

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP SERIES

GREAT BRITAIN



NEW ZEALAND



FRANCE



AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR 2/-

ISSUED BY THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



THE WORLD CUP

This magnificent trophy which stands 2' 6" high and weighs more than half a hundredweight was presented by the Federation Francaise de Jeu a Treize for open competition between the countries playing Rugby League football. The winners of the first World Cup Competition, Great Britain, will retain it until the next World Cup Competition takes place.

MATCH RESULTS

THE WORLD CUP COMPETITION, 1954.

The Winners—GREAT BRITAIN.

FINAL TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For			Against			Pts.
					T.	G.	Pts.	T.	G.	Pts.	
Gt. Britain ...	3	2	1	0	15	11	67	6	7	32	... 5
France ...	3	2	1	0	10	10	50	7	5	31	... 5
Australia ...	3	1	0	2	12	8	52	10	14	58	... 2
New Zealand ...	3	0	0	3	4	11	34	18	14	82	... 0

RESULTS OF MATCHES

Saturday, October 30th—At Parc des Princes, Paris.

FRANCE—22 pts. **NEW ZEALAND**—13 pts.

Tries—J. Crespo, J. Audoubert, R. Contrastin, J. Delaye. **Goals**—Puig Aubert (5) **Tries**—J. Edwards, C. Eastlake, R. McKay. **Goals**—J. Bond (2).

Sunday, October 31st—At The Gerland Stadium, Lyon.

GREAT BRITAIN—28 pts. **AUSTRALIA**—13 pts.

Tries—J. Jackson (2), G. Brown (2), F. Kitchen, D. M. Rose. **Goals**—J. Ledgard (5). **Tries**—H. Wells (2), K. Kearney. **Goals**—N. Pidding (2).

Sunday, November 7th—At the Municipal Stadium, Toulouse.

GREAT BRITAIN—13 pts. **FRANCE**—13 pts.

Tries—D. M. Rose, G. Brown, G. Helme. **Goals**—J. Ledgard (2). **Tries**—J. Krawzyk, R. Contrastin (2). **Goals**—Puig Aubert (2).

Sunday, November 7th—At the Municipal Stadium, Marseilles.

AUSTRALIA—34 pts. **NEW ZEALAND**—15 pts.

Tries—A. Watson (3), G. Hawick, R. Bull, K. Kearney, K. O'Shea, P. Diversi. **Goals**—N. Pidding (5). **Tries**—L. Eriksen. **Goals**—R. McKay (6).

Thursday, November 11th—At Municipal Stadium, Bordeaux.

GREAT BRITAIN—26 pts. **NEW ZEALAND**—6 pts.

Tries—F. Kitchen (2), G. Brown, D. M. Rose, P. Jackson, J. Ledgard. **Goals**—J. Ledgard (4). **Tries**—Goals—R. McKay (3).

Thursday, November 11th—At the Municipal Stadium, Nantes.

AUSTRALIA—5 pts. **FRANCE**—15 pts.

Tries—K. O'Shea. **Goals**—N. Pidding. **Tries**—J. Merquoy, R. Contrastin, V. Cantoni. **Goals**—Puig Aubert (3).

PLAY OFF—Saturday, November 13th—At Parc des Princes, Paris.

GREAT BRITAIN—16 pts. **FRANCE**—12 pts.

Tries—G. Brown (2), D. M. Rose, G. Helme. **Goals**—J. Ledgard (2). **Tries**—V. Cantoni, R. Contrastin. **Goals**—Puig Aubert (3).

Two points were awarded for a win and one for a draw. The two teams which obtained the same number of points played off in the Final Match for the Cup. If more than two teams had obtained the same number of points the two having the best scoring averages would have contested the play-off. If the Competition had been won outright the final match would have been between the winners and a combined side from the other countries.

FRANCE v. NEW ZEALAND

France 22 pts., New Zealand 13 pts.

At Paris on Saturday, 30th October, 1954.

The first match of the series opened in an atmosphere of uncertainty. The relative forms of all the teams were unknown, and the success of the tournament as a whole could be made or marred in this first game.

From the kick-off, however, a high standard of play was set, and this was maintained throughout the whole series. The Kiwis started well and good attacking play led to a try by Edwards after 5 minutes. France regained the lead with two goals from the inimitable Puig Aubert, one from a penalty and the other from a drop kick—"Pipette's" kicking was a feature of the match. After 25 minutes the score was 9 points to 8 points in France's favour and there was very little to choose between the teams. The lack of match practice of New Zealand then became evident and they appeared leaden footed in comparison with the lively Frenchmen, for whom the strong running of Contrastin on the wing was outstanding. Eastlake led his team well and scored an individual try when New Zealand made their last rally. Just before half time Delaye, a giant of a forward scored a try to give France an interval lead of 12 pts. to 8 pts. Shortly after the interval, Crespo increased the lead with an unconverted try, and half way through the second half Audoubert finished off a glorious forward rush to give Puig Aubert an easy kick at goal. Audoubert played extremely well in the loose, being very difficult to tackle, and in addition he supplied France with a liberal share of the ball from the scrums.

The match emphasised the extreme fitness of the French players who were just that little bit quicker on the ball than the New Zealanders.

The Kiwis, however, lost gallantly and played throughout in a wonderful sporting manner.

THE TEAMS

France — Puig Aubert ; Contrastin, Merquoy, Jimenez, Cantoni ; Benausse, Tesseire ; Krawzyk, Audoubert, Rinaldi, Pambrun, Delaye, Crespo.

