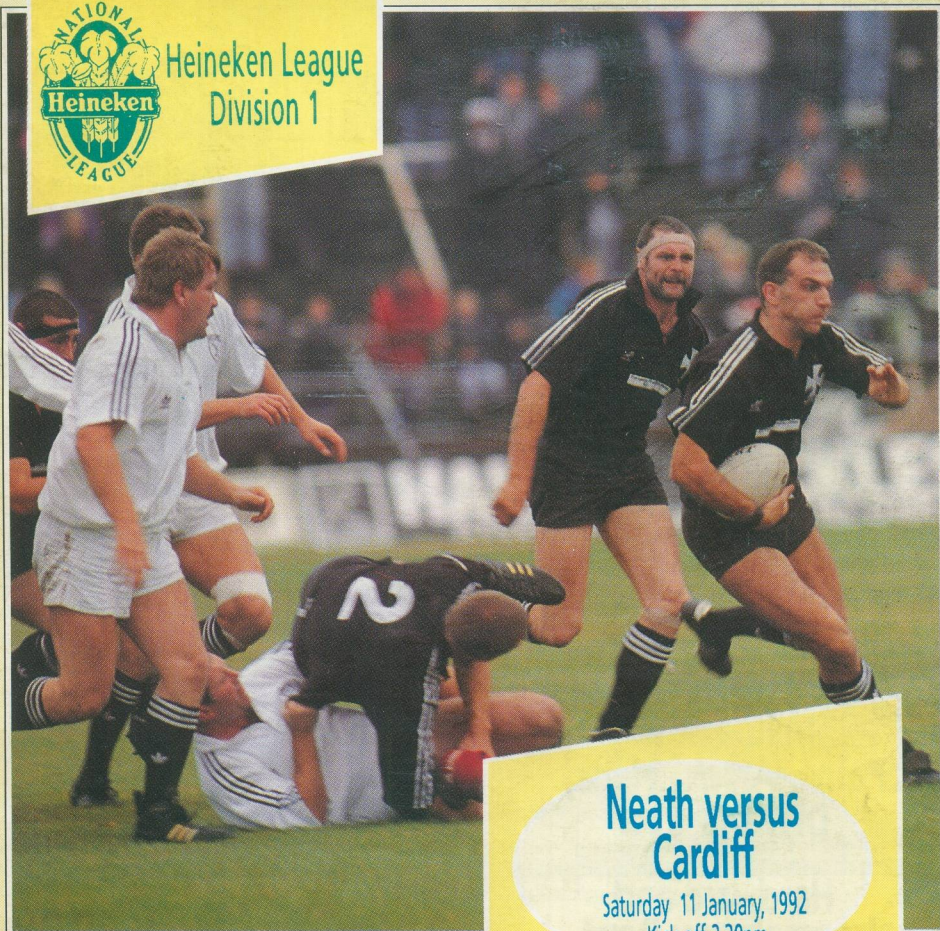


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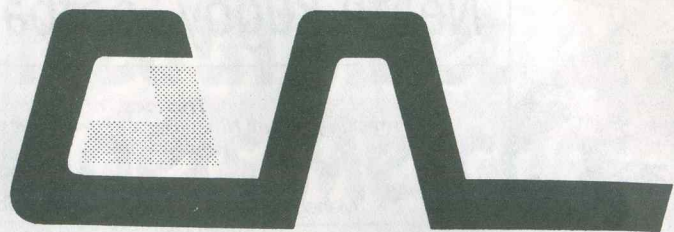
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Chairman's Report

Words of welcome by Berwyn Davies

Today's game with Cardiff brings to an end the first half of the Heineken League programme. In the corresponding match last season Neath travelled to Cardiff and gave one their best displays of the season to gain an emphatic win and complete the first part of the League programme undefeated. This season Neath arrive at the half way stage of the League programme having already lost four League games as many as they lost during the whole of last season's programme.

It will need a complete reversal of form by the All Blacks if they are to retain the Heineken Trophy.

Today's game is therefore vital and no one will be more aware of this than the players themselves.

Today's opponents Cardiff come to the Gnoll to complete a disappointing first half to the League programme having recorded two victories in the League to date.

Neath supporters will need no reminding that it was Cardiff who put a damper on Neath's celebrations having won the Premier Division of the Heineken League by defeating the All Blacks in the last League game of the season prior to the presentation of the Trophy.

