

SCHWEPPE'S W.R.U. CHALLENGE CUP
SEMI-FINAL



CARDIFF
V
NEWBRIDGE

RODNEY PARADE

::

NEWPORT

SATURDAY, 27th MARCH, 1982

KICK-OFF 3.15 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

20p

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WELCOME TO RODNEY PARADE

HISTORY is being made at Rodney Parade this afternoon as the Chairman and Committee of Newport Rugby Club extend a very warm welcome to our "Black and Blue" friends from the Western Valley of Gwent, and the other end of the Newport Road, to contest the first-ever Schweppes W.R.U. Challenge Cup semi-final to be played in Gwent. We are honoured that the Welsh Rugby Union have chosen our famous ground to stage what promises to be a game full of excitement and drama in front of a large crowd which includes the Mayors of Cardiff, Islwyn, Newport and Epsom.

Rodney Parade has staged many memorable matches in the past, but a cup semi-final is something different, as the Players, Committees and Supporters of Cardiff and Newbridge will quickly confirm as they bite their nails, smoke their cigarettes and anxiously check their watches as the minutes tick away in this afternoon's game. Only 80 minutes of play stands between a place at the National Ground on Saturday 24th April 1982 for the Cup Final. Since the early years of the competition the Challenge Cup has grown in stature and is now the foremost competition in Wales, for with all the Clubs of the Union eligible to take part it is the one certain way of proving the best Club in Wales.

Since their quarter final victories over Llanelli and Pontypool, both today's teams have had their thoughts channelled to this afternoon's game and it is certain that the adrenalin will be flowing freely in the respective dressing-rooms as the final count-down to kick-off takes place. Cardiff, as Cup holders, have gone through the experience before, but for Newbridge it is a new experience as this is their first ever semi-final. Each Club are coached by former players, Roger Beard and Garry Samuels with Cardiff and Keith Westwood and Eric Phillips with Newbridge, and they are certain to motivate their players with the reminder of the prestige and publicity that can be gained for their Club and themselves by winning their way into the final. The one hard fact that has to be faced in the Cup competition is that there is no second chance, and anyone will tell you that the worst place to be in Welsh Rugby is the losing dressing-room after a Cup semi-final. The winners celebrate and think of the Final, while the losers can only think of the chances they let slip and make up their minds to do better next year.

Cup rugby has no respect for reputations or records, it is all about putting your game together for eighty minutes, making no mistakes and capitalising on all your opponents' errors and turning them into points. Sounds simple enough, but the players are only human beings, although many supporters think differently, and with the atmosphere generated by a large crowd being electric, it is understandable why one incident can change the result of a game. Let's wish the players on both sides 'Good Luck' for this afternoon and hope that referee Alun Richards will control a game that will be long remembered.

Welcome to Rodney Parade, we hope that this afternoon's game will be the first of many semi-finals to be staged here, and that the quality of rugby will be a credit to both the Cardiff and Newbridge Clubs. We offer our congratulations to the "Winners" and wish them every success on 24th April, while to the "Losers" we offer our commiserations.

B.J.J.

CARDIFF 'ON THE DOUBLE' TRAIL

CARDIFF come to Rodney Parade for today's Schweppes Cup semi-final riding high on the crest of a wave of success. After two decades without a major honour, they are making up for lost time in the 1980s.

They fought off a crippling series of injuries last season to win the cup for the first time, and this season they are well placed to go one better by carrying off the club championship as well.

It is more than 20 years — 1957—58, in fact — since they won the championship, but their progress in it this season has been stately. They have won 24 successive games since October 14th.

That last defeat, one of only two they have suffered all season, came at Pontypool, and they gained handsome revenge at the Arms Park a fortnight ago in one of the finest games anyone who saw it could recall.

Four of those 24 victories came in the Schweppes Cup. They won 45—6 at Barry, 33—6 at Glamorgan Wanderers, 22—9 at Ebbw Vale and — drawn at home at last in the quarter-finals — beat Llanelli 12—3 at the Arms Park.

Yet they were without their captain, John Scott, until January 22nd because of ankle surgery. And there have been international calls on Scott, Pat Daniels, Gareth Davies, Terry Holmes, Alan Phillips and Rhodri Lewis.

