



Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v. Bridgend

WEDNESDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1979

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

Official Programme 10p

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Give me a sentence using the word inevitably to describe its meaning. So said the schoolteacher of a Mid-Glamorgan school to one of his 12-year-old pupils. Up stood the rugby minded pupil and, with a light in his eye, proudly proclaimed: "Inevitably Cardiff fail to beat Bridgend whenever these sides play at the Arms Park." Technically speaking, I suppose the schoolboy was incorrect because the dictionary definition says that inevitably means not to be avoided, bound to happen. This boy's facts cannot be doubted, however, because in his lifetime Cardiff have failed to disprove exactly what he said. The last occasion that Cardiff won on the Arms Park was on the 22nd November, 1967 which puts it at 12 years ago next month. We won that day by 14 pts. to nil, but of the 11 games played since then Bridgend have won nine with two games drawn. This is a truly amazing sequence although I don't think that even the most ardent Bridgend supporters would deny us the consolation of saying that Lady Luck has been firmly on the side of the Brewery Field boys on several occasions. Instances like last second drop goals from prodigious distances; equally late conversions of penalty kicks from half-way and on the touch line and then, of course, the missed penalty in front of the post during the 1974-75 cup tie, which would have won the game, readily come to mind. All these things, however, are testimony of the fact that Bridgend are an 80 minute playing side and the game is not lost until the very last whistle has sounded. An outsider may well wonder what our away record is like with such abysmal statistics at home. Well, strangely enough, it probably stands comparison with any club who visit the Brewery Field. Of 13 games played since 1967, we have won seven, lost five and drawn one.

Reverting to our 12-year-old schoolboy, although he is tender in years, that same 12 years is a lifetime to the average Cardiff supporter. What was happening in Cardiff then, when we were last able to claim victory over Bridgend on the Park. Rather significantly Howard Norris was the captain, so can we expect something now that the same man is the current Chairman? I wonder! Barry John joined us from Llanelli and it was the season that started the fantastic record set by Gareth Edwards when he won the first of his 53 consecutive caps against France. It was also the year that we supplied six players to the British Lions tour to South Africa: Gareth Edwards, Gerald Davies, Barry John, Keri Jones, Maurice Richards and John O'Shea. There were many young players just coming on the scene who have now retired. Of our present side, the captain Gareth Davies was 11, Terry Holmes was 10 and John Scott was a dashing young blade of 13. This information goes to show just how long it is in real terms since we managed a home win.

Bridgend, however, are a club most worthy of such a record. This season saw them commence their 101st year after celebrating a most successful centenary season during which they achieved the distinction of winning the W.R.U. Cup. Rather strangely they had never been very successful in this competition but they certainly chose the time they really wanted it by beating Pontypridd in last year's final. That victory put the icing on their centenary cake which made it so delightfully palatable for all connected with the club to savour. Bridgend's contribution to Rugby Football in general, and in particular to Wales over the last two decades has been enormous. J.P.R. Williams, probably recognised as Wales' greatest full back, chose to return to his old club for his final season and together with Steve Fenwick has been part and parcel of Wales' greatest era. These veterans will ably hand down their skills to the up and coming youngsters of the Bridgend club and names like Gerald Williams and Gareth Williams will keep the club well in the forefront where it belongs. And so to the Bridgend club, we again bid you a hearty welcome to the Arms Park and, although both sides are likely to be depleted due to international calls, may this evening's game be another thriller of the type we have seen so often in the past. Will your sequence be extended by another year or will it come to an end? We shall know by about quarter to nine this evening.

Cover picture by courtesy of Western Mail & Echo

A rather interesting piece of history of the Cardiff Club concerns this evening's visitors because they were the only first class side we played during season 1939-40 which was curtailed due to the Second World War. The game was played on 2nd September, 1939 and war was actually declared the following day. The match programme of that day began thus:

"With the international situation still tense at the moment of writing, it is difficult to write with much cheerful anticipation of the opening of another season. The spirit of sport, however, animates every Britisher, and if his sportsmanship were but copied by certain European nations, the latter might be more concerned with goals and tries than with guns and bombs."

