workington should beat Bramley to continue pushing for a promotion place.

At Spotland, Steve Gibson's bubble has well and truly burst with defeat by struggling Hunslet and Bramley in recent weeks. The Hornets loss last week at Barrow was their third in succession and Kurt Sorensen's Whitehaven side will be no pushovers as they chase a top four spot.

The big clash in the Conference yesterday was Wigan St. Patrick's visit to Hemel Hempstead. The top two in the division are separated by five points, so Pat's had a chance to close the gap on their debut in Hertfordshire. This afternoon, Blackpool entertain Saddleworth while cellar-dwellers Egremont make the journey to improving Chorley Borough. Chorley are the best placed of the former League clubs having sneaked into third spot on the back of some good wins and could be outsiders for a quick return to the Second Division.

*St. John Ellis and Castleford...
looking for a win against Wakefield
Trinity*



introducing



Oldham 1993-94

SEAN DEVINE

A 23 year old scrum-half, whom Oldham boss Peter Tunks also recruited in an exchange. This time it was with St. Helens, Oldham receiving £50,000, Devine and backrow forward Paul Jones for Great Britain under 21 forward Chris Joynt.

MARK MEADOWS

A second row forward, who had seen service with Swinton and Trafford Borough when Tunks snapped him up on the eve of the 1992-93 season from the new Blackpool Gladiators Club, who took Sean Allen in a straight swap.

HUGH GUMBS

A young winger from Yorkshire, who signed for Bradford Northern when David Hobbs was boss. Had a spell with Batley and then signed for Oldham as a free agent in the

summer of 1992. Went to Australia that summer in the students world cup.

PAUL JONES

At 6ft 3ins and 17 stone, Leigh based Jones had more than 60 senior appearances for St. Helens behind him, albeit many of them as a substitute, when he signed for Oldham with Sean Devine in the Chris Joynt deal.

BEN OLSEN

This Danish born forward made a name for himself with London Crusaders and signed for Oldham in the famous swap-shop summer of 1992 with winger Richard Blackman, a Londoner returning 'home' to join the Crusaders at Crystal Palace.

TINY SOLOMONA

A Kiwi of Western Samoan origin, 'Tiny' signed for Oldham in early

1992 from Widnes, but did not make his debut until the start of the season because of groin trouble. Has had two groin operations since the turn of the year but is playing at the top of his form now and won the man of the match award in Oldham's First Round Lancashire Cup win against First Division Club Warrington. Has been selected for International duty.

PAUL FLETCHER

A first class player who has played successfully with Salford, Hull and Castleford. An excellent full-back and now willing to try to fill the role of a hooker or scrum-half. An invaluable player to have on one's books.

MIKE KUITI

A New Zealand international of great repute. Played in Great Britain and France with the New Zealand

tourists in 1989. Selected for the Test team eight times, playing in Great Britain, France and New Guinea, but not Australia. A strong loose forward or second rower, at the pinnacle of his career. Has played for Rochdale, Swinton, Leeds and Rochdale again. Has a good eye for making and taking scoring opportunities.

DAVID JONES

A strong finishing winger signed from Wakefield. A Wigan born St. Pat's player and as an amateur gained County and International honours. Can quickly establish himself as a firm favourite at Oldham if he continues in his current form.

BOB LINDNER

One of Australia's all time greats. Played in 25 State of Origin games and in 23 Tests for Australia. One of the world's most feared loose forwards. Also successful second row forward. Had previous spells with Castleford, Kangaroos man of the tour in 1990, is looking forward to a successful season with Oldham and helping to keep our rightful place in the 1st Division.

PAUL GROVES

Signed from St. Helens in the close season. A hooker of top quality, played with Salford before going to St. Helens and toured in Australia and New Zealand in 1988. A strong and determined number 9 with a flair for being in the right place at the right time and finishing moves he has often started. Never gives up.

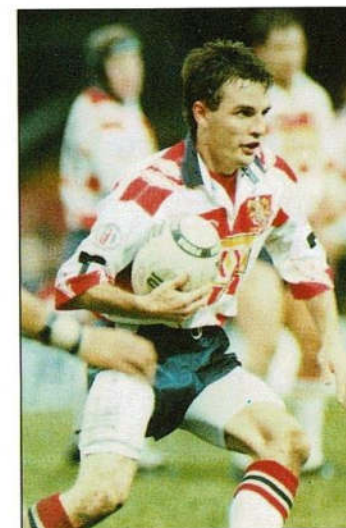
JASON FOGARTY

A massive 6ft 8ins, 19 stone son of former Oldham forward Terry Fogarty. Signed from Huddersfield and has something to prove...ie he is as good as or better than his

father. Is learning the game quickly and may soon establish a firm place in the first team. Oldhamers wish him every success.

ANDY GOODWAY

A product of Oldham's early youth policy and established himself as a firm favourite with the fans for his strong running and tackling in Oldham's first team in his teens. Chased for some time by Wigan and was finally transferred for a large fee. Soon recompensed Wigan and became an England International. Still capable of filling a first team place and is to assist in coaching the 'A' team. Welcome back.



STEVE KERRY

Former Preston Grass Hoppers RU half-back, turned professional for Salford for whom he was a prolific goal scorer and he topped the RL points scoring list in 1990/91 when Salford won the second division championship with 427 points. Can play equally well at stand-off or scrum-half and was long admired by

Oldham coach, Peter Tunks, before he finally got his man in September 1992.

DAVID BRADBURY

Signed from Leigh Miners after touring New Zealand with the BARLA Under 19 squad. David is a strong running loose forward, who impressed on Oldham's pre-season tour of France. A most promising young player.

SCOTT RANSON

Twenty four year old St. Helens player and the top try scorer from his former club, Swinton. Signed for Oldham in March 1992.

SHANE TUPAEA

Ex-New Zealand player. Signed for Swinton then Rochdale. A hard tackling defensive second-row forward.

IAN SHERRATT

Former Oldham and Lancashire schoolboy. Left Oldham for Salford and returned season 1991/2. A hard grafting prop-forward.

BARRIE McDERMOTT

Strong and powerful despite his 21 years, local boy Barrie is yet another member of the BARLA squad to throw in his lot with Oldham. He is a dedicated young professional and has quickly made enough impression to earn a place on the bench in Oldham's last season's matches.

NIGEL HESLOP

Former England RU winger who won 10 caps for his country. Signed for Oldham from Orrell RU club in February '93 after losing his place in England's Five Nation Cup Squad for 1993. Represented England in the World Cup '91 and was a member of two Grand Slam winning squads.

DARREN ABRAM

First professional club was Warrington and then moved to Trafford Borough from where he joined Rochdale for £40k in '91. Earned a reputation at Rochdale as a prolific try scorer and when listed for £70k was sought by several clubs including Salford, Featherstone and Wakefield before joining Oldham in February '93.

Oldham

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junior **Heinz** Riversiders

Welcome to all **Heinz Junior Riversiders**, back to Central Park for the second home match in the space of five days. This is reminiscent of the last weeks of the 1991/92 campaign, and it's not even Christmas yet!

How many of you braved the elements to travel to Bradford last week? I always knew that Odsal was a cold, bleak place, and that's in July! But the way the fog descended was eerie to say the least. Seeing it roll down the terraces to envelop the whole stadium was just like something out of a Steven King horror film - very spooky. Of course, the home supporters blamed Wigan! They obviously thought that canisters of fog were hidden in the coaches, ready to be released if the scoreline looked a bit iffy.

And hands up those of you who think "Northern, Northern" will be this year's Christmas Number One? Not many of you I see.

But back to this afternoon's match, and a warm welcome to all junior supporters from Oldham, and welcome back to the Big League. The game should be a good warm up for the Third Round of the Regal Trophy next month when, of course, Wigan travel to the

Watersheddings.

An important date for all **Heinz Junior Riversiders** to note is Tuesday 14 December. This is the date of the December meeting and is the start of the Christmas celebrations. There will be lots happening and the evening shouldn't be missed. All members are asked to come in fancy dress if possible, and there will be prizes for the best outfits. So get cracking and start making your Mr. Blobby suits! Also there will be an opportunity to get up on stage and become an instant star as you sing along with Karaoke (although unfortunately "Northern, Northern" won't be one of the songs available!)

One of the guests on the night will be Ian Lucas who will be available to answer your questions and sign your autograph books. Also, I understand that he will be telling you of a competition which will have a special prize for the lucky winner.

So the date is Tuesday 14 December at the Riverside Club between 7.00pm and 9.30pm. Don't miss it.

Well, that's all for now. Let's hear you shout and cheer on the lads. Enjoy the game.

Dougie Stand.

