



Cardiff Rugby Football Club.

OPENING CEREMONY

of the New Stands,
Cardiff Arms Park,

Saturday, October 5th, 1912.



PRICE THREEPENCE.

THE SOUVENIR

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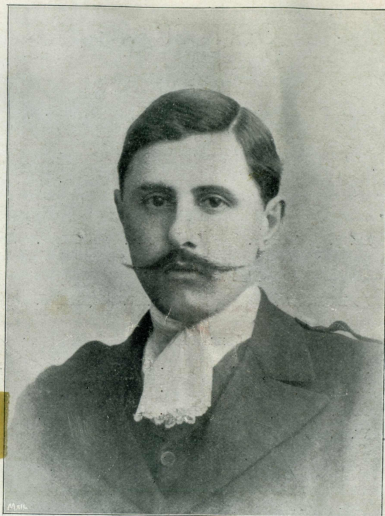
ENQUIRE

AT



FOR

NEW CARS



The Most Noble the Marquis of Bute

To whom the Members of the Club are deeply indebted for his generosity in allowing them the use of Cardiff Arms Park.

Cardiff Rugby Football Club.

SEASON - - 1912-13.

OFFICERS.

Patron :

LORD NINIAN CRICHTON STUART, M.P.

President :

W. T. MORGAN.

Vice-Presidents :

Dr. J. J. BUIST. W. M. DOUGLAS.

Past Presidents :

A. DUNCAN. W. D. PHILLIPS.

Committee :

J. BATSTONE. J. C. MERRETT
L. M. DYKE. J. A. FOWELL.
R. T. GABE. J. SIDNEY REES.
W. J. HART. W. J. SPILLER.
WM. STANFORTH.

Captain :

First Fifteen—W. SPILLER. *Vice-Captain*—W. JENKINS
Second Fifteen—W. L. FERRIER. *Vice-Captain*—R. H. GUNN.

Auditors :

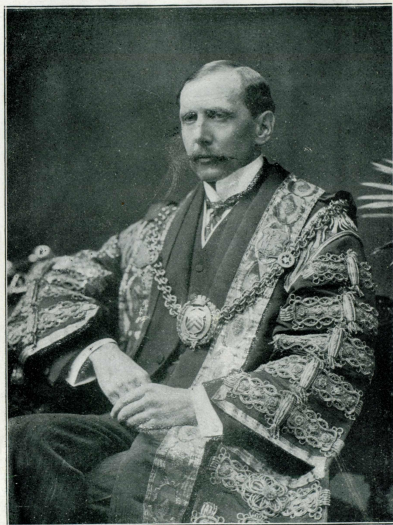
P. E. ROBATHAN. H. E. SWEETING.

Hon. Treasurer :

A. F. BLAND.

Secretary :

CHAS. S. ARTHUR.



The Lord Mayor of Cardiff,
Alderman Sir J. W. COURTIS, J.P.

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PROGRAMME.

1. Selection "Furniture of every description" *Unrivaled*
MUST B. SEEN.
2. Duet .. "Excellence and Economy" .. *Assured*
U. TRY US AND C. NOW.
3. Sketch "Home Sweet Home" .. *Eureka*
FURNISHED BY THE R.F.C.
4. Song .. "Our Prices" .. *Rockbottom*
R. SOLO.
5. Solo .. "Value, Variety, Satisfaction" *Unequaled*
OUR ALLIANCE.
6. Recital "Visit our Showrooms" (by request) *Encore*
THE MANAGER.
7. Duet .. "Everything for Home Comfort" *Complete*
UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS.
8. Song .. "The Simplest Thing on Earth" *Trifling*
R.F.C. EASY PAYMENTS.
9. Recital "Honest Trading brings Success" *Practised*
OUR MOTTO.
10. Chorus "Praise from every Quarter" .. *Genuine*
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OPENING CEREMONY

