

WE MAKE OUR ROUNDS A DIFFERENT WAY TODAY.



BUT THE ROUNDS ARE JUST THE SAME.

BRAINS

LOOKING FORWARD FROM A PROUD PAST.



Cardiff v. Aberavon

SATURDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 1987 KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

That great old Cardiff forward Maurice Braithwaite was also a singer of some accomplishment. His rendition of "September Song" was quite classic and very pleasing to the ear. I wonder what Maurice and many many others are now thinking of our own current "September Song"? There's no doubt, as I write in these notes, about the same time last season, it's a tailor made situation for the Jeremiahs and Prophets of Doom. It also appears that we are far more news worthy when we are having a bit of a bad run rather than winning game after game. Well we aren't alone in that situation. Look at poor old "EI Tel" in Barcelona. After being elevated to virtual deity status for his previous success, three defeats to start the current season has seen him thrown out on his halo. I'm sure he won't have to go on Social Security though not for a few weeks anyway.

So the question on everyone's lips is when did we have such a disappointing start to the season. We have to go back to 1982-83 for that when we lost the first three games outright. This season however, we couldn't have had a better start by winning at Bristol when we luanched the home club's centenary season. They were obviously hell-bent on winning to get their celebrations under way in what would have been an idyllic start for them. Bob Norster and his boys put paid to that idea however, but perhaps we flattered to deceive because the next four games came and went without a victory to our credit in the shape of two defeats and two draws. That draw situation is quite unusual on its own account because here we are with September still to run its course, and we have to go back as far as 1970-71 to find when more draws were recorded during the whole of the season. During that year, six games ended even, but since then two have been the most.

We only have to go back to last year however for our last sequence of four games without victory when during December we suffered three defeats and a draw. Things took a turn for the better last Wednesday however with that good win at Pontypridd. The home side were in confident mood of being able to extend our misery. They cited the fact that they had hammered Coventry who had subsequently beaten us. Form counts for nothing though and by winning in a scoreline that included three tries to one, let's hope it signals the fact that our show is back on the road and we can look for better times ahead. Bob Norster and the players at his command certainly have the talent and the vast reserve of experience to do this. Another point is due to the injury and unavailability we have yet to put our best team on the field. History teaches us that there's nothing new in history, it all happened before and it will probably all happen again. Mind we have had plenty of advice from some of the younger elements of the press whose pens have been virtually overflowing with the elixir of recovery and success.

A glance at your fixture list will show you that we have started to wind down on the treadmill of Wednesday games. Only two first class games will take place in mid-week during October. A further glance however will show you just how tough they are. Another date for your diary too is Monday, November 9th next when Cardiff in conjunction with Welsh Brewers and The W.R.U. will play against the Rest of Wales XV on our ground. The game will commemorate the arrival of the famous Hancock family to Cardiff to set up a Brewery. More of this in the next home programme.

So it's back to today and just where rugby belongs — Saturday afternoon. Well, first and foremost it's a very warm welcome to our old friends from Aberavon — The Wizards for this the 112th game in the series. At this point in time Aberavon are trying to shake off the disappointment of the struggle they had last season. Things went very wrong for them especially with departures to other clubs of key players. This all meant seven more defeats were registered than wins in their 48 games. In order to provide some new impetus into their set up they decide to take a leaf out of near neighbour Neath's book and appoint a team manager. There was no better man than John Richardson to fill this roll and he was duly appointed. During his playing days with the Wizards he was an extremely durable prop and won three Welsh caps. Since his retirement from the game he has become a very successful businessman and his ambition now is to help his old side get back to the days when they were successive finalists in the Schweppes Cup during the 1970's.

Aberavon's record against Cardiff is as good as any, having won 40 of the 111 previous games with 6 draws and 65 defeats. Also of their 40 wins, 12 of them have been in Cardiff which is far better than many. The last two of that string of 12 came as something of a shock to us as well. Their last win at Cardiff came in September 1981 when they came with a wing and a prayer side which was finally settled on the coach and the one prior to that in 1976 when out of the blue they beat us in the 3rd round of the Cup by 16 points to 12.

