

# CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB CENTENARY YEAR



**CARDIFF v BRISTOL**

WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 1976

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

**Official Programme 10p**

# Cardiff v. Bristol

WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 1976

K.O. 7.15 p.m.

Good evening folks, how nice it is to be here on a pleasant domestic occasion, and who better to share a night at home with than our old friends and nearest English neighbours from Bristol. Welcome Bristol, we have no more welcome guests to the Arms Park than yourselves, who have for so many years shown adventure and flair, when all around seemed frightened to depart from the dull and unimaginative approach that occasionally wins matches but no friends. How nice it is to be back to normality after the exciting and exotic fare of recent weeks. Don't think for one moment that there is anything disparaging or condescending in my welcome to Bristol: it is a genuinely felt and offered response. The fact that we have lost to the Irishmen of the Wolfhounds, the Argentinians, and to Aberavon, whilst retaining a 100% record against all the English teams we have played, would be a very unworthy motive for laying down the red carpet to the pride of the West Country. We should be grateful to Bristol, if for no other reason than they reared and nurtured our only English International, Barry Nelmes. Would it be remiss to remind the English, or Welsh English selectors if W. G. D. Morgan is present, that our vice-captain is playing better Rugby than when he won his first English cap. Did someone say it would be remiss — ah well, I'm saying it anyway. Derek Morgan will understand. It is time also to welcome back Gareth Davies, Brynmor Williams, Mike Watkins and Bob Dudley-Jones, who missed last Saturday's game against Northampton because of being on duty with the Combined Clubs XV v. Japan. I realise that Mike Watkins comes from Abercarn, which is very near Newbridge, but I must warn the Chairman of that Club that he is as Welsh as Lava Bread, so keep your eyes on the Blue and White of Bristol — butty. It is gratifying also to report that Meurig Owen, Ian Bryce and Lawrence O'Brien all played very well in their debuts for the 1st XV against Northampton.

I have deliberately refrained tonight from wandering into the more involved flights of fancy in my programme notes in order that I can include an article by a much more interesting and illustrious person than myself. We include some reminiscences by the respected and revered Ronnie Boon, who will either be remembered or will certainly have been heard of by all the Cardiff members. Thank you very much, Sir, for your contribution.

D.J.H.

## "I played for Cardiff"

I have no idea what the Cardiff Rugby Football Club means to you but I know what it means to me. Perhaps I can best explain what I feel by telling you that as a little boy playing in the Cardiff and District Schools matches, I received a free ticket into the Arms Park to watch the Saturday afternoon encounters. I had no reservations about the Cardiff team — it was my team, the greatest. I never expected the Cardiff team to be beaten and when the unexpected happened, I found it quite inexplicable. Now, over fifty years later, and with, I hope, a reasonable maturity of judgement, that feeling still persists and for the reason that over the hundred years of its existence the Cardiff Club has never failed to play Rugby Football of quality and effectiveness.

As a lad in my late 'teens', I recall being invited to take part in the trials. As I walked through the old wooden gate entrance at the Castle Street end, I was challenged by the gatekeeper; old Jim Batstone walked with the aid of a stick, a thick one. The subsequent conversation went like this. "Where are you going?" "I am here for the trials." "What's your name?" "Ronnie Boon." "Are you the son of Davy Boon who played for the Grange Stars?" "Yes, I am."

"Well, if you can run as fast as your father could, you'll play for Cardiff." In the event, it seemed that I could run as fast as father because I found myself picked for the 'Rags' two weeks later. Rags? What a delightful description for a clutch of young hopefuls like Frank Williams, Maurice Turnbull, Gwyn Davies, 'Chicken' Jones, 'Acker' Thomas and Tommy Stone. Within weeks we were promoted to the senior XV, because the Cardiff Club knows all about giftedness in young players and how it should be nurtured.

