



CARDIFF ARMS PARK

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB

SEASON 1972 - 1973

CARDIFF

v

NEATH

SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1972

KICK OFF 3 P.M.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

PRICE 5 PENCE

Cardiff v. Neath

Neath are a very interesting club. A club that wears All Black strip with a Maltese Cross emblazoned on it, and plays on a ground called the Gnoll certainly sounds interesting, and for various reasons Neath are rarely out of the news, mainly because they are a consistently successful side. Apart from that, they have been at the business of making the news longer than most, being formed in 1871 and consequently celebrating their Centenary year last season. They celebrated this appropriately enough by winning the Welsh Challenge Cup, and simultaneously dashing our hopes by beating us in the semi-final. It has been cynically suggested by one Cardiff Supporter that Neath wear All-Black in memory of the Cardiff sides that they have beaten, and that the Maltese Cross is in reality the Cross of St. John Awarded to them for services rendered in providing from their ranks and from ranks of the opposition free practice for the Ambulance Brigade. Neither of these comments are true. Neath wear Black as a mark of sympathy for the memory of one of their members called Dick Gordon who was killed in 1880.

The Maltese Cross came about because the players wishing to relieve the sombre monotony of their garb decided to adopt the motif on the cap of Mr. Moxham who was a member of the team around 1877. It is said that players of those days usually wore caps whilst playing because there were no such things as grandstands. In 1879 they played a fledgling side from Cardiff, by which time Neath had won a couple of South Wales Challenge Cups. They must have enjoyed the experience because they continued to play us without interruption until 1968. Up to that point we had played them 147 times winning 87 and losing 44 games, which sounds fine except that a quarter of our wins were before the start of this century. We resumed diplomatic relations last season after a break caused by varying interpretations of the law. Whilst we can claim two wins last Season in excellent games, we won home 13 pts - 12 pts and away 17 pts. - 13 pts, they undoubtedly feel they had the better of the Argument because they beat us 16 pts to 9 pts in the Welsh Cup. We gained some little consolation in the Snelling Sevens when we beat them in the semi-final en-route to taking the Cup.

One of the features of the Neath Club is the regularity with which they produce top-class forwards. Of their 44 international players 34 have been forwards. From the late part of the last Century up to the present, Neath have turned out internationals like Dr. E. Pegge, Arthur Leman, Dai Hiddestone, Tom Hollingdale, Roy John, Courtney Meredith, Rees Stephens, Brian Thomas and Dai Morris, and many more who were uncapped, but good enough to have played for Wales. These men have maintained the reputation of Neath's forward tradition since "the first exhibition of the new man-handling code"* at the Gnoll in the 1870's. I thought at first that that quotation was a misprint, but thinking back over my playing days and the games against Neath it could have been more an inspired prophesy of things to come, than a misprint. After reading of Neath's great record this Season and the way their pack is performing I have no doubt that our pack, which is the best we have had for years, will know they have had a game by the time they sip their first pint. Fortunately

in many ways, for the Spectator the game has moved away from the sole reliance on the pack for victory, and Neath have enough behind to use good possession effectively and to the joy of us watching. Since by tradition and intention our first instinct is to move the ball, we should see today a titanic struggle up front and some good running behind.

CROESO CASTELL NEDD

particularly if you've got a good linesman.

D.J.H.

* Quote Neath R.F.C. Centenary Year Book

Know the Laws

by FRED CROSTER

By design, not accident, a little refresher on the Law concerning 'Touch' and more specifically, 'when the ball is in touch'.

No comments. I quote the relevant part of Law 23 which deals with this somewhat, at the moment vexed point.

Section 1 states:

"The ball is in touch when it is not being carried by a player and it touches or crosses a touch line, or,

When it is being carried by a player and it, or the player carrying it *touches a touch line or the ground beyond it*". End of quote.

No comments on last week, as I said but it is important to remember that if the foot of a player who is carrying the ball even touches the line, then that is sufficient for it to be in touch. The flag should go up. The actual decision made by the touch judge can be overruled if in his opinion the decision was not a correct one. That is up to him but for years I have pleaded for neutral touch judges to run the line in important matches.

A fundamental part in the training of referees is that when they have passed the examination they serve a probationary period. They are the people who, to me, should be the touch judges. The administration would not be difficult but what is more important is that they would know the Laws concerning 'Touch', would be completely impartial and also be on the spot if the appointed referee should fail to turn up or sustain an injury during the match.

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Cardiff

- 15. J. DAVIES
- 14. A. N. OTHER
- 13. N. WILLIAMS
- 12. A. FINLAYSON
- 11. P. L. JONES
- 10. L. DAVIES
- 9. Gareth EDWARDS
- 1. M. KNILL
- 2. G. DAVIES
- 3. G. WALLACE (Capt.)
- 4. I. ROBINSON
- 5. L. BAXTER
- 6. E. WILLIAMS
- 8. J. MANFIELD
- 7. M. JOHN

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

- 15. W. DAVIES or G. HODGSON
- 14. J. POOLE or J. McAVOY
- 13. D. JENKINS
- 12. G. BALL
- 11. K. COLLIER
- 10. D. PARKER
- 9. M. DAVIES (Capt.)
- 1. W. WILLIAMS
- 2. J. HERDMAN
- 3. G. SHAW
- 4. B. THOMAS
- 5. S. HODGSON
- 6. W. LAUDER
- 8. D. MORRIS
- 7. M. THOMAS

Neath

Referee: J. S. P. EVANS (Swansea)



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue	Results
1972			
Sept. 2	La Rochelle	H	26-20
6	Ebbw Vale	A	12-10
9	Blackheath	A	20-6
13	Bristol	H	13-7
16	Coventry	H	18-19
20	Pontypool	A	19-7
23	Neath	H	.....
27	Bridgend	A	.....
30	Aberavon	A	.....
Oct. 4	Penarth	A	.....
7	Newport	A	.....
11	Cdf. Col/Education	H	.....
14	Northampton	A	.....
18	Ebbw Vale	H	.....
21	Cambridge Univ.	A	.....
28	Pontypool	H	.....
Nov. 4	New Zealand	H	.....
8	Newport	H	.....
11	Clermont Ferrand	A	.....
18	Wasps	H	.....
22	Oxford	H	.....
25	Llanelli	H	.....

Dec. 2	Swansea	A	.....
6	Gloucester	H	.....
9	Harlequins	A	.....
16	London Welsh	A	.....
23	Maesteg	H	.....
26	Pontypridd	H	.....
27	Watsonians	H	.....
30	Leicester	A	.....
Jan. 13	Coventry	A	.....
19	London Welsh	H	.....
26	Aberavon	H	.....
Feb. 9	Bristol	A	.....
17	Newport	H	.....
23	Llanelli	A	.....
Mar. 3	Newport	A	.....
9	Bective Rangers	H	.....
17	Swansea	H	.....
28	Bridgend	H	.....
31	Newbridge	A	.....
Apr. 7	Gloucester	A	.....
14	Neath	A	.....
21	Barbarians	H
23	Harlequins	H
28	Snelling Sevens
29	La Rochelle	A
30	Cognac	A

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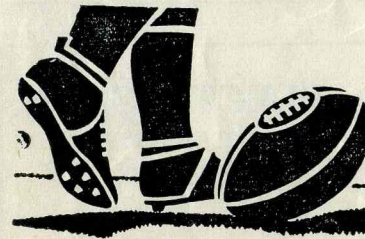
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