

Scrap Book

A stylized illustration of the Tower Bridge in Cardiff, Wales, rendered in black and red. The bridge's two towers and suspension cables are prominent. The background is a vibrant red with white, flame-like or cloud-like patterns. In the foreground, the water is depicted with red and black splashes, and a small boat with two figures is visible on the left.

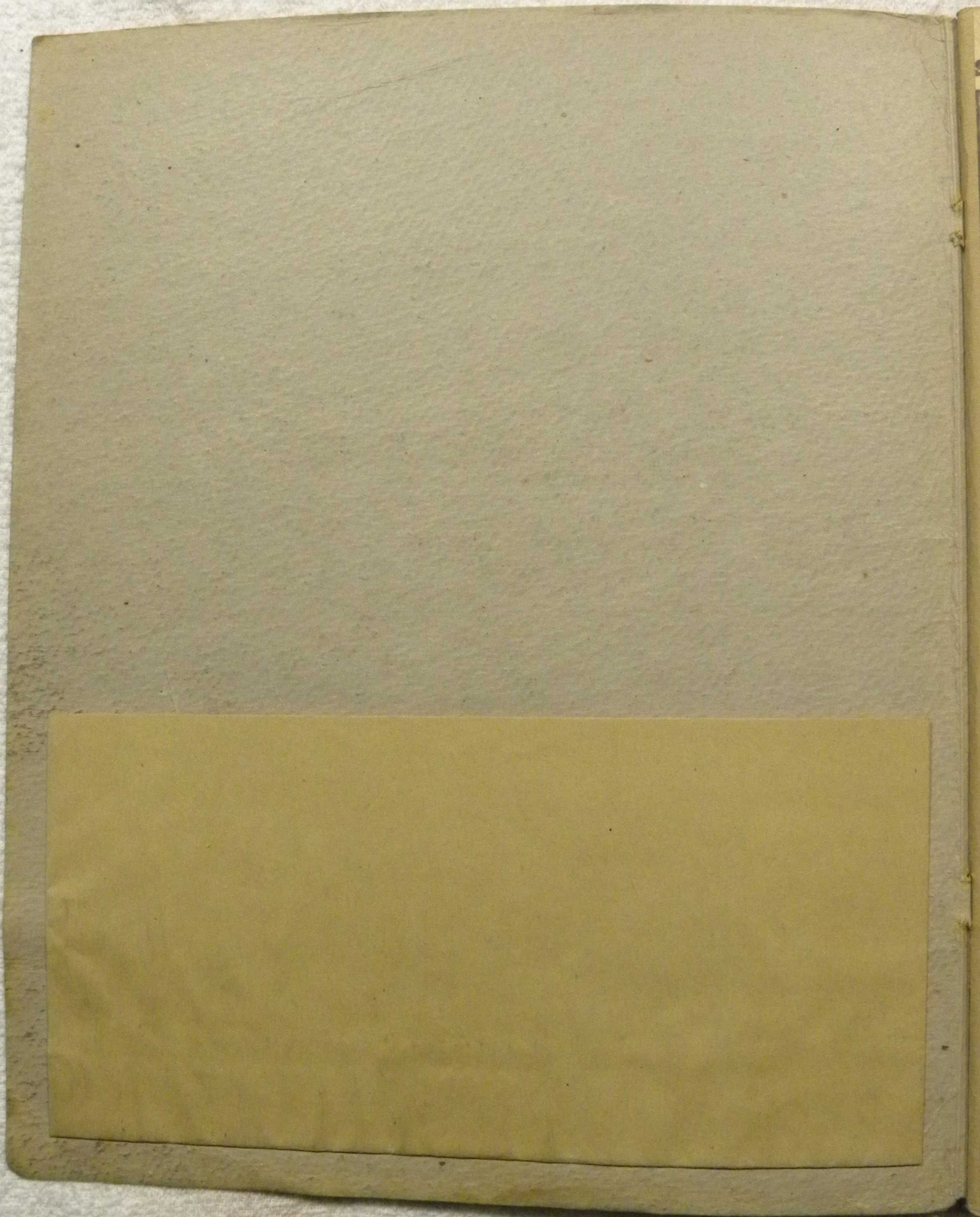
CARDIFF. R.F.C.

Book 2.

Ready For Binding

CRFC. CUTTINGS

NOV. 1950 - APRIL 1951



Morris was too fast for Gloucester

Set to score

By E. R. K. GLOVER

H. Morris played a big part in Cardiff's victory over Gloucester at Arms Park to-day, his great speed enabling him to outpace the defence to score three fine tries.



Cardiff right wing, Haydn Morris, shapes up to punt ahead after a brilliant breakthrough. He gathered his own kick to score his second try against Gloucester.

Cardiff Arms Park looked a good deal better than expected this afternoon after the rain. The fine weather had its effect on the crowd and there were probably 10,000 to see the kick-off.

Gloucester were compelled to make one change on the left wing—Dangerfield for Baker—while Cardiff fielded unchanged. Teams:

CARDIFF: F. Trott; D. G. Murphy, D. J. James, Bledwyn Williams, H. Morris; Cliff Morgan, Rex Willis; Cliff Davies, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Davies, W. E. Tamplin (captain), M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, G. Williams.

GLoucester: S. J. Hook; S. J. Dangerfield, S. J. Troughton, R. Sutton, C. Crabtree; J. A. Teakle, V. Davies; T. Day, R. Chamberlain, R. Parry, G. Hastings, J. Watkins, R. Ibbotson, R. Hodge, A. G. Hudson. Referee: Mr. D. C. Joynton (Rogerstone).

Tamplin kicked off for Cardiff and the return kick found the half-way mark. From a scrum that followed Gloucester set off in attack, and Trott only saved his line by falling on the ball.

Cardiff were off balance and, within a minute Gloucester were ahead.

After much fumbling by the backs they were awarded a penalty just outside the 25 and HOOK kicked the goal with ease.

Gloucester continued to attack, and their forwards overwhelmed Morgan every time he had the ball.

One of these occasions led to a score, for Teakle picked up a loose ball and set the three-quarters going and, with the Cardiff defence out of position, SUTTON scored too far out for Hook to convert.

CLEVER DRIBBLE

Gloucester had showed their offensive intentions by kicking to the open instead of touch whenever possible.

Their open methods led to disaster, however, for their passing broke down and Cardiff left wing, H. Morris, chose wisely in electing to dribble rather than try to pick the ball up.

With the determination of a Trevor Ford and the skill of a W. W. Wakefield, MORRIS dribbled half the length of the field and scored near enough for Tamplin to make certain of the extra points.

It had taken until now for the Cardiff backs to settle down, but when they did they took play into the Gloucester half and looked likely to score at any moment.

This inevitable score followed when WILLIS took advantage of a slip by Hook to pick up the ball and dart over the line. Tamplin made a fine conversion.

Cardiff kept up the pressure and although the heeling was often slow the ball was coming out on the Cardiff side.

SPEED TELLS

Gloucester were already hard pressed, and soon went further behind.

The ball went along the line in orthodox fashion to H. Morris, the young wing from Penygraig, and moving beautifully he beat his man and kicked past the full-back.

The Gloucester defenders had no answer to MORRIS'S speed, and he scored, the kick falling.

Half-Cardiff 2 1 13
Gloucester 1 1 6

*Penalty
Gloucester had appreciated the rest at half-time for they at once went into the attack after the resumption, though danger from their backs came rather than Cardiff mistakes than their own skill in attack.

In fact, the following-up of the Gloucester forwards had as much to do with this full scale Gloucester offensive as the penetration of their three-quarters.

The visiting pack, heavier than Cardiff, were slowly getting on top, but the Cardiff defence was so firm that it could often turn to attack almost a will.

Eventually, the Gloucester offensive lost its force and Cardiff, although uncertain in handling, kept the ball out of their own half most of the time.

It was again H. MORRIS who produced the inevitable score.

Again he rounded his wing by sheer pace, again kicked ahead, and again scored. D. G. Murphy took the kick, but hit an upright.

Although Cardiff were now spending most of their time in the Gloucester 25 the visitors were by no means finished. Teakle broke right away to the halfway line. Sutton took up the running and put in IBBOTSON, who with a neat side step got over near the post. Hook unaccountably topped the kick.

Final-Cardiff 2 2 16
Gloucester 1 2 9

Penalty

COMMENTS

Cardiff undoubtedly owed their win to H. Morris, whose balanced running was the best he has yet done for Cardiff.

The rest of the backs were curiously lethargic but as it turned out all they had to do was down the line to Morris.

Considering the heavy ground, the game was an entertaining one with open play predominating.

A lot of the credit for this must go to Gloucester whose forwards paved the way for the backs who just were not up to the necessary standard.

Cardiff were the stronger side and were full marks for their win.

F. ECHO 11/11/50

PERSONALITY PARADE

FUTURE generations of Arms

Park spectators will never cease to hear praise for the skill and tactics of Cardiff's fair-haired stand-off, Billy Cleaver.



He will always be known as one of the chief pioneers of the modern forward half-back game and rank among those great kickers Osler (South Africa) and Winfield (Wales).

Billy's retirement, with 14 Welsh caps, at the age of 29 and after ten years with Cardiff is a great blow to Welsh rugby. No player was ever more popular and he leaves a gap that will be hard to fill in Wales's Triple Crown team.

CLEAVER'S FAREWELL APPEARANCE

Tourists help Cardiff win

By E. R. K. GLOVER

Cardiff, with the help of the tourists, soundly beat Bridgend at Arms Park to-day by 21 points to 12.

Cleaver, who was playing his last big game before retirement, failed with a last-minute penalty attempt.

Cardiff's five members of the touring team were welcomed back to the first XV by nearly 20,000 excited supporters.

Billy Cleaver, in his last match for Cardiff, got a special cheer as he led the team on to the field.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; D. Murphy, B. L. Williams, J. Matthews, M. Evans; W. B. Cleaver, Rex Willis; Cliff Davies, G. Beckingham, W. E. Davies, A. E. Tamplin, L. Evans, P. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, G. Williams.

BRIDGEND: C. Griffiths; B. Gregory, Les Powell, Ivor John (capt.), L. Emmet; S. Collins, Haydn Evans; Doug Jones, R. Loveluck, S. Matthews, T. Farmer, E. J. Davies, M. Davies, S. Richards, N. Thomas.

Bridgend won the toss. They at once pressed and twice S. Collins, the Bridgend outside half, kicked ahead well enough to test the home defence.

Cleaver relieved pressure with a long touch-finder from a penalty, but Griffiths matched it for Bridgend.

PENALTY GOAL

Cardiff were penalised for a scrum infringement and M. DAVIES kicked a penalty goal for Bridgend.

Cardiff were roused at this, and a beautiful movement by Matthews and Bledwyn Williams ended with Matthews sending M. EVANS over for a try, easily converted by Tamplin.

A moment later the same two did it again, this time for MATTHEWS to score and Tamplin convert.

The Tourists were settling down and only fierce Bridgend tackling broke up some sparkling attacks, while the Bridgend pack was inferior only in heeling.

LONG RANGE SHOT

After one Cardiff attack the Bridgend forwards took the ball three-quarters of the length of the field. Back went Cardiff for Tamplin to land a long range penalty goal.

Bridgend were by no means out-classed, however, and after J. Collins had been tackled just short of the line S. MATTHEWS scored an unconverted try.

Half-Cardiff 3 0 13
Bridgend 1 1 6

*Penalties

Bridgend started the second half well, but wasted ground by giving away too many penalties, and from one of these TAMPLIN kicked another goal.

FAST SCORING

Cardiff attacked at once, and after a good run by Cleaver, Matthews sent M. Evans away.

He cross-kicked, but the ball went loose. G. WILLIAMS, however, was up to score.

Bridgend's GREGORY then scored an unconverted try in the corner. For a while Cardiff were hard-pressed and M. DAVIES kicked a penalty for Bridgend.

After a long period of Bridgend attack, Cardiff gradually got on top again but not with out some anxious moments.

There was a great cheer when Cleaver took a penalty but what would have been the most popular score did not materialise. The end came with a typical Cleaver kick ahead.

Final-Cardiff 15 0 21
Bridgend 12 2 12

*Two Penalties each.

COMMENTS

Although the Tourists were obviously short of a gallop or two, they showed enough to remind Cardiff how much we've missed them.

Smart work from the loose



With Cardiff hooker, J. Phillips, closely following the flight of the ball, Gloucester forwards whip the ball back to their inside half V. Davies, from a melee in the game at Cardiff Arms Park.

↑
FOOTBALL ECHO
2/12/50 →

FOOTBALL ECHO 4/11/50

Billy Cleaver's successor has an unenviable task

FOLLOWING the news yesterday that Cardiff, Wales, and British outside-half Billy Cleaver has finally announced his decision to retire from Rugby Cardiff supporters, while paying tribute to a great player, must pledge their utmost support for his successor.

Whoever he is to be, he will certainly have a hard task living up to the extremely high standard which Cleaver set during his 10 seasons in Cardiff's colours.

Though Cleaver had his critics, it is generally acknowledged that he was a genius in tactical kicking, while his superb defensive play was perhaps only a fraction better than his attack.

He joined the Cardiff club while studying at Cardiff University and played 10 consecutive seasons with them.

In 1945-46 season, he gained a Victory cap and made his first appearance for Wales in 1947.

Altogether he won 14 caps for his country and played at full-back, centre and outside-half with equal skill.

Educated at Pentre Secondary School, he was a member of the Barbarian side which beat the Australians in that memorable game at Cardiff Arms Park in 1948.

That is certainly a great record and one to which a large crowd at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon paid due homage when, against Bridgend, Billy Cleaver played his last game of rugger in Cardiff's colours.

Most likely man to fill the great gap left by Cleaver is young Cliff Morgan, who at the moment is suffering from an injured shoulder. But there are many people who will not envy Cliff the honour.

To somewhat spoil Cardiff rugby fans, the Matthews-Williams-Willis combination without Cleaver as the link might take some getting used to, and Morgan might have to battle against unfair comparison.

Much criticism

A similar position arose when Haydn Tanner retired and Willis took over at the base of the scrum.

Willis came in for much criticism at first, but he stuck at it, practised hard, and finally came a success story which took him in the space of one season into the Welsh and British teams.

Now Morgan finds himself in the same boat, but fans can expect him to be determined to make the grade.

He has all the advantages of having already shown that he is not far below international class, and he can expect every help from his more experienced colleagues.

Though Morgan was forced to miss the first Welsh trial his turn is bound to come again.

At the end of every season followers of Rugby look back to consider what was for them the match of the season.

For Cardiff and Newport supporters it seems highly probable that next Saturday's game between the two clubs will supply this campaign's favourite recollection.

If Newport, without their star men, this afternoon managed to keep intact their 100 per cent



CLIFF MORGAN

record against Plymouth, there is likely to be a veritable feast of football at Rodney Parade next week.

A full view

Cardiff, with their star men back in action, and having had a warming-up game, will go all out (not more, in the friendliest spirit) to inflict the first defeat of the season on the Gwent club, and Newport will, undoubtedly, be firmly determined that no such thing shall happen.

If both teams live up to their oft-avowed intentions to play bright, open Rugby, no matter what the result, a great crowd should have a great afternoon's entertainment.

Newport secretary Mr. W. E. Everson is making preparations for the housing of some 30,000 spectators at Rodney Parade for the game.

Besides the stand, which will hold about 2,300, a considerable number of spectators will be seated on benches behind the dead ball lines and alongside the popular side touch line.

The last time Rodney Parade was surveyed, it was considered capable of holding 25,000, but with the improvements in banking which have been undertaken on the popular side, an additional 5,000 will get a full view of the football.

Would-be spectators are, however, advised to arrive early. Early car arrivals will find parking space inside the ground itself, alongside the tennis courts, but when this is full vehicles will have to park in streets off Corporation-road or in the town centre.

Following the game against Bridgend to-day, the Cardiff Rugby Club arranged a private dinner in honour of the members of the British team.

After the dinner, club caps will be presented to players who gained them during seasons 1945 to 1949.

W. MAIL 6/11/50



Cleaver epilogue

Many letters in praise of Bill Cleaver have reached me this week, but space does not permit me to refer to them.

However, one statement heard several years ago is worth mentioning. I spoke to J. W. T. MacBride, the Australian wing, following Cardiff's victory over the tourists, and he said, "Cleaver was the difference between the two sides. If we had included him and not Cardiff we would have won. His tactical kicking 'killed' our forwards."

I remember many of my friends in Swansea saying the same thing following Cardiff's visit there in 1948!

W. MAIL 9/11/50

W. B. Cleaver ending playing career

By J. B. G. THOMAS

W. B. CLEAVER, the Cardiff and Wales outside-half, announced his retirement from the game in a letter to

Mr. B. H. Jenkins, secretary of the Cardiff Club, yesterday.

This follows upon the announcement in Wednesday's *Western Mail* that he would play against Bridgend on Saturday.

Thus this match will be his last appearance on the field of play, and the end of a grand career of loyalty and service.

His letter reads as follows:

Dear Brice,—As you know I have decided to retire from serious football, so I would prefer not to be considered for selection in future.

However as you state, the five tourists are being officially welcomed home on the Arms Park, and it would appear incongruous if I were not to appear in my football kit. Also I must confess a desire to play, perhaps for the last time, on the ground I played so much of my football and in the jersey of the club I was honoured to represent on so many occasions.

And so, in compliance with your wish, and in support of my fellow-tourists, I have decided to play against Bridgend on the Park on Saturday. This decision, however, does not alter my original decision to retire from the serious side of the game.

May I express my most sincere thanks to you and all at the Park who have helped to make the last 10 years the most enjoyable I shall ever spend.

Yours, BILL CLEAVER.

GIFTED PLAYER

Followers in Wales will regret the decision, for though some might have disagreed with the contemporary style of Cleaver's play all will agree that he was one of the most whole-hearted players ever to appear in Welsh Rugby, and the most naturally gifted player in the post-war scene. He was essentially a team man, and played the game purely for the love of it. His attitude has been one that should be an example to younger players.

As a defensive footballer he had no superior, and he adapted himself to the contemporary style of play better than any half-back except, perhaps, J. W. Kyle, of Ireland. Yet he was a link in the prolific scoring machine produced by the Cardiff Club in the season 1947-48.

Last season he answered his critics with a splendid performance as outside-half in the Welsh Triple Crown team.

Cleaver will be missed on the field of play, but he will not be lost to Welsh Rugby for as chairman of the Welsh Youth Union he will continue to render invaluable service to the game.

Speedy work from the scrum



With the scrum breaking up quickly and Bridgend's back-row men speeding to pounce upon him, Cardiff's Rex Willis launches a bullet pass to outside half W. B. Cleaver.

F. ECHO 4/11/50

Cardiff 'deputies' maintain high playing standard

HAVING at long last had a glimpse of Cardiff's touring team members in the game against Bridgend on Saturday, Cardiff rugby fans can settle down and concentrate on the season's matches to come.

Apart from the obvious gap left by the retirement of outside half Billy Cleaver, supporters feel that the team is back more or less to normal, and look forward once again to see the delightful open rugby which is Cardiff's traditional game.

Though none of the tourists looked in absolutely tip-top shape, which was to be expected in their first serious game for some time, there was undoubtedly a happy contentment amongst the spectators at their return.

That does not imply that Cardiff supporters have already forgotten the men who carried on Cardiff's tradition while the tourists were away. Indeed, they are full of praise for the excellent performances given by players like D. M. James, G. Llewellyn, H. Greenslade and W. Douglas.

In them, Cardiff have an insurance for the future which will help to keep the club in the forefront of British rugby.

Speculations were being made around the Cardiff club this week about that vacant outside half position.

Many had it that Bledwyn Williams would ask the club to play him there in the game with Newport this afternoon.

But this seems to have gone by the board now and he is likely to continue at centre if G. Llewellyn was a success at Rodney Parade.

A fitting end

Llewellyn, by the way, has played in all Cardiff's games this season except the one with Bridgend last week, and, if he takes the chance offered him by Cliff Morgan's injury, he might well figure in quite a few more before the season is over.

It was a fitting end to Billy Cleaver's career that all his Cardiff club colleagues, both players and officials should pay tribute to him at the private dinner held last Saturday to welcome the returning tourists.

Cleaver denies retirement story

By J. B. G. THOMAS

WHEN Wales' Rugby ambassadors returned yesterday from their tour of Australasia as



W. B. Cleaver.

members of the British team of two of them—W. B. Cleaver and Lewis Jones—discussed stories which had been circulated concerning their future. Cleaver denied that he had announced his retirement.

As he is considerably younger than several members of the Cardiff XV there were many wisecracks as to the best age for retiring from the game.

Speaking about the tour, the tourists strongly emphasised that the traditional style of play of the Cardiff club was so successfully adopted by the British team.

Former New Zealand and Australian players whom they met were, they said, full of praise and respect for the Cardiff club's attitude towards the game.

In welcoming back his teammates, captain Bill Tamplin said, "we have endeavoured to maintain that tradition in your absence, win or lose, and it is a proud duty for me to have you under my command."

Grand spirit

Club caps presented to players who had gained them during seasons 1945-49 were presented during the dinner.

First XV caps were in light blue velvet and Athletic XV caps in light and dark blue quarters.

The Bridgend team and five of their officials were also present at the function, and this week, Cardiff Secretary, Mr. Brice Jenkins, received a letter from Bridgend thanking Cardiff for a grand night's entertainment and more especially for a great open game.

Thanks, however, thinks Mr. Jenkins, should go unlimited to Bridgend for the grand spirit they displayed in refusing to close up the game.

News of two of Cardiff's injured comes this week. Good news first is that Gower Jenkins, who had an operation for cartilage trouble, will be available after Christmas.

Bad report is from Cliff Morgan, who sports an arm in a sling and who will be out of the game for another three weeks at least.

It is hoped that Stan Judd will be available for selection during the Christmas holidays. At the moment he is studying at Trinity College, Carmarthen.

Tailpiece this week: Watch out for a French referee at Cardiff Arms Park. We may see one officiating there in a future game.

Lewis Jones told me that he had not received an offer to join the Rugby League.

Thousands of enthusiasts greeted the Welsh players in South Wales last night.

Of the 14 Welshmen, seven travelled down from Paddington.

As the train arrived at Newport hundreds of people besieged them in the reserved compartments of the train to offer congratulations.

W.R.U. Welcome

Members of the Welsh Rugby Union, headed by the secretary (Mr. Eric Evans), and officials of Newport and Newbridge Rugby Clubs were there. Each player had to appear on the platform in turn to receive a special cheer.

At Cardiff Station Cliff Davies rendered a solo. At North R. Stephens and R. John were given a civic welcome by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. J. Walter Jones. The last to get off the train was Lewis Jones at Swansea.

He had been met by his parents at Newport, and on alighting at Swansea hundreds of friends from Gorseinon gave him a "royal" welcome home.

Staying in London were Ken Jones, R. T. Evans, D. M. Davies, Bledwyn Williams, J. Matthews, Rex Willis, and W. B. Cleaver.

W. MAIL 9/10/50

Cleaver Still Has Much To Do For Rugby

ALTHOUGH Cardiff rugby idol W. B. Cleaver has decided to end his playing career, he has by no means severed all connections with the game.

In fact, it is likely that now he has made up his mind to retire he will have more influence on the game than ever.

Cleaver has resumed his office as chairman of the Welsh Youth Rugby Union, an office to which he intends to devote himself wholeheartedly.

Cleaver gave up the chairmanship of the union when he sailed with the British touring team to New Zealand and was succeeded by vice-chairman W. Lang.

Yesterday, at the union's first executive meeting of the season, members met to welcome his return. Many tributes were paid to his work both as a player and an administrator.

Cleaver, indeed, has already established himself as an astute administrator, and it is certain that his great knowledge and active interest in the game will benefit the union considerably.

Tamplin's kicking gives Cardiff victory

Northampton, nil; Cardiff, 2-0-6

* Penalties.

TWO fine penalty goals by W. E. Tamplin gave Cardiff a well earned win at Northampton yesterday in a hard exciting

game fought mainly between the forwards at a great pace.

Cardiff made a number of changes from the side which lost to Oxford University, among them being the replacement of the injured Cliff Morgan by Gwyn Llewellyn at outside-half and the playing of Frank Trott in the centre.

The reshuffle did nothing to upset the balance of the team.

The ball was greasy because of drizzling rain, but when they were in possession the Cardiff division worked much better than the home backs.

Forward there was an even struggle with Northampton winning a majority of the tight scrums and Cardiff doing the better in the lines-out and loose mauls.

Both lines were subject to very hard attacks, but the defences proved equal to all calls made on them.

The Cardiff defenders impressed by their plucky falling on the ball. Quite a few Cardiff attacks would have been cut off earlier had the home players gone down so decisively.

WILLIAMS IMPRESSES

Tamplin led his forwards magnificently and was well supported by Collins and Glyn Williams, the latter's quick breaking and following up being outstanding features.

Gwyn Llewellyn was a lively outside-half and made frequent attempts to set his backs going, but because of the close marking was seldom successful. The ball went only infrequently to the wings, but Morris and Murphy were difficult to hold when it did. John Llewellyn gave a polished display at full-back.

Tamplin kicked a goal in each half. Early in the first he drove home a beautiful penalty, kicking straight from 50 yards distance. After the interval he dropped a goal from a mark which he made when the ball was knocked forward in a line-out. This kick was another fine effort, curling in from near touch and 35 yards out.



CARDIFF V NEWPORT

HAYDN MORRIS, the Cardiff wing, is well tackled by Roy Burnett.

DAILY MIRROR 13/11/50

NOW is the time to think of victory

By DON BATE

ANY Englishman who fancies himself for a place in the England Rugby team to meet Wales at Swansea on January 20, had better begin a toughening-up course now. There is not a day to waste, believe me—after seeing Newport maintain their unbeaten record against Cardiff.

A merciless forward struggle, yet with both teams keeping their backs constantly in action, set a pace that would have had almost any English team flat on their backs by half-time.

No matter how fast and clever the backs, they can be held by skilful marking and determined tackling. This was proved by the check which Newport kept on Cardiff's brilliant centre pair, Bledwyn Williams and Jack Matthews.

But I can't yet see where we shall find the forwards to match the Welsh, who are starting at an unbelievable pace and finishing faster, unless every man in line for a cap begins thinking and training now with the one idea of victory on that day to come at Swansea.

Newport won the match 8-6, a goal and a penalty goal to two penalty goals. They led 8-3 at half time, and under great pressure in the second half might have given away to the fierce probing of Cardiff's backs but for the magnificent covering game of Bob Evans.

And that doesn't make Englishmen any happier either.

NEWPORT ARE STILL 100 PER CENT.

Cardiff beaten 8-6 after fierce struggle

OUT IT GOES TO BURNETT

Three penalty goals

By E. R. K. GLOVER

After a fiercely-contested ding-dong battle at Rodney Parade to-day, with excitement reaching a high pitch, Newport beat Cardiff for the second time this season and thus retained their 100 per cent. record.

It was a game characterised by keen defence on both sides, attacking movements being cancelled by deadly tackling.

An hour before the start of the game the ground was almost full and there was still a string of cars stretching away through Newport in the direction of Cardiff.

The band of the 2nd Mous. played the traditional airs, and the crowd sang lustily, giving an almost international air to the preliminaries.

The tension was mounting audibly, and when the players appeared there was a roar of welcome that nearly lifted off the twin roofs of the bob bank stand. The 'Big Five' had three representatives at the game.

The teams:
NEWPORT: R. Hughes; G. Ross, Bryn Williams, R. D. Owen, J. Lane; Roy Burnett, W. A. Williams; G. Hirst, L. Davies, T. Sterry, L. E. T. Jones, Ben Edwards, R. T. Evans, D. Ackerman, P. Davies.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, J. Matthews, Bledodyn Williams, D. G. Murphy; G. Llewellyn, R. Willis; C. Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Beekingham, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, G. Williams, D. J. O'Brien, P. Goodfellow.

Referee, Mr. W. D. Richards, Llanfrechfa.

The game was started by Newport with a long kick to the Cardiff line which Trott put straight back into touch.

Both Cardiff and Newport heeled within the first few minutes but the following up and tackling was very keen, with the result that there were some hurried kicks to touch and once a completely abortive attempt to drop a goal by Burnett.

Collins and Beekingham led a fine Cardiff rush to the Newport 25, and Cardiff heeled, but in spite of a burst by Matthews the Newport tackling was good enough.

