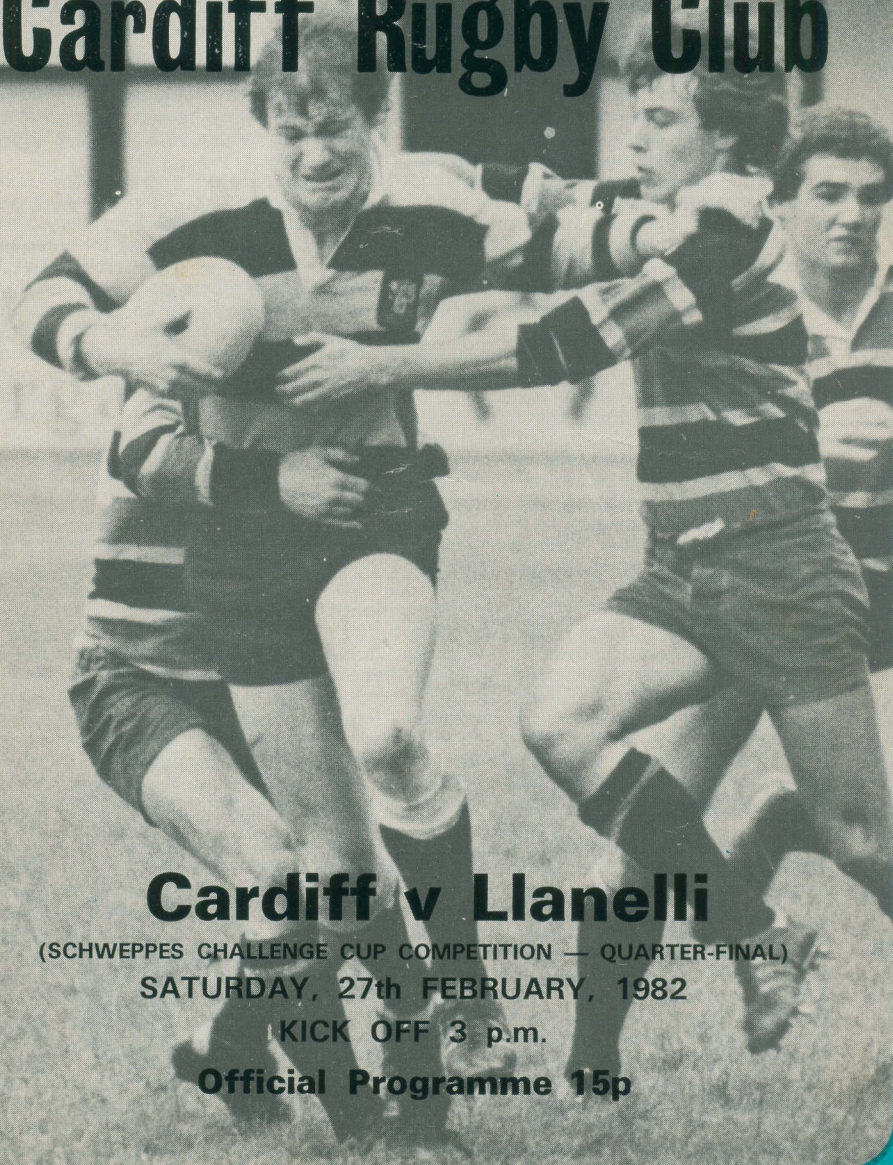




Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v Llanelli

(SCHWEPPES CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION — QUARTER-FINAL)

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1982

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

Cardiff v. Llanelli

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1982 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Welsh rugby is said to be competitive enough in this neck of the woods but there is no doubt about it that the added incentive of still being in the cup causes the adrenalin to flow all that quicker. And what a draw we have been graced with when after coming out of the hat as the away team in the three previous rounds we land a home tie for this the crucial fourth round. Success at this stage, of course, sees a semi-final place which as you know is played at a neutral venue so the draw doesn't have the same tingling edge to it as does this fourth round one. It can cause as many butterfly stomachs and a Hitchcock thriller atmosphere amongst the club representatives who are present at the T.V. studios for the draw as the pre-match tension experienced by the players. From our point of view therefore, Cardiff v. anyone would have done us but to draw the mighty Scarlets, who have the best record of all clubs in the W.R.U. as far as this particular trophy is concerned. Mind, spare a thought for them because their luck in the 11 years that the cup has been in operation again, is abysmal. They have a much worse than a 2 to 1 ratio in away games as opposed to being at home but their continuing ill fortune is a bonus from our point of view.

