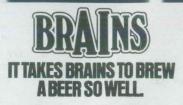


# DARK.BRIGHT.BRILLIANT. BRAIN





## Cardiff v. Neath

SATURDAY, 25th APRIL, 1987 KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

Can you really believe that another season is just about to give up the ghost. When we began the campaign last September, today seemed light years away. It makes true testimony of the statement that the passage of time is directly proportional to your age and the older you get the guicker it seems to go. I hate to start thinking of future seasons.

Today of course should have been a really big 'un but once again we have to bow the knee to the needs of the World Cup. Again, as a fortnight ago, eleven players will be missing from the two sides so it will demerit the occasion somewhat. Neath of course have been building up for some years now and are just about at fruition when they are able to pick their strongest team. They have been sorely hit by injury to some of their players and this was exemplified by the devastating ill luck suffered by Stuart Evans just prior to the international in Edinburgh.

Still, team manager Brian Thomas has not relied entirely on the stars but has also built up a very capable squad of players since his return to the Gnoll. His avowed aim this season was the amazing treble of Cup, Whitbread Table and Championship, a feat that has eluded all other Welsh clubs. To achieve two out of three when the injury and unavailability problem was taken into consideration was no mean effort. As we all know it was ourselves who thwarted them in their Cup aspirations but even then many thought that with Jonathan Davies at the helm they were still good enough to have beaten us and gone into only their third ever final. That was a different day however and a different story.

We first played Neath in 1879 and since those long gone days we have met on a further 180 occasions including our semi final cup win at the end of last month. Of the 181 games we have won 109 to Neath's 55, while 17 have been drawn. Points wise we have registered 1941 to The All Black's 1192. Cardiff Arms Park doesn't exactly hold very many pleasant memories for Neath either because of those 55 victories, only 12 of them have been achieved on our patch. The last of those wins was in September 1972 when they carried the day by 14 points to 6. Mind we have to be honest and say that some of our wins since then have been a trifle fortunate. There was the magnificent Cup Final in 1984 when we held out for a 24-19 victory and then last year's great game on The Park when we won by the skin of our teeth by 30-27.

On the other side of the coin, we are beginning to find the Gnoll a bit of a bogey ground now because we have lost there on the last four visits. The first of those defeats came after we had achieved a string of seven consecutive wins which equalled Neath's seven between 1961 and 1965. The longest winning sequence in the series is held by us when we won the 13 games between 1886 and 1892. During that period however, like Newport, Llanelli and Swansea it was a four games a season touch.

To Neath then we say once again welcome to Cardiff Arms Park, we hope you all have an enjoyable visit.

What of our own season then. Well it's been a bit of a curates egg of a year but here we are again in the Cup Final. So happy thoughts tend to overshadow the sad ones but the one that sticks in my mind most is the Cup game with Llanharan. All I can say about that day was thank goodness for injustice. It's also nice to see Trevor Worgan playing for us today in recognition for his magnificent contribution to the game. Well done Trevor.

Last season too our run up to the final was anything but healthy, but this year we have won all five games played since the semi. This has been a very useful performance when

you consider how many of our top players have been inadvertently missing so once again its a pat on the back for the boys who have been filling in the vacancies. The BaaBaas victory was one to savour especially since being 18 points to 3 down at half time, things didn't look too promising. Alan Phillips got a grip on things however and led his side to a very workmanlike victory. He scored his inevitable try too, to take him to a 143 career total and now needs only another 8 to go second to the great Bleddyn Williams total of 185. A well deserved honour for a player of such loyalty who has done an excellent job of captaincy over the last two years. And on the captaincy score, I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing Bob Norster a happy year of office.

Now a quick summary of our other teams. Matthew Hadley's Rags side have lost a few more games than normal but he has had a very difficult year with the huge number of players involved. He never had the same team out twice and on many occasions there were as many as 10 or 12 changes. The over all record is Played 43, Won 24 Lost 19 Drawn

0 Points for 878 Against 837.

The Youth XV have also had a very difficult year with only 3 or 4 of last years squad eligible for this year. Captain Chris Greedy has done a very good job and along with Chris Conway and Eamon John, had trials for the Welsh Youth side. Of their 34 games, they won 21 lost 12 and drew 1, scoring 573 points against 446. They also had six players from the squad in the Cardiff and District side. Their best win of the season was achieved recently when they beat a strong Crawshays XV by 40 points to 28. With some eight players available for next season, the squad should be much stronger.

