

WELSH RUGBY UNION

Schweppes Cup Semi-Final
St. Helen's Ground, Swansea

CARDIFF
v
LLANELLI

SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1984

Kick-Off — 3.00 p.m.

Programme — 30p (Donation to Club)



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Path to the Semi-Final

Llanelli:

1st Round beat Rhymney 72-3 (H)
2nd Round beat Carmarthen Ath. 56-3 (H)
3rd Round beat South Wales Police 47-16 (A)
Quarter-final drew with Pontypool 15-15 (H)
(Llanelli went through on try count)

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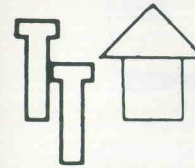
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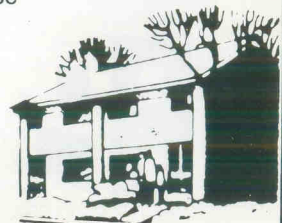
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When Grav stuck his neck out

by Ron Griffiths

South Wales Evening Post

There he was filmed against the majestic background of the National Stadium in Cardiff, arm in a sling, the red beard bristling with nationalistic pride. Ray Gravell had been invited by the BBC to offer some comments on the Schweppes Welsh Cup quarter-finals being played the following day.

As always, he was happy to oblige, Grav, articulate and witty as befits a card-carrying member of Equity, went easily through the matches. When he'd finished, the interviewer posed the well-rehearsed question that every viewer knew was coming. "Now, Ray, I want you to stick your neck out and name the four semi-finalists."

Grav blinked, adjusted the overcoat slung casually over his shoulder and sailed straight in. "Aberavon, Neath, Cardiff..." then a pause, a pregnant pause, I think it's called, "...and Llanelli", he added with just the suspicion of a twinkle in his eye. "I have to say Llanelli, don't I? After all, it's my club, my life. "I know they are playing cup holders Pontypool but I still have to go for them otherwise they might lynch me down at Stradey." Grav's forecast turned out to be 100 per cent right as the BBC were delighted to confirm on the Monday night.

Mark you, it was touch and go for Llanelli. They drew 15-15 but scored the only try and that took them through. It was a tremendous match, highly competitive, free of serious incident and admirably controlled by referee Derek Bevan. Grav would have loved to have been part of it. A broken shoulder kept him out, and kept him out today as well.

Llanelli have missed him, so have the crowds who love his total commitment to the cause. Grav is not only a good centre, discarded by



Wales too soon many think, but also one of the few genuine characters left in Welsh rugby.

Neither the passing years nor the actions of the Welsh selectors have dulled his bubbling enthusiasm. I can still see him, eyes glowing like fairy lights, coming into the Stradey Park bar after destroying the old enemy, Swansea ("What about that then" ... the words drilled straight into me. "You Jacks couldn't hold us today".

More to the point, Swansea couldn't hold the rampant Gravell, charging away in the midfield with opponents bouncing off him right, left and centre. There have been so many other performances like that turned on for the benefit of the Jacks, and others in so many parts of the rugby-playing world.

It would be a nice tribute, wouldn't it, if the likeable Grav could have just one more game in a Wales jersey before he bows out. Sadly, it's unlikely since there's not much sentiment left in the game at top level these days. Maybe that's a pity; certainly it's a pity there aren't many around any more who epitomise as Grav does that there's still a lot of fun in rugby. Winning is important — but I'm not so sure it should be at all costs.

Grav, on the wrong side of 30, could quit at the end of the season. He's had a long innings — and a distinguished one. Apart from anything else he's the only survivor of those talent-stacked Llanelli teams that appeared in five Welsh Cup finals between 1972 and 1976.

If he's fit, he would like to make it six this year — but Cardiff are going to have something to say about that this afternoon.



Phil May The Llanelli Captain



Ray Gravell in an uncharacteristic pensive mood

STRADEY PARK — LLANELLI

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2 ALAN PHILLIPS*

3 IAN EIDMAN*

4 KEVIN EDWARDS

5 ROBERT NORSTER*

6 ROB LAKIN

8 JOHN SCOTT (Capt.)*

7 OWEN GOLDING

Replacements: CHRIS COLLINS, JOSÉ SOUTO, TIM CROthers, BRENDAN McALoON, STEVE CANNON, NEIL O'BRIEN.

