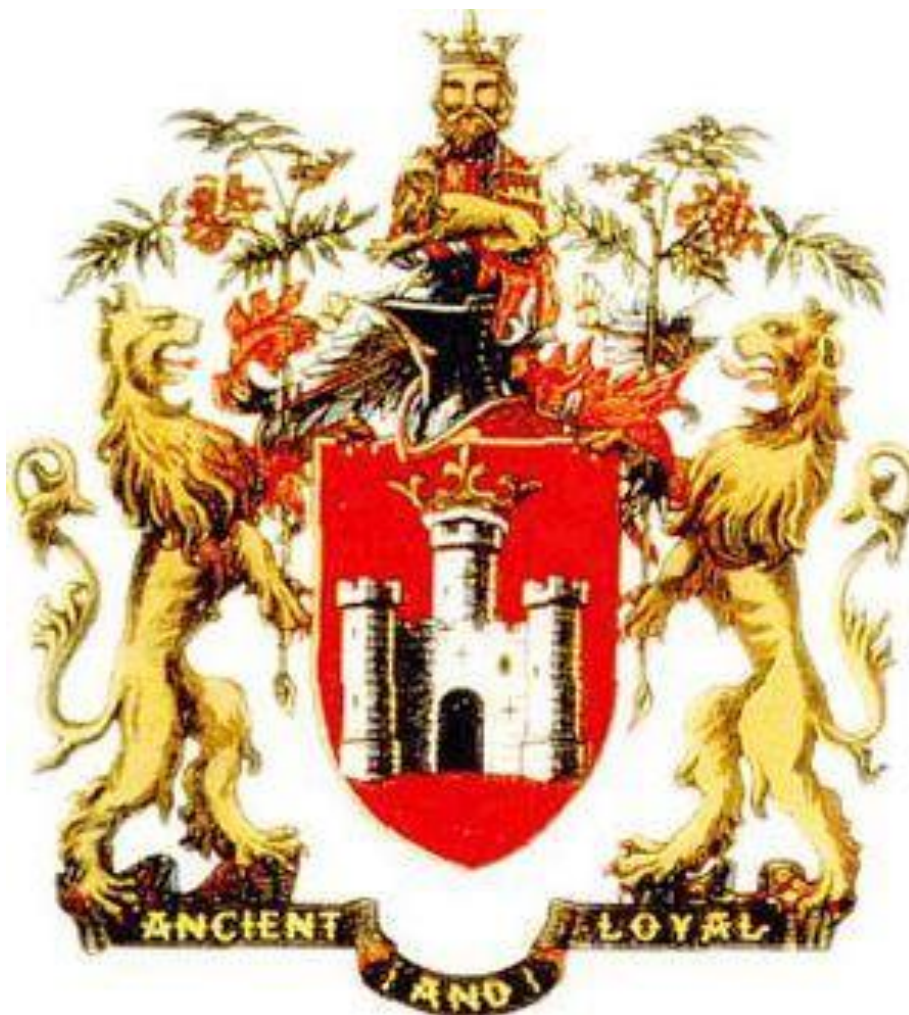
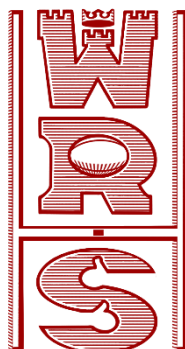


The Role of the Wigan Cricket Club on Rugby Football in Wigan: 1872-77



A presentation to the Wigan Cricket Club from the Wigan Rugby Heritage Society on the recognition of the W.C.C. as Founding Fathers of Rugby in the Borough of Wigan



The year 2022 saw a sporting milestone in the township of Wigan. 150 years earlier, on November 21st, 1872, Members of the Wigan Cricket Club called a meeting to be held in the Royal Hotel, Standishgate, to discuss the possibility of forming a Rugby Football Club in the town. Fast forward to 2022, the Wigan Warriors Rugby League Club celebrated “150 years” of existence (although the true formation is 1879).

With the ever-changing world in Victorian England, sport as a means of physical exercise became more and more popular. As for the Wigan Cricket Club at this time, Members were usually not to be found to be from the working classes but of a professional and educated class. Gentlemen such as John Mayhew (solicitor), his sons Walter (Alderman and Mayor of Wigan 1876-8) and Horace Mayhew (mining engineer) and the Wall family (Thomas being founder of the Wigan Observer) said all you needed to know about the sorts of educated gentlemen playing sport, in this case Cricket, in Wigan at this time.

