



Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v. Pontypool

SATURDAY, 8th MARCH, 1980

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 10p

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There is a feeling of great mutual respect between the Cardiff and Pontypool clubs that has evolved over the years and this has helped to create a special bond of friendship between us which should again be in evidence today. In so saying, however, I do not think for one second that today's game will be anything but a grand, full blooded and totally committed encounter by players of both sides. This has inevitably been the case, particularly so during the 1970's. In fact, during this period we played some 22 games of which Cardiff were successful 14 times, Pontypool five and two games were drawn. Actually three games finished with the scores level but the 10-10 encounter at Pontypool Park in the cup match of 1977 earned us victory by virtue of scoring two tries against one. I don't want to spoil our visitor's day by raking up the past but it is fact to state that we have become a bit of a bogey side to the "Poola" in the cup. Of the nine years it has been in existence we have been responsible for Pontypool's demise on no fewer than four occasions: firstly in 1972 and then the three consecutive years 1977, 78 and 79. The amazing point about this was the fact that all four games were on the "Poola's" own patch. This was a hard pill for the Eastern Valley club to swallow so they must have been very relieved to see our early exit in the third round this year but then again, they had no luck and lost at Bridgend. I suppose the remarkable feature of winning those cup games stemmed from the fact that we came up against the devastating Ray Prosser coached and Terry Cobner led pack which was reputed to be the best club eight in the country. So to win there not once or twice but a third time was something of an achievement.

Victory at Cardiff is something of a rarity for the Eastern Valley club, however, having only managed three since the resumption of fixtures after World War 2. Altogether the clubs have played 132 times of which Cardiff have won 89 and Pontypool 28 with quite a high percentage of 15 games drawn. During the sequence Cardiff have scored 1,503 points to Pontypool's 810. The three occasions that Pontypool have managed to lower Cardiff's colours on the Arms Park occurred last season, 1978/79, when we lost by 14 pts to 16, 1974/75 with a 9 pts. to 15 result and prior to that way back in season 1957/58 with an 8 pts. to 14 defeat. Pontypool's win last season resulted after a real "humdinger" of a match which did credit to both sides and was typical of the sort of great Welsh club rugby which can only be savoured in this part of the country. "Poola's" win in 1957/58 was also rather significant in Cardiff's history. It saw the final appearance of two of the great players of our club, Rex Willis and Cliff Morgan. Eddie Thomas was captain that season, which was also his last, and the Pontypool game was the last one of the season played on 30th April, 1958. It had been a very good season for Cardiff: in fact it was the last occasion when we topped the unofficial Western Mail Championship table. We had only lost six of 46 games up to the Pontypool match and a win would have been a magnificent farewell to Rex and Cliff, but "Poola" couldn't be messed about by sentimentality and proceeded to send us back to the dressing room with our tails between our legs with an 8 pts. to 14 defeat. Incidentally, the sides that took the field that day were as follows:

Cardiff — Alan Priday, Ron Thomas, Lloyd Williams, Howard Nicholls, Glyn John, Cliff Morgan, Rex Willis, Vernon Davies, Geoff Beckingham, Colin Howe, Peter Goodfellow, Mal Gough, C.D. Williams, Eddie Thomas (captain) and Dai Hayward.

Pontypool (with apologies for not remembering all the christian names): Ray Cheney, Fenton Coles, E. Jones, Malcolm Price, J. Griffiths, G. Jones, Colin Evans, J. Emmett, R. Edwards, M. Rudge, Ray Prosser (captain), Noel Tucker, Alan Forward, J. Hughes and J. Harris.

It's great to see so many of those names still active in the game albeit not on the playing side.

