

HISTORY, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

TIM EVERSHED



**JANUARY** 

#### Saturday 1 January 1853

Louis Birkett was born in Southwark, London. The full back won three caps against Scotland between 1875 and 1877, finishing with a record of won one, drawn one and lost one. His brother Reg and nephew John also played for England.

#### Tuesday 1 January 1895

Andrew Stoddart scored 173 in the second Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Stoddart had ended the second day of the match unbeaten on 151 and added another 22 runs the following morning before being bowled by George Giffen. It was his highest score in Test cricket and was enough to give England a matchwinning lead that put his side 2-0 up in the series. Stoddart won ten England rugby union caps between 1885 and 1893, captaining the side on four occasions and scoring two tries. He also toured with the 1888 British & Irish Lions.

#### Wednesday 1 January 1908

Debutants Walter Lapage and Garnet Portus were among the try scorers as England brushed France aside 19-0 at Colombes in Paris. In total, England fielded seven debutants but still maintained their unbeaten record against France with a comfortable victory in the third meeting between the two countries. Centre John Birkett, wing Danny Lambert and number eight William Mills all touched down while forward Khaki Roberts added two conversions.

#### Monday 1 January 1973

Former England number eight Bob Weighill was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours. Weighill won four caps between 1947 and 1948. He also served in the Royal Air Force and won the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving in World War II.

#### Saturday 2 January 1892

England completed the first leg of the triple crown with a crushing 17-0 win over Wales at the Rectory Field in Blackheath. Captain Frederic Alderson scored one of England's four tries and kicked a conversion. Frank Evershed, George 'Scatter' Hubbard and William Nicholl scored England's other tries while Dicky Lockwood kicked two more conversions.

#### Saturday 2 January 1982

A hard-fought victory over Australia at Twickenham was livened up by a half-time streak from the buxom Erica Roe. Roe's topless run on to the pitch appeared to inspire the players as a dour first half, in which all the points had come from the boot, gave way to three tries in the second period. Flanker Nick Jeavons touched down for England after Mark Ella was caught in possession near his own line, while Australian wing Brendan Moon scored two tries. Paul Dodge converted England's try and Marcus Rose kicked three penalties but Australia paid the price for Paul McLean's inaccuracy. The Wallaby full back missed four out of five attempts at goal as Australia went down 15-11 to England.

#### Saturday 3 January 1885

England edged out Wales on tries scored at St Helen's in Swansea in the opening match of the 1885 Home Championships. The scores were tied one goal each at the end of the match but England took the honours as they outscored Wales by five tries to two. John Hawcridge, Richard Kindersley, Henry Ryalls, Alfred Teggin and Charles Wade all touched down for England, with John Payne converting one score.

# Saturday 3 January 1925

New Zealand forward Cyril Brownlie became the first man ever to be sent off in a rugby international when he received his marching orders at Twickenham. Following a fractious start to the match, both packs received an ultimatum from the referee only for Brownlie to kick out in an incident with England's Reg Edwards. England lock Ronald Cove-Smith scored the first try of the match before the All Blacks fought back. Tries from Maurice Brownlie, Jim Parker, Jack Steel and Snowy Svenson put the visitors firmly in control before a late England rally. Fly half Harrold Kittermaster went over for a try, which was converted by Geoffrey Conway, but it was too little too late. The unbeaten All Blacks, who would be dubbed 'The Invincibles' at the end of their tour, won 17-11 to become the first side to beat England in almost three years. England centre Len Corbett said, 'England went down fighting and the All Blacks had achieved their double ambition - to retain their unbeaten record and to defeat England.

#### Saturday 4 January 1913

South Africa claimed their first victory over England with a 9-3 win at Twickenham. The first meeting of the two sides had ended in a draw seven years earlier but the Springboks took the spoils at headquarters thanks to a Jacky Morkel try and two Dougie Morkel penalties. England had opened the scoring early on when Ronald Poulton-Palmer touched down between the posts following a mazy run, but Norman Wodehouse missed a straightforward conversion.

