

Cardiff
Rugby Club
v. PONTYPRIDD
Friday, 26th December, 1986. 3.00p.m.
Official Programme 30p

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BRAINS

IT TAKES BRAINS TO BREW
A BEER SO WELL.



Cardiff v. Pontypridd

FRIDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1986

KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

Well here it is Boxing Day yet again. It's time for a lot of people to emerge from the cloistered surroundings of over indulgence and get their first whiff of fresh air since Christmas Eve. It's also time to show off all those Christmas goodies we've been presented with. Gloves and woolly socks to keep our extremities warm, the contents of hip flasks to do the same job internally and the dubious aroma (to call it by a better word) produced when the odour of after-shave hits the wafting cigar smoke. And long may it be.

In this festive season of good will and bonhomie however, perhaps it's the players to whom our thoughts should turn. Whilst us lesser mortals can enjoy the traditional festivities of the occasion we still expect the players to be at a peak at a time they may well have felt like a bit of overindulgence themselves. Also today starts a pretty tough run of games for us right up until the end of January. Bridgend tomorrow, then Bath on New Year's Day are as tough as you could ask for in a period of six days. Fortunately all these games are at home and our victory over Cross Keys in the second round of the Cup means another home game against Llanharan.

Still more of that in the Bath programme. Let's go back a little today to our last home game — Bangor. They had stated that they wanted to enjoy their weekend in every sense of the word, and nobody can accuse them of not giving full life to that sentiment. The Ulstermen gave a very creditable performance on the field and indeed we nearly saw the eclipse of our ground record. There were more than the odd few around the ground that day who thought our visitors were a little unlucky not to win and I'm sure it would have really put the icing on their cake had they done so. That's rugby though and they took it in excellent part and really got down to the business of enjoying the rest of the weekend. This they did in excellent style and during the aftermatch activities they really had the rafters ringing in the Club. This leads us to hope that our association in the future will not be as sparse as in the past. Well done Bangor we hope your weekend in Cardiff reciprocated for the marvellous weekend we had on your patch.

Back to today now though, and it's time to extend to our close neighbours, Pontypridd, a warm and festive welcome. Their visit on this day is now becoming something of a tradition and this afternoon heralds the fourteenth of such visits. They will soon be overtaking the Barbarians who made eighteen Boxing Day visits between 1892 and 1920 (did you know that then) and more recently The Wasps who made sixteen post World War II visits. On looking through the records to obtain these facts an interesting point emerges too. Although many Christmas cards depict snowy and frosty scenes, those particular elements have left us well alone in reality. In the 41 years since the second war only on one occasion has a Boxing Day game been cancelled. That was against The Wasps in 1961 so what's the odds on a white Christmas this year, very long I hope. I don't know about the rain however — that's another story.

What's happening at Sardis Road these days though. Well, the main prerogative puts definite emphasis on team building. Billy Griffiths returned as coach from Bridgend last season as you may well know, and his main priority was to settle things down after a rather disastrous start when only two of fourteen games were won. Although the season ended with twice as many defeats as wins Billy was shrewd enough to realize that there was plenty of raw talent available to keep the ball moving in good old Ponty fashion and things would improve with the passage of time and

accompanying experience. Despite losing such good forwards as Mark Rowley to us and Gary Jones to Llanelli, Ponty stuck to their guns and analysis of their results showed cause for optimism. Twelve of the 23 games lost were by less than a six point margin against the likes of Llanelli, Ebbw Vale, Moseley, Pontypool, Swansea and ourselves. They have carried their 'keep it open policy' into this season and at this point in time they have achieved more victories than defeats and, more importantly, their young squad is rapidly gaining in experience. Billy Griffiths must have been highly delighted to see them come back against Maesteg on the Old Parish ground a fortnight ago to earn a sixteen all draw. That was a great tonic for them prior to their cup game against Whitland which must have sent a bit of a shudder through the West Walian camp. They came through the cup ordeal satisfactorily which helped considerably to erase the sad memory of last season's defeat by Duvant in the first round. This victory has earned them a home tie against South Wales Police.

