

YORKSHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE

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CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

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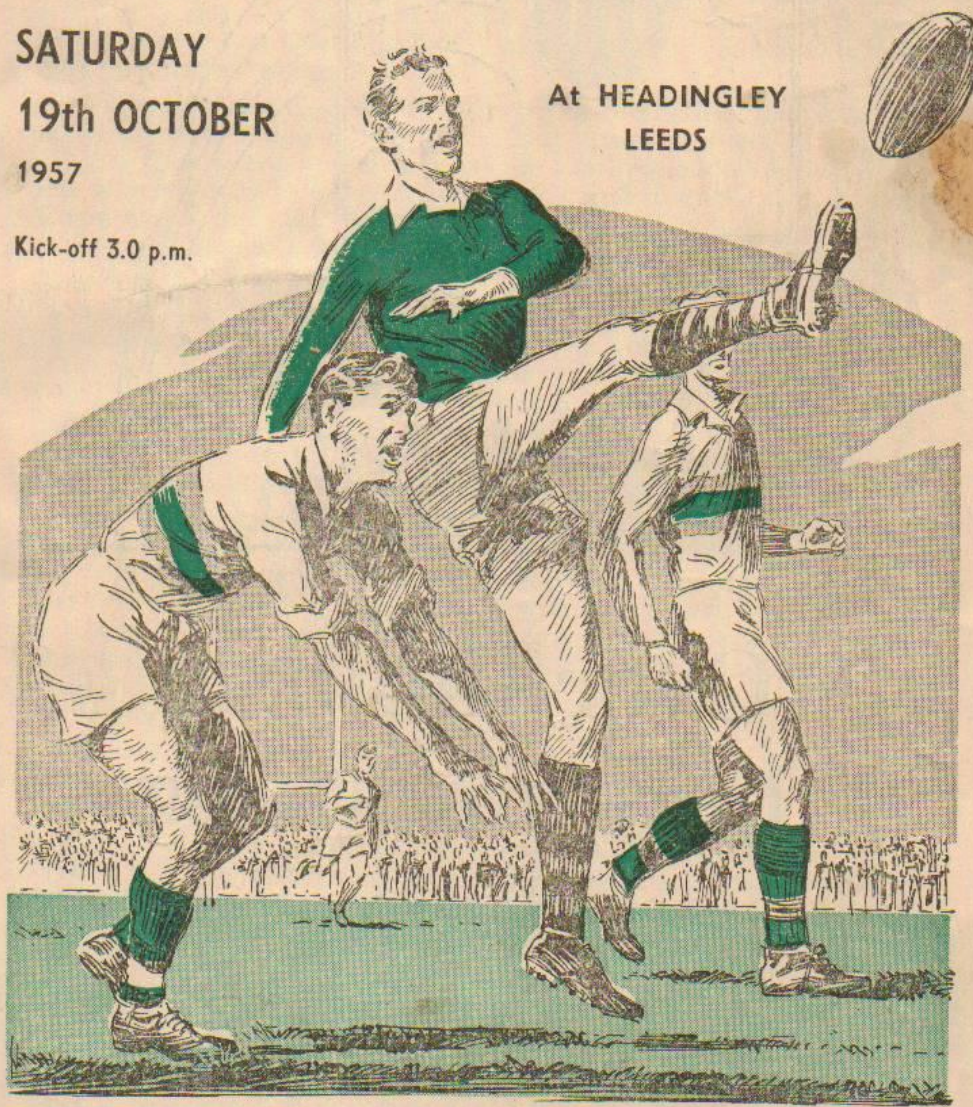
1957

