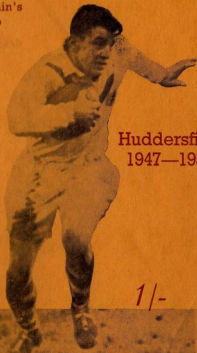


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# "VAL"

The Football Career of Dave Valentine  
in words and photographs, with detailed  
records of his achievements in the  
Rugby League game for Huddersfield,  
Other Nationalities and Great Britain.



Compiled by A. N. Gaulton  
in association with members  
of the Huddersfield C. & A.C.  
Supporters' Club Committee

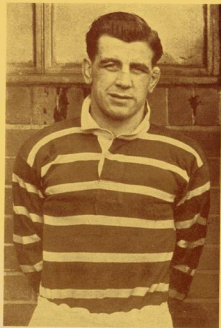


Foreword by  
**HUBERT LOCKWOOD**  
(Huddersfield C. & A.C.)



Published by the  
**Huddersfield C. & A.C. Supporters' Club**

The Huddersfield C. and A.C. Supporters' Club  
Committee express their grateful appreciation  
to the "Yorkshire Evening News" who made  
all the blocks used in this Brochure and  
presented them as a contribution to Dave  
Valentine's Testimonial Fund.



DAVE

# DAVE VALENTINE

DAVE VALENTINE could hardly help being a rugby player and an all-round sportsman. He comes, you see, from a town which is a hot-bed of the R.U. game, and from a family which is renowned for its sporting prowess.

Dave claims that his home town of Hawick has more rugby players per head of the population than any other place in Great Britain, Wales included. As to his family—he is, as becomes the true sportsman, more modest in his claims there, but the Valentines have a record that can speak for itself.

Mr. Alec Valentine (Dave's father) has had a remarkable sporting career during which he won sixty-two medals and seven cups. A regular soldier, he held regimental and divisional championships. He ran all distances from the 100 yards up to seven-and-a-half miles, and also made his mark at hurdles and the long-jump. In addition he also found time to play both Association and R.U. football. On one particular day he took part in seven track and field events at a military meeting during the afternoon, and then turned out at night in a contest for Edinburgh Northern Harriers.

Small wonder that all his children have had athletic inclinations! Dave is the eldest. Younger brother Alec, who is in the Fleet Air Arm, has played R.U. for Cumberland and has made three international appearances for Scotland in addition to playing in many of the big Services matches. His sporting interests are wide-spread and he has medals for the high jump, shot putt, discus and hammer throwing.

Youngest brother Bob, a 14-years-old, plays Rugby for Hawick High School, while sister Rena was a real speed merchant on the track when she ran for Teviotdale Harriers.

Then there is Dave, with whom we at Fartown are more intimately concerned. Dave Valentine, who has worn his club's and his country's jerseys with such high distinction and has yet, for all his outstanding successes, retained his own sound level-headedness to a remarkable degree. He has known his moments of high triumph, and he has felt the keen touch of disappointment, but he has always been the same "Val."

Dave began playing rugby in the Hawick High School Second XV when he was twelve years old. He was a hooker then, and was still playing in that position when he graduated to

the First XV a year later. On leaving school he was apprenticed as a joiner and although he really ought to have played for the local United Trades' team he turned out with the Pringles Mill side which played in the semi-junior League. Other members of the Pringles team included Bob Robson, who later came to Fartown of course, and Jimmy Chalmers who subsequently signed for Oldham.

The war was on and there was no senior football apart from an occasional charity match. Dave had now moved to wing forward and was captain of the Pringles team. And for all his later honours he still looks back upon that period as one of the most enjoyable of his football career. One of his biggest thrills was when at the age of seventeen, he was chosen to play for Hawick in a charity seven-a-side tournament at Edinburgh.

He had also been doing plenty of running since leaving school and he won the A.T.C. sprint championship for the South of Scotland.

Just before his eighteenth birthday in 1944, Dave joined the Fleet Air Arm, and after some primary training at Paignton, Portsmouth and Swindon (where he flew Tiger Moths) he was sent to Canada to finish his flying training. He was too busy to play much rugby after joining up, but when in Canada was able to play quite a lot as training had to be held up owing to bad weather.

He flew Cornells at St. John's, Quebec, and then went on to the Service Flying Training School at Kingston, Ontario, on Harvards. Then came V.E. and finally V.J. Day, and in October, 1945, Dave was returned home as all flying training was suspended.

He landed at Southampton on the "Ille de France" and was sent on leave. It was typical of Val's enthusiasm for Rugby that although he made the long journey north all through the Friday night he went straight to see the secretary of Pringles, even before going home, to ask if he could have a game. He was told that he certainly could, but not for Pringles as he had been selected for the famous "Greens," the Hawick senior side which had started a full fixture list again.

He played in four matches while on leave and then returned to Portsmouth where he applied for and obtained a transfer to the Army from the Fleet Air Arm. He was selected to play R.U. for the South of Scotland on the strength of his four senior matches and was then chosen for the final Scottish trial. Unfortunately he didn't get into the International side.

