

Some Interesting Historical Snippets from the Trojans Archives

A brief history of Trojans Rugby can be found in the document “Brief History” This document expands on that and includes many small items of interest which would not normally be included in a formal history.

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The Warm-up (1874)

Trojans FC was formed in 1874 and it was always believed that there was a previous club, thought to be the Pirates. However, it has now been established that the previous Club was, in fact, the "Southampton Football Club" which existed for one season under that name having previously been the "Grammar School Old Boys". The earliest recorded game so far found was the Old Boys against the Shirley Club on 5th October 1872 at Porter's Meadow. Shirley won the match by 2 touchdowns to one. H F Gibbs was captain of both of these forerunners and a number of players named in press reports being the same in all three clubs and, of course, all played on the same ground.

What game is it? (1868)

In the very early days there appeared to be some confusion about what game was being played and a report (not actually involving Trojans but could have been the Grammar

School Old Boys) was found in the Hampshire Advertiser of Sat 22 February 1868, which read -

“On Saturday a football match was attempted in Whitenap Park between players of Southampton and players of the Romsey Club. After some tolerably good playing the match was given up in an unfinished state, the rules of the game not having been clearly understood by both parties”.

Trojans’ colours (1874)

Trojans Rugby still play in the exact same colours as was put forward at the first meeting held on Sept 3rd 1874 i.e.

“that the (colours) or the uniform of the Club be Blue & Red (stripes) ((red narrow) & consist of Jersey, Stockings & Cap with Tassel”. *What happened to the Cap with tassel? Well, there is one still in existence and it’s in the RFU Museum see (1822).*

A week later this was queried at another meeting where

“The Secretary, having stated that several members of the old Club objected to buying the new uniform, asked whether some steps could not be taken to arrange same satisfactory for all parties, some dyed stockings being produced as a sample of the old colours turned into two blues – not meeting with approval it was then put to the meeting (after some discussion) whether the new uniform decided upon last meeting should still be adopted i.e. naval blue with thin red stripes”. This was carried unanimously with size of stripe to be left to committee

The Rules of the Club (1874)

In 1874 the Trojans FC rules included –

Rule 5 That all Officers and members be elected by ballot and that one black ball in every seven shall exclude a candidate.

A General Meeting was held on November 2nd 1874 at Barnham’s Restaurant at 8pm.

The first business was the election of members –

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------|-----------|------|----------|
| Mes ^{rs} | E J Cooksey | prop | H Gibbs | sec. | N Watts |
| | F H Elliot | prop | R Pinhorn | sec | G Cutler |
| | H Jennings | prop | R Pinhorn | sec | G Cutler |

The result of the ballot being the rejection of all three.

Note H Gibbs was captain, R Pinhorn was Hon Sec and G Cutler was Assistant Secretary so the senior officers’ views did not hold sway!

Trojans and the Laws (1874)

At a committee Meeting on the 5th September 1874 the Playing Rules of Rugby Football were read through and the worthy members of the Trojans decided to make an amendment to Rule number 15 which read "It is lawful to run in anywhere across the goal line". The addition made by the Trojans at that stage was "except between the goal posts". The Club soon found it necessary to alter this!

Cost of Policemen (1876)

The Balance Sheet for Season 1876-7 shows a cost for "Policemen" of 7s 0d (35p) for the year. Entrance fees to matches amounted to £1 7s 6d.

First Floodlit game (1878)

On the evening of 28th November 1878, a match was played against the Rovers Football Club by electric light, having been cancelled the night before because of rain. This was the first exhibition of electric light in Southampton, and believed to be only the second ever game of rugby under lights. The local newspaper reported that "at times the light was very brilliant and players could be seen plainly".

Presidents (1878)

The Trojans Club has always had interesting Presidents (10 since its formation) but there is one of particular interest.

1878 – 1884 - Algernon Charles Frederick Sartoris Esq. He was only 26, which, in terms of Trojans' Presidents was unusual, but his father was a rich banker living in Warsash and his mother an opera star of international fame. *Of particular note is that Algernon Sartoris visited America where he married Emily Wrenshall Grant, the only daughter of President Ulysses S. Grant, in a magnificent wedding in the East Room of the White House. Grant bitterly opposed the marriage; he considered Sartoris to be immature and vain. President and Mrs Grant also stayed as guests at the family home - Warsash House. So did the American President ever watch Trojans play? We shall probably never know!*

Another Presidential story this time involved **Tankerville Chamberlayne. J.P, M.P** who was President of Trojans from 1884 – 1924. He was Justice of the Peace for Hampshire and Lord of the Manors of Hound, North Baddesley, Woolston and Barton Peveril in Hampshire and East Norton in Leicestershire.