As I previously stated, their record in the cup is second to none and after losing to Neath in the final of the inaugural year 1971-72 they went on to win it on the next four consecutive occasions. The stranglehold they had on this very coveted commodity was finally broken by us in that marvellous game of 8th January, 1977. They had lost only 1 game of a possible 32 (to Neath in the first final by 15-9) and had already beaten us at Cardiff earlier in the season by 17-4. It looked as if the pattern was going to be repeated on the cup occasion because at the halfway stage we were 12 pts. to nil down. A complete reversal of the first half form came about, however, and after an as exciting game of rugby that you could hope to watch, we finally ran out very worthy winners by 25-15. But what a fantastic record the Scarlets had up to that game. Since that final defeat by Neath in the first year, they went a total of 26 consecutive victories which, as you will no doubt well remember, included a very heavy defeat for us by 30-7 in the 1972/73 final. They then went on to beat Aberavon in both years 1973/74 and '74/75 and then Swansea in 1975/76. The nearest any other club can get to this record is Bridgend. Having won 2 consecutive finals and losing to us in a third saw them string 17 victories together. It appears therefore that Llanelli's record will hold for a long time yet then and any club who betters it these days will be doing very well indeed.

This will be the third time for us to meet Llanelli in the cup and obviously will provide one of us with the opportunity to edge in front of the other because the record stands at one game each at the moment. The Scarlets by their own admission are team building these days and some of their displays and results have caused them certain disappointment. Last Saturday, however, they really set themselves up for today as they beat Bridgend at the Brewery Field. Now there aren't many sides doing such a thing these days and it must have really given Ray Gravell and his boys a real appetite for today's encounter. So to all from Llanelli then we say welcome again to Cardiff then and may players, administrators and supporters enjoy a good game of Welsh rugby.

What of our own form in the cup then. Well prior to today's, there have been 63 rounds proper since it restarted in season 1971/72 and we have taken part in 49 of them winning 39, losing 9 with 1 draw 10-10 at Pontypool. This was a victory in the particular round, however, because on the day we took the spoils as the away team. This is now the eleventh year of the cup and of the previous 10 we have made 3 finals to register one win and two losses, 3 semi-finals, one fourth round and three thirds. In the course of these games we have scored 1155 points for to 394 against. The most played opponents are Swansea and Pontypool whom we have met 4 times each, Aberavon, Bridgend and Ebbw Vale have lined up against us on 3 occasions each with 2 appearances each by Llanelli, Pontypridd, Tonyrefail, Hendy, South Glam. Institute and Glamorgan Wanderers with the number remaining amongst 20 individual clubs. During all these games we have experienced the glory and disappointment which accompanies victory and defeat respectively.

Cover picture by courtesy of Western Mail & Echo

The ultimate satisfaction which befell us, of course, was the first success in our third final and the trough at the reverse end of this pinnacle was obviously our 16-15 defeat by Newport at the finale of our centenary season. Still the elation of victory is unknown unless you have also suffered defeat so, last year, although it was a long time coming, was all the sweeter for it again, more moments of glory must surely be the four times we have beaten Pontypool — up there too. I will not dwell on that point because "Pooler" are our visitors on March 13th next and perhaps if I did some of them may see this old programme hanging around and having reminded them of those games it may galvanise them into some form of unbeatable standard in order to wrest some measure of recompense for those disastrous defeats. In speaking of cup rugby, commiserations to our Youth XV who after winning their trophy for the previous 2 seasons relinquished their entitlement to it when they lost narrowly in the third round to Rumney (Cardiff) the other week. Hard luck boys but you can't win everything all the time and you did us proud to win it twice.

