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Thursday 12 August 2021
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2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2021

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2007, 2008, 2014, 2018, 2019

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1974-75

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Lancashire Cup: 1926-27, 1953-54,
1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64,
1964-65, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1984-85,
1991-92

Lancashire League: 1929-30, 1931-32,
1952-53, 1959-60, 1963-64, 1964-65,
1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69

Charity Shield: 1992-93

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy: 1971-72,
1975-76

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Chorley

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Platt, SW Pix

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ARROW - CLICK ME!**

CONTENTS





VIEW FROM THE CLUB

KRISTIAN WOOLF

This week we announced the signing of Will Hopoate from NRL side the Canterbury Bulldogs.

I know him very well having coached him at Tonga and he is a real class player. By his own admission he probably didn't have his best year in 2021, but if you look back through the rest of his career and in particular through 2019 and 2020 you can see what a class player he is. He has good speed, a terrific skill set and is a high-class international player who has played a lot of full back, but can also play in the centre and in particular on the right centre. He can obviously fill the void that Kevin Naiqama will leave and has the versatility to support Jack Welsby who I have already confirmed will be our full back next year. Will has shown his class in some real big games for Tonga against Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain and he also has the ability to play some game time at six too so he is going to be really valuable for us. He is also a terrific person, is a real professional and is a bloke that the players will like. For us characters are just as important as ability. We do a lot of homework on players and my advantage with Will is that I know him personally and I know he will fit into the club well and the fans will enjoy him in and around the community.

James Bentley returns to our squad today. When he first did the injury, we thought he would be back for this game, or the Wigan game. He is a very, very hard worker on and off the field in terms of his rehab and recovery. I am really happy for him. He was a big player for us last year in terms of our

success, but unfortunately he has missed out on some big games this season, but having him come back now gives him enough game time and gives him the chance to get back to his best as we get to the business end of the year. He is really chomping at the bit and will be a big boost for us.

Morgan Knowles misses out today as he has a bit of a niggle from last week. It is not a serious one and he will be back for Wigan next week that's for sure. With the short turnaround and having those couple of weeks off before we came into these busy block of fixtures, we just thought it was a little bit risky this week.

We face Castleford next and we are expecting a tough game. They are going to be talking about the Challenge Cup and us beating them at Wembley and using this game as one they need to win to keep their season alive so to speak. But we are desperate as well in terms of where we sit in the table and obviously, we have lost a couple of games so that puts a little more importance on every game and we want to keep getting better and better. We want to make sure we are playing our best footy in these next five weeks as we look to head into the playoffs so it makes it a great spectacle.

Enjoy the game.

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HOPOATE

EARLIER THIS WEEK, WE ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF TONGAN INTERNATIONAL WILL HOPOATE ON A TWO-YEAR DEAL WITH THE OPTION OF A THIRD FROM 2022...

Congratulations on the move! How happy are you to be signing in for St Helens?

Very happy! I am excited to come over and play for such a proud club over in the Super League! I have never been in the UK before and I am excited to be a part of it all!

How did the move come about?

I have been coached by Woolfie with Tonga and he was in regular contact with myself and my manager since the get go. I have always wanted to play in the Super League and to come to a strong Club like St Helens was even better.

Did you have any other options?

There were other options including here in the NRL, but it has always been a goal of mine to play in the Super League and a strong club like St Helens showed interest and I couldn't turn it down.

How exciting is it to be joining a Champion team?

That was definitely a draw card for me in terms of the success St Helens have had, not just recently but throughout the history of the club – St Helens have been a big powerful successful club and I am just grateful they showed interest in me and I am happy to be a part of it come next year.

Was Kristian Woolf a big reason why you opted to sign for us too?

My decision to come to the club was mainly down to Woolfie – knowing him as a person and a coach in terms of what he stands for and the values that he drives and the standards that he sets for the team and himself is something that I want to buy into.

Will your family be joining you?

