

The Rosella - by Slim Hunter



Now Joseph had a coat, of many colours it would seem
But on inside information, it was mostly Red and Green
The Rosella liked the colours, so he took them for his own
He looked for Western Suburbs Leagues Club, and he made the place his home
Take from the sun the Red so bold, and then some Emerald Green
Take from the stars a splash of white, and place it in between
Now if you want to see these colours, when they're really at their best
See the Rugby League next Sunday, and you'll see them worn by West
They're the present League Club Champions, a real bonny side
And the jerseys made of Red and Green, are always worn with pride
They have raised this coloured standard, with which to decorate the sky
They have set it waving proudly, and will keep it flying high
If you can get to the football, then take a stroll out "West",
I know that you'll appreciate - It's true that "WEST IS BEST"! (Slim Hunter - 1967)

Rob Davies – by Slim Hunter

(Rob Davies – 149 games – 1959 to 1967)

In the Davies tradition, they play the game.
Not for the honour, the glory, the fame
So in each generation, again and again
They play in a team of the Western Men
As a front row forward, where there is no rest
Was the place Robbie chose to give of his best
For its tough up front where the big men go
And the talents you have only rarely on show
And among the fans there are only a few
Who appreciate the job that the big men do
But it must be known from the very start
That besides your style, you must have a heart
It was over a century of grade games played
Before Robbie's decision to retire was made
So when you're thinking of players past
Always remember the names that last
May the future generations of West players yield
Players like Robbie on the football field!



(Slim Hunter 14.2.70)

Paul Slattery - by Slim Hunter

(Paul Slattery – 116 games – 1973 to 1978)



How does one put into words, to try to tell the truth
That the secret of success is a secret held by youth
To "Slat's" who's been a wanderer, as from code to code he moved
It seems somewhere in his make up that he had a point to prove
He sought from self experience the code he liked the best
And we're pleased with his decision to return to League and West
"Slat's" success has been unbounded in a career that's just begun,
And with youth that will sustain him- The best is yet to come!

(Slim Hunter 14 April 1975)

Karl Hutchinson – “Bred in Rugby League” - by Slim Hunter

(Karl Hutchinson – 181 games – 1972 to 1979)

I must be gettin' old I guess, when I start thinking back
I remember "Hutcho" telling me about his boy called Jack
*"He's only just a boy as yet, not afraid to take a knock
But mark my words just wait and see, he will represent at lock"*
I must admit Jack proved him right, he was a player to admire
And when he later worked with me, he proved a credit to his sire
*When Jack and I talked Rugby League, to me it seemed such fun
Somehow all the conversation swung round to Karl, his son*
"He'll represent for us" he said, "As a boy he's pretty tough"
"When he grows up he'll mix it up, If they want to play it rough"
*Well Karl proved his father right, but Dad would never have guessed
That his boy who started out with North would one day play for West*
We're glad to have you with us Karl, you're from the true blue Hutcho mould
And when I remember back so far, I must be getting old!!

(Slim Hunter 5 Nov 1973)

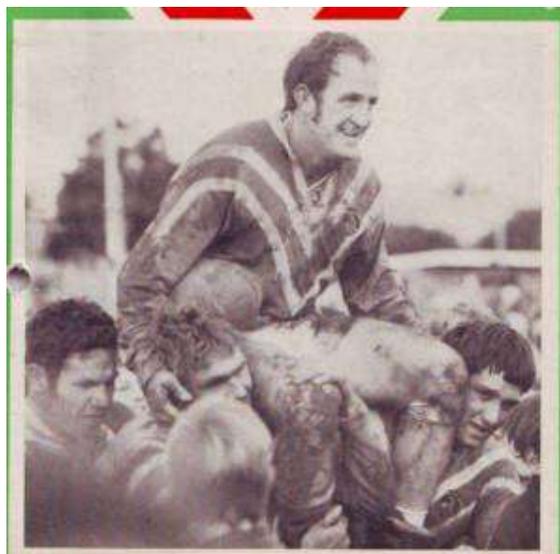


“Johnny Raper's Day – The 1970 Grand Final” - by Slim Hunter

(John Raper – 40 games – 1970 to 1972)

*There is no doubt about it, the way he delved the play
With a heart as big as Phar Lap, this was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY*
The fans arrived from near and far, to see the final fray
And believe me it was unanimous, it was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
*He put Rowston through the holes he made, he made every movement pay
Father Cootes recorded three good tries, but still it was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY*
For full on eighty minutes, he dictated the play
And the verdict at the Leagues Club, it was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
*We are proud that we have won it, it's been a most rewarding day
Give the thirteen boys all credit, but still it's JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY*
Now let's look to the future, I hope that I can say
For the next four years that's coming, It'll be JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY!!

