

CENTENARY BOOKLET



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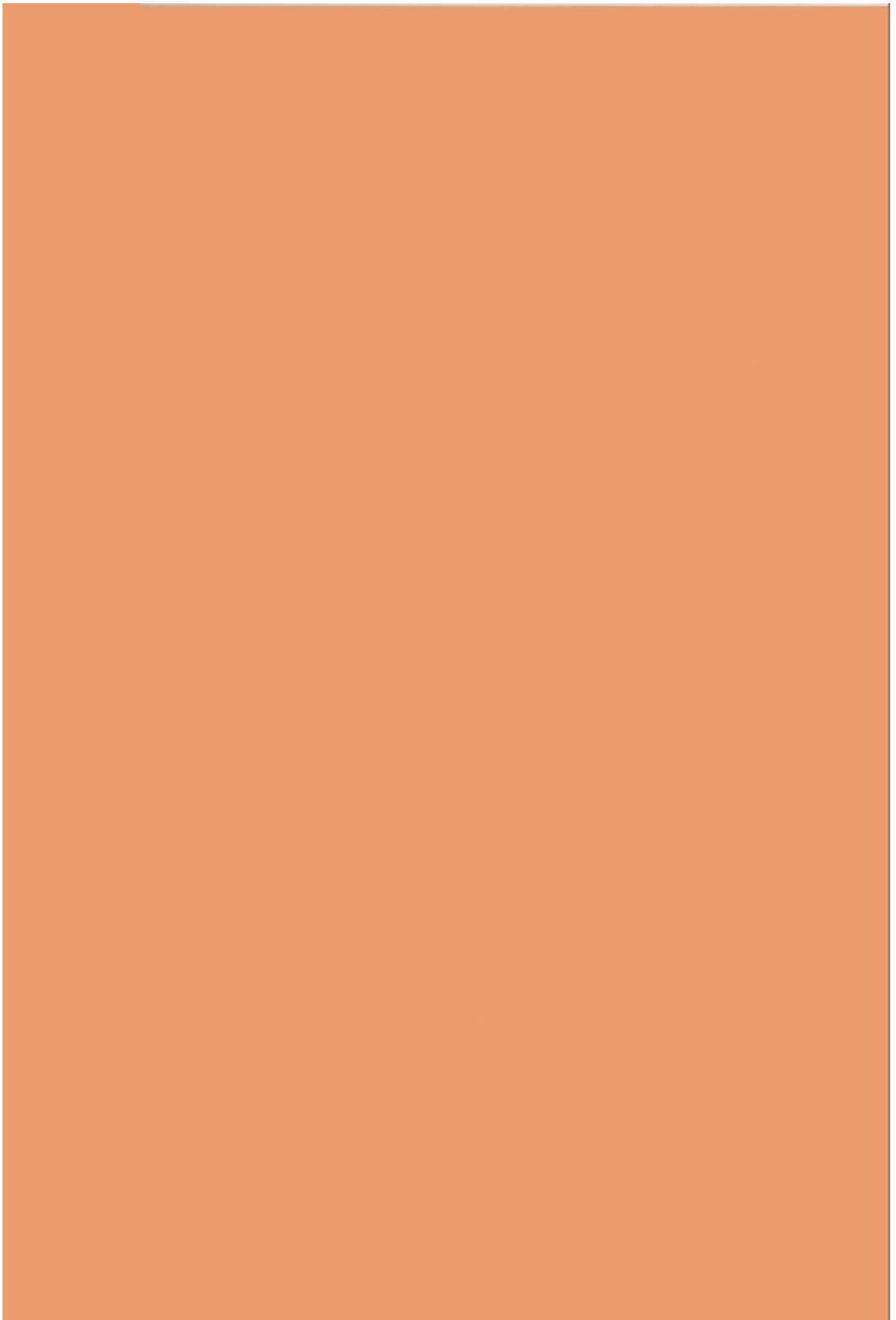
HISTORY OF CLUB

1883 – 1983

**HONITON
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

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A Message from the President of the Devon Rugby Football Union

It is always a pleasure to congratulate any organisation on reaching a particular milestone and an even greater pleasure when that organisation happens to be a Rugby club and the milestone its 100th birthday. So many congratulations to the Honiton Rugby Club on reaching its Centenary – from myself, from the Devon Rugby Football Union and from all the member Devon Rugby Clubs.

I cannot claim to have any personal knowledge of the origins of the club but I can claim to have played on numerous occasions (for the other side) at Honiton during my playing days, now sadly some 30 or so years ago. I well remember changing before the match in a public house (but I cannot remember its name) and having to walk, trot or run to the Allhallows ground to play. But those days have gone and the club now proudly possesses its own clubhouse with all its attendant advantages. The playing fortunes of the club have ebbed and flowed over the years and whilst not so long ago the club was fighting for survival, the situation today is much healthier and two senior sides and a Colts XV are fielded regularly.

The future looks good and thanks are due, not only to the present day officials and members but also to all those who throughout the past century have contributed so much in time and effort to the running of the club.

Good luck to you in your Centenary Year and for the next 100 years!

FRED COOK



Centenary Match
Honiton v. Exeter, Saturday 3rd September 1983



**Honiton v. Presidents XV
Sunday 9th October 1983**

G J George (President), I Mason (Trainer), R Roberts (DRRS), G Bosence,
K Edwards, R Wegner, D Pike, M Salter, N Seward, D B Todd, D Mcadows,
R. F Pidgeon (Chairman), R Jacobs (R F U President), D C Todd (Coach),
F Cook (D R F U President)
Front:- M. Kennedy, D McGrath, A Little (Capt), R. Freemantle, S. Boorer,
G. Lee, G. Edwards

President: Mr. G. J. George

Hon. Life Members:

Mr. L. Ackland, Mr. M. Walker, Mr. G. J. George, Mr. R. J. Grove,
Dr. A. T. H. Glanvill T. D. O. St. J.

Hon. Life Vice-President: Mr. P. B. Miles

Trustees:

Mr. G. J. George, Mr. M. Walker, Mr. M. P. J. Hawkins, Mr. T. Denne

Life Member: Mr. S. H. Noar

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. A. Buxton, Mr. C. H. Beer, Mr. N. H. Black, Mr. D. Carnell, Mr. S. E. Carnell,
Mr. N. Cornelius, Mr. C. L. Cottrell, Mr. J. D. Elston, Mr. H. E. Hansford, Mr. K.
Hooper, Mr. G. F. Harding, Mr. D. Hill, Mr. T. R. Jones, Mr. D. C. Lee, Mr. M.
Lewis-Jones, Mr. E. W. Marks, Mr. R. I. Mason, Mrs. R. Merryfield-Young, Mr. H.
Nott, Mr. H. Pape, Mr. R. Parris, Mr. J. Parrish, Mr. C. E. Pinnuck, Mr. R. F.
Pidgeon, Mr. J. Rattenbury, Mr. J. Rice, Mr. T. A. Richards, Mr. T. J. Rummery,
Mr. B. Salmon, Mr. F. Sartin, Mr. G. P. Scott, Mr. H. W. Selling, Mr. L. Taylor

