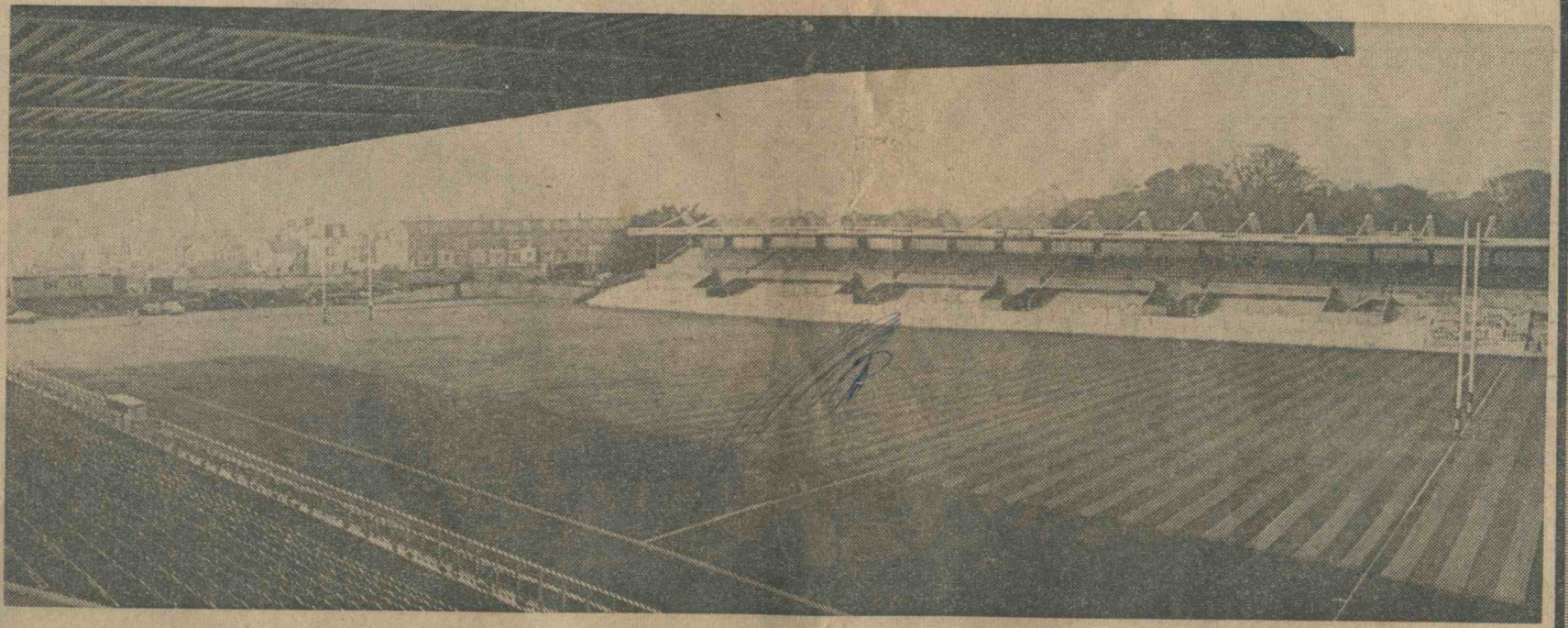


F102 4

SOUTH WALES ECHO  
RUGBY SPECIAL

# CARDIFF RFC

Wednesday, October 28  
1970



## BATTLE HONOURS SINCE 1876

DECEMBER 29  
1888

**TRIUMPH OVER  
MAORIS**

JANUARY 1  
1907



**S.AFRICA  
SWAMPED**

DECEMBER 28  
1908

**CARDIFF TROUNCE AUSTRALIA**



**First win over  
All Blacks**

NOVEMBER 21  
1953

SEPTEMBER 27  
1947

**WALLABIES LOSE  
AGAIN TO CARDIFF**

NOVEMBER 5  
1966

**WALLABIES CRUSHED**

# 'Welsh rugby owes him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid'

## THE MAN BEHIND THE MOVE



**Mr. HUBERT JOHNSON**  
chairman of Cardiff Athletic Club and Cardiff RFC

**THE OFFICIAL opening of Cardiff's 15,000 capacity ground brings the crowning moment for club chairman Hubert Johnson, who created the bold plan to transform Cardiff Arms Park into a super stadium.**

On Saturday he sees the fruition of his brainchild, brought about by the need to preserve the world famous and historic ground as the home of international rugby in Wales.

Only a man of his vision could have conceived the idea of uprooting the homes of Cardiff RFC, Cardiff Cricket Club and Glamorgan County Cricket Club in order to give the Welsh Rugby Union a clear field to develop a national stadium of their own.

And only a man of his forceful personality could have pushed the project through by successfully overcoming the many obstacles that initially lay in the way.

The obstacles were formidable. Cardiff RFC were required to give up their birth-right; Cardiff Cricket Club to give up a ground they had occupied for 100 years; and the city council to make land available at Sophia Gardens—land which they guarded jealously.

### Right moment

It was no wonder that the cynics called it "Johnson's folly." It couldn't be done, they argued.

But they failed to take into account the character of the man behind the plan. His shrewdness and negotiating skill had been sharpened by a life-time building up a prosperous firm of confectionery manufacturers.

Furthermore his idea had not been thought up on the spur of the moment. He says that he carried it around in his mind for five years, waiting for the right moment to spring it.

The moment came when the WRU, after searching fruitlessly for alternative sites in Cardiff, acquired some 100 acres of farmland near Bridgend for the express pur-

By **MALCOLM LEWIS**

pose of developing the area into a national stadium.

Dignitaries in the capital city of Wales were horrified. It was unthinkable that Cardiff Arms Park, with all its deep-rooted traditions in the world-wide rugby game, as the home of rugby in Wales, should no longer be the setting for international matches.

In the crisis everyone in the city became united. The then Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Dr. C. A. Bence, called a meeting in his parlour with the senior officials of Cardiff Athletic Club.

Urgently he appealed for a plan to keep Cardiff as the home of international rugby.

It was only then that Mr. Johnson disclosed his hand. "It was a question of striking when the iron was hot," he points out. "The Welsh Rugby Union had acquired this land at Bridgend and that was my open sesame."

