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ON THE INSIDE—

DAVE PARKER

Huyton want Widnes utility back Ged Lowe as their player-coach to succeed Dave Cox, who left the club by mutual consent last month. Joe Chamberlain, who was a favourite, is staying on as player-coach with French club, Albi. Lowe could start by taking, at least on loan two Naughton Park stay-aways, half-back Alan Ashton, listed at £3,000 and big wing or centre Paul McDonald.

The Aberavon club, who have provided Warrington with five players over the past two seasons, are going to spend £100,000 on ground improvements and amenities for the residents of Aberavon and Port Talbot.

Watch out St. Helens some other club in the Rugby League may take a player called Coslett onto their books. Kevin Coslett, who already holds a Welsh Youth Cap, is equally at home in the centre or at full-back and is described by my Welsh correspondent as a fine prospect. I am also told that Gloucester R.U. full-back or centre, Peter Butler, 21, is in unstoppable form as he continues to smash the R.U. record books. He had scored 200 points by the first week in November, a remarkable record in first class R.U. Incidentally membership of the Llanelli club per annum is £12,500, more than some Rugby League clubs take through their turnstiles.

Truro's winger Dave Shipwright at the tender age of 17 is tipped to play for Cornwall and South West Counties next season after representing his county and area at schoolboy level this term. England and Bristol hooker Pullen regards him as the finest young wing he has ever seen. One or two Rugby League clubs could do with booking a Cornish Riviera holiday in the early spring to catch a glimpse.

Wakefield's Dave Toppliss, Leigh's John Davies and Leeds skipper Alan Hardisty, who is lined up to join Rockhampton, could all have their careers temporarily affected by domestic troubles, while Ken Kellett, the Featherstone winger it is rumoured has been prevented from playing by his wife of four months.

Barrow have signed Cedric Jackson from Millom, who has been a professional before with Blackpool and an amateur international.

Wigan have asked opinions all round the league of Barrow's big rough prop Steve Hogan, but the £7,500 the Craven Park club are asking may put them off.

Leigh, who have asked Wigan just recently about the price they would want for Peter Rowe—they were asked £1,500—have been thinking over a move to buy their former player second rower Bob Welding, now on offer at Rochdale.

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Brian Batty of the Mail

The decision of the Council to appoint an independent committee to examine the game's problems from the angle of entertainment seems commendable enough on the surface.

We all know there is considerable room for improvement in the general playing standards and that there is a shortage of personalities and skilful players.

This problem is not confined to Rugby League for there has been an outcry about the scarcity of these qualities in Soccer over the past few years.

It is the idea of calling in people from outside the game to form this new committee that seems strange to me—a move, I fear, born of desperation.

I cannot imagine such a step being taken in any other sport even though I have been conditioned to the peculiarities of Rugby League.

It seems particularly ironic that not so long ago we had the John Caine marketing consultants carrying out a lengthy and costly inquiry into what was wrong with League.

They completed a thorough and exhaustive examination over many months to try and establish the reasons for falling attendances.

It wasn't surprising that most of their findings and reports matched those of people within the game.

We all know the damage television did when the game was able to boast decent-sized gates and how it has combined with social changes and falling standards in play to bring about a sad decline in attendances.

The Caine decision that we must have divisional football again was rejected at first but now we have two divisions this season.

I don't want to renew the controversies surrounding the Caine Report but I wonder how much precious time is to be wasted by this new committee.

It seems a sad reflection on those administrators within the game that the Council should turn to people "outside" for this type of assistance.

I wish I could have taken the members of the new committee with me on my Boxing Day travels to Headingley and Central Park.

They would have seen Leeds and Wakefield Trinity engaged in a great game which contained four first half tries of high merit and a similar struggle between Wigan and St. Helens.

I saw a total of 11 tries, the majority from skilfully fashioned moves and two crowds of fans who left for home well satisfied with their holiday fare.

Which perhaps proves that all is not lost and that we have something to look forward to in 1974.

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Rugby Quiz

1. Which clubs home ground is called Thrum Hall?
2. What is the record attendance for Craven Park?
3. How many times have Hull Kingston Rovers won the Rugby League Championship?
4. When were Oldham founded?
5. What is the record score for a player in one match?

ANSWERS

1. Halifax.
2. 22,282 v. Hull in 1922-23.
3. Twice, in 1922-23 and 1924-25.
4. 1876.
5. Tich West scored 53 points in Hull Kingston Rovers' win over Brookland Rovers in 1904-05, when Hull Kingston won 73-5.



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- 5—~~O'BRIEN J.~~ Holland I
- 6—TREASURE D. try
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—CLAWSON T.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—HALL F.
- 11—GREGORY B.
- 12—McCRACKEN W.
- 13—PETERS A.
- 14—~~MUNRO G.~~ Elliott M
- 15—ASHCROFT K.

