

BREWERY FIELD, BRIDGEND

WELSH RUGBY UNION

CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL

ABERAVON

versus

CARDIFF

Saturday, 23rd March, 1974

Kick-off 3.15 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME (Donation to Club) - 5p

IT HAS ALL BEEN WELL WORTHWHILE . . .

By J. B. G. Thomas, Chief rugby writer, Western Mail

It has all been well worthwhile! The W.R.U. K.O. Cup is a roaring success. Everyone thinks it is a good thing for rugby in Wales and, even those of "little faith" have been converted to it. The matches between the larger and smaller clubs have proved interesting and often exciting, while those in the later stages of the competition have attracted large crowds and produced a high standard of rugby.

The first two seasons were successful and this winter we are near the completion of the third competition which could prove even more exciting than the first two. The meeting of Bridgend and Cardiff at the Brewery Field, earlier in the season, was a superb match in the eyes of the supporters of both clubs and the recent semi-final at Aberavon, between Llanelli and Pontypool, was a tremendous match.

The clubs getting into the semi-finals have been rewarded handsomely with good publicity and favourable cash benefits, and those clubs winning the Cup or making the final have pleased their treasurers! Yet although the financial rewards are vital these days, the standard of play is much more important.

I must confess to having enjoyed the competition immensely since it was launched and have nothing but praise for all concerned. Even the referees have done well in an era when they are under 'fire' in representative matches. Perhaps, it is because the players have responded so readily and played some of their best and cleanest football.

Again, the smaller clubs have behaved immaculately, even if there is an amusing story of a touch judge who only had one arm and never put the flag up when his own side put their feet in touch, but only their rivals. He could well be on the way to the freedom of his local borough, if they should make the semi final one year. At least that would be a good touch!

The larger clubs, too, have accepted the smaller clubs and made them welcome. Occasionally, a smaller club's secretary has stuck to the Constitution "for his rights" and achieved his objective. One larger club has been trying to get a match at home but no inducement appeared to have worked the oracle. The President of the W.R.U. on drawing his club's name out of the hat, has always had them playing away, and he has suffered many a merry quip from his club's committee.

Yet this is very much part of the atmosphere that has accompanied the competition and Chairman, Ken Gwilym and his Competition Committee, are deserving of much praise for amending the regulations gradually, and soon they will offer set dates for each round in each season, and this will not come next season but, possibly, the season after that.

This would set the seal upon the competition, which can only grow in stature as the clubs, players and officials respect it and seek to protect it. So far it has been remarkably free of controversy; certainly much less than the international scene, and this suggests that in Wales we can run our own domestic scene extremely well.

The small geographical area in which most of the Union's clubs are situated, makes it the most intense rugby loving area in the world, for the rivalries are strong but, as long as they remain as healthy as they are in the Cup competition, then all will be well.

Gentlemen, I give you the K.O. Cup . . . long may it survive and prosper.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(Members of E.C.R.U., R.F.U. and S.U.)

14th March, 1974

Mr. W. A. D. Lawrie,
Hon. Secretary,
BRIDGEND R.F.C.

Dear Mr. Lawrie,

As you will already know, Bury St. Edmunds Rugby Football Club suffered a grievous loss when eighteen of our members died in the air crash near Paris on 3rd March. Of those lost, ten were married and they had 19 children between them who were suddenly deprived of support.

Because of this, we are forming a Trust Fund to administer moneys which we have already received and the Trustees will administer this Fund for the benefit of the immediate families of those who died.

I am asking you to help us. Although we have many friends in the Eastern Counties and elsewhere who have given generously, I am asking you if you would raise money for our Fund.

If you could organise a social event or a special game in order to help us, we would be deeply grateful. If, of course, you have already done this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Please send any donations to Bury St. Edmunds R.F.C. Disaster Fund, Midland Bank Limited, 54 Abbeygate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1LJ.

Yours sincerely,

RON FREEMAN.

Chairman.

WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE COLLECTION

WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP AT TODAY'S GAME.

WELSH RUGBY UNION
CHALLENGE CUP

FINAL

Saturday, 27th April, 1974

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

The Cardiff Arms Park

To Secretary, Welsh Rugby Union,
28/31 St. Mary Street, Cardiff.