If we head back to the end of the 1872 Cricket season in Wigan, we can see that as the cricket club started to grow and it's fortunes were changing. Having had their cricket ground at Mesnes since 1860, the Club needed a new location. This was due to the Wigan Rectory Glebe Act of 1871. 16 acres of land at Mesnes was purchased by Nathan Eckersley for a Park and Grammar School, along with a new road construction, Mesnes Park Terrace, which would be built right through the cricket ground. The Wigan Cricket Club thus moved to Prescott Street.

So, what does this have to do with Rugby Football? As mentioned, physical sport was becoming more popular. As the season came to a close by late September, Members of the WCC had ideas on how to keep fit during the winter months. Also, there was a financial burden placed on the Cricket Club due to the move to Prescott Street in the coming months and years ahead. Pavilions, equipment, laying of the land etc came at a cost. Indeed, in 1873, £500 was needed to be raised to get funds to build a pavilion on the new land acquired on Frog Lane from the Earl of Derby. The powers that be at the Cricket Club saw the growing popularity of rugby football spread across the land. Financially some already established clubs were charging a small fee to allow spectators to watch matches. With debts on the horizon, the Wigan Cricket Club may have also set up the rugby venture to help pay for these future costs by charging admission.

The meeting at the Royal Hotel on November 21st aimed to set out the logistics of forming a ‘football’ club. Topics ranged from the rules of the game, fixture cards and a backroom structure were discussed. That evening, a committee was established: Messrs. T.R. Ellis, R.H.V. Kyrke, J. Sayers, E.R. Walker, J. Smith, J. Souter, H. Wall, and R. Procter. With business over land purchases ongoing, Nathaniel Eckersley was asked to become President. By the end of the evening, most of the Wigan Cricket Club Members were now enrolled as members of the new football club, along with ‘outsiders’.

A curious playing member was Richard Kyrke. His father attended Rugby School around 1835, a couple years after the much talked about William Webb Ellis. Rugby football of course was very popular at Rugby School and Richard Venables Kyrke as a boy would have certainly played it. According to Peter Fleetwood, there is a strong possibility that our R.H.V. Kyrke, who at this time was around 20 years of age and a mining engineer, also attended Rugby School and had rugby embedded within his athletic mindset. With this strong possibility of knowing how the game was played, and as a way of leading by example, Kyrke was named Wigan's first captain.

The Club was officially established under amateur status a week later, 30th November 1872, when the first of a series of trial matches was played at "Folly-Field", adjoining Upper Dicconson Street. Nobody knew what to expect or who was the best player. E.R. Walker may have been a great bowler or William Wall a decent batsman, but it was hard to say who would be fastest with a leather ball in the hands or toughest in a scrum. Many went along to try their luck but many more, around 2,000 spectators, went along to see what was going on with this novelty. Each Saturday afternoon trial games were put on and the members were whittled down to those who could play the game. Matches against neighbouring towns were organised for the season, which included Warrington, Southport, Ormskirk, and Bolton.

Over the next six weekends, the Rugby Football Club trained, chopped and changed teams and learned the scientific play of rugby football. The ground at Folly Field saw quite a muster of curious spectators heading into 1873 as the Wigan club made their final arrangements before heading off to their first match on 18th January 1873 against a team from Warrington.

The first players to feature in the inaugural game were the following:

R.H.V. Kyrke (captain)	E.H. Blakeney	W. Bromilow	Hughes
J. Sayer	George H. Sowter	Tarbuck	Wilson
Edward H. Woodcock	W. Hayes	J. Sayer Jnr	Joseph F. Leigh Clare
Henry Wall	William Wall	Edwin Robert Walker	

The match ended in a draw, but in favour of Warrington. The scoring system back then was a little confusing for new comers. A match could only be won by scoring a primary point, that being a successful goal. Warrington had edged the 'drawn' match by three tries, several 'touchdowns', to one touchdown scored by Wigan.

The curious Victorian Wiganers did not have to wait long to see a competitive football match in the town. The following week, Warrington made their way to Folly Field. Joseph Clare has the honour of gaining Wigan's first ever Goal, a drop goal. Richard Kyrke also had the distinction of gaining Wigan's first try, to which Edwin Walker has the distinction of kicking Wigan's first converted goal.

In the cut and thrust of physical contact, the Cricketers were enjoying themselves. Further games home and away were arranged with cricketing rivals Southport and Bolton, drawing both ties with Southport, whilst winning on both occasions against Bolton. A match against Ormskirk was scheduled in for March 23rd but had to be abandoned since Ormskirk had only managed to send four men to play. Instead, a scratch match was played at Folly Field to entertain those who had managed to make the effort and watch proceedings.

