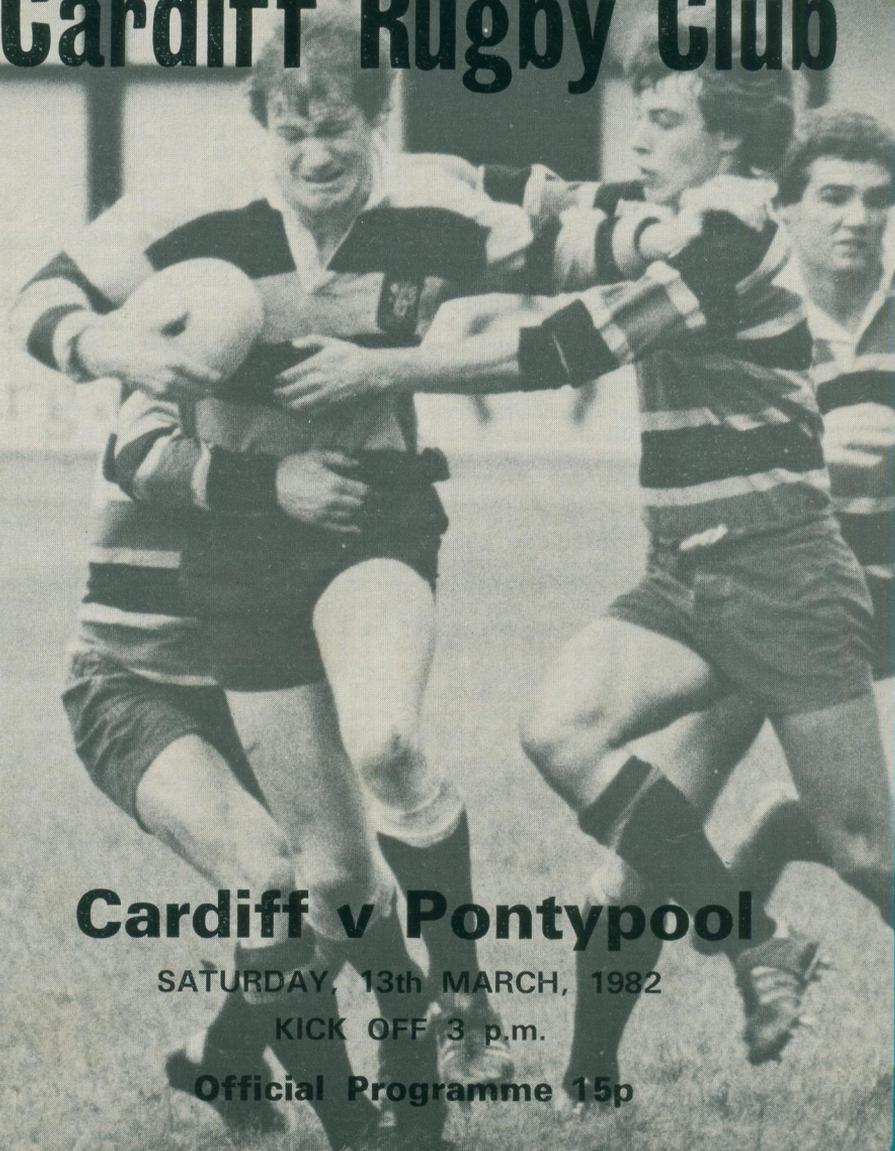




Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v Pontypool

SATURDAY, 13th MARCH, 1982

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

Cardiff v. Pontypool

SATURDAY, 13th MARCH, 1982 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

It's nice to be getting back to some degree of normality and to have the pleasure of playing one of the country's top sides on the Saturday on which the game was originally scheduled. As you are all well aware, the combined effects of the Australian touring team, the adverse weather and the resulting re-arrangements to accommodate Cup games have really upset the appercart. It has denied us the pleasure of meeting some of our most illustrious opponents such as Swansea and Llanelli on Saturdays which really is the time that suits both players and spectators alike. Mind you we still aren't out of the wood yet as far as re-arrangements are concerned. We are delighted, obviously, to be in at the semi-final stage of the Schweppes Cup on the 27th of this month. A quick check of our fixture card, however, will show you that our scheduled opponents for the day are the old enemy Newport, at home. Ironically enough then when the result of the draw for the penultimate stage of the Cup matched us with Newbridge the only rational venue for the tie was Rodney Parade. So, on the day, instead of a visit from the Black and Ambers we will be whisked up to Newport in, I hope, Stan Bowers new turbo-charged coach. (That's the one we all don't have to get out and push when going over the mountain to get on the Heads of the Valley road on our frequent trips to Ebbw Vale, I'm only joking Stan, honest). Again it will be rather a change for us because in our six previous semi-final appearances it's been a case of "Go West young man" as 3 of the games were at Bridgend, 2 at Aberavon and one at Swansea. Our little trip in an easterly direction then will take us into Gwent and poses the question, with whom will the resident supporters align themselves. I would imagine that our supporters will be there in their hordes, as is per usual, and with their current success, Newbridge will not be short of vocal backing. Somehow or other though I can't help feeling that also, they will have the support of the average Newport follower because as a matter of principal they will find it difficult to shout for anything wearing Blue and Black. One thing is certain, however, Newbridge are going to be a tough nut to crack and their confidence must be sky high after their victory in the fourth round. The result surprised many of us but on analysis the Newbridge club have some very good talent at their disposal. Their latest acquisition, of course, is Stuart Lane who since joining them earlier this year has appeared to have a new lease of life. Then there's the ageless Dennis Hughes who has been such a marvellous servant to the Newbridge club. He is now in his 22nd season with them and the zeal and enthusiasm he is now showing is an amazing credit to him. That fourth round victory was a personal triumph for him and no doubt he will be looking for a repeat performance on the 27th of this month.

