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KEN BOWMAN

Huddersfield

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KEN BOWMAN

The Football Career of Ken Bowman in words and photographs,
with detailed records of his achievements in the Rugby
League game for Huddersfield, Yorkshire
and Great Britain

★

Compiled by **A. N. Gaulton**

in association with members
of the Huddersfield C. & A.C.
Supporters' Club Committee

★

Foreword by

TOM MATTHEWMAN

(Huddersfield C. & A.C.)

★

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to write this personal tribute to KEN BOWMAN and to convey best wishes for the success of his Testimonial Fund.

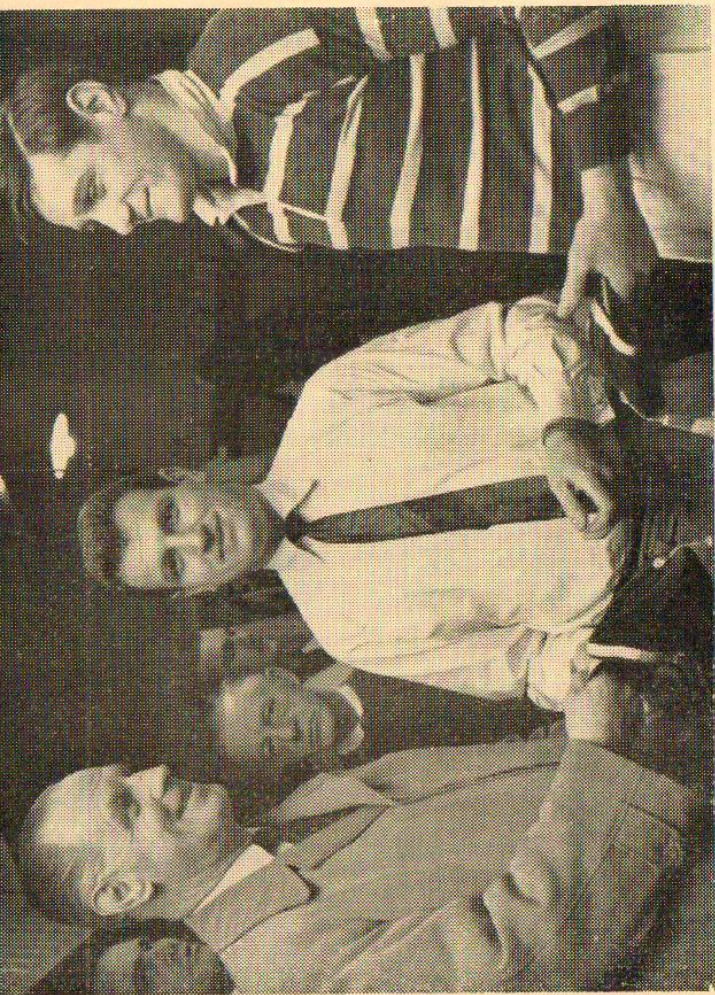
His dedication to training and his whole-hearted response to every command made one feel proud that here was a player who would succeed.

His concentration on perfect fitness and a capacity to play with strength quickly made him an opponent to be feared.

He has gained County and International honours and it hardly seems possible that ten years have elapsed since Ken signed for the "Claret and Gold."

I hope that all will rally to the support of the various efforts to make the Testimonial a worthy one.

TOM MATTHEWMAN,
(Chairman, Football Committee).



Mr. Tom Matthewman presents well-earned County "caps" to Tommy Snales and Ken

KEN BOWMAN

UP to the age of eleven Ken Bowman had never been interested in Rugby League football and his introduction to the game that was to play an important part in his life came just before a class was due to start at Fishergate school in York. The school-master, Mr. Harry Pugh (later to become secretary of the York R.L. club) looked at the boys assembled before him.

"Hands up, those who think they can run," he said. Ken's hand was among those which went up. "Hands up, those who are not frightened," came next—and again Ken Bowman's hand shot up. Mr. Pugh started counting and found that he had a sufficient number, so much to his surprise Ken Bowman was told that he would be playing for the school at Rugby League the following Saturday morning.

Never having handled a rugby ball, Ken went to Mr. Pugh and said he was sorry he would be unable to play, but the teacher would not let him back out. When Ken said he had no boots he was told "You have a pair of old boots, haven't you? Take the heels off and put some studs in." There was no get-out for Ken, and on the Saturday he played his first game of Rugby League football.

Ken well remembers the first time he touched the ball. He was facing the opponent's posts and he threw the ball straight forward to one of his team-mates who was way down the field! He never expected to be picked again after that first match but was, in fact, picked each week and started to learn the game rapidly.

Shortly afterwards his imagination was fired when he was taken to see his first big game at York, the visiting team being Huddersfield. He could never have dreamed, at that time, that the day would come when he would wear the famous claret and gold jersey himself, but after watching that match he took a more serious interest in Rugby League.

