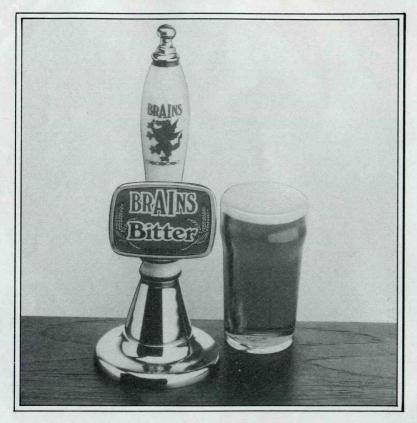


PEOPLE WHO KNOW BEER HAVE BRAINS



BRAINS
THE BEER WITH A HANDLE TO ITS NAME
SA BITTER RD



Cardiff v. Barbarians

SATURDAY, 6th APRIL, 1985 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Well once again Easter has come around and therefore once again The Arms Park will become the Mecca for rugby enthusiasts from Cardiff itself and also many surrounding places including over the Bridge itinerants. The occasion of course is the annual visit of the most famous of all touring teams in these islands, the world renowned Barbarians.

Obviously we must be the envy of the rugby world on this particular day because any other major gatetaking club would give their eye teeth to be able to stage such a prestigious fixture on this holiday time Saturday. And just think that for a period around the turn of the present century The Baa Baas also played us on Boxing Day as well. Oh how lucky were our forebears to savour two such occasions in a season.

Now however we are back to our annual Easter visit and today's encounter takes us into the second century of games played between our famous clubs. Our illustrious nomadic friends claim the series is already 101 games old however. The maverick game giving rise to this situation was played at Easter 1940 when all Cardiff fixtures had been officially suspended and hence is not included in the club's record. The Baa Baas have included it in their history however, hence the discrepancy.

So as for as we are concerned then the record reads played 100, won 63, lost 32, drawn 5, points for 1478, against 934. If we did include the 1940 game it would only serve to enhance our record as we won by 16 points to 8. During the long sequence since the first game played in 1891 many epic games have been witnessed and invariably good, open and very entertaining rugby is the order of the day.

A closer look at the records show us in very favourable light compared with any of the other regular Baa Baa opponents. It's a case of 'Anything you can do, I can do better' as Annie Oakley would have sung it. For instance we are only a whisker away from having twice as many wins as them and last season we recorded a record high for the series in our 52-16 victory which is the highest aggregate in the 100 games played. For their part their highest came in 1957 with a 40 points to nil victory and that does constitute the highest ever margin of victory throughout the series. As far as winning sequences are concerned it shows a tremendous consistency on behalf of Cardiff players throughout the years because apart from one purple patch between 1931 and 1935 when they strung five wins in succession they have never been able to put more than two together and indeed, they have only managed that on five occasions.

All these records pale into insignificance however when you reflect on the type of rugby we have seen over the years. Perhaps it is all summed up in the Barbarian history when an explanation was sought how in the 1976 game Cardiff had come back from a 28-4 post half time deficit to an ecstatic 29-28 victory — it was just "Blue and Black magic".

Last year the Baa Baas were concerned at the magnitude of their defeat, 52-16. They seem to think that they were a bit too loose up front and did not win enough good ball to supply the backs with the sort of platform required to indulge in the open type of rugby for which they are renowned. Well it looks as if they are trying to put that matter right this year because included in their squad are four of the current French pack. These in conjunction with some other very experienced ex-international English forwards and the majorities of the current Welsh and Irish pack now means they will be able to field a very formidable pack indeed. Behind the scrum they don't appear as star studded as usual. Sevens in Scotland and cup games in Ireland have inhibited their selection somewhat but nevertheless the backs certainly have enougth pace to play in

true Barbarian tradition. Outside half Geraint John and wing Mark Titley should certainly enjoy themselves. So to all the Barbarians both players and 'alibadoos' welcome again to Cardiff, we hope you enjoy your tour. With 14 new Baa Baas, the Saturday evening dinner is certainly going to take some time to get through.

