

Cardiff
Rugby Club
v. PONTYPRIDD
Thursday, 26th December, 1985. 3 p.m.
Official Programme 30p



Cardiff v. Pontypridd

THURSDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1985

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

No it's not a ravishing model standing next to you, it's just another guy dosed up to his armpits in Brut 33; and no it's not fog coming in over the stand, it's just the smoke from the innumerable cigars. These are probably but just two of the numerous goodies that Father Christmas has filled our stockings with on this festive occasion. It also heralds, beside singing angels, a most welcome visit from our good friends and near neighbours Pontypridd. This is eminently appropriate because everybody likes being home or near home at this time of the year and not trekking to far distant venues.

Let's also hope that the weather behaves itself so we can enjoy an atmosphere where bonhomie and the warm spirit of Christmas will be the order of the day. That will certainly be the case on the non competitive side of the touch line and no doubt we will have the audacity to expect the poor 30 players involved to be tuned to Six Million Dollar Man proportions in order to continue the good standard of play and enjoyment that we have become accustomed to seeing on this particular occasion. Spare a thought for them then and let's hope it will be as enjoyable for them.

Today The Boxing Day series is extended to 13 games since its inception in 1972 with the only omission being during our centenary year 1976-77. Of the 12 previous games we have won 11 and Ponty's single success came in 1977 with a 13 points to 9 victory. In fact that was the third of four wins on the trot sequence which represents the best period they have ever achieved in the 55 game series which began as long ago as November 1878. It also coincided with Ponty's great era when they won the championship three times in four years and swept all before them. For our part we have managed an 11 win sequence and at present we have won the last six games.

These days The Sardis Road boys are very much in the process of team building. Last season they finished just about all square when of 49 games played 23 were won 23 were lost and the remaining 3 drawn. Points wise it was also very much a case of even Steven with 630 points for to 652 against. It seemed a reasonable base for Billy Griffiths to renew his association with the club he had served so well as a player in the 1960's in the capacity of coach. His philosophy has always been to play an expansive game as he so well proved with his success at Bridgend. Things have not worked out quite that way however because between injuries and defections Ponty have had a very lean season to date indeed. We have been one of the beneficiaries in this respect with the recruitment of Mark Rowley who appears to be maturing with each game.

Their season started rather horrendously with some heavy defeats during September. October saw no respite and injuries didn't help their cause either. Characteristically however Billy Griffiths has stuck to his expansive game theory and although defeat came more often than victory Ponty were playing flowing 15 man rugby. The biggest blow they suffered however was a first round proper cup exit at the hands of Duntant by 4-0. The disappointment must have been aggravated when in the very next game they gave Pontypool a tremendous game at Sardis Road and only went under by 12-7. Just prior to that they beat Newport at Rodney Parade so it came as a bit of a sledge hammer blow to lose all interest in the cup at the first fence. Still they have picked themselves up and have won at Penarth, only just lost out to Swansea in the last minute and also gave Bridgend a good game on their ground. Wins over Sale and Maesteg means they could have the bit in their teeth and are raring to get at us today. One player they will miss however is their stylish full back Ian Walsh who had a spell with us. His broken jaw is likely to keep him out for some time yet.

For the record we have played Ponty on 55 previous occasions of which we have won 40 to their 13 with 2 drawn. Points to us 810 to their 341. Once again then we say to Pontypridd welcome to Cardiff Arms Park and may 1986 see good fortune smile on you.

They say that many hands make light work but the many hands from Pencoed certainly made it hard work for us in last Saturday's cup game. They certainly did themselves proud in terms of commitment and dedication and it's many a day since we have heard such marvellous support for a visiting team to The Arms Park. Well done Pencoed.

Another home draw would have done us nice and tidy thank you but that's not the case and we have a very tricky proposition in the shape of Neath Athletic on their own patch on January 25th. They have consistently been one of the best of the smaller clubs in Wales for many years and founder member Rees Stephens will be delighted at the prospects of a game against Cardiff.