Finally as this is the last home game of the season, may I wish you all a happy

summer and we hope to see you back again in September.

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# **MATCHES RECALLED**

IN HIS FINAL article of the series, J.B.G. THOMAS recalls a memorable match between today's two teams when there was . . .

### An All-Black Blizzard

November 29, 1952: NEATH 8 points CARDIFF 0 points

THIS WAS a great rugby battle fought out on the slope of the Gnoll in a blizzard and all 30 players, plus the three officials, deserved medals as big as frying pans for seeing it through. The 2,500 spectators, club officials and rugby writers present also deserve a mention.

In hindsight the match should not have been played. Indeed, the Cardiff team had to help the coach get to the top of Tumble Down Dick hill with a friendly push that provided additional scrum practice. At the end of the day of cold adventure, one player commented, "It is a pity we got the coach up the hill!"

The intrepid club president, then a committee man, Les Spence, raced ahead in his car, called 'Jinny', to Bridgend, where he phoned Neath club to say that Cardiff were on their way. As the players said. "That was the first mistake."

Cardiff duly arrived and the team took the field. The pitch was soaking and soft, the wind harsh and biting, with the hailstones larger than normal. Not a scene set for the Cardiff backs but ideal for forwards. Rex Willis could not lead Cardiff through injury and Rees Stephens, led Neath.

Deciding to play into the blizzard, Stephens set a cracking forward pace and led the rushes with great spirit, like an Indian chief chasing Custer. Cardiff had to defend doggedly but players fell on the ball bravely and Bleddyn Williams made several clever runs. Yet handling was always difficult and the Neath policy of keeping the ball on the ground and rushing it through paid handsome dividends.

Bill Tamplin and the Cardiff pack stuck to their task but the pressure increased as the match progressed and it was only brave defensive work that kept Neath at bay. I enjoyed every moment of this match although the cold started to take over after the interval.

For 'Uncle' Hubert Johnson, running the line for Cardiff, it was indeed a miserable afternoon. He remained a lone figure guarding the touch-line on the popular side in both halves and when he got to the dressing room it took an hour to thaw out his one side.

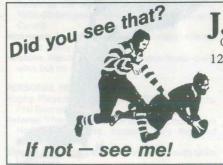
For all the hardness of the play, the spirit was excellent and Stephens had some powerful troops with him in the Neath pack in Courtenay Meredith, Gwyn Lewis, Brian Sparkes and Elvet Jones, who had played already for Cardiff in their great years immediately after the War.

Brian Mark, deputising for the injured captain Rex Willis at scrum half, had an outstanding day, although his pack was often on the retreat. He stood up to the onslaught magnificently and played 25 times in the First XV during Willis's injured-ridden season as captain.

Neath took the lead after 15 minutes when they won the ball in a line out and D. Thomas at outside half kicked diagonally for wing John Huins to gather and race over. The kick failed. The score remained at 3-0 until five minutes from the end when Neath gained another try.

Sparkes headed a fierce rush and wing Keith Maddocks supported his forwards to get the touch down when the ball was driven over the Cardiff line. Elvet Jones managed to lift the ball over the bar in the conversion.

It needed a great deal of Gnoll hospitality to thaw out the gallant players and officials. What a day!



## . Warren Hailes

**OPTOMETRIST** 

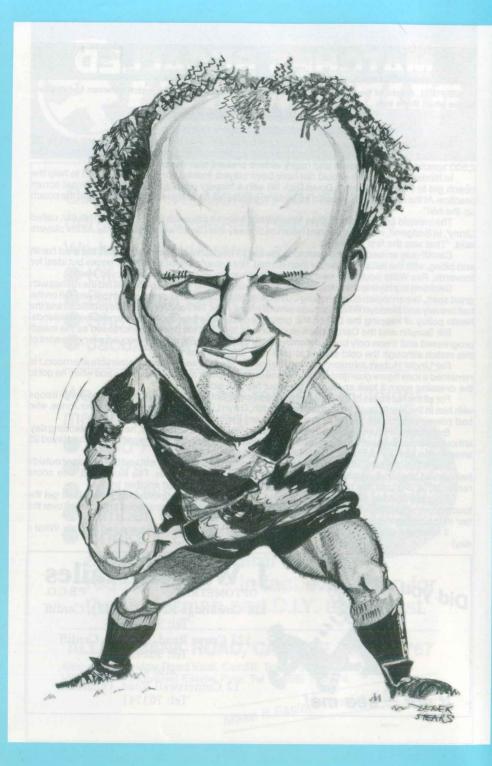
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# **QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN**

