

## 1955

The 1955 season saw West have their most successful season since the Second World War. Ex Kangaroo, Charlie Gill, coached the First Grade side to second place on the points table with 10 wins and 7 losses.

NCLC. SPORTSGROUND—3.15 p.m.		Saturday, 31st May, 1955	
<b>Western Suburbs v. Cessnock</b>			
<b>WESTERN SUBURBS</b> Green, White Shorts		<b>CESSNOCK</b> Black, 2 Gold Bars, White Shorts	
Fullback : 1—D. Bentlin		Fullback : 1—D. Parkinson	
Three-quarters : 2—W. Bunt                      S. Brown—3 4—N. Gibson                  D. Isenhood—5		Three-quarters : 2—L. Batey                      K. Levido—3 4—K. Allen                      W. Pryor—5	
Halves : 6—J. Fitzpatrick              E. Anderson—7 E. Fitzgibbons (One to be omit.)		Halves : 6—M. Walters                  W. Sueddon—7	
Forwards : 8—D. Howie                      F. Hector—9 10—W. Bower                   C. Gill—11 12—R. Glen                      C. Curry—13		Forwards : 8—B. Levido                      F. Lennard—9 10—D. Schofield                G. Stevenson—11 12—N. Crosdale                H. Pearson—13	
Referee: H. Gillard Linesmen: T. Taylor (Blue Flag), J. Gibb (Red Flag)			
<b>RESERVE GRADE—1.45 p.m.</b>			
<b>WESTERN SUBURBS</b>		<b>CESSNOCK</b>	
Fullback : 1—R. Carlon		Fullback : 1—L. Pond	
Three-quarters : 2—W. McGrath                  B. Bower—3 4—N. Craig                      D. McDougall—5		Three-quarters : 2—R. Hughes                      R. Dann—3 4—J. Harden                      B. Sawyer—5	
Halves : 6—E. Fitzgibbons              E. Field—7 G. Cuscan (One to be omit.)		Halves : 6—L. Rouch                      P. Unwin—7	
Forwards : 8—J. Field                      C. Mathews—9 10—G. Frost                      D. Fishlock—11 12—W. Davies                    K. Bruderlin—13		Forwards : 8—T. O'Connor                  J. Anderson—9 10—B. Austin                      N. Wilson—11 12—E. Archibald                B. Davey—13	
Referee: O. Screen Linesmen: R. Druery (Blue Flag), D. Milton (Red Flag)			

Reserve Grade under coach Gordon Freeman recorded 8 wins whilst Third Grade under coach Don Hardy won 6 games. All in all West won a total of 24 games for the season – a big improvement as a club over previous years. New players at the start of the season included Doug Isenhood (South), Eric Fitzgibbons (Nambucca Heads), Brian Bower (from the Sunday comp), whilst Col Curry returned from Cowra and Neil Gibson returned after sorting out his problems with Parramatta. At the Awards night the best players in each grade were acknowledged – Kevin Vipen (First Grade), Brian Bower (Reserve Grade) and Geoff Bice (Third Grade). Col

Curry also represented Newcastle against the Frenchmen..and scored 2 tries. In the Junior grades, West won 14 consecutive games to finish Minor and Major Premiers in Under 20's. The under 16 team did one better – they went through the whole season undefeated. Indeed in a “one off” game at the end of the season they defeated “The Rest of Newcastle”. With such success in 1955, there was much expectation about the 1956 season, but alas.....

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 9 April	Waratah	Won 15 – 5
2 – 16 April	North	Lost 20 - 16
3 – 25 April	Maitland	Lost 31 - 13
4 – 7 May	Kurri	Lost 8 - 2
5 – 14 May	Central	Lost 12 - 4
6 – 21 May	Cessnock	Lost 46 - 8
7 – 28 May	Bye	
8 – 4 June	South	Won 24 - 2
9 – 11 June	Lakes	Won 21 - 7
10 – 18 June	North	Won 19 - 14
11 – 25 June	Waratah	Won 20 - 7
12 – 2 July	Central	Won 18 - 3
<b>9 July</b>	<b>Newcastle 17 def France 15 – Crowd 20 824</b>	
13 – 16 July	Maitland	Won 26 - 19
14 – 23 July	Cessnock	Lost 15 - 12
15 – 30 July	Bye	
16 – 6 August	South	Won 37 -13
17 – 13 August	Lakes	Won 23 - 20
18 – 20 August	Kurri	Won 28 - 12
<b>10 September</b>	<b>Semi Final</b>	<b>Maitland 19 def West 16</b>
<b>17 September</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Cessnock 9 def Maitland 7</b>

