

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB



CARDIFF v LLANELLI

WEDNESDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1978

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

Official Programme 10p

Cardiff v. Llanelli

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K.O. 7.15 p.m.

Tonight it gives us great pleasure to welcome "The Scarlets" to Cardiff Arms Park. This will be the 190th encounter between the sides and of the previous 189 we have won 105, lost 68 and drawn 16. The points for total 1662 with 1239 against. It is most unfortunate that such an attractive fixture has to be played under lights on a mid-week night. This is due to the fact that one of the traditional Saturday dates has been taken over for a WRU Cup round. The two clubs are negotiating for a mutually acceptable Saturday so hopefully we will soon return to tradition.

During the last decade Llanelli have done much to further enhance their very formidable reputation. These include such magnificent achievements as victory over the 1972 New Zealand touring team, winning the WRU Cup on four successive occasions and more recently providing the captain of the 1977 Lions to New Zealand in the person of Phil Bennett. The stranglehold they had on the WRU Cup was finally broken by Cardiff during the third round of the 1976-77 competition. That game, played during January 1977, is regarded as one of the classical Welsh Club matches for many a long day. With Llanelli leading by 12 points to nil at half-time, things were looking rather bleak for Cardiff. The Cardiff side of the day, however, had a different opinion and during the second half gave a superb display of attacking rugby to come out eventual winners by 25 points to 15. This result put an end to Llanelli's sequence of 26 consecutive cup victories and was only their second defeat in six years of cup rugby. This speaks highly of their dedication and competitiveness and indeed they have made it known that they have their sights set fairly and squarely on the Cup again this year so the message is, Aberavon watch out.

During the past three seasons the games between Llanelli and Cardiff have provided very good spectator value. The games played at Stradey during the past two seasons resulted in narrow victories for the Scarlets by 18 points to 13 and 24 points to 19. Both matches were played at tip top pace with the results in doubt until the final whistle. The game at Stradey earlier on this season resulted in a win for Cardiff by 20 points to 10 and was the first victory we have registered on Llanelli territory since February 1969, when we triumphed by 6 points to nil. It was very satisfying to read recently that Phil Bennett was quoted as saying that he considered that this Cardiff-Llanelli third round cup game of the 1976-77 competition was one of the best games he had ever played in and it was a great credit to both clubs, the cup and Welsh Rugby in general.

For tonight's game it is hoped that both sides will be at full strength. It is going to be a very hard time for international players, however, with Wales playing four games in six weeks. In the middle of this comes the fourth round of the WRU Cup in which both Cardiff and Llanelli are away to Ebbw Vale and Aberavon respectively. This puts tremendous pressure on the top class players so let's hope for a decent spell of fine weather as the rain and mud make things much more difficult to play good constructive rugby. If both sides field at full strength tonight however it will be rather ironical because within the space of a few days several leading players who were bonded in national unity towards defeat of England will become divided in loyalties to their respective clubs. Such is the way of Welsh Rugby, to which today's visitors have made such a vast contribution.

And now what of our own side. It is some five weeks since our last home match against London Scottish and this, in keeping with the pattern of all our home games this season was an excellent affair. London Scottish proved to be a very good side but were conclusively beaten by a side playing the better rugby on the day. The highlights of the game however must surely have been Gerald Davies' try (is there another wing in the world who would have scored in similar circumstances — I'd like to see him if he is about) and then the chase and try saving tackle made by Terry Holmes on Ron Wilson when the latter seemed certain to score. This game again emphasised the fact that our side has produced the most entertaining and winning rugby seen on the Park for several years.

It is also very significant that since that last home game we have managed to overcome, away from home, such formidable opposition as Bedford, Pontypool in the Cup, Aberavon and London Welsh. There was a large contingent of the 'O ye of little faith' brigade who wrote us off in the Cup match against Pontypool. Then our friends the Press used that lovely non-committal cliché "Cardiff will do well to win at Aberavon". But win we did on both occasions, so in the words of the man from the Stork advert, "didn't we do well". Our latest victory over London Welsh was also very satisfying and most significant inasmuch as the age of the back line fielded for that game must have been the youngest ever for a first class fixture played by Cardiff. This coupled with the good performance of the forwards, both young and not so young, augurs well for the future.

Finally, as a bonus, I would like members and supporters to note that an extra game has been arranged for Friday, 17th February, when we play Heriots F.P. on the Arms Park with the usual 7.15 p.m. kick off.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

International matches usually provide plenty to write about as far as clearing up points of law is concerned.

Not so last Saturday, or am I getting less discerning, or, and this is more probable, the squad sessions the previous Sunday with our panel referees in charge of actual game situations paid dividends. It used to horrify me throughout the years to note the ratio of penalties awarded, for and against, with invariably our national side getting the worst of the whistle. Similar exercises these days give much more joy and relief.

Watching the game on Sunday, there was just one point which did mystify me. Bill McLaren, that doyen of commentators who is an assiduous student of the laws, stated when one penalty was awarded, "It must be for handling in the 'Ruck'," when it was actually a 'Maul'. Just shows.

In a 'Maul' of course, the ball CAN be handled. In a 'Ruck' it is the same as a scrum and handling the ball merits a kick.

When does the 'Maul' become a 'Ruck'? What is the difference?

A 'Maul' is when one or more players from each team on their feet and in physical contact close round a player who is carrying the ball.

A 'Ruck' is formed when the ball is *on the ground* with one or more players from each team on their feet and in physical contact closing around the ball between them. The significant point is the ball being on the ground for it to be a 'Ruck'. In both cases the offside line is the same — through the hindmost feet of the player's team in the 'Ruck' or 'Maul'.