Yes, I have a wife and four kids. They are still quite young. My eldest will start school next year over in England which will be exciting. They are all looking forward to coming over to support me but also to experience a different lifestyle, culture and weather! We are all in!

Where do you see yourself fitting in to this team at St Helens?

I suppose wherever Woolfie sees me best! I do enjoy playing full back and at centre, but I am not going to come over and think I am any better than any of the boys already here. They are a championship team and so I need to earn their respect by training hard and I know I have to earn my spot in the team – especially at such a prestigious club.

What sort of player can the Saints fans expect from you?

I see myself as someone who is professional and tries to do what is best for the team. I strive to be selfless in my actions for the team. It is all about the success of the team and ultimately if the team is doing well, it means each individual is doing their job well and that is all I am hoping to do.

We can't wait to welcome Will to the Club in 2022!



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PREVIEWING TONIGHT'S MATCH!



SAINTS TV: WOOLF ON BENTLEY RETURN, KNOWLES ABSENCE, HOPOATE AND CASTLEFORD TEST

Hear from Head Coach Kristian Woolf who admits James Bentley will play some part in the game on Thursday whilst he reveals why Morgan Knowles is missing from his 21 man squad ahead of our with Castleford Tigers at the Totally Wicked Stadium (7.45pm).



MATA'UTIA BROTHERS PREVIEW SAINTS VS CASTLEFORD!

Sione Mata'utia and his brother Peter Mata'utia will finally go head to head on Thursday as Saints host Castleford Tigers at the Totally Wicked Stadium (7.45pm) and we got the pair together on video link to preview the game!



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TOP NEWS THIS MONTH



WIGAN AWAY TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets are now available for our Betfred Super League Round 20 trip to the DW Stadium to play Wigan Warriors on Friday, August 20, kick off 7:45pm.

[READ MORE](#)

SAINTS SECURE HOPOATE FOR 2022

St.Helens R.F.C. is delighted to confirm the capture of 29-year-old Tongan International Will Hopoate on a two year deal from 2022 - with the option for a third year to be triggered.

[READ MORE](#)

FAREWELL 'TODDER' DICKINSON

It is sad to report the passing of one of Saints' most popular players of the 1950s at the age of 87.

[READ MORE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS AND FULL MATCH REPLAY: SAINTS VS CATALANS — RD 18

Watch the highlights for FREE with our Hydration partners Ipro Hydrate as Saints faced league leaders Catalans Dragons in Betfred Super League R18 at the Totally Wicked Stadium.

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A WELCOME TO CASTLEFORD TIGERS

Thursday night rugby returns to the Totally Wicked Stadium this evening as Castleford Tigers make the trip down the M62 to face St. Helens. There's a buzz of excitement and sense of expectation ahead of this fixture as, not only is it a re-run of last month's Challenge Cup Final; but, the arrival of the Castleford Tigers supporters will see a number of 'away' fans present in the stadium tonight for the first time in 2021.

The Tigers have had a topsy-turvy season to date and they are currently lying in 8th position on the Super League ladder; having won seven of their 16 matches, for a total of 14 points; and win percentage rate of 43.75%. Saints sit in second place; and, they have won 12 of their 14 matches, for a total of 24 points; and a win percentage rate of 85.71%. Castleford are effectively in a five team race with Hull KR, Hull FC, Leeds Rhinos and Huddersfield Giants for two places in the end of season, Top 6 play offs and from now; every match matters.

Castleford came into the current campaign on the back of a difficult 2020. Last season, on the field they were probably the Super League team that was most affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. They were on fire during the early stages of this season, winning five of their opening seven matches, and one of those losses was by just a single point at Warrington. They went into the close down, in mid-March, on the back of a magnificent 28 points to 14 defeat of Champions, St. Helens, at their Mend A Hose Stadium home; and, at that time, they were lying in 2nd position in the league. But after the restart, in August, the Tigers made a slow return and lost their first three matches. They went on to win just two games during the second part of the season and ended 2020, having won just six of their 16 matches for a total of 12 points and a win percentage ratio of 37.50%. Despite this, hooker, Paul McShane had a magnificent year and he ended proceedings by being named Super League 'Man of Steel'.

