

Peter Howlett



Peter Howlett was the West "Clubman of the Year" in 1973. Peter played 145 games for West between 1970 and 1975. He was a member of the John Raper coached team that won the 1970 Grand Final 21 - 14 over Maitland. Peter then moved on to South Newcastle first as a player, and then as a Club Official, but his ties still remain to West through the 1970 team that have met regularly over the years and because of his Life Membership of the Western Suburbs RLFC. In 2010 Peter was named in both West's and South's "Team of the Century". Peter's brother, David, played 73 games for West from 1963 to 1968. Peter Howlett was one of the best lock forwards ever to play in the "red and green"! (The program shows the 1974 "Major" Final team West v Lakes i.e. the "Grand Final", with Peter Howlett in the 2nd row and Dennis Ward as Captain / Coach. Unfortunately for West, Lakes were successful in this game.)

Remember Alby Wiggs and Neil Beri?

At the end of the 1968 season word had it that West needed 2 big front rowers to complement our existing players for the 1969 season.

Word had it that there were a couple of big goal kicking front rowers in New Zealand who were keen to come to Australia.

Word has it that "Mr West", Glen Maloney, went to New Zealand and secured the services of Alby Wiggs and Neil Beri for 3 years.



Farewell to the Kiwis. Left to right: Alby Wiggs, Mrs. Wiggs, Mrs. Beri, Neil Beri, Mrs. Raper, Director Owen Kilpatrick and Johnny Raper.

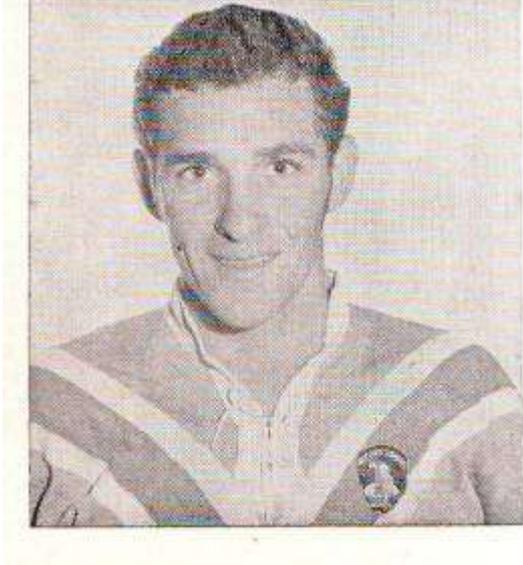
Both players were popular at the club - and indeed both kicked goals! Alby Wiggs played 66 games, scored 18 tries and kicked 2 goals - with 44 of his games being in First Grade. Neil Beri played 71 games, scored 24 tries and kicked 10 goals - with 27 of his games being in First Grade.

The photo above shows the farewell to the players at the conclusion of the 1971 season, as they prepared to return to New Zealand. The person "yo-yo-ing" in the photo is former popular West player, Col Pritchard.

Alby Wiggs and Neil Beri - blasts from the past - were very good players and did West

proud from 1969 to 1971

Peter Perkins



Peter Perkins played 120 games for West from 1971 to 1976, including 106 First Grade games. Peter was a prolific try scorer and goal kicker. He scored 72 First Grade tries, and kicked 131 First Grade goals. Peter was part of a "greyish" period for West - "greyish" because to make the Grand Final in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 was an excellent record, but to lose all 4 Grand Finals put a dampener on proceedings. Dennis Ward coached West in 1973, 1974 and 1975 and Brian Moore coached West in 1976. Peter Perkins was a speedy winger, who was noted for his finishing and his good defence. Peter Perkins - one of West's favourite sons.

Rob Davies



Rob Davies began his footballing days at New Lambton Public School. In due course he made his way through to West Juniors and impressed many with his displays at District Park. In 1960 he made his First Grade debut with West, and in 1961 he was a member of the 1961 Rex Elvin coached team that broke the 39 year drought, with a 10 - 9 win over Waratah. This was Rob's first ever Grand Final win - a very proud moment for him indeed. Rob continued in First Grade and in 1966 he assumed the goal kicking duties - and goal kicking front rowers are a bit of a rarity. In the 1966 Grand Final Rob kicked 4 goals in West's 31 - 7 win over Cessnock - the only other goal being kicked by Captain / Coach John Hobby (it must have been a very easy kick!). Rob's last year was 1967, the year that the 4 tackle rule was introduced. Rob Davies was one of those hard, dependable players who gave his all for the mighty Rosellas. During the years 1959 to 1967 Rob played 149 games for West, with 128 of those games being in First Grade. He scored 10 tries and kicked 107 goals - a great record for a Front Rower. "Slim" penned a poem "the Robbie Davies Story" on 14 / 2/ 1970. This poem can be read with other Slim Hunter's poems on this website.