News for people interested in the current Debenture Scheme. Conditions of issue are for a 25 year period at face value, £500, with the option of renewal under conditions decided by the R.F.C. Committee in being at that time. (I hope I still won't be lumbered with programme notes by then). All interested members should contact Mr. Ken George.

Now here's another interesting point. I thought it most unusual to have to play on two consecutive Saturdays at Ebbw Vale but guess who our next home game is against. It's Llanelli on March 10th — strange world isn't it.

Finally the Cardiff Rugby Football Club would like to thank Whitbread Wales Ltd., for their generous sponsorship of today's game. May they and their guests have an enjoyable day.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

I make no excuses for repeating what I have been preaching throughout most of the season, "The Laws should help rugby as a running game". That's a bit of a laugh these days. My mind goes back to Billy Cleaver when he first burst upon the scene early in the war when "Massa Dan", Arthur Cornish and "Uncle" Hubert when R.A.F. duties permitted, kept the Blue and Black flag flying. Days when I was stationed hereabouts for some while and revelled in wearing that self same shirt. Billy, one of the first post war kicking flyhalves was dubbed "Billy the Kick". Many must remember. I must have a chat with him one of these days and find what he thinks now. Then, of course, the back row forwards could break straight from scrum and line and invariably breathed down the necks of the recipient who had to deal with him arriving as soon as the ball. The laws were changed to curb this containment in the desire to produce a more free flowing game. Now, the exact opposite is the case. Never before in the long history of rugby has the boot been so dominant a factor in deciding results. Of course, we could say, "Thank goodness for our Gareth's boot". But, from the players point of view there is confusion to say the least.

"Going over the top" after a tackled player has been brought to the ground still means that a player is being penalised when often he finds himself in an impossible situation with players from both sides piling in to get at the ball. Handling the ball after a tackle was brought in to keep things moving. The feeling is growing stronger and stronger that if we went back to the old, "playing the ball with the foot" after a tackle we should see less of this and better ruck ball possession with players keeping on their feet. It is the tackler actually who is as often the digressor now as the tackled player. It is equally up to him not to prevent the ball from being released. Referees look for this and rightly so.

Who gets penalised could well be a panel quiz question? To add to it all, in identical situations there are times when a scrumage is awarded after all. Why again, is often asked?

The answer to that is where there is doubt in the referees mind as to who was responsible for failure for the ball to be released. It doesn't say who puts the ball in. That again is up to the referee. He would decide upon, possession, going forward, responsibility for the stoppage, as is the usual case. Simplification is my eternal plea.

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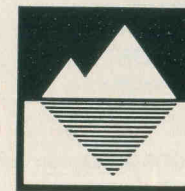
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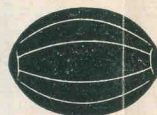
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5. K. EDWARDS
6. R. LEWIS
8. J. SCOTT
7. R. LAKIN

From O. GOLDING
L. O'BRIEN
G. WILLIAMS
D. BARRY
R. NEWMAN
Referee: WINSTON JONES

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



Replacements

Llanelli

- K. THOMAS 15.
- R. RHYS EVANS 14.
- R. GRAVELL (Captain) 13.
- P. HOPKINS 12.
- D. NICHOLAS 11.
- B. THOMAS 10.
- M. DOUGLAS 9.
- P. REES 1.
- K. TOWNLEY 2.
- L. DELANEY 3.
- P. MAY 4.
- R. CORNELIUS 5.
- D. PICKERING 6.
- J. HARRIS 8.
- N. SANDERS 7.

