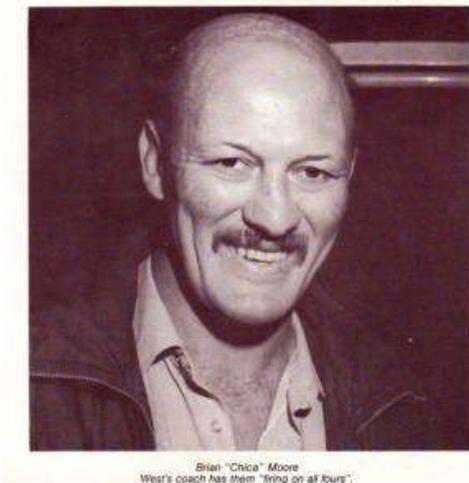


## *Bob Adamson - The Man from Manilla*



**B**ob Adamson was born in Manilla. He played Junior Rugby League, always as a half back, with Manilla RLFC and was awarded the Group 4 "Junior of the Year" in 1967. He played for West Tamworth in 1968 and 1969, and came to West in 1970. Bob played 92 games with West from 1970 to 1979. He was a member of the First Grade John Raper coached team that won the 1970 Grand Final 21 - 14 over Maitland. In 1978 Bob was coach of the West First Grade side that defeated South 23 - 16 in the Grand Final. (Bob did not play because he broke his hand in the Round 12 clash with Macquarie). Bob is one of West's favourite sons, and Slim Hunter penned this poem about Bob on 22 July 1972. This poem is reprinted in Slim Hunter poems – a file which can be opened on this website.

## *Brian Moore*



**B**rian Moore attended Alexandria Public School, and then played with Alexandria Rovers in the South Sydney Junior Competition. He then played with St Peters in the Newtown competition, and occasionally travelled to Katoomba on a Sunday to play Reserve Grade. In 1961 "Chica" at the age of 17, played 3 Third Grade games for Newtown, and the next year he played 11 First Grade games. He was in the Newtown team that beat St George 13 - 12 at the SCG in 1961, and he was in the Newtown team that beat St George in 1973 - and Newtown did not beat St George in the years between these 2 wins! Brian played for City First in 1963, and in 1964 was selected in the touring Kangaroo squad. In 1974 Brian Moore moved to Macquarie United as Captain/ Coach, and coached the team to the

final. In 1975 Brian was again with Macquarie, and he came to West in 1976 and 1977 as a non - playing coach, which was, and still is, unusual for West. West were Grand Finalists in 1976, part of the "un4tunate 4" - 4 consecutive Grand losses! (West lost Grand Finals in 1973, 1974 and 1975 under Captain / Coach Dennis Ward). Brian Moore was an outstanding footballer, an excellent coach and a great role model to all aspiring footballers of the era - but best of all, he was proud "Newtown Jet!!"

## *Dennis Ward*

**D**ennis Ward was Captain / Coach of West in 1973 when he was selected on the Kangaroo Tour of England. Dennis came to West from Manly in 1973 on a 3 year contract. Each year West made it to the Grand Final, but unfortunately they did not taste success. Dennis played 63 First Grade games for West and, despite no Grand Final wins, was a major success as a Captain / Coach. Dennis joins Allan Buman and John Cootes as the only players selected to play for Australia whilst playing for West. A poem was penned by Slim Hunter in 1975 about Dennis and this poem can be viewed in a file on Slim Hunter's poems on this website.



## Dennis Rowston – “The Mouse”



**D**ennis Rowston played his early Rugby League with Newcastle Boys' Junior High (What a school – see the article below on Greg Owens). Dennis first represented NSW as a lock forward in the Under 7st team. In 1963 Dennis was a member of the West Under 20 team that defeated Central in the Grand Final. Some of his team mates from this team were Peter Tippett, Paul "Square" Webber, Bryce McDonald, Fred Cole, Graham Negline, Geoff Savage, Larry Mailey, Herb Hill and Bob Bristow. In 1964 Dennis won the Len Clarke award for the most improved player in grade. In 1966 Dennis was a member of the John Hobby coached team that defeated Cessnock 31 - 7 in the Grand Final. Dennis was also a member of the 1970 John Raper coached team that defeated Maitland 21 - 14 in the Grand Final. Overall Dennis played 183 games for West (142 in First Grade) from 1964 to 1972. In this time he scored 11 tries and made "a million tackles". Dennis's strength was his outstanding defence, his hard running with the ball and his commitment to the West Club. "Mouse" Rowston - he sure could play Rugby League!