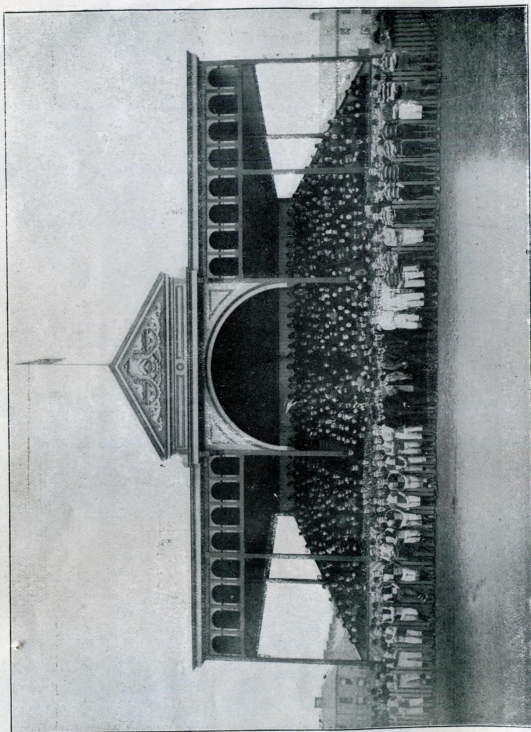
OF NEW STANDS.



Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, M.P. for Cardiff.

Patron of the Cardiff R.F.C.,
WILL KICK OFF AT 3.30 P.M.

NEWPORT v. CARDIFF.



THE OLD STAND.
Opened on Boxing Day, 1885, on the occasion of the match, Cardiff v. Liverpool.



RECORDS

From 1876 to Date.



	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals	For Tries	Against Goals	Tries
1876-1877	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	2
1877-1878	13	6	5	2	8	19	10	3
1878-1879	20	16	4	0	24	41	9	4
1879-1880	8	6	1	1	12	23	0	7
1880-1881	10	7	2	1	12	20	2	5
1881-1882	22	8	10	4	16	17	15	19
1882-1883	21	8	7	6	26	32	7	22
1883-1884	18	7	7	4	8	16	10	19
1884-1885	24	15	7	2	27	53	9	14
1885-1886	27	26	1	0	70	61	3	1
1886-1887	30	22	5	3	67	56	7	10
1887-1888	25	19	2	4	48	41	6	6
1888-1889	31	22	5	4	55	57	12	14
1889-1890	35	25	7	3	45	50	14	13
1890-1891	33	22	9	2	40	42	18	17
1891-1892	31	13	14	4	16	31	25	35
1892-1893	33	28	0	5	47	72	16	17
1893-1894	35	28	6	1	68	57	10	20
1894-1895	30	21	7	2	38	49	10	13
1895-1896	32	25	5	2	26	67	10	13
1896-1897	30	24	5	1	43	66	16	13
1897-1898	31	25	3	3	61	71	9	16
1898-1899	28	22	3	3	53	56	11	6
1899-1900	30	23	6	1	56	59	19	20
1900-1901	29	17	10	2	34	41	22	15
1901-1902	32	25	6	1	40	42	10	20
1902-1903	32	19	12	1	46	25	23	24
1903-1904	31	23	6	2	51	55	8	15
1904-1905	30	21	6	3	42	48	16	18
1905-1906	32	29	1	2	65	71	14	14
1906-1907	30	25	3	2	54	52	10	13
1907-1908	31	26	4	1	36	58	15	19
1908-1909	30	26	3	1	54	41	16	21
1909-1910	36	22	7	7	52	76	19	18
1910-1911	36	29	6	1	61	64	15	23
1911-1912	39	28	8	5	47	62	12	23



Photo by

Cardiff Football Ground, showing New Stands.

A. & G. Taylor



Mr. W. T. MORGAN, President.



Mr. C. S. ARTHUR, Secretary.



Mr. A. F. ELAND, Treasurer.

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Reminiscences of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club.

By "RED DRAGON."

