



Cardiff v. Glamorgan Wanderers

WEDNESDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1986 KICK-OFF 7.15 p.m.

September 1st is a very much revered date in the minds of Welsh rugby people and it is held in as much esteem as is the 'Glorious 12th' by the Landed Gentry. It signals the beginning of a brand new season with a clean slate to start. The short four months of the close season have completely erased the memory of all the previous campaign's defeats and disappointments. It is a time to dabble in the beautiful realms of fantasy, when all that can be seen of next April is a highly successful year culminating in an ecstatic cup and championship double for one's own particular club. For the great majority of us of course this is not to be, but then again that's why September 1st is held in such reverent anticipation by Welsh Rugby.

Coming back to the land of the living however, what does the new season hold for us. Firstly, the responsibility of the captaincy remains in the very capable hands of Alan Phillips, now entering his 14th season of senior rugby with Cardiff. His contribution over these years has been vast and his present 137 try total sees him fourth in the all time list. Only the inimitable Bleddyn Williams with 185, J. L. Williams (1903-14) 150, and Arthur Cornish (1919-1928) 149 are above him. It's a safe bet to say he is sure to improve his position and it is well on the cards that he could finish up with only the great Bleddyn in front of him. Alan was rather unfortunate in having his Canadian tour cut short due to his wife's hospitalization but he was very proud of the way his side performed in his absence. Despite the unavailability of our internationals and an horrific injury situation the players involved ensured that Cardiff's high standards on and off the field were well and truly maintained.

Another change for the new season sees David Hayward relinquishing the Chair which has been taken over by Mervyn John. Mervyn was a very much admired player and one of the few to captain both the First Team, season 1974-75 and then the Rags in 1977-78 and 1978-79. During his second year of office with the Rags his side won 32 of their 33 games with one drawn to give them their first invincible season since 1885. He was a great technician in his position as flanker and was considered by many to have been worthy of higher honours. He was also one to be amongst the try scorers. In fact he held the club record jointly with Roger Lane for tries in a season by a forward when they managed 16 each in 1972-73. This beat the old record held by Les Spence in 1936-37 of 12 but this was beaten a few years later by guess who – Alan Phillips when he claimed 19 touchdowns. Mervyn has extended his very capable approach on the field of play to the corridors of administration and it only remains to wish him a happy and successful year of office in this his eighth year on committee.

The next change in the Arms Park situation is indeed very much for the worse. It will be the first time since season 1974-75 that there will be no Gareth Davies on the scene. He has decided to call it a day after 12 magnificent seasons of unstinted committment to the Club. His points scoring feats have been prodigious and in some 360 games he has bagged more than 3,000. He was top scorer in all but one of his 12 seasons and this was due to the fact that he spent that one at Oxford University. He holds the present club record with 383 points in season 1983-84 and in his 38 games last year came near to beating that total with 381. During his

career he has been the personification of consistency and the control he could exert on games will perhaps be more appreciated now that he will no longer be stamping his authority on matters. There was no better example of his total commitment than on our recent Canadian tour. He had a nasty eye injury during the first game which required stitches and could have sidelined him. He put the needs of the Club uppermost however and played in all three remaining games in his own utterly authoritative and unflappable manner, which considerably influenced the success of the tour. Yes, a great void has been created in the Club with his departure, but all we can say is have a happy retirement Gareth and thanks for the million and one happy memories.

Life goes on however and tonight we are very pleased to extend a most warm welcome to Glamorgan Wanderers. The Ely outfit certainly made their presence felt in Welsh Rugby last season and they really look as if they are here to stay. Their improvement over the past few years has reflected great credit on the ability of coaches Steve Williams and John Richards and they have now stamped all our cards to the fact that they intend to improve even on last season's fantastic record. There was Mark Hembury's 324 points (then he was desperately unlucky not to win a Welsh cap on tour), Nick Ward's 28 tries in a record total of 164, Owain Williams became their first BaaBaa and they were only one of five sides to reach a 1,000 points. To cap it all they have made a dream start to this season by winning both the Cardiff HSOB and Snelling Sevens tournaments and in the latter of these they really saw us off. So the message goes out fair and square to all - beware the happy Glamorgan Wanderers. For the record we have played on 23 previous occasions winning 21, losing 1 and drawing 1 with a points total of 582 for and 165 against. P.N.