To be announced

Touch Judges: JOHN GRAVES
D. E. PARRY-JONES

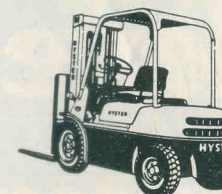
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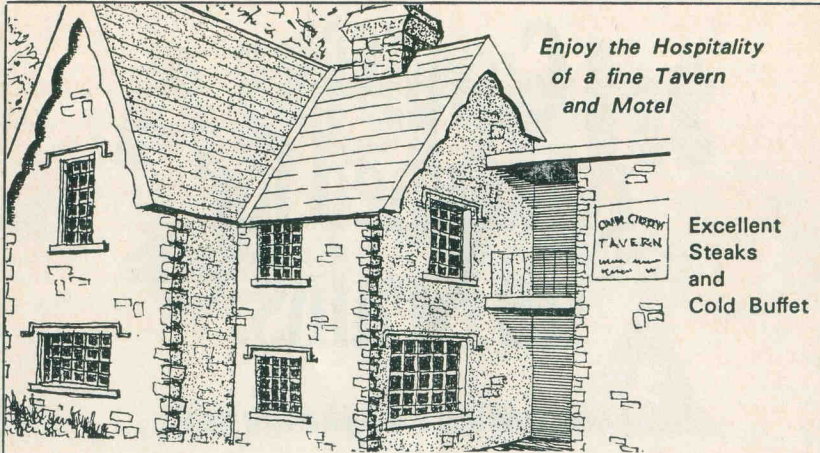
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

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 25-8
Wed.	16	Penarth	A 23-7
Sat.	19	Coventry	A 12-12
Sat.	26	Aberavon	H 11-25
Wed.	30	Pontypridd	A 10-3

OCTOBER			
Sat.	3	Newport	A 15-6
Wed.	7	Bridgend	H 18-14
Sat.	10	Northampton	H 26-22
Wed.	14	Pontypool	A 15-24
Sat.	17	Bath	H 32-3
Wed.	21	Newbridge	A 15-12
Sat.	24	Harlequins	A 47-17
Tues.	27	Maesteg	A 25-11
Sat.	31	Moseley	A 26-24

NOVEMBER			
Sat.	7	Munster	H 16-10
Wed.	11	Oxford University	H 38-9
Sat.	14	Ebbw Vale	H 33-4
Sat.	21	W. Barry (Cup)	A 45-6
Fri.	27	Llanelli	A 15-7

DECEMBER			
Wed.	9	Swansea	H Post.
Sat.	12	Lon. Welsh Aband.	H 6-6

Sat.	26	Pontypridd	H 16-0
Mon.	28	Glam. Wdrs. (Cup)	A 33-6

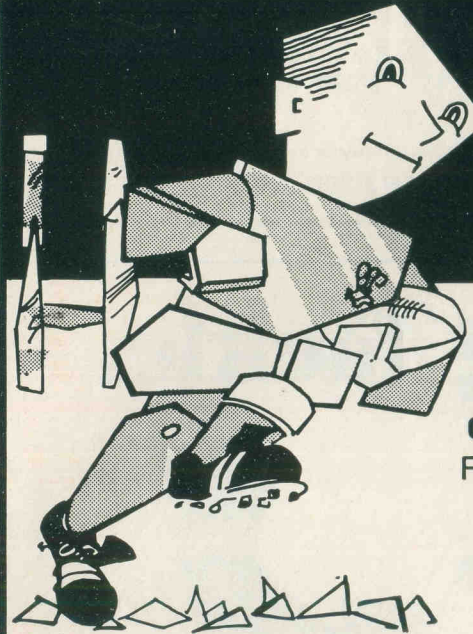
1982 JANUARY			
Sat.	2	Moseley	H 25-14
Wed.	6	Aberavon	A 12-6
Fri.	22	Bective Rangers	A 23-12
Sat.	30	Waterloo	H 40-9

FEBRUARY			
Sat.	13	Ebbw Vale (Cup)	A 22-6
Wed.	17	Swansea	H 16-3
Sat.	20	Ebbw Vale	A 15-0
Sat.	27	Llanelli (Cup)	H.....

MARCH			
Sat.	6	London Welsh	A.....
Sat.	13	Pontypool	H.....
Fri.	19	Heriots 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	

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