

Edward 'Ned' Holmes



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A member of a family who worked so hard for your club. His father was E Homes Snr who was Hon Secretary and Chairman between 1906 and 1914 prior to WW1. He became a well known local and international referee officiating at the following:

3rd January 1931 - England v Rest

5th December 1931 - Wales v South Africa

12th March 1932 - Wales v Ireland

Born September 29th September 1896 at Emmanville, Ryton.

Died

Lived at Milton Street, Greenside, Ryton.

Worked as a miner at the Greenside Colliery.

The Holmes family are synonymous with the Ryton Rugby Club. Ned's father was Secretary and then Chair of the Club (1906 -14) and his two brothers played during a significantly successful period of the club's history during the 1920s. It is alleged that Ned never played rugby and this suggestion is being further investigated.

Ned joined the RFU Panel of Referees in 1928 and was still there at the outbreak of World War 2. There followed a series of County matches culminating on 3rd January 1931 when he refereed an England Final trial – England v The Rest. The previous year A A Trail had attended a final England trial and the Press were quick to pick up on the fact that this was a rare distinction

for two members of a small West Tyne village to be so honoured. In October 1931 he refereed London Counties versus the touring Springbok side.

His two international appointments were Wales v South Africa at Swansea on 5th December 1931 and Wales v Ireland at Cardiff on 12th March 1932. The first game was played in driving rain and the second played in spring like weather. The Western Mail complimented him on the handling of the Springboks game in extremely trying conditions.

Contrary to suggestion Ned never refereed an Oxford v Cambridge Varsity match.

In addition to his expertise as a referee he was a scratch golfer at Ryton Golf Club.