

# GLAMORGAN CRICKETERS 1921–1948

## Andrew Hignell

The second in the series of books celebrating the achievements of Glamorgan's players covers the period from their inaugural first-class match in 1921 to the summer of 1948 when they won the County Championship title for the first-ever time. It contains profiles of some of the legendary names in the history of Welsh cricket, including Maurice Turnbull, Johnnie Clay and Wilf Wooller, as well as yeoman professionals who gave loyal service to Glamorgan. It includes some who went on to win honours in Test cricket, as well as those who appeared in wartime friendlies, plus other lesser lights in the Club's history and one-match wonders, who included a fifteen-year-old schoolboy who appeared in the final match of 1922. Many of the 170 people included in this book went on to fame and fortune in other areas of life, becoming diplomats, politicians, BBC producers, schoolmasters, lawyers, businessmen, journalists or sportsmen in other fields, including football, rugby and golf. Some won military honours during the First or Second World War, whilst others appeared in the Olympics, including one former Glamorgan player who as a badminton coach witnessed the atrocities at the 1972 Munich Games.

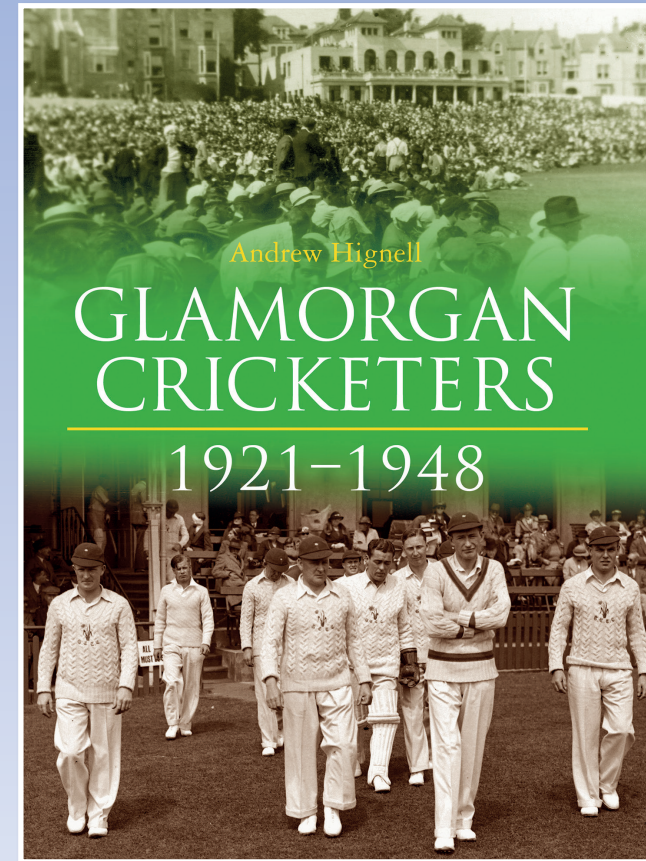
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Andrew Hignell** is the 1st XI Scorer and Archivist to Glamorgan County Cricket Club which is Wales' sole representative in county cricket. He read Geography at Exeter University, before undertaking a Ph.D in the subject at Cardiff University and subsequently taught at schools in Devon, Somerset and South Wales, besides working for BBC Radio Wales on their coverage of Glamorgan cricket. In 2004 Andrew took up his full-time post with Glamorgan and oversaw the creation of the CC4 Museum of Welsh Cricket at the Club's headquarters in Cardiff. In 2014 the Museum won the Kieran Hegarty Memorial Prize for Innovation at the Celtic Media Festival, whilst in 2018 it became the first fully-accredited cricket museum in the UK. Andrew is the author of over 30 books on cricket and is acknowledged as the leading authority on the history of cricket in Wales.

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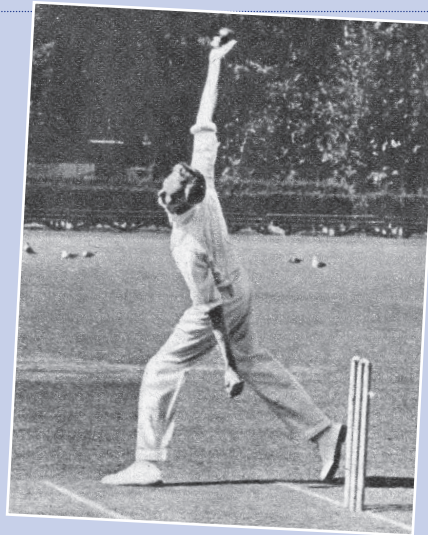


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Below: Wilf Wooller (right) leads out the Glamorgan team, including veteran Johnnie Clay, into the field at Dean Park in Bournemouth in 1948 for the dramatic and historic conclusion of their match against Hampshire as the county title comes to Wales.



Above: Johnnie Clay's bowling action from 1948.

Below: Mervyn Hill standing on the extreme right in a photograph which also includes his Glamorgan colleagues Johnnie Clay (standing second right) and Freddie Mathias (seated in the middle).



Below: Example of a double-page spread.

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**DAVIES, David Aubrey**

Born – Swansea, 11 July 1915  
Died – Exeter, 25 July 1994

Professional  
RHB, LBG  
1st XI: 1934-1938  
2nd XI: 1935-1937  
Club and Ground: 1933-1938  
Cap: 1935  
Devon 1946-1950  
Clubs: Swansea, Exeter, Torquay

*Batting and Fielding Record:*

	M	I	NO	RTNS	AV	100	50	CT	ST
Fc	46	64	16	600	12.50	-	1	28	-

*Bowling Record:*

	Balls	M	R	W	AV	5wI	10wM
Fc	1113	15	760	14	54.28	-	-


*Career facts:*  
First-class – 55 v Surrey at The Oval, 1937  
3/65 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 1938

Aubrey Davies was a talented all-rounder with Swansea during the 1930s with the right-handed batsman and leg-spinner also playing for Glamorgan between 1934 and 1938, before moving to Devon for whom he played in Minor County cricket after the Second World War.