### Impression

The next step was to enlist the co-operation of architect John Webb, who was also captain of Cardiff Cricket Club at the time.

He was commissioned to draw up an artist's impression of the main stadium, the Cardiff rugby ground sited on the cricket ground and convert half of Sophia Gardens into a county cricket and hockey ground.

In an atmosphere of great secrecy, the pieces of the jig-

saw were slowly and carefully put together.

Each of the Athletic Club sections was approached and they readily agreed to fall into line.

Glamorgan also gave their approval. They were delighted to accept the chance of moving from the concrete jungle of Cardiff Arms Park into the picturesque countryside of Sophia Gardens.

In the complicated and delicate negotiations every step was carefully considered. One false move, one word spoken out of turn, could have wrecked the entire operation.

### Hush-hush

It was in January, 1963, that Cardiff's six-man presentation team was ready to appear before the city council and reveal the hush-hush project to the outside world.

Great pains were taken to present the case clearly and concisely in the knowledge that the success of the scheme depended on one factor—that the council would agree to lease the land at Sophia Gardens.

Stressed Mr. A. T. "Akka" Thomas, then chairman of Cardiff RFC, "Wales's capital city must retain its capital games. Cardiff Athletic Club is getting nothing out of this for itself. It is asking and doing its best to keep the international game in Cardiff."

### Reversal

In a blacked-out room colour slides were shown of the proposed development, including the one of Cardiff Arms Park as the artist envisaged it.

The city councillors were impressed by the staggering simplicity and yet revolu-

HUBERT JOHNSON is enjoying his sixth term as chairman of Cardiff Rugby Club after an eight-year lapse. He is also chairman of Cardiff Athletic Club, having held this appointment since 1963.

A keen sportsman, he was an outstanding oarsman for Taff Rowing Club as well as a useful rugby player who missed his Cardiff first-team cap by just one game.

He would have probably gained that achievement but for his qualities of leadership which kept him pinned to the captaincy of the Athletic team for three successive seasons between 1933-1936.

Among his memories is a game he once played against London Welsh. On that occasion he was centre although essentially he was

either a second row or a No. 8 forward.

His co-centre was Welsh international Bobby Delahay who, having been converted from scrum half, was in the habit of giving his passes at scrum half speed.

### Far too fast

The ball shot away from his hands like a rocket—far too fast for the liking of his co-centre.

Recalls the Cardiff chairman: "I dropped four scoring passes that day. Then I was given a practically untakeable pass at ankle height. I bent down, held on to the ball and went over for a try. The crowd roared with laughter!"

Before joining Cardiff

Hubert was captain of Llandaff RFC for two years. He also played in the colours of such clubs as Glamorgan Wanderers, Pontypridd, Penarth and Bath.

Known affectionately as "Uncle Hubert," he was chairman of Cardiff RFC during some of their great years in which the All Blacks were beaten and a Springbok head was won as the unluckiest team to lose to Basil Kenyon's brilliant Fourth Springboks.

It was his generosity that provided the clubhouse with a magnificent trophy room in which the many mementoes of the past are on showcase display.

The club has recognised the tremendous service he has given to the game by making him one of the only two honorary life members.

tionary concept of the whole project.

"Imaginative, wonderful and breathtaking" were the descriptions used, as they agreed to give their full support to the scheme.

The spadework had been done and it was left to the clubs of the WRU to reverse their decision to build at Bridgend and opt for Cardiff as the official national rugby ground of Wales.

The crisis was over and work began on building the com-

plex which now gives Cardiff RFC a new home and opens a new chapter in their long history.

With its two grandstands seating 5,000 the club ground has a neat, compact appearance. More of an atmosphere is created there for a club match than in the main stadium where a crowd of 10,000 would be practically lost among the huge stands and spacious terraces.

Even the pitch, laid a few years ago, has turned out

right after causing serious concern about its condition.

At the end of last season it looked a mess—worn threadbare by the Athletic team.

Up until August there were fears about the pitch, but remedies taken during the summer have done the trick and provided a richly-grassed playing surface.

Mr. Johnson can view the whole magnificent lay-out with pride and satisfaction. Welsh rugby owed him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid.

THE LORD MAYOR  
on behalf of the Citizens of  
Cardiff,  
congratulates the  
CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL  
CLUB  
on the move to their new ground  
at the Cardiff Arms Park

**CAPITAL  
TRAVEL**  
5 Park Place  
CARDIFF  
Tel. 30444/5



**THE SPORTSMEN'S  
CHOICE**

**CLAY  
(TRAVEL)  
LTD.**  
14 Dunraven  
Place  
BRIDGEND  
Tel. 2531/2

CARDIFF ARMS PARK  
**GREYHOUNDS**  
7 o'clock First Race  
• After the match Greyhound Racing  
• After the racing dancing for members  
and friends at the club room  
"HALLOWE'EN DANCE"

**THE DESIGN** of the magnificent Cardiff Arms Park complex with its back-to-back grandstands and its compact lay-out is the work of architect and former Cardiff cricket club captain John Webb.

A member of the firm of Osborne V. Webb & Partners, this popular Cardiff sportsman has converted a dream into reality. He has lived with the project from its very beginning eight years ago.

It was then that the idea was sprung on him by rugby administrator Hubert Johnson, who buttonholed him during a cricket dance at the Cardiff Athletic club-house.

Seeking a quiet corner, they stepped out on to the balcony overlooking the cricket ground. "How would you like to live dangerously?" asked the Cardiff rugby chairman, who proceeded to unfold the imaginative plan.

"At first I didn't really realise the major implications of it," recalls the architect.

"He wanted a plan of what would happen if you put a rugby pitch on the cricket ground. Not until he finished speaking did I realise that this was of national interest and importance."

John immediately got to work on drawing up an artist's impression of Cardiff

# The cricketer who converted a dream

Arms Park as it might look in the 70's.

The picture he fashioned was so simple and yet so impressive that it was used as the trump card to sway people in support of the scheme.

In fact, so sound was the design in original concept that it has basically remained unchanged.

Careful studies were made in the planning of the cantilever stands. The design of those at the soccer grounds of Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry was looked at before the final product took shape.