For the record, today the 58th game in the series between us which began in 1878, including two games in the Schweppes Cup. The overall results stand at 42 wins to us, 13 to Pontypridd and 2 drawn. Those two cup matches tell their own story too, because Ponty won both of them. The second of them must have been their best ever result as we had beaten them fairly comprehensively 19-3 on Boxing Day 1979 but come 12th January 1980 on The Arms Park bingo - Cardiff 6 Pontypridd 13, a real shaker to say the least. It also puts them as the only club with a 100% record against us in that competition. No doubt they would be delighted today to relieve us of our ground record which would take them into 1987 on a real high note. To Ponty then welcome again, we hope you enjoy your day.

Don't forget the epic coming-up New Year's Day Cardiff v Bath. I hope you will not object to a 50p charge for the programme, but it's extremely good value for money when you think of the raffle involved and also the fact that Help The Aged is a very good cause.

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MATCHES RECALLED

J.B.G. THOMAS continues his stroll down Memory Lane with a memory of a Boxing Day when Tommy David's men were on the rampage

The Record Breakers

December 26, 1977: CARDIFF 9pts PONTYPRIDD 13pts

YOU MAY WELL ask today, when did Pontypridd first win at the Arms Park? It was a long time ago on Boxing Day 1883; their next win was in March 1930 but there was another long wait before they were victors again. It was on Boxing Day 1977 and it gave the men from the Taff Valley special pleasure.

They captured Cardiff's ground record before a large crowd that included thousands from my birthplace of Pontypridd. It was a rather unspectacular match but, of course, it was the result that mattered. Cardiff had held their ground record against Glamorgan Wanderers, Neath, Bristol, Aberavon, Northampton, Penarth, Ebbw Vale, Swansea, Pontypool and London Welsh, and were heading the Western Mail Table.

Pontypridd were also doing well and arrived at the Park determined to capture the record.

Yet the match was full of errors on both sides and at one stage I am sure both teams would have settled for a draw. It was hard and unrelenting, far from the normal holiday rugby, yet in many ways it was absorbing. Cardiff took the field without their captain Gerald Davies but still had a good side on duty.

Pontypridd's objective was to maraud through their back row, inspired by Tom David, and make life as difficult as possible for Gareth Edwards who, judging by his own high standards, did not have a happy match; neither did Pat Daniels in the centre as Pontypridd harrassed any Cardiff player in possession.

In the end it was Cardiff's defence that let them down when the winning try was conceded, although both sides allowed several chances to go begging.

Cardiff took the lead before a 10,000+ crowd, when David Barry landed a 28-yard penalty goal. After 18 minutes Ponty were level when Jeff Hazzard, a most useful player, landed a 30-yard penalty only to fail with two more attempts.

Then Ponty took the lead. They moved left from a maul and Alun Thomas burst through the centre to race diagonally for the line and score a try that Hazzard converted.

Cardiff hit back before the interval to level the scores once again. Gareth Edwards dashed away from a maul and kicked deftly to the corner for wing David Thomas to race up and get the try. David Barry kicked a good conversion.

The second half was a stalemate until ten minutes from time after both sides had missed chances to take the lead. Edwards dropped for goal and it sailed over the bar to cheers from Cardiff supporters. Unfortunately for them the referee, Alan Richards, ruled that the ball had not been put in straight at the scrum and disallowed the goal. Groans from Cardiff supporters and cheers from those of Pontypridd!

Yet one felt that someone had to score before the end and win the match. A high punt took play down to the Cardiff goal line. Pontypridd won a ruck after the line-out and busy scrum-half Robin Morgan sent wing Brian Juliff galloping over on the blind side for the winning try.

Cardiff had only themselves to blame, but the men from Ponty returned up the valley delighted with the triumph. Pontypridd went on to win the Western Mail Club championship and prove themselves the best in Wales. Veteran Bob Pemberthey, as in this match, was the hero of the season. Tommy David was the captain and Jeff Hazzard scored 213 points.

They still say in Ponty that it was the win at the Arms Park that set them fair for the title. Cardiff remained as runners-up.

Did you see that?



If not — see me!

J. Warren Hailes

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... AND GLAD Eidmans of comfort and joy. From which you will gather that Quidnunc today is full of the festive spirit and has spent his more lucid moments not dreaming of a Whitefoot Christmas but attempting to rewrite the traditional carols for purely Arms Park usage.