# Saturday 4 January 1936

Prince Alexander Obolensky, whose family had been exiled by the Russian Revolution, scored two tries as England defeated New Zealand for the first time. The meeting at Twickenham was the third between the two teams and the hosts ran out 13-0 winners. Obolensky's first try, which saw him beat several defenders in a 70-metre run, is still rated as one of the finest ever scored by an England player. Wing Hal Sever scored a try on his debut while centre Peter Cranmer kicked a dropped goal. Sever said, 'We won more easily than anyone imagined. But I shall never forget the deafening roar from the capacity crowd at Twickenham when Obolensky scored his two tries. No game could ever quite match that one.'

# Friday 4 January 2013

England utility back Austin Healey appeared on *Celebrity Mastermind*. Healey was up against TV presenters Nick Hancock and Michael Underwood as well as T'Pau singer Carol Decker. His specialist subject was Everton FC. Healey made his England debut in 1997 and went on to win 51 caps at scrum half, full back and wing and score 15 tries.

# Saturday 5 January 1884

England edged out Wales on tries scored at Cardigan Fields in Leeds. The game was the first rugby union international match to be played in Yorkshire and the third meeting of the two countries. English-born Charles Peter Allen scored Wales' first try against England, which was converted by Charles Lewis. Charles Wade, Henry Twynam and Alan Rotherham all scored tries for England. Three-quarter Wilfred Bolton set up Rotherham's try with a 75-yard run and also kicked a conversion to level the scores at one goal each.

#### Saturday 5 January 1907

England wing Danny Lambert scored a record five tries on his international debut as France were thrashed 41-13 at The Athletic Ground in Richmond. Lambert's feat has twice been equalled by England players but never bettered. It also stood as a record in a Test match until Marc Ellis scored six for New Zealand against Japan in 1995.

# Friday 6 January 1956

Sir Clive Woodward was born in Ely, Cambridgeshire. The Leicester centre won the first of his 21 England caps in 1980 and was part of Bill Beaumont's grand slam-winning team that year. Woodward was appointed as England coach in 1997 and had the task of adapting the side to the professional era. His team won the Six Nations in 2000 and 2001 before completing the grand slam in 2003. Woodward's finest hour came when he guided England to Rugby World Cup glory later that year.

# Sunday 6 January 1974

Major General Sir Douglas Kendrew stood down as Governor of Western Australia. The former England prop, who was known as Joe during his time as a rugby player, was a highly decorated soldier who won the Distinguished Service Order four times. Kendrew won ten England caps and captained the side to a 14-3 victory over Ireland in 1935.

# Saturday 7 January 1928

England beat Australia for the first time with an 18-11 victory at Twickenham. The home side outscored the Wallabies by four tries to three, with wing William Kirwan-Taylor, fly half Colin Laird, flanker Ioe Periton and hooker Sam Tucker all touching down.

#### Monday 8 January 1923

South African-born wing Stan Harris broke his leg while playing for an England XV in the final trial for that year's Five Nations Championship. Harris had won two England caps in 1920, scoring a try in the Calcutta Cup match, but the injury looked to have ended his rugby career. However, he received an emergency call-up to join the British & Irish Lions on their 1924 tour of South Africa.

#### Saturday 9 January 1909

England took on Australia at the Rectory Field in Blackheath. It was the first meeting between the two countries and the Wallabies came out on top 9-3. A new-look England team featuring ten new caps started well with one of the debutants, centre Edgar Mobbs, scoring the opening try. However, Wallaby number eight Norman Row replied before half-time and the tourists dominated after the break, with wing Charles 'Boxer' Russell adding two further tries.

# Friday 10 January 1941

William Luddington was one of the 126 officers and men killed when the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* was attacked by German dive bombers in the Mediterranean Sea. The prop, who was a Master-at-Arms in the Royal Navy, played 13 times for England in the golden period of the early 1920s and only finished on the losing side once. Luddington played in all eight matches of the 1923 and 1924 grand slams. He was an excellent goal kicker whose touchline conversion on the stroke of time won the 1923 Calcutta Cup match against Scotland to keep the grand slam alive that season.