Cardiff's progress to glory can be traced back to October last season. Savaged by injuries, when they lost to the All Blacks their record for 1980—81 comprised seven wins and six defeats — dismal by their standards.

Although the injury problem never relented, they lost only six more games all season. And three of those came in a little clutch right at the end when they were relaxing after beating Bridgend 14—6 in the Schweppes Cup final.

Five straight victories on their Zimbabwe tour followed, and this season almost everything they have touched has turned to gold. They have won 33 games, lost two drawn one and suffered one abandonment.

Those 36 and a bit games have brought them 862 points, and they have topped 30 in a match 10 times. They have scored 139 tries, including 18 in their four cup matches.

Their leading try scorer, Terry Holmes (20), was unfortunately injured while playing for Wales at Twickenham, but they have plenty of finishers available, with Steve Evans lying second to Holmes with 16.

With plenty of goal kicking talent on hand as well Cardiff have been a most formidable side, and there are extra incentives to spur them on to an extra effort in their first cup encounter with Newbridge.

First of all, there is the simple matter of retaining the cup and equalling the feat of Bridgend, who won it two years running before meeting their Waterloo against John Scott's men last season.

Secondly, there is the prospect of pulling off that glittering cup and championship double. Only Llanelli, who reached the first five cup finals and won four years running, have taken both honours in one season, 1973—74.

On top of that, victory today would give Cardiff their 25th consecutive win. And that would elevate them into distinguished company, equalling the club record set by two legendary sides of the past.

The 1885—86 side, captained by Frank Hancock, did it. They won their first 25 of the season and lost the last. And Haydn Tanner's team of 1947—48 matched their feat of winning 25 in a row during the course of one season.

Maybe it is an omen in Cardiff's favour that Hancock was from the West Country, though he played his international rugby for Wales. In John Scott, Cardiff have another West Countryman as captain, and Arms Park followers are quite happy to forgive him for playing for England.

Alun Rees, South Wales Echo



WILL THIS SCENE BE REPEATED THIS YEAR?

PHOTOGRAPH BY COURTESY OF
THE SOUTH WALES ECHO



TODAY'S TEAMS



Referee:
ALUN RICHARDS
W.F.U.

CARDIFF

NEWBRIDGE

Colours—

Jerseys: Black and Blue Quarters
Shorts: Black

Colours—

Jerseys: Red
Shorts: Black

Paul REES	15	FULL BACK	15	Brendan McALOON
Steve EVANS	14	RIGHT WING	14	Chris PHILLIPS
David BARRY	13	CENTRE	13	Paul EVANS
Pat DANIELS	12	CENTRE	12	Ian GOSLIN
Derrick PREECE	11	LEFT WING	11	David OWEN
Gareth DAVIES	10	OUTSIDE HALF	10	Paul TURNER
Gwynfor WILLIAMS	9	INSIDE HALF	9	Lloyd DAVIES (Capt.)
Jeff WHITEFOOT	1	PROP	1	Gary HEWLETT
Alan PHILLIPS	2	HOOKER	2	Jim STOKES
Ian EIDMAN	3	PROP	3	Mike DOWLING
Kevin EDWARDS	4	LOCK	4	Robert BEAL
Robert NORSTER	5	LOCK	5	Clive DAVIES
Robert LAKIN	6	FLANKER	6	Alan MORGAN
John SCOTT (Capt.)	8	No. 8	8	Dennis HUGHES
Owen GOLDING	7	FLANKER	7	Stuart LANE

Substitutes:

Terry LEE
Mark RING
Peter GOODFELLOW
John RAWLINS
Lawrence O'BRIEN
Mathew HADLEY

Substitutes:

Tony BROWNING
Jeff HARRIS
Mark OLIVER
Len SIMS
Gerald LEWIS
Martin SHORT

Touch Judges:
W. D. BEVAN
K. C. PARFITT



Programme Editor: B. J. JONES

NEWBRIDGE MAKE HISTORY

NEWBRIDGE are in the semi-finals of the Schweppes Welsh Cup at last. After eleven years of trying they have finally got to the stage where they are just eighty minutes away from the final itself.