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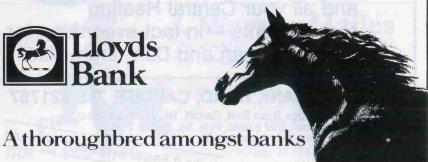
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MATCHES RECALLED

J. B. G. THOMAS, the doyen of Welsh rugby writers, travels down Memory Lane for a season's series of articles which tell of a special match from the past between Cardiff and today's opponents

The Happy Wanderers

September 1, 1982: CARDIFF 9pts GLAMORGAN WANDERERS 15pts

IT IS ALWAYS a special occasion when a club registers its first victory over Cardiff, a moment to relish because it is the desire each season, on the part of all opponents, to defeat the club. Indeed, it can be regarded as a compliment to Cardiff that this desire prevails, as such a triumph provides great delight and satisfaction for the victors

It was more so on the occasion of the first match of the 1982-83 season when Glamorgan Wanderers achieved their first win over Cardiff and that at the Arms Park. They remember it well because they thoroughly deserved it on the Wednesday evening of September 1, 1982. It was their most memorable moment with a longing satisfied.

It was a major upset even though Cardiff took the field without five of their internationals, a fact much regretted long before the interval as the Wanderers performed with unquenchable fire. Their tireless enthusiasm never allowed Cardiff to settle and for much of the play Cardiff were disjointed and lacking the smooth efficiency that has been a tradition through their long history.

When Cardiff attacked, the Wanderers defence and cover were admirably efficient, cutting down man and ball with the sureness of a farmer's scythe. In this busy work the back row of Trigg, Griffiths and Diamond were tireless and earned ready applause. Yet it was the Wanderers outside half, Andrew Phillips, who was the real hero of the evening, in supporting his forwards cleverly and accurately and by scoring 11 of his side's 15 points.

Again, the Wanderers were quicker to the man and ball and always ready in support of their own ball-carriers. So much so that the sporting Arms Park crowd cheered them on unashamedly. Cardiff were just out of touch in their first match of the season. In contrast the Wanderers had so much to gain, a major prize.

They played as if they had ten victories to their credit and by half-time they had gathered a 12-point lead; this was enough to alert the rather lethargic Cardiff players into greater action, and the contest became hard and exciting. Yet the Wanderers stayed in front no matter how hard Cardiff tried, and their supporters, including their committee who could hardly contain themselves in the hallowed seats of the committee box!

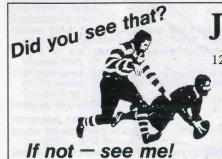
Phillips kicked his first penalty goal after five minutes from 25 yards and then a second from 40 yards. Cardiff launched attacks that were sternly repulsed and the Wanderers rushed the ball to the Cardiff line before winning a ruck for a dashing scrum-half, Ceri Jonathan, to gather and dive over for a try which Phillips converted for the 12-0 lead at the interval.

Cardiff hit back like a wounded tiger in the second half, first with a penalty by David Barry and then a try by Robert Lakin who pounced on a stray Wanderers heel from a five-yard scrum. Barry converted but Cardiff could score no more.

The Wanderers defended aggressively and were not prepared to release their grip. Indeed, during the final moments, Phillips notched a place in the Wanderers glory book with a smartly taken, high dropped-goal.

It was all over – victory for the Wanderers at their seventeenth attempt – and the end of long years of endeavour that started way back in 1927. Yet Cardiff showered ready praise on the heroes from the Memorial Ground, and eventually gained their revenge last season in the fourth round of the Schweppes Cup competition.

The Wanderers arrived at the Arms Park, after defeating Neath at the Gnoll, with high hopes of a second memorable triumph but Cardiff resisted their dashing enthusiasm and skill on March 8, 1986 with a 21-12 victory. On this occasion it was the Cardiff outside half, Gareth Davies, who was the hero with 21 points, all of his side's total.



