

BRAINS
IT TAKES BRAINS TO BREW
A BEER SO WELL



Cardiff v. Aberavon

SATURDAY, 10th JANUARY, 1987 KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

Well 1986 is now very much dead and buried and a thing of the past. What a miserable way it gave up its last for us too. With the Boxing Day defeat by Pontypridd (fair dos to them however, they played very well) which saw our ground record go by the board and then the drawn game with Bridgend, it was a case of good riddance. Not a very memorable year from our point of view. Then again, we achieved our nunber 1 priority by regaining the Schweppes Cup and then there was that magnificent home game against Pontypool the Wednesday following the Cup win. So we can't say the old year was all gloom and doom.

The brand new 1987 however has got off to a rip roaring start. The great spectacle presented by the Bath match was quickly followed by Moseley and both games provided top class entertainment with a bonanza of tries. In the two games we scored 13 and the opposition 5. And this whilst all around us was a multitude of one point victory battles being fought with the emphasis on anything but open rugby. The atmosphere pervading during the Bath game was great and the pity was that they could not field their strongest team. Mind they are in a pretty healthy state when they have reserve players of such calibre. Incidentally the programme raffle gas cooker was won by a Mr. Spargo from Essex, the gas fire by Mr. W. Ross and the £50 by Mr. J. Lea, both locals. Even the weather on both occasions turned up trumps so all in all we will be doing very nicely if 1987 carries on in the same vein as its fledgling days.

The year carries on today then with a visit from The Wizards of Aberavon. I suppose that they too will not be very sorry to see the end of 1986 either. After a reasonable 1985-86 season when they won 29 of their 46 games they had good reason to look forward to the current campaign. Mike Lewis had returned from Italy to solve their outside half problem and his reunion with captain Ray Giles revitalised the side. They brought off some extremely good results. They took Bath's unbeaten record, hammered us at the Talbot Athletic Ground by 24-3, performed the double over Llanelli and then for good measure knocked The Scarlets out of the Cup too. So with Ray Giles again as captain and Richie

Davies as coach, things looked all set for a Wizard 1986-87.

Things have in fact however gone somewhat awry. Any malaise that could befall a club came poor Aberavon's way. You name it, they suffered it, injuries, defections, resignations and reinstatments have all come their way this season. September had but one very happy memory for them however. They had lost to all the first class clubs they had played prior to our visit of the last Saturday of the month. Things were looking predictably grim for them that afternoon because some five minutes into the second half we were winning by 22-3. An Aberavon victory looked as remote as seeing a photograph of Lord Lucan riding Shergar. Come the final whistle though and the Wizards had conjured up a fantastic 26-22 victory the like of which would have put Houdini to shame.

It was a case of one swallow not making an Aberavon summer, because since then four more games have been lost than won. Adversity however is something to which Aberavon are no strangers and they keep soldiering on in a most commendable spirit. This spirit was very much to the fore in their recent

second round cup win. After a string of defeats Aberavon had to travel to Cwmtillery who were on the crest of a wave. The Gwent Valley boys really fancied their chances and they were not very quiet in making it known. The villages soon found out what a great cup fighting side Aberavon are however and were taken apart by the big boys to the tune of 34 points to 3. Aberayon have to do an ominous bit of travelling for the forthcoming third round when they visit Pontypool Park. They can take comfort from the fact though that this year 'Pooler' are already one of the scalps they took earlier on.

Amongst their many disappointments this year the recurring back trouble suffered by that great No. 8 Tim Fauvel must be the worst to accept. His recent comeback was very shortlived and I'm sure his excellence in the No. 8 spot would have certainly carried him into the Welsh team this year and booked himself a ticket to the World Cup. On the bonus side of things the form of the ageless Alan Nortin must be some consolation to them however. His experience and ball winning capacity in the line-out are a great asset to the Wizards.

This afternoon's game brings the series to a total of 111. Of the previous 110 we have won 64 to their 40 with the remaining 6 drawn. We have scored 1436 points to 976 against. The Wizards today will be looking for a win which would make it three in a row for the first time since 1976. The first of the current trio of wins brought an eight wins on the trot sequence to an end for us which created a record in the series which began in 1892. Previously both Aberavon and ourselves had both managed seven on the trot. To Aberayon then we offer them a very warm welcome and we earnestly hope that the weather behaves itself and causes no interference with the proceedings.