Don't forget our next home game is against Bath on New Year's Day. They are sending the best team so an extremely enjoyable game is on the cards. Get there early.

P.N.

BREWERS WITH A FINE TRADITION.

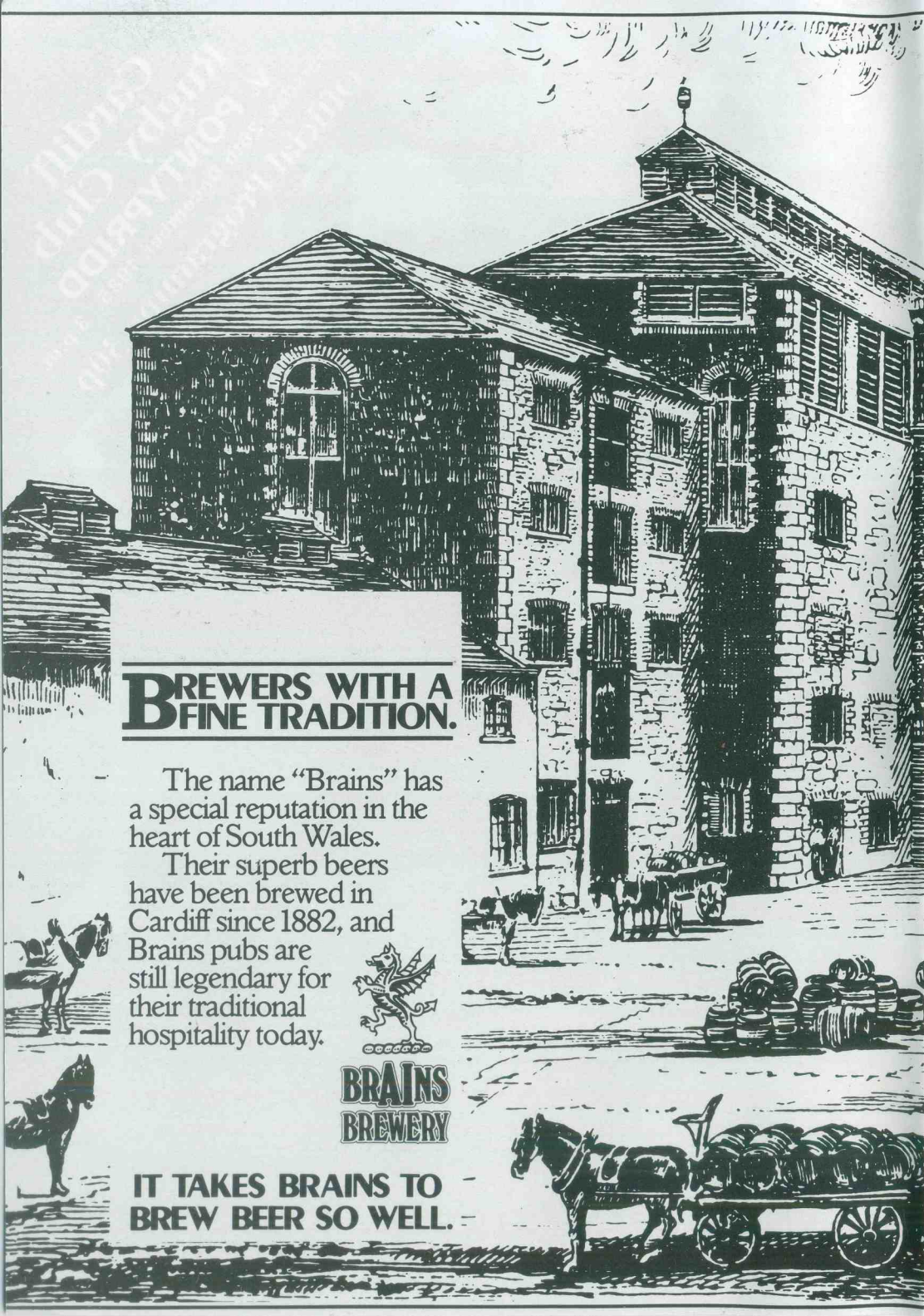
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Rugby Quiz – No. 14

It's all about our Christmas fixtures today.

