

London Welsh Supporter's Club

LWSC continue to support London Welsh in many ways.

Every penny we raise goes towards supporting London Welsh Rugby Club, from the Firsts down to the Minis. We also enable live music with Rob (Squeak) Weekley to be enjoyed after home games at Old Deer Park and we sponsor Supporters' coaches for every First XV away game.

Hospitality and entertainment during every one of Wales' home internationals in Cardiff is also arranged by the Supporter's Club.

London Welsh Supporters Club Christmas Cards
Support the Club with a seasonal view of Old Deer Park in the snow. Available end of October. See our desk in the Pagoda Room.



New Lapel Badge £2.00
Old design badges are still available at £1 each

Polo Shirts £5.00/£8.00
Waterproof Jackets £20.00
Song Books £2.00 by donation

Visit the Supporters Club table in the Pagoda Room at every home game.

We are always looking for new members to help out at the Supporter's Club functions. Please contact us if you can help.

Chairman: Keith Ford
Tel: 01932 402294
Email: keith@kewford.co.uk
Vice-Chairman: Mike Hynd
Tel: 0208 948 1614
Mobile: 07940073115
Email: hyndmichael@yahoo.com

Membership: Brian Jones
Mobile: 07989 784082
Email: brian@univent.co.uk
Secretary: Alan Hanford
Tel: 020 8771 3866
Email: ahan275042@aol.com

Treasurer: Pete Lowe
Tel: 07815 914369
Email: petelowe79@yahoo.com

Publicity: Martyn (Joe) Jones
Tel: 07958 953445
Email: jones-rm@hotmail.com

Other Committee Members
Graham Davies 0208 995 2021

Mike Davies 07984103463
mj.davies21@btinternet.com

Nigel Doe 07967205364
nigel@trakka.co.uk

Martin John 07711037261
mjohn589@aol.com

Robert Mills 07958 535130

Dean Roderick 07815748937
droderick39@yahoo.co.uk

It only costs £10 a season to be a member of the Supporter's Club although more generous contributions are most welcome.

Pick up a form in the Pagoda Room or ring one of the committee above.

THE LONDON WELSH SUPPORTER



Newsletter of the London Welsh Supporters Club, supporting London Welsh RFC, Welsh Sport, Culture and Activities

Issue 6

LONDON WELSH v NORTHAMPTON SAINTS
15TH DECEMBER
KICK OFF 2PM

Match is ticket only entry, if you have not received details of how to receive your ticket please get in touch with the London Welsh Office. E-Mail commercial@london-welsh.co.uk Tel 0208 940 2368 ext1



Photo: Dave Jackson

New Rugby Posts for ODP. See page 2

London Welsh Rugby Club Choir to sponsor Under 19s. See page 7

London Welsh at Wembley



See page 3

Quality not quantity is key to professional era



John Mills grapples with Coventry. Photo: Dave Jackson

Following the decision made by the RFU which declared that the status of all 16 teams and every player in First Division Rugby would be classified as professional, clear decisions had to be made in relation to squad numbers, number of teams run and the number of support staff required to deliver to these players.

At national level all clubs are having to debate the following points:

Budget: Quality of players versus quantity of players.

Exposure: Every weekend the 1st XV have a league or cup match but there are limited opportunities where clubs are able to offer 2nd team fixtures of quality, which allow support players to maintain the level required for 1st XV competition. If a rota system were to be employed, problems could be created when the selection criteria

is based on performance, i.e. your best player of the previous week may have to stand aside for the one scheduled on the rotation.

Facilities:

Adequate facilities to ensure that an on-site training or coaching session can give the optimum preparation players require to perform successfully at this level.

Many of you have asked about loan agreements so I will try to explain the current climate. Due to the World Cup, the Premiership 'A' League will not commence until November. This has given us, and all others in our league, the ability to liaise with a number of Premiership clubs and to discuss the opportunities that the National 1 League can give to their top academy talent, who would be without a game throughout September and October.

Continued on page 2

The Ridgemount Hotel
65-67 Gower Street, London WC1E 6JH
Tel: 020 7636 1141
Guests: 020 7580 7060
Fax: 020 7636 2558
Email: info@ridgemounthotel.co.uk
www.ridgemounthotel.co.uk

The Ridgemount Hotel is conveniently situated in the Bloomsbury area of central London. Family run for the last 36 years, the hotel is part of a Georgian Terrace, still owned by the Duke of Bedford. It is an excellent location for business or for pleasure.

The hotel has 32 clean and comfortable rooms, 15 of which are now en-suite. All rooms are centrally heated with colour televisions, hair dryers are provided and hot and cold drinks are available 24 hours in the lounge.

The Ridgemount prides itself on the number of guests who return year after year.

Convert your legal problems into solutions!

BARON GREY
SOLICITORS

Langtry House, 441 Richmond Road,
East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2EF
Tel: 020 8891 4311 Fax: 020 8891 2058

FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION: **CALL FREE 0500 222438**

Continued from page 1

I am often asked about injuries. They are part of the modern game just as they were in the past. However, if no-one was injured the squad required would be smaller; but we cannot retain a large squad 'just in case' as these fringe players themselves, would not have had enough playing opportunities at the correct level, as I described above.

So, in a nutshell, our plans for 2007/2008 were to decide between reducing our squad numbers, by utilising our limited budget on players of greater quality or to retain a larger squad knowing we would be struggling to find

meaningful fixtures for these fringe players. Secondly, to decide whether to invest in a player development group where we can nurture homegrown talent to give depth to the playing squad. Inevitably, our current development players are plying their trade on loan, to National 2 & 3 sides to enable them to have highly competitive rugby. Continued partnerships with Premiership clubs will allow us to utilise their full-time training opportunities yet give match exposure to their Elite Academy players.