Please supply the following tickets :—

.....North Stand Reserved @ £1.10p

.....South Upper Reserved @ £1.10p

.....North Enclosure @ 50p

for which I enclose the appropriate remittance of
£..... together with stamped addressed envelope.

Name
(Block letters please)

Address

.....

ABERAVON R.F.C.

John Dolan, South Wales "Evening Post"

For the second time in three years Aberavon appear in the Welsh Cup semi final and are looking for better breaks than they got when narrowly losing to Llanelli at St. Helen's.

On that occasion the Wizards seemed set for victory when Morton Howells sustained a dislocated elbow. The fourteen men without a specialist hooker failed narrowly to hold on for a win.

Now Morton Howells leads and the team are playing on the Brewery Field - a ground that saw them win the Floodlight Alliance final under the captaincy of Max Wiltshire.

Bridgend was also the venue for the last final of the old South Wales cup which was played for in the years before the first world war. The winners of that final were Aberavon.

The new cup competition which was started three years ago has stimulated a lot of competitive interest in Welsh rugby.

On their way to the semi-final Aberavon have never been seriously challenged. Their wins have been at the expense of B.P. (Llandarcy), Pyle, Cardiff College of Education, Aberavon Quins, Kenfig Hill, and Beddau. Only two tries have been scored against them in these matches and the Wizards have notched 155 points with 29 scored against.

In the two matches between Aberavon and Cardiff this season, honours are even. Cardiff won handsomely at Arms Park 18-6 back in September when the Wizards were without five of their leading players who were playing for West Glamorgan against the Japanese tourists. In their most recent meeting Aberavon won 8-0 at the Athletic Ground on January 26th.

It would be a bold man that would predict the winner of this one!

ABERAVON

RED AND BLACK

CARDIFF

CAMBRIDGE BLUE AND BLACK

15	Kim Davies	...	...	...	...
14	Steve Roper	...	...	...	...
13	* Ian Hall	...	...	...	...
12	Malcolm Swain	...	...	...	...
11	Alan Rees	...	...	...	...
10	John Bevan	...	...	...	...
9	* Clive Shell	...	...	...	...

Full Back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Outside Half
Inside Half

Forwards

1	Jim Owen	...	...	...	...
2	Morton Howells (Capt.)	...	...	...	...
3	Clive Williams	...	...	...	...
4	* Alan Martin	...	...	...	...
5	* Billy Mainwaring	...	...	...	...
6	Richie Davies	...	...	...	...
8	Keith Evans	...	...	...	...
7	Ogwyn Alexander	...	...	...	...

Prop
Hooker
Prop
Lock
Lock
Flanker
No. 8
Flanker

* International

...	...	...	...	...	John Davies	15
...	...	...	...	...	Wayne Lewis	14
...	...	...	...	...	Alex Finlayson *	12
...	...	...	...	...	Paul Evans	13
...	...	...	...	...	Neil Collins	11
...	...	...	...	...	Keith James	10
...	...	...	...	...	Brynmor Williams	9

Forwards

...	...	...	...	...	Jerry Wallace	1
...	...	...	...	...	(Capt.) Gary Davies	2
...	...	...	...	...	Mike Knill	3
...	...	...	...	...	Carl Smith	4
...	...	...	...	...	Lyn Baxter	5
...	...	...	...	...	Roger Lane	6
...	...	...	...	...	Trevor Worgan	8
...	...	...	...	...	Mervyn John	7

Touch Judge: Mr. D. C. Phillips (Neath)

Referee: Mr. J. Kelleher (Llantwit Major) Touch Judge: Mr. J. Taylor (Cardiff)

HOW CARDIFF GOT TO THE SEMI-FINAL

Having been reared on lurid tales of the bloodshed and skullduggery of the Monmouthshire League and the South Wales Cup, I viewed the introduction of the Welsh Knock-out Cup with the same sort of trepidation that the Mayor of Cheltenham views a visit of Glasgow Rangers. However, as we approach the finale of the third year's competition my worst fears have been laid, and we must agree that it has been a tremendous boost to the game in Wales, particularly at the lower levels.