Chairman: Mr. R. F. Pidgeon

3 Streamers Meadows, Honiton. Tel: 3950

Secretary: Mr. D. C. Lee

Laurel Cottage, Dalwood, Axminster Tel: Wilmington 381

Treasurer: Mr. J. E. Colley

Pitfield Farm, Cotleigh, Honiton. Tel: Wilmington 361

Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. W. Marks

16 Lee Close, Honiton. Tel: 44119

Fixture Secretary: Mr. K. J. Luxton

Clematis Cottage, Luppitt, Honiton. Tel: Luppitt 294

Team Secretary: Mr. D. K. M. Edwards

7 Woodmans Orchard, Talaton, Exeter. Tel: Whimple 822401

Membership Secretary: Mrs. C. M. Lee

Laurel Cottage, Dalwood, Axminster. Tel: Wilmington 381

Social Secretary: Mr. D. B. Todd

52 Rosewell Close, Honiton

Colts Secretary: Mr. R. Steward
The Old Forge, Upottery, Honiton. Tel: Upottery 420

Junior Rugby Secretary: Mr. K. S. Clark
Mill House, Millhayes, Stockland, Honiton. Tel: Stockland 249

Clubhouse Manger: Mr. J. D. Rice
46 Pine Grove, Honiton. Tel: 2491

Team Coach: Mr. D. C. Todd
50 Rosewell Close, Honiton. Tel: 41339

Supporters Club Representative: Mrs. S. Griffiths
28 Rosemount Close, Honiton. Tel: 41642

General Committee:
Mr. D. S. Rosenthal
25 Milldale Crescent, Honiton. Tel: 3097

Mr. S. H. Noar
Deer Park Hotel, Weston, Honiton. Tel: 41266

Miss J. L. Bartlett
Chichester House, 3 Long Hill, Beer. Tel: Seaton 21416

Mr. M. Freeman
Penywain Cottage, Broadhembury, Honiton. Tel: Broadhembury 488

Mr. S. Bond
13 Jerrard Crescent, Honiton

Mr. M. C. Kennedy
Hamperlands, Yarcombe, Honiton. Tel: Upottery 372

Mr. R. C. Stringer
12 Manor Close, Honiton

1st XV Captain: Mr. A. J. G. Little
Yarty Farm, Membury, Axminster. Tel: Stockland 264

2nd XV Captain: Mr. I. M. Andrews
Little Allercombe Farm, Rockbeare, Exeter. Tel: Whimble 822125

1883 – 1983

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB

Mr. JACK GEORGE

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all in celebrating our Centenary Season, during which there will be a programme of events that I'm sure will hold appeal to most of you in one form or another.

We at Honiton RFC are very proud of the achievement of the club in celebrating its one-hundredth year and in overcoming the many trials and tribulations during that time. There must be many individuals who due to lack of the retention of documents such as minute books cannot be named and who have been responsible for the survival of the club, especially when we consider the two World War periods. Some of these, along with many notable happenings, may be mentioned elsewhere in this booklet; suffice to say that I, for one, am very grateful for the contribution of all the people over the years whose efforts are now culminating in this, our centenary.

If we take a look at the history of the Rugby Football Game it is truly remarkable that a small market town, as Honiton must have been, should have formed a rugby club in 1883. The game is said to have started at Rugby School in 1823 when one William Webb Ellis picked up a ball and ran with it. This act, it is said, caused some people to think about the possibility of a new type of game. However, it was not until 1845 that the first set of rules was drawn up at Rugby School, but during the next 20 – 30 years many clubs were formed throughout the country. The English Rugby Union was formed in 1871, the Scottish Rugby Union in 1873, the Irish Rugby Union in 1879 and the Welsh Rugby Union in 1880, so the people of Honiton and the Rugby Club can be justly proud of being amongst the forerunners of the game.

My years as a Playing Member

I joined the club in 1947; at that time they had two very good sides, the 1st XV having a very good fixture list with most of the top clubs in Devon being included. The captain of the 1st XV at that time was Ken Hooper, a fine fullback; also in the side were Bill Sprake and Eddie Munt, both County Players. The team was bristling with talent and one had to work very hard to stand a chance of getting into the side. The 2nd XV also had an outstanding side, being unbeaten for three seasons.

The Club went on to give a good account of itself for many seasons playing such sides as St. Lukes College, most Devon Club 1st XV's and quite a few in Somerset and Dorset. I can remember beating a Somerset County representative side brought over by one Bert Miller, who had strong connections with the town.

The early to mid-fifties were good years for the club; the organisation was strong and we enjoyed loyal support from the townsfolk with up to about 200 people supporting most matches and many more when we played touring sides, especially the big clubs from Wales. Towards the end of the fifties and during the early sixties the fortunes of the club took a turn for the worse. Many of the players from the aforementioned era were growing older and had retired – some of them far too early in my opinion. Other very good youngsters provided the club with some fine rugby, but a great many of these had to leave the area in pursuit of employment or further education. In any event, the club suffered and it was only the dedication of a comparative few that kept it going.



Honiton R.F.C. 1955

L. Peek, D. C. Stone, R. Redhead, J. Russell, D. Ellett, P. Murray, D. Locke, A. Vickery, J. Warren,
J. George, M. Howard, H. Hatherly, D. Pulman (Capt.), D. Gurney, T. Connett.

In the early to mid-sixties there was a very serious threat to fold up the club as support, both from the players and the administrative side, was sadly lacking. In fact a meeting was called with a view to winding up the club. From that meeting there emerged one of the strongest characters the club has ever known in the person of the late Richard Charles who was determined that the Honiton Rugby Club should not disappear. He immediately embarked on a rescue operation by forming a committee, with himself as Chairman, Laurence Taylor as President and Bill Ratcliffe as Captain. These three people did a tremendous job in the closed season by knocking on doors and persuading people to turn out for the club. An example of their powers of persuasion was on myself. I had decided to hang up my boots at the end of the previous season. One evening there was a knock on my door, and there were Richard and Bill asking if I would like to go out for a drink with them. Throughout the evening they did their best to get me to play, but I would not agree. They then asked me if I would coach the side and to this I reluctantly agreed. The result was that I got so fit I was in the 1st XV, and went on to play for another twelve seasons.

The Clubhouse Story

During the period from the end of the Second World War to the opening of the clubhouse the club used the Public Houses of the town as Headquarters and I think that all of them played host to the club at one time or another. One that springs to mind is the Lamb Inn that was headquarters for many years. The landlord was Les Ackland who was the heart and soul of the club for many years. Another that I remember is The Angel Hotel where we used to bath in a large communal bath. We were catered for in the hotel by Mrs. Sprake and Miss Swain, and of course Bill and Reg Sprake were great stalwarts of the club.

It was during this period that Richard Charles had the idea of owning our own clubhouse and it wasn't long before he, and the rest of us then serving on the committee, set about devising schemes to provide money for the clubhouse fund. However, many years passed by and the idea of a clubhouse faded from many minds, not though from that of Richard Charles, and I well remember his telling me at one of our annual dinners about a piece of land adjacent to the Playing Fields that was for sale at a very reasonable price. He asked me what I thought of purchasing the property for the rugby club. Obviously I thought it was a good idea but wondered where on earth we were going to get the cash. Richard was silent for a moment and then asked me if I wanted to go to the toilet. "*I'm breaking my neck to go,*" I replied and he said, "*I'll bet all the others here are as well.*" He got to his feet and put the same question to the people assembled. Almost all indicated that they were in the same predicament whereupon Richard told us that anyone wishing to use the boy's rooms would have to put a pound note into a bucket that two of our biggest forwards would be holding at the door. That particular collection raised more than enough money to purchase the property upon which the clubhouse now stands.

During the ensuing years the struggle to raise funds for the clubhouse continued, until one day it was decided by the committee that there was enough money available to commence work. It was estimated that to get the foundations laid (the building base being partially on stilts), and the services put in could be accomplished with the cash available. But, as it turned out, instead of costing the hundreds of pounds anticipated the cost soared into thousands, leaving us in a great dilemma as to how the work was going to be paid for. At this stage, when all the services had been laid on and the concrete platform put down, all work had to stop for several years.

