

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v. Wasps

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1980 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 10p

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Welcome back to season 1979/80. It is now some six weeks since we last played at the Arms Park on 12th January. That day was as black for Cardiff as was last Saturday's disaster for Wales. It was the third round of the Cup and as a result of our defeat by Pontypridd on that fateful day our interest in the Cup is now one of an outsider, wondering and speculating as to who will be the eventual winners. It was admittedly a great disappointment to us particularly so seeing our home form had been so impressive. In fact, during December in chalking up up home victories over Swansea, London Welsh, Wrexham, Aberavon, Pontypridd and Coventry we amassed 195 points and conceded 49. On the day Pontypridd put a stop to that, however, and we can have no complaints because they were very worthy winners. Perhaps the lesson we can learn from the defeat is that Cup rugby in Wales is a vastly different kettle of fish to that of our normal fixtures given the fact that even those games can be extremely competitive. A rather interesting point concerning the defeat also adds further fuel to the fire of coincidence. In the nine years since the reintroduction of the Cup in Wales we have now failed on three occasions to progress to the fourth round and the three defeats have all been at home. The full record shows two wins at home, three defeats and four wins away from Cardiff. Of these three losses, firstly Bridgend on New Year's Day 1975, and then Aberavon the following year had more than their share of luck in winning on the day. The Sardis Road men, however, came to Cardiff in rather determined mood and as previously stated were very worthy winners and reduced our interest in the Cup to purely academic status. They are, of course, doing battle with Llanelli at Pontypridd this very afternoon so we wish them well for today and indeed for the rest of the competition if only to console ourselves with the fact that we were knocked out by the eventual winners.

It's an ill wind however and today's open date has been eagerly accepted by our old friends from London, the Wasps. They find themselves in a similar situation as ourselves having been eliminated from the John Player Cup. They were beaten by Bedford in a game rather dominated by penalty goals in which their opponents landed one more than themselves. This was an obvious disappointment to them because last year they reached the semi-final of the competition only to be knocked out by the eventual winners, Leicester. This year the Wasps are having an in and out season whereby some good victories such as Moseley have been peppered with defeats by lesser clubs. They have been considerably strengthened at forward with Roger Uttley and Nigel Horton joining them. Roger Uttley will more than likely miss today's game due to injury which is rather a pity because apart from appearances with the Baa Baas we have seen very little of him in club rugby at Cardiff. Nigel Horton on the other hand has been a frequent visitor to our ground with his previous club Moseley. They also have another famous name in their ranks, Mark Taylor, the All Black who has represented New Zealand on some eight occasions. He is playing at outside half for them and is also the vice captain of the side this

The Wasps of course are no strangers to Cardiff as they used to be our regular Boxing Day visitors for a long period which started in 1946. It was rather an onerous task to have to travel at such a festive period and it is something I'm sure our own players would not have relished. It was premotorway or Inter-City 125 days and in fact it became too much to expect and the fixture was curtailed in 1962. In all we have played the Wasps on 45 previous occasions and of those we have won 40, lost 3 and drawn 2, scoring 791 points against 231. Of the three games lost, they have all been at Sudbury, so a win at Cardiff would be something that the Londoners would very much like to achieve. Their nearest attempt was a 3-3 draw on Boxing Day, 1959. They come today then as most welcome visitors in their quest for a first ever win on our ground and in so doing we would like to thank them most sincerely for their very ready cooperation in accepting our offer. Welcome the Wasps, may you enjoy your day at Cardiff Arms Park.

year which is led by flanker Tony Cooper.

Of things nearer home, last weekend's trip to London proved to be very successful (from Cardiff's point of view that is). The First XV's victory by

Cover picture by courtesy of Western Mail & Echo

41-19 was well publicised but a lesser known fact is that the Rags took London Welsh Druids' unbeaten record in winning by 14-3 to notch up another fine achievement in this their centenary year. Since the issue of the Pontypridd programme they have played and beaten Abercynon, Pontypool United, Talywain and Bristol United. Next Wednesday, February 27th, the Rags play Cardiff and District in what should be a very entertaining game. The District lads are certainly looking forward to the encounter, so come along and enjoy it as well. It will also herald the inauguration of our new lighting system on which installation work has now been completed. Incidentally, the capped Rags players reunion takes place on Easter Monday, April 7th, 1980. Such capped players attending will be guests of the club for the game against the Harlequins and the reunion takes place afterwards in the players' lounge. Further home news sees the Youth XV going from strength to strength, having won all their 29 games and scored 971 points against 57. Their next game involves them with Bridgend in the semi-final of the W.Y.R.U. Cup. Victory in this game tomorrow, February 24th, will see them in the final against Cwmbran, who were victors of the other semi-final — so good luck lads.

who were victors of the other semi-final — so good luck lads.

