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Foreword

Once again it is my prerogative to write the foreword in a Souvenir Brochure and this time on behalf of Stanley Kielty.

I well remember watching the Halifax Second Team play Wakefield Trinity at Belle Vue when Stanley was on the transfer list. I came to the conclusion after that match that here is the young man we were looking for and I persuaded the members of my Board to go in force the following match to watch this player. In the meantime the Wakefield Officials appreciated that we had taken an interest in Stan and after the match it was only by the influence of his brother that Stan decided to sign for Halifax. I am sure that all will agree that since joining the Club he has proved a true member of our side and whilst it may be true that there may be more brilliant scrummage halves on occasions, week by week Stan Kielty has played consistently and shown his ability to retain his place in the Halifax Team throughout the past years.

During this time he has received various honours to which in my opinion, he was justly entitled, and I venture to suggest that no Club has had a more consistent half-back than Halifax in Stan Kielty.

He is a typical team man and it is my wish that he should enjoy a bumper testimonial for the services he has rendered both to the Halifax Club and to the Rugby League in general.



Chairman

Halifax Rugby League Football Club.

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Stanley Keilty's Testimonial Match at Thrum Hall, May 21st, 1955

We are greatly indebted to the Oldham officials and players for their help.

The Oldham team this season have a great record and finished second in the League. They met Leeds in the semi-final and won easily to reach the final for the first time since 1921-22.

We offer our congratulations to Oldham for their high standard of play and splendid performance.



STANLEY KIELTY

A Great Record . .

By Frank Williams

THERE came to Halifax in 1946, a scrum half-back who has missed only 38 matches out of 405 since he first played against York at Thrum Hall on October 19th, 1946.

He hailed from a team, Wheldale Colliery, which was destined to become known by Halifax, because of their cup-tie meetings the same season. But Kielty played first for Wakefield where he was one of the deputies for Goodfellow, an international of repute, before joining the Thrum Hall staff.

It was by a mere coincidence that Kielty's name should be mentioned to Mr. C. E. Horsfall, the present chairman of the Halifax directorate, following a certain game at Wakefield in 1946.

GOOD BARGAIN.

Wakefield had half-backs to spare at the time and Kielty was one of them. Mr. Horsfall reported back to his directors and they quickly decided to sign for Thrum Hall, where he has been ever since.

He has represented his country and county since joining Halifax, so it can be fairly stated that Kielty has improved his status with the Halifax club, who never at any time have regretted the "bargain" transaction.

Kielty played in the Halifax Cup Final at Wembley in 1949 when Halifax lost to Bradford Northern, and was a member of the team which was there in 1954, when Halifax lost after a replay to Warrington.

He played in the League Finals of 1953-4, and in the Yorkshire Cup Final against Hull last year, which Halifax won.

Kielty always regards his first Wembley Final as the biggest thrill in his career.

As he told me at the time: "I had read as a boy about the teams which had got to Wembley, but never in my wildest dreams had I visualised being a member of a team which in future years, would play on this wonder ground."

SACRIFICE FOR LOVED ONE.

Testimonials to sportsmen are usually given for individual prowess on the field of play or as the result of popularity. The one awarded, however, to Stanley Kielty, the Halifax scrum half for the last eleven seasons, has a greater significance.

Stanley has a son, Malcolm, of whom he and Mrs. Kielty are naturally proud. Unfortunately, when a mere child, Malcolm was a victim of poliomyelitis, and is still incapacitated.

Malcolm's ambition is to become a footballer like his daddy. The boy knows all the Halifax players by name because he attends most of the club's matches.

A great critic of his father, Malcolm is ever ready to find fault. But that is another story.

Stanley Kielty, when acquainted of the fact that he would receive a testimonial this season, immediately replied: "The money will be used to attempt to restore Malcolm to normal health, so that he can achieve his ambition."

YOUR HELP NEEDED.

I tell this story to emphasise the sacrifice Mr. and Mrs. Kielty are ready to make for the sake of their son. That is why this story is included in this souvenir book.

When the sportsmen of Halifax read this book, I am sure they will realise the great efforts of the Testimonial Committee to make it a record one for the Halifax Club.

This cannot be done without the help of the sportsmen of Halifax. The appeal is made to give the committee the support to achieve their object.

While every footballer has his critics, few will deny when they review the record of Stanley Kielty with the Halifax club, that he has given great service in a most exacting position.

PIVOT OF ATTACK.

The half-backs of a Rugby team are categorically speaking, the pivot of attack. Failure on their part affects the smooth working of the whole back division.

That is why the half-backs are so frequently under "direct fire" from the critics. Whatever faults Kielty may have in the eyes of his severest critics, they cannot take away from him the honour gained of playing for his country and county.



In the summer of 1954 when the British team was selected for the Australasia tour Stanley Kielty was a very live candidate for one of the two scrum half-backs to be chosen to make the trip. When the selectors left him out of the team, writers of the north, almost without exception, decried the omission.

