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HUDDERSFIELD  
AWICK

# ALEX. FIDDIES



Price:  
One Shilling

# "Alex Fiddes"

A Review of the Football Career of a Rugby Star  
with Photographs and Detailed Records of his  
Achievements, Tributes from well-known Rugby  
League Personalities and an Article concerning  
Seven-a-Side Football by Alex himself.

FOREWORD by

**W. CUNNINGHAM**

(Chairman, H.C. & A.C. Football Committee)

COMPILED BY

**A. N. GAULTON**

in association with

**W. ARMITAGE, J. A. BROOK, F. B. HOYLE and W. STOKER**

Published by

**THE HUDDERSFIELD C. & A.C. SUPPORTERS' CLUB**



## FOREWORD

TO be asked to write a foreword to a book may at times present a problem, not so for this particular book, however, as I consider that this is indeed an honour and one which I appreciate very much.

The subject around which this book has been written, "ALEX FIDDES," conjured up many happy memories of an association which began many years ago when "Alex" donned the "Claret and Gold" for the first time.

Being a fellow Scot, it is, I suppose, only natural that we should have much in common and long before I was elected to the Football Committee at Fartown, we were firm friends, and my official connection with the club has, if anything, strengthened that friendship.

Now to the book itself. It has been compiled and written by a number of back-room admirers and will be read and re-read when many similar publications will have been forgotten and that will be their only reward. So do endeavour to assist them in this splendid and spontaneous effort on behalf of this great hearted player who has given the best years of his life to the game which is so near and dear to the hearts of the Huddersfield Sporting public.

To attempt to detail the many stern struggles that our friend has played the leading role in, would be a task beyond the power of any individual, but the interesting, instructive and comprehensive review of the ups and downs of the club during the last thirteen years will recall with pleasure many of these encounters. It may not be generally known that Alex has had offers far in excess of anything he received at Fartown, but to all of them he has just smiled and said "No thank you."

From a club point of view he is a model servant, standing firmly by his colleagues, but always meeting his committee with an open mind negotiating on behalf of the players in a quiet, dignified manner.

Perhaps his greatest asset is his ability to handle youngsters who show promise, his patience with them is inexhaustible and many a young player both Rugby League and Rugby Union will testify to this.

Space being limited, I should like to express my warmest thanks to the Authors of this tribute to a loyal servant, a grand captain and one of the greatest sportsmen I have ever met.

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.

## PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

\* \* \* \*

When it became known that Alex Fiddes was to be honoured with a "Testimonial" the Huddersfield C. & A.C. Supporters' Club decided to pay their tribute by the publication of a Souvenir Booklet of photographs and detailed records of his many achievements in the Rugby Game, truly, a player worthy of inclusion in the ranks of the many famous past wearers of the "Claret and Gold."

The publication of this Booklet gives his many admirers, and the sporting public in general, an opportunity of paying their tribute, as the net proceeds derived from the sales will be donated to the "Testimonial Fund."

We have been fortunate in being able to call upon Mr. A. N. Gaulton and his wonderful collection of records.

Our sincere thanks are also given to Messrs. Bray & Son, Holmfirth, for their co-operation and use of photographs, and to all who have in any way helped to make the publication possible we are indeed grateful.

For the HUDDERSFIELD C. & A.C. SUPPORTERS' CLUB,

WILFRED STOKER,  
Honorary Secretary.

September, 1946.



74b Street Lane,  
Leeds, 8,

As from one Border man to another I should like to express the sincere hope that Alex Fiddes will receive the testimonial his services to the Rugby League Game in general and the Huddersfield Club in particular richly entitle him.

Like thousands of others I have enjoyed many happy hours watching him play football, and no appeal to him to assist in a Charity effort was ever made in vain.

"Lang may his Lum reek."

JOHN WILSON.

192, St. Stephen's Road,  
Bradford.

Alex Fiddes is a player whom any club would be proud to have, and is one of the finest captains it has been my privilege to meet. Both on and off the field Alex has been a perfect gentleman. My best wishes for the success of his Testimonial.

STAN BROGDEN.

5, Stainbeck Walk,  
Leeds 7.

To be permitted to write a few words about one of the Rugby League's greatest sportsmen is indeed an honour. But to do justice to the famous Huddersfield Skipper is, I am afraid, beyond my capabilities.

