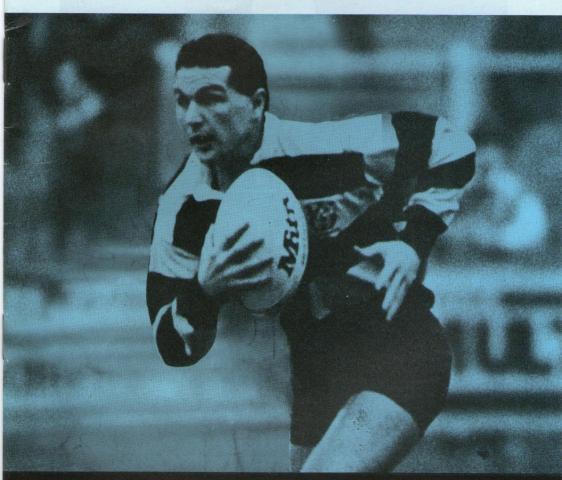


# Cardiff rugby club

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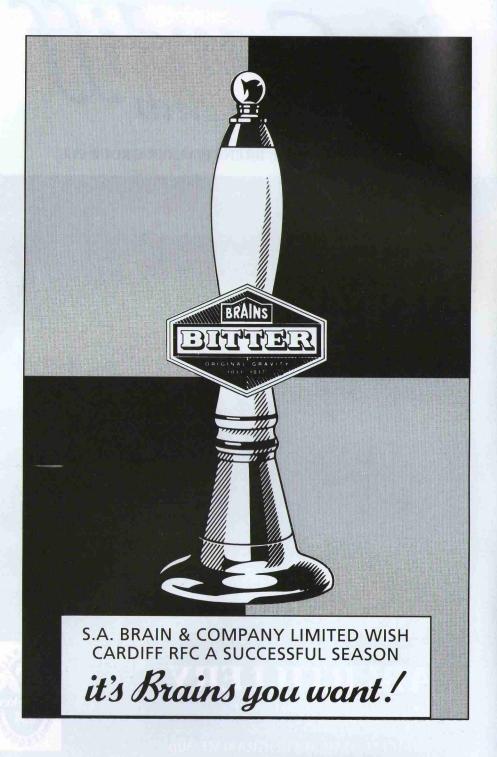


at The Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon....

# **ABERTILLERY**

Saturday, 27th October, 1990 Kick-Off 2.30 p.m. OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME 50p







**Heineken National League Premier Division** 

# Cardiff v. Abertillery

SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER, 1990 KICK-OFF 2.30 p.m.

Well here we are already two months (a quarter of the season) and four games into the long awaited structure of league rugby into our game. Has it made the sort of impact that was so confidently predicted by many of the so-called sages of the rugby scene in Wales. I think we will have to reserve judgement on that question as yet because things are still in a rather topsy-turvy state at this point in time.

What has become more than apparent is the fact that league games are of utmost importance and a win achieved by any means possible gives you those vital two points in the table. Look at the drubbing we took at Newport the other week. The first reaction was to be grateful that it wasn't a league game. I'm sure that the Black and Ambers will be in the Premier Division this time next year and it will be of paramount importance when we meet and not just another non league game.

So how is league rugby going from our point of view. With two wins and two defeats its a case of all square for us. Mind we have done it the hard way by losing at

home but making that up by winning away.

In our last home appearance against Bridgend we could have been home and dry by half time had we converted our many penalty chances. It was left to a last quarter onslaught on the Bridgend line but they held out for their one point victory. It was said that justice would not have been served had we snatched a win. It would not have worried me however because injustice has been inflicted on us many many times in the past and no doubt will be so in the future.

Bridgend were highly delighted with their win and we were universally disappointed at losing at home. The ship turned turtle last Saturday however with the results at Bridgend, where Swansea snatched that magnificent last seconds victory and at Pontypridd where we came away with a very meritorious win. Let's hope we can keep the magnificent spirit going that seemed to appear with the unfortunate dismissal of Mike Griffiths. It was a great display of guts and determination which thoroughly earned a memorable win.

