



Roydon Hopkins, Great Grasshopper (To be recited with Welsh Lilt)

*He came from South Wales, Roydon Hopkins by name,
As with so many from that little place, Rugby Football was his game.
Nimble of foot, an eye for a break, a fly half right out of Welsh mould,
Yes indeed, Roydon is well described as such, whenever his story be told.*

*Finishing National Service, Roydon located down here in the south,
Casually recommended to Hoovers RFC, by his brother's word of mouth.
Joining Hoovers and settling down, great Rugby Roydon started to play
But then a dilemma, Grasshoppers beckoned, should Roydon leave or stay?*

*Having played against Grasshoppers, Roydon loved the club's friendly way
Temptation got the better, so goodbye Hoovers, and off to Grasshoppers to play.
That was in 1951, just one year from Grasshopper start,
Roydon's been a Grasshopper ever since, having taken the club to his heart.*

*Roydon played until injury took its toll, body succumbing to wear and tear
When playing ceased, he continued still, indeed, Roydon's always been there.
Captain, Committee, Referee and Linesman, oh, a 'Grasshopper second to none'
So much he's given, whilst having a 'ball', if you will please excuse the pun.*

*We must thank the likes of Roydon, without whom clubs could not prevail,
But now we have to say goodbye, so sad, a loss that goes far beyond the pale.
Roydon now takes his leave from us, joining Freddy, Glyn Jones and others,
To be together again, as in times gone by, a 'happy band of brothers'.*

*For those of us now left behind, yes, do let us grieve, but let us also be glad,
Because Roydon's life has been long and full, and wonderful times have been had.
So, cheerio for now Roydon Bach, you've served Grasshoppers so well,
You have done your bit, made your mark, now others must work for a spell.*

*Rest assured you will never be forgotten, so embedded in the Club's DNA.
Roydon Hopkins, a great Grasshopper,
In years to come, when looking back,
That is what people will always say.*

Glyndwr Williams - February, 2021

'Fortis in Animo'