



Dudley Kingswinford

Rugby Football Club

Est 1920

A Brief History of DKRFC



1958



2023

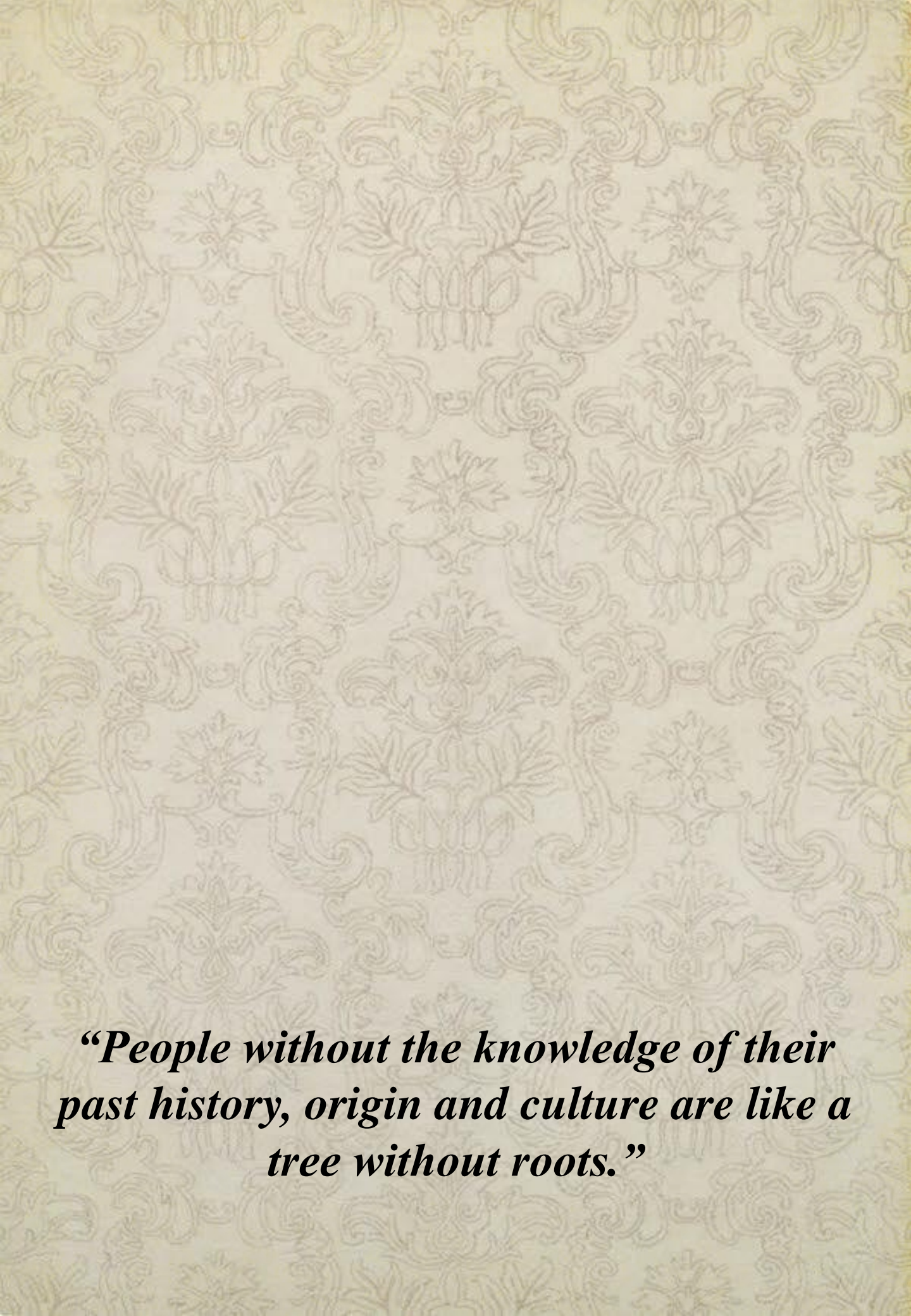
Bob McMaster

My association with

Schoolboy Rugby

& DKRFC

Forged in the Black Country



“People without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like a tree without roots.”