## 1956



Gill in First Grade, Kevin Vipen (Reserves) and Roy Anderson (Thirds). The most improved player went to Ron “Charger” Walls. Jack Fitzpatrick represented Newcastle against the New Zealand Maoris. Don Howie showed his points scoring ability by scoring 144 points for the year, and fullback, Don Bentlin, played his 100<sup>th</sup> First Grade game for the club. In the juniors West Under 16’s again went through the competition undefeated, and beat South 15 – 3 in the Final. During the year they scored 457 points to 59 against, and the best players were Allan Buman, Kev Duncan, Ian Sills, Robert Spruce, Ross Fairhall, Ivan Leggett and Dave Brown. Dave Brown represented St George and NSW and returned to Newcastle to play with the “Butcher Boys”, Central Newcastle.

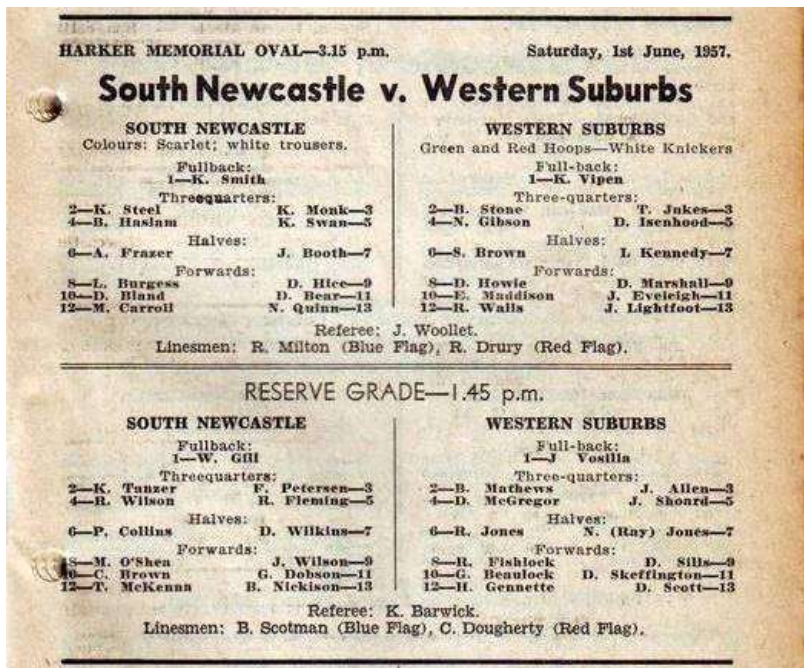
Coming into 1956 Charlie Gill was again elected as First Grade Coach, whilst the “biggest” signing was “big” John Lightfoot from Waratah, whilst another key signing was Warren Turvey – son of West fullback from the early thirties, Ern “Ikey” Turner. First Grade played 15 games for 5 wins and 10 losses. Reserve Grade was coached by Ron Vipen and won 13 games and lost 4 to finish second in the competition, but were beaten in the final. Les Cook coached the Third grade that won 9 games and made the semi finals. Seasons trophies went to Captain / Coach Charlie



