



Platypus — how you too can contribute

Don't forget we need to hear from you on any topic you think would be of interest to AFP members.

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And for those in the regions receiving 'Platypus' at home, if the copy is going to the wrong address please let us know immediately by writing to:

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At 20, he is after top run in Union

ACT-based Traffic Branch motorcyclist Paul Morris has already worn the green-and-gold. But he's still a body swerve away from his greatest ambition — full Australian honours.

Paul's sport is Rugby Union, one that has provided him with the chance to travel widely.

Only 20, Paul's greatest sporting achievement to date has been selection for Australian Under-21 honours earlier this year — and playing against the All Blacks in the curtain-raiser to the Wallabies/All Blacks test in Sydney.

The path that led to this honour began when some of Paul's mates introduced him to Union as a seven-year-old.

That occurred in Canberra, where Paul has spent most of his life, after being born in Griffiths, NSW.

At primary school, Paul's ability on the football field came under notice and by the time he began at St Edmund's College it was almost accepted that he'd do well.

He did, captaining the school sides from 13 onwards, including St Edmund's First XV in 1982.

The previous year, however, Paul's Australian representative honours began. He played in the Australian Under-17 side that toured New Zealand, and later that year toured with the Australian Open Schoolboys side to Europe and America.

The side completed the tour undefeated.

"It was a great tour," said Paul. "In America we played U.C.L.A. College. Although American Football (gridiron) is their No. 1 sport, out-of-season many College footballers are now playing union."

But even the thrills of that tour couldn't match the excitement of playing in the curtain-raiser to the Wallabies/All Black test.

And yet, despite Australian honours in his Canberra club side, Easts, Paul has been unable to force his way into the first fifteen, the fullback spot going to ex-Manly player, John Grerar.

"I hope to get the spot next year," said Paul.

And next year he'll also tour the Pacific Islands with the Australian Under-21 squad.

Paul's younger brother Nicholas was St Edmund's vice-captain this year — the year the College won the coveted Waratah Shield for the first time.

Taffy works and plays on bikes

Neville (Taffy) Williams' love and knowledge of motor-cycles is legendary among AFP members in Canberra.

Taffy has maintained the AFP's motor-cycle fleet since the Force began.

Now 51, his love of motor-cycles is best illustrated by a recent event while Taffy and his wife were holidaying in Europe.

Taffy saw and evaluated the new BMW 1000 cc bike now being used by the AFP. He couldn't resist it and promptly bought one — and then toured Europe and the UK on it.

But not satisfied with the one bike, he decided to buy another one.

"And it's very, very special," said Taffy. "I understand there are only two others like it in Australia."

"And had I said I was bringing it

out of England I don't think I would have secured it."

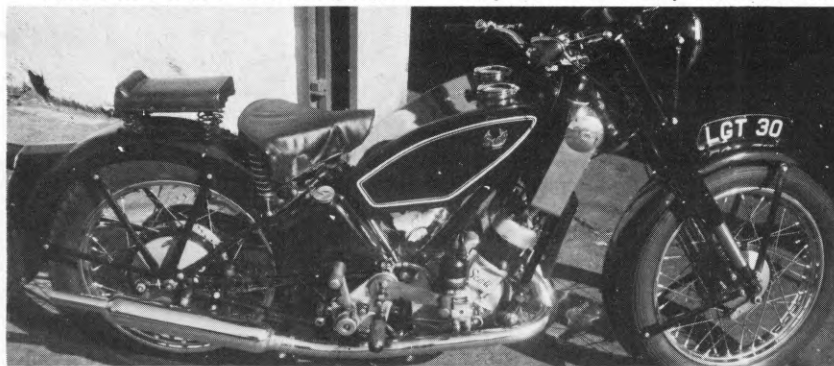
The bike is a 1949 model Scott Flying Squirrel, a 600 cc, twin water-cooled two-stroke much sought after by collectors.

"I paid £2,300 for it," said Taffy. "Americans would have gone to twice that amount."

But how did his love of bikes begin? It was in Wales' famous Rhondda Valley, in particular Taffy's home town of Port Talbot, where he acquired his first bike as a 15-year-old.

"There's no separate motor-cycle mechanic's course — then, or now," said Taffy. "I just learned as I went by stripping down and rebuilding various bikes."

That recreational love became a much more involved one during Taffy's British Army career, when



• A 1949 model Scott Flying Squirrel... Taffy Williams' pride and joy.



Back row: Stuart Burrows, Gary Wood, Alan Smith, Darren Ayres, Tim Dahlstrom, Brian Davis, Brett Irwin, Mick Kosseris, Murray Rosewarne, Peter Bradley, Wayne Robinson, Gordon Duff (No. 1 supporter). Front Row: Brendan Lindsay (Coach), Paul Morris, Neil Gaughan, Greg Harrigan, Wayne Constable, Gavin Thomas, Chris Potter, Mick Craft, Jack Sutherland (Manager).



Back Row: Brett Irwin, Gary Williams, Brendan Lindsay, Terry Allen, Tim Dahlstrom, Darren Ayres, David McDowell, Wayne Robinson. Front Row: Gary Wood, Tony McGurgan, Greg Harrigan, Murray Rosewarne, Neil Gaughan.



• Taffy Williams

he rode in numerous trials.

The Williams family migrated to Australia in 1965 with two children then only six years (Anne) and three (Ian). Taffy continued to ride trials, and even ran his own motor-cycle business in Queanbeyan for 10 years.

Not surprisingly, his love of motor-cycles rubbed off on son Ian who became one of Australia's best short circuit and big bike riders, winning the Australian short circuit (125 cc) title in 1975 and the All-Powers Australian Championship in 1980, the year before injury and the sheer cost of the sport without works sponsorship forced him to give away competitive riding.

"I was Ian's crew man, sponsor and general all-round supporter. We went everywhere together as family," said Taffy.

Now Ian has his own business and Taffy has his Scott Flying Squirrel — plus, of course, the AFP's current mix of BMWs and Kawasakis to maintain.

Win and lose

AFP Rugby League players have had mixed fortunes during the 1984 season in Canberra.

In the Public Service competition, the AFP team, after previously being beaten by Housing and Construction in two grand finals, finally overcame their domination by beating them 12-8 in the grand final on 15 August.

All members of this premierships side played well in what was by far one of the toughest grand finals yet played.

Not so spectacular was the AFP's performance in the NSW v AFP fixtures for the James Armstrong Memorial Shield.

On 22 August at Redfern Oval, the AFP were beaten 66-6 and then in Canberra on 13 September, were again beaten, this time by 36-18, at Reid Oval.

The Shield was first competed for in 1980, with NSW winning it in the first two years. The AFP won it in 1983.