AND SO, suddenly, the season draws to its close under sunny skies (as I write, anyhow) with just The Big One to come next Saturday, with another Big One elected skipper for next season and with not a single libel action pending against Quidnunc from those international soliciting shysters Sue, Grabbit and Runn. A season of gossip and fun for this column and, until today a least, no shortage of finks, narks and associated scandalmongers (which was the profession of the original Quidnunc) to spill for the most part unpublishable beans about the lives and times of our heroes. I say 'until today'. The subject has been with us but a short time but in view of his contribution to recent events, and in view of the fact that he may well be involved in that minor dispute on the next-door ground against his former colleagues next Saturday, it did seem that we should inspect if possible the life of Wally Blackmore's double. What? I hear you recoil in horror, there can't be another so fair as our Wall. yet only on Wednesday evening, some youngsters approached your man on the club premises to seek the autograph of the aforementioned Mr. B. Understandably he protested — all the more so because he happened to be sitting next to Mr. B. at the time — and I exaggerate not.

The redoubtable Mr. Roger Beard, indeed, has christened him Wally 2. And that is almost all you can find out about Chris Hutchings, other than the fact that he has a steady girlfriend from Haverfordwest called Eleanor, that he is to be seen occasionally training round the streets of Killay, and that, in the words of one teammate, "I wouldn't like to go on a long car journey with him. You'd fall fast asleep. He speaks about two words to the gallon — when pushed." The one man who might have unlocked a treasure trove of previously unpublished facts is Mr. Geraint John who, alas and as ever, was totally unfindable when

required.

Why G.J.? Well, their relationship goes back a bit. You'd find them at half-back together in season 1983-84 at the South Glam Institute and playing key roles in helping (along with such worthies as R. Ackerman, N. Humphries and K. Hopkins) the Welsh Students beat the English Students.

But, more especially, the mind goes back to last year's semi-final at St. Helen's when Cardif beat Bridgend. You may recall that Bridgend half-backs that day—and who is to say that they may not achieve even greater things next Saturday?—were Messrs Grunty John, who scored two penalties and and drop goal against us. and ....

### **CHRISTOPHER MARK HUTCHINGS**

### PERSONAL DETAILS

Brithplace: Swansea Birthday: July 4, 1963.

Height/Weight: "About 5ft 8ins", "About 12 stone 2".

School: Olchfa Comprehensive, Swansea, followed by South Glamorgan Institute.

Married: No. Children: No.

Occupation: Civil servant with the Department of Health and Social Security in Swansea.

Superstitions: None — other than to change into playing gear the same way every time. Jersey, shorts, socks (left first), boots (left first).

Career: South Glam Institute for two years. 1984-85 Swansea (30 odd games with the First XV). 1985-86 Bridgend. Then January of this year to Cardiff.

Nickname: Touch. And now, by courtesy of Roger Beard, Wally 2.

**Hobbies:** Watching TV. Used to make home-made wine but no more.

### PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby Players: Terry Holmes, Gareth Edwards, Phil Bennett.

Referee: "I haven't really ever thought about it. Clive Norling, I suppose, because he's the best around."

Biggest Influence: Leighton Davies at South Glam Institute.

Other Sport: Cricket.

Other Sportsmen: George Best, Bobby Charlton—
"I used to play soccer for Sketty Park Boys' Club
but rugby has always been No.1"

Film: An Officer and a Gentleman.

Actors: Mickey Rourke. Richard Gear.

Actress: Kathleen Turner.

Comedians: Neville Walsh (in-joke here, but the rugby-loving solicitor best-known for soliciting teams for Crawshay's will appreciate it) and Russ Abbott.

Pop Stars: U2 — Bruce Springsteen — Meat Loaf. Holiday Resort: Corfu — or anywhere in the sun. Food: Chicken. Turkey. Chinese.

**Drink:** Draught Guinness. Dry sparkling white wines.

Politician: Not interested.

Ground: St. Helens, Swansea.

### **MEMORIES**

Best: Helping Cardiff to beat Neath in the semifinal. First game in 'senior' rugby for Swansea against the Harleguins.

Worst: Irony! Losing to Cardiff in the semi-final while with Bridgend last season.

### **AMBITION**

To carry on playing first-class rugby and, if possible, to win some honours. To improve steadily in my job.

