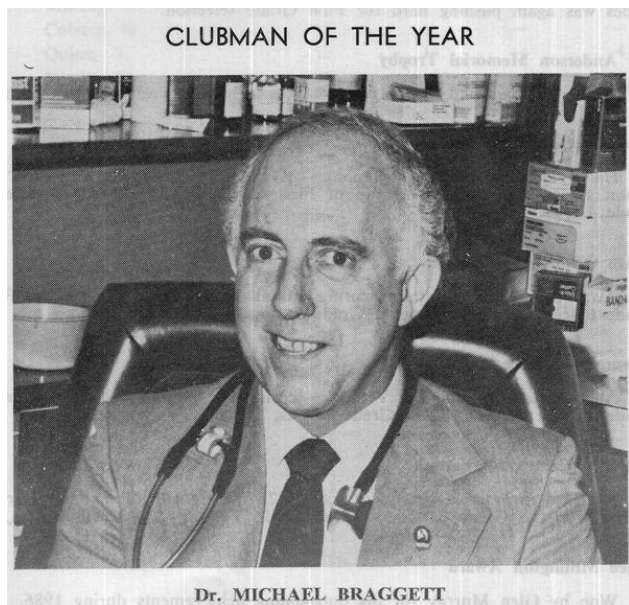


1986

Paul Merlo took over as First Grade Captain / Coach in 1986, with Steve Smith being in charge of Reserve Grade and Brendan Barber being appointed Captain / Coach of Third Grade. First Grade won 15 out of 18 games in the competition rounds and finished 2nd in the competition, but unfortunately were defeated in both their semi final appearances. Reserve Grade defeated South in the Grand Final 8 to 6, and Third Grade had an “up and down” year and were eliminated in the Semi Finals. The winning West Reserve Grade side was 1. Jon Hulbert 2. Wayne Moylan (try) 3. Phil Elliott (2 goals) 4. Roger Pearson 5. Peter Hill 6. Peter Haggerty 7. Glen Campbell 8. Ashley Hardes 9. Wayne Dawson 10. Craig Dodd 11. Greg Harrison 12. Graham



Russell 13. Brett Nixon. Some of those who made their first appearance in grade in 1986 included Paul Merlo (South), Phil Elliott (Goulburn), “Smokey” Dawson (Tamworth, Craig Higgins (Raymond Terrace) and West Junior, Craig Dodd. A couple of deaths in 1986 are worth mentioning. Firstly, Warren Cunningham. Warren formed a friendship with Glen Maloney, and he played a big part in attracting many players to West, the most notable of whom was John Cootes. (So now you know who was responsible for bring John Cootes to West – Warren Cunningham!) Secondly, Arthur “Slim” Hunter. Arthur was a tireless worker for West but is most famous as being the composer of the current West song, and of many “West” poems. **A small collection of Slim’s poems appears on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th page of this document.** West’s “Clubman of the Year” was awarded to Dr Michael Braggett (pictured) for “his continued support and dedication to all concerned with Rugby League in

general, and The Western Suburbs RLFC in particular”.

