

Clive Sullivan MBE

(09/04/1943 – 08/10/1985)



Cardiff born Clive Sullivan MBE became the first Black man to captain any British International sports team.

While still in the army at the age of 17 and after an unsuccessful trial with Bradford Northern, he was offered a trial at Hull FC where he made 352 appearances and scored 250 tries for Hull FC. For Hull KR, he scored 118 tries in 213 appearances. He had become the first man to score over 100 tries for both Hull clubs.

To this day, Sullivan holds the club record for most career tries, as well as most tries in a single game (7) and most career hat tricks (20) by a Hull player.

Sullivan also played for Oldham and Doncaster. In 1972, he was given the captaincy of the Great Britain Rugby League side and played two Tests against France. The Rugby league World Cup also took place that year and he captained the Great Britain side to become world champions. He scored a try in each of Great Britain's four games.

When he became captain of the Great Britain Rugby league team, he also became the first black Briton to captain any British national sports team.

Overall, Sullivan made 17 appearances for Great Britain and scored 13 tries as well as making 19 appearances for Wales and scoring 12 tries.

Clive Sullivan died in 1985 aged 42.

Hull FC and Hull KR now remember Sullivan through the annual pre-season derby fixture – renamed the Clive Sullivan Trophy.

The A63 road on the western edge of Hull was renamed 'Clive Sullivan Way' after his death – a fitting memorial that links both halves of the community which he served with distinction for nearly a quarter of a century.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmzqBAAAtTE>

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