

1920



Finally, in the early months of 1920 the long standing split between "The Bolsheviks" and "The Lilywhites" was healed. West, together with North, Central, East, South and Kurri entered the "Cornish Shield", a competition conducted by the Newcastle Rugby League. West ran 3rd in the competition, and the Final was won by North with an 11 - 0 win over South. However, in the Kerr Cup, a knockout competition conducted after the final, West defeated Central 4 - 3 in the final, which was held at Newcastle Showground on 18 September 1920. West's winning Kerr Cup team (*pictured*) was P Jordan, D Davies, T Davies, T Sharpe, R Mitchell (2 goals), F Grahame, JH (Ike) Williams, F Bell, C Kentish, J Smith, R Nash, P Gray, A Morris. West won the C Grade

competition in 1920, when they beat Central 18 - 7. On the representative scene, Newcastle won the Country Championship by beating Southern Districts 26 - 16 in the Final, and Newcastle lost to England twice (17 - 10 and 24 - 0) - with the last game attracting a crowd of 7 106 and a gate of 445 pounds. What would 1921 bring? - Could West win their first Cornish Shield?

Round	Opponent	Result
1 - 1 May	South	Won 17 - 5
2 - 8 May	Central	Won 5 - 3
3 - 15 May	North	Lost 16 - 3
4 - 22 May	Kurri	Won 12 - 0
5 - 29 May	East	Won 16 - 0
6 - 12 June	South	Lost 19 - 10
7 - 16 June	Central	Won 7 - 0
8 - 19 June	North	Lost 23 - 8
9 - 26 June	Kurri	Won 18 - 10
10 - 3 July	East	Game suspended
11 - 10 July	South	Lost 10 - 5
12 - 17 July	Central	Won 6 - 3
13 - 24 July	North	Lost 16 - 6
14 - 31 July	Kurri	Won 16 - 3
15 - 7 August	East	Won 8 - 3
		.
Final - 14 August		North 11 def South 0
		.
<i>Point Score</i>	North 21 South 21 West 18 Kurri 10 Central 10 East 8	

1921

Five teams entered the First Grade Cornish Shield competition in 1921 - Central, East, North, South and West. After the home and away rounds West were Minor Premiers on 16 points, followed by Central and South, both 14 points, and East and North, both 8 points. A play off was needed to see who would play West in the Final. In the play off, Central 9 defeated South 7. The final was held on 3rd September 1921 at Newcastle Showground, with Mr J Mitten as the referee. The result of the game did not favour West, with Central winning 5 - 3. The West team was H Hodgins, R Mitchell, JH Williams (try), J Whitehead, J Hubbuck, F Grahame, D Davies, W Scholes, A Morris, E Priest, C Kentish, L Partridge and P Gray. "Boki" Bell was the star player for Central, scoring a sensational try. A star player from the 1920 team, "Pung" Nash, was thrown from his horse prior to the start of the 1921 season and unfortunately died. A newcomer to the West 1921 side was Bill Scholes, a pint sized half back from Maitland. In the post season Kerr Cup knockout competition, West were defeated 19 to 9, by the eventual winners East. On the representative front, Newcastle defeated Western Suburbs (Sydney) (11 - 3) and Glen Innes (33 - 10), but they were defeated by North Sydney (60 - 16) and New Zealand (27 - 14). West embarked on their "end of season" trip, this time to Murrurundi. They played at Wilson Memorial Park at Murrurundi on 24 Sep 1921 with West winning 43 - 15. What would 1922 bring? - After coming so close in 1921, could West win their first Cornish Shield in 1922?

