

1884 Fixture List

WIGAN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.

The list of fixtures entered into by this club has been issued, and considering that it is only its second year of existence, a capital programme of engagements has been entered into. "A" team matches have been arranged with such powerful organisations as the Blackburn Rovers, Blackburn Olympic, and Preston North End; and conclusions will also be tried with the first elevens of many prominent clubs in the county. Owing to the combination into one of the Association and Parish Church clubs, the matches will be played on the very suitable ground of the latter behind the Rectory, and the season will be opened on the 4th prox., when the local organisation will meet Heywood in the first of the Lancashire Cup Competition. As some debts have been contracted, and owing to the scarcity of funds, members are requested to pay their subscriptions as early as possible. Subjoined is the full list of fixtures:—

Date.	FIRST TEAM. CLUB.	WHERE PLAYED.
Oct. 4—	Heywood (L. O. T.)	Wigan.
" 11—	Southport	Home.
" 18—	Preston North End (a team)	Home.
" 25—	Burscough	Away.
Nov. 1—	Leigh	Away.
" 8—	Blackburn Rovers (2nd team)	Away.
" 15—	Everton (a team)	Away.
" 22—	Blackburn Olympic (2nd team)	Away.
" 29—	Chorley	Home.
Dec. 6—	Liverpool St. Mary's	Away.
" 13—	Atherton Rovers	Home.
" 20—	Preston North End (a team)	Away.
" 27—	Fishwick Ramblers	Home.
Jan. 1—	South Shore (Blackpool)	Home.
" 8—	Blackburn Rovers (2nd team)	Home.
" 10—	Bolton Wanderers (2nd team)	Home.
" 17—	Darwen (a team)	Away.
" 31—	Liverpool Rovers	Away.
Feb. 7—	Everton (a team)	Home.
" 14—	Blackburn Olympic (2nd team)	Home.
Shr've Tu.—	Liverpool Rovers	Home.
Feb. 21—	South Shore (Blackpool)	Away.
" 28—	Leigh	Home.
Mar. 7—	Chorley	Away.
" 14—	Southport	Away.
" 21—	Liverpool St. Mary's	Home.
" 28—	Atherton Rovers	Away.
Apr. 4—	Accrington (a team)	Home.
" 11—	Darwen (a team)	Home.
" 18—	Bolton Wanderers (2nd team)	Away.
" 25—	Fishwick Ramblers	Away.
SECOND TEAM.		
Oct. 11—	Southport	Away.
" 18—	Nichol Lane	Away.
Nov. 15—	Nichol Lane	Home.
" 22—	Parish Church (Preston)	Home.
" 29—	Chorley	Away.
Dec. 6—	Liverpool St. Mary's	Home.
" 13—	Atherton Rovers	Away.
" 27—	Fishwick Ramblers	Away.
Jan. 10—	Burscough	Away.
" 31—	Liverpool Rovers	Home.
Feb. 14—	Liverpool Rovers	Away.
" 21—	Burscough	Home.
" 28—	Parish Church (Preston)	Away.
Mar. 7—	Chorley	Home.
" 14—	Southport	Home.
" 21—	Liverpool St. Mary's	Away.
" 28—	Atherton Rovers	Home.
Apr. 25—	Fishwick Ramblers	Home.

GRAND EXHIBITION MATCH.—The match arranged for Saturday next, the 20th inst., by the Wigan Association Football Club, on the Cricket Ground, promises to be of a most attractive character. The contending teams will be chosen from the famous Blackburn and Darwen clubs, and although the names of the players are not yet fully known it may be taken for granted that a fine lot of men will be sent over to give an exhibition of the dribbling code to the public of Wigan. The arrangements for the match are being pushed rapidly forward by Mr. F. J. Baldwin, the hon. sec. of the club, and with favourable weather a grand afternoon's sport will be provided.

DARWEN v. BLACKBURN.

The Wigan Association Football Club, which has been formed in connection with the Wigan Cricket Club, opened its season on Saturday afternoon, when an exhibition match was played on the cricket ground between Darwen and Blackburn. Over 2,000 persons witnessed the game, which was well contested, but the Blackburn Rovers had only practically a second team and were outmatched throughout. Darwen won by four goals to nil. Teams:—Darwen: I. Richmond, goal; S. A. Warburton and T. Crook, backs; S. Fish, D. Owen, and H. Hamilton, half-backs; T. Marshall, I. Nightingale, H. Richmond, A. Kenyon, and J. Sharrock, forwards. Blackburn: Wilson, goal; Sharrock and Blenkhorn, backs; Gregson and J. Ritson, half-backs; Norris, A. Fecit, Birtwicke, Scott, Barton, and Twines, forwards.

To the Editor of the Wigan Observer.

SIR,—I notice in your issue of last Saturday a letter signed "Spectator" asking for information *re* the above.

Permit me, in reply, to say that the club is still in existence, and the committee who have it in hand are fully expecting to carry it on. As "Spectator" seems to be aware, it has during the past season been carried on in connection with the Cricket Club, and we are now awaiting the decision of that committee as to having the use of the ground for next season before moving further in the matter. I should be very glad if "Spectator" or any other gentlemen having the interest of the dribbling game at heart would kindly communicate with me. I cannot see but that we ought to raise a team worthy to uphold the credit of our town.

Hoping you will grant me the favour of inserting this,

I remain, yours truly,

GEO. H. SOWTER,

Captain Wigan Association Football Club.
83, Woodhouse-lane, Wigan.

1885 Letter from Geo. Sowter

THE WIGAN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.

To the Editor of the Wigan Observer.

SIR,—Some few weeks ago I read in your paper a letter signed by Mr. George Naylor, hon. sec. of Wigan Rugby Football Club, indignantly repudiating the assertion of "W. H. P." that his committee or anyone connected with the club had ever tried to allure players from other clubs. Now, Mr. Editor, I wish to distinctly state that not only Mr. Naylor, but also several other members of his committee have made strenuous efforts during the last few weeks to allure by various promises one of the leading members of the Association team. I may state that my information comes from the player himself, and that I have his authority for writing this letter. I may also state that in addition to Mr. Naylor I can also name several other members of the Rugby Committee, who have tried their persuasive powers on the player in question. I have hitherto refrained from entering into any controversy on football matters through your columns, and have no wish to do so now, but I do think that after Mr. Naylor's boast in the letter referred to, (that they had plenty of good players of their own without trying to induce players of other clubs to join them) that at least he and his coadjutors might have left their "poor Association brethren" alone. I can speak authoritatively on behalf of our committee that they have in more than one instance tried to assist the Wigan Rugby Club out of a difficulty, and I have no doubt whatever if they required any assistance at any time, and would make application, they would be met in a fair manner. Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this letter, and hoping that it may bring a reply from Mr. Naylor, so that your readers may judge for themselves,

I remain, yours faithfully,

GEO. H. SOWTER,

Hon. Treasurer, Wigan Association F.C.