Lets look back a little now to our last game — Pontypool at Newport. What a performance from the whole side particularly the pack. Who would have dreamt that a Pontypool pack could be beaten at their own game. Beaten they were however by the Cardiff eight who thoroughly deserved all the plaudits heaped on them. Now here's a little food for thought. The last time that same eight played as a pack was on 24th October, 1984. A quick glance at the fixture list if you can't remember shows that on that day we beat Australia and the Cardiff pack more than did its stuff on that occasion to beat the Aussie pack which hardly changed from what was their test pack which proved good enough to win its first ever grand slam of the four home unions. In speaking of that splendid pack performance it is appropriate now to extend our heartiest congratulations to Gareth Roberts on receiving his cap during last Saturday's international. Well done Gareth a richly deserved honour which now takes our total of Welsh internationals to 166.

On to things a bit more domestic, our Youth side have also reached the semi-final of the W.Y.R.U. Cup. They were due to play Glanhowy at Tredegar last Wednesday night which was after these notes were submitted for printing. So lets hope they are also engaged in a cup final and that they enjoy their tour starting tomorrow to Penzance and St. Ives. The Youth players and committee would like to thank everyone for their support during the year particularly to the Supporters Club. Also they extend grateful thanks to Tower Products of Llantrisant for their donation towards the Annual dinner.

Now it only remains to hope for some fine weather this afternoon and also to offer sincere thanks to Thorn EMI for their generous sponsorship of today's game. We trust that all concerned with the sponsorship will have a thoroughly enjoyable day.

P.N.



KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

SAFETY IN RUGBY

During the last two or three years much has been said about the dangers to children following various sporting pursuits. With this in mind, the Rugby Football Union has done a great deal to minimise serious injuries with Law Changes, Guidelines to prevent injury, and production of eight pamphlets designed to help those organising rugby for children whether within schools or clubs.

The Rugby Football Union introduced in 1983 the following Law Interpretations for all who play under the age of 19 in England, and at their recent meeting in Paris the countries comprising the International Board decided that the following Law should be

applied to all senior adult matches as from this September.

1. Any player at any stage in the scrum, ruck or maul who has, or causes an opponent to have, his shoulders lower than his hip joint, must immediately be penalised by awarding a free kick. The object of this interpretation is to try to prevent a collapse of scrum, ruck or maul. It is to help the Coach to coach good technique, and the Referee to penalise bad technique. Any player who has his shoulders lower than his hip joint can only move downwards unless he has very great strength. The force through the shoulders should be directed forwards and upwards; all players should remain on their feet thus preventing a pile-up and possible injury.

2. Law 19(3): Lying with, on or near the ball. "A player or players from either team MUST NOT WILFULLY FALL on or over a player who is lying on the ground with the ball in his possession, or on players lying

on the ground with the ball between them".

PENALTY: Penalty kick at the place of infringement.

Additional notes to help to interpret Law 19

(a) NO advantage shall be played under this Law.

(b) A player is assumed to have fallen wilfully, unless the referee is absolutely certain

the fall was accidental.

(c) In the very rare instances when the fall is accidental, play must be stopped and a scrummage awarded. The object of this change in interpretation in Law 19 is to keep players on their feet and to prevent them from falling to the ground, thus removing a dangerous area of play. This will create proper rucks and mauls defined as "... players from each team on their feet" (Law 21, ruck: Law 22, maul). Should the correctly formed ruck or maul then collapse, the referee must immediately act to prevent a pile-up from developing.

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Rugby Quiz - No. 16

It's Baa Baa orientated today.

- 1. What is generally accepted as the Baa Baa's motto?
- 2. What is the highest number of tries scored by a Cardiff player in a Cardiff v Baa Baa's match?
- 3. Which front row forward played for the Baa Baa's against his own country and dropped a goal to register his sides only point?
- 4. Who was the referee in the famous Baa Baa v New Zealand game of January 1973?
- 5. Now this one will get you thinking. Which Baa Baa player in the famous 1973 New Zealand game also played in three other winning sides against New Zealand to become the only British Isles player to have played in four winning sides against The All Blacks?

Derek Quinnell, British Lions 1971, won 13-3 at Wellington; Llanelli 1972, won 9-3; Baa Baa's 1973, won 23-11 and British Lions 1977, won

t. G. Domercq

3. I.J. Clarke (New Zealand) in the 1964 Baa Baa's against Wilson Whinerays team.

2. Five by J.L. Williams, April 1906.

ssejo

1. Rugby is a game for gentlemen of all classes but never for poor sportsmen of any

Rugby Quiz No. 16 - Answers

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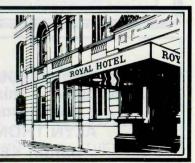
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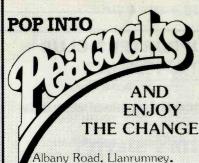
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3. S. BLACKMORE

4. K. EDWARDS 5. R. NORSTER

6. R. LAKINT 8. J. P. SCOTT

7. G. ROBERTS

J. SOUTO S. CANNON

Full Eack Right Wing

Left Centre

Inside Half

Forwards

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J. PALMER (Bath) 12. REP.

