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Cardiff v. Pontypool

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1988 KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

Last Saturday's goings on next door have certainly kept the adrenalin level of Welsh Rugby coursing through its veins at maximum pressure. What a game it was with such marvellous spectator value. One breathless and ardent fan confessed that although he had a nice seat in the stand for the first time in ages he spent more time on his feet than his backside in praise of the wonderful on-field activities. He wasn't complaining however and neither were many others.

That marvellous atmosphere should again abound today albeit in a more diverse and parochial manner as the Cup quarter finals get underway. From our own point of view the very second we came out of the hat at home to Pontypool we knew we had a full house on our hands. Furthermore the gate today will consist of totally committed and unashamedly partisan supporters urging their respective heroes to a spot in tomorrow's semi-final draw.

To this end Lady Luck has at least bestowed a glimmer of a smile on us at long last as far as the Cardiff 'Pooler' connection goes in The Schweppes Cup. Today will see us cross swords for the seventh time but it will be a first time for the venue to be The Arms Park. Five of the previous outings have been on 'Poolers' own patch with the remaining one at Rodney Parade, Newport.

Where did it all start then. Well we have to go back to the inaugural year of the Cup 1971-72 to answer that one. We had won our respective home games previously during that season before we defeated 'Pooler' by 10-3 on their ground on 19th January 1972. A gap of four years then intervened before our next meeting in season 1976-77. This was our centenary season and we had already lost at 'Pooler' by 15-4 before our Cup visit in February 1977. We managed victory by dint of a 10 all draw but we scored 2 tries to 1. We went on to compete in the final that year but eventually lost out to Newport 16-15 which was a great disappointment to our centenary celebrations.

The 1976-77 game however became the first of three consecutive visits to Pontypool as we were drawn to play there during the following two seasons. The 1977-78 clash turned out to be another famous occasion from our point of view also. We had previously drawn at Cardiff 7-7, and won at Pontypool by 12-6. 'Pooler' were by now getting a little fed up with us being their regular reason for their Cup demise. So 'Pross' and Terry Cobner had something special prepared for this our third Cup encounter on 19th January 1978. From the kick off they threw everything at us, had vast territorial advantage throughout the game and scored 11 points. For our part we had managed some four sorties into 'Pooler' territory but each visit resulted in a try due to a masterful performance by the immaculate and inimitable Gerald Davies. It was hard for Pontypool to swallow that result because it was only the final scoreline that went against them on the day.

The game the following season 1978-79 was memorable inasmuch as it took four attempts to get it off the ground, Pontypool's again of course. After three had fallen victim to the arctic conditions of that winter we finally got underway on 24th February 1979. We won again on the day by 23-12 and Pooler were beginning to wonder if we had the Indian Sign on them as far as the Cup was concerned.

We were kept apart until our paths crossed again in season 1982-83. And that proved triumphant all the way for 'Pooler'. This fifth attempt came on 26th February 1983 at Pontypool again and resulted in their first success by 13-9. They also saw us off in both home and away games by 12-6 and 24-14 respectively. That initial Cup win gave them great satisfaction and they went the whole hog that year in winning their first and, to date, only final by 18-6 against Swansea.

The next and sixth meeting between the clubs proved to be something of a classic (that's if you were a Cardiff supporter of course). It was at the semi-final stage and was scheduled for Rodney Parade, Newport on 23rd March 1985. Previously in the season, we had met at The Arms Park and 'Pooler' were the reigning champions having won the title in season 1983-84. It was on a Wednesday night and the ground was bulging at the seams with every single square inch of space crammed with humanity. It was a titanic struggle which ended in a 9 all draw. Sadly for us, Terry Holmes had to leave the field with an injured shoulder which was to keep him out of our game against Australia just twelve days later. (We still managed to beat The Wallabies though after a superb display by Terry's other half Gareth Davies). The semi-final was preceded a fortnight earlier by a visit to Pontypool Park. This had all the hallmarks of a full dress rehearsal for the forthcoming Cup clash. Pooler proved very worthy winners on the day with an emphatic 24-6 win.

