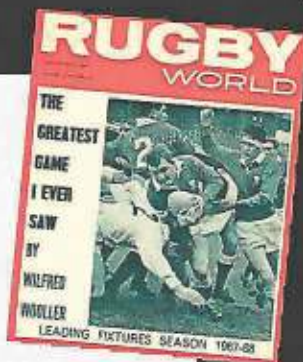


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TouchLINES

The Magazine of the Rugby Memorabilia Society

President: GERALD DAVIES



- What's the link between the cover pics?
- No cheating till vital! Answer on P23
- JDD, Judd & Bristol Fashion
- etc., etc...

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They also had fixtures with local civilian clubs like Trojans (Southampton), Southsea, Brighton, Salisbury, Ryde, and Worthing. Finally, this ambitious club often played strong teams from further afield, including the hospitals of Guy's, Bart's and St. Thomas's, Old Millhillians, Saracens, Cambridge University, and London Welsh, whom they defeated in their only meeting in 1888. Later that year, however, the Admiralty closed HMS Marlborough and the students were transferred to the Royal Naval Engineering College Keyham, so the rugby club where Charlie Taylor learned to play suddenly disappeared from the game. The 'MFC' on the Charles Taylor cap, then, refers to the HMS Marlborough rugby club and the dates represent the five seasons Charlie was awarded his 'colours' for the club. Though he never played any club rugby in Wales, it is believed that Charlie became known to the Welsh selectors through a fellow HMS Marlborough student, who was a brother of the Welsh international and WRU official, Horace Lyne. In the match reports of his appearances for Wales in 1883-84 and 1884-85, HMS Marlborough is only sometimes acknowledged as his club, while Ruabon is more usually mentioned, even though no such rugby club existed. Charlie was one of a number of early Welsh players who, confusingly, were listed by their place of birth or residence, rather than by their club. Some press accounts of his 1884 debut against England report his club as the Druids. Now the Druids were based in Ruabon but they happened to be the strongest soccer club in Wales at the time. Surely this must be the only time in international rugby that a match report has listed one of the participants as a member of a soccer club! The existence of the cap shown here, however, confirms that HMS Marlborough was indeed his club in those seasons. Charlie left HMS Marlborough in 1885 to continue his studies at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. While there, he helped set up London Welsh and took part in their very first match in October 1885 but he only turned out for them very occasionally. Based in Greenwich, the obvious club to join was Blackheath and it was as a member of this very powerful team that he won his final Welsh caps during 1885-86 and 1886-87. Shortly after his ninth international in the victory over Ireland in March 1887, Charlie was posted overseas and his senior rugby career came to an end. He did continue to play occasionally though when the opportunity arose and at thirty-six he was still taking part in service matches in Nova Scotia at the turn of the century. In Charlie's day, there was no official Royal Navy team but he was one of the Senior Service rugby enthusiasts who established the Royal Navy Rugby Union in 1907. Engineer Captain Charles Taylor had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy but tragically this was cut short when he was killed during the Battle of Dogger Bank on the 24th January 1915. He was fifty-one and was the first Welsh international to die in the Great War. **In the early 1970s, Charlie's daughter handed**

over his Welsh cap to be put on display, though where that was is not known today. Obviously, his family would very much like to reunite this with his HMS Marlborough cap, so if anyone has any information on the whereabouts of his 1884 Welsh cap, please contact the editor.

Gwyn Prescott



Sid Judd, Gentleman and Player..

Maidstone Rugby Club is often alive with rugby gossip - mostly fiction and rarely fact! The latest rugby yarn was about a local veteran referee who claimed that his dad scored two tries against the All Blacks in the early 1950's and was on the winning side on both occasions. Apparently Bob Judd's father, Sidney Judd played for Cardiff and Wales - and was a bit special. Most of the boys west of the River Severn can spin a good yarn about the mythical Welsh schoolboy trial or even a secondary schools cap which no one has ever seen, but this story was stretching rugby prowess to the extreme. Time to investigate, meet up with Bob Judd and put the record straight. Set out below are the findings - is it fact or fiction? Read on - let's hope the facts do not get in the way of a good story... Sid Judd was born of humble origins in Splott, Cardiff on 14th August 1928 and was part of a large family of 13 children. According to family folklore, Sid was totally pampered by his loving sisters who brought him up as he was the youngest. He was educated and began his rugby career at Cardiff

