

Frederick Hodgson Rudd Alderson BA (Cambridge)



Born in Hartford, Northumberland on 27th June 1867

Died Hartlepool 18th February 1925

A teacher by profession he took up the post of assistant master at Henry Smiths School, Hartlepool in 1889 before becoming the Headmaster in 1892 remaining in this post until his death in 1925.

Durham School, Tynedale, Northumberland County, Cambridge University, Blackheath, Hartlepool Rovers, The Barbarians and England.

He began playing for Clare College In 1886 and then in 1887 and 1888 he gained the much-coveted Blue by playing in a Cambridge team that beat Oxford at Kensington by one drop goal and two tries to nil

playing at half back. He gained a second Blue at the same venue the following year when the score was the same. In 1888 he played in the North v South game at centre three quarte. In 1889 he accepted a post at The Henry Smiths School and so his association with Hartlepool Rovers began. He represented the County a significant number of times and but for his academic commitments affecting his availability at times his representative honours would have been increased significantly. He went on to on to Captain an England XV in 1891 v Wales, Ireland and Scotland. In 1892 he was the Triple Crown Captain when he played against Scotland and Ireland. He played against Wales in 1893. He was said to be the greatest strategist that the County had ever produced and there was a universal opinion that he was an outstanding exponent of the art of centre threequarter play.

He was an original member of The Barbarians and was later to serve on the Committee of that Club.

Whilst there is significant evidence of his pre-eminence as a player there is little information about his refereeing career which reached a similar zenith to his playing career when he Refereed Scotland 3 v Ireland 0 at Inverleith on 23rd February 1903

Alderson is the only local Referee to have his portrait hanging in Twickenham. It was in the Presidents room. The portrait was painted by Percy Meersom and given to Alderson and shows him playing in the Calcutta Cup match of 1892, It is believed to be the Hartlepool Rovers Club President at the time, Sir Thomas Richardson who instigated the painting. The Alderson family gave it to Twickenham some years ago. Any prominent guest who attends Twickenham will have lunched in front of the picture.