J. Warren Hailes

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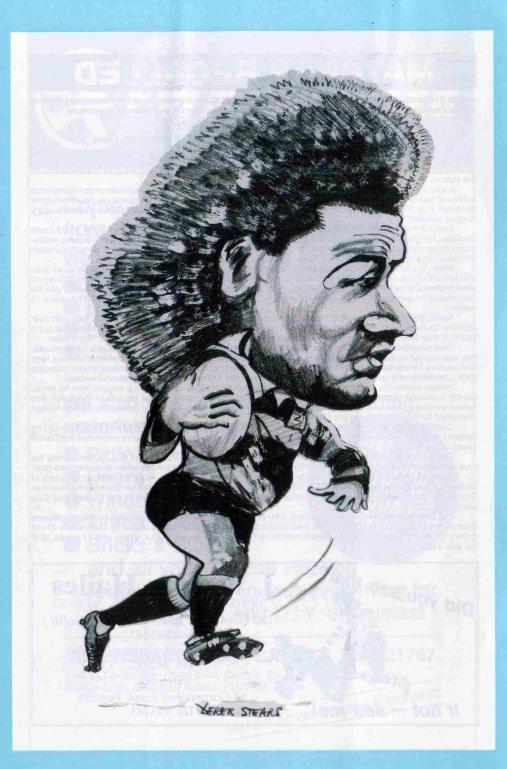
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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

HERE WE GO AGAIN, after a sodden summer during which our intrepid heroes have been involved in all types of activities, many of which have inevitably been connected with the Canadian tour and, especially, the judgments passed by the 'Judge' of the touring court, His Honour Roger Beard: pressed by certain members of your team, Your Honour, I have to warn you that you will be dealt with later in the

Alan Phillips is reported to have been running up and down sand dunes: Bobby Norster has fallen down a couple of potholes, Adrian Hadley has a Fijian tan and Bobby Lakin a farming tan; Owen Golding is still the worst-dressed man in rugby football and Wally Blackmore the trendiest ("and ugliest" according to a jealous team-mate). Neil O'Brien and Chris Collins have got themselves engaged and Mike Rayer lost money on Ringo's racing tips but recouped at Les Croups with his magic numbers of 6, 34, 17 and 27. You are advised not to ask Gareth 'Ming' Roberts about either Mr. Injustice Beard's court decisions nor about Canadian supermarket trolleys, nor physio Ron Ayres about his Canadian 'first' nor Neil O'Brien as to why he had to treat Dai Hayward and Peter Nyhan to a candle-lit breakfast.

The major puzzle for members of the playing squad, however, is why John Scott has volunteered to take part in pre-season training sessions.

All of which, Quidnunc should explain to new readers, is a part of the ongoing chat show that is this column which fearlessly explores the innermost secrets of the club. We plan this term - having last season exhausted both your patience and the careers of various leading players - to look behind the scenes at committeemen and others involved as well as players who have not yet been dissected. My solicitor has been warned accordingly.

Today, however, we resurrect the formula of last season by looking at a player whose form suggested that there may be as much of a career in front of him as there is hair behind him.

Scurrilously described by so-called friends as a 'cagey customer', 'one of the young pretenders', and a 'definite punter and gambler', he occasionally incurs the wrath of the aforementioned coach Beard by participating in what his fellow-backs call the 'mixed-bag' move in which everything happens to such an extent that neither players, nor coach, nor opposition know at any given point where the ball is nor, in fact, where it is supposed to be. At least, there is more orthodoxy in his baseball: indeed, he struck a record 50+ in one innings for Llandaff North this summer and, a colleague reluctantly admits, may one day even appear for Wales at the sport. Another so-called friend reckons this to be a greater probability than his winning at dice-craps.

In all seriousness, though, we know that on the field he is a very hard tackler, loves an open game. has a genuine burst of speed and is generally popular with the crowd. Quidnunc refers, of course, to:

MICHAEL ANTHONY RAYER

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birthplace: St David's Hospital.

Birthday: July 21, 1965

Height/Weight: 5ft 101/2, 13 stone 2lb.

School: Bishop Hannon.

Previous Club: Llandaff North Married: No - but Debbie is the steady.

Children: No.

Employment: Sheet-metal worker.

Car: Cortina Mark 4 Superstitions: Nil.

Career: Welsh Youth team captain, five caps at youth level. Llandaff North and Cardiff. Fullback in last season's Schweppes Cupwinning team.

Club Nickname: Don Clarke though that's Mike's version - colleagues reckon he has just thought it up.