Players entering either from their opponents side MUST be offside. It often happens. Going 'over the top' in a 'Ruck', penalised inevitably these days as players try to deny their opponents the ball has become quite a feature, with too often, the tackled player on the ground penalised.

What can he do? What *must* he do legally?

The simple answer is to release the ball, roll away, try to get up if possible, but NEVER hold onto the ball, get the wrong side of it when released, or interfere with play. Not as easy as it sounds but that is the only answer.

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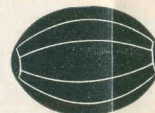
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Cardiff

15. Glyn DAVIES
14. T. G. R. DAVIES (Capt.)
13. P. DANIELS
12. M. MURPHY
11. D. THOMAS
10. Gareth DAVIES
9. G. EDWARDS
1. B. NELMES
2. M. WATKINS
3. G. WALLACE
4. I. ROBINSON
5. C. SMITH
6. T. CHARLES
8. M. McJENNETT
7. S. LANE

R. LANE
J. DAVIES

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



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Referee: C. G. P. THOMAS (Tonteg, Pontypridd)

Llanelli

- P. MORGAN 15.
- J. J. WILLIAMS 14.
- R. GRAVELL 13.
- D. JACOBS 12.
- D. NICHOLAS 11.
- P. BENNETT/B. THOMAS 10.
- S. WILLIAMS 9.
- C. THOMAS 1.
- J. LUGG 2.
- L. DELANEY 3.
- A. DAVIES 4.
- P. MAY 5.
- S. THOMAS 6.
- H. JENKINS 8.
- K. WILLIAMS 7.

H. THOMAS

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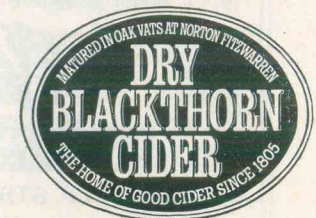
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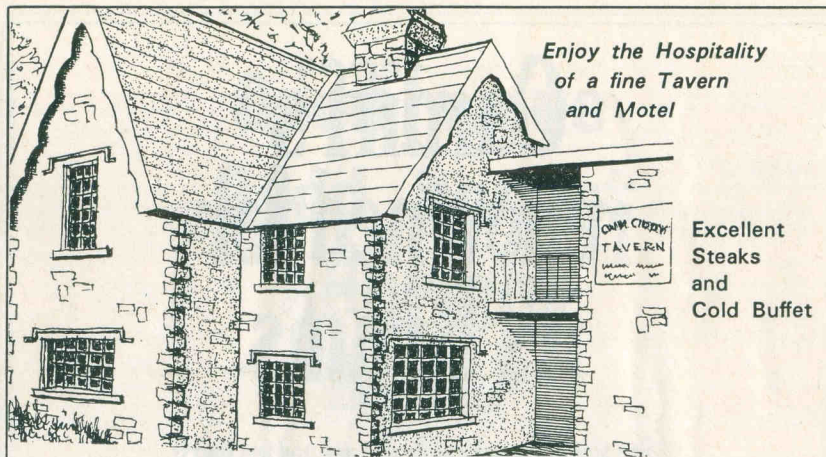
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1977			
SEPTEMBER			
Sat. 3	Maesteg	H	35-9
Wed. 7	Glamorgan Wands.	H	35-9
Fri. 9	Neath	H	18-9
Wed. 14	Bristol	H	25-12
Sat. 17	Coventry	A	17-9
Wed. 21	Pontypool	A	12-6
Sat. 24	Aberavon	H	28-13
OCTOBER			
Sat. 1	Newport	A	10-27
Wed. 5	Pontypridd	A	11-24
Sat. 8	Northampton	H	50-6
Wed. 12			
Sat. 15	Cambridge Univ.	A	46-9
Wed. 19	Penarth	H	21-12
Sat. 22	Harlequins	A	22-16
Sat. 29	Moseley	A	9-18
NOVEMBER			
Sat. 5	Oxford University	A	29-9
Sat. 12	Ebbw Vale	H	28-0
Sat. 19	Garndiffaith (Cup)	A	9-0
Sat. 26	Llanelli	A	20-10
DECEMBER			
Sat. 3	Swansea	H	.....
Wed. 7	Pontypool	H	.....
Sat. 10	London Welsh	H	.....
Sat. 17	Cwmavon (Cup)	H	.....
Sat. 24	Bridgend	A	.....

Mon. 26	Pontypridd	H	.....
Sat. 31	Coventry	H	.....

1978			
JANUARY			
Mon. 2	London Scottish	H	.....
Sat. 7	Bedford	A	.....
Sat. 14	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round		
Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale	A	.....
Sat. 28	Aberavon	A	.....

FEBRUARY			
Sat. 4	London Welsh	A	.....
Wed. 8	Llanelli	H	.....
Sat. 11	Bristol	A	.....
Fri. 17	Heriots F.P.	H	.....
Sat. 25	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round		

MARCH			
Wed. 1	Newport	A	.....
Wed. 8	Bridgend	H	.....
Sat. 11	Orrell	H	.....
Sat. 25	Barbarians	H	.....
Mon. 27	Harlequins	H	.....

APRIL			
Sat. 1	Gloucester	H	.....
Wed. 5	Newport	H	.....
Sat. 8	Swansea	A	.....
Sat. 15	Camborne	A	.....
Mon. 17	St. Ives	A	.....
Sat. 22	Neath	A	.....
Sat. 29	W.R.U. Cup Final		

NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Fri., 17th February:	CARDIFF v. HERIOTS F.P.	7.15 p.m.
Wed., 8th March:	CARDIFF v. BRIDGEND	7.15 p.m.
Sat., 11th March:	CARDIFF v. ORRELL	3 p.m.



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