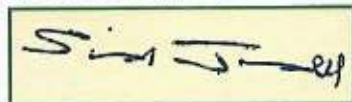


High School. At an early age this athletic young man was capped for Wales Secondary Schools and played against English Public Schools and French Schools

in 1945 and 1946. In his youth he was called to do National Service which was spent in Palestine. On this calling he had to clean his own shoes for the first time in his life! An early indication

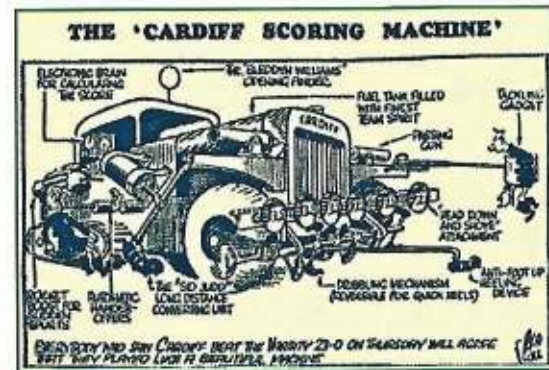
of his character and bravery was demonstrated one eventful day when his convoy was ambushed where he was pinned down by rifle fire behind a rock for several hours. Eventually the convoy was overwhelmed and his foes demanded his pistol; he refused to do so and for his pains was knocked out cold with a rifle butt! Even though he was only a national serviceman he made warrant officer rank, and the army offered him a commission in the Education Corps. After National Service he studied at Trinity College, Carmarthen with the aim of becoming a teacher, and later was a highly respected teacher at Windsor Clive School, Ely in Cardiff. He played a few games locally for Carmarthen Athletic but his rugby career took off in 1946 when he joined the Cardiff club who at that time were attributed to be 'the best rugby club in the world'. He was a back row forward playing No. 8 or blind side wing forward. On the 21st November 1953 the unbeaten touring New Zealand All Blacks played Cardiff at Cardiff Arms Park. This was the fourth time for Cardiff to play the All Blacks and 50,000 spectators attended in great anticipation. Cardiff were captained by Bleddyn Williams, a Welsh International, and a 1950 Lions from a tour to New Zealand - and regarded as the best centre threequarter of his era. He was aided and abetted by back row forward,

Sid Judd, as pack leader and vice-captain. Cardiff won the game 8 points to 3 points; Sid Judd scored the only try of the game during the first half, at the Westgate end of the then Cardiff Arms Park. Cardiff had previously beaten South Africa in 1906-07, Australia in 1908 and 1947, and now added the scalp of New Zealand to this glorious rugby history. A few weeks later on the 19th December 1953 Wales played the New Zealand All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park. However, much to everyone's surprise Sid Judd was not selected! Sid, though, was called in as a late replacement for N.G. Davies (London Welsh). Unfortunately, such was the lateness of the selection his name is not included in the match programme. Ironically, Sid again scored the first try and in exactly the same spot, at the Westgate end of the ground, as his earlier try for Cardiff. Wales went on to win the game 13 points to New Zealand's 8 points with Ken Jones, the Olympic sprinter scoring a wonderful winning try whilst Wales were hampered with a badly injured player, centre Gareth Griffith. The spotlight has focussed on and highlighted Ken's try ever since, as this was the last time for Wales to beat New Zealand. The Judd try, for whatever reason, is rarely mentioned: thankfully, both his famous tries can be viewed on the internet at Pathe News. Sid Judd then played against the All Blacks for a third time. On the 20th February 1954, he was selected to play for the coveted invitation Barbarian side, again at Cardiff Arms Park. This was the first ever Barbarians v New Zealand game played and for the first time on tour that the traditional haka was performed. He had previously played for the BaaBaas during the 1951-52 season, and played against East Midlands in the Mobbs Memorial Match, 6th March 1952. This time the scratch Barbarian XV were no match for the All Blacks who had played



