

J.E. JAVIES - CRFC  
COMMITTEE



# WELSH RUGBY

25p

STUART WEAVING, FOUNDER

1976-77  
SPECIAL ISSUE



## CARDIFF R.F.C.

★ ★ ★ ★

### A TOAST TO THE VINTAGE YEARS

### 1876-1976



for people  
who put **Life** into  
living

Bukta, Brinksway Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1ED.



**IS THERE A BRANCH  
IN YOUR TOWN?**

# TYRES !



**BUY YOUR TYRES FROM BRITAIN'S No. 1 TYRE  
SERVICE**

WE CAN ASSURE YOU OF COMPETITIVE TERMS AND  
INCOMPARABLE SERVICE WITH FREE FITTING

## **ASSOCIATED TYRE SPECIALISTS (SOUTH WALES) LTD.**

*Head Office:*

**St. David's Street, Carmarthen**

**Tel. 6996**

*Branches:*

<b>ABERDARE</b> , Gadlys Road.	3914
<b>ABERGAVENNY</b> , 11 Monmouth Rd.	4348
<b>CARDIFF</b> , South Luton Place.	28251
<b>CARDIFF</b> , Bessemer Road.	26336
<b>CARDIGAN</b> , 4 Bath House Road.	2917
<b>CARMARTHEN</b> , St. David's St.	6996, 5456
<b>CWMBRAN</b> , Station Road.	4964
<b>EBBW VALE</b> , Beaufort Hill.	302061
<b>GORSEINON</b> , High Street.	892364

<b>HAVERFORDWEST</b> , 1a Spring Gardens, Lower Barn Street.	3756/7
<b>LAMPETER</b> , Mill Garage, North Rd.	422040
<b>LLANDEILO</b> , Towy Ter., Ffairfach.	2567
<b>LLANELLI</b> , Coldstream Street.	50435
<b>NEWPORT</b> , 36 Cromwell Road.	74841
<b>NEWPORT</b> , Transit House Turner Street, Barnardtown.	64343
<b>SWANSEA</b> , Flintmill Yard, Upper Strand.	54379



.....  
**Brake Shoes and Exhaust  
Systems purchased from stock  
and Fitted Free**

●  
**We have qualified mechanics to  
check tracking and electronic  
wheel balancing**  
.....



# CONTENTS

**THAT OLD BLUE AND BLACK  
MAGIC . . . . . 5**

by Staff Writers

**CARDIFF'S No. 1 FAN . . . . . 17**

by GRAHAM E. EVANS

**THE ACE OF CLUBS . . . . . 21**

by JOHN O'SHEA (Evening News)

**THE ROLLS ROYCE OF RUGBY 20**

by JOHN REED (Sunday Express)

**SUPPORTERS' CLUB GOSSIP . 23**

by EDDIE JOHN

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT . . . . . 25**

by C. R. G. HARRIS

**TRIBUTE TO CARDIFF YOUTH 34**

by GRAHAM E. EVANS

**MAGIC MOMENTS . . . . . 36**

by A. D. CROSTER

**Ra POTTERY . . . . . 38**

## Index to Advertisers

Angel Hotel	4	Edmunds Coaches	14	Ra Pottery	40
Associated Tyres	2	J. Everest	13	Red Dragon Travel	16
Bevan Bros., Cases	14	Erection & Welding	36	The Rugby Club	22
Brains Brewery	10	Kent Trading	37	Andrew Scott	30
Bukta	Front Cover	Lillywhite Mansfield	18	Scottish Brewers	22
John Cory Travel	7	My Fathers Moustache	26	H.E. Sports Ltd.	Back Cover
Centre Hotel	28	John Nicholas & Sons	24	Terry Smith & Son	32
Daw Plant	6	Patrick (U.K.) Ltd.	8	Welsh Brewers	34
Derwen Ltd.	24	Piano Man	12		



**STUART WEAVING**  
(Founder)

*Founder* . . . . . J. STUART WEAVING

*Editor* . . . . . FRED CROSTER

*Permanent Contributors:*

*Dyfed and West Glam.* . . . . MICHAEL SAMUEL

*North Wales* . . . . . IAN HARRISON

*Editorial Offices:* Western Sporting Press Ltd.,  
Office Suite No. 8, Third Floor, East Wing, St.  
David's House, Wood Street, Cardiff, South Glam.

*Telephone* . . . . . Cardiff (0222) 23022

*General Manager* . . . . . GRAHAM EVANS



*Advertising Manager:*  
**HOWARD COOKE**  
3 Parcyrhun, Ammanford  
*Telephone:* 2728



# THE ANGEL-CARDIFF



Situated in the heart of the City opposite Cardiff Castle and Bute Park.



100 Modern Rooms and Suites.



Delightfully Furnished Public Rooms



Cocktail Bar  
Louis XVI Restaurant  
Montmartre Grill

---

## THE CAPITAL'S LEADING HOTEL

---

Facilities for Meetings, Luncheons and Dinners for 6-300 people

Enquires to the Manager,

**THE ANGEL HOTEL, CASTLE ST., CARDIFF CF1 2QZ**

Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 32633



# THAT OLD BLUE AND BLACK MAGIC



**"WELSH RUGBY" MAGAZINE is delighted to pay tribute to the Cardiff Rugby Football Club in its proud Centenary Season, 1976-77.**

**Staff writers trace the origins of the game on the waste-land behind the old "Cardiff Arms" coaching inn and salute those eccentric, moustachioed characters whose antics in those far-off days of the last century first attracted public interest to the spot which is now hallowed throughout the rugby world as the Mecca of the rugby faithful . . . Cardiff Arms Park!**

A CENTURY AGO billycock-hatted roof passengers atop the stage coaches which stopped for a change of horses and refreshment at the "Cardiff Arms" coaching inn, must have watched with amusement the antics of a score or so of dundreary-whiskered, knickerbockered young bloods as they kicked and hacked at a misshapen pig's bladder on the wasteland behind the inn! Although they could not be expected to realise the fact, they were the very first football spectators on a ground which over the years has been transformed into the most famous rugby centre in the world.

Since 1823 when the eccentric William Webb Ellis caught the ball in his hands and ran with it during a Bigside football match at Rugby School, this particular variant of the football game seems to have captured the imagination of the Welsh. It is true that the game, based roughly on the 37 rules laid down in 1846 by a Levee of Bigside, Rugby School, was being played by Guy's Hospital, while a group of Cambridge University footballers, mainly Old Etonians who objected to the rugby practice of handling the ball, drew up the "Cambridge Rules" which were adopted, with some minor alterations, by the Football Association in 1863.

## PIONEER DAYS

WHILE THE WASTELAND behind the "Cardiff Arms" pub staged its occasional pick-up games, the code took hold elsewhere in Wales, and clubs as far afield as Beaumaris in Anglesey, Lampeter, Merthyr Tydfil and Mid-Wales were already well-established.

*In fact, the star club of South Wales rugby in those far-off days was the celebrated "Pegler's Team" from Pontypool which travelled to Cheltenham College and Rockleaze, Bristol, early strongholds of the new code.*

In 1857 the new-fangled game was played by public schoolboys at Liverpool Cricket Club's ground at Edgehill and, a year later, the first Scottish club, Edinburgh Academicals, was founded. In Wales, Neath (1871), Llanelli (1872) and Glamorgan (which two years later became Cardiff) and Newport (1874) followed suit.

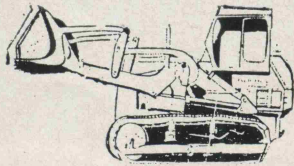
Although 1970 was the Rugby Football Union of England's proud centenary year, the actual parting of the ways of the two football codes, Rugby and Association, was in 1863, when the Football Association was founded, the Rugby Union being established on 26th January, 1871, by twenty clubs, seven of which survive — Black-



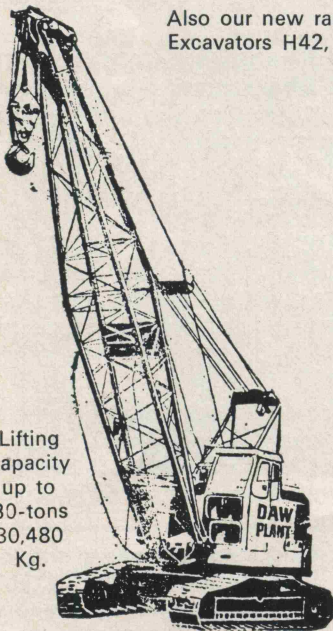
# HIRE THE C30

**30-TON CRAWLER CRANE AND  
GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A LIFT  
MOBILE CRANES UP TO 30-TONS  
AVAILABLE**

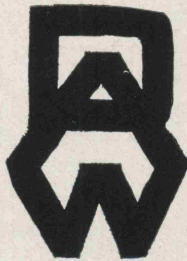
Bulldozers to meet  
your requirements  
for high production  
at the lowest cost



Also our new range of Ford  
Excavators H42, 44, 47 and 45/50's



Lifting  
capacity  
up to  
30-tons  
30,480  
Kg.



FOR ALL  
SPECIALIST  
PLANT HIRE,  
FULL DETAILS  
FROM:—

SUBSIDIARY OF BIRD GROUP OF COMPANIES

## DAW PLANT HIRE

(Newport) LTD.

AVONDALE RD., CWMBRAN, MON.

Tel. Cwmbbran 4941

heath, Richmond, Civil Service, Wellington College, Guy's Hospital, London Harlequins, St. Paul's School — the luckless thirteen, Marlborough Nomads, Clapham Rovers, Law, Queen's House, Flamingoes, King's College, Lausanne, Addison, Belsize Park and Mohicans (aptnly the last!) were later disbanded.

### THE TAFF FLATS

BUT ON THE Taff Flats alongside the river which in those days flowed down Westgate Street (hence the "Go Late" alley alongside the old *South Wales Echo* offices which was famous as a last resort for "pier-head jumps" by merchant mariners) the game gradually took shape.

According to the public prints of the time: "The ancient and manly game of football is well patronised in the present day, as it was in the days of old. Between thirty and forty muscular young men met for a trial of strength and skill at the Cardiff Arms Park. Shins were barked in large numbers; the equilibrium of many was upset and, in short, there was "war to the knife between the opposed parties" . . . shades of Cardiff v Newport!

Commenced in the early afternoon these affairs were continued for several hours. Two clubs emerged — Wanderers and Glamorgan — who preferred to play fifteen-a-side instead of the twenty in other parts of the country. The line-up in those bewhiskered days was interesting: nine forwards; two full backs; one threequarter; one half back and two quarter backs. The half back was known as "the flying man".

Newport, by now a well-established side, met Cardiff on 2nd December, 1876, and won by two tries and 11 touchdowns (minors) to nil before 200 spectators who paid 6d. admission. Under the rules of the time a goal beat any number of tries; there was no referee, each side nominating its own umpire — a fact that led to constant arguments and internecine controversies.

### CARDIFF FOUNDED

AT THE SWISS HALL, Queen Street, Cardiff, on 22nd September, 1876, the two clubs, Glamorgan F.C. and Cardiff Wanderers amalgamated and the famous Cardiff R.F.C. emerged to become one of the most glamorous clubs in world rugby. It was not long before time.

According to a local scribe, "Red Dragon", there had been chaos in the town ever since 1873 when the first signs of rugby hysteria manifested themselves at the park behind the "Cardiff Arms". "In those days the game was crude and the rules not so stringent, as we had no 'words of thunder' from the Welsh Rugby Union to remind us that football was a game of skill rather than skull-cracking!"

And it was "skull" rather than "skill" which dominated the game in those early days. Twenty-



a-side was the rule; the ball was round (or thereabouts!); it could never be picked up off the ground but must be "dapping". Passing was unknown. The player, catching the ball on the bounce, made for the opposing line. When colored (not "tackled", please note) the player was obliged to *hand* the ball to a colleague . . . he never, ever, *threw* it! The usual plan was to put the ball on the ground and then form a scrum around it. There was no line-out. Forwards, twelve from each side, lined up *with their heads down!* *The ball (believe it or not) was thrown in by a spectator!* The object of the exercise was to force the ball forward — heeling was unknown and punting was considered very bad form. But with goals of vital importance, the art of drop-kicking was cultivated and prodigious distances were covered with the round ball by the Keith Jarretts and Lewis Joneses of the day.

### "CONTACT" SPORT

EVEN THEN RUGBY was emerging as a contact sport and must have been pretty rough-and-ready

at times. Tripping was considered not to be etiquette but "scientific hacking" (it certainly is that in soccer today) was encouraged. It consisted of hooking the instep of the leg in the air, which sounds suspiciously like a Welsh version of savate!

Probably the first real game of rugby played at Cardiff Arms Park (as it was christened) was on 23rd November, 1874, when 66 members of the new Cardiff club lined up in front of the old Cricket Pavilion for a practice game. They must have appeared a Fred Karno lot at that! There was no regular costume. *Players in their ordinary attire (including stiff starch collars) merely divested themselves of their jackets before joining in the fun. One player earned fleeting fame by playing in formal evening dress, while many did not bother to discard their billycock or bowler hats.*

Initially, entrance to Cardiff games at the Arms Park was free and the players paid their own expenses. Cardiff's first away game was at Cowbridge Grammar School on 21st November, 1874, when strange things took place!

