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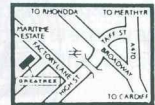
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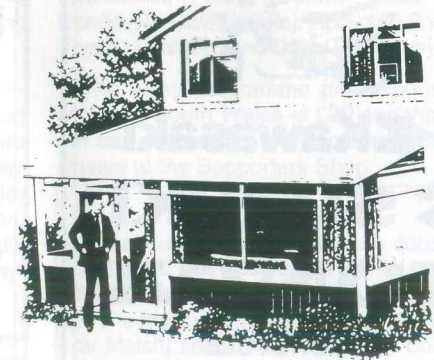


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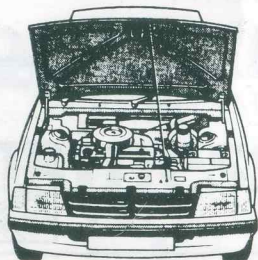
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Club Notes

This afternoon it is with great pleasure that we extend a warm Sardis Road greeting to our 'local' rivals - Cardiff. Their players, officials and supporters are always welcome here. Previous games have always proved to be thrilling affairs. We, of course, are still smarting from the defeat at Cardiff in December, and our players will be conscious of this and eager to balance the books.

Our current form has been very good and we will be seeking to extend the run of victories. Nevertheless, our coaches will be only too aware of the challenge Cardiff will pose, their league position does not represent the talent they have. In spite of this, the new found confidence and composure throughout our players, plus the obvious organisational strategies introduced and encouraged by our coaches, place us as the 'form' team, equal to any challenge.

This was no better illustrated than in Tuesday's victory at Newbridge. A fine team performance, with a special word of praise for young centres Jason Lewis and Richard Sheppard. They buzzed all over the Newbridge mid-field like a pair of hornets. With them in such good form, and the return of skipper Steele Lewis, our strength in this area will be formidable.

A reminder to supporters of forthcoming games - Tuesday 17th March Ebbw Vale 'A'; Friday 20th March - Abertillery 'H'; Tuesday 24th March - Maesteg (L) 'A'.

Supporters should also note that the final of the Welsh Carlsberg Counties Cup between Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire will be played at Sardis Road next Monday the 16th, 1992, kick off 7.15p.m. Playing for Glamorgan will be Steele Lewis, Phil John, Robert Davies and Mike Butts. This should be a match to enjoy - admission £2. anywhere in the ground.

Details are given below of the club members who have been successful in the draw for tickets for Wales -v- Scotland game.

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Dr. V. PARFITT	'Devana' Glostons, Market Harborough.
N. DAVIES	41 Ferry Place, Rye.
A. McGAUGHEY	37 Park St., Treforest.
P. THOMAS	28 Lewis St., Canton.
C.O. OTLEY	144 Middle St., Trallwn.
R. NASH	3 Hillside View, Graigwen.
P. GRIFFITHS	25 Castle Court, Church Village.
N. OWEN (Miss)	71 Meadow St., Treforest.
C. SPENCER	25 Berw Road, Pontypridd.
R. DARCH	1 Unity Buildings, Pontypridd.
S. TAYLOR	9 Lan Close, Graigwen.
D. WILLIAMS	Glamorgan Villa, Llwynypia.
I. JOHNS	21 Hillside Terr., Wattstown.

The police would again request the co-operation of drivers leaving the game to avoid the Pontypridd Town centre by travelling via. Woodland Terrace, the Graig, Penycoedcae and Talbot Green.

Today's match sponsor is Bown, South Wales, Pontypridd. We thank them most sincerely for their support and trust that Mr. Dave Lomax and his guests have an enjoyable afternoon.

Equally we thank the match ball sponsors for their interest and support. Thomas Travel, Pontypridd (Mr. David John); Llanharan Concrete Products (Gino Cocco); H.J. Scourfield, Pharmacist, Porth; Williams Ross, Pontypridd (Mr. David Leeke); Hackman Printers, Ynysir (Malcolm and David Hackman).

The lucky programme prize sponsored by Bown South Wales is £20 and the winner can collect after the game from Mr. Bill Davies at the Supporters Shop.