twenty seven touring matches together, and were defeated 5 points to 19 points. (The All Blacks did not award international caps for this game). Despite the defeat, the historic memory of the day was the farewell given to the All Blacks - the crowd first singing Auld Lang Syne with all the players and referee joining arms, and then the Maori folk song 'Haena Ra' (Now is the hour) with New Zealand captain Bob Stuart and Bob Scott being carried shoulder high off the pitch by the Barbarian players. Sid played four times for the Barbarians during the 1952-54 period; twice against East Midlands, Leicester and the New Zealand XV. He scored a try against Leicester. Sid was a loyal servant to Cardiff RFC. He captained the club in 1954-55 and became a member of the committee for 1955-56 whilst fighting for good health. Sid played 84 games for Cardiff and scored 45 tries plus many fine kicks. He was an exceptionally strong candidate to become a British Lion in South Africa in 1955 but was suddenly

struck down by a serious illness. Sid played ten international matches for Wales as follows, scoring his only points against New Zealand. During the 1953 season, England won the championship with seven points with Wales runners up with six points. A draw with Ireland denied England a Grand Slam and a Triple Crown. Sid played in each championship game. In 1954 season, the tables were reversed in that Wales won the championship but England won the



Triple Crown. England lost in Paris to France, thereby failing to win the Grand Slam. Sid did not play in the second match against Ireland, following the defeat against England but played against France and Scotland. In 1955 season, Wales retained the championship and Sid played in the first two games against England and Scotland: a victory over England in Cardiff, but he ended his international career with defeat at Murrayfield. In terms of Five Nations matches, Sid was part of two championship winning Wales teams but not part of a Grand Slam or Triple Crown. This is somewhat unusual as Wales had a grip on the championship during this period yet somehow failed to achieve the highest accolade. However, Sid Judd was a highly rated 'side row' or 'back row' (No. 8) player and at 6ft 2 inches and 14st 7lb was considered a big forward in terms of his size in the early 1950's. Those days an international match programme was one shilling (5 pence today), the game was strictly amateur and the Welsh team was selected by 'The Big Five' who often made strange and bizarre selections. Very often they hardly knew who was whom, and Sid got caught up in this as set out in Cliff Morgan's autobiography: *'In one particular trial match at Abertillery, the two number 8s were Sid Judd of Cardiff and Eric Finney of Ebbw Vale. I'll always*

remember a Welsh selector walking into the dressing room and saying to Sid 'Eric you will have to lead the pack today' - that sort of mistake would be unthinkable today.' Thankfully, the modern era has at least brought some improvements in man-management! The book *'Cardiff Rugby club, History and Statistics 1876-1975'* by D.E. Davies details the club's magnificent rugby history in detail and the top headline for season 1954-55 is: **SID JUDD STRUCK BY ILLNESS IN A GREAT SEASON...** This rugby news was given the highest order of priority, even above the great Cliff Morgan of Cardiff and Wales joining Bective Rangers in Ireland. The summary of the 1954-55 season begins: *'This was quite a remarkable season, marred only by the untimely illness of our captain Sid Judd which restricted his appearances to 24 matches. Later the illness was to prove fatal, causing his death by leukaemia in the full flower of his manhood. Before his breakdown he was a most experienced forward already holding ten Welsh caps, and a*

Welsh Secondary Schools Rugby Union			
ENGLAND v. WALES			
CARDIFF ARMS PARK		APRIL 14th, 1945	
KICK-OFF 2 p.m.			
ENGLAND		WALES	
1. C. E. WICK	Full Back	1. A. R. EDWARDS	Full Back
2. R. W. H. TAYLOR	Right Wing	2. A. EDGFIELD	Right Wing
3. D. E. HOLMES-SMITH	Fl. Centre	3. A. BARKILL	Right Centre
4. R. J. C. HUNTEN	Left Centre	4. A. THOMAS	Left Centre
5. I. E. OLSON	Left Wing	5. A. EDGGS	Left Wing
6. A. L. EDES	Outside Half	6. S. BAYLES	Outside Half
7. W. S. MARSHALL	Inside Half	7. W. A. DAVIES	Prop (2) Inside Half
Forwards:		Forwards:	
8. R. J. SWAN	Prop	8. J. PHILLIPS	Prop
9. E. D. DORRITY	Hooker	9. T. J. GRIFFITHS	Hooker
10. J. H. SAGLER	Lock	10. D. CHRISTOPHERS	Lock
11. S. E. J. CALDERWOOD	Flank	11. S. JUDD	Flank
12. J. M. JENNINGS	Number 8	12. J. JAMES	Number 8
13. H. B. DEVIDE	Scrum Half	13. T. DAVIES	Scrum Half
14. S. A. EGDHAN	Wing	14. D. PHILLIPS	Wing
15. S. H. LLOYD-SHARP	Trytaker	15. D. BEFFNER	Trytaker
Referee: Mr. W. J. HAYWARD, W.R.U.		Referee: Mr. W. J. HAYWARD, W.R.U.	
Touch Judge: Mr. E. S. DORRILL STONE, Cardiff Park.		Touch Judge: Mr. E. S. DORRILL STONE, Cardiff Park.	
W.R.U. in London.		W.R.U. in London.	