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MATCHES RECALLED

RELATIONSHIPS between today's two clubs have not always been the happiest, as J.B.G. THOMAS recalls as he continues his nostalgic stroll down Memory Lane. Even on a very special occasion

Not So Golden Jubilee

September 29, 1936: ABERAVON 0pts CARDIFF 3pts

IN THE 1936-37 season, Aberavon were celebrating their Jubilee and decided to stage a special match followed by a gala dinner. It was strange that Cardiff should be thus honoured as the sides had met only once in the previous three seasons.

Relationships can be said to have been strained and the matches a little unfriendly. It was a case of a strong rivalry overflowing, and both sides entered the match wondering what would really happen. Les Spence was captain of Cardiff and Walter Vickery for Aberavon: the latter was to become the Welsh No. 8 following his father who was capped for England.

He was a character, as was Les Spence in his playing days, and they took the match seriously even chatting before the start saying "let's keep it sporting on this special occasion".

Unfortunately the best thing about the day was the dinner after the match, and the feeling in both teams was not improved by the encounter. The local paper said that as Wilfred Wooller and Cliff Jones did not play the match "was deprived of its lustre".

Cliff Jones was suffering from an injured shoulder and A. H. Jones, a fine wing and utility player, took his place but Cliff Jones did set the match in motion by kicking-off. W. R. Davies, brother of Cliff Davies, was at outside-half for Aberavon and he was later to play for Cardiff with distinction.

From the start both sides appeared intent upon escaping defeat as the rivalry took charge, instead of producing fine open play, of which they were both capable. It was hard at forward, very hard!

The packs were of roughly equal strength and the back rows of both sides dominated the opposing half-backs to produce a stalemate. The two outstanding players behind the scrum were the two full-backs, Tommy Owen James of Aberavon and Tommy Stone of Cardiff, both immensely gifted and popular player.

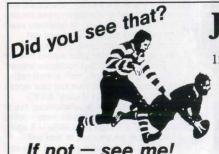
The referee was J. W. Faull and it was a good job that an experienced official was in charge as the match could have gone completely out of hand. There was a fair amount of wrestling but no butting or kicking of a man on the ground. In those days the players appeared to pair off and engage in their own private duels.

Owing to a mix-up in the issue of jerseys one Cardiff player, although innocent of things that happened in the past, suffered more than his fair share of retaliation.

Cardiff won the match by a try to nil as the records show but later in the season, again at Aberavon, the home side gained revenge by winning 16-6. It was not a great match and again fixtures were discontinued until the 1950-51 season.

To pave the way for a resumption, Bleddyn Williams took teams to Aberavon on several occasions and, although they were unofficial, contained many Cardiff players. Happily, there has been no break since 1950, and some splendid games have taken place between the clubs. The intense and vigorous rivalry of the 1930s has disappeared and the clubs are now the best of friends.

There was a remarkable change of fortune in the 1970s as Cardiff won seven in succession before Aberavon won the next four. The visitors today always regard it as a great challenge to visit the Arms Park, and Allan Martin must have played there more often than any other visiting player. Like most players he will say to himself ... "Thank goodness it is not like the 1930s any more" ... Ask the Cardiff president, Les Spence, and he will describe events in detail.



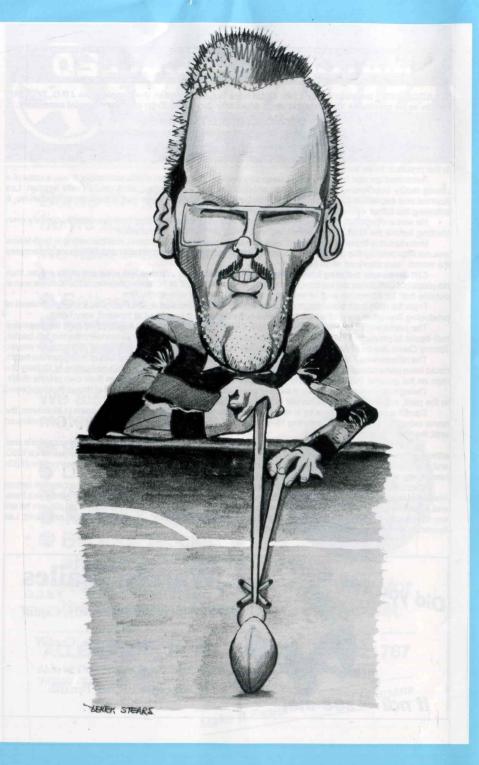
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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

