

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v Bridgend

THURSDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1981

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Off we go again on what has become a bit of a crusade. Statistical proof is available in the shape of results to show that some sides have a bit of a bogey ground where success is a very rare commodity. Swansea for instance find Cardiff Arms Park a very difficult ground on which to record a victory over us. In fact, in 34 visits to our ground since World War 2 the All Whites have managed victory on three occasions. Now, we in Cardiff have also got such a bogey side in the shape of today's visitors Bridgend, but the classical distinction between such bogies is the fact that whilst we have a record as good as any who visit the Brewery Field, we just cannot seem to be able to beat the Vale of Glamorgan side on our own ground. The last time we did manage to come out on top was on the 22nd of November, 1967 — a really long time ago. It was back in the time of the good old £sd, man had yet to walk on the moon and I'll spare you the thought of how much a pint cost and also a gallon of petrol. Probably all our present players as well as those of the Bridgend side were between the ages of about 10 and 15 and still in school. Since that day way back in 1967 we have played Bridgend on 12 occasions on the Arms Park, and the Brewery Field boys have won 10 and drawn two. They would be the first to admit that luck has been on their side on more than one occasion, however, during these encounters, such as last minute drop goals or penalty successes. Then again in the home cup match of 1974/75 Keith James missed a penalty in front of the posts in the dying seconds of the game which, had it gone over, would have won us the match by seven points to six. The Bridgend side over all those years have come to believe that they can do no wrong on the Arms Park and it has now become their prerogative to win or at least draw when they visit Cardiff. It is interesting to note that during our centenary season we only played them away because the home game was disrupted by cup matches and a suitable alternative date could not be found. It remains pure speculation as to what would have happened had we played because having won handsomely at Bridgend by 21-7 during that year I'm sure we would have been exceptionally keen to record a double for our centenary celebrations.

As I have stated, however, and to make the situation more mystifying, our record at Bridgend is just about even. Of 14 games played during the period in question, we have won six, lost seven with one drawn game. We have to go back some seven years to the day, 1st January, 1974, to remember our third round cup tie at the Brewery Field when after a tremendous game of rugby we ran out by 21 points to 18. Our only other cup encounter was the ill-fated one already mentioned with Keith James duly obliging Bridgend on the Arms Park by missing his last minute kick at goal. So what's going to happen today? Will the Brewery Field boys add another year to their already impressive total, or will we manage to halt their phenomenal run of success on the Arms Park?

The Bridgend side are going as well as ever this year and their expertise for discovering and developing young players is a great credit to their system. The latest of these is Gary Pearce who after only a couple of years on the first class scene has now developed into a player capable of stepping into Gareth Davies' boots. The partnership he forms with another truly great player, Gerald Williams, is probably only bettered by our own Gareth Davies and Terry Holmes. The club has also added some further milestones to its illustrious

history. Steve Fenwick, the present Welsh captain, has now become the most capped centre to play for his country, while the legendary J.P.R. Williams has equalled Gareth Edwards' record cap total of 53 and looks set to pass it by selection in the forthcoming international series. They are once again the front runners in club rugby in Wales and they must have had a tremendous boost for their forthcoming third round cup tie in the heavy defeat of their opponents, Maesteg, on Boxing Day. So to the Bridgend Club we say welcome and let's hope for some fine weather so we can all hopefully witness another fine game of rugby between two great clubs.

Finally, it only remains for me on behalf of the committee and players of the Cardiff Rugby Club to wish you all a very prosperous New Year.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

Late tackles are one of the curses of the game. Once a player has moved the ball on, whether by a pass or a kick, there is inevitably a moment of temporary relaxation; to then be hit, after the ball has gone is not only inexcusable but doubly dangerous and MUST be stamped out.

Ask Derek Preece. He might well have won his Welsh cap against England; the chance was there. He was certainly playing well enough for serious consideration and although all five of the selection committee witnessed the late tackle which destroyed the opportunity that is no consolation to him or the club.

A refereeing lesson which, in my time I had to learn the hard way was, in such situations, to forget about the ball and watch the player. If the ball has been kicked, invariably in the air, nothing can happen to that until it comes down; then is the time to look ahead. The kicker is the man to watch. If this were done transgressors would be caught far more often and to me, no punishment would be too hard. The minimum would be a penalty where the infringement occurred or where the ball landed; or a penalty try if a try would probably have been scored and/or the late tackler sent off without hesitation.

A guide line which we used to use was that if the tackle was made whilst the kicking foot was still in the air, okay. If, after that foot had returned to the ground then it HAD to be considered as late and foul play. Then appropriate action. There is NO excuse.

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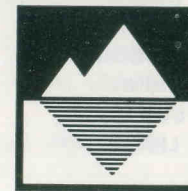
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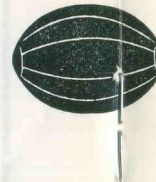
Cardiff

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 15. R. WILLIAMS | Full Back |
| 14. S. EVANS | Right Wing |
| 13. D. BURCHER | Right Centre |
| 12. D. BARRY | Left Centre |
| 11. A. YEANDLE | Left Wing |
| 10. Gareth DAVIES | Outside Half |
| 9. T. LEE | Inside Half |
| 1. J. WHITEFOOT | Forwards |
| 2. A. PHILLIPS | |
| 3. J. DIXON | |
| 4. K. EDWARDS | |
| 5. T. MOGGRIDGE | |
| 6. B. LAKIN | |
| 8. J. SCOTT | |
| 7. B. LEASE | |

P. ELLIOTT
B. NORSTER

Referee: J. GROVES (W.R.U.)