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# Rugby Quiz - No. 27

- 1. The game between our sides on 2nd February, 1901 was cancelled. Why?
- 2. Who is Neath's most capped player?
- 3. Last season they scored a record number of tries in their history. How many?
- 4. How many times have we met Neath in The Schweppes Cup?
- 5. How many caps did their current team manager Brian Thomas get for Wales?

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- 14. G. CORDLE
- 13. R. CARDUS
- 12. A. DONOVAN
- 10. G. JOHN
- 9. C. HUTCHINGS
- 1. C. COLLINS
- A. J. PHILLIPS (Captain)
- I. EIDMAN
- 4. M. PARRY
- H. STONE

- 16. I. GREENSLADE
- 17. N. O'BRIEN

- Full Back

- 11. C. NORMAN

- P. CRANE
- T. WORGAN
- 7. T. CROTHERS

### Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre Left Wing

**Outside Half** Inside Half

Forwards



Replacements

### Neath

- P. THORBURN 15.
  - E. REES 14.
- C. BRIDGEWATER 13. R. GRIFFITHS 12.
  - A. EDMUNDS 11.
  - S. GRIFFITHS 10.
  - M. DOUGLAS
    - D. JOSEPH 1.
    - K. PHILLIPS 2.
      - J. PUGH 3.
  - P. JACKSON 4.

5.

- S. DANDO
- R. PHILLIPS 6.
- M. JONES 8.
- L. JONES
- M. RICHARDS 16.
- S. POWELL 17.

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### **PAST PLAYERS CORNER**

Here are the sides who played on the last occasion that Neath won on The Arms Park on 23rd September 1972.

C	ardiff		Neat	h
15.	J. DAVIES	Full Back	W. DAVIES or G. HODGSON	15
14.	A. N. OTHER N. COLLINS	Right Wing	J. POOLE or J. McAVOY	14
		Right Centre	D. JENKINS	1.
2.	A. FINLAYSON	Left Centre	G. BALL	12
1.	P. L. JONES	Left Wing	A MEREDITHE PARKER	1
0.	L. DAVIES	Outside Half	A THE REPUTED. PARKER	10
9.	Gareth EDWARDS	Inside Half	M. DAVIES (Capt.)	9.
1.	M. KNILL	Forwards	W. WILLIAMS	1.
2.	G. DAVIES		J. HERDMAN	2.
3.	G. WALLACE (Capt.)		G. SHAW	3.
4.	I. ROBINSON		B. THOMAS	4.
5.	L. BAXTER	1 ah	S. HODGSON	5.
6.	E. WILLIAMS	narpuk	W. LAUDER	6.
8.	J. MANFIELD		D. MORRIS	8.
7.	M. JOHN		M. THOMAS	7.
lef	eree: J. S. P. EVANS (Swansea)			

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### Rugby Quiz No. 27 - Answers

- 1. Due to the death of Queen Victoria.
- 2. Dai Morris, 34.
- 3. 187.
- 4. Four, semi final of 1972, Final of 1984, fourth round of season 1984-85 and semi final of this season.
- 5. 21.



# STATISTICAL CARDIFF

	Season			Career				
Obstruction %	App.	Tr.	Goals	Pts.	Арр.	Tr.	Goals	Pts
G. JOHN	29	3	86	223	48	5	114	302
G. CORDLE	32	25	1	102	105(1)	81	1811	326
D. EVANS	13	5	30	88	38(1)	10	66	185
M. RING	28	15	5	73	135	64	74	435
M. RAYER	36	5	18	65	67(1)	13	18	109
A. HADLEY	31	16	_	64	165	101	_	404
C. NORMAN	13(1)	14		56	13(1)	14	-	56
G. ROBERTS	31	13	No. TON	52	82	27	_	108
R. CARDUS	24	12	- N. <del>-</del>	48	24	12	-	48
G. DAVIES	10	7		28	10	7	in the B	28
N. O'BRIEN	12(4)	6	_	24	38(13)	15		60
A. PHILLIPS	29	6		24	389	143	the <del>h</del> ac	572
T. CROTHERS	22	5	-	20	94(1)	23	aun <del>d</del> by	92
A. DONOVAN	31	5		20	126	18	H (-5)	72
C. WEBBER	10	1	6	17	94(7)	17	105	338
R. LAKIN	29(1)	4	10-20	16	251(3)	59	ID DIE K	236
P. RING	6	4		16	6	4	IF IT I DO	16
H. STONE	17	4	110	16	95(1)	14		56
G. PRITCHARD	10(8)	3	- F	12	10(8)	3	_	12
J. SCOTT	20	2	7-4	8	237(2)	35	_	140
S. BLACKMORE	23	2	-	8	60	3		12
O. GOLDING	10	2	m-1	8	147(2)	49		196
A. GLASSON	2	2		8	19	10		40
D. WILLIAMS	4	2		8	4	2	-	8
R. NORSTER	22	1		4	233	13	_	52
M. PARRY	27	1	_	4	27	1	_	4
J. SOUTO	11(3)	1111	NO. TO AN	4	41(11)	4	_	16
I. EIDMAN	11	1	w. <del>-</del> 10	4	201	3		12
K. EDWARDS	11	1	-	4	150	13	-	52
D. WRIGHT	4	1	-	4	5(1)	1	_	4
N. HUMPHREYS	2	1	co-ra	4	7(1)	4	1 -	16
J. BURNELL	3	1	F-1	4	3	1		4
P. CRANE	13	1	_	4	18	1		4
C. COLLINS	23	1	C. F. L. Thin	4	70(2)	2	-	8
C. HUTCHINGS	11	1	-	4	11	1	_	4
J. HOWELLS	1	e Foi	2	4	4(2)	3	2	16
J. WHITEFOOT	26	_	_	_	234	7	_	28