REGULAR readers of this particular soap opera — so long-running now that cartoonist colleague Derek Stears wishes it to be known next season, if it's still here, as South Standers — will be aware that two of our honourable committee men are prone to brag that they were unbeaten on the two occasions when they wore the Welsh jersey. Dr. C. D. W and Mr. A. P were two-cap winners. Today, the boot goes in, as it were, on the other foot. Quidnunc is delighted to introduce the low-down on the committee man who played twice for Wales and who was on the winning side in neither game.

lan 'Coconut head' Robinson, who prefers to be nicknamed Robbo rather than that other one, was awarded his caps despite going to considerable lengths to be known as one of the more troublesome people in the game of rugby football. He was sent off on one occasion playing for Cardiff Youth — against Newport with the result that we are prepared to overlook the offence. But then Robbo did his best to screw up his career by being sent off against the Northern Suburbs touring team from Sydney late in 1973, the week before he was due to win a Wales B appearance against France. Nevertheless, when in early February 1974 the Welsh selectors named their side to play France in Cardiff the second row consisted of Messrs D. L. Quinnell and A. N. Other. Two days later Cardiff played Swansea, our hero outplayed Geoff Wheel and duly won his cap. It was little consolation for Robbo that the 16-16 result was the highest scoring draw in the history of the home international championship. And there was no consolation at all exactly a month later when Wales were beaten 16-12 at Twickenham for lan Robinson broke his jaw in the final five minutes of the game — the last championship appearance for both Delme Thomas and Dai Morris, incidentally.

"And I was a reformed man by then," he will tell you ruefully, "gentle, peace-loving, polite, courteous" Somewhat cynical and hollow laughter from his former teammates and committee colleagues tends to greet such a ludicrous claim. One (then) very young and green member of the Cardiff side still recalls with awe an argument between Robbo and Gareth Edwards on the team coach returning from Garndiffaith of all places (it's funny how often that cup-tie still crops up in conversation with players and supporters). Robbo himself will recall nostalgically how he on another occasion required four stitches on a journey home after bumping his head on a roofrack and, yet again, will explain the mystery of the disintegration of the rear window of the team coach on tour in Cornwall.

And then there was the remarkable incident — and totally innocent, I promise you as this is a family column — which resulted in his getting stark naked into bed with Mrs. Spike Watkins. And, I hasten to add, with Mrs. Spike Watkins. The Robinson matrimonial bed, incidentally, is a specially-made 7ft long and 6ft 6ins wide to accommodate his enormous height. Which brings me to a question asked occasionally in those establishments where rugby quizzes are even more popular than trivial pursuit. "Who is the tallest man ever to have played for Wales?" The answer, I am assured, is still lan Robinson who, despite what it said in an international programme, is 6ft 6ins in his bare feet. He does not always look it: he drags himself down to our level.

But I digress again. We were questioning whether Mr. Robinson was a changed man. Perhaps there is a clue in the fact that his driving is such that various committee colleagues will not accept a lift home with him (not twice, anyway), or in the fact that his two-year-old pet Dobermann Pinscher — "not yet trained to bite on sight," he says — is named Riggins after an American footballer. Or that he admires among other sportsmen lan Botham and Alex Higgins (he is no mean snooker player himself, despite the constant and untruthful claims by Timmy Crothers that he beats Robbo regularly).

Arguably, nobody beat the former Brylcreem Boy (he used to spend 20 minutes combing his hair after a match) either in the number of appearances made for Cardiff teams. On first team records alone, he ranks No. 3 of all time, behind only Howard Norris and Alun Priday. And he made scores of appearances for the Youth and Cardiff Athletic teams (he did, in fact, captain the Rags for half a season: farmer Lakin was officially skipper but was in such first-team demand that Robbo took over). His name rarely appeared on the scoresheet during these years but one particular try will remain ever etched in the Robinson memory. It was Easter 1975, Cardiff v The Barbarians — and the 91st encounter between the sides before a record crowd on the new Cardiff club ground was a memorable one for everyone. The Barbarians led 7-4, Cardiff ran rampant to lead 21-7, the Baa-Baas retaliated to make it 21-19. And then came the Robinson try to make the result safe at the very end.