## FOLLOW THE 1977 BRITISH LIONS AROUND NEW ZEALAND

WITH BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RUGBY TOUR OPERATOR

Register now to avoid disappointment

### Three speciality tours:—

<b>ECONOMY SPECIAL</b> .....	<b>22 days from £940</b>
<b>SOUTH PACIFIC STOPOVER</b> .....	<b>30 days from £1,095</b>
<b>THE KIWI CLASSIC</b> .....	<b>48 days from £1,670</b>

Tour prices include first class hotel accommodation and breakfast, return air fares to New Zealand and all transportation, Stand tickets and sightseeing tours.

### Limited accommodation available for:—

<b>FRANCE v WALES, PARIS</b> .....	<b>5th FEBRUARY, 1977</b>
<b>SCOTLAND v WALES, EDINBURGH</b> .....	<b>19th MARCH, 1977</b>

Will also be operating a WRU Supporters Tour to Australia 1978

**CONTACT PAUL BAYLEY FOR ALL DETAILS**

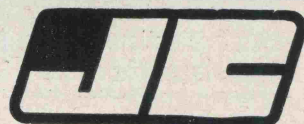
**CARDIFF R.F.C. CENTENARY YEAR 1976/77**

MAY WE WISH CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB EVERY SUCCESS DURING THEIR CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS

AS TRAVEL AGENTS TO CARDIFF R.F.C. WE WILL BE HANDLING THE INCOMING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 4th ALSO, THE INTERNATIONAL INVITATION XV ON SEPTEMBER 25th

# JOHN CORY TRAVEL LTD.

Travel Agents to the Welsh Rugby Union



**MOUNT STUART SQUARE, CARDIFF.**

**Tel: 27321**



# What to look for in a pair of rugby boots.

Before you buy a pair of rugby boots, it's as well to consider the demands the game makes on footwear and the requirements of your position on the field.

## COMFORT

Obviously comfort is most important. Boots made to a generous last (wider fitting) give an increased degree of comfort, as do padded tongues and latex sponge inner socks.

## THE UPPER

Look for good quality leather and judge it by its softness and suppleness. Leather allows the foot to "breathe" properly, improving circulation. Interior textile lining of the upper adds strength.

## THE SOLE

The boot sole should be pre-moulded, not direct injection moulded to the upper. Pre-moulding provides flexibility at the pivotal points in the foot movement.

## THE HEEL

Conformation should allow maximum freedom for the Achilles tendon.

## STUDS

Studs must conform to the requirements of the International Board.

## POSITION ON THE FIELD

**Backs** — Choose the lightest possible boot, cut away from the ankle. Reinforced toe for toe end place kickers.

**Props, locks and No. 8's** — Select a stronger boot with good ankle/toe protection.

**Flankers and hookers** — Style of boot is a matter for individual preference. Mid-height boot gives least restrictive form of protection.

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR BOOTS

A little care and attention can prolong the life of your boots. Always scrub off mud and dirt immediately after the game. Never use heat to dry your boots. A good wax polish — not grease or dubbin — will help preserve the upper. Always replace worn studs; uneven studs increase wear on the uppers.

Ideally keep one pair of boots for training and another for playing.



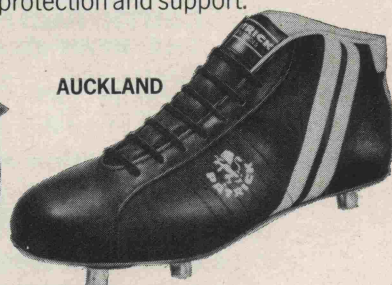
**MODEL 95840 AUCKLAND** — Our first quality Forward Boot made in full grain chrome hide leather with a complete textile lining for additional strength — square hard toe — fully padded ankle with soft Achilles heel pad — superb fully padded leather tongue — black polyurethane sole.

**MODEL 90010 BREAKAWAY** — A clubman's budget forward boot made in chrome hide leather with square toe — padded ankle — polyurethane sole and padded tongue.

## PATRICK RUGBY BOOTS

Patrick have made a close study of the demands the game makes on footwear and of the needs of individual positions. All Patrick boots are made to a generous last, with uppers in top quality chrome hide leather. Soles are pre-moulded; hard square toes are treated with special solvent to increase protection. Replaceable aluminium studs comply with the requirements of the International Board.

Patrick boots are designed to provide maximum comfort, protection and support.



**MODEL 92320 BONIFACE** — Lightweight mid-height boot made in fine Aquasouple hide leather — nylon lined throughout — padded collar only — soft toe — padded tongue and the advanced Patrick S.S.S. Rilsan sole.

**MODEL 91810 RUSH** — Low cut — hard square toe boot — made in full grain hide chrome leather — padded collar and tongue — black Rilsan sole.

**MODEL 88230 MONDIAL** — Lightweight — low cut — soft toe — made in full grain hide leather — leather padded collar — black Rilsan S.S.S. sole.



# PATRICK U.K.LIMITED

Grove Terrace, Walsall WS1 2NE. Telephone: Walsall 21322



*Similar after-match wassailing (not unknown today on tours and away trips) caused the coachman to fall off his box on the return journey. One of the players, a Mr. C. W. Watson, took over the reins but appears to have lacked that eye for an opening displayed by today's Cardiff stars, Gerald Davies and Gareth Edwards! After smashing through the turnpike at Ely he collided with a lamp-post in front of the Town Hall in St. Mary Street, with the result that the club had to stage a special smoking concert to raise money to pay for the damage!*

There were two other clubs in Cardiff at the time — Tredegarville, of which James Bush, father of the legendary Cardiff and Wales star, Percy Bush, was a member, and Wanderers, whose shining light was the redoubtable W. D. Phillips, a former Bridgend School player, who was destined to play a major role in the advancement of Cardiff and Welsh rugby football.

### SKULL-AND-CROSSBONES

CARDIFF'S MURKY PAST as a haunt of pirates and wreckers preying on the rich Merchant Venturer traffic in the Bristol Channel, gave the club its first colours . . . a black jersey with a white skull-and-crossbones motif. It served for only one season.

*Parents, objecting to their offspring wearing what were described at the time as "these uncanny emblems", forced the committee to think again. The following season the colours were changed to the famous blue-and-black hoops, said to be inspired by the college jersey worn by a Cambridge undergraduate, T. W. Rees, although there*

*is a strong belief that the original colours were Cambridge light blue and Oxford dark blue, in tribute to the varsity lads who played so great a part in the club's origins.*

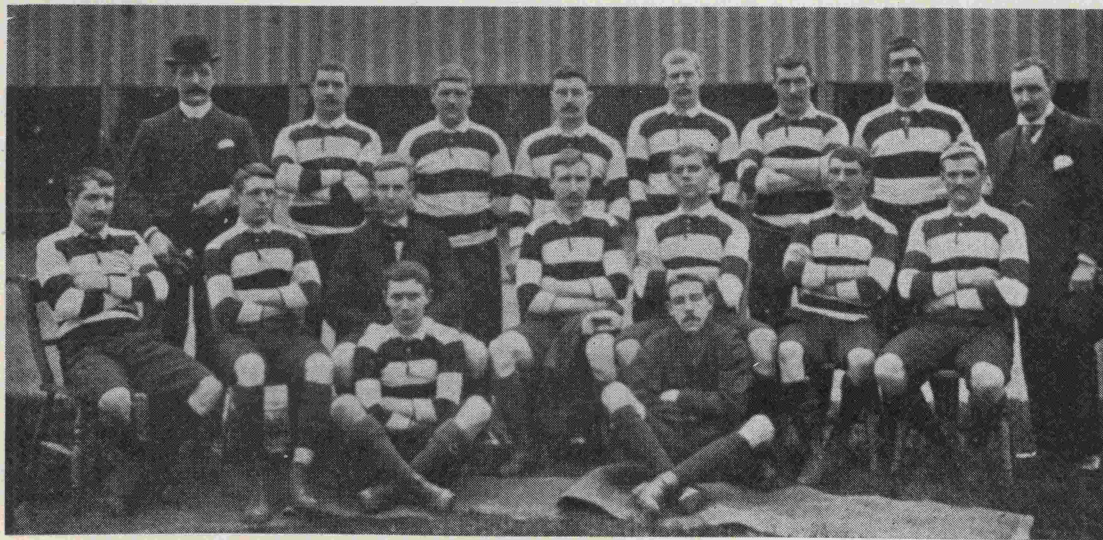
Up to this point Cardiff Arms Park was merely the headquarters of the local club and its fame had yet to travel to the outposts of the rugby world.

### RIVALRY

THE BITTER INTER-TOWN rivalry which is an integral part of Welsh rugby was stressed as long ago as 2nd December, 1876 (the ideal day for a centenary confrontation with the "old enemy" would surely be 2nd December, 1976?) was at Marshfield on the Wentloog marshes (where prize-fights used to be staged between the hungry fighters of the time) when Cardiff were literally K.O.d by Newport by 2 tries and 13 touches-down (minors) to 2 touches-down.

*A contemporary report revealed that . . . "amid a downpour of rain which made the ground like a puddle and despite a charge of sixpence to the public, about 200 assembled to witness the contest. The game commenced at 3.30 and lasted an hour and the play was of the best all through the game. Newport kept the ball well in the goal of their opponents and compelled them to touch down in defence 13 times. Newport also had two tries, but they failed to turn them into goals".*

A commentator of the time stressed that "touches-down" or "rouges" in those days were regarded as of value and if teams could not score tries or goals, they tried to score touches-down. A goal, of course, beat any number of tries. The



### SEASON 1896/97

*(Standing)* W. H. Treatt, W. J. Elsey, E. Emery, W. Phillips, Geo. Dobson, G. Abbott, J. Blake, W. M. Douglas.  
*(Seated)* W. Jones, H. V. P. Huzzey, E. G. Nicholls, J. E. Elliot (*captain*), F. H. Cornish, J. Driscoll, Tom Dobson.  
*(In front)* T. J. Thomas, Selwyn Biggs.





Cardiff's



renowned for  
its Brains

Pop along to your local Brains pub and use yours!

**BRAINS**

We're still brewing traditional draught beer.





**THE  
ARMS PARK  
STAND  
1885-1886**

A PACKED  
CROWD  
WHEN CARDIFF  
PLAYED  
LIVERPOOL

Laws of the game at that time were as primitive as the play, with no referee, each side having their own man as umpire. This, of course, led to all kinds of shenanigans, with players and umpire of each side arguing the toss and, occasionally, throwing haymakers and agricultural swings in the heat of the moment.

In that first season Cardiff had only 43 members — nearly all playing members — who defrayed their own expenses owing to the lack of gate-money in those early days.

**Season 1877-78 was an historic one with an unexpected victory by 2 goals, a try and 4 "rouges" (touch-downs) to nil over what was generally considered to be the top Welsh team of the day, Pegler's Pontypool XV.**

This was the year in which the notorious "South Wales Challenge Cup" was initiated and the handsome trophy which cost £50 is still in contention as the W.R.U.'s National Sevens Trophy. Qualification for this rough, tough inter-town feud was a subscription of two guineas by any club in Wales and Cardiff's very first Cup-tie took place at St. Helen's, Swansea, when Carmarthen, in controversial circumstances, won by 1 goal (disputed) and 3 touches-down to a try and 2 touches-down.

There must have been a complete breakdown in communication because Cardiff were not notified of their Carmarthen Cup-tie until the evening before and therefore had only six of their regular first team in the side which made the journey to West Wales!

**WONDER TRY**

ABOUT THE ONLY consolation for Cardiff that season was a wonder try by quarter back, E. C. Fry, which must challenge for the honour of being the best try ever scored at Cardiff Arms Park. The little

quarter back (half the size of today's half back geniuses Gareth Edwards and Brynmor Williams) was forced over his own line but instead of touching-down actually threaded his way through the whole opposing team to score between the posts at the other end!

Gradually the Cardiff fixture list improved and in 1878 20 matches were played, Cardiff winning 16 and losing 4, but of the 27 matches arranged one was abandoned owing to flooding and six because of frost. Again an extraordinary individual performance headlined the season — Percy K. Heard, in his debut in first class rugby, scoring 17 tries in a season including 7 against Blaenavon.

Skipped by R. H. Foa, Cardiff reached the final of the South Wales Challenge Cup only to lose at Sophia Gardens (gate receipts £72) to Newport by 1 goal, 2 tries and 4 touches-down to nil . . . no wonder the Gwent side received a civic welcome when they returned home with the Cup.

The brilliant Percy Heard scored the winning try in the South Wales Challenge Cup in the following season when Cardiff beat Llanelli at Neath in controversial circumstances which included police protection for the Cardiff umpire in that needle Cup-tie.

**PIONEER DAYS**

THESE WERE PIONEER days for Cardiff as for Wales who were clobbered by 8 goals and 5 tries to nil by England at Blackheath in her very first international encounter.

But better things were in store.