Heinz
&
Wigan Rugby League Club
WHAT A GREAT
LINE UP!



MASCOT DETAILS

NAME
Jennifer Smith

HOME
Westhoughton, Bolton.

FAVOURITE PLAYER
Gary Connolly

MEMBERSHIP No.
AE976

SCHOOL
Washacre C.P.
Westhoughton.

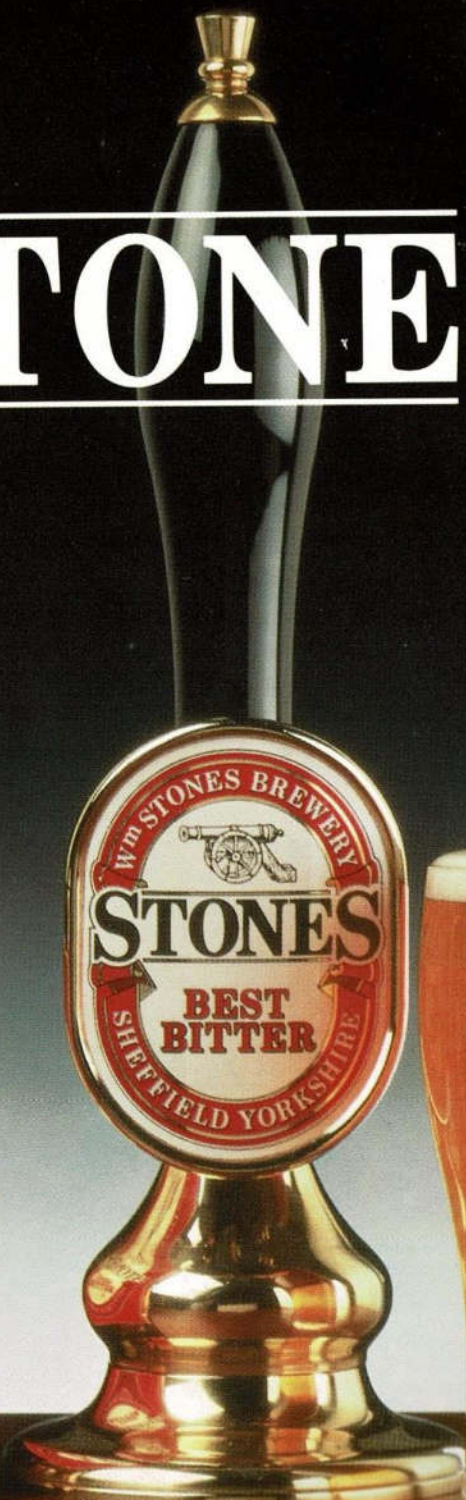
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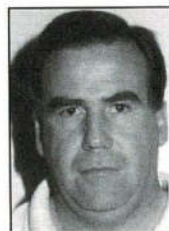


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news



Four of a kind

These four lucky people shared £5,600 as a result of supporting GOLDEN GAMBLE half time draw. All are Wigan supporters who had a simple £1 flutter at various games during the course of this current season.

You could be the next!

Community Cashcade

Since the last programme issue the SUPER TEN Weekly Draw has surpassed another financial milestone.

Over £200,000 has now been 'poured' back into the community in cash prizes, and Promotions Office staff are using all their marketing expertise to further the success of the town's most popular weekly draw.

Anyone can join providing they are 16 years of age and can have the privilege of a Wigan representative calling on them on a regular basis. Like the team our Agents are simply

the best.

IF YOU'RE IN - YOU CAN WIN.

Generous response

Cash is also spread among the community from other sources but Wigan Rugby League are in most cases the starting point.

As the curtain came down on another successful 'Children in Need' appeal we know that within the Wigan community generous response will have been received.

Wigan Rugby League contributed wholeheartedly as usual. Had donations been monitored as a direct result of the Champions memorabilia we no doubt would be surprised by the amount of cash raised.

Autographed balls, signed Wigan jerseys have raised revenue from auctions and raffles towards this worthwhile cause. In addition players have given up their valuable time to make personal appearances at events around the area.

Last year the requests from written applications for donations etc. amounted to a staggering £24,000 against the Wigan club.

Yes, we can probably boast as being the town's main contributor to charities.

Other beneficiaries

But Children in Need aren't the only benefactors from Wigan Rugby League.

Wigan and Leigh Scanner Appeal, the soul searching Derian House Children's Hospice, Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Wigan Hospice have benefited and we

carried out the official launch for the McMillan Nurses Charity. In addition the Wigan club support the needs of local individual causes such as youngster Rikki Jones. The list is endless, the above mentioned are just a few.

1994 Project

Commercial Manager, David Bradshaw will shortly be unveiling several projects in which Wigan will be taking a vibrant part. One of the projects involves the community at large and local children in particular. Watch this space.



IN SUPPORTING WIGAN RLFC YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE TOWN AND ITS CHARITIES.

Pictured below left is McMillan nurse Carol Bridge who received a bouquet of flowers from Jim Costello, area manager of the McMillan charity at the official launch recently.

Malc's helping hand

We have recently said that our SUPER TEN agents are the best and Malc Hodgkinson is as helpful as the rest.

But he was called upon to go overboard recently. It was whilst he was carrying out his SUPER TEN collections in close proximity to Wigan Athletic's Springfield Park. "There was a reserve game taking place between Blackburn Rovers and Sunderland when the car park attendant called me over to help him pick up the parking cones," said Malc. Malc duly obliged then continued with the door to door collections but at least he was able to take advantage of the brightness of the floodlights. One good turn deserves another.

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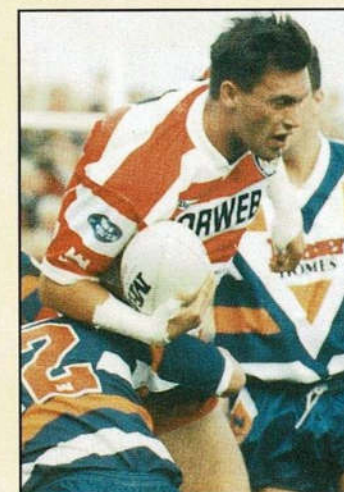
view from...

Early on this week, the Rugby League achieved national media coverage for two different reasons. By national coverage I mean the area south of Widnes. Last Monday Maurice Lindsay met the Minister for Sport Mr. Ian Sproat to point out that although the Rugby League was governed by the safety at sportsgrounds act, no provision had been made to help the Rugby Clubs as had been made to aid Association Football Clubs. Apparently Mr. Sproat, a new and interested convert to Rugby League has offered his support and we hope that in the very near future all clubs will be helped to improve the safety and facilities at their grounds.

The second issue concerned the relationship between Rugby League and Rugby Union. Present, informed thought seems to point to the fact that there will soon be a free gangway between the codes from the very top level downwards. Jonathan Davies and Kevin Ellis were interviewed and made the point strongly that they certainly had no regrets changing from Union to League. The third personality interviewed was a larger than, larger than life Stuart Evans who was contemplating taking his case to the High Court so that the Welsh Rugby Union would be compelled to reinstate him. The only flaw in his case seemed to be that 'he had retired from Rugby League because of injury, but Neath RUFC had asked him to play again.'

The Test match between Scotland and the All Blacks last Saturday could have had the less discerning believing that the New Zealanders were indeed super heroes. The press and particularly one famed television commentator used every superlative in the dictionary to describe their performance. Watching Rugby Special last Sunday you had to keep pinching yourself so as not to be caught up in the hype. When you were treated to yet another 'Brilliant' or 'Superb' New Zealand try the thing that stuck out like a sore thumb was the fact that the Scots were not tackling at all. Now at any level of Rugby, if a side does not tackle, they lose, and the longer the game goes on the more tries the opposition score. On the Wigan video from the season before last 'Ultimate Warriors' we are treated to two occasions when Dean Bell sailed past Leeds'

Craig Innes who had just signed from an excellent All black career. The difference between the codes is vast, especially in the tackling and running with the ball departments. I cannot, however, see a free gangway making much difference unless the likes of Harlequins or Bath offer Rugby League players 'Loadsamoney' to sign on. Rugby League clubs will always sign good players from Rugby Union, especially in the North, but with the amounts of money in Union these days, we will not be seeing many 1st Division Rugby Union players signing Rugby League forms.



▲ Barrie-Jon Mather.
 A target for the Auckland Warriors.

I see from the Rugby press that the speculation over All Black Va'aiga Tuigamala joining Wigan has died down and that the club is showing interest in Australian Rugby Union centre Jason Little. I suppose the difference between Australia and New Zealand is that Rugby League in Australia is the national game. Little will therefore have had League experience. Would he fall for a Dean Bell dummy in the way that Craig Innes did?