Their current season has not exactly gone off with a bang having lost to Glamorgan Wanderers, John Bevan Memorial XV, Llanelli and Ebbw Vale but they started putting their act together last Saturday with a convincing win over Newbridge. On the better side of things Mike Lewis certainly seems to have found his kicking boots again this season following on his 287 points last year. Their squad also includes three of the Under 19 squad who recently toured New Zealand. On the debit side, however injury is again taking its toll particularly with that excellent back row man Tim Fauvel. So a win today would be a big fillip for manager John Richardson and his side. To Aberavon then welcome once again to Cardiff; we hope you enjoy your day.

As you can see from the results at the back of this programme The Rags are also blowing rather hot and cold with three wins, two defeats and a draw. So it's been left to the Youth side to keep the club on the glory road. This they had done in magnificent fashion because they have won all six games played including the strong colts sides of Bristol and Leicester, both away, and amassed over 200 points. This years squad appear to be the best we have had for quite a few years due to the fact that lads still in full time education can participate in youth rugby. Their strength will be tested prior to this afternoon's game when they meet Liverpool/St. Helens, a side who defeated them 31-15 whilst on tour at the end of last season. More about the youth team in the next home programme.

Finally today we would like to thank Austin Grey Marketing Ltd for their generous sponsorship or today's game. We hope they and their guests enjoy the occasion.

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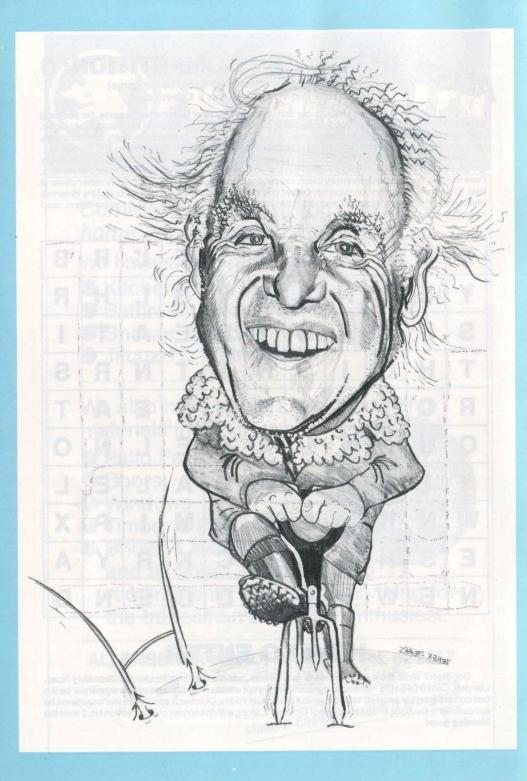
OWEN DAVIES, of Llantwit Major, is our first competition winner from the Neath game, his postcard being drawn by Cardiff captain Bob Norster to win the £10 voucher to be spent in the Cardiff Rugby shop. Well done, Owen, for listing the hidden players: Cardus, Cordle, Crane, Crothers, Donovan, Eidman, Evans, Hadley, John, Lakin, Norster, Parry, Phillips, Rayer, Ring, Roberts, Scott, Souto, Stone and Whitefoot.

Today, you have to find the hidden names of 15 clubs included in this season's Cardiff fixture list. There are also three Scottish clubs and a French team which are no part of the contest, but a word of warning, there is also a 'rogue' team which may catch you out (included because you are all clearly rather clever at this). To win the £10 voucher, donated by ADsport and to be spent in the Cardiff club shop, find the 15 names which may be spelt backwards, forwards, downwards, upwards diagonally and the same letters used more than once (and we're not even giving you one as a guide this time.)