This put the Gwent men and their supporters in great heart. They were at the time running away with

the Championship and Whitbread Tables (which they eventually won) and a remarkable treble seemed but a formality. Come semi-final day however and form was completely reversed and Cardiff won by a remarkable 24-3. The importance of the occasion saw the Cardiff forwards rise to great heights and completely eclipsed their opposition. Terry Holmes and Gareth Davies did the rest with the latter collecting no fewer than 20 points with 4 drop goals, 2 penalties and a conversion. Indeed I well remember one rush when our forwards with Kevin Edwards to the fore went from 25 to 25 (sorry 22 to 22) with a display of controlled ferocity that made the Intercity 125 look like Thomas The Tank Engine. It certainly was a red letter day for Cardiff.

That's the history of the series then so what of today. Well there can be no doubt of the fact that 'Pooler' are the aristocrats of British Rugby at present with just one defeat this season to blemish what still is a very impressive record. With the reinstatement of David Bishop and the acquisition of Mark Ring, Bobby Windsor's boyoes are now technically equipped to dictate and play any sort of game they wish. The despair of last season has been completely overturned and now it's all euphoria and that very sought after treble is again within their grasp. Pontypool themselves realise they have an annoying habit of not coming up to scratch on the big occasion. Proof of this is the fact that in 16 years of the Cup they have only appeared in one final. They earnestly wish to put that right and could there be any better place to start than this very afternoon at Cardiff Arms Park.

Conversely however the Cardiff camp is happy that things are coming right again at exactly the required moment. The big game occasion brings out the best in the players and coupled with the enormous Cup success and accompanying experience we have acquired in the 1980's it all promises to create a carry on from last Saturday's atmosphere.

So it's welcome to Pontypool and let battle commence.

Finally today a word of congratulations to our own Keith Rowlands on his apppointment to the Secretaryship of the I.B. It's great to see a man who knows so much about the grass roots of the game and one with such an impeccable track record being justifiably selected for such high office. Well done Keith we all wish you the the very best of luck in your new job.

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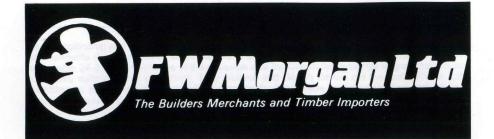
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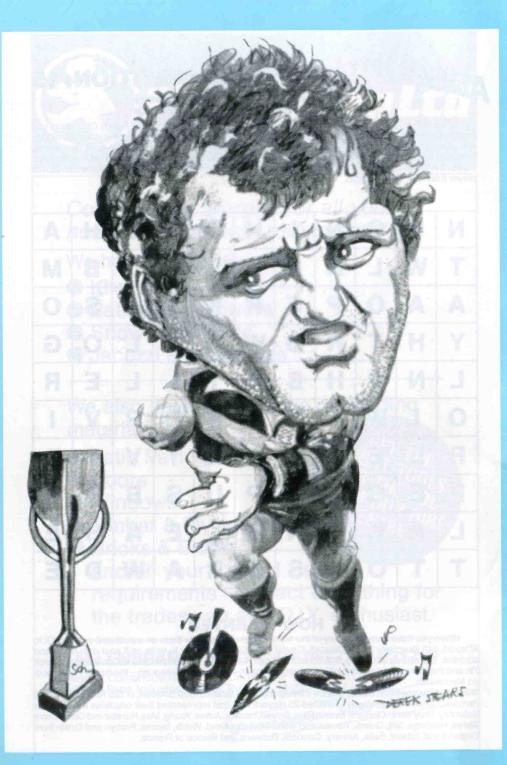
WITH CUP FEVER rife, to win today's £10 voucher to be spent in the Cardiff Rugby Club shop, you have to find the names of 19 players who represented either Cardiff in their first Cup final victory in 1981 or who played for Pontypool in their Schweppes final win in 1983. The names may be spelt backwards, forwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally and the letters used more than once. And although he is no part of the contest, the remaining letters spell out the Christian name and surname of another Cardiff player from that 1981 triumph.

N	S	G	N	1	H	C	T	U	H	A
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HOW TO ENTER

When you have found as many of the names as possible, write them on a postcard and send it to ADsport, 145 Pencisely Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 1DN. Remember to write on it your own name and address. The winner will be the first correct entry (or nearest) to be drawn from a hat on Monday, March 7th and the name will be published in the programme of — appropriately enough — the match v Pontypool on March 12th.