To reach this landmark for the first time in their history Newbridge had to withstand some of the most furious pressure imaginable in the quarter-final against Pontypool. But survive it they did, a third minute Brendan McAloon penalty goal knocking out a side who had themselves disposed of Swansea in the previous round.

Prior to that epic victory Newbridge removed Kidwelly (24—6), Abergavenny (15—0) and Bridgend Sports (46—12) from the competition. It is one of the surprises of the cup that they have not reached the last four before because they have been in the quarter-finals on no fewer than six occasions.

At least four times they were close to that elusive semi-final place, none more so than in 1974 when they actually drew with Pontypool 6—6, but bowed out because their opponents got the only try of the tie through Robin Williams.

Last season Newbridge went out 13—10 in the quarter-finals at Swansea in a match they would have won with a little more steadiness. On two occasions they have been pipped by Newport at the same stage of the competition, 13—10 in season 1976—77 and 7—3 two years ago.

Now that they have finally broken the barrier memories come flooding back of the glorious sixties when Newbridge were at their peak and carried off the unofficial Welsh championship in 1964.

That side played some delightfully flowing rugby under the guidance of coach Dai Harries, one of the game's great thinkers and certainly a man with almost unrivalled passion for rugby football. He has been working in the Middle East for the past year or so, but he will be in the crowd at Rodney Parade today having decided to fly home for the occasion and having written a long letter to the club entirely devoted to one subject — how to beat Cardiff!

One of Newbridge's most prominent players in those heady days nearly twenty years ago is still a leading member of the team today — number eight Dennis Hughes now in his 41st year, 22 of them in first class rugby during which he has played between 700 and 800 matches for the club.

During the sixties he formed one of Welsh club rugby's finest back rows alongside older brother Arthur Hughes and Ken Braddock. Although Dennis and Braddock both played for Wales the indestructible Arthur never did, which was one of the game's harsher judgements although Dai Hayward, who edged him out, might be tempted to disagree!

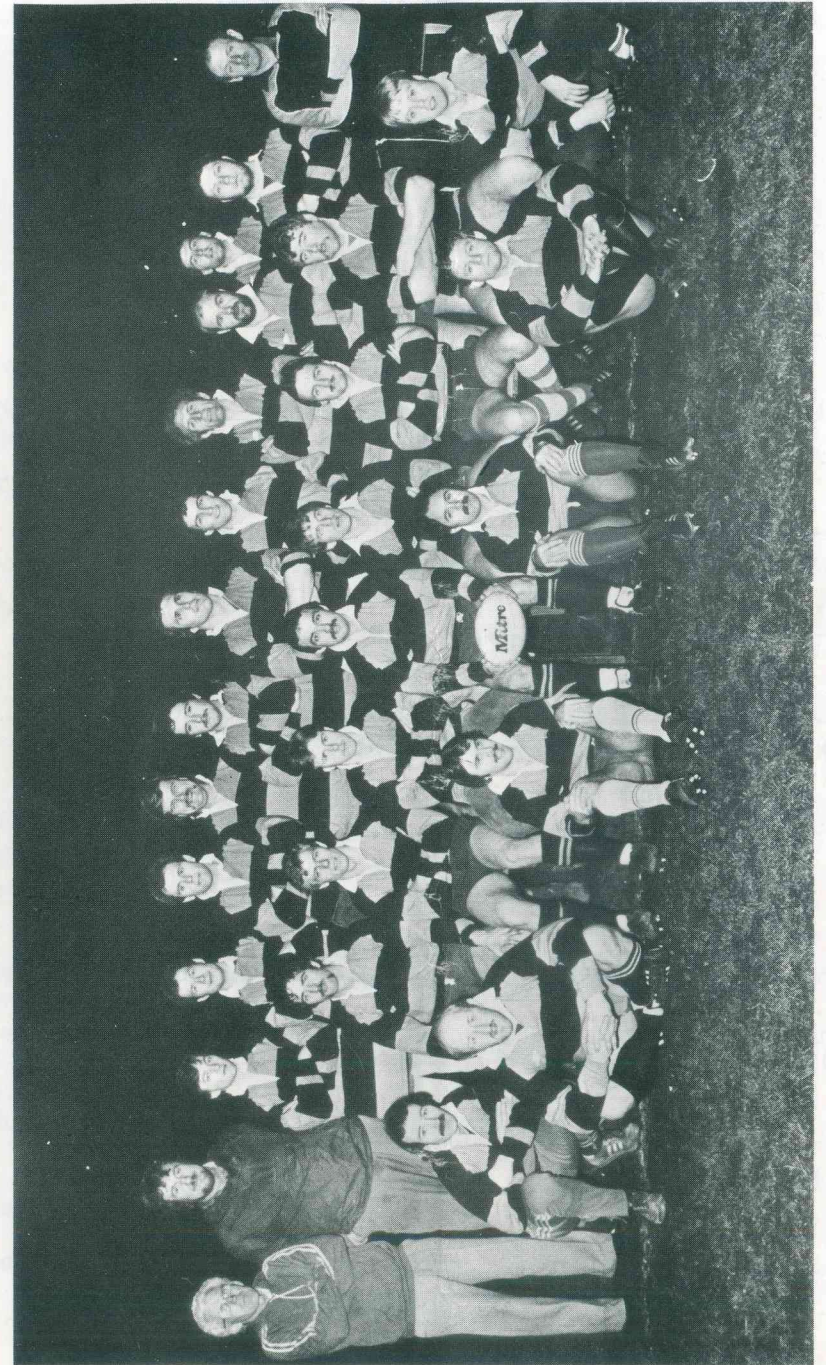
Between Newbridge's peaks of the sixties and today came the trough of the seventies when the boiler blew up, completely wrecking the dressing rooms and clubhouse. Facilities were nil and both home and visiting teams had to change in the nearby school.