Great stuff isn't it, of Churchillian motivation. Pity that Hitler didn't get to read it — it could have saved him and us a lot of bother.

Finally, congratulations to Robert Norster on his selection to play against Romania. Well done Bob, may this be a prelude to full honours which you well deserve.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

What a refreshing change to have tourists in the country with no problems over the laws. The Romanians were well prepared and, as is now normal and essential, had the services of one of our top referees at their very first training session. The number of penalties they have conceded have been minimal as a result. Prevention, as always, is better than any cure.

Line-out! End thereof in particular! This is an area which has bothered me for a long time, in games at all levels. How many times have you, and I, seen players move across the line at the back, often behind his immediate opponent, to take the ball and get away with it? Let's take it step by step.

When the line is formed, a clear space of 500mm must be left between the two lines of players, and 1 metre from the next player of his team.

The line-out begins when the ball leaves the hands of the player throwing it in; it ends when:

- * a ruck or maul takes place and the feet of the players have then moved beyond the line of touch;
- * a player with the ball leaves the line;
- * the ball has been passed, knocked or kicked back;
- * the ball has been thrown beyond the furthest player;
- * the ball becomes unplayable.

When jumping for the ball or peeling off, the player can only move once the ball has left the thrower's hands.

In the instances I mention, they say that the movement across the line is in the act of jumping for the ball. BUT, it is a close thing and, as always, only the referee himself can decide. To me, far too often, it IS offside.

NEXT HOME FIXTURES . . .

Sat., 13th October: **CARDIFF v. NORTHAMPTON** 3 p.m.

Sat., 20th October: **CARDIFF v. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY** 3 p.m.

Wed., 31st October: **Don Pill Memorial Game**
CARDIFF v. A WELSH INTERNATIONAL XV 7.15 p.m.

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IRELAND v WALES

DUBLIN 15th MARCH, 1980

SCOTLAND v WALES

EDINBURGH 7th FEBRUARY, 1981

FRANCE v WALES

PARIS 7th MARCH, 1981

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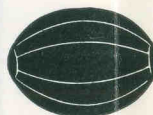
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- 10. J. O'BRIEN
- 9. T. LEE
- 1. D. LLEWELLYN
- 2. M. WATKINS
- 3. I. EIDMAN
- 4. P. SOUTO
- 5. C. SMITH
- 6. T. CHARLES
- 8. J. SCOTT (Captain)
- 7. B. LEASE
- R. LAKIN
- M. MURPHY

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



Replacements

Referee: CLIVE NORLING

Bridgend

- 15. J. ROWE
- 14. R. HAVARD
- 13. C. WILLIAMS
- 12. S. S. GRABHAM
- 11. V. JENKINS (Captain)
- 10. L. HALLET
- 9. A. WALTERS
- 1. I. STEPHENS
- 2. K. TOWNLEY
- 3. L. OWEN
- 5. J. MORGAN
- 4. W. HOWE
- 6. L. DAVIES
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Don't forget the

Don Pill Memorial Match

WEDNESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1979

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

Information on ticket sales
see inside back cover for details

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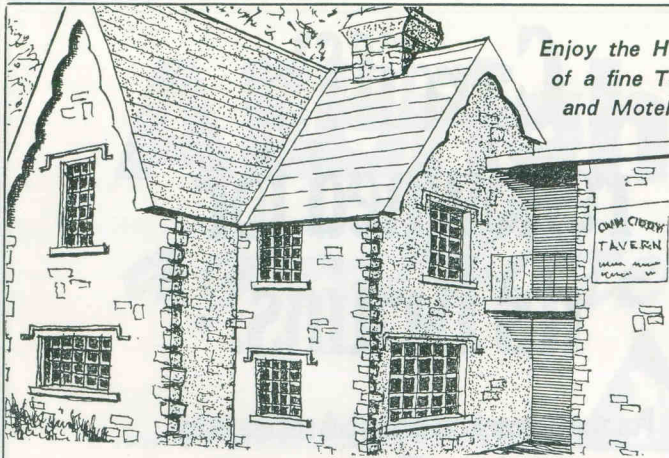
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Oct. 27	Harlequins	£4.00
Nov. 24	Llanelli	£2.00
Dec. 5	Maesteg	£2.00
Dec. 22	Bridgend	£2.00
Jan. 5	Moseley	£3.00
Jan. 26	Aberavon	£2.00
Feb. 2	Ebbw Vale	£2.00
Feb. 9	Bristol	£2.50
Feb. 16	London Welsh (Twickenham trip)	
Apr. 12	Swansea	£2.20
Apr. 19	Neath	£2.00