Winner of Competition No. 14 (match v Newport): Step forward Paul Bowden, of 125 Kimberley Road, Penylan, Cardiff who correctly identified 25 players who had represented their countries the previous Saturday. They were: Clement, Evans, Ring, Bowen, Hadley, Jones, Young, May, Norster and Collins from Wales, Hastings, Tait, Cramb, Rowan and White from Scotland, Webb, Simms, Probyn and Orwin from England and Erbani, Sella, Armary, Condom, Dubroca and Blanco of France.



QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

WHEN IS A RECORD not a record? I raise the subject because of some basic research which has been going on awhile into the matter of Mr. Alan John Phillips who, without ever staking public claim on the matter, has quietly passed a very considerable Cardiff milestone.

By the most current calculations, now being accumulated on computer which means that Quidnunc for one is hopelessly out of his depth, the Thumper is now well ahead of the field of those

who have played most times for Cardiff.

There is every reason to believe that today sees his 431st game for the club. Now then, in his Statistical Cardiff column elsewhere in the programme, Paul Rees has a different set of figures: but his does not include various tour matches abroad.

It does seem nevertheless that Alan passed the previous record held by Howard Norris of 413

appearances. Howard in turn was three ahead of Alun Priday's 410.

Alan Phillips himself believes that he passed that figure in the match at Northampton earlier in the season — taking into account tour matches played under the Cardiff name as opposed to 'A Cardiff XV'. In the meantime, the present master of the records, committee man, headmaster and expert John 'Jack' Davies, is busy trying to set all the records straight.

In which case he may well find also that Alan's try against Newport the other day was his 150th for the club — not a record in itself insofar as Bleddyn Williams still leads the field and will surely do so for many years with his 185 but enough by my calculations to take him into equal second place with

J. L. Williams who called it a day in season 1913-14.

But please do not hold me to these figures. I would hope at some time in the future to report back

on the matter with total authenticity.

Either way, Alan Phillips, I'm glad to report, is still enjoying his rugby. "The current Cardiff team are a great bunch of boys," he told me earlier this week, "and when you are over 30 you need the

enthusiasm not just of yourself but others to drive you on.

"And, you know, there is a great deal of pressure on a Cardiff player. You are expected to do well. You are expected to win. We all came in for a lot of stick earlier in the season when results were going against us but, whatever happens today, we've come through the bad patch with some pride. Certainly, I have no plans for retirement yet and won't think about it until I feel I have nothing further to contribute."

Over 30? "I've no idea how old I am. You'll have to ask Cerry, my long-suffering wife, because everyone else seems to get it wrong. Anyhow, age is all up here" — he taps his head — "and I plan to

make 450 appearances and more."

There is, certainly, just a hint of bitterness in the Phillips make-up. He feels that he — and other Cardiff front row men like Jeff Whitefoot and Steve Blackmore — did enough in the World Cup to come into consideration for this year's international trials. "But then," he also says, "I had a couple of injuries and chicken pox at the wrong time perhaps."

Alan Phillips, who has two lively children in son Ben and daughter Natalie, won his Athletic cap way back in 1974 — along with a certain Trevor Worgan who is also involved elsewhere in Cup rugby

today - in a season when he made his first senior appearance also.

But you might win a few bets in what position he played and against whom. It was down at Paignton, he played on the wing — and yes, he scored a try. But that was not, of course, his most

memorable game. I asked him to nominate three.

His third choice, in receding order as it were, was the 16-12 victory over Australia on October 24, 1984 when a try by Adrian Hadley, along with a penalty try, helped the drop goal, the penalty and the conversion by Gareth Davies to put Cardiff into a commanding position before the fight-back. "I am not sure we received the recognition we deserved from the public for that win," recalls Phillips, "because Australia went on to beat virtually the whole world after that. Gareth Davies was brilliant that day."

His second choices, inevitably really, were the two years he skippered Cardiff to Schweppes

Cup success.

And the third choice, which brings us back firmly to this afternoon, was that semi-final day in Newport when Cardiff, having a short time earlier been hammered out of sight by Pontypool, turned the tables with devestating effect.

But that's another story, another year. Let's hope that the record-breaker adds many more tales

to his rugby memories before he finally bows out.