Round	Opponent	Result
1 - 30 April	Central	Won 8 - 7
2 - 7 May	North	Won 5 - 0
3 - 21 May	East	Lost 6 - 5
4 - 28 May		Bye
5 - 4 June	South	Lost 15 - 5
6 - 6 June	Central	Lost 14 - 3
7 - 11 June	North	Won 5 - 3
8 - 18 June	East	Won 8 - 5
9 - 9 July		Bye
10 - 16 July	South	Lost 13 - 3
11 - 23 July	Central	Won 5 - 3
12 - 30 July	North	Won 19 - 0
13 - 6 August	East	Won 8 - 6
14 - 13 August		Bye
15 - 20 August	South	Won 13 - 11
		.
Play Off for 2nd - 27 August		Central 9 def South 7
		.
Final - 3 September		Central 5 def West 3.
<i>Point Score</i>	West 16 Central 14 South 14 East 8 North 8	

1922

The same 5 teams, West, North, Central, East and South entered the 1922 Cornish Shield. West were undefeated in the first 8 games, but lost to South 9 - 8 on 24 June. During the season they played 2 draws, 8 all with Central on 10 June and 8 all with North on 1 July. West were Minor Premiers on 18 points, followed by Central on 13 points. The Final was played on 29 July 1922 at Newcastle Showground with Mr L Colgan the Referee. West won the Final 5 - 0. West's team was H Hodgins, C Mortimer, R Millington, JH (Ike) Williams (goal), A Green, R Mitchell, D Davies, L Partridge, P Gray (try), J Hubbuck, A Morris, T Leamy and G Randall. In the end of season Kerr Cup knockout competition, West triumphed 11 - 3 over Easts - the first time that the a club had won the Cornish Shield and the Kerr Cup in the same year. The only change in the winning Cornish Shield team was G McLelland replaced R Mitchell. In the Kerr Cup final A Green, J Hubbuck and A Morris scored tries and "Ike" Williams kicked a goal. Tom Leamey came from Newtown (from the start of round 6) and was regarded as one of the best rakes ever to play in Newcastle. "Navy" Hubbuck, over 15 stone, was moved from the 1921 pack, to the 1922 wing and proved a real handful for opposing players. "Jazzier" Mortimer was unwanted by Easts and found form with his special permit to play for West. Reg Millington, Bill Ott and Arthur Green were West Juniors who made their mark in grade. There was a bitter - sweet ending to the season. Arthur Green was a young, fast, elusive footballer, who was awarded the Club "Gold Medal" at the end of the year for the most improved player. Arthur was one of nature's gentlemen, and a great sport. Tragically, Arthur died early in 1923 from injuries he received during the 1922 season. The Newcastle Rugby League erected a monument over his grave at Sandgate Cemetery. Arthur's death cast a gloom over the footballing fraternity in Newcastle, and the Rosellas lost a fine footballer. What would 1923 bring? - Well, West would be Minor Premiers, and win the Kerr Cup, but the Major Premiership?



Round	Opponent	Result
Round 1 - 22 April	North	Won 2 - 0
Round 2 - 29 April	Central	Won 8 - 0
Round 3 - 6 May	Bye	
Round 4 - 13 May	South	Won 9 - 5
Round 5 - 20 May	East	Won 10 - 5
Round 6 - 27 May	North	Won 11 - 5
Round 7 - 10 June	Central	Drew 8 all
Round 8 - 17 June	Bye	
Round 9 - 24 June	South	Lost 9 - 8
Round 10 - 26 June	East	Won 8 - 5
Round 11 - 1 July	North	Drew 8 all
Round 12 - 8 July	Central	Won 16 - 7
Round 13 - 15 July	Bye	
Round 14 - 22 July	South	Won 12 - 5
Final - 29 July		West 5 def Central 0
<i>Point Score</i>	West 18 Central 13 South 10 East 9 North 6	

1923

West, East, North, Central and South entered the 1923 Cornish Cup competition. West were Minor Premiers on 18 points, followed by East, North and South on 14 points, with Central finishing with just 2 wins. Because 3 teams finished "second", semi finals were played, with the 2 winners of the semi finals to play in the final on 22