Hwyl,
Martin

Ron Holley retires



After nearly 30 years service to the club Ron Holley has decided to call it a day. Ron started working as a volunteer some 20 years ago before later becoming General Manager of the Club. The Directors of the Club have made Ron a Vice-President in recognition of the work and commitment that he has given to London Welsh. We hope to include an article on Ron in the next issue of The London Welsh Supporter.

We wish him and Val a long and healthy retirement.



James Strong hits 100 league games.

Congratulations to James on reaching this milestone in his 7th season with the club. Here we see him being presented with the Man of the Match Award after his 100th game against Nottingham. Later, James was interviewed by BBC Radio London for 'The Scrum' programme. London Welsh Supporters Club wish James many more enjoyable seasons at Old Deer Park.

New Rugby Posts for Old Deer Park

London Welsh Supporter's Club has donated £5,000 to the Club for the purchase of new goalposts. The old posts had been in use for over 30 years had started to deteriorate badly causing safety fears. The Supporter's club is also helping to sponsor the players still living in Wales by subsidising their travelling expenses to and from Old Deer Park each week.

We are also committed to supporting the London Welsh Minis by helping to fund their annual tournament on November 11th at Old Deer Park.

You can make a difference by joining London Welsh Supporter's Club.



Members of London Welsh Supporter's Club Committee hand over a cheque for £5000 to Peter Thomas beneath the new posts.



London Welsh Male Voice Choir hold their bi-annual Christmas Concert at St Clement Danes in Strand, London WC2 for the RAF Benevolent Fund on Thursday 13 December.

Christmas Carols at Old Deer Park?

There should be a sellout crowd for the all-ticket Northampton game on Saturday December 15th so let's give the team some Christmas Cheer from the sidelines - it should be a cracker (no more puns please!)

Why not come along and sing some Christmas Carols in the Clubhouse afterwards.



Why not bring the kids to a home game. There's always a friendly dragon waiting for them.

Meet the 'Scarlet Ladies'

These three lovely ladies all work at Lords Cricket Ground with our Treasurer Pete Lowe and have 'adopted' London Welsh Supporter's Club. They will be supporting London Welsh during home games so make them welcome and say hello!



Emma, Zenia and Carla

Dw i'n dysgu Cymraeg - I'm learning Welsh

The Tuesday evening Welsh language learners are now well into their third academic year of study at the Club after a long summer break. The "Tuesday night 13" are a dedicated group of learners who are going from strength to strength. Some students have been attending a certain World Cup sporting event in France in the early part of this term. Their French has no doubt improved but their "Cymraeg" is holding its own very nicely despite this sporting distraction.

The current focus in the class is to talk using the future tense. This will no doubt stand all the students in good stead when they need to ask such questions as "Who will be getting the next round?" in the company of Welsh speakers at the bar in the Club or elsewhere. The students are also very pleased that there are quite a few Welsh speakers in the first team at present. This will give the students the opportunity to ask probing questions such as "Will you be on good form next Saturday?" (using the future tense again!).

Anyone who wishes to join the group at their solid intermediate level of learning is quite welcome. We also hope to run new beginners classes in the future.

Pob lwc i'r myfyriwyr yn eu trydydd blwyddyn academaidd yn dysgu Cymraeg. Maen nhw i gyd yn gwneud yn dda iawn. Roedd gwyliau'r haf yn hir ond mae pawb wedi cofio sut mae siarad Cymraeg o ddiari. Ymlaen a ni am flwyddyn arall. Cymru am Byth!

Alison Granger

Welsh Language Tutor.

If you would like to learn the "Language of Heaven" then join a class and we would try to fit you in on Monday (Mari Davies' Beginners) or Tuesday evenings according to your level of Welsh.



Alison Grainger Mari Davies

70th Birthday for Glan Richards



Glan during the sixties when he played for London Welsh First XV.

We are delighted to feature another London Welsh stalwart, Glanville Richards who has just celebrated his 70th Birthday. Glan was born in Myddfai near Llandovery and went to Llandovery Grammar School before doing two years National Service with the RAF Military Police.

On leaving National Service Glan went to Carnegie College, Leeds where he gained his Physical Education Diploma and went on to become a teacher in Slough.

He moved teaching posts to Finchley, William Penn School and finally Central London Polytechnic where he became Head of Physical Education before retiring. It was while he was at the Central London Poly that a young player named Colin Charvis came to his attention and Glan persuaded him to join London Welsh. The rest is history.

We would like to congratulate Glan on his 70th Birthday and to thank him for the valuable contribution that he has given to London Welsh over the years.

Records show that Glan first appeared for London Welsh in the

1962-63 season away to Saracens and his last game was away to Bedford in 1969.

In the 1964-65 season Glan scored four tries in the game against the Royal Air Force and also scored hat tricks in games against Richmond and Bath. In that season he scored 20 tries in all games and was London's top try-scorer.

For four seasons between 1965 - 66 and 1968-69, Glan captained the highly successful Druids and visiting referees consistently said that Glan's teams were the fastest and cleanest they refereed.

Between 1971-72 and 1987-88, Glan turned his hand to coaching. He became a WRU Staff Coach and during this period of some 17 seasons he chaired the schools section, was junior coaching organiser, was on the main coaching panel and was coaching organiser between 1982-83 and 1987-88. Glan also spent five years on the General Committee between 1984-85 and 1988-89.

London Welsh Record:

1962-63	19 games	2 tries
1963-64	33 games	13 tries
1964-65	31 games	19 tries
1965-66	6 games	1 try
1966-67	3 games	1 try
1968-69	2 games	2 tries

Thanks to Glen Evans for the information

Gwalia Male Voice Choir

List of forthcoming engagements

October 2007

27th - 7.00pm - Charity concert at London Welsh Rugby Club.

December 2007

Saturday 1st - 8.00pm. 50th Wedding anniversary. Eastwell Manor, Ashford.
Saturday 22nd - 4.00pm - Wedding St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury.

January 2008

Tuesday 15th - 8.00pm. cabaret at Banqueting Hall, Mansion House.