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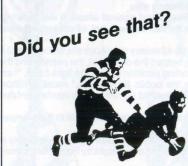
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Rugby Quiz - No. 14

- 1. Pontypool won the Championship in the three successive seasons 1983-84-85-86. How many times had they won it previously since the War?
- 2. Which post war Cardiff captain played for Pontypool before the War?
- 3. Who is Pontypool's record scorer in any one season?
- 4. How many points has Mark Ring scored for 'Pooler' this season
- 5. When did 'Pooler' begin playing on Pontypool Park?



J. Warren Hailes

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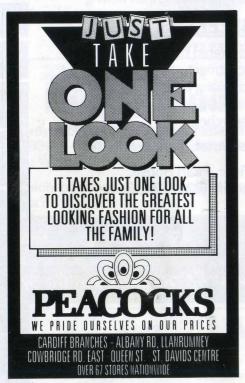
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15. M. RAYER

G. CORDLE

A. DONOVAN

G. JOHN A. HADLEY

M. DACEY

R. GILES

J. WHITEFOOT

A.J. PHILLIPS

S. BLACKMORE

M. ROWLEY

R. NORSTER (Captain)

R. LAKIN

H. STONE

G. ROBERTS

C. HUTCHINGS

S. CRANDON 18. A. MARTIN

19. I. GREENSLADE

20. C. COLLINS 21. J.P. SCOTT

Full Back Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre Left Wing Outside Half

Inside Half Forwards



Replacements

Pontypool

P. REES 15.

A. GLASSON 14.

K. ORRELL 13. R. BIDGOOD 12.

S. HANSON 11.

PDM. RING 10.

D. BISHOP

Staff JONES 1. Steve JONES (Captain)

G. PRICE 3.

R. YOUNG

K. MOSELEY 5.

C. HUISH

F. JACAS 8.

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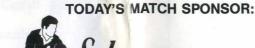
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Touch Judge 1; Mr. J.G. MORGAN Touch Judge 2: Mr. M.A. LYNCH

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Schweppes

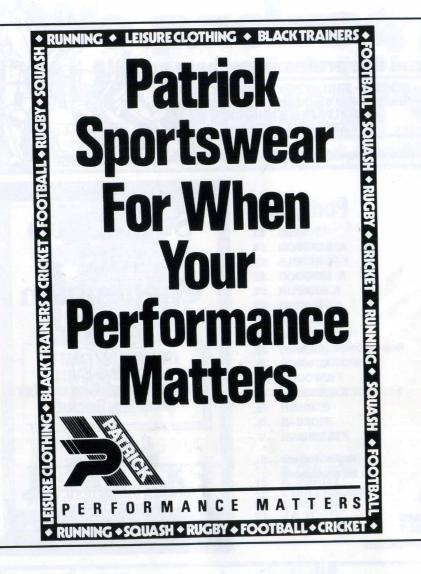


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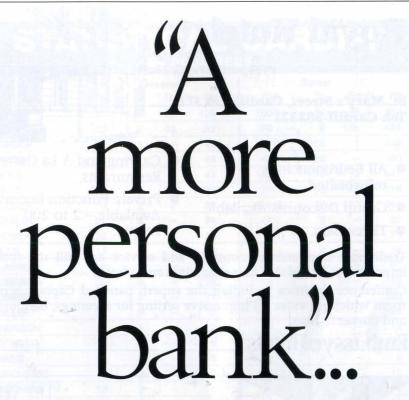
Contact JOHN SCOTT

56 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, Cardiff. Telephone: 24880



Rugby Quiz No. 14 - Answers

- 1. Three 1958-59, 1972-73, 1974-75.
- 2. Bill Tamplin.
- 3. Robin Williams, 517 points.
- 4. 295.
- **5.** 1945.