And so, after wishing you the compliments of the season and assuming that you too have come out for a breath of fresh air, to avoid the washing-up and because you do not fancy either the company of the mother-in-law or one of the 237 films on television, let us consider how some of our heroes might have adapted themselves to the time of the year.

We will assume that you have put up the Christmas Carduses, sung the Wally and the Eidman, lifted up your Glassons and visited one of the two pantomimes. Goldinglocks and the Three Beards received rave reviews (but not from Goldinglocks who would have nightmares at the thought of finding three Roger Beards anywhere, let alone stirring his porridge). SnO'Brien and the Seven Dwarfs received rather less acclaim.

The problem was in casting. True, Matthew Hadley was a splendid Dopey, Ian Eidman was a natural as Grumpy, you can nominate your own Sleepys but there were, unusually for a Cardiff team over the years, few nominations for Doc — the only one coming to mind being Dr. C.D. Williams who was, in any case, far too busy accepting money from the solicitors, builders, accountants, Quidnuncs (alas) and other assorted con-men of Llandaff.

There was no role for that other dwarf-like figure, the Sheikh of Dubai, otherwise known as J. Scott who lost so much weight a week or two ago in trying to take on the whole of the All Blacks side in some obscure veterans' sevens in the Persian Gulf that he is now known as Sir Leaner Scott (Sir Leaner Selina Geddit? No, then forgeddit.)

There were difficulties also in the casting of Happy, the producers opting finally for the beaming face of Timmy Crothers while hoping he would not scare off the younger children. Those against the choice pointed out quite correctly that the Crothers Quartet — otherwise know as Timmy and the Slimheads — scarcely reached Top of the Pops standards while auditioning recently at the players' annual dinner and carol singing evening. The other three members of the group, Howard Stone, Matthew Hadley and Terry Charles, scarcely contributed other than the odd hiss and grunt — which their audience were happy to follow.

But on that evening, and if we were looking for, say, Buttons in Aladdin, then surely Chris Norman would fill the Bill: his solo singing spot, becoming All Shook Up like Elvis or asking the boys 'Do You Ever Get' is worth having on tape — which is more than I can say for the Norstar from the West. Bob may have looked cute in his delicately-shaded pink hat — more important from his point of view is that he would have had an instant fine if he had not been wearing it: after all, the event was held to raise money for the summer tour — but the assembled critics wished he had sang only in the Street Where He Lives rather than in the clubhouse.

Not, despite rumours, that Mr. Norster should play Scrooge. "£Scrooge," two members of the team inform me reliably, "went North a year ago."

(I have been asked also at this point to deny rumours that Mike Rayer is going North. Llandaff North, maybe, but no further than his father's club.)

But I digress. We were, you will recall, contemplating some Cardiff carols. Having decked the balls with Bows and Wally (the unfortunate Mr. Blackmore kept on cropping up as the result of his name rhyming with Holly), I offer you further suggestions of the genre:

Ming, Ring, Terrily on Howe
In Evans the Charles are Ring-ing

And then again: Larks, the Bad Sound

— being a reference to Mr. Lakin's nickname and voice. His turkeys are more melodic, meaty and brown. Amongst those discarded were:

Rudolf, the red-nosed Rayerdeer

and All Rings, Wright and Boot-moneyful

and The First Neil

As Dawnovan broke, the discussion group debating the subjects of today's began to wonder off after passing the simple resolution: "And Souto bed."

Other thoughts had come to mind. There was much argument about finding Three Wise Men, possibly from the committee, but it was decided finally that nobody had the qualifications.

Which was a pity because they would have brought with them the traditional Christmas gifts of Golding, Francis Spence and Merv (ynjohn). Or even Francis-sense.

And so, as they rarely accept in the back-row, it came to pass ... that another Christmas was over. I'm told that skipper Phillip's true love had sent to him a variety of goods over the 12 days, including 12 committee choosing, Roger Beard abusing, front row a-dropping, Bill and Ben a propping, full-backs a-stopping, Norster a-leaping, flankers a-Lakin, five Goldings. Four Schweppes cup-ties, three-quarter moves, two Cordle gloves — and a hat-trick from Adolf Hadley.