R	E	T	S	E	C	1	E	L	R	*B
Y	E	L	N	A	M	Y	G	L	Н	R
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T	Н	0		S	H	Т	T	N	R	S
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0	U	G*	A	L	A	E	E	L	N	0
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E	S	H*	A	W	1	C	K	R	Y	A
(N [*]	E	W	B∗	R		D	G	E	N	D

HOW TO ENTER

Got them? Write them on a postcard only please and send it to: ADsport, 145 Pencisely Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 1DN, remembering to write on it your own name and address. The winner will be the first correct entry (or nearest) to be drawn out of a box on Friday, October 2, and the winner's name will be announced in the Bridgend programme of October 7, along with the winner of Competition No. 2 from the Maesteg game.



QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

WHEN QUIDNUNC first started to research material for the victim of today's symposium, it was suggested by one of the more reliable of stool-pigeons that he should give it up as a bad job and print merely a blank page with the note that this was the sum total of the publishable material. Merlin, as he is known to some, performs his wizardry in many ways, for many people but with considerable mystery.

Anyone who has ever tried to find Albert Francis will know that he is an illusionist extraordinaire. You seek him here, you seek him there — and he has always just left.

If you're at the Arms Park, he's at Sophia Gardens; if you're at Sophia Gardens, he's at the Arms Park. If, by some magic, you're at both, he's at Cardiff Golf Club. Or was. Or will be. Perhaps.

The only certainty is that Albert, one of the most instantly recognisable and most popular figures around the Cardiff Club, will be there on match day, his ground proudly and immaculately dressed.

"He can," says one friend, "fix anything. Rugby balls, golf tournaments, dustbins, cricket bats. Merlin is a magician who conjures up anything out of nothing. He has the biggest list of contacts in Wales. You name it, he will find it. Take grass seed"

"Don't mention grass seed," says another friend. "He said he'd fix the perfect seed for my lawn. You should see it now."

"Awful, is it?" I inquire solicitously and sympathetically.

"Terrible. It works so fast I have to cut the perishing lawn every Sunday."

But then, if Albert Francis doesn't know about grass who does? He may not know much about measuring — in the early days of county cricket at Sophia Gardens he actually produced a wicket that was a foot short and nobody noticed: but not a word to Lord's about that — but grass is at his roots, if you'll forgive the pun.

And so long as you don't tread on one of his white touchlines — as a friend and I know to our cost — he'll tell you about it rhapsodically. Albert's been buried in grass since he was 15 when he left school in Llanelli to go into horticulture. He didn't really become involved in turf until he was 22 and since then, apart from 14 years as turf advisory manager with Fison's, he's been looking after grounds ever since. Mind you, his introduction to the Cardiff Club did not augur well what with floods and arctic conditions and England winning at Cardiff for the last time (ever?).

Floods have also affected Albert's domesticity at Sophia Gardens but I won't go into that either: it is not easy to row boats up Cathedral Road after a night out.

An enthusiastic golfer — he allegedly plays off 11 but generally manages, according to those who play against him, to partner someone with a handicap of 30+, or who has never hit a golf ball in his life and who comes in with par figures. "Albert seems to organise a charity golf match twice a month," says one who has suffered financially, "and wins at least one of them."

"His golf is like his skills on the ground," says another alleged friend. "He makes it look easy but no one knows how it's done. But that is part of the Merlin syndrome — getting things done without even appearing to, apart from making interminable phone calls."

And receiving them. Albert is also father confessor to top rugby players and cricket stars, with whom he has a remarkable affinity. Not that his methods always pay the correct dividends. I do not refer here to the allegations that he can produce wickets on which opposition bowlers can somehow find swing and lift and bounce while their batsmen make strokes and centuries.

No, I refer, for recent example, to his attempts to assist Glamorgan by introducing Derbyshire wicketkeeper Bernie Maher to the wonders one evening of rugby football and Brain's dark in the players' bar.