#### Saturday 11 January 1902

Tries from forwards Denys Dobson, who was making his international debut, and John Robinson could not prevent England slipping to the narrowest of defeats to Wales at the Rectory Field in Blackheath. The visitors claimed a 9-8 victory thanks to John Strand-Jones' penalty after the teams scored two tries apiece, with Harry Alexander converting one of the England scores. Dobson went on to play all six Home Championships matches in 1902 and 1903 before touring with the British & Irish Lions the following year. He became the first Lion ever to be sent off after swearing at the referee in a match against Northern Districts in Newcastle, Australia.

# Monday 12 January 1864

Sir John Lawrence, the 1st Baron Lawrence, returned to India to take up the post of Viceroy following the unexpected death of Lord Elgin. Lawrence's second son Henry played at forward for Richmond and England. He won four England caps between 1873 and 1875 and was the team's third-ever captain.

#### Saturday 13 January 1906

Wing Arthur Hudson scored a try on his debut as England took on Wales at the Athletic Ground in Richmond in the opening match of the Home Nations Championship. Hudson would go on to score eight tries in just nine matches for England, including a four-try haul against France in March 1906. His score against Wales proved a mere consolation as Wales ran in four tries to triumph 16-3 against an England side featuring seven new caps.

# Monday 14 January 1991

Mako Vunipola was born in Wellington, New Zealand. The prop was born into a Tongan rugby dynasty, with his father, uncles and cousins all representing the island in Test matches. Vunipola was raised in Wales and educated at Millfield School in England, qualifying for England on grounds of residency. He made his England debut against Fiji in 2012 and was part of the team that reached the 2019 Rugby World Cup Final in Japan.

#### Saturday 15 January 1910

England christened their new Twickenham home with a try in the first minute before going on to celebrate their first win over Wales in 12 years. Adrian Stoop captained an England team that fielded seven debutants and helped inspire them to victory. A crowd of 18,000 were at the ground's opening international match to see England win 11-6 as wing Fred Chapman marked his first cap by finishing off a move instigated by Stoop from the opening kick-off. Scrum half Dai Gent said, 'It was certainly Stoop's fertile brain that made the try possible.' Chapman finished with eight points from a try, conversion and penalty goal while centre Bert Solomon scored a try.

# Saturday 15 January 1921

A convincing 18-3 win over Wales at Twickenham set the tone for a Five Nations grand slam that would see England heavily outscore their opponents, finishing the championship with a points difference of plus 52. Wing Alastair Smallwood scored two tries while scrum half Cecil Kershaw and wing Cyril Lowe got one apiece. Ernest Hammett added a conversion for good measure while Wales' solitary score came through Johnny Ring's try.

#### Saturday 15 January 1927

Fly half Colin Laird made his England debut as Wales were beaten 11-9 at Twickenham. Laird was aged just 18 years 124 days at the time and he remains the second-youngest player to have represented England in a Test match. England's points in the victory against Wales came courtesy of centre Len Corbett, who scored a try and kicked a goal from mark, and prop Edward Stanbury, who kicked a penalty and a conversion. This was also the first England match to be broadcast live on BBC radio, with former Harlequins captain Teddy Wakelam providing the commentary.

# Saturday 16 January 1988

A new era began for England as they played their first match under the management of Geoff Cooke. Although England went down 10-9 to France in Paris, the match saw debuts for Will Carling, Jeff Probyn and Mickey Skinner. Cooke would appoint Carling as captain later in the year and together they led England to two grand slams and a World Cup Final. England wing Rory Underwood said, 'The "revolution" started in 1988, and the biggest change was Geoff Cooke coming in.'

#### Saturday 17 January 1914

An England team featuring six debutants edged out Wales 10-9 at Twickenham. The home side led 5-4 at half-time following a try from forward Bruno Brown, which was converted by centre Fred Chapman, while Wales' points came through George Hirst's four-point dropped goal. After the break Wales scored a try through William Watts, which was converted by Jack Bancroft. England flanker Cherry Pillman touched down for a vital try, with Chapman adding the match-winning conversion to put the team on course for back-to-back grand slams.

#### Saturday 18 January 1913

England began their march to a first-ever grand slam with an emphatic 12-0 win at the National Stadium in Cardiff. A clever decoy run from centre Ronald Poulton-Palmer created the space for fly half Dave Davies to send in wing Vincent Coates for England's opening try. Jenny Greenwood slotted the conversion before Poulton-Palmer added a dropped goal. Flanker Cherry Pillman completed the victory with a late try.