Also played: 7 - T. Charles; 5 - D. Gibbon(+2), I. Greenslade(+1); 3 - M. Rowley, C. Jones, B. Rees, M. Hadley (+1); 2 - S. Cannon, R. Bilton; 1 - D. Conway, A. Mogridge, R. Rees, R. Ringwood.

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### **KNOW THE LAWS**

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

### **OBSTRUCTION**

Obstruction, in the line-out or anywhere else, means getting in the way of, holding, hampering or frustrating an opponent who hasn't got the ball. You must not lay hands on an opponent who is not grasping the ball.

A player can be guilty of obstruction when he is actually in possession of the ball, in the sense that **he can cause others to obstruct**, e.g. one way is to dodge behind a member of his own side in midfield so that his opponents cannot get at him.

Another example is for a player to attempt, after a line-out or scrum to force his way through a clump of his own players in front of him. In both these cases the player is using his own men as a shield — forcing them to obstruct — and the alert referee will penalise this offence.

Two other forms of obstruction, apart from unfair play in the line-out, come to mind.

- (1) Flankers, packing down on the outside of the second or the back row of the scrum must not try to stop the opposing scrum half coming round the scrum by swinging their hind legs or backsides out at right angles. Still less are they permitted to stand up and obstruct him.
- (2) When an opponent has kicked ahead and is following up his kick, you must not deliberately get in his way. If you are yourself running for the ball well and good; but if you are not, you must make no move to hinder him.

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Sat. 14 March Pontypool £3.00 Sat. 4 April Bedford £6.00

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Friday 20 February — Country and Western Evening 8.00 p.m. No Buffet or Raffle Tickets: £2.00

Friday 27 March — Race Night (proceeds to Youth Team) Buffet included Tickets available late January/Early February

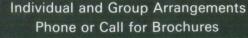
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# Cardiff Rugby Club 1986-87