Next day at the crease at Sophia Gardens, Maher complained bitterly of not feeling 100 per cent.

But he still managed to strike the last ball of the match for six to give Derbyshire victory.

Now then, Merlin, when you take those oranges on the field at half-time today, and if the scoreboard is not looking too healthy, perhaps an injection of similar tactics might not come amiss.

In return, I promise that I will not set foot inside those white lines again for any purpose: none of us want the pitch unkempt for television.



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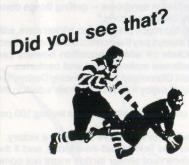
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Rugby Quiz - No. 3

With records in mind, let's see if you can remember even as little a while back as last season.

- 1. Who were the two sides that won on the Arms Park last season?
- 2. Did we fail to score in any of our 47 games?
- 3. Did we concede any penalty tries?
- 4. Who was our top try scoring forward?
- 5. What was our lowest points for score?



If not - see me!

J. Warren Hailes

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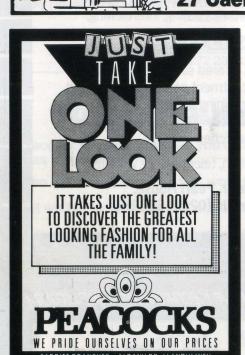
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GERALD CORDLE DAVID EVANS PP

ALUN DONOVAN

ADRIAN HADLEY

GERAINT JOHN P

ANDY MOORE JEFF WHITEFOOT

IAN GREENSLADE

IAN EIDMAN

MIKE PARRY

ROBERT NORSTER (Captain)

TIM CROTHERS

JOHN SCOTT

MAC KNOWLES

CHRIS GREEDY

17. RICHARD WILLIAMS

Full Back

Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre

Left Wing

Outside Half Inside Half **Forwards**

PETER JONES 14.

GARY MATTHEWS 12.

LEIGHTON GERRARD

MOIOGEN BILLIE JAMES

NIGEL SPENDER

MARK WATTS

CHRISTOPHER O'CALLAGHAN

GERALD WILLIAMS 7.

> **KEVIN GEORGE PAUL MORGAN**

Aberavon

STEFAN JONES 15.

GARETH THOMAS 13.

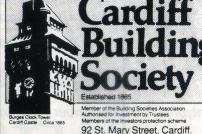
EDWARD ELLIS 11.

MIKE LEWIS 10.

RAYMOND GILES (Captain)

Knight GARY RICHARDSON

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN



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Rugby Quiz No. 3 - Answers

- 1. Pontypridd 26th December 1986 and Ebbw Vale 21st February 1987.
- 2. No.
- 3. Yes, three against Bridgend A; Ebbw Vale A; Maesteg A.
- Gareth Roberts 13.
- 5. Seven in the 24-7 defeat by Neath at The Gnoll.

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STATISTICAL CARDIFF

Posts P	Season			Career				
Optober 18th	App.	Tr.	Goals	Pts.	Арр.	Tr.	Goals	Pts.
G. JOHN	2		7	16	52	7	129	347
A. HADLEY	2	2	STEEN TO	8	168	103	-	412
M. RAYER	2	2	-	8	71(1)	15	19	120
G. CORDLE	2	1	_	4	109(1)	84	1	338
R. CARDUS	2	1		4	27	14	I STRONG	56
R. NORSTER	2	1	-	4	236	14	ud Civime	56
A. DONOVAN	2	4-6	M - 17 18		130	18	n Weish	72
C. HUTCHINGS	2	-	W. Town		15	1		4
A. PHILLIPS	2	-	-	-	393	143	_	572
S. BLACKMORE	2	Q# <u>1</u>			62	3	-	12
M. PARRY	2		-	20 -	30	1	_	4
T. CROTHERS	2	10 Table			97(1)	23	tar - is	92
R. LAKIN	2				254(3)	59	bleck	236
C. COLLINS	1	-	-		72(2)	2	-	8
O. GOLDING	1	GA_A	FV LELEZ		148(2)	49		196
R. BILTON	1		-		3			
P. CRANE	1	-	_	-	20	1	1 - 1	4

* Total includes one penalty try.

