

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

715

SEASON

1954-55



Cardiff Arms Park



DISTRICT XV. v CARDIFF

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1954
KICK-OFF 6.0 P.M.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - 3d.

0777/15/23

Welcome to the New Season!

By THE EDITOR.

The 1954-55 season opens at the Cardiff Arms Park today, and in keeping with past years there is every likelihood of a heat-wave! The Cardiff players under their new leader (although he has deputised many times in the past for other notable captains) Sid Judd, are keen to do as well as last season. They have been training hard and enjoyed themselves in a very useful trial match on Saturday. Several young players in the Athletic XV under the leadership of Peter Goodfellow, promise to challenge the more experienced members of the senior side for a place. This healthy competition among players is the sign of a healthy club although it may produce many head-aches for the Club selectors (Messrs. S. Judd, F. Trott, G. Porter and L. M. Spence)!

The new Club chairman, Dr. J. Matthews and his enthusiastic committee look forward to an interesting season even though some of the glamour associated with a Touring side may be absent. However, the regular visitors to the Cardiff Arms Park will have their usual warm welcome from the thousands of loyal followers of the ground and can earn for themselves the reputation of being the most sporting rugby crowd in the World.

To open the season today, come the best players of the District Clubs, and below John D. Billott, District Rugby commentator of the *Cardiff Times*, writes about the players:

From 120 players who applied for the trial matches, Cardiff and District Rugby Union selectors have made their choice. They have chosen fifteen to represent the District in the traditional "pipe-opener" for the world famous Cardiff Club, conquerors of Australian,

South African and New Zealand touring teams in a history that Rugby football will never cease to honour. And so it is an honour for the District players this evening to oppose the club, for they represent the best in local club football—at least by the selectors standards, for there has yet to be a selection panel capable of selecting any side to meet with unanimous acclamation.

Though the District XV had an official "run out" (understood to be an unprecedented happening!) on Monday evening, they have never played together, and 10 local clubs are represented. There is no dominating personality this year, such as Billy Boston or Peter Nyhan. But the selectors could not have done better than place the captaincy in the hands of dashing Dai Yorath, an open-side wing forward, who will make his third successive appearance in the annual match against Cardiff. Wing forward talent was distinctly lacking in the trial matches; but Dai's place was an accepted fact.

Yorath also sets a record for Llandaff North this season, being elected captain for the fourth time. It is good to see him back in action, for at one time last winter a slipped disc "scare" threatened to end his playing career. With him in the back row of the District scrum are P. Phillips, a newcomer from Llantwit Major, and versatile Dai Farrell, of Currans. Farrell played second row in the trials and the day was not far distant when he appeared regularly at scrum half.

Last season's captain of Old Howardians, 24-year-old Peter Sanders, is due to leave Cardiff in October to pursue his career as a bio-chemist, and like his brother, Bruce, is an excellent coverer. Though perhaps better suited to the

No. 8 position he will fit in well with that of police man Malcolm Brown in the escrow row.

The selectors could not have chosen a better front row. Though small they are extremely mobile. In the absence of such noted rivals as Tommy Williams and "Paddy" Dec, there was virtually no opposition for hooker Stan O'Brien, back with G.K.B., after a season at Penarth. He was an automatic choice. Eighteen-year-old Alwyn Rees, of Old Penarthians, a schoolboy international, is the tight-head prop, and was the outstanding forward of the trials.

After playing in the first trial, Alwyn was brought out of the showers by the selectors to pack in the second row and play throughout the second trial! His methodical play earns him his first representative honours with a District XV and he looks a player worth watching for a notable future in first grade rugby.

On the loose-head side of the scrum packs Old Iltyddians' new skipper, Peter Fearby, who captained the District XV against Cardiff in 1951. He is one of the few District "cap" holders (three matches against Cardiff, or six inter-district matches), and with Yorath, Bartley and O'Brien, has figured against Cardiff in previous years.