Cardiff in common with Neath have suffered more than their fair share of injury this season with club captain David Evans having been side-lined for a number of weeks.

Newcomers to the Cardiff squad this year include Paul Cawulok, Richard Whittle, who transferred from Bridgend, Paul Prickett, Phil Thomas, who transferred from Glamorgan Wanderers, Ian Jefferies, who transferred from Ebbw Vale, Arthur Emyr, who transferred from Swansea and Kerry Jones, who transferred from Pontypridd and last week Adrian Davies, who transferred allegiance from the Gnoll to Cardiff.

Cardiff finished in fourth place in the Premier Division last year winning ten,

drawing one match and losing seven and scoring a total of 58 tries their leading try scorer being Mark Ring with 9. Their leading point scorer in the League was captain David Evans with 102 points whilst Mike Rayer scored 76 points made up of 6 tries, 14 conversions, 7 penalties and a drop goal.

It is interesting to note that the record for the highest number of tries scored in a season for Cardiff was created in the 1947/48 season by one of the all time greats of Welsh Rugby Bleddyn Williams who scored 41 tries and that the points record for a season is held by Gareth Davies who scored 383 points in 1983/84 season.

We extend a warm welcome to the players, committee and supporters of Cardiff.

I am sure that everyone will join with me in congratulating Gareth Llewellyn on being selected to play for Wales in Dublin next Saturday and we wish him and Mike Hall and Mike Griffiths all the best for Saturday. On the bench will be Martin Morris along with two Cardiff players Mike Rayer and Stuart Roy.

The present season will I am sure be one that Adrian Varney will want to forget having been out for eight weeks with a broken wrist he returned last Saturday only to suffer another fracture and we wish him a speedy recovery.

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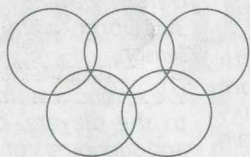
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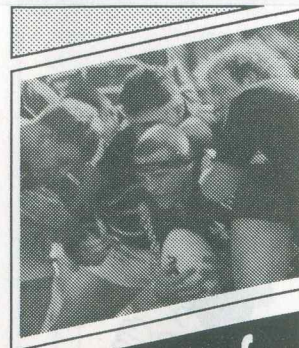
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World of Referees

David Herbert
writes

Catch 22

Not for the first time, as you will have noticed if you read my column regularly, I find myself coming to the defence of referees.

The reason for this in today's article is prompted by the remarks made by T.V. Commentator Lynn Davies on last Sunday's Rugby Special Wales.

If you remember, Clive Norling had withdrawn from refereeing the Swansea v Newport match, and his place was taken by Cardiff

Referee Will Evans, who had originally been appointed as No.1 - Touch Judge.

The point that Lynn Davies was making, even though he didn't actually say it, was that he felt that Mr. Evans didn't possess the necessary experience and ability to referee a match of this calibre and standard.

He suggested that Ken Rowlands, the W.R.U. Referees Development Officer, should change the system that is in use at present. This could be done, Mr. Davies said, by keeping one of our Premier Grade Referees on standby in order to cover these emergencies.

This is a perfectly valid point, and is worthy of serious consideration, but in my opinion, could have an adverse effect in the long term on refereeing standards.

In order to acquire the levels of ability and experience which are essential at the top end of the game, referees like Will Evans, to name but one, need exposure and experience of the

pressures involved.

The irony of it all is that when promising or emerging referees get these matches, the immediate reaction from most people is that they shouldn't be doing them simply because of the lack of experience, but this experience can only be gained by officiating at these matches. The classic "Catch 22" situation.

Today's Referee

Brian Wallis

Brian Wallis is now in his first full season as a Premier Grade Referee. He has visited both France and Ireland to officiate at important matches this season. Brian is a N.A.L.G.O. Representative and in his spare time he also acts as a Committee man with his local Club, Cwmbran.