SPECIAL NOTE

The Rotary Watch generously donated by Hooper and Rose of Pontypridd during the Tondy Cup Match was not claimed.

The holder of Programme no. 758 (Tondy Match) should contact Mr. Bill Davies at the Supporters Club Shop after today's game.

If not claimed a fresh draw will be made during the next Cup game against Cardiff Harlequins on Saturday 4th April.

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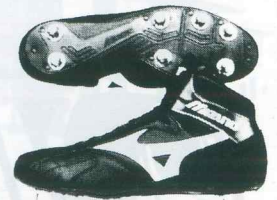
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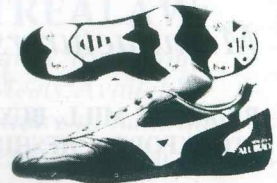
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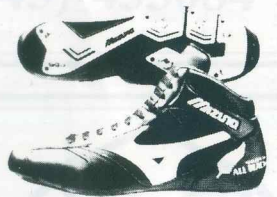
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A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Mr. Bill Davies, that venerable collator of articles for these match programmes kindly asked me to prepare a note setting out the differences in full-back play from my playing days (some 20-30 years ago) and the present time. Apart from the greater involvement which the modern day full-back is expected to undertake in the attacking dimension, the change from the traditional boots of yesteryear to the present day "slippers" resulting in round the corner goalkicking (Ray Cheney, Barry John and others have a lot to answer for!) there is precious little difference that has taken place in a generation or so in the role of this position. I accept however that there might have been a dramatic change since the time of, for example, Frank Trott of Cardiff, and Des Jones of Pontypridd. I understand that these two gentlemen in their day graced the full-back position but since those days are shrouded in the mists of time I am not qualified to comment further. I thus set pen to paper on something completely different.

One of the last games I played for Cardiff was in January 1970 at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd. Little did I know at that time that only a few years later I would be working and eventually living in Pontypridd and have happily been here for 18 years or so. The Pontypridd side on that distant day was as follows:- John Groves; G. Rees, Joe Smith, W. Davies, A. Ashcroft; A. Paul, Dennis John; J. Hale, W. Evans, B. Davey, Bob Pemberthy, Colin Owen, Tommy David, D. Morgan and J. Pope.

Several of that side have subsequently contributed to the well-being of Pontypridd in different ways - Joe Smith, Bob Pemberthy and Dennis John have played their part on the coaching scene. Whilst, to quote Owen Monney, a certain Tom David at that time could not even spell Pontypridd - nowadays he owns half of it. Many of that Pontypridd side were friends of mine then and continue to be so. One was always guaranteed a warm welcome in Pontypridd both on and off the field and fortunately the same applies at the present time. In truth, the welcome in Pontypridd is probably among the best in Welsh rugby and players, committee and supporters are to be complimented for this croeso. The "club-house" then used by Pontypridd was quite unique - once you had entered it was virtually impossible to leave as a long-suffering girlfriend of mine at that time would doubtless testify. Much has changed over those years

not least the transfer in 1974 from Ynysangharad Park to Sardis Road and the stadium is now one of the finest in Wales. It is pleasing to record that Pontypridd have recently struck good form and with these improved results there is a strong rumour circulating in South Wales that the club's hardworking and inimitable Secretary, Cenydd Thomas, might one of these fine days break into a smile.

What of my old club, Cardiff? Most rugby lovers in Wales are surely saddened by their recent traumas but it is heartening that things now seem to be improving and that the good times again are just round the corner. That old Neath guru, Rees Stephens, was always of the View that if Cardiff were strong then Wales were strong. I admit that rugby has changed dramatically since Rees made that statement - however I am sure that there is still much to be said for his adage. I owe a lot to Cardiff and am proud of my association with this great club. Tremendous players have worn the blue and black colours over the years - many of them legends in Welsh rugby. Of all these stars however the one that epitomised what was best in Cardiff and rugby in particular was the late lamented Stan Bowes. What a man - what memories.