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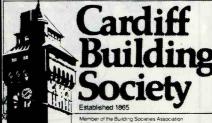
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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

Much seems to have happened since we last met. The bad weather which caused those cancellations, the international season has almost come and gone and Cardiff Rugby Football Club have first of all 'conned' - certainly confused - and then taken on at their own game the giants of Pontypool to reach the Schweppes/WRU Cup Final for the fourth time in five years.

The result of all this - postponements, internationals, away games - has meant that Quidnunc has been unable to bring you the gossip from within the camp.

One way and another, however, a particular name has kept on cropping up during that time, both in connection with Cardiff and the Welsh international side.

And somehow the stop-go, will-he-won't-he situations sum up the career to date of one of the crucial men of the Cardiff team, a hard character who has become a firm favourite with

supporters in the relatively short time since he arrived from the West.

With or without the ball Gareth Roberts presents a frightening front to the opposition. "He is," reports a former Swansea colleague, "the original stumbling block. He's as hard a nails, tough as old boots, solid as a rock." The Swansea man warmed to his theme. "I winced when I learned he was leaving us. It meant that sooner or later he would be dealing out his particular type of medicine to us. Seems to me that next Saturday's game might not be a bad one to miss if Gareth's playing."

Pontypool, of course, were made fully aware of that characteristic determination and solidity both in defence and attack during the marvellous semi-final at Rodney Parade: and at last, if only for a few fleeting minutes when all was sadly lost, Gareth thoroughly deservedly brought his presence into the international arena last Saturday - surely not for the only time.

Yet there must have occasions when Gareth Roberts believed that the fates were against him. A past captain of the Welsh Secondary Schools team and a Wales B cap, he was constantly being

struck by injury at Swansea when full honours looked guaranteed.

Season 1982-83 seemed at first to be the big one. He was on the replacement's bench for Wales and then in the Swansea team which met Pontypool in the Cup Final. "Outstanding at wing forward or No. 8," reported the excellent Welsh Brewers Rugby Annual in 1983-84, "he seems assured of a cap before long." He didn't get the cap with Swansea - and was, of course, on the losing side in the cup final

But 'Ming the 'Orrible' as he was known to his Swansea colleagues - he's still 'Ming' to his Cardiff mates - never quite made the top honours with the Swansea club. He merely continued to try to do a Gene Kelly with his rendering of 'Singing in the rain', while attempting to look like Sting

Ming was not the most enthusiastic of squad trainers at Swansea, I'm told - but that did not mean he was not keeping fit. While he moaned with the rest of the team, he was also weighttraining at lunchtimes - "mostly to keep pace with Mark Davies," says one former colleague. "When we were touring in Spain and most of the boys wanted to swim or sun bathe, those two would be trying to keep up with each other."

Ming the 'Orrible's move to Cardiff - he knew the city well, having graduated as a pharmacist at UWIST - has brought one or two changes. If anything, he is even tougher; more noticeably he tends now to do a Tom Jones with the Green Green Grass of Home while keeping his hands deep in

his pockets when drinks time comes round.

"Second only to Bobby Norster when it comes to paying up," says a current team-mate. "I think he aims to be the meanest player in the world both on the field and off it. And it's not just that he doesn't buy drinks for others. He won't even buy for himself.

"You won't believe this but, when the Welsh team went to the cinema before the Irish international a few weeks ago, it was really very warm inside. And Gareth announced he was so thirsty that he almost bought himself an orange squash."

Not that Ming - named after the Stars Wars emperor Ming and not the giant but cuddly panda of the same name in children's books - drinks only orange juice. "He drinks everything else

as well," reports one friend.

And it's unlikely that Gareth Roberts regards the Green Green Grass about which he sings as being greener on the Swansea side of the fence. Things have certainly changed for both he and Alun Donovan (about whom more next week, as they say: yes, Lonnie, it's your turn soon) since they made the journey up the M4.