One thing has been confirmed yet again and that is the boot is still a prolific vehicle for putting points on the board. In all 20 Premier Division matches played to date a total of 595 points have been recorded. Of that just less than half of that total have come from the 72 tries scored (288 points) which is less than four per game.

Consistency in slotting the goals is still the answer it appears then.

Now on to this afternoon when we extend a most hearty welcome to Abertillery. Abertillery-Cardiff games are something of a rarity because since the first encounter in December 1926 only 14 more games have taken place. The full record of the 15 games played reads 7 wins to us, 7 to them and 1 drawn. Points wise we have scored 166 to their 119.

Abertillery are somewhat unsure of their formation date due to the fact that all their records were destroyed during the 1930's. They celebrated their Centenary in 1983-84 however, on the basis of information available to them. They became a top class club in 1907-08 after winning the Monmouthshire League. This gave them the honour of playing the 1908 touring Australians. That game was played on Christmas Day 1908 and it became a milestone in their history as they held the tourists to a very creditable three-all draw.

During the early 1920's the town went through grim times when a mass exodus of the population seeking work elsewhere took place. By the late 1920's however through blood and guts dedication they had built up a side to match most others. During 1929 and 1932 Abertillery saw their greatest days. They won the unofficial

Welsh Championship on two occasions. Cardiff also suffered at their hands during their golden era when we came out second best in 5 consecutive games during which we scored only 16 points to their 51.

They played as a club during World War II and immediately afterwards gave another great display against Bill McLean's touring Wallabies. They put up a great fight in the manner of their predecessors in 1908 but were narrowly defeated by the men from Down Under by the small margin of 6pts. to 3.

The end of the 1950's saw another good period in their history when they could field a back row which included such star performers as Haydn Morgan and Alun Pask with 27 and 26 caps respectively. It speaks volumes of the loyalty of such

players that they stuck to the club through thick and thin.

During the 1960's too some star names turned out at Abertillery Park, surely one of the most picturesque grounds in Wales. Included in these were such famous names as Willie John McBride, David Watkins and Keith Jarrett. The name most known to us in Cardiff however is Bob Norster of who's career we are all very familiar in the Green and White. Stuart Nunnerley is also another who has taken the same road as Bob.

Abertillery's record against us is quite unique because they are the only club who we have played on more than 15 occasions who can claim even a 50/50 record

against us, so they are top of the class on that score.

As I've previously said fixtures between us are rare and its the advent of the league which now sees our swords cross once more. Their own introduction into the new venture began with a daunting visit to The Gnoll. They put up a very creditable performance however and held the All Blacks' to a very respectable 16-9. Glory followed then when Llanelli came to Abertillery Park and were sent packing to the tune of 12pts. to 7. This put them in great heart but alas things have turned a bit sour with an away defeat to Glamorgan Wanderers 16-10. Worse was to follow with a massive home defeat from Pontypool by a demoralising 30pts. to 3.

As if that defeat wasn't bad enough Abertillery's luck hit rock bottom because outside half Byron Hayward fractured his thumb and will be sidelined for some time to come. Byron is a very important part of their strategy, and his ability and very

skilful kicking will be sorely missed by the Monmouthshire outfit.

To Abertillery then we say welcome to Cardiff Arms Park for your first visit since

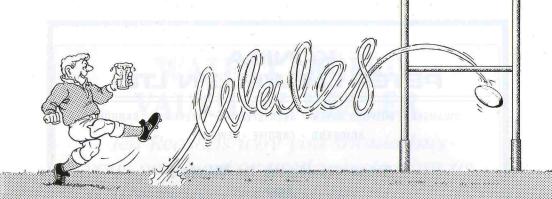
the last game played here on 28th February, 1976.

The Rags are still in cracking form and those of us who saw their demolition of Pontypridd Athletic last Saturday enjoyed some splendid rugby indeed. This weekend should have been a real test for them against the Wasps' second string in London. Due to our injury problems and Under 21 Wales squad committments though, unfortunately, the game has had to be called off. The Youth are still setting a red hot pace however. Their latest wins include a massive 68-3 win over an always useful Pontypool United side and then another big win at Blackwood last Saturday by 38-9. Their strength will be put to the test today when they meet Nuneaton as a curtain raiser to the main game. Unfortunately they will be well understrength due to the fact that no fewer than 8 of the squad will be with the District team playing at Swansea.

