



Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v Neath

SATURDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1981

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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We can now really say we are well and truly into the 1981/82 season. A glance at your fixture list will show you that with the exception of Wednesday, September 23rd and Wednesday, November 4th, we go right through to November 14th playing two games a week. Just take a look at the run and you can see what an exacting task it is going to be. After today we have to face Penarth and Coventry away, Aberavon home, Pontypridd and Newport away, Bridgend and Northampton home, Pontypool away, Bath home, Newbridge, Harlequins, Maesteg and Moseley away, Munster, Oxford University and then Ebbw Vale home. Then after a whole week without a game the following Saturday will see the beginning of our quest to retain that coveted trophy the Schweppes Cup. So as I say this is a rather exacting task and any player who perhaps happened to play in that little lot would have earned his salt. No doubt many of us will be wondering whether we can at last really and truly lay the Bridgend at home bogey. Unfortunately this again is a Wednesday evening game when, without making advanced excuses, we don't seem to play as well as we do on Saturdays. Then the day we play Moseley away coincides with the Wales B v. Australia game so again we could be depleted. Speaking on that point I would imagine that the Australians must be rather disappointed not to have a crack at us this year in order to try and break the nap hand of wins we have against them. They come this year with what they consider to be the strongest team they have ever had so they must have fancied their chances had they had a fixture with us. Still it's not to be and if New Zealand beat South Africa today, Australia will arrive in these Islands wearing the mantle of world champions. Now that could make things rather interesting couldn't it.

So on to today's game when we extend a warm welcome to Wales' oldest first class club, Neath. The Welsh All Blacks were founded in 1871 and the town can also claim the distinction of being the birth place of the W.R.U. That auspicious occasion took place in the Castle Hotel, Neath on March 12th, 1881. It was also on that day the season 1880/81 South Wales Cup Final was being played at Neath and guess who won it — Cardiff by beating Llanelli by a try to nil after extra time. The Neath club has made massive strides since those bygone days and appropriately enough they won the W.R.U. Cup in season 1971/72, when it was reintroduced, and what better way could there have been for a club to celebrate its centenary. Neath's home ground, The Knoll, is now also a credit to them in terms of playing surface, spectator accommodation and clubhouse facilities. Last season they completed their much improved floodlighting system which cost £21,000 and a lot of hard work by their very able members.

Their season this year has started on an up and down note or should I say down and up perhaps. They went down to Moseley at home last Thursday week but then last Saturday they gave Abertillery the mother and father of a hiding. They come to Cardiff today for the 169th game in the series between us with the record of the previous 168 reading 51 games to Neath with 17 drawn games and our home win last February brought us up to a century of victories. Of 67 games played since the war 33 games each have been played at Cardiff and Neath, the other being at Bridgend in the semi-final of the cup when Neath, of course, won by 16 pts. to 9. Of the 33 games played at the Arms Park Neath have managed 7 wins whereas of the 33 played at Neath we have managed 12 wins. Neath's last success in Cardiff was in September 1972 when the All Blacks won by 14-6. During the series we have scored 1702 points to Neath's 990 so 10 points today could see them clock up their 1000. Their side of the last few years has been very young and their policy of playing open rugby has made them attractive opposition. Peter Rawlins an ex-Cardiff man has now become stalwart of their pack and Mike Richards their hooker leads them for the second year running. To Neath then we again say welcome to Cardiff, we hope you enjoy your day.

On the home front I suppose you are all drooling at the prospects of being able to purchase a debenture for the National Stadium now that the W.R.U. clubs have decided in their wisdom to raise money by such a venture. Perhaps

a slight dampening effect may be the price of them which apparently will be issued only via the constituent clubs of the W.R.U. at a cost of £500 each. It is hoped to begin the development on the Monday after this year's Cup Final which will cater for a new south stand providing 10,600 seats and standing capacity for 9,250. It will certainly make the National Stadium one we can be very proud of. Anyway we will keep you informed of debenture details as soon as they are forthcoming.