April 2008

Saturday 19th - 7.30pm. Cadogan Hall in a joint fundraising concert for London Welsh School with LW Chorale and LWMVC.

May 2008

Saturday - 31st - 7.30pm Charity concert in Church of St Peter and St Paul, Appledore, Kent.

More info: David Hurlbut 0776 376 8499 www.gwaliafemalevoicechoir.org.uk

FORD BENTALL LLP

CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL:

Keith A. Ford, F.C.C.A, C.T.A

Audit, Accounting and Taxation Services

60 High Street, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8AA

Tel: 01276 856161

Fax: 01276 856286

Email: keith@fordbentall.co.uk

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

The Shaftesbury Arms

121-123 Kew Road, Richmond
Tel: 020 8255 2419

Come and sample our

New Thai Menu

Monday - Friday
12.00 - 2.30. 5.00 - 9.30
Saturday - 12.00 - 9.30
Sunday closed

BIG SCREEN TV

Proud to support
London Welsh Women's RFC

London Welsh Male Voice Choir at Wembley

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir has the distinction of being the last choir to perform on the pitch at the old Wembley Stadium in the pulsating 32-31 victory over England in the 1999 season and the first choir to perform on the pitch at the new Wembley Stadium when they were asked to sing before the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final between St Helens and the Catalan Dragons.

On one of the few scorching hot days of the summer the choir sang to an enthusiastic crowd and delighted the Dragon supporters by performing the Catalan National Anthem before singing the most famous of all Cup Final Hymns, Abide With Me.



The London Welsh Male Voice Choir at the New Wembley Stadium. The choir are also singing at the Millennium Stadium for the Wales v South Africa game on November 24th.

Ex Players Reunited

I'm always delighted to hear from ex-players, especially when it's a mad bugger like Mel Williamson. I had the pleasure of playing in the same teams as Mel in the late 70's and 80's whenever he was able to get away from his duty with the Royal Air Force at Odiham. Mel was one of those people who like to organise and he has now formed a rugby charity - melsexiles.com to raise funds. Mel has also become an actor as you can see from his photograph. I asked Mel for some more information!

"Acting - well I've been in Monarch of the Glen, was one of Bradd Pitts 'spartans', been in Rebus and



Taggart, several TV roles - big brother in a programme about George Orwell, played the Pilot of the Lockerbie 747 in a documentary. Various adverts for Stagecoach,



Mel (standing in the back row) on an Occies Tour to Dublin in the late 70s.

Nintendo, Water Board and so on. Have been on stage in Panto as the Dame, Ugly Sister etc and also in Checkov plays, most recently in Edinburgh. And so it goes on.

I was voted best Santa in Edinburgh and featured in press and on TV. I am on the committee of Lords Taverners and regularly raise monies, the last of which was in March at a rugby function in Cardiff. To date I have raised about £100,000 for various charities over the last 25 yrs, with my 7's team or at various functions where I've performed or donated.

Latest acting job was for a big hotel chain where I wandered around Europe for two and a half months acting the fool at their hotels to train staff - all expenses paid plus free food/wine/hotel and on top of that wages as well. I visited 9 countries, 28 Towns and 38 hotels!! Brill job."



Mel (on right) with a young JPR and Mike Roberts collecting money for Sports Aid in Bruggen.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

If any ex players wish to be featured in future issues, please contact me at jones-rm@hotmail.com

Player Profile - Gareth Rogers



Name: Gareth Thomas Rogers.

Team: Wizards.

Position: Outside centre.

Height: 6'1".

Weight: 14 st.

Place of Birth: Pontypool.

Date of Birth: Jan 15 1973.

Educated at:

Mount Pleasant, Rogerstone, Newport and Neston County High School, Cheshire.

Best Rugby Memory:

Inaugural London Welsh Wizards season beating Richmond at the Athletic Ground 19-21 and the singing of 'Bread of Heaven' in the changing rooms after.

Worst Rugby Memory:

Drawing 5-5 in Helsinki against a side made up of Finish players on a pitch with no grass, markings or posts!

Favourite Food: Anything Italian.

Wizards need to recruit to compete in league

The Wizards find themselves in Canterbury Shield 4 this season. We were more than capable of moving up to the next level when everyone was available, but alas the nature of the team is that we have a very flexible squad and cannot guarantee to field a strong side week to week.

This season may be even worse as it's nigh on impossible to attract new players to a team such as ours and we are relying on mates of mates to keep the numbers up and the age limit down!!

So far we have played 3 and won 3, not many I know but now that the World Cup is over I hope that our level of rugby will get back to normal.

Ian Horgan
London Welsh Wizards

Wizards

Training: Wednesday nights from 7.30pm

Contact: via email
ianhorganrugby@yahoo.com

Supporter Profile

Here we feature some regular London Welsh supporters who can be seen at both home and away games. This edition we spotlight Jo who is the wife of London Welsh coach Martin Jones.



Name:

Jo Jones

Born:

Kilmarnock, Ayrshire before moving to Durham.

Education:

Birmingham and Cambridge Universities.

Occupation:

Currently working as a part time English teacher and has also been an Ofsted Inspector for secondary schools.

Welsh connection:

(True Scot) but I am in the second year of Welsh lessons at the club as Martin's father is Welsh speaking as is the whole of Carmarthen town where he lives.

London Welsh Supporter since: Martin used to play here.

Best London Welsh Memory:

The year we only had 3 tickets for an international at Twickenham and left the family in the Bowls Club. Upon returning we found Martin's mother dancing on the tables and my brother and sister drinking from 7 pint jugs!

Worst London Welsh Memory:

The recent passing of Dafydd Gwynfor was a great loss to all.

Best memorable moment:

Scott Gibbs' try at Wembley in the 1999 international - I was there!