But what about those presents for the others? And what about their resolutions for 1987? More of that on January 1. In the meantime, have a Terry Christmas and a Nappy New Year.

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Rugby Quiz – No. 12

It's all about Boxing Day today.

1. In all the Wasps made 16 Boxing Day visits between 1946 and 1962. Did they win any of those games?
2. Liverpool made a sequence of visits after the Wasps. How many times did they come?
3. Pontypridd have been coming on Boxing Day since 1972 except for our centenary year 1976. Who did we play on that particular Boxing Day?
4. Have Ponty won any of the Boxing Day games?
5. Name the other side not mentioned above whom we have played on Boxing Day since 1946?

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15. M. RAYER
14. G. CORDLE
13. M. RING
12. A. DONOVAN
11. A. HADLEY
10. D. EVANS
9. N. O'BRIEN
1. S. BLACKMORE
2. A. PHILLIPS (Capt.)
3. C. COLLINS
4. M. PARRY
5. J. SCOTT
6. G. ROBERTS
8. R. LAKIN
7. P. CRANE

To be
announced

- Full Back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Outside Half
Inside Half
Forwards



A. CARPENTER/K. WILLIAMS (Capt.)

Replacements

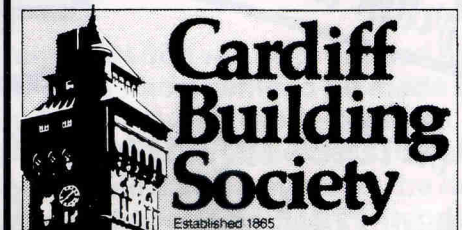
Referee: Mr. R.O.P. JONES

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Pontypridd

- J. MASON 15.
- G. LOXTON 14.
- C. JONES 13.
- M. OWEN 12.
- C. HOWELLS 11.
- A. REES 10.
- A. MATTHEWS/H. WOODLAND 9.
- A.N. OTHER 1.
- P. JOHN 2.
- R. STEVENS 3.
- N. ROPER 4.
- S. BAIN 5.
- M. BUTTS 6.
- S. GRIFFIN 7.

To be
announced



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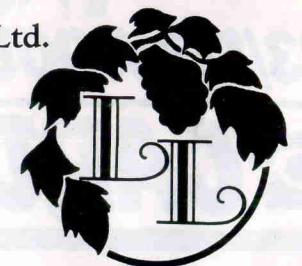
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On the day, a special programme at 50p will be produced and purchase will entitle the holder entry into a raffle to be made on the day. First prize will be an ALPHA GAS COOKER valued at £317, second prize a HALLMARK GAS FIRE valued at £117 and third prize £50. A special collection will also be made on the day and further details will be printed in the forthcoming Pontypridd and Bridgend games.

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Rugby Quiz No. 12 – Answers

1. No, a 3-3 draw was the best they managed in 1959.
2. Eight, between 1964 and 1971.
3. Crawshays XV.
4. Yes, one in 1977. 13-9.
5. Welsh Academicals in 1963.

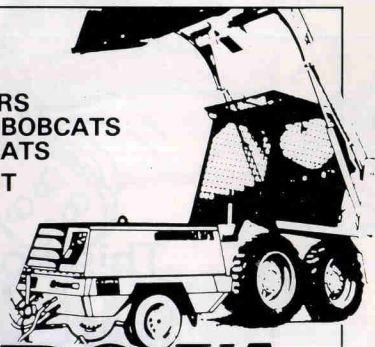
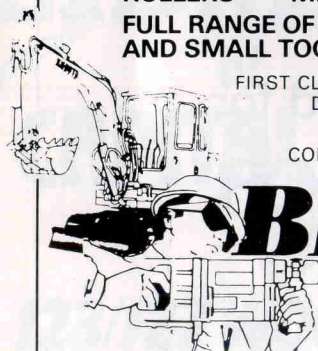
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By PAUL REES

