

# Penrith's gamble on coach

Penrith Rugby League club has gambled on Jack Clare, an unknown coach, to guide its premiership fortunes in the 1974 season.

Clare, appointed for one year, will act as chairman of a panel of three other grade coaches.

Roy Masters, coach of last year's unbeaten school-boy side that toured England, and Tom Wilson have already been recruited by the Panthers. The fourth coach is yet to be named.

Club secretary, Roger Cowan, said Penrith had sought an individual with ability in organisation, not necessarily with first-grade coaching experience, to chair the panel.

Clare, formerly a Balmain selector, steps into a demanding job with Penrith, the League's big recent spender in the signing of English players Bill Ashurst and Mick Stephenson.

He won the post from a strong field, which included Nev Charlton and Englishman Brian Briggs.

Clare played five-eighth and half-back with Balmain and has been associated in a coaching role with successful junior League teams and Grenfell, in the Maher Cup competition.

"He is well-known in the Penrith district for his coaching efforts," Mr Cowan said last night.

Last season's coach Leo Trevena, who stood in following the departure of Bob Boland, was unavailable for another term.

Mr Cowan said Penrith still had 20 imported players on the books and the only players they would now seek were those who would step straight into first-grade or showed outstanding potential.

"Apart from the Englishmen we were keen to sign John Donnelly and are still negotiating with John Payne," he said.

Newtown has yet to find a substitute for coach Jack Gibson who has returned to Eastern Suburbs.

"We knew it was on Jack's mind for a long time but his decision did come as a shock," Newtown secretary Frank Farrington said last night.

"A club coach will be appointed, with two assistant coaches as before.

"The only candidate to date is Clarric Jeffreys."

— PHILLIP  
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