Yachting and cricket were his chief recreations, but when football became more popular in the South of England he was a great supporter of the game (*and thus became President of the Trojans Football Club in 1884, aged 41, having been Vice-President for some years before*).

Tankerville Chamberlayne was returned as Member of Parliament for Southampton on three separate occasions. The first was in 1892, when he headed the poll with 5449 votes and the second in 1895. However, on this latter occasion, a petition was presented against his return and he was unseated under the Bribery and Corruption Act.

All kinds of charges of general "treating" of electors were laid at his door including the story that he gave his address as the first floor of the Dolphin hotel in central Southampton. Six strong men carried him shoulder-high from the first floor and placed him in a cart that they had previously unhorsed. They then pulled him to the Cowherds Inn at Above Bar, and he waved to the crowds and threw sovereigns at them as he went. However, all the charges were completely exploded at a special hearing – all except one case of a Southampton elector who was at Winchester at the time and to whom he lent two shillings for his fare to get him to Southampton to vote. So on that one issue Mr Tankerville Chamberlayne was unseated – but he returned triumphant a few years later to represent Southampton Borough for another period of years.

Tragic Death (1880)

During the 1880 season, on the 27th November, Stanley Ernest Gibbs died as a result of an injury when a scrimmage collapsed while playing for Trojans against Romsey Rangers. There was much local comment and the then Mayor of Southampton issued a handbill, published in full in "The Times", condemning the game as follows:

"The Mayor in consequence of the many serious accidents and the recent deplorable death in Southampton resulting from the dangerous practice of playing football requests the Heads of Families, the Principals of Scholastic Establishments in the Town and Members of Clubs to take such steps as may be necessary for preventing the game being played in future according to Rugby Union, Association and other rules of a dangerous character. The Mayor considers it his duty to use every means in his power for prohibiting the game as hitherto played being continued in the Porters Meadow field or upon any other of the Public lands in Southampton".

At a Trojans Committee Meeting of 16th December 1880 "It was decided to play as usual unless we found out before that the Mayor had given any instruction to the police. In that case it was thought best to summons any offending "arm of the law" for assault".

The Mayor was also instrumental in proposing a new set of rules for football which included – Every player must wear carpet slippers unless wet when galoshes must be worn; no talking aloud; no married or engaged men, curates or only sons may play, Irish landlords excepted; no player may be collared by an opponent without the consent (in writing) of his parents.

These rules have still not been accepted by the IRB!

Hooliganism? (1880)

Report in the Hampshire Chronicle, Saturday January 3rd 1880

TROJANS (SOUTHAMPTON) v GOSPORT ROVERS

The return match between these clubs was played in Porter's Mead, Southampton, on Saturday, December 27th. The ground was in a frightful condition and the game from beginning to end was very little less than a mud-lark. This was not the only inconvenience with which both parties had to contend. Several hundred people had gathered to witness the match, and with them were mingled a very large number of the roughest element in Southampton, who apparently delighted in obstructing the play, more especially that of the visitors. The home team put forth all their exertions to amend affairs, and even obtained the aid of two or three police constables, but, with such a lawless mob, the gentlemen in blue were mere nonentities. These drawbacks reduced the interest in the match to a minimum, for nearly the whole of the score was matter for dispute. In the first match at Gosport the Rovers were successful, but on Saturday last the Trojans completely turned the tables by a goal, three tries, and two touch-downs to two touch-downs.

Annual Dinner toast list numbers 13! (1880)

Sat 29 May 1880 Hampshire Advertiser - The annual dinner of this club was held at Gidden's restaurant on Wednesday evening

Toast list - Loyal Toast; The Army, Navy and Volunteers; The President and Vice Presidents; Success to the Trojans' Football Club; The Captains of the Club; The Officers and Committee; The Health of the Umpire; Kindred Clubs; The Visitors; The Chairman; The Press; The Ladies;

RFU Membership (1881)

During this year the Club joined the Rugby Football Union,

Tug of War (1881)

Hampshire Advertiser Wed 29 June 1881

The annual competitions in connection with the Southampton Amateur Athletic Club came off on Saturday afternoon in the Cricket Ground, St Mary's Road, but owing to the very unfavourable weather that prevailed, the event was not such a success as was anticipated.