Having a foot in both camps causes no embarrassment or division in loyalty although I am often subject to some friendly leg-pulling. What is of paramount importance is the health and well-being of rugby football - a game which is, as Hubert Johnson often said the greatest freemasonry in the world. I do hope that present day players stay loyal to their club's and not, as a few do change clubs more often than a chameleon changes colours. Why not follow the example set by Pontypridd's President, Sam Simon and always wear the same jacket - it may do little for the world of high fashion but at least it has continuity and stability on its side.

Let us hope that today will witness a game of rugby which will be a credit to the great traditions of Pontypridd and Cardiff and that both clubs will contribute to the further development of Welsh rugby. Their contribution thus far has been immense - even more is expected in the future.

By the way, that game I mentioned between the two clubs in 1970 resulted in a Cardiff win by 15 points to 5. For the sake of diplomacy I will today probably wear a Neath tie!

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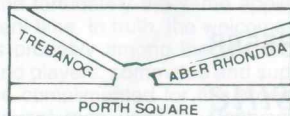
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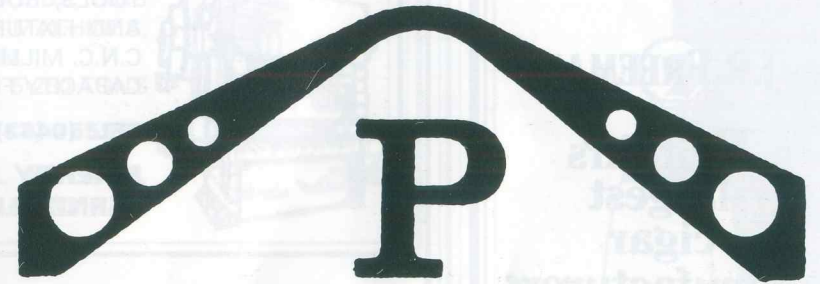


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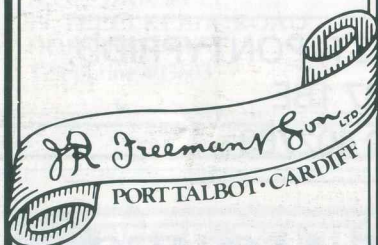
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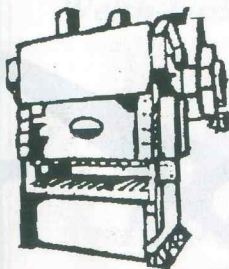
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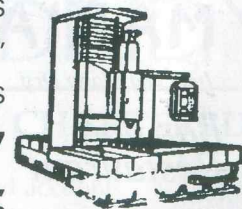
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15 JONATHAN MASON	FULL BACK
14 DARRYL HUGHES	RIGHT WING
13 JASON LEWIS	RIGHT CENTRE
12 RICHARD SHEPPEARD	LEFT CENTRE
11 PETER HARRIES	LEFT WING
10 NEIL JENKINS	OUTSIDE HALF
9 PAUL JOHN (Capt.)	SCRUM HALF
1 NIGEL BEZANI	PROP
2 JAMES JACKSON	HOOKER
3 PAUL KNIGHT	PROP
4 MARK DICKS	LOCK
5 MARK ROWLEY	LOCK
6 MARTIN ROWLANDS	FLANKER
7 DENZIL EARLAND	FLANKER
8 DALE McINTOSH	NO. 8

Replacements:
Phil John, M. Powell, S. Bain,
G. Owen, G. Jones, R. Davies.

REFEREE: Mr. Clayton Thomas (Ammanford)

TOUCH JUDGES: Messrs. D.L. Howells and P.L. Fulford (WRU)

