



# THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

*The 1993 European Cup winners pictured in the Olympic Stadium, Barcelona.*

Six teams were invited to take part in this mini competition, not only to bring three countries together but to try and export Rugby League to Spain. The six teams consisted of two from Russia; Tiraspol and Moscow Magicians, two from France; Carcassone and Treize Catalan and Batley and Huddersfield. It was believed that Rugby League headquarters had offered the chance to Batley and Huddersfield after their willingness to play the two Russian teams who had visited our shores early in the season. The competition itself was to last a fortnight, with games played in France, and the final to take place in the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain.

Only weeks before departure, several hiccups occurred. First the two Russian teams pulled out, closely followed by Batley, and it was only when the Huddersfield team arrived in Perpignon that they heard that Carcassone had a players strike and couldn't raise a team. This left just Huddersfield and Treize Catalan, but because of all the work already done to get this competition going it was agreed to let the game stand. The Huddersfield squad were housed in a sporting complex in the picturesque harbour holiday resort of La Bacares, 20 kilometres from Perpignon. Because of the lack of games, a friendly was arranged at Perpignon Rugby Union ground against a "Rousillon Select", supposedly young men from around the area. However they turned out to be professionals from all over, and certainly went out to do some damage, and with some strange French refereeing decisions Huddersfield went down 26-10. After the game a reception was held at the Catalan club and once again the hospitality was first class.

Then came the bad news. It looked as though the tour would have to be cancelled as the Huddersfield bus parked only 10 metres away on the main road was broken into and all the kit, boots and first aid was stolen. Luckily the first team kit was still back at La Bacares.

Frank Doyle (Kitman) and Mick Murphy (President) made frantic phone calls to Mitre Sports and Jack Lees Sports. A complete set of boots, jock straps, laces, studs and bags were sent within 24 hours with

associate directors Martin Parker and David Spencer who were coming across to see the final. Before the kick-off a goodwill telegram from Coach Terry Flanagan was read to the team, which lifted up the spirits of the team.

The team left La Bacares and travelled to Barcelona to be housed in The Barcelona Hotel specially built for the Olympics. On the day of the game the temperature had dropped a few degrees, but was still extremely warm.

There were nearly 100 Huddersfield supporters who had travelled across and were given value for money when Huddersfield beat Treize Catalan by 23-22. One of the highlights was a 70yd run from full-back Jason Laurence to score.

**OFFICIALS:**

- Mick Murphy (President)
- Howard Mathewman (Director)
- Dr. David Hooper (Medical)
- Ken Boothroyd (Staff)
- Frank Doyle (Kit Man)
- Neil Whittaker (Assistant)
- Dave Parr (Statistician)
- Les Coulter (Manager & Coach)
- Bob Scott (Assistant Director)

The team that played that day and the remainder of the squad:

- (1) Jason Laurence
- (2) Ian Thomas
- (3) Ken Kerr
- (4) Phil Hellewell
- (5) Andy Simpson
- (6) Brad Davis
- (7) Neil Flanagan
- (8) Chris Coop
- (9) Steve Barnett
- (10) Andy Pucill
- (11) Joe Naidole
- (12) Garry Coulter
- (13) Gary Senior
- (14) Brian Blacker
- (15) Paul Meillam
- (16) Andy Sewell
- (17) Richard Pearson
- (18) Dave Needham
- (19) Lee St. Hilaire
- (20) Martin Maders

**BARCELONA EUROPEAN CUP FINAL**

	<b>Huddersfield</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>XIII Catalan</b>	<b>Score</b>
5 mins			Pascal Bomati (try)	0-4
15 mins			Adolf Alesina (try)	0-8
18 mins	Neil Flanagan (try)			6-8
	Phil Helliwell (goal)			6-12
25 mins			Pascal Bomati (try)	6-12
32 mins	Brad Davies (try)			12-12
	Phil Helliwell (goal)		HALF TIME	12-16
41 mins			Pascal Bomati (try)	12-16
60 mins	Ken Kerr (try)			16-16
62 mins	Jason Lawrence (try)			22-16
	Phil Helliwell (goal)			22-22
70 mins			Azak Baba (try)	22-22
			Francis (goal)	23-22
75 mins	Brad Davies (drop goal)			23-22
			<b>FINAL SCORE</b>	<b>23-22</b>