After being sent to Ireland he was posted to the King's Own Scottish Borders at Edinburgh where he became a Physical Training Instructor.

Dave then had a unique experience. He was selected as prop forward for a Scottish side to play the British Army, and also selected as wing forward by the British Army for the same match! As the game was not a full International the Army had first claim, and Val played for them, scoring the try which enabled them to draw, 3 points each.

The greatest moment of his career to date followed. Selection for the Scotland International team against Ireland. He was only twenty when he gained what, at that time, seemed to be the summit of his ambition. It is interesting to recall that an Irish opponent in Dave's first international was none other than Jack Daly, who was later to become a colleague at Fartown.

That 1946-47 season was a great one for Val. He played again for Scotland, against England at Twickenham, for the Army against the Navy, the R.A.F. and the French Forces (the latter game in Paris). He also represented Combined Services against Australia and went on the Barbarians' tour of Wales, which is reputed to be one of the greatest honours in the R.U. game. At one stage of the international against England at Twickenham he was moved out on to the wing to mark Cyril Holmes, a speedster of no small repute. Scotland lost, but Valentine was outstanding in keeping Holmes in check with some brilliant tackling.

Now, not unnaturally, quite a few Rugby League clubs were becoming interested in this whole-hearted young forward. And it was Huddersfield who, thanks to the persistence of Mr. Bill Cunningham (a fellow-Scot, and at that time chairman of the Fartown Football Committee) persuaded Dave to sign professional forms. Dave knew nothing of Rugby League football and had never even seen a match, but after watching an England v. France R.L. International at Fartown he had his first taste of the new game as a player.

His baptism was at Crown Flatt, Dewsbury, and he played in the second row, Alec Givvons being at loose forward. The Fartown team that day was: Swallow; Oughton, R. Pepperell, Bawden, Cooper; Devery, Morgan; Taylor, Whitehead, Nicholson, Thomas, Valentine and Givvons.

Dave made a good beginning that promised well for the future. He soon took over the loose-forward role which has been his own ever since, and became an integral part of what developed

into a great team. Many of the older Fartown supporters were freely comparing that team with Harold Wagstaff's 1914 "Team of All-Talents," which was no small praise indeed!

Representative honours, the first of very many, began to come his way the following season. The Australian Tourists were over here and Dave gained selection for all three Test matches. There was plenty of criticism at his inclusion in the First Test at Headingley, but he put on his usual sterling display. He had to take over on the right wing for a spell while Johnny Lawrenson was off injured, and was able to signalise his Test debut by scoring a try.

The criticism was less vehement when he was selected for the Second Test at Swinton. Those who did grumble were completely silenced after that game, and he went into the Third Test team at Odsal as an automatic choice.

Huddersfield won the League Championship that season, beating Warrington in a Maine Road Final "thriller," and they also won the Yorkshire League Championship. The team had welded into a brilliant combination although they did occasionally provide their followers with some shocks, as when they unaccountably failed against Halifax (then well down the League table) in the R.L. Cup Semi-final at Odsal.

After a lapse of sixteen years, an Other Nationalities side was included in the International Championship in 1949. Dave, as a Scot, was eligible and he could not be overlooked. It is a tribute to his form and his fitness that until the early part of the present season, when he had to cry off owing to the shoulder injury which was troubling him, he played in every one of the post-war Other Nationalities matches—a total of sixteen consecutive Internationals.

The 1949-50 season was also memorable for the selection of the Great Britain Team to tour Australasia during the summer of 1950. After his Test baptism against the "Kangaroos" over here, Val was regarded by most Rugby League supporters as a certainty for the Tour. One R.L. paper ran a Tour Selection Competition, and 220 out of 252 entries named Valentine as loose-forward.

Unfortunately the people who mattered, the Tour Selection Committee, didn't! There are surprises in all Tour Team selections, but this was indeed a shock. And not only was Valentine overlooked. Huddersfield, the reigning R.L. Champions at that time, had not one player in the party! Val's comment on

that episode in his career typifies him. "It's like going all out for the line and having your feet swept away from under you," he said. "It's all in the game."

Maybe so, but Fartown supporters didn't take quite so philosophic a view of the matter, and quite a lot of hard things were said about that team selection!

In Australia, too, there was surprise—and not a little pleasure for at least one "Aussie." The Australian scrum-half of the 1948-49 Test series, Keith Froomie, went on record as saying, "I felt like going down on my knees and offering up thanks when I heard that Britain had omitted David Valentine from the Touring Team." Froomie, who had had practical experience of Dave's ability, stated that he regarded the Scot as being the greatest loose-forward he had seen or played against.

Ironically enough, Dave would not have been able to go to Australia in any case, for before the end of the season he was on the injured list. He broke a bone in the bottom of his back during the course of a game at Barrow (Jim Bowden was also a casualty the same afternoon) and that finished footballing activities for the season.