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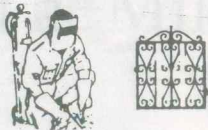


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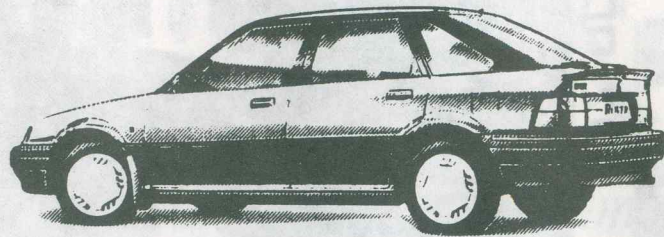
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▲ David Pickering made his first League appearance of the season at Pontypridd



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Supporters News

By Alwyn
Williams

A warm welcome to the Gnoll to the Supporters of Cardiff - in particular we welcome the Committee and Members of Cardiff Supporters Club, we trust that their visit to Neath will prove enjoyable but, we hope, not too successful. Like ourselves, Cardiff are not enjoying the most successful of seasons and today's encounter could be very important to both sides.

Those of us who visited Pontypridd last Saturday, came away very disappointed not only

with the result but with the general performance of the team - what has happened to the team spirit and motivation so evident in past seasons? The team's performance is of concern not only to regular supporters, but one hears the question asked by Ladies out shopping - "What's happened to Neath"?

It was with great sadness that we heard earlier this week of the death of Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, wife of our Club President. On behalf of the Officers, Committee and Members of Neath Rugby Supporters Club we would extend our condolences to Mr. Martin Thomas and his daughter Jacqueline on their great loss.

Finally may I wish all Players, Committee and



Members of Neath Rugby Football Club a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



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Cardiff Caerdydd

15 Paul Thorburn (Capt)†	Full Back (Cefnwr)	Mike Rayer † 15
14 Steve Bowling †	Right Wing (Asgell dde)	Steve Ford † 14
13 Colin Laity *	Right Centre (Canolwr)	Mike Hall † 13
12 Jason Ball	Left Centre (Canolwr)	S Hill 12
11 Carwyn Young	Left Wing (Asgell chwith)	I Jefferies 11
10 Jeff Bird	Stand Off (Maswr)	David Evans † 10
9 Chris Bridgest	Scrum Half (Mewnwr)	Andrew Booth* 9
1 Brian Williams †	Loose Head Prop (Y rheng flaen)	Mike Griffiths † 1
2 Kevin Phillips †	Hooker (Bachwr)	Ian Watkins 2
3 John Davies †	Tight Head Prop (Y rheng flaen)	Phil Sedgemore 3
4 Gareth Llewellyn †	Lock (Yr ail reng)	Paul Kowulock 4
5 Mike Whitson	Lock (Yr ail reng)	Stuart Roy 5
6 Kevin Fox	Left Flanker (Blaenasgell)	H Stone 6
8 Steve Williams	No. 8 (Y rheng ol)	I Hembrow 8
7 Martyn Morris †	Right Flanker (Blaenasgell)	Neil Baxter 7

Replacements

R Jones, M McCarthy, S Enoch,
A Thomas, P Jackson, D Pickering†

Today's Referee Brian Wallis, Cwmbran
No.1 Touch Judge A Moelwyn Jones, Ammanford
No.2 Touch Judge David Saunders, Pontypool

Replacements

A Moore, M Thomas, R Wintle
I Greenslade, S Blackmore, T Crothers

Half Time Score

Full Time Score

Neath Scorers

Cardiff Scorers

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Womens XV

Secretary's Report

The Neath Womens Team have had a quiet Christmas, although two of our players, Emma Jones and Anne-Marie Jones, were involved in the final game in the regional series when they were substitutes for the Welsh Counties against S.W. England, at Waunarlwydd on December 22. The Welsh came away with another convincing win making it 3-1 in the series.

The New Year then started with an invitation by Pontypool WRFC for us to play a friendly against them on New Years Day, at the New Inn Rugby

Club to celebrate the opening of the new Clubhouse.

After the New Years Eve celebrations, Neath travelled a bit the worst for wear and were well-beaten, but six of us returned to the New Inn on the following Sunday to play with 9 Pontypool players in a friendly fixture against Western Hornets. We felt that the experience would be valuable as we meet Western tomorrow, away in a League clash.

The game was a joy to participate in, five of us playing in a pack which proved too strong for the Hornets. Dahne Gammon (Neath Captain) and Charlotte Griffiths propping, Joanna Biffin in the second row, and Dawn Stoneman and myself on the flanks. Dawn even managed to get herself on the try score-sheet. Emma Jones enjoyed a game at full-back, fitting in well with the "Pooler" backs, and the game was won 46-0.