1. The Wasps began a Boxing day sequence of home matches in 1946. When did it end?
2. During this sequence, did the Wasps ever win?
3. Boxing Day 1963 saw Welsh Academicals as our opponents. Who took over from them for the next eight years?
4. Has bad weather ever caused cancellation of a Ponty game on Boxing Day?
5. On twenty occasions between 1892 and 1920 our Boxing Day opponents were very illustrious indeed. Who were they?

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KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

NADOLIG LLAWEN – HAPPY CHRISTMAS

QUESTION 1. What do we mean by 'grounding the ball'?

Grounding the ball is the act of a player who (1) while holding the ball in his hand (or hands) or arm (or arms) brings the ball in contact with the ground, or (2) while the ball is on the ground either;

- a) places his hand (or hands) or arm (or arms) on it with downward pressure, or
- b) falls upon it, and the ball is anywhere under the front of his body from waist to neck inclusive.

Picking up the ball from the ground is not grounding it.

QUESTION 2. What is a 'momentum try'?

A try is scored if the momentum of a player, when tackled carries him into his opponents' in-goal and he first there grounds the ball.

QUESTION 3. What is a 'Touch-down'?

A touch-down occurs when a player first grounds the ball in his in-goal. After a touch-down, play shall be re-started either by a drop out or a scrummage, as provided for in law.

QUESTION 4. What is a 'Penalty try'?

A penalty try shall be awarded, between the posts, if, but for foul play, by the defending team.

- a) a try would probably have been scored, or
- b) it would probably have been scored in a more favourable position than that where the ball was grounded.

If the referee has any doubt as to the balance or probability, he should give the benefit of the doubt in favour of the non-offending team and award the penalty try.

Players are always unsure as to whether they can 'charge' the conversion after a penalty try. The answer is YES.

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PAST PLAYERS CORNER REX WILLIS

Rex was born in the Rhondda at Ystrad, but came to Cardiff at an early age. He attended Llandaff Cathedral Prep School and was a fellow pupil of John Robbins who also went on to play for Wales and The British Lions. Later Rex attended Pangbourne Nautical College and took part in the rugby activities there. Naturally he was recruited to the Navy for his war service but did manage to play one wartime game for Cardiff before going to the Middle East. Whilst there he captained the Mediterranean British Forces XV. He then saw action at the Normandy landings before returning to Civvy Street when he joined the Llandaff Club.

His skill and durability were soon in evidence however and he joined Cardiff in season 1947-48 as understudy to Haydn Tanner. He won his Rags cap in 1948-49 along with his great friend Sid Judd. It was when Tanner retired that Rex really established himself. 1949-50 was a fantastic season for him and heralded the formation of his partnership with Cliff Morgan which was destined to develop into one of Cardiff's and Wales' most successful pair. It was the season also he won the first of his 21 caps (how many more could he have won had injury been avoided). Wales won the Triple Crown and Grand Slam that year for the first time in 39 years. The Triple Crown victory was scarred however due the air crash at Llandow when 80 fans returning from Belfast were killed. The glory of the season for Rex brought further honours when along with Bleddyn and Jack, Billy Cleaver and Cliff Davies he was selected for the Lions tour of the Antipodes.

Rex suffered a big disappointment in season 1952-53 however. He was elected captain but a badly damaged shoulder in the August trials kept him out until the Wasps game on Boxing Day (that's 33 years ago to the day). He was injured again at Murrayfield playing for Wales and then again in April at Cheltenham and unfortunately he played in only 12 of the 49 games. Rex finally hung up his boots in season 1957-58 after playing in 208 games. He became a member of the committee in 1959-60 and served for some eight years before business pressure forced him to pack in.