London Welsh Women



London Welsh Women parade their new kit

After a summer of varied training, including some Ultimate Frisbee, LW women's team began their league campaign on 23rd September at Chesham. There have been a number of changes from last season, namely a new captain, Caroline Wolfendale; a new coach, Gerwyn Samuel; a new league structure and a shiny new kit!

With the changes made to the league structure, we find ourselves in Championship SE 2, with Wasps II, Aylesford Bulls and Rosslyn Park joining us since the end of last season (Hove, Harlequins and Chesham all remain).

We began the season with a lacklustre performance at Wimbledon for a friendly on 2nd September - although we came away with a 5-0 victory it was felt there was plenty of room for improvement.

After 2 more weeks of rucking practice and defensive drills to hone our skills, we travelled to Camberley for a second friendly. The word of the day was 'conviction', and this was evident from the performance. A combination of some good individual performances, both from fly half Maria Thompson (with her excellent kicking) and Linda Merritt (who was playing out of position as flanker), and a solid team effort gave us a 15-10 victory, and a much needed confidence boost.

And so to Chesham, where we lost in the dying minutes of the match at the start of last season, despite

feeling that we were the stronger team. The first half saw some good play from Welsh, and we dominated in terms of possession and territory. Despite this we failed to score, and the half time score was 0-0. A try shortly after the break gave us a 5-0 lead, however, Chesham came back hard, and a defensive kick from us was charged down, allowing an equaliser from the opposition. Towards the end of the match, a break by the Chesham full back gave them the lead, and despite a brave performance in the dying minutes, Welsh failed to come back. Final score 5-10. This was another frustrating loss for us, and we are looking forward to getting some wins under our belts in forthcoming matches, where all support is much appreciated!

Matches in October

7th October

London Welsh v Rosslyn Park (H)

14th October

London Welsh v Wasps II (H)

28th October

Hove v London Welsh (A)



Winning line out ball against Chesham

Player Profile - Caroline Wolfendale



Name: Caroline Wolfendale

Nickname(s): Wolfie, The Wolf, Muppet.

Place of birth: Ashford Middlesex, but I only lived in the South until I was 2 years old. I'm a Northerner!

Position(s): Outside Centre.

Honours: Lancashire 04-05, North West 03-04, Thames Valley 05-06 (Vice Captain 06-07) and Middlesex 06-07 (Captain 07-08)

Other Clubs: Leeds Met University and Vale of Lune.

Welsh Connection: I like daffodils!

Best Rugby Moment: Every time I score with the 'Wolfie Special' (Show & go).

Worst moment on the field (you don't have to answer this one but you might get fined if you don't!!!):

When playing for Vale of Lune (which has the largest playing surface in the country) I got complacent with large dead ball areas, and on an away game at Kirby Lonsdale didn't slow down enough and scored outside of the dead ball area - so embarrassing!

Favourite food: Chinese

London Welsh Women's RFC

Training: Monday and Wednesday nights at 7.30pm

Contact: via email

info@lwwrfc.org.uk

OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER
11.00am



Welcome visitors to the club for the Newbury game were from left to right: Mark Nelson, ex Sale coach, Alun Powell who is Assistant Academy Manager at Wasps - Llandovery born and bred, and Nigel Redman who came to run his eye over our England Under 20 second row, Ben Thomas.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

CASC Update

London Welsh amateur sections are the first in rugby history to be given CASC status. Being a recognised Community Amateur Sports Club ensures that it does not suffer the same rates and taxes as businesses. This ensures more money will stay in sport and will go towards ensuring the amateur playing membership of London Welsh RFC continue their enjoyment of the facilities at Old Deer Park.

The CASC currently has 500 members, with the majority being made up of the mini and youth sections, with three senior mens teams and one womens team making up the rest of the membership. It covers all age groups, male and female at all standards. Membership is open to anyone who wants to play rugby in a London Welsh shirt.

Please support this essential part of London Welsh!

Oops!
Here's one to bring up when the pub goes quiet!

Eccentric Irish fullback Dolway Walkington wore a monocle when playing rugby which he removed before attempting to make a tackle. When playing for Ireland vs England in the 1880 international, Ireland scored beneath the posts and Walkington took the kick, removing the monocle to do so. He missed and England went on to win the game.

LONDON WELSH CASC FUNDRAISER
a Night at the Races
Saturday 10th November 2007, 7.30pm
at London Welsh Clubhouse, Old Deer Park

✓ FREE ENTRY ✓ DRESS CODE: ASCOT STYLE
✓ WIN CASH ✓ BUY A 'HORSE' & SHARE THE PROFITS
✓ BET FOR JUST £1 ✓ GUEST COMPERE



All proceeds go to London Welsh CASC
More information from Ruth on 07729 290011
ruthbarton@hotmail.com

Congratulations to Martin Lloyd, John Savage and Geoff van Kleveron who have all passed their Level 2 RFU Coaching Exams. These three former London Welsh Under 12 Coaches are now able to coach any age group. The exams were sponsored by the club.

Advertise in the London Welsh Supporter

If you would like to support the Club by placing an advertisement in this newsletter please contact:
Mike Hynd, 7 Paxton Close,
Kew Gardens, Richmond, TW9 2AW
Tel: 0208 948 1614
Email: hyndmichael@yahoo.com

Holdfast

COUNTRY HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

This 17th Century cottage was enlarged in Victorian times, sits in its own grounds surrounded by woodland and open farmlands, with spectacular views of the Malvern Hills. Privately owned and personally run by Guy and Annie Dixon (ex Chairman of London Welsh Supporter's Club. Guy not Annie that is!)
Tel: 01684 310288
email: enquiries@holdfast-cottage.co.uk
www.holdfast-cottage.co.uk



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

Occies continue to thrive

Danny Griffiths reports

Well a new season for the Occies and things look as healthy as ever. A few friendly games before the season starts have seen us win 2 games by 70+ and one by 12 points.