With the exception of Haydn Bartley, at fly-half, all the backs are new to the District side. Haydn played at the Arms Park in the District side, of 1951, and while on National Service in the Army, played with distinction for the Pay Corps. Now back with Longcross, he showed his style in the trials, passing fluidly in Glyn Davies fashion. Though he looked a little slow off the mark, given a good service he should prove

an efficient link. His partner is 20-year-old Frank Crocker (Old Penarthians), an engineering student at Leds University. Frank gained a narrow verdict over John Ward (Llandaff North) in the trials, but is another stylish player, and the Penarth club were pleased with his display for them against Ebbw Vale last season.

The three-quarter line are all centres! Yes, every one. Yorkshireman Eddie Batty played North Riding cup rugby as a fly half; he was at centre in last season's Mallett Cup winning G.K.B. side; and this evening he appears at wing. On the right flank is Currans' big centre Terry Edwards, best known for his impregnable defence. Twenty-two-year-old Mervyn Francis, of Llandaff North is inside him, and former St. Clare's captain, Bill McCarthy, now with Llandaff Athletic, is his co-centre.

At full back is 19-year-old R.A.F. National Serviceman Brian Joseph, whose immaculate style and confidence makes an impressive combination. He looks a player who will one day make a big name for himself. Six feet tall and weighing 13st, he has scored 100 points in a season for both Cardiff Boys and Cardiff Youth. Brian has also represented the Welsh Secondary Schools Cricket XI, being a hostile opening bowler.


In all a team of contrasts; style at half back and full back; mobility in the front row; rugged determination throughout the pack; and a dash of untested ability at threequarter. All the District hope to do is provide Cardiff with a worthwhile "first night" before the serious club clashes that are to follow. This they hope to do in a manner befitting the quality and endeavour of local junior rugby.

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DISTRICT XV.

- 1 B. JOSEPH (Old Penarthians)
- 2 E. BATTY (G.K.B.)
- 3 W. MCCARTHY (Llandaff Athletic)
- 4 M. FRANCIS (Llandaff North)
- 5 T. EDWARDS (Currans)
- 6 H. BARTLEY (Longcross)
- 7 F. CROCKER (Old Penarthians)
- 8 P. FEARBY (Old Hlydians)
- 9 S. O'BRIEN (G.K.B.)
- 10 A. REES (Old Penarthians)
- 11 M. BROWN (City Police)
- 12 P. SANDERS (Old Howardsians)
- 13 D. FARRELL (Currans)
- 14 P. PHILLIPS (Llantwit Major)
- 15 D. YORATH (Capt.) (Llandaff North)

Reserves: F. Johnson (St. Peters)
W. J. Hullett (Canton)

Full Back

Left Wing Right Wing
Left Centre Right Centre

Right Centre Left Centre

Right Wing Left Wing
Outside Half Inside Half

Forwards



CARDIFF

- A. THOMAS* 1/1 1
- G. GRIFFITHS* 2/2 2
- G. WELLS. X 3
- B. L. WILLIAMS* 4
- H. MORRIS* X X 5
- G. HEWITT 6
- W. R. WILLIS* X 7
- S. BOWES 8
- G. BECKINGHAM* 9
- J. D. EVANS 10
- E. THOMAS 11
- F. C. FERGUSON X X 12
- J. D. NELSON 13
- S. JUDD (Capt.) 1/1 X 14
- C. D. WILLIAMS X 15

Referee: Mr. VERNON PARFITT (Newport)

*Internationals.



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SUPPORTERS' NOTES

Fraternal greetings to all members from your Officers and Committee. As usual, the new season opens with much activity and preparation. We have watched, with pleasure, the wedding out process that has been going on at the Arms Park during the past weeks, and have sympathised with the Rugby Committee in the task they have had of reaching final decisions. We have every confidence that under the leadership of the new skipper, Sid Judd, we shall witness some grand exhibitions of the Cardiff type of rugby. Good luck and best wishes to all the playing members for the coming season.