Yet I can truthfully say, and I feel I am voicing the opinion of all those who have had the honour and pleasure of playing against him that, winning or losing, Alex Fiddes played Rugby League Football in accordance with the highest traditions of the game.

That fine sporting crowd at Fartown are showing their appreciation of his long service to the club in the form of a testimonial. I wish them every success.

Mr. H. V. Wood, President of the Huddersfield Rugby League Club, once wrote: "It is said that 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness.' Well, the man who plays the game cleanly and honourably as a good true sportsman sets an example to his fellows. He will never go far wrong in life but will earn and deserve our regard and esteem."

The above can be truly said of Alex Fiddes, and that he may wear the Claret and Gold with distinction for many more seasons is my most sincere wish.

JIM BROUGH.



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ALEXANDER ERSKINE FIDDES

A photograph taken during his early days at Fartown.



## THE WINNING SMILE



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Alex with the R.L. Challenge Cup, won at Odsal,  
May 5th, 1945.

# ALEX FIDDES

In its long and illustrious history the football section of the Huddersfield Cricket and Athletic Club has produced many centre-threequarters who have helped to make the name of Huddersfield synonymous with all that is best in the Rugby League code. Names like Wagstaff, Wrigley, Gleeson, Bowkett and Brogden spring readily to mind, and now we can add the name of Alex Fiddes who, after thirteen years of loyal and consistent service at Fartown, is to be rewarded with a well-deserved Testimonial.

During thirteen seasons (twelve of them as captain) Alex has taken part in many great encounters on the various grounds throughout the Rugby League. He has steered his team to many a triumph, and in days of adversity (such as come to all sporting organisations at times) he has been a sheet anchor and the rallying point of his side. Those of us who have regularly followed "Fartown's" fortunes over the last dozen or so years can best appreciate what Fiddes has done for his club, and for followers who have not these memories, the statistical records given on a later page bear their own testimony.

And now, in the next few pages, let us take a glance at the career of Alex Fiddes—still a great captain, a great footballer and a great Fartowner.

The year 1933 was an important and an eventful one in Fartown annals. The winning of the Rugby League Challenge Cup against Warrington at Wembley had followed the acquisition of several new men, and when season 1933-34 opened great things were expected from the Cup winners.

Six defeats in the opening six games came as a shock therefore, and to make matters worse the team's captain, Bowkett, sustained a broken collar-bone. It was



obvious that new "blood" would have to be sought, and among the positions needing re-inforcing was that of stand-off half, where there was no reliable deputy for Richards.

The Huddersfield "scouts" turned their attention to the Border Country where, among others, they had their eye on the nineteen-year-old Hawick stand-off who was reported to have the big match temperament. Despite his youth, Fiddes had, at that time, played 3 full seasons at Hawick, appearing in his first senior game at the age of 15.

Alex remembers nothing of outstanding importance during his early football days, which started at Hawick High School. From there he took the next natural step for any lad intending to continue football after school-days, by graduating to the local Y.M.C.A. team—the recruiting ground for the famous Hawick "Greens."

His first big chance came against Langholm in November 1930, when Hawick had several men playing in a Scottish International Trial. Young Fiddes went into the team and helped Hawick to gain a 20-0 victory, signalling his debut with a try under the posts from a pass which was slung to him just outside the opposition "25" line.

The corresponding game against Langholm the following season brings back a different kind of memory to Fiddes, for on that occasion he broke his wrist and put himself out of action for the eagerly awaited annual games at Glasgow against the Glasgow Academicals and University. The committee, however, allowed him to travel with the team, so he had the consolation of watching the game even though he could not play.

His regular half-back partner at this time was G. W. Reid, who played alongside him in the Y.M.C.A. team from whence they graduated together into the Hawick XV. The pair struck up a fine understanding, and both were in the running for their International "caps."

## R. U. HONOURS.

Representative honours came to Fiddes when he played in a Scottish International Trial—for South v. North—at Selkirk in 1931, and he also played in a further trial at Dunfermline in 1932. When the South African Tourists of 1932 went across the Border, Fiddes appeared in the South of Scotland side that opposed the Springboks at Melrose. On the latter occasion he played at centre.

One of Alex's happy memories of his Rugby Union days is when, along with other members of the Hawick team, he travelled down to Twickenham to watch Scotland play England in an International match. Some five years later he was to go to London again, this time as the captain of his team in a Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley.