Our Middlesex Merit League campaign for this season though has started with a hiccup as both the Bank of England and London Scottish games were postponed owing to players going to watch the World Cup (*in the Occies case a lot of boys unexpectedly supporting Fiji*). We did though get one game in against London New Zealand last Saturday, and with 15 of what would be considered our strongest players in certain areas unavailable, managed to carve out a win 24 to 17. Hopefully this year Benny can lead us to the trophy

after last years disappointment of finishing runners up in the league and going out in the quarter final of the cup.

The vets continue to thrive and with a few players coming across from the Occies Ones we are hoping to get a generic vets team for anyone that has played at London Welsh, not just Occies, who fancy getting their boots on one last time to compete in a slightly slower but typically physical old boys environment. So far the Vets under Richard Bevan have also started unbeaten beaten both Guys Hospital and Haselmere by 40+ points in both games.

We have had quite a few recruits who enjoy (*in their words*) a decent standard without all that training nonsense but I have to warn that West Wales is now beginning to

become the predominant force in the Occies so we'll have to do some active recruiting to increase our Valley contingent or the refined nature of our after match tea and cucumber sandwiches could be greatly under threat.

Our Tour was a memorable Occasion (*for some of us*) and we have forged some good contacts in Madrid playing a team partly run by Ex Occie Mike Powell. We finished up runners up again in Spain this time because the toll of injuries on the oppo was so high that we lent them a couple of players one of whom broke our line in the last minute to give them the winning try, so much for sportsmanship.

Please visit the London Welsh Occies new site at

<http://www.londonwelshoccies.com>

Player Profile - Chris Fox



Name: Chris Fox.
Nickname: Foxy.
Position: Tight Head Prop.
Height: 6'1".
Weight: 18.5 stone plus VAT.
Date of Birth: Jan 15 1973.
Welsh Connection:
The Foxes are all Welsh.
Best Rugby Memory:
Winning the Middlesex Merit Table in 05/06.
Worse Rugby Memory:
Losing in the final of the Middlesex Merit Table in 04/05.
Favourite Food:
Pork Scratchings with Pickled Mussels and fresh mint at London Welsh bar about 11.00pm on a Saturday night!

Jersey presentation

Ibo, proprietor of Cafe Portioli on Kew Road was presented with a signed London Welsh jersey by some of the members of the Supporter's Club. Ibo has been a great supporter since the newsletter began and hopes that the jersey, when framed, will join his Thierry Henry signed Arsenal Double jersey on the wall of the Cafe.



CAFE PORTIOLI

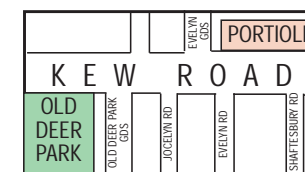
Portioli, 92 Kew Road, Richmond: 020 8940 4999

- ROAST DINNERS ● FRESH PASTAS
- LIVE FISH ● SUNDAY ROASTS ● TAKEAWAYS
- TOASTED CIABBATTA'S ● ALL DAY BREAKFASTS

Now serving Fine Wines & Beers
from 7am to London
Welsh Supporters
on weekends

Open 7 days a week

Portioli - supporting London Welsh RFC



20% OFF FOR ANY LONDON WELSH SUPPORTER

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

London Welsh Minis - raising their profile in the community



Fist XV prop, Ian George gives some coaching tips to the Minis at their training session

A quick missive about progress in the Mini Section. As many of you will be aware from the beginning of October we will be back on Sunday mornings at our home at Old Deer Park having been in exile at Greycourt School in Ham throughout September.

Come and support the London Welsh Minis Festival on Sunday 11th November at Old Deer Park

We presently run at just under 200 children. One of our problems has been question of recruitment - being in competition with other sports as well as other clubs in the locality vying for parents and children's attention. Sometimes it has not helped that there was a perception that you HAD to be Welsh to play for us. One of my aims since taking over this year is to overcome this false perception and increase numbers by use of training sessions by the 1st XV players in schools.

I am glad to say that the club have been very supportive in this project having for the first time this year some contracted players based in London, who have been assisting Tom Marks of the 1st XV, who is the

clubs RFU Community Rugby Coach. These players have been out in 6 local schools providing training to primary kids, hopefully with the result that the kids come to play for us and that they also come down with their dads to matches on Saturdays.

I feel this is very important as we have, as a section not gone out to recruit players, just expecting them



to turn up each September. It always seemed odd to us that a club playing at such a high level was not promoting itself fully in the Community. If the club does contract more players, who will have a community clause in their contract, I am hopeful that our profile will be raised even higher in the community, leading not only to more players for us but also more spectators for the 1st XV. If one looks at the websites of other ND1 clubs it is clearly something that we lag behind in. I hope that the club continues to support this idea and gets the Welsh name out there as a great place to come, not only for the rugby, but also on a social basis.

On a different tack I am glad to say that four 1st XV players came down to our training on 23 September. Their support and ideas were greatly appreciated.

The Supporter's Club kindly donated gazebos to us last season and they are still in use at festivals keeping us dry. This includes our own Festival on 11 November between 11am and 3pm. Why not come down and see some Welsh stars of the future?

*Mike Talbot
Chairman Minis*

London Welsh minis practice their mauling technique

Obituaries

Keith Roberts



Keith Roberts seen here being presented with his copy of All Black Magic by Club President John Dawes on the choir's successful tour to New Zealand in 2005.

It takes a special person to get the whole of the London Welsh Male Voice and Rugby Club Choirs to sing, plus the Head of the RFU, Bob Taylor to say the address at his funeral. Keith Roberts was such a man.

Keith was a Pembrokeshire boy through and through. He was a formidable second row who worked as a schoolmaster in Cheltenham and Dunstable before moving to Bedford to teach at John Howard School and while there he became a Playing Administrator for Bedford RFC, was involved in schools rugby and became President of the East Midlands Rugby Union. Keith was one of the great talkers of the world and a trip to the bar often took half an hour as there was so many people that Keith stopped to talk to.