New Zealand—Anderson ; Edwards, Eastlake, McKay, Menzies ; Sorenson, Eriksen ; McLennan, Blanchard, Johnson, Yates, Bond, Atkinson.



Puig Aubert practices goal-kicking during a training session.

GREAT BRITAIN v. AUSTRALIA

By **DAVID NICHOLLS**
(of the "Daily Express")

Great Britain 28 pts., Australia 13 pts.

At Lyon, on Sunday, 31st October, 1954.

Salute the new Britain. Be proud of the bulldog courage, the driving enthusiasm, that whipped Australia in this duel in the sun on the picturesque Stade Gerland in Lyon on Sunday, October 31st. Forty years later the spirit of Rorke's Drift can still confound the Australians.

Britain won because they did the simple things well, and at a pace the Australians could not match. There were few subtle switches, hardly a reverse pass or involved move from the British backs throughout the game.

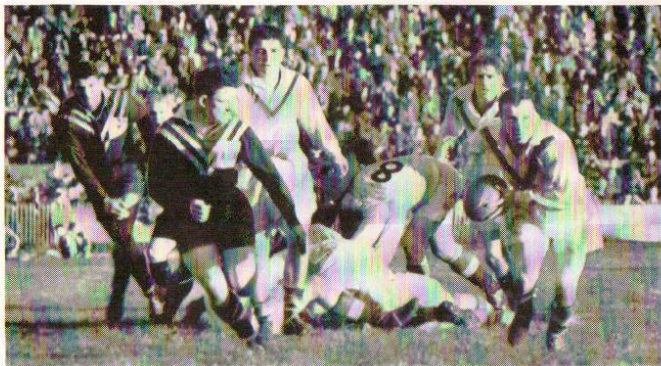
Gerry Helme, with the cheeky chappie impudence that makes him a world class scrum half on his day, dictated most of the play from the base of the pack. After that the rest of the backs drove it through with straight, hard running and sound handling.

It was the spirit of Britain that made them great this day. They won because they ran in two morale destroying tries just when they were needed. They won because we breed men of the stern stuff of 20-year-old Mike Sullivan, the Huddersfield centre.

It was Sullivan who took the full crushing impact of a tackle from 14-stone Australian centre Harry Wells ten minutes before half time. He staggered to his feet, a jagged cut gaping across his left eyelid. They led him to the trainer's bench—but that was not the end of the fighting Sullivan.

It could have been the end of Britain, but once again the moment found the man. Australia, 5—7 down, were relentlessly driving us back. With Dave Valentine out of the pack as stand-in for Sullivan, our forwards were being forced to relax their grip.

Australia swarmed to the British "25." Then it happened. Slick, precision passing moved the ball down the British line, until Valentine burst clear on the left. He worked to the wing, took Moir's tackle and turned the ball inside to Frank Kitchen, that bouncing ball of a wing man from Leigh.



*Gerry Helme of Great Britain prepares to open up play from a set scrum.
—Reproduced by kind permission of L'Equipe.*



Gordon Brown of Great Britain in full flight for the line for one of his two tries.—Reproduced by kind permission of L'Equipe.

Away he went on a cross field 60 yards run that took him arcing round a grasping, frustrated Churchill, and in a final lung-bursting effort strode past the desperate cover of Wells to squeeze in at the corner. Up stepped Jimmy Ledgard to kick the goal from the touchline. Struggling Britain was now masterful Britain, 12—5 ahead at half time.

They patched up Sullivan's eye, bound a plaster round his head, pulled on a protective skull cap and back he came for the second half.

Could he stand up to it? You bet your fighting Sullivan he could! He tackled with the tenacity of a Yorkshire terrier, was ever ready to drive forward in attack.

Australia, reeling under two bustling tries in three minutes from Leeds stand-off Gordon Brown, bowed out of this game 11 minutes after the interval.

Duncan Hall, their prop forward and vice-captain was carried off with a badly sprained ankle. Relentless Britain promptly punched home the knock-out blow.

Helme found a customer for a dummy, veered away to the right, then cut out Jackson with a high pass that left David Rose with nothing to do but stride in at the corner.

That was the end of Australia. They were 23—5 down, a man short, and playing like a team without hope. It was not until Britain eased up in the final ten minutes that they were able to tag on another eight points.

Valentine gave this untried British side inspired leadership, and the whole magnificent victory was founded on selfless forward play. Every man did his stint, then got the ball away for the backs to use their pace. It was as simple as that.

Helme played one of his greatest games, and Phil Jackson, the Barrow centre, was the perfect team man in attack and defence, for ever prompting and covering the less experienced players alongside him.

Scorers: Great Britain—Tries: Brown (2), Jackson (2), Rose, Kitchen; Goals: Ledgard (5). Australia—Tries: Wells (2), Kearney; Goals: Pidding (2).

THE TEAMS.

Great Britain—Ledgard; Rose, Jackson, Sullivan, Kitchen; Brown, Helme; Thorley, Smith, Coverdale, Watts, Robinson, Valentine.

Australia—Churchill; Pidding, Wells, Watson, Moir; McCaffrey, Holman; Bull, Kearney, Hall, Provan, Davies, Diversi.

GREAT BRITAIN v. FRANCE

By **JOE HUMPHREYS**,
Northern Sports Desk, "Daily Mirror."

Gt. Britain 13 pts., France 13 pts.