On their day however, Castleford are as good as any team in the competition. They came into 2020 on the back of three excellent seasons in which they finished as League Leaders and Super League Grand Finalists in 2017, were 3rd in 2018 and ended 2019 in 5th position. And in each of those years, the Tigers can think themselves a tad unfortunate about how things panned out.

And despite this, Daryl Powell, during the off season, stayed loyal to the majority of his team and there were minimal changes to their squad. Joining the Tigers were, Lewis Bienek (Hull FC), Niall Evals (Salford Red Devils), Gareth O'Brien (Toronto Wolfpack, Can), Jordan Turner (Huddersfield Giants) & Suaia Matagi (Huddersfield Giants – on loan); whilst, Mike McMeeken (Catalans Dragons, Fr), Junior Moors & Jack Sanderson (both Featherstone Rovers), Bailey Hodgson & Calum Turner (both Newcastle Thunder) & Matt Cook (Widnes Vikings) departed.

This signing of Evals and the permanent acquisition of Gareth O'Brien strengthened the spine of Castleford's team with O'Brien providing healthy competition for places in the

halves alongside Jake Trueman and former Saint Danny Richardson. Jordan Turner's arrival added versatility to their backline as he can slot into the three quarters or the halves.

During the off season, Powell worked hard with his squad as he prepared them for the new campaign. They made a great start to the season, winning six of their opening seven matches. They beat Warrington Wolves, at Leeds, 21-12 and Leeds Rhinos, at Saints, 18-10. They defeated Hull KR (A) in 'Golden Point' extra time in the Challenge Cup 3rd round 23-22 and Leigh Centurions (H) 52-16. Their first loss was 12-22 at Wigan Warriors; prior to winning 28-18 at Salford Red Devils, before beating Salford again 19-18, this time in 'Golden Point' Extra Time, at Leeds, in the Challenge Cup Quarter Final.

Three successive losses followed; Hull KR (H) 22-26, Warrington Wolves (A) 14-38 and Leeds Rhinos (H) 6-66. In the Challenge Cup Semi Final, at Leigh, Castleford were massive underdogs as they faced Warrington Wolves. But they saved their best performance of the season for this huge game. They were magnificent and they hammered the Wolves 35-20, with Jordan Turner crossing for a hat trick of tries. Once again, the Tigers had shown they were a match for anyone, on their day. They then lost their fourth successive Super League match against Hull FC (H) 12-20, before visiting the Mobile Rocket Stadium and beating, fierce rivals, Wakefield Trinity 18-12.

Castleford lost to the Catalans Dragons (H) 6-16 and then they forfeited their 'home' game with Saints, who were awarded a 24-0 win. Huddersfield Giants then forfeited their 'home' game against the Tigers and Castleford were awarded a 24-0 win and the week before the Cup Final, at Wembley, Cas fielded a young side versus Salford Red Devils (H) and were beaten 18-70.

The Tigers faced high flying Saints in the Challenge Cup Final and led 12-6, at the break. St. Helens were good though and fought back to win 12-26. Full Back, Niall Evals won the 'Lance Todd Trophy' as 'Man of the Match'.

Covid 19 then struck and Castleford's matches at Catalans Dragons and Leigh Centurions were postponed. They then lost at Huddersfield Giants 16-34 before winning at Leeds Rhinos, last Friday, 32-18.

St. Helens and Castleford Tigers have faced each other on 53 occasions in Super League since its inception in 1996. Saints have won 45 of these encounters; there has been one draw, with Cas winning seven. The Tigers also forfeited their 'home' match against Saints earlier this year, with St. Helens awarded a 24-0 win. The Tigers have failed to score in their last three games against Saints at the Totally Wicked Stadium. Since the advent of summer rugby, in their 28 home matches (including the 2014 play-off match), St. Helens have won 27 and there has been one draw (32-32 back in 1998).