Says Mr. Webb: "None of those stands were quite what we wanted. What we did get was an appreciation of the maintenance problems that those grounds have got.

"Therefore it was one of our main considerations to use as much maintenance-free material as possible in the construction of the stands."

The fact that the site was restricted in space meant further careful planning. As a result, the original scheme of the Welsh Rugby Union to have two completely separated rugby grounds had to be scrapped.

Instead all the dressing-room accommodation and other facilities have been integrated into the stands between the two grounds—a really better arrangement which has also saved the spending of a lot of extra money.

Representatives of the Transvaal Rugby Union who inspected the complex last season were impressed.



## Danny Davies

Player . . . administrator  
. . . historian

Player, administrator and now rugby historian those are the credentials of Danny Davies, who has spent the best part of a life-time working for the club and the game.

Although six years retired from the Cardiff committee, this former Cardiff captain, British Lions assistant manager and Welsh Rugby Union president is still busy keeping up to date.

As the club's official statistician, he is toiling away to compile a history of the club from the time when C. S. Arthur broke off the record in 1906.

There are many blank moments to be filled in over the past half-century and this has entailed considerable research through old newspaper files by this retired civil servant who has a keen eye for detail.

He hopes soon to be able to publish the results of his many long hours of work. Digging deep into the sketchy history of the past has been a labour of love for him but also a time consuming and often frustrating experience.

"Massa Dan" as he is popularly known throughout the rugby playing world, began his first-class

playing career with Penarth in 1920-21.

He joined Cardiff the following season and soon made his mark as an outside half or centre, captaining the club in 1925-26 and appearing in the final Welsh trial of that year.

Although a Welsh cap eluded him he was invited to tour with the 1924 British Lions but was forced to decline owing to leave of absence difficulties.

Compensation came for him in 1955 when he went with the Lions to South Africa as assistant manager and honorary secretary.

He worked diligently on the committees of Cardiff and the Welsh Rugby Union, to which he was elected in 1948.

He was twice chairman of Cardiff—first in 1947-48 and then in 1960-61 before becoming president of the WRU in 1961-62.

As president he was the first member of the Cardiff club to hold the office since the formation of the union.

In 1964 he retired from the Cardiff committee to fade into the background but with an official history of the club on his hands he remains very much of an active worker.

## Norman Riches

Cardiff Athletic Club president

Norman Riches, long-serving president of Cardiff Athletic Club, celebrates a double event this week — his Diamond Wedding on Thursday together with the beginning of a new era in the history of the club he heads.

This GOM of the athletic club, who passed his 87th birthday earlier this year, is still remarkably active.

He is renowned for his prowess at cricket in the early days when he captained Glamorgan before they became a first-class county and then led them in their first championship season in 1921.

An outstanding batsman and wicketkeeper, he scored numerous centuries for Glamorgan and for the Cardiff club, which he captained for seven years.

In Glamorgan's first championship season he captained a poor team but still finished with a high batting average of 43.20.

His connections with Cardiff rugby club go back to 1892 when he became a junior member.

He also belongs to the small and exclusive circle of Welsh cricketers who have been elected to membership of MCC.



## JOHN HICKEY

A lean and hard flank forward, Cardiff's 28-year-old captain had to spend seven years in the club before he was able to win a first-team cap.

Since those days he has won a number of Welsh trials and has come very near to a Welsh cap.

A fitness fanatic, he hails from a rugby playing family. His brother Dennis used to play for the club and before that his father.

The family tradition is so strong that at seven years of age he was taken away from a soccer-playing school so that he could learn the game of rugby at St. Mary's where he began his experience as a fly half.

Later he played for Llandaff Youth and then



for Canton RFC before joining Cardiff where he has worked his way up to the captaincy of one of the premier clubs in the world.

He is also a successful baseball player, having starred in past summers for the strong Grange Albion team.

## DAI HAYWARD

This 35-year-old former Welsh international wing forward is having his first season as Cardiff coach after formerly captaining both the first and second teams.

Capped six times by Wales between 1963-1964, he is a product of Newbridge Grammar School, who won international honours at under-15 and secondary schools level before going on to Loughborough Colleges where he captained the team which won the 1956-57 University Championship.

He joined Cardiff in 1957 and quickly won a reputation as a fast and constructive wing forward, who placed great stress on attack.

He imposed his style with great success on the Cardiff Athletic team of



1966-67 when he captained them to a record breaking season that brought a new high total of 977 points.

He was again successful in 1967 when he coached the East Wales team which drew with the New Zealand All Blacks at Cardiff—a match in which the tourists were lucky to survive.

## HAYDN WILKINS

He took over the secretaryship from Frank Trott last season. A former rugby player and still a useful cricketer, he has served on the Cardiff committee for the past 20 years.

He was senior selector before becoming club chairman for the second time in 1967-68 and this was followed by a short term as fixture secretary.

A native of Neath, he learnt his rugby at Neath County School before moving to Cardiff where his abilities as an all-round sportsman saw him play soccer as an inside forward for Cardiff Cosmos.

At rugby he was a utility back and played for Cardiff in the early post-war years at wing, centre and outside half.

He also played twice for Penarth—on the wing



against the Barbarians and at outside half against Newport.

He captained Cardiff Cricket Club in four seasons between 1947-1954, almost leading the side to an invincible season in 1947 when Newport beat them in the last match of the summer.

With every good wish to  
CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB  
from the Headquarters  
of the Welsh Rugby Union

### THE ANGEL HOTEL

CASTLE STREET, CARDIFF  
Tel. 32633 and 40800

IND COOPE HOTELS  
on behalf of

### The Royal Hotel    The Queens Hotel

wish every success to  
CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB  
on the opening of their new ground

ROYAL HOTEL    QUEENS HOTEL  
Tel. CARDIFF 23321    Tel. CARDIFF 30601

To Cardiff Arms Park  
... with best wishes from  
one Park to another

### PARK HOTEL

CARDIFF  
Tel. Cardiff 23471



**MALCOLM LEWIS**  
recalls Cardiff's battles  
against touring sides

# THE

# MEMORABLE

# GAMES

IT WAS A MOMENT when the capacity Cardiff Arms Park crowd held their breath . . . a moment when the battle-weary Cardiff team felt that the New Zealand All Blacks could slip off the hook on which they had been hung.