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By PAUL REES

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M. RAYER	31	8	37	125	100(1)	21	56	237
G. JOHN	20	2	33	93	70	9	155	424
G. CORDLE	32	23	alle 🚾 🕆	92	141(1)	105	REST PART	422
R. CARDUS	18	12	-	48	43	25		100
A. HADLEY	22	9	3	43	188	110	3	447
D. EVANS	12	2	11	31	50(1)	10	77	216
C. WEBBER	9	2	8	26	102(7)	19	113	364
M. ROWLEY	21	6	<u> </u>	24	42	8	-	32
H. STONE	20	5	-	20	117(1)	19	-	76
R. GILES	14	4		16	14	4	K 10 7 - 10 1	16
A. GLASSON	9	3	4 - V	12	28	13	-	52
M. EDWARDS	16	3	-	12	16	3	-	12
G. ROBERTS	18	3	4	12	101	30	-	120
A. PHILLIPS	20	3	_	12	411	146	+	584
S. CRANDON	16	3	_	12	16	3	-	12
R. NORSTER	19	2		8	253	15	- 18	60
R. JONES	4	2	-	8	4	2	-	8
C. HUTCHINGS	12	2		8	25(1)	3		12
T. CROTHERS	13	2	07-2	8	108(2)	25	-	100
N. O'BRIEN	5(1)	2		8	43(14)	17	-	68
D. WILLIAMS	2		3	8	6	2	3	12
M. PARRY	13(1)	1	-	4	41(1)	2	-	8
J. BURNELL	5	1	A1-3	4	8	2		8
P. CRANE	4	1	<u>-</u>	4	23	2		8
I. GREENSLADE	12	1		4	17(3)	1		4
A. DONOVAN	19	1		4	147	19	_	76
J. SCOTT	14	1		4	252(1)	36		144
S. BLACKMORE	21	- 1		4	81	4	-	16
M. HADLEY	5	_1	-	4	26	6		24
R. LAKIN	15	1		4	266(3)	60		240
L. NORMAN	3	1	-	4	17	15	-	60
J. WHITEFOOT	22		BUNEAU A		255	7	Last I	28
R. BILTON	12	-8-	6/64/6	F1_/_[14	_	1	PH Z

^{*} Total includes two penalty tries.

Also played: 10 - I. Eidman. 7 - O. Golding. 6 - M. Dacey. 5 - M. Knowles. 3 - ∨. Evans. 2 - A. Moore, C. Conway. 1 - C. Miller, A. Carter, D. Gibbon (+2), G. Pritchard (+4), C. Collins (+1), J. Hadley, T. O'Donnell. Subs: R. Williams (1), M. Poole (1).

P 35 W 21 D 3 L 11 F 674 A 463 Tries 108 Cons 52 Pens 43 Drops 3

[up to Wednesday 24th February, 1988]

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KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

QUESTION (1) The teams disagree on the condition of the ground and the referee is asked to arbitrate. What is his action.

ANSWER:— The referee should discuss with **representatives of both clubs** not merely the captains or players. His decision is final, but it is recommended that the referee does not force a club to play if injury is probable.

QUESTION (2) Should the referee require the toss of a coin at the start of extra time in a Cup game?

ANSWER:- No. The teams change round and the original team kicks off.

QUESTION (3) Should a referee blow his whistle when he notices the Touch Judge with his flag up whilst the ball is in play?

ANSWER:— No. The referee should wait until the ball is dead. The Touch Judge may be signalling for something else.

QUESTION (4) Team A throwing in the ball line up two players, one at 10 metres and the other at 15 metres from the touchline. As they form, the player acting as scrum half gives an instruction to the thrower-in and walks into the line out at 6 metres from the touchline. The ball is immediately thrown in and he wins it, passing it backwards to the thrower in. Is this in order?

ANSWER:— Yes, play on. There is no restriction on players joining the line out a reasonable time before the ball is thrown in. As the scrum half he was already "participating in the line out". Referees should note any delay in the throw in while this play is being set up and award a free kick if a delay occurs.