Enough of the future, however, let's get back to today and extend a warm hand of friendship to the men of Pontypool. No doubt they are still smarting under the sting of that cup defeat at Newbridge and they will be intent on making no more slip ups this season. A win here today would give the "Pooler" a third consecutive win over us and incredibly this is something they have never done in the previous 136 games that have taken place between our clubs since fixtures began in 1901. Our previous encounter with them earlier on this season at Pontypool was a real hum-dinger and they ran out final winners by 24pts. to 15, to make it the last occasion this season that we have come off second best. Prior to that we played them at the very back end of last season, and it still brings a blush to my face to mention that we lost by the unbelievable score of 52-0. That was by far the highest total either side had previously scored and it was also only the second time since 1945-46 season that we had failed to score and only the 11th time in the 136 games already played. Of these games, we have won 90, lost 31 and 15 have been drawn. We have scored a total of 1,554 points to Pontypool's 911.

"Pooler" are going great guns this year and look all set to win the Whitbread Merit Table again. We are not participants in that particular table, however, but that will not stop them from giving their best to achieve victory here today in order to complete the double. Topping this table could give them some compensation for the twofold disappointment of this season..

Cover picture by courtesy of Western Mail & Echo

Firstly there was that rather heavy defeat at the hands of the Australian tourists and latterly the recent defeat in the fourth round of the Cup. On the credit side, however, they can celebrate with Graham Price who last Saturday played in his 37th consecutive international to become Wales' most capped prop forward, an honour he well deserves. Then again Bobby Windsor although not playing today still keeps going and has had as many comebacks as Frank Sinatra. Perhaps Bobby has got his sights set on doing a Dennis Hughes. All in all then things are going quite well for Pontypool and no doubt coach Ray Prosser will be looking for a good run in to bring the season to a fruitful conclusion. So again to Pontypool, welcome and may you enjoy your day. Can we reserve a special greeting though for David Bishop, one of our ex-players who was doing so well with Pontypool. Thankfully, he is making a complete recovery from a very serious injury, so from all of us in Cardiff, David we wish you well for the future.

Our game today is being sponsored by Shewring, Philpott and Hawkins (Insurance Brokers) Ltd., and for this gesture we offer our grateful thanks. The expense of staging first class rugby hasn't escaped the network of spiraling costs and sponsorship is a great help in providing revenue. On this point, have you noticed the building operations going on below the river end of our South Stand. This is to provide additional bar accommodation for the benefit of members but also we have taken the opportunity of providing space which can be used by match sponsors. It will be a very nice room so if anybody is interested in sponsoring a game, Alan Priday will be only too glad to furnish the details.

Finally heartiest congratulations to Gareth Davies and his wife on the arrival of their first born, a daughter. That reminds me of the expression always used in Ireland on being told that so and so has had a baby, the immediate inquiry is "What is it, a boy or a child".

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

In Wednesday's notes I mentioned the brief interlude at Twickenham when Swansea's Moriarty and Headingly's Winterbottom brightened the proceedings with their 'love play' on the floor after one or the other had torn the other away from that Maul. As we all know, friend Palmade lectured both, to then award a crucially successful penalty to Dusty Hare.

At one of our Sports Forums this week, the match came up, inevitably; that point of issue also, almost equally inevitably. A question naturally arising was, "Should not referee Palmade have penalised BOTH players after having warned them both? If he had how would they have been taken?"

Pause for breath. I promptly threw the question to Clive Norling, on the panel with us. His answer was perfectly straightforward, "In that situation, the laws make no provision for penalising both players. After the lecture and cautionary warning, the only decision to punish both equally would be to have awarded a scrum and in this instance the put-in would have been to Wales as they were the side in possession and going forward. Instead of remarking, "Fair enough", I'll say "Unfair enough".