Hobbies: Bird-watching at Qui Qui's.

PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby Player: "very difficult but" (much thought) "Phil Bennett."

Referee: Gareth Simmonds - he's from Llandaff

North, see.

Biggest Influence: Father Alec Rayer, also not a bad full-back, and involved in youth rugby.

Other Sport: Baseball with Llandaff North. Other Sportsmen: Daley Thompson, Ian Botham.

Film: On the Town with Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

Actor: Clint Eastwood. Comedian: Russ Abbott.

TV Programme: Any sport Russ Abbott's Madhouse, The A Team.

Holiday Resort: St. Paul's Bay, Malta, though he went to Spain this year.

Food: Steak.

Drink: Anything free.

Politician: Mickey Mouse.

Rugby Ground: Hailey Park. Guess where? Llandaff North.

MEMORIES

Best: First Welsh Youth cap (v France, 1982), first game for Cardiff, winning the Schweppes Cup. Worst: Damaging ligaments in Welsh youth trial at

Stradev a week after playing for Welsh youth against the South Africans.

AMBITION

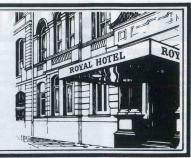
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Rugby Quiz - No. 1

As a tribute to Gareth Davies on his retirement, let us see what we know of his career.

- 1. When and against who did Gareth make his Cardiff debut?
- 2. When did he captain Cardiff?
- 3. He played for Wales on 22 occasions, how many times was he captain?
- 4. How many times did he score for Wales?
- 5. In all, Gareth played for Cardiff against the BaaBaas on eleven occasions and scored 101 points. What was unusual about that points total?

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- 11. A. HADLEY
- 10. D. EVANS
- 9. D. WRIGHT 1. J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. A. PHILLIPS (Captain)
- 3. I. EIDMAN
- K. EDWARDS
- M. ROWLEY
- O. GOLDING
- H. STONE
- 7. G. ROBERTS
- 16. J. SOUTO
- 17. A. MOORE

Glamorgan Wanderers

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



Replacements

M. HENRY 14. E. HOLLAND 13. N. WARD 12. A. FRANCIS 11. G. WYATT 10. G. WILLIAMS 9. S. GOUGH 1. M. SHUGAR P. PRICKETT (Captain) 3. T. DANDO

P. STEELE 15.

M. THOMAS

H. THOMAS 6. L. JAMES 8. P. MARLEY 7.

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PAST PLAYERS CORNER

CLIFF DAVIES (1945-52)

With the emphasis now being placed on the more mobile type of prop forward, it makes you wonder if Cliff Davies played some 35 years before his time. He started playing at 10 years of age for his Kenfig Hill school and scored 15 tries as a wing forward. He graduated to the ex-schoolboys and then the Kenfig Hill senior team. At 18 he played for Bridgend and was one of the team that beat Llanelli at Stradey for the first time in 47 years. At one period he captained Bridgend and played with Jack Matthews.

In season 1945-46 he joined Cardiff's great post war side and won his first team cap the same year. His older brother Willie had also played for Cardiff at outside half in 1938-39 but succumbed to the professional code. Cliff won the first of his 16 Welsh caps against Scotland in 1947 and then went on to tour with the British side of 1950 in New Zealand and Australia.

Cliff, described by Danny Davies in his book as a nugget of a prop, was always in the thick of things and a glutton for work. His half-the-length-of-the-field try in the Middlesex Sevens of 1946 against The Kiwis became something of a legend. Cliff maintained its the fastest he ever ran in his life. Off the field he was the life and soul of the party and his singing and organisation of the choir earned him the title of The Bard of Kenfig Hill.

In all Cliff played 190 games for Cardiff and scored 20 tries. He retired in April 1952 aged 32 and left many a story around the rugby grounds of the land. His luggage, if it can be called that, on any short tour of five days or so consisted of a tooth brush in his top pocket and nothing else. Unfortunately for the rest of us, Cliff wasn't long in this life and he died in 1968 when only 48 years old.