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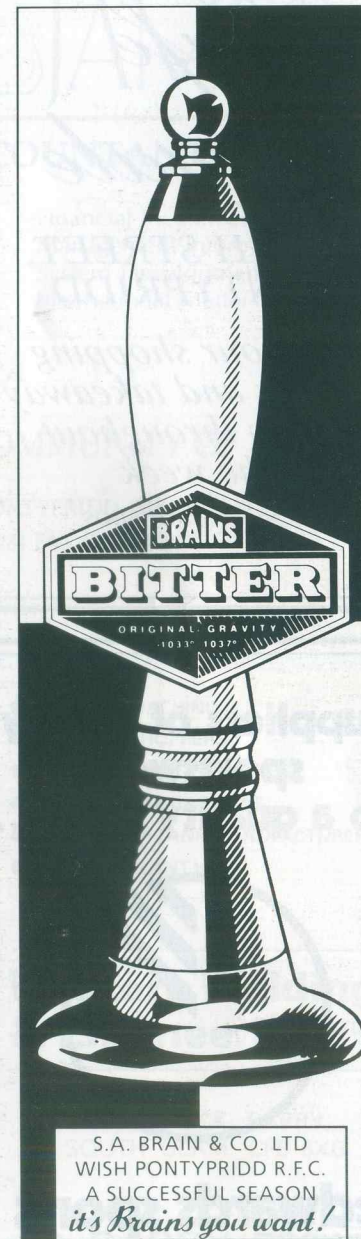
Cardiff

M. RAYER	15
S. FORD	14
M. HALL	13
S. HILL	12
I. JEFFREYS	11
A.N. OTHER	10
A. BOOTH	9
M. GRIFFITHS	1
I. WATKINS	2
P. SEDGEMORE	3
P. KAWULOK	4
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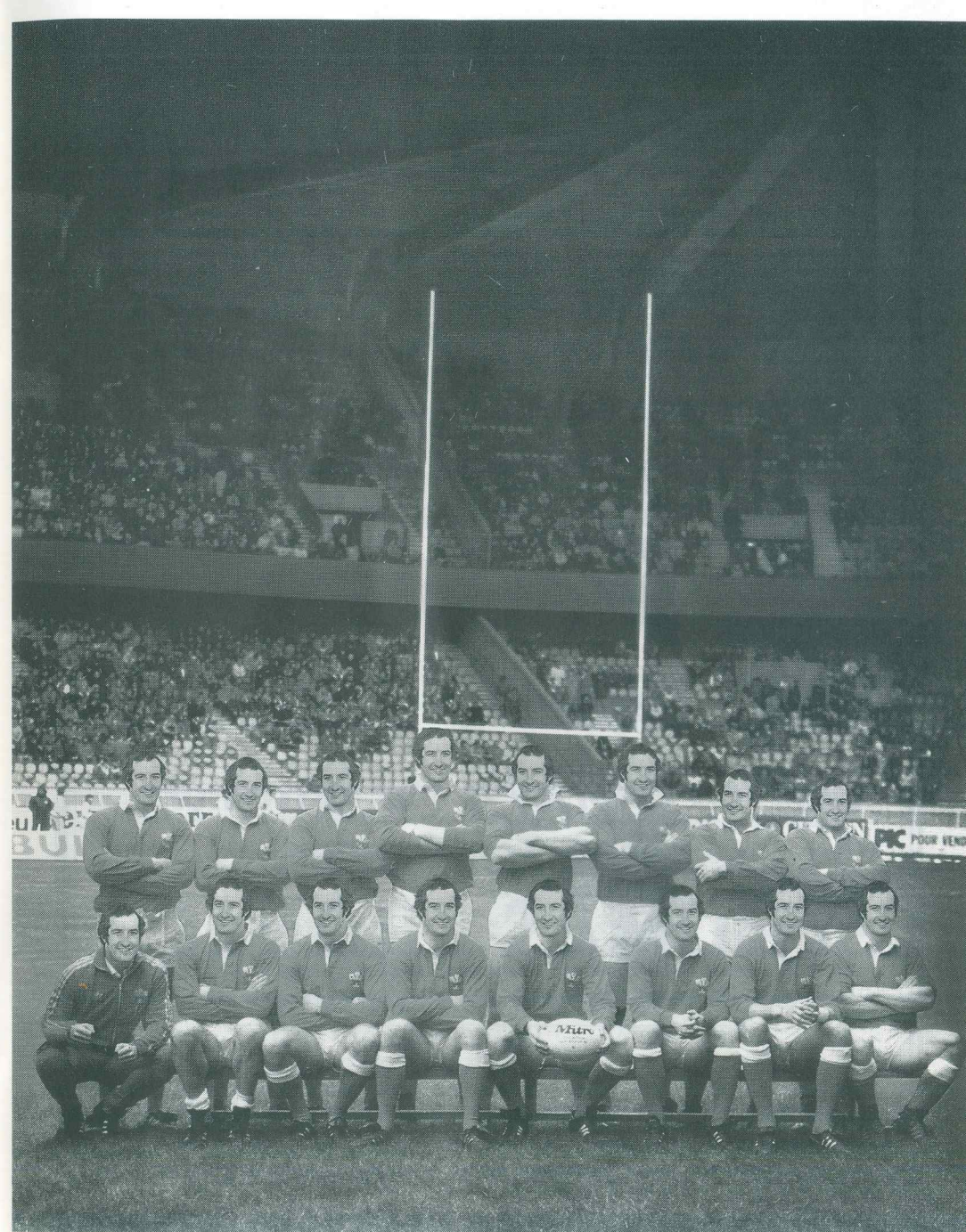
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WHO? AND WHAT? AND WHERE?