The following is the result of the Tug-of-War

The Athletic Club were the first to compete with the Royal Engineers and lost the first two tugs. A similar fate awaited the Bicycle Club at the hands of the Trojans Football Club (Messrs. G Capper, capt., G Atherley, H M Edward, L Harfield, W K King and W C Westlake jun.). Trojans then met the Royal Engineers and were defeated in the first two pulls and the Engineers carried off the prize.

The Trojans Rugby Cap (1882)



A Trojan Football Cap 1882/83, 83/84, 84/85 85/86. Original now in the RFU Museum

Hampshire RFU (1883)

At the Trojan Club's initiative, a meeting was held at the South Western Hotel in Southampton on 13th April 1883 to discuss the formation of "The Hampshire County Rugby Football Union". In the first season of the County Club, at least seven Trojans represented the County.

To date (2016), 711 Trojan members have represented the county at rugby at the various age levels (one member can have played for a number of different age groups), the highest number for any Club in Hampshire, including 211 at senior level (possibly the highest but US Portsmouth may disagree).

The 2012/13 season must have been a record. In total, 59 Trojans members were involved in the County set-up made up by –

- 10 in management, coaching and medical
- 6 Senior men players
- 8 Under 20/18/17 players
- 22 Ladies and Girls
- 13 Under 16/15/14 players

As well as forming the County Union, Trojan members have served the County well and it can be said that there has always been a Trojan involved in Hampshire Rugby since its formation.

In particular, over the 128 active years of the Union, six Trojan members have served as President of the Union serving a total of 49 years. Six Secretaries served a total of 36 years and for the first sixty-two years of County representation on the RFU Committee the Hampshire representative was a Trojan as, in fact, one is now.

Rugby v Soccer (1883)

In 1883 Deanery Football Club (soccer) shared Porters Mead and, at that time, were the only Association Football Club in Southampton whilst there were at least seven rugby sides. In 1885 there were fourteen rugby clubs mentioned in the local press as opposed to six association, four of which were attached to clubs more usually associated with rugby including Trojan's Somnambulists. But by 1893 Southampton was teaming with soccer clubs and Trojans were the town's single rugby club.

A wasted journey to Romsey (1884)

Shortage of players not a new thing as a report in the Hampshire Advertiser in 1884 stated

On Saturday, the Trojan team journeyed to Romsey but after waiting on the field for half-an-hour had to return without playing as only six of the Romsey men turned up.

The birth of Referees. (1885)

When Trojans first played the opposing Captains made pitch decisions. Later, two Umpires appointed by the opposing teams made decisions. In the 1885-86 season a Referee was introduced and given a whistle and the two Umpires sticks (later flags). The Referee, however, was still unable to grant an appeal until at least one umpire had raised his stick.

A referee was not always present, however and a report in the Hampshire Advertiser on Saturday 03 January 1885 included the following –

Trojans v Southsea. Played at Southsea on Saturday. The home team was strongly represented but the Trojans though strong behind were very weak forward..... Just before "time" the game was carried into the Trojans quarters and the ball being passed across to Curruthers (Southsea), he dropped a goal. Thrown forward was claimed and as the Umpires disagreed and there was no referee, the game was abandoned in an undecided state.

In 1889 Touch-Judges were substituted for partisan Umpires with limited powers and in 1893 the Referee was given power to control game and blow his whistle whenever he saw the law broken, without appeal. At same time, the referee was instructed not to stop play if

an infringement was calculated to benefit the non-offending side – the first “advantage rule”.

Disputed Result (1885)

The Salisbury and Winchester journal, and general advertiser Saturday, December 12

SALISBURY CLUB V. TROJANS. This match was played at Southampton on Saturday. The Salisbury team were four men short, and had to obtain two men on the field, and then played one man less than their opponents, but nevertheless an interesting and even game resulted. The home team were the first to score, Kilson obtaining a try for them, but the place kick was a failure. The Salisbury men played up well, and Cross, after a splendid run, secured a try for Salisbury, which Kent converted into a goal. This was the last point stored in the match, though towards the end of the game the home team claimed a try, which was strenuously disputed by the visitors. The umpires, both of whom were members of the Trojans Club, decided in favour of the local team, a decision which gave much dissatisfaction. The place-kick, which was allowed under protest, resulted in a goal

The Doggy Incident (1886)

During a match between Trojans and Portsmouth Victoria in 1886, the ball was kicked into the Trojans' in-goal area where it rebounded off a stray dog. One of the Portsmouth players gathered it and touched down to claim a try. The Trojans protested, and claimed "dead-ball" the ball having struck a "spectator". The objection was later referred to the RFU Committee who ruled that the try should stand, as dogs could not be classed as spectators!

