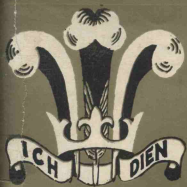


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WELSH RUGBY

THREE SHILLINGS

EDITED BY DAVE PHILLIPS

SEPT. - OCT., 1970



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CRFC-Committee
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COMMENT

BY THE EDITOR

Welsh Rugby enthusiasts, refreshed after the long Summer break, will welcome the new season with more enthusiasm than ever, particularly as the Centenary Celebrations of the Rugby Football Union of England and the inaugural opening of the new National Stadium at Cardiff Arms Park will provide even more gala fare than usual.

In this special start-of-the-season edition of "WELSH RUGBY" we pay tribute to the foresight and acumen of the Welsh Rugby Union in their attempts to give the national game of Wales a fitting national home. During the research necessary for compiling a brief history of the handling code in the Principality, we were astonished to find evidence of the remarkable affection Welshmen over the years have had for this particular version of the football game.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

On Saturday, October 5th, 1912, Cardiff played Newport at the Arms Park in a game memorable for the fact that it saw the opening of new stands to replace those built as far back as 1885. A well-known local sportscribe reminisced in the official programme: "All things must have a beginning, but what we are apt to forget is that nothing can be built up without the labour and love of enthusiasts. When we contrast the huge crowds of today, full of enthusiasm, cheering their heroes, with the small band of spectators, drawn together from a sense of curiosity, who stood around the ropes (if the players had enough of their own money to provide them) in days gone by, we realise that football has gone a long way and occupies a different position in the life of the nation than it did in the 70s."

Things certainly have changed in a century of Welsh Rugby!

LOCKED OUT

Even when the new stands of 1912, built to the design of Mr. Archibald Leitch of Liverpool and costing £7,000, increased the Arms Park capacity to 45,000 there were still 10,000 fans locked out of the Wales v. Ireland international that season. Yet in 1885 the grandstands officially opened for the Cardiff v. Liverpool match that year cost only £362 and were paid for out of the season's income! The "Good old days" indeed!

Today, of course, the Rugby-religious zeal of the Welsh is such that even the 75,000 capacity new National Stadium will not be big enough to cope with international crowds at Cardiff Arms Park.

RUGBY'S ORIGINS

But in our enthusiasm for the flourishing state of Welsh Rugby epitomised in the handsome new Arms

Park W.R.U. headquarters, we should not forget the pioneer efforts of the founder clubs. In 1877 when as a result of a meeting at the Castle Hotel, Brecon the South Wales Challenge Cup, valued then at 50 guineas (now the priceless Welsh Rugby Union National Sevens Trophy) was introduced the resultant cup draw reflected exactly where Rugby football in Wales was originally pioneered:

Carmarthen v. Cardiff at Neath.
Talgarth v. Merthyr at Merthyr.
Brecon v. Monmouth G.S. at Cardiff.
Cowbridge G.S. v. Llanelly at Neath.
Cardiff G.S. v. Lampeter College at Carmarthen.
10th Glamorgan Volunteers v. Llandovery College at Swansea.
Pontypool v. Newport at Newport.
Llandilo v. Neath at Neath.
Swansea v. Abergavenny at Brecon.
N.B. Incidentally Carmarthen beat Cardiff by a disputed goal and 3 touchdowns to a try and 2 touchdowns!

POOR RELATIONS

On the international scene, too, Wales were the poor relations of the Home Countries — forced to play the North of England after being unmercifully thrashed in their first international against England at Blackheath. Perhaps it is the memory of these early pioneer struggles that has inspired Wales to champion the underdogs of the Rugby world and encourage the emergent Rugby nations overseas.

The fact that so many countries have accepted the invitation to take part in England's Centenary Year celebrations, affords Wales a golden opportunity of establishing communication with many of Rugby's newcomers with a view to reciprocal short tours in the future.

The old International Board concept of a closed shop to "foreigners" outside the Empire and Commonwealth is as dead as William Webb Ellis. Already Australia is sponsoring a Pacific Rugby Conference in which Fiji, Tonga, South Korea (a remarkably useful team), Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore are likely to take part in Test series. The United States of America (as returning Penguins will confirm) has a flourishing Rugby set up, coast to coast, while South American strength is only too well known to Welshmen following that eye-opening Argentine tour.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT

In fact the world-wide growth of Rugby Union football, together with the speed and ease of air travel, must in time lead to a reassessment of the current International Board and, with competitive Rugby now being demanded by most Rugby men, the concept of a World Cup for Rugby, we repeat, is no more unattainable than was the dream of a National Stadium by those eccentrically-garbed Welsh Rugby pioneers a century ago!

Welsh Rugby Magazine

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THE CARDIFF STORY...

By DAVE PHILLIPS,

"SUNDAY TIMES"

"WELSH RUGBY" MAGAZINE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE WELSH RUGBY UNION AND CARDIFF R.F.C. IN GIVING THE NATIONAL GAME OF WALES THE HOME IT DESERVES AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK.

STAFF WRITERS TRACE THE ORIGINS OF THE GAME ON THE WASTE-GROUND BEHIND THE OLD "CARDIFF ARMS" COACHING INN WHERE THE MAGNIFICENT 90,000 CAPACITY TWO-GROUND SPORTS COMPLEX (OPPOSITE) WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE 80's WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SEEMINGLY UNATTAINABLE DREAM.

WHEN IT IS FINISHED THE NATIONAL STADIUM AND CARDIFF R.F.C. GROUND ALONGSIDE WILL BE THE FINEST RUGBY UNION CENTRE IN THE WORLD.



Top left corner—Cardiff Castle; foreground—River Taff; extreme right—Empire Pool; left — Cardiff R.F.C.'s new ground.

ARMS PARK

A DREAM COMES TRUE

THE FUTURE SPLENDOUR
OF THE CARDIFF ARMS
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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.

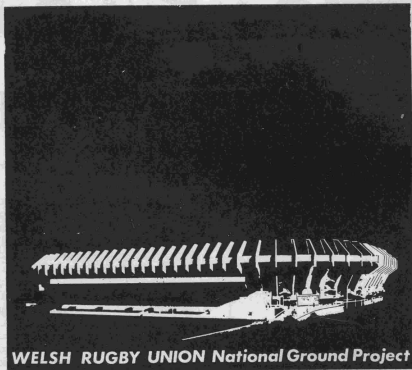
Since 1823 when the eccentric William Webb Ellis caught the ball in his hands and ran with it during a Bigside football match at Rugby School, this particular variant of the football game seems to have captured the imagination of the Welsh. It is true that the game, based roughly on the 37 rules laid 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



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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 this year is 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—Blackheath, Richmond, Civil Service, Wellington College, Guy's Hospital, London Harlequins, St. Paul's School—the luckless thirteen, Marlborough Nomads, West Kent, Wimbledon Hornets, Gypsies, Clapham Rovers, Law, Queen's House, Flamingoes, King's College, Lausanne, Addison, Belsize Park and Mohicans (aptly 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 for-

wards; 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 December 2nd, 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

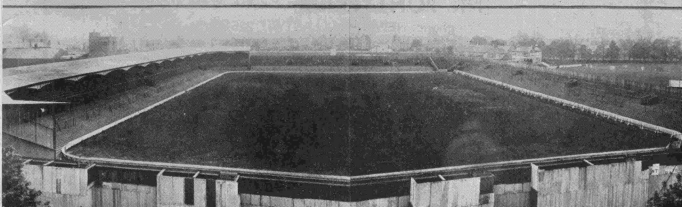
At the Swiss Hall, Queen Street, Cardiff, on September 22, 1876, the two clubs, Glamorgan F.C. and Cardiff Wanderers amalgamated and the famous Cardiff R.F.C. emerged to become one of the most glamorous clubs in world Rugby. It was not before time.

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 colared (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

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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!

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, Barry John 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.

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WHITBREAD'S EVENING

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.

UNION IS STRENGTH

The origins of the Welsh Rugby Union are still wrapped in mystery. Popular opinion, based on newspaper reports of the day, suggest that it was founded in November, 1880, following a meeting at the Tenby Hotel, Swansea. But there is evidence to support the theory that the Union was formed in 1881 after Wales' international discomfiture in her first-ever international match against England at Blackheath when we were clobbered unmercifully by 7 goals, one drop goal and six tries to nil. At a meeting at a Neath hotel in March, 1881, the Welsh Rugby Football Union was born with nine original founder members.

The season 1880-81 was the first time that all four home countries had played at least one international fixture. Wales were thought by England to be too weak for a full international fixture and the next season were obliged to play the North of England instead at Newport, where we lost narrowly by a goal to a try. That season brought us our first international victory over Ireland in

Dublin by 2 goals and 2 tries to nil. *That season in the England v Scotland match in Manchester a neutral referee was in charge for the first time in an international match.*

Wales in those far-off days was very much the poor relation of the Home Countries Rugby family, and it was not until 1887-88 that we achieved our first win over Scotland at Newport by a try to nil and two years later Wales followed up her famous 5-0 Swansea victory over the New Zealand Maoris by beating England by a try to nil at Dewsbury.

THE ARMS PARK SAGA

Gradually there built up at Cardiff Arms Park that peculiar atmosphere of hwy! and fervour which touring sides are convinced "gives Wales a three points start in Test matches".

The first victory celebrations on the famous ground were as long ago as 1884 when we beat Ireland by a goal and 2 tries to nil, but it took us until 1893 to beat England there and Scotland defied the Arms Park bogey until 1896 when Wales won by 2 tries to nil . . . which doubtless had some influence on the fact that fixtures between the countries were abandoned for two seasons. Ireland, too, outlawed Wales because of the benefit paid to Arthur Gould (Newport).

In 1892-93 a victory over England at Cardiff Arms Park encouraged Wales to her first "Triple Crown" success which we followed up with a second Crown seven years later.

MEMORIES LIVE ON

But great as have been the Triple Crown and international champions' feats of the Principality on the famous Arms Park stadium, the memory

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still cherishes the superb encounters over the years against touring sides from overseas. Our French friends, now one of the most glamorous nations in the Rugby world, got off to a miserable start at the Arms Park in 1908, losing by three goals, a penalty goal and six tries to a dropped goal, and it was not until 1958 that they at last managed to lay the ancient bogy by winning by 16—6.

The South African Springboks alone have escaped international defeat at the famous ground, although they were held to a draw last season by Gareth Edwards' mudlarks.

Cardiff, of course, triumphed against the Springboks on 1st January, 1907, when that fabulous little character, Percy Bush, engineered a famous victory in the mud by 2 goals and three tries to nil.

Australia have won only once in four tries at Cardiff Arms Park, making amends for defeats in 1908, 1947 and 1958 by beating Wales 14—11 in 1966, although the New South Wales Waratahs had better luck in 1927 when they shocked Wales by winning by 3 goals and a try to a goal and a try.

FRIENDLY ENEMY

Perhaps our greatest "enemy" is New Zealand who still query that famous 5—0 victory in 1905 when Teddy Morgan scored a try and Deans didn't. The controversy which has raged ever since is still unabated. It is now *de rigueur* for every

New Zealand tourist to visit the Arms Park shrine and kneel in remembrance at the spot where Deans scored his try.

As the late lamented Rhys Gabe, who tackled Deans short of the line, stoutly maintained it never was a try, but the New Zealand pilgrims' progress to the hallowed spot still continues . . . despite the little-known fact that since that memorable game the Arms Park pitch has been resited so that the spot where Deans did (or did not) score that much-publicised try once bore the plaque "GENTS"!

Wales with victories in 1905, 1935 and 1953 boast three wins to 2 at Cardiff Arms Park where New Zealand's All Blacks succeeded in 1963 and 1967. Since then, of course, there have been those crushing 1969 defeats at Christchurch and Auckland to put New Zealand ahead in the series. So that the next clash at Cardiff Arms Park between the rivals should be an encounter to remember.

GREATEST GAME EVER?

But if the Springbok and All Blacks "Tests" arouse the greatest interest and speculation, there is no denying the crowd appeal of some of our other overseas visitors. Germany, Italy and Rumania have thrilled us at Cardiff Arms Park and elsewhere. *But the side which will most fondly be remembered is undoubtedly the smiling Fijians, whose spectacular play at Arms Park against*

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Wales a few years ago must have been one of the greatest games ever staged at the famous ground.

It is only right, therefore, that a ground with such fabulous memories for Rugby men the world over, should finally achieve a setting which must make it the finest national stadium in the land, probably in the world. Whereas in the past the drama has been staged in surroundings unworthy of it, the new National Welsh Rugby Stadium at Cardiff Arms Park offers a magnificent back-drop for the extravaganzas and gala occasions of the future.

Whether you are old, with fond memories of Cliff Jones, Haydn Tanner, Ivor Jones and the heroes of yesterday, or a youngster thrilling to the prowess of Gareth Edwards, John "Ace" Williams and Barry John and the rest of our current stars, the new Arms Park offers even

greater thrills in future years.

The Arms Park complex, including both the new National Stadium and the Cardiff R.F.C. ground alongside it, is part of a remarkable sporting development which must in future make Cardiff not only the capital of Wales but also of British sport. From the Empire Swimming Pool, next to the Arms Park development, there is a "Golden Mile" of sports venues—Sophia Gardens Pavilion, the new Sports Centre, the Cardiff and Glamorgan county cricket ground . . . even to the golf school at Pontcanna!—a sports concept without parallel anywhere in the world.

This season sees the inaugural opening of the new National Stadium and what surely must be a new and even more auspicious phase in the development of Rugby Union football in Wales, the tiny country with the big football reputation, which, like Topsy, "just grewed"!

THE BACK-ROOM BOYS AND THEIR VISION

by
THE EDITOR

Around the rugby world there are many magnificent stadia—Ellis Park, Johannesburg; Newlands, Cape Town; Stade Colombes, Paris; the Oval, Sydney; unpronounceably-named State stadia behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains, not to mention those nearer home at Murrayfield, Scotland; Lansdowne Road, Dublin, Twickenham, London. Yet none of these can compare with the ambitious Welsh Rugby Union National Ground Project now under construction at Cardiff Arms Park.

Although the Welsh Rugby Union must take major credit for accepting the multi-million pound gamble to erect a National Stadium in keeping with the impressive reputation, as a rugby power, of Wales, the "back-room boys", whose dream is now coming true, must feel extremely proud and happy that their foresight and faith have been so triumphantly vindicated.

AMAZING VISION

It is a story of amazing vision and determination on the part of two Cardiff R.F.C. officials (both old players) whose "airy-fairy dreams" (as they were dismissed by many) have literally taken concrete shape at the Arms Park. More than twenty years ago, Cardiff R.F.C. chairman, Hubert Johnson, and Frank Trott, the former Cardiff and Wales full-back, later to become hon. secretary of the club, dreamed-up a chance for a sports complex at Cardiff Arms Park which envisaged with uncanny accuracy everything that has subsequently transpired there.

In fact, so confident were they in the practicability of their new Arms Park scheme, that they actually called

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in a local architect, John Webb, to draw up plans and a coloured architectural lay-out which proved to be almost identical with the final plans approved by the Welsh Rugby Union! That "blueprint for the future" now reposes in the famous Cardiff Rugby Museum . . . a Wellsian dream of the Shape of Things to Come!