| <i>Pre Season</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Result</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Result</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Round 1 | Kurri | Won 6 - 0 | Rd 3 - Waratah | Won 12 - 4 |
| Round 2 | Cessnock | Won 24 - 10 | <i>Final – West 24 Lakes 12</i> | |
| <i>Competition</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Result</i> | <i>Reserves</i> | <i>Thirds</i> |
| Round 1 | Macquarie | Won 12 - 2 | Won 24 - 22 | Won 22 – 8 |
| Round 2 | Kurri | Won 24 - 0 | Won 24 - 20 | Lost 14 – 8 |
| Round 3 | North | Won 52 - 3 | Won 42 - 8 | Won 22 – 0 |
| Round 4 | South | Won 24 - 20 | Lost 24 - 12 | Lost 28 – 8 |
| Round 5 | Central | Won 10 - 0 | 14 all Draw | Lost 22 – 6 |
| Round 6 | Waratah | Won 46 - 20 | Lost 32 - 20 | Lost 22 – 10 |
| Round 7 | Maitland | Won 42 - 2 | Won 41 - 20 | Lost 13 – 10 |
| Round 8 | Lakes | Lost 29 - 4 | Lost 26 - 20 | Won 26 – 6 |
| Round 9 | Cessnock | Lost 16 - 12 | Won 38 - 16 | Won 14 - 10 |
| Round 10 | Central | Won 22 - 16 | Won 28 - 10 | Won 20 – 16 |
| Round 11 | Macquarie | Won 20 - 8 | Won 28 - 14 | Won 34 – 6 |
| Round 12 | Kurri | Won 24 - 16 | Won 50 - 4 | Won 22 – 6 |
| Round 13 | North | Won 70 - 4 | Won 68 - 12 | Won 46 – 0 |
| Round 14 | South | Won 24 - 12 | Lost 12 - 10 | Won 12 – 8 |
| Round 15 | Waratah | Won 26 - 16 | Won 28 - 18 | Lost 23 – 8 |
| Round 16 | Maitland | Won 40 - 0 | Won 22 - 0 | Won 14 – 6 |
| Round 17 | Lakes | Lost 32 - 6 | Lost 14 - 10 | Won 18 – 10 |
| Round 18 | Cessnock | Won 24 - 16 | Won 62 - 18 | Won 10 - 4 |
| Preliminary Semi | Cessnock | Lost 15 - 0 | West 24 Maitland 13 | West 12 Kurri 12 |
| Prel Semi Replay | | | | Kurri 22 West 18 |
| Minor Semi Final | South | Lost 20 - 6 | West 19 Waratah 18 | |
| Final | | | West 24 Lakes 12 | |
| GRAND FINAL | Lakes 4 def South 0 | | West 8 South 6 | |

The Rosella - by Slim Hunter



Now Joseph had a coat, of many colours it would seem
But on inside information, it was mostly Red and Green
The Rosella liked the colours, so he took them for his own
He looked for Western Suburbs Leagues Club, and he made the place his home
Take from the sun the Red so bold, and then some Emerald Green
Take from the stars a splash of white, and place it in between
Now if you want to see these colours, when they're really at their best
See the Rugby League next Sunday, and you'll see them worn by West
They're the present League Club Champions, a real bonny side
And the jerseys made of Red and Green, are always worn with pride
They have raised this coloured standard, with which to decorate the sky
They have set it waving proudly, and will keep it flying high
If you can get to the football, then take a stroll out "West",
I know that you'll appreciate - It's true that "WEST IS BEST"! (*Slim Hunter - 1967*)

Salute to 3 West stalwarts – by Slim Hunter

(*Jack Bell – Treasurer 1950 to 1992, Harry Harding – President 1958 to 1975, Glen Maloney Secretary 1953 to 1975*)

Let's sing a song of the might men
Harry Harding, Jackie Bell and Glen
Who have stood by West through thick and thin
It's a song of mighty men.

Year by year, they've stood the test
Knowing only how to give their best
And the reason as you may have guessed
Just to prove that "West is Best"

So let us cheer these Western men
Let me tell you who they are again
Harry Harding, Jackie Bell and Glen
Let us cheer three might men

Slim Hunter 31 Jul 1974 on the occasion of their testimonial dinner (Tune – Happy Days are here again)



Left to right: Jack Bell, Glen Maloney and Harry Harding.

The “Tag” Story – Geoff “Tag” Spruce – by Slim Hunter

(Geoff “Tag” Spruce – 239 games – 1964 to 1973)

If the actions kinda slow
And it seems there’s something missing
Just idly mention one word, “Tag”
Then stand around and listen

*“He’s colossal”, “What a beauty”
“He’s the master”, “He’s just great”
To West - he’s Mr Football
And he weighs just 10 stone eight*

Adjectives flow thick and fast
And no one is dismayed
As they listen to the stories
Of the games that “Tag” has played

*They said “He couldn’t last”
Those know-alls on the hill
And “Tag” made them eat those very words
He played on, and on, with skill*

