

TREW, WILLIAM JOHN (1878 - 1926), Wales and Swansea rugby centre three-quarter

Name: William John Trew
Date of birth: 1878
Date of death: 1926
Gender: Male
Occupation: Wales and Swansea rugby centre three-quarter
Area of activity: Sports and Leisure Pursuits
Author: Moelwyn Idwal Williams

Born 1878, he was one of the most distinguished of a famous band of rugby centre three-quarters who played for Wales at the beginning of the 20th century. Trew was first 'capped' for Wales in 1900 and by 1913 he had appeared in no fewer than twenty-nine international matches and had captained the Welsh XV on many occasions. Although primarily a centre three-quarter, he at one time shared the duties at half-back with [R. M. Owen](#), and together they developed an attacking technique which invariably bewildered and confused their opponents. Trew captained the Swansea team on the famous occasion in December 1912, when, after Wales had lost to the South Africans, Swansea beat that famous combination by a try to nothing. A great incident in Trew's career was the demonstration following on Wales winning the Triple Crown in 1908. After Wales had beaten Ireland at Swansea in the last match, Trew was carried triumphantly through the town in a procession of thousands of people. At the time of his death, Trew was the licensee of the Brooklands Hotel, Oxford Street, Swansea. He was married and had four children. He died 20 August 1926.

Author

Dr Moelwyn Idwal Williams

Sources

W. J. T. Collins, *Rugby Recollections* (1948), 15

The Times, 21 August 1926

Western Mail, 21 August 1926

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Billy Trew](#)

Additional Links

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