

Truro School & the Rugby World Cup

John Kendall Carpenter

(1925 – 1990)

In February 1991 the Former Pupils Newsletter recorded that John Kendall Carpenter had died suddenly at his home in May at the age of 64.

John was a leading figure in the world of Rugby Union. He made 28 appearances for the County, a number of them as Captain, three Oxford Blues, captained England for whom he played 23 times. He was Chairman of the steering committee which organised the game's first World Cup in 1987 and was in charge of organising the World Cup competition to be played in Britain and France this year.

In 1981 he was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd and his services to rugby were officially recognised in 1989 when he was appointed a CBE.

A memorial service was held in Truro Cathedral in which Harvey Richards (TS1937-42) gave the address.



One of the truly great names in world rugby. Carpsqwon 23 England caps (1949-1954), and was also a legendary Oxford University Blue and Barbarian.

He served as President of the England RFU (1980-1981), the England Schools Rugby Football Union (1985-1990), and Cornwall RFU (1984-1987).

However, his arguably greatest honour was to be Chairman of the committee

that organised the first Rugby World Cup in 1987.

John Kendall Carpenter (TS 1939-1943) and Ken James (TS English & RE teacher & rugby master, 1942-1971) at one of the 1980 school centenary celebrations

At Truro School, 1939-1943

John Kendall Carpenter came to the school
as a boarder in the Fourth Form, in
September 1939.

**TRURO SCHOOL,
CORNWALL.**

23rd May, 1939.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter,

I have pleasure in informing you that the Boarding Scholarship of £30 per annum (thirty pounds) has been awarded to your son on the results of the recent Examination.

I believe you have had a copy of the Prospectus but, if not, I shall be glad to send you one. Will you please fill up the entrance form (enclosed herewith) and return it to me as soon as possible?

With very kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
E. H. Mason

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter
12 Penare Road
Penzance

**TRURO SCHOOL,
CORNWALL.**

2nd June, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Carpenter,

Thank you for your letter. The normal amount of Pocket Money is 6/6d per term. I should be very glad to see you or your husband and have a talk about general expenses. Perhaps you would fix an appointment by telephone.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
E. H. Mason

Mrs. Kendall Carpenter
12 Penare Road
Penzance

EXPLANATORY CIRCULAR.

This circular is issued in the hope that it may be of assistance to parents in the choice of school outfits for their sons.

Under school conditions clothes are, of course, subject to very great wear and tear, but the authorities are anxious to do everything they can to maintain them in as good a condition as possible. They therefore request that parents will assist them in this endeavour by closely following the regulations suggested, as in dealing with large numbers every individual variation is a possible source of confusion and error.

(a) **Marking.** On admission every boy is allotted a laundry number which he keeps throughout his school life. All articles should be marked with name and number in Cash's *woven tapes*, which may be obtained through any draper. A supply of spare tapes should be sent to the School for use when necessary. Special attention should be paid to the marking of boots and slippers.

Marking ink is unsuitable for handkerchiefs as it either washes out or burns the fabric. Experience shows that there is always a number of unmarked articles in the workroom awaiting identification.

(b) **Inventory.** Two complete lists of clothes should be sent. One of these should be pasted in the lid of the box and renewed each term. The other should be sent loose and is for use in the workroom.

N.B.—If further articles are sent during the term they should be addressed to the Headmaster. If they are sent direct to the boy the necessary alteration on the inventory is not made and confusion at the end of the term inevitably ensues.

(c) **Mending.** All ordinary mending is included in the workroom charge. Special repairs are sent to a tailor and charged for.

(d) **Laundry.** Woollens are washed on the premises, other articles are sent to the Truro Steam Laundry. Every effort will be made to send clothes home clean and mended at the end of term, but this is not always possible. As it may be necessary to pack them immediately they are received from the laundry they should be aired before use.

(e) **Boots.** Boots and shoes for outdoor wear must be black. They may not be worn inside the School building.