When Ken was thirteen Mr. Pugh left the school and there was no-one to take charge of the Rugby League team. The boys themselves saved the day for they had no intention of giving the game up. For what happened we can best refer to an extract from the Official Programme of the Yorkshire v. Lancashire Schools County match at York on March 27th, 1965.

Speaking of the 1951-52 season, the writer said "York had three boys in the County side. Woodcock and Allen were chosen again and they were joined by Ken Bowman of Fishergate. This last selection was particularly pleasing, as Bowman organised the Fishergate team on his own as there was no teacher available."

No mean achievement for a boy who, only a year or two before, didn't know the first thing about the game—and Ken wryly admits that he frequently devoted time to football that should have been occupied by studying.

During his later schooldays Ken received a great deal of encouragement from Mr. Jim Hattee, with whose sons he was to play in junior football for the Hewarth club in York. When he was fifteen years old, Ken played in the Under 17 team, but the year after that he was with the Under 19's and he finished that same season in the open-age side.

Ken Bowman is but one of the many first-class players turned out by the Hewarth club. Some of the others are:—the Drake twins, Bill and Jim (Hull), Coulson brothers (Hull K.R.), Hockley, Watkinson and Simpson (Hull), A. Hattee (Castleford), V. Hattee and Wrigsworth (Leeds), Houlden (Wakefield T.), plus many players who signed for the local York R.L. club.

When he was sixteen Ken was invited to train at Clarence Street but he didn't stay there long. An incident at one of the sessions ended whatever thoughts he might have entertained of playing for his own town club. The man who was in charge that night asked what position he played. Ken replied "loose forward or centre," only to be told brusquely "make your—mind up, you play one or the other down here." Ken made his mind up—and the York club missed a great chance.

Ken represented York and District Amateur Rugby League and by the time he was seventeen many of the senior clubs were interested in him. He was offered the chance of playing trials at Hull, Leeds, Wakefield and Huddersfield.



HUDDERSFIELD TEAM AT HALIFAX, AUGUST, 1958

J. Fairbank, T. Smales, R. Wood, A. Colburn, K. Bowman, A. Breen, D. Devereux;
D. Iredale, R. Cecil, E. Slevin, F. Dyson (capt.), A. Kilroy, B. Curry.

What made him choose Huddersfield? "Well," says Ken, "they had just been to Wembley in the 1953 Final and they had lots of famous players. Also, Ike Owens told me that Huddersfield was a good club and I would be alright there." Ike Owens, the Leeds, Huddersfield and Great Britain loose-forward was at that time the landlord of the Tang Hall Hotel in York, which was the Hewarth club's headquarters.

So Ken chose Huddersfield, and Ike Owen's prediction has proved to be a true one. There was to be no meteoric rise to fame at Fartown for young Bowman, however. His first game was in the "A" team against Batley "A" in March, 1955, and he played four trial games under the name of "Wilson".

The Fartowners were satisfied that the ability was there and he was signed in April. The intention at that time was that he should be groomed to take Dave Valentine's place at loose forward but as things have worked out Ken eventually settled down in the second row where he is now rated as being among the best in the game.

But almost the whole of his first season at Fartown (1955-56) was spent at loose-forward in the "A" team. He reached a double-figure total of tries in 23 appearances and only one other player, a wingman, was above him in the try list. Valentine was still holding the first team loose forward position and Ken must have been despairing of ever getting in as the season wore on.

However, on April 18th, 1956—more than a year after he had signed—Ken made his first team debut against Wakefield Trinity at Fartown. He didn't score, but at least he finished his first senior game on the winning side. As a matter of interest, the teams for that game were:— Huddersfield—Dyson; Henderson, Sullivan, Haywood, Hunter; Ramsden (capt.), Banks; Slevin, Bradshaw, Bowden, Briggs, Fairbank, Bowman. Wakefield T.—Fox; Sweeney, Froggett, Bell, Cooper; Holliday, Rollin; Harrison, Shaw, Haigh, Kelly (capt.), Jaques, Cliffe.