(Slim Hunter 22 September 1970)



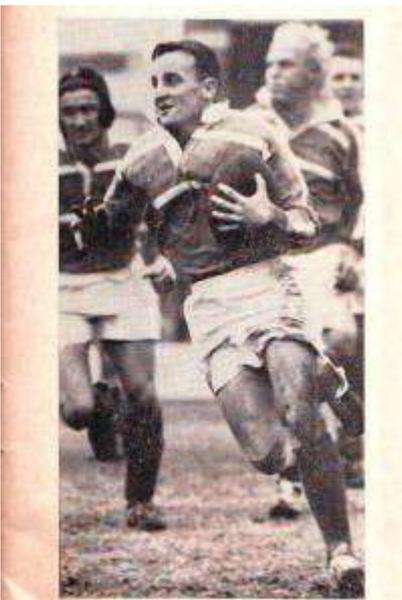
“John Raper arrives at West” – by Slim Hunter

It's been so confusing and so very amusing
The opinions expressed in the paper
There seems quite a few who hadn't a clue
What was going to happen with RAPER
There were scribes in the south who had very big mouths
Who thought Johnny was Sydney's forever
And would never believe that JOHN RAPER would leave
And play in the north - oh, no, never
And a League coach who writes about football and fights
Was certain enough to bet money
We are sad to confide, he got "took" for a ride
Which to him, could never be funny
To the public who pay
We are happy to say
There's no need for more speculation
It's now very clear
That JOHN RAPER is here
To boost West's, and his own reputation!!
(Slim Hunter 5 January 1970)



Kevin “Wrinkles” Hodgson – “The Miniature Champ” - by Slim Hunter

(Kevin Hodgson – 186 games – 1959 to 1968)



Built like a midget with a heart like a giant
That never gave in and was always defiant
What he lacked in size he made up with guile
Everything that he did, had the "Wrinkles" style
Pound for pound, the wise ones say
He could hold his own with the champs of the day
A football talent described the rarest
Talents that win you the "Best and Fairest"
"Best and Fairest" was the record he made
A six times winner in every grade
Mere words of mine could never describe
How he coached and coaxed the best from his side
Kevin's kicking and play were so perfectly blended
That his record with West will always be remembered!!
(Slim Hunter – 1970)

Dennis Ward – by Slim Hunter

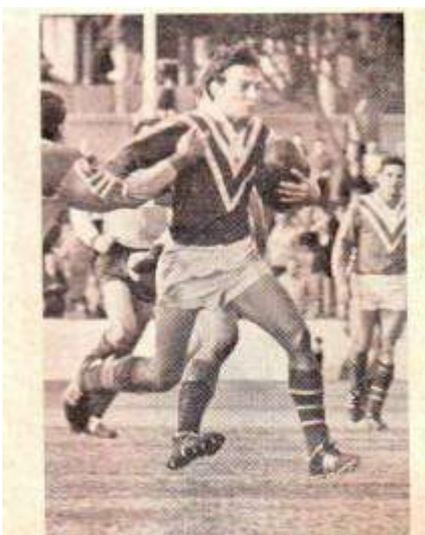
(Dennis Ward – 63 games – 1973 to 1975)

It isn't the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog
It's the size of the heart in the man playing League that makes him a champ or a log
To pick yourself up from the ground when you're hurt, to get in and still have a go
When the odds seem against you and everything lost, 'tis the one thing that makes you a pro
Easy to lay there after a knock, with a bit of a bruise or a graze
But the man who gets up to stick with his mates is the man supporters will praise
And speaking of tough guys you see now and then, the kind people say "Have the guts"
You wouldn't look further than our Dennis Ward, if you did then you'd have to be nuts
He played kinda small, but in stature he's big, he played the game among the "World's Best"
And while ever he cares to wear Red and Green, he's a champ with the boys here at West!
(Slim Hunter 1975)



Bob Adamson - The Man from Manilla- by Slim Hunter

(Bob Adamson – 92 games – 1970 to 1979)



Bob in action during his first year with West.

