

Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v. Maesteg

WEDNESDAY · 24th SEPTEMBER, 1980

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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It was very provident indeed that earlier on this year we decided to undertake the vast improvements in the floodlighting system on our ground. This season with all the razzle-dazzle of the W.R.U. Centenary Saturday afternoon games are few and far in between. The rather poor and antiquated standard of the previous installation would all have added to make the current campaign less tolerable. So tonight then we offer to our friends from Llynvi Valley, Maesteg, a welcome as bright and illuminating as our present lights.

The Maesteg club was formed in 1882 so no doubt they are well and truly under way with plans to suitably celebrate their centenary. Since their formation however, we have only played them on 20 previous occasions the first of which took place on 1st January, 1920. Of these 20 games we have won 12 lost 7 and drawn 1. Apart from the foregoing statistics the Old Parish of course are on top of the list of clubs against whom we have scored more points. This happened when in a very unfestive manner on 23rd December, 1973, we won by 77pts to 9. That win was included in a sequence of nine consecutive wins which started in 1930. This run was finally broken last year when we visited the Old Parish ground for the first time since 1973. It was a Wednesday night game and we were flushed with success having beaten the extremely good Swansea side on the Park the previous Saturday by 21pts. to 16. Maesteg however, are no respecters of reputation and proceeded to beat us by 19pts. to 13. Such is the marvellous way of Welsh rugby.

Maesteg over the past couple of seasons have certainly enjoyed a fair measure of success. They were the Whitbread Merit Table winners in seasons 1977/78 and 1978/79 but fell from grace slightly last year when they slipped to ninth place. During last season however, they like ourselves opened a new floodlighting system and also began work on their new "bob bank". Great credit is due for these improvements and indeed the upsurge of the game in Maesteg to the very loyal and dedicated administration that the club can boast of and led by chairman Trevor Rees and secretary Brian Dixon. On the field of play the Old Parish lost a great stalwart John Morgan, a former club captain, who decided to move down the road to Bridgend. Colin Donovan however, proved himself again to be one of the most consistent wingmen in Wales and touched down 21 times. They were also strengthened by the return of Gwyn Evans back on the scene after an 18 month lay off with cartilage trouble. He went on to gain his second Welsh B cap and also made the tour to North America in May. This was also true of another Maesteg find, Rhodni Lewis an extremely quick and efficient flanker. They were not to retain his services however, and Cardiff became the beneficiary when he decided to seek pastures new. Defection of their players is nothing new to Maesteg however and they soon bounce back by producing another talent to fill any vacant spots. Their season so far has not set the world on fire, indeed it must have been a very disappointing result for them last week when they lost at Nottingham. All that will be behind them tonight no doubt, and they will be all out to record another victory in Cardiff to add to the solitary one they achieved as far back as 1926. So to Maesteg we again welcome you to the Arms Park, and also hope you enjoy your visit.

The mention of the Whitbread Merit table in the foregoing paragraph is rather interesting. A quick perusal of the table will see Cardiff as very notable absentees. Many people have asked the reason why. Well — and I say this with the utmost respect for all the other clubs who do participate — we in Cardiff have always contended that leagues are fairly meaningless unless clubs play all the others within their group on a home and away basis. As a club however, we have always guarded the right to play whom we like whilst respecting the wishes of anyone who wouldn't wish to play us. Secondly we believe that competition in South Wales is provided with enough outlets in the shape of the W.R.U. Cup, the normal domestic fixtures and the sheer competitiveness for places in the National squad. Hence we have always stood

firmly against entry in the belief that it would be of no benefit to our players or members alike.