A gentle test of your rugby knowledge (very basic!) and also of your ability to solve a few mildly cryptic clues. The first letters of each of your answers will give an anagram of one of Ponty's current players. Who is he?

CLUES

1. Funnily enough, sit in this! (5)
2. If you're allowed to play the ball, you're this! (2, 4)
3. Recently allied with Gosforth. (9)
4. Step out of line, and you're this! (2, 5)
5. Their ground sounds like a royal's house. (10)
6. Side found in Bridgenorth-er, no! Whats it called. (8)
7. Leave fun and lo! a team is made! (4,2,4)
8. Best way of defence, they say. (6)
9. Bare-chested H.Q. invader. (5)
10. Rising sun among rugby nations. (5)
Answers on 'Chit Chat' page

1	S	T	A	N	D					
2	O	N	S	I	D	E				
3	N	E	W	C	A	S	T	L	E	
4	I	N	T	O	U	C	H			
5	G	L	O	C	E	S	T	E	R	
6	N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N		
7	V	A	L	E	O	F	L	U	N	E
8	A	T	T	A	C	K				
9	E	R	I	C	A					
10	J	A	P	A	N					

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'On the blind side': Effect of post-match booze-up

'Sidestep': Manoeuvre to avoid opposing drunks at post-match booze-up

'No 8': Regular order along with Nos 12, 26 and 32 from the Chinese menu

'Forward pass': Slurring something suggestive to a team-mate's wife

'Drop kick': Inevitable result of forward pass

'Overlap': Front-row forward's beer gut

'Scrum': Freestyle version of queuing at the bar

'Attempted conversion': Offering to buy a round of soft drinks

'Fly half': A quick one before the game.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WRITE IN AND TELL US

A development which appears to be gaining ground, if not acceptance, is the substitution of players rather than the replacement of an injured player. Both in the Grand Slam game against England last season and in their match against Wales, French players have appeared to leave the field on a tactical basis rather than an injured basis. Before our readers in France point to another plot against their team, the same issue was raised in the Heineken League game between Newport and Llanelli, when the replacement warmed-up on the touchline before replacing an "injured" player.

There are points of view on both sides on substitution or replacement, but it would be better for the image of the game as a whole if sham injuries were removed by allowing teams to substitute players if

they so wished. As with replacements, there would be a maximum number allowed and, unlike rugby league, once a player has left the field he cannot return. Players can always fake injuries to be replaced so why not remove this sham before it gets out of control and causes real problems for the games administrators?

WERE THOSE THE DAYS?

1941

CLUB'S AGM: Police Sergeant Tom Evans was elected secretary of Pontypridd RFC. Treasurer Percy Hunt reported that over the past eight years a loss of between £100 and £120 had been reported, but that had now been replaced by a credit of £24.