# Saturday 18 January 1930

Hooker Sam Tucker became the first player to travel by plane to an international rugby match after receiving an emergency call-up just hours before kick-off in Cardiff. Tucker hitched a ride on a plane from Bristol and arrived in time to help England to an 11-3 win at the Arms Park. He said, 'I was at Filton [Aerodrome] by 1.50 and there was a pilot with a small bi-plane two-seater already revved up. He stuck a helmet on my head, strapped me in and, with a roar, we were off. We won 11-3 and somehow I became a bit of a hero.' England's points in Cardiff came through a brace of Jim Reeve tries and the boot of lock Brian Black.

#### Saturday 18 January 1958

Wales had a late chance to win their Five Nations match against England, but Terry Davies' long-range penalty attempt into the wind at Twickenham rebounded off the crossbar to leave the scores locked at 3-3. That night, a group of Welsh supporters climbed the posts, cut down a section of the offending crossbar and took it back to Wales. Davies, a timber merchant by trade, later offered to replace the missing woodwork.

#### Saturday 18 January 1992

England began their march to a second successive grand slam with a comprehensive win in the Calcutta Cup. Scrum half Dewi Morris and wing Rory Underwood both scored tries as Scotland were brushed aside 25-7 at Murrayfield. Full back Jonathan Webb kicked 14 points and centre Jeremy Guscott dropped a goal as England got their Five Nations campaign off to a winning start.

#### Saturday 19 January 1924

England wing Carston Catcheside marked his debut with two tries as Wales were beaten 17-9 in Swansea. Catcheside would go on to score in every round of the 1924 Five Nations, the first man to achieve the feat, as England achieved the grand slam for the fifth time. England's other tries in Wales were scored by wing Jake Jacob, centre Harold Locke and fly half Edward Myers while number eight Geoffrey Conway added a conversion.

#### Saturday 19 January 1957

A penalty from full back Fenwick Allison proved enough to give England a narrow 3-0 win over Wales in Cardiff and set them on course for their first grand slam in 29 years. Allison played seven times for England as a full back between 1956 and 1958. However, he missed the rest of the 1957 championship after picking up a knee injury. The victory over Wales also saw the debut of fly half Ricky Bartlett, who played a key role in the grand slam.

# Saturday 19 January 1963

An England side containing seven debutants overcame both Wales and the freezing weather to get their Five Nations campaign off to a winning start with a 13-6 win in Cardiff. Lock John Owen and centre Malcolm Phillips scored tries either side of half-time on a frozen pitch. Captain Richard Sharp converted both tries and kicked a dropped goal. It would be 28 years before England tasted victory in the Welsh capital once again.

# Saturday 19 January 1980

England kicked off their Five Nations campaign with a commanding 24-9 win over Ireland at Twickenham. It was a record win over the Irish at the time and proved the catalyst for a first grand slam campaign in 23 years. England had got off to a shaky start and Ollie Campbell kicked Ireland into an early 9-3 lead. However, two quick tries by wing Mike Slemen and scrum half Steve Smith heralded a dominant second-half display, despite the departure of Sale centre Tony Bond with a broken leg. John Scott scored a third try with a number eight pick-up from a scrum while full back Dusty Hare added 12 points with his boot.

# Saturday 19 January 1991

England laid their Cardiff hoodoo to rest with a first victory in the Welsh capital for 28 years. Full back Simon Hodgkinson kicked the visitors to a 25-6 win with a record-setting seven penalties while flanker Mike Teague scored the only try of the match. As well as ending England's long drought in Wales, the win cleared the first hurdle on the way to the grand slam.

# Saturday 20 January 1923

Wales were caught napping in the first minute at Twickenham as flanker Leo Price reacted fastest to his own missed dropped goal attempt to score the opening try. Wing Alastair Smallwood added a four-point dropped goal as England began a grand slam season with a 7-3 win at headquarters. The match also saw the first appearance of full back Fred Gilbert, aged 39 years 21 days, the oldest player to make his England debut.