At Toulouse, on Sunday, 7th November, 1954.

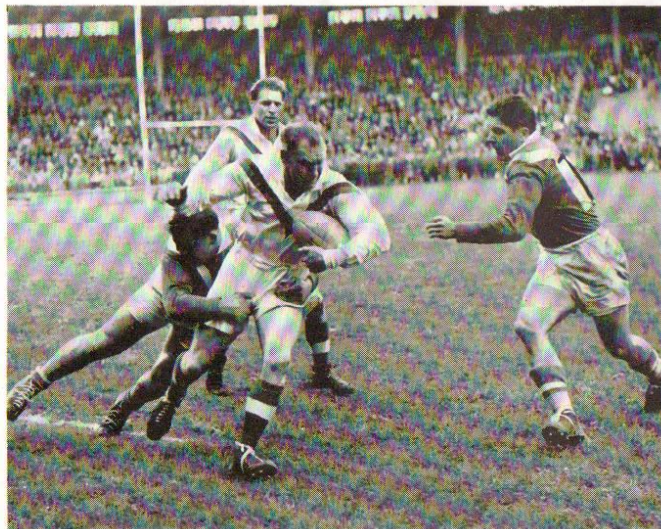
Coupe du monde de Rugby à treize. That's what the French called it. But to an Englishman, who knows his Rugby League this game was a Test Match and a Cup-Tie rolled into one.

How those 37,471 spectators, biggest crowd to watch a Rugby League match in France, cheered and sometimes jeered at everything from the referee to their own team.

In a match that throbbed out every second there was not a dull moment. Good football in flashes, the rough and tumble of a hectic Cup-tie and those oddities with which only the French can spice a match . . . it was all there.

In short, as Mr. Jim Hilton, the Rugby League Council Chairman, commented: "A great game played in the best traditions of international football and one to pull in the crowds."

France, mercurial as ever, prodded and probed with slick top speed passing almost every time they got the ball. But Britain's young and one-match experienced team had the right counters.



Bob Coverdale with ball, supported by Basil Watts, engage in a forward tussle with Delaye and Rinaldi.



Phil Jackson, whose brilliant centre threequarter play was a feature of the series, evades the French cover defence.

Solid tackling of the man with the ball and Sam Smith hooking well enough to win a balance of the scrums, braked a lot of France's momentum. But we missed those shock down the centre of the field attacks which hit Australia for six at Lyons.

They never came. Crespo and Benausse, the French half-backs, marked Gerry Helme and Gordon Brown too closely. They just had no room in which to work.

But France just could not stop Helme, that clever and crafty half-back from Warrington. He saved Britain's face in a most fantastic game.

And all he did to score the late try which gave us a three points lead at a most critical stage of the game was to show France the ball. Dummying it at arm's length he ripped through their defence for the try of the match.

But back came France. Another great round of their slick passing had Britain bewildered before Contrastin made a spectacular dive for the try line. Had Puig-Aubert been able to kick the goal it would have meant victory for France.

Luckily for Britain this was not one of Puig-Aubert's best days. Nor was Jimmy Ledgard kicking with his customary precision. He, too, had the chances to have won the match.

For Britain this was a day for her forwards. Brilliantly led by Dave Valentine, they almost played the rough and tough French pack into the ground.

Gerry Helme, David Rose and Gordon Brown scored Britain's tries, Ledgard kicking two goals. For France, Contrastin (2) and Krawzyk got tries, Puig-Aubert placing two goals.

THE TEAMS.

Great Britain—Ledgard; Rose, Jackson, Naughton, Sullivan; Brown, Helme; Thorley, Smith, Coverdale, Watts, Robinson, Valentine.

France—Puig Aubert; Contrastin, Merquey, Jimenez, Cantoni; Benausse, Crespo; Krawzyk, Audoubert, Rinaldi, Delaye, Pambrun, Guilhem.

AUSTRALIA v. NEW ZEALAND

Australia 34 pts., New Zealand 15 pts.

At Marseilles, on Sunday, 7th November, 1954.

On the day that France and Great Britain were fighting a tremendous battle at Toulouse, Australia and New Zealand, who had each lost their first game, met at Marseilles.

For the first few minutes of the game the New Zealanders were on top, but Clive Churchill started a magnificent counter attack from his own half, which was carried on by Banks, who eventually transferred the ball to Watson, who scored the first try in the 15th minute. The try was converted by Pidding.

Australia, encouraged by this unexpected success kept up constant attacks and after half an hour had scored 16 points against McKay's solitary penalty goal for New Zealand. Churchill had been very prominent in this half.

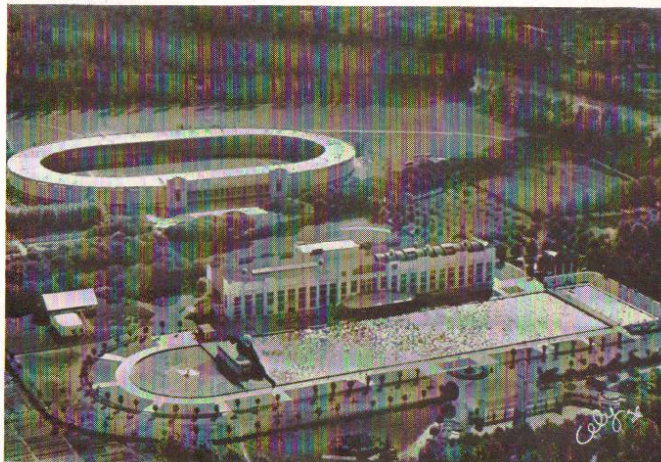
In the second half McKay kicked several magnificent penalty goals and converted a try by Eriksen to bring the score to Australia 19 and New Zealand 13 pts. There was tremendous applause from the crowd for this excellent rally by the Kiwis, but unfortunately a dropped pass completely transformed the game and led to an Australian score. In the last 20 minutes of the game it was all Australia who took every advantage of the mistakes which became apparent in the New Zealand defence.