My association with Schoolboy Rugby & DKRFC

By

Bob McMaster

Schoolboy Rugby

In 1953 aged 11, my father decided that I would be educated at Old Swinford Hospital (OSH) School located in Stourbridge, West Midlands; a boarding school with a considerable emphasis given to technical subjects, physical education programmes and activities. The school's main sporting activity was rugby football organised and overseen by **Ray Milner**, Master in charge of Physical Education, Head of Sport, and former Assistant Secretary of the England Rugby Football School's Union; boys who played rugby at OSH were in good hands!



Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge, circa 1955.



*Ray Milner
(1929-2016).*



OSH School Jersey and Blazer Badge



OSH 1st XV on the field of play – Ray Milner refereeing.



*Bob McMaster aged 16 on
his way to school, 1958*

My contribution to the school's 1st XV is noted in the end-of-term rugby performance report for Autumn 1958-1959 season, written by Ray Milner.

RUGBY, 1958-59

The 1958/59 season was probably the most successful we have experienced. The 1st XV had only one defeat in thirteen games; the 2nd XV won both their games, and the Junior XV won 9, drew 3 and lost 7.

The most notable successes by the 1st XV were the wins against King Charles School, Kidderminster, Sebright School and Halesowen Grammar. A great deal of the success was due to Phillips, who was the backbone of the team and an inspiration to all the other players. His line-out work and covering of the three-quarter was always first class, not to mention all the points he scored with his kicking.

The forwards were always the strength of the team, but in the second half of the season the three-quarters showed considerable improvement. McMaster, at full back, was always very safe and reliable, and the forwards who showed most promise apart from Phillips were Paterson and Weaver.

Unfortunately we are losing more than half the team in July, so next year the team will be young and not so experienced as this season's. There will have to be a lot of hard work and training if we are going to do justice to our fixture list.

Phillips, Weaver, Paterson and McMaster all had trials for the County XV. Weaver was picked for the 2nd XV and Phillips was again chosen for the final trial for the international team, but unfortunately he was injured just after the start of the game and was again picked as reserve.

School Colours were awarded to McMaster, Meddings, King, O'Neill, Weaver and Paterson.

R. M.

Results, 1958-59

1st XV

			For	Against
Sept. 27	Wolverhampton M.G.S.	Won	17	6
Oct. 1	Dudley S.G.C.S.	Won	22	3
4	R.A.F., Cosford	Drawn	3	3
18	Kidderminster K.C.S.	Won	6	3
29	Tettenhall College	Won	29	5
Nov. 1	Sebright School	Won	12	3
5	Stourbridge K.E.S.	Drawn	6	6
8	Old Boys	Won	22	6
12	Ludlow G.S.	Lost	9	14
19	Dudley S.G.C.S.	Won	22	3
22	Wolverhampton M.G.S.	Won	27	0
26	Halesowen G.S.	Won	6	3
Dec. 6	Kidderminster K.C.S.	Won	3	0
			184	55

Played 13, Won 10, Drawn 2, Lost 1.

2nd XV

Oct. 29	Sebright School	Won	31	0
Nov. 22	Wolverhampton M.G.S.	Won	24	3
			55	3

In 1998 OSH was one of England's most successful sporting schools. The school was awarded Sport England's Sportsmark Gold Award, **Ray Milner** retired, and **Peter Jones** was appointed the new Head of Sport. In 2001 Peter became Deputy Headmaster and in 2007 Headmaster, retiring in 2014. The current Headmaster is **Paul Kilbride**, Director of Sport is **Andrew Coalter** and Rugby Coach is **Shaun Perry**. On Wednesday 16 March 2023 the school won a history-making School's Vase double. The school's U15s and U18s teams won both finals at Twickenham. As an old boy and former OSH 1st XV player, I was delighted to have been invited by The Headmaster to join the whole school at Twickenham. What a thrilling day of rugby!

OSH and DKRFC have been informally connected with one another for many years with former OSH pupils, like myself, moving on from schoolboy rugby to club rugby via DK, a number of them eventually playing at county level. Indeed, some players also went on to play at premiership and international level such as **Rhys Crane**.