The Australians seem to be contemplating experimenting with an important rule change,

increasing the tackle count to eight, but not allowing any kicks after the sixth tackle. What do you think will happen to teams? Will they stick to kicking on the sixth tackle or throw caution to the wind and throw the ball about for the last two tackles in order to try to get over the opposition try line. What about keeping the six tackle rule and not allowing any kicks after the fourth tackle? Surely this will encourage teams to throw the ball about more. The Aussies idea would just mean the forwards 'hitting up' for six tackles. Why not restrict it to four 'hit ups'? Why change rules at all? Whatever happens, do not let them bring in the rule that allows the side that kicks the ball into touch to have head and feed in the ensuing scrum!

The short match reports that appeared after the Wigan game at Bradford had some discrepancies. In one I read that the Bradford try was scored just before the thick fog descended. Now am I right in thinking that only about six people on the whole ground knew that Cordle had touched down and it took a long time before Stevo and Eddie found out who had scored. You never know, Cordle was probably behind Offiah when the ball was kicked.

Having shopped around New Zealand for players, the Auckland Warriors have now started to look to Great Britain. Barrie Jon Mather and Chris Joynt are the latest players to be approached. It must be rather tempting to be part of a new exciting set up in a very attractive part of the World. Young players will be able to add to their experience and probably to their value on the transfer market after a couple of seasons under John Monie. The salary cap may well work in British clubs favour with players not insisting to play less than they can earn in Britain in what after all is a relatively short career. A figure of £20,000 has been quoted. That must be on the low side, I suppose a young footloose and fancy free bachelor could live well on that sort of salary but it would certainly not tempt a family man with children to uproot and travel half way around the World. The advice to British clubs is, if you want to keep a player, marry him off as soon as possible.

Geoff Duckworth

...the 'duggie'

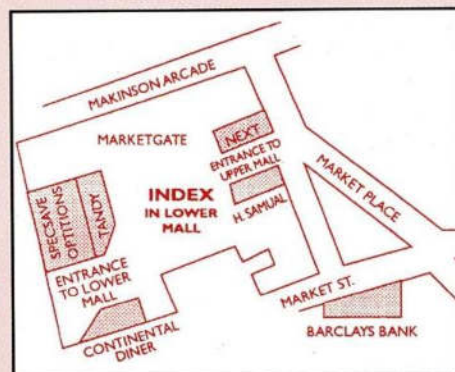
Compiled by Geoff Duckworth

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index.

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Top Ten Try Scorers

1. Greg Austin (Keighley C).....18
2. St. John Ellis (Castleford).....15
- Mark Johnson (London C).....15
- Ian Thomas (Huddersfield).....15
5. Mark Riley (London C).....13
- Nick Pinkney (Keighley C).....13
7. Leigh Deakin (Ryedale-York).....10
- Jason Green (Rochdale H).....10
- Mark Conway (Dewsbury).....10
- Carl Hall (Doncaster).....10
- Glen Tomlinson (Batley).....10

Top Ten Goal Scorers (Including drop goals)

1. Jonathan Davies (Warrington).....58
2. Mark Conway (Dewsbury).....57
3. Frano Botica (Wigan).....55
4. Deryck Fox (Bradford N).....50
- John Gallagher (London C).....50
6. Graham Sullivan (Ryedale-York).....46
7. Wayne Kitchin (Workington T).....45
8. Robert Turner (Doncaster).....43
9. John Wasylw (Keighley C).....42
10. Lee Crooks (Castleford).....41

Leading Point Scorer

Mark Conway of Dewsbury is the leading point scorer with 153 from 57 goals and 10 tries.

Greg Austin

Greg Austin of Keighley Cougars needs one try for a career total of 200 touchdowns. The centre has scored 18 for Keighley plus 11 Rochdale Hornets, 25 Salford, 45 Hull KR and 100 Halifax. Austin is the joint holder of the Second Division match record with six tries for Halifax in a 66-26 home defeat of Trafford Borough on 7 April 1991. He also scored six in a match for Hull KR and his total of 17 hat-tricks includes two five-try feats, and four touchdowns on three occasions. Austin has finished in the top ten try chart in each of the last four seasons, being second to Martin Offiah twice, and is in the lead this season with 18. A former Manly player, the Australian began his British career with Rochdale, making a substitute debut in a 52-13 Second Division home defeat of Doncaster on 22 September 1985.

His full debut followed seven days later when he scored a try in a 25-16 league victory at Keighley.

He moved to Salford, returned to Australia for a year and then signed for Hull KR, for whom he made a two-try debut in a 54-12 Yorkshire Cup first round victory at Bramley on 17 September 1989.

He stayed at Rovers for just over a season, then they released him from their overseas quota to make way for New Zealand international forward James Goulding.

Halifax snapped him up and he made another try-scoring debut as a substitute at Bramley in a 56-8 Second Division win on 23 September 1990.

A week later he was in the centre for a 26-18 league victory at home to Ryedale-York.

A move to Keighley Cougars this year saw him make his debut in the 30-22 Second Division win at Barrow on 29 August.

Austin has also totalled 28 goals, including two drop goals.

Born on 14 June 1963, his season-by-season try totals are as follows:

	App	Tries
Rochdale H		
1985-86	20+2	11
Salford		
1986-87	31+1	17
1987-88	16	8
Hull KR		
1989-90	34	38
1990-91	4	7
Halifax		
1990-91	29+1	40
1991-92	33	33
1992-93	26	27
Keighley C		
1993-94	12	18
Totals		
Rochdale H	20+2	11
Salford	47+1	25
Hull KR	38	45
Halifax	88+1	100
Keighley C	12	18
Grand Totals	205+4	199

Try scoring sequence

Mark Johnson of London Crusaders has touched down in seven successive matches as follows:
2-1-1-2-2-2-1

Scoring sequence

Paul Bishop of Halifax saw his pointscoring sequence end after 44 matches when injury ruled him out of the match at Wakefield Trinity.

Winning Run

London Crusaders and Warrington have the current longest winning run of six matches.

Milestones

Daryl Powell of Sheffield Eagles needs one try to become the first player to total a career century of touchdowns for the club.

Les Quirk of St. Helens needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns for the club.

Andy Mason of Wakefield Trinity needs one try for a career century of touchdowns for the club.

Stones Bitter Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	11	9	0	2	224	149	18
St. Helens	11	8	0	3	283	149	16
Bradford N.	10	8	0	2	284	214	16
Castleford	11	7	1	3	293	146	15
Halifax	11	7	1	3	242	191	15
Wigan	9	7	0	2	235	161	14
Featherstone	11	6	1	4	234	250	13
Widnes	10	5	0	5	179	216	10
Leeds	10	4	1	5	213	196	9
Sheffield E.	10	4	1	5	208	238	9
Hull	11	3	2	6	155	193	8
Hull K.R.	11	4	0	7	180	279	8
Oldham	11	3	0	8	200	196	6
Wakefield T.	11	3	0	8	144	238	6
Salford	11	3	0	8	156	267	6
Leigh	11	0	1	10	152	299	1