Rex's talents are best summed up in 'Massa' Dan's book - "personification of courage, unselfish to a degree and quick fast service from the scrum and never allowed his outside half to take a hiding. A grand sportsman a credit to his club, country and British Lions."

Rex busies himself these days as one of the Welsh representatives of the Barbarians committee.

CARDIFF RUGBY SUPPORTERS CLUB

At long last we are back with another Rugby Season and have pleasure in advising you of our plans for the Autumn Social Events and also the Coach arrangements and costs for the away games.

Social Events

Friday, 4th October
RACE MEETING (with Buffet)

Friday, 18th October
REFEREE'S FORUM (for Welsh
Association of Referee's Supporters
Club).

Thursday, 31st October
HALLOWEEN DANCE (in association
with the Athletic Club).

Friday, 29th November
TRADITIONAL JAZZ BAND EVENING.

Wednesday, 18th December
FRANK HENNESSEY EVENING.

Please watch the notice board in the
Club for further details regarding
times and tickets etc.

Coach Arrangements

Following last years successful coach bookings, we have made similar arrangements for this season again with National. We list below the first half details and prices.

Saturday, 21st September COVENTRY*	£6.00
Wednesday, 16th October PONTYPOOL	£2.50
Saturday, 26th October HARLEQUINS	£6.00
Saturday, 2nd November LEICESTER*	£6.00
Saturday, 23rd November LLANELLI	£3.00
Saturday, 28th December BRIDGEND	£2.50

* Late Return

QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

Come out for some fresh air, have you? Left the good lady at home to do two days' washing-up while you stretch lungs and legs and smoke cigars and chew sweets and stand in the bar telling your friends who don't believe a word of it that you had a quiet Christmas. Lying hounds! Feel guilty, go on, while remembering that those poor lads in the middle have had to be abstemious – and still have to face Bridgend and Bath before they relax. The temptations must be – and, come to think of it, probably were – intolerable for today's subject for dissection, a man who needs only a white beard (as opposed to a Roger Beard) to play the role of Santa. Huge, jovial, full of Ho-Ho-Ho (not to mention Yo-Ho-Ho) and conviviality, he has had his training problems these past few days. He not only works for a brewery (tricky enough) but father-in-law runs a pub (the Nag's Head in Usk) where our subject and team-mates have been known to give a helping hand and thirst of an evening. Not, I stress, that he's one of the team's back-seat rabble rousers: just because he missed the bus in Swansea after that late-night carousel the other Saturday doesn't mean that he was not safely home and tucked in bed long before the other eight who singularly failed (by a good half-hour) to catch the team coach. And the team coach to catch them. Today's traditional Boxing Day visitors may receive a smile but they can nevertheless expect no Christmas presents from the cheerful

GRAHAM KEVIN EDWARDS

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birthplace: Pontypool.

Date: Yes. (Further pressure suggests Kevin may – or may not – be 27. Possibly. "But no one else tells the truth," he claims. Oh? Is he getting at Alun D, I ask myself. "Well," says Mr Edwards, "Charlie Faulkner won his first cap at 34, his second at 33, his third at 32 and so on.")

Height/Weight: 6ft 4ins. 17 stone 4lb. Well, somewhere between 17 and 19. "I was 19 stone when I went to Australia but slimmed down to about 16-10 under their training." Are you listening Mr Beard?

Education: West Monmouthshire Grammar School. "I refuse to say West Mon Comprehensive."

Previous Clubs: Cardiff College ("I refuse likewise to say South Glamorgan Institute"). Pontypool.

Married: Yes, to Susan, for more than two years now.

Children: No – "but we'll get down to it one of these days."

Employment: Sales executive with Crown Brewery, thereby possibly explaining the weight, partly.

Car: Sierra.