US Portsmouth fixtures ceased (1887)

At a Committee Meeting of the Club on the 6th April 1887 a resolution was passed "that the Club shall not in future arrange fixtures with the United Services Football Club, Portsmouth, on account of their repeated inability to keep their appointments".

The Antelope ground and St. Mary's (1888)

Trojans were joint tenants at the Antelope ground sharing it with St Mary's FC (the Saints) with Trojans having first call on the facilities. The ground was then developed for housing.

Trojans, the Lions and New Zealand (1888)

At a Committee Meeting held April 19th 1888 -

The Hon Sec read a letter from the Hon Sec of the Rugby Football Union stating that the proposal for the New Zealand team, visiting England next season, to play the Trojans would be laid before the committee arranging their matches. *Nothing more was heard.*

H A Haigh-Smith, Captain of Rugby 1911-13, was Assistant Manager of the Lions tour to South Africa in 1938.

Dudley Kemp, Captain of Rugby 1930, 33, 35 & 36, was on the Management Committee of the 1974 Lions Tour to South Africa and presented a Lions' Shield to the Club.

In Season 1993/94 Trojans were coached by Val Baker, a Maori All Black who played against the 1971 British Lions in a 22 – 12 victory.

Trojans against professionalism (1893)

Southern Echo - Saturday 09 September 1893 (Report of AGM)

Mr. Aldridge mentioned that the Yorkshire Union intended bringing forward proposals favouring professionalism: the hon sec. proposed that a representative of the Trojans should attend a meeting of the Rugby Union in order to vote against any such a proposal. This was seconded by Mr. Macdonald who felt that professionalism would be a death blow to the game as far as the south of England was concerned - the proposition was carried unanimously.

Trojans Motto and Coming of Age Ball (1894)

Trojans Ball Nov 24 1894 (excerpts from Echo Report)

The Ball which was held in the Philharmonic Hall, Southampton, last night, in commemoration of the coming of age of the Trojans Football Club, was a brilliant success. The attendance numbered over 200, many of the elite of the town and district being present. The balcony was carpeted and appropriated adorned whilst underneath the orchestra was the motto of the Club "Floreant Trojani".

Shortly after nine o'clock dancing commenced to the strains of the Royal Marine Light Infantry and which continued with verve until the early hours of this morning,

The programme being as follows :-

The Echo then lists the whole programme of dances.

Barbarian fixture (1895)

The Club were due to play the Barbarians on January 9th, but, unfortunately, the fixture was cancelled due to the weather.

Racing Club Paris (1895)

From the Southern Echo 12 January 1895

"THE TROJANS RECEIVE A CHALLENGE TO GO TO FRANCE.

Yesterday Mr Julian T Perkins, the indefatigable secretary of the Trojans Football Club, received a challenge from the Secretary of the French Racing Club, Paris, to play the Trojans on a date to be mutually arranged. We understand that the challenge has been accepted. The racing club is the finest athletic club in Paris and, indeed, in the country. Football is still in its infancy in France but the game is making great progress."

No record has yet been found as to whether the match actually took place.

International Players (1896)

Hampshire Telegraph - Saturday January 11th 1896 Reported -

"A J Gould, the brilliant Welsh, three-quarter back, who captained, the Principality fifteen against England on Saturday, at one time assisted the Southampton Trojans. At the present time the Trojans have two Internationals in their ranks, R. P. Wilson and Forrest".

Hampshire Junior League (1896)

The 2nd team, with a full fixture list for the first time, was entered into the newly formed Hampshire Junior League.

Subscription Rates (1896)

A newspaper report of the 1896 AGM states that the subscription rate for the forthcoming season would be – Players 10s (50p) Non-players 5s (25p)

Travel to the ground by Brake (1897)

September 11th 1897. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 23rd inst. At the West Station Hotel at 8.15pm.

