



CARDIFF ARMS PARK

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB

SEASON 1973 - 1974

CARDIFF

v

BRIDGEND

WEDNESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1973

KICK OFF 7.15 P.M.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

PRICE 5 PENCE

Cardiff v. Bridgend

The Cardiff dressing room tonight presents an unusual spectacle. In addition to the pungent odours of Tom Holleys 'speed oil', the sweeter odours of Jerry Wallace's talcum powder, and the powerful smell of everybodys socks, there is added a scent unusual to the nostrils of those attuned to the multifarious perfumes that pervade the somewhat restricted atmosphere of a Rugby Dressing Room. It is that of the Garlic, that is draped across all the openings of the doors and windows. You will also notice that the players are rather cramped, trying to change and warm up inside a five-pointed star called a pentacle. The Club minister is also in attendance and the pin-ups have been replaced by crucifixes. Don't think that our players have suddenly become Jesus Freaks, they haven't. They are still quite ordinary freaks. All these precautions are because I am convinced that there are Black forces at work when we play Bridgend, and as any Dennis Wheatley reader will know, these are the standard defences against the Black Art.

There have been many theories put forward as to why we don't beat Bridgend. The obvious theory is that they are always a better side. Whilst I am prepared to concede this has often been the case, it doesn't cover all the eventualities. It can't be bad luck, because last year we had a black cat in the dressing room, we took away all the ladders in the ground and replaced all the broken mirrors. It is not true that Ian Robinson wore a horseshoe strapped to his hand, but there were Rabbits feet scattered everywhere, as a matter of fact Gary Davies caught myximatosis. Another theory put forward was that there were so many ex Cardiff players in the Bridgend team that our boys got confused and passed them the ball. About this time there was a rumour running around, that Bridgend used to wait to see who we left out of our team before selecting theirs, but apart from not believing that sort of malicious rumour, neither of those theories are relevant these days.

We have also worked on the assumption that they were a more God-fearing club than we were, so we attempted to create a more sanctified atmosphere in the dressing rooms. Individual prayer mats were installed, The Book of Rugby Songs was replaced by Hymns Ancient and Modern, the Captain gave his pep-talk from a pulpit, and instead of an end of the season tour the Rags went on a pilgrimage to St. Davids. We had great problems in composing a Club song to meet the requirements because of the vast range of differing religions to which the boys belong. I can't remember it now, but I know it started "Were marching to Zion" included 'and did those feet in ancient time' went on to 'Hail Mary full of grace' had a chorus of 'Hava negila' and finished off with 'Come and join us'. This was to be sung by a groundsman from a minaret sited in the floodlighting pylons. It didn't work anyway because he was told to face Mecca when singing it, but he got confused and faced Top Rank instead. So now you know why we are taking no chances with this fixture, there has been a service to exorcize all the evil spirits (there's still a drop of Haig for them in the know) and we have had a bell installed to call the faithful supporters to watch the game and to ring the Angelus. At half time there will be a quick service conducted by Billy Graham from the Balcony of the Club and I will take the collection.

If you think these precautions are unnecessary then I will tell you that we have to go back to January 1971 to find our last win. Last year we drew

6 pts all at Bridgend and lost at home 7 pts to 9 pts. Overall the record reads P. 89 W. 48 L. 30 and D.II.

Bridgend have had a good run this season and appear to be bidding fair to regaining their form of the recent past. They will be fit, enthusiastic and equipped with a full quotient of opportunism. We will need all our determination and skill to overcome them and the jinx. It is a pity that we cannot field a full side today because of Representative calls, and some of the piquancy of the occasion has been removed by the fact that Keith James will not be available to show his ability against Ian Lewis who is currently holder of the fly half position in the Welsh 'B' team. However, we extend a big welcome to Bridgend who are always welcome at Cardiff because of their attitude to and execution of, the game of Rugby Football.

CROESO PENYBONT or OGWR, and leave your Witch Doctor at home. D.J.H.

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB: ANNUAL DANCE will be held in the Club House on Tuesday, December 4th. Tickets may be obtained from The Club Office.

Know the Laws

by FRED CROSTER

"We were robbed." The Australians might well have said that of their narrow defeat at Bath on Saturday last. They did not but talking to them at the reception on Sunday and after their training on Monday it was obvious that they were concerned

With them is John Howard, chairman of the New South Wales Rugby Union, Australian Rugby Union Executive member, secretary of the combined Referee's Societies of Sydney, N.S.W. and Australia itself, besides being one of their top referees. He was able to discuss the incident impartially. The dispute was of course the knock-on from a charged kick for which they were penalised and lost the game.

I wonder how many remember the Cardiff v. Springboks match with Jack Matthews as skipper the year when the charged kick NOT being a knock-on was introduced and we lost through a similar referee's decision. Jackie charged down a clearance, kick, went over and scored. It was disallowed in error. They did exactly the same thing in the second half in almost the identical place. The referee realised that the new law permitted it and allowed their score to stand and they won as a direct result.

The Springbok head in the clubroom is there because they knew that they had been actually, morally defeated.

What does the law say? Law 17, (2)

"If the knock-on or throw forward is *unintentional*, a scrum shall be formed unless: The ball is knocked on by a player who is in the act of charging down the kick of an opponent but is not attempting to catch the ball, or"

It was definitely NOT a deliberate knock-on. Yes, they could say, "We were robbed."

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CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
WALES v AUSTRALIA

at CARDIFF ARMS PARK, NOVEMBER 10th, 1973

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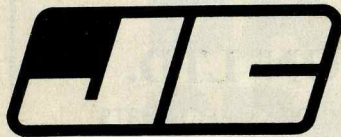
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- 1. D. LLEWELLYN
- 2. Gary DAVIES (Captain)
- 3. M. KNILL
- 4. J. LUFF
- 5. J. MANFIELD
- 6. J. JAMES
- 8. C. SMITH
- 7. M. JOHN

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

Bridgend

- 15. D. GRIFFITHS
- 14. D. SCHICK
- 13. L. THOMAS
- 12. S. FENWICK
- 11. V. JENKINS
- 10. I. LEWIS
- 9. A. WALTERS
- 1. B. JONES
- 2. G. DAVIES
- 3. M. JAMES
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- 8. A. FALL
- 7. D. BRAIN (Capt.)



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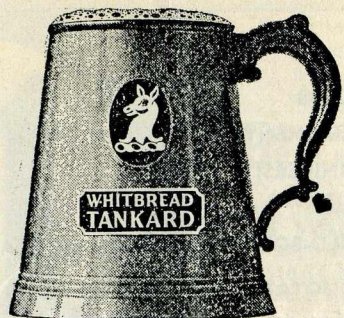
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
1973			
Sept. 1	Cognac	H	56-0
5	Ebbw Vale	H	8-8
8	Blackheath	H	23-9
10	Paignton	A	28-6
12	Bristol	H	30-3
15	Coventry	A	16-20
19	Pontypool	H	27-9
22	Neath	H	11-7
29	Aberavon	H	18-6
Oct 3	Penarth	A	29-13
5	Newport	A	16-6
10	Northern Suburbs (N.S.W.) All Pay	H	44-6
13	Northampton	H	13-3
17	Ebbw Vale	A	13-3
20	Cambridge Univ.	H	17-3
24	Pontypool	A	9-14
27	Harlequins	A	20-19
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	

974

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	

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