UNION'S AMBITION

For many years the Welsh Rugby Union has been preoccupied with an ambition, shared, it is believed, by many followers of the game in the Principality, to own its own National Rugby Ground. In England the financial strength of the Rugby Football Union and the massive financial assistance which that union is able to give to its affiliated clubs, is directly due to the foresight of earlier administrators in establishing the headquarters of the union at Twickenham and building the ground there in the early years of this century. Similarly Scotland, for many years, has had its own ground at Murrayfield. In Ireland, following the acquisition by the Irish Rugby Football Union of the control of Lansdowne Park, all internationals since 1953 have been played at Dublin. The very heavy capital expenditure then incurred by that union in the construction of a massive new stand has been amply justified in financial terms. *The exception has been Wales, where the Welsh Rugby Union has never had a ground of its own, so that up until 1953 international matches were played alternately on the grounds of the Cardiff and the Swansea Clubs.*

NO NEW PROBLEM

This is no new problem. Indeed, some 40 years ago the union purchased about 30 acres of freehold land at Bridgend known as "The Brewery Field", with the intention of establishing a National Ground there. This scheme was abandoned and the land was sold

when, in 1931, the Welsh Rugby Union, through the medium of a company known as "Cardiff Arms Park Company Limited", obtained a substantial interest in the Cardiff Arms Park Ground, thus safeguarding its retention as the venue for International and Cardiff Rugby Football Club matches. Since that time it has spent very substantial capital sums on the improvement of the facilities there. Despite this the union has not been able to exercise more than a limited control over the ground, and particularly over the use of the playing pitch, with the result that, on many occasions, the condition of the pitch has been well below the standard expected for international matches and has, indeed, been the subject of complaint by the other Home Unions at International Rugby Football Board meetings.

In 1960 the union again began a search for an alternative site and, after looking at several sites within the Cardiff City boundary—none of which was suitable—purchased some 100 acres of farm land at Bridgend. There was, however, considerable opposition to this scheme from a number of affiliated clubs and the rugby public of Wales, not least from the City of Cardiff through its Council, commercial interests and citizens. This opposition, together with the added difficulties raised by the Planning Authorities and several of the Ministries concerned, influenced the union to abandon this scheme in favour of another which, by arrangement with the Cardiff Athletic Club, would establish the Welsh Rugby Union as owners and sole controllers of the main stadium at Cardiff Arms Park.

HIGHLY COMPLICATED

It would be pointless here to go into details about the highly complicated and technical arrangements under which the ownership of the Cardiff Arms Park was held. Sufficient is it to say that, with the help of outside



Not a ground to look down on, even then, Cardiff Arms Park with the Cardiff Athletic and Glamorgan County cricket-ground (left) as it appeared before the Welsh Rugby Union took their multi-million pound gamble.

legal and other advice, this tangled situation has at last been resolved so that within the immediate future a situation will be reached in which the Welsh Rugby Union will own the unencumbered freehold of the land on which the main stadium is to be built, whilst at the same time the Cardiff Athletic Club will own the freehold of the ground on which their activities will be carried on.

To bring about such a solution it has been necessary for the Welsh Rugby Union to undertake to provide alternative facilities for the Cardiff Athletic Club. This has involved the construction of an entirely new cricket ground at Sophia Gardens, on which the Cardiff Cricket Club and the Glamorgan County Cricket Club are now playing, the re-construction of the tennis courts at Cardiff Arms Park, the complete relaying and redraining of the old cricket ground to convert it into a rugby pitch, and finally, the provision of substantial spectator accommodation for the sole use of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club. These works alone have, and will, cost the Welsh Rugby Union in the region of £230,000 and the whole cost has, or will, come out of union funds.

CARDIFF CLUB CO-OPERATION

It would be appropriate at this stage to place on record the valued contribution made by the Cardiff Athletic Club and the Cardiff Rugby Football Club, through their respective Officials and Committees, in the pioneering and planning of the project.

For some years the Union has been engaged, with the help of its Professional Advisers, on preparing plans for the complete re-development of the main stadium. A scale model of the stadium as it will be when it is completed has already been on exhibition in various parts

of the Country. *The scheme is, we believe, a far-seeing one which will probably take at least twenty years to complete but which, nevertheless, and despite its enormous capital cost, is worthy of the place that the game has in the life of Wales.*

The scheme has four phases:—

Phase 1

The construction of the new cricket ground at Sophia Gardens, the re-laying of the tennis courts at Cardiff Arms Park, and the laying down of the new rugby pitch for the Cardiff Rugby Club. This work has been completed.

Phase 2

The demolition of the existing North Stand and the building of a new combined stand, which will serve both the main stadium and the Cardiff ground, together with the extension of the seating accommodation around the river end to a point approximately at the middle of the existing West Terrace.

Phase 3

The completion of all the facilities beneath the new North Stand complex, the building of a new seating stand to the North of the new Cardiff ground, and the completion of the seating at the river end to the whole extent of the existing West Terrace.

For the moment Phases 2 and 3 are being dealt with separately and are nearing completion.

Phase 4

The demolition of the existing South stand and its complete re-building in the same style as the North stand, the re-alignment of the rugby pitch, and finally the re-

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Not an overflow from the adjacent Empire Swimming Pool alongside the Arms Park, but the famous ground flooded after the Wales v. Springbok Test in 1960, when Wales lost by a penalty goal to nil.

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construction on a substantial scale of the existing East Terrace. Apart from financial considerations it is the case that this work cannot be put in hand until the present licence to the Greyhound Company expires in 1982.

On completion of the whole project the capacity of the ground will be as follows:— Seating—31,600; Standing—41,140 (of which 28,640 will be under cover).

The completion of the scheme as far as Phase 2 will provide an additional 8,000 seats and will substantially increase the income from International Matches.

The cost of these works up to Phase 3 is expected to be in the region of £1,250,000. This is a fantastic figure for the Governing Body of an amateur sport to contemplate but the Union is satisfied that by the time the work has to be paid for it will have accumulated funds in the form of cash or temporary borrowings to the extent of £750,000. For the balance, or at any rate, for a substantial part of it, it is proposed to issue a series of Debentures which will be redeemable by sinking fund at par in 50 years time, to raise a sum of at least £300,000 but not more than £400,000. By limiting the issue to £400,000 at this stage it is ensured that there will be no reduction in the allocation of stand tickets to Member Clubs.

This Debenture Scheme, despite gloomy forebodings from some "Doubting Thomases (Joneses and Evanses!)" proved a fantastic success and was fully subscribed within twelve months of its launching.

THE OTHER GROUND

While the National Stadium at the Arms Park takes precedence over all else in this National Ground Project, it must not be forgotten that the other ground

alongside the main stadium is also nearing completion and is expected to be ready early in the coming season. As the famous Cardiff club will be able to use the main Stadium on certain occasions for major matches against touring teams from overseas, their new ground will be used for domestic club games when the 15,000 capacity will be adequate.

As the National Stadium itself will be known the world over as Cardiff Arms Park, what are they going to call the new Cardiff club enclosure?

Already suggestions that it be known as the "Angel Ground," Westgate Park or Taffside, have been mooted, but there are some who believe that tribute should be paid to the man who pioneered the concept by naming it Johnson Park! . . . at least that is better than "Hubert's Folly" as it was dubbed by some wiesenheimers in the past!

Whatever its title (and we cannot go on referring to it as "the Other Ground") the new Cardiff R.F.C. headquarters will be a fitting home for the famous blue-and-blacks.

The new North Stand itself will house Welsh Rugby Union offices, dressing-rooms, V.I.P. reception rooms, adequate Press accommodation (and not before time!) and all the other amenities that are required at a first-class international venue. Such refinements as under-soil heating, flood-lighting, drainage and adequate scoreboard and communication systems are planned for both grounds.

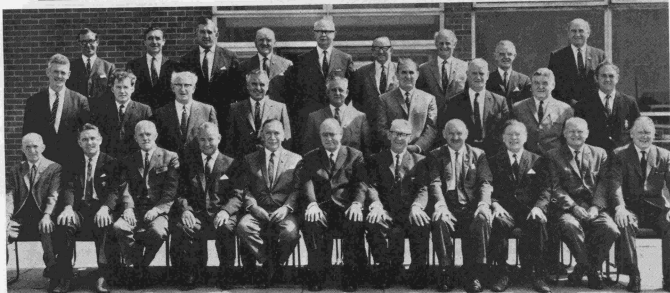
Sited in the heart of the capital city of Wales, the National Stadium complex is unique—a sports concept to rival the famous civic centre which also is considered to be one of the finest in the world.

A GREAT MOMENT AT THE OLD ARMS PARK



... and one that Welshmen will want to see again and again at the new Arms Park — a Welsh captain (in this instance Gareth Edwards) chaired triumphantly in victory.

Although he brought the house down the scaffolding in background is for the new North Stand!



W.R.U. COMMITTEE 1970/71 Photo by H. G. Lewis (Neath)

Back Row—B. Kempson, E. B. Davies, Alun Thomas, Wilf Pritchard, Myrddin Jones, D. L. James, Rowley Jones, Roy Davies, W. H. Clement.

Middle Row—Rees Stephens, George Morgan, Gwyn Roblin, Gwilym Treharne, Jack Young, Hermas Evans, Jack Davies, Glyn Jones, Clive Rowlands.

Front Row—Rhys Williams, Ken Gwilym, Harry Bowcott, Vernon Parfitt, Ken Harris (President), Viv Phelps, Ivor Jones, Osmonde John, Cliff Jones, Handel Rogers, Hywel Thomas.

Not Present—Des. Barnett.

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A MESSAGE FROM Mr. W. H. CLEMENT — SECRETARY W.R.U.

The exciting new phase in the history of the Welsh Rugby Union at the new National Stadium envisaged for Cardiff Arms Park will be inaugurated when the ground is officially opened on October 17th with a gala game between Wales and a XV selected by the President of the Rugby Football Union whose Centenary Year this is. Later in the season Wales meet England on January 16th, 1971 and complete their home programme with a match against Ireland on March 13th, 1971.

Although there is some argument as to the actual date on which the Welsh Rugby Union was formed—some say November, 1880 and others March, 1881—we hope to celebrate our own Centenary in season 1980-81 by which time the ambitious National Ground Project which will increase the seating accommodation to 31,600 and standing space to 42,140 (of which 28,640 will be under cover) will be nearing completion.

Phases 1, 2 and 3 concerning the new North Stand complex are almost complete but Phase 4, the demolition and subsequent re-building of the South Stand in the same style as the North stand and the re-alignment of the Rugby pitch must wait until the present licence to the Greyhound Company expires in 1982.

This ambitious National Ground Project now under way is an outward and visible sign of the sound foundations on which the Welsh Rugby Union has been built. The possession of such a magnificent National Stadium will enable us to widen our horizons and persist with our pioneer work in entertaining countries from overseas who have taken up the code of Rugby Union football. Welsh clubs have led the way with missionary tours overseas—Llanelli to the U.S.S.R.; Swansea to Rumania; Cardiff and Newport have entertained Italian, German and other European sides, while elsewhere clubs have given a Welsh welcome to teams from Canada, the Argentine and the U.S.A.

Our belief in the value of such an interchange between the Rugby-playing countries of the world was triumphantly vindicated by the fantastic success of the visit of the popular Fijian team. They are now sought after by other countries and are to undertake a 13 match tour of England shortly.

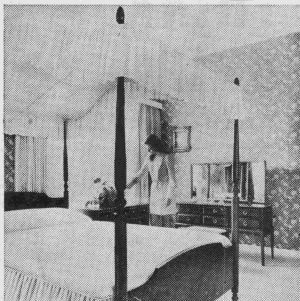
Plans for similar experimental visits to Wales have been finalised with Canada coming here in April, 1971, Japan in April 1973 and the Argentine in 1975.

The Welsh Rugby Union believes in short tours to countries not usually recognised as in the first flight and, taking cognisance of Lions tours and the like, we hope to embark on similar short tours overseas in the future. When these emergent Rugby countries reciprocate by visiting us, they will find at the new National Stadium not only facilities comparable with any in the Rugby world, but that famous Arms Park welcome so well known to Australian, New Zealand, South African and Fijian visitors in the past, *Ymlaen Cymru!*

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THE FIRST-EVER WELSH XV v. ENGLAND AT BLACKHEATH, 1881

A faded picture from the past, when Welsh Rugby was also out of focus—this Welsh team was clobbered unmercifully to the tune of seven goals, one dropped goal and six tries to nil.

Back Row (left to right)— W. D. Phillips (Cardiff), G. F. Harding (Newport), R. Mullock (Hon. Sec. W.R.U.), F. S. Purdon (Newport), G. Derbyshire (Bangor), E. Treharne (Pontypridd), R. D. G. Williams (Abercamlais).

Middle Row—T. A. Rees (Llandovery), E. Peake (Chepstow), A. J. Bevan (capt.) (Grosmont and Cambridge), B. E. Girling (Cardiff), B. B. Mann (Cardiff).

Front Row—L. Watkins (Llandaff), C. H. Newman (Newport), E. J. Lewis (Llandovery), R. H. B. Summers (Haverfordwest).

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CHAIRMAN OF CARDIFF R.F.C., THE MAN WHO
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DREAM COME TRUE

If ever a man can die happy and we hope that will not be for a long time yet, that man will surely be Hubert Johnson, the chairman of the Cardiff Club—the sixth time for him to hold that high office and specially elected in this historic year of the opening of the new National Stadium and the new Cardiff Club ground as tribute to all the work he has done to bring about both.

When the W.R.U. were aiming at a ground of their own it was Hubert Johnson who envisaged that his own club, Cardiff, who have been at the Arms Park for 94 years, could help themselves and Welsh rugby football if negotiations, tricky in the extreme, could be satisfactorily arranged.

"JOHNSON'S FOLLY"

"Johnson's Folly," some called it, but what a "Folly" it has turned out to be! It was he who saw what could be done and he who did so much as the Cardiff repre-

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sentative on the co-ordinating committee to bring it all about.

After all, the Arms Park was THE home of Welsh rugby football. Could there possibly be anywhere else as the National Stadium?

Meeting after meeting took place with the City Council to provide an alternate ground for cricket. The path was slippery, the slopes were steep, but due greatly to the respect in which he was held and the shrewd business acumen which he possessed, in the end all was well and it was not until then that it was possible to even think of what has now become the stadium and environments second to none in the world. His creation and dreams fulfilled.

A single man, his connection with sport is life-long. Captain of Llandaff R.F.C. for two seasons, captain of the Rowing Club also—he is now a vice-president—he played in the pack for Penarth, Pontypridd and Glamorgan Wanderers before settling down at the Arms Park in 1926, the year of captaincy of Bobby Delahaye, when Cardiff had two first XV's.

NATURAL LEADER

A natural leader he was skipper of the "Rags" for three successive seasons from 1933-1936.

War service in the R.A.F. saw him in the colours of East Wales, S. Wales, Fighter Command and Bath, besides his own club which he captained in 1942 whilst stationed in the area. He went on committee as soon as he finished playing and was chairman for four successive seasons between 1950-1954 when the club recorded some of its greatest achievements.

He succeeded Wyndham Richards as chairman of the Cardiff Athletic Club and is one of the only two honorary life members (the other is Marcel Pedron, the former President of Nantes R.F.C.); is President of the Cardiff Schools' R.U. and vice-president of very many other clubs and organisations.

As a lad he started in the confectionery business by boiling sugar in a loft in a Grangetown side street, working indefatigably through the years to build it into a thriving concern. Always believing in hard work, even in comparatively recent years, he was still up early in the morning and would think nothing of driving one of his own vans to any part of the country to deliver his goods if the need arose.

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Yes, Hubert Johnson came up the hard way with the qualities that have made him one of the shrewdest rugby administrators in the game, bringing well-earned



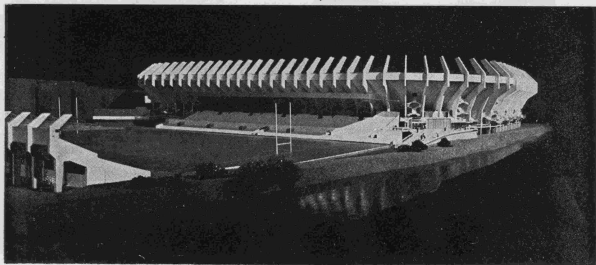
Mr. Hubert Johnson

prosperity. Prosperity which enabled him to donate the magnificent trophy room at the Arms Park with treasured mementoes from all over the world.