Special House Shoes, are required for indoor wear. These are stout brown leather Shoes with leather insole and crepe under-sole. They are specially made for the purpose and can only be obtained through the School. They are charged at cost price (10/6 to 12/6).

(f) **Suits.** On Sundays all boys wear black coat and vest (ordinary lounge coat) with striped grey trousers, black tie, Eton collar worn outside the coat.

J54,638. 500.—2/30.

TRURO SCHOOL

List of Clothing Required

NUMBER.	DESCRIPTION.
* 1	Grey felt hat (Treliske boys only).
✓ 1	Sunday Suit, black Marlboro' Coat and Vest, grey striped Trousers, black tie.
✓ 1	Other Suits of clothes (grey flannel for Treliske).
* 2	Grey woollen pullovers (Treliske).
3	Day Shirts.
✓ 3	Pyjamas.
* 6	Stockings, grey, top in school colours (Treliske).
6	Socks, woollen.
3	Towels (looped).
2	Bath Towels.
12	Handkerchiefs.
3	Collars (starched).
6	" (soft, not required if grey shirts with collar are worn).
2	Boots or shoes (black).
* 1	Brown Leather House Slippers, rubber soles.
1	Football Boots.
✓ 1	Rubber Wellingtons (Treliske).
✓ 1	Gym. Shoes (dark plimsolls).
✓ 1	pr. Bedroom Slippers (felt).
✓ 1	Overcoat.
✓ 1	Mackintosh.
1	Linen Bag.
1	Sponge bag and face cloth.
1	Brush and Comb with Bag.
✓ 1	Clothes Brush.
✓ 1	Handbag (to hold necessaries for one night).
✓ 1	Dressing Gown.
✓ 1	Rug.
2	Table Napkins.
1	" " Ring, marked with name.
4	Sheets.
2	Pillow Cases.
3	Vests.
3	Pants.
	Cricket and football clothing in appropriate seasons.

All articles to be marked with name and laundry number by Cash's tapes, which may be obtained through any draper.

* These articles should be obtained through the School.

Outside of the classroom he was a member of the 2nd XI Football Team and the Drama Society. In the early 1940s he took part in a production of J.B. Priestley's *Laburnum Grove*. In 1941 he took part in *Bees on the Boat Deck* by J.B. Priestley. The Drama Society report in December 1942 included

...The following boys are to be commended for their good reading:- Thomas, D.K., Carpenter, Shiner and Shaw [Robert]



Above: The cast of *Laburnum Grove*. Left to right: P Murch, W Evans, Beard (Kent College), Bezant, **JK Carpenter**, Rene, Bates, Davis, Norris



Left: a scene from *Bees on the Boat Deck*.

TRURO SCHOOL INCIDENTALS	
PUPILS No.....	247
Collections	2.0
Pocket Money	13.0
Postage	4.0
Advances	210.0
Bathing	3.4
Outings, Matches	1.0
Hairdresser	
Watch Repairs	
Handwork Materials	9
Tooth Brush, etc.	
Extra Laundry	
Special Medicines	
Optician	
Shoe Repairs	
Camp	12.6
Coaching	
Books	1.0
Music Books	
Lectures, etc.	
Breakages	
Doctor	
Dentist	
Travel	1 0.0
Exams.	
Scouts. A.T.C.	3.6
Tennis	
Magazine	1.0
Sports	5.0
Regnal	
Cap	
Square	
Shoes	
Jersey	
Clothing	6.6
Ties	4.6
Tie Pins	
Studs	
Laces	
Blazer	
Scout Uniform	
Scarf	
Football Stockings	
Locker	2.0
Lost Key	
Key Chain	
Badge	
Fixture Card	
Flag Days	2
Photo	
Notepaper	4
Honours Board	
Luggage	3.4
Labels	2
Wk.Rm & Dispensary	10.0
Extra Milk, Eggs, etc.	3.3
Dinners	
Insurance of Fees	
Sundries	
Loss:- Allowance	10.8-
..... by B. B. B. S.	