And now a word about our new jerseys. There seems to be quite a strong lobby within the Club for a return to our normal strip. This is not everybody's view however because there are some who like the new shirts. The question is still very much alive however and there are clauses in the contracts of the suppliers that we are now looking into in order to see what scope we have concerning our playing kit. So let us know how you feel about the issue.

Finally today it only remains to offer our sincere thanks to this afternoon's sponsor Hi-Tech Industrial Specialists Ltd. for generous support of the game. We hope Fred Martin, Chris Beecher and their guests have a most enjoyable afternoon out.

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# Rugby Quiz - No. 5

Let's see what we know about Abertillery.

- 1. Who is their most capped player?
- 2. What position did they finish up in last season's Merit Table?
- 3. Have they ever appeared in a Snelling Sevens Final?
- 4. Who holds their points scoring record?
- 5. When was the last time Abertillery beat Cardiff?



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## KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

#### QUESTION A:

The defending team is awarded a penalty in the field of play one metre from the goal line. The kicker retires IN GOAL and kicks the ball with one of his own players in front of him. What is the correct decision?

#### ANSWER:

The referee should award a scrummage to the attacking side five metres out, on a line through the mark

#### QUESTION B:

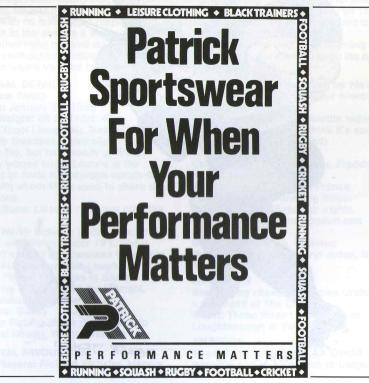
A player has been awarded a mark IN GOAL. The kick is taken but the ball strikes an upright and rebounds over the dead ball line. What is the correct decision for the referee?

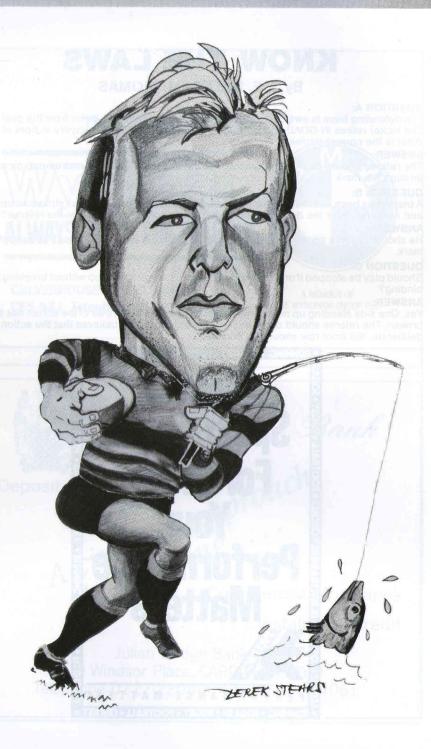
He should award a scrummage to the attacking side five metres out on a line through the mark.

Should play be stopped if one front row of the scrummage stands up without breaking their binding?

#### ANSWER:

Yes. One side standing up means that the binding of the front rows of the scrum has been broken. The referee should order a re-scrummage, but if he believes that the action was deliberate, the front row should be penalised.





# **QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN**

QUIDNUNC IS prepared to take a bet that you did not know that limpets were the flankers of the gasteropod world. For this piece of vital knowledge from the Department of Totally Unnecessary Information, I am indebted to Mr. Anthony Mark Bennett, whose learned dissertation on "The Aggressive Behaviour of Limpets" helped him to earn a BSc degree in Marine Biology at Swansea University. Limpets, it would appear, are not quite the indolent fellows that you and I might think, hanging about all day stuck to rocks. On the contrary, they pounce, knocking each other from those rocks and guarding with pugnacity their patch, preventing the opposition from crossing the gain line.