Disappointments are part and parcel of football, as of life in general, but there were compensations to follow. Many Fartowners, after the Halifax Cup Semi-final let-down at Odsal, had given up hopes of seeing their favourites at Wembley again. There had been Yorkshire Cup Finals in 1949, 1950 and 1952 (two of which were won) but Wembley is the magnet for all R.L. supporters when the R.L. Challenge Cup Competition comes round. And in 1953 Huddersfield did it at last.

The story of Fartown's Wembley success against the powerful St. Helens side is now past history. Many incidents crowd back in the memory. Ted Slevin's great game in the third round against Bradford Northern; Russ Pepperell's display in the semi-final at Odsal, and Peter Ramsden's match-winning tries at Wembley being among them.

Val played a notable part in that winning run, and not the least of his contributions was the scoring of the only try in the semi-final against Wigan at Odsal. It was a day of torrential rain, and the attendance of more than 58,000 spectators was a tribute to the drawing power of the two teams on view. The all-important try came when, in a Huddersfield attack, Henderson kicked ahead to the Wigan line. The Wigan defence was taken by surprise and Valentine beat Brian Nordgren to the touch-down.

Wembley at last, and further triumph at the famous stadium. Again Dave had a hand in the vital try, scored by Peter Ramsden in the closing minutes, for it was from some perfect passing and interpassing between Val and Jim Bowden that Ramsden was able to cross the line and set the seal on a great occasion.

Was this then, the zenith of Dave's career? By no means! A greater and more wonderful chapter was still to begin as the year 1954 dawned. A whole book could be written about Dave's achievements during that year and it is certainly impossible to do full justice to them in a few lines.

He was, of course, chosen for the Australasian Tour this time—the selectors didn't repeat their previous mistake—and he showed his appreciation by being one of the outstanding players of the tour. He played in all three Tests in Australia and in two of the three Tests in New Zealand.

His full tour record was: In Australia 14 matches, 5 tries. In New Zealand 6 matches, 2 tries. Although he played mainly at loose forward he also turned out in the second row, on the right wing, and at centre, proving himself to be the ideal type of player to have with a touring side. Dave admitted to liking the hard grounds they encountered "down-under" and thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

He made a great impression on the Australian critics, many of whom rated him as one of the greatest lock-forwards ever to visit Australia. The following comment, which appeared in one of the Sydney papers after Great Britain had lost the Third Test, is typical:

"This is primarily a tribute to David Valentine, unquestionably the outstanding player of the 1954 R.L. Test series. It is probably not exaggerating to say he was the best player on the ground in all three Test games. Yesterday he ran himself almost into exhaustion in a big-hearted effort to bring victory to his team.

"We have seen a lot of great English locks, but it is our humble opinion that Valentine leaves them all far dead, as they don't say in the classics. Any Australian supporter watching yesterday's match must have shuddered each time this extraordinary athlete swooped into the attack. He is a champion player — and a champion sportsman."

Yes, they liked Dave in Australia!

Back home, and the World Cup Competition in France was looming ahead. Some of the Tourists who were likely candidates for the World Cup team cried off before the party was chosen.

Other players were not keen on going because they did not think the financial recompense to be sufficient. When, finally, the eighteen players who comprised the World Cup party were chosen (with Dave Valentine as captain), the obsequies were written by many press critics before the team left for France. One critic in a national paper described them as "hapless and hopeless," and another regarded their trip as a waste of time and money.

Never (to twist a famous phrase) was so much criticism rammed down so many throats in such a glorious manner! Dave showed his qualities of leadership and he got a wonderful response from his men. The team of "no-hopers" proved themselves worthy winners of the first Rugby League World Cup Competition by beating each of the other three competing nations—France, Australia and New Zealand.

It was a great moment for Dave Valentine when he was chaired from the field at the end of the final game against France in Paris, to receive the magnificent World Cup Trophy. It was a great moment too for Rugby League football and for the thousands who watched that exciting final game on television.

The World Cup success was a triumph of team work, and Dave is inclined to decry his own part as captain. The great achievement is, however, perhaps best summed up in the following paragraph (by David Nicholls of the "Daily Express") which appears in the Official Souvenir of the World Cup, published by the Rugby Football League to commemorate the occasion.

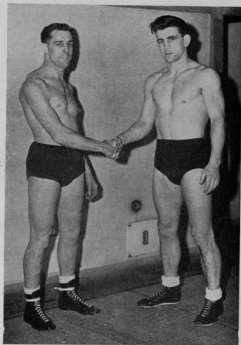
"Valentine gave this untried British side inspired leadership, and the whole magnificent victory was founded on selfless forward play. Every man did his stint, then got the ball away for the backs to use their pace. It was as simple as that."

This story has, so far, laid the emphasis on Dave Valentine the International star, rather than on Dave Valentine the Fartowner and good club man. In conclusion, let it therefore be put on record that he has played well over three hundred matches for the claret and gold and has given loyal and unyielding service during the whole of his nine seasons with the club. Val is an ideal type of Rugby League player. He loves rugby and plays a tough, intelligent, eighty-minutes game.