But, on the basis that your next game is always the most important, it's back to today's match. Pontypool are going great guns this season and up to this point they have suffered only six defeats. Their young backs have been

making great strides to rid themselves of the ten-man rugby tag. Testimony of this fact is the high number of tries they have scored and in Nigel Osborne, Pontypool have the top try scorer in Welsh rugby with a total of nearly 30 touch downs. New captain Jeff Squire has made an excellent job of his new role and has satisfied the Welsh selectors of his competence to lead the national side. Their successful sequence has been slightly slowed down, however, with their drawn game against Argentinian Rosario and then the defeat by Neath last Monday. A win today would give them something to celebrate, however, because it would give them their first double over us since season 1931/32 and indeed only their third since fixtures began in season 1907/08. Our side today is shorn of all its current internationals so their replacements can repeat past glories and emanate many previous Cardiff teams who have succeeded without their Welsh team players. Anyway, to Pontypool we again say welcome to the Arms Park, may you enjoy your visit.

The unavailability of Gareth Davies definitely and Jeff Squire maybe for today's game has thwarted what would have been a very piquant feature. It is being sponsored by the Gateway Building Society and for this the Cardiff Rugby Club is very grateful. Now, as it happens, both Gareth and Jeff are employees of this august body, so it would have created rather a unique situation which I very much doubt has happened since sponsorship was introduced to our game.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

Did you enjoy the scintillating display by the Argentinians on Tuesday? Only one thing wrong wasn't there? They were too good, sad to say.

Chatting to them and the referee Alun Richards afterwards it was interesting to find that they go to considerable lengths 'over there' in order to determine law interpretations prior to a tour of this nature and this bore affect on the field. Only one small point disturbed them somewhat and, by referee Richards book, disturbs many of our own Welsh players as well.

It concerns offside in the back row of the scrum; flankers in particular. Perhaps appropriate in this actual programme.

It is accepted that, before going forward, flankers have to retire behind the offside line of the scrum—a line through the rearmost foot of the player's team in the scrummage—this applies equally to Rucks and Mauls. But, and this is a big 'but', in a 3-4-1-scrum, which is the usual pattern, there are points to remember and note:

1. If the ball is being heeled and comes to the feet of the flankers, they CANNOT pick it up.
2. If the ball is heeled and is held by the feet of the No. 8 a lá John Scott and Jeff Squire so often, no one in front of them can break until the scrum has ended—this means the No. 8 detaching himself from the scrum or the ball coming out. If they do, then they are offside. The flankers HAVE TO STAY DOWN.

Pontypridd were beaten by Graham Mourie's All Blacks because he himself got away with this. He broke incorrectly, the ball was passed to him and he scored what was the winning try. It was on the blind side of the referee. Clever Graham Mourie. We would never get away with that one I'm sure.

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BY

STAKPAK CARDIFF

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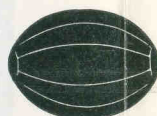
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Cardiff

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 15. C. WEBBER | Full Back |
| 14. D. THOMAS | Right Wing |
| 13. D. BURCHER | Right Centre |
| 12. N. HUTCHINGS | Left Centre |
| 11. D. PREECE | Left Wing |
| 10. D. BARRY | Outside Half |
| 9. T. LEE | Inside Half |
| 1. B. NEWMAN | Forwards |
| 2. M. WATKINS | |
| 3. J. DIXON | |
| 4. P. SOUTO | |
| 5. B. NORSTER | |
| 6. T. CHARLES (Captain) | |
| 8. C. SMITH | |
| 7. B. LEASE | |
| M. MURPHY | |
| I. ROBINSON | |

Referee: WINSTON JONES



Replacements

Pontypool

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| P. LEWIS | 15. |
| S. EVANS | 14. |
| P. CLARK | 13. |
| N. PROBERT | 12. |
| P. CRABTREE | 11. |
| C. MORGAN | 10. |
| N. OSBORNE | 9. |
| From S. JONES | |
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| G. PRICE | |
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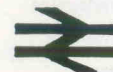
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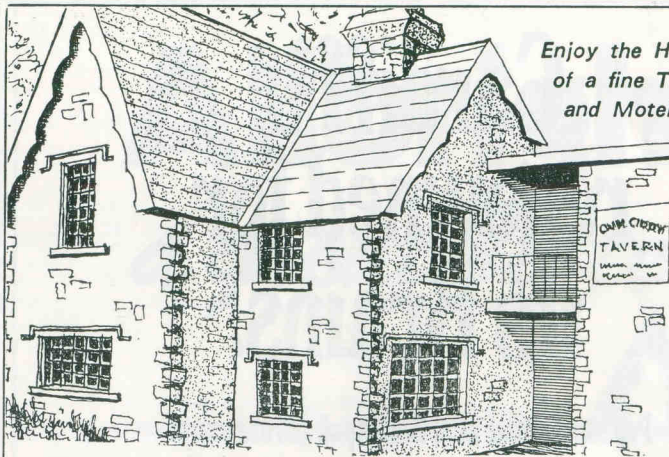