September 1923. In the first semi final West lost to East 5 points to 2. The West team was H Hodgins, R Mitchell, T Davies, D Davies, R Millington, D Orchard, W Ott, G Randall, E Priest, P Gray, N Symes, JH "Ike" Williams (1 goal) and A Morris. East then went on to defeat North 17 - 8 in the final. In the end of season Kerr Cup knockout, West

defeated North 9 - 4 in the final. The West team was H Hodgins, S Rogers, D Davies, E Priest, JH "Ike" Williams, G Morley (try), D Orchard, W Ott, P Gray, G Randall (try), A Morris, N Symes (try) and S Marriott. Among the newcomers to West this year was "Dare" Orchard, a clever and capable five-eight. His travelling companion from Kurri was none other than a young Rees Duncan, who played for West, then went back to Kurri, and then went on to play for Australia. "Scotch" Marriott and Norm Symes came from Waratah. Norm played for West, then Wyong and then Young, and later was to become the Presbyterian Minister in Nowra. Another success of 1923 was the West "A" Grade Junior team (*see photo*) who defeated Carrington 5 - 4 in the final. At the end of 1923 the great "Laddo" Davies went out in a blaze of glory. The former disqualified and barred player had risen above the petty shafts of injustice to carve his name in the hallway of Rugby League fame. In his last year of Newcastle football he was made Captain of the Newcastle team - a fitting reward to Lambton's favourite footballing son. "Laddo" went to New Zealand, together with "Tyso" Davies, another Welshman, who was an outstanding West footballer in those early "Rosella" days. What would 1924 bring? - West couldn't go from Minor Premiers to last, could they?



WEST "A" JUNIORS - 1923
 Row: Claude Braid, Frank Doherty (Manager), Standing: Bill Christie (Trainer), W. (Gross) Bellmore, Jim White, Arch Robertson, Dick Braid, Paddy Carrigan, Frank Henderson, Big Millington (Captain), George G. Kerr, J. McEwen, W. Macdonald, Bill White, C. Millington, Tom Shaddock, W. Kerr, Front: Tilly Davies, G. (Paddy) Davis, Jack Braid (Manager), W. Ott, Tom Long.

Round	Opponent	Result
Round 1 - 5 May	North	Won 18 - 0
Round 2 - 12 May		Bye
Round 3 - 19 May	Central	Won 21 - 0
Round 4 - 9 June	South	Drew 5 all
Round 5 - 16 June	East	Lost 9 - 7
Round 6 - 30 June	North	Lost 17 - 2
Round 7 - 7 July		Bye
Round 8 - 14 July	Central	Won 13 - 6
Round 9 - 21 July	South	Drew 3 all
Round 10 - 28 July	East	Lost 13 - 3
Round 11 - 4 August	North	Won 11 - 3
Round 12 - 11 August		Bye
Round 13 - 18 August	Central	Won 8 - 3
Round 14 - 25 August	South	Won 18 - 14
Round 15 - 1 September	East	Lost 2 - 0
Final - 22 September		East 17 def North 8

1924

The 1924 Cornish Shield season was not kind to West. They won just 2 games, defeating Central 8 - 6 in Round 1 on 26 April, and defeating South 8 - 3 on 21 June. The points table ended up - East 14, North 9, Central 8, South 5 and West 4. The Final, played on 12 July, was won by East with a 9 - 2 win over North, to cap an unbeaten season. Carrington were successful in the Reserve Grade "Galperin Cup" with a 5 - 3 win over South. The end of season competition was renamed the Presidents Cup (*The Presidents Cup was introduced again in 2010 as a "classy" name for Third Grade*) and 2 draws against North saw West on the bottom of the Presidents Cup table. East won the Presidents Cup to complete the double in 1924. During the season Newcastle went down to the visiting English side 43 - 18 in a match played at Newcastle Sports Ground on 31 May. West's representatives in the Newcastle team were "Ike" Williams, Roy Mitchell and Norm Symes. What would 1924 bring? - Well there were 2 additional teams in the competition, and West expected to finish ahead of the newcomers Maitland and Morpeth. But how far ahead?

Round	Opponent	Result
Round 1 - 26 April	Central	Won 8 - 6
Round 2 - 3 May	South	Lost 12 - 8
Round 3 - 10 May	North	Lost 16 - 11
Round 4 - 17 May	East	Lost 9 - 0
Round 5 - 7 June	Bye	
Round 6 - 14 June	Central	Lost 28 - 8
Round 7 - 21 June	South	Won 8 - 3
Round 8 - 23 June	North	Lost 13 - 11
Round 9 - 28 June	East	Lost 12 - 7
Round 10 - 5 July	Bye	
Final - 12 July		East 9 def North 2
<i>Point Score</i>	East 14 North 9 Central 8 South 5 West 4	