

# 1960

West appointed 3 new coaches in 1960. In First Grade Charlie Gill returned after a 5 years absence to take over from Jack Eveleigh. In Reserve Grade “Charger” Walls took over from Sid Brown and in Third Grade John Lightfoot took over from Neil Gibson. For the first time in “yonks”, West, at last, met with some measure of success. This was mainly due to many successful West Juniors coming through to grade eg Garry Dougherty, Rob Davies, Kev Duncan, Graham Sutcliffe, Les Olsen, Ivan Leggett, Ernie Snelson and Ted Curtis. Also arriving at West from Singleton were Maurie Kelly and Frank Usback from Singleton, John Partland from Kurri, Mick Alchin from Cardiff and Ron Gibson from North. First Grade finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and were beaten 15 – 4 by final winners Cessnock. Reserve Grade were undefeated all year, but were beaten 6 -5 in the Final. Being Minor Premiers West were able to challenge in the Grand Final and on 3 September West 13 (Kevin Hodgson, Joe Cordner, Noel Dagwell tries, Ron Gibson 2 goals) Maitland 13 – 9. West’s winning team was B Bower, B Cleary, R Gibson, N Dagwell, L Olsen, B Martin, K Hodgson, T Curtis, J Lightfoot, J Cordner, T Walpole, R Walls and V Hodge. This was Reserve Grade’s first win since 1953. West Third Grade were defeated 16 -12 in a close fought semi final. West Under 20’s were Major and Minor Premiers, Under 18’s were Major Premiers, and Under 16’s were Major and Minor Premiers. The year 1960 will go down in West’s history as the year that “the tide turned”. No longer would West be pushed around by all and sundry, no longer would West be the “easy beats” – West would always be “there or thereabouts” in “most competitions” in “most years”.