Newport rushed it back and Bryn Williams got in a neat diagonal kick ahead that might have been dangerous for Cardiff if it hadn't rolled into touch.

Then a scissors move by Matthews and Bledodyn Williams was only partially successful, and

Newport forwards followed up another diagonal kick by Bryn Williams.

THREE POINTS EACH

When Newport were awarded a penalty for Llewellyn failing to play the ball after a tackle.

B. EDWARDS had no difficulty in kicking a penalty goal.

Now the play gained a new twist and Newport were penalised for a scrum infringement ten yards outside their 25, for TAMPLIN to kick a lovely equalising penalty goal.

At this period the battle between the packs was getting fiercer and both sides tried to get the ball back although the defences brought these efforts to nothing.

Once Bledodyn Williams jinked through but his kick ahead went astray, and another nominal breakthrough by the same player was only stopped when Murphy was tackled by the Newport full-back.

Cardiff were now getting the better of the game and their forwards kept the ball in the Newport half.

Even when Burnett relieved with a great run followed by a kick ahead Collins led a rush back to the Newport 25 only for Burnett to relieve again.

The latter, however, was not allowed to run far by the Cardiff wing forward.

Newport, however, had their moment, when Owen, fielding a wide drop at goal by Trott, inter-passed with Ross two-thirds the length of the field before being forced into touch by Llewellyn.

Newport, however, were not to be denied and when a loose ball was passed to Williams on the wing he cross-kicked for PETER DAVIES to score near the posts. B. Edwards had no difficulty in converting.

Just before half-time R. G. Owen was injured when tackled by J. Matthews.

Half—Newport 2 0 8
Cardiff 11 0 3

A certain amount of feeling seemed to be creeping into the game after Tamplin had restarted, and the crowd roared its displeasure at some vigorous tackling. Still Newport were getting on top, and B. Williams nearly broke clear to find touch near the Cardiff line.

The Cardiff forwards, led by Goodfellow, O'Brien and Collins, forced play back to the half-way line, but Newport were now heeling regularly and only desperate tackling kept Burnett, R. D. Owen and Bryn Williams from scoring.

Eventually the Cardiff pack, who were more than doing their share, forced the ball up field and Cardiff heeled at last.

Bledodyn Williams tried to cut through and was well tackled, and for a moment things looked awkward for Newport.

Llewellyn grabbed a loose ball and put a long touch-finder into the Newport 25, but the Newport pack got the ball and Burnett kicked high ahead down field, but no-one could get up and Trott minored.

GREAT EXCITEMENT

B. Edwards had a shot at a penalty goal and Bledodyn Williams ran the ball up to the half-way line.

Cardiff now took heart and Collins led a rush to the Newport 25, where Matthews tried to break through.

Excitement was raging now and it boiled over when Newport were penalised for not playing the ball just outside their 25 and right in front of the posts.

TAMPLIN made no mistake with the kick.

Now the score was 8-6 and anybody's match, for both sides had had their periods of dominance.

The Cardiff backs were trying desperately hard to pull the game out of the fire, but Newport were determined not to let them.

For the rest of the game it was the same old story, all attacking movements being broken up by stern tackling.

Final—Newport 2 0 8
Cardiff 11 0 6

*One penalty. †Penalty.

COMMENTS

It was not a classic battle but a desperately hard one, with attacking power so subdued by the defence that both full-backs had little to do but tackle.

Bledodyn Williams and Matthews only revealed glimpses of their power, but, on the other hand, Burnett was reduced to impotence by fast following forwards.

The best back on the field was Willis.

The packs were very evenly matched and got through a tremendous amount of work.

Collins, Goodfellow and Beekingham were great in the loose for



Newport inside half, W. A. Williams, tries to send out a "flyer" of a pass to his acting captain, Roy Burnett, in to-day's game at Rodney Parade.

Cardiff while Peter Davies and R. T. Evans were the same for Newport.

Perhaps Newport were lucky to win for I thought Davies was off-side when he scored, but they certainly did not deserve to lose a game in which grand defences prevailed.



Newport go into the attack. Inside W. A. Williams gets clean away with the ball, well backed up by colleagues. Again W. A. Williams is on the move (right) as he throws a long pass from the scrum. Newport's 5pts.-to-6pts. victory deservedly maintained their unbeaten record. (Match report—Page 1)



S. GRAPHIC 12/10/50

F. ECHO 11/11/50

NEWPORT MEN CLAMP DOWN ON CARDIFF

S. EXPRESS

13/11/50

S. EXPRESS

19/11/50



NEWPORT mastery in the defensive battle against their old Rugby foes from Cardiff is spotlighted in these two action shots of the match at Rodney Parade.

Burly Newport prop forward Geoffrey Hirst plays "police-man" to the Cardiff front row in the larger picture (left).

Cardiff's John Phillips, Cliff Davies, and George Beekingham were breaking away, but the 14st, bulk and widespread arms of Hirst holds them off the ball while he calls up his colleagues.

AN episode in the match-long duel between rival inside halves, Rex Willis and Billy Williams, is seen in the second picture (right).

Out from the scrum comes the ball to curly-haired Willis. But that little "Yon o' war"shire "terrier" Williams is there to grass the Cardiff man and the ball goes loose.

Miner Williams was opposing the best inside half in Britain in Willis. Cardiff's Welsh and British international, Billy must rank as Britain's No. 2.

Bleddyn Williams was success at half-back

Cardiff, *3-2-17; Leicester, †2-0-6

* Two penalties. † Two penalties.

Attendance, 12,000.

By R. T. GABE

THE game at Cardiff Arms Park was most entertaining, mainly because of the undoubted success of Bleddyn

Williams in his new position at outside-half.

Never has he had so many opportunities to exploit his famous devastating side-step. Time and time again he broke through the defence with apparent ease and in so doing showed that there are limits to the effectiveness of opposing marauding wing-forwards.

Many movements he initiated only just failed after he had parted with the ball because of the final transfers not being cleanly accepted or because of the stout tackling of the Leicester backs.

In my view Bleddyn Williams has found his métier at outside half and he should remain in that position.

Jack Matthews made some splendid runs too, but he was more concerned than usual in serving his co-centre, D. J. James, than in his own individual thrusts. He was evidently anxious about the stitches under his chin necessitated by his mishap last Thursday. James and Murphy gave a consistently good display in consequence.

WILLIS'S IMPROVEMENT

The most improved player on the Cardiff side was Rex Willis, and on this form his chances of retaining his place in the Welsh team are very rosy. The best forwards for Cardiff were D. J. O'Brien, M. Collins and G. Williams, but the pack as a whole not more than their match in the "Tigers," except perhaps in the line-out.

The visitors were not outclassed in the backs. Well served by the international, W. K. Moore, they passed well but they were inclined to be too mechanical to be penetrative. The one exception was the former Cardiff player, H. Thomas, who made one superb opening, but Lawrence was tackled a yard outside.

Rex Willis is better than ever

By G. V. WYNNE-JONES

WRITING from Gorseinon in West Wales, a reader argues that down there they still have the player who beats them all—Lewis Jones. I find myself more nearly in agreement with that statement than anything else in the letter.

For this letter shows how one-sided district fervour can become.

Some words of mine referring to Rex Willis, the Welsh and British touring team scrum-half, have been described by my correspondent as "bunkum and an appalling example of partisanship."

This in spite of the fact that the Welsh selectors were entirely upheld in their opinion of Willis by the British touring team selectors who played him finally as a regular in Test matches.

Strength and courage

Wales had not won the Triple Crown for many years until last season, and while there will be some who quarrel with the method of winning it, few unbiased judges will have anything but praise for Rex Willis in the part he played towards the victory.

Willis is no glamorous footballer, but is a workman who gives a fine service. In addition, he is the best defensive scrum-half playing today by virtue of his great strength and immense courage.

I am assured by my Gorseinon reader that Willis should be relegated to the Cardiff second team—and he goes on to say, while admitting the deterioration in form of Roy Sutton, that this year the obvious choice is Greville of Llanelly.

Greville is undoubtedly a good player, but so is little Williams of Newport, and between these two there can be very little difference.

As for Willis, he has shown in the games he has played since the Tour that he is, if anything, better than ever.

If I had any partisan leanings—which I trust I have not—it would be towards the West of Wales where I spent most of my youth, and where I saw most of my early Rugby.

But the local enthusiast must remember that whereas he sees most of his football in one part of Wales, the critic sees it in every part, which puts him in a better position to judge impartially.



W. MAIL 20/11/50

M. COLLINS, the Cardiff forward, jumps high for the ball in a line-out against Leicester at the Cardiff Arms Park.

W. MAIL 20/11/50

RETRIBUTION

Some spectators dislike the frequent penalties given for scrum infringements this season. The fault lies with the forwards and not with the referee. If the forwards realise that retribution follows every time they try to beat the referee, then the number of penalties will be much fewer.

W. E. Tamplin and J. P. Morris kicked two penalty goals each for their side.

D. J. James scored two tries and M. Collins one—a remarkable effort. Tamplin's penalty kick at goal hit the crossbar and rebounded into the hands of fast following-up Collins, who dived over the line for Tamplin to convert.

Alun Thomas's transfer to Cardiff granted

THE announcement to-day that the Welsh Rugby Union have granted Swansea's Alun Thomas his transfer from St. Helens and that he would play for Cardiff Athletic at the Arms Park this afternoon will probably cause quite a split in the ranks of Cardiff supporters.

On one side of the fence there will be those who believe that Thomas will be a decided asset to the Cardiff club and will go a long way towards filling the gap left by Cleaver.

On the other, there are likely to be folk who think that Cardiff should not have accepted Thomas's application for membership, but should have pinned their faith upon Cleaver's former deputy, young Cliff Morgan.

Typical of the feeling of the latter group is a letter from three young Cardiff fans who contend that "Cardiff make a great mistake in using 'ready-made' players to fill vacant positions instead of encouraging and improving talent which young players like Cliff Morgan undoubtedly have."

In the case of Morgan this claim seems reasonable, for he has remained loyal to the Cardiff club through a period when it appeared that, except in a case of injury to Billy Cleaver, he would have few, if any, chances to shine with the first XV.

To all except, perhaps, himself Cleaver was regarded as a certainty to remain with Cardiff for at least a few more seasons, but even with this bar to his progress, Morgan continued to serve Cardiff, and this at a time when loyalty in Welsh rugby appeared to be at a premium.

Out of action

Now it would seem his loyalty has been in vain, for Thomas is a player of much greater experience who, unless Morgan improves considerably in a very short time, will keep him out of the Cardiff first XV for some seasons to come.

Cliff is not likely to improve so rapidly, so it appears that his opportunities for gaining more valuable experience alongside players like Bleddyn Williams, Jack Matthews and Rex Willis will be limited, and his full potentialities, as far as Cardiff are concerned, might never be realised.

In the meantime, Morgan returned to the side against Llanelly this afternoon after a four weeks lay-off through injury and, one thing supporters can be sure of, he will be more determined than ever to make the top grade.

Jack Matthews, who missed the game with Llanelly this afternoon, will probably be out of action for two or three weeks.

He sustained a leg injury while playing against Bridgend in Cleaver's farewell match, and aggravated it at Oxford playing against the University for R. V. Stanley's XV, where, incidentally, he also received a knock on the chin which necessitated the insertion of two stitches.

Finally, while playing against Leicester on Saturday, Jack was sometimes in agony, and spectators who wondered why he parted with the ball more readily than usual now know the reason.

Jack, a determined player, loves his rugger, however, and supporters can be sure he will be back at the first opportunity.

Great displays

Supporters will no doubt be a little surprised to hear that Cardiff's Welsh and British inside half, Rex Willis, does not think he is really 100 per cent fit.

Since his re-appearance in Welsh rugby, Rex has been hailed as the best scrum half in Great Britain at the moment, and there is no doubt that he has given some great displays since his return from New Zealand.

General impression is that he has improved enormously, but if he has received such tributes while not feeling quite fit, what then will he accomplish when he really sets to?

It was good to hear that grand Cardiff club man and full-back Frank Trott was such a success this week when playing for M. R. Steele-Bodger's XV against Cambridge University.

Frank, just about in the veteran stage, can still teach the youngsters a few things, and Cardiff are lucky indeed to possess such a fine player as a last line of defence.

Bleddyn to try for outside half berth in Welsh XV?

CARDIFF fans no doubt heaved a great sigh of relief on Thursday when it was announced that Bleddyn Williams had rejected all offers to turn professional and had denied that he was negotiating with a Rugby League club.

The loss of Williams, so soon after Billy Cleaver's decision to retire from the game, would indeed have been a blow to the Cardiff playing strength.

It was reported that Leeds had offered him £6,000 and that he was giving the offer very serious consideration.

He has said, however, that he is very happy playing the Union code and that his main concern now is to regain his place in the Welsh team.

On this latter subject there are many theories going the rounds at the moment, the least of them being that Bleddyn will try to win a new cap at outside half.

It was rumoured before the Newport-Cardiff clash that Bleddyn was to ask the Cardiff selection committee to play him in that position at Rodney Parade.

He did not, however, make the request, and Gwyn Llewellyn partnered Rex Willis.

Against Leicester to-day, however, Llewellyn and Williams switched positions, and if Bleddyn really settles at stand-off it is quite likely that he will remain there, at least until the return of Cliff Morgan.

Whether Bleddyn Williams is to make a serious bid to take over from Cleaver both in the Cardiff and the Welsh XV's however, remains to be seen, and Cardiff supporters will no doubt follow the trend of events with the utmost interest.

Reserve talent

As far as Cardiff are concerned, they have plenty of reserve centre talent in G. Llewellyn and D. James, and the line would probably suffer little from the experiment.

Cardiff supporters cannot complain of flagging interest this season due to a lack of news from Cardiff Arms Park, for following the retirement of Cleaver and the Bleddyn Williams episode, has come the announcement that Swansea outside half Alun Thomas wants to become a member of the Cardiff club.

This has probably come as something of a surprise to fans who were under the impression

that Thomas was quite happy and contented at St. Helens. Differences however have arisen between the Swansea club and Thomas, and he withdrew from the side which played Pontypool last week.

Thomas states that he has asked his club for a transfer, but in view of the fact that he did not turn up for a meeting with the Swansea committee on Tuesday, his club have taken no action.

Cardiff club therefore cannot consider his application until a decision has been reached at Swansea and, with that in view, the matter was not discussed by the Cardiff committee meeting this week.

In fact, secretary Mr. Brice Jenkins merely informed committee members that the letter had been received, and nothing further was said.

No comment

Thomas this week would make no comment on the situation, but if, as he seems, he is determined to leave St. Helens, it is highly unlikely that Swansea will stand in his way.

In that case, Cardiff must consider his application and inform him of their decision.

Thomas has played in several Welsh trials, and there is no doubt that he is a clever player who would be of much use to Cardiff.

At the same time, however, there are many people who would prefer to see Cardiff utilise their present reserve resources rather than engage the services of an already established player.

It would, they say, encourage the younger players enormously and such a policy would be safeguarding Cardiff teams of the future.

There are certainly players in the Athletic side who would not let Cardiff down. They have proved that already by displays earlier this season when Cardiff were without their tourists.

Nothing however can be done until action has been forthcoming from the West—and a decision should be made in the near future—and then it will be a question solely for the Cardiff Committee.

BLEDDYN WILLIAMS TO DECIDE NEXT WEEK

(By J. B. G. Thomas)
It is unlikely that Bleddyn Williams, the Cardiff, Wales, and British team centre three-quarter, will decide whether or not to accept a Rugby League record offer of over £6,000 before next Saturday.

When I spoke to him last night at his home he said, "I am giving the offer very serious consideration, but will not decide for a week or so. I intend to play with my fellows of the British team for Major Stanley's XV against Oxford on Thursday."

I understand that in addition to the fee, which exceeds the previous best made to him by more than £1,000, Williams has been offered employment with a salary of about £18 a week and a three-year playing contract.

The name of the club making the offer is not divulged.

At 28 years of age, Williams has several years of football before him, and his classical style of attacking play would be well suited to the Rugby League code.

The offer made to Williams is considerably greater than that made recently to Lewis Jones, another Welsh international, and if it is accepted would give the Rugby League their greatest "capture" since the war.

£6,000 OFFER TO BLEDDYN

Bleddyn Williams, the Cardiff vice-captain and Wales and British team centre three-quarter, has received the largest offer ever made by a Rugby League club to change his code (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

He told me to-day that he has been offered £6,000 to turn professional by a Northern Rugby League club.

At his home to-day when interviewed he said: "It is a very big offer. However, I have not decided yet whether to accept it."

He received the record offer at that time of £4,500 in season 1947-48. The largest sum paid by the League to a Union player is £5,000 by the Leigh Club to Trevor Allan, the Australian Test captain, who toured this country in 1947-48.



Rex Willis, the Cardiff scrum-half, is tackled as he attempts to break away from a scrummage at Llanelly.



CARDIFF forwards go through with the ball against Aberavon on the Port Talbot Athletic Ground.

LLANELLY DRAW WITH CARDIFF

In a thrilling game, which ended in a pointless draw at Stradey to-day, the fierce rushes of the Llanelly pack and stern defence by Cardiff were a feature.

Derek Iles, former Cardiff fly half, who has been assisting Penarth for the last few weeks, returned to the Llanelly side to meet his old clubmates—Cardiff. Chief interest was centred around the clash between two Welsh international scrum halves—Handel Greville (Llanelly) and Rex Willis (Cardiff).

In the Cardiff side Cliff Morgan returned to fly half, to enable Bledwyn Williams to take the place of injured Jack Matthews at left centre.

LLANELLY: Gerwyn Williams; K. Hughes, H. Thomas, Hugh Davies, Malcolm John; Derek Iles, H. Greville; Ken Jones (capt.), C. Higgins, Don Christopher, Des. Jones, R. H. Williams, Peter Stone, Alan Jones, Peter Evans.

CARDIFF: R. F. Trott; H. Morris, D. J. James, Bledwyn Williams, D. Murphy; Cliff Morgan, Rex Willis; W. E. Davies, J. R. Phillips, Cliff Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, G. Williams, P. Goodfellow, C. D. Williams.

The conditions were ideal, and two of the W.R.U. "Big Five," Mr. Ivor Jones and Capt. D. H. Thomas, were amongst the 7,000 spectators.

In the opening minutes the two lines were severely tested in quick succession.

Trott was first to relieve after a bunch of heavy forwards had swept almost everything before them in a rush from their own territory.

A moment later Cardiff forwards taking advantage of a faulty pass by Iles, rushed into Llanelly's territory, where Murphy secured and cross-kicked.

G. Williams, following up well, nearly scored, a minor being conceded.

Play continued fast and exciting, with terrific rushes by the Llanelly forwards featuring the game.

TROTT'S DARING

Once again Trott showed great daring in going down to the ball at their feet. Cardiff were quick to take advantage of poor handling by the home backs. The first penalty went to them, Tamplin's long-distance kick dropping short.

After a while Llanelly forwards again got to within ten yards of the visitors' line and although they heeled cleanly from the next scrum Greville failed to make the best of his chance.

Bledwyn Williams took the next penalty kick, but failed to gain much relief.

Cliff Morgan, Cardiff's outside half, was cheered for good work

and so was C. D. Williams, the Cardiff forward, a little later for a splendid solo effort.

Thrill followed thrill when Cardiff's line was again in imminent danger, the situation being saved three times in quick succession in miraculous fashion.

Cardiff backs, who had been sound in defence, were set in motion at mid-field through good line-out work by M. Collins.

The movement was checked by a first-class tackle of Bledwyn Williams by his opposite number, Hugh Davies. Play was being waged at mid-field when the interval arrived.

Half—Llanelly 0 0 0
Cardiff 0 0 0

Up until the interval the duel between Greville and Willis at the base of the scrum had ended in the Llanelly man's favour.

Five minutes after the restart Cardiff were obliged to concede another minor and when the Scarlets were penalised for a scrum infringement five yards from mid-field in subsequent play, Tamplin once more tried in vain to land a goal, his kick lacking length and direction.

Soon afterwards Cardiff backs were well fed from a scrum but they failed to make headway and the "Scarlets" made yet another raid on Cardiff's line.

For an infringement in a line-out close up, Llanelly were penalised, and Bledwyn Williams gained relief through a splendid touch-ander.

The "Scarlets" were doing nearly all of the attacking, but the Cardiff defence continued to be sound and eventually they established themselves in the home "25."

Ten minutes from the end excitement was at fever heat, Cardiff making desperate efforts to win the game.

On a few occasions they came within an ace of scoring. But time came without any score having been recorded.

Final—Llanelly 0 0 0
Cardiff 0 0 0

COMMENTS

For fully two-thirds of the game Llanelly, through the superiority of their forwards in every phase of forward play, were the better side, but towards the close the crowd saw the Cardiff backs at their best.

Llanelly's "terrible eight" dominated most of the game.

Greville, the home scrum half, cleverly pursued Willis, who for most of the game, failed to prove himself an effective connecting link with his backs.

W. MAIL 24/11/50

Fellowship committee

ALDERMAN R. G. ROBINSON, of Cardiff, emphasised at a public meeting last week that Cardiff and Nantes were similar; that both Wales and Brittany were Celtic; and that there were sentimental reasons for a fellowship committee with Nantes. The foundation of such a committee has already been laid, well and truly, by the Rugby clubs of Cardiff and Nantes. Recently the Wasps R.F.C. visited Nantes, and although they were beaten had a very good game. They were entertained in the usual manner, but many of the French speakers at the dinner, including the club president, M. Pedron, and secretary, M. Henri Pitcherit, paid tribute to the greatness of the Cardiff Club. "They remarked with a smile that 'The Wasps were not quite as good as Cardiff!'" On Boxing Day the Wasps play at the Arms Park, and no doubt the players and officials of both clubs will talk about their visits to Nantes!

F. ECHO 16/12/50

LOOKING BACK

FIFTY years ago Gwyn Nicholls was for the third time skipper of Cardiff with that great line-out artist Jere Blake as his deputy.

Constant team changes were the trouble, for Cardiff had no fewer than 55 players in the 29 games played. Ten games out of the 29 played were lost. Leicester and Oxford Varsity gained their first victories over the blue and blacks.

H. B. Winfield only missed one game at full-back, and in his single absence his brother "W. J." was custodian.

The south, or old, stand was extended to seat 1,800 spectators at £1.45 cost to the Welsh Union, and £481 to the club.

Two games were postponed owing to the deaths of Queen Victoria and the Marquis of Bute.

4 PENALTY GOALS AT ARMS PARK

By E. R. K. GLOVER

The superiority of Cardiff behind the scrum turned the scale in their favour against Leicester at Arms Park to-day.

Four penalty goals were included in the scores, Ewart Tamplin kicking two for Cardiff while J. P. Morris performed a similar feat for the Tigers.

The weather decided to be kind again, penalised for a scrum infringement.

Again TAMPLIN made no mistake with a difficult kick.

Although the Leicester pack were having every bit as much of the game as the Cardiff eight their backs never looked as dangerous as Bledwyn Williams and Co.

Then the outside half broke past the defence in a bewildering run down to the Leicester 25. His pass went astray, however, and the Leicester forwards, who were particularly good at foot rushes and removed the danger.

Once again it was the Cardiff backs who took play down the field with two runs by Murphy and James.

Tamplin was off the mark with yet another penalty kick.

Then Matthews cut through but his final pass to Morris went wrong. The interval found play back in mid-field.

Half—Cardiff 2 0 6
Leicester 1 0 3

*Penalties

The second half started off with many fierce clashes between the two packs, and though Moore was providing a good service, the Leicester backs were too slow to match the fast tackling of Cardiff.

Now at last the Cardiff backs were coming into their own, and the second of two breaks by Bledwyn Williams put D. JAMES over wide out.

The kick failed.

Williams was injured and left the field for a few minutes. His return was marked by another Matthews run which ended up by Leicester being penalised for not playing the ball.

The kick was sensational for it hit the crossbar and came back into the hands of M. COLLINS who had followed up very fast and he fell over the line for a try which Tamplin gained.

BETTER SERVICE

The Leicester forwards were still all over Cardiff in the loose, but the Cardiff pack was giving better opportunities to their backs.

When the Leicester three-quarters got the ball they were easily overcome.

Cardiff went further ahead when Matthews broke through and James and Murphy inter-passed down the touch line for JAMES to score. The kick failed.

Leicester struck back, however, with another penalty goal kicked by J. P. MORRIS.

In the gathering darkness the Leicester pack stuck to their guns and even the backs kept going to the bitter end.

Indeed a break through by Thomas, the old Swansea player, nearly led to a try.

It was left to Cardiff, however, to provide the last thrill with a run by Bledwyn Williams from his own line into the Leicester 25. The game ended with Leicester fighting back.

Final—Cardiff 13 2 17
Leicester 2 0 6

Two penalties.

COMMENTS

The Cardiff backs inspired by Bledwyn Williams and Jack Matthews, nearly back at their best won the game for Cardiff. D. James in the centre also had a good game.

The Cardiff pack was only mastered in the loose and gave the backs plenty of opportunities in the tight and line-outs.

One couldn't help feeling sorry for the gallant Leicester pack but it was a very good game particularly considering the conditions.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

forwards heel in the match with Cardiff at Arms Park. Inside-half Shepherd bends to the ball, but he looks unlikely to get very far with it... the Cardiff pack is making certain of that.

RIGHT behind Shepherd looms the strong left arm of Cardiff's winging forward John Nelson—within a split second of closing on the Cambridge man.

And facing him are other Cardiff men John Phillips and Cliff Davies.

D. EXPRESS 14/12/50

LOOK BEHIND, SHEPHERD



RIGHT behind Shepherd looms the strong left arm of Cardiff's winging forward John Nelson—within a split second of closing on the Cambridge man. And facing him are other Cardiff men John Phillips and Cliff Davies.

CLEAVER STILL UNDECIDED

Tourists may play for Cardiff against Oxford University

"WHAT'S Cleaver going to do?" That's the question a lot of people—and not only in Cardiff—are asking these days.

It's a question I get fired at me if I get on a bus; call at the bank; visit other rugby grounds (writes Reg Polling). And the man who could answer says nothing.

You can't really blame him. He wants time to think things out carefully. There are several complications in the way of a regular return to rugby by Billy Cleaver.

To be quite honest, I believe he has more or less made up his mind to retire from the game, though at the moment he is not in a position to say so. A shrewd man is Cleaver. When he does make a decision you can be sure that he will stand by it.

"An organising genius" they called him aboard ship, where he organised all sorts of things on behalf of the British tourists and, in so doing, became one of the most popular figures of the party. Cardiff will miss him badly, unless he can be persuaded to change his mind. The next few weeks will provide the answer.

But if Cleaver's plans are obscure, we do know, at least, that the other tourists will soon be back.

Possibly sooner than expected—I have heard that the match with Oxford University (away) a fortnight to-day will see them in the Cardiff side again. All four are looking extremely well, all are keen to get back with the Cardiff team again without too much delay, though wiser counsel suggests that they should take a rest until mid-November.

Started training

Cliff Davies has started training already. He has some superfluous weight to get off—which, Cliff says, will all vanish after a week at the coal-face. Rex Willis is on a short holiday with his actress wife, but tells me that it won't be long before he is fighting for his place back; Jack Matthews, holidaying at Penzance, and Bledyn Williams are both just as anxious as the others to start playing again.

Cardiff have felt the absence of these last two players much more than the others. Ever since they left for the tour weakness at centre has been plainly evident, and there is no doubt but that they will bring back not only glamour but a large degree of attacking skill into the side.

Cliff Morgan has been deputising very well for Cleaver and can be expected to continue at outside half, his predecessor does not return.

Cliff has his critics, but I feel that he will be half as good again with the knowledge that he has some star men in support alongside. That is a most comfortable and satisfying feeling for any outside half, and Morgan, I am sure, will benefit from the association. The tourists from Cardiff, not to mention Ken Jones, R. T. Evans and Malcolm Thomas, from Newport, sampled the Cardiff Arms Park big match-day atmosphere last Saturday afternoon.

Approaching the shores of England they wangled it with the radio

A TRIBUTE

Generations of rugby players and cricketers are mourning the passing of kindly John Powell, for 30 years honorary masseur to the Cardiff club.

John, who had a natural gift for massage, looked upon every player—and even the club itself—as his very own. He lived and breathed Cardiff; never was he happier than when he was ministering to the sprains and bruises of the players he so much admired.

Nothing could keep him away from his labour of love; even when he suffered a breakdown in health a couple of years ago the first place he made for on recovering was the Cardiff club.