Rhys Crane :

England 7's



It is worthy of mention that OSH rugby coach **Shaun Perry** is a former English International rugby player (2006-2007, 14 caps) whose rugby career started at DK. He rose through the age groups and eventually played for the club's 1st XV for seven seasons before joining Coventry, Bristol, C A Brive and Worcester Warriors.



Shaun Perry

v Wales 2007



Years	Team	Apps	(Points)
2000-2003	Dudley Kingswinford	72	(276)
2003-2005	Coventry	39	(40)
2005-2009	Bristol	57	(50)
2009-2011	CA Brive	51	(20)
2011-2013	Worcester Warriors	29	(5)
2006-2007	England	14	(10)

Whilst reading an old OSH prospectus dated 1954, I noted that one of the school's Feoffees (Trustees) listed was none other than **Cyril E Lloyd**, a name that I was familiar with. Cyril E Lloyd, a Black Country Industrialist, is the same Lloyd who was Patron of DKRFC during the 1927/28 season and was appointed a Life Member of the club in 1947. My father **James McMaster**, former Works Director (and in later years MD) of Noah Hingley & Sons Ltd of Netherton, Dudley, knew Mr Lloyd who was President of the company in the 1950s. Noah Hingleys is famously known for supplying the chains and anchors for the ill-fated RMS Titanic that sank in 1912 (reference to DK's Industrial Heritage site provides an insight to the history of Noah Hingleys- click on this link. [*DK's Industrial Heritage.*](#))



*Cyril E Lloyd MP
(1876-1963).*

My schooling at OSH came to an end in December 1958 aged 16 having been accepted on a Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship with Belliss & Morcom Ltd, Power Plant & Marine Engineers, Birmingham.

Dudley Kingswinford RFC



*Bob McMaster
DK Fullback
1958-59 season.*

Photograph courtesy of Gwyn Bayliss (1907-1976) former international rugby player who played fullback for Wales v Scotland in 1933; Gwyn, a former schoolteacher, was also a sportswriter for Sporting Star Newspapers of Wolverhampton

Having left OSH, I still had a desire to continue playing rugby and subsequently became a member of DK rugby club during the 1958-1959 season aged 16, approaching 17. At the time the 1st XV selectors were clearly looking for a replacement fullback and thankfully I was available - I was in the right place at the right time, what a privilege! My father, a sportsman and former Water Polo player representing Dudley and Worcestershire County, was delighted and subsequently provided transportation to and from the club during my early years at DK; the McMaster family were living in Netherton near Dudley in those days.



DKRFC Rugby Club located at their old ground, Penzer Street, Kingswinford. Looking in a southernly direction, changing facilities (white building) and clubhouse right, 1st XV pitch in the foreground.



*Bob McMaster DK
Fullback 1st XV.*



DKRFC Blazer Badge and Jersey.





1st XV 1958-59 Season.

Standing L to R: Tony Friend, Bob McMaster, Cliff Watson, Ron Shuck, Ken Watson, John Gibbons, Ron Ellway, Allan Thomas.

Sitting L to R: Roy Waldron, Tony Bradley, Ray Davies, John Pardoe (Capt), Dave Roberts, John Mucklow, Errol Mason.



1st XV 1959-60 Season.

Standing L to R: Fred Fry (Club Founder), David Hughes, Bob McMaster, Dave Roberts, John Gibbons, Cliff Watson, Richard Connett, Ron Shuck, Ken Watson, Ron Tyler (Ref).

Sitting L to R: Tony Bradley, Errol Mason, Ray Davies, John Pardoe (Capt), John Mucklow, Tony Friend, Roy Waldron.

During the 1959-60 season my old friend, **David Hughes**, and I attended North Midlands Youth Rugby Union trials held at Wolverhampton RFC. Both of us were successful playing at Moseley RFC, The Reddings, Birmingham prior to going on tour to Ammanford, West Wales.