HULL K R

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White Shorts

- 1—HALL D.
- 2—~~STEPHENSON M.~~ try Birrell
- 3—DUNN G.
- 4—MOORE J.
- 5—~~BIRRELL R.~~ Leighton
- 6—~~MILWARD R.~~ Stephenson
- 7—HUDSON T.
- 8—RAMSHAW T.
- 9—FLANAGAN P.
- 10—MILLINGTON J. try
- 11—ROSE P.
- 12—WILEY S.
- 13—FITZGIBBON A.
- 14—NUTTALL S.
- 15—BARNARD T.

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**Action
Replay**



OUR VISITORS

Today Hull Kingston Rovers visit Watersheddings for the first time since season 1967-68 when the Robins won at Oldham by 9 points to 7. A repeat victory by the visitors is not expected this afternoon especially following that fine 19-12 win at Whitehaven last Sunday which took Oldham back into sixth place in the First Division table.

In recent seasons Hull Kingston Rovers have been strengthened by an influx of Australian players into their ranks. One such player is Bob Smithies who joined the Robins in October, 1972, from the Dapto club. He was a try scorer on his debut when the Robins defeated Bradford Northern 35-21. In the absence of Smithies, Rovers can always call upon the versatile Phil Coupland to fill the No. 1 jersey. He represented Yorkshire at U17 level before signing for the Robins in December, 1964, from East Hull juniors. In 1969-70 he scored 19 tries and the following season he won the supporters club award as the fairest and most loyal player at Craven Park. Coupland's only professional representative honour came in season 1971-72 when he played for Great Britain against York in a trial match in which he scored a try as Britain won 28-22. Another versatile player is Steve Hartley who made his debut in December, 1971. In recent weeks he has been playing on the wing although he is a fast and elusive stand-off. The other winger will be Mike Stephenson, a very dangerous attacker who scored 23 tries in season 1971-72. The Robins have several players who are capable of filling the centre positions including the expensive Paul Longstaff who cost Rovers £7,000 when he was transferred from Huddersfield in December, 1967. Last season he claimed four tries in the 41-6 defeat of Keighley and he was the Robins try scorer in their 11-7 Yorkshire Cup Final victory against Castleford in 1971.

George Kirkpatrick was born in Workington twenty-eight years ago and played rugby union for Cumberland and Westmorland before moving over to Yorkshire and playing with Sheffield RUFC. In May, 1971, he turned professional with Hull Kingston and in his first season won a Yorkshire Cup winners medal as well as two county caps. Since then he has played a further three times for Cumberland and has proved to be an exciting capture. Twenty-seven years old Dave Hick gained a lot of experience at Leeds after being signed from the Southlands junior club. He played at Wembley in 1971 and in the Championship Final the following season. When he moved to Craven Park it was for a fee of £3,000. The Robins leading try scorer this season is Ged Dunn with 10. Ged was signed from Redcar RUFC in August, 1971, and in his first season he was chosen substitute for Great Britain in the trial match against York when he scored a try. The Australian, Ross Birrell, has been impressive in his first season in English rugby. He was signed from Dapto last August. Undoubtedly, the star of the Hull Kingston line-up is stand-off half Roger Millward who signed for Castleford from Castleford 'B' in 1963 after impressing in the Sunday afternoon televised series of junior matches. Millward's first international appearance came in November, 1965, when he scored a try and three goals for England U24 against France in a match which celebrated the switching on of the Oldham floodlights. By the end of that season Millward had represented Great Britain at senior level and his battle with Alan Hardisty for the Castleford No. 6

jersey resulted in his transfer to Humberside for £6,000. Millward has a long list of representative honours having played for England U24, Yorkshire, England and Great Britain. He has visited Australia for the World Cup in 1968 and again in 1970 when he scored 18 tries and 23 goals in 15 matches. He is well known for his scoring exploits and in 1967-68 crossed for 40 tries. In recent seasons his most memorable feats have been for Yorkshire against Lancashire at Leigh in 1971-72 when he scored 2 tries and 5 goals in a 4-2 victory and for Great Britain against Australia in the second test on the 1970 tour when he scored 2 tries and 7 goals in Britain's 28-7 win. At the beginning of last season Millward played a major part in what proved to be a high scoring weekend for the Robins. In a Yorkshire Cup-tie Rovers beat Bradford Northern 36-27 with Roger the Dodger contributing 2 tries and 9 goals and 2 days later he went even better with 3 tries and 11 goals in the 58-5 defeat of Hunslet. 55 points in three days can't be bad! So far this season Millward has scored 7 tries and 38 goals. Scrum-half Terry Hudson began his career with Featherstone Rovers having been signed from Featherstone juniors. In October, 1971, he moved to Craven Park for £7,500 and that same season he also represented Great Britain in the trial match against York. Last season he played for Yorkshire in the County Championship play-off against Cumberland.