	Season				Career			
	App.	Tr.	Goals	Pts.	App.	Tr.	Goals	Pts.
G. JOHN	13	2	28	77	32	4	56	156
M. RING	15	10	3	47	122	59	72	409
A. HADLEY	17	9	—	36	149	94	—	376
G. CORDLE	11	9	—	36	84(1)	65	—	260
M. RAYER	16	1	11	34	47(1)	9	11	66
D. EVANS	5	1	12	32	30(1)	6	48	139
G. DAVIES	9	7	—	28	9	7	—	28
G. ROBERTS	15	6	—	24	65	20	—	80
T. CROTHERS	15	5	—	20	87(1)	23	—	92
A. DONOVAN	17	3	—	12	112	16	—	64
N. O'BRIEN	6	3	—	12	32(9)	12	—	48
C. NORMAN	2	3	—	12	2	3	—	12
C. WEBBER	3	—	4	9	87(7)	17	103	330
P. RING	3	2	—	8	3	2	—	8
A. PHILLIPS	8	2	—	8	368	139	—	556
R. CARDUS	6	2	—	8	6	2	—	8
R. NORSTER	9	1	—	4	220	13	—	52
J. SOUTO	8(1)	1	—	4	38(9)	4	—	16
M. PARRY	9	1	—	4	9	1	—	4
I. EIDMAN	9	1	—	4	199	3	—	12
K. EDWARDS	11	1	—	4	150	13	—	52
J. SCOTT	9	1	—	4	226(2)	34	—	132
G. PRITCHARD	5(3)	1	—	4	5(3)	1	—	4
D. WRIGHT	4	1	—	4	5(1)	1	—	4
R. LAKIN	11(1)	1	—	4	233(3)	56	—	224
J. HOWELLS	1	—	2	4	4(2)	3	2	16
J. WHITEFOOT	14	—	—	—	222	7	—	28
C. COLLINS	12	—	—	—	59(2)	1	—	4
P. CRANE	6	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
H. STONE	5	—	—	—	83(1)	10	—	40
S. BLACKMORE	4	—	—	—	41	1	—	4
O. GOLDING	1	—	—	—	139(2)	47	1	188

Also played: 4 - I. Greenslade; 3 - C. Jones, M. Rowley, D. Gibbon(+2); 2 - S. Cannon.
1 - T. Charles, D. Conway, N. Humphreys, M. Hadley(+1), A. Mogridge, R. Rees.

P 20 W 13 D 1 L 6 F 443 A 342 Tries 74 Cons 33 Pens 25 Drops 2

[Not including Wednesday evening's game at Newbridge and only including matches played in the United Kingdom]

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By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

TOUCH

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The law now states that: "if the ball is not in touch and has not crossed the plane of the touch-line, a player who is in touch may kick or propel the ball with his hand but NOT hold it."

A further reminder – the ball is **in touch** if it lands on or touches a touch line. Let's hope that all club touch judges know and apply these laws correctly.

NADOLIG LLAWEN to them and all readers of this programme.

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ENCLOSURE

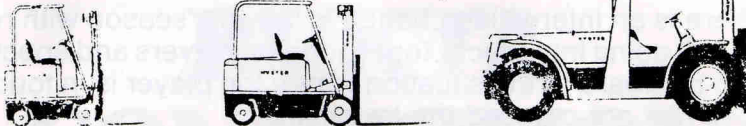
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Cardiff Rugby Club 1986-87

