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Issue No. 122

December 2009

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See Page 3

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WARRINGTON as a town lost two sporting icons recently, former Warrington Rugby League star Parry Gordon and well known local businessman John White.

Both played major parts in shaping my enthusiasm for our town and local sport.

I had the honour of meeting Parry when he was inducted in the Past Players Hall of Fame three years ago – and you couldn't wish to meet a nicer person. As a youngster I was inspired by this little live-Wire who was at the centre of everything good about the Warrington team. Despite having his roots in Wigan he was one of a rare breed of one club men – a

true inspiration.

My memories of John White go back to my school days as I was a friend of his sons.

John was competitive and enthusiastic in everything he did – and his enthusiasm for Warrington Rugby League Club certainly rubbed off on me.

He gave me my first competitive game of squash and while casting doubts on launching a magazine in Warrington, he was always one of the first to congratulate me on a job well done – while his former business has been one of our most loyal

customers.

Warrington has certainly lost two of its great characters, who were linked and known to each other through their love of our town – with their funerals taking place on the same day!

Not wanting to end the year on a sad note, I would prefer to reflect on the good times and the happy memories of two of life's great characters who gave their all for Warrington.

Making 'Headway'

A CHARITY which helps people who have acquired a brain injury is looking to raise awareness and recruit new members.

Headway Warrington help to provide a social network for anyone who has an acquired brain injury.

They meet from 7-9.00pm on the first Thursday of every month at Birchwood Youth Centre, Delenty Drive.

Further details during office hours from Kathy Guest, tel 01925 852942.

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Charlene has the **X-tra** factor

WARRINGTON singer Charene Semp is hoping to have a little more than the x-factor after helping switch on the town centre Christmas lights.

Charlene, aged 26 from Lymm, has sang and wrote from an early age and has been involved in various auditions from the original fame acadamey to the x factor, and sung alongside X-Factor finalist Lucy at the town centre lights switch on.

She was in a band called People in the Basement for around four years getting a real taste for the industry gigging all over from Manchester to Camden, London.

She creates melodies and writes her own material – lyrics and poetry and would love to front a band.

Currently Charlene is enjoying performing alternative Fridays at Mojo Bar and Tapas - CharleneSemp live nights covering motown classics, soulful jazz and accoustic covers such as the Kooks etc.

Her jazz/funk and soulful style has many influences from artists such as Dusty Springfield, Aretha Franklin, Ella

Fitzgerald and current bands such as The Noisettes.

She is currently in the recording studios and hopes to have new music available from December onwards and is always looking to work with new musicians and creative people alike!!

To keep an eye on Charlene's career and music downloads check out Mojo's website at www.mojo-barandtapas.co.uk where there are always sepcial offers with up to 50 per cent off meals.



Wolfie set to take centre stage

WATCH out Dick Whittington's cat – the big bad wolf is coming to get you!

Family favourite Dick Whittington will be taking centre stage at the annual Parr Hall Panto, with a special appearance by Warrington Wolves' mascot Wolfie!

The show being produced in association with Tony Peers Productions will run from Saturday January 2 – Friday January 15.

With streets paved with gold, Bow bells, a talking cat, King Rat and the Lord Mayor of London, this magical production will be filled with fun and laughter.

The fabulous cast will be joined on stage by local dancers from Warrington's very own Felicia Burns School of Dance and Warrington Wolves star mascot, Wolfie will also make an appearance!

Cast Members featured include Mark Baylin (Sarah the Cook) , Philippa Cole (Dick Whittington), Paul Ludlow (Captain), Rebecca Christian (Alice Fitzwarren) and Dale Ibbetson (Alderman Fitzwarren/Sultan).

Tickets for the show are £10.50/£8.50 with a Family Ticket for £34.

For listings information and tickets visit www.pyramidparrhall.com or call 01925 442345.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Time

As I write this article I am amazed at just how quickly time passes. Christmas is approaching, the early dark nights are already here, the Indian summer we enjoyed in late October now a mere memory.

It is once again time to reflect on what we have achieved in the last year, the disappointments we have over come, reflect on how the recession impacted us and those we love. And yet, time is always passing, and that means, we can remind ourselves on the cold dark mornings to come, that we can look forward to the spring, and seeing the new shoots of life springing up around us.

For now, I am simply reflecting on what I have, the things I have achieved and the people I have worked with over the last year. And there have been some remarkable journeys, confidence was found where worry and fear once resided. IBS patients by the dozen, who learned how to control their digestive systems simply by using the power of their mind, new births the pain free way! Brides who have got married

when the thought of standing in the church with all eyes on them made them want to run away.