They regarded Kielty as the best strategist in the position in the Rugby League, and his form during the season of 1953-4 had been worthy of all the good things said of him.

Stanley Kielty's Testimonial Match

HALIFAX

- 1.—GRIFFITHS
- 2.—DANIELS
- 3.—LYNCH
- 4.—TODD
- 5.—MITCHELL
- 6.—DEAN
- 7.—KIELTY
- 8.—THORLEY
- 9.—ACKERLEY
- 10.—WILKINSON
- 11.—SCHOFIELD
- 12.—HENDERSON
- 14.—FEARNLEY

OLDHAM

- 1.—STIRRUP
- 2.—BARROW
- 3.—CRACKNELL
- 4.—DAVIES
- 5.—O'GRADY
- 6.—DALEY
- 7.—PITCHFORD
- 8.—OGDEN
- 9.—KEITH
- 10.—JACKSON
- 11.—WINSLADE
- 12.—LITTLE
- 13.—GOLDSWAIN

Referee:

Mr. FANK SEED.

Touch Judges:

Mr. JACK SCAIFE

Mr. W. HEMMINGS.

ALMOST AN "EVER-PRESENT."

During his association with the Halifax club, Kielty has been almost an "ever present" so tough has he proved, and believe me, few get harder knocks than a scrum half in Rugby.

The sporting public, at least a certain section of it, sometimes extend sympathy to the scrum half because of his size and the "rough" usage he receives from the loose forward and the members of the opposing pack generally.

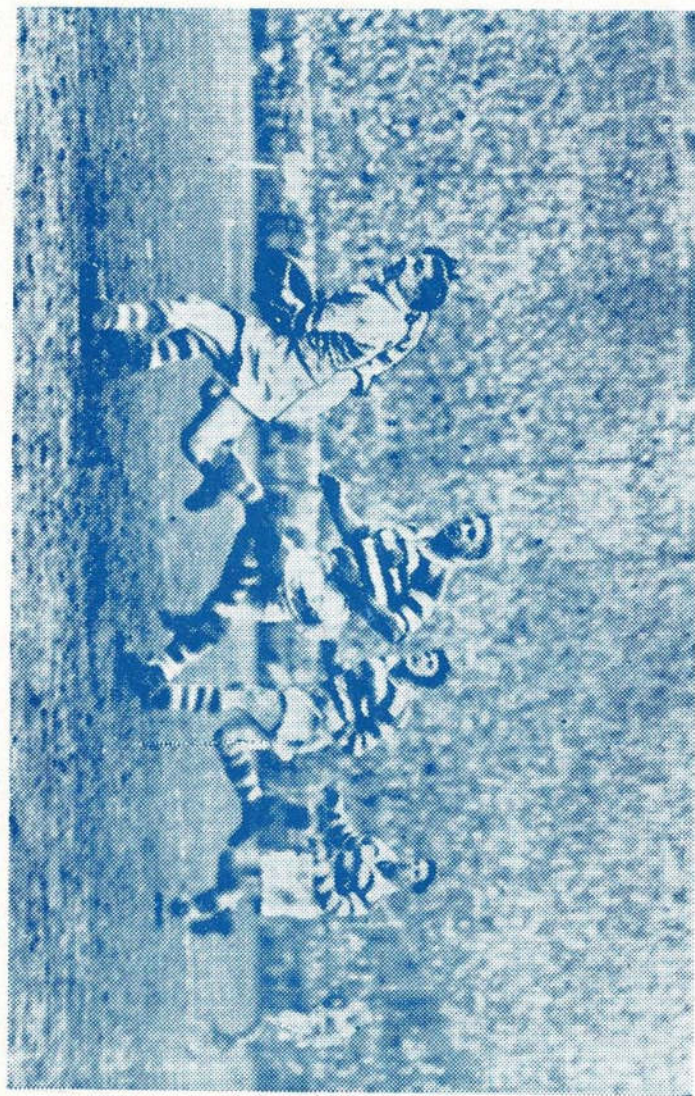
They have no need to worry, such "tough guys" as Kielty never complain. They accept the duty with nonchalance.

Kielty has very rarely been out of the side through injury, and the following record of appearances and performances generally, will prove interesting.

		Poss.	Pld.	Gls.	T.	Pts.
1946-7		33	28	1	6	20
1947-8		42	37	0	*14	42
1948-9		47	42	2	3	13
1949-50		45	42	1	8	26
1950-1		49	39	1	4	14
1951-2		45	42	1	5	17
1952-3		49	48	0	6	18
1953-4		49	44	2	9	31
1954-5		46	45	0	6	18



Kielty breaks away in the Cup Final replay at Odsal, 1954.



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Milestones

Oct. 19th, 1954—Played his first game for Halifax.