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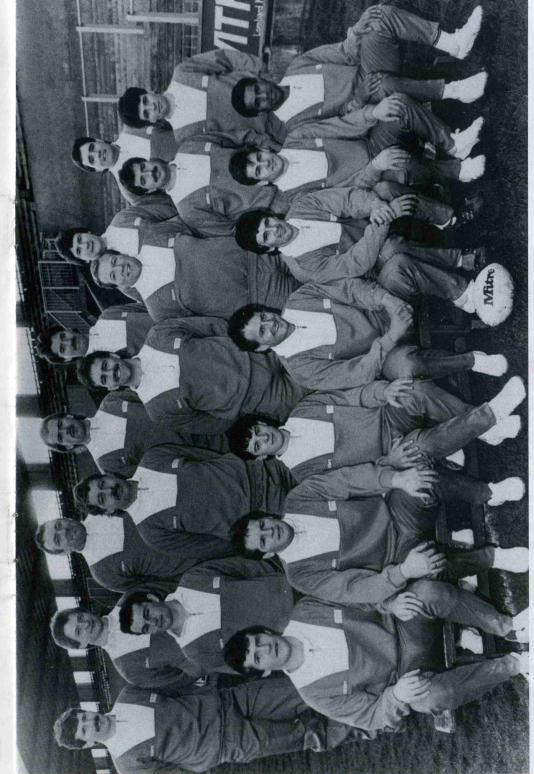
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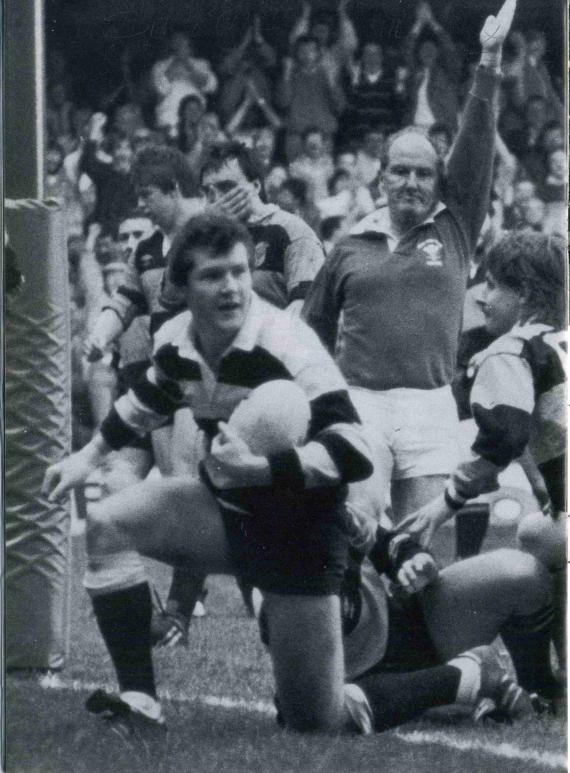
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Rugby Quiz No. 1 - Answers

- 13th November, 1974 against Penarth on The Arms Park.
- Season 1979-80.
- Five times.
- None, his 46 points consisted of 9 drop goals, 5 penalty goals, and 2 conversions.
- 5. Although a master of the art (ask Pontypool) he didn't kick one drop goal in all eleven games









Above: NEIL O'BRIEN, whose semi-final display against Bridgend at St. Helen's helped to clinch his place in the final, struggles over for one of Cardiff's four tries as his side go on to beat Newport 28-21.

Opposite Page: ADRIAN HADLEY, voted by members of the Welsh Rugby Writers Association as the man of the match and winner of the Lloyd Lewis Memorial Award, has crossed for one of his hat-trick of Cup Final tries after a penalty by Gareth Davies had rebounded from a post. Referee Ken Rowlands signals emphatically.

KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

As a new season dawns let's hope for a greater understanding of the laws of rugby

and a wider appreciation for the role of the Referee.

Proposals for alterations to the Laws of the Game, mostly relating to experimental variations practised during the last season were considered at the Centenary Congress of the International Rugby Football Board. These were concerned mainly with safety and the prevention of injuries.

Three adopted included:-

- Requirements in the formation and setting up of a scrummage, in particular in regard to each front row.
- 2. Referee to stop play immediately if a scrummage collapses.

3. Binding in a scrummage, ruck and maul.

- 4. If a player goes to ground in a maul and the ball is available IMMEDIATELY, play can continue.
- LAW 18 (TACKLE) and LAW 19 (lying with, on or near the Ball) have been combined in one Law for simplicity.