During Wigan's first 'season', 26 gentlemen played for Wigan in those six matches. Along with those who played in the first game against Warrington, the following men made an appearance in 1873:

Burton	J. Darlington	Smith	J.H. Walker
Henderson	C.J. Jackson	T. Hardy	Blaver (may be incorrect)
R.G. Blower	G. Kenny	T. Walker	

As the winter of 1872/3 started to thaw out, the leather of the rugby ball was replaced by the willow of the bat. As mentioned earlier, the financial position of the Wigan Cricket Club wasn't at it's best. During a meeting of the Club, it was reported that the finances were in an "unsatisfactory condition". The summer came and went and a general meeting of the football arm of the Club took place. Mr. Eckersley was re-appointed as President whilst well-to-do local solicitor Edward Holme Woodcock was nominated as Captain. Hopes of a fixture list comprising of clubs from Manchester, Preston, Liverpool and others arose. The accounts, which showed a balance of £2.0s 7½d in favour of the club, were passed. There was also a "*very fair attendance*", which was a good start to the forthcoming season of legal fighting of sorts.

As the Cricket season ended come the end of September thoughts were turning away from how many of the members would fund a new Cricket pitch at Frog Lane and onto the matter of rugby. The *Wigan Observer* states on October 3rd that "*the following matches have already been arranged for this season, and it is hoped dates may be fixed during the next few days for matches with the Manchester Club, Dingle, Liverpool, and Owen's College Manchester*". As for the immediate future and pre-season (if you will), the next day Saturday 4th October would be an opening game at Upper Dicconson Street with the *Observer* stating that "*...a good muster of members expected*".

That opening game consisted of sides being chosen by captain Mr. E.H. Woodcock and vice-captain Mr. Kyrke and that there was a "*pretty good muster of members, and some good play was shown*".

A week later, on 17th October 1873, a scratch match was played at Upper Dicconson Street with sides being chosen by Mr. Clare and Mr. Kyrke (it seems captain Mr. Woodcock didn't attend). The afternoon was beautifully fine, and some good play was shown. A match against Swinton had been arranged for Saturday 25th October at the Wigan Cricket ground for some reason. It seems that fixtures were still being finalised, sometimes at short notice. This 'scratch match' was another warmup game before arranged matches had to be played. Here is that match report for the opening fixture of the 1873/74 campaign from the *Wigan Observer* 31st October 1873:

WIGAN FOOTBALL CLUB - *Wigan v. Swinton - October 25, 1873*

This match was played on Saturday afternoon on the Wigan cricket ground and resulted in a victory for Wigan. The Wigan captain (E.H. Woodcock), having won the toss, elected to "kick off", and the ball was started at 3:45pm by J.H. Walker - the visitors having chosen to defend the northern goal. For some time, the home team, playing one man short, were penned, and were compelled to touch the ball down three times but about 4.05 the absent man turned up, and the Wigan forwards, playing more together, and aided by some good runs by E.R. Walker, got the ball down towards their opponents goal, and eventually compelled them to touch it down. Swinton now dropped out and following up very hard kept the ball near the southern goal and managed to touch it down - some of the bystanders getting in the way of the Wigan backs. One of their men, however, kicking it out, the ball was seized by E.H. Woodcock, who managed to get close to the opposite goal before he was stopped. Ends were shortly after changed, and Swinton kicked off. For some time, the game progressed very evenly, till one of the Swinton half backs made a good run and was only collared about 3 yards in front of goal, and Wigan again was forced to touch down. Shortly after the dropout a loose scrum took place close to the touch line near the Swinton end, during which the ball was kicked over the line and out again; very shortly W. Hayes got the ball, and by a splendid left leg drop secured a goal for Wigan. The Swintonians, however, objected to it on the ground that the ball had been thrown out, and their umpire on being appealed to, decided in their favour; the other umpire not being near at the time was unable to give a decision. [Since the match the Hon. Secretary to the Rugby Football Union (Mr. Curry) who was written to for his opinion, has decided that the goal must count for Wigan as no notice was taken of the ball having been into touch until after the goal was secured]. Play was therefore continued, the ball now nearly all the time at the Swinton end, except once when Owen nearly dropped a goal for Swinton, the ball striking the post above the bar and bounding to one side. When, however, "no side" was called at 5:15pm, the ball was again at the opposite end. Andrews (back), and Owen (half back), played very well for Swinton, but with the exception above mentioned their backs invariably punted instead of dropped. Hayes (half back) played very well for Wigan.