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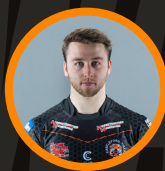
NIALL EVALDS

Niall, aged 27, is one of Super League's brightest talents and he joined the Tigers during the off season from Salford Red Devils. A product of the Red Devils' Academy setup, he is blessed with a lightening burst of pace and an eye for a gap. Predominantly a full back; Niall scores tries for fun and, he is one of the most dangerous players in the competition. Evalds scored two crucial tries in that remarkable 2016 'Million Pound' game for Salford at Hull KR; crossed for, a phenomenal, 27 tries in 2019, in a year where he was a beaten Grand Finalist and, he scored 106 tries in his 152 appearances for the club. Niall's excellent form was rewarded in 2018 by his selection on England Knights Tour to Papua New Guinea. Niall was a try scorer in last month's Challenge Cup Final and he was named as the 'Lance Todd Trophy' winner as the 'Man of the Match'.



PETER MATA'UTIA

Peter Mata'utia joined the Tigers at the end of July 2018 and made his debut just 3 days later in Castleford's 52-24 win over Widnes Vikings. The 30-year-old, brother of Saints, Sione, had spent most of the 2018 season with Leigh Centurions in the Betfred Championship, playing 20 times for the Leythians and scoring 9 tries. Mata'utia is better known for his time in the NRL with Newcastle Knights and St George Illawarra Dragons where made 76 first grade appearances, scoring 23 tries. Mata'utia made debut for Samoa in 2009 against the Cook Islands in the Pacific Cup and has gained a total of 4 caps for his country; one of which was in the 2017 World Cup, against New Zealand. Beginning at full-back he showed how comfortable he can be under the high ball before moving to the centre position, where he has played his best football. He has also played in at the halves too where he demonstrated an excellent passing and kicking game.



DANNY RICHARDSON

Danny moved to the Mend-A-Hose Jungle, at the start of the 2020 campaign, after the Tigers paid St Helens an undisclosed fee for his services. A talent who came through the Saints Academy, Richardson made his first team debut in 2017 and then enjoyed a breakthrough season the following year, playing a prominent role as Saints lifted the League Leaders' Shield; in a campaign that saw him named in the Super League Dream Team, after topping the Super League's goal and points scoring charts. The 24-year-old earned England Knights honours in 2019 and, since his move to Castleford; he has formed an exciting partnership with Great Britain international Jake Trueman in the halves. After finishing 2020 as the Tigers' 'top points' scorer, Danny headed into his second season with the club even more determined for success.



PAUL MCSHANE

Paul McShane joined the Tigers on 23 July 2015 on a two and half year deal that saw Tigers hooker Scott Moore move the other way to Wakefield Wildcats. He played 61 times for the Rhinos before moving to Wakefield in 2013. Following his move to Castleford, McShane took his game to another level in 2017. The hooker was a pivotal part of the Tigers successful season and he was a beaten Grand Finalist. The 31-year-old plays a lot bigger than his 5ft 6in stature would suggest and his physicality in defence only adds to his impressive skills with ball in hand. 2020 was a difficult season for Cas, but Paul had an outstanding campaign and was named Super League 'Man of Steel'. His excellent form has continued this year and as well as being a Challenge Cup Finalist he played for England in the mid-season Test.



LIAM WATTS

Forward Liam Watts has established himself as a leader of the Castleford pack since he joined the club from Hull FC during the 2018 campaign. He played seven seasons with the Black and Whites after making a cross-city switch from Hull KR in 2012. An England Knights international; his offloading game is an important weapon for the Castleford Tigers and his aggressive and consistent displays make him one of the competition's best prop forwards. A member of Hull FC's Challenge Cup winning teams in both 2016 and 2017, Liam was a beaten finalist in this season's competition. Having made his Hull KR debut, way back in 2008, Watts is now approaching 300 first-grade games in British Rugby League.