NO historian of the game of football can hope to achieve his purpose without entering into a comparative analysis of the conditions appertaining in the early stages with those of the present. All things must have a beginning, but what we are apt to forget is that nothing can be built up without the labour and love of enthusiasts. And this applies to the sport of football as fully as it does to any other form of energy in the world to-day. When we contrast the huge crowds of to-day, full of enthusiasm, cheering their heroes, with the small band of spectators, drawn together from a sense of curiosity, who stood around the ropes—if the players had enough of their own money to provide them—in the days gone by, we realise that football has gone a long way and occupies a different position in the life of the nation than it did back in the seventies. To-day we are chiefly concerned with the fortunes of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club, which is celebrating the opening of new stands to provide ample accommodation for the teeming masses who have grown up around the historic Cardiff Arms Park. The year 1873 marks the first signs of Rugby football in the City. In that day the game was crude, and rules were not so stringent, and we had no "words of thunder" from the W.R.F.U. to remind us that football was a game of skill rather than skull cracking.

It was on September 22, 1876, that a meeting was called in the Swiss Hall, Queen Street, for the purpose of amalgamating two clubs—the Glamorgan Football Club and the Cardiff Wanderers. From 1873 up to that time Rugby football—of a sort—had been played in Cardiff, but the niceties of the game had not been grasped, and there were more barked shins than goals. With the amalgamation accomplished, the Cardiff Rugby Football Club was born. And it has been growing ever since. To-day we celebrate a kind of joy-day. We have grown out of our old clothes, and must needs have new. The new stands which we so proudly occupy to-day are the symptoms of the growth of the baby of 1876 to the man of 1912. And he is not full grown yet.

From its inception in 1876 the Cardiff Rugby Club, like the City from which it derives its name, has been steadily advancing in prestige and prosperity. The honour of being the first captain, in the 1876-7 season, fell upon Donaldson Selby, with W. D. Phillips as vice-captain. The latter of these two gentlemen served the club as a player for nine years, three years as captain, and six years as vice-captain, and we are proud to say is still officially identified with the Club. In the first season, only three inter-town matches were played, with Newport, Swansea and Merthyr, Cardiff winning all but that with Newport. In the following year, 1877-8, Newport and Cardiff drew, both matches were lost in the following year. 1879-80 was a drawn game, and not until 1880-1, did Cardiff register their first win over their Newport opponents. Moseley made their first appearance in the Cardiff Fixture List in the Season of 1880-1, the result of the matches at Moseley being a drawn game. The return match at Cardiff was abandoned owing to frost.

The 1881-2 season saw the provision of a good playing pitch and the beginning of a stand for spectators. It is evident from the sum paid for the latter—£50—that the structure was not elaborate, though it claimed to hold 300 people. The public had begun to get interested in football, for we hear of a crowd of between three and four thousand to witness a match. A crowd of those dimensions would look like an oasis in the Desert of Sahara on the stands of to-day.



Newport v. Cardiff, South Wales Challenge Cup, Sophia Gardens, March 8th, 1879.

W. G. Jones (*Umpire*), A. W. Watts, P. K. Beard, A. J. Evans,
 Fleming S. Thomas, E. E. Giffing, R. H. Fox (*Goal-keeper*), J. A. Jones,
 H. Godfrey, E. D. Thomas, Reald McDonald, W. D. Phillips, J. A. Jones,
 B. Ferrer, Fred Ferch, E. B. B. Mann.

The season of 1882-3 marked the first fixtures with Gloucester. The 'Crestians won comfortably by 1 goal, 7 tries to nil in the Cathedral City, but had to be content with a draw at Cardiff.

1883-4 saw the introduction of the four three-quarter formation. F. E. Hancock had recently arrived in the town, and was asked to fill a gap in the three-quarter line for Cardiff, only two men being available. He did this so ably, scoring the two tries against what was regarded as a formidable combination, that he was asked to play on the following Saturday against Gloucester, the other members of the quartette being W. B. Norton, Tom Williams, and A. J. Stewart.