The opening practice match will take place on the Club ground at Freemantle on Saturday 25th inst., kick-off 3.15pm. Dressing Rooms at West Station Hotel as last year, and from there a Brake will run to the Ground previous to the kick-off as usual.

The Round Ball (1898)

Although always a rugby club, Trojans were known, on occasions, to play with the round ball. They played under the name of Somnambulists and did not appear to have treated the game with any seriousness. The name was, apparently, also appropriate judging by the speed the players were said to fall asleep on journeys to and from away games.

Nevertheless, when Curries French soccer team from Havre came over to play a Southampton team it was Trojans who took up that challenge. The game was played on the New Football Ground, Archers Road (later to be named “The Dell”) on Tuesday 1st November 1898. The team was - Scotney, goal, Denning & Maundrell, backs, Densham, Ellerby & Colson, halves, Ellaby, Page, Macdonald, Gamble & Hussey (councillor and later Sir George), forwards. Apparently not the most beguiling of spectacles, it provoked “endless hilarity” among the spectators but Trojans upheld the honour of the Empire with a 3-2 win. Trojans were allowed to take half the gate money which was probably not a lot judging by the small crowd. Even so, the Echo reported this as a game against a team of French players and thus it claimed the honour of being the first international match played at the Dell.

The Boer War (1899)

Rugby was suspended at the beginning of the 1st Boer War.

The Hampshire Advertiser on 23 September 1899 reported on the Annual General Meeting and included the following –

“The meeting next considered the recommendation of the Committee that the football fixtures arranged for the coming season should be cancelled. With few exceptions, there were no players left in Southampton. (*In 1885 there were 14 rugby clubs in Southampton and only 4 soccer clubs, whereas in 1893 Southampton was teaming with soccer clubs and Trojans was the only rugger club*). It was understood that the section would not be definitely abandoned, but only dropped for a season.

Some minor matters in connection with the hockey section, which is to be started this season, were settled.”

And the Hampshire Advertiser on 12 May 1900 reported on the “Rugger and Hockey Dinner”

“Mr Vivian Harper, in a witty speech, proposed the toast of “Trojans at the Front” The Trojans were represented at the front by such men as J Perkins, J Barrett, A B Coote, C B Nichols, V E Archer-Burton, W B Dunlop, A E Ingles, J A Nicholson, Grant and

Gamble, and they all wished them good luck, and hoped they would come out of the war safely, covered with honour and glory (cheers and musical honours).”

Thus most of the rugby forwards went off to the war and, although the cancellation of fixtures was only meant to be for one season rugby did not restart until the end of the war (1905). It seems those that remained behind started playing Hockey and at least 6 of the first hockey team were previous rugby players.

The Barbarians (1912)

Four Trojans have been selected as Barbarians -
1912 - H A Haigh-Smith 1930 – D T Kemp,
1936 – K P P Goldschmidt 1966 – P L Golding

H A (Jack) Haigh-Smith was Trojans Rugby Captain in 1912 and was elected as a playing member of the Barbarians in 1913. He went on to be Hon Secretary of the Barbarians for 30 years and then President in 1955 but, unfortunately, his untimely death meant his Presidency only lasted a few weeks.

He was also very active in Hampshire rugby as Team Secretary (21yrs), President (7yrs) and RFU Representative (31yrs). He played Rugby for Hampshire as well as Cricket and Hockey. As if that wasn't enough, he acted as touch-judge for every International match at Twickenham between 1930 and 1949!

Trojans were due to play the Barbarians on January 9th 1895 but was cancelled because of a frozen ground.

A real Prince in the side (1923)

From the Southern Echo

“DULEEP” PLAYED FOR TROJANS

The late Prince Dulespsinghi once played rugby for the Trojans. In the Christmas holidays 1923 he was a centre-threequarter in an “A” XV match against Bournemouth R E Lauder, the Hampshire player, was his wing playing his first game for the Trojans.

