

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v London Welsh

FRIDAY, 16th JANUARY, 1981

KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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There seems to be a very special and unique atmosphere about a Wales and England game at Cardiff that has a magnetism all of its own. It sets the pattern for the whole weekend and tomorrow's game is no exception. Far from it, in fact, because this latest 86th encounter is probably being more keenly anticipated by both sides more so than for many a long year. The men in White will be very anxious to break their losing sequence at Cardiff which has lasted since 1965, 8 successive defeats and notch up a win in their defence of the Championship and Grand Slam. John Scott will be a very happy man this time tomorrow if that proves to be the case. But our own players Gareth, Alan and Rhodri with the other 12 Welshmen will be as equally dedicated to extending this sequence into 9 games and thwart English hopes of another Grand Slam.

This biennial visit of England to Cardiff also gives us the opportunity of extending a warm welcome to our exiled brethren from the "Smoke", London Welsh. The game helps to make the weekend that more enjoyable, because during the past decade or so we have witnessed some first class games under the floodlights on the night before the big 'un. This evening's game brings the sequence up to 89 and the statistics of the previous 88 show Cardiff with 75 wins, the Welsh with 11 and 2 games drawn. We have scored a total of 1504 pts. to 510 to the exiles. Their success rate at Cardiff has been very spasmodic having only won on 5 occasions, in seasons 1976/77, 1963/64, 1930/31, 1928/29 and 1890/91. We have become a bit of a scourge to the Welsh of late because the last seven games played, we have scored 236 pts. against 90 in winning all seven. This is an average of some 34 pts. to 13 per game, so I'm sure they would dearly like to register a win this evening.

These days, of course, the Exiles are mere mortals and not the superstars of the late sixties and early seventies. That particular side scaled magnificent heights and were sought after by every fixture secretary in the land. True testimony of the strength of that era was the selection of seven of them, J. P. R. Williams, Gerald Davies, Mervyn Davies, John Taylor, Mike Roberts, Geoff Evans and John Dawes who was further honoured with the captaincy, for the triumphant British Lions tour of 1968 when they took New Zealand apart. Complete sides of that calibre do not come around very often which is a great pity. As a club side it played marvellously attractive 15 man rugby and the Exiles take great pleasure in recalling those palmy days of yore.

This season to date the Exiles have played 20 games of which they have won 7, drawn 2 and lost 11, having scored 310 pts. against 396. They have had to suffer the big disappointment this year of not being able to enter the John Player Cup. This was due to their low place in the London Merit Table last season when they finished 8th in the list of 10 clubs. This after being runners-up to London Scottish in season 1977/78 and topping the table in 1978/79 was rather a bitter pill to swallow. But the Welsh have to struggle on and this season Kevin Bowring is in his 2nd term as captain and along with prop Bruce Bradley are the only ever presents in their 20 games to date. Altogether they have called on 40 players this season 10 of whom made their debuts. Ian George is top scorer with 65 points with Mark Titley leading the try scoring with 10 closely followed by Clive Rees with 9. The latter is now their only international and is also their longest serving player with 187 games to his credit since 1973. During this time he has scored 84 tries. 'B' internationals in their ranks include Richard Thomas, John Manfield and Alun Lewis. So can the Exiles reverse the run of defeats they have suffered at the hands of Welsh clubs this year. They had rather a disastrous Christmas in Wales which, however, must be a very difficult time for them to tour. They started the New Year in great fashion, however, by hammering Bedford to the tune of 34 pts. to 0. Welcome again then, London Welsh, although we will be divided in club loyalty tonight, I'm sure we will be nationally united tomorrow in urging our side to victory.

On the home front our luck continues in drawing home advantage in the Schweppes Cup. Our visitors in the 4th round, Cross Keys, did very well

to beat Ebbw Vale at Eugene Cross Park. This was no mean feat and we will have to play well to progress to the semi-final. Home advantage does count a lot at this stage, however, and true testimony of this fact was evident during the draw shown live on television last Sunday. The sudden disappearance of strain lines from various officials faces when they came out of the little bag first showed how glad they were to be on their own patches. Offsetting the good news, however, comes more bad news on the injury front. Chris Webber looks to have cracked his collar bone again so it could keep him out for another spell. It has been suggested to me that the injury situation is now so critical that we should seek a blanket sponsorship for the rest of the season from B.U.P.A.