A. F. Hill and C. S. Arthur were the new-comers in 1883-4, who subsequently attained fame.

1884-5 saw the star of Cardiff rising. Their name was prominent in the football world. Of 24 matches played 15 were won, 7 lost and 2 drawn. This in face of the stiffest list of fixtures the Club had yet arranged. Two matches were lost this season as the result of the form of scoring adopted at this period, when one goal would beat any quantity of tries, Newport winning by a dropped goal to 3 tries, and Moseley by a precisely similar score.

The season of 1885-6 is the red letter year of Cardiff football. It is known as "Hancock's year," partly by its record, but chiefly for the fact that F. E. Hancock's personality dominated the team during the whole season. He had a habit of dropping goals and other forms of "flake" wins. Up to the last match, with Moseley, Cardiff had won every game, and they were beaten by the Midland team by 2 goals to 1 try. Final results: For, 70 goals, 61 tries; against, 3 goals, 1 try.

At the summit of his fame, F. E. Hancock retired from active participation in football, and W. M. Douglas "skipped" the team during 1886-7. This was the period of the "boom" of North of England football, and Cardiff met Liverpool, Runcorn, Wigan, and Swinton, the latter team including the famous Jimmy Valentine. Matches played, 30, won 22, drawn 3, lost 5. Norman Biggs played his first match against Penarth, scoring a try.

In 1887-8 Cardiff were strengthened by the inclusion of several members of the Harlequins Club. George Young was captain, and 25 matches were played, 19 won, 4 drawn, 2 lost. Newport and Cardiff met four times in one season for the first time.

Blackheath and Oxford University were the new English teams to be met in 1888-9, Cardiff losing to the Heathens by 2 goals 2 tries to nil, and winning at Oxford by 3 goals (1 dropped), 2 tries to nil. On Boxing Day the Maoris, the first Colonial touring combination, were met and defeated by a goal and a try to a try.

C. S. Arthur was elected captain for 1889-90, which is memorable for the fact that T. W. Pearson, then but seventeen years of age, commenced his brilliant football career, which lasted fourteen years. R. B. Sweet-Escott played occasionally, and Selwyn Biggs once. Of 35 matches played, 25 were won, 3 drawn, and 7 lost. Newport accounting for three of the latter.

W. E. Jarman, the "great" little half-back, who had played regularly since 1882, retired, as did also A. F. Bland, and the 1890-1 team played 33 matches, winning 22, drawing 2, and losing 9.

Jarman donned the jersey again in 1891-2 and 1892-3. The first-named was the worst in the history of the Club, 14 matches being lost out of 31, 13 won, and 4 drawn.

1892-3 brought its compensations. Under the captaincy of T. W. Pearson 28 matches were won, and 5 lost. The vanquished included Newport, who had the previous season been undefeated. T. W. Pearson headed the list of try-getters with a total of 40.

Devonport Albion commenced their long series of tussles with Cardiff in 1893-4, Cardiff winning at home by 1 try, after a spiritless game. The prince of three-quarters, Gwyn Nicholls played his first match for Cardiff premiers, on New Year's Day, 1894, against the Old Merchant Taylors. The good form of the previous season was maintained, 6 matches being lost out of 35, with 1 drawn game.

When on September 14, of this year, Penarth beat the Blue and Blacks, history was but repeating itself. On November 17, 1894, Cardiff lost at home to the Seaside to the tune of 2 goals (1 penalty), to 1 try. Newport were met on four occasions, the Uskiders winning three. Swansea were beaten both at home and away.

During the summer of 1895, T. W. Pearson obtained an appointment in Newport, and played for that Club in the winter following. His place was taken by Viv Hussey, whose partnership with Gwyn Nicholls proved a happy one, lasting for four seasons. R. B. Sweet-Escott led the fifteen, the end of the season finding Cardiff with a record of 32 matches played, 25 won, 5 lost, and 2 drawn.

With the exception of R. B. Sweet-Escott, most of the old players turned out in 1896, and H. B. Winfield found a place. Newport accounted for three of the five matches lost, the other victors being Swansea and Moseley.