Reducing anxiety, to the point when travelling and being outside of the house became normal again. Exam nerves which were controlled leading to a first and a 2:1 being achieved. Stress reduced so relationships and work life could resume happily and productively.

These are just some of the things I will remember as I reflect on 2009, and the people who trusted themselves enough, and learned to trust me also, to make the difference for them. To each and every one of you, and you know who you are, very well done and thank you for allowing me to share your journey. I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

To my readers, and I know there are a few of you, because you have told me, thank you for your interest and feedback and I hope some of my articles over the year have helped in some small way. To all those who have logged onto my website www.healthyaudio.com to read these Hypnotes, to Marilyn in the

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience.



He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, he is a non NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider

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USA, to Rene in the Netherlands, Diane in South Africa and the many more who have emailed over the year thank you too.

To all of those who have not yet summoned the courage to ring or email me, perhaps in time you will.

And that takes me back to where I started, when you make your new years resolutions, include amongst them, that you will look at what you want and need to change in your life, and do something about it. Looking back in years to come only to regret what you never did, or got to do is not something to look forward too, so make your New Year resolutions, and try more than ever to keep to them, or find someone who can help. To Mil & Bill, who made that difficult decision, I wish you both good luck and happiness in your new home.

For now I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy, happy prosperous New Year.

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NHS Chief set to leave

NHS Warrington is set to lose its Chief Executive.

Andrew Burgess has been appointed to the role of Chief Executive at Halton and St Helens PCT, and will take up post early in December.

Meanwhile NHS Warrington is delighted to announce that Nicky O'Connor has been appointed to the role of interim Chief Executive.

Currently working as Deputy Chief Executive at Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, Nicky will bring a wealth of experience to her new role and is joining the organisation at an extremely exciting and important time. NHS Warrington is continuing to implement well formulated plans in order to make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of the people of Warrington.



Nicky's appointment will commence in early December, the exact date will be confirmed shortly.

Wishing Andrew well in his new career NHS Warrington Chairman John Gartside said: "Nicky is joining the organisation at an extremely exciting and important time as we continue to implement the organisations well formulated plans in order to make a tangible positive difference to the health and wellbeing of the people of Warrington."

Arty boost for peace charity

ARTISTS, photographers and sculptors will offer their work for sale to raise funds for Warrington's Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

A "Peace of Art" exhibition, sale and auction, is being held at The Peace Centre, Cromwell Avenue, on Wednesday December 2 from 6pm to 8pm.

It will showcase work by local artists. All items are for sale and money will go to support the foundation's work locally and nationally.

Foundation co-founder Wendy Parry said: "Ever since we set up the foundation we have looked for innovative and exciting ways to raise funds, which allow us to run programmes that make a real difference to the lives of young people, adults and victims of conflict."

"We have found that where there is conflict, art can often prove to be an escape or therapy for many people so this event seems a natural association. We are incredibly grateful to all the local artists who have donated work and enabled us to collate a stunning and unique collection of work."

Selected pieces will be auctioned on the night and all other works will be available for immediate purchase. Anyone interested in donating items or obtaining free tickets should call the Foundation on 01925 581 234.

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Spotlight on Business

Nice'n'Naughty are Champions of Europe

JENSON Button isn't the only recent British winner of a major international trophy because Nice 'n' Naughty also kept the flag flying by winning the coveted European E-line award for Best Retailer of 2009. The good news was announced at a prestigious gala dinner in Berlin attended by all the leading players in the European adult industry. This is the second year in succession that Nice 'n' Naughty has been recognised on the European stage, having been voted Best Retail Chain in 2008.



Nice 'n' Naughty directors, Simon Prescott and Trish Murray, received the award on behalf of the company. Afterwards a delighted Simon commented, 'I'm over the moon about this. In football terms, it's like winning the Champions League two years running. Also like football, our business is a team effort and the people who deserve this accolade most are the Nice 'n' Naughty staff. It's thanks to their professionalism and commitment that we're now being seen as a top retailer, not just in the UK but also Europe. It's amazing when you think about the quality of the opposition we're up against. I'd like to dedicate this award to our staff and it was an honour to receive it on their behalf'.

Trish Murray also emphasised the

importance of awards such as E-line from a customer perspective: 'Being able to show customers that we are recognised as the best in our industry gives them confidence that they are buying from a reputable and professional company. We have always striven to create a welcoming and enjoyable shopping experience for all our customers, of both sexes and all sexualities. I feel that winning the E-line is an endorsement of our approach and an affirmation to customers that, by shopping at Nice 'n' Naughty, they're going to get choice, good value and friendly, helpful service'.