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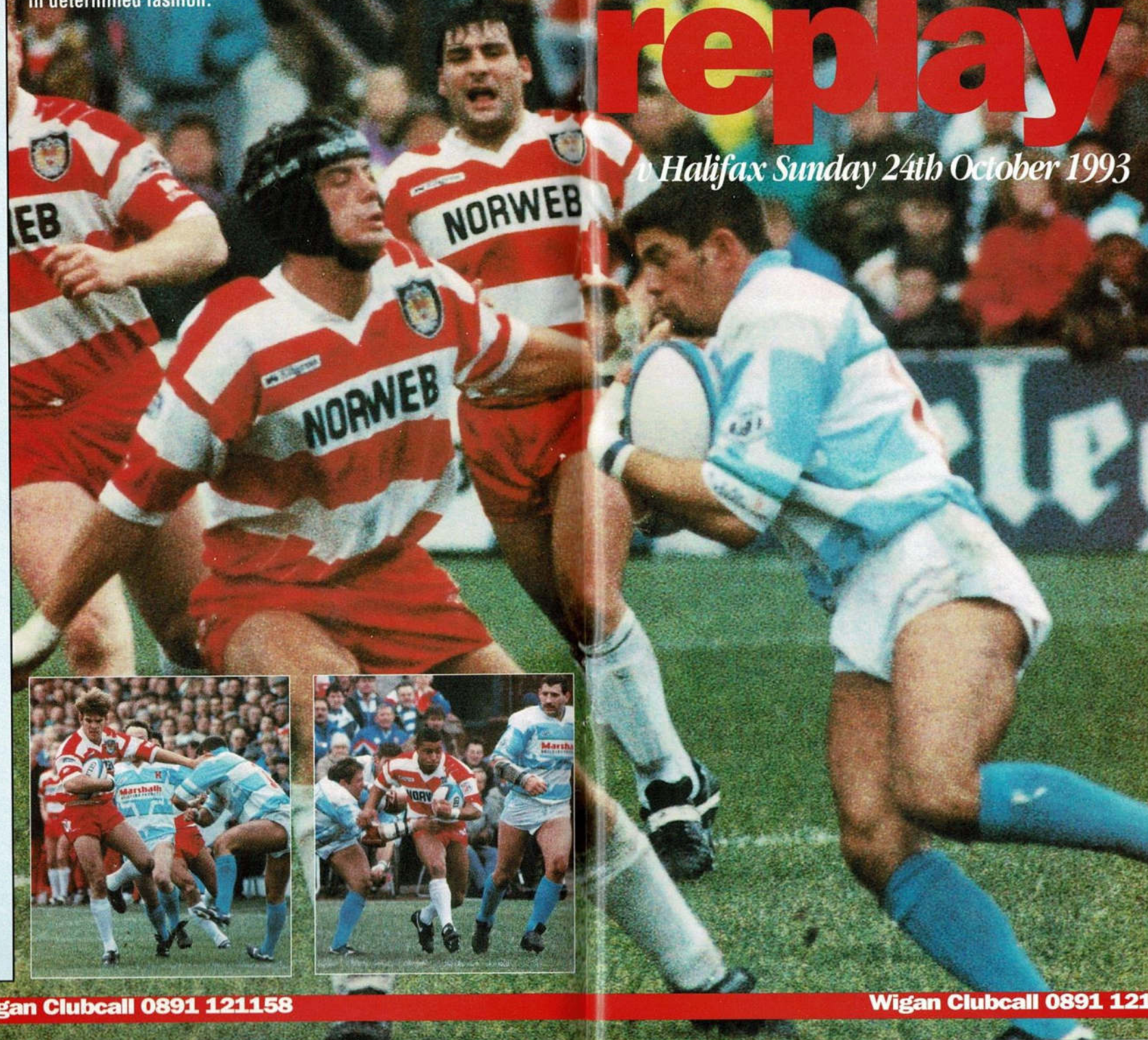


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Main Pic.
Phil Clarke braces himself for the impact!
Inset Below Left.
Gary Connolly uses the hand off to good effect.
Inset Below Right.
Jason Robinson splits the 'Fax defence
in determined fashion.



action replay

vs Halifax Sunday 24th October 1993



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Ray French's dream



Former RU International, RL International and now BBC commentator Ray French has selected this afternoons dream team. Ray was sad to have to omit such greats as Peter Sterling, Reg Gasnier and Duggie Greenall but with only 15 places up for grabs someone had to miss out.

1. Glyn Moses
2. Tom Van Vollenhoven
3. Mal Meninga
4. Eric Ashton (Capt)
5. Billy Boston
6. Bobby Fulton
7. Alex Murphy
8. Brian McTigue
9. Tommy Harris
10. Brian Edgar
11. Dick Huddart
12. Wayne Pearce
13. Vince Karalius
14. Lewis Jones
15. Johnny Raper

team

watching Wigan

with Brian Murphy

The Centres

When a club has paraded as many star wing threequarters before the Rugby League public as Wigan have then the business of finding the best centres to partner them has always been high on the agenda. Nobody can say that we supporters have not been well provided for and what marvellous players we have been privileged to see in those number three and four shirts.

There have been few better exponents of centre play than Ernie Ashcroft, the local lad who walked into Central Park and asked for a trial even though he had never played any organised rugby previously. Ashcroft always gave me the impression that he was moving in slow motion. He wasn't of course but his long legged, loping running action disguised his speed. It was the same with his passing. So methodical, straight from the coaching manual, had there been such a thing at the time. I wonder how many youngsters learned how to pass a ball correctly by copying Ernie Ashcroft?

Alongside Ernie for most of the late 'forties was Welshman Ted Ward. Ward was strong and crafty and an excellent goal kicker but he never had the reputation of being fast. In fact my lasting memory of Ted Ward was his rather prominent stomach.

Jack Broome and George Roughley were the two 'A' team centres who played in Wigan's 1950 Championship winning side at Maine Road. Broome had more first team games under his belt at the time but even though Roughley was always regarded as a reserve he notched up nearly 100 senior appearances. Broome was signed as a 17 year old in 1948 and from the outset he was pushing for a first team spot. Maine Road provided Broome with his big break and his spectacular try against Huddersfield was the highlight of an historic day. In 1953 Broome was called up for National Service and he added to his reputation in Army rugby union.

Services rugby also helped shape the career of Eric Ashton and it was while he was on a weekend pass from his army unit that he appeared in a public practice match at Wigan at the start of the 1955/56 season. I was at the match and remember it well especially Ashton's part in it. He looked so tall and thin but he was outstanding in every way. The Wigan directors were ready to sign him on by half time. At the end of the day they had done so.

Ashton just seemed to get better and better with every game he played. He soon showed that he was a born leader so it was inevitable that he would become Wigan's captain. He went on to skipper Great Britain too and during the 1962 tour one Australian journalist considered Ashton to be 'the greatest captain ever.'

Wigan liked to pair the elegant Ashton with centres of contrasting styles. Men who had a bit of the devil in them, like Keith Holden, a hard uncompromising player who took the knocks to protect his winger but who was not averse to handing out a few knocks himself. Holden had two spells at Wigan and between them they signed another tough guy centre - one of the toughest in fact, name of Alan Davies.

Davies was a Test player and a hardened pro before his transfer from the crack Oldham side of the 'fifties and he typified the spirit of that team with his 'bully boy' attitude which intimidated opponents.

Alan Davies had his best days at Oldham before his

move to Wigan. Chris Hesketh on the other hand had to leave Central Park to make his name. Although an able performer with Wigan he could never be sure of a regular place and as things turned out his transfer to Salford was the best thing that could have happened.

I have to rack my brain to come up with any centres of real quality in the dozen or so years after Eric Ashton retired from playing. For most of the time the positions were filled by men voted for their versatility, like the brothers O'Loughlin and Hill. I have come up with two however - three if you include Bill Ashurst who began as a centre but who found real fame as a second rower so more of him later.

Peter Rowe, a 1966 signing from Swansea RU was well equipped for the centre's job. I always thought he had the look of Ernie Ashcroft about him although he certainly did not have a pair of hands like Ernie, and there was another Welshman, David Willicombe whose signing was welcomed by the fans who had seen him play many fine games against Wigan for Halifax. Deceptively fast, Willicombe was as good a centre as anyone around. He toured in 1974 but broke his arm a year later while playing for Wales in the World Cup. After that it was a series of operations, steel plates and bone grafts. When the arm was right he broke his ankle, after that a complicated shoulder and that eventually forced him to retire.

'WIGAN SIGN BOY WONDER' screamed the headlines in 1978, heralding the arrival of Trevor Stockley who signed for Wigan on his 17th birthday to end one of the most publicised talent chasing races for years. While he was only sixteen Stockley had been playing for the first team as A N Other and turning in impressive performances against top opposition. Why, I wonder, did such an outstanding prospect fail to make a lasting name for himself in the game?

During that bleak period in the late '70s it seemed that none of Wigan's signings could inject flair into a team that was on the slide and it wasn't until the arrival of David Stephenson in 1982 that Wigan could once again claim to have a centre with pedigree. Stephenson made the right centre berth his own while Wigan tried to find a worthy partner for him. Colin Whitfield was given the job and then Wigan signed Steve Donlan from Leigh. The problem was finally solved in the grand manner with the signing of Joe Lydon for yet another record breaking transfer fee.

Since then the list of Wigan's centres reads like an international Rugby League 'Who's Who'. New Zealander Kevin Iro - The Beast. What a player!

And from Australia, three short term custodians of the centre places: Andrew Farrar, Gene Miles and, my favourite of the trio, Phil Blake. Anchor man throughout this period has been Dean Bell. For more than five years he has been a model of consistency and if Deano has played a bad game for Wigan in that time then I must have been somewhere else because I never saw it.

A personal choice of Wigan's Best Centre Threequarters over the last fifty years (in alphabetical order):

ERNIE ASHCROFT
ERIC ASHTON
DEAN BELL
JACK BROOME
ALAN DAVIES

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Travel

The next trip is in a fortnight, on Sunday 12th December, when we travel to the ground of today's opponents Oldham for the third round of the Regal Trophy. Coaches leave Central Park at 1-15pm. Adults £4, Juniors £3. Bookings can be made today at either of our shops inside the ground, but there is another home game next Sunday against Hull KR at which supporters can book. Of course we shall also be taking telephone bookings as usual on 46371 (evenings) or 866726 (daytime).