If there were any lingering doubts about the desirability of the Competition, they were finally cleared by the Cardiff-Bridgend game on New Year's Day. It had everything. Good weather — a packed ground and a pulsating game that reached a heart-stopping climax. May I pay the Bridgend crowd the compliment of being the fairest and most appreciative spectators it has been my pleasure to buy drinks for—after the game of course. There are one or two grounds I can think of where the crowd are anything but an adornment to the game. Not that the Brewery Field has been a happy-hunting ground for Cardiff. Apart from losing more than our share of Club matches here, we lost a semi-final to Neath here in 1972. Let us hope that the last game has changed our luck, and that the good Angel who looks after Bridgend teams, will settle for the Blue and Black of Cardiff rather than the Red and Black of Aberavon.

Our journey to this Semi-Final started well. We played Bangor at Cardiff Arms Park, and won 69 pts. to 3 pts. As someone remarked—a case of Bangors and Mash. That was the end of the hay-ride for us though, because we didn't draw a home game after that. We played Hendy at Hendy and found ourselves 10 points down after 10 minutes. At that point with Hendy playing with the confidence and certainty of Shirley Bassey singing in a Talent Competition at the Ogmere Constituency Club, in front of a frenzied home crowd I started to edge towards the gates, stuffing my Cardiff tie into my top pocket, and hoping no one would notice my number plates as I slid out of the Car Park. It all worked out in the Hendy and we won 31 points—16 points, and I stayed to enjoy the amazing hospitality of a club that might be considered small in status but is very big in everything else that matters. The next draw seemed too good to be true, Haverfordwest at the Arms Park. Unfortunately it **was** too good to be true. Apparently someone spotted Les Spence palming the appropriate Bingo Ball and they insisted on a re-run. Jack Young made the next draw and nobody spotted his sleight of hand, and there we were at the Brewery Field. The groans and depressions in Cardiff caused the Met. Office at Rhoose to send out an Emergency Storm warning of a Tempest approaching rapidly from the East. That game is now history and remains the best club game I have seen in years. We drew another away game in the quarter-finals and we eventually beat Swansea 13 points—0 in a game that was spoiled by an actual tempest. So here we are today playing Aberavon in the Semi-Finals.

I hope Cardiff win, but I can say with complete sincerity that I won't mind too much if we lose, providing two conditions are observed. One, that it is as good a game as the Bridgend Cup-Tie, and secondly that we finish with fifteen players. This season we have finished the game with thirteen players more times than Bradford Northern.

D.J.H.

High Class Family Butcher

PETER WOOD

Stall 2, The New Market, BRIDGEND

Telephone 56985

DEEP FREEZE

Orders Supplied and promptly
attended to

DELIVERIES DAILY

**EVERYTHING FOR THE
SPORTSMAN AT**

LYN SPORTS

14 DERWEN ROAD, BRIDGEND

Telephone 2147



COME TODAY

**We offer good discounts to
Club Members**

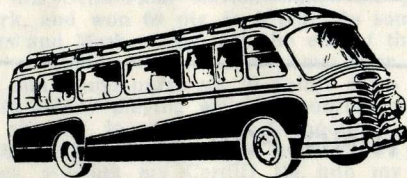
Gwyn Jones and Son Limited

**White Croft Garage,
Bryncethin**

Tels.: ABERKENFIG 300 or 446



**M.O.T.
TESTING**



M.A.A.



LUXURY COACH OPERATORS

41, 45 AND 53 SEATERS

**Official Coach Suppliers to Bridgend Rugby
Football Club**

Cup records this season of today's semi-finalists

ABERAVON

1st preliminary round :	Bye	
2nd preliminary round :	Beat B.P. Llandarcy	37-6 (H)
3rd preliminary round :	Beat Pyle	12-0 (H)
First round :	Beat Cardiff Coll. of Ed.	19-9 (A)
Second round :	Beat Aberavon Quins	22-3 (A)
Third round :	Beat Kenfig Hill	33-7 (A)
Fourth round :	Beat Beddau	32-4 (H)

CARDIFF

First round :	Beat Hendy	31-16 (A)
Second round :	Beat Bangor	69-3 (H)
Third round :	Beat Bridgend	21-18 (A)
Fourth round :	Beat Swansea	13-0 (A)

***Pass your printing
problems on to us***

**Letterpress and Lithographic Printers,
Stationers**



**Bridgend Printing
Company Limited**

**TREMAINS ROAD and
MARKET STREET, BRIDGEND**

Telephones 3126 and 4138