**HUDDERSFIELD v. YORK**

SATURDAY  
19th OCTOBER  
1957

At HEADINGLEY  
LEEDS

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

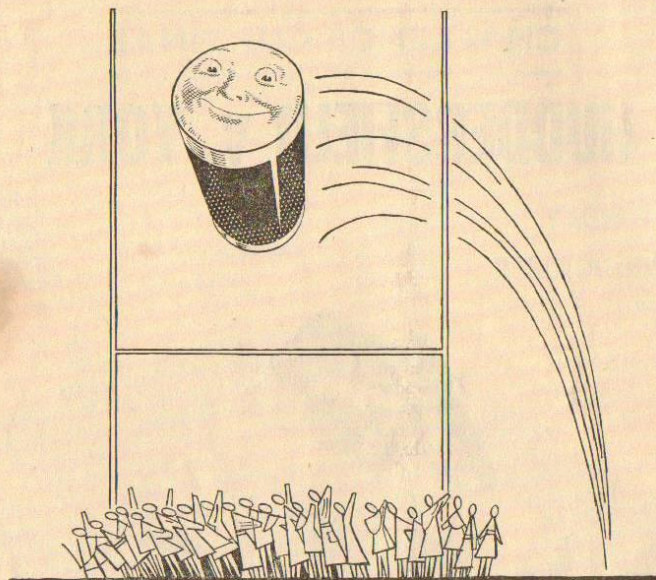


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## YORKSHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE

President: Mr. L. Dobson, Bradford.

Hon. Secretary:

P. W. B. Beadman, Kingswood, 193, Bradford Road, Riddlesden, Keighley

### THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CUP

The Yorkshire County Challenge Cup, for which Huddersfield and York meet this afternoon on the ground of the Leeds Club, was first played for on December 2nd, 1905, when Hunslet beat Halifax by 13 points to 3 points.

Ever since the Cup was first put up for competition, it has never failed to attract large crowds. The Clubs have profited, so has the County Committee, and always has the Final pulled in a crowd of a size which has told adequately of the place taken in the game by the Competition, in which today's is the 50th Final.

Huddersfield's record in the County Cup stands out supreme. The wearers of the claret and gold jerseys have been one of the most attractive sides the game has seen. They have played in the Final on 19 occasions, winning the Cup 11 times, which is a record. They won it in seasons 1909, 1911, 1913, 1914, May 1919 and November 1919, 1926, 1931, 1938, 1950, 1952. It will be interesting to see if they are capable of adding the 50th Cup Final to their record; if they do, it will be a fitting honour for their captain-Paddy Valentine 'The famous World Cup Captain,' to have his name engraved on the Cup.

York, who have been going from strength to strength these last few years, are no mean opponents. They have played in the Final four times and have won the Cup three times. The last time they were successful was in season 1936, when they beat Wakefield at Leeds by 9 points to 2. The York team on that occasion was—T. Dingsdale, H. Haigh, W. Welch, A. Hunt, J. Weston, G. Rees, W. Thomas, L. Sharp, H. Field, G. R. Prosser, H. Coldrick, F. Elias and N. Fender.

There are quite a few well known personalities in that team which followers of the game will well remember. Dingsdale, Rees, Thomas, Prosser and Fender, all great names in that period.

The York team today is a very sound one, and contains such stars as Basil Watts, a member of the World Cup winning team, E. Dawson, England's loose-forward a year ago, J. Robinson who, on several occasions, played out-half for Other Nationalities, W. Riley, coach and captain, who is a very capable leader and a schemer in general, and the £3,000 signing from Castleford-Denzil Webster, who is one of the fastest centres in the game and has a terrific side-step.

The teams are so well matched that in my opinion it is anyone's game. Let us hope it will be a "classic," and may the better team win.

GIDEON SHAW.





**HUDDERSFIELD** Back row (left to right)—Harry Plunkett, Roy Wood, Ken Lister, Ken Bowman, Roland Barrow, Mick Sullivan, Brian Briggs  
Front row—Ray Cecil, Tommy Smales, Dave Valentine, Frank Dyson, Ted Slevin and Austin Kilroy. *[Photograph by courtesy of Hull Daily Mail]*

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## Pen Pictures of the Huddersfield Players

**Frank Dyson** Full-back. Age 28. 5ft. 8in. 12st. 6lb. Huddersfield boy. Yorkshire County Captain this season. Good goal kicker and sound in defence.