Wigan - E.R. Walker and H Wall (backs); J.F. Clare (3/4 back); W Hayes and W Wall (half backs); E.H. Woodcock, R.H.V. Kyrke, J. Lawrence, J. Murray, A. Peck, J. Sayers, G.H. Sowter, C. Twinning and J. H. Walker

Swinton - N. Howarth, captian, J. Dorning (half backs); Owen (3/4 back); E. Parr, Andrews (backs); G.B. Townsend, W. Long, H. Farr, Evans, Morrison, Barker, Ormerod, Denwood, Wright and Judd.

So, Wigan got off to a good start even after being awarded a dropped goal later in the week after the Wigan club had written a letter to the RFU. The Swinton club, however, did not like the above account of the match:

WIGAN V. SWINTON.
To the Editor of the Wigan Observer.

SIR,—Your account of the football match between the above clubs is most erroneously stated. The match was drawn in favour of Swinton; Wigan not gaining a single point during the whole time. If this is winning, why of course they won. When we left the ground we had no idea there was any point in dispute, and were only made aware of the fact on receipt of a letter “nearly a week afterwards,” from the secretary of the Wigan Football Club, enclosing one from the Rugby Football Union, to whom the matter has been mis-stated. Contrary to the rules of the Football Union, “both sides being agreeable” we played two umpires, whose decision was in our favour. We don’t think it very courteous on the part of the Wigan Football Club writing for an opinion on a matter which never was in dispute.

The gentleman who reported this match is evidently ignorant of the game.

**I am, sir, yours truly,
 JOHN DORNING,
 Hon. Sec. Swinton Football Club.**

Despite having played a handful of games to this point, newspapers commenting on the rugby game’s growth were mentioning Wigan. “There are strong clubs at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Rochdale, Hull, Wigan, Bristol...” noted the Rugby Advertiser in March 1873.

The Cricketers were having a good start to their winter game, but interest was still shown in members wanting to try out and play for the team. A report from Friday 14th November brings up some interesting reading. On Thursday 13th November, *The Wigan Observer* reports that “A scratch match of this club was played on Thursday afternoon, according to the association rules, the sides being Smokers v non-Smokers, and resulting, after an exciting contest, in a victory for the latter by 3 goals to 2”.

The publication *Bell’s Life in London* listed weekly rugby matches and amongst the numerous academia and hospital teams they included Wigan prominently compared to other northern clubs. There must have been something about the Wigan club, or the pull of certain Members to afford such news at the time:

**29, Battersea Park—Old Paulines v Putney.
 29, Victoria Park—University College Hospital v London Hospital.
 29, Hornsey—Wasps v Hornsey.
 29, Seven Sisters’-road—Dartmouth v Eaton Rovers.
 29, Wigan—Bolton v Wigan.
 29, Richmond—London International College v Richmond.
 29, Rugby—Richmond v Rugby School.**

After a messy day in Bolton, whereby Wigan could only send around 10 players in atrocious weather at the end of November, a big name was coming to Wigan: Manchester. On Saturday December 6th at Upper Dicconson Street the Manchester Football Club were ready to oppose the Wigan Cricketers. Amongst those travelling the short distance to Wigan were a couple of future England International players in Roger Walker and Jacob Genth. These two players would represent England in a match against Scotland in February 1874, the 4th ever international fixture. The game ended in Manchester's favour.

As 1873 ended, Wigan's second season was not going as well as the first. One win (against Warrington) was the only positive after losses against Bolton, Preston Grasshoppers and Manchester. Wigan were due to play Bolton on January 31st, Southport on Valentine's Day 1874 and Warrington on 21st February, but records have as yet not been able to be found for the Bolton and Warrington matches although the match against Warrington did go ahead. From the reports, though, it seemed that Wigan could play against an established Manchester Football Club, especially in the forwards, but there was a problem with getting the correct number of players onto the pitch at the start of the game. The Wigan Cricket Club by now put a small piece in the *Wigan Observer* to let the public know that land was now acquired from the Earl of Derby and that £500 needed to be raised to get funds to build a new pavilion.

Here is a list of new faces that appeared in the rugby football team during that second season:

J. Lawrence	J.D. Murray	Alfred Peck	CE. Twining
Charles Wall	John Wall	H.T. Byrom	W.D. Brown
R.T. Johnson	J. melling	John H. Peck	George F. McCorquodale

R.T. Johnson was a good cricketer, as the WCC would know in their records, but he only lasted one match, against Bolton on that dreadful rainy day. Demoralised. He didn't bother turning his hand to rugby football again and found alternatives ways to keep fit during the winter months.

