

**CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB, Season 1947-48**

**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**

**POST-WAR SERIES. VOL. III. No. 2**

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### **SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**

**Visit of the Combined**

**Stades Nantais U.C.**

**AND**

**U.S. Cognacaise Teams**



**CARDIFF ARMS PARK**

**Saturday, Sept. 20th, 1947**



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## The Visit of the Combined Stades Nantais U.C. and U.S. Cognacaise Teams

At long last the great day has arrived. The first French rugby invasion of Cardiff since France last played Wales here in 1929, and the sports men of Cardiff wish them "All ze best" and a hearty welcome to the Welsh rugby stronghold. The old days of rugby when the Frenchmen first came here with beards, etc., and had more enthusiasm than skill, have passed, and now they can match our skill, and test us to the full. To-day's visit of the Combined XV of two of the leading clubs of Western France, as well as the Veteran's Party, is another example of the way in which healthy athletic rivalries and friendships of before the war are being revived. Conditions to-day do not lend themselves to the smooth inter-changing of visits between sporting representatives of foreign countries, but the two clubs' committees, and in particular M. Henri Pitcherit of the Stades Nantais Club, and Mr. D. E. "Danny" Davies of the Cardiff Club, have overcome many handicaps.

Negotiations which were began in March, 1946, will be completed happily to-day in the social intercourses, both before and after the games, and in the two exhibitions of hard, open rugby. It is the saying in France, that the Cardiff Club is the finest rugby club in the world, and in our modesty, we citizens feel proud of such a title. Whether we are or not, does not matter, but if our sportsmanship, both on and off the field, is worthy of such a title we are justly proud.

The game in France has improved out of all measure since those dark and dismal days in 1930-31, when relationships were broken off with the French Rugby Federation because of alleged Professionalism within its playing ranks. However, all that is now happily forgotten, and the joint experiences at the hands of Hitler and his terrible team of murderers, has helped to bring the two countries into closer co-operation and set about the task of adding yet more

glory to the history of one of the greatest team games devised by man.

The Cardiff Club visited France in Season 1945-46. Two matches were played; against Stades Nantais at Nantes on December 31, 1945, which was won by 29 points to 8, and against U.S. Cognacaise on January 1, 1946, which was lost after a terrific struggle by 19 points to 18. Actually the long hours of travelling and amazing French hospitality had by this time become too much for the Cardiff braves!

The game in Cognac is still talked of to-day with bated breath in Western France, and it is hoped that to-day's match will be as exciting. Cardiff have a powerful side, and one which is capable of cutting to ribbons any opposing defence. Without doubt, this is as good a back division as Cardiff has had since the "palmy" days. It will be hard to keep them out of the Welsh fifteen, and it is certain that five of them will make the National side if they maintain their present form.

Forward the Club is not so happy. There is something wrong with the hooking and heeling. For most of the forwards are experienced capable players, and as last season, it may be that they are taking a little time to settle down. To-day's match will be a testing time for forwards, and it is hoped by all that they recover their old form in the tight and so set the field for optimism for next Saturday's Empire "clash" with the Wallabies.

The French team which is a combination of the Stades Nantais U.C. and the U.S. Cognacaise, and it contains five from the first-named Club and ten from the second. It is captained by Marcel Ollivier, the Maquis hero, who is this season's captain of the Stades Nantais Club. At full-back there is Guy Maroux, aged 26, who is a veterinary surgeon; on the wings are Artigalas, a 22 year old young student with great speed, and Gerard Behoteguy, son of the famous ex-International. In the centre is Jean Barrere, a 22 year old clerk, and either Edmond or Jacques of Stades Nantais. Outside-half is Max Guesdon from Nantes, and Roger Billard, a 25 year old engineer is at scrum-half. Ollivier leads the pack and he has with him from Nantes, Fuzeau (26), and International Ginisty who is a storming back-row forward aged 27.

The other five forwards are from Cognac, headed by International Marcel Pasquet (aged 22), Pierre Tissandier (hooker), Maurice Carre, another engineer, aged 25, Crescent Rouby, yet another engineer, aged 26, and Rene Savin, the baby of the side, who is a 19 year old clerk.

In charge of the game will be Mr. Trevor Jones, who refereed the England v. France match last season, and on the lines will be Messrs. Danny Davies for Cardiff and Louis Murail for the Combined XV. M. Murail is a French International referee and had a high reputation on the Continent.

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## THE VETERANS

"When we grow too old to play, we will still remember!"



### Marcel Ollivier

(French XV)

Was chief of the Maquis in the Nantes District during occupation, and was severely wounded in the fighting against the Germans in 1944 and deported to Germany. Decorated for services. Played for France 1936-37, and is a fine leader of forwards. Hard-working and strong in the scrum.