Bradford Abandonment

The fog at Odsal last weekend meant it was impossible to carry on with the game and it was quite rightly abandoned, despite Peter Fox's opinion. Someone at Bradford must have quite a keen sense of humour to play "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet" when Cordle went over for a try, as we certainly hadn't been able to see it!!! The fixture has been provisionally rearranged for Wednesday 5th January 1994, and everyone who was at last weekend's game has a ticket for the new date. If any supporters are unable to attend on that evening then they can bring their tickets to the Supporters' Association and we shall try to sell them to others who weren't able to travel to the original game.

GMR Tape

"The Graeme West Profile" was transmitted on GMR on two occasions, once on Friday night 12th November and then again on Sunday 14th. Many supporters missed this because they were at the Alliance game on the Friday and were travelling home from Whitehaven on the Sunday. Tapes of the profile can be purchased from the Theme Shop or the Promotions Office, price £3.99.

Christmas Dinner

Tickets are now available for Graeme's Mixed Dinner at the Orwell, Wigan Pier on Wednesday 15th December. These are £20 and can be obtained from the Supporters' Association, the Promotions Office or the Testimonial Committee members. Maurice Bamford is guest speaker and Kevin Tamati the Master of Ceremonies. Further details can be obtained by telephoning the Supporters' Association numbers, the same ones as for coach bookings, 46371 or 866726.

Player of the Month

The voting slip for the November 'Player of the Month' award, sponsored by Goldsmith's Jewellers, can be found at the bottom of this page. Votes can be handed in to any Committee member, at the Supporters' Association shops or at the main office.



My nomination for the Supporters Association Player of the Month for November, sponsored by Goldsmiths Jewellers, is

Members name

Membership No.

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Did you see the fog come in at Odsal last week? I was watching at home on TV by the fire, having spent most of the week coughing and sneezing. Seldom have I been so glad to have not made the effort to go to a game. We all felt sorry for those who had made the journey, left with only a foggy M62 to look forward to and no game to talk about on the way home.

This was why I decided to invest in Sky TV in the first place. I hate giving any of my money to Rupert Murdoch, but you have to admit that their coverage of Rugby League is excellent. Once you get past the embarrassing opening titles where Martin, for some reason, punches himself gently in the face, the whole thing is first class. Also, there has never been anything on TV before to rival "Boots 'n' All". I even quite enjoy the naff comic routine after the credits at the end. The speed with which the fog descended in Bradford was unusual. It happened almost as quickly as that produced by the fireworks before the Brisbane Broncos game in October last year.

At kick off I don't think that the posts and corner flags could have been seen from the opposite 25 that night either. I was in the Whitbread Stand and we certainly could not see the play for the first couple of minutes. As things turned out we could have done with real fog that night rather than just pink smoke.

The weather can interfere with matches in all sorts of ways, and through a long season it is surely part of the make up of a good team to be able to battle through all sorts of different climatic

conditions. Perhaps then we should give some credit to Neil Summers, the Bradford stand off, for having the sense to hoist the ball up into the fog where no one could see it in what turned out to be the last minute of the game. This was simply adapting to the conditions.

It was nice to hear Mr. Smith's obvious concern for the spectators in making his decision. It was not just whether he and the players could get on with the game, but whether the paying public could see.

There is a story that this was not the case some years ago in a European match at Anfield. Fog

had closed in to the extent that spectators at either end could no longer even see as far as the half way line, just their own goal area. A roar from one end was followed by the Liverpool players trooping back into their own half, having obviously scored. The end that could not see began chanting "Who scored?". They were quickly answered by the chanting of the players name

from the other end. In turn they politely responded in the style of the old Scaffold hit "thank you very much for the information".

Since they could no longer see the game they had to do something to pass the time, although with some top soccer matches that is still the case, even when the weather is perfect.

It was fog that caused John Snagg, the plummiest voice ever known on BBC sports commentary, to make one of the first commentary cock ups that have come to be known as Colemanballs. He was describing the boat race, tedious

enough anyway, but in fog utterly so. He said "I can only just see them through the fog. I'm not sure who's leading. It's either Oxford or Cambridge." Brilliant John, where would we have been without you?

Incidentally, my favourite Colemanballs was committed by the one and only Alex Murphy. He was summing up at half time in an international match against Australia at the time when Maurice Bamford was the Great Britain coach. As the teams ran out to retake the field Alex told the waiting nation. "Maurice will have fired them up at half time and they will be coming out now determined to give forty per cent effort." No wonder we lost!

It's easy to see that he had simply mixed up his forty minutes with his hundred per cent, but I hope he never said it to any of his teams in one of his famous half time rages of motivation. Pity the unfortunate player who laughed if he ever did.

BBC Grandstand were unfortunate enough to be covering horse racing once at a meeting that should really have been called off because of the fog. The spectators at the course are fairly incidental to a race meeting, those that matter are in betting shops all over the country, and since nothing should be in the way of the horses they can continue with more fog than most sports. On TV though it was truly dreadful, less movement than Nigel Short in full think. The normally fast talking commentator reduced to repetitious "ums" and "ahs" as we all stared at blank whiteness and waited for something to appear.

Eventually something emerged and went past the winning post, but if I was Joe Coral I would have ruled it out and returned all bets. Like Gerald Cordle's touchdown last week the victory would have simply been lost in the mist.

Referee Smith showed his concern for the spectators as well as the players when abandoning our match at Odsal Stadium.



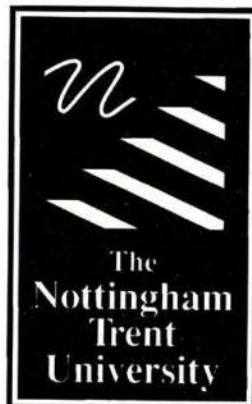
*Alex Murphy.
Came out with my all time favourite!*



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Wigan 16 Castleford 26 (12-11-93)

There were Alliance debuts for five young prospects in this game which was played in appalling conditions of continuous driving rain. Injuries, first team calls and the 'flu bug disrupted preparations, but the youngsters gave their all against a strong Castleford outfit.

The visitors scored an early try through stand-off Bradley. A penalty by Darley and a converted try gave them a 12-0 lead as we struggled to make headway. We buckled down to the task and came back well. Mike Neal made an excellent break down the left but Martin Offiah was held back when trying to support him. Then on the other wing Warren Barrow was taken out when chasing his own kick. These incidents brought penalties but no yellow cards, and two good goals by Sean Long made the half-time score 4-12.

Offiah scored with his first touch of the ball after the interval, a lovely pass by Neal putting him through. Long added the goal and the game was wide open again, but a mistake from the kick off gave Castleford possession and they capitalised by scoring another converted try.

The gap became twelve points when the ball was intercepted in mid-field as we tried to bring play away from our own half. Showing

great spirit a try by Anthony Murray from Martin Hope's pass, and Long's fourth goal, gave us a chance with ten minutes remaining, but eventually Castleford sealed their win with a late try straight from a scrum. Sponsor Sam Holding of the Swan and Railway in Wallgate gave the man of the match award to Mike Neal.

Team: Hope, Barrow, Haughton, Neal, Offiah, Johnson, Long, Taylor, Murray, Barr, West, Smith (D), Hatton. **Subs:** Wright (D), Smyth.

Wigan 26 Bradford 22 (20-11-93)

We returned to winning ways on Saturday afternoon with a 26-22 victory over Bradford. In an excellent opening quarter we took a 16-0 lead with three tries, two of which were converted. The first came from a lovely run and well-timed pass by full-back Andy Craig which sent Darren Williams racing away down the wing. A towering kick by Craig Murdock had the Bradford defence in all sorts of trouble and Graeme West grabbed the awkwardly bouncing ball to crash over under the posts. Craig converted. Another kick by Murdock, this time low along the ground, brought the third try. Murdock chased his own kick, beat the full back for pace and dived on the ball over the line. Craig again added the goal.

However the experienced David Heron brought Bradford back into the game almost single-handedly, setting up tries in the 16th, 23rd and 32nd minutes for Shaun Austerfield, Phillip Russell and Lee Roper, and two goals by Daio Powell made the half time score 16-16.