And it was at the Cardiff club that he died, passing away suddenly as he sat in a chair listening to the tales of one of his returned heroes.

Six players bore him to his grave yesterday; a score of others bade him "goodbye." Thousands more, through the long years, will remember, and honour, John Powell.

offer to hear the broadcast account of the second half of the Cardiff-Newport match.

Split up

They had to split up into separate parties—some in the radio office, others in the hospital, for instance—in order to hear it. It was interesting to hear how they had paired off.

Jack Matthews sat with Malcolm Thomas, grimacing at each other in turn as first Cardiff and then Newport got the better of matters. Ken Jones, R. T. Evans and Dou Hayward shared the listening with Billy Cleaver, Bledyn Williams, Rex Willis and Cliff Davies, so both clubs were well represented (Hayward doesn't mind being associated with Newport).

There was plenty of chaffing going on, particularly as, before long, these firm friends will be opposing each other on the rugby field themselves.

The Cardiff Rugby Supporters' Club committee is becoming concerned at the lack of knowledge of rules of the game often expressed by spectators at home and away games.

Unnecessary argument has followed disputed decisions of the referee, and to help members the better to enjoy their rugby, the committee has decided to arrange a series of talks to members from prominent referees.

These will take the form of a 'quiz' and as a kick-off the services of Mr. T. H. Phillips (Neath) have been obtained to address the first meeting, which is being held at the Carlton Cafe on Wednesday, October 25 (7.30 p.m.).

Questions should previously be submitted to the supporters' club secretary, Mr. Harry Whiting, 3, Diamond-street, Cardiff in writing. All followers of rugby are given a warm welcome to be present.



Billy Williams, Newport's scrum-half, gets his three-quarters under way after a line-out in the game against Cardiff.

FOOTBALL ECHO 28/10/50

Dark Blues' test for Cardiff

Although Cardiff had the distinction of being the first side to cross Oxford University's line this season they went under by 11 points to six after a thrilling game at Oxford to-day.

The teams were:
CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, G. Llewellyn, D. James, D. Murphy; C. Morgan, H. Greenslade; G. Beckingham, Davies, Douglas, W. E. Tamplin, Collins, Compton, Goodfellow, Williams.

OXFORD UNIV: Lewis; Brewer, Green, Emms, Creese; Kendall, Cannell, Boobyer; Winn, Tranter, Carpenter, Walker, Bryer, Riddson, Thomas, Griffith, Small.

In the first minute of the game Cardiff were penalised through off-side and Griffith sent wide.

Oxford kept up the pressure for a time till Morgan found touch with a long kick.

The first Cardiff attack was initiated from a line-out but James was forced to kick and gained little ground.

Cardiff were getting the ball from the set scrums, but when their three-quarters were moving well Wynn brought Murphy low with a great tackle.

The tackling of both sides was of the uncompromising kind, and the rugby so far had been of a negative sort.

KICKING A FEATURE

Kicking for touch became the predominant feature, and it looked at this stage as though the backs would cancel one another out.

An exception was when the Cardiff backs, from a loose scrum, got under way and Murphy went hard for the line, but was held by Wynn.

Then Morgan tried a drop at goal, just missed, and the ball bounced out of Brewer's hands.

MORRIS was at hand to make a try. Tamplin missed with the kick.

This was the first time Oxford's line had been crossed this season.

Lewis put Oxford on the offensive with a fine touch kick, and for a time they kept Cardiff to their 25, but the inability of the forwards to get the ball from the hand-cap, though they made up for this by their fine work in the open.

GRIM FIGHT
It was a grim fight with relentless tackling on both sides, and the Cardiff backs looked rather more dangerous in attack than Oxford.

A drop for goal led to an exciting race between Williams and Cannell, which the latter won by a short neck.

Boobyer came into the picture with two great runs, and in conjunction with Cannell sent him flying for the line only to be brought down by a glorious tackle by Trott.

Oxford now began to press and Green tried a drop at goal but failed. TRANTER had better luck with a beautifully timed kick.

Half—Oxford Univ. 1 0 3
Cardiff 0 1 3

Dropped.
Early in the second half Oxford with Boobyer and Winn in the van, attacked and, when Cardiff retaliated Lewis fielded wonderfully well to clear a dangerous rush.

Then followed the best attack the Oxford backs had made, the ball passing along the line to Winn who ran with great determination, evaded two tackles, and threw in to RIDSON-THOMAS who completed a fine forward movement with a try which Griffiths converted.

Cardiff did not take this reverse lying down and immediately set up a vigorous attack which brought out the best in the defence.

It was from a very long penalty by Tamplin that Cardiff reduced the arrears.

DESPERATE EFFORTS

Quarter was neither asked nor given and the game was the best that rugby could offer.

Oxford fought like men possessed and penned Cardiff, whose defence was tested to the full.

Cardiff were not content to watch Oxford attack and presently they came back to the University half and Lewis made a flying tackle of Morris after James had dashed through the Oxford centre.

Oxford's relief kicking was of great use in thwarting a desperate Cardiff effort to save the game.

Oxford were not done yet, and just before no-side Cannell came through beautifully and TRANTER crowned the movement with an unconverted try.

Final—Oxford Univ. 2 1 11
Cardiff 1 1 6
*Dropped goal 1Penalty goal.

Cardiff take the Wasps' record

After a dour struggle at Sudbury to-day, Cardiff beat the Wasps by 8 points to 3, and thus inflicted the first defeat of the season on the Londoners.

The Londoners, due to illness and injury, were under strength, especially behind the scrum, whilst Cardiff made one change in their advertised side, J. Ferguson replacing P. Goodfellow in the pack.

WASPS: M. C. Morgan; R. Dove, J. Hyde-Harrison, R. Mander (capt.), J. E. Woodward, P. J. Osborn, P. W. Sykes, G. T. Forbes, G. U. Hughes, J. F. Herbert, D. W. Malcolm, P. G. Yarranton, K. A. Glendenning, R. E. Syrett, R. K. Hilton.

CARDIFF: R. F. Trott; D. Murphy, D. J. James, Gwyn Llewellyn, Haydn Morris, Cliff Morgan, H. Green-slade, J. R. Phillips, G. Beckingham, W. Douglas, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, J. B. Nelson, J. Ferguson, Glyn Williams.

Referee, Mr. A. M. Rees, London. Wasps started with a forward rush and Osborn sent them into the Cardiff 25 with a well-judged kick to touch.

Wasps exerted terrific pressure, and a score seemed certain, but Trott went down to take the ball off Hilton's feet and relieved the situation.

Following a mid-field scrum, Cliff Morgan found touch near the corner flag.

Osborn and Sykes were playing as one man and continually fed their three-quarters, with the result that Cardiff were seldom off the defensive.

Wasps were dominating the scrums, but in the line-outs Cardiff were on top.

LITTLE COHESION

Wasps were awarded a penalty and Sykes found a long touch.

Cliff Morgan broke through the centre but was smothered in possession. Cardiff were again penalised and Pat Sykes gained yards.

Cliff Morgan sent Haydn Morris racing away down the wing but the touch-judge's flag was up.

Cardiff so far showed little cohesion. Just before half-time Gwyn Llewellyn intercepted a Wasps pass.

Centre and Cliff Morgan and Murphy carried on the movement, but Murphy was bundled into touch.

Half-Wasps 0 0 0

Cardiff 0 0 0

Just after the restart Woodward, playing in the centre, intercepted in midfield and with only Trott to beat seemed certain to score, but an unlucky slip lost him a chance in a thousand.

A reverse pass from James to Llewellyn gave the latter a chance to send Greenslade on his way for the line, but a Wasp defender got him by the leg.

Cardiff were now attacking strongly, but their backs were too slow in taking their passes.

Wasps were penalised for obstruction and TAMPLIN made no mistake with his kick at goal 13 minutes after the resumption.

Cardiff now had their tails well up and after a forward rush Glyn WILLIAMS went over for Tamplin to convert.

Nothing daunted, Wasps staged a series of terrific attacks and just on time GLENDENNING crossed for an unconverted try.

Final-Cardiff *2 0 8
Wasps 0 0 3

*One penalty goal.

COMMENTS

Cardiff by their tenacity deserved to win a game which was remarkable for the speed and vigour of the play, rather than the skill of any individual player.

Llewellyn is a natural successor to Frank Trott

HOW much longer will Cardiff rugby fans have to wait for the re-appearance of British Tourists Bledwyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Rex Willis and Cliff Davies in the first XV?

At the moment there are two schools of thought on the subject, and conservative estimates put the length of time, at the most, at a fortnight.

These fans have plumped for November 11 as the tourists' debut date this season, as it is then, at Rodney-Parade, that Cardiff play the second of their four games with Newport.

Others believe that the British team members will prefer to make their first team debut before their own home crowd and consequently will be seen at Cardiff Arms Park next Saturday, when Cardiff play Bridgend for the first time since 1939.

Strength for this latter theory, its adherents say, comes from the fact that although the tourists will have had a warming-up game with the Athletic they will certainly need to play against tougher opposition before going into the local "Derby" with Newport.

Final word, however, will come from the men themselves who, after all, must be the best judges of whether they are ready or not to take their places in the premier side.

They will probably decide over the week-end after playing with the Athletic to-day against Blackwood, and the verdict will probably be made known early next week.

Extra polish

When they do finally line up, however, it will not be in a team which has been simply waiting for them to bring in better times, but to a winning side for which they can provide that extra polish which is the difference between good solid play and good play with artistry.

Carrying on in the absence of their best men, Cardiff have built up a grand record so far this season and young players like D. James, G. Llewellyn, W. Douglas and Greenslade will hand over, in the knowledge that they have done a fine job.

The Cleaver mystery remains unsolved for Billy has still not made up his mind whether to continue playing rugby, or to give up altogether. His decision, chums?

Silent Tribute

Tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Tom Bennett was paid by all the clubs engaged in Mid-Glamorgan and Bridgend District Unions by two minutes silence last Saturday.

The late Mr. Bennett, founder and hon. secretary for 56 years of the Bridgend District Union, was a pillar of the code and his services will be sadly missed by clubs and players.

however, should not be long in coming.

In the meantime, young Cliff Morgan is making a very capable deputy at outside half and with the return of Williams, Matthews and Willis, he will probably do even better.

Fine exhibitions

Another young man who has been giving fine exhibitions in a key position, thus relieving Cardiff of any future fears through lack of a full-back, is J. Llewellyn, who last season played with Penarth.

Many Cardiff enthusiasts see in him the makings of the finest full-back Cardiff have had for many years.

Last week, playing with the Athletic side, he took seven kicks and goaled the lot, some from difficult positions.

Add to this fine kicking a safe pair of hands, good positional sense, and speed, and it does look as though Cardiff will not need to worry when that grand club man Frank Trott finally decides to retire.

Tail-piece to-day gives another angle on the Cardiff-Wasps game last Saturday.

The Cardiff XV must have been quite pleased with themselves when they took away Wasps' unbeaten record with a score of 8 pts. to 3.

They were probably a little taken aback, however, when after the match they received a telegram from Cardiff Arms Park informing them that Cardiff Athletic had totalled 40 points against Chepstow, and the Junior side had amassed 58 points from their game, and asking "Wasps the matter with you, chums?"

Personality Parade



In his first season in Cardiff's colours, former Bangor College student Haydn Morris has shown skill and resource on the right wing. So impressed have the selectors been by his play that Morris is strongly tipped for a place in the Welsh XV this season. By many he is rated higher than Ken Jones, and his three fine tries against Gloucester go a long way to prove this. Not only does Morris possess strong sprinting ability, but he has rare football skill at his command. Will he wear the scarlet jersey in 1951? He's the strongest bet so far!

HONOURED BY NANTES CLUB

SILVER medals were presented to Jack Matthews and Bledwyn Williams at Cardiff on Saturday by M. R. Pitcherit on behalf of the Nantes Rugby Club of which they are life members. The medals are to commemorate their tour of Australasia with the British team. Photograph shows (left to right) Mr. Hubert Johnson (chairman of the Cardiff Club), M. Louis Murail, who refereed the Cardiff-London Welsh match, Bledwyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Mr. D. Davies, and M. Pitcherit.

Cardiff lose their record to Coventry

Coventry, *1-1-6; Cardiff, 0-0-0

* Penalty.

CARDIFF, who were twice beaten by Coventry last season, lost their unbeaten record to the Midlands last night. It was a tough and exciting struggle between two grand packs.

But only Frank Trott's dependability and the courage of Cliff Morgan kept Coventry's score down to one unconverted try in the second half.

Early supremacy by the Cardiff pack promised much, but the three-quarters were foiled by Coventry's fast and close marking.

Nearly every set scrum was won by Cardiff, Beckingham out-hooking Coventry's Robinson. Thus the service to Greenslade and Morgan was prolific and it was not their fault that wingers Morris and Murphy rarely handled except for throws in from touch.

Coventry's interval lead was a penalty goal kicked by Tomkins from 30 yards out along the 10-

yard line.

STOPPED ON LINE

After the interval Morgan strove hard by distribution or solo effort without avail. Nearest scoring effort was when Daniels picked up a loose ball and tore down the middle. Llewellyn took it at the right moment, but was hauled down by Coventry's fast fly-half Dupenois before he could cross. Again only Dupenois resisted Coventry when Morgan set a glorious movement in motion.

Frank Trott was unspectacular but sound, while in the pack Davies, Williams and Nelson were ever prominent.

Two minutes from time Naylor led a forward rush and Mauchlen went over for an unconverted try.



Mud patch at the Arms Park causes Cardiff concern

THAT clogging morass of mud in front of the new stand at Cardiff Arms Park is providing the Cardiff officials, not to mention Jim Purdey, the head groundsman, and his staff, with one of the biggest headaches they have experienced for years (writes Reg Pelling).

I was shocked when I saw the state of this "gluepot" at last Monday's match, never having seen the pitch in such a deplorable condition before.

Since then the ground-staff have been making herculean efforts to rectify this blot.

The whole of the affected area—approximately 30 yards by 10—has already been dug up and relaid with new turf, liberal supplies of sand and sawdust also being brought into use.

To-day's game in which the Athletic side was involved had already been transferred to another ground to give the pitch a fair chance, and it is now hoped that these temporary repairs will last until the season is out.

But as soon as the season ends you can rest assured that the whole of this patch will be taken up again and properly drained, so as to avoid any repetition of this near-catastrophe.

In the interim the club would be wise to reduce claims upon the pitch to the absolute minimum.

Twice a week, for example, the first and second teams use it for practice; on a third occasion some 50 youth members operate on it, and there are also the odd mid-week matches not only those concerning the Cardiff club itself, but other organisations as well.

Outstanding success

So it is hardly surprising that, given such hard wear, the pitch should now be protesting.

Last summer's (3) rainfall didn't help much either, though at the time it was thought that it would at least be doing the newly seeded rugby pitch some good though it was washing out the cricket next door.

From every single aspect Cardiff's first post-war visit to Aberavon was an outstanding success.

The game itself, witnessed by a large, keen and extremely

sporting crowd, was hard but scrupulously clean, and the Cardiff players themselves are of the opinion that a draw would have been the ideal result.

Cardiff were delighted, too, at the reception their players were given, not only by the spectators but by the Aberavon club itself, and the bonds of a very firm friendship between the two clubs are already being fashioned as a result.

Renewal of fixtures with such clubs can do nothing but good to Welsh rugby.

Cardiff have made strides in the right direction by acknowledging the claims of Aberavon and Bridgend this season.

Tremendous boost

Now, of the leading Glamorgan clubs, only Maesteg and Pontypridd remain "off."

And maybe room will be found for them on the fixture-list in the near future.

It would be a tremendous boost for these clubs, operating in areas where enthusiasm for rugby is creating fresh records.

With the demands of trials and international matches upon the services of their players, the Cardiff club must be feeling pretty well pleased with themselves that such well-known and accomplished players as Alun Thomas, Howell Greenslade, Gwyn Llewellyn and company are available.

No-one looks upon this contingent as "reserves" in the accepted sense of the word. Rather are they regarded as skilled performers jockeying with other fine players for a regular place in the side.

This is all to the good, making for a healthy spirit of competition.

During the next few months players like Jack Matthews, Rex Willis, Bledwyn Williams, Cliff Davies and Dex O'Brien are likely to be out of the side as often as they are in, so the presence of such talented replacements must be a most comforting feeling.

Most of Cardiff's points still come from Tamplin

CARDIFF R.F.C. followers who thought the return of the club's British tourists would put them back at the top of the tree have now realised to some extent how much they have taken for granted.

The absence of Bledwyn Williams and Co. during the early part of the season naturally led to comparisons, and many folk, while dreaming of the free scoring and exhibitionist rugby those men have provided in the past, forgot to take into account the fact that when they finally returned to the side they would be somewhat stale from two seasons' play without a break.

Not only that, some fans also forgot the warnings given last season that the standard of Welsh rugby everywhere was improving and that, in future, clubs like Cardiff and Newport, who had dominated the scene, would make it increasingly difficult to win through.

Add the fact that supporters had no idea Billy Cleaver would retire, and leave that gap behind at outside half, and you have, more or less, the reason why the majority of Cardiff's points continue to be collected by goal-kicking expert and skipper Bill Tamplin.

That—after the tourists have been back with the team just over four weeks!

In fact, the only tourist to record a score since he returned is Jack Matthews, who scored a try in Cleaver's farewell game against Bridgend.

But this certainly does not indicate that the Cardiff attacking experts have lost their ability to get tries.

A little stale

Rather does it mean that a higher standard of opposition is making it more difficult; that the players are a little stale after the New Zealand tour, and that the link between Willis, Bledwyn Williams and Jack Matthews has suffered through the lack of Cleaver.

Meanwhile, Cardiff quite lack a lot of faith in the kicking qualities of Tamplin, who, incidentally, is in far better form than he was last season.

To date Big Bill has collected 67 points with his talented feet

whereas, at this stage during the 1949-50 campaign he had obtained only 33.

Forty-five of this season's tally (not including to-day's game of course) come from penalty goals and 22 from conversions.

Tamplin too, is doing great work as leader of the pack, and his endeavours in tight, loose and line-out have been a splendid example to his colleagues.

While Cardiff cannot boast a really match-winning pack, there is no doubt that Tamplin has welded them into a smooth-working combination who at the beginning of the season were the spearhead of attack, and who will now be called upon to gain an ample supply of the ball for the backs.

Out of action

Ex-Swansea outside half Alun Thomas, who was transferred to Cardiff last Saturday and played with the Athletic team, has informed secretary Mr. B. H. Jenkins that he will probably be out of action for another two weeks. Thomas sustained a shoulder injury in the opening stages of the game with Old Edwardians at the Arms Park last Saturday.

His temporary indisposition might be regarded as a bit of luck for other outside half, Cliff Morgan, who will now have longer than was expected to demonstrate his ability alongside Cardiff tourists.

Supporters will also be interested to hear that centre three-quarter and full-back St. John Rees, who gave up football some time ago so as to concentrate on his studies, has now successfully completed his medical examinations.

St. John Rees has already begun training, and will probably be seen in action soon with the Athletic XV.

He made six appearances with the first team last season.

Rumour has it that another Cardiff centre, Paul Ash, might soon be leaving Cardiff Arms Park. Possible objective for Ash is said to be Bridgend, and Bridgend asked Cardiff if they could play Ash on a permit against Maesteg to-day.

Morris bids for wing position in Welsh team

WHEN the Welsh Rugby XV to meet England at St. Helen's on January 20 is finally announced, the Cardiff R.F.C. might well find another international player has been added to the club's long honours list.

Young man who is most likely to bring this further honour to Cardiff is wing three-quarter Haydn Morris, who joined the club from Mountain Ash in September.

A school teacher in Birmingham, he played his first game for Cardiff at Coventry, and, except for the match with Bridgend, he has played in every game since, going from strength to strength, and culminating last Saturday in a magnificent display against Gloucester at the Arms Park.

Tall and speedy, Haydn possesses not only the ability to run hard and true, but has a fine football brain which has more than once this season caused Welsh selectors to look favourably upon him.

More than this, however, he has determination and ambition, and it is the combination of these two which will, many believe, gain him a Welsh "cap" this year. Since he realised that he possessed football ability, Morris's burning ambition has been to play for his country and as a first step he became determined to play for Cardiff.

He even turned down a £3,000 offer from Rugby League representatives so that he might have a trial with the Cardiff club, and he travels down from the Midlands every Friday so that he might take his place in the Cardiff line-up.

Brilliant display

Cardiff have given him his chance and he has accepted it with both hands as a means to gaining further recognition.

This has already started to come his way in the form of a place in the first Welsh trial, and now selection for the second trial to take place at Maesteg next week.

His brilliant display against Gloucester could not have come at a better time, and obviously went a long way towards making up Welsh trial selectors' minds.

Also, he has come into the international picture at a time when Wales are in need of a wing three-quarter to partner Ken Jones, of Newport, who must again be regarded as almost a certainty for one of the wing positions.

Jones and Morris both operate on the right flank for their clubs, but Morris used at o. time to play on the left, and there would be no doubts about his being able to fill in on the left adequately.

Some critics who have seen Morris in action with Cardiff have raised doubts about his defensive abilities, but there seems little to worry about on that score if one can judge on present form, and certainly the Welsh selectors do not seem to regard him as defensively unsound.

The Morris of recent weeks has, in fact, been near to the ideal winger, one who uses both hands and head.

He has been quick off the mark, ran hard and skilfully, and tackled fearlessly.

Good progress

There is little more one could want unless it be experience and that he will get in some measure alongside the tried and tested Cardiff threequarters, between now and January.

It would be a triumph indeed if Haydn's ambitions were realised this season, but if he is overlooked he will be just as determined to succeed when season 1951-52 comes along.

Cardiff's invalids Dr. Jack Matthews and newcomer Alun Thomas continue to make good progress, and it should not be long before they are seen in action once again.

It is not certain yet whether either will be available for selection against Cambridge University on Monday, but they might take their places for Cardiff's game with Neath at the Groll next Saturday.

Incidentally, the visit of Cambridge University is their first since 1948-49 season when they took Cardiff's ground record after a thrilling struggle.

Cardiff were at full strength for the encounter, but the light blues got a winning try through Scott five minutes from the end and were victorious by a goal and a try (eight points) to a Tamplin penalty goal and a goal from the mark from Burns (six points).

Cardiff have no record to lose on Monday, but supporters can expect a hard tussle, nevertheless, with little in it at the final whistle.

HAYDN MORRIS'S TRY BEAT ABERAVON

This was Cardiff's first visit to Aberavon for 12 years.

A. Hull replaced P. Goodfellow in the visitors' pack.

Family bereavement resulted in E. Vincent coming into the Aberavon second row in place of M. Williams.

Teams:

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, J. Llewellyn, Bloddyn Williams, D. G. Murphy; Cliff Morgan, Rex Willis; W. E. Davies, J. R. Phillips, Cliff Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, G. Williams, A. Hull, J. D. Nelson.

ABERAVON: Ross Richards; John Evans (capt.), J. O'Sullivan, S. Phillips, R. Jones; Denzil Jones, W. Darch; Emyl Davies, Del Vincent, Ken Davies, D. T. Meredith, A. Williams.

Referee: Mr. V. Llewellyn, Llan-samlet.

Following a loose scrummage Willis got his three-quarters moving early on, but determined tackling pinned them down and no ground was gained.

Bloddyn Williams tried a strategic kick ahead, but Ross Richards was in position, though Cardiff were awarded a penalty when an Aberavon defender was off-side, and Trott found a nice touch.

Aberavon's right flank made the next attacking move from a scrum, but wing Jones was forced into touch.

It was a hard game so far, with the home forwards keeping the ball close, and Cardiff's three-quarters in a subdued role, largely because of the home side's tight marking.

An enterprising dribble by the home forwards, led by Meredith and A. Williams, took play to the Cardiff line, and the visitors were under steady seige from a home attack that had quickly settled down.

Although the Cardiff three-quarters were seeing plenty of the ball they could not get it away and Aberavon kept within striking distance until a Cardiff man obstructed Phillips failed narrowly with the kick.

BEAUTIFUL "DUMMY"

Two minutes later Aberavon had another chance when Richards's attempt at a drop-goal fell short.

Wing John Evans followed up smartly, but was inches short in a thrilling race for the touch down.

So far Cardiff had been pinned almost entirely in their own 25, with only bad luck preventing a score. Morgan passed to Llewellyn, who sold a beautiful dummy to Phillips and gave MORRIS, the opportunity for a spectacular 50-yard sprint, with Evans in hot pursuit, but unable to overtake him.

Trott failed with the attempt at conversion. So far the Aberavon forwards were doing most of the work and the Cardiff line survived another all out assault when A. Williams broke through and kicked ahead, but found J. Evans just out of position.

Half—Cardiff 0 1 3
Aberavon 0 0 0

Willis was embarrassed by the attentions of Aberavon's Darch at the base of the scrum and this led to an early Aberavon attacking move after the interval.

Trott saved the situation when he touched down for a minor.

Then Richards set up another attack when he ran instead of finding touch. He kicked on and A. Williams was there to gather, but was tackled from behind.

Greater experience was telling in favour of Cardiff, although Aberavon's persistent attacking seemed worthy of reward.

Trott was always in position when needed and although Richards was kicking further e was often caught on the wrong foot.

A fine run by Murphy, the Cardiff wing, placed the visitors in an advantageous position, but when a scrum for a forward pass was ordered Denzil Jones saved

A spectacular try by Haydn Morris, after a 50-yard run, enabled Cardiff to beat Aberavon by three points to nil after a strenuous game at Aberavon to-day.

the situation for Aberavon with a long touch-finder.

SPECTACULAR RUN

Cardiff were gradually gaining the upperhand, and both Morris and Murphy came close with spectacular runs.

Willis was having an off-day, and had he provided a better service to his backs the Aberavon deficit would certainly have been greater.

The home forwards got moving with a dribble that took them deep into Cardiff territory.

Then Darch got his three-quarters moving, but there was always a Cardiff defender waiting and Aberavon were pushed again after Bloddyn Williams had found a good touch.

Final—Cardiff 0 1 3
Aberavon 0 0 0

COMMENTS
A draw would have been a fair result, for Cardiff's greater experience was well matched by the determination of the Aberavon pack.

It was one of the hardest games seen on the Central Athletic Ground, with Aberavon rising to the occasion splendidly.

There was little between the backs, but behind the scrums Bloddyn Williams's strategic kicking and the grand running of wings Morris and Murphy told the tale.

At full-back Richards gave a splendid display and out-kicked Trott.

Cambridge go down bravely at Cardiff

Cardiff, 0-2-6; Cambridge University, 0-0-0

Attendance, 8,000.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY were beaten by two tries to nil at the Arms Park yesterday, but they put up a great fight against odds.

They lost their England trial centre, P. B. Reeve, with a pulled neck muscle after 20 minutes, and one of their best forwards, H. Willis, 10 minutes from the end. However, they never gave in and battled away until the final whistle brought obvious relief to both sides.

The Arms Park was not on its best behaviour, for there were some bad muddy patches whose glue-like qualities appeared to attract the ball continuously throughout an enjoyable game.

We missed the touches of class, for some of the experts, Glyn Davies and J. V. Smith, of Cambridge, and Bloddyn Williams, Jack Matthews and Haydn Morris, of Cardiff, were absent.

However, those players on duty did well under the conditions, and Rex Willis stood out above them all for a splendid display at scrum-half. He conquered the mud and the opposition and looked good enough to serve Wales in the international championship this season. He passed a long ball, ran hard, and dived and tackled like a hero. Cliff Morgan, too, showed an improvement, and thus it was at half-back that Cardiff had the pull.

CAMBRIDGE FORWARDS GOOD

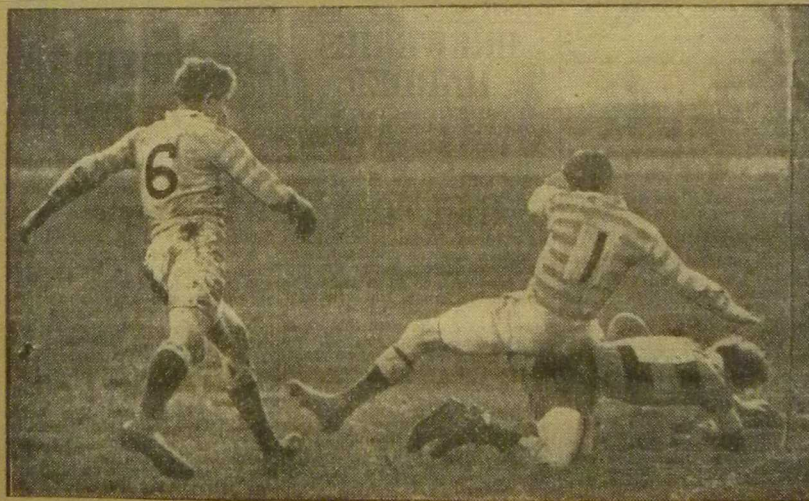
The Cambridge forwards, though seven in number for a greater part of the game, showed better form than they did against Oxford. H. Willis, C. U. Williams and C. T. Waite did some sterling work in defence by falling on the ball and marking in the line-out, whilst P. J. Wheeler was a live wire at wing-forward. In mid-field, after Reeve left the field, Cambridge lacked thrust, but L. G. Gloag was a good emergency full-back.