This afternoon followers of Cardiff rugby will have an opportunity of seeing the old favourites in action. Wilfred Wooller, Wendy Davies, Harry Rees, Acker Thomas, Les Spence, Hubert Johnson, Scotty Millar, Jackie Bowcott, Maldwyn James, Duncan Brown, Ivor Williams, and many more of the "Boys" who used to thrill us in the days gone by.

They have trained on special food it is said—some strange herb, beginning with "h" and ending with "p", but they are fit, if somewhat heavier than of old! Wilfred Wooller, as captain, is treating the match with his usual light-hearted seriousness and is determined to produce one of his old dazzling runs. Hubert

Johnson will lead the pack forward, into what struggles he knows not, but they will be there "rucking" when the final whistle goes!

The French Veterans, led by Paul Gringoire, are used to playing at least one match a week, so they should at least stay the course. In fact, as they call themselves "Champions of the World," they will be all out to hold their title, and the "side-stakes." Their captain is over fifty years of age, and the average age is well over forty! Marcel Pedron is an old Cardiff Club player of the nineteen-twenties, and Rolly Babbage is a Cardiff man now domiciled in Nantes.

### Haydn Tanner

(Cardiff)

The world's greatest scrum-half playing rugby. Has a long list of rugby honours and a high sense of values in the game. Is modest and unassuming, but a very fine captain. Was chiefly responsible for the Welsh defeat of France in Paris last season, through his magnificent leadership. Will be all out today to bring his "star-studded" back division into action and delight spectators with open rugby.



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GUY MAROUX (Cognac)	Full Back
ARTIGALAS (Cognac)	Wing
GERARD BEHOTEGUY (Cognac)	Wing
R. EDMOND or TOUYA JACQUES (S.N.U.C.)	Centre
JEAN BARRERE (Cognac)	Centre
MAX GUESDON (S.N.U.C.)	Outside Half
ROGER BILLARD (Cognac)	Inside Half

Referee:

Mr. TREVOR JONES  
 (Maesteg)

Forwards—

MARCEL OLLIVIER (Capt.) (S.N.U.C.)	Hooker
P. TISSANDIER (Cognac)	Front Row
M. CARRE (Cognac)	Second Row
FUZEAU (Nantes)	Second Row
G. ROUBY (Cognac)	Second Row
R. SAVIN (Cognac)	Wing Forward
GINISTY (Nantes)	Lock
M. PASQUET (Cognac)	Wing Forward

Linesmen: Mr. D. E. DAVIES (Cardiff); M. LOUIS MURAIL (Combined XV.)

### CARDIFF

(1) FRANK TROTT	Full Back
(2) LES WILLIAMS	Left Wing
(3) BLEDDYN WILLIAMS	Left Centre
(4) JACK MATTHEWS	Right Centre
(5) D. H. JONES	Right Wing
(6) W. B. CLEAVER	Outside Half
(7) HAYDN TANNER (Capt.)	Scrum Half

Next Saturday at Home  
 September 27th

### AUSTRALIANS

Kick Off 3.15

Forwards—

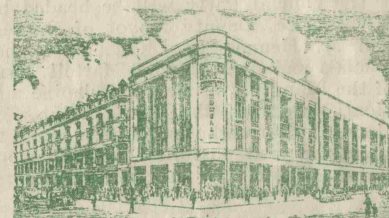
(8) CLIFF DAVIES
(9) DON REES
(10) STAN BOWES
(11) ROY ROBERTS
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(13) ELVET JONES
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Wilfred Wooller



Hugh Johnson



Les Spence

The Official Party will be headed by M. Maurice, Deputy Mayor of Nantes, and M. Hennessey of Cognac. Other officials include M. Michel Martell, head of the brandy firm, Marcel Delepine and Henri Orsini of the Nantes Club, M. Henri Pitcherit who has done so much to make the visit possible, Denis Mazaeu, Henri Behoteguy, and several others.

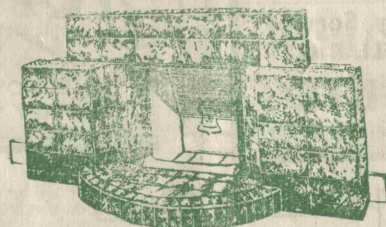
Leader of the football party will be Dr. Yves Thomas, aged 65, ex-president of the Nantes Club, and ex captain of the first fifteen. It is unfortunate M. Massoulard, President of the U.S. Cognacaise, will not be present, as he is recovering from an unfortunate motoring accident. We wish him a speedy recovery and a future visit to Cardiff.

#### UN MESSAGE AUX JOUEURS FRANCAIS

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### Cardiff Past

Full Back MORIN or HERVOCHE

Threequarters— IVAN DENIS

H. BEHOTEGUY

R. BABBAGE

BARBE

Outside Half PAUL GRINGOIRE  
(Capt.)