P 2 W 2 D 0 L 0 F 48 A 19 Tries 8 Cons 5 Pens 2 Drops 0 [Not including the last five games]

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

In January 1976 Aberavon came to The Arms Park in the 3rd Round of the Schweppes Cup as firm underdogs. Cardiff were winning the game by 12 points to 10 more comfortably than the score suggested. Suddenly however Aberavon broke away from their own line and a series of fly kicks to the ball took them right up to the Cardiff line where the Wizards applied to coup de grâce to win by 16 points to 12 and stun Cardiff in the process. Below are the teams who took part that day. Can you spot the sole survivor who plays again today.

15 J. DAVIES	Full Back P. BESSAN	T
14. Gerald DAVIES	Right Wing S. ROPE	R
13. P. EVANS	Right Centre A. REE	S
12. A. A. J. FINLAYSON	Left Centre J. THOMAS	S
11. P. L. JONES	Left Wing K. JAME	S
10. Gareth DAVIES	Outside Half G. REE	S
9. B. WILLIAMS	Inside Half A. N. OTHE	3
1. M. KNILL	Forwards C. WILLIAM	3
2. A. PHILLIPS	W. JAME	2000
3. G. WALLACE	J. RICHARDSOI	
4. I. ROBINSON	A. MARTII	u
5. P. RAWLINS	W. MAINWARING	
6 S. LANE	R. DAVIES (Capt.	
8 R. LANE	P. CLARK	
7 M. JOHN	O. ALEXANDE	A
R D JONES	Substitutes K. EVAN	S
D WILSON	L. KEAN	E

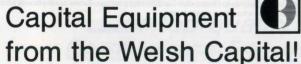
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October 16th (Friday) Race Night

November 20th (Friday) Big Band Concert

December 16th (Wednesday) Bayarian Party Night

16 (Sat) Ebbw Vale

January 15th (Friday)

Country and Western

February 12th (Friday)

Frank Hennessy

March 25th (Friday)

Race Night, Youth Team Funds

April 15th (Friday) Annual Dinner

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KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

QUESTION: At the scrummage near the goal line, the attacking side has the ball at the

feet of the No.8 and in the field of play. The scrum half picks up the ball and dives through and touches the legs of his legally bound forwards.

Is this Obstruction under Law 26(1)(c)?

ANSWER:

It is for the referee to judge whether the player is forcing his way through the scrummage formation and obtaining obstructive protection from his forwards.

Usually the scrum half merely picks up and dives through gaps which appear and this should be allowed as long as the referee does not see players standing up to deliberately form a protective wall by linking arms, holding or backing into opponents.

It is important for the forward to remain legally bound and that they do not stand up and cause an obvious obstruction.

Each situation on the field must be judged as it appears to the referee. It is his decision alone and he should take no account of statements such as "exactly the same thing happened last game and we were not penalised."

Referees are there to be the "sole judge of fact" and many of their decisions may be "marginal" or "arguable". Often a "gut reaction" to obstruction or the lack of it is a very good guideline.

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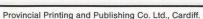
Cardiff Rugby Club 1987-88