**In 1883-84 Cardiff pioneered a move that was to be adopted world-wide . . . the introduction of the four threequarters game. The famous F. E. Hancock, who had joined Cardiff from Wiveliscombe, was brought in as a replacement threequarter**



for the tough match at Cheltenham. He scored the only two tries scored and was obviously of such quality that he could not be dropped and became the fourth three-quarter in the Cardiff line of W. B. Norton, Tom Williams, F. E. Hancock and A. J. Stuart against Gloucester, and later that season was capped for Wales against Ireland at Cardiff Arms Park, one of eight Cardiff stars to be recognised by the national selectors.

Cardiff, at last, appeared to be making the rugby grade and in 1884 improved their fixture list to include such formidable teams as Wakefield

Trinity, Harlequins, Queen's College, Cork and the German Gymnasium, London!

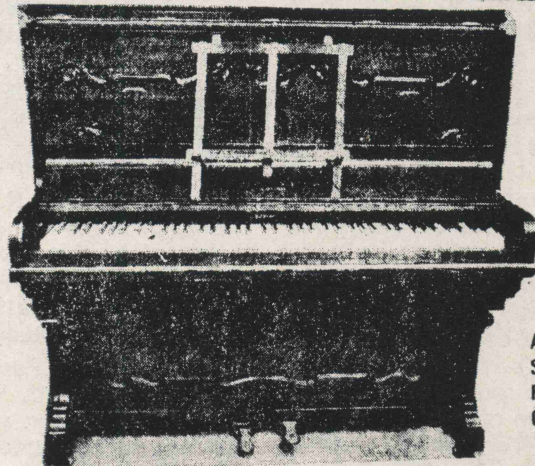
### HANCOCK'S YEAR

THE NEAREST CARDIFF ever came to an invincible season was in 1885 — Hancock's Year — when they crossed their opponents lines on 131 occasions and conceded only four crossings of their own line in a marvellous (played 27, won 26, lost 1) campaign.

*W. M. Douglas (23), C. S. Arthur (22) and F. E. Hancock (18), were the leading try-scorers but a remarkable season — some people consider it to be one of the best in the club's long history — ended sensationally with a 2 goals to a try defeat*

# PIANOS WANTED

## CASH OFFERED



LARGE  
OR SMALL.  
CONDITION  
IMMATERIAL.

ANY  
STYLE OF  
PIANO  
CONSIDERED

Preference for Overstrung or old  
GERMAN PIANOS  
All models considered.

WE ALSO BUY SECOND-HAND  
FURNITURE  
AND CLEAR HOUSES

For immediate attention telephone SWANSEA 57504

## THE PIANO MAN OF SWANSEA

THE WAREHOUSE, GWYDR LANE, UPLANDS, SWANSEA.

Telephone: SWANSEA 57504.



**SEASON 1906/07**

(Back row) R. T. Gabe, F. Smith, C. F. Biggs, J. Powell, J. Casey, J. Brown, A. Brice, E. Harding, J. Pugsley. (Middle row) Mr. Millar, J. L. Williams, R. A. Gibbs, H. B. Winfield, P. F. Bush (capt.), G. Northmore, W. Neill, R. J. David. (Front row) L. M. George, E. G. Nicholls, G. McCraith, F. Woods.

by Moseley in the very last game of the season.

**Like that great all-rounder J. P. R. Williams today, Hancock was also a top class tennis player and was singles champion of Glamorgan for two seasons. A stern disciplinarian who loathed the drop at goal he once caused a sensation at Cirencester when he threatened to send off the field one of his own players for disobeying orders and attempting to drop for goal!**

In those rough and ready days the Cardiff headquarters were in a room in the Cattle Market Hotel in Quay Street, opposite the Arms Park, and a certain Geo. Lewis was employed at 6/- per week as the first official rub-a-dub man and physio-therapist. Things were looking up and a new shed was erected as a temporary stand to accommodate the ever-increasing number of spectators who paid £545 5s. 9d. at the turnstiles in Cardiff's tenth season.

It was in those early pioneer days that the foundations of Cardiff's future greatness were laid, including the long four-games-a-season feud against Newport which commenced in 1887 and is now at last being superseded.

Cardiff had their crowd problems even in those early days and the sum of £148 1s. 2d. paid for steel fencing around the ground proved to be a waste of money as it failed to serve the purpose for which it was erected . . . to keep the street urchins from getting into the ground.

*It would take more than a few hundred yards of steel knitting to keep out the boyoes of today . . . we doubt if even a Securicor commando (com-*

*plete with long-fanged guard dogs and tear-gas grenadiers) could deter the bovver-booted brethren who descend on Wales' capital city for the big international rugby occasions.*

**RECORD CROWD**

FEW PEOPLE KNOW that the biggest gate at Cardiff Arms Park in those far-off days was in 1892

## CATERERS TO INDUSTRY

## J. F. EVEREST

HOUSE PARTIES · WEDDINGS  
GARDEN PARTIES

### BUFFET AND BANQUET SPECIALISTS

Telephone:

Pentyrch 326

Cardiff 26380

Bridgend 2741

Dinas Powis 512153

Head Office:

Robin Hill

Creigiau

Cardiff



# BEVAN BROS. (Cases) Ltd.

## Gower Sawmills, Penclawdd, Swansea SA4 3YB

Telephone: PENCLAWDD 581/2/3

After hours: Sales, E. J. Dyer, Llanelli 55731

Production, Mr. L. Evans, Penclawdd 382

Builders Supplies : Packing Advisory Service  
 Export Packing : Retail D-I-Y Department  
 Case, Box and Pallet Manufacture

AND AT

ALBION HOUSE, QUEENS TERRACE, CARDIGAN

Telephone: 2356

ALSO AT:

18-19-20 MARKET STREET, TREDEGAR

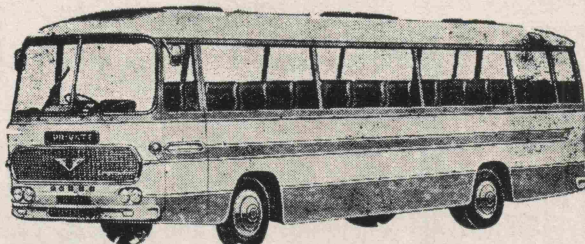
Telephone: 2796

# EDMUNDS OMNIBUS SERVICES LTD.

**RASSAU • BEAUFORT • GWENT**

Telephone: EBBW VALE 303148 and 303115

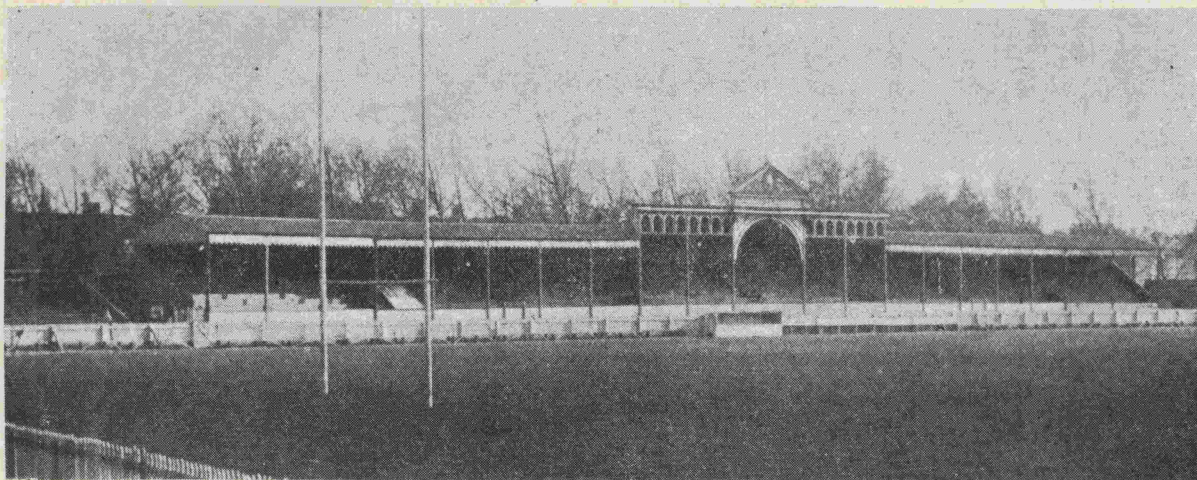
FOR HOME TRAVEL OUR NEW FLEET OF **PANORAMIC** AND **PLAXTON COACHES** OFFER SMOOTH AND REAL COMFORT WITH WONDERFUL VISIBILITY AND AGAIN ARE FULLY AIR CONDITIONED TO GIVE YOU THAT MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT TO MAKE YOUR JOURNEY A PLEASURE



**SPECIALISTS IN HOME AND AWAY  
 RUGBY INTERNATIONALS**

**J. B. Cunningham and Staff**  
 congratulate Cardiff R.F.C.  
 on their Centenary and wish  
 the club every future success





**The new grandstand erected in 1900 which was the first move in a bid to make Cardiff Arms Park the greatest rugby complex in the world.**

when an enormous crowd (said to be the biggest at a rugby match in Wales up to that time) crammed the Arms Park to watch Cardiff beat the powerful Northern club, Swinton, by a last-second drop goal by Cardiff full back, J. Francis, a native of St. David's, Pembrokeshire.

**So great was the excitement that one of the stands at the river end partially collapsed and several spectators were injured.**

Cardiff were now a force to be reckoned with and such stars as Tommy Pearson, R. B. Sweet-Escott, Norman and Selwyn Biggs and the fabulous Gwyn Nicholls continued to improve the blue-and-black standard of play. In 1897 Cardiff achieved the four-wins-a-season whitewash over Newport for the first time (something the famous Gwent club never succeeded in accomplishing) and two years later under the leadership of Gwyn Nicholls (who had returned from a tour of Australia with Mullineaux's team) other great players like Percy Bush and H. B. Winfield joined "Pussy" Jones, Cecil Sweet-Escott and Neville Thomas, the son of Fleming Thomas, one of the founders of the Cardiff club, in a formidable line-up.

At the turn of the century came a move that was to transform Cardiff Arms Park from a mere club ground (famous as it had become) to the greatest rugby complex in the world.

#### **PERMANENT STANDS**

IT WAS IN 1900 that temporary stands, put up and taken down every season with the cost of maintenance and repair the responsibility of the Cardiff club alone, were introduced as well as a greatly-improved grandstand to seat 1,800 spectators, bringing the Arms Park capacity to 35,000.

**The cost of these improvements came to**

**£1,926 of which the Welsh Rugby Union contributed £1,445 and the Cardiff club £481 . . . which makes our present-day inflationary costs for National Stadium improvements at Cardiff Arms Park look like Monopoly money!**

Rhys Gabe, who became a schoolmaster in Cardiff, left Llanelli to take over when Gwyn Nicholls broke his collar-bone and after touring Australia and New Zealand in the company of Percy Bush for the British Lions, made history in that famous 1905 season when his tackle short of the Welsh line disproved the historic "Dean's claim" that he had scored against Wales in that controversial game against the New Zealand All Blacks on 16th December, 1905 when Teddy Morgan's try brought that epic 3-0 victory over Dave Gallaher's powerful team from Down Under.

*One of the Forgotten Men of Welsh rugby, surely, must be the Cardiff star, Reggie Gibbs, who scored four tries for Wales against France at Cardiff Arms Park in 1908 to share a try-scoring record for Wales with Willie Llewellyn (Lwynypia) and club-mate Maurice Richards, and who also gained a hat-trick of tries again against France at Swansea in 1910 and against Scotland at Inverjeith in 1911.*

Gibbs, together with Gwyn Nicholls, Winfield, Percy Bush and Rhys Gabe, was one of the all-time greats who helped to lay the foundations of the remarkable Cardiff tradition which endures to this day.

The legendary blue-and-black magic which made the Cardiff club the most famous in the rugby world still survives to bewitch, bother and bewilder even the best of visiting sides to Cardiff Arms Park.



# THE "KING" LEADS THE WAY

Red Dragon Travel are pleased to announce that Barry John is associated with us, and will lead our team of supporters to follow the British Lions tour of New Zealand.

"NEW ZEALAND IS like a golden password to my ears", says the legendary Wales and Lion star, "for it was in that beautiful country in 1971 that I spent the most thrilling and exhilarating period of my life. The '71 British Lions marched triumphantly through rugby-crazy New Zealand to be feted and acclaimed by a remarkably sporting and knowledgeable rugby community — and now I'm going back, hopefully to see the '77 Lions repeat the feat.

*Barry John*



## Barry John Tours with Red Dragon

**Tour 1 (3 weeks).** This tour will include the last two Test matches and all three Provincial games during the period of the tour. Depart London, Tuesday, 26th July — Return, Monday, 15th August.

**Tour Price from £930 per person.**

**Tour 2 (4 weeks).** This tour will include the last two Test matches and all three Provincial games during the period of the tour. Depart London, Sunday, 24th July — Return, Saturday, 20th August. Also includes stopovers in Hong Kong, Fiji and Los Angeles.

**Tour Price from £1,075 per person.**

**Tour 3 (7 weeks).** This tour will include the last three Test matches and all seven Provincial games during the period of the tour. Depart London, Sunday, 3rd July — Return, Saturday, 20th August. Also includes stopovers in Hong Kong, Fiji and Los Angeles.