Opposition between the wars (1924)

The fixture lists for the 1924/25 season, perhaps shows an interesting state of the country between the wars. Of the 27 clubs played by the 1st and 2nd teams in that season 11 were military establishments including - 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, 5th Battalion Royal Tank Corps, Duke of Wellington Regiment, HMS Dolphin, HMS Fisguard, RAF Gosport, RFA Bulford, Royal Marines and United Services (Portsmouth). The only “local” clubs listed were Bournemouth and the Thornycrofts Welfare Institute

Banister Court Stadium (1929)

Report of 28/08/1929 - The Trojans Rugby Football Club has obtained a lease of the Banister Court Stadium, Southampton, for the next five years and will play all its home matches there. The ground will hold 30,000 people, and covered stand accommodation for at least 6,000. The ground was originally a greyhound racing track, but that sport has been ousted from the public favour by speedway racing. It is well equipped with modern dressing rooms. The formal opening of the ground was on Saturday, September 14, when

the Hampshire XV played a team of the Barbarians in front of a crowd of approximately 5,000.

High Positions (1930)

In the 1930s, two young men, Dudley Kemp and Cecil Paris, played rugby together at Trojans (as can be seen in the 1936/37 team photo in the bar) and what a pair they turned out to be.

Dudley was Captain of Trojans Rugby 1927-34 and 1935-38 (he moved to Blackheath between (although still playing a few games for Trojans) and earned an England cap). He captained Hampshire in 1935. He also Captained Trojans Cricket in 1935/36 and played for the Hampshire 2nd XI.

Cecil played Rugby, Cricket and Squash for both Trojans and Hampshire being Captain of HCCC in 1938.

Dudley went on to become President of the RFU in 1969, a Member of the IRB in 1971 and President of HRFU from 1973 to 76.

Cecil became the 1st Chairman of the TCCB in 1968, President of MCC in 1975 and Chairman of the ICC. He was President of HCC 1984 – 89 and later Patron.

So, within a short time span, two Trojans headed up the two most senior National Bodies in Rugby and Cricket – what an achievement!

County Championship Winners (1933)

In 1933 the season, Hampshire beat Lancashire 18 – 17 in the County Championship final, with D T Kemp and R E Lauder from Trojans representing their County.

In 1935, 7 Trojans, D.T. Kemp, R.E. Lauder, C.G.A. Paris, P.P. Goldschmidt, C.J. Andrews, J.C. Ives and G.C. Pope represented Hampshire, under the Captaincy of D.T. Kemp, who beat Northumberland in the Final 13-6 at Gosforth Park

Seven-Aside Tournaments (1937)

Trojans took part in the 1937 Middlesex 7s Tournament Finals at Twickenham and were knocked out by the winners – London Scottish. The 1949/50 Tournament saw another appearance at Twickenham and this time it was Rosslyn Park, again the eventual winners, who defeated Trojans.

Trojans were more successful in the prestigious Bournemouth 7s winning the tournament 3 times in five years between 1947/48 and 1952/53. The 48/49 competition was won without a single point being scored against.

The Solent Sevens was won in 1974, 1978 and 1980.

Shirt Numbering (1938)

Match programmes for the 1938/39 show some interesting, and confusing, player numbering.

Trojans numbered their players 1-16 (no 13) with 16 as full back, 6,7,8 front row and 1,2,3 back row.

St Barts Hospital numbered their players 1 – 15 with 1 at prop.

U S Portsmouth also went from 1 – 15 but with 1 at full back.
London University also had 1 at full back but, with no 13 had 16 at back row.

Excuse for late annual report (1939)

COMMITTEE'S REPORT. SEASON 1939/40.

The Committee, in presenting their Annual Report and Balance Sheet, regrets the delay in their preparation, which was due to the books being buried in the debris of the Auditor's Offices (due to enemy action). It was also reported that a number of the Club records were also destroyed by enemy action.

From the playing field to the stage (1939)

An advert on the back of a February 1939 programme -

IN AID OF TROJANS GROUND FUND

TROJANS PLAYERS present –

(for the first time on any stage)

“T W O S O N S”

A play in three acts by HECTOR BILHAM

At the AVENUE HALL on 30th and 31st March, at 8pm

Entrance 1/-. Seats may be reserved at Messrs Godfreys, Above Bar

Southampton at a further cost of 1/- and 2/-

The significance? Hector Bilham was the Trojans second row!

The Trojan Helmet (1949)

The distinctive Trojans gold helmet was adopted in 1949

What's in a name? (1953)

It is often asked “why the name Trojans?” Back in the times of Trojans formation, 1874, it was common to have such names, for example Wasps (1867), Saracens (1876) and Harlequins (1867). In fact, Harlequins only adopted that name in 1870 having previously been Hampstead FC. In Southampton around that time there were Trojans, Pirates, Magpies, Hornets and Spartans.