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1987			1988		
SEPTEMBE	2	State State of the last	JANUARY		
Wed. 2	Taffs Well (Centenary)	A 28-4	Sat. 2	Bath	H 38-9
Sat. 5	Bristol (Centenary)	A 20-15	Sat. 9	Aberavon	A 16-10
Wed. 9	Glamorgan Wanderers	A 6-6	Sat. 16	Ebbw Vale	A 32-10
Sat. 12	Neath	H 6-35	Sat. 23	Newport (Cup)	A Post.
Wed. 16	Maesteg	H 9-9	Sat. 30	Newport (Cup)	A 26-13
Sat. 19	Coventry	A 14-21			
Wed. 23	Pontypridd	A 18-16	FEBRUARY	Torridge 1	
Sat. 26	Aberavon	H 12-15	Sat. 6	London Welsh	A 38-7
OCTOBER		PROPERTY AND PROPERTY	Sat. 13	Newport	H
Sat. 3	Newport	A 9-16	Sat. 27	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	11
Wed. 7	Bridgend	H 6-7	Sat. 21	W.H.O. Cup 4th Hound	
Sat. 10	Northampton	A 14-7			
Wed. 14	Pontypool	A 0-31	MARCH		
Sat. 17	Cambridge University	H 48-9	Tue. 1	Bristol	H
Wed. 21	Caerphilly (Centenary)	A 19-12	Sat. 12	Pontypool	Н
Sat. 24	Harlequins	A 20-12	Wed. 16	Penarth	Α
Sat. 31	Moseley	H 10-14	Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup Semi Final	ereza co un
NOVEMBER			Mon. 28	Newport	Α
Sat. 7	Leicester	A 19-27			
Mon. 9	Welsh XV	H 17-13	APRIL		
Wed. 11	Oxford University	H 22-27	Sat. 2	Barbarians	H
Sat. 14	Ebbw Vale	H 35-9	Tue. 5	Llanelli	Α
Sat. 21	Ystradgynlais (Cup)	A 12-9	Sat. 9	Swansea	Α
Sat. 28	Llanelli	A 6-41	Sat. 16	Neath	A
DECEMBER	if not printed escu	sta no nelicita	Sat. 23	Wasps	H
Wed. 2	Newbridge	H 20-0	Wed. 27	Barry (Centenary)	A
Sat. 5	Swansea	H 17-6	Sat. 30	Nottingham	H
Sat. 12	London Welsh	H 27-21	our. oo	Daniel Burner	
Sat. 19	Aberavon Quins (Cup)	A 36-0	Charles of Spirit		
Sat. 26	Pontypridd	H 6-6	MAY	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF	
Mon. 28	Bridgend	A 9-25	Sat. 7	W.R.U. Cup Final	

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1987 SEPTEMBER			Newport Saracens Rumney	H 26-6 A 7-7
Sat. 5 Bristol United Wed. 9 Glamorgan Wanderers Sat. 12 Kenfig Hill Wed. 16 Bridgend Sports Sat. 19 Coventry Extras Wed. 23 Llandaff Sat. 26 St. Peters Tue. 29 Pontypool United	H 21-26 II H 17-8 A 65-4 A 19-19 H 77-4 H 10-16 A 10-25 A 10-12	Sat. 9 Sat. 16 Sat. 23	Bath United Neath Athletic Ebbw Vale United Llandaff Pontyclun	A 23-16 H 4-10 H 52-0 A Post. A 38-3
OCTOBER Sat. 3 Newport United Sat. 10 Neath Athletic Wed. 14 Pontypool Athletic Sat. 17 Bridgend Ravens Wed. 21 Cardiff & District Sat. 24 Abercarn Wed. 28 Garndifflath	H 31-23 A 13-19 H 34-0 A 11-27 H Post. H 8-13 H 44-6	Sun. 7 Sat. 13 Sat. 27 MARCH Wed. 1 Sat. 5	London Scottish II Abbey Newport United Pencoed Bristol United Maesteg Celtic	A 16-23 A 38-3 A A
Sat. 31 Moseley United NOVEMBER Sat. 7 Leicester Extras Wed. 11 Caerphilly	A 19-17 H 30-20 A Canc.	Sat. 12 Wed. 16 Fri. 18 Wed. 23 Wed. 30	Pontypool Athletic Bedwas Risca Pontypool United Cardiff H.S.O.B.	A H A H
Sat. 14 Ebbw Vale Athletic Sat. 21 Berry Hill Sat. 28 Bridgend Ravens DECEMBER	A 37-0 A 27-9 H 14-18	APRIL Mon. 4 Sat. 9 Tue. 12	Blackwood Swansea Athletic Llanharan	A H H
Sat. 5 Swansea Athletic Sat. 12 Llanharan	A 6-25 A 9-15	Sat. 16 Sat. 23	Bridgend Sports Mumbles	H A

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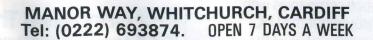
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