The burden of debt had to be borne by the trustees and officers of the club and the task of raising money to pay for the work already done, and, further, to build the clubhouse was a formidable one. Once again there was a nucleus of dedicated members who worked very hard organising functions, running competitions such as the 200 club, selling tickets for raffles and dances, and setting up stalls in the High Street to sell secondhand books given by the Members and the people of Honiton. There were also sales of produce, donated by Mike Walker, now a life member of the club, who also provided Xmas trees for sale which brought in much needed revenue. All this was a great success and Mike and all the others never ceased in their endeavours and never lost faith in their belief that one day Honiton R.F.C. would own its own clubhouse.



**Honiton 1st XV v Invitation XV
Clubhouse Official Opening September 14th 1978**

J. Somers, R. Evans, J. Elston, H. Harkett, B. Harris, N. Pritchard, J. Marks, M. Kennedy,
R. Pidgeon, J. Rice.
A. Hopgood, A. Freemantle, R. Grove, J. Theedom referee (DRRS), J. George (Chairman),
G. Brown (Capt.), Dr. A. T. H. Glanvill (President), D. B. Todd, G. Thomas, P. Summers,
P. Lapping (touch judge).

An unexpected boost to the clubhouse funds came through the Club President, Dr. Terry Glanvill, who obtained the offer of an interest free loan from the late Mr. Kew, owner of the Deer Park Hotel. This offer was gratefully accepted over a term of five years and once again the possibility of completing the clubhouse fired the committee to proceed with the plans and preparations. A lot of hard work was put in by a comparatively small number of people such as Terry Rummery, Tim Denne, Dr. Terry Glanvill, John Stone the architect, Eddie Marks, Steve Bond and the Freemantle brothers – Roy and Alan.

By 1874 the foundation stone of the changing rooms had been laid by Councillor Hubert Black, commemorated by a game against an Exeter XV. The changing rooms were completed by 1975, and the shell of the clubroom put up by 1976. Most of the masterminding of this work was done by Tim Denne who as a great servant of the club both as player and clubhouse organiser. He was assisted in this, and in fund raising, by Dave Knight and others. Disappointingly for Tim, the opportunity of a job in Hong Kong took him away from Honiton before the clubhouse was complete, so it was left to David Lee, who had not long joined the club, to oversee the completion of the clubhouse interior, aided by a £2000 loan from Bass Charrington.

The clubhouse was at last in operation on 15th December 1977, but was not finally finished until September '78, when the official opening was marked by a week's celebrations. This started with a sevens tournament on the Sunday, a junior game against Exmouth on the Monday, the 2nd XV played Allhallows School on the Tuesday and the 1st XV played Sidmouth on the Wednesday. The official opening took place on Thursday 14th September, the ceremony being performed by Molly Jerrard, President of Bath R.F.C. There then followed a game against an invitation XV, and afterwards there must have been about 400 people in the clubhouse – quite a sight. The Friday's events were more lighthearted with a comic match, ladies v gentlemen and the hectic week finished with a buffet and disco after the game on the Saturday.

The successful opening of the clubhouse was a triumph for those who had worked so hard for so long and who had given so much of their time, as well as for those who had assumed the heavy burden of financial responsibility.

Running a club of this kind is a business that makes great demands on the voluntary part time skills and labour of the members of the Club. The monthly meetings of the Management Committee, for example, rarely last for less than three hours and the various officers of the club put in many hours per week. Somehow there are always members who love the game sufficiently to volunteer for this work and those at present are an outstanding example.

Hopefully the club will continue to thrive and who knows what the next 100 years will bring. If the people of Honiton are as resolute as their forebears they will continue to produce strong rugby playing men and good citizens who will ensure the future of Honiton Rugby Football Club.

HISTORY OF HONITON R.F.C.

By David Lee B.V. Sc. MRCVS
Hon. Secretary Honiton RFC.

The history of the club is regrettably very incomplete, mainly because of the many homes the club had, from the days of its foundation in 1883 until it found a permanent home in its own clubhouse in 1978. As the club's headquarters moved from pub to pub the records, minute books and fixture cards all became lost, even in relatively recent times, so the account of the club's history reproduced here is necessarily based on what written and verbal evidence we have been able to glean. It will inevitably contain a few inaccuracies, and, at times, pure guesswork!

Rugby was probably played in Honiton before 1883 by boys clubs, town choirs and the like as rugby had already been played widely in Devon during the late 1860's and early 70's. The first club in Devon was Tiverton (1868), followed by Exeter (1872), Exmouth, Paignton and Newton Abbot (1873), Teignmouth (1874), Brixham and Torquay (1875), Plymouth Albion (1876), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and Plymouth Arguam (1877) and Crediton (1878). Honiton was thus the fourteenth club to be formed in Devon. The Devon Rugby Union was formed in 1876, followed by the Cornwall RFU in 1884, the latter, incidentally, celebrating their centenary during the same season as us. Other local clubs founded at much the same time were Sidmouth (1884), Salcombe (1888), Cullompton, Kingsbridge and Totnes (1889), and, in Somerset, Wiveliscombe (1872), Wellington (1874) and Taunton (1875).

The game spread rapidly throughout the West Country and became by far the most popular Winter sport in the region, soccer not becoming widespread until after the first war. Almost every small town had a team, such as Axminster, Seaton, Ottery St. Mary, Budleigh Salterton and Topsham. Other similar clubs in the County were Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, North Tawton, Plympton and Kingsteignton. All had disappeared by the Second War, although a number have since been reformed (Topsham, Ashburton, N. Tawton and Plympton).

The first record we have of a Honiton Rugby Club is about October 1883, from a photograph taken at Budleigh Salterton on the occasion of the first match of the newly formed club. They set a trend which has all too often been repeated during the club's history by setting out with only fourteen men, but nonetheless achieved a creditable 6-6 draw.

The verification for this only came to light relatively recently, for until 1964 the club thought it had been founded in 1884, and celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1934. An old photograph was given to Reg Sprake, former Landlord of the Angel Hotel, by Jack Stuart, a butcher of Awliscombe, who obtained it from his Aunt, Mrs. A. Hoskins of Kilmington. The photograph was recognised by Les Ackland of the Lamb Inn, Honiton, a former captain of the club, and notable authority on the club's history. Those in the photograph reproduced here were (at top left) E. W. Hellier, the first club secretary, then Honiton town Clerk. The players were (left to right) H. H. Lilley, who died in the early 60's aged 92, with his brother, C. Lilley (fifth from left); they founded the well known local firm of Miller & Lilley. Next to H. H. Lilley is 'Lordy' Wood, who had a fruit shop in New Street, and Jack Stuart, the full back, who was killed in World War I. Next to C. Lilley is J. Sanson, then D. Connett, C. Authors and Sgt. Instructor Mackey. In the second row are Fred Trace and Arthur Edwards, a bank official, who was the first club captain. The front row



are 'Tichburn' Wood, 'Blister' Bending, H. Deneslow, John Roderigo and Jack Chard, who ran the Fountain Inn. This handful of men were the forerunners of many teams who had their ups and downs over the club's 100 years, from the heady pre-war years to the depths of the 1900s and 1960s.

Rugby flourished in the closing years of the century, with many local sides being formed in the area, as already mentioned. In Honiton itself there were eight teams at the turn of the century – Honiton R.F.C. (2), Scarlet Runners, Broomhills, United Choirs, United Chapels, Allhallows Choir and Allhallows School.