Headquarters. We have now transferred our Headquarters to the Grand Hotel, Westgate Street, and we hope, during the season, to entertain many of the visiting Supporters' Clubs. Details of various arrangements for social evenings will appear in this programme from time to time.

Hospitals. The Hospitals Broadcast season. We are indebted to those members who gave their services as Commentators and Collectors during last season.

Letters of appreciation have been received from many of the patients, and all look forward to the continuation of the service. There is a need for more volunteers to do collecting work, and members are asked to rally around and make this a bumper season for the hospital. Before the season is very far advanced we hope to connect lines to both Catherphilly and Bridgend and bring as many patients inside the scope of the scheme as possible. We hope that all rugby followers will give us that support necessary to ensure the continuation of the broadcasts.

CARDIFF R.F.C.

OFFICIALS FOR 1954-55.

Chairman: Dr. J. MATTHEWS.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. DUNCAN BROWN.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. B. H. JENKINS.
Captain: Mr. S. JUDD.

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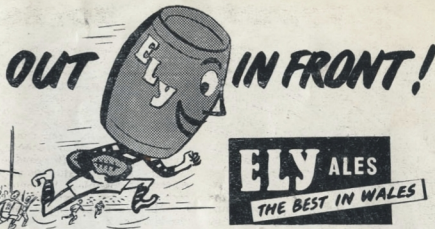
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FIXTURES

1954	Result	1955	Result
	F. A.		F. A.
Sept. 1—Cardiff and District	<i>h</i>	Jan. 1—Moseley	<i>a</i>
.. 4—Cheltenham	<i>h</i>	.. 8—Bristol	<i>a</i>
.. 8—Penarth	<i>a</i>	.. 15—Bath	<i>a</i>
.. 11—Pontypool	<i>a</i>	.. 22—Old Belydere	<i>a</i>
.. 15—Bridgend	<i>a</i>	.. 29—Cheltenham	<i>a</i>
.. 18—Coventry	<i>a</i>	Feb. 5—Bristol	<i>a</i>
.. 20—Leicester	<i>a</i>	.. 12—London Welsh	<i>h</i>
.. 25—Aberavon	<i>a</i>	.. 19—Newport	<i>a</i>
.. 29—Ebbw Vale	<i>h</i>	.. 26—Gloucester	<i>a</i>
Oct. 2—Newport	<i>h</i>	Mar. 5—Newport	<i>a</i>
.. 6—Aberavon	<i>h</i>	.. 12—Blackheath	<i>a</i>
.. 9—Pontypool	<i>h</i>	.. 19—Neath	<i>a</i>
.. 16—Swansea	<i>h</i>	.. 26—Leicester	<i>a</i>
.. 23—Neath	<i>h</i>	.. 31—Birkenhead Park	<i>h</i>
.. 30—Northampton	<i>a</i>	April 2—	
Nov. 4—Oxford	<i>a</i>	.. 9—Barbarians	<i>h</i>
.. 6—Wasps	<i>a</i>	.. 11—Harlequins	<i>h</i>
.. 13—Newport	<i>h</i>	.. 12—Northampton	<i>h</i>
.. 20—Llanelli	<i>h</i>	.. 16—Devonport Services	<i>a</i>
.. 27—Gloucester	<i>a</i>	.. 18—Penzance	<i>a</i>
Dec. 4—Swansea	<i>h</i>	.. 19—St. Ives	<i>a</i>
.. 11—Harlequins	<i>a</i>	.. 23—Coventry	<i>h</i>
.. 13—Cambridge	<i>h</i>	.. 27—Penarth	<i>h</i>
.. 18—Rosslyn Park	<i>h</i>	.. 30—Llanelli	<i>h</i>
.. 27—Wasps	<i>h</i>		
.. 28—Watsonians	<i>h</i>		

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