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CARMARTHEN QUINS v CARDIFF RFC

FRIDAY 17th JAN 2020 - KICK OFF 19.05

A TRIBUTE TO GIDEON TAYLOR



Ball sponsors in our match against Cardiff are Robert Taylor his sister Liz Jones and other family members, who are sponsoring this game as a tribute to Robert and Liz's dad Gideon, who sadly died in tragic circumstances 45 years (18th January 1975).

Gideon was well known as a local sportsman due to his love of cycling and as a rugby player with Carmarthen Thursdays (1930's); Carmarthen Athletic RFC; Whitland RFC and Carmarthen Quins.

His passion for cycling resulted in him in the 1930's taking the sport up professionally, representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Welsh Cycling Team. He competed regularly in events at Carmarthen Park and was well known to people in the Carmarthen area. He had his last cycle race at Carmarthen Park in the summer of 1964.

Gideon played his last rugby game at the grand old age of 44 following a broken leg suffered during a game. After hanging up his boots, he took up the whistle and became a proficient referee. He was also the first aider with the Quins over a number of seasons and sat for a number of years on the club's committee.

Carmarthen Quins and Llanybydder RFC decided to hold a match at Abergwili on the 18th January 1975 on the afternoon of a rugby international at Paris between France and Wales. Wales went on to win that game by 25 pts to 10. The Quins team in Abergwili was a combination of 1st XV and 2nd XV players and Robert was chosen to play in the game.

Unfortunately, the allocated referee had to pull out at the last minute and Gideon volunteered to officiate the match. During the game, Gideon suddenly collapsed and although valiant attempts were made to save him, he had suffered a massive cardiac arrest and died on the field. A very sad and difficult day for Robert and obviously tragic time for all his family.

Following his death, this tribute appeared in the Carmarthen Journal sent in by "D.G.E":-

"Gideon Taylor was a sportsman and a gentleman. Those of us who had the privilege to know him will understand what I mean when I describe him as a 'gentle sportsman.'

Let there be no misunderstanding, he was the supreme competitor and whether it was rugby or cycling, his commitment and desire to win was wholehearted and complete. Who could say otherwise when we recall how he used to come from behind and win the major share of the cycle races at the Park. His constant urging on the rugby field – 'up up boys' still rings in my ears. His inexhaustible energy and his captaincy by example always succeeded in giving his team mates their 'second wind' and the extra drive to win but not at all costs.

How many of us remember in lineout or scrum, his steadying calls when the going was getting tough – 'play fair boys, play clean boys.' Gideon was a man about whom you tell stories to your children, my children never met him, but they know all about his achievements, his enthusiasm and enjoyment for sport, as if he lived next door. He will be remembered too in Rhymney, in Builth, in Blaenau, in Narberth and in so many other towns and villages where he played the game or rode the race.

He refused to grow old. When most of us had become resigned to 'anno domini,' Gideon was always prepared to have one more game, run the touchline, referee the game, carry the bags and administer the sponge.

His loss, particularly to his loved ones is cruel and heartbreaking. The gain of having known him has been a joy – a time to be cherished and never forgotten – play up, play fair, play clean."



Gideon would have had the pleasure of watching his son Robert (above left) make 48 appearances at Outside half or Centre for the Quins between 1971 and 1976.

Gideon would also have been proud of the rugby achievements of his grandson Kevin Jones (above centre), who played 53 games mostly at full-back for the Quins between 1999 and 2002.

Also, for the current generation, his great-grandson Daniel Jones (above right), has so far made 35 appearances at outside half for the Quins in the Welsh Premiership and has been a valuable asset to the Scarlets regional squad. Dan made his 100th appearance for the Scarlets in last Saturday game against Toulon in the European Challenge Cup .

There will be many supporters at tonight's match who have fond memories of Gideon and will be looking forward to meeting up with Robert and Liz and other family members before and after the game.