**Tour Price from £1,585 per person.**

**STAND TICKETS FOR ALL MATCHES  
COVERED BY APPROPRIATE TOUR ARE  
GUARANTEED.**

For details of our British Lions Rugby Supporters tours, apply to:—

**GEOFF WILSON** c/o **RED DRAGON TRAVEL LTD.** 10 Church Street, Cardiff CF1 2QD. Tel (0222) 22834.



Come & scrum down under with  
**RED DRAGON TRAVEL**  
The Sportsman's Travel Agent

Don't keep this to yourself  
PASS IT ABOUT



# CARDIFF'S No. 1 FAN

**THE ASTONISHING STORY** of the septuagenarian "back-room boy" whose untiring researches into the archives of Welsh rugby could mean a complete reappraisal of the history (not to mention the legends) of not only the Cardiff and Newport clubs but of the Welsh Rugby Union itself.

Just as his namesake, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, altered the face of Europe with his saturation bombing raids during the last war, so Charles Redvers George Harris of Rhiwbina, Cardiff, could blow sky-high many cherished pieces of folk-lore regarding Welsh rugby . . . including the club he considers to be "The Greatest" . . . Cardiff R.F.C.

IT TAKES A BRAVE man indeed to rob Barry John of an international cap, but the legendary Cefn-eithin star would be the first to pay tribute to the honesty of purpose and determination to "get the facts right" that caused the record-books (and the W.R.U. Handbook) to be amended to give the great Cardiff and Wales outside half one less cap than generally believed — 27 instead of 28. A typographical error turned SA (South Africa) into S.A (Scotland and Australia) in the initials system used in the official handbook! And there were many, many more similar slip-ups in the official list of international careers, including players who never played for Wales . . . and some who played and whose records were omitted.

*It is this detective work — Mr. Harris has been called the "Kojak of Statistics" — which has encouraged the authorities of the Welsh Rugby Union and of some of our major clubs to request a sort of "Barlow and Watt" second verdict on what, up to now, have been generally accepted facts and figures concerning Welsh rugby at national and club level.*



C. R. G. Harris, Cardiff's No. 1 fan.

Mr. Harris, who has spent years delving into dusty tomes and musty newspaper files in his attempts to arrive at the facts, has already submitted a long list of official amendments to the W.R.U.'s own records and is similarly engaged in putting the record straight for some of our leading clubs.

## GRAND SLAM

COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO research in his own favourite sports, Rugby Union football and cricket, he discovered that the Cardiff Cricket Club, also based at Cardiff Arms Park, was not founded in 1867 as its own records insist, but 20 years earlier on 3rd August, 1848 when in the first-ever cricket match at the Arms Park, Cardiff beat Newport by 10 wickets!

He discovered, too, that the Cardiff Arms Park ground, variously known over the years as "Cardiff Green", "The Park" and earliest of all, the "Drying Heyes" (linen from a nearby fuller's works were laid out to dry on "heyas" or hedges) was not the first place in Cardiff where football was played. Queen Street was once called "Running Camp", a name used in ancient times for the Shrove Tuesday inter-village confrontations where a ball (or token) was driven by sheer brute force (and ignorance of rules of any sort) from one village to the next along the dusty turnpike roads of the time!

Mr. Harris's dedicated research into the origins of the game in Wales have been long and painstaking and the library of ancient records and statistics he has acquired over the years should one day be deposited in the official Welsh Rugby Union museum which must be built at Cardiff Arms Park.

**Even his hobbies, gardening and pelargonium-raising have a rugby bias . . . one of his treasured pelargoniums — a beautiful plant with blossoms of Welsh rugby scarlet — was dubbed by its raisers in California as "Grand Slam" and cuttings of that aptly-named flower have been presented to many Welsh rugby men as a**



## living souvenir of recent triumphs in Welsh rugby's most recent "Golden Era".

### TREASURE TROVE

IN THIS CARDIFF fan's home at "West Winds", Cefn Nant, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, Mr. Harris also displays priceless trophies and souvenirs from all parts of the rugby world . . . including a fine collection of pottery tankards celebrating W.R.U. and club centenaries and anniversaries, and a particularly beautiful ceramic plaque in honour of the "Grand Slam" era.

*Once he used to supervise rugby international excursions from outside the old "South Wales Echo" offices in St. Mary Street, Cardiff, and possesses pictures and cuttings of some of those*

*enjoyable junketings abroad, including one to celebrate Cliff Morgan's 21st birthday, which entailed a visit to Paris (with tickets for the Bal Tabarin and the Folies Bergeres), the entire weekend whoopee costing only £17!*

His remarkable treasure trove of sporting souvenirs is known world-wide and when the official South African Rugby Union archivist was robbed of reference files recently, it was Mr. Harris who volunteered to replace them from his own comprehensive library.

When asked what his philosophy was regarding his painstaking researches into the archives of Welsh rugby, Mr. Harris said frankly: "Far too often when clubs and organisations embark on

## LILLYWHITE MANSFIELD RUGBY STRIP FOR THE NEW SEASON

*All fully guaranteed non-shrink, fast dyes.*

### THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY HEAVYWEIGHT - the very best

**Plain Colours:** Scarlet, Amber, Maroon, Emerald, Sky Blue, White, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Black, Bottle Green.

**Price: £117.80 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

**2½" or 4" Horizontal Stripes:** Emerald/Scarlet, Navy/White, Scarlet/White, Black/Scarlet, Royal/White, Navy/Sky, Maroon/Sky, Black/White, Black/Amber, Black/Emerald, Maroon/Amber.

**Price: £137.48 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

**6" Circlet Design:** Amber/Black, Scarlet/White, White/Royal, White/Scarlet, Royal/White, Royal/Amber.

**Price: £143.54 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

### THE GLOUCESTER CLUB MEDIUMWEIGHT

**Plain Colours:** Scarlet, Amber, Maroon, Emerald, Sky Blue, White, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Black, Bottle Green.

**Price: £100.36 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

**2½" or 4" Horizontal Stripes:** Emerald/Scarlet, Navy/White, Scarlet/White, Black/Scarlet, Royal/White, Navy/Sky, Maroon/Sky, Black/White, Black/Amber, Black/Emerald, Maroon/Amber.

**Price: £113.28 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

**6" Circlet Design:** Amber/Black, Scarlet/White, White/Royal, White/Scarlet, Royal/White, Royal/Amber.

**Price: £123.80 per set of 18 plus V.A.T.**

**ALL PACKS SIZED 4 x 40", 6 x 42", 8 x 44".      Shorts and Hose to match.**

*Telephone or write for our Colour Catalogue to:—*

**RUGBY DEPARTMENT, LILLYWHITE MANSFIELD LIMITED, ASHVILLE  
TRADING ESTATE, CHELTENHAM, GLOS. GL51 9PT**

**Telephone: Cheltenham 31488/9**



compiling official souvenir brochures and programmes to celebrate milestones in their history, they take as gospel truth many of the legends and mistakes included in earlier histories of their clubs. I never accept a statistic until I have verified it in local reference libraries. Often I discover that the facts are at variance with accepted beliefs.

### INVINCIBLE SEASONS

"TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, the universally accepted 'fact' that Cardiff R.F.C. never enjoyed an 'Invincible Season' and that their great rivals, Newport, boasted several.

"Research (and a knowledge of the Laws of Rugby Union football in force at the time) have revealed some interesting juggling with the records, particularly by Newport R.F.C. historians. At a time when a goal beat any number of tries and touchdowns they blandly stated that when Hereford played Newport in a game which ended 4 tries to Newport, 1 goal and try to Hereford, 'the result was accepted as a draw' . . . yet a year or so later when Newport played Cardiff and scored a goal to Cardiff's 3 tries, a victory was promptly claimed. You cannot have it both ways under the same Laws. So one of Newport's 'Invincible Seasons' is thoroughly disproved".

Did Cardiff ever have an invincible season during their hundred years' history? I say, unquestionably, yes! Apart from season 1939-40 under Wilfred Wooller which was curtailed and in which Cardiff were unbeaten, there was an "Invincible Season" in 1879-1880 when no points were allowed under the Laws and Cardiff's record was played 4, won 3, drawn 1.

**In 1905-06 when the New Zealand All Blacks were met, Cardiff played 31 matches — winning 29 and drawing 2, for which remarkable feat gold watches were awarded to 21 Cardiff players for an INVINCIBLE INTER-CLUB record. One of these priceless gold watches is in the Cardiff club's famous museum.**

### BEST EVER

HAVING IN EARLIER pages dealt with the early pioneer days of the Cardiff club, who is better qualified to deal with the inter-war years than Mr. Harris who from 1919 to today has probably seen more Cardiff matches, home and away, than any other Cardiff fan.

"Most of my knowledge of the pre-First World War days comes from my father who had his own Cardiff heroes in those days. All I can do is to recall the teams I have watched playing since the end of the First World War.

"In my opinion Wilfred Wooller and Bleddyn Williams were the outstanding centres and Arthur Bassett and Haydn Morris or Maurice Richards were the best wings.

**"At half back there is only one possible pair — Gareth Edwards and Cliff Morgan, while I would have Bill Tamplin as a pack leader . . . as to the other forwards it would take me days to work out the best possible combination under the differing Laws.**

### CHERISHED

MR. HARRIS, a former Rumney R.F.C. player like his father before him, was christened George in honour of another Rumney R.F.C. player, George Davies, who was killed in South Africa during the Boer War. Perhaps the most cherished of all this super-fan's many sporting treasures is a tattered copy of the *Evening Express*, Cardiff of 20th March, 1902, containing a long report of a Cardiff Arms Park game. The paper was taken from the body of the dead Cardiff soldier and sent to Mr. Harris' father.

"That is my most cherished souvenir", he said simply.

**But of all his valuable research I believe the most interesting is his investigation into the 1926-27 to 1930-31 era when Cardiff actually ran TWO First XVs.**

"As one who played a little during this era, including a Cardiff trial, I think it might prove extremely interesting to the modern generation of Cardiff players and officials to find out how the 'A' and 'B' First XVs as we dubbed them, actually performed", says Mr. Harris.

Outstanding "doubles" crowned a season when 82 matches were played by the two Cardiff First XVs.

*Perhaps the best "double" of that era came on 16th March, 1929, Cardiff beat Leicester 8-5 at home and Gloucester 10-5 away on the same day! There was an unhappy end to that double against top English clubs. Leicester, although well beaten, suspended fixtures with the Cardiff club for, believe it or not, turning out their "B" team against the crack Midland side!*

### FACTS AND FIGURES

IF IT COMES to facts and figures concerning Welsh rugby, we are convinced that the amazing Charles Redvers George Harris (who still keeps fit for his major love of "sweeping the cobwebs away" by swimming a quarter of a mile each day) is the Greatest Fan of what "Massa Dan", Cardiff club archivist Danny Davies, boasts is "The Greatest" rugby club in the world.

His diligence is appreciated by those in authority who could do worse than instruct him to undertake a detailed appraisal of all Union records before the W.R.U.'s own Centenary Year celebrations get under way.

The "man who puts the record straight" should be an honoured guest at both Cardiff and Welsh Rugby Union centenary celebrations.



## THE ROLLS-ROYCE OF RUGBY

by JOHN REED (*Sunday Express*)

SUCH A CLUB is Cardiff, who this season celebrate their centenary, and I am sure that all their English opponents and friends will wish them a memorable and successful year.

**They have been called the Rolls-Royce club of Welsh rugby and Johnny Matthews, post-war England forward and Harlequins captain, sums up English attitudes to Cardiff when he says: "They are a great bunch of chaps. They stand for all that is best in rugby football, on and off the field".**

The Harlequins are to English rugby, of course, what Cardiff are to Wales. They play at Twickenham, the headquarters of the Rugby Union, as Cardiff did at the Welsh R.U. H.Q. at Arms Park until the National Stadium was developed. And their traditions and long list of distinguished players is woven into the pattern of England's history.

*They have been in a bit of a rut in recent years, but last season at Twickenham in October they beat Cardiff — and that was regarded as their most important victory of the season, the turning of the tide for the 'Quins, who later assumed the mantle of London's No. 1 club. And they had not been that for years.*

Matthews, a long, lean line-out jumper, led the 'Quins in the 1947-48-49-50 era. "We had a very good side", he recalls, "but we never won at Cardiff. In 1950 we won at Swansea and managed a draw at Cardiff. There were 12 minutes extra time at Cardiff so you can imagine what a tough game it was! I told the boys we will never get another chance like this to draw with Cardiff and they got stuck in. We celebrated as though we had won!"

This was the era of what is generally regarded as Cardiff's greatest team. The days of Bleddyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Haydn Tanner, Billy Cleaver, Rex Willis and Bill Tamplin, to mention only a few of the great Welsh players of the past. When practically all the team were Welsh internationals!

In those days I was in the Midlands and had to be content with seeing the brilliance and skills of such renowned players in the Barbarian jersey at Leicester or on the visits of Cardiff to the top Midlands clubs. But I can still remember the superb running and team-work of those wonderful centres, Williams and Matthews.

**As England's Johnny Matthews said: "We regard Cardiff more as an international**

# 'The Ace'

## The world pays tribute

**THERE IS AN AURA, a status about some clubs, a jealousy, respect and envy. When they have the time or other, they may be heavily criticised but one of the sides that everyone wants to beat**

**club. They have always had great players and were always very good socially after the match".**

Perhaps Llanelli may now be regarded as the No. 1 club in Wales. Some think it the best in the world, depending on whether you come from West Wales or East Wales! In England they may be the biggest draw because they have such a magnificent record and so many current internationals. But results and financial success do not always tell the whole story.