Keith was also instrumental in the formation of the London Welsh Rugby Club Choir and became Concert Secretary on their very successful tour to New Zealand with the 2005 Lions and he also spent many years as Choir Marshal of the London Welsh Male Voice Choir.

Keith battled Leukaemia for many years and passed away at the end of July. The London Welsh Rugby Club Choir will sing in a concert for Leukaemia Research at Bedford Rugby Club on August 2nd 2008 in Keith's memory.

Rugby Club Choir to Sponsor London Welsh Under 19s and 'Young Welsh Singer of the Year'

The London Welsh Rugby Club Choir has agreed to help sponsor London Welsh Under 19s and is donating **one thousand pounds** to the team. The Choir is also helping to fund the annual 'Young Welsh Singer of the Year' contest held at the London Welsh Centre and has donated £500 to this cause. Formed to promote London Welsh RFC during their tour of New Zealand in 2005, the Choir was so successful that it was playing to packed audiences in places such as

Wellington Cathedral, Christchurch Town Hall and the Te Papa Museum as well as performing on the New Zealand edition of Top of the Pops!

The Choir regularly performs for good causes and has recently helped raise funds for Cherry Lodge Cancer Care in Enfield and sang in Catfield on the Norfolk Broads to help with the church repairs in a concert that was organised by their concert secretary Keith Roberts before he died.



Photo: Clive Jones

Poets Corner

Our resident Supporter's Club Poet, Alan Hanford is in a lyrical mood and has been cogitating the delights of a 'Summers Morn'

A Summer Morn

Summer sunrise as larks soprano vibrates the bark, a leaf floats down
Solar crescendo peaks o'r the mellow yellow dawn horizon
Ambience precipitates the dew covered lush moist grass, daisies peek through,
Summer scent of early morn, squirrel's head twists with blinking eye,
A leap from branch gymnastic form, there's two!
Fox cubs' role in play, tumble weed, free, what space, with mum, her milk so warm, start another day.

The feather choir so vocal now this July morn, as baby cries so soft and new,
Curtains twitch admits the golden rays, so magic some may say,
Deep breath he takes, what smells and sounds, of course we have the view
Awakes a sensory collage, this morning palette brings.

Ambient, bright so clean today, a sea breeze floats on bye
The tea rejuvenates the tongue, some toast, so happy,
Thank God I'm alive, what Joy, what Joy, said I.

*Alan Hanford
June 2007*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

London Welsh Colts 2007-2008

London Welsh Colts (U19s) have had the best start to a season for a long time:

Played 4 Won 4
For 109 Against 10

Sun 16th Sept 2007
Camberley Colts Away Won 29-0

Sun 23rd Sept 2007
Effingham Colts Away Won 54-0

Sun 7th Oct 2007
Hertford Colts Away Won 6-0

Sat 13th Oct 2007
Blackwood Home Won 20-10

Welsh League

For the first time in a number of seasons we have seen numbers averaging around 25 at each training session, This means we can structure the sessions accordingly and work on player development, game understanding, unit and individual skills, etc.

In the closed season we have been working hard on player recruitment which has resulted in a big influx of new players from local clubs/Colleges/Universities and the Welsh Exiles, also we've retained a large number from last seasons U17s. The main influence for attracting these players was the opportunity of playing for a National One club, playing against good quality Welsh opposition in the Premiership Welsh League (Gwent District) and the English National U19s Cup.

New Welsh Exiles:

Dan Wale (Lock/Flanker)
Dominic Porter (Flanker)
Gareth Reed (Scrum Half)
Griff Harding (Fly Half)
Oliver Dyer (Prop)
Oliver Edwards (Flanker)
Piers Glyn-Davies (Full Back/S Half)
Ian Williams (Prop)

New players:

Alex King (Flanker)
George Gregory (Scrum Half/Full Back)
Jamie Styles (Hooker)
Mark Hayne (Centre)
Morgan Roberts (Flanker)
Nick Dewlands (Hooker/Prop)
Richard Hewison (Centre/Wing)
Rory Miller (Flanker)
Sam Gibbons (Flanker/Lock)
Sam Knight (No8)
Sam Thomas (Prop)

Current U19s

Dan Underhill (Lock) (Welsh Exile)
Ivor Capel (Flanker/Lock)(Welsh Ex)
Joe Matthams (Fly Half/Centre) (Welsh Exile)
Michael Morris (Fly Half) (Welsh Ex)
Owen Powell (Prop) (Welsh Exile)
Powys Kemp (Scrum Half) (Welsh Ex)
Rhys Cadogan (Prop) (Welsh Exile)
Robbie Stapley (No8)
Sam Pailor (Backrow) (Welsh Exile)
Tom Skinner (Flanker) (Welsh Exile)
Tyree Sutherland (Wing) (Welsh Exile)
Will Browne (Wing) (Welsh Exile)
Will Kane (Prop/Hooker) (Welsh Ex)

Last Seasons U17s

Aaron Allen (Centre)
Charlie Lyons (Centre)

Clovis Viard-Gaudin (Wing)
Eitan Humphreys (Scrum Half) (WE)
Gareth Dawkes (Full Back) (Welsh Ex)
Guy Montague (Hooker) (Welsh Ex)
Jake Bodin (Flanker) (Welsh Exile)
Joe Toft (Flanker/Lock)
Lee Brown (Wing)
Mark Legrand (Wing)
Matthew Sullivan (Prop)
Otto Castle (Wing/Full Back)
Rhodri Mason (Centre) (Welsh Exile)
Robbie Ley-Greaves (Lock) (Welsh Ex)
Sam Newton (Centre)
Toby Harley (Flanker)

Unfortunately these players are not always available because of playing commitments at School, College or University.

On the Management side of things we are delighted that Chris & Linda Bracey are back after a couple of years off to act as Team Manager and Administrator, already they are doing a fantastic job.