Carpenter passed the Oxford & Cambridge School Certificate Exam in 1941 and the Higher School Certificate the following year. In 1943 he gained the London University Higher School Certificate and was exempt from the Inter. BA in 3 subjects. During his final years at the school he was a prefect.



Left: Truro School & Kent College Prefects, 1942 – back row: E.J. Taylor, J.F.R. Moddrel, M.F. Foster, J.R. Cattell, D.W. Shiner, P.W. Watson, **J. McG. K. Carpenter**, J.F. Bunney

Middle row: F.E. Stevens, R.L. Mendez, J.G. Cooper, P.C. Pawlyn, D.G. Norris, R.J. Hendy, E.A. Little.

Front row: T.F.B. Jaggar, D.K. Thomas, J.C. Faull, W.S. Hickson, J.V. Carnall.
Absent – R. Pread, E.W.P. Davies.

Truro School & Kent College Prefects 1943 -

back row: A.D. Tregilges, E.J. Taylor, F.R.E. Cann, A. Bellingham, H.G. De Jimenez, J.A. Williams, R.L.J. Goddard, M.F. Trew, K.J. Macdonald, J.V. Carnall

Front row: **J.M.K. Carpenter**, D.K. Thomas, T.F.B. Jaggar, J.C. Faull, J.F.R. Moddrel, W.R.J. Hendy, E.A. Little, W.S. Hickson, D.W. Shiner. Absent – D.A. Davies, J.F. Bunney



He returned to the school on several occasions for visits; at the end of September 1945 he called at the School while still in the Fleet Air-Arm after just returning from the United States.

At Oxford

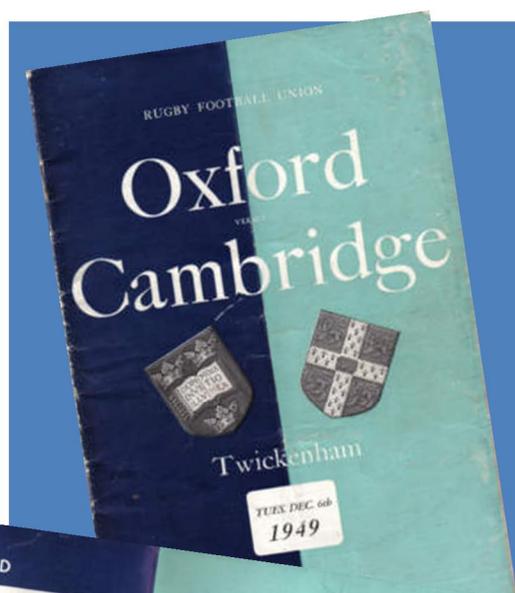
In 1943 Kendall-Carpenter began a university course at Oxford before enlistment. The school magazine in January 1944 reported that he was at Exeter College, Oxford, taking a Fleet Air Arm Short Course.

He writes that he has to do a day and a half training each week with the Naval Division. He has joined the John Ford Dramatic Society, the Union Society and the Conservative Club.

After the war ended he resumed his studies and became the first former Truro School pupil to gain an Oxford blue, gaining 3 between 1948 and 1950 in the Varsity rugby matches at Twickenham.

David Frost, the former *Guardian* rugby correspondent, recalled a famous tackle in the 1949 Varsity match when John Kendall-Carpenter preserved Oxford's 3-0 winning lead by thwarting J.V. Smith, the Cambridge centre, in the dying moments of the game.

Smith slipped his man, side-stepped two covers and seemed certain to cross at the corner and bring at least an equalising try (three points in those days), reported the *Guardian*. Cambridge hats were already in the air and Oxford's supporters were dumb with horror but then at the last possible moment **Kendall-Carpenter** dived and took man and ball into touch a yard from the line.



Above: Programme cover and team sheet for the 1949 Varsity match, which Oxford won 3-0.

Left: Photo of the 1949 Varsity match at Twickenham.



