

A prize worth having

J E Morris, brother to an international footballer Dicky Morris made a name for himself in the summer of 1907. This much is known from the newspaper account. It is likely that they were the two brothers John E and Charles R living at Woodside with their parents and two older brothers, on Milford Road in 1891 if we have located the correct family. Certainly, J E Morris found himself the proud owner of a magnificent silver tea and coffee set at the end of an eventful day in 1907.



The Royal Welsh Warehouse Sports and Band Contest, held on 29 June 1907 drew a crowd of close to 10,000 people to Newtown for this annual event commemorating Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones' knighthood. The account describes the number of entries in all competitions to be 'unprecedented'. Bringing bands, judges and participants together from all over the country by special trains, the day featured gymnastics, boxing and wrestling displays as well as choirs, silver band competitions and the sporting events which included cycling.

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The bands, met from the train by an official, began their quickstep competition at the Queens Head Hotel, and later played a test piece on a raised platform near the bowling green. The contest lasted five hours in all and attracted many thousands of spectators. The choirs performed in a marquee to which the spectators had to pay a small entrance fee.

It was probably the sporting events that provided the most spectacle, however. The cyclists were competing for the RWW Society's 60 guinea silver Challenge Cup, a three-mile event around the grassy track, made slippery and dangerous by heavy rain that had fallen in the morning. To take home the cup the winner needed to have won the race three times previously before becoming the absolute owner, but the favourite, Sheratt, fell heavily and the winner of the event, Berry, was not eligible to take home this prize that day.

There was no such problem for J E Morris of Newtown in the 100 yards flat handicap running race. After prevailing through six heats, he won the race from (Mr) Kimberley of Worcester (2nd) and (Mr) Burrows from Warrington (3rd), and took home the silverware as his prize. Mr Kimberley won the 220-yard race after another six heats. A long and tiring day for all the runners, and a notable event in the town.

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