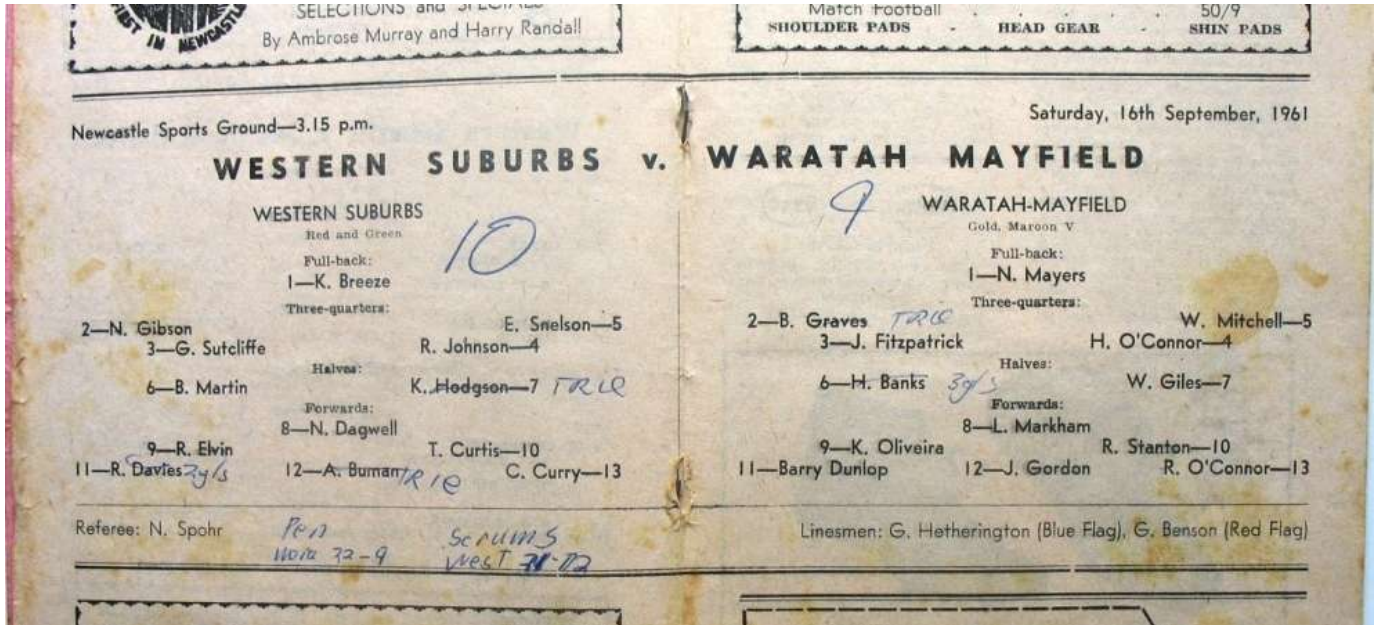


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Round	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 – 2 April	Toronto	Won 17 - 7	Won 36 - 12	Won 24 - 3
2 – 9 April	Kurri	Won 18 - 14	Won 20 - 9	Won 8 - 7
3 – 16 April	North	Lost 19 - 13	Won 18 - 13	Won 38 - 5
4 – 23 April	Cessnock	Lost 12 - 9	Won 36 - 8	Won 7 - 6
5 – 30 April	South	Draw 14 - 14	Won 40 - 12	Won 46 - 11
6 – 7 May	Maitland	Lost 16 - 5	Won 14 - 11	Lost 13 - 9
7 – 14 May	Waratah	Lost 13 - 10	Won 23 - 3	Won 25 - 0
21 May	France 14 Newcastle 10			
8 – 29 May	Lakes	Won 16 - 13	Won 10 - 6	Won 18 - 2
9 – 4 June	Central	Won 9 - 5	Won 13 - 5	Won 30 - 2
10 – 11 June	Cessnock	Lost 26 - 7	Won 16 - 8	Lost 22 - 8
11 – 18 June	South	Won 34 - 11	Won 18 - 4	Won 19 - 8
12 – 25 June	Maitland	Lost 16 - 12	Won 15 - 11	Lost 10 - 5
13 – 2 July	Waratah	Won 36 - 11	Won 49 - 3	Won 28 - 2
14 – 9 July	Central	Lost 14 - 11	Won 28 - 11	Won 23 - 0
15 – 16 July	Lakes	Won 15 - 5	Won 13 - 2	Won 10 - 7
16 – 23 July	Kurri	Won 14 - 10	Won 24 - 2	Lost 10 - 3
17 – 30 July	North	Won 21 - 10	Won 18 - 8	Won 19 - 16
18 – 6 August	Toronto	Won 17 - 15	Won 23 - 2	Won 34 - 2
13 August	SEMI	Cess 15 West 4	West 9 Cess 7	Mait 16 West 12
27 August	FINAL	Cess 33 Mait 5	Mait 6 West 5	
3 September	GR FINAL		West 13 Mait 9	

# 1961

After a successful 1960 season, West were hopeful of further successes in 1961. Rex Elvin, who had previously played with Central, came for Glen Innes to be Captain / Coach of First Grade, whilst “Charger” Walls and John Lightfoot were again in charge of the Lower Grades. “Sexy Remy” was a tough man – yep, a tough man, who “gave better than he got”. West won the First Grade title for the first time in



39 years (1922 was in the distant past), and this was in no small way to the coaching ability and leadership of Rex Elvin. Players who made their grade debut in 1961 included Allan Buman, Ken Davies, Bill Dent, John McLaughlin, Bill Westbury and Ron Williamson. John Mangano resumed his West career after a layoff of a couple of seasons. During the year 4 players played their 100<sup>th</sup> game for West – “Sooty” Hector, Neil Gibson, “Charger” Walls and John Lightfoot. West were Minor Premiers in both First and Reserve Grades and won their first ever “Mal Woolford” Club Championship. Both teams were beaten in the final series, but being Minor Premiers both teams had the right to play a Grand Final. The table below shows how First Grade were beaten 15 – 11 by Maitland in the semi final, and then playing Denman in a “trial” game, before beating Waratah 10 – 9 in the Grand Final. The winning West First

Grade team was Ken Breeze, Neil Gibson, Graham Sutcliffe, “Wagga” Johnson, Ernie Snelson, Barry Martin, “Wrinkles” Hodgson, Noel Dagwell, Rex Elvin, Ted Curtis, Rob Davies, Allan Buman, Col Curry. West 10 (Kevin Hodgson, Allan Buman tries, Rob Davies 2 goals) def Waratah 9. Thirty Nine years is a long time. I was there! It was, and always will be the “best West day ever! Reserve Grade played Maitland on 3 consecutive Saturdays, before winning the Grand Final a week after First Grade – West 15 (V Hodge 2 tries, M Alchin try, C Cavanagh 3 goals).. HOW GOOD WAS THAT TWO GRAND FINAL WINS...and how West celebrated..that afternoon, that night..in fact until December. On Wednesday 13 December 1961 a “Victory Presentation Cabaret” was held at St Phillips Hall Waratah to honour West becoming Club Champions, and winning First and Reserve Grade. OH, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BETTER FOOTBALL TEAM THAN THE ONE THAT PLAYS FOR WEST!!!!