Among the Rugby Union's major clubs and supporters everywhere, Cardiff is still a magic name. And I am delighted to see that that marvellous wing, Gerald Davies, is to captain them again in their centenary season.

*Whether or not the wing position is the best place to captain a side from is debatable, but it is obvious that Gerald, one of the two best wings I have ever seen, is very popular with the players. Otherwise, presumably, the captaincy would have gone to that incomparable scrum half Gareth Edwards who could be retiring after the British Lions' tour of New Zealand next summer.*

Because of their centenary commitments, Cardiff are not involved in the Anglo-Welsh merit table which gets off the ground this coming season. This new set-up, the brainchild of Coventry's Alf Wyman, is viewed with mixed feelings, especially at Rugby Union level where they promptly sat upon any suggestion that it should be called a "league".

The 19 clubs involved were forced to disband their small administration in the face of Rugby Union threats that it was contrary to the bylaws and the proposed "league" has become an unofficial merit table.



# of Clubs'

## ute to Cardiff R.F.C.

ubs, that never dies. They attract attention and their lean periods, as do most clubs at some and there's talk of decline, but they still remain . And all clubs want them on their fixture lists.

I have reservations about it because it appeared to be too selective and self-perpetuating.

Clubs like the Harlequins, Richmond and Blackheath withdrew because they did not want to offend the R.U. So it is essentially a conglomeration of West Country, Midlands and Welsh clubs who already have regular fixtures.

Wyman hopes it will help "gates" as special matches are billed under the Anglo-Welsh label. What impact it makes on the rugby public depends to a large extent on what support it gets from the media. And whether it will help English international rugby climb out of its valley of despair is a moot point.

The Rugby Union's major clubs' sub-committee, born out of pressure from England's top clubs, is still considering ways and means of introducing some form of competition.

They will be announcing their support for regional merit tables soon. And they will think they have made a big advance. A Midlands merit table, a Northern table, a South-East section and a South-West grouping of clubs may stimulate a little interest in their own particular areas.

**But until we have a national league (merit tables sound so boring) in which the best clubs are able to match their standards in competition outside their own areas on a more regular basis, plus promotion and relegation, I cannot see much hope of any real progress.**

What with the unofficial Welsh championship, the Welsh "Top Ten" merit table, the Anglo-Welsh merit table and the projected R.U. merit tables, rugby followers will soon feel they are drowning in statistics and percentages!

## AN IRISH TRIBUTE . . .

by JOHN O'SHEA

**GRAHAM EVANS' INSTRUCTION** (or was it a plea) for "interesting stories" with a Cardiff flavour, pleased me immensely. It provided me with the opportunity to expound a trifle on the inimitable skill of one, Cliff Morgan, during his stint with Bective Rangers.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE MORGAN joined Bective in the 1954-55 season, and it's certain that any Bective man worth his salt will admit that a more accomplished player never wore their colours.

It was entirely proper that Morgan should link up with Bective, when a business appointment took him to Wicklow. After all, Bective and Cardiff had been meeting annually since 1908.

**The appearance of Morgan in his opening game with Bective caused such consternation that at one time the club were thinking of making the game an "all ticket" affair. As long-time Bective official Tom McDonnell put it, "Cliff was not just a marvellous rugby player. He was a wonderful entertainer. People who knew nothing about rugby came along to our matches, just to see him in action".**

Commitments to the Welsh rugby side and various other invitation teams in the British Isles, curtailed somewhat the appearances Morgan made with Bective. It's reckoned he lined out in approximately half their programme.

### ONLY TRY

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, despite adorning most games with flair and guile, Morgan managed to score just ONE TRY. But what a try.

Bective had won through to the Leinster final where they were pitted against Old Belvedere. Pundits favoured a "Belvo" side which bristled with such talent as Tony O'Reilly, Kevin Quinn and Karl Mullen.

*With less than 20 minutes remaining and the match delicately balanced, Morgan struck. Taking the ball smartly from scrum half Hugh Church, he knifed his way past O'Reilly and Quinn, and touched down before the "Belvo" cover defence had realised quite what happened.*

**Tom McDonnell again: "I have been watching rugby a good many years, but have never seen a try to compare with it. Only Cliff Morgan could have scored it".**

Bective expected that Morgan would again be assisting the club, the following season, but after

—continued on page 23



**O the rugby club**

49 Hallam Street, Portland Place  
London W1N 5LJ Tel. 01-580 7917

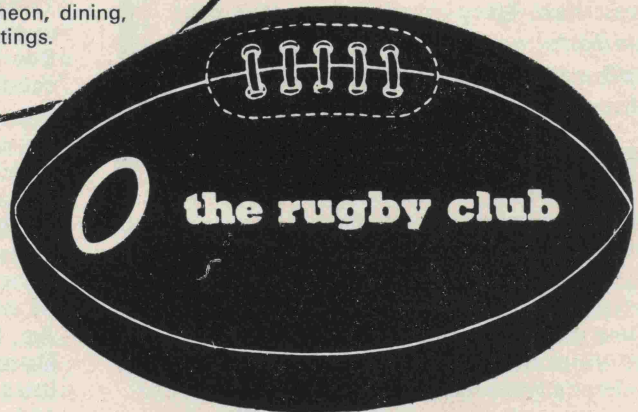
Monday to Friday, 11 am to 3 pm/5.30 to 11 pm

**Bar and Restaurant**

*Meet, Eat and Drink in congenial company*

**Club Rooms**

available for small private luncheon, dining,  
cocktail parties and Meetings.



**HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB ON THEIR  
CENTENARY AND BEST WISHES FOR FUTURE SUCCESS**

**Get Younger's  
TARTAN  
every day**



**SCOTTISH &  
NEWCASTLE  
BREWERIES**

**LTD.**

EDINBURGH HOUSE  
PONTYGWINDY ESTATE  
CAERPHILLY, GLAM.

*Telephone:*  
Caerphilly 3911-4



# SUPPORTERS' CLUB GOSSIP

by Eddie John

**AS CHAIRMAN OF the Supporters Club it gives me great pleasure to be able to make a few remarks concerning the relationship between the Rugby Club and ourselves. This particular Supporters Club is the third one to be formed, and in all sincerity I think that it has become the most successful of the three, due in no small measure to the grand feeling between us and the Club.**

EVERYTHING THAT THE Supporters Club do for the team and the club is done with the greatest of pleasure by the members of the Supporters Club. For instance, in our centenary year we have gone all out to assist the rugby boys raise funds for the various activities that they will be engaged in, as being the "Greatest Club" in the world they will be expected to provide first class entertainment, etc. for the many friends and visitors expected from all over the world.

*We of the Supporters Club have made so many friends in our various travels with the teams when they are away from home. When we are in London we have to spend our evening after the game in a nice little place in Kew Gardens, and when we are in the Midlands we visit our friends at Nuneaton, and we also travel to Nuneaton for our annual summer outing. The Cup games have fostered happy relations between such clubs as Hendy, Blaina, Ystradgynlais and Tonyrefail. A good thing for the game of rugby.*

In September we are expecting a party of Kiwis to Cardiff and I can assure you that we shall be doing our utmost to keep up the traditions of our club in every way possible.

In the six years that we have been in being we have had some wonderful times with our boys on their trips, and we do not confine ourselves to seeing them in action in the United Kingdom but also overseas and no doubt some of us will be travelling with them on their Grand Tour at the end of the Centenary Season.

## HOOLIGANS

**I FEEL THAT the various supporters clubs throughout Wales can be of great help not only to their own clubs but to rugby in Wales generally by helping to keep out those people whose sole purpose in going to see a big game is to cause as much trouble as possible, much to the annoyance of the true rugby supporters. We don't get the bother that they get at the soccer matches but unless we, as supporters of our great game, do not keep a tight rein on those few hooligans that we seem to be picking up then I'm afraid the time will come when we will be no better than them.**

As one who has watched my club play for over 50 years I feel that I can speak with a certain amount of authority on the subject, as I have seen crowd behaviour deteriorating rapidly over the years.

Whilst this is perhaps drifting from the topic of our relationship with the club the trend toward the professional approach in rugby has perhaps had an adverse effect and winning is sometimes more important than playing.

The supporters of Cardiff are happy to be associated with a club where there is emphasis placed on the fact that rugby is an amateur sport for the players' enjoyment. Whilst we like our team to win (who doesn't), we in no way seek to interfere with the administration or aims of the rugby committee.

## An Irish Tribute—Continued from page 21

returning from South Africa with the Lions, he found a post in Wales and remained there. "He is still a member of Bective and over the years has come over to watch our Cup games", admits McDonnell.

### DONNYBROOK

MORGAN'S PRESENCE WITH Bective caused the Welsh selectors to break with tradition and come across the sea to watch one of their number in action. It happened early in the season when, on hearing that club rugby in Ireland was of a leisurely nature, the Welsh Rugby Union des-

patched two selectors to run the rule over Morgan.

Getting wind of the move, Bective saw to it that the game was anything but leisurely. What transpired was one of the toughest matches seen at Donnybrook between Bective and Wanderers, with, inevitably, Morgan providing the fireworks. "I think the selectors were convinced after that game that Morgan was not having it easy here", confesses McDonnell.

Benefiting from the experience of Morgan, Bective went on, with the late Gerry Hardy at fly half, to retain the Leinster Senior Cup in 1956.



Established 1878

Telephone: 3067

# JOHN NICHOLAS & SONS

(PORT TALBOT) LIMITED

TIMBER IMPORTERS

PORT TALBOT

SUPPLIERS OF:

STANDARDISED AND SPECIALISED JOINERY  
AND WOODWORK FOR THE W.R.U. STADIUM  
AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK

## NEED NEW CARPETS?

FREE ESTIMATES FROM

# DERWEN LIMITED

CONTRACTS DIVISION

SPECIALISING IN CARPETING FOR ALL LOCATIONS:  
CLUBS : INNS : HOTELS : RESTAURANTS, ETC.

20 years' experience in the trade

Ex-stock supplies of all contract requisites, cutlery, bedding, etc.

UNIT 24, CWMDU INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
CARMARTHEN ROAD, SWANSEA

Telephone: 34529 For Efficient Service



# BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

by C. R. G. HARRIS

**DELVING DEEP INTO the annals of Welsh rugby the author, one of the game's most patient researchers of records and statistics, struck a rich seam of forgotten facts and figures to strengthen the already considerable claims of CARDIFF R.F.C. to be the world's top club . . . THE GREATEST!**

I HAVE ALWAYS been passionately interested in sports statistics and, having had my boyhood enthusiasm for the games of Rugby Union football and cricket whetted by the stories told me by my father, a former Rumney R.F.C. player, I commenced compiling my own sporting records after the First World War in 1919.

Naturally, I had to take as gospel truth many of the so-called club histories of the time, but often I felt a vague disquiet at some of the vague generalisations (sometimes even guesswork) regarding the early days of our pioneer clubs.

*This led me to check (and double-check) even accepted historical facts, with results that have upset many of the top sports authorities in Wales.*

By dint of research amongst the archives of clubs and organisations — often with the unstinting help and encouragement of several of our Cardiff library officials — I found many glaring examples of carelessness (sometimes of deliberate falsification in the interests of club loyalty) in the so-called "official histories" of some of our leading clubs.

**Perhaps the discovery which caused the most consternation was that of the Cardiff Cricket Club who celebrated their centenary in 1974 when, in fact, it should have been some 40 years earlier!**

Wherever possible I searched the columns of the newspapers and journals of the time, particularly those like the *South Wales News*, the *Cambrian Daily News* and other authoritative journals which have now either ceased publication or have been swallowed up by large newspaper combines and monopolies.

## GARBLD VERSIONS

MANY RESEARCHERS, using their own newspaper files, attempt to check the accuracy or otherwise of some so-called "historical facts" frequently find themselves relying on the same garbled versions as the club historians, many of whom fail to recognise that there were literally hundreds of publications in circulation in those early days.

*Some of these newspapers covered sporting activities with commendable thoroughness and accuracy . . . others either ignored unpleasant*



**Congratulations to the Centenary Year Captain**

*facts concerning defeats and general lack of success or produced "alibis" for defeat not accepted by rival newspapers not quite so concerned with civic pride.*

It is by taking a concensus of the reports of the time and not some openly partisan viewpoint, that we arrive at something resembling the truth . . . and that, as far as it is humanly possible, has been my own personal approach to the compilation of sporting statistics.