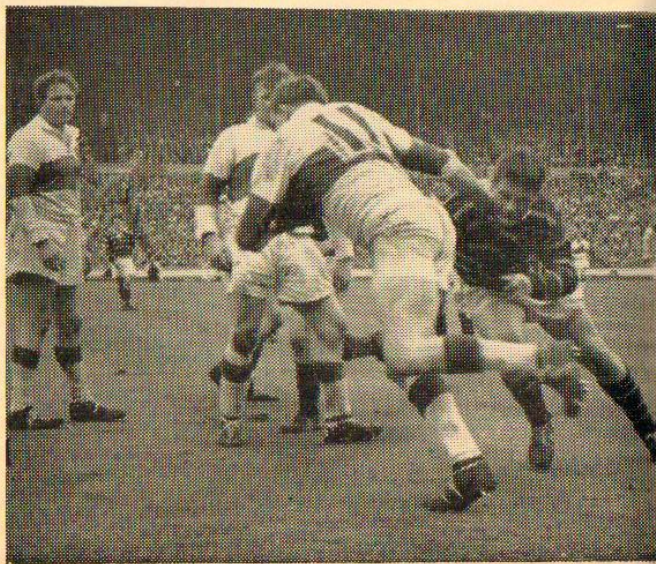
Trinity also had a promising youngster on view in Neil Fox, playing in his second game for them. Huddersfield won 19-15 but the six goals which Fox kicked were a forecast of the many more which were to come. Neither Neil nor Ken could have imagined that six years later they would be on opposing sides in a Wembley Cup Final.

Once having made the first team, the name K. Bowman became a fairly regular selection. He played a few games at loose forward, but was usually in the second row. He was a scorer in Huddersfield's Yorkshire Cup Final win over York, at Leeds in 1957, and finished the 1957-58 season off by scoring tries in each of the last four matches.

Nor were all his games in the forwards. On five different occasions between 1957 and 1959 he was selected to play wing three-quarter in an emergency—and moreover he scored in four of those five games. One of them was against Wigan, and Ken had a stirring dual with Billy Boston that day.



Ken in action at Wembley, in the Final, 1962



Easter, 1960, was a memorable time, too, for Huddersfield had a couple of high-scoring games against Doncaster in which they totalled nearly a hundred points. Ken had three tries in the first game and two in the second. Later in that year he played in his second Yorkshire Challenge Cup Final, but this time on the losing side as Wakefield Trinity beat Huddersfield 16-10.

Bowman was now developing into a mobile and powerful second row forward. He had a fine understanding with his partner Don Devereux, and later when the latter had retired with Mick Clark.

Season 1961-62 is one that few who were connected with the club at the time are likely to ever forget. The team was not, on paper, a particularly strong one, but a good position in the final League table was imperative, for those final League placings were to decide which clubs constituted the First and Second Divisions in the following season.

To make things worse, Huddersfield were playing in the Lancashire section, which certainly didn't make their task any easier. The one hope was that the players would rise to the occasion.

And rise to it they did. With a fantastic team spirit under the captaincy of Tommy Smales, a superb degree of fitness, the coaching of Dave Valentine and an amazing capacity to run the play in the direction they wanted, Huddersfield confounded the critics time and time again. At one period they looked like becoming the first Yorkshire club ever to win the Lancashire Championship Cup.

Although they failed in that goal, they did get to Wembley and while they were defeated in that Final they had, at least, some tangible reward for their fine season's work a week later. Wakefield Trinity, their victors at Wembley were "on" for the All Four Cups feat. A win in the League Final at Bradford would have bracketed Trinity with Hunslet, Huddersfield and Swinton, the only other clubs to have won All Four.

But the Fartowners were not dismayed by their defeat at Wembley. They made no mistake against Wakefield at Odsal and ended the game and the season as worthy League Champions. Not everyone was enamoured of the style of play, with its emphasis on forward work, but each member of the team, whether experienced veteran or newcomer to the side, did his own particular job competently and thoroughly.

As an outstanding member of a hard working pack, Ken got through some herculean efforts during those exciting months. On so many occasions was he the spear-head of Fartown attacks, and whether it was Ted Slevin spraying out those cleverly-timed passes, or Tommy Smales switching the direction of an attack, they could always rely on Bowman being on hand to take the ball and carry on the movement.

His thrustful attacking play made him the target for some forceful tackling, and he had his own share to do in that line on many occasions when defensive Fartown play was called for. Ken was unsparing of himself and only the remarkable standard of fitness which

trainer Mel Meek achieved throughout the team enabled him to keep it up. Even so, it was a near thing, and there were many anxious moments for Ken towards the end of the season.

He had taken a great deal of "hammer", and a series of hard matches in April left him physically exhausted. So much so that there was considerable doubt as to whether he would be fit to play at Wembley. It was then that Mel Meek did one of his finest jobs of the season.

Mel, as nice a fellow as you could wish to meet outside the dressing room, had been a thorough martinet that season. The players must have hated him as he drove them almost to the limits of their endurance—but when it was all over they freely admitted that without him they could never have achieved what they did.

Ken presented an individual problem to Mel, for apart from the question of physical fitness for the Final, Ken and his wife Beryl were expecting their first child around Wembley time and Ken was no different from any other young father under-going that experience.

Mel put him through an intensive course of treatment and massage, and gave him plenty of good advice. Meek himself lost nearly half-a-stone in weight during this period but he achieved his objective when, finally, Bowman was declared fit to play and did, indeed, play in both the Challenge Cup and the Championship Final.