**Harry Plunkett** Signed from Keighley Albions last season as a centre-threequarter. Age 20. 6ft. 12st. 3lb. Playing on the wing, fast and a good tackler, very promising.

**Austin Kilroy** Centre-threequarter. Now doing his National Service. Age 22. 5ft. 11in. 14st. 1lb. Very strong, plays a typical centre game. Has a good strong break through.

**Alan Colburn** Centre-threequarter. A Leeds boy from Buslingthorpe Vale. Age 20. 6ft. 1in. 14½st. Big and strong. Had quite a lot of first team experience. Very forceful.

**Roland Barrow** Centre-threequarter. Signed from Oldham three seasons ago. Age 26. 5ft. 11in. 13st. 5lb. Playing good football this season. Always looking for an opening. Gives his wing plenty of opportunities.

**Michael Sullivan** Wing-threequarter. Age 23. 5ft. 10in. 11st. 2lb. Played in several International matches. Played in both World Cup Matches in France and Australia.

**Ray Cecil** Stand-off or Centre. Age 24. 5ft. 6in. 12st. 7lb. Signed from Newport end of last season. Good on defence and a very quick service.

**Peter Ramsden** Stand-off. Age 23. 5ft. 5in. 13st. 3lb. A local boy, very sturdy and strong. Won the Lance Todd Trophy in 1953 on his 19th birthday.

**Tommy Smales** Scrum-half. Age 26. 5ft. 6½in. 11st. 5lb. Signed from Featherstone three seasons ago. A good scrum worker, very elusive.

**Ted Slevin** Open Side Prop-forward. Age 31. 5ft. 9in. 15st. 1lb. Signed from Wigan in 1951. A good sound player. Always first choice for this position. A good distributor of the ball.

**Roy Wood** Hooker. Age 25. 5ft. 10in. 13st. 7lb. Signed from Pellon Juniors, Halifax. Been a regular first team player from the beginning of this season.

**David Flint** Blind Side Prop. Age 20. 5ft. 9in. 15st. 3lb. A good strong boy, a good defensive player and a sound tackler.

**Brian Briggs** Second-row Forward. Age 24. 6ft. 1in. 15st. Signed from York, Yorkshire County and International. Toured Australia with the last team. Can give a good account of himself in the open.

**Ken Bowman** Second-row Forward. Age 22. 5ft. 11in. 14st. 2lb. Signed from York Junior Football. Playing on top of his form at the moment either in this position or at Loose Forward.

**David Valentine** Loose Forward. Age 30. 6ft. 1in. 14st. 3lb. Very well known throughout the Rugby League. Scottish R.U. International. Toured Australia, World Cup Captain when they won the Championship.

**Bob Thompson** Utility Forward. Age 28. 6ft. 2in. 14st. 1lb. A local boy signed a few seasons ago. A good covering forward and fast.

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## THE TEAMS

### HUDDERSFIELD

Colours—Claret and Gold Jerseys, White Shorts

1	F. DYSON	...	...	Full Back
2	H. PLUNKETT	...	...	Wing Threequarter
3	A. KILROY	...	...	Centre Threequarter
4	R. BARROW	...	...	Centre Threequarter
5	M. SULLIVAN	...	...	Wing Threequarter
6	P. RAMSDEN	...	...	Out-half
7	T. SMAILES	...	...	Scrum-half
8	E. SLEVIN	...	...	Prop Forward
9	R. WOOD	...	...	Hooker
10	D. FLINT	...	...	Front Row Forward
11	B. BRIGGS	...	...	Second Row Forward
12	K. BOWMAN	...	...	Second Row Forward
14	D. VALENTINE (Capt.)	...	...	Loose Forward