The Australians well merited their victory and all their team played well, particularly the forwards and full back Clive Churchill, who was always dangerous when in possession of the ball. For the New Zealanders McLennan and Atkinson were prominent in the forwards, Eriksen played well at scrum half and the two centre threequarters, McKay and Eastlake were the best of the backs.

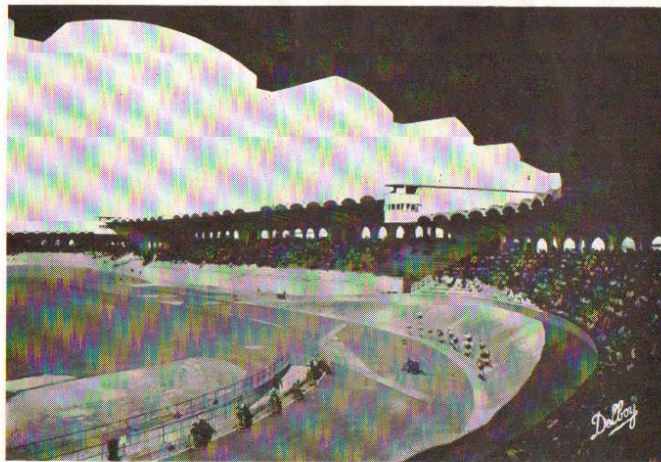
THE TEAMS.

Australia—Churchill; Flannery, Watson, Wells, Pidding; Banks, Hawick; Davies, Kearney, Bull, O'Shea, Crocker, Diversi.

New Zealand—Denton; Edwards, McKay, Eastlake, Menzies; Sorenson, Eriksen; McLennan, Blanchard, Johnson, Butterfield, Yates, Atkinson.



An aerial view of the magnificent stadium at Toulouse where France and Great Britain met for the first time.



The Stade Municipal at Bordeaux, venue of the Great Britain—New Zealand encounter.

GREAT BRITAIN v. NEW ZEALAND

Great Britain 26 pts., New Zealand 6 pts.

At Bordeaux, Thursday, 11th November, 1954.

The game commenced with unbeaten Britain as strong favourites, New Zealand having previously lost to France and Australia. However, for the first twenty minutes of the game the favourites played second fiddle. For in the first six minutes of the game New Zealand had constant possession, possibly due to the British players' failure to strike for the ball at the play the ball. Two penalty kicks to New Zealand by McKay, whose place kicking was excellent through the series, against a Kitchen try put New Zealand in front and they clung desperately to their lead. Later in the first half Britain obtained more possession and it was not long before their superior back play yielded tries by Gordon Brown and Dave Rose. At half time Great Britain led by 11 pts. to 6 pts. and the issue was never in doubt. The New Zealand forwards ably led by McLennan played magnificently, but their backs, although getting plenty of the ball, stood far too deep and often received passes standing still. They had no counter to the craft of Gerry Helme, the thrust and backing up of Gordon Brown and the elusiveness of Phil. Jackson.



McLennan, one of the outstanding New Zealand forwards, about to hand off David Rose.



Austin in possession makes progress in the Great Britain half, while David Rose closes in for the tackle.

In the second half the only uncertainty was how many tries Great Britain would get. After two minutes of this half Jackson, with a bewildering run side stepped his way through the New Zealand defence for an unconverted try. A few minutes later Jim Ledgard kicked a penalty goal, and 8 minutes before time the lion-hearted Frank Kitchen crowned a wonderful game with a brilliant try.

During the last few minutes Kitchen damaged a muscle which had been suspect in the first game against Australia, and he retired from the field.

Towards the end, Ledgard, who was playing an attacking game, linked up with the threequarters and sold a perfect dummy to two would-be tacklers and scored a try, which he also converted.

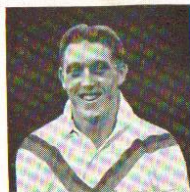
Technically the British team was far superior to the Kiwis, but the New Zealand forwards deserved special praise for holding their own against a strong British pack.

THE TEAMS.

Great Britain—Ledgard; Rose, Jackson, Sullivan, Kitchen; Brown, Helme; Thorley, Smith, Coverdale, Watts, Robinson, Valentine.

New Zealand Gray; Edwards, McKay, Eastlake, Austin; Sorenson, Eriksen; McLennan, Blanchard, Bond, Butterfield, McDonald, Atkinson.

GREAT BRITAIN



D. M. ROSE
(Leeds)



P. JACKSON
(Barrow)



M. SULLIVAN
(Huddersfield)



G. J. HELME
(Warrington)



D. D. VALENTINE
(CAPTAIN)
(Huddersfield)



G. F. BROWN
(Leeds)



R. COVERDALE
(Hull)



D. ROBINSON
(Wakefield Trinity)



S. SMITH
(Hunslet)

WORLD CUP SERIES 1954



R. RYLANCE
(Huddersfield)



A. NAUGHTON
(Warrington)



F. KITCHEN
(Leigh)



W. M. BANKS
(Huddersfield)



J. A. LEDGARD
(VICE-CAPTAIN)
(Leigh)



J. W. WHITELEY
(Hull)



H. BRADSHAW
(Huddersfield)



B. J. WATTS
(York)



G. M. J. THORLEY
(Halifax)

THE REFEREES



The referees for the World Cup Competition were Mr. C. F. Appleton, of Warrington, and Mr. R. Guidicelli, of Perpignan.