Round	Opponent	Date
1 – 7 April	North	Lost 22 - 15
2 – 14 April	Lakes	Lost 31 - 16
3 – 21 April	Kurri	Won 15 - 10
4 – 28 April	Waratah	Won 19 - 17
5 – 5 May	South	Won 24 - 19
<b>12 May</b>	<b>Manly 23 def Newcastle Coalfields 16</b>	
6 – 19 May	Maitland	Lost 32 - 5
7 – 26 May	Central	Lost 15 - 13
8 – 2 June	Bye	
9 – 9 June	Cessnock	Lost 28 - 13
10 – 16 June	Lakes	Lost 17 - 14
11 – 23 June	North	Match abandoned - rain
12 – 30 June	Waratah	Lost 16 - 15
13 – 7 July	Kurri	Won 25 - 18
14 – 14 July	Central	Lost 22 - 20
15 – 21 July	South	Won 24 - 22
16 – 28 July	Cessnock	Lost 24 - 9
17 – 4 August	Bye	
18 – 11 August	Maitland	Lost 13 - 10
<b>18 August</b>	<b>Newcastle 19 def Maoris 15</b>	
<b>1 September – Semi Finals</b>	<b>Res Gr South 12 def West 8</b>	<b>Third Gr Mait 24 def West 13</b>
<b>15 September</b>	<b>Final Maitland 16 def Cessnock 9</b>	

1957

The 1957 season brought a complete change of the Coaching Staff at West. Horrie Marjoribanks was appointed First Grade coach, Doug Fishlock (Reserves) and Wal Harding (Thirds). All three grades missed out on the semi final, with Don Howie being the top



point scorer in First Grade with 86 points, and Neil Gibson the top try scorer with 12 tries. Noel Dagwell returned to the club from Central, and he, and Si Brown, represented Newcastle against St George. Trophy winners for the year were Jack Everleigh (First), Dick Maddison (Reserves) and Harry Parkinson (Thirds). In the Junior Grades the new Under 16's were not as successful as the previous year, winning only 2 games, and the Under 20's after battling for players early, scraped into the semi finals. However, the Under 18's, under coach Ken Mogg were

undefeated Minor and Major Premiers, beating Lakes 34 to 2 in a Grand Final replay. Many great West names in this Under 18 side – “Wagga” Johnson, Viv Hodge, Ian Sills, Allan Buman, Ted Curtis, Bob Darcy, Ivan Leggett and Ernie Snelson just to name a few. **Just remember that Junior Rugby League was “big time” in the 1950's and 1960's. Headquarters of the Junior Rugby League was at District Park behind the tennis courts..and the Grandstands were...two tram carriages...and the dressing sheds looked like an iron shearing shed!! THOSE WERE THE DAYS!**

Round	Opponent	Result
1- 6 April	Waratah	Won 24 - 8
2 - 13 April	Central	Lost 9 - 8
3 - 20 April	Bye	
4 - 27 April	Maitland	Lost 26 - 14
5 - 4 May	Lakes	Won 25 - 22
<b>11 May</b>	<b>St George 42 def Newcastle 23</b>	
6 - 18 May	Cessnock	Lost 16 - 14
7 - 25 May	Kurri	Won 25 - 3
8 -1 June	South	Lost 19 - 12
9 - 15 June	North	Won 21 - 15
10 - 22 June	Waratah	Won 10 - 7
11 - 29 June	Central	Lost 14 - 8
12 - 6 July	Bye	
13 - 13 July	Maitland	Won 22 - 15
14 - 20 July	Lakes	Won 31 - 16
15 - 27 July	Cessnock	West lost - Score ??
16 - 3 August	Kurri	9 all draw
17 - 10 August	South	Lost 16 - 11
18 - 17 August	North	Lost 38 - 10
<b>Grand Final</b>	<b>Maitland 17 def Kurri 12</b>	



## 1958

In 1958 JJ “Mo” Wilson vacated the President’s chair, and Harry Harding took over as President – a position he would hold until 1975. Jack Everleigh was appointed First Grade Coach, and Cec Cavanagh was recruited from Rugby Union, and “Wagga” Johnson made his grade appearance. West had a very light pack, but ran equal 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition, but lost the 4<sup>th</sup> place play off to North 27 – 10. Neil Gibson was selected to play for Newcastle against the English Tourists on 24 May, and “Charger” Walls was selected in the Newcastle team for the return match against England at Maitland. Noel Dagwell returned to the club after a season coaching at Quirindi, and pint sized John Allen made his First Grade debut. Si Brown led the point scores with 113 points, and Neil Gibson led the try scorers with 14 tries. Both



Reserve Grade, coached by John

Lightfoot, and Third Grade, coached by Brian Bower, both failed to make the semi finals. Trophy winners for the year were “Charger” Walls (First Grade), Brian Bower (Reserve Grade) and 17yo Graham Harde (Third Grade). For West Juniors it was also a lean year, with the Under 18’s doing the best although they were beaten in the Grand Final. “Mo” Wilson was awarded Life Membership of the Football Club for his sterling efforts over many years, and Ron Vipen was also awarded Life Membership for playing 100 Grade games.