At a time of cutbacks in the industry, Nice 'n' Naughty has expanded its retail chain to 15 stores with branches in Manchester, Liverpool (2), Bolton, Warrington, Wigan, Southport, Chester, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Newcastle, Leeds, Bristol, Brighton and Wednesbury.

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Spotlight on Business

Akme in the driving seat

HOT on the heels of providing the security for the first ever English Half Marathon in Warrington, local security company Akme Securitas landed a contract for a prestigious car rally in Cyprus.

Having expanded to the holiday island earlier this year Akme successfully beat off competition from several Cyprus competitors to land the security contract and after a very successful seven days they have already been told they will receive future work from the Cyprus Automobile Association.(CAA)

The Troodos Rally is organised by the CAA and supported by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Akme's Chief Executive Jeff Greenwood, who was in Cyprus to oversee the event, said: "This was a major achievement for our company beating off several local competitors in only our first year in Cyprus.

"They were so pleased with our service they have already promised us future work."



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December Christmas Crackers

The season of goodwill is fast approaching and the run up to Christmas is stuffed with enough festive treats at Pyramid & Parr Hall to spread cheer far and wide and lift your spirits right through to the New Year. Seasonal highlights include;

The Ken Dodd Christmas Happiness Show

Thu 10 December, Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £17.50

By now a seasonal staple, enjoy the crazy hairstyle, the flashing teeth and of course, the trademark tickling stick!

The Nutcracker, Vienna Festival Ballet

Fri 11 December Parr Hall, 6.30pm, £17.50/£14.50/10.50

In this the most famous of all fairytale ballets, Tchaikovsky's enchanting score perfectly captures the spirit of Christmas Eve.

A delightful Christmas treat for the whole family.

Kate Rusby - Christmas

Sat 12 December, Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £18.50

Kate Rusby has become one of the British folk scene's best loved artistes and we are delighted to welcome her back with her spectacular Christmas concert.

Manchester Camerata - Christmas Serenade Concert

Wed 16 December, Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £18.50/£16.50/£5*

Join the strings and brass of Manchester Camerata chamber orchestra for a fun and festive family evening of Carols, Christmas tunes and Disney hits as well as classical favourites from Mozart and Tchaikovsky, plus lots more.

*Under 16s

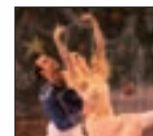
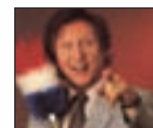
Dick Whittington

Sat 2 - Fri 15 January, Parr Hall, Various times

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Pyramid & Parr Hall in association with Tony Peers Productions present the fun-filled, family classic, Dick Whittington for January 2010.

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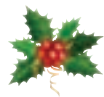
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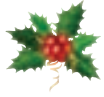
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Help for new surfers



Maria, Ollie, Dave Thompson and Pete Pennington at the 'Get Online' event.

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership persuaded new users to surf the net when it held its first 'Get Online' open day in the town.

The event aimed to showcase what the nationwide UK Online service has to offer and was just one of more than 700 events nationally.

UK Online is for all learners, from those who only know the basics of using computers and the internet to those who have some knowledge and want to know more. It has more than 600 centres across the country.

Warrington Disability Partnership (WVDP), as a user-led voluntary organisation which employs 40 staff and more than 100 volunteers delivering a range of services for disabled people, and their families, makes extensive use of IT.

Maria McParland, IT facilitator at WVDP, said: "We are proud of the work that our Discover IT suite does and the place it has in the UK Online Centre team."

Anyone who would like more information should visit www.my.guide.gov.uk or call Warrington Disability Partnership.

Don't forget you can log on to www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk for daily news updates from around the town.

Putting fact into science fiction

THREE scientists from Warrington's STFC Daresbury Laboratory have contributed to a new collection of short stories to help put facts before fantasy in science fiction.

"When it all Changed", edited by novelist Geoff Ryman brings together scientists from institutions across the UK - including Daresbury - with science fiction writers.

Ryman, a senior creative writing lecturer, paired off literary colleagues with scientists to produce the book of short stories published by Comma Press.

Three scientists working at STFC Daresbury Laboratory, and one from the neighbouring Cockcroft Institute for Accelerator Science and Technology, were among 14 who helped the authors to write the stories, and add a fascinating insight into the science

The Daresbury three were Dr Richard Blake, director of STFC's computational science and engineering department, Dr Manolis Pantos, who until recently lead heritage and archaeological science research and Professor Andrew Bleloch, director of the SuperSTEM facility.

