

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v. Newport

SATURDAY, 4th OCTOBER, 1980 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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The question which seemed to be on everybody's lips since our defeat at Aberavon last Saturday was when was the last time we failed to score in a match. These notes were written prior to the Bridgend game of last Wednesday so that game isn't included but the time before the Aberavon game when we failed to score was against Ebbw Vale when we took a right royal hammering by 28-0 on 19th February, 1977 at Eugene Cross Park. Prior to that we had a blank score sheet exactly 5 years to the day when our opponents for today, Newport, chalked up a 16 points to nil victory at Rodney Parade. Looking further back as to when we failed to score in a home game we have to go as far back as season 1969/70 when we lost on the Park to Bridgend by 6 points to nil. So although few and far between, no scores do happen.

Back to today however, we have great pleasure in welcoming our oldest of opponents and best of friends. Saying they are the oldest of our opponents is completely true because we first met Newport in our inaugural season 1876/77. The game took place on 2nd December, 1876 on the Marshes at Newport when the Black & Ambers won by 2 tries 13 touch downs to 2 touch downs. A very interesting verbatum report of this game is included in Danny Davies' book and it reads as follows. "On Newport Marshes, amid a down pour of rain which made the ground like a puddle. A charge of sixpence was made to the public and, notwithstanding the state of the weather about 200 assembled to witness the contest. The game commenced at 3.30 and lasted an hour and the play was of the best all through the game. Newport kept the ball well in the goal of their opponents and compelled them to touch down in self defence 13 times. Newport also had 2 tries, but they failed to turn them into goals. Cardiff compelled Newport to touch down twice in self defence. The result was a win for Newport by 2 tries, 11 touches down to the good."

Since those far off days we have played a grand total of 341 games which is by far and away the most we have played against any one club. Swansea come second some 103 games behind on 238. When you think of it 341 games is a massive total and constitutes some 450 hours or 19 days of continuous rugby. Mind you the mists of time have been responsible for a discrepancy in the number of games played since those dim and distant times. The Newport statistics show that we have played more games than the 341 shown in our official records. The breakdown of our total shows us with 160 wins, 125 defeats and 56 drawn games while 'The Ports' show a total of 352 consisting of 163 wins to us 131 to them with 58 games drawn. Now I don't want to cause any controversy as to who is right in case some bright spark suggests that I do the research to verify the respective claims. So let's just say Newport can stick to their figures and we will stick to ours.

Newport, of course, being the great club it is, is slowly pulling itself back to its former glory having suffered their worst season last year when they lost 34 of their 54 games. Indeed they had to go up to 27th October before they won a major match but with quiet dignity and a policy of long term team building they courageously progressed to the semi-final stage of the Schweppes Cup only to be defeated by Swasea. They have carried on in the same vein this year and are giving their excellent crop of young players every encouragement to make the grade in the big time. Geoff Evans leads the side again this year but unfortunately has been side-lined by injury. He has proved to be a marvellous servant of the Newport Club and the Black and Ambers couldn't ask for a better man to lead by example. His all round work rate and back row play are a credit to him, and many young players in Wales who play in this position could do a lot worse than study his style. It was a big boost to the club to have him declared fit to play earlier this week together with their

other injured star Gareth Evans. This should be an immense lift up for them in preparation for their forthcoming All Blacks game. We must also take hope from the fact that our own injured stars are starting to flex their muscles again and hopefully will all be available for selection when we get first crack at the Blacks in our next home game on 18th October.

The typical friendly rivalry that exists between our clubs is depicted in the story told by club member Bob Kear, who has just returned from a motoring holiday in France. After strolling around in St. Tropez admiring the local scenery he returned to his car which of course sported a Cardiff R.F.C. sticker. Written alongside this was a further temporary adherence which stated, "We will win the Schweppes Cup this year Boyo, Newport R.F.C." You just can't get away from the Black and Amber B.....s can you. Seriously wishing you too much luck today, we do hope you have a most successful however, we do extend a very warm welcome to Newport and whilst not day against New Zealand on October 28th.

Finally today we hope to have the Zimbabwe Touring team as our guests for the game. We would have dearly loved to have played them in order to reciprocate the marvellous time we had when we toured Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) in 1972. The W.R.U. have banned any incoming tour games during their centenary year however, which made our meeting impossible. We do extend to them a most hospitable welcome, however, and sincerely hope they enjoy their short stay in Cardiff.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

We are coming up to the time when representative matches will be with us — the visiting All Blacks I mean of course and the first will actually be our next home game after this. In the last programme I dealt with their method of coaching Rucks, which they do so well as we know to our cost and, strictly within the laws as they are framed. They keep on their feet, bend, bind, drive forward over the ball to aim at leaving it behind them, plus anything else that may get in their way. "Foot Ball!" someone once said.

For these representative matches it is now the accepted practice for the touchjudges, as in internationals, to be qualified referees and they will have the power to direct the referee's attention to incidents of foul play and misconduct. This will be done by standing with flag raised to a horizontal position, pointing in the direction of the goal-line of the offending team. The touchjudge must remain in touch and play will contiue until the next stoppage when the referee shall consult him regarding the incident. He can then take whatever action he deems appropriate. He, as throughout the game, is the sole judge of fact and law.

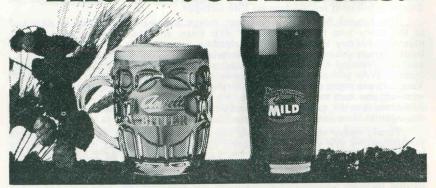
For an offence reported by the touchjudge, if it warrants a penalty kick, it will be awarded where the offence occurred or at the place where play would re-start. If the offence is bad enough to warrant the player being sent off the field of play, this still applies unless his action has prevented a try from probably having been scored. Then, obviously, a penalty try will be awarded.

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Right Wng

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Left Wing

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Forwards

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- . J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. M. WATKINS
- J. DIXON
- 4. K. EDWARDS
- 5. R. NORSTER
- 6. T. CHARLES
- 8. B. LAKIN
- 7. B. LEASE
- 16. G. WILLIAMS
- 17. P. SOUTO
 - A. EDWARDS

Referee: W. D. BEVAN (W.R.U.)

Newport

- L. DAVIES 15.
- Julian ROBINSON 14.
- G. L. EVANS 13.
- Justin ROBINSON 12.
 - J. CHURCHILL 11.
 - K. JAMES 10. S. LEWIS 9.
 - C. SMART 1.
- S. O'DONOGHUE 2
 - S. RALPH 3.
 - J. WATKINS 4.
 - D. WATERS 5.
- G. EVANS (Captain) 6.
 - K. WILLIAMS 8.
 - R. POWELL 7.
 - N. WEBB 16.
 - D. LLEWELLYN 17.



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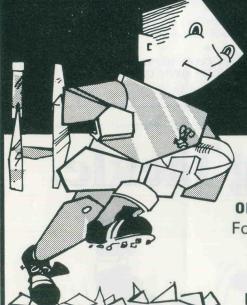
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

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DECEMBER					
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