

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Richard Hume Wallace

by Michael O'Dwyer

Richard Hume Wallace was born on Easter Sunday, 12 April 1914, at Castle Street, Roscrea, County Tipperary. He was the second son of Dr Joseph Wallace and Esther 'Essie' Wallace (née Jones). After a number of years the family moved to Knocknagreena House, Corville Road, Roscrea. His father played rugby for Ireland nine times and his uncle James Wallace played for Ireland twice, and both played for the British and Irish Lions on the 1903 tour to South Africa. His father played eighteen games in total during the tour, including the three test matches. He was president of the Irish Rugby Football Union in 1934/5. 'Hume' Wallace was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, and Trinity College Dublin. After entering Trinity in 1932 he graduated BA in 1935 and continued for another year to graduate B.Agr in 1936, and was awarded the Edge Exhibition, i.e., 'an exhibition is a financial award or grant to an individual student, normally on grounds of merit'. At Trinity he excelled in athletics and rugby. He won three 120 yd hurdles titles (1934, 1935, 1936) and two 440 yd titles (1935, 1936) at the Irish university championships. He was captain of the Trinity athletics team in 1935 and 1936 that finished top team at the championships both years. In rugby he played on the wing and helped Trinity beat both Cambridge and Oxford Universities in colours matches. Hume Wallace won the Irish 120 yd hurdles title at the AAU athletics championships in 1938, and came second in both the 120 yd hurdles in 1933 and the 440 yd in 1938. At the AAA championships in England in the 440 yd hurdles in 1934 he stumbled after the last hurdle when leading and finished second, and was third in 1937 and 1938. The only 440 yd hurdles in the Irish athletics championships during the 1930s was won by Bob Tisdall in 1932. Hume Wallace competed in the 120 yd hurdles and 440 yd in the triangular international athletic contest between Ireland, England and Scotland on 23 July 1938 at Lansdowne Road. After he finished at Trinity he played rugby for Birr, and played hockey for Ballingarry. He was also a regular with the Ormond Hunt. Hume Wallace inherited Ballincor House, Shinrone from his uncle Tom Wallace and farmed very successfully until his death on 4 January 2000. He was aged eighty-five.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Amateur Athletic Union Championships

1938	120 yd Hurdles	16.2
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