Between the start of the 1874/5 season and 1877, the playing club went on a downward spiral. 1874-5 saw five recorded matches which have come to light with Wigan losing two, and three drawn. 1875-6 had even fewer matches played: 3. The annual meeting of that season was a quiet affair. Thomas Wall occupied the Chair whilst Alfred Peck became honourable secretary. Wigan struggled to find men to play in matches, with six turning out against the Up Holland Club.

We come to quite a dramatic change during the 1876-7 season. On October 13th, 1876, the *Wigan Observer* included a snippet from the Wigan Football Club:

WIGAN FOOTBALL CLUB

A general meeting of the members of the above club is announced to be held at the Dicconson Arms on Monday evening next. For the last two years the club, owing to unavoidable circumstances, has suffered a succession of reverses which have nearly caused it to die out, but it now only requires hearty co-operation on the part of its members to restore it to its original healthy condition, and make it one of the best clubs in the county.

Our young men require healthy outdoor occupation during the winter, and football is a game which supplies this want in a very substantial manner. We believe the season is too far advanced for arranging many matches, but if the members will only work together a successful season is yet in store for them.

A few days later, on Monday 16th, a meeting was held at the Dicconson Arms. Perhaps the experiment of rugby football by the stalwarts of the Cricket Club had run its course. By now, Mr. Clare and Mr. Woodcock had resigned their posts. Little interest was seen in rugby matters it seemed. But a few successes came from that meeting. The football arm had asked the Wigan Cricket Club for permission to use the cricket ground to play matches on. To speak of a 'football arm' shows us that there is a gradual move away from the cricketers of 1872 to a more independent rugbyite set up. Henry and William Wall, George Sowter, Alf Peck and a few others

were still involved in the playing side of the rugby team as well as being active Members of the Wigan Cricket Club.

An amalgamation was in order too. On Friday October 20th, 1876, a meeting was held to formalise a merger between the up Holland and Wigan rugby clubs. Here is further evidence that the hold the Wigan Cricket Club had on the rugby 'arm' was declining. The Wigan Football Club couldn't rely upon cricketers forever. Nearly five years had passed since the foundation and times simply changed. Change too came with the name of the rugby club: Wigan District Football Club.

Financially, the Wigan Cricket Club benefitted during this season. Home matches were agreed to be played at the Cricket Ground on Prescott Street with admission being set at 3d., or free for Members. They had a Pavilion to pay for still!

The 1876-7 season saw the Wigan District Football Club win 5 matches and lose 7. Supporters started to follow the team to away matches but the on-field problems started to hamper the club once more towards the end of the season. Wigan didn't take a full compliment of men to St. Helens for example and lost.

WIGAN DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB.
 The **OPENING GAME** of the above Club will be Played
 on the **WIGAN CRICKET CLUB GROUND, MIRY-LANE,**
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), the 28th inst.
Kick-off at 2 45.
 Gentlemen wishing to join the Club should communicate
 with
ALFRED PECK, Hon. Sec.

The new Cricket season was upon everyone's minds as the gentlemen had time to relax with the willow during the summer. After a meeting with the Cricket Club, it was stated that the Club had a debt of £25 for the last year on its books. But this was mainly due to the building of the new pavilion and other expenditure regarding the ground at Frog Lane. Although Wigan Football Club didn't charge spectators (of which money would go to the Cricket club mostly) the Football did gain a bit of money through subscriptions only. It is unknown if there was any financial gain in having the football played on the Cricket Ground.

Despite agreeing again to use the Cricket ground for the 1877-8 season, the Rugby Club fizzled out. A heavy loss to Liverpool Wanderers, who were a proper rugby footballing club supplying players to Lancashire and rivalling the Manchester clubs, was the last straw. The trail runs cold after November 17th, 1877.

Here is where the mystery comes. Why did the Wigan Football Club disband without a whisper in the newspapers? News articles for the time regarding the cricket club did not once mention the plight of rugby football in the town even at AGMs or correspondence from Members or supporters. It would be a further two years until rugby football started up again in the town of Wigan itself. Clubs existed on the periphery of the town such as Abram, Lowton and Bamfurlong.

You could say that the last hold that the Wigan Cricket Club had on rugby football in the town during this period was a few years after the Wigan Wasps were formed in 1879. Mr. William Marsden later recalled in an interview in the early 1900s that at the end of two years it was suggested that the name of the club should be changed to that of Wigan and Mr. Marsden was elected secretary.