Meanwhile, the displays given by Fiddes for Hawick had not gone unnoticed and Fartown representatives called at his home and asked him, outright, if he would be prepared to join Huddersfield. They intimated that they were going to watch him play on the Saturday, and terms were discussed. Unfortunately, neither Fiddes or Hawick had a good match and the youngster heard no more till the following week, when although Hawick were again beaten, terms were arranged. Even then Fiddes hesitated, but his hand was forced when he received an "ultimatum" from the "die-hard" Scottish Rugby Union that he must disassociate himself from the rumours which linked his name with that of a professional club. A statement to this effect, for publication in the Press, was sent to him to sign.

That decided Alex! The date was October 13th and the day Friday, but despite the supposedly unlucky combination of Friday the 13th he threw in his lot with Huddersfield—a decision that neither party have since had any cause to regret.

And so Hawick lost a young player who amply fulfilled his early promise and, after a change of position, followed in the great traditions of his famous predecessors at Fartown.



## INTRODUCTION TO RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL.

Fiddes had his first experience of the 13-a-side code as an onlooker at the Huddersfield v. Leeds match at Fartown on October 21st, 1933. The two chief features impressed on his mind by the game (which Huddersfield won by 17-10) were the pace and the passing, and he realised that training would play a very important part in this new code.

The following week he made his debut in the claret and gold jersey when he played for the "A" team against Hull Reserves at Fartown in a game which ended in a 2-2 draw.

After only three games with the Reserves Alex got his chance with the first team when he was included in the side to meet the 1933-34 Australian Tourists at Fartown on November 18th—an imposing baptism indeed! The impression he made in that match can perhaps be best judged from the following comments by "Rouge" in the "Huddersfield Examiner."

"Considering the importance of the occasion and the difficulties created by his comrades, Fiddes made a most successful debut with the first team. He took the ball well and gave many beautiful passes. Had his centres done the same I doubt whether Australia would have won. Fiddes also showed that he has little to learn in tackling."

Fiddes had come to stay, and he missed very few of the remaining first team games that season. His early matches were played at stand-off, with either Adams or Spencer as his partner, but when a centre-threequarter vacancy arose in the Christmas fixture with Halifax at Thrum Hall, he filled it.

After a few more games at off-half he took over a centre position and made it his own, his case thus being the reverse to that of Jim Davies, who came as a centre and won fame at stand-off.

In one respect did Fiddes resemble the famous "Dancing Master" in the stand-off position, and this was a point that was particularly noted by the Huddersfield "scouts" who watched him play with Hawick. From a midfield "scrum" Fiddes always positioned himself behind the pack (thus giving himself the choice of two directions of attack) instead of the usual lateral place to left or right. This caused no little discussion among older Fartown followers, who recalled that this position had been previously adopted by Jim Davies, Johnny Thomas, Herbert Ganley, Don Wauchope and W. J. Davies.

The interest with which Alex's career was being watched by his Hawick friends was shown during this first season when, on the occasion of London Highfield's visit in the R.L. Cup, a party of 30 Hawick enthusiasts made the trip down to Fartown to see Fiddes and Willie Welsh (another former Hawick player) in opposition. It was unfortunate that Welsh was unable to play through injury, but Fiddes turned out in the match.

## WEMBLEY YEAR.

Season 1934-35 found the team without a regular captain in the first few matches and several players were given the position in turn. Eventually however the honour was given to Fiddes, who first acted as "skipper" when Hull came to Fartown on September 29th—a game in which Stanley Mountain made his debut in the Huddersfield colours.

The team failed to get in the First Four, but a good run in the cup-ties gave Fiddes the unforgettable experience of leading his side in a Challenge Cup Final at Wembley, even though he was denied the ultimate honour of bringing back the Cup.

During this season Fiddes and Markham laid the foundations of a long partnership which brought many brilliant tries for Huddersfield, and which will rank with such other famous wing pairs as Rosenfeld and Wrigley, Wagstaff and Moorhouse, Rosenfeld and Gleeson, or Mills and Brogden.



The scoring efforts of the Scots-Australian pair were at their height in the early part of 1935-36, when Markham scored 30 tries in the first 13 games. In the Featherstone match at Fartown on September 21st, Fiddes "fed" his partner to such good effect that the winger scored no fewer than 9 tries—a Rugby League record. A few weeks later Markham had a "bag" of 6 tries in a match. Altogether, Ray Markham scored 264 tries for Huddersfield, and he would be the first to admit that credit for a great proportion of them should go to the man who engineered so many of them—Alex Fiddes.