Now retired he is able to devote his full attention to his main loves—rugby football and the Cardiff Club.

"Uncle Hubert," as he is affectionately known wherever the game is played, can look upon his creation—the super stadium for both the W.R.U. and the Cardiff Club with some relief, with tremendous satisfaction and with justifiable pride.

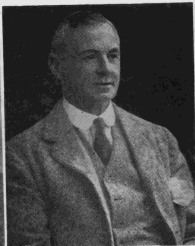
We, the onlookers who will enjoy the results of his efforts, must say "thank you" and wish him success in the celebration of the crowning moment yet to come when the club, for which he has done so much, celebrates its centenary in that super stadium in just six years' time.



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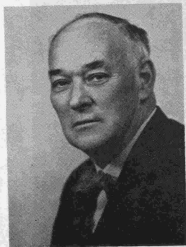
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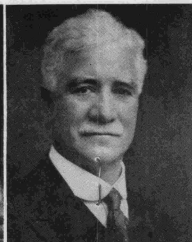
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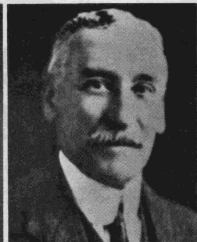
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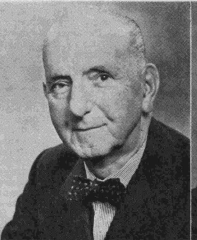
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CASSELL

SECRETARIES

The first-ever secretary appointed to the Welsh Rugby Union was a Newport man, R. Mullock, who held office from 1880 until 1892. The appointment was essentially a part-time one as it was to remain right up until the time of Bill Clement himself. Back in 1880, at the time of Mr. Mullock's historic position the Welsh Union had been formed primarily for the purpose of arranging international matches. Little could those early pioneers have dreamed of the big business empire it was to become. No one can recall much of Mr. Mullock himself but there is still a printing firm named Mullock and Sons in Newport with which there is no doubt a connection. In 1892 Mr. Mullock relinquished office and handed over to a well-known West Wales rugby figure, Mr. W. H. Gwynn, of Swansea.

W. H. Gwynn was a former player and played a notable part in the development of the game at club and Union levels. Things were already beginning to progress and his four years as secretary, from 1892 until 1896, saw the Union change in many ways although the mandate was still mainly for the internationals then well established. Eighteen-ninety-six saw the beginning of the reign of the person who became a legend.

Fifty-two years in office

Walter E. Rees, of Neath, took over as secretary and remained in that capacity for the next FIFTY-TWO years—right up until modern times, right up until 1948.

What a character, what a man. His lifelong period of office saw a vast expansion in the game at club, country and world levels. It was he who quietly carried on—still part-time—through all the tumultuous times of two world wars, the highs and the lows in between whilst the Welsh Union grew in numbers, status, and world importance with he himself becoming a national and international figure in the process. Many are the tales told, many are the tales untold of the Union's affairs and of the man himself who conducted those affairs. Towards the end of his reign the business of the Union became too much and too involved for even his ability alone and it was decided to appoint an assistant. When at last the legendary figure of Walter Rees was no more on the scene it was Eric Evans, his assistant, who took over.

Capable succession

Eric Evans, the brother-in-law of former Neath and Wales captain and W.R.U. President, the late Glyn Stephens (Rees Stephens' father), had been secretary of the Welsh Secondary Schools for many years and as master in charge of rugby football at Cardiff High School had been directly responsible for the wonderful standard and traditions set up by their teams. A dedicated man whose insistence on meticulous details in all aspects of the game—dress, pattern of play, administration, and so on—brought exceptional results for his school and the W.S.S.R.U.'s teams. He undertook the manifestations of the rapidly expanding W.R.U. business affairs in his stride. Still part-time, still from his home and many a passer-by going down Rumney Hill into Cardiff may have wondered why the house on the left-hand side of the road had such a conspicuous bright red door knocker consisting of the three Welsh feathers. This was the H.Q. of the W.R.U. up until 1955 when it became increasingly obvious that it was no longer possible for the governing body's affairs to be conducted as hitherto—as a part-

OF THE UNION

**W. H. CLEMENT,
M.C., T.D.**



time appointment from the home of the secretary of the time.

Full-time appointment

In 1956 it was decided that offices be set up and that a full-time appointment be made. The offices were in the old Western Mail building in St. Mary Street, Cardiff, and there was much conjecture as to the man who would gain the position.

As we all know it was W. H. (Bill) Clement, M.C., T.D., the former Llanelli, Wales and British Lions' wing threequarter.

Born and bred in that hotbed of sport—Llanelli—Bill attended Llanelli Grammar School, was vice-captain of both rugby and cricket, went into local government on leaving school and joined Felinfoel Rugby Club before joining the Scarlets.

After only six first-class games he was selected for the second Welsh Trial at Swansea in 1934/35, then in

1937 won his first cap against England, at Twickenham with Robin Prescott, Bill's counterpart on the Rugby Union earning his first cap also on that day. Six caps were gained by our now imperturbable, urbane and so efficient Union secretary and he then had the supreme thrill of selection for the Lions' tour of South Africa in 1938. A knee injury on this tour ended his playing career.

The war was imminent; Bill had joined the T.A. previously. He rose to the rank of Major as Commander of an Infantry Company, was twice wounded in action in Northern Europe, gained the M.C., and keeping up his association with the T.A., was later awarded the T.D. after demob in January 1946.

Golf bug bites

Before coming to Cardiff he saw local government service and rugby service with Brecon. Llandaff was the setting for his first Cardiff home but he recently moved to Llanishen. A job such as his leaves little time for recreation but the golf bug did bite him. He finds little time for even that pleasant pursuit these days—the garden at Llanishen is so large that attending to it provides plenty of exercise and could almost contain a small practice course if the temptation could not be ignored.

The strides and advances made by the W.R.U. in Bill Clement's time have been simply tremendous. When he was appointed they had an office staff of two—Bill and Miss Power, plus the late Brice Jenkins who was Bill's second-in-command after he left the Cardiff club. Now—across the road in London House—the staff has increased to eight to cope with all the demands and another revolutionary step forward was taken last year with the appointment of former referee and Cardiff Cricket Club secretary, Brian Kempson, as official assistant W.R.U. secretary.

Big business which is still growing and seems destined to do so unceasingly. A far cry from the old days. Fortunately for all concerned with the game, in Bill Clement and his staff the administration is in good hands.

The day they all cannot wait for is when at last the new Arms Park Stadium will include the offices of the Welsh Rugby Union and they can well and truly be 'at home.'

(Below)—Secretary Bill Clement takes a last look around before an international at the old Arms Park



TREASURERS OF THE UNION

Finance and sport are inseparable and the bigger the sport the closer becomes the association and the greater the responsibility of the men who undertake the unenviable task of looking after the cash. Readers of Ken Harris' profile, the President of the W.R.U. in this historic year and the treasurer since 1952, will realise fully how tremendously important the position has become.

Who are the men who have held that post in the past? There have not been many. I wonder what they would think of the responsibility today if that were possible?

FIRST EVER

The first treasurer ever of the W.R.U. was Mr. W. Wilkins of Llanelli whom, although the records do not actually state so, must surely have been in the banking business as that has been the wise tradition throughout all the years since. He held office from 1895 up until 1903 when he was succeeded by Mr. T. R. Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths was a Merthyr man and on his appointment was the manager of the then Capital and Counties Bank at Pontypridd. A true link with the present as Ken Harris' first bank was in that same town. It would appear that the Capital and Counties became absorbed by Lloyds Bank, as he later became manager of Lloyds' branch in Merthyr, thence, Lloyds of Pontypridd. Mr. Griffiths held office from 1903 right up until 1930-31, throughout the First World War and the difficult years of the Great Strike and resultant depression. One feels that his was not an easy or particularly happy task if any treasurer's post could be. In season 1930-31 he handed over to Mr. Sam West, who was manager of the Cardiff Docks branch of Barclays Bank. This was the beginning of what was to become a tradition. Sam West served the W.R.U. for four years and then handed

over to Mr. E. Roberts who had succeeded him as the manager of Barclays at the Docks.

WELL-KNOWN RUGBY MAN

E. Roberts was a well-known rugby man who had been a prominent player and he held office from 1934-35 up until the outbreak of the Second World War. Although rugby football officially ceased, the accounts had to be kept and his was the responsibility. You will probably read elsewhere in the story of the W.R.U. of the South Wales Challenge Cup which was lost and on being "re-found" is now the trophy awarded to the winners of the National Sevens. It was in the vaults of the self-same bank that the cup was "found". Obviously it had been stored for safe keeping.

PATTERN MAINTAINED

When activities were officially restarted after the war was over, there was a new manager at Barclays branch at Cardiff Docks and in keeping with the pattern he became the W.R.U. treasurer. Indeed, by then it had been minuted that the treasurer had to be a bank manager. This was only changed quite recently, and although it is not now obligatory obviously it is a wise policy.

The new manager, the new treasurer, was Mr. P. O. Evans, who was destined to become one of the characters and figures of the Union's affairs. Well known in sporting circles, well respected, he took office in 1946-47 and managed the business affairs until the reign of Ken Harris commenced.

Just six men then, who throughout nearly 100 years have been responsible for the financial affairs of the Welsh Rugby Union. That responsibility, those business affairs have changed out of all recognition, but as always the right men have been found, in the right place at the right time. Never has that been more in evidence than now when history is again being made.

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THE MAN WALES "BANKS" ON!

PROFILE OF KENNETH MORGAN HARRIS

President of the Welsh Rugby Union

By FRED CROSTER

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of life is bound in shallows and miseries."

It is seldom that a sporting profile can be prefaced with a Shakespearian quotation. But, this is an unusual profile of an unusual man and it is so appropriate that the temptation could not be ignored.

When Brutus addressed Cassius, in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, little did he, or "Bill" dream that in the year 1952 it could be applied to Ken Harris who then embarked on the voyage which steered the fortunes of Welsh rugby out of the shallows and miseries. Not exactly into fortune yet, there is so much at stake, but the tide has turned and if I were a shrewd investor as Ken is I would have no qualms or sea sickness for the future. The River Taff in flood will no more bring misery and consternation to those concerned with Cardiff Arms Park, alongside which it flows.

SECOND TO NONE

The magnificent stadium, elegant, so magnificently conceived and designed, almost completed as I write, second to none in the world, functional in all aspects, unique in its location, unique also in being able to continue the great traditions of the past, would never have got beyond the dreaming stage were it not for the astute, shrewd, financial guidance of our President, the first ever President from the world of commerce.

He was appointed as Treasurer of the W.R.U. in 1952. *The constitution of the Union provided that its treasurer be a bank manager, usually from the Cardiff Docks Branch—P. O. Evans had held the position for many years and Kenneth Harris, the then manager, was duly elected. The treasurer at that time was not a member of committee but in 1954/55 the constitution was altered and Ken Harris was immediately put on the finance committee. A wise move as the affairs of the W.R.U. were becoming more and more complex, more and more commercial and it needed the right men in the right places.* As a result of this change it meant that in future anyone can be the treasurer, he does not have to be the manager of a bank but what better person could any organisation have to conduct its finances?

FIRST DUTIES

One of his first duties, in conjunction with Eric Evans, the W.R.U. secretary, then, was as a member of the joint committee with Cardiff to plan the construction of the new South Upper Stand. The original plans were modified several times until, in negotiation with Bernard Morgan, the structure we now know was completed and opened by the late Tommy Vile, the W.R.U. President in 1956.

As all the world knows, the Union was determined somehow, somewhere, to have their own national arena. The Arms Park had for many years, ever since the



TREASURER
OF THE
WELSH
RUGBY
UNION
FROM
1952

depression years of the mid-thirties, been the property of the Cardiff Arms Park Company of which the Cardiff Club and the W.R.U. held joint control. The Welsh Union were only granted use of the stadium on six Saturdays each year. The rest of the time it was the Cardiff Club's ground.

Ely Moors, Pyle and Bridgend were considered as venues until the obvious answer became possible. To stay at the Arms Park. This only became possible through the vision of one man in the main—Hubert Johnson of the Cardiff Club and the chairman yet again in this, his momentous year when it will all come true. Through Hubert, the Club and the W.R.U. joint meetings were held; the problems were many; financial and legal—the cricket had to be found another home to enable the club to have its pitch adjacent and so on and so on. All the details were gradually thrashed out and at last they were ready to start.

FINANCIAL WIZARDRY

Then came the financial wizardry of our President. The Debenture scheme was inaugurated, the money was gradually arranged, Alfie John's brainchild with the Pearl Assurance Company produced the last, Heaven-sent £100,000. The tax situation was solved, the development somehow or other, involving £1½ million hasn't touched the Union's club saving Loans Fund and quietly, shrewdly Ken Harris has puffed away at his pipe, said little but done wonders and it is all coming true. The whole tale could fill the magazine.

What of the man himself?

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A local man, a Cardiffian, he is a product of the Whitchurch National School, thence Penarth Grammar, thence the old Cardiff Technical College, to study? Yes! Commerce!

FROM THE RANKS

He entered Barclay's Bank in Pontypridd at the age of 17. Promotion came rapidly, through the ranks, up to manager and then in 1955 he was appointed the Local Director. In that same year he was elected as the President of the Institute of Bankers (Cardiff and District) and two years previously he became a member of the Council of the Institute of Bankers, London.

Other Offices include: Hon. Treasurer of the Geoffrey Crawshaw Memorial Fund; Hon. Treasurer—Temple of Peace Restoration Fund; Hon. Treasurer—Police Dependents' Trust, Committee for Wales; Hon. Treasurer—University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire; Hon. Treasurer—Welsh National School of Medicine; Member—Court of Governors, University of Wales.

When the British Empire & Commonwealth Games were held in 1958 he was: Member of the Executive Committee; Member of the Steering Committee; Chairman of the Ticket Committee.

This latter office was particularly rewarding. He set up his own selected ticket committee. The late Brice Jenkins and Wyndham Richards served on it and the results of their efforts exceeded the wildest hopes.

On the Welsh Rugby Union he has been: Hon. Treasurer since 1952; Welsh Representative on the International Rugby Football Board since 1965 (there was an accepted rule that members would serve on this august body for only four years. He has done five and they still insist that he stays on); Chairman of the W.R.U. Development Committee for re-building Cardiff Arms Park since 1958.

FAMILY MAN

Family? Certainly! He is very much a family man who loves the peace and quiet of his Lisvane home in company with his wife Margaret, from North Wales, the daughter of John Charles McLean. They have two sons, two daughters and two grandsons—twins. Christopher, the eldest son, is a bank inspector in London; Timothy, single, is a chartered accountant; Anne is a textile designer whilst Sian, just 11 years old, enjoys it all, especially when her elder brother, 31, comes home with her twin nephews.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

His main philosophy and his main hobbies go well together. Simply—WORK. He was brought up to believe that there is only one thing we are entitled to, 'the right to work hard'. For relaxation he does enjoy gardening; tennis when he was a youngster—some golf then until he slipped a disc. Now it is pleasant 'work'. The results are there to be seen.

He is happy that commerce and sport can be blended together. Happy indeed with the friendships that sport can bring; whether near to home where he and Secretary Bill Clement have got on like a house on fire since the beginning or all over the world where his name is so respected.

This year of high office, this year of the opening of the National Stadium, this year when the dreams of so many and the results of so many years of planning and hard work will be fulfilled has turned that 'tide' of the beginning until it can now only bring fortune. The shallows and miseries are truly drowned in the past. Kenneth Morgan Harris has done so much to bring that about.