Another early photograph of the club is the famous one of the coach and horses about to leave Honiton for Taunton in 1907. The picture was taken outside Marwood House in Honiton, former residence of Sir Thomas Marwood, one time physician to Queen Elisabeth I, who was a son of the town, and lived to be 104! His tomb is in St. Michaels Church.

The cork oak in the background was planted by Sir Walter Raleigh during the time he was living at Colaton Raleigh, near Budleigh Salterton. Honiton's other royal surgeon, Rear Admiral Sir Derek Steele-Perkins, was born in the town and was surgeon on the Royal Yacht Britannia. He was a great rugby man and played, in turn, for Honiton, Gloucester and the Royal Navy; he won two England trials, and is now living in retirement in Bournemouth.

This 1907 team coach, or brake, was drawn by a roan and three greys and driven by Jim Neale who worked for Harry Banfield, former Mayor of Honiton, who kept the Dolphin Hotel. Those Honiton stalwarts of long ago, packed into the coach are: Fred Darke, Harry Summers, John Roderigo, Walter Vosper, Harry Howard, 'Whacker' Wood, Harold Carnell, Ernie Summers, Albert Cox, Frank Thomas, John Redfearn and Fred Pope – all of whom were required to get out and push every time the coach came to a hill! The captain of this team, Harold Carnell, rescued the club in the early years of the century when it was in danger of folding up due to a lack of interest. He was a master at Allhallows School, and between 1904 and 1909 got the club back on its feet, and continued to serve it for nearly 50 years.



Several club members served their country in the Great War. Unfortunately the names of those who fell in action are not known, apart from Jack Stuart, a founder Member. Frank Beer was one whose life was saved by rugby. He was a member of a Vickers machine gun crew of the 4th Devon Regiment Territorials in 1914. He seriously injured his knee playing rugby, and was discharged, being unfit for further service, and later his entire gun crew mates were tragically killed in action while the Devons were fighting in India and Mesopotamia.

The club was reformed after the war in 1919, including some former Seaton RFC players, as that club did not survive the war; former Seaton Captain, Albert Paul, was a dental mechanic, a useful profession to be associated with a rugby club. An archive of Seaton's pre-war days which unfortunately has not survived, was a black edged memorial card anticipating the 'death of Honiton' on the occasion of the forthcoming annual match. Sadly for Seaton, Honiton won, and the scorer of the winning try had to be put in jail for the night for his own safety.

Various fields in and around Honiton were used during the Club's history, including one off Turks Head Lane, near the present by-pass. The Ottery Moor Lane Ground, later Mountbatten Park, home of Honiton Town A.F.C. and Honiton R.B.L. Cricket Club, was bought in 1920 by A.O. Morton-Moncrieff of Hillcote, Combe Raleigh, from the late Bill Sluggett of Town Farm, Honiton. The six acres were bought for £1200 and Mr. Morton-Moncrieff, then club chairman, allowed the club to play there rent free.

The club moved to Allhallows Field in 1938 to be nearer the town centre, when the field became available when Allhallows School moved from Honiton to its present site at Rousdon. The Ottery Moor Lane field was bought by the War Department for the use of the Heathfield Army Camp during the second war, and Mr. Morton-Moncrieff gave the proceeds to the rugby club.

At one time it was feared that Allhallows Field would be built on but it was saved by Mrs. Juanita Phillips, eleven times Mayor of Honiton. She put up £2000 to buy the field, comprising nine acres, two pavilions, a small swimming pool and the groundsman's cottage, aided by a further £2000 from the National Playing Fields Association. A few years later Frank Harding, who ran a drapers and furnishing shop in the High Street, bought the adjoining field for £600. It had been used as a rubbish dump; it was grassed over, the hedge around the rugby pitch removed, and incorporated into the playing fields. The site now holds the Honiton Hornets hockey pitch, the sports hall and tennis courts.

The club had a long association with Allhallows School, which provided it with many good players. Most notable were P. L. Nicholas (Exeter, Devon and England), H. E. Carnell, C. H. Beer and S. E. Carnell (club captains), W. E. Sprake who with C. H. Beer played for Exeter and Devon, D. D. Steele-Perkins (Devon and Gloucester), Peter Moor and Reg Sprake, later governors of Allhallows, and Norman Pitts, who signed professional forms with Hunslet.

The colours originally adopted by Honiton were red, black and amber, in which they have played for most of their history. However, these colours were unobtainable after the first war, when all they could obtain was plain red. For the next 2 or 3 years the colour adopted was pale blue, but red, black and amber was re-adopted in the mid 20's. Once again things were difficult after the second war when black and amber was used for one season. Financial stringency was the reason for a brief change of colours in 1975, when it was agreed to save money by buying a cheap set of red nylon shirts and black stockings with yellow striped tops. These were used by the 2nd XV for a couple of seasons, and luckily things improved enough to be able to afford the proper colours. For the Centenary Season, instead of red, black and amber hooped socks, we are using black socks with red and amber tops.

After the First War there was a gradual improvement in playing standards until, by the late twenties, Honiton was one of the top junior sides in the County. We were Junior Cup finalists in 1926/7, losing to Paignton Reserves, and won the cup for the next three years, thus gaining senior status which we retained until the outbreak of War. A detailed account of those days by Sid Carnell, captain in the early 30's, is recorded elsewhere in this booklet.

The club declined after the second war, having a poor season in 1953, and nearly folding up in 1961, when a meeting was actually held to wind up the club. Jack George in his account of those days, has written how he and Dickie Charles saved the club from extinction. From failing to win a single match in 1960/61, they won 7 in 61/62, and gradually improved during the 60's and early 70's. 1966 was the best season for 12 years when 12 games were won. In 1967/8 the record was: won 21, drawn 1 and lost 13. figures did not improve until 1980/81, the best season since the war when 27 games were won and only 9 lost. This improvement coincided with the opening of the clubhouse, when the club's playing strength was considerably strengthened, and two teams regularly fielded. In 1981/2, the team had a good run in the Havill Plate, losing in the semi-final to eventual Plate winners, Ivybridge. Honiton entered its centenary season with over 60 players participating in pre-season training, and has enough playing strength to regularly run 2 senior sides and 2 colts teams.

Many thanks are due to the following for providing information for this history, and other articles in this booklet - Les 'Mr. Honiton' Ackland, Jack George, Tim Denne, Nancy Todd, and many others whose small contributions have been most valuable.

MEMORIES OF HONITON'S GOLDEN ERA

BY S. E. CARNELL

My memories of Honiton RFC go back to the time when the club was reformed after the 1914-18 war, in 1919/20. My father, who had earlier captained the club, was the Treasurer, with P. V. Leresche, an old north country county player, as Secretary and Rev. the Hon. F. L. Courtenay as President. The first jerseys used after the war were all red, similar to Barnstaple's it being impossible to obtain the proper club colours of red, amber and black. These were used for 2 or 3 seasons when a change was made to all blue jerseys. These, again, were only used for a couple of seasons, as in 1925/26 it was possible to revive the original colours, still in use today. Players of those years who stand out in my mind are Billy Herridge, full back, followed by Charley Selway and, later still, Cyril Doble, Tommy Isaacs, scrum half, Reg Martin, wing three and forward Tommy Dare, who also captained the club.

Having re-adopted our original colours playing standards started to improve with that wonderful run of Junior Cup successes to follow. It started, I believe, with the 1925/26 semi-final at Crediton in which we were beaten. I recall half of Honiton, including myself, making the journey, only to be disappointed. The following season we lost to Paignton reserves in the final, 9 points to 3, after leading at half-time by 3 points to nil. Then came the record three years: in 1927/28 beating Brixham Reserves 21 points to 7, in 1928/29 beating Kingsteignton 9 points to 3 and in 1929/30 beating Brixham Reserves by 9 points to 5. In these last 2 seasons Bideford were beaten in the semi-finals.