The size of the man in a Rugby League Team
Is not as important as you think it would seem
The success of the player since the League game began
Depends on the size of the heart in the man
There's no way to describe the size they will be
When out on the field they're a pleasure to see
And if you watch Bob Adamson out on the green
It wouldn't be hard to see just what I mean
When he came here from Tamworth to try himself out
We soon learned he knew what the game was about
Every time that he played he always gave of his best
In the Seniors that first year - an instant success
When injuries assailed him he wouldn't give in
His heart always told him "keep playing you'll win"
True to his courage he's right back on top
And your friends hope your days here with West never stop
(Slim Hunter 22 July 1972)

“Our Sadies” – by Slim Hunter

*(This poem was written to honour “Our Sadies” – the Cleaning Ladies at the Leagues Club. It was penned following the 1971 Staff Christmas Party that saw the “2 Jill’s” saying farewell to the Secretary / Manager of the Leagues Club – “Mr West” – Glen Maloney)
(Glen Maloney – WSRLFC Secretary 1953 – 1975, President 1976 – 1977)*

It’s early in the morning while everyone’s asleep
The stars are still above us, as from our beds we creep
*We have to keep on moving, to be on time we strive
We’re supposed to be inside the club while the clock is striking five*
We grab a bucket and our mops, and everybody runs
You have to keep on moving in case Glen Maloney comes
*We polish here and polish there, even handles on the door
We polish up the pokies ‘til we can’t do anymore*
Of course we have a natter as we work along the line
But we have to keep on working to be finished right on nine
*Then it’s “Good Bye Luv – I’ll see you” as you head off to our shack
And you hope the club keeps tidy ‘cause tomorrow – you’ll be back!*
(Slim Hunter 4 February 1972)

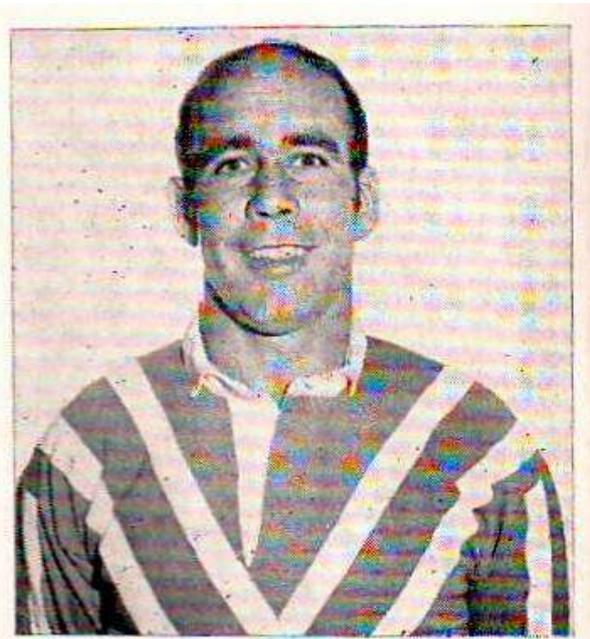


The two Jills say farewell to our Secretary/Manager.

Ken Smith – “Mr Versatile” – by Slim Hunter

(Ken Smith – 133 games – 1968 to 1974)

It’s just an observation
That everybody knows
You never have a one man team
That’s just the way it goes
But now and then there comes along
A fantastic football freak
Who will play where e’re you pick him
‘Cause he’s as tough as teak
Let me introduce you to you a player
Who would be one of the best
And a dedicated clubman
Since he came to play with West
In the last four years of football
80 games is to his name
And being “Mr Versatile”
He has earned his spot of fame
They never have to ask him
“What position do you play?”
If there’s a spot that’s tough to fill
They know that “Smithy” will be OK
The 1970 Grand Final
Made everybody sing
He proved the faith of our selectors
Who played him on the wing
The crowds all sing his praises
Add the mates who he plays with
We’re proud he wears the “red and green”
We’re proud of Kenny Smith
Known to his mates as “Smithers”
Or as “Poppa” to the kids
I am very proud to know you
Ken Smith – I “dips me lid!”
(Slim Hunter 22 March 1972)