Superstitions: Driving on the right.

Career: Five Welsh Under-19 caps; captain, Cardiff College and Welsh Colleges. Played for British Colleges. Also represented the Colleges at squash, basketball and cricket (and would have at weightlifting if injury had not prevented it.) Inaugural South Glam Sports Personality. Four seasons with Pontypool before moving to Cardiff. Toured America and Canada with Wales B 1980. Senior Welsh squad 1981. Four WRU Cup finals with Cardiff and helped to beat the Australians.

Club Nickname: Heavy Kev. Adonis (at Pontypool where they are clearly deep into Greek and other types of mythology).

Hobbies: Driving, reading, cinema, dining out.

PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby Player: Graham Price. The Cardiff Front Five (Quidnunc: Just the front five? Kev: Yes. Quidnunc: That'll upset Scottie. Kev: Exactly).

Referee: Mother-in-law when father-in-law is angry.

Biggest Influence: The brilliant Lions' packs of 1974 and 1977.

Other Sports: All sports.

Other Sportsmen: Marvin Hagler. Daley Thompson.

Film: Zulu. "My great uncle John Williams won the VC in the battle – and survived. So I keep the film permanently on tape."

Actor: Gareth Davies when he gets caught in a maul.

Actress: Britt Eckland: "though I'm a little bit too old for her now."

Comedians: Cardiff front row.

TV Programme: All sports programmes.

Pop Star: Madonna. (Sotto voce) Dolly Parton.

Holiday Resort: "I've been lucky to tour many marvellous and lively places. But my favourite is the quiet Salcombe in Devon. A lovely bit of Britain."

Food: Anything I can lay my hands and teeth on.

Drink: Brenin Bitter, of course. Of course (see also: employment).

Politician: Jeff Whitefoot when he's discussing affairs of the moment with the opposing front row.

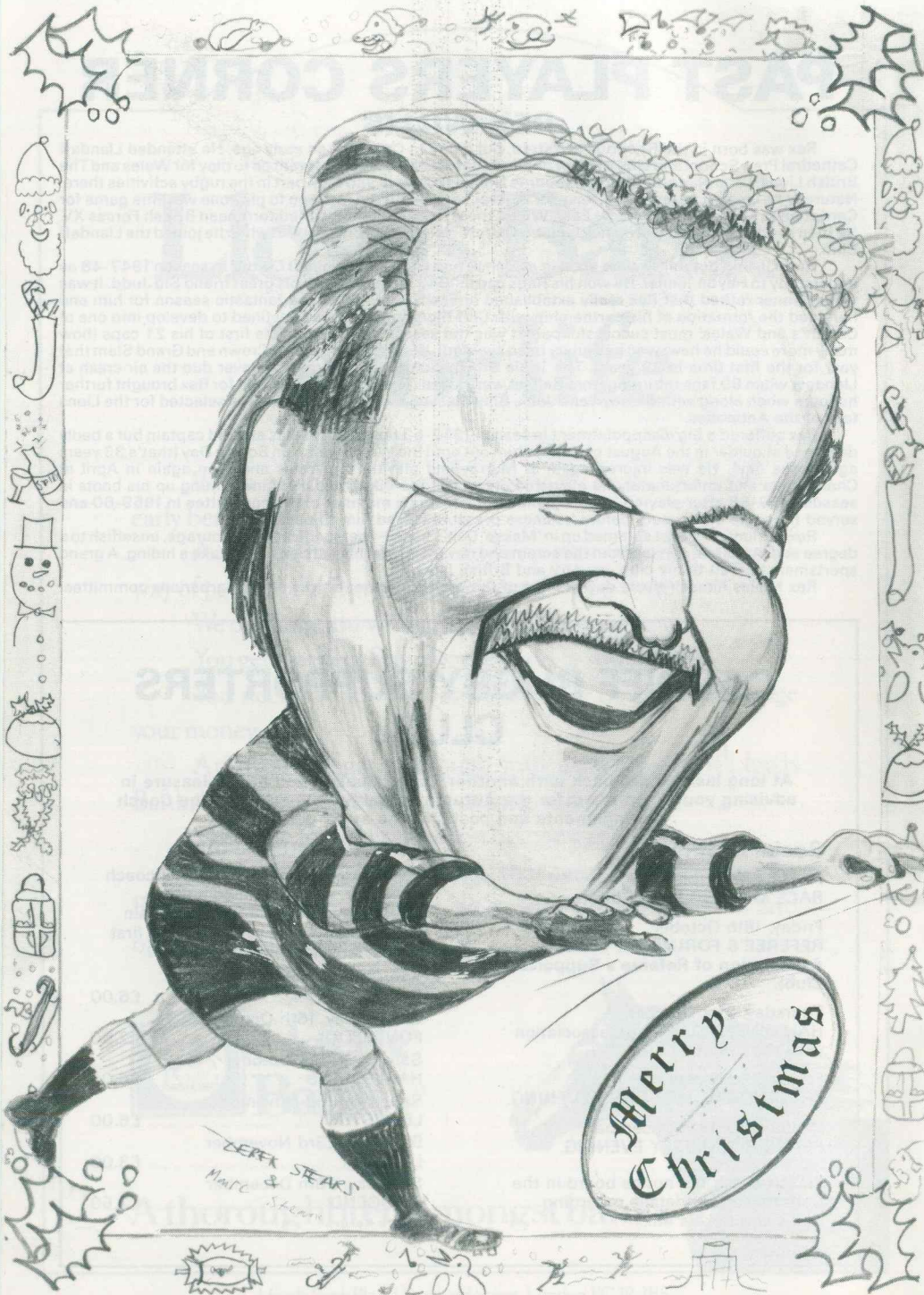
Rugby Ground: National Stadium.