International Rugby

Carpenter played 23 games for England at No.8 and Openside Flanker, and captained the side on several occasions. He is one of only four Cornishmen to captain the England side.

Test career

	Span	Mat	Start	Sub	Pts	Tries	Conv	Pens	Drop	GfM	Won	Lost	Draw	%
All Tests	1949-1954	23	23	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	12	10	1	54.34
Five/Six Nations	1949-1954	21	21	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	12	8	1	59.52

Career statistics

Test debut Ireland v England at Lansdowne Road, Feb 12, 1949

From www.espnscrum.com

Last Test France v England at Colombes, Apr 10, 1954

The Truronian, March 1949

The school magazine reported that Kendall-Carpenter was selected to play for the England XV v Ireland, France and Scotland.

The Truronian, March 1951

England v France, 1951

Friday the 23rd of February, saw one and twenty Truro School Boys (we were all at least young at heart!) leave the terrace for a lightning trip to what was – before the days of America with her attendant glories, tobacco, jazz, gum and

'puddy-tats' – the hub of the world. What faced us was not a two hour journey through England's green and pleasant land, but nine hours by night to London...

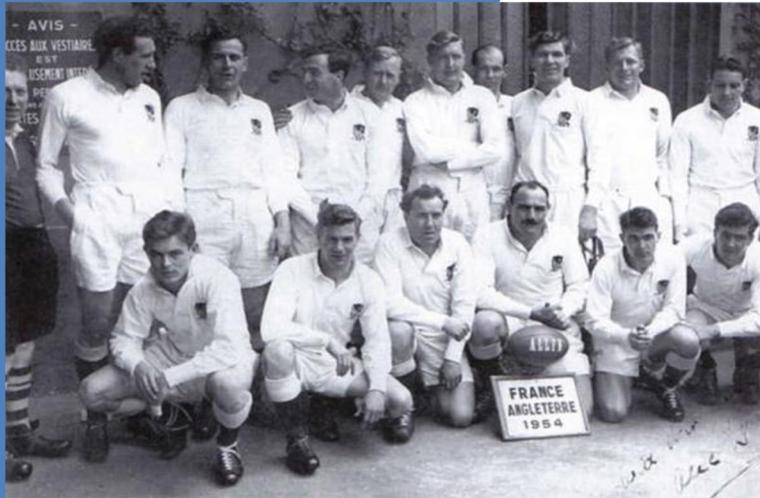
Twickenham! This was what we had come to see (so we were being constantly reminded!) – our first impression was of the vastness of the ground and the number of people there. We were not disappointed in the game – others more fitted than I have described it, suffice it to say that the better side won, and that John Kendall-Carpenter did his best with the team at his disposal – at one time it was reduced to thirteen men.

1954 England team -

Back Row: Ivor David (Referee) (Wales), **John Kendall-Carpenter (Bath)**, Alec Lewis (Bath), Dyson Stayt 'Tug' Wilson (Harlequins), Christopher Elliot Winn (Rosslyn Park), Peter Dalton Young (Dublin Wanderers), Nigel Gibbs (Harlequins), Victor H. Leadbetter (Edinburgh Wanderers), John Edward Woodward (Wasps), James Patrick Quinn (New Brighton).
Front Row: John Edward Williams (Old Millhillians), Eric Evans (Sale), Donald Louis 'Sandy' Sanders (Harlequins), Robert Victor Stirling (Wasps), Martin Regan (Liverpool), Jeffrey Butterfield (Northampton)