The Australian Tour of 1936 occupied the minds of Rugby League followers and players at about this time and Fiddes played in one of the Tour Trials but failed to gain selection with the sailing party.

He did go "on Tour" later that year, however, as the Huddersfield team went over to France in November and played two games, one at Bordeaux and the other in Paris.

League and Cup honours did not come Fartown's way during 1936-37, but, although the team finished halfway down the league table, 755 points were recorded in all matches. Very few were the other clubs who exceeded that total. Towards the end of the season Fiddes took over a new rôle—that of goal-kicker. In the last match he landed the ball over the bar 11 times, mostly from under the posts it must be confessed.

1937-38 was undoubtedly Huddersfield's worst period, in a playing sense, under the captaincy of Fiddes, and Alex himself will probably look back on this as his "hardest" season at Fartown. Although the club had some brilliant backs available, things seemed to go wrong most of the season, and forward weaknesses threw extra work on the outside men. There were bright spots, of course. The team reached the Final of the Yorkshire Cup (only to be beaten by Leeds at Wakefield) and the Australian Tourists were defeated when they visited Fartown. In the continued absence of a regular goal-kicker it again became the "captain's job," and Alex's efforts in this line brought him a half-century of goals.

His work for the club during this strenuous time was rewarded when he was selected for a British Empire team which defeated France by 15-0 at Buffalo Stadium, Paris, on November 1st, 1937.

The season before the War found Alex accomplishing one ambition, when Huddersfield won the Yorkshire Challenge Cup under his leadership, beating Hull at Odsal—a match that will always be remembered by the 3 brilliant tries scored by Markham, especially the one following brilliant inter-passing between he and Fiddes, a length of the field effort. Later in the season he had high hopes of a League Championship success as well. The team got safely into the Top Four, but failed in the Play-off Semi-final against Salford at Weaste. It was during this season that one Yorkshire club, in search of players, valued Fiddes at £1,300.

Another trip to France came Alex's way in November, 1938, as he was chosen as captain of a Rugby League team which played two games, at Bordeaux and Lyons.

The Season following saw Alex at his best, and he was extremely unfortunate that the outbreak of hostilities prevented any possibility of the scheduled 1940 Tour of Australia taking place. Throughout the season he played grand football—helped, perhaps, by the free-and-easy atmosphere which prevailed in the early war-time matches, and it was generally accepted by Rugby League enthusiasts that he and Risman were the two outstanding centres of the season and would have been automatic choices for Australia.

This view was borne out by the fact that both Fiddes and Risman played in a representative game at Salford on May 4th, 1940, between the 1936 Australian Tourists and the 1940 Probable Tourists.

His 500th first team point for Fartown came against Hunslet in the first match played following the resumption of football in September, 1939, and the visit of Keighley on September 30th provided Alex with his



record individual points aggregate for one match—10 goals and 3 tries (29 points). His season's total of 33 tries placed him second in the Rugby League try-scoring list.

Another Yorkshire Cup Final was reached in November, 1942, when Dewsbury were opposed in a two-leg Final, but a 7-0 lead to Dewsbury in the first match on their own ground proved sufficient to give the men from Crown Flatt the Cup. During the season Fiddes turned out with Bradford Northern and Halifax as a "guest" player on occasions when Huddersfield had no match. He also assisted Castleford under this war-time system of loaning players.

Further representative honours were gained in 1943 and 1944 when he played for Rugby League teams against Northern Army XIII's, one of the games being at Fartown.

The year 1945 provided Alex with a thrill which had been denied him ten years previously—that of receiving the Rugby League Challenge Cup on behalf of his successful team, even though the Final venue wasn't Wembley. It also brought him a very tempting offer from the newly-formed Workington club, who wanted him as player-coach and offered him a three years contract along with a guarantee of employment in Workington. Huddersfield's game at Borough Park on New Year's Day had shown the Workington officials that the Scot was just the man they wanted for the job, for he had scored three tries and given a grand exhibition of centre play. It took Alex a while to reach his decision—so tempting was the offer—but he finally decided, for family and personal reasons to stay at Fartown.