#### Wednesday 20 January 1965

Queen Elizabeth II appointed former England wing Carl Aarvold as a lieutenant of the City of London. Aarvold made his England debut in a victory against Australia in 1928. He went on to win 16 caps over the next five years and scored four tries.

#### Saturday 21 January 1911

Newport's Stanley Williams made his international debut for England against Wales after a tug-of-war between the two countries over his eligibility. The full back had several trials for Wales before touring South Africa with the 1910 British & Irish Lions. The following year, Williams was selected to play for England in all four matches of the Five Nations, although his presence could not prevent England falling to a 15-11 defeat in Swansea.

# Saturday 21 January 1995

Captain Will Carling was among the try scorers as Ireland were brushed aside 20-8 in Dublin. Flanker Ben Clarke and wing Tony Underwood were England's other try scorers at Lansdowne Road.

# Saturday 22 January 1910

Alfred Hamersley was elected as the Member of Parliament for Mid Oxfordshire after standing as a candidate for the Conservative Party in the 1910 UK General Election. Hamersley played in the forwards in England's first four fixtures, which were all against Scotland. He scored a try in the first-ever home match in 1872 and was made captain for his final appearance. Following his retirement from playing, he lived in New Zealand for 15 years and was a founding member of the Canterbury Rugby Union on the South Island.

#### Friday 22 January 1943

Major Ronald Gerrard was killed in action near Tobruk, Libya aged 30. The Bath centre made his England debut in 1932 and went on to win 14 caps. He was part of the team that won the triple crown in 1934 and also played in the 1936 victory over New Zealand at Twickenham.

# Sunday 23 January 1949

William Bromet died in Winchester, Hampshire aged 80. The forward made his England debut in the 1891 Home Nations Championship and later that year was part of the first British & Irish Lions team to tour South Africa. Bromet won 12 England caps in all and scored one try, against Scotland in 1892, when the team went on to complete the triple crown. He also captained Yorkshire when they won the County Championship in 1892.

#### Tuesday 24 January 1893

England forward George Vernon scored nine runs for Lord Hawke's XI as they took on Upper India at Alfred Park in Allahabad. Vernon's score contributed to a total of 225 as the tourists set up a ten-wicket victory. Lord Hawke was an amateur cricketer who organised some of the first cricketing tours around the world, including to Asia and North America. Vernon had played five matches for the England rugby union team between 1878 and 1881 and never finished on the losing side.

# Saturday 25 January 1913

England wing Vincent Coates scored a hat-trick of tries as France were routed 20-0 in front of 30,000 spectators at Twickenham. Flanker Cherry Pillman touched down twice, with centre Ronald Poulton-Palmer adding a sixth score for England. Jenny Greenwood could only convert one of the six tries scored as England continued their progress towards a first grand slam.

#### Monday 25 January 1915

Percy'Toggie' Kendall was killed in action at Ypres, Belgium aged 36. The Birkenhead scrum half won three England caps between 1901 and 1903. He captained the side in his last appearance but never finished on the winning side in an England shirt.

#### Tuesday 25 January 1927

Osbert Mackie died in Redcar, North Yorkshire aged 57. Mackie was originally a member of Wakefield Trinity but resigned the captaincy of the club when it went professional in the great schism of 1895 that saw the formation of rugby league. The centre played for Cambridge University and the British & Irish Lions before winning two England caps. Mackie made his debut in a convincing 12-3 victory over Scotland in the 1898 Calcutta Cup, which helped England seal the title on points difference. His second and final appearance came in the loss to Ireland that opened the following year's Home Nations Championship.

# Thursday 26 January 1871

In response to a letter from Edwin Ash, the representatives of 21 rugby clubs met at the Pall Mall restaurant in London and formed the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Ash's letter said, 'Those who play the rugby-type game should meet to form a code of practice as various clubs play to rules which differ from others, which makes the game difficult to play.' Founder members of the RFU included Blackheath, Richmond and Harlequins. Algernon Rutter was elected as the first president of the RFU and Ash was elected as treasurer. The first laws of the game were also drawn up and approved by a subsequent meeting in June 1871.

# Saturday 27 January 1973

England internationals John Pullin and David Duckham were part of the Barbarians side that beat New Zealand 23-11 at Cardiff Arms Park. The match is largely remembered for the Baa-Baas' opening score, which went the length of the field. The Barbarians' noncapped player for the match was second row Bob Wilkinson, who went on to win six caps for England in 1975 and 1976.