To be a Cardiff player is an enriching experience. One is surrounded by players of great skill and instinctive reaction, by loyal and enthusiastic members and supporters, by the knowledge that the Club is respected by Rugby men the world over and by the belief — never discussed and never questioned — that no matter the competitive pressure, the game of Rugby is to be enjoyed. What then does the Cardiff Club mean to me? A blue and black jersey; a little boy's magical Saturday afternoon; a teenage dream and fulfilment; a portrayal of excellence in play; a warm and deep fellowship. Is it not surprising that there pulsates within me an abiding pride because I can say — "I played for Cardiff."

RONNIE BOON

## KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

Does the Argentine match still smart? Must, just a little when we came so near the bringing off of what seemed an impossible victory. It's easy to blame referee Pattinson, too easy; the temptation must be resisted, BUT, there were a couple of relevant points which can be cleared up.

That devastating penalty, right in front of the posts, at the river end, which was readily converted and set our lads back quite a bit. "Why?" many asked.

It was 'offside', supporters reluctantly agreed, but how, why and where, to be awarded in such an eminently kickable position, away from the actual play?

Take your minds back. A ruck had developed from a maul, even if the maul had persisted the law would have applied the same. Gerald, keen and eager as always, got just in front of the hindmost foot of the rearmost player, sadly he was 'offside'. What foxed so many people, might have even affected Gerald himself, was that the referee allowed play to go on for quite a while to see whether any advantage accrued to the Pumas. It didn't, the whistle blew. We were three points down; the kick being awarded where our skipper was.

Their try when the two centres were in front of the outside half when he kicked diagonally for the 'big' chap to gather and then go over! Most of us thought that they were certainly in front of the kicker, BUT, even if they hadn't then caught to carry play on they were doubly 'offside' by approaching within 10 yards of an opponent waiting to play the ball. Sorry, I should have said 10 metres, shouldn't I? We had players in that position. Sad isn't it? Can't win them all I suppose.

NEXT HOME FIXTURE . . . .

Sat., 16th October CARDIFF v. CAMBRIDGE UNIV. (K.O. a.m.)

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## Cardiff

15. M. OWEN	Full Back
14. C. CAMILLERI	Right Wing
13. P. BOLLAND	Right Centre
12. M. MURPHY	Left Centre
11. D. THOMAS	Left Wing
10. Gareth DAVIES	Outside Half
9. B. WILLIAMS	Inside Half
1. B. NELMES (Captain)	Forwards
2. M. WATKINS	
3. M. KNILL	
4. I. BRYCE	
5. I. ROBINSON	
6. T. WORGAN	
8. R. DUDLEY-JONES	
7. M. JOHN	
P. EVANS	
G. WALLACE	



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

## Bristol

G. T. TYLER	A.
A. J. T. MORLEY	B.
C. J. WILLIAMS	C.
R. E. HAZZARD	D.
R. F. CARTER	E.
D. E. SORRELL	F.
R. M. HARDING	G.
M. J. FRY	H.
K. E. PHELPS	I.
R. R. SPEED	J.
S. J. DAVIES	K.
A. D. E. YOUNG	L.
D. M. ROLLIT	M.
N. POMPHREY	N.
M. RAFTER (Captain)	O.
N. R. HUNT	P.
A. SHEPPARD	R.

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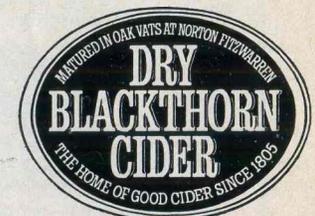
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v.

**WALES**

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20	Bridgend	£1.15
23	Harlequins	*£2.40
27	Neath	£1.15
Nov. 3	Pontypool	£1.00
Dec. 4	Swansea	£1.20
1977		
Feb. 15	Llanelli	£1.50
19	Ebbw Vale	£1.00
April 2	Gloucester	£1.50