His enthusiasm is never in question and his determination never lacking. He is a close student of the game and has his own clear-cut ideas about R.L. in general. And although he plays a hard and forceful game and is unsparing of himself in his efforts he is, in the Fartown tradition, a scrupulously fair player.



DAVE WITH SOME OF HIS SPORTING TROPHIES



Dave shakes hands with fellow-wrestler Vince Earnshaw  
(brother of former Fartown forward Terry Earnshaw)

## A WRESTLER AS WELL

Dave added wrestling to his many sporting accomplishments when he was persuaded to "have a go" at the Mat Game. He thinks wrestling is excellent exercise, although a bit strenuous. He wrestled in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and also had a six weeks tour of Austria during the summer of 1953. He finally gave wrestling up at the request of the Fartown Football Committee.

As all who have clashed with him on the Rugby field know, Dave is a pretty tough handful. The Border Country is well-known for its exponents of the Cumberland and Westmorland Style of Wrestling so it is little wonder that he gravitated to the professional wrestling ring.

In this sphere he found himself outweighed, inexperienced and pretty well up against it. However the streak of dogged persistence that runs through him kept him at it until after months of training he was clashing with the best. But for the Australian Tour both he and Jack Wilkinson of Halifax might have been in the top ten British Heavyweight Wrestlers but Rugby naturally had first call on both.

**TED BERESFORD,  
NORMAN MORRELL**

(Members International Joint Wrestling Promotions)

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## David Donald Valentine . . .

Was born on September 12th, 1926.

Signed for Huddersfield on October 11th, 1947.

Made his debut in a claret and gold jersey at Dewsbury on November 1st, 1947.

Married a Hawick girl, Miss Effie Robertson. They now live not far from the Fartown ground and have two children, Ian (nearly five) and Ann (nearly three).

Is keeping up the family reputation for sporting trophies. His collection to date includes 23 medals, 9 caps and 12 cups and shields.

Has kept a fairly steady playing weight of just over 13½ stones during his career at Fartown.



## Personal Tributes to Dave



### PLAYED THE GAME

To write a testimonial letter to Dave should be an easy matter. The trouble is knowing where to begin. Being a personal friend, not only of Davy but of the whole family, makes it no easier.

To say that I have known Dave all my life would be untrue. The first connection I can recall with this famous family is running against his father. My first meeting with Dave was on his coming to Fartown. He was incidentally one of my first pupils when I became Coach. So my delight on his meteoric rise to the Great Britain side can be imagined. His feats and achievements will, if I know the compiler of this brochure, be detailed elsewhere.

The one thing I would like to say about Davy is this. Never in all my experience of football (both Union and League) have I seen a man with more energy and whole-hearted endeavour. To break a bone in his spine and finish the game playing centre illustrates my point.

A true Fartowner—that goes without saying. A man who has helped in more benefits than anyone I know. Time and distance has made no difference, as long as there has been a game of football at the end of it.

In writing this letter I would appeal to the Supporters and Public alike. The team may not be doing so well as it has in past years, but please don't penalise Davy because of this. One thing you can be certain of is that Davy Valentine has PLAYED the GAME and played it hard.

Dave is not one of our big money men, so now is the chance to repay him for all the grand deeds he has done for Fartown and Great Britain.

ALEX FIDDES (Former Fartown Captain)

### RANKS WITH THE BEST

No club in the Rugby League, or set of supporters, have been more generous in their recognition of long service players of merit than the people who have made Fartown such a pleasant sporting rendezvous, and, now that you good folk have decided to honour David Valentine, I take pleasure in acceding to your

request for a few words of tribute to a great player, a great sportsman, and a grand club man.

Over the post war years we have had grand men from the Border district of Scotland in the service of the Claret and Gold, but not one of them has performed with greater distinction than David Valentine.

As a forward he ranks with the best, and one has to take in a range of great men from the Frank Gallagher and Frank Burge period right to the present day in order to assess the value of Valentine to his club.

But David has also served the game in a greater sphere than merely with Huddersfield at Fartown. I can recall an occasion when, along with Lionel Cooper and several other members of the Other Nationalities team, they all joined together at Harry Bath's Warrington hostelry to celebrate the winning of the Jean Galia Memorial Cup in honour of that great Frenchman who brought the first French team to England in 1934. Valentine played a big part in the winning of that Trophy.

Again out in Australia and New Zealand, David showed his true worth as a touring player of such great ability that the Australians are not likely to forget him in a hurry.

But it was in October of 1954 that David rose to his greatest heights when the R.L. Council made him captain of the World Cup team. A great number of star players declined the honour of being available for selection and the early adventures of the team in Paris were held up to derision by a section of the press. But Valentine showed his true worth in co-operating with team manager Gideon Shaw in the development of that greatest aid to success—team spirit. He inspired every member of the Great Britain party by his own example.

First against the Australians at Lyons, then against France at Toulouse, then, at Bordeaux against the Kiwis, David led the way to success. And when it came to the final against France in the Parc des Princes in Paris, David led his side to such a great victory that it proved to be the crowning point of a career that he started with such modesty when he first came to Fartown from Hawick.