J. Llewellyn was a sound, fleet-footed Cardiff full-back; Evans and Murphy useful on the wings, and the centres Llewellyn and Harvey were not found wanting. Best of the pack were Tamplin, W. E. Davies, and G. Williams.

THE SCORING

Cardiff took the lead after 15 minutes when, following passing in mid-field, G. Williams changed the direction of attack and raced to the right to feed Harvey. The latter sent out a long pass to right wing Evans, who dummied Gloag with a feint to pass inside before diving over. Tamplin's kick at goal was just wide.

Soon after the start of the second half Willis sent out a long pass to Morgan, who, running well, created the half-opening. Llewellyn carried on to the full back and put Murphy over for a good try, which Tamplin just failed to convert.



W. MAIL
12/12/50

M. EVANS, the Cardiff right wing, had just touched the ball down by the corner flag to score against Cambridge University at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday when this photograph was taken. Cambridge players in the picture who had been unable to stop him are No. 6, R. M. Bartlett, and No. 1, L. G. Gloag.

FOOTBALL ECHO
23/12/50

From a line-out a Cheltenham forward tries to bustle his way through the Cardiff defence in the game at Cardiff Arms Park to-day.

Cardiff will be at full strength for Xmas games

BETTER weather during the last few days has just about saved the Cardiff club's bacon, so far as the Christmas programme is concerned (writes Reg Pelling).

The loosening of the icy grip which kept rugby on the shelf last week-end has meant that Jim Pursey and his staff have been able to put in a deal of hard work on the mud-patch in front of the new stand.

As their efforts meet with success, so the worried expressions on the brows of club officials have been clearing. Now, unless there is a repetition of last week's big freeze-up, the Christmas games are certain to be played.

Thick layers of mud from the affected parts have been cleared away; plentiful supplies of sawdust have been forked in, to help the drying out process; the pitch has been completely re-laid and, for days, has been protected by straw and tarpaulins.

By yesterday, groundsman Pursey was pretty well satisfied with his emergency repairs to the treasured pitch.

Anxious to play

Star centre three-quarters Jack Matthews and Bledwyn Williams, both of whom have been on the injured list recently, are anxious to play against the Wasps on Boxing Day and the Watsonians on Wednesday. Kick-off in both instances, by the way, is at 2.30.

For these games, too, players like Rex Willis, Cliff Davies, Sid Judd and Haydn Morris will also be available so that, at last, we shall be able to see what the full-strength Cardiff really looks like.

Tickets for the Wales v. England international match at Swansea next month are, naturally, the subject of considerable speculation just now.

Chances of stand season-ticket holders of the Cardiff club drawing a grandstand ticket in the ballot for the international, work out, I understand, at about 60 to 1.

There may be more field-tickets available than usual because of the increased proportions of St. Helen's, but in any case, all Cardiff supporters are asked not to deluge the club office with requests, but to wait until the usual Press announcements are made regarding the ticket distribution.

Taking shape

The Cardiff Athletic Club's sports museum is gradually taking shape. Rare photographs already adorn the walls of the room set aside for housing this treasure-house of memory, and the showcase containing various rugby and other trophies is filling well.

In this connection the hon.

Honeymoon tour with team

That ebullient Cardiff personality, Cliff Davies, has a busy week ahead of him.

On getting back from Ireland, where he has been playing in the Dublin charity match to-day, Cliff will be turning out for Cardiff on Boxing Day against the Wasps. Wednesday, he plays for Cardiff against the Watsonians.



Thursday, he is getting married to his Kenfig sweetheart.

Friday, he joins the train with the rest of the Cardiff players for the trip north, where Cardiff play Northumberland (Saturday) and the Watsonians (New Year's Day).

Will Cliff leave his bride behind?

Not likely! She's as fond of rugby as he is, and Cliff is taking her along with him and the rest of the team!

secretary, Mr. Brice Jenkins, tells me he is very anxious to obtain any spare copies which might be available of the "History of the Cardiff Club" written by the late C. S. Arthur, in 1907.

One copy is needed for the club museum, and Mr. Jenkins would also like to meet the request of a rather particular person — Mr. Arthur's son — for a copy of the book.

So if any reader of these notes has a copy which is no longer required, Mr. Jenkins would be extremely grateful to receive it.

Cardiff made most of scoring chances

A weakened Cardiff side, who made most of the scoring chances gained a 12 points clear victory over their English opponents Cheltenham at the Arms Park to-day.

Cardiff displayed more incisiveness behind the scrum but it was a fairly even struggle between the packs.

Neither side were at full strength, brother and half back partner, Illyd Pearce, kicked wide with a drop at goal.

As though to emphasise the fact that the Cheltenham kicking was sadly off the target, Illyd Pearce next missed with an easy penalty kick, awarded against the Cardiff forward, F. C. Ferguson, for obstruction.

Showing superiority in finishing power Cardiff increased their lead when second row forward P. V. DAVIES ran strongly for a try which Tamplin converted.

Cheltenham came back with a number of spirited attacks, which usually developed on the right wing, where the burly T. G. Jackson took a great deal of holding.

But try as they would, they failed to reduce the arrears.

Final—Cardiff 2 1 13
Cheltenham 0 0 0

COMMENTS

Judged purely on the run of play, Cardiff were not 13 points better than their English visitors. But Cardiff's victory was thoroughly deserved because they were far smarter in seizing upon scoring chances.

Behind the scrum, too, Cardiff displayed more incisiveness, though at forward it was a fairly even struggle.

Cheltenham, who tried hard throughout, lacked finish, but did better than the score suggests.

Bill Tamplin's kick failed.

First real thrill for the 7,000 crowd came with a sparkling break-through by Cheltenham's E. Hughes. The right centre brought his wing, Scottish international T. G. Jackson, into action.

After a determined touchline dash the big Scotsman, checked by Trott, sent a reverse pass to Hughes, who fell victim to a full-blooded tackle by Alun Thomas only five yards out.

Cliff Morgan next came into the picture with a couple of thrustful runs for Cardiff and it was as a result of one of the nippy outside half's efforts that ALUN THOMAS crossed wide out for a second Cardiff try. Tamplin added the extra points.

For the visitors the former Bridgend player Marcus Pearce missed a penalty kick in front of the posts just before half time.

Half—Cardiff 1 1 8
Cheltenham 0 0 0

With the Cheltenham forwards showing improved heeling after the interval, Cardiff had a busy time of it, defending.

Challenged by the fast moving E. Hughes, Gareth Griffiths, the Cardiff right wing, had to concede a minor.

Cardiff enjoyed another escape, too, when Marcus Pearce, fed by his



P. W. Sykes, Wasps inside-half, kicks to touch when challenged by a Cardiff player at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday.

Exciting finish in Cardiff-Wasps Rugby feast

Cardiff, 22-14; Wasps, 2-1-13

* One penalty.

Attendance, 20,000.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

CARDIFF and the Wasps provided a really enjoyable game of Rugby football at the Arms Park yesterday, with a storming finish to send the large crowd home in merry mood. It was a narrow win for Cardiff and they just about deserved it, since they played with one man short for the final 20 minutes.

However, the result matters little compared with the feast of good Rugby provided by both sides. The ball was thrown about continuously, particularly during the second half, as play flashed from one end of the field to the other.

At forward the honours were even, as both packs gave their backs regular chances in attack. The two pairs of half-backs opened out the play from all positions, and the three-quarters generally made ground. The pace was a cracking one but, despite the Christmas festivities, no player faltered before the final whistle!

MORGAN OUTSTANDING

Cardiff were without Bledwyn Williams, who hopes to play against the Watsonians today, and Alun Thomas deputised. Trott, at full-back, was in good form, despite the fact that players sling the ball back to him in defence far too frequently. Morris ran at top speed on the wing, and Matthews, when he went hard, was dangerous at centre. But it was Cliff Morgan, at outside-half, who was the outstanding Cardiff player, giving his best performance of the season.

In the pack C. Davies, M. Collins, G. Williams and W. E. Davies were always in the thick of the fray.

By their performance it is easy to understand why the Wasps are a power in London club Rugby. They are a good side, capable of fighting back when in arrears. A lively, heavy pack, in which Herbert, Malcolm, and Syrett were outstanding, obtained a fair share of the ball, and P. W. Sykes at the base of the scrum was every bit as good as Willis. Marker, at outside-half, was elusive, and Young and Woodward strong-running wings, particularly the latter, who scored a grand try.

RAPID SCORING

Cardiff were soon in the lead with a good try by Alun Thomas, and before the interval Tamplin put them six points up with a 40 yard penalty. They went further ahead in the second half, when C. Davies started a movement for G. Williams to carry on and see Collins score. Tamplin converted. Then back came the Wasps. Syrett, always on the ball, supported Marker and dived over for a try. Nelson left the field injured before the next try was scored by Woodward, who eluded Murphy and raced 30 yards over and around behind the posts. Herbert converted.

Cardiff fought back, and Morgan made a splendid opening for Davies to shoot over for a try. But this was not the end. The Wasps rushed the ball down field and Syrett dived through the ruck to score. Herbert converted, and the score became 14 points to 13. A near thing for Cardiff.



Gareth Griffiths, the young Cardiff right wing, evades a tackle by Reid, of the Watsonians, to score his side's first try at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday.

Cardiff complete holiday list with easy win



This is the Cardiff Schools team to meet the German Schools XV on Wednesday.

The Germans, who arrive in Cardiff this evening, play six games during their nine-day visit. The senior boys play four matches — against Cardiff, Maesteg (Thursday), Mountain Ash (Saturday) and Abertillery (next Monday).

Their under-14 side play Cardiff on Friday and Abertillery on Monday.



Cliff Davies, the Cardiff front-row forward, who to-day marries Miss Dilys Thomas, Cornelly. This photograph was taken during the match between Cardiff and the Watsonians at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday.

Front row — C. Davies, W. E. Davies, and Phillips — were prominent, as were Collins and Goodfellow.

Willis sent out long passes, but was not in top gear. C. Morgan, at outside-half, continued to show good form. How improved this player is and well worthy now of the trial he was denied through injury earlier in the season.

G. Griffiths, the former Welsh secondary schools international wing, showed promise.

The Watsonians had triers at forward in R. G. Low, G. Dobson, and B. M. Phillips. Harvey was a terrier for work at half-back, and the auburn haired D. A. Reid, at centre, also tried hard. However, their best back was right wing Clapham, but he never had one good pass in attack!

THE SCORING

G. Griffiths got an orthodox try to open the scoring for Cardiff. Then C. Morgan gathered in the loose, darted through and sent Morris racing over in the left corner and around behind the posts. Tamplin converted. C. Morgan made another opening before the interval, and with the help of Bledwyn Williams put Morris over for his second try. Early in the second half Bledwyn Williams dropped the ball to his feet during a movement, dribbled through and gathered, then turned and sent Collins galloping over for Tamplin to convert. C. D. Williams scored the fifth try by dashing 20 yards from a line-out. Tamplin converted, and finally Collins followed up and Griffiths kicked ahead to win the touch down.



CLIFF DAVIES, the British, Wales, and Cardiff Rugby forward, was married to Miss Dilys Thomas at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam, near Pyle, yesterday. In this group, photographed after the ceremony, are several members of the Cardiff Rugby team.

ARCHWAY OF SCARVES



Welsh Rugby star married

Many Rugby-playing colleagues of the bridegroom were among the guests at yesterday's wedding at the Kenfig Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene (Maudlam), of Mr. Cliff Davies, Kenfig Hill, the Cardiff, Wales and Great Britain front row forward, and Miss Dilys Catherine Thomas, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Thomas, Tydraw Farm, Cornelly, Pyle.

Mr. John Phillips, the Cardiff hooker, was best man.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Mansel Thomas, and the bridesmaid was Miss Pat Sawyer.

The Rev. Howell Loveluck, Whitchurch, himself a Rugby colleague of the bridegroom, officiated, assisted by the Rev. David Davies (vicar of Kenfig).

Cliff Davies, the Cardiff, Wales and British rugby forward, and his bride, Miss Dilys Thomas, leave St. Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam, near Pyle, after their wedding to-day under an archway of Cardiff Club scarves held by some of the bridegroom's team-mates.

No miracle, but Cardiff benefit by stars' return

CARDIFF'S standing in the rugby world at this half-way stage of the season is considerably higher than we thought at one time that it would be (writes Reg Pelling).

I have been checking through the record of the team up to this week and find one or two facts of quite considerable interest.

One is that the return of the tourists has not brought about such a great transformation as had been expected.

The record of the side since their return is obviously much better, but no miracle has been wrought, which so many Cardiff supporters seemed to expect.

The British tourists returned to the Cardiff side against Bridgend on November 4. Prior to that date Cardiff had lost three matches out of 13, scoring 106 points against 55.

Since then Cardiff have lost only one game—at Newport—and in 10 matches have scored 117 points against 45.

That's fair enough, you say? Agreed.

I simply mention these figures to show that it is not wise to expect too much from anyone, however bright a star he may be in the rugby firmament, or to exaggerate a player's importance to a side.

Two players whose recent displays have stamped them as internationals of the future are Haydn Morris and Cliff Morgan.

Varied tactics

I have never seen Cliff play so well as he did over the Christmas holidays. His varied tactics had all the opposition worried; his touch-kicking bore more than a trace of the Cleaver class. Cliff, more than any other single individual on the field, contributed greatly to Cardiff's trio of victories which sent their fans home well pleased with their Yuletide sporting fare.

As for Haydn Morris, the school teacher who spurned an offer of £3,000 (to turn professional) on the off-chance that he might play for Cardiff and, one day, Wales, his prospects have rocketed in recent weeks.

There were some to criticise him for not getting the better of the Watsonian Clephan every time on Wednesday, but they were overlooking the undoubted all-round ability, particularly in defence, of Clephan.

Such critics remind me of those who, at cricket, barrack a batsman for laborious methods, taking no account of the good bowling which he is attempting to play.

Morris will find himself up against few better wings than Clephan—and that's something which the English selectors might note. Yes, English selectors, I said, for Clephan is not a Scot—yet!



HAYDN MORRIS

Dropped in at the pretty village church at Kenig on Thursday to see popular Cliff Davies married to Miss Dilys Thomas.

It was a real rugger affair, with many past and present Cardiff players as guests, with the Rev. Howell Loveluck helping in the ceremony. Cliff Morgan deputising at the last minute for the organist who was ill, and John Phillips (who has had an arm around Cliff's neck more times than he can remember), acting as best man.

So it was John who was the "prop" on this occasion.

Cliff and his bride looked remarkably happy and received the shower of genuine congratulations with simple dignity. Their send-off was as joyful as the rest of the occasion—though Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Davies rejoined the other Cardiff players yesterday for the trip to the North.

Cardiff were wise, incidentally, to play their strongest available side against Northumberland.

Their opponents were largely an unknown quantity to them and, naturally, a club of Cardiff's prestige would be anxious to make a good impression amongst strangers.

With the Watsonians it was somewhat different. They remember the Scots' strong points and weaknesses from last Wednesday, and will be able to lay their plans accordingly on Monday.

A late score beat Cardiff up North

Owing to the hard state of the ground the match between Northumberland and Cardiff at North Shields to-day was by mutual agreement treated more as an exhibition game than a serious encounter.

The venue had been changed from Gosforth to North Shields because the former ground was found unplayable.

Cardiff had several changes. The ground was liberally covered with straw.

Teams—
NORTHUMBERLAND: J. B. Reine; Stonehouse, Aitchison, Macdonald, Cooper; Baker, Harper, Gibbs, Storey, Reeve, Gibbon, Dinning, Walker, Hodgson, Wilmot.

CARDIFF: Trott; Murphy, Llewellyn, Jones, James; Morgan, Willis; Davies, Phillips, Hull, Tamplin, Ferguson, Goodfellow, O'Brien, Williams.

The play opened at a surprising speed with Cardiff, however, soon defending, when Stonehouse put Northumberland in an attacking position.

Cardiff soon retrieved the position, and Northumberland got a fright when an awkward bouncing ball nearly let Llewellyn in.

After seven minutes Morgan, with a nice run, put JAMES over for a try. Tamplin failed to convert.

The home team attacked, and twice Aitchison was through but forward passes spoilt the movements.

It was decided to make the game at North Shields a token game in view of the hard ground.

Cardiff went further ahead when Morgan tricked the defence for G. LLEWELLYN to get over.

Northumberland, after 20 minutes reduced the score when Cooper with a cross kick enabled W. E. REEVES to beat Trott in touch-down. This was converted by Aitchison.

Only 25 minutes were played when referee Longbottom decided on half-time and play was changed over without any respite.

Half-Cardiff 0 2 6
Northumberland 1 0 5

With Cardiff leading six points to five they soon had Northumberland on the defensive with Morgan showing up well in attack and Llewellyn and James backing up well.

Northumberland attacked and Mcnald was within an ace of scoring but the final pass went astray.

Northumberland still keeping up the pressure saw Baker, Cooper and Stonehouse in turn make Cardiff fight to keep them out.

In the closing minutes a lovely effort by MacDonald and Cooper sent STONEHOUSE over for a try for Aitchison to goal after no charge had been given.

Final—Northumberland 2 0 10
Cardiff 0 2 6

COMMENTS

Ground conditions were all against good rugby and had Cardiff been playing under normal conditions they would assuredly have been seen in winning vein.

Northumberland, however, deserved their win by giving a steady display under conditions which made good rugby impossible.

For Cardiff, Llewellyn and Morgan were the danger men behind a pack which gained possession more frequently.

Trott at full-back was very reliable and often acted as a fifth three-quarter.

On the whole, spectators saw a good game in spite of the intense cold and icy conditions.

CARDIFF'S 24 FOR TOUR

TWENTY-FOUR players will go on tour with Cardiff R.F.C., playing against Northumberland tomorrow and the Watsonians on New Year's Day.

Dr. Jack Matthews, Howell Greenslade, and J. D. Nelson are unable to make the trip, and Bledwyn Williams cannot join the party until Sunday, otherwise Cardiff will be at full strength and have chosen the following side to play Northumberland:

Frank Trott; H. Morris, Alun Thomas, A. N. Other, D. Murphy; Cliff Morgan, Rex Willis; Cliff Davies, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, Peter Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien and Gwyn Williams.

Other players to go on tour are: Gwyn Llewellyn, Michael Evans, D. James, A. Hull, P. V. Davies, F. C. Ferguson, C. D. Williams, G. Beckingham and S. Bowes.

The match against Northumberland is most likely to be switched to North Shields—the home of the Percy Park Club—for the county ground, Newcastle, is frostbound.

A decision will be made this evening.

Northumberland have made a late change. W. Boshoff, their South African centre, who has played for Transvaal, is injured, and R. MacDonald, the Scottish international, moves inside, B. R. Cooper (Percy Park) coming in on the wing. Cooper has played for the county on numerous occasions.

ATHLETIC GUEST

Three British team players will appear in the Cardiff Athletic XV, at the Arms Park. They are Graham Budge (Scotland), J. Matthews, and Bledwyn Williams. Budge was a guest at the wedding of his British team mate, Cliff Davies, yesterday and is staying in Cardiff at the invitation of friends. After the match he is to be presented with a club jersey.

Reaching for it

Aberavon and Cardiff forwards reaching for the ball during the match at the Athletic ground
Po: Talbot.



Cardiff committee are considering postponed games

WHAT is to happen to the two Cardiff matches—away games with Neath and Penarth—which have had to be called off because of the weather?

All that can be said at the moment (writes Reg Pelling) is that the club's committee are considering what arrangements, if any, can be made for playing them later in the season.

That is a matter which is bound to give rise to some concern. Like most of the other clubs Cardiff fixture-card presents an overcrowded appearance towards the end of the season.

Presumably, it is intended to rearrange these games, if possible, for a mid-week evening (though we must not forget that there is a fuel economy inspired more against the playing of mid-week football in any case).

And Cardiff are already committed to the playing of six matches in March (including the Easter holiday games), and seven (when they will be on tour in Devon and Cornwall) during April.

£2,000 trial 'gate'

However, they realise that the loss of the Cardiff match means a big financial sacrifice to the clubs concerned, and they can be relied upon to make every effort to offset this.

Cardiff themselves, in spite of the fact that their ground is in worse shape than it has probably ever been before, have not yet lost a single home fixture.

Though I am told that it was touch and go last week as to whether the final Welsh trial was played there.

Had it been realised that the ground would have developed into such a quagmire, it is quite possible that the trial would have been transferred to Newport.

Fortunately for all those who made the effort to attend the trial (and the "gate" was well over £2,000, a magnificent return), this action was not considered necessary.

Cardiff supporters, naturally, were pleased that so many of their favourites were given the chance of impressing the selectors. They must have left the ground feeling fairly confident that, even if Malcolm Collins and Sid Judd fail to get their caps for Wales this season, they obviously stand a first-class chance of doing so before they are much older.

Both men, of course, are still quite young.

Bright future

They are the same age, 22, Malcolm stands 6ft. and weighs 15st. 6lb.; Sid is 6ft. 2in. tall and weighs 15st.

Still a student at Carmarthen, Sid expects to leave next June, after which it is hoped he will be regularly available for Cardiff.

The all-round displays of both these young giants was freely commented upon.

Their future is obviously a bright one, provided they maintain the same steady rate of improvement.

An old friend, M. Louis Murail, re-visits Cardiff on February 10 when, as referee, he will have charge of the Cardiff v. London Welsh match.

Cardiff's move to invite a French referee to officiate in Wales was readily received by the London Welsh, and M. Murail's appointment has been given the blessing of the W.R.U. and the French Rugby Federation.

This can be taken as the latest step in the entente cordiale existing between Nantes (from whence M. Murail comes) and Cardiff, who feel that the visit will be in the interests of general and international uniformity in refereeing standards and interpretations.

This is not the first occasion for French referees to control games in Great Britain, of course, but as far as I know, this will be the first time for a Cardiff home match to be handled by a Continental official.

M. Murail is a Federal, as well as a Regional referee in France and has been referee for many important French championship games, including the finals.

He has previously controlled matches in France between French clubs and Oxford University (three times) and Cardiff (three times), as well as the British Army v. French Army, and French Army v. Combined Services games.

No stranger to Cardiff, he accompanied the combined Nantes and Cognac team and the famous French Veterans, when they played at Cardiff in September, 1947. He was touch judge that day.

Footnote: The match between Cardiff and Northumberland which was played under farcical conditions on December 30 will not be counted in the official records.

Cardiff committee, meeting this week, were informed by the representatives who had accompanied the team on its Northern tour that both sides had agreed, even before the game started, that the match should not count as an official fixture.



CLIFF MORGAN

CARDIFF TIMES
27/1/51

Welsh "Bullet"



CRASH-TACKLING Dr. Jack Matthews played his best-ever game for Wales last week at Swansea, when he scored two splendid tries and treated a startled English defence to a "frightening" display of aggressive football. Indeed, the Welsh "bullet," as he is popularly called, stands out as the soundest back in the country. His defence is matchless, his tackling dreaded by foes, his burst a match-winner. This was "Matthews's Match."

FOOTBALL ECHO

4/1/51

Cardiff committee draw blanks in International ballot

ALL the members of the committee of the Cardiff Rugby Club, as was their right as club members, took part in the ballot for the stand tickets issued to Cardiff for the Wales-England rugby international match at Swansea (writes Reg Pelling).

But the 60-1 chance was too much for them. Not a single committeeman drew a ticket.

They may get one through other channels, but so far as the ballot was concerned they remained empty-handed.

Lucky ones have been notified through the post, as to the others, there may be enough field tickets to meet the expected demand. But—and this must be noted—if the demand is heavier than anticipated it will once again have to be a case of "first come, first served."

Now that players and officials have returned from the Northern tour, one learns that the farcical match with Northumberland last Saturday was only started so that those people who had bought tickets weeks earlier should not be disappointed.

At first it was agreed to play only 10 minutes or so of exhibition stuff; then they decided to carry on for a bit longer, but even so there was only about 20 minutes play in each half.

Tackling was barred, and though no decision has yet been made by the Cardiff club it is most unlikely that the match will go down in the official records.

There is plenty of precedent for this.

Invincible Maesteg, for instance, were beaten once last season. Their victors were Maesteg Celtic, but the match was not regarded as an official fixture so was discounted.

This season London Welsh and Newport figured in a ridiculous match in a London fog. Though the second half was started, it was later decided that the match should not count in the records of either club. This was important to Newport, for it meant that they still kept their 100 per cent. record.

Recommended training

Cardiff supporters who have been wondering at the continued absence of that fine front-row forward, Gower Jenkins, will be interested to learn that he recommenced training this week.

Gower has not played any rugby this season following a cartilage operation, but can be relied upon to challenge strongly for his place in the first fifteen, now that he is getting fit again.

Wing three-quarter Dai Jones, who has been absent for a long time because of similar trouble—cartilage operation—has also begun training and will be available again soon.

Scotsman Grahame Ridge thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Wales for Cliff Davies's wedding, and his game with Cardiff Athletic.

Afterwards he was presented with a Cardiff jersey, a gesture which he deeply appreciated, as was evident to all who attended the little ceremony after the match.

Presenting jerseys is a custom rare in Cardiff's history, so Grahame was entitled to be duly impressed.

Favourable comment

Few people present at the Athletic v. Newport H.S.O.B. match, by the way, were aware that, through a slip-up somewhere, the referee did not turn up.

Only five minutes were left when Ross Johnson, former Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd player, who now stars for Penryn, was prevailed upon to deputise.

He did the job to perfection, I am assured, and his handling of the game was the subject of much favourable comment afterwards—by people who had no idea of his identity.

So when Ross's playing days are finally over, it seems that he is well fitted to carve out another footballing niche for himself.

Cardiff's gesture in giving Llandaff a fixture with their full first XV as part of Llandaff's 75th birthday celebrations is a gesture which is much appreciated, and fully in keeping with the great traditions of sportsmanship connected with both clubs.

The Llandaff club will be 75 years old next April, Cardiff the same age a few months later, so they have this much in common, too.

Through the ages Llandaff have supplied Cardiff with numerous players—among the most recent, of course, is Rex Willis—and a firm friendship has existed between the clubs for generations.

Llandaff is an enthusiastic, thriving club which is deserving of every encouragement from its bigger brethren. Cardiff are to be commended on willingly stretching out a helping hand to their old friends.

S.W. ECHO 29/1/51



Bloddy Williams dives over for his third try against Swansea, at Arms Park, on Saturday.



Louis Murail, of Nantes (right), who will referee the Cardiff v. London Welsh match on February 10. A close friend of the well-known Welsh referee Trevor Jones, they are seen here together watching the Veterans match at Cardiff Arms Park in September, 1947.

FOOTBALL ECHO

13/1/51

BRISTOL'S EARLY SCORE BEAT CARDIFF

A try by K. Smith, which was not converted, gave Bristol an early three points lead over Cardiff at Bristol to-day.

The weather was fine and bright and considering the recent rain the ground was in quite good condition. This was the "hundredth" game between the two clubs, who first met in 1888.

Of the previous 99 games Cardiff won 75, and Bristol 19, with five drawn.

Cardiff had to make two changes as Frank Trott and Jackie Mathews are injured and they included J. Llewellyn, at full-back, and G. Llewellyn in the centre.

BRISTOL: J. Holt; J. A. Gregory, H. Hickery, J. Gollege, K. Smith, M. D. Corbett, J. Dalziel, P. L. Storkey, D. Woodward, E. McCall, R. H. Muller, E. G. Hopton, A. M. Bain, D. G. Pratten, D. Gunson.

CARDIFF: J. Llewellyn; H. Morris, G. Llewellyn, Bloddyn Williams, D. C. Murphy, C. Morgan, R. Willis, C. Davies, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Davies, S. Judd, M. Collins, C. D. Williams, P. Goodfellow, G. P. Williams.