Some facts and figures of the first team now which may interest you. Up to last Saturday we have played a total 29 games, won 20, lost 8 and drawn 1 with 591 pts. for, against 339. Gareth Davies is top scorer with 170 pts. consisting of 29 penalties, 23 conversions, 7 dropped goals and 4 tries. Derek Preece is top try scorer with 11 followed by Andrew Yeandle and Steve Evans with six each. To date 47 players, including replacements have appeared with Jeff Whitefoot topping the list having missed only 1 game. Bob Lakin is next with 26 and in fact, because he has been showing such consistently good form he has relinquished the captaincy of the "Rags". Due to the late stage of the season a caretaker captain has been appointed to see the rest of the term out and lots of people will no doubt be delighted to hear that the position has been entrusted to our oldest serving player, Ian Robinson. Well done Robbo, enjoy your last few months in harness.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

The front row of the scrum has often been aptly described as one of the world's most exclusive clubs. So often what takes place in that hotbed of the tight game is most surely only known to those therein. The point I'm leading up to concerns the members of that special club when a wheel is taking place. It is they who start the wheel and several times this season penalties have been awarded during the execution of that play with the reason not easy to discern from the sidelines.

Discussing it with a couple of our international panel referees, incidentally the three of them are in Paris at this moment with Ken Rowlands refereeing his first international, between France and Scotland, with Clive Norling and Alan Richards running the lines, the explanation was elicited. To get the wheel going, it means the prop on the pivot side, plus those behind him in the scrum, pushing the opposite numbers. To assist this process, very often the other prop will pull his immediate opponent. That is where the offence lies; that is why they are being penalised. Coaches, it would appear can be unaware of this.

Law 20 Scrummage states and I quote:

"Binding of players"

(6) (a) The players of each front row shall bind firmly and continuously while the ball is being put in and while it is in the scrummage.

If they are pulling another player, that could only be by means of his shirt, then it is NOT binding. It's as simple as that.

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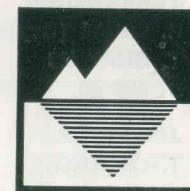
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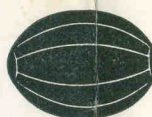
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10. G. JOHN
9. T. LEE
1. J. WHITEFOOT
2. M. WATKINS
3. J. DIXON
4. R. NORSTER
5. T. MOGRIDGE
6. R. LAKIN (Captain)
8. T. CHARLES
7. B. LEASE

J. O'BRIEN
T. CROTHERS

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



Replacements

Referee: D. O. HUGHES (W.R.U.)

Today's match ball donated by Mr. E. M. HAMMONDS (Manager, Lloyds Bank Ltd., Cardiff)

London Welsh

- H. DAVIES 15.
- M. TITLEY 14.
- J. WILLIAMS 13.
- H. EVANS 12.
- D. REES 11.
- R. BOWEN 10.
- I. GEORGE 9.
- J. DEACON 1.
- R. JOHN 2.
- B. BRADLEY 3.
- R. THOMAS 4.
- P. ELLIS 5.
- H. THOMAS 6.
- E. LEWIS 8.
- K. BOWRING (Captain) 7.
- J. DAVIES
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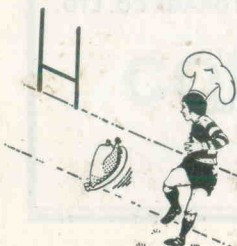
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Saturday, 14th February: CARDIFF v. BRISTOL 3 p.m.