Eric Ashton, the Great Britain captain, introduces his team to H.R.H. Prince Philip before the 1962 Wembley Test. Ken Bowman is the fourth player from the right.

At the end of the season Huddersfield played in a knock-out competition in Dublin and in these games Ken scored a couple of tries which enabled him to finish as joint leading Fartown try scorer with Tommy Smales, their total being 18 each.

Despite the Wembley defeat it had been a great season and many Fartown supporters felt that more than one Huddersfield player should have been included in the 1962 Tour Team to Australia. Ken Bowman should, at the very least, have accompanied his team-mate Ken Noble on the trip.

Honours were to come Bowman's way the following season, however. He was again in fine form and took the eye in many games, including a Regional Championship Semi-final against Halifax in which he scored three tries. Selection for a Rugby League representative XIII against France at Carcassonne followed and then he played in two Tests for Great Britain v. France at Perpignan and Wigan.

Nor was the greatest honour—a Test against Australia—to be denied him, for he was chosen for the Great Britain Test team against the Kangaroos at Wembley in 1963. He was on the losing side and was injured in that game, but the impression he made on one of the spectators was shown in the following letter which appeared in the "Huddersfield Examiner" Letter- Bag.

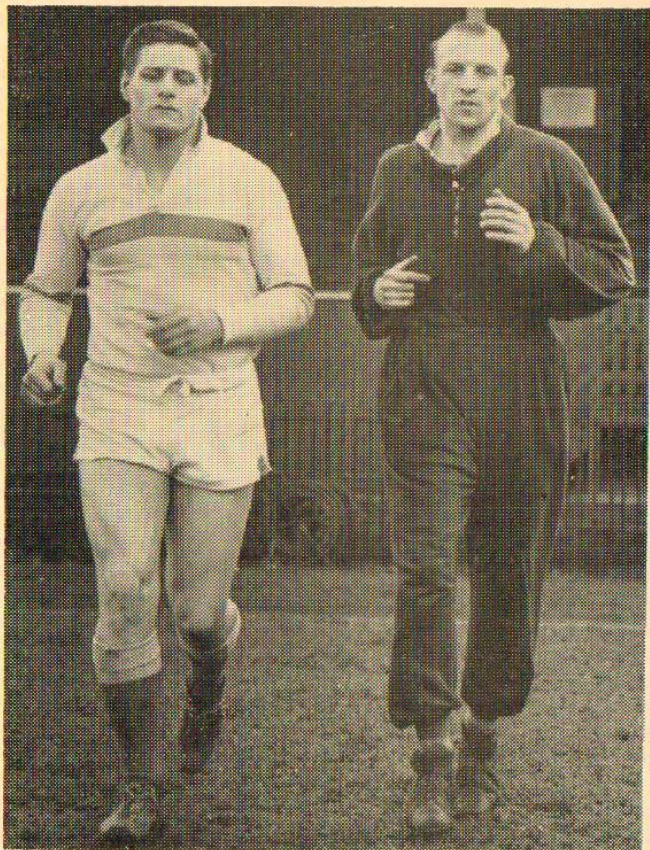
"I have just seen the best example of courage on the football field in many a long day. Huddersfield can be proud of Ken Bowman's part in Wednesday night's proceedings at Wembley. Laid out mid-way through the second half, he scorned medical attention and, on resuming, threw himself into the game with even greater vigour than before. Ten minutes from time he was again injured, and though in obvious pain for the rest of the match he hung on heroically under intense Australian pressure. When the whistle blew for time Ken had to be supported by a couple of Kangaroos and the Australian trainer for the final ceremony.

Well played, Ken! While we have such spirited performances as yours the game of Rugby League will live for ever.

James E. Cecil,
52 Radcliffe Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex."

Ken also played for Yorkshire that season, and while he didn't manage his usual double-figure total of tries he was only one short Gordon Blackett, who got ten, was the only Fartown player to score more.

Season 1964-65 has been a very disappointing one for Ken. He was injured in the second game (at Whitehaven) and missed the next ten or eleven matches. Then, following his return to the field of play, he was approaching something like his old form when he was injured



Ken and Mike Wicks looked rather worried in this picture. They had good reason to, for at the time both of them were doubtful starters for the Wembley Final. However, all ended well and they both were eventually reported fit.

again. Both were leg injuries and eventually cartilage trouble was diagnosed and Ken went into hospital at the end of March for the removal of the cartilage.

That, naturally, ended his football for the season but it is pleasing to be able to report that Ken is now making good progress after his operation. All at Fartown wish him Good Health and Good Luck, not only for his return to the rugby field next season, but for the whole of his future life.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks are expressed to our advertisers whose support has made this publication possible, and we hope that readers will patronise them. Also to the "Huddersfield Examiner" and the Rugby Football League for the loan of blocks; to Sportsgear Ltd, and to Messrs. G. Armitage, G. Bottomley, P. Crabtree, F. Hobson and T. Matthewman.

