



IRB HALL OF FAME

The 2009 Induction

INDUCTION NUMBER 12

William E. Maclagan

Scotland and British

One of the giants of the world game he entered rugby legend as the first ever captain of the British team (the forefathers of the Lions) to tour South Africa. By the time he accepted the captaincy of the 1891 British team, in fact an English-Scottish selection, he had already won 26 caps for Scotland, eight of them as captain. He was the second to appear as a lone full back for Scotland, as the shape of the game was changing from the two full backs of the 20-a-side game to the sole guardian of 15-a-side rugby. Born in 1858 in Edinburgh, he began his rugby at the Edinburgh Academy and after graduation he joined the Edinburgh Academicals club where he won his first cap for Scotland at full back, though he had also played on the wing and at centre. A stockbroker by trade he joined London Scottish after a career move to London in 1880 and served as club captain for a decade from 1881 to 1891. A complete player admired for his ball skills, tackling and the accuracy of his kicking he became Scotland's most capped player during an international career spanning three decades. By the time the tour to South Africa had begun he had retired from international rugby, yet he nevertheless played in 19 of the 20 tour matches. He handed over the cup offered by Sir Donald Currie to the best South African opponent to Griqualand West. In turn, the Griquas offered the soon to be called Currie Cup to the South African Union as the main trophy for their inter-provincial competition. Capped twice for Scotland at cricket, Bill Maclagan became President of the Scottish Football Union in 1894/95 and 1896 and sat on the IRB Council from 1894 to 1897.

INDUCTION NUMBER 13

Barry H. Heatlie

South Africa

Arguably one of the all-time greats of South African rugby, Barry Heatlie learned the Game at that famous Cape rugby nursery Bishops School (Diocesan College), which he entered at the age of 16 in 1889. He played for and captained the School, Gardens RFC, Old Diocesans RFC, Villagers RFC, the Western Province, while still at College in 1894, and South Africa. He appeared for Western Province in 34 matches between 1890 and 1904 – of which 28 were wins in the Currie Cup. He played six times for South Africa against the 1891, 1896 and 1903 British & Irish (Lions) tourists and captained the country in two Tests, the only two South Africa won that decade. He is credited with the adoption by South Africa of the green jersey, which happened before the final 1903 Test at Newlands when he captained South Africa in his final game for the country. Heatlie eventually moved to Argentina, where he carried on playing for the *Gymnasia y Esgrima* club in Buenos Aires, whom he captained and coached until 1915.

INDUCTION NUMBER 14

Benjamin L. Osler

South Africa

Born in Aliwal North on 23 November 1901, he made his Western Province debut against Natal in 1922 and two years later, while captain of Cape Town University, won his first cap against the 1924 Lions led by Dr. Ronald Cove-Smith – the first of his 17 consecutive appearances for South Africa. With the British forwards slowly gaining the upper hand in the titanic struggle with the Springbok pack, Osler's drop goal made the difference, giving South Africa the edge to win the crucial first Test 7-3. This win against the odds and run of play, with Osler – serviced by three different scrum halves in the four Tests – firing on all cylinders, gave South Africa the psychological advantage in a tightly fought series and established him as the top fly half in South Africa. Though he was widely regarded as a master of tactical kicking there was far more to his game than just booting the ball, as his lightning speed off the mark enabled him to make spectacular breaks and set his line moving at pace. He was described as "the greatest individual match-winner and tactical master that South African rugby has ever produced". In 1927, Osler's Hamilton club, to a large extent due to the uncanny ability of their captain to kick, dominated the Cape Town and Western Province scene and in 1929 he joined Villagers, whom in turn became Cape Town champions two years later. Osler's kicking changed the way South Africa played the game as he basically evolved his ability to land the ball anywhere on the field, not to mention his remarkable drop goal efficiency. After the shared series with New Zealand in 1928, Osler captained South Africa on their 1931/32 Grand Slam tour of the British Isles, when he was partnered by a young man with a great future, one Danie Craven, who made his international debut against Wales.