Referee:

Mr. A. RICHARDS

* denotes Internationals

Cefnwr Full Back

Asgell Dde Right Wing

Canolwr De Right Centre

Canolwr Chwith Left Centre

Asgell Chwith Left Wing

Maswr Outside Half

Mewnwr Inside Half

Y Rheng Flaen Prop

Bachwr Hooker

Y Rheng Flaen Prop

Clo Lock

Clo Lock

Blaenasgell Flanker

Wythwr No.8

Blaenasgell Flanker

Touch Judges: K. C. PARFITT (Replacement Referee);
D. O. HUGHES; C. BURNETT (Replacement Touch Judge)

Photographs by courtesy of South Wales Evening Post

LLANELLI

Colours: Scarlet

15 MARTIN GRAVELLE

14 PHIL LEWIS

13 GERAINT JOHN

12 PETER MORGAN*

11 DAVID NICHOLAS

10 GARY PEARCE*

9 JONATHAN GRIFFITHS

1 ANTHONY BUCHANAN

2 KEITH TOWNLEY

3 LAWRENCE DELANEY

4 PHIL MAY (Capt.)

5 RHYS THOMAS

6 ALUN DAVIES

8 MARK LYNCH

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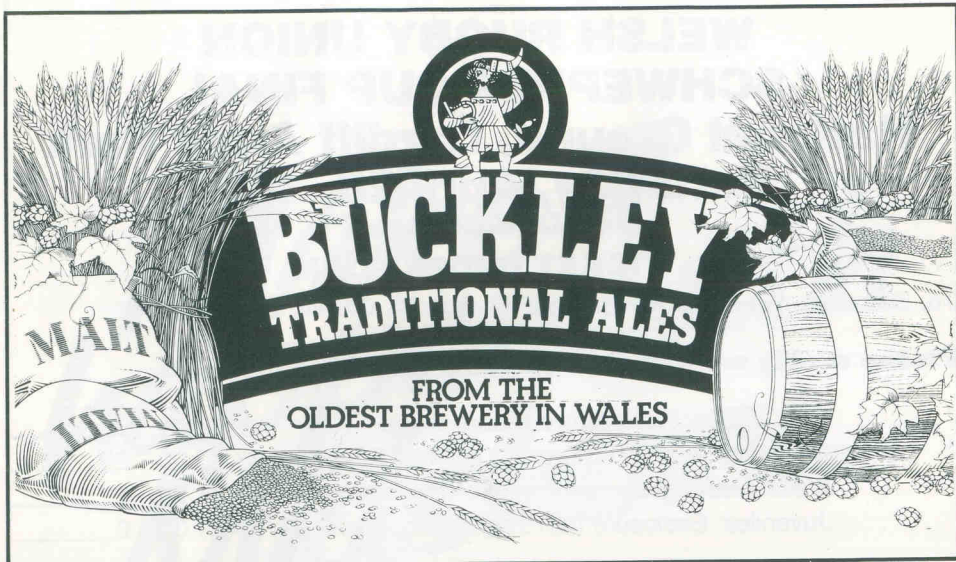
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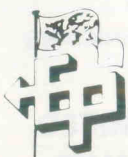


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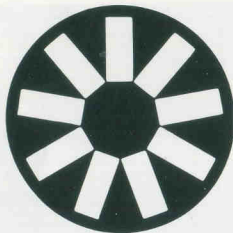
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WELSH RUGBY UNION SCHWEPPE'S CUP FINAL National Ground, Cardiff Arms Park Saturday, April 28, 1984 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

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Refereeing

by D. Gwynn Watts

In all games there has to be some form of adjudication, whether it be undertaken by the participants themselves as in a friendly game of tennis or by an independent adjudicator as in the major team games.

In our game there is the 31st player — the Rugby Union Referee — we like to think of the referee as the extra player who is there to participate, to adjudicate and to allow 30 players within the framework of the laws of the game, to enjoy their 80 minutes play. He is a complete amateur and the only gain he receives is that of knowing he has served the game — for without him there is no game.

