

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Book No. 1.

Ready for Binding



CRFC. CUTTINGS
FEB. 1950 - OCT. 1950



A CARDIFF FORWARD MÊLÉE AS E. L. BEVAN GETS BALL AWAY ALTHOUGH TACKLED BY ROBERTS AND JOHN PHILLIPS. IN BACKGROUND HOVERS L. HAYWARD.

FIFTEENS ARE BORN THERE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOE PAZEN

Cardiff, city of rugby internationals, has a full share in this weekend's Wales v. Ireland match

CARDIFF'S CAPTAIN, HAYDN TANNER, SAYS "TEAM SPIRIT" BRINGS VICTORY



With Such Certainty, away goes the ball to score. The kick has been taken by Roberts with Haydn Tanner, confident of success, lying prone. Tanner is considered to be the best scrum half in game's history

Utility Player, St. John Rees, goes down to forward rush, led by Roberts with E. L. Bevan and J. Phillips on his right, and L. Hayward in support. Pictures were taken during a practice game between team



WELSH RUGBY CHAMPIONS



The Cardiff Rugby 1st XV 1947-48. Standing (left to right): W. G. Jones, G. Evans, L. Manfield, W. E. Tamplin, R. Roberts, E. Jones, and C. Davies. Sitting: S. Bowes, D. H. Jones, J. Matthews, H. Tanner (capt.), D. E. Davies (chairman), B. L. Williams, W. B. Cleaver and F. Trott. In front: M. James and L. Williams.

F ECHO 1/5/48



A Pontypool forward well held by Gwyn Evans (15) and two other Cardiff forwards in the match at Cardiff.



Roy Roberts

F ECHO 1/5/48



John Williams, the Pontypool wing, about to be tackled by Elvet Jones, the Cardiff wing forward, and D. H. Jones looks on in Saturday's match on the Arms Park.



Frank Trott, who played a real captain's part for Cardiff yesterday.



EWART TAMPLIN

BLEDDYN'S SELECTION HOPES FADE

Injured Knee Still in Plaster

Bleddyn Williams, star Cardiff centre and captain, is not yet fit enough to take his place in the Cardiff team to play Gloucester on Saturday, as he had hoped originally.

The Cardiff captain has been ordered to keep the plaster cast (which he had expected to discard this week-end) round his injured knee for another 10 days.

Thus his chance of being chosen for Wales in the vital Triple Crown match at Belfast on March 11 is now negligible.

The Welsh team is being chosen next Wednesday night, and the selectors were expecting to see Bleddyn in action on Saturday before finally coming to a decision. Now they will probably go right ahead with selecting the team without Bleddyn.

This development throws the left wing three-quarter position wide open again, for it is no secret that neither Brewer (Newport) nor Major (Maesteg) gave complete satisfaction against England and Scotland respectively.

Well Advised

Though obviously disappointed, Bleddyn feels that he now would be well advised, in view of his selection for the British touring team to go to Australia, to take no chances on his fitness, and, when his knee has thoroughly strengthened, to play some club rugby during March in order to tone up for the tour.

The Cardiff team to meet Gloucester at the Arms Park on Saturday (kick-off 3.30), will be: F. Trott, R. Burn, Paul Ash, Jack Matthews, T. Cook, W. B. Cleaver, J. Blayden, K. Lloyd, J. Phillips, Cliff Davies, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson, Gwyn Evans.

Rex Willis is still not quite fit and Blayden will play his first game for the premier Cardiff XV.

Gower Jenkins, front-row forward, is at present in France with the Glamorgan R.F.C.

Mr. Watson was a keen follower of local football and a loyal supporter of Roath Park teams operating in the Cardiff Ceneration Football League and Cardiff and District Football League.

Why He Resigned

Johannesburg, Wednesday.—Dick Ashman, leading South African umpire, who stood in all five Tests against the M.C.C. last year, resigned last night from the panel of national umpires.

Ashman, who umpired the first two Tests in the present series against the Australian tourists, explained his decision in a letter to the Transvaal Cricket Union.

He stated that Mr. J. P. W. Rowden, chairman of the South African Cricket Union, told him after the second Test against the Australians, at Cape Town, that at least two Springboks had complained about his decisions in the match.—Reuter.

W. B. Cleaver and Cliff Davies, the Welsh rugby internationals, have been granted leave of absence by the South-western Divisional Coal Board to tour Australasia with the British team.

S.W. ECHO 20/4/50

Cleaver Sole Nominee for Cardiff Captaincy

IT is practically certain that popular Billy Cleaver will be the Cardiff rugby captain next season.

His nomination is the only one put before the rugby committee.

Fourteen times capped for Wales, Cleaver is at present on his way to New Zealand and Australia with the British rugby touring team, together with four other members of the Cardiff side.

He has played for Wales at full-back, centre three-quarter and outside half. It is as a full-back that he has been chosen by the British selectors (though he will undoubtedly be regarded as the team's utility player).

He is tremendously popular with players, officials, and spectators at Cardiff, for whom he played his first game 10 seasons ago.

Married, with two children, he is a colliery manager at Newbridge.

In all probability the Cardiff vice-captain will be W. E. Tamplin, also a Welsh international who, in the absence of Haydn Tanner, captained Wales against the Australians at Cardiff in December, 1947. He was capped seven times for his country.

Tamplin is a Monmouthshire man, a police officer at Magor, and played for Cross Keys and Pontypool before joining Cardiff.

'I may not get the opportunity again ...'

Cleaver's words set Cardiff fans thinking

But he will be playing next season

WHAT exactly did Billy Cleaver mean when, talking about the many seasons he has spent with Cardiff, he remarked at the club dinner last Saturday night, "I may not get the opportunity again, so I would like to say how much we owe to the club and how greatly I have enjoyed being a playing member of the team for so long."

There were some guests, I know (writes Reg Pelling) who jumped to the conclusion that Billy was finishing with Cardiff when the British tour ends, and that this was his way of bidding a graceful adieu to the club.

That is not so. You can take it from me that it is his intention to play for Cardiff again next season. But, in all probability, that will be his last with the club.

He may go on playing rugby after that—I wouldn't be surprised to see him finish his first-class career with Newbridge, where he manages a colliery—but next season, I gather, is to be his last with Cardiff, whom he joined as a raw youth just before war broke out.

As captain

My own, purely personal, view is that it would be a fitting tribute to his services to the Cardiff club, to Wales—he won his 14th cap today—to the Welsh Youth Rugby Union, of which he is chairman, and to British rugby on the forthcoming tour, if he were to be appointed captain of the club next season.

There is no shadow of doubt that he is extremely popular both with players and officials, while his all-round experience fits him well for the job of leading one of the outstanding clubs in the Kingdom.

I guarantee that many of the Cardiff supporters who watched the Wales v. France match this afternoon, spared an occasional thought for what was happening at Bath, where Cardiff were the visitors—and, in particular, wondered how Bleddyn Williams was doing.

Bleddyn was seeking to prove to himself and the four selectors that he has quite recovered from the knee injury which robbed him of the honour of leading Wales at Twickenham and which kept him out of the "Triple Crown" Welsh XV for the remainder of the season's matches.

He was quite confident of being perfectly fit in time for the tour but fell in readily with a suggestion that he should have a "match-practice try-out" before sailing next week.

"Happy family"

He will be one of five members of Cardiff's "happy family" (to quote Mr. Hubert Johnson, one of last week's after-dinner speakers) to go on the tour.

The dinner, given in their honour, was a great success, by the way, and a tribute, in itself, to the organising ability of Messrs Brice Jenkins and Les Spence.

The "happy family" note sounded by Mr. Johnson, was in perfect harmony with the occasion, and, indeed more than one player commented during the evening that it was this family spirit which was one of Cardiff's most irresistible attractions.

All the co-operative effort possible will be needed by the club from now on, for with their five

star players going overseas they will find it tough going to maintain their prestige in the world of rugby.

However, it supplies a wonderful chance to some of the up-and-coming youngsters, particularly Cliff Morgan, for whom a bright future as a fly-half is predicted, to make a name for themselves before the star players return again next October.

F. ECHO 22/4/50

TRUE SUPPORTERS

IN answer to "Fairplay," who complained about 140 "so-called Welsh supporters" travelling to Cardiff to cheer Wales in her match with France, I would like to assure him that when we left Slough on our trip we had nine tickets for the match.

All the other members of our party who saw the game were lucky enough to purchase field tickets at 3s each outside Cardiff Arms Park.

I would also like to point out that our club are real supporters of Welsh rugby as the Cardiff, Newport and the other Welsh teams who visit London will agree.

We never miss Twickenham, France or Scotland, and we hope to meet them next season at Paris and Murrayfield.

F. HILL, Hon. Sec. Exiles' Supporters' Club, Farnham Royal, Slough.

F. ECHO 22/4/50

CARDIFF BACKS

CARDIFF need backs to give support to Burns and Cook who are two fine wings.

If the Athletic can not provide them, why not have a look around the junior clubs in the district to solve the difficulty. An alternative would be to play Burns and Cook in the centre.

Cardiff. WM. THOMAS



W. B. CLEAVER

Bleddyn Williams came back to win for Cardiff

Cardiff, a point behind at half-time, won in the second half at Bath through a late try by Bleddyn Williams who made a welcome return to the visiting side., Tamplin added the extra points.

Cardiff made one change in the pack, K. Lloyd taking the place of G. Jenkins.

There was a big crowd and it was a perfect afternoon except for a worrying cross wind. Bath were without the Lewises. Alec Lewis was a pulled muscle and Trevor Lewis could not get off.

BATH: P. Sullivan; R. Hamblly, K. Wilcox, K. O'Shaughnessy, W. Williams; R. Self, M. Hanna; J. Roberts, J. Francis, T. Smith, L. Harter, A. Burcombe, J. Vassiere, G. Brown, J. Dingle.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; T. Cook, Bleddyn Williams, P. Ash, I. McGennett; C. Morgan, J. Bladen; S. Bowes, G. Beckingham, K. Lloyd, W. Tamplin, L. Evans, J. Nelson, P. Goodfellow, G. Evans.

Referee: Mr. R. Barradell, Leicester.

Four thousand people saw a lively game though the play was never of a very high standard, the wind had a big effect.

Cardiff dominated the set scrums and the lines-out and Bleddyn Williams cut out two or three smart openings only to see his passes go astray.

He appeared in perfect condition again. Once Nelson went over, but was pulled back for a touch in goal.

Morgan, trying to nip over from a scrum in front of the posts, dropped the ball. Bladen made a poor attempt to drop a goal.

Bath forwards were in great shape and their defence was their best feature. Attack after attack by Cardiff was quickly broken up by close marking and determined tackling.

EASY PENALTY
In the 27th minute SULLIVAN gave Bath the lead with an easy penalty goal from bang in front of the posts.

Three minutes later MORGAN the Cardiff fly-half, survived a half-tackle by the Bath full-back to dive over between the posts for Tamplin to convert.

Right on half-time Wilcox kicked up-field for Bath and Williams, the former Newport wing three-quarter who is a sprinter, followed up so fast that he won the touch-down but Sullivan failed with the kick.

Half-BATH 1 1 6
CARDIFF 1 0 5
Penalty goal.

Final-CARDIFF 2 0 10
BATH 1 1 6
Penalty.

The second-half opened in stirring style with Cardiff going all out to save themselves from defeat. Repeatedly attacks were broken up, however, by resolute tackling.

Indeed, the Bath defence has not shown up better this season. Tamplin missed two penalty goals, both of them from difficult angles.

A brilliant movement by Morgan took him through the middle, with two players outside him. He gave the final pass to Bleddyn Williams, who went over for the winning try, which Tamplin converted with a beautiful kick.

Final-CARDIFF 2 0 10
BATH 1 1 6
Penalty.

Can Newport R.F.C. Beat the Cardiff 'Hoodoo'? Last Chance of Season

THOUGH seven leading personalities of Welsh rugby—Bleddyn Williams, Ken Jones, Jack Matthews, Billy Cleaver, R. T. Evans, Cliff Davies and Rex Willis—will be absent, the fourth and final clash of this season between Cardiff and Newport, at Cardiff Arms Park next Saturday (kick-off 3.30), will certainly not be lacking in interest.

Newport will definitely go all out to rid themselves of the "hoodoo" which Cardiff has established over them since the end of the war.

They gained a narrow victory against Cardiff in season 1945-46, but since rugby was officially resumed in Wales in 1946-47 Cardiff have won 14 and drawn one of the 15 matches played between the clubs in the past four seasons.

Even a depleted Cardiff side managed to win 11-8 at Newport on March 4 in a match made memorable by a 58-yard penalty and a dropped goal by Ewart Tamplin, which virtually won the game for his side.

Hedley on Wing

Hedley Rowland takes over the right wing berth from Ken Jones, thus enabling Newport to try young Brinley Rowlands, ex-Machen full-back, at centre.

Another newcomer to their team is W. A. Williams, the ex-Talywain and Monmouthshire County inside half, who has played four games for Newport United and who now takes over the scrum half position vacated by Haydn Thomas.

The Newport team will be: G. Gibbon; A. H. Rowland, B. Rowlands, B. Williams, D. Jones; R. Burnett, W. A. Williams; G. Hirst, L. Davies, T. Sterry, L. E. T. Jones (capt.), B. Edwards, H. J. Tovey, D. A. G. Ackerman, D. Dando.

Newport Athletic Club are holding a social to-night in honour of Malcolm Thomas, Ken Jones and R. T. Evans, who have been selected to tour Australasia with the British team. They sail on Saturday.

captain, Mr. Owen Williams; committee, Mrs. D. R. Morgan, Mrs. G. Tucker, Mrs. J. G. W. Charnaud, Messrs O. E. Williams, W. H. Thomas and D. Medhurst.

Cardiff Changes for Fourth Game With Newport

D. St. John Rees will be making his first appearance in the Cardiff XV this season when Newport visit the Arms Park for the last game of the season's series between the two clubs.

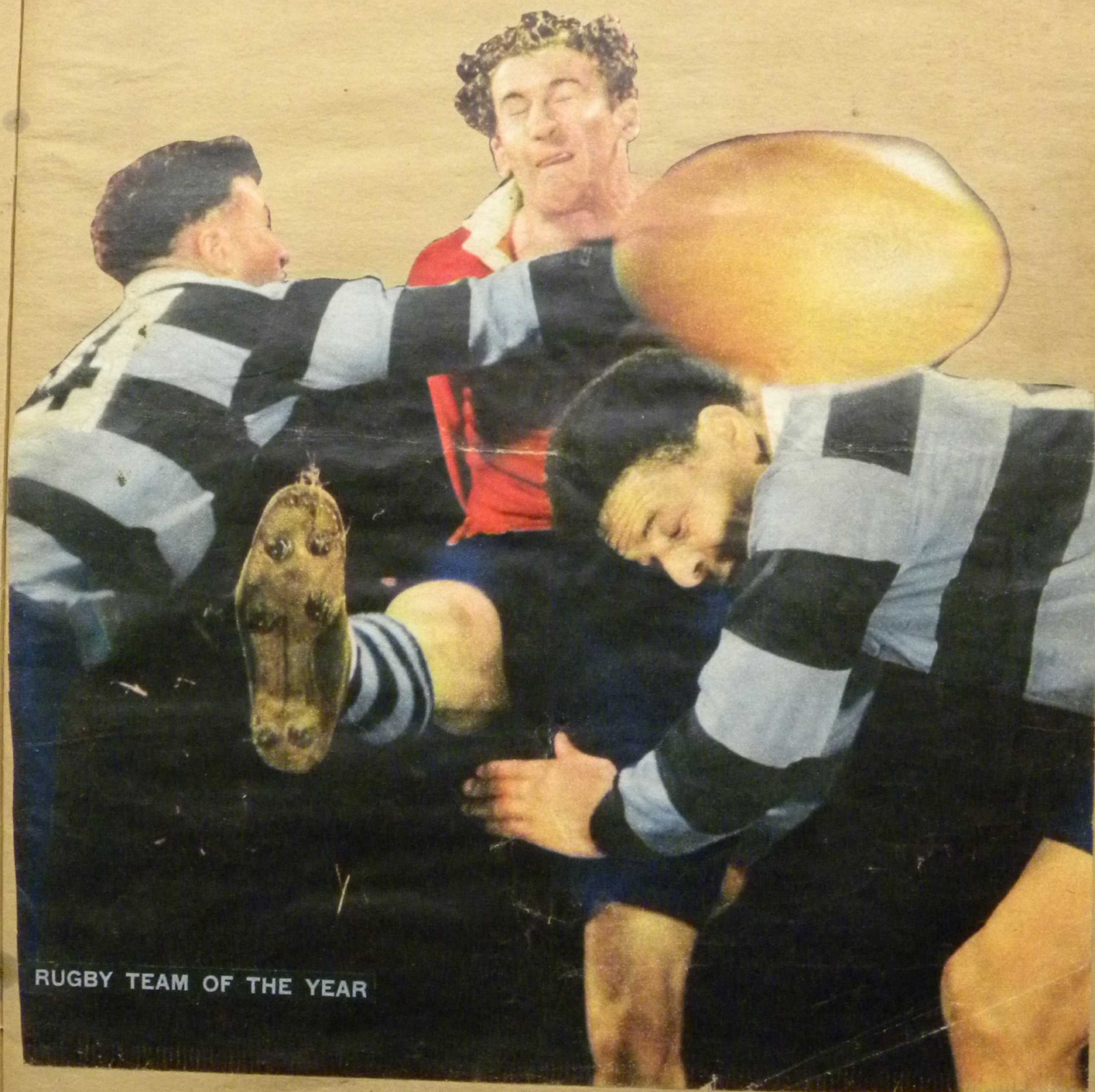
With the departure of Cardiff's five representatives in the British touring team, Paul Ash moves to centre, and C. Morgan and J. Blayden are at half-back, while Stan Bowes takes Cliff Davies's place in the pack.

Team:—F. Trott (capt.); R. Burn, P. Ash, D. St. John Rees, T. Cook; C. Morgan, J. Blayden; G. Jenkins, J. R. Phillips, S. Bowes, M. Collins, W. E. Tamplin, J. D. Nelson, P. Goodfellow, G. Evans.

FINDING A SAFE PLACE



Cardiff's John Phillips finds time enough to kick to touch while hard beset in a loose maul with the Newport pack at Cardiff Arms Park.



RUGBY TEAM OF THE YEAR

REX WILLIS - BILLY DOUGLAS + A. HAYWARD

Noticeable drop in Arms Park gates since stars sailed

TRY and calculate how much, in hard cash, the departure of the five Cardiff stars for New Zealand, plus the atrocious weather over Easter, will mean to the Cardiff club this season.

I shan't be in the least surprised (writes Reg Pelling) to learn that the financial drop will amount to three or four thousand pounds.

As it is, "gates" have not been very good since the New Year though it looked, when the season began, that an all-time record in attendances and receipts was going to be set up.

Since Bleddyn Williams and Co. have departed, however, the crowds have grown smaller and smaller—even though any club in the Kingdom would be delighted to get a 20,000 "gate," as Cardiff did for the Barbarians match.

The comparable figure, of course, is that last Easter nearly 45,000 were at the corresponding game.

Then the bad weather last week-end ruined the other matches, too, so that in the final reckoning it turns out that only about half the number of spectators watched the Easter holiday games this year compared with last.

From the results point of view, however, Cardiff did not do too badly over the holidays. In winning one, drawing one and losing one, they did better than even their best friends had prophesied, though certain weaknesses were again glaringly apparent.

Bad luck

It was particularly bad luck to lose against the Barbarians after they had had more of the game, and, indeed, in the second half looked as if they were going to run the famous tourists off their feet.

Frank Troft emerged from the holiday games as the outstanding individual player in the side.

Against the Ba-baas he started at full-back and finished as a five-eighth; against the Harlequins he played one half as a full-back and the next as a centre; and in the Northampton match he filled Bladen's place at inside half throughout the game, being called upon to play there almost at the last moment.

Frank is a 100 per cent team man, giving tremendously loyal service to the club, and though there have been rumours that this season is to be his last, don't be surprised if he turns out as the last line of defence again next season.

Another player, now in the veteran class but still a wonderfully good performer, is pack-leader Ewart Tamplin.

Vice-captain

Remember that I suggested some weeks ago that Billy Cleaver should be the Cardiff captain next season? Make a note now that the club probably won't look any further than Tamplin for its vice-captain.

"Tamp" is a great forward, one whose wealth of experience, personal ability, and infectious enthusiasm qualifies him exceptionally well for such a position.

After their trying period of late, the Cardiff players, plus maestro Haydn Tanner, who is coming out

should thoroughly enjoy their tour this week-end in Devon and Cornwall.

There was a story going the rounds in Cardiff during the week that Tanner would be ineligible to play for Cardiff now that he has taken up part-time journalism.

There is no foundation for this story. The ruling of the Welsh Rugby Union on this point is that "No member of the W.R.U. committee or the committee of an affiliated club may contribute to the Press or radio any article or address upon current rugby for payment."

That would, of course, prevent Tanner from serving on the Cardiff R.F.C. committee—but nothing is said in the regulation about playing.



GWYN WALTERS

First Arms Park game "was easy"

S-W-ECHO 12/4/50

HAYDN TANNER TO PLAY AGAIN

In Cardiff Side for Cornish Tour

Haydn Tanner, the former Welsh captain and holder of 25 caps, who retired at the end of last season, is to play again.

It was announced last night by the Cardiff Club that he had been invited to tour Cornwall this week-end with his old club.

Having promised to help Cardiff at any time when he retired club officials approached him this week to help them since they were without a scrum-half for their Northampton match yesterday, and only one scrum-half, J. Bladen (and he not perfectly fit), to take on tour with them in Cornwall.

Tanner was not able to oblige yesterday at such short notice, but has accepted the tour invitation.

The full party invited by Cardiff to go on tour is as follows: F. Troft, D. St. John Rees, G. Davies, R. Burn, P. Ash, R. T. Jones, A. H. Lovelock, T. Cook, I. McJennett, M. Davies, H. Tanner, J. Bladen, C. Morgan, C. Jenkins, J. Phillips, G. Beckenham, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, S. Judd, P. Goodfellow, L. Evans, S. Bowes, G. Evans, C. D. Williams.

15/4/50 S-W-ECHO

TANNER CALLS OFF

'COME-BACK'

Haydn Tanner will not be playing for Cardiff on their Devon tour after all. Yesterday he had a number of teeth extracted, and has been medically advised not to play. He is most disappointed at this unfortunate turn of events.

A 21-year-old Referee Got the Cheers

STAR performer in the Cardiff-Newport match at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday was a rather shy young chap in a white shirt.

As Cardiff played in their club colours of blue and black and Newport in their usual black and amber, it follows that the white-shirted individual was the referee, 21-year-old Gwyn Walters, a Gowerton farmer. His youthfulness was freely remarked upon by the crowd, but there was unanimous approval, nevertheless, for the most efficient manner in which he controlled the game.

Once or twice he received a special cheer all to himself—a remarkable enough experience for any referee of any age.

I predict a bright future for this youngster, who was making his first appearance on the famous Welsh enclosure.

He must be the youngest official ever to have charge of a Cardiff-Newport encounter, and he was well-nigh perfect.

Popular in England

Gwyn has only just celebrated his 21st birthday. So far as Cardiff and Newport are concerned he can have the key of the door to their grounds for the asking!

He qualified as a referee when he was only 17, spending his first two seasons with the Swansea and District League.

All last season he handled second-class club games, until he felt confident about his ability to control the "big-time stuff."

Already he has won popularity in England, where he has refereed such big games as Bristol v. Oxford University, Gloucester v. Leicester, and so on.

His verdict on Saturday's match?

"It was easy," said Gwyn. "The players know the rules better than in lower-grade football."

"In particular, they know the off-side laws much better, and, generally, show a clearer understanding of the game!"

Stars Missed

No-one grudged Newport their 8-0 victory, their first over Cardiff since 1946, though little satisfaction was shown with Cardiff's form.

They missed their five star players even more than had been anticipated, and, after Frank Troft had presented the initiative to Newport by electing to play against the strong wind in the first half, the home team never looked like regaining it.

The Cardiff forwards did well, but their backs will have to smarten up their handling and tackling a good deal if the club is not to have an impecunious Easter.