## Greg Owens



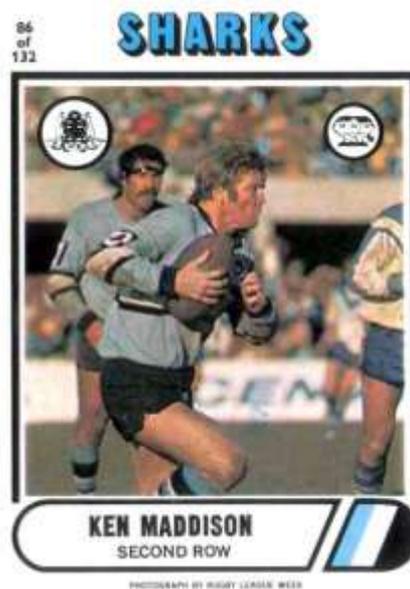
**G**reg Owens was an outstanding Schoolboy footballer. He was a star with all West Schoolboy teams and, in 1970, was the Captain on Newcastle Boys' Junior High School team that defeated Newcastle Boys' High, then Hamilton Marist Brothers then had a great victory over Maitland High School in the U 14 Wednesday afternoon Schools Grand Final, with 3 Greg's - Mason, Wheeler and Owens being the standout players. (*Rumour has it that Greg Owens was only Captain of the team, because he was the only West player in the team, and the Coach of the team seemed partial to West*). Greg went on to play 91 grade games for West from 1972 to 1976, including 66 in First Grade.

## John Beecher



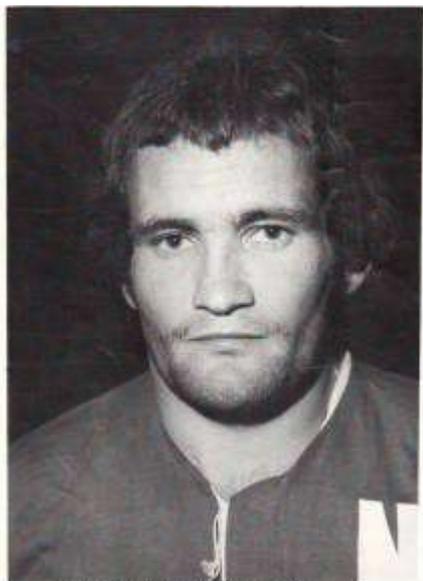
**J**ohn Beecher played 81 games for West from 1973 to 1977, including 33 in First Grade. John was a fleet footed centre, with good hands and excellent defence. During his time with West John scored 24 tries. As it turned out West won the 1978 Grand Final by defeating South 23 – 16 in a Bob Adamson coached, David Howell captained team. If only John had stayed with West another year.....

## Ken Maddison



**K**en Maddison attended Jesmond Public School and played for West Juniors. Ken played First Grade for West in 1964 and was the only player to appear in all 24 First Grade games. During the year Ken scored 10 tries. In 1965 Ken went to St George where he played until 1971. Whilst at St George he played 89 games and scored 24 tries. (Ken's brother Keith, also a West Junior, joined St George in 1966 and stayed until 1972.) In 1971 Ken joined the Cronulla Sharks. Although a centre in his junior days, Ken by this time was a forward - indeed in 1973 he was the first forward in Sydney Rugby League to win the prestigious Rothmans Medal. In 1973 Ken was selected from Cronulla to be on the Kangaroo tour to England. Although this was 9 seasons after he left West, Ken is certainly one of the 7 footballers who have played for West and played for Australia.

## *Terry Stevens*



Terry Stevens (Western Suburbs) in Newcastle - colour

**T**erry Stevens football career started at South Grafton High School and the local South Grafton junior sides. Terry played in First Grade for South Grafton, when in 1973, he and his well known brother Kevin, moved to the Eastern Suburbs Roosters. In 1973 Terry played 4 Reserve Grade games only - the remainder of the season was in First Grade. Terry Stevens moved to Newcastle and played 98 games with West between 1975 and 1979, with 97 of the games being in First Grade - although it must be said that in his one Reserve Grade game he did score 2 tries. Terry was a member of the 1978 Bob Adamson coached, David Howell captained First Grade side that defeated South 23 - 16 in the Grand Final. There were many good players in that team, but Graeme Wynn, who later proved a hit at St George, scored a try and kicked 7 goals. . Terry Stevens was a popular clubman and a selectors dream because he was versatile, talented and willing. Terry Stevens - one of West's very best players in the 1970's.

## *Tim Lawrence* (in the background of the photo)



Tim Lawrence as always in support, who in this case is George Skeers.

Tim Lawrence was born in Gunnedah, and attended Gunnedah Primary and High Schools. In 1972, fresh from High School, Tim went straight into First Grade for Gunnedah in the Group 4 competition. This team was coached by former West Magpies player Roger Buttenshaw, and were defeated in the Grand Final by Bill Bischoff's West Tamworth side. In 1973 Tim played with Goulburn United because he attended Teachers College in Goulburn. Tim returned to Gunnedah half way through the 1974 season as he received a posting to Manila. Again, Gunnedah were beaten by West Tamworth in the Grand Final. In 1975 Tim was posted to Bellata, a small town on the Newell Highway, not far from Moree. Each week he made the exhausting round trip to play with Gunnedah. On the advice of Frank Fish (West 1972), Tim came to West, and played 70 First Grade games between 1976 and 1980. Tim was a member of the 1978 Bob Adamson coached, David Howell captained team that defeated South 23 - 16 in the Grand Final. He was also a member of the 1980 David Howell coached team that defeated Cessnock 17 - 3 in the Grand Final. Tim Lawrence - one of West's best centres in the 70's. The 1976 photo shows Tim Lawrence in the background, with George Skeers (72 games for West from 1974 to 1977) running the ball up, with a big crowd at Harker Oval.