candidate for the forthcoming Lions tour to South Africa 1955. He was strong, aggressive, a good reader of the game and a most useful goal kicker. In fact, he was the type who asserted his qualities by his energetic example'. The report records that Sid scored seven tries and kicked 23 goals that season. Sid tragically died of Hodgkins Lymphoma aged just 30 in February 1959, leaving a widow with three young children in difficult circumstances (Susan, Phil and Bob). However, the rugby community of the day rallied round and several fund raising events took place in aid of the Sid Judd Memorial Fund. One of the first fund raising games was Monday, 20th April 1959 at the Cardiff Arms Park where a Welsh Schools XV played a Cardiff and District Boys XV. On May 7th 1959 a grand charity soccer match took place at Cardiff Arms Park, Showbiz XI vs Celebrities XI. The latter team included many of the great Welsh rugby players of the day including Bleddyn Williams, Cliff Morgan, Ken Jones

and Jack Mathews; the Showbiz team included Des O'Connor, Wally Barnes, Ronnie Carroll and a would-be film actor called Sean Connery. Another match was played there on the 30th April 1959; rugby this time, Cardiff Present vs Cardiff Past. It is interesting to note the cost on the programme cover - 'Priceless'! The Rugby correspondent for the Western Mail wrote a lovely short article, 'Sid Judd - an appreciation'. He wrote: 'However, it is for his inspired work and play as Vice-Captain and pack leader in 1953-54 that Sid will be remembered in the Game. It was a magnificent year for him. He was a back row forward in the Cardiff and Welsh XV's which defeated the Fourth 'All Blacks' at the Arms Park. He scored in each match as a result of his brilliant anticipation, and there will be a spot in the 'in goal' area at the Westgate Street end between the posts and the right corner flag which will for ever be called 'Sid's spot'. One great player, R.W.H 'Bob' Scott of New Zealand, will never forget Sid, the one back row forward who got the better of him.' The article concludes: 'He will be missed by Rugby men everywhere - but never forgotten. An incredibly brave man - a real rigger man.' The Memorial Fund enabled the family to achieve financial stability and they moved to Roath Park in Cardiff, where Sid's diminutive wife trained hard to become a teacher - following Sid's career path. Sid's son Phil Judd took up a scholarship at Millfield School and today is chairman of Cardiff Harlequins. Sid's other son had a successful rugby career with South Wales Police and the Metropolitan Police and still turns out as a referee at the Maidstone club. Today, the family is full of school teachers - something very special given to them all by the Sid Judd genes. Wales have not beaten New Zealand since the 13 points to 8 points win on 19th December 1953 - a very long time ago. Every Welshman wants to erase this from the record books but let's remember, for ever, the big handsome Cardiff man whose rugby feats will never be erased from rugby history. For once, the facts embellish an incredible story and an incredibly brave man.