Referee: Mr. W. A. Woodhall, London Society.

The Bristol forwards were quick to settle down and with some vigorous rushes kept play in their opponents' half. Cardiff being called upon to defend desperately to hold them out.

A long kick to touch by Bloddyn Williams only provided temporary relief.

After 10 minutes Cardiff suddenly sprang into the attack and Morris made a brilliant touch-line run, but was unable to follow up his punt ahead over the full back's head.

Bristol returned to the attack and from a quick heel SMITH got possession on the left wing, and beating Morris forced his way over for an unconverted try.

After this Cardiff improved and the forwards worked up close to the line. They were eventually repelled by Corbett, the son of the old Bristol captain.

FINE DEFENCE

After their uncertain start Cardiff livened up and several times came within an ace of scoring.

First J. Llewellyn was a few feet short with a penalty shot at goal and then Murphy got to within a yard of the line before he was brought down by Pratten.

Cardiff should have scored when G. Llewellyn made a perfect interception, but instead of going straight for the line they indulged in intricate passing, which saw a most promising movement fizzle out.

Half-Bristol 0 1 3
Cardiff 0 0 0

As in the first half, Bristol went off at terrific speed in the second and only G. Llewellyn's courage in going down to a top rush saved them in the first few minutes.

Then Smith, the Bristol left wing, just lost possession as he was falling over the line.

Having survived a hectic onslaught on their line, the Cardiff forwards, with C. D. Williams prominent, attacked persistently, but again the Bristol defence held firm.

R. Willis slipped away from the scrum very cleverly and got to within five yards of the line, but was unsupported and tackled in possession.

Cardiff continued to have the better of the play at this period and subjected the Bristol line to heavy pressure.

With some fiery counter-rushes the Bristol forwards relieved the pressure, but could not clear their own half.

The Cardiff backs made valiant attempts to get going, but Bloddyn Williams could not break through despite repeated efforts, and he was guilty of handling errors.

Just before the end Bristol got into their stride again and attacked vigorously.

Final-Bristol 0 1 3
Cardiff 0 0 0

COMMENTS

It was a fast and thrilling game between two evenly matched sides. The honours went to the Bristol forwards, who scrummaged more successfully and were more lively in the open.

Cardiff were more clever in attack behind the scrum with Willis and G. Llewellyn outstanding, but the slippery surface was against them and Bristol's defence was simply magnificent. Cardiff lost the game by trying too many intricate back movements.

Cardiff reunion of past and present players

ATTENTION all those players who, through the generations, have played for Cardiff: A suggestion has been made—and cordially received by the Cardiff Club—that a reunion of all past and present players should be held on the eve of the Wales v. Ireland international match at Cardiff on March 10 (writes Reg Pelling).

It is intended to be quite informal—just an eve-of-the-match get-together of wearers of the famous blue and black jerseys, for a meal, refreshments and, naturally, reminiscences.

Mr. Billy Spiller had the idea originally and put it up to the present chairman, Mr. Hubert Johnson. He was most enthusiastic about the idea and called in to see me the other day to enlist the support of this column in spreading the news abroad.

I think it is an excellent suggestion; one which I am sure will be welcomed by every former player.

Naturally, though, the club want some idea of the numbers to be catered for, so if any interested player reads this, will he please contact Mr. Johnson at the Cardiff Athletic Club without further delay?

ON VERGE OF HONOURS



Malcolm Collins, 22-year-old Cardiff forward, who was a reserve for this afternoon's Welsh XV at Swansea. Six feet tall and weighing 15st. 6lb., Malcolm is a line-out expert and a great worker in the tight and loose.

He joined Cardiff at the beginning of last season because he was kept out of the Newport team by the consistently good form of L. E. T. Jones and Peter Davies (and later Ben Edwards).

Now Malcolm looks like outstripping all his former rivals in the bid for international honours.

—though, in the light of all these happenings and the considerable expense incurred, the Cardiff club will have to keep a tight rein. I'm afraid, on permits to other organisations who want to play on the famous Arms Park.

Stand extensions

Once the problems of the playing pitch have been satisfactorily settled, I hope the club will lose no further time in getting down to the plans for expanding the accommodation.

These plans, as I have said before, have already been blue-printed and, I must say, look most imposing.

They provide for the sectional rebuilding of the old stand and a long-term policy for extending both stands to increase the capacity of the Arms Park to some 70,000 or more.

One or two difficulties of a legal and technical character have cropped up, but these, surely, are not insuperable.

I hope that those who are backing the plans with enthusiasm, in conjunction, of course, with the Welsh Rugby Union, will raise the matter as soon as possible. But we must all agree that the pitch itself must be dealt with as a priority.

The Swansea authorities are providing an example of what enthusiasm and determination can accomplish. Let it not be said that Cardiff are lagging behind!

Mud-heap

Cardiff brows marked as furrowed as ever because of the state of the playing pitch.

It is hardly recognisable these days as that glorious stretch of turf which, on the occasion of the Wales v. Australia match four years ago, prompted me to write of it as "an emerald jewel set amongst a grey sea of faces."

At its best, Cardiff Arms Park compares favourably with the finest grounds in the kingdom; in its present state it is not much better than a mud-heap, and unless the weather improves considerably during the next few weeks, drastic steps may have to be taken to preserve it in good fettle for the international match with Ireland.

Of course, it is not for any want of care and attention that the pitch is in such poor condition—as anyone who knows Jim Pursey and his men will readily agree.

Constant wear and tear since the war; plus the bomb damage during the blitz; plus last summer's extraordinary rainfall; plus this season's wretched weather—all these factors have contributed towards it.

New drainage

Now, I rather, there is probably a blockage in the draining system which has been badly overworked in any case, and it may well be that during the close season new drains will be laid.

No-one wants a repetition of this season's unfortunate happenings.

The electric pumps are working quite well and will probably be connected up to the new drainage system, while the old drains will also be left to help as well.

That being so, there should be no ground for complaint in future



The queuing habit gets into rugby. In the game at the Arms Park on Wednesday Rex Willis, of Cardiff, is tackled by Watsonian Dobson, who is set upon by Goodfellow, who is followed by colleague Griffiths, who has Anderson, of the Scottish side, in attendance, who ...

CARDIFF RIDDLE ALL WHITES DEFENCE

by
Reg Pelling

Swansea were three points up in ten minutes against Cardiff at Arms Park to-day, but in the end were decisively beaten by 19 points to 6.

It was the vastly superior play of the Cardiff backs that turned the scales so convincingly in favour of the home side.

Cardiff Arms Park, though a good deal better than in recent weeks, was still wet and heavy following this morning's snow storm.

Both teams were called upon to make changes at forward Cardiff were without Des O'Brien (playing for Ireland) and Malcolm Collins (getting married) and Swansea were short of Bryn Evans, their captain who was attending a funeral, and R. C. C. Thomas, who is a 'flu victim.

Teams:
CARDIFF: F. Trott, D. C. Murphy, Bledwyn Williams, J. Matthews, H. Morris; C. Morgan, R. Willis; C. Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson, A. Hull, C. D. Williams.

SWANSEA: Perry Davies; D. H. Phillips, Len Davies, Wyn Bratton, H. Thomas, D. Lewis, Roy Sutton, Dai Jones, G. Jeffreys, Doug Jones, W. O. Williams, A. Morris, T. Gange, L. Blythe (capt.), V. G. Roberts.

Referee: Mr. Ivor David, Neath. Cardiff were in dire trouble within minutes of the start. Twice Len Davies kicked with the acme of accuracy to set Cardiff defending desperately right on the own line. In ten minutes Swansea were ahead. Cliff Morgan had a low kick stopped by Wyn Pratton, who kicked ahead.

DANNY LEWIS did likewise and won an exciting race for the ball to score in the easiest of positions.

Len Davies, however, sliced his conversion kick.

This reverse stung Cardiff into great activity and their backs proceeded to throw the ball about with bewildering speed and accuracy.

DAZZLING RUN

From a cross-kick by Murphy a glorious chance was missed when the forwards failed to get the ball under proper control.

This did not prove particularly costly for a minute or two later Cliff Morgan burst through in dazzling style after beating Lewis, his opposite number, and made an opening for **BLEDDYN WILLIAMS** to score an equalising unconverted try.

Continuing to exploit their clever

backs it was not long before Cardiff swung into the attack again.

After Murphy had beaten his opposite number, Thomas, rather cheaply, he inter-passed with C. D. Williams and finally put over another of his excellent cross-kicks.

This time there was no bungling by the Cardiff forwards and **GOODFELLOW** jumped for the ball to score a try. Tamplin added the goal points.

HUMAN BULLET

Back and forth waged the battle for some time after this, with Cardiff bringing their backs into action at every available opportunity and Swansea preferring direct methods of forward work.

One full-scale, nicely controlled Swansea dribble won them a good 30 yards before Trott held it up.

But gradually the fast-moving Cardiff strategy showed that it was going to pay a better dividend. They laid siege to the Swansea line for long periods and in the end this was bound to bring reward.

It came when Jack Matthews shot through Swansea's defence like a human bullet to put **BLEDDYN WILLIAMS** in for his second try. The goal kick failed.

Half—Cardiff 1 2 11
Swansea 0 1 3

Early in the second half another jet-propelled burst by Cliff Morgan cleverly supported by Bledwyn Williams, gave Murphy a chance to go

for the corner and he would have got there, too, but for a grand tackle by Terry Davies, Swansea's 18-year-old full back.

Under trying conditions young Terry was playing an excellent game.

In quick succession we saw Bledwyn Williams jinking his way through in all his old style, then Jack Matthews almost succeeded in carrying two men across with him in a gallant but unavailing dash for the line.

..Finally **CLIFF MORGAN** crowned a splendid display by selling the dummy and diving over at the corner for another unconverted try.

Swansea were winning the ball at the scrummages, but it was doing them little good and time after time their somewhat hesitant defence was riddled by the quick-thinking, fast-moving Cardiff mid-field triangle.

Twice in quick succession they carved out chances for **MURPHY** on the Cardiff left wing and the second time he made no mistake about it, going hard for the corner and then suddenly swerving inwards to crash over the line.

Tamplin goaled with a fine kick, to put Cardiff 16 points in the lead.

Cardiff were opening out from all parts of the field. Once Trott started a passing bout from the full back position to be carried on by Tamplin, who sold as neat a dummy as we have seen.

Again it was with a passing movement that Cardiff replied to a long penalty kick by Arwyn Morris.

Eventually, however, there was generous applause for the hard-working Swansea forwards when they drove all before them in a short, sharp footrush, and W. O. WILLIAMS grounded the ball for a try. Len Davies' conversion kick went just wide of the upright.

The final minutes flagged somewhat with Swansea still battling away gallantly and Cardiff apparently being content to retain their big lead.

Final—Cardiff 2 3 19
Swansea 0 2 6

COMMENTS

Cardiff exacted ample revenge for the "double" which Swansea achieved last season.

Though Swansea scored first there was never any doubt about Cardiff's superiority or that their big victory was thoroughly merited.

It was a fast, exciting game and a credit to both these famous clubs. Full marks go to the Swansea pack who never gave up trying.

But Swansea simply had no answer to the thrustful clever running of the Morgan-Matthews-Williams mid-field triangle on which practically all Cardiff's attacks were founded.

Bledwyn Williams, in particular, showed so many flashes of his former brilliance that once more we are compelled to point out how unfortunate he is to be kept out of the Welsh side.

'PLANTED' OVER THE LINE



Bledwyn Williams grasses the ball to score Cardiff's first try against Swansea at Cardiff Arms Park to-day.

DAILY MAIL 15/1/51



This Bristol try, by Keith Smith (on left, striped shirt), gave the club their first victory over Cardiff since 1937.

Talent in duplicate at Cardiff

WITH seven players on duty at Swansea last week, the Cardiff club were able to appreciate, as never before this season, what an excellent array of talent they have in reserve (writes Reg Pelling).

I'm told that the team's display at Bath was positively brilliant, as can well be imagined from the score of 25 points to 11 in Cardiff's favour.

And one doesn't have to be a thought-reader to realise that the selection of the side against Swansea to-day was undertaken with many feelings of regret at having to leave out some of the deputies who performed so splendidly at Bath.

What, for instance, can Cardiff do about two such splendid centres as Alun Thomas and Gwyn Llewellyn? All who saw the match with Bath are unanimous that they were outstanding in a fine back division.

Yet can you leave out Jack Matthews, vice-captain of Wales, or Bledwyn Williams, still one of the greatest centres in the game to-day?

I feel particularly sorry for Bledwyn, who has now missed half a dozen caps through the misfortune which also cost him the captaincy of Wales against England 12 months ago.

He accepts the situation quite philosophically, however, though he must realise that as long as Jack Matthews and Lewis Jones continue to display the form they showed last week there is no chance for him at centre.

But how he would have revelled in that type of game!

Occasional game

Back to Alun Thomas and Gwyn Llewellyn, who were so nobly upholding the Cardiff club's traditions in the absence of the other glittering stars.

Can any club in the country claim to have four centres of the same calibre as Cardiff? Thomas and Llewellyn could walk into practically any first-class team without any trouble, yet they prefer to stay with Cardiff, content with an occasional game in the first XV.

A week or two before Christmas some people were ready to gamble that soon Alun Thomas would be playing regularly at outside half.

Cardiff 'threes' in scoring mood

The Cardiff threequarters were in a fine scoring mood at the Arms Park to-day where Sale suffered a 20 points defeat.

Cardiff's Cheshire visitors, Sale, were without their two principal centres, H. Starkie and F. G. Griffiths, for their first ever match against the Welsh club at the Arms Park to-day.

Less than 2,000 spectators watched the start in bright sunshine.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; D. Murphy, M. Harvey, A. Thomas, G. Griffiths; J. A. P. Kelly, H. Greenslade, W. E. Davies, G. Beckingham, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tampion (capt), M. Collins, I. D. Nelson, P. Goodfellow, C. D. Williams.

SALE: J. Kelly; B. C. F. Bramwell, G. Barnaby, W. F. Withnell, J. A. P. Kelly, M. Kelly, L. Joseph, F. Evans, R. V. Thompson, R. Forster, J. H. Bading, W. Baker, R. Hardham, T. Baker, S. Hasted.

Tampion kicked off for Cardiff into the wind and sun towards the river end, but it was Sale who launched the initial offensive, and Trott and Cliff Morgan were called upon to bring relief.

Accurate touch kicking by Sale kept them in Cardiff territory until Cliff Morgan made a mid-field burst

But not now: Cliff Morgan has made himself well-nigh indispensable in that position by reason of a succession of grand all-round displays.

And again at inside half there is a duplication of talent. Howell Greenslade, who, like Llewellyn, was one of Bridgend's mainstays last term, is playing fine football, yet cannot command a regular first-team berth because of the consistently good displays of Rex Willis.

The same sort of thing goes on almost right through the side; there are capable, indeed first-class, deputies for every single position and when every single player is available fitting them in must be something like fixing a jig-saw.

'Pep talk'

Incidentally, I gather that Bill Tampion gave his men a real old-fashioned "pep talk" before they took the field at Bath. It seemed to work wonders.

Also of interest is the fact that Gower Jenkins, making his first appearance in the team this season, was in magnificent form and is obviously back to stay, completing that grand front-row trio of Cliff Davies, J. R. Phillips and Jenkins of last season.

There is one good thing about this plethora of talent which applies equally to Wales and Cardiff. The slightest falling-off in form, no matter what the reputations of players may be, will inevitably mean replacement by a fully-qualified reserve.

The Cardiff Arms pitch, by the way, is mending rapidly, and there is no question at all about the Wales-Ireland match being staged there. Already it is in better condition than it has been for many weeks past and, given some fine weather between now and March 10, visitors will see the pitch in all its pristine glory of former years.

St. Helen's looked splendid for last week's international; Cardiff Arms Park, I am assured, will look even better for the next one.



Branwell, the Sale wing, is travelling at too high a speed to avoid tripping over Greenslade, the Cardiff outside half, who has already whipped the ball away to Cliff Morgan, in to-day's game at the Arms Park.

Wizard of the 'Jink'

ONLY the genius of Lewis Jones and the all-round ability of club-mate Jack Matthews have kept Bledwyn Williams out of the Welsh team. On form a brilliant player, Williams showed his true paces last Saturday with three



splendid tries against traditional rivals, Swansea. It was his best match this season, and heralds a return to the form which earned him the title of the best centre in the four countries after the war. Twelve times he has won the scarlet jersey. How long will it be before he again dons the chosen colour?

CARDIFF TIMES 3/2/51

FOOTBALL ECHO 3/2/51

Cardiff stepped up their attacks and only a hard tackle of Nelson in front of the posts and a forward pass to Griffiths after a break through by Alun Thomas prevented further Cardiff tries.

Griffiths should have scored at the corner but fell a cheap victim to a tackle when all he had to do was dive across.

Tampion gained consolation for his missed goal attempts when he put the ball over in front of the posts to convert Cardiff's fourth try by GRIFFITHS after Alun Thomas had made the running.

Then Cliff Morgan handed off a would-be tackler to pave the way for the try by M. HARVEY. Collins' conversion attempt from a difficult angle, curled just wide of the far post.

HARVEY added a final try after C. D. Williams had infringed a corner post in diving over.

Final Cardiff 1 5 20
Sale 0 0 0

COMMENTS

There was no disputing Cardiff's all-round supremacy as with the first dry ball for many weeks they dazzled the visitors' defence with some clever combined running.

'W-M' formation shows the best Cardiff style

CAN we take it that the glitter and glamour has come back into Cardiff rugby? After seeing last week's game with Swansea it seems that we can (writes Reg Pelling).

Is it, one wonders, anything to do with the end of the settling-down period which the returned tourists obviously needed after many months of continuous playing?

Has the return of the sparkle anything to do with the fact that, stars or not, all the players have to fight hard to gain, and hold, places in the first team?

To some extent those of us who maintained that the tourists would require a good rest after getting back from the Antipodes have been justified.

True most of them started playing again far too soon (in my opinion) and just before Christmas looked jaded indeed—thoroughly stale in fact.

But from somewhere have come surprising reserves of stamina and a fresh discovery of former brilliance.

No-one could have wished to see—on successive Saturdays and for different teams—better exhibitions of copy-book centre play than those given by Jack Matthews (for Wales) and Bledwyn Williams (for Cardiff).

Improved player

Bledwyn has but to show that form regularly during the next few matches in order to give the Welsh "Big Five" their worst headache yet.

Footballing skill of that high order must inevitably cause them to seek ways and means of placing him, somewhere, in the international team against Ireland—on his home ground.

But, irrespective of Williams' own particular case, the whole Cardiff team have shown a joyful resurgence of their former glory.

Once more they are a side in top form—and everyone knows what that means.

What a gretly improved player Cliff Morgan is, for example; Rex Willis, too. His displays since the British tour bear the hall-mark of perfection, and no-one in their right senses could fail to appreciate how calmly, confidently and decisively he settled the argument

between himself and "the best in the West," Roy Sutton.

It is no mere coincidence that the revival in the standard of Cliff Morgan's work dates near enough from the return of Rex Willis. For Willis does a lot for his partner, and here we begin to see something which is already bearing resemblance to the famous Tanner-Cleaver partnership.

Willis is already a scrum half of the Tanner stamp; Morgan, though not yet so reliable, varies his play much more than Cleaver did and, with the valuable experience he is now gaining with Cardiff, looks a certainty to follow his club predecessor in the winning of international honours.

On the Cardiff flanks Haydn Morris went very close to a Welsh cap this season, which is his first in big-time football, and he may not be out of the running even yet, while Derek Murphy, also in his first season with a senior club, has just about made the left wing berth his own property.

Valuable kick

Murphy has missed very few matches since scoring the winning try on his debut for Cardiff against Pontypool last September, and, judiciously served by a master-centre, looks like reaping a good harvest of tries in the weeks to come.

One of Murphy's great attributes is his well-nigh perfect cross-kick, often executed under most trying conditions and with barely inches in which to manoeuvre.

Following-up forwards bungled one gilt-edged chance he thus provided for them last week, but made no mistake with the next, and Murphy's unerring accuracy will, no doubt, cause plenty of embarrassment to opponents in the future.

With this attacking line-up then—Willis, Morgan, Murphy, Williams, Matthews and Morris (why not call it the "M and W" formation?)—Cardiff naturally feel perfectly happy, and with every reason.

From now until the season's end, you can expect fireworks of all the old-time brilliance from this combination.

Although Sale had England hooker E. Evans playing "prop" they conceded honours to Beckenham who hooked well for Cardiff. Behind the home scrum Alun Thomas and M. Harvey were a continual threat to the Sale defence.

INTERCEPTION UPSET



London-Welsh scrum-half G. Morgan upsets a Cardiff attack in to-day's game at the Arms Park by an interception.

SPECTACULAR TRIES BY CARDIFF WINGS

The Cardiff wings were well in the picture with spectacular tries against London Welsh who were beaten by 26 points to nil, at Arms Park, to-day.

While the wings took the scoring honours Rex Willis played a big part in the handsome victory by a great display at inside half.

After last night's heavy rain the pitch was extremely soft, but nevertheless looked in much better condition than it had for some weeks.

London Welsh made two late changes, bringing in Bregazzi in place of Maddocks on the left wing and Graham Rees for Brimblecombe as hooker.

As Alun Thomas is still in France with the Glamorgan R.F.C., D. G. Murphy took his place on the wing.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, J. Matthews, Bledwyn Williams, D. G. Murphy; C. Morgan, R. Willis; G. Jenkins, J. R. Phillips, C. Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, P. Goodfellow, C. D. Williams.

LONDON WELSH: J. D. Marshall, T. Mainwaring, Alec Lewis, W. Jeffreys, M. Bregazzi, W. Owen Jones, G. Morgan; J. A. Edmunds (capt.), G. Rees, J. Davies, J. Walters, D. H. Dykins, J. Holland, H. Meredith, H. Rees.

Referee: M. Louis Murail, France. The players found matters quite difficult on the slippery surface, and it was some time before either side began to look dangerous.

Suddenly Bledwyn Williams jinked away at top speed to start a Cardiff offensive, and later Jack Matthews brought off one of his bursts which gave Murphy a fair chance. The wing was held, however.

When Cardiff started passing from a loose heel Owen Jones intercepted a pass from Cliff Morgan to Bledwyn Williams and raced clean through, but was not fast enough to turn this lucky break to account, and when he kicked on Trott was there to end the effort.

It was 18 minutes before Cardiff scored, and that was due as much to the quick wittedness of Cliff Davies as anything else.

TREMENDOUS PACE
After Cliff Morgan and Jack Matthews had opened up from the loose Cliff Davies linked up with the passing bout and suddenly slung out a pass over Bledwyn Williams' head to Haydn Morris on the left wing.

MORRIS took it cleanly, crowded on tremendous pace, and just managed to dive over at the corner for an unconverted try.

Five minutes later Cardiff began passing from a line out and perfect judgment and handling by Morgan, Matthews, Williams and MURPHY, put the last-named in for a try in the opposite corner. This also was unconverted.

by
Reg Pelling

A CLEAR FIELD

From Willis the ball passed through the hands of Morgan, Matthews and Bledwyn Williams before HAYDN MORRIS was given a clear field 40 yards out.

His great speed did the rest, and he ran around behind the posts for his second try. The movement had covered three parts the length of the field. Tamplin goal.

Cardiff backs were handling in excellent fashion under inappropriate circumstances, and following a fine opening carved out by Cliff Morgan, he and Murphy inter-passed cleverly for MURPHY to gain his second try.

Though this, too was right at the corner Tamplin added the goal points with a fine kick from the touch-line.

Half—Cardiff 2 2 16
London Welsh .. 0 0 0

Early in the second half London Welsh were holding their own in the set scrums, at which Cardiff were packing 3-4-1, but Cardiff were gaining possession in practically every line-out. Here Collins was the expert.

Principally through the strong fork of their forwards in the loose the Exiles more than held their own, and indeed forced Cardiff back upon the defensive for some time.

Eventually the home attacking machine got into action again, and when Rex Willis broke away and made a clean cut opening, BLEDDYNN WILLIAMS took his pass, accelerated, and scored near the posts for Tamplin to convert. Willis got back to save in the nick of time on one occasion and Cardiff were actually defending well inside their own 25 when Matthews slipped away and made another opening for HAYDN MORRIS.

The wing ran strongly, punted over Marshall's head and then completed the rest of the journey by dribbling the ball over the line and diving on it for his third try, which Tamplin converted.

Final—Cardiff 4 2 26
London Welsh .. 0 0 0

COMMENTS

London Welsh were an extremely courageous team and never gave up the ghost, even though it became perfectly obvious quite early on that they could not hope to win.

Cardiff's "M and W" attacking formation again took the lion's share of the honours with Willis and Morgan playing finely at half-back.

Willis, indeed, was the man of the match and both Haydn Morris and Bledwyn Williams strengthened their challenge for international selection.

Two members of the Welsh "Big Five"—Messrs. David Jones and Vincent Griffiths—were present, so presumably their performance did not go unnoticed.

CARDIFF TIMES 10/2/51

A "Cap" for Cliff?

Name on every Welshman's lips is that of Cardiff's Cliff Morgan. Tricky-running Cliff, coached by those incomparable outside halves Billy Cleaver and Cliff Jones, is whispered as having an excellent chance of gaining his first "cap" against Ireland on



March 10. Cliff-of-the-dummy-run can find his way through the eye of a needle, and his kicking is recognised as superior to problem man Clyn Davies. Coupled with this he has Cleaver's aptitude for defensive positioning. Is he the ideal candidate? Youth and enthusiasm are needed in the Welsh team. Cliff can provide the answer to both.

Record club gate next week at Arms Park?

PROVIDING that two "ifs" are answered satisfactorily there will undoubtedly be a world record crowd for a club match when Cardiff entertain Newport at Cardiff Arms Park next Saturday (writes Reg Pelling).

At the time of writing these notes, Newport are still invincible with a record of 23 successive victories this season, plus the last nine of 1940-50.

The first "if," therefore, refers to their match at Leicester this afternoon, and Cardiff supporters were hoping just as hard as those at Newport that the record would be maintained.

The second "if," inevitably, is about the weather.

Hope hard, you fans, for a bright, sunny day next Saturday, and not only will you be sure of a great game of rugby, but you will, almost certainly, form part of a crowd of more than 40,000.

The club-match record was the 38,000 who turned out to watch that thrilling, delightful game between Cardiff and Swansea last season.

Swansea won then by 18pts. to 12 after being 9pts. nil behind at the interval. That was a wonderful achievement on their part—but then, the game itself was altogether exceptional.

Long rivalry

We all know of the age-long rivalry which exists between Cardiff and Newport; of the tension-charged atmosphere in which their clashes are always fought out.

But surely two clubs of such high standard and reputation can overcome these abstract considerations and decide to rely upon the style of play which has brought them fame in the past, and which makes them two of the most glamorous sides in the Kingdom at present.

Newport, I am told, have refused to alter their open style of play in order to defend their record. Will they do it next week?

Equally to the point is: "Will Cardiff depend upon their star-studded back division (four internationals against Newport's one), or will they decide to close up the game?"

In short, it is up to both clubs whether we see a great display of club football at its best, or a tense, tight, fierce dog-fight between two strong and evenly matched teams.

And, if the weather is in any



ALUN THOMAS

way appropriate, let me plead on behalf of the vast majority of the supporters of both clubs, and ask for bright, fast and skilful rugby. Then, whoever wins, it won't matter so much.

It is well within the capabilities of both Newport and Cardiff to put on an epic. Let's hope we feel as exhilarated after the match as we shall be (in anticipation) before it begins.

Must have place

Ex-Swansea outside half and centre Alun Thomas is now touching such fine form with Cardiff that the club selectors are in a real quandary over where to play him.

It has reached the stage now that Alun has to be found a place somewhere, which is why he was tried out on the wing in place of Murphy this afternoon.

The selectors feel they cannot possibly leave out Cliff Morgan, who is maintaining the excellent form he struck at Christmas; nor is it possible to omit internationals Jack Matthews and Bledwyn Williams from the centre positions.

Incidentally, all Cardiff seems to want to know what Bledwyn's chances are for the next international. Brighter than for many a long day, I should say.



The Cardiff v. London-Welsh rugby match was refereed by Mon. Louis Murail, of France. Left to right: Bloddyn Williams, Mon. Louis Murail, Jack Matthews and Mr. D. Davies (committee member).