In 1897-8 three Rhondda Valley teams were met, viz., Llwynypia, Penygraig and Treherbert. All three were won by Cardiff. Newport failed to win any of the four matches played this season, which under Selwyn Biggs, was highly successful, 25 matches being won, 3 drawn, and 3 lost.

The brilliant partnership of Gwyn Nicholls (captain) and Viv Hussey contributed in no small measure to the success of the 1898-9 team. Cecil Biggs came into the team towards the end of the season, at the conclusion of which Nicholls left for Australia as one of the English Rugby tourists.

1899-1900 and 1900-1 found Gwyn Nicholls again captain, creating a record of three consecutive years in that responsible position. The first season under notice was undoubtedly his best. Percy Bush first played—as a wing three-quarter—on October 21, 1899, against Newport. Cecil Biggs also made his debut in 1899.

Chief interest in 1901-2, the year of H. B. Winfield's captaincy, is centred on the first home match with Swansea. The game was fought out on October 26, 1901, the crowd being reinforced by the incursion of a large number of colliers who were celebrating "Mabon's Day." The result was a pointless draw. Percy Bush was injured in November, in the Newport match, and took no further part in football for the remainder of the season.

1902-3 was a disastrous season, 9 matches only being won out of a fixture list of 32, 12 lost and 1 drawn. During this season the Marquis of Bute attained his majority and was presented by the Club with an illuminated address and £500, which sum he subsequently transferred to Cardiff Infirmary. R. T. Gabe commenced his brilliant connection with Cardiff in this season.

In 1903-4 Gwyn Nicholls was again captain, and the name of J. L. Williams appears on the list of playing members. 31 matches were played, of which 23 were won, 2 drawn, and 6 lost. Of the matches lost, Swansea "bagged" four, Neath and Newport accounting for the remainder.

Cecil Biggs captained the team in 1904-5, being the third member of his family to occupy that distinguished position. Cardiff's ground record was lost in the last match of the season, the Barbarians winning by 1 goal 1 try to 1 goal.

1905-6 proved to be a fitting parallel to "Hancock's year." Thirty-two matches were played, under the captaincy of Percy Bush. New Zealand were carrying all before them, piling up "cricket" scores against the strongest combinations. They met Cardiff on Boxing Day, 1905, and at half-time the

score stood 1 goal each. In the second half, the Colonials scored and goaled. Cardiff replied with a try, scored in the final minutes of the game. Winfield's essay at goal went wide, and New Zealand won by a kick.

Percy Bush was re-elected captain in 1906. This was the year of the visit of the South Africans, who had beaten every club, county, and country, with the exception of Scotland. On January 1, 1907, they met Cardiff. The day was bad, rain falling continuously. Percy Bush worked like a Trojan, and the final whistle sounded with the score reading: Cardiff, 2 goals, 3 tries; South Africans nil.

R. T. Gabe led the club in 1907-8. Four defeats and one draw out of a total of 31 matches played shows that the prestige of the team was being maintained. Cecil Biggs ceased playing, and in the last month of the season R. A. Gibbs and J. L. Williams sailed for New Zealand as members of the Anglo-Welsh team.

The seasons which followed are fresh in the memory of football devotees. Percy Bush was again captain in 1908-9, when 30 matches were played, 26 won, 3 lost and 1 drawn. J. L. Williams in 1909-10, when the team registered 22 wins in 36 matches, 7 drawn, and 7 defeats. R. A. Gibbs, in 1910-11, when 6 matches were lost, 1 drawn, 29 won, making up the total of 30. L. M. Dyke, in 1911-12, when a heavy fixture list of 39 games was gone through, 28 being won, 8 lost, and 5 drawn. The most notable event in this term of years was the splendid victory over the Australians on December 28, 1898, by 24 points to 8.

Such is the record to the present season, which bids fair to be as successful as any previous. The giants of the old days still live in the hearts of the football public, and their achievements serve to spur the present-day player to deeds of emulation. Captain W. Spiller has the support of a well-balanced team, which can be trusted to give of its best. If fortune wavers, a ready response will always be found to the battle cry of "Play up, Cardiff."