Right: England v Wales programme, 16 January 1954

From www.cliftonfchistory.co.uk



ENGLAND		WALES	
1. I. KING Harrogate	<p>FULL BACKS</p> <p>THREE-QUARTERS</p> <p>LEFT WING RIGHT WING</p> <p>LEFT CENTRE RIGHT CENTRE</p> <p>RIGHT CENTRE LEFT CENTRE</p> <p>RIGHT WING LEFT WING</p> <p>HALF BACKS</p> <p>STAND-OFF</p> <p>SCUM</p> <p>FORWARDS</p> <p>Referee Capt. M. J. DOWLING (Ireland)</p> <p>KICK-OFF 2.30 P.M. 1 A. New 1954</p>	1. G. WILLIAMS London Welsh and Middlesex	<p>WALSLEY</p>
2. C. E. WINN Bathampton		2. K. J. JONES Newport	
3. J. BUTTERFIELD Northampton		3. A. THOMAS Cardiff	
4. J. P. QUINN New Brighton		4. B. L. WILLIAMS Cardiff (CAPTAIN)	
5. J. E. WOODWARD Wasps		5. G. ROWLANDS R.A.F. and Cardiff	
6. M. REGAN Liverpool		6. C. MORGAN Cardiff	
7. G. RIMMER Warrington		7. W. R. WILLIS Cardiff	
8. R. V. STIRLING R.A.F. and Wasps (CAPTAIN)		8. W. O. WILLIAMS Swansea	
9. E. EVANS Sale		9. D. M. DAVIES Somerset Police	
10. D. L. SANDERS Leeds Y.M.C.A. and Harlequins		10. C. MEREDITH Neath	
11. P. D. YOUNG Dublin Wanderers		11. J. A. GWILLIAM Gwent	
12. P. G. YARRANTON R.A.F. and Wasps		12. E. R. JOHN Neath	
13. D. S. WILSON Metropolitan Police		13. S. JUDD Cardiff	
14. J. MacG. K. KENDALL-CARPENTER Bath		14. J. R. G. STEPHENS Neath	
15. A. R. HIGGINS Leeds University and Liverpool		15. R. C. C. THOMAS Swansea	

Touch Judge: **W. K. GILLMORE** (Chester)

Touch Judge: **IVOR JONES** (Welsh Rugby Union)

The Truronian, March 1951

'John Kendall-Carpenter captain of England XV withdrew from Wales match because of flu, but captained remaining internationals of season'.

England v Ireland, 1951

'Carpenter was untiring in keeping an uncertain defence and leading his men in desperate counter efforts'.

The Times



'The improvement in England's forward play was almost incredible. The return of Carpenter, Evans and Neale seemed to inspire all eight to unexpected vigour, and Carpenter specially strengthened the covering and line-out work.'

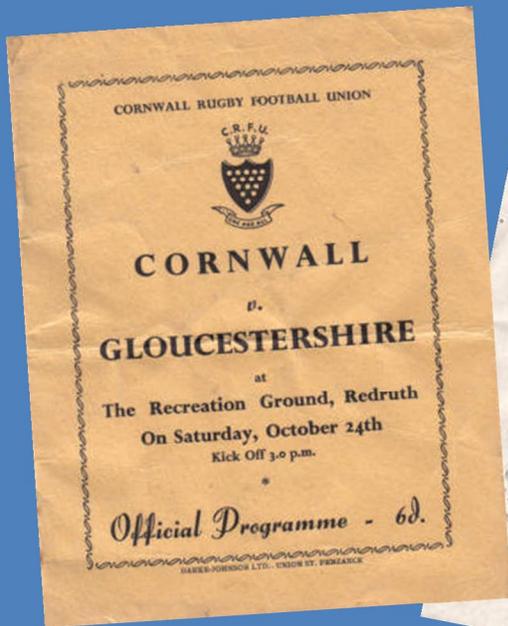
Manchester Guardian

From www.cliftonrhistory.co.uk



The team that faced the All Blacks at Twickenham on 30 January 1954. Carpenter (Bath) is on right of team captain R.V. Stirling (RAF and Wasps).

County Rugby



Programme from the Cornwall v Gloucestershire County Championship match played on 24 October 1953. The match was a 6-6 draw.



From www.cliftonrfchistory.co.uk

Carpenter made 28 appearances for the County, several as Captain.