COACHES

Throughout the years the Welsh Rugby Union has often been maligned, has often been the target of adverse criticism, some justified, some not, but one aspect in which we can well and truly claim to have been pioneers is in the organisation of coaching.

It is some twenty years now since the formation of the first W.R.U. coaching sub-committee which did much in establishing the coaching award and conducting courses and examinations to pave the way for the present coaching set up. This was way ahead of its time and long before any of the other Home Unions were in the picture at all.

Revolutionary appointment

Prior to the revolutionary appointment of Ray Williams as full-time coaching organiser in 1967 the whole structure was reviewed and the go-ahead was given for



the organisation which has led to the picture we know today.

There is no doubt that since Ray's appointment coaching has received an undreamed of stimulus and we can truly claim to be leaders indeed in this so important field.

The Coaching Committee consists of members of the W.R.U. including members of the selection committee, together with representatives of the Schools, Secondary Schools, Youth and Junior Unions.

There is also, in addition, the Coaching Advisory Committee which is appointed for a three-year term and consists of a group of people who, by virtue of their experience and knowledge, can advise the coaching committee on all matters relating to the game.

Three grades

There are three grades of coach—the status only granted by examination. They are:—

COACH—Capable of dealing with teams at club or school level.

SENIOR COACH—Capable of dealing with district teams, county teams and instructing on courses for players.

STAFF COACH—Capable of dealing with teams at the highest level, instructing on courses for coaches and examining for the Coaching Award.

Ray Williams is directly responsible for all this, in

conjunction with the committee but is NOT, as many people still think, the coach to the Welsh team itself.

Leading the field

The Welsh Rugby Union again led the field in this connection when in 1967 they appointed David Nash, the former Ebbw Vale, Wales and British Lions' forward, to the all important 'Big Five' and as coach to the national XV. This was hitherto unheard of and raised distinguished eyebrows here and there. *David was the youngest selector ever to be appointed but he was the man for the job. He knew what was needed, what modern play was all about, how the players felt, how they reacted under certain situations as he himself had done only a short while before and the appointment was one which came like a breath of fresh air at just the right time—psychologically and realistically.*

David did a good job. One of his former Cardiff College team-mates and Welsh team-mates was, however, destined to follow in his footsteps as Welsh team coach and destined surely to earn himself a little spot of rugby immortality all his own.

D. C. T. 'Clive' Rowlands!

'Top Cat'!

What a character, what a personality, what a man, what a coach. Born in Ystradgynlais he learned all his early rugby in West Wales (aren't all internationals like a West Wales Cup game really?), went to Cardiff Training College after touring South Africa as the Welsh Secondary Schools' (Dragons) scrum-half. *He then went to Pontypool, then back West to Llanelli and Swansea, earning for himself in the process fourteen Welsh caps and a reputation as captain of Wales with two Triple Crowns under his belt which will last for ever.*

Do you remember his first cap? It was against England at the Arms Park in 1963 and of all things the Big Five had taken the unprecedented step of making him captain in his first international ever when the team contained men like Alun Pask, Dewi Bebb, Kingsley Jones and other hardened internationals and Lions.

In his stride

Clive just took it all in his stride. A born leader, a born leader by example. No one dare give less than 101% in his team. Pleading, cajoling, cussing, driving, encouraging, appreciating a special effort, it was impossible not to respect and admire him. 'Top Cat' was a pseudonym which summed it up. Fearing nothing and nobody they all listened to him and the team spirit he engendered was certainly one of the reasons for his success.

Why he was not made a Baa-Baa is one of the mysteries never understood. Is success not the ultimate aim of all who play and have anything to do with our game?

When Clive departed from the scene as a player he still could not be ignored and became the youngest vice-president ever of the W.R.U.

He took over as coach to the national XV and has, this year, set up another 'new' by becoming a member of the selection committee.

As coach he is still the supreme 'Top Cat'. To see him preparing the team for the big day is an experience never to be forgotten. He is still as much of the team, as much with them as when he was playing and when they do take the field to do 'battle' I swear that he is out there with them in everything except actual body.

To win and win well is the object and aim. Clive Rowlands' aim. The aim of all concerned with coaching and coaches everywhere, especially in Wales where the pattern is one to be admired.



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THE RUB-DUB MEN!

Today, when all teams of all classes rightly place considerable importance on the value of those who administer to the physical and often psychological needs of the players, it is only right and fitting in this story of the Welsh Union that we mention those who have performed in a similar capacity for the national team.

There have not been many. Indeed, until the advent of the late, so greatly respected and missed Ray Lewis, there was no one officially appointed to the post. International matches, in case there may be some who have forgotten, alternated between St. Helens, Swansea and the Cardiff Arms Park. The home man took charge of the Welsh team.

NAME TO REMEMBER

At Swansea, the name they always remember is Bob Dowdall, whose gifts were renowned. His were the hands which carefully and skilfully kneaded the aches out of the tired limbs and spent many hours in attending to those nationally-needed limbs and muscles before the games started.

The man at Cardiff, who carried on for many years, was another who has earned a special niche in the annals of our game. The name? Jack Powell, of the lean and lanky figure who looked after the cricketers as well, as indeed did Bob.



"MR. MAGIC HANDS"—

Gerry Lewis

who

followed

his famous

father as

Welsh team

physiotherapist

Jack could and did tell many a true and whimsical tale of the world-famous bodies who had laid prostrate on that Arms Park dressing-room table yielding gratefully to the gentle persuasion of the healing hands of a gentle man.

"MR. MAGIC HANDS"

This was the pattern throughout the years until, in the early 1930s, a slight, quiet, unassuming qualified physiotherapist from Cross Keys in the Monmouthshire valley, evidenced qualities which simply could not be denied to the national rugby teams of Wales. He was officially appointed as the "team attendant", as the position is still termed today.

The Round House, Cross Keys, aptly named as it is a round house, had been the focal point for some time for ailing people of all ages and types suffering from all kinds of troubles throughout the valleys and far beyond.

The rugby players of the Cross Keys, thence the Newport clubs, plus athletes from every sport from far and near owed much to the healing hands of "Mr. Magic Hands", as Ray Lewis was destined to be known.

Ray "but right" and kept right so many famous names that it would be impossible to name them all. But our own Ken Jones of 44 caps for Wales, plus being the greatest sprinter Wales has so far produced, says simply: "Without Ray Lewis I don't think Welsh rugby, and I personally, would ever have survived."

Yes, he had a gift indeed and carried on for Wales, most of the touring teams, Newport, and all those who needed him, until he died last year.

GIFTS INHERITED

Fortunately for us and the game of rugby football his gifts were inherited by his son, Gerry.

Gerry, well qualified, is in practice in Newport and has carried on where Dad left off, exactly as Dad would have wished in exactly the way that Dad had wished. For Newport, for Wales and for the Welsh people, plus anyone from anywhere whom he could help to "put right".

Gerry has not only inherited Dad's healing hands, but also his quiet, healing, therapeutic ways and manner. Equally important in many aspects.

We can be assured that the muscles and limbs of our national teams are in very good hands.



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PETER GILLARD

Manager and Head Groundsman of the W.R.U.
National Stadium, Cardiff Arms Park.

With the advent of the wonderful new Cardiff Arms Park National Stadium must inevitably come new responsibilities and new commitments, and to meet those in and around the ground itself a new appointment in keeping with the historic developments.

Ever since the Arms Park has been a rugby ground the upkeep has been undertaken by the Cardiff Athletic Club, as the twenty-six acres belonged to the Cardiff Arms Park Co. Now the club ground, bowling green and tennis courts belong to the club and will be looked after by Les Gerry whose story is also told in this issue. But with the change the Welsh Rugby Union decided that a Stadium Manager-cum-Head Groundsman would be sought to take complete charge of the cherished new playing area and its environments.

Demanding task

A demanding task! For far too long had the pitch been the object of adverse criticism from all over the world from those who did not and/or would not appreciate the fundamental fact that it was a club ground with the commitments of training and many fixtures to be kept, unlike the home grounds of the other Home Unions. *The wonder has always been that it kept as good as it did with all the use, the exceptional rainfall we get in South Wales and the nearby River Taff which at high water was often above the level of the pitch itself.* It would take almost the whole of this magazine to tell the full story of what has been done regarding drainage, etc., etc., throughout the years and yet no matter how effective all that was, and it certainly was, all the good could be undone when the skies opened from above when a game was in progress as it too often did.

Reserved for big games

However all that now belongs to the past. The new ground will be jealously reserved for the big occasions and no more will the critics be able to deride.

The man appointed to ensure that all will be well is no stranger to the Arms Park or to rugby football and rugby footballers. Peter Gillard has lived all his thirty-six years in Cardiff and started his career with the Cardiff Parks Department. From there he went to the sports ground of Guest Keen in Sloper Road for seven years and for the past five years has been in charge of the Glamorgan Golf Club at Penarth. He is well used to the vagaries and cussedness of our weather and to the ways of sportsmen. Golf and rugby almost seem to be synonymous these days. His assistant is Albert Jeffries whom he persuaded to leave the golf club with him. A happy partnership continues.

First introduction

Peter's first introduction to the Arms Park and its turf was during the Commonwealth Games of 1958 and since then he has spent many hours on the ground in the company of Les Gerry, a close friend. He insisted that the present excellent state of the pitch was totally due to the work put in by Les and the club staff who only recently completed the task of even further re-draughting the whole arena. It looks almost too good to play on.

These days turf care and management have become highly technical and in this connection Peter Gillard is exceptionally well qualified. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of Turf Culture of the Horticultural

Department of Llandaff Technical College; has been secretary of the South Wales branch of the international Institute of Groundsmanship for the past fourteen years; holds a diploma for the science and practice of turf culture, to name some of them. No need to fear that developments anywhere in the world will go unheeded as far as the care of the ground is concerned.

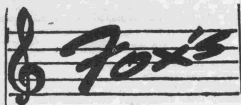
The challenge of the commitment he has undertaken, with the eyes of the whole rugby world upon the results of his work, he welcomes. He is confident that with all the preparation of the past years and the care now available the bogey of the Arms Park 'Paddy Field' has gone for ever. The laying of that bogey is the task he is really going to enjoy.



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HISTORY OF THE LAWS AND THOSE WHO ADMINISTER THEM

by

**Fred
Croster**



For every game to be fully enjoyed and appreciated it is essential that there be some code governing the playing thereof. How true this is of rugby football! This brief outline of how they and refereeing matters have developed has been fascinating to unveil and must be part and parcel of the history of the Welsh Union and the game itself.

The origins of the game go back long before William Webb Ellis, who first disregarded the rules of the game of football as then played, by picking up the ball and running with it, at Rugby School in 1823. 'Harpastum', or 'handball' was practised by the Roman Legions in this country and must have been a kind of rugby football whilst the game of 'Hurling' in Cornwall is said to date back to the Bronze Age. This is for the antiquarians, not for me, but it is an established fact that 'Hurling' which still appears in Cornwall as a yearly showpiece was played in a strictly law-abiding form. The beginning! Mind you, in those days the ball was a piece of metal or stone and the teams consisted of a whole town or village.

NO REFEREES!

There is no mention of a referee!

There is however still in existence a report 'The Laws of Football as played at Rugby School' dated the 7th September, 1846. The report concludes with the grim statement,

"In each particular school the rules of the game were settled by the capacity of the playground and as these varied in size and character so did the game played."

"The game was risky to limb when played on a grass plot but when played in a walled-in place such as the cloisters of Charterhouse it was probably dangerous to life."

However, in 1823 when Ellis disregarded the existing rule that a player catching the ball had to retire backwards and ran forwards instead a drastic change came about.

A famous old Rugbeian, Thomas Hughes wrote vividly on the matter and is quoted as saying,

"In my first year, 1834, running forward with the ball to get a try was not absolutely forbidden but a jury of Rugby boys of that day would certainly have returned a verdict of 'justifiable homicide' had a boy been killed in running in."

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Those were the days! The days when it all started and the days when the lawmakers began to become necessary.

In 1874 a major introduction was that the ball could be picked up from the ground. Until then it could only be caught 'on the bound' and this led to quite progressive advances.

Before then the 1846 Laws as played at Rugby were the only ones in existence but the complications were already starting as, believe it or not, there were thirty-seven of them. The whole thirty-seven were, however, very brief indeed, consisting of just a few words. In fact one writer on football in Scotland stated, "It was not a bad game; the greatest beauty of it was that there appeared to be no rules at all."

There were, but only those in existence at Rugby School. Although a fresh Law was added or a correction made periodically it was not until 1892 that the first systematic attempt was made. Since then there have been many further revisions, the International Board assumed responsibility for the governing of them with major changes made throughout the years until we had a handbook of thirty-six Laws changed just last year to twenty-seven with many other explanatory booklets and pamphlets.

OWN SET OF LAWS!

Until 1930 each Union had its own set of Laws for its home matches, the International Board set being compulsory only for international matches and it was not until then that it was agreed that all games be played under the Laws as framed by the Board. Let me take you through some of the changes as they were made.

'Goal.' In 1892 a goal could be obtained by kicking the ball over the cross-bar of your opponents' goal and this held good, known as a 'field goal' up until 1905. 'Penalty Kick' (which has beguiled us ever since). This was introduced in 1882 and known then as a 'Fore Kick by way of a penalty.' It had to be a drop kick or a punt and *no goal could be scored from it*. It was not changed until 1886 when they decided that a goal could be gained.

'Ball.' In the early days it does not seem as though they worried much about a ball or whether they had one at all. One historian is quoted as saying that "the ball consisted of the head of a Dane that was kicked about for sport." There was no mention of size or shape until 1892 when it was decreed that it had to be oval and of the required weight and dimensions.

PLAYERS' DRESS

In the beginning the players made no attempt to change and in some cases the game was known as 'Kicking Camp.' If played with shoes on it was sometimes known as 'Savage Camp.'

'Appointment of Referee and Touch Judges.' In 1866, the Laws of football as played at Rugby School simply stated '2 Umpires must be provided.' In 1874 the R.U. added 'the captains of the respective sides shall be the sole arbiters of all disputes.'

It was not until 1881 that neutral referees for all matches was agreed upon. Then, in 1885, the R.U. stated that in all matches two umpires and one referee shall be appointed. Each umpire to carry a stick. The referee to carry a whistle. The umpire to raise his stick on an appeal but the referee would only blow his whistle to stop the game when both umpires raised their sticks.

It was not until 1901 that mutual appointments of referees for internationals was agreed upon, and the international panel system not until 1932.

'Method of Scoring.' When towns and villages played each other the winning side was that which succeeded in carrying the ball to the home of their captain, often two to three miles away. At one time there was no kicking at all, the ball had to be carried or passed and any player caught in possession of the ball lost a 'notch' or 'snotch.' The side who got seven or nine 'notches' or 'snatches' first winning the game which often took two to three hours.

In 1866 the Laws at Rugby stated 'the match is won by either side obtaining two goals. All matches are drawn after five days play or after three days if no goal has been kicked by either side.'

This was changed in 1874 to the effect that the result could be decided by the majority of goals scored, then the following year tries were given their just place.

A try equalled two points until in 1893 England and Wales altered the try to count as three points as it has ever since. The following year the International Board adopted this with the scoring system as we know it today with the exception of the drop goal which carried four points right up until 1948.

TIME

There was no mention in the Laws as to how long a game was to last until 1926 although certain stipulations for certain matches had been laid down much earlier. In 1871, in the first England v Scotland match fifty minutes each way were played!

'Functions of the Referee.' His duties throughout the years have not changed considerably but it was not until 1913 that the International Board decided that "a referee is not entitled to contract out of the Laws of the Game by agreeing with both sides not to recognise a certain rule or rules." Up until then, together with both captains they could make mutual alterations.

It was in 1926 that all the Laws were generally revised and the book, very much as we know it today drawn up.