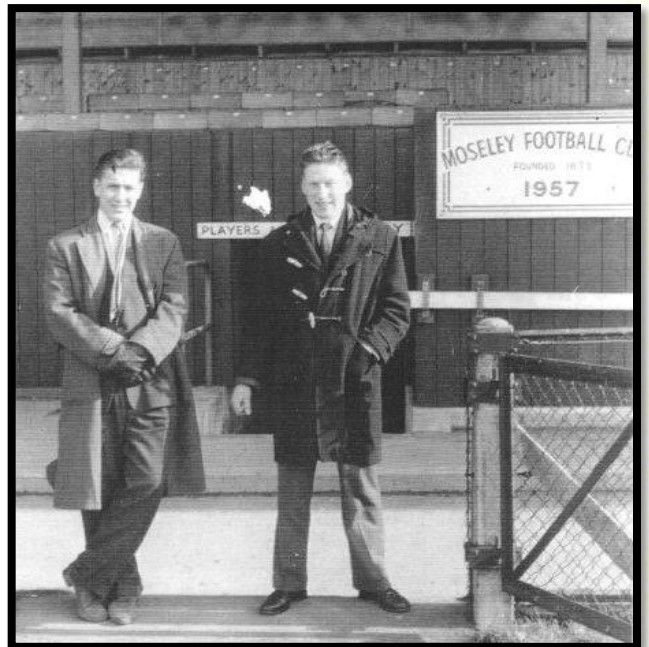


North Midlands Youth team 1959-60 Season.

Bob McMaster sitting second from the right, David Hughes sitting extreme left.



North Midlands Youth Badge and Jersey.



Pre-match at Moseley RFC 1959-60 Season. Bob McMaster right, David Hughes left.



*View from clubhouse at Penzer Street looking north across the
1st XV pitch 1959-60.*

Bob McMaster extreme right (in Kit) walking right to left.

Now perhaps is the time to mention briefly the illustrious career of **Cliff Watson**, a rugby player with whom I had the privilege of playing with during my first two seasons at DK. Cliff, a big lad for his age, joined DK in 1955 aged 15 and six months and played his first game for the newly formed Colts team. Within a few years he was selected to play prop forward for the 1st XV and by 1959 had played for the county side of Worcester and Hereford. Unfortunately for rugby union and DK in particular, Cliff saw an advertisement by the rugby league club St Helens offering employment and the sport of rugby and in September 1959 he went north.

His progress at St Helens was rapid, so much so that he played in the 1961 and 1966 rugby league cup finals against Wigan at Wembley; St Helens defeated Wigan on both occasions. In due course, Cliff played for England RFL and Great Britain and finished his playing days in Australia with Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks and finally with Wollongong Wolves before retiring in 1974 (reference to DK's History site provides an in-depth review of Cliff's rugby career, click on this link [The Cliff Watson Story \(heyzine.com\)](http://heyzine.com)).



Cliff Watson
(1940 ~ 2018)

Cliff in action playing for GB v Australia in the 1960s.



Sadly, Cliff passed away on 2nd May 2018

In the early 1960s I represented the club playing seven-a-side rugby, I was a little nifty in those days!



Playing seven-a-side rugby in the early 1960s.

L to R. Richard Connett, Tony Yates, Bob McMaster, Errol Mason, Morris Preece, Ron Shuck, John Gibbons.



Participating in the Oxford RFU Seven-A-Side Tournament, Sunday 31st March 1963.

L to R. Dewi Wright, ?, David Vaughan, Roger Jones, Cliff Davey, Tony Friend, John Richards, John Bruton, Peter Cox, Bruton's Partner, Peter Silvester, Peter Reep, Bob McMaster, Paul Hodgkiss, Hodgkiss's Partner, Russ Barnshaw, Peter Hart, Mary Hart.