The events of last season will be fresh enough in the mind to need little mention here. The cup disappointments and the race into the First Four, culminating in the League Final at Maine Road, Manchester, where Fartown's hopes were dashed and Wigan claimed the trophy. In his thirteenth season Alex showed that he still ranked among the best, and many were the Rugby

League followers who fancied him for a place with the Touring party to Australia. It was not to be however, although he played in one of the Tour Trials, on a day when no reputations were enhanced.

And so we come to the present, with Alex Fiddes still a power in the Rugby League world. It has been a significant fact during the past few seasons that, although he has never been considered a "speed merchant," the Fartown captain is rarely caught from behind once he gets a lead. His positional play and handling have been as good as ever, and he has frequently shown that he is a master at the art of dribbling, so rarely seen now on a rugby field. Let us hope that these abilities will be used in Fartown's service for some years to come and that, eventually, Alex will emulate other great Fartowners in seeing his sons wear the claret and gold jersey.

### SEVEN-A-SIDES.

No mention of Alex Fiddes would be complete without a reference to "Sevens," for the Scot's cunning ways and nimble achievements have made him the Rugby League's chief exponent of this abbreviated form of the game. Alex has been persuaded to write his impressions on "Sevens" for inclusion in this book, but it may be interesting first to see what he has done for this type of football at Fartown.

Huddersfield's record in seven-a-side tournaments under Fiddes' captaincy is a truly remarkable one. The Fartowners have reached the Final in twelve of the thirteen competitions entered for and were the ultimate winners on eight occasions. In thirty-five games Fiddes has totalled 208 points, and it is worth noting that thirty-one of the games were won, and 527 points recorded against 217. Alex also played for the Rugby League "Seven" which won the Northern Command war-time tournament at Headingley in 1945 and was the leading scorer of the afternoon's play with 6 tries and 4 goals.



The principal requirements for back play at "Sevens" are speed, swift handling, clever positioning and (above all) quick thinking, and the spectacular seven-a-side game has brought out the football best that is in Fiddes. The clean cut through, the rapid handling and the exhilarating dash for the line have all been there to thrill us, and the grounding which Fiddes received at "Sevens" in his native Borderland, where the game flourishes like the green bay tree, has been brought to its full power since he came South.

Alex's first football medal was won at "seven-a-side"—with Hawick Y.M.C.A.—and altogether he won 16 before he turned professional.

No further tribute to the Scot's skill and ability is needed than that he should this summer, after thirteen seasons of Rugby League football, have led his men to further triumphs in the game which he is convinced has a great future.

And now let us turn to Alex's own comments on "Sevens," at which he has shown himself to be such a master.



## "SEVEN - A - SIDES"

by A. E. Fiddes

My earliest recollection of football funnily enough is concerned with 7-a-side. I should not be more than 6 or 7 years old when I was taken to Melrose, the H.Q. of seven-a-side football. At that early age the great attraction was not football but ice-cream vendors, the lemonade stall and the man from Galashiels who sold his "Bloody-oranges 1d. each."

A few years later I was taking a great deal more interest in the players and the playing. It is here at Melrose, Hawick, Gala, Jedburgh, Langholm and Selkirk where youngsters make the vow to play for "the" team. When about 14 years old I had the pleasure of seeing such great 7's players as Bowie, Storrie, Welsh, Beattie of Hawick, Jimmie Graham of Kelso, Jock Allan of Melrose, G. P. S. Macpherson of Edinburgh Accies, Geo. Wood and Ferguson of Gala, and hosts of others.

If Welsh was the Prince of forwards then A. Bowie was the King of them all, backs and forwards alike. Andrew Bowie was a scrum-half and he was dead slow but it was he who engineered all the moves both off and on the field.

It was Andra Bowie who laid the foundation of all the moves Fartown play today. I should not really say moves but principles. But I am over running my time a bit.



Little did I imagine when 14 years old and still in the hero-worship stage of life that two years later I should be taking the field against all the players I've mentioned. Also I broke the Bowie and Storrie combination which had won more 7's off their own bat than I cared at that time to remember. It was like trying to break up the Wagstaff-Moorhouse combination. But I succeeded and when Bowie retired I had the pleasure of making another great partnership with my very good friend G. Reid.

Geo. and I went from success to success and before I left we were well in the running for a Cap. This was my one and only regret in coming South. Not only for myself but Geo. too, as he seemed to lose heart when I left and retired shortly after.