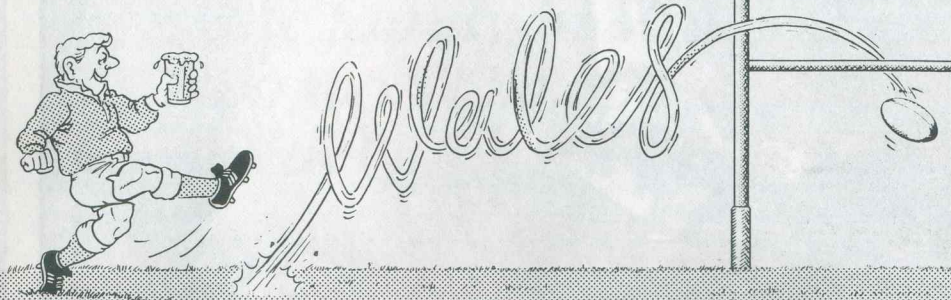
Neath have been given the privilege of hosting the Welsh Womens XV Tournament on Sunday April 19. Preparations for this major event in the Calendar of Womens

Rugby in Wales are already underway. We are holding the event mainly at Cwrt Herbert, with the excellent facilities there of 3 pitches, changing rooms, bar and restaurant and public conveniences, not to mention St. John's Ambulance H.Q.

The Finals will take place at the Gnoll, (including plate competition) followed by a disco at the Clubhouse. The mayor of Neath, Cllr. Ray Williams has kindly agreed to open the event and return to the Gnoll for the Finals.

We anticipate at least twelve of the eighteen clubs in Wales will participate and the day should be a good one for all rugby fans.

Our team are now looking for a sponsor for a set of 18 jerseys, for our squad in time for the event, although we have been grateful to Neath RFC for the jerseys which we use week in, week out. Anyone interested may contact me, Lorraine Curry (Secretary) on Neath - 710943.

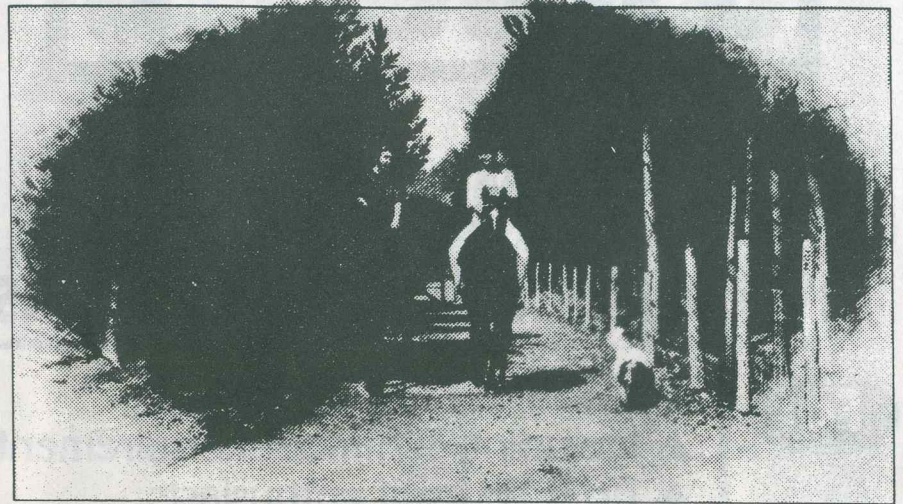


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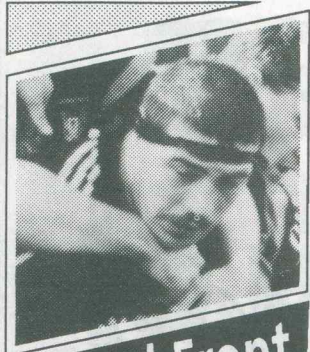
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Social Front

By Ron Jenkins

The Social Club Committee wish all members and guests a Happy New Year. After the recent upsets, we hope to have something to celebrate today, particularly remembering the Captain's promise at the Annual Dinner.

We welcome all Cardiff supporters, and hope they will make use of the Clubhouse before and after the match. If you have bought this programme early

enough, may I point out that meals are available in the Players' Dining Room before the game.

Next Saturday, as usual, the Ireland v Wales international match will be shown on the large-screen television in the Club-house.