Carpenter was President of the Cornish RFU from 1984 to 1987. After his death a John Kendall-Carpenter Trust Fund was established. Linked to the Cornwall Rugby Football Union, the fund helped young people up to the age of 21 in sport both in Cornwall and elsewhere in the world.



3 England Internationals from Penzance Newlyn RFC; Gerald Luke (also ex TS), John Kendall-Carpenter and Jim Matthews.

Club Rugby

Carpenter began his club rugby with Penzance Newlyn RFC, before moving to Bath, where he was dubbed "Prince of Cornerflaggers", while he taught rugby at Clifton College and Wellington School.

Teaching Career

After graduating from Oxford University he became a teacher. His first post was at Clifton College, Bristol. He also taught at Wellington School, Somerset. He was headmaster of Cranbrook School, Kent before taking up the headship of Eastbourne College in the early 1970s. After 3 years and following ill-health he returned to Wellington School as headmaster.

The Kendall-Carpenter Cup was established in the 1990s and awarded to the winning side of the annual Truro School v Wellington School rugby match. Truro won the first match 27-19.



Photo of Kendall-Carpenter while headmaster of Eastbourne College, 1970-1973.

www.eastbourne-college.co.uk



In November 2010 the Cup was won by Truro School, 7-0.

Rugby World Cup

Essentially an Australasian initiative, the idea of a rugby world cup was not at first supported by the Home Unions who feared it would change the game and affect its amateur principle.

In the 1980s New Zealand and Australia put forward proposals for a competition which led to the International Rugby Board investigating its feasibility. In 1985 the IRB members voted but the result was a stalemate. However

John Kendall-Carpenter of England broke ranks and voted for the World Cup, and then following this the Welsh vote also moved.

The Rugby World Cup was approved by 10 votes to 6. It would take place in Australia and New Zealand from the 22 May to the 20 June 1987. This gave the two host nations a little over two years to prepare.

www.worldcupweb.com

Secretary of the IRB, Kendall-Carpenter joined Australian Nicholas Shehadie and New Zealander Dick Littlejohn to organise the World Cup. Sir Nicholas Shehadie recalled that in February 1987

John Kendall-Carpenter rang me just prior to the World Cup starting and he said, "Son we have a problem ... we haven't got a trophy". I never thought about it too much and it seems nobody else did either... John then went down to Garrards [the Crown jewellers] in London and found this cup. He rang me and said he could buy it for £6000. I had no hesitation in telling him to do it.

www.rugbyworldcuphistory.com

Kendall-Carpenter later recalled

I felt that a Victorian, not a Georgian trophy would be appropriate, made of silver - a masculine metal - rather than gold. The craftsmanship of the period and the beauty of the piece would have to project the past into the present. At Garrards, I was told by Richard Jarvis, one of their directors, that they had re-acquired, that very day, a piece of silverware, a copy of a Victorian cup which was made in their own workshop in 1906. When they brought the cup from the vaults, I immediately knew I had found what I was looking for. It was heavy, it was compact, it was handsome.

rwc.co.za/wcfoundation.htm



First World Cup Game New Zealand v Italy, Eden Park Auckland 22 May 1987

...There being no royalty present for the tournament it was declared open by the Rugby World Cup tournament committee chairman Mr John Kendall-Carpenter, the former England international. His speech, which International Rugby Board executives hoped would last three minutes extended instead for nearly 15. In it Mr Kendall-Carpenter intoned such gems as the fact that 416 players would be participating in the tournament (16 squads of 26 players) and that 7000 visitors from outside New Zealand would be coming to watch some of the games.

The length of his speech proved a disruption of some of the live TV coverage for some nations... There were few satellites in existence in those days and the length of the opening address of Mr Kendall-Carpenter meant game action in the latter stages of the game were cut to some countries.

tvnz.co.nz/rugby-world-cup

'The last-minute efforts of Kendall-Carpenter yielded the coveted trophy that is now the ultimate prize in world rugby – The Webb Ellis Cup'.

www.rugbyworldcuphistory.com