Round	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 – 1 April	Kurri	Lost 18 - 16	Won 42 - 12	Lost 18 - 11
2 – 8 April	Toronto	Won 21 - 4	Won 24 - 7	Won 18 - 9
3 – 15 April	Waratah	Lost 21 - 6	Won 44 - 5	Won 9 - 7
4 – 22 April	Cessnock	Lost 9 - 6	Won 25 - 6	Won 21 - 8
5 – 29 April	Maitland	Draw 13 - 13	Won 22 - 14	Lost 17 - 8
6 – 6 May	South	Won 23 - 7	Won 24 - 14	Lost 4 - 0
7 – 13 May	North	Won 20 - 8	Won 15 - 11	Won 13 - 3
8 – 20 May	Lakes	Won 33 - 13	Lost 13 - 11	Won 8 - 0
9 – 12 June	Central	Won 21 - 10	Won 10 - 8	Won 5 - 0
<b>19 June</b>	<b>Caltex 500 K/O Final Maitland 20 West 17</b>			
10 – 24 June	Cessnock	Won 15 - 6	Won 32 - 10	Lost 8 - 3
11 – 1 July	Maitland	Lost 21 - 7	Won 13 - 10	Lost 10 - 8
12 – 8 July	South	Won 9 - 2	Won 25 - 11	Lost 9 - 7
13 – 15 July	North	Won 22 - 5	Won 13 - 6	Won 7 - 2
14 – 22 July	Lakes	Won 23 - 7	Lost 18 - 10	Won 17 - 0
15 – 29 July	Central	Won 18 - 15	Won 20 - 9	Won 11 - 5
16 – 5 August	Kurri	Won 23 - 13	Won 33 - 2	Lost 19 - 9
17 – 12 August	Toronto	Won 29 - 6	Won 56 - 2	Won - Forfeit
18 – 19 August	Waratah	Lost 27 - 14	Won 20 - 0	Won 33 - 6
26 August	SEMI	Maitland 15 West 11	West 12 Lks 4	
2 September	SEMI			West 20 Sth 14
9 September	FINAL	West 33 Denman 15	Mait 11 West 10	Mait 11 West 7
<b>16 September</b>	<b>GR FINAL</b>	<b>West 10 Waratah 9</b>	<b>West 13 Mait 13</b>	
23 September	GR FINAL		West 15 Mait 12	

### 1961 West First Grade Side – Major Premiers



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

# 1962

In 1962 the only change to the coaching staff was that Cec Cavanagh was appointed Reserve Grade coach replacing “Charger” Walls. Rex Elvin was again the First Grade coach and John Lightfoot coached Third Grade for the third time. Players coming to grade in 1962 included John Bowe, Mick Bowen, Ritchie Herbert, Harvey Kay, Alan King, Tom Martin and Graham Negline. West could not repeat their First Grade success of 1961 and were defeated in the Semi Final by South. However, Reserve Grade were Minor Premiers, and although beaten by Maitland in the Semi Final, they went on to win the Grand Final 14 – 3 over Maitland. (West 14 – Ted Curtis, Noel Dagwell tries, Noel Dagwell (3) and Ron Gibson (1) goals def Maitland 3). West were again Club Champions. 1962 saw “Big John” Lightfoot hang up his boots, but he was not lost to the club as in future years he became Assistant Secretary and Selector. On the Junior front West were Minor and Major Premiers in Under 16’s.



NB It is a 1962 program, even though the page says 1926!