LAKES UNITED		WESTERN SUBURBS	
Blue and Gold		Red and Green	
Fullback: 1—P. Thomson		Fullback: 1—S. Taylor	
Threequarters: 2—G. Jenkins, 3—R. Crittendon, 4—J. Davies, 5—J. Wolf		Threequarters: 2—N. Gibson, 3—T. Jukes, 4—L. Cavanagh, 5—S. Brown	
Halves: 6—N. McDonnell, 7—J. Craig		Halves: 6—N. Dagwell, 7—T. Knight	
Forwards: 8—H. Gray, 9—T. Pittman, 10—V. Lee, 11—A. Lamm, 12—J. Shields, 13—T. Sheppard		Forwards: 8—J. Woods, 9—F. Hector, 10—E. Johnson, 11—J. Eveleigh, 12—R. Wells, 13—E. Maddison	
Referee: E. Harris			
Linesmen: Alf Wright (Blue Flag), J. Benson (Red Flag)			
LAKES UNITED		WESTERN SUBURBS	
Blue and Gold		Red and Green	
Fullback: 1—F. Heaton		Fullback: 1—K. Breeze	
Threequarters: 2—J. Hulpin, 3—P. Searby, 4—B. Endes, 5—F. McHann		Threequarters: 2—K. Henry, 3—B. Cleary, 4—J. Allen, 5—J. Rabbit	
Halves: 6—J. Smyth, 7—K. Robbs		Halves: 6—B. Bower, 7—M. Henry	
Forwards: 8—R. Rusden, 9—T. Ryan, 10—H. Neader, 11—A. Hovess, 12—J. Cowan, 13—J. Turner		Forwards: 8—W. Thomas, 9—F. Walpole, 10—J. Lightfoot, 11—D. Marshall, 12—V. Campbell, 13—J. Rothery	
Referee: B. O'Brien			
Linesmen: J. Hancock (Blue Flag), A. Wright (Red Flag)			

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 5 April	North	Won 26 - 13
2 – 12 April	Bye	
3 – 19 April	Maitland	Lost 19 - 6
4 – 25 April	Kurri	Won 47 - 14
5 – 3 May	Waratah	Won 17 - 16
<b>10 May</b>	<b>St George 41 def N’Cle 1 14</b>	<b>West (Syd) 42 def N’Cle 2 8</b>
6 – 17 May	Lakes	Won 18 - 14
<b>24 May</b>	<b>England 35 def Newcastle 16</b>	
7 – 31 May	South	Lost 24 - 14
8 – 14 June	Central	Won 33 - 9
9 – 21 June	Cessnock	Lost 9 - 6
10 – 28 June	Bye	
11 – 5 July	Maitland	Lost 30 - 13
12 – 12 July	Kurri	Won 27 - 16
13 – 19 July	Waratah	Won 14 - 7
14 – 26 July	Lakes	Lost 19 - 12
15 – 2 August	South	Won 23 - 16
16 – 9 August	Central	Won 26 - 10
17 – 16 August	North	Lost 16 - 10
<b>17 August</b>	<b>England 30 def Newcastle 10</b>	
18 – 24 August	Cessnock	Lost 43 - 13
<b>31 August</b>	<b>Play off for 4<sup>th</sup> North 27 def West 10</b>	
<b>27 September</b>	<b>Grand Final Maitland 22 def Cessnock 7</b>	

## 1959

The 50<sup>th</sup> year of West Rugby League brought very few results – with only Third Grade making the semi finals. Third Grade, coached by Neil Gibson, went down to Lakes 13 – 7 in the final. First Grade coach was Jack Everleigh, whilst Reserve Grade coach was Si Brown.