The Christmas Eve and New Year's parties were enjoyed by all and the Entertainments Committee are thanked for their hard work in making these events successful.

Tomorrow, the members' Children's party will be held in the Main Hall at 3.00 p.m. However, we intend to show the club video of today's game during lunch-time - as usual.

Finally, may I remind members that the Club's rooms are available for private functions, such as Weddings, Engagements and

Birthday Parties, etc., usually without charge. The rooms vary so much in character that we can cater for most requirements; full catering can be provided by the Steward and Stewardess, Keith and Sue.

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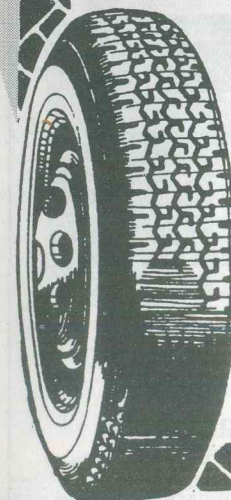
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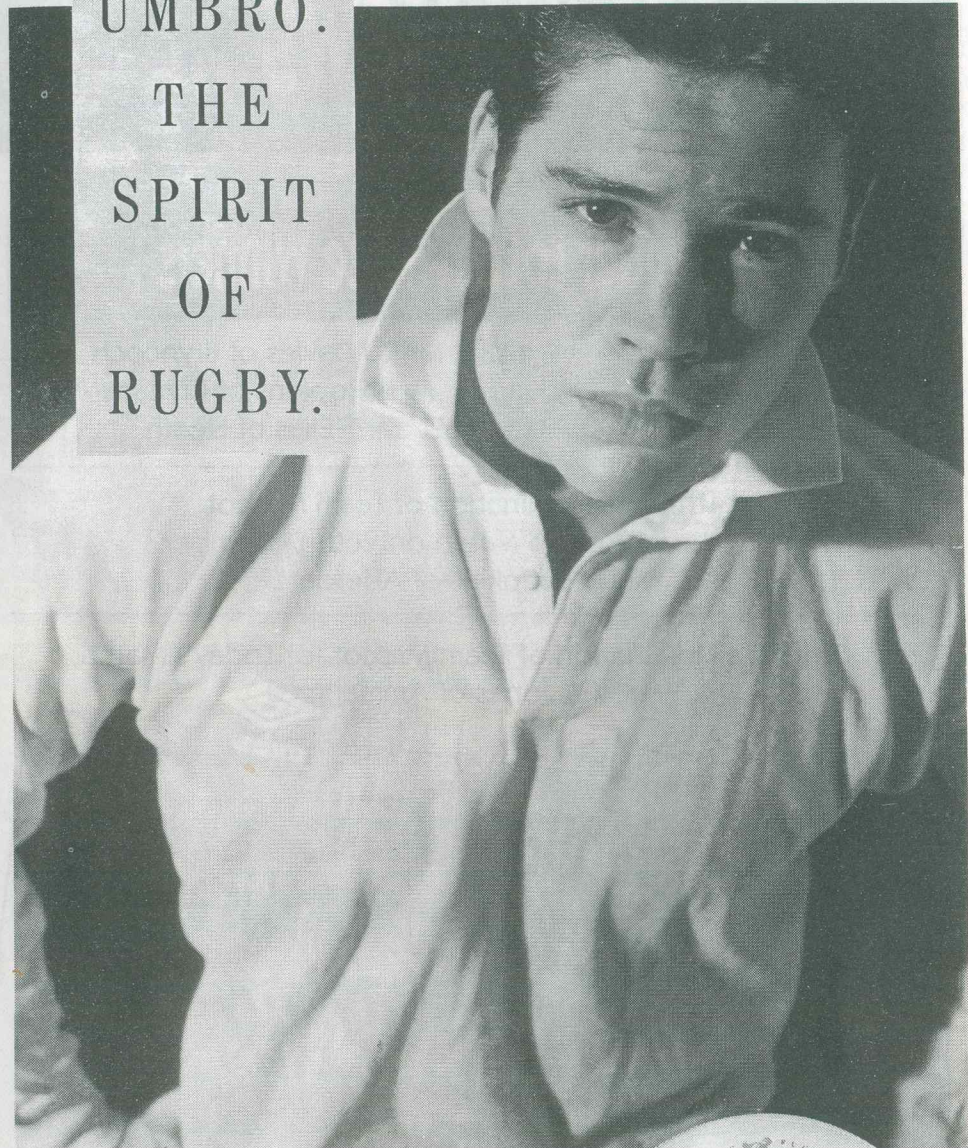
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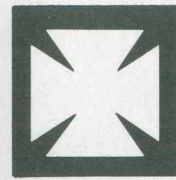
Official suppliers of balls
to The Welsh Rugby Union