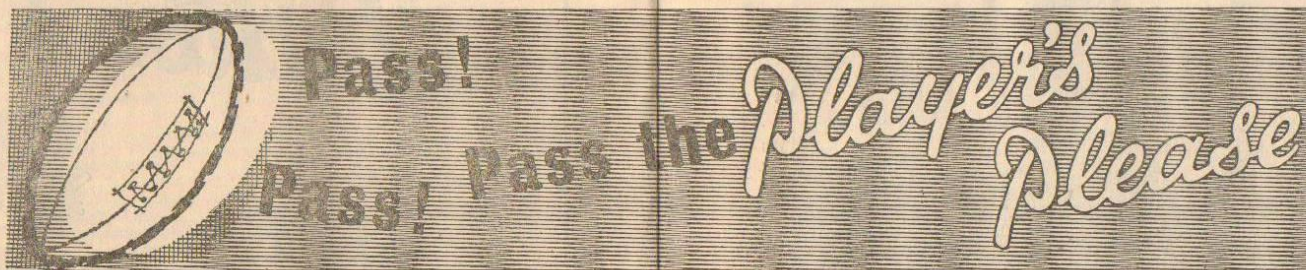
Referee—C. F. APPLETON, Warrington

### YORK

Colours—Amber and Black Jerseys, White Shorts

1	W. HARGRAVES	...	...	Full Back
2	B. SMITH	...	...	Wing Threequarter
3	D. WEBSTER	...	...	Centre Threequarter
4	G. SMITH	...	...	Centre Threequarter
5	S. FLANNERY	...	...	Wing Threequarter
6	J. ROBINSON	...	...	Out-half
7	W. RILEY (Capt.)	...	...	Scrum-half
8	F. MOORE	...	...	Prop Forward
9	R. ILLINGWORTH	...	...	Hooker
10	V. YORKE	...	...	Front Row Forward
11	B. WATTS	...	...	Second Row Forward
12	R. L. O'BRIEN	...	...	Second Row Forward
13	G. DAWSON or R. DEIGHTON	...	...	Loose Forward

Touch Judges—G. R. Jones, Leeds and H. Pickersgill, Castleford



[NOC 13/34]





YORK C. Taylor (Ass. Coach) Back row (left to right) F. Moore, B. Watts, R. O'Brien, A. Parkin, E. Dawson, V. Yorke, R. Deighton J. Simmons  
Middle row—J. Robinson, B. Smith, D. Webster, W. Riley, G. Smith, S. Flannery (Masseur)  
In Front—R. Illingworth, W. Hargreaves. (Photo by courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press)

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### Pen Pictures of the York Players

- W. Hargraves** Age 25. 5ft. 8in. 11st. 3lb. Born at Wakefield.
- B. Smith** Age 23. 6ft. 1in. 12st. 12lb. Was signed from the Rugby Union and was born at Halifax.
- D. Webster** Age 24. 5ft. 11in. 13st. Born at Castleford and signed from that club last year at a £3,000 fee, a real speed merchant.
- G. Smith** Age 23. 5ft. 8½in. 12st. Born at Wakefield.
- S. J. Flannery** Age 21. 5ft. 10in. 11st. A local product who has come on by leaps and bounds since joining the club.
- J. Robinson** Age 27. 5ft. 7in. 11st. 7lb. Born in New Zealand and gained International honours with Other Nationalities.
- W. Riley** Age 30. 5ft. 4½in. 11st. 6lb. Was signed from Swinton in 1949, is coach and captain of the team.
- F. Moore** Age 30. 5ft. 11in. 16st. Was first signed by Wakefield from Castleford Wheldale Colliery team, then played for Hull K.R. and later transferred to York.
- R. Illingworth** Age 25. 5ft. 8in. 14st. 7lb. Was reserve hooker for Halifax and was transferred to York twelve months ago.
- V. Yorke** Age 24. 6ft. 1in. 16st. 7lb. A product of a local junior side and a consistent goal kicker, has 40 to his credit this season.
- B. Watts** Age 29. 6ft. 1in. 14st. 3lb. A local product who was one of the outstanding forwards in the World Cup winning team in France.
- R. L. O'Brien** Age 23. 6ft. 1½in. 13st. 13lb. Was born at Aldershot.
- E. W. Dawson** Age 25. 5ft. 11in. 14st. 10lb. A local player who has gained the highest honours in the game when he played for England twelve months ago.
- R. C. Deighton** Age 22. 6ft. 13st. 7lb. A local boy, very fast and an 80 minutes player.
- A. S. Dickinson** Age 20. 6ft. 14st. 3lb. Another local product who has quickly made the grade.