By the late 1950s the club was capable of fielding four teams and as a result the continuing heavy use of two pitches at Penzer Street was taking its toll. Needless to say, it was decided that the 1st XV pitch should be rested for twelve months during the 1960-61 season. In the meantime, a Ground Seeking Sub-Committee was formed, and, on the 20th April 1960, successful negotiations had been concluded with nearby Himley Cricket Club for use of part of their ground on an annual tenancy of £25 per annum. Early in 1961 **George Higgs** (who was club President at that time) reported that **Philip Solari** (local potato farmer and past President of Stourbridge RFC) was prepared to sell to the club nine acres of farmland adjacent to Swindon Road, Wall Heath. Needless to say, an Extraordinary General Meeting of club members resolved that the land at Swindon Road be purchased and that the ground at Penzer Street be auctioned off. However, vacant possession of the ground at Penzer Street could not be given until May 1963 since the ground was still required for the playing season of 1962-63. (*reference to DK's History site provides an in-depth review [Philip Solari, DKRFC and Heathbrook](#)*)

The last 1st XV game to be played at Penzer Street was on the 27th April 1963 against Handsworth RFC, DK winning 15points to Nil. Members of DK's team were:

Paul Friend, Bob McMaster, Fred Friend, Harold Ross, B Cotter, R Jones, R Chater, M Waltier, E Roe, John Gibbons, David Hughes, J McDermott, Tony Friend, Ralph Mucklow & Eric Price.

DK moved to their new clubhouse and grounds at Swindon Road ready for the start of the 1963-64 season. The first 1st XV game at Swindon Road took place on the 4th September against Wolverhampton RFC, DK lost by 8points to Nil.

1960's



2018

*DKRFC Rugby Club at Swindon Road, Wall Heath,
circa 1960's (top) and 2018 (below)*



1st XV 1963-64 Season.

Standing L to R: Peter Hart, Tony Friend, Mike Waltier, David Hughes, Ken Pattinson, Mike Oliver, Bob McMaster, David Vaughan, Peter Silvester.

Sitting L to R: Brian Sheldon, John Bruton, Errol Mason, Richard Connett (Capt), Ray Stokes, Eric Price.

It is worthy of mention that **Ken Pattinson** (standing fifth from the left) joined DK in 1960 and played second row and prop for four seasons before joining the North Midlands Society of Referees. He rose rapidly through the refereeing ranks and was in due course appointed to the English panel of international referees officiating at the 5 Nations Championships in the 1970s and later acted as a Citing Commissioner for the International Referees Board and European Rugby.

On 11th September 1963 the clubhouse and grounds at Swindon Road were officially opened by **A G Butler**, President of the RFU. Over 300 people including Presidents of Unions, Presidents and representatives of Clubs, International players and many well-known sporting personalities were in attendance.



Official Opening of DKRFC Rugby Club.

L to R: **W G K Griffiths** (Ex DK Chairman & President), ? ,?, **A G Butler** (President of the RFU), **R G H Higgs** (Ex DK President), **N V C Court** (Ex DK Chairman & President and Architect responsible for designing the new clubhouse).

The following team photographs serve to illustrate that my contributions to 1st XV rugby were still in demand for a few more seasons.



1st XV 1964-65 Season.

Standing L to R: P Rice (Ref), Tony Friend, Ralph Mucklow, David Vaughan, David Locke, Steve Walker, Errol Mason, Bob Swan, John Gibbons, J Smith.

Sitting L to R: Allan Ness, Peter Cox, Richard Connett (Capt), Ray Stokes, John Bruton, Bob McMaster.



1st XV 1966-67 Season.

Standing L to R: Stuart Page, David Vaughan, Peter Cox, David Evans, David Greenway, Steve Walker, J McCabe.

Kneeling L to R: Roger Jones, Tony Friend, David Beere, Mike Pegler (Capt), Bill Jones, Terry Johnman, Bob McMaster, Allan Ness.

During the 1966-67 season **Steve Walker, Peter Cox** and I had the privilege of playing for Worcester & Hereford RFU Counties team.



Counties Logo and Jersey.



1st XV 1969-70 Season.