"I well remember writing to Mr. W. Wallwork, then secretary of the Wigan Cricket Club," remarked Mr. Marsden, "asking him if it was their intention to run a football club as they had done some time before. His reply was that as far as he knew his committee had no such intention and as the Wasps were the only football club in the town they would be perfectly justified in changing the name. With the alteration we decided to play as few local clubs as possible so as to do this with loose jealousy."

There lies the seed of the story for the Wigan Cricket Club. Although modern day Wigan Warriors were actually formed in 1879, having been different committeemen, players, even name (Wasps), the legacy of rugby football in Wigan is traced popularly back to 1872. Despite there being a 'Wigan Football Club' a decade earlier in 1862, headed by Wigan Cricket Club member Henry Ackerley, they did not play a match.

The role in which the Wigan Cricket Club played in the sporting landscape locally in Wigan is an underestimated yet critical one. Sporting connections to clubs in Liverpool, Southport and Manchester opened up opportunities for the Wigan Wasps in the future. One can only tip their hat and say THANK YOU.

The Wigan Cricket Club: Founding Fathers of Rugby Football in Wigan

List of Players to feature for the Wigan Football Club: 1873-77

*Those highlighted in red have the distinction of playing for both the pre- and post- 1879 football clubs

#	Name	Surname	Debut date	Debut opponent	Position	Last game	Last opponent	Ap ps.	G	T	D G
1	Richard Venables	Kyrke	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	01/11/73	War'ton	8			
2	E.H.	Blakeney	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	06/12/73	Mcr	4			
3	W.	Bromilow	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward/ Half-Back/ Back	07/11/74	Bolton	6			
4		Hughes	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	08/01/73	War'ton	1			
5	J.	Sayer	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	05/12/74	St. Helens	14		1	
6	George H.	Sowter	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	17/02/77	Farnworth	17	1	3	
7		Tarbuck	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	15/03/73	Bolton	2			
8		Wilson	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	08/03/73	Southport	2			
9	Edward Holme	Woodcock	08/01/73	Warrington	Forward	21/11/74	Southport	12			
10	W.	Hayes	08/01/73	Warrington	Half-Back	21/11/74	Southport	9	1	1	
11	J.	Sayer Jnr	08/01/73	Warrington	Half-Back	21/11/74	Southport	6		1	
12	Joseph F. Leigh	Clare	08/01/73	Warrington	Back/ Half-Back	24/03/76	St. Helens	13	2		
13	Henry	Wall	08/01/73	Warrington	Back	17/02/77	Farnworth	25	1	2	
14	William	Wall	08/01/73	Warrington	Back/ Forward/ Half-Back	17/02/77	Farnworth	16		1	1

15	Edwin Robert	Walker	08/0 1/73	Warrington	Back	05/12/74	St. Helens	15	3		
16		Burton	01/0 2/73	Warrington	Forward	15/03/73	Bolton	2			
17	J.	Darlington	01/0 2/73	Warrington	Forward	01/11/73	Warrington	2			
18		Smith	08/0 2/73	Southport	Forward	08/02/73	Southport	1			
19	J.H.	Walker	08/0 2/73	Southport	Forward	07/11/74	Bolton	6			
20		Henderson	08/0 2/73	Southport	Back	08/02/73	Southport	1			
21	C.J.	Jackson	01/0 3/73	Bolton	Forward	15/03/73	Bolton	2			
22	T.	Hardy	01/0 3/73	Bolton	Forward	29/11/73	Bolton	4			
23		Blaver	08/0 3/73	Southport	Forward	08/03/73	Southport	1			
24	R.G.	Blower	08/0 3/73	Southport	Forward/ Half-Back	06/12/73	Manchester	2			
25	G.	Kenny	15/0 3/73	Bolton	Forward	15/03/73	Bolton	1			
26	T.	Walker	15/0 3/73	Bolton	Forward	15/03/73	Bolton	1			
27	J.	Lawrence	25/1 0/73	Swinton	Forward/ Half- Back/Back	12/02/77	Farnworth	11		1	
28	J.D.	Murray	25/1 0/73	Swinton	Forward	05/12/74	St. Helens	7			
29	Alfred	Peck	25/1 0/73	Swinton	Forward	20/01/77	Dingle	18	2	1	
30	C.E.	Twining	25/1 0/73	Swinton	Forward	03/03/77	St. Helens	9		1	
31	Charles	Wall	01/1 1/73	Warrington	Forward	01/11/73	Warrington	1			
32	John	Wall	01/1 1/73	Warrington	Half-Back/ Forward	18/12/75	Chorley	7			
33	H.T.	Byrom	15/1 1/73	Preston Grasshoppers	Forward	05/12/74	St. Helens	5			
34	W.D.	Brown	29/1 1/73	Bolton	Forward	29/11/73	Bolton	1			
35	R.T.	Johnson	29/1 1/73	Bolton	Forward	29/11/73	Bolton	1			
36	J.	Melling	29/1 1/73	Bolton	Forward	13/03/80	Highfield	3			
37	John H.	Peck	24/0 1/74	Southport	Forward	24/01/74	Southport	1			
38	George Frederick	McCorquodale	24/0 1/74	Southport	Half-Back	07/11/74	Bolton	2			
39	J.	Marsden	07/1 1/74	Bolton	Forward/ Back	06/01/77	Farnworth	6	1		