KEY STATS

HIGHEST HOME WIN

**68-12
[2008]**

HIGHEST AWAY WIN

**72-4
[2006]**

CASTLEFORD TIGERS

**FOUNDED IN
1926
95 YEARS AGO**

**2020 SEASON
8TH**

ALL MATCHES [EXCLUDING FRIENDLIES]

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	84	66	3	15	2329	1079
AWAY	78	36	5	37	1623	1440
NEUTRAL	2	1	0	1	39	22
TOTAL	164	103	8	53	3991	2541

PREVIOUS LEAGUE ENCOUNTERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	65	53	3	9	1875	898
AWAY	64	29	3	32	1352	1201
NEUTRAL	1	1	0	0	36	16
TOTAL	130	83	6	41	3263	2115





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A LOOK BACK AT SOME MEMORIES AGAINST TODAY'S OPPONENTS...

BY CLUB HISTORIAN – ALEX SERVICE

Images from two matches against this evening's opponents before they adopted the 'Tigers' tag.



Dateline: 29th April 1967; Championship play-off semi-final; St Helens 14 Castleford 3 at Knowsley Road.

A splendid image with the Edington 'kop' forming a backdrop to the action. John Mantle is about to pass to Tom van Vollenhoven, with Johnny Houghton on the far left. Although Saints overcame this particular hurdle with tries from Tom van Vollenhoven and Wilf Smith, plus 4 goals from Len Killeen, they drew 7-7 against Wakefield Trinity in a rain and thunder-lashed Championship final at Headingley. In the replay Saints ran out of steam and were beaten by 9-21, but still managed to retain their Lancashire League title from the previous campaign.



Dateline: 18th September 1994; Stones Bitter Championship; St Helens 47 Castleford 14 at Knowsley Road.

A cracking match, with some blistering rugby from the men in the red veil! Wingers Alan Hunte [4 tries] and Anthony Sullivan [3 tries] capitalised on the forward dominance created by the likes of Sonny Nickle, seen here taking on the Castleford defence in his typical uncompromising fashion. Steve Prescott is on the right. The Yorkshiremen finished in third place in the First Division Championship race, one point ahead of St Helens. The following season was a temporary winter season [1995-96] before the onset of Super League in 1996.



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A LOOK BACK IN TIME FROM OUR CLUB HISTORIAN

BY CLUB HISTORIAN – ALEX SERVICE



FOR ENGLAND AND ST GEORGE

This evening we look at an unusual case of a 'one cap wonder,' a fantastic player, who, by force of circumstance, only made a single appearance for the England rugby league team. When England beat France at Headingley, Leeds on 17th November 1962, it was the first game by an England XIII since 1956. The 87th game under the England banner ended in a 18-6 victory over a strong French side in what was officially classed as a friendly encounter. There was one St Helens player in the line-up, the rampaging Cumbrian second-rower Dick Huddart, who had returned from a fabulous Ashes triumph the previous summer with the Great Britain squad. Huddart became Heritage Number #416 but because of the absence of the England team itself on the international scene, there were twelve new caps overall, the only previous England player, coincidentally, was also a Saint in 1962: left winger Mick Sullivan.

Huddart is pictured [centre], together with Saints' team-mates Mick Sullivan and Alex Murphy, being presented with their 1962 Great Britain touring caps by St Helens RFC Chairman Harry Cook at Knowsley Road.

The England team lined up as follows: #406 Ken Gowers [Swinton]; #407 Bill Burgess [Barrow], #408 Eric Ashton [Wigan], #409 Neil Fox [Wakefield Trinity], #393 Mick Sullivan [St Helens]; #410 Frank Myler [Widnes], #411 Tommy Smales [Huddersfield]; #412 Norman Herbert [Workington], #413 Peter Flanagan [Hull KR], #414 Bill Drake [Hull], #415 Brian Edgar [Workington], #416 Dick Huddart [St Helens], #417 Derek Turner [Wakefield]. All the scoring was restricted to the threequarter line: Burgess [2T], Ashton [1T] and Neil Fox 1T 3G. The referee was Joe Manley, of Warrington. The attendance was 11,099, with receipts totalling £2,033.