David's benefit should be a great one, and he so successful that he will be keen to serve the game long after he becomes too slow to perform with the speed and skill that has marked his play for years.

HARRY SUNDERLAND (Sunday Dispatch and former Kangaroo Tour Manager)

## ADAPTABILITY

David Valentine comes from the Border town of Hawick and he represents well so many of the qualities popularly associated with the Scotsman—dourness, industry and cannyness.

He is a hard grafter. Being, as often as he is, in the thick of things, he has not as many chances of shining in the open as come to others, but if inspiration consists of ninety-nine per cent perspiration, Valentine has contributed as much inspired football to Fartown as most we have seen wearing the Claret and Gold.

When he came to Huddersfield he was spoken of as one likely to gain the honour of becoming Scottish R.U. skipper. He had the reputation of being one of the finest wing forwards Scotland had ever produced—and that is saying a great deal for Scottish forwards are a great force in British R.U. football.

At first he played for Huddersfield in the second row, but very soon settled down as loose forward. It was not long before he became the obvious first choice as loose forward in Rugby League Test games. In this role he has served Great Britain splendidly and I should not be surprised, if at the bottom of his heart he found most satisfaction in his leadership of the side that, rather against expectations, won the World Cup title in France.

Equipped at all points for the Rugby League game he has a splendid physique, and powers of stamina that make him fit for the most gruelling encounter. He is, for his build, fast—so fast that he has played as emergency wing for both Scotland and Huddersfield and in that position has looked speedier than some who occupy the position regularly. But then he is a prompt starter, which is a help in any position.

He is adaptable and I suspect that he learned his Rugby in a game in which the rule for forwards was "first man up first man down." Second-row, hooker, loose-forward, wing three-quarter—there indeed is adaptability for you!

On the attack he has a powerful burst, on the defence he has a killing tackle. Tireless, canny, and whole-hearted he has been one of the great personalities of the game since the war. And on top of all this he is a very modest man. His record of honours, caps and medals gives him a lot to boast about if he ever wanted to boast, but in any conversation in which he has taken part in my presence he talked always of "we" or "the boys," never using the pronoun "I." He is a great footballer and a great team man.

SIDNEY H. CROWTHER ("Autolycus" of the Huddersfield Examiner)



"DOWN-UNDER"

Dave in action for Great Britain v. Newcastle during the 1954 Tour



WEMBLEY, 1953  
Dave being introduced to the Duke of Norfolk

## A PLACE IN R.L. HISTORY

Dave Valentine has, in the course of his R.L. career, been a great stalwart for Huddersfield, but my outstanding memory of this doughty Scot will always be his work in France when Great Britain won the World Cup. Only those of us who went on that short tour, and were close to the players, can ever fully appreciate the magnificent job accomplished by Valentine.

He took over the captaincy of a team from which had been excluded many of the men who had been to Australia, and from which others had withdrawn. It was dubbed a team without a chance, and, indeed, its prospects did appear to be anything but good.

Valentine, as one of the few experienced players, whipped up the enthusiasm of his colleagues; he made the young and untried players proud to be wearing Great Britain's jersey; and he led them into battle in the most heart-warming manner. It is, of course, history now how Great Britain beat Australia, France and New Zealand, but the part that Dave played in such a performance should never be forgotten.

To be captain of the first team to win the World Cup, in itself ensures his place in the game's history.

ARTHUR HADDOCK (Yorkshire Evening News)

## "MACPHERSON"

What a wonderful personality Dave Valentine has, both on and off the field. Playing behind Davy I have had all the confidence in the world. During the last Tour of Australia he built up quite a reputation for himself, through his high standard of football and also his Scots accent.

As for his leadership in the World Cup Series, I don't think I have ever been more proud than I was when I played under Dave's captaincy. One amusing thing about the World Cup Tour was before we ever played a game. Dave would start off with a song called "Macpherson," and eventually it became our theme song.

I wish Dave all the luck in the world and hope his benefit is a bumper one. He deserves it.

GERRY HELME (Warrington and Great Britain)

## MAGNIFICENT LEADERSHIP

International occasions have always brought the best out of Dave Valentine, which is another way of saying that he has more than once been the big man for the big match. It is not as widely known as it should be that he played in 16 consecutive matches for Other Nationalities (a record) until injury interrupted his sequence last October. And without intending disrespect to Huddersfield, I dare suggest that when Dave is 75 two of his clearest memories will be of games in which he was not wearing the claret and gold.

I for one shall never forget his magnificent leadership of Great Britain's team of supposed no-hopers during their 1954 World Cup triumph in France. I was lucky enough to accompany the party, and how the miracle was accomplished is still a matter of puzzlement to me. One thing is certain; a lot of the credit must be given to Dave Valentine.

I particularly remember also the notorious Battle of the Boulevard in November, 1951. Other Nationalities beat France after losing Arthur Clues in the first few minutes. Lionel Cooper scored three out-of-this-world tries to win the match, but Lionel would be the first to award full marks to Dave for his terrific courage in facing the all-in tactics of the French forwards. Such spirits are all too rare.