The photograph shown here was taken when both referees were spending a few days together at the home of Mr. Guidicelli in Paris during the interval between World Cup matches. Mr. Guidicelli is on the left and Mr. Appleton on the right.

Mr. Appleton refereed the following matches in the World Cup Competition :—

France v. New Zealand at Paris	30th October, 1954.
Great Britain v. France at Toulouse	7th November, 1954.
France v. Australia at Nantes	11th November, 1954.
Great Britain v. France at Paris	13th November, 1954.

In England Mr. Appleton has refereed 17 International matches and the 1952 Cup Final at Wembley between Workington Town and Featherstone Rovers.

In the World Cup Competition Mr. Guidicelli refereed the following matches :—

Great Britain v. Australia at Lyons	31st October, 1954.
Australia v. New Zealand at Marseilles	7th November, 1954.
Great Britain v. New Zealand at Bordeaux	11th November, 1954.

He has also refereed Test Matches between France and Australia and France and New Zealand and in England he officiated at the International Match between England and France on 25th October, 1947, at Leeds.

FRANCE v. AUSTRALIA

By HARRY SUNDERLAND.

France 15 pts., Australia 5 pts.

At Nantes, Thursday, 11th November, 1954.

Australia, after suffering their shock defeat at Lyons by Great Britain and recovering in the sunshine of Marseilles (a great, big scoring win over New Zealand there) went to Nantes to meet France on the fourth day of the Cup.

Here in Nantes, staying under the same roof as the French team so ably organised and coached by Jean Duhau, they took the great risk of altering a winning set of backs. Gregory Hawick had played brilliantly as scrum half at Marseilles when Keith Holman was out through a pulled muscle, and, in their desire to bring Holman back against France, they put Hawick in the threequarter line and would not risk Wells, who had a "risky" knee.

It was in the chain of three men from out half and centre where the alert Frenchmen made the Australians make two fatal errors in the first half.

On top of that, Puig Aubert had one of his best games of the whole Cup Series and actually engineered the third French try that sealed Australia's fate just at a stage when Australia's forwards had done so well that they looked like making a drawn game of it.

Puig Aubert opened France's scoring in the seventh minute with a magnificent goal from the touch line and six minutes later we saw a wonderful run by Churchill who served Pidding a pass on the left wing at half way.

Pidding brilliantly dummied as if to pass the ball inside to Holman, then bluffed as if he intended to short put, and finally darted ahead to touch down in the corner, referee Appleton pointing for a try. But the touch judge had put his flag up about twenty yards out. Nobody had noticed him in the excitement of watching the artistry of Pidding's work.

Five minutes later (the eighteenth minute) Australia's backs made a fatal error. A shock tackle saw Hawick lose the ball and both French centres, Tesseire and Merquey, were so quick to take advantage of it that Churchill had to face the two of them. Tesseire drew the Australian full-back and timed his transfer so well that Merquey was left with a clear run to the posts. Puig Aubert's converting goal gave France a 7—0 lead that was added to with an unconverted try by Contrastin after Merquey started the fireworks by pushing off Australian centre Watson at half way and sent Crespo and Jiminez off on attack.

A penalty from Pidding, and a wonderful break through by Davies to send O'Shea tearing through a French tackle for an unconverted try made it 10—5 at half time.

The Australian forwards were dominant in the second half (Bull, Crocker and Davies were superb) without being able to score. Kearney gave an equal possession to the French hooker Audoubert, but the backs could not penetrate. Then, five minutes from the finish, Puig Aubert flashed in between the scrum and his right winger to take a pass and kick across field to the "open spot." Cantoni came sprinting across to midfield from the left wing and the ball bounced favourably for him to take it in his stride amongst a clump of Australians who had no chance of checking him as he raced to the touch down. It was an easy conversion for the brilliant full back who had created the opening. France had been the better strategists. They won 15—5.

THE TEAMS.

France—Puig Aubert; Contrastin, Merquey, Tesseire, Cantoni; Jiminez, Crespo; Rinaldi, Audoubert, Krawzyk, Save, Pambrun, Verdier.

Australia—Churchill; Flannery, Hawick, Watson, Pidding; Banks, Holman; Davies, Kearney, Bull, O'Shea, Crocker, Diversi.

GREAT BRITAIN v. FRANCE

FINAL MATCH

By **EDDIE WARING.**

Great Britain 16th pts., France 12 pts.

At Paris, Saturday, 13th November, 1954.

"This was their finest hour." This phrase might well be used in describing Great Britain's performance in the final game at the Parc du Princes against France on Saturday, 13th November, 1954.

Very few games captured the imagination of the British public as this game did. Millions were able to see the match on Television and it was an excited viewing public who saw a victory of great merit.

The wretched weather in England had changed to beautiful sunny weather in Paris and the attendance given as 33,000 was not short of capacity. In fact I have never seen the Parc du Princes as well filled or looking so spectacular with its pre-match presentation.

Britain had the first chance to score but Ledgard who had not a good day with goal kicking missed the first of many.