The following season it was decided to enter the Devon Senior Cup, and for the first round we were drawn against Sidmouth, the match to be played at Honiton. Honiton got off to a good start and scored first but were unfortunate in losing Clifford Hatcher – wing three-quarter, captain and scorer of the try. In those days replacements were not allowed and the handicap of playing half the game a man short proved too much for us. I think I am right in saying that this was the first, and also, I believe, the last occasion on which the Honiton Club prepared its own match programme. I recently passed my copy to the Honiton Museum, as I felt it was of interest, if only to see the local traders' names and advertisements – much nostalgia. We again entered the Devon Senior Cup in 1931/32, the last time it was competed for, and lost in the semi-final at Exeter County Ground to Paignton by 6 points to nil.

The captains during those great seasons were T. Dare, Albert Paul, Clifford Hatcher and, in my opinion the greatest of them all, A. E. (Bert) Woodrow. Bert was a natural player of great ability being equally at home at scrum half, stand off, centre or full back; he had a most accurate and lengthy kick in both feet and was a real inspiration to the team. I was indeed honoured to captain the club before my 21st birthday and would like to stress that in my opinion the success of the team in those days was not only due to the great ability of the few, but the loyalty and team spirit of the many. Names to recall are Eddie Munt (second in natural ability only to Bert Woodrow), Bert Chapman (later to join the Metropolitan Police), Bunny Dunsford, Bill Baker, Jerry Pike, Archie Stone (the one and only), Sid Dommett, Arthur Wyatt, Ralph Lewis and Dapper Moore. Also those most loyal committee men – Mono Channon, Johnnie Roderigo, Fred Tucker, Frank Beer (trainer

*Honiton's famous old Coaching House
is an ideal place to:*

- BREAK a journey
- ENJOY morning coffee
- HAVE a drink
- MEET friends
- USE as a comfortable and FRIENDLY Holiday Base
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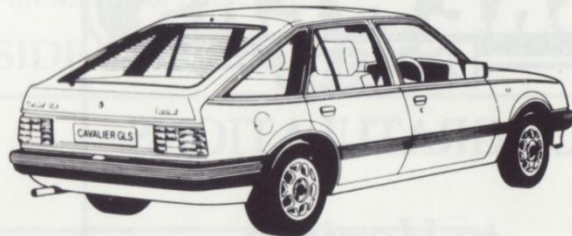


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supreme with his magic sponge) and Mr. Morton Moncrieff, that most generous of Presidents for many years.

I captained the side in 31/32 after the elected captain left the town and I as vice-captain took over in November. I was elected captain in 32/33, and again in 33/34, but after the first few games in the September my job moved me away from Honiton. I played the odd game when I came up to see my parents, but all in all, it was a most happy introduction to club rugby which served me in great stead for a couple of seasons in the Torquay 1st XV, and after that I don't know how many seasons with Barnstaple from 1935 to 1950. I followed there in Reg Nott's footsteps, one of my Honiton schoolboy heroes.

It was a strange coincidence that my father (H. E. Carnell) was captain of Honiton in the 25th year of the club, and I was elected captain in the 50th year. Now the Centenary is upon us.

DEVON JUNIOR CUP FINAL, APRIL 20TH 1929

Honiton's third junior cup final was played against Kingsteignton at the Exeter County Ground and their victory was celebrated by the poem reproduced here . . .

Hear the cheering? "Hey, what's up?"
Honiton boys have won the cup!
Won it well, too, I'll be bound,
Fill the trophy – hand it round.
First let's toast the losing team;
"Pleased to *beat* you," our boys seem.
Fifteen sports with no play dirty,
Your *passing out* we all thought "purty!"
Here's to DOBLE, our "full-back,"
Kicks good length and foils attack.
ROGERS, too, is great on wing –
See him "hand off" – that's the thing.
And a bumper now for MUNT,
His strong *point* – the scoring stunt.
Here's to WYATT; how we cackle
When he lays them in the tackle!
CARNELL, progeny of football stock,
Comes up smiling from each knock.
Captain WOODROW at "stand-off half"
Sells the "Dummy" – then we laugh.
LES GIGG is a "scrum-half" quiffy –
Slings the ball back in a jiffy!

CHAPMAN – “winger,” – quick and cool,
Often adds the points for goal.
With young DUNSFORD weight will tell,
Ask the man on whom he fell!
PAUL is eager for the fray,
And DOMMETT revels in scrum-play.
LOCK and BAKER – also “Try-ers,”
Baker’s fast, Lock never tires.
Veteran NOTT puts in his share
With STONE & CO. we’ll not despair.
Don’t forget our trainer – TRIMMER,
With the sponge he is a “limmer.”
And the touch-judge – FRANKIE BEER –
Wags his flag and shouts “Touch here!”
JOHN, SID and “MONNO” on the gate,
All give the score when we are late.
To SEC., COMMITTEE, – helpers all,
Jolly good-luck, that’s real “football.”
We’ve had good times, here, chasing
leather,
So give three cheers, now, altogether.
– (OLD CROCK).

WELL PLAYED, HONITON. “HIP! HIP! HIP! –”

The game was the least memorable of Honiton’s four Junior Cup Finals. Honiton started well with a drop goal by Woodrow, followed by a brilliant run from the midfield by Rogers, who touched down near the posts for Woodrow to convert. The Kingsteignton forwards then gained the upper hand, and from a scrummage, Frost fell across the line for an unconverted try. The Honiton Threes staged several attacks but were denied by good defence. The game started to become more physical, with warnings from the referee, Mr. Stockman of Brixham.

The second half was less memorable with increasing violence, culminating in the Kingsteignton forward, Mudge, being sent off the field for tripping. Both sides went close to scoring, but the score remained 9 – 3 to Honiton at the final whistle.

The team photograph taken later at Honiton has only 14 players in it because Sid Dommett’s motor bike broke down, making him late.

The players are (left to right)
Stone, Baker, Chapman, Rogers, Nott, Doble, Paul, Woodrow (Capt.), Munt,
Locke, Dunsford, Carnell, Gigg, Wyatt.



A. O. MORTON-MONCRIEFF

Mr. Morton-Moncrieff was an irrigation engineer who worked abroad in India and South America. He came to Devon in 1929, when he bought Highwood Farm, Dunkeswell, where he kept 500 breeding sows, and fattened the weaners. The pigs ran wild on the common at Dunkeswell, until he was the first person to introduce the prairie plough to England, reclaiming much of the common land. He was one of the first farmers to go in for intensive pig production before the war. He was Devon County Chairman of the NFU, and Chairman of the Honiton Conservative Association. He had two sons, George, an RAF pilot, who was killed in the last war, and Bernard, who went to Canada.

Mr. Morton-Moncrieff's involvement with the Honiton Rugby Club was in the administration of it, serving as chairman, and as club president from 1933 to 1948. He retired to Torbay in the 60's, and died a couple of years ago, aged 92.

His widow, Mrs. Marjorie Morton-Moncrieff, has generously donated a sum of money to the club in his memory. Some of this money has been used to make some honours boards, listing the names of past captains and presidents of the club. These boards were unveiled by Mrs. Morton-Moncrieff at a buffet luncheon on Sunday 9th October at the clubhouse, to be followed by a match, Honiton 1st XV versus Honiton President's Invitation XV

CLUB PERSONALITIES

by David Lee

The following is a collection of accounts of notable club members, both past and present, and, as with the club's history, is necessarily incomplete due to the lack of information available. I am sure that many people can think of others that merit a mention – I apologise for these omissions and hope that some of them will be remembered elsewhere in this booklet.