There now. Never again complain that you learn nothing new from these ramblings. The afore-mentioned Mr. Bennett, of course and as you will have noticed this season, does not hang around either; as a flanker, he also guards his patch, knocks down the opposition before they cross the gain line and feeds from any scraps that may come his way (actually he feeds on anything he can lay his hands on: five meals a day, especially if they include either

tuna fish or anything Italian, are not uncommon).

From which you may gather that Mark Bennett is an intelligent, amiable sort of guy off the pitch. He may have one of the worst voices in the world — he'll try "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" but he's the only person Quidnunc has ever met who has been asked none-too-politely in church to shut up during a hymn - and he may be having trouble finding a job to suit his talents (they don't grow on trees, don't jobs connected with the sea), but team-mates report that he's a

"cracker of a person to have around."

The question of a job worries him rather more (he is constantly got at on the subject by team manager John Scott) than being one of Thumper Coach Phillips's targets for dilitariness in training. He was once offered a position in the Antarctic Survey Programme - an 18-month posting with no holiday, no respites and, most important, no rugby. But there are currently other fish in the sea, as it were, and Mark may land something shortly.

Another thing he must do sometime is to take a driving test. He's been learning now for five years without committing himself - something he is clearly not afraid to do on the park. But

what else would you like to know about Anthony Mark Bennett?

#### PERSONAL DETAILS

Birthplace: Neath

Birthday: January 26, 1968 Height/Weight: 6ft 2in/14st. 4lbs

School: Ysgol Llangatwg, Neath College

and on to Swansea University

Married: No, but has steady girlfriend Beverley whose sister Leanne is the girlfriend of Andy (Cambridge scrum-half)

Booth with whom Mark used to share digs in Swansea.

Superstitions: Likes to runs last onto the

field.

Career: Welsh Schools Under 18's, to New Zealand with Welsh Under 19's, Wales Under 20's and 21's, Swansea University (three UAU finals against Loughborough: all lost). Played for Wales in Students World Cup. Some games for Crynant, Neath. Maesteg and Swansea.

Nickname: Benny

Hobbies: Fishing (once caught a 12lb salmon at Neath), Weight-training

#### PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby Players: Richard Webster, Mervyn

Davies

Other Sportsmen: Ian Rush for his natural talent, sprinter Alan Wells for overcoming lack of natural talent.

Referee: Whoever is in middle today
Actor: Ruttgar Hauer (I think it's spelt: the

man from the Guinness ad)
Actress: Marilyn Monroe

Comedians: Tommy Cooper, Freddie Starr

Music: Bryan Adams

Holiday resort: South of France Food: Tuna fish. Anything Italian Drink: Lager on Saturday nights. Occasional Southern Comfort and

lemonade

Ground: Old Parish, Maesteg

**Biggest influences:** Darryl Jones, Neath Tertiary College

#### MEMORIES

Best: Being chosen for Wales Under 21's

v. Scotland at The Gnoll

Worst: Those three UAU losses to Loughborough at Twickenham

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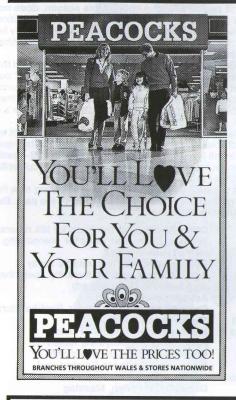
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- Paul JOHN
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- Ian GREENSLADE
- Steve BLACKMORE
- Mark EDWARDS
- Stuart ROY
- Mark BENNETT
- Robert LAKIN
- Richard COLLINS
- 16. Simon HILL
- 17. Kevin MORGAN
- 18. Matthew De MAID
- 19. Jeff WHITEFOOT
- Jonathan HUMPHRIES
- 21. Howard STONE

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



Replacements

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Touch Judges: Messrs. M. J. CROUCH and L. RAWLE

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# **Abertillery**

- Shaun SMITH 15.
- Carl BUTLER 14.
- Andrew RICE 13.
- Bruce CORLETT 12.
- Adam RICHARDS 11. Carl MOGFORD 10.
  - Lee DAVIES 9.
- Shaun DUGGAN
- Wayne JERVIS
- Dean JONES 3.
- Andrew OFFERS 4.
- Steve SIMMONS 5.
  - Len OWEN 6.
- Mark PICTON (Captain) 8.
  - Ian WILKINSON 7.
    - Mark WILLIAMS 16.
      - Mike DAVIES 17.
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Maesteg	3	1	2	0	3	2	
Cross Keys	3	1	2	0	5	2	
Penarth	3	0	3	0	4	0	
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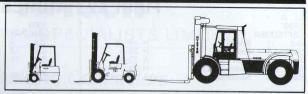