Therefore, a tackle player or

a player who is lying on the ground and holding the ball must IMMEDIATELY pass it or release it and get up or move away from it. He must not play the ball again or interfere with it in any way until he is on his feet.

Any other player must be on his feet before he can play the ball.

Thankfully, The International Board decided that no further alterations will be considered before 1988 except for matters which may arise from the above alterations and in the interests of safety for players.

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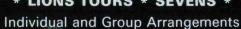
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| Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat. Wed. Sat. | 6 10 13 20 24 27 | East District Bristol Neath Coventry Pontypridd Aberavon | H A H A | 1987 JANU Thur. Sat. Sat. Fri. | 1 3 10 16 | Bath Moseley Aberavon City of Derry | H H H |
| OCTO Sat. Wed. Sat. Wed. Sat. Wed. | OBER 4 8 11 18 22 25 29 | Newport Bridgend Northampton Wasps Pontypool Harlequins Bath | H A A H H A | Sat. Sat. FEBR Fri. Sat. Sat. Sat. | 24 31 UARY 6 14 21 28 | W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round Llanelli Maesteg Bristol Ebbw Vale W.R.U. Cup 4th Round | A H H |
| NOVE Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat. Sat. | 1 5 8 15 22 | Leicester Oxford University Ebbw Vale W.R.U. Cup 1st Round Llanelli | H H A | MARG Fri. Sat. Wed. Sat. | 6 14 18 28 | London Welsh Pontypool Penarth Newport (S.F. W.R.U. Cup | H A H |
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| 1986 | | | | | MBER | | |
|------|-------|------------------------|---|----------------------|------|---------------------|---|
| | EMBER | | | Sat. | 6 | Swansea Athletic | H |
| Wed. | 3 | Glamorgan Wanderers II | A | Wed. | 10 | Cardiff & District | Н |
| Wed. | 10 | Bristol United | H | Sat. | 13 | Risca | H |
| Sat. | 13 | Maesteg Celtic | H | Sat. | 20 | Neath Athletic | H |
| Wed. | 17 | Garndiffaith | Α | Sat. | 27 | Bridgend Sports | Α |
| Sat. | 20 | Coventry Extras | Α | 1987 | | | 1 |
| Wed. | 24 | Old Illtydians | H | | ADV | | |
| Sat. | 27 | Abercynon | H | JANUARY | | | |
| | | | | Sat. | 3 | Moseley United | Α |
| OCTO | BER | | | Sat. | 10 | Llanharan | Α |
| Wed. | 1 | Pontypridd Athletic | H | Sat. | 24 | Bath United | Η |
| Sat. | 4 | Newport United | Α | Sat. | 31 | Pontypool United | H |
| Wed. | 8 | Bridgend Sports | H | FEBRUARY | | | |
| Sat. | 11 . | Neath Athletic | Α | Sat. | 7 | Bridgend Ravens | Н |
| Wed. | 15 | Resolven | H | Wed. | 11 | Pencoed | H |
| Sat. | 18 | St. Peters | H | Sat. | 14 | Bristol United | Α |
| Wed. | 22 | Pontypool Athletic | Α | Sat. | 21 | Ebbw Vale Athletic | Α |
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| | | | | Wed. | 11 | Pontypridd Athletic | H |
| NOVE | MBER | | | Sat. | 14 | Pontypool Athletic | H |
| Sat. | 1 | Leicester Extras | Α | Tue. | 17 | Abercynon | Α |
| Wed. | 5 | Newport Saracens | Α | Wed. | 25 | Maesteg Celtic | Α |
| Sat. | 8 | Ebbw Vale Athletic | H | Sat. | 28 | Newport United | Н |
| Wed. | 12 | Pontypridd Athletic | Α | APRIL | | | |
| Sat. | 15 | Pontypool United | A | Sat. | 4 | Caerleon | H |
| Wed. | 19 | Bedwas | H | Wed. | 8 | Bedwas | Α |
| Sat. | 22 | Bridgend Ravens | A | Sat. | 11 | Swansea Athletic | Α |
| Wed. | 26 | Berry Hill | H | Wed. | 15 | Cardiff H.S.O.B. | H |
| Sat. | 29 | Abercarn | A | Mon. | 20 | Blackwood | H |

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