The Hull Kingston forwards are well led by 33 years old Peter 'Flash' Flanagan an experienced international who joined the Robins in May, 1960, from the local Craven Street Youth Club side. Flanagan has represented Yorkshire, an Eastern Division XIII and Great Britain. In 1969 he visited Australasia for the World Cup and in addition he toured 'down under' in 1966, when he played in four tests and again in 1970 when he scored 8 tries and a goal from 13 appearances. Another quite experienced forward is Ted Barnard, a product of the Heworth junior club who will be 29 in three weeks time. He joined Hull Kingston in August, 1972, for £3,000 from Leeds. Whilst with Leeds he won a Floodlit Cup winners medal in season 1970-71 and that same season he appeared at Wembley when Leigh beat Leeds 24-7. Another former member of the Australian Dapto club is Allan Fitzgibbon who arrived on Humberside last August with the other two. Lancashire born Terry Kirchen is with his fourth professional club since he turned professional with Barrow in 1966 for £3,000. Kirchen's first move was to Hull and from there he moved to York but in 1969 he moved back to Hull for £3,500 and was voted 'Player of the Season' in 1970-71 by the Hull Supporters' Club. In 1971-72 he was a member of the Great Britain team which beat York 28-22 but so far this has been his only representative honour although he has represented Lancashire at rugby union. Last January he moved across the city to Craven Park for £2,500. John Millington is another former rugby union player for he was signed from Hull RUFC whilst Paul Rose is a product of the Hull junior league. Also pressing for inclusion into the side are Steve Wyley and Derek Windmill.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug. 18	Leeds	A
25	Dewsbury	H
Sept. 1	Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
8	Bramley	H
15	Player's Competition	
22	Wakefield	A
26	Castleford	H
29	Wigan	A
Oct. 6	Whitehaven	H
14	Dewsbury	A
19	AUSTRALIA	H
27	Featherstone	H
Nov. 2	St. Helens	A
11	Widnes	H
25	Wigan	H
Dec. 1	Featherstone	A
8	St. Helens	H
16	Warrington	A
23	Leigh	H
26	Rochdale H.	H
30	Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan. 1	Salford	A
6	Hull K.R.	H
13	Leigh	A
20	Warrington	H
Feb. 2	Challenge Cup (1)	
10	Bramley	A
16	Wakefield	H
23	Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar. 2	Leeds	H
9	Challenge Cup (3)	
17	Widnes	A
23	Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
31	Hull K.R.	A
Apr. 7	Castleford	A
13	Salford	H
15	Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

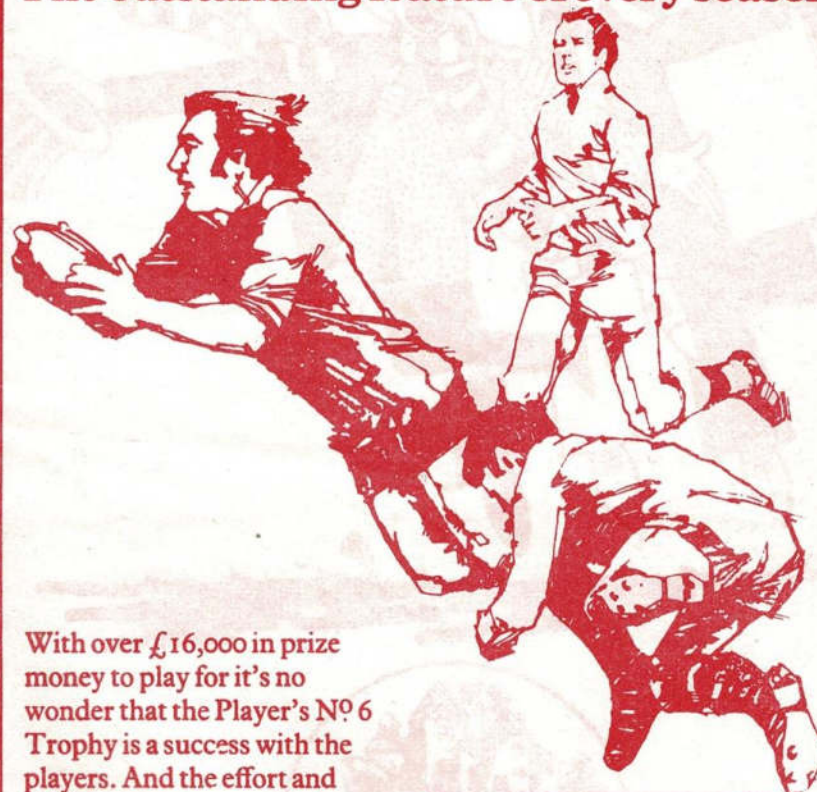
1973		
Aug. 11	Rochdale	H
18	Barrow	H
25	Workington	A
29	Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept. 8	Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
22	Barrow	A
29	Wigan	H
Oct. 13	Swinton	H
20	Swinton	A
27	Workington	A
Nov. 3	St. Helens	H
9	Widnes	A
17	Huyton	A
24	Wigan	A
Dec. 1	Barrow	H
7	St. Helens	A
16	Warrington	H
22	Leigh	A
Jan. 4	Salford	A
12	Workington	H
18	Warrington	A
23	Salford	H
26	Swinton	H
Feb. 9	Huyton	A
23	Huyton	H
Mar. 2	Barrow	A
9	Huyton	H
13	Leigh	H
16	Widnes	H
23	Rochdale	A
29	Swinton	A
Apr. 6	Workington	H

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