40		Bolton	07/1 1/74	Bolton	Forward	07/11/74	Bolton	1			
41	C.	Savage	21/1 1/74	Southport	Half-Back	21/11/74	Southport	1			
42	W.	Reid	05/1 2/74	St. Helens	Forward	05/12/74	St. Helens	1			
43	R.	Pennington	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	10		1	
44	J.C.	Pickering	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	9			
45	J.	Williams	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Forward/ Half-Back/ Back	13/03/80	Highfield	12		4	
46	A.	Nicholls	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	5			
47	T.H.D.	Berridge	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	11		1	
48		Leech	18/1 2/75	Chorley	Back	24/03/76	St. Helens	2		1	
49	C.D.C.	Ross	18/1 1/76	Dingle	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	9			
50	J.R.	Knowles	18/1 1/76	Dingle	Forward	24/02/77	Bolton	9			
51	J.	McConnell	18/1 1/76	Dingle	Forward	17/02/77	Farnworth	8			
52	A.	Fletcher	18/1 1/76	Dingle	Half-Back	24/02/77	Bolton	8			
53	A.W.	Mason	25/1 1/76	St. Helens	Forward	24/02/77	Bolton	8		1	
54	J.J.	Wilson	25/1 1/76	St. Helens	Forward	20/01/77	Dingle	4			
55		Evans	02/1 2/76	Chorley	Forward	24/02/77	Bolton	3			
56	T.H.	Stone	02/1 2/76	Chorley	Forward/ Back	24/02/77	Bolton	6			
57	S.	Atherton	09/1 2/76	Bolton	Forward	24/02/77	Bolton	5			
58	J.	Price	09/1 2/76	Bolton	Forward	09/12/76	Bolton	1			
59	F.	Howarth	16/1 2/76	Lowton	Forward/Ba ck	24/02/77	Bolton	5		1	
60		Ferguson	06/0 1/77	Farnworth	Half-Back	06/01/77	Farnworth	1			
61		Falke	24/0 2/77	Bolton	Half-Back	24/02/77	Bolton	1			

Would like to cite Mr. Peter Fleetwood in providing some of the facts and information given here.

1874-5 Season

07/11/74	Bolton	h	L	-	-	-	1	3	-	A. Peck, Murray, Lawrence, Sowter, Marsden, Sayers (c), Bolton, J. Walker(f); Bromilow, McCorquodale(hb); Clare, W. Wall(3q); H. Wall, E.R. Walker(b)
21/11/74	Southport	h	D	-	1	3	-	-	3	Sayers Jnr E.H. Woodcock (c), H.T. Byrom, G. Sowter, A. Peck, J. Lawrence, J. Murray, C. Twining, J. Sayer, J. Sayer Jnr, W. Wall(f); C. Savage, W. Hayes(hb), J.F. Leigh Clare(3q); H. Wall, E.R. Walker(b)
05/12/74	St Helens	a	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	J.H. Walker, G.H. Sowter, J.D. Murray, J. Lawrence, A. Peck, C. Twining, H.T. Byrom, J. Sayer, W. Reid, J. Wall(f); W. Wall, J.F.L. Clare (c)(hb); H. Wall, E.R. Walker(b)
19/12/74	Vipers (Rock Ferry)	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
26/12/74	Manchester	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
06/02/75	Vipers (Rock Ferry)	a	D	-	-	1	(disputed)	1		unknown
13/02/75	Southport	a	L	-	-	7		x		unknown
20/03/75	Manchester	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

