

Leigh Halfpenny and the Case of the Missing Boot – Scarlett Carpenter (Aged 12)

“Don’t mess this up,” echoed Leigh’s inner voice, as he looked up at the gigantic white posts. He had done this many times before, but knew that this was the kick that could steal the Rugby World Cup from the best team in the world: the All Blacks! Leigh stepped back, ran towards the ball and ... WHOOSH, the ball was soaring through the air, spinning and turning. It seemed like forever to Leigh but it was only actually a few seconds before the ball knocked the post. “NOOOO” screamed the crowd. The ball knocked the other post before... their lives changed forever. Wales had beaten the All Blacks, 19-13! The team were ecstatic!

There was too much going on for Leigh to realise that one of his boots was missing... It was only when he was giving an interview and was asked if he would auction his boots for charity that he realised it wasn’t there.

“Warren!” cried Leigh as he dashed into the changing rooms.

“I’m so proud of you!” cheered Warren.

“No, my boot. It’s gone,” whispered Leigh.

“Are you serious? Do you think it came off when you kicked the ball?” questioned Warren, clearly concerned, as this boot would be worth a lot of money.

“Well it must have, I did kick it hard you see,” replied Leigh.

“Don’t tell anyone other than the team and we’ll search the stadium for it!” whispered Warren.

Meanwhile, in another part of Cardiff, sightseer Tony Chin was taking snaps of everything he could see. Through the lens of his camera he spotted something dangling and swaying from the hands of clock outside Cardiff Central station. He wondered if it was a bird, or maybe even a piece of litter. He zoomed in to try and see it, and what he saw was...

BLEEP BLEEP! “Hello,” said the muffled voice of Warren. The mystery of Leigh Halfpenny's missing boot was all over the news and he really wasn't in the mood for another conspiracy theory.

"Hello Sir, I’m Tony Chin, and I believe I have found your boot”, came the crisp clear voice. Warren was jumping for joy!

“Excellent, but could I ask where?” Warren’s heart sank as there was now a boot worth thousands of pounds dangling above Cardiff's busiest station. Quickly, he made a plan. He gathered some of Wales' biggest and strongest rugby players in front of the station and in front of some very confused travellers, as well as a handful of press photographers, they began to form a human pyramid. Luke Charteris, the tallest player on the team climbed up and rescued the boot from the big hand of the clock. The crowd cheered and Warren breathed a sigh of relief. The boot was back where it belonged and it had more than doubled in value because the news had spread that Leigh Halfpenny had not only won the Rugby World Cup for Wales, but could also kick a ball out of the Millennium Stadium!