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QUALITY COMES FIRST

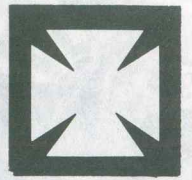


▲ A swift pass back from Chris Bridges.

Photographs by



Neath Rugby Social Club



Our Clubhouse has been recently refurbished to a very high standard and is now one of the most attractive clubs in Neath.

With it's unique position around the Gnoll rugby ground, this is a great setting for a night out.

● Lounges Available for Functions free of charge

- * Weddings
- * Anniversaries
- * Retiring/Leaving
- * Birthday Parties etc.

● Events on Each Night of the week

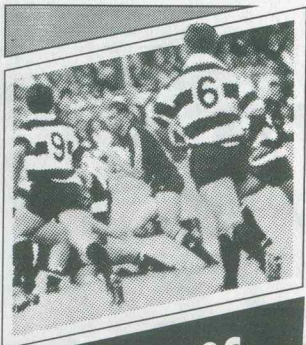
Details in Social Scene and on the Club Notice

● Drinks at Club prices

● Membership

At only £1 yearly and 75p for OAP's

● Everyone Welcome



Fixtures

September 91

7 Moseley	(Home)	W 26- 9
9 Llanharan (Centenary)	(Away)	W 20- 6
14 South Wales Police	(Home)	W 48-16
21 Nottingham	(Away)	L 22-18
24 Cardigan	(Away)	W 48- 3
28 Gloucester	(Away)	W 20-15

October 91

1 Mid Districts	(Home)	W 16- 4
12 Ebbw Vale	(Home)	W 16-12
19 Coventry	(Home)	W 56-10
22 Narberth	(Away)	W 26-14
26 Penarth	(Home)	Cancelled

November 91

2 Bath	(Home)	L 21-14
9 Maesteg (L)	(Away)	W 31-10
16 Swansea (L)	(Home)	W 22- 6
23 Llanelli (L)	(Home)	L 23-13
30 Newbridge (L)	(Away)	L 9- 3

December 91

7 Newport (L)	(Home)	W 18- 7
14 Bridgend (L)	(Away)	Cancelled
21 Pontypool (L)	(Home)	L 13-10
26 Aberavon	(Home)	W 27-16
28		

January 92

4 Pontypridd (L)	(Away)	L 18- 6
11 Cardiff (L)	(Home)	
18 Ireland v Wales		
25 Cup Round		

February 92

1 Wales v France		
8 Maesteg (L)	(Home)	
15 Swansea (L)	(Away)	
22 Cup Round		
29 Llanelli (L)	(Away)	

March 92

6 Wasps	(Away)	
7 England v Wales		
14 Newbridge (L)	(Home)	
21 Wales v Scotland		
28 Newport (L)	(Away)	

April 92

4 Cup Round		
11 Bridgend (L)	(Home)	
18 Pontypool (L)	(Away)	
20 Aberavon	(Away)	
25 Pontypridd (L)	(Home)	

May 92

2 Cup Semi Final		
9 Cardiff (L)	(Away)	
16 Cup Final		



Soft Drinks

Stockists and Suppliers of
Beers, Wines, Spirits, Soft Drinks
and Snacks

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and Draught wine

For a prompt and efficient service please telephone
our telesales office on 0639 823084

10 Seaway Parade, Baglan, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.
Telephone 0639 823084 Fax 0639 822765

Forget the rest, try the best. 

Come to Stuart Evans Pub ...
The Bear, Neath
The Rugby Lovers Pub



The Bear, Pen-y-Dre, Neath, West Glamorgan
Telephone Neath 642555

*Facilities for Weddings, Receptions,
Dinner Dances, Conferences, Retirements etc.*
*All enquiries and bookings will be welcomed
by Mrs Moira Evans*

Proprietors Stuart and Wyndham Evans