The 11th minute brought the first score to France when Puig Aubert kicked a penalty goal, a superb effort from forty yards out. The way Puig Aubert placed the



Jim Ledgard, whose accurate kicking often placed Great Britain in attacking positions, is closely watched by Audoubert and Delaye.

ball and then turned his back on it before making his run up must have made thousands of English fans watching on T.V. gasp.

After Helme had nearly scored the first try came to David Rose on the right wing. He beat Cantoni in little room and crossed at the corner too far out for Ledgard to add the goal points.

The British inside back quartette were impressive and after a Helme, Jackson and Brown movement the Leeds player scored for Ledgard to add the goal and Britain were on top.

France fought back but before half time their only points were goals when Puig Aubert kicked his second goal after Helme had been penalised at the scrum. The half time score of Great Britain 8 points and France 4 points was not truly indicative of Britain's superiority.

The second half started as the first with Ledgard missing a penalty goal and then a French score. But this score was a try and a goal and put France in front. Merquey made the running for the position and Cantoni brushed off two attempted tackles for a try near the posts to which Puig Aubert added the goal.

Excitement was intense but at this stage the British forwards did mighty work. Smith started to get more of the ball, Coverdale and Thorley were solid tacklers and Robinson and Watts were running hard and often. Above all there was the sterling leadership of the captain, David Valentine.

France had a short lived lead for that ubiquitous Helme side stepped his way under the posts and Ledgard landed the goal to give Britain a 13 pts. to 9 lead.

Ledgard set the pace for Brown's second try well scored in the corner and victory appeared assured. Robinson had a try disallowed which I thought was in order and some forward passes were missed. Contrastin brought new hopes to the whistling French fans with a try but Britain went back immediately to the attack. Watts was near to scoring and Valentine was indicating that attack was the best form of defence. As the final whistle went Britain were on top in every sense of the word. A delighted team carried Valentine and Helme off shoulder high, a memory which will remain with all who saw it for a long time. Victory under the circumstances which had surrounded this World Cup was a fine achievement to all concerned with it. Great Britain were World Rugby League Champions—worthy holders of the World Cup for the first time of asking . . . Bravo Britain . . .

THE TEAMS.

Great Britain—Ledgard; Rose, Jackson, Naughton, Sullivan; Brown, Helme; Thorley, Smith, Coverdale, Watts, Robinson, Valentine.

France—Puig Aubert; Contrastin, Merquey, Tesseire, Cantoni; Jiminez, Crespo; Rinaldi, Audoubert, Krawzyk, Save, Pambrun, Verdier.

DETAILS OF THE PLAYERS

GREAT BRITAIN.

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weight St. Lbs.</i>	<i>Height Ft. ins.</i>
Banks, W. M.	Half Back	29	10 13	5 5
Bradshaw, H.	Hooker	30	12 10	5 10½
Brown, G. F.	Half Back	24	12 12	5 8½
Coverdale, R.	Front Row Forward	26	13 10	5 10
Helme, G.	Half Back	31	10 12	5 5½
Jackson, P.	Three Quarter	22	13 10	5 11½
Kitchen F.	Three Quarter	22	11 9	5 9
Ledgard, J. A.	Full Back	31	11 6	5 8½
Naughton, A.	Three Quarter	25	12 6	6 0
Robinson, D.	Second Row Forward	22	15 0	5 11½
Rose, D. M.	Three Quarter	23	13 3	5 11½
Rylance, R.	Half Back	30	11 12	5 9½
Smith, S.	Hooker	26	13 10	6 0
Sullivan, M.	Three Quarter	20	11 4	5 10½
Thorley, G. M. J.	Front Row Forward	26	14 12	6 1
Valentine, D. D.	Loose Forward	28	13 7	6 1
Watts, B. J.	Second Row Forward	27	14 2	6 0½
Whiteley, J. W.	Loose Forward	23	13 9	6 1½
Averages		26	12 12	5 10

FRANCE.

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weight St. Lbs.</i>	<i>Height Ft. ins.</i>
Aubert, P.	Full Back	29	12 12	5 7
Audoubert, J.	Hooker	30	13 5	5 10
Benausse, G.	Half Back	22	12 4	5 9½
Cantoni, V.	Three Quarter	27	12 4	5 9
Carrere, A.	Front Row Forward	30	12 12	5 10½
Contrastin, R.	Three Quarter	29	12 6	5 9
Crespo, J.	Half Back	29	11 4	5 8½
Delaye, J.	Second Row Forward	25	14 8	6 2
Guilhem, R.	Loose Forward	28	11 10	5 10
Jimenez, A.	Three Quarter	25	11 8	5 8½
Krawzyk, J.	Front Row Forward	28	13 10	5 11
Merquy, J.	Three Quarter	25	11 0	5 7
Pambrun, J.	Second Row Forward	24	13 0	6 0
Rinaldi, F.	Front Row Forward	30	13 7	5 11
Save, A.	Second Row Forward	23	13 3	5 11
Tesseire, C.	Three Quarter	22	9 7	5 7½
Verdier, G.	Loose Forward	26	13 6	6 0
Voron, M.	Half Back	26	10 0	5 8½
Averages		26	12 5	5 9

DETAILS OF THE PLAYERS

AUSTRALIA.