NEWPORT'S GREAT RUN OF SUCCESS GOES ON

Put Newport up

5 points win over Cardiff in thrilling struggle

SATURDAY,

FEBRUARY 17, 1951

Before a crowd of 48,000, which must be a world record attendance for a rugby club match, Newport beat Cardiff in a thrill-packed game by eight points to three at Arms Park to-day.

Newport thus continued their great run of victories—25 played and all won—this season.

There were thrills a-plenty right from the start with Cardiff, aided a good deal by the wind at their backs, making the running.

Cliff Morgan was wide with a drop at goal; then Goodfellow had a long pass intercepted and Newport, with E. T. Jones in the van, rushed the ball to the other end of the field.

Then it was Cardiff's turn to attack once more.

So it went on for a hectic first 10 minutes at the end of which Newport were penalised for feet up at a scrum.

Taking his time, W. E. TAMPLIN, the Cardiff captain, gave his side the lead with a perfectly placed penalty goal.

So far neither back division had moved with anything like its customary smoothness and precision. The high wind and the equally high state of excitement prevailing no doubt had a great deal to do with this.

HAMMER AND TONGS

But the forwards were going at it hammer and tongs, with the Cardiff pack showing surprisingly lively form.

Fortunes fluctuated with great rapidity, but on the whole the general balance of play during the first quarter of the game had definitely favoured Cardiff.

As can well be imagined, the marking and tackling was terrific, and the huge crowd were kept in constant hubbub.

Barging at a line-out cost Cardiff a penalty kick, but Burnett could gain little ground with his kick against the wind and later, when Ben Edwards sent him away, the outside half ran straight across the field and still failed to gain any ground.

CHANCE LOST

Newport lost a very good chance when Lane, after intercepting a pass from Matthews to Bledwyn Williams and swerving away from Trot, held on to the ball too long when he had Ken Jones unmarked on his right.

Lane was brought down in possession, and when Ken Jones's next chance came his opposite number, Haydn Morris, made no mistake with his tackle of the international.

Gradually the play began to settle down, but the wind was still having a hampering effect upon Newport though once or twice it adversely affected Cardiff in the matter of over-kicking.

Referee Ivor David, standing no nonsense at the line-outs, inflicted another penalty for barging, this time against Newport.

It was not in too difficult a position for a man of Tamplin's goal-kicking abilities, but this time he made a surprisingly poor attempt at the goal.

Half-Cardiff 1 0 3
Newport 0 0 0

*Penalty.

Newport must have felt fairly happy at keeping the Cardiff first-half lead down to only three points, for they now had the benefit of the

Burnett began exploiting the wind right from the re-start, punting high down to Trot, who positioned himself perfectly to take the ball, though his return kick was very short.

Passing by Newport left the ball with Lane, but Murphy refused to be handed off, and tackled him very well.

Newport, now dominating affairs, were swiftly on the attack once more, largely because of a perfectly judged touch-finder from Bryn Williams.

Less than 10 minutes of the second half had gone when Newport equalised through a try from TOM STERRY, after a short sharp combined effort.

Edwards's conversion kick failed, and he was also wide of the mark a few minutes later with a long range penalty shot.

MANY THRILLS

The powerful vocal support for Newport rose to a crescendo as the 'Invincibles' swept to the attack time after time.

Cardiff defended brilliantly at this period and in return Tamplin

Crowd of 48,000

The official estimate of the attendance was 48,000. This figure beat by 10,000 the previous record attendance set up at the Cardiff v. Swansea match last season. It was only 5,000 below the capacity 'gate' for an international match in Wales since the war.

led his forwards in a battering ram attack which almost carried all before it.

Jack Matthews also made a Herculean solo effort and Newport's line was again in danger when the Cardiff forwards, with Goodfellow outstanding, hurled themselves into the fray.

All the time the roar of the thrilled crowd was tremendous.

Again Jack Matthews tried his famous burst through, but when Bledwyn Williams shrewdly cross-kicked Ackerman was in a position to deal with it.

There was never a dull moment as play swung with bewildering speed from one end of the field to the other. What a fight this was!

Ben Edwards had a chance to put Newport ahead with a penalty kick from 40 yards, but he did not raise the ball sufficiently, and in the next minute Cardiff themselves were storming to the attack once more.

As threatening clouds gathered to darken the scene the Cardiff backs swung into action with another great burst from Jack Matthews and clever backing-up by Bledwyn Williams.

Morris was held, but Bledwyn had the ball back from him and cross-kicked for his forwards.

And again it was Ackerman who was there to plug the danger. Ten minutes were left when, a few seconds before a terrific hailstorm broke over the ground and Newport took the lead.

BEHIND THE POSTS

Harried and hustled by fast following up Newport forwards, Murphy failed to find touch with his hasty kick and instead sent the ball direct into the eager arms of young John Lane, standing on the Newport left wing.

LANE raced over, eluding all opposition and ran around behind the posts to score a try which Edwards converted.

There was pandemonium, not only because of this score, but because of the wind-driven hailstones which for a few minutes was sufficiently tempestuous to hold up the resumption of the game.

This was just one more incident in a game which must live in everyone's memory for years to come.

A CLOSE CALL

With only minutes left the Cardiff centres again worked a clear passage for Haydn Morris, who put in a tremendous touch-line burst and looked certain to get over at the corner when Ken Jones, just as much a speed merchant as Morris, hurried himself at him and threw the Cardiff flyer into touch.

Final—Newport 1 1 8
Cardiff *1 0 3

*Penalty.

COMMENTS

Surely not a single spectator amongst this world-record club match crowd will begrudge Newport their victory.

It was a tremendously exciting, fast and vigorous game, fought out in the very best of spirits and completely in tune with the long and honorable tradition of the two great clubs involved.

It was not the classic which might have been expected on a dry day. Once the rain of last night and this morning had done its damages there were few hopes that we would have the standard of attacking football which otherwise could have been the case.

But in any event the players did much better in this respect than we had any right to expect.

They obviously showed their willingness to exploit every known attacking move and the fact that these so often broke down was not because of the want of trying but because of the sodden conditions, plus the high wind, and the keyed-up tension of the players.

The surprise packet of the day was the display given by the Cardiff pack.

Slightly behind at the scrums, they were a little ahead at the line-outs, and where they shone most of all was in the open where they put up a simply terrific performance.

They almost snatched the game out of the fire for Cardiff by their great rally late in the second half. Indeed, had the Newport covering not been so splendid Cardiff might yet have saved the game.

Defences on both sides were indeed marvellous. No quarter was asked, certainly none was given, yet there was not even the suspicion of an ugly incident throughout this hotly-contested, greatly thrilling match.

PREPARING THE BALL



The chief groundsman at Cardiff Arms Park was very busy when the South Wales Echo photographer called early to-day. He is seen here preparing the ball for to-day's match between Cardiff and Newport.

We did not see the attacking machines of either Newport or Cardiff at their best, because of the tension existing throughout the game and in particular the extremely keen marking and tackling indulged in by both teams.



Wing John Lane, who gained the lead for Newport with a fine try.

by
Reg Pelling

THE TEAMS

CARDIFF: F. Trot; D. G. Murphy; Jack Matthews; Bledwyn Williams; Haydn Morris; Cliff Morgan; Rex Willis; Cliff Davies; J. R. Philip; G. Jenkins; W. E. Tamplin (capt.); P. Goodfellow; D. J. O'Brien; J. D. Nelson; C. D. Williams.

NEWPORT: R. Hughes; Ken Jones (capt.); E. D. Owen; Bryn Williams; J. E. Lane; Row Burnett; W. A. Williams; T. Sterry; Lyn Davies; G. Hirst; L. E. T. Jones; Ben Edwards; Peter Davies; D. A. G. Ackerman; R. T. Evans.
Referee: Mr. Ivor David (Neath).

Cardiff, aided by a following wind, were three points up after ten minutes, Tamplin kicking a fine penalty goal.

In less than 10 minutes of the second half Sterry equalised the scores with an unconverted try, and in the closing stages Lane crossed for Newport and Edwards converted.

Inside the Cardiff Arms Park before the start it looked for all the world as if an international match was scheduled.

In the sunshine which miraculously had followed the two hours of heavy rain earlier in the day, the crowd was in excellent spirits singing national airs with great enthusiasm.

Only Jim Pursey, the Cardiff groundsman, was at all dejected. His pitch, which, in his words, had been "beautiful" yesterday, had suffered from the rain, and was likely to cut up badly within a short time of the game starting.

A strong wind was blowing from the East end, and when Tamplin won the toss he had no hesitation in taking first use of it.

Black and Amber Brings a Gold Rush to Cardiff.

SPLASHES of black-and-amber and royal blue-and-white made Cardiff streets bright to-day as football "fans" from Newport and Leicester besieged the city.

Rattles added to the traffic's din as supporters bound for Cardiff Arms Park for Cardiff's home match with "Invincible" Newport.

It was like an international day. Women and girls wore the favoured colours in scarves, hats and streamer ribbons. Men had decorated rattles.

Heavy Showers

Intermittent heavy showers of rain which followed them all the way to Cardiff from the valleys, from the east and the west, did not damp the ardour of the thousands of supporters.

It was soon apparent at Cardiff Arms Park where the invincible Newport team clashed with Cardiff, that the bad weather would have an effect upon the expected giant crowd of 45,000 which would have constituted a world record for a club match.

There were early queues of soccer supporters at Ninian Park, where Cardiff are playing Leicester.

and a gate of 35,000 was expected for this game.

Extra Car Parks

Cardiff police, faced with a heavy influx in traffic, arranged extra parking spaces in Wood-street and Cathays Park.

Cardiff hotels and restaurants stocked up to meet the expected heavy demand on food and drink.

It is estimated that well over 15,000 made the trip to Cardiff from Newport and Monmouthshire.

Bus companies running services to Cardiff all reported to-day the same thing — no empty seats. Extra buses were provided on most routes.

No extra trains were laid on, but those pulling into the city from the Valleys, West Wales and Monmouthshire were reported to have standing room only.

A census taken by the R.A.C. in Newport showed a heavy increase of traffic after lunch. Between noon and one o'clock 1,000 vehicles were moving towards Cardiff from Newport. Signs were that the traffic was becoming even heavier.

All Ready at Cardiff Arms Park

S.W. ECHO 17/2/51



Mr. Jim Persy, the chief groundsman at Cardiff Arms Park, supervising the preparations in readiness for to-day's match between Cardiff and Newport.

S. CHRONICLE 18/2/51



Lane, Newport left-winger, is tackled and well and truly grassed by Cardiff right-winger, Murphy. Lane, still clutching the ball, props himself up on one hand in a vain effort to get free.

Newport pair halt Bleddyn



DAILY EXPRESS 19/2/51



NEWPORT centre Bryn Williams and forward Bob Evans—arms upstretched—close on Cardiff ace Bleddyn Williams (top picture) and force him to kick ahead.

TOM STERRY, Newport prop forward, dives over for their first try in the great Arms Park struggle (lower picture). Bob—Evans, grassed, gave Sterry the pass.

FOOTBALL ECHO 17/2/51



Newport's fleet skipper, Ken Jones, burst away from colleagues and rivals with the ball at his feet in to-day's thriller at the Arms Park.



T. Sterry, the Newport forward, plunges over the line to score. He failed to convert his try. This made the score 3-3, but Owen Edwards converted.

SUNDAY PICTORIAL 18/2/51

THEY WERE ALL AFTER KEN JONES



Seconds after a line-out, Ken Jones, Newport centre, tries a dashing dribble, but loses the ball just inside the touch-line in the match with Cardiff at Arms Park. After him go Rex Willis, Billy Williams, Ben Edwards, Sterry and Des O'Brien. Haydn Morris, Cardiff wing (No. 5), covers up. Below: Rex Willis, Cardiff scrum-half, tackled knee high by Ackerman as L. E. T. Jones and Ben Edwards (in scrum cap) dash after the ball.

DAILY HERALD
19/2/51



W. MAIL 19/2/51

48,500 PAID £2,587 —A WORLD RECORD

THE official attendance of 48,500 was a world record for a club Rugby Union match, writes J. B. G. Thomas. Receipts were £2,587, some £600 more than the previous record "gate" when Swansea played Cardiff at the Arms Park last season.

I understand that Cliff Morgan, the Cardiff outside-half, is to be invited to become a Barbarian. It is likely that he will play for the famous club during their Easter tour in South Wales.

TOM STERRY GOES BY AIR AND ARRIVES SAFELY

Sterry, the Newport forward, dives headlong for the Cardiff line before Bledyn Williams can head him off. In the background L. E. T. Jones, wearing the scrum cap, rushes up in support.

NEWS CHRONICLE 19/2/51



NOTHING GENTLE HERE

W. MAIL 19/2/51



"BE careful, that's my head you are trying to pass back not the ball; that has gone past us." Could this have been the unspoken comment of a Cardiff forward as his head is securely held by a Newport forward at the Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday?



REX WILLIS, the Cardiff half-back, avoids the attentions of L. E. T. Jones, and passes the ball back.

SUNDAY PICTORIAL 18/2/51



Cardiff v. Newport Rugby duel

S. CHRONICLE 18/2/51



CARDIFF v. NEWPORT (continued)

Just one record-breaking match after another

SPORT-LOVERS in areas outside of Wales just cannot comprehend the magnitude of the Rugby Union game here (writes Reg Pelling).

Where else, in the world over, would a crowd of nearly 50,000 gather for an ordinary club rugby match?

Where else, in Great Britain, would the gate at a first-class soccer match be only "half" of that taken at a Rugby Union match in the same city?

Granted that last week's Cardiff-Newport clash was exceptional. Rugby "gates," as a general rule, fall below those of Cardiff City, but it does happen now and again that more people flock into the Arms Park than into Ninian Park, and this, in itself, is a remarkable achievement for the R.U. code.

It is the first time I ever remember a club R.U. game attracting a bigger crowd than any soccer match on the same day.

Now, before we have stopped talking about that breathlessly exciting match at Cardiff last week, we are making plans for the return encounter—the fourth and final meeting this season—at Newport's Rodney-parade ground next week.

Leaving aside their invincibility for a moment, Newport have one ambition to realise against Cardiff—to beat them four times in a season.

Money spinners

Cardiff already possess the distinction of four wins a season, but Newport have never managed this feat against Cardiff, not even in their previous invincible seasons.

True, they have now beaten Cardiff four times in succession, but the first of these victories was at Cardiff last season. All three games this season have been won by Newport—two at the Arms Park by the same margin (8-3), and the other at Newport by an even narrower one (8-6).

These two clubs must be easily the biggest money-spinners in the business.

More than 100,000 spectators have watched their three tussles already this season (for the two matches at Cardiff there have been more than 78,000), and now it is only natural that the Newport officials expect their ground record of 28,000 (set up for the New Zealand match in 1924) to be broken as well.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

At last Saturday's Cardiff and Newport game the gate was £2,587.

It was on February 1, 1879, that the Cardiff club first charged spectators for admission. The game was played at the Sophia Gardens with Newport for the South Wales Challenge Cup.

The then large amount of £72 was taken, but there was great resentment in Cardiff and among the 1,000 spectators who attended from Newport.

For days afterwards letters appeared in the Western Mail from readers who disapproved of any charge at all for admission to a "mere football match."

Improved accommodation at Rodney-parade means that 30,000 will be able to see the match in comfort.

Cordial spirit

Not the least gratifying feature of last Saturday's great game was the "cordial spirit shown between players" and officials of both clubs at the informal get-together afterwards.

For generations there has been tremendous sporting rivalry between Cardiff and Newport, but throughout they have remained close friends.

The game itself was a distinct credit to them and to the game in general—hard, unyielding, tensely-exciting, but scrupulously clean throughout.

Hard knocks were given and taken with great good nature and once off the field there was a pleasing continuance of this spirit of friendliness and sportsmanship.

As one important member of the Cardiff club remarked to me afterwards: "I am a proud man to-night; proud to be a member of Cardiff, who are taking their defeat so well; proud to be a friend of Newport, who are taking their triumph so modestly—and proudest of all to be connected with Rugby Union football, which brings me into touch with such grand people."

I think he's got something there.

S. CHRONICLE 18/2/51

FOOTBALL ECHO 18/2/51

THE ATTACK OPENS . . . and up the field, with the ball at his feet (above), moves Newport right-winger Ken Jones. Supporting him (from the left are Hughes, Owen, Bledwyn Williams and C. D. Williams.

QUICK! THROW IT! Two long arms reach out in an effort to grab and stop Cardiff scrum-half, Rex Willis. Willis sees the would-be pounce coming—from Newport's L. E. T. Jones—and pivots to make a long pass just in time.

S. PICTORIAL 18/2/51



ABOVE: A hearty bit of tackling in midfield.



A London Welsh player goes down to collect the ball before a Cardiff forward rush in to-day's game at Cardiff Arms Park.

FOOTBALL ECHO 18/2/51

Cardiff 'Veterans XV' may oppose Nantes next season

THERE is a strong possibility of a Cardiff "Veterans XV" travelling to France to play the famed Nantes veterans' side early next season (writes Reg Pelling).

The suggestion was made by M. Henri Pitcherit, secretary of the Nantes club when, with referee Louis Murall, he was in Cardiff last week to present medals to Jack Matthews and Bledwyn Williams on behalf of the Nantes club.

The medals were awarded to mark the fact that Jack and Bledwyn both life members of the Nantes club (with whom Cardiff have close ties of affection). had been chosen for the recent British tour of Australasia.

The question of sending a team of Cardiff veterans, who might well include famous players like Haydn Tanner and Wilf Woolfer, was brought up by M. Pitcherit, and the Cardiff chairman, Mr. Hubert Johnson, promised that he would do everything in his power to bring the suggestion to fruition.

It would, of course, be an entirely unofficial trip, no expense being borne by the Cardiff club itself.

More will probably be heard of it at the re-union of past and present Cardiff players on March 9, for instance.

Mr. Johnson tells me that there is every likelihood of more than 150 guests being present at this re-union. Anyone who has ever played for Cardiff first or second is entitled to be present (it is not necessary that they should have earned a first or second cap), and those who intend going, but have not yet notified Mr. Johnson, are asked to do so at once so that adequate catering arrangements may be made.

Already he has heard from players whom he had almost forgotten—so it looks like being a great night for meetings between old friends and, of course, reminiscence by the hour.

Far and away Cardiff's leading scorer this season is, appropriately enough, the leader of the team—Bill Tamplin.

His conversion kicks against the London Welsh last Saturday carried him past the century mark for the second successive season and he looks like breaking his personal record of 139 points with which he headed the Cardiff list last season.

Already the Cardiff skipper has rattled up 107 points (excluding anything he might have scored against Newport to-day). These are made up of 17 successful penalty kicks and 28 conversions. "Tamp," as he is affectionately known, is proving to be a most popular captain, as well as a most able one. His vast experience of first-class rugby enables him (and therefore his men) to meet any and every situation with equanimity.



W. E. TAMPLIN

As for the future, Cardiff are extremely pleased with the promise of such youngsters as Martin Harvey and Gareth Griffiths, as well as with the scoring "potential" of a wing like Haydn Morris.

Morris has so far scored a dozen tries in his 16 appearances for the club (again excluding to-day). Griffiths's record is even more imposing—seven tries in five games, while Alun Thomas, refusing to be kept out of the picture, has crossed the line four times and dropped a goal in his five matches for Cardiff.

There should be lots of good fun at the joint rugby and soccer quiz being held at the Cory Hall on Tuesday night by the supporters' clubs of Cardiff rugby and Cardiff City.

Both teams will be present and will join in the quiz, at which there will also be a "Have a Go" session with jackpot and good cash prizes.

Functions of this kind, which bring together supporters of the two great winter games, deserve every encouragement.

News has reached us of the death of Mr. F. M. Arthur, who played for Cardiff in 1886 under the captaincy of the late W. M. Douglas and with his brother, the late Charlie Arthur.

That was the first full season in which the four three-quarters formation was played by all Welsh clubs, Cardiff having "invented" it the previous year under the great F. E. Hancock.

F. M. Arthur, who partnered W. E. Jarman at half-back during his playing days, was in his 90th year, and had been an estate agent in Cardiff until his retirement in 1945.

TAMPLIN'S GREAT WINNING KICK

Gloucester, who have not beaten Cardiff since the war, went under by three points after a desperate struggle at Kingsholm to-day.

Gloucester had practically their strongest team in the field. The teams fielded as selected. Cardiff were without D. O'Brien, the Irish international, and Willis. There was a crowd of 10,000.

GLoucester: W. Hook; C. Crabtree, R. Sutton, S. J. Troughton, M. Baker; W. B. Cartnell, D. Humphries; T. Day, R. Chamberlayne, R. Parry, J. Watkins, G. Hastings, D. Ibbotson, R. Hodge, G. Hudson.

Cardiff: R. F. Trost; A. Thomas, J. Matthews, Bledwyn Williams, H. Morris; C. Morgan, H. Greenslade; Cliff Davies, J. Phillips, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tamplin, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson, A. Hull, C. D. Williams.

Referee: Mr. R. A. Beattie, London Society.

The game started 10 minutes late.

Gloucester were penalised in the opening stages and Bledwyn Williams sent well to touch.

Cardiff three-quarters handled and Haydn Morris made a sparkling run down the wing, but when he seemed to be clear he was brought down by a heel tap.

Hook sent Cardiff back with a fine kick to touch in the Cardiff half. Gloucester followed up and attacked strongly.

Sutton gathered and dropped for goal but was inches wide. Cardiff's lively backs got going again and ALUN THOMAS, following up a cross-kick, which Baker failed to turn into touch, got a try in the corner, which Tamplin failed to convert.

Gloucester were getting a fair share of the ball from the scrums, but their back play was ragged and slow compared with Cardiff.

Hook, at full-back for Gloucester, was a stumbling block to Cardiff's attack.

Gloucester's forwards continued to play dashing football and severely tested the Cardiff defence.

Hook took a drop at goal and only just missed.

Cardiff had an anxious five minutes. Gloucester were in their quarter when C. D. Williams got offside, but Hook, who seemed unable to regain his place-kicking form, shot wide.

Cardiff, getting the ball better to their backs, attacked with vigour.

Half-Cardiff 0 1 0
Gloucester 0 1 0

It was touch and go for five minutes after the interval. Cardiff were worried by the keen play of the Gloucester forwards, and the fine kicking of Hook and Cartnell.

Cardiff probed for their line, but a desperate defence prevailed and Hook kicked clear.

Tamplin had a chance with a long-distance penalty kick, but could not quite make it.

Gloucester's forwards worked back again, but there was no sting in the work of the three-quarters.

Offside in front of their own goal Cardiff were penalised and HOOK

equalised with the easy place kick. Cardiff fought hard to regain the lead and Gloucester were in a desperate position, but they turned defence into attack, and Baker nearly broke through.

Cardiff turned the tables on Gloucester when TAMPLIN kicked a goal from 45 yards.

Final-Cardiff *1 1 6
Gloucester *1 0 3

COMMENTS

Cardiff were lucky to score their 10th successive victory over Gloucester since the war, for Gloucester had, if anything, the better of the game.

It was only Hook's failure and Tamplin's success with long distance place kicking which gave Cardiff the advantage.

W. J. H. 22/2/51

Newport v. Cardiff "All-Ticket"

NEWPORT Rugby Club informed the Cardiff Club last evening that the final meeting of the two clubs to be staged at Rodney Parade, Newport, on March 3, will be an "all-ticket" affair (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

This decision was made at the request of the police.

The increased accommodation figures for Rodney Parade are 30,000. The available stand seats amount to 1,750 after season-ticket holders have been accommodated. However, stand tickets will not be available to other than Newport club members for the Cardiff game.

The Cardiff Club are to have an allocation of field and enclosure tickets, stated Mr. B. H. Jenkins, secretary of the club, last night.

Announcements will be made in the Press when these tickets are available. No applications or money should be sent as yet.

Arms Park could hold 56,000 with closer packing

IS the fullest possible use being made of the accommodation of Cardiff Arms Park? With the demand for tickets for next week's international match reaching fantastic proportions, suggestions are being put forward that one way of ameliorating the great ticket-shortage would be by improving the crowd-packing system (writes Reg Pelling).

The safety-figure at present permitted by the police is exactly 53,250. Those who have studied the position carefully and who know the limits of the ground, almost to the last inch of space, feel that this figure could be stepped up to around the 56,000 mark, without the slightest extra discomfort or added danger.

Provided, that is, that the rugby-going public is prepared to co-operate in a sportsmanlike manner.

An increase of, say, 3,000 is but a drop in the ocean when there are at least 100,000 ticket-hunters—but it is something.

And even a small increase like that would come as a welcome relief to those unfortunate club members charged with the duty of distributing their quota of tickets and who, in consequence, are being pestered day and night.

What a blessing it will be to them when next Saturday dawns, and their ticket problems are over for another season. But the point is that all this business will start again next December, when the first of the home internationals (against South Africa) will be played.

Thus, anything which can be done about this vexatious question should be done. It calls for co-operation on all sides—between the W.R.U. and Cardiff officials, the police and, above all, the spectators.

Rugby crowds are increasing by leaps and bounds. If would-be spectators are going to grumble about there being insufficient tickets to go round, let them remember that part of the remedy lies with them—that by working wholeheartedly and good-naturedly with the police and stewards better packing may bring forth more tickets.

This week's fine spell of weather has been a real gift from the heavens to the Cardiff club who have been concerned for so long over the state of the famous pitch.

Secretary Brice Jenkins told me enthusiastically, on Thursday, "You could play a Test match on it now" (cricket, he meant of course), and any fears that the Youth international match to-day would cut the ground up badly have been allayed. Yesterday's showers served only to freshen up the ground.

Strange, though, how rumours were still persisting that the Wales v. Ireland match would have to be transferred to Swansea.

Even an elementary knowledge of the two grounds ought to show that there is nothing like the stand accommodation at St. Helen's to equal the large number of stand tickets already sold for the Cardiff ground.

One has only to pose the question: "Where will all the stand ticket holders go?" to realise the absurdity of the story.

Trim and neat though the Arms Park looks at present, the Cardiff committee are holding to their determination to renew the whole of the drainage system during the close season. In fact I'm told that workmen will be digging on the football field within a few hours of the last match of the season being played.

A herring-bone system of drainage pipes will be laid the whole length of the pitch, and re-turfing and re-seeding carried out, so that there is little likelihood of any repetition of this season's anxiety over the ground.

From many sources the Cardiff club has been congratulated (jointly with Newport, by the Welsh Rugby Union) on the fine display of rugby a fortnight ago, and, in particular, on the excellent arrangements for controlling the record crowd. They are the first to acknowledge the wonderful help they received in this respect from the police-officers on duty and the first-class co-operation from Superintendent "Bill" Evans, who was in charge of them.

NEWPORT DRAW AFTER 35 WINS

Six points shared in game with Cardiff

The teams

NEWPORT: R. Hughes; Graham Ross; R. D. Owen, Bryn Williams, J. E. Lane, Roy Burnett, W. A. Williams, T. Sterry, Lyn Davies, G. Hirst, Ben Edwards, L. E. T. Jones, D. A. G. Ackerman, Peter Davies, R. I. Evans.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; Alun Thomas, Jack Matthews, Bledwyn Williams, Haydn Morris; H. Greenslade, Cliff Morgan; S. Bowes, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, M. Collins, W. E. Tamplin, P. Goodfellow, S. Judd, C. D. Williams.

Referee: Mr. Trevor Jones.

The Newport captain, Ken Jones, had to drop out of the side. To his great personal disappointment a leg injury, for which he has been receiving treatment all the week, did not stand up to the final test and he had reluctantly to withdraw. Newport were fortunate in having Graham Ross, as his replacement.

Cardiff, too, made a late change. Cliff Davies injured a shoulder, playing for the Barbarians on Thursday, and his place was taken by Stan Bowes, the Cardiff Ath. captain.

Three members of the Welsh "Big Five" saw the game. They were Messrs. D. Hopkins Thomas, Ivor Jones and W. H. Harris.

The crowd, some of whom had been waiting for the gates to open since 12 noon, numbered 23,000.

Contrary to original speculations this was not a record, falling some 2,000 short of the attendance at the Newport v. New Zealand match in 1924.

The ground was in perfect trim and it was noted that Tamplin on winning the toss decided to play against the wind. A fortnight ago he elected to play with the wind, and Cardiff lost.

Newport's backs were the first to get moving and Owen got in a neat touch finder, despite a heavy tackle from Bledwyn Williams.