Huddart formed a tremendously potent back row that afternoon, with Edgar and Turner, just as he did at Wembley in 1961 with Don Vines and Vince Karalius. The French loose forward also seems familiar: George Fages, from Albi, although it appears that he is no relation to our recent Wembley winner Theo! It would be another six years before the England team played again, on 7th November 1968, against Wales at Salford and another new raft of Heritage Numbers would come to the fore.

Sadly Dick Huddart passed away earlier this week. All our thoughts are with his family at this said time.

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ST HELENS LEGEND DICK HUDDART HAS SADLY PASSED AWAY

Dick Huddart, one of the Immortals of British Rugby League and a member of St Helens R.F.C.'s greatest 17 has sadly passed away at the age of 85.

Dick Huddart

St Helens Heritage #756

Born: Flimby, Cumbria
22nd June 1936

Died: Gold Coast, Australia
11th August 2021

The 'Immortal' description is quite apt for him, as Rugby League Historian Robert Gate wrote: "Many critics argue that the game has never seen a more devastating, damaging or explosive running forward than Dick and they may be right." They were indeed. Anyone who had the pleasure to watch Huddart in full flight, whether friend or foe, would undoubtedly concur.

In the late 1950s, the Saints' Board brought in several fresh faces to heighten the strike power and crowd appeal of the first team squad. In the backs, two wingers were signed from South African rugby union – Tom Van Vollenhoven and Jan Prinsloo – a devastating combination on the flanks. There was also second-rower Dick Huddart, from Whitehaven RLFC, who had shown such marvelous form during Great Britain's Ashes-winning tour Down Under in 1958 and St. Helens were more than keen to obtain his signature, in October 1958. Like the famous petrol advert of the time, the Saints

intended to put a 'tiger in their tank' and were quite prepared to get their man whatever the cost.

Born in Flimby on 22nd June 1936, Dick began playing rugby with the Risehow amateur club and turned professional with Whitehaven for a £250 fee in 1955. Rugby was in his DNA: "My dad played amateur rugby league and I followed him down the mines as a fitter, a job that I did for nine years," he recalled in 2010. "I signed for Whitehaven when I was 18 and played in the back row and in the centres. I could always run and I modelled myself on that great second-rower Geoff Gunney, who played for Hunslet. I watched him and thought that I could do a similar job. In the end, I replaced him in the Great Britain side!"

A Cumberland representative in his first month in the professional ranks, he helped Whitehaven to beat the visiting Australian tourists and reach their one and only Challenge Cup semi-final in 1957, when they were narrowly beaten by Leeds. He duly became Whitehaven's only British Lion when he was selected for the famous 1958 Great Britain tour to Australasia and gained a fearsome reputation with his devastating running, tearing into the opposition defences with a deadly combination of power and pace. He made his test debut in sensational circumstances in the second test at Brisbane, with Great Britain 1-0 down in the series against the Green and Golds.

They won 25-18 despite severe injury problems on the field [including Alan Prescott's broken

arm] and trounced the Aussies 40-17 in the third. Put through the gaps by Wigan front-rower Brian McTigue, his reputation was burgeoning. It was fellow 1958 tourist Vince Karalius who tipped Saints off about a possible transfer. "As the [1958] tour went on I began to think that perhaps a move away from Whitehaven might further my career," Dick recalled.

"After all, I was now in the same team as my good friend Vince and the likes of Alex Murphy, McTigue, Dave Bolton and Eric Ashton. I ended up being placed on the transfer list, but obviously Whitehaven weren't happy about it."

Former St. Helens Secretary Basil Lowe remembered that the Whitehaven club, perhaps understandably, didn't really want to lose their first-ever Great Britain international: "The Whitehaven Board met in a local hall and it was obvious they were going to resist any transfer. Eventually, through the persuasive skills of [Chairman] Harry Cook, we won the day, but we were hardly welcome guests. In fact, we made the signing of Huddart using a toilet seat, as this was the only room we were offered".