We are still looking for volunteers to carry out the following duties:

Press Officer
Kit Manager
Video Operator

Any one wishing to offer their services please contact Chris or Linda Tel: 0208 255 3565

Come and watch the future of London Welsh.

Alun Rise
Academy Head Coach

Welsh Exiles

Significant changes have been made to the Welsh Exiles organisation this season. The budget has been cut severely, but we continue. Training will take place at Old Deer Park for Exiles from 14-18 years on the following dates: September 24th, October 29th, November 26th and January 28th. The annual Under 18 game against Irish Exiles will take place at St Marys College, Twickenham on Sunday 4th November kick off 2.00pm.

We have 6 boys in the Gwent Dragons U16 Squad this season, one player remains at U18 and we have 6 in the U20 Squad.

Terwyn Williams
(Secretary - Welsh Exiles)
Email: terwynw@hotmail.com

LONDON WELSH LEGENDS

No 1: Claude Davey

In this new feature we celebrate some of the greatest players who have worn the London Welsh Jersey.

Born: Garnant, December 14th 1908
Educated at Ystalyfera County Grammar School and Swansea University and became a schoolmaster and electrical engineer.

Clubs: Swansea, Sale, London Welsh, Rosslyn Park, Cwmgor, Amman United, Aylesbury and Reading.

Honours: Wales (23 caps between 1930 and 1938 - 8 times as captain), Barbarians, Lancashire, Berkshire, Welsh Secondary Schools.

Claude Davey was famed for his speed and sledgehammer tackling. He made his debut for Swansea, against Skewen in December 1928 when he was 20 years old, and scored 22 tries for that club in the 1929-30 season.

Although he left Swansea to move to Manchester in 1930, he continued to play for the All Whites in major games against international touring sides. In fact, he scored Swansea's try in the 3-10 defeat by the 1931 South Africans and crossed twice in his club's historic 11-3 defeat of the 1935 All Blacks - the first defeat suffered by New Zealand against a club side.

On moving to Manchester he had five productive seasons with Sale, leading his club to the Middlesex Sevens title in 1936, and also piloted Lancashire to the County Championship in 1935.

Despite invitations to join Leicester and Northampton, Claude Davey joined London Welsh in 1936 after moving to Aylesbury.

Whilst with the Welsh, Davey won four caps, one of them as captain, and although he played a total of 73 games, scoring 22 tries, his

career with the club lasted more than ten years. But for the War he would have played nearer 200 games.

He was captain of London Welsh in 1945-46 and again at the start of the 1946-47 season. He wasn't selected for the game against Cardiff that season and resigned from the club. He had apparently not been notified that he was not going to play at the Arms Park. He was now 38 years old and although he played intermittently for Rosslyn Park thereafter he finally retired from the game at about 40 years of age.

Claude died at the age of 92 in February 2001.

The legendary full back Vivian Jenkins said: "Claude Davey . . . had the smile of an angel, but tackled like an avenging Fury."

London Welsh Record:

1935-36	2 games	1 try
1936-37	13 games	8 tries
1937-38	14 games	3 tries
1938-39	12 games	2 tries
<i>Inter-war years</i>		
1945-46	27 games	7 tries
1947-48	5 games	1 try

This next piece is by Keith Quinn, New Zealand; 27 Feb 2001

"It was very sad to read the other day of the death of the former Welsh centre, Claude Davey. When I say "former" I mean a man who last played for Wales 63 years ago! But in his time Claude Davey played a hugely significant role involving New Zealand rugby and his death is certainly worth marking here.

Davey belonged to a small group of international players who played against the All Blacks team just twice and not only was he on the winning team both times but he scored 3 tries in those two epic victories.

In 1935-36 the All Blacks were touring Britain under the

captaincy of Canterbury's Jack "Lugger" Manchester. (No prizes for guessing why he was nicknamed thus). The team arrived to play Swansea at St. Helen's Ground and were confronted by two schoolboys playing in the home team's backline. They were Hadyn Tanner and Willie Davies, both 17 years old. Claude Davey was a 17-test veteran playing outside them.

In a tough match, with a bit of stoush, the Swansea "Jacks" won by 11-3. Davey touched down for a try after a 35 yard run. Afterwards Jack Manchester offered one of the great early quotes of New Zealand rugby reporting. "Please don't tell them schoolboys beat us," he was reported as saying.

Nearly two months later Davey was captain of the Welsh test team in front of 50,000 at the famous Cardiff Arms Park. This was the game called by the Welsh at the time as "one the greatest games ever seen." This was no doubt because in it the Welsh scored their first win over the All Blacks. It was also the game of three cruel bounces of the ball, which went against the All Blacks. Claude Davey was on hand to secure the bounce on two of the kicks and cross for dramatic tries. He was a part of a huge celebration in a 13-12 "thrashing" of New Zealand".



5 minutes walk to Victoria Station and close to Buckingham Palace

- Family B&B
- All rooms with private facilities
- Colour TV/Telephone/Hairdresser
- Tea & Coffee



135/137 Ebury Street,
London SW1W 9RA
Tel: 020 7730 8191 Fax: 020 7730 7865
Email: info@limetreehotel.co.uk

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY ARE SUPPORTING US

SHIP TAVERN

Serving quaffable ales and fine fayre since 1549

**12 Gate Street
Holborn
London, WC2A 3HP**

Award winning ales

John and Ross Evans
are delighted to support
London Welsh RFC

Tel: 020 7405 1992
theshiptavern@hotmail.co.uk

Pre-War London Welsh

This Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News edition of March 24th 1939 featuring London Welsh was presented to one of the London Welsh Supporter's Club Committee, Dean Roderick by his father Dilwyn who in turn was given it by London Welsh and Wales player Claude Davey who was a golfing partner at Brecon Golf Club and is

featured in the article. Dean remembers Claude as being a very fine golfer 'and a gentleman' who achieved 2 holes in one during one round of golf at Reading Golf Club. The article states how the Welsh Rugby Union were 'quick to recognise the value to Wales of such a club in London and helped it with grants of money'.