A circular issued by the International Board in 1937 makes an interesting point; it read "The Board have observed that referees in international matches do not administer the Laws of the Game as laid down by them and as a result many international matches are producing an inferior type of football not in keeping with the spirit and traditions of the game."

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

In 1602 it was stated that 'Players were unlimited.' With the formation of the Rugby Union in 1871 the number of players seems to have been twenty. In 1875 the Universities played fifteen-a-side but it was not until 1892 that a Law appeared in the handbook to this effect.

In 1885 Wales played four threequarters against Scotland. They were beaten and discontinued the practice.

Changes in the Laws, Case Laws, alterations and modifications have taken place continuously from the beginning right up until 1950/51. Then one of the most drastic changes of modern times took place when players were permitted to pick up the ball after a tackle instead of having to play it with the foot. This achieved the desired object of achieving continuity, the game carried on instead of stopping.

Since then, in more recent times, we have had the introduction of the 'no kicking to touch between the 25's' which again achieved the desired object of keeping the game moving as did the opportunity for referees to permit advantage to the non-infringing team from almost all phases of play.

STRIDES FORWARD

Yes, the game has taken long and many strides forward since those far-gone days. Rugby football has taken on a new concept and the Lawmakers who have changed the Laws regularly with the object always of assisting the game must take their share of the praise. In case there may be some who do not know, Wales is represented on the International Board, the responsible body, by this year's President, and Treasurer, Ken Harris of Cardiff, and the former Welsh Youth Secretary, Hermas Evans of West Wales.

What of the men whose task it has always been to administer these changes and see that they 'come good.'

The referees' lot has never been an easy one. With the increased mobility and the increased use of 'advantage' has come a new responsibility to those who are the true amateurs of all. Let it be known and widely known that all referees, for all games, no matter what standard or status receive the same financial allowance—there is no such thing as a fee. The allowance is for travelling—5d, a mile if by car or second class train fare or the actual bus fare, plus a subsistence allowance of 5/- if the game is under 10 miles from his home; 7/6d. if over 10 miles and under 30, and 12/6d. if over 30 miles away. And this has not changed since my day.

All refereeing appointments are undertaken by the appropriate sub-committee of the Union and officially, as all teams are W.R.U. teams only, there is no such thing as grading of matches, hence no such thing as official grading of the men appointed to control them. A bone of contention which must be faced up to one day.

The selection of the men to represent us on the international panel of referees is essentially grading. They are the top men in the grade. Let it be carried right through.

NECESSARY ADJUNCT

For many years the referees, not only of Wales, but in rugby football generally were accepted by some as a necessary but unwelcome adjunct to the game.

How that has changed. Today, referees generally, and particularly those from the Principality have earned respect and indeed admiration for the quiet, competent and efficient manner in which their duties are performed. No fuss, no ballyhoo, no reward. The true amateurs. A glance at the handbook and the members of the Union show how well former referees are represented. Let me name them: Viv Phelps, last year's President; Wilfred Faull, life member and former President; Vernon Parfitt, H. C. 'Jack' Young, the chairman of the 'Big Five'; Gwilym Trearne are names which come easily to mind..

Much of this has been due to the decision in 1953 to form the Welsh Society of Rugby Referees with the eight associated District Societies.

The Society has rendered a wonderful service to the game in all its aspects. They deal with all changes in the Laws and interpretations, are plugging hard now for grading and are ceaseless in their efforts to improve still further the standard and the image of Welsh referees and refereeing.

The inaugural secretary was Harold Phillips of Neath. He was succeeded in 1960 by Syd John who seems to get even more enthusiastic as time goes irretrievably on. They are represented on the Welsh Rugby Union by former referee Ivor Pitman of Cardiff.

Mindful always of standards, back in the beginning they designed a handsome and conspicuous blazer badge which has been seen and worn all over the world and were responsible for introducing the now accepted distinctive shirt and stockings of gold, known by all who watch the game.

The referees have come a long way in keeping with the game itself, the Laws and those who make them. Let it continue that way.

Story of a man and his dog!

Les Gerry, Cardiff Arms Park Groundsman

The new Cardiff Arms Park—wonderful to behold, to watch from and to play on—is surely one of the showpieces now of the world, and will have a playing surface in keeping with all that surrounds it.

For the past 16 years that stretch of turf, so often the object of unkind criticism from those who did not understand (can anyone stop the rain coming down; can anyone stop the R. Taff from coming up so high and so near; did everyone realise that it was a CLUB pitch and continually played on?) was with love, and heartache under the care of a quiet, very conscientious Cardiff man.

PERFORMED WONDERS

The name Les Gerry, who performed unknown wonders in order to ensure that the hallowed surface would be in as good a condition as humanly possible.

Les, a product of Canton, as is Les Spence, the chairman of the Ground committee, went to Lansdowne, then Herbert Thompson Schools. Little then did he, or his sportsmaster Viv Phelps realise that their paths would meet so often in later life.

After service as a P.T. instructor in the R.A.F. Les embarked on a career, on his own, in landscape gardening. The head groundsman at the Arms Park then was Des Glover. A job was going in 1954, Les was appointed. Des went to Ninian Park, Albert Francis came, to leave for Fison's.

A new head man had to be found. He was there, right on the doorstep. Les was the man who then took on the responsibility, not merely of the rugby ground, but of the County cricket square adjacent, the tennis courts, the bowling green and the hockey pitch. A monumental task with a staff of just four and every aspect under the public eye.

DIFFICULT TASK

To keep the rugby hierarchy happy was enough but if the County and/or Club cricket wicket was not up to everyone's liking, if the bowling turf did not meet with the liking of those dedicated men, it was always Les who they came to. In his own, efficient quiet way, he just got on with the job in hand and took everything in his stride. The problems, the difficulties were always overcome without any fuss or bother. The standard of the playing surfaces was always as high as the quality of



A rare sight...

**Les Gerry
(without
his dog!)**

the performers and that is saying a lot. There are now five on the staff with machinery which brings the touch of top class agriculture to the centre of the city, plus his collie dog which never leaves his side.

When the new Arms Park development started one of the first tasks was to prepare the new County and Club cricket wickets on the new ground in Sophia Gardens. 11½ acres there with two hockey pitches and one rugby in addition to the cricket. At the same time the new rugby ground for the club, at the Arms Park, was a major task on its own. The results are all there now for the sporting world to behold and marvel at.

MORE THAN FULL-TIME JOB!

Les, single yet (but he is 'booked'), lives in the flat over the cricket clubhouse in Sophia Gardens. On the job, and believe me he needs to be. It is rather more than a full-time job. It needs devotion, all the hours under the sun, skill, knowledge—inherited and acquired—he has been one of the leaders of the National Association of Groundsmen for a long time, and a ready smile to cope with all the demands.

It needed more effort than usual to keep smiling during this all-important summer of 1970. The new Arms Park is now the property of the Welsh Union whereas before the Cardiff Club were in possession. This change was necessary in order for the project to be even contemplated. The Union in their wisdom decided that they would advertise for and then appoint a stadium manager to take charge. Les did not get the job. Typically he shrugged his shoulders and got on with preparing the wicket for the next County game. That's the way life goes.

The satisfaction he does get and always will is meeting so many true sportsmen of all kinds and creeds; making untold friends and doing his best to please them all. I hope he'll do just that for a long time yet, with his famous black dog companion to help.



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"The finest ground in the British Isles, if not in Europe!"—that is the considered opinion of a man who should know—consulting engineer to the ambitious Cardiff Arms Park complex, Mr. T. G. Rees, of the Williamson Partnership of Porthcawl.

Mr. Rees, whose firm specialises in spectacular projects such as this, is happy the way the various phases of the Arms Park plan are being completed on schedule: "We are proud of the job which makes great improvements on the old Cardiff Arms Park ground. The unobstructed view from the new North Stand will eventually be continued when the new West and South Stands are constructed. Owing to various reasons it will not be possible to completely ring the new Welsh Rugby Union National Stadium with grandstands, but the East Terrace, where the giant scoreboard now stands, will eventually be improved and enlarged. Arms Park crowds of the future will have a tremendous view, whether in grandstand or enclosure."

TREMENDOUS JOB

It certainly has been a tremendous job for Messrs. Andrew Scott (Civil Engineering) Ltd., of Port Talbot; the Williamson Partnership of Porthcawl, who are the Consulting Engineers; Messrs. T. C. Jones, of Treorchy, the steel work contractors; British Fram Construction Co. of Newtown Llantwit, near Pontypridd, who supplied the precast sheeting units, and the British Steel Corporation, who were responsible for the roof sheeting at the new Arms Park sports complex.

Through various causes (the greyhound contract was one) it was not possible for the architects, Messrs. Webb, Osborne and Association, of Cardiff, to plan a cable-roofed stadium, and they were forced to settle for a cantilever roof for the 75,000 capacity main Stadium and for the South Stand for the 15,000 capacity Cardiff R.F.C. ground alongside. *The roof, which spans 126 feet, is one of the largest in Europe. The quantities of materials required to complete the new North Stand and its terracing are prodigious: 13,000 cubic yards of concrete; 800 tons of reinforcement and 700 tons of structural steelwork. The stand is 100 feet high and its foundations carry a load of 600 tons. The main frame of reinforced concrete for the steel-trussed roof has 20 foot centres. Now nearing completion, the new*

stand is already one of the dominant architectural features of the Cardiff of the future.

PITCH TO BE MOVED

When the magnificent new Welsh Rugby Union headquarters is completed some time in the early 80's, the famous Cardiff Arms Park pitch will be re-sited 50 feet towards the River End of the ground and 20 feet nearer to the new North Stand. If anything this will improve an already superlative unimpaired view on which many French supporters present at last season's Wales v. France international commented enthusiastically. For the hard-worked Pressmen the new facilities planned will be more than welcome. Instead of "the Worst Press-box in the Rugby World" (as the inadequate pews at the back of the present South Stand were widely criticised) the new Press-box (alongside the new W.R.U. committee box) will have individual desks and all the necessary amenities including (it is rumoured) a future Press committee-room and bar to out-rival that at Twickenham!

THE OTHER GROUND

Equally as important as the new National Stadium is the new un-named Cardiff R.F.C. ground, which will hold 15,000 spectators in the fine new North and South Stands. As the Cardiff club was one of the pioneers of floodlit Rugby (they once played Newport in the 80's of last century under napha flames!) a new floodlighting system is to be installed on top of the stands and it is hoped that this will be completed before Christmas... news that will add some much-needed zest to the Welsh Floodlit Alliance competition.

Although this is the biggest sports centre they have supervised, the Williamson Partnership was responsible for the Afan Lido Sports Centre at Aberavon; the Sports Centre at Stoke Mandeville for the World Paraplegic Games, and they are also involved in the construction of the Welsh National Sports Centre now being erected at Sophia Gardens next to the Cardiff Athletic Club and Glamorgan County cricket ground.

Like the partnership between the Welsh Rugby Union and the Cardiff club which has made this possible, the Williamson Partnership and their colleagues have ensured that the national game of the Principality will have a capital home in the Capital City of Wales.

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FROM THE PREMIER CLUBS

By GRAHAM EVANS



ABERAVON

A further improvement in playing performance should be seen at Aberavon this season. The players should be really fit at the start of the season under the guidance of BRYN THOMAS and coach PHIL MORGAN. Billy Mainwaring has chosen Francis Reynolds as vice-captain, a move that could see the talented centre develop still further. Paul Wheeler is fit once more and Ian Hall is raring to go despite rumours that he may be joining Cardiff. Alan Martin should make a strong bid for top honours and could well be the replacement to Stuart Gallacher. If the Wizards can show a little more consistency they are capable of gaining a place in the first nine.

ABERTILLERY

Despite dropping from fifth to tenth spot last season, Abertillery should have a good season, if the club are more fortunate with injuries. Dennis Wright, this year's captain, was a much improved player last season, scoring twelve tries to become the club's top try-scoring forward. Behind the scrum, the club possess talented players in David Liddington, Roddy Jones, Howard Shurn, Terry Hoskins, Robert Harris and Jeff Lines, who showed great improvement last season. Alan R. Lewis will once again provide the experience at scrum half. 1970-71 season should see Abertillery finish in the first seven clubs.

BRIDGEND

Bridgend will find it tough next season with every club making an extra effort to beat the champions. The club is fortunate in that they possess a very strong squad of forwards; in Max Wilshire, P. Williams, Steve Thomas and Howard Evans they possess four second-row forwards of the highest quality. With George Patterson providing extra height in the back-row and of course the outstanding leadership of John Lloyd, the pack will once again be more than a match for all opposition. Behind the scrum, Vivian Jenkins should develop still further and with John 'the pace' Williams available and, of course, Tony Morgan, Bridgend will possess try-scoring wingers. Alan Stamp, the former Penarth player, is one player who could make his presence felt if he can add determination to his many other talents. My forecast is that Bridgend will finish in the top three.

CARDIFF

With David Hayward to coach the side and Roy Bish on the selection committee, the side should be well prepared for the new season. Several new players will be taking part in the club trials. The selectors must be hoping that Gareth Edwards and Barry John

will have regained their enthusiasm for club rugby. Ian Lewis, now available regularly, will challenge John for the outside-half spot. In the early matches, students John Bevan, Robin Williams and Gerry Oram will be available. The names of Bill Morris and Roger Lane have been linked with the club and both players would be valuable assets. Roger Beard, Gerry Wallace, and Gary Davies should form the front with Baxter, John Hickey and Mervyn John giving them support. Ian Robinson and Paul Barry will be challenging all newcomers for the remaining two places. Despite the loss of John O'Shea and the fact that some of last season's players have reached the veteran stage, Cardiff could be the top team after two seasons in second place.

CROSS KEYS

Like Penarth, the Keys selection committee face the difficult task of trying to obtain the services of top class players with the club's present poor playing record. Coach Gary Musto, one of the club's former stars, is well aware of the problems. Several promising players appeared in the side last season and the main task must be to build a squad of players with sufficient experience for first class rugby. Derek Evans led the side well last season and once again received tremendous support from veterans Dave Hardacre and Roger Beese. Unfortunately I cannot see a great improvement next season, although for the sake of this grand club I hope my predictions are proved wrong.

EBBW VALE

Ebbw Vale possess one of the most experienced sides in the championship. The selectors must be hoping that Lyn Jones, one of the finds of last season, will be available in September despite farming commitments. Despite the fact that several players are reaching the veteran stage they should still be a strong side. Several youngsters showed promise last season, none more so than full-back Malcolm Cross, who seems to have what it takes to reach the top. Glyn Turner should once again be challenging for a place in the Welsh trial teams, while Arthur Lewis will be determined to prove that his selection against France last year will be only one of the many appearances in the Welsh Jersey.

GLAMORGAN WANDERERS

If the Glamorgan Wanderers can only believe in themselves they could prove to be one of the surprise teams of the season. The big need is an experienced prop forward. Second-row forwards Phil Kalonas and Chris Mallows are two exciting prospects, while Mervyn Fudge, Steve Williams and Phil Walsh could form an outstanding back-row. Behind the scrum, Phil Davies returns after missing last season, whilst Terry O'Gorman, relieved of the cares of captaincy, should shine at full-back. The club are fortunate in having a young committee. Congratulations to David Lloyd on being selected as first team secretary. David has spent fourteen years with the Wanderers, never sparing himself in his efforts to organise dances, etc. A move of two places up the table is my own assessment of next season's fortunes.

LLANELLI

Brian Butler, Stuart Gallacher and Alan Lewis have left the club; in spite of this, the Scarlets should possess one of the strongest squads of players in Welsh Rugby. Doug Rees, the former Swansea international full-back; Ivor Taylor, ex-Newport, one of the most under-rated centres in the game; Roy Thomas, Welsh 'B' team, and Barrie Llewellyn look certain regulars

amongst the newcomers. Llanelli also have several youngsters who could make their mark. Hefin Jenkins, brother Gareth, Derek Quinell are three forwards to watch. Behind the scrum, Wayne Lewis should develop alongside Taylor, while Roy Mathias will be all out to retain his position in the Welsh team. With all this talent, Llanelli should be near the top and with Clive John to lead them will be a hard side to beat. They must guard against staleness, however, with their heavy fixture list.