The second half began in similar fashion to the first with a lot of pressure being put on the visitors' defence. From a penalty for holding down after a long run by Andy Johnson, Murdock took a quick tap, but the move seemed to lose direction until a wide ball to the right was scooped up by Mike Neal, and he looped around the outside to go over in the corner. Good handling brought the fifth try, Johnson giving the final ball for West to go in for his second. Loss of possession in our own half gave Bradford a chance and after several forward barges they scrambled in under the posts and the conversion cut the gap to two points. Finally Craig sealed the game with a penalty after Murdock had once again been held down. Sponsors Harry and Alex Hammond of The Red Lion, Blackrod gave the man of the match award to prop Brendan Barr for his excellent workrate.

Team: Craig, Williams, Neal, Stevens, Radlinski, Johnson, Murdock, Taylor, Murray, Barr, West, Smith (D), Haughton **Subs:** Long, Moran.

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quick quiz

Ten to test you

Would you believe it?

We are used to seeing matches postponed occasionally because of frost, waterlogged pitches, international calls, etc. but would you believe that a Wigan game was once called off because of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease?

On Friday 13 October 1967 the Australian tourists met Wigan at Central Park and were beaten 6-12 before a crowd of 22,770. A few days later a suggestion was put forward for the Australians to play an exhibition game in Dublin. The Aussies saw this as an opportunity to avenge their defeat and agreed to the game requesting that Wigan be the opposition. The Rugby Football League decided, however, that Featherstone Rovers, as the Challenge Cup holders should meet the tourists. Not happy with this the Aussies insisted that they play Wigan and eventually the RFL sanctioned a Wigan v Australia re-match.

Irish promoter Bill Morton organised satisfactory financial guarantees for both sides and the game was arranged to be played on Sunday 26th November 1967 at the John F. Kennedy Stadium at Santry in Dublin. Stand tickets were available at a price of 10 shillings (now 50 pence). Several charter flights were immediately booked in order to ferry fans across the Irish Sea. A package arranged by the Social Club (now the 'Riverside') included transport from Central Park, a return flight and one night's accommodation in a Dublin hotel. The cost of this was a princely £11-10 shillings!

On 25 October 1967 foot and mouth disease was discovered in cattle at a farm at Oswestry in Cheshire. The outbreak spread rapidly and had a disastrous effect on the farming industry. Widespread restrictions were imposed on the movements of animals and people in an attempt to prevent further spread. The Irish government were desperate to ensure that the disease did not reach the Republic and on Thursday 23 November 1967 the Irish Minister of Agriculture made an order which banned non-essential travel into Ireland. The transport of the teams and supporters was in that category and, inevitably, the big game was cancelled and could not be re-arranged.

1. For which 3 English clubs has Peter Tunks played?

2. Which 2 former Wigan & Oldham players are currently with Castleford?

3. Which former Wigan player left Oldham to join Whitehaven in August 1993?

4. Which current Wigan player was once with Oldham?

5. Which team defeated Oldham in a Challenge Cup semi-final at Central Park in 1990?

6. Which 2 former Orrell RU players are now with Oldham?

7. Which former Oldham player started a Test match for the first time when playing for Great Britain against New Zealand at Wembley in October 1993?

8. From which club did Oldham sign Wally Gibson?

9. Which pair of brothers, one on each side, played in the Challenge Cup semi-final between Oldham and Wigan in 1991?

10. Who scored the winning points when Oldham beat Wigan 10-8 in a Challenge Cup first round tie in February 1987?

ANSWERS
1. Leeds, Salford & Sheffield Eagles. 2. Mick Ford & Richard Russell. 3. Sean Tyrer. 4. Martin Hall. 5. Warrington. 6. Nigel Heslop & Martin Strett. 7. Chris Joynt. 8. Huddersfield. 9. Duncan and Andy Platt. 10. Mick Burke (Paddy Kirwan's try levelled the scores, Burke's conversion won the game).

Who am I?

Born in 1961 in
Castleford...

...an amateur with
Redhill...

...debut for Oldham in
1981...

...first of 23 G.B. Caps in
1983...

...toured in 1984 and
later captained G.B....

...guested for Manly in
1985...

...then joined Wigan...

...scoring 79 tries in 224
appearances...

...before moving to Leeds
in 1992...

...returned to Oldham in
1993.

ANSWER Andy Goodway

have you met...

Each of us present at this afternoon's encounter will have the privilege of seeing one of the finest players of the last decade playing for Oldham. The legend of Lang Park, Bob Lindner, is now winning over many British R.L. spectators with his intelligent attacking play and his resolute, uncompromising defensive skills.

Bob began his career with Brisbane Souths in the Brisbane League and was a team mate of Mal Meninga before he moved on to Wynnum Manly where he played alongside Wally Lewis and Gene Miles. By 1984 his talent had been noted and Lindner made his State of Origin debut for Queensland, he had also appeared for the Brisbane Combined team. In 1986 Bob made a try scoring Test debut for Australia against Papua New Guinea, won a Brisbane Premiership with Wynnum Manly and was selected to tour Great Britain as a Kangaroo.

All the time he was growing in stature and rapidly earning the respect of the World's R.L. critics with his good, hard, honest football. In 1987 Lindner moved to play Winfield Cup Rugby League with the Parramatta Eels, before moving on to the Gold Coast Seagulls in 1989. During the 1986 and 1987 Australian close seasons Bob played English club Rugby League with Castleford to whom he was a revelation.

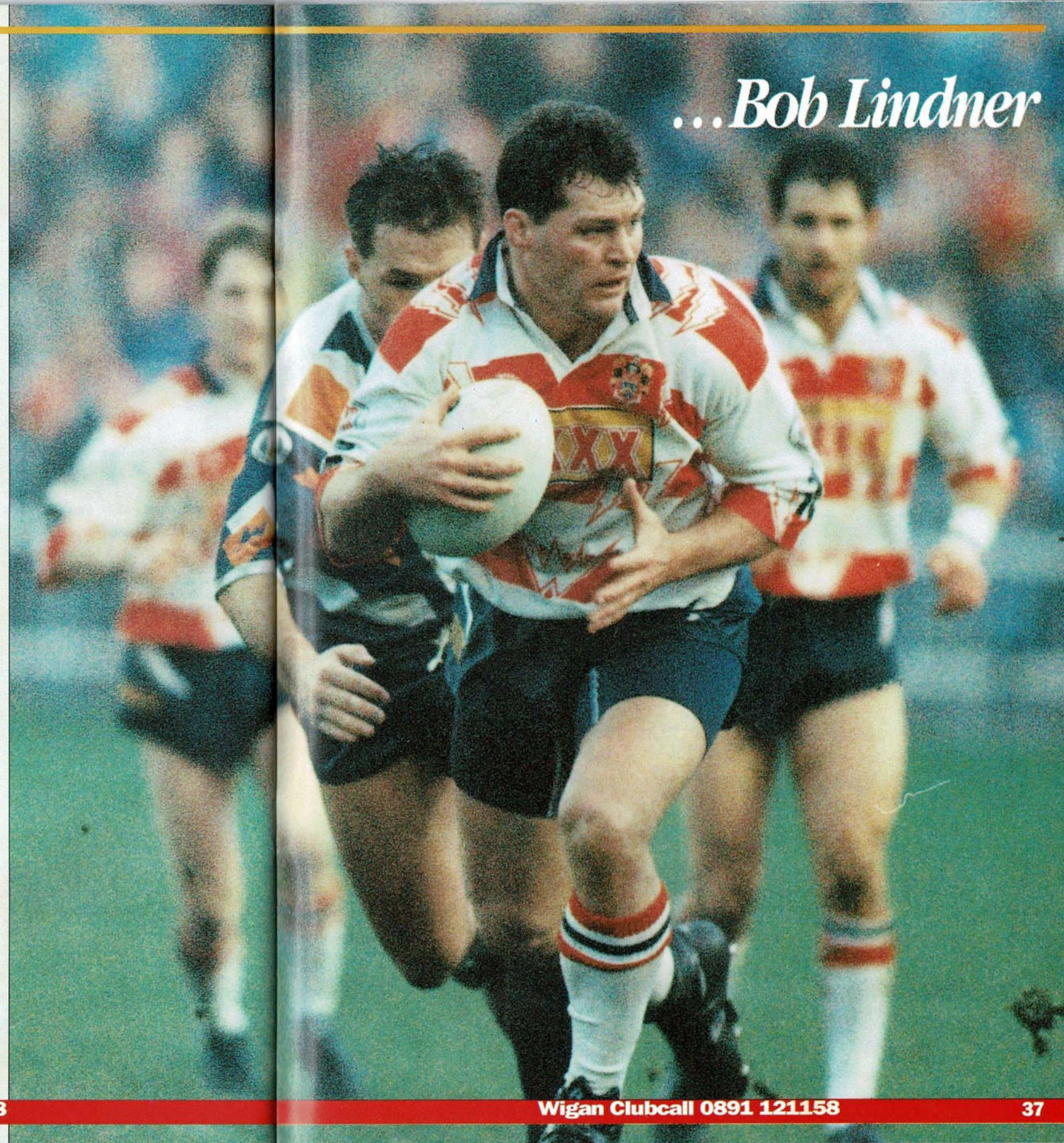
By the time Lindner had moved to Western Suburbs in 1990 he was hailed as the best back-rower in the World and he had a quite magnificent tour of Great Britain with the 1990 Kangaroos where his trademark became his blockbusting straight running and his cast iron defence. Bob came to Britain to represent Australia for a third time last season when he was a member of the Aussies World Cup final winning side. The World Cup final was Lindner's 13th Anglo Australian Test match.

