



CARDIFF ARMS PARK

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB

SEASON 1973 - 1974

CARDIFF

v

COGNAC

SATURDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1973

KICK OFF 3 P.M.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

PRICE 5 PENCE

Cardiff v. Union Sportive Cognacaise

The association between Cardiff and Cognac (Union Sportive Cognacaise) began in the post war season 1945/46, when, as the result of negotiation between Cardiff's Hon. Fixture Secretary, Mr. Danny Davies, and his counterpart in Nantes M. Henri Picherit of the Stade Nantais Univercite Club, Cardiff embarked on its first French Tour after World War II. The first of the two matches took place at Nantes on 31st December 1945, and the second with the Cognac Club the following day, January 1st 1946. The Tour party was in the charge of Mr. Danny Davies and our Captain was Dr. Jack Mathews.

The Cardiff party was received most hospitably in both host towns, and the match against the Nantes Club was won by 29 points to 8, a match in which Bleddyn Williams scored three tries. A lavish Banquet (for the times) followed and a nearly all night dance was held. Early next morning there was some difficulty in getting the Cardiff party awake, and into a Charabanc, for the long journey to Cognac, and they arrived at the Hotel de Londres, rather tired, but hungry, and were met by the Cognac Officials who numbered amongst them, the President Pierre Massoulard, members of the well known Hennessy and Martell families, the famous distillers, several of whose members have been mainsprings in the growth of the Cognac Club. Others who greeted us were Denis Mazaud the Hon. Secretary, and Henri Behoteguy, a former French international who had played for his country against Wales at Swansea in the early twenties. His son played against Cardiff on the new year's day.

Cognac beat Cardiff by 19 points to 18, recovering from 18 points down after a very sluggish start due to much tiredness, and a splendid meal before the match eaten late by the now hungry players. No arrests were made during the splendid night and early morning of lavish French hospitality, the Chef de police, who was a member of the French resistance movement during the war, had no reason to be alarmed at or during the most happy proceedings.

This "pioneering" French tour led to quite a number of matches between the two Clubs, and between combined teams from the Cognac and Nantes Clubs, and, in their tours to this country, they first played Cardiff and then played Bristol on one occasion and against Newport on another.

It is a true and sobering fact that the Cognac Club has up to this date never lost to Cardiff in the three encounters, which were in 1945/46, in 1949/50 when the match was drawn 6 points each, and last season when on 30th April Cardiff were beaten by no less than 26 points to 10.

Although the Cognac Club has appeared at Cardiff before, it was in the guise of combined teams from their Club and the Nantes one in the seasons 1947/48 and 1952/53, and so today they are very welcome to Cardiff to take on the Blue and Blacks on our New Ground at Cardiff Arms Park. I have no doubt that a splendid match will result, irrespective of prestige and in the interests of good Rugby. I have to confess that Cardiff are looking forward to victory. Bienvenu aux Cognacaise.

DANNY DAVIES, HISTORIAN TO CARDIFF RFC

Know the Laws

by FRED CROSTER

New season, new Law changes! That seems almost as inevitable as the beginning of the new season itself but, as has been widely publicised, this time our Law makers have really gone to town.

'The line - out is a shambles.' Carwyn James made that an immortal statement after the Lions' 1971 tour.

The International Board, consisting of members of the Home Unions, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, but NOT France, with Wales represented by Ken Harries and Hermas Evans, have made a valiant attempt to sort out that shambles. The main things to look for:

- * *New markings on the field, showing the fifteen yard limit from the touchline.*
- * *Each player in the line-out has to stand at least ONE YARD from the next player of his own team.*
- * *The clear space between the lines of players of both teams to be a distance of TWO feet.*

The whole object of this is to reduce line-out infringements, give the two handed jumpers and catchers a chance to get the ball back cleanly and enable the line - out to become what it always should: a method of RE - STARTING the game, not degenerating into a maul and scrum as so often in the past.

That's enough for now. There is, has to be, quite a bit more.

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NEXT HOME MATCHES

Wednesday, September 5th: **EBBW VALE** (7.15)
Saturday, September 8th: **BLACKHEATH** (3.00)
Wednesday, September 12th: **BRISTOL** (7.15)
Wednesday, September 19th: **PONTYPOOL** (7.15)

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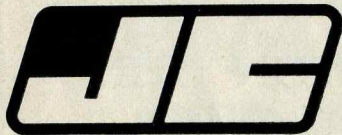
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Cardiff

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11. P. L. JONES
10. K. JAMES
9. G. SAMUEL
1. B. NELMES
2. Gary DAVIES (Captain)
3. M. KNILL
4. I. ROBINSON
5. L. BAXTER
6. M. JOHN
8. J. MANFIELD
7. R. LANE

Referee: R. LEWIS (Llangynwyd)

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

Cognac

- J. M. BUZARD 15.
- J. C. FORT 14.
- P. GENSAC 13.
- M. GRATTEAU 12.
- J. DUMAS 11.
- J. JAUD 10.
- J. C. OLIVIER 9.
- D. de PRADA 1.
- P. DESCOURTIEUX 2.
- B. SAVIN 3.
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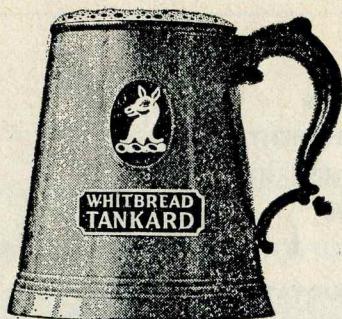
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
1973			
Sept. 1	Cognac	H
5	Ebbw Vale	H
8	Blackheath	H	.....
10	Paignton	A	.....
12	Bristol	H	.....
15	Coventry	A	.....
19	Pontypool	H	.....
22	Neath	H	.....
29	Aberavon	H	.....
Oct. 3	Penarth	A	.....
5	Newport	A	.....
10	Northern Suburbs (N.S.W.) All Pay	H	.....
13	Northampton	H	.....
17	Ebbw Vale	A	.....
20	Cambridge Univ.	H	.....
24	Pontypool	A	.....
27	Harlequins	A	.....
31	Bridgend	H	.....
Nov. 3	Oxford University	A	.....
9	Newport	H	.....
11	Clermont Ferrand	A	.....
17	Wasps	A	.....
24	Llanelli	A	.....

Dec. 1	Swansea	H	.....
8	Maesteg	A	.....
15	London Welsh	H	.....
22	Moseley	A	.....
26	Pontypridd	H	.....
27	Watsonians	H	.....
29	Abertillery	A	.....

1974			
Jan. 12	Coventry	H	.....
18	Heriots F. P.	H	.....
26	Aberavon	A	.....
Feb. 2	Bective Rangers	A	.....
9	Bristol	A	.....
23	Llanelli	H	.....
Mar. 2	Newbridge	H	.....
9	Newport	A	.....
16	London Welsh	A	.....
20	Bridgend	A	.....
23	Newport	H	.....
30	Swansea	A	.....
Apr. 6	Gloucester	H
13	Barbarians	H
15	Harlequins	H
20	Neath	A
27	Cornish Tour	A

BIG D



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