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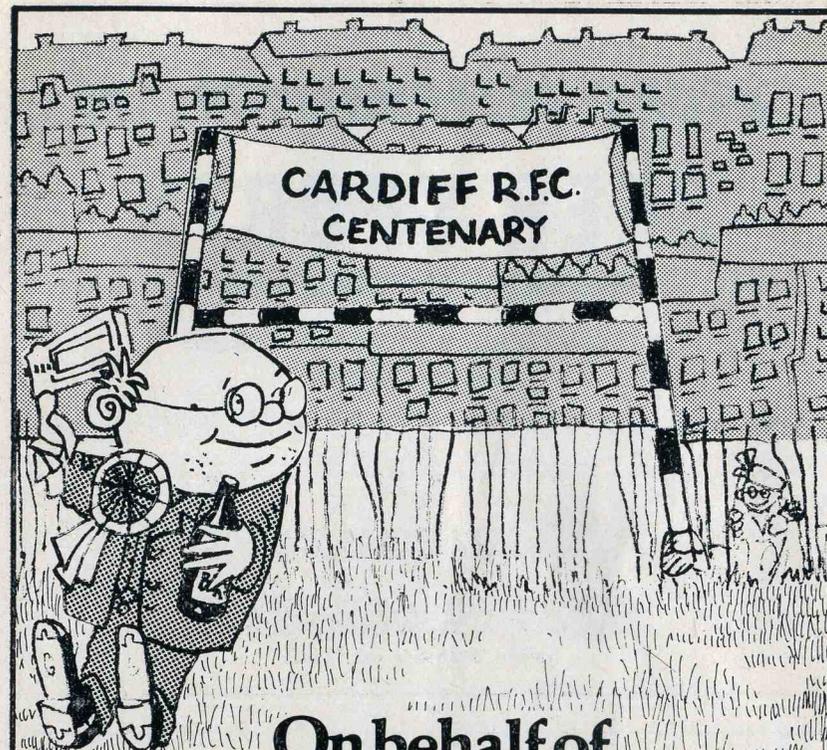
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### FIRST XV FIXTURES

1976					
SEPTEMBER					
Wed. 1	Llandaff	H	40-3		
Sat. 4	Sevens Tournament	H	.....		
Wed. 8	Bristol	A	24-3		
Sat. 11	Wolfhounds XV	H	9-20		
Wed. 15	Penarth	H	62-15		
Sat. 18	Coventry	H	25-12		
Wed. 22					
Sat. 25	Overseas				
Wed. 29	Aberavon	A	10-14		
	International XV*	H	24-13		
OCTOBER					
Sat. 2	Argentina	H	25-29		
Sat. 9	Northampton	A	20-16		
Wed. 13	Bristol	H	.....		
Sat. 16	Cambridge Un. (am)	H	.....		
Wed. 20	Bridgend	A	.....		
Sat. 23	Harlequins	A	.....		
Wed. 27	Neath	A	.....		
Sat. 30	Italy*	H	.....		
NOVEMBER					
Wed. 3	Pontypool	A	.....		
Sat. 6	Oxford University	H	.....		
Sat. 13	Ebbw Vale	H	.....		
Sat. 20	W.R.U. Cup				
Sat. 27	Llanelli	H	.....		
DECEMBER					
Sat. 4	Swansea	A	.....		
Wed. 8	Newport	H	.....		
Sat. 11	Moseley	H	.....		
Sat. 18	W.R.U. Cup				
Mon. 27	Crawshays XV	H	.....		
1977					
JANUARY					
Sat. 1	Pontypool	H	.....		
Sat. 8	W.R.U. Cup				
Sat. 15					
Sat. 22	Neath	H	.....		
Sat. 29	Aberavon	H	.....		
FEBRUARY					
Sat. 5	Coventry	A	.....		
Sat. 12	Pontypridd	H	.....		
Wed. 15	Llanelli	A	.....		
Sat. 19	Ebbw Vale	A	.....		
Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup				
MARCH					
Sat. 5	London Welsh	H	.....		
Sat. 12	Scot. Co-optimists*	H	.....		
Sat. 19					
Wed. 23	Bridgend	H	.....		
Sat. 26	Newport	A	.....		
APRIL					
Sat. 2	Gloucester	A	.....		
Sat. 9	Barbarians	H	.....		
Mon. 11	Harlequins	H	.....		
Sat. 16					
Wed. 20	Swansea	H	.....		
Sat. 23	Sydney*	H	.....		
Sat. 30	W.R.U. Cup				
MAY/JUNE	World Tour				



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