Functions:—

Oct. 12	Film Show
Dec. 19	Dinner/Dance



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1979			
SEPTEMBER			
Sat. 1	East District	H 66-8	
Wed. 5	Glamorgan Wands.	A 26-9	
Sat. 8	Neath	H 28-3	
Wed. 12	Bristol	H 17-17	
Sat. 15	Coventry	A 15-16	
Wed. 19	Canada	H 19-8	
Sat. 22	Aberavon	H 29-12	
Wed. 26	Penarth	A 12-0	
Sat. 29	Moseley	H 31-10	
OCTOBER			
Wed. 3	Bridgend	H.....	
Sat. 6			
Wed. 10	Pontypridd	A.....	
Sat. 13	Northampton	H.....	
Wed. 17	Newport	A.....	
Sat. 20	Cambridge Univ.	H.....	
Wed. 24	Pontypool	A.....	
Sat. 27	Harlequins	A.....	
Wed. 31	Don Pill Memorial	H.....	
	Selected XV (All pay)		
NOVEMBER			
Sat. 3	Munster	A.....	
Wed. 7	Oxford University	H.....	
Sat. 10	Ebbw Vale	H.....	
Sat. 17	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round		
Sat. 24	Llanelli	A.....	
DECEMBER			
Sat. 1	Swansea	H.....	
Wed. 5	Maesteg	A.....	
Sat. 8	London Welsh	H.....	
Sat. 15	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round		
Sat. 22	Bridgend	A.....	
Wed. 26	Pontypridd	H.....	
Sat. 29	Coventry	H.....	
1980			
JANUARY			
Tues. 1	Bath	H.....	
Sat. 5	Moseley	A.....	
Sat. 12	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round		
Fri. 18			
Wed. 23	S. Wales Police	H.....	
Sat. 26	Aberavon	A.....	
FEBRUARY			
Sat. 2	Ebbw Vale	A.....	
Sat. 9	Bristol	A.....	
Sat. 16	London Welsh	A.....	
Sat. 23	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round		
Fri. 29	Heriots F.P.	H.....	
MARCH			
Tues. 4	San Isidro (All pay)	H.....	
Sat. 8	Pontypool	H.....	
Sat. 15			
Sat. 22	Newport	H.....	
Sat. 29	Llanelli	H.....	
APRIL			
Sat. 5	Barbarians	H.....	
Mon. 7	Harlequins	H.....	
Wed. 9			
Sat. 12	Swansea	A.....	
Wed. 16			
Sat. 19	Neath	A.....	
Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup Final		

Don Pill Memorial Game

CARDIFF

v.

A WELSH INTERNATIONAL XV

Wednesday, 31st October, 1979

Kick Off 7.15 p.m.

Tickets: ENCLOSURE 75p STAND £1.50

Tickets can be obtained from the Souvenir Shop in the
forecourt of the Cardiff Athletic Club between
10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily

CARDIFF ATHLETIC XV CENTENARY

CARDIFF ATHLETIC

v.

GLAMORGAN COUNTY

Monday, 19th November, 1979

Kick Off 7.15 p.m.

Admission details will be issued in the
next home programme

The Club would be interested to hear from all past capped Athletic players. Please phone or write to the Club giving your name, address and year that you were capped.

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