

# 60 years on, goalie Bill celebrates his finest catch

**FORMER** Torquay United favourite Bill Hayes and his wife Bet have celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Mr Hayes, 84, who was the Gulls goalkeeper from 1952 to 1956, and his wife celebrated with a surprise anniversary meal at The Linney in Coffinswell.

They were joined by daughter Kim and her husband Trevor, son Sean and wife Karen and grandchildren Daniel, 24, Jessica, 19, Georgia, 15 and Chelsey, 13.

Mrs Hayes, 79, said the secret of a long and happy marriage is 'give and take'.

The couple were married in Wrexham, Wales, in 1952.

They moved to Torbay when Bill started playing for the club.

Mr Hayes was born in Limerick and was a pretty good rugby player in his native Eire.

By the time he moved to the UK, to play for Manchester City and then Wrexham, he was an Eire international.

United signed him from Ellesmere Port and he contested the number one spot at Plainmoor with his great friend George Webber for the next three years.

Although he played non-League for Bideford after he left Plainmoor, he never left Torquay, working for catering supplies firm Allums for 43 years before retiring.

The couple met when Bill was playing for Wrexham, were married on a Monday and spent only a couple of days on honeymoon before Bill had to be back in Torquay for training for a trip to Colchester the following weekend.



**SURPRISE MEAL:** Bet and Bill celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary

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