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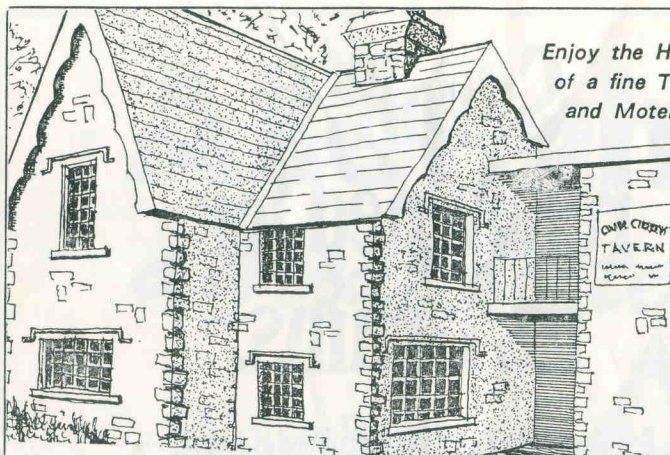
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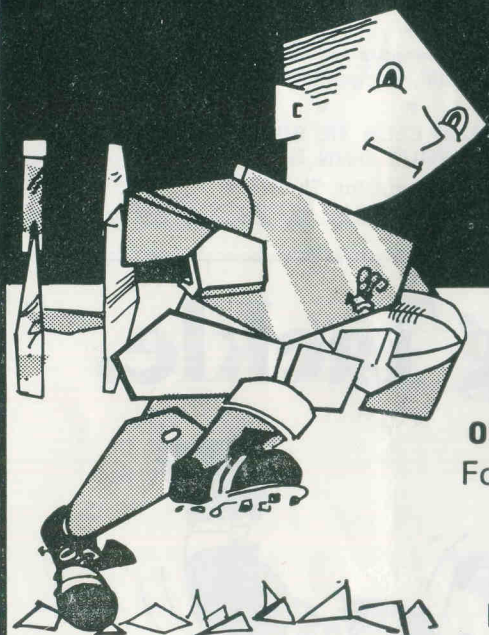
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1980 SEPTEMBER				Fri. 26 Pontypridd H 16-4			
Wed. 3	Glamorgan Wands.	H	25-15	Sat. 27	Newbridge	H	12-7
Sat. 6	Nice	H	68-25	1981			
Wed. 10	Bristol	A	8-28	JANUARY			
Sat. 13	Neath	A	14-20	Thurs. 1	Bridgend	H	6-22
Wed. 17	Penarth	H	34-0	Sat. 3	Moseley	H	17-13
Fri. 19	Coventry	H	35-9	Sat. 10	Tredegar (Cup)	H	22-0
Wed. 24	Maesteg	H	22-3	Fri. 16	London Welsh	H	.....
Sat. 27	Aberavon	A	0-18	Sat. 24	Aberavon	H	.....
OCTOBER				Sat. 31	Llanelli	A	.....
Wed. 1	Bridgend	A	12-18	FEBRUARY			
Sat. 4	Newport	H	21-19	Fri. 6	Heriots F.P.	A	.....
Wed. 8	Pontypridd	A	3-11	Wed. 11	Neath	H	.....
Sat. 11	Northampton	A	13-7	Sat. 14	Bristol	H	.....
Sat. 18	N. Zealand (All Pay)	H	9-16	Sat. 28	Schwepes Cup 4th Round		
Sat. 25	Harlequins	A	31-12	MARCH			
NOVEMBER				Sat. 14	Pontypool	A	.....
Wed. 5	Oxford University	H	25-13	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale	H	.....
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale	A	10-10	Sat. 28	Newport	A	.....
Sat. 15	Tonypre (Cup)	A	15-0	(Schwepes Cup Semi-final)			
Sat. 22	Bristol	H	26-7	APRIL			
Fri. 28	Moseley	A	7-11	Sat. 4	Bedford	H	.....
DECEMBER				Tues. 7	Bath	A	.....
Wed. 3	Pontypool	H	32-15	Sat. 11	Schwepes Cup Final		
Sat. 6	Swansea	A	23-18	Wed. 15	Swansea	H	.....
Sat. 13	London Welsh	A	22-12	Sat. 18	Barbarians	H
Wed. 17	Llanelli	H	22-6	Mon. 20	Harlequins	H
Sat. 20	British Steel (Cup)	H	41-0				

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