ALFRED DREWRY (Yorkshire Post)

## GIVES OF HIS BEST

Dave and I have been very keen rivals on the field of play, but the best of friends off it, for a number of years now. I always enjoy playing against Huddersfield, as all other players do, and David has followed in the steps of the stars who have graced the Claret and Gold jersey very well indeed. He is a sportsman of the highest degree and gives of his best whenever he plays (he always seems to do when I oppose him!!)

I am one of the lucky ones, I suppose, having made a friend of Dave off the field, and we were pals on the 1954 Tour. No one could wish for a better fellow, and no "Fartowner" has ever been more deserving of a bumper testimonial than Val!

My outstanding memory of Dave is not of any particular game. It was when he did not get picked to tour Australia in 1950. I thought he was very unlucky that time.

KEN TRAILL (Halifax and Great Britain)

## THE COMPLETE FOOTBALLER

Having played with Dave for Other Nationalities, and against him, I have always regarded him as a truly great forward and a great sportsman. In my opinion David has been one of Huddersfield's best signings and I am pleased that the club has rewarded his services by granting him a testimonial.

His leadership on the field is of the highest whilst off the field he creates team spirit which is necessary for any team to be successful. This was proved when Davy led Great Britain to victory in the World Cup Series. His cover defence, backing up and defence-splitting runs, all add up to the complete footballer.

He was the outstanding footballer of the 1954 Australasian Tour, and having recently been to Sydney I was told by all Rugby League fans what a great forward Dave Valentine was and how well he played. He certainly left a wonderful impression in Australia.

May I conclude by wishing David every success, good luck for the future and a "bumper" Testimonial which he well deserves.

ARTHUR CLUES (Humelet and Australia)

## HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM

In 'Forty-seven the Fartown need  
Was one loose-forward, all agreed.  
Officials then went North to sign  
A Scotsman called Dave Valentine.

This lad, who comes from Hawick way,  
Soon proved that he had come to stay,  
And quickly he achieved renown,  
This man who packs the last man down.

He made a rapid rise to fame  
On coming South to play our game;  
And quickly honours came his way,  
A fitting tribute to his play.

Our Dave was classed among the best  
And soon selected for the Test  
Against the "Aussies," played at Leeds,  
And here he answered England's needs.

He was retained that season through,  
Though only learning, that's quite true.  
But his defence was very good,  
This kept his place, that's understood.

As for the Nineteen-fifty Tour,  
Most people thought his place was sure;  
But soon a disappointment came  
The team was picked without his name.

This seemed to have a marked effect;  
His name was dropped from the select.  
His play then suffered for a while,  
On him "Dame Fortune" did not smile.

And so to Nineteen-fifty-four.  
That year he struck his form once more.  
This time he got his tourist's berth,  
And soon was on his way to Perth.

He led Great Britain's World Cup side,  
And filled all Fartown hearts with pride.  
Though no one thought they had much  
chance  
They triumphed when they played in  
France.

This was beyond his wildest dream.  
He then was held in high esteem.  
Before that glorious year was through  
He was the Fartown captain too.

His efforts still are bearing fruits,  
But, when it's time to 'hang his boots,'  
Supporters still will talk of Dave,  
And of the service that he gave.

BRIAN DONALDSON.

## TREMENDOUS POPULARITY

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity of writing my tribute to my very good friend and former colleague, Dave. During Dave's 8 years at Huddersfield I have had the good fortune to be associated with him on and off the field of play at Fartown and also in various International matches which have taken us through England and Wales and on the Continent as well. This has given me the opportunity to appreciate Dave's many fine qualities, both as a man and a sportsman.

The honours that Dave has gained in our game are well known and need no comment from me. Instead, I would like to go a little deeper and touch on things behind the scenes, so to speak. To give some indication of the tremendous popularity that he has enjoyed amongst his fellow players, be he representing Fartown, Other Nationalities, or Great Britain, amongst whom he was affectionately known as "Macpherson." This nick-name was gained from Dave's introduction of the famous Scottish Border song which, for want of a better name, I will call "Macpherson swore a feud," and, just as this was the battle cry of the same Macpherson going into the Scottish Border Wars, so it became the battle cry of the teams in which Dave played, including the now famous World Cup side which he captained so brilliantly in France.

Like all great sportsmen, Dave has had his disappointments along with his triumphs. Probably the greatest disappointment of all was when he was considered the No. 1 selection for the Australian tour in 1950 and was not chosen. I happened to be with Dave at the time the team was announced and I think no greater tribute can be paid to his spirit and sportsmanship than to say that all he did was to swallow the lump in his throat and say, "Well, maybe I'll get another chance in 4 years time;" words which, of course, later came true.

