

Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v Bedford

SATURDAY, 4th APRIL, 1981

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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Eight pints of "Splott Paaark" please said the saturated Blue and Black bedecked Cardiff supporter to the barmaid at the Bridgend Rugby Club within seconds of our magnificent win against our old adversaries, Swansea, last Tuesday week. Saturated was the most suitable adjective to describe him on the night because saturated he was, literally, by the water which had poured from the sky on the night, and saturated metaphorically with pleasure and pride after his side's magnificent semi-final win in what without any doubt is the best and most competitive club competition in the world of Rugby. "Splott Park?" said the Bridgend beauty. "I heard of Bloody Mary, Black Velvet and plenty more but that one beats me." The great Blue and Black saturation that confronted her went on to explain that "Splott Paaark" was, in the Cardiff vernacular, Brains Dark, and for the next few moments he advanced her knowledge of Cardiff's own brewery a thousand fold. He finished her enlightenment by informing her that she should be aware of the fact that the Cardiff brewery's S.A. is known locally as "Journey into Space". What a night it turned out to be though. From the initial moments of indecision as to whether the game would be played to the final whistle, which to us was a fanfare of triumph, the whole night was magic. John Scott inspired the players to perform in masterly fashion and the loyalty and encouragement engendered by the Cardiff supporters percolated right through the side.

Right at the start of the game you could sense the marvellous support we had present. When the All Whites "snowdropped" their way on to the field at the commencement of play they were treated to a rather lukewarm welcome, but the thunderous reception that heralded the entrance of our own team was a great inspiration to the whole side. Throughout the game this marvellous support was very much in evidence and it beat the Swansea support hands down. After the game coach John Ryan told me that the players, to a man, were full of praise for such backing. So to the gentleman looking for his eight pints of "Splott Paaark" and all the other supporters, both male and female, you were justified in your pleasure and pride on the night, you did the players proud and well they know and appreciate it. They have always maintained that they had the best supporters in the land and that memorable night proved it beyond all doubt. And so now to next Saturday and Bridgend.

Without any more ado or self-indulgence, however, we take time out today to bid a warm welcome to our very infrequent visitors today, Bedford. This afternoon's game is only the seventh to be played between our sides and the record to date sees four wins to us and two to Bedford. We have managed to score 106 pts. against 53. The Bedford club was formed in 1886 and their home ground is Goldington Road. They play in wide hoops of Oxford and Cambridge blues so today we shall probably field in red. At present Bedford are struggling a bit to regain their former glories. Last season for instance they won 21 of their 39 matches to reverse the trend of the previous two seasons when the records finished in the red. This has only happened on three occasions since 1946 but sadly it appears as if it is going to become four by the end of the current campaign. To date they have played 38 games, won 14, lost 21 and drawn 3, having scored 470 points against 565. Perhaps a little more consistency would help them in their play because amongst their tally of 14 wins are included such sides as Llanelli and Coventry.

The current side are perhaps a little short in experience behind the scrum as the average age of their back line is only around the 20 mark. Nick Youngs, however, is still showing consistently good form which has earned him the captaincy of England Under-23 side and also a place on the bench for the England senior side. At forward they are still being well served by the triple Cambridge Blue and six times capped No. 8 Bob Wilkinson. Unlike us their interest in their national Cup competition has faded as they were beaten by

Moseley in the third round. Again, and unlike us, they can boast of having won that trophy when in season 1974/75 they took the Cup to Goldington Road having accounted for Rosslyn Park by 28 pts. to 12. On the administrative side of the game too Bedford are well to the fore. Their most capped player, Budge Rogers, who represented his country on 34 occasions, is more well known these days as the chairman of the English selectors. Perhaps he will be here today to run the rule over Brian Lease whose remarkable form this year could well see him going to the Argentine with the England side this summer. So then to all from Bedford on this your fourth only visit to the Cardiff club, we again bid you a warm welcome and hope you all enjoy the great atmosphere of Cardiff Arms Park.

All good things must come to an end says the old expression. Well, the Youth XV run of 82 consecutive victories came to a full stop last Saturday when they were beaten 13-10 by Neath Athletic Youth at Neath. Their last taste of defeat prior to last Saturday was by a very good Pontypridd side as far back as 24th March, 1979, practically two years to the day. Records that go on as long as this are not good for the game in general and I'm delighted to report that the Youth accepted their defeat with the dignity and sportsmanship that should always be associated with our club.

Don't forget the Gala Dinner which is advertised elsewhere in the programme — it should be a really great night. And finally don't forget to support the players wearing the red shirts today: the others are Bedford!

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

For this week I am going back to the Saturday before last and the England v. France, Twickenham match when that arch-artist supreme, Jean Pierre Rives was directly responsible for one of the most diabolical 'robberies' of modern times. In case you have forgotten an English kick to touch went into the crowd. Like a flash, Jean Pierre called for a replacement ball from a nearby ball boy. Before you could say "Jack Robinson" or even "Jack" the ball was thrown in and France had scored a vital try before any of the English players knew what day it was. Referee Hosie, who seems so fated to lose out on important issues when in all other respects he is an excellent official, let it go and England never really recovered. In the press box no-one could believe their eyes. What then was wrong?

Law 23, section 10 covers it admirably:

"A quick throw in from touch without waiting for the players to form a line-out is permissible provided the BALL THAT WENT INTO TOUCH IS USED, it has been handled only by the players and it is thrown in correctly."

End of quotes!

