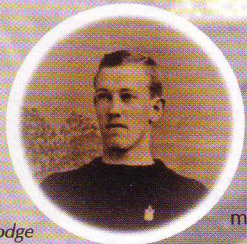


Over the last hundred years local players have somehow managed to squeeze into the Huddersfield First Team against the odds of overseas and other British talent. As well as being nicknamed 'The Team of All Talents' Fartown have also been known as 'The Empire Team of Stars'.

After professionalism was legalised, all the Northern Union Teams went scouting far and wide and Fartown were no exception, but in the first and second seasons two Huddersfield men were

HUDDERSFIELD'S OWN



Harry Lodge



Milford Sutcliffe

Captains. Harry Lodge, who hailed from Kirkburton, was the first professional skipper, 1895/96 was his last season before retiring and he handed over to Milford Sutcliffe. Lodge and Sutcliffe served the clubs for the many years on the Football and other committees. As the game progressed Huddersfield recruited from further a field especially the Welsh being targeted. Harold Wagstaff, Major Holland and Stanley Moorhouse were the most famous of all the local lads in the successful years prior to the first World War.



Harold Wagstaff

Percy Holroyd was possibly the first local man to be awarded some sort of benefit. His debut was against Broughton Rangers on 8th November 1902 and nine seasons later he was presented with the sum of £50 for splendid service to the club. The Twenties started with a challenge cup win and two tries from Hubert Pogson on 10th April 1920. Prominent locals during this decade were Henry Tiffany, Joe Brook and Frank Royston. Roystons career was dogged by a knee injury but Tiffany had thirteen successful seasons and Joe Brooks from Meltham was a superb all round sportsman.

In 1931 two Huddersfield old boys Rugby Union players switched codes. Hubert Lockwood and Horace Walker caused a local sensation at the time. Lockwood transferred to Halifax where he became a successful Full Back only returning to Fartown to keep the family tradition on the Football committee. He served as Chairman of the Rugby Football League, is still President of The Players Association and still resides less than a mile from the old Fartown Ground. Two sons of Ben Gronow, Huddersfield born Ken and Gwyn signed in 1937 and 1938 and to complete a treble, Peter signed after World War II.

Local Players who emerged in the same glory years after the war included Les Baxter who along with Ken Mallington won Challenge Cup Winners Medals in 1945. Dick Cracknell who won International and County honours at Fartown and Oldham and Frank Dyson who signed in 1948 and eventually became Huddersfield record points scorer with 2072 points and Goal Kicker with 958 goals. Other names who had contributed were Doug Booth, Billy Oughton, Peter Bates, Jim Cooper.



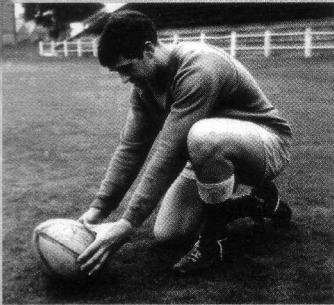
Dick Cracknell on his way to the line

Peter Ramsden scoring
his second try at
Wembley 1953



Peter Ramsden commenced a long career at Fartown in 1951. His big day came in the 1953

Brian
Curry



Challenge Cup final at Wembley with two tries and the Lance Todd Trophy to his name. Jack Fairbank, David Flint, Billy Gill, Neil Whittaker and brothers Bob and Ray Thompson arrived before Ray Haywood, Brian Curry and Doug Iredale.

Haywood and Curry both had excellent careers at Fartown, Ray enjoyed a benefit after 10 years in 1969 and Brian was first choice goal kicker after 'Spanky' Dyson left for Oldham.

Leo Booth, Alan Redfearn and Malcolm Clegg were the three locals who signed in 1960. Robert Taylor was signed in 1961 and on September 20th 1962 Ken Senior was signed from Moldgreen. He stayed until his retirement in 1979 and was first choice on the left wing for most of that period. In the sixties he represented

Frank
Dyson



Great Britain twice. Ken scored 212 tries for Fartown and continues his connection with the club with the Chairmanship of the Players Association. In 1963 Ian and Victor Van Bellen became the third set of brothers to come to Fartown and in December Brian Dobson joined from Moldgreen. For the remainder of the 60's the following were recruited from

Ken
Senior



the local clubs: Martin Calvert, Stuart Haigh, Peter Martin, Stephen Marshall, Billy Pickup, Malcolm Branch, Chris Leese and John Somerville.

Only 15 local players in ten years were signed. This would change in the 70's and 80's as money became hard to find and local talent was closely scrutinised.