If the original match in Paris had not been cancelled, if Richard Moriarty had not been injured it's an ill wind that doesn't blow good for someone and it was time that Ming had his share of fortune. Now, a coveted cup-winner's medal possibly lies ahead also.

And there'll surely be more caps to follow that brief and unscheduled appearance in Paris.

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Cardiff Rugby Club 1984-85

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1984 SEPTEMBER Sat. 1 Wed. 5 Sat. 8	East District Glam. Wanderers Neath	H54-6 H34-6 A12-13	Sat. Sat. Wed. Sat.	8 22 26 29	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round Bridgend Pontypridd Coventry	A 21-0 H 34-13 H 44-12 A 12-6
Wed. 12 Sat. 15 Wed. 19 Sat. 22 Wed. 26 Sat. 29	Bristol Coventry Penarth Aberavon Pontypridd Garryowen	A 30-26 H 17-0 H 64-3 A 23-19 A 28-15 A 13-6	JANU Tues. Sat. Sat. Sat.		Crawshays XV Moseley Aberavon Newbridge (Cup 3rd Rnd)	H29-24 H Post. H45-12 A24-6
OCTOBER Sat. 6 Wed. 10 Sat. 13 Wed. 17	Newport Bridgend Northampton Pontypool	H37-3 A12-9 A44-10 H 9-9	FEBRU Sat. Sat. Fri. Sat. Wed.	2 9 15 23	Ebbw Vale Bristol London Welsh Neath (Cup 4th Rnd) S. Glamorgan Inst.	H44-13 H Post. H Post. H21-12 H27-9
Sat. 20 Wed. 24 Sat. 27 Wed. 31 NOVEMBER	Cambridge Univ. Australia (all pay) Harlequins Newbridge	A 13-16 H 16-12 H 25-19 A 6-12	MARO Sat. Fri. Wed. Sat. Sat.	9 15 20 23 30	Pontypool Bective Rangers Maesteg Pontypool (SF Cup) Llanelli Newport	A 6-24 H 41-25 H Post. A 24-3 A Post.
Sat. 3 Wed. 7 Sat. 10 Sat. 17 Wed. 28	Leicester Oxford University Ebbw Vale Tonyrefail (Cup 1st Rnd) Llanelli	H47-21 H15-13 A13-22 A22-9 H24-6	APRIL Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat.	6 10 13 20	Barbarians S. Wales Police Swansea Neath	H H H
DECEMBER Sat. 1	Swansea	A13-13	Wed. Sat.		Bath W.R.U. Cup Final	A

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1984 SEPTEMBER Sat. 1 Llanharan Wed. 5 Glam. Wanderers II Sat. 8 Bath United	A 46-10 A 22-25 H 50-16	Sat. 15 Garndiffa Sat. 22 Bridgend Sat. 29 Coventry Mon. 31 Bridgend	Sports A Post. Extras H18-12
Mon. 10 Pontyclun Wed. 12 Bristol United Sat. 15 Coventry Extras Mon. 17 Barry Wed. 19 Caerleon Wed. 26 Pontypridd Athletic	A 18-0 H 25-9 A 21-15 A 15-6 A 26-12 H 22-21	1985 JANUARY Sat. 5 Moseley I Sat. 12 Llandaff Sat. 26 Neath Atl	A Post.
Sat. 29 Neath Athletic OCTOBER Wed. 3 Cardiff HSOB Sat. 6 Newport Wed. 10 Pontypridd United	H25-22 H64-61 A27-24 H17-10 H20-11 A26-16 H10-16 H45-3		e Athletic A 30-10 A 21-6 A Post. A 27-6
Sat. 13 Abercarn Wed. 17 Pontypool Athletic Sat. 20 Blackwood Wed. 30 Newport Saracens NOVEMBER		Fri. 15 Blackwood	I United A 27-13 II Athletic H 21-17 od A Post.
Sat. 3 Leicester Extras Sat. 10 Ebbw Vale Athletic Sat. 17 St. Peters DECEMBER	A 28-14 H 36-9 A 15-12	Wed. 20 Abercyno Sat. 23 Newport Sat. 30 Bridgend APRIL	United H Post. Sports H 8-7
Sat. 1 Swansea Athletic Sat. 8 Caerleon	H 9-16 H44-4	Sat. 13 Swansea Wed. 17 Llangenn Sat. 20 Talywain	

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