*Standing L to R: **Jack Fellows, David Beere. Bruce Houston, Roger Griffiths, Paul Keeton, Bob Swan, Don Bradley, Roger Shakespeare, Steve Walker, Cliff Davey.***

*Sitting L to R: **Bob McMaster, Stuart Page, Richard Connett, Peter Lees (Capt), Allan Ness, Frank Green, Bill Jones.***

My final appearance for the 1st XV was during the 1969-70 season, I was beginning to slow down and more youthful, up and coming players were moving into the team. I had had a good run and now was the time to move across to the lower teams; I still had the desire to continue playing rugby. Initially I played briefly for the Extra First, followed by the Wasps, Scorpions, Wanderers and Hawks; Team Captains remembered, **Bob Cook, Harvey Woolf, John Smallwood, Dave Packwood, Dave Slater, Gerry Jones, Peter Edmonds and Bob Dryden** (apologies to other captains that I may have overlooked).



*1980-81 Season. Wanderers 'First Time' Winners:
Bridgnorth Tournament.*

Standing L to R: David Slater, David Vaughan, Tony Marsh, M Bird, Roger Shakespeare, Frank Green, Bryan Williams, Ian McDiarmid, Kneeling L to R: Martin Chard, John Challans, Bob McMaster, Gerry Jones (Capt), Andy Lobb, Peter Stinton, Bill Jones.

In 1979, my son **Jonathan McMaster** played for DKs Youth Section Under 9s team.



DKs U9s Team 1979-80 Season.

Standing: Second from the right **Simon Hart**, third from the right **Jonathan McMaster**.

Kneeling: With ball **Matthew Baggot**, third from the right **Peter Stinton Jr** (other team members yet to be identified).

Dudley Kingswinford
Rugby Football Club



TWENTY YEARS

AT

HEATHBROOK

On Sunday 11
September, 1983, DK
celebrated Twenty Years
at Heathbrook, Swindon
Road; fortunately, I was
able to participate.

*(reference to DK's History
site provides an in-depth
review:*

[Full Programme and photos
from the day.](#)

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER, 1983

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

- 11.00 a.m. Dudley-K 1963 v. Invitation Geriatric XV
- 11.45 a.m. Champagne Breakfast (to be served to those
1963 stalwarts still capable of lifting
a glass to their lips).
- 12.30 p.m. Buffet Lunch: Everyone welcome;
-2.30 p.m. Tickets available at £2 a head.
- 02.15 p.m. Dudley-K 1983 v. Stourbridge 1983
(mini rugby curtain raiser).
- 03.00 p.m. Dudley-K 1983 v. County XV.



1983: DK 1963 1st XV selected to play Stourbridge 1963 1st XV.

Standing L to R: Brian Sheldon, Andy Lobb, David Vaughan, Errol Mason, John Gibbons, Peter Hart, Paul Keeton, Don Bradley, Mike Waltier, John Bruton, Andrew Johnson (Ref).

Sitting L to R: Marsden Young, Eric Price, Bob McMaster, Harold Ross, Richard Connett (Capt), Tony Friend, Peter Cox, David Beere.

At the end of the 1991-1992 season, aged 50 years, it was time to hang up my boots for good and so I left the field-of-play for the last time. At the end-of-season dinner I was delighted to have been presented with a pewter tankard and a 'caricature statuette' of myself with ball in right hand evading imaginary opponent with left hand 'hand-off', I am told that I had a useful 'hand-off'. The statuette was created by **Steve Acaster**, former 1st XV captain 1984-86.



Bob 'Hand-off' McMaster!

Retiring from the field-of-play was not a difficult decision to make when I reminded myself of that well known saying 'that time and tide waits for no man', needless to say, I continue to support the club from the sidelines.

In 2003-04 **Errol Mason** and **Richard Connett**, (both former 1st XV Captains and Club Presidents) suggested that annual get-togethers of former club members who played at the club's old ground at Penzer Street, Kingswinford would be a good idea. The idea was welcomed and accepted, and the first Penzer Street Players Get-together took place at the end of the season; **John Gallis** and I providing support and assistance in organising the event which continues to this day.



Penzer Street Players Get-together (some taking a break from the bar) 2003-04 Season.

Front to rear: John Gallis, David Evans (Club President), Cliff Davey, Bernard George, Bob McMaster, Richard Connett, Mike Foster, John Richards, Denis Lovering, Derek Ryder, David Vaughan, David Hughes.