1961

GROUND FOR CONCERN: Club president Dr. Melbourne Thomas said Pontypridd Athletic had played 16 consecutive away games. Secretary Des Jones reported that Sandy Powell had retired, David James had gone to Swansea and Brian Williams to Newport (Billy Griffiths would follow him later). Ponty finished seventh in the unofficial Merit Table winning 23 of 40 matches.

Mike Morgan was top points scorer with 67 while Roy Hope topped 100 points for the youth.

The Youth had their best ever season winning 26 of 30 games. Total gate money for the season was £406.

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FIVE OF THE BEST

I know the League is only a season and a bit old, but records are records for all that, and we are the first team in the brief history of this new competition to win five consecutive League games, if I read the newspapers aright. Hardly a parallel with the Assyrians coming down like a wolf on the fold, I suppose, but certainly a fact worthy of note. Three of the five have been away from Sardis Road, at the daunting venues of Llanelli, Pontypool and Newbridge. Ever on the alert as I am for seeming slights to Ponty, and touchy to the point of paranoia, I chuckle at the suggestions that all three played well below par in our encounters. I wonder why? Could it be that our presence on the field as well had something to do with it? As the great Oscar said, to lose one parent could be merely unfortunate, but to lose both looks like carelessness. For each team we play suddenly to have a bad day on the occasion of their game with us suggests sorcery rather than rugby, and conjures up pictures of Dennis John and Lyn Howells, in pointed hats, casting the runes before the game and muttering incantations over a steaming cauldron bursting with unsavoury ingredients. Such a sequence due to accident would be stretching the rubber band of co-incidence to breaking point. No, we have to conclude that in these matches, we have done our homework, decided what we must do to beat these opponents, and gone out and done it. This speaks of the highest level of coaching and motivation and equally of the highest level of player discipline and loyalty. We have long known - for it has been revealed to us in isolated patches - what our team is capable of, but we have all lamented that what was lacking was continuity of purpose and achievement. These latter are the backbone of any team's performance, and as some genius once observed, it is time the backbone came to the front! It is when these virtues are wedded to natural ability that we begin to see the fragile plant 'confidence' grow and a team blossom. Then it is true, in spite of Euclid's vehement denials, that the whole is shown to be greater than the sum of its parts.

BRISTOL BOUNTY

The fact that success does not come by accident was amply illustrated in two recent instances, against Tondu and Bristol, both

here at Sardis Road. One of the less desirable spin-offs of the Heineken League is, as we all know, the devaluation of the once-so-important friendly fixtures, especially with teams from across the border. We Welsh sides seem to 'switch off' completely in these games, although the English sides, with some years more experience of the transition between League and friendly rugby, seem to cope much better. Anyway, Bristol gave us a proper run-around the other evening, the final 26-10 scoreline in their favour being distinctly unflattering to them, as the final try count 5-1 in Bristol's favour would indicate. All the League qualities we have been talking about were conspicuously absent that evening, but at least our lassitude gave Bristol the opportunity and the space to put on a display of running and passing that was breathtaking in its audacity. By the end the ball was being passed around with abandon, every pass having a queue of would-be receivers waiting to receive it and, in turn, pass it on to an equally lengthy queue of potential and eager try-scorers. We ourselves were simply not physically or mentally prepared for such goings-on. Mr. Dennis John cannot do everything at once, but here is one of the future problems ready for solving.

ABOLISH GIANT-KILLERS!

The Tondu case was a little different. Tondu were much, much better than we anticipated, and probably, in spite of all our efforts to banish complacency, that undesirable element after all found its way into our collective thinking. Complacency is a subtle psychological condition, like 'nerves', that cannot be banished simply by saying the word. Hopefully, the rude shock that Tondu gave us will pay rich dividends on April 4th when we meet the next Goliath-slayer, Cardiff Harlequins, no doubt already polishing up their pebble. We simply must overpower this excellent side to add authority to our right to be semi-finalists.

R.T.

QUIZ ANSWERS!

1. Stand; 2. On Side; 3. Newcastle;
4. In Touch; 5. Gloucester; 6. Northern;
7. Vale of Lune; 8. Attack; 9. Erica;
10. Japan.

PLAYER: GAVIN JONES

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