Finally, I understand that last month's cover picture had people guessing as to who it was. Well Bob Lakin was the answer. This month's should cause no such problem as Alan Phillips will be readily recognisable. His game at Twickenham was probably by far his best yet for Wales and he must have staked a massive claim as number one hooker for the forthcoming Lions tour.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

'Rugby is only a game.' That's a message that seems to have been lost with last Saturday epitomising the extent by which it has been lost. As always, I kept a strict score of relevant facts and figures as the 'game' goes on. Penalties: all important: 14 to Wales, 7 in each half. 21 to England, 11 in the first half, 10 in the second. 35 in all, compared with a total of 16 in the match against France. A bit of a difference. We had 7 kicks at goal and missed them all. They had an equal number and, of course, as we all know and feel sick about, put over 3. They used 1 kicker. We used 4. All water under the bridge now, alas, but what a fantastic performance the marvellous seven and the whole team put up.

The send off. Personally I thought it extremely harsh, especially in view of all that went on before and after from both sides. Referee Burnett warned the skippers who in turn warned their players. That was sufficient within the Laws to legalise his ultimate action. He doesn't have to previously warn a player. There have been many cases of players being sent off immediately if the action should warrant such drastic treatment. I don't think Ringer's action did. Anyway, let's try and forget about it if we can.

Wheeling scrummages! A point of concern! If the scrum has wheeled through 180 degrees — that is right around — the true concept of the scrum offside line cannot be applied, but, players not in the scrum, except for the scrum half, cannot proceed beyond the nearer scrummage offside line.

In these circumstances, the No. 8 forward, if he has continued binding throughout the wheel, when the ball has emerged from his second row, can detach himself from the scrum if he immediately picks up the ball which is at his feet. The scrum then ends.

This is a new clarification but I can inform you that officialdom in Wales is not very happy with it.

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THE PACK
THAT'S BEST

BY SNAKPAK CARDIFF



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FRANCE v WALES

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15.	C.	W	EB	В	E	R

14. D. THOMAS

13. D. BURCHER

12. N. HUTCHINGS

11. P. DANIELS

10. Gareth DAVIES (Captain)

9. T. HOLMES

1. J. WHITEFOOT

2. A. PHILLIPS

3. J. DIXON

P. SOUTO

7. S. LANE

Wasps

H. DAVIES 15.

A. YARROW 14.

G. GRAHAM 13.

I. PERKINS 12.

I. BELL 11.

M. TAYLOR 10. I.GROCOTT

P. RENDALL 1.

J. GALLAGHER 2.

> A. ISICHEI 3.

> J. COWELL 4.

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J. SCOTT



Full Back

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Outside Half

Inside Half

Forwards

Replacements

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v. CARDIFF & DISTRICT XV

ARMS PARK - 27th February, 1980 K.O. 7.15p.m.

REUNION OF CAPPED PLAYERS

EASTER MONDAY, 7th April, 1980.

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IRELAND v. WALES

15th March, 1980

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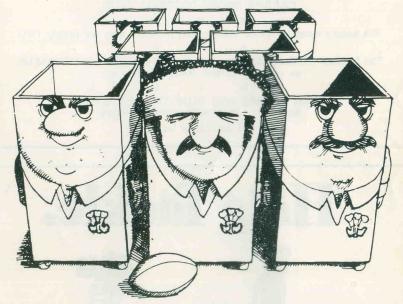
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NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Friday, 29th February: CARDIFF v. HERIOTS F.P.	7.15 p.m.
Tues., 4th March: CARDIFF v. SAN ISIDRO (All pay)	7.15 p.m.
Sat., 8th March: CARDIFF v. PONTYPOOL	3 p.m.

	FIRST XV	FIXTURES	
1979 SEPTEMBER Sat. 1 East District Wed. 5 Glamorgan Wands.	H 66-8 A 26-9		36-8 19-3 33-1
Sat. 8 Neath Wed. 12 Bristol Sat. 15 Coventry Wed. 19 Canada Sat. 22 Aberavon Wed. 26 Penarth	H 28-3 H 17-17 A 15-16 H 19-8 H 29-12 A 12-0	JANUARY	
Wed. 26 Penarth Sat. 29 Moseley OCTOBER	H 31-10	Wed. 23 S. Wales Police H Sat. 26 Aberavon A	C 22-2
Wed. 3 Bridgend Sat. 6 Wed. 10 Pontypridd Sat. 13 Northampton Wed. 17 Newport Sat. 20 Cambridge Univ. Wed. 24 Pontypool	H 45-4 A 21-12 H 37-12 A 10-28 A 43-19 H 15-27	Sat. 23 W.R.U. Cup 4th Round Fri. 29 Heriots F.P. H MARCH Tues. 4 San Isidro (All pay) H	14-9 41-19 d
NOVEMBER Sat. 3 Munster Wed. 7 Oxford University Sat. 10 Ebbw Vale Sat. 17 Waunarlwydd (Cup Sat. 24 Llanelli DECEMBER	A 15-13 H C H 32-16) H 43-3 A 14-18	Sat. 22 Newport H Sat. 29 Llanelli H APRIL Sat. 5 Barbarians H Mon. 7 Harlequins H Wed. 9	
	H 21-17 A 13-19 H 50-12 H 36-6	Wed. 16	

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