

Ken Sherwood

..... was the subject of an article in the Rugby League News, in 1927, which described his rise to First Grade football. The news article noted that;

"K. Sherwood, known to his pals as 'Sherry' has been going great guns with his team, Western Suburbs this season. He has been playing in the centre, and his strong running and hard tackling have been worthy of commendation. 'Sherry' is one of the many younger players in senior ranks and there are hopes for his future advancement in the game. He graduated with Summer Hill Iona A Grade, junior premiers in 1923-25.

In 1925 he was invited to take part in a grade picnic match at Lidcombe. There he struck the selectors as a possibility. Being a commercial traveller with a country run, he could not accept the invitation to play with Wests Reserves. Last year, however, he played with and captained the Reserve Grade side with distinction. This year he was quickly elevated, and he has quite justified his quick promotion."

A further news article in the Daily Pictorial on 22 August 1930 described Ken as "Forceful and Clever." The article noted; "K. Sherwood has by sheer merit and determination forced his way into the District team." His competition for the centre position was Cliff Pearce and the captain/coach Jim Craig. Craig being an astute operator, put Pearce and Sherwood together, thereby relegating himself to the halves.

Ken was selected as a reserve for a Probables v Possibles match, being a prelude to the NSW v Queensland match in May 1928. But it wasn't until 1931 that Ken received full representative honours when he was selected for the NSW Firsts team to play Queensland Firsts. His representative honours were capped off when he was selected to play for NSW City Seconds and then Metropolis (Sydney) v England in 1932.



Ken Sherwood covering English Winger S. Smith - Metropolis v England 1932

His selection in the Metropolis team that played England was somewhat unusual. He wasn't picked in the original team, but on the morning of the match Ben Wearing withdrew from the team, and the Selectors had to hurriedly find a replacement. They telephoned his home, but he wasn't there, he had already gone to the SCG to watch the match. Ken's brother however collected Ken's football gear and took it to the ground.

Finding a person in a 30,000 plus crowd was not going to be easy, so a notice was put on the scoreboard asking Sherwood to go to the dressing room. Ken had been watching the junior game and hadn't noticed the message until 30 minutes before kick-off. When he realised they were looking for him he hurriedly raced over, geared up and joined the team for the match.

Ken Sherwood married in 1934 at Manly NSW and was living in that district in the year leading up to that event. As such he was residentially qualified to play in the North Sydney district which he did in 1933. The NSW Rugby League decided on his eligibility at the start of the 1933 season which ended Ken Sherwood's career with Wests. Ken played five First Grade games with Norths before he retired.

Ken Sherwood, N.S.W. and Western Suburbs representative Rugby League player, was last night declared eligible to play for North Sydney District Club in the coming season.

Daily Telegraph 28 March 1933

Ken had an earlier association with the northern beaches area like many other Sydneyites who arrived there in numbers in the summer months to enjoy the beachside lifestyle. Ken was a member of the North Narrabeen Life Saving Club and was part of the champion beach March Past team. Other Wests players that were members of the North Narrabeen Club over the years included Roy Liston and Carl Ross.

Ken played sixty nine First Grade and thirty Reserve Grade games with Wests from 1926 until 1932. He was part of Wests golden era in the late 1920's and early 1930's and was a member of Wests First Grade premiership team in 1930. Ken Sherwood is Wests Life Member No. 38.

Ken Sherwood lived most of his life in the Ashfield/Burwood area. He and his father were members of the Masonic Lodge Caxton 508. He did live for a short time in the northern beaches suburb of Curl Curl when he married in 1934. Ken returned to live on the northern beaches in the 1970's and died at Narrabeen in March 1988. His memorial is at the South Head Cemetery, Vaucluse, NSW in Family plot K, Row 6. The Inscription is "F K (Ken) Sherwood, son died 7th March 1988, Aged 85".