Last season he played for Illawarra and was a try scorer in his 23rd and final State of Origin match for the Maroons at Lang Park, which incidentally Queensland won. Bob's 24th and final Test match was also at Lang Park where he was a member of the successful Australian team which defeated the Kiwis to clinch the Test series back in June 2 nil.

For Oldham, Bob's signature was seen as a major coup and he has rewarded the management in the short term by turning in some top displays. At present Bob is the only current Australian Test player playing in Great Britain and to date has been more than a match for all his opponents. Lindner's conduct, both on and off the park is impeccable and the example he sets to the youngsters is second to none.

For Big League fans in Britain, Lindner's presence in the Oldham side is sure to generate interest as they have the opportunity to see one of the best players in the World in action. Hopefully the faith that they Oldham management showed when the acquired Bob's signature will be repaid in the long term by his class and his effect on the club's younger players who can learn the skills of a 'living legend'.

...Bob Lindner



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There are only a limited number of tickets left, so an early visit to the Pools Office with your membership card is advisable.

The Knights Childrens Christmas Party will take place on Monday 13th December at 6pm, and there are only a limited number of tickets available so be quick!

Draw Venues

Thursday 2nd December
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DRAW 46

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All about the Knights

The 'Knights of Central Park' society help provide the financial backing to build our success. It also welcomes Wigan supporters into an active role with the club.

For a membership fee of £2 per week you will get 4 numbers and a chance of winning 5 prizes 1st £1,200 - 2nd £400 - 3rd £250 - 4th £100 - 5th £50 each and every week.

A membership limit of 1,999 people in the 'Knights of Central Park' society means the odds of winning any of these great prizes will be very, very favourable for all members. In addition to these automatic chances of valuable prizes, the 'Knights of Central Park' will have free access to the Riverside bars on selected days.

You will have reduced season ticket prices and free admission to exclusive functions and many other social events. You'll be able to meet with your fellow members of this exclusive society in comfortable surroundings at Central Park. Plus your membership card will give you discount prices for paint and wallpaper at Leyland Paints, Wigan and 25% discount at Johnsons Dry Cleaners (in the Precinct). Trade prices at Eclipse Wallcoverings, 104 Park Road, Wigan and 10% discount with D. Hewitt, Washer and Dryer repairs, Telephone (0850) 603523.

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around and about

Wigan's comprehensive 40 points to 10 defeat of Sheffield Eagles last Wednesday moved us up to 3rd place in the Stones Bitter Championship, just two points behind leaders Warrington but with a game in hand and a better points difference. The win puts the pressure back on Warrington, St. Helens, Bradford Northern and Castleford to continue winning as there is no doubt that Wigan's presence amongst these clubs makes them nervous. The Sheffield game itself was very entertaining. The Eagles seemed to try and play attractive football at times and whilst they were beaten last Wednesday, Saints fans will tell you that on their day the Eagles style of football can be very attractive indeed! On the evening, however, Wigan had far too much fire power for them and outscored Sheffield eight tries to two and I think that the scoreline was fully representative of the game as a whole.

The 'Roughyeds'

Our visitors this afternoon are our East Lancashire friends and rivals Oldham. This encounter is the first of two successive meetings with the Roughyeds, as we have been drawn to play Oldham at Watersheddings in the Regal Trophy 3rd round. Under Peter Tunks Oldham have done well. Last Sunday against St. Helens they dominated proceedings for long periods and were unfortunate to finish on the wrong end of a 12-2 scoreline. In recent times the Oldham club have been involved in many transfers and player exchanges as Peter Tunks tries to find the right blend of youth and experience. In the likes of Shaun Irwin, Paul Topping, Tiny Solomona, Bob Lindner and former Wigan favourites Martin Crompton and Andy Goodway they have class players. Unfortunately Oldham are currently in 13th place in the Stones Bitter Championship with 6

points from their 11 matches, but when one looks at their points difference you find that it stands at +4 which suggests that when they have lost it has been by a very narrow margin.

Clash of the Titans

As I've already mentioned the Regal Trophy 3rd round draw has brought together this afternoon's opponents again, this time at Watersheddings. In the other major ties of the round Division 1 leaders have been drawn to face 2nd placed side St. Helens at Knowsley Road, whilst high flying Bradford Northern and Halifax meet at Odsal in the big West Yorkshire derby. Each of the three major giant killers from the 2nd round have been given an excellent chance of making the last 8 as London Crusaders travel to Ryedale York, Batley entertain Salford at Mount Pleasant and Carlisle have a home tie with Bramley.

The full draw is Ryedale York v London Crusaders, Oldham v Wigan, St. Helens v Warrington, Bradford Northern v Halifax, Hull v Widnes, Batley v Salford, Carlisle v Bramley and Castleford v Leigh.

The road to Wembley

This weekend sees the 1st round of the Challenge Cup taking place. Sixty four amateur teams play for the right of a place in the second round from which the winners will meet the 16 Second Division clubs in the third round. This season the 16 1st Division sides enter the competition in the 4th round, which will take place towards the end of January.

In the 1st round all National League sides have been given home ties.

The full draw is Askam (Barrow) v Orchard Park (Hull), Barrow Island v Moorends (Doncaster), Beverley v

Cambridge City Eagles, Blackbrook (St. Helens) v London Colonials, Chorley Borough v Elland (Halifax), Dewsbury Celtic v Fulham Travellers, Dudley Hill (Bradford) v Thatcho Heath (St. Helens), East Leeds v Kells (Cumbria), Eastmoor (Wakefield) v Irlam Hornets (Manchester), Egremont (Cumberland) v Ace (Hull), Greetland A.R. (Halifax) v Ellenborough (Cumbria), Hemel Hempstead v Hensingham (Cumbria), Heworth (York) v Wigan St. J.udes, Leigh East v Farnworth (Leigh), Leigh Miners Welfare v Eureka (Hull), Lock Lane (Castleford) v Mysons (Hull), Mayfield (Rochdale) v Hull Dockers, Milford (Leeds) v Cardiff Institute, Millom (Barrow) v Westgate Redoubt (Wakefield), Moldgreen (Huddersfield) v Skirlaugh (Hull), Nottingham City v Clayton (Bradford), Oldham St. Annes v Bisons (Leeds), Oulton (Leeds) v Queens (Leeds), Redhill (Castleford) v Littleborough (Rochdale), Saddleworth (Oldham) v Seaton (Cumbria), Shaw Cross (Dewsbury) v Fryston (Castleford), Walney Central (Barrow) v Simms Cross (Widnes), West Hull v Ovenden (Halifax), Wigan St. Patricks v Wath Brow (Cumbria), Woolston (Warrington) v Upton & Frickley (Doncaster) and finally York Acorn v Orrell St. James (Wigan).

Rugby League... ...A summer sport?

Last weeks Arctic snap once again brought up the subject of whether R.L. should become a summer sport. The arguments for tend to become stronger each year as Stadia deterioration means that in most cases during severe weather it becomes more difficult to protect the hardy spectator. There is also the High Street stores disregard for Sunday trading laws which means that shopping as well as Sunday soccer competes with our great game. This, coupled with the fact that it is altogether more comfortable to watch sport on a warm Sunday afternoon or a mild summer evening than the winter equivalent, also adds strength to the pro summer rugby campaign.

The only real argument for the retention of winter RL tends to be that of tradition. What do you think? Should we change to summer R.L.? I feel that summer rugby is very tempting, particularly if we wish to attract new spectators and present our game in the best conditions for the paying public. I do respect the traditionalists point of view, but maybe now is the time for change.