But why “Trojans”? Well, there is no record of the reason but there is an interesting item in the Committee report to the 1953/54 AGM. The Chairman, K Streat stated “The Club is 80 years old this year and Mr Barton is now engaged in writing its history. I recently asked him if he knew who chose the name Trojans and why but he did not know. Quite by chance I have since learnt that a translation of a line in Virgil's Aeneid (between 29 – 19 BC) “Troia que nunc pueri Troianum dicitur agmen” is as follows –

“And Troys hereditary name

Still marks the players and the game”

I feel certain that somebody in the past knew this delightful translation and chose the name of which we are so proud”

No proof, but a good story!

2ndXV International (1958)

From the Southern Echo 29/12/58

“England Rugby full-back in new role

England full-back, Jim Hetherington, who seems certain to win further international honours this season returned to Southampton on Saturday to play for the Trojans. He turned out for their “A” XV at outside half, and played a leading part in their victory against Bournemouth A at Briggs Sports ground, Swaythling, by a goal, a penalty goal and two tries, 14 points to a try, three points. The Trojans First XV’s game with Oxford Old Citizens was cancelled because the Oxford club’s ground was unfit for play”.

Seven sides turned out (1961)

In the season 1961-1962, 7 sides were fielded

The Start of Mini Rugby (1976)

The minutes of a meeting on 4th October 1976 recorded that Mini Rugby had started the previous Sunday (3rd October) with 13 boys. Trojans were believed to be the first Club in Hampshire to start mini rugby although some schools had started playing.

Romania (1977)

On 2nd January 1977, Trojans (with a few guests) played FARUL OF CONSTANZA (Romania) comprising most of the Romanian international side. They were unbeaten on their European tour until they played Trojans who won 15 – 4

Merit Tables (1978)

The success of a club’s 1st XV can easily be seen by their position in the leagues. However, before the leagues began it was not so easy but Trojans’ best season has to be the 1978/79 one. The press set up merit tables and Trojans won the Echo Wessex Club Championship with a 100% record the table consisting of Basingstoke, Bournemouth, Guildford, Havant, High Wycombe, Marlow, Newbury, Salisbury and Staines. The Hampshire Senior Merit Table was also won with a 100% record and this table consisted of Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Gosport & Fareham, Portsmouth and Winchester. The Solent Sevens was also won.

1000 points and 100 tries (1980)

On the 23rd February 1980, in a match verses Camberley, winger Ian Wilkie scored 10 points to take his total points for the first team to 1000 points, the first time a Trojan had ever done so. This feat was repeated on 4th April 1981, against Sidmouth, when another winger, Dave Bevis, scored two tries and three conversions to take his total to over 1000 points. Both scored over 100 tries, played well over 100 games for the 1st XV and both played for Hampshire.

A record never to be superseded?

The cold of 1981/82 (1982)

In January 1982. Trojans were due to play London Scottish Ex 1st but Scottish asked to bring their 1st XV down as their 1st XV match against Blackheath in the John Player cup was cancelled due to the weather. Unfortunately the weather hit Southampton and the game didn't take place. Nor did the final England trial take place at Trojans' ground. In the week before the trial, the Rugby Chairman of the time got back to his desk at work to find a message asking him to phone Twickenham! (bearing in mind that the HQ phone number was virtually ex-directory at the time). They wanted to know the state of the Trojans' ground, as Twickenham was looking doubtful and could they bring the final trial down to Southampton! As it turned out, the Trojan ground froze over and Twickenham thawed out. Trojans did play London Scottish 1st XV as part of their centenary celebrations in 1974

The Brown Ball (1985)

There are a number of rugby balls on display above the Rugby Bar including a solitary brown one. So, what is its story? Well, on the 9th of February 1985, Trojans were due to play at home to Jersey in an important (for Jersey) Hampshire Senior Merit match. Jersey were also due to play Winchester the next day and had hotels and flights booked. Unfortunately a heavy snowstorm hit the County and on the Saturday morning the ground had a six-inch covering!

Because of the circumstances, it was felt the game had to go ahead so a small army of members was mustered to clear the lines – it being completely impossible to do more. Extremely large snowballs were created and great fun was had by all in successfully completing the objective. The game could go ahead. It was then that someone pointed out that we now played with white balls (a relative new inception) that might be difficult to see in the snow! So, with not long to go before the kick-off someone (well, this author actually) was dispatched to Toomers in town to purchase said Gilbert Match brown ball. This was the only game in which it was ever used and thus kept for posterity. And the result of the match? A well fought out 0 – 0 draw!