Talking of moves which Bowie created and Reid and I carried on, these moves have stood the test of time as we have witnessed in Fartown's winning efforts these last few years. Of course to work these moves you must have men with brains to execute them. No, not speed, as some of you would think. Of course, it helps, but I have seen too many 7's spoiled with the craze for speed.

Choosing a 7 is one of the most important moves on the board. My first attempt at choosing a seven at Fartown was looked on in amazement but it only lost in the final at Belle Vue after extra time. My second attempt according to the "critics" was even worse. Imagine (they said) choosing 3 big, slow cumberseome forwards like the late Herbert Sherwood, Billy Watson, (hooking) and Jack Fuller. Why, none of them could spoil walking, but—the seven won hands down at Leeds.

You see the all important part is that you must get the ball and when your backs consist of such players as Markham, Johnson or Jeff. Bawden, Frank Royston, Stan Pepperell, Tommy Grahame, Dai Davies or Glyn Morgan—well you have all seen what happens.

Of the forwards Alec Givvons is the ideal type, clever with his hands and never tries to do it all on his own. Ron. Bailey was another. Tommy Taylor and the late H. Sherwood were the ideal props and knew the job of assisting the hooker to obtain the ball. You see I have never chosen a seven yet without a hooker.

Talking of hookers a rather amusing incident and a rather expensive one took place at Leeds 7's one year. Having won our way through to the final our opponents were Hunslet. Now Hunslet, having had a forward injured in the semi-final, appealed to me for a substitute. I turned to the lads for their opinion and they, bubbling over with confidence, immediately gave their consent.

You can imagine the look of consternation on our faces when we saw their substitute was Les. White, the old Welsh hooker. Yes! you have guessed right, we never saw the ball, but even then we went to extra time before Batten scored the winning try.

My greatest wish is, that before I finish I can leave at Fartown the same tradition as Andra Bowie left at Hawick. Because I have no hesitation in saying that seven-a-side football in the Rugby League has come to stay.





### First Team Playing Record for Huddersfield.

Season	App.	G.	T.	Pts.
1933-34	25	—	4	12
1934-35	41	—	24	72
1935-36	44	—	20	60
1936-37	43	20	22	106
1937-38	39	50	12	136
1938-39	39	30	9	87
1939-40	35	28	33	155
1940-41	24	9	18	72
1941-42	25	2	12	40
1942-43	30	2	9	31
1943-44	30	8	14	58
1944-45	34	16	17	83
1945-46	39	15	30	120
	448	180	224	1,032

### Second Team.

1933-34	3	—	1	3
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### Seven-a-side Football for Huddersfield.

Year	Ground	Games	G.	T.	Pts.
1934	Broughton R.	3	1	2	8
1935	Headingley	4	1	5	17
1936	Headingley	3	1	4	14
1937	Headingley	3	4	3	17
1938	Headingley	3	9	5	33
1939	Odsal	3	8	3	25
1939	Parkside	3	7	3	23
1944	Fartown	3	6	4	24
1945	Fartown	*1	—	1	3
1946	Fartown	3	5	5	25
1946	St. Helens	3	1	2	8
1946	Roundhay Park	2	1	3	11
1946	Wigan	1	—	—	—
		35	44	40	208

\*Was injured in the first round and had to retire from the Competition, which was won by Hunslet.

### Rugby League Representative Honours gained by Alex Fiddes

(In each case the team named first is the one for which Fiddes played).

1936 Australian Tour Trial at Leeds, February 12th, 1936.

British Empire Team v. France at Paris,  
November 1st, 1937.

\*R.L. Team in France v. Bordeaux and Lyons,  
November 11th and 18th, 1938.

1940 Tour Probables v. 1936 Tourists at Salford,  
May 4th, 1940.

\*Yorkshire v. Lancashire at Dewsbury,  
March 28th, 1942.

R.L. Team v. Northern Army at Halifax,  
December 18th, 1943.

\*R.L. Team v. Northern Army at Huddersfield,  
October 7th, 1944.

\*Colours v. Whites (Australian Tour Trial) at Leeds,  
February 20th, 1946.

\* Acted as Captain.