Nor has it been just on the rugby pitch or snooker table that the name of Robinson struck fear. He plays golf off eight (or thereabouts, mostly with members of RIGS, the Rugby Internationals Golfing Society) and, with his wife Evelyn, ran and completed the first Western Mail marathon. "I saw JPR Williams on television run the London marathon and thought that if he could do it, then so could I," he will recall. He had a few words from the expert Bernie Plain, went into training for six weeks and was home in 3 hours 40 minutes — "in 365th place. Evelyn was just over 5 hours — a magnificent effort."

Off the rugby scene, Robbo will eat and drink just about anything that is put infront of him—"anything hot to eat, particularly prawns with garlic, curry and so on," says one person close to him, "and anything cold to drink—beer, wine, lager...." But usually only on Saturdays which may explain why he weighs a modest 15 stone 8—while he weighed in at 16 stone 10 when he was playing.

The rest of the time he works for an industrial air filter company and watches any video film which includes shooting, stabbing or choking. (His description, not mine). All of which has to make you wonder whether old coconut head has reformed at all: certainly, I reckon I'd rather have him on my side on any dark night.

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Rugby Quiz - No. 16

Let's test your knowledge of today's visitors

- 1. Alan Martin is Aberavon's most capped player with 34. Who are number 2 and 3?
- 2. Have Aberavon ever won the Welsh Club Championship?
- 3. How many Cup finals have Aberavon contested?
- 4. How many times have Cardiff played Aberavon in The Cup?
- 5. Have Aberavon ever won the Snelling Sevens?

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- 11. A. HADLEY
- 10. G. JOHN
- 9. D. GIBBON
- 1. J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. A. PHILLIPS (Capt.)
- 3. S. BLACKMORE
- 4. M. PARRY
- 5. R. NORSTER
- 6. P. CRANE
- 8. J. SCOTT
- 7. O. GOLDING
- 16. J. SOUTO
- 17. G. PRITCHARD

Full Back

Right Wing

Right Centre Left Centre

Left Wing

Outside Half

Inside Half

Forwards



Replacements

Aberavon

J. GRIFFITHS 15. P. JONES 14.

J. DEVONALD 13.

K. GEORGE 12.

V. LEWIS 11. S. JONES 10.

R. GILES (Capt.) 9.

L. GERRARD 1.

W. JAMES 2. C. YATES 3.

A. MARTIN 4

P. THOMAS

D. MOORE 6.

J. O'CALLAGHAN 8.

P. YARDLEY 7.

D. WILLIAMS 16. R. DIPLOCK 17. Cardiff
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PAST PLAYERS CORNER

This programme appeared for the game of September 28th 1963. It was unusual of course because Cliff Ashton had starred for many a year for Aberavon before joining us. It was just two months after this game that Cliff played in the Cardiff v New Zealand match of 23rd November. And what a titanic struggle that game turned out to be before The All Blacks scraped home by 6 points to 5. In all Cliff played 34 games for Cardiff and scored seven tries in his short stay with Cardiff.

CARDIFF		ABERAVON
1 ALUN PRIDAY	Full Back	GRAHAM YOUNG
2 BYRON THOMAS	Right Wing Right Wing	RON STADDON
3 MEIRION ROBERTS	Right Centre Right Centre	BRYAN JONES Well
4 MIKE HORGAN	Left Centre Left Centre	DAVID THOMAS
5 CYRIL EVANS	Left Wing Left Wing	NEIL EDWARDS Yousel
6 CLIFF ASHTON	Outside Half	CYRIL JONES
7 LLOYD WILLIAMS	Inside Half	EURFYL WILLIAMS
8 JOHN O'SHEA	Forwards	BUIL MORCAN (Cabl.)
9 BILLY THOMAS		PHIL MORGAN (Capt.) DAVID ROWLANDS
O HOWARD NORRIS		LEN CUNNINGHAM
1 JOHN PRICE		JOHN BAMSEY REVOL
2 GRAHAM DAVIES		MAX WILTSHIRE
3 ELWYN WILLIAMS		KEN WHELAN
4 CLIFF HOWE	The	DENYS PERRY
5 DAI HAYWARD (Capt.)	POATH	OMRI JONES
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Rugby Quiz No. 16 - Answers

- 1. Ned Jenkins (1927-32) with 21 and Billy James (present) with 18.
- 2. Yes, season 1960-61.
- 3. Twice against Llanelli, lost both in 1974 and 1975.
- 4. 3 times, semi final at Bridgend 1973-74 we lost 9-4, third round 1975-76 home we lost 16-12, semi-final at Swansea 1976-77 we won 15-6.
- 5. No.