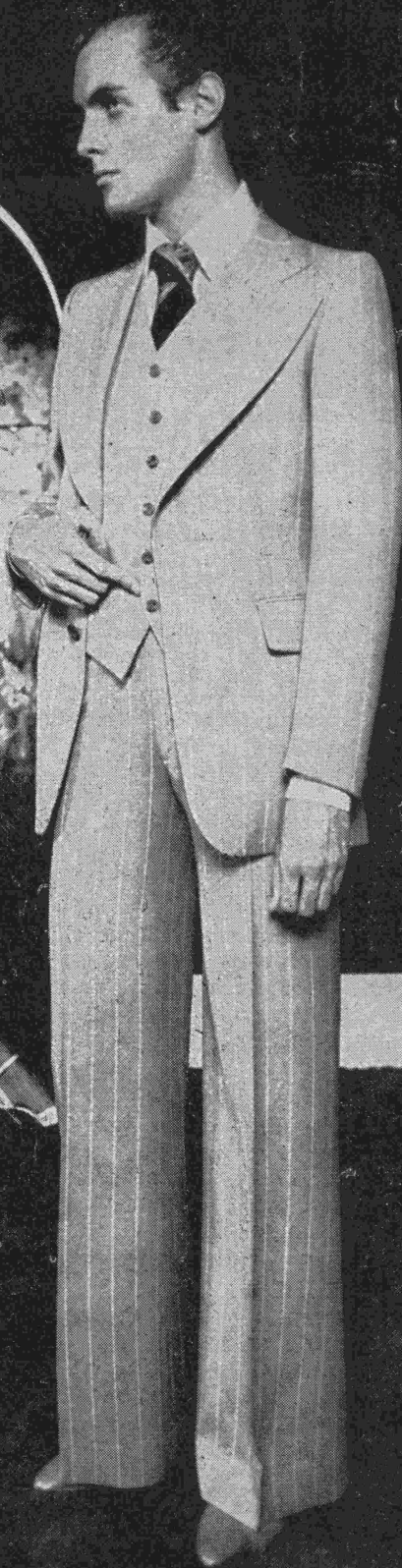
## PERSONAL HEROES

LIKE ALL OTHER sports fans I admit to my own personal heroes like Wilf Wooller, the best centre I have ever seen, and such brilliant players as Bleddyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Cliff Jones, Cliff Morgan, Bill Tamplin and the rest.

As an admitted Cardiff fan I feel that the immediate post-war years of 1946-56 were the real "Golden Era" of Cardiff club rugby. But my



The Age of  
Elegance  
...style in fashion



  
**MY FATHERS  
MOUSTACHE**



4 BELLE VUE WAY  
SWANSEA  
Tel. 0792 52727

3c THE ARCADE, STEPNEY ST.  
LLANELLI  
Tel. Llanelli 58895



father, with just as much experience of the blue-and-black magic of a previous era, would probably prefer the cork-screw running of F. E. Hancock, the brilliant centre scheming of Gwyn Nicholls and Billy Spiller; the full back certainty of the great H. B. Winfield or the undoubted genius of Percy Bush, all star players for what has been described, not without strong claims, as the "Greatest Club in Rugby Union Football".

**For those fans of more modern times I append a "Believe It or Not" list of Cardiff R.F.C. performances, most of them hitherto unpublished, which is my own personal contribution to what I trust will be a memorable Centenary Season for a club which has been (and I trust always will be) an example of all that is greatest and best in Welsh rugby.**

### GROUND AND AWAY CLUB RECORDS OF CARDIFF R.F.C.

#### Ground Records 1876-1976

1. 1879-1880	Captain	W. D. PHILLIPS
2. 1886-1887	Captain	W. M. DOUGLAS
3. 1898-1899	Captain	E. GWYN NICHOLLS
4. 1906-1907	Captain	PERCY F. BUSH
5. 1911-1912	Captain	L. M. DYKE
6. 1939-1940	Captain	WILFRED WOOLLER
7. 1947-1948	Captain	HAYDN TANNER

### UNBEATEN AWAY RECORDS 1876-1976

1. 1885-1886	Captain	F. E. HANCOCK
2. 1905-1906	Captain	PERCY F. BUSH
1. 1939-1940	Captain	WILFRED WOOLLER
4. 1948-1949	Captain	HAYDN TANNER

### 100 TRIES AND OVER IN A SEASON — EXCLUDING 1976-77

CARDIFF HAVE accomplished this feat in 58 seasons. This obviously means that they concentrate more on crossing the line. In the seasons 1885-86 and 1892-93 no Penalty Goals were scored. In 1895-96, 1896-97, 1900-01, 1913-14 and 1919-20 only ONE Penalty Goal was scored and very many of the other seasons up to 1939-40 only show that two and three Penalty Goals were scored. This, no doubt, avoided the irritating delay in modern rugby given to goal kicking. Many of the so-called Top Teams would have very poor records without Penalty Goals.

### SIX ALL-WALES THREEQUARTER LINES

The only club in Wales to have had this honour

### OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

1. Season 1893-94 v Ireland at Belfast on 10th March, 1894. Norman Biggs, Dai Fitzgerald, "Jack" E. Elliott, Tommy W. Pearson



**THE CARDIFF TEAM THAT DEFEATED NEW ZEALAND 8-3 ON 21st NOVEMBER, 1953**  
*(Standing)* G. Griffiths, J. E. Llewellyn, E. Thomas, M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, J. D. Evans. *(Seated)* C. D. Williams, S. Bowles, R. Willis, S. Judd, B. L. Williams, C. Morgan, A. Thomas, G. Rowlands, G. Beckingham.



# **CARDIFF CENTRE HOTEL**

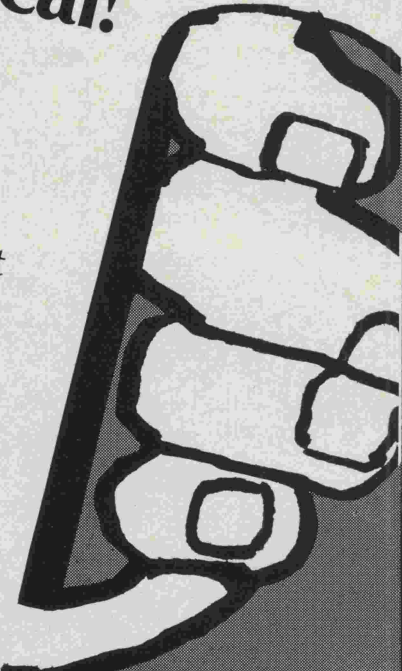
## **We're your Local!**

When you're at Cardiff Arms Park—  
we're behind the North Stand!  
Where better for a drink, a meal or  
a snack?

The drinks in our two bars are at  
normal prices. Meals in the Restaurant  
are super, and wonderful value for  
money. And there's a wide variety of  
snacks in the Coffee Shop.

## **Avoid the 'scrum' -and enjoy a bit of comfort!**

Cardiff Centre Hotel,  
Westgate Street.  
Tel: (0222) 388681.





*Score:* IRELAND (1 Penalty Goal) WALES 0. A. F. Hill (Cardiff) was Wales' captain in this match.

- 2. Season 1909-10 v Ireland at Dublin on 12th March, 1910.** Note scoring record. R. A. Gibbs (captain), L. M. Dyke, W. Spiller, J. L. Williams. Outside half Percy F. Bush and also J. Pugsley (forward) played.  
*Score:* WALES (1 drop goal and 5 tries) 19 Points, IRELAND (1 try) 3 Points. All the 19 points were scored by Cardiff players — P. F. Bush (1 drop goal), L. M. Dyke (1 try), J. L. Williams (3 tries), R. A. Gibbs (1 try). A remarkable feat.

- 5. Season 1910-11 v Ireland at Cardiff Arms Park on 11th March, 1911. Grand Slam and Triple Crown.** R. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller, L. M. Dyke, J. L. Williams.

*Score:* WALES (2 goals, 1 penalty goal, 1 try (R. A. Gibbs)) 16 Points, IRELAND 0.

*Note:* In this series England were defeated at Swansea on 21st January, 1911 when R. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller and J. Pugsley each scored a try, so this made 44 Points by Cardiff players made up with 12 tries, 2 conversions and 1 drop goal. *Unequaled in Welsh rugby history.*

- 6. Season 1929-30 v Scotland at Murrayfield, Edinburgh on 1st February, 1930.**



#### CARDIFF v SOUTH AFRICA — 1960

(Standing) Tom Holley, D. Hayward, H. Norris, G. Davey, G. Davies, E. Williams, R. Glastonbury, G. Porter.  
(Seated) W. J. Thomas, M. Roberts, C. Howe, K. Jones, Ll. Williams (captain), G. Wells, T. McCarthy, A. Priday, C. Davies.

- 3. Season 1910-11 v Scotland at Inverleith, Edinburgh on 4th February, 1911.** Note scoring record. R. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller, L. M. Dyke, J. L. Williams and J. Pugsley (forward).  
*Score:* WALES (2 goals, 1 drop goal, 6 tries) 32 Points, SCOTLAND (1 drop goal, 2 tries) 10 Points. Cardiff players scored 29 points — R. A. Gibbs 2 tries, W. Spiller 2 tries and J. L. Williams 2 tries. W. Spiller also dropped a goal and L. M. Dyke 2 conversions.

- 4. Season 1910-11 v France at Parc des Princes on 28th February, 1911.** R. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller, L. M. Dyke, J. L. Williams and J. Pugsley (forward).  
*Score:* WALES (3 goals, J. L. Williams 1 try), FRANCE 0.

Gwyn Davies, B. R. Turnbull, Graham Jones, R. W. Boon.

*Score:* SCOTLAND (1 goal, 1 drop goal, 1 try) 12 Points, WALES (1 goal, 1 drop goal) 9 Pts. Outside half Frank Williams and forward A. Skym were also Cardiff players. Graham Jones scored the try and also dropped the goal.

#### UNOFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL MATCH SEASON 1945-46

##### Four Wales Threequarters

**Wales v France at Cardiff Arms Park on 23rd December, 1945.** Graham Hale, Bledwyn Williams, Dr. J. Matthews, Dr. Glyn Jones.

*Score:* WALES (1 goal, 1 try) 8 Points, FRANCE 0. *Scorers:* Dr. J. Matthews 1 try, Selby Davies 1 try, M. James 1 conversion. All the points scored by



Cardiff players. The half backs were W. B. Cleaver and W. Darch (Cardiff) and two forwards, Maldwyn James and Selby Davies, were also from Cardiff R.F.C., making eight players from the Taffsiders in all.

and not one point was scored by Neath. Here are the scores:—

2-0, 5-0, 11-0, 4-0, 3-0, 23-0, 18-0, 13-0, 54-0 — a total of 133 Points to NIL. *Note:* The value of the try in 1892 was 2 Points.

### REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTED

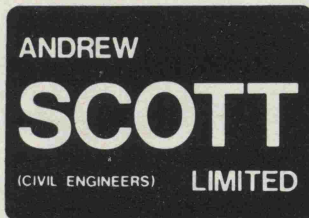
FROM 19th DECEMBER, 1892 to 25th September 1897 Neath were beaten in 9 consecutive matches

### ANOTHER REMARKABLE CARDIFF RECORD

IN SEASON 1885-86 the following Welsh Clubs were met and defeated: Newport (twice),

# Next time you watch Wales at home, think of us.

**Andrew Scott: Main Contractor of the North Stand.**



Helping Build a better Wales.

The Grange, Margam, Port Talbot, South Wales.





Swansea (4 times), Cardiff & District, London Welsh, Llanelli (twice), Cardiff Harlequins and Neath, numbering 12 matches in all. The remarkable feat that season was that Cardiff R.F.C. scored 63 tries in these 12 matches, but their opponents failed to score one point. In this fantastic season Cardiff's line was only crossed four times in all. Three times by Moseley in two matches, the first of which Cardiff won at Moseley; the other was scored by Gloucester at Kingsholm, so that Cardiff's line was only crossed by any club on the Arms Park twice and that very sadly in the last match by Moseley. In this season when no points were conceded, Cardiff R.F.C. scored 131 tries in 27 matches. No drop goals or penalty goals were scored by Cardiff. What a difference to 1975 when penalty goals are a monotonous regularity and cause a lot of delay.

IN SEASON 1888-89 the famous New Zealand Maoris made the longest tour ever to be made by any overseas tourists — 74 matches in Britain and 33 matches in other countries. Cardiff defeated them by 4 Points (4 tries) to 1 Point (1 try). As in 1886-87 the try was given 1 Point. This can be seen on page 256 in the History of the Rugby Football Union. Between 1876 and season 1893-94 the Laws were altered five times.

**FOUR WINS IN A SEASON OVER NEWPORT, SWANSEA AND LLANELLI**

**Cardiff v Newport R.F.C.**

In the first 100 years' history of the club, Newport R.F.C. were beaten four times in a season. The "Usksiders" cannot achieve this long-standing record; therefore in the first century of Cardiff R.F.C. (as Cardiff only played Newport twice in season 1966-67) and also the Centenary falls on the 22nd September, 1976.

<i>The seasons were:—</i>	<i>Agg.</i>
<b>1897-8</b> 20-3, 3-0, 20-9, 18-0	61-12
<b>1905-6</b> 17-3, 14-6, 10-3, 20-5	61-17
<b>1947-8</b> 29-0, 12-0, 8-5, 19-3	68-8
<b>1951-2</b> 11-3, 6-5, 6-3, 11-6	34-17

Both clubs have had 3 wins and 1 draw on a number of occasions.