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Ken's young son, Paul, rides up to bed in fine style

Photo, courtesy "Daily Express"

Personal Tributes . . .

STRONG BURSTS AT SPEED

I feel highly honoured to be asked to pen these words to one who has done so much for his club. It is hard to believe that Ken has been with us so long, he is still a young man,

He came to us from the York junior club Heworth and soon settled in, quite content to play in the "A" team. When his chance came to be promoted to the seniors he played loose forward or second row and it was in the latter position that he began to show his true form. He came on by leaps and bounds and made the No. 11 position his very own.

One of his greatest assets is to take advantage of the slightest opening and his strong bursts at great speed have made him a prolific scorer of splendid tries which have thrilled the crowds. This has been made possible by his splendid physique and regular training. He seldom misses a training session.

And now to Ken "the man" whom I have known and admired through his long career. He is kind and thoughtful and no new player is a stranger to Ken after their first training spell together. His loyalty to all his colleagues, new and old, is well known and admired by everybody.

One thing I must not forget is Ken's eagerness to support any players' testimonial game, charity matches or sportsmen's evenings, and functions. The calls upon his spare time for any such occasions are many and varied.

To the game itself he has been an ornament, and the Committee could pick him in any position without a word of complaint.

I appeal to all sections of the club and to every sportsman in the district to salute Ken by making his testimonial a "Bumper One."

Thank you Ken for everything. It has been worth while knowing you.

Wm. (Bill) Cunningham,

Former Chairman of the Fartown Football Committee.

A HARD GRAFTER

When Ken Bowman came to Huddersfield from York there were many who thought that the club could make a good centre out of him. He had the short burst and the kind of enterprise that is so useful in a three-quarter line. He did, in fact, remain with us as a forward, but it is worth while remembering that he is the kind of second-row man who could now and then look like a three-quarter.

A great gift for straightening the attack made him so often dangerous near the enemy line. With the ball coming across the field from a play the ball, he was often able to score by cutting in straight towards the line. He had a quick eye for a gap, but what served him best was just the ability to go straight when play seemed to be moving diagonally—which put a defender on the wrong foot.

It was this gift that made him one of the best scoring forwards we have had during the past decade. His approach to his best form was steady rather than spectacular. For several seasons his play was marked more by promise than by achievement, but it is probable that he would have come on sooner if he had more frequent opportunities of settling down in established partnerships.

Still, Ken never gave up trying. He was a hard grafter, and he never failed for lack of hard endeavour. He was the industrious apprentice who succeeded more by the dint of trying than by inspiration. That took him far enough to gain selection for Great Britain—a recognition well deserved.

Sidney H. Crowther
("Autolycus" of the Huddersfield Examiner")

RESOLUTION AND FORTITUDE

Having known this season's beneficiary for the last ten years, I can say with all sincerity that no club could have a more conscientious player regarding training and keeping fit than Ken.

On the field every demand, has been met with resolution and fortitude.

So let's hope he has a benefit worthy of his prowess.

Yours in Sport,

Mel Meek,
Former Fartown Trainer.

LOYAL CLUBMAN

I was very pleased to hear that a Testimonial has been granted for Ken Bowman and would like to say a few words about him.

First and foremost, he is a very loyal clubman, he stuck with Huddersfield when things were pretty good and when they were not too good. He plays with brain as well as brawn and must be one of the fastest 15-stone men in the game.

My feelings for Ken Bowman were shown, earlier in the season when I asked Huddersfield what price they would take for him, the Huddersfield answer was not at any price. Have a Bumper Benefit, Ken, and many more years of Rugby. The Rugby League can not afford to lose men like you.

E. J. Ashcroft,
Warrington.

A DEDICATED FOOTBALLER

It gives me great pleasure to be able to pay my tribute to Ken in this his testimonial year.

Having played with him for most of his ten years I can honestly say that he is the fittest and most dedicated footballer I have played with or known in my few years in the game.

I have no doubt in my mind that given luck in the future he will add for himself and the club many more honours. Wishing you a bumper testimonial Ken.

Brian Curry,
Fartown Captain.

ALWAYS DOING HIS STINT

Three Great Britain appearances, one for a Rugby League XIII, and two more for Yorkshire. Maybe more honours than many players receive during a ten-year spell in top-class football . . . yet Ken Bowman might so easily have had others.

Ken has always been one of those "quiet" players for me. Always doing his stint—more often getting through a little bit extra rather than a little bit less—and yet not always getting full credit for his efforts.

Despite his ability to penetrate deep into opposing defences he has never been the flashy type of player who so often hits the lime-light and the headlines.

In fact I feel that frequently he has tried to do too much out of keeping with his true style for the sake of the team and that his own performances have suffered in consequence.