On the home front the ship seems to be riding the stormy waters more steadily. Two good wins over firstly Penarth then secondly and more meritoriously over Coventry. During the course of both these games young Geriant John, our new outside half showed a maturity of play far in excess of his age and experience. Such quality only exists in players of class which I am sure Geriant will certainly be one day. The Rags are also having a bit of an in and out season. Their results so far are as follows. Llanharran A won 24-7, Llantwit Major A won 48-12, Bristol United H won 38-7, Treviso Italy H won 15-17, Cardiff H.S.O.B. A won 36-7, Coventry Extras A lost 7-26. A pleasing feature of the Rags this year however is the number of last year's youth team who have appeared in the side. Speaking of that great youth side of last year who played and won all their 40 games, they went into final and glorious demise on August 23rd when they swept all before them in the Cornelly Sevens Tournament. Of this years youth side, they have started where their illustrious predecessors left off, Mark Ring has been nominated captain and the squad consists of only 5 of last year's players coming through. Their results to date have been as follows, Fairwater H won 26-0, Bristol H won 18-4, St. Albans A won 20-6, Leicester H won 56-3, Garndiffaith A won 12-9, Pontypridd H won 10-9. Mark Ring celebrated his appointment during the Leicester game on the Park with a splendid display of place kicking. So well done lads — keep up the good work.

P.N.

All at the Cardiff Rugby Club would wish to be associated with the deep sympathies being extended to Johnnie Owen's family and friends as a result of the tragedy of last Saturday suffered by this most courageous of Welsh sportsmen.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

In the last two programmes I dealt with points raised at the marvellous W.R.U. Centenary Conference for Coaches and Referees which ended last Sunday after one of the most rewarding rugby get togethers there has ever been. Uniformity of interpretation was, as might have been expected, a major aim and with all the talk and frank discussion which ensured a great step forward in that direction has been achieved.

The two points previously discussed were Pile-Up and Ruck situations. The natural development therefrom was the Maul. We do see many more Mauls than Rucks and, here in Wales as distinct from New Zealand for instance, we Maul better than we Ruck. Have you noticed?

The definition is worth quoting, "A Maul, which can take place only on the field of play, is formed by one or more players from each team, on their feet and in physical contact closing round a player who is carrying the ball."

In practice this means the ball carrier, at least one opponent, plus at least one other of his own team. Very often, a coaching ploy is for the ball carrier to turn towards his own goal line in order to feed the ball back, with protection provided by his own side. Quite in order according to the law but one big talking point at the Conference was the angle at which players from his own side can then join that Maul. It was finally agreed that, providing they STAY BEHIND THE BALL, players can come in from ANY angle. Often it then means the ball can be virtually "squeezed out" to give that vital possession. John Ryan was there. We can rest assured that our players know all about it.

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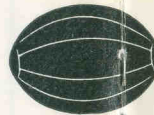
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- 11. D. THOMAS
- 10. Gareth DAVIES (Captain)
- 9. G. WILLIAMS
- 1. J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. A. J. PHILLIPS
- 3. J. DIXON
- 4. K. EDWARDS
- 5. R. NORSTER
- 6. M. HADLEY
- 8. R. LAKIN
- 7. O. GOLDING
- D. BARRY
- P. SOUTO

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



Replacements

Referee: **CLIVE NORLING**

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Maesteg

- I. HOPKINS 15.
- C. DONOVAN 14.
- P. J. PHILLIPS 13.
- G. GRIFFITHS 12.
- P. MARTELL 11.
- G. EVANS 10.
- L. O'CONNOR 9.
- D. EDWARDS 1.
- I. THOMAS 2.
- G. HOWE 3.
- B. MORRIS 4.
- J. JAMES 5.
- D. AURTHUR 6.
- J. THOMAS 8.
- B. EVANS (Captain) 7.
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NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Saturday, 4th October:	CARDIFF v. NEWPORT	3 p.m.
Saturday, 18th October:	CARDIFF v. NEW ZEALAND	3 p.m.
Wed., 5th Nov:	CARDIFF v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY	7.15 p.m.
Saturday, 22nd November:	CARDIFF v. LLANELLI	3 p.m.

