



George Mackie and Colin Telfer (right) prepare to receive the ball from team-mate Dougie Morgan during Scotland's 6-13 defeat to France at Murrayfield in 1976 (Picture: SNS) Copyright: SNS Group 0141 221 3602

It is with much sadness I learned of the death of George who I was fortunate to know and play with during his time at Upper Clapton. He was a very good player for his age, tall and extremely agile with exceptional energy to go with it and a mass of dark curly hair making him easily identifiable. He had not been playing rugby very long and was doing a spell of work at his father's farm at Harold Park Farm in Nazeing. He then followed his father's footsteps by studying farming at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture in Aberdeen and played some rugby with an Aberdeen club called 'The Hairies' which he was well-qualified to represent. He was also gaining recognition on the Highland Games circuit pitting himself against Scotland's leading performers before rugby took a hold of his needs and he went and played for Montrose. It was here he was spotted by Scottish international Nairn MacEwan who persuaded him to join Highland with him and this move was the start of George's international career as Highland were on the up and after representing the North and Midlands teams he won his Scotland B cap against France in 1974. Scotland caps followed against Australia in 1975 and against France and Wales in 1976. His fourth and final cap was against France 1978. He returned to Nazeing to run his father's farm but died this month after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Les Thompson