It happened in the dying seconds of that titanic struggle on Saturday, November 21, 1953. The All Blacks, piling on fearsome pressure to wipe out a five-point deficit, were awarded a scrum in the shadow of the Cardiff posts.

It was their last chance and they knew it. Full back Bob Scott was called up as an extra man in the attacking line.

Down went the packs as Cardiff captain Bleddyn Williams cried out: "We've got to have this ball!"

Scrum half Rex Willis got down and pushed as well, lending his weight to the eight hard-pressed Cardiff forwards.

In went the ball and out it shot—on the Cardiff side. Geoff Beckingham had struck and hooked it against the head for one of the most valuable snatches he ever was to make.

### Prized scalp

Away went the pass to Cliff Morgan, moving right. With a sigh of relief that could be felt around the ground the fly half thumped the ball high away to touch on the North stand side.

The whistle went and Cardiff had beaten New Zealand for the first time in history.

Of all Cardiff's seven victories over major touring teams, this was undoubtedly the most famous if only for the fact that the club had to wait so long for the prized scalp of New Zealand.

The All Blacks arrived at the Arms Park with an unbeaten record and started as favourites against a side which possessed brilliant backs but a suspect-looking pack.

Few believed the Welsh club could succeed. Nevertheless a huge crowd packed into the ground in the hope of seeing the unexpected happen. The gates had to be closed 10 minutes before the kick-off.

Cardiff struck with surprising speed. In the sixth minute Morgan short-punted ahead. The ball rebounded off an All Blacks body and the little fly half regathered it in a flash and flew away as if the whole move was rehearsed.

### Barges over

Centre Alun Thomas supported him and handed on to wing Gwyn Rowlands who, finding himself hemmed in near the touch-line, planted a wicked cross-kick into the middle.

Racing in went great-hearted No. 8 Sid Judd who snapped up the ball like a dog after a bone, and,

beneath a pile of defenders, barged over for a try near the posts that Rowlands converted.

Five minutes later New Zealand reduced the leeway with a long range penalty goal by Ron Jarden, but quickly Cardiff regained their five points lead with their second try.

Again the backs were responsible. Morgan, haring away from a scrum on his own 10-yard line, linked with Bleddyn Williams, whose kick ahead was picked up brilliantly by Alun Thomas.

The centre raced into the open spaces to draw the full back before sending Rowlands winging the remaining 30 yards to the corner. That was the end of the scoring which had all come in the first half.

Try as they might, the All Blacks could not recover despite exerting tremendous pressure which kept boiling right up to the moment of that last scrum of an exciting and absorbing match.

**Cardiff:** J. Llewellyn; G. Rowlands, B. L. Williams (capt.), A. Thomas, G. Griffiths; C. Morgan, R. Willis; S. Bowes, G. Beckingham, J. D. Evans, M. Collins, E. Thomas, C. D. Williams, S. Judd, J. Nelson.

Cardiff's first battle honour

Turn to Page Five



LEFT: Cardiff v. New Zealand (1953): The ball goes loose and Rex Willis is after it closely followed by team-mate John Nelson.



BELOW: Cardiff v. New Zealand (1953). Gareth Griffiths moves in for the tackle as Elsom prepares to put in a kick ahead.



## L.T.D. BUILDING PRODUCTS

(SPECIALISED FLOORINGS)

CHURCH ROAD, LITHERLAND, LIVERPOOL, L21 8NX  
Telephone 051-928 5214

AREA SALES MANAGER:  
LLOYD WILLIAMS : Tel. 0222 611663

AS LAID TO NEW DRESSING ROOMS, SHOWERS, MEDICAL ROOM, SKITTLE ALLEY AND BAR BY

CARDIFF MOSAIC & TERRAZZO, Sloper Road, Cardiff 21766

# MEMORABLE GAMES

From Page Four

was won more than 80 years ago — on December 29, 1888, when the Maoris were overcome by a goal and a try to one try for an odd-looking 4-1 final scoreline.

In those far-off days a goal counted as three points and a try only one point. What has remained unchanged by the passage of time, it seems, is the character of the Cardiff Arms Park crowd, who were as sportsmanlike then as they are today.

The official history of Cardiff RFC compiled by C. S. Arthur records: "The Cardiffians were the first to step into the space between the ropes, closely followed by the Maoris.

"Both sides were greeted with loud cheers, the Maoris, it is pleasant to be able to record, receiving by far the heartier reception."

The tourists were in a confident mood after beating both Swansea and Newport, but they were split open in the first minute when wing Norman Biggs sprinted away for a corner try.

## 'Double' try

Later in the first half Cardiff scored again. S. H. Nicholls and W. T. Morgan dribbled through the defence and, diving for the touch-down together, were both credited with the try, which full back "Sawdust" Hughes converted.

Cardiff: H. Hughes; A. M. Hill, C. S. Arthur, F. N. Jones, N. Biggs; Rosser Evans, W. E. Jarman; A. F. Hill (capt.), A. F. Bland, Q. D. Kedzie, D. W. Evans, R. T. Duncan, W. T. Morgan, J. Mahoney, S. Nicholls.

In 1905 the First All Blacks lost only to Wales but they should have also been beaten by Cardiff.

A then world record crowd of 35,000 for a club match saw Cardiff captain Percy Bush make a fatal error that cost them the match and a record they have never achieved — an invincible season.

The brilliant Bush, with teasing humour, hovered over a ball that was rolling towards the dead-ball line. He could have touched down but left it until the last moment, expecting to get the laugh on a New Zealander chasing in seemingly hopeless pursuit.

The laugh was on him because the All Black took off on a dive that snatched a try right under the Welshman's nose. Wallace converted and Cardiff were beaten 10-8.

## Mud victims

Bush was a great enough player to survive the disaster. On New Year's Day, 1907, he led Cardiff to their most spectacular victory out of the seven they achieved against major touring teams.

The victims were Paul Roos's Springboks who floundered on a muddy pitch against the brilliant running of Cardiff's back division.

