



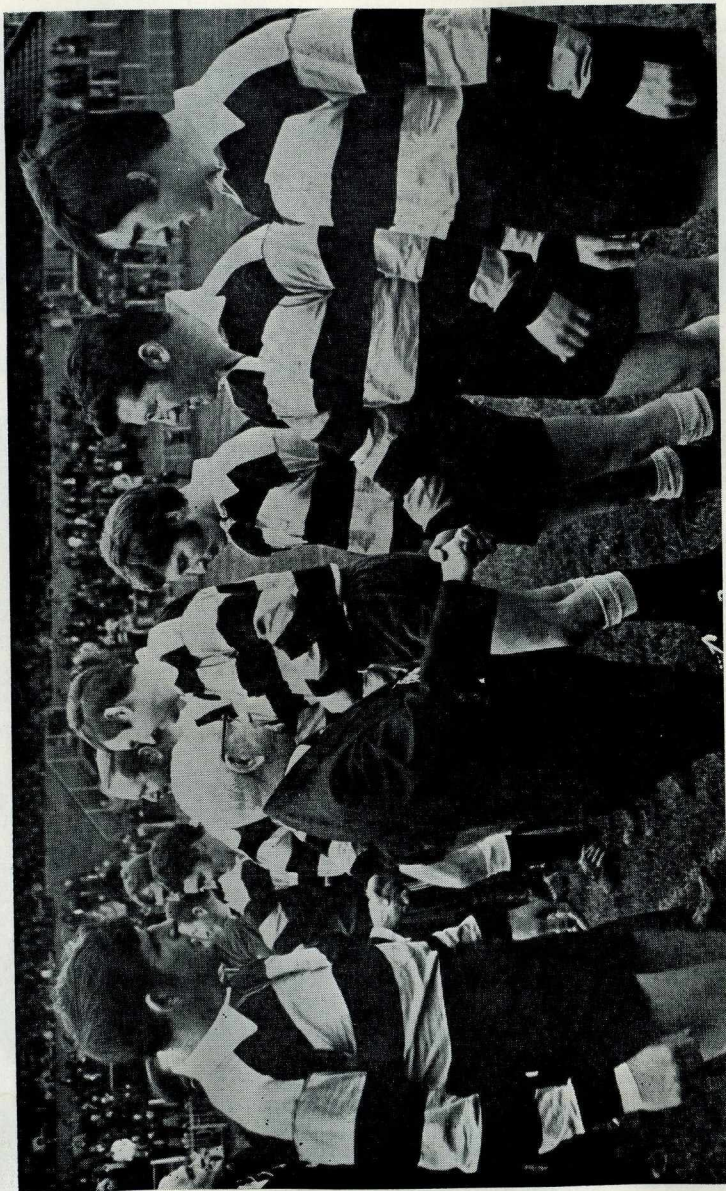
Welsh Brewers
LTD

RUGBY
ANNUAL
FOR
WALES
1971-72

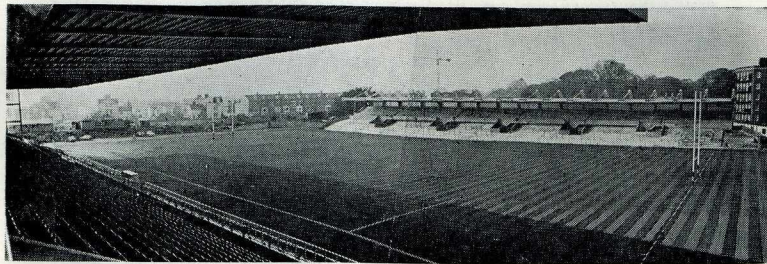


'GRAND SLAM' EDITION

20p



Cardiff captain John Hickey introduces his team to the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman T. E. Merrells, before the match to mark the official opening of the Cardiff RFC new ground. The Lord Mayor shakes hands with Mike Knill.



Cardiff move 'next door' to set up their new home

CARDIFF 17, WRU PRESIDENT'S XV 8

As a result of handing over their historic ground to the WRU for it to become the National Stadium, Cardiff RFC moved to their new pitch on what used to be the cricket ground, adjoining the National Stadium. This was opened officially when the club played a team assembled by Ken Harris, the president of the WRU, on October 31, 1970.

It marked a new era for the famous Cardiff club, though they will play any future matches against major touring teams on the National Stadium. This new ground looks admirably compact and efficient for the needs of the club, holding some 5,000 spectators seated in the two stands with room for 10,000 standing.

Robin Williams, the Cardiff full back, provided 14 of his side's 17 points with goal kicks. He dropped a magnificent goal from 55 yards, converted the only try by his side (scored by hooker Meirion Davies) and landed three penalty goals, one from 50 yards. The outstanding forward of the match was Roger Lane, the home club's No. 8 who joined them from Abertillery and made a big impact with his all-round ability during the season.