Mistaken tactics by Newbridge, who elected to keep things close, helped Maesteg to keep their invincibility.

A pointless draw resulted from their visit to Gwent, this being only the second time this season that Maesteg have failed to score.

They now have eight games left on their list, six of them at home (four in a row over Easter).

But they have to meet Bridgend at Neath, both away, on the last two Saturdays of the season. These matches will call for a big effort on their part.

For the first time since the early

Reg Pelling's Rugby Round-up

weeks of the season Aberavon have fallen from the position of runners-up to Maesteg.

They were beaten, rather surprisingly, 12-3 by the London Irish on Saturday, and now concede their runners-up place to Swansea, who have been coming along with a run of successes (112 points in their last six games), and who outclassed Plymouth Albion to the tune of 22-0.

Worthy Successor

Cardiff and Newbridge are both fading, and my fancy is that Newport will be challenging Swansea and Aberavon at the season's end.

After a bad spell in the early months Newport have been consistently successful since December 17, having lost only one match.

They must be happy, too, in having found a worthy successor to Hadyn Thomas in W. A. Williams, ex-Talywain captain.

Pontypool continue to make big strides and started their short Devon tour with a convincing 14-2 victory over Devonport Services.

Ebbw Vale, too, are maintaining their form and added to Penarth's troubles by winning there by eight points to nil.

Cross Keys have struck a bad patch, but were unlucky to be just beaten 6-5 by Pontypool at Pandy Park.

This was their fifth successive defeat, but they may gain some consolation in Cornwall, where today they start their tour.

Bridgend played a hard game to share a dozen points with the Scarlets at Llanelli, but Neath's 13-3 defeat at Bridgwater came as a surprise.

Doubly Pleased

This was Neath's first visit to the ground, and the crowd were delighted, both with the standard of football and, of course, the result.

Meanwhile, Abertillery, winning 3-0 at Weston-super-Mare, not only completed a "double" but transferred the wooden spoon to Penarth again.

These two clubs have been interchanging positions at the bottom of the championship table ever since the season started.

Now the South Wales Echo table reads:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	cent.	Points	Per-
Maesteg	36	32	4	0	370	106	91.44		
Swansea	31	24	2	3	261	184	78.82		
Aberavon	37	21	6	7	267	162	72.97		
Cardiff	38	24	6	8	239	180	71.05		
Newbridge	39	24	7	8	287	199	70.51		
Newport	34	24	5	8	268	171	66.11		
Ebbw Vale	34	19	7	8	230	150	66.17		
Pontypool	33	19	3	11	229	169	62.12		
Bridgend	32	15	7	10	205	115	57.81		
Llanelli	33	16	5	12	231	178	66.06		
Neath	32	16	7	12	230	191	55.71		
Penarth	37	15	7	11	275	218	55.37		
Cross Keys	34	12	0	10	184	248	44.11		
Abertillery	36	7	8	21	145	273	30.62		
Penarth	30	5	7	18	128	243	28.33		

CARDIFF ATHLETIC CLUB, whose ground and nearly half of whose team has already this season proved the downfall of England, supplies more members of Welsh International fifteens than any other club. For practical purposes, a Welsh National team is often the Cardiff club side with a few friends invited to fill blank places.

Six of the victors over England came from Cardiff. Ten Cardiff men were in each of the National sides against England, Scotland and France last season, and nine appeared against Australia and Ireland. Positions behind the scrum were almost exclusively Cardiff property, with four

of the five three-quarters and both full backs capped. The proportion is similar this season.

Going back to last season, the three-quarters, supplied virtually en masse, were Bledyddyn and Leslie Williams, Matthews and Cleaver. This time there have been the two Williamses, Matthews and Cook. Cook is a right wing "three" who moved over to the left and so into the Welsh team when Leslie Williams defected to the professional Rugby League. Asked to change his club position, Cook "obliged" with three tries in the first match. The Welsh selectors chose him automatically.

Only among the forwards is the ominous black

and blue of Arms Park comparatively subdued—numerically—for G. Evans alone has carried the club reputation into the International arena this term. At half, too, there is but one representative, but he is the formidable Haydn Tanner, possessor of over a score of caps and likely to add to his collection. On the cover this week is Haydn's deputy, Rex Willis, who gets his kick through, harassed by forwards W. Campbell and W. Douglas.

Tanner, hailed by most rugby enthusiasts, even those with long memories, as the greatest scrum half ever, skippers both Wales and Cardiff. Bards have been crowned for less!

FOOTBALL ECHO 22/4/50

Absent Rex Willis collects an overdue Cardiff honour

It was a somewhat paradoxical situation (though by no means unique) that Rex Willis should have won his international cap, and the honour of being chosen by Great Britain, before being awarded what, in effect, are his club colours.

Now the position has been cleared up (writes Reg Pelling).

The Cardiff rugby committee have decided to award Rex his club blazer-badge in recognition of his outstanding achievements in his first season in top-class rugby.

These badges, I may add, are only awarded as a special distinction, and any player who gets one can consider himself highly thought of by the Cardiff club.

Rex, of course, has thoroughly earned this further honour which comes his way, and of which, I am sure, he will feel just as proud as he is of his other playing distinctions.

All the Cardiff players who are on their way to New Zealand are perfectly fit and in high spirits, according to a letter from Bledyddyn Williams to the Cardiff hon. secretary, Mr. Brice Jenkins.

Cliff Davies was the obvious choice as choirmaster, and under his baton the touring party has already provided one evening's entertainment of community singing.

Cliff himself seems well satisfied. As was inevitable he has become tremendously popular with all concerned, and he says his choir is now "going on well." The weather is very warm and deck games are proving most enjoyable.

A happy time

The Cardiff club themselves had a very happy time on their Devon tour, during which they won two and lost one of the three games played.

Apart from Ewart Tamplin's scoring feat last Saturday (he scored 19 of Cardiff's 22 points), a most interesting feature was the experiment of playing John Nelson at centre (suggested in my notes recently). He did so well that he was again chosen to play as a centre against Llanelly this afternoon.

C. D. Williams also impressed considerably and a young recruit Brian Mark, a product of Cardiff schools rugby, who played for the Old Blidians before joining the Forces, showed most promising form. Just 21, he will be heard of again before long.

Full-back Frank Trott has really "gone to town" over his try-scoring business, and now has the rare distinction of securing tries in three out of Cardiff's last four matches.

Fortunately, the injury to hooker John Phillips (one of the most consistently good players for Cardiff this season) did not turn out to be as serious as was thought, and

he was expected to play again this afternoon.

Readers of these notes will not be surprised at the news that Billy Cleaver is well nigh certain to be captain of Cardiff next season. It was foreshadowed here several weeks ago.

Richly deserved

Nominations for the captaincy have closed, and Billy's name is the only one received. So, if he accepts (which I am sure he will), that will be that. It's an honour which his loyal service to the club during the dark days of war, and since, has richly earned him.

There is no question but that he will prove himself to be one of the best and most popular captains the club has ever had.

By the way, another great player, Haydn Tanner, felt most disappointed last week that he was unable to assist Cardiff on their tour. A visit to the dentist proved to be more troublesome than he anticipated, and it was on medical instructions that he did not play. He didn't mind so much for himself, but he was sore at having let his old club down.

Further evidence of the cordial relationships existing between the Cardiff and Newport clubs is given by the news that Newport will second the nomination of Danny Davies (Cardiff) to the east district committee of the Welsh Rugby Union, whilst Cardiff will second Newport's nominee, Vincent Griffiths.

Both these gentlemen have served their clubs and Welsh rugby with distinction in the past, and will probably do so for a long time to come.

S. EXPRESS 14/4/50

Mathews or Williams?

AND now for the mail critics. "Great as Bledyddyn Williams is said to be by his admirers," writes an indignant correspondent, "he has yet to show international form in big matches. I take Jackie Mathews any time."

The middle course is not generally for me, yet both Williams and Mathews have, in their separate ways, been pillars of post-war Rugby.

Whereas Mathews is the straight and daring runner, Williams makes his openings in the main by a side-step. Bledyddyn is a better handler of the ball, but perhaps Jackie is instilled with a greater enthusiasm on the field than his partner.

This point could be argued for ever and a day. We can surely strike a compromise.

Both have delighted Rugby spectators. Both are a credit to the game. What more can one ask?

S.W. ECHO. 17/4/50

P.C. Tamplin on Point Duty for Cardiff

THE stalwart village "bobby" at Magor (Monmouthshire) is temporarily off duty, week - ending in Devon and Cornwall.

And it was just as well for the Cardiff Rugby Club that Police - constable William Ewart Tamplin was "amongst those present" when they played Devonport Services on Saturday.

Otherwise they might have lost the match, instead of winning it by 22 points to eight.

Tamplin, 16st. forward and the oldest man in the team, had the great personal distinction of scoring 19 of his team's 22 points.

To make it a real "veteran's day out," full-back Frank Trott, having had his appetite whetted by the try he scored on Easter Monday, repeated this rare occurrence to notch the other three points.

Tamplin's personal total of points scored for Cardiff this season now jumps to 125 in 33 appearances.

There has been talk about the man who captained Wales against Australia three years ago retiring from the game.

On this form, to say nothing of his great leadership of the Cardiff forwards and his all-round playing ability and physical fitness, that day must still be a long way off.

His value to Cardiff is underlined by the fact that he has been amongst the club's scorers on 25 of his 33 appearances.

Pontypool's Double

It is being claimed for Pontypool that they are now the most powerful club team in Wales.

With things as they are that is a difficult question to decide, but the club's record (only three defeats since last November) is certainly most impressive.

So was their 12-nil victory over



EWART TAMPLIN

Aberavon, runners-up to Maesteg in the unofficial championship table.

This meant the "double" over Aberavon for the first time for 16 years.

It is not without significance that this season Pontypool also gained a "double" at the expense of Swansea, who lie joint third in the championship table.

The record of neighbouring Newport also looks good. With Swansea they now hold third place in the table, ready to take advantage of any further slip by the runners-up, Aberavon.

But they were given a shock by Abertillery who, though depleted—and defeated by 8-0—gave them a fight altogether at variance with their "wooden spoon" ranking.

Question of Tactics

On the other hand, Cross Keys were all at sea at Swansea and crashed to a 24-0 defeat.

Swansea, it was said, employed the right tactics in throwing the ball about and exploiting the skill of their backs, while Cross Keys, mistakenly, elected to keep the game close and rely mainly on their forwards.

But you can take your choice about these tactics.

When the Welsh Secondary Schoolboys played orthodox attacking rugby against France they lost.

The French boys, who (like Cross Keys, apparently) pinned their faith in hard forward play, keen marking and resolute, unflinching tackling and judicious kicking, won by nine points to

nothing. Nevertheless, I still think Wales would have won if one of their best backs, Rees, had not been injured half way through the match. From

By REG PELLING

Hard Fought Game

The crowd at the Gnuil saw a first-class game between Neath and Ebbw Vale. Neath winning by 14 points to 11. After this, Ebbw Vale should be popular visitors to the ground in future.

Llanelli fought a hard, pointless draw at Gloucester, but though Penarth put up an excellent showing at Pontypool they could not stop the home side winning by 13-9.

That means that Pontypool's record of not having been beaten since Christmas, still stands. Talking of records, Maesteg's invincibility is still inviolate. The Welsh Regiment deputised for Penryn on Saturday and were beaten by 14-6. But the soldiers had the distinction of being the first side to score against Maesteg in nine consecutive matches.

Newbridge, as expected, broke a losing sequence with a good 18-8 win over Weston-super-Mare, and Bridgend also obliged with a solid 11-nil victory against Exeter.

The South Wales Echo championship table reads:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	%
Maesteg	41	36	3	0	422	109	63.90
Aberavon	42	28	6	8	332	290	71.80
Swansea	35	32	3	9	489	200	72.26
Newport	33	25	5	8	308	183	72.98
Cardiff	42	26	7	9	474	218	70.23
Pontypool	38	24	3	11	357	125	67.40
Ebbw Vale	35	22	7	6	384	179	67.10
Newbridge	45	25	7	13	315	221	63.33
Bridgend	36	17	9	10	234	122	66.72
Pontypool	40	18	11	11	286	225	66.75
Llanelli	39	16	6	14	276	210	56.41
Neath	41	19	8	14	341	246	56.93
Cross Keys	35	14	7	17	189	250	43.95
Penarth	34	7	7	20	170	278	30.58
Abertillery	40	7	9	24	151	306	25.75

~Growing Band of~ "Bobby Soxers"

Young girls are taking to following rugby in ever-growing numbers.

The Cardiff club has quite a considerable number of "bobby soxers" amongst their regular supporters, and the strange thing, perhaps, is that many will also be following the team during away games.

One Cardiff girl just escaped the "cack" this week when she asked for time off to go to Coventry to see Cardiff play there in three weeks time.

The boss "blew up," but finally relented (for she was a good typist) and gave her permission.

We may yet see Cardiff's teen-agers dressing themselves in Cambridge blue and black ensembles for their rugby afternoon out, just as the Irish collectors still dress themselves in emerald green costumes and berets for the internationals at Dublin and Belfast.



St. Alban's Military Band, Cardiff. (See story.)

Band With Family Tradition

A FAMILIAR sight to followers of the rugby code is the scarlet and gold braided uniforms of the St. Alban's Military Band, which for more than 80 years has enlivened the wait for the game to start at Cardiff Arms Park.

Formed in 1893, originally as a brass band, a change was made after a short time to the military formation which, under the baton of the late Mr. T. P. Ryan, gained a considerable reputation, this being further enhanced under the leadership of Mr. Dan Ryan, who succeeded his brother, in 1932, retiring in 1949.

"Top Score"

Family tradition is a strong element for there are six fathers whose sons are following closely in their footsteps, all products of a virile "nursery" junior band which was inaugurated five years ago under Mr. John Williams, now bandmaster of the senior musicians.

Veteran Mr. Charles Daw, at 71, tops the score with a lively 55 of the 12 senior bandsmen, whose aggregate is 400 years of musical activity, while the career of Mr. T. Sullivan, the chairman, is marked by his transition from raw recruit flautist through the whole gamut of wind instruments to present-day double B-flat bass.

Musical arrangements are by deputy-conductor Mr. W. Bush, and programmes on the Arms Park have included his own compositions, his latest being a march having as its theme the Band's association with rugby.

The man in the happiest position, however, is Mr. E. Shanahan, since he is justifiably able to "bang the big drum" on behalf of the band on and off parade, for he combines his talent on this instrument with efficiency as band secretary.

(Picture on picture page.)

DOWN-ON HIS NECK

FOOTBALL ECHO 22/4/50



Cardiff forward J. D. Nelson, playing at left centre, bowls over Llanelli outside half C. Tucker in to-day's game at the Arms Park.

TWO WELSH CLUBS BACK IN CARDIFF FIXTURES

CARDIFF Rugby Club has provisionally arranged to play 47 matches next season, which is one more than the season just completed (writes Reg Pelling).

The fixture-list was made up some considerable time ago—in the cases of some clubs they are arranged several years ahead—and though one or two last-minute alterations and amendments have to be made it is possible to say that two further Welsh clubs, Aberavon and Bridgend, re-appear on next season's card.

Home and away fixtures have been made with Aberavon, whilst Bridgend are scheduled to make their appearance at Cardiff Arms Park.

Possibly there will be home and away fixtures with Bridgend in alternate seasons and it may be that in future there will be both home and away matches.

Those points have not yet been decided upon.

Birkenhead Park also re-appear on the Cardiff list—they are due at Cardiff on September 9—and another new side to appear at Cardiff will be Sale, on February 7, 1951—the day Wales play Scotland at Murrayfield.

Cardiff will make an interesting little tour at Christmas. After playing the Watsonians at home they will travel north and play Northumberland and the Watsonians away.

NEWTOWN, on the other hand, have been cutting down the number of their fixtures since the war, and next season will show a further decrease.

They have limited themselves to 41, two fewer than the season just ended.

For some time Newport have been playing home and away games in alternate seasons with the leading Monmouthshire clubs, except Pontypool.

Pontypool said in effect that they wanted home and away matches every season with Newport—or none at all. At the moment there are none.

*Mention of Newport R.F.C. is a reminder that in many respects history repeated itself at Neath last Saturday, when Neath all but deprived Maesteg of the honour of going through the season unbeaten.

The thoughts of many of the 12,000 spectators who were present inevitably went back to a similar occasion 27 years ago—in April, 1923—when Jack

Wetter's invincible Newport team played the All Blacks.

Newport had only three games left that season and that with Neath was considered to be by far the stiffest.

However, they managed to win by five points to three—Fred Baker's conversion being sufficient to give the Uskiders victory in a thrilling match.

Newport played 99 games, won 35 and drew four, scoring 463 points against 112.

Maesteg this season played 44 matches, won 38 and drew six, scoring 440 points to 118. Their record is as follows:

1949

	F. A.
Sept. 3 Lydney (a)	10 0
" 10 Cross Keys (a)	5 0
" 17 Glam. Wand. (h)	9 3
" 24 Newbridge (h)	11 3
Oct. 1 Aberavon (h)	11 8
" 3 Penarth (a)	3 0
" 15 Abertillery (a)	11 9
" 22 Ebbw Vale (h)	3 0
" 29 Old Paulines (h)	40 3
Nov. 5 Neath (h)	3 0
" 12 Mountain Ash (a)	9 3
" 19 Penarth (h)	21 3
" 26 Weston S.M. (a)	29 3
Dec. 3 Middlesex Hosp. (h)	29 0
" 10 Pontypool (h)	9 0
" 17 Pontypool (a)	6 5
" 24 Aberavon (a)	0 0
" 26 Bridgend (h)	13 0
" 27 Llanelly (a)	6 3
" 31 Mountain Ash (h)	5 3

1950

	F. A.
Jan. 7 Ebbw Vale (a)	6 3
" 14 Glam. Wand. (a)	6 6
" 21 Lydney (h)	15 9
" 28 Abertillery (h)	8 3
Feb. 4 Cheltenham (a)	8 0
" 11 Aberavon (h)	11 3
" 18 Ebbw Vale (h)	12 11
" 25 Cross Keys (h)	6 6
Mar. 4 London Univ. (h)	11 6
" 6 Briton Ferry (a)	9 8
" 11 Bridgend (a)	3 3
" 18 Aldershot S. (h)	14 5
" 25 Penryn (a)	14 0
" 27 Redruth (a)	3 0
" 28 Falmouth (a)	11 0
Apr. 1 Newbridge (a)	0 0
" 7 Devonport S. (h)	19 0
" 8 Birmingham (h)	13 0
" 10 King's Col. Hos. (h)	6 0
" 11 Nuneaton (h)	0 0
" 15 The Welch Regt. (h)	14 6
" 22 Bridgend (a)	3 3
" 26 Llanelly (h)	3 0
" 29 Neath (a)	6 6

Absence of key players has upset Cardiff

RUGBY is all over now, and in common with most of the others the Cardiff players and officials are not sorry that they can have a few months rest after such a trying season (writes Reg Pelling).

It was a season which started so brightly (the first three matches were won by 37-6, 34-5, and 20-0), but entered upon a very bad patch in October, when several star men were injured.

It will always be remembered with pride that five of the club's players were honoured in being chosen for the British touring team, and though their departure has been a disastrous blow so far as results are concerned, this distinction is one which Cardiff will always cherish.

Much of the glamour attached to the club is still on the high seas with those five players, and it has been difficult going without them these last few weeks.

But it has been a sacrifice which Cardiff has made gladly, even though their playing record and financial affairs have been made to look a bit sick since they went.

Thoroughly justified

The silver lining to it is, of course, that Messrs. Williams, Matthews, Cleaver, Willis and Davies will be back again next October.

No-one will deny that the experiments decided upon for to-day's match at Pontypool were thoroughly justified by the run of events lately.

Still—it is not surprising that Cardiff's fall from grace (but temporarily I feel sure), should have been so swift, when one realises that four of the five absentees are vital key men—both half backs and centres.

Players who have undertaken the invidious job of filling their places have tried gallantly and wholeheartedly to minimise the loss of this minor constellation, but it has become increasingly apparent that they were simply unable to make the grade.

There has been an absence of thrust and initiative which is wholly foreign to the Cardiff tradition, and one could feel the greatest sympathy and respect for Frank Trott who, as acting captain, strained every nerve in every match to right this state of affairs.

It is a rugby truism that the strength of any club depends upon the strength of its reserves.

After the acid test to which it has been subjected this season, and in spite of the high promise shown earlier on, one is forced to the conclusion that the Cardiff Athletic side has failed to fulfil its primary function, that of supplying good replacements for the first XV.

Unenviable task

No-one questions the loyalty, determination or willingness of the players who undertook the unenviable task of being "stand-ins" for the stars. They did their best, and the club should be thankful for it.

But unfortunately, their best was not good enough—as is plainly indicated by this season's decline in the Cardiff prestige.

As a final word, however, let us admit that that was only to be expected; that such tribulations come to every club in turn; that when next season begins these things will all be forgotten; and that by the time the "boys come trooping back" Cardiff's attraction and power will be as great as ever.

A preliminary check-up of my records shows that Terry Cook has played more games than anyone else for Cardiff this season, with Frank Trott and Gower Jenkins close behind. Ewart Tamplin is top scorer... but I will give all the details in next week's article, the last of the season.

HE WAS TACKLED



HANDEL GREVILLE, the Llanelly scrum-half, comes away from a scrum against Cardiff at the Arms Park, but a fraction of a second after this photograph was taken he was successfully tackled by wing-forward Judd (No. 15).

BILLY CLEAVER

New Captain of Cardiff Rugby Club

At the annual general meeting of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club, presided over by the club chairman, Mr. S. C. Cravos, the players' nomination of W. B. Cleaver for club captain next season was unanimously accepted.

The 12 members of the committee who served last season were re-elected as follows: Messrs. D. Brown, S. C. Cravos, D. E. Davies, N. James, B. H. Jenkins, H. Johnson, J. Matthews, G. Porter, L. M. Spence, A. T. Thomas, J. Thomas and L. Williams.

Mr. Cravos warmly commended the formation of a Youth XV, and the success of the Cardiff Schoolboys XV in winning the Dewar Shield competition for the fourth successive season.

He said that, so far, there was nothing definite to announce regarding improved accommodation at the Cardiff Arms Park.

The chairman praised Frank Trott for the work he did as vice-captain of the club in the absence of Bledwyn Williams.

Your Queries Answered

Talgarth.—(1) The Australian side which was beaten by Cardiff in September, 1947, was: C. Windsor, J. T. W. McBride, T. Allan, M. L. Howell, C. C. Eastes, N. Emery, R. M. Cawsey, A. J. Buchan, C. T. Windon, G. Cooke, N. Sheehy, W. M. McLean, R. McMaster, W. L. Dawson, and G. Tweedale. The Wallabies' penalty goal was kicked by Trevor Allan.

(2) Eastes was not amongst those injured in this match. He broke his wrist later, against Newport, on being tackled by Ken Jones.

(3) The teams in the Wales v. Ireland match at Cardiff in 1936 (when Wales won the championship) were:

Wales: V. G. J. Jenkins (London Welsh); B. E. W. McCall (Welsh Regiment); W. Wooler (Cambridge Univ.); W. T. H. Davies (Swansea); J. Iwal Rees (Swansea) and Edinburgh Wanderers; Cliff Jones (Cambridge Univ.); Haydn Tanner (Swansea); T. J. Rees (Newport); Bryn Evans (Llanelly); Trevor Williams (Cross Keys); Griff Williams (Aberavon); Harold Thomas (Neath); J. Lang (Llanelly); A. M. Rees (London Welsh); Eddie Long (Swansea).

Ireland: L. Malcolmson (North of Ireland); J. J. O'Connor (Univ. College, Cork); L. M. McMahon (Blackrock College); Dublin; C. V. Boyle (Dublin Univ.); V. Hewitt (Instonians); G. Morgan (Clontarf); J. Higgins (Collegians); C. R. Graves (Wanderers); J. Russell (Univ. College, Cork); H. J. Sayers (Lansdowne); S. Deering (Beetie Rangers); S. Walker (Instonians); R. Alexander (North of Ireland); C. R. Beamish (R.A.F.).

P.J.D. (Barrs)—Tommy Farr was the first challenger to meet Joe Louis after the latter had won the heavy-weight championship of the world.