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# Rugby Quiz No. 5 - Answers

- 1. Haydn Morgan, 27.
- 2. 9th.
- 3. Yes, twice beaten by Newport 11-8 in 1957 and by Cardiff 44-6 in 1983.
- 4. Byron Hayward 395 in season 1988-89.
- 5. 1st September, 1983 at Abertillery Park by 9pts. to 3. It was the opening game of their Centenary season.



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#### **FIRST XV FIXTURES**

1990 SEPTEMBER Sat. 1 Bristol Sat. 8 Leicester Sat. 15 Bath Sat. 22 Swansea (L) Sat. 29 Newbridge (L)	H 28-15 H 35-9 A 23-45 H 28-13 A 0-11	1991 JANUARY Sat. 5 Ebbw Vale A Sat. 12 Bridgend (L) A Sat. 19 London Welsh (a.m.) H (at Sophia Gardens) Sat. 26 W.R.U. Cup 5th Round	
OCTOBER Tue. 2 Penarth Fri. 5 Newport Sat. 13 Bridgend (L) Sat. 20 Pontypridd (L) Sat. 27 Abertillery (L)	H 48-21 A 9-34 H 9-10 A 21-20 H	FEBRUARY Fri. 1 Ayr Sat. 9 Pontypridd (L) H Fri. 15 Bective Rangers H Sat. 23 W.R.U. Cup 6th Round	
NOVEMBER Sat. 3 Wed. 7 Oxford University Sat. 10 Glam. Wanderers Fri. 16 Newport Sat. 24 Pontypool (L)	s (L) H H	Sat. 9 Abertillery (L) A Sat. 16 W.R.U. Cup Quarter Final Sat. 23 Llanelli (L) H Sat. 30 Barbarians H	
DECEMBER Sat. 1 Aberavon	А	Sat. 6 W.R.U. Cup Semi-Final Sat. 13 Glam. Wanderers (L) A Sat. 20 Pontypool (L) H Sat. 27 Neath (L) A	
Sat. 8 Neath (L) Sat. 15 Swansea (L) Sat. 22 Newbridge (L) Wed. 26 Pontypridd Sat. 29 Harlequins	H H	MAY Sat. 4 W.R.U. Cup Final (L) denotes League game	

#### **ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES**

Wed. 5 Abera Sat. 8 Leices Wed. 12 Cwmt Sat. 15 Bath I Wed. 19 Garno Sat. 22 Lough	ster Extras A 21-28 wrch A 65- 0 Jnited H 12-24 liffaith A 18-13 liborough H 18-15	1991 JANU Sat. Sat. Sat.	5 12 26 UARY	Ebbw Vale Athletic Bridgend Ravens Pontypool United	H H
OCTOBER Wed. 3 Glam. Fri. 5 Newp Sat. 13 Bridge Wed. 17 Cardit Sat. 20 Ponty	Wanderers II H Post. ort United H 40-4 end Ravens A 20-13 ff Medicals H 24-3 pridd Athletic H 44-7	Sat. Wed. Sat. Tue.	9 20 23 26	Pontypridd Athletic Mountain Ash Bedwas Pontypool United	A H A A
NOVEMBER Sat. 3 Sengl Wed. 7 Barry Sat. 10 Glam. Fri. 16 Newp	nenydd H Plastics A Wanderers II A ort United A pool Athletic H	Sat. Sat. Sat. Fri.	9 16 29	Rumney Neath Athletic Blackwood Bridgend Sports	H A A
Sat. 15 Abero Sat. 22 Neath	ester United A earn H Athletic A ff H.S.O.B. A	Sat. Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat.	6 13 17 20 27	Croesyceiliog Llanharan Llandaff North Pontypool Athletic Blackwood	H H A H

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