

ST HELEN'S BALCONIERS/ORIELWYR SAN HELEN



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Dear Balconiers and Friends of Glamorgan Cricket,

October 2021

Anniversary Lunch to celebrate Glamorgan's Championship Centenary and the 80th Birthday of Jeff Jones (Glamorgan and England)

The St Helen's Balconiers are arranging a Celebration Lunch at The Towers Hotel, Swansea Bay, on Friday 19th November (12 noon for 12.30) to mark the centenary of Glamorgan achieving first-class status. At the same time, we shall be celebrating the birthday of Jeff Jones and recalling his outstanding achievements, including winning 15 England caps and making 157 first-class appearances for Glamorgan. We most warmly invite you to join us in these dual celebrations.

Glamorgan made their debut in the Championship in May 1921, defeating Sussex at Cardiff Arms Park. Two months later, they beat Worcestershire to record the first of many Championship wins at Swansea. The years since have inevitably seen highs and lows, successes and disappointments. However, there is no doubt that it has been an exciting 100 years with much to celebrate, including three memorable Championship titles, and historic wins over every major touring country. So many wonderfully gifted players have worn Glamorgan's colours with great pride. As supporters, we have our personal heroes, past and present, and our own treasured memories of remarkable cricketing moments and achievements, all worthy of recollection and celebration.

Home matches have been played at a number of grounds over the years, but it is fair to say that St Helen's has a special place in Glamorgan's history and heritage. Our ground in Swansea has enjoyed a significant share of magical cricketing moments and heroic performances, including thrilling and historic wins over Australian (twice) and South African touring sides.

Llanelli's Jeff Jones is very much part of Glamorgan's story and spirit. Joining the County when he was only sixteen, Jeff made his first-class debut less than two seasons later. Very quickly, the cricketing world was acknowledging the emergence of an exciting new talent, and Jeff won his first England cap at the age of only twenty-two. His totals of 44 wickets for England and 364 first-class wickets for Glamorgan would, of course, have been so much higher had not an elbow injury sadly forced his premature retirement. Jeff's astonishing career-best figures of 8 for 11 off 13 overs will always figure prominently and proudly in the County's record-books. Our Lunch gives us the opportunity to mark his 80th birthday, and at the same time to recall and celebrate his considerable skills and achievements, and his outstanding contributions to Glamorgan and England.

We warmly invite you to join our celebrations at The Towers on Friday 19th November. A Reply Card is enclosed. To reserve your place(s), please return this in the envelope provided, together with a cheque payable to *St Helen's Balconiers* for £30 per person, to reach me by 6th November. As usual, limited overnight accommodation at a preferential rate is available if required (please contact me). We hope very much that you are able to join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable occasion.

Yours sincerely,
John Williams on behalf of the Balconiers' Committee

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