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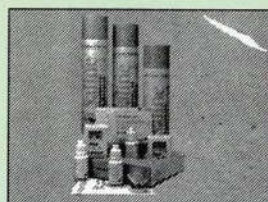
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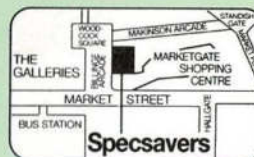
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bits and pieces

Jason Robinson Fan Club

Following on from his stunning debut for Great Britain comes the news that a fan club has now been set up for Jason Robinson. Burnley-based Wigan (and Jason!) fan Clare Smith is setting up the fan club, which as well as keeping fans up to date with all the news concerning Wigan's new star through regular newsletters will offer exclusive opportunities to purchase 'Jason' items and mementos and various off-the-field events. A year's membership costs £5 for which every member will receive a membership package consisting of PVC folder and membership card, key ring, pen, signed photo and welcome letter. Join now to receive your package before Christmas.

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TOM PENDRY M.P.



It was a great pleasure, in my view, to note how well behaved the Rugby League fans were on the occasion of the recent internationals between Great Britain and New Zealand last month - so much so that the police inspector in charge on that day commented that he could see a day when it would not be necessary to police Rugby League events.

Another positive development for Rugby League has occurred here at Westminster with the establishment of the All Parliamentary Rugby League group. This committee is fortunate enough to have several local Members of Parliament as its active and principle members, namely, Ian McCartney (Makerfield) as Chairman, Lawrence Cunliffe (Leigh) as Treasurer, and Roger Stott (Wigan).

After many years of neglect, sport is finally getting the recognition it deserves in Parliament.

Something the committee has been chiefly involved in has been the ending of discrimination by Rugby Union against Rugby League players. We should be grateful for the work of the committee and support them in their future endeavours.

But for the moment, the most important thing at hand is today's match. It should prove to be an exciting game - as most rugby games are and may the best team win.

Tom Pendry M.P.
Shadow Minister for Sport, is today
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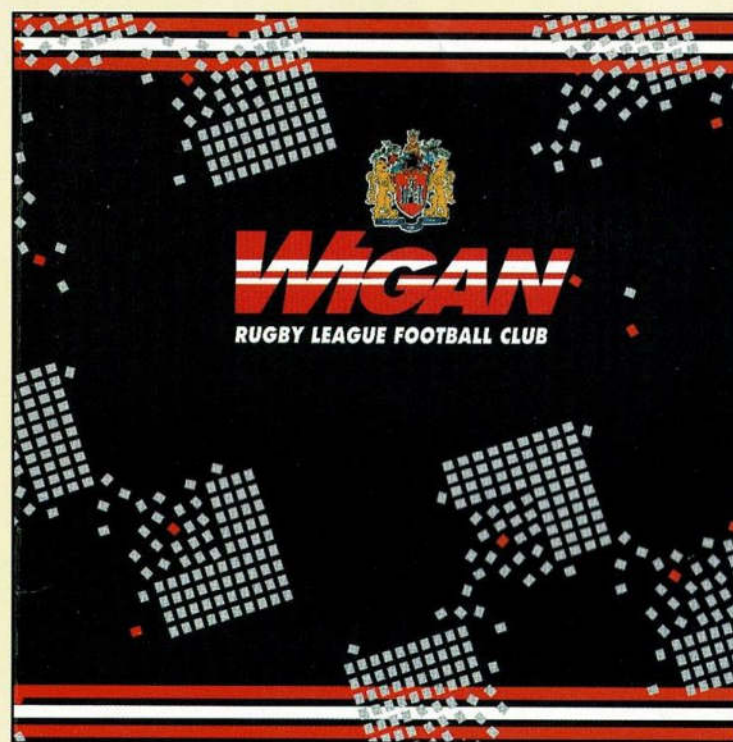
but in nationwide establishments. The idea behind this bold scheme is to cement our roots in the local community, we see our position at Wigan Rugby League club as two-fold. The first as a place to enjoy the very best in rugby

league and second using Central Park as a successful Commercial centre for both events and products proving top quality value for money. It is our belief that we have succeeded on both points, providing within the covers of the voucher book excellent value for money for the buyer whilst at the same time ensuring that the vouchers are matched to top quality establishments.

The vouchers are simple and straight forward to use, all instructions are printed alongside in a clear and distinct format. The quality layout ensures the buyer can plan the most effective use of the voucher which are valid for more than twelve months.

Through this programme we will keep you informed of new details on the voucher scheme on a regular basis as well as special vouchers available to programme buyers. The Lancashire Evening Post and the Wigan Post will be promoting the scheme on a regular basis with their own special offer for their regular readers.

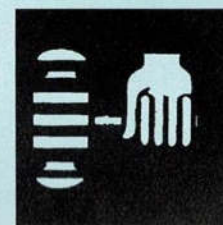
David Bradshaw



▲ The voucher book is available from the Promotions Office and Main Office at Wigan Rugby League Club, Central Park, Wigan.

Date	Opponents	H/A	K.O.	RES	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug 29 Sun	Hull	H	3.00	W16-8	11,366	Bolton G4	Robinson T	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Dermott	Gildart	Betts	Mather T	Clarke	Compton(6)	Farrell(12)
Sept 5 Sun	Wakefield	H	3.30	W40-16	6,882	Bolton T. 66	Robinson T2	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Mather T	Clarke	Compton(7)	Farrell(13)
10 Fri	Leeds	H	7.30	W32-18	14,409	Bolton G6	Robinson T	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Mather T	Clarke	Compton(4)	Farrell(11)
19 Sun	Featherstone Rovers	A	3.30	L22-35	5,572	Bolton G2	Robinson T	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Murdoch	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Mather T	Clarke	Cowie(10)	Farrell(12)
24 Fri	Widnes	H	7.30	W32-2	13,059	Atcheson	Robinson	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Dermott	Cowie	Betts	Farrell	Clarke	Compton(12)	Mather(13) T
Oct 3 Sun	Salford	H	3.00	W24-2	8,765	Lydon	Robinson	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Farrell	Clarke	Cassidy(11)	Mather(8)
10 Sun	New Zealand	H	3.00	L18-25	13,669	Lydon	Robinson	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Farrell	Clarke	Dermott(9)	Mather(8)
19 Tue	Leigh	H	7.30	W38-12	12,874	Lydon	Robinson	Bell	Lydon	Elison	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Betts	Farrell	Clarke	Hall(9) T	Cassidy(3)
24 Sun	Hull	A	3.00	W31-22	9,825	Wright	Robinson T	Panapa	Conolly	Conolly	Conolly	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Cowie	Farrell	Clarke	Gildart(10)	Mather(12)
31 Sun	Castleford	A	3.30	L0-46	7,789	Craig	Elison	Lydon	Conolly	Conolly	Conolly	Murdoch	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Cowie	Panapa	Cassidy	Radlinski(4)	Gildart(1)
Nov 14 Sun	Widnes	A	3.30	W22-8	5,128	Wright	Williams T	Panapa	Conolly	Conolly	Conolly	Murdoch	Skerrett	Hall	Gildart	Mather	Gildart	Cassidy	Houghton(15) T	Farrell(12)
19 Fri	Bradford Northern	A	7.30																	
24 Wed	Sheffield Eagles	H	7.30																	
28 Sun	Oldham	H	3.00																	
Dec 5 Sun	Hull K.R.	H	3.00																	
12 Sun	Regal Trophy - 3																			
19 Sun	Regal Trophy - 4																			
26 Sun	Hull	A	3.15																	
26 Sun	St. Helens	H	3.00																	
1994																				
Jan 1 Sat	Regal Trophy - S.F. 1																			
2 Sun	Warrington	A	3.00																	
8 Sat	Regal Trophy - S.F. 2																			
9 Sun	Wakefield T.	H	3.00																	
14 Fri	Leeds	A	7.30																	
22 Sat	Regal Trophy - final																			
23 Sun	Featherstone Rovers	H	3.00																	
30 Sun	Silk Cut Chall Cup 2	A	7.30																	
Feb 4 Fri	Widnes	A	3.00																	
13 Sun	Silk Cut Chall Cup 3	H	3.00																	
20 Sun	Salford	A	3.00																	
27 Sun	Silk Cut Chall Cup 4	H	3.00																	
Mar 6 Sun	Silk Cut Chall Cup S.F.	A	3.00																	
12 Sat	Leigh	A	3.00																	
13 Sun	Hull	H	3.00																	
20 Sun	Castleford	H	3.00																	
26 Sat	Silk Cut Chall Cup S.F.	A	3.15																	
27 Sun	Sheffield Eagles	A	3.00																	
Apr 1 Fri	St. Helens	A	3.00																	
4 Mon	Warrington	H	3.00																	
10 Sun	Hull K.R.	A	3.15																	
17 Sun	Bradford N.	H	3.00																	
24 Sun	Oldham	A	3.00																	
30 Sat	Silk Cut Chall Cup Final																			
May 8 Sun	Stones Bitter Prem - 1																			

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