Penzer Street Players

Photograph taken by **Peter Harrington**,

*Standing L to R: Frank Green, Tony Vernon, John Sudan,
Bernard George, Errol Mason, Tony Hickling,*

*Sitting L to R: Mike Carey, Cliff Davey, Ken Pattinson,
Keith Dawes, Roger Shakespeare, Eric Price, Ken Mason, Mike Tandy,*



Tony Hickling with his 1926 Bean Car



Get-together 2015-16 Season.
former Penzer Street Player.

David Hughes, Graham Robins (Club President), Brian Webster, David Beere, Reg Hamblett, Mick Fellows, Mike Oliver, Bob McMaster, Paul Hodgkiss, Allan Ness, Peter Cox, John Gallis, Ray Stokes, Roy Waldron, Colin Jones, Peter Reep, Alun Thomas, Richard Connett.

The classic 'Bean' car as seen in the accompanying photographs is a physical reminder of the club's industrial heritage. The car, owned by club member **Tony Hickling**, was manufactured in 1926 by Beans Industries Ltd of Tipton (formerly known as A Harper Sons & Bean Ltd).

The company's Managing Director at the time was **Jack H Bean** who became DKRFC's first President for the 1928-29 season following the club's move from Dudley to Penzer Street, Kingswinford in 1927.



Penzer Street Players

Standing L to R: Ken Crane (Club President), Peter Harrington, Peter Edmonds, Bill Tony Hickling, Matthew Davey (Cliff Davey's Grand-son), Andy Pearson, Tony Osborne, Alun Thomas, David Hughes, Stan Baddams, Peter Reep, Ron Shuck, Sitting L to R: John Gallis, Ray Stokes, Mandy Davey (Cliff Davey's Daughter-in





Get-together 2018

Hart, Roger Shakespeare, Alan Cox, Bill Jones, Andy Lobb, Tony Vernon, Marsh, Roy Waldron, Eric Price, Bob Dunn, Sally Wood (Colin Jones' helper), David David Beere, Brian Webster, Bob McMaster. law), Paul Hodgiss, Colin Jones, Ken Mason.

Penzer Street Players Get-together 2022.

Standing L to R: Ken Crane (Club President), Roger Shakespeare, Tony Vernon, Peter Reep, Bob McMaster, Paul Hodgkiss, John Gibbons, Bob Dunn, Ray Stokes, David Beere, David Osborne, John Gallis, David Hughes, Gavin Hollows, Bill Jones, Peter Harrington.



Penzer Street Players Get-together April 2023

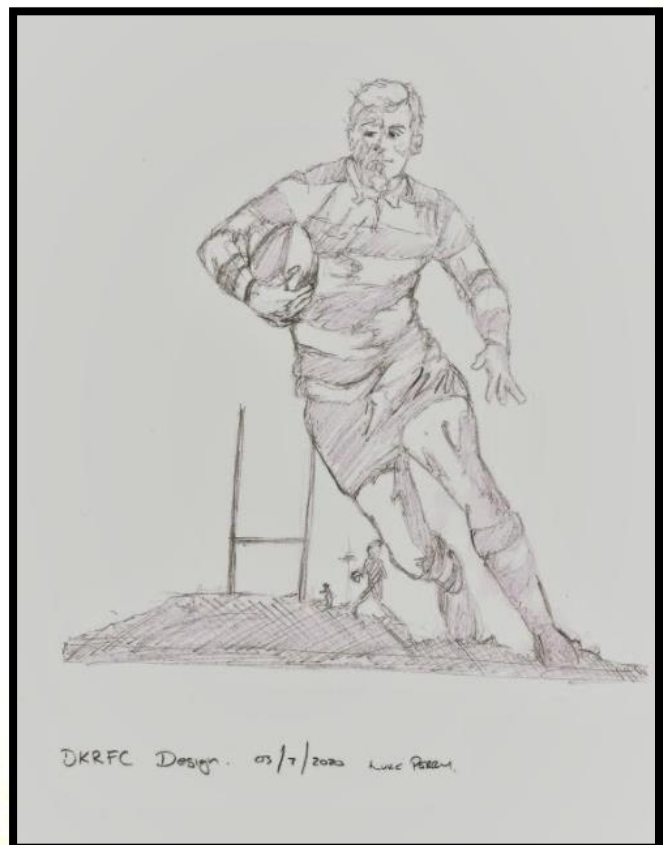
Standing L to R: Tony Vernon, Roger Shakespeare, Bill Hart, Bill Jones, Ray Stokes, David Hughes, Frank Green, Ken Crane, David Osborne, Bob McMaster, Bob Dunn. Sitting L to R: Paul Hodgkiss, Peter Cox, Ken Watson, John Gallis, David Beere, John Gibbons, Gavin Hollows, Peter Harrington.



