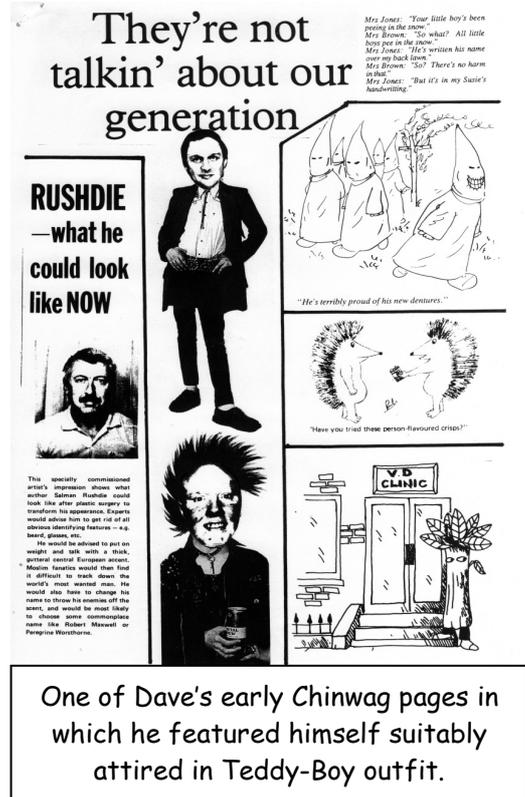


DAVE "TAFF" HARRIES - A SHORT TRIBUTE



DAVE HARRIES
1942 - 2011



One of Dave's early Chinwag pages in which he featured himself suitably attired in Teddy-Boy outfit.

Two weeks ago, on Saturday 2nd April, one day before his 69th birthday, Dave Harries, one of our long term players, former Club Secretary and more lately loyal supporter died suddenly in Hucclecote. Dave's death came as real shock to all of us at the Rugby Club and he will be greatly missed and long remembered with fondness. Its perhaps fitting that for a man who loved his sport, even on the day he died, Dave was preparing to go off on a rugby jolly to Cinderford with friends from Brockworth and Witcombe.

So what can we say about Dave by way of a tribute?

Well, he joined us in the 1974 season when a works move with the old CEGB took him to Barnwood. He settled in the village opposite our old drinking haunt "The Asso" and when he met Pete Watson and Roy Christie at work he was soon persuaded that his rugby future lay at Chosen Hill.

Dave had previously played for Llanelli Youth, London Welsh and Solihull and his first game for us was at outside half in a 19-4 away victory over Chepstow. As time went by he switched to full-back where he spent all his remaining playing years, latterly, as his knees wore out and his speed decreased, he became famous for his theory on "two-bounce" play at full-back.

A staunch supporter of Felinfoel Ales (brewed in his home village), Dave was forever critical of our cold, chemical beers and could often be seen warming his Toby on the radiators!

He answered to many names, and a few will be forever in our memories, "Dai" of course, then "Taffy", "Tandoori" and "Ten to" (after his habit of always turning up at ten to the hour, no matter what time the scheduled meet).

In the late seventies, with time on his hands, an efficient secretary and access to the company photo-copier Dave introduced the legendry in-house weekly news sheet known as "Chinwag".

"Chinwag" was a hugely popular look back at the previous weeks matches and it had regular contributors including the editor "Sid Harmer" (Dave himself), "Lunch Time O'Booze" "Norm d'Plume" and "Rock Le Gore".

Also included were cartoons mainly pinched from Punch magazine and modified to feature head pictures of club members. Dave was perhaps the original "cut & paste" artist and when he wasn't writing Chinwag, he'd probably be organising one of his legendry quizzes that always included questions on Country & Western music and Welsh rugby in the 70's!

We could go on about Dave's touring, drinking, chilli flavoured snacks, short-cuts, holidays abroad, photography etc, the list is endless and everyone who knew him will have their own special memory.

Great memories of a great bloke who will be sadly missed by all at Chosen Hill.