Another one which came up at the same Forum was the back of the line possession gained by that Scott man, playing for England, captain of Cardiff, Wales. That happened no fewer than 5 times. The legality of his moving back to gain the ball was the point in doubt. No doubt at all the way that John does it with the same success for the club as for his country. He is allowed to move back as and when and, I quote:

"Players of the team throwing in the ball may move beyond the position of the furthest player for a long throw-in to them. They may do so only when the ball leaves the hands of the player throwing it in and if they do so their opponents, participating in the line-out may follow them. If players so move and the ball is not thrown to or beyond them they are offside."

That IS fair enough.

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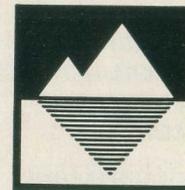
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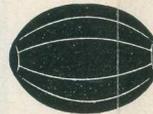
15. P. REES
14. S. EVANS
13. D. BARRY
12. P. DANIELS
11. D. PREECE
10. G. DAVIES
9. G. WILLIAMS
1. G. WHITEFOOT
2. A. PHILLIPS
3. I. EIDMAN
4. K. EDWARDS
5. R. NORSTER
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Forwards



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13. L. FALKNER
12. L. JONES
11. B. TAYLOR
10. M. POWELL
9. C. JONES
1. Staff JONES
2. Steve JONES
3. G. PRICE
4. J. PERKINS
5. S. SUTTON
6. J. SQUIRE (Captain)
8. E. BUTLER
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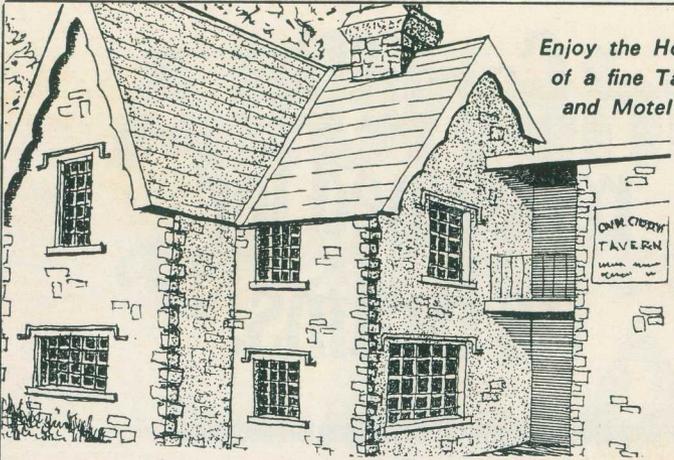
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

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	11-25
Wed. 30	Pontypridd	A	10-3
OCTOBER			
Sat. 3	Newport	A	15-6
Wed. 7	Bridgend	H	18-14
Sat. 10	Northampton	H	26-22
Wed. 14	Pontypool	A	15-24
Sat. 17	Bath	H	32-3
Wed. 21	Newbridge	A	15-12
Sat. 24	Harlequins	A	47-17
Tues. 27	Maesteg	A	25-11
Sat. 31	Moseley	A	26-24
NOVEMBER			
Sat. 7	Munster	H	16-10
Wed. 11	Oxford University	H	38-9
Sat. 14	Ebbw Vale	H	33-4
Sat. 21	W. Barry (Cup)	A	45-6
Fri. 27	Llanelli	A	15-7
DECEMBER			
Wed. 9	Swansea	H	Post.
Sat. 12	Lon. Welsh Aband.	H	6-6

Sat. 26	Pontypridd	H	16-0
Mon. 28	Glam. Wdrs. (Cup)	A	33-6

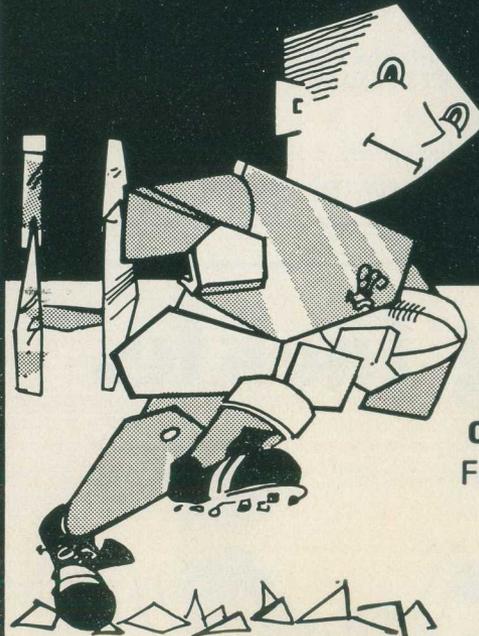
1982			
JANUARY			
Sat. 2	Moseley	H	25-14
Wed. 6	Aberavon	A	12-6
Fri. 22	Bective Rangers	A	23-12
Sat. 30	Waterloo	H	40-9

FEBRUARY			
Sat. 13	Ebbw Vale (Cup)	A	22-6
Wed. 17	Swansea	H	16-3
Sat. 20	Ebbw Vale	A	15-0
Sat. 27	Llanelli (Cup)	H	12-3

MARCH			
Sat. 6	London Welsh	A	20-13
Wed. 10	Llanelli	H	15-10
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		

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