Most notable of the original 1883 team were H. H. & C. Lilley who founded the well known local firm of Miller & Lilley. H. H. Lilley died in the early 60's aged 92. John Roderigo is also to be found in the 1907 'Coach and Horses' photograph and in club photographs of the 30's as a club official. He was extremely proud to be of Spanish blood, his ancestor being a survivor of one of the many ships of the Spanish Armada wrecked on the Devon coast in 1588. His son, Len, played for the club, appearing in the Jubilee photograph of 1934.

Honiton's star player in the successful days at the turn of the century was the Reverend P. L. Nicholas who was a master at Allhallows School. He went on to play for Exeter and the superb Devon side of 1901 which won the County Championship. He gained further honours in 1902 when he won three caps for England; Honiton's only claim to a senior international player. He later became vicar of Drewsteignton. Another Allhallows schoolmaster was Harold Carnell, father of club Vice-President Sid Carnell. He rekindled interest in the club in the mid 1900's and was captain from 1904–9, serving Honiton for nearly 50 years as a committee man. He became Deputy Mayor and was made a Freeman of the Borough of Honiton in 1945.

S. E. (Sid) Woodrow was one of the many Honiton players who served in the Great War. While he was stationed in the Middle East he played Rugby for the British Army against the French Army in Salonika, the result being a scoreless draw. Sid captained Honiton in 1920/21, and went to St. Lukes College, captaining them in 1923/24. He trained as a teacher with Sir Stanley Rous, later President of F.I.F.A. He served in the Second World War and is our oldest surviving captain, now living in Cheltenham. His brother, Bert Woodrow, was vice-captain in 1919/20, going to Exeter with Eddie Munt.

In the mid 30's C. H. (Charlie) Beer of Court Barton, Beer, a Vice-President of the club, was one of four brothers to play for the town. He was captain in 1934-36 and played for Exeter and Devon with Eddie Munt and the Late Bill Sprake.

'Albion' Wyatt played at the turn of the Century, and gave 50 years service with St. Pauls Choir. He was caretaker at Honiton Working Men's Club when it was in the High Street, and projectionist at the old cinema opposite the former Kings Arms Inn. He had two sons, Harold and Jack, who sang in the choir. Harold played for Honiton and Yeovil and trained with Les Ackland for Exeter Harriers. Jack, a dental mechanic, joined the Metropolitan Police and now lives in Worthing.

Former Presidents of note were Rev. the Hon. F. L. Courtenay, rector of Honiton 1903 to 1933, father of the present Earl of Devon, A. O. Morton-Moncrieff, of whom more is written elsewhere, and Dr. J. E. Finlay, physician of Honiton, capped eleven times for Ireland. Three of his shirts (Ireland, Scotland

and Wales) hang in the clubhouse today. His Son is Dr. David Finlay of Topsham. Another distinguished former player is Rear Admiral Sir Derek Steele-Perkins, former physician to the Queen on the Royal Yacht Britannia. He played also for Gloucester, the Royal Navy, Devon and Gloucestershire, and had two trials for England. He is now living in Bournemouth. Three club stalwarts have recently died – Harry Summers, aged 91, a player and vice-president, Bill Hooper, and Charlie Carter who helped reform the club in 1919.

Les Ackland needs no introduction to most former Honiton players. He started playing in 1928, guesting for Sidmouth either side of the War when Honiton had no team, captaining the club in 1946 and hanging up his boots in 1950. He was a keen athlete, running for Exeter Harriers before the War. he has kept in touch with many personalities of the club, and has a marvellous memory for both the history of the town and the Rugby Club. He has contributed countless articles to the press, including one to the Tatler in 1954 which printed a photograph of that year's team. Les will have plenty of opportunity to talk over old times with the many ex-players who will be visiting Honiton for the Club's Centenary.

C. N. Hatcher, captain in 1930, went on to play for Clifton and Somerset. He later became Treasurer, Chairman and President of Honiton 1957 to 60, and was Mayor of the town in 1943/4. Other members who became Mayors were A. G. Real (1966/7), T. Hitchcock (1974/5) and Dr. A. T. H. Glanvill (1962/3 and again in 1978/9). Surely nobody in East Devon could possibly have failed to hear of Dr. Terry Glanvill, President of the club 1967 to 1980, for he has so many interests apart from Rugby and the profession which he somehow finds time to pursue! His photograph is never out of the local papers and during his last term as Mayor he had a complete page to himself on which there were no less than 17 photographs of Dr. Terry wearing the appropriate clothing for all his various pursuits. He played rugby for the town in the mid 50's with Jack George and in his capacity as President his tremendous enthusiasm was of immeasurable assistance to the club, especially from his positions on the Town and, later, the East Devon District Councils. He has been able to pull many strings for the club, as, for example, getting a new concrete path laid to the new clubhouse from the car park. Now, as Hon. Life Member of the club, he still has the interest of Honiton R.F.C. at heart, coming on tour to France with us in 1981 and often travelling vast distances to attend A.G.M.'s or club dinners.

Jack George, our current President, has had a long association with Honiton R.F.C., joining the club after leaving the R.A.F. when he happened to bump into a committee member in Axminster who persuaded him to play. In those days he used to cycle the 10 miles from Axminster to Honiton in order to join the team! He played for several years at half-back, at one time as vice-captain with his fly-half partner and skipper, Dave Pulman, and also with Peter Murray as Captain. He was involved with the salvation of the club in 1961 in company with Dickie Charles who persuaded him to coach the team and ultimately, start playing again. He served on the committee as Fixture Secretary from 1964 and later became club chairman, with club secretaries being D. Sparks, the late Dudley Todd, Mike Hawkins and Rob Grove. He was elected Club President in 1981 and is most proud to hold that office in our Centenary Season. Jack's Welsh wit and voice are always to the fore at rugby games, both when giving well chosen advice to players and referees alike, or when leading the more serious celebrations after the game.

The next club personality it is my pleasure to mention must be one of the most well known and respected rugby figures in Devon – club Chairman, Rodney Pidgeon. Born without a left hand, 'Pidge' has overcome this disability to such an extent that he won a junior cap for Devon at basketball and has played rugby for Honiton for about 23 years. He started as a young lad of 15, playing in the 1st XV, and being brought up in the ways of rugby football, a disease which has reached a terminal course. In his prime that 'stump' was feared throughout the South-West and when propping he was a referees nightmare concerning the laws on binding in the set scrummage! He captained the club in 1969-71 and again in 1977 and latterly has successfully taken up refereeing, attaining a pretty high standard; after all, they say, it takes one to know one! He has taken a year off from refereeing to be able to attend all the games during the Centenary Year, as has one of our other referees, Dave (Rat) Todd, who is club coach.

A Life Member of the club who must be mentioned is Mike Walker. He, like Pidge, served the club for more years than he would care to remember, playing from the late 50's right through to the early 70's, when the ravages of a strenuous agricultural life forced him onto the sidelines. He was club captain in 1963/4 and continued to do great things for the club off the field by his fund raising. He still makes the effort to come up to Honiton from Exeter, when he can, to support the club.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

by JANE BARTLETT

We knew that it would be a successful weekend as soon as Rodney Pidgeon found a good omen in the form of a ten pound note on the Ferry. There, with the take over of the bar area accomplished and several crates of alcoholic beverage close at hand we commenced the Honiton R.F.C. Tour de France 1981.

