

RUGBY LEAGUE

# Wigan miss out as Morris fires Dragons to victory

WIGAN	15
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA	21

By Dave Hadfield  
AT THE DW STADIUM

WIGAN NARROWLY failed to win the World Club Challenge for a fourth time, outgunned by the finishing power of the Australian champions and their Test winger, Brett Morris.

It was an enthralling match that could have gone either way, but Morris' strength near the line for his two tries summed up St George's determination.

"Full credit to St George Illawarra," said Wigan's Australian coach, Michael Maguire. "They took their chances when they got them."

Wigan were able to take what turned out to be an unsuccessful gamble on Martin Gleeson after a test on his hamstring, but were without Stuart Fielden with a flare-up of his knee trouble.

The main absentee for the Dragons was their illustrious coach, Wayne Bennett, back in Australia because of his mother-in-law's critical illness. They could not have played with any greater resolve if he had been sitting in the stand at the DW Stadium.

They did not start well, though. Michael Weyman lost the ball in the tackle as he tried to run it out of his own territory. Wigan pounced and Paul Deacon launched a cross-field kick that saw George Carmont catch and plant the ball down. The Dragons were helped to settle down, however,



Wigan's George Carmont scores his second try in last night's World Club Challenge PA

by a simple handling error by Gleeson, giving up possession deep in the Wigan half. St George's ball-handling was clinical for Morris to go over in the corner for the first of his first-half brace.

Matt Cooper swooped for the Dragons' second before a spectacular second try from the flying Carmont revived Wigan.

Darius Boyd set up Morris for the equalising try, but Sam Tomkins gave Wigan the slenderest of psychological advantages with a drop goal. Hooker Cameron King then darted in from

dummy half for the Dragons, and Joel Tomkins made try-saving tackles on Cooper and Morris as the Dragons threatened to seal it. They settled instead for a Jamie Soward drop goal that still had the effect of putting them a converted try ahead.

**Wigan:** S Tomkins; Goulding, Gleeson, Carmont, Roberts; Deacon, Leulua; Prescott, McIlorum, Coley, Hansen, Hoffman, O'Loughlin.  
**Subs used:** J Tomkins, Farrell, Tuson, Mossop.  
**St George:** Boyd; Morris, Cooper, Gasnier, Nightingale; Soward, Hornby, Hunt, Fien, Weyman, Scott, Creagh, Prior. **Subs used:** Greenfield, Merrin, Green, King.  
**Referee:** T Alibert (France).

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

Yesterday  
Wigan (15) .....15 St G/Illawarra (14) 21  
Wigan: Tries: Carmont (2). Goals: Deacon (3). Drop Goal: S. Tomkins. St George/Illawarra: Tries: Morris (2), Cooper, King. Goals: Soward (2). Drop Goal: Soward. Att: 24,268.

ENGAGE SUPER LEAGUE

Yesterday  
Huddersfield (10) 20 Hull (4) .....10  
Huddersfield: Tries: Hodgson (2), Lawrence, Brown. Goals: Brough (2). Hull: Tries: Turner, Sharp. Goal: Westerman. Att: 8,822.  
Hull KR (12) .....18 Catalan D (12) ..31  
Hull KR: Tries: Green (2), Briscoe. Goals: Hall (3).  
Catalan Dragons: Tries: Mounis, Sa, Blanch (2), Raguin, Menzies. Goals: Dureau (3). Drop Goal: Dureau.  
Att: 8,052.  
Wakefield (6) .....6 Salford (16) .....32  
Wakefield: Try: Lee. Goal: Velters. Salford: Tries: Ratchford, Wild, Henry (2).