The evolution of the game has naturally evolved a referee who has to bear a great deal more pressure than his predecessors. The TV, with its instant replays, often highlights mistakes made, but seldom give coverage to good and wise decisions. There is a certain amount of pressure suffered by some referees from assessors and observers who are present to help and serve the referee but nevertheless have to assess his performance on the field.

The referee is no robot — he is not controlled by a push button and naturally like the player he makes mistakes, but if analysed, far less mistakes than individual players. The problem is that the referee is not allowed to make mistakes and if and when he does this error is accentuated by the supporter who sincerely believes his team has been hard done by through this error of judgement or by being un-sighted (not blind). A referee's performance is often coloured by the result of the match. Today's referee is expected to be as fit as the players he is controlling. Some referees are not as fast as wing three-quarters but must be quick enough to get to the breakdown and to be close enough to give decisions without bias or prejudice. Players forgive referees for making "wrong" decisions if they are on the spot but seldom for making the right decision from some distance away.

The referee needs to radiate confidence to all 30 players so that they will understand very early on that neither they nor their opponents will get away with little, if at all anything during this particular game.

Today's referee has an official grading and the WRU referee is categorised into one of five grades from Exchange through four grades plus a Probational grade. With the use of club grading cards — every referee has a grading mark from both home and away clubs for each game, and through official observations by WRU ex-referees, these grades are updated at the end of each season. There are also frequent meetings between the Observer Corps to discuss possible promotions and demotions. All referees should have the ambition to become an Exchange Grade Referee, as it is from this grade that the Welsh International Panel is chosen each early season.

A referee today can travel the world with the aid of his whistle and our top grade referees have already officiated in all 5 Continents. We in Wales also reciprocate these exchanges and we have in the past two seasons seen a New Zealander, Mr. Tom Drocey and an Australian, Mr. Dick Byers. These exchanges will hopefully lead to a closer interpretation of Rugby Law since all International Board Countries operate under the same Law Book.

In Wales we have a Laws Sub-Committee within the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees and any query can be debated by this committee for essential decision approval or otherwise by the WRU Laws Committee. This system enables all Welsh Referees to use as far as it is humanly possible a common interpretation throughout the Principality. Likewise all other I.B. Countries have their law sub-committees and the International Board have the final say over any International ruling which is brought to this committee's notice.

The game needs referees — it is undoubtedly the next best thing to playing — you are in constant touch with players and are most certainly part of the match. If you require motivation to keep fit then why not take up the whistle. Telephone your local district Referee's Secretary — there are posters in all rugby clubs to give you the information required and begin the journey to Referee stardom.

Path to the Semi-Final

Cardiff:

1st Round	beat Senghenydd	43-3 (A)
2nd Round	beat Treorchy	31-4 (A)
3rd Round	beat Swansea	12-7 (H)
Quarter-final	beat Newbridge	29-9 (A)

Croeso - Welcome

This afternoon Swansea is the venue for one of the semi-finals of the WRU Schweppes Challenge Cup Competition. It brings together two famous clubs — Cardiff in the East and Llanelli in the West. We extend a warm welcome to the players and supporters of both clubs and invite you to use the facilities of the "Sports Club" and the catering in the Stand.

Llanelli and Cardiff of course are no strangers to this level of cup rugby, they have done it all before. Llanelli won the cup on four successive occasions in the 70's, while Cardiff won two successive finals in 81 and 82. Both teams have played magnificent rugby in the previous rounds which promises to make this afternoon's encounter a thrilling experience.

Cup rugby is an opportunity for supporters to wear their club colours. In the stand and on the packed terraces the Scarlet of Llanelli and the Blue and Black of Cardiff will be proudly worn. The game of rugby is indeed fortunate in that the behaviour of the supporters is impeccable — win or lose it's the game of rugby which we all love so much is what really counts — and long may it remain so.

Unwaith eto croeso i Abertawe.

GLAN LEWIS



John Scott the Cardiff captain receiving the Schweppes Cup after winning the 1983 Cup-Final.

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