Ewart Tamplin heads the list of Cardiff scorers

EWART TAMPLIN, bustling leader of the Cardiff pack and goal-kicking expert, tops the list of scorers for Cardiff during the season just ended, having scored more than twice as many points as anyone else (writes Reg Pelling).

With four tries, 22 penalty goals, a dropped goal and 20 conversions, his personal total comes to 139 points.

Next comes the club captain, Bledwyn Williams, who in 23 appearances scored practically a try a match—23—giving him 69 points.

The two wing-threequarters, Terry Cook and Russell Burn, tie for third place with 19 tries (57 points) apiece. They were the principal contributors to Cardiff's total of 509 points during the season—40 points more than any other leading Welsh side.

The rest of the players come a long way behind and are headed by wing-forward John Nelson with eight tries (24 points to his credit). Sid Judd and Paul Ash notched 21 points each. Billy Cleaver got 16, and Frank Trott and Jack Matthews 15 apiece.

Gower Jenkins, Cliff Morgan, Malcolm Collins and Malcolm Davies are level at nine points each. Cliff Davies, Gwyn Evans, Dai Jones and Derek lies each scored six points.

Others who scored one try each during the season were Rex Willis, J. R. Phillips, Peter Goodfellow, Stan Bowes, C. D. Williams and Howell Loveluck.

Cardiff's scoring record of 509 points came from 117 tries, three dropped goals, 25 penalties and 37 conversions.

Missed three

Terry Cook played more matches than anyone else. He missed only three of the team's 46 games. Close behind come Trott and Goodfellow with 42 appearances, and Jenkins with 40.

Tamplin and Nelson played 37 times. Phillips 33, Burn 32, Collins 30, Ash 29, C. Davies 28, Willis and Cliff Morgan 26, Gwyn Evans 25, Bledwyn Williams 23, Matthews, Cleaver and Judd 20.

It will no doubt surprise many people to realise that Cliff Morgan played more times than Cleaver at outside half, and that in spite of his long absence through injury Bledwyn Williams played more games than either Jack Matthews or Cleaver.

In the pack, G. Beckingham turned out 16 times for the first team, Len Evans and Bowes 11 times each, and R. M. Glover nine times.

Inside half vacancies were filled by J. Bladen (eight times), Wynford Davies (seven) and Brian Marks (four), though Frank Trott played there once, as well.

Malcolm Davies played eight matches and C. D. Williams, H. Compton and Ian McLennett seven each.

Altogether 44 players wore the Cardiff jersey during the season.

Painful injury

One of the outstanding figures with the club has undoubtedly been Frank Trott, who has had to act as captain almost as many times as Bledwyn Williams himself. Frank missed only four games after receiving a painful injury against Swansea last October, and throughout has proved himself a most loyal and enthusiastic member of the club.

His form at Pontypool last Saturday was such that every Cardiff follower was most emphatic that his time for retirement is not yet. We shall see Frank playing for Cardiff again next season, have no doubts about that.

The action of the Cardiff club in renewing fixtures with Aberavon and Bridgend will be heartily endorsed in Wales and must, I should think, act as some encouragement for Maesteg, whose dearest wish it is to play on the famous Cardiff Arms Park enclosure.

Incidentally, just as soon as the last match of the season was finished on the ground last week, the job of reseeded that part of the pitch in front of the double-decker stand, where a bomb landed during the war, was started.

A Memorable Try

GWYN EVANS, the Cardiff, Wales and Barbarian wing-forward, is to retire from Rugby football. He made this announcement yesterday and thus ends a short but interesting career. Born in the Swansea Valley, he showed great promise both as a schoolboy and in junior football. On joining the police, however, his opportunities to play were limited and it was not until after the war that he blossomed forth, first as a member of the Cardiff City Police XV, and then with the Cardiff club.

Joining the club late in 1946 he was only in the first XV for eight weeks before he got his first "cap" against England in January, 1947. He gained 12 consecutive "caps," and was one of the best open-side wing-forwards in the game. His famous "dummy" try against England at Cardiff will be long remembered. **W. MAIL.**

RUGBY FOOTBALL

D. J. O'BRIEN MAY PLAY FOR CARDIFF

By J. B. G. THOMAS

CARDIFF R.F.C. are likely to have the services of an Irish international forward next season. He is D. J. O'Brien, of the London Irish, who has gained 11 consecutive Irish "caps" since he first appeared against England in 1948.

He has recently been transferred from London to the Cardiff office of a well-known firm of brewers.



D. J. O'Brien.

Yesterday he told me that he looked forward to having the opportunity of playing a few games in Wales next season. "I would feel an honour to have a couple of games for Cardiff," he added.

COUNTIES MEETING

The Welsh Counties Rugby Association, formed last month, is to hold another important meeting to discuss its future at the Castle Hotel, Neath, to-morrow (5 p.m.). The recent proposal of the W.R.U. to reconsider the position of the counties will be discussed and also arrangements for next season, when it is hoped to hold a Welsh County championship.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. GABE

Yesterday Rhys Gabe called in to see me looking fitter than ever. He was celebrating his 70th birthday and told me that his life-long friend and former team-mate, Percy Bush, is 71 to-day. They are two of the five surviving members of the famous 1905 Welsh XV, which inflicted defeat upon the New Zealand "All Blacks." The other three are W. M. Llewellyn, Cliff Pritchard, and Will Joseph. Long may these heroes live!

F. ECHO 28/1/50

A TOUCHING MEMORY

TO the London Harlequins belongs the honour of being the first London club to play on the Cardiff Arms Park. Their game against Cardiff was attended by a record for those days—800 spectators! This was 69 years ago. As each team scored two touches in goal the result was a draw. Touches then counted in the scoring.

S. EXPRESS 25/6/50

THE British Rugby Tour in Australia and New Zealand keeps the game in the public eye, so it is not inappropriate to record that Desmond O'Brien, the Irish international lock forward, has come to Wales more or less permanently.

When I met this tall, tow-headed Irishman last week he told me that since he is based in Cardiff he would like to have a season or so with the Cardiff club.

An automatic choice for Ireland, he confesses that he is no longer very young, but judging on last season's form he will be a great acquisition to Welsh club Rugby.

W. MAIL 27/6/50

COUNTIES RUGBY CUP



THE cup given by an anonymous person for the purpose of a knock-out competition next season between the seven clubs of the newly-formed Welsh Counties Rugby Union.

"Revert to Competitive Rugby"—MAJOR VILE

By J. B. G. THOMAS

THE suggestion that excluding the leading 20 clubs the smaller clubs in Wales should revert to competitive Rugby football was made on Saturday by Major T. H. Vile, Newport, a senior vice-president of the Welsh Rugby Union. He was responding to the toast of "The Guests," proposed by the chairman, Mr. Hubert Johnson, at the Cardiff Rugby Club's annual dinner.

Major Vile said, "I would like to see the Monmouthshire League, the old Glamorgan League, the West Wales Union and the Pembrokeshire League brought back to strengthen Semi-finals and finals could be held of each league and then the finalists could meet. I would like to see the South Wales Cup competition revived, and the proceeds of the semi-finals and finals distributed among the smaller clubs."

He went on to say that such a scheme would relieve the Welsh Rugby Union financially and enable them to proceed with their other plans.

Referring to the Cardiff Club, Major Vile said it had been a great one since its inception, and had always supplied its quota of players to touring sides. He expressed the opinion that the best performances of the present British Touring side were yet to come. "We shall see them at their best in the North Island," he added.

He thanked the Cardiff Club for helping to maintain the prestige of Rugby football during the past four seasons, and said he would like to see Inter-Varsity and Services matches played in Wales and not remain the monopoly of Twickenham.

Other speakers at the dinner included the Deputy Lord Mayor Alderman G. L. Ferrier, Messrs. Frank Trott, who intimated that he was going to play another season, W. E. Tamplin, who will lead the club next winter until W. B. Cleaver returns, and the Rev. Howell Loveluck.



CLIFF MORGAN



GORONWY MORGAN

YOUTHFUL HALF-BACKS

TWO Morgan's, Cliff and Goronwy, are trying for places in the Cardiff team this season.

Cliff, aged 19, comes from Trealaw, and has been coached by Cliff Jones. His play, in fact, is strongly reminiscent of the famous Welsh stand-off half.

Goronwy, who is not yet 18, partnered Cliff at half back in the victorious Welsh Secondary Schools' team last season. He is a product of Neath Grammar School.

Both have done very well indeed in Cardiff's preliminary trials, and will certainly be given every encouragement by the club, whose famous ranks they hope to join.

BRITISH FULL-BACK

NONE of the critics seems to have remarked upon the British touring team having to play a stand-off as full-back, which would be the position if Norton was crooked.

Considering that Cleaver has shown himself to be the best outside half so far this year, it is rather a pity that his reputation should be prejudiced. And perhaps it would have a decided effect upon the touring team's success.

I maintain that another regular full-back should have been chosen. Hook of Gloucester, if he is fit, would fill the position nicely.

This is my one and only criticism of the team. A. H. Chepstow.



F. TROTT



J. MATTHEWS



M. JENNETT



R. BURN



R. WILLIAMS



J. CLEAVER



H. TANNER



GOODFELLOW



S. EVANS



J. DOUGLAS



J. JUDD



E. TAMPLIN



C. DAVIES



J. PHILLIPS



S. JENKINS

RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Above are 18 Cardiff players, Welsh rugby champions of 1948-49. They are the men who have upheld the best traditions of Rugby Union, football and attracted larger club crowds than ever before in the history of club games.

Their names are as familiar in the mouth as household words. . . . "Tanner, Bleddyn Williams, Cleaver, Judd, Nelson, McJennett, Jenkins, Phillips, Cliff Davies, Douglas Trott, Goodfellow, Burn, Tamplin, Bowes, Matthews, Evans and St. John Rees."



NELSON



S. BOWES



ST. JOHN REES

Cardiff Backs in Form — Cleaver Controversy Revived—Tribute to Cliff Davies—Lavis's Bad Luck

WATCHING Cardiff piling up 30 points shortly after half-time last Saturday at the Cardiff Arms Park made it impossible to believe that Wales had achieved only one victory in this year's international championship.

Pending the result of the match against the Ba-Bans, when quite a few theories may be made or broken, candour compels me to admit that it rather looks as if Billy Cleaver should have been outside half for Wales as well as Cardiff.

Regular Understanding

ALTHOUGH I refuse at the moment to abandon my theory that Cleaver should be playing regularly at full back for the ultimate good of Wales, it certainly seems that the understanding bred in game after game on a Saturday afternoon between Tanner, Cleaver and Bledwyn Williams might have turned the scale in international matches. For it was on this rock that the Welsh backs perished.

Need for Experience

IN every game Glyn Davies made sufficient clear-cut openings to win the game. They were almost invariably those clean straight breakthroughs with which Cliff Jones used to spearhead the defence.

But Cliff always had Wilfred Wooller up with him to take advantage of them. On the other hand, Glyn Davies mostly found himself alone in hostile territory. With more experience, the young Welsh outside-half would kick or continue to go on his own.

As it was, it was noticed particularly against Ireland, that he waited for someone else to come up and thus lost all the effect of his own brilliance.

Trio Split

I STILL don't believe that Cleaver is as good an outside-half as Glyn Davies—purely as an outside-half that is. There have been, however, persistent arguments that the Cardiff midfield trio should not have been split as long as the

side was to be built around the phenomenally successful Cardiff. While deploring the necessity, I am now just a little inclined to think that the effectiveness of such a policy might have outweighed all its obvious disadvantages.

Smooth Machine

COVENTRY, one of Cardiff's oldest rivals and usually one of the best of English clubs, had a very rough ride. The Cardiff machine worked very, very smoothly, and Cleaver himself flashed through the defence almost as he liked at one period.

The Coventry wing-forwards couldn't match him for speed and he took full advantage of the fact. All the backs had a good day, after a rather lethargic afternoon against Oxford University, and Tanner gave one of his very best

displays—as if to stifle any rumours of his impending retirement.

If the Barbarians allow this Cardiff side any rope or are at all slow in their spoiling, they will certainly have to go to take away the club's ground record.

A Great Forward

THIS is perhaps the point to pay a tribute to Cliff Davies. If I had to guess the player with the No. 2 priority in the selection of the Welsh team (Haydn Tanner is obviously No. 1) I should unhesitatingly nominate the Cardiff front-row forward.

He has certainly played storming games in all the international years, and, indeed, like his club captain, practically never plays a bad game.

He has this season emphasised the incredible folly of last year's selectors in leaving him out of that vital first game against England when a dropped goal from Hall robbed us of a "Triple Crown."

BLEDDYN WILLIAMS, Cardiff

THE man for whom a Rugby League club offered the highest sum on record (£4,500)—without success!—will follow in Haydn Tanner's footsteps as Cardiff's captain this season.



Twenty-six-year-old Bledwyn Williams has gained almost every honour the Rugby Union code has to offer, but he has two ambitions now to be fulfilled to lead Cardiff through an invincible season and to win a place in the British rugby touring team which visits the Antipodes at the season's end.

A brilliant centre on his day, with a devastating side-step, Bledwyn holds the record for the number of tries scored for Cardiff in one season. He scored 41 during season 1947-48, beating the previous record of 40 by Tommy Pearson, which had stood for almost half a century.

Twenty a-side

TWENTY players a-side were played in international games until 1877. Teams were made up of 13 forwards, three half-backs, one three-quarter and three full-backs. The present four three-quarter game was introduced by Cardiff in season 1885-6.

Is Cardiff's Strength Good for Game?

By E. R. K. GLOVER

CARDIFF rugby team's record at this stage of the season is even better than it was in last year's record-breaking effort. Yet there is increased talk, in dubious terms, about them.

People say their pack is too old; that their hooking will not provide enough of the ball for the backs, and the rest.

But the chief cause of argument revolves round whether it is a good thing for Welsh rugby for one team so to dominate the scene.

I have heard both viewpoints expressed with vehemence and even anger. Those against, base their objections on the effect of the actual standard of play and sometimes on the general sporting effect, while claiming that supporters of the smaller clubs tend to turn to soccer. They point out that in spite of Cardiff having easily the best team in the four countries the national side held a very lowly place in the championship table.

Standard Reflected

The arguments for are simple: Cardiff's high standard is reflected in an improvement in all other Welsh clubs who also now have fine records against leading English and Scots teams.

They contend that the national side suffered last season only

through faulty selection and that, in the past, the Welsh team has always had a better international record when one club has been outstanding.

It is further claimed that, in these highly commercialised days, one must consider the financial aspect, and it is a fact that Cardiff draws the crowds, in away matches as well as at the Arms Park, which inevitably benefits Welsh rugby as a whole.

It is very easy to be convinced by either side probably because both arguments contain a grain of truth.

Some of the points at issue can never be settled. For instance, no one can say for certain whether 15 experts will do more good technically for the game when playing as a team than when scattered among 15 clubs.

One thing, however, is certain, a lot of harm done by the success of the Cardiff Club does not arise in itself but through petty sectional jealousy of other areas.

Anyway, the whole matter will probably settle itself within a couple of seasons by Cardiff ceasing to be so very good.

Well done Rex!

Let Me Get At Him!



Cardiff hooker, G. Beckingham, pounds down on G. Morse, the Swansea right wing, as he shapes to kick. G. Jeffries, Swansea's hooker, looks on anxiously.



Llandaff Rugby Club took the opportunity at their annual supper this week to present Rex Willis with a plaque of the club coat of arms in recognition of his achievements since leaving to join Cardiff. In gaining a place in the Welsh Triple Crown team and the British party to tour New Zealand and Australia.

CARDIFF ARMS PARK EXTENSION PLANS STILL NOT ADEQUATE

RUGBY enthusiasts in Cardiff, and in East Wales generally, I suppose (writes Reg Pelling) will be watching the developments concerning extensions to the Cardiff Arms Park with great interest.

As I revealed a week or so ago, a composite committee representing the Welsh Rugby Union, the Cardiff Athletic Club and the Arms Park Company are to meet very shortly to get down in earnest to the matter of making improvements to the ground which, apart from making it one of the best equipped in the country, would also increase its capacity to some 73,000.

Unless Swansea Corporation, owners of St. Helen's, could better this, it would mean that Cardiff would then become the national rugby ground of Wales. That is why the first meeting of this composite committee, scheduled for next Tuesday week, will be of such importance to rugby fans in this area.

I wish them well in their deliberations, for, after one has visited the magnificently-appointed grounds at Twickenham and Murrayfield, one begins to realise how far Wales and Ireland lag behind in this respect. It's an old saying of course, that West Wales enthusiasts would rather internationals should be played at Cardiff, because it gives them a better chance of getting in to see the match (Cardiff accommodates 53,000 at present, against Swansea's 40,000 at the most), but even

100,000 capacity

the Arms Park is not big enough to cope with the number of people who would like to see international rugby.

Nor would it be big enough even with the suggested extension to 73,000. Twickenham last week proved that and, indeed, drove home the hard fact that only a ground with 100,000 accommodation could begin to cater adequately for the crowds.

As it is, since Thursday the Cardiff secretary, Mr. Brice H. Jenkins, has been receiving money he has received in excess of the tickets he had to dispose of for the Swansea international.

They numbered about 1,400 in all—not nearly enough to meet even half of the demands made by Cardiff followers alone.

While many of the spectators at the Cardiff v. Bath match last week were listening in with rising enthusiasm to the performances of the Welsh players at Twickenham, others were expressing appreciation of the fine display being given by the reserve men in winning such a grand victory over Bath.

There have been many occasions in the past when the Cardiff club and its supporters have been extremely grateful for the services of players most of whose time is spent in the Athletic XV, away from the glamour and publicity.

So it is fitting, I feel, that public appreciation of their efforts should now be given.

I know that the club itself has complimented these men time after time, as indeed is their right. For the strength of any club depends upon the talent it has in reserve. And in that respect Cardiff is very fortunate. The Cardiff contingent in last



CLIFF DAVIES

week's Welsh team—criticised by many people from the east and west—played their parts nobly and well towards winning Wales a great victory.

Cliff Davies, as indefatigable as ever, showed the value of intelligent backing up when he crowned young Lewis Jones's great effort with the first try. Cleaver was a host unto himself, playing the perfect type of game to suit the circumstances—it was his shrewd judgment which led up to the vital winning try—and his partner, Rex Willis, though he started rather shakily, which was understandable, was in his best form long before the end.

As for Jack Matthews—well he must still be sore from all the crash-tackling he got through. Some of those Englishmen were big hefty fellows . . . but they went down just the same, and even if Jack didn't shine as much in attack as he normally does, he was worth his not inconsiderable weight in gold to Wales for his keen marking and devastating tackling.



LES WILLIAMS.

THEY SING PRAISES OF CARDIFF'S FOUR INTERNATIONALS

WELSHMEN everywhere are still talking about the great parts played by two Cardiff men—Jack Matthews and Billy Cleaver—in Wales's hard-fought win against Scotland last week (writes Reg Pelling).

Dr. Matthews probably prescribed a place in the British team, for himself, as a result of his superb all-round display, which was, by far, the best game he has ever played for his country.

Yet a lot of the people who have been talking about the match seem inclined to overlook Matthews's wonderful crash-tackling.

That, I suppose, was dimmed by the two brilliant thrusts he made and from which Wales scored her two tries.

Most common remark I have heard is, in fact, that "Jack's attack and Billy's defence won the match for Wales."

There is truth in that, naturally, but it is by no means the whole story.

Matthews did just as much physical defensive work as Cleaver, more in fact. And Cleaver did a great deal of attacking work, largely, it is true, as a result of his tactical kicking.

Cleaver's ideal game

In short, Cleaver played the ideal game in the circumstances.

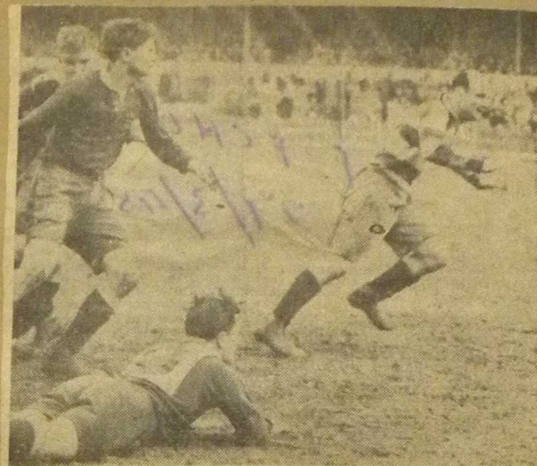
The selection of both men had been rather severely criticised (in places other than Cardiff), but now, such is the Welsh temperament, no praise is too high for them.

Matthews, in particular, is being hailed as the hero of the game, but though I have joined wholeheartedly in paying tribute to his all-round excellence I still cling to the assertion that one of the most telling factors in a tremendously hard game was Cleaver's beautifully-judged kicking.

It had every bit as much to do with the Welsh win as did the ferocious display of our forwards—and the initiative of Matthews.

Indeed, Cardiff has every reason to be extremely proud of its four representatives in the Welsh XV.

Of eight supremely-good forwards, Cliff Davies yet managed to stand out. Can one say more of his great display?



Coventry got the ball away and Gwyn Evans prepares to go into the tackle in the match at the Arms Park last Saturday.



Billy Cleaver



Rex Willis



Cliff Davies



Jack Matthews

Bundle of energy

A bundle of bubbling energy, here, there and everywhere in the loose, falling back to make a defensive mark or to lend support to his harassed backs; backing up at top speed to make an extra attacker—Cliff was in tremendous form.

Then there was Rex Willis. Once again he started a little slowly, but by half-time he was sending out a flow of long passes which suited Cleaver's book—and boot—just nicely.

It is wrong to say that Cleaver stood closer to the scrummages. More correct is the fact that Willis improved upon the length of his passing, judged by the English match.

It was not until the end of the game was approaching that Rex decided to make a couple of sorties on his own—and then he did it beautifully.

Just before Cleaver dropped his goal, which finally clinched matters, Willis made one superb break on his own, which his partner backed up in great style.

A try very nearly accrued as a result and Willis's stock certainly rose considerably in the eyes of the local partisans, who naturally were watching him very closely ready to make invidious comparisons between him and their own favourite Roy Sutton.

Date for Bledwyn

All four Cardiff players are bound to go into the Welsh team to play Ireland in what might well be the "Triple Crown" decider.

Rex should bear his St. Helen's success in mind, for he will be called upon to play a very similar type of game.

If he does as well in Belfast, we'll all be very well satisfied.

And the Cardiff skipper, Bledwyn Williams, may well make the fifth Cardiff player in the international team to travel across the Irish Sea.

He is making every effort to get himself thoroughly fit, and his present intention is to turn out for Cardiff against Gloucester at the Arms Park on February 25. Which is just a few days before the Welsh "Big Five" meet to pick the team to play Ireland.

So February 25 will be a big occasion for Bledwyn.

EWART Tamplin, Cardiff and former Welsh international forward, is taking a full Cardiff team to play Magor on March 16.

He is now the village policeman there, and is a member of the Magor committee, as well as spending some of his spare time in coaching the local team.

All Cardiff's "stars" have promised to play in the match, the object of which is to raise funds for the village hall, though part of the proceeds will also be given to the Magor Rugby club.

As the match is scheduled to take place a few days after the Wales-Ireland international in Belfast, residents of Magor and indeed people from all over Monmouthshire, might well be given the chance of acclaiming some of the Welsh "Triple Crown" heroes.



'Cardiff complex' accusation is mere parochialism

Cardiff's Splendid 29-8 Win

WITH so many accusations of having a "Cardiff complex" being levelled at the Welsh rugby selectors, local "fans" are expecting that the Cardiff contingent in to-day's Welsh team will, by their displays, give the lie direct that there has been any favouritism exercised on the club's behalf (writes Reg Pelling).

My view in the matter (and I have expressed it often before) is that if the best 15 players in Wales were all in the Cardiff team, then that shouldn't be allowed to count against them.

Parochial viewpoints are tiresome and the story, which I don't believe anyway, that certain holders of Twickenham stand-tickets tore them up because only one of their local players had been chosen, is utter rubbish.

The less narrow-minded followers of the game in Wales will be hoping that the Cardiff key-men in the Welsh team were covering themselves with glory this afternoon—not for Cardiff's sake, but on behalf of the Principality.