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weight St. Lbs.</i>	<i>Height Ft. ins.</i>
Banks, R.	Half Back	23	12 10	5 8
Bull, R.	Front Row Forward	25	14 7	6 2
Churchill, C.	Full Back	27	11 10	5 7
Crocker, H.	Loose Forward	25	15 0	5 10½
Davies, B.	Front Row Forward	23	14 12	6 0
Diversi, P.	Loose Forward	22	14 4	5 11
Flannery, D.	Three Quarter	25	13 10	6 0
Hall, D.	Front Row Forward	28	14 12	5 11
Hawick, G.	Three Quarter	22	13 5	5 9½
Holman, K.	Half Back	27	11 9	5 6
Kearney, K.	Hooker	28	13 9	5 7
McCaffery, K.	Three Quarter	24	13 0	5 9
Moir, I.	Three Quarter	23	11 4	5 6
O'Shea, K.	Second Row Forward	21	15 1	6 2
Pidding, N.	Three Quarter	27	12 0	5 6
Provan, N.	Second Row Forward	22	15 1	6 3
Watson, A.	Three Quarter	22	13 4	5 11
Wells, H.	Three Quarter	22	14 2	5 10½
Averages		24	13 5	5 9

NEW ZEALAND.

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weight St. Lbs.</i>	<i>Height Ft. ins.</i>
Anderson, D.	Full Back	27	12 0	5 10
Atkinson, A.	Loose Forward	28	12 10	5 10
Austin, J.	Three Quarter	24	12 2	5 9
Blanchard, L.	Hooker	30	14 3	5 10
Bond, J.	Second Row Forward	22	14 7	6 1
Butterfield, J.	Second Row Forward	22	14 0	5 11
Denton, N.	Three Quarter	20	12 0	5 9
Eastlake, C.	Three Quarter	24	11 9	5 9
Edwards, J.	Three Quarter	27	12 0	5 10
Eriksen, L.	Half Back	27	10 0	5 4
Gray, I.	Loose Forward	23	12 7	5 10
Johnson, C.	Front Row Forward	25	15 0	6 0
McDonald, G.	Second Row Forward	20	14 7	6 1
McKay, R.	Three Quarter	22	12 9	5 8
McLennan, W.	Front Row Forward	26	15 10	6 1
Menzies, G.	Half Back	23	11 4	5 8
Sorenson, W.	Three Quarter	22	13 4	5 11
Yates J.	Second Row Forward	24	14 11	6 0
Averages		24	13 0	5 11

THE KANGAROOS

The Australian team arrived by air in London on Saturday, October 23rd and travelled to Paris on Monday, October 25th. The joint Managers of the Team were Mr. J. McMahon, of Queensland, and Mr. S. O'Neill of New South Wales. Coaching was in the capable hands of Vic. Hey, who needs no introduction to British supporters of the game. Clive Churchill, who has been automatic choice at full back for Australia in post war football again captained the team, and Duncan Hall was his vice captain—a combination which worked well when the Australian team was in Europe in 1952/53 season.

The team was a blend of experience and youth. Of the 18 players the following toured England and France in 1952/53 :—

C. Churchill
D. Hall
R. Bull
H. Crocker
K. Kearney
N. Pidding

B. Davies
D. Flannery
G. Hawick
K. Holman
K. McCaffrey
H. Wells



Back Row K. KEARNEY, A. WATSON, H. WELLS, B. DAVIES, G. HAWICK.

Second Back Row H. CROCKER, P. DIVERSI, N. PROVAN, K. O'SHEA, D. FLANNERY,
R. BULL

Third Row J. McMAHON (Mgr.), K. McCAFFREY, C. CHURCHILL (Capt.), V. HEY (Coach),
D. HALL (V. Capt.), R. BANKS, S. O'NEILL (Mgr.).

Front Row I. MOIR, K. HOLMAN, N. PIDDING.

THE KIWIS

The New Zealand team joined up with the Australians at Sydney and travelled to London and Paris on the same planes. Mr. T. McKenzie, of Greymouth, who managed the 1951/2 Kiwis, was the business manager and the team coaching was in the hands of Mr. J. Amos. Cyril Eastlake captained the team and Alistair Atkinson was vice-captain. Both these players were outstanding in the 1951/2 tour.

The Kiwis were a young side in the World Cup Series and the experience which their players gained will be invaluable to them when they tour England and France in 1955/6 season.

Of the 18 players the following were members of the 1951/52 touring team :—

C. Eastlake
A. Atkinson
L. Blanchard
J. Edwards

C. Johnson
W. McLennan
G. Menzies
W. Sorenson



Back Row C. JOHNSON, G. McDONALD, J. YATES, W. McLENNAN,
J. BOND, J. BUTTERFIELD.

Middle Row R. MCKAY, G. MENZIES, I. GREY, L. BLANCHARD, J. EDWARDS,
N. DENTON, D. ANDERSON.

Front Row T. F. MCKENZIE, L. ERIKSEN, W. SORENSON, C. EASTLAKE,
A. ATKINSON, J. AUSTIN, J. E. AMOS.

THE CHANTICLEERS

The Federation Francais de Jeu a Treize took this Competition very seriously indeed and their players were assembled together many days before each match and were thoroughly coached by Jean Duhau and Rene Duffort, both of whom are old international players. Their team was well planned with powerful mobile forwards and speedy elusive backs. The captain was the famous Puig Aubert, who is probably one of the finest kickers of a ball ever to play Rugby Football. He is a good place kicker, but it is his amazing accuracy in drop kicking and touch finding that will place him among the game's immortals.