Graham Norton, Maidstone RFC

Letter to the SW Echo, 2014: 'Some feel the achievements of Sid Judd on the rugby field, and notably his tries for Cardiff and Wales v. NZ in 1953 have been undervalued. While agreeing, I feel compelled to write to tell of an incident involving Mr Judd a couple of years after his rugby heroics. When I was about 13 years and a pupil at Windsor Clive Secondary Modern School in Ely, Cardiff, Mr Judd was one of our teachers. We were at school camp in Porthcawl, playing cricket on a beautiful evening I fielded the cricket ball and threw it some 15 to 20 yards to the bowler's end. Mr Judd, umpiring, Mr Judd was not looking and despite frantic calls of warning, the ball hit him full on the head. I was horrified and although Mr Judd was not knocked unconscious, he was clearly dazed and hurt. Later he made a point of coming to me and said 'Don't worry, it was entirely my fault. I should have been paying attention'. I will never forget that. Windsor Clive had both football and rugby teams competing in Cardiff schools and there was an opinion among the football boys, myself included, that the rugby pupils were favoured in some quarters. However, this was never the case with Mr Judd, who treated all his pupils with the same fairness and respect, proving that he was not only a rugby great and a gentleman, but also a true sportsman in every sense of the word.'

(Fellow CHS back row Howard Evans will probably agree... Ed.)

To Join the Rugby Memorabilia Society

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Bristol Fashion

Mark Hoskins details two impressive but sadly short-lived heroes of his Club...

Thomas Lesley Tanner - Bristol's Conscientious Objector: At the time of writing I have established that 17 men who played either for Bristol, Bristol Utd or the wartime Bristol Supporters' team died during the Second World War. Perhaps the most interesting of these is Thomas Lesley Tanner, and the interest lies in the fact that he was a conscientious objector with no military links. Despite this fact, his name appears on at least three memorials and a roll of honour, and his story is a fascinating one. Tom Tanner was born in Renfrewshire on May 27th 1910 into a Quaker family. His father, whose home was Failand House in Failand, served as Sheriff of Bristol in 1930. Educated at Clifton College, where he was a member of the First XV in 1926 and 1927, Tanner then went up to Trinity College Oxford, where he won a Blue in 1931. A second row forward, he made 26 first team appearances for Bristol between 1928 and 1935 and also played for Harlequins. Tanner was called to the Bar in 1932, and in the same year he joined the firm of ES & A Robinson in Bristol. Four years later he became a director of the printing and stationery company John Laird & Son Ltd. In view of his beliefs there was no question of Tom Tanner enlisting to fight when war was declared, but in 1940 he resigned from his job to join the Friends' Ambulance Unit. During the blitzes of 1940-41 he was chiefly responsible for organising the unit's relief work in London and other cities, and he went on to become chairman of the unit's executive committee. On December 6th 1942 he was aboard SS Ceramic bound for Cape Town to visit an overseas section of the Friends' Ambulance Unit when the liner was torpedoed by a U-boat west of the Azores. Three missiles struck the ship, leaving her crippled, but the U-boat later fired two more torpedoes, sinking her on the spot. Eight lifeboats were launched, but the seas were rough and the sole survivor of the tragedy was a Sapper of the Royal Engineers who was taken on board by the U-boat Captain. In all 655 people perished. Because he was in the service of the crown at the time of his death, Tom Tanner is recognised as a war casualty by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. His name can be found on the Civilian Dead Roll of Honour in Westminster Abbey, and he is commemorated on both the Trinity College War Memorial and the Clifton College Memorial Arch. His photo is also included on the In Memoriam picture in the Oxford University RFC clubhouse. He was married with 2 children, his wife being an American from New Jersey, and he was 32 at the time of his death. A Bristol programme article from the 1930s attests to his popularity amongst his fellow players, and the story of his passing reminds us of the various, often self-effacing, ways in which men of peace can serve their country at times of crisis.



In search of 'Tommy' Thomson: On March 4th 1939 the Bristol Football Club Old Players' Society held its 10th annual dinner at the city's Royal Hotel. The menu card had on its cover a photo of 'Tommy' Thomson, Bristol's captain for 4 seasons from 1890, captioned: 'The late W ('Tommy') Thomson to whom we owe so much.' It is generally agreed that without Thomson the Bristol FC would not have survived after a disastrous and apathetic second season during which only 3 games were won. William Thomson, always known as 'Tommy' was a charismatic and popular leader, and under him Bristol became a real force in the game. By the end of his second season as captain Bristol had turned the corner, the club firmly established as a successful first class team. Bristol's Jubilee Book of 1938 described him thus: 'Thomson had a strangely compelling personality: irresistible to all. He was a man of means and leisure and from the day he took office until he left it, it can be said with perfect truth