# Monday 27 January 2020

England prop Kyle Sinckler joined Premiership side Bristol Bears from Harlequins. Sinckler made his England debut against South Africa in 2016 and toured New Zealand with the British & Irish Lions the following year. He scored his first international try in the quarter-final victory over Australia at the 2019 Rugby World Cup, where he started all but one of England's matches.

#### Saturday 28 January 1911

The England team made a flying start to the 1911 Five Nations as France were swept aside 37-0 at Twickenham. Wing Danny Lambert led the rout with 22 points from two tries, five conversions and two penalties. Lambert's two tries were the last of the eight he scored for England, all coming against the French. Flanker Cherry Pillman also scored two tries, with forwards William Mann, Norman Wodehouse and fly half Adrian Stoop getting one apiece.

# Saturday 28 January 1911

Frank 'Sos' Taylor made his debut for Leicester Tigers in a 21-5 win over Moseley at Welford Road. Taylor was badly wounded in World War I whilst serving with the Leicestershire Regiment and was told he would never play rugby again. However, the prop recovered and not only regained his place in the Leicester side but earned two England caps in 1920 as well.

#### Friday 29 January 2010

England number eight Nick Easter appeared as a contestant on BBC1's *A Question of Sport*. Easter had made his England debut three years earlier against Italy and played a major role in the side's run to the World Cup Final later in 2007. He went on to win 54 caps and score nine tries for England. Easter scored four tries in one match against Wales – the only time a number eight has achieved this feat.

# Saturday 30 January 1909

Centre Frank Tarr scored a brace of tries as France were beaten 22-0 at Welford Road. Wings Edgar Mobbs and Thomas Simpson also touched down for England as did fly half Frank Hutchinson and forward William Johns. Tarr's centre partner in Leicester was debutant Ronald Poulton-Palmer, who would go on to win 17 caps and captain England to the 1914 grand slam.

#### Saturday 30 January 1954

The fourth meeting between England and New Zealand ended in a narrow 5-0 win for the visitors at Twickenham. The All Blacks clinched a close-fought match thanks to lock Nelson Dalzell's try.

# Saturday 30 January 2016

Former England number eight Nick Easter appeared on an episode of BBC TV's *Pointless Celebrities*, partnered by former rugby union player and rugby league international Martin Offiah. In a charity special, the pair competed against golfer Tony Jacklin, darts player Andy Fordham and snooker player Willie Thorne for a jackpot of £2,500.

#### Saturday 31 January 1920

England's first post-World War I match at Twickenham ended in an 8-3 win over France. It was the first outing for half back pairing Dave Davies and Cecil Kershaw, who would go on to play 14 times in partnership for England and never finished on the losing side together, including all eight victories of the 1921 and 1923 grand slams. England international Leonard Tosswill said, 'The two greatest players of a generation were Davies and Kershaw, who until 1923 played together for England at half back. I have heard arguments on the question [of] whether Davies made Kershaw, or Kershaw made Davies, but I prefer to think of them - as they themselves would wish – as one pair, the greatest pair of halves who ever played for England. Each had his strong points - Kershaw, his lightning passes from the base of the scrum and his dashing bursts of speed as he made for the line; Davies, his marvellous fielding of the ball, his drop-kicking, his flashes of inspiration.' Davies scored England's try against the French, with captain Jenny Greenwood adding the conversion and a penalty.

#### Saturday 31 January 1998

England full back Jon Callard scored all Bath's points as they became the first British side to lift the Heineken Cup. Bath beat the cup holders and favourites Brive 19-18 at the Parc Lescure de Bordeaux. Callard converted his own try and kicked four penalties as Bath pipped Brive to the European title. The full back, who scored 69 points for England in five appearances between 1993 and 1995, was one of nine England internationals in the Bath side in Bordeaux. In the pack, who held out on their own line for over eight second-half minutes of sustained Brive pressure to turn the match, were Victor Ubogu, Nigel Redman and Mark Regan. The Bath backs included Jeremy Guscott, Phil de Glanville and Matt Perry.