

## John Barber



**J**ohn Barber passed away on 25 July 2009. John was a West Junior and attended Marist Brothers High School in Hamilton. He was a very talented, rugged forward, although some remember him playing fullback for Marist Brothers, whilst in Year 9, in the schoolboys 2nd Grade Grand Final against Newcastle Boys' High at Passmore Oval in 1964 (*and Boys' High won!*). John graduated to the senior ranks in 1969, and played 3 seasons with West. He played 62 First Grade games, 4 Reserve Grade games and 4 Third Grade games during his time with West. He scored 19 tries, and in 1969 kicked 26 First Grade goals. From 1972 John played with Manly, where he played 24 First Grade games, scoring 1 try and kicking 2 goals. In 1976 John moved to the Redcliffe club in Brisbane, and became a legend at the club, first as a player, and later as a coach. If you Google "John Barber" you will be aware of the legendary status of John at the Redcliffe club. The name

"Barber" is still associated with West, as younger brother Brendan has been a player and trainer at West for many years. The photo shows John Barber in action in the 1969 final, with the great John Hobby in the background. The Western Suburbs RLFC salutes John Barber, and he earns the "Bright West Colours".

## Ossie Screen



**O**ssie Screen was the son of former Lambton "Bottom Road" player, Herb Screen, and the brother of Tom and Bill Screen. Ossie played for West Juniors, and then graduated to West Seniors in 1938. He played for West Seniors from 1938 until 1946. Ossie represented Newcastle on 5 occasions - in 1940 and 1941 against the Coalfields, in 1941 against "The Rest", in 1945 against the Coalfields and in 1946 against England. In 1943 he represented NSW Country against City. Ossie was elected a Life Member of the football club as he played over 100 First Grade games for West. In 1947 Ossie began a career as a referee, and he refereed in Newcastle until 1964. Ossie was then keen to put something back into the Western Suburbs Club and in 1965 he joined the committee of the Western Suburbs RLFC. Ossie was a fullback, a prolific points scorer, and a great servant to Rugby League in general, and the Western Suburbs RLFC in particular. Throughout this time, Ossie was a thorough gentleman who embodied the very spirit of "fair play". Ossie Screen is certainly deserving of the "Bright West Colours".

## "Mo" Wilson



**J**ohn Joseph "Mo" Wilson was born in Manilla, and later shifted, as a child, to Cooks Hill. He played junior rugby league with South Newcastle, and then played grade rugby league with the Eastern Suburbs Club. "Mo" was a member of the Easts side that won the 1932 Premiership. "Mo" also played First Grade cricket with the Newcastle City Club, where he distinguished himself as a batsman and a spin bowler. In 1939 "Mo" enlisted in the army, but because of his age he was denied his request to serve overseas, and was offered a position as a physical education instructor in Sydney to prepare newly enlisted servicemen for combat duties. "Mo" shifted to Hamilton North and in 1946 he became coach of West's Under 20 team. West had a most successful year in the Under 20's in 1946, and "Mo" created such an impression at West that, in 1947, he was elected President of the Western Suburbs RLFC, a position he held until 1957. During this time "Mo" coached the West First Grade side in 1951 and 1952. In 1960 "Mo" was elected a Vice President of the Newcastle Rugby League, and in 1970 he was elected President of the Newcastle Rugby League, a position that he held until 1982. "Mo" is a Life Member of the Western Suburbs RLFC and of the Newcastle Rugby League. In 1988 "Mo" received an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of his services to Rugby League. John Joseph Wilson i.e. "Mo" Wilson - no one is more deserving of the "Bright West Colours".

## Col Anderson



**C**ol "Poncho" Anderson began his duties with the Football Club in 1964. In the next 10 years he made a significant contribution filling positions such as trainer, manager and gear steward. He was ever obliging and was a true Western Suburbs man. Additionally, it could be noted that, at the time, Col held badge number 127 with West Leagues Club when he joined the club on September 18, 1958. Colin Anderson is certainly deserving of the "Bright West Colours".