And that's the only reasonable and sensible way of looking at it.

Valuable reserves

With so many demands made upon the services of their players, not to mention the unusually heavy crop of injuries, it is rare these days that the Cardiff club is able to field a thoroughly representative side, and they have very good cause to be thankful for the services of most capable reserve players.

One of the best of these is Len Evans, pack-leader of the Athletic XV, who, during the illness of Howell Loveluck, has had the extra responsibility of captaining the reserve side.

This he has been doing admirably and the club, I know, are very grateful to him for his excellent services in bringing on the youngsters, apart entirely from his usefulness to the first XV when necessary.

Loveluck should be fit again in a couple of weeks time. He is already in training.

Ralph Jones, who is appearing at centre with the first team against Bath this afternoon (he played his first game at Leicester recently), was captain of Aberillery when this season began.

He is a bank official in Cardiff, lives at St. Mellons and found travelling so tedious that he resigned the captaincy of the Monmouthshire club with no hard feelings on either side.

Sid Judd, by the way, has returned to the teachers' training college at Carmarthen and won't be available to Cardiff until the next recess. Bryn Williams, Bledwyn's brother, has asked for his transfer from Taff's Well to Cardiff.

Swansea tickets

Bristol folk think very highly indeed of Cardiff's prowess in the field of rugby, so much so that the Lord Mayor of that city gave the team a civic welcome last week, and afterwards entertained both teams and officials, plus Cardiff's Lord Mayor, to dinner.

The ballot for stand and enclosure tickets for the international match at Swansea a fortnight hence having been completed, and the successful people informed, those who were not successful in drawing a ticket, as well as all other season ticket holders, can apply in writing

Bleddyn will have another chance

Everybody in Wales will sympathise with the Cardiff skipper, Bledwyn Williams, in being deprived, through a troublesome injury, of achieving one of his life's crowning ambitions, that of leading his native country on to the well-nigh sacred turf of Twickenham.

Bledwyn was hoping against hope almost up to the last minute that he would be passed fit to play. But even at the expense of his own personal ambitions he would not be agreeable to taking the slightest risk when the welfare of his country was at stake.

His chance of the Welsh captaincy will assuredly come again. He has that consolation, at least.

on Monday for a field ticket to see the Wales-Scotland game.

These, it should be mentioned, are not as numerous as the club would wish, so it's a case of "first come first served," and I give you this tip before the official notices appear on Monday.

But post your application. Don't try and beat the postman by waiting on the club doorstep. That will get you nowhere.

W. MAIL JULY 1950

Cardiff Go North

CARDIFF R.F.C. are to visit Scotland next winter. They have renewed fixtures with the Watsonians and will play at Inverleith, Edinburgh, on January 1. It was hoped to have played Glasgow Academicals on December 30 (Saturday), but despite several enquiries no information could be obtained from the club. As a result Cardiff will stop at Newcastle on the way North and play a Northumberland XV. They will break new ground with this fixture and play in that county for the first time.

Since the Watsonians are in Wales during the Christmas holidays it is likely that they will travel back with the Cardiff Club who are assured of a good welcome in Edinburgh. Candidates for the Welsh XV, who play at Murrayfield on February 3 will have an opportunity of "tasting" the atmosphere of "Auld Reekie."

This morning's game at Penarth between Cardiff and the Harlequins was a unique event in the history of the Cardiff club. With the Twickenham ground in use for the English final trial, and Cardiff Arms Park taken over for the international match this afternoon with the Wallabies, the Penarth Athletic ground was chosen as the venue.

Cardiff, with their international players standing down in readiness for this afternoon's encounter, were seriously weakened. There was one change in their selected XV, H. Loveluck taking the place of Gwyn Martin at right-centre. Harlequins made five team changes.

CARDIFF: Frank Trott; I. McJennett, Haydn Thomas, H. Loveluck, Lieut. D. Jones; D. Iles, W. Darch; W. G. Jones, D. Rees, Stan Bowes, Roy Roberts, J. E. Carter, Elvet Jones, Len Evans, W. Douglas.

HARLEQUINS: A. M. McRoary; P. L. Hudson, K. Bellamy, J. R. O'Donnell, D. M. Stileman; T. Webb, H. De Lacey; B. Elvy, G. W. Plumtree, M. B. Devine, F. P. Dounkley, F. Bristowe, P. Goodman, A. Grimsdell, G. Burgess.

Referee: Mr. Trevor Jones.

A good crowd saw the game start at a brisk pace with the Harlequins on the attack for the first five minutes.

Twice I. McJennett smartly tackled his opposing wing, D. M. Stileman, when the Harlequin was in full stride.

Cardiff drew first blood after 15 minutes play. Elvet Jones caught the opposing defence napping with a lengthy mid-field dribble which swept play to within 15 yards of the Harlequins' line.

D. JONES, the Cardiff right wing, gained possession to burst through for a fine try. Roy Roberts failed with the kick.

After surviving a strong Harlequins' forward rush, well led by G. Burgess, Cardiff returned to the attack and DEREK ILES snapped up a loose ball to race past McRoary to score a smart opportunist try. Frank Trott converted and two minutes later TROTT increased the lead with a well-placed penalty goal.

Hudson and Bellamy combined well on the Harlequins' right wing but Cardiff beat off the Englishmen's spasmodic attacks.

Elvet Jones in a breakaway ran 30 yards before handing on to D. JONES, who converted past O'Donnell, for Cardiff's third try. Frank Trott, with a grand kick, added the extra points.

Half-CARDIFF ... 3 1 16
HARLEQUINS ... 0 0 0
Penalty.

A spirited individual effort by D. M. Stileman was a feature of the opening play on the resumption. STILEMAN, receiving just inside the Cardiff half, broke away to clear all opposition and score behind the posts. He converted his try.

It was not long, however, before Cardiff reasserted their superiority, and a quick round of passing resulted in D. JONES crossing. Frank Trott made no mistake with the conversion.

Cardiff's outsidies produced some sparkling play and D. JONES raced over for his fourth try, which was not converted.

Then HOWELL LOVELUCK broke through in delightful fashion to outpace the opposition. Frank Trott converted.

The Harlequins reduced the deficit when C. W. Plumtree and A. Grimsdell headed a forward rush and PLUMTREE scored a try which went unconverted.

Final-CARDIFF ... 3 2 29
HARLEQUINS ... 1 18
One penalty goal.

Bath Threw Away Many Chances at Arms Park

Cardiff, though weakened by the calls of Twickenham, won with ease at Arms Park, where Bath threw away chance after chance by rash kicking ahead.

With several players on international duty, Cardiff's side against Bath at Cardiff Arms Park was decidedly weakened.

Only Trott and Cook of the backs were able to field. The Bath team was unchanged. About 2,000 spectators saw Addenbrooke kick off. Teams:—

BATH: P. Sullivan; W. Williams, K. O'Shaughnessy, C. Addenbrooke, W. Donnelly, K. Wilcox, M. Hanna; J. Roberts, J. Francis, T. Smith, L. Harter (capt.), A. Burcombe, T. Lewis, J. Dingle, A. Lewis.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; T. Cook, R. T. Jones, P. Ash, M. Davies; C. Morgan, W. Davies; G. Jenkins, G. Beckenham, K. Lloyd, W. Tamplin, M. Collins, Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson, G. Evans.

Referee: B. Lindsay Richards, Llanelly.

A poor pass by Wynford Davies went astray and the situation looked tricky before Cliff Morgan picked up and punted to touch.

Hanna set his threees going from the line-out, but the move broke down as Bath's backs failed to draw the Cardiff defence, and Cook hustled Williams into touch.

Roberts broke away from the line-out and again faulty passing by Cardiff backs spelt danger.

Gwyn Evans, however, led a relieving foot rush to half-way.

Beckenham heeled and a fast round of passing left Cook as the man over. He ran hard and, though tackled, passed inside to NELSON, backing up, who went over for a try. The kick failed.

Within five minutes Cardiff went further ahead when Bath were penalised for offside and TAMPLIN landed a penalty kick plumb in the middle from 35 yards.

Lewis led a Bath rush to the Cardiff 25, but Bath were again penalised and Trott found a good touch on the half-way.

A spectacular if not constructive kick ahead by Cliff Morgan tested the Bath defence when the ball bounced awkwardly, but Donnelly neatly ducked under a high tackle by Malcolm Davies and cleared the line.

Cliff Morgan then drew the defence in great fashion, allowing Jones to cut through and race to the full-back before transferring to

Cook. The wing, with the line at his mercy, knocked on.

Bath works to the Cardiff line again, but Cardiff heeled and Trott sent them back with a lengthy kick.

There was plenty of enthusiasm in the Bath attack, but it lacked experience, and thoughtless punts ahead were replacing speedy passing.

Trott made an extra three-quarter and broke through fast. His pass to Ash, however, was low and ended on the ground.

Cliff Morgan made another great opening. He raced past Wilcox, drew the two centres and finally transferred to Ash, who crashed over far out. The kick failed. Just on half time Sullivan kicked a penalty goal for Bath.

Half-CARDIFF ... 1 2 9
BATH ... 1 0 3

Several set scrums gave Bath inside-half Hanna a chance to serve his backs with long direct passes bit Bath backs kept their punts-ahead complex, with the result that the Cardiff defence was not seriously troubled.

Wynford Davies stole away on the open side and made some 30 yards with a weaving run. His cross-kick, however, fell into the safe hands of Sullivan.

Fly-kicking of the worst order crept into the game for a period and the ball went to and fro over half way line with no advantage gained to either side. Faulty handling did not enhance the game as a spectacle.

From a loose maul 10 yards out Jenkins came away and sent COOK over. Tamplin put the ball just the wrong side of the post.

A forward rush carried Bath into Cardiff territory, and from a scrummage O'SHAUGHNESSY crossed under the posts. Sullivan converted.

Five minutes later Cliff Morgan dumbed and swerved through to increase Cardiff's lead. From an easy position Tamplin again sent wide.

Cardiff kept the upper hand and Trott again opened up the game to send MALCOLM DAVIES on a 50-yard run, which after a short punt over the full back's head led to a further try.

Final-CARDIFF ... 1 5 18
BATH ... 12 0 8
(Penalty: 1 One penalty).

COMMENTS
Bath, with a grand service from scrum-half Hanna, threw chances of a win away by their persistence in kicking ahead.

With Trott in good form, these tactics failed.

Cardiff, on the other hand, swung the ball about freely and gave chances to their strong running wings. Both Cook and Davies took full advantage.

The forward battle was fairly even with Cardiff perhaps doing the better in the loose.

French XV Visit

Arrangements are being made, in conjunction with the Cardiff club, for the visit of a combined Cognac and Nantes XV in September, 1952.

Present plans are for the Frenchmen to play Cardiff on September 27, 1952, and Newport on September 29.

It is likely that before then Newport will play both the Cognac and Nantes teams during a French tour planned for New Year, 1952.

COMMENTS

In a fast sporting game the greatly weakened Cardiff team did surprisingly well to inflict such a heavy defeat on their English visitors. The Cardiff outsidies gave a delightful display.

There was no weak link anywhere behind the Cardiff scrum, and with Darch and Iles combining well, the Cardiff three-quarters had plenty of opportunities.

Loveluck and Thomas were always dangerous in the centre, and D. Jones earned full marks for a grand performance in registering four tries.

Frank Trott displayed remarkable accuracy in his goal-kicking and Elvet Jones, W. G. Jones and Stan Bowes rendered Cardiff fine service in the pack.

The Harlequins, though testing the Cardiff defence on occasions, lacked their opponents thrust and straight running behind the scrum.

D. M. Stileman was a fast moving three quarter and G. W. Plumtree, A. Grimsdell and G. Burgess did well in the Harlequins' pack.

True to their grand traditions the Englishmen, when heavily in arrears, never gave up trying.

Four Penalty Goals at Arms Park

Successful place-kicking accounted for 14 of the 20 points in the game between Cardiff and London Welsh at Arms Park to-day.

Ewart Tamplin got eight of Cardiff's total of 14 with two penalty goals and a conversion, while Owen Jones with two penalty goals was the only scorer for the visitors.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

A very heavy ground, a strong wind and intermittent showers of hail and sleet provided difficult conditions.

The London Welsh made two changes, but Cardiff fielded as selected. Teams:

CARDIFF: F. Trott (capt.); R. Burn, J. Matthews, P. Ash, T. Cook, W. B. Cleaver, Rex Willis, C. Davies, J. R. Phillips, G. Jenkins, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, P. Goodfellow, G. Evans.

LONDON WELSH: G. Williams, G. Owen, T. N. T. Mansfield, S. J. Edwards, W. Jeffreys, Owen Jones, C. G. Thomas, J. E. Anderson, G. C. Roach, J. Holland, J. V. Davies, W. Annetts.

Referee: Mr. Ivor David, Neath. London Welsh won the toss, but chose to play into the strong wind. Consequently, Cardiff were soon on the attack. Tamplin failed with a 40-yard penalty, but Cardiff maintained their pressure on the Welsh 25 line.

Cleaver was soon in action, dodging here and there and making openings for his fellows. But forward passes and bad handling in the wind lost the initial advantage. Gerwyn Williams was frequently tested but as the Welsh forwards settled down they carried play to the halfway line.

It was obviously a forwards' day but Cardiff persisted with long passing, without any luck until Ash made a really good burst.

The ball was worked back from a line-out at the half-way and Ash went around his man and raced 40 yards up to Williams before putting COOK over for a try. Tamplin converted with a fine kick.

Cardiff continued to rely on their advantage behind the scrum, but the Welsh were put further in arrears when Mansfield stood off-side at a scrum inside his own 25. TAMPLIN kicked an easy goal.

The wind allowed Cardiff to return the kick with interest and they attacked strongly on the left through Ash and Cook.

Another penalty to Cardiff in front of the posts saw TAMPLIN kick his third goal.

When the Welsh took up the attack again they were well supported by their full-back, Williams, who fielded and kicked into the wind with accuracy.

Half—CARDIFF 3 0 11
LONDON W. 0 0 0

*Two penalties
London Welsh restarted with the

wind and were soon on the attack. Owen Jones was low with a drop at goal before Matthews and Cleaver relieved to halfway.

Then Willis fed Cleaver around the blind side, but Burn who took the inside pass, was grassed.

The Welsh forwards were still more than holding their own and play continued in the Cardiff half. Then the Cardiff pack suddenly wheeled but Collins got off-side after 30 yards had been gained.

The London Welsh set up a series of fierce forward attacks in the left hand corner, only to find Cleaver just ahead of them on one occasion when they drove the ball over the Cardiff line.

A further score came to Cardiff when MATTHEWS shook off a tackle during a Cardiff movement near the Welsh 25 and dummied and dodged his way over for a good try, which Tamplin failed to convert.

Back came the Welsh, and when Cardiff were penalised at a scrum 35 yards out OWEN JONES landed a very good goal.

This goal encouraged the Welsh and Glyn Owen was nearly over in the corner with a splendid dash. They hammered away at the Cardiff line but just could not get over.

However, another penalty was given against Cardiff in a scrum, and OWEN JONES landed his second penalty goal.

It was almost entirely London Welsh now until a splendid Cardiff forward rush by Tamplin and Davies took play into the Welsh half and forced the visitors to minor when Burn nearly got over for a try.

Before the close Willis went off injured and Burn went to scrum half, with Evans on the wing.

Final—CARDIFF 3 1 14
LONDON

WELSH *2 0 6
*Two penalties each

COMMENTS

The wind and the conditions rather spoiled this game which, although exciting on times, was not particularly high in standard.

The London Welsh pack were ahead of the Cardiff eight, but Cardiff held the superiority behind the scrum.

The Welsh choose to play against the wind during the first half and Cardiff might well have scored more than 11 points had they taken all their chances.

Cleaver Withdraws

W. B. CLEAVER, the brilliant Welsh and British utility player, will not captain Cardiff next season.



CLEAVER COOK

He is unable to accept the position on personal grounds, writes J. B. G. Thomas.

In a letter to Mr. B. H. Jenkins, secretary of the Cardiff Club, received from Australia yesterday morning, Cleaver asked that his withdrawal be placed before the club committee. This was done last night and the resignation was accepted with regret.



Cardiff's Paul Ash, collared by eagle, London Welsh hands, is forced to drop the ball—an incident in this afternoon's game at Arms Park.

S.W. ECHO 29/3/50

Russell Burn Signs For Swinton R.L. Club

RUSSELL Burn, Cardiff wing three-quarter, to-day signed professional forms for the Swinton Rugby League club (writes Reg Felling). Signing-on fee is not disclosed.

Burn was strongly in the running for Welsh international honours last season, and missed his best chance of a cap when, after being chosen as reserve for the Welsh team against England, he could not play because of injury.

Bleddyn Williams had cried off, and the Welsh selectors switched Malcolm Thomas to centre, and brought in Trevor Brewer on the wing.

A product of St. Iltyd's, Cardiff, Burn played for Cross Keys after completing his war service, and joined Cardiff at the start of the 1948-49 season. He scored 20 tries for Cardiff during his first season, and crossed the line 19 times last season.

Burn, who has just qualified under the Emergency Teachers' training scheme, is 24 years old, stands 5ft. 11ins. and weighs 11st. He is a determined runner with an elusive side-step, and should do well "up North."



RUSSELL BURN

W. MAIL 16/5/50

New Stand

THE plans for the new south stand at the Cardiff Arms Park were submitted to the management committee of the Cardiff Athletic Club this week. In view of the importance of the matter, however, it was decided to hold a special meeting in the near future to discuss it fully.

The decision to launch a club museum has met with the wholehearted approval of members, and a large show case has been purchased to exhibit donations.

W. MAIL JULY 1950

Athletic Museum

MR. H. J. HOLT, secretary of the Cardiff Athletic Club, tells me that it is the intention of his committee to start a sports museum in the clubhouse and invites all members, former players and friends to donate any souvenir relating to famous matches, players and incidents in the history of Cardiff Arms Park. Any old and interesting photographs will be treated with care and reproductions made so that the originals which might have great sentimental value, can be returned to their owners. International caps and jerseys, footballs and cricket bats used in historic matches will be most welcome.

The Swansea Sports Club have a most interesting collection in their pavilion at St. Helen's, and Cardiff sportsmen will have to get busy to emulate their friendly rivals in the West. It is intended to cover the history of the club from 1873 to 1950.

W. MAIL 31/7/50

Russell Burn Goes North

By J. B. G. THOMAS

THE departure of Russell Burn, the Cardiff Rugby Football Club wing three-quarter, to the Rugby League, where he will play with the Swinton Club next season, marks the start of another period of intensive activity by League officials in South Wales.

Burn, who is 24, is a product of Howard Gardens High School and played for Cross Keys before joining the Cardiff Club in September, 1948. An elusive runner, he scored 39 tries in his two seasons with Cardiff and appeared in several Welsh trials. He was reserve at Twickenham in January, but when Bleddyn Williams dropped out he himself was not fit enough to fill the vacancy.

The sum involved in the transfer is reported to be a four-figure one. Burn has qualified under the Emergency Teachers' Training Scheme, but has not been able to secure a satisfactory post in South Wales. He will take up a teaching post in the North of England.

I understand that other Welsh trialists, including a number of young Cardiff players, are being approached by Rugby League officials, who, it is reported, recently made an offer of nearly £5,000 to Lewis Jones, the young Welsh international, before he left to join the British team in New Zealand.

As manager of the North Celynidd Colliery, Newbridge, Cleaver has experienced difficulty from time to time in travelling both to home and away matches.

Could Not do Justice

QUITE obviously Cleaver must feel that he would not be able to do justice to the task of captain, living so far from Cardiff and in view of the busy times ahead of him in the mining industry. There is little doubt that had he been able to fulfil the appointment he would have proved a popular and successful captain.

W. E. Tamplin, whom Cleaver appointed as his vice, will now lead the club. Pack leader for a number of years, Tamplin will tackle a big task with enthusiasm.

No Surprise

THE news of the departure of T. Cook to the Halifax Rugby League Club yesterday did not come as any surprise, I remarked

in a recent article when Russell Burn the other wing, turned professional that other Cardiff players had been approached. Cook has signed for a four-figure fee. He appeared twice for Wales in 1949.

Notable Applicants

HOWEVER, in contrast to the news of the departure of players from the Cardiff club comes the announcement that some 66 applications have been received from players to take part in the trials starting next Tuesday. Several notable performers have applied, including H. Greenslade and G. Llewellyn (Bridgend), M. Pearce (Coventry), J. Thomas (Newport), and J. Llewellyn (Penarth) in addition to four members of last season's Welsh Secondary Schools XV. Thus the problems of the selection committee will be much easier than was at first thought.

Bleddyn will have good rest before Ireland International

EVERY Cardiff supporter, and indeed many thousands of his admirers in Wales and other parts, will applaud the decision of Bleddyn Williams, Cardiff's skipper, to take a few weeks rest from rugby (writes Reg Pelling).

His whole-hearted effort—ill-advised as it was—to win his place in to-day's Welsh team by playing at Swansea last week, caught people's imagination but did Bleddyn no good at all.

Everything was against him being successful, particularly the ground which was greasy on top and bone-hard under the thin surface.

It was treacherously dangerous, and for a man who had spent weeks away from the game with a stretched knee ligament, the conditions were simply impossible.

Still that is a measure of Bleddyn's keenness, and of his anxiety to get back into the flow of rugby affairs.

His bid failed, and now, very wisely, he is taking things more slowly and making sure he is absolutely fit before attempting to play again.

But he'll be challenging for a place in the Welsh team to play Ireland on March 11. Of that I feel convinced.

Crowd 'started' game

Actually I have good reason for saying that if the crowd had not already been in the ground when the Cardiff team arrived at St. Helen's last week, the match would not have been played.

Cardiff officials were dismayed when they realised how bad the pitch was—though they emphasise to me, that they are not holding this out as an excuse for the team's failure.

But as the crowd was already inside the ground, Cardiff decided to play the match. And everyone, including the referee, was glad when the game was over and there were no broken limbs to report.

Gwyn Evans, Cardiff wing forward, had four stitches inserted in



C. D. WILLIAMS.

his cut head and will be out of the team for a week or two.

In his place, Cardiff are fortunate to have C. D. Williams, Oxford "blue" and London Welsh and Welsh trials wing forward, back in the fold.

He is a product of Cardiff and played for the club during the war before going to Oxford.

Now he has an appointment under the National Coal Board in Cardiff, so has obtained his transfer back to his old club.

Cardiff are glad to have him. Another former player who has returned to them is wing three-quarter Ian McJennett, who has just been demobbed from the Services.

He played a lot of rugby with the B.A.O.R. in Germany and will soon be in action at Cardiff again.

Meanwhile, Dai Jones, centre or wing three-quarter, has had a cartilage removed and will not play again this season.

Frontrow forward Stan Bowes, whose knee injury is almost identical with that of the Cardiff captain, will also be out of the game for a few weeks.

Arms Park fixture

I would like to draw attention to the Bridgend-Newbridge fixture, which is due to be played on the Arms Park on February 18, the day Cardiff play the Harlequins in London.

This will be the first time for the Newbridge team, runners-up to Cardiff for so long, to appear on the Park.

All the profits, as on the last occasion, will be handed over to the Bridgend club, who, as is now well known, lost their ground to the Rugby League at the beginning of the season.

Record nevertheless, is an excellent one and as both clubs are desirous of fixtures with Cardiff—Newbridge have been clamouring for one for a long time—the Cardiff supporters will have a good opportunity to form unbiased opinions as to the quality of their performance.

Incidentally the Cardiff club has been discussing a newspaper allegation that they have snubbed Maesteg, in refusing to give them a fixture. A reply is being drafted at present, so more of that later.

Cardiff will be glad to have tourists back

ONE can dismiss as premature guesswork the "news" that Jack Matthews and Cliff Davies intend to retire from rugby (writes Reg Pelling).

Rumours about it have been circulating for some time, but with both players at present in Australia—and playing top-class football into the bargain—there is no foundation, in fact, for such statements.

People who like to feel they are on the "inside" of things have been doing a bit of "putting two and two together" and getting a specious, but incorrect answer.

They contend that as both players are reaching the veteran stage so far as rugby is concerned, and that as the game cannot possibly provide any further honours for them, they might decide to hang up their boots when the British tourists get back to this country.