The strapping six foot and fifteen stone Cumbrian's greatest asset was the ability to take a pass on the burst and carve huge holes in the opposition defences, together with his devastating combination of speed and tearaway straight running. Add to that a jackhammer hand-off, plus a safe pair of hands and it was not surprising



that it took £7,250 – a record fee for a forward at the time – to bring him to Knowsley Road.

Huddart's barnstorming runs soon made him a big favourite with the St. Helens crowd and he built up a fine partnership with Yorkshireman Brian Briggs in the second row. In 1958/59, the Saints were league Leaders and lifted the Championship trophy with a marvellous 44-22 success over Hunslet at Odsal Stadium in front of over 50,000 fans. Huddart scored a trademark touchdown, with his characteristic 'hunched' running style. "I was privileged at Saints to be in the same team at various times as three of the fastest second-row men in rugby league", remembers Ray French. "Jimmy Measures, John Mantle and Dick Huddart. But what a player this Huddart was. He had a magnificent hand-off. Defenders were repulsed almost like a snooker ball hitting the cushion and rebounding off it. He was also a real gentleman and, without doubt, one of the most popular players ever at St. Helens".

Dick made his Saints' debut at Workington [a 'home' game for him – he just got the train to the match from where he lived!] in a 10-10 draw on 18th October 1958.

Walter Delves and Vince Karalius were his partners in the back row that afternoon. The last of his 209 matches for the club, including 76 tries, was at Warrington, on 29th February 1964. Saints won 17-10. He partnered Jimmy Mustard in the second row, with a young Duggie Laughton at loose forward.

His Lance Todd winning display at Wembley in 1961 will be long remembered by those who saw it, especially his devastating run that set up Alex Murphy for the first try. What a back row it was – Huddart, Don Vines and Vince Karalius! The 1961 final proved to be the pinnacle of Huddart's career as a Saint, yet he also tasted much success on the international front with two Ashes-winning tours with Great Britain, in 1958 and 1962. Indeed, he ripped through the Aussies on their hard grounds in 1962 just like he tore through the best defences at club level back home on our more sodden turf. He played for Great Britain on twelve occasions whilst with St. Helens and made one appearance for England. For Huddart, the 1962 tourists were "the finest team ever to play the game." Quite a compliment in itself. Just like in 1958, Huddart played more games than any other squad member.

Dick went on to win every honour with the Saints, including three successive Lancashire Cup Finals, from 1961-63. After the St Helens-Australia game in 1963, he talked to St George back-rower Johnny Raper about a possible move Down Under. At the age of 27, the 'free spirited' nature of Huddart told him it was time for a new challenge. An enthusiastic Johnny Raper reported back to his Secretary, Frank Facer and he was transferred to the Australian Champions St. George in 1964 for a £10,000 fee as the replacement for retiring back-rower Norm Provan. Dick went on to win a Grand Final with the Dragons in 1966, against Balmain, scoring a try that afternoon to become the first Great Britain international to win an Australian Premiership. He played 78 times for the Australian Saints, scoring 16 tries.

After a spell up country with Dubbo, he returned to England to play for Whitehaven, in 1970-71, as his wife, Iris, was missing her family, but subsequently he realised it was, perhaps, a mistake and returned to Australia after a divorce and eventually met his second wife, Lyn. They were together for twenty years until Dick moved on to the Gold Coast, aged 60, where he resided until the end. In an article for Larry Writer's superb history of the St George Club, 'Never Before, Never Again' Dick's free-spirited nature was encapsulated thus: "I enjoy life. Good mates, a few beers, the open air. I'm happy. I'm just so glad I came back to Australia. I love it here. I'll die here."

A member of the St. Helens and Whitehaven Halls of Fame, Dick was one of the Saints' Greatest 17 squad selected as part of the final season celebrations at Knowsley Road in 2010. His inclusion was automatic and he remains a hero to the thousands who watched him play – a genuine St. Helens 'Great.'

