



**KEN ANDREWS – 2008/09**

Having played the round ball game throughout school in Droylsden, Ken Andrews converted to rugby in 1971 at what is now seen as the a key age to draw players into the game, in his case, whilst at college.

Since then, Ken has been a long serving member of West Park RFC. Joining the St Helens based club 1973, he occupied the scrum half position, mostly in the second XV, until a knee injury cut short his playing career in 1979.

After qualifying at the C.F. Mott Teacher Training College in Prescot, the first rung of the teaching ladder took him to a PE position at Grange Park High School in St Helens.

There, Ken developed a comprehensive fixture list for the school rugby teams from Under 12s to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, competing against the very best rugby schools in the area. Many boys gained county, divisional and international honours during that time, in the seventies and eighties.

By now a rugby man to the core, he joined the Merseyside Schools Rugby Committee becoming their Secretary in 1980, a voluntary position he has held ever since – almost thirty year later. Merseyside has enjoyed much success in the intervening three decades, providing a platform for a number of talented rugby union players to go on to international success including Shaun Edwards, Kyran Bracken and Ben Kay, and younger names like Carl Fearn and Ryan Glynn will surely follow.

Ken soon joined the Lancashire Schools Committee becoming an area representative and then a 16 Group selector for both the county and the North of England.

In 1993, Ken was instrumental in re-establishing the Lancashire Schools Under 15s team and soon was 'rewarded' with the position of both the 15 and the 16 Group's Secretary! He still remains a key member of the Lancashire 15 Group programme. In recent years' he has been at the forefront of the radical changes in the structure of representative rugby in the county, Lancashire combining the parallel club and schools teams well in advance of the RFU's Student, Schools and Youth Review.

Four years later, Ken became the Lancashire Schools' representative on the ERFU (England Rugby Football Schools Union) and has continued to promote the good work done in this county at national level within the Competitions and Rugby Development Committees. He also served on the England 16 Group Committee from 1999 to 2006.

In preparation for his year as President, he has recently stepped down from the position of Chairman and Secretary of the North 16 Group but he still holds the position of Chairman of Northern Counties Schools Rugby Union. He remains an influential figure within the England Schools' organisation, with a special interest in the Daily Mail Schools Cup administration, the biggest such cup competition in the rugby world.

Ken is very proud of his role in the development of the Schools' and the Emerging Schools' Cup Competitions within the county since 1997. He is honoured that the new Emerging School of the Year trophy (presented in 2007/08 to Birkdale High School) has been named after him.

It came as no surprise to learn that the county's Past Presidents nominated a schools' man to become a Vice President, joining a list that included Bill Beaumont and Fran Cotton. Over recent years, Ken has actively served on a number of county committees as Chairman of the Lancashire Schools Section, the Rugby Development Partnership, Vice-Chairman of 7-16 Committee, the Community Task Group and the Marketing & Media Committee. Even as President, he continues to be active as Chair of the 'Schools of Rugby' Steering Group that is developing a very ambitious programme for the Schools of Rugby programme and the District Development squads. His appointment as the 71<sup>st</sup> Lancashire President is a tribute to his endeavours on behalf of county rugby.

Although now retired from teaching, Ken continues to work part time in special education as a School Sports Co-ordinator at Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College in St Helens. He is committed to developing school sports and opportunities for young disabled people in the area to participate in sport and, with London 2012 much in mind, to become our future paralympians.

