



By Rob Sawyer

Remembrance and Inspiration

EACH year, Everton Football Club and Everton FC Heritage Society remember the sacrifices made by people linked to the Club in times of conflict. A Remembrance event is held on an annual basis outside Goodison Park and research is ongoing by Society members into former players who were injured or killed in action around the world.

This work has so far revealed 13 men who were lost in the First World War, including two from CD Everton of Chile, plus nine from the Everton Club of Auckland, whilst in the 1939-45 global conflict, five Everton men were killed. The Heritage Society has produced a booklet '*The Fallen of Everton Football Club*', which is available to download from efcheritagesociety.com.

Many others survived conflicts but bore the scars, both mental and physical. One example is the remarkable Harry Cook. Clitheroe-born Harry had his dreams of playing professional football shattered in June 1915 when he was blinded in action with the East Lancashire Regiment during the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. With the support of the St Dunstan's charity he retrained as a 'blind masseur' (what we would now refer to as a physiotherapist).

In 1919 he passed, with flying colours, his postgraduate course at Liverpool University in the theory of massage, practical anatomy and electro-therapeutics. Everton took Harry on in 1923 to support his near-namesake Harry Cooke on the backroom staff. Such was his skill as team masseur that he came to recognise every player by touch. He commented: "A slight thickness of the ankles tells me that Dixie Dean is on the table....Tommy Lawton has a longer shin bone than any of his colleagues. Joe Mercer has a slight curve in his shin bone; Albert Geldard has hairy legs!"

Harry attended all home matches, arriving independently at Goodison from his Wirral home by ferry and tram. His loss of sight did not detract from his enjoyment: "I always know what is happening through listening



▶ Harry Cook treating Warney Cresswell

to the crowd and feeling which way they are turning and swaying," said Harry. "I follow every movement on the field from the sound of the ball, yells of the crowd and the running commentaries, often for my benefit, from Harry Cooke."

Harry was integral to Everton winning three League Championships (1928, 1932 and 1939) and the FA Cup at Wembley in 1933 during his time at the Club. He also ran a private clinic in Wallasey. After the Second World War, he worked at Hackney Hospital in London. He died following a heart attack shortly after his retirement in 1961.