Welsh internationals Gwyn Nicholls, Reggie Gibbs, Johnny Williams and R. T. Gabe played havoc. They all raced across for tries, and, with Winfield converting one and adding a penalty the Welshmen romped home 17-0.

Cardiff: H. B. Winfield; O. F. Biggs, R. T. Gabe, E. G. Nicholls, J. L. Williams; R. A. Gibbs, R. David; P. F. Bush, G. Northmore, J. Brown, W. Neil, J. Casey, F. Smith, A. Brice, J. Powell.

On December 28, 1908, Bush was captain against a touring team for the third

time. Not even the New Zealand blunder three years previously had made him lose his sense of fun.

## Sword gesture

He led his team on to the pitch against the Australians brandishing a sword! The gesture was not lost on the crowd who saw the Cardiff captain proceed to help carve up the opposition with a contribution of a penalty goal, a drop goal and a conversion in the 24-8 triumph.

Cardiff: R. Williams; R. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller, L. M. Dyke, J. L. Williams; P. F. Bush (capt.), W. L. Morgan; J. Brown, J. Powell, J. Casey, D. Westacott, F. Gaccon, G. Yewlett, J. Pugsley, J. Daley.

That was to be the last success over a touring team for 39 years. On September 27, 1947, the Wallabies were met again, and the first of three post-war defeats were inflicted on them.

A penalty goal from the accurate boot of Bill Tamplin gave Cardiff a 3-0 interval lead. Wing Doug Jones and prop Cliff Davies followed up with tries, one of which Tamplin goaled, and Cardiff finished comfortable 11-3 winners.

Cardiff: F. Trott; D. H. Jones, B. L. Williams, J. Matthews, L. Williams; W. B. Cleaver, H. Tanner (capt.); C. Davies, M. James, W. G. Jones, Roy Roberts, W. E. Tamplin, E. Jones, L. Manfield, Gwyn Evans.

The Wallabies offered firmer opposition on December 14, 1957. They fought back to equalise 3-3 at half-time and at one time in the second half were trailing by only 9-8 before fading in the heat of the forward battle, to go under 14-11.

## First blow

Gordon Wells struck the first blow for Cardiff in the 19th minute. He took a lobbed pass from Cliff Morgan and feinted to pass to Glyn John, on the right wing, only to cut inside and go over for a try.

The lead was regained by a 40yd. Alun Priday penalty goal and widened by a try from Glyn John, who finished off a move instigated by Wells and Dai Hayward.

It was left to the speedy Wells to snatch the score which proved decisive.

He raced over in the corner for his second try and Priday pumped over the difficult conversion.

Cardiff: A. Priday; G. John, G. Wells, A. Barter, H. Nicholls; C. Morgan, R. Willis; C. Howe, G. Beckingham, J. D. Evans, W. R. Evans, K. Jones, C. D. Williams, E. Thomas (capt.), D. J. Hayward.

Back to the Arms Park came the Wallabies on November 5, 1966, and Cardiff suitably provided the fireworks to crush the tourists 14-8.

The attacking spur was provided by scrum half Billy Hullin, who scored the opening try, dropped a smart goal from close range and engineered the second try by centre Ken Jones.

Ray Cheney added a conversion and one penalty in a match where Cardiff's clever tactics nullified the Wallabies' brilliant half back pair of Ken Catchpole and Phil Hawthorne.

Cardiff: R. Cheney; Keri Jones, D. K. Jones, T. G. R. Davies, M. Richards; P. Morgan, W. Hullin; C. H. Norris, W. J. Thomas, J. P. O'Shea, K. A. Rowlands (capt.), L. Baxter, J. Hickey, A. R. Pender, C. Evans.



Cardiff v. Australia (1966). It's a try! Scrum half Billy Hullin hurtles over in the corner for Cardiff's opening try.



Cardiff v. Australia (1957). Roddy Evans jumps and misses this line-out ball, falling into fellow forward Colin Howe as he does so.

## BIG MATCH DATES

**NOVEMBER**  
14—England Under-25 v. Fiji, Twickenham  
21—Wales Under-25 v. Fiji, Arms Park

**DECEMBER**  
8—Oxford Univ. v. Cambridge Univ., Twickenham.  
12—WRU First Trial, Llanelli

**1971**  
**JANUARY**  
2—WRU Final Trial, Arms Park  
16—France v. Scotland, Paris  
16—Wales v. England, Arms Park  
30—Ireland v. France, Dublin

**FEBRUARY**  
6—Scotland v. Wales, Murrayfield  
13—Ireland v. England, Dublin  
27—England v. France, Twickenham  
27—Scotland v. Ireland, Murrayfield

**MARCH**  
13—Wales v. Ireland, Arms Park  
19—Wales B v. France B, Llanelli  
20—England v. Scotland, Twickenham  
27—France v. Wales, Paris  
27—Scotland v. England (Centenary match), Murrayfield

**APRIL**  
17—England v. R.U. President's XV, Twickenham  
24—Snelling Sevens, Arms Park

SOUTH WALES ECHO AND EVENING EXPRESS, printed and published by Western Mail and Echo Ltd., Thomson House, Cardiff, CF1 1WR. Tel. 33022. London Office: Thomson House, 200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1. Tel. Terminus 1234.



**RED DRAGON**  
(TRAVEL) LIMITED

**YOUR SPORTS TRAVEL SPECIALISTS**

Head Office: 10 CHURCH STREET, CARDIFF. Tel. 22834  
Branches: 15 Bethcar St., Ebbw Vale. Tel. 3419 & 3421  
219 High St., Blackwood, Mon. Tel. 3169  
49 Wigmore St., London W.1. Tel. 01-486-5661

**Lloyds Bank Limited**

SOUTH WALES REGIONAL OFFICE  
89 ST. MARY STREET,  
CARDIFF, CF1 1LD  
Telephone: Cardiff 26147



**Welsh Brewers**  
LTD.

# CARDIFF RFC



WESTERN MAIL  
*congratulate* **CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB** on

1970-71



**Gareth Edwards**  
(Vice-captain)

**Back row (left to right):**

- Neil Collins
- Roger Lane
- Mike Knill
- Ian Robinson
- Maurice Braithwaite
- Roger Beard
- Meirion Davies
- Mervyn John

**Front row:**

- Lyn Jones
- John Uzzell
- Huw Jenkins
- John Hickey (capt.)
- Barry John
- Tony Williams
- Gary Samuel

**& ECHO LIMITED**

*on the official opening of their new ground*

# World record 'gate' for this club match

## ARMS PARK February 17, 1951

**MATCH OF THE YEAR . . . Battle of the Giants . . . an extra Welsh trial . . . none of these over-worked tags really do justice to the epic encounter between Cardiff and Newport on February 17, 1951.**

For this game was not merely an outstanding club clash. It marked a rugby milestone and ranks among the great occasions in the history of Cardiff Arms Park.