So they might—but it is very unlikely.

If they did decide to leave the game while they are both still at the top, no-one would deny them that right. But I feel confident that they will be playing for Cardiff again this coming season, after taking a well-deserved respite upon returning from the tour.

No-one connected officially with the Cardiff club has any reason for believing otherwise.

Many vacancies

The club is ready, indeed anxious, to welcome all its five British players back to Cardiff Arms Park. They feel they are going to need their services more than ever this season.

For the gap which their departure created last March showed up all too plainly a paucity of the reserve talent at the club's disposal.

As they will still have to do without Cleaver, Bleddyn and Co. for the first half-dozen matches of the season (probably a few more while they take a long breather) a closer watch than ever is to be kept upon the trial matches, and early-season form of new talent.

Not only that, but a permanent replacement has to be found for wingers Russell Burn, surely one of the unluckiest players not to be "capped," and Terry Cook, who have decided to adorn the Rugby League code.

Irish Cap

It is too early yet to talk about new players who may join the club, for applications for trials are still coming in. One man, who looks a certainty for the first team, however, is the Irish international Desmond O'Brien.

Yet he will still have to play for his place; his reputation, even as one of that great Irish pack which nearly beat Wales last season, will not be sufficient in itself.

O'Brien, a real sportsman, appreciates that. He is quite content to "start at the bottom and work up," as he puts it. He will not be available for the first three or four matches either, as he is going on a trip to Italy with the Old Belvedere R.F.C.

A likely candidate for Burns's place on the right wing is young Gareth Griffiths, a Welsh Secondary Schools international, who has just left Porth County School.

He played for Cardiff against Pontypool at the end of last season with eminently satisfactory results so far as the Cardiff selectors were concerned.

Reduction for O.A.P.s

Trial matches are being held during the last week of August, and every effort will be made to give each applicant a game.

With the new captain, Billy Cleaver, abroad, duties of leading the side devolve automatically upon the vice-captain, Ewart Tammelin. In his usual cheery fashion he wrote to all the former players detailing them off for training this week.

An item of news which will interest the many "old faithfuls" who follow Cardiff's fortunes, is that the committee considered issuing Old Age pensioners with stand-tickets at reduced rates. Several complications arose, however, and prevented it being done in time for this season.

But rest assured that everything possible will be done to make it an actual fact by the time 1951-52 season comes around.

TAIL-PIECE: In just over twelve months time the Cardiff club celebrates its 75th anniversary. Looking ahead, they have already appointed a sub-committee to go into the ways and means of recognising that milestone in the club's history.

PERSONALITY PARADE



One of the hardest working forwards seen in Cardiff's pack since the war has been "prop" Stan Bowes, whose football has a breezy "Navy" flavour. Stan revels in a "needle" game and his stocky, iron frame makes him a useful man to have around in a loose maul. Stan has now been chosen to captain the Athletic XV—Cardiff's wealthy reserve of talent. His experience and general leadership will be invaluable and no-one is more fitted for the task. With Stan at the helm, Cardiff Athletic are assured of a pleasant passage in 1950-51.

S.W. ECHO 15/8/50

CARDIFF LOSE ANOTHER WING

TERRY COOK GOES TO RUGBY LEAGUE

THE second Cardiff rugby player within three weeks to change his code is left wing Terry Cook who, it was announced this morning, has signed professional forms for Halifax.

He follows North another Cardiff wing, Russell Burn, who recently went to Swinton.

Cook came to Cardiff from Pontypool two seasons ago and was an immediate success.

In his first season he showed remarkable thrust and determination and finished the campaign with 23 tries to his credit, and second only to Bleddyn Williams in the scoring list. He was "capped" for Wales against Ireland and Scotland in 1948-49.

During season 1949-50 Cook was again a leading scorer for Cardiff, and showed his versatility when Cardiff were troubled with injuries by playing some exceptional games at centre.

He scored a total of 19 tries and tied with 57 points for third place in Cardiff's scoring list with Russell Burn.

Cook's departure, coming so soon after that of Burn, will be a big blow to Cardiff who until recently had been fairly free from the attentions of League scouts.



TERRY COOK.

CARDIFF RUGBY

Russell Dobbs Applies for Trial

Russell Dobbs, Pontypool's speedy wing three-quarter, has applied for a trial with Cardiff.

He was leading try-scorer (20) for Pontypool last season, his second with the Eastern Valley club.

Fast and powerful, Dobbs is 23, stands 5ft. 11in. and weighs 11st. 10lb. He has represented Monmouthshire on five occasions.

Another wing three-quarter who has applied for a trial with Cardiff is Allen Goodfield, 23-year-old Pontypridd player and Welsh trialist.

He has played for Devonport Services and the Welsh Varsity XV, in addition to Pontypridd and Cardiff University.

His 20-year-old brother, Hugh, has also asked for a trial with Cardiff. He, too, has played for Pontypridd.

S.W. ECHO 24/8/50

CARDIFF HAVE WING PROBLEM

Replacements needed for Burn and Cook

HAVING ruled Welsh rugby's roost for so long and so honourably, it comes as something of a shock to find that Cardiff look like being right up against it for the first part of this season (writes Reg Pelling).

Not only have they to manage without their five leading players, now in Australia, but they must find first-class substitutes for their two speedy wingers, Russell Burn and Terry Cook, both having succumbed to the Rugby League's temptation.

True the names of several well-known players have been mentioned in connection with Cardiff—Howell, Greenslade, Gwyn Llewellyn and Marcus Pearce among them—but the fact still remains that Cardiff will be well below par for the first couple of months.

The final trial, to be staged next Tuesday evening, may produce some unexpected blessings (wing-threes who have applied to join the club include Russell Dobbs, of Pontypool, and the Goodfield brothers from Pontypridd), but however good a player may be as an individual, Cardiff are certain to miss the smooth combination and understanding which has been such a splendid feature of their post-war play.

Likely candidates

Yet the fact that players of the calibre of Russell Dobbs and Allen Goodfield, in particular, want to throw in their lot with the club is an encouraging step towards finding permanent replacements for Burn and Cook.

In due course, we must assume, the centre and half-back positions will be taken over again by Bloddy Williams and Jack Matthews, and Billy Cleaver and Rex Willis (though even this cannot be taken for granted), but there is no such comforting thought as regards the wing positions.

Still, Pontypool folk will tell you that Russell Dobbs is a better player than either Burn or Cook, just as Bridgend fans will assure you that Greenslade is the best scrum half in Wales, and that Gwyn Llewellyn is worth his place in any side as a centre of fly half. Allen Goodfield, too, will come with considerable experience of good-class rugby.

Consistency

Only 23, he has played consistently well for Pontypridd, has also played for Devonport Services, for Cardiff University and the Welsh Universities XV, and has had a couple of Welsh trials. Dobbs, too, is 23, stands 5ft. 11in. and weighs 11st. 10lb. He has been first choice for

RUGBY RULE BOOKS

Rugby rule books, until now, have been almost unobtainable by players, since war days.

The Welsh Junior Union has now an ample supply, and clubs and players can secure copies through their district unions at a nominal cost.

Pontypool for the past two seasons, and has also played five times for Monmouthshire.

He followed Terry Cook into the Pontypool side, now he might well follow him into the Cardiff team.

Greenslade's Challenge

Greenslade, of course, must be regarded as a very serious challenger to Rex Willis.

A great worker, it seems to me that he is just a season too late with his application to join Cardiff. Had he done so when Haydn Tanner retired—and before Rex Willis grasped his chances so convincingly—he would probably have gained the place with, possibly, all the other honours which have gone Rex's way as well.

Now, though Greenslade is undoubtedly a very clever player, it looks as if the Cardiff club will continue to pin their faith upon Rex, who, incidentally, has already written to say that he doesn't want a rest from rugby when the British tour is over, and is quite ready to play for Cardiff as soon as he returns.

Meanwhile there is conjecture as to whether Billy Cleaver's action in declining the captaincy owing to pressure of business will mean that he won't be able to turn out for Cardiff as frequently as he, and the club, would like.

We cannot know anything definite until the tourists get home, but it can be taken for granted that Billy must have given the matter great thought before declining an honour which he, obviously, coveted so much.

He was a proud and delighted man when the captaincy of Cardiff was offered to him, which makes his change of mind so much of a disappointment to all concerned.

Ewart Tamplin thus steps into the leadership of the side, and Cardiff followers are now waiting to see whom he will nominate as his vice-captain.

My guess is that they will have to wait a bit longer yet, for it is likely to be one of the five men now in Australia.

W. MORGAN 1/9/50

RUGBY FOOTBALL

CARDIFF MORE OPTIMISTIC

Cardiff XV, 1-0-5; The Rest, 0-0-0
THE final trial match of the Cardiff Club was the best of the series, and the selectors can feel more optimistic about their chances of success during the next few months (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

It was a hard fought game, above the average for a trial match and there were several young players on view worthy of further consideration when the "Stars" arrive back from Australia. The one problem remaining is that of the wing positions.

The fastest man on the field C. Griffiths (Porth) played at full-back, but he is due to enter the Forces during the next few weeks.

S. Bowes led the Rest pack well, in which Ferguson, W. E. Davies and Allen were prominent. Harvey (Porthcawl), at centre, is a most promising player, while Marks, at scrum-half, held the more experienced Greenslade in check. Tamplin, Judd and Collins showed their usual good form, but few wing forwards were really prominent.

Pearce scored a try for Cardiff following a break through by Morgan. The latter converted.

The team to meet the District XV, on Saturday will be: F. Trott; R. Dobbs; G. Llewellyn; M. Pearce; A. Goodfield; C. Morgan; H. Greenslade; G. Beckingham; J. Phillips; W. E. Davies; W. E. Tamplin (capt.); M. Collins; P. Goodfellow; S. Judd; and W. Douglas.



Cardiff Rugby Club players, who mustered this week for their first work-out, were in high spirits at the prospect of getting into harness again.

S.W. ECHO 30/8/50

FIRST REVIEW OF TALENT AT ARMS PARK

CLIFF MORGAN, STAR OF CARDIFF TRIAL

By REG PELLING

ANY man who could manage to jump into real prominence in a trial match of the character staged by Cardiff last night, had to be exceptionally good.

The game was contested at such a fast and scrambling pace that few succeeded in making a really worth-while impression upon the selectors.

One of these was Cliff Morgan, obviously one of the fittest, as well as the cleverest, men on the field. But the selectors know enough about him already.

Another was J. E. L. Llewellyn, a full-back from Penarth. This youth is "going places" with Cardiff in the near future, even if he does not win a place in the first team right away. Yet another was front-row forward Tom Buckthought, of

there were some disappointments concerning established players, in fact; but on the whole, there were several youngsters who showed definite signs of promise and well worth Cardiff's time and trouble —A. Greedy (outside half), D. J. James (centre) and A. Hull, G. R. Allen and F. Shallish (forwards), for example.

Allen Goodfield did not seem to be thoroughly fit but cannot be left out of the reckoning on this one showing. He can do better.

Likely Backs

Brian Marks, I thought, was the most capable of the three inside halves tried, and, with greater experience, M. Harvey of Porthcawl, looks as if he will make first-class grade as a centre.

The "Blue and Black XV" won the match by three goals (15pts.) to a try and a dropped goal (8pts.) by the "Reds".

Paul Ash, R. J. Jones and Cliff Morgan scored the tries for the Blue and Blacks, Morgan also converting all three.

Buckthought scored a try for the "Reds" and Llewellyn dropped a goal from fully 40yds. range—a surprisingly good effort this.



CLIFF MORGAN

S.W. ECHO 1/9/50

'New Look' Side

Considered views upon the "new-look" Cardiff side must wait, like the rest.

Spirited opposition was forthcoming from a District XV for three parts of the match.

Then they lagged and Cardiff ran riot to make it a 29-13 victory, after leading by only 10-8 at the interval.

Obviously it will take a little time for the five new backs to settle down together. They were a long time hitting it off in this match, but once they really started to work together they moved quite smartly and smoothly.

Sid Judd and Cliff Morgan, with six-goal Tamplin, the new skipper, set the real Cardiff standard, however. When the rest of the side match up it will be just like old times.

A District XV give Cardiff real test

There were surprises in store for Cardiff at the Arms Park to-day.

Twice the District XV captured the lead, to sting Cardiff into taking successful reprisals.

by
Reg Pelling

The half-dozen new players in the Cardiff side played to quite a good "rustin-raising" house. The football field had rarely looked greener or more inviting and the autumnal nip created by the stiff breeze, helped us to realise that rugby was in full swing again.

CARDIFF XV: A. Goodfield, M. Pearce, G. Llewellyn, J. R. Dobbs, C. Morgan, H. Greenslade, G. Beekingham, J. R. Phillips, W. Davies, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, P. Goodfellow, S. Judd, W. Douglas.

DISTRICT XV: H. F. Hussey, B. G. Griffiths, G. Jones (all of Old Penarthians), C. Windmill (G.K.B.), D. G. Murphy (Penttyrch), H. T. Coopley (Sandon), H. Robinson (Wheatbeats), T. B. Williams and W. H. Henke (Old Howardsians), S. O'Brien (Sandon), J. Mullett (Canton Locs), B. Moody (G.K.B.), J. Crothers (Old Howardsians), J. Sanders (capt.), Longcross, G. Williams (Penttyrch).

Referee: Mr. E. Beynon (Pontyclun).

The "under-dogs"—the District XV—received vociferous encouragement from the 6,000 spectators as they went into the game at top speed.

Cheering almost burst its bonds when after 10 minutes **DEREK MURPHY** put them ahead, placing a lovely penalty goal from fully 50 yards range.

He had the wind behind him, it's true, but his effort, nevertheless, was worthy of Tamplin himself.

Spurred on by this exciting lead the District players exerted themselves into the fray with great zest and first G. Williams and then Windmill made strong efforts.

Careless passing under pressure was their undoing, however, and in the next few minutes the District XV's line had some very narrow escapes.

NEAR MISSES
First a penalty shot by Tamplin which looked a winner all the way was halted, miraculously, by the wind just in front of the posts and fell short.

Then Dobbs put a foot in touch as he flung himself over at the corner; and then another Tamplin penalty kick flew wide past the upright.

The District's first flush of enthusiasm having spent itself, Cardiff settled down to take command from then on.

Only desperate defensive measures staved off a few attacks, but eventually Judd received 15 yards out, and handing off several tacklers forced his way across for a try.

Tamplin made no mistake with the goal-kick this time.

Long-range kicking by the Penttyrch wing, Murphy, kept Cardiff at bay, and once, when Windmill was right through and tried a short punt over rTrot's head in front of the posts, the Cardiff full-back let the ball brilliantly.

Little had been seen of the Cardiff backs so far—the District's lively forwards were seeing to that—and it was no surprise when the District captured the lead again.

SHOCK FOR CARDIFF
Trot started for a mark but the ball rebounded off his knees, and in a fifth half-a-dozen District players pounced upon it.

There was momentary confusion but the centre, G. JONES, spotted a gap, and went through it in fine style to score under the posts.

Murphy added the goal points.

Stung for the second time, Cardiff once more roused themselves to lay siege to the visitor's line.

BRILLIANT TRY

Goodfield repeated the Dobbs effort of infringing the touch-line as he crossed at the corner, following good work by Cliff Morgan and Pearce, before MORGAN scored a brilliant try for Cardiff.

Well inside his own half, he gathered the ball and set off on his own.

Judd joined in to make an extra back when Morgan had opened up, and it was Judd who shrewdly changed the attack's direction by passing inwards again to Morgan.

He swerved his way through to score under the posts, and Tamplin regained the lead for Cardiff by converting.

Half—CARDIFF 2 0 10
CARDIFF AND DISTRICT 12 0 8

One penalty
Tamplin, winning the toss, had chosen to play against the wind in the first half, tactics which looked as if they would pay off when Cardiff, with the wind at their back in the second half, swarmed to the attack.

Within a minute TAMPLIN kicked a penalty goal to increase their small lead, and then followed a period in which the District defence was strained to the utmost.

They stuck to their task manfully, to the renewed encouragement of the crowd, and even a clever scissors movement by Pearce and Llewellyn failed in the face of determined tackling.

Contrary to expectations the District players were lasting the pace splendidly, their forwards, well led by Sanders, performing especially well.

TAMPLIN kicked another penalty goal to put Cardiff 16-8 in the lead, and then GOODFIELD scored an excellent try by varying his pace and turning in sharply to avoid a tackle by Griffiths. Tamplin converted.

Orthodox passing by Cardiff, with the District XV now beginning to tire, gave DOBBS a chance which the wing seized upon eagerly to race in at the corner, and Tamplin kicked his sixth goal when converting.

JUDD dribbled over the line to north his second try, Tamplin's kick being just wide, but just before the end G. JONES snapped up a loose ball and outstripped both Trot and Llewellyn to score under the posts.

Murphy converted. 16 1 29
Final—CARDIFF AND DISTRICT 33 0 13

Two penalties. One penalty.

COMMENTS
Obviously Cardiff had been holding something in reserve for not until near the end did we see anything approaching the form expected.

The District players proved to be a tough handful and, until they began to tire, had shown up the deficiencies of the Cardiff attack.

Occasionally there were touches of the "Cardiff glitter," principally from Cliff Morgan, while Judd and Tamplin stood out as quite the best forwards on the field.

Full marks, however, to the District XV for their grit and full-blooded enthusiasm.

RUGBY GETS OFF THE MARK



Stan Judd pounces upon Robinson, the District XV's inside half, during Cardiff's opening match at the Arms Park this afternoon.

SPORTING PROFILE By J. B. G. THOMAS

RUGBY'S BLOND BOMBSHELL

IT is said of rugby football that a player with blond hair generally catches the eyes of spectators, officials and critics. This is true, but unless he is also an outstanding player the attraction soon fades. In the case of William Benjamin Cleaver, he has blond hair and is a great player, a combination which has brought him fame throughout these Islands, in France and the Dominions.

Cleaver is a likeable fellow, with a genuine love of the game, and now in the autumn of his career he remains the same upassing fellow who joined the club in 1940, when a freshman at Cardiff University College. His enthusiasm is still infectious. Whether working out a mathematical problem, frying an egg, going down to a forward rush or singing a tenor solo, he smiles away and accomplishes all tasks with the unobtrusiveness of a master.

There have been few more popular players around whose head controversy has raged. However, he has been the least concerned as to whether the crowd and the critics wanted another player in his place and has always given of his best. When he visited the grounds of the different Welsh clubs to take the steam out of their storming packs with his long and accurate tactical kicking, spectators invariably ended the day saying: "He's a good player is Billy, and a good sport, too."

Yes, he is as much to sport as Arnold Bennett's Denry Machin was a "card." No player could do more to justify the title.

Essentially Modern

Cleaver is essentially a modern outside half, a product of the contemporary school where back-row forwards have a dominating influence on the game. What is more, he is the complete utility player, capable of performing at full-back, in the centre, at outside or inside half in first-class company. Well though he has played at full-back for the British team, he prefers the outside half position. With Haydn Tanner he shared in a magnificent half-back combination for Cardiff, and, last season, with Willis, reaped the rich harvest of playing behind a Triple Crown pack of forwards.



W. B. CLEAVER

Cleaver was the perfect assistant for Gwilliam as they guided the Welsh team to victory in all four matches. They do not flash with brilliance, perhaps, but steadily impose their plans upon the opposition. Yes, Cleaver will leave his mark upon Welsh rugby, and upon Cardiff rugby, for his loyalty, his goodwill and his cheerfulness.

Now approaching the age of 30, he has been forced for business reasons to decline the invitation to captain the Cardiff club this season. He might not appear as regularly in football this season as supporters would like. His duties as a colliery manager necessitate his presence at Newbridge on Saturday mornings.

Thus, he might be playing in his last season this winter, but his services to the game will not be lost, for he has proved himself a most capable administrator.

2/9/50
CARDIFF TIMES

CARDIFF WIN IN THE RAIN

Cardiff, 12-9; Penarth, 0-0

* Penalty.

Attendance 2,500.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

Rugby in the rain is seldom enjoyable for spectators. Such was the case at the Arms Park last night where Cardiff defeated Penarth by a penalty goal and two tries to nil. Starting in torrential rain and a strong wind, play was confined to the kick and rush variety from the first whistle. Occasionally players were brave enough to attempt to handle, but immediately regretted their efforts, for much more ground could be gained by kicking ahead or rushing the ball forward.

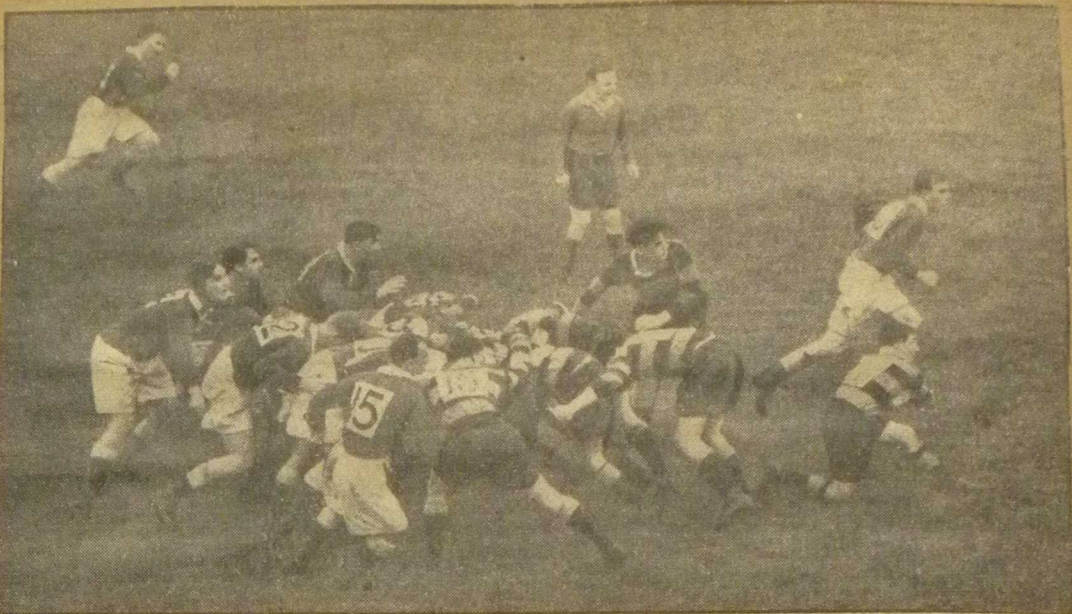
Penarth had as much of the game territorially as Cardiff, but did not have the speed to outstrip the Cardiff defence. Hobbs and Griffiths, the Cardiff wings, scored their side's two tries because they had the edge of their opposite numbers.

However, the Penarth forwards did well, particularly in the scrummages and line-outs. R. Roberts won his hooking duel easily, although Cardiff had two recognised hookers, Phillips and Beckingham, in their front row.

In the loose play Cardiff were slightly the better and Tamplin's leadership proved invaluable. Two young front-row men, Owen (Penarth) and Buckthorpe (Cardiff), were frequently prominent.

Receiving a better supply of the ball, Mills (Penarth) held his own with Green-slade at the base of the scrum. Morgan ran and kicked well at out-side-half for Cardiff, but passed haphazardly. Trott (Cardiff) and Bush (Penarth) did well at full-back in difficult conditions.

Tamplin got the other score for Cardiff—a penalty goal.



H. GREENSLADE, the Cardiff scrum-half, sends the ball out to his outside-half following a heel from a set scrum in last night's match at the Arms Park. Penarth's wing forward J. Maunders has broken quickly in an attempt to tackle the Cardiff outside-half. Referee J. T. Morgan watches events closely.

Cleared in the nick of time

F. ECHO 2/9/50



J. S. Davies, Penarth's captain, gets in a quick touch-finder before the enveloping arms of left wing Gareth Griffiths, of Cardiff, smother him in the match at Arms Park on Wednesday.

More chances for youngsters to don Cardiff jerseys

TIME will tell, and before long too, but at the moment it appears that Cardiff have decided upon a "clean sweep" policy concerning the reserve side (writes Reg Pelling).

As with most other clubs, a certain amount of chopping and changing in the personnel of a team is inevitable at this stage of the season.