# Playing Records for Huddersfield

### DETAILED RECORDS. APPEARANCES.

#### First Team.

Season	League	C.C.	Y.C.	R.L.C.	Aust.	Top Four	Friendly	Total
1933-34	21	—	—	3	1	—	—	25
1934-35	33	1	3	4	—	—	—	41
1935-36	37	1	2	4	—	—	—	44
1936-37	36	1	1	3	—	—	2	43
1937-38	32	—	4	2	1	—	—	39
1938-39	32	1	4	1	—	1	—	39
1939-40	29	1	1	—	—	—	4	35
1940-41	18	—	3	2	—	—	1	24
1941-42	16	2	4	1	—	—	2	25
1942-43	16	1	8	4	—	1	—	30
1943-44	18	1	5	4	—	—	2	30
1944-45	22	1	2	8	—	—	1	34
1945-46	30	1	2	2	—	2	2	39
	340	11	39	38	2	4	14	448

#### TRIES.

Season	League	C.C.	Y.C.	R.L.C.	Aust.	Top Four	Friendly	Total
1933-34	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
1934-35	21	—	1	2	—	—	—	24
1935-36	15	—	3	2	—	—	—	20
1936-37	19	—	—	1	—	—	2	22
1937-38	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
1938-39	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
1939-40	21	2	1	—	—	—	9	33
1940-41	12	—	1	3	—	—	2	18
1941-42	5	3	1	—	—	—	3	12
1942-43	6	—	2	1	—	—	—	9
1943-44	10	—	1	—	—	—	3	14
1944-45	10	—	1	3	—	—	3	17
1945-46	26	—	1	—	—	—	3	30
	170	5	12	12	—	—	25	224

#### GOALS.

Season	League	C.C.	Y.C.	R.L.C.	Aust.	Top Four	Friendly	Total
1933-36	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
1936-37	38	—	6	3	3	—	—	50
1937-38	24	2	4	—	—	—	—	30
1938-39	20	—	1	—	—	—	7	28
1939-40	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
1940-41	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1941-42	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
1942-43	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	8
1943-44	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	16
1944-45	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	15
1945-46	145	4	14	4	3	—	10	180

### Huddersfield C. & A.C. Seven-a-side Team



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Bray & Son, Holmfirth.

R. Bailey, G. L. Gray, H. Sherwood, R. T. Markham,  
W. H. Johnson, T. L. Grahame, A. E. Fiddes, S. V. Pepperell,

Winners of the Leeds Gold Cup 1936, 1938 and 1939.



## ANOTHER CUP!



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Bray & Son, Holmfirth.

Alex and his four sons with the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Charity Cup. From left to right: Alex senr., Alex junr., Ian, Jack and Billy.

## First Team Playing Record For Huddersfield Against Other Clubs.

Opponents	App.	G.	T.	Pts.
Acton and Willesden ... ..	2	—	2	6
Barrow ... ..	8	—	6	18
Batley ... ..	23	16	10	62
Bradford Northern ... ..	35	5	16	58
Bramley ... ..	18	3	12	42
Broughton Rangers ... ..	6	1	—	2
Castleford ... ..	22	7	11	47
Dewsbury ... ..	26	6	10	42
Featherstone Rovers ... ..	24	22	16	92
Halifax ... ..	33	8	13	55
Hull ... ..	30	11	9	49
Hull Kingston Rovers ... ..	12	9	5	33
Hunslet ... ..	19	9	8	42
Keighley ... ..	24	12	15	69
Leeds ... ..	29	11	10	52
Leigh ... ..	1	2	—	4
Liverpool Stanley ... ..	3	—	1	3
London Highfield ... ..	1	—	—	—
Newcastle ... ..	2	11	1	25
Oldham ... ..	12	8	12	52
Rochdale Hornets ... ..	4	—	2	6
Salford ... ..	7	—	2	6
St. Helens ... ..	7	1	6	20
St. Helens Recreation ... ..	10	—	6	18
Swinton ... ..	8	3	4	18
Wakefield Trinity ... ..	30	11	13	61
Warrington ... ..	2	—	—	—
Widnes ... ..	5	1	—	2
Wigan ... ..	12	3	7	27
York ... ..	24	15	16	78
Australians ... ..	2	3	—	6
Club Tours in France ... ..	4	—	5	15
R. A. Artillery ... ..	1	2	2	10
J. Wilson's Team (Sherwood Benefit)	1	—	1	3
A Cumberland Team (at Workington)	1	—	3	9



## ALEX FIDDES . . .

First wore the Claret and Gold Jersey on October 28th, 1933 against Hull Reserves at Fartown.

Made his first team debut when the Australian Touring Team visited Fartown on November 18th, 1933.