Read page 14

"CAN WE RETAIN THE ASHES?"

By Wm. Fallowfield, M.A., The Rugby Football League Secretary.

### HOW THEY GOT THERE

Wakefield	19	Wakefield	10	Huddersfield	14
Halifax	9				
Huddersfield	68	Huddersfield	13	Huddersfield	2
Batley	19				
Doncaster	9	Castleford	6	Leeds	2
Castleford	29				
Leeds	55	Leeds	19	York	14
Bramley	10				
York	15	York	19	York	14
Keighley	8				
Hull	14	Hunslet	17	York	8
Hunslet	16				
Dewsbury	12	Bradford	5	Bradford	8
Bradford	28				
Featherstone	46	Featherstone	2		
Hull K.R.	5				

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## CAN WE RETAIN THE ASHES?

Earlier this year I was in Australia with the British World Cup Team and saw our boys beaten by the Kangaroos. Supporters in this country, having seen the last Australian team in action over here, were astounded when they heard the result of this vital World Cup game.

When, then, did we slip so badly?

Firstly, I can say that the form displayed by the Aussies in Sydney was far, far superior to some of the poor exhibitions put on over here by their last touring team. They were stronger, fitter and much more purposeful. In addition, they benefited from injuries sustained by two players in Brisbane. Sounds paradoxical but it's true because Brian Carlson substituting at full-back and Ken McCaffery at scrum-half, both playing in unaccustomed positions, were our opponents' best players on the day.

Joining forces with Australia's improved form to contribute our downfall was Lady Luck. After seventeen minutes, just as we were fighting back after a slow start and had wiped out four of a five points deficit, Alan Davies got hurt and left the field.

If this had not happened I think we would have won the game. Davies was in tip-top form and was sorely missed.

However when half-time came the score was only 10 points to 6 against us and we were by no means beaten.

Early in the second half Boston was crippled and almost simultaneously a wild pass and poor tackling gave Australia an unexpected 5 points and the game was lost. The final score meant nothing as we had only ten fit men for the last quarter of the game.

However, every cloud has a silver lining and Australia's win has given added zest to our tour next year.

Strong as Australia undoubtedly are in their own country I think we can beat them. We have players who are individually superior and I think we will also have the "edge" in teamwork.

Skill is not enough!

If we are to bring the Ashes back next year every British player must go on the field prepared to give and take hard knocks. The Aussies are tough—make no mistake. They "give" plenty but one must admit they are not squealers—they can "take it" too.

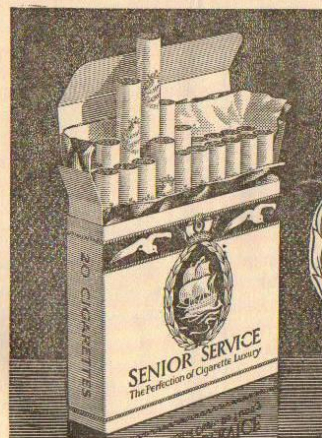
During our short tour I saw enough of our players in action to realise that in the World Cup '18' we had the nucleus of a British team which could beat Australia in 1958. Whether they make the trip will depend largely on their club form this season.

We hear rumours that in club football these days players once they see a game is lost tend "to turn it in" and some of the large scores which have been registered have been quoted to support this view.

It is my most sincere wish that if there are such players then none is Australia bound next May.

Victory will only be achieved if we field thirteen men whose second nature it is to try hard to the final whistle and who above all have the will to win.

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