We may expect a number of other changes to occur as the season progresses for if one impression emerges with crystal clarity, it is that the Cardiff club is not just sitting down under the weight of the difficulties now besetting it.

Quite the nicest thing said of Cardiff this season came quite spontaneously during a chat I was having with W. A. "Bill" Everson, the Newport secretary.

"Welsh Rugby cannot afford to have a poor Cardiff side," he said. "Their standard has been so high since the war that it has been a shining example to everyone; through their brilliant rugby the prestige of the game in Wales has rocketed sky-high."

This, mark you, from the traditional rivals of the Cardiff club. It is just another sample of the warm bonds of friendly sportsmanship to be found within the game.

Ill-judged youth

Cardiff can afford to give youth its chance, even at this stage. They have so many applications from youngsters wishing to don the famous blue and black shirt that it is difficult for the selectors to decide between them.

Already one youngster, chosen only for the Athletic side, has decided to try his luck elsewhere. I think it is an ill-judged move for, with a club of Cardiff's standing, he would be in the position of receiving the maximum benefit in the matter of coaching, training facilities and experience.

Sooner or later most of the players whom Cardiff retain (and they will be making up their minds about them before long, because they don't think it is fair to other clubs to keep a long list of players "dangling") will get their chances in top-grade football. It's a chance well worth waiting for.

The annual meeting of the club is being held at the Cory-hall on Monday evening when the statement of accounts showing a profit on the year's working of £4,735 (£1,000 less than last year) will be presented.

I asked a question towards the end of last season, "What does the absence of their stars mean, in cash, to the Cardiff club?"

We have a good part of the answer in the annual report which shows that the rugby club's revenue was £3,400 less than in the previous season.

So the selection of five players for the British tour proved to be an expensive sacrifice to Cardiff—yet one which they would willingly undertake any time!

But, in spite of it all, the rugby section provided more than half of the total income of the club—£17,440 out of £33,055.

Thirsty members contributed another £11,000 odd in bar takings.

Sporting museum

Excellent progress is being made by the way, in the setting up of a "sporting museum" at the club.

A beautiful showcase has been acquired and is already being stocked with such memory-stirring trophies as old international caps and jerseys, touring side jerseys, and so on, as well as photographs of Cardiff XV's dating back to the 1890's.

The idea was adopted some time ago by Swansea, who have on jersey in the pavilion the very jersey which the late Dr. Teddy Morgan wore when scoring that historic winning try for Wales against the New Zealanders in 1905.

But in any case it is a very worthy cause deserving all the support it can get from players who, through the ages, have made history for Cardiff and Wales.

Irish international Desmond O'Brien is out training with Cardiff, and, after the trip to Italy which he is undertaking with the Old Belvedere club soon will be regularly available.

I am told we can even expect to see a scoreboard worthy of the name (and of Cardiff and Welsh rugby) on the ground soon.

That is something which has been needed for too long.

Tailpiece: A veteran supporter of the Cardiff club writes to say, "I risked pneumonia turning out to see the match with Penarth in that atrocious weather, and in summer underwear!"

"All the people who ventured out should be granted a ticket for the international match, for only the real rugby enthusiasts were there."

Individualism the feature at Arms Park

Although Cardiff beat Birkenhead Park by 16 points to nil at Arms Park to-day, the scores in the main were due to individual anticipation and not to concerted back movements usually a feature of Cardiff's play.

The ground was on the soft side. In fact a Cardiff youth game, which should have been played prior to the big clash, had to be moved to a public park for fear of cutting up the turf. Otherwise conditions were just about perfect. There were no changes in either side.

Teams:

CARDIFF: F. Trot; R. Dobbs, G. Llewellyn, M. Pearce, A. Goodfield; C. Morgan, H. Greenslade; W. E. Davies, G. Beckingham, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, S. Judd, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson.

BIRKENHEAD PARK: D. H. L. Shone; O. Teggin, G. D. Taylor, J. Nestor, J. E. Williams, S. Plumb, N. A. Steele, K. McDonald, R. Wylie, H. W. Simpson, K. W. R. Carr, G. A. Wilson, J. Abbot, W. Hosker, K. H. Rees.

Referee: Mr. C. D. C. Joynson, Caerleon.

A crowd of about 8,000 saw Tamplin kick off for Cardiff. His kick went straight into touch and from the ensuing scrum Greenslade sent Morgan away.

The ball went to Pearce who kicked ahead but Shone sent it to touch.

Tamplin got it cleverly from the line-out and again Pearce kicked on.

This time Llewellyn picked up sent to Dobbs, the latter cut in and passed to W. E. Davies, who knuckled on some yards from the line.

A penalty kick relieved the pressure and from a scrum at half-way, Birkenhead half Steele, worked a clever inside pass to Plumb to menace the Cardiff line.

Plumb ran strongly, but his final transfer to Hosker, on the Cardiff 25 was forward.

Trott sent the visitors back with a long penalty kick. Both sets of backs became shoddy in their passing for a period, but Plumb livened things up with a break from his own 25. He threw a long pass to J. E. Williams on the right, and the winger made some 60 yards before he fell to a despairing tackle by Dobbs.

Cardiff's superiority in line-out work enabled Morgan to work the touch line and Cardiff began a long siege on the Birkenhead line.

First Collins, then Dobbs and Pearce were almost over, but then after Steele had been forced to minor Teggin cleared to touch.

CLEVER MOVE

It looked like the end of Cardiff attacks for a while, but quite suddenly, from a scrum at half-way, Pearce ran round the blind side to take Greenslade's pass, stepped round his man and passed inside to Judd, who drew Shone and left COLLINS a straight run in under the posts.

Tamplin added the goal points. Shone cleared to touch, and the

by

Kelper

Park forwards go it back, J. D. NELSON, however, moved in between Steele and Plumb to make a great interception, and cross in the corner unopposed. Tamplin could not goal.

Half-CARDIFF 1 1 8
BIRKENHEAD 0 0 0

Cardiff set up an attack immediately after the resumption when Pearce found touch some ten yards from the Birkenhead line.

Judd took the ball but could not crash over and from a scrum Plumb finally cleared.

Tamplin was wide with a 30 yard penalty shot and when Birkenhead ran the ball out Dobbs threw himself in front of Williams to bring the move to an end.

Williams, however, was dangerous in the next Park attack, which again opened inside their 25. He weaved through and raced up the wing before putting in a high kick.

FINE MARK

Trott, however, brought off a fine mark as Williams, following, crashed him to the turf.

Then after 15 minutes of the second half TAMPLIN increased Cardiff's lead with a penalty goal from 35 yards.

Within a minute Judd intercepted a Park three-quarter pass, raced through and kicked over the line.

NELSON won the race for the ball and touched down. Tamplin converted.

The Birkenhead pack matched Cardiff in the loose where Scottish International Gully, Wilson and Hosker were prominent.

In the closing minutes Greenslade dumfied his way to the Birkenhead 25 and put in a neat cross kick but Dobbs could not reach it.

A fierce battle started on the visitors' line and swept from one side of the field to the other and Cardiff was still attacking when the final whistle sounded.

Final-CARDIFF 3 1 16
BIRKENHEAD 0 0 0

*One penalty goal.

COMMENTS

Cardiff deserved their win, but while the forwards worked hard against a well balanced Birkenhead pack the backs were good only in apt. hse. shduetaoindun...

patches. Not one of the tries came from the type of three-quarter movement spectators at the Arms Park had been used to seeing.

Rather were the scores made from breakaways due in the main to individual anticipation.

No one was brilliant and no one was really bad in the Cardiff side. J. E. Williams, the Birkenhead left winger, was the best back on the field.

Cardiff's problem in reserve XV

THOSE who conduct the affairs of the Cardiff Rugby Club, one of the most famous in the world, have a problem on their hands (writes Reg Pelling).

It is a question of policy concerning their reserve team, Cardiff Athletic.

Is it to be a "feeder" for the first team, or is it to be a haven for players not quite good enough to play for the firsts and not likely to reach that standard, for all that they are good fellows, loyal to the core and capable players?

With Cardiff at full strength such a position simply did not arise. But towards the end of last season, and again now, player-shortage became acute—players of the right stamp that is.

Now the club has to take in ready-made first-class men like Greenslade and Gwyn Llewellyn, Dobbs and Marcus Pearce. There are those who argue that such action should not have been necessary; that Cardiff should have paid more attention to their reserve team, even though there was nothing to fear so long as Bledwyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Billy Cleave and Co. were available.

Therein lies the crux of the whole situation, I feel.

Not until those star players were no longer able to play for Cardiff was the paucity of reserve talent felt so keenly.

Clean sweep?

Which brings us to the start of this season and the query, "Will there be a clean sweep?"

Many talented young players, not yet ripe for first-class football, have asked for trials with Cardiff. Will they be taken under the club's wing, given the coaching and training they need with the object of building them into first-team men? Or will they be allowed to drift away because, at the moment, they may not be quite as good as the "established" men in the reserve team?

That is the question which must be decided now.

Who would envy the selection committee its job of sorting it all out? It's as sure as anything that, with all their experience, they won't be 100 per cent right in what they do. No club selectors over are.

It always turns out that they have let players go to other clubs, where they have become stars, just as some of the youngsters they retain turn out to be failures.

But it is something which has to be done, gamble or not. And done without loss of time, too, in Cardiff's case.

I'm all for starting up a brand-new reserve side straight away, keeping but a very few of the more experienced players to act as

leaders and coaches on the field of play. That is where the youngster really learns his football.

This policy has been carried on by other clubs before, with considerable success.

Cardiff are well and truly up against it at the moment. It is one of those phases which come to all clubs in turn, and Cardiff, after adorning the pinnacle of British rugby non-stop for four or five years, can have no complaint.

It won't last for very long, that much is plain, though, for the life of me I don't know what is going to happen to accredited first-team players like Greenslade, Gwyn Llewellyn and Pearce when the other stars get back from Australia.

Will they be content to play for Cardiff Athletic with but an occasional game for the first team? I doubt it, though from December onwards, with international trial matches and the international games themselves, this would suit Cardiff extraordinarily well.

However, there will be time enough for the selection committee to worry about that. At the moment they have quite enough on hand, and we await their decisions with a great deal of interest.

In good shape

Groundsman Jim Pursey must have been feeling something like a "Jekyll and Hyde" these past few months. Every time he glanced to his right and saw the wretched rain teeming down upon his cricket square he frowned. Then he looked to his left and saw the sweet rain doing his rugby field the world of good—and smiled.

Five hundred pounds have been spent on the rugby pitch during the close season, and Jim, and everyone else except the purely-cricket fraternity, is delighted with the manner in which the re-seeding of parts and the re-turfing of that bad patch where the bombs fell during the blitz has turned out.

At present the pitch is in wonderful fettle, though, mind you, there can be too much of a good thing, and Jim doesn't want it to go on raining all the time.

One upshot of all this expense is that the Cardiff club are not going to be so generous in allowing other organisations the use of the ground, as they have been in the past.

The field has been overworked, there is little doubt about that, and now that the club themselves require it for three teams instead of two (the Youth side is the third), as well as using it constantly for training purposes, applications for its use are going to be scrutinised very carefully and, indeed, severely pruned this season.

MISSING TACKLE



Second-row forward young Malcolm Collins, leaping high, is the subject of attention by Wyllie and the Birkenhead Park pack in the game at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon.

Ex-colleagues opposed



Pontypool's young left wing, Wyatt, tackles Russell Dobbs, who joined Cardiff from the Gwent Eastern Valley club, in the match at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon.

Cardiff's new wing won the game

Making a story book debut for Cardiff to-day 23-year-old Pentrych winger Derek Murphy scored the only try of the game and thus gave Cardiff a three points victory after a hard battle with their old rivals, Pontypool, at the Arms Park.

Two new men making their first appearances respectively for Cardiff and Pontypool, faced each other.

Derek Murphy, of Pentrych, was on Cardiff's left wing, and W. R. Thomas, who has played for Bedford, was playing his first game for Pontypool opposite him. Pontypool also brought in Bruce a former West Monmouthshire schoolboy, at centre, and Howe, ex-Mountain Ash, as hooker. Teams:

CARDIFF: F. Trott; R. Dobbs; G. Llewellyn, M. Pearce, D. G. Murphy; C. Morgan, H. Green-slade; W. E. Davies, G. Becking-ham, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, S. Judd, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson.

PONTYPOOL: L. Arnold; T. Wyatt, J. Davies, H. Brace, W. R. Thomas; Max Horton (capt.), A. G. Smith; T. Matthews, C. Howe, R. Baker, A. Fynn, J. T. Holden, W. J. Parfitt, W. Robinson, A. For-ward.

Referee: Mr. Gwynne Walters, Gowerton.

A crowd of 10,000 saw Jack Davies start the match for Pontypool, Tamplin again electing to play against the wind during the first half.

Brace was early in the picture with a crash tackle of Marcus Pierce which sent the ball rolling conveniently for Thomas to boot it up field. It rolled away from him into touch close to Cardiff's line.

Horton had a drop at goal charged down.

Both full-backs were called upon to clear under difficult conditions, but the first real danger came when Allan Smith cleverly went outside Tony Wyatt to take a pass out make considerable ground along the touchline before Trott felled his attempt to short punt over his head.

HARD TACKLING

There was no nonsense about Pontypool's tackling. It was hard and true and the Cardiff attack was given precious little opportunity of functioning.

This, allied to bustling work by the visiting forwards and some spectacular touches, finding by Arnold, enabled Pontypool to keep up a well hit continuous offensive. After harassing 15 minutes Goodfellow and Nelson spearpointed a drive by the Cardiff forwards which gained a lot of ground.

When Wyatt raced away down the left wing to restore the initiative to Pontypool it was Green-slade who cut across the field to bring him down.

Dobbs, anxious to do well against his former club, made several strong runs but was too well marked by Wyatt to round off his efforts successfully.

RAN INTO TROUBLE

Brace ran into trouble by trying to weave his way through a crowd of Cardiff defenders when he had a couple of colleagues clear on his left.

With the tide of the game turning in exciting fashion Horton had to race back to be just in time to save over the line and under the feet of Goodfellow and Judd, after a Dobbs cross-kick.

Cardiff were dangerous in sporadic breakaways, but for most of the remainder of this half were pressed back into their own quarters sound covering and defensive kicking by Morgan in particular keeping Pontypool at bay.

Half—CARDIFF 0 0 0

PONTYPOOL 0 0 0

Fortunes fluctuated rapidly during the first 10 minutes of the second half, when both Arnold and the Farnham missed with penalty kicks.

by

Reg Pelling

Cardiff showed up better than they had done earlier, but their forwards were matched in the loose and their backs again ran up against that uncompromising tackling.

Both sides were making liberal use of the touch lines—a factor which tended to detract from the game as a spectacle, but not from its excitement.

Once Cliff Morgan made a desperate effort to race through, beating men after man by sheer grit before being pulled down.

A fast, controlled dribble by Tony Wyatt caused Cardiff a deal of trouble before reliable Frank Trott stepped in to clear his lines resolutely.

NEW WINGER SCORES

Murphy, given one of his few chances of the game, made good use of it, racing away past Thomas and putting in a cross-kick which had Pontypool defence wavering.

It had not fully recovered when Morgan again flashed into the picture and when he was hauled down and the ball went loose, Pearce collected it and sent MURPHY racing away again.

This time the new winger signalled his debut with a try, beating his man to crash over in the corner. Tamplin could not convert.

Only 15 minutes of the game were left now and it looked as if this would be the one and only score.

In a storming finish Cardiff pulled out everything they knew in an effort to increase their margin but Pontypool were as defiant as ever and Horton, in particular, performed prodigies in defensive covering.

Thrust after thrust from Cardiff was eaten off and both Green-slade and Pearce were not far out with drop goals.

Green-slade, too, was held up only a yard from the line with the last minute pressure continuing without let-up. Both wings Murphy and Dobbs also went close to scoring.

Final—CARDIFF 0 1 3
PONTYPOOL 0 0 0

COMMENTS

This was Cardiff's hardest game yet. Not until near the end when "new boy" Murphy had set them on the winning road did they look potential victors, and in that respect one could say Pontypool were a little unlucky to lose.

They had been the better side in the first half, and had held their own for most of the second.

Only Cardiff's tremendous rally in the closing stages justified their victory.

Once again it was the home forwards who bore the brunt of the heat and burden of the game.

Watched by Pontypool's lively pack in the loose, the Cardiff forwards nevertheless built up a great superiority in scrumming and were also considerably superior at getting the ball back from tie lines out.

Tamplin led his pack magnificently, receiving outstanding support from Goodfellow.

Cliff Morgan once more was Cardiff's outstanding attacking back, receiving an excellent supply of the ball from Green-slade. Trott, at full-back, was as usual imperturbable and immaculate.

Arnold, of Pontypool, was not far behind; Horton played a gallant captain's part like Tamplin, and in the pack Baker, Fynn and Parfitt did remarkably well.

Newton Abbot Give Cardiff Hard Game

Newton Abbot 1 0 5
Cardiff 0 2 6

CARDIFF three-quarters found themselves up against stubborn opposition when they paid their first-ever visit to Newton Abbot last evening.

They won by a single point after one of the most thrilling matches seen on the Devon ground.

In the visitors' honour "Land of My Fathers" was played and the players were introduced to the chairman of Newton Abbot Council, Mr. P. Prowse, who kicked off.

A feature was the solid tackling of Newton Abbot's Murrin, Baglow, Emmett and Singer, who stemmed many Cardiff raids.

Cardiff's first try came from right wing R. Dobbs, after a passing movement from Ferguson through C. Morgan, M. Harvey and G. Llewellyn. Tamplin failed with the kick.

Morgan scored the second try after the interval following a brilliant weaving run. Tamplin's kick was again unsuccessful.

Newton Abbot's right wing man, Wotton, was twice unlucky. Once he was forced into touch inches from the Cardiff line.

Shortly after he lost possession right in front of goal, but from the ensuing melee G. Sims touched down for a try which Emmett converted.

After the match Cardiff were the guests of honour at a club dinner followed by a ball.

Balance of power shifts to Cardiff's pack

"So far, so good," is the general reaction of Cardiff rugby followers. Preliminary matches against gradually-improving opposition have been cleared away without too much trouble. Now the really serious business of the season begins (writes Reg Pelling).

It is recognised on all sides that, useful though the deputies are, the Cardiff back division is way below the standard we have been led to expect since the war.

This is something which was foreseen, but not soon enough. Now Cardiff realise that they cannot expect to find real substitutes for players like Jack Matthews, Billy Cleaver and Bledydd Williams.

The Welsh selectors probably will not be able to do so, either, so they must carry on with men of proved club and county standard, and to whom they are, or should be, eternally grateful.

But the fact remains that the Cardiff forwards must now stand the brunt of most of the victory-efforts.

Ewart Tamplin, the captain, is apparently well aware of that, for he has moulded his pack into a major striking force instead of a mere supply unit.

From now on, until the Cardiff stars reappear, we can expect to see the Cardiff forwards spear-pointing the attack with speedy teamwork in the loose and that intensive backing up with hand-to-hand passing associated with Dominions sides.

Of course, the weather, usually wet, has helped in making these tactics more advantageous than perhaps would otherwise be the case, but the fact remains that (leaving to-day's match with Pontypool out of consideration) Cardiff so far have won their first three matches by convincing margins.

Hard tests

The visit of Pontypool this afternoon marked the beginning of what will undoubtedly be Cardiff's toughest spell of the season.

Before their stars get back (and I doubt if any of them will be available to play before November) they have to play such clubs as Neath, Leicester, Coventry, Newport, Swansea, Wasps, Oxford University and Northampton.

Everyone knows, to begin with, that Pontypool provide the stiffest of tests for any first-class club in the country.

Five of the other fixtures are away from home, and it is not difficult to recall that, even with most of their players available, Cardiff were deservedly beaten by 6 pts. to 6 pts. at Coventry last

season; that the Wasps won their first-ever victory against Cardiff, and that Northampton also triumphed, though Cardiff then fielded seven reserves.

All the other matches should make Cardiff go all out, particularly those against Newport and Swansea.

Newport, due at Cardiff in three weeks time, are playing attractive attacking football, so, at this stage at least, it looks like being a case of Newport's backs versus Cardiff's pack—a reversal of the usual thing.

Attracting attention

Forcing themselves to the front as candidates for the first Welsh trial are three young and enthusiastic Cardiff forwards, all of whom have reached top form already.

They are Sid Judd, Malcolm Collins and John Nelson.

Of these three Judd has so far been the outstanding player in a really good pack; Collins has shone consistently by his work in the line-out, supplemented by his unflagging efforts in the second row of the scrum; Nelson has been most prominent as a wing forward, ever ready to link up in passing movements with his backs, eagerly scouting around for those stray chances which can be turned to account.

Judd's versatility is assessed by the fact that, though now playing brilliantly as blind-side winger, he has also been a recognised lock-man, and second-row forward.

Collins, who joined the club from Newport at the beginning of last season, has made remarkable progress under the guidance and advice of Tamplin, and looks like having a bright career in Welsh rugby.

Meanwhile, Cliff Morgan continues to be the star behind the scrum, though occasionally he is a little slipshod in his passing. Frank Trott, as ever, is as reliable as a rock as the last line of defence—such a valuable attribute to the morale of any team.

It was good to see Derek Murphy have his chance with the side to-day. In part, at least, it deals with some of the criticisms made recently that Cardiff prefer to go instead of giving home-produced men their chance.

The answer is, obviously, that Cardiff can do with all the players of Murphy's stamp that they can get from the local clubs in Cardiff.

Leadership and team work carry Cardiff through

CARDIFF'S early-season record—five matches, five wins—gives point to the oft-repeated assertion that leadership, team work, and, above all, loyal club spirit, always succeeds (writes Reg Pelling).

The fact that certain players are not yet available (a correspondent objects to me calling them "stars," saying this is irksome Hollywoodese) has thrown a much greater burden than expected upon the rest of the team.

This they have shouldered stoutly and capably, and, truth to tell, in a fashion which is giving rise to surprised pleasure.

It all boils down to two simple facts: that the old Cardiff spirit is as strong as ever and that Ewart Tamplin is moulding and leading his team with tact and purpose, wielding his influence to bring out the best results.

True, the last two Cardiff matches (excluding to-day's fixture with Neath) have brought but very narrow victories; true, also, that the standard of rugby is way below what we have become accustomed to see—but the fact remains that success is being achieved where most followers thought it would not be.

That, in itself, should be sufficient to lift the critics who were all set to hail a Cardiff downfall.

The side is still up against it, but the players are shining their way towards winning fresh laurels—for themselves and (more important to them) for their club.

Any thought about the Cardiff "glamour" fading can be dismissed for applications from players in all parts of Wales are still being received.

Some of these, very useful players indeed, are prepared to travel long distances from their places of employment on Fridays, in order to get into the Cardiff team on the Saturday.

That is a problem now engaging the attention of the club officials; naturally they feel the accent should be on team-spirit and combined training—and the latter advantage would be lost by signing on men who would only be meeting their team-mates just before the kick-off.

What a brainwave it was to play the two "hookers," John Phillips and Geoffrey Beekingham, alone side each other in the scrummage.

Utmost support

Currently Beekingham is doing the hooking with John as one of his "props." But it wouldn't matter to either of them if this system was reversed, as well it might be even during the course of a match, both are fine sportsmen, in addition they are close friends and give each other the utmost support all the way through.

Another interesting experiment tried out to-day was that of playing Bill Douglas, normally a wing forward, in the front row.

Here is another 100 per cent club-man who will cheerfully play anywhere. Magnificently fit and faster than he was last season, Douglas, if he can settle down as a "prop," is going to be a difficult man to dislodge. He starts with the initial advantage of being deely built for the job.

Keep an eye also, upon C. D. Williams, former Oxford Blue, who, I'm told, is making a determined bid for one of the wing forward berths in the first team.

Here, in the back row, the Cardiff selectors are in a somewhat embarrassing position, for though Sid Judd has gone back to college, Desmond O'Brien is coming along to take his place, and there are two other grand forwards in Peter Goodfellow and John Nelson, in addition to Williams.

However, O'Brien, after to-day, is

BOYS' RUGBY FEATURES

The international games already arranged by the Welsh Schools' Rugby Union are: March 31, England (at Gloucester); April 14, England (at Cardiff), and April 21, Scotland (at Newport). As last season, England will be met twice. It is hoped to arrange a fixture with Ireland.