Oct. 1st, 1951—Played for Yorkshire (v. Cumberland) at Hull

October 10th, 1951*—Played for Yorkshire (v. Lancashire) at Leigh.

Dec. 5th, 1951—Played for Yorkshire (v. New Zealand) at Wakefield.

Sept. 29th, 1952—Played for Yorkshire (v. Cumberland), at Workington.

Nov. 26th, 1952—Played for Yorkshire (v. Australians) at Fartown.

April 28th, 1953—Played for Yorkshire (v. Lancashire) at Hull.

Oct. 5th, 1953—Played for Yorkshire (v. Cumberland) at Hull.

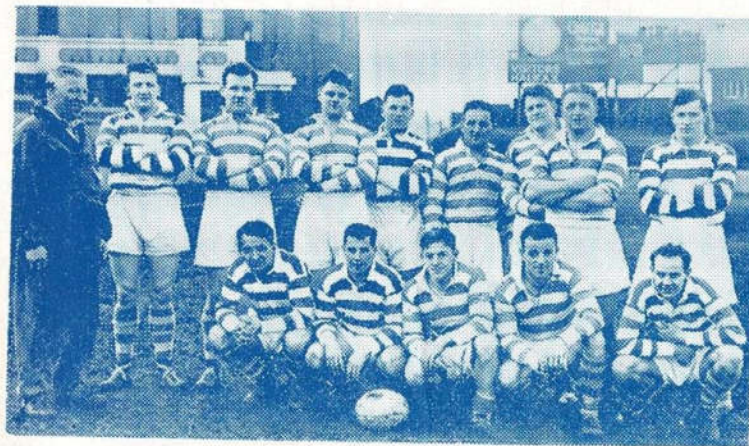
Spet. 16th, 1953—Played for England (v. Wales) at St. Helens.

Oct. 14th, 1953—Played for Yorkshire (v. Lancashire) at Leigh.

Nov. 7th, 1953—Played for England (v. France) at Odsal.

Feb. 24th, 1954—Played in Tour Trial at Leeds.

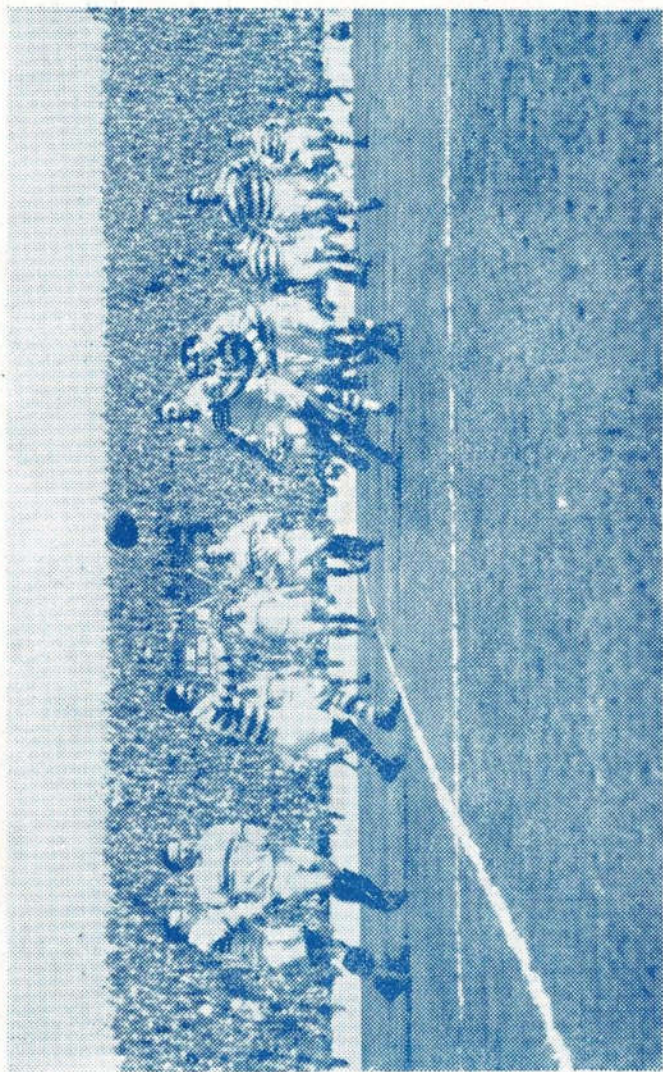
* Yorkshire Won Championship.



HALIFAX TEAM 1953-4.

Top Row: Dawson (Coach), Wilkinson, Thorley, Fearnley, Todd, Ackerley, Schofield, Clarkson, Lynch.

Bottom Row: Griffiths, Kielfy, Dean, Daniels, Bevan.



An incident in the League Final at Maine Road, 1954, with Kielty in the forefront.

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HALIFAX

MILESTONES.

Owing to a printer's error the year Kielty played his first game is given as 1954. This should be 1946.

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