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1987 SEPT	EMBEF				1988 JANU			
Wed.	2	Taffs Well (Centenary)	A 28-4	ertous	Sat.	2	Bath	H
Sat. Wed.	5	Bristol (Centenary) Glamorgan Wanderers	A 20-15 A 6-6	Teb	Sat.	9	Aberavon Ebbw Vale	A
Sat.	12	Neath	H 6-35		Sat.	23	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	A
Wed.	16	Maesteg	H 9-9	1188	Sat.	30	Llanelli	Н
Sat.	19	Coventry	A 14-21	1	Oat.	00	Lianem	11
Wed.	23	Pontypridd	A 18-16					
Sat.	26	Aberavon	H	-		UARY	The state of the s	
OCTO	RER			A Sept And	Sat.	6	London Welsh	A
Sat.	3	Newport	Α		Sat.	13 27	Newport	н
Wed.	7	Bridgend	H	HD BU	Sal.	21	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	
Sat.	10	Northampton	Α	Figure				
Wed.	14	Pontypool	Α	Sections	MAR	Control of the last	and in balblad.	
Sat.	17	Cambridge University	H	MAN AND	Wed.	1	Bristol	Н
Wed.	21	Caerphilly (Centenary)	Α	The state of	Sat.	12	Pontypool	H
Sat.	24	Harlequins	Α	No.	Wed.	16	Penarth	A
Sat.	31	Moseley	H		Sat. Mon.	26 28	W.R.U. Cup Semi Final	A
NOVE	MBER			1000	MON.	28	Newport	A
Sat.	7	Leicester	Α	A and b				
Wed.	11	Oxford	H		APRIL			
Sat.	14	Ebbw Vale	H	THE ST	Sat.	2	Barbarians	H
Sat.	21	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round		A 12 2	Tue.	5	Llanelli	Α
Sat.	28	Llanelli	Α	The same	Sat.	9	Swansea	A
DECE	MBER			400	Sat.	16	Neath	A
Wed.	2	Newbridge	H	Tay The	Sat. Wed.	23	Wasps	H
Sat.	5	Swansea	H		Sat.	30	Barry (Centenary) Nottingham	A
Sat.	12	London Welsh	H	- The same	Sal.	30	Nottingnam	П
Sat.	19	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round	GB.SWIROG	S SERVIN				
Sat.	26	Pontypridd	H	A THE REAL PROPERTY.	MAY	-	Age to the Day Labor Co.	
Mon.	28	Bridgend	A		Sat.	7	W.R.U. Cup Final	

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1987				Sat.	19	Newport Saracens	н
	EMBEF			Sat.	26	Rumney	A
Sat. Wed. Sat.	5 9 12	Bristol United Glamorgan Wanderers II Kenfig Hill	H 21-26 H 17-8 A 65-4	1988 JANU	ARY		
Wed. Sat.	16	Bridgend Sports Coventry Extras	A 19-19 H 77-4	Sat. Sat.	2 9	Bath United Neath Athletic	A H
Wed.	23	Llandaff	H 10-16	Sat. Sat.	16 23	Ebbw Vale United Llandaff	H
Sat. Tue.	29	St. Peters Pontypool United	A	Sat.	30	Pontyclun	A
ОСТС	BER			FEBR Sat.	UARY 6	Reading	Α
Sat.	3	Newport United Neath Athletic	H	Sun.	7	Abbey	A
Wed.	14	Pontypool Athletic	H	Sat. Sat.	13	Newport United Pencoed	A
Sat. Wed.	17	Bridgend Ravens Cardiff & District	A H	MARC		rencoed	7
Sat.	24	Abercarn	H	Wed.	1	Bristol United	A
Wed. Sat.	28 31	Garndiffaith Moseley United	H	Sat. Sat.	5	Maesteg Celtic Pontypool Athletic	A
	MBER			Wed.	16	Bedwas	H
Sat.	7	Leicester Extras	H	Fri.	18	Risca	A
Wed.	11	Caerphilly Ebbw Vale Athletic	A	Wed. Wed.	23 30	Pontypool United Cardiff H.S.O.B.	H A
Sat.	21	Berry Hill	A	APRIL	100		
Sat.	28	Bridgend Ravens	H	Mon.	4	Blackwood	A
	MBER			Sat. Tue.	9	Swansea Athletic Llanharan	H
Sat.	5	Swansea Athletic Llanharan	A	Sat. Sat.	16 23	Bridgend Sports Mumbles	H A





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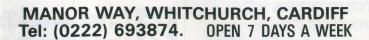
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