Parker, Sidlow. Goals: Holdsworth (4). Att: 6,823.  
Saturday  
Crusaders (6) .....26 Bradford (18) ..30  
Crusaders: Tries: Will, Thomas, Sammut, Schifcofske, Martin. Goals: Schifcofske (3). Bradford: Tries: Lynch, Royston, Almscough, Diskin, L'Estrange. Goals: Ah Van (5). Att: 2,615.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Harlequins RL	3	3	0	0	67	48	6
Castleford	2	2	0	0	59	32	4
Huddersfield	3	2	0	1	60	46	4
Leeds	3	2	0	1	90	82	4
Warrington	3	2	0	1	67	68	4
Wigan	2	1	1	0	60	26	3
St Helens	3	1	1	1	90	63	3
Hull KR	3	1	0	2	74	77	2
Catalan Dragons	3	1	0	2	49	67	2
Bradford	3	1	0	2	68	102	2
Salford	3	1	0	2	66	104	2
Hull	3	0	0	3	50	86	0
Crusaders	3	1	0	2	86	62	-2
Wakefield	3	1	0	2	64	86	-2

\*Crusaders and Wakefield deducted 4 points for going into administration

NORTHERN RAIL CUP

Yesterday  
Dewsbury (6) .....16 Barrow (6) .....12  
Dewsbury: Try: England. Goals: Brambani (6). Barrow: Tries: Catic, Ostler. Goals: Rooney (2). Att: 911.  
Saturday  
Gateshead (4) .....4 Swinton (34) .....76  
Gateshead: Try: Massey.  
Swinton: Tries: D. Hawkyard (2), Thompson (3), Gallagher, Hamilton (2), Rigby, M. Ainscough, Ashhall, Stewart, M. Smith, Wingfield, Fosen. Goals: Dodd (8). Att: 323.  
Halifax (6) .....25 Batley (22) .....26  
Halifax: Tries: White, Chandler, Worrington (2). Goals: Jones (4). Drop Goal: Black.  
Batley: Try: Hesketh, Rettle, Manning. Moore. Goals: Handforth (5).  
Oldham (4) .....4 Whitehaven (6) 14  
Oldham: Try: Brocklehurst.  
Whitehaven: Tries: Backer, Beattie. Goals: Palfrey (3). Att: 544.  
Rochdale (22) .....36 Doncaster (26) 40  
Rochdale: Tries: McGovern (2), Ashall, Johnson (2), Hobson, Haugh. Goals: Crook (4). Doncaster: Tries: Williams, P. Hughes, Keswick, Spaven, Carbutt, C. Hughes, Spurr.

Butterfield: Goals: Spaven (4). Att: 442.  
Sheffield (0) .....12 Hunslet (6) .....16  
Sheffield: Tries: Vere, Hanson. Goals: Brown (2). Hunslet: Tries: Haughey, Grimshaw. Goals: Ratcliffe (4). Att: 854.  
Workington (6) .....12 Leigh (18) .....42  
Workington: Tries: Kaighan (2). Goals: Kaighan (2), Ridyard, Donlan, Ellis, Littler. Goals: Naryn (5). Att: 592.  
York (12) .....28 Kelghley (6) .....22  
York: Tries: Straugheir (2), Presley (2), Davies. Goals: Thorman (4). Kelghley: Tries: Benjafield, Rawlins, Drake, Belcher. Goals: Lawton (3). Att: 748.  
Saturday  
Featherstone (0) 16 Widnes (18) .....22  
Featherstone: Tries: Dickens, Hardaker, Smeaton. Goals: Finn (2).  
Widnes: Tries: Grady, Tyrer, Thackeray. Goals: Tyrer (5). Att: 1,719.  
Toulouse (18) .....34 London Skt (10) 22  
Toulouse: Tries: Nicholls, Cook, Triseyre, Diani, Lewis, Worth. Goals: Lewis (5). London Skolars: Tries: Adebisi (2), Thomas, Anot. Goals: Thorman (3). Att: 998.



'We had a game-plan and we stuck to it. We had some luck but we deserved our luck'  
Alex McLeish on his Carling Cup final victory.

MOTORCYCLING  
Checa sets pace in season opener

BOXING  
Olympic hopeful

By Mark Stanforth

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