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G. JOHN	19	2	49	130	38	4	77	209
G. CORDLE	19	13		52	92(1)	69	lottou	276
M. RING	18	11	3	51	125	60	72	413
A. HADLEY	24	12	-	48	155	97		388
M. RAYER	24	2	16	48	55(1)	10	16	80
D. EVANS	8	1	16	41	33(1)	6	52	148
G. ROBERTS	21	9	-	36	72	23	I	92
G. DAVIES	10	7	_	28	10	7		28
R. CARDUS	14	6	<u> </u>	24	14	6		24
T. CROTHERS	18	5	- 12 K	20	90(1)	23		92
A. DONOVAN	23	4		16	118	17		68
C. NORMAN	3(1)	4		16	3(1)	4	-	16
C. WEBBER	5	1	4	13	89(7)	17	103	334
N. O'BRIEN	11(1)	3	_	12	37(10)	12		48
A. PHILLIPS	15	3		12	375	140	T	560
R. LAKIN	18(1)	3	-	12	240(3)	58	7	232
P. RING	3	2	_	8	3	2	-	8
J. SCOTT	12	2	1 - 1	8	229(2)	35	- 15	140
G. PRITCHARD	8(4)	2	- 7	8	8(4)	2	41-0	8
R. NORSTER	17	1		4	228	13		52
J. SOUTO	10(2)	1	14-11	4	40(10)	4	-	16
M. PARRY	15	1		4	15	1	THE .	4
I. EIDMAN	9	1		4	199	3	_	12
K. EDWARDS	11	1		4	150	13	_	52
D. WRIGHT	4	1	in = m	4	5(1)	1		4
H. STONE	7	1	A-TO	4	85(1)	11	-	44
S. BLACKMORE	13	1		4	50	2	-	8
N. HUMPHREYS	2	1	-	4	7(1)	4	-	16
J. BURNELL	2	1	4 - 18	4	2	1	_	4
J. HOWELLS	1	_	2	4	4(2)	3	2	16
J. WHITEFOOT	19	-	E -	-	227	7	-	28
C. COLLINS	14	-	D-M		61(2)	- 1		4
P. CRANE	7	-		-	12	_	_	_
O. GOLDING	5		2117/18/00	NAME OF	142(2)	47		188

Also played: 4 - I. Greenslade, D. Gibbon (+2); 3 - T. Charles, M. Rowley, C. Jones; 2-S. Cannon, R. Bilton, M. Hadley(+1); 1-D. Conway, A. Mogridge, R. Rees.

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By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

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This, Clive Norling demonstrated so well in his control of the Cardiff v Bath

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In effect it is the one Law that can be played without blowing the whistle and it is important that the referee quickly achieves consistency in his own interpretation of the Advantage Law. This comes with experience, patience and a good understanding of the game.

The ONLY occasions when advantage does not apply are:

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- 3. When a player is 'accidentally off-side'.

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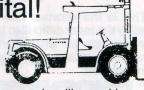
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Cardiff Rugby Club 1986-87

