

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v Aberavon

SATURDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 1981

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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The Aberavon club was founded the same year as ourselves, 1876, so we can consider them as our twin club of Welsh Rugby and as such they are always welcome visitors to the Arms Park. From those far off days of the early 1870's when the great Mansell Tinplate Works were being built in the area, its proprietors Col. D. R. David and Sir Sidney H. Byass actively encouraged the formation of what we know today as Aberavon R.F.C. Little can those gentlemen have realised what a great contribution their brainchild was destined to make to Welsh Rugby. They have contributed a total of 40 players to the Welsh teams over the years from their first cap Dan Jones in 1897 to their current captain Alan Martin. Alan now has a total of 34 caps and is now by far the most capped player in Aberavon's history. Indeed his total also represents the most for his country in the lock position and another 5 caps would see him overtake Mervyn Davies' 38 as the most capped Welsh forward of all time. Hopefully the sad happenings at Llanelli a fortnight ago can soon be forgotten and he will be allowed to carry on for his club and country in the impeccable manner that has been so characteristic of his game in 15 years at the top. His contribution to Aberavon, Wales and the British Lions has been a great credit to him and this year he particularly wanted his club to have a good record under his leadership. It was the one honour that has eluded him during his long career and he was highly delighted to accept the position when it finally and deservedly came his way.

Perhaps the greatest era in the Wizard's history came in the late fifties and early sixties. Rather significantly, having been born out of steel this golden era of the club coincided with the expansion of the great Margam Steelworks. Between 1957 and 1962 no fewer than nine Aberavon players were to gain international honours and then in season 1960-61 they topped the unofficial championship table. No wonder they performed such a feat when you looked at the team of those days. There were those men of steel at prop, Len Cunningham and Phil Morgan and then the devastating back row of Peter Jones, Rory O'Connor and present day coach Omri Jones. Behind this lot were such names as Cliff Ashton at outside half with either Onllwyn Brace or Tony O'Connor inside him. To feast on the possession provided by these great players were David Thomas, Cyril Jones and perhaps one of the best liked players of his time, John Collins. Finally to mop up all the conversions and penalty kicks were two great full backs in Ross Richards and Kel Coslett. What an outfit that was and as I have already said, John Collins was a real favourite with the crowd. It was in the twenties that the Talbot Athletic ground would vibrate in praise of the then local hero when the crowd would sing "On the wing there's Johnnie Ring". In that championship winning era it was John Collins who became the crowds favourite and well he earned this mantle. His dashing wing play was a joy to watch as he scored numerous thrilling tries for his club. Another favourite at the time was outside half Cliff Ashton whose wizardry on the field was only matched by his antics off it. The Collins/Ashton double act on the piano brought tears of joy to many many observers in clubhouses all over the country. Cliff, of course, was to spend a couple of seasons with us before moving on to Chepstow where he finished his playing career. He was one of quite a few Aberavon players who migrated from Talbot Athletic Ground to the Arms Park since the second world war, Ken Thomas, Billy Hullin and latterly Neil Hutchings to mention a few. But going back to Cliff Ashton perhaps his most famous game for us was against Wilson Whineray's 1963-64 All Blacks when after a titanic struggle we lost by the odd point in eleven. Cliff, however, also gave us many hours of great entertainment at after game gatherings.

Back to today's game though we are extra pleased to extend Aberavon a very special welcome this afternoon because it happens to be the 100th meeting in the series between our clubs. The surprising feature of this statistic is although we are both in our 105th year it has taken us so long to reach this milestone. This is explained by the fact that between the first game in 1892 and 1920 only 8 matches were played. Of these one was abandoned due to the ground becoming waterlogged and another was piquantly described

"as a practice game". Since 1920, however, we have had our steady 2 games a year. We have also met them three times in the Cup with a 2-1 advantage to them resulting. In all the previous 99 games have ended with 56 wins to us, 37 to Aberavon, with 6 drawn matches. Points wise we have scored 1019 to Aberavon's 792. This will be the Wizards' 33rd visit to the Park since the resumption of fixtures after the war and they have managed to chalk up 8 wins. Now this is a far better success ratio than most sides have at Cardiff and no doubt they would very much like to further improve that ratio today. Perhaps their win in the cup game in season 1975/76 was the most notable amongst these 8 wins. They virtually snatched victory from the jaws of death in the dying seconds of the game to send us crashing out of the competition in the third round. So to Aberavon's players, committee and supporters welcome again to Cardiff on this centenary occasion.

Since the last home programme the Rags won away to Bristol United by 23-14, lost away to Llanharan by 3-14, won at home to Coventry Extras 14-3 and finally last Wednesday won at home by 26-0 to Caerleon. The Youth won a hard game at Leicester by 10-7 and drew with St. Peters 6-6 in the atrocious weather of last Saturday. Last Wednesday away to St. Albans they won by 11-10.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

The 'Beeb' boob. Not very often we say that and, straight away, not our B.B.C. Wales but, of all things, B.B.C. 2 on Sunday's 'Rugby Special'. I am certain that many of you must have seen it and, I hope, some of you as concerned as I. The W.R.U. in the shape of John Dawes and Malcolm Lewis, responsible for the refereeing side of things, have made it known to the B.B.C. that a bad mistake was made and hope that it will be rectified. Having said that, for those who may be wondering what it's all about I had better explain.