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Replacements

Bridgend

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| J.P.R. WILLIAMS | 15. |
| F. OWEN | 14. |
| S.P. FENWICK | 13. |
| R. JAMES | 12. |
| C. BARBER | 11. |
| G. PEARCE | 10. |
| G. WILLIAMS | 9. |
| I. STEPHENS | 1. |
| G. DAVIES | 2. |
| M. JAMES (Captain) | 3. |
| W. HOWE | 4. |
| R. EVANS | 5. |
| G. JONES | 6. |
| S. ELLIS | 8. |
| Gareth WILLIAMS | 7. |

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NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Saturday, 3rd January, 1981: **CARDIFF v. MOSELEY** 3 p.m.

Saturday, 10th January: **CARDIFF v. TREDEGAR**
(Schweppes Challenge Cup) 3 p.m.

Friday, 16th January: **CARDIFF v. LONDON WELSH** 7.15 p.m.

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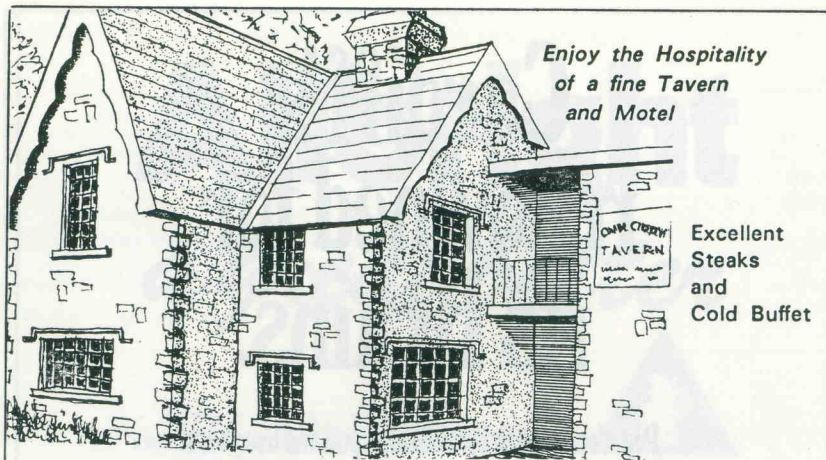
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Sat. 31 Llanelli

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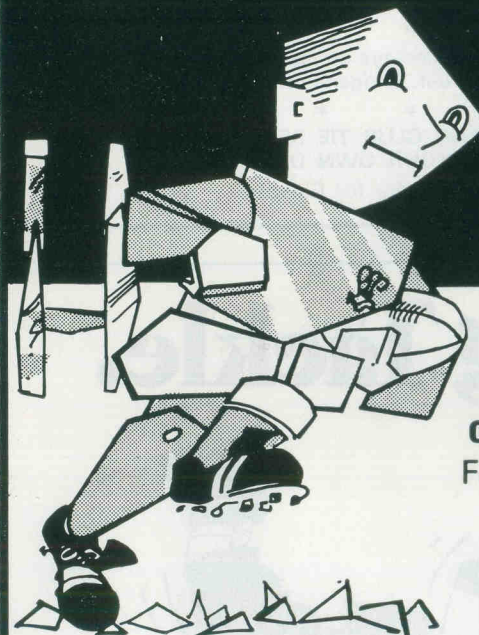
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1980		Fri. 26	Pontypridd	H 16-4
SEPTEMBER		Sat. 27	Newbridge	H 12-7
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	22-3	
Sat. 27	Aberavon	A	0-18	
OCTOBER				
Wed. 1	Bridgend	A	12-18	
Sat. 4	Newport	H	21-19	
Wed. 8	Pontypridd	A	3-11	
Sat. 11	Northampton	A	13-7	
Sat. 18	N. Zealand (All Pay)	H	9-16	
Sat. 25	Harlequins	A	31-12	
NOVEMBER				
Wed. 5	Oxford University	H	25-13	
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale	A	10-10	
Sat. 15	Tonyrefail (Cup)	A	15-0	
Sat. 22	Bristol	H	26-7	
Fri. 28	Moseley	A	7-11	
DECEMBER				
Wed. 3	Pontypool	H	32-15	
Sat. 6	Swansea	A	23-18	
Sat. 13	London Welsh	A	22-12	
Wed. 17	Llanelli	H	22-6	
Sat. 20	British Steel (Cup)	H	41-0	
		Fri. 26	Pontypridd	H 16-4
		Sat. 27	Newbridge	H 12-7
1981				
JANUARY				
Thurs. 1	Bridgend	H.....		
Sat. 3	Moseley	H.....		
Sat. 10	Tredegar (Cup)	H.....		
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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