No fewer than 25 school unions are in the first round of the Dewar Shield, which has to be completed by November 18. Cardiff, the holders, are drawn against Aberavon-Port Talbot. These two unions last season met in the final of the shield.

taking a three-weeks holiday, and won't be available for the moment, therefore, the problem is solved.

For some reason or another my remarks about the absence of leading Cardiff backs (unavoidable in this, which is purely an article upon the Cardiff club) has provoked the ire of a Newport reader Mr. E. G. Armstead.

He writes to say he is getting a bit tired of the harping on the absence of Cardiff's stars and doubts whether they will ever gleam with their former brilliance again.

Cardiff, he says, has unearthed a few more than useful substitutes such as young Cliff Morgan (which is what I've been saying) and even if Cardiff do recede slightly from their high estate, it is a good thing for these honours to go round.

(Note: If Mr. Armstead would look at these notes for September 3 this is what he would read: Cardiff, after adorning the pinnacle of British rugby non-stop for four or five years, can have no complaint.)

Great revival

He adds that, personally, he would like to see a great revival of rugby success at St. Helen's and Stradey. "It's bad for Welsh rugby if these great traditional seats of the game are too long in the back-ground," he says.

Nobody disagrees with that, either.

Delicately he submits that some other clubs have also lent a few stars to grace the British team (but none so many as Cardiff), and says it is bad form to invoke the "if only" and "might have been."

Mr. Armstead, whom I know to be an ardent follower of the game, writes at considerable length, expressing the belief that, after two continuous seasons of football, it is doubtful whether Cleaver Matthews and Bleddyn Williams will come back to the game with zest and freshness this season.

More probably they will add out gradually to make room for younger players, he says. We shall see.

Finally he gets on to a subject which I have often referred to (though he suggests I should now start a campaign for it), namely "That the season is too long."

All the players grumble about it, yet, like a lot of sheep, they endure it, he remarks, adding that the season should begin on October 1 and end on March 31 (now where have I seen that before?).

They manage things much better in Scotland and Ireland and most parts of England. Mr. Armstead concludes with the result that when the international come along their players are not stale from having played since the previous August.

Tamplin penalty beat Neath

The inevitable penalty goal by Cardiff's captain, Ewart Tamplin, enabled his team to gain a narrow three points victory over Neath at Cardiff Arms Park to-day.

The match, as expected, developed into a rugged battle between two fine packs of forwards, and though Neath led at half-time by a dropped goal from Bater, this was equalised by a try from Gwyn Llewellyn before Tamplin won the match with his penalty.

by
Reg Pelling

Cardiff brought in ex-Guardsman F. C. Ferguson, of Cantor, in place of Peter Goodfellow, who is suffering from a shoulder injury. Irish international Desmond O'Brien and centre D. M. James, of Pontypridd, made their debuts in Cardiff's colours.

Neath had Ron Evans back at inside half and Keith Maddocks on the right wing.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; D. G. Murphy, D. M. James, G. Llewellyn, R. Dobbs; C. Morgan, H. Green-slade, W. Douglas, G. Beekingham, J. R. Phillips, W. E. Tamplin (captain), M. Collins; F. C. Ferguson, D. J. O'Brien, J. D. Nelson.

NEATH: Vivian Evans; K. Maddocks, D. P. Jones, L. Shaw, R. Jones; D. Bater, R. Evans; C. Meredith, J. Kelleher, J. Thorley, L. Harris, G. Lewis, Elvet Jones, W. Brennan, E. Thomas.

Referee: Mr. Trevor Jones, Bridgend.

Playing with a strong wind and driving rain at their backs, Neath stormed to the attack right from the kick-off.

Touch-finding by Eddie Thomas and Bater preceded a passing attack which looked like succeeding until D. M. Davies brought Shaw down with a beautifully timed tackle.

Neath moved smartly and speedily and looked quite impressive. Greenslade showed considerable ingenuity in relieving the pressure and at the same time putting Cardiff into an attacking position.

Murphy once ran with determination to raise Cardiff's hopes further, but generally the first 15 minutes were dominated by the visitors.

PERFECT GOAL
A rib-rattling tackle of D. P. Jones meant his temporary departure from the field.

After Elvet Jones had missed with a long-range penalty shot outside half BATES put Neath in the lead with a perfect dropped goal from 35 yards out.

This had the effect of spurring Cardiff on to greater deeds and for a while they looked the better side. Gwyn Llewellyn stumbled as he was cutting through to blemish a promising outlook and two difficult penalty kicks by Tamplin just sailed wide of the target.

Taking a leaf out of Neath's book, the Cardiff forwards entered into the fray with increased fire and after good footwork by Collins and Ferguson, Douglas almost succeeded in putting Murphy over at the corner.

O'Brien led another Cardiff foot-rush which was halted most competently by Viv Evans and then Murphy slipped past Ron Jones to make ground at a fast rate until D. J. Jones cut across to force him over the touch-line.

Collins, Tamplin and Ferguson shone in some more vigorous and with Neath pressing just on half time Bater fired low with another drop at goal.

Half-Neath 1 0 3
Cardiff 0 0 0
One Penalty.

The second half was only five minutes old when Cardiff drew level. Their forwards, Douglas, Ferguson and Beekingham in the van, had forced play right to the Neath line by dint of an overpowering rush.

When the ball was worked out to the backs Cliff Morgan drew his man and threw out a pass to GWYN LEWELLYN, who burst through splendidly to score in a good position.

Tamplin, however, missed with the goal kick.

Neath had a glorious chance of retaking the lead when they were

given a penalty right in front of the posts and no more than 20 yards away. Unaccountably, Ron Jones kicked wide. He must have felt like kicking himself afterwards.

After this let-off Cardiff played up strongly and brought their backs a bit more into the picture.

As usual, the Cardiff forwards were here, there and everywhere, giving them that intensive backing which has been the main feature of their play this season.

FAST AND FURIOUS
Greenslade flashed into prominence with another thrilling run, to be stopped finally by D. P. Jones.

Play raged fast and furious, with first O'Brien and then Tamplin heading streaming Cardiff rushes and when these were ended with the award of a penalty kick to Cardiff TAMPLIN gave his side the lead by kicking a good goal.

In the last 10 minutes it looked as if Cardiff would bring off another storming rally such as that at the end of their game with Pontypool.

They threw everything into an all-out attack, but Neath did not intend to be outplayed, and they, too, pulled out something extra to make it a real fighting finish.

With only minutes left Gwyn Llewellyn bamboozled the Neath defence with a deceptive, swerving run, but James, to whom he passed on the fringe of the line, ran into trouble and the chance was lost.

Final—Cardiff 11 1 6
Neath 1 0 3
One Penalty. Dropped.

COMMENTS
Once again ardiff scraped home to a narrow victory. Once again they have to thank their magnificent forwards for it.

This was a match with a lot of excitement and characterised throughout as a rugged battle between two grand sets of forwards, rather than as a test of rugby skill.

Not that the accent was placed upon defence or negative rugby. On the contrary both sides expressed their faith in combined attack and making use of the best weapons in their armoury, decided that their forwards should be the main striking force.

Neath made an excellent fight of it, but hardly used their opportunities to the best advantage. Cardiff had fewer chances, but wasted fewer as well.

There was very little in it regarding the success at scrummaging but in the line-out, where Collins gave a superb display, Cardiff were vastly in the lead.

A CARDIFF RUGBY SUGGESTION

Welcome-home gesture to the five tourists, but boat arrives after the Newport match

THE British Rugby Tourists return in the first week of October. It would be an ideal home-coming for the five Cardiff players if they turned out together in Cardiff's first home game following their arrival.

Newport are at Cardiff Arms Park on October 7, but this is the only home match in October, so many supporters feel that the Newport match would provide the right setting for a real welcome home.

Unfortunately, latest information is that the boat will not be back until October 8th, but the boys have had a good rest on the voyage and might be persuaded to come out together at Arms Park on the first available Saturday.

There are rumours that Billy Cleaver will not be playing so often this season, and Dr. Jack Matthews will have more business ties, but it would be a pleasing gesture, and one I am certain which would capture the imagination of the crowd if all five played for Cardiff at the earliest opportunity.

WILL Cardiff remain unbeaten until the return of the "Big Five"? Before the season opened this did not seem possible, but the pack has been moulded into a virile force, and although the back play lacks the sparkle of old I cannot agree with some of the critics that the Cardiff team is only a shadow of its former self.

Personally I enjoyed the Pontypool match. It is true we did not have the brilliant passing movements with which Cardiff rugby has been associated since the end of the war, but it was stern, honest-to-goodness football, and free from any "feeling."

If there was too much kicking it was probably due to the fact that both sides were conscious of their weakness behind the scrum, but on a day when half a gale was blowing much of it was tactical, and Cliff Morgan should not be blamed for the intelligent use he made of the touch line. Billy Cleaver would have done the same thing.

S.W. ECHO 26/9/50

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MATCH

Cardiff Plan to Play British Isles XV

STEPS have been taken by Cardiff Rugby Club, assisted by Bleddyn Williams, to arrange a match between Cardiff and the British Isles touring XV (writes Reg Pelling).

If successful—and present indications are that the plan will be—the match will take place at the beginning of next season, in September, which is when the Cardiff club celebrates their 75th anniversary.

A sub-committee of the club, making plans for this anniversary some time ago, wrote to Bleddyn Williams (vice-captain of the British team) asking him to discuss the possibilities of such a match with the team-manager, Surgeon-capt. L. B. Osborne, and the other players.

Yesterday a letter was received from Bleddyn saying that the invitation had been welcomed, and enclosing a list of the addresses of the players.

All that remains to be done, apparently, is for the permission of the tours committee of the four home unions to be obtained for the use of the title, "British Touring XV." This should be no more than a formality.

Played on a Saturday

No definite date for the match has been fixed, but it is hoped to stage it on a Saturday. If this is done, a 50,000 crowd could be expected.

Cardiff's five members of the British team, it is suggested, should turn out for Cardiff, leaving nine other Welshmen and 17 players of Ireland, Scotland and England from whom to select the British team.

An invitation by the Rotary

Comparative Values.

CARDIFF'S centres were uncertain in their handling, but are to be commended for occasionally trying the unorthodox. There were a few times when the scissors pass very nearly came off, but in any criticism of the substitute Cardiff backs we should have regard for a relative sense of values. They came into the side in an emergency following one of the most glittering periods in Cardiff's history, and were bound to suffer by any comparison.

There are not many Bleddyn Williams's and Jack Matthews's in football to-day. The substitute centres tried hard enough, and failed mostly in a comparative sense.

One can forgive much if a man tries his best. In this connection I would like to see Dobbs show some of the spirit and determination of Derek Murphy who was one of the successes of the match. He made a most impressive debut.

Watch Pentrych.

MURPHY comes from a footballing family which is well-known at Pentrych, one of the most rugby-minded communities in the district. Cardiff should keep a close eye on Pentrych because I am told that there are other Murphy's "hiding themselves in the hills."

The one real chance Derek Murphy had against Pontypool he took like a good 'un, but if lacking in opportunities he showed in other phases that he knows his football. He is a very good kick, especially with the left foot, and some of his cross-punts showed a football brain and excellent judgment.

During the past two seasons he has played for the "Cardiff and District" in the traditional opening match against Cardiff and on each occasion was the star amongst the backs.

Unfortunately in last season's match, it will be remembered, he had to go off with a broken collar bone after "hitting" one of Jack Matthews's crash tackles.

But it was Derek Murphy who got the biggest cheer that day.

Forwards Tested.

THE Cardiff forwards survived their first real test against a typical Welsh club pack. Line-out play might have been a little disappointing, but they won the scrummages and were always lively in the loose. Their next five tests will be even more critical. After Neath (to-day) they meet Leicester and Coventry away and then Newport

and Swansea. The two latter are being hailed as the Welsh teams of the year, but what of Maesteg?

A pity they are not on Cardiff's list this season. They would be a big draw at Arms Park at the moment.

Cardiff's fixtures are arranged such a long way ahead that local rugby supporters have been deprived of the opportunity of seeing the new Maesteg at the Park.

The way they are playing just now suggests that Cardiff's fixtures list is not complete without them.

THE BILLY CLEAVER STORY



S.W. ECHO
25/9/50

I am satisfied that it came in the course of a letter to a relative from a member of the British team.

No-one doubts the sincerity of this either, but—for what it is worth—we can, at least, say that the story of Cleaver's retirement is not "official."

I think I know Cleaver well enough to say that on reaching such a decision the first people to be informed would be the officials of the Cardiff club.

Cardiff secretary, Mr. Brice H. Jenkins, who knows Billy exceptionally well, thinks so too.

He said yesterday: "The last letter I had from him showed that he had not yet made up his mind about playing in the future."

"All sorts of theories have been advanced since he gave up the captaincy of the club, but I am looking forward to seeing him in a blue and black jersey (Cardiff's colours) again!"

Billy Cleaver, Welsh and Cardiff outside half and British touring team's utility player behind the scrum, is supposed to have announced his retirement from rugby.

I am not questioning the good faith in which the Sunday newspapers printed the story. It may well be true.

But, again, it may not be. Over the week-end I made inquiries as to the source of this information.

F. ECHO 23/9/50

THAT'S A HOT ONE!



Malcolm Collins, Cardiff, juggles with the ball after breaking through a line-out in the match with Pontypool.

SUN. PICTORIAL
24/9/50

CLEAVER TO QUIT RUGBY

W. B. Cleaver has ended his football career. This brilliant Cardiff and Welsh outside half announced his decision on board the vessel bringing the British team home from their Australasian tour.

Cleaver was the Welsh outside half in all the matches last season when Wales won the Triple Crown. Before that he had been capped ten times.

ECHO 30/9/50

CARDIFF'S 3-0 WIN OVER 'TIGERS'

It was not until the second half that Cardiff asserted their superiority over Leicester at Leicester today, and then it was a solitary try by Dobbs—the only score—that decided the issue.

Unfortunately the counter attraction of Cardiff City's visit to Leicester, together with bad weather conditions, kept the attendance for this attractive game down to 5,000.

LEICESTER'S WELSH HALF

Leicester brought in Haydn Thomas for Quine in the three-quarters, this being the only change from the side, victorious against Waterloo last week. Rain, which had fallen since the early hours, made the ground treacherous.

Teams:
LEICESTER: R. A. Lewis; C. G. S. Lawrence, Haydn Thomas, G. Cullen, W. K. Nicholas; F. Brookman, W. K. T. Moore; D. Bolesworth, S. Pratt, J. C. Hacker, E. Lacey, R. V. Stirling, J. D. Day, J. H. G. Wayhill, H. W. Sibson.

CARDIFF: R. F. Troitt; R. Dobbs, G. Llewellyn, D. J. James, D. Murphy, Cliff Morgan, H. Greenslade, J. Phillips, G. Beckingham, W. Douglas, W. E. Tamplin, P. V. Davies, J. D. Nelson, F. C. Ferguson, C. D. Williams.

Referee: R. A. Beattie, London.
The rain had stopped when Brookman kicked off for Leicester. A couple of good kicks by Morgan just failed to find touch and Leicester went into the attack.

A kick upheld by Sibson with Cullen following up nearly led to a score but Murphy fell on the ball and saved the situation. An attempted drop at goal by Brookman ended the attack.

Cardiff took up the attack when Tamplin came away with the ball at his feet, but the home defence was very sound.

Cardiff tried handling, but Llewellyn knocked on and spoiled a good movement.

Cardiff had a good chance when Llewellyn kicked across to send Murphy away, but Lewis tackled the winger in fine style and Bolesworth picked up to find touch at half-way.

WENT CLOSE

Cardiff were in difficulties when Murphy missed the ball but Troitt nipped across and found touch just outside his own "22."

Both sides were handling the greasy ball well and the game was fast and interesting.

Leicester were exerting plenty of pressure and only sound work by the Cardiff defence held them out.

Just before the interval Cardiff were penalised, but Cullen hit an upright with his kick.

Half-Leicester 0 0 0
Cardiff 0 0 0

Brookman, the Leicester fly-half, played for Cardiff at full back in 1939, when a 17-year-old schoolboy at Caerphilly Grammar School.

A native of Tongwynlais, he was drafted as a Bevin boy for three years at Penallta Colliery and later got his teaching certificate at Loughborough Training College, where he played for the college XV for two seasons.

He is now doing a third year course for his Teacher's Diploma at the college, and is thus qualified to play for an outside club. Hence his appearance in the Leicester side to-day.

Morgan was proving a rare handful to Leicester, and slipping away from a loose scrummage, nearly caught the Leicester defence napping.

When Leicester were penalised near the half-way line Tamplin was only just wide with the kick.

Cardiff were now having the better of the exchanges, and Brookman was forced over his own line.

From the five-yard scrummage the ball came out on the Cardiff side and Greenslade passed to DOBBS, who dived over at the corner for a try which Tamplin failed to convert.

Cardiff now appeared to have the better of the home side, who were confined to their own half for long periods.

When Moore did break away and kick, Murphy gathered the ball well and drove the left side back to half-way.

In another strong Cardiff attack it was only the daring of Lewis, at full-back, that prevented a score.

Cardiff kept up the pressure and a cross-kick by Dobbs nearly brought success.

In a last despairing effort by the home side Troitt picked up at their feet and found touch.

Final-Cardiff 0 1 3
Leicester 0 0 0

COMMENTS

In a game in which the players defied the bad conditions Cardiff retained their unbeaten record and fully deserved to do so.

The forwards laid the foundation of success with Tamplin, Nelson and Douglas outstanding.

Morgan, at outside half, handled the greasy ball with certainty and with Murphy on the left wing also doing well the Leicester attack could make little progress against the quick covering Cardiff defence.

Troitt, at full-back, was safe as usual, never making a solitary

BREAK, PONTY!

H. GREENSLADE, the Cardiff scrum-half, gets the ball away from a scrummage in the match with Pontypool at the Arms Park on Saturday. Allan Forward, the Pontypool wing forward, has come around the open side of the scrummage but fails to intercept the movement.

30/9/50 S.W. ECHO

Cardiff Give Wing His £3,000 Chance

IF you were a rugby player with a second-class Welsh club, would you turn down an offer of £3,000 (plus job) to become a professional? Haydn Morris, tall, speedy wing-threelighter of Mountain Ash did.

Reason: He had set his heart upon playing for Cardiff.

His application for a trial was sent in some time previously, and when he got home after a match a fortnight ago and found two men waiting for him he thought, at first, that they were members of the Cardiff committee!

They were, in fact, the agents of a famous Rugby League club.

Nothing they could say would induce Morris to change his mind. He wanted to make the Cardiff team, and finally the League men gave up in despair.

The happy sequel, from Haydn Morris's point of view, is that this week-end he has been chosen for Cardiff.

Travel Undertaking

A schoolmaster at Birmingham, Morris is prepared to travel down on Friday evenings to play for Cardiff whenever required. A similar undertaking has been given by A. B. Daniel, former Swansea centre-threelighter, who is now teaching in Staffordshire.

Both men have been chosen to play for Cardiff on the short Midlands tour which the club are undertaking next week-end. They play Leicester on Saturday and Coventry on Monday.

Another player who has returned to the fold from Cheltenham is Len Evans. He also is prepared to travel at week-ends in order to play, and will be available for Monday's match at Coventry.

The party to go on tour is: F. Troitt, R. Dobbs, G. Llewellyn, D. J. James, M. Pearce, A. B. Daniel, D. G. Murphy, Haydn Morris; C. Morgan, H. Greenslade, J. Bate; J. R. Phillips, G. Beckingham, W. Douglas, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, P. V. Davies, C. D. Williams, F. C. Ferguson, W. E. Davies, L. Evans.

Morris playing for Cardiff to-day

Haydn Morris, former Mountain Ash and Bangor Normal College wing, will play for Cardiff to-day against Coventry, writes J. B. G. Thomas.

The Cardiff club state that they have received a letter from the Mountain Ash secretary and a permit for Morris to play. Mountain Ash have agreed to accept Cardiff's statement that Morris asked to play and not vice versa.

"We have sent permission for him to play on Monday and hope he will be chosen. Further permits will be forwarded if required, as well as the granting of his transfer," the letter adds.

This ends a Rugby "storm in a teacup." The other new player in the Cardiff team is A. B. Daniels, formerly of Swansea, playing in the centre. Troitt will captain the team in the absence of Tamplin.

MIRROR 30/9/50

HOPING TO SMASH A RECORD

By DON BATE

LEICESTER hope to have the pleasure of taking away Cardiff's unbeaten record in Rugby Union at Welford-road today.

Cardiff twice narrowly beat the Tigers last season. Today the result appears to lie in the duel between two hard scrummaging packs. Leicester's forwards are led by Bob Weighill, the England international, and Cardiff's by the former Welsh player, Bill Tamplin.

Behind the pack, the Tigers have Bill Moore, the England scrum half, but his partner, F. Brookman, may find the speed and wiles of Cliff Morgan, Cardiff's new young out-half, too much for him.

The strength and manoeuvrability of the Coventry forwards should be the deciding factor in their home match against Blackheath.

CARDIFF 7
SUDURGAN NEWS 30/9/50

Cleaver's Decision.

THE manner in which Billy Cleaver's retirement was announced has surprised many Cardiff rugby supporters.

There was a suspicion that "something was in the air" when he declined the captaincy after leaving for the tour, and now before his return reports say that he is to give up the game altogether.

Ever the Cardiff club knew little of the latest decision, and before making any announcement themselves they are to await Cleaver's return.

If Cleaver's decision is confirmed it is not a very happy way of bringing to an end an association which has been to the credit of the Cardiff club and the player.

My information is that Cleaver might not be able to play much more rugby for business reasons.

Rumour hath it that he might take up a big sports job with the National Coal Board.

'Twas ever thus.

THE Cardiff pack maintained its "new look" against Neath, and with newcomers O'Brien and Ferguson fitting in so admirably Cardiff is now in the position of having a wealth of forward talent. The back play, too, was better than against Pontypool, and James, the ex-Secondary school player, fully justified his inclusion as centre.

Little Cliff Morgan has his critics because (they say) he does not make openings with the necessary smoothness, and is too much of an individualist. Cliff Morgan is essentially a player with a style of his own, and team work must be adapted to his unorthodoxy. Right through the years they have said the same thing about the greatest of our Welsh outside halves (with the exception of Billy Trew). Always they were too individualistic and did not act as a link.

So Cliff Morgan is in good company.



W. MAIL
18/9/50

Coventry tearaway

CARDIFF IN THE NEWS

ECHO 24/10/50

Coventry tearaway pack set seal on Cardiff defeat

F.ECHO 7/10/50

MANY Cardiff supporters have been puzzled by the fact that, although Cardiff lost their undefeated record at Coventry on Monday, the only four changes made in the team which entertained Newport to-day, have been in the pack (writes Reg Pelling).

Most of them were inclined to attribute the Coventry defeat to the fact that Cardiff tried out new blood in the three-quarter line, and thus argued that any changes should have been made in that department. As a matter of fact Cardiff's forwards were more badly beaten than they had been for many a long day. Coventry had a tremendously hefty and tear-away set of forwards who just about did what they liked with Cardiff's eight, pushing them 'all over the field,' as the saying goes.

That is why Tamplin, Collins and Co. were welcomed back to-day. It is also why the newcomers Haydn Morris and (for Daniel) are retained. They had so few chances of doing anything noteworthy in the Coventry match, that it would have been quite impossible to form any real judgment about them.

Whatever the outcome of to-day's big game with Newport, it is certain that the selectors could rest assured that so far as the two clubs were concerned the intention was to make it another game well worth remembering.

And it is good to know in these days of austerity, in rugby as in most other things, that two clubs who have won such fame and standing in the rugby world could get together and come to agreements such as this.

When we see two of the finest clubs in the world (that is no exaggeration, surely) in opposition, we are entitled to expect something out of the ordinary.

Trial candidates

Cliff Morgan, 20-year-old stand-off half, is forcing himself into the list of players whom the Welsh selectors should consider for their first trial match.

Outstanding personality at both Leicester and Coventry, it won't be long, at any rate, before young Cliff becomes a strong candidate.