Yet Ken has never been one to criticise overmuch either his own mates or opponents. He has been an excellent club man and loyal servant at Fartown, and when he has been away in France with Great Britain he has again been the quiet, non-trouble-giving sort who must be a joy to coaches and team-managers.

No doubt Ken's honours list would have been longer had Huddersfield's recent records been more impressive, but he still has time to add to that list for he is a comparatively young fellow with plenty of big-time experience.

After sampling the loose-forward and second-row positions I see no reason why he should not have many more years in the game—perhaps eventually in the front row.

But whether that happens or not, whether he remains with Huddersfield or not, Fartown fans still owe him a bumper testimonial. All the best, Ken.

Jack Bentley,
of the Daily Express.

AN EXCELLENT TEAM MATE

I consider it a pleasure to be asked to say a few words for Ken's testimonial book.

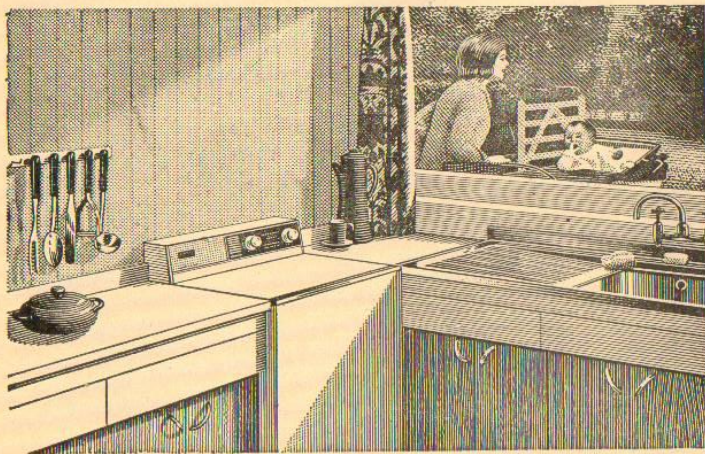
Having known Ken for quite a number of years, I've always found him to be an excellent team-mate on the field, and a good friend off it. He is a forward of International standard, a hard tackler, and a fine sight when going for the line with that devastating burst of his.

So good luck to you and Fartown Ken. Here's to a Bumper Benefit for a very worthy player.

Tommy Smales,

Bradford Northern.

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THE GREAT BRITAIN TEAM v. AUSTRALIA AT WEMBLEY, 1963

Back—W. J. Armour (Masseur), J. Measures, J. Tembey, K. Bowman, N. Field, B. Tyson, W. Sayer, W. Burgess.
Front—D. Bolton, K. Gowers, V. Karalius, E. Ashton (capt.), A. Murphy, N. Fox, W. Fox, W. Fallowfield (Manager)

Back Row—Mr. H. Lockwood, Mr. G. Armitage, Mr. W. Cunningham (Chairman), Mr. E. Sheard (President), Mr. T. Matthewman, Mr. G. Bostomley, Mr. F. Hobson, Mr. P. Crabree, Mr. G. Bottomley, Mr. E. Slevin, F. Dixon, D. Valentine (Coach), Middle Row—H. Tiffany (Ast. Trainer), L. Booth, A. Redfearn, D. Deverux, K. Bowman, E. K. Senior (Secretary), Mr. K. Senior (Secretary), Seated—G. Davies, A. Breen, M. Wicks, T. Smiles (Capt.), P. Ramsden, H. Daighon, A. Kilroy, In Front—K. Haywood, D. Close, Mr. K. Noble, G. Stocks, M. Clark, M. Meek (Trainer). Absent from photograph—K. Noble, G. Stocks, M. Clark, M. Meek (Trainer).

Press Cuttings . . .

The foundation of Huddersfield's success was hewn out by their young rip-roaring forwards. The pick of the magnificent youngsters was 20-year-old Ken Bowman.—

v. Leeds (Yorkshire Cup Semi-final), October, 1957.

Team changes through injury brought Bowman back to a wing position. While I cannot see Bowman as a definite answer to the wing problem, I remember him having a good game there at Odsal, and also against Billy Boston once when Wigan were at Fartown. Whatever his failings, Bowman can be relied on as a trier to the last ditch.—

v. Widnes, January, 1959.

The former Heworth loose forward, drafted into the second row, organised Huddersfield's first win since December 20th with two spanking tries. After linking in an early scoring move Bowman went over himself in a fifteen yards burst and just on half-time he was positioned again to thunder over—

v. Salford, February, 1959.

Ken Bowman, who was placed on the Fartown transfer list at his own request last April didn't help his chance of a move in the Keighley game. He played such a storming game that the committee promptly increased his transfer fee. No figures were named, but I understand the fee asked was about doubled—

September, 1960.