LONDON WELSH

The exiles possess a squad of twenty-five players to start the season, but once again face the problem of so many of their players for country and trial matches. John Dawes will be eager to obtain the best possible results in what must be his last year as leader. Mike Roberts, who played in the trial matches, will be eager

to impress the National selectors as, of course, will be his second-row partner, Geoff Evans, who lost his place in the Welsh team last season. Bob Phillips and Bill Hullin form an efficient half-back partnership, whilst Jim Shanklin proves the perfect foil for his skipper. Alan Richards, Colin Gibbons, a great utility player, and Andy Morgan will fight for the wing positions, and there will be no shortage of talent. Whilst I would like to see the Welsh side in the top spot for Dawes' sake, the club will, through the many calls for the players, do well to finish in the first five.

MAESTEG

Maesteg are always a difficult side to assess; on times they look strong enough to beat all opposition, only to fall unexpectedly the following week. They have talented players in Billy Upton, Norman Davies, Ray Hopkins (if he is not lured away by Rugby League



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scouts) and Leighton Davies. Several of the outstanding youth team players should challenge for places this year. The club would welcome the regular service of Welsh 'B' team international second-row forward Bob Davies. The forwards, although great workers, are on the small side by modern standards and would welcome Davies in the line-out. Maesteg are likely to remain around the half-way mark.

NEATH

Neath always provide a pack worthy of attention but do not have quite the same strength in depth as Llanelli. The club possess two of the best hookers in Wales and Norman Rees could well be one of the surprise choices in this year's National Squad. Omri Jones seems likely to join the All-Blacks and this wholehearted player could prove a hit either in the back-row or centre. The club will be eager to achieve success in their centenary year and the new chairman, Mr. Norman, is determined that the club play the kind of rugby to further increase the gates at the Gnoll. Neath to finish in the first six, and would be real challengers if a couple of really fast wings could be discovered.

NEWPORT

Despite losing Ivor Taylor and Barrie Llewellyn, Newport are likely to be a stronger side this season. The pack should once again be one of the strongest in Wales with Gary Sutton and Andrew Evans, two players capable of gaining places in the National Squad. John Anthony is keen to try his luck as a centre and his place at full-back could well go to Adrian Hearn, the former Pontypool player. Billy Raybould and Gwilym Treharne are likely to start the season as the first halves but are sure to be challenged by Paul Evans and Terry Francis. Colin Prescott is returning following a season of injury and could well prove the replacement to Barrie Llewellyn. With coaches Brian Jones and Ian McJennett, making the best use of the talent available Newport are sure to finish near the top.

NEWBRIDGE

Newbridge increase the selection committee by the election of former hooker Chris Padfield, who will join Dennis Hughes and coach Dai Harries in choosing the sides. If Newbridge could find three-quarters equal to their forwards they would once again be strong challengers for the title. Unfortunately the club rely on Cyril Evans to a great extent when it comes to attack. Jeff Martin proved a valuable recruit last season, whilst John Huw Williams added strength to the back division. In the pack, Newbridge are well served and Skipper Hughes is sure to produce top form in an endeavour to regain his international place and a Lions tour. Newbridge to remain near the half-way mark.

PENARTH

Despite the fact that Alun Jones has decided to remain following the interest of many other clubs, Penarth seem destined to remain near the foot of the table. Jim Struthers, last year's winner of the Lot Thorn award, is another player like Jones, who is determined to return to help Brian Mori. David Edwards, a former Treorchy and Cleve player, is hoping to join the club and this talented line-out forward, who has played for the Glamorgan county side, would prove a great asset. It is in the pack that the problem lies; whilst the players are energetic, they lack the size and experience to provide enough ball for the backs. Former Glamorgan Wanderers scrum-half Geoff Thomas is likely to gain a regular place. In the pack Jeff Jones is fit again and should prove a valuable forward support for his skipper.

Alan Stamp and Bryn Davies are seeking places at Bridgend and Cardiff, whilst strong running wing Alan Tame will be out of action with a chipped shoulder.

PONTYPRIDD

Pontypridd are determined to climb from 13th spot although they face a difficult task. The pack is sure to be a match for most clubs and it is hoped that Dennis John and Alan Paul can settle into a regular partnership. At half-back, John is without doubt one of the outstanding scrum-halves in Wales and now in his fifth season of first class football a very experienced player. Roy Hope, who has enjoyed a good cricket season, should once again establish himself at full-back, and Joe Smith will be at centre to provide the skill and experience. Pontypridd are to produce good football and are assured of a welcome whenever they play.

PONTYPOOL

Although the Monmouthshire side possessed a strong squad of players towards the end of last season they do not have the influence of experienced players so evident in the early sixties and late fifties. At this time, players of the quality of Clive Rowlands, Malcolm Price, Fenton Coles, Bill Morris, Ray Cheney and Benny Jones were backs of the highest quality. At present Ray Prosser and the selection committee are forced to build the side from youth players and the local second class clubs. Next season must be one of team building. The club are fortunate in having a talented skipper in Terry Cobner and a strong pack of forwards. Pontypool are unlikely to make a big jump up the table but improvement in the playing record should continue.

SWANSEA

The loss of Roy Thomas is yet another blow to the all-whites. Stuart Davies remains with Clive Dyer to give the side experience. The attendance of over 40 players at pre-season augurs well for the new season. The reduction of the size of the selection committee from nine to three is a move in the right direction. Ieuan Evans has certainly whipped up enthusiasm and the Welsh Youth team coach is certain to be able to call on several youth internationals. The fans must not expect miracles, but with the present enthusiasm and approach, it will not be long before Swansea are once again a powerful force in Welsh Rugby.

TREDEGAR

Tredegar, fifth last season, will be eager to climb even further up the table. Of course, one can claim that their fixture list is not as strong as the other seventeen clubs, but of course this is not their fault; they are eager to add all the missing clubs to their fixture list. At the time of writing, the plans of Derek Tudball and Terry Francis are not known; both have been linked with Newport. However, Tredegar are sure to start the season with a strong pack under Skipper Charlie Butler. Ralph Thomas, Alun Davies, Tony Preece are experienced players behind the scrum. Tredegar are always a difficult side to beat on their own ground and once again should have a good season.

P.S.—Apologies to Aberavon, who were missed out of the August edition, and in particular to Bryn Thomas, who is sure to see that the side has varied training to achieve fitness.



ROUND-UP

By T. G. CADWALLADR

SWANSEA UPLANDS are one of three new clubs successful in their application for admission to the West Wales Rugby Union. Together with PENYGOES and PONTARDAWE they received the necessary two-thirds majority to obtain affiliation.

Unlucky were TONNA, LAUGHARNE and BRITON FERRY but the door has been left open because one of the main proposals passed at a packed meeting at St. Helen's, Swansea, was that the W.W.R.U. be increased from thirty-six to forty clubs. All three, however, will now have to wait a season before making another application.

Elevation of West Wales chairman Mr. Evan D. Williams, Clydach, as a life member was unanimously confirmed by delegates. Presenting the motion, vice-chairman Mr. D. J. Butler (Pontyberem) recalled Mr. Williams' forty-four years' association with Varde United with whom he had been a tower of strength. "He has also been a tremendous worker for the W.W.R.U. for twenty-one years and the last six as our worthy chairman," added Mr. Butler. "The accolade of life membership has been fully deserved and I have no doubt that Evan will continue to serve the cause just as unselfishly as he has done so admirably in the past."

Responding, Mr. Williams said that he had enjoyed his work with both Varde and the W.W.R.U. and during his long association with both had made many friends. "I am deeply conscious of the honour bestowed upon me and it is something I shall always treasure."

Further congratulations

Earlier, Mr. Williams had congratulated Mr. George Llewellyn (Brynamman R.F.C.) on being appointed chairman of the Welsh Referees Society and Mr. Carwyn James (Cefneithin R.F.C. and Llanelli) on selection as assistant manager for the British Lions on their 1971 tour of New Zealand.

There were two ballots in Division A and C.

Management committee: Division A—D. J. Davies (Seven Sisters), Arthur Jones (Crynant), Eddie Lewis (Abercrave), Division B—D. Lloyd Evans (Gorseinon), Dennis Howells (Penclawdd), Lyn James (Felinfoel), Division C—Lionel Rees (Llandeby), Raymond Thomas (Kidwelly), Elwyn Treharne (Ammanford).

County Councillor Martin Thomas, president; E. D. Williams, chairman; D. J. Butler, vice-chairman; D. L. James, secretary; and Vivian Price, treasurer, were all re-elected unopposed.

Swansea bombshell

Roy Thomas, the Swansea and Wales B hooker has dropped an early season bombshell by requesting a transfer to his former club Penclawdd. The news has disappointed Swansea and coach Ieuan Evans in particular.

A club striving to get stronger fixtures is FURNACE, who for many seasons has had one of the best records in Welsh Junior Union circles. Since 1964, there has been much work in consolidating the fixture list, no easy task, for the majority of W.R.U. clubs are naturally a little reluctant to have their colours lowered by the so-called minnow teams. Interested clubs should contact the secretary, Gwyn Williams.

Of those who have established themselves in premier football none has made a greater impact than Wyn Williams, a former Ystradgynlais captain who will occupy a similar role with New Brighton next season. A lecturer at Liverpool University, he is the Lancashire scrum-half. Last winter he appeared in the first Welsh trial at Pontypool.

Leading administrators at PENCLAWDD, secretary Dennis Howells, financial secretary D. J. Evans and treasurer Mel Jenkins have been made life members. This was announced at the annual meeting by chairman Ifor Davies.

OUR YOUNG SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

This is going to be your section of the magazine to which you all look to for up-to-date news and views on Welsh rugby in particular and also world-wide rugby as well. So please let us know how you would like it to be run. We have our own ideas, but look forward to having some of your suggestions, too.

We have thought you would like to see photographs of players of the past, about whom you have heard, but not seen. (You have all heard something like that before.) Questions and answers on the laws of the game. A feature on club badges, perhaps we can persuade the Editor to provide colour inserts for you to collect and put into a grand rugby scrapbook. Surely the clubs would gladly tell us how they decided on some of the marvellous badges we see on the breast pockets of so many players. So, a history of the club together with their badge, maybe two a month? This will take about three years to cover the member clubs of the W.R.U.

Then how about an article on "How to look after your kit." Maybe one of the sports goods manufacturers will help us out on this. Now is the time to put away

those cricket bats, tennis rackets and all your other summer gear. So perhaps we could make a start with these.

How to get fit for your favourite sport and how to stay fit through the winter; how to improve your individual rugby skill.

Perhaps we have someone who would like to send a crossword puzzle for us to include later, with a prize for those we use. (Base it on rugby, please.)

Last but not least, quizzes, some pictorial, some written, on players, games, scorers, famous administrators, famous grounds and local landmarks which will help you to discover the club in the town.

It's all yours, so let us know what you would like.

Then we shall try to provide it. Hope to hear from you soon.

THE JUNIOR EDITOR,
"Welsh Rugby,"
28 Church Road,
Whitchurch,
Cardiff, Glam.

Line-up weakened

A well-known name will be missing from the CWMGORS line-up next season. He is Gordon Reed, a former Cardiff, Moseley and Llanelli player who has completed a post graduate course at a Cardiff College and takes up a teaching post at Millfield Public School in September.

Reed, a former Welsh Schools cap who on his third appearance captained the side helped the Cwmgors club to win the West Wales Rugby Union Challenge Cup last season.

While at Carmarthen Trinity College he was a regular for Llanelli as an open side flank-forward and when teaching in the Midlands played regularly for Moseley and Warwickshire.

His brother Jeffrey Reed was also capped by the Welsh Schools before graduating to Llanelli, via St. Lukes College and Devonport Services.

Rumours dispelled

Despite rumours that he would make for London Welsh on leaving St. Lukes College, Exeter, Welsh Secondary Schools lock John Vaughan has applied to join Llanelli.

LOUGHOR are determined to make a strong bid for honours in the West Wales R.U. competitions this season. It is twenty-one years since they last won a trophy—the Championship Shield in 1950–51. With their new clubhouse completed in time for the big kick-off it could turn out to be a memorable season at Loughor.

However, a word of caution came from secretary John Jones at the annual meeting when he stressed the need for greater effort among members now that the club had a home of their own.

Congratulations were extended by chairman J. W. Thomas on the appointment of Ron Jones as a Welsh

Youth selector. Former Swansea centre Jim Bailey has been re-elected captain.

Secretary resigns

After a distinguished career as a player, captain and administrator, Tom Hopkins has resigned as secretary of YSTRADGYNLAIS because of indifferent health. At the annual meeting many tributes were paid to Tom, a former Swansea and Wales forward, and secretary of the club for twenty-six years. In recognition of his outstanding services he was elected a life member.

Chief guests at the annual dinner of LAMPETER were Clive Rowlands, W.R.U. vice-president, Handel Rogers, W.R.U. District representative, and Carwyn James, Llanelli R.F.C.

They were welcomed by chairman D. Elwyn Evans who also proposed the loyal toast. A toast to the guests was proposed by club president Lawrence Davies who presented club ties to Clive Rowlands and Carwyn James.

Lock-forward Dai Davies has been elected skipper of GLAIS after only half a season in the Bluebirds colours. The twenty-eight-year-old, one of the most durable engine room workers outside the premier circuit is ideally equipped to lead the side and will work in close harmony with coach Graham John, a former Maesteg forward.

Prior to joining Glais, Davies had distinguished himself at Swansea for some six seasons after making his first class debut as a 'Mourner' at the Gnoll. A native of Bryncoch, he is the eldest of six rugby playing brothers.

Glais officials are overjoyed with their latest clubhouse acquisition, a spacious display cabinet, the gift of Jacob Evans, a long serving and worthy member who has always had the welfare of the club very much at heart.

It already contains Welsh Youth caps of Herbie Murphy, I. Hopkins and Chris Thomas; Glamorgan County caps of Herbie Lewis and H. Murphy, and a Neath-Aberavon representative jersey worn by Glen Ball against the 1967 Australian tourists.

At the annual meeting of CWMILLYNFELL R.F.C. officials elected were: Chairman, Will Williams; vice-chairman, John Ivor Bowen; secretary, Eric Davies; treasurer, Royden Morgan; entertainments secretary, Danny Hamer.

Retiring chairman Matthew Pedrick who did not seek re-election was appointed a life vice-president. This venerable administrator who held office for the past seventeen years will continue his duties as chairman of the Cromwell Evans Association of Clubs. He is also vice-president of Carmarthen County R.F.C.

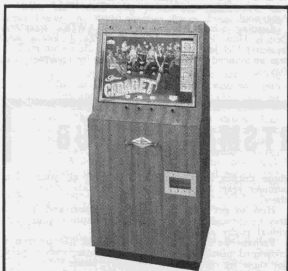
Cwmillynfell will be led this season by Charles Francis.

Omri stays

West Wales was alive with rumours throughout the summer about Omri Jones, the Aberavon flank-forward, rated by many knowledgeable critics as a player worthy of a full Welsh cap. Both Swansea and Neath were associated with his name. It seems, however, that he will continue to play for Aberavon. Another player who has resolved his differences with the steel town club is Ian Hall who represented Wales last winter on the flank. This resolute defender could emulate former Aberavon skipper Tony O'Connor by winning a berth in the British Lions squad which will tour New Zealand next summer.

PONTARDAWE Rugby Club at their annual meeting were told by their chairman Jeff Lewis that the club had been accepted into West Wales R.U. membership. The news was welcomed with tremendous enthusiasm.