Scored his first try for the seniors at Castleford on March 3rd, 1934.

Kicked his first goal at Widnes on April 10th, 1937.

Is the only player to have scored over 100 tries and over 100 goals for the Fartown first team.

Has captained Huddersfield on over 400 occasions—a club record.

Scored a try at Wembley in the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final against Castleford on May 4th, 1935.

Is one of the six Fartowners who have scored 20 goals and 20 tries in a season—a feat he has performed twice.

Captained the Fartown team in two Rugby League Challenge Cup Finals, one Championship Cup Final and three Yorkshire Challenge Cup Finals. Also in Halifax and Huddersfield Infirmary Cup games, Whitehaven Hospital Cup and Seven-a-side Tournaments.

Has scored 3 or more tries in a match on 14 occasions, and 3 or more goals 26 times. In two games he obtained a "hat-trick" of both goals and tries.

Was second in the Rugby League try-scoring list in season 1939-40 (when he scored in each of the first twelve games of the season) and joint third during 1945-46.

Has captained representative Rugby League teams in England and France.

Topped the Fartown try list in five of the last seven seasons.

Is one of the eight Fartowners who have kicked 180 or more goals; one of the six who have scored over 200 tries; and one of the three who have totalled 1,000 points for the club.

Has made his 450th first team appearance since the start of season 1946-47.

Was born at Hawick on January 2nd, 1914. Is married and has 4 sons. At present employed by the Highfield Gear and Engineering Co., Ltd.

## ALEX FIDDES' LEAGUE AND CUP FINAL APPEARANCES FOR HUDDERSFIELD.

-:- -:- -:-

### Rugby League Challenge Cup, 1934-35.

v. Castleford at Wembley, May 4th, 1935. Lost 8-11.

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1937-38.

v. Leeds at Wakefield, October 30th, 1937. Lost 8-14.

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1938-39.

v. Hull at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, October 22nd, 1938. Won 18-10.

### Yorkshire Challenge Cup, 1942-43.

First leg v. Dewsbury at Crown Flatt, November 28th, 1942. Second leg v. Dewsbury at Fartown, December 5th. Lost on aggregate 2-7.

### Rugby League Challenge Cup, 1944-45.

First leg v. Bradford Northern at Fartown, April 28th, 1945. Second leg v. Bradford Northern at Odsal Stadium, May 5th. Won on aggregate 13-9.

### League Championship Cup, 1945-46.

v. Wigan at Maine Road, Manchester, May 18th, 1946. Lost 4-13.



*The Date of the*  
*Fiddes*  
*Testimonial Match*  
*is*  
*Saturday, Oct. 12th*  
*1946*  
*when SALFORD visit Fartown*

\* \* \* \*

*Further copies of this Book and of the*  
*H.C. & A.C. Supporters' Club Silver*  
*Jubilee Souvenir can be obtained*  
*from the Hon. Secretary:*

*Mr. Wilfred Stoker,*  
*20, Holly Road, Thornton Lodge,*  
*Huddersfield.*

*1/- each (1/3 post free)*

*The following tribute from Ray Markham, Fiddes' wing partner at Fartown for many years, was received too late for publication in the earlier pages of this booklet.*

---

I have known Alex Fiddes from the first day he arrived from his native land. I have been a personal friend of his from the time he arrived to the day I left Huddersfield, and even now when I do get to Huddersfield we always talk about "the good old days."

My honest opinion of him is that he was the best centre three-quarter that I have ever played with. His uncanny positioning (I suppose the Scots are well known for this) on the field even amazed me at times, but we had everything worked out to a fraction. Even off the field we always discussed moves that helped "Fartown" to be classed as the best team in the North.

I always knew when I had the ball that if I ever wanted support, Alex would be there. His defence was brilliant and his attacking powers made him the best centre that Huddersfield has had for years.

His capabilities were known very soon to the Committee, as he was made Captain of the side very early in his career, and it must be stated that he was the ideal man for the job. He has held this position right through his career, which proves that his knowledge of the game was the best, also that he knew how to handle his team at the right and wrong times during a match.

I sincerely hope that he has a "bumper" Testimonial, and that the good friends of Huddersfield will give him the full credit of being a wonderful sportsman and a keen, clean and brilliant player who has brought many happy moments to them during the seasons that he has played for "good old Fartown."

RAY T. MARKHAM.