Most heartening news from Fartown is the form Bowman has now found. At Keighley and Headingley he played the kind of football we knew he had in him. On the showing of the Yorkshire Cup semi-final at Leeds, Huddersfield have in Bowman and Devereux the best second row pair they have had since Nicholson and Robson—

October, 1960.

Huddersfield have turned down an offer of £4,000 by Hull Kingston Rovers for the services of Ken Bowman. Mr. Archbell, the Huddersfield secretary, said "The offer came before the committee last evening, but Bowman was taken off the transfer list at his own request at £5,000, and Hull K.R. were told that we were not interested in any sale and were not prepared to part with him. We

KEN BOWMAN

May I crave your indulgence and attention for a while,
I've several comments that I'd like to make
In tribute to a Fartowner who's served the club in style,
He's earned his benefit, make no mistake.

I am referring to Ken Bowman, 'Bomber' if you like,
For that's the nickname that he's had of late.
This is due to his scoring power, He is a worthy 'Tyke',
He's scored well over seventy tries to date.

Before he signed for Huddersfield in Nineteen Fifty Five
He played loose forward for the Heworth team.
Whilst playing for this York side his initiative and drive
Brought county honours to him and esteem.

On looking up the records of his Rugby League career
The name of Castleford is often found.
His one hundredth appearance with the first team was made here,
He also scored his first try on their ground.

Another Bowman memory concerning Wheldon Road
Took place while Ken was in the second team.
Four times, on this occasion, 'Cass' try line he strode,
Some going for a forward this would seem.

At Easter Nineteen Sixty his ability he showed,
At Doncaster's expense our 'Ken' made 'Hay'.
A hat trick on the Monday he achieved at Bentley Road
And two more tries at Fartown the next day.

Despite his size (his weight has averaged over fifteen stone),
He's proved himself as fast as many backs.
In one cup semi-final he scored three tries on his own
When Huddersfield defeated Halifax.

The Huddersfield club record for a forward scoring tries
Was set up just before the First World War
When Douglas Clark scored twenty times—a mighty season's prize!
A total future forwards could aim for.

As only one had challenged that amount in recent years,
Bob Nicholson's Seventeen was best as yet,
When Bowman crossed for eighteen tries he earned a lot of cheers
In one great season we will not forget.

This effort helped the Fartowners the Championship to win,
The Rugby League selectors then took note.
Next season saw his international career begin,
For three games played with France he got their vote.

Continuing the season after when the 'Aussies' came
He played at Wembley in the First Test Match.
As Yorkshire's side, on two occasions, featured Bowman's name
He still was managing their eyes to catch.

For much of Nicholson's success Bob Robson could take pride,
In much the same way Slevin could for Ken.
Ted's shrewd and timely passes when he turned the ball inside
Made many openings for his fellow men.

And now the time has come along when we can do our bit
To thank Ken for his efforts in the past;
So rally round, supporters, let us make his benefit
One which long in his memory will last.

Brian Donaldson.

were very pleased when Bowman, who had been on the transfer list
at his own request, came off, also at his own request"—

December, 1960.

★

After that it was stalemate again until the very last minute of
the game when Bowman, who had been the best forward on either
side, strode powerfully through to touch down between the posts—

v. Liverpool City (R.L. Cup), February, 1961.

★

The second try followed a fine burst by Bowman, who found
Smales on his right, and the latter's pass to Booth enabled the
centre to crash over in the corner.—

at Hull, September, 1961.

★

Then came a brilliant Bowman try. Once again the second
row forward was nudged through with a short pass by Slevin and he
obliged with a great 50 yards run, in the middle of which he pushed
an attempted tackle aside almost contemptuously.—

at Salford, October, 1961.

★

The two Kens in Huddersfield's pack, Bowman and Noble,
gave thrilling power-packed performances in last night's defeat of
Leigh. Bowman's second row display could take him on the
Australian Tour.—

at Leigh, February, 1962.

★

The party to tour Australia was due to be chosen on Thursday.
Writing before the names of the lucky players are announced I've
no idea whether any Fartowners are in the team, but there could
well be. Devereux, Dyson, Bowman and Noble must all have been
in the selectors' minds. It is perhaps too much to hope they will all
have been chosen, but Fartowners are going to have some unkind
things to say about the selectors if none of them are in.—

March, 1962.

★

The Test selector who had been impressed by the work of the
Huddersfield forwards at Leigh had his impressions confirmed. In
the two games it would seem that at least a couple of Fartowners
have booked themselves for a trip "down-under" at the end of the
season. Which two? My guess is Bowman and Noble.—

at St. Helens (Cup), March, 1962.

The way Bowman hurled himself over the line for his try, turning in the air to make sure he wasn't stopped from grounding the ball, was a thrilling sight of unstoppable determination.—

★
at St. Helens (Cup), March, 1962

Huddersfield went further ahead with an almost ludicrous try, for from the base of the scrum Smales dashed for the corner leaving Bowman, who actually had the ball, to run over in the opposite direction without a hand being laid on him.—

v. Salford, March, 1962.