These notes would be incomplete without some reference to the officials who have guided the destinies of Cardiff through its most successful period. Mr. C. S. Arthur, affectionately known as "Charlie," has held the position of Secretary since 1892. Courteous and unassuming, he has proved that his administrative abilities form a fitting parallel to the successes of his playing career. With the Secretaryship in his capable hands, the club should continue to prosper. The Treasurer, Mr. A. F. Bland, is also an old player. As a forward of the sturdy type, he helped to make history for the Club from 1884-5 to 1889-90. Another giant of other days is the President, Mr. W. T. Morgan, who played as a forward, from 1887- to 1891. "W.T." is genial, yet firm, as a President should be. May he long be spared to witness the triumphs of the Club he loves, and with which he so worthily identifies himself.

It is due to the generosity of the late Marquis of Bute that the Cardiff Football Club occupy Cardiff Arms Park, which, from its central position, is a valuable asset to the Club. The present Marquis has worthily carried on the traditions of his father in assisting the Club to make the arena worthy of the game. It is a far cry from the small stand of 1881, seating but 300, to the magnificent structure which graces the ground in 1912. At the international match between Ireland and Wales in the early part of the year 19,000 people were unable to gain admission. This emphasised the necessity for more accommodation, and the W.R.F.U. came forward with an offer to defray part of the cost of erecting new stands. These have now been built to the design of Mr. Archibald Leitch, M.E. Mech. E., of Liverpool, who has carried out similar schemes in all parts of the country. The cost is about £7,000. With accommodation for 45,000 people, the ground is the finest given over to Rugby football in the kingdom. Messrs. Wm. Symonds and Son, Cardiff, are the contractors.

SMOKING CONCERT,

At the PARK HALL, October 5th, 1912, at 8 p.m.

Programme arranged by Granville Tate.

PART I.

1. Whistling Song Selected
Mr. TONY LUCAS.
2. Tenor Solo "Songs of Araby"
Mr. W. E. CARSTON.
3. Humorous Song "The Appetite"
Mr. SAM TAYLOR.
4. Song "Let us Waltz"
Miss MARY MARKS.
5. Baritone Solo "The Toreador"
Mr. DAN JONES.
6. Humorous Song "My Word"
Mr. GRANVILLE TATE.
7. Duet Selected
Messrs. W. E. CARSTON and DAN JONES.
8. Humorous Song "When a Woman says No"
Mr. TONY LUCAS.
9. Humorous Duet "Single and Married"
Miss MARY MARKS and Mr. GRANVILLE TATE.

PART II.

10. Humorous Song "The Street Watchman"
Mr. SAM TAYLOR.
 11. Tenor Solo "I hear you calling me"
Mr. W. E. CARSTON.
 12. Humorous Polyglot Sketch "Telling the Tale"
Mr. GRANVILLE TATE.
 13. Song "Alexandra's Ragtime Band"
Miss MARY MARKS.
 14. Whistling Song
Mr. TONY LUCAS.
 15. Baritone Solo "Two Grenadiers"
Mr. DAN JONES.
 16. Humorous Duet "Spanish Love"
Miss MARY MARKS and Mr. GRANVILLE TATE.
 17. Humorous Song "Who were you with last night?"
Mr. SAM TAYLOR.
 18. Duet "Two Beggars"
Messrs. W. E. CARSTON and DAN JONES.
- Finale = "God Save the King."

SAT. OCT. 5TH 1912

Autographs.

CARDIFF

V

NEWPORT

W Spiller

R. J. Williams.

Aubrey Baker

Jim Birch

Tom Evans.

John Rogers

Alfred Griffiths

Edmund Griffiths

Frank T. Gannon

Chas Palmer

A. H. Green

Fred Rogers

W. S. Coff.

W. J. Martin

Fred. White

Geo. Herist.

Thomas W. Vile

Herbert W. Jones

Harry Uzzell D.T.

A. B. Bell

John Beames

Andrew Jones

Reg. S. Humphreys

Henry Jones.

J. Williams

W. W. Water