The result and the quality of the play are of little significance now. What places the match in a special category is the size of the crowd that watched it.

On that Saturday afternoon nearly 20 years ago a total of 48,500 spectators paid £2,587 in entrance money as they poured into the famous ground.

This still stands as a world record attendance for a club rugby match—and unless there is a radical change in the competitive structure of the game it will never be beaten.

In addition to attracting a world record crowd, Cardiff and Newport shared another distinction which must have given particular satisfaction to these two great clubs.

For they made soccer play second fiddle by pulling in more spectators than attended any Football League match in the country on that day.

The previous biggest crowds for club games at the Arms Park had been 30,000 (Cardiff v. Llanelli) in the early 1930's and 35,000 (Cardiff v Swansea) during the 1949-50 season.

But Cardiff's clash with Newport in 1951 was something extra special. No other club game has ever captured the interest of the Welsh rugby public in such a manner.

People flocked to Cardiff from all parts of the Principality, and the packed approaches to the Arms Park made it look as though an international match was about to be played.

Unbeaten Newport took the field with 24 consecutive victories behind them—and their record included two wins over Cardiff by the narrow margins of 3-3 and 8-6.

Taking in the last nine games of the previous

season the Black-and-Ambers had chalked up a remarkable run of 33 successive victories.

Could Cardiff stop their gallop? The stage was set for a memorable match, and 15 of the 30 players who lined up for the kick-off had either been capped or were to win international honours later.

A strong wind was blowing from the Taff end, and when Cardiff skipper Ewart Tamplin won the toss he had no hesitation in taking first use of it.

It was Tamplin who put his side ahead after 10 minutes play, firing over a penalty goal following a scrummaging infringement by Newport.

### By BRIAN WALL

by winger John Lane which Ben Edwards converted.

The crowd erupted—and then a freak hailstorm swept across the ground. The game was held up as players lay prone on the pitch in an effort to avoid the wind-driven hailstones.

Cardiff centre Jack Matthews took more positive action. He tried to shelter his bulky frame behind an upright!

There were more thrills when the game resumed, and Newport skipper Ken Jones brought off a magnificent tackle on Haydn Morris as Cardiff attacked strongly.

### Equaliser

This proved to be the only score of the first half, and although play was confined mainly to the forwards there was no lack of excitement as the teams battled away.

Early in the second half Newport drew level. Fly half Roy Burnett kicked them into the Cardiff 25 and then a forward burst from a line-out ended with prop Tom Sterry crashing over.

Ben Edwards could not convert and the match—expertly controlled by referee Ivor David—continued in cut and thrust fashion, with the huge crowd roaring the teams on.

Play swept from end to end, and Doug Ackerman was superb in a Newport defence that was often at full stretch to check dangerous Cardiff thrusts.

When Newport pressed, Cardiff covered and tackled brilliantly—but with 10 minutes to go the Black-and-Ambers took the lead.

An attempted clearance kick failed to find touch and this error led to a try



Ken Jones, the Newport right wing takes a high ball, as he is challenged by diminutive Cliff Morgan.

Jenkins, J. R. Phillips, C. Davies, P. Goodfellow, W. F. Tamplin (capt.), J. D. Nelson, D. J. O'Brien, C. D. Williams.

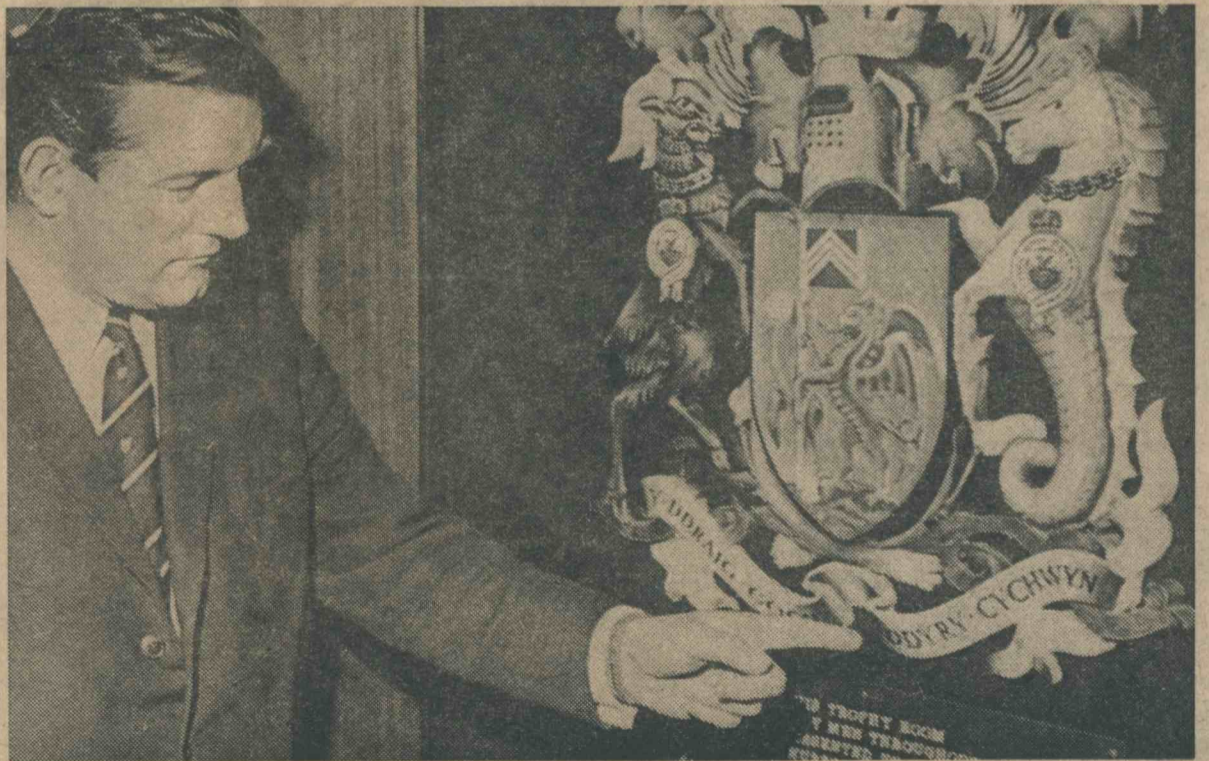
Newport: R. Hughes; K. J. Jones (capt.), R. D. Owen, B. Williams, J. Lane; R. Burnett, W. A. Williams; G. Hirst, L. Davies, T. Sterry, L. E. T. Jones, B. Edwards, D. A. G. Ackerman, P. J. Davies, R. T. Evans. Referee: Mr. Ivor David (Neath).