★

The forwards all had their moments of glory. Bowman took a great deal of "hammer" and got through a lot of work.—

v. Hull K.R. (Cup S.F. at Odsal), April, 1962.



"SEVENS" FINALISTS AT HEADINGLEY, AUGUST, 1964

Back: K. Bowman, G. Thompson, J. Anderson, J. Saukuru (reserve)

Front: A. Ford, K. Senior, T. Smales, D. Close

Bowman made some gallant breaks and sought to keep play moving but, after the first back pass or two received, the Bramley men were ready and waiting for him, usually two or three of them.—

at Bramley, October, 1962.

★

Bowman worked valiantly and had the reward of paving the way for Haywood's try—

v. Hull K.R. (Eastern Championship Final at Headingley),
November, 1962.

★

Bowman of Huddersfield was in top form and scored two tries, the opening for the first being made by Lewis Jones.—

Rugby League XIII v. France at Carcassonne, November, 1962.

★

Despite the handicap of a badly cut eye, Bowman was back to his best form. He stormed through time and again and his first half try was a fine piece of opportunism after the St. Helens passing had broken down.—

v. St. Helens, March, 1964.

★

Liverpool could not compete with the lightning thrust of Huddersfield. Bowman cracked in a second half hat-trick of tries, sidestepping and moving with a speed which belied his bulk.—

v. Liverpool C., March, 1965.

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KEN'S REPRESENTATIVE APPEARANCES

Great Britain v. France at Perpignan, December, 1962.

Great Britain v. France at Wigan, April, 1963.

Great Britain v. Australia at Wembley Stadium, October, 1963.

Rugby League XIII v. France at Carcassonne, November, 1962.

Yorkshire v. Lancashire at St. Helens, September, 1963.

Yorkshire v. Australia at Hull, September, 1963.

In September, 1961, Ken played for a representative Halifax-Huddersfield team against the New Zealand Tourists at Fartown.

CUP FINAL APPEARANCES FOR HUDDERSFIELD

1957 Yorkshire Cup Final v. York at Headingley.

1960 Yorkshire Cup Final v. Wakefield T. at Headingley.

1962 Rugby League Challenge Cup Final v. Wakefield T. at Wembley.

1962 League Championship Final v. Wakefield T. at Odsal.

1962 Eastern Regional Championship Final v. Hull K.R. at Headingley.



KEN'S 1957 Y.C. FINAL TRY

You can't see Ken because he's buried under the York players
The Fartowner on the left is Mick Sullivan.

KEN BOWMAN'S FARTOWN PLAYING RECORDS

	First Team		"A" Team	
	Appearances	Tries	Appearances	Tries
1954-55	—	—	7	1
1955-56	1	—	23	10
1956-57	18	3	8	5
1957-58	24	7	3	4
1958-59	24	9	4	1
1959-60	12	6	8	3
1960-61	37	11	1	—
1961-62	41	18	—	—
1962-63	39	11	—	—
1963-64	38	9	—	—
1964-65	15	5	3	2
Totals ...	249	79	57	26

THREE TRIES IN A MATCH

FIRST TEAM

3 v. Doncaster at Doncaster, April, 1960

3 v. Halifax at Fartown, October, 1962.

3 v. Liverpool City at Fartown, March, 1965.

"A" TEAM

4 v. Castleford "A" at Wheldon Road, January, 1958.

3 v. Doncaster "A" at Fartown, January 1957.

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A MESSAGE FROM KEN

A great number of people have helped me during my football career and while there are too many to mention them all I would like to express my appreciation to at least some of them.

I believe that a player should always listen to someone who is trying to offer advice and then, afterwards, think over what has been said, pick out the useful comments or those which make sense in his own particular case, and try to put the advice to good use. I also believe that you never stop learning at Rugby League—or at any other thing for that matter.

Among those who helped me in my early days at Heworth were Harry West, Johnnie Simmonds, Pash and Eric Dale and Jim Hattee. All these gentlemen helped to run the Heworth club.

Since coming to Fartown ten years ago the people from whom, in particular, I have learnt a great deal are Alec Fiddes, Henry Tiffany, Billy Smith, Ernie Ashcroft, Mel Meek, Dave Valentine, Tommy Smales, Ted Slevin and Frank Dyson. From them I received a lot of good coaching and, in some cases, sound advice.

Also I must express my gratitude to the Huddersfield Football Committee, to my playing colleagues at Fartown and to the members of the Supporters' Club who have produced this Brochure and organised several other efforts on behalf of my Testimonial Fund.

To all these good friends and to all the spectators who have given me so much encouragement from the stands and terraces may I say a big THANK YOU.

KEN BOWMAN.

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