I have noticed on a number of occasions, however, that he has a tendency to run across the field, thus 'bunching' his centres and wing; another fault which he needs to correct is the timing and accuracy of his passing. That has let him down as well from time to time.

Still, Morgan has plenty of time in which to correct these faults. Of his elusive running there can be no question, as he becomes a trainee of that great fly half Cliff Jones; his kicking is excellent, and already he is an automatic choice as a successor to Billy Cleaver if the latter does definitely decide to retire.

In full cry for international honours, also, is another Cardiff youngster—second-row forward Malcolm Collins. He is playing better than ever this season; his

PACK OF TROUBLE

CARDIFF District Junior Union hold a referee conference on Monday.

The object is to insist on the whistlers enforcing penalties for that collapsing of scrums disease. The physio to be administered will, it is hoped, be very potent, so clubs will be wise to take the hint.

line-out work, especially, is superb. In fact, he is almost in the Gwilliam class in this phase of forward play.

Big, fast and a great worker in tight and loose, Collins must assuredly earn a place in the first trial, even if, for the time being, he will have to play second-fiddle to such grand forwards as Roy John and Don Hayward.

Out of place

I hear that Marcus Pearce, one of the Bridgend contingent to come to Cardiff at the beginning of the season, is thinking of trying his luck with another club. It seems he wants to play at outside half, not at centre, which is the position in which he has played four times for Cardiff this season.

Since then he has successfully lost his place to young Harvey (from Porthcawl), James (from Pontypridd) and Daniel (from Swansea). He is too good a player to be kept in the reserves and several clubs would jump at the chance of having his experienced services.

The Cardiff back division, by the way, has been changed around so much in the early part of the season that it comes as something of a shock to realise that, to date, only Gwyn Llewellyn and Howell Greenslade of the newcomers (with Cliff Morgan) have played in every match. So far 19 three-quarters have been tried out.

Inside half tussle

Watch out for a bit of healthy competition for the inside half position. Rex Willis, naturally, is eager to carry on from where he left off last season. Howell Greenslade, his stand-in, is just as anxious to stay put.

He, like Willis, has become a 100 per cent Cardiff man, and is determined to fight tooth and nail to keep his place in the first team.

With two such good players in the same sort of mood, their friendly tussle should prove tremendously interesting.

It looks as if the selectors will have to play them in alternate matches for a while before finally making up their minds.

CARDIFF IN THE NEWS

F.ECHO 30/9/50

Fortunes remain steady despite team changes

WHAT with the story of Billy Cleaver's retirement; the prospect of a Cardiff v. British Isles XV match; and the story-book sequel to a young player's action in turning down £3,000 in order to take his chance of getting into the team, Cardiff rugby club has certainly been in the news this week (writes Reg Pelling).

To take the last item first; Haydn Morris, fast Mountain Ash wing-threequarter, was the player I mentioned in the "Football Echo's" rugby feature last week as having rejected the £3,000 bait of Rugby League representatives because he wanted to play for Cardiff.

Now he gets his chance (probably against Coventry on Monday), and it might well turn out that he will be just the man Cardiff are looking for.

It is a pity that a misunderstanding arose over obtaining his transfer from Mountain Ash, for Mr. Brice Jenkins, the Cardiff secretary, assures me that, so far as Cardiff were aware, Morris had not played for anyone since leaving university last season, and, therefore, was free to join any club he wished without the usual formalities.

As for item No. 2, there seems to be no reason at all why the rare rugby treat of seeing a full-strength Cardiff XV pitted against a collection of some of the finest players in the rest of the British Isles should not be brought about.

Formal permission of the committee of the four home unions for the use of the title "British Touring XV", and of the Welsh Union for staging the game, have to be obtained, but otherwise I can see nothing to stand in the way of this great 75th anniversary match next season.

Meanwhile, the uncertainty regarding the future availability of Billy Cleaver has been intensified by the report, emanating from a letter home by one of the other British players, that the fair-haired Cardiff "idol" announced his retirement at a function on board ship.

No mention

Yet Bloddyn Williams, who wrote to Mr. Brice Jenkins only 10 days ago that was the last of his letter) about the British XV's match next season, did not mention a word about Cleaver's supposed retirement.

Naturally, all sorts of theories have been advanced since Cleaver declined the captaincy of Cardiff, and more than one hint has been given in these notes to the effect that he might not be able to play regularly for the club.

But Cardiff, at least, won't accept as final the news that he has retired from the game until they get it officially from Billy himself.

They won't have long to wait for definite news, for the tourists are due back home to-morrow week.

I gather that the present idea at Cardiff is to ask the players to rest awhile, and then—for all five of them, Bloddyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Billy Cleaver, Rex Willis and Cliff Davies, to turn out together before the Cardiff crowd.

Even if Cleaver has made up his mind to give up rugby, he would have to be a very stubborn man to resist an invitation to make a last appearance before his own crowd under circumstances such as these.

As for the others, all of them have expressed their eagerness to "get cracking" with Cardiff once more, though at the risk of repeating myself. I think they should insist upon some sort of rest before taking the field again.

Fairly obvious

In the meantime, it has become fairly obvious that Cardiff are going to do quite a bit of chopping and changing amongst the members of the back division before finally settling upon a recognised three-quarter line.

With Afon Daniel, ex-Swansea centre, now entering the list of candidates for one of the centre berths, and Haydn Morris, Derek Murphy, Russell Dobbs, Allen Goodfield and one or two others jockeying for the wing positions, it is impossible to see how the line can obtain even a semi-permanent look before the British players become available again.

If there is not exactly an "embarrassment of riches" at the Cardiff club there is certainly an embarrassingly large number of players from whom to choose, so much so that it takes hours to pick the Cardiff team nowadays compared with a matter of minutes in the old days.

I'm told that J. E. Llewellyn, ex-Penarth full-back, is making a really strong bid to oust the "old faithful" Frank Trott from the full-back position he has occupied so honourably since the end of the war.

Further information, too, is that young James, tried at centre several times in the first team, makes an excellent full-back as well.

That shouldn't be difficult for him. He was "capped" by the Welsh Secondary Schools last season in that position.

So while the fortunes of Cardiff continue to be satisfactorily steady, there are bound to be all sorts of fluctuations in personnel, particularly when one considers that there are many new forwards knocking persistently at the first team's door as well.

F.ECHO 21/10/50

Bold policy gains reward for Cardiff

SAY what you will about this "under-strength" Cardiff side, but they are certainly bringing a few surprises out of the bag (writes Reg Pelling).

Even the most fervent Cardiff supporters were beginning to moan at Swansea last week, as they saw their favourites being so thoroughly outplayed during the first fifteen minutes.

True, Cardiff were already a penalty goal ahead, but no-one expected 'hat lead to last very long, the way the All Whites were hammering away at their line.

But, as everyone now knows, Cardiff stood the tremendous strain remarkably well—and then carried on to score a victory which must rank as their finest all-round performance of the season.

So while you wait for the happy day of the tourists' return spare a thought and a word of praise for the players who have kept the Cardiff rugby flag flying so bravely during their absence.

Pay tribute, too, to the boldness of the Cardiff selectors. They have not hesitated to make sweeping changes in the back division, where, obviously, they were most needed.

Encourage youth

Nor have they hesitated to dispense with the services of players of proved reputation in order to give chances to unknown youngsters whom they thought might be able to do better.

Which is not the same thing as saying, by any means, that the Cardiff club are unmindful of the attitude of proven players like Russell Dobbs and Marcus Pearce in coming so readily to the club's assistance.

It was simply that they did not seem able to settle down and produce that form of which we know them to be capable.

And, wisely, Cardiff did not stand in their way when they wanted to try their luck elsewhere.

Thus it is that "unknowns" like Derek Murphy and Haydn Morris, plus a youthful centre, D. J. James, have the honour thrust upon them of playing in the Cardiff First XV. Are they lucky? Some would say they were.

But there is a little more to it than that. These boys have snapped up their chances with great avidity. They are proving that they can succeed where more mature and experienced players did not. And Cardiff, in my opinion, are doing absolutely the right thing in keeping them in the side.

Of the original three-quarter line only Gwyn Llewellyn, the former Bridgend captain, remains. Pearce and Dobbs are out; so, too, is A. B.

Daniel, former Swansea and Welsh trials centre; so is Allen Goodfield, also a Welsh trialist.

Heavy competition

And another unknown player, Gwyn Williams, has, for the time being at any rate, won his place at wing-forward in face of heavy competition 'from older and more experienced players.'

Yes, the Cardiff selectors have certainly been imaginative in their job.

Another example, of course, is that, unimpressed by the fact that he was Welsh reserve hooker all last season, they did not hesitate to move John Phillips from that position to make room for the Athletic side's hooker, Geoffrey Beckingham.

And right well are they both doing, with Phillips now playing as a prop forward.

The same policy of giving new talent its chance is carried on through the Cardiff Athletic side, so that though this business of injecting new blood into the teams was more or less forced upon the club, its benefits are bound to be considerable before very long.

Planning for the future has never been an unwise thing to do. The present happenings at Cardiff, plus the inestimable value of the Youth section from which a steady flow of recruits is assured, mean that there is little danger of a decline in the club's fortunes.

Home again



His wide grin expresses more than any words could the happiness Cliff Davies feels at being back home again. That double chin? A week at the coal-face and it won't be there, says Cliff.

NEWPORT'S 8-3 WIN AT ARMS PARK

NEWPORT'S ACCOUNT OPENED

F. ECHO
7/10/30

Burnett's brilliant runs nonplussed Cardiff

Record intact after an exciting struggle

Newport beat Cardiff by 8 points to 3 after an exciting struggle at Arms Park to-day, and thus retained the honour of being the only first-class Welsh club with a 100 per cent. record.

In a game in which the marking was extremely keen Roy Burnett, the Newport outside-half, acting captain, was the one man who managed to find a way out of this impasse. Two brilliant runs by him led to Newport scoring twice.

Two flags flew from the flagstaff

at Arms Park—that of the Cardiff R.F.C. at the head, and underneath, at half-mast, the Newport flag. Was this an omen?

It was the first meeting of the clubs this season and a crowd of 25,000 were present to give a 100 per cent. welcome.

Newport fielded as selected, but Cardiff made one change, bringing in Len Evans in place of Malcolm Collins, who has an abscess.

Once again on winning the toss Ewart Tamplin, who returned to captain Cardiff, elected to play against the wind. The teams were:

CARDIFF: P. Trott, H. Morris, A. B. Daniel, G. Llewellyn, D. G. Murphy, C. Morgan, H. Greenslade, J. R. Phillips, G. Beckingham, W. Douglas, W. E. Tamplin (capt.), Len Evans, C. D. Williams, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson.

NEWPORT: R. Hughes, J. Lane, B. Williams, R. D. Owen, G. Ross, Roy Burnett (capt.), W. A. Williams, G. Hirst, L. Davies, T. Sterry, B. Edwards, L. E. T. Jones, P. Davies, D. G. Ackerman, H. A. Davies.

Referee: Mr. W. D. Richards, Llanfrehfa.

Newport completely dominated the opening exchanges, yet the first time Cardiff got into their area they took the lead.

Aided by the wind Burnett found several tremendous touches and for the first five or six minutes Newport were solidly encamped in the Cardiff 25.

Misjudging the speed of Murphy, who followed up his own kick Hughes had his return charged down, which gave Cardiff temporary relief.

But when Trott misfielded matters became as bad as ever for them and it was again a case of hard tackling against a lively Newport attack.

Once Cliff Morgan got back to cover splendidly and foil a neat cross-kick from Ross and the first time Cardiff had come within striking distance of the Newport line was when Nelson, Goodfellow and Phillips pounced upon the ball and drove it right down to Hughes.

QUICK SCORES

From the position thus won Cardiff took the lead. When their forwards heeled Greenslade foote! the Newport wing forwards by feinting to pass out to Morgan.

Instead GREENSLADE carefully measured his distance and dropped a beautiful goal.

Roy Burnett, who, if Ken Jones plays next Saturday, was captaining

by
Reg Pelling

Newport for the last time, was the guiding hand in Newport's equaliser.

A smart Newport heel near half-way saw Williams send out a perfect pass to him and the Newport outside half weaved his way past Morgan and the Cardiff wing forwards in his best style.

Burnett was close to Cardiff's line when the defence closed around him, but nevertheless he got the ball away to R. D. OWEN, who flung himself over for a try which Ben Edwards could not convert.

For a time after this the forwards decided to "mix it" more as a trial of strength than anything else and as this phase ended with honours about even Newport, mainly through another most accurate touch-finder from Burnett, swept down to the Cardiff line again.

It was Ackerman who set up a Newport counter-attack after Cardiff passing had broken down, this being followed by a bull-dozer Newport forward rush with Hirst in the van.

Such rushes as these brought no success against an equally determined and virile Cardiff pack.

Nor did any success attend the prodigious effort of Ben Edwards to kick a penalty goal from a position near the touch line and five yards inside his own half, though the ball actually sailed a few feet under the bar.

Half—Cardiff 1 0 3
Newport 0 1 3

*Dropped goal
Cardiff had done well to hold Newport to a tie in the first half, and, with the wind now at their backs, it was reasonable to suppose that they would bring off another of their noted second-half rallies.

Marking and tackling was extraordinarily keen, so that both sides put a great deal of faith into touch-kicking.

"Give and take" rugby featured the beginning of the second half, both teams having their turns of attack and Bryn Williams several times trying to get Lane away with quick left-foot kicks to his wing.

Cardiff's best chance came when A. B. Daniel raced clean through with a couple of colleagues up in support. But he ran straight into the arms of the Newport full-back Hughes!

CRASHED OVER

It was Roy Burnett again who spear-pointed another Newport revival.

Just when it seemed that every effort to find a way past rock-like defences was to fail the ball was sent back from the loose to Burnett.

With three men on his left and the Cardiff defence fanning out to stop the threatened attack Burnett suddenly darted through on his own, shooting past three men before transferring to Bryn Williams only a few yards from the line.

WILLIAMS took the ball and crashed over wide out for a try, which Ben Edwards converted with a glorious kick.

Cardiff fought hard to wipe out this unexpected deficit, their forwards in particular striving might and main to wield a dominating influence.

NOT FAST ENOUGH

Trott made a mark in the face of a well-co-ordinated dribble, headed by L. E. T. Jones, and Cardiff had another great chance when Gwyn Llewellyn took the ball off the toe of Bryn Williams' boot as he was kicking and burst straight through. He looked a probable scorer, but did not possess sufficient speed to escape from the clutches of a covering tackle by Burnett.

Final—Newport 1 1 8
Cardiff 1 0 3
+ Dropped goal.



R. D. Owen, watched by colleague John Lane (No. 5), flung himself over the Cardiff line to open Newport's score account in reply to a Cardiff dropped goal.



CLIFF MORGAN, the Cardiff half-back, is well held when he attempts to break through against Newport at the Arms Park.

D. EXPRESS 30/10/50

Cardiff's weakness WILLIAMS, MATTHEWS NEEDED

By PAT MARSHALL

Oxford U. 11 Cardiff 6

COME on Bloddyn Williams, Jackie Matthews! Cardiff Rugby needs you back.

They need that zip and dash in the centre which only you two old hands can give. They need your devastating crash tackling and ability to turn an opponent's mistake into a Cardiff try.

If only the pair of you had been playing on Saturday, Oxford University would not still be wearing the unbeaten tag, and Cardiff would have been several places higher up the Merit Table.

For it was weak tackling in the middle which let Oxford's international centre Lewis Cannell slip through twice to engineer the visitors' two tries.

It was lack of inspiration in attack which caused movement after movement to fizzle out when a try looked an obvious chance.

Besides, Cardiff have two grand wing-threequarters worthy of better service. Haydn Morris, the Mountain Ash boy who moves like an international sprinter—a sprinter with a footballer's brain—too did not once get a reasonable pass.

COVERED

Derek Murphy, busy stop-at-nothing type on the other wing, was luckier. He received about three passes—one when already in touch, the other two when covered by at least three Dark Blues.

Cardiff's sound, workmanlike pack is magnificently led by wily veteran Ewart Tamplin, whose young second row partner, Maisein Collins, looks like being almost as good as the old maestro. They have a useful pair of halves in Howel Greenisade and little Cliff Morgan.

True trouble at the moment is acute lack of inspiration in the centre.

Cardiff's only try came from Haydn Morris's opportunism. Greenisade's snap drop at goal flew yards wide, but Oxford full-back Dave Lewis misfielded. Following up like an express train Morris darted past him for a breathtaking touch-down.

Harry Tranter put Oxford level with a slick dropped goal and in the second half winging forward Chris Rittison Thomas gathered Winn's pass to cross. C. L. Griffith converted.

A 50-yard Tamplin "special" penalty reduced the margin, but Lewis Cannell was allowed to crash the defences again. This time Tranter was up to take the inside pass and score.

W. MAIL 19/10/50

TOURIST IN ATHLETIC XV.



JACK MATTHEWS, the Cardiff and Wales centre-threequarter, who recently returned from Australasia with the British team, is to play for the club's Athletic XV, against Chepstow at the Arms Park on Saturday (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

He made a request to the club selection committee to be allowed to "tune-up" in the Athletic XV, and not displace first XV players. Matthews has remarked that he would rather play than train to keep fit.

SWANSEA's official rugby programme included a pleasing tribute to Cardiff on the occasion of last Saturday's match at St. Helen's.

Wrote the editor:—

"Cardiff have been temporarily without some of their stars, and I can assure Cardiff that even their bitterest opponents hope the stars' absence is temporary, for it is always sad to learn that some great star is hanging up his boots. We should miss them as much as Cardiff. But for the past few weeks Cardiff have been busily proving that the wealth of rugby in Wales is as eternal as the hills of Wales, and whatever may have been the greatness of the past there is just as much hope for the future, and one can never be sure from what town, hamlet or village will spring the next Bloddyn, Billy Davies, Treu or Woolter, but spring some day he will. So team building is after all great fun, and if it produces the greatness of the future, well then it becomes memorable."

Cardiff justified the tribute by winning 11-6.

COMMENTS ON NEWPORT
GAME 7/10/50

COMMENTS

Several members of the Welsh "Big Five" were present at this match which, though a long way from being a classic, did produce as expected, spirited and exciting football.

The best movements of the game were undoubtedly the two runs of Roy Burnett which paved the way to Newport's tries, and he must have improved his chances a great deal of appearing in the first Welsh Trial a month hence. Burnett varied his tactics admirably. He was the target for the quick breaking Cardiff wing forwards and obviously the danger man of the Newport side.

He did not attempt to do too much on his own and for long periods was content simply to act as a link for his other backs—when he was not putting in some devastating kicks to touch.

But when Burnett did make up his mind that a chance presented itself for him to "have a go" he rattled Cardiff's defence with two spectacular runs, each of which brought decisive scores.

Elsewhere, it was largely a case of players cancelling each other out. Marking and tackling was too keen to permit of much other scope in attack, and the forward battle, too, was very even indeed and at all times full of vigour and excitement.

Cardiff thus lost their ground record and Newport retain their 100 per cent. certificate.

Cardiff's 11-6 win was flattering

Cardiff beat Swansea by 11 points to 6 at St. Helen's to-day but on the run of the play the visitors were flattered by the winning margin.

Fortunes fluctuated extraordinarily in this game. Swansea were pounding away at Cardiff's line practically continuously for the first 15 minutes yet it was Cardiff who scored eight points in this period to get off to a winning lead.

Afterwards there was not much to choose between the sides though Cardiff's backs always looked the more dangerous.

Conditions were glorious and there was a 10,000 crowd. Russell Dobbs was not in the Cardiff team, having been given a permit to play for Pontypool.

Wing forward Gwyn Williams, of Pentyrch, made his debut in Cardiff First XV.

SWANSEA: W. Bratten; H. Thomas, G. Bowen, Len Davies, H. Griffiths; Alun Thomas, Roy Sutton; B. G. Rees, G. Jeffreys, Doug Jones, W. O. Williams, R. Dobbs; Percy Thomas, Len Blyth, J. R. Davies.

CARDIFF: F. Trott (capt.); H. Morris, G. Llewellyn, D. James, D. Murphy; C. Morgan, H. Greenisade; W. Douglas, G. Beckenham, J. Phillips, M. Collins, F. C. Ferguson, G. Williams, P. Goodfellow, J. D. Nelson.

Referee: Mr. V. S. Llewellyn, Llansamlet.

Cardiff took the lead in the first minute of the game. At a scrum on the Swansea 25 line Percy Thomas was caught offside and from the resultant penalty DEREK MURPHY, deputising as place kicker for Tamplin, kicked an easy goal.

Swansea were out to show that Cardiff's lead was all wrong, and in the opening stages at least they certainly proved this to be the case. Another high punt saw Alun Thomas, Dobbs and J. R. Davies chase the ball over Cardiff's line, but again they were thwarted.

ALL WHITES' ILL LUCK
Len Davies missed with another penalty taken from far out and near the touch line, and then Cardiff were given a much needed breather, from a kick by Murphy to which Bratten made a poor reply.

It was incredible that on this, the second occasion on which they had been in the Swansea half, Cardiff should go further ahead.

Given the benefit of a slightly forward pass, which the referee did not notice, HAYDN MORRIS got his foot to the ball and drove it past Herbert Thomas and then raced Bratten for the ball as it rolled over the line to score his first try for Cardiff. Murphy converted.

This, in all honesty, was a heart breaking experience for Swansea. After having nine-tenths of the play so far they found themselves eight points down in the first 15 minutes.

Their ill-luck continued when Len Davies sent the ball inches past the post on the wrong side from his third penalty kick.

INSPIRED CONFIDENCE

Swansea seemed a bit discouraged by this turn of events: Cardiff, of course, most encouraged.

Play evened up a good deal afterwards. Swansea's early dominance having faded and Cardiff playing much better together.

One breakaway by Gwyn Williams was beautifully done, while Cliff Morgan inspired a deal of confidence for his improving display at stand-off half.

Bowen and Len Davies tried hard to revive Swansea's changed fortunes but Cardiff were giving nothing away now and indeed just on half-time Swansea might easily have fallen further behind.

Swansea 0 0 0
One Penalty.

An extraordinary tackle of Bowen by Cliff Morgan provided the first thrill after the interval. Bowen was clean through except that he had to face Trott and was

by
Reg Pelling

just about to work Herbert Thomas clear when Morgan lunged himself through the air from behind and landed on Bowen's back, bringing him crashing down to earth. The ball, of course, rolled harmlessly away.

Receiving the ball in the loose Llewellyn swerved and side-stepped his way through the Swansea defence before putting HAYDN MORRIS in at the corner for his second try. Murphy's kick failed.

When Swansea were awarded penalty No. 5 in a reasonably good position in the Cardiff half there was some indecision as to who should take it in view of Len Davies's previous failures.

However, the Swansea captain, Alun Thomas, eventually decided to give him another chance and to the genuine applause of the big crowd LEN DAVIES placed a penalty goal.

Largely because of deteriorating conditions the game closed up a good deal, and towards the end Cardiff seemed content to hold Swansea in check and retain their comfortable lead.

Swansea staged a fine rally in the closing minutes, however, and after Griffiths and Bowen had made good progress along the right touch line play "sewed towards the centre of the field and ALUN THOMAS gained some consolation for his side by dropping a smart goal.

Final—Cardiff 11 2 1 1
Swansea 6 0 0 0
*One penalty; Dropped, penalty

COMMENTS

Though Cardiff were amazingly lucky to get those eight points to start with they certainly did plenty afterwards to justify their victory.

Their recovery in the face of early Swansea onslaughts was remarkable. One has to bear in mind, however, the tonic effect which their unexpected scores had upon them and contrariwise its discouraging effect upon Swansea.

For the rest of the match, however, Cardiff were every bit as good, and better in some places, than Swansea.

This match will be remembered as Gwyn Llewellyn's finest display in the Cardiff jersey.

Llewellyn was the outstanding back on the field, and Morris deserves the greatest credit for snapping up the chances Llewellyn made for him so avidly.

In short, therefore, the result did justice to Cardiff, in spite of the fact that at first they were extremely fortunate.

F. ECHO
14/10/50



1. D. Nelson, Cardiff forward, goes down to seize the ball and end a Newport forward rush at Cardiff Arms Park. D. MAIL 9/10/50