Claude Davey features in the first of our new London Welsh Legends on page 7.

556 THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS March 24, 1939



THE PRESIDENT: Captain Craushay, who is now a Commissioner for the Special Areas.

THE FIRST FIFTEEN: Back row: R. V. Howell (touch judge), D. King Davies, A. Edmunds, Claude Davey, T. R. Parry, Vernon Davies, T. Jones, Ray Thomas, J. R. Patterson (referee). Middle row: G. H. Davies, J. Bell, A. Banfield, B. J. A. Lowe (capt.), Glyn Davies, D. P. Owen. Front row: D. Walters, A. Davies.

Rugby Clubs at Home: No. 12

The London Welsh

London Welsh suffered in the same way as other clubs by the war. The immediate post-war years were difficult, and though the club contributed an occasional player to the national side, it was not until 1926 that another really great player came on the scene. This time it was W. C. Powell, and a measure of his greatness can be found in the fact that only three men in the history of the game have ever received more caps for Wales. These were the great Dickie Owen, W. J. Bancroft and W. J. Trew. Powell was capped 27 times for his country. About the same time Windsor Lewis made his appearance for London Welsh, as brilliant a half-back as the game has ever produced. In 1930 Claude Davey, who not only captained his club but his country as well, and who was chosen for Wales on 24 occasions, first achieved fame. The last time he appeared for Wales was

THE London Welsh Rugby Football Club was founded in 1885 by Dr. T. J. Pryce Jenkins for the purpose of giving young men from Wales, whose business brought them permanently to London, a chance of playing regular Rugby. In the first few years of its existence, the club had a hard struggle to keep its head above water. The Welsh Rugby Union, however, who were quick to recognise the value to Wales of such a club in London, helped with grants of money and gradually, with the growth in popularity of the game, the club became largely self-supporting.

It was not long before London Welsh were making their presence felt in first-class football, matches being played against most of the best-known London and provincial clubs. The first International player produced by the club was, appropriately enough, Dr. T. J. Pryce Jenkins, the founder. He was capped for Wales twice in 1888, playing against Scotland and Ireland. In the following year, three more London Welsh players were selected for Wales—A. C. Davies, D. W. Evans, and R. L. Thomas. It is some indication of the early strength of the club that they produced four International players within five years of the club's foundation.

Famous Names

In 1902, two whose names are outstanding in Welsh football made their first appearance, and both of them were connected with London Welsh. They were R. T. Gabe and A. F. Harding. Gabe was capped 24 times and Harding 20. The glory of these two great players lasted till 1908, and in the following year another London Welshman achieved fame, E. T. Morgan winning the first of his 16 International caps. H. T. Maddocks, capped six times for Wales, and J. F. Williams, chosen for four Internationals, were also playing for London Welsh about this time.



THE STAND: A picture taken during a recent match at Herne Hill.



VIEW showing the County Athletic Ground at Herne Hill, home of the London Welsh. In the background is the cycle-track.



MR. J. E. DAVIES: A vice-president of the Welsh R.U. and the London Welsh representative on the Union.



THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. R. V. Farmer.



THE CAPTAIN: B. J. A. Lowe, a hard-working second row forward and a very able leader.



THE NEXT CAPTAIN (right): Ray Thomas, a centre three-quarter



THE SECRETARY: Mr. W. J. Watt. He used to play for London Welsh and is an international.



THE FIXTURE SECRETARY: Mr. L. J. G. Bowers, who is also a member of the Selection Committee.



TEAM SECRETARY: Mr. R. V. Howell, a Welsh Trial cap.



CLAUDE DAVEY: One of the greatest players produced by London Welsh. He captained Wales and was capped 24 times.



W. C. POWELL: Capped 27 times for Wales and the most brilliant footballer produced by the club.



VIVIAN JENKINS (left): A great full-back. He played 24 times for Wales and announced his retirement only this year.

March 24, 1939 THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS 557

last year, and he still, on occasions, turns out for the club. Arthur Rees, capped 13 times for Wales, was another London Welsh stalwart. The triumphs of V. G. J. Jenkins, whom many considered to be the finest full-back in the four countries, are too recent to need recalling. He has, only this season, announced his retirement from International football after playing for Wales on 14 occasions.

The present London Welsh team, although a good one, is not, perhaps, comparable to some of the great teams of the past, and the season has not been a particularly good one so far as results are concerned. It was a serious handicap when one of the club's most promising players, J. Idwal Davies, who was chosen to play for Wales in the match against England, was lost to the professional North. In addition, V. G. J. Jenkins has now more or less retired from the game. Injuries, too, have taken their toll.

Lively Pack

The forwards, though inclined, perhaps, to be a little on the small side, are magnificent scrummagers who know the value of tight binding and a sustained shove. They are well led by the captain, B. J. A. Lowe, who packs in the second row. The hooker is A. Davies, who is also a grand player in the loose, and he is supported by A. Edmunds and D. P. Owen in the front row. T. R. Parry, of Cambridge University, and Glyn Davies are the wing forwards, both of them excellent in the lines-out and the loose, and Vernon Davies and A. Banfield complete a really lively and aggressive pack.

Behind the forwards there is an excellent pair of half-backs in J. Maddocks and G. H. Davies. Maddocks, a good scrumage worker, was a Welsh reserve last year. Davies, who has a remarkably safe pair of hands, straightens his three-quarters out well and can make a good opening for them whenever the opportunity arises. The three-quarter line has both speed and thrust, especially in the centre, where Ray Thomas and Claude Davey are exceptionally strong players. Now that Vivian Jenkins so rarely turns out, the London Welsh full-back is usually J. Bell, who, if not so brilliant as his gifted predecessor, is yet a fine player.