Having serenaded the passengers all night we arrived at Le Havre in the early hours and, after nearly leaving the President, Dr. Terry Glanvill, on the boat, proceeded on the tenhour journey south to our first hosts in the small village of Aigrefeuille.

Arriving rather wearily at our hotel near La Rochelle, we quickly changed for dinner, at which several members of Aigrefeuille R.F.C. were present. Unfortunately, for the Captain of Aigrefeuille, he could not master the game of 'bunnies' and paid the price in a large amount of drinking penalties which certainly caught him at his own game; for one of his main objectives of the evening was to ensure that we experienced the potent nature of the local red wine.

The next morning the whole party went into La Rochelle, a very picturesque port, for a mornings shopping and sightseeing. After lunch, back to the hotel (no wine now boys). We travelled inland to Aigrefeuille where we were given a Civic Reception by the Mayor, mementoes were given and speeches made, the language barrier being overcome by Martin Tapper our interpreter.

At last, the main reason for the tour – rugby – Honiton R.F.C. versus U.S. Aigrefeuille. Honiton won this game 22 - 20 despite the uncustomary hard ground. After the match we were highly entertained with a six course meal, (some unaccustomed to French eating habits had three helpings of the first course!) with a lot of singing between courses. As the wine flowed we all became highly proficient with the French language, However, for most of us this amounted to little more than English with a French accent.

On Sunday, after the majority of us had been swimming, and some had got lost not even knowing the name of our hotel, we travelled to the island of Oleron for the second fixture of the tour. As we continued on our journey we realised that we were being escorted by a entourage of cars full of the Aigrefeuille players of the previous day.

We arrived at Oleron on a very warm April day and, somewhat reluctantly, played the match, which we lost rather heavily due, I think, to a combination of extreme heat and hangovers. We were then taken to a reception at the clubhouse. Ricard and Pineau were then followed by a brief tour of the island and in particular the small harbour, where many of the players worked as fishermen. To round off the day we were all taken to what looked like a tumbledown shack in the middle of the oyster beds, which inside was an amazing barn-like restaurant, lit only by candles and oil lamps, where we were served a huge variety of shellfish including oysters and mussels. This was a tremendous evening and really the climax of the tour.

The next day was spent travelling up through France to catch the night ferry. By now the famous 'Yellow Jersey' had accumulated about 25 names, each there by warrant of the person in question being sick. Once your name had been added to the list you had to wear the Jersey until the next person was caught paying for his over-indulgence. Consequently, everyone was escorted to the toilet to ensure that they weren't cheating. The hottest contender for the most frequent wearer of the Jersey was a certain Jeremy Rice who disappointed us all by being surprisingly in control of himself until on the ferry, and that was due to a very rough sea.

Having successfully got through customs (any duty-free having already been consumed) we proceeded on the last leg of our journey – Southampton to Honiton via the Old Inn.

Everybody that went on the tour agrees that it was a weekend they won't forget (though some parts are a little hazy). The hospitality and generosity of our French hosts was unbelievable and the 'French Connection' is one that we hope to maintain with future visits. Indeed, in 1982 U.S. Aigrefeuille came to Honiton and we hope we were able to return some of the excitement and enthusiasm of our tour de France, 1981.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

ENGLAND

Rev. P. L. Nicholas (Honiton, Exeter & Devon) Master Allhallows, later Vicar of Drewsteignton. 3 caps for England 1902.

England Trialist – D. D. Steele-Perkins (later Rear Admiral Sir Derek Steele-Perkins)

England 16 group – John P. Bryant 1982/83. Honiton Colts, Devon Schools 16 Group, S.W. Schools 16 Group. Played in Hilversum against Holland (w 17-0), at Bristol against Wales Youth (w 14-13) and tour of Portugal – v Portugese U16 (w 40-6), Regional XV (w 26-9), lost to Portugal U17.

DEVON

P. L. Nicholas

E. Munt

D. D. Steele-Perkins

E. Pike

W. Brock

W. Davey

R. Nott

S. Lewis

A. Woodrow

W. E. Sprake

C. Beer

A. Hopgood (Honiton & Exeter) went on a recent Devon tour to France and is in the Devon Squad this season. He played for Devon against Lancashire at Fylde on Nov. 12th '83.

Other County Caps

A. Carter (Surrey)

M. Gill (Hants.)

C. N. Hatcher (Somerset)

P. Dart (Som., Dorset & Wilts & Eastern Counties)

D. D. Steele-Perkins (Gloucestershire & Royal Navy)

L. G. Bassett (Middx.)

A. Dimond (Derbyshire)

E. Pike (Dorset & Wilts)

Devon Colts

N. Huggett 1981/82

Hong Kong

Tim Denne

A NEW SIDE OF HONITON RUGBY

In 1980 a colts side was formed at Honiton bringing young players together from a wide area, and, although the start was slow, players were moulded into a spirited team which gained many notable wins. Indeed, over the next three seasons, three players gained further honours – Neil Huggett with the County side, Michael Spiller with the Royal Navy Colts and, of course, John Bryant of the England U16 Group.

There were times in the first 2 seasons when the enthusiasm of Coaches Malcolm Lewis-Jones, Russell Steward, Steve Bond, Dave Elston, and later, Steve Noar and Ken Clark, was severely tried, and many a boy had to be dragged unwillingly from his bed on a wet Sunday morning. As the team grew in stature, experience and numbers this ceased to be necessary, and in the season 82/83 a side of skill and mobility took on a very strong fixture list with a great deal of vigour and good humour. Many friends have been made for the Club, in Devon and beyond. The season culminated in a tour to Cornwall, with a win against Bodmin, a narrow defeat against Penzance and Newlyn and a nail-biting time for the coaches, who were supposedly in charge of the party. Many thanks are due to Steve Noar for providing food throughout the season.

The next season is with us, and many colts have now passed on to the senior sides, hopefully putting their experience to good use. There is still a strong nucleus of players to compete in an even stronger fixture list which many, more senior clubs would be proud of. For example, we have a game against Moseley. There is also enough support from even younger players to form an under 16 side this season, and we wish them success.

The adage that Rugby Clubs are as good as their junior sides is true, and Honiton should be full of optimism for the future. For those who have hung up their boots, there is a lot to give back to the game, and helping the next generation of players is one way of doing this. Whilst the Colts' sides continue as they are the future of Honiton RFC looks secure.

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Honiton Colts XV 1981/82

M. Lewis-Jones (Colts Sec.), I. Andrews, J. Bryant, S. Andrews, G. Burrough, D. Elston (Coach), P. Crewe, D. Pike, N. Huggett, C. Bryant, R. Steward (Coach), S. Inkpen, J. Marks, M. Hughes, D. Hunt, S. Seward (Capt.), A. Munt, 'Crim', C. Butler, P. Snow, E. Bowley.

THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE CLUB

Over the years the Club has gained a reputation for having a good social atmosphere – both after the match and at various functions arranged from time to time by the social committee.

After all home matches any player 'caught' in the lounge before the visiting team have left is fined 10p. This is to encourage the players to mix and chat with the opposition.

Rugby Clubs are noted for their singing and drinking games after a match. Ours is no different. It doesn't happen every week but when enough 'lubrication' has been consumed the lungs become sufficiently oiled to burst into song. It may be the same songs you hear but there are always a few new verses. The drinking games are great fun to take part in if you are an experienced player or a hardened drinker, but it is an evil experience for the uninitiated who usually end up crawling home – if they're lucky!