Inside Half ... POULLAOUEC

Forwards—

DUBILLOT or JUTON

MAURICE GRINGOIRE

CHEVALIER

JEUDI or LE POUILLAS

VERBE

PEIGNE or ORSINI

FIRSTER

MARCEL PEDRON

(15) DUNCAN BROWN Full Back

(11) A. T. THOMAS Right Wing

(12) W. WOOLLER Right Centre  
(Capt.)

(13) A. COLIN JONES Left Centre

(14) GWYN LEWIS Left Wing

(9) R. H. MILLAR Outside Half

(10) J. E. BOWCOTT Inside Half

Forwards—

(8) MALDWYN JAMES

(7) D. E. M. COOMBES

(6) WEN. DAVIES.

(5) HUGH JOHNSON

(4) HARRY REES

(3) IVOR WILLIAMS

(2) E. IANTO JONES

(1) LES. SPENCE

Reserves—

R. GABE JONES

DON CARNE

J. D. JONES

H. DRUMMOND

H. WESTLAKE



# RUGBY OFFICIALS. 1947-48.

Chairman Management Committee:  
D. BERNARD MORGAN, J.P.

Captain 1st XV.  
HADYN TANNER.

Vice-Captain 1st XV.:  
BLEDDYN WILLIAMS.

Football Hon. Secretary:  
F. ARTHUR CORNISH  
'Phone: 9370.

Team Hon. Secretary:  
D. E. DAVIES.

General Secretary:  
R. M. WILLIAMS,  
'Phone: 9370.

## FIXTURES.

Date.	Opponents.	Ground.	Date.	Opponents.	Ground.
1947.			1948.		
Sept. 3—	Cardiff & Dist. R.U.	Home	Jan. 3—	Neath ...	Home
" 6—	Pontypool ...	Away	" 10—	Bristol ...	Away
" 13—	Bristol ...	Home	" 17—	Bath ...	Home
" 20—	Nantes & Cognac	Home	" 24—	Neath ...	Away
" 27—	Australians ...	Home	" 31—	Rosslyn Park	Home
			Feb. 7—	Penarth ...	Home
Oct. 4—	Newport ...	Home	" 14—	Plymouth Albion	Home
" 11—	Gloucester ...	Away	" 21—	Gloucester ...	Home
" 18—	Swansea ...	Home	" 28—	Llanelly ...	Away
" 25—	Wasps ...	Away	Mar. 6—	Newport ...	Away
" 27—	Cambridge U.	Away	" 13—	Wales v. England	Cdfr.
				(Schoolboys)	
Nov. 1—	Llanelly ...	Home	" 13—	Penarth ...	Away
" 8—	Newport ...	Away	" 18—	Oxford U.	Home
" 15—	Leicester ...	Home	" 20—	Coventry ...	Home
" 22—	London Welsh	Home	" 27—	Barbarians ...	Home
" 29—	Leicester ...	Away	" 29—	Harlequins ...	Home
			" 30—	Devon Services	Home
Dec. 1—	Coventry ...	Away	April 3—	Welsh Sec. Schools	Cdfr.
" 6—	Richmond ...	Away		(Wales v. France)	
" 13—	Blackheath ...	Home	" 3—	Devon Services	Away
" 20—	Harlequins ...	Away	" 5—	Penzance & Newlyn	Away
" 26—	Wasps ...	Home	" 6—	Falmouth ...	Away
" 27—	Watsonians ...	Home	" 10—	Newport ...	Home
			" 17—	Swansea ...	Away
			" 24—	Pontypool ...	Home

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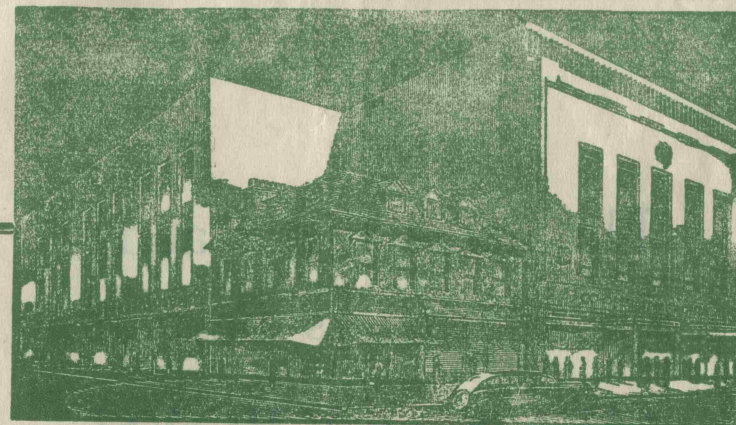
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