When things looked rather dangerous for Cardiff it was Bledwyn Williams who saved the situation with a huge kick to touch.

But when, after only three minutes, play, the Cardiff forwards were penalised for barging at a line-out. Ben Edwards put Newport ahead with a sensational penalty goal.

His mark was 50 yards out from the post and only two yards in from the touchline, yet the burly Newport forward sent the ball sailing cleanly between the uprights with a huge kick.

Some more great kicking from penalties followed in the next few minutes.

Edwards took another shot, this

Two great penalty goals

Newport are still invincible, but their remarkable run of 35 victories—nine from last season—ended to-day when Cardiff shared six points in a thrilling game at Rodney Parade.

The six points were made up of two great penalty goals, Ben Edwards giving Newport the lead after three minutes with a successful shot from a wide angle and 50 yards out, while Ewart Tamplin replied with a splendid equaliser against the wind before half-time.

the Cardiff full-back was safely personified.

As a last fling Hughes, of Newport, took a long-range drop at goal just before the interval whistle went, but his effort, though a good one, fell short.

CUT AND THRUST

When Newport attempted passing from this position things went wrong for them.

With Cardiff awarded another penalty 30 yards from the line TAMPLIN made no mistake with

by

Reg Pelling

his kick this time, and levelled the scores.

This restored the excitement to fever pitch again, and the Cardiff backs impressed favourably, keeping Newport defending hard in their own quarters.

Once Jack Matthews suddenly switched the direction of the attack by kicking out to Morris's wing, and though Morris took the ball cleanly, Ross brought him down before he could get into full stride.

Then it was Newport's turn and in quick succession Alun Thomas and Bledwyn Williams nipped Burnett-inspired movements in the bud.

This was cut and thrust with a vengeance, faster and more exciting even than that great game a fortnight ago.

Cardiff's best chance of scoring so far came from Derek Williams intercepted a pass from W. A. Williams to Burnett and raced away with Judd and Bowes in attendance.

Judd carried on when Williams was grassed, but when he parted with the ball to Bowes the pass went astray with only a few yards remaining to be covered.

Newport, mainly through Bryn Williams, tried to make progress by long kicks ahead, but they could not catch Trott out of position, and

the Cardiff full-back was safely personified.

As a last fling Hughes, of Newport, took a long-range drop at goal just before the interval whistle went, but his effort, though a good one, fell short.

Half—Newport	.....	* 1	0	3
Cardiff	.....	* 1	0	3

*Penalties

Cardiff took the initiative at the beginning of the second half, but they did not hold it for long for the Newport forwards wrested it from them and drove deep into Cardiff territory.

John Phillips and Derek Williams combined to break up this bulldozer effort, and once more it became anybody's game with exciting changes at mid-field.

Once Greenslade fed Cliff Morgan perfectly and in turn he sent Jack Matthews away.

The Cardiff three-quarters were perfectly aligned but when Matthews attempted his famous burst Bryn Williams brought him low with a beautifully timed tackle.

Then Burnett went away only to be stopped by Morgan.

Next W. A. Williams tried hard to put Lane across in the left corner; then Bryn Williams tried to force his way through the centre, and Owen sought to dribble through.

On each and every occasion the way to the Cardiff line was irrevocably barred.

But so it went on, with the crowd kept in a constant hub-bub.

TERRIFIC PACE

So we came to the last quarter-of-an-hour, with everything depending upon which side cracked first—if either!

The pace was simply terrific. Newport appeared to be getting slightly the better of things now, but there was really nothing between the sides.

Indeed, no sooner had these words been jotted down, when Cardiff launched a most furious attack.

TOUCH-FINDER UNDER PRESSURE



Cardiff inside half H. Greenslade, eludes a tackle by Tom Sterry, to drive Newport back to the half-way line with a touch-finder.

A quick burst by Cliff Morgan started it and spelled danger in quantity to Newport, but his pass went astray as he was finally tackled.

Still, this had given Cardiff an attacking position, and when Morgan improved on it still further by finding touch almost at the corner flag the Newport fans' blood pressure rose sky high.

Somehow or another they cleared, and then twice in succession Jack Matthews was finely tackled by Burnett as he was bursting through.

Burnett again endeavoured to snatch the game out of the fire with another drop at goal, but failed to raise the ball. This was the last chance Newport had.

Final—Newport	.....	11	0	3
Cardiff	.....	11	0	3

(2 Penalties)

COMMENTS

This was as thrilling and spectacular a game of rugby as anyone could hope to witness.

Favoured with better weather, it was even above that of a fortnight ago for its long drawn out excitement.

Tremendously fast and hard, the game suffered little from the intensity which is always associated with "needle" games between traditional rivals.

To say it was a credit to both these famous clubs is to put it mildly.

If the W.R.U. could send letters of congratulation to them after their match a fortnight ago, to-day's display deserved at least illuminated addresses for every man on the field.

BURNETT INJURED

It was learned on reaching the dressing-room that Roy Burnett had played the last 10 minutes in agony from a badly damaged shoulder. A fractured collar-bone is suspected.

What everyone will wish to know is "did the Welsh selectors learn anything?"

At first blush this is a difficult one to answer. Burnett and Cliff Morgan, the stand-off half rivals, both had their successful spells, but whether they did enough to clinch matters with the three selectors present is open to doubt.

Indeed the "dark horse" of the game was a dark blue—C. D. Williams, the Cardiff open side wing forward.

I am sure that Burnett has not been bottled up so well by anybody this season as he was by Derek Williams to-day.

Malcolm Collins, I think, has improved his chances of a cap, for he

was particularly good at the line-out, but so, too, was Ben Edwards, who is another challenger for a second-row place and who it must be remembered, is an expert place kick as well.

Bledwyn Williams also did himself a bit of good, and as the selectors need a left wing they have only to make up their minds between the two who were on duty to-day, John Lane and Haydn Morris.

And I will leave them to sort that little lot out.

Even Cardiff must be glad after to-day's wonderful exhibition that Newport remain invincible, even though they were unable to achieve another ambition in beating Cardiff four times in a season.

FOOTBALL ECHO MARCH 3RD, 1951



Alun Thomas, the Cardiff right wing, dribbles, and is backed by Roy Burnett, right, and John Lane.

DAIKY EXPRESS

5/3/51

No, Malcolm, say Newport



THE strong left arm of tough Tom Sterry, Newport front-row forward, stops Cardiff's Malcolm Collins dropping on to the ball in the great drawn Rugby battle at Newport.

★ Quick to spot an opening, big Ben Edwards pivots and gets his foot to the ball, starting a dribble that gained valuable ground for Newport.

★ If it's action you're after, take a look at Geoffrey Hirst on the left—14 stone of tank-like effort as he speeds into the fray.

W. MAIL

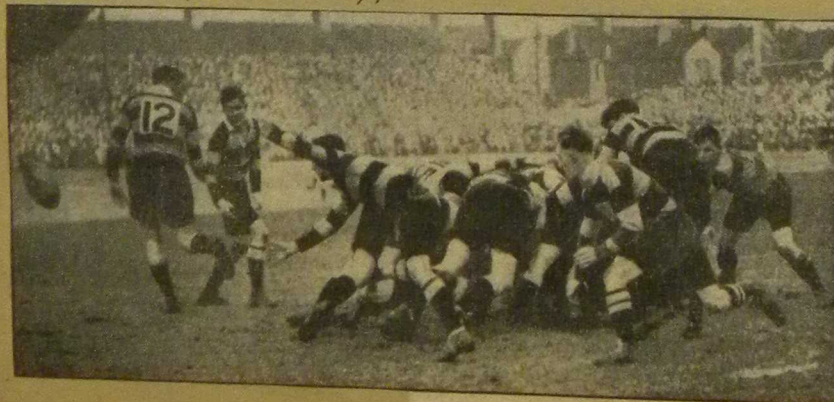
5/3/51



W. A. WILLIAMS, the Newport inside-half, kicks for touch as he is tackled by G. Jenkins, the Cardiff forward, at Rodney Parade. Referee Trevor Jones (Maesteg), has turned his back on the ball which, by the expression on his face, he expects to strike him.

SUNDAY PICTORIAL

5/3/51



Greenslade, of Cardiff, gets the ball out from a scrum as W. A. Williams, of Newport, comes round.

W. MAIL

6/3/51

Champagne of Rugby

By R. T. GABE

I HOPE I will be forgiven further reflections on the Newport v. Cardiff match last Saturday. I was happy to write, "Never has a cleaner or more sporting game been played." All the critics have said "cheers" to that sentiment, and I want to drive the fact home at this time when Welsh Rugby is at its zenith, in spite of Murrayfield.

It was grand to see those players coming off the field arm-in-arm in the true brotherhood of sport; this after a struggle in which no quarter was asked or given.

I think Newport deserve a special cheer. Their wonderful record was at stake and a new record—to beat Cardiff four times in the season—was within their grasp, yet they kept the game open even when defending their line.

Both teams were grand, tempers unruffled, and every man out to play the game. This was, indeed, the champagne of Rugby.

Said Bleddyn Williams to me on coming off the field, "I never played in a more enjoyable game."

That is a big tribute considering what Newport had at stake. Gentlemen, Rugby is a great game, and the greatest when played by gentlemen.

Alun Thomas is only 'on loan' from Cardiff

TO allay any feelings of disgust by regular Cardiff supporters, let me make it perfectly clear that Alun Thomas is to remain with the Cardiff club (writes Reg Pelling).

He is quite happy with Cardiff, intends to go on playing with the club, in any capacity, and only decided to help Newport out of a jam to-day after consulting the Cardiff officials.

It is further proof of the extremely friendly relations now existing between Cardiff and Newport that this permission was unhesitatingly forthcoming.

So Alun, who has already enjoyed the experience of playing for both Swansea and Cardiff this season, goes on to make it a unique season in playing for Newport as well.

What would have been his chances of a Welsh cap this season had he been Cardiff's regular stand-off half?

That is an interesting talking-point these days, and I know that there are some amongst Cardiff's followers who claim, even now, that Alun is a better man at the job than Cliff Morgan, who has won his cap.

Not that there is any lack of warmth in the congratulations being showered upon young Cliff.

Big advantage

Since Christmas he has been playing consistently well, and though I have several times expressed the opinion that he is, perhaps, a little immature for international honours, one always knew that they would be his one day.

He is a competent, popular all-round player who has the immense advantage of playing his first international match as a member of his regular club quartette — Rex Willis as his half-back partner, and Jack Matthews and Bleddyn Williams alongside him at centre.

I really believe that once Bleddyn's case had been decided by the Welsh selectors — last Monday evening, Cliff Morgan settled into the scheme of things like a piece being fitted in a jig-saw puzzle.

All other things being equal, it is good policy to put one's faith in a club partnership (or, in Cardiff's

case, a midfield quartet), and this, I think, was enough to carry Cliff into the side in spite of the other opposition.

I am convinced that he will not have let Wales down this afternoon — and that maybe he will have done enough to merit further honours.

Holiday games decided

But it is strange to recall now that just before the Christmas matches some of the Cardiff selectors were considering replacing him at outside half by Alun Thomas.

Those holiday games tipped the scales in Cliff's favour, and he has gone on from strength to strength since then.

Thus, the man who followed Billy Cleaver into the Cardiff side, follows him also into the Welsh team, just as Rex Willis followed in Tanner's footsteps.

Cardiff players and supporters were naturally jubilant last Saturday when they became the first team to halt Newport's all-conquering run of victories.

I thought that Cardiff played above their form of a fortnight earlier, and that Newport fell a little short of the standard they showed then.

£128,000 'gates'

Newport friends of mine were honest enough to admit (some of them) that "Cardiff looked like being too good for us to-day," but, all in all, I believe that both clubs were well pleased at the result.

This, of course, meant that Newport's invincibility remained, but they were prevented from achieving their ambition of four wins over Cardiff in the same season.

So everybody should be quite happy about the outcome of this season's matches between the clubs, particularly the respective treasurers who have banked the proceeds from "gates" at the four matches, which have reached the amazing total of £128,000.



HAYDN MORRIS, the Cardiff left-wing, received the ball from Bleddyn Williams, but failed to beat a Coventry defender and was brought to earth at the Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday.

Morgan inspired Cardiff to stop Coventry forwards

Cardiff, *2-1-11; Coventry, 0-0-0

*One penalty.

By R. T. GABE

AFTER having achieved the proud distinction of being victorious over Cardiff on the last three occasions they had met, Coventry were deservedly beaten at the Cardiff Arms Park.

Had the foothold been firmer the Cardiff margin of victory would, no doubt, have been greater. There were many occasions when the state of the ground came to the rescue of the visitors. For instance, Bleddyn Williams jinked his way clearly past opponents a few times only to lose his balance afterwards and bring promising movements to an untimely end.

Cardiff were beaten at forward especially in the first half. Later they improved, but they were not as effective as they were against Newport, when their handling was slovenly and uncertain — a fault which was partly excusable under the conditions.

HAPHAZARD PASSING

Coventry used their feet to better advantage by relying more on close dribbling, at which they were skilful.

Some of the passing by the Cardiff backs was haphazard and fraught with danger. Often the Coventry players were able to intercept and change defence into attack. Cliff Morgan was a real live wire at outside-half for Cardiff. What a glutton he is for work! More than usual was seen of Bleddyn Williams exploiting his gift of side-stepping and the onlookers relished his skill. One burst by J. Matthews was reminiscent of him at his best. He subsequently timed his pass to Bleddyn Williams beautifully and then Haydn Morris was given a clear course for a try.

The best was seen of Morris, however, when he took a well-placed punt by Tamplin in full flight and shot past the full-back, Mottram, with apparent ease. Alun Thomas did well, but had he been more venturesome in going all-out for the corner, instead of kicking the ball over the dead-ball line, he might have scored a try early in the game.

F. Troft was reliable. I cannot remember him being otherwise. Green-slade was always in the thick of the fray, but he was obviously handicapped in his passing by the muddy state of the ball.

PREECE THE MAINSPRING

Ivor Preece was the mainspring of the Coventry backs. He made no openings for his three-quarters, but his kicking was of immense value to his side. The fielding and positioning of Mottram were highly commendable.

W. E. Tamplin kicked a good penalty goal for an infringement in the very first scrum and this was the only score at half-time. Nobody expected his attempt in the second half in front of the posts could be so futile.

W. MAIL
27/3/51

Harlequins worried Cardiff

Cardiff, 0-1-3; Harlequins, 0-0-0
Attendance, 10,000.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

WHEN Referee Harold Phillips blew his whistle for "no-side" seven minutes before time at the Arms Park, Cardiff and Harlequin players appeared to have had enough in their "battle" with the rain and the mud. The referee found it impossible to distinguish between the two sets of forwards and wisely brought the game to an early close.

Conditions were as bad as they could be, and Cardiff were a little fortunate to win. True, they took their one scoring chance in splendid style, but the Harlequins had a great deal of the game territorially, and several times came near to scoring. Once, A. A. Grimdell, the tall, lanky forward, who recently kicked the goal that ended Newport's unbeaten record, almost equalised, his penalty kick dropping just under the bar.

After watching the Harlequins yesterday, I can well understand how they captured Newport's record. They were persistent, and their forwards never gave up trying. Throughout the first half they worried Cardiff, who played with the wind and rain behind them. Indeed, the Cardiff line experienced many a near "miss" as the Harlequins pounced upon mistakes when Cardiff tried to play open rugby in the mud. When Cardiff crossed over with a meagre three points lead the chance of a Harlequin victory looked good.

THEY JUST MADE IT

In the second half, however, Cardiff adapted themselves better to the conditions and with close forward rushing cancelled out the visitors' efforts. However, Woodruff nearly got the touch-down on a couple of occasions following kicks ahead, but his opposite number, Morris, made several good clearances. Grimdell missed with two penalty shots and Cardiff just got home.

Best for the Harlequins were J. H. M. Roberts, who showed splendid form at full-back, R. J. Uprichard at outside-half, and Grimdell, Goodman, Brooks and McGuirk in the pack. Cardiff had triers in Alun Thomas, playing at outside-half, W. E. Willis and G. Griffiths in the backs, and C. Davies, F. Tamplin and P. Goodfellow in the forwards.

The only score of the match came five minutes before the interval. From a five-yard scrum Cardiff heeled and Willis went around the blind side to draw the defence and send Griffiths diving over for an unconverted try in the right-hand corner.

Rugby Follower. — Cardiff has never had an invincible season. The nearest they got to success was in 1885-6 (lost one), 1905-6 (lost one), and 1947-8 (lost two).

Black and Amber (Newport). — Cardiff have never had an invincible season. In 1905-06 they were beaten only by the New Zealanders. In 1947-48 they were unbeaten at home.

TOP OF LOT GETS REWARD



Malcolm Collins gets well off the ground to get the ball from a line-out for Cardiff in to-day's game against Coventry at Arms Park.

Cardiff re-union may become an annual affair

THE first Cardiff Players' Reunion, held in the club on the eve of the international match was a huge success (writes E. R. K. Glover).

Over 200 people were there to renew old friendships and make new, while the catering arrangements, which were excellent, inevitably included the traditional dish of pickled onions.

Even if digestions were weak, memories were strong.

It was so popular that when it was suggested that the re-union should become an annual event, the roar of acclamation could have been heard at the railway station.

Above all, the older generation enjoyed every minute of it. The happiness it brought to them was so great that it was noticeable that they, and not youngsters or relative youngsters, were the last to leave.

Although such stalwarts as R. T. Gabe and Percy Bush were unavoidably absent, an even older generation was well represented by Harry Hall, who played 54 years ago. Jim Batstone, now over 80-years-old and still hale and hearty and George Northmore vice-captain in 1905-6.

Billy Spiller was also there to represent the pre-1914 era, while those representing the period between the two wars formed the greater part of the seething crowd, re-living past battles and incidents.

Well represented

Looking at random round the room you could see almost every generation represented — Harry Bowcott with brother Jack, Arnold Rickards, Graham Hale, Bob Barrell, Billy Ould, B. R. Turnbull, Billy Jenkins, Charlie Culverwell, Johnny Thomas, Arthur and Graham Jones, Duncan Brown, D. G. Davies and that popular old favourite, Billy Delahay.

Most of the present players and committee attended, but one old familiar face was missed by all of my age—Ossie Male. It was a grand show and will undoubtedly become a popular annual institution.

One little error crept into these notes last week. It was suggested that the four Cardiff-Newport games had netted the huge sum of £128,000. This large figure referred, of course, to the number of people who had watched the annual serial and not the amount they'd paid to do so. So anyone with a gilt-edged investment looking for someone with money to splash around can leave the two clubs out of their calculations.

Complete answer

All club supporters are delighted at the fine showing of little Cliff Morgan in the Welsh side on Saturday.

He has always had the potential ability, but some have doubted the wisdom of bringing him on too soon.

To those he gave the complete answer, and showed that doubts as to his pace will not be necessary in the future.

In addition to his one great run in attack his defence was terrific, and definitely reminded one of the ubiquitous Cleaver. In addition, his kicking seemed to have improved specially for his first international, and although it will be necessary to reserve final judgment on the place he will take in the history of Welsh rugby, it is certain that he will go far.

Above all he has youth on his side, and I'm pretty certain he will celebrate his 21st birthday with the Welsh team on the field of play against France at Paris.

A word of congratulation to the club officials who were responsible for the excellent arrangements for last Saturday's match. They toiled hard and had their reward.

Supporters will be pleased to know that Martin Harvey is now out of hospital, but he is unlikely to be seen in action during the present season. I am sure he has the best wishes of them all.

Haydn Morris's fine try at Arms Park

A grand try by Haydn Morris was one of the outstanding features of the hard-fought game between Cardiff and Coventry at Arms Park to-day.

The young Cardiff wing crossed again, after a brilliant back movement, and Tamplin, who had given the home side an early lead with a fine long-range penalty, converted.

Only one late change was announced, Halford going to inside half in place of the injured Stock, the Coventry captain.

This enabled former England skipper, Ivor Preece, to occupy his usual place at stand-off half and Tomkins came in at right centre.

W. E. Tamplin, the Cardiff skipper, arrived at the ground in the nick of time—understandably perhaps in view of the fact that his wife has presented him with a second son.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, Bledyn Williams, J. Matthews, Alun Thomas, C. Morgan, H. Greenslade; W. E. Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, C. D. Williams.

COVENTRY: P. J. Mottram; A. E. Sutton, B. Tomkins, B. J. Clarke, H. Greasley; Ivor Preece, J. Halford; H. Walker, E. Robinson, G. Turnbull, D. G. Taylor, N. R. Jones, W. Grayham, S. J. Adkins, R. F. Batstone.

Referee: Mr B. L. Richards, Llanelly.

Because of a clash of colours Cardiff played in scarlet. The crowd was in the region of 10,000.

Within two minutes TAMPLIN put his team ahead with a penalty goal from 35 yards out.

Coventry were penalised at the very first scrummage and Tamplin made no mistake though the angle was not easy.

Cardiff should have gone further ahead almost at once. C. D. Williams carved out a perfect opening for Alun Thomas, but for some unaccountable reason Thomas cross-kicked when he had only a couple of yards to go for the line. He could have got there, it seemed, with a flying dive.

Tamplin went close with another penalty shot from almost the same place as his last, and Coventry were being hard pressed.

SHREWD KICKING

It needed some shrewd kicking from Ivor Preece to get them out of their predicament.

Once inside the Cardiff half Coventry were difficult to dislodge, and it was not until Preece was dispossessed when manoeuvring for a drop at goal that Cardiff were able to set up a counter-attack.

Haydn Morris raced more than half the length of the field before being stopped by Mottram, and then Cliff Morgan darted through elusively to get the wing into action again. But again Mottram was there to halt him.

A breakaway by English "cap" Stan Adkins, supported by Taylor, led to another offensive by Coventry, but Preece was off the

beam with a drop at goal from in front of the posts and later Mottram missed with a penalty shot.

Half—Cardiff 1 0 3
Coventry 0 0 0

*Penalty
Sent away by Bledyn Williams, Morris made another rare burst for the corner flag early in the second half, but Sutton just managed to push him over the touch-line.

A few minutes later, however, MORRIS took a cross-kick by Trott cleanly from the air, danced around Sutton, and swerved away from Mottram to score a grand try wide out. Tamplin's kick failed.

IN THE PICTURE

Morris came into the picture again a little later when he booted the ball down-field and raced after it so speedily that Preece was quite content to touch down over his own line.

Cardiff had been rather sluggish during the first half, but had livened up considerably now.

Coventry, who had never let up on their efforts, continued to be as thrushful as lime chances allowed and their covering work, with Preece as the chief marshal, was first-class.

In spite of the difficult conditions, therefore, play was invariably interesting.

Jack Matthews, backed up by Cliff Morgan, raised Cardiff's hopes again, but when O'Brien was tripped, Tamplin made a poor attempt at kicking the penalty and Coventry not only recovered, but swept to the attack themselves.

CLEVER FIELDING

A wonderful piece of fielding from the mud by Cliff Morgan, a dart through the middle by Jack Matthews and safe handling by Bledyn Williams put Morris in possession 30 yards from the line.

MORRIS'S speed enabled him to run around behind the posts for his second try. Tamplin goal.

Final—Cardiff 2 1 11
Coventry 0 0 0

*Penalty.

COMMENTS
As could be expected under the conditions, this was a hard game without a good deal of science.

Cardiff were a bit prodigal with their chances in the first half, but improved later, particularly their forwards, while Coventry played workmanlike football throughout.

Cardiff had enough of the game to justify their victory, and conceivably could have won by an even better margin.

That they did not do so was due to some of their own shortcomings in attack—wild passing, etc.—and the defensive covering of Preece and his colleagues.

Hectic period for Cardiff—7 games in a fortnight

IN the fortnight commencing to-day Cardiff have undertaken to play no fewer than seven matches (writes Reg Pelling).

That is a stiff programme by any standard, and it is as well that there are sufficient players available for this to be carried out without undue trouble.

Those on vacation will help out as usual. The crowded list begins to-day with the attraction of the Barbarians; on Monday, Cardiff will seek to avenge their old friends, Newport, by showing the Harlequins that form was all wrong last Saturday; on Tuesday, they have Northampton as visitors to the Arms Park.

Next week-end the Cardiff team will be on tour in Devon and Cornwall, playing Plymouth Albion on Saturday; Falmouth on the Monday and Penzance on Tuesday.

Then, back in Wales, they will be entertaining Aberavon for the first time since before the war.

Such a programme, obviously, calls for a number of players standing by, and in this respect Cardiff must be more fortunate than practically any other club. For instance, over the Easter (in one match at least) the club will probably want to give a rest to young Cliff Morgan.

In that event we shall probably see Alun Thomas at outside half, and more than one Cardiff follower will then have the chance of testing a somewhat common theory — that Alun is every bit as good as Cliff.

We shall see....
Cliff's future must seem very bright at the moment.

Outstanding

He proved to be the player for the big occasion on his first appearance for Wales, and one noted with satisfaction that he was one of the outstanding Cardiff players against Coventry last week.

Another man who must have done his chances of international recognition a power of good in that match was winger Haydn Morris.

One can be quite sure that he is being watched with renewed interest by representatives of the Welsh "Big Five" this week-end, for there is little doubt but that the two wing positions in the Welsh XV are quite open at present.

Morris, 22-year-old schoolteacher at Birmingham, travels home to Wales every Friday night.

He is the right build for a wing man, standing 5ft. 10in. and weighing 11st. 10lb.

His terrific turn of speed is a legacy of his schoolboy days when he was a sprint champion.



HAYDN MORRIS

A well-balanced runner, his defence is a little haphazard (this should improve with experience), but there is no mistaking his potential danger as an attacking player.

If Morris does get his Welsh cap against France, it will come as a fitting climax to yet another of rugby's little romances.

Early this season Morris, who lives at Mountain Ash and played for them at the time, was approached with an offer of £3,000 to turn professional.

He refused, saying that he wanted to take his chance on getting into the Cardiff team—though at that time he had not even been given a trial.

Shortly afterwards, however, Cardiff tried out both Morris and Afon Daniel, former Swansea centre.

Morris made the grade immediately, Daniel did not. Since that day (October 2, 1950), Haydn Morris has rarely been out of the Cardiff first team.

Footnote: Having regard to all the unkind things which have been said about the "mud-hep" condition of Cardiff Arms Park this season, it is perhaps worthy of note that it was one of the few grounds in Wales fit enough to be played upon last week.

Tamplin's great goal-kicking

Cardiff's 13-3 win over Barbarians

Cardiff gained a well-deserved victory by 13 points to 3 over the powerful Barbarians side at Arms Park to-day.

The high wind had wrought a miraculous improvement in the Cardiff pitch from the morass it had been early this morning.

Even so, the showers had prevented a complete recovery and the ground was still very soft on top. At the start there were 30,000 spectators present.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, Bledwyn Williams, Jack Matthews, D. G. Murphy; C. Morgan, Rex Willis; Cliff Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, W. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, C. D. Williams.

BARBARIANS: Gerwyn Williams (Wales); M. Pomathios (France); O. Turnbull, D. M. Scott, D. M. Rose (Scotland); E. M. P. Hardy, D. W. Shuttleworth (England); T. Clifford, D. McKibben (Ireland); R. Roe (Dublin), Roy John (Wales), J. E. Nelson (Ireland), H. D. Small, J. McKendall-Carpenter (England), P. W. Kiniamouth (Scotland).

Referee: Mr. Trevor Jones, Brecon.

Cardiff, who again wore their red shirts, won the toss and Tamplin decided to take first use of the strong wind. Both packs of forwards, it was noted, were using the 3-4-1 method.

After five minutes of indeterminate mid-field play Cardiff took the lead.

Willis kicked high to the open, and he and his colleagues followed up so speedily that Cliff Morgan was able to snatch the ball almost from the hands of Gerwyn Williams.

With a short, perfectly-timed pass he put **HAYDN MORRIS** in near the corner for an opportunistic try. Tamplin added the goal points.

35-YARD PENALTY

Screw-kicking by Bledwyn Williams held off Barbarians' pressure and put Cardiff on the offensive.

Tamplin missed with a 40-yard penalty shot, but Cardiff, who were making the utmost use of the touch-line as a rapid method of making progress, were having the better of the exchanges.

They went further ahead through a 35-yard penalty goal by **EWART TAMPLIN** after a penalty had been given against Kendall-Carpenter for obstructing Willis at the scrumage.

Almost immediately McKibben took a long range penalty shot for the Barbarians.

But though it was an excellent effort against the wind it fell just short of the cross-bar.