### **FIRST XV FIXTURES**

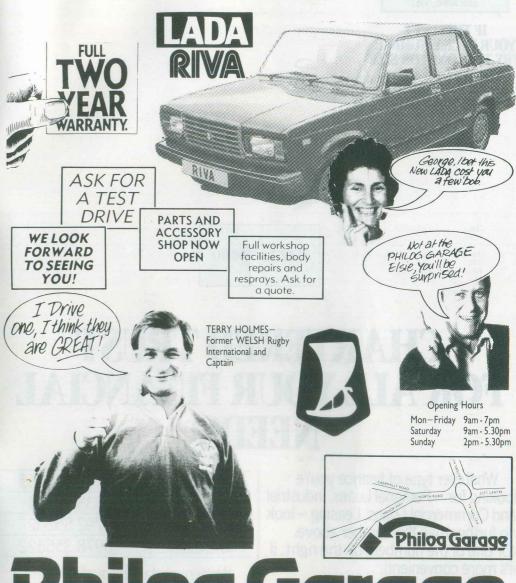
1986 SEPTEMBEF Mon. 1 Wed. 3 Sat. 6	St. Peters Glamorgan Wanderers East District	A 27-12 H 22-13 H 30-9		Sat. Fri. Sat.	20 26 27	Cross Keys (Cup) Pontypridd Bridgend		19-6 21-28 9-9
Wed. 10 Sat. 13 Sat. 20 Wed. 24 Sat. 27	Bristol Neath Coventry Pontypridd Aberavon	A 14-27 A 7-24 H 22-4 A 39-12 A 22-26	loO tot	JANU Thur. Sat. Sat. Fri. Sat. Sat.	1 3 10 16 24 31		HHH	32-21 38-13 20-12 Post. 18-14 Post.
Sat. 4 Wed. 8 Sat. 11 Sat. 18 Wed. 22 Sat. 25 Wed. 29	Newport Bridgend Northampton Wasps Pontypool Harlequins Bath	H 28-19 A 18-29 H 35-4 A 16-25 H 17-13 H 26-19 A 9-28	101	FEBRI Wed. Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat.	UARY 4 14 18 21 28	Maesteg Sale Bristol Ebbw Vale	AHHH	24-30 44-14 18-13 10-19 15-12
NOVEMBER Sat. 1 Wed. 5 Sat. 8 Sat. 15 Sat. 22	Leicester Oxford University Ebbw Vale Treorchy (Cup) Llanelli	H 16-10 H 35-24 A 30-24 A 14-7 H 16-16	An	MARC Fri. Sat. Wed. Sat. Mon.	6 14 18 28 30	Pontypool Penarth Neath (S.F.Cup) at Swanse	A H ea	43-0 15-27 37-24 16-6 34-12
Wed. 26 Sat. 29	Newbridge Bangor (N.I.)	A 18-15 H 21-14	**	APRIL Fri. Sun.	3 5	Bedford	A	34-9 36-6
DECEMBER Sat. 10 Sat. 13	Swansea London Welsh	A 14-19 A 12-25	and h	Sat. Sat. Sat.	11 18 25	Barbarians	H	28-0 33-24

### ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

			AFRICA PARTIES	
1986	HE THE WAY	DECEMBER		
SEPTEMBER	THE SERVICE WHILE THE	Sat. 6	Swansea Athletic	H 20-11
Wed. 3 Glamorgan Wanderers II Sat. 6 Kidwelly	A 35-20	Wed. 10	Cardiff & District	H 22-7
Sat. 6 Kidwelly Wed. 10 Bristol United	H 36-16 H 23-27	Sat. 13 Sat. 20	Risca Neath Athletic	H 7-11 H 10-25
Sat. 13 Maesteg Celtic	H 20-16	Sat. 27	Bridgend Sports	A 17-12
Wed. 17 Garndiffaith	A 25-9	1987	- magania oponia	
Sat. 20 Coventry Extras	A 16-12	JANUARY		
Wed. 24 Old Illtydians Sat. 27 Abercynon	H 18-9	Sat. 3	Moseley United	A 0-28
Sat. 27 Abercynon	H 35-20	Sat. 10	Blackwood	A 13-20
OCTOBER		Sat. 24 Sat. 31	Bath United	H 12-9
Sat. 4 Newport United	A 43-30		Pontypool United	H Post.
Wed. 8 Bridgend Sports	H 28-29	FEBRUARY	D.: 1	11 4 00
Sat. 11 Neath Athletic Wed. 15 Resolven	A 25-31 H 70-0	Sat. 7 Wed. 11	Bridgend Ravens Pencoed	H 4-23 H 13-6
Sat. 18 St. Peters	H Post.	Sat. 14	Bristol United	A 0-16
Wed. 22 Pontypool Athletic	A 9-37	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H 15-12
Sat. 25 Tondu	A 10-23	MARCH		
Wed. 29 Pyle	A 12-23	Wed. 11	Pontypridd Athletic	H 60-21
NOVEMBER	MALL SECTION	Sat. 14	Pontypool Athletic	H 38-16
Sat. 1 Leicester Extras	A 4-27	Tue. 17 Wed. 25	Abercynon Maesteg Celtic	A 19-12 A 9-19
Wed. 5 Newport Saracens	A 8-15	Sat. 28	Newport United	H 45-24
Sat. 8 Ebbw Vale Athletic Wed. 12 Pontypridd Athletic	H 13-7 A 17-25	APRIL	remport officed	11 40 24
Sat. 15 Pontypool United	A 32-15	Sat. 4	Caerleon	H Canc.
Wed. 19 Bedwas	H Post.	Wed. 8	Bedwas	A 8-6
Sat. 22 Bridgend Ravens	A 24-21	Sat. 11	Swansea Athletic	A 7-46
Wed. 26 Berry Hill	H Post.	Wed. 15	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	H 14-11
Sat. 29 Abercarn	A 19-34	Mon. 20	Blackwood	H 23-16

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