Round	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 – 7 April	Central	Won 22 - 10	Won 10 - 0	Won 6 - 3
2 – 14 April	Cessnock	Lost 25 - 5	Won 15 - 9	Lost 19 - 8
3 – 23 April	South	Won 15 - 11	Won 26 - 15	Won 9 - 0
4 – 28 April	Toronto	Won 21 - 8	Won 16 - 12	Won 36 - 18
5 – 5 May	Lakes	Won 23 - 16	Won 20 - 15	Won 15 - 9
6 – 19 May	Maitland	Won 20 - 13	Won 13 - 6	Lost 8 - 6
7 – 26 May	Waratah	Lost 13 - 9	Lost 13 - 10	Lost 25 - 0
8 – 16 June	Kurri	Won 19 - 9	Won 17 - 5	Lost 5 - 3
9 – 23 June	North	Lost 21 - 17	Won 25 - 7	Lost 5 - 0
10 – 30 June	Cessnock	Won 25 - 3	Won 9 - 3	Lost 34 - 9
11 – 7 July	South	Won 17 - 13	Lost 13 - 11	Lost 17 - 7
12 – 15 July	Toronto	Won 29 - 9	Won 76 - 0	Won 35 - 4
13 – 20 July	Lakes	Won 19 - 8	Won 32 - 0	Lost 15 - 5
14 – 28 July	North	Lost 21 - 13	Won 30 - 5	Won 11 - 9
15 – 4 August	Maitland	Won 14 - 11	Lost 17 - 2	Lost 25 - 6
16 – 11 August	Waratah	Lost 17 - 5	Won 14 - 6	Won 15 - 5
17 – 18 August	Central	Won 30 - 21	Won 26 - 12	Won 23 - 14
18 – 25 August	Kurri	Won 16 - 3	Won 28 - 3	Won 17 - 0
1 September	SEMI	South 27 West 10		
8 September	SEMI		Mait 31 West 9	
15 September	FINAL		West 18 Cess 11	
22 September	GR FINAL	North 18 South 6	West 14 Mait 3	



## 1963

West invested in Queensland representative, and Test reserve, Paul Pyers to be Captain / Coach of First Grade. Glen Walker, who played 33 lower grade games for West from 1958 to 1963 was appointed Captain / Coach of Reserve Grade, and Tom Martin (Barry's brother) was appointed Captain / Coach of Third Grade. Meanwhile, "Mr West", Glen Maloney (pictured) was elected Secretary for the 11<sup>th</sup> occasion (11 of 23). New players to the club included the "Fisherman" Col Bakes, from South Sydney (although Col was a Forster lad), and Keith Conroy from Parramatta. West juniors Lou Cox and Dave Howlett Jnr and Ray Campbell (from Lambton 2<sup>nd</sup> Division) made their first appearances in Grade. (Ray Campbell played 148 games for West, and this included just 2 First Grade appearances). West won 4 of their first 5 games, but then it was "all downhill" to a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish. Reserve Grade were a consistent team all year, but were defeated by Waratah in the first weekend of the semi finals. Third grade also finished outside the semi finals. It was left to West Under 18's to "fly the flag", as they were Minor and Major Premiers. Players in this team like Captain Mick Gallagher, Alan Wallis, Gary Walsh, Malcolm Page and Peter Holmes would all make an impression in grade in future years.



Round	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 – 6 April	Cessnock	Won 13 - 12	Won 19 - 15	Lost 16 - 11
2 – 13 April	Macquarie	Won 26 - 2	Won 33 - 9	Won 24 - 4
3 – 20 April	Waratah	Lost 18 - 16	Won 19 - 5	Won 15 - 12
4 – 4 May	South	Won 17 - 11	Lost 22 - 5	Lost 18 - 12
5 – 11 May	Kurri	Won 13 - 9	Won 13 - 7	Won 18 - 2
6 – 18 May	Central	Lost 10 - 5	Draw 10 all	Won 18 - 0
7 – 25 May	North	Draw 13 all	Lost 26 - 15	Won 10 - 7
1 June	New Zealand 24 Newcastle 6			
8 – 16 June	Lakes	Lost 10 - 8	Won 19 - 0	Lost 5 - 3
9 – 22 June	Cessnock	Lost 9 - 3	Won 18 - 10	Lost 7 - 5
10 – 30 June	Macquarie	Won 40 - 5	Won 32 - 2	Won 23 - 0
11 – 6 July	Waratah	Lost 14 - 12	Lost 12 - 0	Lost 15 - 8
12 – 13 July	Maitland	Won 15 - 12	Lost 23 - 3	Lost 27 - 5
13 – 20 July	South	Lost 30 - 16	Lost 10 - 7	Lost 27 - 0
14 – 27 July	Kurri	Lost 18 - 9	Won 25 - 24	Lost 15 - 5
28 July	Newcastle 27 South Africa 14			
15 – 3 Aug	Central	Lost 11 - 7	Lost 13 - 6	Won 5 - 2
16 – 10 August	North	Lost 9 - 8	Lost 28 - 3	Won 10 - 9
17 – 17 August	Lakes	Lost 17 - 11	Won 22 - 5	Lost 17 - 10
18 – 24 August	Maitland	Won 19 - 12	Won 21 - 5	Lost 20 - 12
14 September	SEMI		Waratah 18 West 10	
<b>28 September</b>	<b>GR FINAL</b>	<b>South 12 Central 7</b>		