WESTERN SUBURBS		SOUTH NEWCASTLE	
Red and Green		Red-White-Kulikers	
Fullback: 1-C. Caranagh		Fullback: 1-W. Gill	
Threequarters: 2-V. Lawson, 3-N. Gibson-5, 4-H. Jones, 5-D. Ingham-5		Threequarters: 2-D. Gibson, 3-A. Perkins, 4-A. Weeks-3, 5-K. Swan-5	
Halves: 6-B. Martin, 7-J. Allen-7		Halves: 6-H. Anderson-7	
Forwards: 8-N. Dagwell, 9-P. Hester-9, 10-H. Johnson, 11-C. Curry-11, 12-H. Walls, 13-V. Hodge-12		Forwards: 8-H. Munro-8, 9-D. Hunt-11, 10-H. Watsonley, 11-D. Hunt-11, 12-P. Thurston, 13-K. McCaffery-12	
Referee: N. Spahr			
Linesmen: J. Hancock (Blue Flag), R. Reichhart (Red Flag)			
WESTERN SUBURBS		SOUTH NEWCASTLE	
Fullback: 1-B. Knight		Fullback: 1-G. Boddell	
Threequarters: 2-B. Cleary, 3-J. Habbitt-3, 4-R. Fishlock, 5-P. Preston-5		Threequarters: 2-P. Collins, 3-J. Gardner-3, 4-H. Easton, 5-G. Gill-5	
Halves: 6-B. Bower, 7-H. Stewart-7		Halves: 6-J. Clayton, 7-M. Tisdell-7	
Forwards: 8-P. Ryan, 9-C. Lutz-9, 10-L. Sills, 11-J. Lightfoot-11, 12-P. Ford, 13-H. Davies-12		Forwards: 8-M. O'Shea, 9-K. Steel-9, 10-T. Lavery, 11-N. Elliott-11, 12-W. O'Riordan, 13-R. Nickerson-12	
Referee: D. Webb			
Linesmen: M. Nield (Blue Flag), Alf Wright (Red Flag)			

Col Curry came back to West from Waratah won the award for Best First Grade player. A young Barry Martin (from Cascade – where is Cascade? Well it's a small town in the middle of Lowanna, Ulong, Megan, Moonpar and Wild Cattle Creek....Does that help?..Best really to "Google" it) won the most improved player in the club, and Brian Bower, Ian Sills and Col Law shared the Reserve Grade award. Bill Gray took out the Third Grade honours. Three West players, "Charger" Walls,

Viv Hodge and "Wagga" Johnson represented Newcastle against the visiting Manly side. In the Juniors, West again won the Under 20's when they defeated North in the Grand Final, whilst the Under 18's were semi finalists. In the Under 16's a young Wayne Hore was showing signs of being a good footballer ..and what an asset he has been to the Western Suburbs RLFC!!

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 4 April	Lakes	Lost 42 - 8
2 – 11 April	Central	Won 17 - 9
3 – 18 April	North	Lost 23 - 12
4 – 25 April	Bye	
5 – 2 May	Maitland	Lost 36 - 14
6 – 9 May	South	Lost 24 - 16
16 May	KO Semi West 15 def North 8	KO Final Cessnock 6 def West 0
16 May	N'Cle 1 32 def Nth Sydney 30	N'Cle 2 17 drew with Manly 17
7 – 23 May	Waratah	Won 22 - 15
30 May	New Zealand 25 def Newcastle 6	
8 – 6 June	Kurri	Won 17 - 9
9 – 13 June	Cessnock	Lost 21 - 13
10 – 20 June	Lakes	Lost 21 - 13
11 – 27 June	Central	Won 22 - 8
12 – 4 July	North	Lost 21 - 14
13 – 11 July	Bye	
14 – 18 July	Maitland	Lost 8 - 3
15 – 26 July	South	Won 11 - 0
16 – 1 August	Waratah	Won 18 - 10
17 – 8 August	Kurri	Won 15 - 12
18 – 15 August	Cessnock	Lost 12 - 8
22 August	Reserve Grade Play off for 4 <sup>th</sup>	South 10 def West 9
12 September	Third Grade Final	Lakes 13 def West 7
12 September	First Grade Final	North 13 def Maitland 12