At the the end of the programme they dealt with the law changes, specifically, the tackle and the front row binding. Don Rutherford, the R.F.U.'s equivalent of John Dawes, presented the section and, referring to 'Tackle' stated that after a player was tackled he was allowed to place the ball by his side. This is directly contrary to what should happen. To quote Malcolm, "This is playing the ball. If you're allowed to place the ball by your side, what difference is this from passing it or giving it to another player?" Quite simply, a tackled player and this now means NOT on his feet but he could be sitting, or on one or both knees, if held, can only RELEASE the ball, then get up or roll away. He CAN-NOT pass or play the ball.

There was another boob concerning the binding of the props which has been dealt with fully before. They stated that the tight head prop had to bind on the back of the loose head prop, and talked about a stiff arm. There is no mention of this in the amendment made by the W.R.U.

Having gone through that, in the games I have seen this season, in the scrums, I have noticed no difference actually. Referees are sensible in the main. The intention of the law and the desire of the referees, is that the scrum provides a firm platform from which the ball can be fairly heeled in order that the game can proceed. If it comes out cleanly; if there is no collapsing or non-sense the object has been achieved. Let's leave it that way.

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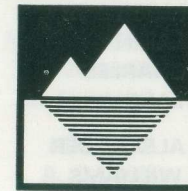
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- 9. T. HOLMES
- 1. J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. A. PHILLIPS
- 3. I. EIDMAN
- 4. K. EDWARDS
- 5. T. MOGRIDGE
- 6. R. LAKIN
- 8. T. CHARLES
- 7. S. LANE

P. ALEXANDER
G. WILLIAMS

Referee: W. JONES (W.R.U.)

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



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Aberavon

- 15. W. LEWIS
- 14. M. THOMAS
- 13. G. MATTHEWS
- 13. K. COSLETT (Captain)
- 11. P. BAMSEY
- 10. B. THOMAS
- 9. R. GILES
- 1. P. KNIGHT
- 2. B. JAMES
- 3. S. HOPKIN
- 4. A. OWEN
- 5. P. RIDSDALE
- 6. M. EDWARDS
- 8. J. JENKINS
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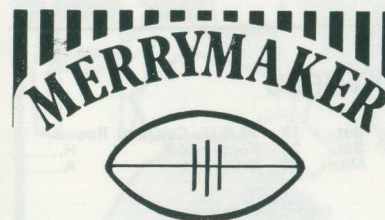
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1981			
SEPTEMBER			
Wed.	2	Glam. Wanderers	A 9-3
Sat.	5	East District	H 40-6
Wed.	9	Bristol	H 37-17
Sat.	12	Neath	H 25-8
Wed.	16	Penarth	A 23-7
Sat.	19	Coventry	A 12-12
Sat.	26	Aberavon	H.....
Wed.	30	Pontypridd	A.....
OCTOBER			
Sat.	3	Newport	A.....
Wed.	7	Bridgend	H.....
Sat.	10	Northampton	H.....
Wed.	14	Pontypool	A.....
Sat.	17	Bath	H.....
Wed.	21	Newbridge	A.....
Sat.	24	Harlequins	A.....
Tues.	27	Maesteg	A.....
Sat.	31	Moseley	A.....
NOVEMBER			
Sat.	7	Munster	H.....
Wed.	11	Oxford University	H.....
Sat.	14	Ebbw Vale	H.....
Sat.	21	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round	H.....
Fri.	27	Llanelli	A.....
DECEMBER			
Wed.	9	Swansea	H.....
Sat.	12	London Welsh	H.....

Sat.	19	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round	H.....
Sat.	26	Pontypridd	H.....
Mon.	28	Bridgend	A.....

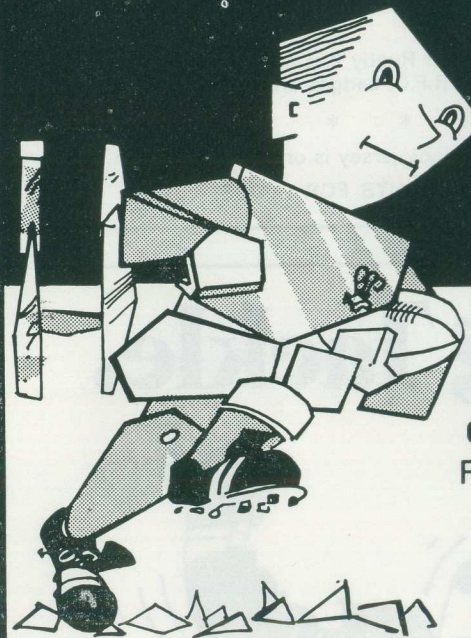
1982			
JANUARY			
Sat.	2	Moseley	H.....
Wed.	6	Aberavon	A.....
Fri.	15	Bective Rangers	A.....
Sat.	23	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	H.....
Sat.	30	Llanelli	H.....

FEBRUARY			
Sat.	13	Bristol	A.....
Sat.	20	Ebbw Vale	A.....
Sat.	27	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	H.....

MARCH			
Sat.	6	London Welsh	A.....
Sat.	13	Pontypool	H.....
Fri.	19	Herlots F.P.	H.....
Sat.	27	Newport (Cup S.F.)	H.....
Wed.	31	Swansea	A.....

APRIL			
Sat.	3	Bedford	A.....
Sat.	10	Barbarians	H.....
Mon.	12	Harlequins	H.....
Sat.	17	Neath	A.....
Sat.	24	W.R.U. Cup Final	H.....

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