



The Cardiff rugby team will take a special mascot with them to South Africa when they leave tomorrow. Here he is having a "piggy-back" on the shoulders of prop forward John O'Shea, while centre Ken Jones attends to his boots. Other players in the picture are Gerald Davies and Ray Cheney (in front).

We'll use slick backs on tour, says Roy Bish

By J. B. G. Thomas

CARDIFF are going to South Africa to win all five matches. They are determined to do this, and so uphold the prestige of the club and Welsh rugby in general. This is their approach.

Club coach Roy Bish told me last night after the club's last training session in Cardiff, before flying out on Wednesday, "We will play to our strength behind the scrum. We have the fastest three-quarter line in club football, and two international scrum halves.

"If our forwards, who have improved immensely in all-round play, get enough good possession, the side should give a good account of itself. The dry, fast conditions should suit us."

Special mascot

The Cardiff club chairman, Lyn Williams, who will manage the side, told me, "Team spirit is excellent, and the boys are looking forward to their visit. They are a happy crowd but we intend to take the tour seriously and play football to the best of our ability."

The team will take with them a special Cardiff mascot, it is a king-size Teddy Bear dressed in full playing kit, with a cap and boots and even a number (24) on its back.

Around its neck the Gonk will wear a Keith Rowlands

scarf in honour of the captain who, through injury, is unable to lead his side on tour.

Phil Morgan, the Newbridge schoolteacher, will go with the side. He trained with the team last night, after posting a letter to the Monmouthshire Education Authority yesterday informing them that he was making the tour. However, he would make no comment on the situation.

Twelve supporters from the club will travel with the team, including the chairman of the Athletic Club, Mr. Hubert Johnson. It is possible that a late starter will be one member of the WRU Big Five, Mr. J. R. G. Stephens.

In order that the touring team will be present at the club's annual dinner, this has been put back until May 26. The team return to Cardiff on May 22.

They arrive in Johannesburg early Thursday morning and fly to Windhoek almost immediately, reaching there on Thursday afternoon. They leave Johannesburg on Sunday evening May 21.

All the players reported fit last night, and are looking forward to the trip which they all describe as being a "great adventure."

Cardiff take supporters as reserves

By J. B. G. THOMAS

THIS morning at 8.15, a 707 aircraft will touch down at the Jan Smuts Airport, Johannesburg, with the Cardiff rugby team, officials and supporters, on the start of their South African tour.

They will be greeted by Dr. Danie Craven, the president, and officials of the South African Rugby Union, and their liaison officer, Mr. L. Froneman, will join them. After a two-hour stay they will fly off to Windhoek in South West Africa for their first match of the tour on Saturday.

In South Africa they will fly in Viscount aircraft and spend four days at Windhoek; four days at Uppington in the North West Cape where they will visit the Gemsbok Game Reserve and the Augrabies Falls; three days at Port Elizabeth, for the meeting against Eastern Province; four days at Cape Town where they play the Combined Universities and stay at the famous Arthur's Seat Hotel, and four days at Pretoria for the final match against Northern Transvaal.

A full programme has been laid on for the party, and the 12 supporters will fly independently in South Africa and stay at different hotels, except at Pretoria.

If there should be a crop of unexpected injuries, then there are three supporters who can be called upon in an emergency—D. J. Hayward, the

former international; P. Thomas, the Athletic hooker, and J. R. G. Stephens, the former Welsh captain and British Lion, who is a Welsh selector.

The Cardiff party left the Arms Park early yesterday morning, in charge of the hon. manager, T. L. Williams, and were seen off by officials of the club, relatives and friends, and the secretary of the WRU, Mr. W. H. Clement.

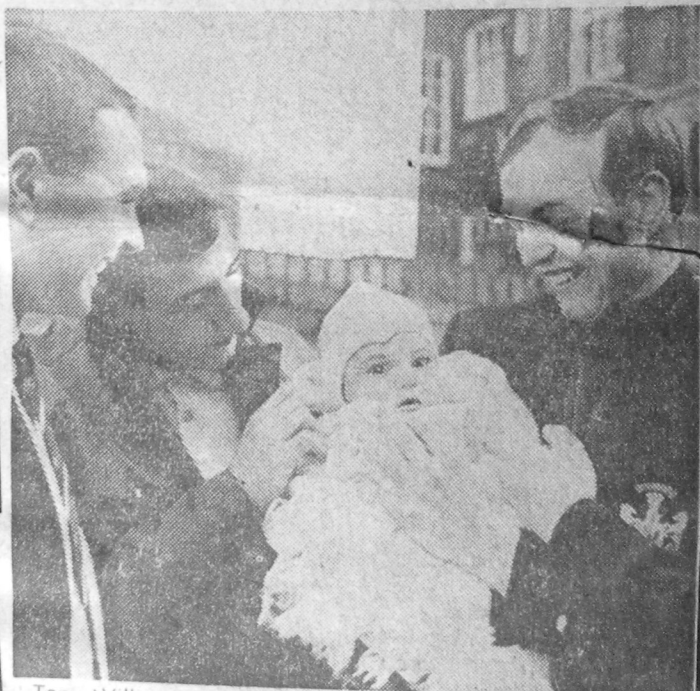
Rowlands gives up

Keith Rowlands, Cardiff's 30-year-old British Lion and former Welsh international second row forward, said yesterday he would not play again.

A broken leg ruled the Cardiff club captain out of the South African tour. But he is recovering well from the injury.

Rowlands, who also played for London Welsh and Llanelli, hopes to gain a place on the Cardiff club's committee.

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Tony Williams, the Cardiff rugby player, says goodbye to his 10-week-old son, Eifion, as the club leave for South Africa. Team mates with Williams are John Huw Williams and Gareth Edwards.



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Morgan is going to S. Africa

CARDIFF outside half Phil Morgan will go on tour to South Africa this week despite the fact that he has been refused leave of absence by Monmouthshire education committee (writes Malcolm Lewis).

The player refuses to comment on the issue but he has told the club that he is available and will leave London Airport with the rest of the team on Wednesday.

All the players have reported fit including wing Keri Jones, who has been having treatment for a leg injury.

Doubts about the availability of centre Ken Jones have been removed. His mother has been ill and this created some uncertainty about his being able to make the journey, but she has been making some improvement and he has decided to travel.

Cardiff open their tour at Windhoek next Saturday when they oppose South West Africa in what should be a fairly easy match.

We mean to win all five, say Cardiff

● Cardiff RFC skipper Billy Hullin, surrounded by his smiling team-mates holds aloft the teddy bear mascot that will accompany them on their tour of South Africa.

The team left Cardiff by coach today for London Airport on the first leg of their 6,000 mile journey.

Standing second on the left is team manager Mr. Lynn Williams and next to him is his assistant, Mr. Haydn Wilkins.

Team coach Mr. Roy Bish also went with the party. He said before leaving: "We have a high standard of fitness and team work but a lot depends on whether the forwards can get the bit between their teeth.

"The South Africans are noted for their strong forwards, and if we can get 40 per cent. possession I shall be well pleased.

"Looking at previous results involving the Lions, this is going to be a hard tour and we must approach it with the object of going flat out to win all five games, rather than going there purely to enjoy ourselves."

Among those seeing the team off was club captain Keith Rowlands, whose broken leg put him out of the tour.

The party arrive in Johannesburg tomorrow and will immediately fly on to Windhoek, South West Africa, where they open their tour next Saturday. They are due back in Cardiff on May 22.

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