SOME MASONIC RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS

Herman (Herb) NARVO.

A rugged test forward who was also a good cricketer and cyclist and also held the Australian heavyweight boxing championship while playing league. Narvo played his early football in Newcastle before joining Newtown for one year in 1937, also playing for New South Wales in 1937 & 1938.   He was omitted from the 1937 Kangaroo tour but then replaced Joe Pearce when Pearce broke a leg in New Zealand.

Following that tour Narvo returned to Newcastle until rejoining Newtown from 1943 to 1945. He was then captain-coach of St. George in 1946 when the club lost the grand final 12-13 to Balmain. Narvo then played his last years in country football at Cootamundra, Camden and Newcastle. He died of cancer in 1958.

With Newtown he played 45 games for 22 tries and 6 goals a total of 78 points. With St. George 13 games, 3 tries and 8 goals, a total of 25 points.

Herb Narvo commenced boxing with a fight at Newcastle stadium winning in a first round knockout. He was then matched against an American, Alabama Kid, being knocked out in the third round. In just his thirteenth fight he won the Australian Heavyweight title against Billy Britt in 23 seconds in the first round. He lost that title to Jack Johnson in 1946 before captaining the St. George rugby league side the next day. One unofficial fight was against Ray Stehr. Narvo stopped Stehr in the fourth round.

Herb Narvo was initiated on 27th March 1946, passed on 26th April 1946 and raised on 12th August 1946 in Lodge Hamilton, No. 451. His occupation was given as a waterside worker. He called off that lodge 28th July 1954 after affiliating with Lodge Metaforan, No. 871 on 10th October 1953. and finally called off Lodge Metaforan on 13th June 1958.

Albert George Treweek

In 1926 George Treweek played in a trial game against a Mascot team in Tumut. Renowned as one of the best forwards the game has seen he played first grade for South Sydney's premiership teams in 1926-1929 and 1931-1932. Treweek also played for New South Wales in 1927 becoming a fixture in the state side. He played in the three test matches in 1928 and toured with the 1929 Kangaroos. This was a four test series and George Treweek and scored a try in Australia's first test victory. He continued playing for New South Wales until 1933, while captaining South Sydney, when he retired because of business pressure. George Treweek was a butcher.

For South Sydney he played 118 games, scoring 39 tries, a total of 117 points.

George Treweek was initiated on 22nd December 1928, passed on 8th March 1929 and raised on 11th May 1929 in Lodge Unanimity, No. 227. He was installed as Worshipful Master of that losge in 1944 initiating 12 candidates during his year. He also had conferred Grand Rank. He called off on 10th March 1973.

Alfred Gibbs

A forward, Alfred Gibbs played 28 games for Newtown in 1949-1950 scoring 5 tries for atotal of 15 points. A police constable Alf Gibbs was initiated on 28th April 1952, passed on 27th February 1953 and raised on 28th October 1953. He was struck off for non payment of dues on 14th December 1958.

Bryan Cecil Holmes

A forward, Bryan Holmes played for Eastern Suburbs between 1947-1950. playing 57 games and scoring 4 tries for a total of 12 points, on one occasion being named player of the match. Bryan Holmes, a schoolteacher, was initiated on 4th August 1949, passed on 4th January 1950 and raised on 24th May 1950 in Lodge Bronte, No. 507. Bryan Holmes called off on 5th February 1986.

Alan Bruce Dennis.

Alan Dennis, a forward, played for South Sydney in 1953, playing 9 games for 2 tries a total of 6 points. He was a Police Officer rising to the rank of Inspector. Alan Dennis was initiated in Lodge Unanimity, No 227, on 26th November 1954, passed on 25th April 1955 and raised on 25th November 1955. He is a current member.

Walter Joseph Prigg

Wally Prigg, also a forward and a groundsman, played all his club football for Wests and Central in Newcastle and during the period 1929 to 1938 he represented Australia 17 times always resisting attempts to induce him to play in Sydney. He toured with the Kangaroos in 1929-1930, 1933-1934 and lastly as Captain in 1937-1938. and on that tour he captained Australia against France, the first time the two countries had played. Australia won 9 of the 10 matches played.
Walter Joseph Prigg was initiated in Lodge Hamilton, No. 451, on 28th October 1936, passed on 27th January 1937 and raised on 24th March 1937. He was struck off for non payment of dues on 24th March 1954.

Reginald William GASNIER

Reg Gasnier, a centre, played club football for St. George between 1959 and 1967, playing 129 games and scoring 127 tries and 20 goals, a total of 421 points. He played for New South Wales from 1959 to 1965 and again in 1967, playing 16 games for 13 tries and 3 goals, a total of 45 points. For Australia he played 36 tests between 1959 and 1968 scoring 26 tries for 78 points. He was St. George junior when he first played representative football, scoring 3 tries on debut for New South Wales and also in the first test against New Zealand. Regarded as a genius on the field and the sort of player that appears only once in a lifetime he played in the champion St. George sides of the 1960s and was known as "Puff The Magic Dragon." He was also a great team player with incredible acceleration on the field. In 1962 against England at the age of 22 years and 28 days he became the youngest ever Australian test captain. He went on to captain Australia against South Africa in 1963, New Zealand in 1963 and France in 1964. He missed most of the 1966 season with a knee injury before being chosen again to be captain-coach aginst New Zealand and on a Kangaroo tour. A broken leg in the first test against England prevented him playing until he made a premature return against a French provincial side, breaking down again and after limping from the field he announced his retirement at the age of only 28 years. He had played a record 36 test marches for Australia.
Reginald William Gasnier was initiated on 12th October 1965, passed on 6th November 1985 and raised on 8th February 1966 in Lodge Kogarah, No. 305. He called off in 2001.

Ref: Alan Whiticker & Ian Collis, Rugby League Test Matches in Australia
Gary Lester, The Story of Australian Rugby League
Alan Whiticker & Glen Hudson, The Encyclopedia of Rugby League Players

Three Times a Kangaroo

Left: Bro. Wally Prigg.

Below left: Bro. Reg Gasnier.

Below: Bro. Herb Narvo packing for a Kangaroo Tour.