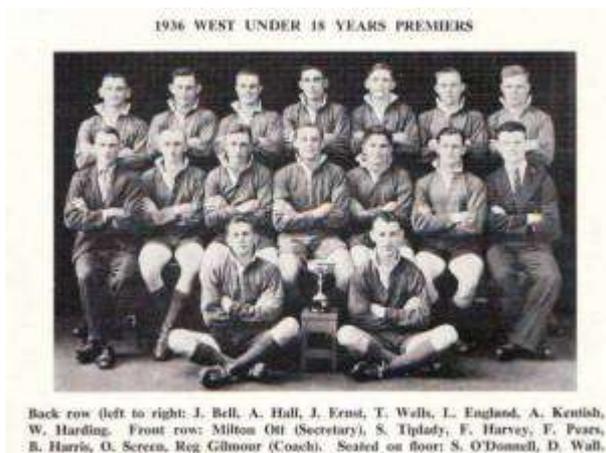


1936 - West Under 18's - Premiers



The 1936 Under 18's team contained several players who went on to make major contributions to the Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club. Jack Bell went on to be Treasurer of the Football Club for a record 43 years (*yes 43 years*) from 1950 until 1992. Also the great Ossie Screen (West Player, Newcastle Referee, and West Official) is in the team.

1968 Mattara Procession - Best Float



WEST IS BEST - well it was, in the "Best Float" category of the 1968 Mattara Procession.

1954 West Team



The 1954 West First Grade side was a "crackerjack" side. The then Football Club Secretary, the legendary Glen Maloney, thought that they were a great chance to beat Maitland in the semi final. Glen was quoted in the Newcastle Morning Herald - "We are heavier and stronger in the forwards and have a hooker, Ron Glen, who beat the Maitland hooker, Len Johnson, when they last met." Alas, although West held Maitland on the forwards it was the class of Maitland backs, Frank Threlfo, Frank Stanmore and Don "Bandy" Adams who turned the game Maitland's way. Maitland won the semi final 26 - 9, but unfortunately lost to Cessnock 15 - 13 in the final. Some things of interest. On the semi final day, the great veteran, Dally Messenger,

"kicked off" in Reserve Grade, to start the match. On the evening of the match Maitland player, Noel Pidding, was selected in the Australian team to play in World Cup matches in France. In the West team, Jack Fitzpatrick was having his first year in grade - at the age of 17. Bill Bower is the same "Billo" (*I called him "Bildo"*) Bower, after whom the main ground at Glendale is named. Sid "Si" Brown was the only West player in this team to play 100 First Grade games for West. He played 117 First Grade games, and 4 Reserve Grade games scoring 37 tries and kicking 135 goals

1946 English Touring Side



The 1946 English touring rugby league team will be remembered because they came to Australia the hard way - they travelled by aircraft carrier. The 2nd World War had been over for less than a year, and berths on liners were not available for the tourists. Indeed, very few liners were still afloat. When the English team arrived in Newcastle in mid June there was an English aircraft carrier in the harbour, and this seemed to typify the might of Great Britain. But it didn't daunt the Newcastle Rugby League team. Newcastle won 18 - 13 in the game that was played at No 1 Sportsground on 15 June. They won because they tackled just about everything that moved. The defeat cast a gloom over the tourists. England had taken a terrible pounding during the war. It appeared likely they were going to get a hiding at rugby league as well. But the British spirit came to the surface, and it is history, that they went on to win the ashes. All of which adds merit to Newcastle's 18 - 13 win on that day in June 1946. *(From the NMH 12 Aug 1975). (The blazer pocket belonged to West fullback, and Newcastle representative, the great Ossie Screen.)*

West Under 16's 1962 - Premiers - Ken Maddison (Captain)

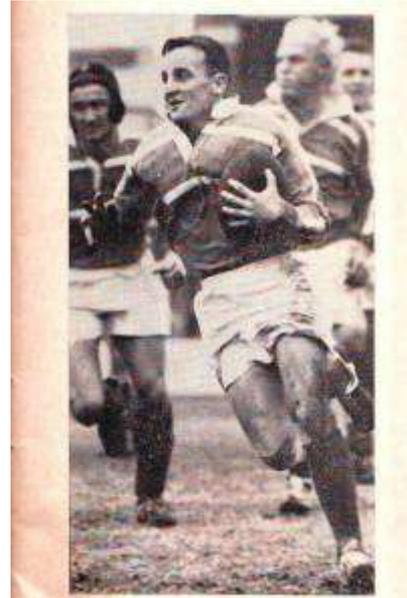
This Under 16 photo from 1962 shows Ken Maddison as Captain of the West Under 16 team, with brother Keith in the back row.



