



Sport / Chwaraeon

“We used to play in the Cathedral Road Synagogue, a small hall there, which was quite dilapidated, missing floorboards and we had a rickety old table, but nevertheless, we became good enough to get into the Cardiffian District League. Eventually, we got several teams into the league and we ended up in the Premier Division, probably eight or nine years later.”

Anonymous interviewee.



Wooden shield: Cardiff & District Table Tennis League, Division IV, champions, 1950-51.
Tarian bren: Cyngghair Tennis Bwrdd Caerdydd a'r Cylch, Adran IV, pencampwyr, 1950-51.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Ralph Cantor.



“My father was appointed honorary doctor at Cardiff City,...[who] had a well-known local kit manager called Harry Parsons, very, very, pro-Jewish, incredible, who conspired with Dad to get some...Jewish books, siddurim, and jeans sent over to Russia, to Moscow, and they did it by creating a false bottom in the kitbag, whereupon, they had a big supply of books and jeans, and then once in Moscow, this is in March 1968, they surreptitiously met up with refuseniks...which was very dangerous from their point of view because, as Harry said, you know, if the KGB had got wind of it, they'd have probably ended up in the salt-mines in Siberia.”

Stephen Hamilton.

Stephen Hamilton's father, doctor for Cardiff City Football Club; in the 1970s.
Tad Stephen Hamilton, meddyg ar gyfer Clwb Pêl-droed Dinas Caerdydd; yn y 1970au.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Stephen Hamilton.

“We had a Maccabi team in Cardiff. I used to play on a Sunday in the Sunday League and had — no. I think originally just played friendlies and then had the opportunity of participating in the Maccabi League in London which was very onerous, it was the days before the M4 was built and every fortnight we would go up to London and play invariably places like Hackney Marshes, which weren't very joyous but they were great, great fun, yep, and that lasted for about four, five years.”

Stephen Hamilton.



Cardiff Maccabi Football Team, Dublin, November 1975.
Tim Pêl-droed Maccabi Caerdydd, Dulyn, Tachwedd 1975.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Stephen Hamilton.



Max Fay [seated, centre] & Welsh Water Polo Team, c. 1925.
Max Fay [yn eistedd, canol] a Thîm Polo Dwr Cymru, c. 1925.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Janet Pins.

“...as a teenager he started his water polo career which he talked about a lot because I say, he was the only Jew who swam for Wales...represented Wales in water polo...When he, he took the team to Ireland and they had a terrible, terrible crossing, they were all really ill. But they had to get themselves together and play this match the following day, and apparently, my father was disqualified for communicating in Welsh but, in fact, it wasn't Welsh, it was Yiddish.”

Janet Pins.