The Start of Women's Rugby (1997)

The minutes of a meeting on 3rd February 1997 recorded the welcome of Esther Ridsdale as the first women's representative on the committee. She reported that 17 players had attended the 1st training session. The team had lost to the IOW in the previous week. Leagues were entered in the 1998/99 season but no records have been kept of the early results.

Hampshire 2 league records. (1992)

In the 1992/93 Season, Trojans were Hampshire 2 Champion and in doing so broke a number of Hampshire 2 records namely most points scored; fewest points conceded; highest points scored in a game and the biggest points difference; and most tries in a season.

The Hampshire Cup (2011)

In 2011 Trojans narrowly lost to Basingstoke in the quarter final of the Hampshire Cup. This was the first time for many years that Trojans had entered in the Cup competition and, although never having won the cup in the modern era, we had a good record in the 1970s and 80s. Two semi finals and four finals - against US Portsmouth in 1981, Havant in 1980, US Portsmouth in 1977 and Bournemouth in 1974.

It was this last one that we really should have won. Drawn away to Jersey in the semi-final, Trojans were the first mainland club to travel to the Island and what a weekend it was! 30 noisy supporters travelled to see a well fought out 14 – 9 win and who could forget the victorious Captain munching away on a pot of Chrysanthus in the hotel afterwards. For the final, against Bournemouth at Basingstoke, the Club was on such a high that there was no way that we would lose the final (the team even stayed in a hotel overnight). However, as Sunday dawned, it was seen that the ground was covered with 3” of snow (mid-March!) and the game was off. Deflation unsurpassed. By the time the final was played in mid-April the moment had been lost as was the game.

However, Trojans can still claim to have won the Hampshire Cup.

In May 1888 the Trojans Committee proposed the starting of a Rugby Union Cup Competition in the interests of Rugby Football. The County Challenge Cup presented by Tankerville Chamberlayne M.P., President of Trojans was started in the 1889/1890 season and the Club entered the same. During this year, not only was the pitch enclosed by rope, but a charge of sixpence was made to all spectators. The Cup was duly won by Trojans in March 1890. Whether it was ever played for again is not sure as, in 1891, Trojans decided not to enter because " it was felt that it was a farce putting up the cup at the fag end of the season to be competed for by three clubs"! The present whereabouts of the grand cup is not known, although it is believed it was presented back to Tankerville Chamberlayne.

Highest League position (2011)

The end of the 2010/2011 season saw Trojans 1st XV win promotion to London Division 1 SW, the highest league position attained since the leagues started.

2nd Generation Centurion (2012)

In September 2012 Chris Hamp played his 100th game for the Trojans 1st XV. History was made, as it is almost certain to be the first time in Trojans' 140 year history that a son of a centurion became a centurion himself. Chris's father Brian achieved his 100 games in 1982.

Modern Internationals (2012)

Lyn Cantwell, Ireland's Womens most capped player, played for Trojans Ladies for half the 2005/06 season (while she was at Southampton University) and was top points scorer in that season with 75 pts.

Elliott White (2011/12) and Troy Cusack (2012/13) both played for England Colleges and Charlie Stonehill gained an England cap at Under 16 level in the 2012/13 season. Tom Knight-Owen played for England Counties Under 18s in the 2017/18 Season.

Ladies success at Twickenham (2015)

In April 2015 the Trojans Ladies won the Maxi Nutrition 10s Competition final against Henley Hawks which was played at Twickenham Rugby HQ. Their prize was a training session, in the England Rugby Gym, with some England players.

The Hampshire Bowl (2015 – 17)

Having won the Hampshire Bowl (second level) in 2008/09 a run of finals started in 2015/16 with a defeat by Eastleigh which was revenged the following season then a narrow loss to Portsmouth in 2017/18.

Successful Colts (2018)

The Under 18 side probably had the best season ever with a squad of over 50. The 1st place in the Hampshire Colts League Division 1 was shared with Winchester, who beat them in the National Colts Cup, but revenge was sweet in winning the Hampshire Colts Cup Final – against Winchester. The 2nd XV played in Division 2 where all the other teams were 1st XV's and came a creditable 4th.