Brian Stanbridge

Who is the most successful Player / Coach in West's History?

Well, it's Brian Stanbridge. Brian won 7 Premierships – five Third Grade from 1966 to 1970 as a Player / Coach and Reserve Grade in 1971 and 1972 as a Coach.

Brian transferred from Kurri to West in 1965, and West won Third Grade with Brian an integral part of the team scoring 115 points.

In 1966, with Brian in charge, West won the Third Grade Grand Final with a whopping 41 – 0 over Kurri in a delayed game at District Park. In this year Brian scored 166 points with 2 tries and 80 goals. 1967 saw West Thirds beaten 11 – 2 in the Major Semi Final, but earned the right to meet Norths in the Grand Final with a win in the final 19 – 2 over Souths. West then went on to defeat North 16 – 10 in the Grand Final. In 1968 – another Premiership, and a hat trick for Brian (170 points from 2 tries and 82 goals). The team was undefeated in 1969. Brian played every game and scored 134 points from 67 goals.

In 1970 Brian was again appointed Captain / Coach of Third Grade, but when chosen in First Grade for the first game of the season (to replace an injured John Raper) he suffered a badly broken jaw, which unfortunately ended his playing career. Nevertheless, the team won the Grand Final with a hard fought win over arch rivals Maitland.

Brian was appointed Reserve Grade Coach for the 1971 and 1972 seasons, and West were Grand Final winners on both occasions. Brian coached West Reserves to the semi finals 1973 and the Grand Final in 1976 to end a spectacular playing and coaching career with West.

Brian Stanbridge records for West reads

First Grade – 1 game

Reserve Grade – 16 games, 2 tries, 59 goals, and 126 points

Third Grade – 89 games, 14 tries, 318 goals, 692 points

Total – 106 games, 16 tries, 377 goals, 818 points

Brian is the 5th highest point scorer in the club behind Scott Bradley (1992 – 2000, 1 896 points), Brian Warby (1958 – 1972, 1 316 points), Kevin Hodgson (1959 – 1968, 1 074 points) and Brett Cullen (1995 – 2004, 922 points).

He is the highest points scorer in Third Grade, scoring exactly twice as many points as the second placed Wayne Nichols (1979 – 1985) who scored 346 points.

Brian won Major Premierships in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Brian Stanbridge – wonderful clubman, great coach, very good footballer, champion person, WEST LEGEND!

Brian Warby



Is it a record – surely! In the 1966 Third Grade Grand Final played at District Park Brian Warby scored 6 tries when West defeated Kurri 41 to nil.

The 1966 season saw Brian in great form – so good in fact that he was selected to represent Newcastle against Great Britain. Then Brian suffered an injury that put him out of action for 10 weeks, and he returned to Rugby League for the last 3 games of the season. Brian was tentative in his comeback games, and thus he was selected in the Third Grade team. Meanwhile, the First Grade was going from strength to strength, and “new” fullback Brian “Monty” Spruce was in outstanding form. (This John Hobby coached team won the First Grade Grand Final 31 – 7 over Cessnock).

During the final series one of the Third Grade fixtures had to be replayed, and thus the Third Grade Grand Final was scheduled for District Park the week after the First and Reserve Grade Grand Finals – and the rest is history, including a record 6 try haul to Brian Warby.



In his Junior days Brian was a front row forward, playing 85 games for West. However, by the age of 20 Brian was a regular winger with West First Grade. In 1963 he won the Len Clarke Trophy for “The Most Improved Player”. In 1964 Brian played mostly Reserve Grade and the “Best and Fairest” trophy for this grade.

Brian’s career spanned 15 years, and 1972 was his last season with West.

During this time he played 198 games (52 in First Grade), scored 112 tries and kicked 434 goals for a total of 1 316 points.

His record is impressive

- Second highest points scorer behind Scott Bradley (1992 – 2000) with 1 896 points
- Third highest goal kicker behind Scott Bradley (800 goals), and Kevin Hodgson (1959 – 1968, 465 goals)
- Sixth highest try scorer in behind Brett Cullen (1995 – 2004, 230 tries), Garth Ross (1999 – 2011, 173 tries), Peter Jenner (1989 – 1996, 156 tries), Tony Price (1998 – 2002, 115 tries) and Wayne March (1997 – 2010, 114 tries)
- Fifteenth highest game player behind Allan Dagwell, Tony Price, “Tag” Spruce, Greg Price, Wayne March, Greg Harrison, John Hulbert, Paul Bowen, Andrew Weir, Barry Martin, Kerrie Campbell, Neil Gibson, Brett Nixon and Scott Bradley