After some fine performances in club cricket, Aubrey made his debut for Glamorgan's Club and Ground side during 1933 before joining the county's professional staff and making his first-class debut against Leicestershire at Hinckley in 1934.

Over the course of the next few seasons, Aubrey played some promising innings in their middle-order, although he only scored one half-century, against Surrey at The Oval in 1937. His leg-spin, while being effective at club level, saw him take only 14 wickets at county level.

Aubrey appeared regularly for the 2nd XI in the Second Eleven Championship during the mid-1930s with the Club's selectors hoping that greater experience would improve his game, but it did not do the trick and he left the Glamorgan staff at the end of 1938.



*David Aubrey Davies, seen during 1936.*

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**ROBERTS, John Frederick ('Fred') CBE, OBE**

Born – Pontardawe, 24 February, 1913  
Died – Uplands, Swansea, 20 April 1996  
Amateur  
LHB  
E1 – Pontardawe Grammar School  
1st XI: 1934-1936  
2nd XI: 1935-1937  
Club and Ground: 1933-1934  
Combined Services 1946-1949, RAF  
Clubs: Pontardawe, Watford, Cheltenham, MCC


*Batting and Fielding Record:*

	M	I	NO	RTNS	AV	100	50	CT	ST
Fc	3	6	1	86	17.20	-	-	3	-

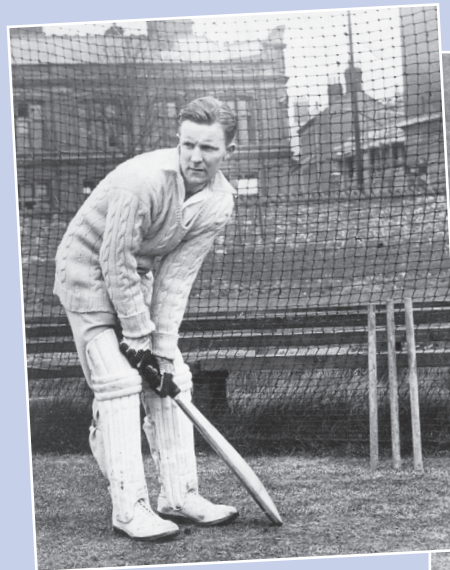
*Career facts:*  
First-class – 47\* v Warwickshire at St Helen's, Swansea, 1934

'Fred' Roberts had an illustrious career with the Royal Air Force and, if the left-handed batsman had not opted for a military life, he could have had an equally successful career with Glamorgan. The youngster had a decent record as a schoolboy with Pontardawe and played for Glamorgan's Club and Ground side during 1933. The following year he made his first-class debut against Warwickshire at Swansea and, with Maurice Turnbull absent on England duty, Fred batted at number six and impressed with an unbeaten 27. He kept his place for the next match, against Somerset at Downside School but, as his military training began, he only played once in 1935, and twice during 1936.

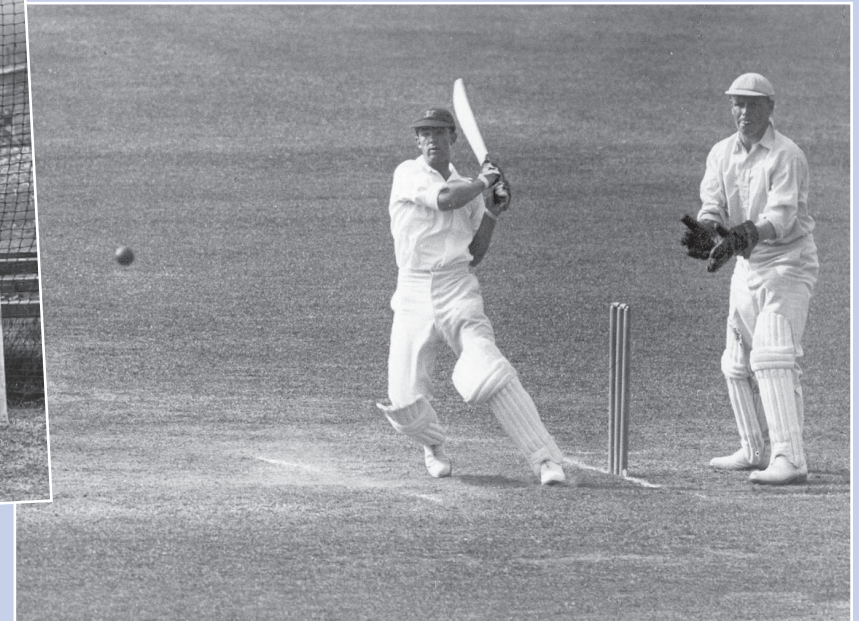
During this period he also played for the County's 2nd XI in their Minor County Championship fixtures, besides making his debut for the RAF during 1939 in their annual contests against the Royal Navy and The Army. He duly rose to the rank of Air-Vice Marshall, besides acting as the Director of Personnel Services for the Ministry of Defence (Air). Between 1966 and 1968 Fred also acted as Director General of RAF Ground Training, and was awarded both the CBE and OBE for his efforts



*Fred Roberts.*



Above: Emrys Davies batting in the Arms Park nets during 1924.



Above: JT Morgan is the wicket-keeper in this image of a match at Lord's during 1929.