



Monmouth RFC Delighted to Appoint Wales Rugby Great Eddie Butler as Club Patron.



Grand Slam Winner John Gwilliam

Club Chairman Lloyd Davies with Byron Haggood, Rob Jones and new Club Patron Eddie Butler.

Monmouth RFC are delighted to announce the recent appointment of Wales rugby great, Eddie Butler as Club Patron. Eddie recently graciously accepted an invitation to take over the role from Grand Slam winning ex Welsh captain John Gwilliam, who sadly passed away last December.

As a club Monmouth are honored to have had such a long and engaging association with John Gwilliam. John earned 23 caps for Wales through the late 1940's and into the mid 1950's as No. 8, captaining the national side to two Grand Slams in 1950 and 1952 and playing in the last Welsh team to beat the All Blacks. John attended Monmouth School and went on to have an illustrious rugby career representing Monmouth RFC, Cambridge University, Edinburgh Wanderers, Gloucester, Newport, London Welsh, Llanelli and Wasps. John's career at Cambridge was interrupted by the war which saw him in action in Europe in the Royal Tank Regiment. The historian Max Hastings reported an incident at Rathau where Gwilliam was carrying a small German soldier by the scruff of his neck. Asked why he didn't just shoot the man, Gwilliam purportedly replied "Oh no sir. Much too small".

John was a teacher who upon retirement was Head teacher of Birkenhead School. John was reported to have played for his beloved Monmouth RFC

during the 5 Nations tournament, when a game for his club Newport was called off, John played for Monmouth RFC before going onto play for Wales the following weekend and winning the Grand Slam as captain!

Upon being invited to become Monmouth RFC Patron Eddie stated " A big honour. Delighted to accept. Where it all started...happiest days if now a bit faded" in reference to his early playing days in Monmouth RFC. Eddie like John his predecessor, went to Cambridge University after leaving Monmouth School and gained Blues in 1976, 1977 & 1978. Eddie played for Pontypool RFC between 1976 and 1990 at a time when Pooler were one of the most fearsome teams on the planet! Between 1980 and 1984 Eddie was selected to play at No. 8 for Wales and went on to make 16 appearances, leading the national side on 6 occasions. He also toured New Zealand as a British Lion in 1983.

Eddie is well known today as a Journalist writing for The Observer and The Guardian. He is an accomplished BBC sports commentator, TV Presenter and novelist. Monmouth RFC are proud that Eddie has committed to the role of Club Patron and look forward to an enduring relationship and success under Eddie's patronage.