INDUCTION NUMBER 15

Clifford I. Morgan CVO OBE

Wales and Lions

Born in the mining village of Trebanog on 7 April 1930, Cliff Morgan is one of the legends of Welsh rugby, winning 29 caps in a career which started in 1951 against Ireland, playing opposite his hero Jack Kyle, and ended in 1958. He helped Wales win the Triple Crown in 1952, played in a magnificent win over the visiting All Blacks in 1953 and captained his country to the Five Nations title in 1956. The 25-year-old Cardiff outside half was selected for the Lions tour and made a huge contribution to its success. Teammate and future scribe Clem Thomas described Morgan as "the irrepressible Welsh wizard", the linchpin of a remarkably gifted back division. He played in 15 matches on tour and started in all four Tests, serviced by a young scrum half Dick Jeeps, who played for the Lions before he had played for England.

Morgan scored a try in the first Test, one still described by some as the greatest Rugby match in history. The Springboks led 11-8 at half time, but soon after the break Morgan scored a brilliant individual try between the posts to set the scene for the first defeat of the Springboks on their home ground in 17 years. With the tour captain Robin H Thompson of Instonians, Ulster and Ireland injured in the 19th match of the tour against Northern Transvaal and the two sides sharing the Test count with one each, Morgan was appointed captain for the third Test, the first ever played at Pretoria. "Morgan the Magnificent", as the South African press called him, provided both the inspiration and the tactical vision for a famous 9-6 win which meant the Lions could not lose the series. Behind a dominant pack and with the great Rhys Williams reigning supreme at the front of the lineup, Morgan kicked relentlessly to show another facet of his multifarious genius. He joined the BBC, initially as a reporter, and retired in 1987 as the Head of TV Outside Broadcasts, having worked in a number of jobs for the Corporation, from commentator to sports organiser for BBC Wales in 1958. He was awarded an OBE in 1977 and a CVO in 1986.

INDUCTION NUMBER 16

Sir Anthony J.F. O'Reilly

Ireland and Lions

Born in Dublin on 7 May 1936, Tony O'Reilly was only 19 when he embarked on the adventure of his life with the star-studded 1955 Lions team to South Africa. An Old Belvedere player, O'Reilly made his international debut against France in January 1955 at the age of 18, one of the youngest players to represent his country. His remarkable Five Nations campaign was rewarded with a Lions blazer, which he honoured in style on a tour in which he played 15 matches, scoring 16 tries. Described by fellow tourist and Lions historian Clem Thomas as an unusually mature 19 year-old, O'Reilly made the right wing berth his own, playing in all four Tests and scoring two tries. The tall and rangy winger reached playing maturity on the 1959 tour of Australia and New Zealand when he scored 21 tries in as many games, including the six Tests. His total of 37 tries on two tours is still a Lions record. Away from the Lions scene he played 30 times for the Barbarians, scoring 38 tries, both of which are records for the club with no home ground. After the 1955 Lions tour, O'Reilly returned to international action for Ireland with devastating efficiency. He scored four tries against France and four against Scotland in 1956, another four against Wales in 1959 and four more against France in 1963. He made his 29th and final international appearance for Ireland against England in 1970.



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Frederick C.H. du Preez

South Africa

Arguably one of the finest South African forwards of all-time was born in Rustenburg on 28 November 1935. The 25-year-old Northern Transvaal wing forward made his international debut in a 5-0 win over England as part of the Grand Slam tour by Avril Malan's Springboks on 7 January 1961. A sample of a disappeared species among the forwards – a recognised kicker – he got his name on the scoring sheet by converting Doug Hopwood's try. He did it again against Scotland, his last appearance on the tour, when he landed two penalties for half of South Africa's winning tally of 12 points. This was his second of seven appearances at flank forward, the rest of his 31 caps being won as lock with du Preez recognised as probably the foremost scrummager and lineout enforcer of his time. His eight-Test association with the Lions began on 23 June 1962 against Arthur Smith's team as a flank forward in a 3-31 draw. He was moved to lock for the second, third and fourth Tests – a position he had experienced for the first time against the visiting Australians in 1961. South Africa won the series 3-0, though the Lions were a far better side than the scores suggested. He appeared again, as a 32-year-old lock against the 1968 Lions, when he scored a try in the first Test against Tom Kiernan's men. South Africa won the series 3-0, with the second Test a 6-6 affair. He finished his remarkable career as a member of the all-conquering South African team to Australia, when the Springboks won all three Tests in 1971.