Dick's son, Milton, a back-rower himself, also won an England cap whilst with Whitehaven. Unfortunately, he pre-deceased his father, on 14th March 2015.

Everyone at St Helens R.F.C. send their condolences to Dick's family at this sad time.

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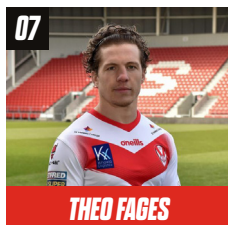
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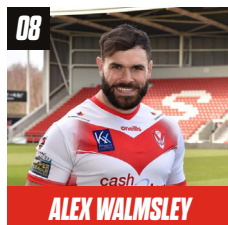
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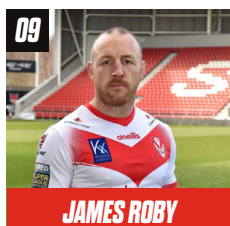
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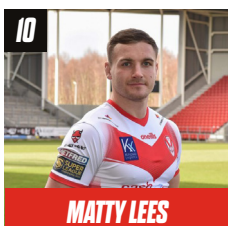
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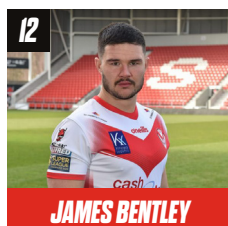
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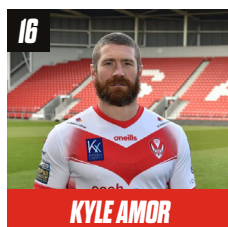
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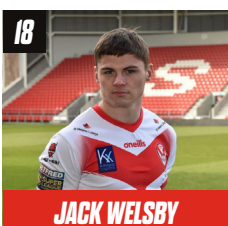
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APRIL						
1	HULL KR	SL ** - 8.15pm	A	0-25	BCD	1
10	LEEDS RHINOS	CC3	H	26-18	BCD	1
16	WAKEFIELD TRINITY	SL - 6.00pm	H	34-6	BCD	1
22	HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS	SL - 7.45PM	A	10-18	BCD	1
30	LEIGH CENTURIIONS	SL - 6.00PM	A	12-22	BCD	1
MAY						
7	HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS <i>SKY</i>	CCQF* - 8.15pm	H	23-18	BCD	1
17	SALFORD RED DEVILS	SL	H	28-0	4000	1
22	CATALANS DRAGONS	SL	A	20-16	1000	1
28	HULL FC <i>SKY</i>	SL	H	34-16	4000	1
JUNE						
5	HULL FC	CCSF	N	18-33	2500	-
11	LEEDS RHINOS	SL	A	P-P	-	2
17	WARRINGTON WOLVES <i>SKY</i>	SL	H	2-6	4000	2
25	HULL KR	SL	A	P-P	-	2
30	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	SL	A	0-24	-	2

DATE	OPPONENTS	COMP	V	FT	ATT	POS
JULY						
4	WIGAN WARRIORS	SL	H	24-6	4,000	2
11	WAKEFIELD TRINITY	SL	A	14-30	-	2
17	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	CCF	N	12-26	45,000	2
23	HULL KR	SL	H	P-P	-	2
28	HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS	SL	H	P-P	-	2
AUGUST						
2	HULL FC	SL	A	10-42	7,038	2
7	CATALANS DRAGONS	SL	H	34-12	7,758	2
12	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	SL	H			
20	WIGAN WARRIORS	SL	A			
26	LEIGH CENTURIIONS	SL	H			
30	WARRINGTON WOLVES	SL	A			
SEPTEMBER						
4	CATALANS DRAGONS <i>SKY</i>	SL - 5.15PM***	N			
10	LEEDS RHINOS	SL	H			
17	SALFORD RED DEVILS	SL	A			
24		SLEPO				
OCTOBER						
1		SLPOSF				
9		SLGF	N			

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