Soon after this the whistle sounded to signal the end of a match which merits a special chapter in the story of the Cardiff Arms Park.

As the *Sports Echo* report said that night "It was a tremendously exciting, fast and vigorous game fought out in the best of spirits and completely in tune with

the long and honourable traditions of the two great clubs involved."

Cardiff: R. F. Trott; D. C. Murphy, J. Matthews, B. L. Williams, H. Morris; C. I. Morgan, W. R. Willis; G.



Mr. Colin Howe, vice-chairman of the Cardiff Rugby Club, looking at the coat of arms of the City of Cardiff, which is the centrepiece of the Trophy Room of the club.

**BRITISH 'FRAM' CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.**

CROWN HILL,  
NEWTOWN LLANTWIT,  
Nr. PONTYPRIDD, Glam.

Tel. 2251  
PRE-CAST TERRACE UNITS TO  
CARDIFF ARMS PARK

**HOW** —HOPE Ltd.

31 THE PARADE, CARDIFF  
CENTRAL HEATING AND  
DOMESTIC H. & C. WATER  
SERVICES TO THE  
NEW CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB

**S. L. MOTORS**

**RENAULT** DISTRIBUTORS

325 PENARTH ROAD, CARDIFF  
Tel. 45451





The magnificent trophy room, with its display containing a host of rugby mementoes, was a gift to the club from chairman Hubert Johnson. It was opened on April 12, 1969 (by Brigadier Glyn Hughes, president of the Barbarians Football Club).



A champagne toast to the new rugby ground just before the first match was played there between Cardiff Athletic and Bristol United on September 10, 1969. Raising their glasses are (left to right): Gwynne Porter, Alun Priday, Frank Trott, Hubert Johnson, John Davies (captain, Cardiff Athletic), Brian Mark, Mike Lawrence (captain, Bristol United), A. T. "Akka" Thomas and Haydn Wilkins.



Behind every famous man, they say, is a woman... And as famous a personality as any who have worn the cherished blue and black jersey is Miss Babs Filer. True, Babs makes the finest sandwiches, and provides the most refreshing drink.

Indeed, next week, Babs will be celebrating her 40th anniversary as stewardess of the Cardiff Athletic Club. But Babs is more than just an active stewardess, or the pleasant lady at the bar... Babs is one of the team and a great friend. She's the best!

ASK ALUN PRIDAY what was the greatest thrill of his sporting career, and he'll reply: "Pulling on the blue and black jersey of Cardiff."



Priday has had that thrill many times. An outstanding full back, he made a record 412 first team appearances for Cardiff and scored 1,321 points.

He was capped by Wales against Ireland in 1958 and 1961, and now serves on the Cardiff committee—devoting much of his time to the club's youth section.

Cardiff's move to their new ground at the Arms Park marks a special milestone for Priday, for 20 years have passed since he joined the club he had supported as a schoolboy.

"In 1950 I was a keen

young full back," he said, "I was nervous, but determined to succeed and play for the greatest club in the world—My club, Cardiff."

"It is with a feeling of nostalgia that I now look back over the past 20 years. They are full of marvellous memories of great games and great players.

"My most memorable moment came in 1953. After graduating through the Youth and Athletic sides I was selected to play for the first team against Harlequins at the Arms Park.

"Another player making his debut that fine Easter Monday was Colin Howe, now vice-chairman of the club.

## 'We are the greatest,' says Priday

Neither of us will ever forget that day.

"We were so nervous that we met about 1½ hours before the kick-off and spent an hour walking up and down St. Mary Street trying to pull ourselves together.

### Enthusiastic

"During the game I almost lost my front teeth in bringing down W. P. C. Davies, the rugged Harlequins' centre. To this day, my teeth bear the marks of that encounter.

"A crowd of 17,000 watched the match—how things have changed. The game has changed; the Arms Park has changed; and, naturally, the players have changed.

"I have been fortunate in achieving my boyhood ambition of playing for the

greatest club in the world, playing with and against some of the greatest players in the world.

"Now I am back where I started — with the youth team. As secretary of Cardiff's junior section it is my job to arrange fixtures and ensure that the section runs as well as it has always done.

"I enjoy the job, for with such former players as Keith Rowlands (now youth chairman), Peter Goodfellow, Peter Nyhan and Brian Mark, assisted by Les Jones, Gerry Donovan, and many others, we have an enthusiastic group of workers.

"Our aim is to see that youngsters have every opportunity and encouragement to get somewhere in the game. We are repaying, in some small measure, for the thrills and enjoyment we have all had at Cardiff Arms Park."

## JOHNSONS

(Cardiff) Ltd.

SLOPER ROAD, NINIAN PARK  
CARDIFF, CF1 8TB

Tel. 23854

MAKERS OF THE FAMOUS  
ROASTED NUT CLUSTER  
MELLOWMINTS, JARGONELLE PEARS



390 NEWPORT ROAD, CARDIFF

Tel. 34401

## TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

119 ST. MARY STREET

CARDIFF 22727

# Oh, brother! It's a real family affair



The eight Williams brothers, left to right, Tony, Bleddyn, Genydd, Elwyn, Lloyd, Vaughan, Gwyn and Bryn.

