

'We have lost one of our most colourful characters'

By Simon Mulligan

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TRIBUTES have poured in following the death of popular figure in the town's sporting scene and former teacher Lenny Lowe, aged 78.

Lenny worked at Saints as host of the 100 Club at Knowsley Road during the early Super League era, and was also a past chairman at St Helens RUFC, where he had been a player.

He was also involved in schools' rugby league and also football, running the Town Team for a spell.

Prominent sportsmen under his tutelage included Chris Arkwright, Richie Eyres, Jason Critchley, Gary Connolly and the footballers Ray Ranson and Tommy O'Neill.

A "superb raconteur", much of his popularity, stemmed from his ability to organise and host functions for charity, which he

did with great expertise for more than 30 years.

Born in Parr, Lenny attended Cowley School and undertook teacher training at Padgate College, before taking up posts at Robins Lane and, later, St Cuthbert's School, where he specialised in humanities, especially geography.

Lenny taught for 33 years before retiring in 1993, and school sport became a huge part of his life.

Leading tributes to Lenny Saints chairman Eamonn McManus said: "St Helens has lost one its most colourful and entertaining characters."

"Lenny brightened up all of our lives with his humour and his unique personality."

"Although he will be very sadly missed he will be very warmly remembered for the great memories which he provided to so many of us."

Ex-Saints player and commentator Ray French, a friend of Lenny's, added:

"Mention the name of Lenny Lowe and faces surrounding you would break into huge smiles, such was the impact he made on everyone."

"And certainly on me, as man and boy for more than 65 years! Ever since the days on a Saturday afternoon, we would catch the number four bus from Parr to Knowsley Road to watch the match from the 'Boys' Pen' and complete the day with a bag of chips from Alf's shop."

"He embraced all he met, welcomed them as friends, and supported them with hard work if needed."

"Lennie was a part of the fabric at St Helens RFC, not only as a supporter since his schooldays but as an organiser of testimonials for its players and countless fundraisers for the club's many projects."

Ray added: "A sad loss to all who knew him but I'm sure that, from 'on High', Len will still be urging on his beloved Saints."



Lenny Lowe

Super League trophy tour



The trophy at Eccleston Court

WHILE Saints will hope to get their hands on the Super League trophy this October, some residents were given a glimpse as it took a tour in the town.

The tour started at Saints' stadium, which hosts an Autism Day Centre run by Community Integrated Care.

Match-day mascot Boots led the way taking staff and people supported at the Day Centre on to the hallowed turf for a photograph with the trophy - and a few selfies with Boots.

From there it was on to Eccleston Court Care Home - which has a Saints 'Wall of Fame' - proudly displaying pictures of players past and present.

Joe Woods, 78, a resident with dementia at the care home and lifelong Saints fan, got well and truly in the spirit, giving everyone a rendition of 'Oh When The Saints Go Marching In' and shared a few passionate memories of past players he has seen.