Geoff Ryman said: "We wanted to go out and locate what is fresh and new in the sciences, and give writers a chance to work with researchers to come up with different, contemporary themes."

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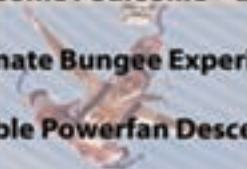
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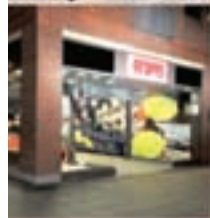
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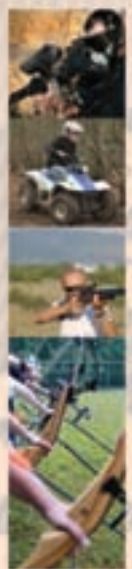
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Bürgermeister Günter Scheib (left) with the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Coun Brian and Irina Axcell and Horst Thiele.

Fond farewell to Twin Mayor

THE Mayor of Warrington's twin town Hilden has made his final official visit to the town as part of a Youth Parliament exchange visit.

Bürgermeister Günter Scheib said of his visit: "This is a very special visit for me as it will be my last one after 15 years in office but I hope to return myself for a holiday sometime in the future!"

The Bürgermeister has been a familiar face at many civic events during the past 15 years. His replacement will be Horst Thiele.

Eclectic art exhibition

An exhibition of artwork bringing together professional and non-professional artists is being held at the Pyramid from December 4, 2009 - January 8, 2010.

There are a variety of original paintings, printmaking and sculptures on sale to suit everyone's taste and budget.

If you are looking to purchase a painting or sculpture as a gift, or to brighten up your home or office space, or if you simply enjoy viewing original artwork then come along to the exhibition. All artwork for sale can be purchased from Pyramid box office. (Prices range from £25 - several hundred.) Parking at the Pyramid, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, WA1 1BL. There is also parking close by. The exhibition is free and will be open daily from 9am -5 pm and some evenings. Contact Rose e-mail rose.fox1@ntlworld.

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SAT 5 DEC
 Traditional British Market, Bridge Street
FRI 27 - SUN 29 NOV
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Death of John White

WELL known Warrington businessman and sports personality John White, has died aged 74.

He died peacefully at his home in Croft, Warrington on Tuesday November 3.

John was best known as the co-owner of White's Sports, which he ran with his younger brother Paul, who died two years ago.

He joined the family business J E White of Sankey St in the 1950s. Whites was a Men's Outfitters and Sports Shop which at one time also had branches in Knutsford and Stockton Heath.

The Sankey Street store was demolished in the early eighties to make way for the Golden Square and the business transferred to Warrington Market where it continues to trade till this day, run by Paul's widow Susan.

John was enthusiastic about all sports and for over four decades sponsored numerous competitions from crown green bowls through to football, cricket, darts and squash.

He was a highly competitive and gifted sportsman and in his younger years boxed at a high level. Squash however was his real passion. He introduced many people to the game, passing on his skills and enthusiasm to numerous friends including Warrington Rugby legends Alex Murphy and Ken Kelly. He played competitively for over twenty five years, captaining teams at Warrington Sports Club and Wilderspool.



He was ambidextrous which enabled him to switch his racket from his left to right hand with ease. Even in his late fifties he was able to regularly beat men half his age.

In later years this competitive streak was redirected to bowling. He played for The Bulls Head, Farmers Arms and finally Croft Bowling Club in his home village.

Son, Nick, said: "Growing up it seemed to me that everyone knew my Dad. When me and my brothers would walk through town with him it was like hanging out with a local celebrity. We couldn't walk 10 yards without someone greeting or stopping him for a chat."

He was a lifelong fan of Warrington Rugby league team. In recent years a heart condition had prevented him from getting to games on a regular basis but he still enjoyed watching from home and was delighted to see the fantastic challenge cup victory earlier this year.

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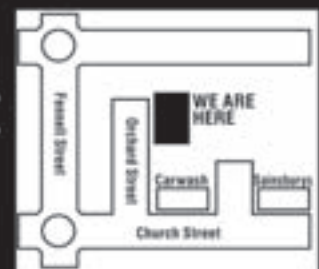
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Warrington



Schoolboy curtain raisers

WARRINGTON Town Schoolboys U14's Football Squad 2009/10 season are now playing some of their home games at Cantilever Park as curtain raisers to Warrington Town FC's home games.