## 1964

Ron “Charger” Walls took over as First Grade non playing (YES SIR – NON PLAYING) Coach – the last non playing First Grade coach at West for 45 years! Reserve Grade had a new coach in Ivan Leggett, while former West junior, Kevin Duncan, took over the Third Grade job. Many new faces this year – former North junior Brian “Mick” Carlin joined West from Innisfail, John Richards came from



South and Ken Emerton came from Easts (although he was a Forster junior). West juniors who arrived in 1964 and made their way in grade included Dennis Rowston, Geoff Savage, “Monty” and “Tag” Spruce, Garry “Yarba” Walsh, John Cooper, Bob Turner and Bill Mahoney. A “special” junior for Ken Maddison, who played just one season with West First Grade, before moving to St George and finally representing Australia from Cronulla. Owen Kilpatrick began his long (135 game) career with West before moving on to be a Director of West

Leagues Club (2013 finds him “Chairman of the Board”). Special mention is made of “the Motor Cycle Policeman from Dungog”, and my favourite player of all time, yes all time – Keith Partridge (pictured).. West had a successful season. They were beaten 27 – 12 in the First Grade Grand Final, but Third Grade, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever won the Premiership by defeating Kurri 28 – 16 to win the Premiership. West 28 - TRIES G Walsh (3), K Partridge, O Kilpatrick, T Martin GOALS G Negline (5) def Kurri 16. The West team was D Negline, T Martin, H Kay, J Bowe, L Cox, O Kilpatrick, J Cooper, G Walsh, F Wade, K Partridge, R Heath, K Duncan and G Negline. Additionally, Newcastle won the State Cup in 1964 – and this team included West players Allan Buman, Ernie Snelson, John McLaughlin, Brian Carlin and Ken Maddison.

Round	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Thirds
1 – 4 April	Waratah	Lost 10 - 4	Won 33 - 7	Won 22 - 4
2 – 11 April	Kurri	Won 18 - 7	Draw 10 all	Won 13 - 5
3 – 19 April	Macquarie	Won 23 - 9	Won 34 - 5	Won 8 - 5
4 – 25 April	South	Won 8 - 6	Won 12 - 9	Won 11 - 5
5 – 2 May	North	Won 23 - 19	Won 16 - 4	Won 36 - 2
6 – 16 May	Lakes	Won 20 - 2	Won 20 - 15	Won 7 - 4
7 – 23 May	Cessnock	Won 15 - 13l	Lost 7 - 3	Lost 7 - 5
30 May	Newcastle 16 France 14			
8 – 6 June	Maitland	Won 14 - 10	Lost 4 - 2	Lost 12 - 2
9 – 13 June	Central	Lost 22 - 6	Lost 7 - 6	Won 6 - 5
10 – 20 June	Waratah	Won 16 - 5	Won 16 - 8	Won 30 - 4
11 – 27 June	Kurri	Won 24 - 14	Won 8 - 7	Lost 10 - 7
12 – 5 July	Macquarie	Won 24 - 9	Won 16 - 10	Won 29 - 3
13 – 11 July	South	Lost 25 - 15	Lost 20 - 14	Won 10 - 3
14 – 18 July	North	Won 35 - 2	Won 25 - 4	Won 40 - 2
15 – 25 July	Cessnock	Won 25 - 14	Lost 15 - 12	Won 14 - 4
16 – 2 August	Lakes	Lost 21 - 20	Lost 8 - 5	Won 28 - 2
17 – 9 August	Maitland	Draw 5 all	Lost 18 - 15	Lost 12 - 7
18 – 16 August	Central	Won 14 - 3	Lost 17 - 5	Won 36 - 7
29 August	Final – State Cup – Newcastle 14 Parramatta 7			
5 September	SEMI	South 20 West 11		Kurri 18 West 10
12 September	FINAL	West 21 Central 12		West 13 Mait 9
<b>19 September</b>	<b>GR FINAL</b>	<b>South 27 West 12</b>		<b>West 28 Kurri 16</b>