Both the other sides have started the season in the same successful manner as the first team. The Rags won their home game against Treorchy by 24-15 and they followed this up with an away win against Treherbert last Saturday by 13-9. Then last Wednesday they had a very good win by 23 pts. to 14 away to Bristol United. As yet no one has been appointed to captain the side. The Youth have also made a good start beating Cardiff H.S.O.B. Youth away by 27-6 and then last Saturday they had an excellent win over Bristol Colts by 14-3. The Youth captain this year is a familiar name to you all, Stephen Lakin, younger brother of Robert.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

Some humorist once said that rugby is a simple game. Someone else, more realistically said that association football is a simple game because the laws make it so. Equally true is the complexity of our game and despite the work done during the past four, or is it five years, by the International Board's sub-committee on the re-write, aimed at simplification, we are still a very long way from publication. Our own Hermas Evans, resigned from the chairmanship of that committee due, mainly to frustration.

Having said that, there is no doubt that considerable advances have been made and the wording of the changes this season are an example. The 'Tackle', Law 18, has caused comment but the players seem to have accepted it and are genuinely playing it in the way intended. Let me quote the actual definition which is self explanatory:

"A tackle occurs when a player carrying the ball in the field-of-play is held by one or more opponents so that while he is so held he is brought to the ground or the ball comes into contact with the ground. If the ball carrier is no longer on his feet he is deemed to have been brought to the ground." also:

"A tackled player must release the ball immediately without playing it in any other way. He must get up or move away from it. He must not play or interfere with the ball in any way until he has got to his feet." It is also illegal for any player to:

"Pull the ball from a tackled players possession or attempt to pick up the ball before the tackled player has released it."

The object of the change is to make the tackle more easy to identify and eliminate pile-ups, also to create better opportunities to get possession from ruck situations.

It does seem to work although I wonder whether it was realised that a player, down on his knee or knees, being not on his feet, is now legally tackled. That, for some players will take some getting used to.

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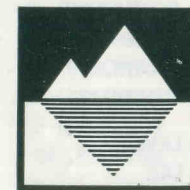
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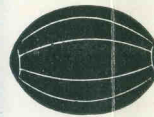
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|-----|---------------------|
| 15. | C. WEBBER |
| 14. | S. PILL |
| 13. | P. DANIELS |
| 12. | N. HUTCHINGS |
| 11. | S. EVANS |
| 10. | G. DAVIES (Captain) |
| 9. | T. HOLMES |
| 1. | I. EIDMAN |
| 2. | A. PHILLIPS |
| 3. | G. WHITEFOOT |
| 4. | R. NORSTER |
| 5. | K. EDWARDS |
| 6. | S. LANE |
| 8. | T. CHARLES |
| 7. | O. GOLDING |
| 16. | R. LEWIS |
| 17. | T. LEE |
| | R. LAKIN |
| | C. SWAIN |
| | D. BARRY |
| | P. ALEXANDRE |
| | S. BLACKMOORE |

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



Replacements

Neath

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| D. DAVIES | 15. |
| A. EDMUNDS | 14. |
| R. MOGFORD | 13. |
| K. HOPKINS | 12. |
| D. KYFFIN | 11. |
| G. OWEN | 10. |
| C. MORGAN | 9. |
| D. MILLS | 1. |
| M. RICHARDS (Captain) | 2. |
| G. ANTONIAZZI | 3. |
| 4, 5, 6, 8 and 7 from | |
| P. RAWLINS | |
| S. DANDO | |
| R. HUGHES | |
| A. VAUGHAN | |
| G. JONES | |
| M. MORRIS | |
| D. COUSINS | |