The mistake of course was that, when another ball was called for, then a proper line-out should have been formed. Jean Pierre is a sure sharp thinker; in addition, in my book just about the best flanker in world rugby.

On the subject of quick throw ins, our own Alun Priddy, in his playing days was ever ready to get that ball into play without delay but even Alun wouldn't have thought that one up.

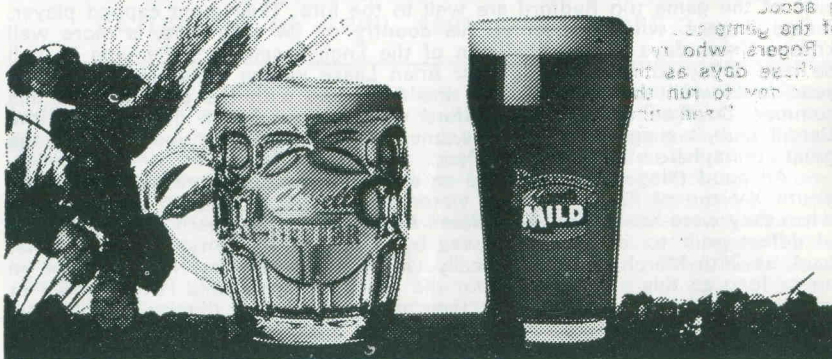
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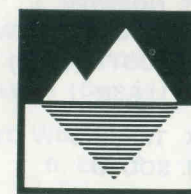
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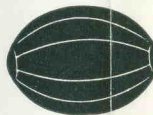
Cardiff

15. R. WILLIAMS
14. D. PREECE
13. D. BURCHER
12. N. HUTCHINGS
11. S. EVANS
10. G. DAVIES
9. T. HOLMES
1. J. WHITEFOOT
2. A. PHILLIPS
3. I. EIDMAN
4. K. EDWARDS
5. B. NORSTER
6. R. LAKIN
8. J. SCOTT (Capt.)
7. B. LEASE

K. TREVETT
J. SOUTO

Referee: R.O.P. JONES

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



Replacements

Bedford

- J. CLEMMENCE 15.
- J. SARGEANT 14.
- W. BARKER 13.
- B. MACKAY 12.
- C. DAVISON 11.
- N. CHESWORTH 10.
- N. YOUNGS 9.
- P. BOULDING 1.
- M. HOWE 2.
- R. PASCALL 3.
- N. AKHURST 4.
- J. MAWLE 5.
- A. WHITEHOUSE 6.
- R. WILKINSON 8.
- G. PHILLIPS (Capt.) 7.
- M. LLOYD WILLIAMS
- R. EALES



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NEXT HOME FIXTURES

Wednesday, 15th April:	CARDIFF v. SWANSEA	7.15 p.m.
Saturday, 18th April:	CARDIFF v. BARBARIANS	3 p.m.
Monday, 20th April:	CARDIFF v. HARLEQUINS	3 p.m.

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(see centre pages)

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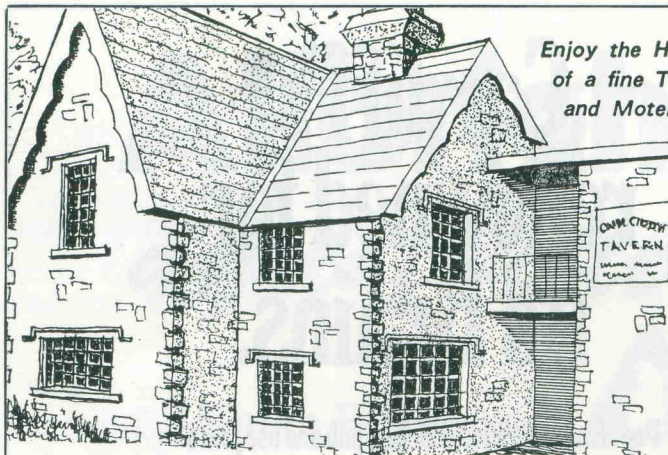
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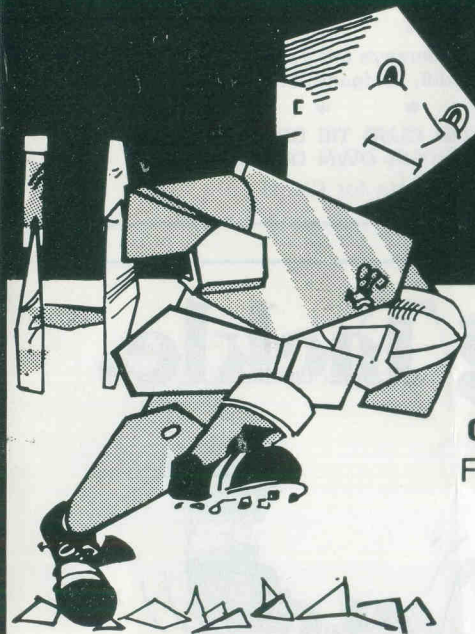
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

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		Thurs. 1 Bridgend		H 6-22
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		Fri. 6 Heriots F.P.		A 26-8
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		Sat. 31 Llanelli		A 15-24
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	
		Sat. 21 Ebbw Vale		H 28-0
		Tues. 24 Swansea (Cup)		N 18-7
		Sat. 28 Newport		A 13-13
		APRIL		
		Sat. 4 Bedford		H.....
		Tues. 7 Bath		A.....
		Sat. 11 Schweppes Cup Final		A.....
		Wed. 15 Swansea		H.....
		Sat. 18 Barbarians		H.....
		Mon. 20 Harlequins		H.....

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