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1986			Sat. 20	Cross Keys	A 19-6
SEPTEMBER			Fri. 26	Pontypridd	H
Mon. 1	St. Peters	A 27-12	Sat. 27	Bridgend	H
Wed. 3	Glamorgan Wanderers	H 22-13	1987		
Sat. 6	East District	H 30-9	JANUARY		
Wed. 10	Bristol	A 14-27	Thur. 1	Bath	H
Sat. 13	Neath	A 7-24	Sat. 3	Moseley	H
Sat. 20	Coventry	H 22-4	Sat. 10	Aberavon	H
Wed. 24	Pontypridd	A 39-12	Fri. 16	City of Derry	H
Sat. 27	Aberavon	A 22-26	Sat. 24	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	A
OCTOBER			Sat. 31	Llanelli	A
Sat. 4	Newport	H 28-21	FEBRUARY		
Wed. 8	Bridgend	A 29-18	Fri. 6	Maesteg	A
Sat. 11	Northampton	H 35-4	Sat. 14	Bristol	H
Sat. 18	Wasps	A 16-25	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale	H
Wed. 22	Pontypool	H 17-11	Sat. 28	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	A
Sat. 25	Harlequins	H 26-19	MARCH		
Wed. 29	Bath	A 9-28	Fri. 6	London Welsh	H
NOVEMBER			Sat. 14	Pontypool	A
Sat. 1	Leicester	H 16-10	Wed. 18	Penarth	H
Wed. 5	Oxford University	H 35-24	Sat. 28	Newport (S.F. W.R.U. Cup)	A
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale	A 30-24	APRIL		
Sat. 15	Treorchy (Cup)	A 14-7	Wed. 1	S. Glam. Institute	H
Sat. 22	Llanelli	H 16-16	Sat. 4	Bedford	A
Wed. 26	Newbridge	A 18-15	Sat. 11	Swansea	H
Sat. 29	Bangor (N.I.)	H 21-14	Sat. 18	Barbarians	H
DECEMBER			Sat. 25	Neath	H
Sat. 10	Swansea	A 14-19			
Sat. 13	London Welsh	A 12-25			

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1986			DECEMBER		
SEPTEMBER			Sat. 6	Swansea Athletic	H 20-11
Wed. 3	Glamorgan Wanderers II	A 35-20	Wed. 10	Cardiff & District	H 22-7
Sat. 6	Kidwelly	H 36-16	Sat. 13	Risca	H 7-11
Wed. 10	Bristol United	H 23-27	Sat. 20	Neath Athletic	H 10-25
Sat. 13	Maesteg Celtic	H 20-16	Sat. 27	Bridgend Sports	A
Wed. 17	Gardiffaith	A 25-9	1987		
Sat. 20	Coventry Extras	A 16-12	JANUARY		
Wed. 24	Old Iltydians	H 18-9	Sat. 3	Moseley United	A
Sat. 27	Abercynon	H 35-20	Sat. 10	Llanharan	A
OCTOBER			Sat. 24	Bath United	H
Sat. 4	Newport United	A 43-30	Sat. 31	Pontypool United	H
Wed. 8	Bridgend Sports	H 28-29	FEBRUARY		
Sat. 11	Neath Athletic	A 25-31	Sat. 7	Bridgend Ravens	H
Wed. 15	Resolven	H 70-0	Wed. 11	Pencoed	H
Sat. 18	St. Peters	H Post.	Sat. 14	Bristol United	A
Wed. 22	Pontypool Athletic	A 9-37	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale Athletic	A
Sat. 25	Tondu	A 10-23	MARCH		
Wed. 29	Pyle	A 12-23	Wed. 11	Pontypridd Athletic	H
NOVEMBER			Sat. 14	Pontypool Athletic	H
Sat. 1	Leicester Extras	A 4-27	Tue. 17	Abercynon	A
Wed. 5	Newport Saracens	A 8-15	Wed. 25	Maesteg Celtic	A
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H 13-7	Sat. 28	Newport United	H
Wed. 12	Pontypridd Athletic	A 17-25	APRIL		
Sat. 15	Pontypool United	A 32-15	Sat. 4	Caerleon	H
Wed. 19	Bedwas	H Post.	Wed. 8	Bedwas	A
Sat. 22	Bridgend Ravens	A 24-21	Sat. 11	Swansea Athletic	A
Wed. 26	Berry Hill	H Post.	Wed. 15	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	H
Sat. 29	Abercarn	A 19-34	Mon. 20	Blackwood	H

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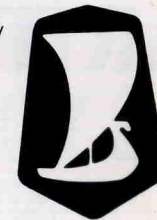
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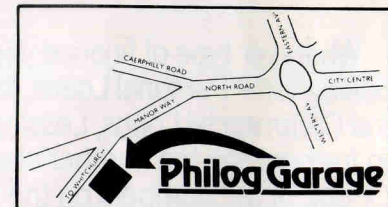
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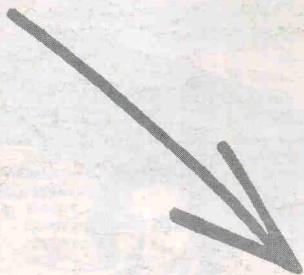
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