Touching a little on the humorous side, I think that Dave has probably done something that no British Rugby League player can claim to have done—that is to tackle an American Rugby League player. The strange part of this story is, of course, that the American and Dave were at the time team mates. You may remember that the French authorities sent for British players to supplement an American team touring France at the time, and during the match one of the American players, not being very conversant with the rules, was running up to the French full-back, obviously off-side. Dave was pouncing along behind him shouting "Give him 5 yards, give him 5 yards," and the American was obviously taking no notice. Not wishing to incur a penalty at the rather critical stage of the game at that time, and having no other alternative, Dave promptly tackled him from behind. The

American rose to his feet with a scowl on his face and said, "Say, bud, whose side are you on?" The incident, of course, brought roars of laughter from the excitable French crowd.

These are but few of the incidents in the brilliant career that Dave has had since joining Rugby League Football, and now his service and loyalty to the Fartown club is to be honoured by a Testimonial.

To Dave I would like to say, "Thanks, Dave, for your friendship and inspiration throughout your days at Fartown and I sincerely hope that your Testimonial Fund is the success that your sportsmanship, team spirit and ability so richly deserve. May you play many more seasons for the Claret and Gold, and further adorn the game you've served so well."

LIONEL COOPER (Former Fartown Captain)

## SUPERHUMAN EFFORTS

When asked to contribute an appreciation of Dave Valentine, I had to consider whether I should write about the player or the man, but on reflection found that to combine a description of the two was the easy way out. Happy, humorous, forthright and fearless describe this great-hearted player on or off the field, and I personally derive much satisfaction in the knowledge that I had a hand in persuading Dave to settle down both at Fartown and in his present situation.

His achievements during his eight years at Fartown will be found elsewhere, but I must mention two glorious chapters in his illustrious career.

First of all, his wonderful display on the Australian tour in which, from well-informed circles, he gave all he had and came back with the highest possible marks for his superhuman efforts on the field and, greater still, that on a tour which was marred by some unsportsmanlike conduct, he came through with an unblemished reputation on and off the field.

Secondly, the magnificent way he led the much criticised and despised World Cup Team which will long be remembered and brought such satisfaction to our game.

To conclude on a personal note. I would just like to say a simple "Thank You, Dave," for all the pleasure you have given to me during our association at Fartown, and I sincerely trust that the sporting public will take this opportunity of making your testimonial a real bumper one.

WM. CUNNINGHAM (H.C. & A.C. Football Committee)

# Representative Honours

## Test Matches

### 1948-49

Great Britain v. Australia at Headingley (1 try)	Won 23-21
Great Britain v. Australia at Swinton	Won 16- 7
Great Britain v. Australia at Odsal	Won 23- 9

### 1951-52

Great Britain v. New Zealand at Headingley	Won 16-12
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### 1952-53

Great Britain v. Australia at Swinton	Won 21- 5
Great Britain v. Australia at Odsal	Lost 7-27
(Was reserve to travel for the First Test at Headingley)	
Great Britain v. France at Lyons	Lost 17-28

### 1954 Tour

Great Britain v. Australia at Sydney	Lost 12-37
Great Britain v. Australia at Brisbane	Won 38-21
Great Britain v. Australia at Sydney (1 try)	Lost 16-20
Great Britain v. New Zealand at Auckland	Won 27- 7
Great Britain v. New Zealand at Greymouth	Lost 14-20

### World Cup, 1954

Great Britain v. Australia at Lyons	Won 28-13
Great Britain v. France at Toulouse	Drawn 13-13
Great Britain v. New Zealand at Bordeaux	Won 26- 6
Great Britain v. France at Paris (Final)	Won 16-12
(Was appointed captain for the series)	

### "Festival of Britain Test," 1951

Great Britain v. Australasia at Headingley	Lost 20-23
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## Other Matches

1948-49 Empire Team v. France at Bordenaux	Lost 10-23
Empire Team v. France at Albi	Won 38-12
1950-51 Rest of League v. 1950 Tourists at Wigan	Lost 16-23
British XIII v. France at Paris	Won 13-10
1951-52 British Empire v. New Zealand at Chelsea (1 try)	Won 26- 2
1953-54 Combined Nations v. France at Lyons	Lost 15-19
Second Tour Trial at Swinton	
1954-55 R.L. XIII v. Australasia at Bradford	Lost 13-25

## For Other Nationalities

1949-50 v. England at Workington	Won 13- 7
v. Wales at Abertillery	Won 6- 5
v. France at Marseilles	Lost 3- 8
1950-51 v. France at Bordeaux	Lost 3-16
v. Wales at Swansea	Won 27-21
v. England at Wigan (1 try)	Won 35-10
1951-52 v. France at Hull	Won 17-14
v. Wales at Abertillery	Won 22-11
v. England at Wigan	Lost 18-31
1952-53 v. England at Huddersfield	Won 31-12
v. France at Marseilles (1 try)	Won 29-10
v. Wales at Warrington (1 try)	Lost 16-18
1953-54 v. Wales at Odsal	Won 30- 5
v. France at Bordeaux	Won 15-10
v. England at Wigan	Lost 22-30
1955-56 v. England at Wigan (captain)	Won 33-16
(Was selected v. France at Leigh but had to cry-off owing to an injured shoulder. Up to that time he had played in every one of the post-war Other Nationalities International teams—the only player to do so).	