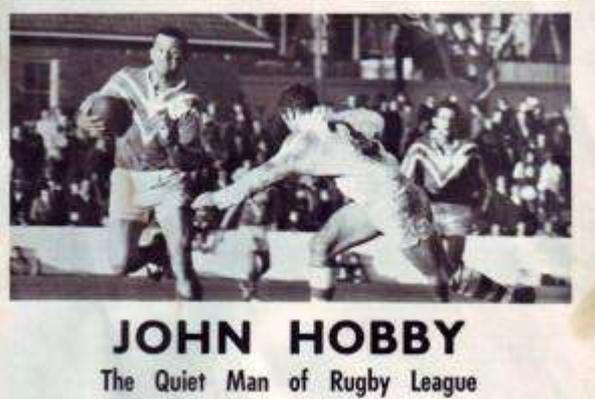
## Mick Caunt



"Mick" Caunt

**M**ick Caunt was born and bred in East Lambton in an area called "Dog and Rat" (*see another article*). He was a foundation member of the Leagues Club and played Rugby League for West. His football claim to fame is that he scored a try in the very last game of his career against North Newcastle. Mick was on the Committee of the Western Suburbs RLFC Committee for 17 years from 1946 to 1962. Mick was awarded Life Membership of the Football Club in 1962. For his contributions to the Football Club and for his later service to the Leagues Club, Mick certainly deserves the "Bright West Colours".

## John Hobby



**JOHN HOBBY**  
The Quiet Man of Rugby League

**J**ohn Hobby came from Coolah, and attended Mudgee High School. He played for Coolah Juniors and played for Coolah First Grade in 1957. John then played for Bathurst Railway and then Eugowra. At Eugowra John, as Captain / Coach led his team to a hat trick of wins in 1963, 1964 and 1965. In 1966, in one of the best moves ever, the Western Suburbs RLFC engaged the services of John Hobby as Captain / Coach. With Hobby's appointment West firmed as favourites for the premiership, but even the most ardent

supporter would not have thought that West, at the end of 1966, would be Minor and Major Premiers in all 3 grades. In 1966 John Hobby produced his finest performance, not for West, but for Newcastle, when he showed all his leadership qualities to take on the English forwards. John Hobby played 89 games for West, all in First Grade. He scored 24 tries and kicked 5 goals (although he did miss a simple one at Waratah Oval that led to John Cootes becoming West's goal kicker). John Hobby - a true legend - what a player - what a man. If you did not see John Hobby play you really missed a treat!! John Hobby – deservedly earning “Bright West Colours”

## Albert Paul



Albert Paul — 1944

**W**ell - not really, but perhaps..... In 1944 there was no Belmont based team in the First Grade Newcastle Rugby League Competition. Belmont did have a team in Reserve Grade, but they were, in those days, in West's area. Thus, Belmont was like a "feeder" club to West. The 1946 Belmont team, which won the Reserve Grade competition, formed the basis of the 1947 Lakes United team in their first year as a fully fledged club in Newcastle Rugby League. Most people would concede that Albert Paul was not a West player who played for Australia, because he never played for West - he played for a club in West's area, and he did not represent Australia until 1952. Interestingly Bob Power in the "Saga of the Western Men" has Albert Paul as an Australian representative from West in 1944, and Bob Power's view carries a lot of weight. So Albert Paul earns the "Bright West Colours" because he played for a club in West's area in 1946.

### *Glen Maloney - "Mr West"*



**G**len Maloney will not be remembered for his on field feats at West. Records show that Glen was fullback in 3rd grade in 1948. However, for his off field efforts, Glen lays claim to the title, "Mr West". Glen, a barber by trade, was elected Secretary of the Football Club in 1953, a position that he held until 1975 – yes 23 years! Glen was also instrumental in the formation of West Leagues Club - indeed he was the first Secretary / Manager of the Leagues Club when it opened on 24 September 1960. Glen was honoured by being made a Life member of the Football Club and the Leagues Club for his outstanding efforts and leadership on both spheres. Glen's hardworking wife, Nita, was also honoured by being made a Life Member of the Football Club in 1968. Glen was passionate about West; he had many great ideas, and was in many ways responsible for the success of the Football Club and the Leagues Club. "Mr West", Glen Maloney, certainly deserves the "Bright West Colours".

### *Harry Harding*



**H**enry Olaf Harding, known as Harry Harding, began his association with the Western Suburbs RLFC in his childhood. From the late 1920's, first as a player, and then as an official, he gave unstinting time and energy to the Football Club, the Leagues Club and to individuals within both these organisations. Harry was Football Club President from 1958 to 1976. In 1947, Harry was the 2nd person to be elected as a Life Member of the football club (Milton Ott was elected in 1946). Harry enjoyed the respect of everyone associated with Rugby League and certainly is deserving of the "Bright West Colours"