



## Cooch drops in to help out OPMs' celebration

**FORMER** England front-row Gareth Chilcott was the guest speaker at a dinner to celebrate OPMs' 75th anniversary on Saturday.

The ex-Bath star was joined at the event, held at Plymouth's New Continental Hotel, by fellow former England and British Lions' player Paul Ackford – who used to play for OPMs himself.

Around 150 people were at the venue for the dinner, including many faces from the city rugby scene.

Plymouth Albion chairman Bob Evans went along, as did Plymouth Rugby Combination chairman Sammy Smale and Ken Dobson, representative of Plymouth referees.

Many of those with OPMs connections from the last few decades attended.

And one former OPMs man

made an especially long trek to join in with the celebrations – Mike Griffiths flew over from the USA.

Organisers were delighted with how the evening went, and were especially pleased with Chilcott's contribution.

"Gareth was brilliant," said Nick Partridge, OPMs' social chairman. "He chatted to everyone. It was a very good night.

"The event was our annual dinner, but this one was special because it celebrated 75 years of OPMs rugby."

Chilcott presented several special honorary life membership certificates on the night to those people who had given long service to the OPMs' club.

And he handed over an engraved cut-glass pint mug to club secretary Ernie Bolster.