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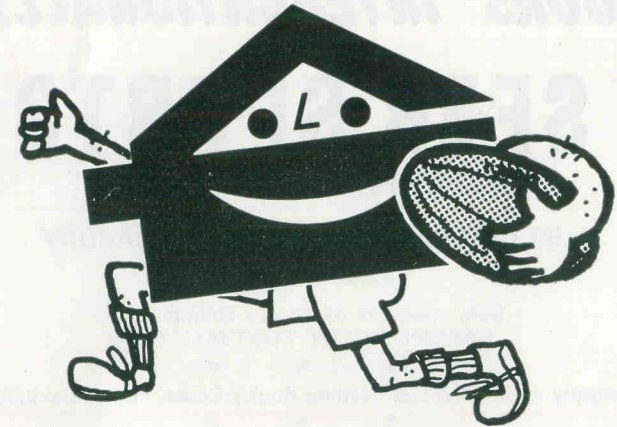
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NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Sat., 22nd March: **CARDIFF v. NEWPORT** 3 p.m.
Sat., 5th April: **CARDIFF v. BARBARIANS** 3 p.m.

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1979				Sat. 22	Aberavon	H	36-8
SEPTEMBER				Wed. 26	Pontypridd	H	19-3
Sat. 1	East District	H	66-8	Sat. 29	Coventry	H	33-13
Wed. 5	Glamorgan Wands.	A	26-9	1980			
Sat. 8	Neath	H	28-3	JANUARY			
Wed. 12	Bristol	H	17-17	Tues. 1	Bath	H	16-4
Sat. 15	Coventry	A	15-16	Sat. 5	Moseley	A	20-6
Wed. 19	Canada	H	19-8	Sat. 12	Pontypridd (Cup)	H	6-13
Sat. 22	Aberavon	H	29-12	Fri. 18			
Wed. 26	Penarth	A	12-0	Wed. 23	S. Wales Police	H	C
Sat. 29	Moseley	H	31-10	Sat. 26	Aberavon	A	22-29
OCTOBER				FEBRUARY			
Wed. 3	Bridgend	H	9-17	Sat. 2	Ebbw Vale	A	12-6
Sat. 6				Sat. 9	Bristol	A	14-9
Wed. 10	Pontypridd	A	13-10	Sat. 16	London Welsh	A	41-19
Sat. 13	Northampton	H	45-4	Sat. 23	Wasps	H	25-8
Wed. 17	Newport	A	21-12	Fri. 29	Heriots F.P.	H	38-9
Sat. 20	Cambridge Univ.	H	37-12	MARCH			
Wed. 24	Pontypool	A	10-28	Tues. 4	San Isidro	H	10-16
Sat. 27	Harlequins	A	43-19	Sat. 8	Pontypool	H
Wed. 31	Don Pill Memorial	H	15-27	Sat. 15			
	Selected XV (All pay)			Sat. 22	Newport	H
NOVEMBER				Sat. 29	Llanelli	H
Sat. 3	Munster	A	15-13	APRIL			
Wed. 7	Oxford University	H	C	Sat. 5	Barbarians	H
Sat. 10	Ebbw Vale	H	32-16	Mon. 7	Harlequins	H
Sat. 17	Waunarlwydd (Cup)	H	43-3	Wed. 9			
Sat. 24	Llanelli	A	14-18	Sat. 12	Swansea	A
DECEMBER				Wed. 16			
Sat. 1	Swansea	H	21-17	Sat. 19	Neath	A
Wed. 5	Maesteg	A	13-19	Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup Final		
Sat. 8	London Welsh	H	50-12				
Sat. 15	Wrexham (Cup)	H	36-6				



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