- GWYN**—wing forward
- BRINLEY**—outside half or centre
- BLEDDYN**—centre
- VAUGHAN**—centre
- LLOYD**—inside half
- CENYDD**—outside half or centre
- ELWYN**—wing forward
- TONY**—centre

THE finest footballing family in the land — that's the title bestowed on the Williams brothers of Taffs Well. All eight of them played rugby for Cardiff and their association with the club spans 35 years.

Two of the brothers captained Cardiff and Wales; two others turned professional to play with distinction in Rugby League; four of them appeared for the Barbarians.

It's a remarkable record — and the family link with the club is as strong as ever as Cardiff celebrate the official opening of their

new ground at the Arms Park.

GWYN started the ball rolling in 1935. At the age of 17 he played wing forward for Cardiff against the New Zealand All Blacks.

Unfortunately, Wales did not see the best of him. Within a few years he had turned professional with Wigan and won selection for the Welsh Rugby League team.

But his brilliant career was cut short by the war and an injury he received while serving in the North African desert.

BRINLEY followed Gwyn to Cardiff. He could play either at outside half or centre and appeared for the club before and after the war.

He also had a spell with

Cross Keys before returning to Taffs Well, where he served his home club both as a player and a committee man.

BLEDDYN was next in line. He became the greatest centre of his time and the most famous of the brothers. A player with all the gifts, he is assured of a prominent place in rugby's Hall of Fame.

Bleddyn captained both Cardiff and Wales, making 22 international appearances between 1947 and 1955. Few players have achieved such a high standard of performance in attack and defence.

Although remembered mainly for his devastating jink, his perfectly delivered passes, powerful tackling and sound judgment made him the complete centre.

VAUGHAN forged another link in the family football chain. A big, strong-running centre, he played in the "Rags" at Cardiff before leaving to Neath and Pontypridd. Like Brinley, he ended his playing days with Taffs Well.

LLOYD then stepped into the spotlight to add another glorious chapter to the Williams story. A powerfully-built scrum half, he skipped Cardiff and Wales.

Capped 13 times between 1957 and 1962, his all-round ability was such that he made a good job of filling the outside half berth with Cardiff for a time.

By the end of his playing career he had made more than 300 appearances for the club, which he now

serves as a member of the committee.

CENYDD kept the family flag flying at the Arms Park. Had he not turned professional, he could well have followed Bleddyn and Lloyd into the Welsh team.

A talented outside half or centre, he played for the Barbarians and was in the running for international honours when he joined St. Helen's Rugby League Club in 1962.

ELWYN emerged as the second brother to play in the pack for Cardiff. After winning a Welsh Youth cap, he established himself as a top-class blind side flanker at senior level.

He played for the Welsh Under-23 team and also appeared in a Welsh trial, but had the misfortune to break a leg when he

seemed to be on the verge of greater achievements.

TONY, the last of the line, has given Cardiff splendid service at centre and outside half. He is a highly accomplished footballer who "reads" the game brilliantly.

His shrewd, skilful play has not always received the praise it deserves — yet in seven-a-side rugby he has won wide acclaim as an outstanding tactician.

Last March Tony became the fourth member of the Williams family to play for the Barbarians, following in the stud-marks of Bleddyn, Lloyd and Genydd.

This equalled the record of the Biggs family, another famous Cardiff rugby clan. Four Biggs brothers played for the Barbarians between 1891 and 1900.



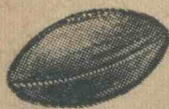
The Cardiff team that beat New Zealand at Cardiff Arms Park on November 2, 1953, by 8pts. to 3:— (Back row, left to right): G. Griffiths, J. E. Llewellyn, C. Thomas, M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, J. D. Evans, (Front row) C. D. Williams, S. Bowes, R. Willis, S. Judd, B. L. Williams, C. Morgan, A. Thomas, G. Rowlands, G. Beckingham.

Small, illegible text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.

# CARDIFF RFC COMMITTEE



Members of the Cardiff rugby club committee (left to right): Peter Goodfellow, A. T. "Akka" Thomas, Hubert Johnson (chairman), Colin Howe, Lloyd Williams, Les Spence, Keith Rowlands, Frank Trott, Brian Mark, Roy Bish, Malcolm Collins, Stan Bowes and Gwynne Porter.



# Cardiff v.

## WRU President's XV

To celebrate opening of new club ground at Cardiff Arms Park

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1970



### CARDIFF

- (from)
- J. UZZELL
- D. HOYLE
- (from)
- S. J. WATKINS
- N. COLLINS
- H. JENKINS
- D. K. JONES
- A. D. WILLIAMS
- P. L. JONES
- B. JOHN
- G. EDWARDS
- R. BEARD
- M. DAVIES
- M. KNILL
- I. ROBINSON
- M. BRAITHWAITE
- J. HICKEY (captain)
- M. JOHN
- R. LANE

Referee:  
Ron Lewis  
(WRU)

- Full Backs
- Threequarters
- Right Wing
- Right Centre
- Left Centre
- Left Wing
- Half Backs
- Stand-off
- Scrum-half
- Forwards
- Prop
- Hooker
- Prop
- Lock
- Lock
- Flanker
- No. 8
- Flanker

### WRU PRESIDENT'S XV

T. J. KIERNAN (captain)  
Cork Constitution & Ireland

- J. WILLIAMS  
Bridgend
- C. M. H. GIBSON  
NIFC & Ireland
- I. HALL  
Aberavon
- WAYNE LEWIS  
Llanelli
- W. RAYBOULD  
Newport
- R. HOPKINS  
Masteg & Wales
- L. THOMAS  
Bridgend
- R. S. S. HARRIS  
Penryn
- D. WILLIAMS  
Ebbw Vale & Wales
- A. MARTIN  
Cardiff College of Education  
& Aberavon
- B. THOMAS  
Neath & Wales
- T. COBNER  
Pontypool
- W. LAUDER  
Neath & Scotland
- T. DAVID  
Pontypridd

Kick-off 3 p.m.



*Handwritten signature or scribble on the right margin.*