Mr. Lewis revealed that preliminary inquiries and planning were taking place to build a clubhouse.



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Despite rising costs, treasurer Mervyn Hill reported that the club were still able to declare a £223 profit last season. Club ties were presented to Ken Walker, Colin Jones, Keri Thomas and Dai Daniels. The last named was congratulated by the chairman on being the players nominee as captain.

BRYNAMMAN R.F.C., otherwise known as the Greens, have widened the scope of their fixtures. Thanks to their zealous match secretary Jack Evans, new ground will be broken next winter when Whitland, Aberavon Green Stars, Cwmavon, Dunvant and Pencoe provide the opposition. Jack, incidentally, is a former assistant secretary of the London Welsh club.

Norman Biggs, who has served Neath as coach and official for the last ten years has been elected chairman. It is recalled that during his period as coach Neath gained their first Snelling Sevens triumph in 1964.

President's initial function

Attending his first major function since being appointed W.R.U. president, Mr. Ken Harris, Cardiff, told members of Seven Sisters R.F.C. at their annual dinner that season 1970-71 would be extremely important in the history of the Welsh Rugby Union. One of the highlights being the official opening of the new national ground on October 17, with Wales playing against the Rest of the World XV.

Mr. Harris headed a prominent panel of guests which included Jack Young, Gwilym Treharne and Rhys Williams, W.R.U. district representatives, Lionel Rees, W.W.R.U., Arthur Jones, president Crynant R.F.C., and R. H. Williams, a former Wales and British Lions player. Alderman George Adams, who presided, proposed a toast to the W.R.U. and presented ties to the guests.

Mr. Ken Harris congratulated youth skipper Raymond James and his team on retaining the Neath League championship shield and challenge cup for the third successive year. In recognition of this splendid hat-trick he presented the players with suitable mementos.

Mr. Harris also presented travelling clocks to Jeffrey Herdman and Glyn Shaw on winning Welsh Secondary Schools and Youth caps last winter.

Secretary Dai Davies presented Alderman George Adams with a barometer in recognition of his elevation as chairman of Glamorgan County Council.

'Hoarders' condemned

Speaking at the annual meeting of FELINFOEL R.F.C., secretary Brian Soady warned that unless legislation was introduced to limit the number of players on any one club's books it was likely that Youth Football would suffer. He criticised the attitude of clubs who "hoarded" players to the detriment of their smaller neighbours.

He felt that players only wanted to join the more fashionable clubs and appealed to young players leaving school to join their local clubs before graduating further afield.

Chairman Ken Adams said that the Social Club's financial position had become big business with the annual turnover exceeding £50,000. He was, however, perturbed at rising costs which were becoming a matter of concern.

During the meeting the chairman was made a life member for his outstanding services to rugby football at Felinfoel.

Remarkable family

Home on vacation is Wyn Jeffreys, a former London Welsh and Neath wing. Now a schoolmaster at Uplminster, Wyn hails from a well-known Abercrave family and is the eldest of five footballing brothers who have all played for the local club before graduating further afield.

Before taking up a teaching post in London, Wyn

achieved much in keeping the amateur flag flying at Abercrave during the 1948 Rugby League invasion of South Wales.

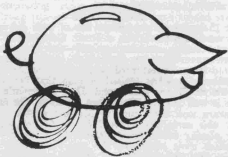
It is interesting to point out that with the exception of Gareth Jeffreys who enjoyed football in the depths of the scrummages, the remaining Jeffreys brothers, Aled, Howel and John, like Wyn, showed an aptitude for positions outside the scrum. All were accomplished performers with Aled following Wyn as a member of the London Welsh club and a fly-half of no mean calibre. Hywel achieved much as an elusive Bristol centre while John who had earlier won a Welsh Secondary Schools cap enjoyed much success at Swansea before a serious knee injury curtailed a promising career at a stage when he was being acclaimed as a senior international in the making.

The unluckiest in this respect not to have played football with a premier club is, of course, Gareth Jeffreys who until comparatively recently performed bravely in the Aberavon colours. A very much under-rated forward, Gareth achieved much in representative football via Brecon County. He still retains his inherent love of football and with John is a member of the Abercrave management committee.

What more can be said about a truly remarkable rugby family except of course that their only sister, Margaret, is married to that likeable personality Clive Rowlands whom we know all about!

Another point of note is that Wyn, Aled, John, Gareth and Hywel have achieved much in the academic world and all are members of the scholastic profession including their sister Margaret.

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SOUTH

WEST WALES

EXILES CORNER

By GWYN BAYLISS

The thought for this month actually was conceived in the pleasant surroundings of Panteg House in Grifftstown early in July after Panteg and Wombourne—my cricket club—had played a drawn game. I was discussing rugby with the genial Gordon Richards, secretary of Panteg House and also captain of long-standing of the Panteg Cricket Club, and the name of Staffordshire was mentioned. To my utter disgust it was little known that Staffordshire were the English county champions. Two names were mentioned, Terry Cobner and Ken Braddock. . . . That's it! I thought! Braddock's my man. . . .

THE BRADDOCK STORY

Maybe many players with more illustrious careers and honours have left the Principality, but I can safely say that never has a more dedicated one than the man now known to us in the Midlands as P.C. Kenneth James Braddock, of the Cadet Training Headquarters at Stafford, with special duties to P.T. and Outward Bound camping, etc. He is a physical fitness fanatic . . . as I saw when with a full pack he had just completed 20 miles on the moors.

From small beginnings Ken Braddock reached the heights. He was born in the tiny village of Treowen overlooking the rugby ground at Newbridge, so, too, were Dai Hayward and Billy Watkins, both of whom played for Wales.

I talked to Ken about his schooldays at Greenfield Secondary Modern and he could not offer enough praise for the master at the school; none other than John Herbert, the Newbridge centre who played in a Welsh trial. It appears one of John's greatest pleasures was to make his boys understand the word "sportsmanship" and what the game was all about. . . . Braddock has never forgotten this lesson. Incidentally Ray Knott (Ebbw Vale) and Idris McCarthy (Newbridge) were in the same school team.

EARLY DAYS

At 15 he left school and as lots of boys did in those days went into the mines at North Celynen and played no more rugby until he was 18½—for three years he played soccer for the Newbridge Youth Club. Then the old yearning returned and in the season 1957-58 he joined Cwmcam United, a club that boasted such players as Brian Jones and Des Greenslade whose fame is well known. He is very proud of the fact that Cwmcam won three cups in his first season.

At this early age he had begun to get ideas and after playing about twenty games for Crumlin—twelve of which were played in the centre alongside Arthur Lewis, the Ebbw Vale and Welsh centre—he joined Newbridge, played his first game on 19th December at Rugby, at No. 8, and his partner in that game was Arthur Hughes, and they were to play together for almost ten years!

He had a great deal to say about Dennis Hughes, who has now played for Wales, and Arthur, who hasn't, but who has played for the Barbarians—one of Braddock's disappointments.

IRISH TOUR

Another part of his career which he relishes is when Newbridge toured Ireland in the 1961-62 season with men like John Dawes, Stuart Watkins, John O'Shea and the Hughes brothers in the party.

I wonder why everybody in the valleys remember the fact that they have at sometime or other beaten Cardiff? The 1962 game was won by Newbridge and with a blush he said, "Our back row sorted them out."

By this time the young man from Treowen had made himself five targets or ambitions:

1. To be a "regular" in the Newbridge side.
2. To be in the championship winning side.
3. To play for Wales.
4. To become a Baa-Baa.
5. To play 300 games for Newbridge.

JOINS POLICE

By September, 1963, he had had enough of coalmining and he joined the Monmouthshire Constabulary and from that time things began to move for him. Welsh trials and county caps followed. He led the Welsh Police and played in the county side alongside Pask and Morgan.

Did you know this fellow had a dual qualification? His mother was born and bred in Staffordshire and the England selectors had a look at him.

Two other notables then came in for some praise. "I owe a lot to Ewart Tamplin who was one of my two sergeants when stationed at Pontypool—the other was Newport wing Jack Knowles. Tamplin taught me what forward play was all about!"

FIRST CAP

Games against tourists and the captaincy of the British Police followed, but still in the 1964-65 season that Welsh cap eluded him and he had to wait two years before he won the first of his three caps against Australia. By this time he was in the Newport Borough Police and it is significant that he captained four Police sides during the season 1965-66, British, Welsh, No. 8 District and Newport Borough.

It is no fairy story, he actually played over 100 games in several separate seasons!

This then is the background of the exile we welcomed to Staffordshire in 1967 when he transferred to the Staffordshire Police, but we were to see little of him because of a nasty injury on Crawshays tour. He was told he'd never play again. It was here he showed his steel. He had been a miner, had played in the tough games of the valleys and with encouragement from his Chief Constable, Arthur Reece, famous in all walks of life, and Don Kelly, the Police Sports Officer who is a qualified physiotherapist, and his own indomitable spirit, he is not only playing but playing extremely well.

In season 1968-69 he was made captain of the Police XV, but still travelled to play for Newbridge, and it is a notable fact he travelled 28,000 miles to play for club and police teams during this season.

His Newbridge days are over. He now plays for Stafford on Saturdays and in addition to coaching here he coaches and is fully responsible for the Police side, and to add good measure this coming season he is to help with the coaching of the Staffordshire under-23 XV. He is justly proud of the Police side that became Inter-Force champions last season when they beat the famous Met. Police XV 31-11. Braddock was the architect of that win . . . I saw it.

SOCCER CRAZY!

Behind the scenes his biggest critic and supporter is his wife Ethel ("Etty"), whom he courted from his schooldays and married in 1958. They have two young sons Kendall (9½) and Kevoyn (6½), but much to the "Old Man's" disgust they are soccer crazy on Manchester United.

Look back at the ambitions of the early days at Newbridge. . . . He almost reached the target he set himself.

1. Won a regular place in the Newbridge side.
2. Newbridge won the championship.
3. Was capped for Wales.
4. Did not become a Baa-Baa.
5. 298 games for club. Ambition was 300.

An exile doing a stout job. . . .

THE GWENT SCENE

By
BYRON DENNING

It is rather difficult to write a preview of the 1970-71 rugby season in Monmouthshire whilst holidaying in the cricket-mad county of Hampshire, but, whilst visiting what is virtually the birthplace of our summer game at Hambledon, the rain began to fall as heavily as it ever does in Blaenavon in mid winter, and this has had the required effect of reminding me of Gwent, and rugger.

Dangerous occupation

Making predictions for a new season is an occupation which must be fraught with dangers, doubts and question marks. One of the largest of question marks hovers over the YNYSDDU club where the future scrum-half and skipper John Prince is in considerable doubt. At Abertillery's club dinner it was announced that he would be taking over the position of that club's coach from another ex-Ynysddu man—winger Byron Thomas. However, there seems to be a problem to be solved in that Prince still wants to play the game, and might not get that game with the first-class club.

The Sirhowy Valley club await his final decision with some anxiety, for they have already received several bitter pre-season blows. One of the forwards, ex-Newport star David Jones, is moving to Torquay and second-row man Jason Grubb is due to accompany him. There is talk of veteran threequarter Neil Roberts retiring, whilst another clubman leaving is second team prop Roger Williams. He is getting married and going to live in North Wales. On the brighter side, Ynysddu are looking forward to their new fixtures with Bath Civil Service, Llantwit Major, Mumbles and Glynneath. We hope other problems will be resolved, too.

No doubts

BRYNMAWR obviously had no doubts about 70/71, especially as far as their captain was concerned. Colin Onions will be their skipper for the third consecutive season, thus setting up a club record. He will no doubt be hoping that full-back Mike Edwards will support him and the rest of the team to the tune of another two hundred points, whilst centre Arthur Henry will be delighted to even equal his 69/70 tally of twenty tries. Coach Roy Evans, the former Ebbw Vale scrum-half, has been elected to serve on the general committee, and this should strengthen still further the liaison between committee and players. New fixtures include United Services (Salisbury), Bristol University and Birmingham Police which would indicate some enjoyable trips.

Gwent league champions TALYWAIN will be led by lock-forward Lyndon Parry, who joined them from Panteg a few seasons back and has proved to be a real find. If his team are only half as successful as they were last season, they still won't do so badly in 70/71, even though goal kicker Mostyn Webb may well be hanging up his golden boots.

Steps towards recovery

OKDALE will be hoping to recapture their form of 1968/69 when they won the Ben Francis Cup, and were a real power in the county. The club has taken the first step towards recovery by deciding to run a second XV which will be affiliated to the Monmouthshire Junior Rugby Union. The club have also appointed a public relations officer in A. I. Norton, and the fact that the players have two representatives on the committee in John Evans and Robert Jenkins makes it appear that the Oakdale rugby fraternity certainly know how to organise themselves. On the field of play they will be meeting Abergavenny, Bargoed, Bedwas, Nantymoel and Taffs Well for the first time, whilst Seven Sisters make a welcome return to the fixture list.

Another club to have its coach on the committee is RISCA, and here Owen Ward has taken over the position of club chairman from Islwyn Williams. This is probably the only club in Wales where one person controls both committee and playing members. Another Stores Field administrative change sees Mr. D. Morgan take over as Secretary from Mike Allen. The second team administration is in the capable hands of Brian Dando, and I am sure that the boys of "Cuckoo-land" will respond to their new leaders and help to restore the club's fortunes.

Stars remain

BLAINA can almost be guaranteed another good season, for year after year they manage to hold on to their star players. Only rarely does one venture into first class rugger, which may be a good thing for Blaina, but does little for rugby as a whole. When one does "get away" they usually do well, as the appointment of Dennis Wright as Abertillery's new captain proves.

ABERCARN is another side that should do well, for in Garnet Hearn, Brian Watkins, Colin Thomas, Gary Thomas and Roy Hill they have youngsters of great promise. Their big need is for larger forwards, but in that they are not alone for few clubs can claim to be satisfied in this department.

Neighbouring junior club CWMICARN UNITED have very strong reasons for looking forward to the start of the season. They have established a particularly close friendship with the Cornish side Redruth Albany over the years, and they have accepted an invitation to play a celebration game at Redruth on the occasion of the opening of the South Westerns new clubhouse. Versatile forward Ted Price again leads the Cwmcarn side, and his enthusiasm for fitness should ensure that when next April comes, the club will be among the Junior Union trophy winners.

New talent needed

PONTYPOOL UNITED, for so long top dogs in Monmouthshire circles, may well have to unearth some new talent to retain their exalted state. They have relied rather heavily upon experience in recent years, and rugby players are usually unlike wine in that after a certain age they usually decline. If this happened to all the United veterans they could well be in the doldrums for a while, but the strength of the current Pontypool Youth side augurs well for the future of rugby in the Eastern Valley stronghold.

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FRANCE STILL STRONG

BY ALEX POTTER, WRITING FROM PARIS

Taking a broad look at rugby in France during preparations for the new season, a Paris critic wrote: "I can see only one fault about the game in our country. It is doing too well."

He explained what he meant by this curious remark. "The number of players and clubs in France has almost doubled in the past ten years. Our club championship is as popular and passionate an affair as ever. Most of the sixty-four Division I teams have money to spare. On the other hand, brutal play is still far too common, and referees are far too often scorned."

"Respect for true amateurism continues to decline. The game is, in a way, too healthy in France. It is taking risks, just as some over-healthy people take them. Suspensions of hidden professionalism here and there seem to have more justification."

This reminded me of fears about professionalism expressed in the close season by leading French critic Denis Lalanne. He based his view on the great growth in the game's popularity in the past decade, due largely to the way television has promoted it in parts of the country where it was unknown.

COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

He fears that this development may affect the game's sporting and educational potentialities and the spirit of the players, and open doors to what he calls "commercial exploitation". He praised the International Rugby Board for its awareness of how things are going.