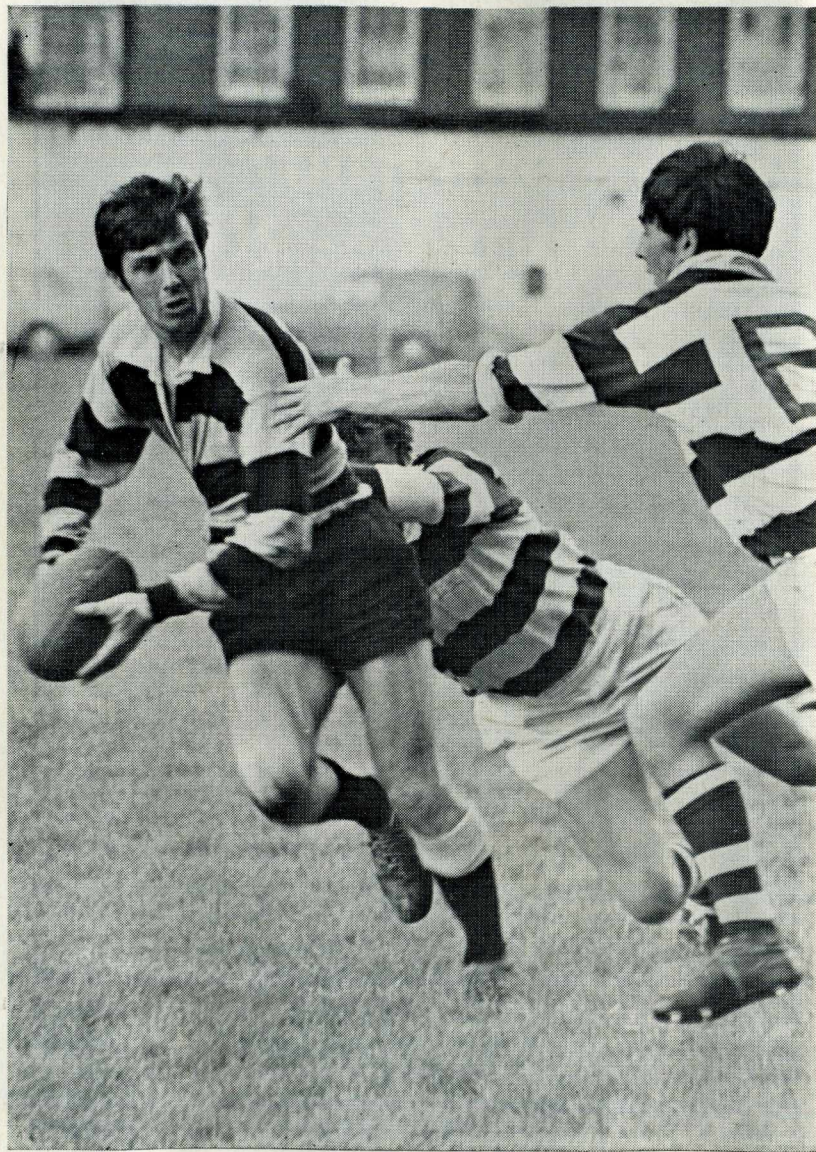
The weather was unkind and players had to contend with slippery conditions; but both sides tried to make it an open and interesting contest, with Barry John a skilful fly half for Cardiff.

CARDIFF: Robin Williams; P. L. Jones, A. D. Williams, H. Jenkins, J. C. Bevan; B. John, G. Samuel; M. Knill, M. Davies, R. Beard, I. Robinson, M. Braithwaite, J. Hickey (capt.), R. Lane, M. John

WRU PRESIDENT'S XV: T. J. Kiernan (*Cork and Ireland, capt.*); John Williams (*Bridgend*), Cyril Evans (*Newbridge*), I. Hall (*Aberavon and Wales*), W. Lewis (*Llanelli*); W. H. Raybould (*Newport and Wales*), R. Hopkins (*Maesteg and Wales*); Leighton Thomas (*Bridgend*), R. S. S. Harris (*Penryn*), Mel James (*Swansea*), A. Martin (*Cardiff College of Education and Aberavon*), R. Penberthy (*Pontypridd*), T. Cobner (*Pontypool*), W. Lauder (*Neath and Scotland*), T. David (*Pontypridd*).

Referee: Ron Lewis (*Llangynwyd*).

Scorers: For Cardiff, M. Davies (try); Robin Williams (3PG, 1DG, 1 con.). For President's XV, John Williams, Ian Hall (tries); Lauder (1 con.).



Barry John in action for Cardiff against Bristol

Rugby Annual for Wales *PLAYER OF THE YEAR*

BARRY JOHN

Is he the greatest ever? Certainly after Barry John's breathtaking brilliance in 1970-71 no-one can claim that there has been a more complete outside half. He possesses the audacity of Percy Bush, the tactical judgment of Billy Trew, the side-stepping genius of Cliff Jones and Cliff Morgan, the kicking control of Billy Cleaver and, above all, that nonchalance which Golden Boy Lewis Jones imparted to the rugby scene in the early 1950s.

Barry John is the obvious choice as Player of the Year. He was the genius of the Welsh team, scoring tries that almost defied description. For Cardiff, he dropped four goals against his former club, Llanelli, at the new Arms Park ground in November. In the club's 95 years' history no-one had ever recorded that astonishing feat. He thought about dropping a fifth goal, but saw a gap and attempted a try instead!

For Wales, he has dropped a record number of eight goals. Two of them came last January against England at Cardiff. In the four international matches of 1971, John collected 31 points to equal the previous highest aggregate by Keith Jarrett in 1969. Now, with 55 points in 22 appearances, John is fifth in the overall list of scorers for Wales. Ahead of him are Jack Bancroft (88), Keith Jarrett (73), W. J. Bancroft (60) and Reggie Gibbs (57).

John scored 114 points for Cardiff in 1970-71 as the club's top scorer. After his two dropped goals against England, he scored a dazzling try against Scotland, converted one and kicked a penalty goal. Ireland were next to suffer as he dropped his inevitable goal, converted a try and landed two penalty kicks.

Then to Paris for a penalty goal and another thrilling try — and a great display of courageous tackling, even after a severe nose injury and a recurrence of the concussion he suffered at Murrayfield. The 26 year old superman from Cefneithin has been called a late developer in the game. But it has been well worth waiting for him to emerge as the most exciting rugby player in the world.