Referee: K. PARFITT

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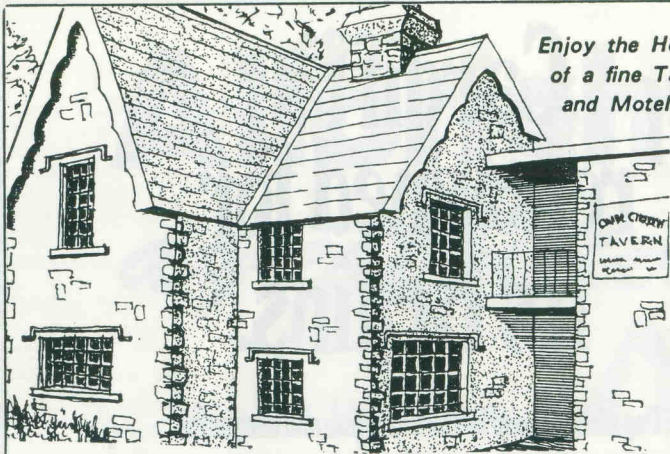
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1981		
SEPTEMBER		
Wed. 2	Glam. Wanderers	A 9-3
Sat. 5	East District	H 40-6
Wed. 9	Bristol	H 37-17
Sat. 12	Neath	H.....
Wed. 16	Penarth	A.....
Sat. 19	Coventry	A.....
Sat. 26	Aberavon	H.....
Wed. 30	Pontypridd	A.....
OCTOBER		
Sat. 3	Newport	A.....
Wed. 7	Bridgend	H.....
Sat. 10	Northampton	H.....
Wed. 14	Pontypool	A.....
Sat. 17	Bath	H.....
Wed. 21	Newbridge	A.....
Sat. 24	Harlequins	A.....
Tues. 27	Maesteg	A.....
Sat. 31	Moseley	A.....
NOVEMBER		
Sat. 7	Monster	H.....
Wed. 11	Oxford University	H.....
Sat. 14	Ebbw Vale	H.....
Sat. 21	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round	H.....
Fri. 27	Llanelli	A.....
DECEMBER		
Wed. 9	Swansea	H.....
Sat. 12	London Welsh	H.....

Sat. 19	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round	H.....
Sat. 26	Pontypridd	H.....
Mon. 28	Bridgend	A.....

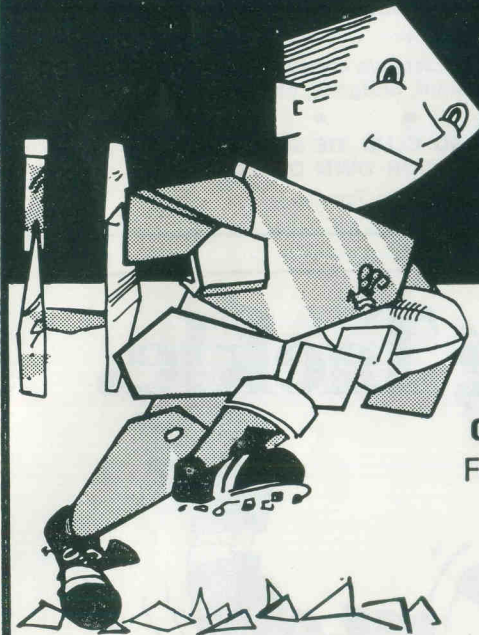
1982		
JANUARY		
Sat. 2	Moseley	H.....
Wed. 6	Aberavon	A.....
Fri. 15	Bective Rangers	A.....
Sat. 23	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	H.....
Sat. 30	Llanelli	H.....

FEBRUARY		
Sat. 13	Bristol	A.....
Sat. 20	Ebbw Vale	A.....
Sat. 27	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	H.....

MARCH		
Sat. 6	London Welsh	A.....
Sat. 13	Pontypool	H.....
Fri. 19	Herliots F.P.	H.....
Sat. 27	Newport (Cup S.F.)	H.....
Wed. 31	Swansea	A.....

APRIL		
Sat. 3	Bedford	A.....
Sat. 10	Barbarians	H.....
Mon. 12	Harlequins	H.....
Sat. 17	Neath	A.....
Sat. 24	W.R.U. Cup Final	H.....

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