The schoolboys are pictured at their new home: Back Row (left to right) Darron Bibby - Manager, Clive Brooks - Coach, Tom Peers (Birchwood) Chris Bibby (Culcheth) Jordan Mullin-Fryer (William Beamont) Sean Ball - vice captain (Penketh) Lewis Osborne (Penketh) Andy Williams (Penketh) James Baillie (Lymm) Lloyd Pownall (William Beamont) Ste Walsh - Coach

Front Row (Left to Right) Ben Walsh (St Gregorys) Aaron Newton (Woolston) Liam Turner (Penketh) Alex Brooks (Culcheth) Connor Hunt (Thomas Boteler) Joe Newton - captain (St Gregorys) Brad Parker (Penketh) Connor Gingell (Woolston)

The Schoolboys would like to thank their sponsors Stu Parker/National Express, The Lions Organisation, AAH Pharmaceuticals/Lee Mullin and Warrington Town Football Club.

Meanwhile crowds are on the up at Cantilever Park with Warrington

Town enjoying one of their best seasons in the Unibond Division One North with a team featuring many Warrington based players, including leading goal scorer Chris Gahgan (pictured below), winger Phil Hadland, defender Darron Kinsey, skipper Mike Tomlinson, midfielder Richard Chetcuti and latest recruit, striker Tony Evans.

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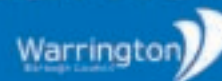
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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Tax free income

There are not many forms of income or benefit which are received free of tax in the hands of an employee. One such benefit, however, is the provision of childcare facilities or vouchers.

A qualifying scheme is free of both tax and national insurance. Another important aspect is that a qualifying scheme does not count as income when tax credits are calculated. However, it is the government's intention to scrap this exemption from April 2011.

One condition that must be adhered to for the exemption to apply is that an employer's childcare scheme must be open to all employees and cover only registered or approved childcare. However, there is no minimum number of employees specified, and so contributions into a scheme made by a one-man limited company would qualify for the relief.

A second condition is that the childcare must be provided by properly registered childcarers.

Provided that the above conditions are complied with then the following would qualify for the tax and national insurance exemption:

- The first £55 a week of the cost of providing childcare vouchers
- The first £55 a week of the cost of providing childcare through a third party
- The provision of childcare in a workplace nursery which the employer is wholly or partly responsible for managing and financing

The nursery facilities can also be made available to another employer's staff working on the premises. This would cover, for instance, contractors and seconded staff.

The £55 weekly limit applies to each individual employee, which is useful in husband and wife companies. However, each employee is only entitled to one exemption. It is not affected by the number of children in the employee's family. Neither is it relevant whether a second parent receives vouchers or contributions from another employer for the same child.

Childcare may be provided in addition to an employee's normal salary or instead of part of normal salary (known as salary sacrifice). For salary



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

sacrifice to be effective for tax purposes, it must be covered by a proper contractual arrangement. In addition, there is a need to consider any adverse effects on:

- Eligible childcare costs for Working Tax Credit
- Entitlement to contribution-based state benefits

Finally, WatkinsonBlack would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these matters. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Death of a legend

WARRINGTON Wolves' legend Parry Gordon has died suddenly at the age of 64.

The former scrum-half who was a member of Alex Murphy's all conquering 1973-74 team suffered a heart attack.

His sudden death has rocked former team mates and members of the Past Players Association.

He had been with his former team mates at Warrington's Wembley triumph in August as member of the Past Players from the 1974-75 final who were on parade before the kick off.

Signed on his 16th birthday for £400 in 1963, he was coach Cec Mouniford's last signing and proved to be great value for

money.

At 5ft 6in and 11st 8lbs Parry Gordon plied his trade in an era of many top scrum-halves. He was dubbed "Mr Loyalty" playing for just the one club making 543 appearances between 1963-1981.

He made his first team debut, at home to Barrow, a 12-25 defeat in a Western Championship game, and always gave his best, much to the pleasure of the Wilderspool faithful throughout the lean spell of the Sixties.

Things changed when Ossie Davies took over, and brought in coach Alex Murphy. Parry deservedly was to taste success as Warrington went on to win four



trophies in the memorable 1973/74 season, the Captain Morgan, Players No6, Challenge Cup and Club Championship. In 1978 he led his team to a win over Widnes in the John Player Trophy final.

He, however, never won a full international cap. The nearest he got was coming on as a substitute in Papua New Guinea with the England World Cup squad in 1975. He played seven times for Lancashire, scoring one try, and once for the Great Britain under 24s.

His final game, helping out his club as usual, was a home win 14-7 against Castleford. Parry Gordon had given 20 years' service to the club, his appearance total being second only to Brian Bevan.

Pictures show Parry being inducted into the hall of fame three years ago by late Chairman Nobby Clarke and with his former team mates at Wembley this year.



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