1961 – What a Year



Left to right: Mitchell Elvin (mascot), Rex Elvin (captain-coach), Kevin Hodgson, Barry Martin, Neil Gibson, Ron Williamson, Noel Dagwell, Allan Buman, Ernie Snelson, Ray Johnson, Ted Curtis, Col Curry, Rob Davies, Graham Sutcliffe.
Absent: Ken Breeze, Viv Hodge.
Inset: Drs. J. Sullivan and E. L. Kinsella



Everyone connected with West will remember this fantastic year. Why? Well this is the year that we broke the drought. Our first premiership win since 1922 - 39 long and weary years without a title. Some newspaper cuttings to hand read"The crowd of 12 000 was the best of the season and witnessed an action packed game in which the scores were close throughout - half time being 5 all."....."The major factor behind West's win was their superiority in the scrums, which it won 12 - 7 in the first half, and 9 - 5 in the second"....."Over a strenuous final 5 minutes, West won a sequence of scrums, and held onto the 10 - 9 advantage gained midway through the 2nd half"....."If a player has to be singled out of West's 10 - 9 Grand Final win, surely few will quibble if the honour goes to 31 year old Col Curry. Curry, the bulky and courageous prop played probably the best game of his long career, drawing on every bit of his great experience and his last reserves of energy. He not only shared the scrum honours with hooker Allan Buman in establishing a 2 - 1 advantage in this vital department of the game, but also provided the last link in the try to Buman, which levelled the scores at 5 all at half time. His driving blind side runs from the rucks reached their climax over the closing minutes when he teamed with skipper Rex Elvin and Rob Davies to deny Waratah possession. Having paid tribute to Curry, one must hasten to add that West's win was essentially a team effort in which every player was deserving of praise."....."Favoured by possession skipper Rex Elvin wisely decided to use his forwards to offset the ever present menace of the Waratah backline".....Such was the story told in the press and many times since. It was a little unfortunate our Reserve Grade didn't take it out. They drew 13 all with Maitland in their Grand Final, and then lost the replay. YES, THE 1961 SEASON WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED! (and yes, I was there!) (In the action photo Kevin Hodgson is supported by Allan Buman (headgear), the snowy haired Col Curry, with Rob Davies in the background)



1966 - Rugby League History



THIRD GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966
Back Row: G. W. C. M. Carr, D. Harty, G. Anderson (Manager), W. R. L. J. McPherson, W. Tappin, D. Wilson,
J. Harvey (R.V.P.), G. Maloney (Club Sec.), Middle Row (standing): D. Harty, W. J. Anderson, R. Pearson,
W. Riddick, G. Johnson, J. Richards, G. Whittaker, D. Harty, J. McLaughlin, D. Harty (Capt.), G. Johnson (Club Sec.),
J. Smith. Middle Row (kneeling): M. Allan, G. Smith, R. Taylor, R. Emerson, J. Harty (Capt.), G. Harty,
D. Harty, W. Harty. Front Row: T. Walsh (Manager), G. Pearson (Club Sec.),
M. Gallagher, J. Walsh (Player).



SECOND GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — INTERCITY MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966
Back Row: G. W. C. M. Carr, D. Harty, G. Anderson (Manager), W. R. L. J. McPherson, W. Tappin, D. Wilson,
J. Harvey (R.V.P.), G. Maloney (Club Sec.), Middle Row (standing): D. Harty, W. J. Anderson, R. Pearson,
W. Riddick, G. Johnson, J. Richards, G. Whittaker, D. Harty, J. McLaughlin, D. Harty (Capt.), G. Johnson (Club Sec.),
J. Smith. Middle Row (kneeling): M. Allan, G. Smith, R. Taylor, R. Emerson, J. Harty (Capt.), G. Harty,
D. Harty, W. Harty. Front Row: T. Walsh (Manager), G. Pearson (Club Sec.),
M. Gallagher, J. Walsh (Player).



THIRD GRADE — CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — MINOR AND MAJOR PREMIERS, 1966
Back Row: G. W. C. M. Carr, D. Harty, G. Anderson (Manager), W. R. L. J. McPherson, W. Tappin, D. Wilson,
J. Harvey (R.V.P.), G. Maloney (Club Sec.), Middle Row (standing): D. Harty, W. J. Anderson, R. Pearson,
W. Riddick, G. Johnson, J. Richards, G. Whittaker, D. Harty, J. McLaughlin, D. Harty (Capt.), G. Johnson (Club Sec.),
J. Smith. Middle Row (kneeling): M. Allan, G. Smith, R. Taylor, R. Emerson, J. Harty (Capt.), G. Harty,
D. Harty, W. Harty. Front Row: T. Walsh (Manager), G. Pearson (Club Sec.),
M. Gallagher, J. Walsh (Player).

In 1966 (the Golden Year) West created history by winning the major and minor premierships in all 3 grades. This was the first (and only time) that this has been achieved in Newcastle Rugby League. A special poem was penned for the occasion. When you recite the poem, speak loudly and think proudly of the mighty red and green!

They brought back many memories
Of dim days of the past
And raised the tattered red and green
Sky high to fly top mast
In all three grades they reached the peak
And won the final game
They wrote new records in the book
To give West pride and fame
Upon the fields of Rugby League
They carved a tale of glory
For bards to write in years to come
THE MIGHTY WESTERN STORY!