**Cardiff v Swansea**

Swansea have been defeated four times in a season on three occasions:—

- 1885-6** 2 Goals, 3 Tries to Nil
- 2 Goals, 3 Tries to Nil
- 1 Try to Nil
- 1 Try to Nil



**Present Welsh selector, Keith Rowlands, in action against New Zealand.**

**1905-6** 14-3, 7-0, 15-3, 3-0 39-6  
**1936-7** 12-6, 19-9, 3-0, 4-3 38-18  
 Swansea have achieved this feat twice over Cardiff.

**Cardiff v Llanelli**

Llanelli have been defeated four times in a season only once:—

**1968-9** 9-3, 6-0, 18-15, 51-26  
 18-8 *Second Round W.R.U. Sevens*

Llanelli have achieved this feat twice — in 1927-8 when Cardiff had two First XV's, and also in 1933-4. In 1932-3 Cardiff had three wins and the fourth match at C.A.P. was abandoned owing to frost. Likewise in Wilfred Wooller's record-breaking season of 1938-9, Cardiff had three wins and a draw at Llanelli 0-0. In 1905-6 Llanelli's line was crossed 10 times with 7 conversions being missed and the score 40-0.

In season 1975-6 "Gerald" T. G. R. Davies, the present Cardiff captain, who played in the winning Cardiff XV against Australia, created a Cardiff Club record by being the first player in its history to have played in two winning Cardiff sides against Australia in two separate tours to this country — 1966 and 1975 — and he also created a British record by being the first player ever to have appeared in six winning sides against Australia.



No country, county, club or any side except Cardiff R.F.C. has defeated Australia on five occasions. A wonderful record for the centenary.

Cardiff players have scored for Wales from 1884 to 1976 (April) the following, which no club in Wales can equal.

**Goals:** Conversions 44, Tries 180; **Penalty Goals 32; Drop Goals 27; Mark Goals 1.**

### WELSH CAPTAINS

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS have been captains of Wales from 1884 to November, 1975:—

H. J. Simpson, F. E. Hancock, A. F. Hill (4), E. Gwyn Nicholls (7), R. T. Gabe, H. B. Winfield, R. A. Gibbs, J. L. Williams, J. M. Clem Lewis (2), "Tom" Johnson (Codger), R. A. Cornish (2), W. J. Delaney, B. R. Turnbull, B. O. Male (3), H. M. Bowcott, Wilfred Wooller (4), Cliff Jones (3), W. Tamplin, H. Tanner (12), Dr. J. Matthews, Bleddyn Williams (5) (*winning captaincy five times*), Rex Willis (2), Cliff Morgan (4), Lloyd Williams (3), Gareth Edwards (13) (*Cardiff club record*). Making a total of 76.

### WORLD RECORD SCORE

PERCY BUSH commenced playing for Cardiff in 1903-4 and played regularly until the end of season 1909-10, when he was appointed British Consul in Nantes, Cardiff's twin-town in France,

after which, in 1975, was named the famous Boulevard in front of the City Hall, Cardiff. On 9th April, 1910, he figured prominently in the win by Nantes over Havre, by the huge score of 66-6. Percy Bush contributed, what was in those far-off days, a world record number of points, 54 in all, made up with 10 tries, eight of which he converted, and also dropped two goals, valued at 4 points each, to complete this fantastic scoring.

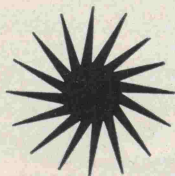
He is one of the twelve Cardiff players who have scored 15 points and over for Wales, with 2 tries, 3 drop goals and 1 conversion, and is one of the select band of three who has appeared on a winning side against New Zealand, South Africa and Australia, in that order, from Cardiff R.F.C., the other two being Cliff Morgan and Gareth Edwards. Also he had the honour of appearing in a Cardiff side which defeated Newport four times.

He was a master of the art of dropping goals. In the famous post-war era, 1947-8, he was President of the Cardiff Rugby Supporters' Club.

*"Then when our playing days are past,  
Fond memories of them still will last.  
And in our recollection's store,  
We'll play again those games of yore".*

Taken from an autographed programme in which the maestro figured prominently.

# BUYERS



OF ALL TYPES OF  
NON-FERROUS  
AND  
FERROUS METALS  
HIGHEST PRICES PAID  
IMMEDIATE REMOVAL

# TERRY SMITH & SONS

Works:

COLLINGTON ROAD

**CARDIFF**

TEL. 23877

Office:

95 WORDSWORTH AVENUE

**PENARTH**

TEL. 708569



# Magic Moments

By A. D. (Fred) CROSTER

One of Wales' best known referees and Editor of "Welsh Rugby" Magazine who once officiated in the very first official W.R.U. trial after the War, FRED CROSTER earned fame as "Pedometer Fred" through his habit of assessing the mileage covered by a referee in the course of a game of Rugby and here recalls several great milestones in the history of the Cardiff club during his close relationship with the club as player, committeeman and one-time selector.



ALTHOUGH A REFEREE should always maintain a strict impartiality when on the field of play, I must admit that most of us have our own private opinion of the quality of players, clubs (even of certain Laws of the Game), so that my admiration for the Cardiff club is, perhaps, understandable.

Having had the pleasure to be associated with this famous club since before the War, reflection brings back not only memories of great Arms Park occasions and personalities but also the realisation of what the term "Blue-and-Black Magic" means.

*To me it means something more than team-understanding and combination in the brilliant attacking movements for which the club is justly famed and also the camaraderie that exists amongst the players. Cardiff are famed for their sportsmanship and cherish their reputation for being a clean, sporting side.*

Occasionally they react (and believe me they can react with a vengeance) as was the case in one of my earliest memories of the club before the War. Centenary year chairman, Les Spence (and who better to receive this great honour?) provided me with an unforgettable memory when, as a lad in the mid-Thirties, I was watching with rapt attention a stirring, red-blooded encounter with the All Whites of Swansea.

Les, a fine wing forward unlucky not to be capped by his country which he later served with distinction as President of the Welsh Rugby Union, was causing all sorts of problems for the All Whites that day and soon became the target for special attention from the rugged Swansea forwards.

**One international (no names, no pack-drill) decided to take stern measures against the troublesome Cardiff flanker and stormed into action with a mighty swipe which laid out Les Spence flat on the ground.**

Les Spence's great pal, then and now, is Wilfred Wooller and this must have been one of the very few occasions when Wilf, one of the greatest sportsmen of all time, lost his temper.

He rolled up his sleeves and proceeded to chase his man all round the field, seeking vengeance against the miscreant who, doubtless, did not forget the attacking power (or the all-embracing tackling) of the great Cardiff and Wales centre for a long, long time!

\* \* \* \*

DURING THE LAST war, Cardiff was one of the few clubs to carry on and when I was stationed in the area in the Army P.T. Corps, I was lucky to get the occasional game with the club.

The inimitable Hubert Johnson, the present chairman of Cardiff Athletic Club and one of the game's great personalities, was also stationed nearby in the Royal Air Force and skipped the side when he was able. Danny "Massa Dan" Davies, the club's well-known archivist whose years of patient research have culminated in the club's Centenary Year publication — "Cardiff — The Greatest" — was then a sergeant in the Home Guard and did much to round-up local lads to keep the game alive in the War years. The late Arthur Cornish, a local schoolmaster who was hon. secretary of the club and the late Brice Jenkins, another former club secretary, spent much of their spare time in keeping rugby alive and some of the charity games they arranged did much for the War effort and for spirit of rugby men of the time.

*Several of the club's traditional fixtures continued and I can well remember one game against the "old enemy", Newport, when a youngster came bursting into the dressing-room just two minutes before the kick-off, wild with excitement. It was the 18th birthday of Bleddyn Williams who had raced back to the ground after registering for service with the Royal Air Force!*

Another great Cardiff hero, Billy Cleaver, was at the University and played regularly and showed signs of the maturity which was so much in evidence when Rugby Union football restarted after the War.

Later in those war years, when stationed in Germany, I was involved with the formation of



Group soccer and rugby teams, including the selection of a Combined Services XV which included Bill Clement, now secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union, a former Cardiff player Alban Davies at full back and yours truly at scrum half. Later we took on a combined side from the Armed Forces in the U.K. captained by that formidable Cardiff and Wales character Bill Tamplin who had with him that great Cardiff and later Wales full back, Frank Trott.

Perhaps, fortunately, my memory of the outcome has faded . . . but it was a magic moment indeed for me!

Former chairman of the club, Lynn Williams was another war-time contemporary and whatever uniform these Cardiff men were wearing — khaki, navy blue or Air Force blue . . . they conducted themselves in the traditions of Civvy Street "Blue-and-Black".

\* \* \* \*

AT THE END of the War, the great Cardiff days returned. Dr. Jack in Army uniform straight from medical school provided many wonderful moments especially when establishing his wonderful rapport with fellow centre Bleddyn. Symptomatic of the spirit was that of Frank Trott himself who as we all know gained his cap as a full back. When Frank came into the Cardiff club

after his pre-war period with Penarth he had no hope of getting into the side as full back his rightful position but ready to play anywhere, most of his games were played as scrum half for either the Rags or the Firsts, just to be in the side. This was the spirit which prevailed.

Sid Judd was a great player, and it was a tragedy that he was cut down at such a young age. Sid with his great ability to read a game and be at the right place at the right time will go down as one of the greatest opportunists we have ever known.

Gordon Wells when he came in as skipper was already the AAA hop, step and jump champion and knew what training was all about. It was Gordon who introduced weights into the training session, something unheard of then but now readily accepted and it took a little bit of magic round the committee table to get approval for sufficient weights to make it worthwhile. The spending of £97 then was a very large sum, but it was spent and did prove well worthwhile.

\* \* \* \*

OF MAGIC ON the field — the real blue-and-black magic of Cardiff — there has been plenty, especially against touring sides whose record against the club throughout the years has not been particularly impressive.

# Allbright

## a great bitter

FROM Welsh Brewers LTD.





Who will forget Sid Judd's two opportunist tries from Gwyn Rowlands cross kicks which brought victory for the club and Wales against the 1955 All Blacks.

### VETERANS

FOR A NUMBER OF post-war years the Veterans' XV which was formed did much to perpetuate a particular brand of magic which is Cardiff's.

The man responsible then and ever since that All Blacks triumph for keeping the old boys in touch and making the old players' reunions annually an occasion never to be forgotten is Stan Bowes who himself surely has earned his own niche in the annals of our game.

That famous victory over the All Blacks with Bleddyn Williams as skipper still has its own annual reunion night with players from far and wide making every effort to attend and seldom does anyone miss.

Stan Bowes is the one who has probably done more than any other to keep the old players in touch with those of the present era and, together with other long serving officials will make sure that the beginning of the second century will provide its own brand of Blue and Black Magic to record in the future.

ON THE LAST Sunday of August just three days before the two clubs meet, Cardiff R.F.C. and Llandaff R.F.C., both celebrating their centenaries, are participating in a joint dedication service at Llandaff Cathedral.

Cardiff's centenary chairman Les Spence, the former W.R.U. president, is also the president of Llandaff R.F.C. and, residing in the area, is the inaugurator of this unique joint club centenary event.

**During the service which will be attended by not only members of both clubs but many other rugby personnel, one lesson will be read in Welsh by Gareth Edwards with Cardiff captain Welsh-speaking Gerald Davies reading in English for the benefit of non-Welsh-speaking members present.**

## CAPTAINS ALL



**CARDIFF R.F.C. — Captains all, at the new ground opening, 1970**

(Standing) Dr. J. Matthews, B. L. Williams, W. Tamplin, R. Willis, M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, E. Thomas, L. Williams, D. Hayward, M. Roberts, K. Rowlands, H. Norris, J. O'Shea. (Seated) W. Wooller, L. M. Spence, T. Stone, T. Lewis, D. E. Davies.



# A Tribute to the Youth

by Graham Evans

**A TRIBUTE TO the enthusiasts behind the scenes who encourage the young idea and bring them up to the high standards of one of the world's top clubs.**

RECENTLY, I HAD the opportunity of talking to Mr. Henry Hurley who has been involved in coaching and selecting young players for the past 25 years.

Mr. Hurley, although having no direct involvement with the Cardiff Club Youth side has had, as a selector of the Cardiff & District Youth side and Welsh Youth side, the opportunity of watching the club's players develop since the formation of the first ever XV to wear the blue and black jerseys in 1949/50 season.

Henry recalls that a sub-committee of Hubert Johnson, Acka Thomas and Duncan Brown was set up to organise the formation of a junior side. These three immediately co-opted Viv Phelps (who was to become President of the W.R.U.), then secretary of the Cardiff Schools' Union and Les Jones who had been a past chairman of that Union.

**These were the pioneers and were responsible for fostering Youth rugby not only with the Cardiff club but throughout Wales. During the past 26 seasons many famous names have graduated into senior rugby from the Youth side.**

Mr. Hurley recalled many names from the past; the first Youth captain was second row forward Peter Owen from Monmouth School. He was partnered by Brian Harries. Neither of these players was able to play senior rugby, both being executives with Marks & Spencers and therefore unable to obtain leave of absence on a Saturday. (Would this happen today?)

The first side included Bryn Mapstone who became the first Welsh Youth International in the club, John Simons later to play for the Harlequins and to receive a Welsh trial. Terry Donovan an outstanding hooker with Cardiff and Penarth; Lloyd Williams who became the first Youth player to captain Wales at senior level was followed by his brothers Elwyn, Cenydd and Tony.