It is perhaps unfair to single out players for individual mention but if ever there were players who deserved first World Cup winners' medals they were the tireless Rinaldi and Audoubert in the forwards and Contrastin and Merquey in the three-quarters.

Of the French players the following toured Australia and New Zealand in 1951 :

Puig Aubert	J. Crespo
J. Merquey	J. Audoubert
V. Cantoni	F. Rinaldi
R. Contrastin	G. Delaye



Back Row R. DUFFORT (Trainer), J. KRAWZYK, J. AUDOUBERT, F. RINALDI, A. SAYE, J. PAMBRUN, G. VERDIER.
Front Row R. CONTRASTIN, J. MERQUEY, J. CRESPO, PUIG AUBERT, A. JIMINEZ, C. TESSEIRE, V. CANTONI, J. DUHAU (Trainer).
Not included on photograph G. DELAYE, R. GUILHEM, A. CARRERE, M. VORON, G. BENAUSSE.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD

By W. FALLOWFIELD, M.A.

Hon. Secretary, The Rugby Football League International Board.

There were two meetings of the International Board during the World Cup Series, both in Paris.

The first meeting took place on October 28th, and in accordance with usual practice, the President of the host organisation, Mr. Paul Barrière of the Federation Française de Jeu à Treize, presided. Other delegates who attended were:—

Australia—E. S. Brown, S. O'Neill, J. McMahon.
France—C. Devernois, A. Blain.
Great Britain—J. Hilton, G. Oldroyd, H. E. Rawson.
New Zealand—T. McKenzie, J. Amos.

A novel feature of the first meeting was the presence of Mr. Dragan Marsicevic, of Yugoslavia, who reported on the development of the game in his country following "missionary" matches played there by two French University teams last year.

Much of the time was taken up in ironing out details of the World Cup Competition with particular reference to the steps that could be taken to attain the highest possible standard of play. These discussions bore fruit because in the subsequent matches there were no major incidents which reflected adversely on the game.

The contentious "play-the-ball rule" was, of course, discussed and France, England and New Zealand expressed dissatisfaction with the present law although opinions on suitable alternatives were very mixed. It was, however, agreed that experiments be tried by all countries during the next twelve months after which it might be possible to find a solution satisfactory to all.

The second meeting of the Board took place on November 12th, 1954, when the assembled delegates were aware that the first World Cup Competition was an assured success. Like the first meeting, a spirit of complete co-operation and mutual understanding prevailed and various recommendations were unanimously approved. The major items are set out briefly below.

Steps have been taken to deal adequately with players whose behaviour in International matches is not in accordance with the best traditions of the game. It was agreed that a special International fund be created to defray the costs of the International Board. A system of controlling transfers of players between countries was agreed. It was decided to recommend that a smaller ball be universally adopted. Experience had proved that the smaller ball was easier to handle and lent itself to a more spectacular style of play. It was recommended that in future the "host" country should appoint the referees in Test Matches instead of allowing the visiting managers to choose from a selected panel, and finally it was agreed that the board next meet in New Zealand during the 1955 French tour of Australasia.

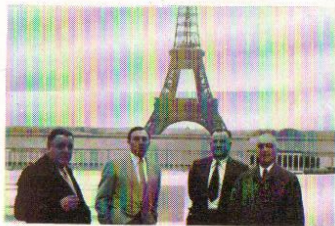
SNAPSHOTS



The French team training at the Terrain des Minimes, Toulouse.



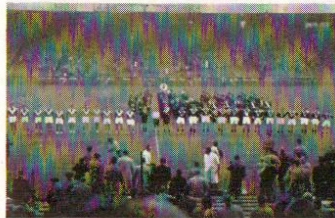
Rene Duffort and Jean Duhau supervising the coaching of the French Team at Toulouse.



British and Australian officials sight seeing in Paris.



The British and Australian teams line up before the match at Lyons.



France and New Zealand stand to attention for the National Anthems in Paris.



British journalists and the English Secretary enjoy a cup of tea on the Boulevard in Toulouse.

THE WORLD CUP SERIES IN RETROSPECT



The first ever World Cup Competition was a great success, and it provided a grand tonic to Rugby League football in general and to the game in England and France in particular. From the interest point of view the results of the matches could not have been better and the final game played in Paris was a fitting climax to the Competition. Great Britain were undoubtedly worthy winners and the experience of Valentine, Helme and Ledgard allied with the youth, skill and enthusiasm of the other players provided an invincible combination.

The French team played outstandingly well and with the talent they have available they can look forward with every confidence to a very successful tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1955. The strength of the French lies in their ability to exploit opportunities which arise in loose play. When they develop an attacking move they seem to have 20 players on the field and the ball travels with lightning rapidity from hand to hand.

In fairness to Australia and New Zealand it must be said that their teams were handicapped by lack of match practice. The competition was held two months after their playing season finished "down under" and in the first matches played by these two teams their handicap appeared most evident.

It is hoped this World Cup Competition will be the forerunner of many more to come. No plans have yet been finalised regarding the next competition but the best plan would appear to be to arrange it alternately in Europe and Australasia every four years.

It was originally intended that this Brochure be published to provide a permanent souvenir of the first World Cup Competition ever to be played, but it now serves a dual purpose in that it will be a constant reminder of the magnificent performances given by the British players during the Series.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to see the games will long remember the courage, skill and sportsmanship which those players who were chosen to represent our Country at all times displayed.

W. FALLOWFIELD, M.A.,

Secretary, The Rugby Football League.