

CARDIFF FLY TO S.A. TOMORROW

—As Wales remain split over the tour

Cardiff, Tuesday.

CARDIFF RUGBY UNION CLUB fly out for the five-match tour of South Africa tomorrow with Wales split over whether they should go. *Mineworkers and some Welsh religious and political leaders have tested that the tour should be called because of South Africa's apartheid policy. A group of small clubs in West Wales, a hotbed of rugby, have also spoken out against the tour.*

The Welsh Rugby Union told the mineworkers earlier this year: "We have already given permission for the tour and we will not alter this."

Cardiff have said repeatedly: "We are going to play rugby. Political issues are nothing to do with us."

One Cardiff back said: "We wouldn't miss this rugby experience for the world. We are not interested in politics."

One thing is certain, whether Welsh rugby followers are for or against the trip on political grounds, they will be following closely the tour results.

Cardiff may not be as strong as they were. But they have such a great history and reputation in the game that they are always a talking point.

If the tour had been called off, one player particularly disappointed would have been the keen globetrotter, Ken Jones, a 25-year-old British Lion and Welsh international centre, who makes his third rugby visit to South Africa.

Jones was there with the 1962 Lions and 1964 Wales team and was also on the 1966 Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Many caps

Jones has been capped 14 times for Wales, playing on the wing against South Africa in Durban three years ago when Wales were trounced 24-3.

In the recent British season he was ignored by the Welsh selectors. But his Cardiff co-

centre, Gerald Davis (22), was in all five tests for Wales. He is generally ranked the best attacking centre in the British Isles.

Jones and Davis are among seven Welsh internationals in Cardiff's touring party of 23 players. The other internationals are the scrum-half and captain, Billy Hullin (25), Gareth Edwards (19), who can play scrum-half or fly-half, prop-forwards, Howard Norris (32) and John O'Shea (26), and the hooker, Billy Thomas (34).

Edwards was one of the discoveries of the 1966-67 season, and made his test debut against France on April 1.

Finished third

Cardiff finished third in the unofficial Welsh championship table this year, behind Neath and Newbridge. Cardiff's record was: played 46, won 34, drew 3, lost 9.

They have won the unofficial Welsh championship (there is no official title) five times in the 20 seasons since World War II, which is more than any other club in this period.

The Cardiff touring party look reasonably strong with fast-running backs and good handling loose forwards. But they lack height in the line-out where they are expected to miss the 1962 Lion, Keith Rowlands, who broke a leg early in the 1966-1967 season. Hullin took over the club captaincy when Rowlands was injured.—Sapa-Reuter.

Refused leave

Phil Morgan, the fly-half, will leave with the team, though he has been refused leave of absence by Monmouthshire Education Committee.

Morgan, a 22-year-old school-teacher, wrote to the committee yesterday to say he was going on Cardiff's five-match tour.

Morgan said last night: "We will play to our strength behind the scrum. We have the fastest three-quarter line in club football.

"Our forwards have improved immensely and dry, fast conditions should suit us."



Members of the Cardiff rugby team got their first look at South Africa shortly after stepping off the plane at Jan Smuts.

Altitude, heat have worried Cardiff

SUNDAY TIMES Correspondent
EAST LONDON, Saturday.

THE Cardiff rugby tourists are having new ball trouble in South Africa. The trouble is the rugby ball out here travels much faster and farther than it does in Britain. This I learnt from Cardiff's outside half Gary Samuel last night by telephone from Port Elizabeth.

"It's the altitude that has been causing the trouble, particularly at Windhoek. We just were not used to it. This could have been

the chief cause of the side's bad handling at Windhoek."

But one man who does not mind the ball travelling faster and farther is Cardiff full-back Ray Cheyney. He kicked 14 points in the 23-12-victory against North West Cape at Upington including one prodigious kick from the half-way line against the wind.

"It really was a great kick," said Samuel. "After that there was no holding Ray."

Cheyney kicked three more penalties and converted a try. As

he scored five points with the boot in Cardiff's 11-11 draw with South West Africa, he can be more than pleased with his performances so far.

Tony Williams, brother of the famous Bleddyn, who played centre at Upington and Windhoek, said they had not played in any game as well as they do in Wales. The heat and the altitude had affected them at Windhoek. But the boys are all enjoying themselves he said. "We're having a marvellous time."



Die Cardiff rugbyspan gister op die J. G. Strydom Lughawe afgeneem met hul aankoms in Windhoek. Die besoekers speel môre teen Suidwes vir hul eerste wedstryd van hul toer deur Suid-Afrika.