Like several other critics, Lalanne wonders why so many players wish to change clubs. France's Rugby Federation examines all applications for transfers, and turns scores of them down. Alternatively, it may permit the transfers, but bar the players from their new club's First XV's for a whole season.

Why, despite swifter and severer punishments, do fisticuffs, other brutalities, and referee-scorn persist in France? Here is an answer given by M. Maurice Delmas, secretary of the Federation's Disciplinary Committee: "Rugby cannot escape the general tendencies of its epoch. Brutality has become a universal sign of the times. Small wonder that some of the players prefer fighting to playing."

M. Delmas also criticized the haphazard recruiting of players. Some clubs, he said, seemed to prefer thug-pure to pure rugby.

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTS

We'll leave this sordid subject and glance at France's prospects for the 1970-71 season at international level. They are good. They could not be otherwise when we recall that France wound up the last Five-Nation series with a 35-13 win over England and shared the championship title with Wales!

The fact that Wales's win (11-6) over France in Cardiff last season prevented the Frenchmen from achieving their second grand slam in three years will sharpen the flavour of this season's France v. Wales in Paris. Not that the flavour will really need sharpening, for in Frenchmen's eyes their country's clashes with Wales have an edge of their own.

When the French are reminiscing, you can still hear Wales 16, France 11, in Paris in 1955 recalled. That was the year when France, having beaten Scotland in Paris, Ireland in Dublin and England at Twickenham, received Wales in Paris with rosy prospects of achieving her first grand slam.

FRENCH HWYL!

The match created indescribable excitement and tension. Cohorts of spectators, brought to the capital in

special trains from the rugby-adoring south-west, arrived shouting, singing and laughing as for a fete. Never had such rugby fervour been seen in France. It was written, however, that once more the Welsh would bar the Frenchmen's route and blast their fondest aspirations.

Thirteen years then passed before France notched her first grand slam. The win completing the series was, of course, much the sweeter for being over Wales at Cardiff (14-9).

It will be very surprising if France, when she opens her Five-Nations campaign against Scotland in Paris in January, reaches the summits she attained in last season's historic 35-13 triumph over England.

Summing-up the performances of France's opponents in last season's Five-Nations tournament, a French critic wrote: "Scotland were too stubborn, Ireland were too precipitous, England were too sluggish, and Wales were too lucky."

The French fervently hope the 1970-71 season will provide plenty of open rugby of the "15-man" brand beloved by the great Jean Prat. This is the sort that keeps the backs active and reduces the number (to quote a Frenchman) "grim and sometimes sordid struggles between the packs".

France seems currently to have plenty of good backs. Best of the three-quarters is Jean-Pierre Lux, a 24-year-old centre, who has switched from science studies to those of dentistry. His defensive play used to worry the selectors, but last season, and especially against England's high-class centres, John Spencer and David Duckham, he eased their fears on this score.

TALENT SCOUTS BUSY

Missing from France's XV's this season will be wing-three-quarter Jean-Marie Bonal, whose eleven top-level caps include two won against Wales. This 27-year-old physical-culture and games master has switched to the Rugby League code with his brother Elie, also a wing-three-quarter. Both played for Toulouse, and their combined reward for switching is said to have been a little over £5,000.

French Rugby League "recruiting sergeants" were rather more active than usual in Rugby Union circles during the close season. The Bonal brothers are, up to the time I write, their chief capture, but they have secured a batch of other signatures.

The way France's Rugby League leaders, with their restricted forces, continue to battle for their code's popularity against the strongly-entrenched Rugby Union cohorts merits admiration. A report that one of their clubs had captured the great Walter Spanghero and his brother Claude (who, like Walter, is a forward for Narbonne), was unfounded. In this case the combined reward for the brothers was said to be "about £30,000", a sum which a Parish critic called "ridiculously exaggerated".

Even when a switch from the R.U. to the R.L. code is completed, the financial terms are generally kept secret. If the switch is not completed, we can only guess about figures. Rugby League cynics say: "If so-and-so has decided to stay with a Rugby Union club it means that one way and another that club has offered him more than we can afford."

SUSPENDED FOR LIFE

This reminds me that at the French Rugby Federation's annual congress held during the close season at Perpignan, M. Albert Ferrasse, the Federation's president, was reported to have said that if he had clear

proof of players accepting money for their services, or club officials offering it, they would be suspended for life. Everyone knows, however, how easily payments can be camouflaged.

Competitive rugby will lose none of its popularity in France during the 1970-71 season. Without the competitive element the game in France would wither. The French are surprised that in Wales and elsewhere in the British Isles rugby gets along so well without national club championships and other strictly competitive tests such as the *Yves de Manoir* tournament. Even junior and boys' XV's now have competitions, and not all Frenchmen approve of this innovation.

COMPETITION—FRENCH STYLE

The club championship has three divisions, and a reminder of the formula for Division I, which has sixty-four teams, is worth while. The sixty-four are split into eight groups of eight. The grouping is not regional, but is based, in a way too complicated to explain here, on the previous season's performances. Teams consequently do a great deal of travelling.

The eight XV's in each league play each other home and away. The top four in each league—thirty-two teams in all—then start a knock-out phase on neutral grounds. The final is staged at Toulouse, Bordeaux and Lyons in turn, and never in Paris. It is played in the second half of May and is a sort of rugby fete, with folklore demonstrations, quaffing, banter, black-slapping, reminiscing and the rest. A New Zealand reporter, arriving at Toulouse on the morning of a championship final

years ago, wrote: "It was like being in Spain on the day of a fiesta, among crowds showing their high spirits before going to a bullfight."

The folklore demonstrations at the final have in recent years been toned down, the Rugby Federation estimating that they sharpened rivalries that were already keen enough.

THANKS TO WALES

A Frenchman writes: "If the British in general have softened their attitude to competitive rugby, we can thank the Welsh for it. Their outlook is more modern than that of our other rivals in the Five-Nations Championship."

Some Frenchmen, however, contend that "modern" in this context does not necessarily mean "better". They fear that in the words of one of them, "a heightening of the stakes will result in a decline in the game's chivalry."

We were glad to have the coming season's Wales "B" v. France "B" fixture (March 19, 1971, at Llanelli) confirmed by the French Federation. Because of the fisticuffs in last season's tussle between the two countries' "B" XV's (France won by 17-9, in Paris) there were fears that this experimental fixture would not be repeated.

On its success from a sporting point of view would depend, to some extent, fulfilment of France's wish for creation of a tournament of the "B" teams of the countries that participate in the glamorous Five-Nations Championship.

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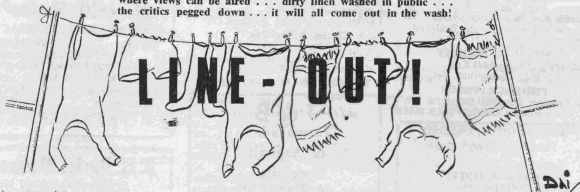
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The Editor, "Welsh Rugby," 28 Church Road, Whitechurch, CARDIFF.

Sir,

In your postbag for the July edition, I notice that Mr. D. E. Davies, the Cardiff R.F.C. statistician, quotes the names of the Welsh XV v. England in 1947-48, and also mentions that there were also ten players against England, Scotland and France and nine against Ireland. I am rather surprised that he did not mention to Mr. E. Jones of 11a Merlin Street, Carmarthen, that there were also nine Cardiff players selected in the same season for Wales against Australia, making 48 selected players for Wales in the 1947-48 season from the Cardiff R.F.C. which must be a record for the British Isles for any club.

Another addition to these wonderful statistics is that nine out of these eleven internationals were Barbarians, and five of them were British Lions. These latter two facts were records for the British Isles which I hope your fine book will record.

There were also two Cardiff players in this memorable season who were Welsh captains, Haydn Tanner and Bill Tamplin, who came in as captain against Australia and kicked the two penalty goals that won the game for Wales. Tanner could not captain the side owing to injury. Tanner captained Cardiff against Australia on 27th September, 1947, when Cardiff won by 11 points to 3.

C. R. G. HARRIS.

Westwinds,
7 Cefn Nant,
Rhiwbina,
Cardiff.

③ Delighted to augment the information given by "Massa Dan" on Cardiff's remarkable international record.—Editor.

Sir,

I read *Welsh Rugby* every month with keen interest. I buy three copies every month as I send them abroad to Sir Maurice Scott in Fiji (as you know, he is the president of the Fiji Rugby Football Union, and we correspond quite often); Mr. George Bowen, the secretary of the Taranaki Rugby Football Union in New Zealand, who in return sends me news and magazines on rugby in New Zealand; and the other one goes to Mr. Wilf Harris in Australia. Mr. Harris is a Welsh exile who used to play for, and captained Swansea, in the 1938-39 season, and played for Swansea from 1932. Well, as you can see, your magazine travels around the world, at least 11,000 miles each month.

In this month's edition I see you have an article on baseball, and one particular club, Grange Albion, who are a great side, but I thought this was a rugby magazine and surely there are plenty of rugby clubs in Cardiff who play baseball whom you could write about. Grange already get big write-ups in the local papers, but never the small rugby clubs, and there are a lot of them. I play for St. Joseph's, rugby, and baseball. Our baseball side is called St. Joseph's R.F.C. The other rugby clubs that play baseball are St. Peter's, Whitechurch, Old Iltydians, and others, so surely it would have been better to have written about these clubs instead of Grange Albion who are a soccer team.

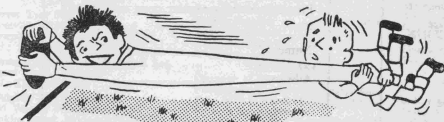
One other point I would like to make is that I think its about time the four home unions got together and let the British paying rugby supporters see the British Lions play on their own soil, and let's see how good the All Blacks and the Springboks are against them in this country with the crowd cheering for the

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Lion. I don't think they would find it so easy as they do in their own country.

Why don't the W.R.U. select a full international side to play Fiji instead of an under-25 side, as they did in Suva in 1966. Should the Fijians win, the critics would not be able to take the glory from the Fijians by saying it was not a full international Welsh team.

13 Dogfield Street,
Cathays,
Cardiff.

ALAN JONES.

● *This interesting letter makes several points to which we hope to refer in future editions. Yes! We agree, "Welsh Rugby" certainly gets around.*—Editor.

Sir,

I have just received my June edition of "Welsh Rugby" and see that the favourite theme of international exchange and co-operation between referees is apparent.

I agree wholeheartedly that there is more room for this sort of thing and that it can do nothing but good particularly as far as interpretations of the laws are concerned.

The only thing is—how does this equate with the views expressed in the Cardiff-Liverpool match programme 1968 when I was referee? I can't remember the exact words but I recall that it was emphasised that I did not have the status to referee 'officially' in Wales.

I am pleased to say that in Fiji we draw no distinctions. Let 'em all come, we'll find a match for them.

I consider that the Welsh Society will have to adopt the same attitude if what is advocated comes to pass—particularly with referees with experience of the order of mine. Of course some of my rulings were not as expected—but that's what exchange is all about isn't it?

DEREK ROBINSON.

Dept. of Agriculture,
Suva, Fiji.

● *From the Friendly Islands a typical letter from a Welsh exile. The "exchange" will be consolidated when the popular Fijians play Wales Under 25 in November.*—Editor.

Sir,

Will you please be so kind and settle an argument that has come up at my local club, Penygroes R.F.C.

The question is as follows: Presumably D. Ken Jones, the Llanelli, Cardiff and British Lions' player, had two overseas tours, both to South Africa, one with the British Lions and one with the Wales XV. To get time away with one of these tours from Oxford University, he had to come back before the tour ended so that he could finish his exams. This he did not carry out; he stayed behind after the tour ended.

The question is, can you say which tour he stayed behind. We also say that after this incident he was cold-shouldered by the Big Five, especially last season, as he had one of his best seasons for Cardiff.

We know he is a local lad, has played for the above club and is greatly thought of here.

We have great enthusiasm to read your fine *Welsh Rugby* magazine. I know that you try to cover every grade in your columns, but personally would like to see more coverage on Youth rugby.

Will be very grateful if you will be able to settle the above question about D. K. Jones.

Brynhyfryd,
Black Lion Road,
Cross Hands,
Llanelli, Carmar.

J. A. THOMAS.

● *Hoping to get the player concerned to answer your questions and this will be passed on to you.*—Editor.

Sir,

As a true supporter of your magazine for many years, I would be most grateful if you could find room in your magazine to print this letter. It concerns Neath Colts, who have had a very difficult season. I myself played for the Colts many years ago, at the time Ken Curnow was captain of the invincible Colts in a surely outstanding season in 1958-59. My advice to this year's Colts is to try even harder than last year, as your best is not always good enough. Then I hope this year we might see another invincible year for the Neath Colts.

AN ARDENT NEATH SUPPORTER.

● *With this encouragement another "invincible season" may well result.*—Editor.

Sir,

Please could you forward to me a list of full-backs who have played for Wales since 1958 up to the present day.

S. THOMAS.

5 Fairy Glen,
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● *Research by our "back-room boys" is under way and we will include a full list in a subsequent issue.*—Editor.

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Sir,

I was interested in your review of the Sevens season in your June issue. It disappointed me to see that you pay the same respect to the Middlesex Sevens that the English do. The results last year and this show convincingly that the best sevens are at present played in the Scottish Borders by Gala and Hawick. The Twickenham performance of Edinburgh Wanderers, commendable though they were, should be seen in the light of the fact that they only won two ties in the Scottish circuit. The Twickenham winners, Loughborough Colleges, made two unimpressive appearances in Scotland, losing to Llanelli in the Gala semi-final and to Gala in a one-sided final at Melrose.

The fault that most sides south of the Border show is in this slow pace, sudden break game which is easily upset by a strong, fast-tackling side, who attack all the time. Llanelli played so much within themselves at Netherdale that when Gala put the pressure on in the final, Llanelli seemed unable to raise the pace of their game to meet the challenge, with the result that Gala won convincingly.

I'm the first to admit though, that sevens is the only aspect of the game in which we lead the rest of the country. Two visits to Wales last season, first to see Hawick play Abertillery and Newport, and then to see the International in February, convinced me that the dedication of the Welsh must be injected into the game in Scotland, particularly outside the Borders.

WILLIAM J. BERRIDGE.

17 Royal Terrace,
Linlithgow,
West Lothian,
Scotland.

● "O wad some Power the giftie gie us . . ." Robert Burns' prayer is answered by his countryman's comment on Welsh rugby standards!—Editor.

Sir,

I think the scheme suggested by Mr. Parry in this month's *Welsh Rugby* for leagues and cups to be excellent. While I do not agree with all his teams the idea of England and Wales combining seems much more interesting and as he says a start must be made somewhere.

It would appear that the bulk of the senior club committees in Wales have lost all sense of responsibility of the game as a whole and have their heads in the sand regarding the future of the game in a non-competitive atmosphere.

M. BURTON.

18 Reading Way, Harrow, Middlesex.

● Another plea for competitive rugby with which we agree.—Editor.

Sir,

May I through the medium of *Welsh Rugby* thank Mr. D. E. Davies, Cardiff R.F.C., for his information regarding the number of Cardiff players in the Welsh rugby side. Previous to his reply I had also received detailed information with some other interesting facts and feats about Cardiff players, from Mr. C. R. G. Harris, Westwinds, 7 Cefn Nant, Wenaillt Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

E. JONES.

11a Merlin Street,
Carmarthen.

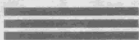
● Many thanks to Mr. Harris whose letter appears on Page 56.



. . . and the last word on the ARMS PARK STORY comes from cartoonist J. C. Walker.

This famous "South Wales Echo" cartoon after a wartime landmine had landed at the Arms Park, is now in the Cardiff Rugby Museum and raises a chuckle from visitors who know the history of "hulluvagames" at Welsh Rugby headquarters!

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