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1986 SEPTE	EMBER			Sat.	20 26	Cross Keys (Cup) Pontypridd	A 19-6 H 21-28
Mon.	1	St. Peters	A 27-12	Sat.	27	Bridgend	H 9-9
Wed.	3	Glamorgan Wanderers	H 22-13	-		211490114	
Sat.	6	East District	H 30-9	1987			
Wed.	10	Bristol	A 14-27	JANL	JARY		
Sat.	13	Neath	A 7-24	Thur.	1	Bath	H 32-21
Sat.	20	Coventry	H 22-4	Sat.	3	Moseley	H 38-13
Wed.	24	Pontypridd	A 39-12	Sat.	10	Aberavon	H
Sat.	27	Aberavon	A 22-26	Fri.	16	City of Derry	H
0.070			AND DESIGNATION OF THE PARTY OF	Sat.	24	Llanharan (Cup)	H
ОСТО		Managera	11.00.04	Sat.	31	Llanelli	Α
Sat. Wed.	4	Newport	H 28-21 A 18-29				
Sat.	11	Bridgend Northampton	H 35-4		RUARY		
Sat.	18	Wasps	A 16-25	Fri.	6	Maesteg	Α
Wed.	22	Pontypool	H 17-11	Sat.	14	Bristol	H
Sat.	25	Harlequins	H 26-19	Sat.	21	Ebbw Vale	H
Wed.	29	Bath	A 9-28	Sat.	28	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	
weu.	20	Datii	A 3-20		011		
NOVE	MBER			MAR			
Sat.	1	Leicester	H 16-10	Fri.	6	London Welsh	H
Wed.	5	Oxford University	H 35-24	Sat.	14	Pontypool	Α
Sat.	8	Ebbw Vale	A 30-24	Wed.	18	Penarth	H
Sat.	15	Treorchy (Cup)	A 14-7	Sat.	28	Newport (S.F. W.R.U. Cup	o) A
Sat.	22	Llanelli	H 16-16	APRI	THE P		
Wed.	26	Newbridge	A 18-15	Wed.		S. Glam, Institute	Н
Sat.	29	Bangor (N.I.)	H 21-14	Sat.	4	Bedford	Α
DECE	MDED		The state of the s	Sat.	11	Swansea	H
Sat.	10	Swansea	A 14-19	Sat.	18	Barbarians	Н
Sat.	13	London Welsh	A 12-25	Sat.	25	Neath	H
Gat.	10	London Weish	A 12-23	Jai.	20	146411	11

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1986		DECEMBER		
SEPTEMBER	and White the continues of the last	Sat. 6	Swansea Athletic	H 20-11
Wed. 3 Glamorgan Wanderers II	A 35-20	Wed. 10	Cardiff & District	H 22-7
Sat. 6 Kidwelly	H 36-16	Sat. 13	Risca	H 7-11
Wed, 10 Bristol United	H 23-27	Sat. 20	Neath Athletic	H 10-25
Sat. 13 Maesteg Celtic	H 20-16	Sat. 27	Bridgend Sports	A 17-12
Wed. 17 Garndiffaith	A 25-9		Diagona opone	
Sat. 20 Coventry Extras	A 16-12	1987		
Wed. 24 Old Illtydians	H 18-9	JANUARY		
Sat. 27 Abercynon	H 35-20	Sat. 3	Moseley United	A 0-28
odt. 27 Aberdynen	11 00 20	Sat. 10	Llanharan	Α
OCTOBER		Sat. 24	Bath United	H
Sat. 4 Newport United	A 43-30	Sat. 31	Pontypool United	H
Wed. 8 Bridgend Sports	H 28-29	FEBRUARY		
Sat. 11 Neath Athletic	A 25-31	Sat. 7	Bridgend Ravens	H
Wed. 15 Resolven	H 70-0	Wed. 11	Pencoed	H
Sat. 18 St. Peters	H Post.	Sat. 14	Bristol United	Α
Wed. 22 Pontypool Athletic	A 9-37	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale Athletic	Α
Sat. 25 Tondu	A 10-23			
Wed. 29 Pyle	A 12-23	MARCH		
		Wed. 11	Pontypridd Athletic	H
NOVEMBER		Sat. 14	Pontypool Athletic	H
Sat. 1 Leicester Extras	A 4-27	Tue. 17	Abercynon	Α
Wed. 5 Newport Saracens	A 8-15	Wed. 25	Maesteg Celtic	Α
Sat. 8 Ebbw Vale Athletic	H 13-7	Sat. 28	Newport United	Н
Wed. 12 Pontypridd Athletic	A 17-25	APRIL		
Sat. 15 Pontypool United	A 32-15	Sat. 4	Caerleon	H
Wed, 19 Bedwas	H Post.	Wed. 8	Bedwas	Α
Sat. 22 Bridgend Ravens	A 24-21	Sat. 11	Swansea Athletic	Α
Wed. 26 Berry Hill	H Post.	Wed. 15	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	Н
Sat. 29 Abercarn	A 19-34	Mon. 20	Blackwood	H
		The state of the s		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

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