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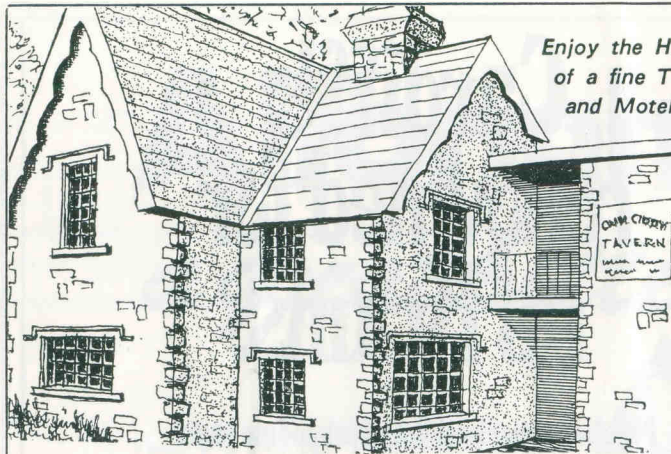
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October

Wed. 1 Bridgend £2.20

Sat. 11 Northampton £5.00

Sat. 25 Harlequins £5.00



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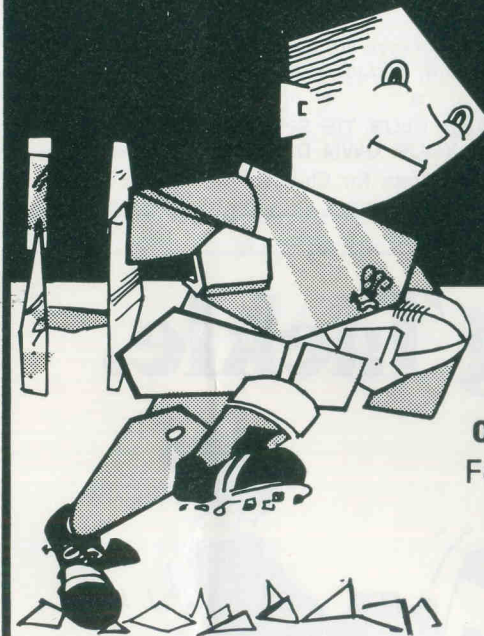
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1980			
SEPTEMBER			
Wed.	3	Glamorgan Wands.	H 25-15
Sat.	6	Nice	H 68-25
Wed.	10	Bristol	A 8-28
Sat.	13	Neath	A 14-20
Wed.	17	Penarth	H 34-0
Fri.	19	Coventry	H 35-9
Wed.	24	Maesteg	H.....
Sat.	27	Aberavon	A.....
OCTOBER			
Wed.	1	Bridgend	A.....
Sat.	4	Newport	H.....
Wed.	8	Pontypridd	A.....
Sat.	11	Northampton	A.....
Sat.	18	N. Zealand (All Pay)	H.....
Sat.	25	Harlequins	A.....
NOVEMBER			
Wed.	5	Oxford University	H.....
Sat.	8	Ebbw Vale	A.....
Sat.	15	Schwepes Cup 1st Round	
Sat.	22	Llanelli	H.....
Fri.	28	Moseley	A.....
DECEMBER			
Wed.	3	Pontypool	H.....
Sat.	6	Swansea	A.....
Sat.	13	London Welsh	A.....
Sat.	20	Schwepes Cup 2nd Round	
Fri.	26	Pontypridd	H.....
Sat.	27	Newbridge	H.....
1981			
JANUARY			
Thurs.	1	Bridgend	H.....
Sat.	3	Moseley	H.....
Sat.	10	Schwepes Cup 3rd Round	
Fri.	16	London Welsh	H.....
Sat.	24	Aberavon	H.....
Sat.	31	Llanelli	A.....
FEBRUARY			
Fri.	6	Heriots F.P.	A.....
Wed.	11	Neath	H.....
Sat.	14	Bristol	H.....
Sat.	28	Schwepes Cup 4th Round	
MARCH			
Sat.	14	Pontypool	A.....
Sat.	21	Ebbw Vale	H.....
Sat.	28	Newport	A.....
		(Schwepes Cup Semi-final)	
APRIL			
Sat.	4	Bedford	H.....
Tues.	7	Bath	A.....
Sat.	11	Schwepes Cup Final	
Wed.	15	Swansea	H.....
Sat.	18	Barbarians	H.....
Mon.	20	Harlequins	H.....

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