INDUCTION NUMBER 18

Dr Sydney Millar CBE

Ireland and Lions

Born on 23 May 1934 in Ballymena, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, Millar played for his hometown club, from which he represented Irish province Ulster, Ireland and the British & Irish Lions between 1958 and 1970. A prop forward, he was capped 37 times by Ireland, making his debut against France in Paris in April 1958, and played 39 matches – including nine Tests – for the Lions over three tours, to New Zealand and Australia in 1959 and South Africa in 1962 and 1968. He made his Lions debut against New South Wales in 1959, with his first appearance in South Africa coming against Griqualand West three years later. Having suffered series defeats by South Africa on both tours as a player, Millar returned in 1974 as coach of a Lions team which would become known as the "Invincibles" for their remarkable unbeaten record of 21 wins and one draw.

Millar's association with the Lions and South Africa did not end there though as he also managed the 1980 pride and was a member of the Lions committee in 1997. Having previously coached Ireland from 1973 to 1975 – during which time they won the Five Nations title in 1974 – he held the role of manager for the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987. A former Irish Rugby Football Union President, he represented Ireland on the IRB Council from 1994 until he was elected Chairman of the International Rugby Board and Rugby World Cup Limited in 2003. He held both of these offices until 2007 and presided over the most successful Rugby World Cups in history. He remains a director of Rugby World Cup Limited and has received the Légion d'honneur, France's highest honour, and the prestigious Spirit of Sport Award from the General Association of International Sports Federations in recognition of his outstanding services to sport.

INDUCTION NUMBER 19

William J. McBride

Ireland and Lions

Born on 6 June 1940 in Toomebridge, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, he played for the Ballymena club and Ulster province before he was selected by Ireland. Probably one of the finest forwards to have graced a rugby field, he played lock for Ireland 63 times between 1962 and 1975, making his international debut against England at Twickenham. He matched Johnny Hammond's record of touring South Africa three times, though unlike the English forward who only played on two tours in 1891 and 1896, managing the third in 1903, McBride played on three tours in 1962, 1968 and 1974, the latter as captain. He began his impressive playing career for the Lions in 1962 against Namibia – at the time called South West Africa – and finished 12 years and 68 matches later with the final Test against South Africa on the historic 1974 tour, having also been a member of the 1971 all-conquering tour of New Zealand. The earlier tours helped him understand the mentality of South African rugby and be ready to "do the necessary" to overcome the tactics of the hosts. He was resilient and hard and made sure that his team would not be subject to the kind of physical intimidation that undermined the best efforts of previous Lions tours to South Africa. He implemented efficiently and thoroughly the plans he had devised together with coach Syd Millar, the architect of the success in 1974. Overall, he toured with the British and Irish Lions a record six times, once as manager – to New Zealand in 1983 – once as captain and four times as a player.

INDUCTION NUMBER 20

Ian R. McGeechan

Scotland and Lions

Born in Headingley on 30 October 1946, Ian McGeechan played at fly half and centre for the local club between 1964 and 1979. He represented Scotland in 32 internationals, nine of them as captain, and scored 21 points between 1972 and 1979. His association with the Lions began in 1974, when he joined the invincible tour to South Africa. He made his Lions debut against Western Transvaal on 15 May 1974 and went on playing in a further 29 matches – 13, including the four Tests in South Africa, and 16, including four Tests, on the 1977 tour to New Zealand. McGeechan finished his Lions playing career with a non-capped Test against Fiji on 16 August 1977. However this was not the end of his association with the Lions and his coaching career with them is simply second to none. He coached the 1989 Lions in Australia, was head coach of the 1993 tourists to New Zealand and then coached the 1997 Lions to a series victory over the Springboks, all in association with his long-term partner and forward coach Jim Telfer. In 2005 he assisted Sir Clive Woodward on the Lions trip to New Zealand and in 2009 was once again head coach for the tour to South Africa, which resulted in a 2-1 series loss. His coaching career had begun with Scotland as assistant coach to Derrick Grant in 1986 and he took over as coach in 1988. Two years later he helped Scotland win the Five Nations Grand Slam. McGeechan then coached Northampton until 1999 when he was appointed SRU Director of Rugby. He coached Scotland in Rugby World Cup 2003, before two years later being appointed Director of Coaching at Wasps, with whom he won the Heineken Cup in 2006/07.



Framed cap, presented to IRB Hall of Fame inductees

