

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## **RIP Maurice Parker**

It is sadness that we must report the death of Maurice Parker, we can do no better justice than to leave a eulogy to Mo here by Mark Nelson.

“Mo, where do you start with his love of Lancashire Rugby.

I will start in 2002 when he had a vision to re establish the Senior County team as a leading force in the County Championship. He asked me to be head coach and along with likeminded people on the committee Maurice created an environment that saw us beat Yorkshire at Otley , then hot favourites Cornwall in front of 7,000 at Redruth and winning the trophy v Gloucester at Twickenham in May 2003 .

Every player who has played in a final since that Day owes a massive debt of gratitude to Maurice Parker for having the vision and force of personality to make his true passion, Lancashire, a potent force in this competition that is steeped in the games history . We talk of legacy , everyone involved today with the County are a testament to the legacy of Mo s vision.

He was a man of many parts and a great family man with his beloved wife Paula and their children Guy and Sally. I am focusing on his contribution to the Lancashire Team and the passion he generated with his old pals Don Welsh and Ernie Neely for the values that we now have at the core of how we operate.

The tour to Newfoundland and Toronto would not have happened if Mo hadn't been at the helm and that tour is stuff of legend.

Maurice was unashamedly old school, steeped in the traditions of the game forged in his playing days, but those values are the guardian angels of the game he loved. Rugby and in particular Lancashire Rugby has lost a titan.

RIP Mo old lad.”

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