Cardiff forwards, headed by C. D. Williams, came away in a long dribble, but Rose and Scott dropped back to cover, and eventually Pomathios found a grand touch.

HUGE KICK

Gerwyn Williams was given short shrift when he tried to run through half the Cardiff side, and there was a gasp from the crowd as McKibben, with another huge penalty-kick right on to the Cardiff cross-bar.

There was a hectic scramble when it bounced back into play until Morgan sent it safely away to touch.

Half-Cardiff 2 0 8
Barbarians 0 0 0

*One penalty

The Cardiff forwards came into the picture with a fast, controlled dribble early in the second half, which took them right to the fringe of the tourists' line

by

Reg Pelling

Cardiff's narrowest escape came when Hardy wrong-footed their defence with a cleverly-switched diagonal kick which Nelson and Pomathios followed through.

Nelson was almost over when Trott saved in the nick of time.

It was Trott again who dived at the feet of the winging forwards to save his line a few minutes later, and still the Barbarians could not get through though they were having more of the game.

Midway through the second half McKIBBEN reduced Cardiff's lead with a penalty goal after Trott had been adjudged guilty of not playing the ball.

Cardiff fought back at once and after great work by their forwards Murphy was held right on the line.

On the other side of the field, after Morris had just failed to get to a kick across to him, there was a short line-out and J. R. PHILLIPS forced his way over near the corner flag.

With a magnificent kick from the touch line and against the wind, Tamplin goaled to put Cardiff 10pts. ahead.

This looked like being the decisive score for the Barbarians had then tried all their tricks, yet had fallen further into arrears.

Indeed, Cardiff's confidence was such that one intricate scissors movement between Bledwyn Williams and Jack Matthews was brought off with quite their old-time brilliance.

And then Cliff Davies, John Phillips and the indefatigable O'Brien helped them to retain the initiative.

Cardiff were attacking hotly on the Tourists' line when the final whistle went.

Final-Cardiff 3 0 13
Barbarians 1 0 3

*One penalty each

COMMENTS

Cardiff were clearly the better side and thoroughly deserved their big victory—big in the sense that the famous Tourists do not usually have to admit to a 10 point deficit.

I thought Cardiff played a good deal better against the wind than with it and that the Barbarians too, had done better against the wind than with it.

It was the great display of the Cardiff forwards in the second half which finally turned the tables so decisively upon their more famous adversaries, while the Cardiff back division, too, generally held the upper hand.

Frankly, the Barbarians' backs, with the exception of Gerwyn Williams and possibly Hardy, were not very impressive.

As a pair, and as individuals, the Cardiff and Welsh half-backs, Willis and Morgan, were well ahead of Hardy and his partner, and though Pomathios rarely had a chance, the three Scotsmen who went to make up the visiting three-quarter line were not above ordinary club standard, except in the matter of their hard-tackling.

From a hurly-burly at the Arms Park where the Barbarians played their annual fixture this afternoon, out comes a long arm to hook the ball clear, and Cardiff's burly Cliff Davies has given his backs a chance to get moving.

W. MAIL 28/3/51

Cardiff took chances, but were lucky

Cardiff, 1-1-8; Northampton, 0-1-3
By R. T. GABE

CARDIFF were fortunate on the run of the play to win this game at the Cardiff Arms Park. Their forwards have never had such a beating in the set-scrams. The regularity with which Trevor Smith hooked the ball was monotonous. Allinson, the scrum-half, served Ronnie Knapp well, but after that the Northampton backs did not take advantage of their opportunities.

On the other side Greenlade, on the few occasions Cardiff heeled, was so harassed by international Don White and Lomas that Cliff Morgan received a very indifferent service.

In the loose the Cardiff forwards showed up better, and in this respect they shared honours with their lively opponents.

Colin Williams, being on the spot when full-back Beard misfielded, scored a try near the post. Ewart Tamplin failed to convert and he missed three kickable penalties later—failures not to be expected from him—but strangely enough he succeeded in converting the last try a yard from touch.

Don MacNally, following up a kick, was given a try after Trott had seemingly touched down. With the scores level Northampton gave the Cardiff line many anxious moments. But Cardiff's forwards then struck again with renewed spirit and caught Knapp in possession. The ball went loose and Colin Williams started a movement from which Gareth Griffiths with a commendable burst scored near the touch-in-goal flag.

Cardiff tour

The Cardiff club will take 27 players on tour with whom they play three matches in the West country during the week-end. Plymouth Albion will be met on Saturday, Falmouth on Monday and Penance on Tuesday. The four players included in the Welsh XV, to meet France on April 7 will return after Saturday's match together with J. R. Phillips, who is one of the reserves to travel to Paris.

The full party includes F. Trott, J. Llewellyn, G. Griffiths, A. Thomas, J. Matthews, D. James, B. L. Williams, G. Llewellyn, R. Morris, D. Murphy, R. Willis, H. Greenlade, C. Morgan, G. Davies, S. Rows, J. R. Phillips, G. Beckingham, G. Jenkins, W. E. Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), G. Thorburn, M. Collins, S. Judd, C. D. Williams, D. J. O'Brien, J. D. Nelson, A. Hull.

Cardiff players earn week-end

FOOTBALL ECHO 31/3/51

'break'

THE party of Cardiff players now on tour in Devon and Cornwall undoubtedly will relish the opportunity of a little relaxation after their strenuous efforts this season, and particularly over the Easter holidays (writes Reg Pelling).

For it should not escape notice that the club is once again near the top of the tree, after a somewhat unpromising beginning to the season.

In fact, only three matches have been lost since Jack Matthews, Bledwyn Williams and the rest of the British tourists (less Billy Cleaver) returned to the side at the beginning of November.

Two of those defeats were at the hands of Newport (by 8-6 and 8-3 respectively) and the other was by the margin of a try to nil at Bristol in January. Otherwise Cardiff have won all their matches with the exception of drawn matches at Llanelli (0-0) and Newport (3-3).

This is evidence of steady improvement and shows up as the reward for hard work and honest endeavour, even though the team has been somewhat overshadowed by Newport's spectacular run of success.

So the Cardiff players have earned their "break" this week-end, when their matches with Plymouth, Falmouth and Penance are played in what is very much a holiday mood.

Inestimable value

In that respect these tours are of inestimable value, helping, as they do, to restore rather jaded players to full vitality for the "last lap" of the season; giving them a good deal of fun besides, and, at the same time, carrying Welsh rugby's good name to one of the most popular corners of Great Britain.

In fact a rugby parody of the oft-quoted Browning classic could well be "Oh to be in the West Country now that April's there," for Welsh visitors to those parts include, in addition to Cardiff, the Newport club (April 21-24), Swansea (April 28-30), Aberavon (April 14-17), Penarth (April 6-10), Pontypriid (April 28-30), and Ebbw Vale (April 9-11).

Few Cardiff fans will forget the club's great display against the Barbarians last Saturday when Cardiff inflicted the heaviest defeat of the tour upon the collection of internationals.

Chief credit went to the Cardiff forwards, who will always remain a baffling mystery even to their closest friends.

It seems that whenever a special effort is required, Ewart Tamplin has the gift for making his pack play streets ahead of their normal standards.



John Phillips, Cardiff hooker, who played the game of his life against the Barbarians and who would probably have won his cap —if any of the selectors had been there to see it!

That is what happened against the Barbarians, as it has happened several times before, this season, particularly against Newport.

Laid the foundation

It was the wonderful display of the Cardiff forwards which so thoroughly laid the foundations for the decisive win, and I feel sure that if one or two of the Welsh selectors had been present, they would have had to give serious consideration to awarding international caps to John Phillips and Malcolm Collins.

Phillips, in particular, has never played better than he did last Saturday. His display ought to have carried him into the Welsh team, not as hooker, perhaps, but as a prop in place of his club-mate, Cliff Davies. But none of the five people who mattered most (the selectors) were there to see it.

John has been Welsh reserve so many times that he appears to be a permanent attachment to the official Welsh party. He deserves his cap now.

Like Collins, he is young enough to be able to give Wales years of good service. Their chances will come, no doubt. But my point is that they ought to be given them now!

Cardiff made a great start to their tour of the West Country when they beat Plymouth Albion by 16 points to 3 at Plymouth to-day.

Teams: Cardiff made a number of late changes in their team, Bledydd Williams, Haydn Morris, J. Phillips and W. E. Tamplin dropping out. Their places were taken by G. Llewellyn, D. C. Murphy, G. Beckwith and S. Judd respectively.

Wills

Penzance and Newlyn, 0-1-3; Cardiff, 21-0-3

Thomas were M. Collins, S. Judd, and F. Trott.

Falmouth improved in the second half, but Evans scored another try for Cardiff just before no side

By E. R. K. GLOVER

Cardiff were the first to score through Griffiths in the opening half who touched down in the corner, but Aberavon equalised with a penalty by Bratton before the interval.

Aberavon—the wizards of the west—were the visitors to the Arms Park to-day for the first time since 1933. A crowd of 5,000 welcomed them in sunny weather.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; D. James, B. L. Williams, G. Llewellyn, G. Griffiths; Alun Thomas, H. Green-slade; S. Judd, G. Beckingham, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tاملin, M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, J. D. Nelson.

ABERAVON: W. Bratten; R. Jones, Bryn Phillips, J. O'Sullivan, J. Evans; Delzil Jones, W. Darch; Emyln Davies, D. Davies, D. Jones, E. Vincent, M. Williams, A. Williams, D. T. Meredith, K.

Referee: Mr. G. Goldsworthy (Penarth).
home side were penalised for barling in the line-out. W. BRATTE landed a good goal.

Aberavon won the toss and played towards the County Club end with a strong wind.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Hall-Cardiff</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aberavon</td> <td>*1</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">*Penalty.</td> </tr> </table>	Hall-Cardiff	0	1	3	Aberavon	*1	0	3	*Penalty.			
Hall-Cardiff	0	1	3										
Aberavon	*1	0	3										
*Penalty.													

Cardiff pressed almost at will and their forwards were too quick for the Aberavon backs in the loose.

Alun Thomas was prominent with some effective kicking against the wind and as a result Cardiff were able to take play to the Aberavon line.

WILD PASSING
This attack was short lived and Aberavon pressed with Darch deceiving his old clubmates with a fine break from the scrum which

A moment later John Evans was nearly over on the left wing for

The Aberavon pack seemed to take better and forced play into

Cardiff half for a long period. Then Tamplin had a long run attempt at a penalty which fell

short and the Cardiff side appear
to get more ragged than ever.
Judd and Collins were promising

in desperate rushes and the
Tamplin missed a fairly easy
penalty.

Aberavon, however, came back and kept play at half-way for long period.

Final—Cardiff 0 1

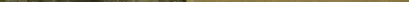
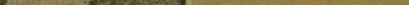

-JUST A PLAIN

BIT OF WORK ★ Neither side had the skill behind the scrum to take advantage of wind when it was behind them.

Full marks to both packs, particularly Vincent, Williams and Meredith for thoroughness and

O'Brien and Collins for Cardiff.

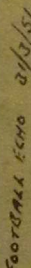
but it was dreary, end-of-the-season football.



If the interest shown in the lecture above was concentrated

performing his automatic function of sending the ball out from the base

the scrum in the game at the Arms Park on Easter Monday.



All eyes are focused on it, and it must be something very absorbing to judge by the rapt expressions of Harlequin back-row men between whom Cardiff's John Phillips thrusts an inquiring head. (For solution see picture below)



All the interest shown in the picture above was concentrated on Harlequins' scrum half performing his automatic function of sending the ball out from the base of the scrum in the game at the Arms Park on Easter Monday.

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Group at the wedding of Mr. John R. Phillips, the Cardiff rugby forward, and Miss Beryl M. Swift, of Newport, at Malpas Presbyterian Church, Newport.

Cardiff-Llandaff co-operation is commended

HAVING grown up side by side during the past 75 years—and even though the one has outstripped the other in prowess and prestige—it is fitting that Cardiff should so readily consent to play an anniversary match with Llandaff (writes Reg Pelling).

Sentiment and friendship always have played a large part in the general conduct of Rugby Union affairs, and though these indications are to be found, in a large measure, in the promptings of Cardiff's gesture, there is a more material aspect to it than that. Through the generations the Cardiff club, founded just five months after Llandaff in 1876, has welcomed the steady stream of recruits from the outskirts club to the Arms Park.

While Llandaff has gone on steadily and sedately, not too ambitious perhaps, but well content with the happy family atmosphere to be found there, many of their young stars have elected to try their luck with glamorous, trusting Cardiff.

And never have the Llandaff authorities placed the slightest obstacle in the way of youngsters anxious to "improve themselves" in the rugby sense.

Thus Cardiff have been the first to recognise the debt they owe to their neighbours.

Llandaff, too, have reason to be grateful to Cardiff—and in particular to the generous impulse which gives them the entire proceeds of next Wednesday evening's match at the Arms Park.

This money they will devote, as one might expect, to improve the amenities of the Bishop's Field, which is still their home just as it was when they started up 75 years ago this month.

And, in general, their record of fine sportsmanship, which has endured the tribulations of such a

long and trying period, are deserving of the rugby public's best support next Wednesday.

To-day, meanwhile, Cardiff supporters welcomed back to their fixture list Aberavon.

Not since 1936 has Cardiff played them, and, therefore, it is doubly unfortunate that this afternoon they were without Jack Matthews, the new Welsh captain, and so many of his colleagues with the Welsh party in Paris.

Cardiff found it hard enough to beat Aberavon by a try to nil last December, and must view with some concern Aberavon's imposing record during the past few weeks.

Known for years as "The Wizards of the West" (though we don't hear so much about that now), Aberavon have won their last five matches off the reel, scoring a total of 72 points against twelve.

This free-scoring form has been found just at the psychological moment, and if it was maintained today, there can be no doubt that Aberavon's place on the Cardiff fixture-list has, indeed, become "a fixture."

The Cardiff players were given a great reception everywhere they went on their Cornish tour—one more example of the club's high prestige throughout the country.

Strange to relate, the side played the best football of the tour against Penzance-Newlyn, though this was the only game they failed to win.

In this match Alun Thomas, I'm told, was simply brilliant, his form being even more to complicate the "embarrassment of riches" position behind the scrum at Cardiff.

Other players who were outstandingly good on the tour were Derek Williams (watch out for his cap challenge next term), and two youngsters, Gareth Griffiths and David Jones, who, much to the club's satisfaction (for they were introduced to big football by Cardiff), showed unmistakable signs of reaching top class.

CARDIFF WIN AT BLACKHEATH

Cardiff beat Blackheath more decisively on the run of play than the score of 17 points to 12 would convey at Blackheath to-day.

The Welsh side were superior in every department, but Jenkins, the Blackheath full-back, kicked three penalty goals to give the home side total quite a respectable appearance.

The game attracted one of the largest crowds of the season to the Rectory Field. Teams:

BLACKHEATH: R. J. Jenkins; W. A. Gray, G. A. B. Covell, A. Blewitt, A. Perkins; D. W. Swarbrick (capt.), B. H. Gale, S. Smith, J. Barnes, K. Woodley, H. B. Neely, G. N. Wood, P. B. C. Moore, R. H. Mears, A. A. Dunn.

CARDIFF: R. F. Trott; G. Griffiths, A. Thomas, Bledwyn Williams, D. Murphy; C. Morgan, R. Willis; C. Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, S. Judd, M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, D. J. O'Brien, C. D. Williams.

Referee: Mr. T. N. Pearce.

Bledwyn Williams opened the game, and, after a testing period for Cardiff through hooking superiority, had a slight advantage.

After seven minutes Willis sent out a beautiful pass from a loose scrum, and BLEDDYN WILLIAMS ran through to score. Collins failed to convert.

Then a clever dummy by Alan Thomas put GRIFFITHS over for another try which Collins again failed to convert.

So far Cardiff held the initiative and the threats were running and handling extremely well.

Blackheath, after a shaky start, staged a rally, but apart from holding Cardiff territorially they gained nothing.

BEAUTIFUL OPENING

Cliff Morgan made a beautiful cut through, passed to Bledwyn Williams, who sent left winger MURPHY over for an unconverted try.

At last Blackheath forced their way to the Cardiff half and were awarded a penalty for a scrum infringement. Jenkins, the home full-back, with a grand kick, opened their account.

Maintaining the pressure, Blackheath kept Cardiff on the defensive and again JENKINS reduced the arrears with another accurate penalty.

The feature of the play so far had been the many penalties awarded and four times Cardiff had failed to increase their lead through A. Thomas and Collins.

Half-Cardiff	0	3	9
Blackheath	2	0	6

Immediately play restarted Cardiff resumed the attack and went further ahead when COLLINS landed his first penalty.

At this juncture Judd was taken off injured but returned later. Blackheath were being outplayed in all phases particularly at half-back where Willis and Cliff Morgan combined brilliantly to continually harass Blackheath.

A clever forward rush by Cardiff from half-way led to the next score and C. DAVIES came in late to pick up near the line and dive over. Collins at last converted.

JENKINS landed his third penalty for the club following offside.

Apart from occasional individual breaks through by Perkins, Covell, and Swarbrick, the Cardiff line was not often in danger thanks to Trott who was playing well at full-back. In the final minutes PERKINS went over for Blackheath but Jenkins failed to convert.

Final-Cardiff	17	3	17
Blackheath	12	1	12

* One penalty. † All penalties.

COMMENTS

Apart from Jenkins's accurate penalty kicking Blackheath seldom appeared like scoring and were completely outplayed fore and aft.

The tenacity of the Cardiff forwards and the domination of the backs had its reward and in line-outs and set scrums Cardiff dictated the terms.

Trott at full-back was admirable and the ability of the three to pass in the most difficult positions outmanoeuvred the opposition.

FOOTBALL RECORD 14/4/51

W. MAIR 19/4/51

Bristol rally but miss "double"

Cardiff, 4-0-14; Bristol, 2-0-10

*Three penalty goals. Attendance, 12,000.

By R. T. GABE

AFTER beating Cardiff in Bristol, any wishful thinking that the visitors had of completing the double was not dispelled until the final whistle was blown.

In the first half it appeared that Cardiff would win comfortably. M. Collins kicked two penalty goals, the second from near the halfway, and P. Goodfellow scored a try wide for Collins to shine again by converting.

After changing ends Bristol, taking advantage of some loose passing, gave the home side many anxious moments. First Jack Gregory scored as he was hurled into touch-in-goal and Griffin, with a kick that landed on the cross-bar, added the extra points, and later Moule, Bristol's lively wing forward, scored a try between the posts which Griffin could not fail to convert. Meanwhile, however, Collins had kicked another penalty.

GOOD IN PARTS

The game was good only in parts. There was a lot of indifferent passing and the Bristol backs, ever on the alert, managed to intercept often and change the direction of the play.

Of course there were occasional thrills which brightened the proceedings when Cliff Morgan and Rex Willis split the defence open but the defensive covering of the Bristol team could not be penetrated.

The tall, powerful Keith Smith, who scored the winning try at Bristol in January, was within an ace of repeating the performance as the game drew to a close. He had swerved past Trott but he was then overhauled with only a few yards more to go.

The Bristol wing forwards have only themselves to blame for the first two goals, for they paid the penalty for their over-eagerness in setting offside before the ball had left the scrum.

F. Trott was always safe and his opposite number J. Holt had a good match. The three-quarters on both sides were far better in defence than in attack.

The best players were the half-backs on both sides, Willis and Morgan for Cardiff and K. Griffin and G. Lovell for Bristol.

The Cardiff forwards held a slight advantage in the tight at the start, but later, strangely enough, with wing forward O. Gunson off the field, Bristol shared honours in this respect.

No injuries—and just one penalty—in this game

CAN you remember the last time a match was played without a single stoppage for injury, and only one award of a penalty kick? asks Reg Pelling.

That was the case on Wednesday evening, in that delightfully carefree anniversary match between Cardiff and their long-established friends and neighbours, Llandaff.

The two trainers stayed on the touchlines; the only penalty was given against a Cardiff forward for not playing the ball with the foot after a tackle.

Cardiff's gesture in handing over the entire "gate" to Llandaff is a great help to the smaller club. There was an attendance of between 6,000 and 7,000 and the proceeds form a valuable windfall to Llandaff.

As to the game itself, most Cardiffians were extremely pleased at the newly-regained speed shown by Bladdyn Williams, who must have surprised even himself at the ease with which he outpaced the opposition to score after an 30-yard burst.

Another source of pleasure was the promising form of young Gareth Griffiths on the right wing. This boy, only 20 years old, looks like developing into yet another Cardiff international.

Beautifully built, tall and long-striding in the Pomathios style, Griffiths is a Welsh Secondary School's "top" product of Porth, and played his first game for Cardiff at Pontypool in the final game of last season.

Bright future

Since then his appearances in the first team have been restricted owing to his national service in the R.A.F., but in the 10 matches he has played for the club this season he has already scored 11 tries, not counting, of course, the three he gained against Llandaff.

He is tremendously keen on rugby, so much so that on every 48-hour leave he gets he is along at Cardiff Arms Park looking for a game. I am not alone in the belief that, like some of his famous predecessors, this Porth lad has an extremely bright footballing future.

Gareth needs more experience yet and will probably have to tighten up his defence somewhat, but these things will come to him in time, and in a season or so I expect to see this tall, speedy youngster challenging for international honours.



MR. D. E. DAVIES

Living but a mile and a half away from Griffiths, is another of Cardiff's brightest prospects, Cliff Morgan.

I would like you to have seen Cliff's shy embarrassment at the dinner given by the French Rugby Federation to both teams and officials after the match in Paris.

The luxuriously-appointed banqueting room rang with the strains of "Twenty-one Today" as Cliff was urged into climbing on to a chair to express his thanks, a little awkwardly but none the less sincerely, for the birthday presents from his colleagues, and the magnificent cake from the French Federation.

Carrying this, his baggage and a couple of huge wooden keys, Cliff was festooned about like a Christmas tree as he made way for me to get to the Customs barrier at Folkestone.

French honour

The French honoured another Cardiff man, too.

Mr. D. E. ("Danny") Davies, Cardiff and Welsh Rugby Union official, was decorated by the French Minister of Sport (M. Andre Morice) in recognition of his efforts in cementing good sporting relations between Wales and France.

The medal, attached to a turquoise-blue ribbon, bears the inscription "Education Physique et Sport", and was presented to Mr. Davies on behalf of the French Government and in the presence of the English, Welsh and French rugby presidents.

"Danny" received a shower of congratulations afterwards upon the honour which had been accorded to him, personally, and to the Cardiff club as well as the Welsh Rugby Union.

CARDIFF WILL HOUR THEIR OBLIGATIONS

LUCKIER than most clubs, Cardiff have had only two matches put off this season because of the bad weather, and both of these were away games (writes Reg Pelling).

Naturally the postponement of the fixtures caused sad disappointment to the two clubs concerned—Neath and Penarth—but in spite of heavy commitments, Cardiff will honour their obligations to both of them.

The match with Neath at the G'noll is being played on Monday evening (kick-off 6.15) and should attract just as many spectators, if not more, as would have attended on that atrocious day last December when it was originally scheduled.

With Penarth the position is slightly different.

Finding it absolutely impossible to fit them in this season, the Cardiff club, I understand, have offered them an extra match at Penarth early next season—three games instead of the usual two.

Cardiff, by this action, are showing consideration for their players.

Signs of staleness, inevitably, have become apparent lately—but what a difference a four-month rest from the game will make to them.

Jack carries on

And, incidentally, don't pay any attention to the stories that this is Jack Matthews's farewell season. It isn't.

Jack intends playing again next season—he is particularly anxious to turn out against the South Africans—and after that season, well, he might decide to "call it a day," having achieved all the honours which the Rugby Union game has to offer.

Cardiff Schools Rugby Union ask me to mention that they will be staging the finals of the Ingram Rees, and Sports cup competitions at the Arms Park next Thursday evening.

In the Ingram Rees cup final St. Peters will play South Church-street (kick-off 6 p.m.), and in the Sports cup final Cardiff High School meet Cathays High School (7 p.m.). Both games will be well worth seeing.

Don't be surprised if, knowing that next season will probably be his last, the Cardiff players decide to honour him with the captaincy of the side again.

Jack made a splendid job of it when he led the side during those none too easy seasons of 1943-46 and 1946-47.

The foundations for Cardiff's brilliant post-war reputation were well and truly laid then.

Too many matches

Weariness was plainly evident amongst most of the Cardiff players during Wednesday evening's match against Bristol. The normal snap and sparkle was sadly lacking



Jack Matthews—not retiring and, in general, the team looked but a languid shadow of the Cardiff we are accustomed to seeing.

That is not surprising, of course, at this stage. It was the club's 41st match of the season (not counting the one which they played against Northumberland and which, by mutual consent, has been erased from the records).

The complete season's programme comprises a total of 46 matches—too many in the view of most people, and bearing in mind that star players find it difficult to refuse to play in innumerable charity matches as well.

Yet it does indicate one thing—that Cardiff are showing a readiness to play—as many other clubs as can possibly be crammed into their fixture-list, however hard this may be upon their playing staff.

A top-line player with Cardiff can count upon playing more than fifty games of rugby every season—taking trial, County, and charity matches into account. This is more than is required of a professional soccer player who, generally, has little else to do than keep himself fit for football. Veteran full-back Frank Trott, incidentally, has appeared in 37 of Cardiff's 41 official games this season—and he was one of the few men who was consistently enthusiastic on Wednesday!

Some of the crowd at that match expressed surprise at the excellence of Malcolm Collins's goal-kicking. It is not generally known, perhaps, that Malcolm was a star artiste in this respect when playing for Newport United. He has not had much chance of showing his prowess since joining Cardiff because, naturally, most of the goal-kicks have been taken by Ewart Tampion.

But it looks as though the Tampion mantle can be allowed to descend safely and gracefully upon the broad shoulders of his second-row partner.

Three new 'stars' want to play for Cardiff

SO powerful is the magnetic attraction of Cardiff for rugby stars that it is quite possible before next season is long under way that at least three famous international players—two Welsh and one English—will have joined the club (writes Reg Pelling).

I hear that all the players (two of them are backs and one a forward) are optimistic about taking up business appointments in the Cardiff area, in which case, as they have already mentioned, they would dearly like to join the "Cardiff galaxy."

At this stage it would be invidious to give their names.

But if it did turn out that all three joined Cardiff, matters, to say the least of it, would be made even more awkward for the selectors, who would be faced with an overwhelming embarrassment of talent.

Point of interest

Another point of interest to Cardiff followers during the weeks of the close season is, "How many of the present players, if any, are going to retire from the game?"

Players who come within this category are Frank Trott, Ewart Tampion and Cliff Davies, all of whom have had honourable rugby careers (all are Welsh internationals) and who have given the very best of loyal service to Cardiff.

Because of this the Cardiff club will be loath to dispense with the services of any of them! It is entirely up to the players whether they carry on or not—and so far the indications are that they will.

* * *

Readers of these notes will not be surprised to hear that Dr. Jack Matthews will be Cardiff's captain next season. I mentioned the possibility last week.

Jack's appointment has to be confirmed by the annual meeting of members to be held next month, but as he is the only nominee for the position, that is a mere formality.

Justly popular with his teammates, Jack will be leading the side for the fourth time. He was captain in 1944-45 and in the subsequent two seasons, and would equal Gwyn Nicholls's record of being four times skipper if the 1944-45 season was counted as an official one. But it isn't.

Now interest centres upon the appointment of vice-captain. My tip? Rex Willis.

* * *

Every member of the Cardiff Athletic Club is proud of the fact that the president, Mr. D. Bernard Morgan, has been honoured by the French Government in the same manner as rugby stalwart Mr. Danny Davies.

The news that Mr. Bernard Morgan had also been awarded the Médaille d'Honneur de l'Education Physique, in recognition of his valuable contribution to Franco-



MR. D. BERNARD MORGAN

British friendship in the world of sport, is most warmly received.

Mr. Morgan has been a most active and admirable president of the club ever since 1933, and is held in the greatest regard.

Powerful side

Preliminary arrangements for the visit of the South African tourists (the Springboks) to Cardiff next October have already been discussed, and even at this early stage it is safe to say that they will have every reason to be pleased at the reception on their first visit to Wales.

Next season, of course will be a very special one for the club, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. For this occasion a Saturday match has been fixed against a team chosen from the British tourists who went to Australasia last summer.

This will be held next September, and, though by that time some of the tourists (like Billy Cleaver) might have given up the game, there is little doubt that a very powerful side will be put into the field against Cardiff.

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