In the early 70's Fartown created a Rugby League record by signing four brothers, Jim, Trevor, Brian and Ronnie Doyle. Keeping the family theme going Chris and Alan Forster also joined the club. David Weavill, Peter Cramp, Steve Miller, Chris Welsh, Mick Ward, Andy Wilson, David Schofield, Jon Morton, Tommy Nelmes, Graham Swale, Graham Thornton, Joe Cyrus, Stuart Thornton, Chris Hirst, Jimmy Johnson, Tony Johnson, Graham France kept the local accents going. Tony Clegg and Tony Booth switched codes from the Old Boys, Clegg in 1975 and Booth in 1979.



Peter Cramp
in action

From decades when local talent signing for Fartown could be counted on one hand, the 80's opened a flood gate. The newly formed colts side - formed in 1982 - contributed to the rise in signings. The most successful in this decade were

Paul Dixon, Anthony Farrell, Brian Blacker, Ian Thomas, Wilf George and Gary Senior. Wilf George, after a short spell at Widnes, joined Paul Dixon at Halifax for the most successful period of his career. Only Thomas failed to play First Division Football but can be satisfied in scoring over 150 tries for the club. Paul Dixon went on to find fame with other clubs and he represented Great Britain at home and abroad. Brian Blacker played in the top flight with Barrow, Salford and Hull and is now on the



Wilf George
in action

Coaching staff at Huddersfield. Anthony Farrell was selected for the Great Britain under 21's before being transferred to Sheffield Eagles where he is about to become a player in the Super League. Gary Senior had a spell at Hunslet when they won the 2nd Division Championship in 1987 but is now still prominent in the current Fartown team.

HUDDERSFIELDS

OWN

Other players of the eighties included Roy Ventola, Damon Scholes, Tim Brook, Mick Bostock, Alan Boothroyd, Mark Charlton, Richard Darkes, Andy Dickinson, Mark Eastwood, Antony Edwards, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Colin Harris, Simon Kenworthy, Brian and Jimmy Lee, Andy Sewell, Frank Simpson, Lee St Hilaire, Tom and Joe Naidole and Colin Hawkyard. Tom and Joe Naidole are the sons of Fijian Tom Naidole senior who settled in the town from the day of signing in 1964. Simon Kenworthy was leading Goal Scorer in four of the six seasons he played at Fartown.

Lee St Hilaire continues to shine in Fartowns first team and this year was chosen "The Supporters Player of the Season" and the "Yorkshire Federation of Supporters Clubs Player of 1994/1995". The most notable name of the 90's is that of Simon Reynolds who in his short time with the club has found a regular place with the first team and been chosen to represent Great Britain at under 21's level. Hopes in this decade will rest with the Academy side as well as all the local clubs.

An interesting contrast between the team which defeated Warrington in the Championship Final at Maine Road Manchester on 14th May 1949 and the team which demolished Fulham at Fartown on 22nd November 1987 was the international make-up of one and the Huddersfield born and bred flavour of the other. For interest here are the details:-

HUDDERSFIELD 13-12 WARRINGTON

- 1: Johnny Hunter-Australia
- 2: Jock Anderson-Scotland
- 3: Archie Ferguson- Scotland
- 4: Pat Devery-Australia-Try, 2goals
- 5: Lionel Cooper-Australia-Try
- 6: Russ Pepperell-Cumberland
- 7: Billy Banks-Wales
- 8: John Maiden-Yorkshire
- 9: Mel Meek-Wales
- 10: John Daly-Ireland-Try
- 11: Ike Owens- Wales
- 12: Bob Nicholson-Cumberland
- 13: Dave Valentine-Scotland

HUDDERSFIELD 52-14 FULHAM

- 1: Mick Bostock-Hudds-Try
- 2: Brian Lee-Hudds
- 3: Anthony Farrell-Hudds
- 4: Ian Thomas-Hudds-Try
- 5: Lee St Hilaire-Hudds
- 6: Antony Edwards-Hudds
- 7: Gary Meehan-Leeds-Try
- 8: Jimmy Johnson-Hudds
- 9: Billy Cook-Leeds-2 Tries
- 10: Dennis Fitzpatrick-Hudds
- 11: Alan Boothroyd-Hudds
- 12: Andy Dickinson-Hudds-Try
- 13: Simon Kenworthy-Hudds-2 Tries 8 goals
- 14: Neil Wood-Keighley
- 15: Frank Simpson-Hudds