MEMORIES

Best: Beating the Australians with Cardiff. Playing for Port Hacking in Australia last summer.

Worst: Missing most of the season 1982-83 because of work and travel commitments.

Ambition: To squeeze into 36-inch shirts and shorts. Alan Phillips to throw me 10 line-out balls per game.



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Cardiff

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 15. M. RAYER | Full Back |
| 14. M. CARRINGTON | Right Wing |
| 13. A. DONOVAN | Right Centre |
| 12. C. WEBBER/D. EVANS | Left Centre |
| 11. A. HADLEY/A. GLASSON | Left Wing |
| 10. W. G. DAVIES | Outside Half |
| 9. S. CANNON/T. LEE | Inside Half |
| 1. J. WHITEFOOT | Forwards |
| 2. A. J. PHILLIPS (Captain) | |
| 3. C. COLLINS/S. BLACKMORE | |
| 4. H. STONE | |
| 5. M. ROWLEY | |
| 6. G. ROBERTS | |
| 8. R. LAKIN/T. CHARLES | |
| 7. T. CROTHERS | |

To be announced

Replacements

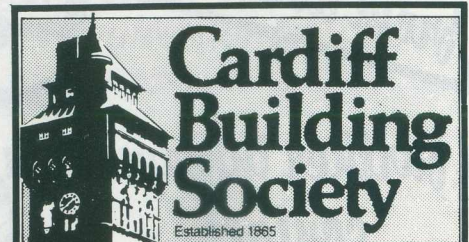
Pontypridd

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| D. WILLIAMS/R. WILLIAMS | 15. |
| S. EVANS | 14. |
| M. NICHOLAS | 13. |
| S. SMITH | 12. |
| J. ROBINSON | 11. |
| N. COOK | 10. |
| R. DAVIES | 9. |
| G. DAVIES | 1. |
| P. JOHN | 2. |
| N. WILDING | 3. |
| W. ROPER | 4. |
| A. N. OTHER | 5. |
| N. SAUNDERS | 6. |
| A. CARPENTER | 8. |
| R. BENNETT | 7. |

To be announced

Referee: Mr. R.O.P. JONES

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- Rugby Quiz No. 14 – Answers
1. 1962, after 16 games. 1961 was cancelled due to frost.
 2. No, the nearest they came was a 3-3 draw in 1959.
 3. Liverpool.
 4. No.
 5. The Barbarians.

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Cardiff Rugby Club 1985-86

FIRST XV FIXTURES

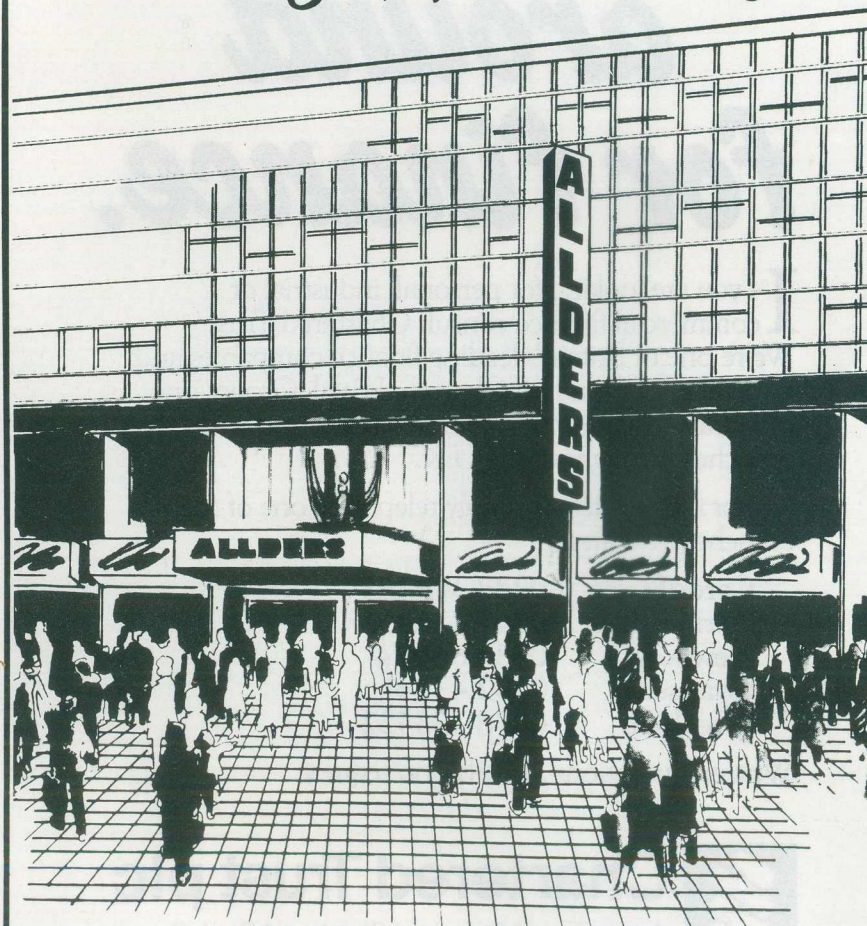
1985			DECEMBER		
SEPTEMBER			Sat. 7	Swansea	H 13-12
Mon. 2	Cross Keys	A 32-11	Sat. 14	London Welsh	H 22-17
Wed. 4	Glamorgan Wanderers	A 27-10	Sat. 21	Pencoed (Cup)	H 24-3
Sat. 7	Bangor	A 15-3	Thur. 26	Pontypridd	H.....
Wed. 11	Bristol	H 28-0	Sat. 28	Bridgend	A.....
Sat. 14	Neath	H 30-27	1986		
Wed. 18	Penarth	A 37-6	JANUARY		
Sat. 21	Coventry	A 20-13	Wed. 1	Bath	H.....
Sat. 28	Aberavon	H 24-12	Sat. 4	Moseley	A.....
OCTOBER			Sat. 11	Aberavon	A.....
Wed. 2	Pontypridd	A 32-6	Sat. 18	London Welsh	A.....
Sat. 5	Newport	A 13-7	Sat. 25	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	A.....
Wed. 9	Bridgend	H 7-16	FEBRUARY		
Sat. 12	Fijis	H 31-15	Sat. 8	Bristol	A.....
Wed. 16	Pontypool	A 12-13	Sat. 22	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	A.....
Sat. 19	Wasps	H 20-12	Wed. 26	South Glam. Institute	H.....
Wed. 23	Bath	A 13-16	MARCH		
Sat. 26	Harlequins	A 38-16	Wed. 5	Llanelli	H.....
Wed. 30	Newbridge	H 41-15	Sat. 8	Pontypool	H.....
NOVEMBER			Sat. 15	Ebbw Vale	A.....
Sat. 2	Leicester	A 20-15	Sat. 22	Newport (S-Final Sch.)	H.....
Wed. 6	Oxford University	H 44-7	Sat. 29	Barbarians	H.....
Fri. 8	Ebbw Vale	H 13-12	APRIL		
Sat. 16	S. Glam. Inst. (Cup)	H 25-16	Sat. 5	Bedford	H.....
Sat. 23	Llanelli	A 3-13	Sat. 12	Swansea	A.....
Wed. 27	Maesteg	H 15-3	Sat. 19	Neath	A.....
Sat. 30	South Wales Police	H 38-6	Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup Final	A.....

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1985			SEPTEMBER		
SEPTEMBER			Sat. 21	Neath Athletic	A.....
Wed. 4	Bedwas	H 9-0	Sat. 28	Bridgend Sports	H.....
Sat. 7	Neath Athletic	H 44-10	1986		
Wed. 11	Bristol United	A 0-9	JANUARY		
Sat. 14	Bath United	A 17-22	Sat. 4	Moseley United	H.....
Wed. 18	Llandaff	H 16-0	Sat. 11	Bridgend Sports	A.....
Sat. 21	Coventry Extras	H 7-10	Sat. 25	Llanharen	H.....
Wed. 25	Old Illtydians	A 25-7	FEBRUARY		
Sat. 28	Pontypool United	A 47-3	Sat. 8	Bristol United	H.....
OCTOBER			Sat. 15	Barry	A.....
Wed. 2	Cardiff & District	H 42-6	Wed. 19	Pontypool United	H.....
Sat. 5	Newport United	H 46-21	Sat. 22	St. Peters	H.....
Thur. 10	Paramatta	H 6-10	Fri. 28	Bryncoch	H.....
Wed. 16	Pontypool Athletic	H 22-8	MARCH		
Sat. 19	Rumney	A 4-7	Wed. 5	Abercynon	A.....
Wed. 23	Pyle	H 18-16	Sat. 8	Pontypool Athletic	A.....
Sat. 26	Trinant	H 40-9	Sat. 15	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H.....
Wed. 30	Pontypridd Athletic	A 18-12	Wed. 19	Pontypridd Athletic	H.....
NOVEMBER			Sat. 22	Newport United	A.....
Sat. 2	Leicester Extras	H 19-16	Wed. 26	Maesteg Celtic	A.....
Wed. 6	Newport Saracens	A 27-11	APRIL		
Fri. 8	Ebbw Vale Athletic	A 9-13	Sat. 5	Blackwood	A.....
Sat. 16	Caerleon	H 52-6	Wed. 9	Bedwas	A.....
Wed. 23	Abercarn	H 36-7	Sat. 12	Swansea Athletic	H.....
Sat. 30	Berry Hill	A 26-21	Tues. 15	Resolven	A.....
DECEMBER			Sat. 19	Talywain	H.....
Sat. 7	Swansea Athletic	A 18-3	Wed. 30	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	A.....

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26th DEC., 1985

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