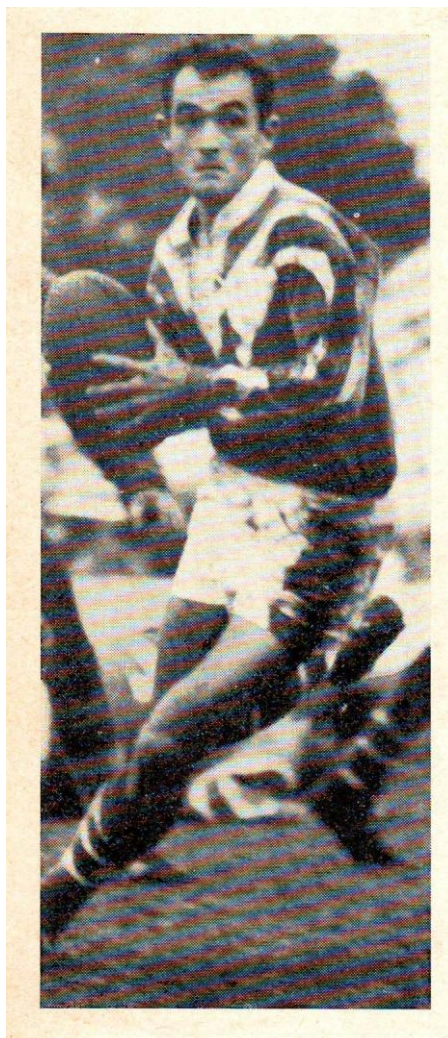
Mr Indestructible
Is the name that suits him best
He’s missed one game through injury
In his senior games with West

*His manner’s unassuming
He passes any test
So don’t forget to mention “Tag” Spruce
When considering West’s best*

The master of the fullback craft
His defence passed any test
And for 80 minutes in every game
He always gives his best

*The Spruce name stands in glory
On the Western Suburbs roll
And to keep the West flag flying high
Has been “Tag’s” over riding goal!*

Slim Hunter 17 Jul 1969



Wayne “Bomber” Hore – by Slim Hunter

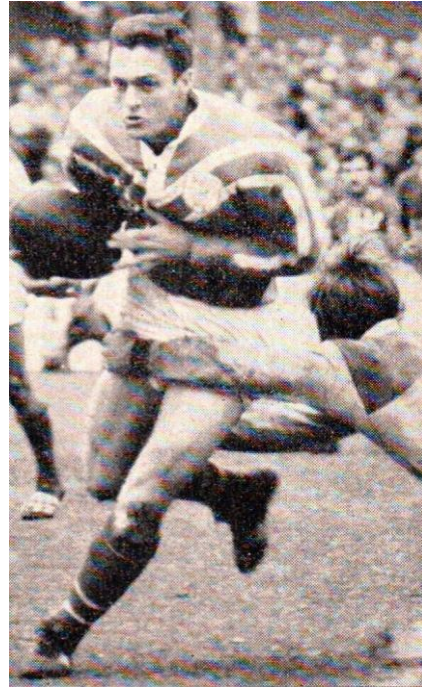
(Wayne Hore – 181 games – 1965 to 1975)

He is so very interesting
And perhaps the most arresting
Of those who’ve played in the mighty red and green
And there has never been hesitation
From his schoolboys dedication
That he’d surely one day make the rep side scene

Every player’s one ambition
Is to play in top condition
And each player has a goal for which he aims
There’s such a lot of things to do
For those who join the chosen few
Who play for West a hundred games

We know that “Bomber” reached this mighty goal
And all his fans need not be told
That they will have the chance to see him play again
So disregard those many fears
He’ll play on for several years
And join the band of truly “Western Men”!
Slim Hunter 16 Aug 1969

“Bomber” Hore – 181 games – President 1990 to 2014+ - Has anyone made a bigger all round contribution to the WSRLFC than Wayne “Bomber” Hore?



“Johnny Raper's Day – The 1970 Grand Final” - by Slim Hunter

(John Raper – 40 games – 1970 to 1972)

There is no doubt about it, the way he delved the play
With a heart as big as Phar Lap, this was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
The fans arrived from near and far, to see the final fray
And believe me it was unanimous, it was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
He put Rowston through the holes he made, he made every movement pay
Father Cootes recorded three good tries, but still it was JOHNNY
RAPER'S DAY
For full on eighty minutes, he dictated the play
And the verdict at the Leagues Club, it was JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
We are proud that we have won it, it's been a most rewarding day
Give the thirteen boys all credit, but still it's JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY
Now let's look to the future, I hope that I can say
For the next four years that's coming, It'll be JOHNNY RAPER'S DAY!!
(Slim Hunter 22 September 1970)