*Bob with John(G)
who joined DK in
1953.*

Whilst construction of the Centenary Wall with integral terrace (adjacent to the supporters' stand) was nearing completion in readiness for the club's 2020 Centenary Celebrations, I was approached by **Jonathan Knowles** (Club Chairman) and **Neil Shillingford** (Director of Rugby) regarding the possibility of obtaining an appropriate structure that could be located above the terrace. Having given some thought to what the structure might look like i.e., a rugby player running with ball in hand, I approached **Luke Perry**, a well-known Black Country Sculptor whom I had had dealings with in the past. Luke, who produces sculptures in steel, put my proposal onto paper which was then submitted to the management team of the club for their approval. The proposal was accepted, and the sculpture was created and installed in August 2020 in readiness for Centenary Celebrations which unfortunately were curtailed owing to Covid.

*Sketch of rugby player
running with ball.*





*Finalised sculpture
with Luke Perry.*

The Statue in situ.



Whilst attending a 'Former DK Players' Dinner' on Saturday 16th December 2023 I met up with some of my old DK Hawks teammates; we played together in 1983-84 and 1984-85 under the captaincy of **Bob Dryden**.

I really enjoyed my time with the Hawks and it should be noted that Bob (D) put in a huge amount of time and effort in organising and overseeing fixture lists, team selections and transport, all was much appreciated by those who played under him.



Former DK Players' Dinner, December 2023.

*Standing L to R : **Haydn Moss, Dave Packwood, Barry Smith, Bob McMaster, Bob Dryden.***

In the last few years, I have been contributing articles for the club's History Webpage with the support and assistance of my friend **Brian Platts**, former 1st XV player, Manager of the Club's Youth Section and DK website guru.



*Brian Platts:
Ex 1st XV player Life Member
and DKRFC Director.*

Brian and I have spent many hours together researching and updating the club's archives on an on-going basis, all of which can now be accessed and viewed by all at the push of a button, click on the link to view.

[Dudley Kingswinford RFC - Club History \(rfu.club\)](http://rfu.club)

In conclusion, I have to say that my association and relationship with schoolboy rugby and DKRFC has been a fantastic experience and enjoyable journey.

Long may it continue.

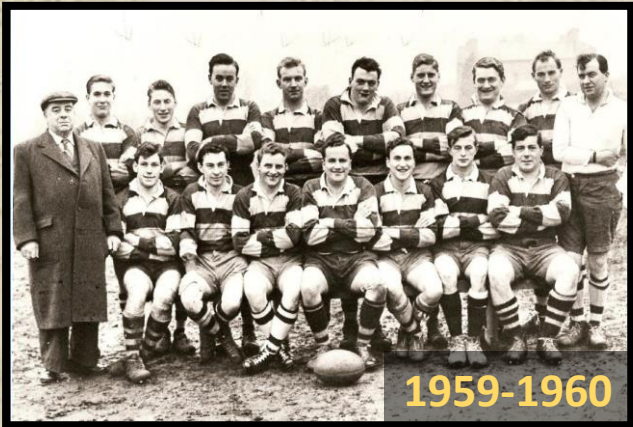
Bob McMaster,

Former OSH student, ex DK 1st XV Player and Life Member of D.K.R.F.C.

February 2024.



1958-1959



1959-1960



1963-1964



1964-1965



1969-1970



1983



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