As well as the after-match frivolities the Club also arranges other activities and functions throughout the year – even in the summer. Each year we have a cricket team and a few friendly matches are played. There are also mackerel fishing trips to Beer, although these are regretted by some – there are usually a few green faces hanging over the side of the boat. This year we had an exciting trip to the local Gliding Club. It was quite thrilling flying without an engine even though it was a 'dry' evening. Other successful summer nights at the Club have included volley ball matches, tug-of-war tournaments and a well supported barbecue.

During the season the Club runs a crib team and for a few years was in the pool league. We also hold discos, fancy dress parties and 'give-us-a-clue' competitions. Ceilidhs (Barn Dances) have been popular and well supported occasions too. We will be organising some of the more popular events later this season after the initial flurry of centenary functions and matches.

Christmas is always a busy period during the Club's calendar as we have a childrens party with Father Xmas and an adults party where we get our chance to play musical chairs. Stag nights have been a popular feature of the last couple of seasons at this time of year. But the New Year's Eve Fancy Dress disco is becoming increasingly well supported and is the place to be to welcome the New Year in.

Over the last few years we have hired professional artistes – comedians, singers, guitarists etc. for various cabaret nights. However, whilst providing good entertainment they are an expensive luxury and because of this the idea was conceived to put on our own 'Variety Show' with the performers being our own members.

After canvassing for people prepared to do a 'turn' we managed to get a cast of about 20 members together to discuss ideas and put forward suggestions to see if we had enough material to go ahead with the idea. Well it was decided to go ahead and that's when the months of hard work started. Rehearsals for dance routines, rehearsals for singing, work on costumes, lighting, sound, and many other 'behind the scene' jobs.

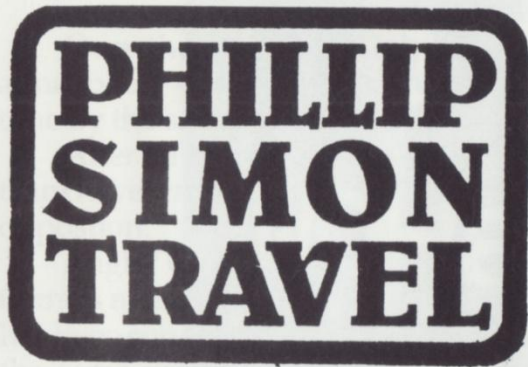
Finally the big night arrived; the club room started filling up. The show was due to start at 9 pm. The cast were out in the changing room scared stiff, running through their words or dance steps, doing the last bit of stitching to their costumes and taking a lot of sly drinks to calm their nerves. At 9 pm the club was bursting at the seams.



The show started. Loud cheering, clapping and laughing was coming from the audience; it was a good feeling. I wouldn't say there were no hitches, because there were – plenty, but that was all part of the fun. Everything was tremendous, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the show turned out to be a huge success. It certainly encouraged everyone taking part to do another show the following year (1983).

Again, a lot of hard work went into this production and again the same nerves, excitement, and success were the outcome. However, the difficulty is getting new ideas for sketches; examples of those done so far are: The Two Ronnies (news items), singing groups, Can Can Dancers, ventriloquist and dummy, country dancing, magician, Supremes (mimic), Puppet Show, Scottish dancing, Hawaiian dancing, Indian rope trick, ballet dancing etc.

At the moment we plan to try and put together another show for 1984, so if anyone would like to take part, or suggest some new ideas please come forward – you will be made most welcome.



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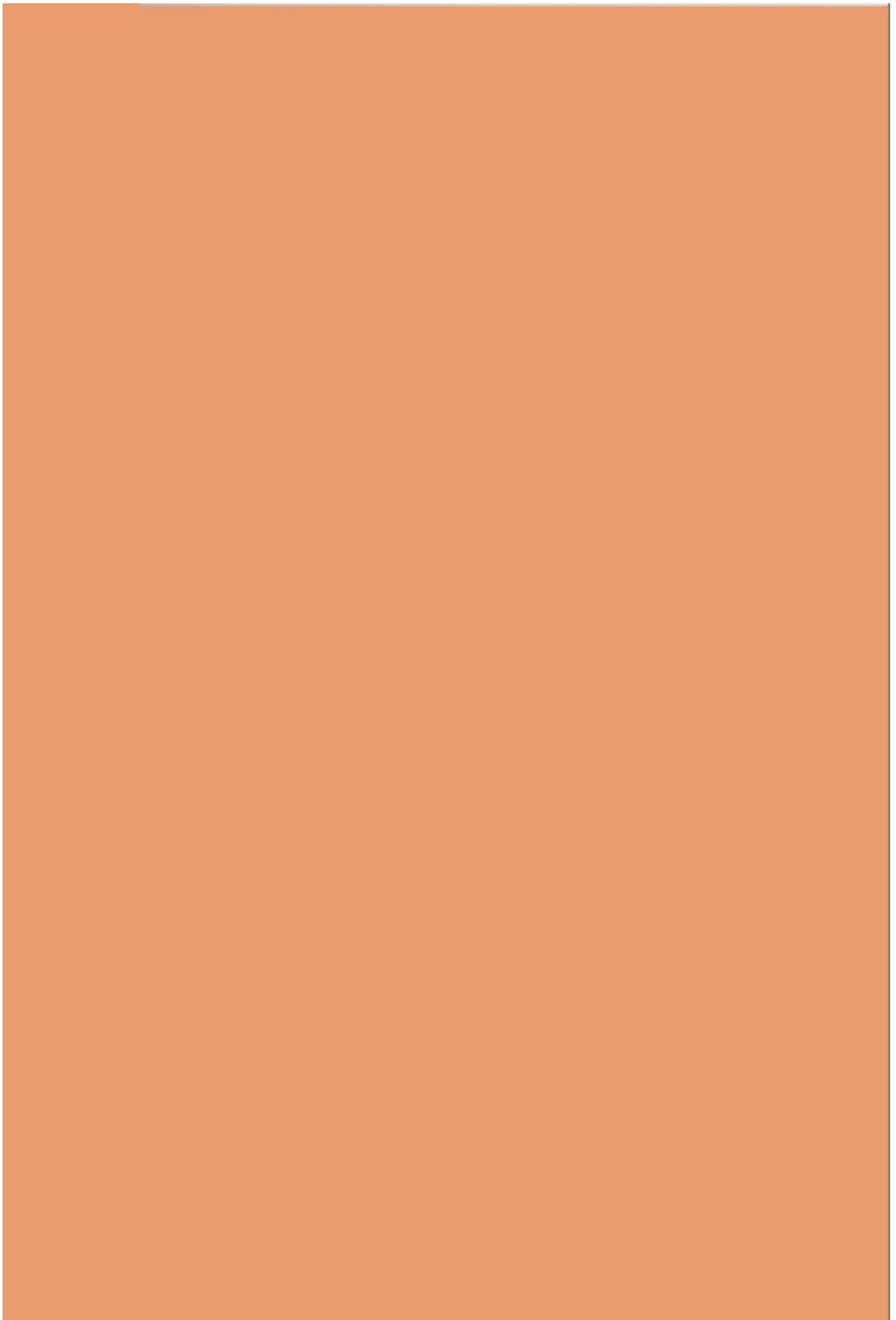
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CENTENARY PRIZE DRAW

Win a Holiday for Two in Paris, courtesy of Phillip Simon Travel, New St., Honiton.

The draw will take place on Sunday 29th April 1984 at 6 p.m. at the Honiton RFC Clubhouse, Allhallows Field, Honiton, Devon.

Please fill in name and address below, tear off ticket and return to promoter by the date above.



Produced by:
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