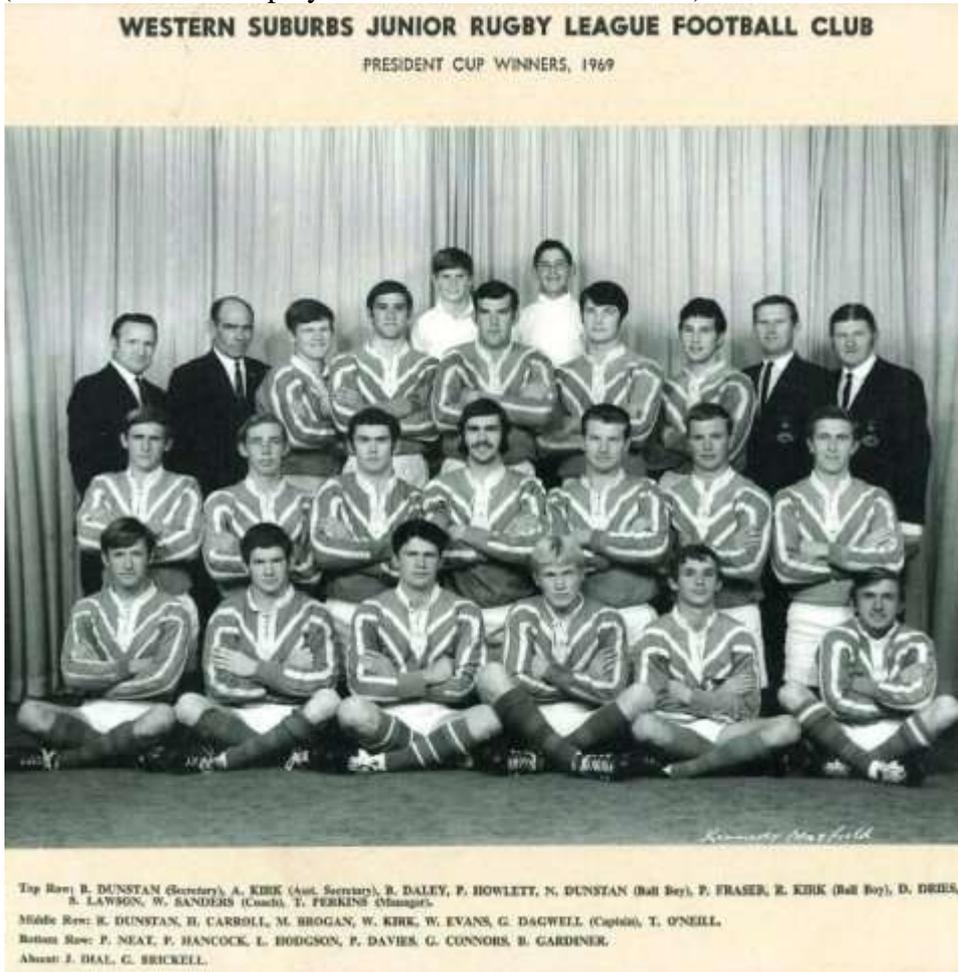


Ken Smith

Peter Howlett – by Slim Hunter

(Peter Howlett – 145 games – 1970 to 1975)

(Peter Howlett – 2nd player on the left in the back row)



The earliest memories of a young Lambton lad
Was a rugby league game, along with his dad
This was the game they both liked the best
And more than coincidence, always at West
When the time came to play, as older he grew
'Twas perfectly natural he'd know what to do
"Play football for West?" - without hesitation
And he gave of his best with true dedication
To be able to say, and say it with pride
Although we were beaten, "I know that I tried"
It always applied – it was what he believed
And his secret of success was truly achieved
To play like Peter, it's not easy to know
How far in the game - of league he will go
While we wish him the best and every success
We will always remember, he first played with West!
(Slim Hunter 23 May 1972)