But this was when another side of Newbridge was seen to best advantage. Everyone pitched in and after years of hard work by committee, players, friends and acquaintances, plus financial aid, palatial new premises containing every amenity were opened.

Next on the horizon were floodlights and these were switched on against Crawshays Welsh XV this season. Many more plans are in the pipeline as the club gradually regain their rightful position in Welsh rugby's top flight.

How much more worthwhile will it be if Newbridge can take their place in the final of the Schweppes Welsh Cup . . .

Robin Davey, South Wales Argus



NEWBRIDGE SQUAD PHOTOGRAPH 1982

By courtesy — South Wales Argus

**PREVIOUS W.R.U. CUP
SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL RESULTS**

SCHWEPPE'S WRU CUP

- 71--72 Neath 16 Cardiff 9; Llanelli 13 Aberavon 7.
Neath 15 Llanelli 9
- 72--73 Llanelli 6 Neath 3; Cardiff 12 Swansea 8.
Llanelli 30 Cardiff 7
- 73--74 Llanelli 16 Pontypool 14; Aberavon 9 Cardiff 4.
Llanelli 12 Aberavon 10
- 74--75 Llanelli 35 Bridgend 6; Aberavon 10 Pontypridd 9.
Llanelli 15 Aberavon 6
- 75--76 Llanelli 10 Ebbw Vale 4; Swansea 22 Pontypool 14.
Llanelli 16 Swansea 4
- 76--77 Cardiff 15 Aberavon 6; Newport 7 Ebbw Vale 3.
Newport 16 Cardiff 15
- 77--78 Newport 10 Aberavon 6; Swansea 18 Cardiff 13.
Swansea 13 Newport 9
- 78--79 Bridgend 18 Llanelli 13; Pontypridd 6 Aberavon 3.
Bridgend 18 Pontypridd 12
- 79--80 Bridgend 18 Llanelli 10; Swansea 23 Newport 13.
Bridgend 15 Swansea 9
- 80--81 Bridgend 22 Llanelli 15; Cardiff 18 Swansea 7.
Cardiff 14 Bridgend 6
- 81--82

WELSH RUGBY UNION

**SCHWEPPE'S
CUP FINAL**

**SATURDAY, 24th APRIL, 1982
NATIONAL GROUND, CARDIFF ARMS PARK •
KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.**

To: Secretary, Welsh Rugby Union, P.O. Box 22, Cardiff.

Please supply me with the following tickets for the Schweppes Cup Final to be played at the National Ground, Cardiff Arms Park, Saturday, 24th April, 1982.

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.....	South Lower (Blocks B and H)	@ £3.00
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.....	North Upper (Blocks A and K)	@ £3.00

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TOTAL £

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