During the fifties, names that immediately come to mind are winger Derek Grindell, whom many felt would become an outstanding wing, but on returning to the game after National Service, never fulfilled his early promise; Bob Payne, Gareth Curtis, Peter Greenaway, Eddy Facey, Ken Lennard, Don Ford, Eddie Herron, Graham Buck, Johnnie Kelleher and the McCarthy brothers.

*The sixties provided Gary Protheroe, who left*

## ERECTION & WELDING (CARDIFF) LTD.

FABRICATING  
AND  
STRUCTURAL  
ENGINEERS

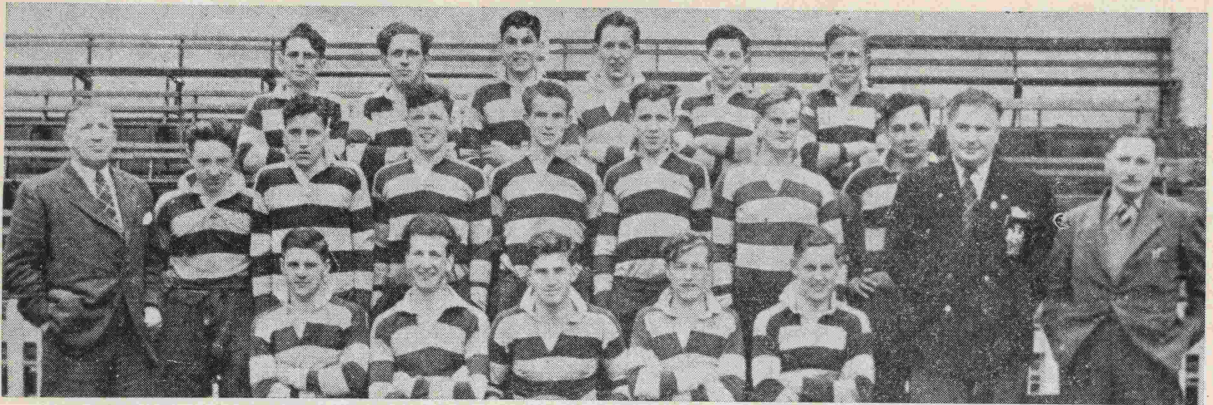
APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO:-  
N.C.B.      B.S.C.      G.K.N.  
Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd.  
Channel Ship Repairers

IF YOU HAVE A FABRICATING PROBLEM—JUST 'PHONE US

**INDUSTRIAL TRADING ESTATE**  
**TREMORFA      •      CARDIFF**

Telephone  
**41 324**





### THE FIRST CARDIFF YOUTH XV

(Back row) A. Ashton, J. B. Crawley, J. M. Trafford, W. R. S. Peake, M. Harding, A. C. Trask. (Middle row) A. T. Thomas, T. Donovan, B. Walsh, B. G. Harries, M. V. Harris, J. Simon, C. G. Thorburn, G. Halpern, H. Johnson, L. Jones. (Front row) J. Mahoney, J. Walsh, P. Owen (*captain*), Ll. Williams, B. Mapstone.

the club when they tried to convert him from a back row forward to a prop, joined Bridgend and gained all the honours before a serious eye injury curtailed his career on the Lions Tour of 1966.

Colin Prescott who captained the Welsh Youth side which included British Lion half back stars Alan Lewis and David Watkins, switched from the No. 8 position to prop and played for Cardiff, Newport and Penarth.

Jim Mills, who turned professional and represented the British Rugby League side was an outstanding Youth player. Islwyn Matthews was another whose early promise was never fulfilled. The same could be said for David Ivins and Ian Jewel. One wonders whether with today's more progressive coaching, more of these players would have made the grade. One only has to look at the present Llanelli side to realise that through their careful selection their Youth players have made their mark, in the senior team.

Other outstanding players have included Terry Stevenson, Ray Taylor, Terry Smith, Phil Walsh, Martin Pengilly, Steve McCann, Wayne Peckham, Paul Simons, Stuart Lewis and, of course, Terry Holmes, a player certain to make the grade for Cardiff and Wales.

When asked who he considered to be the best back and best forward to have ever played with Cardiff Youth, Henry Hurley refused to answer at once and said he would give the matter a great deal of thought.

Several days later, he contacted me and said that without doubt he considered Terry Holmes to have been the outstanding back to have represented the Cardiff Club at Youth level. His record over the past three seasons endorses this choice, during this time he has been a permanent member of the Youth side, captain for the past two seasons, captain of the Cardiff & District Youth side for three seasons, during which they won the

Crawshay Cup for the first time ever (1973/74), repeating this feat the following season when they also won the D. G. Griffiths Cup.

**Holmes is the complete player, strong and powerful, he reads the game well and is an excellent leader. His versatility has been shown in that he has played at wing forward for the Welsh Youth in a charity game and prop for the Cardiff club in a seven-a-side tournament.** In answer to his critics — **"He cannot kick! He lacks pace! His passing is not good enough!"** Henry answers, **"They should have seen him against the French last season".**

Henry's choice as the outstanding forward was Jim Mills whose rugby career commenced under the guidance of Fred Croser. Jim's power, pace and knowledge would have held him in great stead had he remained with the Union game and as a Youth player he will always be remembered by Henry Hurley and just pipped Gary Prothero, Colin Prescott and Wayne Peckham as his forward choice.

**The future development at Youth level is all important to the Cardiff club and they are fortunate in having a man of the experience of Peter Goodfellow involving himself in this Section.**

## EMBROIDERED WIRE BLAZER BADGES

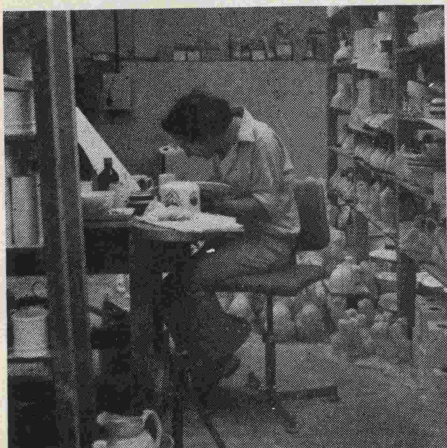


FOR CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIFORMS, CIVIL AND DEFENCE SERVICES HAND EMBROIDERED WITH GOLD AND SILVER BULLION WIRES  
PROMPT DELIVERIES CONTACT US FOR SAMPLES AND PRICES

KENT TRADING CO P O BOX 824 SIALKOT PAKISTAN



**GARRICK WARD**, the designer for Ra Pottery, was born in Gelli in the Rhondda Valley, the son of a miner. He was educated at the then Pentre Grammar School where his ability in art took him to the Cardiff College of Art. He became increasingly interested in pottery and moved to the Stoke-on-Trent Art College in the heart of the Pottery Industry. Here he acquired the knowledge and skills of the industrial craftsmen from such well known firms as Wedgewoods and Doultons. He successfully gained his National Diploma in Design, specialising in pottery, his examination pieces being shown in an exhibition of diploma work throughout the country.



He entered the University of Wales at Swansea gaining his Art Teacher's Diploma with distinctions, and after two years' teaching became a lecturer in industrial pottery design at the Wallasey College of Art.

It was during this time that the foundations of Ra Pottery were evolved. A number of small orders for pottery were offered to Mr. Ward and he began turning a pantry in his house into a tiny workshop. Here he was able to make two or three items per day and fired these in a very small home-built electric kiln. The pantry and then the house soon filled with pottery. Fortunately he was able to move his workshop into a nearby barn and acquired a larger kiln to cope with the demand for his ware.

Within two months it was obvious to him that he had to make the choice of remaining at the Art College or concentrating on expanding his order books. He decided on the latter and moved into an old picturesque mill in North Wales where for three years he and his wife worked at expanding their markets and orders. They began exporting to America and bought a second large kiln.

In 1975, Ra Pottery was reformed and moved into Lampeter, employing eight workers. The Company is now working towards special commemorative items and individually-designed items in semi porcelain.

## Classified Clubman's Guide

### AMUSEMENT MACHINES

#### Valmatics (Swansea) Ltd.

Heol-Langdon, Prince of Wales Dock, Swansea.  
Telephone: Swansea 42788 (3 lines)

### CAR TYRES

#### Celtic Tyre Services (Bridgend) Ltd.

Industrial Estate, Bridgend.  
Telephone: 4640 & 2210.

#### Celtic Tyre Services (Maesteg) Ltd.

Rear of Talbot Street.  
Telephone: 3514.

#### Celtic Tyre Services (Cardiff) Ltd.

Brindley Road (off Penarth Road).  
Telephone: 21201.

### CEILINGS

#### Caerphilly Ceiling Company Ltd.

Wilson Industrial Estate, Van Road, Caerphilly.  
Telephone: 882984.

### COACH PROPRIETORS

#### Samuel Eynon & Sons.

Bryn Villa Garage, Trimsaran.  
Telephone: Trimsaran 244.  
After Hours: Llanelli 4360.

### FURNISHERS (CLUB)

#### Dolphin Contracts.

Dolphin House, Gorseinon Road, Gorseinon, Swansea.  
Telephone: Gorseinon 3121/4

#### Trimco Limited.

Blackwood, Mon.  
Telephone: 2286 - 2422

### GLASS & GLAZING

#### Welsh Glass Works Ltd.

Dumballs Road, Cardiff 40224 (4 lines)  
Bath Lane, Swansea 52341 (3 lines)  
Potter Street, Newport 63117 (2 lines)

### GLASSWARE

#### Bateman Bros. (1953) Ltd.

31a Park Street (rear of Empire Swimming Pool), Cardiff.  
Telephone: 22083.

#### John Ciceri (Wholesale) Ltd.

4 Trostrey St., Newport, Mon. NPT 7BB. Telephone: 59468.

#### ANGEL HOTEL, CARDIFF

Telephone: Cardiff 32633

#### SEABANK HOTEL, PORTHCAWL

Telephone: Porthcawl 2261

#### DOLPHIN HOTEL, SWANSEA

Telephone: Swansea 50011

### INSURANCE

#### Hamilton Barr & Co.

64a High St., Godalming, Surrey  
Tel. Godalming 5437

### MINERAL WATERS

#### Ratcliffe's (Pontypridd) Ltd.

Thurston Road, Pontypridd.  
Telephone: 2322.

### CARPETS

#### Derwen Ltd. Contracts

UNIT 24  
Cwmdu Industrial Estate  
Carmarthen Road, Swansea  
Telephone: 34529

### TROPHIES AND PRIZES

#### W. J. Thomas, The Jeweller

Exchange Buildings, Park St., Llanelli  
Telephone: 4034.

### TIES AND BLAZER BADGES, ETC.

#### Lauderwood Limited

Lauder, Berwickshire, Scotland.  
BADGES to your own design  
GIFTS AND PRIZES direct from

### MANUFACTURER MARKOVITS

34 Stronsa Road, London W12 9LB  
Telephone: 01-743 1131

## WELSH RUGBY BINDER

Now £2.15p (incl. p. & p.)

from:—

Office Suite No. 8, East Wing, St. David's House, Woods St., Cardiff,  
Tel: (0222) 24404



# THE GRAND SLAM COMMEMORATION BOWL

## 1975 - 1976



The Committee of the Welsh Rugby Union have officially backed our proposal to produce a limited edition of 600 shallow bowls to commemorate this year's Grand Slam success by Wales.

The bowl has been designed by Garrick Ward, and it may be wall-hung or used as a table piece; you will see that it carries the autographs of the Welsh players who took part in the four matches, with the additional signature of John Dawes.

Every bowl will be numbered on the base and an authenticity certificate signed by the Company's Chairman will name the original purchaser. It is expected that this will become a valuable collector's piece in view of the small size of the edition.

The bowl is priced at £27.50 (including V.A.T. and delivery) and a substantial part of the proceeds of the sale is being donated by the Company to the Welsh Rugby Union's Charitable Trust Fund.

D. C. SIMPSON,  
*Chairman,*  
Ra Pottery Limited.

### APPLICATION

To: **Ra Pottery Ltd.,**  
**Tregaron Road,**  
**Lampeter.**

Tel.: **0570 422 152**

Please reserve ..... Commemoration Bowl/s and advise me of the number/s allocated to me.

I enclose my cheque for £.....

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE).....

Address .....





# We'd like to convert you


The best Rugby strip has got what the best teams have got: strength, style, and experience.

That's why the best teams – from schoolboys to senior internationals – choose Europa Sports jerseys, shorts, and socks.

Europa Sports have been making Rugby clothing for over half a century. We supply clubs or individuals with stock designs from a wide range, or made-to-order 'specials'.

Ask your usual supplier about Europa Sports. Or write to us for more information.

We've made many conversions already, but when you see our new-season styles and quality, we're sure we'll make yet another one.

**EUROPA**  
  
**SPORTS**

Rugbywear specialists for half a century

Humphreys Europa Sports Limited, Newton Lane, Wigston, Leicester. Telephone 0533 881105

Published by Western Sporting Press Ltd., Office Suite No. 8, 3rd Floor, East Wing, St. David's House, Wood St., Cardiff

Printed by Picton Press Ltd., Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle