



Cardiff v. Neath

SATURDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER, 1985 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Again then we come to a big occasion, our first home Saturday of the 1985-86 season. The pity is that all our big club clashes do not take place on Saturday afternoons which is the favoured time by players, administrators and spectators alike. That's another very complicated story however so today we extend a warm welcome to the Welsh All Blacks, Neath.

Ironically, after Bristol's visit last Wednesday it means we have had successive games with two of several sides we failed to play at home last year due to bad weather or cup committments. Unlike Bristol however we did have the pleasure of a visit by Neath as we played them at home in the 4th round of the Cup. Mind if you can cast your minds back a little way there was a sweat about the game because the previous week the Wales v. England game was postponed for a second time but fortunately for us the weather relented in time, for the game to go ahead on the scheduled date.

It was in that very game that we got back something like winning form against Neath because they had won the two games prior to it. As you may well remember we defeated them in the 1984 nervewracking cup final by 24-19. On the following Monday the sides met again at Neath, both rather depleted and Neath took some slight compensatory revenge in winning by 21-17. Last season's first game was at Neath when they won a cliff hanger of a game in the dying seconds by the odd point in 25.

In all we have played Neath on 177 occasions, three of which have been in the Cup. Of these games we have won 107 to their 53 with 17 games drawn. Our points total reads 1876 to Neath's 1113. Cardiff is not too happy a hunting ground for them because only 12 of their 53 victories have been achieved on The Arms Park. For our part we have managed 35 wins on the Knoll. Neath's last win in Cardiff was in September 1972 when they won by 14 points to 6. The last time they savoured the double was in 1964-65 when their victories took their winning sequence to seven games. This is the best they have ever achieved in the series which began in 1878. Mind on their last domestic appearance on The Arms Park in September 1983, we were very lucky indeed to get away with a 16-14 victory in the very last minute with a Gareth Davies conversion going over off the cross bar.

At present then the Neath strength and squad system is much admired and respected throughout Welsh Rugby. They finished last season with their best record for many a long day and look like continuing along that road. I think we can forget their hiccough against Plymouth Albion. Last Saturday too they struggled to overcome a depleted Abertillery side but I think this counts for nothing. They were without the services of Paul Thorburn and Jonathan Davies and several other regulars that would make an enormous difference to any team.

The former of these two players has had a meteoric rise to fame in only his first season at the top grade and has proved his worth consistently. He succeeded Neale Harris at full-back who was the record aggregate points scorer with 299 in season 1983-84. Paul Thorburn absolutely eclipsed that total with a massive 438. Of this huge total 72 of them came from 18 tries which made him joint top try scorer with winger Gary Tucker. It's no wonder the Welsh selectors saw fit to cap him against France and England last season. And did you know he is the son of an old Cardiff Athletic player Geoff Thorburn who played in the early 1950's.

Jonathan Davies has also made a huge contribution in the resurgence of Neath as one of the top Welsh teams. In stature and style he is very much like that other diminutive All Black outside half of yester-year Dai Parker, His flair for the unexpected and willingness to have a go at anything has certainly helped the Brian Thomas play to make them into a powerful 15 man team. He captains the side this season.

The Neath pack too, as always, is something of a handful. Last year even with several senior members absent through injury they always fielded an eight that was very rarely bettered as ball winners. This was largely due to the human dynamo performances of flanker Lyn Jones and prop Brian Williams. The latter of these players is a complete contradiction to the prop forward of times past. His speed round the field and ball playing ability makes him one of the new generation props to keep an eye on.

So all that team manager Brian Thomas promised some three years ago seems to be coming to realistic fruition. Just at the time of going to press however, comes the news of Neath's devastating injury list and man availability. This leaves them very thin on the ground with 12 of their top players out of consideration. Nevertheless it would be completely foolish of us to underestimate the All Blacks in any shape or form. So to Neath then welcome to The Arms Park and may you suffer no further ill luck.

A few changes I forgot to mention in the Bristol programme sees Malcolm Collins replace lan Robinson on our selection committee to join with existing selectors C.D. Williams and Mervyn John. Also John Nelson one of the famous 1953 side who beat New Zealand has replaced Maldwyn James who resigned at the end of last season.

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Rugby Quiz - No. 2

Is your memory good enough to remember even just last years statistics?

- 1. We beat Neath in the fourth round and Pontypool in the semi-final of the Cup. Who did we play in the first three rounds?
- 2. How many points did Gareth Davies score during the season.
- 3. Who were the top try scorers?
- 4. How many games did we lose?
- 5. Who came nearest to taking our ground record?



KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

CHANGES TO THE SCRUMMAGE LAW

The new law change requires both pack of forwards to line up ready to scrummage. The front rows must be in a "crouch position" an arm's length distance from the opposing front row, with their heads and shoulders no lower than their hips.

A crouched position is the extension of the normal stance by bending the knees

sufficiently to step into the engagement without a charge.

While a scrummage is forming and is taking place, the shoulders of each player in the front row must not be lower in the front than his hips. All players in each front row must adopt a normal stance. Both feet must be on the ground, and, until the ball has been correctly put in, must not be crossed.

The hooker's feet must be behind the front foot of both his props.

The players of each front row shall bind firmly and continuously while the scrummage is forming, while the ball is being put in and while it is in the scrummage.

If the scrummage collapses, the referee must stop play immediately so that

players do not continue to push.

No advantage is to be played from a collapsed scrummage. The referee should penalise the offending team. If in doubt as to who is responsible for the collapsed scrummage, then the referee must order another scrummage.

The positive intention is to prevent injury and to make the game safer and more

enjoyable for the players.

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PAST PLAYERS CORNER

GWYN WILLIAMS

Gwyn was the first of the celebrated Taffs Well family of eight brothers to play for Cardiff. Born in 1919 he joined Cardiff in season 1934-35 at the tender age of 15. He demonstrated his maturity and exceptional skill as a wing forward by gaining his First XV cap and playing against the 1935 All Blacks the following season when only 16. Now that surely speaks for itself.

He joined the old Glamorgan Police and his career with Cardiff spanned 103 games until he went North in season 1938-39. During the 2nd World War he served in the Welsh Guards until he was seriously wounded in North Africa when hit in the eye by a bullet. This obviously put paid to a brilliant career as he never played again.

After the war he worked for Glamorgan County Council before moving to Swanage, Devon to work for that local authority. He is now happily retired with his wife in Swanage but he is a very regular visitor for every international in Cardiff. It is always a treat to speak to him and the great pity is that so many of us never ever saw this marvellous player in action.

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



QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

Quidnunc is happy today to deny some of those bizarre and malicious out-of-season rumours that a certain large and rumbustious Cardiff No. 8 has been (a) taking a crash course in French, (b) taking a crash course in Penarth Anglo-Welsh and Barbarian historical studies, (c) learning the price of Pernod, Ricard, Cassis and other unlikely drinks more associated usually with Beziers, Agen, Dax and J-P Rives, and (d) visiting Maesteg regularly for any reason other than at the behest of his law-abiding employers. As you may have gathered, this column this season is dealing with the truth, the whole truth and nothing but a few exaggerations. So, with the help of Derek Stears on the opposite page, let us today open the pages on the life of

JOHN PHILIP SCOTT

PERSONAL DETAILS Birthplace: Exeter.

Birthday: September 28, sometime in the Fifties, probably 1957. Or was it '54.

Height/ Weight: 6ft 4ins (no, he didn't give it in metres or centimetres) and 15 stone 7lbs (likewise not in kilograms).

Schools: Hele's Grammar and St. Luke's College.

Previous Clubs: "A few, if I can remember Exeter, St. Luke's and Rosslyn Park."

Married: Yes, to Oonagh, pronounced Oonagh.

Children: No. "Just one dog. Josie."

Employment: Yes. (Pause) Trustee Savings Bank.

Car.: Escort 1600 GT. What would he like to own? "Escort 1600 full-injection Cambriana or whatever it is called."

Superstitions: Total — "you know, like going back into a house the same way you came out. I used to have many superstitions in the dressing-room. I'm trying to give them up because they didn't work. We still kept on winning."

Career: Played county rugby with Devon at 17: youngest ever forward to have England trial. First cap 1978 as No.8. Since then, 34 caps. Toured with England in Far East, Argentina, Canada and America. Former England captain. As captain of Cardiff, led them to three WRU Cup victories in four years.

Club nickname: Scottie, J.

Hobbies: Do-it-yourself (after heavy prompting from Oonagh) In the future.

PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby player: Gareth Davies and Terry Holmes.

Referee: Alun Richards – and Clive Norling "because he told me to say that and I daren't offend him. I love Clive. Sort of." Biggest influence: Mother "because she wanted me out of the house," father for his support and brother lan.

Other sport: Gambling. Fruit-machines, cards and horses. Not necessarily in that order. It depends which is nearest. Oh, and cricket because it's good for business contacts.

Other sportsmen: (Much thought given)
Lester Piggott because he's "won me a few bob".

Film: Apocolypse Now.

Actor: Bobby Norster.

Actress: Various fiancees of Cardiff players who I will not name. (After more heavy prompting) Diana Keeton.

Comedian: Budge Rogers. (Think about it. Not Ted)

TV programmes: Big Deal, Minder, Sweeney, Cheers.

Pop star: Not really pop as such but Joan Armatrading.

Holiday resort: Fiji — "because it's laid back, man."

Food: Steak. Takeaway Chinese.

Drink: Anything free that comes in pint pots. **Politician:** Alan Phillips.

Rugby Ground: Ellis Park. (That's twice this week: must think of a new question — Quidnunc).

MEMORIES

Best: My last game. Not England's Grand Slam? No, it's an old adage that you're only as good as your last match. And if you have to go back a few years for your best memory then it doesn't speak much for the future. (Quite a philosopher when he's serious, see —Quidnunc.)

Worst: See above. And for the same reasons.

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- T. SHAW
- G. ROBERTS
- J. SCOTT
- 7. T. CROTHERS
- 17. O. GOLDING

- 14. G. CORDLE
- 12. A. DONOVAN
- 11. A. HADLEY
- 10. W. G. DAVIES
- 9. S. CANNON

- H. STONE

- 16. C. BOWEN

Full Back

- Right Wing Right Centre
- Left Centre Left Wing
- **Outside Half** Inside Half
 - Forwards



Replacements

Neath

- C. BRIDGEWATER 15.
 - E. REES 14.
 - S. POWELL 13.
 - D. JACOB 12. G. TUCKER 11.
 - S. DAVIES 10.
 - C. GNOJEK 9.
 - S. DANDO 1.
 - K. PHILLIPS 2.
 - P. JACKSON 3.
 - R. HUGHES 4.
 - P. PUGH 5.
 - T. WALDRON D. MORGAN
 - A.N. OTHER
 - A. HOPKINS 16.
 - G. DAVIES 17.

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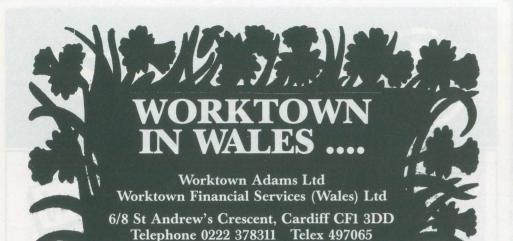
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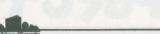
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- 5. Pontypool in the 9-9 draw, 11th October.
- Six. Neath, Away, Cambridge University, Away, Newbridge, Away; Ebbw Vale, Away; Pontypool, Away and Llanelli, National Stadium.
- - Adrian Hadley, 20; Terry Holmes, 17; Gerald Cordle, 16.

Newbridge Away.

1. First round, Tonyrefail, Away; second round, Bryncoch, Away; third round,

Rugby Quiz No. 2 - Answers

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

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1985		Sat. 21	Neath Athletic	Α
SEPTEMBER		Sat. 28	Bridgend Sports	Н
Wed. 4 Bedwas	H 9-0	1986		
Sat. 7 Neath Athletic	H44-10	JANUARY		
Wed. 11 Bristol United	A 0-9	Sat. 4	Moseley United	H
Sat. 14 Bath United	A	Sat. 11	Bridgend Sports	Α
Wed. 18 Llandaff _	H	Sat. 25	Llanharen	H
Sat. 21 Coventry Extras	H	FEBRUARY		
Wed. 25 Old Illtydians	A	Sat. 8	Bristol United	Н
Sat. 28 Pontypool United	A	Sat. 15	Barry	Α
OCTOBER		Wed. 19	Pontypool United	Ĥ
Wed. 2 Cardiff & District	H	Sat. 22	St. Peters	H
Sat. 5 Newport United	Н	Fri. 28	Bryncoch	H
Wed. 16 Pontypool Athletic	H		Bryncoch	11
Sat. 19 Rumney	A	MARCH		
Wed: 23 Pyle	Н	Wed. 5	Abercynon	Α
Wed. 30 Pontypridd Athletic	A	Sat. 8	Pontypool Athletic	Α
NOVEMBER		Sat. 15	Ebbw Vale Athletic	Н
Sat. 2 Leicester Extras	Н	Wed. 19	Pontypridd Athletic	H
Wed. 6 Newport Saracens	A	Sat. 22	Newport United	A
Fri. 8 Ebbw Vale Athletic	A	Wed. 26	Maesteg Celtic	A
Sat. 16 Caerleon	A	APRIL		
Wed. 23 Abercarn	H	Sat. 5	Blackwood	A
Sat. 30 Berry Hill	A	Wed. 9	Bedwas	A
DECEMBER	7	Sat. 12	Swansea Athletic	H
Sat. 7 Swansea Athletic	Α	Tues. 15	Resolven	A
out. , ovalida Atmotio		Sat. 19	Talywain	Н
		Wed. 30	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	A
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