## Dave's Fartown Playing Records

	Appearances	Tries	Points
1947-48 .....	29 ...	3 ...	9
1948-49 .....	43 ...	13 ...	39
1949-50 .....	35 ...	2 ...	6
1950-51 .....	41 ...	13 ...	39
1951 Blackpool Comp. .	2 ...	— ...	—
1951-52 .....	39 ...	6 ...	18
1952-53 .....	46 ...	11 ...	33
1953 Blackpool Comp. .	2 ...	— ...	—
1953-54 .....	41 ...	8 ...	24
1954-55 .....	23 ...	4 ...	12
1955-56 (to March 2nd) .	17 ...	2 ...	6
	318 ...	62 ...	186

"A" Team: 1955-56 — 2 appearances

## PRESS CUTTINGS

Interest was naturally centred around the newcomer, Valentine. Criticism would be unfair on this occasion. He played his first game in a beaten pack but I liked his handling and the way he got about when the ball was on the move.

**Dewsbury v. Huddersfield, November 1st, 1947**

Valentine was the star of the day and is progressing with every match.

**Huddersfield v. New Zealand, November 22nd, 1947**

The man of the match was Valentine, Huddersfield's loose-forward. I do not select him for brilliance—there was little of that from anyone—but for sheer hard work throughout. He was here, there and everywhere. I lost count of how many telling tackles this Scot made, but I should think they equalled those of any other two players on the field.

**Castleford v. Huddersfield, March 27th, 1948**

The selection of Dave Valentine is a big surprise to all outside Huddersfield, but he has been playing such storming football this season that representative honours were bound to come his way.

**Selection for First Test v. Australia, October 9th, 1948**

The Test selectors were criticised for their choice of Valentine as loose-forward. What a bad time Valentine gave those critics. His tackling was the highlight of the game, and he is obviously the man for the big occasion.

**Second Test v. Australia at Swinton, November 6th 1948**

Of the Great Britain forwards, Valentine stood out in a good pack. Brilliant supporting play and constructive handling ability stamped him as the best forward.

**Third Test v. Australia at Odeal, January 29th, 1949**

Valentine gave a display which should have made the Tour Team selectors present hide their heads in shame.

**Huddersfield v. Wigan, March 6th, 1950**

When the ball came Huddersfield's way the forwards were clearly on top. Valentine's display was a reminder to all concerned that here, indeed, is England's Test Match loose-forward.

**Huddersfield v. Warrington, September 27th, 1952**

Valentine, in one of his finest games, led a pack in which everyone made an important contribution to the victory.

**Huddersfield v. St. Helens, R.L. Cup, March 6th, 1954**



THE WORLD CUP TEAM TRAINING AT FARTOWN



DAVE AND MICK SULLIVAN RECEIVE THEIR  
WORLD CUP TEST CAPS FROM BEN GRONOW



BACK FROM THE WORLD CUP. DAVE AND HIS FAMILY LOOK AT HIS SOUVENIRS

## DAVE'S LEAGUE AND CUP FINALS FOR HUDDERSFIELD

### League Championship, 1948-49

v. Warrington at Maine Road, May 14th. Won 13-12.

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1949-50

v. Bradford N. at Headingley, October 29th. Lost 4-11.  
(Huddersfield lost to Wigan in the Maine Road League Final this season but Valentine was unavailable owing to injury).

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1950-51

v. Castleford at Headingley, November 4th. Won 16-3.

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1952-53

v. Batley at Headingley, November 15th. Won 18-8.  
(Valentine scored one try)

### Rugby League Challenge Cup, 1952-53

v. St. Helens at Wembley, April 25th. Won 15-10.

.....  
THE LEEDS MATCH AT FARTOWN ON MARCH 18th HAS BEEN ALLOCATED  
AS DAVE VALENTINE'S TESTIMONIAL GAME  
.....

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## Thank You, Huddersfield

When I joined Huddersfield in October, 1947, I knew nothing about Huddersfield or Rugby League. I was soon put at ease and have since made many good friends and played with some grand players.

I will always be thankful that when I did sign I came to such a grand club as Huddersfield. Players, Officials and Supporters alike have been most helpful.

I rate the Fartown team of 1949-50 to be the best club side I have seen in Rugby League. It was a pleasure to play with them and the committee and supporters' insistence on good open football has gained since and during that time every cup in the English R.L. that is open to us.

We are at present going through a lean spell but I have the utmost confidence that Huddersfield will soon be back where it belongs, at the top of the Rugby League world.

Since joining Fartown I have had the good fortune to go to France, Australia and New Zealand, and in fact everywhere where R.L. is played, and Fartown's name is legendary for all that is good in football.

May I, on behalf of my wife and two children, thank you again Huddersfield for being so good to us, and to the H.C. & A.C. Supporters' Club for making this brochure possible.

*Dave Valentine*



The Committee of the Huddersfield C. & A.C. Supporters' Club express their thanks to the "Huddersfield Examiner" and the "R.L. Gazette" for permission to reproduce photographs

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