*green indicates fixtures given but no info if played/scores etc

1875-6 Season

11/12/75	Warrington	h										
18/12/75	Chorley	a		W	1	2	1	-	-	Pennington	Clare	J. Sayers (c), Pennington, Pickering, Williams, Nicholson, Marsden, Berridge, Twining, Peck(f); J. Wall, Sowter(hb); Leech(3q); H. Wall, Clare(b)
08/01/76	UpHolland	h*	frosty.snow	L	-	-	-	2	2			
15/01/76	Withnell	h	abandoned									
24/03/76	St Helens	h		W	2	3	5	-	2	Leech	Clare, Peck	Leech, Clare, Peck

1876-7 Season

18/11/76	Dingle	a (Princess Park L'pt)	W	-	3	2	-	2	3	Williams (2), Peck		C.D.C. Ross, G. Kenney, J. Knowles, J. McConnell, A. Nicholls, J. Marsden, A. Peck x2 Dingle subs(f); H. Wall(c), A. Fletcher(hb); J. Williams, Dingle sub(3q); J.C. Pickering, T.H.D. Berridge(b)
25/11/76	St Helens	h	W	2	5	5	1	-	-	Lawrence, H. Wall, Berridge	Peck, Nicholls	C.D.C. Ross, G. Kenney, J. Knowles, J. McConnell, A. Nicholls, A. Mason, A. Peck, J.C. Pickering, A. Fletcher, J.J. Wilson(f); H. Wall(c), J. Lawrence(hb); J. Williams(3q); T.H.D. Berridge, R. Pennington(b)
02/12/76	Chorley	a	L	-	-	-	-	4	4			C.D.C. Ross, G. Kenney, J.R. Knowles, J. McConnell, T.H.D. Berridge, Evans, A. Peck, J.C. Pickering, T.H. Stone(f); H. Wall(c), J.J. Wilson(3q); A. Fletcher, G.H. Sowter(hb); J. Marsden, R. Pennington(b)
09/12/76	Bolton	h	L	-	1	-	1	3	5	A. Mason		C.D.C. Ross, A. Mason, J.C. Pickering, A. Nicholl, A. Fletcher, S. Atherton, J. Price, J.R. Knowles, A. Peck(f); H. Wall(c), J. Williams(hb); T.H.D. Berridge, J.J. Wilson(3q); R. Pennington, T.H. Stone(b)
16/12/76	Lowton	h	W	2	1	4	-	-	-	Howarth, Sowter (2), Williams	H. Wall, Marsden	C.D.C. Ross, H. Wall(c), CE. Twining, J. Williams, F. Howarth, G.H. Sowter, J.R. Knowles, J. McConnell, A. Mason, R. Pennington, T.H.D. Berridge, Evans A. Peck, J. Marsden, A. Nichol
06/01/77	Farnworth	a	L	-	-	-	1 (disp)	1 (disp)	1			Peck, Mason, Berridge, Pickering, McConnell, Fletcher, Howarth, Atherton, Knowles(f); H. Wall(c), Ferguson(hb); J. Lawrence, R. Pennington(3q); Ross, Marsden(b)
20/01/77	Dingle	h	W	8	3	2	-	-	-			S. Atherton, T.H.D. Berridge, J. McConnell, J.R. Knowles, A. Mason, A. Nicholls, A. Peck, J. Pickering, J.J. Wilson(f); J. Lawrence, J. Williams(hb); F. Howarth, H. Wall(c)(3q); R. Pennington, T.H. Stone(b)
10/02/77	Lowton	h	W	1	1	2	-	1	1	H. Wall	Nicholes	T.H.D. Berridge, A. Fletcher, J. McConnell, J.R. Knowles, A.W. Mason, A. Nicholes, J.C. Pickering, C.D.C. Ross(f); R. Pennington, T.H. Stones(b); G.H. Sowter, H. Wall(c)(3q);
17/02/77	Farnworth	h	L	-	-	3	1	1 (disp)	-			W. Wall, R. Pennington(b); F. Howarth, H. Wall(c)(3q); J. Lawrence, J. Williams(hb); G.H. Sowter, C.D.C. Ross, P. Nicholson, T.H. Stone, Atherton, Fletcher, Berridge, Nicholls, Mason, McConnell
24/02/77	Bolton	a	L	-	-	-	-	2	-			S. Atherton, Evans, Fletcher, J. Knowles, A. Mason, J. McCoell, Nicholls, Pickering, C.D.C. Ross(f); Falke, J. Williams(hb); T.H.D. Berridge, F. Howarth(3q); R. Pennington, T.H. Stone(b)
03/03/77	St Helens	a	L	-	1	5	1	-	-		Twining	
10/03/77	Wanderers, Liverpool	a - Seaforth	L	-	-	-	-	3	4			